

# SULAYMANIYAH

GOVERNORATE PROFILE NOVEMBER 2010  
IOM IDP AND RETURNEE ASSESSMENT



## SULAYMANIYAH: DISPLACEMENT AT A GLANCE

Total post-Feb 2006 IDPs <sup>1</sup>	8,986 families (est. 53,916 individuals)
Total pre-Feb 2006 IDPs <sup>2</sup>	50,465 families (est. 302,790 individuals)
Number of post-Feb 2006 IDPs assessed by IOM <sup>3</sup>	6,472 families (est. 38,832 individuals)
Returnees <sup>4</sup>	91 families (est. 546 individuals)
Capital	Sulaymaniyah
Districts	Chamchamal, Darbandikhan, Dokan, Halabja, Kalar, Penjwin, Pshdar, Rania, Sharbazher, Sulaymaniyah
Population <sup>5</sup>	1,893,619

Sulaymaniyah, like the other northern governorates of Erbil and Dahuk which are under the control of the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG), has been relatively stable since 2003. In comparison to elsewhere in the country, few families were displaced from Sulaymaniyah and consequently, returnee numbers in the governorate are also low.

Despite this, many families displaced from other governorates in Iraq since 2006 have fled to Sulaymaniyah in search of security and stability. Thus, Sulaymaniyah still has a significant IDP population with many urgent needs.

IDP families in Sulaymaniyah have come from Baghdad, fleeing sectarian violence and insecurity, and Diyala, along the disputed internal boundary between Sulaymaniyah and Diyala governorates. They list food as their top priority need and face difficulty finding opportunities for work to support themselves and their families.

### Quick Facts on Sulaymaniyah IDPs



- IOM-assessed IDPs in Sulaymaniyah are 56% Sunni Arab, 26% Sunni Kurd, and 11% Shia Arab.
- 66% of IOM-assessed IDP families in Sulaymaniyah would like to return home, a 5% increase since February of this year.
- IDPs list food, fuel, household items, and access to work as their priority needs.

<sup>1</sup> As per the KRG Bureau of Displacement and Migration (BDM), 2010.

<sup>2</sup> As per IOM Phase II Monitoring, December 2005.

<sup>3</sup> Please note that this is the number of post-February 2006 IDPs assessed by IOM, not the total number of IDPs in the governorate.

<sup>4</sup> As per IOM assessments.

<sup>5</sup> 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.<sup>1</sup>

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.

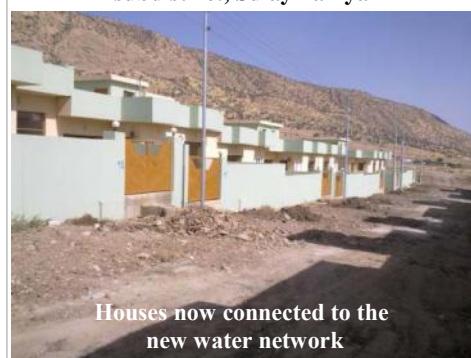
IOM seeks to ascertain and disseminate detailed information about IDP and returnee needs and conditions in each governorate. Our objective is to promote a greater understanding of displacement and return in Iraq by facilitating policy making, prioritizing areas of operation, planning emergency responses, 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

#### Sulaymaniyah

#### Creation of a water network in Sewsenan subdistrict, Sulaymaniyah



Houses now connected to the new water network

Widespread infrastructure problems in Sewsenan left residents without a clean, regular supply of water. An IOM project implemented between July and September, 2010 provided returnee and host community families with a 500 metre-long water network and storage tank.

For more information on IOM's past activities in Sulaymaniyah, see *Activities in Sulaymaniyah* at: [www.iomiraq.net](http://www.iomiraq.net)

## SULAYMANIYAH DISPLACEMENT BACKGROUND

IOM monitors have assessed a total of 6,472 IDP families in Sulaymaniyah, most of whom are located in Kalar and Sulaymaniyah districts. The KRG Bureau of Displacement and Migration, the regional authority responsible for registering IDPs in coordination with the central government's Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MoDM), has registered 8,986 families in Sulaymaniyah. The governorate also has a substantial number of pre-2006 IDP families displaced during the former regime.

As is the case with other governorates in Iraq, most IDPs were displaced to Sulaymaniyah during 2006 and 2007 when sectarian violence in the country was at its height. The rate of displacement has decreased significantly since then, however new displacements do still occur, such as during military activity along the Iranian border.

Most of the IDP population in Sulaymaniyah tell IOM monitors that they have left their homes due to fear, direct threats to their lives, or generalized violence. The number of families citing these reasons for displacement is higher than the average in Iraq, again highlighting the trend of families fleeing to Sulaymaniyah from areas of violence and insecurity. Almost 90% of IDP families state that their governorate of origin was either Baghdad or Diyala, two of the most unstable governorates in Iraq.

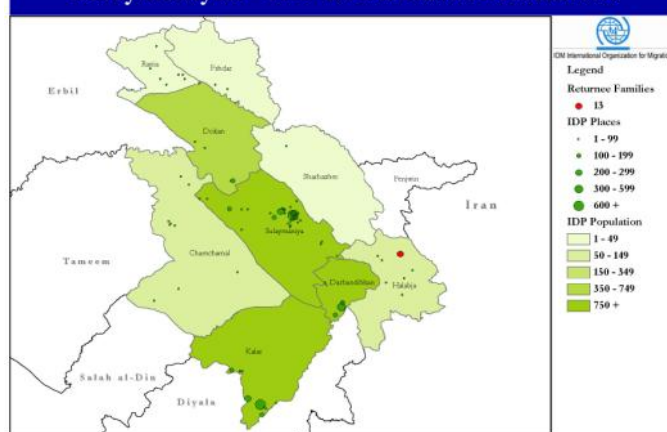
By contrast, displacement from Sulaymaniyah after 2006 is very low, and IOM monitors have identified only 12 families who left the governorate since 2003. Consequently, returnee numbers are also low, with 91 IOM-assessed returnee families displaced after 2006. Tensions between Arabs and Kurds, and the continued disputes between the central government in Baghdad and the Kurdish Regional Government, add further complexity to the potential flows of displacement and return specific to this governorate.

Number of IDPs in Sulaymaniyah by District

District	Families	%
<b>Total</b>	6472	100.0%
Chamchamal	123	1.9%
Darbandikhan	780	12.1%
Dokan	227	3.5%
Halabja	114	1.8%
Kalar	2810	43.4%
Pshdar	7	0.1%
Rania	44	0.7%
Sharbazher	127	2.0%
Sulaymaniyah	2240	34.6%

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

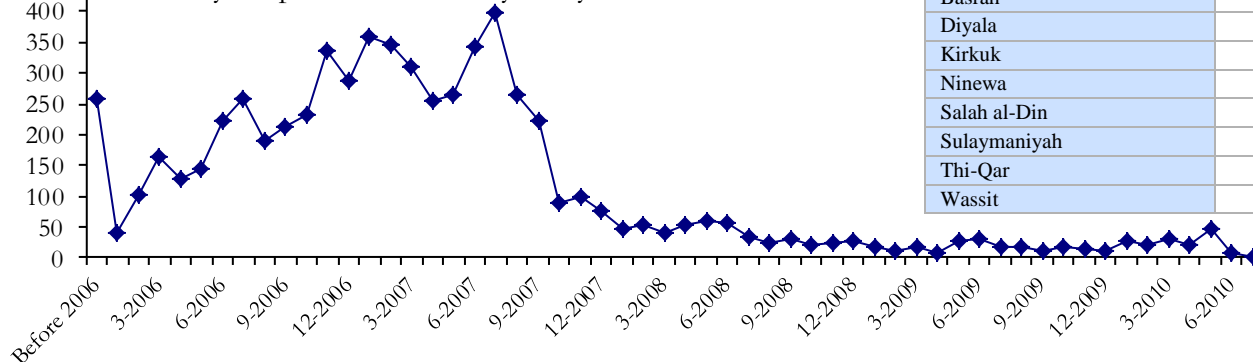
Sulaymaniyah - IDP and Returnee Locations



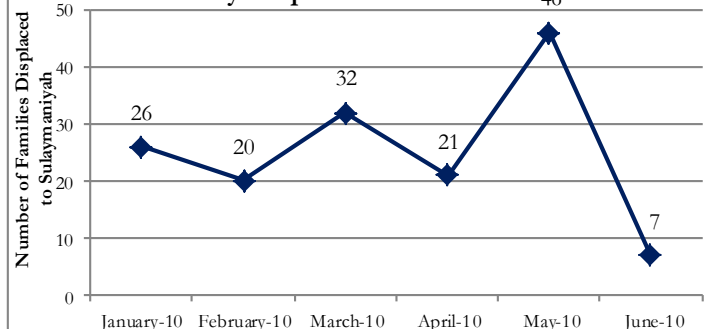
IDP Governorate of Origin

Within Sulaymaniyah	0.1%
Anbar	3.2%
Babylon	0.4%
Baghdad	41.4%
Basrah	0.8%
Diyala	48.1%
Kirkuk	0.4%
Ninewa	3.0%
Salah al-Din	1.5%
Sulaymaniyah	0.1%
Thi-Qar	0.3%
Wassit	0.5%

Monthly Displacement to Sulaymaniyah Since 2006



2010 Monthly Displacement in Focus



Reason for Displacement	Sulaymaniyah	All Iraq
No Answer	14.2%	27.3%
Direct threats to life	29.3%	27.5%
Forced displacement	1.2%	9.4%
Left out of fear	25.2%	13.2%
Armed conflict	0.6%	6.9%
Generalized violence	26.1%	10.9%
Other	3.4%	0.4%

## SULAYMANIYAH: IDP DEMOGRAPHICS

Sulaymaniyah has historically been a very ethnically and religiously diverse area of Iraq. IOM monitors have assessed 3,649 Sunni Arab IDP families, 1,701 Sunni Kurd, and 741 from an Arab-Shia background. However, the concentrations of these communities varies considerably by district, as the table below indicates.

IDPs by Age and Gender			
Age	Female	Male	Total
Under 1 year old	544	515	1059
1 to 4 years old	2136	2266	4402
5-17 years old	6416	7003	13419
18-60 years old	10455	10727	21182
Over 60 years old	584	579	1163

IOM teams in the KRG report that although frictions exist between Shi'ites and Sunnis, the main sources of tension between communities in the governorates revolve around Arab-Kurdish issues. Often IDPs can find that they are the target of group frustrations since new families arriving in an area can be seen as disturbing the ethnic or religious balance. Moreover, Arab families displaced to Sulaymaniyah may struggle with the Kurdish language, presenting an obstacle to education and employment. IOM monitors report interviewing families in Sulaymaniyah who choose the costly and difficult option of sending their children to neighbouring Diyala for their education.

IDP family members in Sulaymaniyah are also more likely to be of working age. Compared to other governorates in Iraq where the high numbers of children and elderly places a heavy financial burden on adults, in Sulaymaniyah the number of dependent family members is slightly lower.

Ethno-Religious Identity in Sulaymaniyah (by District)					
District	Arab-Shia Muslim	Arab-Sunni Muslim	Kurd-Shia Muslim	Kurd-Sunni Muslim	Other
Total	11.4%	56.4%	3.1%	26.3%	2.8%
Chamchamal	18.7%	55.3%	0.0%	22.0%	4.1%
Darbandikhan	11.5%	67.3%	3.7%	16.9%	0.5%
Dokan	4.0%	79.7%	0.9%	13.7%	1.8%
Halabja	2.6%	62.3%	9.6%	25.4%	0.0%
Kalar	9.8%	47.3%	3.7%	38.0%	1.2%
Pshdar	14.3%	71.4%	0.0%	0.0%	14.3%
Rania	15.9%	75.0%	0.0%	4.5%	4.5%
Sharbazher	2.4%	62.2%	1.6%	32.3%	1.6%
Sulaymaniyah	14.7%	60.7%	2.3%	16.5%	5.8%

## FUTURE TRENDS

Attempting to predict changes in the numbers of IDP families in Sulaymaniyah requires knowing the intentions of the displaced families currently located there. Overall, most IDPs in the governorate wish to return to their place of origin although this intention varies by district. For example, 993 of the families located in Kalar wish to stay and integrate, likely because many IDPs in Kalar state that they left their homes because of direct threats to their lives.

If IDP families were to realize these intentions then the two principle destinations of return would be Diyala and Baghdad. As mentioned above, just 12 IOM-assessed families were displaced from Sulaymaniyah, although 10 of these state that they would like to return to their homes within the governorate.

Sulaymaniyah IDP Settlement Intentions				
District	Integrate into the current location	Resettle in a third location	Return to their place of origin	Waiting to Decide
Total	28.3%	5.6%	65.9%	0.2%
Chamchamal	29.3%	0.0%	70.7%	0.0%
Darbandikhan	34.0%	3.5%	62.4%	0.1%
Dokan	20.6%	1.2%	78.2%	0.0%
Halabja	44.7%	0.0%	55.3%	0.0%
Kalar	35.4%	7.0%	57.1%	0.5%
Pshdar	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%
Rania	65.9%	0.0%	34.1%	0.0%
Sharbazher	42.5%	0.0%	57.5%	0.0%
Sulaymaniyah	16.9%	5.9%	77.1%	0.0%

However, even families who wish to return are waiting until they feel safe to do so. They need to be assured of secure environments and access to basic services in their places of origin, along with assistance to rebuild their homes and livelihoods.

Of those that intend to return, to which governorate would they return?	
Anbar	2.3%
Baghdad	41.3%
Diyala	48.9%
Ninewa	3.7%
Other	3.8%

## SULAYMANIYAH'S DISPLACED: LIVING CONDITIONS AND PRIORITY NEEDS

The needs of families displaced to Sulaymaniyah have changed significantly since 2003. In July 2004, IOM monitors reported that the chief concerns of IDPs in the governorate were shelter and municipal and health services. Today, as security has stabilised, families have become more concerned about problems with the public distribution system (PDS) and so 4 in every 5 state that food has become a priority need. As with other services across Iraq, such as health and education, access to PDS in Sulaymaniyah is quite low despite poverty levels being lower than other governorates. Monitors report that some families have become dependent on food assistance from non-governmental organizations in the area, a problem which became particularly acute during Ramadan this year when supplies from these organizations ran low. On a longer-term basis, this lack of self-sufficiency is exacerbated by the fact that agricultural production in the governorate continues to decline.<sup>2</sup>

Moreover, as families begin to think more about their long term stability and livelihoods, access to work has become a more significant need. When families in Sulaymaniyah state that they have 'other' needs, they often go on to explain to IOM monitors that they lack non-food items such as furniture, bedding and fuel which represent expensive but essential outlays for these families. The income of IDP families is also affected by the lack of job opportunities in the governorate, despite the availability of university graduates in the workforce. Currently 42% of displaced families state that access to work is one of their priority needs. Although concerning, this is far lower than the Iraq-wide trends where this is the most common priority need and is cited by over 70% of IDP families.



LIVING CONDITIONS

A sparse IDP Kitchen in the district centre of Toy Malek in July 2010.

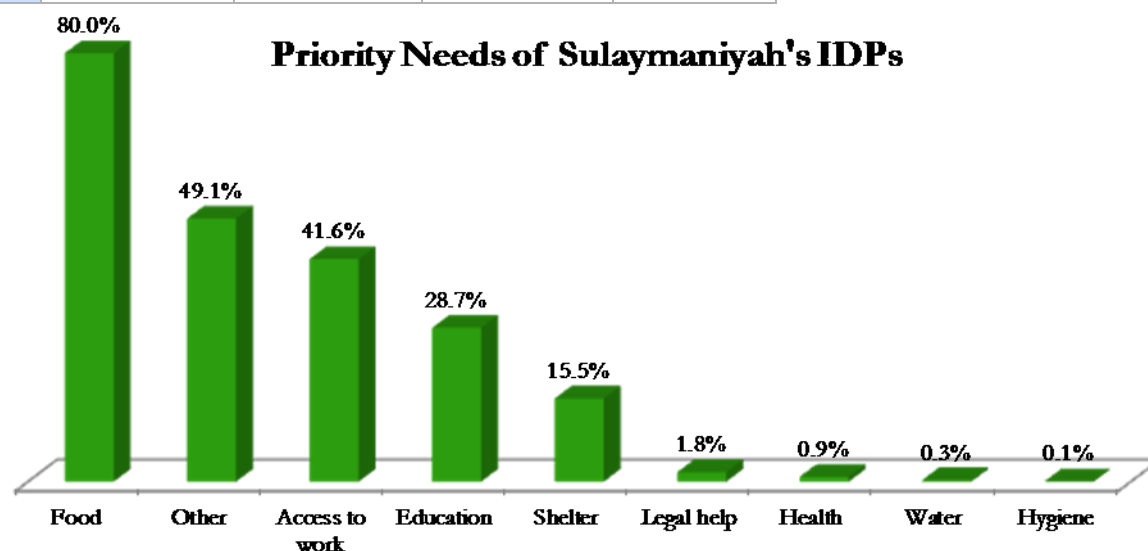


LIVING CONDITIONS

In the Arbat sub district, an IDP family live in a collapsed house in May 2010.

Shelter tends to be a lesser concern amongst the IDP families living in Sulaymaniyah, most of whom live in rented accommodation. Moreover, reports from IOM monitors in the governorate state that relations between these displaced families and the host community are generally good and security fears are exceptionally low for the country. Small numbers of IDPs stay with hosts, many on a short-term basis while they attempt to improve their livelihoods and gain some independence.

Living Structure (by district)				
District	Public Building	Host House	Rented House	Other
Total	0.05%	1.95%	93.65%	4.37%
Chamchamal	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Darbandikhan	0.00%	2.44%	94.74%	2.82%
Dokan	0.00%	2.64%	97.80%	0.00%
Halabja	0.00%	1.75%	98.25%	0.00%
Kalar	0.11%	1.71%	91.71%	6.48%
Pshdar	0.00%	0.00%	85.71%	14.29%
Rania	0.00%	0.00%	95.45%	4.55%
Sharbazher	0.00%	0.00%	99.21%	0.79%
Sulaymaniyah	0.00%	2.28%	94.38%	3.35%



<sup>2</sup> See Sulaymaniyah Provincial Development Strategy 2008-2012 at <http://www.iauiraq.org/reports/Sulaymaniyah%20PDS%202008-2012%20English.pdf>

## SULAYMANIYAH'S RETURNEES LIVING CONDITIONS AND PRIORITY NEEDS

Of the relatively small number of families that were displaced from Sulaymaniyah and returned there, IOM has assessed 91. All of these families were displaced to neighbouring Iran and more than 70% of them state that they chose to return because of very difficult conditions in their place of displacement. In most cases displaced during or prior to 1988, these families have been living abroad for as many as 35 years, as return began to gather pace after 2003. Two thirds of these families cite very difficult conditions in their place of displacement as their reason for coming home, while the remaining families say they were drawn home because of improved security in their area of origin.

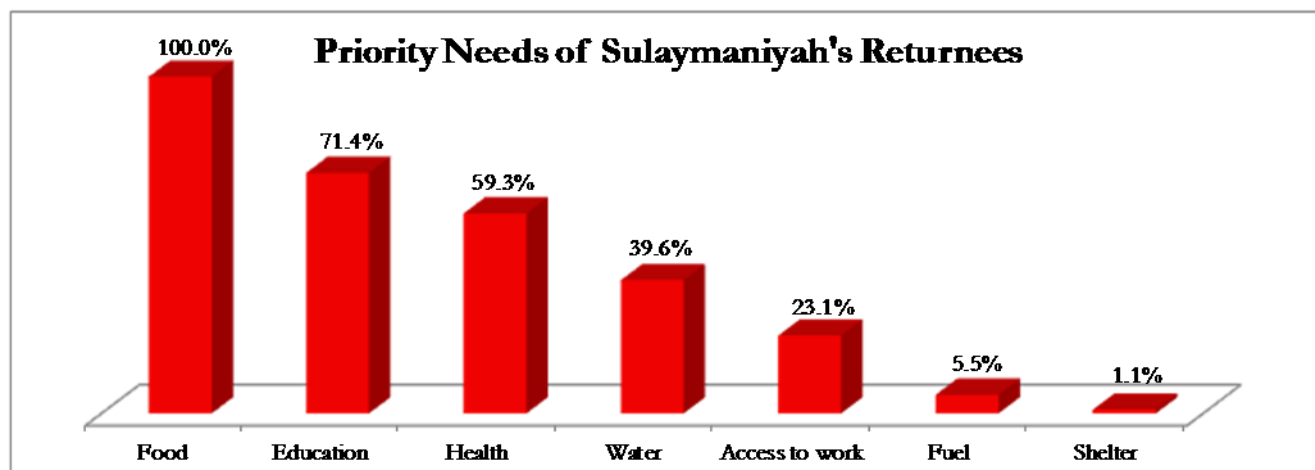
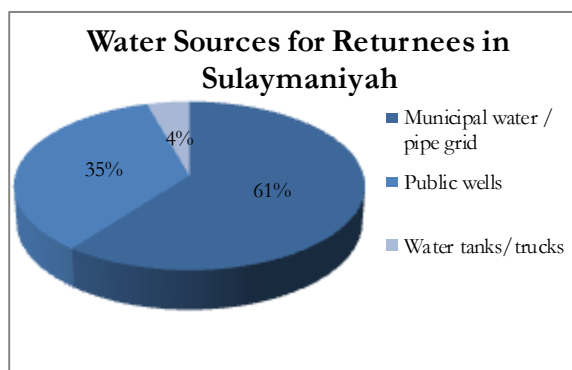
Despite these 'pull' factors, families returning to their homes or neighbourhoods in Sulaymaniyah are still without some of the basic items needed to rebuild their lives. Like IDPs, returnees cite food as a pressing need for their families although unlike IDPs, 100% of IOM-assessed returnees reported this as a need. The cause for this is suggested by the other priority needs of returnees in the area—namely education and health. Returnees in Sulaymaniyah face obstacles in their access to services from health to education to the public distribution system (PDS). This is partly due to difficulties in reregistering for these services upon return as well as a general lack of these facilities for returnees, IDPs and host communities alike.

Water is also a particular concern for returnees in the governorate since 39% state that they use either water tanks and trucks or public wells to provide for their families and, in some cases, their businesses. Lack of access to the municipal water system makes it difficult for these families on a short-term basis as well as planning longer-term improvements to their households and livelihoods as agriculture continues to decline as an activity in the governorate. Consequently, despite the fact that Sulaymaniyah displays higher levels of employment than in Iraq as a whole, lack of access to services such as education continue to act as obstacles to successful integration of IDPs and returnees with their host communities.

Assessed Returnee Employment	Sulaymaniyah	All Iraq
At least one member of the family has a job	70.6%	33.5%
No family member has a job	29.4%	66.5%

Assessed Returnee PDS Access	Sulaymaniyah	All Iraq
No Answer	15.1%	19.7%
Not at all	61.5%	15.3%
Sometimes	9.9%	32.2%
Yes, always	13.5%	32.8%

Assessed Returnee Electricity	Sulaymaniyah	All Iraq
No Electricity	3.4%	3.6%
1-3 hours per day	23.2%	25.3%
Four or more hours per day	58.3%	51.1%
No Answer	15.1%	19.9%



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

# Sulaymaniyah - IDP and Returnee Locations



IOM International Organization for Migration

## Legend

### Returnee Families

● 13

### IDP Places

- 1 - 99
- 100 - 199
- 200 - 299
- 300 - 599
- 600 +

### IDP Population

- 1 - 49
- 50 - 149
- 150 - 349
- 350 - 749
- 750 +

