

THI QAR

GOVERNORATE PROFILE FEBRUARY 2010
IOM IDP AND RETURNEE ASSESSMENT



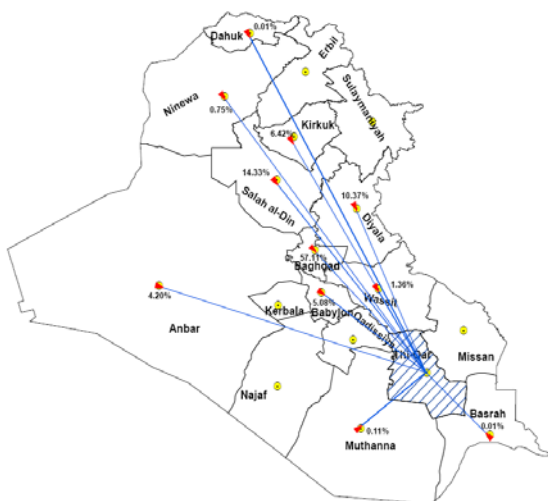
THI QAR: DISPLACEMENT AT A GLANCE

Total post-Feb 2006 IDPs ¹	7,719 families (est. 46,314 individuals)
Total pre-Feb 2006 IDPs ²	4,226 families (est. 25,356 individuals)
Number of post-Feb 2006 IDPs assessed by IOM ³	12,177 families (est. 73,062 individuals)
Returnees ⁴	108 families (est. 648 individuals)
Capital	Nassriya
Districts	Al-Chibayish, Al-Rifa'i, Al-Shatra, Nassriya, Suq Al-Shoyokh
Population ⁵	1,616,226 individuals

Post-2006 IDP families in Thi Qar governorate are almost exclusively Shia families who fled sectarian violence in 2006. They travelled south from violent, unstable governorates like Baghdad, Salah al-Din, and Diyala to safer locations where a homogenous population made sectarian violence less of a problem. Many already had traditional ties to their locations of displacement through family or tribe. Now over 61% of IOM-assessed IDP families in Thi Qar say they wish to stay and integrate permanently in the governorate.

No matter their intentions for the future, IDP families in Thi Qar are primarily concerned with finding work, as there are few employment opportunities. Without a steady income, IDP families struggle to afford rent and food. Access to basic services such as health clinics and electricity is also a major problem, as these are often less accessible in southern gover-

Quick Facts on Thi Qar IDPs & Returnees



- 20% of IOM-assessed IDP families in Thi Qar live in illegal group settlements.
- Intentions of IOM-assessed IDPs in Thi Qar: 62% wish to integrate, 28% wish to return, 10% wish to settle in a third location.
- IOM-assessed IDPs in Thi Qar state priority needs as access to work, housing, and food.

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 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 Thi Qar

Rehabilitation of Ishtar School



The Ishtar school provides primary and secondary education in Thi Qar. The school building had deteriorated considerably since it was built, creating a health and safety hazard for the children. 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 *Activities in Thi Qar* at: www.iomiraq.net

THI QAR DISPLACEMENT BACKGROUND

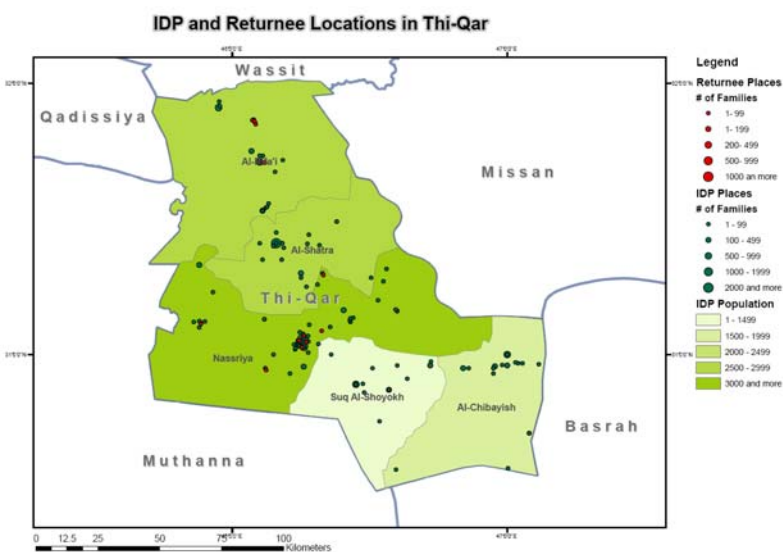
According to the Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MoDM), 7,719 families have registered as IDPs in Thi Qar governorate. IOM monitors have assessed 12,177 families in Thi Qar, most of whom were displaced in 2006 and the beginning of 2007 during the height of post-2006 sectarian violence in Iraq.

Most pre-2006 IDPs in Thi Qar were displaced by the wave of crime and sectarian violence that followed the 2003 conflict. There are also groups of families who fled Thi Qar in the 1990s and have since returned. Many are secondarily displaced, as little remains of their original properties. These families are often hosted by relatives or are living in public buildings.

Thi Qar IDPs fled mostly from Baghdad (57%), Salah al-Din (14%) and Diyala (10%), many choosing to come to locations where they historically had family or tribal connections. As Shia Arabs migrating to a majority Shia Arab governorate, they felt safer compared with the threat of sectarian violence in their places of origin.

Almost 88% of IOM-assessed Thi Qar IDPs say that they fled because they were targeted for their religious or sectarian identity, and almost 44% received direct threats to their lives before leaving. In addition, more than 40% gave no reason for displacement, often out of fear of reporting past political affiliations or military involvement.

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

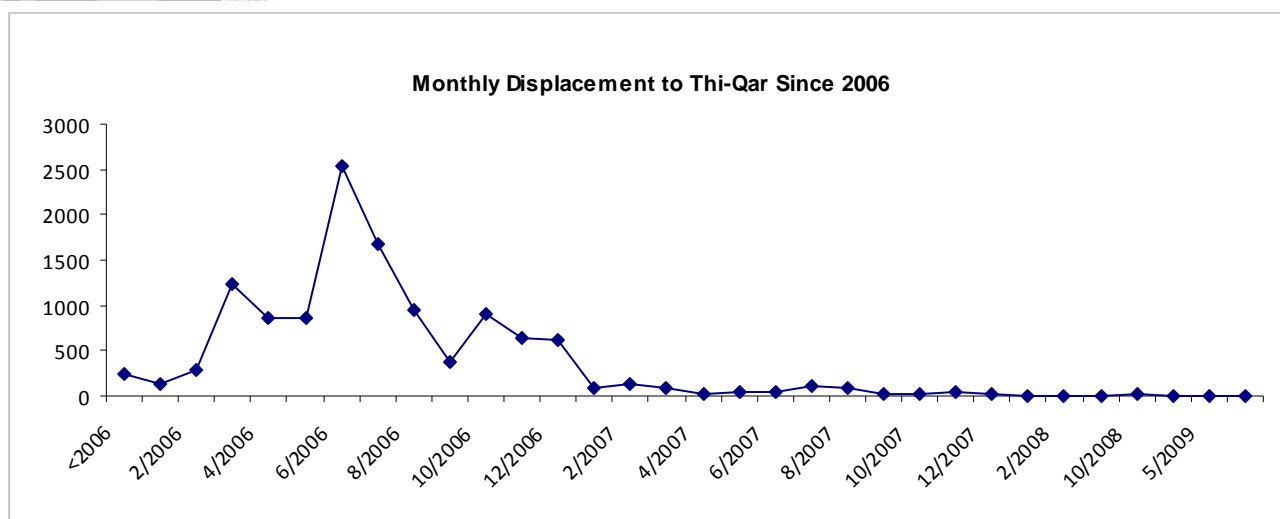


Number of IDPs in Thi Qar by District		
District	Families	%
Total	12177	100%
Al-Chibayish	1902	15.6%
Al-Rifa'i	2681	22.0%
Al-Shatra	2910	23.9%
Nassriya	3280	26.9%
Suq Al-Shoyekh	1404	11.5%

IDP Governorate of Origin	
Anbar	4.2%
Babylon	5.1%
Baghdad	57.1%
Diyala	10.4%
Muthanna	0.1%
Ninewa	0.7%
Salah al-Din	14.3%
Kirkuk	6.4%
Wassit	1.4%

Reason for Being Targeted	Thi Qar	All Iraq
Belonging to a certain ethnic group	0.3%	4.9%
Belonging to a certain religion or sect	87.7%	61.0%
Belonging to a certain social group	0.0%	1.0%
Holding a certain political opinion	0.5%	3.8%
Do not think the group was targeted	11.4%	10.3%

Reason for Displacement	Thi Qar	All Iraq
Direct threats to life	43.7%	23.5%
Generalized violence	11.5%	12.4%
Forced displacement	2.6%	13.7%
Armed conflict	1.0%	4.9%
Left out of fear	0.6%	11.1%
Other	0.1%	0.7%
No Answer	40.5%	32.0%



THI QAR: IDP DEMOGRAPHICS

IDPs are concentrated in the city centers and areas surrounding the cities of Thi Qar governorate, principally Nassiriya. While IDP families living in the city centers typically live in individual rented houses, many IDP families in Thi Qar live in group settlements outside of the cities.

IOM monitors report that IDPs living outside of cities in Thi Qar have more difficulty integrating into the society of their host communities because of the relative isolation of these locations.

Among female IDPs in Thi Qar, IOM monitors report that many are illiterate and do not have access to basic health care for themselves and their children.

Matters are especially complicated for households headed by women, who have difficulty advocating for themselves when it comes to administrative or legal issues. It is also more difficult for them to find work to support their families. Of IDP households in Thi Qar, nearly 10% overall are female-headed. This is particularly problematic in a location like Thi Qar, where conservative cultural practices limit opportunities for women in general.

Female-Headed Households (by district)	
District	Percentage
Total	9.6%
Al-Chibayish	7.4%
Al-Rifa'i	8.3%
Al-Shatra	10.9%
Nassriya	10.6%
Suq Al-Shoyokh	10.4%

IDPs by Age and Gender			
Age	Female	Male	Total
Under 1 year old	1148	1086	2234
1 to 4 years old	2672	2873	5545
5-17 years old	6809	7074	13883
18-60 years old	7237	7163	14400
Over 60 years old	447	624	1071

RETURN POTENTIAL

When IDP families in Thi Qar consider returning to their places of origin, they consider many factors. The primary concern is security, followed by the availability of work, housing, and basic services in their places of origin.

Of the 12,177 families assessed by IOM in Thi Qar, 28% say they would like to return to their places of origin, 10% would like to resettle in a third location, and 62% would like to integrate into their current locations. Across the south of Iraq, the intention of IOM-assessed IDPs to integrate is much higher than the nationwide average.

Many families who wish to integrate have traditional connections to the area and feel comfortable enough to stay permanently. However, in order to do so in a sustainable way, they need employment or livelihood assistance. Others may not have had property in their places of origin and so do not feel tied to returning there. Others simply do not believe they will feel safe to return.

Nevertheless, some families are already returning from Thi Qar and need assistance to transport their belongings and rebuild their lives.



Two girls from an IDP family in the window of their house in Al Jubaish district.

Thi Qar IDP Settlement Intentions				
District	Integrate into the current location	Resettle in a third location	Return to their place of origin	Waiting to Decide
Total	61.6%	10.0%	27.8%	0.5%
Al-Chibayish	79.5%	0.9%	17.7%	1.3%
Al-Rifa'i	64.5%	2.3%	33.1%	0%
Al-Shatra	60.6%	8.1%	31.3%	0%
Nassriya	50.3%	22.4%	26.2%	1%
Suq Al-Shoyokh	60.3%	11.9%	27.8%	0.1%

Of those that intend to return, to which governorate would they return?	
Anbar	3%
Babylon	3%
Baghdad	70%
Diyala	6%
Salah al-Din	11%
Kirkuk	5%
Wassit	2%

THI QAR'S DISPLACED: LIVING CONDITIONS AND PRIORITY NEEDS

Overall, IOM-assessed IDPs in Thi Qar report their priority needs as access to work, shelter, and food. Many IDPs left steady salaried jobs in their places of origin. Where before there may have been several people working in one household, now there is only one employed family member, or perhaps none at all. Without a source of income, families are unable to support themselves, and basics such as food and shelter become chief concerns.

Needs and vulnerabilities vary by location for displaced families. In Thi Qar, more than 20% of IOM-assessed IDP families live in collective settlements, and another 2% live in former military camps or public buildings. These are some of the most vulnerable families.

Group settlements are typically collections of mud and reed houses on land for which the IDPs have no claim. There are no nearby schools. There are no electricity, water, or sewage networks, and many suffer from water-borne diseases, especially children. These areas offer few opportunities for bread-winners to earn money to support their families, other than simple day labor.

Al Rawajeh area in Al Jabayesh district is home to 17 IDP families. It is about 1.5 kilometres from the city center and can only be reached by a dirt road. Drinking water is only available to families who can afford to buy it from delivery trucks, and there is no electricity or school nearby. Most people living in the area are illiterate.

IDP families in Al Safawa Al Shemali settlement have only dirty, contaminated water that attracts insects and disease. They are in need of assistance.

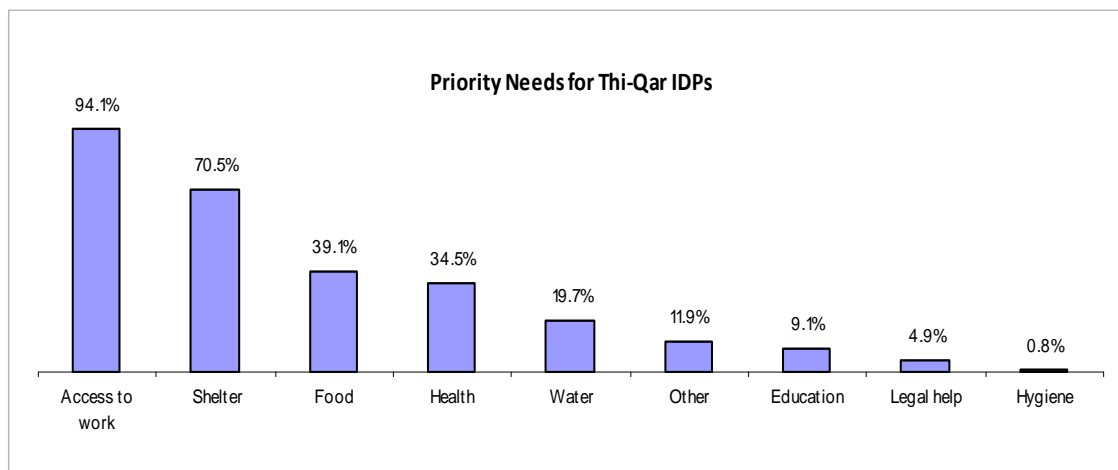
Employment	Thi Qar	All Iraq
At least one member of the family has a job	30%	33.5%
No family member has a job	70%	66.5%

PDS Access	Thi Qar	All Iraq
No Answer	12.4%	19.7%
Not at all	14.3%	15.3%
Sometimes	16.5%	32.2%
Yes, always	56.9%	32.8%

Electricity	Thi Qar	All Iraq
No Electricity	1.1%	3.6%
1-3 hours per day	11.2%	25.3%
Four or more hours per day	75.0%	51.1%
No Answer	12.6%	19.9%

Water Source	Thi Qar	All Iraq
Municipal water (underground pipes)	87.0%	87.7%
Water tanks / trucks	45.2%	25.8%
Open / broken pipe	22.9%	12.4%
Rivers, streams or lakes	20.5%	12.6%
Other Sources	15.3%	5.3%

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	0.1%	20.1%	0.2%	0.1%	1.8%	11.4%	47.8%	18.0%
Al-Chibayish	0.0%	25.7%	0.2%	0.0%	0.2%	5.2%	23.1%	45.6%
Al-Rifa'i	0.0%	22.0%	0.5%	0.0%	1.8%	11.7%	45.7%	18.2%
Al-Shatra	0.0%	14.2%	0.0%	0.3%	2.8%	10.6%	61.6%	10.1%
Nassriya	0.5%	22.9%	0.1%	0.2%	2.3%	12.9%	49.0%	10.9%
Suq Al-Shoyokh	0.0%	14.6%	0.4%	0.0%	0.2%	17.3%	54.3%	13.1%



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).

IDP and Returnee Locations in Thi-Qar

