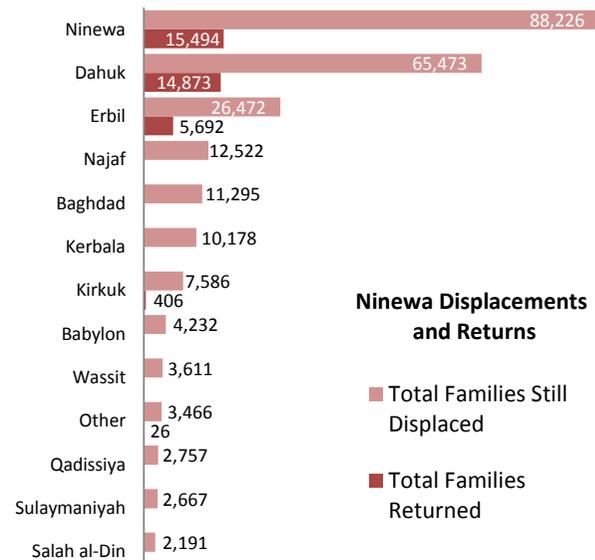
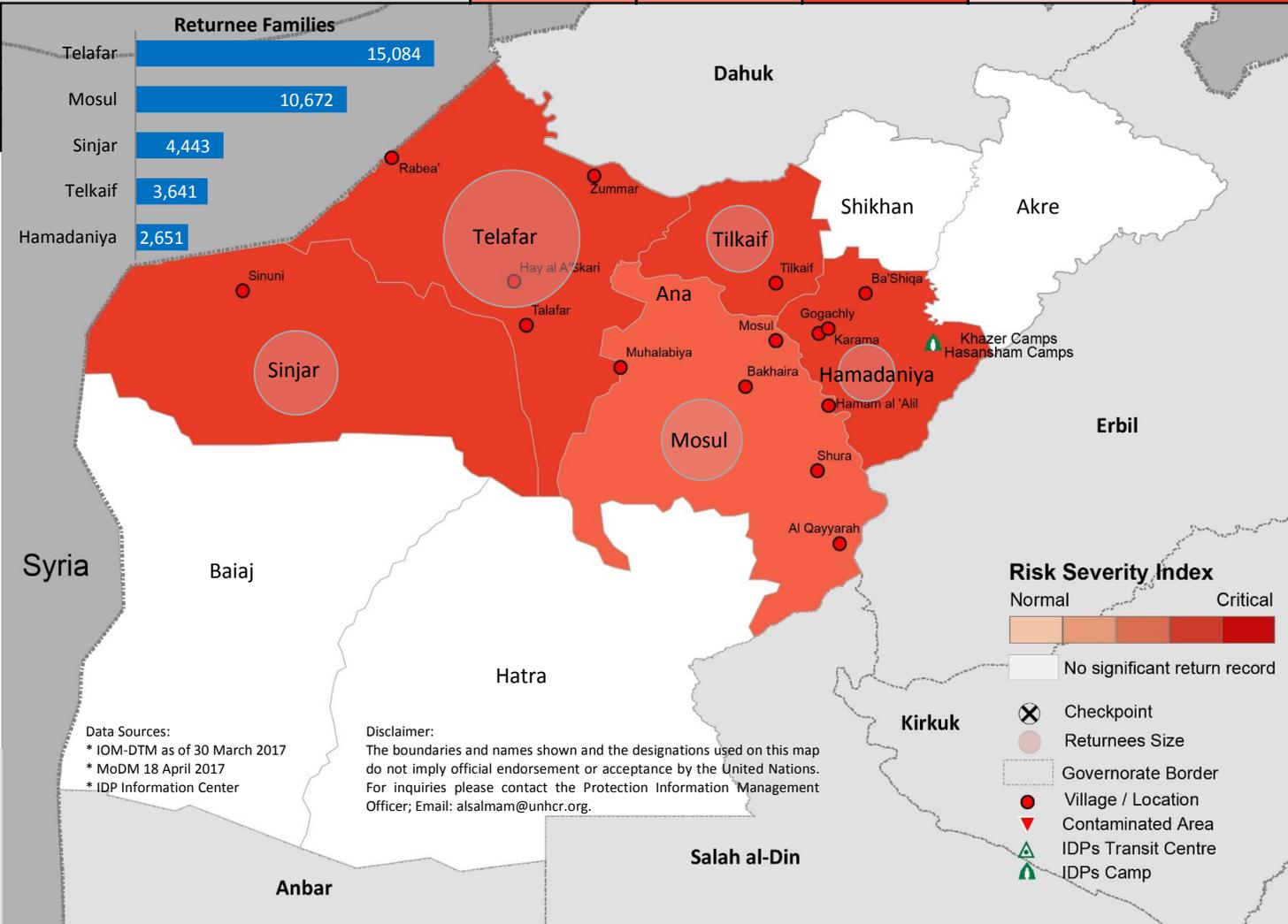


Protection Risk Matrix by District	High	Protection Concerns	Sinjar	Hamdaniya	Telafar	Mosul	Telkaif
	Reported Violations of principles relating to return movements (including non-discrimination in the right of return, as well as voluntariness, safety and dignity of return movements)	High	High	High	High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

MODM Returnee Figures (Registered and non-registered)	
District	Families
Sinjar	7,050
Mosul	4,740



IDP Information Center: 44% of the total number of calls received by the IIC during March were from locations in Ninewa. The main issues raised were:



Data Sources:
 * IOM-DTM as of 30 March 2017
 * MoDM 18 April 2017
 * IDP Information Center

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

Risk Severity Index

Normal Critical

Legend:

- No significant return record
- Checkpoint
- Returnees Size
- Governorate Border
- Village / Location
- Contaminated Area
- IDPs Transit Centre
- IDPs Camp

GENERAL CONTEXT

Since the launch of the operations to retake Mosul in October 2016, massive displacements have been followed by high rates of returns including premature returns to newly retaken areas. The military offensive to retake west Mosul began on 19 February 2017 and by the end of March, the Ninewa Joint Operations reported that only 7% of west Mosul remains under extremists' control. Despite security, humanitarian concerns and severe challenges, large number of families continue to return to newly retaken areas of origin in Ninewa and primarily retaken parts of Eastern Mosul. The DTM estimates that at the end of March, over 36,491 families (218,946 individuals) had returned to various parts of Ninewa. UNHCR and protection partners continue to monitor these returns to assess voluntariness of these movements. Families have stated that the desire to reunite with family, reoccupy their homes, resume work, and leave the restrictive and difficult conditions in IDP camps, as the main reasons for their return.

At the same time, some families continue to be refused the right to return to their areas of origin. In the north/north-east, Dohuk authorities have barred returns to certain villages in the disputed areas of Zummar, Wanaa, Rabia'a, and Alqush for IDPs currently in Qaymawa and Nargizlia camps. Again, protection actors have noticed a troubling development whereby certain IDPs are allowed to return to their areas of origin or relocate elsewhere in KR-I, while other ethnicities are not. Arab IDPs have been pleading to be allowed to return to their villages of origin in the disputed areas but so far have not been allowed to, despite repeated UNHCR interventions. The authorities continue to contend that decisions on returns to disputed areas rest with senior government officials.

Denial of returns results in extreme and continued hardship for many IDP groups. During the reporting period, UNHCR had to intervene with the authorities on behalf of a group of Badush IDPs (500 families) in Hammam al Alil, who have left behind their livestock and wished to return to their area of origin. The demarches to the Government were successful. UNHCR continues to urge authorities at all levels to ensure that returns are voluntary, safe, dignified, and non-discriminatory, highlighting that those wanting and able to return home should be allowed to do so.

The security situation in Ninewa continued to be a major challenge to voluntary, safe and dignified returns. During March there were high civilian casualties as results of the military offensive. Credible reports indicated that at least 307 people were killed and another 273 wounded in air strikes in the Mosul al-Jadida, Rajim Hadid, Rasala, Nabils, Uruba and Sainaah al-QQadimah neighborhoods. While investigations by Coalition forces and the Iraqi forces are underway, the use of civilians as human shields by armed extremists has been characteristic of the Mosul conflict. In addition to the airstrikes, west Mosul civilians face risks from crossfire, snipers, targeting by armed forces and extremists and as well risks from explosive hazards.

Protection assessments with IDPs forced into secondary displacements back to Khazer, Hasansham and Chamakor IDP camps indicates that the majority of returns have been to areas such as Rashidiya, Adan, Karama, Quds, Intisar and some families have returned to Badoosh. There have also been significant departures of West Mosul IDPs from camps who have gone further to east Mosul and are currently renting accommodation while awaiting clearance to return to areas of origin.

MOSUL DISTRICT

Mosul district is comprised of six sub districts (Mosul, Qayyarah, Shura, Hamman Al Alil, Mahalabiya and Bashiqa). According to DTM 10,672 families (64,032 individuals) had returned to Mosul at the end of March. The majority of returns have been to liberated quarters of east Mosul despite the lack of essential services such as water, electricity, debris removal and the precarious security situation including the threats of arbitrary arrest and detention. In addition, armed

extremists continue to launch mortar attacks into Siddiq, Jaza'ir and al-Nabi Yunis neighbourhoods resulting in civilian casualties. Displacement out of and returns to east Mosul are occurring simultaneously. Most of the returns in the east are in neighbourhoods of Intisar, Gogjali, Qarama, Qawsyat, Somer, Tahrer, Muthana, Naby Younis and Zahraa. Families returning to east Mosul report that the resumption of jobs, reuniting with families, perceived improved security conditions and push factors such as the restricted movements and difficult living conditions in IDP camps as the main reasons for returns. IDPs from eastern Mosul are also keen to return to areas of origin to secure their properties including from occupation by other IDPs.

Newly displaced persons, including families who had earlier returned to east Mosul report that insecurity, the lack of services and the lack of income generating opportunities are the main reasons for leaving east Mosul or coming back to the IDP camps. Media reports stated that one of the water plants servicing east Mosul had been repaired and has started operating to provide much-needed potable water to the city.

Returns to west Mosul from Hamman Al-Alil have been reported but are yet to be properly tracked as most records indicate that most families have been returning mostly to Mamoun. Many families have also been temporarily returning to their areas of origin to check on their belongings and have returned to displacement while awaiting the complete liberation of west Mosul. It has also been reported that ISF and PMF are currently clearing the recently recaptured Badoush area to the north of the western Mosul from IED/UXOs. MOMD announced that it has been providing food aid to Wadi Hajar and Al Mamoun areas to remainees, displaced and returnee families.

HAMDANIYA DISTRICT

Al-Hamdaniya, which was retaken by government forces in October 2016, was previously multi-ethnic and multi-religious with mixed communities of Arabs and Kurds and predominantly Christian families. It lost its inhabitants prior to invasion by extremist groups and suffered widespread destruction. The DTM estimates that about 2651 families (15,906 individuals) had returned at the end of March and mainly to areas such as Wardak, Tal Al-Laban, Al-Adla, Kezkan, Majediya, Kubaiba, Jlewkan, Sayyid Hamad and Ibrahim Alkhalil villages but no returns have been recorded for Al-Hamdaniya city itself. Reports indicate that a few Christians families are trickling back into Hamdaniya despite the widespread destruction and looting. Returnees have been encouraged by security checkpoints and patrols by a volunteer force but also expressed concern at sectarian slogans installed during street battles to retake the city. The Ninewa Plain Unit (NPU) is securing the district. A number of reasons have been cited for the delay in returns, which includes IDPs having no alternative livelihoods, lack of schools and the absence of basic services and critical infrastructure such as electricity, water and health.

TILKAIF DISTRICT

Tilkaif district was retaken from extremists in January 2017 but returns have been slow with no recorded returns to the town. Prior to the crisis, the town of Tilkaif was predominantly populated by Christians while the surrounding towns and villages had a mixed population. The DTM reports that 3641 families (21,846 individuals) had returned to liberated areas of Tilkaif and mainly to Baawiza, Mosul Dam, Tal Adas and Manara. However most Christian IDPs in Erbil continue to express concerns over their security as the main factor inhibiting their returns.

TEL AFAR DISTRICT

During the reporting period, the town of Tel Afar was still under control of the extremists and remained effectively under siege by pro-government militias while the surrounding areas had been retaken by the said militias. As the Tel Afar's population is predominantly Turkmen and Sunni Muslims with about a quarter of the population being of Shia Muslim faith, there are serious concerns about the possibility of revenge attacks on Sunni families by the militias for past atrocities

committed by extremist groups against Shia Muslims in the town and elsewhere.

There are still hundreds of families from Zummar, Rabe'a and other areas in Tal Afar that remain in displacement camps despite the fact that these areas were retaken from extremists and are currently under Peshmerga control. Reportedly 15,084 families (90,504 individuals) had returned to Tel Afar as of 30 March with some of the main areas of return being to Ewaynat village, Bardiyah complex, Kirver village, Tal Mus, Qasr Sarij, Kahreez, Hay al Askari, Qasabat Zummar and Hay Alasreya. Arab IDPs continue to plead to be allowed to return to their villages of origin in the disputed areas but so far have not been allowed to, despite repeated interventions by UNHCR and protection partners. As noted earlier, while some barred returns appear linked to claims of affiliations to extremist armed groups, in other instances such as the situation in Zumar, Rabia'a and other 'disputed areas' they appear linked to demographic considerations and the issue of disputed internal border areas.

SINJAR DISTRICT

During the reporting period the district continued to face security challenges, which inhibits returns. In early March, armed clashes erupted after Roj Peshmerga were deployed to Khanaso in northwestern Sinjar, an area controlled by YBS resulting in casualties from both sides. A few days later, on 14 March, one person was killed and 15 others wounded when armed groups fired on a demonstration that was reportedly in opposition to the deployment of Roj Peshmerga in the area.

Due to security and other challenges, IDP returns to Sinjar which was retaken in November 2015, continues to be modest numbers to date. 4443 families (26,658 individuals) had returned at the end of March and mainly to Sinuni Center, Dokri, Dohola, Borat, Guhbal & Shorka, Karsi & Korka, Adika, Sharaf Alldin, Ashti & Heriko, Zorara & Zirwa and Qandil. Other factors inhibiting returns are widespread destruction of properties and infrastructure, widespread contamination with explosive hazards, lack of basic services and critical infrastructure, presence of armed groups, in addition to punishment and expulsion of families suspected of having links with extremist armed groups. Humanitarian access also continues to be severely limited, other than for Sinuni sub-district which is largely accessible. The majority of former residents of Sinjar remain in displacement in Dohuk and other parts of the KRI.

Return to Ninewa can be classified as:

Voluntary return: Families returning to areas of origin after stabilization of the security situation and restoration of services, following screening procedures. Some of these returns can be classified as premature especially those who have returned to east Mosul amidst volatile security conditions, widespread destructions, presence of armed groups and severe shortages of basic necessities including food and water. The situation in retaken areas has forced some returnees to go back to IDP camps after returning to their areas of origin.

Spontaneous return: Families prematurely returning, after security screening procedures, due to push factors of economic pressure, de-facto encampment policy with severe restrictions on freedom of movement and fatigue from being displaced, following successful screening procedures.

Forced return: Instances of forced returns were not observed in March.

No or limited return: families/tribes/ethnic groups suspected to have links with ISIL are not granted approval or not allowed to return by local communities, especially in disputed areas such as villages of Ashqala, Birbang, Chamakor, Hasansham, Jarn, Jazrooniyah, Khazir, Manguba, Masha, Sewdinan Sherkan, Sqof Sufiya, Tal-Aswad, Telkeif, Zangal and Zummar. Sub-districts of Bashiqa, Hamadaniya, Rabbia, Sinuni and Sinjar districts. Some Turkmen families have relayed fears about returning to their areas of origin due to perceived links of affiliations to extremist armed groups, while others appear linked to demographic considerations and the issue of disputed internal border areas.