

IOM EMERGENCY NEEDS ASSESSMENTS

POST FEBRUARY 2006 DISPLACEMENT IN IRAQ

1 FEBRUARY¹ 2008 BIWEEKLY REPORT



Following the February 2006 bombing of the Samarra Al-Askari Mosque, escalating sectarian violence in Iraq caused massive displacement, both internal and to locations abroad. In coordination with the Iraqi government's Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MoDM), IOM continues to assess the movement of Iraqis through a network of partners on the ground.

Significantly fewer Iraqis were displaced in 2007 than were displaced in 2006, suggesting that internal displacement in Iraq has slowed. However, displacement continues to occur in some locations and the humanitarian situation of those already displaced is worsening. The limited returns that have occurred so far represent only a small fraction of the displaced population. Internal displacement in Iraq continues to be a major humanitarian crisis, demanding both assessment and a targeted humanitarian response.

The estimated number of displaced since 22 February 2006 is almost **1,270,000 individuals**². This figure, combined with the 1.2 million individuals³ who were internally displaced before 22 February, results in a total of nearly **2.5 million individuals displaced within Iraq to date**.

BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY ON IRAQI DISPLACEMENT:

Continuing Humanitarian Crisis

Many among the post-February 2006 IDP population have now been living in displacement for nearly two years. For a population that did not expect to remain in displacement long, the humanitarian crisis is worsening. In the midst of a devastated economy, meager national resources, a dysfunctional services infrastructure, and widespread unemployment, IDPs are increasingly unable to meet their basic needs. IDPs assessed by IOM consistently rank shelter as the highest rated priority need. At the close of 2007 and in the first month of 2008, IOM monitoring observed a sharp increase in eviction reports as especially vulnerable IDP groups are being forced out of the areas where they have taken shelter.

The onset of a cold winter has exacerbated the IDP humanitarian situation. Widespread electrical shortages and a national fuel crisis mean that few IDPs can properly heat their shelter, which is often inadequate in the first place. Fuel distributions are often provided to IDPs with valid PDS cards, so those IDPs without access to PDS rations are especially vulnerable in winter, since they cannot afford the extremely high fuel prices.

New Displacement

Violence continues to cause displacement. Multi-National Forces in Iraq/Iraqi Forces (MNF-I/IF) military operations and fighting between insurgents and "awakening" forces in Kirkuk and Salah Al-Din have displaced large numbers of families. A massive explosion in Mosul in January displaced dozens of families, and a new offensive by MNF-I/IF against insurgents in the area may well result in additional displacement. During the Ashura holiday in January, fighting broke out in several southern governorates. Turkish military incursions caused displacement along the northern border in December and fear of additional military operations continues.

IDP Returns

Return movements continue as conditions deteriorate in places of displacement and security improves in some areas in Iraq. MoDM governorate offices are currently registering both refugee and IDP returnees, but returns are difficult to measure since not all returnees are registering with MoDM. At the close of 2007 MoDM reported that 9,657 IDP families, about 60,000 individuals, had returned to Baghdad⁴. The Iraqi Red Crescent

¹ Due to the release of IOM's comprehensive *Governorate Profiles* and *2007 Iraq Displacement Year in Review* reports in December and January, the bi-weekly report was on hiatus between 1 December 2007 and 1 February 2008.

² See the IDP Working Group Internally Displaced Persons in Iraq Update (28 January 2008).

³ As per IOM monitoring for the 15 central and southern governorates and UNOPS/UNHCR for the three northern governorates. See Cluster F Update, 19 September 2007.

⁴ See the 24 December 2007 MoDM report, "Summary Results IDP Registration – February 2006 To December 2007."

reports that 46,000 individuals have returned to Baghdad from Syria by the end of December⁵. Returns (like displacement) appear to be concentrated in Baghdad. IOM monitoring is assessing IDP and refugee returnees throughout Iraq and has identified only about two thousand returnee individuals outside Baghdad governorate, although there are likely many more.

Of IDPs assessed by IOM since February 2006, 31% reported that their property had been occupied. As returns continue, the settlement of property disputes is likely to become a critical issue that demands a mechanism for solution. Property disputes involving returnees may ignite new violence or displacement. In some cases IDPs have returned home and been displaced again by renewed threats in their place of origin. Many returnees find their homes or livelihoods destroyed and are in secondary displacement: some assessments suggest that only 20 to 30% of returnees are returning to their actual houses⁶. While IOM does not advocate for the return of Iraqis due to a still unstable situation throughout the country, there is an urgent need for humanitarian assistance that supports vulnerable IDPs, returnees, and host communities.

Country-wide Statistics:

Information below is based on in-depth assessments of 148,336 families (890,000 individuals) displaced throughout Iraq since 22 February 2006. **(Please note that this figure represents the total number that IOM monitors have assessed, not the total number of displaced in Iraq since 22 February 2006.)**

IDP Places of Origin:

Baghdad	64.28%	Tameem	1.57%
Diyala	19.45%	Babylon	0.89%
Ninewa	4.21%	Wassit	0.25%
Anbar	4.08%	Thi-Qar	0.07%
Salah al-Din	3.24%	Qadissiya	0.04%
Basrah	1.86%		

Ethnicity/Religion:

Arab Shia	60.67%	Turkmen Shia	1.15%
Arab Sunni	27.83%	Turkmen Sunni	0.88%
Assyrian Christian	3.50%	Kurd Shia	0.84%
Kurd Sunni	2.83%	Other	0.23%
Chaldean Christian	1.88%		

Living arrangements:

Rented housing	59.49%	Public building	5.90%
In the house of host family or relatives	16.96%	Tent in camp	0.74%
Other	9.42%	Former military camp	0.43%
Collective town settlement	6.67%	Tent near house of host	0.39%

Intentions:

Return to their place of origin	58.42%
Locally integrate in the current location	22.22%
Resettle in a third location	17.81%
Waiting on one or several factors to make a decision	1.55%

Top priority needs:

Shelter	71.86%	Legal Help	19.17%
Food	68.30%	Health	12.02%
Access to work	65.14%	Sanitation	6.55%
Other	26.09%	Education	6.41%

⁵ See the Iraqi Red Crescent report, "Iraqi Returnees from Syria," 30 December 2007.

⁶ See IRC's report "Iraqi Returnees from Syria" 30, Dec 2007, and the "UNHCR Rapid Assessment of Return of Iraqis from Displacement Locations and Neighbouring Countries," 16 December 2007.

Water	20.50%	Hygiene	1.89%
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Anbar:

Security has improved in Anbar, particularly in the cities where the Anbar Rescue Council “awakening” movement has largely gained control. However, insurgents continue to carry out attacks against the ARC, MNF-I/IF, police, and other government institutions.

Monitors have observed some IDP families in Anbar returning, either to homes within Anbar or to the calmer areas of Baghdad. Many of these return to find their houses destroyed, their furniture stolen, and their jobs gone. They require humanitarian assistance in their place of return.

Large-scale rehabilitation of the Hadetha Dam has caused the Directorate of Water to stop the provision of water in some areas, causing severe water shortages. These repairs are expected to finish by the end of January.

Assessment based on 10,336 families.

Places of Origin:

Baghdad	69.75%	Basrah	4.75%
Anbar	25.43%	Babylon	0.08%

Ethnicity/Religion:

Arab Sunni	99.88%
Arab Shia	0.12%

Living arrangements:

Rented housing	47.50%	Other	2.96%
In the house of host family or relatives	25.75%	Tent near house of host	0.83%
Public building	11.87%	Former military camp	0.80%
Collective town settlement	10.28%		

Intentions:

Return to their place of origin	84.92%
Resettle in a third location	12.33%
Waiting on one or several factors to make a decision	1.77%
Locally integrate in the current location	0.99%

Top priority needs:

Food	92.83%	Education	28.57%
Water	70.28%	Health	11.81%
Shelter	60.09%	Other	3.37%
Access to work	31.31%	Hygiene	1.92%

IOM emergency distribution assistance in 2007 & 2008: In 2007, IOM completed various distributions of food, water, and non-food items for 961 IDP families in February, 392 IDP families in May, 1,655 IDP families in August, and 1,344 IDP families in November. In 2008, IOM is currently implementing a daily water trucking operation that is benefiting nearly 37,000 vulnerable IDP and host community families in various locations throughout Anbar.

Babylon:

Security is stable in most of the governorate, but in the northern areas of Musayeb, Askandariya, Jurf Al-Sakher, Mahaweel, Haswa, and Jebela security is poor and bombings, assassinations, and curfews are common. Although this area received an IDP influx during 2006 and early 2007, after the bombing of the Al-Haswa mosque in March 2007, IDPs were secondarily displaced from these areas along with fleeing members of the host community. In December there were curfews in Al-Imam and Al-Neel sub-districts due to the assassination of a police chief.

In Mahram village, Al-Askandariya sub-district, Al-Musayeb district 12 IDP families have received an eviction order from local authorities because they are squatting on public land. In Al-Jawadiya, Abu Gharaq sub-district there are nine IDP families who are living in mud houses on public land. Five of these families are headed by widows who are now working as construction workers. This group has received an eviction order from the municipality of Abu Gharaq. In Al-Neel sub-district, 13 IDP families are living in houses made of palm leaves on public land. They have received eviction orders from local authorities and cannot afford to rent shelter elsewhere.

In Al-Zahra' complex, Al-Hashimiya district, 45 IDP families were issued an eviction order by the Iraqi army because they are living in a former military compound. Various actors, including local authorities, have asked the army to withdraw this notice and the army has postponed the eviction order until further notice. Similarly, there are over 170 IDP families living in Al-Mahaweel military camp who received an eviction order from the Iraqi military. IDPs reported that the Iraqi army has surrounded this location and cut the electricity to the camp.

In December, MoDM Babylon reported that around 450 IDP families had returned from Babylon to other governorates, most of them returning to Baghdad and some to Diyala and Wassit.

There is a severe shortage of health care for IDP and host community groups in villages of Saddat Al-Hindiya sub-district, Al-Musayeb district. Monitors identified IDP groups in this area who are drinking from rivers because the existing water networks do not reach them or are not working properly.

Assessment based on 9,168 families.

Places of Origin:

Baghdad	83.31%	Wassit	1.16%
Diyala	6.25%	Tameem	0.71%
Babylon	4.18%	Ninewa	0.15%
Salah al-Din	2.23%	Kerbala	0.03%
Anbar	1.97%	Qadissiya	0.01%

Ethnicity/Religion:

Arab Shia	96.05%
Arab Sunni	3.87%
Arab Yazidi	0.08%

Living arrangements:

Rented housing	68.48%	Collective town settlement	5.09%
In the house of host family or relatives	10.39%	Former military camp	0.69%
Other	8.06%	Tent in camp	0.12%
Public building	7.16%	Tent near house of host	0.01%

Intentions:

Return to their place of origin	38.07%
Resettle in a third location	34.16%
Locally integrate in the current location	27.70%
Waiting on one or several factors to make a decision	0.08%

Top priority needs:

Food	68.90%	Health	25.24%
Access to work	67.21%	Other	15.26%
Shelter	55.27%	Education	7.56%
Water	31.21%	Sanitation	3.17%
Legal Help	25.56%	Hygiene	0.15%

IOM emergency distribution assistance in 2007 & 2008: In July 2007, IOM completed a food and NFI distribution to 3,000 IDP and host community families in Babylon. In 2008, IOM is currently distributing plastic sheeting (for shelter) to 200 IDP families living in Al-Manathera tent camp.

Baghdad:

The situation in Baghdad remains relatively calm, with a large troop presence maintaining security in certain areas. Sporadic attacks and fighting continue and insecurity continues to prevent monitors from reaching some neighbourhoods.

Return movements continue to occur and IOM monitors are assessing the humanitarian situation of IDP and refugee returnees in their places of origin. Many returnees find their houses destroyed, damaged, or looted, and are in need of humanitarian assistance. Monitors observed that in the Al Baya area, a number of IDP families had returned but then fled again after they received death threats from groups operating “undercover” in the area.

IDPs in the Saba’ Kusoor sub-district of Adhamiya district are living in structures originally built to house chickens and have no source of potable water. This group has no income and depends completely on PDS rations, which are missing rice and oil. They have covered open doors and windows with old clothes, but are unable to stay warm in the winter weather.

Assessment based on 35,432 families.

Places of Origin:

Baghdad	78.29%	Ninewa	0.10%
Diyala	17.74%	Babylon	0.08%
Anbar	2.16%	Wassit	0.03%
Salah al-Din	1.19%	Basrah	0.01%
Tameem	0.38%	Missan	0.01%

Ethnicity/Religion:

Arab Shia	77.87%
Arab Sunni	21.97%
Kurd Shia	0.12%
Arab Yazidi	0.03%
Turkmen Shia	0.01%

Living arrangements:

Rented housing	61.11%	Public building	3.51%
Other	14.22%	Tent in camp	0.93%
In the house of host family or relatives	13.82%	Former military camp	0.07%
Collective town settlement	6.31%	Tent near house of host	0.03%

Intentions:

Return to their place of origin	79.18%
Resettle in a third location	14.28%
Locally integrate in the current location	4.77%
Waiting on one or several factors to make a decision	1.77%

Top priority needs:

Shelter	80.70%	Health	10.31%
Food	64.12%	Legal Help	7.54%
Access to work	53.19%	Water	6.79%
Other	52.96%	Education	2.35%
Sanitation	19.93%	Hygiene	1.51%

IOM emergency distribution assistance in 2007 & 2008: In 2007, IOM distributed food and non-food items to 346 families in February, 2,895 families in April, and 198 families in August. In 2008, IOM is currently distributing food and non-food items to 3,000 vulnerable IDP and host community families.

Basrah:

Security in Basrah continues to be unstable. Intertribal fighting continues in northern Basrah and fighting continues in Basrah city. Kidnappings and assassinations are frequent, including an assassination attempt against the Basrah police chief. On 18 January 2007, fighting broke out between Iraqi Forces (IF) and militants after militants attacked an Ashura festival in the Al-Jumhuriya area. This fighting spread to other areas, resulting in the deaths of more than 40 people. In response, over 70 people were arrested in a detention campaign that is ongoing. Also, during the reporting period there were many assassination attacks in Al-Khaleej and Khor Al-Zubair areas.

The threat of eviction is especially problematic in Basrah, where the governor has ordered the eviction of all IDPs squatting on public or private properties. This will affect many of the most vulnerable IDPs who have no income and cannot afford to rent shelter. There are 20 IDP families and 180 refugee returnee families (from Iran) living in Hay Ajnadeen, Al-Maq'el. This group has received an eviction order from local authorities. Monitors estimate that more than 40% of IDPs in Basrah are under threat of eviction because they are squatting on public lands. Some returnee families in Abo Al-Khaseeb district said that they were afraid because they were being investigated by the Basrah security office.

In the centre of Basrah city, the rehabilitation of the sewage system has been postponed until the middle of the year. There are standing swamps of sewage throughout the area. Both IDPs and host community depend heavily on water tankers for water.

Widespread corruption is preventing those returnees who had public jobs in their places of origin in Basrah from resuming their position, since officials demand bribes up to \$1,000 before they will allow them back to work.

Assessment based on 4,685 families.

Places of Origin:

Baghdad	51.36%	Babylon	1.96%
Salah al-Din	27.15%	Basrah	0.68%
Anbar	8.28%	Wassit	0.26%
Diyala	6.23%	Ninewa	0.17%
Tameem	3.86%	Qadissiya	0.04%

Ethnicity/Religion:

Arab Shia	99.91%
Arab Sunni	0.04%

Living arrangements:

Rented housing	62.11%	Collective town settlement	0.39%
In the house of host family or relatives	22.00%	Tent in camp	0.15%
Public building	12.95%	Former military camp	0.02%
Other	2.38%		

Intentions:

Locally integrate in the current location	86.82%
Resettle in a third location	7.05%
Return to their place of origin	5.87%
Waiting on one or several factors to make a decision	0.26%

Top priority needs:

Shelter	99.08%	Water	2.73%
Access to work	97.80%	Health	0.83%
Food	67.23%	Education	0.58%
Legal Help	25.81%	Sanitation	0.28%
Other	5.61%	Hygiene	0.04%

IOM emergency distribution assistance in 2007 & 2008: In October, IOM completed the distribution of food and non-food items to 2,863 IDP families.

Dahuk:

Turkish air strikes in Upper Nerwa village, Amedi district in mid-January hit a relatively uninhabited area and no consequent displacement was observed. However, there is widespread fear in the border area of continued air strikes or ground incursions and many families are ready to flee.

Fuel has become the priority for IDPs. Market prices continue to rise and have risen further due to the US dollar's depreciation, making it even more difficult for IDPs without valid PDS ration cards to obtain fuel since they are ineligible for fuel distributions.

Checkpoints continue to restrict entry at Dahuk borders, preventing IDPs from transporting their heavier possessions (such as furniture) into the governorate. Poor coordination between the KRG and Baghdad PDS authorities prevents Baghdad IDPs from accessing their rations in the north. Some IDP families from Ninewa travel to Mosul to pick up their rations, but most IDPs cannot make this trip due to transportation costs and insecurity along the roads.

Assessment based on 2,188 families.

Places of Origin:

Baghdad	58.96%	Salah al-Din	0.09%
Ninewa	38.80%	Erbil	0.05%
Tameem	0.73%	Diyala	0.05%
Basrah	0.73%	Babylon	0.05%
Anbar	0.55%		

Ethnicity/Religion:

Chaldean Christian	35.42%	Arab Shia Muslim	1.97%
Kurd Sunni Muslim	30.30%	Kurd Yazidi	1.05%
Assyrian Christian	22.44%	Turkmen Shia Muslim	0.78%
Armenian Christian	4.62%	Other	0.51%
Arab Sunni Muslim	2.15%		

Living arrangements:

Rented housing	55.44%	Public building	0.61%
Collective town settlement	29.72%	Tent near house of host	0.14%
In the house of host family or relatives	13.05%	Tent in camp	0.05%
Other	0.99%		

Intentions:

Locally integrate in the current location	59.22%
Resettle in a third location	23.66%
Return to their place of origin	16.75%
Waiting on one or several factors to make a decision	0.37%

Top priority needs:

Access to work	91.86%	Education	15.13%
Food	53.02%	Water	8.09%
Shelter	42.46%	Sanitation	1.28%
Other	38.35%	Legal Help	1.14%
Health	20.02%	Hygiene	0.46%

IOM emergency distribution assistance in 2007 & 2008: None to date.

Diyala:

Insecurity in Diyala continues, with frequent clashes between MNF-I and insurgents, arrest campaigns, suicide bombings, and improvised explosive device (IED) explosions. In Beni Zaid village, Ba'quba center monitors identified 53 IDP families who had fled from Al-Doreen, Baladrooz district after security forces implemented curfews and arrest campaigns in their village in response to insurgent activity in the area.

In Al-Raka sub-district and Al-Khalis district IDP families depend on water tanks and drainage canals because water purification units are not functioning, either due to damage from fighting or lack of maintenance. These areas also lack adequate sewage systems.

Some IDPs are returning to Diyala to improved security in some areas, while others are returning due to forced evictions from their place of displacement. The Diyala provincial council is planning to financially compensate IDPs who are returning to find their houses damaged or destroyed.

Assessment based on 11,341 families.

Places of Origin:

Diyala	80.13%	Babylon	0.20%
Baghdad	18.82%	Salah al-Din	0.15%
Tameem	0.34%	Basrah	0.09%
Anbar	0.24%	Qadisiya	0.03%

Ethnicity/Religion:

Arab Sunni	50.15%
Arab Shia	39.03%
Kurd Shia	9.01%
Kurd Sunni	1.12%
Turkmen Shia	0.49%
Turkmen Sunni	0.20%

Living arrangements:

Rented housing	44.19%	Collective town settlement	5.59%
In the house of host family or relatives	21.61%	Former military camp	3.02%
Public building	15.06%	Tent in camp	1.77%
Other	7.76%	Tent near house of host	1.00%

Intentions:

Return to their place of origin	82.55%
Resettle in a third location	9.31%
Locally integrate in the current location	8.09%
Waiting on one or several factors to make a decision	0.04%

Top priority needs:

Food	98.19%	Other	20.17%
Shelter	66.85%	Health	6.33%
Legal Help	57.97%	Hygiene	0.78%
Access to work	28.91%	Education	0.51%
Water	20.25%		

IOM emergency distribution assistance in 2007 & 2008: In September, IOM provided 3,350 IDP families in Diyala with food and non-food items. Also in September, IOM together with UNHCR assisted 1,400 families with food and non-food items.

Erbil:

In December, Turkish military operations, including ground incursions by an estimated 300 Turkish soldiers in the Dolly Shahidan area, caused significant displacement in Choman and Soran districts. In Choman, 360 families fled from the border villages toward the district center. In Soran, 150 families fled from the Dolly

Balyan area. Although some displacement continues, according to local authorities the numbers are small. There is considerable fear among the border villages of continued Turkish military attacks.

Monitors observed that the ongoing fuel crisis has become even more acute during this cold winter. Fuel prices are extremely expensive and continue to rise daily. In Tobzawa, monitors identified 300 IDP families in a remote area without basic services. Standing water and a lack of sanitation has led to high incidence of disease within this IDP group.

Assessment based on 3,265 families.

Places of Origin:

Ninewa	52.56%	Muthanna	0.09%
Baghdad	42.73%	Erbil	0.09%
Tameem	1.81%	Basrah	0.09%
Diyala	0.83%	Najaf	0.06%
Anbar	0.80%	Babylon	0.06%
Salah al-Din	0.61%		

Ethnicity/Religion:

Kurd Sunni	41.87%	Arab Shia	1.50%
Chaldean Christian	30.47%	Armenian Christian	1.41%
Arab Sunni	10.57%	Other	1.19%
Assyrian Christian	6.86%		

Living arrangements:

Rented housing	94.85%	Other	1.54%
In the house of host family or relatives	3.24%	Tent in camp	0.37%

Intentions:

Return to their place of origin	53.60%
Resettle in a third location	25.08%
Locally integrate in the current location	21.25%
Waiting on one or several factors to make a decision	0.06%

Top priority needs:

Shelter	99.32%	Other	1.08%
Access to work	94.98%	Water	0.06%
Education	43.20%	Health	0.06%
Legal Help	36.18%	Sanitation	0.03%
Food	4.03%		

IOM emergency distribution assistance in 2007 & 2008: IOM is currently distributing food and non-food items to 2,210 IDP and vulnerable host community families, including IDP groups who were displaced by cross-border Turkish shelling.

Kerbala:

Many IDPs reportedly have been arrested in the Al-Feriaha area following the mid-December explosion of a roadside bomb that killed one policeman and injured others. In December, Monitors observed an increase in the number of police checkpoints along highways following the assassination of the Babylon police chief. During the religious festival of Ashura, local authorities increased security precautions and imposed widespread restrictions on movement. Security remained relatively calm despite a roadside bomb assassination attempt against a tribal sheikh on 24 January.

Monitors identified several hundred IDP families in the Al-Hady, Al-Walaa, Al-Forat, and Al-Nd'al areas, many of whom are living in crude block houses illegally built on public land. These groups do not have access to potable water or electrical networks.

A very small flow of IDPs continue to return from Kerbala, most of them to investigate reports of improved security in Baghdad and receive the stipend given to IDP returnees.

Assessment based on 7,362 families.

Places of Origin:

Baghdad	61.08%	Babylon	2.50%
Diyala	21.87%	Salah al-Din	1.55%
Anbar	8.95%	Tameem	1.29%
Ninewa	2.74%	Wassit	0.01%

Ethnicity/Religion:

Arab Shia	98.44%
Turkmen Shia	1.32%
Arab Yazidi	0.24%

Living arrangements:

Rented housing	53.17%	Public building	7.19%
Collective town settlement	20.81%	Tent near house of host	1.01%
Other	8.99%	Tent in camp	0.74%
In the house of host family or relatives	8.09%		

Intentions:

Return to their place of origin	46.64%
Locally integrate in the current location	36.28%
Resettle in a third location	16.54%
Waiting on one or several factors to make a decision	0.54%

Top priority needs:

Access to work	86.85%	Water	15.57%
Shelter	71.73%	Education	4.44%
Food	60.23%	Legal Help	4.38%
Other	20.20%	Health	3.50%
Sanitation	18.17%	Hygiene	0.33%

IOM emergency distribution assistance in 2007 & 2008: In July, IOM distributed food and non-food items to 3,108 families in Kerbala.

Kirkuk:

In December around 230 new IDP families were identified in Al-Hawiga district, Kirkuk. These families fled Salah Al-Din due to clashes between Al-Qaeda and the “awakening” movements. Monitors also identified 75 IDP families in Al-Riadh, Al-Hawiga district who had displaced from Salah Al-Din and within the district close to Salah Al-Din due to clashes between insurgents and “awakening” forces.

MNF-I/IF military operations against insurgents continue in the Himrin Mountains in western Daquq district and across the border in Salah Al-Din. Movement is heavily restricted. An estimated 130 IDP families have fled this area and are now living in Hay Al-Adel and Hay Zain Al-Aberdeen, Daquq district. These families left their farms and cattle and are depending on relatives and their savings. Many of these families have had members killed or detained by either insurgents or MNF-I/IF. These families have not yet transferred their PDS registration since they intend to return home once security improves.

There are 915 pre-2006 Kurdish IDP families and 85 post-Samarra IDP families living in an old football stadium in Kirkuk district. The Committee of Displacement in the provincial council has issued an eviction order to all these families, promising the Kurdish families that they would each receive ten million Iraqi dinar compensation. The 85 recently-displaced families will receive no compensation. The families in the stadium are living in crowded, makeshift rooms in the stadium and rely on public wells and water tanks because there is no

water network. These families have been ordered to leave the stadium in two months, but they do not know where to go since they cannot afford rent and cannot return to their places of origin (mostly Diyala) due to insecurity.

There are 45 IDP families living in old buildings owned by an oil company in the periphery of Kirkuk district. This group displaced recently from rural areas in Salah Al-Din due to clashes between “awakening” forces and insurgents and due also to a drought that has affected their farmlands and animals. These families are living in buildings without doors or windows, have not transferred their PDS registration, and left their means of livelihood (fields and farm animals) behind them. None of the children is enrolled in school and none of them has been vaccinated. This group urgently needs shelter, fuel, and water assistance.

MoDM Kirkuk informed monitors that some IDP families recently registered by the branch office had been displaced in Kirkuk for some time, but had not reported for registration until now because they feared harassment by local authorities. These families registered in January because they needed official documents in order to enrol their children in university. MoDM staff also observed that IDP families internally displaced within Kirkuk (e.g. from western Al-Hawiga district) were not registered.

Approximately 170 Turkmen families have returned from Turkey to areas in Kirkuk district, due to both improvement in Kirkuk security and deterioration in their living conditions abroad. These families registered with MoDM as returnees and received documentation allowing them to return to their original work as government employees. Some families reported continued fear since they are not convinced they are safe from the death threats that motivated them to leave in the first place. These families have been able to return to their home and access basic services and have been included in fuel ration distributions.

The transfer of the PDS ration card registration to Kirkuk has been suspended by order of the provincial council. The transfer of the PDS cards stopped at the beginning of this year due to political reasons. At least 1,500 IDP families do not have a valid PDS card for Kirkuk.

Assessment based on 5,962 families.

Places of Origin:

Diyala	34.85%	Basrah	0.37%
Baghdad	25.55%	Babylon	0.30%
Tameem	15.87%	Erbil	0.12%
Salah al-Din	11.86%	Thi-Qar	0.07%
Ninewa	8.67%	Najaf	0.05%
Anbar	2.30%		

Ethnicity/Religion:

Arab Sunni	49.26%	Assyrian Christian	2.62%
Turkmen Shia	21.10%	Kurd Shia	1.07%
Kurd Sunni	18.03%	Chaldean Christian	0.92%
Arab Shia	3.67%	Armenian Christian	0.32%
Turkmen Sunni	2.95%	Turkmen Christian	0.05%

Living arrangements:

Rented housing	29.97%	Collective town settlement	3.52%
Other	27.54%	Tent near house of host	1.64%
In the house of host family or relatives	24.42%	Former military camp	0.55%
Public building	12.18%	Tent in camp	0.17%

Intentions:

Return to their place of origin	76.74%
Locally integrate in the current location	18.89%
Resettle in a third location	3.24%
Waiting on one or several factors to make a decision	1.14%

Top priority needs:

Shelter	95.78%	Water	5.89%
Food	94.31%	Education	5.28%
Access to work	51.85%	Sanitation	2.78%
Legal Help	32.07%	Other	2.60%
Health	9.06%	Hygiene	0.30%

IOM emergency distribution assistance in 2007 & 2008: In February 2007, IOM distributed food and non-food items to 743 IDP families in Kirkuk. In 2008, IOM is currently distributing food and non-food items to 1,500 IDP and vulnerable host community families.

Missan:

Security in Missan remained stable during the reporting period, although the outbreak of fighting in nearby governorates during the Ashura holiday led Missan authorities to impose a curfew in mid-January.

Ten IDP families who had been squatting in the former Al-Quds camp in Hay Ramadan, Ali-Al-Sharqi, Ali Al Al-Gharbi district received an eviction order from local authorities because the land is owned by the Ministry of Defence.

MoDM Missan is seeking to re-register all IDPs in its database for 2008. Registration covers only IDPs displaced from “hot spots,” and only those IDPs who visit the office for re-registration will be included in the new database.

Assessment based on 5,966 families.

Places of Origin:

Baghdad	85.84%	Wassit	0.50%
Diyala	6.64%	Babylon	0.27%
Salah al-Din	3.86%	Basrah	0.23%
Tameem	1.46%	Ninewa	0.17%
Anbar	1.02%	Kerbala	0.02%

Ethnicity/Religion:

Arab Shia	99.90%
Arab Sabean Mandeian	0.10%

Living arrangements:

Rented housing	54.62%	Collective town settlement	5.39%
In the house of host family or relatives	16.97%	Tent near house of host	0.25%
Other	16.35%	Tent in camp	0.05%
Public building	6.34%	Former military camp	0.03%

Intentions:

Return to their place of origin	46.54%
Locally integrate in the current location	38.55%
Resettle in a third location	10.86%
Waiting on one or several factors to make a decision	4.05%

Top priority needs:

Shelter	68.74%	Health	11.30%
Other	66.29%	Sanitation	6.96%
Access to work	65.19%	Hygiene	2.75%
Water	41.49%	Legal Help	1.51%
Food	35.49%	Education	0.29%

IOM emergency distribution assistance in 2007 & 2008: None to date.

Muthanna:

Security remains relatively stable. Monitors have observed a steady deterioration in IDP health, with prolonged use of non-potable water and poor housing taking a toll. Many IDPs in Muthanna are living in rural areas with little or no basic services.

There are 30 IDP families in Al-Tanak neighborhood who are squatting on public property and have received eviction orders. They urgently need shelter assistance.

MoDM Muthanna has ceased registering IDPs who originate from outside the governorate, by order of governorate authorities. Some IDPs in Al-Samawa returned to their places of origin but were threatened again and returned to displacement. They told monitors that MoDM refused to register them as IDPs again because they suspected that they wanted to receive both the IDP and returnee stipends.

Assessment based on 2,654 families.

Places of Origin:

Baghdad	72.76%	Ninewa	0.87%
Diyala	14.39%	Wassit	0.68%
Anbar	7.27%	Qadissiya	0.64%
Babylon	1.88%	Erbil	0.19%
Salah al-Din	1.32%		

Ethnicity/Religion:

Arab Shia 100.00%

Living arrangements:

Rented housing	71.71%	Collective town settlement	1.74%
In the house of host family or relatives	19.88%	Tent near house of host	1.28%
Other	4.22%	Public building	1.17%

Intentions:

Return to their place of origin	44.10%
Locally integrate in the current location	35.58%
Resettle in a third location	19.45%
Waiting on one or several factors to make a decision	0.87%

Top priority needs:

Shelter	78.37%	Other	19.48%
Food	60.29%	Education	13.04%
Access to work	53.92%	Legal Help	5.88%
Water	34.17%	Hygiene	5.58%
Health	24.38%	Sanitation	4.63%

IOM emergency distribution assistance in 2007 & 2008: None to date.

Najaf:

MoDM Najaf is conducting a re-registration of IDPs to clean its database. If two families are registered with one PDS card, only one will be re-registered. Only IDPs who report to the office are re-registered and MoDM concedes that large numbers will not attend and will therefore be dropped from the database. Re-registration requires a check of original documents.

Monitors identified around 500 IDP families dispersed in rental housing in the Askary, Howra, Jazeera, Al-Shuhada, and Al-Ishteraky neighbourhoods of Al-Najaf who are under threat of eviction because they cannot afford their rent. Twelve IDP families are living in Al-Hurriya sub-district in houses they built of reeds and palms on public land. Some of the host community is now pressuring this group to leave because they want the land for a football field. Thirty IDP families from Baghdad are living in Al-Qadissiya sub-district on lands they

bought without official legal documents. The owner of the area is now demanding that they leave, threatening to obtain an eviction order from local authorities since the IDPs have no legal proof that they bought the property.

In Al-Ansar, Ninewa, there is an IDP community of around 250 families that is reportedly suffering, along with the host community, from radiation poisoning in their sewage network, soil, and water. The area has been visited by medical teams from Baghdad and local authorities, who have advised the residents to evacuate.

Assessment based on 5,702 families.

Places of Origin:

Baghdad	87.97%	Babylon	1.02%
Diyala	5.66%	Salah al-Din	0.86%
Anbar	1.95%	Tameem	0.79%
Ninewa	1.74%	Wassit	0.02%

Ethnicity/Religion:

Arab Shia	99.77%
Kurd Shia	0.23%

Living arrangements:

Rented housing	84.51%	Public building	1.56%
Collective town settlement	11.65%	Other	0.05%
In the house of host family or relatives	2.19%	Former military camp	0.04%

Intentions:

Return to their place of origin	95.42%
Locally integrate in the current location	4.56%
Waiting on one or several factors to make a decision	0.02%

Top priority needs:

Shelter	95.44%	Other	6.61%
Food	91.74%	Legal Help	3.42%
Access to work	91.09%	Health	3.09%
Water	8.23%	Hygiene	0.09%

IOM emergency distribution assistance in 2007 & 2008: In April, IOM completed a distribution of food and non-food items to 2,099 IDP families.

Ninewa:

Security in Mosul city is highly unstable, with frequent insurgent attacks against police and government institutions. Iraqi Forces have launched a major offensive against insurgent groups in the city.

On 23 January, a massive explosion in a three-floor building in Hay Al-Zanjeely, Mosul district killed dozens and injured more than one hundred people. Several hundred buildings were destroyed or damaged and more than seventy families were displaced from their homes. Monitors immediately coordinated with local health authorities and humanitarian organizations to prepare local hospitals for the wounded. The following day a local police chief was ambushed and killed along with several policemen while he was surveying the area. Local authorities have imposed a curfew on the area and are organizing a committee to deal with the families who were displaced by this incident.

IDP families living in Al-Mankooba, Al-Jardan and Al-Uraige villages depend on public wells because they have no water network. The wells are old and do not meet the community's needs. There is also a serious shortage of fuel; most families in Al-Mankooba village depend on dry palm leaves and tree branches for cooking.

Assessment based on 9,666 families.

Places of Origin:

Baghdad	58.24%	Babylon	0.62%
Ninewa	27.32%	Wassit	0.24%
Basrah	9.10%	Qadissiya	0.12%
Diyala	1.30%	Thi-Qar	0.04%
Tameem	1.01%	Kerbala	0.04%
Salah al-Din	0.94%	Erbil	0.04%
Anbar	0.74%		

Ethnicity/Religion:

Assyrian Christian	44.72%	Arab Shia	0.89%
Arab Sunni	30.29%	Kurd Sunni	0.44%
Turkmen Sunni	11.00%	Arab Yazidi	0.34%
Chaldean Christian	9.93%	Armenian Christian	0.24%
Turkmen Shia	1.60%		

Living arrangements:

Rented housing	74.96%	Public building	0.94%
In the house of host family or relatives	18.46%	Tent near house of host	0.63%
Tent in camp	2.60%	Collective town settlement	0.44%
Other	1.72%	Former military camp	0.23%

Intentions:

Return to their place of origin	67.98%
Resettle in a third location	30.93%
Locally integrate in the current location	1.05%
Waiting on one or several factors to make a decision	0.04%

Top priority needs:

Legal Help	95.68%	Health	6.91%
Access to work	86.72%	Hygiene	3.50%
Shelter	74.60%	Education	1.50%
Food	20.07%	Sanitation	0.99%
Other	9.14%	Water	0.75%

IOM emergency distribution assistance in 2007 & 2008: IOM provided food and NFIs to 4,587 IDP and host community families in Ninewa in July and August. In September and October, IOM provided water tanks, clothes and water trucking to 500 IDP families affected by explosions in Sinjar. IOM also provided a distribution of food and non-food items, including fuel, to 160 families in the tent camp in Girdassen, Akre district. IOM is currently distributing fuel, heaters, and fuel tanks to 20 schools in Ninewa, benefiting 9,271 students. IOM is also currently distributing food and NFIs to 700 vulnerable IDP and host community families throughout Ninewa.

Qadissiya:

Security in Qadissiya has improved due to the implementation of a security plan that has heavily restricted movement throughout the governorate. This plan was applied after the deterioration of the security situation, including the assassination of the governor in August 2007. This security deterioration was seen in many parts of Qadissiya, such as Hay Al Hussein and Hay Al Sadr, rendering these neighbourhoods inaccessible much of the time to monitors. Internal displacement within Qadissiya governorate was noticed during this period.

Twelve IDP families in Al Haffar village are suffering from a lack of water. Ten families in Abood village have many cases of diarrhoea, vomiting and urinary tract infections due to the poor quality of the drinking water. Fourteen families in Al Askary neighbourhood of Sumer sub-district are facing eviction and harassment by the host community who claims that the area where the IDPs are living is private, while the IDP families claim it is government property.

Assessment based on 3,699 families.

Places of Origin:

Baghdad	81.70%	Babylon	1.81%
Diyala	6.27%	Wassit	0.24%
Anbar	4.43%	Ninewa	0.08%
Salah al-Din	2.81%	Basrah	0.03%
Tameem	2.62%		

Ethnicity/Religion:

Arab Shia 100.00%

Living arrangements:

Rented housing	61.46%	Other	3.19%
In the house of host family or relatives	19.89%	Tent in camp	0.82%
Collective town settlement	8.02%	Tent near house of host	0.41%
Public building	6.22%		

Intentions:

Locally integrate in the current location	35.42%
Resettle in a third location	34.96%
Return to their place of origin	29.54%
Waiting on one or several factors to make a decision	0.08%

Top priority needs:

Access to work	92.30%	Water	18.22%
Shelter	90.05%	Legal Help	9.49%
Food	63.18%	Health	3.97%
Other	22.01%	Education	0.68%

IOM emergency distribution assistance in 2007 & 2008: IOM is currently distributing food and non-food items to 2,000 vulnerable IDP and host community families in Qadissiya.

Salah al-Din:

Security has improved in Tikrit district but continues to be unstable in Samarra. Insecurity continues, with clashes between IF and insurgents. Insurgent attacks in Tikrit and Al-Shirqat districts are frequent. Local authorities are responding with curfews and heavy restriction on movement. The prices of vegetables in Samarra have risen sharply due to the checkpoints around the city, which prevent large trucks from entering.

Monitors learned from MoDM Salah al-Din that although only 25 IDP families had de-registered as returnees and left Salah al-Din, the real number was far larger. Some families do not realize that they should de-register before returning. Furthermore, many IDPs from Anbar and Diyala were ordered to return by security forces who did not allow them to re-enter or register before leaving. Monitors report that some of these IDP families have in fact returned again to the Tikrit area without registering in the MoDM office.

In Al-Shirqat district, IDPs in villages depend on drainage canals, water tanks, or public wells because they cannot access water networks. In Samarra the water supply is inconsistent, forcing some groups to drink river water.

Assessment based on 9,078 families.

Places of Origin:

Baghdad	61.53%	Wassit	1.06%
Basrah	13.92%	Thi-Qar	0.96%

Diyala	9.17%	Ninewa	0.56%
Salah al-Din	7.19%	Babylon	0.37%
Anbar	2.64%	Qadissiya	0.18%
Tameem	2.34%	Kerbala	0.08%

Ethnicity/Religion:

Arab Sunni	94.29%
Arab Shia	3.54%
Turkmen Shia	1.37%
Kurd Sunni	0.69%
Turkmen Sunni	0.10%
Kurd Shia	0.01%

Living arrangements:

Rented housing	67.20%	Collective town settlement	3.35%
In the house of host family or relatives	13.69%	Former military camp	0.49%
Public building	7.88%	Tent near house of host	0.29%
Other	6.91%	Tent in camp	0.19%

Intentions:

Return to their place of origin	43.49%
Resettle in a third location	38.12%
Locally integrate in the current location	10.67%
Waiting on one or several factors to make a decision	7.72%

Top priority needs:

Food	86.85%	Water	11.67%
Shelter	82.20%	Hygiene	8.48%
Access to work	65.52%	Legal Help	2.88%
Other	23.80%	Education	2.17%
Health	14.77%	Sanitation	0.21%

IOM emergency distribution assistance in 2007 & 2008: IOM is currently distributing food and non-food items to 1,500 vulnerable IDP and host community families in Salah al-Din.

Sulaymaniyah:

In December Turkish air strikes against PKK positions in northern Sulaymaniyah reportedly killed several people, destroyed houses, burned large tracts of land, destroyed an elementary school in Qala-Choka village, and killed large numbers of cattle. Several hundred families were reported to have fled their homes in the Sangasar sub-district of Sulaymaniyah.

Some IDP families in Kalar district began returning voluntarily to their places of origin. However, since these families usually do not notify authorities before leaving, the size of the movement is difficult to determine.

Kurdistan Regional Government health authorities are increasingly concerned that a bird flu epidemic may cross the border from infected Iranian border villages.

Assessments based on 3,661 families.

Places of Origin:

Diyala	57.42%	Babylon	0.52%
Baghdad	34.12%	Basrah	0.36%
Anbar	3.63%	Thi-Qar	0.14%
Ninewa	1.97%	Sulaymaniyah	0.11%

Salah al-Din	0.98%	Kerbala	0.08%
Tameem	0.52%	Wassit	0.03%

Ethnicity/Religion:

Arab Sunni	63.10%	Kurd Yazidi	0.46%
Kurd Sunni	23.33%	Turkmen Sunni	0.30%
Arab Shia	9.72%	Other	0.29%
Kurd Shia	2.76%		

Living arrangements:

Rented housing	87.34%	In the house of host family or relatives	3.71%
Other	4.92%	Public building	0.16%
Tent in camp	3.85%	Tent near house of host	0.03%

Intentions:

Return to their place of origin	65.96%
Locally integrate in the current location	26.83%
Resettle in a third location	7.02%
Waiting on one or several factors to make a decision	0.19%

Top priority needs:

Food	89.35%	Legal Help	2.99%
Other	80.47%	Health	1.80%
Access to work	50.15%	Sanitation	1.47%
Education	46.80%	Water	0.91%
Shelter	18.06%	Hygiene	0.77%

IOM emergency distribution assistance in 2007 & 2008: In response to the cholera health emergency in Sulaymaniyah, IOM provided Compound Sodium Lactate and sodium chloride 0.9% intravenous infusions. IOM is currently continuing its daily water trucking to cholera-affected areas, which will distribute 1 million litres of water benefiting an estimated 500,000 individuals. IOM is also distributing food and non-food items to 2,740 vulnerable IDP and host community families, including IDPs who were displaced by cross-border Turkish shelling.

Thi Qar:

Security is deteriorating in Thi-Qar and has limited monitors' efforts at coordination with local authorities. In December, fighting erupted in Sook Al-Shiyookh district between Iraqi Forces (IF) and militias in this area after IF arrested a militia leader. On 18 January, militants attacked an Ashura festival in Al-Salihiya neighborhood, leading to fighting between security forces and the militants that reportedly injured 28 civilians and damaged many houses in the area. Local authorities have imposed a curfew. The situation now is more stable but in general the residents of Thi-Qar are cautious and fear deterioration in the security situation.

The host communities in the Nassriya centre has been welcoming of IDPs and one of the religious institutes donated 100,000 Iraqi dinar to some IDP families in addition to financial assistance provided by some host community families.

IDP families in Al Kadhim village are forced to carry the water from the nearby contaminated river about 300 meters away, resulting in gastrointestinal diseases and typhoid fever. In Al-Rifa'i district, many cases of gastrointestinal diseases and typhoid fever were reported among the IDPs and host community families due to polluted water and a lack of health services. In Nassriya district, many cases of gynaecological complications were seen due to the lack of specialist health care or financial means to access appropriate health care.

Assessment based on 5,895 families.

Places of Origin:

Baghdad	67.53%	Babylon	2.56%
Salah al-Din	14.20%	Wassit	1.12%
Diyala	7.58%	Muthanna	0.22%
Anbar	3.68%	Ninewa	0.07%
Tameem	2.92%	Basrah	0.03%

Ethnicity/Religion:

Arab Shia	99.83%
Arab Sunni	0.14%
Other Sabean Mandeian	0.03%

Living arrangements:

Rented housing	50.98%	Public building	2.35%
In the house of host family or relatives	24.98%	Tent near house of host	0.60%
Collective town settlement	12.11%	Former military camp	0.39%
Other	8.26%	Tent in camp	0.32%

Intentions:

Locally integrate in the current location	49.33%
Return to their place of origin	39.14%
Resettle in a third location	11.01%
Waiting on one or several factors to make a decision	0.53%

Top priority needs:

Access to work	95.34%	Legal Help	6.77%
Shelter	93.45%	Water	3.95%
Food	73.93%	Hygiene	1.49%
Other	16.00%	Education	1.27%
Health	7.29%		

IOM emergency distribution assistance in 2007 & 2008: None to date.

Wassit:

Security is calm except for sporadic IED explosions.

IDPs in Hay Al Jihad, Hay Al Asra and Hay Al Shuhada Al Thaniya in Hay district report a shortage of drinking water as the municipality water is turned off for many hours per day. In Hay Al Wahda, Hay District, Hay Al Shabab, Hay Al Azeziya and Hay Al Baladiya, Al Nu'maniya district, most of the IDP families could not transfer their PDS cards and depend on the relatives, the host community and the local markets to supply them with basic food items.

Assessment based on 12,276 families.

Places of Origin:

Baghdad	65.03%	Tameem	0.48%
Diyala	33.00%	Anbar	0.33%
Babylon	1.03%	Salah al-Din	0.14%

Ethnicity/Religion:

Arab Shia	100.00%
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Living arrangements:

Rented housing	46.36%	Public building	2.89%
In the house of host family or relatives	30.18%	Tent in camp	0.08%
Other	14.68%	Tent near house of host	0.02%
Collective town settlement	5.78%		

Intentions:

Locally integrate in the current location	65.84%
Resettle in a third location	24.49%
Return to their place of origin	6.88%
Waiting on one or several factors to make a decision	2.79%

Top priority needs:

Access to work	83.14%	Legal Help	11.36%
Food	67.69%	Other	4.25%
Water	63.94%	Hygiene	3.02%
Health	36.49%	Sanitation	0.97%
Shelter	28.68%	Education	0.51%

IOM emergency distribution assistance in 2007 & 2008: In July, IOM assisted 3,270 IDP and host community families with food and non-food items in Wassit.

Please note that displacements and returns are occurring on a continuous basis, and IOM strives to update this information as frequently as possible. Through its monitoring and needs assessments, IOM has also developed Governorate Needs Assessment Profiles, the 2007 Iraq Displacement Year in Review, and IDP camp updates. For these and information on the IOM's needs assessment methodology, see <http://www.iom-iraq.net/idp.html>.

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