

3.3.1 Climate change-induced displacement

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As of March 2025, IOM reported that over 172 000 individuals in Iraq remained displaced across 12 governorates due to climate-related factors, highlighting the urgent need for climate adaptation measures like sustainable water management, rural support, and urban planning.[1194] (See section 3.1 on Impact of climate change)

Climate-related challenges[1195] triggered families' displacement, impacted services for children[1196] and often led to violence, conflicts, and the growth of informal settlements.[1197]

Climate change has also negatively affected agriculture, the main livelihood for many returnees, reducing economic stability and hindering durable solutions.[1198] An increasing number of Iraqis are moving to urban areas in search of employment due to the lack of arable land and the disappearance of waterways essential for fishing.[1199] Weak governance and poor resource management exacerbate these issues, undermining stability.[1200] Thi Qar[1201] and Missan[1202] governorates are particularly affected by drought-related displacement whereas limited access to farmland and irrigation affect both returnees and displaced people.[1203]

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  UNICEF, Humanitarian Action for Children, Iraq – Highlights, url, p. 1; UNSG, Implementation of resolution 2732 (2024) Report of the Secretary-General, 30 May 2025, url, para 33

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