Returns and Durable Solutions (ReDS) Assessment

**Jalula Sub-district
Khanaqin District, Diyala Governorate
Preliminary Findings Presentation, Iraq**

10/2021

Assessment Methodology

➢ **Multi-sectoral** assessment tool, which combined **qualitative and quantitative** data

➢ Data collection was done **remotely by phone** between 26 and 30 October 2021, adapted to the context of the COVID-19 pandemic

➢ **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 Jalula Sub-district

Community leaders	**21 KIs**
Returnees (more than 3 months)	**14 KIs**
IDPs (displaced from the area)	**13 KIs**
IDPs in community	**7 KIs**
Subject matter experts (SMEs)	**5 KIs**

60 KIs

👤 6 KIs   👤 54 KIs

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Recent Movements

Returns from camps
9-13 households

were reported by the majority of KIs to have returned from Alwand 1 camp, in Diyala Governorate, due to camp closure.

Returns from non-camp areas
4-7 households

were reported by the majority of KIs to have returned from non-camp areas in Khalis District and Markaz Khanaqin Sub-district.

The reported reasons for returning were nostalgia from previous life and sense of increased security in their AoO.

Barriers to return and family separation

Barriers to return

The top five most reported barriers for further returns included:

- Damaged/destroyed housing and challenging access to rehabilitation,

- Lack/limited of job opportunities,

- Lack/limited access to basic public services, especially healthcare,

- Fear of being perceived as affiliated with ISIL, and

- Fear of contracting COVID-19.

Family separation

Two KIs reported that there were **households with at least one adult male who remained displaced** at the time of data collection.

The main reasons:

- Lack of jobs in AoO,

- Housing damaged in AoO, and

- Involvement of children at school in AoD (for those who remained in displacement with their children).

Reunification plans

Two KIs believed that *"if job opportunities are provided in the future, they will return."*

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Access to Humanitarian Aid

Activities

Reportedly **there were humanitarian activities or projects** mainly implemented by **humanitarian actors** in the area, such as:

- Livelihood programmes,
- Cash assistance.
- Food and non-food item distribution,
- Water, sanitation and hygiene,
- COVID-19 awareness, and
- Psycho-social support.

Aid as a factor to encourage returns

Reportedly access to humanitarian aid **was a factor to encourage returns**.

The two most reported needed humanitarian activities were:

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

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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 from the community reportedly **had** housing, land, and property **(HLP) documents proving ownership**.

IDP households in the community reportedly resided in **rented** shelters because they never owned a house in the sub-district.

Reported Proportion of Damaged Housing

Over 46%

Access to Housing Rehabilitation

Challenges

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

The four most reported barriers were:

- Affected households lacked financial resources to rehabilitate their homes,

- Lack of financial support for housing rehabilitation from the government and humanitarian actors,

- Access to housing rehabilitation was affected by the lack of housing rehabilitation compensation, and

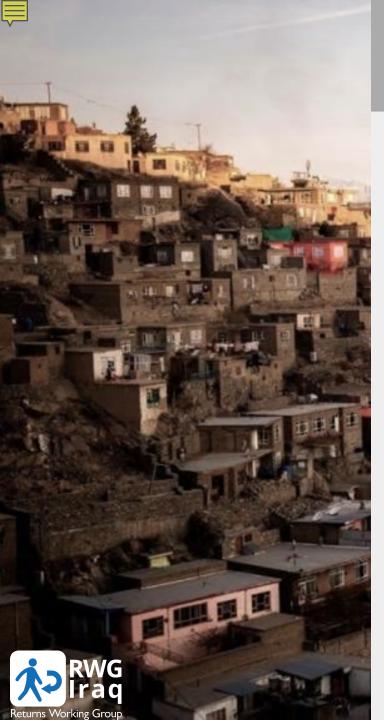- Limited housing rehabilitation projects led by the government or organisations.

Challenges

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

The three most reported challenges were:

- Lack of attention from the government in the sub-district as it was considered a rural area,

- Lack of public employees assigned by the government to public departments, as well as lack of municipal employees, and

- Neglected budget allocation by local government for the sub-district.

Access to Livelihoods

Challenges

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

The most reported challenges were lack of:

- Job opportunities in the sub-district, especially for youth,
- Implementation of livelihood projects, including cash-for-work projects, and
- Governmental job appointments and being forced to pay bribes to access employment.
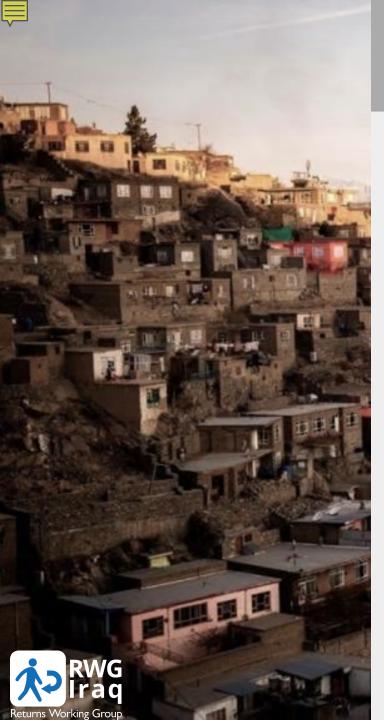
Support to economy

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

Main economic developments:

- Revitalization of the agricultural sector (including livestock and aquaculture) and
- Activation of the private sector.

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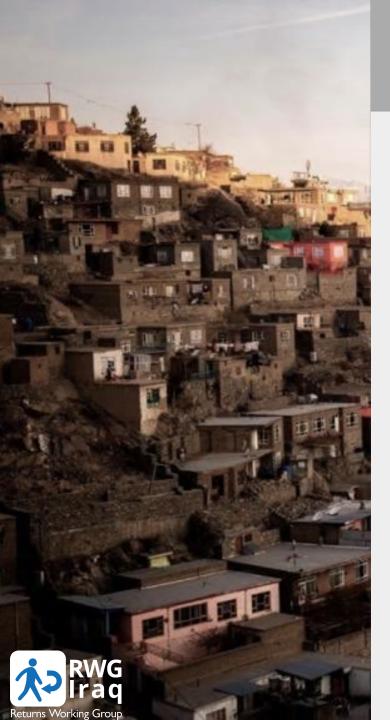
Access to Livelihoods

Potential for sectoral growth

The most commonly reported sectors of interest for returnee and IDP households were: **education**, **agriculture, healthcare,** and **construction**.

Community leader and SME KIs reported that the **agriculture, public healthcare, construction,** and **public education sectors** showed growth potential in the 12 months following data collection.

Challenges to access jobs of interest

- Lack of governmental support to compensate farmers, to revitalize agriculture and farming, and to reclaim lands,
- Lack of governmental job appointments,
- Lack or limited rehabilitation and construction projects, construction skilled workers remaining displaced, and
- Lack of financial support and investment in small businesses.

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Perceptions on Governance

Bodies influencing governance

Reportedly, **tribal leaders** were the **most influential bodies in terms of governance** in Jalula, followed by the formal security forces.

Bodies influencing IDP and returnee affairs

The majority of KIs reported that there were **no bodies or structures influencing IDP and returnee affairs.**

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Perceptions on Safety and Security

Feeling safe

Reportedly, returnee, IDP from the community, and IDP households in the community **felt safe or very safe** in Jalula.

Resolving disputes

Disputes within the sub-district

Reportedly, **tribal leaders** were the most effective body in resolving disputes within the sub-district.

Disputes between the sub-district and other areas

Reportedly, **formal security forces** were the most effective body in resolving disputes with the sub-district and other areas, followed by local authorities.

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Perceptions on Social Cohesion

Social cohesion bodies

The **local authorities were** perceived by KIs as the **main body promoting social cohesion**, followed by humanitarian actors and the local community.

Improving social cohesion

KIs believed that the **local authorities**, **tribal leaders**, and **humanitarian actors** played an important role to improve social cohesion.

Reported strategies or initiatives to improve social cohesion:

- Initiatives promoting access to work for all,

- Initiatives promoting community inter-relationships,

- Seminars, awareness sessions, and conferences, and

- Initiatives promoting safety and security.

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Perceptions of IDP KIs in the community

Feeling integrated

All KIs reported that **IDP households in the community did not feel integrated** and **somewhat belonging** to Jalula.

Feeling somewhat welcome

KIs reported that some households **felt somewhat accepted** by the rest of the community.

The most reported reasons included:

- Discrimination and

- Existing outstanding intercommunal disputes.

Interaction

Reportedly, the majority of IDP households in the community **did not interact** with other groups.

Barriers for interaction

- Presence or fear of discrimination,

- Feeling marginated, and

- Existing outstanding intercommunal disputes.

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Perceptions of IDP KIs from the community

Feeling integrated

All KIs reported that **IDP households from the community did not feel integrated** and **somewhat belonging** to their AoDs.

Feeling accepted

KIs reported that IDP households from the community **felt accepted** by other community members.

The most reported reasons were:

- Presence of kinship ties within households and

- Bonds with tribes in the sub-district.

Interaction

KIs reported that the majority of IDP households from the community **interacted** with returnees.

Barriers for interaction:

- Alleged links to ISIL,

- Feeling marginated by other groups, and

- Existing outstanding intercommunal disputes.

Perceptions of returnees

Feeling re-integrated

The majority of KIs reported that **returnee households felt re-integrated** in Jalula where they **strongly belong**.

Feeling welcome

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

The most reported reasons were:

- Returned to AoO,

- Presence of kinship ties within households, and

- Bonds with tribes in the sub-district.

Interaction

KIs reported that the majority of returnee households **did not interact** with other groups.

Barriers for interaction

- Presence or fear of discrimination,

- Lack of trust in other groups, and

- Existing outstanding intercommunal disputes.

THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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Upon request