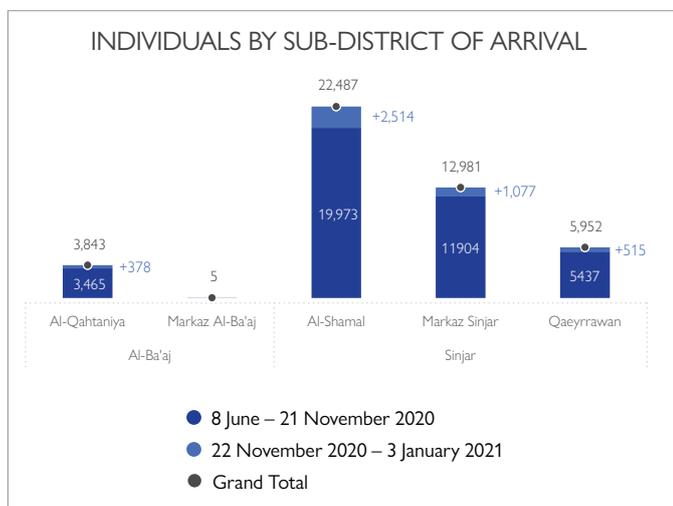
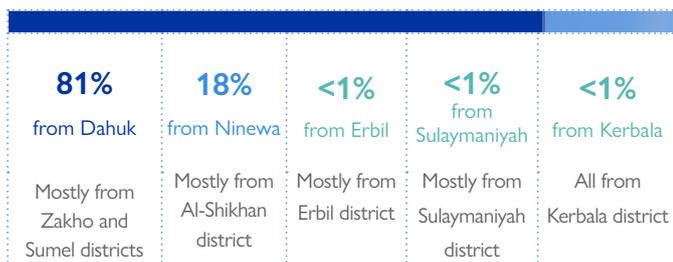
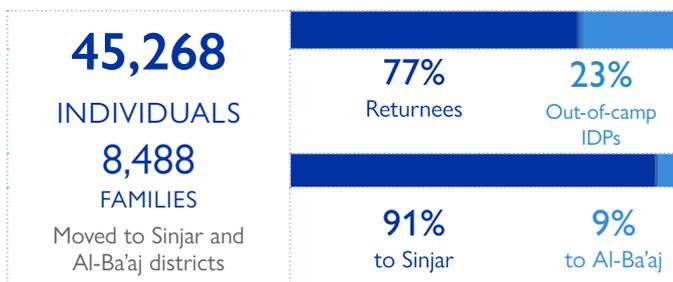


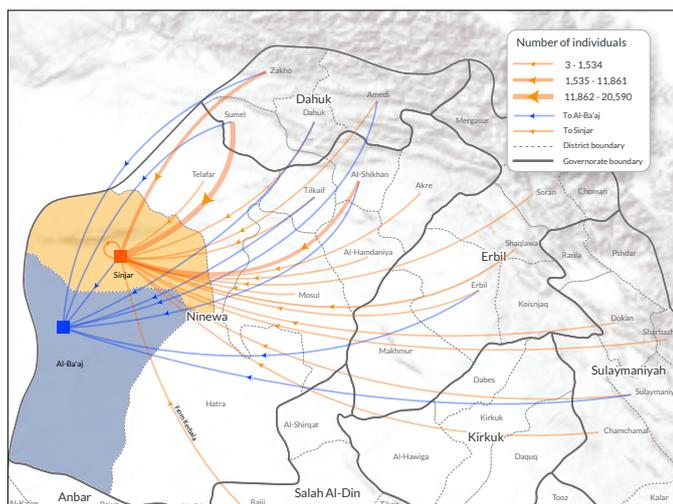
DISPLACEMENT AND RETURNS TO SINJAR AND AL-BA'AJ DISTRICTS

PERIOD COVERED:
22 NOVEMBER 2020 TO 3 JANUARY 2021

*All charts/graphs in this document show total figures for the period of 8 June 2020 to 3 January 2021



Map 1. Population Movements to Sinjar and Al-Ba'aj districts



Between 22 November 2020 and 3 January 2021, DTM tracked 4,484 individuals (826 families) returning to Sinjar and Al-Ba'aj districts in Iraq's Ninewa Governorate. This brings the total number of individuals who have taken this route to 45,268 (8,488 families) since data collection commenced on 8 June 2020.

In this reporting period, the average number of daily individual arrivals was 111 to Sinjar (down significantly from 258 in the last round) and 10 to Al-Ba'aj (down from 16 in the last round). In this period, the daily number of arrivals to Sinjar is lower than the overall daily average since 8 June (205); the daily number of arrivals to Al-Ba'aj is also lower than the overall daily average since 8 June (19).

Of those individuals who returned between 22 November 2020 and 3 January 2021, a total of 4,106 were recorded in Sinjar (92%) and 378 were recorded in Al-Ba'aj (8%) – broadly consistent with the rates of individuals' districts of arrival since 8 June.

The most common sub-district of arrival was Al-Shamal with 2,514 individuals (56%), followed by Markaz Sinjar with 1,077 individuals (24%). Together, these two sub-districts comprise 78 per cent of all individuals recorded as having arrived to Sinjar and Al-Ba'aj since data collection commenced on 8 June. Otherwise, 515 individuals arrived to the sub-district of Qaeyrwan (11%) and 378 arrived to Al-Qahtaniya (8%).

Of those individuals identified as returning between 22 November and 3 January, 3,790 were recorded as returnees (85%), while the remaining 694 were recorded as out-of-camp IDPs (15%). This represents a deviation from the overall proportion of individuals having been identified as returnees (77%) and out-of-camp IDPs (23%) since 8 June.

Additionally, between 22 November and 3 January, a total of 3,555 individuals were recorded as departing from Dahuk Governorate (79%) – which is similar to the rates of individuals having departed from there since 8 June (81%). As with all previous rounds, between 22 November and 3 January, the majority of individuals from Dahuk were recorded as coming from the districts of Sumel (45% of all individuals) and Zakho (29%). The remaining individuals from Dahuk Governorate were recorded as coming from the districts of Dahuk (4% of all individuals) and Amedi (1%).

Additionally, between 22 November and 3 January, a further 810 individuals were recorded as having come from within Ninewa (18%), mainly from Al-Shikhan (14% of all individuals), with rest from and Sinjar (3%), Tilkaif (1%), and Mosul (<1%). This proportion (18%) of individuals recorded as having come from Ninewa between 22 November and 3 January is consistent with the overall proportion of individuals recorded as having come from there since 8 June (18%). Otherwise, 31 individuals arrived from Sulaymaniyah Governorate (1%), while 40 individuals arrived from Erbil Governorate (1% of all individuals), and 48 individuals arrived from Kerbala Governorate (1%)—the first account of movements from there since data collection for this exercise commenced on 8 June.

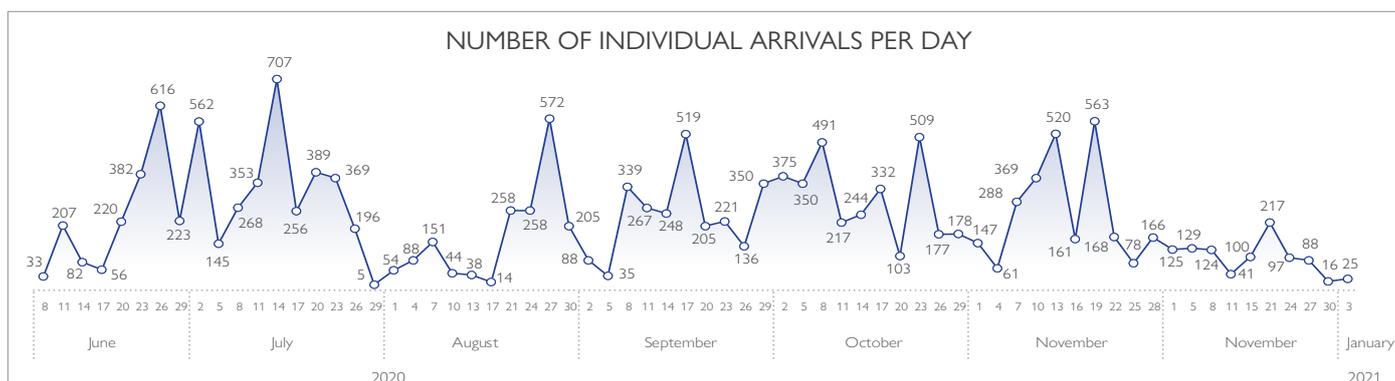
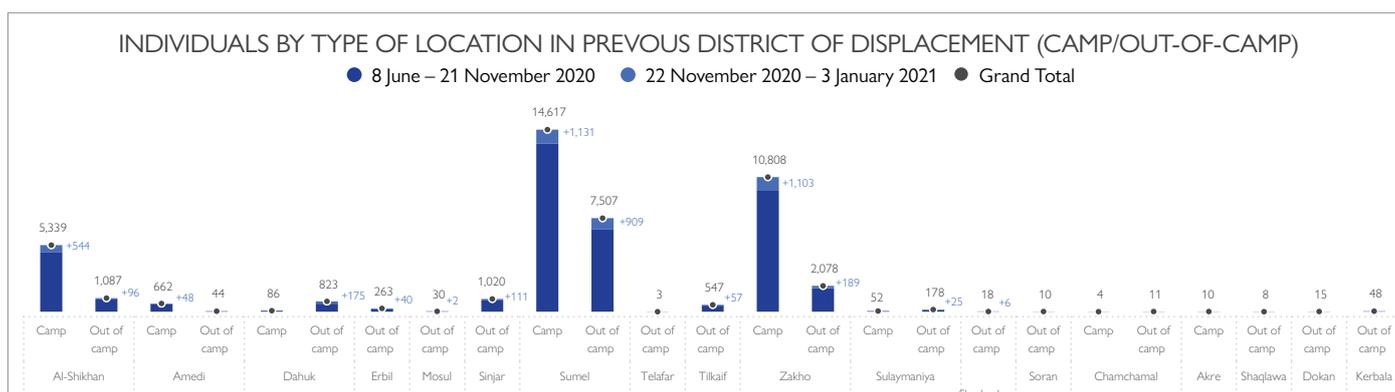
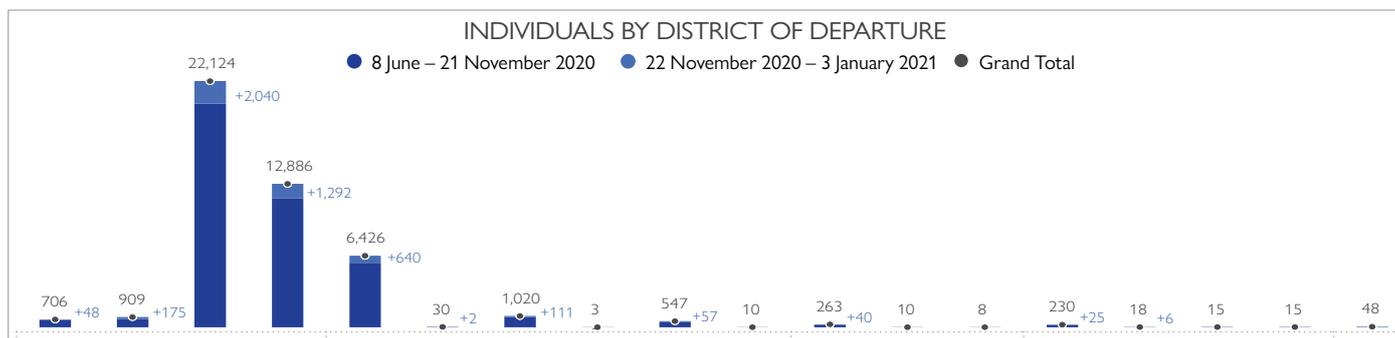
Since 8 June, almost all individuals have been recorded as having departed from Sumel (49% of all individuals), Zakho (28%), and Al-Shikhan districts (14%).

Between 22 November and 3 January, of the 4,106 individuals who arrived to Sinjar District, 3,348 came from Dahuk Governorate (82%), while 639 came from within Ninewa (16%), 48 came from Kerbala (1%), and 31 came from Sulaymaniyah (1%). Additionally, of the 378 individuals who arrived to Al-Ba'aj District, 207 came from Dahuk (55%) and 171 came from within Ninewa (45%).

Furthermore, during the same period, a total of 2,826 individuals were recorded as coming from camp settings (63%), while the remaining 1,658 individuals came from out-of-camp settings (37%). This is broadly consistent with the rates of individuals coming from different settings since 8 June, as follows: 31,578 individuals have arrived from camp settings (70%) while 13,690 individuals have arrived from out-of-camp settings (30%).

Between 22 November and 3 January, increases were recorded in the number of individuals who had been living in camp settings in their previous districts of displacement. Since 8 June 2020, the total number of individuals now in Sinjar and Al-Ba'aj who have come from camp settings within Sumel is now 14,617 (up from 13,486), while Zakho's is 10,808 (up from 9,705), and Al-Shikhan's is 5,339 (up from 4,795).

In addition, since 8 June 2020, the total number of individuals who have come from out-of-camp settings within Sumel is now 7,507 (up from 6,598), while Zakho's is now 2,078 (up from 1,889), and Al-Shikhan's is 1,087 (up from 991).



ADDITIONAL ANECDOTAL NARRATIVE

Reasons for returns

- Reasons for IDPs returning to Sinjar include their desire to go home, as well as the improved security situation in their areas of origin, while Mukhtars, local NGOs and returnees have also encouraged IDPs to return home. Threats facing eviction in locations of displacement is also a factor for those IDPs returning to Sinjar. Otherwise, the main reason for IDPs returning to Al-Ba'aj also relates to their desire to go home, while the availability of services (such as education and health) in their areas of origin is also central to the decision.
- One of the push factors has been COVID-19 pandemic, as some families who had a member working in the area of origin and moving back and forth between Sinjar and an area of displacement could no longer move easily due to movement restrictions, which then pushed the IDPs to return.

Assistance and registration

- Reportedly, the Directorate of National Security in Sinjar has established a feedback/complaint/response mechanism in the form of a hotline to be used by the new returnees or IDPs willing to return to their areas of origin in Sinjar. The main purpose of the system is to enable authorities to follow up on emerging issues/complaints, including but not limited to difficulties at checkpoints, as well as on reports that some of the newly returned individuals occupy buildings that do not belong to them.

Challenges faced by returnees

- Debris removal has been noted as an obstacle to return, given the large-scale destruction that took place in Sinjar.
- There are reports of individuals having returned to areas with limited basic services such as healthcare, markets, water, and electricity and having not received assistance. Some of these locations had not previously witnessed any returns.