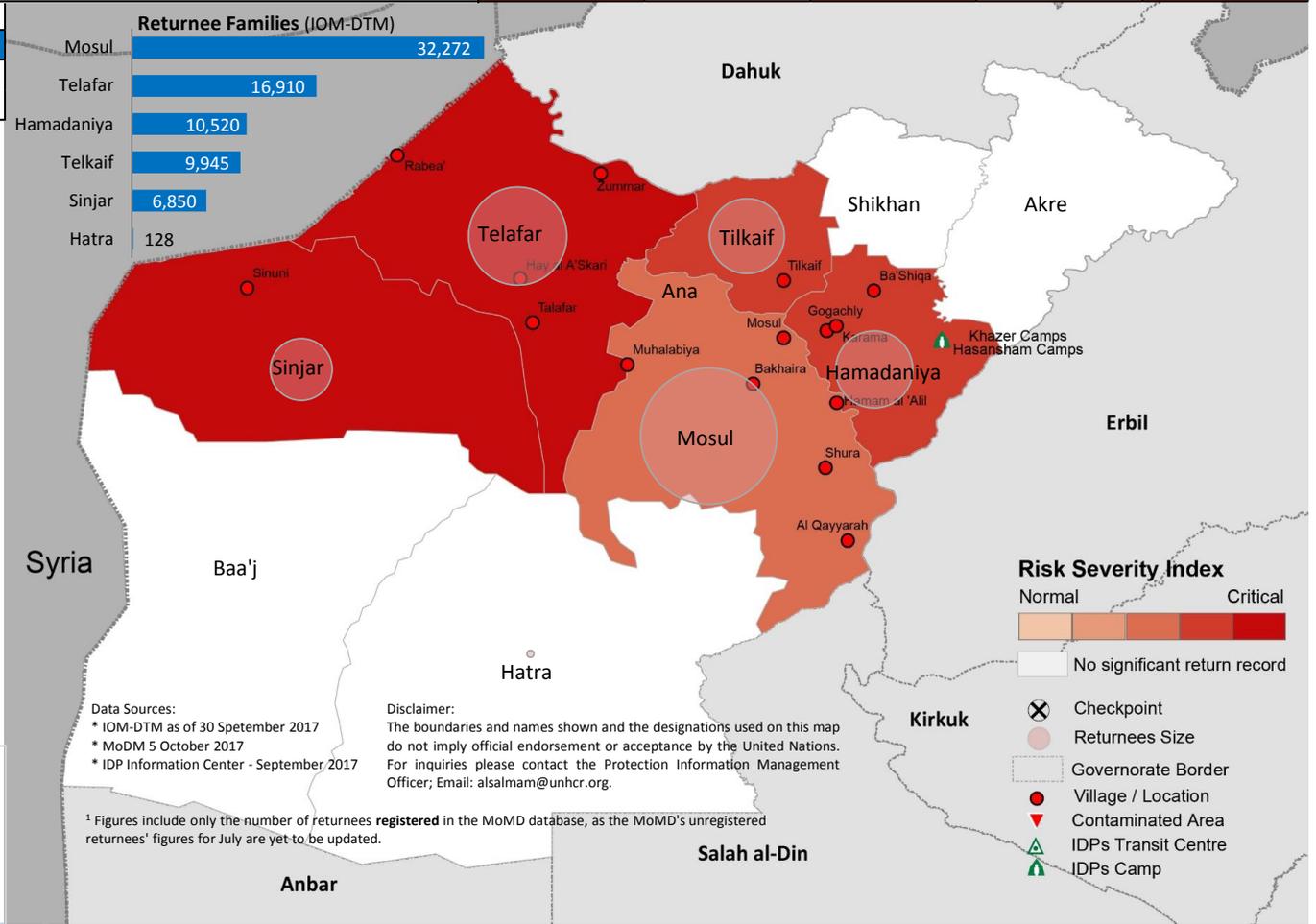




# Iraq Protection Cluster: Ninewa Returnees Profile - September 2017

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

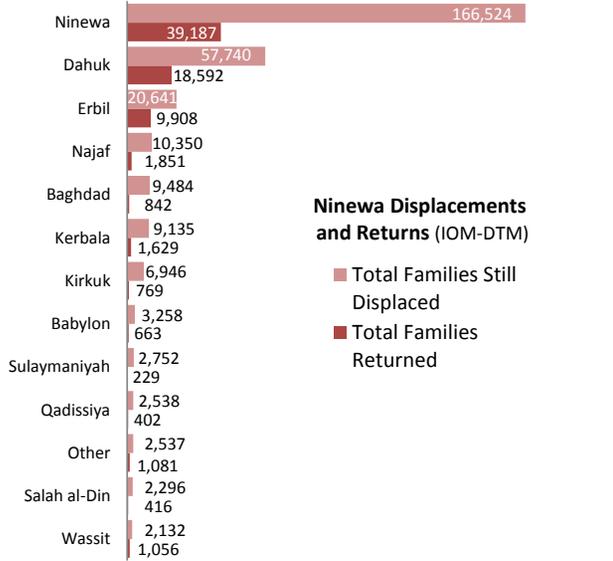
MODM Returnee Figures <sup>1</sup>	
District	Families
Mosul, Telkaif and Hamdaniya	12,904



Data Sources:  
 \* IOM-DTM as of 30 September 2017  
 \* MoDM 5 October 2017  
 \* IDP Information Center - September 2017

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.

<sup>1</sup> Figures include only the number of returnees registered in the MoDM database, as the MoDM's unregistered returnees' figures for July are yet to be updated.



**IDP Information Center:** 93% of 635 calls received from returnees were from Ninewa. The most popular flagged issues were:



## **NINEWA GOVERNORATE - GENERAL CONTEXT**

Per the Ministry of Migration and Displacement (MoMD) and the DTM, there were quite significant returns during September. Mosul district followed by Telafar and then Hamdaniya have the highest number of returnees while Sinjar and Telkaif have the lowest number of returnees. Hatra district recorded its first returnees in September. In addition to monitoring IDP returns, UNHCR and protection partners continue to monitor movements and intervene on protection issues of Iraqi returnees from Syria and Turkey.

However, despite these significant return movements, many IDPs continued to face barriers in returning to areas of origin. A significant proportion of IDPs from western parts of Ninewa, including west Mosul, Telafar, Ba'aj and Hatra remained in displacement due to widespread destruction of their homes, the lack of services, food and livelihood opportunities and also due to explosive hazards contamination. Nonetheless, returns to Sinjar and Hamdaniya continued to increase as some religious and ethnic minorities are gradually returning to the Ninewa plains. Authorities are yet to clear returns to Telafar City, Ayadhiya, Ba'aj district, Old City Mosul and other neighborhoods near the Old City, as some of these areas continued to experience intermittent clashes. Many Arab families from disputed territories continue to wait for the green light after officials from Zummar, Wana and Rabea had announced that families will be allowed to return but very few returns have been approved. The reporting period also witnessed the first returns to Shikhan district.

The MoMD reported that by the end of September, 312,289 individuals returned to Ninewa from the existing displacement camps. This reflects a substantial increase of 40,074 individuals compared to August. Of this, 14,963 were IDPs who left camps located in the east and north east of Mosul (Hasansham, Khazer, Chamakor, Debaga and Nargizliä). According to DTM, 76,625 families returned to retaken areas in Ninewa indicating that the number of returnee families more than doubled compared to the previous month. In September, 566 Iraqi asylum seekers and refugees returned to Ninewa from Turkey while another 230 individuals returned from Syria.

### **MOSUL DISTRICT**

Mosul district continued to receive the highest number of IDP returnees and also hosts a significant number of IDPs who are unable to return to their areas of origin. According to the DTM, 193,632 individuals returned to Mosul in September. This marks a significant increase of 16,368 individuals since August. While many returns were motivated by perceptions of safety, family reunification and resumption of employment, especially for civil servants, there were more returns from camps east and north-east of Mosul compared with camps located to the south of Mosul.

Returns to east Mosul continued to be higher than to west Mosul, which is mostly attributed to the fact that the level of destruction in east Mosul is not as extensive as west Mosul and also basic services have mostly been restored in the east including re-opening of government offices and instruction for government employees to resume their duties. Security however remains a challenge, with reports of kidnappings and extortions. In addition, Nasir Bridge which provided the main gateway for foot traffic between east and west Mosul was removed creating challenges for IDPs wishing to return and those wishing to access government offices in east Mosul but this was mitigated by the re-opening of the Qayyarah Bridge which had been closed since July.

### **SHIKHAN DISTRICT**

A significant number of families from several villages in the district are still in displacement in Garmawa and Nargizliä camps. Until recently, these families were denied the right to return with authorities citing security concerns and the need for the families to undergo clearance before they are allowed to return. On 22 September, 160 families from Nargizliä camp returned to various villages in Shikhan after several months awaiting security clearances. However, areas outside of the urban areas are reportedly still contaminated with explosive hazards. Prior to returns commencing, significant number of Arab families left the camps towards east Mosul after losing hope that they would be allowed to return to their areas of origin.

### **HAMDANIYA DISTRICT**

Per the DTM, 11,580 individuals returned in September. This includes significant returns of 3,030 individuals to Hamdaniya centre (Qaraqosh) for a total of 6,030 individuals. Local authorities also reported that 2,370 individuals had returned to Bartella in September.

The district is reportedly in need of rehabilitation and reconstruction works. There have been some efforts to rehabilitate schools and improve health services in Bartella. According to returnees in Hamdaniya City, the municipal water distribution plant is currently servicing at least half of the returnees while the other half depend on water trucking. Markets have opened and medical needs are currently being supplemented by six mobile medical units and nine ambulances have been provided by UN health agency (WHO).

### **TILKAIF DISTRICT**

Tilkaif district continued to have moderate returns including to Tilkaif Centre, about 20km north of Mosul. According to DTM, 59,670 individuals returned to the district. There have been significant returns to Al Quba, with 21,600 individuals recorded in September. While the authorities announced that Arab families would be allowed to return to Wana, by the end of September the displaced families were yet to return and at least 50 families reportedly went into secondary displacement in Mosul due to the delayed returns. Local authorities reported that 20 families returned to Wanna this month while 78 returned to Tallsqf, bringing the total number of returnees to 3,450 individuals. Notably there have been 1,674 returnees to Tilkaif Centre, the first recorded returns to the centre.

### **TELAFAR DISTRICT**

Despite the retaking on Telfar City on 31 August, the security situation in parts of Telafar district remains unpredictable. In September, authorities reported a number of security incidents mostly occurring in Ayadhiya and in parts of Telafar City. While returns to other parts of the district progressively increased in September, there were no returns to Ayadhiya and Telafar City as authorities are yet to clear these locations as suitable for return. According to the DTM, 101,462 individuals returned to Telafar district. According to creditable sources, municipal employees started repairing the city in preparation for allowing families to return to Telafar City. However, authorities have expressed concern regarding the lack of staffing and resources to reconstruct municipal and government building and restore basic services in the city. The ISF clearance efforts to clear neighborhoods and key public facilities of explosive hazards are still unclear.

Protection partners conducted two assessments in Abu Mariya and Kifah

Shmele villages after several IDP residing in Nimrud and Salamiyah camps returned to these two locations in mid-September. The assessment in Abu Mariya found that while less than a 100 families had remained in the village during the active conflict, the majority had displaced to neighboring villages and to IDP camps. However, by the end of September almost 50% (600 families) returned. The village suffered minimal damage to homes and public buildings. Water is accessible for those living on the south side of the Mosul-Syria highway from the water treatment plant. Families reported that very few areas were contaminated with explosive hazards and those that were are clearly marked. The ISF is the only actor controlling the town and returnees feel relatively safe although there are reports of clashes in Muhallabiya which is on the other side of the village. Civilian government offices are yet to resume their operations. Markets have opened but families lack the livelihood opportunities and money to purchase goods. Health services and education remain the main gaps.

Compared with Abu Mariya, Kifah Shmele which had a mixed ethnic population received fewer returnees. Reportedly 45 families returned and most are reportedly related to the pro-government armed forces who facilitated their return amidst the ISF control on returns. Electricity is available and water supply is by trucking. While markets are functioning, the lack of livelihood opportunities remains a challenge leading many males to join the police and government affiliated armed groups. Schools are yet to re-open.

### Zummar Sub-District

There were returns from out of camp locations only in September. According to the DTM, 6,012 individuals returned to Qasabat Zummar by the end of September. Security officials were also reported ongoing raids as a number of armed extremists continued to be identified and arrested in various areas.

### **SINJAR DISTRICT**

Intermittent fighting including airstrikes on some of the different armed actors operating in Sinjar remains a challenge to safe and voluntary returns. There have been a number of incidents involving booby trapped houses, resulting in casualties or injuries among returnees. However, Sinjar district witnessed an increase in the number of returns, which is attributed to the KRG's Independence Referendum as the majority of Yezidi families are hosted in Kurdistan areas. Yezidi local leaders in Erbil reported that approximately 28 Yezidi families returned to Sinjar in September. According to the authorities while the returns were voluntary, difficulties in pursuing a living in Erbil, the lack of jobs and the high rentals contributed to many of the returns. In addition, 349 individuals left camps north-east of Mosul to return to Sinjar while another 690 individuals returned unofficially. Some families have also been noted as temporarily returning to Sinjar and Sinuni to assess damage to their home and to start repairs while maintaining their tents in camps while they monitor how the referendum will play out.

According to the DTM, 5,214 individuals returned this month. Compared to districts that have been retaken over the same period, returns to Sinjar have been slower due to the contamination and destruction of homes and the persistent security concerns.

### **HATRA DISTRICT**

For the first time, Hatra district recorded its first returns in September. According to the DTM, 768 individuals returned this month to three villages.