



*Since a severe wave of sectarian violence began in February 2006, the pace of human movement in Iraq has slowed, but the needs of displaced families and their communities are no less urgent. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) identifies these families and assesses their conditions in order to ensure that they receive the assistance they need, whether their intentions are to return, resettle or integrate into their current location.*



## Executive Summary

Today some of the 1.6 million<sup>1</sup> families who left their homes in Iraq after 2006 have returned, while the majority remain displaced. The path to a sustainable future varies among families, affected by factors such as history, location, socioeconomic level, affiliations, and intentions. Thus, their needs for assistance also vary despite some overarching trends captured in this summary report. Nevertheless, displaced families share many of their basic needs with returnees as well as their host communities. These needs are presented in this report, along with in-depth analyses of particular geographic and demographic data.

According to the Iraqi Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MoDM), more than 1,680,000 Iraqis (270,000 families) have been internally displaced since February 2006, amounting to approximately 5.5% of the total population. Of those that remain displaced, IOM monitoring teams have assessed 212,000 families (an estimated 1,272,000 individuals). In addition, 66,555 returnee families (an estimated 399,330 individuals) have been identified across the country by IOM field monitors.<sup>2</sup> As well as *identifying* the number, location, and date of displacement for these families, IOM also conducts in-depth *interviews* with an average of 15% of returnees in each governorate in order to understand their priority needs, future intentions, and several other factors essential for providing assistance and supporting durable solutions. This report is based on these assessments made by IOM field assessment teams across Iraq and the quantitative and qualitative feedback they received from the consultations with the local authorities, MoDM counterparts, community members, and IDP and returnee families.

### Key Findings:

- Internally displaced persons (IDPs) and returnees in Iraq continue to have a complex set of problems that will need long-term planning and additional government and community intervention to solve.
- Many IDPs are still without basic necessities such as food and shelter.
- Returnees cite food as a priority need along with water and healthcare.
- Host communities and those that were displaced before 2006 share many of the problems faced by IDPs and returnees.
- Access to work continues to be the most commonly reported priority need of IDPs.
- Though systematic displacement has stopped, water scarcity and sectarian violence can still cause the displacement of thousands of individuals.
- This year, more IDPs are expressing the intention to locally integrate in their current location.



IOM and UNHCR implement a joint distribution in Babylon (May 2010)

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<sup>1</sup> As per August 2010 figures from the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) for the 3 northern governorates and the Iraqi Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MoDM) August 2009 figures for the 15 central and southern governorates. See the IDP Working Group Internally Displaced Persons in Iraq Update (September 2008) for figures per governorate.

<sup>2</sup> The number of returnee families presented in this report is not the total number of returnees in Iraq, but the summary number of returnee families for locations (villages and neighborhoods) for which the returnee monitoring teams collected data through particular sources as of the reporting date. These figures do not include returnee families in Dahuk, Erbil and Sulaymaniyah.





## Displacement and Return since February 2006 at a Glance

Though the rate of displacement was at its highest in 2006, events within Iraq can still cause sudden and sporadic increases in the pace of human movement.

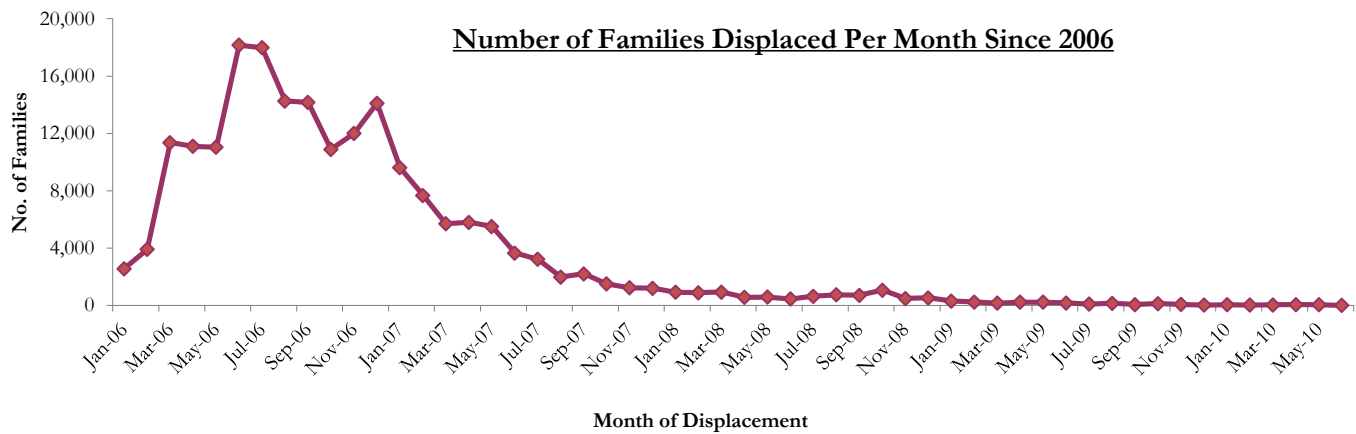
**KEY TERM**

Internal displacement has two distinctive features:

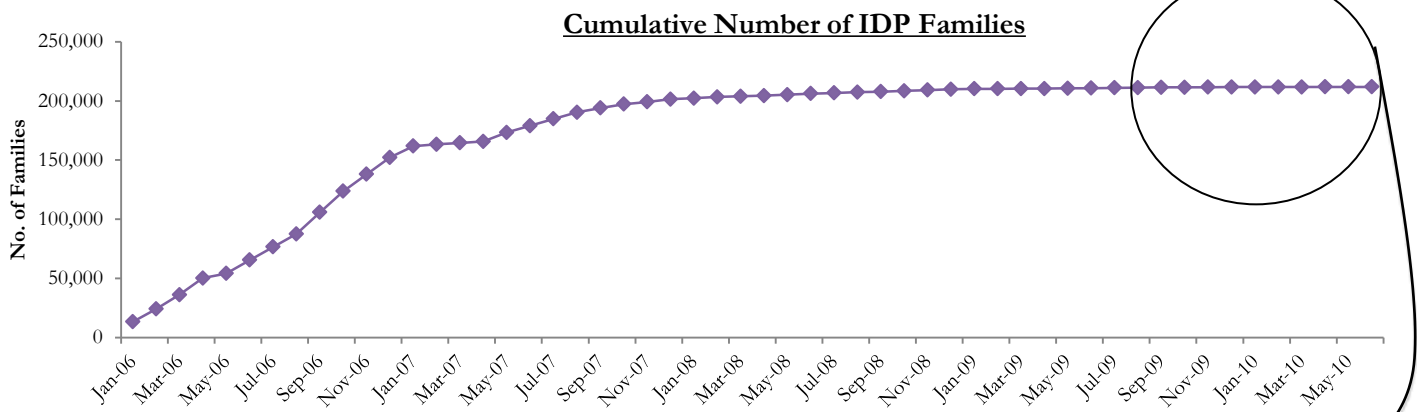
- The population movement is coerced or involuntary
- The movement occurs within national borders.<sup>3</sup>

### Displacement

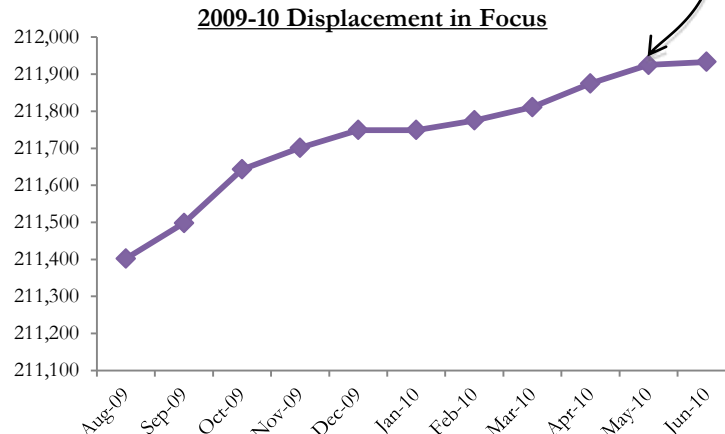
According to IOM assessments, 2006 witnessed the highest rate of recent displacement in Iraq with an average of 11,794 families displaced per month. This has since decreased steadily, dropping to an average of 98 families per month since October 2009. New displacements are therefore far less frequent in Iraq today than in the immediate aftermath of the bombing in Samarra, however IOM has assessed some 212,000 families (1,272,000 individuals) that are still displaced throughout the country. Many of these families are without the basic services needed to rebuild their lives.



Though it appears that displacement has decreased to a comparatively slow pace, with new displacement having all but stopped, a closer look reveals that sporadic displacements still occur in Iraq.



Unanticipated natural disasters and security incidents still have the ability to disrupt families' lives and cause sudden displacement. For example, the rate of displacement increased by 38% in March 2010 and 78% in April 2010 in the context of the political uncertainty surrounding the Iraqi elections.



<sup>3</sup> See IOM definition at: <http://www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/about-migration/developing-migration-policy/migration-displacement/internally-displaced-persons/cache/offonice/>





The decision to return is an individual decision based on many factors such as security, housing, employment, and basic services. While new returns are less common now than in 2008 and 2009, families continue to return and need assistance to do so successfully.



## Return

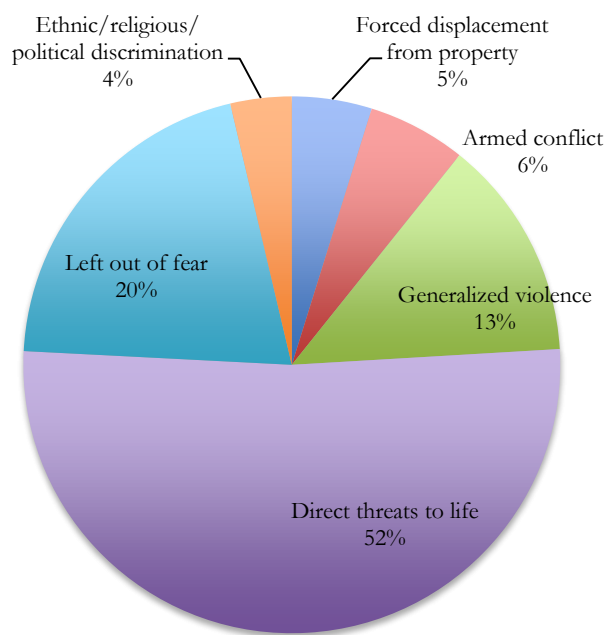
Iraqi families displaced after 2006 continue to return home, although assessments show that the rate of return has slowed in 2009 and 2010. Many are in need of assistance to ensure successful return and reintegration. Currently 66,555 returnee families (an estimated 399,330 individuals) have been identified across the country by IOM field monitors. Many of these families return from displacement within Iraq, often from within the same governorate of origin, although 14% return from abroad. Many of these come from Iran and Syria, but families are also returning from countries such as Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Turkey.

| <b>IOM Interviewed Returnee Families are From:</b> |                   |                  |
|--|-------------------|------------------|
|  | Within Iraq (IDP) | Abroad (Refugee) |
| Number of Families                                 | 7184              | 1170             |
| %  | 86%               | 14%              |

**KEY TERM** Returnees are defined in IOM assessments as those families that return to the same house or same neighbourhood they originally left.

IOM field assessment teams have identified fewer families returning this year than any other since 2008. Some displaced families say they are waiting until they feel safe enough to return, while others do not believe they will do so and need assistance integrating into their place of displacement or assistance to resettle to a third location. IOM field monitors have conducted in-depth interviews with over 9,500 returnee families, of which 24% returned in 2007 and 55% in 2008. When asked about their reasons for returning, 53% of families cited improved security in their place of origin, 10% returned because of difficult conditions in their place of displacement, and 24% said they were influenced by a combination of these two factors. While security is often the primary factor in making a decision about whether to return, interviewed families also cite the availability of housing and access to work as being extremely important. The availability of services such as schools, healthcare, and water and electricity networks are also considered by potential returnees.

### Returnee Families' Reasons for Displacement



Returnee families in Iraq report different reasons for their displacement. Most left their homes because of direct threats to their lives, although fear and generalized violence are also often given as reasons. Given that a lack of security was one of the primary push factors affecting returnee families' initial displacement, and that more than half cite "improved security in their place of origin" as their reason for subsequent return, changes in the security situation will likely have a great effect on future returnee flows.

Though most of the returnee families that IOM assessed were displaced after 2003, 13% of them were displaced during the period 1972 to 2003. The families that were displaced during this period form part of the analysis contained in this report. Their needs are assessed and, where possible, addressed by IOM teams in Iraq.

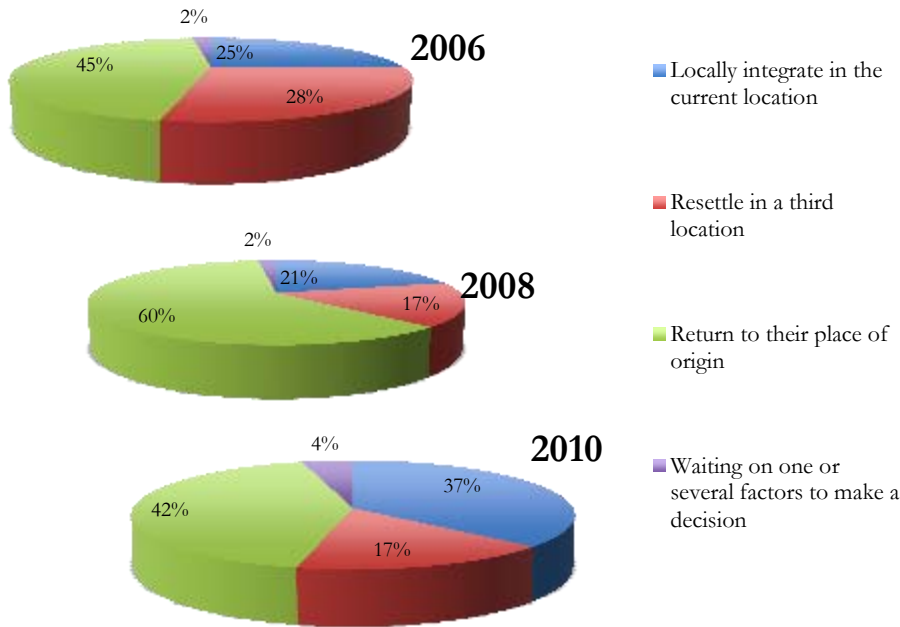
| Year of Displacement | No. of Families Displaced | Percentage |
|----------------------|---------------------------|------------|
| 1972-2003            | 1214                      | 13%        |
| 2003 onwards         | 8261                      | 87%        |



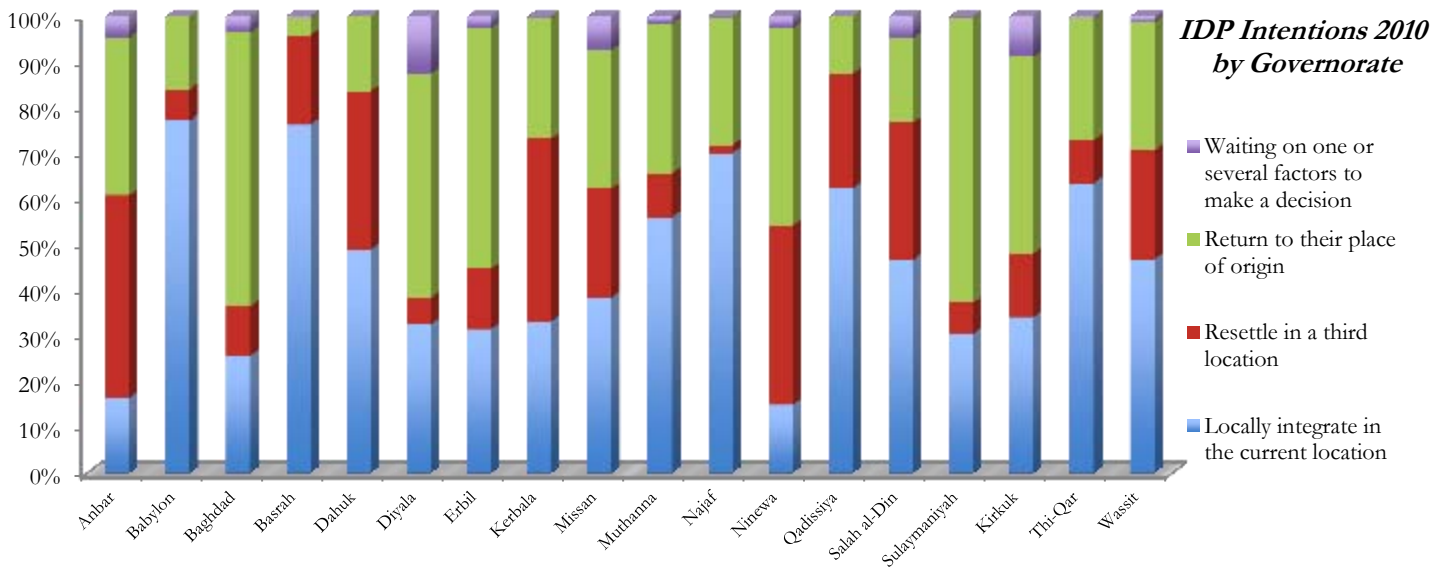


This year, more IDPs express the intention to locally integrate in their current location, particularly those in the southern governorates of Iraq.

**IDP Intentions over Time (2006-2010)**



IDP intentions have changed considerably since IOM first began monitoring displacement in Iraq. 2007 saw a steady rise in the numbers of displaced families wanting to return to their places of origin, a trend which continued in 2008 and 2009. This year however, fewer families have been reporting that they would like to return to their place of origin and 37% state the intention to integrate in their current location, an increase of 12% since 2006. This is likely because, as displacement is prolonged, some families begin to feel more settled in their place of displacement. The number of families wanting to resettle in a third location has gradually decreased, standing at 36,253 (17%) families in 2010. As shown below, these intentions vary widely by governorate.



A governorate-level analysis reveals those areas where IDPs are most likely to want to leave and those where they are most keen to stay. In central and southern governorates such as Babylon and Basrah, 75% of families would like to locally integrate whilst in Ninewa less than 15% of families express the same intention.

These intentions are often dependent upon the security situation, as well as the availability of services like healthcare and water. Areas such as Anbar, Ninewa and Kerbala, where more IDP families wish to return to their place of origin, are often also those where there is a high number of families wishing to resettle in a third location. Identifying the reasons that inform IDP intentions is essential in limiting secondary displacement and ensuring that IDP families are able to gain the assistance they need.





## IDP and Returnee Geography

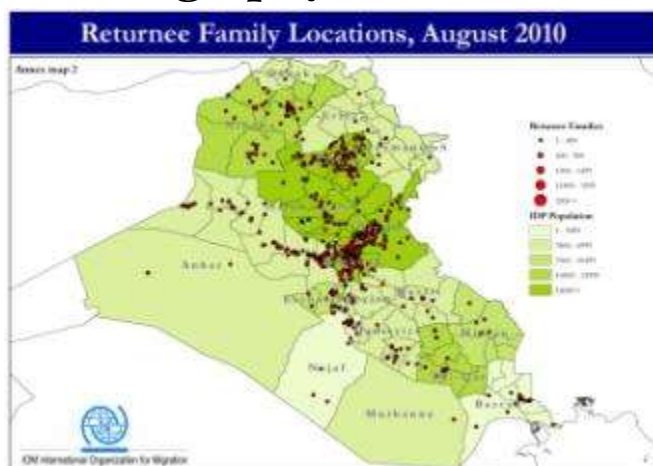
While IDPs have fled to every governorate in Iraq, the largest group of IDP families (35%) currently lives in Baghdad.

### Current Locations of IDPs and Returnees

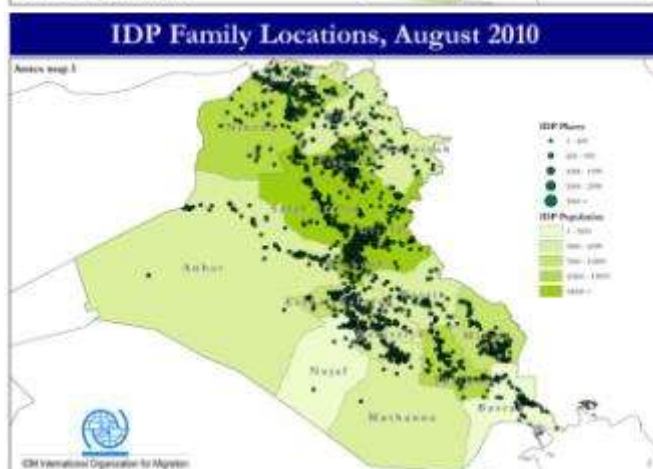
As well as Baghdad, Diyala, Ninewa, and Dahuk also host significant IDP populations, according to the Iraqi Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MoDM) statistics below. The IOM identified returnee population is located primarily in Baghdad, followed by Diyala, Anbar and Kirkuk.



An IDP family from Ninewa speaks to IOM and MoDM in Al Qaim, Anbar (February 2010)



See Annex map 2



See Annex map 3

| Governorate     | IDP Families <sup>4</sup> | %             | Returnee Families <sup>5</sup> |               |             |               |
|-----------------|---------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|
|                 |                           |               | Identified                     | %             | Interviewed | %             |
| <b>All Iraq</b> | <b>283404</b>             | <b>100.0%</b> | <b>66555</b>                   | <b>100.0%</b> | <b>9516</b> | <b>100.0%</b> |
| Anbar           | 10258                     | 3.7%          | 6741                           | 10.1%         | 998         | 10.5%         |
| Babylon         | 13430                     | 4.7%          | 430                            | 0.6%          | 302         | 3.2%          |
| Baghdad         | 100337                    | 35.4%         | 38484                          | 57.8%         | 4192        | 44.1%         |
| Basrah          | 6968                      | 2.5%          | 307                            | 0.5%          | 132         | 1.4%          |
| Dahuk           | 18755                     | 6.6%          | 6                              | 0.0%          | 6           | 0.1%          |
| Diyala          | 21064                     | 7.4%          | 11291                          | 17.0%         | 883         | 9.3%          |
| Erbil           | 9399                      | 3.3%          | 103                            | 0.2%          | 138         | 1.5%          |
| Kerbala         | 10337                     | 3.7%          | 321                            | 0.5%          | 139         | 1.5%          |
| Kirkuk          | 8798                      | 3.1%          | 5113                           | 7.7%          | 400         | 4.2%          |
| Missan          | 7269                      | 2.6%          | 626                            | 0.9%          | 350         | 3.7%          |
| Muthanna        | 2794                      | 1.0%          | 64                             | 0.1%          | 27          | 0.3%          |
| Najaf           | 11698                     | 4.1%          | 298                            | 0.4%          | 343         | 3.6%          |
| Ninewa          | 19040                     | 6.7%          | 1870                           | 2.8%          | 1289        | 13.5%         |
| Qadisiya        | 3833                      | 1.4%          | 44                             | 0.1%          | 0           | 0.0%          |
| Salah al-Din    | 9836                      | 3.4%          | 458                            | 0.7%          | 49          | 0.5%          |
| Sulaymaniyah    | 8986                      | 3.2%          | 13                             | 0.0%          | 91          | 1.0%          |
| Thi-Qar         | 7719                      | 2.7%          | 108                            | 0.2%          | 0           | 0.0%          |
| Wassit          | 12883                     | 4.6%          | 278                            | 0.4%          | 177         | 1.9%          |

<sup>4</sup> Column 1 shows distribution of 283,404 IDP families displaced since February 2006, according to MoDM and KRG/BMD registration.

<sup>5</sup> Column 2 shows distribution of 66,555 returnee families identified by IOM field monitors in ongoing assessments.



Over half of those who have left their homes since 2003 originally came from Baghdad, but families have been displaced from all over Iraq.

 Origin of IDPs

Together, Baghdad and Diyala were the places of origin for more than 75% of Iraqis displaced since 2003. Although some areas appear to have small numbers of displacement, it is important to bear in mind the size of the communities in these governorates as well as the varying security situations throughout the country since 2003. In addition, some governorates saw large displacements prior to 2003, and while many of those families are served by IOM programmes and needs assessments, they are not included in the table below.

| Governorate of Origin | IDP Families <sup>6</sup> | %      |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|--------|
| All Iraq              | 212131                    | 100.0% |
| Anbar                 | 4401                      | 2.1%   |
| Babylon               | 2238                      | 1.1%   |
| Baghdad               | 119801                    | 56.5%  |
| Basrah                | 2217                      | 1.0%   |
| Dahuk                 | 9                         | 0.0%   |
| Diyala                | 45361                     | 21.4%  |
| Erbil                 | 548                       | 0.3%   |
| Kerbala               | 17                        | 0.0%   |
| Kirkuk                | 9081                      | 4.3%   |
| Missan                | 40                        | 0.0%   |
| Muthanna              | 31                        | 0.0%   |
| Najaf                 | 19                        | 0.0%   |
| Ninewa                | 17354                     | 8.2%   |
| Qadissiya             | 56                        | 0.0%   |
| Salah al-Din          | 10123                     | 4.8%   |
| Sulaymaniyah          | 14                        | 0.0%   |
| Thi-Qar               | 162                       | 0.1%   |
| Wassit                | 659                       | 0.3%   |

Whilst a significant number of IDPs continue to state an intention to return to their homes (see **IDP intentions**, pg. 4), asking their place of origin is essential in gauging return potential. The governorates with the highest potential for return are Baghdad and Diyala, where 60% and 50% respectively of IOM-assessed IDP families state the desire to return to their place of origin and where, not surprisingly, some of the largest displacements have taken place since 2003. Other potential places of return exist outside of Iraq such as the areas along the Iranian border that continue to receive returning families. While return intentions can always change, estimating the potential return is essential in planning effective assistance and working to ensure sustainable reintegration of returnee families.



IDP children stand in front of their mud house in Al Mishraf village in the Talkef district of Ninewa (July 2010)



An IDP Family living in a tent in Saad village, in the Daquq district of Kirkuk (June 2010)



An IOM monitor takes a photo of children living in the Al Amel camp in Kerbala (February 2010)

<sup>6</sup> **Column 1** shows distribution of 212,131 IDP families who were displaced since 2003 and have been identified by IOM field monitors in ongoing assessments.





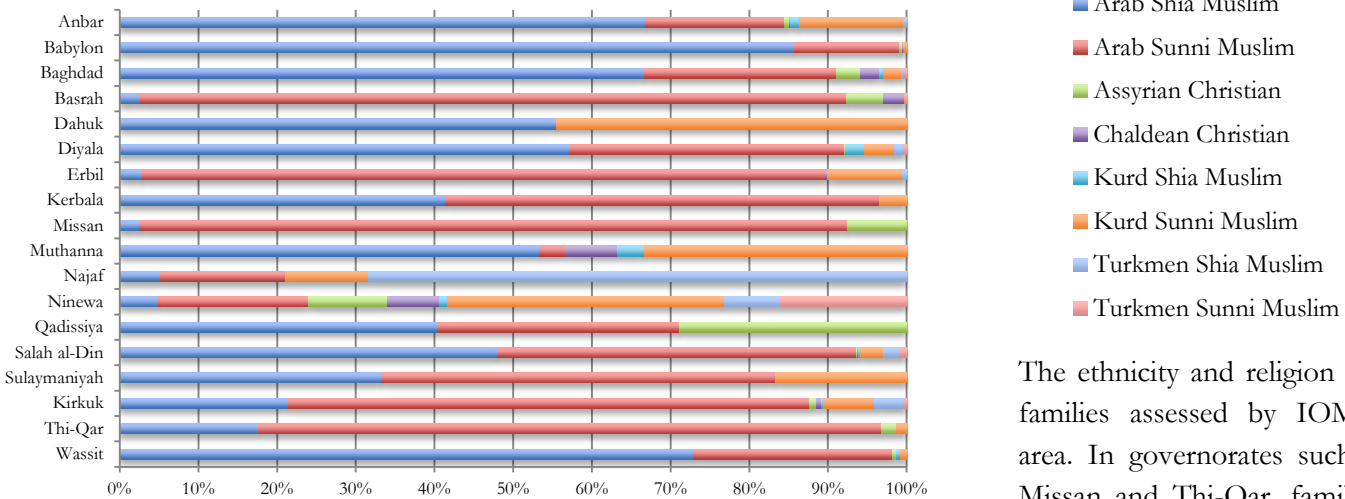
## IDP & Returnee Demography

Neither IDPs nor returnees are homogenous groups. Both are comprised of Iraqi families from a variety of ethnic and religious groups, but they often settle in areas that mirror their ethno-religious identity.

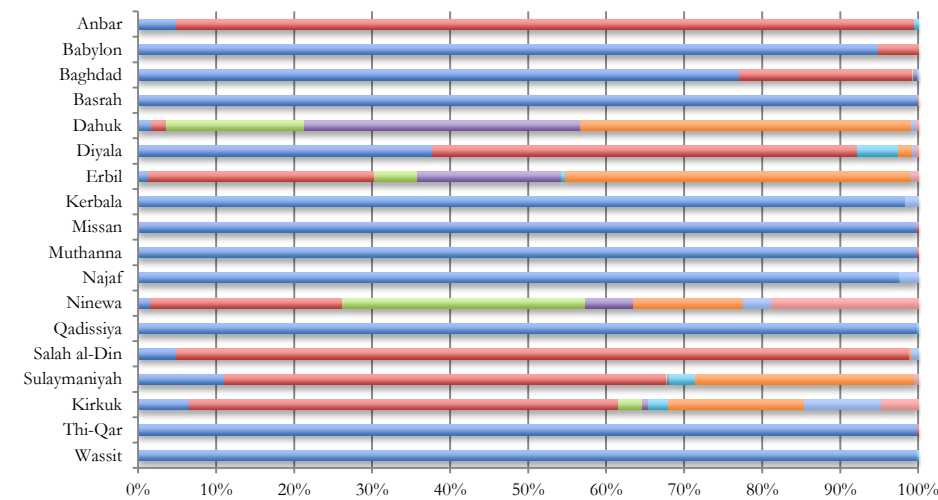


### Ethnic and Religious Composition

Ethnicity/Religion of IDPs by Origin

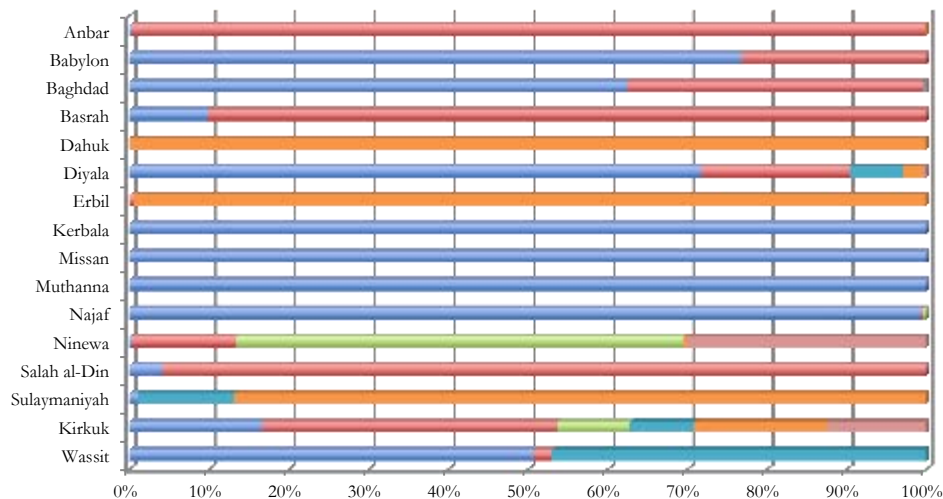


Ethnicity/Religion of IDPs in Current Location



The ethnicity and religion of displaced families assessed by IOM varies by area. In governorates such as Basrah, Missan and Thi-Qar, families that left their homes are almost exclusively Arab Sunni Muslim whilst in Babylon and Wassit they are predominantly Arab Shia Muslim. The fact that so many of the IDP families currently displaced in Babylon and Wassit are also Arab Shia Muslim highlights the fact that many IDPs seek areas where the host community will share their ethno-religious background. Many IDPs are displaced to another location in the same governorate, however some governorates do show changes in the ethnic and religious composition of displaced families. For example in Anbar, where less than 20% of families which left were Arab Sunni Muslim, now over 90% of the displaced and returnee families are of this ethno-religious group. By contrast, in Muthanna and Najaf, though, the families that leave are of a variety of ethno-religious groups but the majority of those returning or currently displaced there are Arab Shia Muslim.

Ethnicity/Religion of Returnee Families by Origin\*



\*Information about ethnic and religious identity of returnees is not currently available for Qadissiya or Thi-Qar





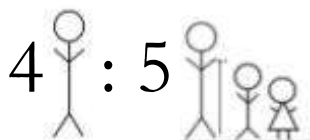


## IDP & Returnee Demography (contd.)

There are large numbers of families with many young and elderly dependents, 13% of which are headed by women. These families often face additional economic problems.

### Ratio of adults to children and elderly

#### Returnee Family Composition



#### IDP Family Composition



IDP children in Al Rahmaan complex in Baghdad  
(March 2008)

Families in Iraq are typically large, and displaced families are no exception. Large families with young or elderly members can place additional burdens on family resources that are already stretched. On average, returnee families have four adults for every five dependents.<sup>7</sup> This varies geographically, with governorates like Muthanna having more than two dependents for every one adult. IDP families are similarly composed, but with an even higher average number of dependents per adult.

This high proportion of young and elderly family members increases the difficulty of providing for the needs of dependents, even in cases where some family members have regular employment. This is further compounded by the fact that female employment is exceptionally low in most parts of Iraq for both cultural and economic reasons. As a result, the true number of dependents per working adult is likely to be considerably higher than age alone demonstrates.

### Gender



Although female labour force participation in Iraq remains extremely low at just 17%, women form an integral part of the country's reconstruction.<sup>8</sup> IOM monitors assessed 1,266 returnee families that were headed by women, representing 13% of all of the returnee families they spoke to. These women are often widows and are more likely to be in need of psycho-social support as well as legal aid.

<sup>7</sup> Dependents are defined here as those aged under 17 or over 60.

<sup>8</sup> According to the Inter-Agency Information and Analysis Unit, Labour Force Analysis Statistics of 2009. See [http://www.iauiraq.org/reports/Iraq\\_Labour\\_Force\\_Analysis.pdf](http://www.iauiraq.org/reports/Iraq_Labour_Force_Analysis.pdf)







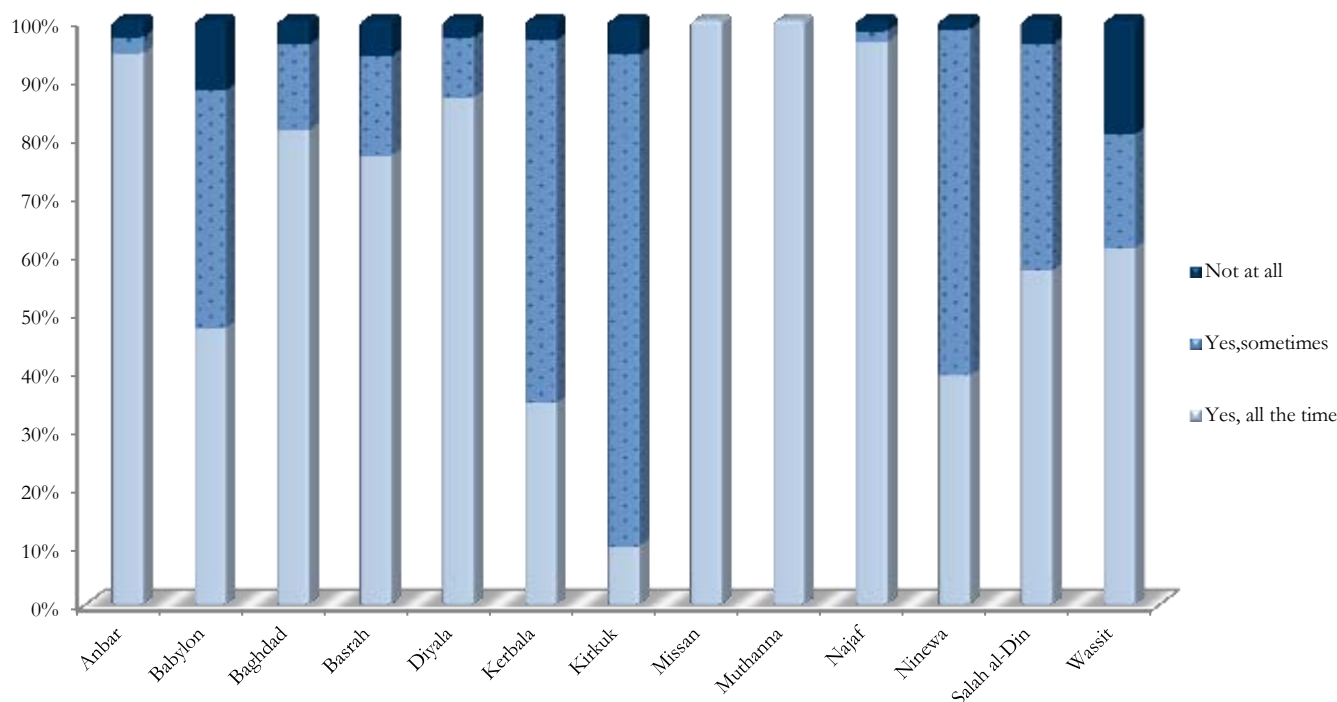
## IDP and Returnee Needs

Security in Iraq has improved in recent years, but difficulty in finding employment, the lack of adequate food and the absence of plentiful or clean water has meant that feelings of personal security among Iraqis is still lacking.

### Security

General security in Iraq has stabilized dramatically since the sectarian violence reached its peak in 2006. As a result, over 5,000 of the returnee families (53%) that monitors interviewed cited improved security in their area of origin as a primary reason for their return, while 40% cited this reason last year. Nevertheless, families displaced in 2010 continue to inform IOM monitors that generalized violence and fear were among their reasons for leaving. Though large-scale displacements have become extremely rare, personal security continues to be a concern for many of the families who have already been displaced. These concerns differ significantly by area such that 60% of all returnees who respond “not at all” to the question “do you feel safe in your current location” are found in Babylon and Baghdad governorates alone.

**Feelings of Personal Security Among Returnee Families**



When displaced families report their feelings of personal security, their assessments are often based on their own vulnerabilities in addition to political or security developments in the country as a whole. As such, considerations such as the availability of food, electricity or water are just as likely to be important when judging personal security as the general levels of violence in the area.



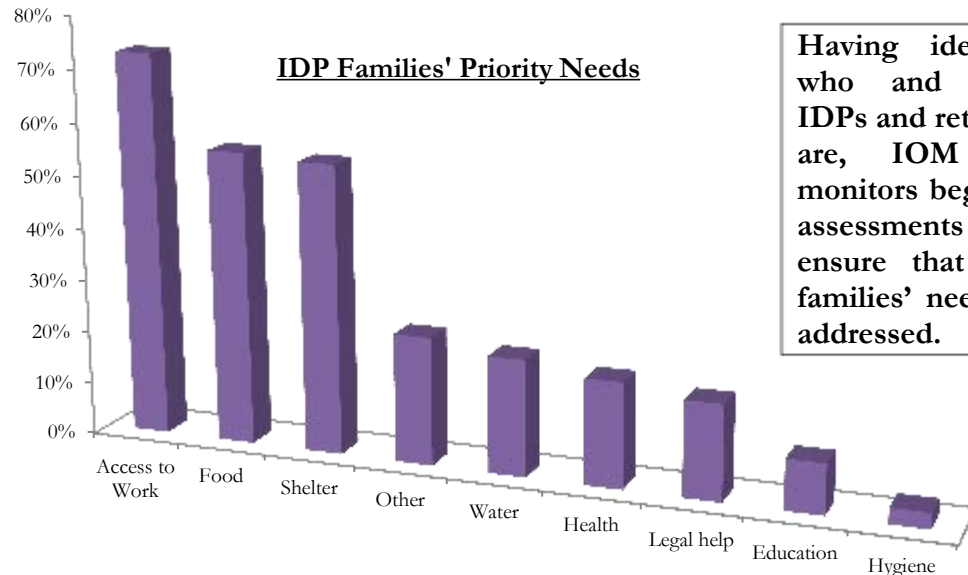


The percentage of IDP families in Iraq choosing employment and food as their top priority needs has increased in 2010. Returnee families cite food, health and water as their most pressing concerns.



### Priority Needs at a Glance

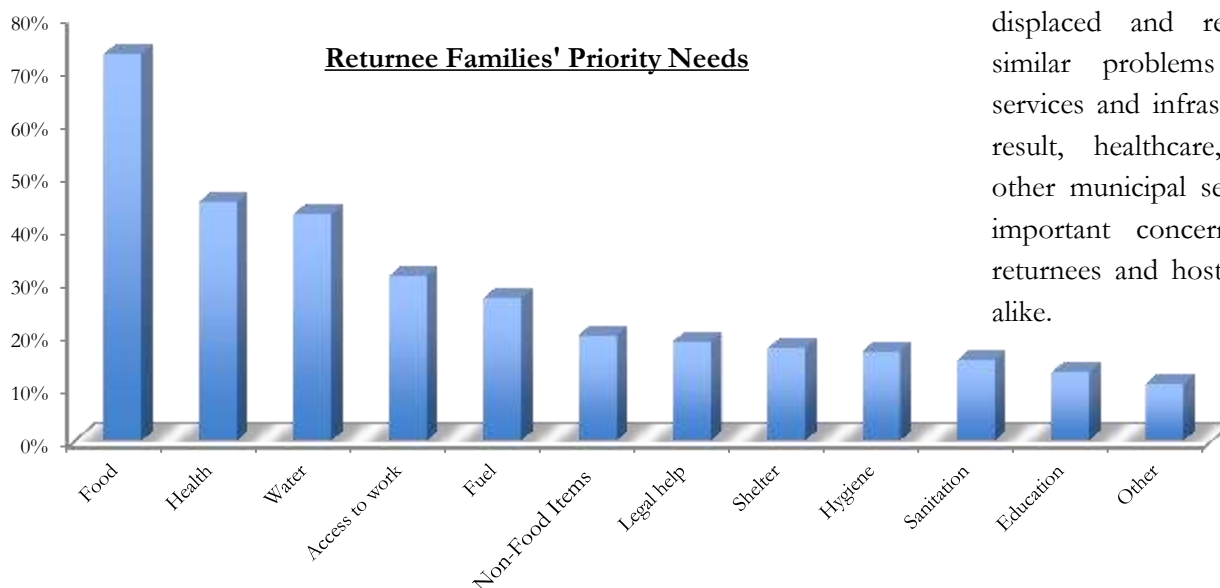
While rates of displacement have declined, Iraqis that are currently displaced are still without the livelihoods and services necessary to rebuild their lives. Specific needs differ between IDP and returnee families, although both groups consider water and shelter to be among their most pressing concerns.



Having identified who and where IDPs and returnees are, IOM Iraq monitors begin the assessments to ensure that these families' needs are addressed.

Among IDP families, access to work, food and shelter have been the three most pressing concerns since 2006. However, whereas access to work was cited as a need by 68% of IDPs in 2006, this number has now risen to 76% as decreasing generalized violence leads to more long-term concerns over economic security. Food is a high priority for both IDPs and returnee families alike and has been exacerbated in recent years by a combination of drought and rising food prices.<sup>9</sup> This demonstrates the relationship between many priority needs such as food, water and access to work. Similarly, in governorates such as Baghdad, where water is cited as a priority need by 43% of returnee families, sanitation and hygiene are also considered pressing needs.

Though fewer returnee families are worried about shelter, partly because some have secured accommodation before returning, often their original properties are damaged or inaccessible upon return. This is one reason why returnee families are more likely to cite legal help as a priority need.



Despite these differences, both displaced and returning face similar problems with poor services and infrastructure. As a result, healthcare, water and other municipal services remain important concerns to IDPs, returnees and host communities alike.

<sup>9</sup> Inter-Agency Information and Analysis Unit Statistics available at [http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/ISFP/Iraq\\_Food\\_Prices-Final.pdf](http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/ISFP/Iraq_Food_Prices-Final.pdf)





Unemployment in Iraq is high and returnee and IDP families continue to struggle to find stable livelihoods for their families.

Access to work

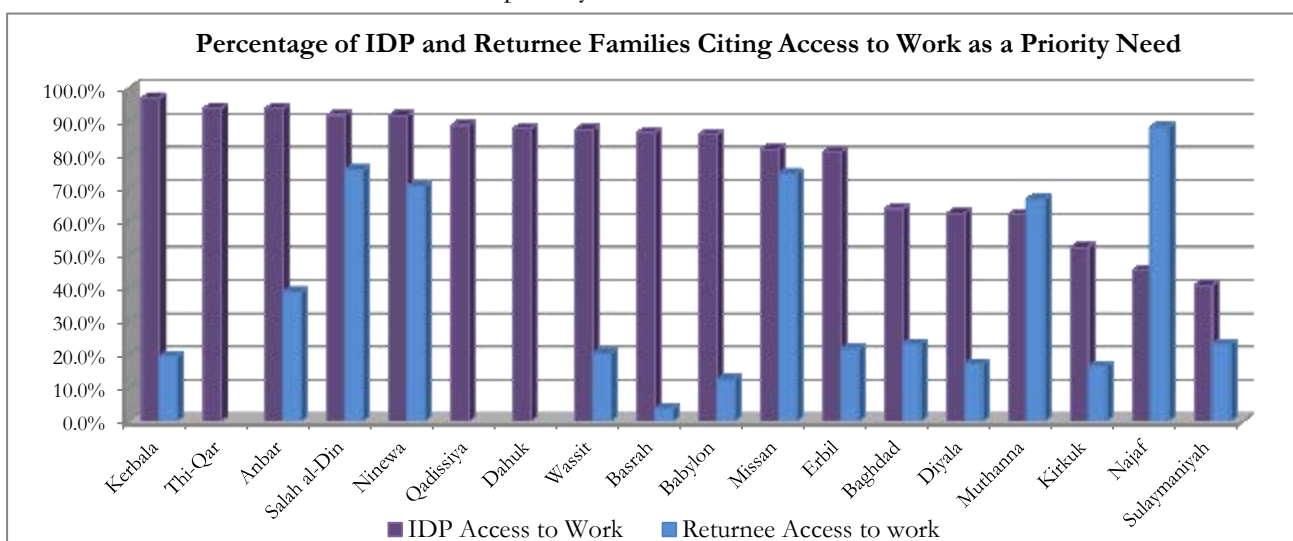
Employment remains the number one concern of IDPs and the fourth most cited need of returnees. Moreover, access to food, also cited by IDPs and returnees as a top priority need, is closely related to employment. The economy of Iraq remains unstable, which is both a cause and consequence of its fragile labour force. Though Iraqi unemployment is around 18% in the general population, a further 10% of the labour force would like to work more hours, meaning that total un- and underemployment in Iraq is closer to 28%. This is demonstrated by the fact that almost one in three of the Iraqi labour force is in part-time employment where job security is often weak.<sup>10</sup> The fact that unemployment is concentrated among young males aged 15 to 29 is also of concern, given that almost 60% of Iraqis are less than 24 years of age.<sup>11</sup>



Farmers in Ninewa receive training in vegetable crop cultivation (April 2010)

Access to work is an important issue for host communities as well, but families who have been displaced are often particularly vulnerable to economic change because employment affects many of their other needs. It is therefore unsurprising that when asked by IOM monitors, 77.5% of IDP families cite access to work, along with food and shelter, as their most urgent needs whilst food and rent prices in Iraq are rising. With female unemployment in Iraq high, IDP and returnee households that are headed by women face an even more precarious economic situation. These families contribute to a broader trend of high child and female participation in the informal economy where wages are often lower and labour rights fewer.

Though access to work is an issue across Iraq, its severity varies regionally. In the north of the country, around 50% of IDPs in Sulaymaniyah and Kirkuk are concerned about access to work, whereas in governorates such as Kerbala and Thi-Qar around 95% of IDPs have the same concern. In total, 154,969 of the IDP families that spoke to IOM monitors stated that access to work was one of their three priority needs.



<sup>10</sup> Inter-Agency Information and Analysis Unit, Iraq Labour Force Analysis 2003-2008.

<sup>11</sup> United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, 'Population and Development: The Demographic Profile of the Arab Countries', 2009.





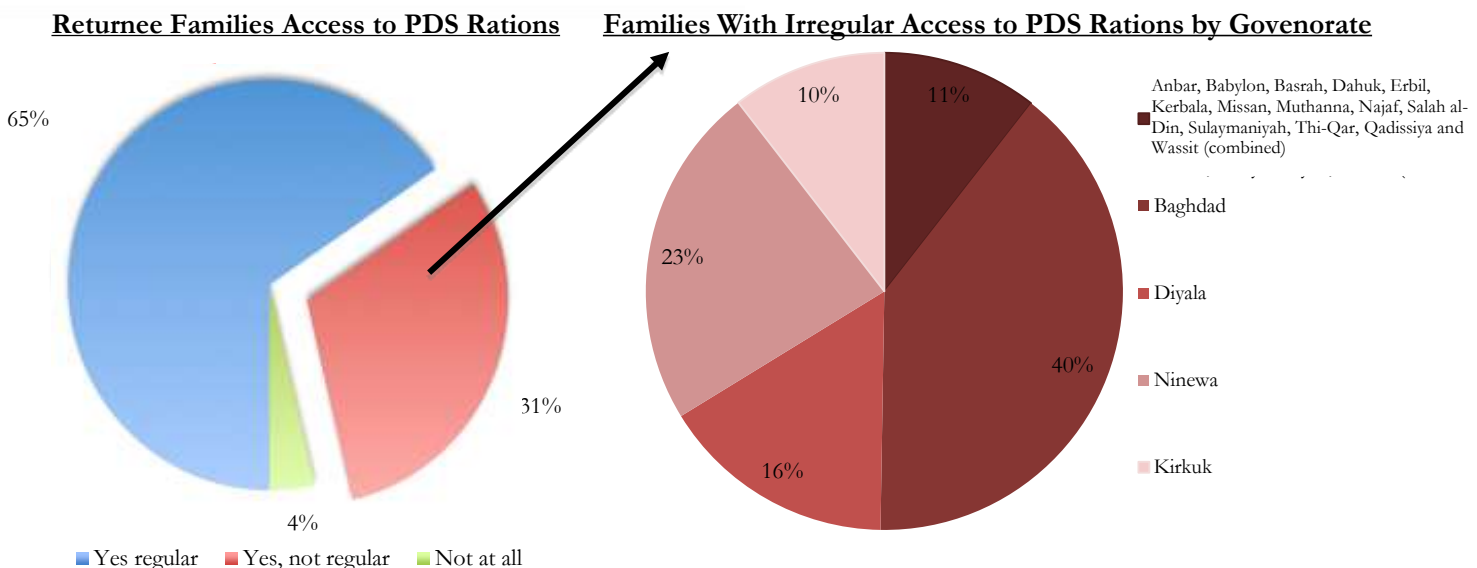


IOM-assessed families continue to cite food as one of their most pressing needs as food prices in the country remain high and access to public rations is often irregular.

**Food**

When speaking to IOM monitors, IDP and returnee families have consistently cited food as one of their most pressing needs. The urgency of this need is based on a variety of factors including low crop yields, rising food prices, and the availability of the Government of Iraq’s Public Distribution System (PDS), which provides a monthly food ration that many Iraqi families have come to depend on since it was established in 1991.<sup>12</sup> The World Food Programme estimates that 9.4% of the Iraqi population is extremely dependent upon the PDS food ration (equivalent to 2.8 million individuals) to the extent that without it, they would probably become food insecure.<sup>13</sup> This demonstrates that displaced families are part of a broader group of Iraqis who remain in need of emergency assistance even as conditions improve. IDPs and returnees are among the most vulnerable Iraqis, but can be particularly sensitive to food insecurity due to difficulties in gaining access to work (see **access to work** section, pg. 11).

Returnee families’ access to PDS rations varies broadly between governorates. Baghdad and Ninewa together account for 63% of the returnee families without regular access to the food provided by PDS. Baghdad is also the governorate in which 197 families report that they have no access whatsoever to these rations.



Despite some improvements since 1990, malnutrition in Iraq still remains higher than regional averages. In 2006, 27.5% of Iraqi children under five years old were stunted for their age and 7.1% were measured as underweight.<sup>14</sup> Though the Global Hunger Index does not have sufficient data to assign Iraq a ranking, it nevertheless describes the country, alongside Afghanistan and Somalia, as one of those “suffering from severe hunger”.<sup>15</sup>

As with many of the other priority needs discussed in this report, food insecurity is related to other forms of vulnerability. Thus, displaced households without reliable livelihoods are more likely to be without the food necessary to meet their families’ needs. Similarly, food scarcity is more prevalent in rural areas where water scarcity has affected the ability of farmers to provide for their families. These problems exacerbate existing rural/urban differences in Iraq, which affect displaced families and host communities (see **health, water** and **shelter** sections of this report, pgs.13, 14 and 15).

<sup>12</sup> Iraqi food price increases have been sharper than those on the global market, doubling between 2004 and 2008 while global food prices increased by 73% over the same period. Inter-Agency Information and Analysis Unit Statistics at [http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/ISEP/Iraq\\_Food\\_Prices-Final.pdf](http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/ISEP/Iraq_Food_Prices-Final.pdf)  
<sup>13</sup> WFP/Government of Iraq Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis (CFSVA), published in November 2008.  
<sup>14</sup> According to the World Health Organisation (WHO) Statistics in 2006, see [http://apps.who.int/whosis/database/core/core\\_select\\_process.cfm](http://apps.who.int/whosis/database/core/core_select_process.cfm)  
<sup>15</sup> 2009 Global Hunger Index produced by the International Food Policy Institute, at <http://www.ifpri.org/publication/2009-global-hunger-index>





23% of IDPs in Iraq do not have access to healthcare. For those host communities, displaced and returning families who do have access, lack of staff and equipment means that the treatment they receive is often poor.

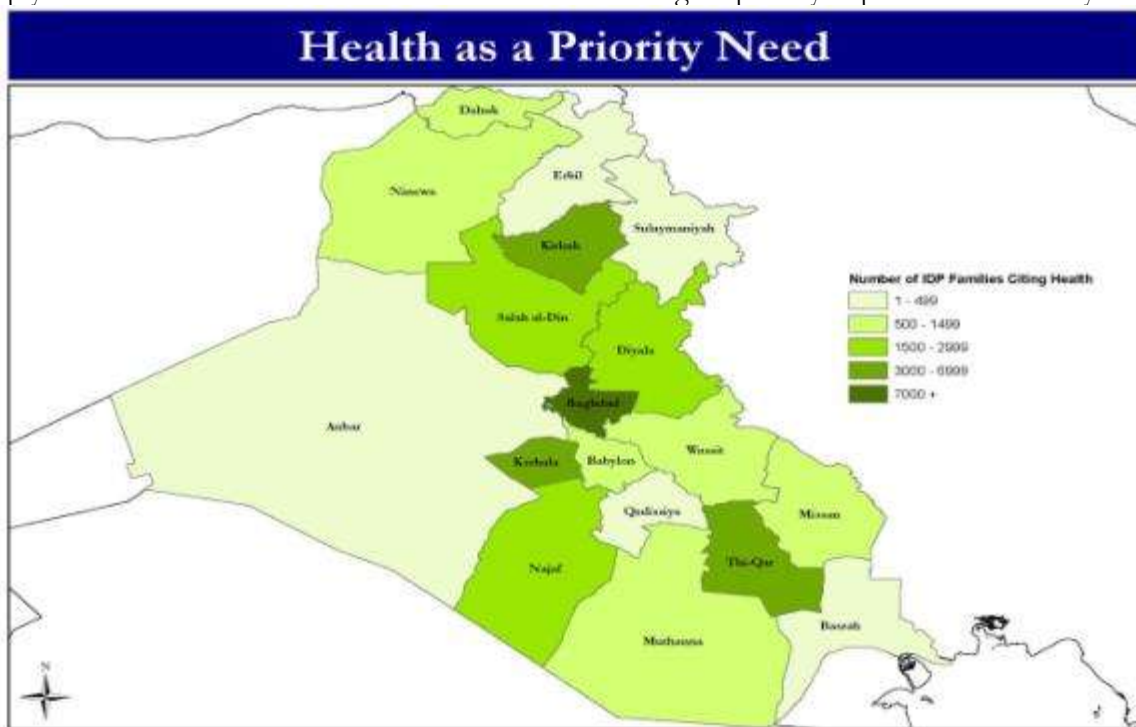
|                    | Do not have access | Have access |
|--------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| Number of Families | 1912               | 6383        |
| %                  | 23%                | 77%         |

**Health**

Health concerns are frequently related to other needs cited by IDP and returnee families. For instance, IOM monitors have noted that diarrhoea has affected families in drought prone areas where water is particularly scarce. Recent statistics show that diarrhoea accounts for 15.9% of all deaths in children under 5 years of age in Iraq, making it one of the most urgent health concerns in the country.<sup>16</sup>

Over 20% of the returnee families that monitors spoke to report that they are without any access to healthcare. Even those families who do have access to health facilities still often lack adequate care due to shortages of medical supplies and equipment. Concerns about the availability and quality of government provided healthcare mean that 22% of total healthcare spending in Iraq comes from individual out-of-pocket expenditure.<sup>17</sup> Though this is a trend which touches all Iraqis, displaced families are particularly affected by high private healthcare costs given their difficulties in finding employment.

Health issues in Iraq vary greatly by location. The greatest differences can be seen between rural and urban areas. For example, rural births are 17% less likely to be attended by skilled health professionals than births taking place in urban areas. Similarly, 60% of children under 1 in rural areas receive immunization from measles compared to 76% of those in urban areas.<sup>18</sup> Nevertheless, health problems in an area do not necessarily translate consistently into concerns. As the map below demonstrates, more IDPs cite health as a priority need in places such as Baghdad, Kerbala, Kirkuk and Thi-Qar although this may simply be because other concerns such as education are a higher priority in places such as Sulaymaniyah.



Though the issues of diarrhoea, childbirth and immunization discussed above demand immediate attention, access to treatment for less pressing medical problems is still severely lacking. For instance, though there are only 12.3 nursing and midwifery sources per 10,000 Iraqis, there are just 1.5 pharmacists and 1.4 dentists serving the same number of people.<sup>19</sup> For many displaced families, access to these resources is a continual challenge.

<sup>16</sup> According to the World Health Organisation (WHO) Statistics in 2004, see <http://www.who.int/gho/countries/irq.pdf>  
<sup>17</sup> According to the World Health Organisation (WHO) Statistics in 2007, see <http://www.emro.who.int/emrinfo/index.asp?Ctry=irq>  
<sup>18</sup> According to the World Health Organisation (WHO) Statistics in 2009, see <http://www.who.int/gho/countries/irq.pdf>  
<sup>19</sup> According to the World Health Organisation (WHO) Statistics in 2008, see <http://www.emro.who.int/emrinfo/index.asp?Ctry=irq>







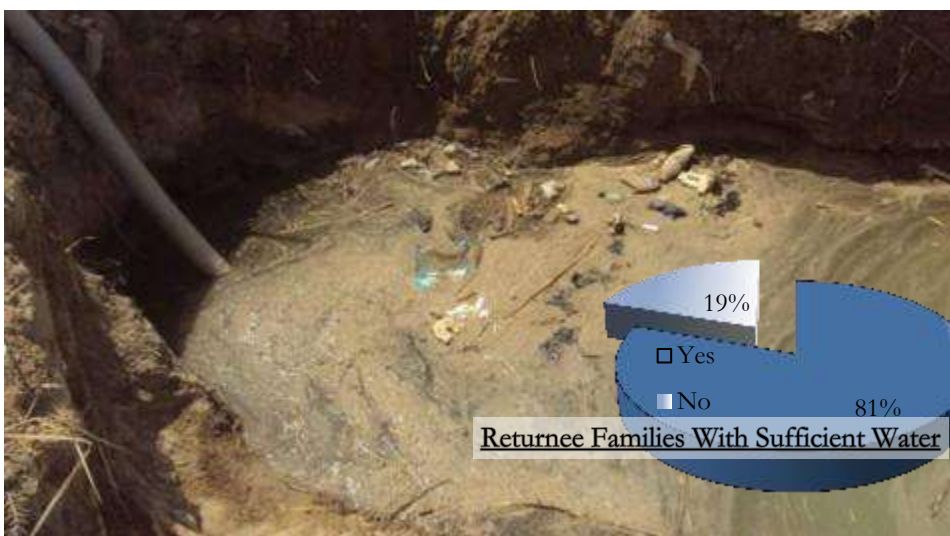
Water scarcity is affecting all Iraqis and, where most severe, has the potential to cause displacement.

**Water**

Water scarcity has far-reaching consequences. Where water has been cited as a priority need, families often also express concerns about hygiene and sanitation. In Muthanna for instance, the water which families use is extremely polluted as the picture below demonstrates (taken by an IOM monitor in April this year). Moreover, as many displaced and returnee families are without access to municipal water or local pipe grids, scarcity of water remains an issue as public wells and streams dry up.



Al Baithah village in Missan, a child stands beside an empty well (June 2010)

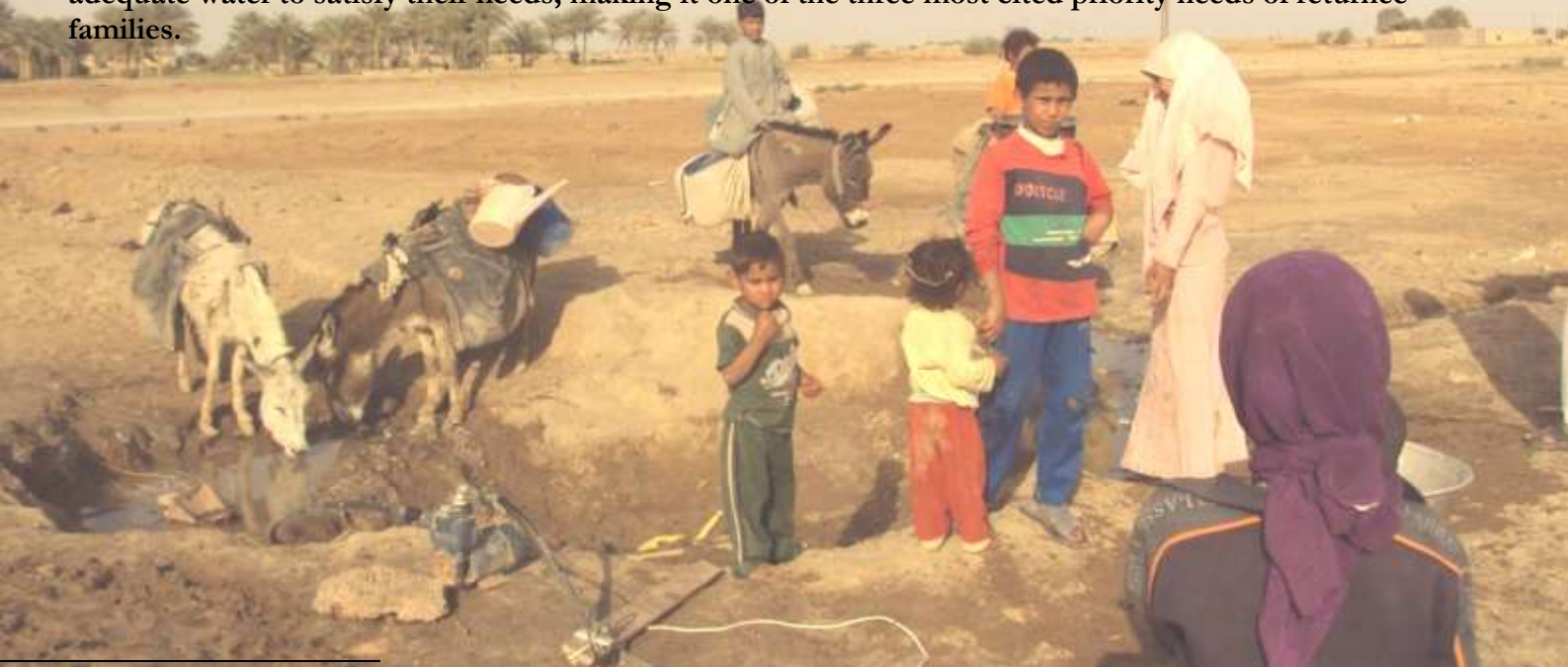


Since water shortages have the potential to cause large-scale displacement of families, this is a concern IOM Iraq is following closely. In addition to monitoring where water is cited as a priority need, IOM is also tracking the impact of water scarcity on IDP and returnee families.<sup>20</sup>

Once again, differences are evident between rural and urban areas in terms of access to water and sanitation facilities, with those in rural areas the worst affected.<sup>21</sup>

Some 20% of Iraqi returnee families obtain water from a source other than municipal water pipes and grids. These other sources include open and broken pipes, public wells, and lakes, all of which increase the risk of contamination and disease.

Only 61% of returnee families have water in the house, while 12% tell IOM monitors that they must walk very far to be able to access it. In addition to this, almost 20% of returnee families say that they do not have adequate water to satisfy their needs, making it one of the three most cited priority needs of returnee families.



<sup>20</sup> For more information, see IOM Drought Displacement Report 18 July, 2010.

<sup>21</sup> For more information on rural and urban sanitation in Iraq see <http://www.who.int/gho/countries/irq.pdf>





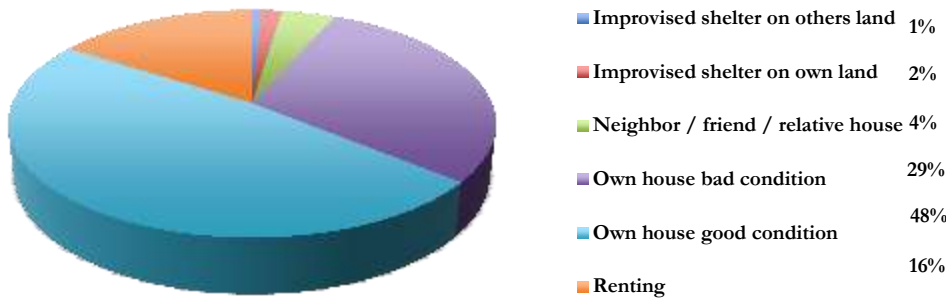


The living situation for displaced families living on public land is precarious while those who rent face rising costs of living.

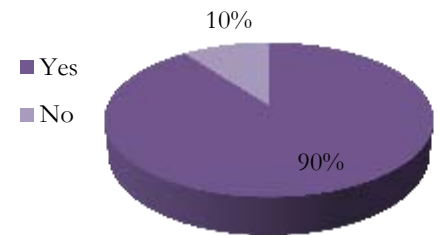
**Shelter**

The issue of shelter remains among the most pressing concerns cited by IDP families. Although 71% of these families are living in rented accommodation, many of these properties lack basic facilities and put a constant strain on small, over-stretched family budgets. Moreover, rent is often a new expenditure for families since many owned their own properties prior to displacement. A smaller percentage of returnee families live in rented accommodation, although many returnee families struggle in their efforts to reclaim the property they left. This is reflected in the number of returnee families citing legal help as a priority need. For the 10% of returnee families without access to their property, their housing situation often remains short-term and precarious. Even for those families who are able to access their property, 29% report that it is in bad condition.

**Housing Status of Returnee Families**



**Returnee Families' Access to Property**



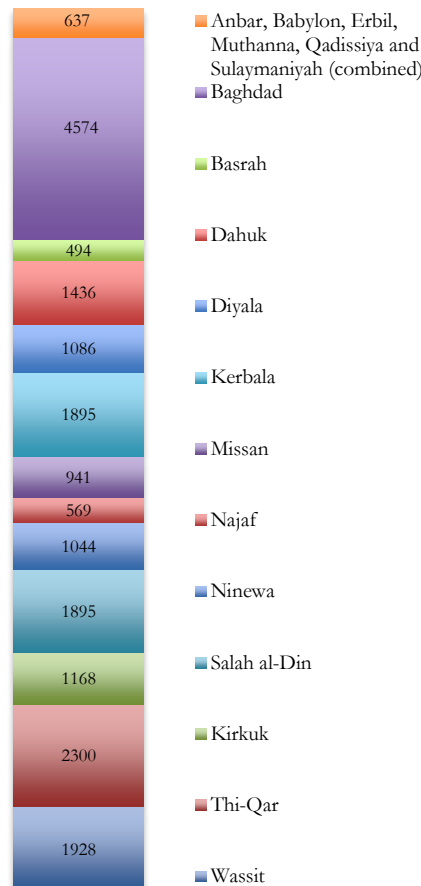
Categorization of housing status differs between IDP and returnee families because these groups face different problems in terms of accommodation. Often returnees will have some idea of where they will be living before making the decision to come home. As a result, on average 55% of IDPs cite 'shelter' as one of their top three needs while just 20% of returnee families who were interviewed said the same.

Once again, these issues affect displaced families in rural and urban areas differently. In some rural areas, particularly those in the southern governorates of Basrah, Missan, and Thi-Qar, some families are living in mud houses on government land. Collective town settlements, more common in Baghdad, Thi-Qar, Kerbala and Salah al-Din, are of particular concern since these too are frequently established on government land. As a result, families living in this type of housing are vulnerable to evictions from the local government. Those who are forced to leave suffer secondary displacement, making their needs even more acute. (see IOM Emergency Needs Assessments at <http://www.iomiraq.net/iom>)

**IDP Housing Status**



**Collective Town Settlements by Governorate**



**IDP Housing in Babylon, Iraq (May 2010)**



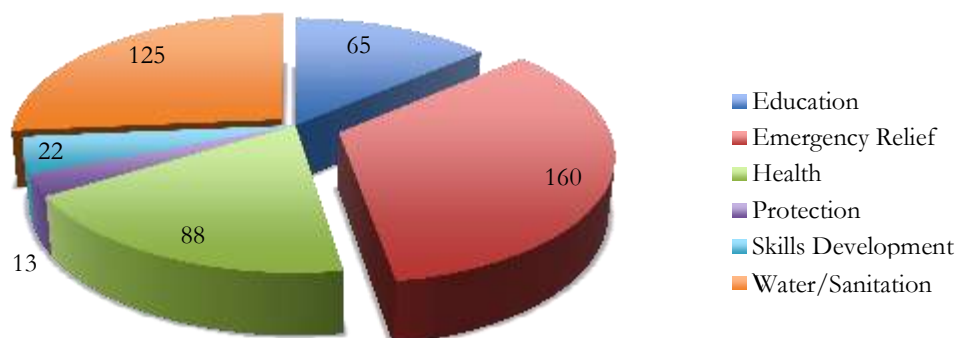


## IOM Humanitarian Response

### IOM Community Assistance and Emergency Distribution Projects by Sector

IOM has successfully assisted post-Samarra IDP, returnee, and host community families in every governorate of Iraq. Since 2006, IOM has implemented over 473 Community Assistance Projects (CAPs) and emergency distributions totalling over 52 million USD.

IOM Projects by Sector 2006-2010



In addition to Emergency Programmes and Community Assistance Projects, IOM provides skills training and in-kind grants for the establishment of small businesses, providing IDP and returnee families with longer-term, sustainable opportunities to improve their lives. IOM is also engaged in programmes to assist returnee families with return transport and reintegration, and has longstanding capacity building programmes with Iraqi government ministries to help them better serve IDPs, returnees and their host communities.

Whether through an in-kind grant and business advice to a returnee in Baquba, or the recent distribution of non-food items to 375 families displaced by border conflict in Sulaymaniyah, IOM strives to provide efficient and effective assistance to displaced populations and vulnerable host communities throughout Iraq (see the detailed map in Annex 1).

For information on these and more IOM Iraq programmes, please visit [www.iomiraq.net](http://www.iomiraq.net).



A child in Salah Al-Din writes 'thank you IOM' (July 2010)

IOM CAPs, Emergency and Monitoring Budgets per annum

| Year | Grant amount    | Activities |
|------|-----------------|------------|
| 2006 | \$3,491,662.38  | 66         |
| 2007 | \$14,267,929.68 | 73         |
| 2008 | \$16,287,797.78 | 164        |
| 2009 | \$11,861,626.64 | 94         |
| 2010 | \$6,542,489.02  | 137        |





## Conclusion

The nation of Iraq is in transition on many levels, including political, social, economic and environmental. Such changes are often the cause of population movements, but they also increase the vulnerability of families who have already been displaced and give them fewer options for refuge.

Despite Iraq's long history of displacement, the period between 2006 and 2008 was particularly severe as 1.6 million Iraqis were displaced within the country amid rampant sectarian violence. It is believed that an additional 1.5 million remain displaced in neighboring countries. The families contained in these waves of present displacement have urgent needs that cannot be ignored during Iraq's times of transition.

Tracing the movements of a nation is never simple. Along with those returning to Iraq after being displaced since 2006, there are families returning from decades of absence in neighbouring countries or in Europe. While some earned a degree or learned a profession abroad, others were not able to improve their fortunes and have had to restart their lives with few resources. Economic and environmental factors, namely water scarcity, are also creating more displacement, sending Iraqis in search of better living conditions. Sporadic incidents of displacement also occur along the fault lines of the disputed internal boundaries and due to bombing and border incursions in the north. Small communities and urban areas receiving additional families may already be struggling to provide adequate services to the current host population.

Iraq's IDPs and returnees in many cases face similar problems to those who were not displaced.

Shortages in water, housing, basic services, and jobs, as well as rising food prices, to name a few, are obstacles faced by entire communities.

It is in this context that the most recent waves of displacement and return must be considered. While it is important to prioritize assistance for the displaced and those who have returned, there are many factors to be considered when targeting assistance to those who need it most.

As Iraq moves away from an 'emergency' stage and towards one of 'early recovery,' assistance to IDP and returnee families is an integral part of efforts to stabilize communities while also contributing to overall development needs.

The needs of IDPs and returnees remain great. 16% of IDP families assessed by IOM live in group settlements, public buildings, or old military camps, where conditions are harsh, services are scarce and they are at risk of eviction. 78% of IDP families cite access to work as a top priority need. 23% of returnee families interviewed by IOM say they have no access to healthcare, and only 61% have water in their homes.

In close cooperation with Iraqi authorities and the Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MoDM), IOM continues to work with IDP, returnee and host community families through a diverse range of initiatives. Activities include needs assessments and monitoring, emergency distributions of water and household items, small infrastructure rehabilitation projects, and income generation assistance for returnees and the unemployed or underemployed.

Please note that displacement and return are occurring on a continuous basis, and IOM strives to update this information as frequently as possible. Through its monitoring and needs assessments, IOM has developed periodic displacement updates, yearly and mid-year reviews, returnee needs assessments, and other reports. For these and information on the IOM's needs assessment methodology, see <http://www.iomiraq.net/idp.html>

For further information on IDPs and returnees in Iraq, please contact Rex Alamban, Head of IOM Iraq Joint Operations Cell at [ralamban@iom.int](mailto:ralamban@iom.int) or Liana Paris, IOM Monitoring Officer, at [lparis@iom.int](mailto:lparis@iom.int) (+962 6 565 9660).

### Note on Methodology:

Monitors located in 18 governorates used Rapid Assessment Templates for both IDP and returnee groups and individual families. The Rapid Assessment Templates inquire about a number of needs, including food, healthcare, water and sanitation, documentation, property, and IDPs' future intentions. Monitors visit tribal and community leaders, local NGOs, local government bodies, and individual IDP and returnee families to gather information and complete the templates. All information is entered into a central database for analysis.

IOM assesses IDPs using a group approach, where an interview is conducted with a group or group representative. A group is defined as between 1 and 99 IDP families who share the same place of displacement, place of origin, date of displacement, and ethnic/religious identity. IOM assesses returnees by first identifying the returnee families in a given location. From this identified population, IOM monitors conduct individual family interviews with an average of 10% of returnee families in that location.

With this information, IOM has developed a series of reports including periodic nationwide updates and needs assessment profiles for each of the 18 governorates of Iraq (posted at [www.iomiraq.net/idp.html](http://www.iomiraq.net/idp.html)). These reports assist IOM and other agencies to prioritize areas of operation, plan emergency responses, and design long-term, durable solutions for IDPs, returnees and their host communities.







### About IOM Iraq

The IOM Iraq Mission was set up in January 2003 in preparation for the overwhelming humanitarian need following the collapse of the former regime.

IOM Iraq's Displacement Monitoring and Needs Assessments has been assessing IDPs in Iraq since 2003, and more recently the movements and needs of returnees. IOM regularly disseminates statistics, analyses, and reports on Iraqi displacement to a range of stakeholders, and advocates for increased awareness and assistance to mitigate the Iraqi displacement and humanitarian crisis.

IOM maintains valued partnerships and close coordination with local Iraqi authorities and various Ministries. IOM is a member of the UN Country Team (UNCT) for Iraq, and works closely with the UN system and the Iraq authorities in support of the Iraqi National Development Strategy 2007 - 2010.

IOM currently employs 267 staff inside Iraq, and 106 in Amman. Staff in Iraq operate out of three hubs: Erbil, Baghdad, and Basrah, as well as sub/satellite offices in all 18 governorates.

### Who supports us?

IOM Iraq is currently supported by the Governments of Australia, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom, the United States, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) and the Iraq Trust Fund (ITF).

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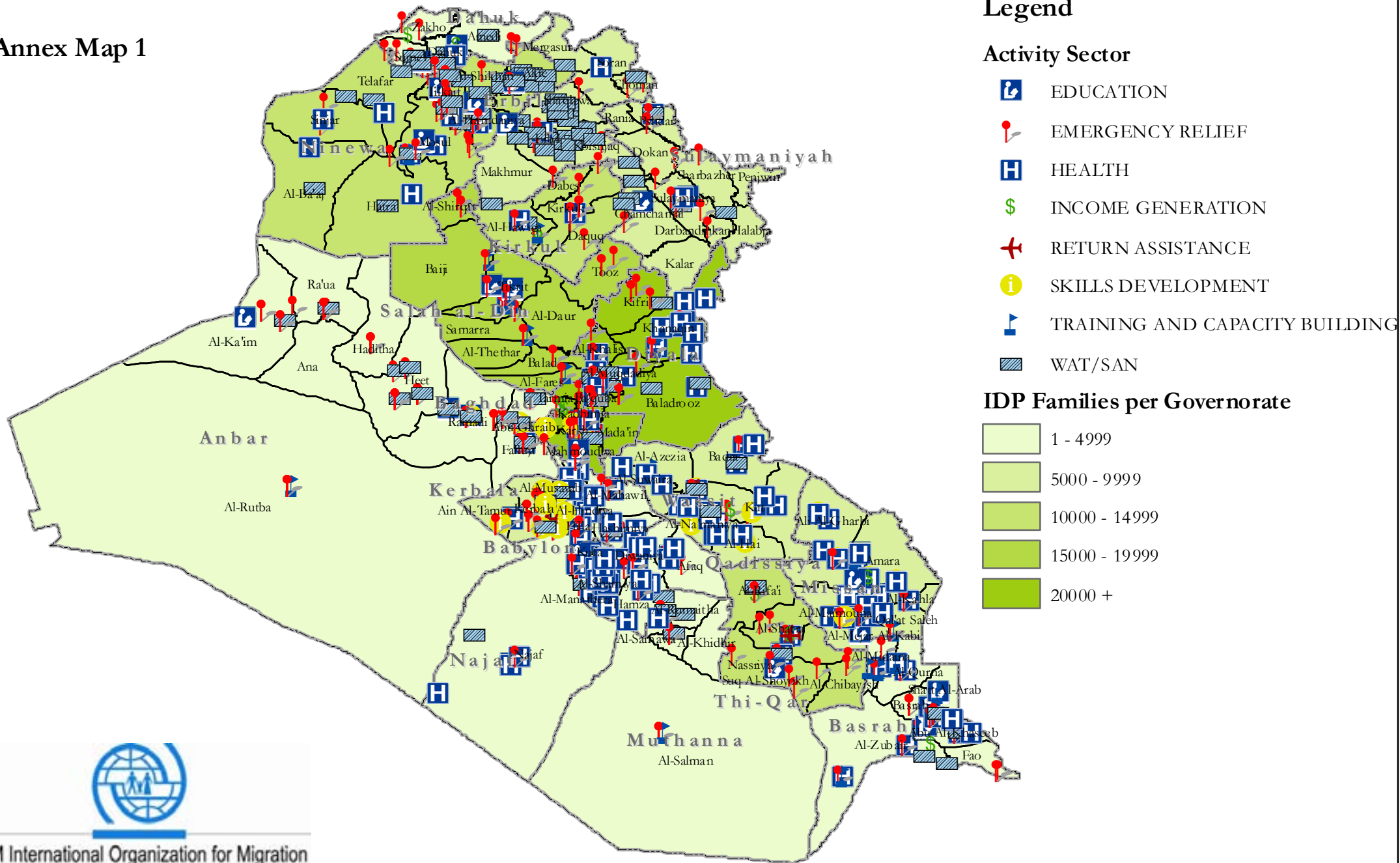
HQ website:

[www.iom.int](http://www.iom.int)



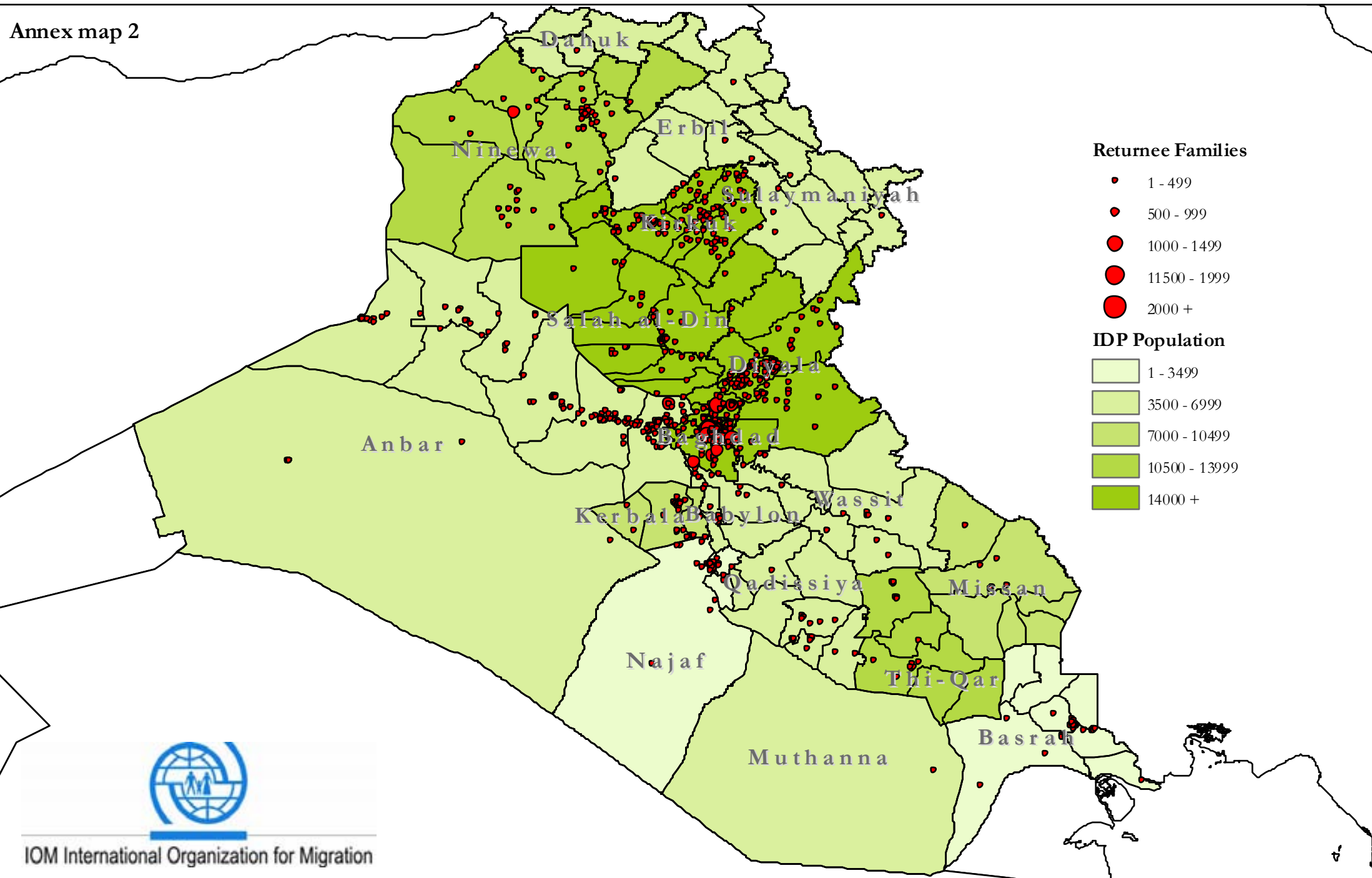
# IDP/Returnee Assistance Projects 2006 - 2010

Annex Map 1



# Returnee Family Locations, August 2010

Annex map 2





# IDP Family Locations, August 2010

Annex map 3

