



As displacement in Iraq has slowed to a trickle of isolated incidents, the focus turns to how best to assist the nearly 1.6 million internally displaced (IDP) families in the country, whether they wish to return, integrate into the place of displacement, or go elsewhere. While IOM assessments show that approximately 61% of interviewed post-2006 IDPs wish to return, another 39% of those interviewed wish to integrate permanently into their places of displacement or move to a third location.

**INSIDE:**

- Returnee figures and locations
- Places, dates, and reasons for return and displacement
- Returnee ethno-religious profile
- Humanitarian assessment & priority needs
- Return potential

Whether it is a matter of transport home, rebuilding property and livelihood or starting a permanent life in a different location, IDP and returnee families remain one of the most vulnerable populations in Iraq and are in urgent need of assistance to make their choices sustainable.

Since December 2007, families displaced by the sectarian violence which occurred in the wake of the February 22, 2006 Samarra mosque bombing have been returning in small numbers to Iraq both from internal displacement and displacement abroad. In cooperation with the Iraqi Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MoDM) as well as local governmental and non-governmental stakeholders, **IOM has identified approximately 49,464 returnee families and conducted in-depth needs assessment interviews with 3,072 of these families.**<sup>1</sup> This data is compiled into a database designed to aid the Iraqi government in assessing and reporting on the issue.

This collected information is explored in this report for a better understanding of key questions such as where returnee families are, from where they have returned, why they have returned, and what they need in order to successfully restart their lives.

According to IOM assessments of 209,402 post-2006 IDP families in Iraq, almost 90% of post-2006 displacement originated in Baghdad, Diyala, and Ninewa governorate. The concentration of return is similar, with a high number of returns also occurring in Anbar.

Security also remains a concern for returnee families. In some cases they are offered special protection from local authorities. In a minority of cases, the security situation is still too unstable and threats or attacks force returnee families back into displacement.

This document, along with a range of other IOM reports released on displacement in Iraq, can be found at <http://www.iom-iraq.net/library.html#IDP>. A comprehensive, tabulated report containing the statistics from which this report is drawn is available in the MoDM/IOM section, under “Returnee Monitoring and Needs Assessments, Tabulation Report March 2009.”



Almost 39% of assessed returnees have come home to find that their houses are not in livable condition.

<sup>1</sup> According to IOM and MoDM, a returnee is someone who has returned to his original neighborhood or home. If someone has returned to the same city or village but is not able to return to his/her original neighborhood or home, the person is considered secondarily displaced, not a returnee.

## IOM/MODM METHODOLOGY AND RETURNEE LOCATIONS

Returnee information is gathered from MoDM, field visits conducted by IOM and MoDM monitors, local authorities, and other key stakeholders.

Through the sources above, IOM has identified **765 returnee locations** comprising **49,464** returnee (296,598 persons) in Iraq and conducted **in-depth interviews** with a sample of **3,072** families (20,637 individuals).

The figure of identified returnee populations is not comprehensive, since not all returnees are immediately identified by monitors. However, it is likely that this list represents the majority of returnees. These figures are outlined in the table to the right.

Currently IOM returnee monitoring methodology focuses on returnees who were displaced after the February 22, 2006 Samarra Mosque bombing and the heightened sectarian violence which ensued. At this time IOM does not focus its returnee monitoring program in locations where there was little or no post-2006 displacement, such as the three northern governorates in the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG).

Governorate	Identified Returnee Families	Identified Returnee Families from Abroad	Number of Interviewed Families
<b>Iraq</b>	<b>49464</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>3072</b>
Anbar	4536	27%	127
Babylon	258	9%	33
Baghdad	31497	4%	1800
Basrah	500	0%	26
Diyala	8779	1%	283
Kerbala	298	21%	26
Kirkuk	620	37%	65
Missan	626	49%	78
Muthanna	64	88%	27
Najaf	215	55%	45
Ninewa	1602	1%	548
Qadissiya	44	23%	0
Salah al-Din	191	35%	8
Kirkuk	620	37%	65
Thi-Qar	108	31%	0



Identified returnee locations are mapped above. Please refer to Annex 1 for more detail.

- Returns continue to represent only a fraction of the displaced population in and outside of Iraq.<sup>2</sup>
- The majority of identified returnees (31,497 families, or 64%) have returned to Baghdad governorate, while a significant proportion has also been identified in Anbar and Diyala.
- 46,021 of the returnees identified (93%) have returned from internal displacement, while the remaining 3,443 identified families (7%) have returned from abroad.
- Almost 90% of post-Samarra IDPs were displaced from Baghdad, Diyala, and Ninewa, and almost 85% of identified returns are also located in these three governorates.

<sup>2</sup> Please see the IDP Working Group's "Internally Displaced Persons – Update, September 2008," for more detailed information on the total displaced population in Iraq.

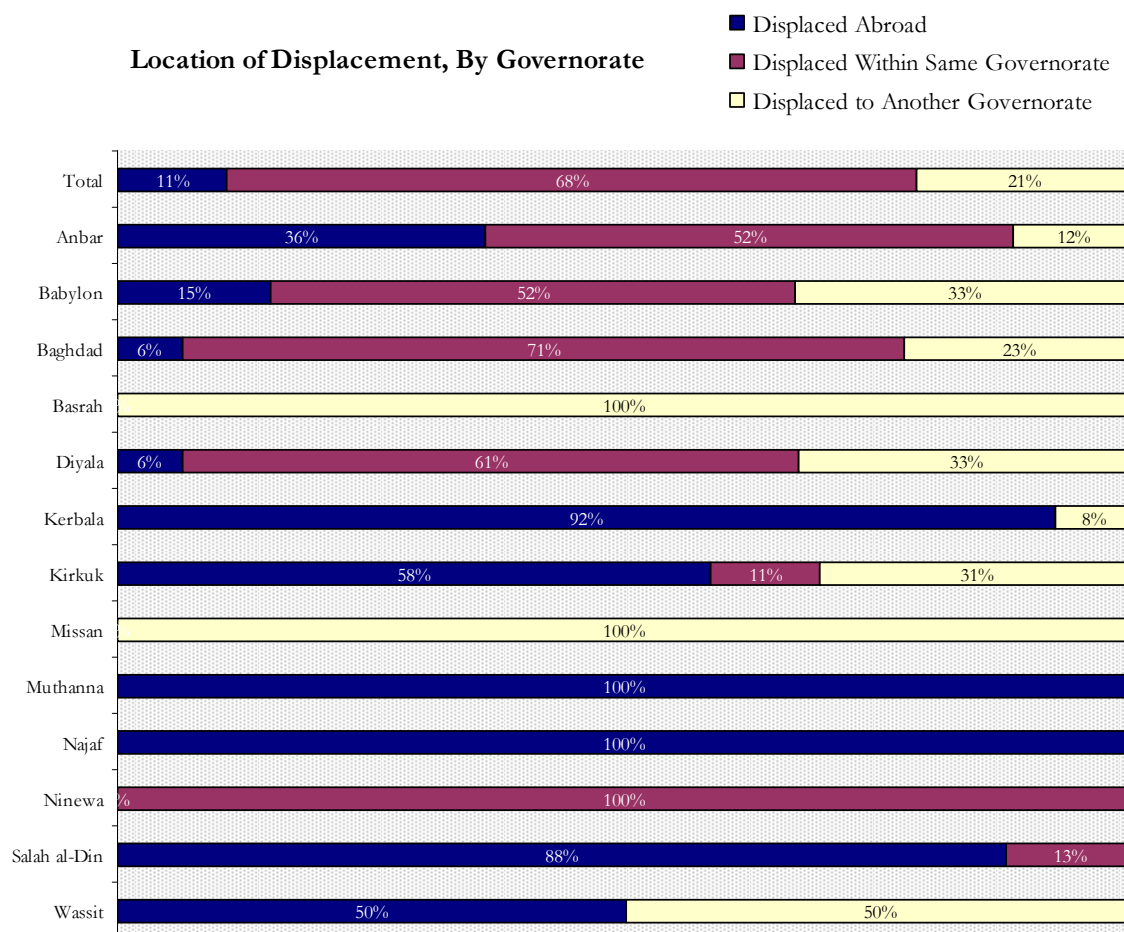
## PROFILE OF ASSESSED RETURNEE FAMILIES

As of the time of reporting, IOM monitors had conducted **in-depth interviews** with a sample of **3,072** of the previously identified returnee families (20,637 individuals). The information and analysis that follow are based on the responses from these interviews.

*Note that in some cases for a deeper understanding of Iraqi return, returnee interview responses are compared with those of IDPs interviewed by IOM. However, due to time and population size, the interviewed IDP population is both larger than the interviewed returnee population (209,402 IDP families vs. 3,072 returnee families) and a different percentage of the overall estimated population (78% vs. 6%). IDPs are interviewed by groups of families or individual families, while returnees are always interviewed by individual family. These comparisons can add context but should be understood within their differing methodologies.*

### Place of Return and Place of Displacement

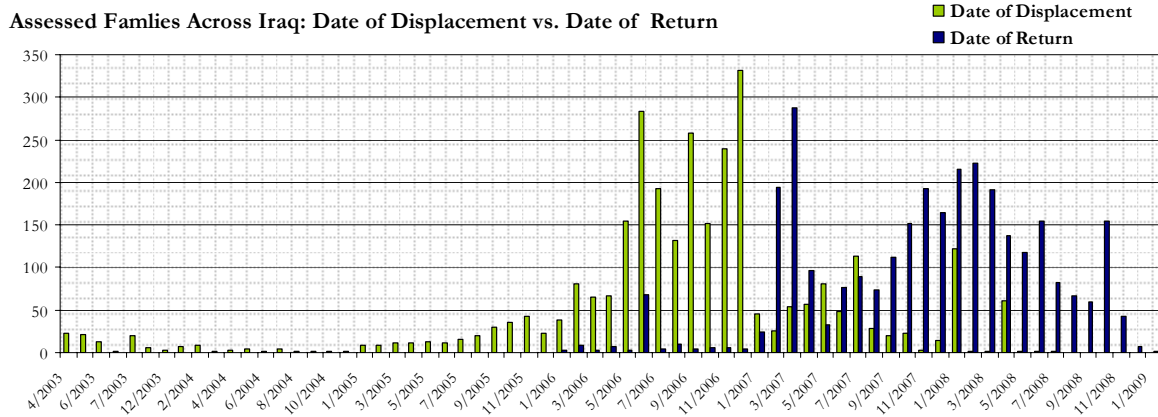
The majority (68%) of interviewed returnees have returned from displacement within their home governorates, while 21% have returned from a different governorate, and 11% have returned from abroad, mostly from Jordan, Syria and Turkey. In comparison, 36% of IOM-assessed post-2006 IDPs were displaced within their home governorate. Returnee place of displacement prior to return, broken down by governorate, is as follows:



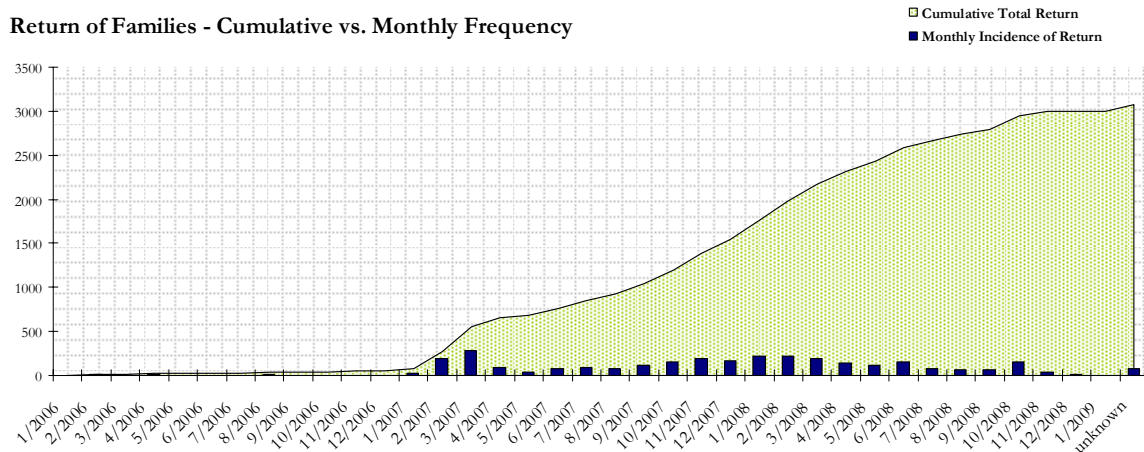
The majority of IDPs in Baghdad, Diyala and Ninewa are displaced within their home governorates: 83% in Baghdad, 83% in Diyala, and 42% in Ninewa. As might be expected, these governorates also show large percentages of intra-governorate return. This is the case in Baghdad, where 88% of return is from the same governorate, as well as Diyala (100%) and Ninewa (71%). There are also many intra-governorate returns in Anbar (68%), although it is notable that 36% of the assessed returnees there came from abroad.

## Dates of Displacement and Return

The majority of the interviewed returnee population (64.2%) was displaced in 2006 and returned after more than a year of displacement in 2007 or 2008:



As is illustrated in the graph below, while monthly return figures vary according to the assessed population, cumulative returns have steadily increased. However, total identified return figures remain small relative to the IDP and refugee populations of Iraq.



Until their return, the majority of interviewed families (53%) were displaced for more than one year:

Length of Displacement	Percent of Assessed Families
Less than 3 months	3.4%
3-6 months	19.6%
7-12 months	24.0%
13-18 months	21.2%
19-24 months	15.0%
25-36 months	12.8%
37-48 months	2.7%
49-60 months	0.4%
More than 60 months	0.9%

## **Reasons for Displacement and Return**

The table below shows the reasons cited for displacement by both IOM-assessed IDPs and returnees. The majority of IDPs reported leaving their homes because of direct threats to life, generalized violence, and forced displacement from property. Returnees state similar reasons for having left, with the notable exception of those who were forcibly displaced from their property, who are less likely to be able to return:

<b>Reason for Displacement</b>	<b>Percent of Assessed Returnees</b>	<b>Percent of Assessed IDPs</b>
Direct threats to life	26.5%	30.8%
Generalized violence	14.5%	26.2%
Forced displacement from property	8.7%	14.6%
Left out of fear	22.8%	20.6%
Armed conflict	4.8%	7.7%
Ethnic/religious/political discrimination	4.4%	0.0%
Other	18.3%	0.9%

While approximately one-third of returnees interviewed across Iraq mentioned improved security in place of origin as their main justification, and one-third improved security and difficult conditions in displacement, this varies considerably by governorate and by district. For example, 85% of assessed families in Baghdad returned because of improved security in place of origin combined with difficult conditions in displacement. Below are reasons for return cited by assessed returnee families:

<b>Reasons for Return</b>	<b>%</b>
Improved security in area of origin	36.7%
Improved security in area of origin and very difficult conditions in displacement	35.7%
Very difficult conditions in displacement	15.5%
Other	5.8%
Benefits from returnee payments	4.2%
Improved security in are of origin, very difficult conditions in displacement and benefits from returnee payments	1.8%
Very difficult conditions in displacement and benefits from returnee payments	0.3%

Looking more closely, all 62 returnee families assessed in Al Sadr City of Rusafa district in Baghdad, and all 29 families in Dora and Forat/Swaib in Karkh districts cited improved security as reason for return. All 283 families assessed in Diyala governorate cited either improved security (90%) or improved security and difficult conditions in displacement (10%). Diyala returnees are primarily in Ba'quba and Al-Khalis districts.

Only about 15% of returnees across Iraq cited 'very difficult conditions in displacement' as their main reason for return. However these figures were significantly higher for those returning to Ninewa (75%).

Some returnee families have reported being encouraged to return because of community support. In Al Thahab Al Abiyad village for instance, families displaced from the neighborhood worked closely with local authorities in the area to discuss return. Systems of support were organized between displaced villagers and those who had remained, encouraging return.

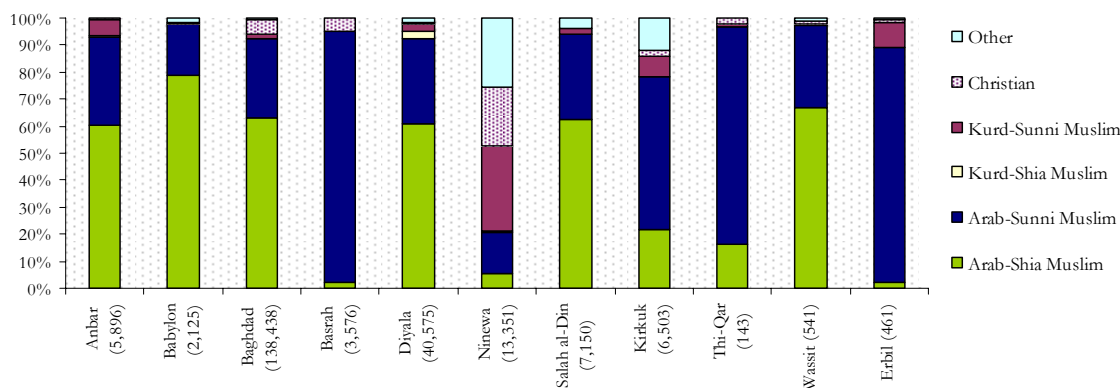
## Ethnicity/Religion

The table below summarizes the ethno-religious identities of assessed returnees next to those of assessed IDPs. The high percentage of Turkmen Sunni Muslims represents a large group of families, the majority of whom were displaced from Telafar district in 2005 and 2006, to other locations within Ninewa governorate. The majority of them returned to Telafar in 2008.

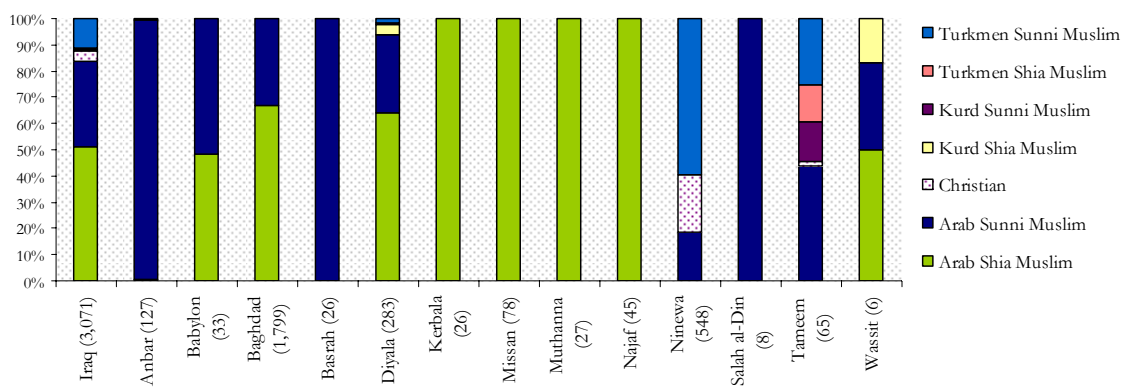
Ethno-Religious Identity of Returnees vs. IDPs	Percent of Returnees	Percent of IDPs
	Assessed	Assessed
Arab Shia Muslim	51.3%	57.7%
Arab Sunni Muslim	32.1%	30.1%
Turkmen Sunni Muslim	11.3%	0.9%
Assyrian Christian	4%	2.9%
Kurd Shia Muslim	0.4%	0.6%
Kurd Sunni Muslim	0.4%	4.0%
Turkmen Shia Muslim	0.3%	1.1%
Arab Christian	0.07%	0.3%
Chaldean Christian	0.03%	1.8%

Ethno-religious identity of IDPs (according to the place they fled) and returnees (according to their place of return) are displayed in the two graphs below. A comparison shows that some ethnic and religious groups present among displaced populations in a particular governorate are absent until now among the returnee populations. For example, while 60% of IDPs displaced from Anbar governorate were Shia Arab Muslim, currently 1% of returnees are Shia Muslim Arab:

**Ethno-Religious Identity of Assessed IDPs by Governorate of Origin**



**Ethno-Religious Identity of Assessed Returnees**



**Security/Protection**

While 72% of assessed returnees cited as the reason for their return either improved security in place of origin or a combination of this and difficult conditions in their places of displacement, security still remains a concern for returnee families. Among assessed returnees, 59.6% reported feeling safe all the time, and 39.4% reported feeling safe only some of the time.

Returnee families are using varying degrees of cooperation with local authorities to improve their security and mitigate threats once they return. For example, in Mada'in district, Baghdad, returnees have been threatened by gunshot fire towards their houses and the slaughter of their livestock. They reported these incidents to security forces and have since seen the threats subside.

Three returnee houses on the same street in Dora collective, Baghdad, have been targeted by improvised explosive devices (IEDs) reporting structural damage but no loss of life. They have elected against returning to displacement, but instead informed Awakening forces nearby. They have reported no further incidents.

A minority of returnee families do become displaced again for security reasons after returning. 18 families out of the 60 recorded returnee families to Abu Ghraib district in Baghdad have been secondarily displaced after being targeted with IEDs. The families now report no intention of returning to Baghdad in the immediate future.

**Shelter/Property**

The formerly displaced return home to reclaim, rebuild, and maintain their homes and other property. However, they are in need of assistance to do so. 38.7% of assessed returnees nationwide came home to find their homes partially or completely destroyed. These percentages vary from location to location. For example, 82% of assessed returnee families in Al Za'faraneya neighborhood in Al Resafa district and 77% of assessed returnee families in Rashidiya neighborhood of Adhamiya/Istiqlal district (both in Baghdad) reported their property in bad condition upon return.

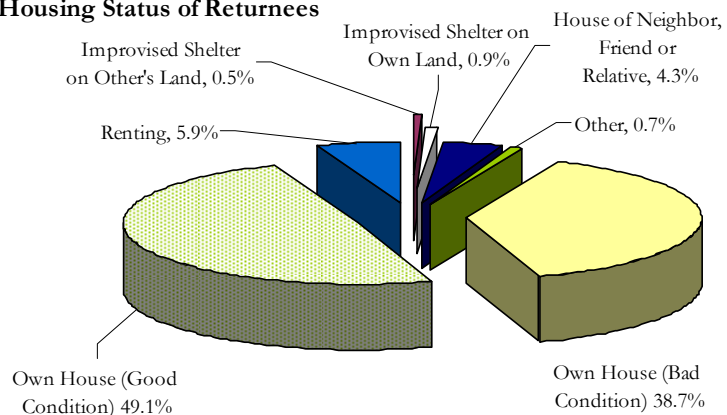
Property restitution remains a complex issue for returnees. There are currently several governmental and non-governmental initiatives to assist in this process, but it is still a serious concern. For example, in some cases during displacement families were forced to sign paperwork and contracts which now show that others are the rightful owners of the homes they fled. These trails of possession are difficult for assisting authorities to unravel.

In addition, in some cases property restitution can have an unintended negative consequence. For example, approximately 700 houses occupied by IDPs in Dora, Al Rashid district have been evacuated in order to allow returnee families to reclaim their properties. However, the evicted families were mostly IDPs themselves, who subsequently became secondarily displaced.

IDPs in 60 Street, Mechanic suburb of Karkh district, Baghdad, have not been able to reclaim their housing because they lack the appropriate documentation.

Returnees who do not own their own homes can face the difficulty of high rental costs. For example, a mid-sized urban apartment in Anbar can now cost upwards of IQD 300,000 (US\$257) monthly.

**Housing Status of Returnees**



## Gender and Vulnerabilities

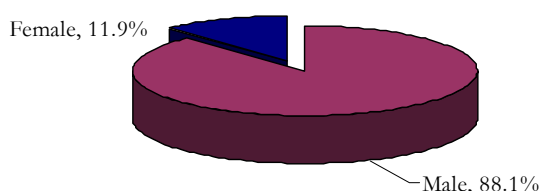
Gender and age breakdown of the 3,072 assessed families (20,650 individuals) is as follows:

Gender and Age	Percent of Total	
	Male	Female
<b>Children 0-17</b>	29.20%	27.80%
<b>Adults 18-59</b>	20.50%	18.80%
<b>Elderly 60+</b>	2.00%	1.60%

Of assessed households, 88% are headed by married men, 49% of whom are currently unemployed. Female-headed households number almost 12%, almost all of whom (97.3%) are unemployed. The majority of IOM-assessed unemployed female-headed households live in Karkh, Adhamiya Istiqlal and Mada'in districts of Baghdad, Ba'quba district of Diyala, Telafar district of Ninewa, and Amarah district of Missan. Another 3% of families are headed by widowed men, 70% of whom are unemployed.

15% of assessed returnee families reported that they had family members who were chronically ill or disabled.

**Heads of Household, Broken Down by Gender**



Among assessed returnee female-headed households, food is consistently identified as a priority need (62% across Iraq.) This was highest in Diyala (98%), Missan (89%), and Ninewa (77%). In Ninewa, this was significantly higher than the general returnee population (56%).

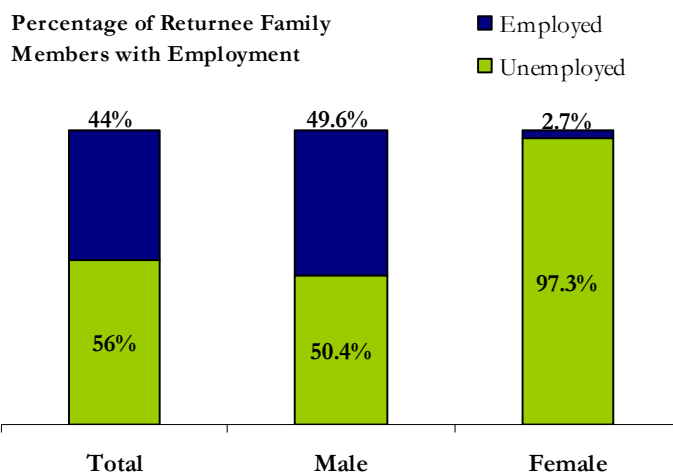
Non-food items are the next-highest priority for female-headed households, pared with fuel. In Ninewa, 88% cited fuel as a priority need and 69% also cited NFIs. In Diyala, 59% required fuel and 74% NFIs. Nationwide, 46% cited NFIs as a priority and 39% cited fuel.

## Employment

Of all IOM-assessed families, 44% have at least one member employed. Approximately one third (35%) of assessed returnee heads of household reported that they are able to work but cannot find employment. This is especially high in Salah al-Din (75%), Muthanna (70%), and Babylon (64%).

Some assessed returnees report the need for assistance in order to regain their former livelihoods. For example, families in Al Thahab Al Abyad village in Abu Ghraib district were previously farmers and had extensive livestock. After 2003, the villagers found it difficult to maintain their livestock as the nearest dairy processing plant was destroyed. In the ensuing years, most sold their livestock in order to buy food, others losing their livestock to looters. These families will have trouble returning to agriculture because they cannot afford livestock.

In another instance, returnees working in agriculture in Bizayis al Yousifiya in Yousifiya sub-district, Baghdad, need assistance because they must contend with reduced water supplies. Eight of the ten IOM-assessed families in al Yousifiya sub-district who are able to work are unemployed.



## Water and Sanitation

Access to potable water is a major concern of IDPs, returnees, and host community members alike because of the wider implications for health and disease prevention associated with clean water. 83.8% of assessed returnees have access to municipal water networks, although this does not guarantee that the water is potable:

<b>Water Source</b>	<b>%</b>
Municipal water/pipe grid	83.8%
Rivers, streams or lakes	7.7%
Other	0.2%
Public wells	2.1%
Water tanks/trucks	3.8%
Open or broken pipe	1.8%

Lack of water infrastructure can have wide-ranging implications. For example, houses in Al Fadhil neighborhood of Baghdad have been damaged by water due to blocked sanitation networks. Four houses have already collapsed as a result of this, and a further 30 houses have been identified as structurally-compromised and prone to collapse in the near future.

The water infrastructure is overburdened in Bizayiz al Yousifiya and Al Ma'amel neighborhoods, both in al Yousifiya sub-district of Baghdad, despite both neighborhoods having deep wells. Neither of these neighborhoods have adequate sanitation infrastructure, nor Hay al Basteen and Abu Ghraib in Abu Ghraib district.

## Access to Fuel and Electricity

<b>Daily Electrical Supply</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Electricity Source</b>	<b>%</b>
1-2 hours	23.9%	Public network	59.6%
3-6 hours	40.3%	Private generator	15.0%
7-10 hours	16.6%	Public and private sources	19.6%
11-18 hours	11.5%	No electricity at all	5.8%
More than 18 hours	1.9%		
No electricity	5.8%		

While 58% of the assessed returnee families mentioned fuel being accessible in their area, 59% of them said that it was too expensive for them to buy. Overall, IOM-assessed returnee families listed fuel as one of the highest priority needs. This is particularly serious in Ninewa governorate, where 99% of 548 interviewed families listed it as a top need. These families all reported irregular access to PDS rations which provide fuel access, most likely this is because they are located along areas in the north of Ninewa where border disputes sometimes disrupt access to services.

IOM-assessed returnee families in Abu Ghraib have access to PDS, however there is no fuel distributor in the community and they must therefore pay for freight from outside – driving the price up to above-market prices.

Similarly, there is no fuel distributor in Bizayiz al Yousifiya, Yousifiya sub-district, Baghdad – the nearest being some 40km away. They are therefore buying fuel on the local market, despite being entitled to government distribution. Families in Ma'amel neighborhood, Al Nahrawan sub-district, Baghdad, have no fuel distribution cards. They are relying upon wood for heating.

In Kaizan Saphida and Adibah villages, Al Rashad district, Kirkuk, returnees face a similar situation, whereby returnees are not receiving fuel ration cards. Furthermore, these villages are in remote areas and are only receiving about 2 hours of electricity per day.

## **Organized Support: PDS Rations and Government Grant for Returnees**

98% of assessed returnees reported having a current PDS card. Approximately one-third of returnees (32%) reported regular access to PDS rations, while 60% said they have intermittent access, and 8% said they have no access at all. Access to PDS rations is especially infrequent in Ninewa (99%), Anbar (73%), and Diyala.

As part of its effort to encourage and support return, the Government of Iraqi (GoI) currently offers a one-time grant of 1 million IQD (approximately US\$851) to eligible returnee families. Returnee families who qualify can apply for the grant as a follow-up to the process of registering as a returnee. In Baghdad, returnee families can apply through MoDM returnee centers that also offer property assistance and referral for other social services.

Of IOM-interviewed returnee families, 44% had registered as returnees and applied for the grant. Of these families, 36% had received the grant. Most of the assessed families who had received the grant were in Baghdad and Ninewa.

Many returnees in Al Ma'amel are keeping their PDS registration in southern governorates, rather than re-registering in Baghdad. They fear a sudden onset of instability, and prefer to periodically return to the south to collect their rations.

## **Health Care**

Among the returnee families which IOM has assessed, 59% have access to health care. In governorates such as Anbar, Missan, Muthanna, Najaf, Ninewa and Salah al-Din, more than 90% of interviewed r report access to health care.

In governorates where a majority of returnees reported no access to health care, their reasons center around a lack of nearby health facilities and a shortage of medications. In Baghdad, 57% of returnees said they have no access to health care. The percentage is higher in Basrah, where 65% of returnees assessed have no access to health care, and in Kirkuk, where lack of health care reaches 78%.

339 IOM-assessed returnee families in Al Wardiyah, Hay al-Wehdah, Ja'ara/Al Hardaniya and Mada'in neighborhoods of Mada'in district reported no access to health care.

In Al Atiba'a neighborhood of Al Resafa district in Baghdad, thieves looted the generator from the local public health care facility (PHCC), creating major issues with storing medication. Al Aswad village, Muqdadiya district, Diyala governorate is home to some 75 returnee families, yet it has no health services nearby.

## **Education**

Of returnee families with school-age children in Iraq, 84% reported having access to schooling and that their children were attending. A further 7.4% report only some access, and 8.5% report having no access. Only 38% of school-age returnees in Babylon are attending school – a further 62% report having no access at all. In Kirkuk, 35% of school-age returnees are attending, whereas 63% claim to have 'only some' access to school.

Returnee families in Al Amariya, Al Fadhil, and Bizaz al Yousifia neighborhoods in Baghdad cannot afford stationery and other school supplies for their children. Student attendance in Al Amariya is nonetheless very high.

## Priority Needs

While IDPs and returnees are both key vulnerable populations in Iraq, IOM assessments of post-2006 IDPs reveal these groups to be focusing on slightly different priority needs. IOM-assessed IDPs cite access to work, shelter, and food as priority needs, and IOM-assessed returnees list food, non-food items, and fuel as priority needs, along with an emphasis on health care and legal assistance.

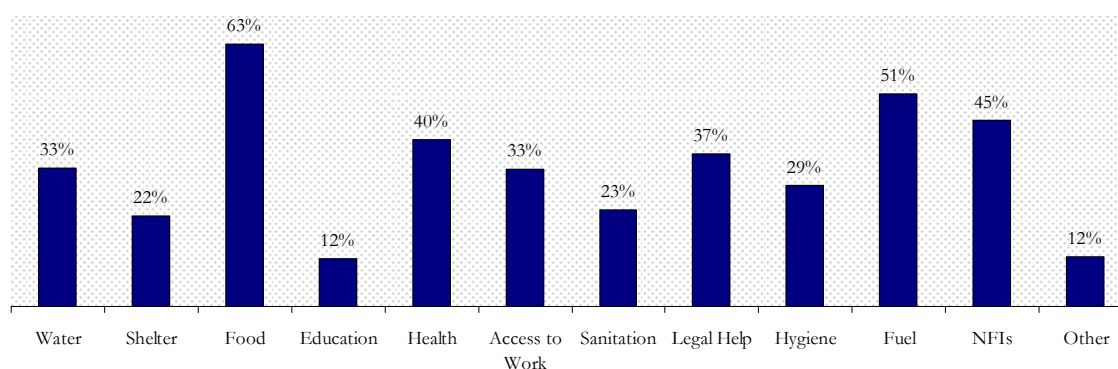
This varies on the governorate level, where for example in Ninewa interviewed families named legal help, fuel, and access to work as top needs. In Kerbala interviewed returnees chose health, hygiene, and legal help, and in Basrah families listed food, water, and shelter as their priority needs.



45% of returnees identified non-food items as a priority need. On a district level, however, this becomes more evident – such as Amara district, Missan (99%); and Telafar district, Ninewa (73%). NFIs remain a priority to returnees in all assessed locations of Diyala (69%).

The most frequently reported priority needs among returnees are food (63%), fuel (51%), and non-food items (45%). Nearly half (40%) of the assessed reported health care as a priority need, and legal assistance is also significantly reported (37%):

Most Frequently Stated Needs of Interviewed Returnee Families, up to February 2009



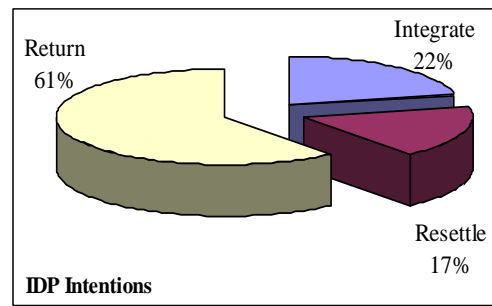
## Assistance Received

When asked about other sources of assistance *apart from the government*, 88% of those returnees assessed said that they had not received any aid:

Other sources of assistance	%
Have not received any assistance	88.0%
Relatives	6.1%
Humanitarian organizations	4.4%
Neighbors	2.8%
Religious groups	1.1%
Military (MNF-I/IF)	1.2%
Militia/Insurgents	0.2%
Other	0.6%

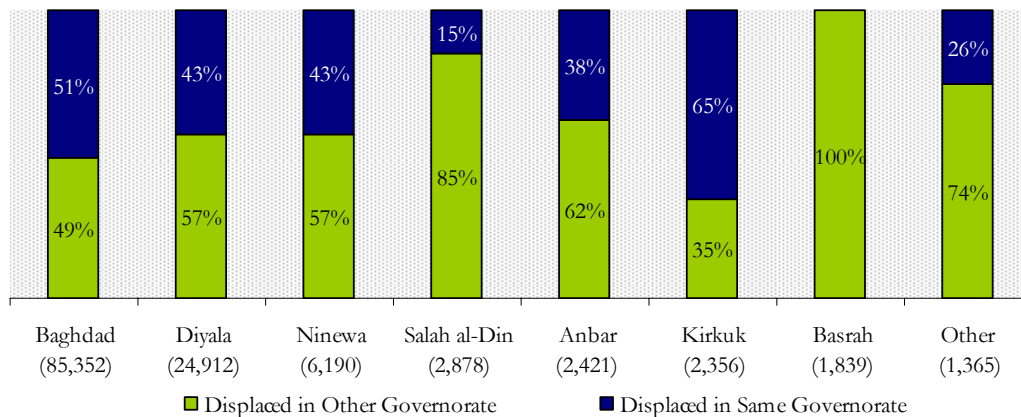
## Return Potential

According to IOM assessments of post-2006 IDP families, approximately 61% wish to return to their place of origin, while 22% wish to integrate into their places of displacement, and 17% want to resettle in a third location.



The graph below details the 127,313 IOM-assessed families who intend to return according to their governorates of origin. If conditions for return both persist and improve, Baghdad, Diyala, and Ninewa stand to receive large populations of return, almost half of which would be from within the same governorate. However, while IDP families can state their intentions, the realization of these depends on a variety of factors such as security, family finances, and access to property and basic services after returning.

**Breakdown of 127,313 of IDP Families (61% of Total) Who Intend to Return, by Governorate of Origin**



## CONCLUSION

While the total number of returns in Iraq continues to slowly grow since the end of 2007, it remains a small fraction of the total Iraqi IDP and refugee populations. In the face of uncertain security improvements, the future of return is also unsure. IOM returnee assessments show that 'pull' factors such as improved security in place of origin are more encouraging of return than 'push' factors such as difficult conditions in place of displacement. However, as prolonged displacement makes life harsh for Iraq's internally displaced and refugees, this could change.

Returning home means facing a new set of challenges for Iraqi families. 56% of IOM-assessed returnee families are unemployed, 39% returned to partially or completely destroyed property, and 64% have less than 6 hours of electricity per day. In addition, the majority were displaced for more than one year, meaning that they return with the stress and financial debilitation of displacement behind them.

Priority needs nationwide for assessed returnees are food, non-food items, and fuel. However, returnee needs and conditions differ considerably from governorate to governorate and from district to district. Legal help and health needs are also listed as high priority.

68% of interviewed returnees had returned home from displacement within the same governorate, showing that return is more likely to occur for intra-governorate displacement. While intra-governorate displacement is less than half of displacement nationwide, it is often easier for these families to coordinate the move home.

*Returnee reports, along with IOM's regular reporting on displacement, including governorate profiles, monthly updates, tent camp updates, and yearly and mid-year reviews, are available at <http://www.iom-iraq.net/library.html#IDP>.*

For further information on IDPs and returnees in Iraq, please contact Martin Ocaga, IOM Iraq Program Manager at [mocaga@iom.int](mailto:mocaga@iom.int) or Liana Paris, IDP Monitoring Program, at [lparis@iom.int](mailto:lparis@iom.int) (+962 6 565 9660 extensions 1061 and 1033).

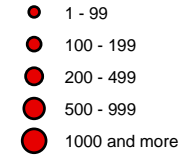
## **APPENDIX – RETURNEE ASSESSMENT NOTE**

IOM has monitored internal displacement in Iraq since 2003. In 2007, IOM expanded its nationwide monitoring coverage to assess Iraqis who are returning from abroad and within Iraq to their place of origin, while continuing to assess recently displaced IDPs. In Baghdad, IOM and MoDM are jointly implementing returnee assessments.

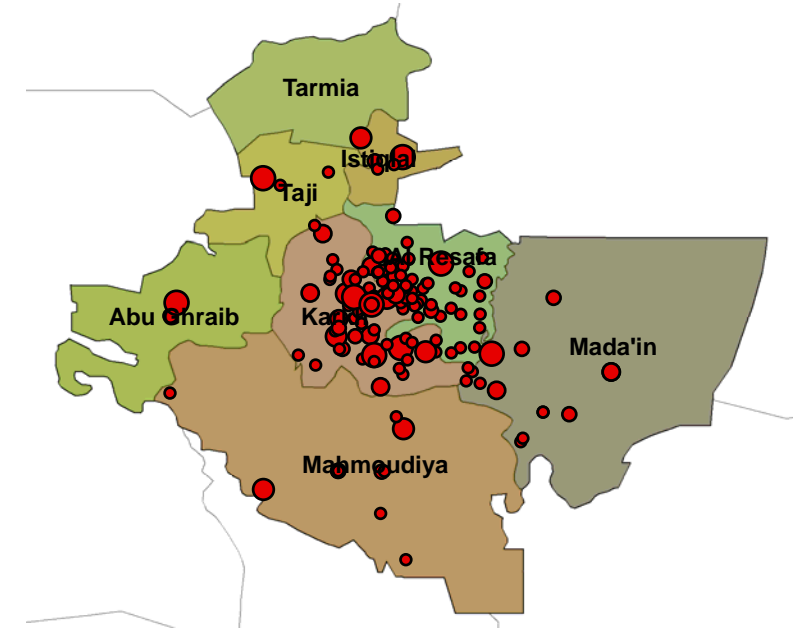
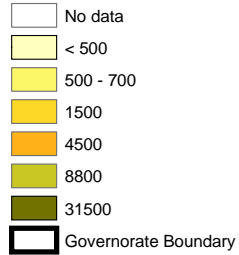
IOM monitors to date have assessed only a fraction of the returnee locations identified. As capacity expands and assessments continue, new returnee locations will be identified and the in-depth assessments published by IOM will be based on an increasingly larger sample of the identified returnee population. However, for the time being, anecdotal reporting from IOM partners across the country does corroborate the humanitarian needs identified by IOM assessments thus far.

# Iraq - Returnee Families and Locations per Governorate May 2009

## Returnee locations by # of Families



## Returnee Families per Governorate



Number of returnees and locations by Governorate

Governorate	Returnee families	Returnee population (*6)	Number of Locations
<b>Iraq</b>	<b>49464</b>	<b>296598</b>	<b>765</b>
Anbar	4536	27192	177
Babylon	258	1548	22
Baghdad	31497	189156	159
Basrah	500	3000	21
Dahuk	3	18	1
Diyala	8779	52674	114
Kerbala	298	1788	17
Missan	626	3756	14
Muthanna	64	384	30
Najaf	215	1290	30
Ninewa	1602	9276	100
Qadissiya	44	264	2
Salah al-Din	191	1146	17
Tameem	620	3720	30
Thi-Qar	108	648	15
Wassit	123	738	16

Data Source: TABULATION REPORT, Returnee Monitoring And Needs Assessments, IOM/ModM, Baghdad March 2009