From 30 November to 31 December 2017:

- As of 31 December 2017, the DTM has identified 2,615,988 internally displaced persons (435,998 families) displaced after January 2014, dispersed across 97 districts and 3,711 locations in Iraq. For the same period, DTM has also identified 3,220,362 returnees (536,727 families).

- Overall, the total number of identified IDPs decreased by approximately 9% (267,750 individuals). Decreases were recorded across 17 of Iraq’s 18 governorates.

- The returnee population increased by 17% (460,704 individuals) during the month of December. This significant increase is mainly due to the completion of a DTM joint data collection exercise carried out in cooperation with local authorities in west Mosul.

Considering the available information and the DTM methodology, the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) has revised the planning figures for the humanitarian response at 2.6 million internally displaced persons and 3.2 million returnees.
IDPs

- 3,220,362 Individuals
- 536,727 Families

IDP population per shelter arrangements

- 50% Private settings (1,319,388 IDPs)
- 26% Camps (674,856 IDPs)
- 11% Critical shelters (295,338 IDPs)
- 12% Unknown (326,406 IDPs)

% change:

- NINEWA: +8%
- DAHUK: +79%
- ERBIL: +25%
- SALAH AL-DIN: +59%
- SULAYMANIYAH: +3%
- Camps: +8%
- Critical shelters: +6%
- Private settings: +6%
- Habitual residence: +7%
- Unknown: +2%

Returnees

- 3,220,362 Individuals
- 536,727 Families

Returnees population per shelter arrangements

- 96% Habitual residence (3,085,308 IDPs)
- 3% Private settings (90,912 IDPs)
- 1% Critical shelters (43,422 IDPs)
- >1% Unknown (720 IDPs)

% change:

- ANBAR: +47%
- SALAH AL-DIN: +30%
- KIRKUK: +33%
- DIYALA: +22%
- BAGHDAD: +12%
- DAIUK: +9%
- Private settings: +6%
- Critical shelters: +7%
- Unknown: +10%
- Habitual residence: +17%

Figure 1. IDPs displacement timeline: monthly updates

Figure 2. Presence of IDPs by governorate of displacement

Figure 3. Returnees displacement timeline: monthly updates

Figure 4. Presence of returnees by governorate of return
For the first time since the beginning of the Iraq displacement crisis that started in December 2013, DTM has recorded more returnees (3.2 million individuals) than IDPs (2.6 million individuals) across the country.

At the end of 2015, there were 468,780 returnees in Iraq; at the end of 2016, there were 1,370,862. In 2017, the number of returnees increased by 1,849,500 individuals, reaching a total of 3,220,362.

Returns have taken place to the governorates of Anbar (38%), Nineawa (30%) and Salah al-Din (14%) – these three concentrate 82% of the total returns and are the governorates of origin of 86% of the current IDP population; most IDPs displaced from Nineawa (57%), followed by Anbar (15%) and Salah al-Din (14%). Therefore, Anbar, Nineawa and Salah al-Din are the epicentre of displacement and return.

Intra-governorate return accounts for 55% of returnees. This has been a common trend across all governorates and is likely to continue, since in those governorates that have received returnees, the percentage of intra-governorate IDPs remains high. In fact, the most significant concentration of IDPs is currently in Nineawa (57%), with an intra-governorate IDP population of 97%.

The dynamic nature of the conflict has dictated the trend of returns.

Returns have been sustained since July 2016, when the campaign against ISIL intensified, with the periods October–November 2016 (aftermath of the offensive to retake the Anbar districts of Ramadi, Heet and Fallujah as well as eastern districts of Nineawa) and May–June 2017 (Mosul operations) witnessing the highest numbers of returns. Since the dynamics of return follow the conflict’s evolution, returns are not linked to the length of time IDPs have spent in displacement; displacement and return movements are largely independent.

The significant increase of 17% (460,704 individuals) in the returnee population is largely due to the completion of a joint mapping exercise carried out in west Mosul and launched at the beginning of November 2017. This collaboration aimed to identify reliable governmental and local stakeholders able to support the monitoring of IDPs and returnees’ movements across Mosul city. Notably, the prolonged occupation and severe damage of the local network in west Mosul had required an extensive engagement at the neighborhood level from local authorities to strengthen the quality and accuracy of the population data. Following several rounds of field consultations and data triangulation, closely supported by the Ministry of Migration and Displacement (MoMD) and the Ministry of Trade, these up-to-date figures were integrated in this DTM round.

The IOM DTM Iraq started recording returnees in April 2015.

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The IOM DTM Iraq started recording returnees in April 2015.
As of 31 December 2017, seven governorates host 82% (2,148,672 individuals) of the total identified IDP population: Ninewa hosts 31% (807,324), Dahuk 14% (362,898), Erbil 10% (255,672), Salah al-Din 9% (247,362), Baghdad 7% (183,516), Kirkuk 7% (180,858) and Anbar 4% (111,042).

From a regional perspective, Central North Iraq hosts 66% of the IDPs (1,713,732 individuals), the Kurdistan Region of Iraq 31% (806,976) and South Iraq 4% (95,280).

Overall, the total number of identified IDPs decreased by approximately 9% (-267,750 individuals). Decreases were recorded across 17 of Iraq’s 18 governorates.

During the reporting period, DTM carried out a joint data collection exercise in cooperation with local authorities to identify and locate IDPs and returnees in Mosul city. This led, in addition to the continuous return trends from camps and other areas, to an overall decrease of 14% (-133,842 individuals) in Ninewa Governorate.

Kirkuk Governorate reported a decrease of 18% (-40,230 individuals), as IDPs from the Hawija and disputed-areas crisis returned.

Erbil Governorate recorded a decrease of 8% (-21,072 individuals) – primarily in Erbil district – following the handover of the disputed areas from the Kurdish Peshmerga to the Iraqi Security Forces after 15 October 2017.

There was an 7% decrease (-17,280 individuals) in Salah al-Din Governorate, mostly in Tikrit, as IDPs returned to the retaken Al-Shirqat and Baiji districts, as well as to Hawija.

There was also a decrease of 13% (-26,580) IDPs in Baghdad Governorate, as authorities there pursue a policy of encouraging returns to retaken areas.

Only one governorate, Dohuk, recorded a very slight increase of 1% or 2,556 individuals.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Governorate of displacement</th>
<th>Families</th>
<th>Individuals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anbar</td>
<td>18,507</td>
<td>111,042</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Babylon</td>
<td>5,578</td>
<td>33,468</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baghdad</td>
<td>30,586</td>
<td>183,516</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basrah</td>
<td>1,548</td>
<td>9,288</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dahuk</td>
<td>60,483</td>
<td>362,898</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diyala</td>
<td>13,759</td>
<td>82,554</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erbil</td>
<td>42,612</td>
<td>255,672</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kirkuk</td>
<td>8,551</td>
<td>51,306</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kirkuk</td>
<td>30,143</td>
<td>180,858</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missan</td>
<td>588</td>
<td>3,528</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muthanna</td>
<td>513</td>
<td>3,078</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Najaf</td>
<td>9,181</td>
<td>55,086</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ninewa</td>
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<td>807,324</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qadissiya</td>
<td>3,080</td>
<td>18,480</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salah al-Din</td>
<td>41,227</td>
<td>247,362</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sulaymaniyah</td>
<td>31,401</td>
<td>188,406</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thi-Qar</td>
<td>970</td>
<td>5,820</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wassit</td>
<td>2,717</td>
<td>16,302</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1. Distribution of IDP families and individuals by governorate of displacement
As of 31 December 2017, the total IDP population of 2.6 million comes from nine of Iraq’s 18 governorates, but more than half (57% or 1,480,278 individuals) are from Ninewa. Anbar is the second most common governorate of origin for IDPs with 15% (399,210), followed by Salah al-Din with 14% (354,576).

Largely due to ongoing return movements to Mosul district, the number of IDPs originally from Ninewa Governorate has decreased by 10% (-160,986 individuals) to reach 1,480,278 individuals.

The ongoing return movements to Fallujah and Ramadi, combined with the slowing down of displacement movements from west Anbar due to the end of the offensive, have led to a decrease in the number of IDPs from Anbar by 12% (-52,746 individuals) to reach 399,210 individuals.

Map 2. IDP families by governorate of origin
The map shows IDPs’ movements from their governorate of origin to their current districts of displacement.

During the reporting period, the number of IDPs from Erbil Governorate dropped by 52% (-9,336 individuals) to reach 8,478, and those from Kirkuk dropped by 11% (-26,796) to reach 226,956. These return movements follow the handover of the disputed areas from the Kurdish Peshmerga to the Iraqi Security Forces.

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Dynamics of return and displacement are tracked through independent but complementary systems, meaning that the number of returnees and of IDPs can increase at the same time during a reporting period although overall trends will realign in longer observation intervals.

As of 31 December 2017, a total of 3,220,362 individuals reportedly returned to their location of origin, meaning that the number of returnees in Iraq has increased by 17% (460,706 individuals) in this month.

Ninewa Governorate recorded an overall increase of 63% (378,582 individuals) to reach 974,862 returnees. These returnees were identified during the joint data collection exercise conducted by the DTM in cooperation with local authorities in Mosul, in addition to continuous returns to Mosul district, and the return movements to Telafar and Telkaif districts from the disputed-areas crisis. The Ninewa returnee population is mainly concentrated within Mosul (564,120 individuals), Telafar (179,838) and Al Hamdaniya (103,596) districts.

The governorate hosting the largest returnee population is Anbar with a total of 38% (1,213,476 individuals) – almost all concentrated in the districts of Fallujah (16%, or 517,668 individuals), Ramadi (14%, or 457,494) and Heet (6%, or 179,466).

The third largest governorate hosting returnee populations is Salah al-Din, with 14% (459,186 individuals), as many returnees continue to head back to east Shirqat district, which was retaken from ISIL in late September.
During the month of December 2017, IDPs have been returning mostly from Ninewa, Anbar, Erbil, Baghdad and Kirkuk Governorates. Of Iraq’s 3.2 million returnees, 21% (667,464 individuals) were last displaced to Ninewa, 18% (573,594) to Anbar, 12% (392,586) to Erbil, 11% (366,288) to Baghdad and 12% (375,516) to Kirkuk.

During the reporting period, DTM carried out a joint data collection exercise in cooperation with local authorities to identify and locate IDPs and returnees in Mosul city. This led, in addition to the ongoing return movements to Mosul district and the displacement movements following the handover of the disputed areas from the Kurdish Peshmerga to the Iraqi Security Forces, to record Ninewa Governorate with the biggest increase in IDPs leaving to return to their location of origin, with an increase of 100% or 334,362 individuals, compared to the previous monitoring period.

Almost 100% (573,084 individuals) of the returnees last displaced in Anbar were internally displaced within the governorate.

In the case of the 392,586 individuals who returned from Erbil Governorate, 41% (161,166 individuals) returned to Anbar Governorate, 24% (95,040) to Ninewa and 19% (73,662) to Salah al-Din.

This month, approximately 23,346 individuals returned from Najaf Governorate to their location of origin in Ninewa Governorate following the improvement of the security conditions in the region. This represents a 166% increase compared to last reporting period.

Map 4. Returnee families by last governorate of displacement
The map shows returnees’ movements from their governorate of last displacement to their current districts of return.

Figure 10. Variation in the number of returnees by last governorate of displacement
The figure reports the highest variation in the returne population by governorate of last displacement, compared to the last report.

Table 4. Distribution of returnees by governorate of return and last governorate of displacement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Governorate of return</th>
<th>Anbar</th>
<th>Babylon</th>
<th>Baghdad</th>
<th>Dahuk</th>
<th>Diyala</th>
<th>Erbil</th>
<th>Kerbala</th>
<th>Kirkuk</th>
<th>Ninewa</th>
<th>Salah Al-Din</th>
<th>Sulaymaniyah</th>
<th>Others</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anbar</td>
<td>573,084</td>
<td>8,760</td>
<td>266,616</td>
<td>894</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>161,166</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>133,062</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2,946</td>
<td>66,948</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1,213,476</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baghdad</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4,050</td>
<td>66,336</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3,828</td>
<td>48</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>486</td>
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<td>74,868</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dahuk</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>780</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>780</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diyala</td>
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<td>1,056</td>
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<td>Erbil</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<td>71,010</td>
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<td>11,736</td>
<td>132,612</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nineawa</td>
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<td>7,260</td>
<td>116,088</td>
<td>282</td>
<td>95,040</td>
<td>17,334</td>
<td>5,994</td>
<td>663,342</td>
<td>3,612</td>
<td>5,154</td>
<td>55,104</td>
<td>974,862</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salah al-Din</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>24,834</td>
<td>2,334</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>73,662</td>
<td>1,482</td>
<td>137,688</td>
<td>752</td>
<td>199,374</td>
<td>17,244</td>
<td>1,824</td>
<td>459,186</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>573,594</td>
<td>18,300</td>
<td>366,288</td>
<td>120,098</td>
<td>170,998</td>
<td>392,586</td>
<td>18,864</td>
<td>375,516</td>
<td>667,464</td>
<td>217,668</td>
<td>242,340</td>
<td>57,048</td>
<td>3,220,362</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 10. Variation in the number of returnees by last governorate of displacement
The figure reports the highest variation in the returnee population by governorate of last displacement, compared to the last report.
Half (50% or 1,319,388 individuals) of Iraq’s 2.6 million IDPs are reportedly housed in private settings, including 39% (1,031,460) in rented housing and 11% (283,920) with host families. Less than 1% (4,008) of IDPs reported living in hotels/motels.

A total of 295,338 IDPs (or 11%) report living in critical shelters, including 5% (142,920) who live in unfinished buildings, 3% (74,214) in informal settlements, 2% (64,536) in religious buildings and fewer than 1% (7,194) in school buildings.

A quarter (25% or 89,220 individuals) of the IDPs living in critical shelters in Iraq are concentrated in Salah al-Din Governorate and 20% (59,868) are in Dahuk.

A total of 674,856 individuals (or 26% of Iraq’s IDPs) live in camps. Almost half of this population (330,486 individuals) are concentrated in Ninewa, reflecting the largely camp-based nature of the Mosul crisis response, while more than 20% (151,056) are in Dahuk.

A total of 3,085,308 individuals (or 96% of Iraq’s 3.2 million returnees) reportedly live in their habitual residence, while 3% (90,912 individuals) are in private settings and 1% (43,422) are in critical shelters.

Returnees living in critical shelters are concentrated in only three governorates – Diyala, Salah al-Din and Ninewa. Diyala has the biggest share, with 55% (24,072 returnees) reporting to lived in critical shelters.
IOM’s DTM aims to monitor displacement and provide accurate data about the IDP and returnee population in Iraq. Data is collected through IOM’s Rapid Assessment and Response Teams (RARTs), composed of 123 staff members deployed across Iraq.

Data from the IDP Master List and Returnee Master List is gathered through a well-established large network of over 9,500 key informants that includes community leaders, mukhtars, local authorities and security forces. Additional information is gathered from government registration data and partner agencies.

IOM RARTs collect Master List data continuously and report it biweekly. However, limited access as a result of security issues and other operational constraints can affect information-gathering activities. The variation in displacement figures observed between different reporting periods may be due to influencing factors such as the increased accuracy of displacement tracking, continuous identification of previously displaced groups, and the inclusion of data on secondary displacements within Iraq.

The displaced populations are identified through a process of collection, verification, triangulation and validation of data. IOM continues to closely coordinate with federal, regional and local authorities to maintain a shared and accurate understanding of displacement across Iraq.

DEFINITION

The number of individuals is calculated by multiplying the number of families by six, the average size of an Iraqi family.

The DTM considers as returnees all those individuals previously displaced who return to their sub-district of origin, irrespective of whether they have returned to their former residence or to another shelter type. The DTM’s definition of returnees is unrelated to the criteria of returning in safety and dignity, or to a defined strategy for a durable solution. DTM only records the estimated number of those who fled their locations of origin since January 2014 and have now returned; as such, it focuses on permanent return and does not capture “go-and-see” visits. The Returnee Master List is not designed to assess the conditions of the returnees’ houses. It provides an initial indication of whether the families moved back to the residence of origin (referred to as habitual residence) or had to settle in alternative shelter arrangements after returning to their sub-district of origin (corresponding to one of the ten categories of shelter types). Targeted shelter assessments should be carried out to assess the damages caused by the conflict.

Location is defined as an area that corresponds either to a sub-district (i.e. fourth official administrative division), a village for rural areas, and a neighbourhood for urban areas (i.e. fifth official administrative division).

To facilitate analysis, this report divides Iraq in three regions: the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) includes Dahuk, Sulaymaniyah and Erbil Governorates; the South includes Basrah, Missan, Najaf, Thi-Qar, Qadissiya and Muthana Governorates; the Central North includes Anbar, Babylon, Baghdad, Diyala, Kerbala, Kirkuk, Ninewa, Salah al-Din and Wasit Governorates.

Private settings: include rented houses, hotels/motels and host families.

Critical shelters: include informal settlements, religious buildings, schools, unfinished or abandoned buildings and other informal settlements.

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