

QADISSIYAH

GOVERNORATE PROFILE NOVEMBER 2010
IOM IDP AND RETURNEE ASSESSMENT



QADISSIYAH: DISPLACEMENT AT A GLANCE

Total post-Feb 2006 IDPs ¹	3,833 families (est. 22,998 individuals)
Total pre-Feb 2006 IDPs ²	1,154 families (est. 6,924 individuals)
Number of post-Feb 2006 IDPs assessed by IOM ³	4,398 families (est. 26,388 individuals)
Capital	Diwaniya
Districts	Afaq, Diwaniya, Hamza, Al-Shamiya
Population ⁴	990,483 individuals

IDP (internally displaced persons) families in Qadissiyah, though relatively safe from sectarian violence, are faced with severe unemployment and, as a result, often find themselves unable to afford adequate shelter and food. Many live in temporary homes comprised of mud and oil cans that are built on public or private land, rendering them susceptible to eviction. These families also receive much of their water from pipes illegally connected to main water lines. Many communities are also without proper sewage systems. Though IDP families have adequate access to PDS (public distribution system) food rations, many reported that major items such as milk and rice were often missing, requiring them to purchase food in local markets.

IOM assessed 4,398 IDP families in Qadissiyah governorate, a majority of whom are Arab Shia Muslim. There has been little return to the governorate due to the fact that very few families were displaced from Qadissiyah after 2006.

Quick Facts on Qadissiyah IDPs & Returnees



- A majority of IDPs in Qadissiyah are Arab Shia Muslim.
- Most IDP families in Qadissiyah fled due to direct threats to their lives.
- Almost 50% of IOM-assessed IDPs in Qadissiyah are under the age of 18.

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 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 Qadissiyah

In June 2010 IOM staff in the Al-Zihoor village of the Afak district in Qadissiyah distributed non-food items to 660 vulnerable individuals.



For more information on IOM's past activities see:

www.iomiraq.net

QADISSIYAH DISPLACEMENT BACKGROUND

IOM monitors assessed 4,398 IDP families displaced to Qadissiyah governorate after 2006, down from 5,757 in September 2009. There has been a decrease in figures due to monitors revising the number of assessed IDP families in the governorate as families return to their original locations or are displaced again. There is very little return to Qadissiyah governorate, as very few families were displaced from the governorate during the post-2006 sectarian violence that largely centred around Baghdad, Diyala, and Ninewa.

Many Arabs were displaced to Qadissiyah governorate when the previous regime drained the marshes in southern Iraq as punishment for providing refuge to opposition groups.⁵ A large number of Kurds and Turkmen were also displaced to the governorate with the previous regime's Arabization campaign, during which Saddam Hussein aimed to expel Kurds and ethnic minorities in the late 1980s from the oil-rich areas of northern Iraq.⁶ Since the beginning of widespread sectarian violence in Iraq in 2006, the largest influxes of IDP families to Qadissiyah have occurred in June (1,763 families) and July (1,056 families) 2006.

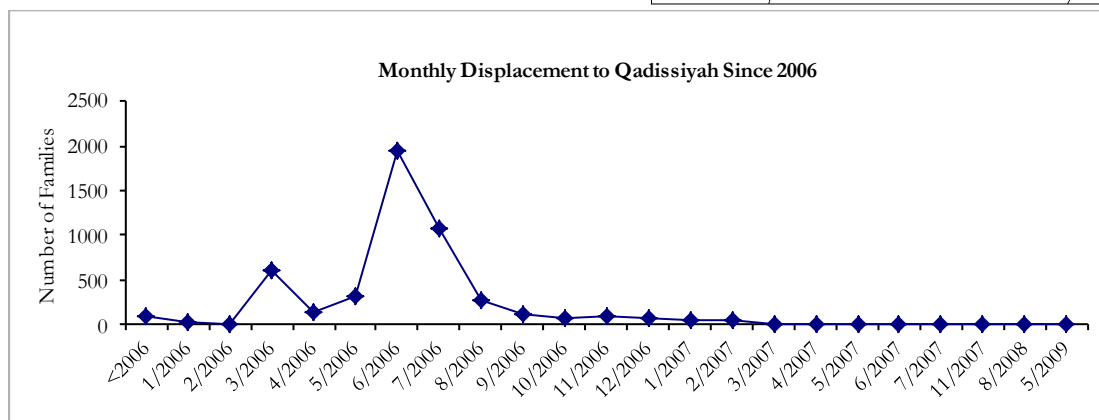
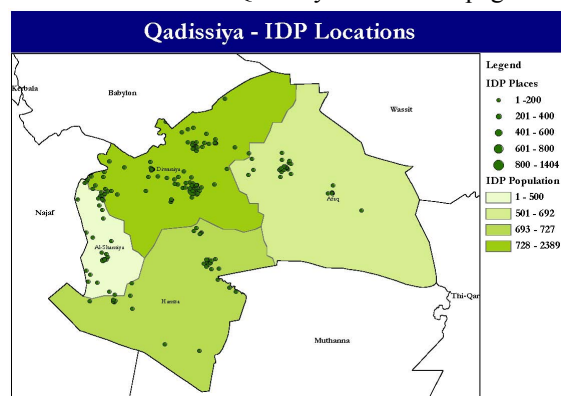
As in a majority of Iraqi governorates, a large number of IDP families in Qadissiyah originate from the Baghdad and Diyala governorates. 71% of IOM-assessed Qadissiyah IDPs originate from Baghdad governorate, while 16% come from Diyala. IDP families are largely located in urban centres like Diwaniya district (59%), with smaller populations in Hamza district (15%), and Afaq district (14%). 58% of IOM-assessed families, a percentage much higher than Iraq-wide figures, cite direct threats to their lives as their reason for displacement, while 29% chose not to answer, and 11% note generalized violence as their reason for displacement. A large number of families may have chosen not to answer out of continued fear related to their original displacement.

Number of IDPs in Qadissiyah by District		
District	Families	%
Total Qadissiyah	4,398	100%
Afaq	633	14.4%
Al-Shamiya	521	11.8%
Diwaniya	2,578	58.6%
Hamza	666	15.1%

IDP Governorate of Origin	
Anbar	3.1%
Babylon	1.7%
Baghdad	70.6%
Diyala	15.9%
Ninewa	0.1%
Salah al-Din	3.6%
Kirkuk	4.4%
Wassit	0.7%

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

Reason for Displacement	Qadissiyah	All Iraq
No Answer	28.7%	27.3%
Direct threats to life	58.0%	27.5%
Forced displacement	0.0%	9.4%
Left out of fear	0.6%	13.2%
Armed conflict	1.6%	6.9%
Drought	0.0%	2.3%
Generalized violence	11.0%	10.9%
Other	0.0%	0.4%



5. Hawley, Caroline. "New hope for Iraq's Marsh Arabs." *BBC*. 5 Nov 2003. Web. 21 Nov 2010.

6. Otterman, Sharon. "Iraq: Saddam Hussein on Trial." *Council on Foreign Relations*. 17 Dec 2003. Web. 21 Nov 2010.

QADISSIYAH: IDP DEMOGRAPHICS AND RETURN INTENTIONS

A majority of IOM-assessed IDP families in Qadissiyah are Arab Shia Muslim. Many of these families report to IOM monitors that they are unable to return to their homes due to religious targeting and sectarian violence. IOM-assessed IDP families feel safer living in Qadissiyah governorate, where the families have existing tribal and ethnic ties and there is relative religious homogeneity.

Almost 50% of IDPs are under the age of 18, which will likely pose a large challenge with regard to the provision of educational services, food, healthcare, and employment to these individuals in the future.

In addition to families displaced to Qadissiyah, IOM monitors assessed 42 families displaced from the governorate to other locations in the country. Among IDP families who fled from Qadissiyah, 31% are in Ninewa, 29% are in Salah al-Din, and 19% are in Muthanna governorate. Many left Qadissiyah in search of employment opportunities, so as to provide their families with better access to shelter and food.

Nonetheless, a majority of IOM-assessed IDP families in Qadissiyah would prefer to integrate into their current locations. 67% cite that they intend to remain in Qadissiyah, while 22% would prefer to resettle in a third location, and 11% wish to return to their place of origin. The fact that a large percentage of IDP families wish to remain in their current location might reflect an improvement of conditions in Qadissiyah governorate or the deterioration of conditions in their home governorate, as 67% is high in comparison to the national average of 37%. The state of employment and access to services in Qadissiyah governorate will have significant impact on whether or not IDP families will end up staying in the governorate.

IDPs Originally from Qadissiyah are located in:

Governorate	# Families	Percentage
Total	42	100.0%
Baghdad	3	7.1%
Erbil	1	2.4%
Kerbala	4	9.5%
Muthanna	8	19.0%
Ninewa	13	31.0%
Salah al-Din	12	28.6%
Sulaymaniyah	1	2.4%

IDPs by Age and Gender

Age	Female	Male	Total
Under 1 year old	1,005	1,019	2,024
1 to 4 years old	2,622	2,645	5,267
5-17 years old	5,122	5,407	10,529
18-60 years old	7,690	8,316	16,006
Over 60 years old	1,042	1,404	2,446

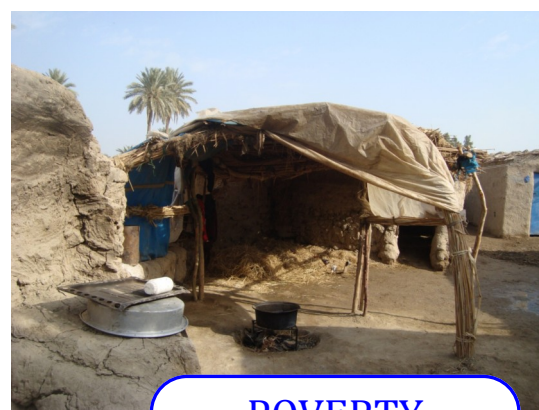
Ethno-Religious Identity in Qadissiyah (by District)

District	Arab Shia Muslim	Other
Total	99.6%	0.4%
Afaq	100.0%	0.0%
Al-Shamiya	98.7%	1.3%
Diwaniya	99.8%	0.2%
Hamza	99.2%	0.8%



WATER AND SANITATION

IDP Children in Hay Al-Hakeem, Al-Saniyah, living without proper sanitation facilities.



POVERTY

Impoverished IDP family living in Said Mohammad village, Al-Bdeer.

Qadissiyah IDP Settlement Intentions

District	Locally integrate in the current location	Resettle in a third location	Return to their place of origin
Total	67.2%	21.7%	10.5%
Afaq	69.5%	26.1%	0.5%
Al-Shamiya	62.4%	37.0%	0.6%
Diwaniya	70.1%	12.4%	17.5%
Hamza	58.0%	41.4%	0.6%

QADISSIYAH'S DISPLACED: LIVING CONDITIONS AND PRIORITY NEEDS

Access to employment is of significant importance in Qadissiyah governorate, as very few IDP heads of household are formally employed. 87% of IDP families cite access to work as a priority need, in addition to 85% reporting the need for shelter, and 78% for food.

Employment opportunities are difficult to come by for IDP heads of household in Qadissiyah governorate, as IOM monitors estimate that 50% of breadwinners are unemployed, 20% are farming or working on farms owned by host community members, another 20% are construction workers, salesman or shop owners, and 10% work as craftsmen. Though 50% of IDP heads of household are employed, the sectors in which they are working generally do not provide reliable and consistent sources of income.

A lack of employment also affects education, as many IDP children must sell items such as plastic bags to help their families. IOM monitors note that a majority of schools in the governorate are overcrowded, further contributing to a lack of opportunities for education.

51% of IOM-assessed families chose “other” as their form of shelter. These include homes built without permission on private or government-owned property, making them susceptible to eviction. For example, IOM monitors note that currently at least 250 IDP and 90 host community families in the Mu’askar al-Diwaniya al-Qadieem area in Diwaniya are living in such homes, most of which are comprised of mud and oil cans. The conditions of these homes pose severe health concerns due to lack of sanitation, clean water, and sewage drainage.

Most IDP families receive PDS rations, though families note that the rations are often missing important items such as milk, rice, cooking oil, and beans. Families often have to purchase these items from local markets instead.

Health issues are also a concern, as IOM monitors note that several IDP families in areas like Mu’askar al-Diwaniya al-Qadieem are suffering from diseases like asthma and prolonged diarrhoea from unsanitary living conditions. Monitors cite similar conditions among IOM-assessed IDP families living in the Hay Al-Ansar, Hay Al-Sadir and Hay Al-Sadiq neighbourhoods in Diwaniya.



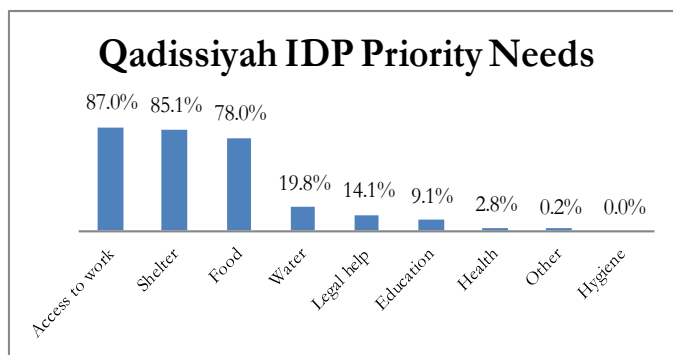
SHELTER

IDP home in Diwaniya district destroyed by rain.



EDUCATION

School in need of repair in Afaq district.



Living Structure (by district)					
District	Collective Town Settlement	Public Building	Host House	Rented House	Other
Total	1.9%	0.6%	2.5%	44.0%	51.0%
Afaq	0.6%	0.0%	1.7%	37.9%	60.2%
Al-Shamiya	0.0%	0.0%	4.0%	51.8%	44.1%
Diwaniya	3.0%	1.1%	2.3%	44.5%	49.0%
Hamza	0.5%	0.0%	2.6%	41.3%	55.6%

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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).

Qadissiya - IDP Locations

