

IOM DISPLACEMENT MONITORING AND NEEDS ASSESSMENTS

TENT CAMP ASSESSMENT REPORT
AUGUST 2008



BACKGROUND

Although displacement has continued to slow during the first half of 2008, small numbers of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Iraq continue to live in tent camps. Shelter is consistently ranked as a top priority need among IDPs throughout the country, and those who reside in tent camps are often the most vulnerable among a population which is already insecure and in need of humanitarian assistance.

Camp residents generally do not have access to basic services, cannot protect themselves against the elements or extreme weather, and are located far away from medical care, education, and other needs. These harsh conditions, combined with a cultural aversion to living without familial privacy and personal dignity, make tent camps a last resort for Iraqi IDPs. As a result, the number of camps and the size of camp populations vary periodically.

This assessment provides information on the current status of all camps in existence since October 2007, as well as the percentage of IDPs in each governorate living in housing arrangements that resemble camp conditions, such as group settlements or illegal residence in public buildings.

IOM does not encourage the creation of camps as a solution to IDP shelter needs, but rather promotes assistance to communities hosting IDP populations. However, due to the precarious nature of camp life, IOM recognizes the high need for humanitarian assistance in these locations and provides assistance and needs assessments monitoring accordingly.

In coordination with the Iraqi government's Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MoDM), the Iraqi Red Crescent Organization (IRCO), local authorities, and other stakeholders, IOM monitors visited camps throughout Iraq to assess the IDP situation¹. This assessment is complementary to the group settlement assessments that UNHCR provides. This document, along with a range of other IOM reports released on all aspects of displacement in Iraq, can be found at <http://www.iom-iraq.net/library.html#IDP>.

¹As noted on page 2, this report focuses on only *tent* IDP camps, with some additional statistics on camp-like group settlements in Iraq, including spontaneous settlements created by IDPs, or public buildings and former military facilities inhabited by IDPs. There are also multiple refugee camps in Iraq.

CAMP SUMMARY

Governorate	Camp name	District	No. Of families, Oct 07	No. Of Families, Jan 08	Current No. Families
Baghdad	Sabaa Qusoor	Al-Istiklal	35	Closed December 2007	Closed
Diyala	Al Salam Camp	Al-Muqdadiya	-	Closed November 2007	Closed
Missan	Missan Camp	Amarah	1	0	0
Najaf	Al-Manathera	Al-Manathera	246	250	230
Ninewa	Gardasin	Akre	150	156	159
Qadissiya	Al-Karahma	Diwaniya	20	20	Closed
Sulaymaniyah	Qalawa	Sulaymaniyah	130	203	59
Sulaymaniyah	Prdi Mangorayati	Pshdar	0	0	120
Thi-Qar	Al-Moukaa	Al-Nassriya	Under Construction	Under Construction	Closed
Wassit	Kut	Kut	14	Closed January 2008	Closed

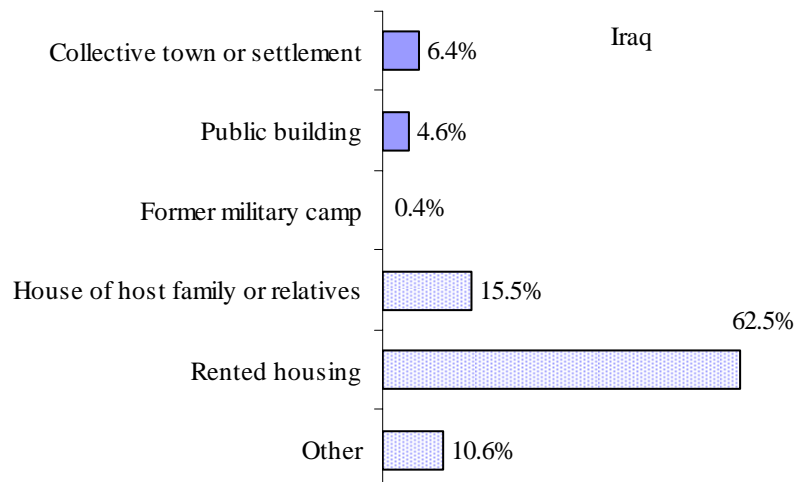
Please note that since camps are continually being established or closed due to the fluctuating nature of displacement, this assessment is not exhaustive and information is continuously changing.

VULNERABLE HOUSING

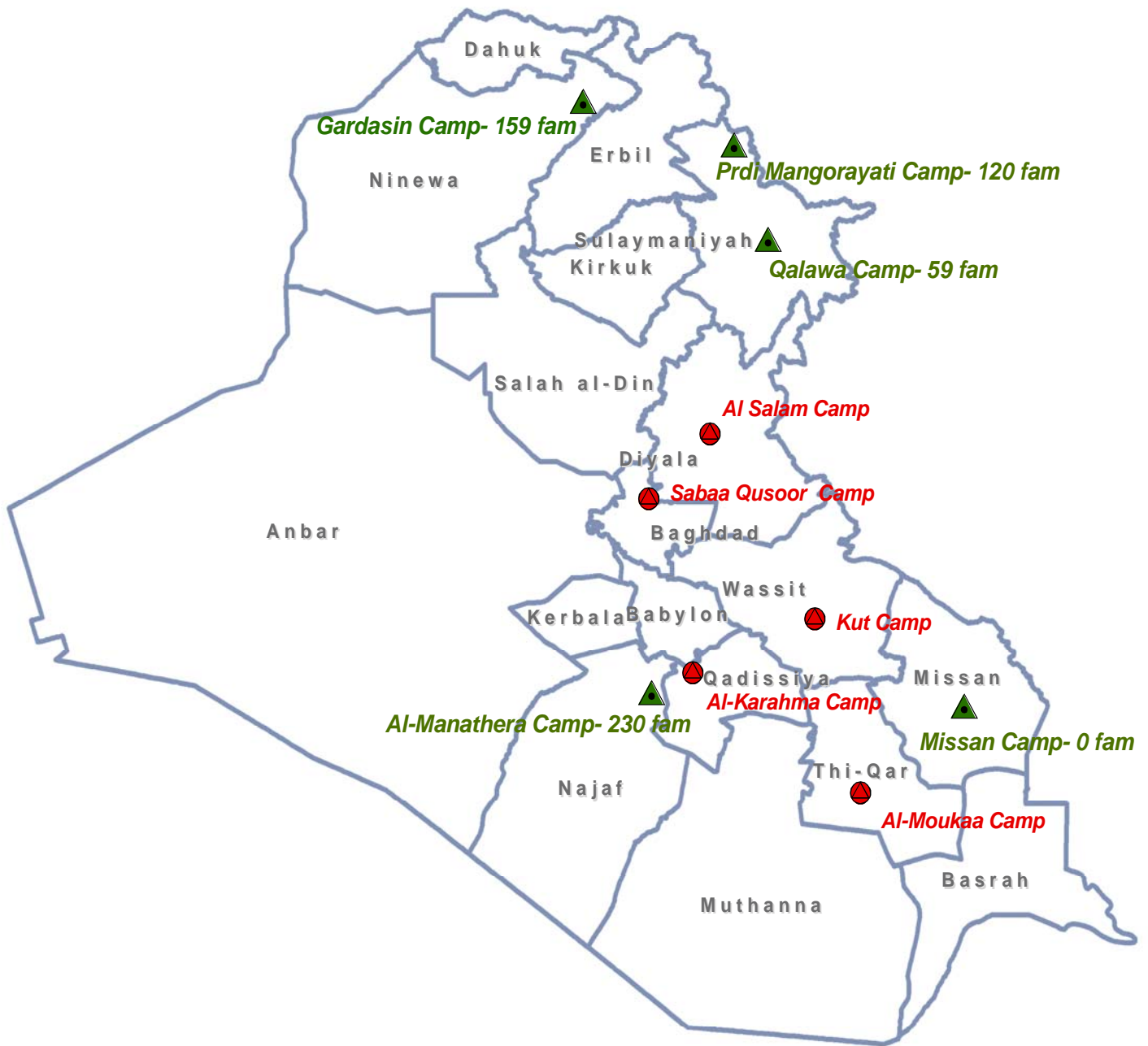
Shelter is a priority concern for the majority of IDPs in Iraq. Although those living in tent camps represent a small percentage of IDPs (only 568 families), residents of tent camps are particularly vulnerable because they have no protection from the elements and often no access to food, water, sanitation, health care, or other basic services.

In addition to tent camps, a similar precarity of housing is found among IDPs who settle (or squat) in collective settlements, public buildings, or former military camps. These types of shelter are particularly vulnerable to eviction. Included in this report are the statistics for IDPs living in such housing (highlighted in blue in all charts), as well as the remaining IDP housing arrangements.

Apart from tent camp residents, approximately 11% of Iraqi IDPs live in collective settlements, public buildings, or former military camps:



IDP Tent Camps in Iraq, August 2008



ACTIVE TENTED CAMPS

Najaf

Al-Manathera Camp is the biggest camp operating in the country. Located 17 kilometers south of Najaf city, the camp is situated on the grounds of what once was a wood factory, close to Al-Manathera Mill.



There are 230 families living in the camp (1,600 individuals), including 18 families (120 individuals) who relocated to Al-Manathera from Al Karahma camp in Qadisiyya governorate. The population is comprised of IDPs from Baghdad (60%) and Diyala (10%), with the rest from Kirkuk, Mosul, and Ramadi.

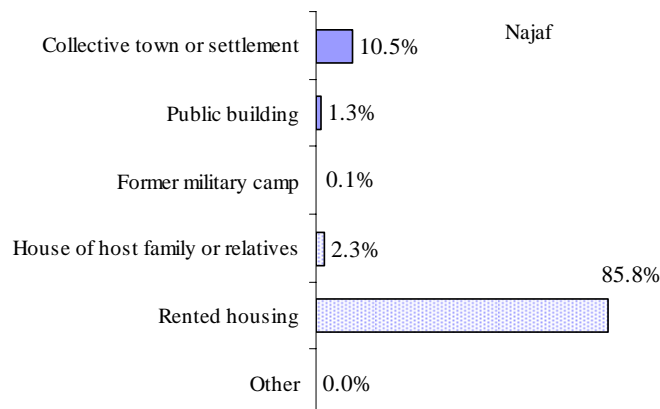
Accommodation in the camp is comprised of 300 tents housing 115 families, and 115 caravans housing 115 families. Each tent measures 9m², which is enough room to house four people, and each caravan can house 10-12 individuals. Most of these caravans (101 of them) have their own sanitation blocks. Families residing in tents often use three tents per family, although there are some who must make do with two.

The camp was established in January 2007 by MoDM and IRCO, partially to address the needs of squatters who were removed from public property. The ICRC has, however, since withdrawn from management of the camp, placing it under control of MoDM, with support from local governments and local NGOs. Local police provide protection.



A water tank for residents.

All families living in the tents are considered particularly vulnerable because of the harsh conditions these tents provide. In addition, monitors have identified 22 families (174 persons) who are in need of assistance, including eight female-headed households and six elderly-headed households. The tents are insufficient to protect families from the elements, such as temperature extremes and sand. Residents have access to water; however, it is sometimes mixed with sand and dirt, causing a rise in cases of diarrhea and related ailments throughout the camp population. Access to sanitation is mixed. Families living in tents are resorting to digging holes for sewage, which in turn is exacerbating health conditions in the camp. There is a health clinic located in the camp, but facilities for health workers are inadequate to provide proper care for IDPs. Unemployment, overcrowding, and lack of privacy continue to cause significant tension among the camp's inhabitants.



The camp has received assistance from various NGOs and religious groups, such as the distribution of foodstuffs (flour, oil, tomato paste, rice, sugar etc.) as well as blankets, hygiene kits, bedding and blankets. A local religious group provided a recreation area for children in May. IDPs in the camp have also received trainings in fields such as mechanics, carpentry and sewing.

Almost 11% of IDPs in Najaf live in collective settlements. The vast majority (86%) live in rented housing.

Ninewa

Gardasin camp lies in the Gardasin sub-district of Akre district, Ninewa. This area is de facto under the administration of Dahuk authorities and is therefore sometimes considered part of Dahuk governorate.

The camp was originally established in May 2007 in order to accommodate IDPs from Mosul who were displaced in April 2007 due to violence and threats from insurgents. Additional IDP families from Mosul have since arrived. The camp is administered by the KRG and protected by local police.

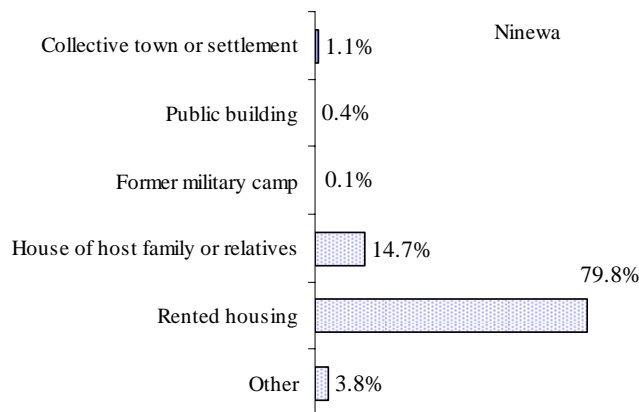


The camp is comprised of 156 tents and currently houses 530 IDPs (about 159 families). The tents are in poor condition and are not capable of protecting IDPs against wet weather conditions. IDPs have received food and non-food items from a range of national and international humanitarian organizations. Twelve toilets and baths have been provided by another NGO, though they are not connected to a plumbing system. IOM has distributed food and non-food items (fuel, fuel tanks, winter clothing, and plastic sheeting), and provided construction of drainage channels.

Water is currently provided by a well and supplemented by water trucking. There is no electrical supply to the camp itself and IDPs are using their own private generators. Gardasin sub-district has a primary and secondary school, but classes are overcrowded and classroom extensions are required. There is also a health center in Gardasin; however, medical supplies and staff are inadequate to service demands. Some cases of typhoid have been reported among children in the camp.

The camp requires another generator, as well as kerosene. IDPs also require food and non-food items, medication, and more tents of better quality. Unemployment is high in the camp, especially among youth. Some have found employment in local restaurants.

The vast majority of IDP families in Ninewa live in rented housing (80%), while less than 2% live in collective settlements or public buildings.



Sulaymaniyah

Qalawa Camp was formed in June 2006 by a group of IDPs on an empty piece of open land southeast of Sulaymaniyah center. It is located in Sharwani area, near the Rizgari fuel station.

Camp residents face poor conditions, as they have no sanitation, loose garbage around the tents, no electricity and no toilets. In addition, there have been cases of typhoid reported. IDPs have access to

a mobile medical unit and water is being trucked in. ICRC, NGOs, UNHCR, IRCO, and IOM have provided humanitarian and financial assistance to camp residents.

The camp, which consists of 75 tents, was formed when a large number of families fled sectarian violence in Baghdad and Diyala. Recently 120 of the 200 families in the camp returned to their places of origin in Baghdad, Diyala, and Ninewa. UNHCR funded \$250 worth of travel expenses for each family, and each will receive a \$900 grant from the MoDM office in their place of origin. The remaining 59 families also intend to return to their places of origin in the near future.

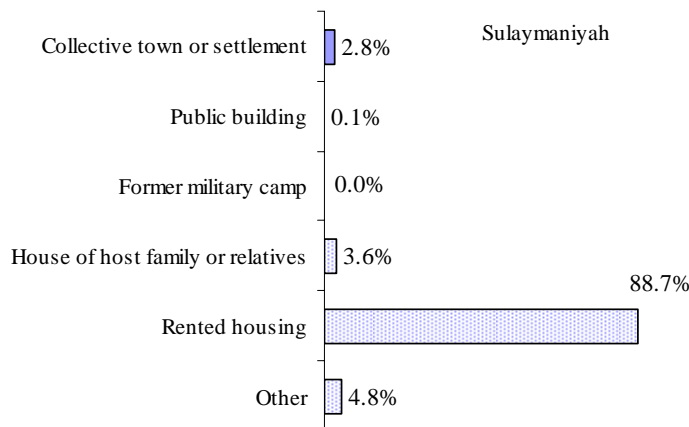
In recent days the security situation in the camp has deteriorated after the mayor of the camp survived an assassination attempt that injured his nephew. Entry and exit are restricted.

Prdi Mangorayati Camp is located near Qandil Mountain, about three kilometers from Gozena village in Pshdar District. The camp was established in March 2008 to house 120 Kurdish IDP families (660 individuals) displaced by Iranian and Turkish cross-border attacks. The camp is managed by the KRG and consists of 170 tents, each with a capacity of six to seven individuals.



The location of the camp is extremely isolated, and most families suffer from shortages of drinking water, electricity, and basic services. There is a simple health clinic which lacks adequate space, equipment, and medicines. The water source which camp inhabitants use daily is unsuitable for drinking and poses a health risk, especially to children. IDPs have constructed toilet and bathroom facilities close to the river, posing a further health risk. Eight children have already been referred to nearby hospitals as a result of unsanitary drinking water. Scorpions and snakes in the camp also pose a further danger to camp inhabitants. The nearest school is approximately 40 minutes away by car.

Families are primarily in need of food and non-food items. IDP access to food is extremely irregular, with only three food distributions being made since February 2008. ICRC and IRCO have made one non-food item distribution to the camp since it was opened.



While camps are sometimes established for large groups of IDPs with no alternative housing, the vast majority of Sulaymaniyah IDPs (89%) live in rented housing. About 3% live in collective settlements or public housing.

Missan

Missan Camp is located along the Missan-Basrah highway, approximately 5km south of Amarah City, near a silo and gas factory. The camp is currently empty, though not yet closed. During the previous period, almost all camp inhabitants left the camp, and the two remaining families departed for Basrah when the governor of Missan ordered any camps with fewer than ten families to be closed.



Camp bath and toilet facilities.

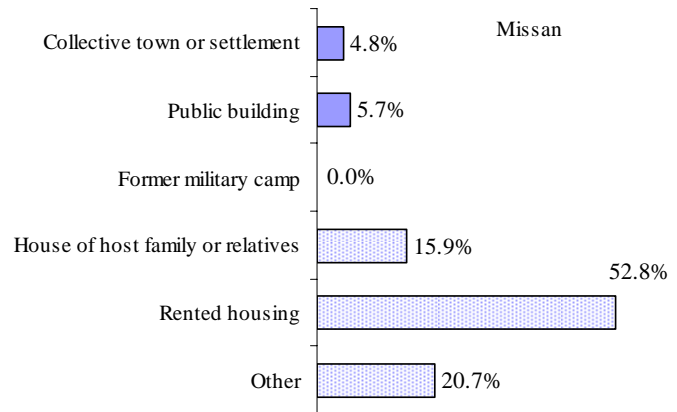
Many families who left cited harsh conditions as the main reasons for leaving. Isolated from downtown Amarah and basic services located in the city, its dirt road provided little access for those trying to enter and exit. The camp has insufficient water, no electricity, generator, medical services, or sanitation supplies.

Originally established by IRCO in February 2007 in coordination with MoDM on 10,000m² of land, the camp was established to host IDPs evicted from school buildings. It was then opened up to any IDPs registered with MoDM. The camp originally contained 40 tents, able to accommodate 400

persons in total. However, harsh weather conditions have destroyed most of the tents and none remain standing.

The camp is managed by IRCO, MoDM, and the provisional council of Amarah city, and guarded by Iraqi police. Facilities consist of ten bathrooms divided into five blocks, each containing two bathrooms and two toilets, as well as one block used as a kitchen. Water is provided by six water tanks, however one is inoperable. Lighting is provided by ten light stands in the centre of the camp, however only two remain operable.

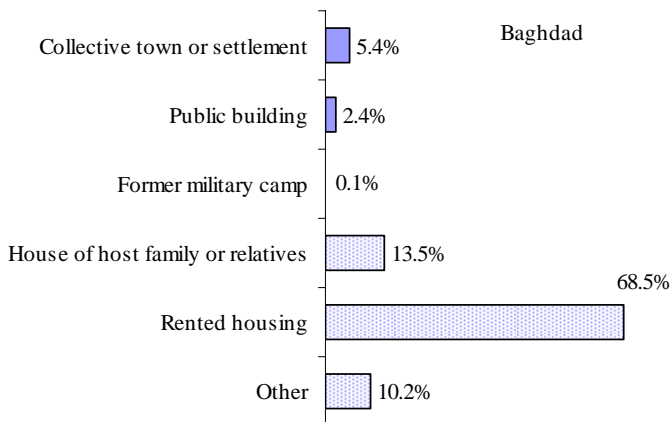
The camp is now being used for food and non-food item distributions to IDP families in Missan.



Almost 11% of IDPs in Missan live in collective settlements or squat in public buildings.

CLOSED TENTED CAMPS

Baghdad



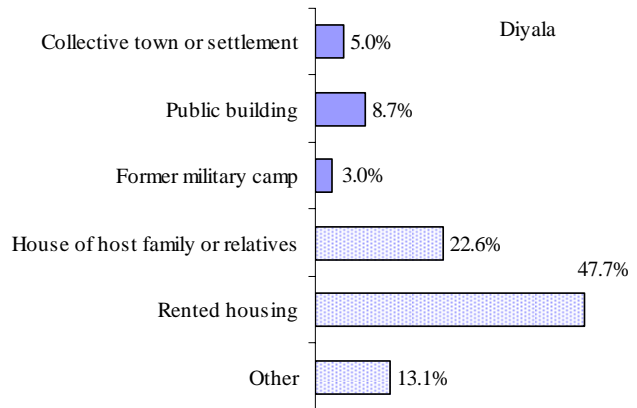
Baghdad had one camp, **Sabaa Qusoor**, which closed in December 2007. The camp was originally established by IRCO in May/June 2007 to accommodate 35 IDP families fleeing from Al Anbakiya village in Diyala. Some of these families returned to their village, while others moved to public buildings in the nearest village, Al Islah.

Currently approximately 8% of IDPs in Baghdad live in settlements, public buildings or former military camps.

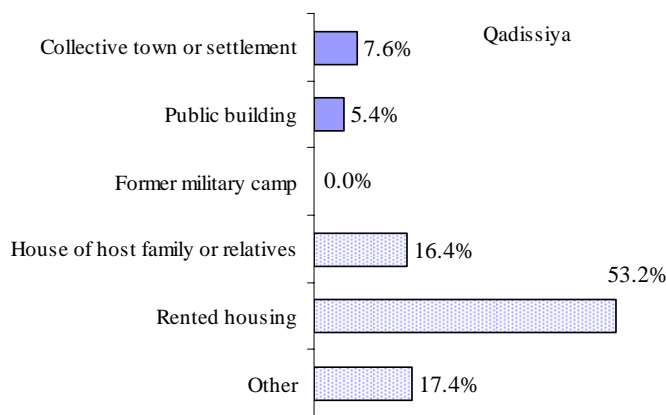
Diyala

Al Salam Camp was located in Diyala governorate until its closure in November 2007, after many of the families left. The camp was originally established by the IRCO in response to Multi-National Forces in Iraq (MNF-I) operations which caused displacement in Diyala, and many left the camp when these operations subsided. The 160 families formerly in the camp had fled from Khanaqin and Al-Muqdadiya districts.

Currently almost 17% of Diyala IDPs live in collective settlements, public buildings, or a former military camp.



Qadissiya



Al-Karahma Camp (formerly known as Al-Kashfee) closed in April 2008, when the remaining 20 families left. 18 of them went to Al Manathera camp in Najaf because Al Karahma lacked the necessary basic services, and the possibility of living in caravans at Al Manathera was more appealing.

Previously, residents of the camp had threatened to go on a hunger strike to call attention to the lack of assistance to their needs. Despite sporadic aid from NGOs, IRCO, the Iraqi Army, and others, they were in need of food,

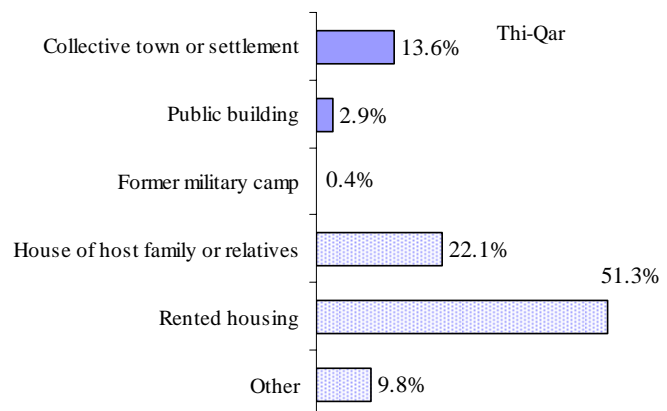
non-food items, improved tents, health care, and employment. The camp had insufficient electricity and only one water pipe. A religious organization took responsibility for transferring the families.

Located 10 kilometers north of Diwaniya, the camp was established in March 2006 by the Qadissiya Provincial Council in response to mass displacement after the February 2006 Samarra bombing.

13% of IDPs in Qadissiya live in collective settlements or public buildings. The majority (53%) live in rented housing.

Thi-Qar

Construction on **Al-Moukaa Camp** has been postponed indefinitely. The camp, located about 10 minutes by car from Nassiriya city center, was intended to accommodate IDPs living illegally in public buildings and threatened with eviction. The camp is designed to have 100 tents with paved floors.

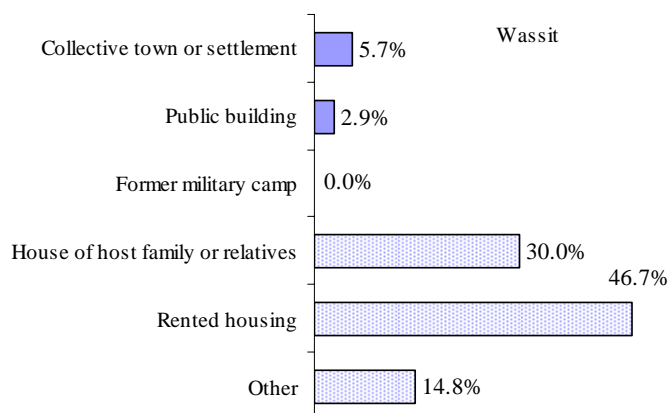


Construction first began on the camp in mid-2006, and MoDM will manage the camp should it be completed in the future.

Currently about 3% of IDPs in Thi-Qar live in public buildings.

Wassit

Kut Camp is has now been formally closed. The camp was located in the site of an amusement park near the Al-Rabeaa and Al-Sharqiya neighborhoods within Kut city center and previously housed 13 families, each in a separate tent. They have since moved to a complex in Al Dijeli district.

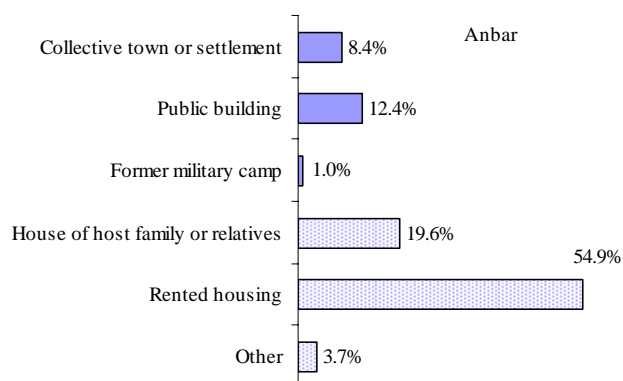


The camp closed on 17 January 2008. It had been established by the Wassit branch of IRCO in March of 2006 in order to assist IDPs entering Wassit after the February 2006 Samarra bombing. The camp was managed by MoDM, which provided non-food items such as mattresses, blankets, and water tanks. Assistance was also provided by IRCO and religious organizations.

Currently almost 9% of Wassit IDP families live in a collective settlement or squat in a public building.

GOVERNORATES WITH NO TENTED CAMPS

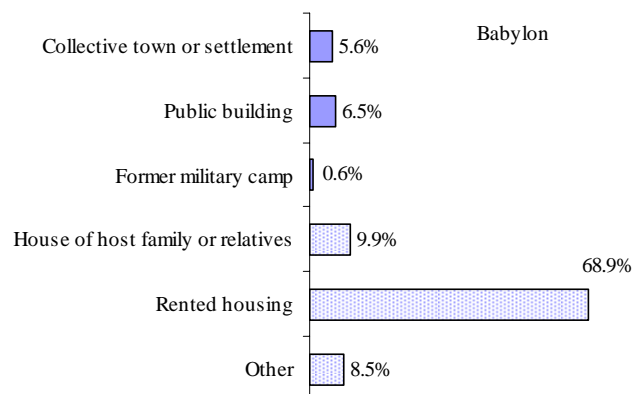
Anbar



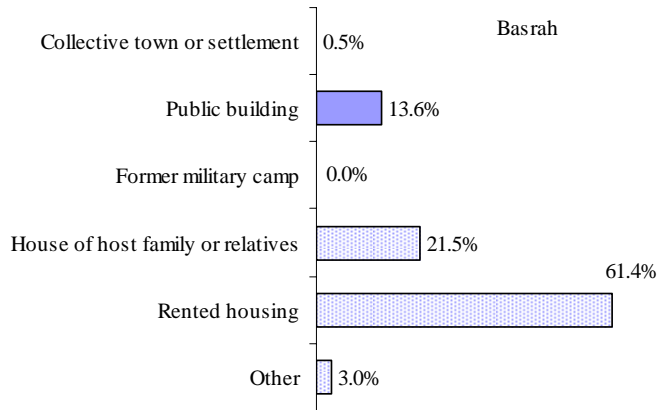
There are no IDP camps in Anbar. The majority of IDPs in this governorate (55%) live in rented housing, though a significant percentage are squatting in a public building (12%) or living in a collective settlement (8%).

Babylon

There are currently no camps in Babylon governorate. However, approximately 12% of IDPs in Babylon live in collective settlements or public buildings. The majority of IDPs (70%) live in rented housing.



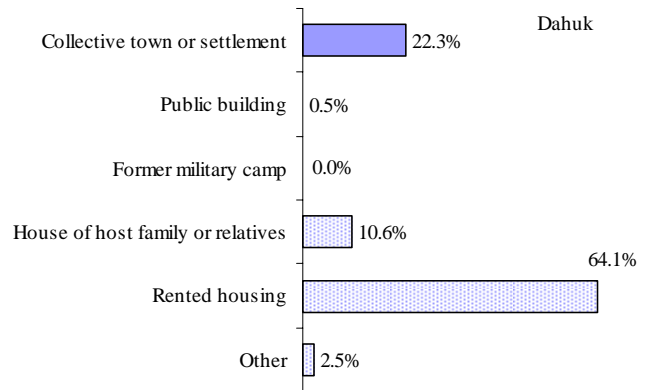
Basrah



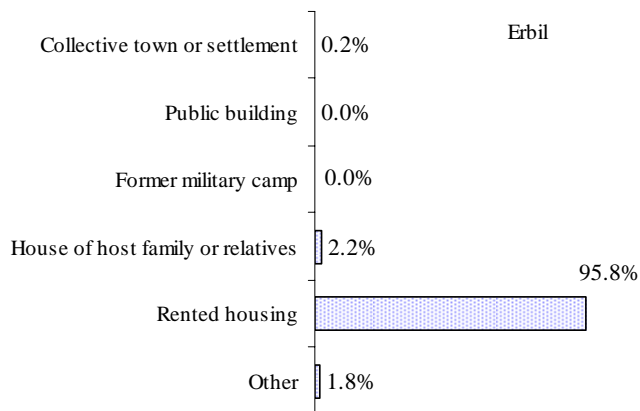
More than 13% of IDPs in Basrah squat in public buildings. There are no camps in the governorate.

Dahuk

While there are no camps in Dahuk, nearly a quarter of IDPs in this governorate live in collective settlements.



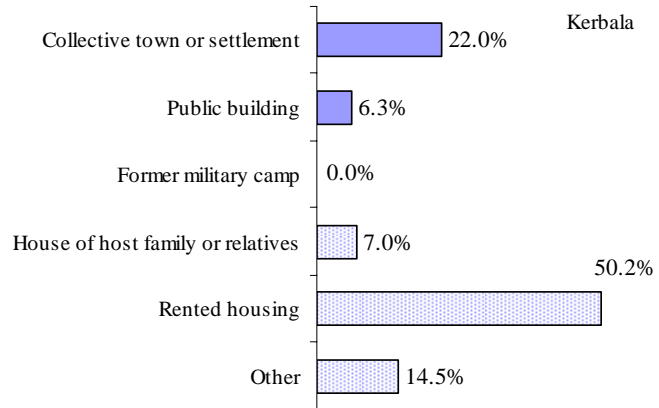
Erbil



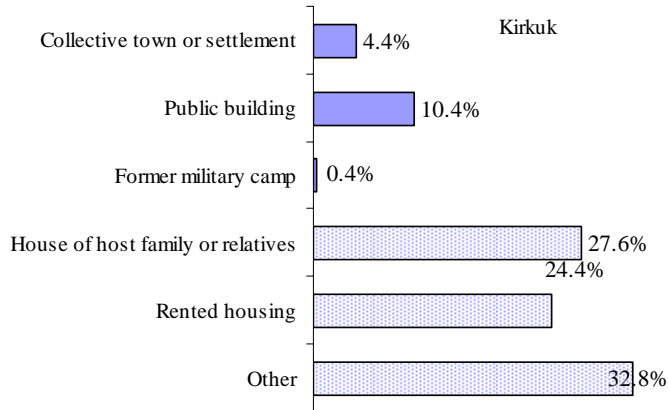
There are currently no tent camps in Erbil. The vast majority of IDPs (96%) live in rented housing.

Kerbala

A significant number of IDP families in Kerbala (22%) live in collective settlements, while another 6% are squatting in public buildings. The majority (50%) live in rented housing. There are no camps in Kerbala governorate.



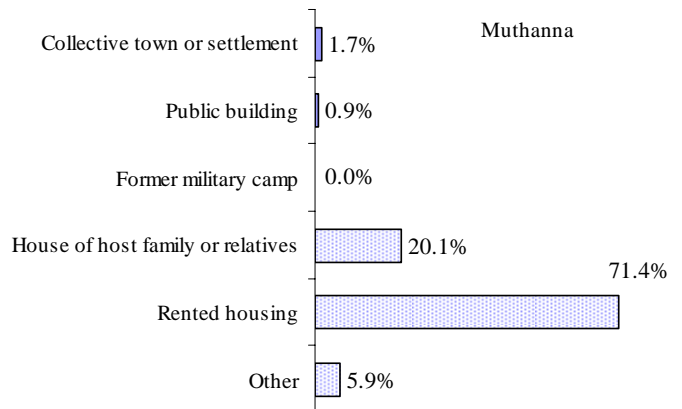
Kirkuk



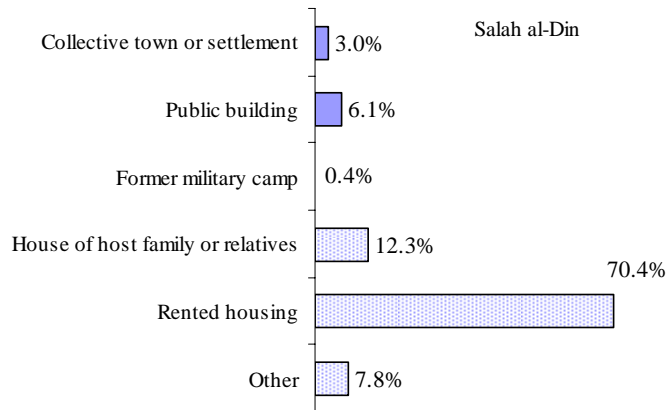
There are no camps in Kirkuk governorate. However, almost 15% of IDPs live in a collective settlement or squat in a public building.

Muthanna

The majority of IDP families in Missan live in rented housing (71%) or the house of a host family or relatives (20%). Less than 3% of families live in settlements, or public buildings.



Salah al-Din



Approximately 9% of IDP families in Salah al-Din live collective settlements or public buildings. The vast majority (70%) live in rented housing.

For further information on internal displacement in Iraq, please contact Dana Graber Ladek, Iraq Displacement Specialist, at dgrabler@iom-iraq.net (+962 79 611 1759).