

Update on Internal Displacement in Iraq

As of March 2026

Overview

997,334 IDPs remain displaced in Iraq.¹ This includes 101,231² people living in the 18³ IDP camps, located in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. Of this population, 19,304 IDP families - comprising 92,413 individuals – continue to reside in 13 camps across Dohuk Governorate and Zakho Administration, 1,057 families (5,336 individuals) remain in two camps in Erbil Governorate, and 720 families (3,482 individuals) remain in the three East Mosul Camps (EMCs).

IDP Population Movements

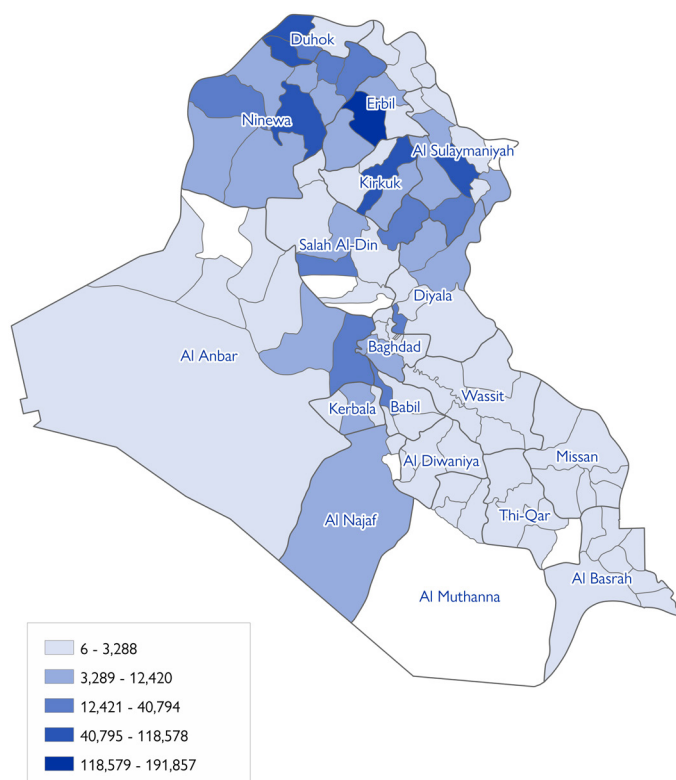
Whilst 3,617 families remain registered to depart from the camps, since the start of 2026, only 156 families (representing 725 individuals) have departed from the camps. The majority returned to their areas of origin, primarily to Ninewa, Salah al-Din, and Erbil Governorates.

Since January, 28 families have departed from the EMCs; 18 from Debaga and Baharka camps and 112 from the Dohuk camps.

The large scale government-supported procedure for registering and departing from IDP camps remains suspended, a suspension that has now lasted since July 2024. As of now, IOM remains the sole formal channel for IDPs to leave the camps, with their Facilitated Voluntary Movement⁴ programme officially resuming at the end of 2025. Since start of the year, 112 households departed from Dohuk camps (65 returning to their areas of origin in Sinjar and Baaj) and East Mosul and Erbil camps (47 households who returned, relocated or locally integrated in Mosul and Erbil districts). Self-organised departures are now being supported, with individuals able to process paperwork and security clearance through the relevant local authorities. Self-departure is undertaken with full awareness that households must cover their own costs and logistical needs.

Since the start of the year, 234 individuals have been accepted into the 15 camps in Dohuk. This increase continues to reflect the socio-economic difficulties that many IDPs continue to experience, with arrivals coming from rented accommodation in urban areas and informal settlements. Acceptance into the camps is managed and agreed by the Kurdistan Regional Government and its authorities. The federal government continues to not recognize new admissions of IDPs into camps.

MAP 1: Districts of displacement of the current IDP population



Departures through the FVM programme As of end of March 2026				
From	HHs	Relocation	Return	Local integration
Baharka	17	1	6	11
Khazir M1	21	2	19	-
HasanSham U2	9	-	9	-
Darkar	6	-	6	-
Bersive 1	10	-	10	-
Bajed Kandala	17	-	17	-
Rwanga	11	-	11	-
Chamishko	9	-	9	-
Khanke	12	-	12	-

¹ Data from IOM DTM, IDP and Returnee Master List as of January 2026. [Here](#).

² As of end of February 2026

³ In 2026 it was decided to administratively consolidate the following IDP camps: Bersive 1 and 2, are now referred to as Bersive; and Karbato 1 and 2 are now Karbato.

⁴ IOM's FVM programme, implemented since 2020, helps IDPs in Iraq returning or relocating safely, voluntarily, and with dignity. It is designed to support individuals and families who are ready to leave their areas of displacement and rebuild their lives in their original communities or new locations outside of camps.

IDPs, considering return to areas of origin, continue to encounter significant barriers, including lack of safety and security in areas of origin, lack of housing, basic services, and job opportunities in areas of origin, as well as a lack of availability of return support programmes.

Camp Population ⁵ As of end of February 2026		
	Families	Individuals
Dohuk Camps		
Chamisku	3,298	15,208
Khanke	2, 105	10,403
Essian	1,829	8,343
Karbato	3,542	16,865
Shariya	1,897	9,315
Rwanga Community	1,632	7,968
Bajet Kandala	1,543	7,463
Berseve	1,460	7,025
Mamrashan	872	4,310
Sheikhan	517	2,516
Darkar	317	1,595
Mamilian	149	722
Dawadia	143	680
Erbil Camps		
Debaga	889	4,543
Baharka	168	793
East Mosul Camps		
Hasansham U3	491	2,371
Khazer M1	141	680
Hasansham U2	88	431

CAMP CONDITIONS & ACCESS TO SERVICES

The situation across IDP camps in Iraq remains unchanged. Services continue to be predominantly delivered by government authorities, supplemented by a small group of humanitarian actors, UN agencies and ad-hoc private donations. The situation in the EMCs continues to remain more challenging than the other IDP camps, and with restrictions on movements out of the camp, residents remain entirely dependent on unreliable and insufficient camp services, with women and children impacted.

The recent winter weather conditions have again highlighted the

inadequacy of many camp shelters. More than 20,000 shelters across 13 camps in Dohuk remain tented, lacking any upgrade or maintenance since 2019. In addition, many IDPs reported significant leaks in their caravans and several mud houses in the EMCs have been damaged because of the significant rainfall over recent weeks.

Since the start of 2026, there have been 11 fires across IDP camps in Dohuk, impacting 28 shelters and 19 families. While the affected families have been supported with Core Relief Items (CRIs) and alternative shelter arrangements where required, the recurring incidents highlight the persistent fire risks faced by many IDPs, in particular given the high number of tents that remain across the camps. As camp populations have decreased over recent years, an increasing number of caravans remain empty and poorly maintained, creating additional hazards and becoming a fire risk due to structural deterioration. In 2025, around 47 empty caravans were destroyed by a fire accident in Baharka camp.

Efforts to consolidate Baharka and Debaga IDP camps into one camp, as well as plans to consolidate the three East Mosul Camps (EMCs) into a single camp, to enable efficiencies in running costs are currently on hold due to Government funding constraints to support such consolidation efforts. Despite this, the government has initiated a technical assessment at the EMCs to develop a detailed budget, which could support future fund allocation for consolidation. Currently the EMCs house 88 families in U2, 491 families in U3, and 141 families in Khazir M1.

There continues to be a small monthly increase in the EMC camp population as, on completion of sentences, ex-detainees continue to be relocated into the camps rather than being granted security clearance to return to their areas of origin, noting that for some entry into territory beyond the Kurdistan Region of Iraq may risk a second judicial process. As former detainees are not officially registered in the camps, as per MoMD instructions, they are unable to access services, which risks increasing tension in the camp and marginalisation and alienation of this caseload.

Given current regional instability, and its particular impact on Erbil and Dohuk, IDPs – like surrounding host communities - report hearing drone activity. While no IDP camp has been specifically targeted, shrapnel from a mortar fired at a drone struck a tent inside Bajet Kandal camp, injuring a 17-year-old female IDP. The individual received hospital treatment and is under appropriate medical observation. Baharka camp, given its proximity to Erbil Airport, has been at risk from falling debris.

No **food assistance** has been received yet in 2026.

While access to **health services** remains available through government-supported primary health clinics, significant limitations remain, including shortages of essential medications, a lack of mental health support and insufficient staffing, particularly of female health professionals. Two camps (Dawadia and Mammalian) lack Primary Healthcare Centres entirely, requiring residents to access all services in urban areas (20–30 minutes

⁵ Since the beginning of 2026 it was decided to administratively combine the following camps into one reporting entity: Karbato 1 and 2 to Karbato and Berseve 1 and 2 to Berseve. This is purely administrative and the physical camps remain.

away). The Primary Healthcare Centre in Dakar camp, which was scheduled for closure, remains operational through the support of volunteers.

MOMD has initiated kerosene distribution across the camps. Within Dohuk, two rounds are planned. The first round will provide 100L per family, and has been completed in Khanke, Shariya, and Kabarto camps and is ongoing in Sheikhan, Essian, and Mamrashan camps. A second distribution has been requested by DMCR, to provide a total allocation of 200L per family. Across the Erbil camps, one distribution has been completed and provided each household with 200L.

Hygiene kit distributions have ceased entirely, with no distributions taking place since 2024.

In IDP camps, formal **education** is following the approach adopted across the Kurdistan Region of Iraq in response to the ongoing security considerations and switching to an online format, for both Kurdish and Arabic curriculum. In keeping with the host community, access to reliable electricity and internet will be key for IDP children to be able to avail of this option. The only exception is schools within the EMCs which continue to function in person. Access to secondary education is unavailable in the EMCs with all children needing to access schools beyond the camps.

Access to civil documentation remains a core need for many IDPs, especially in the EMCs where more than 2,500 individuals have been identified as lacking documentation, especially the Unified National ID Card. IDPs with complex cases (complexity comes from confirmed or perceived affiliation to Da'esh) continue to face legal and administrative challenges in obtaining their civil documents from government authorities and often require support from lawyers to overcome these barriers. This is particularly needed for female-headed households who frequently need to secure marriage or divorce certificates, as well as custody and guardianship documents for their children, before they are able to apply for the Unified National ID Card.

Since May 2025, IOM has been supporting 117 households (505 individuals) in East Mosul Camps who have been identified as in need of a Unified National ID Card. Over the past few months, IOM successfully supported 47 out of the 505 individuals referred by UNHCR to obtain Unified National IDs from their respective areas of origin in Ninewa Governorate. IOM is coordinating with authorities in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq to facilitate the issuance of these cards from the Unified National ID Card Directorate in Erbil, as well as with the federal Ministry of Interior to exempt these individuals from the housing/residency card requirement which is a prerequisite to access the Unified National ID Card.

REINTEGRATION OF IDPs

IOM conducts household-level interviews with families targeted by the FVM programme through two follow-up rounds. The first, known as the baseline follow-up, is conducted one to three months after departure, while the second, the endline follow-

up, takes place nine months after departure. These follow-ups offer valuable insights into the extent to which households are able to re-establish their lives in their chosen locations, whether through return, relocation, or local integration. Between 2023 and February 2026, data was collected from 3,310 households that completed both the baseline and endline interviews. The majority of these households reside in Ninewa districts; Sinjar (55%), Mosul (19%) and Al-Baaj (15%). The remaining reside in various districts of Anbar, Salah Al-din, Diyala and Baghdad.

As of March 2026, reintegration monitoring data has highlighted several key considerations regarding the post-departure conditions for IDPs. Despite their decision to return to their areas of origin, relocate, or locally integrate, households continue to face significant challenges to sustainable reintegration, including damaged or destroyed shelters, limited livelihood opportunities, and restricted access to essential services such as healthcare, water, and education.

Housing remains one of the most reported needs among returnee, relocated, and locally integrated households. At baseline, 72% of households were either hosted without paying rent or renting accommodation with their own family or extended relatives, while 2% resided in tents. After nine months, these proportions remained largely unchanged, with 68% of households still hosted or renting accommodation.

More than half (59%) of households reportedly owned a house before displacement. Despite the low proportion of housing compensation received, there was an improvement over time. At baseline, only 1% of households reported receiving compensation for housing, by endline, this figure had increased to 5%.

Home ownership increased from 28% at baseline to 30% at endline. Notably, the proportion of households with property ownership documentation rose from 37% to 46% over the same period, reflecting an improvement in tenure security. Among those renting, hosted, or residing in informal housing, the proportion fearing eviction fell from 34% to 30%, possibly linked to a rise in rental contracts from 5% at baseline to 9% at endline.

Shelter condition improved with 67% at baseline and 76% at endline reporting living in houses in good condition. While 88% of households initially felt "at home", 12% reported feeling displaced due to a lack of housing or relocation. By endline, 90% of households stated that they felt at home and intend to stay in their current location.

Lack of stable income remains a major challenge for returnee households. At baseline, only 32% of households reported having a regular income during the past three months; this increased to 38% by endline, though more than half of households continued to rely on unstable income sources. The proportion of households engaged in daily or informal labour rose from 52% at baseline to 60% after nine months, highlighting the continued reliance on unstable income sources.

Meanwhile, 30% of households depended on government salaries or social support throughout. Reliance on family support and charity decreased from 22% to 19% over nine months, suggesting

a gradual shift away from these coping mechanisms. A small proportion of households (9% at endline) reported also deriving income from agriculture or employment within the security forces, indicating some diversification of livelihoods over time.

Despite low earnings overall, the average monthly household income increased slightly from approximately 400,000 IQDs at baseline to 470,000 IQDs at endline. This improvement may be linked to a reduction in household debt, which declined from 57% at baseline to 53% at endline. Nine months after departure, livelihoods support has become the most reported need among households, with 70 % requesting livelihoods support, highlighting the ongoing economic vulnerability and the importance of sustainable livelihoods programming to enhance household resilience and self-reliance.

Regarding **access to basic services**, access to potable water remains a major concern. At baseline, half of households (59%) did not always have access to clean water, and this showed little improvement by endline. Additionally, the lack of functioning infrastructure, including schools and health centres, continues to challenge reintegration. A shortage of both Arabic and Kurdish language has led households to cover the cost of unofficial educators in Sinjar district. Furthermore, households face barriers in addressing their health needs due to inadequate treatment options and a shortage of medical staff at health centres in both Sinjar and Baaj districts.

On **civil documentation**, at baseline, 36% of households reported that at least one household member was missing civil documentation. This figure rose to 40% after nine months, which may be attributed to the long process of issuing Unified National ID cards or barriers in accessing documentation services. The Unified National ID card was the most reported missing document (1,256 households), followed by PDS card. Without core civil documents, households face barriers to accessing basic rights and services, such as enrolling children in school, obtaining healthcare, or receiving assistance. These challenges highlight the urgent need for targeted civil documentation support to ensure households can access basic rights and services and fully reintegrate into their communities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Advance durable solutions.** IDPs require comprehensive support to attain durable solutions of their choice, including voluntary return, relocation to other communities within the country, or local integration in areas of displacement. To achieve a comprehensive approach that supports all durable solutions, renewed advocacy is needed to encourage the government, national and regional, to re-engage in solution focused discussions.
- **Engage in communication to IDP communities.** Decisions affecting IDPs, including those in camps need to be communicated by government authorities in a timely

and transparent manner to enable informed planning and decision-making by affected communities.

- **Maintain services for IDPs remaining in camps.** Service provision in the camps is increasingly unreliable, yet for IDPs who continue to remain in the camps, access to ensured services is vital. In order to improve the overall quality of life across the camps, some level of camp consolidation maybe required, including support to ensure adequate shelter, either through self or government supported upgrades, but this should not be undertaken at the detriment of prioritising durable solutions.
- **Renew efforts to allocate sufficient budget by the government to achieve durable solutions.** This includes financial assistance, shelter rehabilitation, the provision of fair and timely compensation grants, and the departure grant previously provided.
- **Conduct shelter space analysis to support camp consolidation.** An analysis of available shelter space has become necessary to support camp consolidation efforts. This would enhance service delivery and offer improved shelter options for IDPs currently residing in tents.⁶ While camp consolidation will improve efficiencies in running costs, the focus should remain on supporting, including financially, comprehensive durable solutions for IDPs outside of camps.
- **Address specific needs in East Mosul Camps.** Targeted support to residents of East Mosul camps, including assistance with obtaining Unified National Identity Documents, resolution of legal and security considerations to support camp departure, including the complex ex-detainee caseload, alongside access to reliable services required until all have achieved durable solutions.
- **Support informal sites.** Informal sites hosting IDPs need to be formally recognized and adequately resourced. This includes improving shelter conditions, WASH, health, and education services, and addressing protection risks, particularly for women and children.⁷
- **Support IDPs who wish to voluntarily depart** from the camps, independent of any supported procedure, to be able to access, quickly and efficiently, the necessary clearance documents to be able to formally exit the camps, including being able to retain their possessions.
- **Facilitate access to documentation for return.** IDPs who wish to return, including those who do not require material assistance to return, need support to obtain the required documentation to facilitate camp departure.
- **Invest in sustainable reintegration and infrastructure in areas of displacement and return.** Continued investment is needed in housing, infrastructure and public services in both IDP-hosting areas and areas of origin. This requires budget allocations for the rehabilitation of water, electricity, schools, and health centres, and ensure adequate staffing, especially in rural areas.

⁶ For example 9 out of 13 camps in Dohuk are tented

⁷ As of August 2024, DTM recorded a total of 285 informal sites. IDP families were present in 260 informal sites, while returnee families were present in 28 sites. Dahuk Governorate contains 33% of the informal sites nationwide (95 sites), with Ninewa and Salah al-Din governorates accounting for a further 22% and 13%, respectively (63 and 38 sites). At the district level, Sumel District accounts for 27% of all informal sites (78), with Falluja District containing a further 7% of Iraq's informal sites (21).