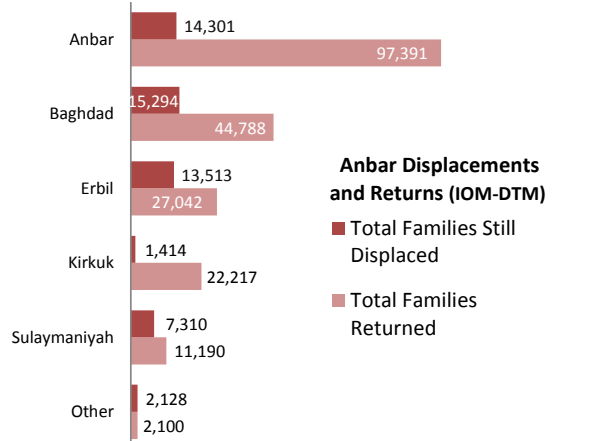
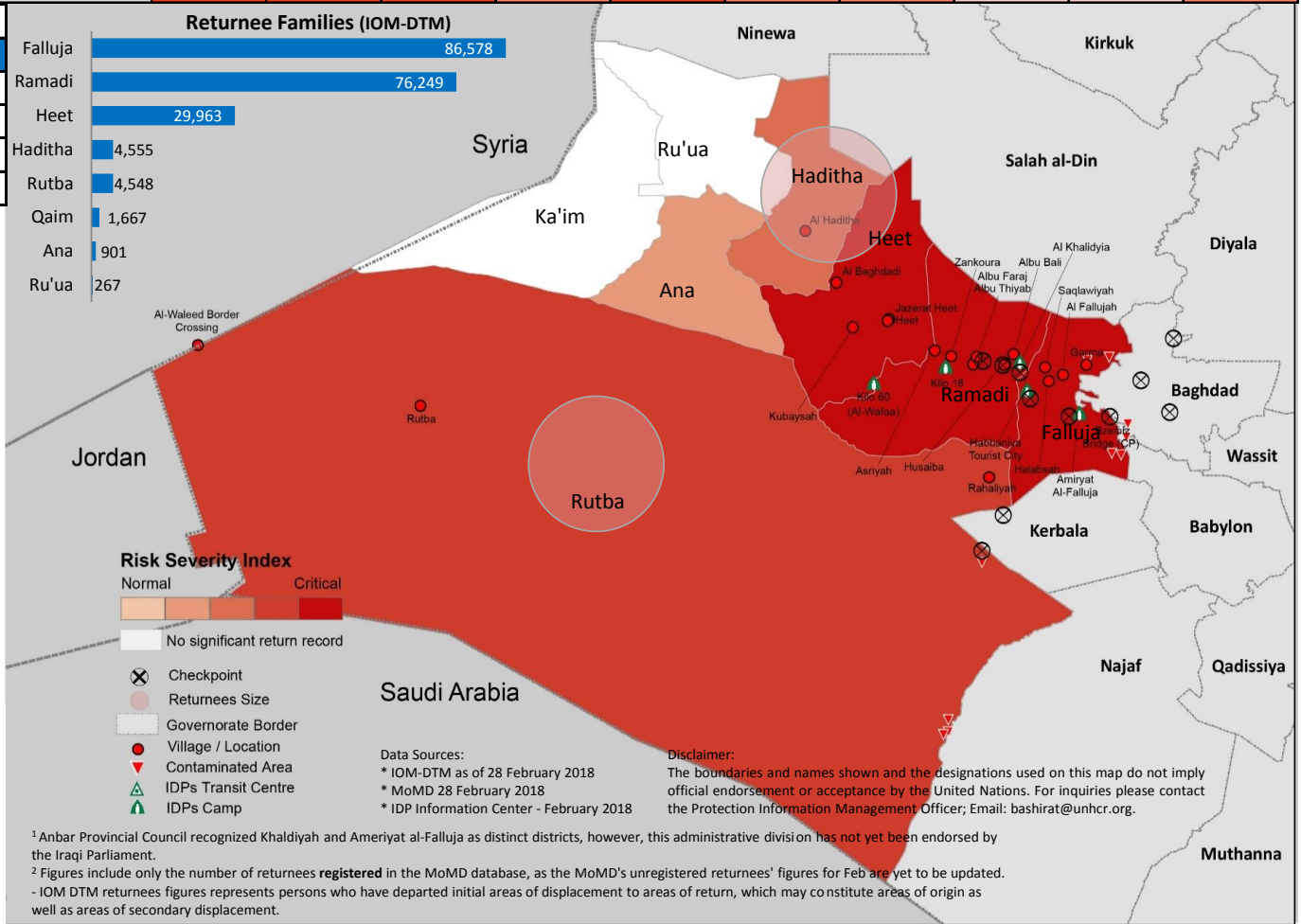


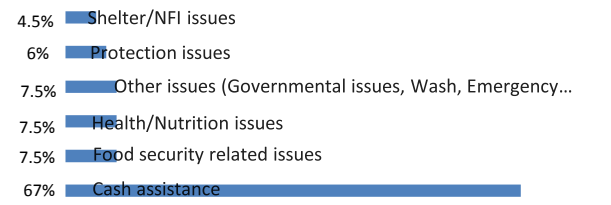
# Iraq Protection Cluster: Anbar Returnees Profile - February 2018

| Protection Risk Matrix by District | High   | Protection Concerns  |      |                |         |       |                         |                                  |     |       |      |  |
|------------------------------------|--|--|------|----------------|---------|-------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|-----|-------|------|--|
|                                    | Reported Violations of principles relating to return movements (including non-discrimination in the right of return, as well as voluntariness, safety and dignity of return movements) | Ramadi   | Heet | Falluja/ Garma | Haditha | Rutba | Khalidiyah <sup>1</sup> | Amiriyat Al-Falluja <sup>1</sup> | Ana | Ru'ua | Qaim |  |
|                                    | Medium   | Security incidents resulting in death/injury in return area (including assault, murder, conflict-related casualties) |      |                |         |       |                         |                                  |     |       |      |  |
|                                    | Low  | Explosive Remnants of War (ERW)/ Improvised Explosive Device (IED) contamination in return area                      |      |                |         |       |                         |                                  |     |       |      |  |
|                                    | Reported Rights violations by state or non-state military/security actors (including abduction, arbitrary arrest/detention, disproportionate restrictions on freedom of movement)      |  |      |                |         |       |                         |                                  |     |       |      |  |
|                                    | Concerns relating to inter-communal relations and social cohesion  |  |      |                |         |       |                         |                                  |     |       |      |  |

| District      | Families |
|---------------|----------|
| Ramadi        | 39,925   |
| Falluja/Garma | 50,324   |
| Heet          | 7,487    |
| Haditha       | 3,569    |



**IDP Information Center:** 4% of 2,047 calls handed from returnees were from Anbar. The majority of the flagged issues were:



## **ANBAR GOVERNORATE - GENERAL CONTEXT**

According to IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), 1,485 families (8,910 individuals) returned to Anbar Governorate in February, bringing the total number of families that have returned since mid-2015 to 204,728 (1,228,368 individuals). Al Qa'im district recorded the most returns during February and the Mayor estimated that 50 per cent of the population have moved back to their area of origin. This includes a large number of returns from camps that have gone to Al Qa'im district (including the Al-Karabla and Al-Masharee villages, which only recently became accessible). The improved security situation, ongoing clearance activities, the poor living conditions in certain camps and fears of looting of homes were cited as the main push and pull factors behind the returns. A primary obstacle remains the lack of access to legal documentation by the IDP families. Without identification documents, IDPs are often not allowed to proceed through checkpoints or risk arrest. As result, IDPs are often restricted to a life in camps unless they are able to join an organized return movement, during which they are escorted by security forces.

Returns from the Kurdistan Region of Iraq to Anbar, particularly to western parts of the districts, significantly increased in February. However, movement from areas of return in western Anbar towards the camps elsewhere has been recorded. Destruction of property, collective punishments as well as the lack of services and livelihood opportunities were the main drivers behind secondary displacement. Despite a general improvement in the security situation in recent months, protection concerns persist. Furthermore, security breaches from extremists groups and search operations were also reported, particularly in areas near the border with Syria. In addition, incidents of collective punishments of families suspected to have links with extremist groups, including in the form of preventing their return, continued to be reported. These protection concerns together with the tribal conflicts, the lack of shelter and the continued military operations are hampering durable returns.

Following the issuance of eviction notifications to IDPs in camps in Anbar and Baghdad, forced returns of IDPs from Anbar continued during February. On 10 February, 252 families, including families from Anbar, were forced to return from Awerej Camp in Baghdad. On 22 February, 15 families from eastern Anbar were forced to leave Kilo 18 Camp. Some of these families ended up in secondary displacement as they were unable to return to their areas of origin. UNHCR and protection partners continued their advocacy efforts to prevent forced evictions and forced returns.

### **FALLUJA DISTRICT**

Reliable information on returns to Falluja continues to be limited. However, the DTM estimations indicate that 86,578 families (519,468 individuals) have returned between mid-2015 and the end of February, 156 families (936 individuals) during February alone.

### **HEET DISTRICT**

Returns to the district of Heet, albeit minimal, continued during February. According to the DTM, 29,963 families (179,963 individuals) have returned to the district, an increase of 52 families (312 individuals) in comparison to the previous month. The reasons that a limited number of families are returning is reportedly due to the contamination of parts of Heet with explosive hazards as well as the security incidents that negatively affect the safety and sustainability. On 27 February, two returnee children in Kubaisa sub-district were reportedly killed by an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) while playing on a street.

### **RAMADI DISTRICT**

On 21 February, an Advisor of the Governor of Anbar reportedly visited Kilo 18 Camp and informed IDPs that they were required to return to their areas of origin within three days. The following day, five buses were brought to Kilo 18 Camp and the IDP families from Garma, Ramadi, Falluja and Haditha were ordered to leave immediately. In spite of this order, of the 261 families east of Anbar areas only 15 families complied. On 23 February, the movement of 126 families from Al-Khalidiya camps to areas of origin in Al-Khalidiya district and other parts of eastern Anbar was reported. Twenty-eight of these families were barred from returning to their homes by their tribes due to suspected affiliation with extremists groups. Some of these families have reportedly been re-displaced to Al-Khalidiya camps as a result. Similarly, a returnee family in Al-Hamera village had been approached by an armed group and were ordered to leave their homes within three days due to suspected affiliation. The family has sought refuge in an IDP camp. In addition to collective punishments, several security incidents were also reported in the district. On 8 February, a booby-trapped motorcycle exploded in Ramadi City, resulting in nine fatalities and seven injured civilians and security personnel. Despite persistent protection concerns, the DTM figures estimated that approximately 76,249 families (457,494 individuals) had returned to their areas of origin in Ramadi by the end of February.

### **ANA DISTRICT**

According to the DTM, 901 families (5,406 individuals) have returned to Ana between mid-2015 and the end of February 2018, 303 families (1,818 individuals) during February 2018 alone. Two of the 10 villages of Ana district witnessed returns (136 families) for the first time during the reporting period. Incidents of forced evictions of persons or families perceived to have affiliations with armed groups continued to be reported. On 27 February, two IDP families were forced by tribal leaders to leave their areas of origin in Ana district due to the suspicion of having links with extremists groups, despite having previously undergone screening by the Anbar Operation Commands. The families were reportedly allowed to take basic items and documents with them and have reportedly moved to Baghdad.

### **RU'UA DISTRICT**

While local authorities expected an increase in returns during the mid-year break of the school year in early February, living conditions in Ru'ua continue to be challenging, including due to the contamination of parts of the district with explosive hazards. According to the DTM, 171 families (1,026 individuals) returned to Ru'ua during February, this is a slight increase in comparison to January.

### **QA'IM DISTRICT**

According to the local authorities in Al Qa'im district, 50 per cent of the families displaced since November 2017, have returned. The DTM estimates that 1,667 families had returned to the district by end of February, a notable increase by 803 families in comparison to January. These include the first returns (748 families) since the 2017 military operations to nine newly accessible areas. The likelihood that some of the returns are premature, remains high. Parts of the district reportedly continues to be contaminated with explosive hazards. For example, one person was killed and two were injured due to an IED explosion in Al-Mazra'a village in Al Qa'im Center. On 10 February, 243 families were forcibly returned from Awaireej Camp in Baghdad to their area of origin in Al Qa'im. An additional 210 families departed from camps in Anbar as part of organized returns to Al Qa'im district and surrounding areas. These were facilitated by the Ministry of Migration and Displacement (MoMD) who provided transportation. MoMD also facilitated the return of 600 IDPs from Erbil to other parts of west Anbar. While the security situation in Al Qa'im has improved in recent months, local authorities have reportedly received an increasing number of complaints from returnees regarding looting, particularly of uninhabited houses. Incidents of collective punishments also continue to be reported, including the killing of two women in Siddah village by unknown armed individuals reportedly due to alleged links with extremists groups. Local police, Iraqi Security Forces and members of government-affiliated armed groups have started to conduct night patrols.

Significant rehabilitation efforts have reportedly been ongoing in Al Qa'im district, including repairs of schools, primary health care centres, provision of power generators and removal of debris and remnants of war. The Civil Documentation Office in Al Qa'im district has also resumed the issuance of civil documents for returnees. During February, between 500 and 700 legal documents were reportedly being issued per week, while thousands of returnees still need to obtain or renew identification documents, birth certificates or other documents. A lack of staff and limited operations of the Civil Status Court and Supreme Judicial Council inhibit progress. Local authorities in Al Qa'im also decided to carry out a registration process for missing men. A total of 1,066 out of approximately 2,000 missing persons have so far been registered as missing. This includes individuals who are thought to have been detained by pro-Government armed groups.