

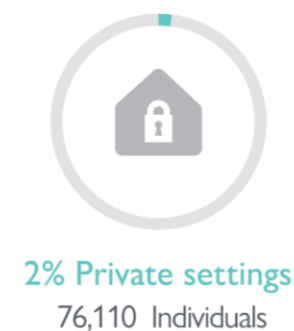
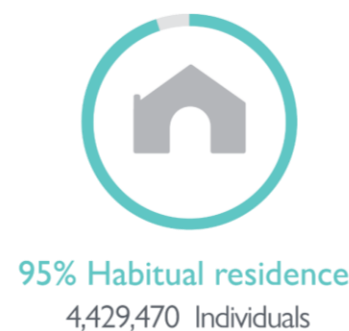
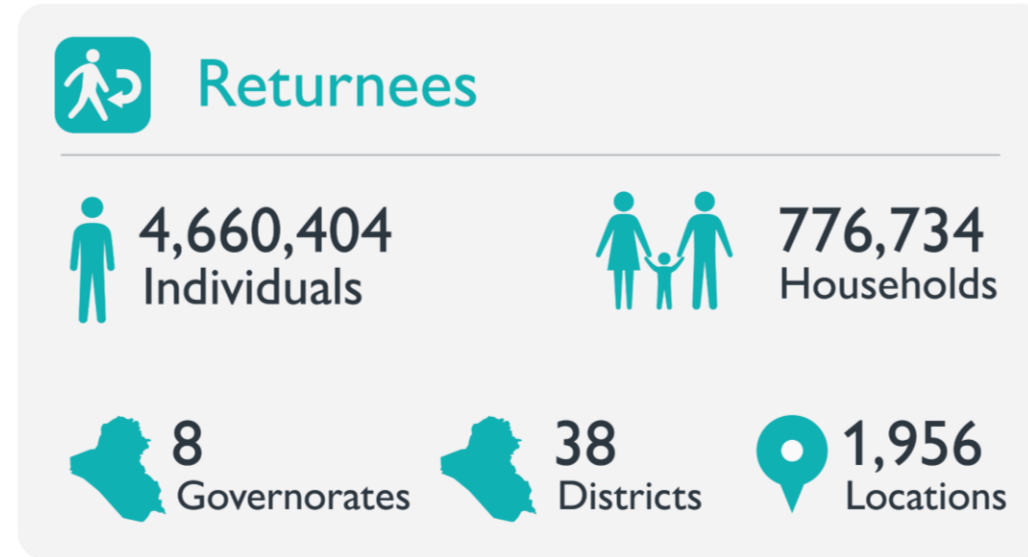
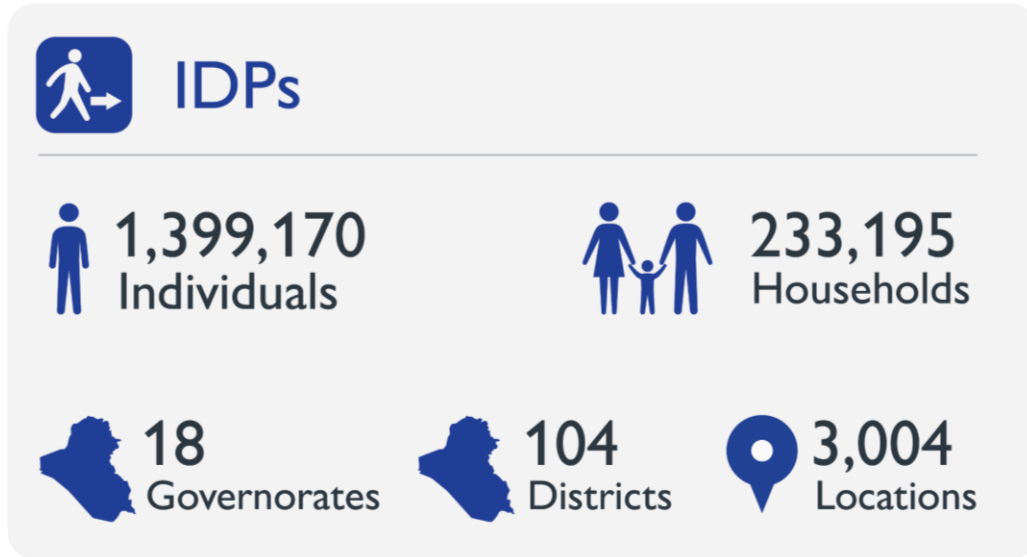


Returns and COVID-19 Update

Returns Working Group, 28 April 2020



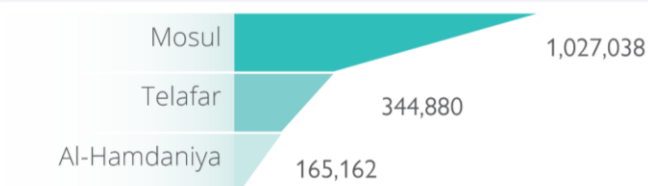
Latest Displacement Data (Jan-Feb 2020)



Returns Overview

Ninewa 1,785,738 Returnees

▶ Three main districts of return



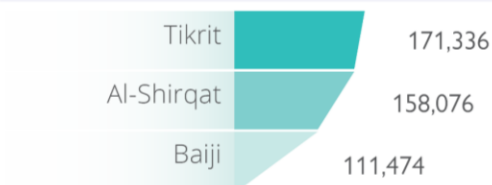
▶ Governorates of last displacement



Others: Najaf, Kerbala, Baghdad, Babylon, Kirkuk, Wassit, Sulaymaniyah, Salah al-Din, Basrah, Missan, Qadissiya, Thi-Qar, Muthanna, Diyala and Anbar

Salah al-Din 680,946 Returnees

▶ Three main districts of return



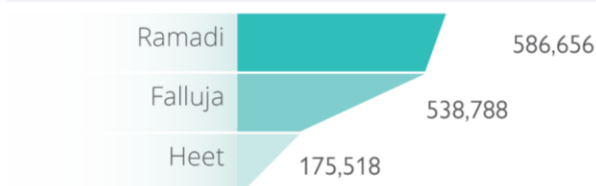
▶ Governorates of last displacement



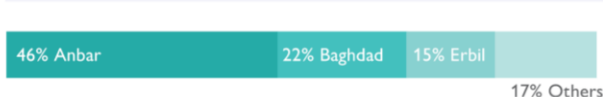
Others: Sulaymaniyah, Baghdad, Dahuk, Basrah, Kerbala, Najaf, Wassit, Missan and Diyala

Anbar 1,479,720 Returnees

▶ Three main districts of return



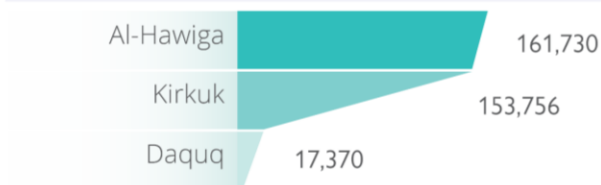
▶ Governorates of last displacement



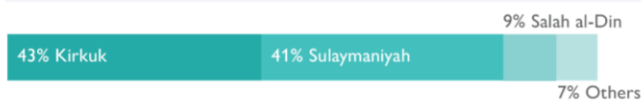
Others: Kirkuk, Sulaymaniyah, Babylon, Salah al-Din, Dahuk, Kerbala, Ninewa and Diyala

Kirkuk 340,092 Returnees

▶ Three main districts of return



▶ Governorates of last displacement



Others: Erbil, Ninewa, Baghdad and Babylon

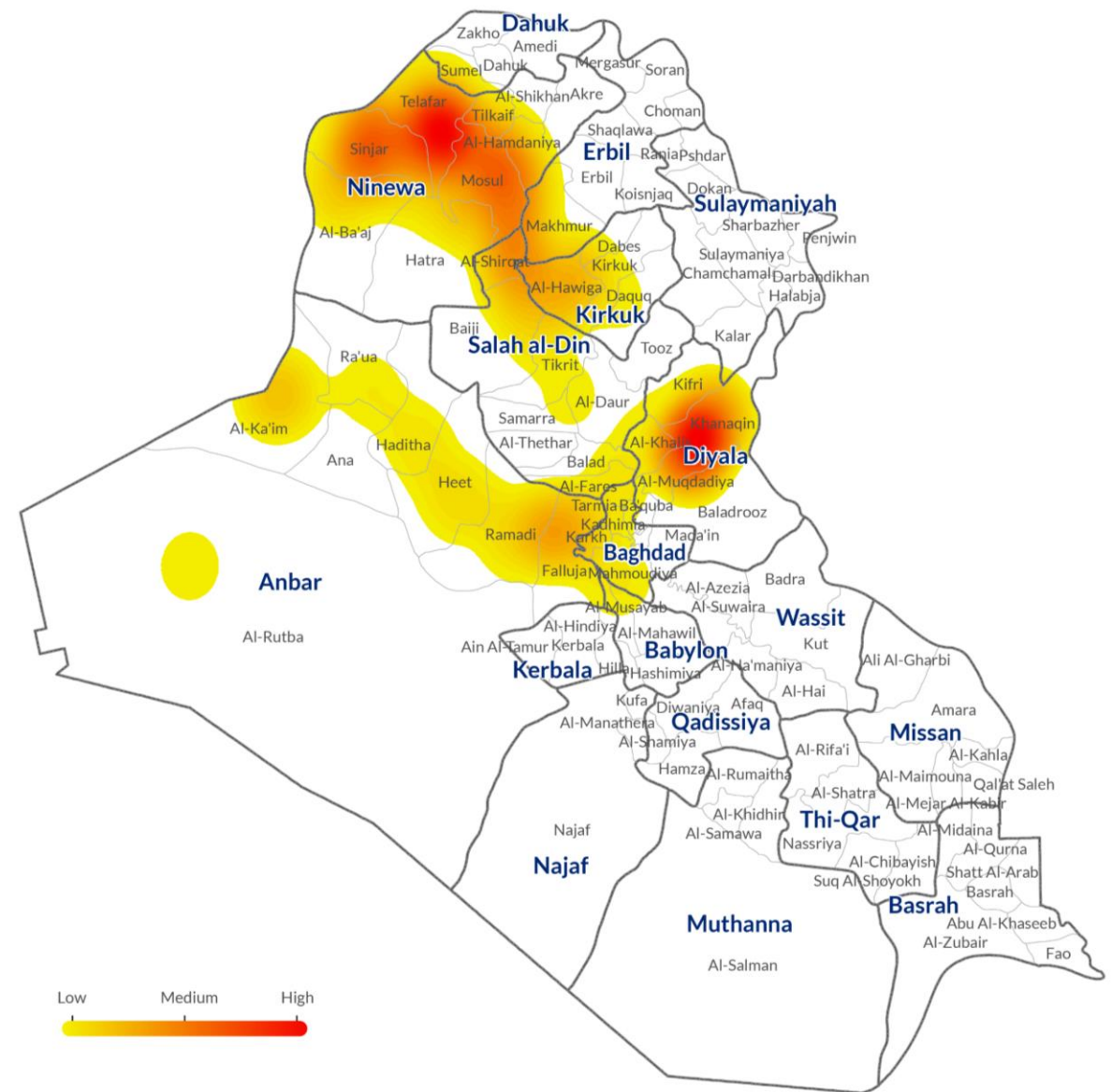
- Ninewa, Anbar and Salah al-Din are the governorates which have both the highest number of returnees and the highest increases in the numbers of returnees since the previous round
- Ninewa has received an additional 19,404 new returns since Dec 2019; 26,016 new returns in Anbar; and 5,754 new returns in Salah al-Din.

Return Index Round 8



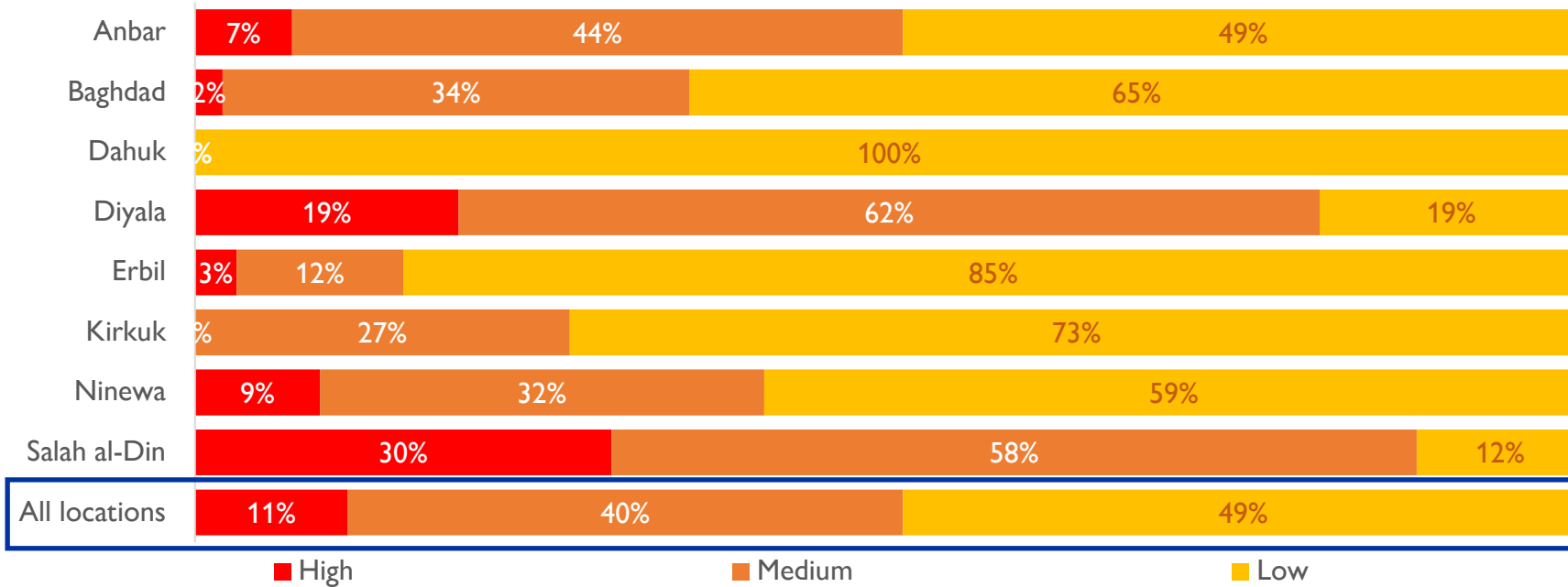
Data collected January - February 2020

- The data for Round 8 of the Return Index was collected during the months of January and February 2020
- During Round 8, an additional 98 locations of return were assessed



Return locations per category of severity

Overall Severity



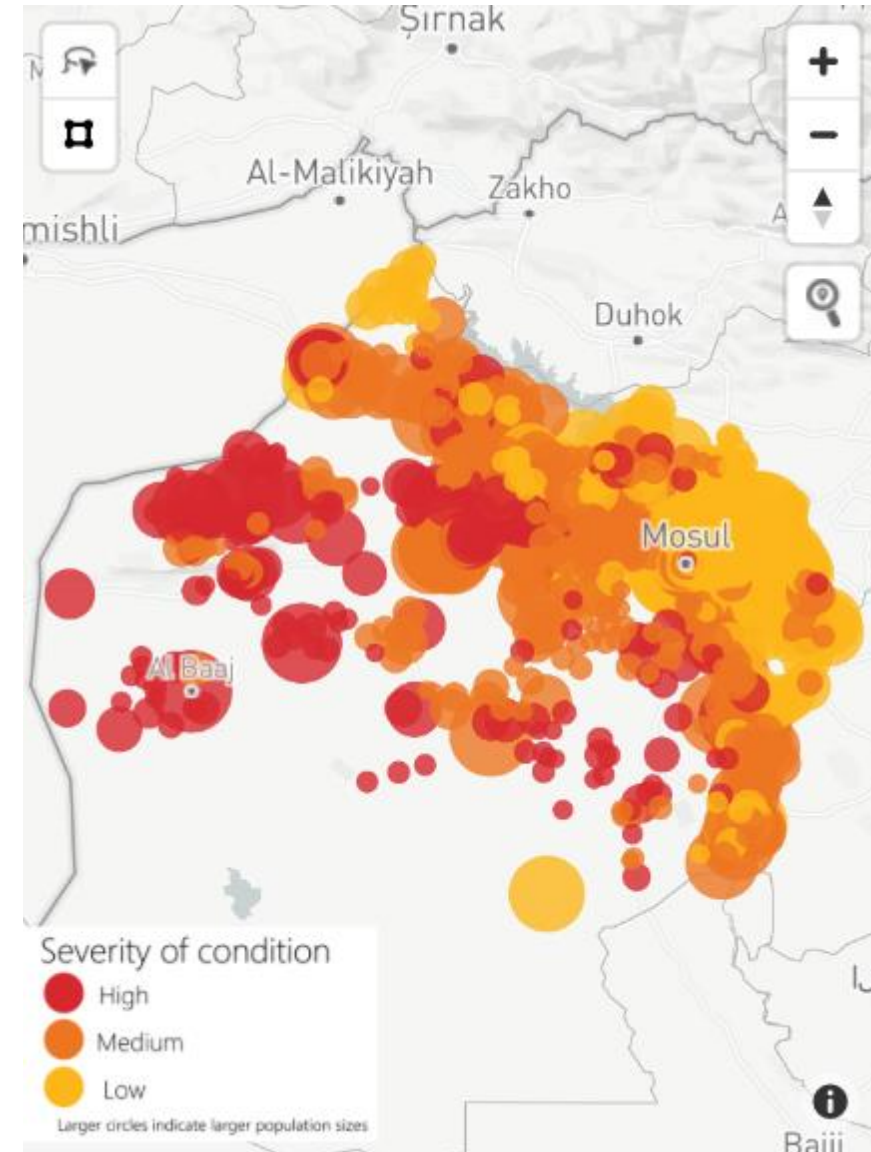
Governorate	HIGH SEVERITY	
	No. of returnees	No. of locations
Anbar	102,750	26
Baghdad	1,608	4
Dahuk		
Diyala	43,728	42
Erbil	1,422	2
Kirkuk	348	4
Ninewa	164,478	198
Salah al-Din	202,218	51
All locations	516,552	327

- Out of the 1,850 return locations assessed, 327 present severe conditions hosting 11 per cent of the returnee population, or 516,552 individuals. This is relatively the same proportion as Round 7.
- A comparison of locations assessed in Rounds 7 and 8 reveals an increase of 1,926 returnees living in severe conditions since the previous round collected in November - December 2019.

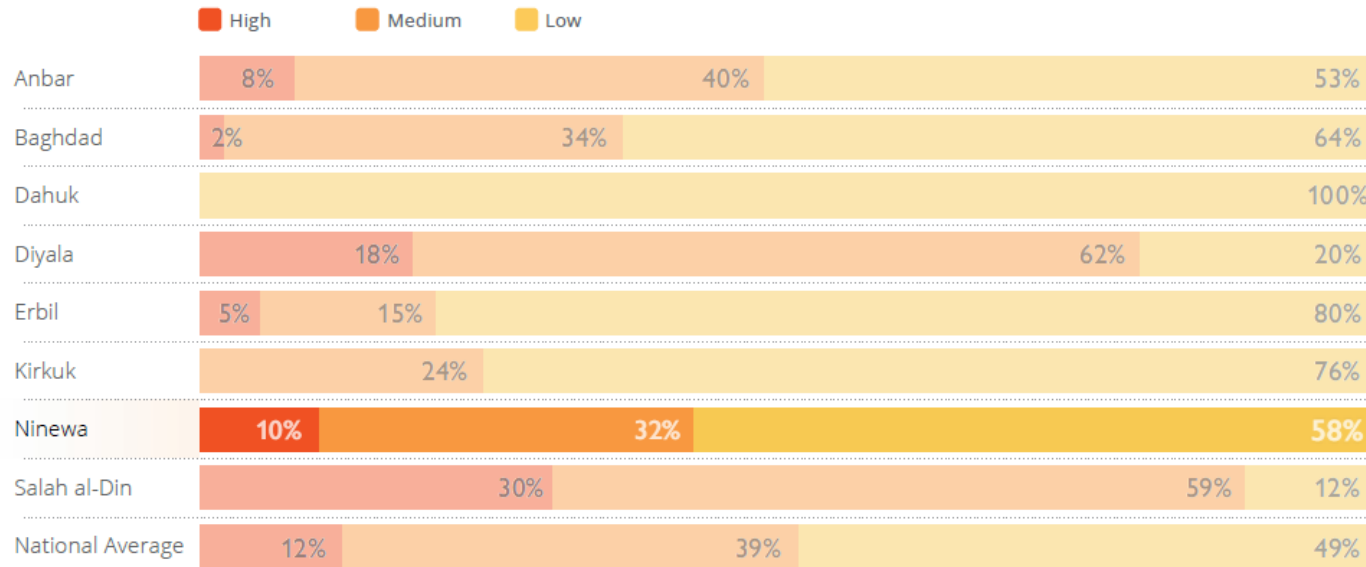
Return Index Governorate Profile: Ninewa Governorate

Return Index Governorate Profile: Ninewa

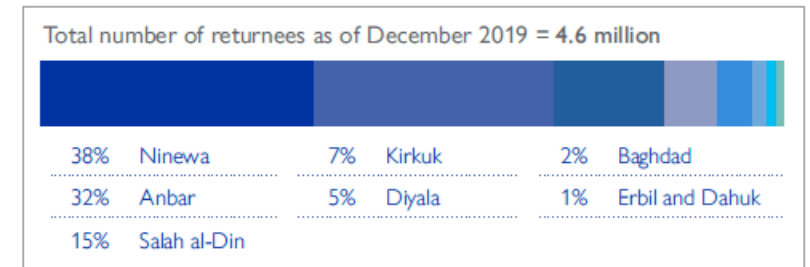
- The Return Index Governorate Profile provides singular analysis and insights on returns at the governorate level, with a comparison of figures and severity of living conditions over the course of 2019.
- The first of this series focuses on return dynamics in Ninewa Governorate, the governorate with the highest number of returnees.
- The report features an evaluation of conditions of return across the governorate at the end of 2019, provides insights on the mass arrivals which took place in September 2019 due to camp closures, and analyses the drivers of severe conditions across geographical hotspots that received an influx of new arrivals during that period.



Conditions in Areas of Return

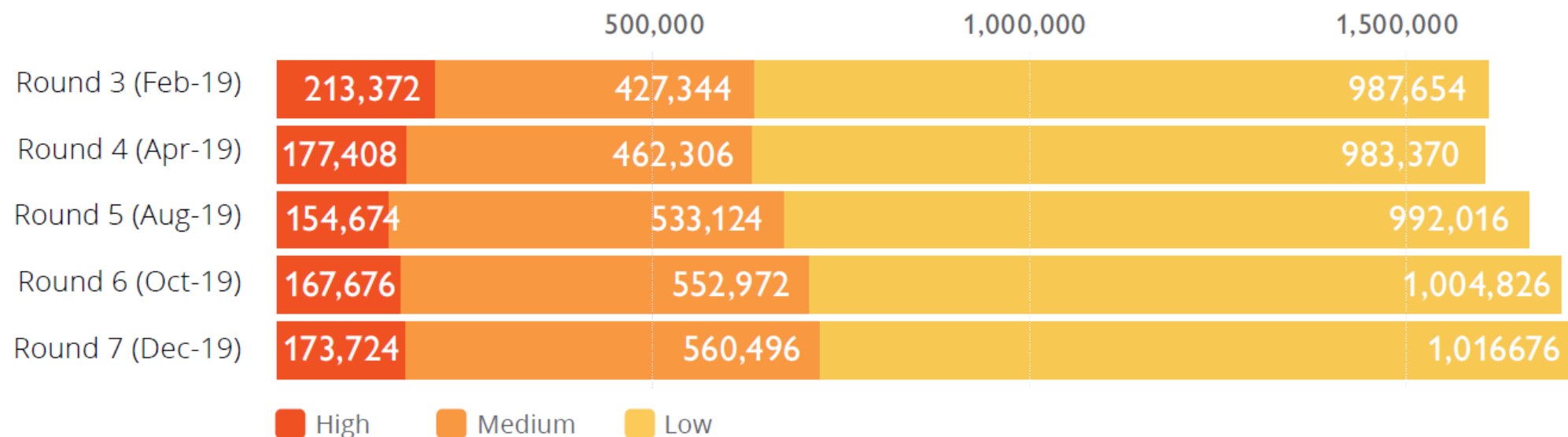


Note: percentages may not add to 100% due to the rounding applied.



- Ninewa Governorate hosts 1.77 million returnees out of the 4.60 million returnees in Iraq (38% of the total), making it the governorate with the highest number of returnees. Ten per cent of these returnees are currently living in locations ranked as having high severity conditions, while 32 per cent are living in medium severity locations and 58 per cent in low severity conditions.

Yearly Trend



- The total number of returnees living in high severity locations in Ninewa Governorate significantly decreased over the course of 2019, from an initial figure of more than 213,372 individuals in February 2019 to 173,724 by December 2019 (i.e. an increase of 20 per cent in one year).
- However, the last two rounds of data represent a turning point in this positive trend. Since August 2019, the returnee population in high severity locations has steadily increased. In line with the overall increase in returns to Ninewa Governorate, the locations in medium and low severity categories also recorded increases in the number of returnees each round.

Returnees in critical shelters

- In terms of the shelter situation upon return, 51,792 returnees living in critical shelters are spread across 255 locations – 3 per cent of the total returnee population in the governorate.
- Only a quarter of these returnees are located in high severity locations, with around 60 per cent in critical shelters currently concentrated in Mosul district (in particular, in villages around the urban centre).
- Up to 98 per cent of these cases correspond to families living in their original, pre-conflict residence (most of them now nearly uninhabitable); the other 2 per cent mostly corresponds to returnees living in unfinished or abandoned buildings.



51,792

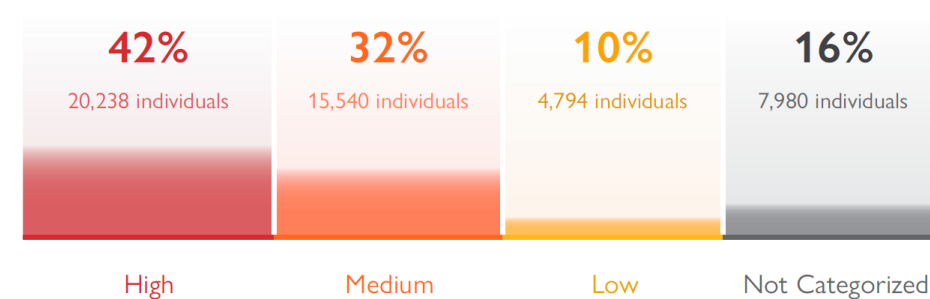
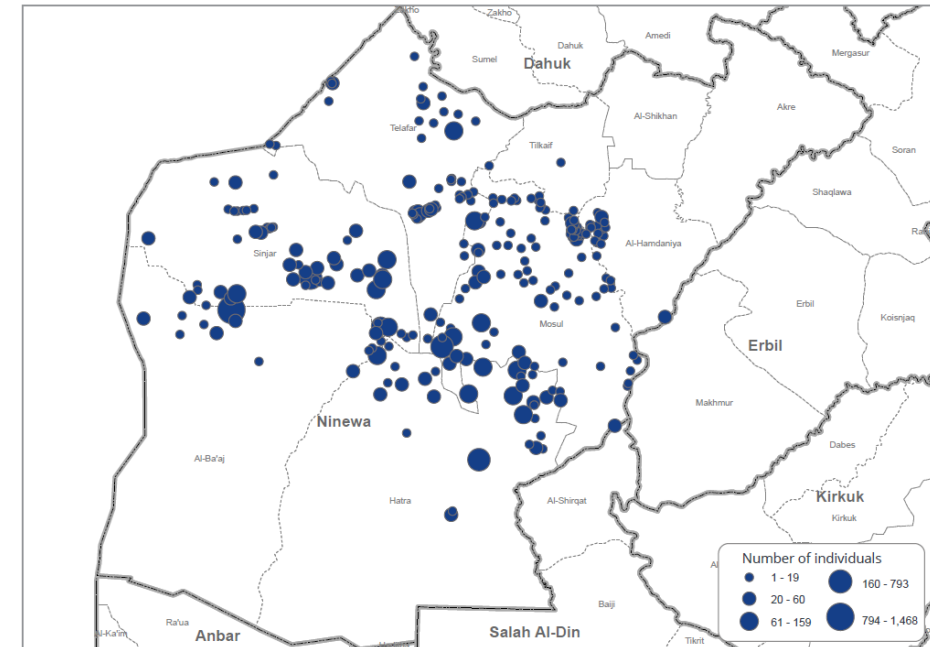
Number of returnees and IDPs per district

DISTRICT	AVERAGE SEVERITY	TOTAL RETURNEES (INDIVIDUALS)	TOTAL NON-CAMP IDPs (INDIVIDUALS)	TOTAL CAMP IDPs (INDIVIDUALS)	LOCATIONS WITH MORE IDPs THAN RETURNEES
Akre	n/a	0	0	1,188	n/a
Al-Ba'aj	High	21,510	21,510	0	0
Al-Hamdaniya	Low	164,094	164,094	39,240	0
Al-Shikhan	Low	2,142	2,142	32,040	0
Hatra	Medium	45,420	45,420	0	0
Mosul	Low	1,020,336	1,020,336	46,584	12
Sinjar	High	71,406	71,406	0	14
Telafar	Medium	342,972	342,972	0	0
Tilkaif	Low	98,454	98,454	0	1
Ninewa Total		1,766,334	1,766,334	119,232	27

- Ninewa Governorate also hosts the largest number of IDPs in Iraq, with 215,556 non-camp IDPs and 119,232 camp IDPs (24% of the total number of IDPs in Iraq).
- Given the large presence of non-camp IDPs, one out of every four locations in Ninewa Governorate hosts both IDPs and returnees – heightening the pressure on basic needs provision and recovery. Multiple locations in Mosul and Sinjar, for instance, are currently hosting more IDPs than returnees.

Arrival from camps

- Between Sept-Dec 2019, DTM tracked nearly 50,000 individuals who left camps for non-camp settings due to camp closures.
- Most of them (85%) returned to their districts of origin while the remaining 15 per cent became non-camp IDPs. The districts of Al-Ba’aj and Hatra host two thirds of these new arrivals.
- A little more than 40 per cent of the camp departures to non-camp locations have currently settled in locations classified as high severity.
- This data points to a likely critical situation for these newly arrived households from displacement camps into relatively deprived areas. The fact that most of the new arrivals went to high or medium severity areas is also indicative of why they remained in protracted displacement in camps previously.



Drivers of Severity in Hotspots



- The most important driver of severity in Markaz Al-Ba'aj is the lack of safety and security, with a combination of concerns about further violence evident across locations (especially renewed ISIL attacks and ethno-religious tensions) as well as concerns about the excessive number of security actors controlling the area.
- The other relevant drivers of severity are the lack of essential services as well as social cohesion concerns, both obtaining the same score. Regarding services, the main emphasis is on the insufficient water supply across locations and a generalized lack of any other type of services in the villages around the subdistrict capital. In terms of social cohesion, the two main indicators with high scores refer to the overall presence of blocked returns as well as cases of illegally occupied residential property.

Drivers of Severity in Hotspots



- The lack of both safety and essential services are the two main drivers of severity in Qaeyrrawan. As in the case of neighbouring Markaz Al-Ba’aj, there are concerns about renewed armed violence and the presence of multiple security actors, both severely impacting return conditions. In terms of services, high severity is driven by the insufficient water supply as well as the absence of civil servants (who were not reincorporated into the administration after the conflict).
- Finally, the situation in terms of livelihoods is not as severe as for safety and essential services, but the limited availability of employment in particular also moderately impacts return conditions.

Drivers of Severity in Hotspots



- Markaz Telafar hosts one of the largest populations of returnees in Ninewa Governorate. Safety and security are the major drivers of severity in this location, especially regarding the large number of various security actors present and the highly prevalent concerns from residents about further violence.
- To a lesser extent, social cohesion also contributes to the overall severity situation due to the widespread presence of blocked returns and the illegal occupation of private properties in several locations. Livelihoods, especially the absence of employment, is another moderate driver of high severity in Markaz Telafar.

Drivers of Severity in Hotspots

ZUMMAR (Telfar District)

Number of returnees: 94,644 individuals in 55 locations.

Number of IDPs: 1,212 individuals in 8 locations.

New arrivals from camps: 960 individuals in 13 locations since September 2019.



Housing
destruction



Livelihoods



Essential
Services



Social
cohesion



Safety and
Security

- In Zummar subdistrict, the need for and absence of reconciliation processes is particularly important. This issue, combined with blocked returns and strong concerns about violent incidents, indicates a degradation of social cohesion in the subdistrict and, to a certain extent, concerns about safety and security.
- Service provision overall does not rank as a severity factor in Zummar, but the very low reincorporation of civil servants and thus the lack of public services also seem to moderately impact living conditions in the subdistrict.

Drivers of Severity in Hotspots



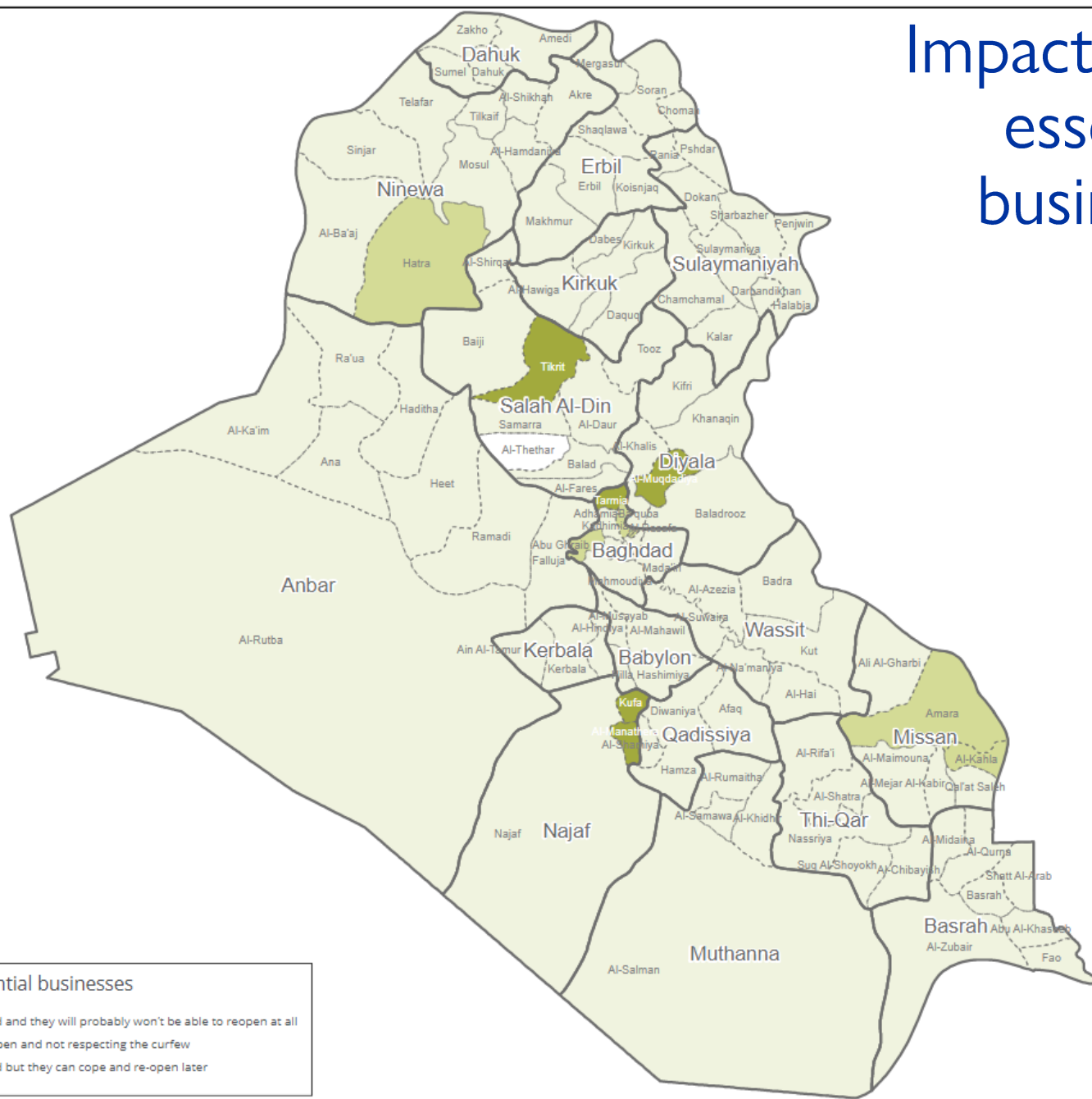
- The most important driver of severity in Al-Qahtaniya is, by far, livelihoods. As the area is primarily rural, returnees are significantly impacted by the inability to reinitiate farming activities. None of the agricultural or livestock activities are taking place, as reported by key informants. In the absence of these activities, the availability of alternative employment and open, functioning businesses are also critically limited in most locations in the subdistrict.
- The second driver is that of lack of essential services. Similar to the remaining hotspots, the main issues regarding service restoration are related to insufficient water supply (affecting most locations) as well as the absence of the provision of governmental services (affecting all locations).
- Finally, safety and security concerns among residents are also exacerbating severity in Al-Qahtaniya. In particular, concerns about renewed violence in the area affect all locations in the subdistrict. The multiplicity of armed groups is also an underlying issue in Al-Qahtaniya.

COVID-19 Key Informant Assessment

Methodology and Data Collection

- Data collected across 401 subdistricts (2 subdistricts could not be assessed)
- Data collection took place from 9-13 April 2020
- Data is presented in dashboards at the national and governorate levels, subdistrict-level data available in the dataset
- Information collected on healthcare services, public awareness levels, access to services, movement restrictions and overall impact of pandemic on Iraq

Impact on non-essential businesses



Impact on non essential businesses

- Most of them are closed and they will probably won't be able to reopen at all
- Most of them are still open and not respecting the curfew
- Most of them are closed but they can cope and re-open later

- Nearly all (95%) of non-essential businesses have been closed due to government restrictions.
- 90% of KIs reported that businesses that are currently closed would be able to re-open once the curfew has been lifted, showing potential for bounce-back.
- 5% of sub-districts where businesses might reportedly not be able to re-open once curfew is lifted; across the country, but particularly in Najaf (50% of sub-districts)

Main impacts and impact on goods

- When KIs were asked to report the top three main consequences caused by the COVID-19 crisis in their subdistrict, the most reported were a delay in the school year (reported by 89% KIs), followed by a loss of livelihoods (81%) and financial impact (44%).
- KIs in 69% of subdistricts reported that there had been price increases and/or shortages of essential goods.

Most problematic issues due to COVID-19



Reported increase in prices/shortage of items due to COVID-19

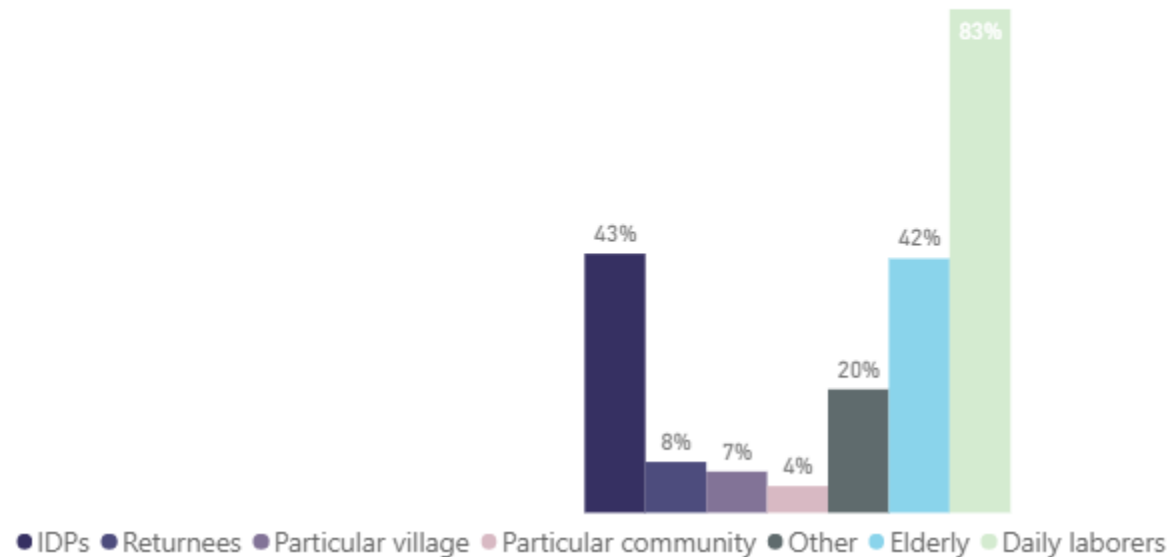


● There are price increases ● There are shortages ● There are both price increases and shortages ● No ● I don't know

Vulnerable groups

- KIs in 62 per cent of subdistricts reported that some population groups are more severely affected by the COVID-19 curfew than others; the three groups most commonly reported to be more affected are daily laborers, followed by IDPs and then the elderly.

Population groups reported as more impacted by COVID-19 than other



Access to essential facilities

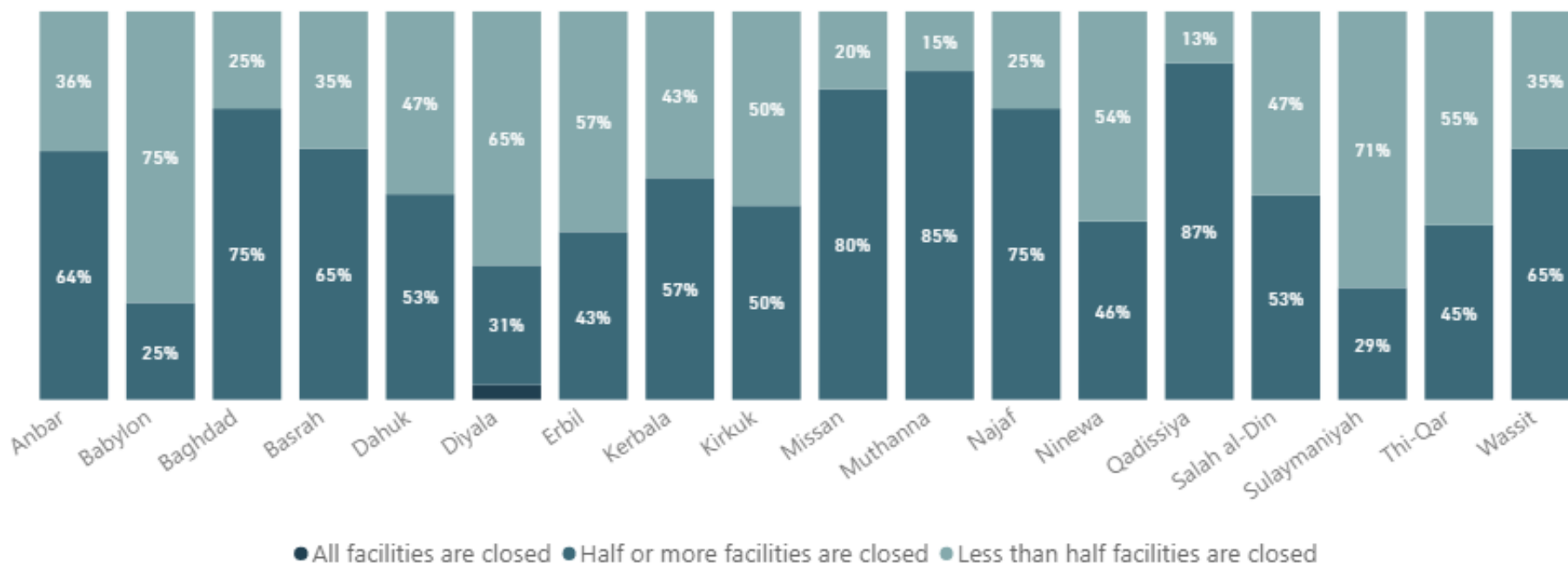
Access to essential facilities in the sub-district as a result of COVID-19

Facility	Closed	Open as usual	Open but with reduced hours or home delivery/ home schooling	N/A
Schools	99%	0%	0%	0%
Government Services	77%	1%	6%	16%
Psychosocial Support Services	45%	1%	2%	52%
Banks	13%	2%	49%	36%
Functioning Market	6%	18%	70%	5%
Pharmacies	3%	51%	39%	7%
Supermarkets	2%	18%	78%	2%

- Schools and most government services are closed throughout the country. Psychosocial support services are also largely closed or otherwise unavailable.
- Banks, functioning markets, pharmacies, and supermarkets continue to function as normal or with reduced hours

Access to essential facilities

Access to essential facilities (per governorate)

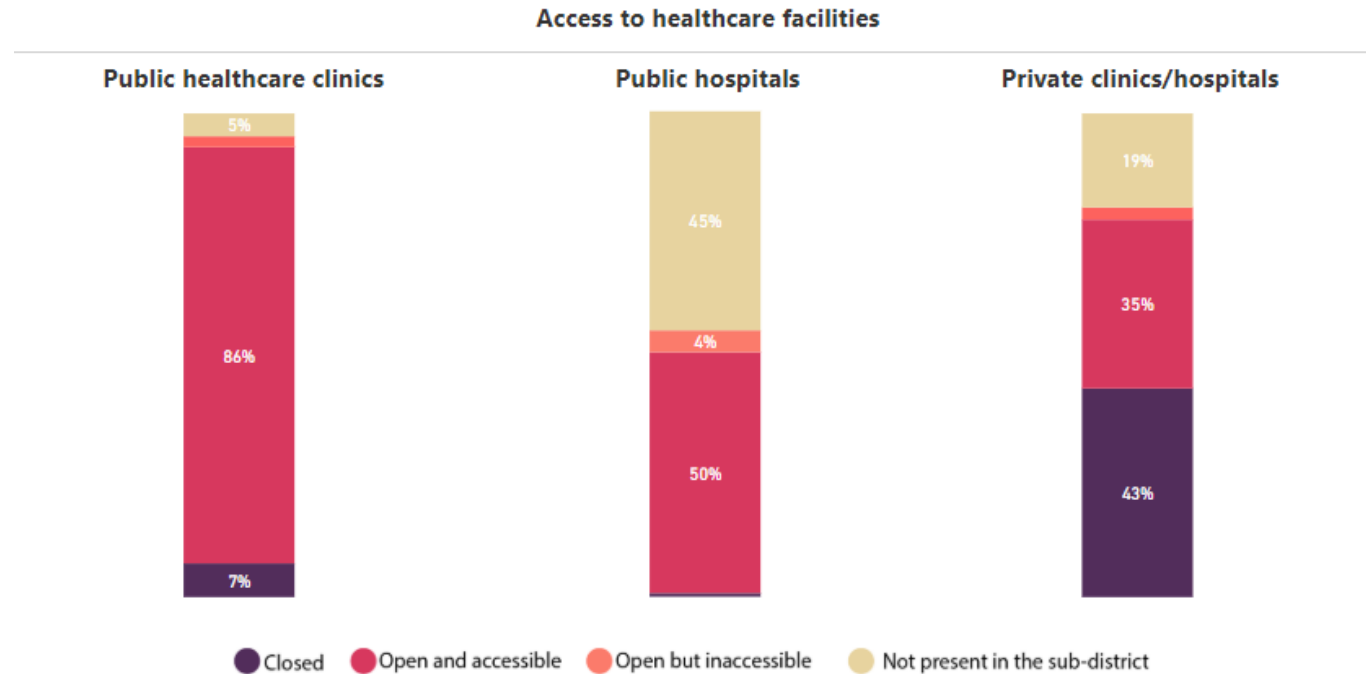


Note: All 7 assessed facility types were grouped and legend is as follow: All facilities = 7; Half or more facilities = 4 to 6; Less than half = Less than 4

- Index includes access to pharmacies; schools; supermarkets; food markets; PSS services; Banks/financial inst.; and government services
- Quite significant variation between governorates in terms of access to essential facilities
- Babylon and Sulaymaniyah have witnessed the least impact in terms of access while Muthanna and Qadissiya witnessed the highest level of impact

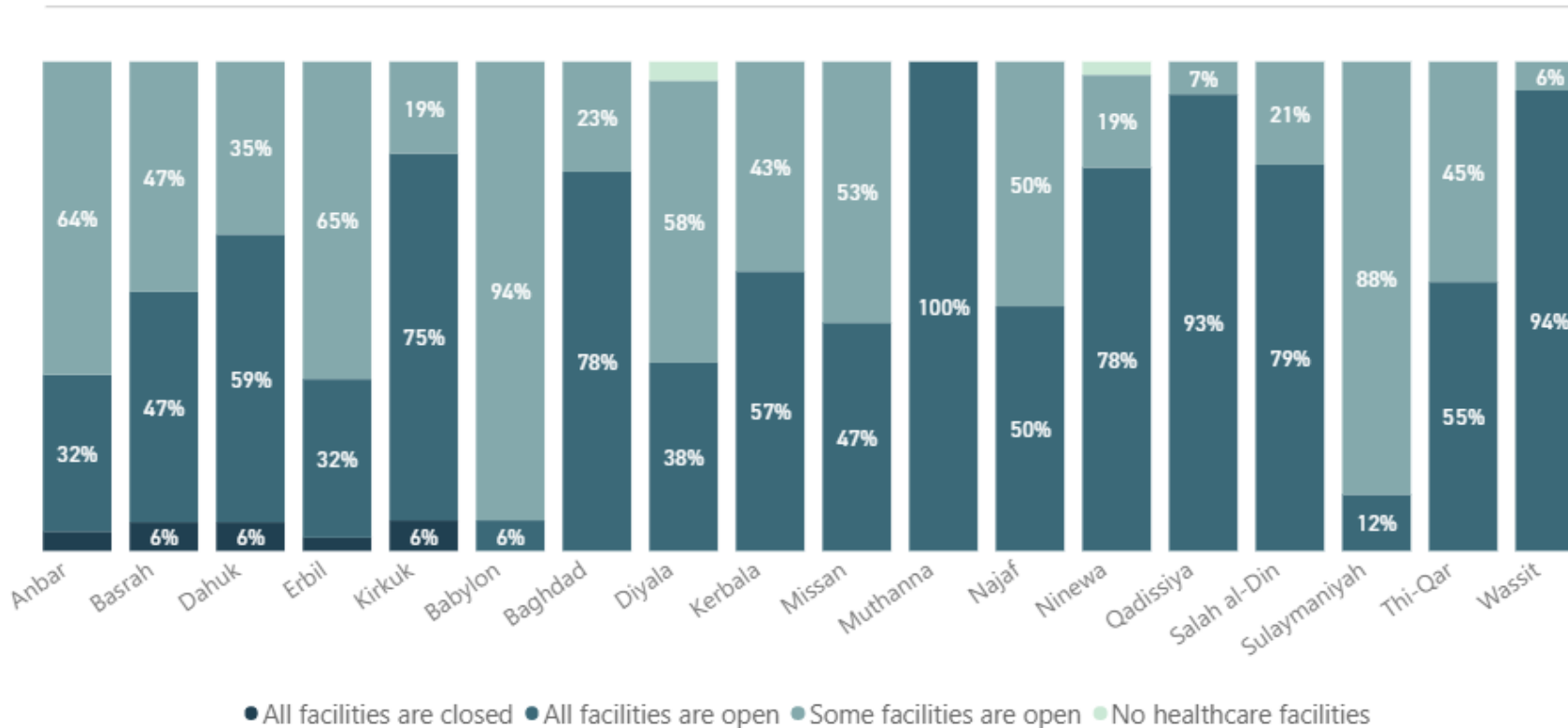
Access to healthcare facilities

- Public healthcare clinics are present in 95% of sub-districts and reportedly closed in only 7% of subdistricts. While public hospitals are only present in 55% of sub-districts, nearly all of them are open.
- Private clinics and hospitals are closed in 43% of subdistricts and absent in 19% of them.



Access to healthcare facilities

Access to healthcare facilities per governorate



Note: Healthcare facilities include both public and private healthcare clinics and hospitals

- 6% of sub-districts in Kirkuk, Dohuk, Basra, 4% of those in Anbar and 3% in Erbil reported that all facilities were closed.
- Some sub-districts in Ninewa and Diyala reported no facilities at all
- Significant variation in the proportion reporting that all facilities are open.
 - Sub-districts in Babylon and Sulaymaniyah have more closed facilities while in Muthanna, Qadissiya and Wassit, there are more sub-districts with all facilities being open

Health provision and practices

- In the event that someone experienced symptoms of COVID-19, the vast majority of KIs reported that they and the people in their subdistrict would seek medical attention. At the national level, KIs reported that in 56% of subdistricts the procedure would be to go to a public health facility, in 38% to call the information hotline, and in 2% to go to a private clinic or hospital.

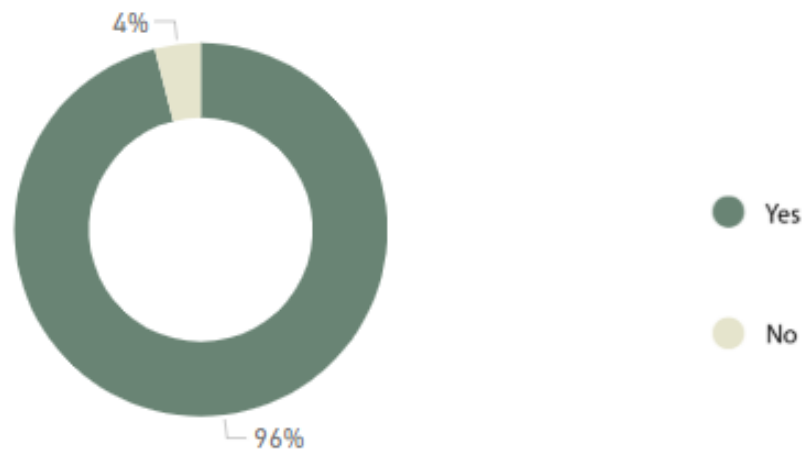
First action that would be taken if key informant or a family member shows signs of COVID-19



Health-Public Awareness

Public awareness levels of the COVID-19 pandemic appear to be strong, with public awareness materials having been distributed widely at the national level. Similarly, KIs felt that the information provided has been adequate and people in their subdistricts have enough information about the pandemic.

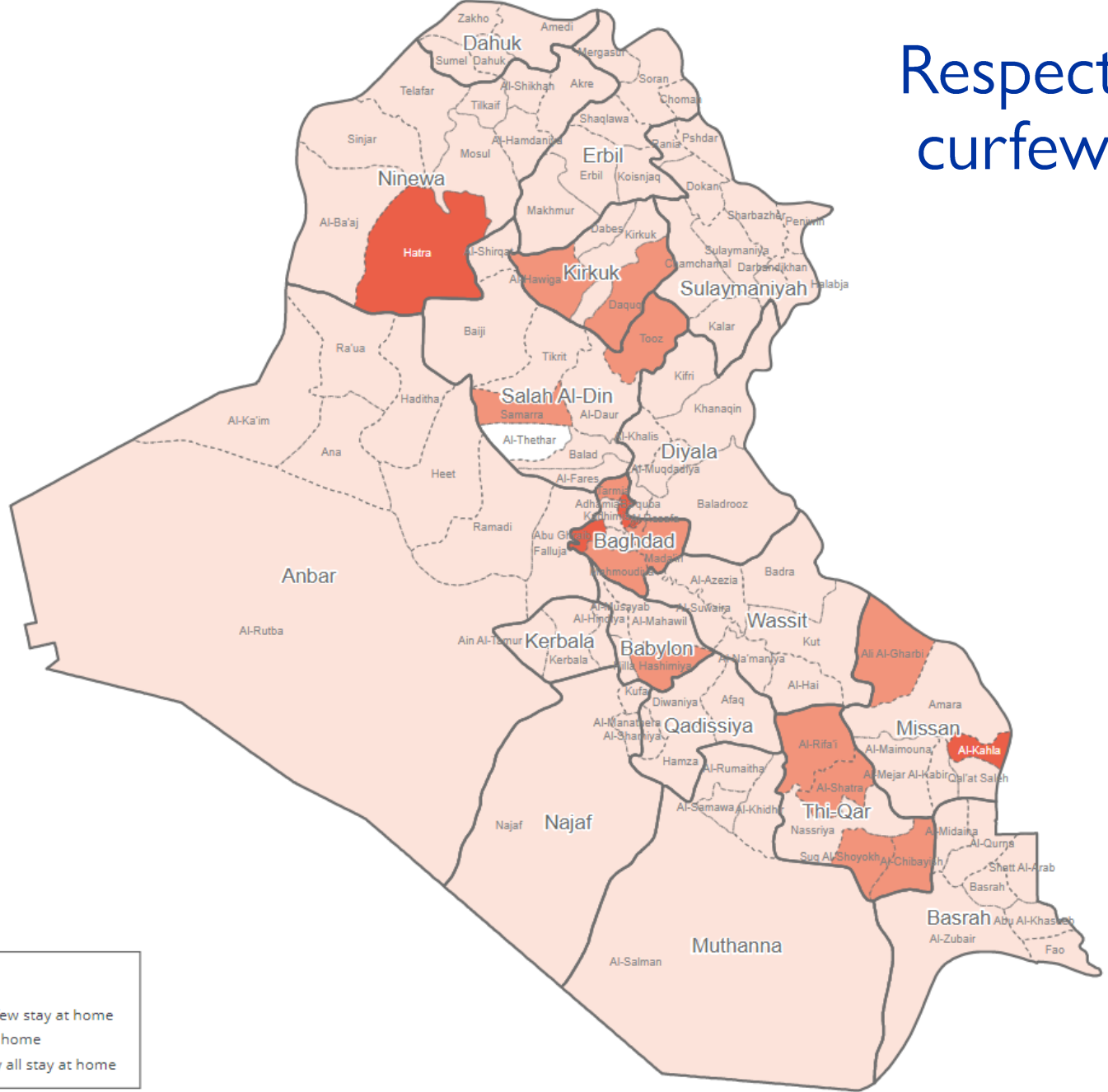
Public awareness material on COVID-19 received in the sub-district



Key informants' perception of sufficient information about COVID-19



Respect for the curfew orders



- Government-enforced curfews are well respected, with KIs in 73% of all subdistricts reporting that the majority/all stay at home.
- Baghdad, Missan, Najaf and SAD are some of the governorates where the curfew is least respected
- A correlation was found between enforcement of fines/punishment for breaking the curfew, and the reported level of respect for the curfew orders.