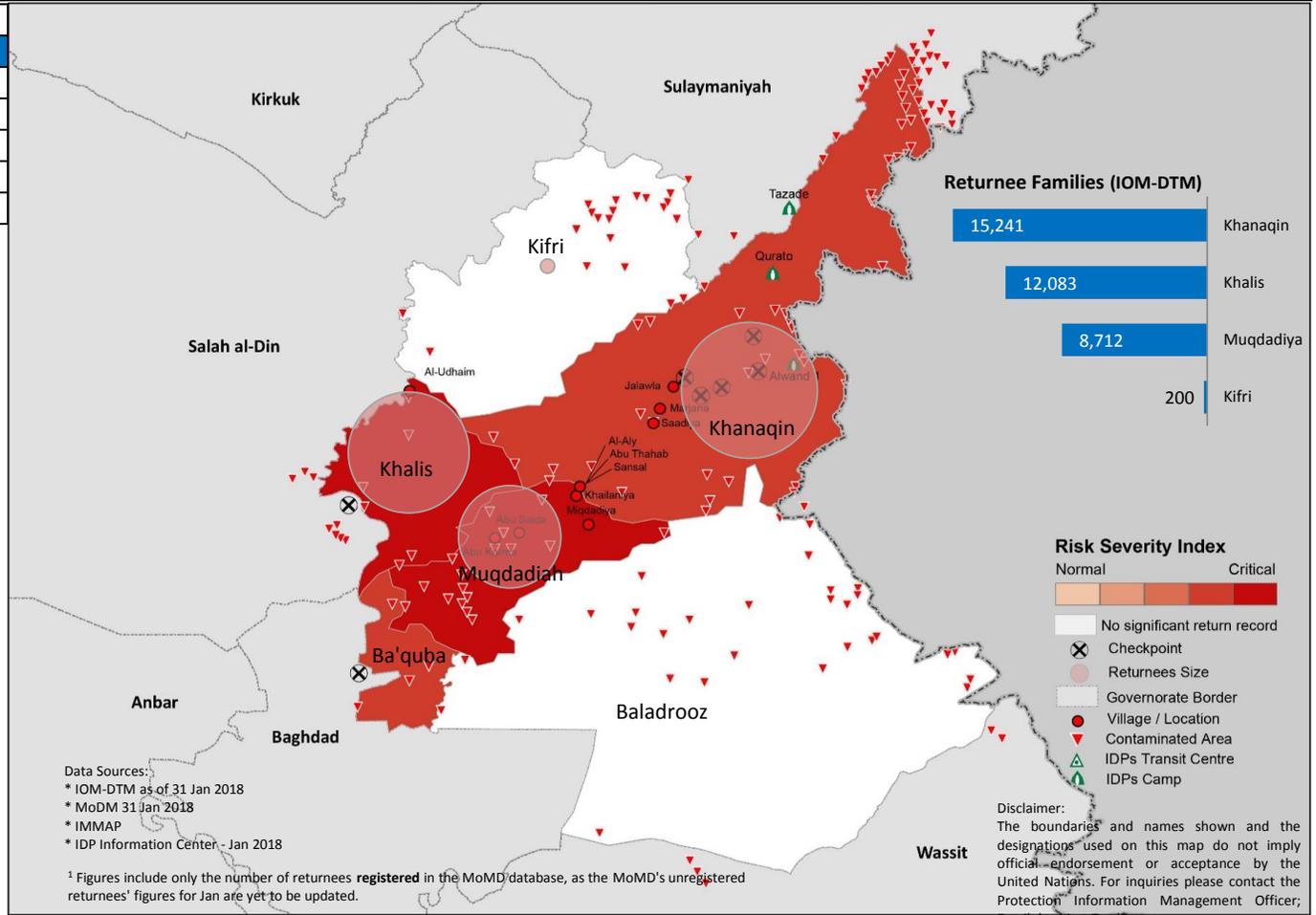
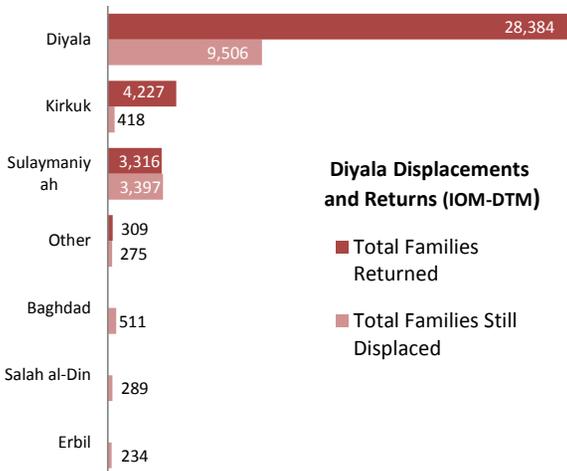


Iraq Protection Cluster: Diyala Returnees Profile - January 2018

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)					
	Medium	Security incidents resulting in death/injury in return area (including assault, murder, conflict-related casualties)				
	Explosive Remnants of War (ERW)/ Improvised Explosive Device (IED) contamination in return area					
	Low	Reported Rights violations by state or non-state military/security actors (including abduction, arbitrary arrest/detention, disproportionate restrictions on freedom of movement)				
Concerns relating to inter-communal relations and social cohesion						

MODM Returnees' Figures ¹	
District	Families
Khanaqeen	6,421
Muqdadiya	1,834
Khalis	2,459
Baquba	72
Baquba	2



IDP Information Center: Only 12 calls received from returnees in Diyala. The flagged issues were about cash assistance and government issues.

¹ Figures include only the number of returnees registered in the MoDM database, as the MoDM's unregistered returnees' figures for Jan are yet to be updated.

DIYALA GOVERNORATE - GENERAL CONTEXT

In January, returns to various areas of Diyala continued, although the number of returnees was considerably lower than during previous months. According to IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (IOM DTM) 36,236 families (217,416 individuals) had by the end of January returned to their areas of origin within Diyala. A significant increase in the number of returnee families was registered by the Ministry of Migration and Displacement (MoMD). This was attributed to the relocation of some MoMD staff working in other governorates to assist in registering the families in the receiving governorates. They reported 1,622 families registering at their branch offices in Diyala during the month, bringing the total registered returnee families to 10,788.

Though returns are ongoing, protection challenges that affect their sustainability were reported. The security situation in several areas of Diyala continues to be volatile and incidents of extremist elements targeting civilians continue to be reported, at times resulting in civilian casualties. Affected are particular areas on the border between Diyala with Salah al-Din and Kirkuk. On 23 January, Al-Roz village in Mansoriya sub-district, Khalis district was shelled with mortars, while extremists attacked the government-affiliated armed groups which controlled Al-Bayat village in Muqadadiya district. Further, on 17 January, a group of extremists abducted two returnees in Al-Safej village, Al-Udhaim sub-district, Khalis district, who were found dead the following day. Military operations were undertaken between late December and early January to retake the Mutaibija area as well as search operations in Al-Maita, Albo Awad and Albo Jumaa villages, Al-Udhaim sub-district, Khalis district to identify and arrest suspected members of extremist cells. On 25 January, 15 returnee families originating from Bablan village, Al-Muqadadiya district were threatened by an unknown party to leave the village or they would be killed. These threats seem to be linked to community tensions, and efforts for mediation by local leader are ongoing.

Efforts are continuing to support rehabilitation of infrastructure that will facilitate safe and sustainable returns of IDPs. However, the extensive damage to homes and public buildings/facilities in parts of the governorate have exacerbated social tensions in some locations. Rebuilding infrastructure and repairing services for the whole community is a springboard to help reconciliation efforts reach further and make returns sustainable. In January, UNHCR through its partners provided temporary housing units for 150 returnee families in Al-Udhaim sub-district, Khalis district. These provide temporary shelter solutions for up to three years. Further between December 2017 and January 2018 134 houses of returnee families in Muqadadiya were rehabilitated along with the Court and the Civil Directorate building in Al-Udhaim sub-district.

MUQDADIYA DISTRICT

Per the IOM DTM, by the end of January, the total number of returnee families was 8,712 families (52,272 individuals). The MoMD registered 149 returnee families in their Muqadadiya office during the month, bringing the total number of registered returnee families to 1,685. IDP families from several villages within Muqadadiya district are reportedly still unable to return to their homes due to allegations of them having extremist links or due to broader community tension. Families from Fares Taan (80 families) and Al-Khailaniyah (370 families) are particularly affected.

Further, the presence of explosive hazards continues to be a risk to the lives of civilians and hampers returns and their sustainability. On January 10, an IED exploded in Al-Resala village, located in Al-Wajehea sub-district, Muqadadiya district, resulting in the death and injury of several civilians, including recent returnees.

KHANAQIN DISTRICT

As per the IOM DTM, 15,241 families (91,446 individuals) returned to their areas of origin in Khanaqin by late January. According to protection partners, 300 IDP families received approval to return to Sa'adiyah sub-district, through only 93 families did move during the month. A further 119 families returned to their areas of original in Jalawla sub-district.

The returns of IDPs inside Diyala to areas outside the governorate have decreased significantly. The only returns which were registered in a larger numbers, were the returns of IDPs originating from Tooz Khourmatu, Salah al-Din Governorate. According to the protection partners, by January, around 30 families had returned from Tazade Camp to Tooz district and surrounding areas. An official in Kalar district, Sulaymaniya Governorate confirmed that many IDPs in Khanaqin district and Sulyamiya Governorate from Tooz district, started to return to their homes, since the regular Iraqi forces have been deployed and the pro-government armed groups in control have withdrawn from the city.

Interviews were conducted with IDPs in the camps to assess their intention to return. Most IDPs indicated that that they feel it is too early to return to their places of origin, particularly Muqadadiya, because they not feel the district is safe. During Focus Group Discussions they expressed they also fear of being arrested by pro-government armed groups controlling their areas of origin. Other factors preventing returns are the lack of housing, as homes were damaged or destroyed, the lack of job opportunities, fear over contaminated with explosive hazards and a lack of services (electricity, water, health and education).

On 10 January, five villages in Qara Tapa sub-district in Diyala had been attacked by extremist elements. During the incidents several individuals

were kidnapped and one person was killed. This resulted in the re-displacement of several families (number could not be identified) from Qara Tapa to Kifri and Kalar sub-districts located in Sulaymaniya governorate. Similarly, on 5 January the kidnapping of the Head of Agriculture Directorate of Al Sa'adiyah sub-district was reported.

The lack of access to shelter, due to the high level of destruction of houses remains a major issue hampering returns in some villages in Khanaqin district. For instances, nearly all houses in Tajneed and Al-Wahda villages, where an estimated 800 and 2,000 families respectively, had during 2013 been living, have been completely destroyed and the owners remain in displacement in Khanaqin, Ba'quba, and Katoon. Diyala officials have asked for support with shelter rehabilitation and interim shelter assistance to facilitate the return of the displaced families. Through other services such as water and electricity are functional, unresolved housing, land and property rights concerns, due to a lack of relevant documentation, have been reported. Protection partners will continue to follow-up with families of these two villages. Diyala Provincial Council members visited Jalawla and surrounding villages and found that Tajneed neighborhood of Jalawla has been completely destroyed (2,000 houses) as well as houses in 27 surrounding villages. The affected 2,000 households are not able to return unless they rent houses in other neighborhoods of Jalawla, stay with relatives or remain in displacement.

Efforts to rehabilitate the governmental institution in the town are ongoing. These, once completed, will have a positive impact on the lives of residents as government services will be able to resume. On a positive note, Jalawla General Hospital in Jalawla sub-district in Khanaqin district which had been destroyed in June 2014, was reopened on 10 January.

KHALIS DISTRICT

No change in the number of returnees reported by the IOM DTM has been noted. The number of returnees in the DTM statistics hence remains at 12,083 families (72,498 individuals). However 759 returnee families did register at the MoMD offices in Khalis district, bringing the total number of registered returnee families with MOMD to 2,542.

According to the Head of Al-Udhaim Provincial Council, only 500 families from Khalis remain in displacement. Of these, about 350 families are still awaiting security clearance from the relevant security authorities while the other 150 families are expected to submit their return requests in the near future. However the real number of IDPs is very likely to be higher as an undetermined number of returnee families have during recent months been re-displaced due to a severe lack of basic services or extensive damages to homes and basic infrastructure in their areas of origin.