

# Returns to Sinjar

- **Reasons to return:** Movement restrictions since the beginning of Covid-19 pandemic, to join their extended families, difficulties to find jobs in the areas of displacement.
- **Concerns:** checkpoint related access challenges
- **Opening of new checkpoint:** Shella checkpoint opened- Some transit difficulties experienced
- **Conditions in areas of origin:** some returns to habitual residence, and some to neighbor's houses or residing with relatives
- **Immediate needs in Sinjar:** pile up of debris, Access to portable water, Secondary occupation of houses, Electricity, health
- **Establishment of feedback /complaint /response mechanism**
- **Establishment of a committee** to receive and register newly returned families to Sinjar
- **Issues in AoO:** demonstration in Sinjar that called for preventing the return of displaced Sunni Muslim families to Sinjar
- **Post return monitoring:** initiated by Ninewa Protection Working Group

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- **MOMD initiative:** announcement of IQD 2 billion for return
- **Compensation:** The amended compensation guidelines as per the new Iraqi Law 2 allows Yazidis to apply for compensation
- **Social cohesion issues:** in Sinjar between different ethnic groups
- **Return process:**

# Sinjar Return Process Flowchart

## FURTHER DETAILS

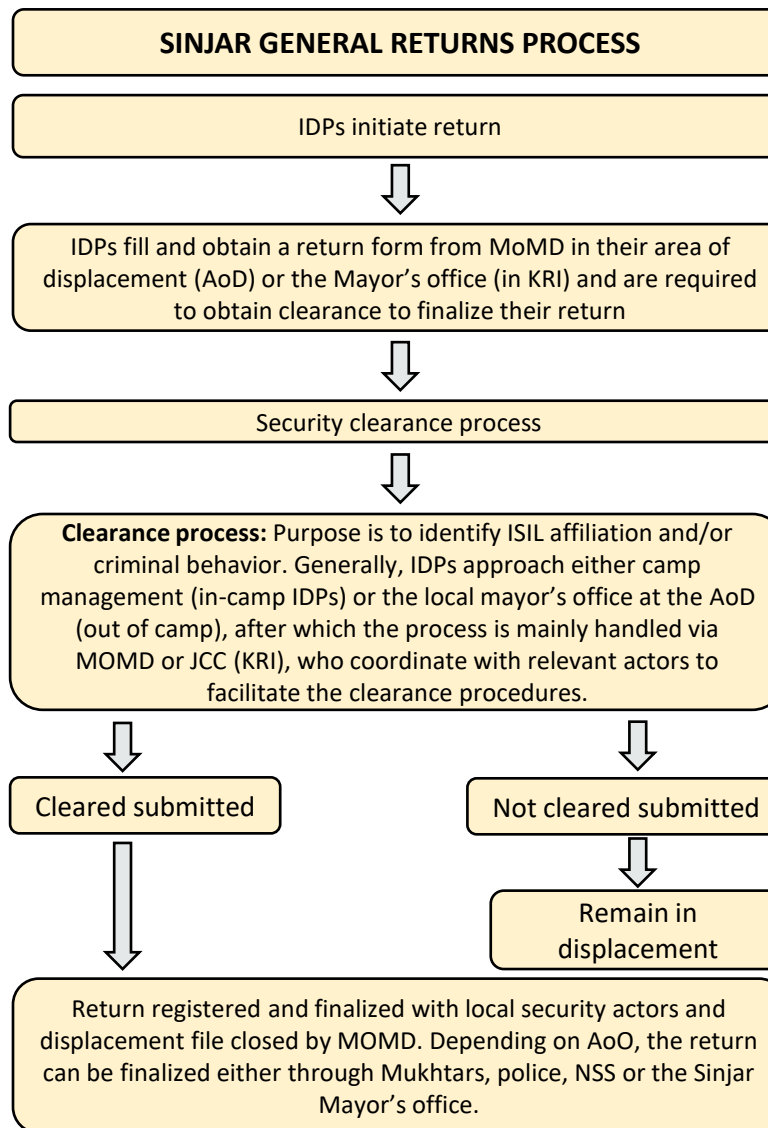
IDPs in all camps first register for departure with camp management and submit their details. In Ninewa camps, MOMD then coordinates with relevant actors to facilitate the clearance procedures (during which security actors enter the camp to complete the security checks). Out of camp IDPs in Ninewa approach the mayor's office in the AoD, after which the clearance process is coordinated with MoMD and local security actors. In KRI, security clearance is processed by the Mayor's office (JCC) either in Dahuk or Zakho, where a return letter (non-exposure permit) is issued, after the names are checked by Asayish. To issue this letter, the IDPs must visit the Mayor's office and hand the letter given by the camp management (only for in-camp IDP) along with their Iraqi identification documents and submit a request to obtain the Non-exposure permit letter for return, after which they must visit Asayish to conduct a security check done on Asayish's database. No IDP has been denied clearance so far.

The time frame of obtaining the return letter from the Mayor's office depends on the district of displacement and how occupied the JCC office is and can take up to 10 days. The nature of questions and length of procedures are said to be discouraging IDPs from applying.

IDPs need to provide the return form (MOMD or JCC), personal IDs and a camp departure form (in case they were displaced in a formal camp) at checkpoints while returning to their AoOs

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

## SINJAR GENERAL RETURNS PROCESS



## CONCERNS

Cases have been reported where returnees have faced problems with security forces at both KRI and Iraqi controlled checkpoints.

There is no reported appeal process. Clearance can only be processed if the issue is resolved (name matching with ISIL affiliate, disowning/ Tabrea, or other security issues etc)

Return letters are issued in the Kurdish language, which is not understood in the AoOs of the IDPs (Sinjar)- and may pose challenges when IDPs deal with authorities in the AoO

There are cases of ethno-religious tension and fear of return, especially concerning Arab IDPs from Qayrawan and Markaz Sinjar

Presence of multiple security actors in Sinjar (ISF, Local Police, NSS, Intelligence Agency, PMF, PKK and YBS)

MoMD transportation and security escort is sometimes provided if there is a large number of returning IDPs.

Many families need the MoMD return grant of 1.5 million IQD and property compensation