

RETURN INDEX

FINDINGS ROUND TWO – IRAQ JANUARY 2019

HIGHLIGHTS

- A similar proportion (1%) of returnees were recorded as living in locations ranked as having the most severe conditions¹ between the two rounds: 46,074 returnees across 53 locations for round two compared to 46,998 returnees in 52 locations for round one.
- A marginally smaller proportion of returnees were recorded as living in locations ranked as having very severe conditions² between the two rounds: 401,166 returnees across 232 locations are living (10% of returnees) for round 2 compared to 443,434 individuals (11% of returnees) living in 290 locations for round one.
- Round two recorded a significant decrease in the number and proportion of returnees living in locations that were ranked as having very severe conditions for scale one, livelihoods and basic services. In round two there were 527,940 individuals (13% of returnees) living in locations with very severe conditions compared to 801,030 (21% of returnees) recorded in round one.
- Round two also recorded a large decrease in the number and proportion of returnees living in locations that were ranked as having very severe conditions for scale two, safety and social cohesion. In round two 226,032 individuals (6% of returnees) were living in locations with very severe conditions compared to 314,616 individuals (8% of returnees) recorded in round one.

HOTSPOTS OF OVERALL HIGH SEVERITY CONDITIONS:

- Sinjar Centre (Ninewa)
- Baiji Centre (Salah al-Din)
- Ramadi peri-urban areas (Anbar)

HOTSPOTS OF HIGH SEVERITY LIVELIHOODS AND BASIC SERVICES CONDITIONS:

- West Mosul (Ninewa)
- Al-Abassy (Kirkuk)
- Saadiya and Jalawla (Diyala)

HOTSPOTS OF HIGH SEVERITY SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFETY PERCEPTIONS CONDITIONS:

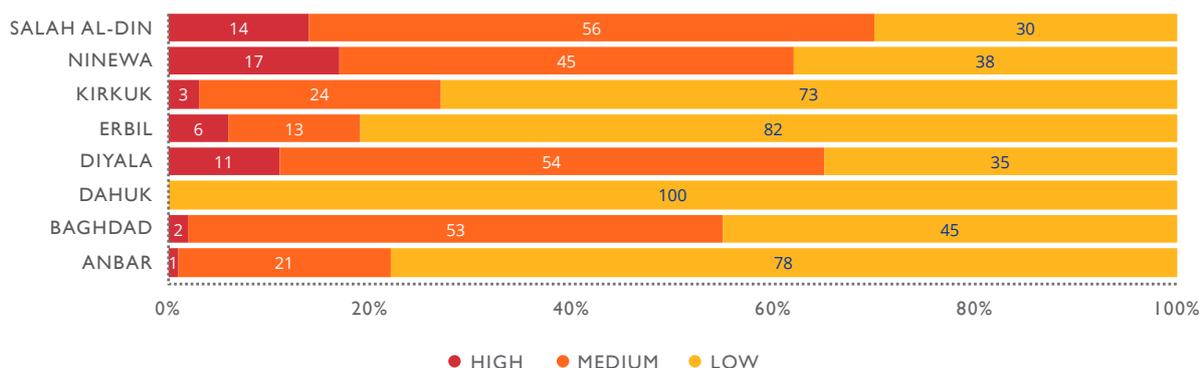
- Tooz Khormatu District (Salah al-Din)
- Telafar Centre (Ninewa)
- Zummar and Ayadhiya (Ninewa)

 **4,080,618 Returnees**

8	38	89	1,504
governorates	districts	sub-districts	locations

as of October 2018

Figure 1: Proportion of returnees by category of severity per governorate



1 Locations described as having the 'most severe' conditions are those which are ranked as 'very high' in the return index
 2 Locations described as having 'very severe' conditions are those which are ranked as 'very high' or 'high' in the return index

INTRODUCTION

This second return index report builds on the ‘findings round one’ report released in 2018 and is a comparative analysis between this initial round of data collection and the latest round. The return index uses two sets of indicators on a) livelihoods and basic services and b) social cohesion and safety perceptions to create a severity score. The data for this report was collected in October 2018 in 1,504 locations across Iraq, that is, 77 more locations were assessed compared to round 1 and 233,048 additional returnees were recorded by DTM.

Results show that 401,166 individuals (10 per cent of the total returnee population), are living in locations with very severe conditions. This overall proportion has remained relatively stable between the two rounds: in round one, 442,434 individuals (11% of the total) were recorded as living in these conditions. Nevertheless, more than a third of the new locations assessed in this round fall into this category.

The return index can also be used to find hotspots of very severe conditions, nearby locations in a specific geographical

area. While there was some variation of conditions per round, these hotspots have largely remained the same. This round, hotspots with very severe conditions overall were: Sinjar Centre, Baiji Centre, and the peri-urban areas of Ramadi. Those which ranked highly on scale one (livelihoods and basic services) were west Mosul, Al-Abassy, and Saadiya and Jalawla. The hotspots found for scale two (social cohesion and safety perceptions) were Tooz Khormatu, Telafar Centre, and Zummar and Ayadhiya.

Six months after the first round of the Return Index, it is important to re-evaluate conditions and drivers of return in Iraq in order to better reflect a changing displacement context. In response, IOM, the Returns Working Group, and Social Inquiry carried out consultations with relevant partners and stakeholders to revise the indicators and data collection cycle for more robust and current findings. The outcomes of these changes will be presented in a forthcoming report that will constitute a new baseline. Further details about the methodology can be found on page 10.

CATEGORIZING QUALITY OF RETURNS

OVERALL SEVERITY

As of 31 October 2018, an estimated 46,074 returnees (1% of the total returnee population) are living in 53 locations ranked as having a very high severity of conditions. These 53 locations are spread over only four governorates: Baghdad (1), Diyala (8), Ninewa (27) and Salah al-Din (17) (Table 1).

Table 1: Disaggregation of the 52 locations ranked with the highest severity

	GOVERNORATE	DISTRICT	SUB-DISTRICT	LOCATION	RETURNEES INDIVIDUALS	TOTAL QUALITY INDEX
70-82	Salah al-Din	Tooz	Markaz Tooz	Al-Salam Village	276	82
	Salah al-Din	Tooz	Markaz Tooz	Yangija Village	180	79
	Salah al-Din	Balad	Markaz Al-Balad	Aziz Balad	1248	78
	Salah al-Din	Tooz	Al-Amerli	Maftol Al Sagher Village	330	71
	Salah al-Din	Tooz	Al-Amerli	Maftol Al Kaber Village	216	71
	Salah al-Din	Tooz	Suleiman Beg	Sulayman Beg sub center	3090	71
	Ninewa	Sinjar	Markaz Sinjar	Hay Alqadseya	534	70
60-69	Ninewa	Telafar	Ayadiya	Qasbat Al Raei Village	252	69
	Ninewa	Sinjar	Markaz Sinjar	Hay barbaroj	450	69
	Ninewa	Sinjar	Markaz Sinjar	Hay Alshuhada	1254	68
	Ninewa	Sinjar	Markaz Sinjar	Hay Yarmok	1050	67
	Ninewa	Telafar	Ayadiya	Tuluh bash Village	60	66

	Salah al-Din	Baiji	Markaz Baiji	Hay Alasmida	480	65
	Ninewa	Sinjar	Markaz Sinjar	Hay Al Naser	510	65
	Ninewa	Mosul	Markaz Mosul	Dakat barkah	900	62
	Ninewa	Telafar	Zummar	Hamd Agha Village	102	62
	Baghdad	Abu Ghraib	Al-Nasir Walsalam	Al Kabaeshat village	324	61
	Ninewa	Telafar	Ayadiya	Qasabat Ayadiya	1800	61
49-59	Ninewa	Sinjar	Markaz Sinjar	Qandil	450	59
	Ninewa	Sinjar	Markaz Sinjar	Rozh Halat	1830	57
	Ninewa	Sinjar	Markaz Sinjar	Al Nsireya	900	57
	Ninewa	Sinjar	Markaz Sinjar	Hay Azadi	732	57
	Salah al-Din	Balad	Al-Eshaqi	AL_Farhateya village	2400	56
	Diyala	Khanaqin	Jalula	AL Chagaat Village	180	56
	Diyala	Khanaqin	Jalula	Koshk Village	300	56
	Ninewa	Tilkaif	Wanna	Ammar Bet Village	660	56
	Salah al-Din	Baiji	Markaz Baiji	AlSalman Village	180	55
	Ninewa	Mosul	Markaz Mosul	Hay Al Farouq	888	55
	Salah al-Din	Balad	Al-Duloeyah	OM Shaeefa	3270	55
	Salah al-Din	Baiji	Markaz Baiji	Hay Alaskari-2	294	54
	Ninewa	Al-Ba'aj	Markaz Al-Ba'aj	Al-Swejen	210	54
	Ninewa	Al-Ba'aj	Markaz Al-Ba'aj	Rajm Al-botha	264	54
	Ninewa	Sinjar	Al-Shamal	Khana sor	1500	54
	Ninewa	Sinjar	Al-Shamal	Hardan and Girshabak	600	54
	Ninewa	Sinjar	Qaeyrrawan	Hazeel Alshrq Village	60	54
	Ninewa	Sinjar	Qaeyrrawan	Hazeel Alwasti Village	48	54
	Ninewa	Sinjar	Qaeyrrawan	Tall Alabtah	126	54
	Salah al-Din	Baiji	Markaz Baiji	AlMalha AlGharbiya village	840	53
	Salah al-Din	Baiji	Markaz Baiji	Malha village	1200	53
	Salah al-Din	Baiji	Markaz Baiji	Tal abu Jarad area-Mahalla 104	960	53
	Salah al-Din	Baiji	Markaz Baiji	Alasheteeh village	1560	53
	Diyala	Khanaqin	Jalula	Shekh Village	90	53
	Diyala	Khanaqin	Jalula	Elaimat Village	30	53
	Diyala	Khanaqin	Jalula	Al Teneraa Village	150	53
	Diyala	Khanaqin	Jalula	Baheza Village	600	53
	Diyala	Khanaqin	Jalula	Saleh Habib Village	90	52
	Ninewa	Sinjar	Al-Shamal	Sinuni center	5352	51
	Ninewa	Sinjar	Markaz Sinjar	Solagh	918	51
	Salah al-Din	Baiji	Markaz Baiji	Hay Alnour village	246	50
	Salah al-Din	Baiji	MakkHoul	Markaz Makhoul	480	50
	Ninewa	Al-Hamdaniya	Markaz Al-Hamdaniya	Muftiya Village	144	49
	Ninewa	Al-Ba'aj	Markaz Al-Ba'aj	Abu-Rasen	138	49
	Diyala	Al-Muqdadiya	Markaz Al-Muqdadiya	Shak Al Rak Village	5328	49

In total, 401,166 returnees across 232 locations are living in very severe conditions, 10 per cent of the assessed returnee population. Ninewa governorate hosts both the highest number and the highest proportion of returnees living in this type of location (271,338 individuals, 17%). This is followed by Salah al-Din (79,986, 14%) and Diyala (25,194, 11%).

Table 2: Number of locations per governorate by category of severity

GOVERNORATE	HIGH ³	MEDIUM	LOW	TOTAL NUMBER OF LOCATIONS
Anbar	6	102	122	230
Baghdad	4	46	47	97
Dahuk	0	0	1	1
Diyala	29	83	97	209
Erbil	2	5	12	19
Kirkuk	13	82	82	177
Ninewa	134	240	213	587
Salah al-Din	44	92	48	184
<i>Total number of locations</i>	<i>232</i>	<i>650</i>	<i>622</i>	<i>1504</i>

Table 3: Absolute number of returnees per governorate and category of severity

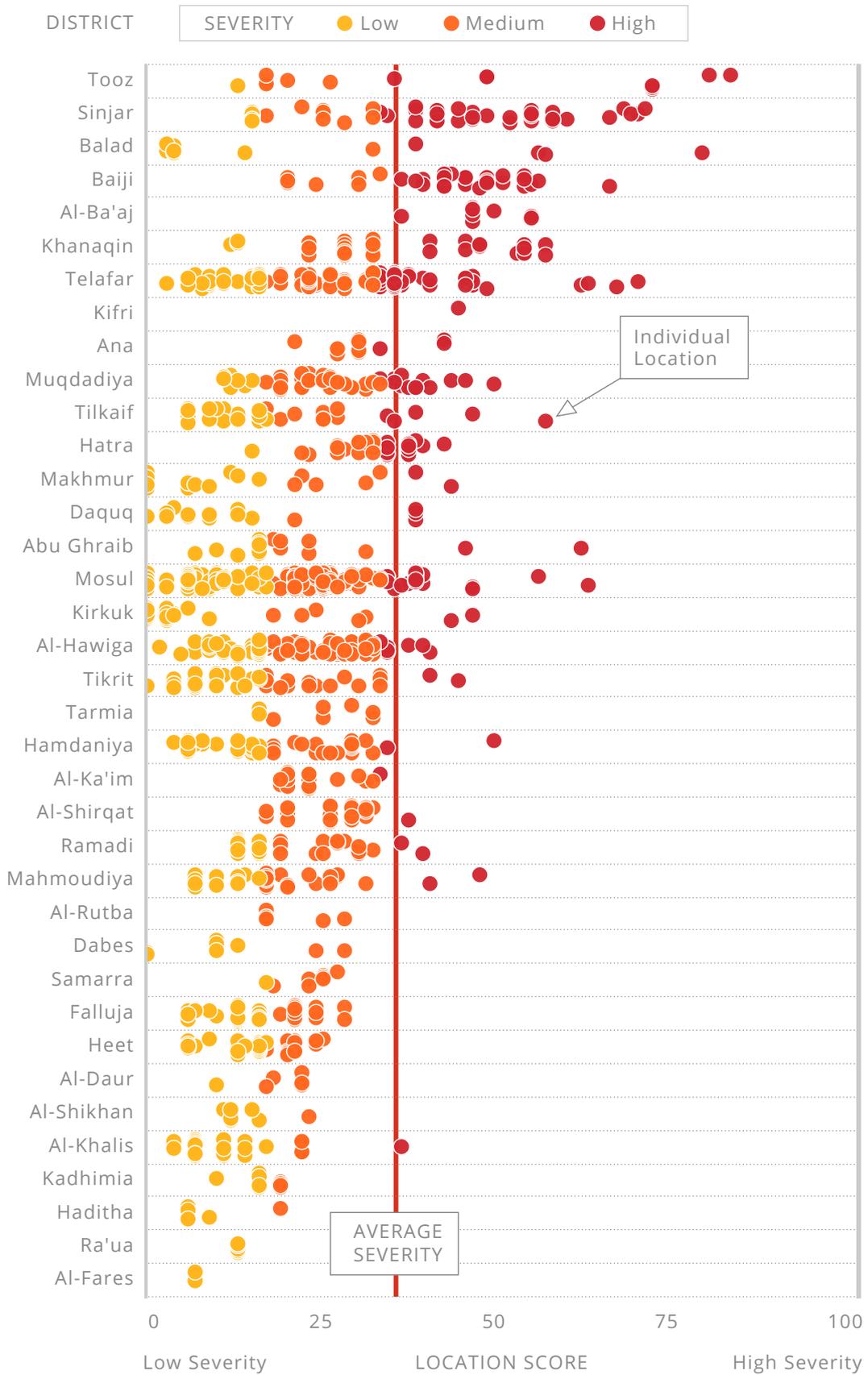
GOVERNORATE	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW	TOTAL NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS
Anbar	11,742	275,478	995,376	1,282,596
Baghdad	1,314	43,164	36,804	81,282
Dahuk	0	0	780	780
Diyala	25,194	119,328	77,820	222,342
Erbil	2,238	5,160	32,976	40,374
Kirkuk	9,354	72,810	226,500	308,664
Ninewa	271,338	707,586	597,078	1,576,002
Salah al-Din	79,986	317,076	171,516	568,578
<i>Total number of individuals</i>	<i>322,518</i>	<i>1,540,602</i>	<i>2,138,850</i>	<i>4,080,618</i>

Figure two (shown on following page) shows the results of the Return Index by district, where every dot is a location in that district, ordered from most (high scores) to least (low scores) severe conditions based on the district mean value. The previous round rankings have shifted thanks to both changing conditions in locations and the addition of new locations that became accessible for assessment this round. Tooz Khormatu is now the district with highest severity of conditions. It is followed by Sinjar, which was the district with the most severe conditions in the previous round. In round two it has, on average, slightly lower severity scores than Tooz Khormatu, but has the most locations with very

severe conditions. This visualization shows significant variation within districts and can be used to identify geographical clusters of severity for each governorate, in the key hotspots listed in Table five. These clusters consist of several locations close to each other where very severe conditions are concentrated, creating a social ecosystem in which returns are extremely limited or run the risk of triggering secondary displacement. However, it is important to bear in mind that the Return Index does not collect data related to premature or forced returns, prevalent in many governorates such as Anbar. This may influence returnees' living standards and the overall hotspots.

³ Locations ranked as 'very high' and 'high' on the return index are listed as 'high'

Figure 2: Ranking of return locations per district from low to high severity



SEVERITY SCALE ONE: LIVELIHOODS AND BASIC SERVICES

The spread of locations with very severe conditions for scale one (livelihoods and basic services) is higher than that for the overall quality index. When analysing the results of scale one there are 527,940 individuals (13%) living in locations with very severe conditions.

Again, Ninewa Governorate has both the highest number and the highest percentage of returnees (397,644, 26%) living in locations with very severe conditions. However, for scale one Kirkuk is the second highest governorate for the number and percentage of returnees (35,118, 11%) in these conditions, followed by Diyala (20,778, 9%).

Table 4: Absolute number of returnees per governorate & category of severity for scale one

GOVERNORATE	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW	TOTAL
Anbar	23,796	1,108,590	150,210	1,282,596
Baghdad	2,526	38,700	40,056	81,282
Dahuk	0	0	780	780
Diyala	20,778	118,218	83,346	222,342
Erbil	2,928	12,090	25,356	40,374
Kirkuk	35,118	93,618	179,928	308,664
Ninewa	397,644	649,212	529,146	1,576,002
Salah al-Din	45,150	285,894	237,534	568,578
<i>Total</i>	<i>527,940</i>	<i>2,306,322</i>	<i>1,246,356</i>	<i>4,080,618</i>

SEVERITY SCALE TWO: SAFETY AND SOCIAL COHESION

Overall, 6 per cent of returnees (226,032 individuals) are living in locations with very severe conditions on the safety and social cohesion scale. The governorate with the highest number of returnees living in this type of conditions for

scale two is Ninewa (134,670, 9%). However, the proportion of returnees living in these conditions is highest in Salah al-Din (83,796, 15%).

Table 5: Absolute number of returnees per governorate & category of severity for scale two

GOVERNORATE	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW
Anbar	0	89,208	198,898
Baghdad	324	3,246	77,712
Dahuk	0	0	780
Diyala	7,242	97,110	117,990
Erbil	0	960	39,414
Kirkuk	0	2,118	306,546
Ninewa	134,670	293,418	1,147,914
Salah al-Din	83,796	141,312	343,470
<i>Total</i>	<i>226,032</i>	<i>627,372</i>	<i>3,227,214</i>

SELECTED CLUSTER ANALYSIS: COMPARING SEVERITY ACROSS ROUNDS

The following descriptions cover selected clusters of locations with relatively high severity, prioritized on the basis of their scores on each of the respective Return Index scales. This yields an analysis of hotspots in three different groups:

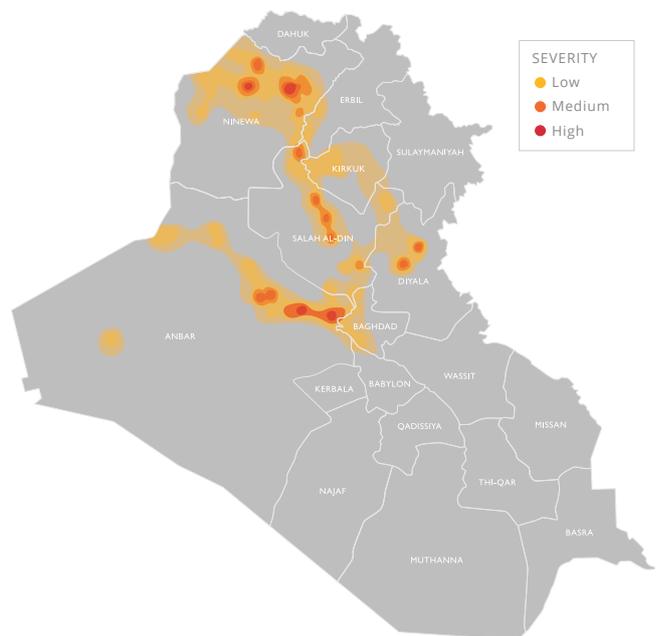
- Overall hotspots: areas with a high score for both scales

- Livelihood and services hotspots: areas with a relatively higher severity score for Scale 1
- Social cohesion and safety hotspots: areas with a relatively higher severity score for Scale 2

Table 6: Geographical clusters of severity hotspots

NINEWA	SALAH AL-DIN	KIRKUK	ANBAR	BAGHDAD	DIYALA	ERBIL
Sinjar Centre	Baiji	Hawija Centre	Ramadi peri-urban	Latifiya	Saadiya / Jalawla	Makhmur Centre
Telafar Centre	Tooz Khormatu District	Al-Abbasy	Ana Centre	Khan Dari	Muqdadiya Centre	
West Mosul	Balad / Duloeiya	Riyadh				
Ba'aj / Qahtaniya	Tikrit Centre					
Al-Qayara	Al-Shirqat					
Hamam Al-Aleel						
Ayadhiya / Zummar						

Map 1. Density map of all index scores



OVERALL HOTSPOTS

Sinjar Centre (Ninewa)

Return rates in Sinjar Centre remain stalled when comparing Round 1 and Round 2 data: less than half of the pre-conflict population have returned. Residential destruction is one of the most critical issues affecting all neighbourhoods. Key informants reported that more than half of them are severely destroyed and there is no reconstruction underway. There are still reportedly few functioning private sector businesses and little market functionality. There is a scarcity of goods in the markets in 70% of locations and, in 20% of locations, markets remain closed. Even though daily public life is reportedly calm in about half of the locations (an increase from previous rounds), there is a general deterioration in safety concerns. All locations report concerns

about ethno-religious tension compared with 20% in the previous round. Residents are also now more concerned about perceived threats from ISIL-related attacks in all but one location.⁴ Similarly, there are three locations where there are now concerns over clashes between armed groups.⁵ Finally, issues associated with the illegal occupation of houses remain present in 73% of locations.⁶

⁴ Golat.

⁵ Hay Barbaroj, Rozh Halat and Solagh.

⁶ Hay Al Naser, Hay Barbaroj, Qandil, Hay Azadi, Hay Yarmok, Rozh Halat, Hay Alshuhada and Hay Alqadseya.

Baiji Centre (Salah al-Din)

Baiji has witnessed new returns, especially located in the areas surrounding the town centre. Comparing data across rounds, the extent of housing destruction is significantly less thanks to reported ongoing reconstruction efforts. However, most neighbourhoods are reported to still have a small presence of mines, unexploded ordnances and improvised explosive devices. Health and education provision have improved across locations in Baiji Centre. In terms of the social cohesion and safety indicators, the new locations that experienced returns in the sub-district are classified as having the most severe conditions⁷ and the locations previously assessed were already ranked as having the most severe conditions. The main security concerns reported by key informants were risks of kidnapping, ISIL-related attacks, and clashes among armed groups. In about three quarters of locations there were also reports of social tensions and of restrictions of movement that are negatively impacting daily life of the population.

Ramadi Peri-Urban Areas (Anbar)

This part of Ramadi district covers Husaibah al-Sharqiah, al-Khaldiya, and al-Habbaniya sub-districts which are located along the highway towards Falluja. There are continued issues regarding livelihoods and basic services. Although two more locations are reporting ongoing reconstruction than in the previous round,⁸ key informants reported that there is house destruction in all locations. In addition, in 80% of the locations assessed, electricity provision is still at the bottom third of all locations assessed in the return index. In terms of the social cohesion and security scale, concerns over violence linked to revenge, kidnapping, and tribal tensions remain very high and have even increased in some locations.⁹ Key informants in some locations reported that people are less concerned about ISIL-related attacks¹⁰ or property destruction. However, these are still a concern in over two thirds of locations in this area. Key informants in all locations but one reported that inter-tribal dialogue is necessary in these sub-districts. However, around half of them reported in this current round that no such dialogue is taking place,¹¹ an upward trend from the last round where dialogue was reportedly taking place.

LIVELIHOOD AND BASIC SERVICES HOTSPOTS

West Mosul (Ninewa)

West Mosul is still severely impacted by the conflict however the population is steadily returning. Key informants reported that the residential areas in slightly more than half of these locations are severely damaged¹² and the rest are moderately damaged. In general, there has been a relative improvement of electricity provision – although it remains in the bottom third when compared to the rest of the assessed locations. Water provision, on the other side, remains low: 50% of the locations reported that about half of the population do not have sufficient water. Water supply is only available between one to three days per week in most locations. Finally, while residents report being able to access primary health and basic education provision overall, related facilities in several neighbourhoods remain closed or not functioning.¹³

Al-Abassy (Kirkuk)

This rural sub-district south of Hawija Centre has also experienced a relative improvement in infrastructure development. However, all but one of the 27 locations still report moderate residential destruction. There are no private sector livelihood opportunities and agricultural activities have only partially re-started. All primary

schools are reportedly open and access to primary health centres remains good across all locations, including those that do not have facilities of their own. While electricity supply remains above the average compared to the rest of locations within the Return Index, water is sufficient for only half of the population in 18 locations.

Saadiya and Jalawla (Diyala)

Conditions across these two neighbouring towns are relatively similar to one another. While key informants reported that 90% of locations have housing destruction, reconstruction is only happening in 10% of these locations. Electricity has significantly worsened when comparing data across rounds and more than a third of locations reported insufficient water supply, with 14 locations reporting no supply at all.¹⁴ In addition, employment opportunities also remain one of the key challenges in these towns, with almost all locations reporting that there are no private sector opportunities. Primary health centres in these locations were reported as functioning in the previous round and remain so in the current round. However, basic education access remains uneven across both Saadiya and Jalawla as some schools have still not reopened.¹⁵

7 Alsheteeh village, Alharejiya village, Alshatt village, Hay Alasmida, Hay Almuhandiseen, Hyundai village, Jedaeda village.

8 Al-Sadiqiyah and Hay Al Mulmeen.

9 Al Urobah, Al-Shuhadaa, Hay Al Mulmeen and Jazirat Al Khaldiya.

10 Al-Kully Kom Complex.

11 Abu Fless, Al-Sadiqiyah, Al-Shuhadaa, Hay Al-Salam, Husaibah Al-Sharqiah, Zoyaha Al-Thuban, Jazirat Al Khaldiya.

12 Al-Khazraj, Bab Jadeed, Hay Al-Shifaa, Dawasa, Al-Mayasa, Bab Albeeth, Al Mansuria, Bab Lakash, Almshahda.

13 Primary school not functioning: Al-Khazraj, Hay Al-Shifaa, Dawasa, Bab Albeeth, Al Mansuria, Bab Lakash, Almshahda; Primary health centre not functioning: Hay Al-Shifaa.

14 All these locations are located in the rural areas of these subdistricts and include Al Chagaat, Koshk, Al Teneraa, Baheza, Shekh, Elaimat, Saleh Habib, Dhiban, Albo Geaid, Jomila, Small Baheza, Al Tolaat, Al Torath, and Al Nakheel.

15 Primary schools in these locations are reportedly still closed or not functional: Al Chagaat, Koshk, Al Teneraa, Baheza, Shekh, Elaimat, Saleh Habib, and Jomila in Jalawla subdistrict, and Al Asree neighbourhood in Saadiya subdistrict.

HOTSPOTS WITH RELATIVELY HIGHER SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFETY SEVERITY

Tooz Khormatu District (Salah al-Din)

This district, formed by the sub-districts of Tooz Khormatu Centre, Suleiman Beg and Amerli, remains largely inaccessible due to movement restrictions imposed by the security actors in the area. However, five new locations have been accessed and assessed in this current round.¹⁶ Security concerns about clashes between armed groups are particularly high in Amerli. In fact, more than half of locations assessed in the district currently report having between four and seven armed groups coordinating and/or competing for security provision¹⁷ – the largest number of actors across all districts in the Return Index. Inter-community dialogue remains the same compared to the previous round. Key informants across all locations report that dialogue is necessary, but critically, not taking place in all but one location. Housing, land and property disputes, particularly in the form of illegal occupation of houses, remain an issue in slightly more than half of the locations.¹⁸

Telafar Centre (Ninewa)

There has been a 10% increase in the number of returnees to the district capital since the first round of data collection. Nevertheless, social cohesion and safety remain a critical challenge in this area. In all 40 assessed locations, key informants reported that people are concerned about potential new ISIL-related attacks including in some locations that did not report such threats in previous rounds. A multiplicity of armed actors is also present across Telafar Centre, where there are reportedly five different actors in control of security provision. At the same time, however, no daily life tensions or restrictions of movement were reported. Furthermore, key informants across all neighbourhoods indicated that the inter-community dialogue needed to facilitate peaceful returns is taking place.

Zummar and Ayadhiya (Ninewa)

Locations in these two sub-districts within Telafar district are grouped together because of their similar social dynamics. 17 locations were ranked as having high or very high severity in terms of their social cohesion and security, including both sub-district centres.¹⁹ This is linked mostly to ethno-religious and tribal tensions and key informants in 66 locations (95%) reported that dialogue is needed but not taking place. Social mistrust also seems pervasive and has increased from the previous round, especially in Zummar.²⁰ Two villages in Zummar²¹ also reported suffering from movement restrictions that significantly impacted residents' daily life, while 11 others (all but one in Zummar) reported that restrictions somewhat impacted residents. General safety concerns are mostly centred on ISIL-related attacks as well as ethno-religious violence, while concerns about revenge have significantly decreased.

¹⁶ Al Salam and Yangija in Tooz Centre subdistrict, Maftol al Saghir and Maftol al Kabir in Amerli subdistrict, and Khasadarly in Suleiman Beg subdistrict.
¹⁷ Hay Garmian, Hay Imam Ahmed, Hay al Hussein, Hay Rizgari, Hay Komari, Hay Aqsu, and Tapa Sawz in Tooz Centre subdistrict, and Suleiman Beg Centre.

¹⁸ Hay Komari, Hay Rizgari, Tapa Sawz, Suleiman Beg Centre, Maftol al Sagher, Maftol al Kabir, Al Salam, and Yangija.

¹⁹ Zummar Centre, Kirver village, Kahreez, Tal Mus, Al Mafri, Ayadiya Centre, Dabashih, Ain Hilwa Upper, Tal Maraq Al Sufia, Bardiah complex, Ein Gahesheya, Ein Alhilwa, Sahel Hamad, Qasbat Al Raei, Shikak, Hamd Agha, Tuluh bash.

²⁰ Bardiah Complex and Hamd Agha.

²¹ Kirver, Kahreez, Tal Mus, Al Mafri, Ain Hilwa Upper, Tal Maraq Al Sufia, Ein Gahesheya, Ein Alhilwa, Sahel Hamad, Shikak, Jizrunia.

METHODOLOGY

The return index was created by IOM DTM, the Returns Working Group and Social Inquiry to better understand the ‘quality of returns’ in Iraq. It correlates data available on returnee population figures with 18 different indicators grouped into two scales: (i) livelihoods and basic services, and (ii) social cohesion and safety perceptions.

INDICATORS FOR SCALE 1

Livelihoods And Basic Services

- Housing
- Private sector
- Primary health care
- Primary education
- Markets
- Farming
- Electricity
- Presence of mines
- Water

INDICATORS FOR SCALE 2

Social Cohesion And Safety Perceptions

- Safety concerns
- Multiplicity of security actors
- Freedom of movement
- Daily public life
- Occupied private residences (HLP illegal occupation)
- Need for inter-community dialogue
- Social capital within the community

The guiding principle of the Return Index is to correlate all data available on returnee population figures with indicators on (a) livelihoods and basic services and (b) social cohesion and safety perceptions in order to create a score at location level (i.e., individual village, town or neighbourhood). This score measures the severity of conditions or quality of return.

The tool consists of a manageable number of indicators that are collected periodically for each of the +1,400 locations recorded in the DTM by interviewing community representatives. The specific indicators were selected based on recent quantitative and qualitative research on post-conflict return dynamics in Iraq. The approach taken was to define an initial set of minimum or critical living conditions that are necessary to make a place adequate enough to sustain returning populations. The premise is that locations that have all populations back and are not experiencing secondary displacement are likely to have a good quality (or good conditions) for return.

A more detailed methodology note is available in the [Return Index Round One report](#) on the DTM website.

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RETURN INDEX

FINDINGS ROUND 2 – IRAQ

JANUARY 2019

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FINDINGS ROUND 2 – IRAQ

JANUARY 2019

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