

DISPLACED FAMILIES IN CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN GOVERNORATES

Extent of Displacement

3,358 Families
20,148 Individuals



10 Governorates of displacement

128 Locations of displacement

74% Locations of displacement are urban

DTM has been tracking climate-induced displacement across the central and southern regions of Iraq since June 2018. Environmental degradation, including reduced water flow and increased salinity in important rivers and tributaries, has placed a strain on the agricultural sector, with many families unable to guarantee sufficient and sustainable livelihoods in rural areas. The IOM-DTM tracking of climate-induced displacement aims to provide data on the number and location of vulnerable families forced to migrate by environmental degradation and other factors.

Data collection for this update took place from 1 to 15 March 2022. Data is collected through IOM's Rapid Assessment and Response Teams (RARTs), who are deployed across Iraq (20% of enumerators are female). IOM's RARTs collect data through interviews with key informants utilising a large, well-established network of over 9,500 key informants that includes community leaders, mukhtars, local authorities and security forces.

As of 15 March, 3,358 families (20,148 individuals) remain displaced because of water scarcity and other climatic factor across ten governorates. Of these, 2,152 families are intra-district displaced (64%). The displaced families are dispersed across 128 locations, with the majority (74%) being urban locations.

The primary governorate of origin for these displaced families is Thi-Qar (1,542), followed by Missan (733), Qadisiya (326) and Basrah (246). Al-Shatra district, in Thi-Qar governorate, has 1,374 families displaced by drought. Other districts with significant climate-induced displacement include Al-Maimouna, in Missan Governorate (344 families) and Afaq, in Qadisiya Governorate (306 families).

Map 1: Primary climate-induced displacement flows in central and southern Iraq

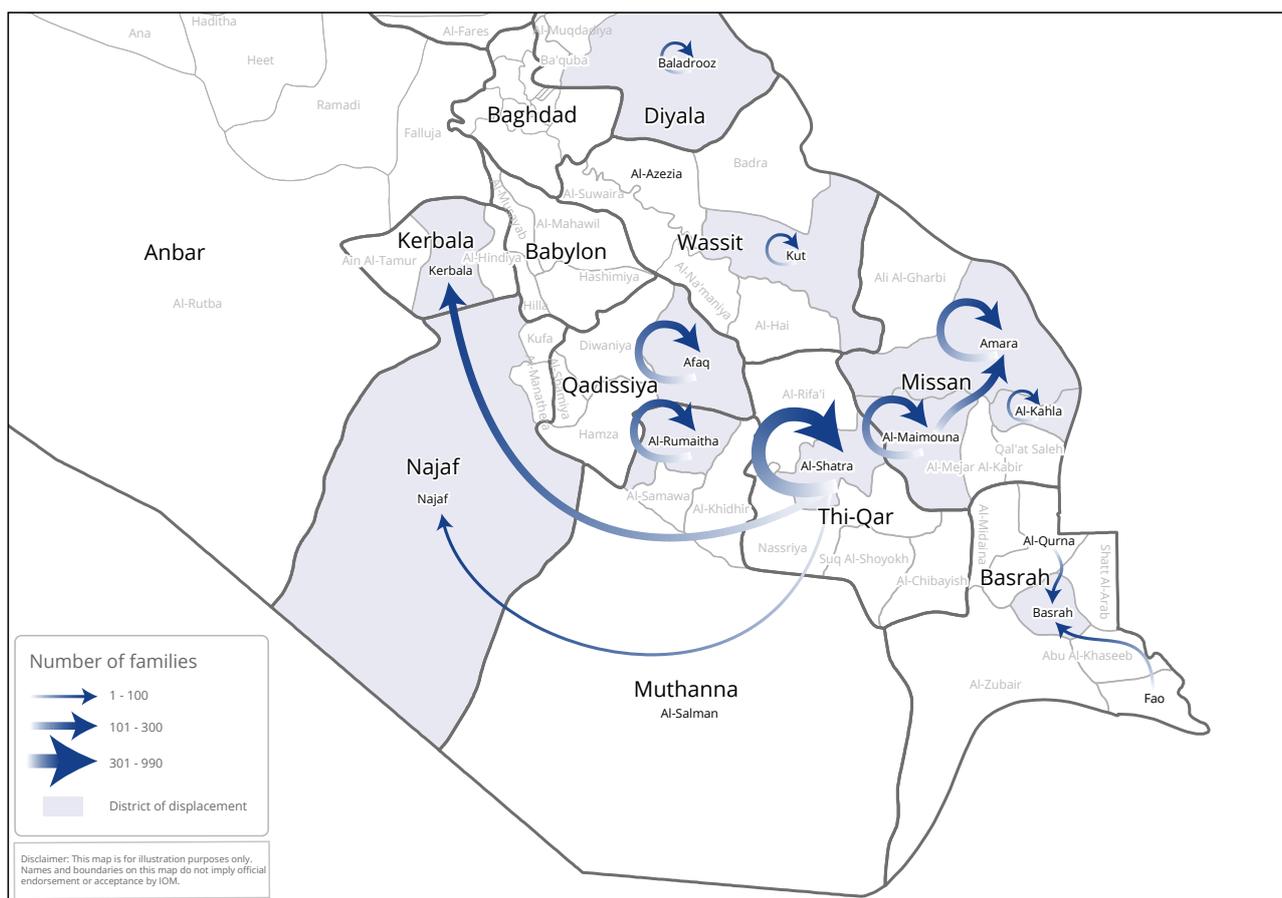
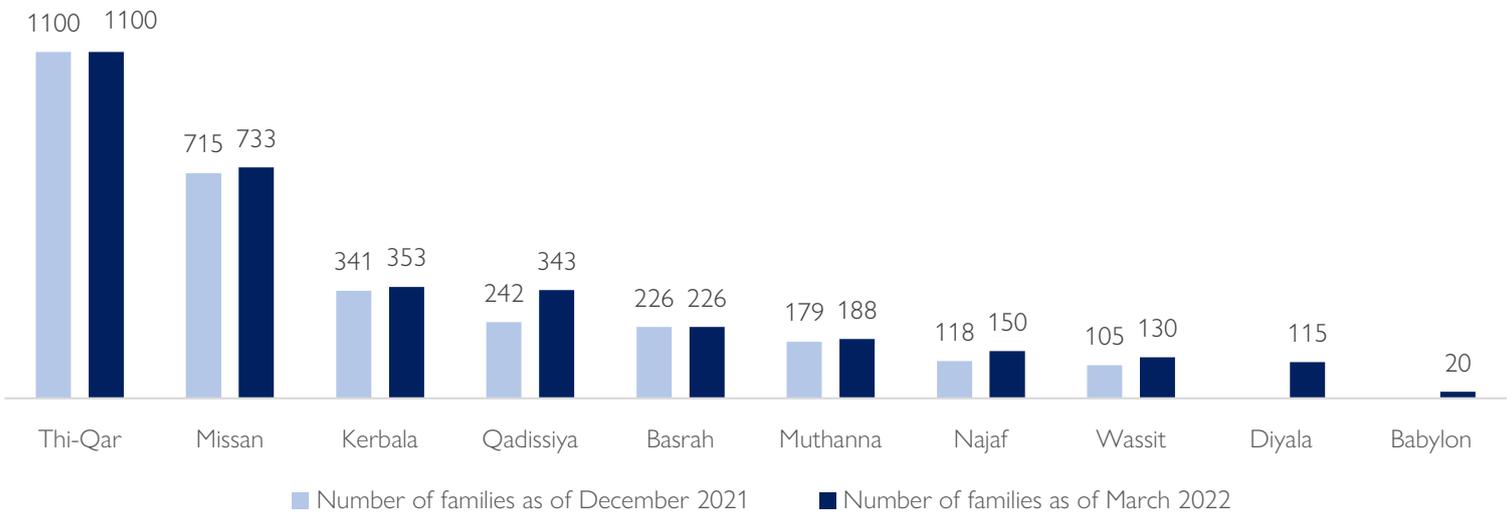


Figure 1. Number of families displaced due to climate factors by governorate of displacement



Between December 2021 and March 2022 an additional 332 families were recorded as displaced. Across central and southern governorates, locations in which families are reliant on agriculture as their main source of income have continued to record displacement, as well as coping mechanisms such as selling livestock, and increased incidences of waterborne diseases. Since December 2021, Diyala governorate recorded 115 families displaced due to drought, where previously none had been recorded. Qadissiya governorates also recorded a large increase of 101 new families displaced, driven by low water levels and increased salinity in the Euphrates and Al-Rahma rivers which feed into artificial canals used for irrigation. In Al-Hai district, Wassit governorate, 25 families were recorded as displaced as a result of tribal disagreements related to access to water.

Thi-Qar governorate hosts the largest number of families experiencing climate-induced displacement (1,110), followed by Missan (733) and Kerbala governorates (353). In Thi-Qar Governorate, districts hosting high numbers of displaced families include Al-Shatra, which hosts 990 families, all of whom are displaced from within the district. In Missan Governorate, most families (471) are in Amara district, with over a quarter of these displaced from within the district (117, 25%). In Kerbala Governorate, almost all families (337) are in Kerbala district with 84 per cent originating from Al-Shatra district in Thi-Qar governorate (296). Ain al-Tamur district, in Kerbala governorate, is yet to record displacement but RARTs report protracted drought and a shortage of potable water in around 15 villages.

Map 2: Districts hosting families affected by climate-induced displacement

