

Update on Internal Displacement in Iraq

As of December 2025

Overview

1,031,475 IDPs remain displaced in Iraq.¹ This includes 101,886² people living in the 20 IDP camps, located in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. Of this population, 19,329 IDP families (92,616 individuals) continue to reside in 15 camps across Dohuk Governorate and Zakho Administration, 1,063 families (5,367 individuals) remain in two camps in Erbil Governorate, and 777 families (3,903 individuals) remain in the three East Mosul Camps.

IDP Population Movements

Since the start of 2025, 1,498 families (6,893 individuals) have departed IDP camps. The majority returned to their areas of origin, primarily to Ninewa, Salah al-Din, and Erbil Governorates.

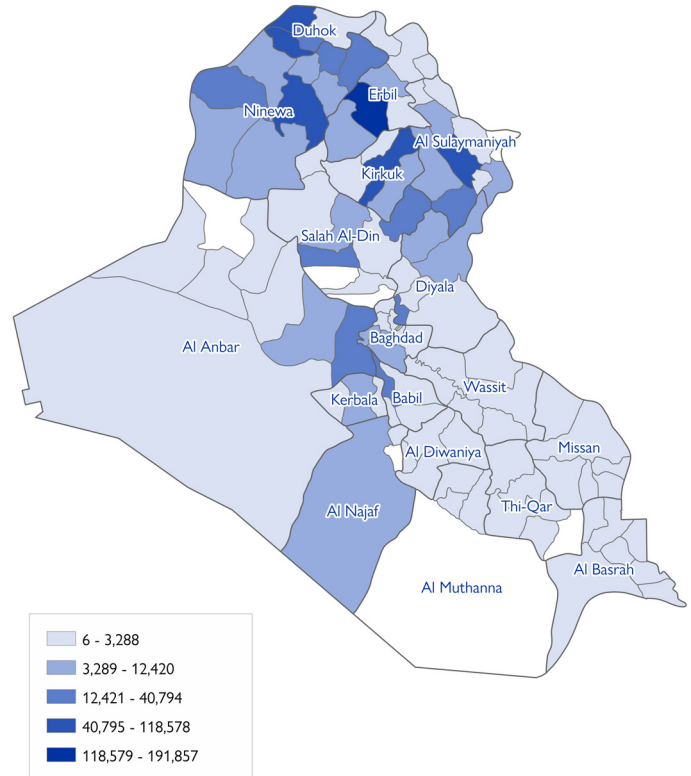
In early November, 64 IDP families residing in the East Mosul Camps were given the long-awaited permission to return freely to their villages in the surrounding Khazir area. Many other IDP families in Erbil IDP camps, who had previously registered to return to their areas of origin, continue to wait for security clearance in order to return.

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.

Government-supported procedures for registering and departing from IDP camps remain suspended, a suspension that has now lasted 18 months. 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 registration for departures. In late November 2025, IOM received official confirmation from regional authorities granting the necessary approvals to access camps and informal sites and resume the FVM programme. Movements are planned to start from EMCs and Dohuk in the first quarter of 2026.

Across 2025 the overall population across the camps has increased by 1,666 individuals. This increase is predominantly comprised of families who for socio-economic reasons are choosing to request entry into the camps, and, where space is available, are able to follow the procedure for entry and shelter allocation.

MAP 1: Districts of displacement of the current IDP population



Among these families are some who are considered as 'reverse returns', having previously returned from IDP camps to their areas of origin but now requesting re-entry.

IDPs considering return to areas of origin 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, as well as 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 November 2025

Camp Population
As of end of November 2025

	Families	Individuals
Dohuk Camps		
Chamisku	3,311	15,348
Khanke	2116	10,488
Essian	1,816	8,318
Karbato 1	1,927	9,302
Shariya	1,890	9,268
Rwanga Community	1,649	8,023
Karbato 2	1,621	7,637
Bajet Kandala	1,539	7,428
Berseve 2	874	4,080
Mamrashan	869	4,242
Berseve 1	594	2,978
Sheikhan	514	2,514
Darkar	318	1,593
Mamilian	150	721
Dawadia	141	676
Erbil Camps		
Debaga	882	4,510
Baharka	181	857
East Mosul Camps		
Hasansham U3	523	2,671
Khazer M1	156	756
Hasansham U2	98	476

CAMP CONDITIONS & ACCESS TO SERVICES

The situation across IDP camps in Iraq has remained largely unchanged in 2025. Services remain predominantly delivered by government authorities, supplemented by a small group of humanitarian actors, UN agencies and ad-hoc private donations. 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, with women and children impacted (In Hassansham U3 camp, of the 506 families registered in the camp, 100 are female headed families).

The distribution of **food assistance** remains inconsistent. Across 2025, there have been four distributions in Erbil and Dohuk.

Access to **health services** remains available through government-supported primary health clinics, which continue to face significant limitations, including shortages of essential medications, a lack of mental health support and insufficient staffing, particularly of female health professionals. WHO, together with the federal government, was able to complete a regular vaccination campaign across all the IDP camps, reaching all the children, supporting access to regular vaccination schedules.

In October, to help prepare for the winter, UNHCR provided **Core Relief Items**, Shelter Kits, Solar Lights, and Winterization Kits to internally displaced families in East Mosul Camps (Hassansham U2, Hassansham U3, and Khazer M1), which were distributed by the Erbil Joint Crisis Coordination Centre. The distribution reached 1,212 IDP families in the East Mosul Camps.

As winter hits, 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. The Directorate of Migration and Crisis Response in Dohuk, has requested 4,200 tents be replaced in IDP camps originally constructed by MOMD to ensure a better standard of living for camp residents.

As of the end of December, no **kerosene** distribution has taken place in either Dohuk or Erbil IDP camps. Some IDP camps, such as Baherka and Debaga, have been connected to 24/7 electricity as part of the regional Runaki project, although electricity in the East Mosul Camps is still reliant on generators. As such, the issue of adequate diesel for generators in the EMCs comes to the fore again. Currently the East Mosul Camps have access to only 4-5 hours of electricity each day, which will be insufficient in the coming months.

Hygiene kits have not been distributed in 2024 or 2025.

In IDP camps, formal **education** is provided by the Ministry of Education, but resources are overstretched, with overcrowded classrooms, poor maintenance, and a lack of resources, negatively impacting the quality of education. Systems are operating under significant pressure to manage the large enrolment numbers, with schools operating in shifts, but still with classrooms overcrowded. In the EMCs, with closure of the secondary school in Khazir, all camp children attend one secondary school in U3. IDPs urge local authorities to act swiftly to protect displaced children's right to quality education, especially for those who need to sit official exams, where documentation can be problematic.

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 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.

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. Similarly, proposals to merge Baherka and Debaga IDP camps in Erbil governorate due to the small size of their populations have not progressed. In the East Mosul Camps there continues to be a small 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 the Kurdistan Region of Iraq 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, marginalisation and alienation of this caseload. Currently there are 221 unregistered families (850 individuals), in Hassansham U3 camp, who cannot access services.

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 December 2025, data was collected from 2,654 households that completed both the baseline and endline interviews.

As of December 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 remains one of the most reported needs among returnee, relocated, and locally integrated households. At baseline, 72% of households were either hosted without paying rent or renting accommodation with their own family or extended relatives, while 2% resided in tents. After nine months, these proportions remained largely unchanged, with 69% of households still hosted or renting accommodation.

More than half (58%) of households reportedly owned a house before displacement. Despite the low proportion of housing compensation received, there was an improvement over time. At baseline, only 1% of households reported receiving compensation for housing, by endline, this figure had increased to 6%.

Home ownership increased from 26% at baseline to 29% at endline. Notably, the proportion of households with property ownership documentation rose from 30% to 43% 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 36% to 31%, possibly linked to a rise in rental contracts from 6% at baseline to 10% at endline.

Shelter condition improved with 67% at baseline and 75% at endline reporting living in houses in good condition. While 86% of households initially felt "at home", 14% reported feeling displaced due to a lack of housing or relocation. By endline, 89% of households stated that they felt at home and intend to stay in their current location.

Lack of stable income remains a major challenge for returnee households. At baseline, only 28% of households reported having a regular income during the past three months; this increased to 37% by endline, though more than half of households continued to rely on unstable income sources. The proportion of households engaged in daily or informal labour rose from 51% at baseline to 58% after nine months, highlighting the continued reliance on unstable income sources.

Meanwhile, 33% of households depended on government salaries or social support throughout. Reliance on family support, charity, and savings decreased from 25% to 21% over nine months,

suggesting a gradual shift away from these coping mechanisms. A small proportion of households (7% at endline) reported also deriving income from agriculture or employment within the security forces, indicating some diversification of livelihoods over time.

Despite low earnings overall, the average monthly household income increased slightly from approximately 400,000 IQDs at baseline to 470,000 IQDs at endline. This improvement may be linked to a reduction in household debt, which declined from 61% at baseline to 53% at endline. Nine months after departure, livelihoods support has become the most reported need among households, with 64% requesting such 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, half of households (50%) did not always have 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 both Arabic and Kurdish language teachers has led households to cover the cost of unofficial educators in Sinjar district. 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 45% 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, followed by PSD card. Without core civil documents, 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.
- **Support IDPs who wish to voluntarily depart** from the camps, independent of any supported procedure, to be able to access the necessary clearance documents to be able to formally exit the camps, including being able to retain their possessions.
- **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.