

ERBIL

GOVERNORATE PROFILE FEBRUARY 2010
IOM IDP AND RETURNEE ASSESSMENT



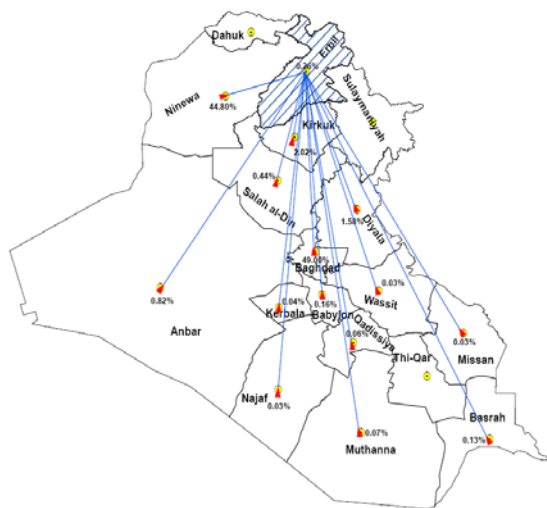
ERBIL: DISPLACEMENT AT A GLANCE

Total post-Feb 2006 IDPs ¹	9,275 families (est. 55,650 individuals)
Total pre-Feb 2006 IDPs ²	32,813 families (est. 196,878 individuals)
Number of post-Feb 2006 IDPs assessed by IOM ³	6,976 families (est. 41,856 individuals)
Returnees ⁴	103 families (est. 618 individuals)
Capital	Erbil
Districts	Choman, Erbil, Koisanjaq, Makhmur (officially in Kirkuk but administered by KRG), Mergasur, Shaqlawa, Soran
Population ⁵	1,542,421

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. As a result, many families fled post-2006 sectarian violence to the KRG seeking safety.

While the standard of living is comparatively higher in the KRG for IDP and host community families alike, this is not always true, particularly in areas outside of the main cities where IDPs are sometimes pressured to go. Along with a comparatively high standard of living comes a comparatively high cost of living, and this weighs heavily on displaced families who cannot find jobs and do not make enough money to pay the high cost of rent. In addition, the transition to living in a region of the country where the Kurdish language is dominant is an extra obstacle for Arab families coming from central and southern Iraq.

Quick Facts on Erbil IDPs & Returnees



- Top priority needs of IOM-assessed IDP families in Erbil are housing, work, and legal help.
- IDP families in Erbil are 41% Kurd Sunni Muslim, 32% Arab Sunni Muslim, and 21% Christian.
- 49% of IOM-assessed Erbil IDPs are from Baghdad and 45% are from Ninewa. 69% wish to return home.

¹ As per the Ministry of Displacement and Migration and KRG Directorate 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 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 Erbil

Training Courses in Kurdish Language for IDPs



IOM funded Kurdish language courses for 80 IDP children displaced in Erbil. The classes enabled these Arabic-speaking IDP children to continue their education in Kurdish-speaking Erbil, and helped raise awareness of the needs of Arabic-speaking IDPs with KRG education officials.

For more information on IOM's past activities in Erbil, see *Activities in Erbil* at: www.iomiraq.net

ERBIL DISPLACEMENT BACKGROUND

The majority of IOM-assessed displaced families arrived in Erbil during 2006 and the first half of 2007, which was the height of sectarian violence during this time. However, while more families are leaving Erbil and returning to the rest of the country every month, there also continues to be new arrivals, coming mostly from Ninewa and Kirkuk, where ethnic and political disputes over territory continue to force families from their homes. When Christian families of Mosul were targeted in 2008, some of them fled Ninewa for Erbil, though many from this group have since returned.

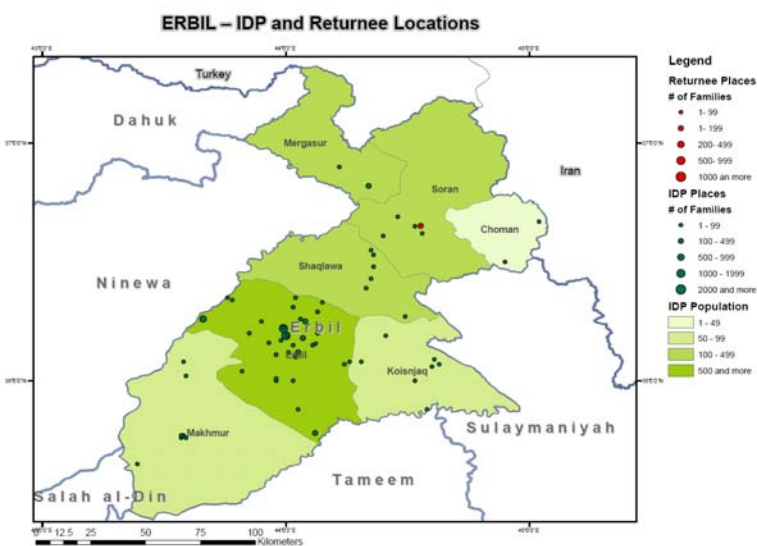
IOM-assessed IDP families in Erbil left after feeling that they were targeted for either their religious or ethnic identity. While across the country most families felt they were targeted for religious reasons, here ethnicity becomes more of a factor due to the disputed internal boundaries that line the KRG's official territory. Across Iraq, less than 5% of IDPs told IOM monitors that they fled after being targeted for their ethnic identity, while in Erbil this figure rises to nearly 20%. In addition, many say that they left out of fear (86%), seeking the relative calm and stability of the north.

Overall, IOM monitors have assessed 6,976 IDP families in Erbil governorate, most of whom are concentrated in Erbil, Ainkawa, and the surrounding areas. The vast majority originate from Baghdad and Ninewa.

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

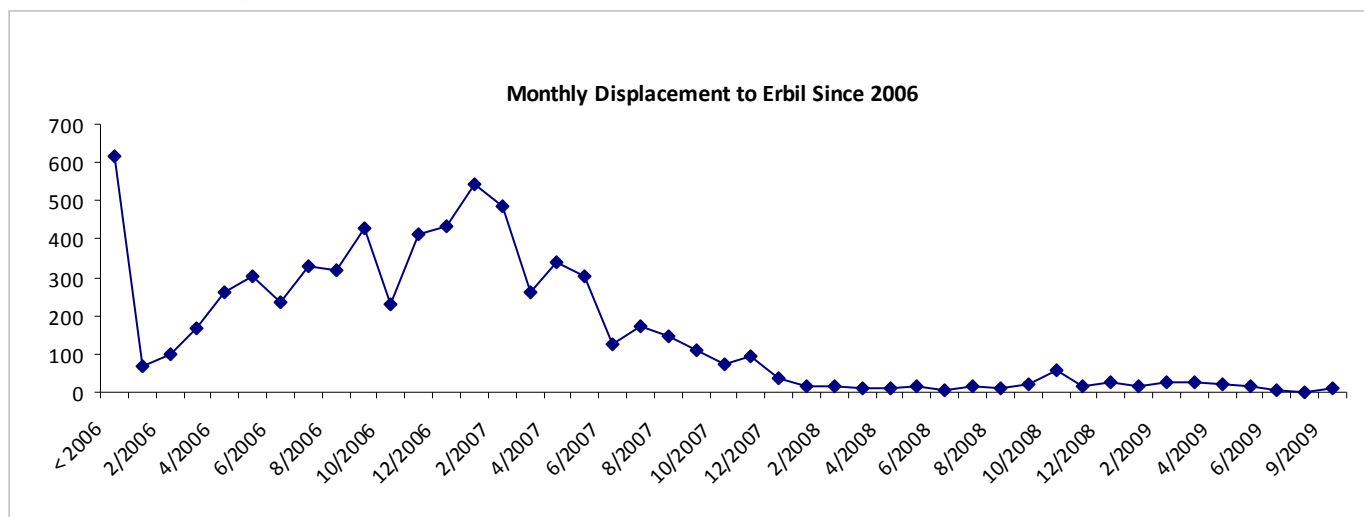
Number of IDPs in Erbil by District		
District	Families	%
Total Erbil	6976	100%
Choman	48	0.7%
Erbil	6251	89.6%
Koisnjaq	113	1.6%
Makhmur	102	1.5%
Mergasur	139	2.0%
Shaqlawā	164	2.4%
Soran	159	2.3%

IDP Governorate of Origin	
Within Erbil	0.3%
Anbar	0.8%
Babylon	0.2%
Baghdad	49.0%
Basrah	0.1%
Diyala	1.6%
Muthanna	0.1%
Ninewa	44.8%
Qadisiya	0.1%
Salah al-Din	0.4%
Kirkuk	2.0%



Reason for Being Targeted	Erbil	All Iraq
Belonging to a certain ethnic group	19.8%	4.9%
Belonging to a certain religion or sect	56.0%	61.0%
Belonging to a certain social group	2.9%	1.0%
Holding a certain political opinion	0.2%	3.8%
Do not think the group was targeted	17.0%	10.3%

Reason for Displacement	Erbil	All Iraq
Left out of fear	85.9%	11.1%
Direct threats to life	5.4%	23.5%
Generalized violence	1.6%	12.4%
Other	0.8%	0.7%
Sectarian violence	0.3%	0.7%
Armed conflict	0.1%	4.9%
Forced displacement	0.1%	13.7%
No Answer	5.7%	32.0%



ERBIL: IDP DEMOGRAPHICS

IDP families in Erbil are a diverse group, as illustrated in the table at the bottom of the page. Over 40% are Kurds who fled areas along the disputed internal boundaries as pressures and violence in these areas continue to displace families based on ethnic identity. This did not come solely from the post-2006 outbreak of sectarian violence in Iraq, but rather is complicated by Iraq's long history of displacement and related policies from the former regime.

32% of IOM-assessed IDP families are Arab Sunni Muslim, many of whom came from Baghdad fleeing sectarian violence and looking for a safer place to live. These families often have the hardest adjustment to make when they come to Erbil, as they do not speak Kurdish, do not have connections to other families in the area, and cannot easily find employment.

21% of IDP families in Erbil governorate are Christian. Some of these families fled Ninewa due to ethnic, sectarian, and political tensions. Others came from Baghdad to a more secure and tolerant environment where there were already significant numbers of Christian families. These families tend to group together in the existing Christian communities in Erbil, where they can find some support and community relations when they arrive.

In general, IDPs in Erbil who arrived from Ninewa are more likely to make visits to their place of origin, sometimes to check on property or to collect PDS rations. However, these visits remain dangerous and difficult due to continuing insecurity in Ninewa and the border-crossing procedures between the KRG and central Iraq. In contrast, IDPs from Baghdad do not tend to revisit their places of origin.

While the number of IDP female-headed households assessed by IOM monitors remains low in Erbil, many IDP women find themselves as a primary money-earner in their families. In some cases, these women resort to prostitution in order to support themselves and their families. While these cases are rare, stereotyping on the part of the host community means that it affects all IDPs in general.

A small number of IDP families (598) displaced from Erbil to other governorates have been assessed by IOM monitors. These IDPs fled due to fear and direct threats to their lives. The majority are in Kirkuk and Salah al-Din and wish to return home.

IDPs Originally from Erbil are located in:		
Governorate	# Families	Percentage
Basrah	4	0.7%
Dahuk	1	0.2%
Erbil	18	3.0%
Muthanna	10	1.7%
Ninewa	4	0.7%
Salah al-Din	287	48.0%
Kirkuk	274	45.8%
Total Assessed	598	100%

What are the intentions of those displaced FROM Erbil?				
Displaced in	Integrate into the current location	Resettle in a third location	Return to their place of origin	Waiting to Decide
All IDPs from Erbil	25.6%	23.1%	42.6%	8.7%
Basrah	75.0%	0%	25.0%	0%
Dahuk	100.0%	0%	0%	0%
Erbil	44.4%	0%	55.6%	0%
Muthanna	100.0%	0%	0%	0%
Ninewa	0%	100.0%	0%	0%
Salah al-Din	0.3%	43.2%	56.4%	0%
Kirkuk	47.4%	3.6%	29.9%	19.0%

IDPs by Age and Gender			
Age	Female	Male	Total
Under 1 year old	609	516	1125
1 to 4 years old	1355	1346	2701
5-17 years old	5506	5394	10900
18-60 years old	8747	8845	17592
Over 60 years old	620	613	1233

Ethno-Religious Identity in Erbil (by District)								
District	Kurd-Sunni Muslim	Arab-Sunni Muslim	Assyrian-Christian	Chaldean-Christian	Arab-Sabeen Mandeian	Arab-Shia Muslim	Arab-Christian	Other
Total	40.9%	32.4%	4.2%	15.8%	0%	1.4%	0%	5.3%
Choman	22.9%	50.0%	0%	4.2%	6.3%	0%	0%	16.7%
Erbil	41.8%	29.8%	4.2%	17.6%	0%	0%	0%	6.6%
Koisanjaq	18.6%	54.9%	14.2%	0%	0%	0%	4.4%	8.0%
Makhmur	48.0%	51.0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1.0%
Mergasur	32.4%	56.8%	0%	0%	0%	6.5%	0%	4.3%
Shaqlawaw	32.3%	62.8%	0%	0%	0%	3.7%	0%	1.2%
Soran	39.6%	47.8%	6.3%	0%	0%	5.0%	0%	1.3%

Female-Headed Households (by district)	
District	Percentage
Total	0.1%
Erbil	0.1%

ERBIL'S DISPLACED: LIVING CONDITIONS AND PRIORITY NEEDS

The vast majority of IOM-assessed IDP families in Erbil live in urban areas, where they rent apartments or small houses. Over 95% of IOM-assessed IDP families in Erbil live in a rented home. Paying the rent is a chief concern and represents a large challenge for IDP families, along with simply the daily strain of not having enough money for basic needs. Therefore, housing and employment are chief concerns of IDP families in Erbil .

In general, many of the IDP families interviewed by IOM monitors explain that all monthly income goes straight to rent, with little left over to pay for food or other household necessities. Food often is only what comes in the PDS rations, which are often late, incomplete, and of poor quality. This lack of money often means that children are kept out of school even when the schooling is free, as they do not have pens, pencils, books or proper clothing. Some children have been out of school so long that at this point it would be difficult for them to return to a class appropriate for their age-levels without the assistance of remedial courses.

Finding a job in Erbil is a challenge for IDP and host community members alike, but those families who were employed in government-funded positions in their places of origin have little chance of working in their former professions. These jobs are extremely difficult to obtain and often require a level of qualification and connections that are not available to IDP families. IDP families can occasionally find temporary work that is not a reliable source of income.

Arabic-speaking families from other governorates have another challenge when they search for jobs. In a predominantly Kurdish-speaking governorate such as Erbil, it is often necessary for workers to learn Kurdish to find a job, but classes are costly and not readily available in many areas. Many IDP families indicate enthusiasm for increased possibilities for Kurdish language training , as some wish to stay permanently in the KRG.

In addition, IDP families originating from central Iraq must obtain residency cards yearly. This procedure is difficult and sometimes causes additional problems, stress, and complications for IDP families in the area.

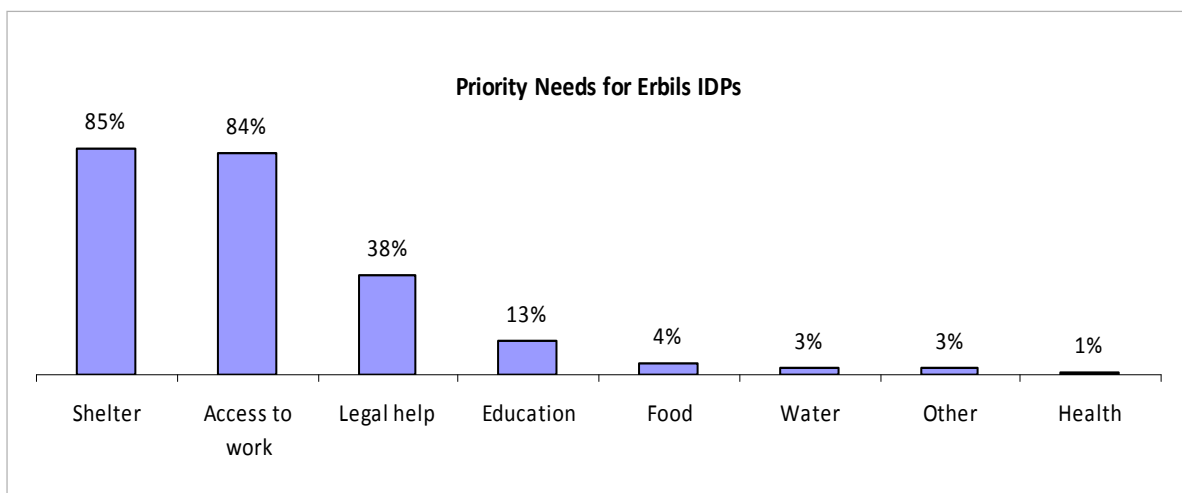
Employment	Erbil	All Iraq
At least one member of the family has a job	67.4%	33.5%
No family member has a job	32.6%	66.5%

PDS Access	Erbil	All Iraq
No Answer	8.3%	19.7%
Not at all	42.4%	15.3%
Sometimes	19.1%	32.2%
Yes, always	30.1%	32.8%

Electricity	Erbil	All Iraq
No Electricity	0.1%	3.6%
1-3 hours per day	0.0%	25.3%
Four or more hours per day	91.2%	51.1%
No Answer	8.7%	19.9%

Water Source	Erbil	All Iraq
Municipal water (underground pipes)	98.7%	87.7%
Water tanks / trucks	1.0%	25.8%
Public Wells	0.1%	9.6%
Other Sources	0.1%	5.3%

Living Structure (by district)				
District	Rented house	Host House	Public building	Other
Total	95.1%	3.0%	0.2%	1.6%
Choman	100.0%	0%	0%	0%
Erbil	94.8%	3.3%	0.3%	1.6%
Koisanjaq	100.0%	0%	0%	0%
Makhmur	95.1%	0%	0%	4.9%
Mergasur	100.0%	0%	0%	0%
Shaqlawā	95.1%	0.6%	0%	4.3%
Soran	96.9%	1.9%	0%	1.3%



RETURN POTENTIAL

Returns from the three northern governorates to the rest of the country have continued throughout 2009 as security has improved in many parts of the country.

However, there is still a substantial number of families in the KRG who do not yet feel safe enough to go home. Some are waiting to make a decision, watching the elections and other factors affecting security, especially in Baghdad. Others have decided to stay permanently in Erbil—some even have children now married with members of the host community, creating even more long term ties to the area.

Of the 6,976 IDP families assessed by IOM currently in Erbil, almost 70% say that they intend to return to their places of origin. This is significantly above the national average. 57% of these returns would be to Baghdad governorate, while 36% would be to Ninewa. The disproportionately low number of IDPs in Erbil who wish to return to Ninewa show that the ethnic and political disputes there continue, leaving families no hope of returning to their former homes and lives.

While the numbers of IDP families in Erbil generally have been decreasing as families return home, there are others who are not yet ready to do so or and many who do not plan on returning. Still other families, in small numbers, are continuing to arrive in Erbil as limited instability and violence continues in Ninewa and Baghdad. Erbil also has the potential to receive more IDP families in the future, as its relative calm would attract families fleeing from flare-ups of violence.



IDP houses in Erbil built out of mud brick

Of those that intend to return, to which governorate would they return?	
Baghdad	57.4%
Ninewa	36.4%
Tameem	2.2%
Diyala	1.8%
Other	2.3%

Erbil IDP Settlement Intentions				
District	Locally integrate in current location	Resettle in a third location	Return to place of origin	Waiting to Decide
Total Erbil	20.4%	9.3%	69.1%	0.7%
Choman	31.2%	12.5%	56.2%	0%
Erbil	20.8%	9.7%	68.5%	0.7%
Koisnjaq	1.8%	16.8%	81.4%	0%
Makhmur	16.7%	2.0%	75.5%	0%
Mergasur	14.4%	7.2%	68.3%	0%
Shaqlawā	16.5%	3.7%	79.9%	0%
Soran	28.3%	0%	71.7%	0%

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).

ERBIL – IDP and Returnee Locations

