



# PROGRESS TOWARD DURABLE SOLUTION IN IRAQ

Salah al-Din Governorate



IOM Iraq thanks the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM) for its continued support.

# PROGRESS TOWARD DURABLE SOLUTIONS IN IRAQ: SALAH AL DIN

DECEMBER 2023



- This survey is an extension of the original pilot project in Ninewa aimed at **assessing progress towards durable solutions** for displaced populations in Iraq.
- The **goal** is to understand where IDPs and returnees stand five years after the end of the 2014–2017 crisis and in which aspects they are still struggling compared to the population who never left their location of origin (stayees).
- In this respect this project contributes to a broader discussion and **Action Agenda** around measuring progress towards solutions – and determining the end of displacement – which aims at operationalizing the eight criteria of the **Framework for Durable Solutions** produced by the **Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC)** and informing targeted interventions in key areas of concern.


Available at: <https://iraqdtm.iom.int/ProgressTowardsSolutions#Reports>

# CONTEXT: DISPLACEMENT IN SALAH AL-DIN

- In 2021, the population was estimated at nearly **1.72 million** individuals settled within **nine districts**: Al-Shirqat, Baiji, Tikrit, Samarra, Al-Daur, Balad, Thethar, Al-Fares and Tuz Khurmatu, the latter falling within the so-called ‘disputed territories’ between Erbil and Baghdad.
- The governorate is predominantly inhabited by **Sunni Arabs** but features a complex ethnoreligious composition as it is also home to **Shia Arabs, Kurds and Shia Turkmen**.
- The population is also very **diverse in terms of tribal affiliation** and strongly ‘characterized by its tribal nature’.
- Salah al-Din Governorate hosts around **16% of the total returnee population** (third largest returnee population of Iraq) and **4% of the total IDP caseload**.
- It hosts the highest number of IDPs and the second highest number of returnees living in **severe conditions**.

Districts in Salah al Din Governorate



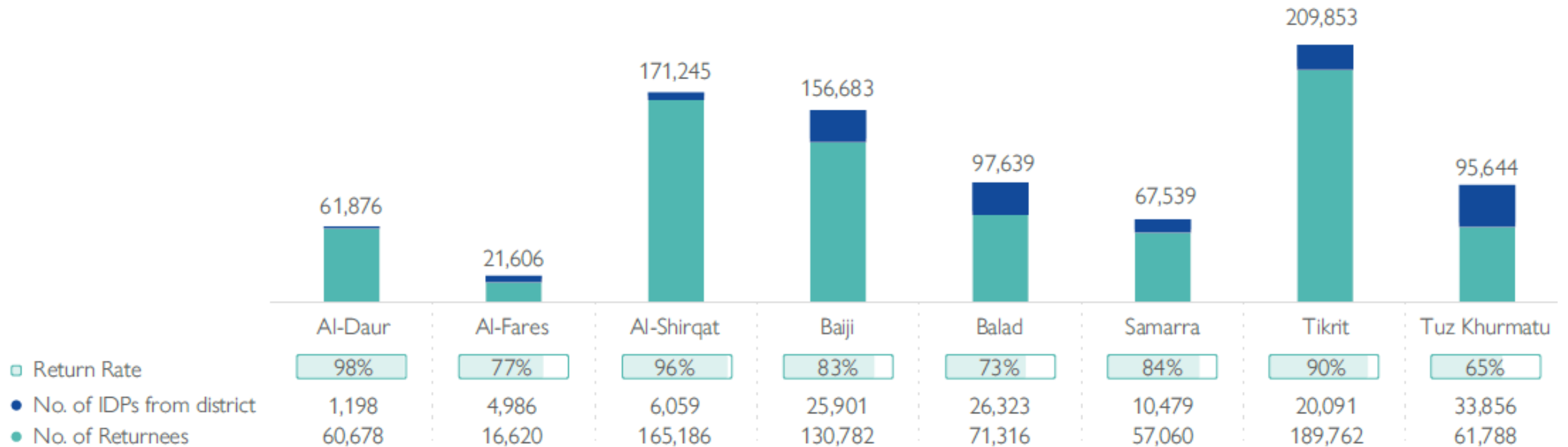
 **203,622**  
Returnees in High Severity

 **20,328**  
IDPs in High Severity

## CONTEXT: DISPLACEMENT IN SALAH AL-DIN

- The current **rate of return** for Salah al-Din stands at **85%**, meaning that 15% of the IDPs originally displaced have not yet returned.
- However, the rate of return across districts is extremely variable, with lower rates observed in **Tuz Khurmatu (65%)** and **Balad (73%)** compared to Al-Daur (98%) and Al-Shirqat (96%).

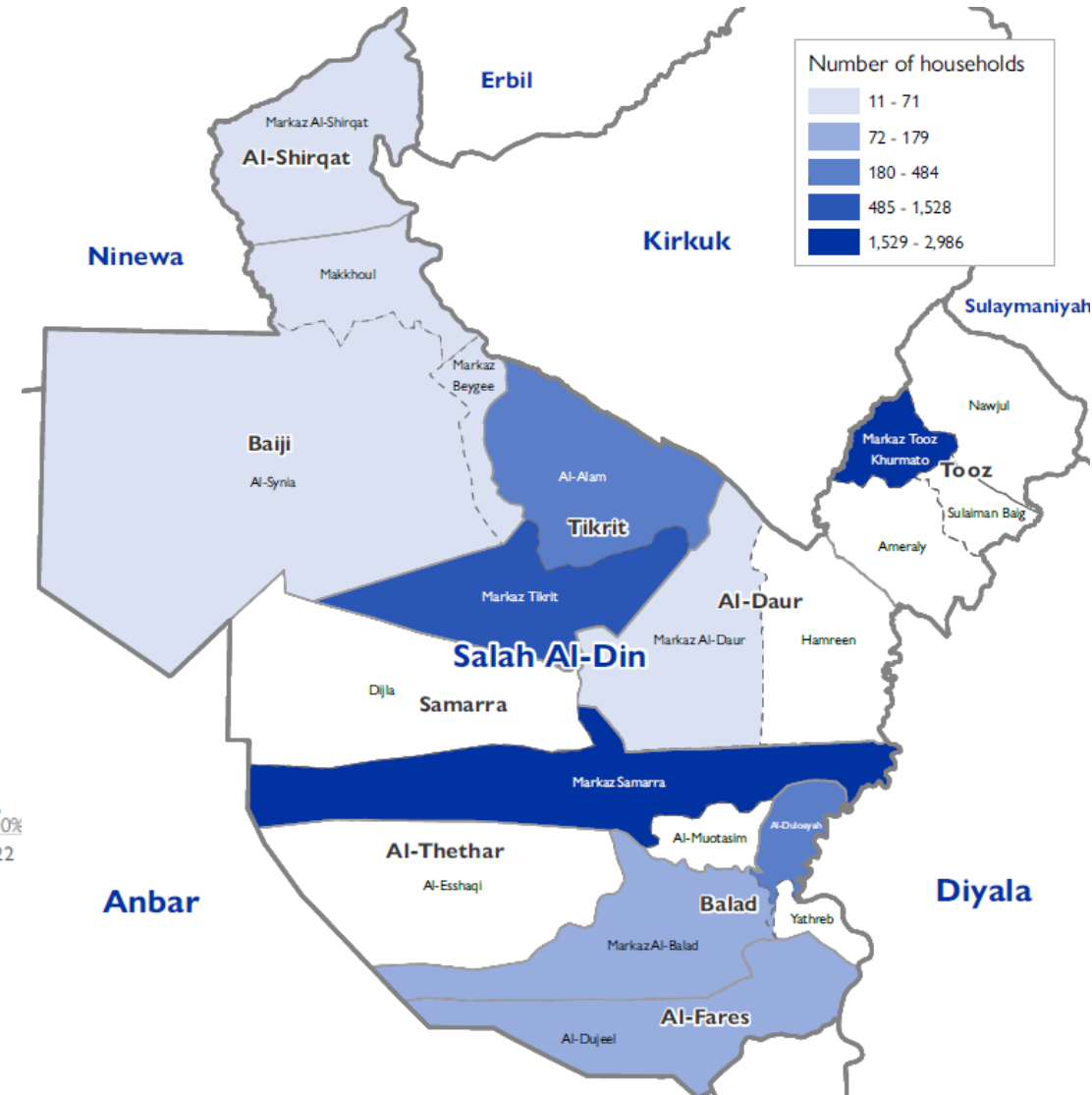
Rate of return in districts in Salah al Din Governorate



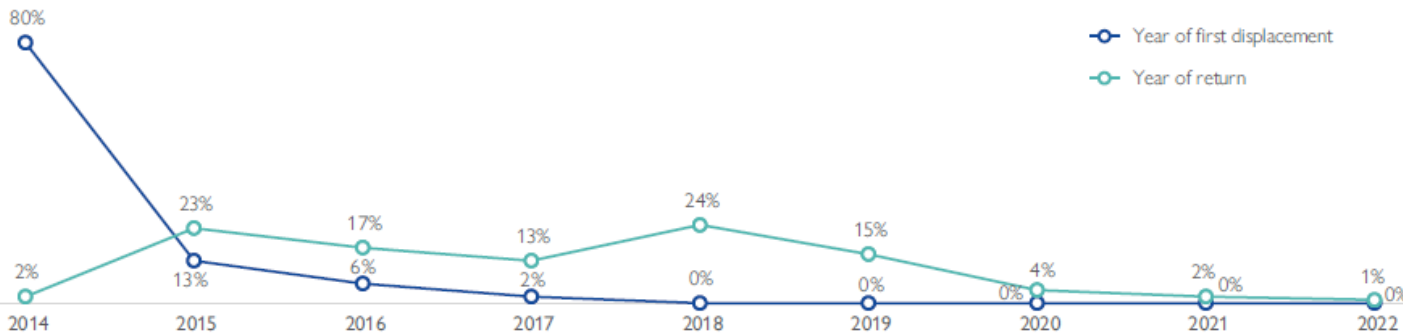
# CONTEXT: DISPLACEMENT IN SALAH AL-DIN

- Most IDPs were first displaced in 2014 at the beginning of the crisis (80%) and returned between 2015-2019.
- Of the IDPs residing in Salah al-Din, nearly 9 in 10 are hosted in three subdistricts: **Markaz Tuz Khurmatu** (34%), **Markaz Samarra** (31%) and **Markaz Tikrit** (23%).

Subdistricts of displacement of current IDP population in Salah al Din



Year of first displacement and return





# METHODOLOGY

- **What?** measuring the progress towards durable solutions.
- **How?** HH survey with **sample size** and design allowing for comparison between three groups and generalizing the finding at the subdistrict level.
- **Why?**
  - To examine key obstacles and characteristics impeding progress towards durable solutions through comparison among IDPs, returnees and the population who never left their location of origin following the 2014 crisis.
  - To define the **proportion** of the IDP and returnee population who did high progress towards the solutions.

Number of face-to-face interviews per group



1,648 IDP households



1,649 returnee households



1,676 stayee households

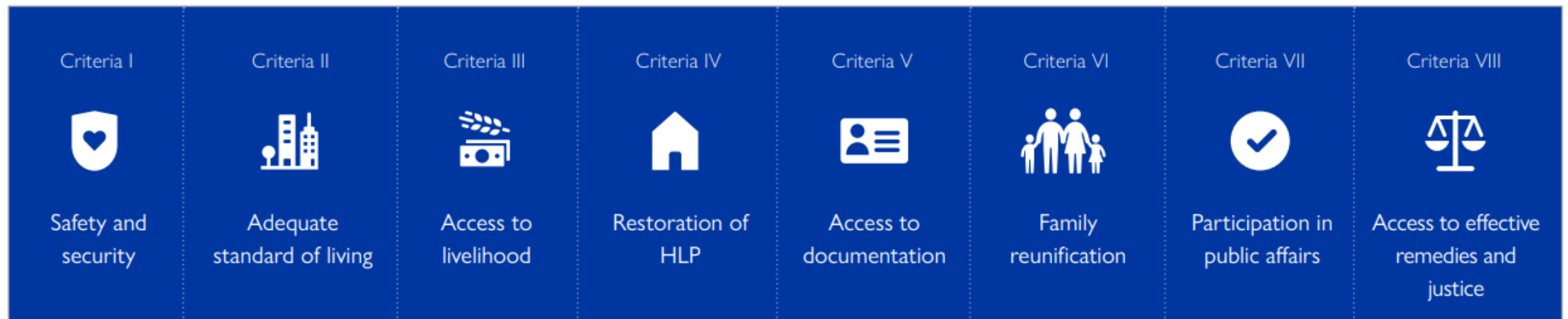
**A TOTAL OF 4,973 HHs**

Number of criteria met per progress group



# IASC DURABLE SOLUTION FRAMEWORK

- Indicators to assess the advancement toward durable solutions stemmed from the IASC Framework.
- The framework defines three ‘durable solutions’ — sustainable return, sustainable integration or sustainable resettlement — each of which depends on the fulfillment of eight criteria:
- (1) long-term safety and security; (2) adequate standard of living; (3) access to livelihood and employment; (4) access to effective and accessible mechanisms to restore housing, land and property; (5) access to personal and other documentation; (6) family reunification; (7) participation in public affairs and (8) access to effective remedies and justice.





# IASC DURABLE SOLUTION FRAMEWORK

## IASC DURABLE SOLUTION FRAMEWORK'S CRITERIA, SUB-CRITERIA AND INDICATORS USED IN THIS PROJECT

 <b>SAFETY AND SECURITY</b> <span style="float: right;">Criteria I</span>
Victim of violence
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feeling of safety</li> <li>Comfortable to get help from authorities</li> </ul>
Freedom of movement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Freedom of movement</li> </ul>

 <b>ADEQUATE STANDARDS OF LIVING</b> <span style="float: right;">Criteria II</span>
Food security
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Food security<sup>49</sup></li> </ul>
Shelter and housing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shelter condition</li> <li>Access to improved sanitation facility</li> </ul>
Medical services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ability to access health care</li> </ul>

 <b>ACCESS TO LIVELIHOODS</b> <span style="float: right;">Criteria III</span>
Employment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At least one employed household member (15–60 years old)</li> <li>Stable source of income</li> </ul>
Economic security
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Able to face unexpected expenses (of up to 440,000 IQD)</li> </ul>

 <b>RESTORATION OF HOUSING, LAND AND PROPERTY AND COMPENSATION</b> <span style="float: right;">Criteria IV+VIII</span>
Secure tenure rights
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have legally recognized documentation</li> <li>Not at risk of eviction</li> </ul>
Restitution/compensation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Did not suffer loss or applied to compensation and it is resolved</li> </ul>
Reunification
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No absent members of household because of the 2014–2017 crisis</li> </ul>

 <b>PERSONAL DOCUMENTATION AND PARTICIPATION</b> <span style="float: right;">Criteria V+VII</span>
Documentation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Possession of ID and Iraqi nationality</li> <li>Registration of birth (children born between 2014-2022)</li> </ul>
Right to vote
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participation in 2021 parliamentary election</li> </ul>
Acceptance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feeling of acceptance by the community</li> </ul>

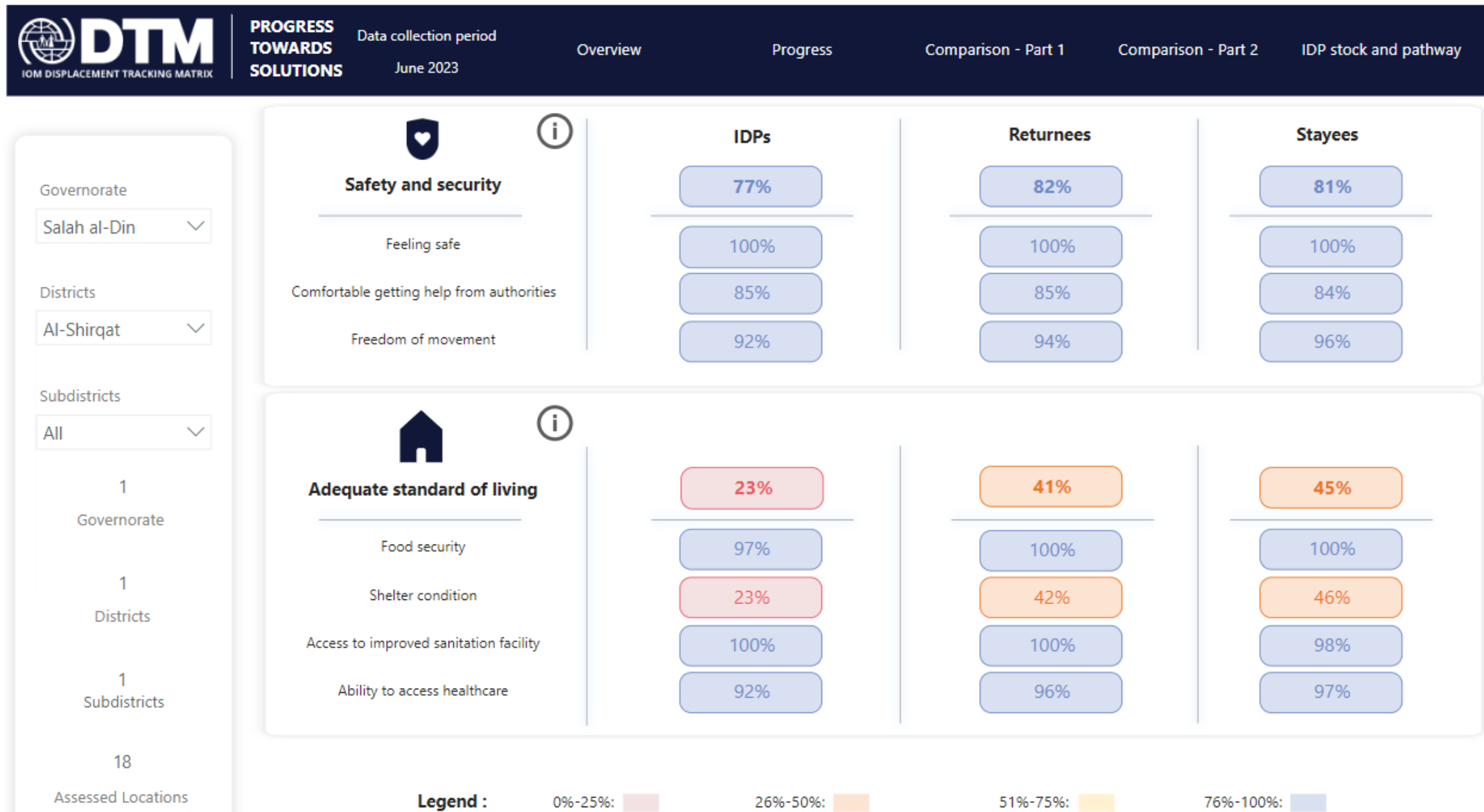


# INDICATORS

- All indicators were coded as binary variables,
- with **1** representing when a displacement-related or return-related vulnerability was overcome and
- **0** when the vulnerability remained for a specific household.
- For example, 'feeling safe' or 'not reporting movement restrictions' is coded as a 1 as this is positive progress towards solutions.

 SAFETY AND SECURITY <span style="float: right;">Criteria I</span>
Victim of violence
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Feeling of safety</li><li>• Comfortable to get help from authorities</li></ul>
Freedom of movement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Freedom of movement</li></ul>

# DASHBOARD – HHs that met indicators



## COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS PER CRITERIA

- The living conditions of IDP and returnee households were compared to the living conditions of stayee households across five criteria using an average value of ‘passed’ indicators.
- In general, returnees tend to report slightly worse living conditions than stayees. However, IDPs report significantly worse living conditions than both stayees and returnees.
- The criteria where living conditions are relatively the same across all three groups are (1) safety and security as well as (5) documentation and participation.
- The criteria where differences are the most prominent are (4) restoration of HLP and compensation.
- Overcoming vulnerabilities related to the (2) adequate standard of living is more challenging for IDPs than returnees.
- Criterion (3) access to livelihood is problematic for all three groups.

The average number of indicators met	IDPs	Returnees	Stayees	Max
Safety and security	2.57	2.71	2.64	3
Personal documentation and participation	3.43	3.79	3.84	4
Restoration of HLP and compensation	1.81	2.88	3.29	4
Adequate standard of living	2.73	3.35	3.75	4
Access to livelihoods	1.37	1.75	1.91	3

# COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS PER CRITERIA - HLP AND COMPENSATION

- Restoration of HLP and compensation is a crucial distinguishing factor for IDPs, returnees and stayees, with the greatest differences observed for the three groups across these criteria.
- The main driver of this gap in progress is the large share of IDPs who do not have **legally recognized documentation** (83% IDPs versus 34% returnees and 37% stayees).
- Additionally, **fears of eviction** were notably higher among IDP households (50%) compared to returnee (32%) and stayee (23%) households.
- Another factor driving the disparities between groups is the proportion of households with **property loss or whose compensation claim has not been resolved**. A significantly higher number of IDP households suffered property loss or did not have a resolved compensation claim (75% IDPs versus 33% returnees and 3% stayees).
- All three groups reported similar shares of **absent household members** (11% of IDPs versus 13% of returnees and 9% of stayees).

RESTORATION OF HOUSING, LAND AND PROPERTY AND COMPENSATION <span style="float: right;">Criteria IV+VIII</span>	
Secure tenure rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have legally recognized documentation</li> <li>• Not at risk of eviction</li> </ul>
Restitution/compensation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Did not suffer loss or applied to compensation and it is resolved</li> </ul>
Reunification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No absent members of household because of the 2014–2017 crisis</li> </ul>



1.81 / 4  
IDPs



2.88 / 4  
Returnees



3.29 / 4  
Stayees

# COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS PER CRITERIA - ADEQUATE STANDARD OF LIVING

- IDPs face significant challenges in attaining an **adequate standard of living**.
- Although, there is almost no difference between groups in terms of **food security** (98% IDPs versus 99% returnees).
- Around half of IDP households live in an **apartment/house in good condition** (54% IDPs versus 72% returnees and 89% stayees). Furthermore, only 62 per cent of IDP households have **access to drinking water** compared to 81 per cent of returnee and 93 per cent of stayee households.
- Similarly, IDP households report reduced **access to improved sanitation facilities** (55% IDPs versus 77% returnees and 91% stayees) and greater difficulties accessing **health services and facilities** when needed (66% IDPs versus 87% returnees and 95% stayees).

 <b>ADEQUATE STANDARDS OF LIVING</b> <span style="float: right;">Criteria II</span>	
Food security	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food security<sup>49</sup></li> </ul>	
Shelter and housing	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shelter condition</li> <li>• Access to improved sanitation facility</li> </ul>	
Medical services	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ability to access health care</li> </ul>	



2.73 / 4  
IDPs




3.35 / 4  
Returnees



3.75 / 4  
Stayees

# COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS PER CRITERIA - ACCESS TO LIVELIHOODS

- Access to **livelihoods** is difficult for all three groups. Even households who were not displaced due to the 2014–2017 conflict grapple with economic insecurity.
- Almost all households have at least **one member (aged 15–60 years) employed**, with minimal differences between groups (93% of IDPs versus 94% returnees and 97% stayees).
- Nevertheless, the displaced population faces a higher degree of vulnerability in this domain. Most IDP households do not have a **stable source of income** (74% of IDPs, 42% of returnees and 33% of stayees) and rely on precarious forms of work.
- However, dealing with **unexpected expenses** is a challenge for all three groups (18% IDPs versus 23% returnees and 27% stayees). Therefore, having a stable income does not necessarily provide sufficient financial resources for sustainability and addressing unforeseen costs.

Criteria III	
	<b>ACCESS TO LIVELIHOODS</b>
<b>Employment</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At least one employed household member (15–60 years old)</li> <li>• Stable source of income</li> </ul>	
<b>Economic security</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Able to face unexpected expenses (of up to 440,000 IQD)</li> </ul>	



1.37 / 3  
IDPs



1.75 / 3  
Returnees



1.91 / 3  
Stayees



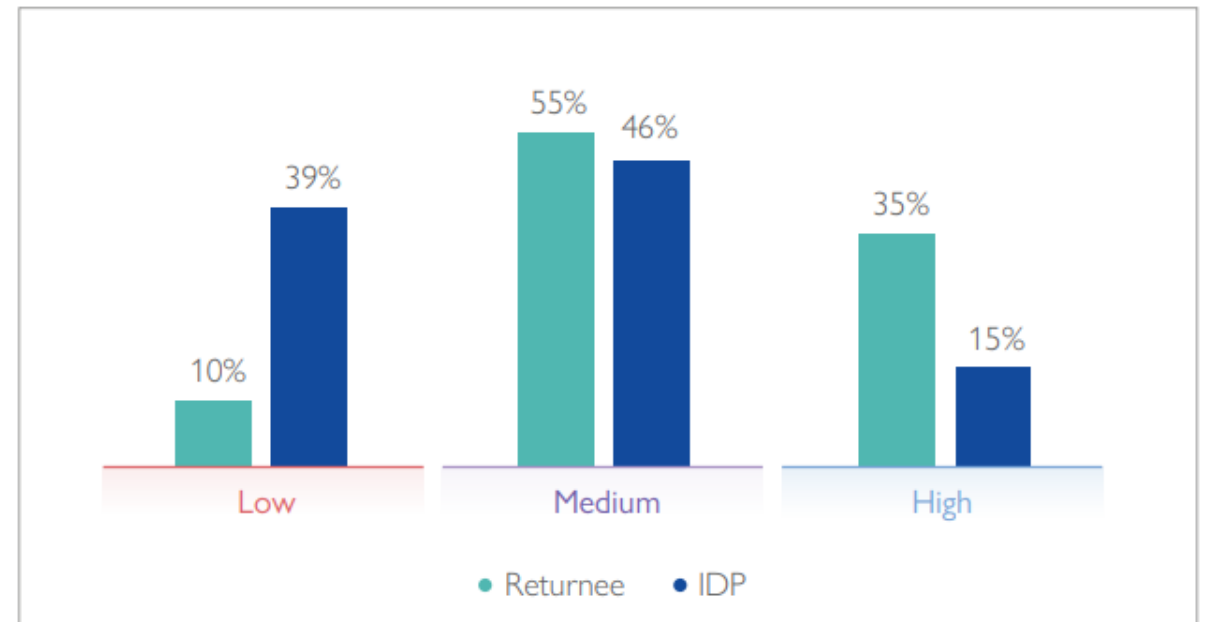
# COMPOSITE MEASURE

To assess the progress towards solutions, households were then rated according to the number of criteria met. Those who met only one criterion or none are categorized as achieved **low progress** (39% of IDPs and 10% of returnees), those who met two or three criteria as **medium progress** (46% and 55%, respectively) and those who met four or all five criteria as **high progress** (15% and 35%).

Number of criteria met per progress group



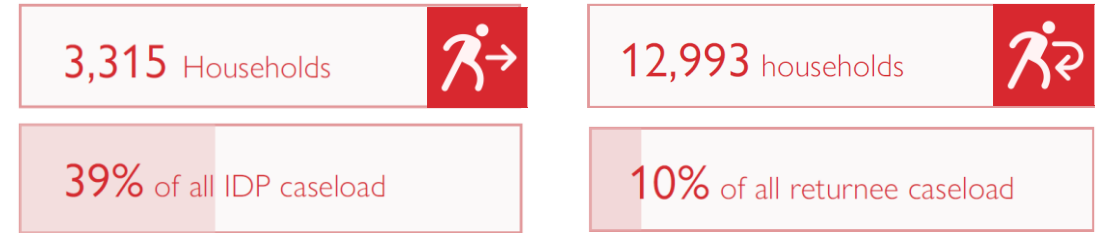
Percentage of IDP and returnee households by progress groups



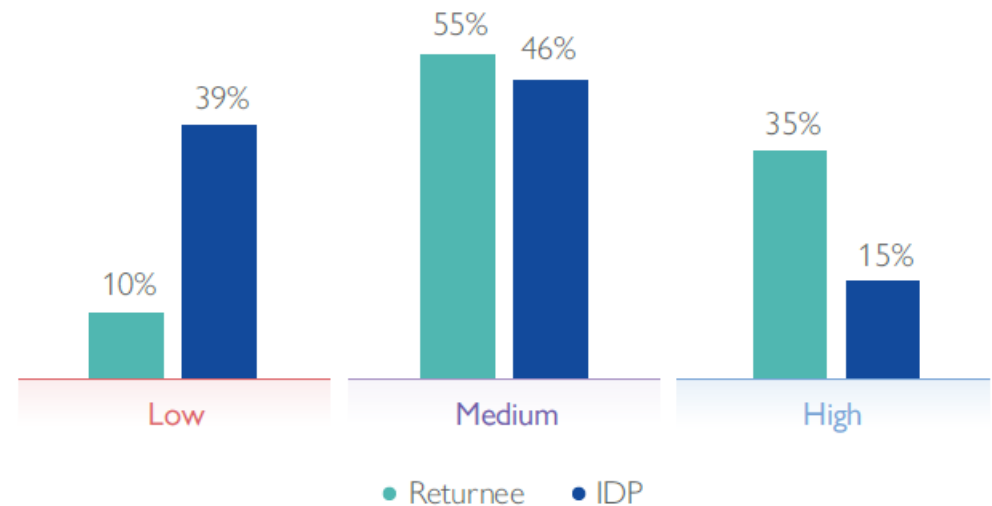
# WHAT IS COMMON FOR LOW PROGRESS GROUP?

In the low progress group, both IDP and returnee households share important characteristics. In particular, the low progress group had a **higher share of households** with:

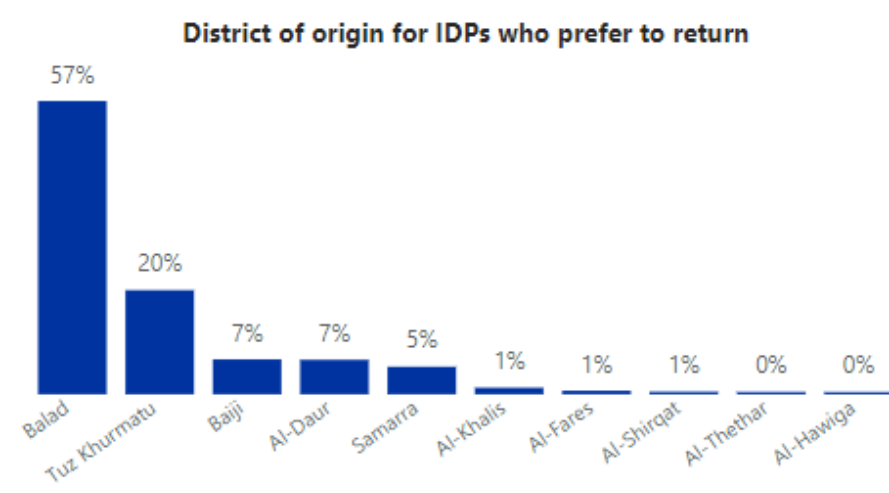
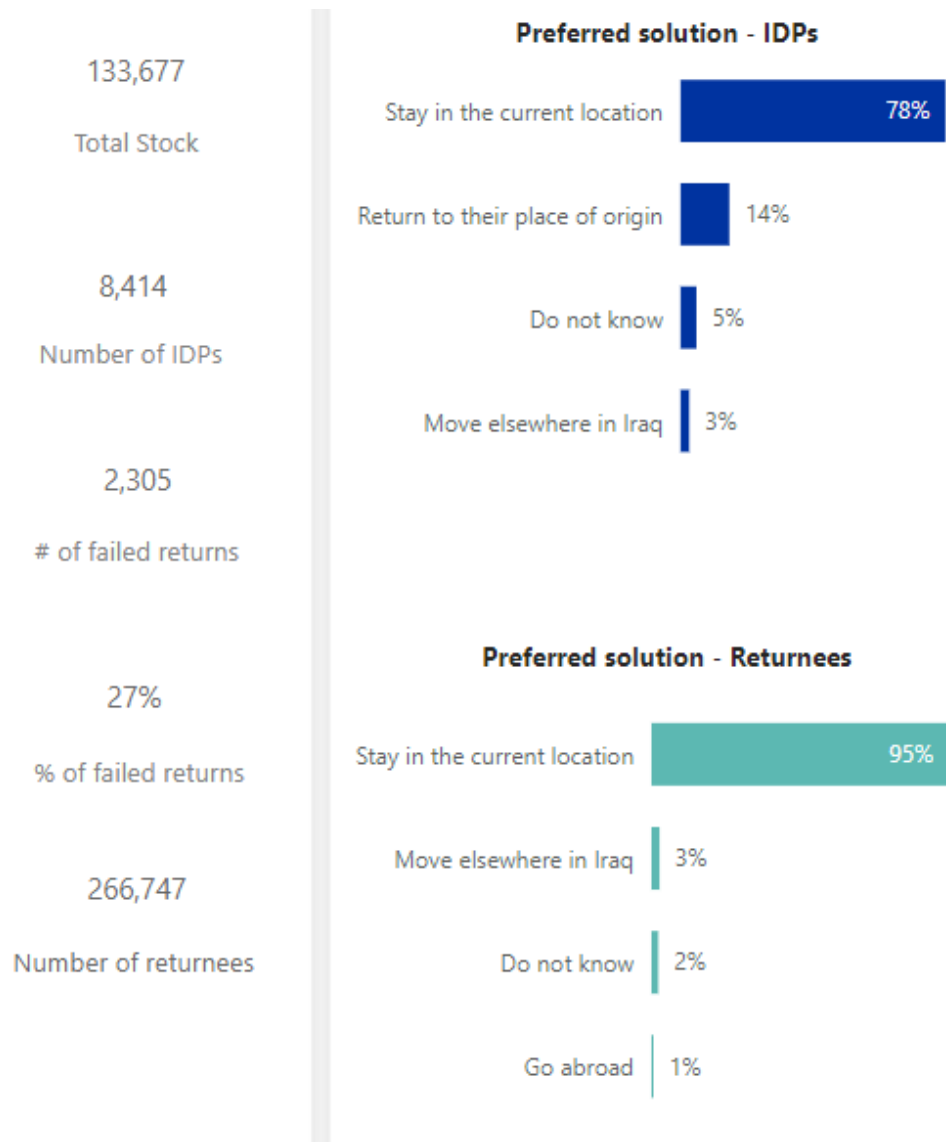
- a female **head of household** (HoH). Additionally, a higher share of low-progress IDP households are headed by a widow.
- a high **dependency ratio**, i.e. proportion of children and elderly to working-age members,
- HoH with limited or no formal **education**,
- **multiple displacements** and **failed returns**



Percentage of IDP and returnee households by progress group



# DASHBOARD - PREFERRED SOLUTION



# WHAT DID WE FIND OUT?

## SECTORS FOR PROGRAMMING

- **Access to livelihoods** was the most problematic domain for all three groups, especially IDPs.
- **Restoration of HLP and compensation** contributed to the biggest gap between IDP, returnee and stayee households. IDPs faced greater challenges with possessing legally recognized housing documentation, fear of eviction, and home damage/destruction.
- Returnees also performed poorly, although comparatively less than IDPs, and also had the largest gap with stayees in this domain, especially concerning property loss and successful compensation claims.
- IDPs faced significant challenges in achieving **adequate living standards**, particularly regarding access to clean drinking water, sanitation facilities and healthcare services.

## AREA-BASED PROGRAMMING

- In terms of geographic trends, IDP progress scores are significantly lower in **Markaz Samarra** (Samarra) and **Markaz Tikrit** (Tikrit).
- For returnees, the lowest scores are in **Markaz Al-Shirqat** (Shirqat), **Al-Moatassem** (Samarra) and **Yathreb** (Balad).
- A high percentage of IDPs report housing destruction in districts such as **Tuz Khurmatu**, **Tikrit** and **Balad**, indicating the severity of this issue in these locations.
- The many challenges and context-specific issues observed in **Samarra** highlight the complexity of the displacement situation there.

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## THANK YOU

QUESTIONS?

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For further information please do not  
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