

MUTHANNA

GOVERNORATE PROFILE NOVEMBER 2010
IOM IDP AND RETURNEE ASSESSMENT



MUTHANNA: DISPLACEMENT AT A GLANCE

Total post-Feb 2006 IDPs ¹	2,794 families (est. 20,787 individuals)
Total pre-Feb 2006 IDPs ²	861 families (est. 5,166 individuals)
Number of post-Feb 2006 IDPs assessed by IOM ³	3,194 families (est. 19,164 individuals)
Returnees ⁴	64 families (est. 384 individuals)
Capital	Al-Samawa
Districts	Al-Khidhir, Al-Rumaitha, Al-Salman, Al-Samawa
Population ⁵	614,997 individuals

Muthanna governorate is host to almost 3,194 IOM-assessed IDP (internally displaced persons) families, most of whom are Arab Shia Muslim. Many of these families were displaced to the governorate before February 2006 as a result of persecution by the previous regime. Prolonged displacement, as in the case of many Muthanna IDP families, greatly affects the needs and concerns of displaced individuals, as their needs are often different from families who have been displaced more recently.

Like most displaced families throughout Iraq, IDP families displaced to Muthanna cite shelter, access to work, and water as their top three priority needs. Though displaced families are able to find employment, the jobs heads of household are able to acquire are often on a temporary or day-to-day basis, and are thus not reliable sources of income. Steady income is especially important to displaced families, many of whom reside in rented homes.

Quick Facts on Muthanna IDPs & Returnees



- Almost all of Muthanna IDP families are Arab Shia Muslim.
- 35% of IOM-assessed IDPs state that they live in 'other' shelter, which usually means mud houses.
- Muthanna's IDP and returnee families both state shelter and access to work as their top priority needs.

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.

Muthanna Irrigation Needs

90% of IDP families in Al Ardait village in Rumaitha district are working in agriculture, but have deficient irrigation systems because most families lack a water pump.



For more information regarding Muthanna, see:

www.iomiraq.net

MUTHANNA DISPLACEMENT BACKGROUND

IOM-assessed IDPs in Muthanna have migrated to the governorate at different points in time. Over 1,500 IOM-assessed IDP families were displaced to Muthanna before February 2006, a little less than half of the 3,194 assessed IDP families currently located in the governorate. Muthanna is host to one of the smaller post-2006 IDP populations, however they are also some of the worst off. IDPs arrived in Muthanna throughout 2006 and 2007, with large influxes in March (221 families) and June (243 families) of 2006. Displacement to the governorate has slowed significantly since 2007.

Muthanna has received IDP families since the Iran-Iraq War and continued to do so throughout the 1990s. There are also many Arab Shia Muslim IDP families in this governorate who fled from political persecution by the former regime.

The most densely populated district of Muthanna is Al-Rumaitha (as seen in the map below), comprising almost 57% of the IDP families, followed by Al-Samawa (40%). A majority of families interviewed by IOM monitors come from Baghdad (56%) and Anbar (16%).

55% of IOM-assessed IDP families cited direct threats to their lives as their main reason for displacement, a figure much greater than Iraq-wide averages.

Number of IDPs in Muthanna by District

District	IDP Families	%
Total Muthanna	3,194	100%
Al-Khidhir	110	3.4%
Al-Rumaitha	1,809	56.6%
Al-Salman	13	0.4%
Al-Samawa	1,262	39.5%

IDP Governorate of Origin

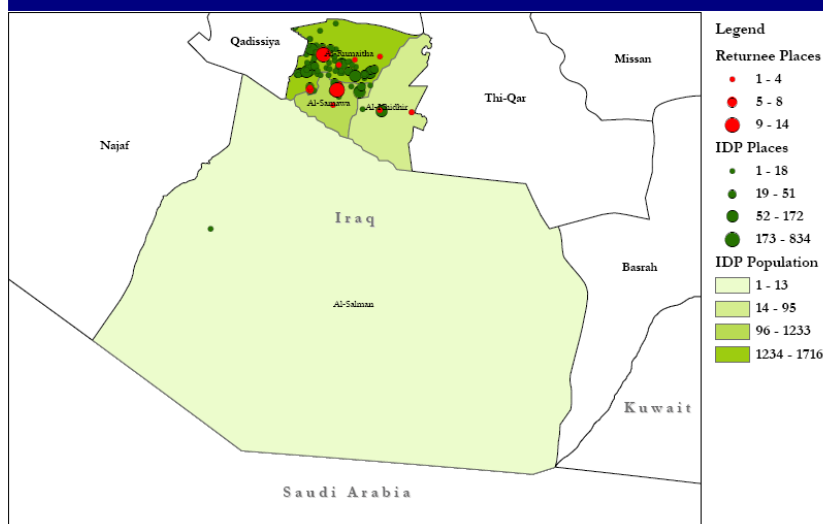
Baghdad	55.8%
Anbar	16.0%
Diyala	7.9%
Babylon	7.0%
Wassit	5.9%
Salah al-Din	4.5%
Kirkuk	1.3%
Ninewa	0.9%
Qadissiyah	0.3%
Muthanna	0.2%
Erbil	0.1%



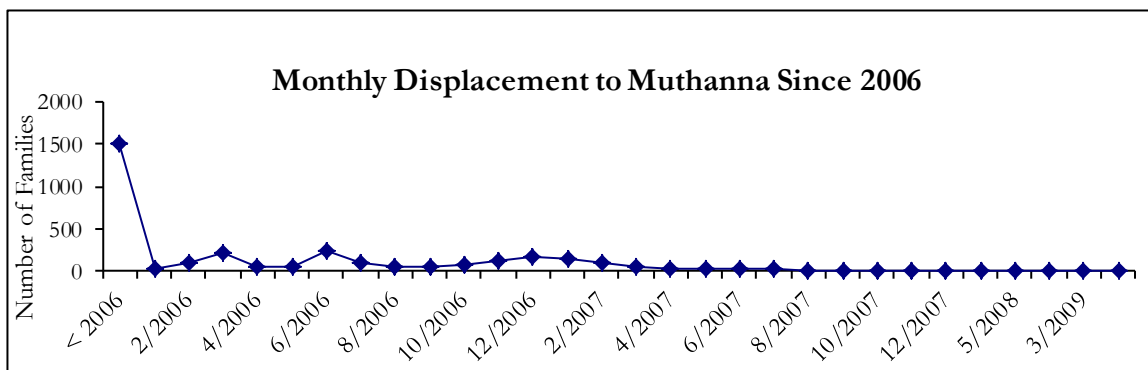
Dogs scavenge through waste beside IDP homes, in Hay Alabas, Al Rumaithah

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

Muthanna - IDP and Returnee Locations



Reason for Displacement	Muthanna	All Iraq
No Answer	35.9%	27.3%
Direct threats to life	55.0%	27.5%
Forced displacement	2.9%	9.4%
Left out of fear	3.3%	13.2%
Armed conflict	0.2%	6.9%
Drought	0.0%	2.3%
Generalized violence	1.8%	10.9%
Other	1.0%	0.4%



MUTHANNA: IDP DEMOGRAPHICS

A large proportion of IOM-assessed IDP families displaced from Muthanna to other governorates are located in the Thi-Qar governorate (39%), while the second largest group has been displaced within Muthanna (22%).

Most displaced families in the governorate are Arab Shia Muslims who fled from the central governorates, especially Baghdad, to areas of Muthanna where they had familial or tribal connections.

Out of those assessed, over 5,000 IDPs are under the age of 18. This poses a challenge for the young IDP population, as there will be a need to provide them with adequate educational outlets as well as food, shelter, and economic support. Nonetheless, all IDP children surveyed by IOM did attend school.

IDPs Originally from Muthanna are located in:

Governorate	# Families	Percentage
Total	33	100%
Dahuk	2	6.1%
Diyala	5	15.2%
Erbil	2	6.1%
Muthanna	7	21.2%
Sulaymaniyah	4	12.1%
Thi-Qar	13	39.4%

MUTHANNA'S DISPLACED: LIVING CONDITIONS AND PRIORITY NEEDS

The priority needs cited by IDP families in Muthanna are shelter (66%), access to work (60%) and water (52%). The vast majority of IDPs within Muthanna are living in a host's house (28%) or a rented house (35%). 35% of IOM-assessed families answered 'other', which IOM monitors in Iraq specify often means improvised mud houses. IOM-assessed IDP families living in informal housing structures are often faced with difficulties such as a lack of access to basic services, water, and electricity. Despite the difficult conditions these families face during displacement, IOM monitors observe that relations between IDP families and their host communities are quite positive in Muthanna.

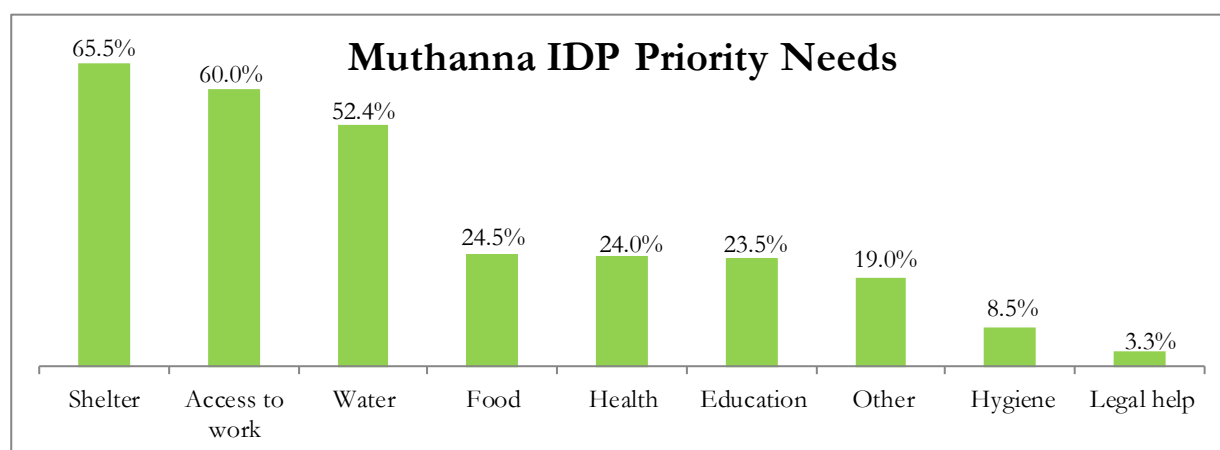
IOM assessments note that though heads of families are able to find employment, it is often temporary or on a day-to-day basis as construction workers. Access to water is often irregular, as assessed IDP families report that many of them rely on plastic pipes illegally connected to the main network. In areas such as Al-Karama, families rely on weekly water deliveries for their main source of water. There are also no sanitation services in this area, leaving families susceptible to water contamination and water-borne diseases.

IDPs by Age and Gender

Age	Female	Male	Total
Under 1 year old	489	546	1,035
1-4 years old	1,088	1,103	2,191
5-17 years old	2,902	2,948	5,850
18-60 years old	3,243	3,142	6,385
Over 60 years old	343	384	727

Living Structure (by district)

District	Collective Town Settlement	Tent Near House of Host	Public Building	Host house	Rented house	Other
Total	1.2%	0.3%	0.3%	28.1%	34.8%	35.2%
Al-Khidhir	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	14.5%	65.5%	20.0%
Al-Rumaitha	1.8%	0.1%	0.4%	35.7%	11.7%	50.2%
Al-Salman	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	15.4%	84.6%	0.0%
Al-Samawa	0.5%	0.6%	0.1%	18.6%	64.8%	15.4%



RETURN POTENTIAL

Most (70%) IDP families from Muthanna assessed by IOM would like to remain in their current locations and 27% wish return to their point of origin. Very few families intend to resettle in a third location.

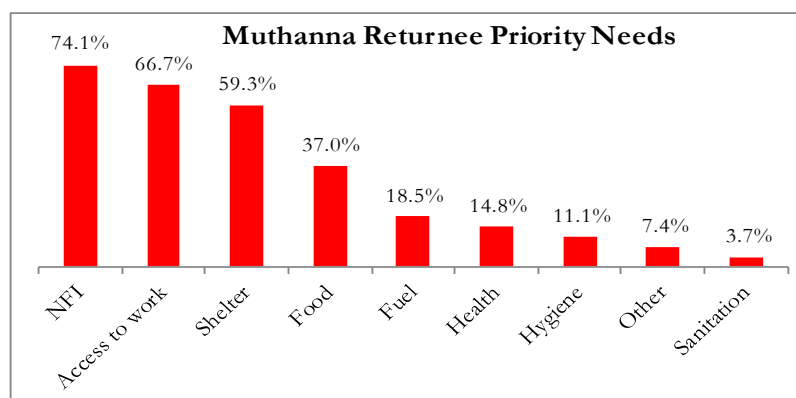
72% of IOM-assessed families displaced to Muthanna wish to integrate into their current location. This is largely due to pre-existing ethnic and religious ties to the governorate and the relatively stable security situation in Muthanna. 20% of families intend to return to their places of origin. Families who wish to return intend to return to Baghdad (74%), Diyala (11%), or Babylon (7%).

Muthanna IDP Settlement Intentions

District	Integrate into the current location	Resettle in a third location	Return to their place of origin	Waiting to Decide
Total	72.0%	7.3%	20.2%	0.3%
Al-Khidhir	57.3%	6.4%	36.4%	0.0%
Al-Rumaitha	95.0%	1.0%	3.5%	0.1%
Al-Salman	0.0%	53.8%	46.2%	0.0%
Al-Samawa	41.0%	15.8%	42.3%	0.6%

MUTHANNA'S RETURNEES

IOM identified 62 returnee families in Muthanna and assessed 27 of those families. The highest number of those assessed have returned to the Al-Samawa (14 families) and Al-Rumaitha (13 families) districts. The most common reason for return was improved security conditions; however, 20% of returnees surveyed cited very difficult conditions in displacement as a reason for returning to Muthanna. As is the case throughout Iraq, returnees' top priority needs are non-food items, employment, and shelter.



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
Total-Muthanna	48.6%	2.9%	28.6%	20.0%
Al-Rumaitha	45.0%	5.0%	35.0%	15.0%
Al-Samawa	53.3%	0.0%	20.0%	26.7%

What are the intentions of those displaced FROM Muthanna?

Displaced in	Integrate into the current location	Resettle in a third location	Return to their place of origin
All IDPs from Muthanna	69.7%	3.0%	27.3%
Dahuk	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Diyala	80.0%	0.0%	20.0%
Erbil	0.0%	50.0%	50.0%
Muthanna	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Sulaymaniyah	50.0%	0.0%	50.0%
Thi-Qar	76.9%	0.0%	23.1%

Of those that intend to return, to which governorate would they return?

Anbar	1.9%
Babylon	6.8%
Baghdad	74.1%
Diyala	10.9%
Ninewa	0.9%
Qadissiyah	1.2%
Salah al-Din	2.0%
Wassit	2.2%

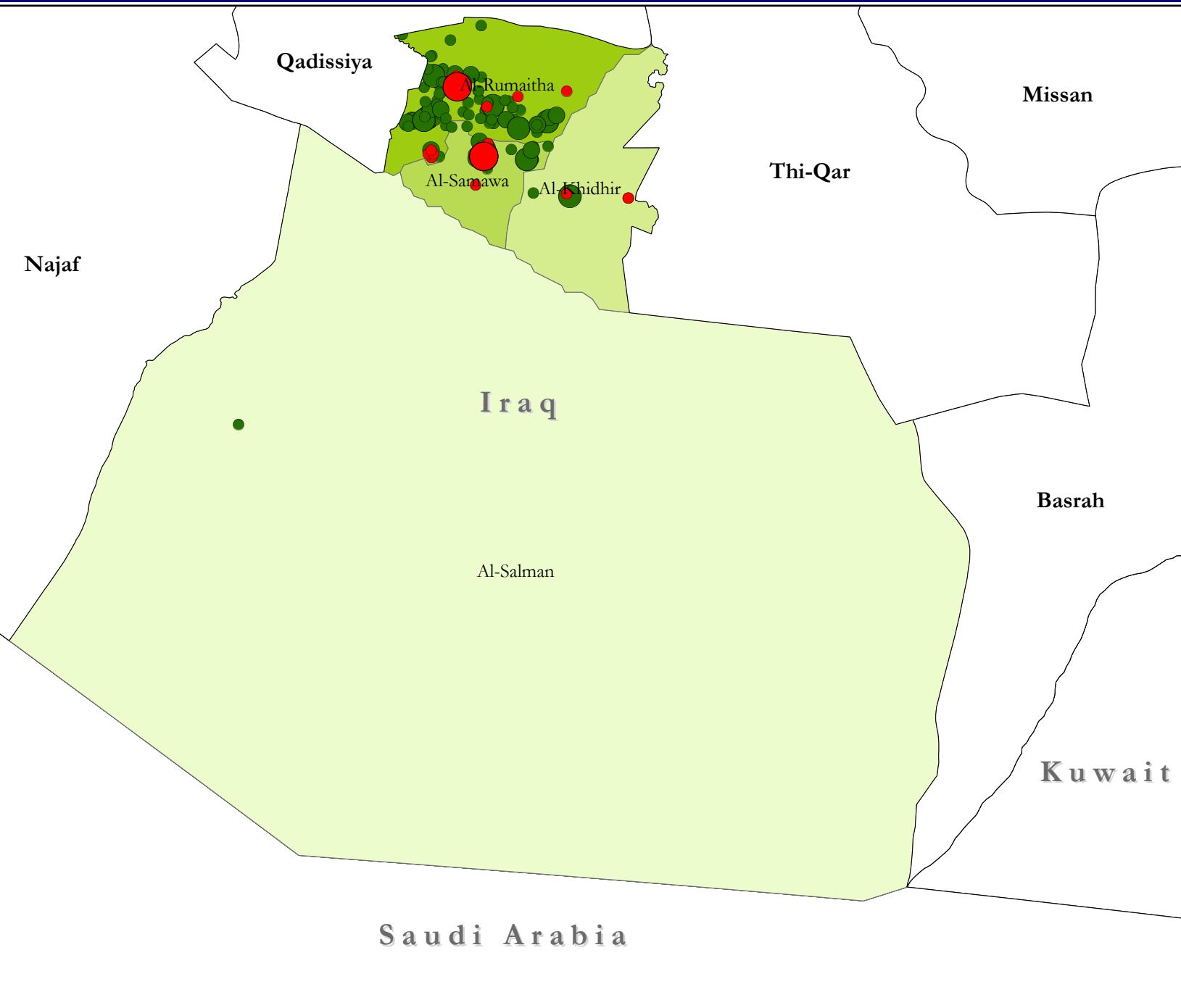
Assessed Returnees in Muthanna by District

District	Number of Families	Percentage
Muthanna Total	27	100%
Al-Khidhir	0	0.0%
Al-Rumaitha	13	48.0%
Al-Samawa	14	52.0%

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).

Muthanna - IDP and Returnee Locations



Legend

Returnee Places

- 1 - 4
- 5 - 8
- 9 - 14

IDP Places

- 1 - 18
- 19 - 51
- 52 - 172
- 173 - 834

IDP Population

- 1 - 13
- 14 - 95
- 96 - 1233
- 1234 - 1716