

MISSAN

GOVERNORATE PROFILE NOVEMBER 2010
IOM IDP AND RETURNEE ASSESSMENT



MISSAN: DISPLACEMENT AT A GLANCE

Total post-Feb 2006 IDPs ¹	7,269 families (est 49,776 individuals)
Total pre-Feb 2006 IDPs ²	18,871 families (est. 113,226 individuals)
Number of post-Feb 2006 IDPs assessed by IOM ³	6,845 families (est. 41,070 individuals)
Returnees ⁴	626 families (est. 3,756 individuals)
Capital	Amara
Districts	Al-Kahla, Al-Maimouna, Al-Mejar Al-Kabir, Ali Al-Gharbi, Qal'at Saleh, Amara
Population ⁵	824,147 individuals

The majority of families displaced to Missan in 2006 fled from sectarian violence in Baghdad. Many IDP (internally displaced persons) families migrated to Missan because of historical, tribal, and religious ties they had with the governorate, joining a large number of families displaced to the governorate during the previous regime.

Living conditions are difficult for IDP families in Missan, as many live in informal settlements, often built on public land or land they do not own, with little access to basic services. Many heads of household are unemployed or underemployed and there are few job opportunities available to them, making it difficult to provide housing, food, and other necessities to their families. Unlike most governorates, the security situation in Missan is generally calm, as no major incidents of violence have occurred recently.

Quick Facts on Missan IDPs & Returnees



- Almost 40% of IOM-assessed IDPs in Missan would like to integrate into their current location.
- IOM-assessed IDPs in Missan list access to work, shelter, and food as their priority needs.
- 79% of IDPs assessed in Missan were displaced from Baghdad governorate.

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 224,365 IDP families and identified 61,319 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 Missan

IOM recently provided RO (reverse osmosis) units to 90 returnee and 10 host community families.



As pictured, residents had been using water contaminated by sewage and other impurities. Families in Qal'at Salah will now be able to purify their own water.

For more information on IOM's past activities in Missan, see:
www.iomiraq.net

MISSAN DISPLACEMENT BACKGROUND AND DEMOGRAPHICS

IOM assessments show that most IDPs in Missan fled to the governorate during the height of recent sectarian violence in 2006. Almost 50% of IDPs living in Missan left their homes out of fear, a percentage much higher than the rest of Iraq (13%). 34% of IDP families chose not to answer this question, often out of fear of further targeting. 99% of IOM assessed IDP families are Arab Shia Muslim and 53% are under the age of 18. Such a large population of young adults may become an additional challenge for health and education facilities in the governorate.

Large influxes of IDP families took place in June (1,008 families) and August (1,490 families) of 2006, though the number of IDPs migrating to Missan has decreased significantly since then. There has also been a decrease in the number of IDP families assessed since the previous report due to monitors revising the number as families return to their original locations or are displaced again.

79% of IOM-assessed IDP families in Missan come from Baghdad governorate, while a smaller number come from the Basrah (9%) and Salah al-Din (7%) governorates. IDP families are concentrated in the Amara (53%), Al-Mejar Al-Kabir (14%), and Qal'at Saleh (14%) districts. There are very few IDP families displaced from Missan governorate (40 families), as the governorate is relatively stable in comparison to its neighbours. Those displaced from Missan are largely located in Salah al-Din governorate.

District	Families	%
Total Missan	6,845	100%
Ali Al-Gharbi	532	7.8%
Al-Kahla	414	6.1%
Al-Maimouna	384	5.6%
Al-Mejar Al-Kabir	965	14.1%
Amara	3,614	52.8%
Qal'at Saleh	936	13.7%

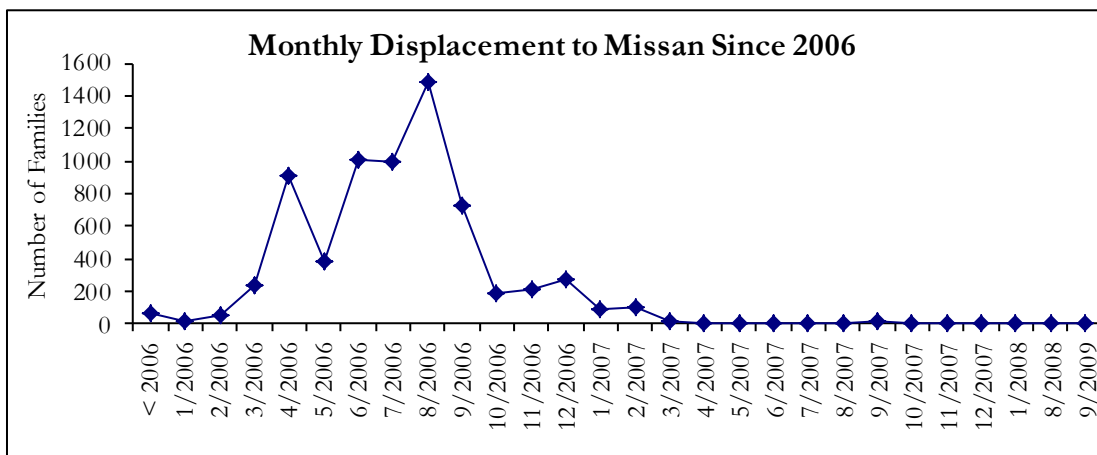
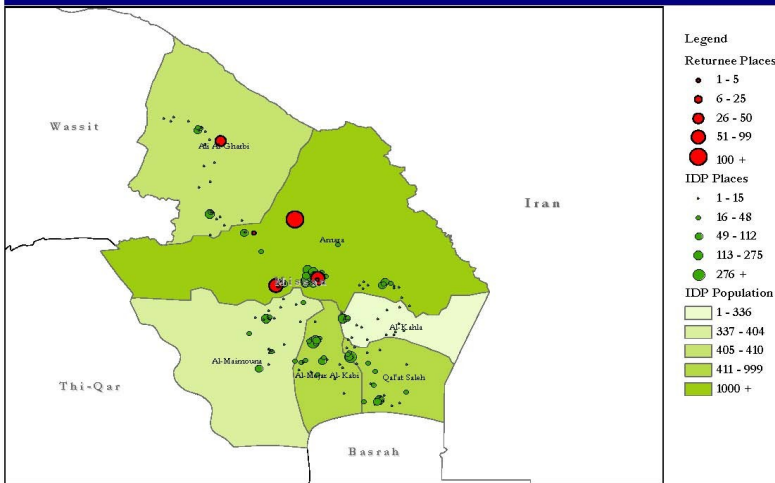
Anbar	0.9%
Babylon	0.3%
Baghdad	79.3%
Basrah	9.0%
Diyala	0.0%
Ninewa	0.2%
Salah al-Din	7.4%
Kirkuk	2.3%
Wassit	0.7%

Reason for Displacement	Missan	All Iraq
No Answer	34.1%	27.3%
Direct threats to life	6.6%	27.5%
Forced displacement	1.7%	9.4%
Left out of fear	49.6%	13.2%
Armed conflict	4.5%	6.9%
Drought	0.0%	2.3%
Generalized violence	3.6%	10.9%
Other	0.0%	0.4%

Age	Female	Male	Total
Under 1 year old	1,232	992	2,224
1-4 years old	3,041	3,235	6,276
5-17 years old	6,315	6,635	12,950
18-60 years old	8,679	8,435	17,114
Over 60 years old	1,175	1,033	2,208

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

MISSAN - IDP and Returnee Locations



MISSAN'S DISPLACED: LIVING CONDITIONS AND PRIORITY NEEDS

Like other governorates in southern Iraq, many IDP families in Missan are living in informal group settlements. These are usually collections of crudely constructed houses comprised of mud or old canisters built by the families themselves. Many of the houses are not connected to local water, electricity, or sewage networks and the families living there are often vulnerable to further displacement. In neighbourhoods like Al-Khadra in the Amara district, IDP families are without sanitation because of a closed sewage drain, which has led to severe flooding and the potential for water-borne diseases. IOM monitors also note several incidents of families being evicted from government land and from the abandoned buildings in which they were living, though they were often warned in advance.

IOM assessments show that 16% of IDP families in Missan live in a collective settlement or a public building. Another 30% live in housing categorized as “other,” which are often simple homes built illegally by IDPs. In addition, 17% of families live either with host families or in tents near host families.

Finding work is a top concern for IDP and returnee families in Missan. Most are unemployed or underemployed and of those able to work, almost 28% of IOM-assessed IDP heads of household are not working. When IDP families are able to find work, most are employed as day-labourers in sectors such as construction, while others earn a living by driving taxis. Few heads of household are able to find steady sources of income, leading to constant worry about paying for necessities such as food, water, electricity, and monthly rent. Overall, IOM-assessed IDP families in Missan list access to work, shelter, and food as their priority needs. Families also list other needs such as non-food (NFI) and household items (often under “other”), rendering education and health concerns less important.



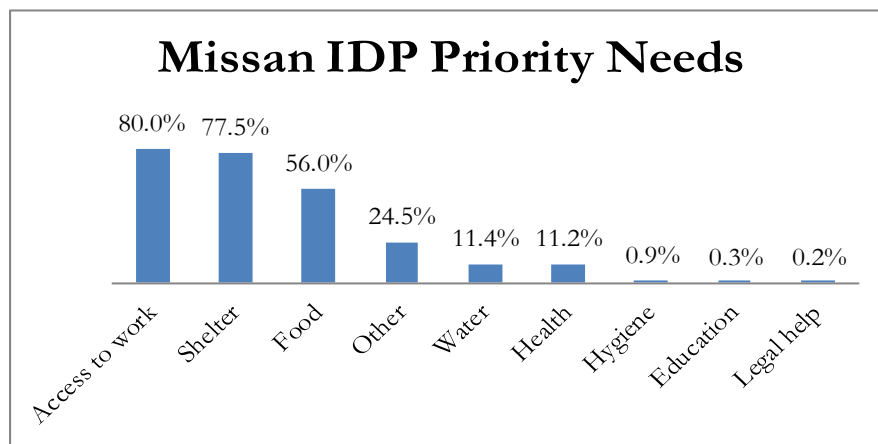
SHELTER

IDP families living on government land in Hay al-Zahra, Amara.



WATER

Young IDP child suffering from water shortage in Al Baithah village.



Living Structure (by district)						
District	Collective Town Settlement	Tent Near House of Host	Public building	Host House	Rented house	Other
Total	14.0%	0.2%	1.7%	17.2%	36.6%	30.3%
Ali Al-Gharbi	14.7%	0.0%	1.5%	14.5%	31.2%	38.2%
Al-Kahla	13.3%	0.0%	0.0%	14.7%	44.0%	28.3%
Al-Maimouna	18.2%	0.0%	4.4%	18.8%	20.8%	37.8%
Al-Mejar Al-Kabir	14.3%	0.0%	3.9%	26.3%	30.1%	25.4%
Amara	15.2%	0.4%	0.9%	16.5%	44.7%	22.2%
Qal'at Saleh	6.7%	0.0%	1.8%	12.6%	18.7%	60.1%

MISSAN RETURNEES

IOM monitors identified 426 returnee families and assessed 350 of those returnee families in Missan, most of whom were displaced from the governorate before 2003. 78% of IOM assessed-returnee families are currently located in the Amara district, with smaller percentages in the Al-Mejar Al-Kabir (8%) and Qal'at Saleh (4%) districts. IOM-assessed returnee families cite access to work (74%), water (55%), and fuel (47%) as their top three priority needs.

Of those able to work, over 72% of Missan returnee heads of household interviewed by IOM monitors have some form of employment. Heads of families are often employed in sectors such as carpentry, blacksmithing, and construction, while some individuals sell items like poultry in the local markets. In the Amara district, IOM monitors note that individuals have also been working in government offices or driving taxis. Nonetheless, there is still a sizeable population of returnee breadwinners without employment.

As shown below, 55% of Missan returnee families cite water as a top priority need. Most families use water tanks or trucks for their water, which can become difficult to obtain if they are unemployed or the delivery of such water tanks is delayed. IOM assessments show that, like IDP families, Missan returnee families face difficulties because of a lack of water and sewage drainage, contributing to unsanitary conditions, swarms of mosquitos, and the possibility of waterborne diseases.

Despite water concerns, a large number of IOM-assessed returnee families have greater access to electricity than returnee families Iraq-wide. Most (61%) IOM-assessed returnee families receive over 10 hours of electricity, significantly higher than the Iraq-wide average (17%).

IOM-assessed returnee families in Missan also cite fuel as a top priority need. IOM monitors report that many returnee families in Missan do not receive sufficient fuel for cooking in their PDS (public distribution system) rations.

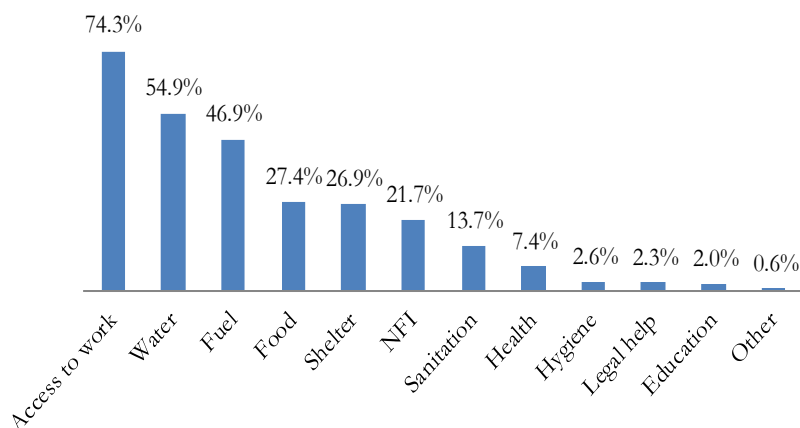
Assessed Returnees in Missan by District		
District	Number of Families	Percentage
Missan Total	350	100%
Al-Kahla	31	8.9%
Al-Maimouna	2	0.6%
Al-Mejar Al-Kabir	27	7.7%
Amara	274	78.3%
Qal'at Saleh	15	4.3%

Assessed Returnee Employment	Missan	All Iraq
Able, No Answer	0.0%	0.3%
Able, Not working	27.7%	37.5%
Able, Working	72.3%	62.2%

Assessed Returnee Water Source	Missan	All Iraq
Municipal water (underground pipes)	30.9%	80.5%
Other Sources	0.0%	0.1%
Rivers, streams or lakes	0.9%	6.7%
Water tanks / trucks	68.3%	6.5%
Open / broken pipe	0.0%	3.0%
Private/Public Well	0.0%	2.9%
No Answer	0.0%	0.3%

Assessed Returnee Electricity	Missan	All Iraq
No Electricity	0.0%	1.3%
1-10 Hours Per Day	36.0%	78.5%
10+ Hours Per Day	61.1%	17.4%
No Answer	2.9%	2.8%

Missan Returnee Priority Needs



Families in Hay al-Shuhada building a mud house.

IDP INTENTIONS AND RETURN POTENTIAL

Almost 40% of IOM-assessed IDP families in Missan would prefer to integrate into their current location, while 27% would like to return to their place of origin, and 24% would like to resettle in a third location. The lack of violence and the availability of jobs in Missan make it a relatively stable governorate in which to reside. Nonetheless, the state of Missan's economy and the temporary nature of most jobs available in the governorate continue to make life difficult for IDP families.

Previously, 32% of IOM-assessed IDP families in Missan cited their desire to remain in their current location. This rise of almost 8% shows that conditions are improving enough that families are willing to stay and live in Missan governorate. This is, of course, contingent upon further economic stability in the governorate as well as local communities being able to absorb displaced families and provide them with access to basic services.

IOM-assessed families who have chosen to return to Missan cite improved security in the governorate and difficult conditions in displacement as their main reasons for return. As mentioned previously, the lack of sectarian violence and relative stability of the governorate make Missan suitable for families who desire to return. A large number of families who have returned, many of whom were displaced before 2003, came from abroad from countries such as Iran.



IDP FAMILIES

IDP women and their children in Hay Al-Hadi, Al-Maimouna district.

Missan IDP Settlement Intentions				
District	Integrate into the current location	Resettle in a third location	Return to their place of origin	Waiting to Decide
Total	39.9%	24.4%	27.0%	8.6%
Ali Al-Gharbi	30.4%	34.2%	31.6%	5.5%
Al-Kahla	26.1%	40.6%	30.9%	2.4%
Al-Maimouna	44.0%	21.6%	22.1%	12.2%
Al-Mejar Al-Kabir	30.8%	30.2%	20.2%	18.9%
Amara	46.5%	20.5%	24.9%	8.1%
Qal'at Saleh	34.1%	22.4%	40.4%	3.1%

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 Missan	26.9%	50.3%	0.6%	22.3%
Al-Kahla	16.1%	61.3%	0.0%	22.6%
Al-Maimouna	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Al-Mejar Al-Kabi	29.6%	22.2%	3.7%	44.4%
Amara	27.5%	53.1%	0.0%	19.4%
Qal'at Saleh	20.0%	15.0%	2.5%	30.0%

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

MISSAN - IDP and Returnee Locations

