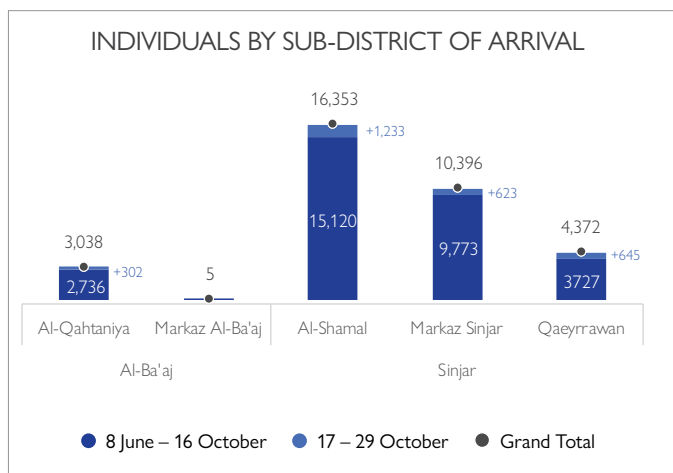
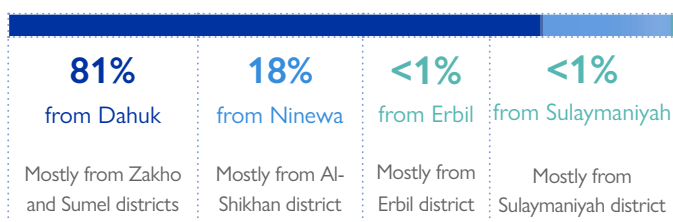
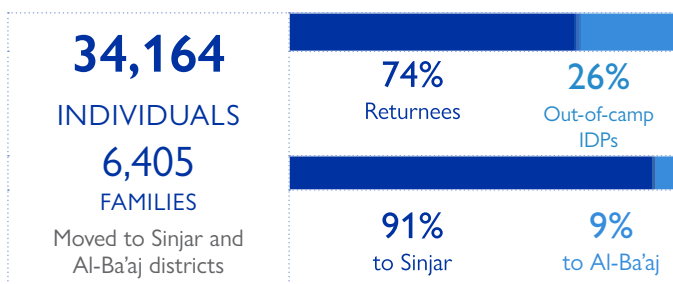


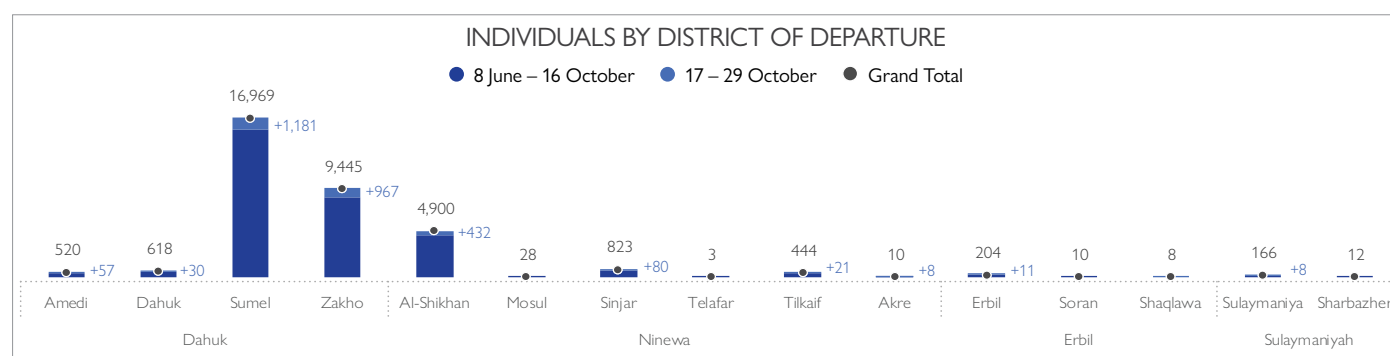
# DISPLACEMENT AND RETURNS TO SINJAR AND AL-BA'AJ DISTRICTS

PERIOD COVERED:  
17 TO 29 OCTOBER 2020

\*All charts/graphs in this document show total figures for the period of 8 June to 29 October 2020



Additionally, between 17 and 29 October, a total of 2,235 individuals were recorded as departing from Dahuk Governorate (80%) – which is similar to the rates of individuals having departed from there since 8 June (81%). As with all previous rounds, between 17 and 29 October, the majority of individuals from Dahuk were recorded as coming from the districts of Sumel (42% of all individuals) and Zakho (34%). The remaining individuals from Dahuk Governorate were recorded as coming from the districts of Amedi (2%) and Dahuk (1%). Additionally, between 17 and 29 October, a further 541 individuals were recorded as having come from within Ninewa (19%), mainly from two districts:



Between 17 and 29 October 2020, DTM tracked 2,803 individuals (546 families) returning to Sinjar and Al-Ba'aj districts in Iraq's Ninewa Governorate. This brings the total number of individuals who have taken this route to 34,164 (6,405 families) since data collection commenced on 8 June 2020.

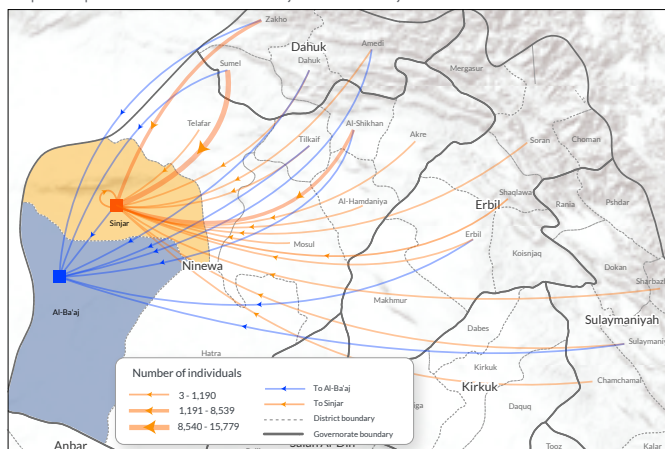
In this reporting period, the average number of daily individual arrivals was 192 to Sinjar and 23 to Al-Ba'aj. In this period, the daily number of arrivals to Sinjar is lower than the overall daily average since 8 June (219), while the daily average number of arrivals to Al-Ba'aj is consistent with overall average since 8 June (22).

Of those individuals who returned between 17 and 29 October, a total of 2,501 were recorded in Sinjar (89%) and 390 were recorded in Al-Ba'aj (11%) – broadly consistent with the rates of individuals' districts of arrival since 8 June.

The most common sub-district of arrival was Al-Shamal with 1,233 individuals (44%), followed by Qae'rriwan with 645 individuals (23%), and Markaz Sinjar with 623 individuals (22%). Together, these three sub-districts comprise 91 per cent of all individuals recorded as having arrived to Sinjar and Al-Ba'aj since data collection commenced on 8 June. Otherwise, 302 individuals arrived to the sub-district of Al-Qahtaniyah (11%).

Of those individuals identified as returning between 17 and 29 October, 2,212 were recorded as returnees (79%), while the remaining 591 were recorded as out-of-camp IDPs (21%). This represents a minor deviation from the overall proportion of individuals having been identified as returnees (74%) and out-of-camp IDPs (26%) since 8 June.

Map 1. Population Movements to Sinjar and Al-Ba'aj districts



Al-Shikhan (15% of all individuals) and Sinjar (3%). This proportion (19%) of individuals recorded as having come from Ninewa between 17 and 29 October is broadly consistent with the overall proportion of individuals recorded as having come from there since 8 June (18%). Otherwise, 19 individuals were recorded as arriving from Erbil Governorate (1% of all individuals), while eight individuals arrived from Sulaymaniyah Governorate (1%).

Since 8 June, almost all individuals have been recorded as having departed from Sumel (50% of all individuals), Zakho (28%), and Al-Shikhan districts (14%).

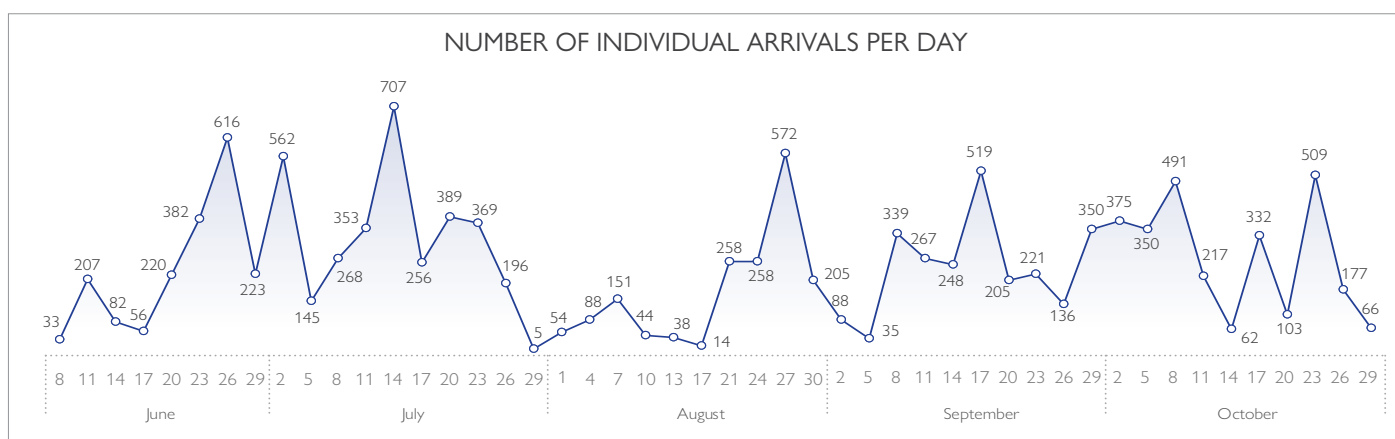
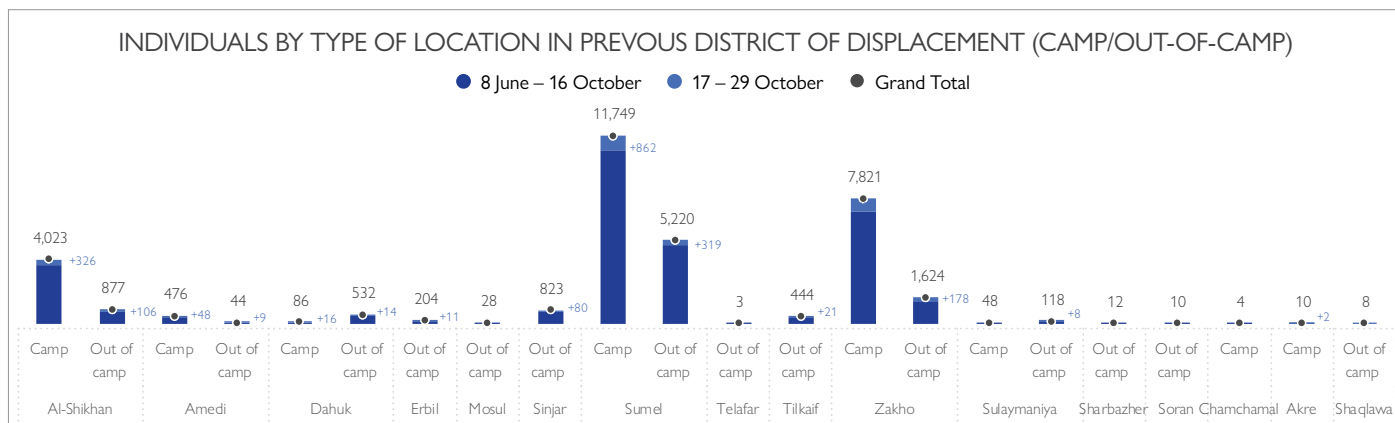
Between 17 and 29 October, of the 2,501 individuals who arrived to Sinjar District, 2,031 came from Dahuk Governorate (81%), while 443 came from within Ninewa (18%), 19 came from Erbil (1%), and 8 came from Sulaymaniyah (1%). Additionally, of the 302 individuals who arrived to Al-Ba'aj District, 204 came from Dahuk (68%) and 98 came from within Ninewa (32%).

Furthermore, during the same period, a total of 2,049 individuals were recorded as coming from camp settings (73%), while the remaining 754 individuals came from out-of-camp settings (27%). This is broadly consistent with the rates of individuals coming from different settings since 8 June, as follows: 24,217 individuals have arrived from camp settings (71%) while 9,947 individuals have arrived

from out-of-camp settings (29%).

Between 17 and 29 October, increases were recorded in the number of individuals who had been living in camp settings in their previous districts of displacement. The total number of individuals now in Sinjar and Al-Ba'aj who have come from camp settings within Sumel is now 11,749 (up from 10,887), while Zakho's is 7,821 (up from 7,032), and Al-Shikhan's is 4,023 (up from 3,697).

In addition, since 8 June, the total number of individuals who have come from out-of-camp settings within Sumel is now 5,220 (up from 4,901), while Zakho's is now 1,624 (up from 1,446), and Al-Shikhan's is 877 (up from 771).



## ADDITIONAL ANECDOTAL NARRATIVE

### Reasons for returns

- Reasons for IDPs returning to Sinjar include their desire to go home, as well as the improved security situation in their areas of origin, while Mukhtars, local NGOs and returnees have also encouraged IDPs to return home. Threats facing eviction in locations of displacement is also a factor for those IDPs returning to Sinjar. Otherwise, the main reason for IDPs returning to Al-Ba'aj also relates to their desire to go home, while the availability of services (such as education and health) in their areas of origin is also central to the decision.
- One of the push factors has been COVID-19 pandemic, as some families who had a member working in the area of origin and moving back and forth between Sinjar and an area of displacement could no longer move easily due to movement restrictions, which then pushed the IDPs to return.

### Assistance and registration

- Reportedly, the Directorate of National Security in Sinjar has established a feedback/complaint/response mechanism in the form of a hotline to be used by the new returnees or IDPs willing to return to their areas of origin in Sinjar. The main purpose of the system is to enable authorities to follow up on emerging issues/complaints, including but not limited to difficulties at checkpoints, as well as on reports that some of the newly returned individuals occupy buildings that do not belong to them.

### Challenges faced by returnees

- Debris removal has been noted as an obstacle to return, given the large-scale destruction that took place in Sinjar.
- There are reports of individuals having returned to areas with limited basic services such as healthcare, markets, water, and electricity and having not received assistance. Some of these locations had not previously witnessed any returns.