

ANBAR GENERAL RETURN PROCESS

IDPs initiate return

IDPs inform camp management of their intention to return (for in-camp IDPs), after which camp management and MOMD will coordinate with relevant authorities to facilitate the return. For out of camp IDPs and in some cases, in-camp IDPs, the head of household is required to visit the mayor's office in the area of origin to apply for clearance to return. The application is forwarded to the Anbar Operations Command, the entity responsible for issuing clearance. It normally takes 1-2 months to issue the clearance.

Clearance process

Cleared

Not cleared

Remain in displacement

Endorsement of residency: Upon return, the head of household is required to visit the local Mukhtar at the area of origin to obtain an "endorsement of residency" to confirm their place of residence. The process includes submitting a copy of each family member's ID documents, a copy of the residency card and a PDS copy. The Mukhtar signs the endorsement and sends the head of household to collect signatures (approvals) from the local intelligence, local police and the mayor's office. It normally takes 2-7 days to obtain all approvals.

IDPs register their return with MOMD eligible for a return grant and other benefits provided by MOMD.

CHALLENGES

Additional barriers for IDP households with families with perceived affiliation. Before applying for clearance these households must:

- 1) Seek approval/informal confirmation for return from local community and tribal leaders in areas of return. A document signed by at least 10 community and tribal leaders is required.
- 2) Provide a denunciation letter from an Iraqi court proving that they have denounced their ISIL affiliated family members. The household may apply for denunciation through the criminal justice court.

Clearance: For people out of camps (and sometimes in camps) obtaining clearance requires visiting areas of origin as well various government departments in areas of displacement and within areas of origin upon return. This can be costly, time-consuming, and, now, poses risks for households given the COVID-19 pandemic. There is also a lack of consistency in how long each stage of the process takes in addition to a lack of a standard follow-up mechanism for the status of the clearance.

Appeals: There is currently no official appeals process. Typically, households will attempt to re-apply and there have been cases where they eventually obtained the clearance.

Further Details on Initiating the Return Process

IN-CAMP IDPs

IDPs may apply for security clearance to return directly through camp management or MoMD if present in the camp. MoMD can facilitate the process in coordination with relevant local authorities.

IDPs have two options to apply for clearance to return: 1) Through MoMD, who will forward their requests to National Operations Command (NOC) for further consideration 2) Initiate the process themselves by visiting the mayor's office in their areas of origin.

IDPs living in KRI camps normally start the process of return by verbally informing the Mukhtar of their sector (a Mukhtar is present in each camp sector). The Mukhtar submits the list of IDP names who expressed their interest to return to the camp management. The camp management prepares the return letter in Arabic with the family members' names to request the passage of the family in KRI and Iraqi Federal checkpoints. An MoMD representative based in the camp will then stamp the letter.

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OUT OF CAMP IDPs

The IDP head of household is required to visit the mayor's office in the area of origin to apply for clearance to return. The Mayor's office will share the household's information with the local government for further follow up with Anbar Operations Command, who will provide feedback on the clearance to the Mayor's office through the Anbar government.

IDPs returning from KRI are required visit the local police "Asayish" in the area of displacement but must start the process by first informing the Mukhtar of their neighborhood about their intention to return. The Mukhtar provides them a letter directed to Asayish requesting a permit letter to move the IDP's household items. After the Asayish prepares the permit letter, the IDP then visits MoMD to receive an approved return letter. The IDP head of household is also required to visit the mayor's office in the area of origin to apply for the clearance to return. IDPs are not screened in KRI before return as they had already been screened upon arrival as IDPs.

The IDP head of household is required to visit the mayor's office in the area of origin to apply for the clearance to return.

IDPs displaced within Anbar

IDPs displaced within KRI

Note: While the overall return process is the same across KRI, there may be slight variations in the process in each KRI governorate

IDPs displaced in other federal governorates