

SITUATION REPORT #16: UPDATE FOR 16/4 - 29/4



Displaced families from Sinjar register on arrival at Shekhan camp in northern Iraq, where IOM contributed to development of infrastructure by providing the internal electricity network, road construction, kitchens, administration buildings and primary health care clinic | 27 April 2015

On 23 April, the first displaced families began to register at Shekhan Camp, Dohuk governorate. The majority of these families were originally displaced from the Sinjar area of Ninewa to Dohuk governorate.

Many hundreds of families arrived via IOM-provided busses, bringing what little they had when they fled violence during summer 2014. The camp's capacity will be 1,200 families.

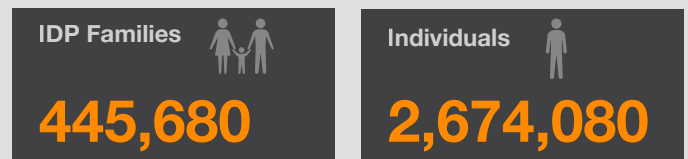
Families at Shekhan camp will have access to a primary health care clinic provided and operated by IOM Iraq's health team, as well as psychosocial support and private family kitchens. IOM Iraq also provided gravel-paved roads, the internal electricity network and prefabricated units for camp administration, security and management.

Residents at the camp expressed relief that they would have access to private kitchens, schools, psychosocial programming and healthcare.

"My child has had a fever for ten days now. Before, my family was living in Kani Masa, but two people died there because they were so far away from help. We were happy to move closer to Dohuk City because we knew it would be near to hospitals. To hear that this camp will have doctors gives us a sense of great relief," said Saadia, a 21-year old mother of two displaced from Sinjar.

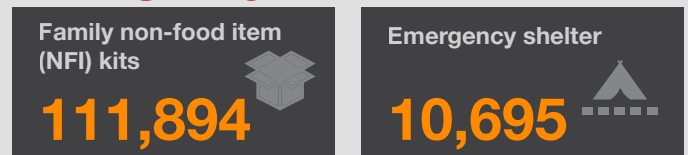
### Displacement

According to Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) data collected by IOM Rapid Assessment and Response Team (RART) from January 2014 - 9 April 2015



To access the IOM Iraq DTM, please visit:  
<http://iomiraq.net/dtm-page>

### Emergency Relief Distribution



# The Khalil Family

“ My mother died of a heart attack while we fled Sinjar. My father died only three days later of a broken heart. ”



Above | Nadira and Sa'ada in their tent at Shekhan Camp in northern Iraq | 27 April

Nadira turns the pages of her family photo album with the pain of loss visible on her face. Sitting with Nadira and her teenage daughter Sa'ada in their tent at Shekhan camp, IOM Iraq staff learn of the immense loss their family has faced through the photos they share.

“Before we were displaced, we spent a lot of time together as a family. We had lots of parties and picnics together. We all lived in the same neighborhood.” Nadira pauses, pointing out a wedding photo. “This is my niece. She has four children. They were all captured by ISIL. We heard from them three days ago, but they have no idea where they are or what will happen to them.” She turns a page to show another photo.

“This is Sa'ada playing cards with me and my mother when she was little.” Nadira’s eyes fill with tears. “My mother died of a heart attack while we fled Sinjar. My father died only three days later of a broken heart, and we had to bury them both far from home.”

Sa'ada and Nadira represent just one family of thousands that fled violence from Sinjar in summer of 2014. Nadira, her husband, her two daughters and son were able to escape, but the journey to safety was marked by hardship and loss for the Khalil family.

“My husband was working at a checkpoint, and he got a cell phone call that ISIL was approaching. He came home and gathered us quickly – we had no time to pack. I was fortunate to have the photo album in my hands. We passed an ISIL checkpoint by lying about going to our farm, and once we were safely past, we abandoned the car and continued on foot in the middle of the night. We headed towards Sinjar Mountain and were there for too long. My daughters saw horrifying things. There were women throwing themselves off of the mountain out of despair.



Nadira shares photos of her family as they were in happier times





Nadira in her new kitchen provided by IOM Iraq in Shekhan camp, northern Iraq | 27 April



Nadira sharing photos of her family with IOM Iraq staff

“Others attempted to quench their children’s thirst with their own tears. We continued walking until we reached friendly soldiers who helped us to safety in Kurdistan.”

Nadira continues her painful story. “When my husband went back to Kanesour after it had been liberated from ISIL, he found that from our neighborhood, my husband and his two brothers were the only men who survived. Everyone else was decapitated, and we assume that the women and children have been kidnapped. We saw the bodies of some of my brothers on social media. This is how we found out they had been killed.”

Uncertainty continues to haunt their displacement. “My friends and I used to go to the market together,” says 16-year-old Sa’ada, showing IOM staff a photo of her hometown market on her phone. “Now I don’t know if they are dead or have been sold as slaves.”

Despite their uncertainty, Sa’ada’s eyes brighten a little when discussing the new facilities at Shekhan. “I will definitely go to school when it opens, and I hear there will be groups for women and girls I can participate in,” she says, referring to the IOM psychosocial programming that will be offered just a few steps from their tent. “It gets so boring sitting in this tent all day with nothing to do but miss my friends.”

When asked if they plan on returning home, Nadira expresses hope. “When our hometown was liberated from ISIL, we were finally able to bury my parents with their relatives. The front line is still too close for us to go back, but perhaps one day we can return.”

IOM is responding to life-threatening needs in a rapidly changing environment, in addition to monitoring movements on the ground.

