

BASRAH

GOVERNORATE PROFILE FEBRUARY 2010
IOM IDP AND RETURNEE ASSESSMENT



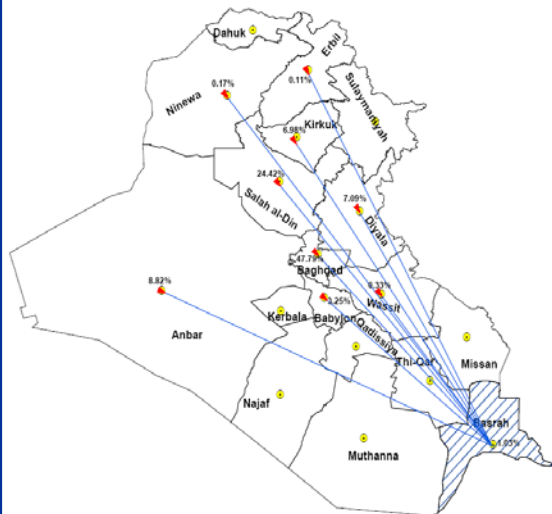
BASRAH: DISPLACEMENT AT A GLANCE

Total post-Feb 2006 IDPs ¹	6,968 families (est. 41,808 individuals)
Total pre-Feb 2006 IDPs ²	15,778 families (est. 94,668 individuals)
Number of post-Feb 2006 IDPs assessed by IOM ³	3,510 families (est. 21,060 individuals)
Returnees ⁴	500 families (est. 3,000 individuals)
Capital	Basrah
Districts	Abu Al-Khaseeb, Al-Midaina, Al-Qurna, Al-Zubair, Basrah, Fao, Shatt Al-Arab
Population ⁵	1,912,533 individuals

Most internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Basrah are Shia Arabs who fled sectarian violence in Baghdad and Salah al-Din in 2006 and early 2007. Very few of these IDPs intend to return to their places of origin, with most preferring to integrate into their current communities in Basrah and a growing number intending to resettle in a third location. Basrah also may potentially receive a large number of families returning from displacement elsewhere in Iraq, so there is an acute need for permanent housing and employment opportunities to accommodate both those wishing to stay and those who will return.

Though improvements to security and increased job opportunities are encouraging return to Basrah, IDP families in the governorate are still severely in need of food, shelter and employment. Large percentages of IDPs live in rented housing, adding another cost on families already struggling to pay for daily needs on small or non-existent income.

Quick Facts on Basrah IDPs & Returnees



- 95% of IDPs in Basrah are unemployed, and 55% are under the age of 18.
- Shelter, access to work, and food are the highest priority needs cited by Basrah IDPs.
- Most IDPs in Basrah intend to stay and integrate, while Basrah may also receive large numbers of returnees from the rest of Iraq, particularly Salah al-Din and Ninewa.

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 Assessments.

⁵ As per the 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 224,365 IDP families and identified 61,319 returnee families. Of these returnee families, 4,668 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 Basrah

Water Trucking in Drought affected areas in Basrah



IOM provided potable drinking water through water trucking to IDP and host community families suffering from drought in al-Fao district. IOM also provided 325 water storage tanks for communities who didn't already have water storage capacity.

For more information on IOM's past activities in Basrah, see *Activities in Basrah* at:

www.iomiraq.net

BASRAH DISPLACEMENT BACKGROUND

According to the Iraqi Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MoDM) registration database, Basrah governorate is home to 6,968 IDP families. IOM monitors count a total of 3,510 assessed families in Basrah, 1,000 families less than the previous reporting period. This decrease is due to monitors revising the number of assessed families in the governorate as families return to their original location or move to another place of displacement.

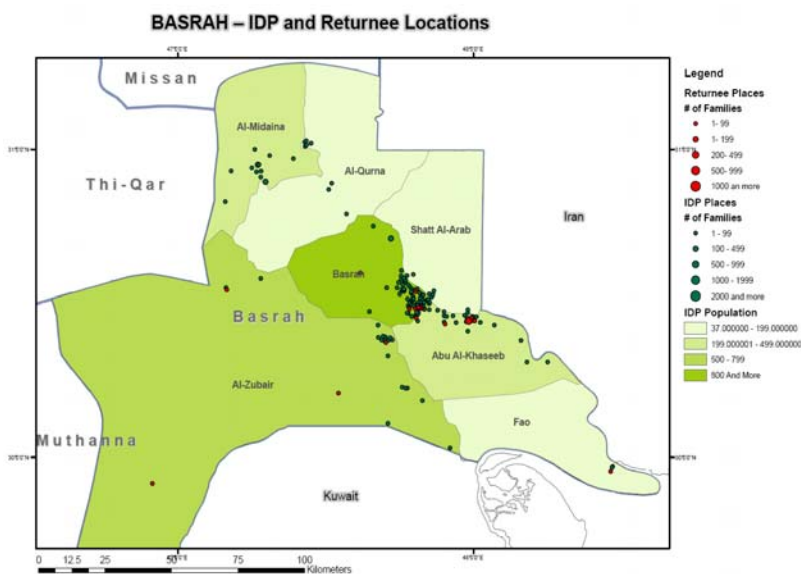
Nearly all IDPs in Basrah are Shia Arabs who fled sectarian violence between March 2006 and March 2007. Almost half of these IDPs came from Baghdad governorate, and a quarter came from Salah al-Din. These IDPs have largely settled in Basrah sub-district, though a significant number live in al-Zubair, Abu al-Khaseeb and al-Qurna sub-districts.

Basrah has been receiving IDPs since the Iran-Iraq war in the 1980s. A second wave arrived in the 1990s, this time consisting of Marsh Arabs displaced by the former regime's draining of the marshes in southern Iraq. These two groups make up the majority of pre-2006 IDPs in Basrah, and they live primarily in al-Qurna and al-Midaina. IDPs displaced after the start of hostilities in 2003 fled mainly to Basrah City.

Number of IDPs in Basrah by District		
District	Families	%
Total Basrah	3510	100%
Abu Al-Khaseeb	333	9.5%
Al-Midaina	321	9.1%
Al-Qurna	148	4.2%
Al-Zubair	609	17.4%
Basrah	1972	56.2%
Fao	4	0.1%
Shatt Al-Arab	123	3.5%

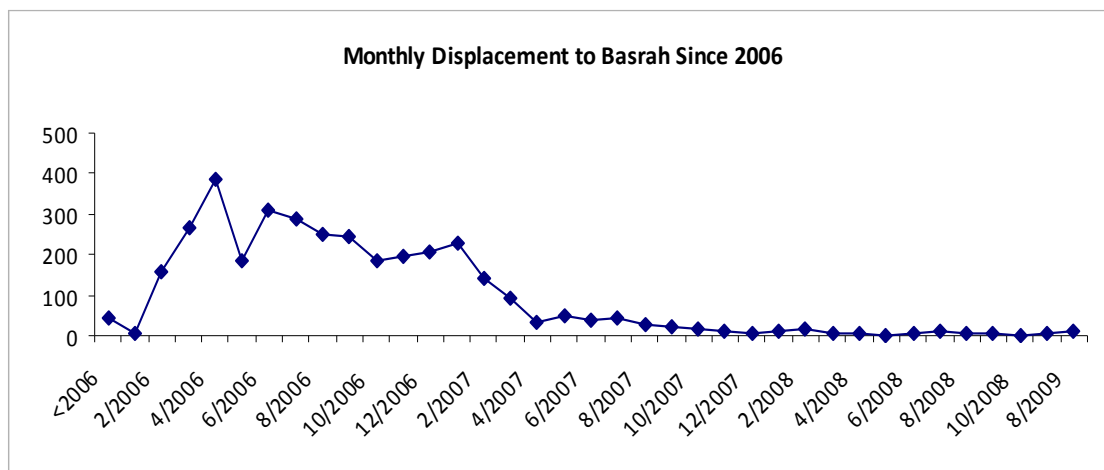
IDP Governorate of Origin	
Within Basrah	1.1%
Anbar	8.8%
Babylon	3.3%
Baghdad	47.9%
Diyala	6.2%
Salah al-Din	25.0%
Kirkuk	7.1%

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



Reason for Being Targeted	Basrah	All Iraq
Belonging to a certain ethnic group	0%	4.9%
Belonging to a certain religion or sect	98%	61.0%
Belonging to a certain social group	1%	1.0%
Holding a certain political opinion	0%	3.8%
Do not think the group was targeted	1%	10.3%

Reason for Displacement	Basrah	All Iraq
Armed conflict	0.5%	4.9%
Direct threats of life	56.9%	23.5%
Drought	0.3%	1.0%
Forced displacement	0.4%	13.7%
Generalized violence	0.6%	12.4%
Left out of fear	1.2%	11.1%
No Answer	40.0%	32.0%



BASRAH: IDP DEMOGRAPHICS

Most IDP families arrived in Basrah fleeing sectarian violence, and more than half of the families reported receiving direct threats on their lives. Due to the violent nature of their displacement, a significant number of IDP families in Basrah are headed by women, particularly in al-Qurna, Abu al-Khaseeb and Basrah districts. Female-headed households (FHHs) are some of the most vulnerable groups in Iraq and the most in need of assistance. FHHs have even higher rates of unemployment than the already high national average, and often encounter difficulties in finding employment, health services, legal aid and protection. Many of these female heads of household are also victims of physical and emotional violence, but the high rate of mental health problems overburden the limited existing psychosocial services and support programs.

In addition to large numbers of FHHs, approximately 55% of IDPs in Basrah are under the age of 18. These young IDPs are at greater risk of exploitation than adults, and many turn to informal employment in order to supplement the incomes of their families rather than continue their education. For those who do attend school, they must struggle with other host community children to pursue their education in overburdened schools badly in need of structural repairs, supplies and staff.

An estimated 2,955 IDPs originally from Basrah are spread throughout Iraq. A majority of these IDPs fled to Salah al-Din governorate, with smaller but sizeable groups displaced to Ninewa and Anbar. These IDPs were largely Sunni Arab residents of Basrah prior to 2006 who fled to areas in central and northern Iraq with larger Sunni communities, however a significant number of Basrah IDPs in Ninewa are also Chaldean and Assyrian Christians.

Ethno-Religious Identity in Basrah (by District)		
District	Arab-Shia Muslim	Other
Total	99.8%	0.2%
Abu Al-Khaseeb	100.0%	0.0%
Al-Midaina	100.0%	0.0%
Al-Qurna	100.0%	0.0%
Al-Zubair	100.0%	0.0%
Basrah	99.6%	0.4%
Fao	100.0%	0.0%
Shatt Al-Arab	100.0%	0.0%

IDPs by Age and Gender			
Age	Female	Male	Total
Under 1 year old	478	412	890
1 to 4 years old	1446	1438	2884
5-17 years old	3362	3610	6972
18-60 years old	4259	4025	8284
Over 60 years old	255	272	527

IDPs Originally from Basrah are located in:		
Governorate	# Families	Percentage
Anbar	300	10.2%
Babylon	3	0.1%
Baghdad	16	0.5%
Basrah	37	1.3%
Dahuk	19	0.6%
Diyala	5	0.2%
Erbil	9	0.3%
Missan	14	0.5%
Ninewa	668	22.6%
Salah al-Din	1802	61.0%
Sulaymaniyah	37	1.3%
Kirkuk	44	1.5%
Thi-Qar	1	0.0%
Total Assessed	2955	100%

Female-Headed Households (by district)	
District	Percentage
Total	5.6%
Abu Al-Khaseeb	6.6%
Al-Midaina	2.5%
Al-Qurna	8.1%
Al-Zubair	5.4%
Basrah	6.0%
Fao	0.0%
Shatt Al-Arab	4.1%



IDP family shelter in Hay al-Kafa'at

BASRAH'S DISPLACED: LIVING CONDITIONS AND PRIORITY NEEDS

Very few IDPs in Basrah are employed, and those who are are largely employed on a day-by-day basis in the construction sector. This leaves the vast majority of IDP families without a steady source of income. Many are hopeful that work opportunities will expand with oil companies and at the port of Basrah; however, official employment for IDPs requires documents from the place of origin which are difficult for some to obtain.

The availability of municipal services in Basrah has improved since the last reporting period, however the lack of income for most IDP families still leaves many of these basic services practically unattainable. Many IDPs are unable to transfer their PDS rations, since doing so would require returning to their places of origin. As a result, many families are forced to buy food in local markets at expensive prices. Drinking water is also difficult to obtain. The high salinity of the rivers affects the municipal water supply, and many families must purchase purified drinking water or risk water borne-disease.

Nearly half of IDPs in Basrah live in rented houses, adding to the monthly costs that must be paid with inadequate and unreliable income. Large numbers of IDPs also live with a host family, reflecting pre-existing kinship networks in the governorate. However, the number of IDPs living in these types of housing has dropped since the last reporting period, while significant increases have occurred in the number of IDP families living in collective town settlements and "other" living structures, largely made up of poorly constructed mud houses.

The living conditions in these types of structures are particularly bad. Monitors assessed 38 families from Diyala living in a collective settlement called al-Hussein al-Thaniyah in Basrah district. These families live amidst large pools of stagnant water and sewage and are in dire need of food and household items.

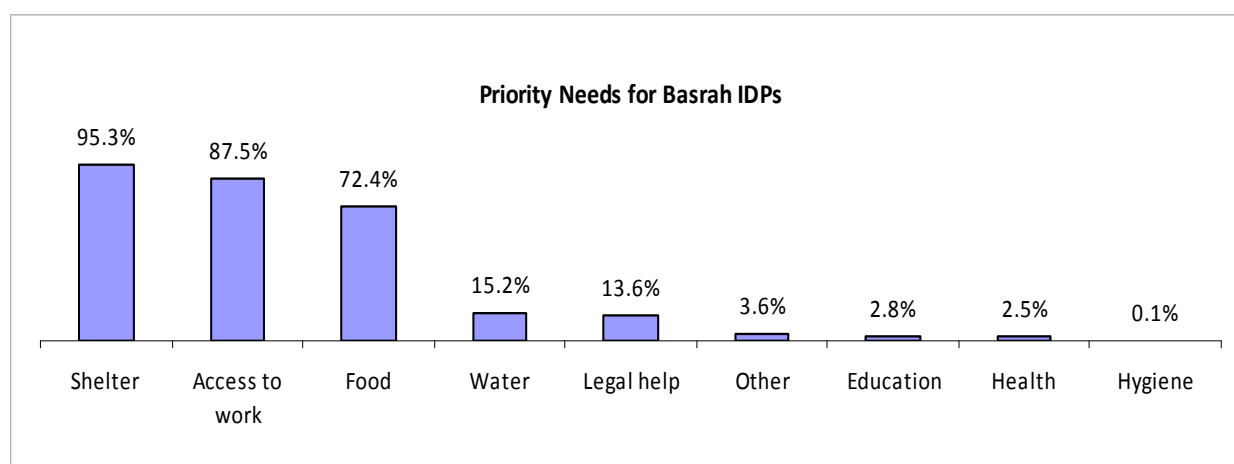
Employment	Basrah	All Iraq
At least one member of the family has a job	5.5%	33.5%
No family member has a job	94.5%	66.5%

PDS Access	Basrah	All Iraq
No Answer	39.1%	19.7%
Not at all	35.4%	15.3%
Sometimes	4.6%	32.2%
Yes, always	20.9%	32.8%

Electricity	Basrah	All Iraq
No Electricity	1.6%	3.6%
1-3 hours per day	18.3%	25.3%
Four or more hours per day	41%	51.1%
No Answer	39.1%	19.9%

Water Source	Basrah	All Iraq
Municipal water (underground pipes)	97%	87.7%
Water tanks / trucks	11%	25.8%
Rivers, streams or lakes	5%	12.6%
Open / broken pipe	1%	12.4%
Other Sources	1%	5.3%

Living Structure (by district)						
District	Tent in Camp	Collective Town Settlement	Public Building	Host House	Rented house	Other
Total	0.2%	8.1%	7.8%	14.3%	46.4%	23.2%
Abu Al-Khaseeb	0.0%	0.0%	4.8%	18.0%	64.3%	12.9%
Al-Midaina	0.0%	15.3%	3.7%	30.5%	31.5%	19.0%
Al-Qurna	0.0%	8.8%	4.1%	25.0%	53.4%	8.8%
Al-Zubair	1.1%	2.0%	12.2%	10.5%	43.2%	31.0%
Basrah	0.0%	9.9%	8.1%	11.5%	47.3%	23.2%
Fao	0.0%	25.0%	0.0%	0.0%	75.0%	0.0%
Shatt Al-Arab	0.0%	12.2%	4.9%	12.2%	30.9%	40.7%



BASRAH'S RETURNEES

IOM monitors have currently identified 500 returnee families in Basrah, mostly in Abu al-Khaseeb district. These families are returning from post-2006 displacement, however a much larger number of families displaced prior to 2006 are returning to Basrah from both inside Iraq and abroad. Continued return depends upon a stable security environment, increased employment opportunities and the availability of affordable housing.

Returnees cite very difficult conditions in displacement and improved security in Basrah as driving factors for their return. They are also encouraged by growing job opportunities, the increased availability of necessary supplies, and the opportunity for their children to enrol in local schools. The government is also providing grants of 1 million Iraqi Dinars (approx. \$860) per family to encourage return; however, very few families cite these grants as their primary reason for return.

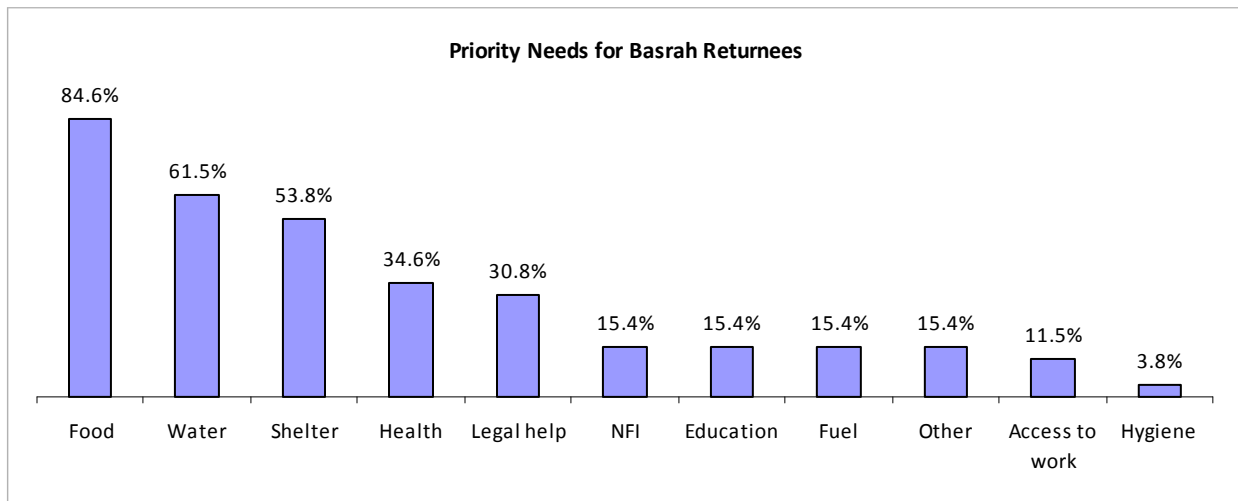
Returnees to Basrah cite food, water and shelter as their largest primary needs, mirroring IDP priority needs to a great degree. Returnees differ from IDPs, however, in the relative low priority given to “access to work..” This may be because returnees are generally more economically stable than IDPs. They generally have greater access to the available jobs in the area, and some families return and resume cultivation of agricultural land.

Returnee Numbers in Basrah by District		
District	Number of Families	Percentage
Basrah Total	500	100%
Abu Al-Khaseeb	308	61.6%
Al-Zubair	75	15.0%
Basrah	103	20.6%
Fao	10	2.0%



IDP children from Baquba carrying water

Returnee Reason for Return			
District	Very difficult conditions in displacement	Improved security in origin area & Very difficult conditions in displacement	Improved security in origin area & Very difficult conditions in displacement & Benefits from returnee payments
Total	15.4%	81.4%	3.2%
Abu Al-Khaseeb	86.0%	0.0%	14.0%
Al-Zubair	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%
Basrah	0.8%	98.2%	1.0%



RETURN POTENTIAL

A large majority (76%) of IDPs displaced in Basrah told IOM monitors that they intend to stay and integrate into their current locations of displacement. This is consistent with previous reports, however the current reporting period shows a decrease in the total number of IDPs who intend to locally integrate and a significant increase in the number of IDPs who intend to resettle to a third location.

A very small number of IDPs in Basrah intend to return to their places of origin. This is due to the fact that most IDPs in Basrah are Shia and do not wish to return home for fear of persecution and violence. Many also came to Basrah because of pre-existing family and tribal networks. Over 76% of Basrah IDPs intend to stay and integrate into their current locations, nearly twice the national average of 39%.

Nearly 3,000 IDP families displaced from Basrah have fled to other governorates in Iraq. Though almost all identify as Sunni Arab, their future intentions vary considerably from location to location. The majority of Basrah's displaced went to Salah al-Din. 33% of those IDP families intend to return to Basrah, while 30% want to resettle to a third location and 25% intend to integrate into their places of displacement in Salah al-Din. By contrast, Basrah IDPs displaced to Anbar mostly do not intend to return to Basrah. Instead, 42% wish to resettle to a third location, and 40% intend to integrate into their current locations in Anbar.

Despite these regional differences, large numbers of IDPs throughout Iraq do intend to return to Basrah. These potential returnees, along with Basrah IDPs who intend to stay and integrate in Basrah, need livelihood and shelter assistance in order to ensure successful (re)integration.

What are the intentions of those displaced FROM Basrah?

Displaced in	Integrate into the current location	Resettle in a third location	Return to their place of origin	Waiting to Decide
All IDPs from Basrah	22.0%	31.2%	38.0%	8.7%
Anbar	39.3%	41.7%	15.0%	4.0%
Babylon	33.3%	0.0%	66.7%	0.0%
Baghdad	62.5%	25.0%	12.5%	0.0%
Basrah	45.9%	54.1%	0.0%	0.0%
Dahuk	57.9%	42.1%	0.0%	0.0%
Diyala	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%
Erbil	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%
Missan	0.0%	7.1%	92.9%	0.0%
Ninewa	2.4%	32.3%	65.3%	0.0%
Salah al-Din	25.2%	30.2%	32.9%	11.6%
Sulaymaniyah	48.6%	10.8%	40.5%	0.0%
Kirkuk	11.4%	0.0%	6.8%	81.8%
Thi-Qar	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%

Basrah IDP Settlement Intentions

District	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
Total	76.4%	18.3%	4.8%	0.4%
Abu Al-Khaseeb	81.1%	16.5%	0.6%	1.8%
Al-Midaina	66.4%	31.5%	0.6%	1.6%
Al-Qurna	83.1%	14.2%	2.7%	0%
Al-Zubair	80.5%	10.8%	8.7%	0%
Basrah	75.4%	18.8%	5.4%	0.2%
Fao	100%	0%	0%	0%
Shatt Al-Arab	76.4%	23.6%	0%	0%

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

Anbar	4.2%
Babylon	3.0%
Baghdad	73.8%
Diyala	3.0%
Erbil	0.6%
Salah al-Din	8.3%
Kirkuk	7.1%

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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 extensions 1067 and 1022).

BASRAH – IDP and Returnee Locations

