CONTEXT

The Return Index is a tool designed to measure the severity of conditions in locations of return. Data collection for the Return Index Round 10 took place during the months of September and October 2020 across eight governorates, 38 districts and 2,055 locations in Iraq. During Round 10, an additional 42 locations of return were assessed.

RETURNEE POPULATION IN SEVERE CONDITIONS

• Out of the 2,055 return locations assessed, 432 present severe conditions and host 11 per cent of the returnee population, or 531,918 individuals.

• A decrease of 127,164 returnees living in severe or poor conditions has been observed since the previous round collected in May–June 2020, when 14 per cent of the returnee population (659,082 individuals) were in severe conditions.

• The largest decreases were recorded in Ninewa (47,832), Anbar (47,448) and Diyala (28,266) governorates. In Ninewa, the largest decreases were recorded in Tuz Khurmatu District in Salah al-Din Governorate (828 returnees) and in Sinjar District in Ninewa (840 returnees).

• An additional 11 locations with the most severe return conditions were observed since the previous round collected in May–June 2020, when 53,268 individuals were living across 55 locations with the most severe return conditions.

• Salah al-Din and Diyala host the highest proportions of returnees living in severe conditions (25% and 21% respectively).

MOST SEVERE LOCATIONS OF RETURN

• Sixty-six locations hosting 71,544 returnees were identified as having the most severe return conditions in this round. The top five of these locations remain in Tuz Khurmatu District in Salah al-Din Governorate (828 returnees) and in Sinjar District in Ninewa (840 returnees).

METHODOLOGY

The Return Index is based on 16 indicators divided into two scales: Scale 1, on livelihoods and basic services, and Scale 2, centered around social cohesion and safety perceptions. A regression model is used to assess the impact of each of the indicators in facilitating or preventing returns and to calculate scores for two scales. For example, the model tests how much less likely a location where no agricultural activities have recovered is to have returns, compared to a location where they have recovered. To compute an overall severity index, the scores of the two scales are combined.

The index ranges from 0 (all essential conditions for return are met) to 100 (no essential conditions for return are met). Higher scores denote more severe living conditions for returnees. The scores of the severity index are grouped into three categories: low, medium and high (which also includes very high).

Refer to the report “Methodological Overview” for more details on the methodology.

Figure 1. Proportion of returnees by category of severity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Number of Returnees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High Severity</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>531,918</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium Severity</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>1,912,494</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low Severity</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>2,331,780</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4,776,192 Returnees + 69,264 since Round 9

8 governorates
38 districts
796,032 households
2,055 locations +42 since Round 9

Data collected September – October 2020
GOVERNORATE HOTSPOTS OF SEVERITY

Subdistricts are classified as ‘hotspots’ if they score highly in terms of severity on at least one of the two scales (either livelihoods and basic services, or safety and social cohesion) or if they score medium in terms of severity but also host relatively large numbers of returnees – at least 60,000 returnees in a subdistrict. Thirty-five hotspots were identified across six governorates in this round. Compared to the previous round collected in May–June 2020, two subdistricts were added to the list, Al-Baghdady and Al-Forat, while four subdistricts were removed, Al- Muhalabiya, Markaz Hatra, Markaz Mosul, and Markaz Tikrit. Al-Baghdady and Al-Forat (Heet District, Anbar) were classified as ‘hotspots’ due to worsening of safety conditions. In Ninewa, Markaz Hatra (Hatra District) was removed due to a slight improvement in relation to residential destruction, employment, daily public life, and water provision, Al-Muhalabiya and Markaz Mosul (Mosul District) were removed due to stabilization of daily public life and to less extent employment. Markaz Tikrit (Tikrit District, Salah al-Din) was removed due to a slight improvement of the situation with residential destruction, although there are still concerns about different sources of violence such as ISIL attacks, acts of revenge, clashes between security forces or ethno-religious-tribal tensions and blocked returns.

SAalah Al-DIn: 467,964 returnees in hotspots
- Al-Amerli
- Al-Eshaqi
- Al-Moatassem
- Al-Sinjir
- Markaz Al-Balad

NINEwA: 490,230 returnees in hotspots
- Al-Qahtaniya
- Al-Shamil
- Ayadiya

AnBAr: 439,086 returnees in hotspots
- Al-Amerli
- Al-Baghdady
- Al-Forat

DIYALA: 137,580 returnees in hotspots
- Abo Sayda
- Jalula

KIRKUK: 4,740 returnees in hotspots
- Taza Khurmatu

BiAGHDAD: 6,246 returnees in hotspots
- Al-Nasir Walsalam

This map is for illustration purposes only. Names and boundaries on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM.

The map shows conditions of severity based on population size and severity score of each assessed location. The darker colours indicate a larger concentration of families living in severe conditions of return, while the brighter colours indicate lower severity conditions or areas with low levels of returns.

DISCLAIMER

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