

IDP Working Group

Internally Displaced Persons in Iraq – Update (24 March 2008)



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This IDP Update has been produced by IDP Working Group members (UNHCR, IOM, other UN Agencies and NGOs). It is based on surveillance data gathered by IDP WG members, as well as information provided by the Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MoDM), the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG), ICRC and other NGOs.

Main Issues

- It is estimated that over 2.77 million people are currently displaced inside Iraq as of 20 March 2008. Of these, 1.2 million were displaced before 2006 and more than 1.5 million were displaced in 2006 and 2007; less than 1% was displaced in 2008.
- New displacement is continuing at a much lower pace than for the past two years but secondary displacement has been reported in Baghdad.
- Most of the Post-2006 IDPs come from Baghdad and Diyala.
- While the majority of Pre-2006 IDPs were displaced in the three Northern Governorates (53%) and in the South (33%), 58% of Post-2006 IDPs are displaced in the six Central Governorates, 27% in the South and 15% in the three Northern Governorates.
- Percentage of IDPs compared to total estimated governorate population is highest in Dahuk, Baghdad, Wassit and Kerbala.
- More than 560,000 IDPs are living in Baghdad Governorate. 40% of surveyed IDPs in Baghdad have fled due to direct threats and forced eviction from their property, while between 10% and 17% have fled due to generalized violence and fear.
- At present, large-scale return movements have not been noted. Actual numbers of IDP and refugee returnees are currently uncertain. According to the latest figures released by MoDM, nearly 6,000 IDP families have returned so far (2% of Post-2006 IDPs) and approximately 45,000 individuals have returned from Syria in 2007. The actual numbers are likely higher.
- Returnees mostly return to those neighbourhoods/districts/governorates under control of members of their sect. To date, only a few families returned to areas under control of another sect. No members of minority groups (e.g., Christians, Sabaeen-Mandaeans and Yazidis) have been reported to be among the returnees.
- According to the current estimation, the number of IDPs in need of adequate shelter and food is now higher than one million. In addition, over one million cannot access regular income. Around 300,000 individuals have no access to clean water and are in need of legal aid to enable them to access other basic services.

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1 IDP Families by Governorate

1.1 Internally Displaced Persons after February 2006¹

Governorate of displacement	Total Displaced Families as of 20 March 2008	Total Displaced Individuals as of 20 March 2008	Percentage of IDPs in Each Governorate
Dahuk ²	18,733	104,948	7%
Erbil ³	6,333	31,783	2%
Sulaymaniyah ⁴	14,254	79,672	5%
Total North	39,320	216,403	14%
Ninewa	19,126	106,750	7%
Kirkuk	6,594	36,202	2%
Anbar	8,876	51,487	3%
Baghdad	92,936	563,771	36%
Diyala	17,198	103,426	7%
Salah al-Din	7,817	45,762	3%
Total Centre	152,547	907,398	58%
Babylon	12,799	77,914	5%
Basrah	6,031	35,718	2%
Diwaniya	4,111	26,320	2%
Kerbala	8,617	55,962	4%
Missan	6,858	46,948	3%
Muthanna	2,461	18,351	1%
Najaf	10,140	58,032	4%
Thi-Qar	7,138	47,825	3%
Wassit	12,259	75,326	5%
Total South	70,414	442,396	28%
Grand Total families	262,281		
Grand Total individuals		1,566,197	

Sources: Ministry of Displacement and Migration and Kurdistan Regional Government. Cut off date: 20 March 2008

Note: The IDP figures provided by MoDM to IDP WG differ from those provided in the February 2008 Update. The main reasons are: a) elimination of duplicate entries in the database; b) continuing displacement of persons as confirmed through the monitoring of Implementing Partners (e.g., Baghdad, Basrah and Sulaymaniyah); and c) improved entry of previously registered IDPs in the Central MoDM database. It is important to note that the IDP figures provided by government authorities do not necessarily reflect the actual number of IDPs in a given governorate at least in part due to restrictive registration policies (see section 6 below).

¹ All figures for Centre and South are from the MoDM report: *Summary Results IDP Registration – February 2006 to March 2008* (issued in March 2008).

² Source: Directorate of Displacement and Migration (DDM) - Dahuk, January 2008.

³ Source: General Directorate of Displacement and Migration- Erbil, November 2007. 370 families reported as displaced by Turkish shelling in December 2007 returned home (UNHCR reports).

⁴ Source: Governorate Security Office - Sulaymaniyah, 31 December 2007. The figures include 355 families reported as displaced by Turkish shelling in Sanagsar in 31 December 2007 (UNHCR reports).

1.2 Transferred/Displaced Persons Before 2006

- Cut off date 31 December 2005⁵

The main reasons for displacement before the fall of the former regime included human rights abuses, internal conflict along political, religious and ethnic lines, the Iraq-Iran and Gulf Wars, drainage of the Marshlands, construction of dams in the Centre, suppression of the 1991 uprising in the South, competition over land and natural resources, and the "Arabization" policies of the former regime. The fall of the former regime, the US-led invasion and occupation of Iraq, the counter-insurgency operations, and the secondary displacement of Arabs by returning Kurds, were amongst the causes of internal displacement until the end of December 2005. In addition, while many Iraqis returned both internally and from overseas, a considerable number remained internally displaced, primarily due to a lack/destruction of housing, inadequate employment opportunities and social services, the presence of mines/UXO, and property disputes in their areas of return.

Governorate of Displacement	Pre 2003 (families)	2003-2005 ⁶ (families)	Total families displaced	Total displaced individuals
Dahuk	22,452	22	22,474	134,844
Erbil	32,737	76	32,813	196,878
Sulaymaniyah	50,430	35	50,465	302,790
Total North⁷	105,619	133	105,752	634,512
Ninewa	1,947	4,625	6,572	39,432
Kirkuk	184	1,068	1,252	7,512
Anbar	218	4,685 ⁸	4,903	29,418
Baghdad	2,281	1,586	3,867	23,202
Diyala	2,409	6,691	9,100	54,600
Salah al-Din	360	3,006	3,366	20,196
Total Centre⁹	7,399	21,661	29,060	174,360
Babylon	654	821	1,475	8,850
Basrah	15,494	284	15,778	94,668
Diwaniya	222	932	1,154	6,924
Kerbala	17,490	1,328	18,818	112,908
Missan	18,465	406	18,871	113,226
Muthanna	424	437	861	5,166
Najaf	3,833	160	3,993	23,958
Thi-Qar	657	3,569	4,226	25,356
Wassit	70	1,960	2,030	12,180
Total South¹⁰	57,309	9,897	67,206	403,236
Total families	170,327	31,691	202,018	
Total individuals	1,021,962	190,146		1,212,108

Sources: UNOPS/UNHCR and IOM

⁵ This figure is based on data gathered of IDPs in public buildings and collective centres in the three Northern governorates (UNOPS/UNHCR), as well as monitoring and needs assessments of IDPs in the 15 Central and Southern Governorates (IOM). Agencies are looking into supporting the Iraqi authorities to update this figure and clarify the number of persons still in displacement.

⁶ This figure includes IDPs as well as Iraqi refugees from Iran who returned into internal displacement.

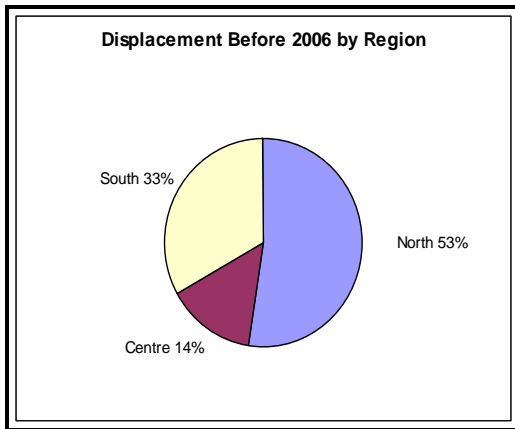
⁷ These include persons expelled during the 'De-villagisation' campaign, the Anfal campaign, the 'Arabization' campaign; persons expelled or who fled due to Kurdish in-fighting, as well as those fleeing fighting between the PKK and the Turkish military in Northern Iraq; Kurds expelled to Iran in the 1970s, and who have since returned to Northern Iraq but remain internally displaced; Iraqis of all ethnic and religious backgrounds who fled Government-controlled territory since opposing the Iraqi Government; populations fleeing the Centre of Iraq after the fall of the former regime due to religious/ethnic or political persecution and harassment (e.g. religious minorities, intellectuals, Kurds from Fallujah and Ramadi), as well as ongoing fighting between Coalition Forces/Multinational Forces (MNF-I) and insurgents.

⁸ This figure does not include the two hundred thousand who were displaced during military operations in Faluja and Ramadi but returned shortly after the end of military operations and are no longer in displacement.

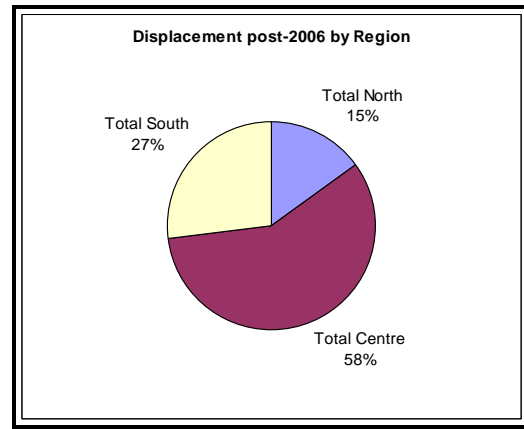
⁹ These include Arabs, Kurds, Turkmen and Assyrians displaced to other areas in the Centre during the 1980s as a result of the Iran / Iraq war; Arabs displaced to the Centre since 1991 following the drainage of the Marshes; Arabs displaced from their places of residence in the Centre as part of the 'Arabization' campaign from the 1960s through to the 1990s; Kurds/Turkmen IDPs returning to the Governorates below the 'Green Line' after the fall of the former government in April 2003; 'Secondary displaced' Arabs fleeing in fear of harassment following the return of Kurds and Turkmen from the North to their places of origin below the former 'Green Line'; Populations displaced due to periodic fighting between Coalition Forces/MNF-I and Iraqi Forces and insurgents (e.g. Fallujah, Ramadi, Samara, Tal Afar, Al Qaim).

¹⁰ These include persons displaced as a result of previous wars, specifically the Iran/Iraq war during the 1980s; Shiites displaced due to political/religious persecution (e.g. the 1991 uprising); Marsh Arabs displaced since 1991 following the draining of the marshes; Smaller numbers of Arabs displaced from their places of residence in the Centre (mainly in April/May 2003); people displaced as a result of tribal and other conflicts in the South; people displaced as a result of natural disasters, specifically floods; populations displaced due to periodic fighting between Coalition Forces/MNF-I and Iraqi Forces, and insurgents or armed militias (e.g. Fallujah, Ramadi, Najaf).

1.3 Displacement by Region



The majority of transferred/displaced persons before 2006 can be found in the three Northern Governorates, followed by substantial numbers in the nine Southern Governorates, with the remaining IDPs in the Centre.



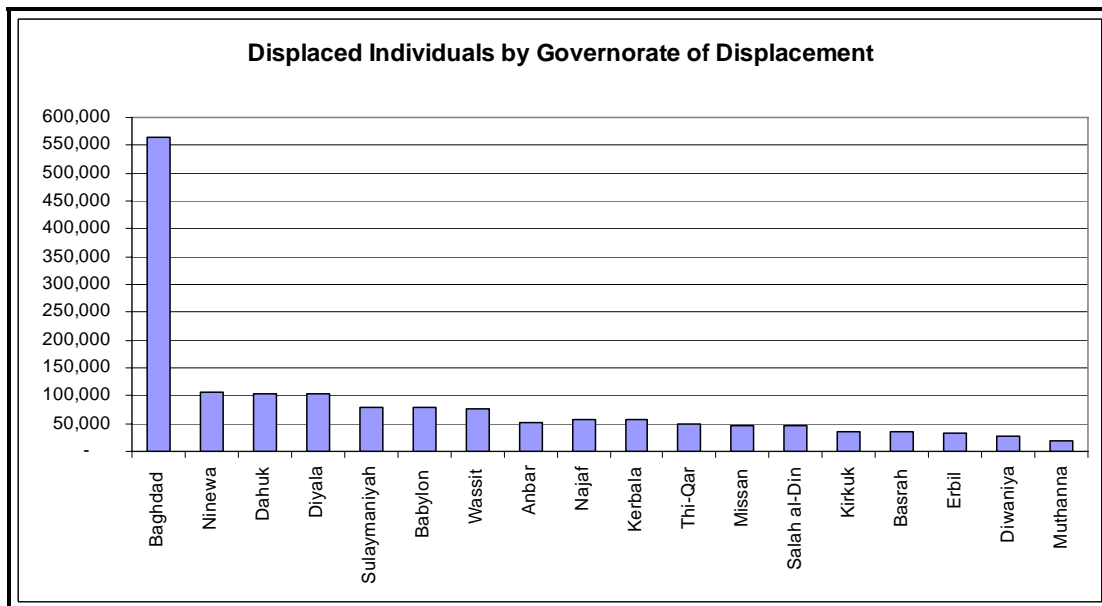
58% of Post-2006 IDPs in Iraq are displaced in the Central Governorates (mostly originating from other areas in the same governorates), 27% are in the South and 15% in the North. An increase of registered IDPs is visible in the Central Governorates.

As for overall displacement figures, it is estimated that over 2.77 million people are currently displaced inside Iraq as of 20 March 2008. Of these, 1.2 million were displaced before 2006 and more than 1.5 million were displaced in 2006 and 2007; less than 1% was displaced in 2008.

2 Post-February 2006 Displaced Persons by Governorate

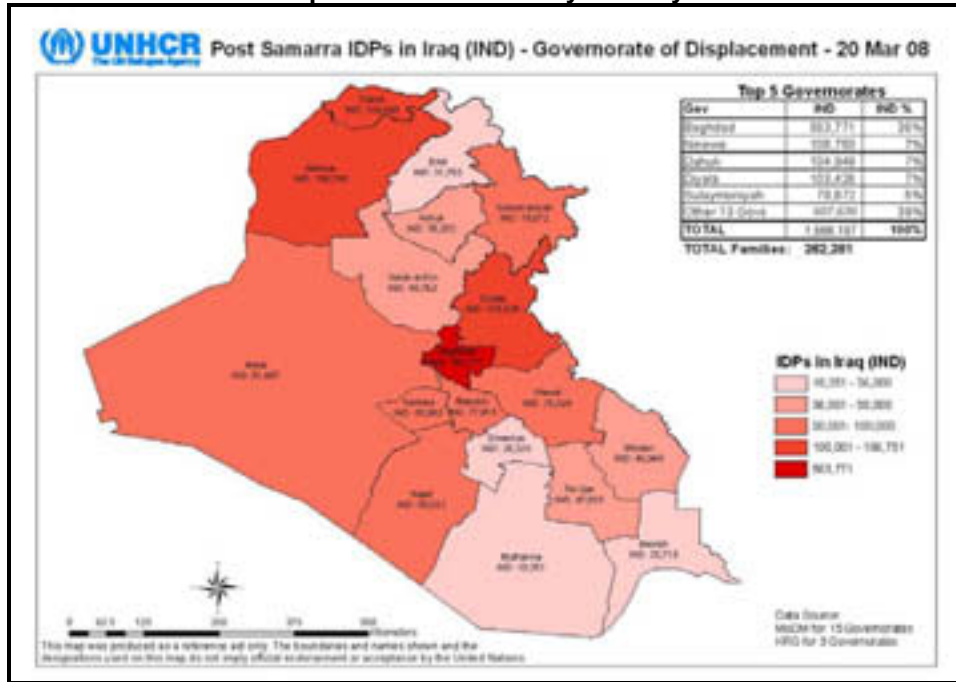
2.1 Total Individuals displaced after February 2006 by Governorate of Displacement

- Governorates hosting the highest number of registered IDPs are Baghdad (more than 560,000 individuals), Ninewa, Dahuk and Diyala (more than 100,000 individuals), Sulaymaniyah, Babylon and Wassit (more than 70,000 individuals), Anbar, Najaf and Kerbala (more than 50,000 individuals). Many IDPs remain unregistered with MoDM and KRG, especially in the Southern Governorates.



Data Source: MoDM for 15 governorates and KRG for Dahuk, Erbil and Sulaymaniyah (March 2008)

Individuals displaced after February 2006 by Governorate

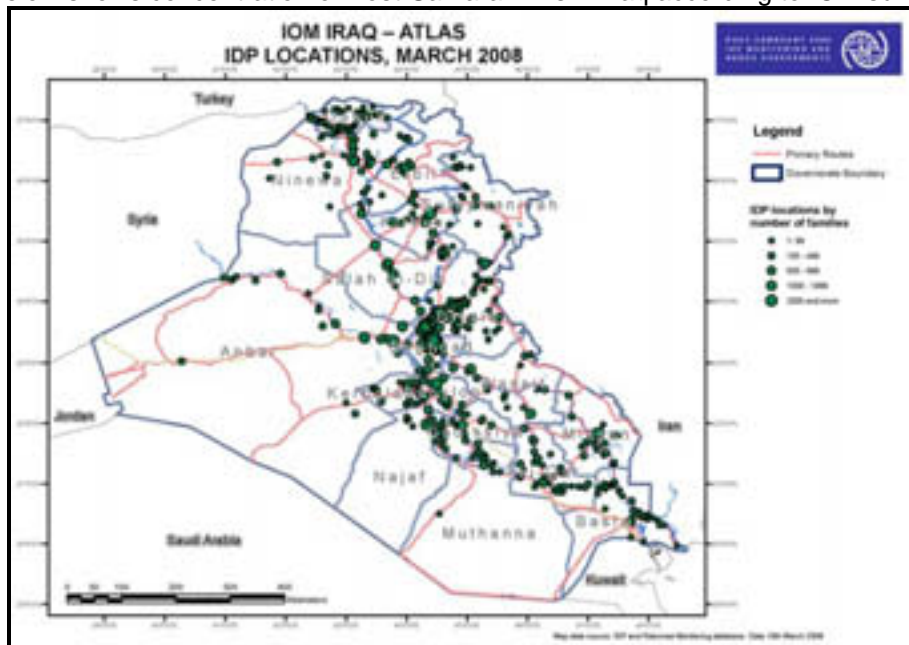


Data Source: KRG for Dahuk, Erbil and Sulaymaniyah, MODM for the other 15 governorates. Cut off date: 20 March 2008

- Although the number of IDPs still remains very high, new displacement is occurring at a much lower rate than in the past. This is in part probably due to the increasing ethnic homogenisation of governorates, districts or even neighbourhoods, as well as the decrease in security incidents in some areas of Baghdad, consequent media information campaign, restrictions to freedom of movement in many Iraqi governorates and exhaustion of resources for many families.
- The large difference between the current and last estimation (as of 31 December 2007) of total IDPs in the country (around 300,000 individuals more) is mostly due to improved entry of previously registered IDPs in the Central MoDM database for Baghdad and Ninewa as well as to some new displacement.

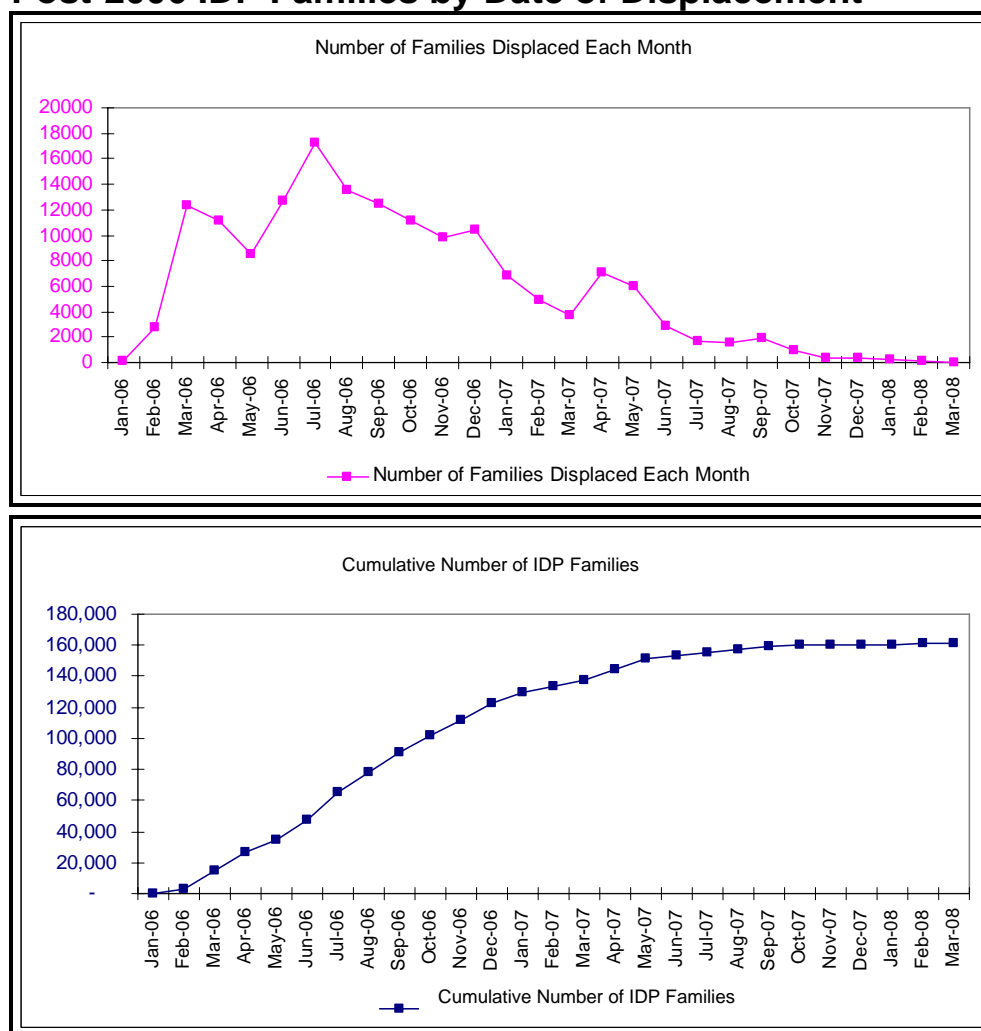
2.2 Individuals displaced after February 2006 by location of displacement

The map below shows concentration of Post-Samara IDPs in Iraq according to IOM survey.



Source: IOM, Emergency Needs Assessment, 15 March 2008.

2.3 Post-2006 IDP Families by Date of Displacement



Data Source: IOM. Only Post-Samara IDP families surveyed by IOM partners are represented in these charts by date of displacement (61% of total estimated Post-Samara IDPs)

- In the first chart "Number of Families Displaced Each Month" above, the pink line indicates the number of IDP families displaced each month (from January 2006 to February 2008). The peak of displacement was between June and September 2006. In October 2007, still nearly a thousand new families were displaced, while from October on, a few hundred families were displaced each month. In the second chart "Cumulative Number of IDP families", the blue line indicates the increase in cumulative total families living in displacement to date.
- New and secondary displacement was recorded in the first months of 2008 in Baghdad neighbourhoods of Al Dora, Al Jamia'a, Al Sulaik, al Adhamiya and Al Karkh district due to specific targeting or due to refusal of the current wave of return by some of the groups in control of these areas.¹¹
- Turkish shelling on the border between Iraq and Turkey has resulted in the displacement of 370 families from Sanagsar in the Sulaymaniyah Governorate in December. 355 of these are still living in displacement.¹²

¹¹ UNHCR reports.

¹² Ibid.

2.4 Percentage of Post-2006 IDPs Relative to Estimated Governorate Population

Governorate	Number of Post 2006 IDPs	Population ¹³	IDP as Percentage of total population
Dahuk	104,948	954,087	11.0%
Erbil	31,783	1,392,093	2.3%
Sulaymaniyah	79,672	1,715,585	4.6%
Total North	216,403	4,061,765	5.3%
Ninewa	106,750	2,811,091	3.8%
Kirkuk	36,202	902,019	4.0%
Anbar	51,487	1,485,985	3.5%
Baghdad	563,771	7,145,470	7.9%
Diyala	103,426	1,560,621	6.6%
Salah al-Din	45,762	1,191,403	3.8%
Total Centre	907,398	15,096,589	6.0%
Babylon	77,914	1,651,565	4.7%
Basrah	35,718	1,912,533	1.9%
Diwaniya	26,320	990,483	2.7%
Kerbala	55,962	887,858	6.3%
Missan	46,948	824,147	5.7%
Muthanna	18,351	614,997	3.0%
Najaf	58,032	1,081,203	5.4%
Thi-Qar	47,825	1,616,226	3.0%
Wassit	75,326	1,064,950	7.1%
Total South	442,396	10,643,962	4.2%
Total Iraq	1,566,197	29,802,316	5.3%

- IDPs represent more than 5% of the population in Iraq. The governorate with the highest proportion of IDPs to resident population is Dahuk (IDPs are over 11% of governorate population). In Baghdad, the proportion nearly reaches 8% and goes over 7% in Wassit, while it is higher than 6% in Diyala and Kerbala and higher than 5% in Missan and Najaf. The proportion of IDPs to resident population is higher in the Centre and North compared to the South.

2.5 Post-2006 IDPs by Place of Origin

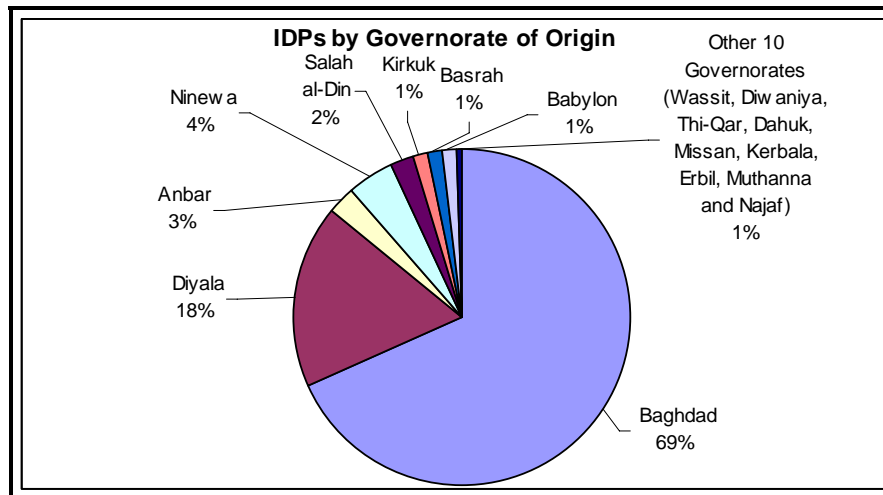
- According to MoDM, 69% of Iraqi IDPs displaced to the 15 Central and Southern Governorates since 2006 originate from Baghdad, 18% from Diyala and between 1% and 4% originate from Ninewa, Anbar, Salah al Din, Babylon, Basrah and Kirkuk.¹⁴
- The majority of IDPs displaced in each of the 15 Central and Southern Governorate originate from Baghdad, with the exception of Diyala and Kirkuk, where the majority of IDPs originate from within the same governorate.¹⁵
- In addition, Diyala is the place of origin for 18% of the IDPs displaced to Baghdad.¹⁶

¹³ Population of Iraq: estimation for Dahuk, Erbil and Sulaymaniyah is based on MoPDC/UNDP, Iraq Living Conditions Survey, April 2005. Estimate for the year 2007 for 15 governorates in Centre and South Iraq is based on MoP (COSIT) through MoDM, *Summary Results IDP Registration – February 2006 to March 2008*, p. 15.

¹⁴ MoDM report *Summary Results IDP Registration – February 2006 to March 2008* (issued in March 2008), p.8.

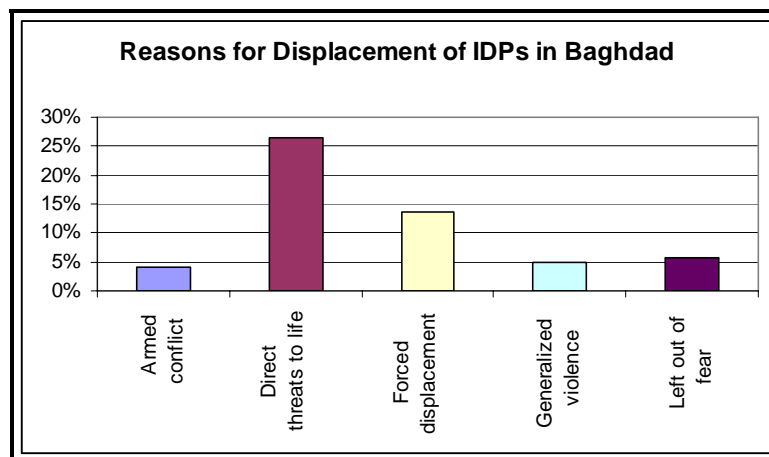
¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Ibid.



Data Source: MoDM report Summary Results IDP Registration – February 2006 to March 2008 (issued in March 2008)

2.6 Reasons for Displacement and Implications for Return for Post-2006 IDPs



IOM, *Emergency Needs Assessments Post-February 2006 Displacement in Iraq*, 15 March 2008.

- The majority of IDPs (40%) surveyed by IOM in the Governorate of Baghdad reported to have been displaced by direct threats to their life (mostly because of their religion or sect) or after being physically forced to leave their property. Less than 10% of the surveyed IDPs cite generalised violence or armed conflict as the cause of their displacement. However, in an overall climate of generalised violence, 7% of IDPs have left their homes out of fear.¹⁷
- Reasons for displacement may affect IDPs' decisions on whether or not to return. An improved security situation in Baghdad, from which more than 69% of IDPs originate¹⁸, could potentially facilitate the return of those who fled due to generalised violence (10% to 17%). However, many IDPs (up to 40%) might choose to remain in displacement if the direct threats to their life are still present in their place of origin and/or their property is still inaccessible (i.e. under the control of the groups who forced them out).

3 Return

- To date, large-scale return movements have not been noted. The displaced are watching to see whether the recent improvements in the security situation stabilises. In December 2007, UNAMI, UNHCR, IOM and MoDM agreed to provide initial support to those who chose to spontaneously return. At the same time, partners agree that a wider UN-facilitated return will be

¹⁷ IOM, *Displacement Assessment and Statistics (Emergency Needs Assessments)*, 15 March 2008. IOM surveyed 42,771 families in Baghdad.

¹⁸ MoDM, *Summary Results IDP Registration – February 2006 to March 2008* (issued in March 2008).

possible only when conditions (as set out in the draft National Policy on Internal Displacement) exist for a safe, voluntary and dignified return. This includes physical, material and legal safety for those choosing to come back.

- Concerns remain about the prevailing level of violence and sectarianism, the sustainability of the current partial security improvements, the limited absorption capacity (availability of basic services) in potential return areas and the lack of a cohesive mechanism to recover property lost after April 2003.

3.1 Main Trends of Return

- Return movements are mostly happening to areas which have become ethnically/religiously homogeneous. Returnees mostly return to those neighbourhoods/districts/governorates under control of members of their sect. To date, only a few families have returned to areas under control of another sect.¹⁹
- No members of minority groups (e.g., Christians, Sabaeen-Mandaeans and Yazidis) have been reported to be among the returnees.²⁰
- Among the reasons for return are deteriorating conditions in places of displacement, increased restrictions in neighbouring countries, tribal reconciliation and reports of improved security in places of origin.²¹
- What is reported as return includes secondary displacement (e.g., in the Governorates of Dahuk, Kerbala, Baghdad and Basrah).²² Difficulties in the place of displacement and impossibility of returning to their homes are often the cause for repeated movements of displaced persons.²³ In addition, there are also initial reports of returnees being targeted or otherwise killed upon return.²⁴
- The main impediments to return in safety and dignity are ongoing sectarianism by groups in control of a governorate, district or neighbourhood as well as the destruction or occupation of properties.²⁵ 31% of IDPs report that their property is currently occupied by another citizen.²⁶
- “Go and see” visits to assess the situation in the place of origin are happening. It has been reported that some families were threatened by the current occupiers when checking on their properties. If their area of origin is controlled by members of the opposite sect, they are unable to request the authorities to help recover their homes.²⁷
- Return movements may renew tensions in places of origin: returns to Diyala have caused displacement of families who feared returning IDPs, even if no threat had been reported.²⁸ In addition, families returning to areas of Ba’quba have been again threatened upon their return.²⁹
- Limited access to basic services does not as such impede returns. However, returnees are in need of basic services in addition to non-food items, food, shelter and employment.³⁰

¹⁹ UNHCR *Second Rapid Assessment of Return of Iraqis from Displacement Locations in Iraq and from Neighbouring Countries*, Sections 3 and 8.

²⁰ *Ibid.*, Section 8 and MoDM/IOM *Baghdad Returnee Assessment*, January 2008.

²¹ UNHCR, *Second Rapid Assessment of Return of Iraqis from Displacement Locations in Iraq and from Neighbouring Countries*, February 2008, MoDM/IOM *Baghdad Returnee Assessment*, January 2008 and IOM, *Displacement Assessment and Statistics (Emergency Needs Assessments)*, 15 March 2008.

²² UNHCR, *Second Rapid Assessment of Return of Iraqis from Displacement Locations in Iraq and from Neighbouring Countries*, February 2008.

²³ *Ibid.*, Section 6.

²⁴ UNHCR reports.

²⁵ UNHCR, *Second Rapid Assessment of Return of Iraqis from Displacement Locations in Iraq and from Neighbouring Countries*, Section 6.

²⁶ IOM, *Displacement Assessment and Statistics (Emergency Needs Assessments)*, 1 February 2008.

²⁷ UNHCR, *Second Rapid Assessment of Return of Iraqis from Displacement Locations in Iraq and from Neighbouring Countries*, Section 7.

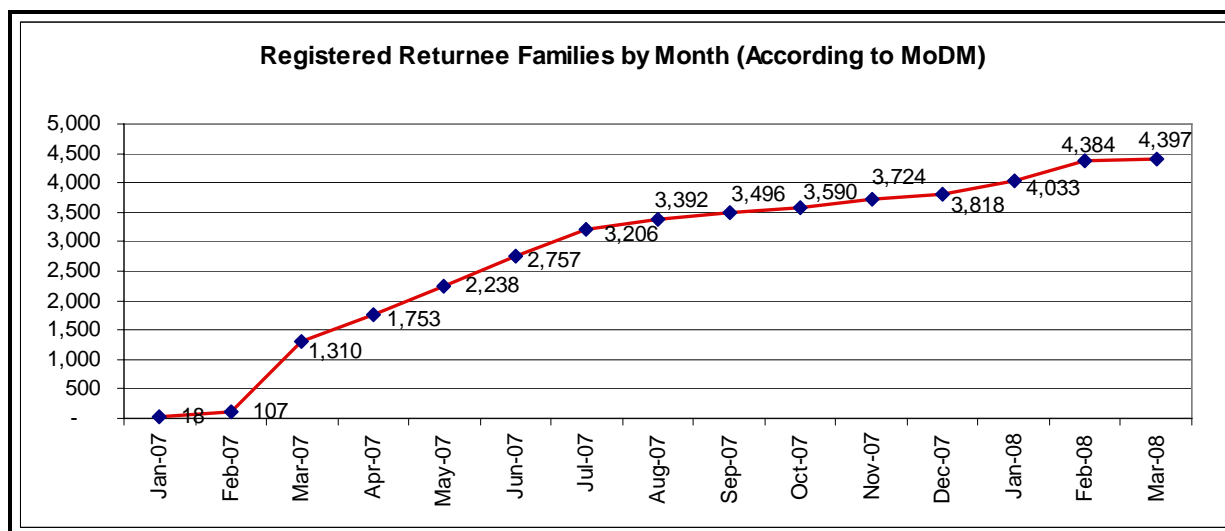
²⁸ IOM, *Displacement Assessment and Statistics (Emergency Needs Assessments)*, 15 March 2008, p. 8.

²⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 9.

³⁰ UNHCR, *Second Rapid Assessment of Return of Iraqis from Displacement Locations in Iraq and from Neighbouring Countries*, Section 9.

3.2 Returns to Baghdad Governorate

- Actual numbers of IDP and refugee returnees are currently uncertain. According to the latest figures released by MoDM, nearly 6,000 IDP families³¹ (an estimate of around 36,000 individuals) returned to Baghdad between February 2007 and March 2008.
- MoDM estimated that approximately 45,000 individuals had returned from abroad in 2007. The Iraqi Red Crescent Society (IRCS) estimated that around 46,000 individuals returned to Baghdad from Syria between 15 September and 27 December 2007.³²
- Out of a total of 262,281 families (around 1,566,197 individuals)³³ reported internally displaced after the Samara bombings, MoDM registered 4,397 families (around 26,000 individuals) as having returned to Baghdad from January 2007 to March 2008.³⁴
- 73% of those (3,206 families) returned to Baghdad in the six months between January and July 2007, while 27% (1191 families) returned to Baghdad in the six months between August 2007 and February 2008 (See chart below).³⁵
- Primary sources doubt that a peaceful *chain return* to occupied houses would be possible: IDPs occupying houses in safe areas will not leave these houses until they can safely return to their homes.³⁶
- Among the surveyed returnees from internal displacement, more than 65% came back to their place of origin.³⁷ Given the used methodologies, these surveys capture primarily those families that were able to return to their neighbourhoods and homes. UNHCR surveyed a small number of returnees from Syria upon return in November 2007 and concluded that only 30% were returning to their place of origin.³⁸
- From the analysis of a small sample of IDP families returning to the Governorate of Baghdad, it seems that some Shia and Sunni families have returned into secondary displacement in neighbourhoods of Baghdad controlled by their own sect (e.g., Sunnis to Adhamiya and Shiites to various neighbourhoods).³⁹
- Around 3% of the IDPs in the North have been registered by the KRG authorities as having departed (mostly from Erbil and Sulaymaniyah) towards Baghdad and Diyala in December 2007 and January 2008.⁴⁰



Data Source: MoDM, *Summary Results IDP Registration – February 2006 to March 2008*.

³¹ MoDM report *Summary Results IDP Registration – February 2006 to March 2008* (issued March 2008), p.17.

³² IRCO, *Iraqi Returnees from Syria, Update 2*, 30 December 2007.

³³ See Section 1.1 on page 3 of this report.

³⁴ MoDM report *Summary Results IDP Registration – February 2006 to March 2008* (issued March 2008), p.17.

³⁵ Ibid.

³⁶ UNHCR, *Second Rapid Assessment of Return of Iraqis from Displacement Locations in Iraq and from Neighbouring Countries*, Section 7.

³⁷ Ibid.

³⁸ UNHCR, *Rapid Assessment of Return of Iraqis from Displacement Locations and Neighbouring Countries*, Dec. 2007, p 10.

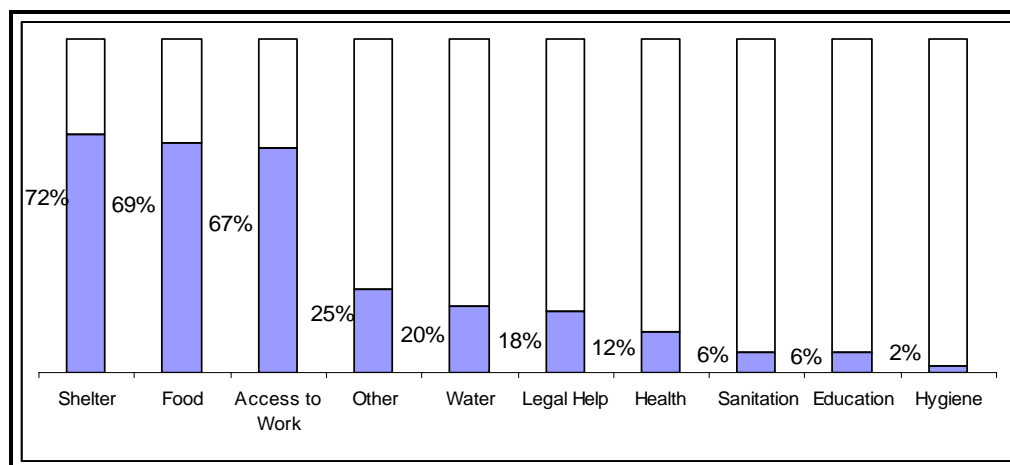
³⁹ UNHCR, *Second Rapid Assessment of Return of Iraqis from Displacement Locations in Iraq and from Neighbouring Countries*, Section 8.

⁴⁰ UNHCR reports February 2008.

4 Stated Needs of Post-2006 IDPs by Governorate

4.1 An Overview of Priority Needs stated by surveyed IDP population

Percentage of IDPs Stating Their Priority Needs



Source: IOM IDP Monitoring and Needs Assessments (March 2008)

Stated Needs of Displaced Population by Governorate

Governorate	Shelter	Food	Access to Work	Water	Legal Help	Health	Sanitation	Education	Hygiene	Other
North	53.5%	51.2%	76.3%	2.2%	13.6%	7.5%	0.8%	34.9%	0.4%	42.5%
Dahuk	49.2%	56.7%	93.3%	6.6%	1.0%	25.3%	1.0%	12.5%	0.4%	39.6%
Erbil	98.5%	22.0% ⁴¹	94.6%	0.1%	36.0%	0.1%	0.0%	42.4%		1.1%
Sulaymaniyah	17.5%	88.3%	48.7%	0.9%	2.9%	1.7%	1.4%	43.6%	0.7%	80.1%
Center	76.0%	73.2%	57.2%	15.9%	23.4%	10.5%	8.1%	5.0%	2.2%	27.4%
Anbar	61.3%	92.8%	34.1%	67.5%		11.1%		27.3%	1.8%	3.1%
Baghdad	83.6%	67.5%	61.2%	5.6%	6.7%	9.3%	16.5%	2.0%	1.5%	45.0%
Diyala	57.6%	98.0%	30.7%	24.7%	58.3%	10.4%		0.5%	0.8%	18.3%
Kirkuk	91.9%	94.4%	50.6%	10.2%	29.0%	8.9%	4.7%	4.8%	0.3%	3.6%
Ninewa	70.9%	21.7%	87.3%	3.1%	94.2%	6.6%	1.0%	1.4%	3.3%	10.0%
Salah al-Din	74.9%	87.2%	67.9%	12.1%	2.6%	19.7%	0.2%	3.0%	7.7%	23.4%
South	67.9%	65.6%	81.9%	28.7%	11.5%	15.7%	3.9%	2.8%	1.4%	18.2%
Babylon	53.6%	70.2%	68.5%	31.3%	26.3%	24.5%	3.1%	7.4%	0.1%	14.5%
Basrah	99.1%	67.2%	97.8%	2.6%	25.3%	0.8%	0.2%	0.6%	0.0%	6.1%
Diwaniya	89.7%	63.9%	92.2%	18.4%	9.6%	3.8%	0.2%	0.7%		21.4%
Kerbala	71.8%	60.4%	85.2%	15.3%	5.4%	3.8%	17.0%	5.1%	0.4%	19.0%
Missan	70.1%	34.1%	66.5%	39.7%	1.7%	10.8%	6.6%	0.3%	2.6%	67.3%
Muthanna	77.7%	59.6%	53.5%	34.7%	6.0%	25.1%	4.4%	13.4%	5.5%	19.7%
Najaf	95.4%	91.7%	91.1%	8.2%	3.4%	3.1%			0.1%	6.6%
Thi-Qar	93.7%	71.0%	95.5%	3.8%	6.5%	7.0%		1.2%	1.4%	19.4%
Wassit	28.7%	67.7%	83.1%	63.9%	11.4%	36.5%	1.0%	0.5%	3.0%	4.3%

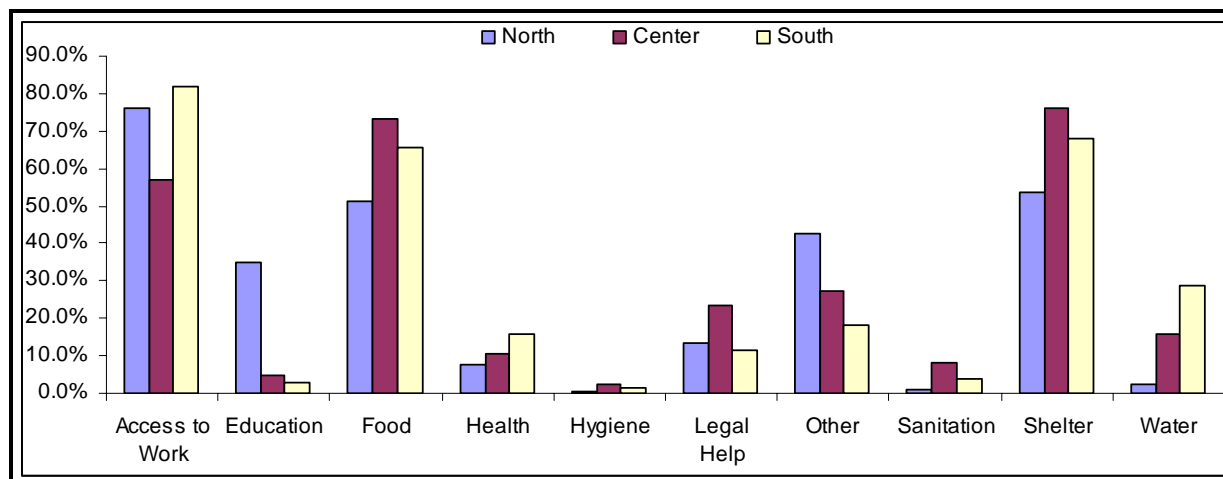
Source: IOM IDP Monitoring and Needs Assessments (March 2008)

⁴¹ UNHCR, Needs Assessment of Newly Displaced Persons in the Kurdistan Region, December 2007.

4.2 Priority Needs Identified by Post-2006 IDPs by Region

- Food, shelter and access to work are clearly identified as the primary needs of Iraqi IDPs. There are nonetheless important regional differences:

Percentage of IDPs stating their priority needs by North, Centre and South



Source: IOM IDP Monitoring and Needs Assessments (March 2008)

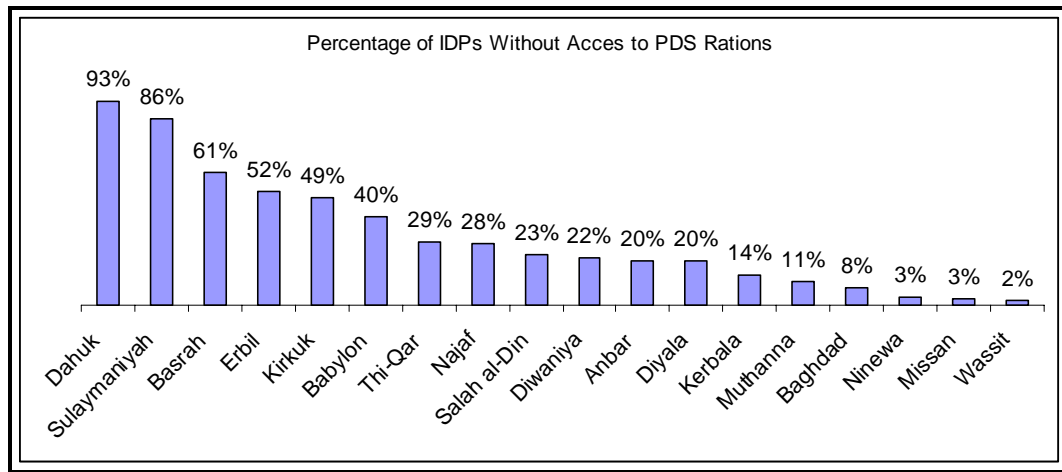
- Education is a priority for IDPs in the north (most likely because few Arabic-speaking schools exist); water is a higher priority for IDPs in the South and legal help is a priority for IDPs in the Centre.

4.3 Access to Food

- There is an extremely urgent need for emergency food distributions to vulnerable IDPs and host communities unable to access PDS rations.
- Access to food is also hindered by a lack of familial income and a lack of security. This lack of security impedes access to markets in some areas of the country and makes these markets extremely dangerous for both suppliers and customers. Road and neighbourhood closures, checkpoints, curfews, and military attacks also hinder access to markets.

4.4 Public Distribution System

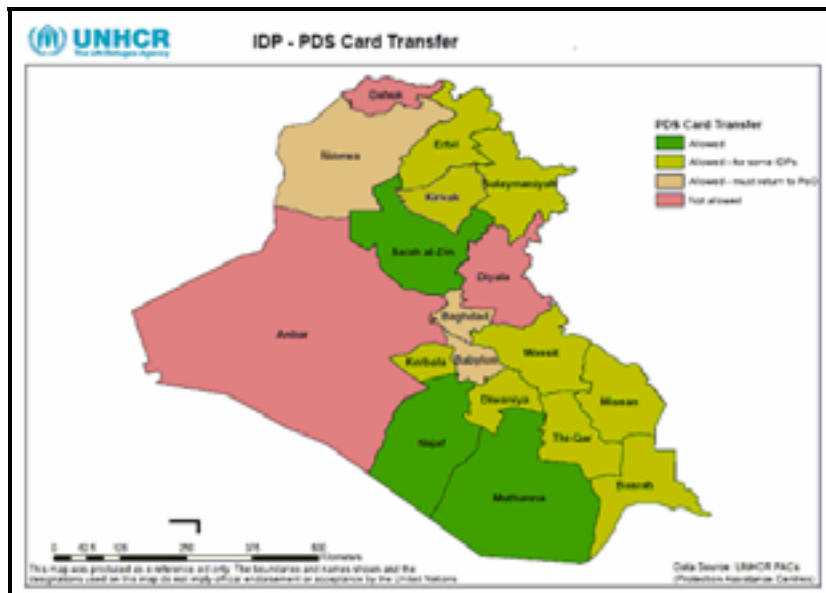
- PDS distributions do not reach all IDPs and host communities in any governorates, and access to rations is especially bad in Baghdad, Diyala, Kirkuk and Salah al Din.
- PDS rations are available in areas where: a) PDS distribution is functioning (e.g., many Southern Governorates), and b) only for IDPs who are registered with MoDM and have managed to transfer ration cards to their place of displacement.
- A number of IDP families are not allowed to register due to local authorities' orders, to prevent further displacement to their areas. As a result, these families do not generally have access to PDS rations.
- Some registered IDPs do not receive their rations due to delays in the transfer of PDS cards.
- The distribution of PDS rations to the whole population has been incomplete for the last 3 years.



Source: UNHCR Needs Assessment of Newly Displaced Persons in the Kurdistan Region (Dec. 2007) and IOM IDP Monitoring and Needs Assessments (March 2008)

- The percentage of IDPs accessing PDS rations is very limited in Dahuk, Sulaymaniyah and Basrah. Furthermore, based on the surveys, half of the IDP population cannot access the PDS in Erbil, Kirkuk and Babylon.⁴²
- Comparing the data in the last months, it seems that access to PDS is improving for IDPs in Kerbala, Anbar and Najaf, while it is worsening for IDPs in Babylon, Kirkuk and Dahuk.⁴³
- Among the main reasons for lack of access to PDS distribution, the surveyed IDPs mentioned mainly the inability to access food distribution points due to insecurity, the inability to register for PDS because of lacking documentation or PDS card, delays in transferring the PDS card and, a small percentage added, lack of food to distribute.⁴⁴

Transfer of PDS Ration Cards



Source: UNHCR PACs (February 2008)

- In Anbar, Dahuk and Diyala no IDP is allowed to transfer their food ration card.⁴⁵
- IDPs from disputed areas are not allowed to transfer their ration cards to Erbil and Sulaymaniyah.⁴⁶

⁴² Ibid. and IOM, *Displacement Assessment and Statistics (Emergency Needs Assessments)*, March 2008.

⁴³ Current percentages compared to the ones in the last IDP W.G. Update (end December 2007).

⁴⁴ UNHCR, *Rapid Needs Assessment of Newly Displaced Persons in the Kurdistan Region*, December 2007.

⁴⁵ Information reported on transfer of ration cards come from UNHCR reports.

⁴⁶ UNHCR, *Rapid Needs Assessment of Newly Displaced Persons in the Kurdistan Region*, December 2007 - Erbil: p. 21 and Sulaymaniyah: p. 23).

- The only governorates where all IDPs are allowed to transfer their ration card are Salah al Din, Najaf and Muthanna.
- Transfer of PDS cards is allowed in Basrah, Diwaniya, Erbil, Kerbala, Kirkuk, Missan, Sulaymaniyah, Thi-Qar and Wassit for all registered IDPs. However, restrictive procedures limit registration to certain categories of IDPs, which *de facto* impedes transfer of cards for many IDP families in these governorates (see Section 6).
- Transfer is allowed in Baghdad, Babylon and Ninewa but the families must return to their places of origin to retrieve missing documents (Baghdad, Babylon, Missan and Wassit) or de-register (Ninewa). Most of the time, this is quite dangerous, given that IDPs often flee their place of origin due to targeted violence and/or the fear or threat of such violence.

4.5 Access to Shelter

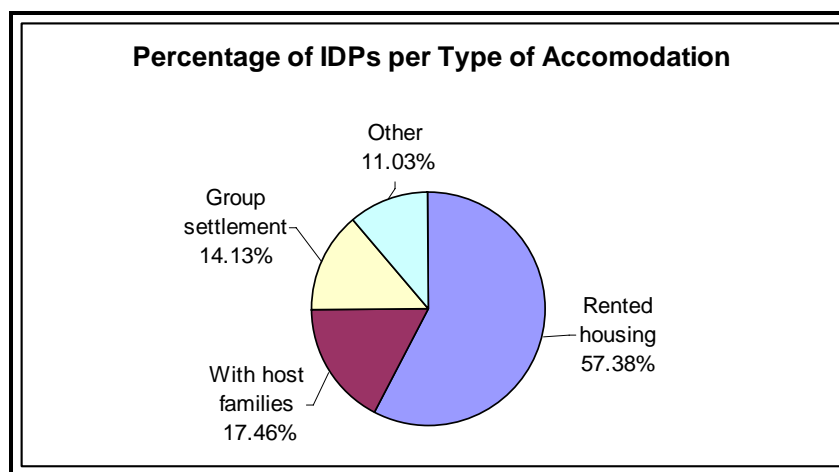
4.5.1 IDP Distribution by Shelter Type

- The majority of the IDP population in the country is living in rental accommodation (58%)⁴⁷



A two room shelter for a family of five in Zakho.
Rent: \$ 230 per month. ©UNHCR Partner / 2007

- Rented housing is often of an extremely low standard. Many IDP families pay rent to live in one room of a house, whilst sharing facilities with several other families. Other families live in the former store rooms of mosques and shops. Moreover, as IDP families cannot afford to pay high rents, rental properties are often extremely dilapidated. Common problems include: bad or no ventilation, leaking roofs, missing window panes, no internal doors separating communal areas from bathrooms or kitchens, and very poor or no kitchen and bathroom facilities.⁴⁸



Source: IOM Governorate Profiles and UNHCR Rapid Needs Assessments (December 2007)

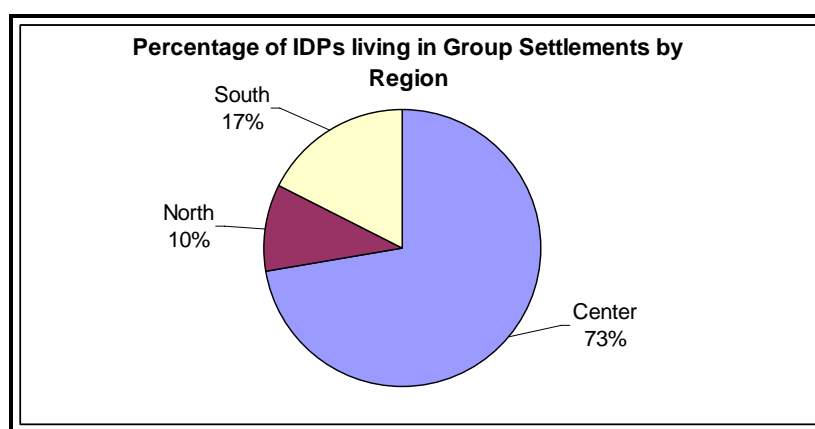
⁴⁷ IOM, *Governorate Profiles and UNHCR Rapid Needs Assessments*, December 2007.

⁴⁸ UNHCR reports, November 2007 and January 2008.

- 17% of IDPs live with host families.
- 14% of IDPs (around 200,000 individuals) live in group settlements

4.5.2 Post-2003 IDPs in Group Settlements

- Less than 1% of IDPs in Iraq live in tented camps.⁴⁹ IDPs in Iraq live in different types of group settlements, e.g., tented camps, public and private buildings, mud and reed houses camps, former military camps.
- UNHCR has gathered information on more than 270 group settlements hosting Post-2003 IDPs. Many of these host small numbers of families (in some cases, even less than 10 families). According to information gathered through NGOs working on the field, only 135 group settlements host more than 50 families each.⁵⁰
- Around 112,000 individuals are estimated as living in these larger 135 group settlements.⁵¹ Their regional distribution is illustrated in the chart below and shows that the six central governorates host most Post-2003 IDPs living in group settlements that are larger than 50 families.⁵²



Source: NGOs and UNHCR reports on Group Settlements

- Most IDPs living in group settlements are in dire need of food, adequate shelter and non-food items. They live in precarious sanitary conditions and lack access to clean water.⁵³
- Limited access to healthcare and employment are noted by NGOs and UNHCR staff especially in the North and Central Governorates, as well as inadequate infrastructure.⁵⁴
- IDPs in many group settlements feel insecure and are in need of protection. In the North, lack of access to education is among the assessed needs for those in group settlements.⁵⁵

⁴⁹ IOM, *Assessment of IDP Tent Camps in Iraq*, January 2008.

⁵⁰ UNHCR reports.

⁵¹ Ibid.

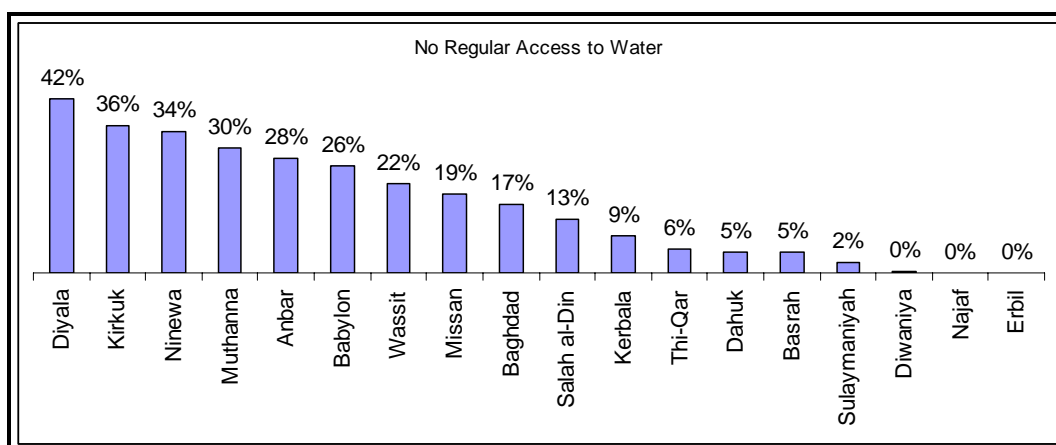
⁵² Ibid.

⁵³ PACs, NGOs and UNHCR reports. Mercy Corps has carried out a detailed survey of group settlements in the Governorates of Diyala, Kirkuk and Salah al Din, which results have been included.

⁵⁴ PACs, NGOs and UNHCR reports.

⁵⁵ Ibid.

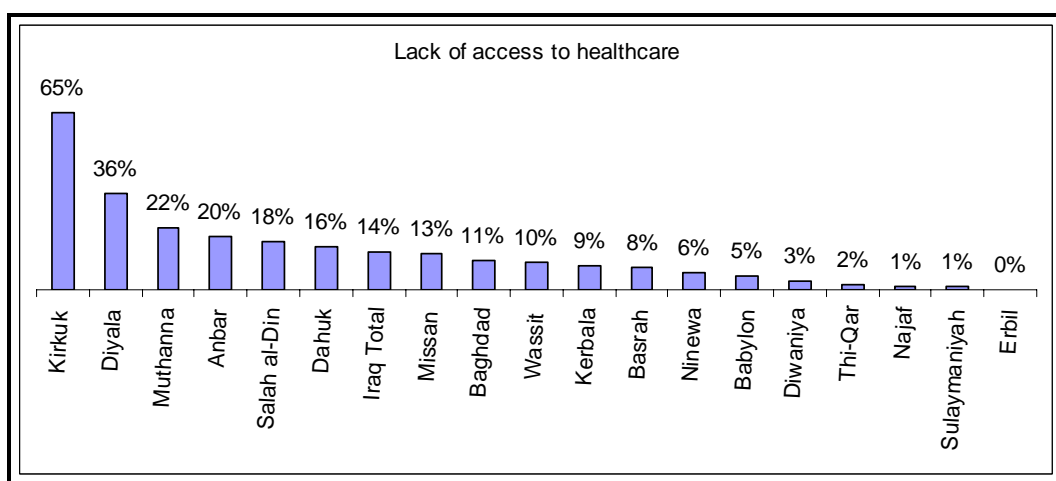
4.6 Access to Water



Source: IOM IDP Monitoring and Needs Assessments (March 2008)

- Lack of regular access to water is most notable in Diyala (42%), Kirkuk (36%) and Ninewa (34%).⁵⁶

4.7 Access to Health

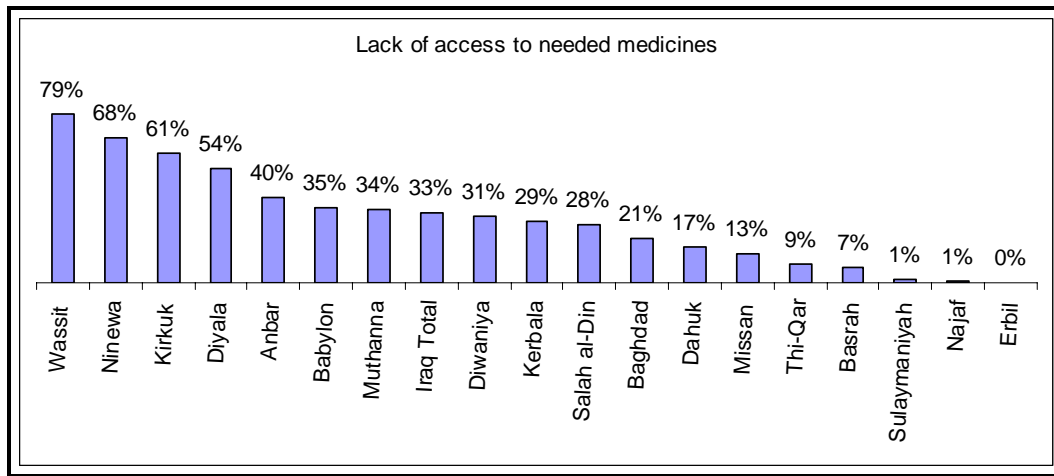


Source: IOM IDP Monitoring and Needs Assessments (March 2008)

- Lack of access to health care is by far most notable in Kirkuk, Diyala, Muthanna and Anbar, whereas most IDPs seem to have access in Erbil, Najaf, Sulaymaniyah and Thi-Qar.⁵⁷

⁵⁶ IOM, *Displacement Assessment and Statistics (Emergency Needs Assessments)*, 15 March 2008.

⁵⁷ Ibid.



Source: IOM IDP Monitoring and Needs Assessments (March 2008)

- Many IDPs reported a lack of access to required medicine, especially in Wassit, Ninewa, Kirkuk, Diyala and Anbar.⁵⁸

4.8 Income and Employment

- IDPs are increasingly in need of adequate income due to lack of employment opportunities.⁵⁹
- Vulnerable IDPs are still facing problem in engaging with the social welfare system in Nassiriyah, Kirkuk, Missan and Baghdad due to lack of funds.⁶⁰
- Women IDPs are highlighting lack of income opportunities.⁶¹

5 Vulnerable Groups

5.1 Children

- Early marriages amongst Iraqi girls have been increasingly reported in 2007. In January, the early marriage of a young boy (13 years old) was reported in Thi-Qar.⁶²
- Students are still encountering difficulties in transferring documentation needed for school in their place of displacement. In particular, in January, cases in Kirkuk and in Baghdad were reported.⁶³
- Many IDP children have been reported as orphans without escort,⁶⁴ as well as forced into prostitution.⁶⁵
- Drug abuse is an increasing phenomenon among children as reported in the North and lower South.⁶⁶
- Psychological trauma symptoms among children in unstable areas have been often reported.⁶⁷

5.2 Other vulnerable groups

- Over the last 14 months, several single or widowed women were reported as having become head of households due to killing of males as well as divorces (sometimes a mixed Shia-Sunni

⁵⁸ Ibid.

⁵⁹ Ibid and UNHCR reports.

⁶⁰ UNHCR reports.

⁶¹ Ibid.

⁶² Ibid.

⁶³ Ibid.

⁶⁴ Ibid.

⁶⁵ IOM, *Governorate Assessment Reports* on Babylon, Erbil, Kerbala and Najaf, December 2007.

⁶⁶ UNHCR reports.

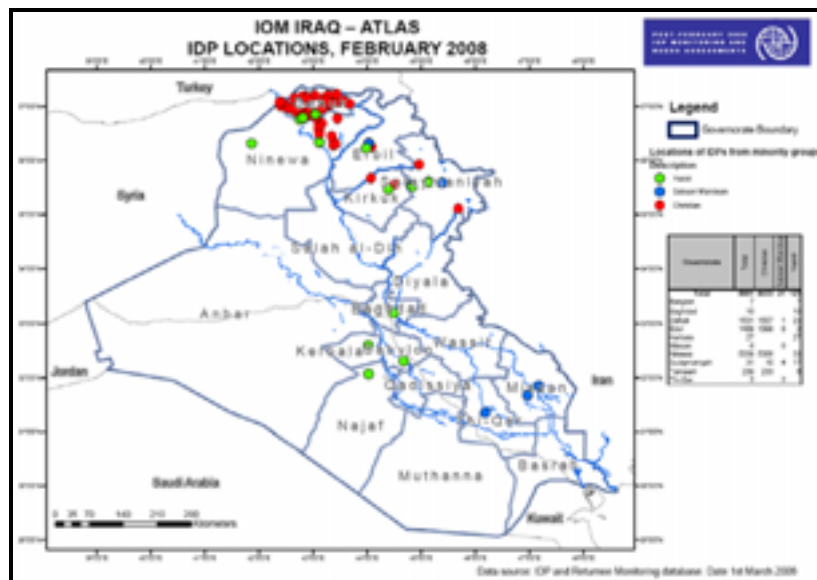
⁶⁷ UNHCR Reports (Basrah) and IOM, *Governorate Assessment Reports* on Babylon, Kerbala and Najaf, December 2007.

couple is forced to divorce due to the different religious background⁶⁸) and partial displacement (only women and children flee).⁶⁹

- A significant number of pregnant women, persons of old age and persons with disabilities are also reported among the caseload and are in need of special care.⁷⁰
- Cases of prostitution as well as begging in the streets have been reported, involving women IDPs.⁷¹

5.2.2 Minority Religious Groups⁷²

- Christians assessed by IOM are concentrated in the north, most of them in Dahuk. Sabean Mandeans were identified in the North and some Southern Governorates, while Yazidis were identified throughout the country.
- Yazidis mainly fled Diyala (22%) and Ninewa (65%). Most Christians fled from Baghdad (77%) and Ninewa (19%). 90% of assessed Sabean Mandeans fled from Baghdad.
- Most of the Christians and Sabean Mandeans were displaced in mid-to-late 2006, but for Yazidis the largest spikes in displacement occurred in March 2003 and in August 2007.
- Nearly all assessed Christians and Sabean Mandeans are living in rented housing or with a host family or relatives. In contrast, only 24% of assessed Yazidis are renting – 29% live in collective settlements, 20% are in tents near houses of hosts, and 17% share a house with host families or relatives.



IOM Minority Religious IDP Groups in Iraq, March 2008

6 Access of IDPs to Governorates and Registration

- Freedom of movement is facing serious limitations in Iraq: six governorates are still restricting physical access. Although it is difficult to prevent Iraqis from moving from one governorate to another, authorities at checkpoints will not allow a family through if it is clear that they are planning on settling in the governorate (e.g. they travel with their furniture). Eight other governorates are imposing measures which constrain registration.⁷³
- In addition, authorities of some governorates (e.g., Babylon) restricted access to new IDPs from Diyala in order to decrease the number of displaced in the governorate.⁷⁴
- Access to Salah al Din is possible, but access to Shurqat district requires agreement of the local police office.⁷⁵

⁶⁸ UNHCR reports (e.g., in Kerbala).

⁶⁹ UNHCR reports.

⁷⁰ Ibid.

⁷¹ UNHCR reports and IOM, *Governorate Assessment Reports* on Babylon, Erbil, Kerbala, Kirkuk, Najaf, Ninewa and Salah al Din, December 2007.

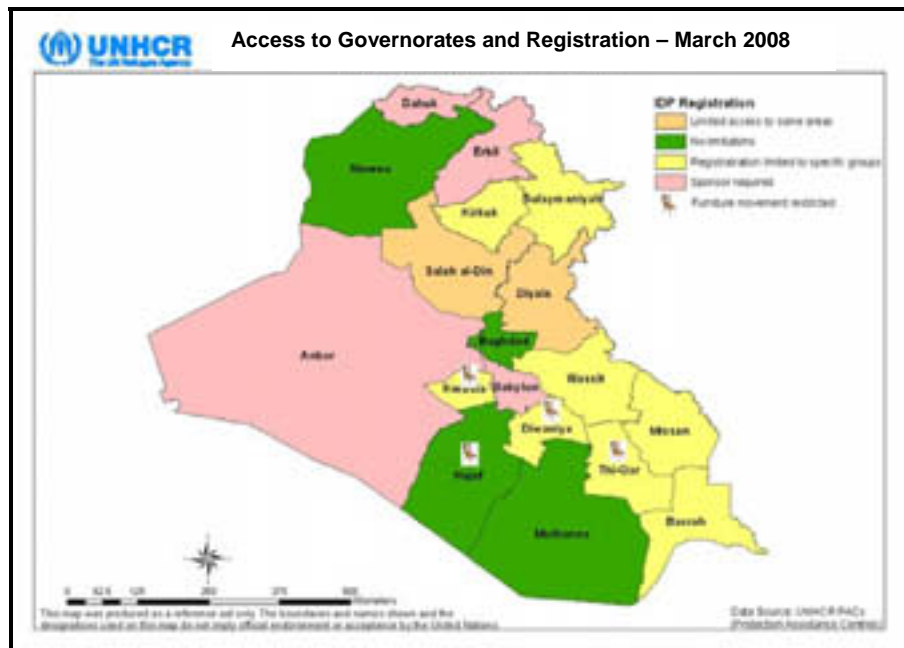
⁷² IOM, *Minority Religious IDP Groups in Iraq*, March 2008.

⁷³ For an overview, see the map below.

⁷⁴ UNHCR reports (March 2008).

⁷⁵ Ibid.

- Single men not originating from the Governorate of Dahuk need a sponsor to enter the governorate and register.⁷⁶ Arabs and Kurds from disputed areas have reportedly faced difficulties in registering in the Governorate.⁷⁷
- Persons from *Arabized* areas claimed by the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), i.e. Kirkuk and Khanaquin (in the Governorate of Diyala) are generally denied entry to the Governorate of Sulaymaniyah for political and demographic reasons, unless they wish to come for a visit only.⁷⁸
- Babylon, Anbar, Basrah, Missan, Thi-Qar and Khanaquin only allow entry to IDP families who can prove that they come from a *dangerous area* (definition of *dangerous area* is not uniform) and registration to those who have a sponsor. Only IDPs able to prove that they have been threatened are allowed to register in Kirkuk.⁷⁹
- Checkpoints and curfews restrict movement of IDPs in Missan, Wassit, Baghdad and Basrah.⁸⁰



Source: UNHCR PACs – March 2008

- Denying access to registration restricts access to different services depending on the governorate including: PDS rations (no transfer of PDS cards is allowed), schools, ability to rent or buy property, fuel, emergency distributions based on MoDM registration lists (e.g., the recent WFP emergency food distribution), social welfare grants, legal documentation and, in some cases, the right to be employed.
- Major reasons for these restrictions are security and lack of resources of host communities. Communities need support in assisting IDPs as their capacity is growing thin. In addition, in many areas increase in price is seen by host community as directly dependent on the presence of IDPs.⁸¹

⁷⁶ UNHCR, Rapid Needs Assessment of Newly Displaced Persons in the Kurdistan Region – Dahuk, December 2007, p.17.

⁷⁷ Ibid.

⁷⁸ UNHCR, Rapid Needs Assessment of Newly Displaced Persons in the Kurdistan Region – Sulaymaniyah, December 2007, p.18.

⁷⁹ UNHCR reports (March 2008).

⁸⁰ Ibid. and IOM, *Displacement Assessments and Statistics (Emergency Needs Assessments)*, March 2008.

⁸¹ UNHCR reports and IOM, *Governorate Assessment Reports for Babylon, Kerbala and Najaf*, December 2007.

7 Needs and Assistance provided to IDPs

- According to the current estimation of IDPs (1,579,246 individuals, displaced mostly in 2006 and 2007) the amount of IDPs in need of adequate shelter and food is now higher than one million. In addition, over a million cannot access regular income; around 300,000 individuals have no access to clean water and are in need of legal aid to enable them to access other basic services.
- The initiatives currently known to the IDP W.G. by the Iraqi Government, the UN and the NGO community are unable to cover the scope of the needs in Iraq.
- Most of the IDP families surveyed by IOM and UNHCR in 2007 either have not received assistance, or have received it only from other Iraqis, including host community, relatives, religious groups, the Iraqi Red Crescent Society and the Iraqi Government.⁸²
- It is important to note that since many humanitarian organisations adopt a low profile in Iraq and work through local groups and authorities due to security considerations, the visibility of international assistance is diminished. Iraqi IDPs cannot therefore be aware of the real portion of assistance originating from the humanitarian aid community (with the exception of the Iraqi Red Crescent Society).
- The ability of NGOs to provide assistance is being affected by security restrictions in various locations: in some areas of Muthanna, for example, assistance is not reaching beneficiaries during the month of January 2008 because of lack of access of NGOs. In Mosul, curfews and checkpoints are currently delaying assistance to IDPs. Currently in Basrah and parts of Baghdad, NGOs are unable to access populations in need due to intense fighting, curfews and checkpoints.⁸³

IDP WG,

Amman, 24 March 2008

⁸² IOM, *Governorate Profiles*, December 2007 and UNHCR *Rapid Needs Assessments*, December 2007.

⁸³ UNHCR reports and IOM, *Displacement Assessments and Statistics (Emergency Needs Assessments)*, March 2008.