

Cluster F

Internally Displaced Persons in Iraq – Update 5 March 2007

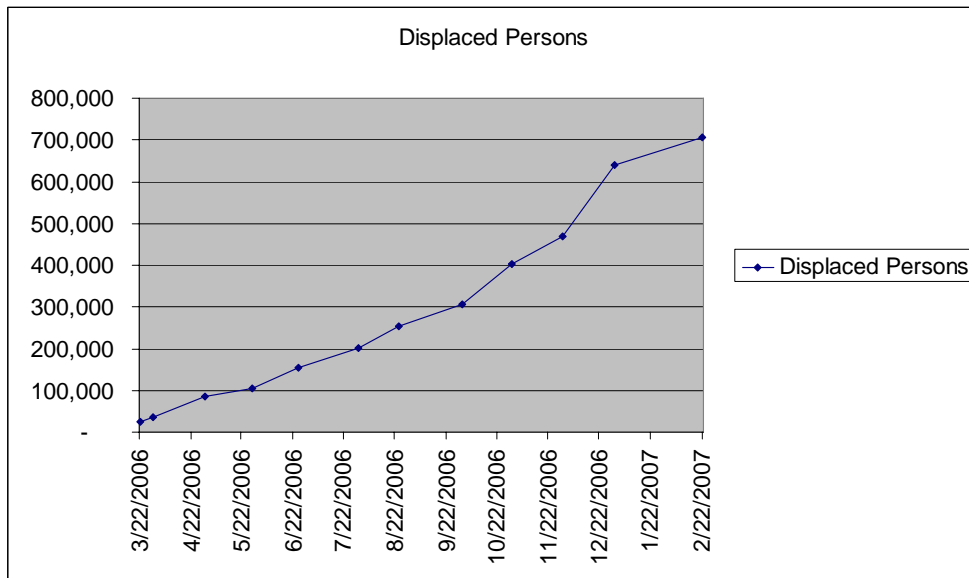
1 UIDP families by governorate¹

It is estimated that over 1.8 million are currently displaced within Iraq as of 5 March 2007. 707,000 of who were displaced after February 2006, following the bombing of the Al-Askari Shrine in Samarra. Sectarian violence has since escalated, alongside anti-insurgency, counter-insurgency and crime, leading to widespread violence and insecurity throughout Iraq.

Governorate	Pre 2003	2003-2005	Pre 2006	Newly displaced (Post Samara)	New IDPs (mil. op.)	Total 2006	Total displaced families	Total displaced individuals
Dahuk	22,452	22	22,474	6,751		6,751	29,225	175,350
Erbil	32,737	76	32,813	4,110		4,110	36,923	221,538
Sulaymaniyah	50,430	35	50,465	4,939	52	4,991	55,456	332,736
Total North	105,619	133	105,752	15,800	52	15,852	121,604	729,624
Ninewa	1,947	4,625	6,572	6,105		6,105	12,677	76,062
Kirkuk	184	1,068	1,252	1,072		1,072	2,324	13,944
Anbar	612	1,593	2,205	6,955	3,259	10,214	12,419	74,514
Baghdad	2,281	1,586	3,867	20,000		20,000	23,867	143,202
Diyala	2,392	3,453	5,845	7,530		7,530	13,375	80,250
Salah al-Din	360	3,006	3,366	7,500		7,500	10,866	65,196
Total Centre	7,776	15,331	23,107	49,162	3,259	52,421	75,528	453,168
Babylon	654	821	1,475	9,000		9,000	10,475	62,850
Basrah	15,494	284	15,778	4,300		4,300	20,078	120,468
Diwaniya	222	932	1,154	3,100		3,100	4,254	25,524
Kerbala	17,490	1,328	18,818	8,607		8,607	27,425	164,550
Missan	18,465	406	18,871	4,820		4,820	23,691	142,146
Muthanna	424	437	861	1,712		1,712	2,573	15,438
Najaf	3,833	160	3,993	7,151		7,151	11,144	66,864
Thi-Qar	657	3,569	4,226	5,318		5,318	9,544	57,264
Wassit	70	1,232	1,302	8,931		8,931	10,233	61,398
Total South	57,309	9,169	66,478	52,939	0	52,939	119,417	716,502
Total families	170,704	24,633	195,337	117,901	3,311	121,212	316,549	
Estimated total individuals	1,024,224	147,798	1,172,022	707,406	19,866	727,272		1,899,294
Before 7 Feb 07				689,640	22,386	712,026		1,884,048

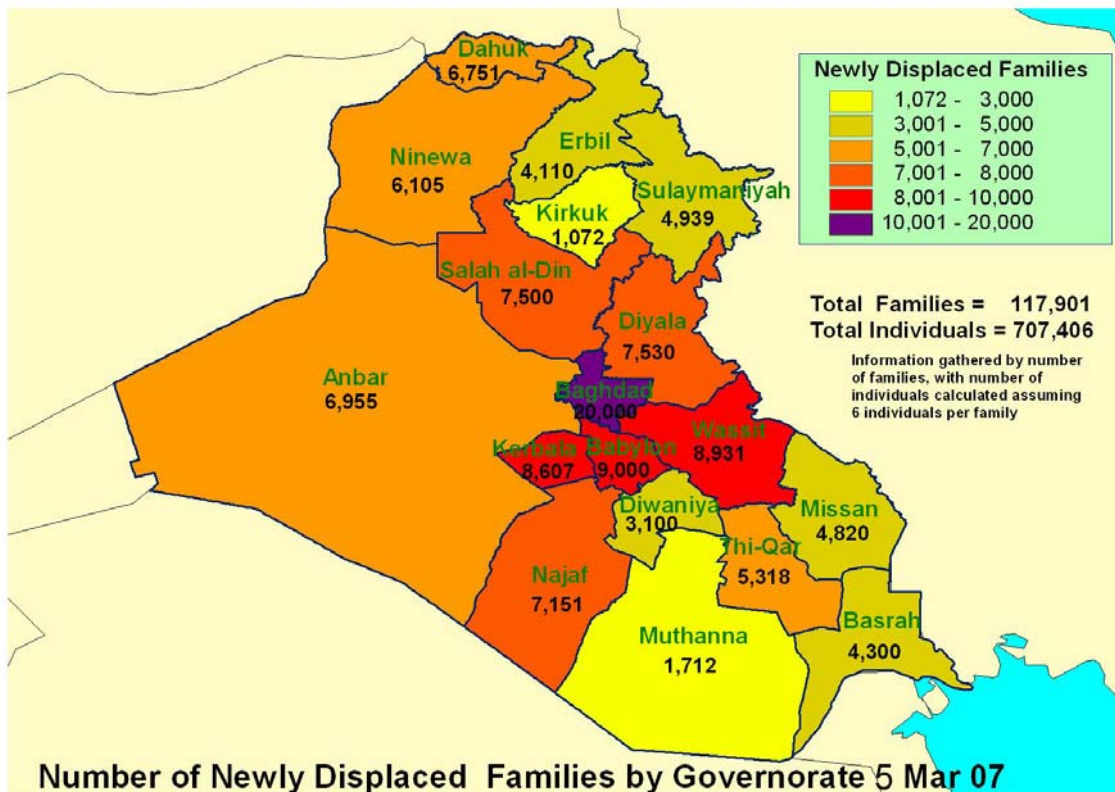
¹ Sources: UNOPS data for the 3 Northern Governorates before 2006, KRG data for displaced from February 2006 to date. IOM monitoring data for displaced before 2006 in 15 Central and Southern Governorates. MoDM data for displaced in 2006 and up to 22 February 2007 in 15 Central and Southern Governorates (IOM for Anbar). The surveys were carried out on the basis of groups or households and the number of individuals is an estimate, calculated on the basis of 6 persons per household. IOM has assessed a total of 55,209 IDP families in the following Governorates: Anbar 10,214 (including military operations), Babylon 3,942, Baghdad 9,101, Basrah 1,708, Diyala 3,995, Kerbala 2,314, Missan 2,552, Muthanna 1,316, Najaf 2,481, Ninewa 4,129, Diwaniya 1,760, Salah Al Din 3,822, Kirkuk 1,228, Thi Qar 2,329 and Wassit 4,317. For more information, please see IOM Emergency Assessment, 4 March 2007.

2 Monthly increase in the last 12 months (March 06 - February 07)



- The number of displaced persons in Iraq increased significantly over the previous 12 month period, from 24,942 in March 2006 to 707,406 at the end of February 2007. The return of 1,000 families to different areas of Baghdad (Al Adel, Dora and Haifa Street) at the end of February has been reported in the media. However, different sources confirm that most of these families have encountered secondary displacement due to lack of security, new attacks on their neighbourhood and the occupation or destruction of residences.

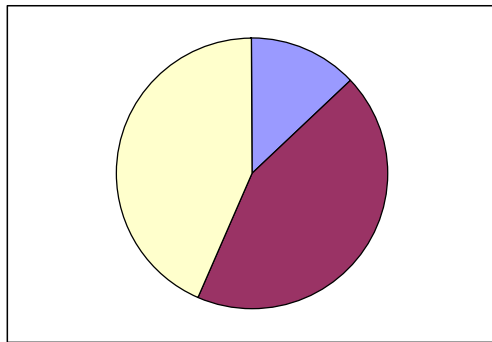
3 Newly displaced persons by Governorate



- The governorates with the highest concentration of newly displaced persons are: Baghdad (120,000 IDPs) and Kerbala, Babylon and Wassit each with more than 50,000 IDPs per governorate. More than 40,000 persons are displaced in each of the Governorates of Anbar, Dahuk, Diyala, Salah al- Din and Najaf.

4 Displacement trends post 22 February 2006

- All governorates have been affected by displacement. Displacement to the Northern region is lower compared to the Southern and Central regions, where an equal number of IDPs have been received between the two regions.

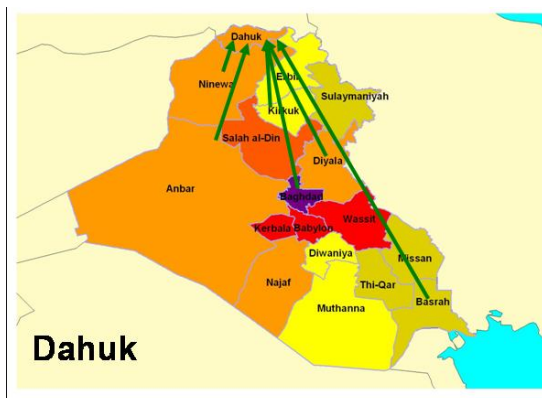


North	13.03%
Centre	43.44%
South	43.52%

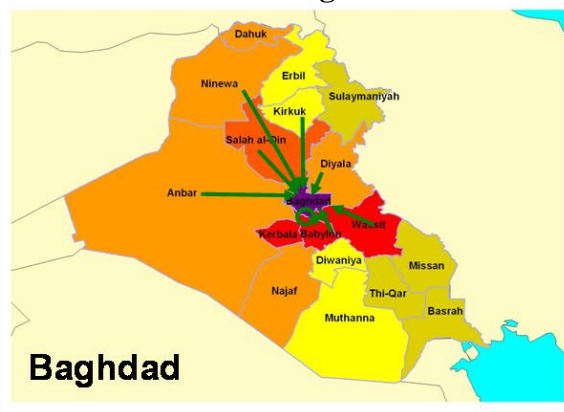
New displacement per Region

- With the exception of the three Northern Governorates, all other governorates are both receiving as well as generating IDPs. In Dahuk, Erbil and Sulaymaniyah, displacement is predominately *to* rather than *from* the governorate. Sunnis are moving from the Shia dominated South to the central and western governorates whilst Shias are leaving Sunni dominated governorates in central and western Iraq to the Shia controlled governorates of the South. Sunnis and Shias, Arabs and Kurds, Christians and other minorities are increasingly moving to the KRG controlled areas, providing they have the necessary documentation to enter KRG and / or to regulate their stay there.
- In the six central governorates and Babylon, displacement *within* the governorate has taken place; the most affected governorate being Baghdad, where Shias are fleeing to the east bank of the river and other Shia controlled neighbourhoods, while Sunnis are moving towards the airport area, the North-West and the South-West of the city.

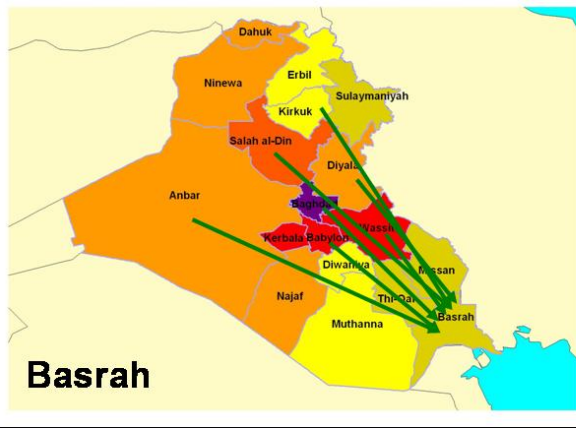
IDP movement to Dahuk



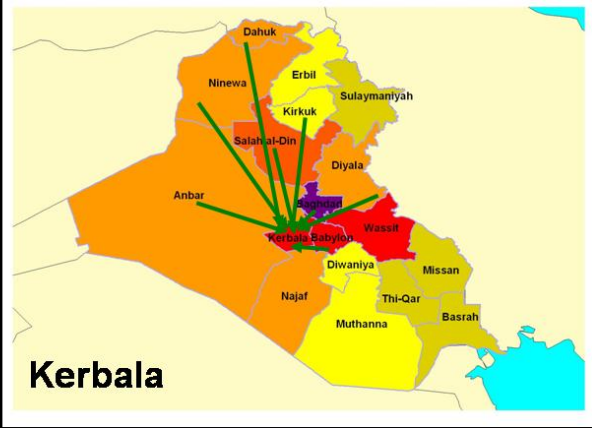
IDP movement to Baghdad



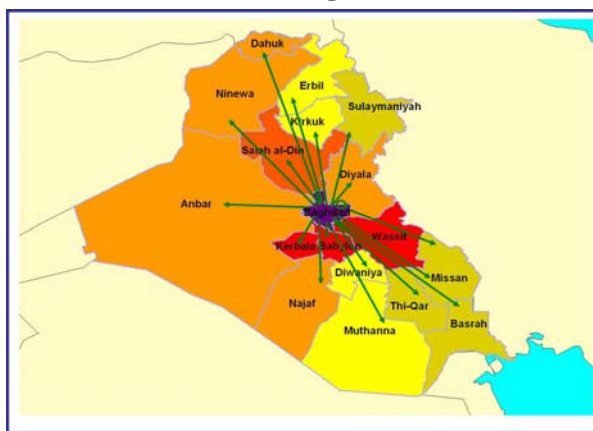
IDP movement to Basrah



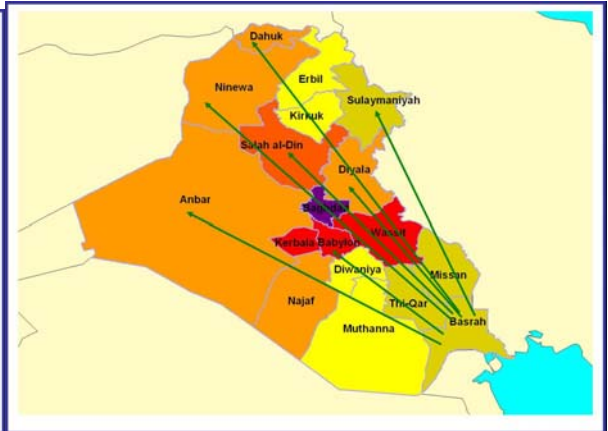
IDP movement to Kerbala



IDP movement from Baghdad



IDP movement from Basrah



- Most IDPs are moving to seek refuge in homogenous areas, as a result of: i) a hostile armed group having gained control of the territory, ii) sectarian power-struggles increasing insecurity and danger, or iii) a direct or indirect threat to the family such as letters, home visits, text messages etc.
- In the initial months following the Samara attack, families forced by armed groups to leave their residence were given time to pack their belongings. Increasingly, families have been given less and less time to prepare for their departure and in the past few months many have been forced to leave within only a few hours notice.

5 Needs of displaced population per governorate²

Governorate	Shelter	Water	Food	Non-Food Items	Legal Assistance	Employment Opportunities	Healthcare
North							
Dahuk	X			X		X	X
Erbil	X		X			X	
Sulaymaniyah	X		X	X	X	X	X
Centre							
Anbar	X	X	X	X	X		X
Baghdad	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Diyala	X		X	X	X	X	X
Kirkuk	X		X	X	X	X	
Ninewa (Mosul)	X		X	X	X	X	X
Salah Al-Din	X		X	X	X	X	
Upper South							
Babylon	X	X	X		X	X	
Kerbala	X	X	X	X		X	
Najaf	X		X	X	X	X	
Lower South							
Basrah	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Diwaniyah	X		X	X	X	X	X
Missan	X	X	X	X		X	X
Muthanna	X	X	X	X		X	X
Thi-Qar	X	X	X	X		X	X
Wassit	X		X	X	X	X	X

Needs of new IDPs are based on IOM, UNHCR and NGO assessments from 31Pst January 2007. The three main needs were identified by each interviewed family/community.

a. Access to food

PDS

- IDPs face the same difficulties in accessing food as the remaining population within the host community. Security and sectarianism hinders access, transportation and distribution of the PDS. Not all food and items reach the warehouses, food agents are often unable to gain access to warehouses and needy communities and food quantity is inadequate.
- Additional challenges faced by IDPs include the transfer of PDS cards and the loss of documentation. Whilst some governorate authorities facilitate and support IDP families, in other areas transferring PDS registration to the place of displacement is not possible due to security reasons (IDPs have to go back to their place of origin and cannot) or for political concerns (e.g. Kirkuk).

Markets

- Access to markets is very difficult in highly insecure areas, such as certain neighbourhoods

² Education was not included in the survey form, but it is often reported as an unmet need by IDPs, because of overcrowding of schools, lack of teachers, education materials, lack of adequate documentation and lack of available education in Arabic (i.e. Kurdish areas).

in Baghdad. Markets have also become the target of bomb attacks, increasing the difficulty of access of both people and goods.

Local Production

- According to the FAO website (Feb 2007), the local cereal production during 2006, reached an estimated 2.7 million metric tons. The FAO report on *Crop Prospects and Food Situation* indicates that Iraq is currently facing a shortfall in the production of crops and predicts a lack of resources to deal with the critical problems of food insecurity.³
- In many areas local production has seen both a constant and rapid decrease over the past four years, hindering the ability of the population to access locally produced food. Insecurity and increased dependency on food imported from other countries may have contributed to this phenomenon. In some areas, for example North of Baghdad, local production remains an important source for the population.

b. Access to shelter

- Housing is an urgent priority for the majority of IDPs in all governorates. Although many IDPs are living with host families (relatives or friends), conditions are often poor as a result of overcrowding and the inability of many IDPs to contribute to household expenses. A significant number of families are also living in public buildings in unsanitary, overcrowded conditions without electricity. A smaller number are living in collective towns and a few hundreds in tented camps.
- Whilst a significant number of IDPs have been able to rent housing in recent months, lack of employment opportunities and depleting financial resources make it difficult for these families to continue rent payments. Some IDPs residing in public buildings live with the threat of eviction.
- It is reported that new IDPs as well as armed groups are occupying properties left by IDPs forced to flee, especially in Baghdad. The new Baghdad Security Plan would foresee the arrest of those found occupying property without any documentation proving their property rights.

c. Access to basic services (water, sanitation and health)

Potable water, sufficient sanitation and health services are pressing needs, particularly in villages and rural areas. IDPs in the North generally have better access to services. The additional pressure placed on basic services by new IDP arrivals, has resulted in serious deficiencies.

- Water and sanitation structures have been severely damaged by the various crises affecting Iraq, most notably from a lack of, or insufficient infrastructure maintenance. Consequently, many IDPs face difficulty accessing potable water; distance to potable water is also preventing access.
- Insufficient sanitation structures in some areas are causing serious health hazards.
- While the government undertakes efforts to keep hospitals functioning and to pursue vaccination campaigns, Primary Health Care Centres (PHCs) are lacking proper equipment, medicine and qualified staff. In areas where IDPs are concentrated, the additional burden which they represent results in the inability of PHCs to serve them. There is a concern that families being left out of vaccination campaigns and are at increasing risk of infectious diseases. Limited facilities and services are available to provide psychological or mental support to IDPs traumatized by their experiences; children are particularly vulnerable.

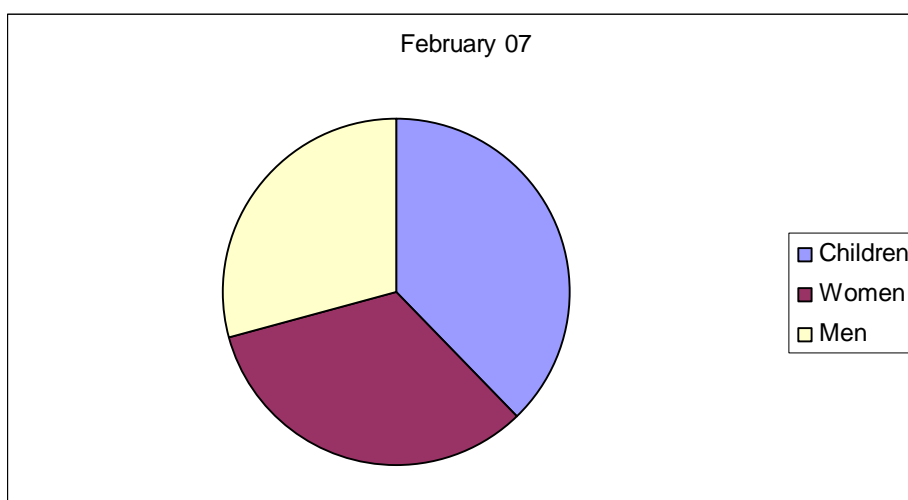
³ FAO, *Crop Prospects and Food Situation*, February 2007.

- Lack of access to fuel due to non-availability / shortages or high costs are common in most governorates.

d. Income and employment

- Income sources in Iraq are almost exclusively linked to wages or self-employment revenues. The employment context in the country is extremely precarious. According to the latest COSIT Labour Force Survey (2005), unemployment and underemployment reach respectively 18% and 30% of the active population in Iraq. Therefore 48% of the active population in 2005 was either unable to find work or to work as much as they would wish to (i.e. less than 35 hours a week according to the practiced definition). The employment context is therefore causing severe impact on incomes and poverty in Iraq.
- After leaving their homes, most IDPs are not able to secure work in their area of displacement. Their savings are quickly being drained and many were unable to take their possessions along. Some IDPs were able, during the first few months after the Samara bombings, to transfer their government positions or their retirement benefits to their governorate of displacement. As time went by and the number of IDPs in all governorates dramatically increased, IDPs have started facing more and more difficulties and delays.
- Two thirds of the displaced are women and children, making income for female heads of households a particularly important issue, since only 20% of working age women are economically active in Iraq, and within such some 22% are unemployed. Many female heads of households therefore have never worked and are forced by displacement to enter the labour market with no qualifications and experiences, making their search for employment an extremely challenging one. They are often forced to work in the less remunerative occupations, given their low productivity and employability, and often confront discriminatory cultural barriers.
- Many of the Governorates with the highest presence of new IDPs (Anbar, Baghdad, Diyala, Salah al-Din, Babylon, Kerbala, Missan and Najaf) feature an average unemployment rate comparable or above the already high national rate of 18%. It is important to notice that the pace and scale of displacement is causing increasing distress to already precarious labour markets in the areas of destination. Both the displaced and the host communities are affected by increasing shortages in job opportunities and by the likelihood of dropping wages given the local labour surplus.
- The drain on IDPs income is reportedly further exacerbated by inflationary pressures in areas of displacement. This phenomenon is linked to the limited coping capacity of the private sector to cater for the increasing demand, particularly in the basic commodities and services sectors.
- Heightened employment shortages and inflationary pressures that may be traceable to IDPs concentration may in turn foment tensions between IDPs and their host communities.

6 Composition of IDP population



This chart was developed according to the IRCS Report, 6 February 2007.

- Together, women and children represent over 70% of the displaced IDP population since February 2006.
- The percentage of children has fluctuated consistently between 38% and 40%, representing the majority of the IDP population.
- The percentage of men has fluctuated consistently between 29% and 30%, representing the minority of the IDP population.

a. Displaced women and children

The negative effects of displacement particularly affect women and children.

Women

Women are regularly restricted in their freedom of movement, prevented from working and face problems accessing basic services. Lack of access to health services particularly affects pregnant women and infant children. Increased cases of abandonment, divorce, domestic violence, widowhood and female headed households are issues faced by IDP women. Some women from mixed marriages have reported that their husbands were threatened with death if they did not divorce their spouses.

Children

Children have been made orphans as a result of the conflict. Cases of forced military recruitment, child labour and child prostitution have been reported amongst Iraqi children as well as an increase in drug dependency amongst children. Reports of girls being forced into early marriages due to insecurity, economic hardship or cultural conservatism have also increased.

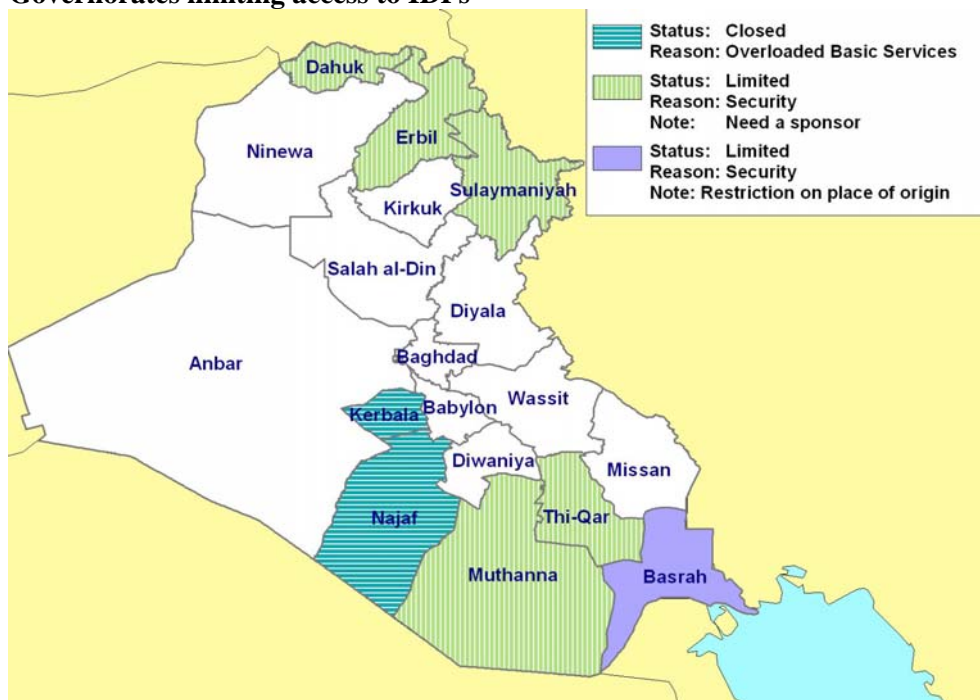
Education

Access to education for IDP children is increasingly problematic. Directors refer to overcrowded schools and a shortage of equipment, school supplies and teachers to support additional students; whilst in some cases IDP children are denied registration. Poor maintenance, a lack of health equipment, unreachable roads and a lack of bus transportation also impact access to education. Some schools have been closed because of occupation by military groups and MNF-I, or are temporarily closed or schedules disrupted by security.

Children are also being held back from attending schools by their parents because of the security situation and/or the family's economic situation; girls in particular have been discouraged from attending schools.

7 Access of IDPs to governorates⁴

Governorates limiting access to IDPs



Source: different reports

- Local authorities in ten governorates have imposed restrictions on IDP entry and residence and/or location of settlement. These measures are designed to restrict entry into some governorates, areas or cities, and are motivated by reasons of security, political considerations and / or saturation capacity. In the three Northern Governorates, IDP entry for certain groups is limited (or prevented) and further complicated by the requirement to regulate the stay.
- Access of IDPs to the city of Fallujah and the Governorates of Kerbala and Najaf⁵ has been restricted to families originating from these areas, due to overcrowding of public buildings, overloading of basic services and security concerns. Registration of newly displaced in the Governorate of Kirkuk is hindered by a political unwillingness to affect the ethnic balance of the city before the coming referendum. For security purposes, the local authorities in Thi-Qar and Muthanna only registered IDPs if they belonged to one of the tribes in these governorates. Recent changes in procedures currently require IDPs to be sponsored by a governmental employee. In the Governorate of Basrah, it must be determined whether the IDP family actually came from a mixed area where displacement is taking place and is caused by sectarian violence.
- Failure in registration implies lack of access to basic services, including access to fuel and to any kind of protection. IDPs in those Governorates may be at risk of expulsion or

⁵ The local authorities of Najaf banned IDPs not originating from the city from settling in central parts of the city and directed them to live in suburbs or outer Governorate districts.

may face undue hardship if they are only allowed to reside outside the city centres with limited access to services and possible rejection by local communities.

For a comprehensive overview of various protection needs and gaps, please see: Cluster F, *New Displacement in Iraq in 2006 from a Protection Perspective*, 15 February 2007.

Cluster F

Amman, 5 March 2007