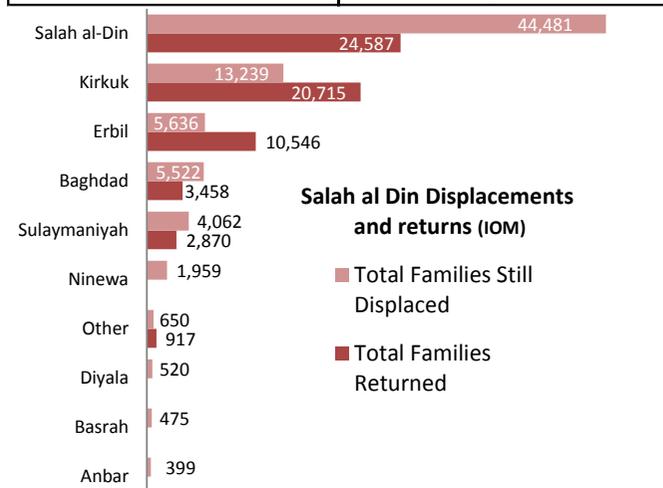


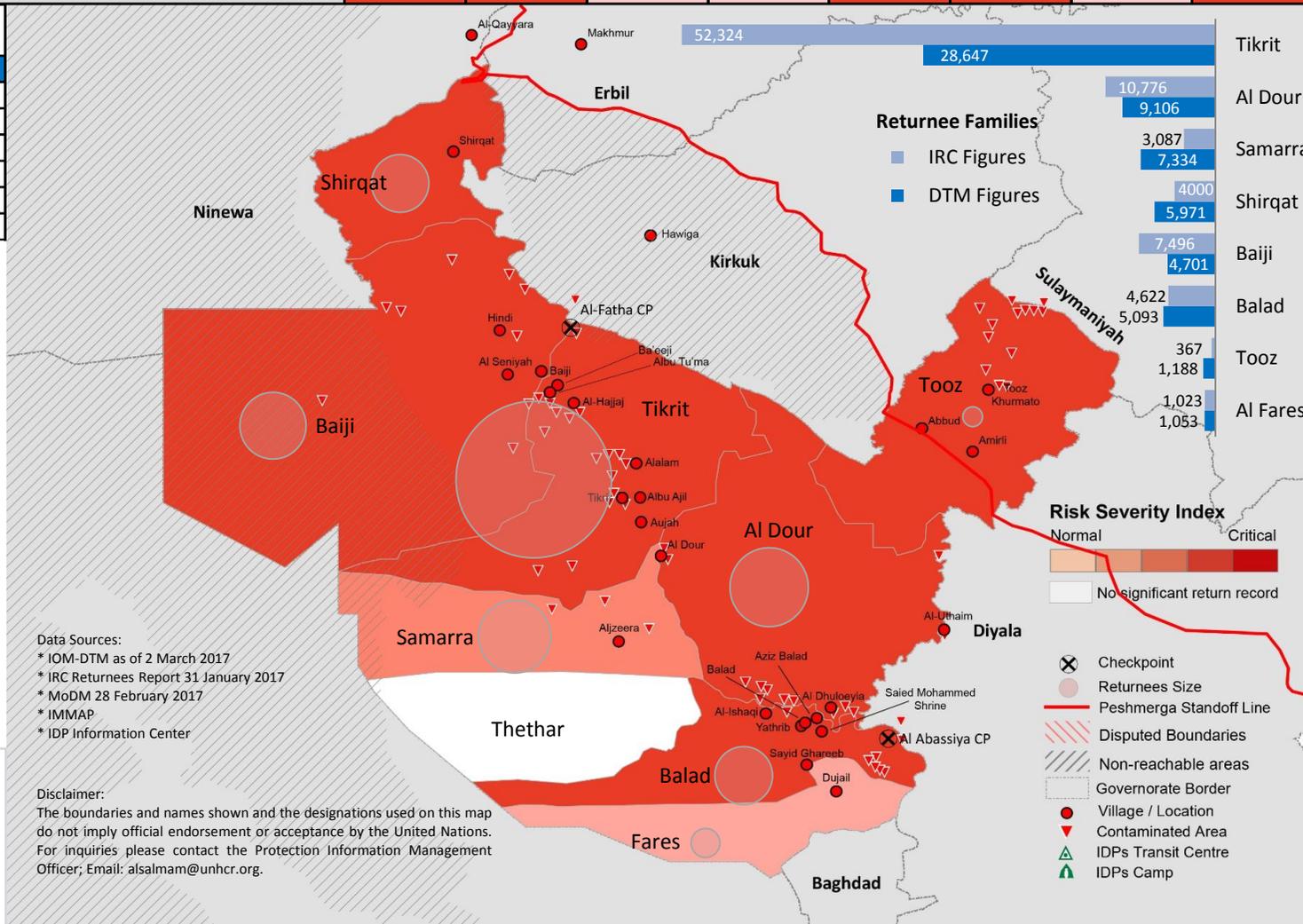
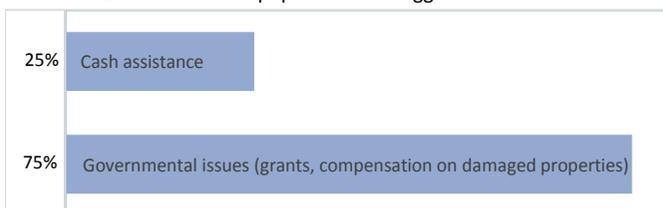
Protection Risk Matrix by District	High	Protection Concerns	Baiji	Tikrit	Al Dour	Samarra	Balad	Tuz	Fares	Shirqat
	Reported Violations of principles relating to return movements (including non-discrimination in the right of return, as well as voluntariness, safety and dignity of return movements)									
	Medium	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									
	Low	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 (Registered and non-registered)

District	Families
Tikrit	46,503
Samarra	17,839
Al Dour	13,150
Baiji	11,590
Shirqat	7,975
Balad	8,475



IDP Information Center: 22% of calls received from Salah Al-Din were from returnees. The most popular issues flagged:



GENERAL CONTEXT

During the reporting period, returns continued to Yathrib and Dhuluiyah sub-districts, and started to new areas in Balad, such as Mahatat Balad area.

Despite ongoing returns to the various retaken areas in Salah al-Din, the Deputy Governor stated on 28 February that large areas in the governorate are completely or partially destroyed, and that is hindering IDP returns in bigger numbers and threatening the overall stability in the governorate. The Deputy Governor mentioned that rehabilitation of Salah al-Din infrastructure may require a budget of about USD 100 millions.

SHIRQAT DISTRICT

IDP returns to the western bank of Shirqat under ISF control continued throughout February 2017. Returnees continue to report extensive property destructions, contamination with explosive hazards, lack of basic services, presence of armed groups, in addition to expulsion and punishment of families accused, without due process, of having links with extremist elements in areas of return. During the reporting period, more than 12 attacks by extremist armed group were reported, causing undetermined number of casualties, including fatalities. Such continuous attacks on areas of return on the western bank of Shirqat continue to jeopardize the safety of returnees and to affect the sustainability of returns. As a result, the possibility of returnees ending up in secondary displacement remains high.

On 23 February, 5 returnee families accused of being affiliated with an extremist armed group in Shirqat district were expelled by the ISF and escorted by the ISF to Al-Shahama camp in Tikrit, as they were not allowed to go to other areas in Salah al-Din.

BAIJI DISTRICT

Despite formal announcement by the Prime Minister in November 2016 authorising returns to Baiji, returns continue to be delayed for no apparent reason. The mayor of Baiji stated that about 45,000 families from Baiji are displaced in camps and unfinished buildings while ready and willing to return to areas of origin. The local authorities have sought to justify the continued delay in IDP returns on the military mobilisation in the district to support military operations against the extremist armed group. Further, not all areas in Baiji are ready to receive returnees according to the Salah Al-Din governor as Al-Harariyat and Makhool areas are still under extremists' control. As a result of which, it is very difficult for IDP's to return to areas within mortar range.

TIKRIT DISTRICT

Returns are ongoing but have slowed down in Tikrit. Security breaches have been reported. Eight attacks by extremists were repelled by the ISF, Federal Police and allied armed groups during February in several areas in Tikrit resulting in an unknown number of casualties. The deterioration of the security situation and the frequent attacks by armed extremists in various areas of return in Salah al-Din led the Samarra Operations Command to launch new search operations in some areas south of Tikrit on 7 February.

Casualties caused by IEDs continued to be reported in Tikrit district. The incident recorded on 6 February resulted in the death of one returnee child and injured another playing in a street.

The destruction of the main electricity transmission tower, by an explosion, in AlBu Khado area to the east of Tikrit resulted in complete power shutdown in Al-Alam, Al-Dour, Tal Qsaib, Al-Eitha and Al-Na'ema areas of Salah al-Din. The explosion occurred on 5 February by suspected extremist elements who infiltrated from Mteibeeja area bordering Diyala that has active presence of armed extremists. While electricity in Salah al-Din is off for extended periods of time, the attack on the transmission tower made things even worse, with complete shutdown in several areas in the governorate, including IDP camps. Fixing the damaged transmission tower and restoring the electricity services is hampered by limited capacity in skilled personnel and the necessary repair/replacement equipment in the governorate.

Al-Alam Sub-District

In several areas within Al-Alam the ISF and allied armed groups conducted raids and search operations, on grounds of security, on 26 February in Ajil oil field and surrounding villages to the north of Al-Alam. Undetermined number of suspects were arrested during the search operations in addition to discovery of caches of weapons and explosive materials. Such operations are welcomed by IDPs and returnees in Salah al-Din to stabilise the deteriorating situation. However, as a result of the operations, some displacement was recorded from these areas towards neighboring villages. According to sources in the ISF, more attacks by armed extremists are anticipated with the aim of opening new frontlines with Iraqi forces as fighting is intensifying in Mosul. A curfew was imposed in Ajil oil field and surrounding villages to the north of Al-Alam to allow the police and allied armed groups to conduct search operations to uncover suspected extremists' sleeper cells.

BALAD DISTRICT

Following a meeting between the Shia sheikhs and their Sunni counterparts to resolve the contentious return issue in Balad, new areas in Balad district were announced safe for IDP returns by the armed groups who control the district. The first group of 28 IDP families was allowed to return to Mahatat Balad area on 6 February.

IDPs continue to return to the various areas in Balad district, in particular to Yathrib sub-district, Mahatat Balad, Al-Farhatiyah village, and Al-Mukhalabi village where dozens of families returned during the month of February with facilitation by armed groups that controls Balad district. Lack of services and significant property damage is confronted by the returnees as is the presence of armed groups.

Yathrib Sub-District

Returns to Yathrib sub-district continued during the reporting period with dozens of families returning from Dujail, Al-Eshaky and Dhuluiyah. In a new arrangement, IDP returns to Yathrib will only be allowed on Sundays, while authorities will continue to receive the return applications during the week. This measure is to allow the ISF and allied armed groups to provide the required security to the returnee convoys from areas of displacement all the

way to the areas of origin.

The overall instability in Salah al-Din affected IDP returns to Yathrib including a one week suspension in mid-February due to the security environment. Yathrib continues to suffer limited basic services and livelihood opportunities and also inflated rents.

Returnees continue to face long delays at the entry checkpoints where security checks are carried out by the ISF. Returnees have been requesting the authorities to expedite the return security screening procedures and avoid the extended closure of the checkpoint as it hinders IDP returns.

The authorities at the Al-Abassy checkpoint (main entry point to Yathrib sub-district in Balad district) are reportedly charging a fee of USD 100 for the admission of families with second and third degree affiliation with extremist armed groups into Yathrib. The fee is being imposed on the families who have already obtained the required security clearance to return to areas of origin in Yathrib. This creates an additional obstacle to IDP returns to the area, which is riddled by a high level of destruction, lack of food, drinking water and medical supplies. The legal basis and justification for this substantial payment is unclear. Protection actors have intervened to receive clarity on why this payment is being levied on already cleared returnees.

Al-Eshaiky Sub-District

Returns to Al-Farhatiyah village, south of Al-Eshaiky sub-district continued during the reporting period with dozens of families returning from Al-Eshaiky IDP camp, Dujail, Samarra and Baghdad. The overall instability in Salah al-Din also affected IDP returns to Al-Farhatiyah village including a four days suspension in early February due to the security environment. Similar to arrangements in Yathrib, IDP returns to Al-Farhatiyah village and surroundings will only be allowed on Sundays, while authorities will continue to receive the return applications during the week.

Disruption of power and food supplies was reported in Al-Farhatiyah village in addition to the severe lack of water supplies for human consumption and also for restoring abandoned farms. The return movement was coordinated between the ISF, allied armed group and the Mayor's office. Due to the high level of destruction in Al-Farhatiyah village, the returnees were allowed to take with them their tents and use them in their area of origin. Unidentified armed actors reportedly detonated 26 abandoned houses in Al-Farhatiyah village during February. This brings the total number of houses that have been completely destroyed in Al-Farhatiyah and surrounding villages to 83, while 333 houses are partially destroyed in Al-Farhatiyah, according to the statistics shared by credible local sources. Despite no casualties recorded, some 10 families, among the newly returned to Al-Farhatiyah, reportedly fled again to the nearby villages. Incidents of extrajudicial punishments against persons and families accused of having supported or being affiliated with extremist groups are increasing and will require concerted efforts by the authorities to ensure that all suspects are dealt with in accordance with rule of law and regular judicial mechanisms. In particular individual criminal responsibility is legally chargeable as opposed to collective punishment of families for suspected individual deeds of a single relative.