

### Situation Overview

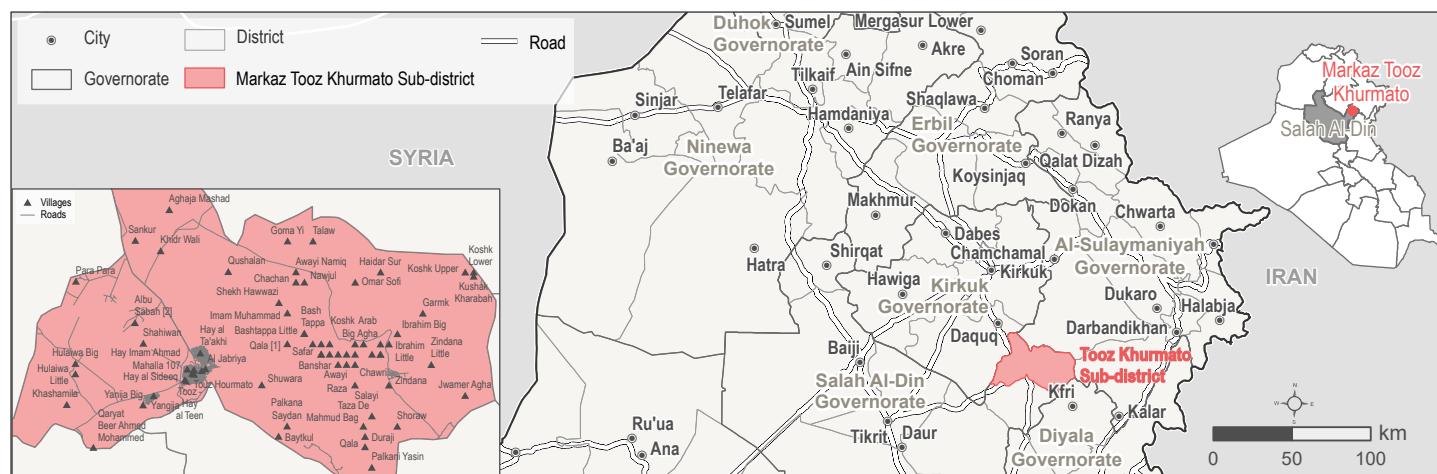
While movement trends in Iraq have generally remained stable since early 2018, there has been a considerable shift since August 2019 with increasing numbers of internally displaced persons (IDPs) returning to their area of origin (AoO) or being displaced for a second time.<sup>1</sup> The International Organization for Migration (IOM) Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM)'s Emergency Displacement Tracking<sup>2</sup> recorded over 4,320 households returned to non-camp locations between 30 June and 31 August 2020, 10% of which were recorded in TooZ Khurmato District (22% for Salah Al-Din Governorate).<sup>3</sup>

In light of increased returns, coupled with persisting challenges in relation to lack of services, infrastructure and, in some cases, security in areas of origin (AoO), there is an identified need to better understand the sustainability of returns as well as their impact and conditions in AoO.

### Markaz TooZ Khurmato

Markaz TooZ Khurmato is a subdistrict of TooZ Khurmato District, located in the east of Salah Al-Din Governorate. The sub-district fell under the control of the so-called Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) in 2014, leading to displacement of the majority of families from Salah Al-Din.

### Coverage Map



### Background and Methodology

To date, IOM DTM's bi-monthly tracking<sup>6</sup> of returnees and IDPs provides an overview of numbers and trends in movement and returns. Simultaneously, since 2018, the Returns Index<sup>7</sup> was run as a joint initiative of DTM, Social Inquiry and the Returns Working Group (RWG), collecting data bi-monthly to provide indicative trends in the severity of conditions in areas of return (AoR) nationwide. Similarly, the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster, IOM DTM, and the Returns Working Group (RWG) have conducted assessments with IDPs that have left camps following or in anticipation of closures to better understand and map areas of return and secondary displacement.

REACH Initiative (REACH) has been conducting nationwide multi-sectoral assessments which include indicators concerning sustainability of returns. In addition, in light of recent movement trends, REACH conducted an assessment in Markaz TooZ Khurmato Sub-district to have an immediate understanding and in-depth profiling of needs and community interrelations between remainee, returnee,<sup>8</sup> and/or IDP populations.<sup>9</sup> This report outlines the overall conditions to determine how and to what extent they are conducive to sustainable returns.

Salah Al-Din is the governorate with the highest number of returnees living in high severity conditions in terms of access to services and livelihoods and perception of safety and social cohesion in Iraq.<sup>4</sup> As reported by IOM DTM, 30% of the governorate's total returnee population (200,000 individuals) are living in severe conditions, with Markaz TooZ Khurmato Sub-district highlighted as one of the five hotspots of severe return conditions.<sup>5</sup>

### Population Profile

**87,691-89,400** families were reported by KIs to be residing in Markaz TooZ Khurmato before the events in 2014.

**71%** of the pre-2014 population residing in Markaz TooZ Khurmato was reportedly displaced since 2014.

**99%** of the population displaced since 2014 have returned to Markaz TooZ Khurmato at the time of data collection, as reported by KIs.

**13,585-13,883** IDP families (AoO not specified) are reported to reside in Markaz TooZ Khurmato settlements.

The findings are based on 46 KI interviews conducted remotely by phone between 11 and 17 October 2020, combining qualitative and quantitative data adapted to the context and restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>10</sup> Purposive sampling methods were employed to identify KIs. Findings are based on KI level data and should therefore be considered as indicative. Markaz TooZ Khurmato Sub-district was selected for the assessment as: more than 50% of host community members are reported to have returned;<sup>11</sup> social cohesion severity<sup>12</sup> is high; it is an AoO for IDPs in camps at risk of closure,<sup>13</sup> and dynamic population movements and movement intentions to/from this district were recently reported by relevant actors through the RWG.

### KI Profile









#### Markaz TooZ Khurmato Sub-district

Community leaders <sup>14</sup>	15 KIs	<div style="width: 100%;"></div>
IDPs (displaced in the area) <sup>15</sup>	11 KIs	<div style="width: 73%;"></div>
IDPs (displaced from the area) <sup>16</sup>	5 KIs	<div style="width: 33%;"></div>
Returnees (more than 3 months ago)	5 KIs	<div style="width: 33%;"></div>
Returnees (less than 3 months ago)	5 KIs	<div style="width: 33%;"></div>
Remainees <sup>17</sup>	5 KIs	<div style="width: 33%;"></div>




### Key findings

More than half of the population of Markaz TooZ Khurmato was reportedly displaced during the ISIL occupation in 2014. Recent returns were reportedly driven by the perceived improved access to services and humanitarian assistance and safety and security situation in Markaz TooZ Khurmato. Even though the majority of the displaced population has returned at the time of data collection, there are still barriers causing prolonged displacement, re-displacement and failed returns in the sub-district. Increased livelihood opportunities, access to services, improved access to healthcare and housing support are the most commonly reported needs to enable more families to return to their AoO.

Understanding distinct barriers within society to access services, jobs and assistance will improve the overall conduciveness to return as well as its sustainability, therefore improving the well-being of vulnerable groups<sup>18</sup> such as IDPs, female-headed households, child-headed households, unaccompanied/separated children (UASC), large families,<sup>19</sup> elderly-headed households and people with disabilities.

-  Contradictory responses were reported related to the returns of families to Markaz TooZ Khurmato. On the one hand, returns reportedly resulted in a perceived reduced access to services and assistance, and increased competition on the job market and consequently less available job opportunities. On the other hand, returns reportedly resulted in family reunification and a perceived increase in services and the availability of job opportunities due to the return of business owners.
-  IDP families are expected to be departing from Markaz TooZ Khurmato Sub-district in the six months following data collection due to the lack of assistance and job opportunities. The expected reasons for IDP departures were the same as the main reported barriers to return, with additional reporting of destroyed/damaged housing and lack of access to healthcare as barriers to return.
-  NGOs were reportedly implementing activities in Markaz TooZ Khurmato at the time of data collection. The availability of humanitarian assistance was perceived as a factor to encourage returns across respondent groups. Livelihoods projects were reported by the majority of KIs as the most needed assistance followed by housing rehabilitation.
-  At the same time, gaps in services and ongoing needs were reported in Markaz TooZ Khurmato, with the top reported needs similar for the different KI respondent groups. Healthcare was cited as a common priority need for all KI groups. Further priority needs reported by community leaders were infrastructure for water and sanitation, electricity, education and projects for housing rehabilitation. Returnees highlighted livelihoods, education and housing rehabilitation as the main community needs. IDPs mostly shared the same priorities as returnees but also noted water and sanitation. Remainees reported electricity, waste disposal and education.
-  There are reported differences in access to services across different groups, with IDPs persistently reported to have less access to housing and housing rehabilitation, livelihoods and basic public services, largely attributed to the lack of relationships and connections in the community. This is along with vulnerable groups such as female-headed households, child-headed households, UASC, large families, elderly-headed households and people with disabilities.
-  Access to public judicial mechanisms was reportedly equal among all groups in the sub-district. The Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MoDM) in Markaz TooZ Khurmato was reported closed at time of data collection.
-  There were no challenges reported to obtain necessary documentation. However, individuals without documentation were reportedly more at risk of eviction and lack of documentation was reported as a barrier to access livelihoods. In addition, access to documentation was reportedly linked to the freedom of movement and essential for the identification of individuals giving evidence that there is no error or forgery.
-  Safety and security concerns will need to be addressed in Markaz TooZ Khurmato Sub-district to enable sustainable returns due to existing perceptions and concerns related to the 2014 conflict and occupation.

### Impact of COVID-19 pandemic and the related local restrictions and measures

-  COVID-19 related restrictions of movement was reported as a barrier for further return of families to Markaz TooZ Khurmato during the six months following data collection.
-  Access to housing rehabilitation, basic public services and livelihoods were affected due to the restrictions of movements and the closure of the relevant offices or departments.
-  Hospitals, public health centers and medical staff were reportedly not prepared or trained to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Recent population returns and displacement

#### Recent returns

**175-242** families returned to Markaz TooZ Khurmato from non-camp areas in the six months prior to data collection, as reported by 11 KIs (out of 46). However, the rest of the KIs reported no returns (28 KIs) or did not know about recent movements (7 KIs).

#### Reported reasons for return (out of 11 KIs)<sup>20</sup>

Increased sense of safety and security	9 KIs	
Return of other family members/family reunification	5 KIs	
Perceived increase in access to services	2 KIs	
Camp closure in area of displacement (AoD)	1 KI	

#### Reported effects of returns (out of 11 KIs)<sup>20</sup>

Family reunification	4 KIs	
Increase in access to services	4 KIs	
Increase in livelihood opportunities	3 KIs	
Decrease in access to services	1 KI	
Decrease in livelihood opportunities	1 KI	

The reported increase in access to services and job opportunities was related to the return of business owners, while the perceived decrease in access to services and livelihood opportunities was reportedly due to the presence of a higher number of families in Markaz TooZ Khurmato and the increased competition in the job market.

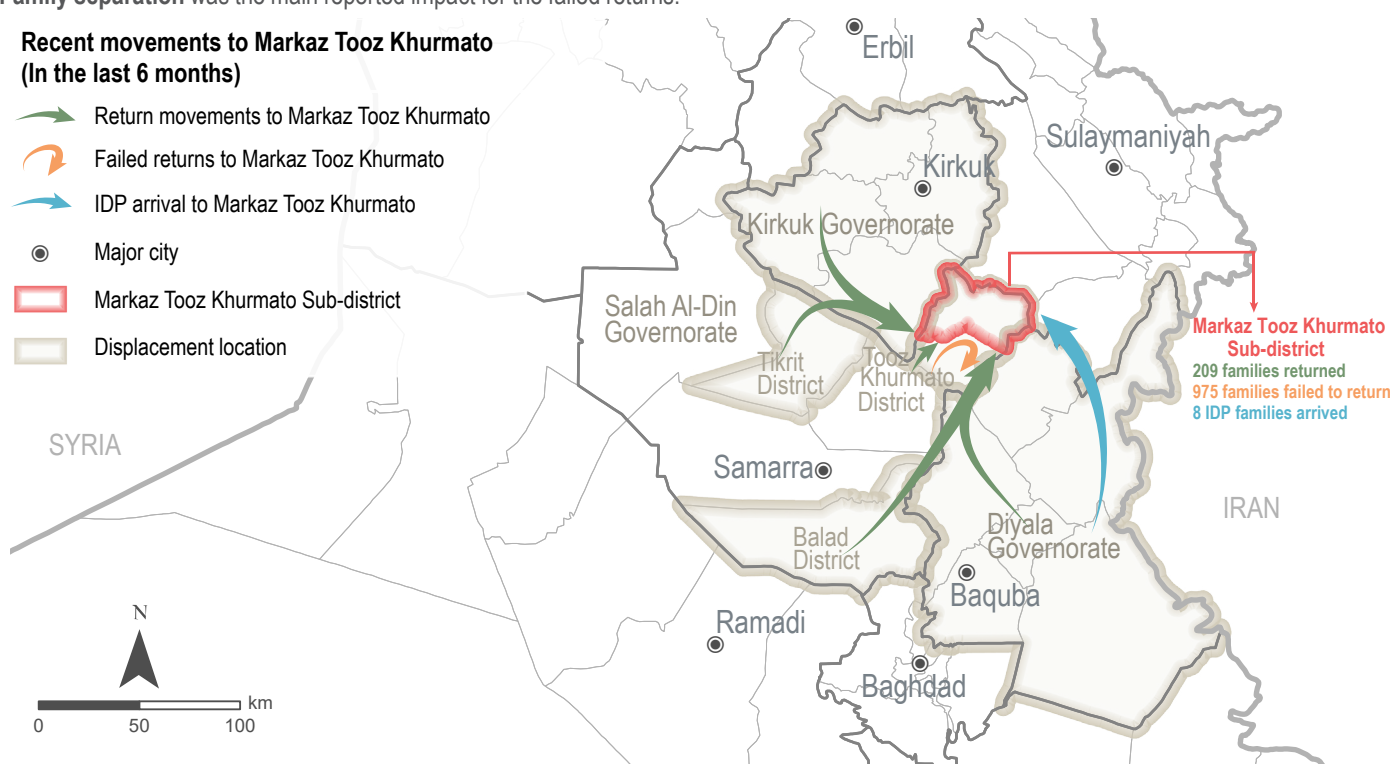
#### Re-displacement after failed return

**650-1300** families attempted to return to Markaz TooZ Khurmato from non-camp areas in the six months prior to data collection, but did not succeed and therefore stayed in the AoD, as reported by two community leader KIs.

Reported reasons for failed returns were the **lack of job opportunities and services in AoO, presence of job opportunities in other areas, houses being destroyed in AoO, and COVID-19 related restrictions.** Family separation was the main reported impact for the failed returns.

#### Recent movements to Markaz TooZ Khurmato (In the last 6 months)

- Return movements to Markaz TooZ Khurmato
- Failed returns to Markaz TooZ Khurmato
- IDP arrival to Markaz TooZ Khurmato
- Major city
- Markaz TooZ Khurmato Sub-district
- Displacement location



#### Recent IDP arrivals

**5-10** IDP families have arrived to Markaz TooZ Khurmato from non-camp areas in Diyala Governorate in the six months prior to data collection, as reported by one IDP KI. However, a majority of the KIs reported no IDP arrivals (31 KIs) or did not know about recent arrivals (14 KIs).

According to the KI, IDP families arrived due to **kinship ties** with families in Markaz TooZ Khurmato. Reportedly, the arrival of additional IDP families **negatively affected access to jobs, assistance and services** due to the increased number of families present in the area.

#### Recent IDP departures

**No IDP departures** were reported from Markaz TooZ Khurmato in the six months prior to data collection, as reported by 34 KIs (out of 46 KIs). The rest of the KIs (12 KIs) did not know about recent departures of IDPs.

#### Family separation

Two community leader KIs (out of 46 KIs) reported that some families in Markaz TooZ Khurmato have family members, specifically **adult sons, still living in displacement.**

The reported reasons for a prolonged displacement of family members were the **fear resulting from the past security situation related to ISIL occupation, family members are already employed in the AoD, lack of job opportunities in the AoO, and lack of resources to be able to return.**

*"People need job opportunities so that they can return and settle."*

- Male community leader KI -

### Expected population returns and displacement

#### Expected returns

**346-551** families are expected to return to Markaz TooZ Khurmato from non-camp areas in the six months following data collection, as reported by 8 KIs (out of 46). The rest of the KIs reported no expected returns (17 KIs) or did not know (21 KIs).

#### Reported drivers for expected return (out of 46 KIs)<sup>20</sup>

Increased sense of safety and security	42 KIs
Perceived increase in access to services and assistance	15 KIs
Return of other family members/family reunification	11 KIs
Camp closure in AoD	9 KIs
Perceived increase in job opportunities in AoO	6 KIs
Nostalgia about previous life in AoO	1 KI
Properties left behind in AoO	1 KI

#### Reported expected barriers to return (out of 46 KIs)<sup>20</sup>

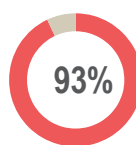
Lack of jobs and services	46 KIs
Destroyed/damaged housing in AoO	33 KIs
No access to specialized medical treatment in AoO	11 KIs
Security concerns	6 KIs
COVID-19 movement restrictions	5 KIs
Lacking documentation to return	3 KIs

Further returns were reportedly perceived to have negative impacts such as less access to **available job opportunities** due to the increased competition for jobs (20 KIs); **less available assistance** due to higher demand (15 KIs); and **less access to services** due to the limited capacity of service providers to meet the needs of the community (1 KI) in Markaz TooZ Khurmato. However, it was also reported to positively impact the area leading to a potential **increase in job opportunities** due to the return of business owners (14 KIs); **increased access to services and assistance** due to focused attention of aid actors and service providers (8 KIs); and **family reunification** (5 KIs). There were no marked differences in the impacts reported across KI respondent groups.

#### Expected movements in Markaz TooZ Khurmato (In the next 6 months)

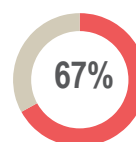
- Expect return to Markaz TooZ Khurmato
- Expected IDP return to their AoO
- Major city
- Markaz TooZ Khurmato Sub-district
- Displacement location

#### Expected host community departures



of KIs (43 out of 46) reported that **there are no host community families expected to depart** in the six months following data collection. The rest of the KIs (3 KIs) did not know about expected departures.

#### Expected IDP arrivals



of KIs (31 out of 46 KIs) reported that **there are no IDP families expected to arrive** in the six months following data collection. The rest of the KIs did not know about expected movements.

#### Reported drivers for expected IDP arrivals (out of 46 KIs)<sup>20</sup>

Increased sense of safety and security	40 KIs
Increased access to services and jobs	23 KIs
Following in return of family members	8 KIs
Camp closure in AoD	5 KIs
Family reunification	1 KI

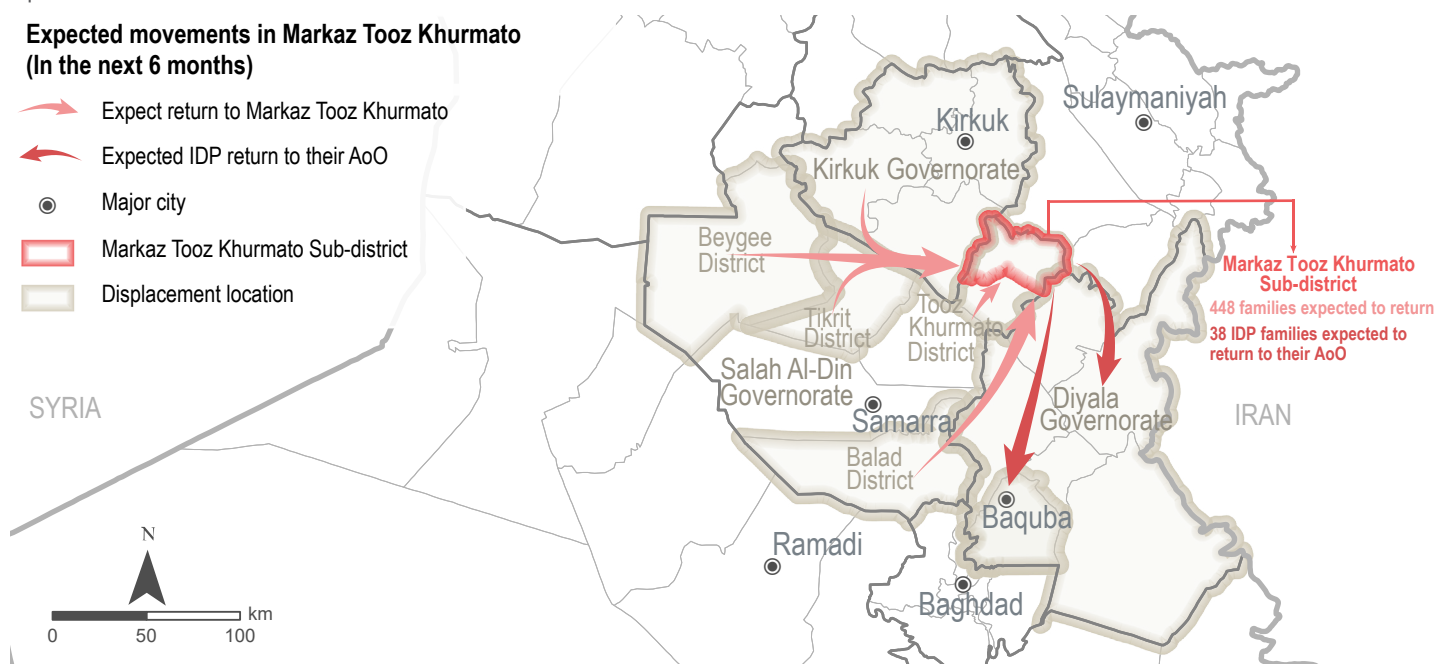
#### Expected IDP departures

**25-50** IDP families residing in Markaz TooZ Khurmato are **expected to return** to their AoO in Baquba district in the six months following data collection, as reported by one KI. The rest of the KIs reported no families are expected to depart from Markaz TooZ Khurmato (45 KIs), and 9 KIs did not know.

The reported reasons for expected IDP departure were related to **lack of assistance and jobs** in Markaz TooZ Khurmato.

*"People need livelihood opportunities to meet their needs and continue to live in this region. If job opportunities are not available, not everyone will be able to return."*

- Male community leader KI -





### Primary Community Needs

#### Primary community needs in Markaz TooZ Khurmato (out of 46 KIs)<sup>20</sup>

	First Need	Second Need	Third Need
Healthcare	7 KIs	12 KIs	10 KIs
Livelihoods	10 KIs	6 KIs	6 KIs
Water and sanitation	5 KIs	4 KIs	8 KIs
Housing rehabilitation	11 KIs	3 KIs	2 KIs
Education	3 KIs	8 KIs	3 KIs
Electricity	3 KIs	5 KIs	6 KIs
Waste disposal	5 KIs	3 KIs	3 KIs
Infrastructure rehabilitation	1 KI	1 KI	4 KIs
Security	1 KI	1 KI	2 KIs
Food	0	1 KI	0
Documentation	0	0	1 KI

KIs reported that the primary needs for the community are: 1) **healthcare** due to the reported limited access to public health clinics and hospitals in the sub-district, a lack of competent health staff, medical supplies and medications, in addition to the lack of knowledge and preparedness to support patients during the COVID-19 pandemic; 2) **livelihoods**, reportedly related to the lack of jobs and unstable economic situation<sup>21</sup> in Markaz TooZ Khurmato.

The second main community needs most commonly reported were: 3) **water and sanitation**. The lack of maintenance of the water network, water filters and pumping stations in Markaz TooZ Khurmato was reportedly resulting in water pollution and scarcity, leading to unsustainable solutions like purchasing bottled drinking water and water trucking. In addition, the absence of a sewage network and lack of drainage for gray and black water in the sub-district has led to environmental and sanitation concerns; 4) **housing rehabilitation**, due to high levels of damage to shelter during the conflict in 2014 and the importance of shelter to enable families to return to their AoO.

The third main community needs most commonly reported were: 5) **education** due to reported decline in the quality of free education services, and the high cost of private education and school stationary; and 6) **access to electricity**, due to breakdowns of electrical transformers and intensified interruptions of public electricity. This not only affected families but also small businesses that require electricity to operate having to resort to private generators at increased costs per amperage.

#### Primary community needs per respondent group<sup>20</sup>

##### Community leaders (out of 15 KIs)

Healthcare	8 KIs
Housing rehabilitation	6 KIs
Water and sanitation	6 KIs
Electricity	5 KIs

##### Returnees (out of 10 KIs)

Livelihoods	7 KIs
Healthcare	7 KIs
Education	3 KIs
Housing rehabilitation	2 KIs

##### IDPs (displaced from and in the area) (out of 16 KIs)

Healthcare	11 KIs
Livelihoods	10 KIs
Housing rehabilitation	8 KIs
Water and sanitation	5 KIs

##### Remainees (out of 5 KIs)

Electricity	2 KIs
Waste disposal	2 KIs
Education	1 KI
Healthcare	1 KI

### Access to humanitarian aid

**24%** of KIs (11 out of 46 KIs) reported that non-governmental organisations (NGOs) were implementing projects or activities in Markaz TooZ Khurmato at the time of data collection. However, 28 KIs reported there was no NGO presence in the area and the rest (7 KIs) did not know.

#### Reported activities conducted by NGOs (out of 11 KIs)<sup>20</sup>

Social cohesion	5 KIs
Livelihoods	5 KIs
NFI distribution	3 KIs
Food security	3 KIs
Water and sanitation	3 KIs
Psycho-social support	3 KIs
Rehabilitation of infrastructure	2 KIs
Protection	1 KI

Four KIs reported that **IDPs, female-headed households, child-headed households, UASC, elderly people and people with disabilities** are less involved in activities or projects.

**89%** of KIs (41 out of 46 KIs) reported that the **availability of humanitarian aid** is a factor to **encourage return**. The rest of the KIs reported that it was not an influencing factor (4 KIs) and 1 KI did not know.

#### Reported most needed projects or activities (out of 46 KIs)<sup>20</sup>

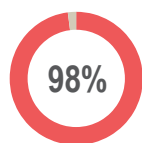
Livelihoods	32 KIs
Housing rehabilitation	9 KIs
Social cohesion	3 KIs
Cash assistance	1 KI
Water and sanitation	1 KI

*"The area has been largely destroyed including people's homes, infrastructure and government departments. Therefore, the region needs significant housing support to be stabilized and families to return."*

- Male community leader KI -

### Perceptions on access to housing, basic public services and livelihoods

#### Access to housing



98% of KIs (45 out of 46 KIs) reported that the majority of families in the area reside in houses. One community leader KI reported that there are also families residing in apartments.

#### Reported housing agreement (out of 46 KIs)

Owned tenure	31 KIs
Verbal rental agreement	11 KIs
Formal/official rental agreement	3 KIs
Hosted by other family	1 KI



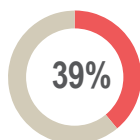
In addition to the reported housing agreements, the IOM DTM report on return dynamics in Salah Al-Din highlighted that **illegal occupation of houses** in Markaz TooZ Khurmato was an obstacle for families willing to return to the sub-district.<sup>22</sup>

#### Housing damage proportion

31%-50% of houses in Markaz TooZ Khurmato were reportedly damaged during the events in 2014 due to military operations, as reported by 36 KIs (out of 46).

Specific groups being more likely to **reside in damaged or unfinished housing** were IDPs and returnees in addition to UASC, large families, people with disabilities, elderly-headed households and child-headed households, as reported by 30 KIs (out of 46).

#### Access to housing rehabilitation



39% of KIs (18 out of 46 KIs) reported that access to housing rehabilitation is **unequal**. Reportedly **UASC, IDPs, elderly-headed households** and **child-headed households** have less access to housing rehabilitation.

#### Reported barriers to access rehabilitation

(out of 18 KIs)<sup>20</sup>

Vulnerability criteria perceived as too specific	13 KIs
Lack of financial means for rehabilitation	13 KIs
Assistance perceived to target specific neighbourhoods	11 KIs
Less connections (wasta) <sup>23</sup>	5 KIs
COVID-19 restrictions	2 KIs
Lack of necessary documentation <sup>24</sup>	1 KI

*"The area has largely been destroyed, including people's homes, infrastructure and government departments. Therefore, the region needs significant housing support to stabilize the region."*

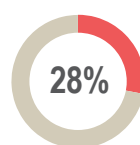
- Male community leader KI -

#### Risk of eviction

All KIs (46 KIs) reported that there are **no families** from different population groups at **immediate risk of eviction** in Markaz TooZ Khurmato.

However, in follow up questions on eviction 32 KIs (out of 46 KIs) reported that **returnees, IDPs, child-headed households, UASC, large families, elderly people, people with disabilities, people without documentation, families with perceived affiliation to ISIL and people with less connections (wasta)** would be most at risk of eviction.

#### Access to basic public services



28% of KIs (13 out of 46 KIs) reported that access to basic public services was **unequal**, namely **education, healthcare and water and sanitation**.

*"People have become dependent on purchasing bottled water, due to the lack of provision of filtering and pumping stations for piped water. This is a very big mistake."*

- Male community leader KI -

**IDPs, elderly-headed households, female-headed households, child-headed households, UASC, large families, people with less connections and people with disabilities** have reportedly less access to basic public services.

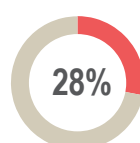
#### Reported barriers to access basic public services

(out of 15 KIs)<sup>20</sup>

Less connections (wasta)	12 KIs
Vulnerability criteria perceived as too specific	8 KIs
COVID-19 related restrictions	5 KIs
Lack of financial means to access services	3 KIs

All KIs (46 KIs) reported that boys and girls (between 6-15 years old) can access **public education**. However, a decrease in the quality of public education in Markaz TooZ Khurmato was reported by 7 KIs. Furthermore, the stop of gratuitous distributions of educational items such as books, notebooks and pens (8 KIs), the lack of capacity in public schools to meet the current demand of students (1 KI), the lack of interest of children to attend school (1 KI) and the perceived low competency of public educational staff (1 KI) were reportedly perceived challenges regarding public education in the sub-district.

#### Access to livelihoods



28% of KIs (13 out of 46 KIs) reported **unequal** access to livelihood opportunities in Markaz TooZ Khurmato.

**IDPs, elderly heads of household, people with disabilities, female heads of household, child heads of household, UASC, and large families** reportedly have less access to livelihood opportunities compared to other groups in the community in Markaz TooZ Khurmato.

#### Reported barriers to access livelihoods (out of 13 KIs)<sup>20</sup>

Less connections (wasta)	9 KIs
Perceived limited physical/mental capacity of specific groups <sup>25</sup>	4 KIs
COVID-19 restrictions	3 KIs
Vulnerability criteria perceived as too specific	3 KIs
Lack of financial means to provide assets	2 KIs
Lack of necessary documentation	1 KI

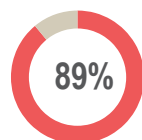
*"An income is necessary to buy food and water, pay the rent, and to cover hospital costs in case of illness."*

- Male returnee KI -

### Access to public judicial mechanisms

All KIs (46 KIs) reportedly perceived the **access to public judicial mechanisms** as **equal** for all members of the community.

The **Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MoDM)** in Markaz Too Khurmato **was closed** at the time of data collection due to lack of financial means and lack of specialized staff, as reported by 3 community leader KIs.



of KIs (41 out of 46) reported that there are no types of documentation people cannot obtain in the offices closest to them. The rest of the KIs reported that they do not know about access to documentation.

Access to documentation was reportedly linked to the freedom of movement (1 KI) and essential for the identification of individuals giving evidence that there is no risk of falsification of documents (1 KI).

### Perceptions on governance and safety

#### Governance and influencing bodies<sup>26</sup>

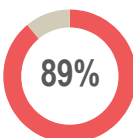
All 15 community leader KIs reported that **local authorities are the most influential body** with regards to governance.

All 15 community leader KIs reported that the main actors influencing the implementation of laws and rules **did not change** in the six months prior to data collection.

In addition, there has been **no new appointments of local authorities** reported in Markaz Too Khurmato in the six months prior to data collection.

#### Safety and security

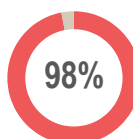
All KIs (46 KIs) reported that their community members **feel safe** in Markaz Too Khurmato. In addition, it was reported that females and males move freely during the day and at night.



of KIs (41 out of 46 KIs) reported that their community members **do not avoid any areas or neighbourhoods** in Markaz Too Khurmato.

Ensuring safety is one of the major concerns for the community in Markaz Too Khurmato to encourage returns, as reported by two KIs.

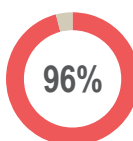
#### Community relations and co-existence



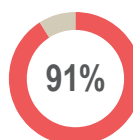
of KIs (45 out of 46 KIs) reported that **community members trust each other**. The other KI reported not to know.

All KIs (46 KIs) reported that there are **no specific population groups** which are **not considered welcome** by the majority of the community in the area. In addition, 91% of KIs (42 out of 46 KIs) reported that their community members interact with other groups in the community.

#### Community disputes



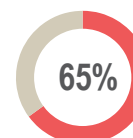
of KIs (44 out of 46 KIs) reported that there were **no disputes within neighbourhoods** in the six months prior to data collection. The rest of the KIs did not know.



of KIs (42 out of 46 KIs) reported that there were **no disputes between villages** in the six months prior to data collection. The other four KIs reportedly did not know.

All 46 KIs reported **no change** is expected regarding disputes within or between communities in the six months following data collection. This is reportedly due to the **(re)integration** of IDPs and returnees in Markaz Too Khurmato facilitated by **kinship ties** and **work relations** between families of different groups in the community and the **intervention of local authorities**.

#### Retaliation incidents



of KIs (30 out of 46 KIs) reported that there were **no retaliation incidents** in the six months prior to data collection. The other 16 KIs did not know.

#### Perceived presence of security forces

All KIs (46 KIs) reported that the **presence of security forces** such as the police and the Iraqi armed forces **contribute positively to a feeling of safety**. In addition, it was generally reported that security forces are effective in resolving disputes within the community and between different villages.

*"To move with full personal freedom and not fear anything, they need those who protect them and protect their family."*

- Male returnee KI -

Data from the IOM DTM Returns index on return dynamics in Salah Al-Din, shows a need for reconciliation between different ethno-religious groups in Too Khurmato District and reported fear of ISIL returning to the area. In addition, safety and security issues in Markaz Too Khurmato are reported by IOM DTM regarding the presence of security forces, including multiple security actors competing for the control of the subdistrict with in some locations up to six different actors.<sup>27</sup> KI data does not show any direct security threats or incidents, but the perception of security and trust after the violent events of 2014 are important for sustainable solutions for return in Markaz Too Khurmato.

## End Notes

1. UN OCHA: <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info> - Humanitarian Needs Overview 2020, November 2019
2. IOM DTM: <http://iraqdtm.iom.int/IdpMovements> - June 2020 and August 2020
3. IOM DTM: <http://iraqdtm.iom.int/MasterList#Datasets> - June 2020 and August 2020
4. IOM DTM: <http://iraqdtm.iom.int/images/ReturnIndex> - Return Dynamics in Salah Al-Din - July 2020
5. Ibid.
6. IOM DTM: <http://iraqdtm.iom.int/MasterList#Datasets> - June 2020 and August 2020
7. IOM DTM: <http://iraqdtm.iom.int/ReturnIndex> - June 2020 and August 2020
8. For the purpose of this research, returnees will be categorized as an IDP returning to their AoO, where AoO is defined as the stated original sub-district of origin for the IDP.
9. As clarified by the Iraq Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) in 2018, secondary displacement covers multiple scenarios: 1) IDPs who are voluntarily or forcibly displaced to another displacement location; 2) IDPs who voluntarily or forcibly return to their AoO, but are unable to achieve sustainable solutions and are consequently re-displaced to a new location of displacement; and 3) IDPs who voluntarily or forcibly return to their AoO, but are unable to resume living in their former habitual residence and cannot achieve sustainable solutions and are consequently re-displaced to a new location within their AoO.
10. A total of 46 KIs were interviewed, of whom 40 male and 6 female KIs between 30 and 67 years old. Ensuring gender balance can be considered a limitation in this assessment, mainly due to the lack of informed consent from females to be contacted by phone for the purpose of this assessment.
11. IOM DTM: <http://iraqdtm.iom.int/ReturnIndex> - April 2020 and June 2020
12. IOM DTM: <http://iraqdtm.iom.int/ReturnIndex> - refer to methodology, to compute the severity index, different parameters are combined.
13. Data reported by the CCCM Cluster in Iraq, in April 2020, upon request for the purpose of the assessment.
14. Community leaders are members of the host community (regardless their displacement status) and were represented by seven mukhtars (from seven different villages in Markaz TooZ Khurmato), three tribal leaders, and four local authority officials. Mukhtar can be defined as the head of a village or neighbourhood in some Arab countries.
15. IDPs (displaced in the area) refer to families from AoO different than Markaz TooZ Khurmato who were displaced after 2014 events and reside in Markaz TooZ Khurmato in the meantime. IDPs interviewed were reportedly from Balad, Beygee, Al-Daur, Samarra, Tikrit and Al-Shirqat Districts and from other sub-districts in TooZ Khurmato District.
16. IDPs (displaced from the area) refer to families from Markaz TooZ Khurmato displaced after the 2014 events in other areas different than their AoO, specifically in Kirkuk District and in other subdistricts within TooZ Khurmato District.
17. Remainees refers to families who remained in Markaz TooZ Khurmato during the events of 2014, who were never displaced.
18. [https://www.lift-fund.org/sites/ift-fund.org/files/publication/Vulnerability%20Profiling\\_0.pdf](https://www.lift-fund.org/sites/ift-fund.org/files/publication/Vulnerability%20Profiling_0.pdf) - The concept of 'vulnerable groups' has been applied recently to both relief and development programmes as an approach to try and ensure that those who are most at risk can be enabled to get necessary assistance. This approach is typically based around fairly fixed categories of 'vulnerable groups' such as women headed households, persons with disabilities and older persons. Sometimes, socio-economic criteria such as land tenure or income are used to classify people. On the basis of classification as 'vulnerable' or 'not', a person or household may be entitled to some form of assistance.
19. For the purpose of this research, large households refer to families who have over seven members including parents and children, the average considered size for a household in Iraq: <https://population.un.org/Household/index.html#/countries/368>
20. Sum of answers may exceed 100% due to KIs being able to select multiple response options, including other topics.
21. The World Bank. [www.worldbank.org/en/country/iraq/overview](http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/iraq/overview). The drop in oil prices and the COVID-19 pandemic are placing unprecedented strains on Iraq's economy. Growth is expected to contract by 9,5% in 2020, Iraq's worst annual performance since 2003.
22. IOM DTM: <http://iraqdtm.iom.int/images/ReturnIndex> - Return Dynamics in Salah al-Din - July 2020
23. Wasta can be defined as the advantages a person might have due to using one's social connections and influence.
24. Necessary documentation is papers related to proof of house ownership, rent attestation, civil status certificates, birth certificates, police attestation, security clearance, passport and identification (ID) papers.
25. It is reportedly related to groups represented by female, elderly, children and people with disabilities in the different population groups.
26. Taking into consideration the sensitivity of this topic it was only answered by community leaders.
27. IOM DTM: <http://iraqdtm.iom.int/images/ReturnIndex> - Return Dynamics in Salah al-Din - July 2020