

MoMD RETURN GRANT UPDATE, December 2021

Summary

Since July 2019, the Ministry of Migration and Displacement (MoMD) has disbursed a grant of IQD 1.5 million to registered returnee households (with two family members or more) and IQD 0.75 million (single-member families), known as the return grant. The aim of the returnee grant is to act as a one-time safety net for returnee families. As mentioned in the previous update, the efficacy of the grant has been limited due to the infrequent and low rate of disbursement. In 2021, the disbursements have been distributed in January, September, October, and December.

In addition to the support provided by MoMD to IDPs and Returnees, in 2021, the government of Iraq, through the national budget, allocated IQD 50 billion to the Sunni Endowment to provide cash assistance to IDPs (40 billion) and to assist with reconciliation programs and claims (10 billion). Details about the Sunni Endowment allocations will be summarized in this update.

Update on the status of the Return Grant¹ (See previous MoMD grant updates on the link [here](#)):

- **Total amount disbursed so far:** For 2021, MoMD distributed IQD 28,014,750,000 to 18,700 HH. In 2020, MoMD distributed IQD 28,884,000, to 19,324 households. Since 2019, MoMD has disbursed a total of IQD 101,498,250,000 to 67,760 returnee families. See full breakdown of figures in the table below.

Summary breakdown of the disbursement of the return grant per governorate for 2019, 2020 and 2021.

Date of disbursement	No. of Beneficiaries (HH)	Amount disbursed (in IQD)
2019		
25 July 2019	12,000	18,000,000,000
24 September 2019	8,000	12,000,000,000
3 November 2019	9,736	14,599,500,000
Total 2019	29,736	44,599,500,000
2020		
21 January 2020	2,400	3,582,000,000
18 February 2020	2,600	3,869,250,000
18 March 2020	2,600	3,891,000,000
26 April 2020	2,600	3,894,000,000
29 September 2020	2,600	3,883,500,000
12 November 2020	2,600	3,894,750,000
24 December 2020	1,324	1,986,000,000
29 December 2020	2,600	3,883,500,000

¹ Information valid as of 15 October 2021. Data Source: MOMD Statistics Unit.

Total 2020	19,324	28,884,000,000
2021		
4 January 2021	2,600	3,896,250,000
15 September 2021	6,500	9,741,000,000
7 October 2021	7,000	10,488,750,000
16 December 2021	2,600	3,888,750,000
Total 2021	18,700	28,014,750,000
GRAND TOTAL	67,760	IQD 101,498,250,000

- No. of targeted families reached:** Since inception in 2019, 67,760 families have received the grant out of 578,733 families who have returned and registered their return with MOMD as of 20th December 2021. The number of beneficiaries has progressively lessened since the inception of the scheme as shown by the table above, i.e. **29,736** in 2019, **19,324** families in 2020 and **18,700** in 2021. According to the MoMD minister, the allocated financial resources to the ministry for the return grant are insufficient to cover the registered returnee families and undermines the efforts to support returnee families to meet initial basic needs in areas of return.
- Disbursement installments:** In 2021, the first disbursement was in January and although the budget was approved in March, the next disbursements were in September, October, and December.
- Distribution per Governorate:** While Anbar has the highest number of registered HHs followed by Ninewa, Salah al-Din, Diyala, Baghdad and Kirkuk, Ninewa has the highest number of returnees who have received the return grant (21,709 HH), followed by Anbar (13,004 HH), Diyala (10,653 HH) and Salah al-din (9,448 HH). Kirkuk remains the governorate with the lowest number of grant beneficiaries, with 5,234 families receiving the grant so far. Data shared by MoMD indicates that as of 20th December 2021, 578,733 HH have registered their return. However, 440,854 applications have been checked by the statistics department, with 137,879 applications yet to be checked. Diyala and Baghdad have the lowest number of pending verifications (and the highest proportion of returnees who have received the grant), while Anbar and Ninewa have the highest pending applications. Diyala and Baghdad have 1,149 and 157 pending verifications, while Ninewa and Anbar have 60,789 and 62,419 applications respectively. Baghdad and Diyala governorates have 97-99% registration processing complete while Ninewa and Anbar are at 65% and 74% of verified registrations, respectively. The backlog has been attributed to the registration process challenges and the lack of human resources to process the applications.
- Rate of disbursement per Governorate:** Baghdad and Diyala have more HHs who have received the grant compared with other governorates who have higher numbers of registered families (see table below). Despite having the highest raw numbers of beneficiaries proportionally, only 13% of

the registered returnees in Ninewa and 5% in Anbar have received the grant. The disbursements in September and October were significantly higher compared with the other months. In total, for all the six governorates, only 12% of returnee HHs who have registered their return with MoMD have received the grant. While MoMD offices in Salah al-Din, Diyala, Kirkuk and Baghdad registered new returnees since January 2021, the offices in Anbar and Ninewa have not registered any new households.

Table below shows the number of returnees in each governorate who applied to register their return with MOMD vis-a-vis those who have received the return grant.

Governorate	No. of returnee families registered with MoMD	No. returnees who have received the return grant	Percentage of those received the grant
Anbar	239,597	13,004	5%
Ninewa	171,567	21,709	13%
Salah al-Din	88,031	9,448	11%
Diyala	38,601	10,653	28%
Kirkuk	24,512	5,234	21%
Baghdad	16,425	7,712	47%
TOTAL	578,733	67,760	12%

- **Eligibility criteria:** The eligibility criteria remain unchanged from the previous rounds. Returnees who have closed their displacement files and registered their return with MoMD receive a returnee code and are eligible to receive the grant through the Q-card.
- **Methodology of disbursement:** The methodology of disbursement remains the same. The money is distributed through the Q-card. Following advocacy efforts by the RWG/DSTWG with the MoMD, the ministry has reached out to the Central Bank of Iraq (CBI) and requested the authorities to provide alternative companies for those IDPs who did not receive the Q-card following with stoppage of distribution of the cards in 2017 (out of 721,000 registered IDPs about 130,546 IDPs did not receive the Q-card.) The CBI has now recommended four pre-qualified companies to MoMD and an announcement about the successful company is expected in early 2022.
- **Percentage of total returnees reached:** According to MoMD data, 578,733 HH have registered their return with MoMD branch offices in areas of origin. Of these registrations, 440,854 applications have been checked by the statistic department while 137,879 are pending checks. The vast majority of applications in Kirkuk and Diyala have been checked, while Ninewa and Anbar have the highest number of applications that have not yet been checked. For Anbar out of 239,597 applications, 177,178 have been checked i.e. 74%, while for Ninewa 171,567 HH have applied and 110,769 or 65% have been checked. Since December 2020, no new registrations have been noted for these two locations despite DTM data indicating some returns to these governorates

throughout 2021. Some efforts have been made to inform IDPs and returnees about the grant process to encourage them to apply for this assistance (see the CwC materials in the link [here](#).) However, the slow rate of disbursement of the grant to those who have registered may also affect the reliance on the grant.

MoMD In-Kind Distributions

In addition to the return grant, MoMD distributed various food and non-food items to returnee households such as food baskets, hygiene kits, blankets, clothing, and carpets. Anbar governorate, followed by Ninewa and Diyala governorates, received the highest number of in-kind assistance while Missan received the lowest number. Below are the figures as of 30th October 2021.

MoMD In-Kind Distributions					
Governorate	Food Baskets	Health Baskets	Blankets	Kitchen Basket	Clothes
Anbar	78,187	71,084		19,381	13,610
Baghdad	29,883	29,883	1,800		
Basra	400	400		400	400
Diyala	35,306	35,306	10,521	21,120	11,427
Kirkuk	6,191	6,191			3,401
Salah Al-Din	16,939	16,939	3,900	1,353	4,753
Ninewa	74,231	73,116	14,691		19,758
Missan	175	175			
Total	241,342	233,094	30,912	42,254	53,349

Challenges

- I. The Ministry of Finance's budgetary allocation for the return grant continues to decrease year after year and is a fraction of what is needed to cover all the returnees who have registered their return with the MoMD.
- II. Eligibility criteria: The eligibility criteria remain the same however the use of the 'first come first serve' has been criticized for not being transparent and not ensuring that the funds go to the most in need.
- III. The MoMD minister has raised concern that the in-kind support provided to in camp IDPs will significantly reduce in 2022.² The lack of support to the most vulnerable families who remain in camps may result in premature return, secondary displacement, or in families engaging in negative coping strategies.

² Statement from Minister during a joint visit to Sulaymaniyah in November 2021.

Sunni Endowment Disbursements

On 1s April 2021, the 2021 National Budget allocated 50B IQD to the Sunni Endowment to provide cash assistance to IDPs in protracted displacement (40B IQD) and to support reconciliation efforts (10B IQD).

Cash Assistance to IDPs in Protracted Displacement

- **Total Allocation: 40Billion IQD**
- **Purpose:** Initial information from the endowment was to encourage IDPs to return to their areas of origin, however in some locations the funds have been provided to IDPs with no intention/ability to return and vulnerable households.
- **Household disbursement:** Each household qualifies for 1M IQD cash provided to head of household. In Jeddah 5 camp, the endowment has distributed 500,000 IQD to households (blanket distribution).
- **Targeted Governorates:** Ninewa, Anbar, Diyala, Baghdad, Salah Al-Din, Sulaymaniyah, Erbil and Dohuk. Allocations for each governorate vary and are still under verification and varies between 2B IQD to 5,5B IQD. Some governorates may receive less than 2B IQD and others more than 5,5B IQD.
- **Criteria** for receiving the disbursement: No specific criteria, however, households have to be IDPs (as registered with MoMD) and lists are being provided by MoMD branches and the endowment field offices in the targeted governorates. All ethno-religious HHs are eligible. Priority is given to in-camp IDPs and vulnerable HH (female or child headed, people with disabilities). Returnees are not eligible for the grants. Receipt of these Sunni grant does not affect ability of family to apply for the MoMD return grant.
- **No. of targeted families so far:** To date since early November, hundreds of families in Ninewa, Anbar, Diyala, Sulaymaniyah and Salah Al-Din have received assistance from the endowment. As the process is still ongoing, additional details will be shared once the exact details have been received from the Endowment.

Sunni Endowment Tribal Reconciliation Support

- **Total Allocation: 10Billion IQD**
- **Purpose:** To facilitate the return of families who face tribal obstacles to return. These include tribal conflict related barriers and challenges linked with perceived ISIL affiliation (category 2). Also, the allocation aims to support social resilient and stabilization efforts in different areas including those that did not witness ISIL occupation.

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- **Targeted governorates:** Ninewa, Kirkuk, Salah Al-Din, Anbar, Diyala and Baghdad.
- **Targeted populations:** Includes Sunni-Sunni, Sunni-Shiite, Sunni-Kurd and Sunni-Turkmen tribal issues.

Following the conflict that led to the displacement of several families from villages in Muqadiyah, the Head of Sunni endowment instructed the endowment's directorates to establish 11 committees as per the following details:

#	CHAIRD BY	TARGET GROUP/AREAS
1 st committee	Deputy chair of Sunni endowment for administrative affairs	Responsible for covering IDPs from/in Sinjar (Ninewa) and nearby displaced families as per MoMD registrations
2 nd committee	DG of Islamic studies	Responsible for covering IDPs from/in west Anbar and nearby displaced as per MoMD registrations
3 rd Committee	DG of Shrines	Responsible for covering IDPs from/in Baquba, Muqadiyah (Diyala) and nearby displaced as per MoMD registrations
4 th Committee	DG of Zakat Fund	Responsible for covering IDPs in AAF camp (Anbar) and nearby displaced as per MoMD registrations
5 th Committee	DG of Research and studies	Responsible for covering IDPs from/in West Ninewa and nearby displaced as per MoMD registrations
6 th Committee	DG of religious and charitable associations	Responsible for covering IDPs from/in Mahmoudiyah and Latifiyah (Baghdad) and nearby displaced as per MoMD registrations (mostly the displaced from north Babil)
7 th Committee	DG of Religious Festivals	Responsible for covering IDPs from/in Erbil, Dohuk and nearby displaced as per MoMD registrations
8 th Committee	DG of Legal Affairs	Responsible for covering IDPs from/in Kalar, Khanaqeen and Jalawla (Diyala) and nearby displaced as per MoMD registrations

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9 th Committee	DG of Financial and administrative affairs	Responsible for covering IDPs in Sulaymaniyah and nearby displaced as per MoMD registrations
10 th Committee	DG of Planning and Follow-up	Responsible for covering IDPs from/in Dujail, Balad and Samarra (SAD) and nearby displaced as per MoMD registrations
Special committee	DG of Engineering Department	Affected villages in Muqdadiah

Challenges

- I. The IDP disbursements have not been activated in all the intended governorates. IDPs who are in KRI and KRI controlled areas are yet to receive assistance from the Endowment.
- II. Housing Needs vs Cash Needs: The grants offer assistance to households who may face minor obstacles to return. Assessments have shown that many families who remain displaced require considerable support to rehabilitate damaged housing. The 1M IQD or the 500,000IQD will not meet the needs of these families. There is ongoing need for advocacy to address this challenge as it affects several households.
- III. The Sinjar committee is not yet activated.
- IV. The representatives of the special committee have faced challenges (denied access by armed groups) to visit the affected villages in Muqdadia. This hinders the work of the committee