Update on Internal Displacement in Iraq

As of June 2026

Overview

997,334 IDPs remain displaced in Iraq.[1] This includes 97,271[2] people living in the 18[3] IDP camps, located in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. Of this population, 18,763 IDP families (89,709 individuals) continue to reside in 13 camps across Dohuk Governorate and Zakho Administration, 875 families (4,368 individuals) remain in two camps in Erbil Governorate, and 675 families (3,194 individuals) remain in the three East Mosul Camps (EMCs).

IDP Population Movements

In the first six months of 2026, over 1,000 families (5,000 individuals) departed from the camps and returned to their areas of origin, primarily Ninewa and Salah al-Din Governorates. An additional 3,500 families (14,200 individuals) remain in camps despite having registered their interest in leaving.

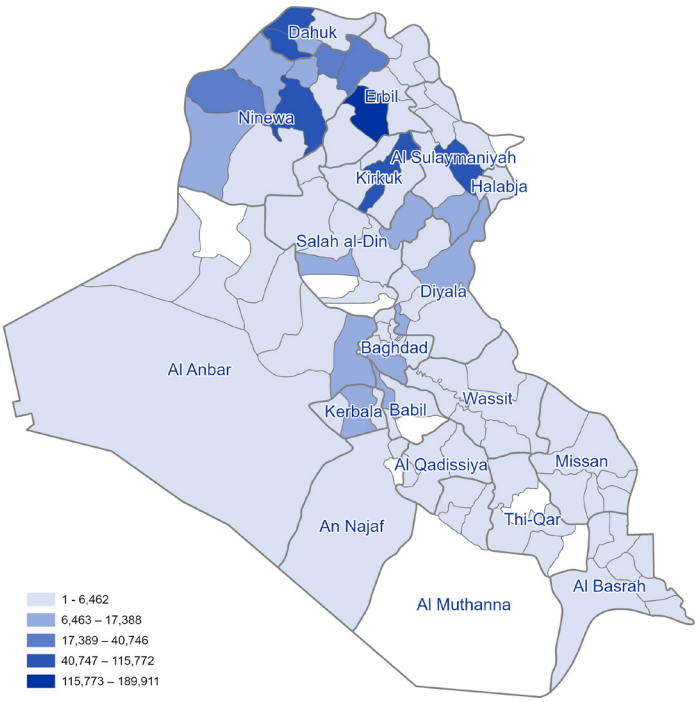
The large-scale government-supported procedure for registering and departing from IDP camps has remained suspended since July 2024. Families can pursue self-organized return independently, with individuals able to process paperwork and security clearance through the relevant camp managers and local authorities — on the understanding that households cover their own costs and logistics. IOM's Facilitated Voluntary Movement (FVM) programme, remains the only channel providing financial support for IDPs departing camps and returning to their areas of origin. Since start of 2026, 639 households (approximately 3,834 individuals) have returned, relocated or locally integrated in different areas in Iraq through IOM's FVM programme.

IDPs, considering return to areas of origin, mainly Ninewa, Salahaddin and Kirkuk, continue to encounter significant barriers, including lack of safety and security, housing damage, limited or lack of basic services, and reduced job opportunities, as well as a lack of availability of governmental return support programmes.

Since the start of 2026, 129 families (694 individuals) have been accepted into the 15 camps in Dohuk, despite official instructions that no new admissions into camps should occur. This increase reflects the socio-economic difficulties that many IDPs continue to experience, with arrivals coming from rented accommodation in urban areas and informal settlements.

In addition, 23 families (107 individuals) have returned to IDP camps in Dohuk since the beginning of the year (reverse returns). These cases reflect households that had previously departed

MAP 1: Districts of displacement of the current IDP population



Departures through the FVM programme
As of end of June 2026

From	HHs	Relocation	Return	Local integration
Baharka	17	1	6	11
Khazir M1	33	9	24	-
HasanSham U2	19	3	16	-
HasanSham U3	10	6	4	-
Darkar	35	-	35	-
Bersive 1	77	-	77	-
Bajed Kandala	213	-	213	-
Rwanga	214	-	214	-
Chamishko	9	-	9	-
Khanke	12	-	12	-

1 Data from IOM DTM, IDP and Returnee Master List as of January 2026. Here.

2 As of end of June 2026

3 In 2026 it was decided to administratively consolidate the following IDP camps: Bersive 1 and 2, are now referred to as Bersive; and Karbato 1 and 2 are now Karbato.

the camps and returned to the areas of origin but were unable to sustain their return and came back to the camps, highlighting the continued challenges affecting the sustainability of return into the areas of origin.

Following advocacy, in the first half of 2026 the Ministry of Migration and Displacement (MoMD) has embarked on an exercise to update its data on IDPs living in camps. This has primarily involved updating the family composition records in its data to reflect changes since previous registration exercises: including newly married couples, divorced individuals, newly born children, and other previously unregistered or newly formed households. The exercise is important for addressing discrepancies between the IDP population federal authorities consider camp-based and the numbers recorded by regional authorities. This will help the future distribution of assistance which is often distributed at the family level as well as any potential return assistance provided by the Government.

As a result, MoMD has newly registered families and individuals in Dohuk IDP camps who were not previously captured in its data, with a cumulative total of 1,394 families added to the database to date. Despite this progress, the Directorate of Migration and Crisis Response in Dohuk states that 3,400 IDP families remain unregistered within MoMD data. MoMD is keeping the registration process open, allowing eligible households to register and update their records on an ongoing basis.

Overview of Profiles and Areas of Origin of the IDPs Residing in Camps

Dohuk IDP Camps

The majority of Iraq's remaining camp-based IDP population resides in Dohuk Governorate and is predominantly composed of Yazidi families displaced from Sinjar and other areas of western Ninewa following the Da'esh attacks of August 2014. Camps such as Khanke, Essian, Sheikhan, Chamishko and Shariya largely host communities with strong social, cultural and familial ties to Sinjar, many of whom have now spent more than a decade in displacement. While some families continue to express a desire to return, durable solutions remain constrained by concerns over security, weak governance structures, insufficient reconstruction, limited livelihood opportunities and unresolved justice and compensation claims for survivors of Da'esh atrocities.

East Mosul Camps (EMCs)

The East Mosul Camps—Khazer M1, Hassansham U2 and Hassansham U3—host a distinct and highly vulnerable protection caseload. Residents are primarily Arab families displaced from Mosul city, the Mosul Plains and surrounding villages in Ninewa Governorate during the military operations against Da'esh. Many households face complex challenges linked to perceived affiliation with extremist groups, unresolved tribal disputes, lack of civil documentation, security clearance requirements, and restrictions on freedom of movement. The population includes female-headed households, former detainees and families unable to return due to protection concerns rather than purely humanitarian needs.

Erbil IDP Camps

The two remaining IDP camps in Erbil Governorate, Baharka and Debaga, host a more diverse population originating primarily from Ninewa and, to a lesser extent, Salah al-Din and other conflict-affected governorates. Compared to the Dohuk camps, this caseload is generally more mixed in terms of ethnicity, religion and displacement history. Many households have spent years in displacement and increasingly cite socio-economic factors—such as lack of employment opportunities, housing constraints and limited financial resources—as key obstacles to achieving durable solutions. Some families have previously attempted return but subsequently relocated again due to insecurity or a lack of sustainable livelihoods.

Camp Population[4]
As of end of June 2026

Location	Families	Individuals
Dohuk Camps		
Chamisku	3,289	15,153
Khanke	2,081	10,247
Essian	1,814	8,300
Karbato	3,535	16,848
Shariya	1,912	9,334
Rwanga Community	1,412	6,907
Bajet Kandala	1,364	6,606
Berseve	1,391	6,685
Mamrashan	889	4,376
Sheikhan	507	2,468
Darkar	277	1,380
Mamilian	150	739
Dawadia	142	666
Erbil Camps		
Debaga	705	3,574
Baharka	170	794
East Mosul Camps		
Hasansham U3	467	2,178
Khazer M1	132	640
Hasansham U2	76	376

4 Since the beginning of 2026 it was decided to administratively combine the following camps into one reporting entity: Karbato 1 and 2 to Karbato and Berseve 1 and 2 into Berseve. This is purely administrative and the physical camps remain.

Camp Conditions & Access to Services

The situation across IDP camps in Iraq in 2026 has remained stagnant. Services continue to be predominantly delivered by government authorities, supplemented by a small group of humanitarian actors, UN agencies and ad-hoc private donations. The situation in the EMCs remains more challenging than the other IDP camps, as restrictions on movements out of the camp for EMC residents mean they are dependent on unreliable and insufficient camp services. As highlighted above, departures from IDP camps in 2026 have been limited while small numbers of families continue to request entry.

More than 20,000 shelters across camps are tents, with no upgrades since 2019. Fire hazards remain significant, stemming from electrical short circuits, aging and poorly maintained infrastructure, and the accumulation of dry vegetation within and around camp perimeters. Since the start of 2026, there have been 20 fires across IDP camps in Dohuk, impacting 37 shelters and 29 families, with 3 casualties among affected IDP families. While affected households have received Core Relief Items (CRIs) and temporary shelter support, and camp management teams have intensified fire-prevention measures through community-led cleaning campaigns, these recurring incidents underscore the unsustainability of long-term camp-based living and reinforce the need to advance durable solutions that enable IDPs to transition out of increasingly unsafe and deteriorating camp environments.

In June, authorities in Dohuk chaired a Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) meeting, bringing together representatives from the Directorate of Migration and Crisis Response (DMCR), Barzani Charity Foundation (BCF), camp managers, UNHCR, VNG International and other humanitarian partners to discuss cross-cutting challenges affecting IDP camps across the governorate. The forum serves as a higher-level coordination mechanism through which key issues identified during the monthly camp-level coordination meetings are elevated to the relevant government authorities and line departments for discussion, coordination, and follow-up, strengthening government ownership and inter-agency collaboration in camp management.

In Erbil Governorate, the Government has re-expressed its intention to consolidate Baharka and Debaga IDP camps into one camp to enable efficiencies in running costs. Baharka currently hosts 170 IDP families (approximately 794 individuals), most of whom fled Ninewa for the Kurdistan Region of Iraq in 2015 due to Daesh. The IDP population has been consulted on the consolidation process, with three durable solution options presented: return to area of origin, relocation to Debaga IDP camp, or the option to move out of the camp and settle in urban areas for those who are financially able. Despite this, families in Baharka continue to face difficulties with these solutions — barriers to return include lack of documentation, withheld security clearances from federal authorities, or insufficient financial means, while reluctance to relocate to Debaga stems from its remote location compared to Baharka's relative proximity to Erbil city. UNHCR and IOM continue to engage with government authorities and the camp population to explore potential solutions.

At the beginning of 2026, authorities also expressed their intention to consolidate the three East Mosul Camps (EMCs) into a single camp (U2), conducting a technical assessment to determine the budget for such a consolidation. Although full funding for these efforts has been reported to not be available, several developments have happened over recent months, including funding provided by the Iraqi government for the fencing of U2 camp as well as the connection of U2 camp to the National Electricity Grid.

There continues to be a small monthly increase of ex-detainees in the EMC camp population. These are individuals who have often served sentences for perceived or actual affiliation to Da'esh in KRG prisons and, on release, are relocated by the security authority into the camps rather than being granted security clearance to return to their areas of origin, noting that for some, entry into territories beyond the Kurdistan Region of Iraq may risk a second judicial process. Many subsequently relocate their families from their areas of origin to the camps as well. As former detainees and their families are not officially registered in the camps, as per MoMD instructions, they are unable to access services, which risks increasing tension in the camp and the marginalisation and alienation of this caseload.

These governance and shelter challenges are compounded by persistent gaps in basic service provision. Food and hygiene support remain particularly constrained: no in-kind food assistance has been delivered to IDP camps by MoMD in 2026, and Government-led hygiene kit distributions have not taken place since 2024, although Islamic Relief recently distributed hygiene kits across all IDP camps in Erbil.

In IDP camps, the Directorate of Water and Sewage in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq continues to oversee essential WASH services, including water supply, garbage collection, and sewage management. However, the effectiveness of these services is being undermined by unauthorized water connections, which result in unequal and insufficient water distribution to some shelters. In response, some households have installed water boosters, which in turn create pressure imbalances across the public water grid. In Dohuk Governorate two IDP camps were connected to the KRG's Runaki 24/7 electricity project and are now receiving power free of charge.

Health services present a similar picture. While access remains available through government-supported primary health clinics, significant limitations persist, including shortages of essential medications, a lack of mental health support, and insufficient staffing, particularly of female health professionals. Two camps (Dawadia and Mamilian) lack Primary Healthcare Centres entirely, requiring residents to travel to urban areas (20–30 minutes away) to access services. Fumigation campaigns have recently been conducted by the Ministry of Health against mosquitoes in all IDP camps.

Kerosene distributions by MoMD to IDP camps in both Dohuk and Erbil earlier in 2026 partially helped families cope during the cold months. In Erbil IDP camps, the private sector KAR group supported one distribution in each camp with households receiving 200L per household while in Dohuk, MOMD distributed 100L per household.

Education in the camps is provided by the Government of Iraq through the overstretched resources of the Ministry of Education: overcrowded classrooms, poor maintenance, and a lack of resources are negatively affecting the quality of education. In the EMCs, access to secondary education remains unavailable within the camps. However, children holding a National Unified Identity Document (NIUD) can access secondary schools located outside the camps.

Access to civil documentation remains a further core need for many IDPs, especially in the EMCs, where more than 2,500 individuals have been identified as lacking documentation, particularly the Unified National ID Card. IDPs with complex cases (complexity arising from confirmed or perceived affiliation to Daesh) continue to face legal and administrative challenges in obtaining civil documents from government authorities and often require support from lawyers to overcome these barriers. This is particularly needed for female-headed households, who frequently need to secure marriage or divorce certificates, as well as custody and guardianship documents for their children, before they are able to apply for the Unified National ID Card.

Since May 2025, IOM has been supporting 117 households (505 individuals) in EMCs identified as in need of a NUIDs. IOM successfully supported 47 of these individuals, referred by UNHCR, to obtain NUIDs from their respective areas of origin in Ninewa Governorate. IOM is coordinating with authorities in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq to facilitate the issuance of these cards from the NUIDs Directorate in Erbil, as well as with the Ministry of Interior in Baghdad to exempt these individuals from the housing/residency card requirement, which is a prerequisite to access the NUIDs.

Reintegration of IDPs

IOM conducts household-level interviews with families targeted by Facilitated Voluntary Movement (FVM) programme through two follow-up rounds. The first, known as the baseline follow-up, is conducted one to three months after departure, while the second, the endline follow-up, takes place nine months after departure. These follow-ups offer valuable insights into the extent to which households are able to re-establish their lives in their chosen locations, whether through return, relocation, or local integration. Between 2023 and February 2026, data was collected from 3,310 households that completed both the baseline and endline interviews. The majority of these households reside in Ninewa districts; Sinjar (55%), Mosul (19%) and Al-Baaj (15%). The remaining reside in various districts of Anbar, Salah Al-din, Diyala and Baghdad.

As of June 2026, reintegration monitoring data has highlighted several key considerations regarding the post-departure conditions for IDPs. Despite their decision to return to their areas of origin, relocate, or locally integrate, households continue to face significant challenges to sustainable reintegration, including damaged or destroyed shelters, limited livelihood opportunities, and restricted access to essential services such as healthcare, water, and education.

Housing remains one of the most reported needs among returnee, relocated, and locally integrated households. At baseline, 72% of households were either hosted without paying rent or renting accommodation with their own family or extended relatives, while 2% resided in tents. After nine months, these proportions remained largely unchanged, with 68% of households still hosted or renting accommodation.

More than half (59%) of households reportedly owned a house before displacement. Despite the low proportion of housing compensation received, there was an improvement over time. At baseline, only 1% of households reported receiving compensation for housing, by endline, this figure had increased to 5%.

Home ownership increased from 28% at baseline to 30% at endline. Notably, the proportion of households with property ownership documentation rose from 37% to 46% over the same period, reflecting an improvement in tenure security. Among those renting, hosted, or residing in informal housing, the proportion fearing eviction fell from 34% to 30%. possibly linked to a rise in rental contracts from 5% at baseline to 9% at endline.

Shelter condition improved with 67% at baseline and 76% at endline reporting living in houses in good condition. While 88% of households initially felt "at home", 12% reported feeling displaced due to a lack of housing or relocation. By endline, 90% of households stated that they felt at home and intend to stay in their current location.

Lack of stable income remains a major challenge for returnee households. At baseline, only 32% of households reported having a regular income during the past three months; this increased to 38% by endline, though more than half of households continued to rely on unstable income sources. The proportion of households engaged in daily or informal labour rose from 52% at baseline to 60% after nine months, highlighting the continued reliance on unstable income sources.

Meanwhile, 30% of households depended on government salaries or social support throughout. Reliance on family support and charity decreased from 22% to 19% over nine months, suggesting a gradual shift away from these coping mechanisms. A small proportion of households (9% at endline) reported also deriving income from agriculture or employment within the security forces, indicating some diversification of livelihoods over time.

Despite low earnings overall, the average monthly household income increased slightly from approximately 400,000 IQDs at baseline to 470,000 IQDs at endline. This improvement may be linked to a reduction in household debt, which declined from 57% at baseline to 53% at endline. Nine months after departure, livelihoods support has become the most reported need among households, with 70 % requesting livelihoods support, highlighting the ongoing economic vulnerability and the importance of sustainable livelihoods programming to enhance household resilience and self-reliance.

Regarding **access to basic services**, access to potable water remains a major concern. At baseline, half of households (59%)

did not always have access to clean water, and this showed little improvement by endline. Additionally, the lack of functioning infrastructure, including schools and health centres, continues to challenge reintegration. A shortage of both Arabic and Kurdish language has led households to cover the cost of unofficial educators in Sinjar district. Furthermore, households face barriers in addressing their health needs due to inadequate treatment options and a shortage of medical staff at health centres in both Sinjar and Baaj districts.

On **civil documentation**, at baseline, 36% of households reported that at least one household member was missing civil documentation. This figure rose to 40% after nine months, which may be attributed to the long process of issuing Unified National ID cards or barriers in accessing documentation services. The Unified National ID card was the most reported missing document (1,256 households), followed by PDS card. Without core civil documents, households face barriers to accessing basic rights and services, such as enrolling children in school, obtaining healthcare, or receiving assistance. These challenges highlight the urgent need for targeted civil documentation support to ensure households can access basic rights and services and fully reintegrate into their communities.

February and June 2026 Baseline Reintegration Monitoring

IOM conducted baseline reintegration monitoring with 203 households that had departed camps in February and June 2026. Most households departed from Duhok 77%, followed by Ninewa 15% and Erbil 8%. At the time of data collection, the majority were residing in Ninewa 92%, mainly in Sinjar 55%, Al Baaj 23%, and Mosul 12%. The largest community of arrival was Duguri 45%.

Overall, 22% of households had not returned to their area of origin, mainly due to lack of housing, community rejection and tribal tensions. The most reported needs were livelihoods support 77%, shelter 67% and healthcare 24%, followed by water 14% and electricity 12%. Despite these needs, social reintegration indicators were positive, with 98% reporting that they felt at home, 85% having no plans to move, and all households reporting no discrimination or neighbourhood tensions.

Recommendation

- **Advance durable solutions.** IDPs require comprehensive support to attain durable solutions of their choice, including voluntary return, relocation to other communities within the country, or local integration in areas of displacement. To achieve a comprehensive approach that supports all durable solutions, renewed advocacy is needed to encourage the government, national and regional, to re-engage in solution focused discussions.
- **Engage in communication with IDP communities.** Decisions affecting IDPs, including those in camps need to be communicated by government authorities in a timely and transparent manner to enable informed planning and decision-making by affected communities.
- **Maintain services for IDPs remaining in camps.** Service provision in the camps is increasingly unreliable, yet for IDPs who continue to remain in the camps, access to ensured services is vital. In order to improve the overall quality of life across the camps, some level of camp consolidation may be required, including support to ensure adequate shelter, either through self or government-support upgrades, but this should not be undertaken at the detriment of prioritising durable solutions.
- **Renew efforts to allocate sufficient budget by the government to achieve durable solutions.** This includes financial assistance, shelter rehabilitation, the provision of fair and timely compensation grants, and the departure grant previously provided.
- **Conduct shelter space analysis to support camp consolidation.** An analysis of available shelter space has become necessary to support camp consolidation efforts. This would enhance service delivery and offer improved shelter options for IDPs currently residing in tents.[5] While camp consolidation will improve efficiencies in running costs, the focus should remain on supporting, including financially, comprehensive durable solutions for IDPs outside of camps.
- **Address specific needs in East Mosul Camps (EMCs).** Targeted support to residents of East Mosul camps, including assistance with obtaining National Unified Identity Documents (NUIDs), resolution of legal and security considerations to support camp departure, including the complex ex-detainee caseload, alongside access to reliable services is required until all have achieved durable solutions.
- **Support informal sites. Informal sites hosting IDPs need to be formally recognized and adequately resourced.** This includes improving shelter conditions, WASH, health, and education services, and addressing protection risks, particularly for women and children.[6]
- **Support IDPs who wish to voluntarily depart from the camps,** independent of any supported procedure, to be able to access, quickly and efficiently, the necessary clearance documents to be able to formally exit the camps, including being able to retain their possessions.
- **Facilitate access to documentation for return. IDPs who wish to return,** including those who do not require material assistance, need support to obtain the required documentation to facilitate camp departure.
- **Invest in sustainable reintegration and infrastructure in areas of displacement and return.** Continued investment is needed in housing, infrastructure and public services in both IDP-hosting areas and areas of origin. This requires budget allocations for the rehabilitation of water, electricity, schools, and health centres, and ensuring adequate staffing, especially in rural areas.

5 For example 9 out of 13 camps in Dohuk are tented

6 As of August 2024, DTM recorded a total of 285 informal sites. IDP families were present in 260 informal sites, while returnee families were present in 28 sites. Dahuk Governorate contains 33% of the informal sites nationwide (95 sites), with Ninewa and Salah al-Din governorates accounting for a further 22% and 13%, respectively (63 and 38 sites). At the district level, Sumel District accounts for 27% of all informal sites (78), with Falluja District containing a further 7% of Iraq's informal sites (21).