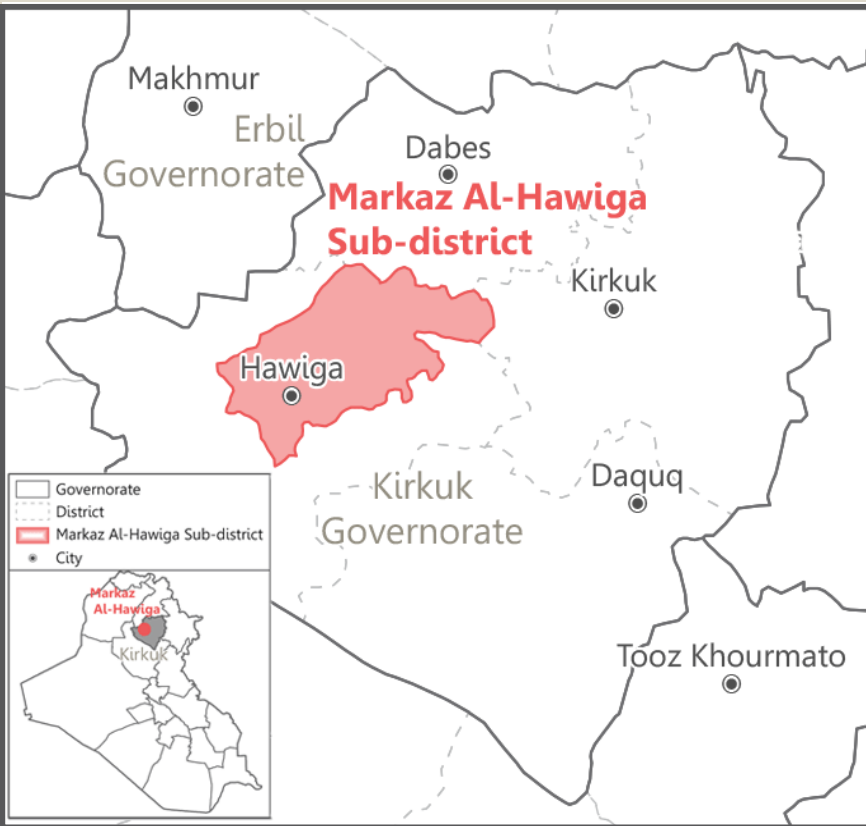


Returns and Durable Solutions (ReDS) Assessment

**Markaz Al-Hawiga Sub-district
Hawiga District, Kirkuk Governorate
Preliminary Findings Presentation, Iraq**

Assessment Methodology



- **Multi-sectoral** assessment tool, which combined **qualitative and quantitative** data.
- Data collection was done **remotely by phone** between 21 June and 3 July 2022.
- **Purposive sampling** methods were employed to identify KIs. Findings should therefore be considered as **indicative**.
- Methodology based on **key informant interviews** (KIIs).

↓ ↓ KI profiles in Markaz Al-Hawiga Sub-district

| | | |
|------------------------------------|--------|--|
| Returnees (more than 3 months ago) | 13 KIs | |
| IDPs from the community | 10 KIs | |
| IDPs in the community | 8 KIs | |
| Remainees | 6 KIs | |
| Community leaders | 6 KIs | |
| Subject matter experts (SMEs) | 5 KIs | |
| Returnees (less than 3 months ago) | 4 KIs | |

52 KIs

8 KIs 44 KIs

Expected Returns

Expected returns from non-camp areas

20-25 households

reportedly may return from different locations in **Kirkuk Governorate** due to the **nostalgia for previous life** in the sub-district.

Family separation

A few KIs reported that **adult male households' members remained in displacement** at the time of data collection.

The two main reasons included the availability of:

- **Jobs in their AoDs** and lack of jobs in AoOs, and
- Medical treatment in AoDs.

Barriers to return

The majority of KIs reported factors affecting households' intentions to return.

The most reported barriers included:

- **Housing damage** and lack of HLP documents to claim their homes,
- Lack of jobs in AoOs,
- Lack of basic services in AoOs,
- Households preferred life in AoDs, and
- Fear of being perceived as ISIL-affiliated.

Access to Durable Solutions Assistance¹

Activity/project implementation

Reportedly, **there were activities and/or projects** implemented by **humanitarian/development actors and local authorities** in the area.

The top four frequently reported activities/projects implemented:

- Livelihoods,
- Water, sanitation and hygiene,
- Reconciliation and social cohesion, and
- Food assistance.

Assistance as a factor to encourage returns

Reportedly, access to durable solutions assistance **was a factor encouraging returns**.

The two humanitarian activities most reported as needed were:

- **Livelihoods**, and
- Housing rehabilitation.

¹ Durable solutions assistance includes humanitarian, stabilization, development, and peacebuilding assistance under its umbrella.

Access to Housing and Type of Tenure

As reported, the majority of households in the sub-district resided in **owned houses**.

The **majority of households reportedly had** housing, land, and property **(HLP) documents proving ownership**. However, a few KIs reported that some IDP households lacked these documents.

The **majority of IDP households in the community** reportedly resorted to **renting houses**.



Reported Proportion of Damaged Housing

29%-38%

Access to Housing Rehabilitation

Challenges

All KIs reported that the majority of the households faced **challenges in accessing housing rehabilitation**.

The three most reported barriers were:

- Affected households having limited access to financial resources for housing rehabilitation;
- Existing factors affecting construction and reconstruction, including high cost of construction materials; and,
- Lack of government compensation for housing rehabilitation.



Access to Basic Public Services

Challenges

All KIs reported that the majority of the households faced **challenges in accessing basic public services**, mainly **healthcare**.

The most commonly reported challenges in accessing healthcare were related to the conditions in public health centers (PHCs), including:

- Shortage of medicines and needed supplies for proper treatment of patients,
- Shortage of medical staff (including specialists), and
- Limited available medical equipment, tools, and supplies at the PHC.



Access to Livelihoods

Challenges

All KIs reported that the majority of households faced **challenges in accessing livelihoods**.

The four most reported challenges were:

- Lack of job opportunities across various sectors, mainly affecting youth;
- Lack of support from the local government towards the reactivation of agriculture,
- Inflated prices of agricultural materials; and,
- Lack of construction projects.

Economic support

Community leader and SME KIs reported that **livelihood programme** implementation **may support economic development** in the sub-district.

The main reported economic development needed was:

- Revitalization of the agricultural sector including livestock market, and
- Improving access to water for irrigation purposes.



Access to Livelihoods

Potential for sectoral growth

Community leader and SME KIs reported that the **agricultural sector** showed the most growth potential in the 12 months following data collection.

Livelihood sectors of interest for returnee and IDP households

The most commonly reported sectors in which returnee and IDP households were interested in working were **agriculture** (including animal husbandry), **construction**, and **education**.

Perceptions on Social Cohesion

Social cohesion bodies

Durable solution actors were perceived by KIs as the **main body promoting social cohesion**, followed by the local authorities.

Improving social cohesion

KIs believed that **local authorities** and **tribal leaders** can play an important role in improving social cohesion.

Reported strategies or initiatives to improve social cohesion:

- Initiatives promoting access to work for all,
- Seminars, awareness sessions, and conferences,
- Initiatives promoting community inter-relationships, and
- Advocacy to promote further returns.

Perceptions of returnee KIs

Feeling welcome

The majority of returnee KIs reported that returnee households felt **welcome** or **very welcome**.

Most reported reasons:

- Strong communication and interpersonal relationships,
- Presence of kinship ties, and
- Belong to the different tribes prevalent in the area.

Interaction

Almost two thirds of returnee KIs did not know about interaction between groups or reported no interaction.

However, over one third of returnee KIs reported that the majority of returnee households **interacted with all groups**.

All returnee KIs reported and that **returnee households participated in decision-making processes**.

Feeling re-integrated

All returnee KIs reported that **returnee households felt re-integrated** in Markaz Al-Hawiga after returning home and to their lands having a **strong sense of belonging**.

“they [returnee households] were relieved from the difficulties of displacement [...]”

Perceptions of IDP KIs from the community

Feeling welcome

Over half of consulted KIs did not know how IDP households from the community may feel if they return to their AoOs or refused to answer.

While a couple of KIs reported that IDP households **felt they may be welcome** in their AoOs if they decided to return; another couple of KIs reported that this may not be the case.

Interaction

Reportedly, the majority of IDP households from the community **interacted with returnees and households from their own group**, according to a couple of IDP KIs.

Almost three quarters of IDP KIs did not know about IDP households' participation in decision making processes or reported that households did not participate.

Feeling integrated

All IDP KIs from the community reported that **IDP households from the community did not feel integrated** due to the fact that they were displaced in areas they were not originally from.

"Because we are still in the displacement, far from our lands and homes."

Perceptions of IDP KIs in the community

Feeling welcome

The majority of IDP KIs did not know how IDP households in the community felt.

However, one KI reported that IDP households **felt welcome** in the sub-district due to:

- Belonged to similar tribes,
- Presence of inter-personal relations, and
- Existing kinship ties.

Interaction

Reportedly, the majority of IDP households in the community **interacted with all groups**, according to half of IDP KIs.

The majority of IDP KIs in the community reported that IDP households did not participated in decision-making processes.

Feeling integrated

While three quarters of IDP KIs did not know about IDP households' feelings of integration or refused to answer; a couple of IDP KIs in the community reported that **IDP households in the community did not feel integrated** since they were not residing in their AoOs.

Key Findings

- There were no reported returns to Markaz Al-Hawiga in the six months prior to data collection. However, there were reported expected returns in the six months following data collection. Reportedly, these **may positively impact the public sector and access to basic public services, the reconstruction of the sub-district, the private and industrial sectors, the agricultural sector, and trade and commerce.**
- **Damage to housing and the need for housing rehabilitation** was one of the most reported barriers for returns, the second most commonly reported community need, and the second most needed activity to encourage further returns to Markaz Al-Hawiga.
- Further efforts to support **livelihoods, housing rehabilitation, and healthcare** were the most commonly reported primary community needs by the majority of KIs.
- The most affected basic public service was reportedly public **healthcare**, followed by access to public electricity. Conditions at PHCs in Markaz Al-Hawiga were reportedly the main factor affecting access to healthcare in the sub-district.
- **Agriculture** was the most frequently reported **sector with the highest growth potential** in Markaz Al-Hawiga for the 12 months following data collection and the most available livelihoods sector at the time of data collection. It was also reported as the sector of most interest for the IDPs and returnees to work in.

Key Findings

- **Tribal leaders** were reportedly the **most effective at resolving disputes** within the sub-district, taking into consideration that Markaz Al-Hawiga community was structured according to the tribal system and applied customary laws to resolve these disputes.
- A couple of **IDP KIs from the community reported that IDP households may feel welcome and accepted** if they return to Markaz Al-Hawiga. KIs reported that these households mainly **interacted with returnees** and participated in decision-making processes in their AoOs. However, fear of being perceived affiliated to ISIL was reportedly of concern to IDP households as a barrier for their return. All IDP KIs reported that **the majority of IDP households from the community did not feel integrated** in their AoDs.
- The **majority of returnee KIs** reported that returnee households **interacted with all groups in the community**, felt welcome or very welcome, and felt re-integrated in the community of Markaz Al-Hawiga. This was mainly reported due to existing strong relationships they had with other members of the community and the presence of kinship ties with other households in the sub-district. They reportedly participated in decision-making processes.
- Findings suggested that conditions in the sub-district regarding **IDP households in the community** required **further efforts to promote** their **feeling of being welcome**, ensure **interaction**, and advocate for sustainable **durable solutions**.

THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION



Baghdad, Iraq



cristina.carrandi@impact-initiatives.org



Upon request