Rapid Informations about Districts/ Erbil, Sulaymaniyah and Duhok

Erbi Districts

Erbil District:

Population No. 973680, male 492543, female 481137. Ethnic composition: 93% Kurds, 4% Turkmen, and Assyrian 2%, others 1%. Some tribes: Dzayee, Khoshnaw, Siyan, Gardy. Erbil district consists of four sub districts and 279 villages. It is located on a plain area with a series of hills from East. On the west side of the district, there is Zey Saru River, which separates Erbil from Dahuk. Ainkawa, Qushtapa, Bahrka, Bnaslawa, and Khabat are the major towns. The roads to the sub districts are paved, but access to all the villages is not easy due to bad road conditions. Summers are hot and dry, winters are cold and rainy, but falls and springs are nice and mild. The major natural recourse is animal husbandry. The economical condition is fine due to agriculture, commerce, and animal raising activities. Like most other places, this district is suffering from mines. There are three minefields in Khabat, Bnaslawa, and Qushtapa sub districts. Literacy rate of population is 65%.

Soran District:

Population No. 120375, male 61264, female 59111, IDPs 3302, returned IDPs 696.Ethnic composition: 99% Kurds, 1% Assyrian. Some tribes: Bradost, Muhajir, Barzany. The district consists of four sub districts and 346 villages, 88 of which are evacuated in Sedakan. Soran is located on a plain area which is surrounded by mountains: Zozik 1829m from North, Korak 2127m from South, Handren 2625 m from East, and Bradost 2076 m from West. The major three rivers in Soran district are Balak, Balakiyan, and Bekhal. Balakiyan and Sreshma are the two main towns in Soran. The district is cold in winter, hot in summer, while lovely in fall and spring. There are three main tourist sites in the district: Jundiyan, Gali Ali Bag, and Bekhal. Some of the population depend on agriculture and animal husbandry. The road from Erbil to Soran is good, but the secondary roads to the villages are the opposite. Literacy rate is 65%. There is a great deal of landmine problems due to 8-year Iraq- Iran war, and there are 187minefields in the district, mainly in Sedakan sub district, which contains 36.5% of total minefields in Erbil Governorate.

Choman District:

Population No. 23300, male 11417, female 11883, IDPs 300, Ethnic composition: 99.2% Kurds, 0.8% Arabs & Assyrians. Some tribes: Balaky,
this district has three sub districts and 166 villages of which 17 are evacuated. Mountains, Hasarrot series from East, Sheikh Naseer Mountain from West, Barzeen from North, Karokh from Northeast, and Chiyay Rash from Southwest, surround it. Sheikh River goes through Choman, which is one of the rivers join Syrwan River, The main towns are Galala, Haji Omaran, Qasre, and Smelan. The area is known for its tourism sites. Choman depends on walnuts. In this district, the nut orchards and lovely springs attract visitors' attention through the wonderful, natural sites. The economical condition is generally weak, except the border areas of Haji Omaran, which is an important trading point between Iraq and Iran. Rate of literacy is 49% of population.
In Choman district, there are 204 minefields.

Mergasur District:

Population No. 36700. Male 17836, female 18864, IDPs 1668. Ethnic composition: 99.9% Kurds, 0.1% Assyrians. Some tribes: Barzany, Sherwany, Dolamary. The district has three sub districts and 67 deserted villages. It is located on a mountainous area, which contains well-known mountains like Shireen, Piran, Qalander,and Bradost, there are three rivers: Zey Saru, Chama, and Balnda. Gore, Bile, and Goratoo are the main villages in the district. The weather is mildly hot and dry in summer, cold and rainy in winter, but lovely and mild in fall and spring.The economical condition is fine and people generally depend on agriculture. Literacy rate is 60%. There are 89 minefields in Mergasur and surrounding areas, however, UXO exist near the main roads.

Koysinjaq District:

Population No. 70080, male 34943, female 35173, IDPs 2500. Ethnic composition: Mostly Kurds. The district consists of three sub districts: Shorsh, Koya, and Taqtaq, and 146 villages. The area is divided into plain, mountains, and valley. Access to the district center is good. Winter is rainy, spring and fall are lovely, and summer is nice. Taqtaq is located on an area called " Garmen" which means partially hot area. The main recourses are agriculture and animal husbandry. Both mines and UXO exist in the district. There are 834 km2 of land suspected to be contaminated with landmines depending on information from Mine action Organizations. The No of minefields: 22 in Koya, 25 in Shorsh, and 22 in Taqtaq. Literacy rate is 60%.

Shaqlawa District:

Population No. 105300, male 51597, female 53703, IDPs 3066, returned IDPs 485.Ethnic composition: 88% Kurds, 2% Assyrian, 9% Chaldans, 1% other. Some tribes like Khoshnaw, Surchy.The district has three sub districts and 210 villages, nine of which are deserted. Shaqlawa is known of its deep valleys and thick forests, which goes along with Safeen Mountain (2340 m). Hiran and Haneer are the major towns in this district. Generally the roads are in good condition. In spring and summer, the weather is very nice; in fall and winter it is very cold, rainy and snowy. Frit trees and wide area of fertile cultivated lands are the backbone of the economy in the district. The people mainly depend on agriculture, commerce, employment and tourism. Literacy rate is 65%.
There are 25 minefields.

Makhmur District:

Ethnic composition: 75% Kurd, 25% Arab. Some tribes: The Kurds (Palany, Sherwany, Bndiyan, Siyan), Arabs (Lheb, Sabawy, Simbs). Makhmur has three sub districts and 219 villages. It is located on a plain area; from East there is a hilly area with Qarachogh Mountain in the middle. From southeast, there is Zey Khwaru river, and Zey Saru from Northwest. Gwer, Dybaga, and Bagrt are the main towns. The district is very hot in summer, cold and rainy in winter, but nice and mild in spring and fall. The main natural resources are the arable lands and the rich oilfields. The economic condition of the people is not good, and they are busy with agriculture and animal husbandry. Literacy rate of population is 40%. There are Mines and UXO in the area.

Sulaymaniyah Districts

Sulaymaniyah District:

Population No. 693032, male 339664, female 353368.Ethnic composition: Majority Kurds.Sulaymaniyah is a mountainous district which consists of four sub districts: Bazyan, Qaradagh, Tanjaro, Sarchnar, and 325 villages. Tanjaro, Sarchnar, and Qiyasan rivers go through the district. Major towns are Bazyan, Arbat, and Qaradagh. The road condition of the district is fine, but access to the villages is difficult. It is cold and snowy in winter, while summer, fall and Spring are nice. Major activities are agriculture, animal husbandry, and commerce. 81% of populations are literate. The effect of mines and UXO is obvious and cover 30.912 km2 of land in the district.

Dukan District:

Population No. 61818, male 30393, female 31425. IDPs 15 families returned IDPs 30 families. Ethnic composition: All Kurds. Dukan is a mountainous district which consists of 175 villages and three sub districts: Surdash, Khalakan, and Bngeer. 11 villages are evacuated. Dukan Lake is a major source of water on Zey Khwaru River. Major towns: Dukan, Peramagroon, Khalakan, and Bngeer. Dukan main road is paved, but access to the villages is difficult, Summers are snowy and rainy, springs and falls are nice and people go outdoors for picnics. Dukan district is a lovely area for tourism. The major activities are agriculture, fishing, and animal husbandry. 65% of populations are literate. There are mines in 57 villages and cover a lot of lands.

Chamchamal District

Population No. 142882, male 68855, female 74027, IDPs 1700, returned IDPs 0.Ethnic composition: Majority Kurds. Some tribes: Hamawand, Zana, Jaf, Nawshwany. Chamchamal district has three sub districts: Shangaw, Aghjalar, and Chamchamal, and 287 villages, 8 are evacuated. The district is on a plane land, with a hilly area from North- East. Dukan River goes through Aghjalar and Basara stream through Chamchamal sub district. Major towns are: Chamchamal, Takiya, Shorsh, Sangaw, Aghjalar. The district is hot in summer, mildly cold in winter, but nice in spring and fall. Major activities are agriculture and animal husbandry. 63% of populations are literate. Like most other places, mines and UXO contaminate Chamchamal District, especially in Aghjalar and Sangaw sub districts and in most villages.

Darbandikhan District

Population No. 99989, male 49024, female 50965, IDPs 200, returned IDPs 10. Ethnic composition: majority Kurds. Some tribes: Waly, Sharafbayani Hassony, Zardoyee, Shamenany. This District consists on two sub districts: Darbandikhan and Zarayan, and 100 villages. This district is located in Zmnako and Kewazard mountains. Darbandikhan Lake covers a wide area of this district. Major towns are Darbandikhan and Zarayan. Sulaymaniyah - Darbandikhan road is paved. Winters are mildly cold, summers are hot and dry, but springs and falls are lovely. Fishing is the major work. This district has lovely areas for tourism. 75% of populations are literate. Mines contaminate 50.7km2 of the lands. Pshy Gweziakan field in Mortaka village is the widest minefield.

Kalar District:

Population No.124782, male 61167, female 63584, IDPs 1539.Ethnic composition: Majority Kurds. Some tribes: Jaf, Lak, Bajalan. The district consists of three sub districts: Kalar, Telako, Pebaz, and 222 villages, five of which are evacuated. Kalar is located on a plane land; from northwest there is a hilly area. Syrwan River separates Kalar from Khanaqeen. Kalar, Bawanoor, and Smood are the main towns. Access to the district center is generally good, but the villages are difficult to reach. Summers in Kalar are very hot. Sherwana Citadel is an ancient well-known body in the center of the district, which attracts tourists' attention. Agriculture and animal husbandry are the major activities. Literacy rate of the population is 55%.

Penjwen District:

Population No. 44079, male 21597, female 22482, IDPs 441, returned IDPs 7347 families. Ethnic composition: Majority Kurds. This district consists of two sub districts: Penjwen and Garmik, and 173 villages, 10 of which are evacuated due to mines. The area is mountainous
The main rivers are Gawara and Surawn streams. Garmik and Nalparez are the main towns. Access to the district center and sub districts is generally good, but the roads to the villages are still in bad condition. Winters and falls are cold, but springs and summers are nice. Agriculture commerce and animal husbandry are the main activities. Literacy rate of the population is 60%. Mines and UXO threats exist in the district,
and 111.17 km2 of land is contaminated.

Pshder District:

Population No. 103052, male 51027, female 52025, IDPs 214, returned IDPs 35. Ethnic composition: Majority Kurds. The district consists of three sub districts: Pshder, Nawdasht, and Hero and 301 villages, six of which are evacuated. The major towns are: Qaladza, Halsho, Hero Zharawa and Sangasar. Mountains, such as Qandil from northwest, Mamanda from northeast, and Asos from south, surround Pshder district. The main river is called Khas. The roads in the district and sub districts centers are paved. Winter in this district is very cold, but the other seasons are nice. Fishing and gravel-washing factories are main activities on Khas River, and the other major activities are animal husbandry, agriculture. Literacy rate is 45%. Mines and UXO cover about 101.8 km2 of lands.

Ranya District:

Population No. 172335, male 85179, female 87156, IDPs 9048, returned IDPs 30 families. Ethnic composition: Majority Kurds. The district consists of two sub districts: Chwarqurna and Betwata, and 157 villages, 10 of which are evacuated. Ranya is located among mountains. The main rivers are Shaver and Qashan. Major towns: Ranya, Chwarqurna, Sarauchawa, and Hajiyawa. The main roads to Ranya are paved, but access to the villages is difficult.Winters are snowy and rainy, springs and falls are lovely, and summers are nice. The district is known of tobacco. The economical condition is good,and the main activities are agriculture and animal husbandry. The rate of literacy is 69% of population. Mines exist in the area.

Halabja District:

Population No. 138537, male 68794, female 69741. Ethnic composition: Majority Kurds. Some tribes: Shamerany, Sheikh Smaily, Shaty, Nawroly, Yanakhy, Yasiyany, ghawara, and Bowakhy. Halabja district consists of four sub districts: Sharazoor, Khurmal, Syrwan, Biyara, and 206 villages. Balambo, Suren, and Hawraman mountains surround the district which south east of Sulaymaniyah Governorate. The major towns are: Halabja, Sayed Sadiq, Seirwan. It is cold in winter, but nice in the other seasons. Major activities are agriculture and commerce. 72% of populations are literate. Mines and UXO threats exist in the district, and landmines contaminate 63.9 km2 of lands.

Sharbazher District:

Population No. 43138, male 21703, female 21435, IDPs 63, returned IDPs 1075. Ethnic composition: Majority Kurds. This district consists of four sub districts: Chwarta, Mawat, Sewail and Srwchk, and 331 villages. The major rivers are Kanar, Qashan, Qalachwlan, and Choman. Major towns are Chwarta,Mawat, Sewail and Srwchk. Sharbazher district is cold in winter and fall, nice in summer and spring. There are Summer picnic sites like Sarsewr and Kuranasay. Marble is plenty in Mawat. Major activities are agriculture, orchard, and animal husbandry. 34% of populations are literate. Mines and UXO threats are there, and they contaminate 118.3 km2 of the district.

Duhok Districts

Duhok District:

Population No. 250000, male 127500, female 122500, IDPs 11474.Ethnic composition: 95.7 Kurds, 2.8% Assyrians, 1.5% Cheldans.
Dahuk district consists of three sub districts: Dahuk, Zawita, and Mangesh, with 120 villages- 30% of which are deserted. The main city is Dahuk Governorate. Most of the lands are mountainous. There is a dam in the north of the city center, which was used for irrigation, but later became a source of potable water. Some villages of this district are destroyed or evacuated. These reasons made people to migrate from their villages to the sub district centers and live in the public buildings or share houses with \other families. The road condition is generally good, except some far villages that are hard to access, especially in winter. The economical condition in the district center is good, but the people in the sub districts depend on low agriculture income. There are 122 minefields in Dahuk district. Literacy rate is 70% of population

Zakho District:

Population No. 172000, male 87720, female 84280, IDPs 39000, returned IDPs 4000 Ethnic composition: 96% Kurds, 3.7 Chaldan, 0.3% Armen. The district has three sub districts and 190 villages, of which 104 are evacuated. The main town is Zakho. Generally, summers are hot, winters are rainy and snowy.Zakho is known of Sindy plain, Khbour river, and the ancient Dalal Bridge. Most lands are mountainous; the roads cannot be used easily. There are 96 minefields in Zakho district, especially in the border areas with Turkey and Syria. There are many UXOs in remaining military camps, observation points and military bases. Literacy rate of population is 76%.

Akre District:

Population No. 152600, male 77826, female 74774, IDPs 3570, returned IDPs 1986.Ethnic composition: 98.5% Kurds, 1.5 Assyrians.
This district has five sub districts, Akre center, Dinarta, Bjeel, Bardarash, and Grdaseen, and 325 villages. The main town is Akre, which is located among the mountains, but there is a plain from the South. Akre is 138 km from the center of Dahuk, which is equal to two hours by car. It has a rainy and snowy winter, a dry summer, but mild fall and spring.there are some tourism sites like Tavga waterfall, Grbeesh, Galy Znta and Sepay Bjeel. The economic condition is good. Unemployment rate is high in the center of Akre town. There are about 34 minefields, most of them are in Bjeel and Denarta sub districts. Literacy rate is 65%.

Shekhan District:

Population No. 56500, male 28815, female 27685, IDPs 4482, returned IDPs 414. Ethnic composition: 99.99% Kurds, 0.01% Chaldo- Assyrians.
The district consists of four sub districts, Shekhan center, Atrush, Qasrok, and Ba'adre, and 196 villages, of which 44 are destroyed by the former Iraqi regime. Shekhan district has a rainy and snowy winter, hot summer, but lovely fall and spring. The economic condition is low in most of the area. The roads are in good condition, but need to be paved. Some IDPs from the villages of Amedi district have settled down in Baldesha camp due to insecurity in the area, and now they cannot return because their villages are destroyed. There are a number of minefields in this district; most of them are around Atrush town. Rate of literacy is 70%.

Amedi District:

Population No. 62500, male 31875, female 30625, IDPs 45425, returned IDPs 1450.Ethnic composition: 92% Kurds, 8% Assyrians.
The district is consisted of four sub districts: Amedi, Deraluk, Sarsnk, and Kanimasy. Total No. of settlements in the district is 378
Barnamy and Chamanky are new sub districts in the area. Situated between Gara & Mateen Mountains, Amedi is the main town and district center, located on the top of a plateau in the remains of an old castle.There are many collective towns in the district including: Sheladza, Qadish, and Kwana. 38% of villages are inhabited, and 62% of them are evacuated for various reasons. There is one main road to the district center. Despite the availability of water from the rivers of Zey, Rusheen, and Sipna, the economic condition of the district is poor. Agriculture income is low. The landscape consists of mountains and hills. Winters are rainy and snowy. The main roads are in good condition. There are about 210 minefields, most of them not cleaned. Literacy rate is 70%.

Semel District:

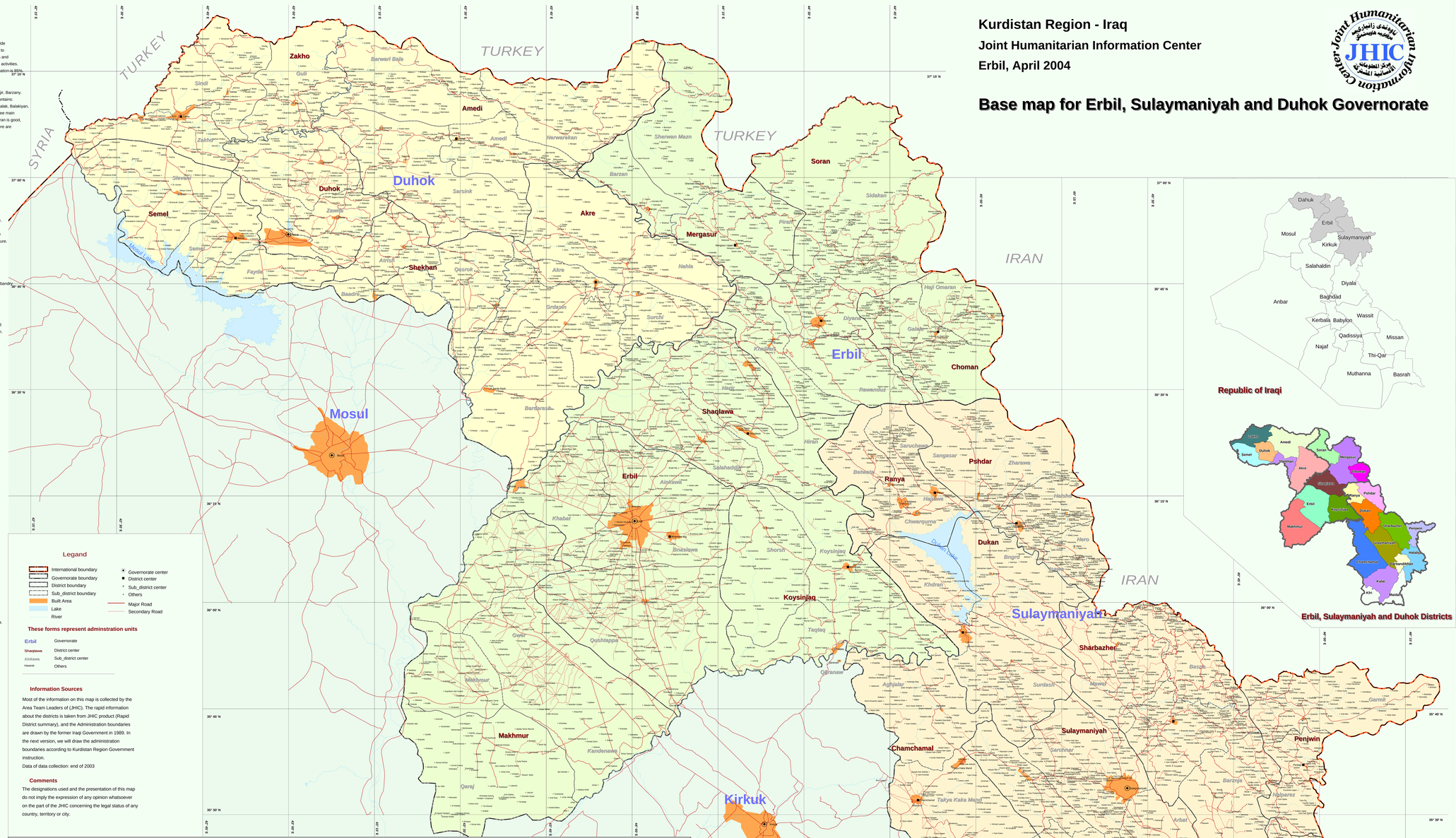
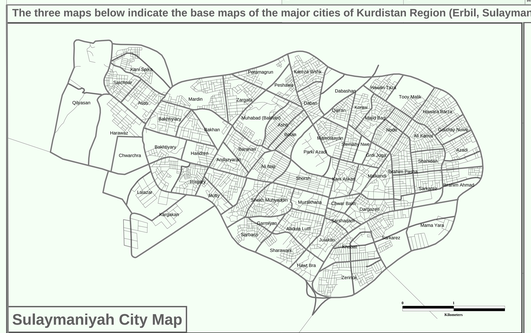
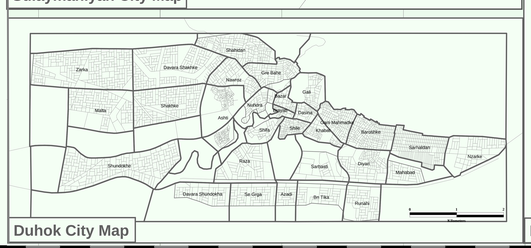
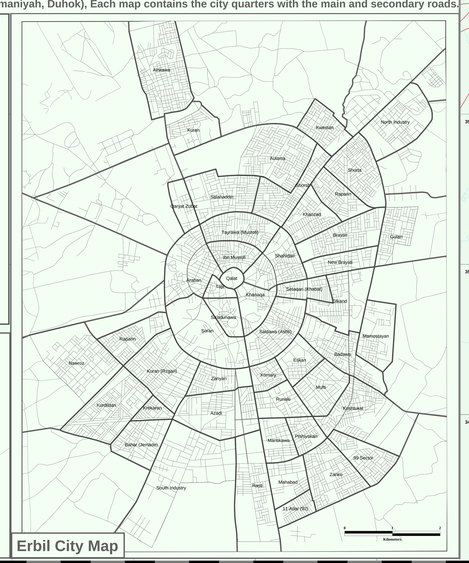
Population No. 88000, male 45760, female 42240, IDPs 40000, returned IDPs 11330.Ethnic composition: 99.1% Kurds, 0.4% Assyrians, 0.2% Armen, 0.1 Arabs. The district has two sub districts: Batel and Faida. Generally, there are 180 villages and collective towns. The main towns are Semel center and Batel, with some collective towns, which are Tanahy Shary, Khanka, and Msery. Semel is located on the plain near Mausl Lake. The district center is 14 km from Dahuk center. It is rainy in winter, dry in summer, but nice and mild in fall and spring
The people in this district depend on agriculture and animal husbandry. Many of the families have started to return to the area since1991
The mountainous areas near Asiha, Trkiha, Qadiya, Hajya, Hzhrka, and Faida sub district are contaminated with mines and UXOs.
Literacy rate of population is 65%.

Kurdistan Region - Iraq

Joint Humanitarian Information Center

Erbil, April 2004

Base map for Erbil, Sulaymaniyah and Duhok Governorate



The three maps below indicate the base maps of the major cities of Kurdistan Region (Erbil, Sulaymaniyah, Duhok), Each map contains the city quarters with the main and secondary roads.