

# Iraq Informal Sites Overview | September 2021

**# Sites**  
**477**

**# Households**  
**17,416**

**# Individuals**  
**103,005**

The **total population** living in informal sites has decreased slightly in 2021 compared to 2020: from 104,000 individuals in October 2020 to 103,000 in September 2021. More pronounced population changes (increases as well as decreases) were recorded at governorate level, influenced primarily by return movements and secondary displacement from camp closures.

## # sites and individuals by governorate

Governorate	Number of sites	Number of ind.
Ninewa	130	32,292
Al-Anbar	30	20,661
Duhok	160	19,398
Salah al-Din	55	11,856
Baghdad	35	7,980
Kirkuk	34	7,212
Erbil	10	1,086
Al-Najaf	1	540
Babil	6	516
Diyala	4	378
Wassit	1	330
Kerbala	2	210
Al-Qadissiya	2	204
Al-Sulaymaniyah	2	120
Al-Basrah	1	84
Maysan	2	78
Thi-Qar	2	60

**Informal site size:** average site size is 37 HH (216 individuals) nationally, but varies significantly between governorates: from 118 HH in Anbar, to 43 HH in Ninewa, and 20 HH in Duhok.

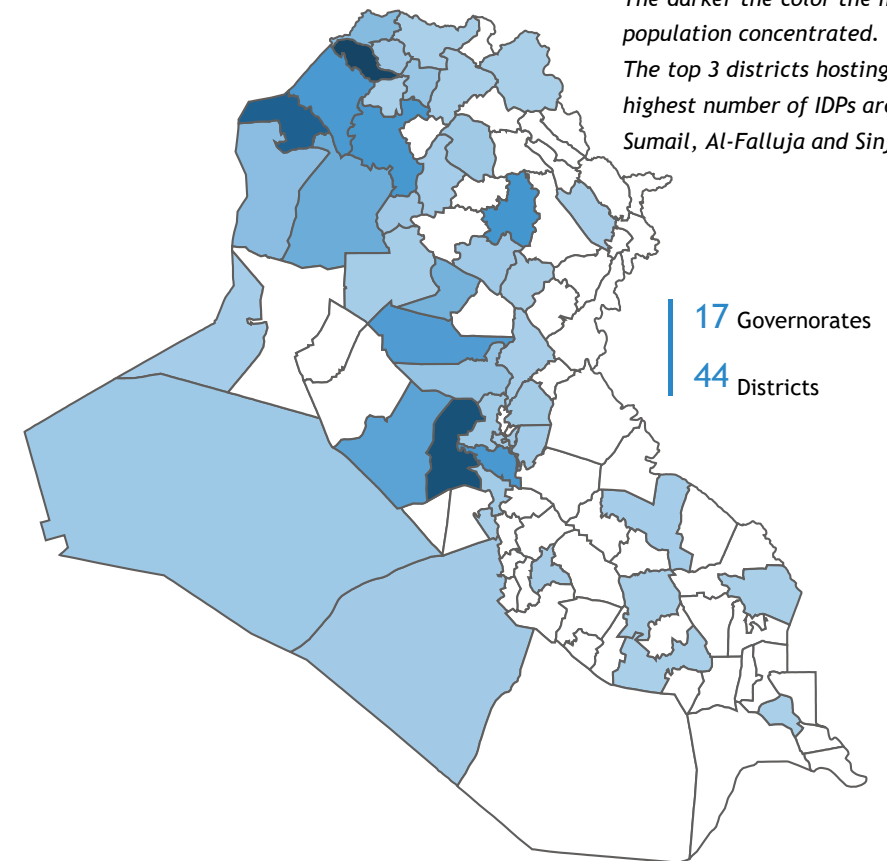
Anbar governorate hosts the most populated sites, including "Kilo 7" (7 killo-al-mojamaa al-sakany) in Al-Ramadi district (4,621 ind.) and the 10 Beizeibz sites (in total 6,524 ind.) in Al-Falluja district. In Ninewa governorate, the Jebel Sinjar area in Al-Shamal sub-district hosts 8,012 individuals living in 13 informal sites.

**District breakdown:** Over two-thirds (68%) of all people living in informal sites reside in seven districts: 16% of all individuals live in Sumail in Duhok governorate, 14% in Al-Falluja in Anbar, 12% in Sinjar in Ninewa.

## Top seven districts by informal site population (ind.)

Governorate	District	Number of sites	Number of ind.
Duhok	Sumail	128	16,296
Al-Anbar	Al-Falluja	20	14,576
Ninewa	Sinjar	30	12,758
Kirkuk	Kirkuk	31	6,492
Ninewa	Al-Mosul	33	6,244
Baghdad	Al-Mahmoudiya	21	6,222
Ninewa	Telafar	16	6,100

## Total Individuals by district



**Disclaimer:** The boundaries and names shown and designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations

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## Shelter type

Shelter type	Number of Sites	Number of Ind.
Unfinished/abandoned buildings	161	20,817
Mud or block structures	128	26,842
Tent/ Makeshift shelter	70	20,822
Mud or block structures Tent/ Makeshift shelter	54	13,448
Other	22	9,564
Unfinished/abandoned buildings Tent/ Makeshift shelter	20	7,684
School building	11	1,206
Container/caravan	8	2,478
Religious building	3	144

**Shelter conditions** are sub-standard by definition of the “informal site” typology. A third (38%) of sites consist fully or partly of unfinished or abandoned buildings. 11 sites are in school buildings. Over 20,000 women, men, and children are still living in tents or makeshift shelters in informal sites.

Mixed types of shelter found in the same site are common - for example, where tents and makeshift shelters are erected next to an existing building to increase site capacity, or where shelters are gradually upgraded.

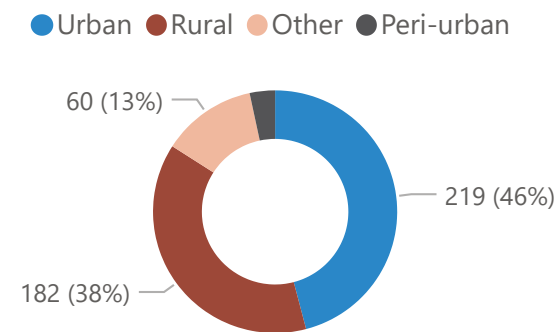
Over half (53%) of all sites are comprised of either tents or makeshift shelter, mud- or block-structures, or a combination of the two. Mud- or block-structures as recorded here are self-constructed; for example, made as an upgrade to a tent or makeshift shelter. Properly constructed residential buildings are not recorded as informal sites.

## 2020-2021 Population change comparison

While overall the population of informal sites decreased from 104,400 ind. in late 2020 to 103,000 ind. in Sept. 2021, there were more notable changes at governorate and district level. Main drivers of these changes were returns movements, and the forced camp closures from mid- to end-2020.

- **Anbar:** increase of 1,500 ind. – likely due to camp closures/evictions and subsequent secondary displacement, and reclassification of camps to being informal sites.
- **Baghdad:** increase of 5,300 ind. - likely driven by secondary displacement after camp closures and reclassification of camps, and potentially due to improved identification of sites.
- **Duhok:** decrease of 7,900 ind. - part of mid- to end-2020 returns movement from Duhok to Sinjar.
- **Ninewa:** increase of 5,900 ind. - Sinjar district site population increased by 4,800 individuals, likely due to high returns. Site population increased in Hatra (1,900 ind.) and Mosul (620 ind.) districts, possibly linked to secondary displacement after camp closures.
- **Salah al Din:** decrease of 5,000 ind. - partly driven by eviction of sites during the camp closures and due to returns in some districts. Site population in Balad district increased due to secondary displacement after site closures.
- A small reduction in informal site population was recorded in all other governorates, with the exception of Babil where sites were newly recorded in 2021 partly due to better access to the area.

## Number of Sites by Location type



**Urban/rural dynamics:** 38% of informal sites are in rural areas - in villages or individual isolated sites. 3% are in peri-urban locations - neighborhoods outside cities and large towns but dependent on them for services. The location of a site may impact access to services, healthcare, and education for site residents, as well as accessibility of employment opportunities.

## Data sources

The analysis presented here is from the Informal Sites Masterlist published by the CCCM Cluster in September 2021. The Masterlist comprises data compiled from two sources: 1) informal sites identified in the IOM-DTM Integrated Location Assessment (ILA) VI between May-July 2021 and / or 2) sites reported by CCCM partners in 2021.

The Masterlist can be requested from the CCCM Cluster - contact details are below.

The Masterlist provides a comprehensive list and basic information about informal sites hosting families displaced post-2014 in Iraq. Detailed multi-sectoral assessment information about most informal sites of over 15 households is available from the IOM-DTM ILA - link below.

## Informal Sites

### What is an Informal Site?

- More than five households, living together as a group
- Families who were displaced post-2014
- Location was not originally developed to host displaced people
- Sub-standard shelter condition (e.g. tents, makeshift shelter, unfinished building, public facility)
- Facilities (e.g. WASH) are shared between families and likely sub-standard
- Basic services may not be available in the site, and if they are present are commonly delivered or accessed and usually sub-standard
- No formal management or administration from local authorities
- No formal (rental) agreement in place with landowner for habitation of the site

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## Useful Links

IOM-DTM ILA 6 - <http://iraqdtm.iom.int/ILA6/InformalSites>

Technical guidance on Informal Site definition - Download [HERE](#)