

SALAH AL-DIN

GOVERNORATE PROFILE NOVEMBER 2010
IOM IDP AND RETURNEE ASSESSMENT



SALAH AL-DIN: DISPLACEMENT AT A GLANCE

Total post-Feb 2006 IDPs ¹	9,836 families (est. 59,016 individuals)
Total pre-Feb 2006 IDPs ²	3,336 families (est. 20,196 individuals)
Number of post-Feb 2006 IDPs assessed by IOM ³	13,908 families (est. 83,448 individuals)
Returnees ⁴	458 families (est. 2,748 individuals)
Capital	Tikrit
Districts	Al-Daur, Al-Shirqat, Baiji, Balad, Al-Fares, Samarra, Al-Thethar, Tikrit, Tooz
Population ⁵	1,191,403 individuals

The bombing of the Al-Askari mosque in February 2006 and the sectarian violence which ensued marked the beginning of a watershed in Iraqi displacement. Located in the district of Samarra, this major event took place in Salah al-Din, making this one of the key sites of sectarian tensions in the country. Since then, the security situation in the governorate has improved dramatically, but while bombings are less frequent than in previous years, they do continue to occur.

The tensions have left a legacy of displacement. Though migration both to and from the governorate has slowed since 2007, there remains a sizeable population of displaced and returnee families. IDPs in Salah al-Din governorate live in difficult circumstances, particularly those in settlements outside of the main cities where access to basic services, medical care, and work opportunities are distant. Most of these have fled sites of the worst sectarian violence, and many do not yet feel safe to go home.

Displaced families, returnees and host communities in Salah al-Din struggle to establish themselves in a governorate where employment opportunities are rare and where violence and decrepit infrastructure have created very difficult living conditions.

Quick Facts on Salah al-Din IDPs & Returnees



- IOM-assessed IDPs in Salah al-Din list as their priority needs are access to work and food.
- Almost 20% of IOM-assessed IDP families in Salah al-Din live in group settlements or public buildings.
- 15% of IOM-assessed IDPs wish to return to their places of origin, a figure significantly reduced from earlier this year.

¹ As per the Iraq 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 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.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 Salah al-Din

In July 2010, IOM conducted a distribution of non-food items (NFI) to IDPs, returnees and vulnerable host community families in Salah al-Din.



For more information on this project see final page, for more information on IOM's past activities in Salah al-Din, see *Activities in Salah al-Din* at:
www.iomiraq.net

SALAH AL-DIN DISPLACEMENT BACKGROUND

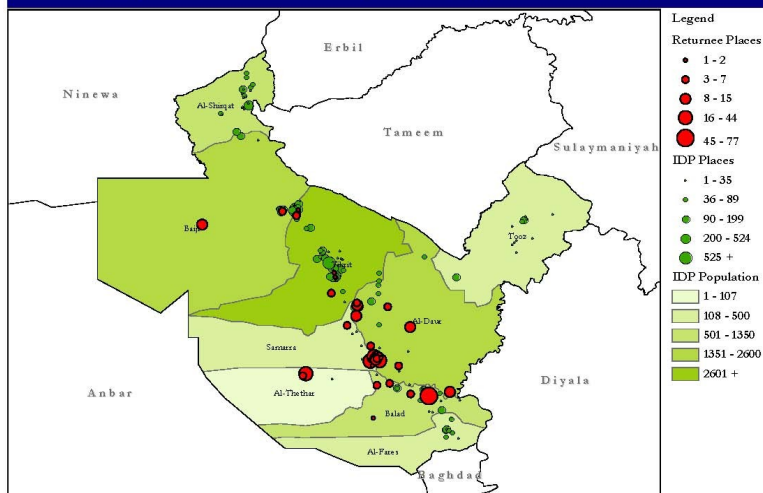
Bordering Baghdad, Diyala, Kirkuk, and Ninewa governorates, since 2006 Salah al-Din has received many families fleeing sectarian violence from these neighboring volatile locations. Most IDPs in Salah al-Din are Arab Sunni Muslims who arrived in 2006 and the beginning of 2007 during the height of post-2006 displacement movements in Iraq. Although the number of families arriving to Salah al-Din each month has declined considerably, new displacements to the governorate continue to occur as demonstrated by the arrival of 39 families between January and May this year.

Around 1 in 5 of the families currently displaced in Salah al-Din left their homes from elsewhere within the governorate, whilst the rest came from other governorates such as Baghdad (40%) and Kirkuk (14%). Many of these families say that they left their homes because of fear (25%) but drought is also a more commonly cited reason for displacement in Salah Al-Din (14%) than is average in Iraq (2%).

Around half of Salah al-Din's IDP community is located in the districts of Tikrit and Baiji, two of the busiest areas in the governorate. While relations between IDP and host community families are relatively good, there is occasional tension when IDP presence is perceived as increasing insecurity in a certain area. This can sometimes lead to targeting of IDPs by local security forces, especially in the wake of attacks or security breaches.

IDP & Returnee Locations in Salah al-Din. See final page for detail

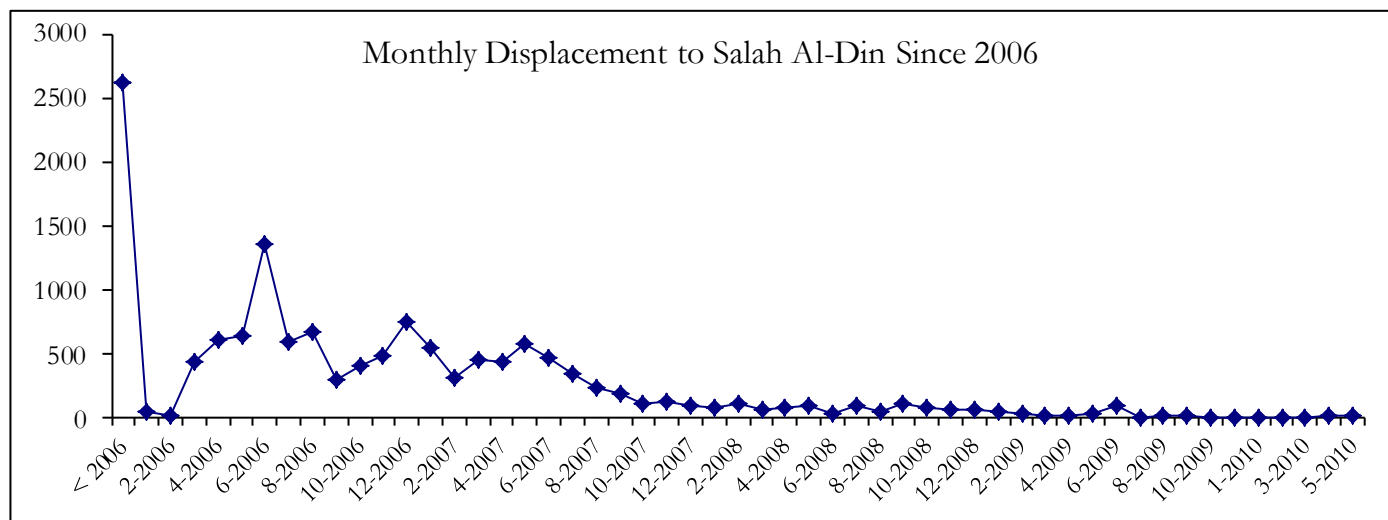
Salah Al-Din - IDP and Returnee Locations



District	Families	%
Total	13908	100.0%
Al-Daur	1501	10.8%
Al-Fares	545	3.9%
Al-Shirqat	1358	9.8%
Al-Thethar	67	0.5%
Baiji	3043	21.9%
Balad	1560	11.2%
Samarra	1340	9.6%
Tikrit	4192	30.1%
Tooz	302	2.2%

Within Salah al-Din	20.2%
Anbar	1.8%
Babylon	0.4%
Baghdad	40.0%
Basrah	8.1%
Diyala	10.8%
Erbil	1.0%
Missan	0.2%
Ninewa	2.4%
Qadissiya	0.1%
Kirkuk	14.2%
Thi-Qar	0.5%
Wassit	0.5%

Reason for Displacement	Salah al-Din	All Iraq
No Answer	3.5%	27.3%
Direct threats to life	23.5%	27.5%
Forced displacement	3.5%	9.4%
Left out of fear	25.1%	13.2%
Armed conflict	2.5%	6.9%
Drought	13.8%	2.3%
Generalized violence	8.9%	10.9%
Other	0.1%	0.4%



SALAH AL-DIN: IDP DEMOGRAPHICS

The Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MoDM) is responsible for Government of Iraq (GoI) registration of IDP and returnee families in the country. According to official registration figures, there are 9,836 IDP families registered in Salah al-Din. Since 2006, IOM monitors have assessed 13,908 families there. Some of this difference can be accounted for because IOM assessments include displacement due to drought, which is not registered by MoDM registration centres.

Overall, the large majority of displaced families living in Salah al-Din are Arab-Sunni Muslim (94%) though this varies considerably by area. In the districts of Al-Fares and Balad, the proportion of Arab-Shia Muslims is upwards of 25% and in Tooz they exceed the number of Arab-Sunni Muslims.

A closer look at the composition of displaced families in Salah al-Din shows that there is often a high number of young children in the families that live there. In addition to requiring immunizations, these children are extra mouths to feed in already large families, placing a strain on already meagre household funds. For many of these children, work is not something that starts with adulthood, and some beg or search for odd jobs. Moreover, sanitation issues in the governorate are particularly problematic, as children play out in the streets such as the displaced boy pictured right in a waste area in the Balad district in April.

Along with a significant number of post-2006 families displaced by sectarian violence, Salah al-Din is also the location of a large number of families displaced in search of sufficient water. IOM monitors have identified 1,918 families displaced in Salah al-Din due to drought and authorities have explained to IOM monitors that these flows of families continue beyond their capacity to respond to the situation. These families, often moving from one rural area to another and losing their homes and livelihoods in the process, would be willing to return to their places of origin given enough water once again to meet their personal needs and sustain their livelihoods.

Almost 1 in 3 of the families that were displaced from Salah al-Din remained in the governorate. A further 23% moved north to neighbouring Kirkuk, while many also moved south to Thi-Qar, a governorate where the IDP community is almost exclusively Arab Shia Muslim. The number of families returning to Salah al-Din has slowed in recent years, meaning that many of those who are currently displaced in these other governorates are less likely to come home. For more on the intentions of families displaced from Salah al-Din, see page six of this report.

Whether displaced or as members of vulnerable host communities, women, children, and the elderly are some of the most harshly affected by displacement. Female-headed households and widows are more common in the wake of the post-2006 sectarian violence. These women have little opportunity to support themselves and their families, nor can they easily advocate for themselves when it comes to social or legal matters in their communities.

IDPs Originally from Salah al-Din are located in:		
Governorate	# Families	Percentage
Anbar	159	1.7%
Babylon	68	0.7%
Baghdad	608	6.4%
Basrah	829	8.7%
Dahuk	2	0.0%
Diyala	60	0.6%
Erbil	30	0.3%
Kerbala	144	1.5%
Missan	506	5.3%
Muthanna	145	1.5%
Najaf	73	0.8%
Ninewa	63	0.7%
Qadissiya	159	1.7%
Salah al-Din	2800	29.5%
Sulaymaniyah	77	0.8%
Kirkuk	2158	22.7%
Thi-Qar	1546	16.3%
Wassit	75	0.8%
Total Assessed	9502	100.0%



An IDP child plays beside discarded trash in Balad district of Salah al-Din

IDPs by Age and Gender			
Age	Female	Male	Total
Under 1 year old	1284	1260	2544
1 to 4 years old	3277	3440	6717
5-17 years old	7698	7672	15370
18-60 years old	9171	9004	18175
Over 60 years old	888	1082	1970

Ethno-Religious Identity of IDPs in Salah al-Din (by District)					
District	Arab-Shia Muslim	Arab-Sunni Muslim	Kurd-Sunni Muslim	Turkmen-Shia Muslim	Other
Total	5.6%	93.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.5%
Al-Daur	0.0%	98.9%	0.0%	0.0%	1.1%
Al-Fares	38.5%	60.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.9%
Al-Shirqat	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Al-Thethar	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Baiji	0.0%	99.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%
Balad	26.9%	73.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Samarra	0.0%	99.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.0%
Tikrit	0.0%	99.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%
Tooz	47.7%	42.1%	3.6%	6.6%	0.0%

SALAH AL-DIN'S DISPLACED: LIVING CONDITIONS AND PRIORITY NEEDS

The living conditions of Salah al-Din's displaced families offer little protection for the vulnerable individuals that live in the governorate. Almost 40% of the displaced families in this governorate state that their shelter is a collective town settlement, a public building, or 'other' - which they normally specify as being an improvised mud house. These forms of accommodation often preclude the long-term integration of these families into their communities and make the families susceptible to evictions from local authorities. It is unsurprising therefore that 36% of displaced families in Salah al-Din list shelter as one of their priority needs (for a case study on collective settlements please see page 7).

Against this background of shelter issues, 39% of IOM-assessed IDP families in Salah al-Din often state 'other' when asked about their priority needs, often specifying that they require non-food items. The lack of household essentials such as kitchenware, blankets and mattresses exacerbates the poor living conditions of displaced families in the governorate.

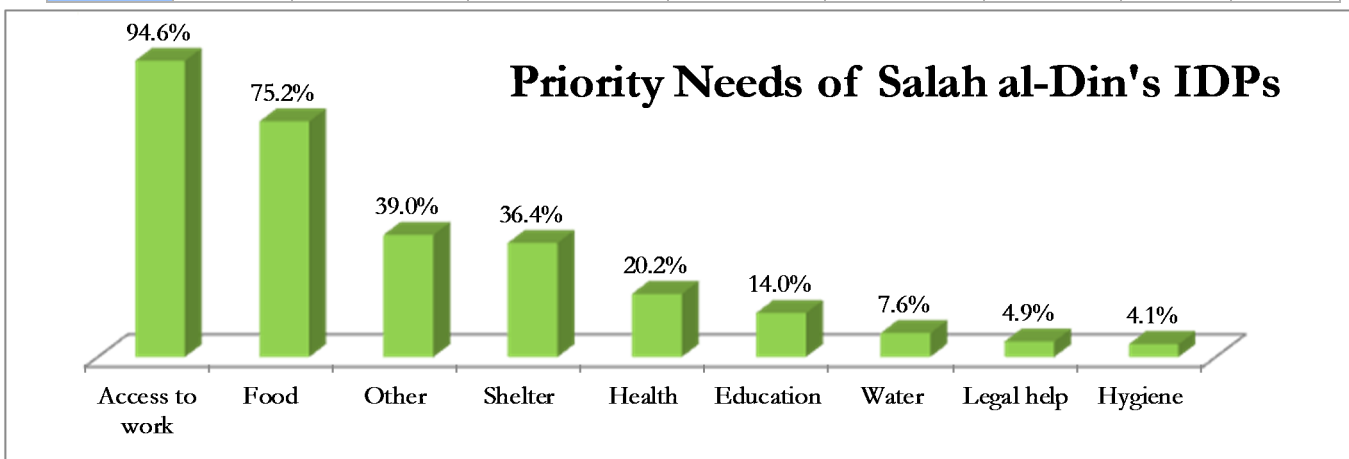
The most frequently cited priority needs among IDPs are access to work (95%) and food (75%) - concerns which are also prevalent amongst returnees. A lack of job opportunities in the governorate, together with inconsistent rations provided by the Public Distribution System (PDS) has meant that malnourishment is prevalent here, whether in cities or rural areas. As a result, many children are forced to leave school and supplement their families small incomes such as the girl pictured above in March this year.



The daughter of an IDP family who no longer attends school and instead collects trash in the village of Abu Dalaf in Al-Daur, Salah al-Din.

The electricity grid does not extend to this rural area, and families there are not able to afford the seeds, fertilizers, and other equipment that they have used to farm for many years. Combined with lack of rainfall or proper irrigation, these troubles forced these families to move to their current location, but they remain unable to farm enough to support themselves.

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	0.0%	13.9%	0.1%	0.6%	5.6%	4.7%	56.8%	18.3%
Al-Daur	0.0%	1.5%	0.0%	0.0%	6.1%	0.7%	71.7%	19.9%
Al-Fares	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.9%	14.1%	60.0%	22.9%
Al-Shirqat	0.0%	43.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.2%	6.2%	27.6%	22.0%
Al-Thethar	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	16.4%	28.4%	55.2%
Baiji	0.0%	26.5%	0.0%	2.1%	11.1%	4.0%	42.0%	14.3%
Balad	0.0%	14.5%	0.0%	0.0%	1.9%	6.7%	49.0%	27.9%
Samarra	0.0%	3.2%	0.0%	0.0%	1.8%	10.1%	53.5%	31.3%
Tikrit	0.1%	6.0%	0.2%	0.4%	6.4%	2.6%	72.6%	11.8%
Tooz	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%



SALAH AL-DIN'S RETURNEES

Over 60% of the IOM-assessed returnees in Salah al-Din had been displaced to elsewhere in Iraq, while those who were displaced abroad mostly lived in Syria or Jordan. IOM field monitors work with local authorities and other key stakeholders to identify returnee families as they come home from displacement elsewhere in Iraq or abroad. In Salah al-Din governorate, IOM monitors have identified 258 returnee families, or approximately 1,548 individuals. Most of these families have returned home to the districts of Samarra and Balad.

When interviewed by IOM, most of these families stated a combination of reasons for their return, namely improved security in their origin area as well as very difficult conditions in their place of displacement. Families coming back to Salah al-Din are defined as returnees if they return to their homes or original neighbourhoods. Many of these families had left their homes between the end of 2006 and early 2007, but most returned in 2008. As a result, their neighbourhoods, as well as the families returning to them, may have changed significantly since displacement. Returnees therefore struggle to reintegrate in their former neighbourhoods whilst seeking out health and education services for their family members.

The priority needs of returnees in Salah al-Din differ from those found elsewhere in Iraq. Particularly noticeable is the 84% of families who state that fuel is a major concern, more than double the average across Iraq. IOM monitors in the governorate report that this is partly due to the extremely high cost of fuel, but also because of the unreliability of the private electricity generators families are forced to use. Returnees in Salah al-Din are less likely than the average Iraqi returnee to state that they have between 1 and 10 hours access to electricity each day. In many areas, IOM monitors found that returnees, like their host communities, had no access to municipal electricity service at all and were even told by some local authorities that no plans were in place to rectify this problem. When temperatures reach 50°C in summer, families suffer enormously without electricity to run fans or air conditioning.

Access to work is also a concern for 76% of returnees in the governorate. Upon coming home, returnee families may not be able to continue with their former livelihoods; some may have lost shops or other work-related property. In other cases, opportunities for work remain scarce.

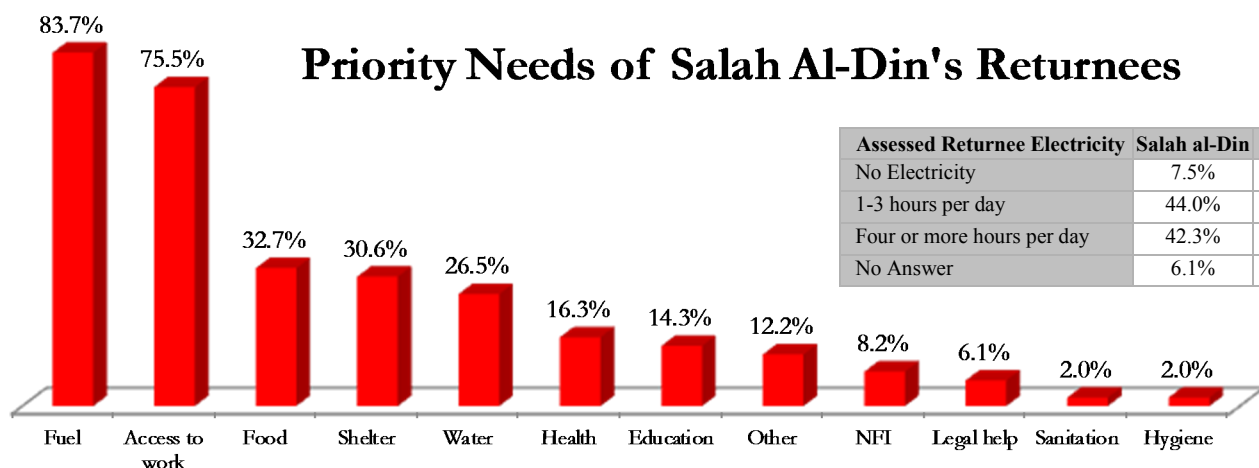
Returnees in Salah al-Din also have some specific security concerns. Monitors reported in May that a returnee was assassinated by a bomb in Al Dhouloiya, Balad by a bomb and this was likely to affect future numbers of returnees to the governorate. When asked if they feel safe, almost 40% of Salah al-Din's returnees respond only 'sometimes' - most of these returnees are in the districts of Balad and Samarra.

Assessed Returnee Numbers in Salah al-Din by District		
District	Number of Families	Percentage
Total	458	100%
Al-Daur	33	7.21%
Baiji	22	4.80%
Balad	156	34.06%
Samarra	242	52.84%
Tikrit	5	1.09%

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
Total	42.9%	52.4%	4.8%
Al-Daur	0.0%	75.0%	25.0%
Baiji	60.0%	40.0%	0.0%
Balad	33.3%	66.7%	0.0%
Samarra	45.8%	54.2%	0.0%
Tikrit	66.7%	0.0%	33.3%

Assessed Returnee PDS Access	Salah al-Din	All Iraq
No Answer	6.7%	0.7%
Not at all	18.7%	3.3%
Yes, not regular	28.2%	28.7%
Yes, regular	46.4%	67.3%

Assessed Returnee Water Source	Salah al-Din	All Iraq
Municipal water (underground pipes)	82.4%	80.5%
Water tanks / trucks	28.6%	6.5%
Public Wells	16.2%	2.3%
Rivers, streams or lakes	8.3%	6.7%
Other Sources	2.7%	0.1%
Open / broken pipe	1.2%	3.0%



Assessed Returnee Electricity	Salah al-Din	All Iraq
No Electricity	7.5%	3.6%
1-3 hours per day	44.0%	25.3%
Four or more hours per day	42.3%	51.1%
No Answer	6.1%	19.9%

RETURN POTENTIAL

IDPs from Salah al-Din

IOM monitors have assessed a total of 9,502 families who were displaced from Salah al-Din, some of whom remained in the governorate (30%) and some of whom moved to other governorates, chiefly Kirkuk (23%), Thi-Qar (16%) and Basrah (9%). Of these, 17% or 1,572 families have told IOM monitors that they wish to return to their places of origin, meaning that a small return flow to Salah al-Din could continue. However, it is important to note that in February this year, the proportion of families displaced from Salah al-Din who wanted to return was almost double. This significant change in intentions demonstrates how much changes in the security situation and political uncertainties (such as those since the elections in March of this year) influence the decisions of families. This is also due to the fact that some of the families who previously wanted to return have now fulfilled this intention.

Moreover these intentions vary according to the governorate where families from Salah al-Din were displaced to. In places such as Dahuk, Anbar and Babylon for instance, most families wish to stay and integrate with the communities that host them. By contrast, in places such as Kirkuk, 779 of the total 2,158 families interviewed who originated from Salah al-Din said they would like to return.

IDPs in Salah al-Din

Over 50% of displaced families currently in the governorate would like to stay and integrate in their current locations, a figure which has greatly increased since February this year when just 19% of families expressed this intention. The fact that many of the families in Salah al-Din who previously stated that they would like to return to their place of origin now state the intention to stay reflects the greatly improved security situation in the governorate. Prolonged displacement also often means that more people want to stay, while others simply see a worse situation in other governorates. Nevertheless, the intentions of the 14,128 families assessed by IOM in Salah al-Din differ enormously by district.

If these return intentions were to be fulfilled, Baghdad would receive a significant number of families returning from displacement in Salah al-Din, as would Diyala. A high number (561 families) state that they are waiting to decide about their next migration decision, partly due to the uncertainty following the national elections in March this year. With the governor of Salah al-Din being dismissed in October of this year, the political deadlock looks set to continue. As their responses about priority needs demonstrate, IDPs face a number of immediate obstacles to realising their ambitions both in the short and long term.

Salah al-Din IDP Settlement Intentions				
District	Integrate into the current location	Resettle in a third location	Return to their place of origin	Waiting to Decide
Total	52.7%	27.9%	15.2%	4.0%
Al-Daur	23.7%	67.0%	3.1%	6.1%
Al-Fares	7.9%	79.8%	11.6%	0.7%
Al-Shirqat	49.4%	21.8%	25.7%	3.1%
Al-Thethar	0.0%	65.7%	17.9%	16.4%
Baiji	46.0%	13.1%	30.2%	9.8%
Balad	30.1%	55.2%	14.2%	0.4%
Samarra	30.7%	47.3%	18.0%	4.0%
Tikrit	87.1%	5.6%	6.2%	1.1%
Tooz	93.4%	0.0%	5.3%	1.3%

Intentions of those displaced FROM Salah al-Din

Displaced in	Integrate into the current location	Resettle in a third location	Return to their place of origin	Waiting to Decide
All IDPs from Salah al-Din	58.3%	20.4%	16.6%	4.7%
Anbar	95.6%	3.8%	0.6%	0.0%
Babylon	95.6%	0.0%	4.4%	0.0%
Baghdad	51.8%	15.1%	19.9%	13.2%
Basrah	77.3%	21.1%	1.1%	0.5%
Dahuk	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Diyala	70.0%	6.7%	13.3%	10.0%
Erbil	13.3%	30.0%	56.7%	0.0%
Kerbala	17.4%	57.6%	25.0%	0.0%
Missan	55.7%	25.1%	2.4%	16.8%
Muthanna	87.3%	3.5%	9.2%	0.0%
Najaf	87.7%	0.0%	12.3%	0.0%
Ninewa	17.5%	39.7%	42.9%	0.0%
Qadissiya	69.0%	23.4%	7.6%	0.0%
Salah al-Din	62.4%	32.2%	4.1%	1.3%
Sulaymaniyah	54.5%	3.9%	40.3%	1.3%
Kirkuk	33.2%	20.0%	36.1%	10.7%
Thi-Qar	75.3%	2.5%	22.1%	0.2%
Wassit	41.3%	8.0%	50.7%	0.0%

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

Anbar	1.2%
Babylon	0.3%
Baghdad	67.1%
Basrah	7.1%
Diyala	8.0%
Erbil	2.1%
Ninewa	1.5%
Salah al-Din	5.4%
Kirkuk	6.4%
Thi-Qar	0.9%

IDP SETTLEMENT CASE STUDY

In the north of Tikrit, an IDP settlement of around 280 families known locally as 'Institute of Armours' was visited by IOM monitors in May this year. Assessments in the settlement and meetings with community leaders revealed the desperate plight of some of the families displaced in Salah al-Din. Families here live in damaged public buildings, tents and clay huts and are exposed to the frequent dust storms. These storms are so severe that they have given rise to cases of asthma and suffocation, with families making the long journey to Tikrit hospital just in search of oxygen. There is no sanitation system available, and the 2003 war has not only left behind destroyed buildings, but also live ammunition. Whilst adults lack long-term employment, children in this settlement have limited access to an under-equipped elementary school and have been badly affected by the conflict they have witnessed. Nine-year old Mena, pictured below, was hit on the head by a militia member in Baghdad prior to displacement and was unable to speak for two years. Though it is a particularly severe case, this IDP settlement is an example of many of the challenges that displaced families in Salah al-Din face on an everyday basis.



INSTITUTE OF ARMOURS

North of Tikrit district

IOM monitors spoke to displaced families in this collective settlement and found live mortar shells in an area where children play.

IOM PROJECT IN FOCUS

In July 2010, IOM conducted a distribution of non-food items (NFI) to IDPs, returnees and vulnerable host community families in Salah al-Din. The project targeted 400 families in the governorate, many of whom had been displaced from Kirkuk, Ninewa and Diyala. Since arriving to Salah al-Din, most of these families are living in simple, improvised mud shelters in five of Salah al-Din's villages; Al Soqoor, Al Shahoma, Al Karama, Hammad Shihab and Al Safia. These villages were selected by MoDM, local authorities and the IOM monitoring team as among the most vulnerable locations in this governorate.



After IOM monitors completed a vulnerability assessment in June, this project was implemented by IOM in coordination with MoDM and local authorities in Salah al-Din. By early July, the distribution was complete and more than 2,000 individuals had benefitted from the project. The NFI baskets which were distributed by IOM also included hygiene kits provided by UNICEF.

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).

Salah Al-Din - IDP and Returnee Locations

