

FURTHER DETAILS

Out of camp IDPs: a representative from the IDP HH is required to visit the Ba'aj Mayor's office. The Mayor's office provides IDPs with a return form, which must be filled and signed by three entities in the area of origin: the local mukhtar, the Intelligence Agency (IA) office in Ba'aj and the Mayor of Ba'aj. NFIs, furniture, vehicles and other details of personal belongings are normally included in the return form to avoid any potential complications throughout the movement.

In-camp IDPs undergo the same process explained above for out-of-camp IDPs but with an additional step. In-camp IDPs must approach the camp management and apply for a departure form, which requires the stamp of the camp's security forces to be fully approved. Therefore, IDPs must obtain two approval letters to return: a security clearance form (return approval) obtained from the authorities of the area of origin (signed by mukhtar, IA and Mayor) and a security clearance form (departure approval) signed by camp management and security forces at the camp.

The entire process of obtaining a security clearance can be completed within one working day, should the IDP manage to reach all three parties mentioned (Mukhtar, Intelligence Agency and Mayor's office).

At the checkpoints, IDPs should normally present personal IDs, security clearance documents obtained from the area of origin, a furniture transportation letter, a letter from the mukhtar of the area of displacement and a camp departure letter (in case they had been staying in camps).

IDPs may register their return with MoMD to be eligible for a return grant.

BA'AJ GENERAL RETURN PROCESS

IDPs initiate return



IDPs obtain a camp departure letter (for in-camp IDPs) and return form from the Ba'aj mayor's office which is signed by three entities in the area of origin: the local mukhtar, the Intelligence Agency (IA) office and the Mayor of Ba'aj.



Security clearance process



Clearance process: After obtaining the mukhtar's signature, the IDP must visit the Intelligence Agency (IA) office, the security entity responsible for issuing security clearance for IDPs in the area. The IA has one office in Markaz Ba'aj, where the names of IDP HHs are crosschecked against a computer database.



Cleared



Not cleared



Remain in displacement



IDPs return and register their return with the Ba'aj Mayor and local police and close their displacement file with MOMD.

CONCERNS

Housing destruction, lack of basic services and livelihood opportunities, secondary occupation of housing by armed actors and lack of security are the main return obstacles.

IDPs must cross several checkpoints to reach Ba'aj, where security checks are conducted via a computer database. Checkpoints include Bawabat Al Sham (West Mosul), Tel Afar (three checkpoints) and Ba'aj entrance checkpoint. There may be additional checkpoints depending on where IDPs intend to return and whether they pass through Sinjar or not. Therefore, it may take several hours before IDPs arrive at their destination.

In cases where the males had previously joined ISIL, female-headed households must provide a legal letter from an Iraqi court proving that they have disowned or divorced their ISIL affiliated family members. Failure to provide this letter means the person in question will not be permitted to return.

To close their displacement file, returnees in Ba'aj must visit the MOMD office in Mosul, as it directly manages Ba'aj returns. Therefore, returnees must make a long round trip of 300 km between Ba'aj and Mosul to complete this process.