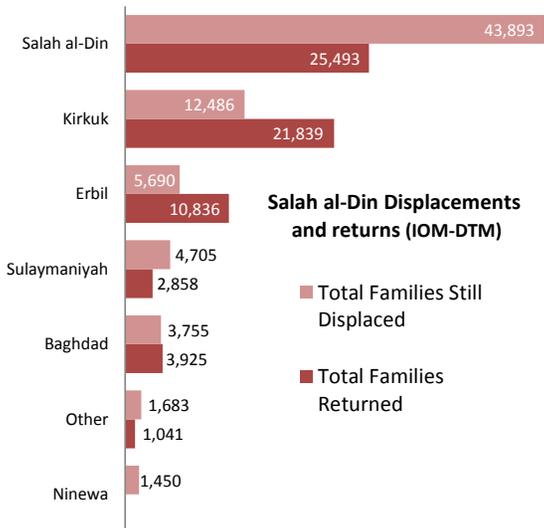
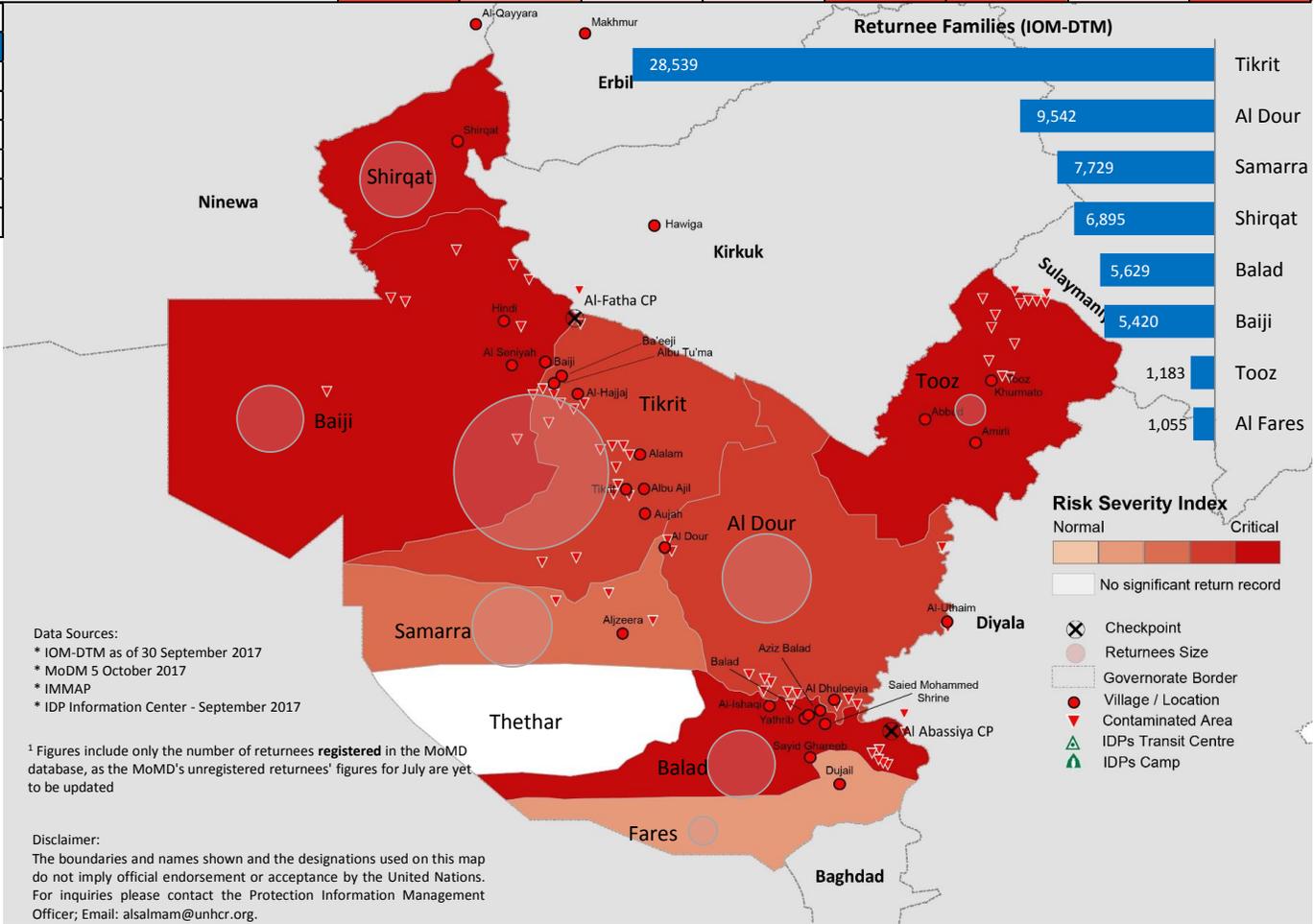


Iraq Protection Cluster: Salah al-Din Returnees Profile - September 2017

Protection Risk Matrix by District	High	Protection Concerns							
	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)	Baiji	Tikrit	Al-Daur	Samarra	Balad	Tuz	Fares	Shirqat
	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)							
	Security incidents resulting in death/injury in return area (including assault, murder, conflict-related casualties)								
	Low	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								

District	Families
Tikrit	4,740
Samarra	4,158
Al Dour	1,900
Baiji	685
Shirqat	0
Balad	3,402



IDP Information Center: 2% of 635 calls received from returnees were from Salah Al-Din. The flagged issues were about protection issues, food security and government issues.

SALAH AL-DIN GOVERNORATE - GENERAL CONTEXT

Per the DTM, approximately 65,992 families (395,952 individuals) returned to Salah al-Din in September, an increase of 391 families (2,346 individuals) from the previous month. Increased forms of collective punishment (i.e: forced evictions, kidnappings, reprisals) against vulnerable families in need of specialised protection continued to be reported in September. Ministry of Migration and Displacement (MoMD) reported a slight increase in number of returnee families registered with their branch office in Salah al-Din during the month, with about 130 families registered in September bringing the total number of registered families to 16,330.

The reporting period also had continued instability due to security incidents, including abductions, killings and destruction of farms and properties resulting in many casualties including returnees. Infiltration and continuing attacks in retaken areas by extremist elements continues to jeopardise civilians' safety, hamper returns, delay rehabilitation projects and humanitarian access. Border regions that link Diyala, Salah al-Din and Kirkuk, reportedly had significant presence of extremist elements, which contributed to the security instability. Separately, a large operation was launched in mid-September in northern parts of Dujail district and various areas in Balad district in a bid to secure these areas after recurring security breaches in these areas. Mutaibija area has also suffered recurring attacks despite deployment of security forces to secure the area. Following continuing attacks by extremist groups, strict security measures and curfew were imposed in various areas in Salah al-Din. Due to the deteriorating security situation, several returnee families have been forced into secondary displacement; more returnee families are likely to go back to displacement if the current trend continues.

SHIRQAT DISTRICT

Per the DTM, 29 families (174 individuals) returned to Shirqat in September and in particular to Al-Jumiala and Al-Noor neighborhood. This includes the returns of 20 families (120 individuals) to a new area (Sudayrah Village) bringing the total number of returnee families to the retaken parts of the district to 6,895 (41,370 individuals). According to Al-Shirqat Mayor, during September, over 786 families returned from Kurdistan region to both banks of Shirqat district. In addition, over 1,319 families returned from various districts of Salah al-Din to west Shirqat and over 826 families returned to east Shirqat. Further, around 750 families from the west Shirqat returned to the east bank in September. However the security situation remains unstable in Shirqat as incidents of collective punishments continued to be carried out including killings, burning and destruction of homes of returnee families with perceived alternative affiliations, albeit without any due process or judicial scrutiny of these punitive measures. In September, around 300 homes were reportedly destroyed and around 9 civilians were reportedly killed in the eastern Shirqat in retaliatory attacks.

Security incidents continued to be reported in Shirqat. On 26 September, unknown masked men reportedly opened fire on a returnee family in their house in Auwijailah village, east Shirqat, killing the head of the family who was the Mukhtar of the Auwijailah village and wounding 2 others. This was the first incident targeting the returnees in this village. Extremist groups were accused of carrying out the attack which targeted community leaders

to destabilise the area and hinder returns.

In September, more than 28 families were allowed to leave Al-Shahama Camp in Tikrit district which is still being used to hold families including those forcibly evicted from some areas of returns. These families returned to their areas of origin in the west Shirqat following further security screening.

BAIJI DISTRICT

Returns to Baiji district are still faltering for various reasons, mainly relating to inter-communal disputes which are yet to be resolved and also unstable security situation, the complexity of the return approval process, extensive contamination with explosive hazards, lack of basic services and the high level of destruction. In September, there were several security incidents involving returnees, with several returnee families reportedly arrested by the pro-government armed forces in control without due process. As a consequence of the arrests, six (6) returnee families reportedly left their houses in Hay Al-Asriy for Tikrit. Also, several civilians were killed and injured in a blast in Baiji district after a suicide bomber detonated near a restaurant in Al-Hajaj area south of Baiji district, leaving an estimated 40 people killed or injured.

According to the DTM, around 165 families (990 individuals) returned to Baiji center (Markaz Baiji) in September bringing the total number of returnee families to Baiji district to 5,420 (32,520 individuals). According to Baiji Mayor, over 190 families returned to three new areas in Baiji (Al-Hanishi, Al-Eshietih and Al-Muhandiseen). In August, returns were limited to only one area (Hay Al-Asry). An estimated 400 families that submitted their requests to return to different areas within Baiji district, are reportedly still awaiting the security approvals.

Baiji City Council reportedly re-opened and recommenced their work on 10 September after long negotiations. However the Council has started limited capacity and are using a small rented home inside Hay Al-Asriy. The reactivation of the Council is expected to help address some of the challenges hindering returns such as the issue of basic services.

BALAD DISTRICT

Despite the heavy presence of armed groups, severe lack of basic services/assistance, the high level of destruction and the complexity of the return approval process, some returns to Balad are continuing. According to Balad local authorities, around 147 families from Albo Hishma tribe returned to their areas of origin in Zour Albu Hishma during September bringing the total number of Albo Hishma returnee families to 596 and around 90 families to other locations (21 families to Al-Farhatiya, 27 families return to Yathrib, 4 families to Mahatat Balad Al-Mahishat, 4 families to Mahatat Balad Al-Wasel, 7 families to Garmat, 6 families to Arab Laeen, 12 families to Ramiyat and 9 families to Makhlabi neighbourhoods). According to the DTM, 83 families returned to Balad district in September.

Yathrib Sub-District

Extremist elements continued to carry out attacks in retaken areas in

Yathrib sub-district, jeopardizing the safety of returnees and affecting the return process and the sustainability of returns. Despite the security challenges, returns continued during the month but only to the same approved areas - Ahbab Al-Zour, Mazaree'a Al-Zour, Albo Jeely Al-Zour and Zour Albo Hishma. Around 174 families returned in September. Returns of the members of the Albo Hishma tribe continues to be conditional on payment of compensation (blood money).

Farhatiyah Sub-District

Security situation continued to be a challenge to sustainable returns in Al-Farhatiyah sub-district. On 7 September, 7 returnee males were reportedly arrested by pro-government armed groups while they were on their way back from Ishaqi. Following search operations, those arrested were reportedly released later.

Returns significantly reduced during the reporting period. This is despite the increase in the number of days officials were available for return screening procedures, from one to three days. Officials are now available on Sunday, Tuesday and Wednesday. However, only 21 families returned to Farhatiyah in September mainly due to the security instability which is the major challenge hampering the returns. Other factors include lack of basic services, lack of livelihood opportunities, extensive damages in houses and critical infrastructure. In addition, returns have not been authorised in some areas of Al-Farhatiyah sub-district.

Returnee families in Al-Farhatiyah have also reportedly been prevented, through restrictions at checkpoints, from shopping outside the sub-district in a bid to compel them to purchase (Fuel, cooking gas and agricultural fertilizers) from shops within the sub-district. However returnees have been complaining that the cost of items in the shops within the sub-district are exorbitant – sometimes almost double the prices elsewhere. Protection partners raised this issue with Salah al-Din authorities who promised to intervene.

SAMARRA DISTRICT

Similar to Tikrit and Tooz districts, no returns were recorded in September according to DTM.

AL-DAUR DISTRICT

Per the DTM, 113 families (678 individuals) returned during September to Hay Mohammad Al-Dorri-Mhalla 107 and Al-Sriyah village bringing the total number of returnee families to 9,542 (57,252 individuals).

FARES DISTRICT

Returns to Fares district have been limited, with many areas not seeing returns. Al-Ajeeliyah area where its population is estimated at 1,000 families (Albo Hishma tribe) have been barred from return as well as Said Gharib area where reportedly only 40 families were allowed to return thus far while others (estimated at more than 800 families) are still in displacement, mostly in Ishaqi Camp.