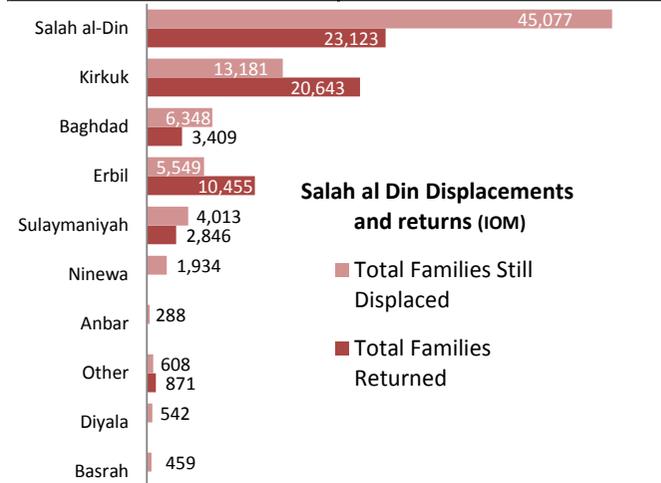


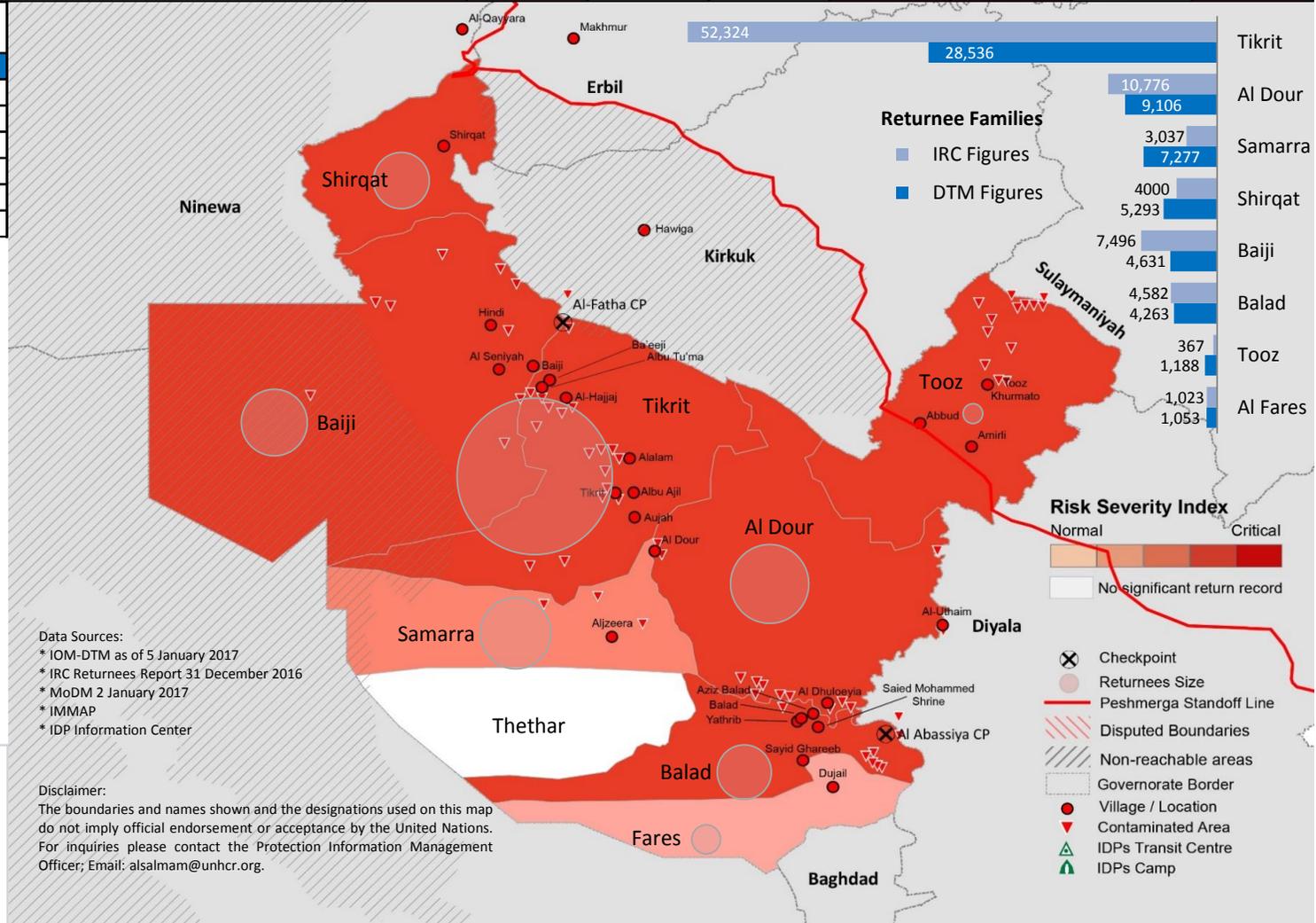
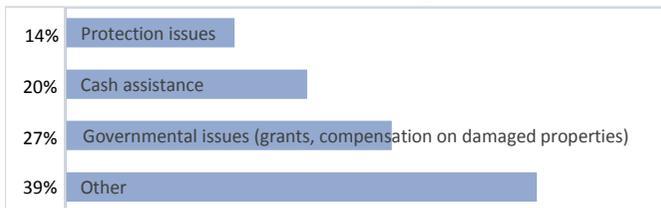
Protection Risk Matrix by District	High	Protection Concerns	Baiji	Tikrit	Al Dour	Samarra	Balad	Tuz	Fares	Shirqat	
	Reported Violations of principles relating to return movements (including non-discrimination in the right of return, as well as voluntariness, safety and dignity of return movements)	High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

MODM Returnee Figures (Registered and non-registered)

District	Families
Tikrit	46,503
Samarra	16,867
Al Dour	13,150
Baiji	11,561
Shirqat	7,792
Balad	7,240



IDP Information Center: 19% of calls received from Salah Al-Din were from returnees. The most popular issues flagged:



GENERAL CONTEXT

In December 2016, returns continued to Yathrib and Dhuluiya sub-districts of Balad, while IDP returns to Baiji district is finally agreed for a start date of 31 January 2017. Meanwhile, following a momentary halt of military operations in the eastern bank of Shirqat district as a result of heavy rain on 3 December, the villages of Sahel, Nahiya and Aink Hawa were retaken from ISIL control. The ISF and PMF are searching houses in the villages for ISIL elements and supporters. Salah al-Din Operations Command stated that military progress to retake eastern Shirqat has slowed down in December due to widespread mines and IEDs.

In retaken areas in Salah al-Din governorate, increased reports of looting of abandoned houses by unknown groups prompted the sheikhs and community leaders to request the deployment of additional troops to protect residents and their properties.

Approximately 1,200 Iraqi returnees who were living in Hassakeh refugee camps in Syria were transported by MoMD (through Erbil-Kirkuk-Tuz) on 20 December. The movement has been coordinated with the KRG and central authorities. Returnees underwent many rounds of security screening before being transported to the Al-Alam camp. Processing of their return to areas of origin within Salah al-Din governorate is ongoing.

SHIRQAT DISTRICT

IDP returns to the western bank of Shirqat under ISF control had started on 2 October 2016 and it continued through December 2016. Mass destruction, explosive hazard contamination, lack of services, presence of armed groups, in addition to expulsion and punishment of families suspected of having links with ISIL have been reported by returnees.

Mine clearance operations in retaken villages on the western bank of Shirqat are ongoing. The military announced that the road linking Ganus village to Hajj Ali area has been completely cleared of IED/UXOs. The ISF EOD unit also conducted clearance operations in the retaken village of Al-Kahaf, in east Shirqat, rendering safe a number of booby-trapped houses and IEDs. In recently retaken villages in Shirqat, ISIL sleeper cells installed speakers broadcasting ISIL chants, resulting in the displacement of some 50-100 families, including some recent returnees. Search and arrest operations for ISIL sleeper cells are reportedly ongoing.

The security situation remains unstable in Shirqat as attacks continue to be carried out from the eastern river bank still under ISIL control. On 10 December, ISIL fired at a militia position in Ganus

al-Imam village on the eastern bank of Shirqat, causing four casualties, including two fatalities. Additionally, Djumaa Enad, the head of the Salah al-Din Operations Command, was reportedly injured in a shelling incident on the Eastern bank of Shirqat, which resulted in two fatalities.

BAIJI DISTRICT

Despite the formal announcement authorizing returns to Baiji district on 13 November, no return movement was recorded thus far. This prompted the Salah al-Din Provincial Council to set a new deadline (mid-February 2017) for the government and the PMF to facilitate IDP returns. Some IDPs from Baiji have expressed disappointment as this deadline seems to be in a long time, especially those in Kirkuk who have been under increasing pressure to return to their areas of origin. Following further discussions, authorities in Salah al-Din governorate, in coordination with the PMF who controls the district, announced that IDP returns is scheduled to start on 31 January, 2017. Return mechanism, application, and security screening procedure are being discussed with information that returns will be in phases.

With preparations for IDP returns to Baiji district scheduled on 31 January, 2017, ISIL started to attack the several areas within the district to prevent/delay the return. On 27 December, an attack by ISIL with mortar rounds recorded on Seiniyah area in Baiji, no casualties reported.

Forced returns continue to be reported from Kirkuk, leading in many instances to secondary displacement. During the month of December, seven families from Baiji district were expelled from Kirkuk governorate. They came to Al-Mazra'ah to stay with their relatives as they could not return to their area of origin, where return is not yet allowed. This brings the number of displaced families in Salah al-Din Governorate expelled from Kirkuk since October 2016 to 220 families.

TIKRIT DISTRICT

Returns are ongoing but have slowed down in Tikrit. Security breaches have been reported although the district is under firm control of the ISF, PMF and tribal forces. Two attacks by ISIL were repelled by the ISF, Federal Police and the PMF in December in Al-Fatha area in Tikrit, no casualties were reported. Attacks continue to compromise the safety and sustainability of returns.

According to the PMF, 95% of IDP families have returned to Tikrit district in 2016; the remaining 5% belong to the Baijat tribe linked to former President Saddam Hussein and have so far not been allowed to return.

BALAD DISTRICT

Returns continue to Yathrib and Dhuluiya sub-districts with a reported decrease compared to earlier months due to families fearing expulsion on the basis of perceived affiliation with ISIL. Despite that dozens of IDPs have been approved to return to Yathrib sub-district of Balad. Authorities at the entry checkpoint decided not to allow IDP returns in December 2016. It remains to be seen whether these returns will be allowed subsequently.

SAMARRA DISTRICT

IDP returns are ongoing, but with small numbers in Samarra district. On 9 December, authorities imposed a curfew on Samarra, closed all entry points to the city, as well as the Samarra-Tikrit road, fearing security threats on the occasion of a religious event. In Salah al-Din Governorate, access through checkpoints to deliver assistance has been one of the main challenges reported by humanitarian actors especially for Samarra.

The Salah al-Din Police initiated raids on 4 December in Jazeerat Al-Therthar, west of Salah al-Din bordering Anbar, which resulted in the arrest of six persons accused of affiliation with ISIL.

Return to Salah Al Din 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 fatigue from being displaced, following successful screening procedures.

Forced return: Mainly IDP families in Kirkuk where various coercive measures to encourage displaced families from Salah Al-Din to return, including evictions, confiscation of documents, harassment, and arbitrary arrest/detention.

No or limited return: families/tribes suspected to have links with ISIL are not granted approval or not allowed to return by local communities, especially in the case of Yathrib and Aziz Balad. The conditions of destroyed/damaged properties and lack of services, such as in Baiji, unstable security environment, such as Tooz, making return not possible for the time being.