

KERBALA

GOVERNORATE PROFILE NOVEMBER 2010
IOM IDP AND RETURNEE ASSESSMENT



KERBALA: DISPLACEMENT AT A GLANCE

Total post-Feb 2006 IDPs ¹	10,337 families (est. 62,022 individuals)
Total pre-Feb 2006 IDPs ²	18,818 families (est. 112,908 individuals)
Number of post-Feb 2006 IDPs assessed by IOM ³	7,367 families (est. 44,202 individuals)
Returnees ⁴	321 families (est. 1,074 individuals)
Capital	Kerbala
Districts	Ain Al-Tamur, Al-Hindiya, Kerbala
Population ⁵	887,859 individuals

IDP (internally displaced persons) families in Kerbala are Arab Shia families who fled sectarian violence in Baghdad and Diyala. The majority wish to return to their homes in these two governorates, depending on factors such as the security situation, access to property, and access to work. There are currently 7,367 IDP families residing in Kerbala, mostly from Baghdad (63%) and Diyala (23%) governorates.

A large number of IDP families in Kerbala live in collective settlements. These are often on private or government-owned land, leaving families at constant risk of eviction. In addition, these settlements have poor access to basic services such as water and electricity. IOM-assessed Kerbala IDP families cite access to work, legal help, and health as their top three priority needs, largely mirroring the needs of IDP families across Iraq. There are also 179 returnee families, most of whom returned from Iran, Syria, and Saudi Arabia.

Quick Facts on Kerbala IDPs & Returnees



- Almost all (97%) of Kerbala IDPs are Arab Shia Muslim.
- A large proportion of Kerbala IDPs are from Baghdad governorate (63%).
- Most IOM-assessed returnees to Kerbala have returned from displacement abroad.

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 Kerbala

IOM recently started a desalinization project in Bandar area.



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

www.iomiraq.net

KERBALA DISPLACEMENT BACKGROUND

IOM assessed 7,367 families displaced to Kerbala governorate, a majority of whom fled sectarian violence in Baghdad and Diyala governorates in 2006. 82% of assessed IDP families are concentrated in Kerbala district, with smaller populations in Ain Al-Tamur (8%) and Al-Hindiya (10%).

IDP families have been displaced to Kerbala governorate since the 1980's and 1990's, mostly from Diyala, Kirkuk, Anbar and Ninewa. Many were displaced due to persecution by the former regime, though some migrated as a result of economic difficulties in their home governorate. The bulk of displaced families in Kerbala arrived before 2003, though there were large spikes of families in February (1,439 families) and March (1,107 families) 2006 as a result of sectarian violence. The rate of displacement to Kerbala has decreased considerably since this time.

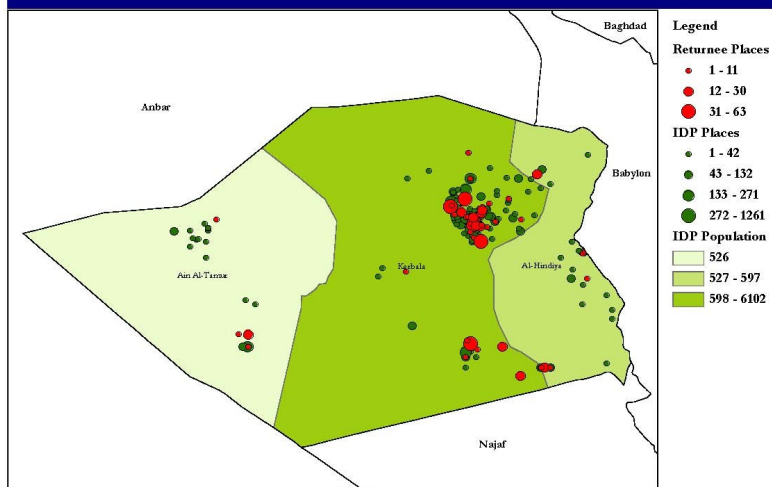
IOM assessments show that a majority (46%) of IDP families give "No Answer" as the reason for their displacement, often out of fear of being targeted for reasons such as previous political affiliations, religious and ethnic ties, or military involvement. 21% of families cite armed conflict as their reason for displacement, and 13% left due to direct threats to their lives. A large percentage of IDPs in Kerbala come from Baghdad (63%) and Diyala (23%) governorates, as most families displaced in Iraq nationwide originate from both Baghdad (57%) and Diyala (21%).

District	Families	%
Total Kerbala	7,367	100.0%
Ain Al-Tamur	550	7.5%
Al-Hindiya	746	10.1%
Kerbala	6,071	82.4%

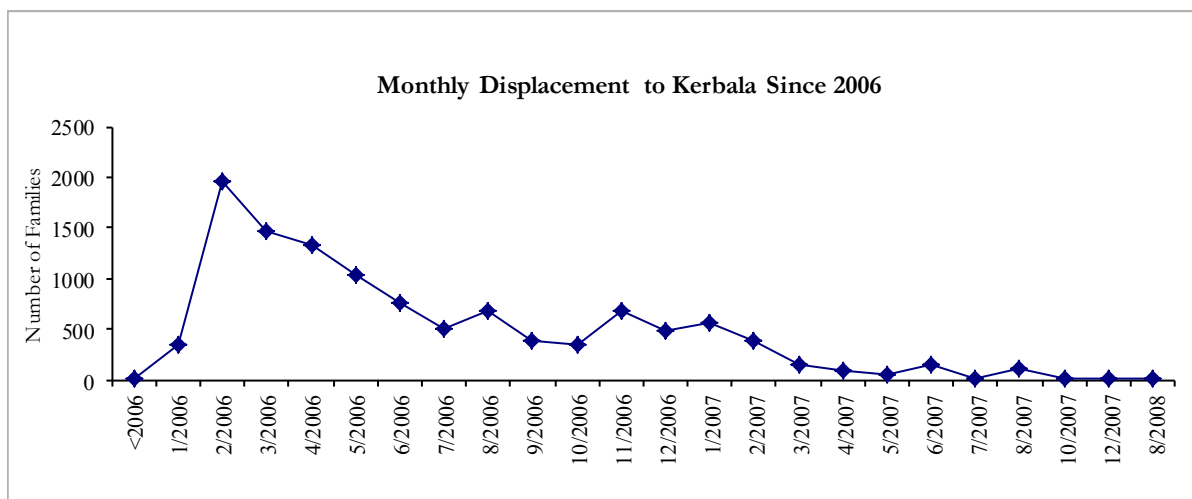
Anbar	4.6%
Babylon	2.9%
Baghdad	62.9%
Diyala	22.8%
Kerbala	0.0%
Ninewa	4.3%
Qadissiya	0.1%
Salah al-Din	2.0%
Kirkuk	0.4%
Wassit	0.0%

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

Kerbala - IDP and Returnee Locations



Reason for Displacement	Kerbala	All Iraq
No Answer	46.3%	27.3%
Direct threats to life	13.4%	27.5%
Forced displacement	6.4%	9.4%
Left out of fear	7.4%	13.2%
Armed conflict	21.2%	6.9%
Drought	0.1%	2.3%
Generalized violence	5.3%	10.9%
Other	0.0%	0.4%



KERBALA: IDP DEMOGRAPHICS

Due to the nature of the sectarian violence in Iraq and conditions of displacement, a significant number of IDP households in Kerbala are headed by women. Female-headed IDP and returnee households are some of the most vulnerable groups, as they are often victims of emotional and physical violence and can face difficulties in securing steady livelihoods and protection. For example, according to IOM assessments, there are over 40 IDP families headed by women in the Al-Wadi region of the governorate, all of them widows. These families are currently under the threat of eviction and have no source of steady income. Similarly, there are several IDP families headed by women in Al Mujahedeen and Al-Muntazar under the threat of eviction because their homes are built on public or privately-owned land.

IOM monitors also report that IDP women who are employed often have to work under harsh conditions, as the number and types of jobs available to them are limited. Women in Kerbala governorate often work as seasonal day labourers on farms harvesting dates, corn, wheat, and barley. IOM monitors report that some women under the age of 20 suffer from harassment and exploitation from their employers.

Out of 7,367 IDP families assessed in Kerbala, 53% of IDPs are under the age of 18 (see chart to the right). Addressing the needs of this disproportionately young IDP population will challenge the local community's ability to provide them with adequate educational outlets as well as food and shelter. These IDP children and young adults might also have difficulty attending school due to a lack of money, while those who are able might be faced with overcrowded classrooms and poor infrastructure.

There are currently 28 IOM-assessed IDP families originally from Kerbala displaced to other governorates within Iraq. A majority are located in Diyala (36%), followed by Baghdad (18%), Anbar (11%), Erbil (11%), and Salah al-Din (11%). Many of these families migrated to other governorates as a result of sectarian violence and a sizeable number of them wish to remain in their current governorates, as such violence is still prevalent in Kerbala.

A majority of IDP families in Kerbala are Arab Shia Muslim (97%), though there is also a small population of Arab Yazidi families.

IDPs Originally from Kerbala are located in:		
Governorate	# Families	Percentage
Anbar	3	10.7%
Babylon	2	7.1%
Baghdad	5	17.9%
Diyala	10	35.7%
Erbil	3	10.7%
Missan	1	3.6%
Ninewa	1	3.6%
Salah al-Din	3	10.7%
Total Assessed	28	100.0%

IDPs by Age and Gender			
Age	Female	Male	Total
Under 1 year old	1,375	1,388	2,763
1-4 years old	2,520	2,677	5,197
5-17 years old	5,622	5,143	10,765
18-60 years old	8,139	6,341	14,480
Over 60 years old	1,167	795	1,962



DISPLACEMENT

IDP children in Al-Amel Camp, February 2010. Around 20 families were living in this camp due to displacement from their informal settlements. The camp has now moved to another location.



EVICTED

Children in Al-Muntazar area face the threat of eviction.

KERBALA'S DISPLACED: LIVING CONDITIONS AND PRIORITY NEEDS

IOM-assessed IDPs emphasize access to work (97%), legal help (88%), and health (87%) as their top three priority needs. Access to work is fundamental for a population with so many families living in rented accommodations. 26% of IOM-assessed IDP families live in collective town settlements in houses or tents generally made from plastic and mud. The characteristics of these group settlements make families particularly vulnerable, as they face the possibility of eviction if they have built their houses informally on government or privately-owned land. There is little access to basic services such as water and electricity, and health clinics are often distant or inaccessible.

According to IOM assessments, a large number of heads of households are unemployed, though some are able to find work on a day-to-day basis. IOM monitors note that some individuals have been collecting cans or napkins and selling them. Others have been washing car windows as a source of income. The jobs individuals are able to find are often unreliable and do not provide a steady means of income. Monitors also report that children are often begging to supplement their families' incomes.

It is unsurprising that legal help is a top priority need among Kerbala IDP families, as the governorate is the site of a significant degree of property destruction and eviction. In addition, displaced families who want to return to their previously owned properties often seek legal help.

Monitors note that access to water is also a serious issue among IDP families, as pipes that carry water in areas such as the Al-Walah neighbourhood are often broken and pass through areas polluted with garbage, thereby contaminating the water supply.

Though a sizeable number of Kerbala IDPs live in collective settlements, 58% of the families live in rented homes, which becomes increasingly burdensome if they are unable to find employment to pay for rent.



SHELTER

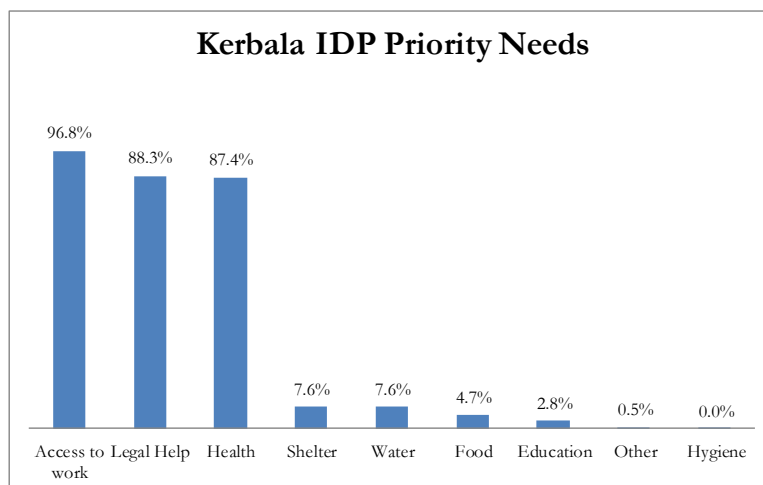
IDP homes in Al-Amel Camp.



SANITATION

Open piles of garbage, as shown above in Al-Jabir, illustrates the lack of adequate sanitation services in many places in Kerbala.

District	Living Structure (by district)						
	Collective Town Settlement	Tent Near Host House	Former Military Camp	Public Building	Host House	Rented House	Other
Total	25.7%	0.4%	0.1%	1.5%	0.5%	57.6%	14.1%
Ain Al-Tamur	11.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	85.6%	3.1%
Al-Hindiya	19.0%	0.0%	1.2%	1.2%	0.0%	42.2%	36.3%
Kerbala	27.9%	0.5%	0.0%	1.7%	0.7%	56.9%	12.3%



EDUCATION

An IDP child in the Imam Riyadhah area who can no longer attend school due to her family's economic condition.

KERBALA'S RETURNEES

Kerbala's returnee population is comprised of 179 families, a large proportion of which were displaced before 2006. A majority of Kerbala's IOM-assessed returnee population lives in Kerbala district (89%). These returnee families fair relatively well with regard to employment and electricity in comparison to the rest of Iraq. For example, a large majority of IOM-assessed returnee heads of household who are able to work have found some form of employment. In addition, 100% of assessed returnee households have at least 10 hours of electricity, much higher than the Iraq-wide average.

Kerbala returnees cite legal help (46%), water (32%), and food (31%) as their top three priority needs. The need for legal help is often related to property they owned previously and want to gain access to after having returned. Kerbala, as mentioned earlier, is also the site of a significant amount of property destruction and eviction, further adding to the need for legal assistance among families.

Like IDP families, Kerbala returnees are faced with unreliable access to water sources. Though a majority (66%) receive water from underground pipes, these pipes are often broken or pass through areas contaminated by sewage or garbage. The remainder of assessed returnee families (34%) rely on rivers, streams, and lakes for their source of drinking and cooking water.

Monitors also note that not all families in Kerbala have access to PDS (public distribution system) ration cards. Those families who are able to receive PDS rations complain that important items such as sugar, rice, and oil are often missing from the baskets of goods. The incomplete rations result in families having to purchase such items from local markets.

100% of Kerbala returnees are Arab Shia Muslim, and a sizeable proportion have come back to Kerbala from abroad. IOM monitors note that only a little more than 1% of Kerbala returnees have come back from within Iraq, while the rest have returned from countries such as Iran, Saudi Arabia, and Syria.

Assessed Returnee in Kerbala by District		
District	# of Families	Percentage
Kerbala Total	179	100%
Ain Al-Tamur	4	2.2%
Al-Hindiya	15	8.4%
Kerbala	160	89.4%

Assessed Returnee Employment	Kerbala	All Iraq
Able, No Answer	0.0%	0.3%
Able, Not working	4.9%	37.5%
Able, Working	95.1%	62.2%

Assessed Returnee Electricity	Kerbala	All Iraq
No Answer	0.0%	2.8%
No Electricity	0.0%	1.3%
1-10 hours	100.0%	78.5%
10 + hours	0.0%	17.4%

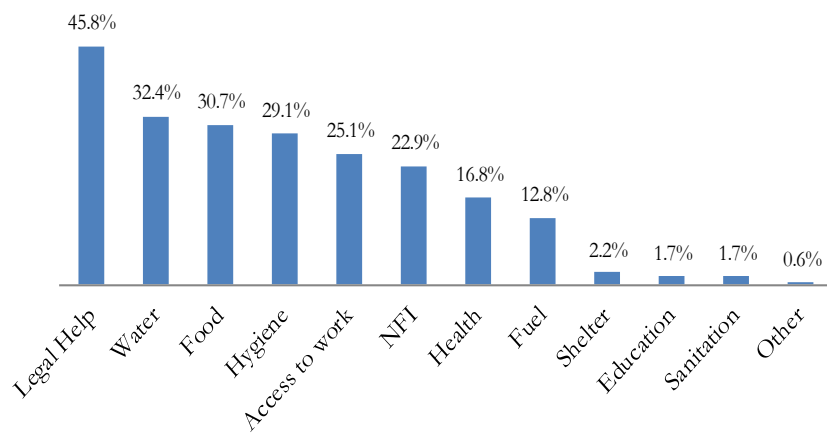
Assessed Returnee Water Source	Kerbala	All Iraq
No Answer	0.0%	0.3%
Municipal water (underground pipes)	65.5%	80.5%
Open/Broken Pipe	0.0%	3.0%
Other	0.0%	0.1%
Private Well	0.0%	0.6%
Public Well	0.0%	2.3%
River, Stream, or Lake	34.5%	6.7%
Water tanks/trucks	0.0%	6.5%



EDUCATION

Though a majority of school aged returnee children are able to attend school, many schools are in urgent need of repair.

Kerbala Returnee Priority Needs



RETURN POTENTIAL

33% of IOM-assessed IDP families displaced to Kerbala governorate wish to integrate locally into their current location, while 40% intend to resettle into a third location, and 27% wish to return to their places of origin. When compared to figures from surrounding governorates such as Babylon and Qadissiyah, the percentage of IDP families who wish to remain in Kerbala is significantly less.

IOM-assessed IDP families in Kerbala are faced with a lack of property ownership and employment in the governorate, yet many do not wish to return to their governorates or to integrate into their current locations. Families might not receive the assistance or support needed to remain in their current locations. Along similar lines, such groups might also lack the promise of assistance or access to their previous properties in their original governorates. Thus, IDP families in Kerbala are more likely to state a desire to live in a third location where their immediate needs might be met and where employment opportunities are more readily available.

A majority of families who have returned to Kerbala have done so due to improved security in the governorate as well as difficulties they faced during displacement. As mentioned previously, families who have returned to Kerbala were displaced before 2006, and since there has been little displacement since 2006, the likelihood of future returns to the governorate is quite low.

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 Kerbala	53.3%	21.0%	8.4%	17.4%
Ain Al-Tamur	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Al-Hindiya	33.3%	33.3%	25.0%	8.3%
Kerbala	53.6%	20.5%	7.3%	18.5%



FEMALE HEADED HOUSEHOLDS

A widow in Al Musalala with her children, April 2010.

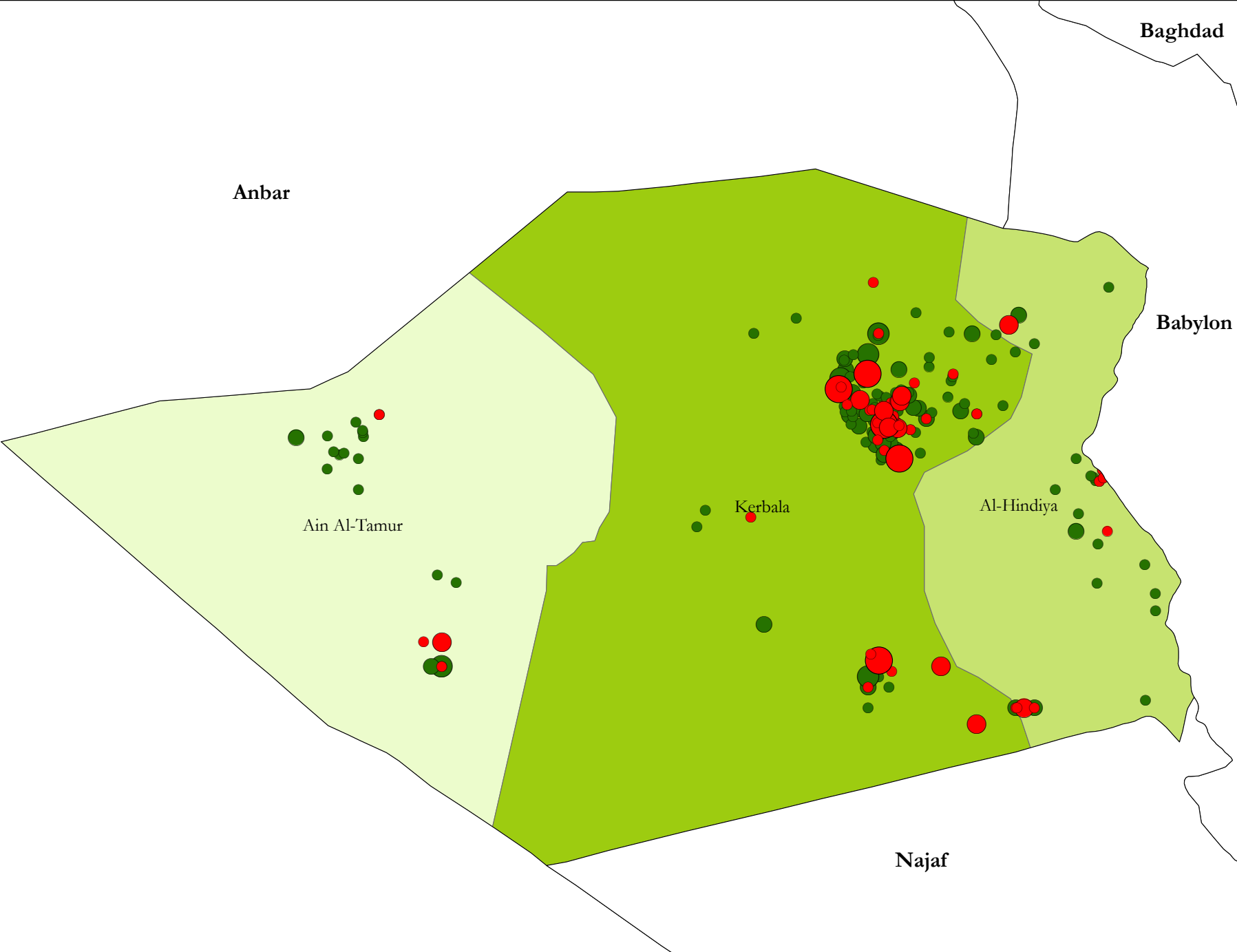
Kerbala IDP Settlement Intentions					
District	Unknown	Locally integrate in the current location	Resettle in a third location	Return to their place of origin	Waiting on one or several factors to make a decision
Total	0.0%	33.4%	39.8%	26.5%	0.3%
Ain Al-Tamur	0.0%	77.6%	22.4%	0.0%	0.0%
Al-Hindiya	0.0%	22.8%	48.9%	28.3%	0.0%
Kerbala	0.0%	30.7%	40.3%	28.7%	0.3%

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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).

Kerbala - IDP and Returnee Locations



Legend

Returnee Places

- 1 - 11
- 12 - 30
- 31 - 63

IDP Places

- 1 - 42
- 43 - 132
- 133 - 271
- 272 - 1261

IDP Population

- 526
- 527 - 597
- 598 - 6102