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 Ninewa), May–June 2017 (Mosul operations) and September–December 2017 (last advance of the retaking campaign) witnessing the highest numbers of returns.

In Salah al-Din, where a total of 4,530 new returnees were identified across the governorate, many headed back to the retaken districts Al-Shirqat (3,114 individuals) and Baiji (642).

In Anbar, most of the governorate's 7,146 returnees identified during March 2018 are in the retaken districts of west Anbar. DTM Emergency Tracking indicates that approximately 33,000 of those displaced during last year's offensive against ISIL in west Anbar have returned, but about 45,000 remain displaced.

A total of 3,635,598 individuals reportedly returned to their location of origin, meaning that the number of returnees in Iraq has increased by 4% (123,996 individuals) this month.
RETURNNEES BY GOVERNORATE OF PREVIOUS DISPLACEMENT

Of Iraq’s 3.6 million returnees, 25% (899,376 individuals) were last displaced to Ninewa, 16% (589,122) to Anbar, 11% (411,006) to Erbil, 12% (408,882) to Kirkuk and 11% (384,360) to Baghdad.

Almost 100% (588,612 individuals) of the 589,122 returnees last displaced in Anbar were internally displaced within the governorate. Similarly, 99% (894,714) of returnees last displaced in Ninewa and 90% (227,166) of those last displaced in Salah al-Din were internally displaced within their own governorates.

RETURNNEES LIVING IN CRITICAL SHELTERS

A total of 3,511,014 returnees (or 97% of Iraq’s 3.6 million returnees) reportedly live in their habitual residence, while 2% (83,844 individuals) are in private settings and 1% (40,740) are in critical shelters.

Returnees living in critical shelters are concentrated in four governorates – Diyala (21,552 individuals), Salah al-Din (12,732), Ninewa (5,820) and Kirkuk (636). Diyala has the biggest share, with 53% (21,552 returnees) reporting to be living in critical shelters. In January 2018, DTM identified returnees living in critical shelters in Kirkuk Governorate for the first time. During this monitoring period, 636 individuals living in informal settlements in the districts of Kirkuk and Daquq were located.