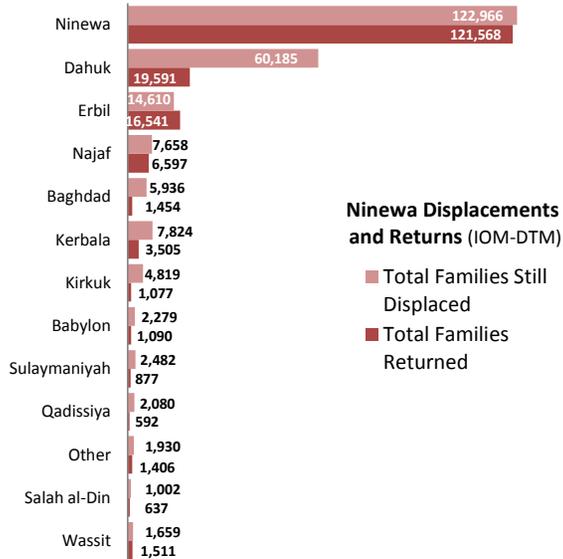


Iraq Protection Cluster: Ninewa Returnees Profile - January 2018

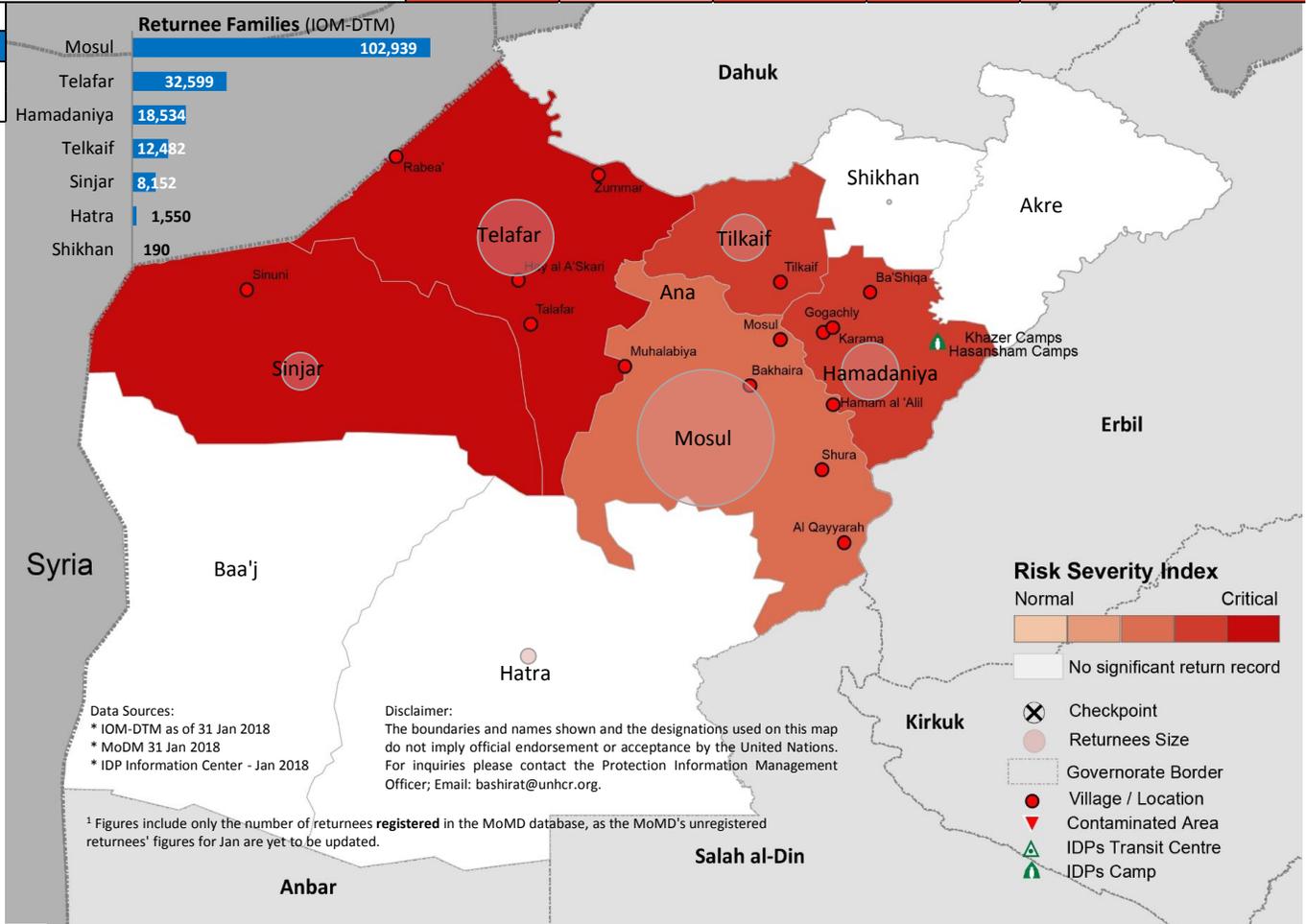
Protection Risk Matrix by District	High	Protection Concerns	Sinjar	Hamdaniya	Telafar	Mosul	Telkaif	Ba'aj	
	Reported Violations of principles relating to return movements (including non-discrimination in the right of return, as well as voluntariness, safety and dignity of return movements)	High	High	High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

MODM Returnee Figures¹

District	Families
Mosul, Telkaif and Hamdaniya	32,000



IDP Information Center: 91% of 2,385 calls received from returnees were from Ninewa. The most popular flagged issues were:



Data Sources:
 * IOM-DTM as of 31 Jan 2018
 * MoDM 31 Jan 2018
 * IDP Information Center - Jan 2018

Disclaimer:
 The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. For inquiries please contact the Protection Information Management Officer; Email: bashirat@unhcr.org.

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.

NINEWA GOVERNORATE - GENERAL CONTEXT

While the protection and security environment in Ninewa remains challenging, displaced persons continue to return to areas of origin (AoOs) in significant numbers. Per the IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), 176,446 families (1,058,676 individuals) returned to Ninewa by January 2018. Yet the security situation remains unstable mainly due to the presence of armed groups and suspected extremist groups' sleeper cells, which are reportedly active and undermine the security situation. This threatens voluntary, safe and sustainable returns. The situation in the disputed areas (north Ninewa) is complex with conditions largely un conducive to safe and dignified returns, with security as the main hindrance.

In addition to monitoring IDP return, UNHCR and partners monitor movements and intervene on protection for Iraqi returnees from Syria and Turkey. On 2, 6, 9, 12 of January, (1,195) Iraqis returned from Azaz, Syria to Iraq via Turkey through the Ibrahim Khalil land border crossing point in Dohuk Governorate. The convoys were organized by the Ministry of Migration and Displacement (MoMD) with the support of the Iraqi Ministry for Transport after families approached Iraqi authorities in Syria and expressed willingness to return. Most families originate from Telafar district but also include families from other parts of Ninewa and Salah al-Din. One family was detained upon arrival in Iraq by Kurdish security forces (KSF) and four individuals were arrested at the border due to alleged (not proven) extremist links, while the other families were taken to Gogjali town, east of Mosul City and had to organize their onward transport from there. The interviewed families mentioned that many Iraqi families in Azaz are willing but unable to return as they lack ID documents or are awaiting clearance from the Iraqi Embassy in Ankara to join an organized movement. Some families lack civil documents and expressed concern about not being able to cross checkpoints without crucial documents. UNHCR and partners will continue to follow up with these families and refer them for specialized assistance as appropriate.

MOSUL DISTRICT

Security situation remains dire in Mosul. During the reporting period, almost 16 bodies with gunshot wounds were found in Mosul city, raising safety concerns for the residents. In addition, abductions were reported. The security forces are making concerted efforts to address the insecurity. Mine action groups continue to clear explosive hazards.

Despite these challenges, families continue to return to both east and west Mosul on almost daily basis, most to west Mosul. Per the DTM, 102,939 families returned to Mosul by January. The MoDM office of west Mosul reported that, 17,000 families returned to west Mosul, which includes 3,400 families that returned in January. Some returns were also observed in Mosul's Old City, where until recently, no one was allowed to return. The returnees from east Mosul have been repairing their houses as they could no longer afford to pay high rents. Basic services like water, electricity, schools and hospitals have partially resumed. In Old Mosul, till now electricity and water services have not been restored and residents have to rely on private generators and wells. Returns also continued in east Mosul - per the MoDM, 17,200 families returned to the east part by January. MoDM has also initiated registration of IDPs returning back from Qaymawa and Nargiziliya Camps, which were closed recently, the basic services are improving in east Mosul. The recent opening of two bridges connecting east and west Mosul, has eased traffic congestion and facilitated movements between both sides.

Returnees to Mosul who were previously displaced to Khazer and Hassansham Camps are increasingly approaching the MoMD offices in Mosul to reclaim ID documents that were confiscated by security actors in the camps. The MoMD east Mosul office has a list of individuals who had documents confiscated but has not begun returning them due to a lack of clarity on the process to be followed. Information for returnees on which office to approach is also not widely available including in the MoMD office in the west of the city. Lack of documentation creates serious protection risks including impeding IDPs' access to public services such as education and health, freedom of movement through checkpoints, and overall ability to exercise rights.

HAMDANIYA DISTRICT

Per the DTM, 18,534 families returned to Hamdaniya by January. As per the MoDM, a total of 27,000 families returned to Hamdaniya by January, out of which 920 families returned in January. More than 90% of those who returned to Hamdaniya are Christians, while the rest are a mix of Shabak, Kakaiya, Arab and Turkmen. 90 houses in Hamdaniya center are completely destroyed while another 800 houses are burned down due to explosions and shelling.

Most villages are reportedly decontaminated of explosive hazards except for Gasser, Shmeissat and Karamless villages in the outskirts of Hamdaniya that are still contaminated. Schools have re-opened and there is limited electricity supply, which is available only for 2 hours during the day and for another 2 hours at night, but public generators are operating during the rest of the day in Hamdaniya Centre and Karamless villages. The residents identified the lack of medical services as one of the main challenges facing returnees.

TILKAIF DISTRICT

Tilkaif Centre is another mostly Christian town located about 20 km north of Mosul that the KSF retook from extremist groups. Returns have been trickling in. While hundreds of Arab families remain in displacement, the authorities started allowing Arab families to return in early August 2017. By January, as per the DTM, 12,482 families returned to their AoOs in Tilkaif district.

WANA SUB-DISTRICT

The returns from Mosul to Wana are ongoing with families returning in particular from IDP camps within Duhok. The total number of returnee families, as reported by the local authorities and verified by the DTM is 1,835. The security situation is relatively calm. However, reportedly there is limited access to basic services and utilities. As reported by the Mayor's office, some of those villages (Mushref, Kerich, and Jewanish) where the families returned lack electricity and water. Markets are depleted. Families that returned to find destroyed houses had to assemble tents or construct temporary shelters on their properties. Returnees' source food from Mosul City, as the main road connecting Mosul with Wana is open. Schools were re-opened and have functioned since November 2017.

TELAFAR DISTRICT

The military offensive to retake Telafar City and surrounding areas from armed extremists resulted in displacement, but at the same time returns are seen to relatively safe areas with notable return of Arab families to Kharab Tibin, Ain Zalah villages in Zummar (which was previously blocked). These two villages are among 25 that authorities have cleared for return out of 64 villages. Per the DTM, 32,599 families returned by January, including 2,626 families returning in January. As per the MoDM, the total number of returnees to the city center reached 10,000 families.

ZUMMAR SUB-DISTRICT

The situation remains somewhat peaceful with the federal police and ISF controlling the area. There are some continued restrictions on freedom of movement in and around locations with high military presence in some areas. However, there are concerns about housing and living conditions (houses in many cases are damaged or in some cases at risk of collapse). Other concerns include increased tensions between the joint forces and the host community. As per the DTM, 3,500 families returned to Zummar by January. Local authorities in Zummar report relatively large numbers of Arab families to have returned to Zummar from their displacement locations in Mosul City, camps as well as other parts of Zummar and Rabea' sub-districts. UNHCR and protection partners confirmed the return of 728 families to 12 different villages north of Zummar, currently under the control of KSF. However, blocked returns continue to be reported in January, residents of some villages in disputed areas of Zummar and Rabea' have been prevented from returning ostensibly because their AoOs are near the Peshmerga frontline.

RABEA' SUB-DISTRICT

The security situation in Rabea', unlike in other areas of Ninewa, remains challenging. Government authorities are continuing to collect data on returns as negotiations continue between ISF and KSF on allowing displaced families to return to their original villages. Recent statistics by a protection partner indicate estimated 1,027 families returned to 6 villages of Rabea' in January.

SINJAR DISTRICT

Information about affected communities is still increasingly difficult to collect and coordinate, due to lack of credible sources and authorities on the ground, affecting the ability of aid actors to effectively plan and advocate for assistance. Furthermore, ongoing insecurity is reported to have caused further hardship to communities in disputed areas, and hampers the delivery of humanitarian assistance to those who remain or return.

Extensive contamination with explosive hazards remains a serious concern with regular incidents of persons killed or injured. This is compounded by lack of quality medical facilities for timely medical interventions for grave injuries requiring immediate life-saving treatment.

The Deputy Mayor of Sinjar reported on December 2017, since the liberation of Sinjar, an estimated 4,130 families have returned to the parts of Sinjar. These are primarily Yezidi families originating from Sinone and Sinjar. The assessments by humanitarian aid agencies report 2,000 returnees. The DTM statistics, by January indicate the presence of 8,152 families in Sinjar district (including the Sinjar Mountain).

BA'AJ DISTRICT

On 7 January, the Mayor of Ba'aj in western Ninewa informed UNHCR that security forces have begun allowing IDPs to return to the district. These are the first returns to take place since end of the military operations in the area. By January, 4,546 families had reportedly returned with approval by the Mayor's office, including 256 families to Ba'aj City Center. Permission is only granted to families if most family members are moving together, preventing individuals from returning. Ba'aj district is under the control of ISF and government-affiliated armed groups.

According to local authorities, the situation is stable but basic services including electricity and water are lacking and many public buildings are damaged. Efforts to restore the water supply in the district are ongoing and a primary and high school in Ba'aj City are expected to open soon.