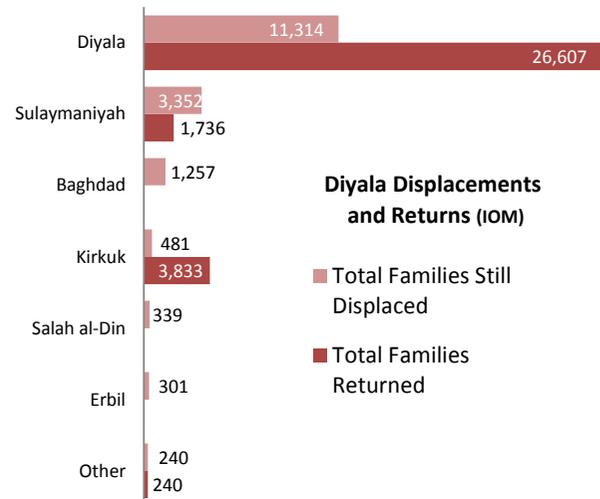
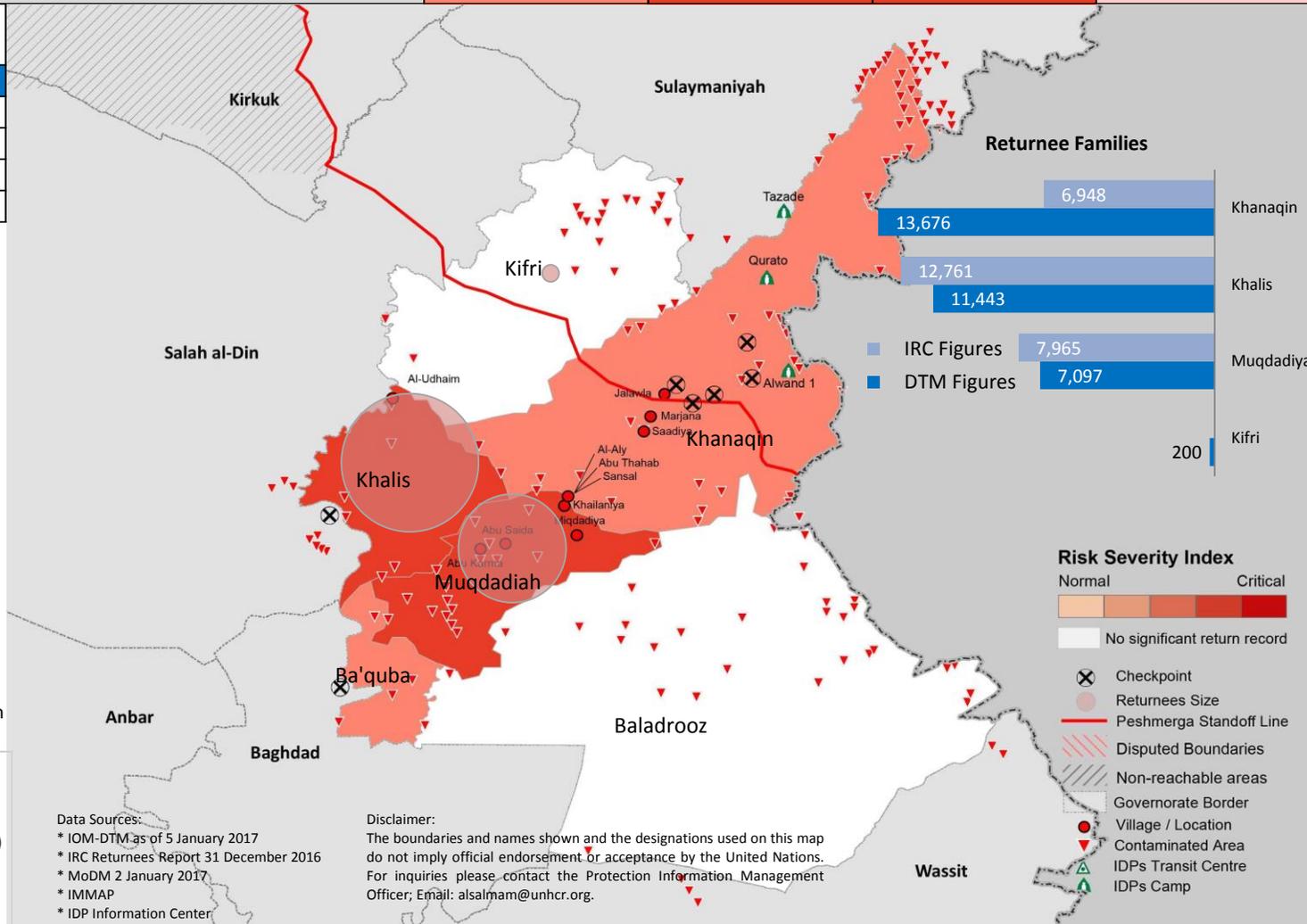
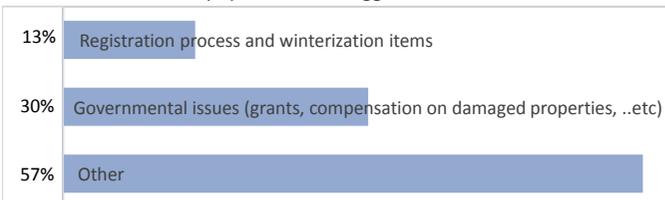


Protection Risk Matrix by District	High	Protection Concerns	Khanaqin	Khalis	Muqdadiya	Ba'quba
	Reported Violations of principles relating to return movements (including non-discrimination in the right of return, as well as voluntariness, safety and dignity of return movements)	High	High	High	High	High
	Medium	Security incidents resulting in death/injury in return area (including assault, murder, conflict-related casualties)	High	High	High	High
	Explosive Remnants of War (ERW)/ Improvised Explosive Device (IED) contamination in return area	Medium	High	High	High	High
	Low	Reported Rights violations by state or non-state military/security actors (including abduction, arbitrary arrest/detention, disproportionate restrictions on freedom of movement)	High	High	High	High
	Concerns relating to inter-communal relations and social cohesion	Low	High	High	High	High

MODM Returnee Figures (Registered and non-registered)	
District	Families
Khanaqeen	18,604
Muqdadiya	6,319
Khalis	6,063
Baladrooz	130



IDP Information Center: 8% of calls received from Diyala were from returnees. The most popular issues flagged:



GENERAL CONTEXT

The volatile security situation, unstable political environment and lack of basic services, compounded by tribal conflicts, continued to be reported from Diyala governorate. Search operations resulted in daily arrests among residents, including returnees, for different allegations, majority linked to terrorism. The security committee in Diyala Provincial Council stated that a large campaign was conducted on 12 December that resulted in destroying seven hideaways of ISIL elements and the arrest of more than 80 suspects among ISIL sleeper cells. Despite all efforts, insecurity continues in certain areas of Diyala such as the agricultural areas to the north of Muqdadiya district that previously witnessed active returns.

Tribal conflicts continue to be prevalent in Diyala, with some dating back to 2006-2007. The latest intervention by Parliament's Speaker Saleem al-Jubouri is anticipated to stabilize the situation and help reach a resolution, especially in Khalis and Muqdadiya districts.

During the reporting period, 32 returnee families were registered with the MoMD branch in Baquba, bringing the total number of registered returnees to 998 families. This number is much less than the actual number of returnees to the governorate that is estimated to be more than 30,064 by the MoMD as many returnees have not registered with the MoMD upon return. Many returnees have expressed their concerns of traveling within conflict areas to reach the MoMD office in Baquba in addition to financial difficulties hindering their ability to register.

The integration of the PMF into the Security Forces that was passed by the Parliament on 26 November 2016. The decision of integrating the PMF into the Security Forces may allow dozens of members of "Sahwat" in Diyala to resume their security work as there will be stable financial income. Many of tribal fighters and Sahwat who were assigned to protect the retaken areas in Diyala did not receive their salaries for several months during 2016. Therefore, some 700 elements decided to stop their work and start a new one for financial reasons.

MUQDADIYA DISTRICT

Despite security deterioration in the agricultural villages to the north of Muqdadiya, early December recorded the return of 248 displaced families to the villages of Sansal, Abu Thahab and Al-Aly in Muqdadiya. According to the Diyala Security Committee, the presence of "fake checkpoints" reported from some of Muqdadiya streets with ISIL sleeper cells become active at night and pose a risk to returnees.

Abu Saida sub-district

Security deterioration continues in Abu Saida sub-district of Muqdadiya despite the deployment of 500 ISF and police troops. At the end of

December, ISIL announced their presence in Kuba village in Abu Saida by raising their flag over schools there that lead to more displacement towards the neighbouring villages. The security forces have sought the announcement of a state of emergency in Abu Saida and for the deployment of more troops to fight ISIL's expanding presence in the area.

KHANAQEEEN DISTRICT

On 13 December, a meeting at the governorate office in Baquba was attended by officials and security representatives from Khanaqeen to discuss the control of Saadiya sub-district and end the displacement file of Khanaqeen district. While the meeting resulted in a preliminary agreement to end the displacement of more than 5,000 families originally from the outskirts of Saadiya and Jalawla sub-districts who are currently in IDP camps in Khanaqeen, later information confirmed that the mayor of Khanaqeen has decided to place the decision on hold considering the security situation and the lack of services in areas of return. The authorities plan to meet in January 2017 to agree on a schedule for IDP returns taking into consideration the ongoing challenges in Diyala governorate.

Jalawla Sub-District

The displacement file in Jalawla sub-district is officially closed on 20 December with the return of 1,847 families that represent the last group of IDPs. This brings the total number of returnees to Jalawla to more than 12,000 families, according to MoMD. Jalawla is the first area in Diyala governorate that announced the return of all IDP families and return was celebrated by the mayor and some of the security forces. Security concerns, limited services, livelihood opportunities, and inflated rents due to destroyed houses continue to be reported from Jalawla and other areas of return within Diyala governorate.

KHALIS DISTRICT

Voluntary returns but also pressured/organized and forced returns continues to the various areas in Khalis district despite the volatile security situation, unstable political environment and lack of basic services, compounded by tribal conflicts. During the month of December, the security search operations resulted in the arrests of more than 35 persons, including returnees. The majority of those arrested were on suspicion/allegations related to terrorism. According to the Diyala Security Committee, presence of "fake checkpoints" are reported from some of Khalis streets with ISIL sleeper cells which are active especially at night.

On 13 December, areas of returns in Khalis bordering Salah al-Din governorate were again attacked by ISIL causing material destructions. While no casualties were recorded among returnees, such continuous

attacks on areas of return have compromised safety and sustainability of returns.

Al-Udhaim Sub-District:

The 130 expelled families from Kirkuk governorate are still accommodated in a random camp at Al-Udhaim outskirt either pending security approval to return or being unable to return to their destroyed houses. IDPs have been living there since September 2016 and have named the camp "Albu Hnehen" and authorities in Al-Udhaim are requesting MoMD to recognize the camp in order to allow assistance delivery, especially by organizations that only assist camps recognized by the MoMD. Local authorities have mentioned that IDPs are in urgent need for assistance, including CRI, fuel and food.

BAQUBA DISTRICT

The authorities have stated their plans to facilitate the return of all IDPs in and from Diyala by the end of 2016, including returns to Baquba District. However the security situation on the ground continues to deteriorate with daily arrests, abductions and killings including in areas that have received returnees. The unstable security situation in Baquba and Diyala as a whole is not conducive to the large scale expedited returns being planned by the authorities and there are serious concerns over the voluntariness of returns and safety of returnees. Protection partners continue to urge authorities at all levels to ensure that all returns are voluntary and in conditions of safety and dignity.

Return to Diyala can be classified as:

Voluntary return: Families returning to areas of origin after stabilization of the security situation and restoration of services, following successful screening procedures.

Spontaneous return: Families returning due to push factors of economic pressure and displacement fatigue, following successful screening procedures.

Forced return: Mainly IDP families in Kirkuk where coercive measures have been used to encourage displaced families from liberated areas such as Diyala to return. These include evictions, confiscation of documents, harassment, and arbitrary arrest/detention.

No or limited return: Due to security concerns, especially in Muqdadiya in light of the sectarian conflict and unstable security situation; families rejected for return by the authorities/security committees; destroyed property and lack of services in certain areas preventing return for the time being; in addition to fears of demographic change with returns being allowed to families based on sectarian affiliation.