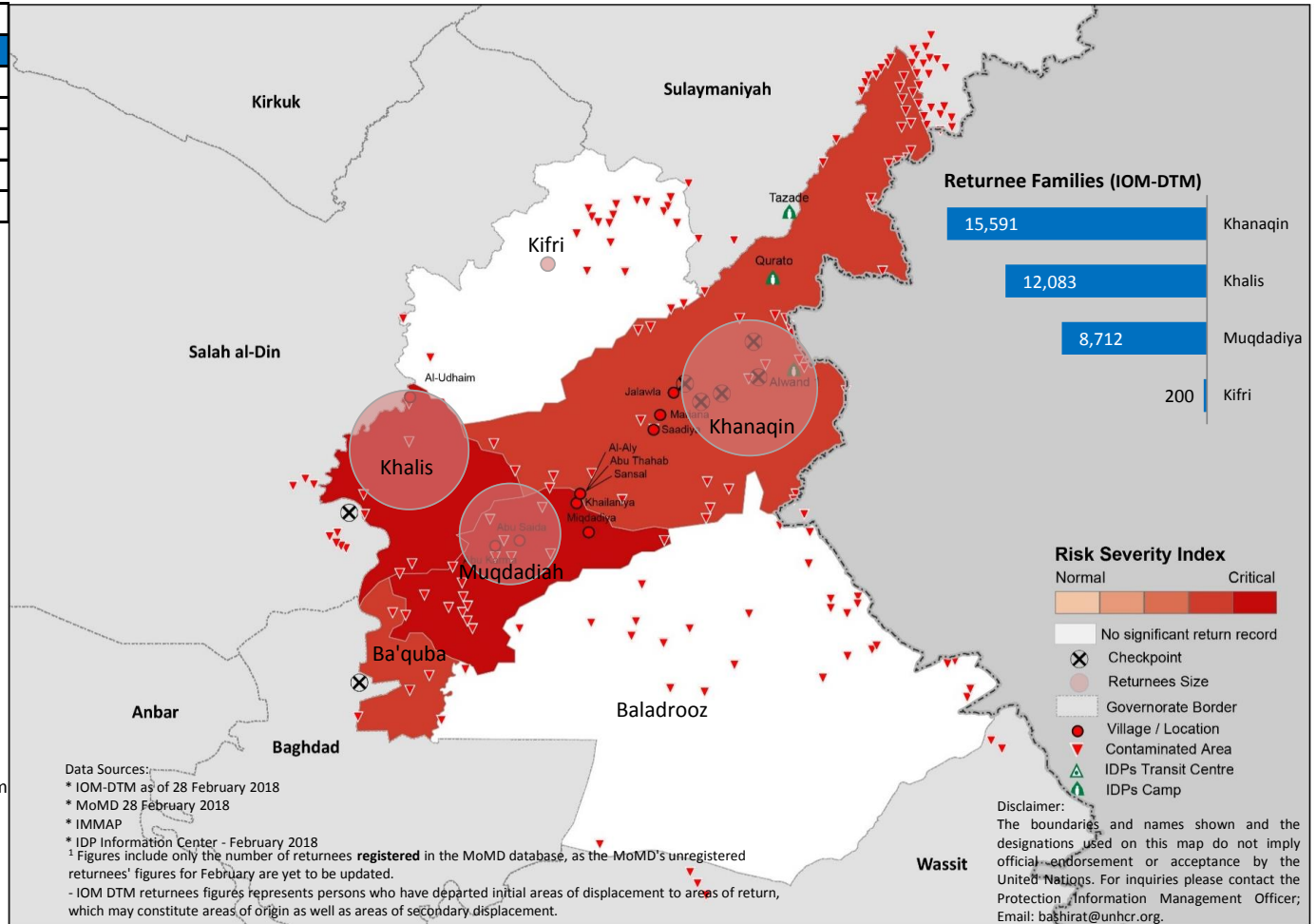
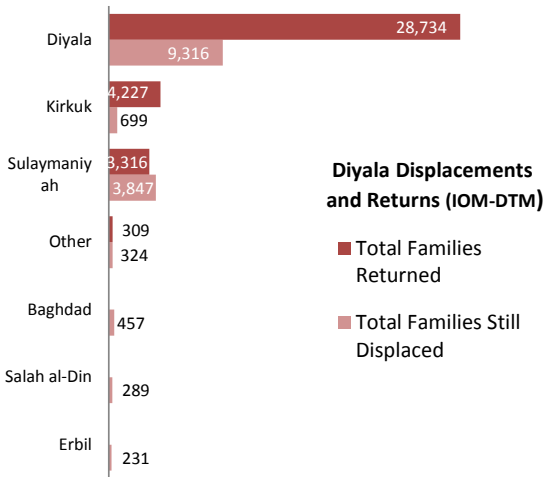


Iraq Protection Cluster: Diyala Returnees Profile - February 2018

Protection Risk Matrix by District	High	Protection Concerns	Khanaqin	Khalis	Muqdadiya	Ba'quba
	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)					
	Medium	Security incidents resulting in death/injury in return area (including assault, murder, conflict-related casualties)				
	Explosive Remnants of War (ERW)/ Improvised Explosive Device (IED) contamination in return area					
	Low	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						

MoMD Returnees' Figures ¹	
District	Families
Khanaqeen	47,151
Muqdadiya	2,091
Khalis	2,896
Baquba	79
Baquba	2



IDP Information Center: Of the 2,047 calls, no calls handled from returnees were from Diyala in February.

Data Sources:
 * IOM-DTM as of 28 February 2018
 * MoMD 28 February 2018
 * IMMAP
 * IDP Information Center - February 2018
¹ Figures include only the number of returnees registered in the MoMD database, as the MoMD's unregistered returnees' figures for February are yet to be updated.
 - IOM DTM returnees figures represents persons who have departed initial areas of displacement to areas of return, which may constitute areas of origin as well as areas of secondary displacement.

DIYALA GOVERNORATE - GENERAL CONTEXT

According to the IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), in February, returns continued to take place although they were limited returns to Khanaqin district. A limited 350 IDP families (2,100 individuals) had returned to Khanaqin district, bringing the total number of returnee families in the Governorate since mid-2015 to 36,586 (219,516 individuals).

Protection concerns including community tensions, collective punishments, restrictions to freedom of movement and general levels of insecurity continued to be reported. Restrictions to the freedom of movement, imposed by Government-affiliated armed groups in parts of Diyala and concerns over the reported presence of members of extremists groups in Mutaibija district persist and hamper the returns.

MUQDADIYA DISTRICT

The DTM estimates that 8,712 IDP families (52,272 individuals) from Muqdadia had returned by end of February to their areas of origin. No returns to Muqdadia district have been reported in February.

Collective punishments, including the denial of return and the destruction of property of families with alleged links to extremist groups, continue to limit the access to sustainable solutions for a large groups of IDPs from the recently retaken areas, including Muqdadia. Rapid protection assessments were conducted in Shaqaraq village, located approximately 8 km north of Muqdadia town. High levels of destruction of buildings and infrastructure were observed in this village following the military operation. Approximately 900 households who lived in Shaqaraq in early 2015 had reportedly been displaced by June 2014. Returns to the area began in September 2015 and are ongoing. More families reportedly plan to return, however, they have not yet returned as not sufficient information is available about living conditions in the village. Families with suspected affiliations to extremist groups are reportedly not provided the necessary security clearance to return.

Furthermore, the destruction of homes and properties of these families has been reported in Sunni villages north of Muqdadia. Men that are able to return, are often pressured to join local armed groups. Areas north of Shaqaraq are difficult to access as the main bridge over the Sirwan River has been destroyed. This bridge

connected over thirty villages with Muqdadia City Center and other parts of the district, has been destroyed. Returnees highlighted restrictions on their movement by armed actors. However, they were reluctant to give details. The majority of the returnees were living in partially damaged buildings and in other unsafe shelter.

KHANAQIN DISTRICT

According to the DTM, 350 families returned to Khanaqin district during the reporting period, bringing the total number of returnee families to 15,591 (93,546 individuals). This includes the return of 250 families to six previously inaccessible villages (Al Tolaat, Al Chagaat, Al Teneraa, Baheza, Koshk, and Shekh).

According to the camp manager of Al-Wand 1, most of the IDPs in the camp, should be able to return to their areas of origin before the election. The IDPs are from Khanaqin district and remain in the Al-Wand 1 and Al-Wand 2 camps as they are awaiting security clearance to be able to return. However, IDPs in these two camps have concerns related to the destruction of their houses, lack of basic services and an ongoing community conflict and the lack of information.

UNHCR continued to emphasize to the local authorities that the return should be voluntary, safe and dignified. Media reports suggest that 1,000 IDP families returned to their homes in Saadiya sub-district in February. However, in reality a few families have returned due to persistent security concerns and a lack of basic services.

JALAWLA SUB-DISTRICT:

While on 20 February, 1,268 IDP families from Jalawla sub-district received security clearance to return, approximately 30 per cent (407 IDP families) had returned by the end of the month. The returns that did take place were facilitated by the Head of the Iraqi Security Forces in Diyala and by local authorities. Families reported that most of the houses in their villages were destroyed and reported a lack of basic services, including related to electricity and water infrastructure as well as education. Limited livelihood opportunities also adversely affect the ability of families to rebuild their lives.

KHALIS DISTRICT

According to assessments in Al-Udhaim sub-district conducted by protection partners, limited education services are a primary concern hampering returns. Only 11 out of the 23 schools are currently operational, while others are closed due to a damaged infrastructure or a lack of teachers or furniture. In addition, some families are not allowing their daughters to attend the mixed gender schools. The DTM estimates that 12,083 families (72,498 individuals) returned to their areas of origin in Khalis by the end of February.