Map 1. Ninewa, Salah al-Din, and Diyala Governorates

Governorate Profiles

As part of the ReDS research cycle, REACH conducted a review of the data gathered through the ReDS assessments to summarise findings at the governorate level and elaborate three Governorate Profiles. The profiles aim to provide findings to support humanitarian and development actors to promote durable solutions for returnees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) in situations of protracted displacement, including the development of localised interventions, dialogue, policy planning and resource mobilisation. Out of five governorates in which the ReDS took place, three were selected based on the following reasons:

Ninewa Governorate accommodates the largest number of Iraq's returnee population (1.9 million) and hosts most of the displaced populations (around 250,000 IDPs)[1] nationwide. Living conditions related to security, social cohesion and access to services remain challenging.[2]

Salah al-Din Governorate, in addition to Ninewa, remains one of the governorates hosting the highest number of returnees living in high severity conditions,[3] around 200,000 individuals. It represents the assessed governorate with the highest severity score in terms of safety and security, livelihoods and services.[4]

Diyala Governorate accounts for the area with the least amount of governmental and non-governmental assistance. The challenging security situation in the governorate made access for non-governmental organisations to the different affected areas of return difficult.[5] Returnees are facing many challenges related to their access to basic services, security, shelter and livelihoods.[6]

Background and Methodology

Since the formal defeat in late 2017 of the group known as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) that have returned to their Area of Origin (AoO) has increased steadily, reaching the number of almost 5 million returnees by October 2022.[7] The ReDS assessment covered 25 sub-districts in five governorates in Iraq to profile priority sub-districts of return and/ or secondary displacement where a risk to the sustainable (re)integration of populations, and therefore durable solutions, was identified.[8] **The assessment is in the form of a secondary data review and existing qualitative and quantitative data from ReDS assessment constitute the main data source. The timeframe covered by the profiles is the period between January 2020 and September 2022, reflecting the overall ReDS assessments timeline. The assessment is based on an aggregation of sub-district level data for each governorate. The full methodology is available in the [Terms of Reference](#).**

Limitations: **Besides being only indicative, findings have limitations regarding the geographical scope, timeframe and small number of KIs interviewed.** Not all the governorates' territory will be covered in the assessment, but only the subdistricts assessed through the ReDS. Concerning the timeframe, data collection in different sub-districts occurred between January 2020 and September 2022, therefore some of the findings might be out of date, however, according to the IOM DTM Return Index, which suggests that most of the sub-districts are still considered hotspots and that the overall situation in the assessed governorates did not report particular alterations for the considered timespan.

Cross-Governorates Key findings

Reasons for returns: improved security conditions were the most mentioned driver for return in all the assessed governorates, followed by nostalgia for previous life in Ninewa and Diyala and family reunification in Salah al-Din. Camp closure was reported also, but predominantly during the assessments that occurred between 2020 and 2021.

Barriers to returns: common to all three governorates, House, Land and Property issues were the main barrier preventing returns, most notably housing damage; followed by a lack of livelihoods and a lack of public services in the AoOs.

Livelihood opportunities and barriers: agriculture was reportedly the most common sector of interest and for job opportunities, followed by construction and public education. Several barriers were mentioned by KIs, especially related to the lack of reconstruction projects, water scarcity and a lack of financial assistance.

Access to public services: healthcare was the public service that communities had reportedly had more difficulties to accessing, followed by water and education. Infrastructural damage, lack of infrastructure rehabilitation projects and lack of staff reportedly hindered the access to public services in all the assessed governorates.

Social cohesion: similar situations were reported across the different governorates, most notably a perceived increase in safety and security stability within the assessed sub-districts and interaction among the different population groups.

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🏔 Diyala Governorate - Overview

◊ **Returning population:** the main reported drivers for returns in Diyala were improved security conditions, nostalgia for previous life, camp closure and, to a lesser extent, family reunification. The main barriers to returning were reportedly house, land and property (HLP) issues, lack of livelihoods and lack of public services in AoOs.

◊ **Community needs:** the most mentioned primary community needs across the sub-districts were livelihoods, housing rehabilitation, and healthcare.

◊ **Livelihoods and public services:** agriculture and public education were reportedly the sectors with the most job availability and that were most likely to grow in the sub-districts. In some areas, construction and public healthcare were also sectors expected to expand. However, access to both livelihoods and public services was reportedly undermined by damaged infrastructures and a lack of reconstruction projects.

◊ **Social Cohesion:** findings showed stable social cohesion in most of the sub-districts. However, interaction among different groups was reportedly sometimes hindered by fear, discrimination and ethnic divisions.

4 Sub-districts assessed between 2020 and 2022[9]

2020: Markaz al-Muqdadiya

2021: Jalula

2022: al-Atheem, al-Saadiya

194 KIs interviewed in total[10]

49 Community leaders   **18** IDPs in the community
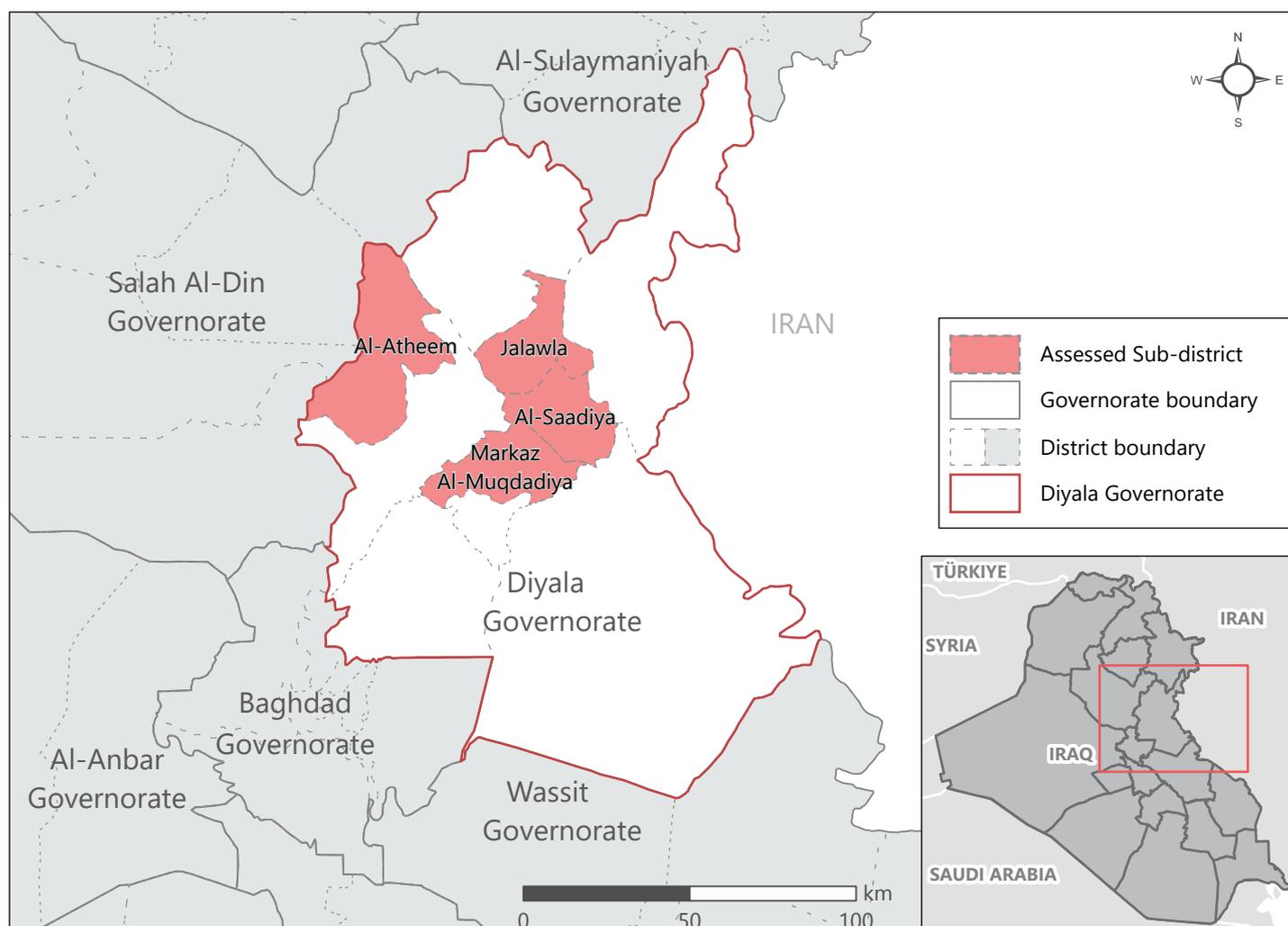
67 Returnees   **19** Subject Matter Experts (SMEs)

36 IDPs from the community   **5** Remainees

👤 **171** Male KIs   👤 **23** Female KIs

📍 **Map 2. Sub-districts assessed in Diyala Governorate**

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🏃 Return movements

Drivers for returns

According to the IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) Return Index, between 2020 and 2022 around 7,100 displaced individuals returned to their AoOs in Diyala.[11] Through the ReDS assessments, it was possible to identify common drivers and impacts of returns across the assessed sub-districts. In Diyala, the most commonly reported pull factor was the perception of increased security in the AoOs, followed by nostalgia for previous life. As shown in Table 1, the perception of increased security was commonly stated by most of the interviewed KIs, except in Jalula and Saadiya, where less than half and none of the KIs considered it as a main driver for returns respectively. In these two areas, the most common reason was reportedly nostalgia for previous life for Saadiya and camp closure for Jalula. Family reunification was considered a relevant pull factor only by one KI in al-Atheem.

Camp closure was reported as a driver only in 2020 and 2021, a period in which several IDP camps were either closed or consolidated by the authorities. As visible in maps 3 and 4, returns to areas of origin in Diyala were more common from non-camp areas and were mostly occurring internally within the same Diyala Governorate, except for some movements from Erbil Governorate to al-Atheem sub-district (map 4).

Impact of returns

KIs' reports on the impact of returning populations were sometimes different and contradictory even within the same location, potentially due to the different positions and points of view of interviewed KIs.

Overall, findings revolve around the positive effects that returns would put on the existing community, in terms of stability, and access to livelihoods and services.

KIs were mostly in agreement in several sub-districts that the population return would have a positive impact on job opportunities in the sub-districts. It was usually mentioned that lands in the sub-districts were left abandoned and needed people to cultivate them, as well as other livelihood sectors and public services needing reactivation. However, several barriers to accessing livelihoods and services were reported across all sub-districts (in detail on pages 6-8).

Also, KIs mentioned in almost all the assessed sub-districts that reunification of families would bring more stability to the community, seeing the returning population as new life coming to the abandoned areas. This was mostly reported in Saadiya, where almost 95% of the population was displaced since 2014.
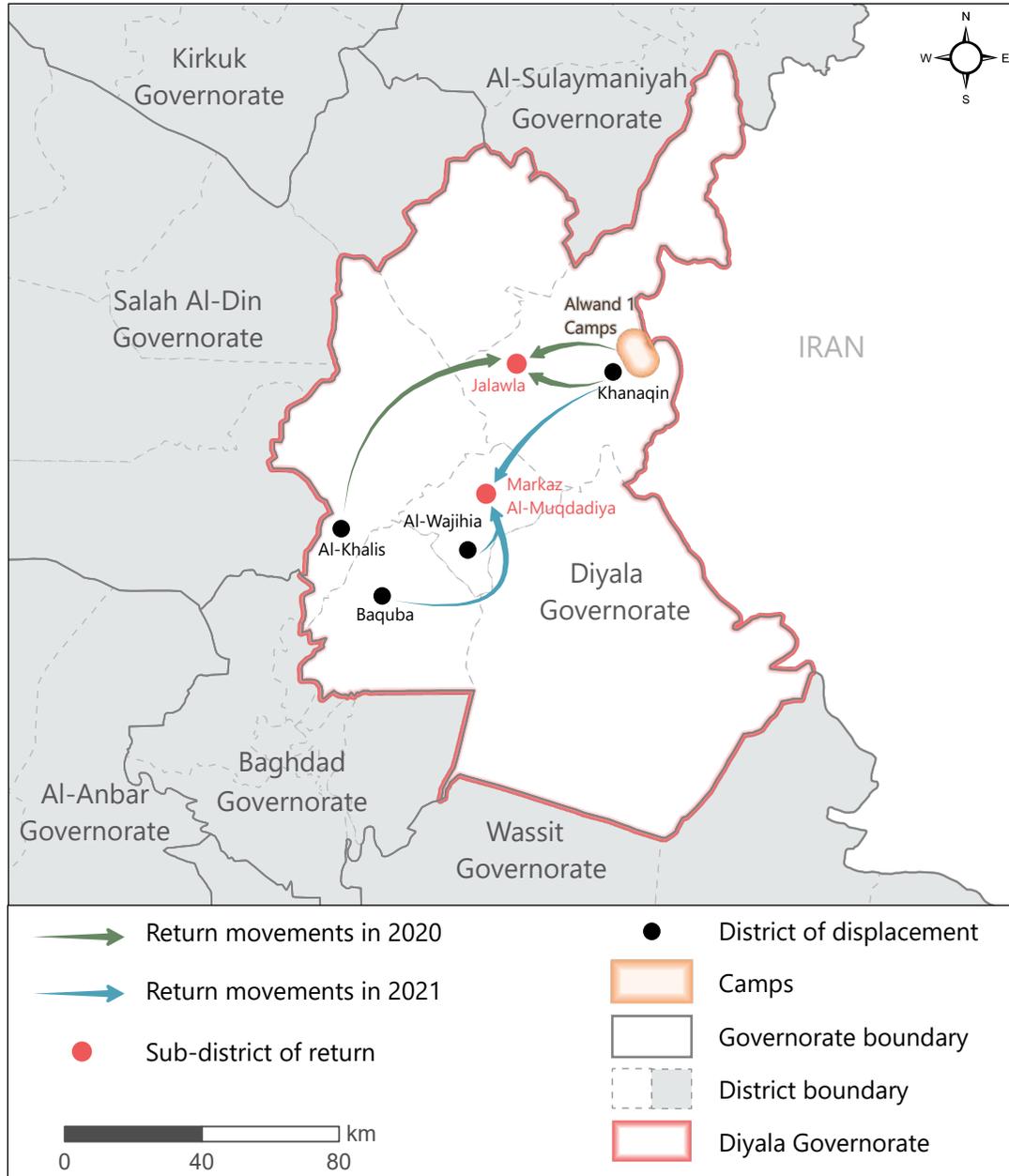
"The most important factor that helps the community to return and live here is safety, through which an individual can reassure their family they are safe whenever they leave the house, whether when going to work or to any other place."

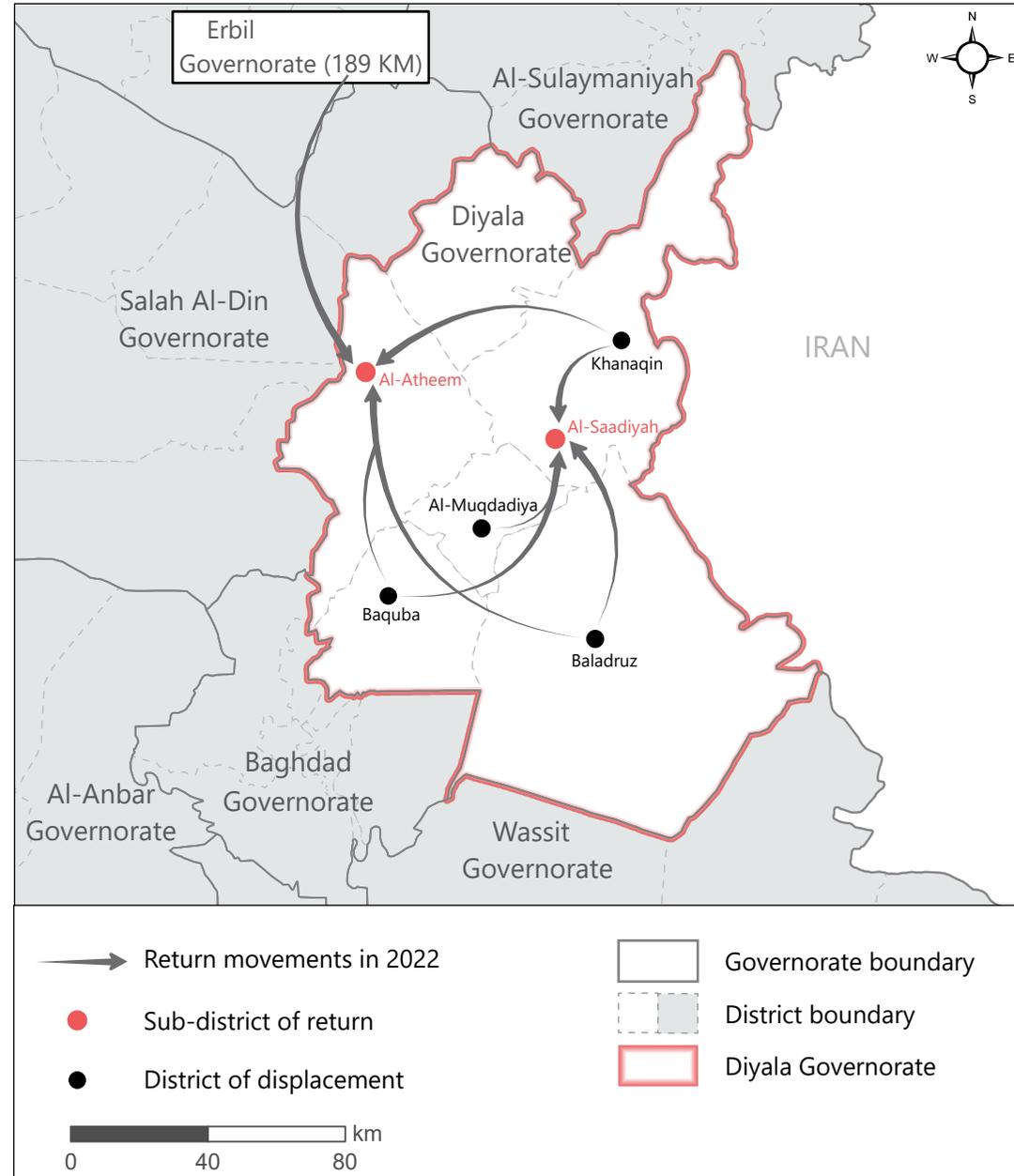- Male IDP KI from Markaz al-Muqdadiya -

Only in Markaz al-Muqdadiya, KIs also mentioned that job opportunities would decrease and competition among families in need of assistance would increase, as an effect of more people in the community.

Table 1. Drivers and impact of returns in sub-districts assessed in Diyala Governorate, 2020-2022

	2020	2021	2022	
	Markaz al-Muqdadiya (11 KIs)	Jalula (4 KIs)	al-Atheem (5 KIs)	al-Saadiya (5 KI)
Drivers for returns				
Increased security	11	1	4	-
Nostalgia	-	1	2	5
Camp Closure	3	2	-	-
Family reunification	-	-	1	-
Impact of returns				
Increased job opportunities	4	3	4	3
Stability/family reunification	-	2	3	5
Decreased job opportunities	6	-	-	
Increased number of family in need	5	-	-	

Map 3 (Left)

Kirkuk Governorate

Al-Sulaymaniyah Governorate

Salah Al-Din Governorate

IRAN

Alwand 1 Camps

Jalawla

Khanaqin

Al-Wajihia

Markaz Al-Muqdadiya

Al-Khalis

Baquba

Diyala Governorate

Baghdad Governorate

Al-Anbar Governorate

Wassit Governorate

Legend:
- → Return movements in 2020
- → Return movements in 2021
- ● Sub-district of return
- ● District of displacement
- ▮ Camps
- ▢ Governorate boundary
- ▢ District boundary
- ▭ Diyala Governorate

km 0 40 80

📍 Map 3. Return movements to assessed sub-districts in Diyala Governorate in 2020-2021

Map 4 (Right)

Erbil Governorate (189 KM)

Al-Sulaymaniyah Governorate

Diyala Governorate

Salah Al-Din Governorate

IRAN

Al-Atheem

Khanaqin

Al-Saadiyah

Al-Muqdadiya

Baquba

Baladruz

Baghdad Governorate

Al-Anbar Governorate

Wassit Governorate

Legend:
- → Return movements in 2022
- ● Sub-district of return
- ● District of displacement
- ▢ Governorate boundary
- ▢ District boundary
- ▭ Diyala Governorate

km 0 40 80

📍 Map 4. Return movements to assessed sub-districts in Diyala Governorate in 2022

🏃 Barriers to return

Among the population who remained displaced from Diyala, several barriers to return were reported in the assessed sub-districts at the time of data collection. The most common barriers were reportedly related to HLP matters, with almost all KIs reporting that housing damage was too severe for a sustainable return.

Access to livelihoods and basic services in the AoOs reportedly posed a challenge to the population in displacement: lack of job opportunities and limited access to basic public services were reported through all the sub-districts as well. A few KIs also mentioned barriers related to safety and security; most notably fear of being perceived as ISIL-affiliated and perceptions of lack of security in the AoOs.

As shown in Table 2, KIs in different sub-districts were almost unanimously reporting on housing damage in AoOs being the most relevant barrier to return, and only in one sub-district (Markaz al-Muqdadiya) did a proportion of KIs report households lacking property documents as a barrier to return. It is also worth considering that in some cases conditions in AoDs were reportedly a more suitable option for IDPs, who either moved on

from their past life and settled in the new area; or did not have enough appealing pull factors to return to their AoOs.

Across many sub-districts, the lack of job opportunities, both in the private and public sectors, was considered to be a relevant barrier to return. A similar pattern can be traced to limited access to public services, which was mentioned across most sub-districts, with lack of medical treatment in particular being a reason to remain in displacement. On livelihoods and public services, in a-Muqdadiya only a small proportion of KI mentioned these issues as barriers to return.

Also relevant, but not homogeneously mentioned, was fear of being perceived as ISIL affiliated, especially in Jalula, where a more consistent share of KIs mentioned this together with more general security concerns in the AoOs.

"There are several family members who remain displaced because of the availability of jobs in the areas of displacement. If job opportunities are ensured in the future in the sub-district, they will return"

- Male SME KI in Jalula -

Table 2. Reported barriers to return in sub-districts assessed in Diyala Governorate, 2020-2022

	2020	2021	2022	
	Markaz al-Muqdadiya (39 KIs)	Jalula (60 KIs)	al-Atheem (40 KIs)	al-Saadiya (55 KI)
Access to housing and housing rehabilitation				
Housing damage	33	46	32	46
Lack of property documents	11	-	-	-
Access to livelihoods and basic public services				
Lack of job opportunities	1	42	32	45
Limited access to basic public services	5	36	24	22
Limited access to medical treatment	9	15	2	-
Access to safety and security				
Fear of being perceived ISIL affiliated	-	17	3	-
Security concerns in AoOs	-	3	3	1

🚍 Primary community needs

The most commonly reported primary community need overall was **access to livelihoods (119/194 KIs).** It was most notably reported in al-Saadiya, especially due to the reported lack of job opportunities and high unemployment rates, which also reportedly caused the protracted displacement of households and individuals in their AoDs.

The second most commonly reported primary community need was **access to housing rehabilitation (117/194 KIs)**, reported by more than half of the KIs in all sub-districts, except Markaz al-Muqdadiya. It reflects the issue already highlighted in the barriers to returns; together with house damage, KIs across sub-districts reported challenges in accessing compensation and

rehabilitation, due mostly to the lack of government support and reconstruction projects.

The third most commonly reported primary community need was **access to healthcare (78/194 KIs)**, denoting widespread difficulties in accessing basic services in all the assessed sub-districts. Reasons varied slightly in each sub-district, and in Markaz al-Muqdadiya, where it has been considered the first priority need, it was reportedly due to the lack of specialised medical staff and medications. Generally, the reasons also included damaged infrastructure, and a lack of advanced medical machinery.

Water also was reported as a crucial need, both for human consumption and irrigation.

Table 3. Reported primary community needs in sub-districts assessed in Diyala Governorate, 2020-2022

	2020	2021	2022	
	Markaz al-Muqdadiya (39 KIs)	Jalula (60 KIs)	al-Atheem (40 KIs)	al-Saadiya (55 KI)
Livelihoods	15	39	23	42
Housing rehabilitation	19	38	24	36
Healthcare	20	16	15	27
Water	17	29	16	13
Education	9	21	14	5
Electricity	9	10	13	4
Infrastructure rehabilitation	13	10	3	1
Waste disposal	10	6	2	1

🚍 Access to livelihoods

In Diyala, access to livelihoods was the second most reported barrier for further returns after housing rehabilitation and the first most reported community need, throughout almost all the assessed sub-districts. Interviewed KIs provided an overview of the different sectors in which livelihoods are available and potentially growing, and which are the most common livelihoods-related barriers and coping strategies.

Available livelihood sectors of interest[12]

The most common livelihood sector in the assessed sub-districts in Diyala was reportedly agriculture, followed by the public education and construction sectors. Agriculture in the assessed sub-districts usually represented one of the main forms of employment and income, at the same time reporting several barriers to accessing it. Public education was often mentioned as a sector of interest and likely to grow following the population return. Complementarily, due to the high level of damage, construction was needed to both restore the damaged houses and infrastructures and to expand the existing ones.

Barriers to access livelihoods[13]

In detail, concerning agriculture, the barriers reported by KIs in all the assessed sub-districts were lack of government support, lack of financial resources to afford seeds and fertilizers, water scarcity and damage to irrigation systems. Specifically in Jalula and al-Saadiya damage and destruction of infrastructure and facilities were mentioned as barriers, coupled with the absence of compensation for such damages. In Saadiya, the presence of explosive remnants of war (ERWs) in some parts of cultivable land was considered a strong barrier against the development of agriculture in the sub-district. Concerning construction, in all the assessed sub-districts, KIs mentioned a lack of rehabilitation and construction projects, worsened by the limited access to construction materials and lack of skilled labour.

"Infrastructure rehabilitation has two roles: to facilitate social progress and to develop the area in terms of urbanisation and so on, and create employment opportunities for the community."

- Community leader KI in Markaz al-Muqdadiya -

In all the assessed sub-districts, the public sector also reportedly suffered from a lack of new appointments for governmental jobs and that access was hindered by the presence of intermediaries. As coping mechanisms, KIs reported in all the assessed sub-districts that some households remained in displacement, or moved to other locations to work (al-Atheem and Jalula).

Groups with less access to livelihoods[18]

When asked if specific categories would be more vulnerable than others, KIs mostly mentioned older persons and persons with disabilities.

Female-headed households were also mentioned in Markaz al-Muqdadiya.

In Jalula, also IDPs and returnees were considered to have less access to livelihoods, especially households that had alleged links to ISIL.

"There are several family members who remain displaced because of the availability of jobs in the areas of displacement. If job opportunities are ensured in the future in the sub-district, they will return"

- Male SME KI in Jalula -

🏠 Access to housing rehabilitation and compensation

In Diyala, housing rehabilitation and compensation is reportedly the second primary community need, which suggests at the same time the high level of destruction and the reported limited impact and reach of reconstruction projects.

Access to housing rehabilitation

In all the assessed sub-districts, KIs reported that the level of damage and destruction of houses was very high. Rehabilitation efforts were reportedly hindered on one side by the lack of households' financial resources to undertake independent reconstruction (except in Markaz al-Muqdadiya) and on the other, because the government's rehabilitation campaigns were either absent, delayed or only limited to specific areas, in some cases targeting selectively some locations while neglecting others.

Lack of documentation to prove ownership and/or access rehabilitation was not reported in any of the assessed sub-districts. Households were reportedly resorting to negative coping mechanisms such as living in shared shelters or damaged houses, with high safety risks. In al-Saadiya, KIs also mentioned that some households remained in displacement as they could not rehabilitate their house or access to governmental projects.

Access to compensation[14]

Where further questions about compensation were asked, KIs reported similar situations across the sub-districts. The procedure that households had to go through was described as long, complex and expensive, requiring much time and effort without the guarantee of actually receiving compensation. In almost all the sub-districts assessed, many households could reportedly not access compensation because they lacked awareness of the process and/or legal support. Finally, KIs in all assessed sub-districts reported that in many cases compensation was not paid, allegedly for lack of governmental financial resources and their selective allocation.

Coping mechanisms[15]

Housing damage was considered a barrier to returning in all the assessed sub-districts, however remaining displaced was openly mentioned only in al-Saadiya. In Jalula and al-Saadiya, KIs reported that households resorted to paying bribes to obtain access to housing rehabilitation and/or compensation, while in al-Saadiya KIs reported households having to rent another house as they could not access their own due to the level of damages.

⚕️ Access to healthcare

Healthcare was the third most reported primary community need and the public service which was reportedly the most inaccessible in all the assessed Diyala sub-districts. The intensity of conflict in the governorate and the mass emigration from the various sub-districts reportedly caused an impoverishment of the quantity and quality of healthcare services provided.

Access barriers[16]

In all the assessed sub-districts, the main obstacles to accessing healthcare were reportedly a lack of staff and a lack of medications. In all the sub-districts, KIs highlighted the lack of support and rehabilitation of health facilities, coupled with the lack of hospitals in more than half of the assessed sub-districts. Concerning equipment, KIs specified that mostly machines and ambulances were missing, hindering the reach of the available health facilities.

In all the assessed sub-districts, KIs reported that available facilities did not have enough capacity to accommodate the community's needs and that patients were receiving poor quality service. Moreover, in al-Atheem and al-Saadiya, the total absence of public health centres in smaller villages was reported, drastically reducing access for the population living in rural

areas. Lack of equipment was considered a barrier as well and mentioned in all the assessed sub-districts, including the lack of machines, ambulances and tools, hindering the efficiency and quality of available health services.

Coping mechanisms[17]

In Jalula and al-Saadiya, KIs mentioned that households were resorting to using local pharmacies for treatment and medicine, despite them not being facilities equipped to deal with the different needs of the population. Also ravelling to bigger urban centres for emergencies or specialised medical treatment was mentioned as common coping mechanism.

Additionally, in Jalula, some KIs reported households resorting to private and more expensive clinics for treatment. Also regarding al-Atheem, it was reported that to access healthcare services, some households preferred to remain in displacement. This appears to be generally in line with the findings on barriers to return, where limited access to medical treatment was considered a reason not to return.

"The health sector is one of the most neglected sectors in al-Saadiya."

- Male Returnee KI from al-Saadiya -

🏛 Access to public services

Reflecting primary community needs, healthcare was reportedly the most challenging public service to access in most of Diyala's assessed sub-districts. As described on page 7, accessing healthcare and medical treatment was reportedly complicated or impossible according to KIs across the various sub-districts.

However, the destruction caused by war and the lengthy reconstruction process caused dysfunctions and complicated the population's access to public services in general. In table 4 it is observable in more detail how, right after healthcare, water was reported as a crucial missing service. Water services were intended both for human consumption and agriculture and their limited availability was reportedly a consequence of both poor infrastructure and climate change (in detail below). Water was reported as insufficient in quantity and of bad quality, mostly due to heavy damage to the public network and the lack of maintenance.

Education also appeared to be a neglected service in some areas,

as challenging to access as water and healthcare respectively. KIs reported that schools were damaged during the conflict without being repaired or maintained at the time of data collection. This reportedly prolonged the interruption of children's education and/or exposed them to safety hazards in buildings that were not suitable or equipped for their purpose. Moreover, lack of furniture and equipment was also mentioned as a major barrier to accessing education services.

Difficulties in accessing public electricity services were mentioned in al-Atheem, where KIs reported damage to the public electrical network, poles, and transformers, together with discontinuity in electricity provision. This had a reportedly negative effect not only on households' daily life but also on water pumping, agricultural irrigation and businesses.

"Schools were built of mud and not suitable to ensure students' safety. They [could be] demolished."

- Male Returnee KI in al-Atheem -

Table 4. Public services to which access was reportedly most challenging in sub-districts assessed in Diyala, 2020-2022

	2020	2021	2022	
	Markaz al-Muqdadiya (39 KIs)	**Jalula (60 KIs)**	**al-Atheem (40 KIs)**	**al-Saadiya (55 KI)**
Healthcare	18	23	36	51
Water	18	50	23	38
Education	-	50	31	8
Electricity	-	-	34	-

☀ Climate change

Diyala Governorate is suffering systematic water scarcity due to both the effects of climate change and the management of he Diyala river's upstream water by Iran. On one side, a decrease in water levels is caused by drought and increasing temperatures, while on the other it can temporarily occur based on the diversion of water from the dam upstream in Iran.[19] This situation caused widespread water scarcity that affected thousands of households' daily life and livelihoods. Water used for farming, industrial and domestic purposes become hard to access, with consequences on different levels, most notably on food security and social cohesion.[20]

Water scarcity

REACH findings in the assessed sub-districts align with the studies and reports of 0ther agencies and organizations on the matter, as interviewed KIs considered water as the second most challenging public service to access and among the primary community needs.

The agricultural sector was negatively affected, as reported by KIs in all the locations assessed: water available for irrigation was not meeting demand and was not enough for livestock farming. Also, considering the domestic use, in all the sub-districts assessed, water was reported to be of insufficient quantity and quality.

In addition to water scarcity, the bad conditions of infrastructure and the lack of sewage and waste management reportedly posed a further challenge to proper access to water.

Coping mechanisms

KIs in all locations mentioned that households usually resorted to bottled water to avoid drinking tap water, either because it was not available or not safe to drink. This was reportedly having a bad effect on households' finances as, due to the high demand, prices of bottled water and private water services had increased. In more than half of the assessed sub-districts, KIs highlighted that private trucked water was used to cope with the failing public network.

Digging illegal wells was mentioned in Jalula; this is a widespread practice, with known negative effects on groundwater reserves and the quality of water.[21] While in al-Atheem it was mentioned that in some cases, difficult access to water services caused protracted displacement. In al-Saadiya, water was reported to be rationed when periods of peak water scarcity occurred. Both in Jalula and al-Atheem, to cope with the lack of waste collection, KIs reported that waste was burned, posing an additional threat to community and environmental health.

🤝 Integration and social cohesion

Safety and Security

In the locations assessed, the perceptions of safety and security were homogeneous, with KIs in all locations mentioning that different population groups were feeling safe or very safe in the sub-districts.

Feeling welcome and integrated

Findings in this section were mostly homogeneous, with KIs in all locations reporting that the different population groups felt between "somewhat welcome", "welcome" or "very welcome", depending on the location and population group. However, in Jalula, KIs reporting that some returnee and IDP households were not feeling welcome due to the presence of households with alleged links to ISIL, and discrimination based on displacement status, ethnicity, religion and tribal affiliation.

Disputes

As for the previous sections, in most of the sub-districts, KIs reported the absence of disputes both within the community and with neighbouring communities. However, in al-Atheem, some disputes were reported, mostly due to ethnic rivalries, perceived affiliation to ISIL and inherited older disputes between parts of the community. It is worth noting that for this question a high rate of KIs refused to answer. Therefore, findings in this section might not adhere to the real situation on the ground.

Interaction among population groups

Also concerning the interaction between different groups in the community, KIs in all assessed sub-districts reported that it was happening smoothly, improving the social cohesion in the sub-district. However, most notably in Jalula, KIs also reported that IDPs and returnees were more isolated in comparison to the host community.

Among the mentioned reasons, the most common ones were fear, discrimination, belonging to different ethnic groups and alleged affiliation with ISIL.

Participation in the decision-making process[22]

As shown in Table 5, in the area where they were living, KIs in Jalula, al-Atheem and al-Saadiya reported the fact that different population groups were involved at some level in the decision-making processes. In al-Saadiya this was reported by a higher proportion of KIs because both returnee KIs and IDP KIs in the community all reported that households of those groups were involved or participated in the decision-making process. Only a few KIs in al-Atheem and al-Saadiya reported that IDPs in and from the community were not involved, without however specifying the reason.

Improving social cohesion

In each sub-district, KIs suggested strategies or initiatives to advocate for improved social cohesion in their location. Most of the suggestions revolved around improvements in livelihoods, public services and the security sector, suggesting that reconstruction projects would bring more stability and harmony within the community. In all sub-districts, seminars, awareness sessions and conferences about conflict resolution, tolerance, coexistence and acceptance of differences were highly encouraged as well as social events that could bring together the different groups living in the same community.

"The life in the sub-district started to be restored to normal as it was before 2014."

- Male Community Leader KI in al-Atheem -

Table 5. Participation in decision making process in sub-districts assessed in Diyala Governorate, 2020-2022

	2020	2021	2022	
	Markaz al-Muqdadiya (0 KIs)	Jalula (60 KIs)	al-Atheem (40 KIs)	al-Saadiya (36 KI)
Participation in decision making processes				
Yes	-	34	22	29
No	-	-	6	3

ABOUT REACH

REACH Initiative facilitates the development of information tools and products that enhance the capacity of aid actors to make evidence-based decisions in emergency, recovery and development contexts. The methodologies used by REACH include primary data collection and in-depth analysis, and all activities are conducted through inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms. REACH is a joint initiative of IMPACT Initiatives, ACTED and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research - Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNITAR-UNOSAT).

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Endnotes

1 IOM DTM Masterlist, Ninewa Governorate, Round 5, December 2022

2 IOM DTM Masterlist, Ninewa Governorate, Round 5, December 2022

3 Severity is calculated in the IOM DTM Return Index with 16 indicators related to livelihoods and basic services and safety perceptions and social cohesion.

4 IOM DTM Return Index, Salah al-Din Governorate, Round 17, December 2022

5 Information obtained from the RWG meetings and RWG focal point at governorate level.

6 IOM DTM Return Index, Diyala Governorate, Round 17, December 2022

7 IOM DTM Masterlist Report 127, July-September 2022

8 Full methodology of the rapid assessment on Returns and Durable Solutions (ReDS) available in the Terms of Reference, REACH Initiative, April 2021

9 All the ReDS publications are available at REACH Initiative Resource Centre, below the list of publications related to Diyala Governorate:
- Markaz al-Muqdadiya sub-district profile, October 2020
- Jalula sub-district profile, October 2021
- al-Atheem sub-district profile, June 2022
- al-Saadiya sub-district profile, June 2022

10 Findings are based on the perceptions of the KIs who were purposively sampled; all data should therefore be considered as indicative. The occasionally large variation between perceptions is potentially due to KIs' varying profiles and personal interests.

11 IOM DTM Return Index, Diyala Governorate, Round 10-16, September 2020, September 2022

12 For this section, the question was not asked in Markaz al-Muqdadiya.

13 For this section, the question was not asked in Markaz al-Muqdadiya.

14 For this section, the question was not asked in Markaz al-Muqdadiya.

15 For this section, the question was not asked in al-Atheem.

16 For this section, the question was not asked in Markaz al-Muqdadiya.

17 For this section, the question was not asked in Markaz al-Muqdadiya.

18 For this section the question was not asked in al-Atheem and al-Saadiya.

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20 IOM Iraq, Migration, Environment, and Climate Change in Iraq, 2022

21 Dizayee, R. (2018). Effects of Illegal Wells on Groundwater Level in the Central Sub-basin, Erbil Basin, Erbil, Kurdistan Region-Iraq. American Academic Scientific Research Journal for Engineering, Technology, and Sciences, 39(1), 244–249. Retrieved from https://asrjetsjournal.org/index.php/American_Scientific_Journal/article/view/3865

22 For this section, the question was not asked in Markaz al-Muqdadiya.