

Update on Internal Displacement in Iraq

As of September 2025

Overview

1,031,475 IDPs remain displaced in Iraq.¹ This includes 102,530² people living in the 20 IDP camps, located in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.³ Of this population, 19,337 IDP families - comprising a little under 93,000 individuals - reside in 15 camps across Dohuk Governorate and Zakho Administration, 1,062 families (5,363 individuals) remain in two camps in Erbil Governorate and 912 families (4,556 individuals) remain in the three East Mosul Camps.

IDP Population Movements

Since the start of 2025, 1,221 families (5,580 individuals) have departed IDP camps. The majority returned to their areas of origin, primarily to Ninewa, Salah al-Din, and Erbil Governorates. This brings the total of IDPs who have departed camps since January 2024 to 10,802 families, a little under 50,000 individuals.

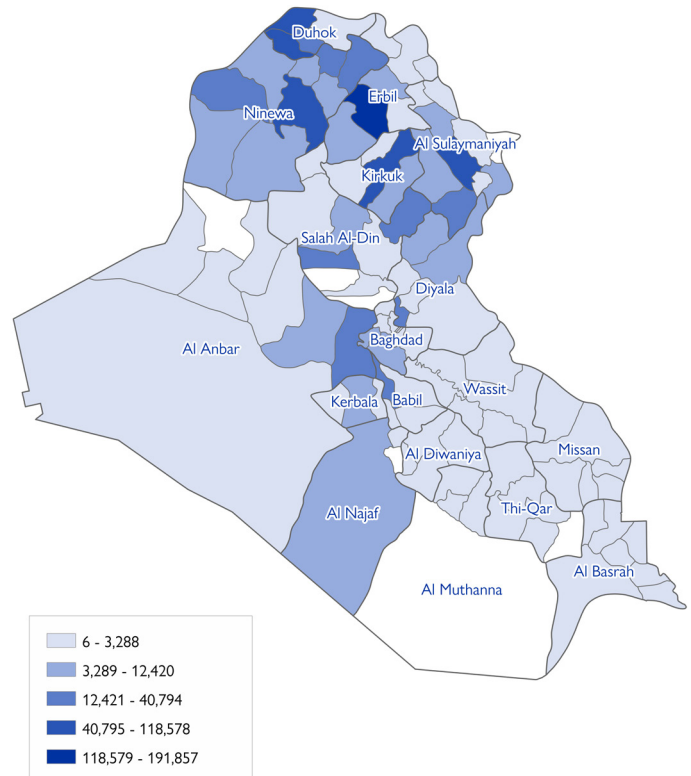
IOM's Facilitated Voluntary Movement (FVM) programme, implemented since 2020, helps IDPs in Iraq returning or relocating safely, voluntarily, and with dignity. It is designed to support individuals and families who are ready to leave their areas of displacement and rebuild their lives in their original communities or new locations outside of camps.

Since 12 July 2024, government-supported procedures for registering and departing from IDP camps have been suspended. As of now, IOM remains the sole formal channel for IDPs to leave the camps, as the Ministry of Migration and Displaced (MoMD) has not yet resumed its departure registration services. As of July 2025, IOM FVM programme has been suspended waiting for necessary approvals to access the camps and informal sites by the regional authorities.

Before the suspension, 904 families (5,424 individuals) have returned in 12 rounds of departures from Dohuk to Sinjar and Baaj through the IOM FVM programme in 2025.

The ongoing unclarity and reported suspension of government departure grants (which were previously provided to IDP returnees, as well as to those who relocated or decided to locally integrate, to help them reintegrate into areas of origin or other areas) have significantly impacted the intentions of displaced families. Despite having registered, many IDP households remain on the waiting list and have yet to receive the grant. This uncertainty has contributed to hesitation among families considering departure from the camps.

MAP 1: Districts of displacement of the current IDP population



In addition to limited support provided by the Government for departure and reintegration, IDPs continue to encounter significant barriers, including:

- Lack of safety and security in areas of origin.
- Lack of housing, basic services, and job opportunities in areas of origin.
- Lack of clarity on support programmes, due to a significant decrease in funding.

¹ Data from IOM DTM, IDP and Returnee Master List. [Here](#). Data of the full IDP population in Iraq remains as of December 2024 due to lack of funding to conduct updated data collection.

² As of end of August 2025

³ Data of IDPs in camps is as of 30 June 2025.

Camp Population As of end of August 2025		
	Families	Individuals
Dohuk Camps		
Chamisku	3,317	15,421
Khanke	2138	10,579
Essian	1,807	8,327
Karbato 1	1,918	9,278
Shariya	1,888	9,289
Rwanga Community	1,657	8,067
Karbato 2	1,617	7,631
Bajet Kandala	1,531	7,410
Berseve 2	870	4,080
Mamrashan	851	4,177
Berseve 1	597	3,011
Sheikhan	513	2,510
Darkar	321	1,622
Mamilian	150	721
Dawadia	146	691
Erbil Camps		
Debaga	881	4,507
Baharka	181	856
East Mosul Camps		
Hasansham U3	532	2,707
Khazer M1	224	1,157
Hasansham U2	99	479

CAMP CONDITIONS & ACCESS TO SERVICES

The situation across IDP camps in Iraq has remained largely unchanged in 2025, with services predominantly delivered by government authorities,⁴ supported by a diminishing group of humanitarian actors. Cuts in humanitarian support have led to gaps in assistance, in particular in the health sector and specifically mental health services, leading to a worsening situation for many, especially Yezidi women. The situation of the East Mosul Camps continues to deteriorate with living standards remaining below those of the other IDP camps. Given the restriction on

movements out of the camp, residents are entirely dependent on camp services, which continue to be sporadic and unreliable.

The recent announcement by the Ministry of Migration and Displacement that they may consider those who remain in the camps at the end of 2025 to be integrated and no longer displaced has led to an increase in anxiety and uncertainty across the IDP community, exacerbating frustrations. For residents of the East Mosul Camps integration in the area of displacement poses challenges given their lack of freedom of movement and the announcement has led to concerns that this will only add to the time needed to resolve their complex issues.

The distribution of **food assistance** remains inconsistent. Since June 2025, only the camps in Dohuk have received food assistance, leaving IDPs in Erbil, in particular those in the EMCs, dependent on private donors and charity organizations for basic sustenance. In total there have been 3 distributions in Erbil and four in Dohuk in 2025.

Access to **health services** for the IDP camps is primarily provided by government-supported primary health clinics through local Directorates of Health. However, these clinics face significant limitations, including shortages of essential medications, a lack of mental health support and insufficient staffing, particularly of female health professionals. This inadequate access to basic and emergency healthcare – both in terms of medication and qualified personnel – risks a deterioration of health conditions in the camps, with communicable diseases more easily spread.

As winter approaches there is an urgent need to assess **shelter** conditions and access to heating materials and fuel and provide materials for rehabilitation or upgrades, as many families remain in tents originally provided by MOMD, which have exceeded their intended lifespan, leaving them inadequate in the face of fire and extreme weather. There is a continued lack of budget for replacements. These risks are compounded by outdated and overloaded electrical infrastructure, which has already led to several damaging fire incidents.

As overall populations have declined, empty shelter space in some camps increases. These empty spaces are frequently misused, contributing to social challenges like gambling and alcohol consumption. There is a need to consider thoughtful camp consolidation plans, which if funded appropriately, could support a better living environment for those who remain in the camps, through repurposing empty shelters into community spaces or dismantling them. There is also a need to provide functional streetlights in camps where water and hygiene facilities are communal, offering a more secure space at night.

In addition, some IDP populations living in camps continue to lack **civil documentation**. This is especially the case in the East Mosul Camps where more than 2,500 individuals have been identified

⁴ The division of delivery of services between the Iraqi Government, the Kurdistan Regional Government and their respective ministries vary depending on the camp's location and the specific service in question.

as lacking documentation, especially the Unified National ID Card. IDPs with complex cases (complexity comes from confirmed or perceived affiliation to Da'esh) continue to face legal and administrative challenges in obtaining their civil documents from government authorities and often require support from lawyers to overcome these barriers. This is particularly needed for female-headed households who frequently need to secure marriage or divorce certificates, as well as custody and guardianship documents for their children, before they are able to apply for the Unified National ID Card.

Since May 2025, IOM has been supporting 117 households (505 individuals) in East Mosul Camps who have been identified as in need of a Unified National ID Card. IOM is coordinating with authorities in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq to facilitate the issuance of these cards from the Unified National ID Card Directorate in Erbil, as well as with the federal Ministry of Interior to exempt these individuals from the housing/residency card requirement which is a prerequisite to access the Unified National ID Card.

The school year 2025-26 commenced on 21 September, with public schools in both Erbil and Dohuk IDP camps resuming classes. It is worth noting that formal **education** in IDP camps is delivered by the Ministry of Education. Across all camps IDPs have previously flagged that they felt the quality of education had decreased over the last academic year due to the departure from the camp of a number of teachers. Resources remain stretched, with overcrowded classrooms, poor maintenance of school facilities and school closures (the secondary school in Khazir M1 closed recently) risking to compromise the learning environment. IDPs have called for urgent intervention by local education authorities to address these issues and safeguard the right to quality education for displaced children.

In IDP camps, the Directorate of Water and Sewage in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq continues to oversee essential **WASH** services, including water supply, garbage collection, and sewage management. However, the effectiveness of these services is being undermined by unauthorized water connections, which result in unequal and insufficient water distribution to some shelters. In response, some households have installed water boosters, which in turn create pressure imbalances across the public water grid.

Camp consolidation efforts by the authorities in the East Mosul Camps are currently on hold due to funding constraints. Additionally, whilst numbers are small, there is a monthly increase in the camp population as ex-detainees continue to be returned there rather than being granted security clearance to return to their areas of origin, noting that for some entry into territory beyond Kurdistan may risk a second judicial process. As former detainees are not officially registered in the camps, as per MOMD instructions, they are unable to access services, which risks increasing tension in the camp and marginalisation and alienation of this caseload.

REINTEGRATION OF IDPs

IOM conducts household-level interviews with families targeted by the FVM programme through two follow-up rounds. The first, known as the baseline follow-up, is conducted one to three months after departure, while the second, the endline follow-up, takes place nine months after departure. These follow-ups offer valuable insights into the extent to which households are able to re-establish their lives in their chosen locations, whether through return, relocation, or local integration. Between 2023 and August 2025, data was collected from 2,508 households that completed both the baseline and endline interviews.

As of August 2025, reintegration monitoring data has highlighted several key considerations regarding the post-departure conditions for IDPs. Despite their decision to return to their areas of origin, relocate, or locally integrate, households continue to face significant challenges to sustainable reintegration, including damaged or destroyed shelters, limited livelihood opportunities, and restricted access to essential services such as healthcare, water, and education.

Housing continues to be among the most reported needs for returnee, relocated, and locally integrated households. At baseline, 70% of households were either hosted without paying rent or were renting accommodation with their own or extended family, while 6% resided in tents or informal settlements. After nine months, these proportions remained largely unchanged, with 67% of households still hosted or renting accommodation.

Home ownership increased from 24% at baseline to 29% at endline. Notably, the proportion of households with property ownership documentation rose from 29% to 42% over the same period, reflecting an improvement in tenure. Home ownership increased from 24% at baseline to 29% at endline. Notably, the proportion of households with property ownership documentation rose from 29% to 42% over the same period, reflecting an improvement in tenure security. Among those renting, hosted, or residing in informal housing, the proportion fearing eviction fell from 37% to 31%. While 85% of households initially felt "at home", 15% reported feeling displaced due to a lack of housing or relocation. By endline, 90% of households stated they felt at home in their current location.

Figure 1: Households fear eviction at the time of data collection



Lack of stable income remains a significant challenge for returnee households. At baseline, only 27% of households reported receiving regular income during the past three months, increasing to 36% by endline. The proportion of households engaged in daily or informal labour rose from 51% at baseline to 59% after nine months, highlighting the continued reliance on unstable income sources. Meanwhile, 28% of households depended on government salaries or social support throughout. Reliance on family support, charity, and savings decreased from 23% to 18% over nine months, suggesting a gradual shift away from these coping mechanisms. A small proportion of households (6% at endline) reported deriving income from agriculture or employment within the security forces, indicating some diversification of livelihoods over time.

Nine months after departure, livelihoods support has become the most reported need among households, with 57% requesting livelihoods support, highlighting the ongoing economic vulnerability and the importance of sustainable livelihoods programming to enhance household resilience and self-reliance.

Regarding **access to basic services**, access to potable water remains a major concern. At baseline, almost half, 49% of households, lack access to clean water, and this showed no improvement by endline. Additionally, the lack of functioning infrastructure, including schools and health centres, continues to challenge reintegration. A shortage of Arabic-speaking teachers has led households to cover the cost of unofficial educators in Sinjar. Furthermore, households face barriers in addressing their health needs due to inadequate treatment options and a shortage of medical staff at health centres in both Sinjar and Baaj districts.

On **civil documentation**, at baseline, 37% of households reported that at least one household member was missing civil documentation. This figure rose to 47% after nine months, which may be attributed to the long process of issuing Unified National ID cards or barriers in accessing documentation services. The Unified National ID card was the most reported missing document. Without it, households face barriers to accessing basic rights and services, such as enrolling children in school, obtaining healthcare, or receiving assistance. These challenges highlight the urgent need for targeted civil documentation support to ensure households can access basic rights and services and fully reintegrate into their communities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Advance durable solutions.** IDPs require comprehensive support to attain durable solutions of their choice, including voluntary return, relocation to other communities within the country, or local integration in areas of displacement. To achieve durable solutions, IDPs need to be enabled and supported in making free and informed decisions on

the most suitable and sustainable solution based on their specific personal circumstances and conditions in return/displacement areas.

- **Engage in communication to IDP communities.** Decisions affecting IDPs, including those in camps need to be communicated by government authorities in a timely and transparent manner to enable informed planning and decision-making by affected communities.
- **Maintain services for IDPs remaining in camps.** Services for IDPs who wish to remain in the camps, until such a time when durable solutions are achieved need to be maintained. This may require some level of camp consolidation and support to ensure adequate shelter, either through self or government supported upgrades.
- **Conduct shelter space analysis to support camp consolidation.** An analysis of available shelter space has become necessary to support camp consolidation efforts. This would enhance service delivery and offer improved shelter options for IDPs currently residing in tents. **Address specific needs in East Mosul Camps.** Targeted support to residents of East Mosul camps, including assistance with obtaining Unified National Identity Documents, resolution of legal and security considerations to support camp departure, access to reliable services continues to be required.
- **Support informal sites.** Informal sites hosting IDPs need to be formally recognized and adequately resourced. This includes improving shelter conditions, WASH, health, and education services, and addressing protection risks, particularly for women and children.
- **Renew efforts to allocate sufficient budget by the government to achieve durable solutions.** This includes financial assistance, shelter rehabilitation, the provision of fair and timely compensation grants, and the departure grant previously provided.
- **Facilitate access to documentation for return.** IDPs who wish to return, including those who do not require material assistance to return, need support to obtain the required documentation to facilitate camp departure.
- **Invest in sustainable reintegration and infrastructure in areas of displacement and return.** Continued investment is needed in housing, infrastructure and public services in both IDP-hosting areas and areas of origin. This requires budget allocations for the rehabilitation of water, electricity, schools, and health centres, and ensure adequate staffing, especially in rural areas.