

# SALAH AL-DIN

OCTOBER 2005 - JANUARY 2006, PHASE II MONITORING



Governorate number: 18  
Capital: Tikrit  
Districts: Al-Daur, Al-Shirqat, Baiji, Balad, Dujayl (Al Faris), Tikrit, Tooz, Samarra.  
Population: 942,314



## PHASE II MONITORING

IOM's Phase II monitoring compliments Phase I monitoring, which was implemented from April 2004 to September 2005 through a network of NGO partners in each governorate. The main objective of Phase I was to identify varying Internally Displaced People (IDP) caseloads in Iraq, their locations, reasons for displacement, numbers, protection concerns and humanitarian needs. Based on experience from the first phase, the second phase monitoring was expanded to a more in-depth needs assessment and to identify the return intentions of those populations interviewed.

As with the first phase, the second phase implemented a group-level IDP recording form. The data collection and processing was simplified and the coverage focused on IDP categories (pre- and post-2003 conflict and, in some governorates, IDP returnees). The interviewing focused on identifying immediate needs in the areas of water, sanitation, health, education, food, access to legal documents, and income generation. The data collected through the Phase II monitoring will be used for planning community assistance projects and to better understand and address the needs of IDPs.

## GOVERNORATE OVERVIEW

Salah al-Din governorate has an area of 24,751 sq kilometres. The provincial capital of Salah al-Din is Tikrit, with a significant second large city of Samarra. The province is named after Saladin (*Salah al-Din* in modern Arabic Latin transcription), the Islamic hero of the 12<sup>th</sup> century. Tikrit (كربلثة, also transliterated as *Takrit* or *Tekrit*) is the center of the governorate, located 140 km northwest of Baghdad on the Tigris River (at 34.61°N, 43.68°E). The town, with an estimated population of 28,900, is the administrative center of the governorate. Arab population constitutes the majority of the inhabitants in the governorate while Turkmen and Kurd populations are the two minorities residing in Tooz district.

The former Iraqi government re-distributed some of the districts in the governorates in the past for political reasons, and as such Tooz district (which was originally part of Tameem) was 'transferred' to the administration of Salah al-Din in 1976. Tooz is a complex district which has distinct sub-districts inhabited by 100% Kurds and others housing 100% Arabs. Few are mixed.

During the Phase II monitoring, the elections in December caused an increase in check points and a restriction in movement. Curfews have also been imposed. Tikrit has experienced general security, but other locations, such as Samarra, Baiji, and Sinia experienced deteriorating security.

## INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS OVERVIEW

Post 2003	Pre 2003	IDP Returnee	Refugee Returnee	Others At Risk	Total
3,006	360	1,070*	311	155*	4,902

All figures are in families (on the basis of 6 persons per family)

\*Based on Phase I monitoring figures

There are currently 3,366 pre- and post-2003 conflict IDP families and 1,070 IDP Returnee families in Salah al-Din. The majority of the IDPs were displaced after the 2003 conflict.

The IDP population belongs to three ethnic groups: Arabs, Kurds and Turkmen. The Arabs constitute a majority that accounts for 75%. Most Arab families were displaced after 2003 from Tameem Governorate due to forced recovery of property and ethnic discrimination. The remaining was displaced within Salah al-Din Governorate. The displaced Arabs are found in all the districts, though mainly are concentrated in Tikrit, Al Daur, Baiji and Al Shirqat. The other main caseload in the governorate is the Kurdish IDP Returnees who constitute 22% of the displaced population and are all located in Tooz district. The remaining 3% of the total IDP population is Turkmen, mainly Returnee Refugees.

## CASELOADS

### **Post-2003 Conflict IDPs: 3,006 Arab families**

Secondary displaced represent the biggest group of IDPs in the governorate. All are Arabs, 95% of whom are Sunni Muslims and the remaining are Shia. The majority were displaced from their previous locations in Tameem Governorate after the 2003 conflict, specifically between April and October 2003. A few were displaced from other governorates like Ninewa and Baghdad or within Salah al-Din. The cause of their displacement was forced recovery of property by the returning Kurds.

Throughout the 1980s-1990s Marsh Arabs were displaced as a result of the drainage of the marshes from the southern governorates, and they were relocated in northern areas. This group was displaced again in 2003 when Kurdish families started to return to ancestral areas after 2003 war. None of the families under this category expressed their wish to return to their place of usual residence.

IDP Intentions: Over 80% of these IDPs wish to integrate into their current location. A small percentage plans on returning to its place of usual residence.

### **Pre-2003 Conflict IDPs: 360 Arab families**

The majority of these families are Sunni Muslims who live in Tooz and were displaced within the district due to the construction of a dam. A small part of these families are Shia displaced from the south due to political discrimination. This group constitutes 7% of the total IDP population in the governorate.

IDP Intentions: The majority of pre-2003 IDPs plan on integrating with the community in their current location.

### **Returnee IDPs: 1, 070 Kurdish Families**

This category refers to Kurdish IDPs who were displaced prior to the 2003 conflict due to Arabization, the Anfal Campaign and political discrimination, and are now returning to their locations of origin. All the families were located in Tooz District and have either returned to their

home villages or are in the process of returning to their villages in Tooz. 86% of these families are mixed with the host community and the remaining live in public buildings or in camps/settlements.

Needs: Shelter and food followed by NFIs.

### **Refugee Returnees: 311 families**

This category comprises 141 Turkmen and 124 Arab families and 46 newly-recorded Arab Refugee Returnees. These families have reportedly returned from Iran. All are living mixed with the host community. Arabs indicated armed conflict as the reason for leaving the country while Turkmen reported the political discriminations for reason of displacement.

Needs: Shelter, electricity and NFIs

### **Others at Risk: 155 Arab families**

This category is a mix of vulnerable urban and rural poor families. The families are mainly living along the Tigris river valley. 77% are Shia and 23% are Sunnis. 52% live mixed in the host community, 47% live in public building and 1% in camp/settlements.

## **ASSISTANCE NEEDS**

### **Top Priority Needs:**

The IDPs in Salah al-Din communicated that their top three priority needs are:

1. Rehabilitation of the Primary Health Center.
2. Rehabilitation of schools
3. Employment opportunities

### **Priority Needs per Sector:**

#### Water:

1. Installing a compact unit
2. Extend the water network
3. Maintenance training

IDPs in Salah al-Din generally have potable water but request increased amounts.

#### Sanitation:

1. Garbage containers
2. Hygiene campaign
3. Construction of latrines

The IDPs requested garbage collection campaigns and latrines.

#### Health:

1. Provision of medication
2. Rehabilitation of the Primary Health Center
3. Increase in the number of the medical staff

An increase in the quality and quantity of medications is necessary.

#### Education:

1. Rehabilitation of schools

2. Furniture for the school
3. Increase the number of teachers

The groups monitored cited an increase in school material and the rehabilitation of schools as their primary needs.

#### Food:

1. Fresh Food
2. Provide the missing items on the PDS Ration Card
3. Transfer of the PDS Ration Card

The biggest complaint was the absence of food items in the Public Distribution System.

#### Legal Assistance:

1. Legal/Information center
2. Registering children at school
3. Filing claims in the Iraqi Property Claims Commission- IPCC

There did not seem to be a great need for legal assistance, although some IDPs expressed a wish for better understanding of their rights.

#### Income Generation:

1. Carpentry
2. Sewing
3. Metal works

The most popular requests for skills training were in metal works, mechanics, and carpentry.

#### Type of information needs:

IDPs would like to be better informed of the security situation in their areas.

## **PROTECTION CONCERNS**

Property Claims: IPCC offices in Salah al-Din reported that a few legal claims have been presented by displaced populations. The majority of the claims refer to claims of individuals against the government for the expropriation of land for regional or national projects such as construction of airports, roads, military facilities, etc. Kurdish displaced population in Tooz are not able to process legal claims since 'destruction of property' is not considered by the IPCC.

Economic Vulnerability: Rising market prices weaken further survival coping mechanism of already vulnerable IDP families. In general, displaced populations have fewer opportunities to guarantee a constant income compared to the general population. Short-term measures should target vulnerable families who cannot overcome this situation.

Child Labor: Child labor has been reported as a common coping strategy in the region. School age children are engaged in small business activities such as selling cigarettes, chewing gums, shining shoes, etc. to support their families during school hours.

## **CONSTRAINTS**

An increase in insecurity in some areas and restricted movement during the December elections made monitoring in some locations difficult.

## ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DURABLE SOLUTIONS

Apparently the most effective durable solution for IDPs in Salah al-Din governorate will be housing projects. There is no evidence that IDPs will ever be able to return to their places of usual residence. Moreover, the host community is willing to receive the IDPs and a good integration is anticipated.

*For further information on IDP displacement in Iraq, please contact the IOM Iraq IDP Program at +962 6 565 9660 or email Dana Graber, Monitoring and Reintegration Officer, at [dgraber@iom-iraq.net](mailto:dgraber@iom-iraq.net)*