

Cluster F¹

Internally Displaced Persons in Iraq – Update 16 July 2007

1 IDP families by Governorate

It is estimated that over 2.2 million people are currently displaced inside Iraq as of 24 June 2007. Of these, 1.2 million were displaced before 2006 and 1,011,870 were displaced after February 2006.

A. Internally Displaced Persons after February 2006

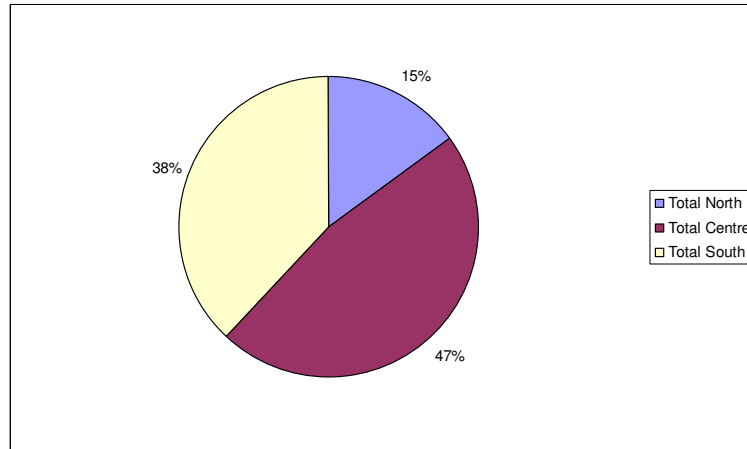
Since the bombing of the Al-Askari Shrine in Samara in February 2006 and due to military operations, sectarian violence has escalated, alongside anti-insurgency, counter-insurgency and crime, leading to widespread violence and insecurity throughout Iraq and the displacement of recorded 1,011,870 Iraqis in 16 months.

Internally Displaced Persons (after February 2006)		
Cut-off date 24 June 2007		
Governorate of displacement	Newly displaced families	Displaced individuals
Dahuk	9,371	56,226
Erbil	5,602	33,612
Sulaymaniyah	10,395	62,370
Total North	25,368	152,208
Anbar	7,650	45,900
Baghdad	30,000	180,000
Diyala	11,540	69,240
Kirkuk	3,435	20,610
Ninewa	14,925	89,550
Salah al-Din	11,434	68,604
Total Centre	78,984	473,904
Babylon	11,150	66,900
Basrah	4,500	27,000
Diwaniya	3,972	23,832
Kerbala	9,631	57,786
Missan	6,583	39,498
Muthanna	2,350	14,100
Najaf	8,995	53,970
Thi-Qar	6,117	36,702
Wassit	10,995	65,970
Total South	64,293	385,758
Grand Total families	168,645	
Grand Total individuals		1,011,870

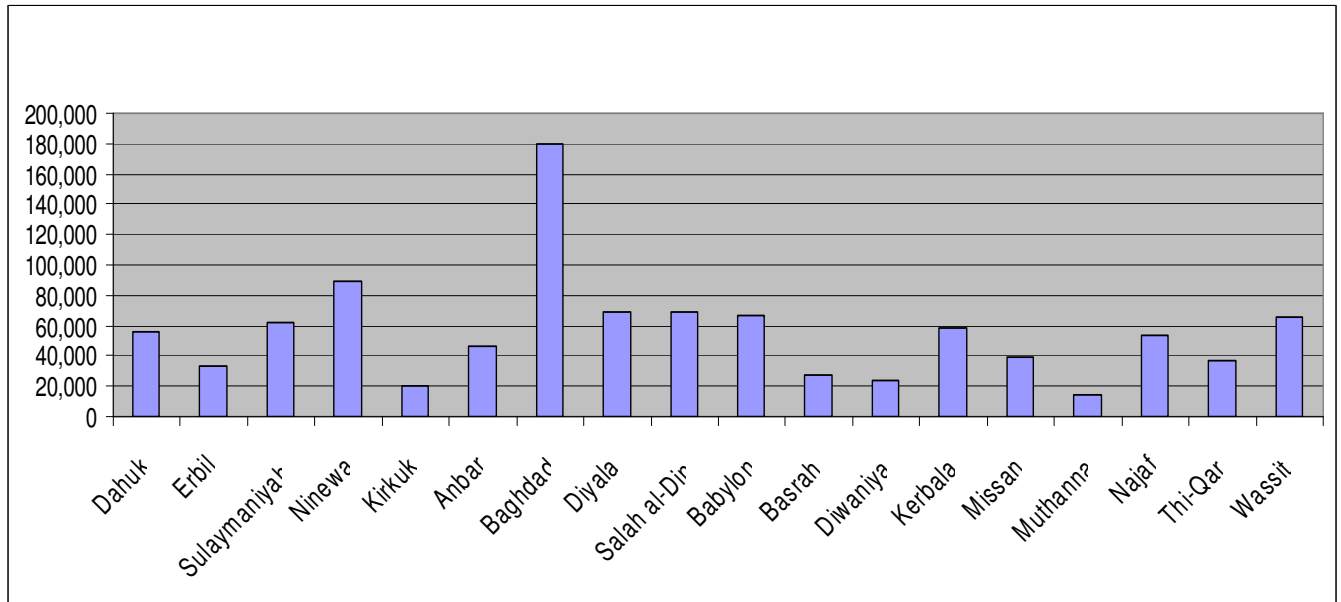
Sources: Ministry of Displacement and Migration, Kurdistan Regional Government and IOM.

¹ The Cluster partners are UNHCR (Coordinator), IOM (Deputy Coordinator), UNAMI, UNOPS, UN-Habitat, WHO, UNICEF, UNEP, WFP, UNDP, UNAMI HRO, FAO, ILO and UNIDO

Displacement after 2006 by region



Individuals displaced per Governorate after February 2006 - as of end of June 2007



B. Transferred/displaced persons before 2006 – Cut off date 31 December 2005²

The main reasons for displacement before the fall of the former regime included human rights abuses, internal conflict along political, religious and ethnic lines, Iraq-Iran and The Gulf Wars, drainage of the Marshlands, construction of dams in the Centre, suppression of the 1991 uprising in the South, competition over land and natural resources, as well as pursuit of the “Arabisation” policies by the former regime. With the fall of the former regime, the US-led invasion and occupation of Iraq and the counter-insurgency as well as secondary displacement of Arabs by returning Kurds, were amongst the causes of internal displacement up until the end of December 2005. In addition, while many Iraqis returned internally or from overseas, a considerable number returned to internal displacement, mainly

² Sources: UNOPS data for the 3 Northern Governorates, IOM monitoring/ needs assessment data for displaced in 15 Central and Southern Governorates.

due to a lack / destruction of housing, lack of employment and social services, presence of mines/UXO and property disputes in their areas of return.

Transferred/ Displaced persons before 2006

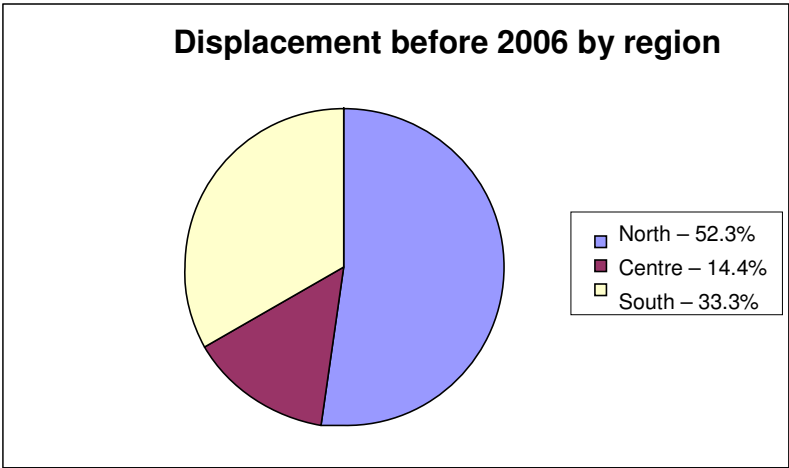
Governorate of displacement	Pre 2003 (families)	2003-2005 ³ (families)	Total families displaced	Total displaced individuals
Dahuk	22,452	22	22,474	134,844
Erbil	32,737	76	32,813	196,878
Sulaymaniyah	50,430	35	50,465	302,790
Total North⁴	105,619	133	105,752	634,512
Ninewa	1,947	4,625	6,572	39,432
Kirkuk	184	1,068	1,252	7,512
Anbar	218	4,685	4,903	29,418
Baghdad	2,281	1,586	3,867	23,202
Diyala	2,409	6,691	9,100	54,600
Salah al-Din	360	3,006	3,366	20,196
Total Centre⁵	7,399	21,661	29,060	174,360
Babylon	654	821	1,475	8,850
Basrah	15,494	284	15,778	94,668
Diwaniya	222	932	1,154	6,924
Kerbala	17,490	1,328	18,818	112,908
Missan	18,465	406	18,871	113,226
Muthanna	424	437	861	5,166
Najaf	3,833	160	3,993	23,958
Thi-Qar	657	3,569	4,226	25,356
Wassit	70	1,960	2,030	12,180
Total South⁶	57,309	9,897	67,206	403,236
Total families	170,327	31,691	202,018	
Total individuals	1,021,962	190,146		1,212,108

³ This figure includes IDPs as well as Iraqi refugees from Iran who returned into internal displacement.

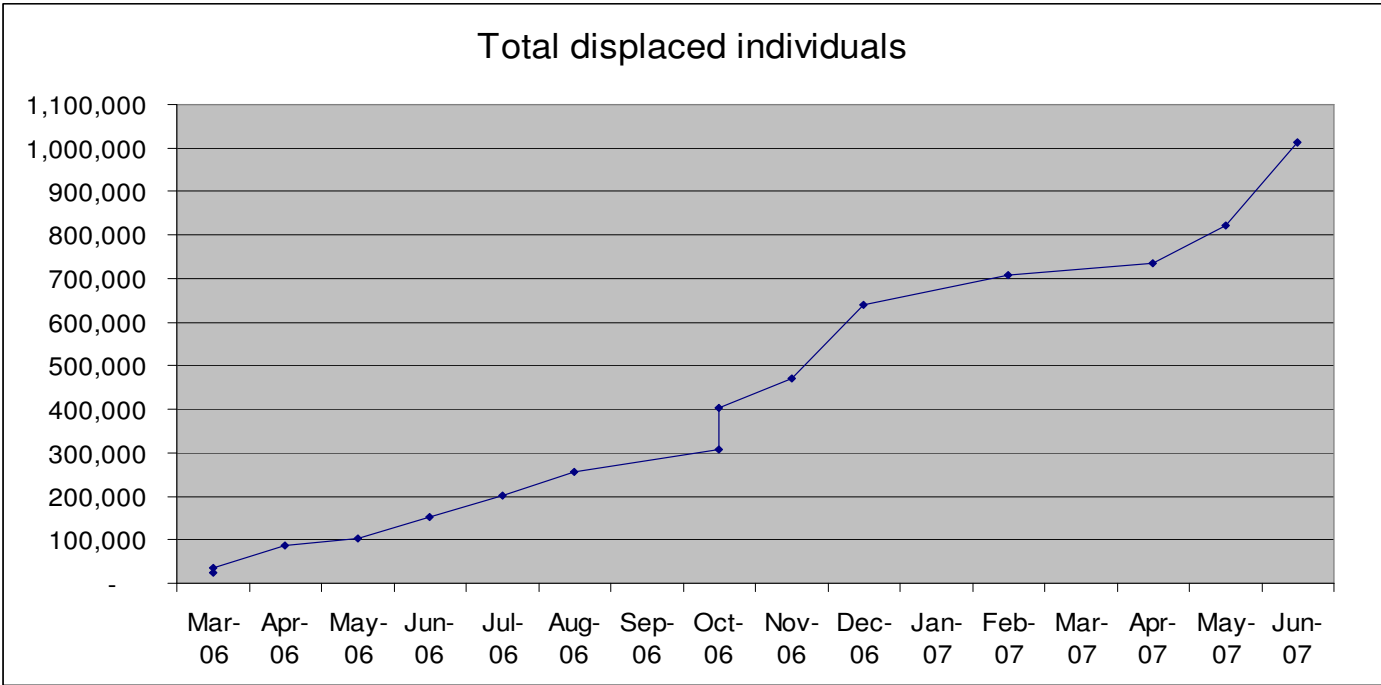
⁴ These include persons expelled during the 'De-villagisation' campaign, the Anfal campaign, the 'Arabization' campaign; persons expelled or who fled due to mid-1990s fighting between the two Kurdish parties as well as those fleeing fighting between the PKK and the Turkish military in Northern Iraq; Kurds expelled to Iran in the 1970s, and who have since returned to Northern Iraq but into internal displacement; Iraqis of all ethnic and religious backgrounds who fled Government-controlled territory since opposing the Iraqi Government; populations fleeing the Centre of Iraq after the fall of the former regime due to religious/ethnic or political persecution and harassment (e.g. religious minorities, intellectuals, Kurds from Fallujah and Ramadi) as well as ongoing fighting between Coalition Forces/Multinational Forces (MNF-I) and insurgents.

⁵ These include Arabs, Kurds, Turkmen and Assyrians displaced to other areas in the Centre during the 1980s as a result of the Iran / Iraq war; Arabs displaced to the Centre as of 1991 following the drainage of the Marshes; Arabs displaced from their places of residence in the Centre as part of the Arabization campaign from the 1960s through the 1990s; Kurds/Turkmen IDPs returning to the Governorates below the 'Green Line' after the fall of the former government in April 2003; Arab 'secondary displaced' fleeing due to fear of harassment after the return of Kurds and Turkmen from the North to their places of origin below the former 'Green Line'; Populations displaced due to periodic fighting between Coalition Forces/MNF-I and Iraqi Forces and insurgents (e.g. Fallujah, Ramadi, Samara, Tal Afar, Al Qaim).

⁶ These include persons displaced as a result of previous wars, specifically the Iran/Iraq war during the 1980s; Shiites displaced due to political/religious persecution (e.g. the 1991 uprising); Marsh Arabs displaced since 1991 following the draining of the marshes; Smaller numbers of Arabs displaced from their places of residence in the Centre (mainly in April/May 2003); people displaced as a result of tribal and other conflicts in the South; people displaced as a result of natural disasters, specifically floods; populations displaced due to periodic fighting between Coalition Forces/MNF-I and Iraqi Forces and insurgents or armed militias (e.g. Fallujah, Ramadi, Najaf).



2 Post February 2006 IDPs: Monthly increase in the last 16 months
(March 06 - June 07)

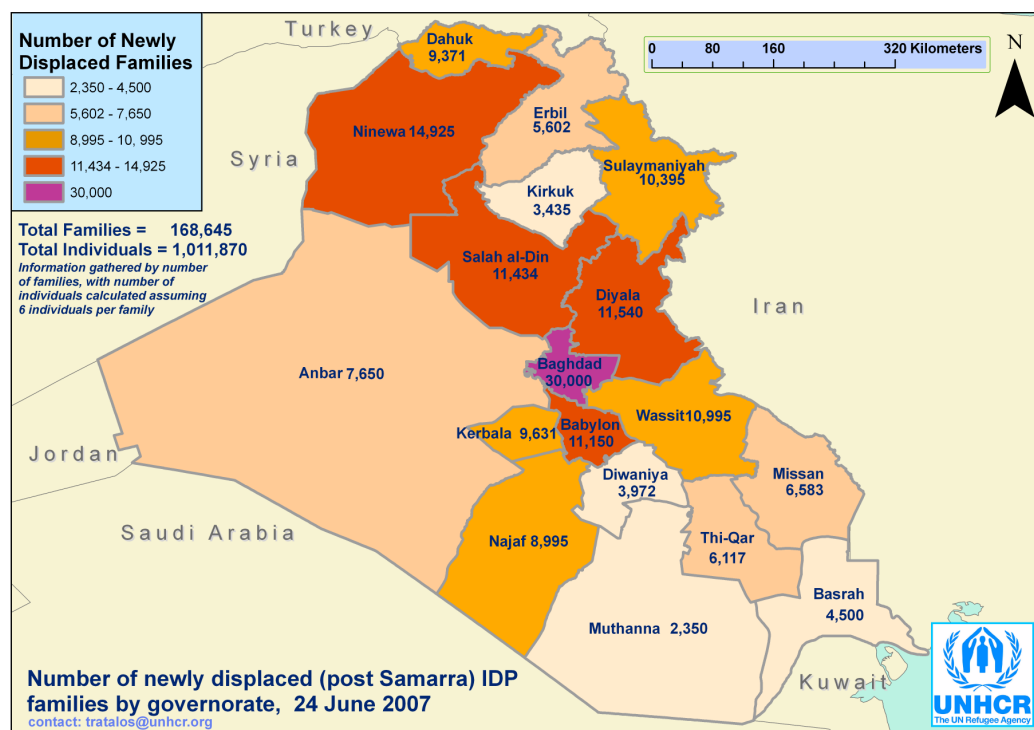


- The number of displaced persons in Iraq increased significantly over the previous 15 months, from 24,942 in March 2006 to 1,011,870 in June 2007.
- While there have been some returns, the majority of IDPs cannot return due to lack of security, occupation of property and destruction of houses.
- Having observed the monthly increase in IDP figures over 15 months, it clearly appears that the increase reported from mid May to end of June by *Cluster F Update – 15 July 2007* is double the average increase (considering that there were 6 weeks between the last and the current update: around 190,000 displaced individuals in one and half months, vis-à-vis the previous average increase of just above 60,000 individuals per month).
- In general, the different figures are the result of a combination of new displacement caused by military operations and inter-communal violence, renewed access to the beneficiaries, increased capacity of MoDM in registering IDPs, improved transfer of data from the

governorates to the central office in Baghdad as well as larger movements to still accessible areas. Please find below further explanations for some of the governorates which witnessed significant changes in figures.

- **Anbar:** The decrease of nearly 2,000 families is mainly the result of IDPs returning to neighbourhoods in Ramadi no longer subject to military operations.
- **Babylon, Missan, Najaf, Ninewa, Salah-al-Din and Wassit:** This is the first significant change in number of IDPs reported by MoDM for the Governorates of Babylon, Missan, Najaf, Ninewa, Salah al Din and Wassit since December 2006. The increase mainly results from increased data entry of IDPs by MoDM coupled with enhanced communication of updated figures to the Central Office by the respective MoDM Branch Offices.
- **Baghdad:** The increase in the number of IDPs is the result of continued displacement, increased data entry by MoDM and enhanced access by IDPs themselves to MoDM through the new Branch Office in Karkh (Sunni area). Furthermore, it needs to be taken into account that IDPs are not able to register with the authorities right away, not least because of lack of security and different security restrictions resulting from the implementation of the Baghdad Security Plan.
- **Diyala:** The increase is due to the high number of persons displaced by the MNF-I and ISF military operations in the area of Baqouba. Given the security situation it is assumed that the number of IDPs is actually higher than the number currently recorded by MoDM.
- **Kirkuk:** The increase is not so much the result of new displacement but registration of IDPs displaced before (some come forward only after realising that through registration with MoDM they would be included in distribution schemes), increased data entry by MoDM and coordination on the registration of IDPs by the city councils' representatives with the MoDM Branch Office in Kirkuk. New IDPs included those displaced in the areas surrounding Kirkuk City (e.g. Hwija, Reydh and Dibis).
- **Sulaymaniyah:** IDP movement towards Sulaymaniyah is ongoing but the sudden rise registered in May was mostly due to improved registration by the local authorities.

3 Post February 2006 displaced persons by Governorate



- The Governorates with the highest concentration of newly displaced persons are: Baghdad (around 180,000 IDPs), Ninewa, nearly 90,000 IDPs, and Diyala, Salah al-Din, Babylon, Wassit, Sulaymaniyah (each with more than 60,000 IDPs). Governorates of Kerbala, Dahuk and Najaf are hosting more than 50,000 IDPs each.

4 Displacement trends post 22 February 2006

- All Governorates have been affected by displacement.
- With the exception of the three Northern Governorates, all other Governorates are both receiving and generating IDPs. In Dahuk, Erbil and Sulaymaniyah, displacement is predominately to rather than from the Governorates. Sunnis are moving from the Shia dominated South to the central and western Governorates whilst Shias are leaving Sunni controlled 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.
- 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 / insurgent power struggles increasing insecurity or iii) a direct or indirect threat to individuals / families such as letters, home visits, text messages etc.
- Diyala has witnessed another major increase of IDPs to other governorates (especially Baghdad) and within the Diyala Governorate itself due to joint military operations by MNF-I and ISF.

- 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 time to prepare for their departure and in the past few months many have been forced to leave within only a few hours notice.⁷

5 Security

- It has been reported that IDP communities have been increasingly blamed for terrorist attacks in the South. This is causing increased tensions between IDPs and the local authorities and host communities.⁸

6 Needs of displaced population per Governorate⁹

Governorate	Shelter	Water	Food	Non-Food Items	Legal Assistance	Employment Opportunities	Health-care	Education
North								
Dahuk	X			X		X	X	X
Erbil	X		X			X		X
Sulaymaniyah	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
Centre								
Anbar	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Baghdad	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Diyala	X	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		
Upper South								
Babylon	X	X	X			X	X	
Kerbala	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Najaf	X		X	X	X	X		X
Lower South								
Basrah	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Diwaniya	X		X	X		X	X	
Missan		X	X	X	X	X	X	
Muthanna	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
Thi-Qar	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Wassit	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Needs of new IDPs are based on IOM, UNHCR and NGO assessments from June 2007. The main needs were identified by interviewed families/host communities.

⁷ Information received by UNHCR.

⁸ Information received by UNHCR.

⁹ 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).

a. Access to food

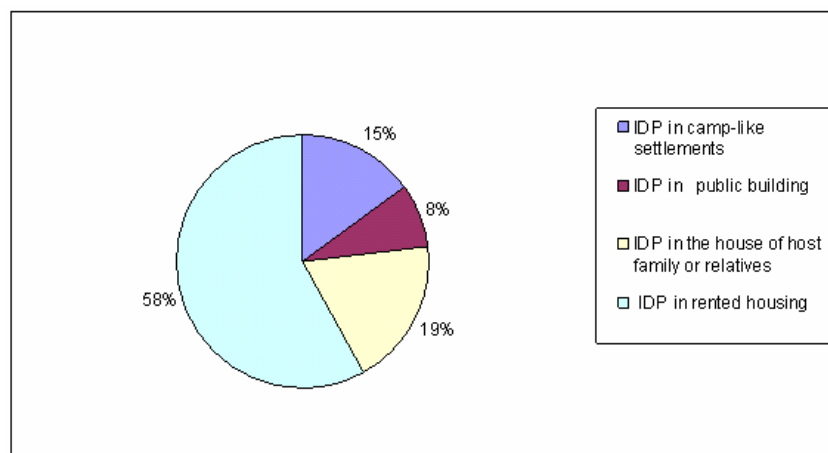
Public Distribution System

- 47% of IDPs in Iraq do not have access to PDS.¹⁰
- 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 for security reasons (IDPs have to go back to their place of origin and cannot) or for political concerns over potential demographic shifts (e.g. Kirkuk).
- Christians displaced in Dahuk can transfer their cards to the city, while Arab IDPs and Kurds displaced from Mosul can only transfer the PDS rations, but not the cards to Fayda (outside Dahuk boundaries). The latter transfer does not happen in practice for bureaucratic bottlenecks.
- In Sulaymaniyah, the transfer of PDS rations was approved for 477 IDP families. However, it was reported at the beginning of July that only 130 out of the 477 families had received their food rations for April, May and June.¹¹
- It was reported that the Ministry of Trade had liaised with Military forces to transport the PDS rations to Diyala Governorate before the major military attack started on Baqouba.¹²

Access to markets

- Access to markets is often difficult in the Central governorates due to frequent terrorist attacks and curfews.
- Lack of income due to high rate of unemployment (income and employment are reported as priority issues for 65% of the IDPs assessed by IOM)¹³ hinders access of families to food in the markets.

b. Access to shelter¹⁴



Source: IOM and UNHCR reports

¹⁰ WFP, *An assessment of IDPs in Iraq*, April 2007. p. 6.

¹¹ Information received by UNHCR.

¹² Different sources.

¹³ See IOM, *Emergency Needs Assessments*, 17 May 2007.

¹⁴ For more information on shelter issues, please refer to *Cluster F Update*, 5 March 2007.

- 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 thousand in tented camps.
- 58% of the IDPs are renting houses. For these, major challenges are:
 - lack of income due to unemployment;
 - increasing prices of rents;
 - conflict with host community due to overcrowded basic services and increased prices.
- 19% of IDPs live with host families. For these, major challenges are:
 - resources of host families are exhausted;
 - hosting capacity (in terms of space, sanitary facilities...) of host families is stretched;
 - overcrowded water and sanitation networks.
- 8% of IDPs live in public buildings and 15 % of IDPs live in barracks, former military camps, camp- like settlements and (less than 1%) in tented camps on private or public land. For these major challenges are:
 - inadequate living conditions;
 - limited access to basic services (e.g., clean water and sanitation);
 - continuous threat of eviction;
 - often conflict with host community on utilization of public buildings.

c. Camps¹⁵

- According to different reports at the end of June 2007, less than 1% of the Iraqi IDP population are living in camps. Thirteen camps have been assessed at the end of June 2007, where less than 10,000 IDPs are living in tents and/or barracks.
- Two camps have been set up in Dahuk (hosting 858 families), two in Sulaymaniyah (169 families), one in Ninewa (104 families, in contentious area, by KRG authorities), three camps in Baghdad (138 families), two in Missan (101 families), one in Najaf (178 families), one in Diwaniya (21 families) and one in Wassit (13 families)
- The temporary nature of camps that was a characteristic of Iraqi IDP camps only few months ago is changing and the presence of longer-term camps is noticed.
- Camps are set up by the local authorities, IRCS and by IDPs themselves.
- Some camps (Ninewa) have been closed by the authorities for lack of resources.
- The KRG local authorities are setting up camps as a last resort in areas which are contentious.
- MNF-I and ISF prepared camps in Diyala in order to house persons displaced by the protracted attack on Baqouba. However, these camps remained uninhabited.
- Major needs of IDPs living in camps are access to clean water and safe sanitation, adequate shelter, medical care, safety as well as access to employment.
- There is a growing concern about possible limitations to the IDPs freedom of movement in and out of camps.

¹⁵ Sources: UNHCR reports on camps as well as various e-mail communications; IOM, *Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Camp Assessment Report* - July 2007.

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

- Given the increased number of IDPs, IDPs' access to basic services has deteriorated in comparison to the last *Cluster F Update*, May 2007. Potable water, adequate sanitation and health services remain pressing needs, particularly in villages and rural areas.
- Water and sanitation structures have been severely damaged by the various crises affecting Iraq, most notably from a lack of, or insufficient infrastructure maintenance. Such insufficient sanitation structures and inadequacy of the networks in some areas are causing serious health hazards.
- Of total IDPs assessed by IOM monitors in the 15 central and southern governorates, 17.05% reported that they do not have regular access to water. Even IDPs with regular access to water do not often have access to clean drinking water, nor can they necessarily obtain enough water to meet all their needs. Water availability and cleanliness is often especially poor in remote areas or in overcrowded neighborhoods.
- Whilst the government undertakes efforts to keep hospitals functioning and to pursue vaccination campaigns, many Primary Health Care Centres (PHCs) are lacking adequate equipment, medicine and/ or qualified staff. Areas of high IDP concentrations place an additional burden on PHCs and result in an inability for them to serve them. There is a concern that families are being left out of vaccination campaigns, placing them at an 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.
- Overall, 12% of IDPs assessed by IOM monitors reported that they could not access basic health care services. A particularly high percentage does not have access in Kirkuk (46%), Muthanna (27%), and Diyala (24%). A lack of facilities, insecurity, distance, and financial constraints were the most cited reasons for lack of access.¹⁶
- Specialized health care (e.g. surgery or gynaecology) is seldom available, often because specialist physicians have fled. IDPs assessed consistently reported severe shortages of medication, qualified medical staff, and equipment. One-third (34%) reported that they cannot access medications they need.¹⁷ In addition, the psychosocial and mental health needs of IDPs have not been sufficiently assessed. This merits further investigations.
- Forty-eight percent (48%) of IDPs assessed had participated in a vaccination programme. Slightly over one-third (36%) had been visited by health workers within the past thirty days. However, almost all of these visits provided vaccinations only, without medical examination or consultation.¹⁸
- Limited access to fuel due to shortages and high costs are common across most Governorates.

e. Income and employment

- Lack of employment or adequate income is a major problem for a significant number of IDPs in the eighteen Iraqi Governorates, since it limits their enjoyment of adequate shelter and food.
- Income and employment are reported as priority issues for 65% of the IDPs assessed by IOM.¹⁹

¹⁶ IOM reports.

¹⁷ IOM reports.

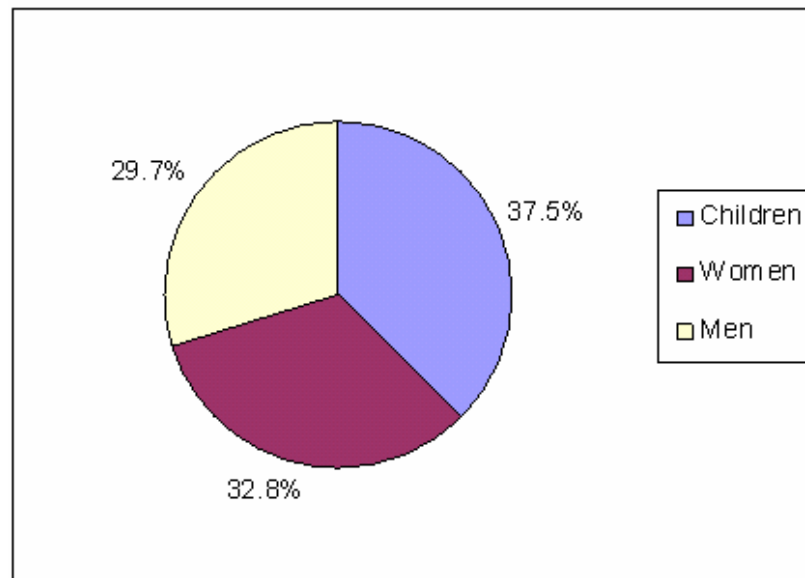
¹⁸ IOM reports.

¹⁹ IOM, *Emergency Needs Assessments*, 17 May 2007.

f. Education

- It has been reported that IDP students have been allowed to take examinations in their current place of displacement thanks to instructions issued by the Ministry of Education to all schools. However, this was not applied to IDP children in the final year of primary or secondary school.
- It is reported that the increasing number of IDP children of Arab origin has limited possibilities to attend schools in the three Northern Governorates given the insufficient number of schools where classes are offered in Arabic.
- For further details on education, please see *Cluster F Updates*, March 2007 and May 2007.

6 Composition of IDP population



From the IRCS Report, July 2007

- Together, women and children represent over 70% of the displaced IDP population since February 2006, a slight increase compared to the statistics presented two months ago.
- During last year, the percentage of men ranged between 28% and 31%, representing the minority of the IDP population.
- The negative effects of displacement impact particularly on women and children. In general, the situation of IDP women and children as portrayed in *Cluster F Updates*, March 2007 and May 2007 is still valid.

7 Access of IDPs to Governorates

Governorates limiting access/registration of IDPs



Source: Different sources, map produced by UNHCR.

- Local authorities in eleven 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 their stay.
- 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 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.
- Registration for IDPs in the Southern governorates is becoming increasingly difficult. New regulations were issued by MoDM requiring different or additional documentation to register.²⁰
- The latest Governorate closed for IDPs is Diawaniya where the Governor's instructions of April 2007 are now being implemented.
- For more information on this topic, see *Cluster F Updates*, March and May 2007.

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 and *Cluster F Update*, March 2007 and *Cluster F Update*, May 2007.

Cluster F

Amman, 16 July 2007

²⁰ Information received by UNHCR.