

BABYLON

GOVERNORATE PROFILE NOVEMBER 2010
IOM IDP AND RETURNEE ASSESSMENT



BABYLON: DISPLACEMENT AT A GLANCE

Total post-Feb 2006 IDPs ¹	9,200 families (est. 55,200 individuals)
Total pre-Feb 2006 IDPs ²	1,475 families (est. 8,850 individuals)
Number of post-Feb 2006 IDPs assessed by IOM ³	4,181 families (est. 25,086 individuals)
Returnees ⁴	550 families (est. 3,300 individuals)
Capital	Hilla
Districts	Hashimiya, Hilla, Al-Mahawil, Al-Musayab
Population ⁵	1,651,565 individuals

IDPs (internally displaced persons) in Babylon are comprised of primarily Shia Arab families who fled sectarian violence in Baghdad during the post-Samarra violence of 2006 and early 2007. IOM has assessed 4,181 IDP families living in Babylon, of which almost 75% come from the neighbouring Baghdad governorate. IDP families cite access to work, shelter, and food as their main concerns, as heavy unemployment in the governorate has affected both access to adequate housing and affordable food.

There is also a sizeable returnee population in Babylon, most of whom returned to Babylon due to improvements in the security situation in their points of origin and difficulties they may have faced during displacement. IOM monitors have identified 320 such families. Returnee families report to IOM monitors that their primary needs are food, water, and health services, as food rations have the tendency to be incomplete, most water is currently obtained from rivers and streams, and health services are often inaccessible or too far from the homes of returnee families.

Quick Facts on Babylon IDPs & Returnees



- A majority of IOM-assessed families in Babylon are Arab-Shia Muslim.
- Over 90% of Babylon IDPs cite access to work as their main priority.
- Most Babylon returnees cite improved security in their in their point of origin as their major reason for return.

¹ As per the Iraqi Ministry of Displacement and Migration.

² As per IOM Phase II Monitoring, December 2005.

³ Please note that this is the number of post-February 2006 IDPs assessed by IOM, not the total number of IDPs in the governorate.

⁴ As per IOM Returnee Monitoring.

⁵ As per the Iraqi Central Organization for Statistics and Information Technology, 2007.

IOM Displacement Assessments

Iraq has a long history of displacement, the most recent significant event being the February 2006 bombing of the Samarra Al-Askari Mosque. Due primarily to sectarian violence, 1.6 million people were internally displaced, chiefly in 2006 and 2007, according to government figures.¹

IOM field monitoring teams assess the varying needs and challenges of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and returnee communities across the eighteen Iraqi governorates. These comprehensive assessments of IDPs and returnees are conducted through Rapid Assessment questionnaires in conjunction with the assessments of Iraqi authorities and other national and international actors.

IOM seeks to ascertain and disseminate detailed information about IDP and returnee needs and conditions in each governorate. Our objective is to promote a greater understanding of displacement and return in Iraq by facilitating policy making, prioritizing areas of operation, planning emergency responses, and designing long-term programs.

To date, IOM has assessed 202,446 IDP families and identified 67,086 returnee families. Of these returnee families, 10,368 have participated in IOM in-depth needs assessment interviews. Unless otherwise stated, all data in the profile is based on IOM-assessed populations.

Recent IOM Activity in Babylon

IOM recently installed a water compact unit in Hateen, Babylon.



For more information on IOM's past activities in Babylon, see:

www.iomiraq.net

BABYLON DISPLACEMENT BACKGROUND

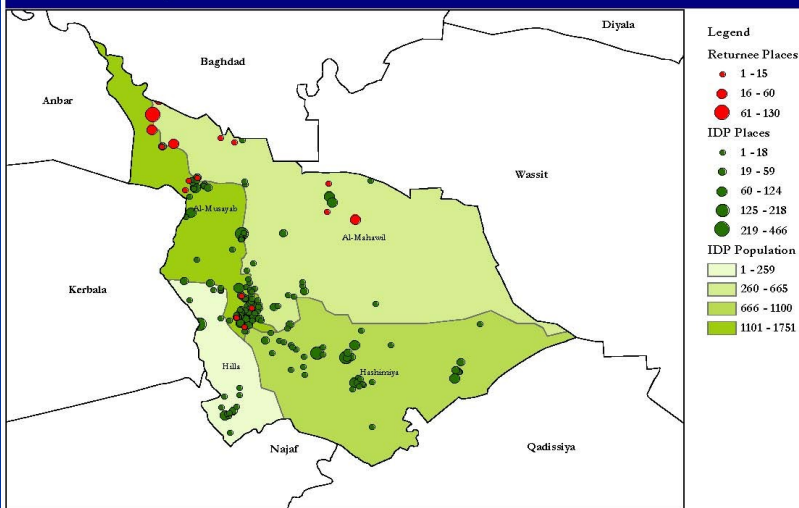
IOM monitors have interviewed IDP 4,181 families, the vast majority of whom are Arab Shia families who fled sectarian violence in Baghdad. Due to Baghdad's close proximity to Babylon, over 74% of IDP families are from Baghdad, and incidents of violence from Baghdad governorate continue to spill over into the north of Babylon. Besides Baghdad, 12% of IDP families come from within Babylon governorate, and 8% from Diyala.

A majority (3,442 families) of the IDP families assessed by IOM in Babylon were displaced to the governorate in 2006. The largest influx of IDP families to Babylon occurred in January 2006 (888 families), and there has been little displacement to Babylon since mid-2007. The total number of families assessed has decreased since the last report. This is because monitors are continually revising the number of assessed families in the governorate as families return to their original locations or move to other places of displacement.

IOM-assessed IDP families cite direct threats to their lives as their most pressing reason for displacement (29%), though 43% have chosen to not answer this question, possibly out of fear of being targeted for their religion or past political affiliations. Nonetheless, IOM monitors note that the general security situation in Babylon governorate has improved, and there have been relatively few security-related incidents in recent months.

IDP & Returnee Locations in Babylon. See final page for detail.

Babylon - IDP and Returnee Locations

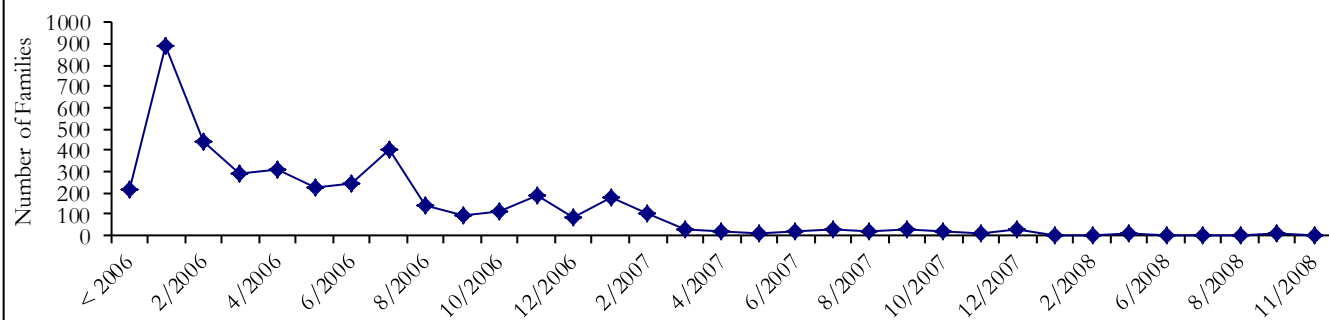


Number of IDPs in Babylon by District		
District	Families	%
Total Babylon	4,181	100.0%
Al-Mahawil	627	15.0%
Al-Musayab	809	19.3%
Hashimiya	1,082	25.9%
Hilla	1,663	39.8%

IDP Governorate of Origin	
Unknown	0.1%
Anbar	1.9%
Babylon	11.6%
Baghdad	74.4%
Diyala	8.3%
Ninewa	0.2%
Salah al-Din	1.6%
Kirkuk	1.1%
Wassit	0.7%

Reason for Displacement	Babylon	All Iraq
No Answer	42.9%	27.3%
Direct threats to life	29.2%	27.5%
Forced displacement	8.6%	9.4%
Left out of fear	11.2%	13.2%
Armed conflict	4.2%	6.9%
Drought	0.0%	2.3%
Generalized violence	3.8%	10.9%
Other	0.0%	0.4%

Monthly Displacement to Babylon Since 2006



BABYLON: IDP DEMOGRAPHICS

Babylon, commonly referred to as the “cradle of civilization”, was the site of the ancient Babylonian civilization as well as the Hanging Gardens of Babylon. Babylon is also in close proximity to the Euphrates River, which allows for significant irrigation and provides fertile soil for agricultural production. Though Babylon still has a relatively developed agricultural sector, the governorate’s crops have suffered significantly as a result of recent droughts.⁶ Approximately 46-56% of Babylon’s cropland was affected by drought between 2008 and 2009.⁷ This figure is significant given Babylon’s the governorate’s reliance on agriculture as a significant source of food.

IDP families displaced to Babylon are predominantly Arab-Shia Muslim (99%), though there are a small number of Arab-Sunni Muslim families as well.

Due to the nature of the sectarian violence in Iraq and conditions of displacement, a significant number of IDP and returnee households in Babylon are headed by women. 16% of returnee families are headed by females governorate-wide and this reaches almost a quarter of returnee families in the Al-Mahawil district. Though these figures are for returnee families, they largely mirror the composition of the IDP population in the governorate as well. Female-headed households are among the most vulnerable IDP families, as they often have no steady income and are susceptible to further displacement.

Of the IOM-assessed IDPs in Babylon governorate, 57% are under the age of 18. This will become especially challenging as local administrative structures attempt to provide adequate educational outlets as well as food, shelter, and economic support for these children and young adults. Children of IDP families may have difficulty attending school due to a lack of sufficient income, and those who are able might be faced with crowded classrooms and poor infrastructure.

There are a total of 2,123 IOM-assessed IDP families displaced from Babylon, with most currently located within the governorate (23%) or in Thi-Qar governorate (26%). They comprise only a small percentage (approximately 1%) of displaced families in all of Iraq.

IDPs by Age and Gender			
Age	Female	Male	Total
Under 1 year old	670	826	1,496
1 to 4 years old	1,533	1,581	3,114
5-17 years old	3,851	4,303	8,154
18-60 years old	5,055	4,937	9,992
Over 60 years old	891	784	1,675

IDPs Originally from Babylon are located in:		
Governorate	# Families	Percentage
Total Assessed	2,123	100%
Anbar	12	0.6%
Babylon	483	22.8%
Baghdad	139	6.5%
Basrah	106	5.0%
Diyala	21	1.0%
Erbil	5	0.2%
Kerbala	215	10.1%
Missan	21	1.0%
Muthanna	224	10.6%
Najaf	41	1.9%
Ninewa	41	1.9%
Qadissiya	75	3.5%
Salah al-Din	53	2.5%
Sulaymaniyah	21	1.0%
Kirkuk	32	1.5%
Thi-Qar	542	25.5%
Wassit	92	4.3%

Assessed Returnee Female-Headed Households (by district)	
District	Percentage
Total Babylon	16.3%
Al-Mahawil	22.7%
Al-Musayab	17.2%
Hashimiya	0.0%
Hilla	0.8%



SHELTER

IDP children living in a temporary home in Iskandaria.

6. Inter-Agency Information and Analysis Unit (IAU) Babylon Factsheet 2009. <http://www.iauiraq.org/gp/babil/default.asp>.

7. IAU Drought Factsheet 2009. http://www.iauiraq.org/documents/456/IAU_Crop_2008_2009_V2.pdf.

BABYLON'S DISPLACED: LIVING CONDITIONS AND PRIORITY NEEDS

IOM assessments show that Babylon IDPs are most in need of employment (93%), shelter (79%), and food (53%). These figures reflect the concerns most frequently cited by families.

Employment is a major concern among Babylon IDP families, as IOM monitors note that, for example, almost no IDP heads of household in Al-Hilali, Um-Hayaya, and Al-Shiha villages are presently employed.

The majority of IOM-assessed IDPs in Babylon (60%) are living in rented homes, meaning that a large portion of their resources go toward paying rent each month, and less can be spent on food, health, or education. Having to pay rent is especially burdensome with so many unemployed.

Currently, 8% of IDP families in Babylon assessed by IOM are living in collective settlements or public buildings. The makeshift nature of these homes and the fact that they are often built on privately-owned or government land makes families especially vulnerable to eviction and secondary displacement. There is little access to services like water and electricity networks, and health facilities are often not in walking distance. IOM monitors note that in areas such as Al-Hilali village, several families are currently living in homes built from sticks and mud, with poor access to water, electricity, and sanitation services. These families also rely on the delivery of water on a weekly basis.

IOM-assessed IDP families cite food as a major concern, though, according to IOM-assessments, most families have relatively consistent access to PDS (Public Distribution Services) rations. Despite the fact that families receive PDS rations, the baskets of food are often incomplete or lack important items such as milk or rice, requiring families to purchase food in local markets.



PRIORITY NEEDS

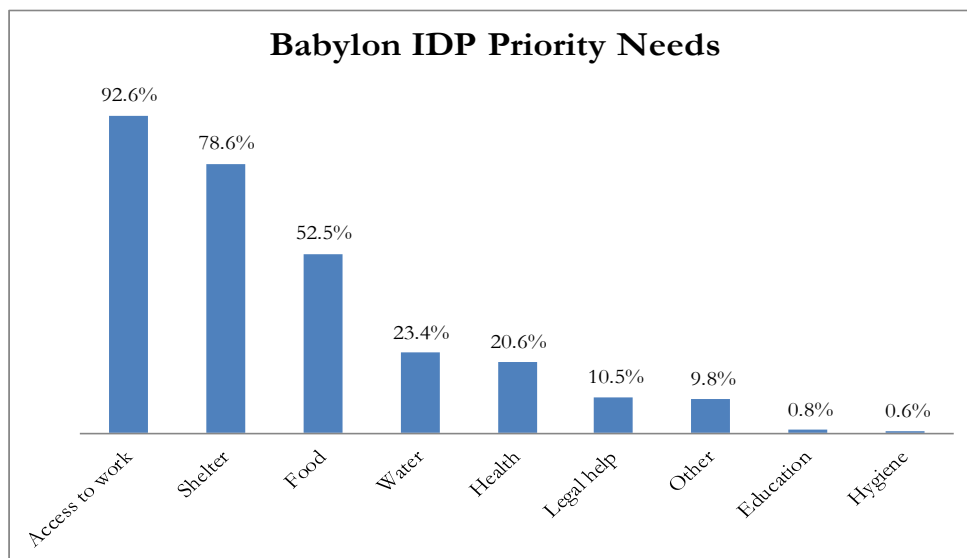
Returnee families in Babylon receiving household items from IOM.



WATER

Water is difficult to access in areas such as Al-Hilali village, requiring weekly water deliveries.

District	Living Structure (by district)							
	Rented house	Other	Collective Town Settlement	Former Military camp	Public building	Host house	Tent in Camp	Tent near house of host
Total Babylon	60.3%	24.2%	8.0%	1.3%	1.9%	4.4%	0.0%	0.0%
Al-Mahawil	59.6%	22.3%	7.7%	3.0%	0.0%	7.3%	0.0%	0.0%
Al-Musayab	67.6%	24.8%	2.3%	0.0%	0.0%	5.2%	0.0%	0.0%
Hashimiya	42.5%	36.0%	15.1%	3.2%	1.2%	2.2%	0.0%	0.0%
Hilla	68.6%	16.9%	6.2%	0.0%	3.9%	4.4%	0.0%	0.0%



BABYLON'S RETURNEES

Currently, IOM has assessed 320 returnee families (up from 291 in February 2009) in Babylon governorate, a majority of which have returned to the Al-Musayab (58%) and Al-Mahawil (40%) districts. An overwhelming majority of returnees cite improved security in Babylon as their reason for return, while a sizeable portion note both improved security and difficulties during displacement as their reasons for return. This signifies that further improvements in the security situation may lead to greater returns in the future.

Returnee living conditions in Babylon governorate are relatively good in comparison to returnee families in the rest of Iraq. Of those able to work, almost 75% have some sort of employment. A majority of returnee family homes also receive up to 10 hours of electricity per day, which is much higher than the rest of Iraq. Nonetheless, there are still returnee families that do not have housing as a result of a lack of employment and income.

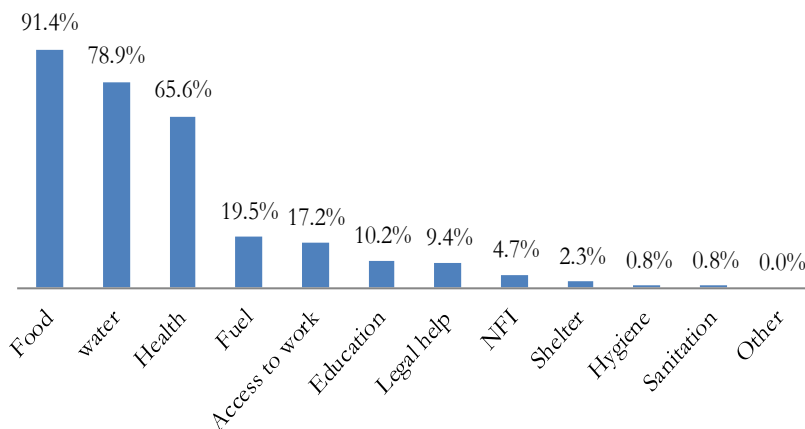
Assessed Returnee Reason for Return

District	Improved security in origin area	Improved security in origin area & Very difficult conditions in displacement	Improved security in origin area & Benefits from returnee payments	Very difficult conditions in displacement
All Babylon	60.1%	29.6%	6.3%	4.1%
Al-Mahawil	52.3%	35.9%	2.3%	9.4%
Al-Musayab	65.2%	26.1%	8.2%	0.5%
Hashimiya	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Hilla	60.0%	0.0%	40.0%	0.0%

Assessed Returnee Water Source

	Babylon	All Iraq
No Answer	1.3%	0.3%
Municipal water (underground pipes)	24.8%	80.5%
Open/Broken Pipe	1.6%	3.0%
Other	0.9%	0.1%
Private Well	0.3%	0.6%
Public Well	3.8%	2.3%
River, Stream, or Lake	63.5%	6.7%
Water tanks/trucks	3.8%	6.5%

Babylon Returnee Priority Needs



Assessed Returnee Numbers in Babylon by District

District	Number of Families	Percentage
Babylon Total	320	100%
Al-Mahawil	128	40.0%
Al-Musayab	186	58.1%
Hashimiya	1	0.3%
Hilla	5	1.6%

Babylon returnees cite food (91%), water (79%), and health (66%) as their top three priority needs (see chart below). Like IDP families, returnee families do have access to PDS rations, however these baskets are often incomplete and require that families supplement their food needs from local markets. Their need for water is illustrated by the fact that a majority (64%) of IOM-assessed returnee families use rivers, streams, or lakes as their main source of water. With regard to health, though returnee families do receive government assistance, health facilities are often inaccessible or too far from their homes.



SHELTER

Returnee family in Sadda living in a makeshift shelter.

Assessed Returnee Employment

	Babylon	All Iraq
Able, No Answer	0.0%	0.3%
Able, Not working	25.4%	37.5%
Able, Working	74.6%	62.2%

Assessed Returnee Electricity

	Babylon	All Iraq
No Answer	0.3%	2.8%
No Electricity	0.0%	1.3%
1-10 hours	96.3%	78.5%
10 + hours	3.5%	17.4%

RETURN POTENTIAL

Though the security situation in Babylon has shown improvement, a large proportion (67%) of families displaced from Babylon intend to stay and integrate into their current locations. The availability of employment and the security situation will also have a significant impact on IDP families being able to successfully integrate into their current locations.

A majority of IDP families displaced from Babylon are currently located in Thi-Qar (26%) or within Babylon governorate (23%). Thi-Qar, like Babylon governorate, is faced with a significant degree of unemployment. However, the security situation in Thi-Qar is more stable than in Babylon, so Babylon's state of security will likely have a greater impact on whether or not these families choose to integrate or return.

At the same time, 21% of IDP families would like to return to Babylon. This is especially true for IDPs displaced to Diyala and Sulaymaniyah governorates.

With regard to IDPs displaced to Babylon, 87% would like to integrate into their current location, reflecting the fact that the security situation in the governorate is improving. Among those who would like to return to their places of origin, approximately 72% intend to return to Baghdad governorate.

Intentions of those displaced FROM Babylon				
Displaced in	Integrate into the current location	Resettle in a third location	Return to their place of origin	Waiting to Decide
All IDPs from Babylon	67.3%	10.8%	21.1%	0.8%
Anbar	25.0%	0.0%	75.0%	0.0%
Babylon	89.8%	1.5%	8.7%	0.0%
Baghdad	48.9%	5.8%	37.4%	7.9%
Basrah	77.4%	17.9%	4.7%	0.0%
Diyala	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%
Erbil	0.0%	20.0%	80.0%	0.0%
Kerbala	19.5%	40.0%	40.5%	0.0%
Missan	47.6%	33.3%	14.3%	4.8%
Muthanna	77.1%	3.1%	19.7%	0.0%
Najaf	90.2%	0.0%	9.8%	0.0%
Ninewa	12.2%	58.5%	29.3%	0.0%
Qadissiya	80.0%	18.7%	1.3%	0.0%
Salah al-Din	54.7%	26.4%	11.3%	7.5%
Sulaymaniyah	9.5%	0.0%	90.5%	0.0%
Kirkuk	6.3%	15.6%	78.1%	0.0%
Thi-Qar	76.4%	6.1%	17.5%	0.0%
Wassit	75.0%	5.4%	19.6%	0.0%

Of those that intend to return, to which governorate would they return?	
Anbar	0.2%
Babylon	10.5%
Baghdad	72.3%
Diyala	15.2%
Ninewa	0.5%
Salah al-Din	0.7%
Tameem	0.2%
Wassit	0.2%



SHELTER

Homes constructed from oil cans and mud in Khinfara village, Al-Mahawil district.

Babylon IDP Settlement Intentions					
District	Unknown	Locally integrate in the current location	Resettle in a third location	Return to their place of origin	Waiting on one or several factors to make a decision
Babylon Total	0.1%	86.7%	3.7%	9.6%	0.0%
Al-Mahawil	0.0%	91.1%	0.0%	8.9%	0.0%
Al-Musayab	0.4%	96.3%	0.0%	3.3%	0.0%
Hashimiya	0.0%	83.0%	8.5%	13.8%	0.0%
Hilla	0.0%	85.4%	4.0%	10.6%	0.0%

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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 also 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 or Liana Paris, IOM Monitoring Officer, at lparis@iom.int (+962 6 565 9660).

Babylon - IDP and Returnee Locations

