

# DIYALA

GOVERNORATE PROFILE NOVEMBER 2010  
IOM IDP AND RETURNEE ASSESSMENT



## DIYALA: DISPLACEMENT AT A GLANCE

Total post-Feb 2006 IDPs <sup>1</sup>	21,064 families (est. 126,384 individuals)
Total pre-Feb 2006 IDPs <sup>2</sup>	9,100 families (est. 54,600 individuals)
Number of post-Feb 2006 IDPs assessed by IOM <sup>3</sup>	22,373 families (est. 134,238 individuals)
Returnees <sup>4</sup>	11,291 families (est. 67,746 individuals)
Capital	Baqubah
Districts	Baqubah, Al-Muqdadiya, Al-Khalis, Baladrooz, Khanaqin, Kifri
Population <sup>5</sup>	1,560,621 individuals

Along with Baghdad and Ninewa, Diyala was one of the governorates that saw the highest rates of displacement following the 2006 Samarra mosque bombing. Most IDPs were displaced to another part of Diyala, though many also fled to Baghdad, Wassit, Sulaymaniyah and Kirkuk.

Given the high numbers which left the governorate, it is unsurprising that Diyala has also been one of the governorates to receive the highest number of returnee families since 2007, although the rate of new returnee arrivals has declined considerably this year.

For IDPs in Diyala, access to work and food remain priority needs, while shelter, though still important, has become less pressing than in February this year. Returnees, the majority of whom cite improvements in security as their reason for coming back, continue to state food as their greatest concern. For returnee, IDP families and host communities alike, water has become an urgent concern in recent years as drought intensifies and public services remain stretched.

### Quick Facts on Diyala IDPs & Returnees



- 55% of IDPs in Diyala identify as Sunni Arab, 37% as Shia Arab, and 5% as Shia Kurd.
- Though 44% of IDPs from Diyala intend to return to their place of origin, return has slowed considerably.
- Food and water are the greatest concerns of IDPs and returnees in Diyala.

<sup>1</sup> As per the Iraqi Ministry of Displacement and Migration.

<sup>2</sup> As per IOM Phase II Monitoring, December 2005.

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

<sup>4</sup> As per IOM Returnee Monitoring.

<sup>5</sup> As per the Iraq 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.<sup>1</sup>

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 Diyala Rehabilitation of Primary Health Care Centre and Health Awareness Campaign



IOM conducted 38 health awareness sessions throughout Khalis in Diyala. More than 1,500 IDPs, returnees and members of the host community benefitted from these sessions, which taught basic hygiene practices as well as how to purify water. In addition, the facilities in the local public health centre underwent an extensive renovation and refurbishment.

For more information on IOM's past activities in Diyala, see *Activities in Diyala* at:

[www.iomiraq.net](http://www.iomiraq.net)

## DIYALA DISPLACEMENT BACKGROUND

According to the Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MoDM), there are currently 21,064 IDP families in Diyala<sup>1</sup>. IOM has assessed 22,373 IDP families to date, as well as a further 890 families who have returned to their homes. Accounting for 21% of all families that were displaced nationwide, Diyala is second only to Baghdad as the largest governorate of origin for families leaving their homes in Iraq. This is largely due to the security situation in the governorate which, until 2008, was extremely dangerous with some of the worst violence in Iraq. As a result, families in Diyala are far more likely to cite ‘armed conflict’ or ‘generalized violence’ as their reason for displacement than elsewhere in Iraq.

Though displacement to and from Diyala has slowed enormously since peak levels in 2006, it has not entirely stopped. An unusually large displacement in October 2010 involved almost one thousand families being displaced within the governorate from Jalawla, Saedya and Qaratap to Khanaqeen, Kalar and Kifri.

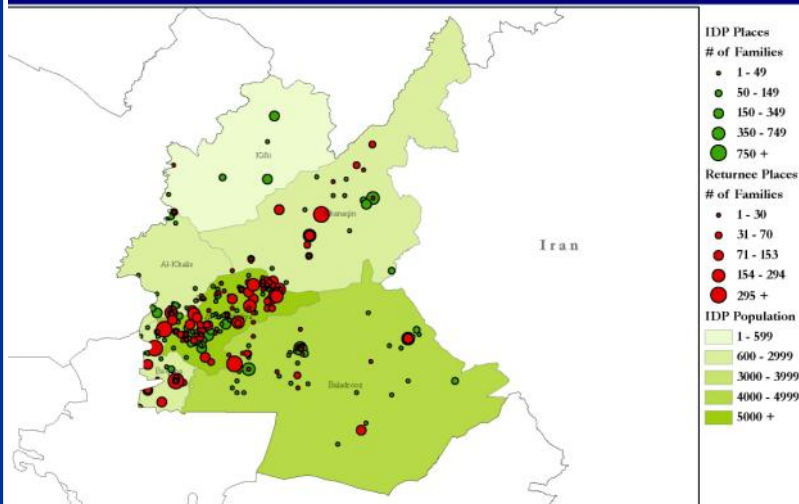
In addition to having an extremely diverse ethnic and religious make-up, Diyala lies close to some of the disputed internal boundaries within Iraq. In the north of the governorate, tensions between Arabs and Kurds persist while the Iraqi central government in Baghdad and the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) each hope to gain administrative control. This presents another challenge to IOM monitors who always strive to work in harmony with local elected Iraqi leaders but struggle at times to assess the access of IDPs and returnees to government provided services.

Number of IDPs in Diyala by District		
District	Families	%
<b>Total Diyala</b>	22373	100%
Al-Khalis	4494	20.1%
Al-Muqdadaiya	4781	21.4%
Baladrooz	4273	19.1%
Ba'quba	6183	27.6%
Khanaqin	2188	9.8%
Kifri	454	2.0%

IDP Governorate of Origin	
Within Diyala	87.0%
Baghdad	11.8%
Anbar	0.3%
Salah al-Din	0.3%
Babylon	0.1%
Kirkuk	0.3%

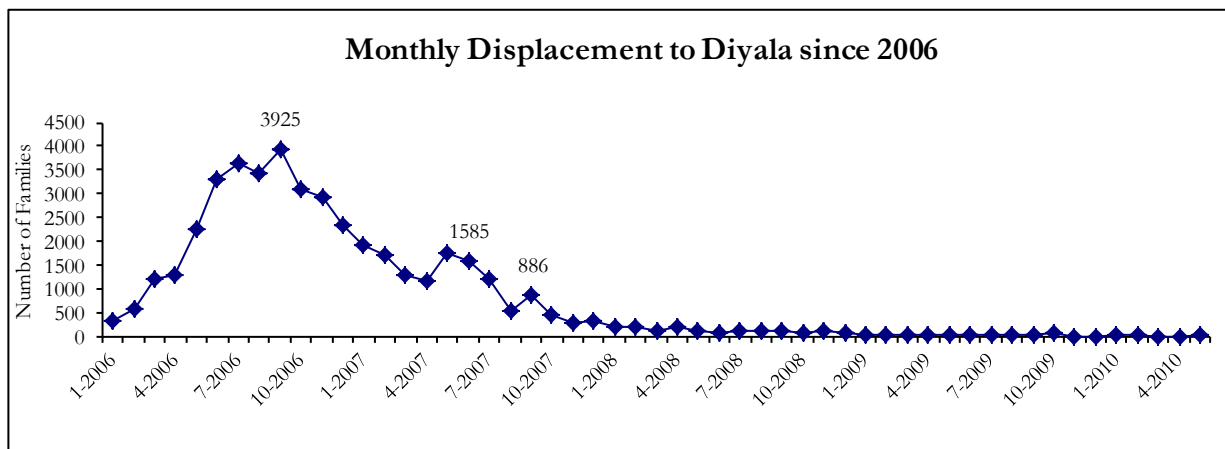
**IDP & Returnee Locations in Diyala. See final page for detail.**

### Diyala: IDP and Returnee Locations



Reason for Displacement	Diyala	All Iraq
Armed conflict	15.8%	6.9%
Direct threats of life	19.0%	27.5%
Drought	0.0%	2.3%
Forced displacement	11.3%	9.4%
Generalized violence	16.2%	10.9%
Left out of fear	3.8%	13.2%
No Answer	31.1%	27.3%
Other	0.0%	0.4%

### Monthly Displacement to Diyala since 2006



<sup>1</sup> This is the number of families displaced since February 2006, according to MoDM registration figures as of 2009.

## DIYALA: IDP DEMOGRAPHICS

Families that were displaced from their homes in Diyala moved throughout Iraq, most notably to Baghdad. However, 44% of these families moved elsewhere within the governorate itself, reflecting the Iraq-wide trend of inter-governorate displacement.

Much like the host community population, IDP families in Diyala are ethnically and religiously mixed. 55% of IDP families identify as Sunni Arab, 37% as Shia Arab, and 7% as Sunni or Shia Kurd. The governorate also has a very young IDP population with over 55% of IDP family members less than 18 years old. When coupled with the 7% of elderly members over the age of 60, this means that even when adults of working age are able to find employment, family resources are likely to be stretched.

Many of these young IDPs are without access to proper education, as monitors report that some schools are without study benches, water and electricity. In Al-Khalis, monitors have reported that the absence of any schools in an entire sub-district has meant that children have to make a long and dangerous journey to receive their education, crossing a busy main road which has resulted in the deaths of two children who were hit by cars. Others have instead ceased their education altogether, working in informal employment instead. IOM monitors report that these children have taken to selling sodas, carrying fruit or even engaging in petty crime.

Across Diyala, the numbers of female-headed returnee households are higher than the Iraqi average of 12.5%. Some districts, however, have particularly high numbers, with almost 1 in 4 returnee families in Baladrooz being headed by a woman. These families often face additional obstacles in securing employment, legal aid, education and healthcare, and as such are often exceptionally vulnerable groups in Iraq.

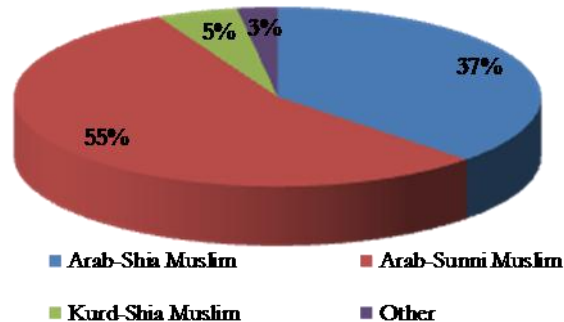
Schools are overcrowded, such as this classroom built for 45 students that now holds 70.



IDPs Originally from Diyala are located in:		
Governorate	# Families	Percentage
Anbar	70	0.2%
Babylon	346	0.8%
Baghdad	9027	20.5%
Basrah	238	0.5%
Dahuk	1	0.0%
Diyala	19177	43.5%
Erbil	93	0.2%
Kerbala	1674	3.8%
Kirkuk	3505	7.9%
Missan	656	1.5%
Muthanna	280	0.6%
Najaf	322	0.7%
Ninewa	94	0.2%
Qadissiya	698	1.6%
Salah al-Din	1705	3.9%
Sulaymaniyah	3134	7.1%
Thi-Qar	1143	2.6%
Wassit	1942	4.4%
Total Assessed	44105	100%

Assessed Returnee Female-Headed Households	
District	Percentage
Total	15.4%
Al-Khalis	14.2%
Al-Muqdadia	19.9%
Baladrooz	23.7%
Ba'quba	13.6%
Khanaqin	13.8%
Kifri	22.2%

Total Ethno-Religious Identity in Diyala



Ethno-Religious Identity in Diyala (by District)

District	Arab-Shia Muslim	Arab-Sunni Muslim	Kurd-Shia Muslim	Kurd-Sunni Muslim	Turkmen-Shia Muslim	Turkmen-Sunni Muslim	Other
Total	37.3%	55.2%	5.0%	1.6%	0.4%	0.3%	0.1%
Al-Khalis	44.6%	55.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Al-Muqdadia	24.5%	74.1%	0.2%	0.8%	0.0%	0.2%	0.2%
Baladrooz	58.8%	30.5%	9.8%	0.3%	0.5%	0.1%	0.0%
Ba'quba	37.8%	62.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%
Khanaqin	14.9%	43.7%	29.6%	7.9%	2.6%	1.3%	0.0%
Kifri	7.0%	42.3%	9.5%	30.0%	4.4%	6.2%	0.7%

IDPs by Age and Gender

Age	Female	Male	Total
Under 1 year old	3814	2819	6633
1 to 4 years old	6170	5709	11879
5-17 years old	10191	9056	19247
18-60 years old	13776	12311	26087
Over 60 years old	2884	2179	5063

## DIYALA'S DISPLACED: LIVING CONDITIONS AND PRIORITY NEEDS

With 65% of IDPs citing it as a priority need, access to work stands out as an immediate concern for IDP families in Diyala. Job opportunities in the district are sparse, while water scarcity means that for many, farming can not be relied upon as a viable livelihood.

Food is also considered a pressing need by families in Diyala where PDS access is poorer than averages across Iraq. Families report that they often only receive a quarter of the government-provided rations which they have come to rely on. Moreover, sharp price rises in ingredients such as meat mean that many families simply go without this source of protein. Similarly, returnee families in Diyala are more likely to source their water from public wells or from rivers and streams than is common across Iraq. Consequently more likely to cite water as a priority need than is average in the country.

Shelter is also a worry for 38.2% of IDP families despite a rise in the number of families renting. Like food, the cost of living in Iraq has risen considerably in recent years meaning that even for those who are renting, the situation remains unstable from one month to the next. Furthermore, a considerable number of Diyala's displaced families live in collective town settlements or public buildings where there is a greater risk of eviction by public authorities and thus secondary displacement. Years of conflict have meant that much housing is severely damaged as well as some of the essential infrastructure in the governorate such as schools and hospitals.

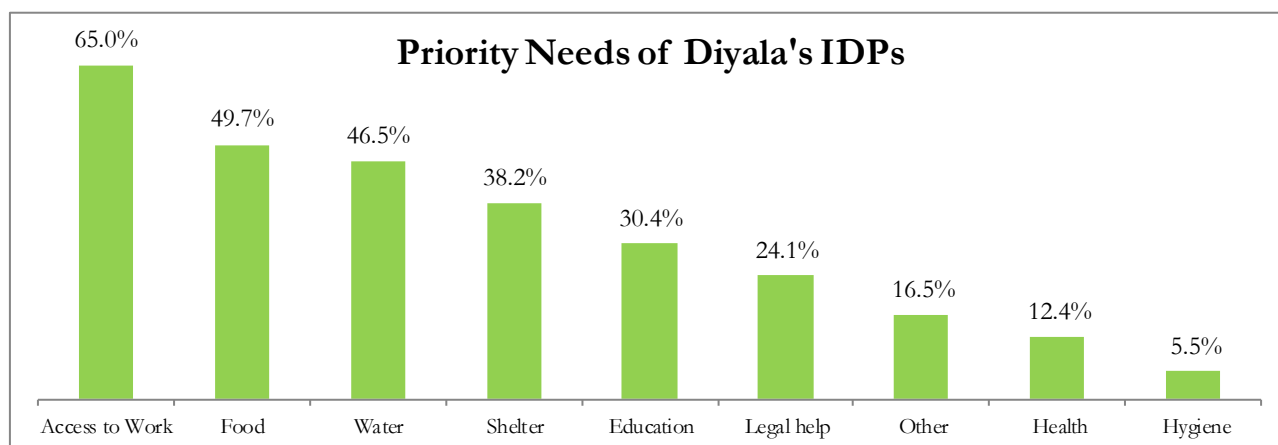
Since February, the needs of Diyala's IDPs have changed considerably. Whereas access to work was cited as a need by just 50% of IDPs in February, this has now risen to 65%. By contrast, far fewer families cite shelter and food as a priority need, while water has risen in urgency, likely prompted by drought in recent years.

Assessed Returnee PDS Access	Diyala	All Iraq
Not at all	2.2%	3.3%
Yes, not regular	53.0%	28.7%
Yes, regular	44.0%	67.3%
No Answer	0.7%	0.7%

Assessed Returnee Electricity	Diyala	All Iraq
No Electricity	0.0%	1.3%
1-3 hours per day	22%	78.5%
Four or more hours per day	40%	17.4%
No Answer	29%	2.8%

Assessed Returnee Water Source	Diyala	All Iraq
Municipal water (underground pipes)	69.1%	80.5%
Water tanks / trucks	7.5%	6.5%
Rivers, streams or lakes	11.8%	6.7%
Public Wells	9.1%	2.3%
Open / broken pipe	0.9%	3.0%
Other Sources	1.6%	0.1%

District	Living Structure (by district)							
	Tent in Camp	Collective Town Settlement	Tent near house of host	Former Military Camp	Public building	Host house	Rented house	Other
Total	0.9%	4.9%	0.3%	0.9%	8.2%	9.2%	64.7%	10.9%
Al-Khalis	1.0%	0.6%	0.1%	0.0%	0.2%	6.6%	90.7%	0.8%
Al-Muqdadia	2.0%	9.3%	0.1%	0.9%	14.6%	9.7%	38.4%	25.0%
Baladrooz	0.3%	9.3%	1.2%	0.0%	11.3%	9.5%	56.1%	12.3%
Ba'quba	0.0%	2.0%	0.0%	2.1%	8.4%	7.7%	75.4%	4.4%
Khanaqin	2.2%	4.9%	0.0%	1.6%	5.6%	19.1%	52.1%	14.4%
Kifri	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.8%	80.4%	17.8%



## DIYALA'S RETURNEES

Like Diyala's IDPs, returnee families in the governorate cite food and water as their priority needs. However returnee families demonstrate a higher propensity to cite food, in part due to additional security in securing food rations.

Access to water also poses a continual problem for returnees and IDPs alike in Diyala. Amid heavy drought and claims that Iran has erected dams reducing the flow from the Harran River, last year Iraqi officials reported that hundreds of families had been displaced from the governorate.<sup>2</sup> While access to municipal water remains lower in Diyala than across Iraq, many are forced to spend what little disposable income they have on water tanks. Often, however, this water is not fit for consumption, and monitors in Diyala report that families in some areas are drinking water contaminated with sewage. Where streams are available, women seeking to avoid sanitation problems and the risks of infection from dirty tankers have been known to walk for hours to bring back the water needed. For those families whose income is derived from agriculture (the main industry of the governorate) water scarcity has further increased the pressure to find regular employment.

Despite these difficulties in the governorate, families continue to return to their homes, and most are prompted by 'improved security in their area of origin'. Nevertheless, returnees still face security issues, as reflected by the fact that 42% report that they do not feel safe or only feel safe sometimes. Returnees tell monitors about tensions with the host community. In the Al-Khalis district for example, returnees told monitors that rubbish has been thrown at their door, and they are often threatened, but they fear leaving in case it prompts accusations that they have been involved with terrorism. Those with land and property are often determined to maintain their ownership and resist future displacement.

Returnee Numbers in Diyala by District

District	Number of Families	Percentage
Diyala Total	11291	100.0%
Al-Khalis	2008	17.8%
Al-Muqdadiya	4649	41.2%
Baladrooz	881	7.8%
Ba'quba	2749	24.3%
Khanaqin	977	8.7%



### WATER SCARCITY

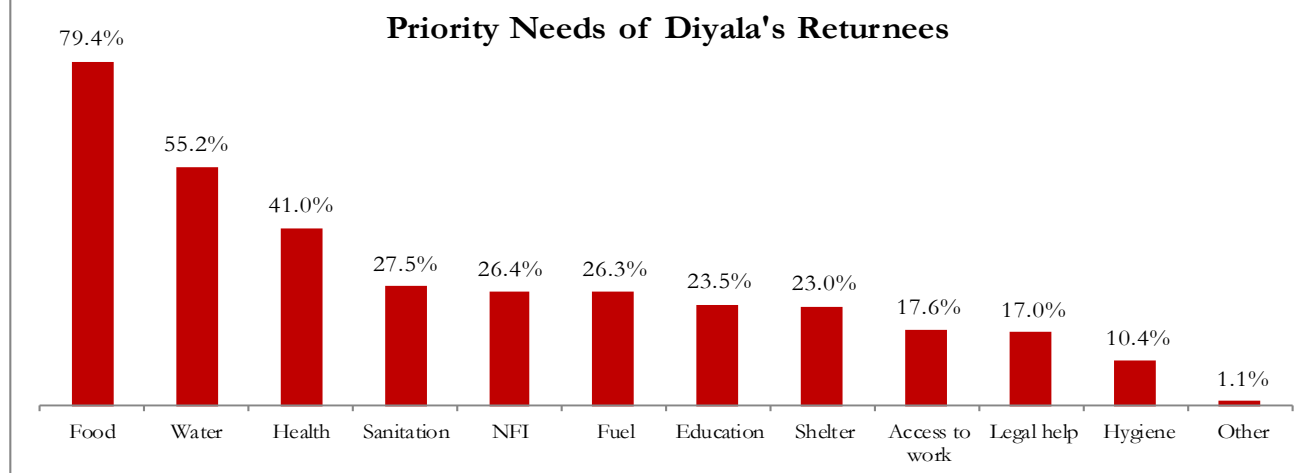
See IOM Special Report: Water Scarcity

Monitors in Diyala report that water is a growing concern across the governorate

Assessed Returnee Reason for Return

District	Improved security in origin area	Improved security in origin area & Very difficult conditions in displacement	Very difficult conditions in displacement & Benefits from returnee payments	Very difficult conditions in displacement
Diyala Total	58.4%	7.2%	4.2%	5.3%
Al-Khalis	67.7%	6.6%	5.3%	0.0%
Al-Muqdadiya	59.0%	18.0%	1.2%	2.5%
Baladrooz	73.7%	5.3%	13.2%	2.6%
Ba'quba	53.5%	4.5%	4.8%	0.0%
Khanaqin	45.0%	1.3%	0.0%	52.5%
Kifri	88.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

Priority Needs of Diyala's Returnees



<sup>2</sup> ReliefWeb, "Drought, dams force Iraqi farmers to abandon crops", October 2009, <http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/SNAA-7WH5SH?OpenDocument>

## IDP INTENTIONS AND RETURN POTENTIAL

When families that were displaced from Diyala are asked about their future intentions, their replies can provide an indication of the likelihood of return to the governorate. A total of 9,908 families who originally left their homes in Diyala stated the intention to return to their place of origin, amounting to 44% of all those asked. This is slightly lower than earlier this year, when 50% of IDPs wanted to return to their homes in Diyala. These responses differed according to the governorate which these families were displaced to, as all of the 21 families displaced in Babylon stated this intention while just 13% of those currently located in Salah al-Din said the same. Though the families that left the governorate were displaced to governorates across Iraq, 87% of them were displaced to elsewhere in Diyala. Intra-governorate displacement is a trend across Iraq as some families prefer to stay within familiar surroundings, seek refuge with neighbours and family members close by, or simply are unable to travel further away.

Returnee families face many challenges and uncertainties in the decision to return. Some may discover their property has been occupied or destroyed, while others might find themselves targets of the same sectarian violence they fled in the first place. Some families are waiting for the process of forming a government to be completed before returning. As is the case elsewhere in Iraq, monitors note that return has all but stopped. This is due to a range of factors including continued fears about being targeted as well as a deterioration in general security in the governorate. In addition, many of the returnee families already in Diyala tell IOM monitors that they are considering moving again due to difficulties in finding work and tensions between them and the host community. The risk of secondary displacement is therefore an immediate concern for both returnee and IDP families.

Continued return and successful reintegration will depend upon stable and secure environments for communities in Diyala. Paying attention to the intentions of IDPs as well as their priority needs is essential in ensuring the long-term stability of these families whatever migration decisions they make.

Diyala IDP Settlement Intentions				
District	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
Total	36.5%	5.0%	44.3%	14.1%
Al-Khalis	37.8%	2.2%	23.6%	36.4%
Al-Muqdadiya	25.1%	5.4%	68.1%	1.4%
Baladrooz	57.1%	4.1%	36.9%	1.9%
Ba'quba	45.6%	5.7%	34.0%	14.5%
Khanaqin	12.8%	10.9%	43.5%	32.8%
Kifri	37.8%	2.2%	60.0%	0.0%

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](mailto:ralamban@iom.int) or Liana Paris, IOM Monitoring Officer, at [lparis@iom.int](mailto:lparis@iom.int) (+962 6 565 9660).

### What are the intentions of those displaced FROM Diyala?

Displaced in	Integrate into the current location	Resettle in a third location	Return to their place of origin	Waiting to Decide
All IDPs from Diyala	37.2%	5.0%	44.3%	13.4%
Anbar	70.4%	0.0%	23.9%	5.6%
Babylon	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%
Baghdad	32.8%	5.9%	50.7%	10.5%
Basrah	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%
Diyala	37.5%	5.0%	43.6%	13.8%
Erbil	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Kerbala	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Kirkuk	39.5%	5.3%	31.6%	23.7%
Muthanna	80.0%	0.0%	20.0%	0.0%
Najaf	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%
Ninewa	80.0%	0.0%	20.0%	0.0%
Qadissiya	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Salah al-Din	70.0%	6.7%	13.3%	10.0%
Sulaymaniyah	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%
Wassit	44.4%	0.0%	55.6%	0.0%

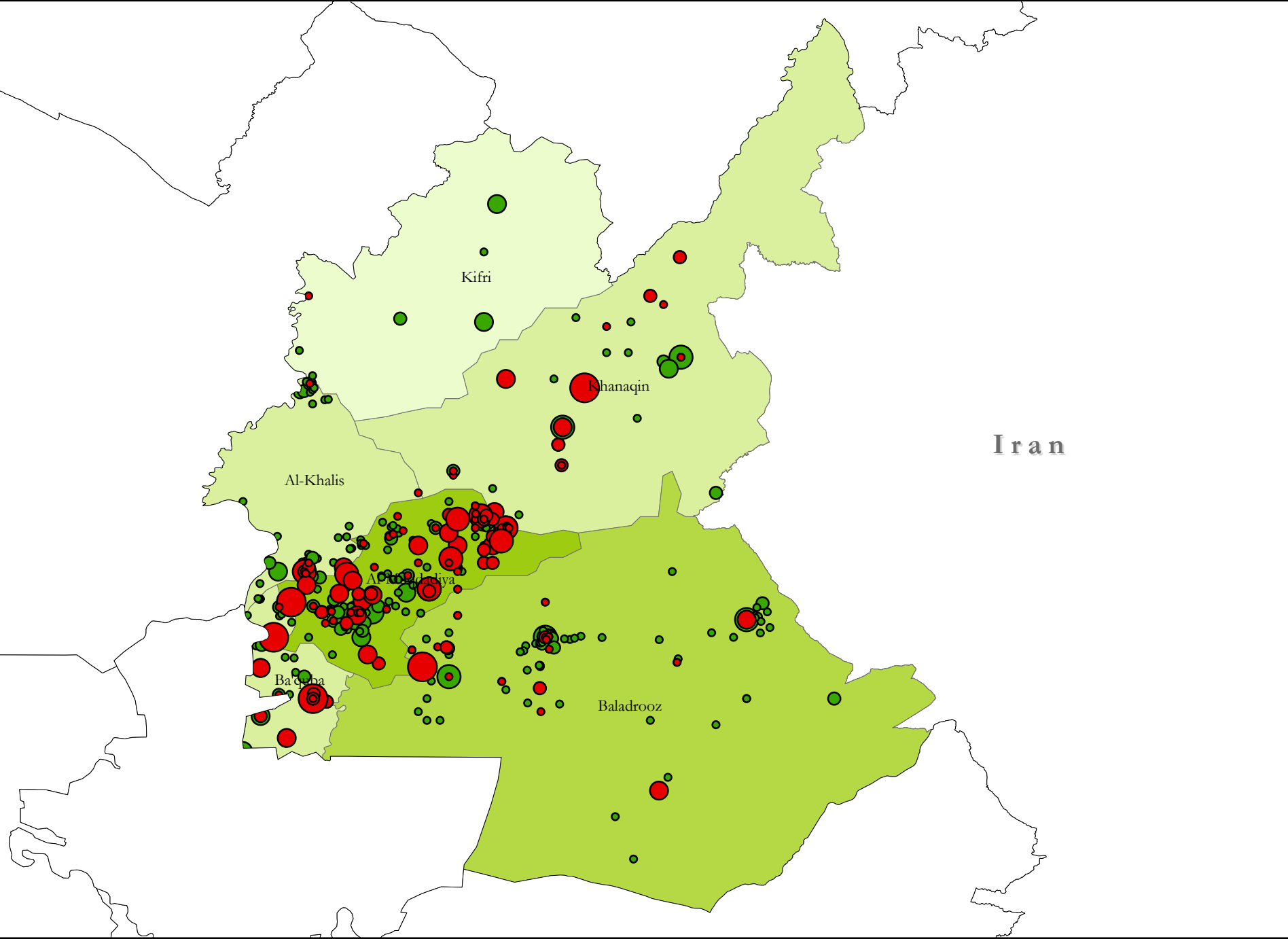


### MONITORING

An IOM monitor asks a displaced woman in the Khanaqin district about her priority needs

Of those that intend to return, to which governorate would they return?	
Anbar	0.2%
Babylon	0.2%
Baghdad	13.4%
Diyala	85.7%
Kirkuk	0.2%

# Diyala: IDP and Returnee Locations



### Returnee Places

#### # of Families

- 1 - 30
- 31 - 70
- 71 - 153
- 154 - 294
- 295 +

### IDP Places

#### # of Families

- 1 - 49
- 50 - 149
- 150 - 349
- 350 - 749
- 750 +

### IDP Population

- 1 - 599
- 600 - 2999
- 3000 - 3999
- 4000 - 4999
- 5000 +