

# THI QAR

GOVERNORATE PROFILE NOVEMBER 2010  
IOM IDP AND RETURNEE ASSESSMENT



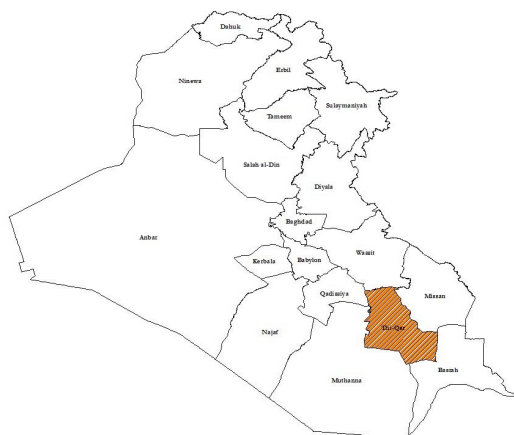
## THI QAR: DISPLACEMENT AT A GLANCE

Total post-Feb 2006 IDPs <sup>1</sup>	7,719 families (est. 46,314 individuals)
Total pre-Feb 2006 IDPs <sup>2</sup>	4,226 families (est. 25,356 individuals)
Number of post-Feb 2006 IDPs assessed by IOM <sup>3</sup>	9,738 families (est. 73,062 individuals)
Capital	Nassriya
Districts	Al-Chibayish, Al-Rifa'i, Al-Shatra, Nassriya, Suq Al-Shoyokh
Population <sup>4</sup>	1,616,226 individuals

IOM monitors have interviewed 9,738 IDP (internally displaced persons) families displaced post-February 2006 in Thi Qar governorate, most of whom are Arab Shia Muslim. A majority of these families left their homes as a result of sectarian violence in Baghdad, Salah al-Din, and Diyala governorates. Many of these families chose to migrate to Thi Qar due to the tribal and traditional connections they had with the governorate. Though there are a large number of IDP families currently located in Thi Qar, displacement to the governorate has been quite slow since 2007.

IOM-assessed IDP families in Thi Qar, like many families throughout Iraq, cite access to work, shelter, and health as their top three priority needs. Their needs are reflected in the fact that the governorate suffers from high unemployment which, in turn, affects their ability to pay for housing and access healthcare. Thi Qar IDP priority needs largely mirror Iraq-wide priority needs; however, healthcare is much more difficult to access in Thi Qar due to the distance of health care facilities from IDP homes and settlements.

### Quick Facts on Thi Qar IDPs & Returnees



- 22% of IOM-assessed IDP families in Thi Qar live in informal group settlements, compared to 12% Iraq-wide.
- Over 99% of IDP families living in Thi Qar are Arab Shia Muslim.
- IOM-assessed IDPs in Thi Qar cite priority needs as access to work, housing, and health.

<sup>1</sup> As per the Iraq Ministry of Displacement and Migration.

<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 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.<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 Thi Qar



#### Rehabilitation of Ishtar School

The Ishtar school provides primary and secondary education in Thi Qar. IOM helped rehabilitate the school's roof, walls, classrooms, and water and sanitation systems. For more information on IOM's past activities in Thi Qar, see:

[www.iomiraq.net](http://www.iomiraq.net)

## THI QAR DISPLACEMENT BACKGROUND

IOM monitors have assessed 9,738 families in Thi Qar, most of whom were displaced during the height of post-2006 sectarian violence in Iraq. Since the last IOM report, the number of IDP families assessed by IOM in Thi Qar has decreased from 12,177 to 9,738. This is due to monitors revising the number of assessed IDP families in the governorate as families return to their original locations or are displaced again.

Many of the pre-2006 IDP families in Thi Qar were displaced as a result of crime and sectarian violence following the 2003 conflict. There are also families who have returned to Thi Qar since being displaced in the 1990s, as families were also affected by the drainage of marshlands in southern Iraq by the previous regime in the late 1980s. There were also large influxes of families to the governorate in March (1,146 families) and June (2,300 families) of 2006. Displacement to the governorate has since decreased at a steady rate, since much of the original displacement to the governorate was from Baghdad governorate (53%), during the height of sectarian violence.

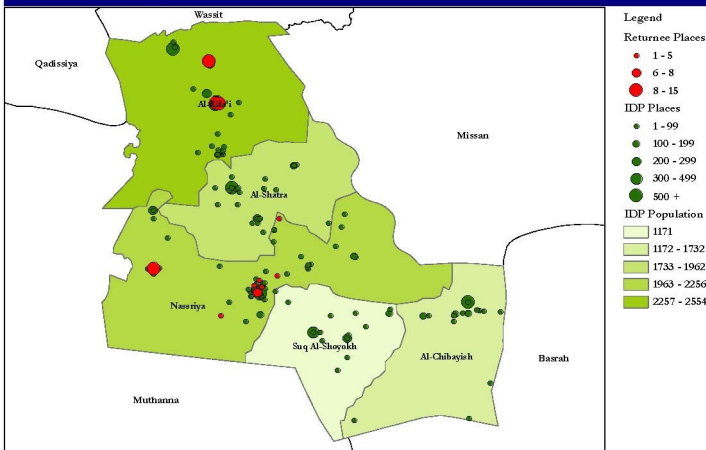
As noted above, most IOM-assessed IDP families in Thi Qar are from Baghdad, the point of origin for most IDPs in Iraq, with smaller populations from Salah al-Din (16%), Diyala (11%), and Kirkuk (7%). Among those assessed, there are no IDP families displaced from elsewhere within the governorate. 46% of IOM-assessed Thi Qar IDPs note that they fled because of direct threats to their lives compared to 27% Iraq-wide, while 11% left due to generalized violence. In addition, almost 35% gave no reason for displacement, sometimes out of fear of reporting past political affiliations or military involvement.

Number of IDPs in Thi Qar by District		
District	Families	%
Total	9,738	100%
Al-Rifa'i	2,504	25.7%
Nassriya	2,347	24.1%
Al-Shatra	1,903	19.5%
Al-Chibayish	1,820	18.7%
Suq Al-Shoyokh	1,164	12.0%

IDP Governorate of Origin	
Anbar	4.5%
Babylon	5.6%
Baghdad	53.4%
Dahuk	0.2%
Diyala	10.6%
Muthanna	0.1%
Ninewa	0.9%
Salah al-Din	15.9%
Kirkuk	7.4%
Wassit	1.4%

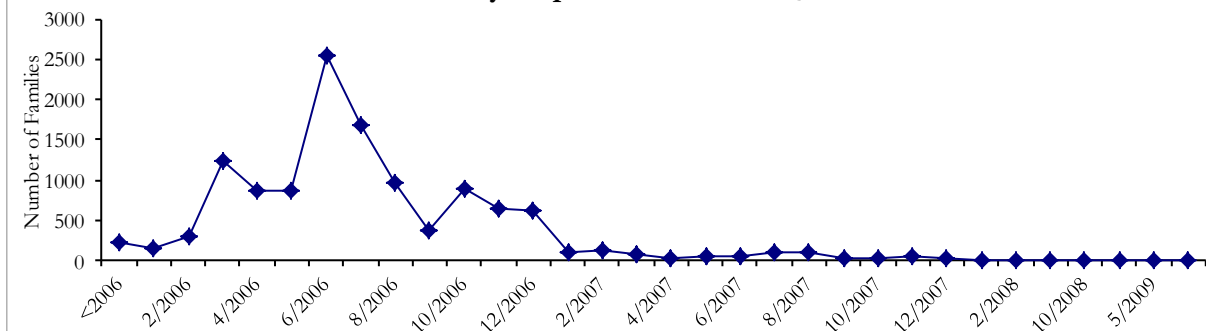
IDP & Returnee Locations in Thi Qar. See final page for detail.

### Thi Qar - IDP and Returnee Locations



Reason for Displacement	Thi Qar	All Iraq
No Answer	36.0%	27.3%
Direct threats to life	46.0%	27.5%
Forced displacement	3.8%	9.4%
Left out of fear	1.1%	13.2%
Armed conflict	2.1%	6.9%
Drought	0.0%	2.3%
Generalized violence	10.9%	10.9%
Other	0.0%	0.4%

### Monthly Displacement to Thi-Qar Since 2006



## THI QAR: IDP DEMOGRAPHICS

Over 99% of IOM-assessed IDP families in Thi Qar are Arab Shia Muslim. Many of these families came Thi Qar because of familial and tribal connections they have with the governorate.

A sizeable proportion of families in the Thi Qar governorate are headed by women. In a conservative governorate such as Thi Qar, a large number of female heads of household makes families all the more vulnerable as they are often unable represent themselves in legal situations and, in rural areas, are unable to find work as a result of their gender. In addition, there are areas of Thi Qar governorate such as Al-Chibayish where an estimated 41-65% of females over the age of 10 are illiterate<sup>5</sup>, largely mirroring the situation among displaced women as well. This figure is quite large, given that the average rate of illiteracy among women in Iraq stands at 24%.<sup>6</sup> Nonetheless, IOM monitors note that some women in Al-Chibayish have been able to find work in agriculture and dairy farming.

Almost 58% of IOM-assessed IDPs in Thi Qar governorate are under the age of 18. Like other governorates, this will likely pose a heavy burden with regard to the provision of services such as health and education. For example, IOM monitors note that in Al-Chibayish, many of the children living near the marshlands are fishing to supplement their families' incomes instead of attending school.

## RETURN POTENTIAL

Security, as well as the availability of work, housing, and basic services in their places of origin will largely determine whether displaced families will choose to return home.

Of the 9,738 families assessed by IOM in Thi Qar, 64% say they would like to integrate into their current location, while 26% say they would like to return to their places of origin. An overwhelming majority of families located in the Al-Chibayish district (81%) would prefer to integrate into their community in Thi Qar rather than go home. A majority of these families were displaced from Baghdad, where sectarian violence is still prevalent.

Many families who wish to integrate have tribal and religious connections to the area and feel comfortable enough to stay permanently. However, their successful integration will largely depend on the security situation and their ability to find employment.

District	Thi Qar IDP Intentions				
	Unknown	Locally integrate in the current location	Resettle in a third location	Return to their place of origin	Waiting on one or several factors to make a decision
Al-Chibayish	0.0%	81.3%	0.8%	16.5%	1.4%
Al-Rifa'i	0.0%	66.5%	1.0%	32.5%	0.0%
Al-Shatra	0.0%	69.3%	5.6%	25.1%	0.0%
Nassriya	0.0%	45.4%	26.6%	27.0%	0.9%
Suq Al-Shoyokh	0.0%	62.0%	10.1%	27.8%	0.1%
Total	0.0%	64.2%	9.1%	26.2%	0.5%

5. World Food Programme (WFP) Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM) Household Survey, 2007.

6. WFP VAM Household Survey, 2007.

IDPs by Age and Gender			
Age	Female	Male	Total
Under 1 year old	1,072	1,010	2,082
1 to 4 years old	2,841	3,144	5,985
5-17 years old	6,779	7,104	13,883
18-60 years old	7,562	7,476	15,038
Over 60 years old	392	541	933



FEMALE HEADED HOUSEHOLDS

Female headed households are among the most vulnerable populations among IDP families.

IDPs Originally from Thi Qar are located in:		
Governorate	# Families	Percentage
Total	153	100%
Anbar	49	32.0%
Baghdad	3	2.0%
Ninewa	7	4.6%
Salah al-Din	63	41.2%
Sulaymaniyah	20	13.1%
Kirkuk	11	7.2%

## THI QAR'S DISPLACED: LIVING CONDITIONS AND PRIORITY NEEDS

IOM-assessed IDPs in Thi Qar cite access to work (95%), shelter (57%), and health (44%) as their top three priority needs. As mentioned previously, a small number of IOM-assessed IDPs in Thi Qar have been able to find employment in agriculture and dairy farming, though there is still an urgent need for more employment opportunities. IOM monitors note The lack of such opportunities is a major factor in determining whether IDPs displaced from Thi Qar will end up returning to their governorate in the future.

IOM assessments reveal that 22% of IDP families in Thi Qar live in collective settlements, while 45% live in rented houses. Families living in group settlements often reside in homes made of mud and sticks built on private or government land, leaving them prone to eviction and vulnerable to the hot summers and cold winters in the governorate. IDP families living in rented homes end up using much of their savings to pay for rent if they are unable to find employment.

IOM monitors note that the closest health facilities in Al-Chibayish are at least 20 km away from the homes of IDP families, making it all the more difficult to access timely health care. Local pharmacists have also reported that even if families are able to reach such facilities, the cost of care is often too expensive for the average family to receive treatment. Though health care is subsidized by the government, at least 22% of medical expenditures are paid out of pocket.<sup>8</sup> Health is also a top priority need Iraq-wide.

IOM monitors note that in areas like Al-Rifa'i there is a lack of infrastructure for sewage, and much of the water is stagnant. Drinking water is available to families who can afford to buy it from delivery trucks, and there is no electricity or school nearby. IOM-assessed IDP families in the Hay Al-Mu'alimeen neighbourhood of Suq Al-Shoyokh district rely on delivery trucks for their drinking water. Living conditions and access to priority needs will have a significant bearing on whether families are forced into further displacement.



**WATER SCARCITY**

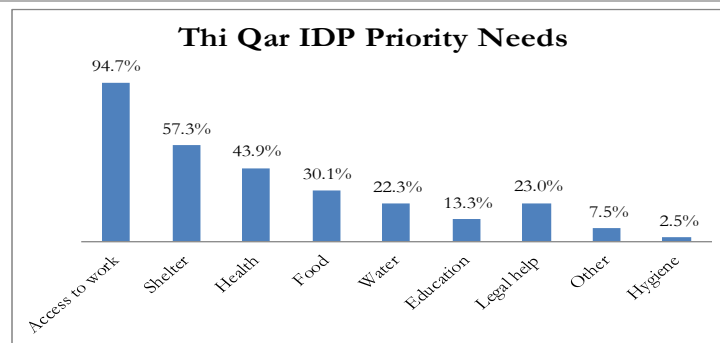
Al-Chibayish village is affected by severe drought. Water scarcity often contributes to difficult living conditions during displacement.



**WATER AND SANITATION**

Lack of sanitation facilities, as shown by the above pictured pool of sewage in Al Rifa'i, often leads to the spread of disease among communities.

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	0.2%	22.0%	0.1%	0.1%	1.6%	8.6%	44.7%	22.8%
Al-Chibayish	0.0%	26.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%	2.7%	24.6%	46.0%
Al-Rifa'i	0.0%	23.4%	0.4%	0.0%	1.8%	10.8%	42.9%	20.7%
Al-Shatra	0.0%	17.5%	0.0%	0.5%	2.3%	6.4%	61.7%	11.6%
Nassriya	0.6%	24.2%	0.0%	0.0%	2.5%	9.3%	47.3%	16.2%
Suq Al-Shoyokh	0.0%	14.5%	0.3%	0.0%	0.7%	15.2%	46.8%	22.4%



8. World Health Organisation (WHO) Statistics in 2007, see <http://www.emro.who.int/emrinfo/index.asp?Ctry=irq>

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).

# Thi Qar - IDP and Returnee Locations

