

BAGHDAD

GOVERNORATE PROFILE NOVEMBER 2010
IOM IDP AND RETURNEE ASSESSMENT



BAGHDAD: DISPLACEMENT AT A GLANCE

Total post-Feb 2006 IDPs ¹	100,337 families (est. 602,022 individuals)
Total pre-Feb 2006 IDPs ²	3,867 families (est. 23,202 individuals)
Number of post-Feb 2006 IDPs assessed	61,111 families (est. 366,666 individuals)
Returnees ⁴	38,484 families (est. 230,904 individuals)
Capital	Baghdad
Districts	Adhamiya, Abu Ghraib, Al-Resafa, Karkh, Taji, Tarmia, Mada'in, Mahmoudiya, Thawra 1, Thawra 2
Population ⁵	7,145,470 individuals

Baghdad is one of the most populous and unstable governorates within Iraq and has thus become a focus of displacement for a significant number of families. IOM monitors have assessed 61,111 IDP families, 35% of whom are currently located in the Karkh district. Most IDP families (81%) in Baghdad governorate were displaced from elsewhere within the governorate. The bulk of these families have been living in the governorate since 2006. Their prolonged displacement has greatly affected their needs and concerns, which often differ from those of families who have been displaced more recently.

IOM has also assessed 4,867 returnee families in Baghdad governorate. Of those displaced from Baghdad, more than 46% have noted their intention to return in the future. Though return to the governorate from within Iraq has slowed, monitors report increased return from neighbouring countries such as Jordan and Syria, as well as from Europe. Most families who have returned note that their conditions during displacement were worse than those in their place of origin.

Quick Facts on Baghdad IDPs & Returnees



- Nearly 75% of IOM-assessed IDPs in Baghdad are Shia Arab and 24% are Sunni Arab.
- 55% of IOM-assessed IDPs in Baghdad want to return to their place of origin and 81% were displaced from elsewhere in the governorate.
- More than 75% of IOM-assessed Baghdad's IDPs and returnees cite food as a priority need.

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 Baghdad

IOM recently rehabilitated public health centres (PHC) in the Karkh and al-Resafa districts of Baghdad.



For more information on IOM's past activities in Baghdad, see IOM's *Baghdad Activity Report* at:

www.iomiraq.net

BAGHDAD DISPLACEMENT BACKGROUND

Baghdad governorate, with a population of approximately 7 million individuals, is the largest point of origin of displaced families within Iraq. According to the Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MoDM), there are currently 100,337 IDP families in Baghdad governorate. IOM monitors have assessed 61,111 families displaced in Baghdad, with nearly 81% of them also originating from within the governorate, followed by 15% from Diyala governorate. The security situation in Baghdad continues to be unstable in certain areas, especially throughout the process of government formation.

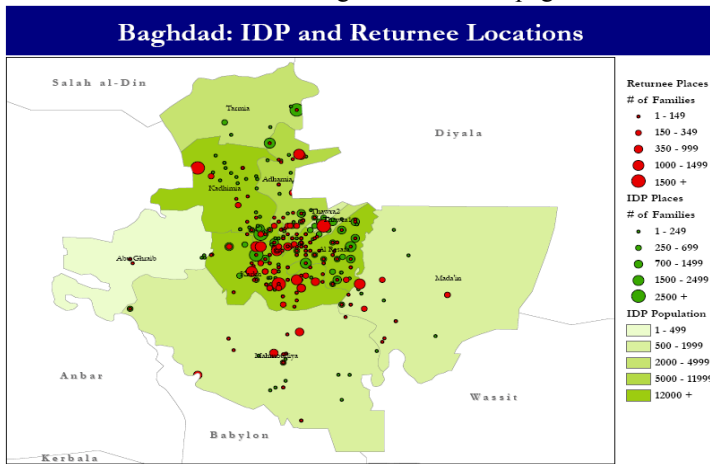
IDP in Baghdad Governorate of Origin	
Anbar	1.6%
Babylon	0.2%
Baghdad	81.4%
Diyala	14.9%
Ninewa	0.3%
Salah al-Din	1.1%
Kirkuk	0.4%

Displacement to Baghdad hit an all time high when 7,174 families arrived in the governorate in December 2006, over 2,000 more families than the previous month. This peak occurred between March 2006 and February 2007, and families displaced during this period make up the bulk of those still displaced within the governorate. The graph below shows that the largest groups of families currently displaced in Baghdad have been in the governorate for at least four years. The needs of families who have been displaced for a prolonged period of time are often different from families who have been displaced recently, as recently displaced families are often in need of more urgent assistance.

Though the total number of IDP families remains high, there has been little displacement in Baghdad governorate since 2008. Recent displacement in Baghdad has resulted from eviction and threats of eviction as well as from sectarian violence. For example, at the time of publication, a significant number of Christians were displaced from the governorate following threats, targeted bombings, and the massacre in the Saidat al-Najat (Our Lady of Salvation) Church in Baghdad. This and several other incidents resulted in the movement of a large number of Christian families in Baghdad and Mosul to areas where they felt safer in north. This is an on-going trend and the scale and length of displacement is still uncertain, as IOM monitors continue to assess the situation.

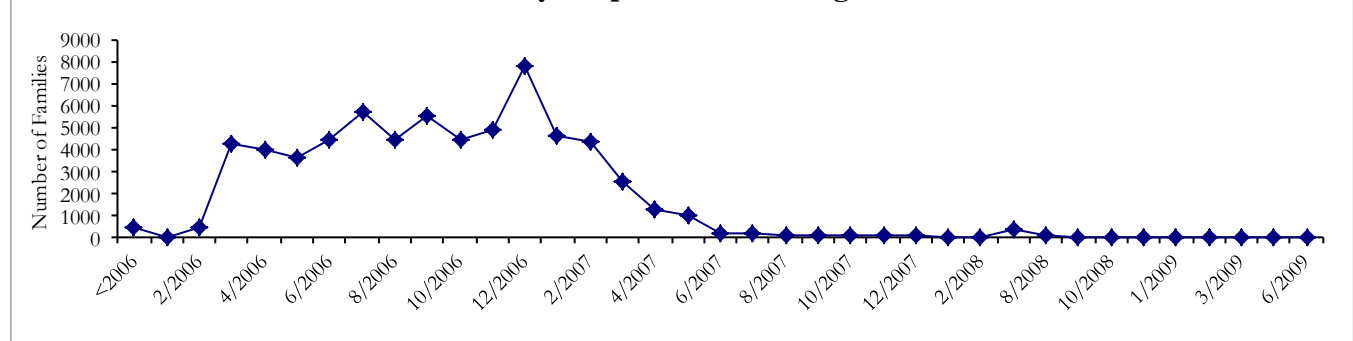
34% of IDP families in Baghdad cite direct threats to their lives as their reason for displacement. IOM monitors note that the security situation continues to remain tense, as militant groups are still prevalent and many families in Baghdad do not feel safe. Several neighbourhoods in Baghdad currently enforce both regular and temporary curfews in order to better maintain security in the governorate, but despite security precautions, several checkpoints and public places have been regularly targeted by armed groups.

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



Reason for Displacement	Baghdad	All Iraq
No Answer	29.0%	27.3%
Direct threats to life	34.1%	27.5%
Forced displacement	16.6%	9.4%
Left out of fear	5.0%	13.2%
Armed conflict	7.6%	6.9%
Drought	0.0%	2.3%
Generalized violence	5.7%	10.9%
Other	0.6%	0.4%

Monthly Displacement to Baghdad Since 2006



BAGHDAD: IDP DEMOGRAPHICS

Many IOM-assessed families who were forced to leave their homes in Baghdad remained within the same governorate (81%), although smaller numbers fled to other governorates within Iraq as well as to surrounding countries such as Syria and Jordan, and further to countries in Europe. IDP families are concentrated in the Karkh (35%) and Al-Resafa (27%) districts.

IDP families in Baghdad are mainly Arab Shia (75%) and Arab Sunni Muslims (24%). In addition to such families, there is a sizeable population of Armenian, Assyrian, and Chaldean Christians. IOM monitors have noted incidents of religious conversion among IDPs living in fear of religious persecution. As mentioned earlier, a number of Christians have also been targeted in the governorate, causing the movement of families from Baghdad to areas in the north where they feel more safe.

Religious and ethnic divides have been heightened by both efforts to create a new Iraqi government as well as recent talks of conducting an Iraq-wide census. The formation of the Iraqi government has been in limbo since parliamentary elections took place on 7 March. Disagreements and tensions between Sunni and Shia parties were mirrored by similar tensions among Iraqi citizens. The census, which has been postponed for a third time since 2007, has also been a major point of contention, as its results would determine electoral districts, funding of public services, as well as future projects and investments in each governorate.⁶

Sectarian violence and difficult living conditions during displacement have increased the number of households headed by women in Baghdad governorate. In districts such as Abu Ghraib, IOM monitors have reported the existence of over 5,000 families headed by women, resulting from incidents of violence in the region. The women are currently living in difficult situations as a result of both scant assistance and the inability to work due to illiteracy or a lack of vocational skills.

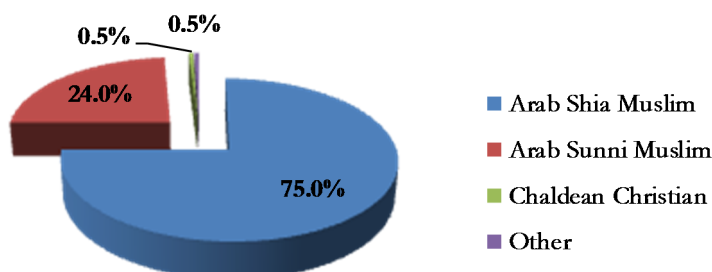
IDPs Originally from Baghdad are located in:

Governorate	# Families	Percentage
Total Assessed	111,629	100%
Anbar	2,765	2.5%
Babylon	3,100	2.8%
Baghdad	49,737	44.6%
Basrah	1,390	1.2%
Dahuk	2,497	2.2%
Diyala	2,601	2.3%
Erbil	3,315	3.0%
Kerbala	4,616	4.1%
Missan	5,910	5.3%
Muthanna	2,428	2.2%
Najaf	3,164	2.8%
Ninewa	3,733	3.3%
Qadissiyah	3,103	2.8%
Salah al-Din	6,037	5.4%
Sulaymaniyah	2,753	2.5%
Kirkuk	3,689	3.3%
Thi-Qar	5,934	5.3%
Wassit	4,857	4.4%

Number of IDPs in Baghdad by District

District	Families	%
Total Baghdad	61,111	100%
Abu Ghraib	650	1.1%
Adhamia	5,857	9.6%
Al-Resafa	15,653	25.6%
Kadhimia	5,388	8.8%
Karkh	21,453	35.1%
Mada'in	1,506	2.5%
Mahmoudiya	1,173	1.9%
Tarmia	3,333	5.5%
Thawra	6,098	10.0%

Ethno-Religious Identity of IDPs in Baghdad



EDUCATION

Shaheed Ghalib School prior to rehabilitation by IOM.

6. Joost Hiltermann, "Thank Goodness for Iraq's Census Disaster", *Foreign Policy*, 8 Oct 2010.

BAGHDAD'S DISPLACED: LIVING CONDITIONS AND PRIORITY NEEDS

IDP families in Baghdad live in several types of accommodation including rented or privately owned houses, collective settlements, and as squatters in public buildings. A majority of IDP families in Baghdad reside in rented homes (62%), straining their savings or meagre salaries. Collective settlements, usually with homes comprised of mud and sticks, are home to hundreds of IDP families who are in need of basic services like water and electricity. In some cases, there exists a complicated succession of home ownership, as some post-2006 IDPs have ended up renting homes from families already living in collective settlements. The settlements also lack facilities for the provision of health and education services for individuals who might need them most, such as children and the elderly.



SHELTER

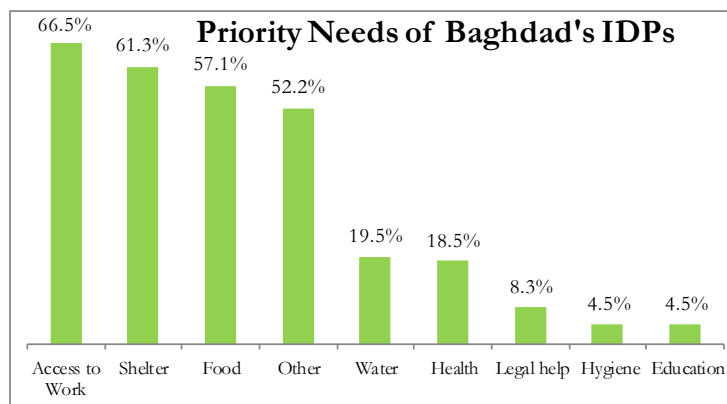
IDP families in Baghdad governorate living without access to basic services.

IOM-assessed Baghdad IDP families report access to work (67%), shelter (61%), and food (57%) as their top priority needs. In addition, 52% of IDP families chose 'other' when listing their needs, specifying money for rent. A housing shortage, few employment opportunities, and rising rents mean that monthly payments are becoming increasingly unaffordable. The ability to access work has directly influenced whether or not a displaced family can remain in their new location. For example, in July IDP families in the 9 Nissan sub-district noted their desire to remain in their location of displacement after finding jobs, enabling them to pay for rent.

Displaced and returnee families in the village of Al-Tajyat depend on grazing their livestock for their source of livelihood. This became problematic when contaminated water pumped from the nearby river caused animals to contract waterborne diseases, leaving some of them blind. IOM monitors also note worrisome health-related incidents in districts such as Al-Resafa, where a lack of regular access to health care led to the deaths of at least four individuals suffering from various infections and cancers.

Though types of shelter differ vastly across districts, those living in the most unstable situations (i.e. tents, mud houses) are often the most vulnerable to further displacement. The Al-Hessabat settlement in Baghdad's Al-Horyah sub-district is currently comprised of houses built from mud and reeds. Due to their flimsy composition, the houses suffered tremendous damage, especially to their roofs, during recent storms in the area.

While focusing on work, shelter, and food as their most pressing needs, education has largely been pushed back in place of more immediate concerns. Access to education, though available to a large number of children, has proven difficult to continue in the face of ongoing violence and displacement. In districts such as Abu Ghraib, a large number of children have dropped out of school due to economic difficulties and in the case of some, the loss of one or both parents. Nonetheless, some students, after a brief hiatus due to the security situation, have returned to their studies.



District	Living Structure (by district)						
	Tent in Camp	Collective Town Settlement	Former Military Camp	Public building	Host House	Rented house	Other
Baghdad Total	0.2%	5.7%	0.3%	1.0%	9.4%	67.1%	16.3%
Abu Ghraib	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	4.8%	19.4%	70.6%	5.2%
Adhamia	1.5%	4.3%	0.0%	0.4%	8.7%	76.1%	9.0%
Al Resafa	0.1%	2.5%	0.0%	1.5%	4.2%	72.1%	19.8%
Kadhimia	0.0%	8.2%	3.5%	1.9%	16.0%	42.2%	28.3%
Karkh	0.0%	7.5%	0.0%	0.7%	8.4%	70.5%	12.9%
Mada'in	0.3%	23.0%	0.0%	0.5%	1.6%	34.7%	38.3%
Mahmoudiya	0.0%	4.9%	0.0%	0.0%	20.2%	43.1%	31.8%
Tarmia	0.0%	3.0%	0.0%	2.3%	19.3%	46.9%	28.5%
Thawra 1	0.0%	5.1%	0.0%	0.5%	18.7%	73.7%	2.0%
Thawra 2	0.0%	2.8%	0.0%	0.0%	1.2%	94.8%	1.2%

BAGHDAD'S RETURNEES

IOM monitors identified 38,484 returnee families in Baghdad governorate and have assessed 4,867 of these returnee families, a majority of whom are located in the Karkh (29%) and Al-Resafa (18%) districts. Of those assessed, most returned from internal displacement, though 727 families did return from abroad, largely from Syria, Egypt, and Jordan. Though most IOM-assessed returnees have returned from being displaced internally, recent trends show that there have been increasing numbers of families returning from abroad.

Improved security in their area of origin (65%) was the most prevalent reason for families to return. Many other factors can also affect return trends, such as access to previously owned property, the availability of employment opportunities, and access to basic services in their places of origin.

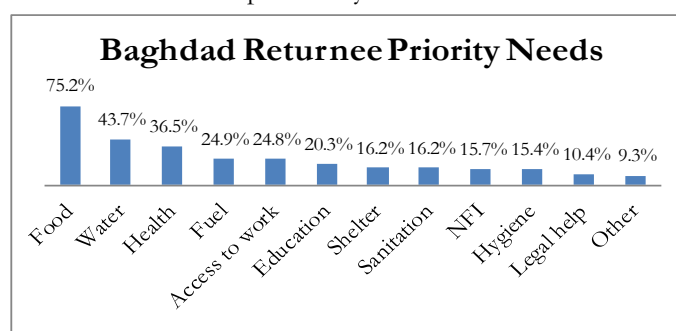
Return to Baghdad has been slow but continuous, except for a spike in April 2007. Returnees cite food, water, and access to healthcare as their top three priority needs. Returnees are also in need of assistance in repairing or rebuilding homes and businesses, though relative to the rest of Iraq, more returnees are receiving at least 10 hours of electricity. Baghdad's returnee families are also in need of access to employment. 39% of heads of returnee families are unable to find employment, despite their ability and willingness to work.

55% of IDP families from Baghdad would like to return to their places of origin (see next page), and of those families who intend to return, over 64% (an estimated 10,509 families) wish to return to Karkh district. A high rate of return will have a significant impact on host communities in Baghdad governorate. Much depends upon the ability of host communities to absorb an influx of families that might put a strain on the local economy and provision of services. Though violence has decreased in Baghdad governorate, there have been incidents of tension between the host communities and returnee families. IOM monitors note that some host communities have been less than welcoming or supportive towards returnees and that due to a lack of help and services provided to them, returnee families could potentially be faced with secondary displacement.

District	Number of Families	Percentage
Baghdad Total	4,867	100%
Abu Ghraib	167	3.4%
Adhamia	477	9.8%
Al-Resafa	894	18.4%
Kadhimia	681	14.0%
Karkh	1,412	29.0%
Mada'in	699	14.4%
Mahmoudiya	411	8.4%
Taji	10	0.2%
Tarmia	2	0.0%
Thawra	114	2.3%

Assessed Returnee Employment	Baghdad	All Iraq
No Answer	0.3%	0.3%
Not Working	39.0%	37.5%
Working	60.7%	62.2%

Assessed Returnee Electricity	Baghdad	All Iraq
No Electricity	2.8%	1.3%
1-10 Hours Per Day	86.5%	78.5%
10+ Hours Per Day	10.0%	17.4%
No Answer	0.7%	2.8%



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 Baghdad	71.8%	25.5%	0.6%	2.0%
Abu Ghraib	63.7%	35.7%	0.0%	0.6%
Adhamia	71.2%	23.7%	1.2%	3.8%
Al-Resafa	71.0%	24.3%	1.3%	3.3%
Kadhimia	71.3%	28.2%	0.0%	0.5%
Karkh	74.0%	23.8%	0.2%	2.0%
Mada'in	66.3%	31.8%	0.7%	1.2%
Mahmoudiya	74.0%	25.8%	0.0%	0.2%
Tarmia	50.0%	50.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Thawra	89.0%	3.9%	4.7%	2.4%

IDP INTENTIONS AND RETURN POTENTIAL

IOM monitors note recent increases of return to Baghdad from surrounding countries such as Syria and Jordan, as well as from European countries. IOM assessments show that families who intend to stay in their current location (35%) are integrating into communities with similar ethnicities and religious sects and have better access to employment opportunities than they would in their places of origin. Many of these families feel that sectarian tensions are still prevalent at home and that their conditions in displacement are preferable to those in their place of origin.

Most (55%) IOM-assessed families displaced to Baghdad governorate would prefer to return to their places of origin, and 30% would like to integrate locally. According to IOM field assessments, IDPs are more likely to return to their homes if violence in their places of origin has decreased. 81% of IDP families in Baghdad are originally from the governorate and comprise a majority of all IDP families displaced throughout Iraq.

Although violence has decreased from 2006-07 levels, whether or not IDP families are able to return to their homes or integrate into their communities is also contingent upon the likelihood of finding work, their ability to integrate into their host communities, their access to services such as education and healthcare, and the nature of conditions during their displacement. The support of host communities and assistance provided by local authorities to both IDP and returnee families will also have a significant impact on whether IDP families will choose to return.

Intentions of those displaced FROM Baghdad				
Displaced in	Integrate into the current location	Resettle in a third location	Return to their place of origin	Waiting to Decide
Average of all IDPs from Baghdad	35.0%	15.2%	46.4%	3.4%
Anbar	4.3%	44.6%	46.2%	4.9%
Babylon	86.3%	4.4%	9.4%	0.0%
Baghdad	29.3%	8.5%	58.2%	4.0%
Basrah	72.4%	22.9%	4.0%	0.6%
Dahuk	53.2%	33.8%	12.9%	0.2%
Diyala	30.8%	6.8%	52.3%	10.1%
Erbil	25.4%	11.7%	58.9%	4.0%
Kerbala	31.2%	41.2%	27.4%	0.2%
Missan	35.3%	24.9%	32.0%	7.7%
Muthanna	49.3%	11.0%	38.9%	0.9%
Najaf	70.6%	1.0%	28.4%	0.0%
Ninewa	4.3%	26.5%	68.6%	0.6%
Qadissiyah	62.4%	24.1%	13.4%	0.0%
Salah al-Din	33.9%	33.6%	30.6%	1.9%
Sulaymaniyah	29.6%	7.4%	62.8%	0.1%
Kirkuk	23.3%	11.4%	48.6%	16.7%
Thi-Qar	58.2%	8.9%	32.3%	0.5%
Wassit	30.3%	22.6%	46.4%	0.6%



SHELTER

IDP children lacking sufficient shelter. Shelter is one of the top three priority needs cited by Baghdad IDP families.

Baghdad IDP Settlement Intentions					
District	No Answer	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
All Baghdad	0.2%	30.4%	10.3%	54.9%	4.3%
Abu Ghraib	0.3%	49.1%	1.7%	47.2%	1.7%
Adhamia	0.0%	25.2%	20.6%	47.8%	6.4%
Al-Resafa	0.3%	33.0%	11.0%	51.6%	4.2%
Kadhimia	0.0%	48.6%	6.3%	41.0%	4.2%
Karkh	0.3%	28.0%	7.7%	61.4%	2.6%
Mada'in	0.1%	46.3%	32.7%	17.7%	3.3%
Mahmoudiya	0.4%	29.4%	34.2%	31.5%	4.4%
Tarmia	0.0%	18.4%	3.8%	75.1%	2.7%
Thawra1	0.0%	19.8%	7.2%	62.9%	10.1%
Thawra2	0.0%	26.5%	0.0%	62.1%	11.4%

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).

Baghdad: IDP and Returnee Locations

