

Iraq's camp closures leave 100,000 people in limbo! - November 9, 2020

The ongoing rapid closure of displacement camps in Iraq is rendering homeless more than 100,000 people in the middle of the Covid-19 pandemic and at the onset of winter. The Norwegian Refugee Council is extremely concerned about the fate of thousands of displaced families living in camps across the country that are being closed down rapidly, including NRC-managed Hammam Al Alil Camp. People in camps in Baghdad, Kerbala, Divala, Suleimaniya, Anbar, Kirkuk, and Ninewa are being forced out with little notice, and are expected to return to their areas of origin. Many come from neighborhoods that are still totally destroyed and they also risk being blocked at checkpoints, or even arrested, because of lack of security clearance and perceived affiliation with armed groups. So far, based on instructions by the Iraqi authorities, some 600 households have left Hammam Al Alil Camp -- which is one of the largest displacement camps slated to close by next week.