

# DAHUK

GOVERNORATE PROFILE FEBRUARY 2010  
IOM IDP AND RETURNEE ASSESSMENT



## DAHUK: DISPLACEMENT AT A GLANCE

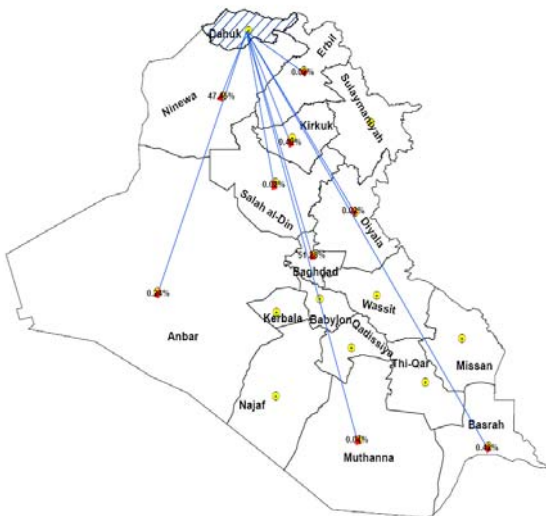
Total post-Feb 2006 IDPs <sup>1</sup>	18,406 families (est. 104,824 individuals)
Total pre-Feb 2006 IDPs <sup>2</sup>	22,474 families (est. 134,844 individuals)
Number of post-Feb 2006 IDPs assessed by IOM <sup>3</sup>	4,491 families (est. 26,946 individuals)
Returnees <sup>4</sup>	6 families (est. 36 individuals)
Capital	Dahuk
Districts	Amedi, Dahuk, Sumel, Zakho
Population <sup>5</sup>	505,491

The northern governorates of Erbil, Dahuk, and Sulaymaniyah, which make up the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG), have been relatively calm and stable in comparison to the rest of the country since 2003. As a result, many families fled to the KRG seeking safety from post-2006 sectarian violence.

Like Erbil, almost all IDP families in Dahuk originate from Baghdad and Ninewa governorates. Both urban and rurally located, IDPs in Dahuk are primarily concerned with finding sources of income to support themselves and their families. They struggle to afford rent, as the cost of living is higher in the KRG governorates than other locations in Iraq. In addition, many IDP breadwinners and recently-graduated students do not speak Kurdish well, making it more difficult to find employment in Dahuk.

Almost half of IDP families in Dahuk wish to remain there permanently.

### Quick Facts on Dahuk IDPs & Returnees



- IOM-assessed IDP families in Dahuk list employment opportunities and shelter as their priority needs.
- IOM-assessed IDPs in Dahuk are 52% Christian and 41% Kurd Sunni Muslim.
- IOM-assessed IDP intentions: 48% stay and integrate permanently, 34% move to another location, 17% return to place of origin.

<sup>1</sup> As per the Ministry of Displacement and Migration and Kurdistan Regional Government.  
<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 Returnee Assessments.  
<sup>5</sup> 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.<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 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 Dahuk Support for sheep and goat farming for IDPs in Dashtamir Camp



IOM provided sheep and goats to 45 IDP families based in Dashtamir Camp in Zakho district. IOM purchased and distributed 149 livestock, as well as provided fodder and veterinary care for 6 months. This distribution gave these IDP families a sustainable source of income and reduced their reliance on the host community and local NGOs.

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

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

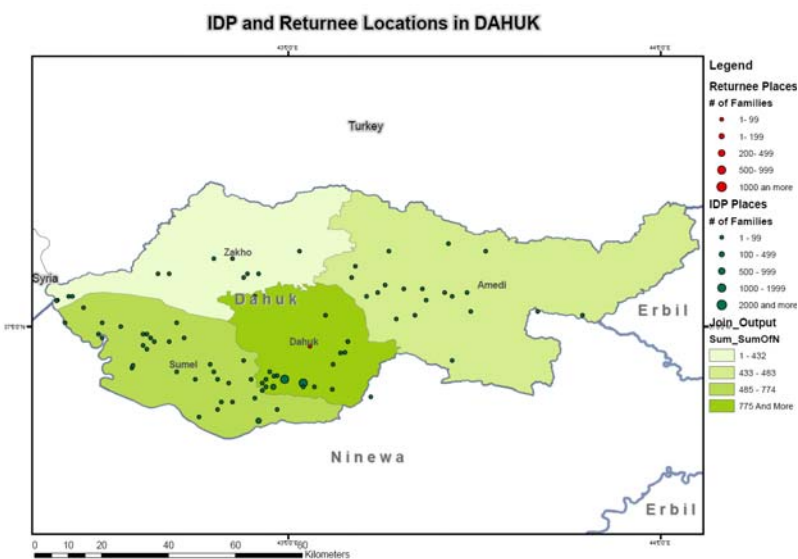
## DAHUK DISPLACEMENT BACKGROUND

Dahuk governorate hosts a substantial number of IDP families who fled other governorates since the beginning of heightened sectarian violence in 2006. Most fled Baghdad and Ninewa to the relative safety of Dahuk in 2006 and 2007 after having their lives directly threatened. The vast majority believe they were targeted for sectarian, ethnic, or political identity.

As displacement has nearly stopped in Iraq, Dahuk is one of the few governorates that continues to receive small numbers of new IDP families from Ninewa, where ethnic, sectarian, and political violence continues. In addition, hundreds of Christian families were displaced to Dahuk from Ninewa in 2008, when Christians in Mosul were being murdered. However, the majority of displaced families in Dahuk have been there for over two years, and few have hope of returning to their places of origin, particularly in Ninewa.

IOM monitors have assessed a total of 5,334 IDP families in Dahuk, most of whom are in Dahuk and Sumel districts. The KRG Bureau of Displacement and Migration (BDM), which is the regional authority responsible for registering IDPs in coordination with the central government's Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MoDM), has registered 18,406 families in Dahuk. The governorate also has a substantial number of pre-2006 IDP families, displaced due to the policies and violence of the former regime.

IDP & Returnee Locations in Dahuk. See final page for details.

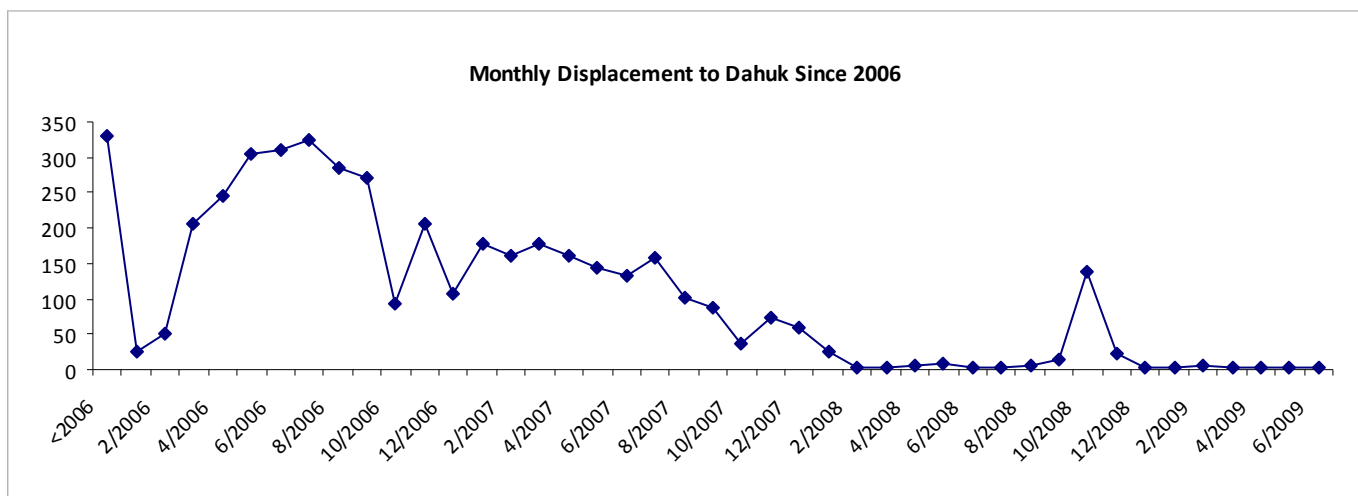


Number of IOM-Assessed IDPs in Dahuk by District		
District	Families	%
<b>Total Dahuk</b>	5334	100%
Amedi	483	10.8%
Dahuk	2721	60.6%
Sumel	797	17.7%
Zakho	490	10.9%

IDP Governorate of Origin	
Anbar	0.2%
Baghdad	51.3%
Basrah	0.4%
Ninewa	47.5%
Kirkuk	0.5%

Reason for Being Targeted	Dahuk	All Iraq
Belonging to a certain ethnic group	24.0%	4.9%
Belonging to a certain religion or sect	57.6%	61.0%
Belonging to a certain social group	11.6%	1.0%
Holding a certain political opinion	15.7%	3.8%
Do not think the group was targeted	5.3%	10.3%

Reason for Displacement	Dahuk	All Iraq
Armed conflict	3.0%	4.9%
Direct threats of life	44.0%	23.5%
Forced displacement	1.9%	13.72%
Generalized violence	5.5%	12.40%
Left out of fear	33.5%	11.14%
No Answer	12.1%	31.96%



## DAHUK: IDP DEMOGRAPHICS

Although only 5% of IOM-assessed IDP families in all of Iraq are Christian, 52% of IDPs in Dahuk are Christian. This means a substantial portion of all Christian IDP families in Iraq currently reside in Dahuk.

Of these families, 27% are from Ninewa, fleeing the continued tensions and violence there that periodically result in the targeting of Christians. 72% are from Baghdad, fleeing to the relatively more tolerant and stable north. Another large group are Kurds and Yazidi families displaced from Ninewa.

Across Dahuk, 3.5% of IDP families are female-headed households, however there are likely many more widows who must work to support their families than this number reflects. Sectarian violence has left many women widowed or children fatherless. These families become more vulnerable as they are displaced, especially since children and elderly family members may need special care and have more difficulty coping with unavailability of medical care.

Female-Headed Households (by district)	
District	Percentage
Total Dahuk	3.5%
Amedi	3.3%
Dahuk	4.3%
Sumel	1.1%
Zakho	3.5%

IDPs by Age and Gender			
Age	Female	Male	Total
Under 1 year old	207	250	457
1 to 4 years old	1777	1790	3567
5-17 years old	3339	3581	6920
18-60 years old	2801	2751	5552
Over 60 years old	344	355	699

Ethno-Religious Identity in Dahuk (by District)									
District	Arab-Shia Muslim	Arab-Sunni Muslim	Armenian-Christian	Assyrian-Christian	Chaldean-Christian	Kurd-Sunni Muslim	Kurd-Yazidi	Other	Turkmen-Shia Muslim
Total	1.7%	1.8%	2.9%	18.5%	30.2%	41.0%	2.0%	1.3%	0.6%
Amedi	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	29.2%	53.8%	14.9%	0.0%	2.1%	0.0%
Dahuk	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	20.7%	19.8%	49.4%	0.0%	10.1%	0.0%
Sumel	0.0%	0.0%	9.8%	14.6%	19.4%	44.5%	9.9%	1.8%	0.0%
Zakho	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	82.4%	14.5%	0.0%	3.1%	0.0%

## RETURN POTENTIAL

Of the 5,334 IDP families assessed by IOM monitors in Dahuk, the vast majority are from Baghdad (51%) and Ninewa (48%), as shown in the table on page 2. There is no recorded displacement from other parts of Dahuk, and only two IDP families from Dahuk have been assessed by IOM in other governorates of Iraq.

Dahuk has become host to post-2006 IDPs from other governorates, and potential return flows can only go out of Dahuk to other parts of Iraq. This has been occurring gradually in small groups over the course of the previous two years. Most have returned to Baghdad as security improves there.

Overall, only 17% of IOM-assessed IDPs in Dahuk wish to return to their places of origin, and three-quarters of these returns would be to Baghdad. However, despite improved security, many families with fresh memories of threats and violence still do not feel safe enough to return now and are waiting. Families from Ninewa do not wish to return or do not believe they will be able to return, and so they mostly wish to locally integrate into their current places of displacement (43%) or resettle in a third location (36%).

Whatever their intentions may be, families are in need of assistance to realize them.

Dahuk 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 Dahuk	48.1%	34.4%	17.3%	0.2%
Amedi	35.2%	61.9%	1.4%	1.4%
Dahuk	42.0%	31.2%	26.7%	0.0%
Sumel	57.8%	38.6%	3.4%	0.0%
Zakho	78.6%	18.4%	3.1%	0.0%

Of those who intend to return, to which governorate would they return?	
Anbar	19.5%
Babylon	0.3%
Baghdad	73.4%
Basrah	1.6%
Diyala	1.6%
Ninewa	3.6%

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

Whether in urban locations inside cities or in rural areas, IDPs in Dahuk are concerned with finding jobs and adequate housing. In cities they worry about being able to afford the monthly rent in the KRG, where high costs of living make life harder for those without sufficient or reliable income.

In areas such as Camp Dumiz, located on the edge of Dumiz city, shelters are made of wood with roofs that are not sturdy. Camp Dumiz is home to 634 IDP families and others from the host community. In late 2009, a storm destroyed the roofs of almost all the houses in the area, and this could easily happen again.

In addition, some families have not yet been able to transfer their PDS rations to their places of displacement. Some are worried that they will not be able to transfer their PDS card back to the place of origin if they return, and others are not able to travel to the place of origin for the necessary documents. Some families in Dahuk must travel back to Ninewa to receive their PDS rations. Fuel is also very costly, and even those families who receive fuel need to supplement this during the winter months, which is expensive in the local market.

Schools, already overburdened in Dahuk, are even more crowded in IDP areas. Many IDP children have difficulties going to school because they don't speak Kurdish. The school in Camp Dumiz location holds class in the kitchen because there is not enough classroom space.

IDPs in Dahuk list access to work and shelter as their main priority needs. Families who chose "other" mostly indicated fuel, money and furniture.

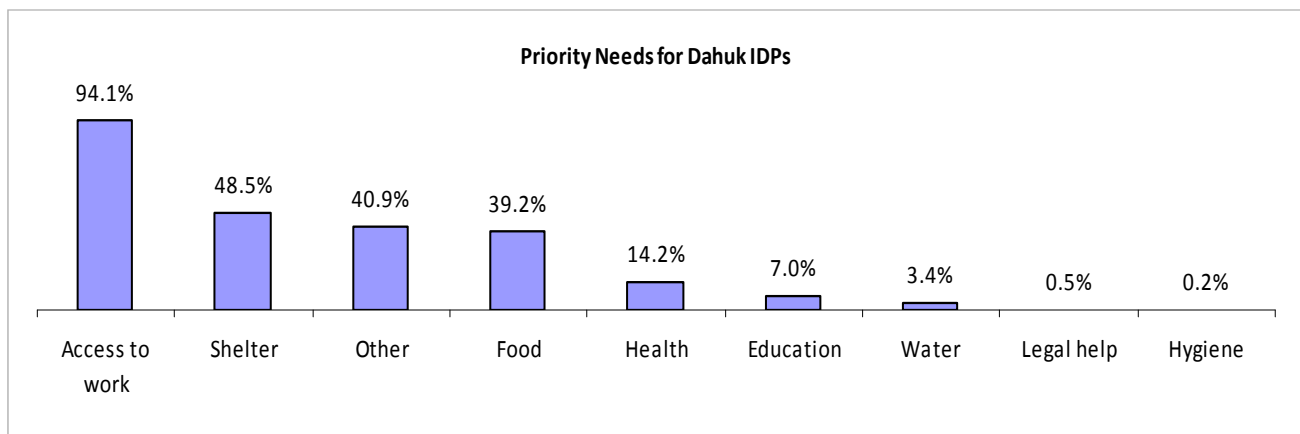
Employment	Dahuk	All Iraq
At least one member of the family has a job	35.9%	33.5%
No family member has a job	64.1%	66.5%

PDS Access	Dahuk	All Iraq
No Answer	13.8%	19.7%
Not at all	79.3%	15.3%
Sometimes	4.8%	32.2%
Yes, always	2.1%	32.8%

Electricity	Dahuk	All Iraq
No Electricity	3.3%	3.6%
1-3 hours per day	5.6%	25.3%
Four or more hours per day	77.4%	51.1%
No Answer	13.7%	19.9%

Water Source	Dahuk	All Iraq
Municipal water (underground pipes)	91.2%	87.7%
Water tanks / trucks	28.2%	25.8%
Public Wells	6.4%	9.6%
Rivers, streams or lakes	4.3%	12.6%
Other Sources	3.9%	5.3%
Open / broken pipe	0.2%	12.4%

Living Structure (by district)							
District	Tent in Camp	Collective town settlement	Tent near house of host	Public building	Host house	Rented house	Other
Total	0.0%	27.7%	0.0%	0.3%	7.8%	56.4%	6.3%
Amedi	0.0%	61.9%	0.4%	0.2%	14.7%	11.0%	10.8%
Dahuk	0.0%	6.7%	0.0%	0.3%	7.5%	79.9%	4.2%
Sumel	0.1%	52.9%	0.0%	0.1%	5.5%	27.9%	12.8%
Zakho	0.0%	69.0%	0.0%	0.6%	6.7%	17.1%	2.9%



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 extensions 1067 and 1022).

# IDP and Returnee Locations in DAHUK

