



Informal Sites Profiling & Movement Intentions Survey

Summary of Key Findings

June 2023



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1

Context Overview

Overview

Context Overview

As of July 2022, up to **79,470** Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) resided in **376** informal sites in Iraq.

Informal sites are dispersed throughout the central and northern parts of Iraq and greatly vary in size, structure, and service provision.

The nature of informal sites impedes service provision and aid delivery to IDPs, and a range of basic needs remains unmet.

Assessment Overview*

The Informal Sites Profiling & Movement Intentions Assessment provides information on IDPs':

- Living conditions
- Multisectoral needs
- Access to services
- Movement intentions

The assessment also provides information about **climate induced displacement** and **exposure to environmental hazards** in informal sites.

* More detailed indicators and area-specific information are available in the Factsheet and dataset.

A world map is shown in a light gray, semi-transparent style, overlaid on a background of a light gray geometric pattern of interconnected lines forming various polygons. A large, bold red number '2' is centered over the map, positioned slightly above the word 'Methodology'.

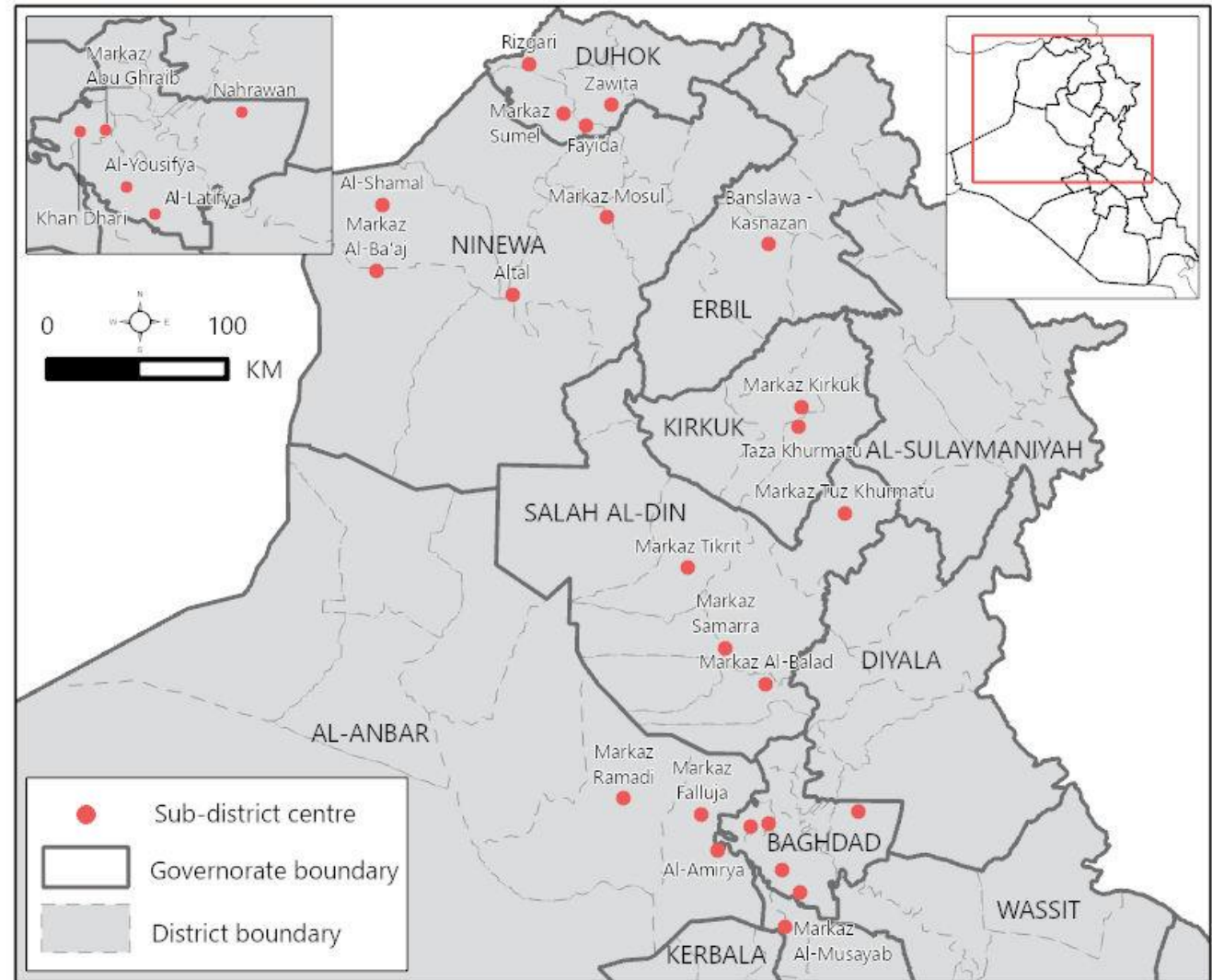
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Methodology

Methodology

Data Collection & Geographic Coverage

- Between 14 February and 1 May, REACH conducted **1,372** surveys with Households (HHs) residing in **126 informal settlements** across **25** sub-districts in **8** governorates.
- The International Organization for Migration (IOM) (Al Shamal, Samarra, and Balad sub-districts) and Danish Refugee Council (DRC) (Al Baaj sub-district) kindly supported data collection.
- The results are representative with a **90%** level of confidence and **10%** margin of error at the sub-district level.



Locations of Sub-district Centres Covered in the Survey

A world map is shown in a light gray, semi-transparent style, overlaid on a background of a light gray geometric pattern of interconnected lines forming various polygons. A large, bold red number '3' is positioned in the upper-middle part of the map, centered over Europe.

3

Key Findings

Key Messages

01

Movement Intentions

Movement intentions varied across sub-district. However, **12%** of HHs reportedly remained **undecided** about their movement intentions for the 12 months following data collection (up to **58%**).

02

Barriers to Return

While specific protection related barriers to return were high, on average the most reported barriers to return were:

- **Lack of housing** in the Area of Origin (AoO) (up to **87%**)
- **Lack of livelihood** options in the AoO (up to **72%**)
- **Lack of financial means** to return (up to **58%**)

03

Priority Needs

Shelter support was the most reported priority need, particularly with regards to protection from climatic conditions.

Other frequently reported priority needs included **healthcare, livelihoods support, and food assistance.**

3.1: Multisectoral Needs and Vulnerabilities*

The survey found that the most commonly reported priority needs of IDPs living in informal sites were:



Shelter (82%)

24% of HHs lived in unfinished or abandoned residential buildings.

18% of HHs lived in tents.

41% of HHs lived in shelters that were 50% or more damaged.



Healthcare (61%)

62% of HHs reported inability to access healthcare by at least one person in their HH in the last three months.

42% of HHs reported no available healthcare facility within 5km of their home.



Livelihood (51%)

67% of HHs reported informal employment as their primary income source over the 30 days prior to data collection.

6% reported regular employment.



Food (46%)

77% of all HHs reported challenges in accessing food.

- Markaz Balad (**100%**)
- Al Shamal (**93%**)
- Samarra (**90%**)



Repaying debts (43%)

74% of HHs reported food as the primary reason behind taking on debts, followed closely by healthcare (**63%**).

Compared to MCNA X, shelter (48%) and healthcare (48%) feature higher as HHs' priority needs in informal sites, unlike livelihood (63%) and food (47%). However, HHs' reliance on regular employment in informal sites appears to be lower than those from MCNA X (21%).

*Multiple choice: Findings may exceed 100%.

3.2: Protection, Security, and Social Cohesion*

Civil Documentation

14% of HHs reported missing key civil documents.

- Al Baaj (**51%**),
- Markaz Sumel (**50%**),
- Al Shamal (**49%**).

Safety & Security

10% of HHs reported not feeling safe from harm and violence in the site.

27% of HHs reported **gender-based violence** as a reason for not feeling safe from harm and violence.

Exposure to Hazards

65% of HHs reported being concerned about exposure to hazards, including:

- Flooding (**34%**),
- Extreme temperatures and heatwaves (**18%**),
- Fires (**13%**),
- Drought (**12%**).

Host community acceptance

15% of HHs reported not believing that the host community accepted them. The proportion was particularly high in:

- Nahrawan (**56%**),
- Markaz Al Musayab (**32%**),
- Al Amiryia (**28%**).

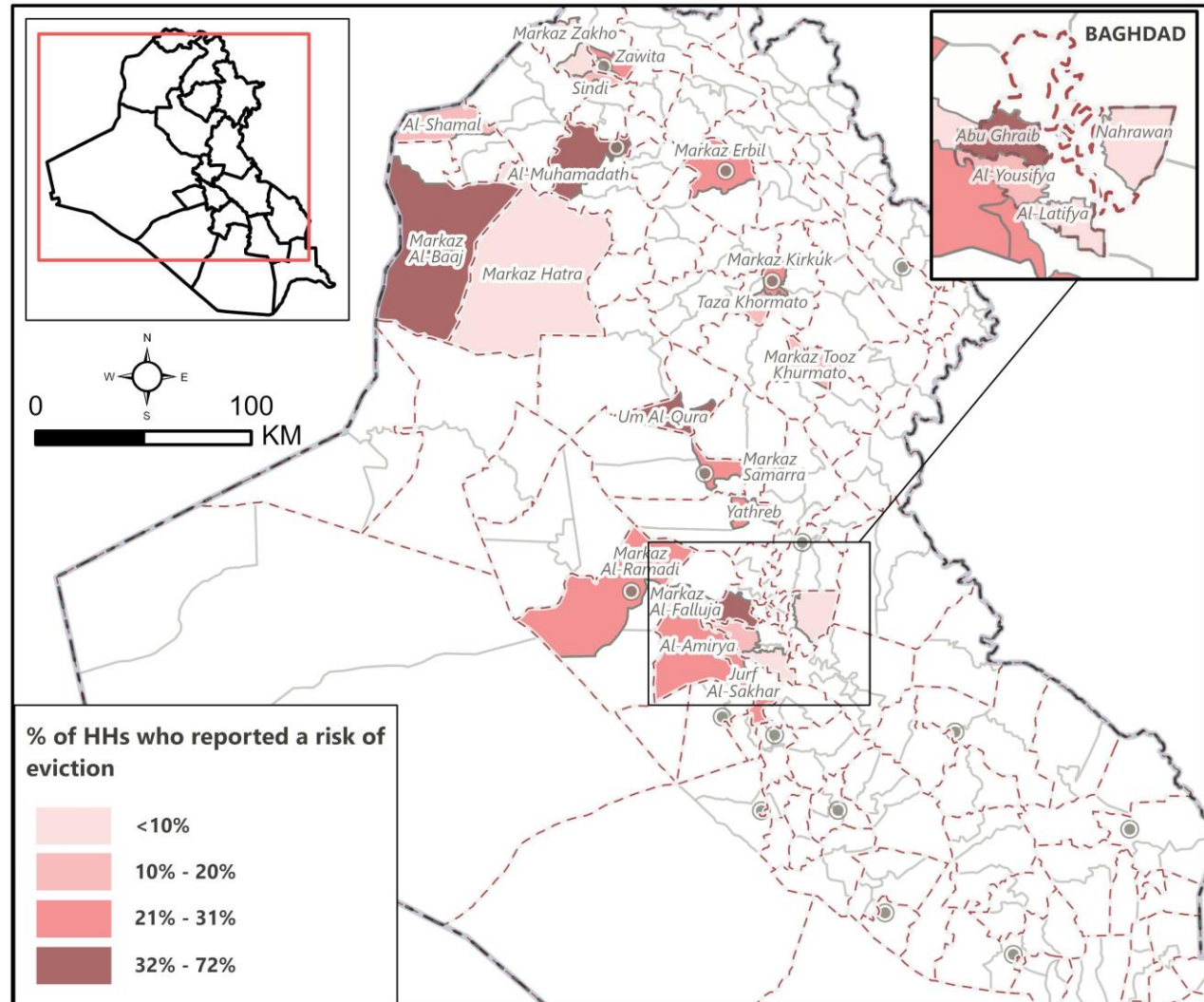
*Questions were asked separately according to each indicator.

3.3: Housing, Land, and Property Rights

Tenancy Security (4%)

Eviction Risks (24%)

- Markaz Tikrit (**72%**)
- Markaz Al Baaj (**53%**)



Proportion of HHs who reported a risk of eviction

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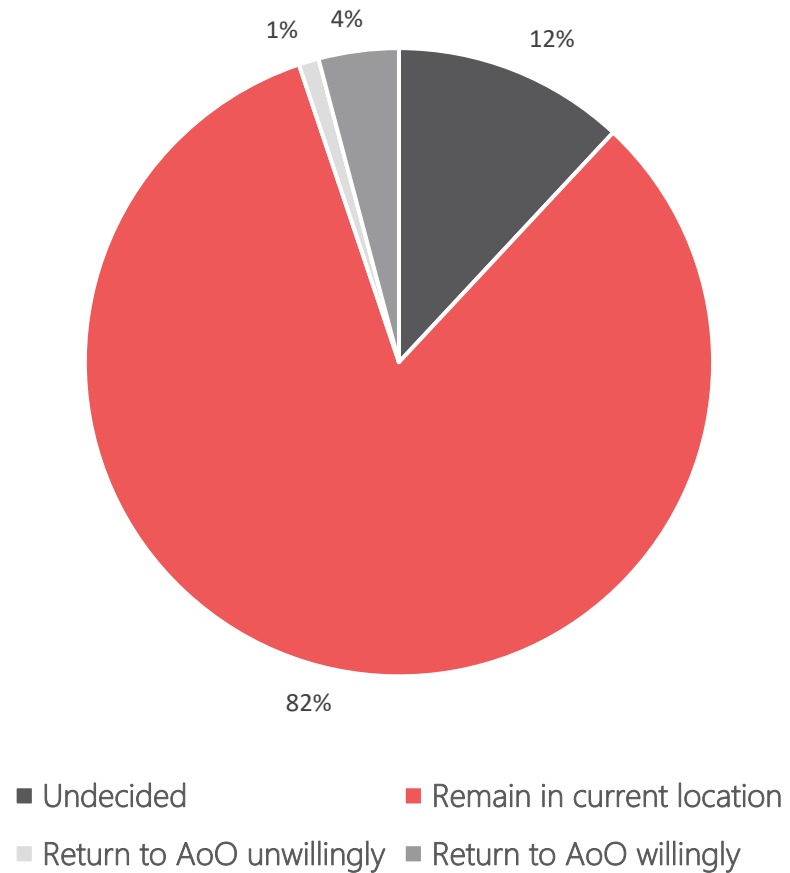
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Movement Intentions

Movement Intentions

A high proportion of the IDP HHs (up to 88%) reported that they intend to remain in their current locations, while only 4% stated that they intend to return to their Areas of Origin (AoO) willingly.

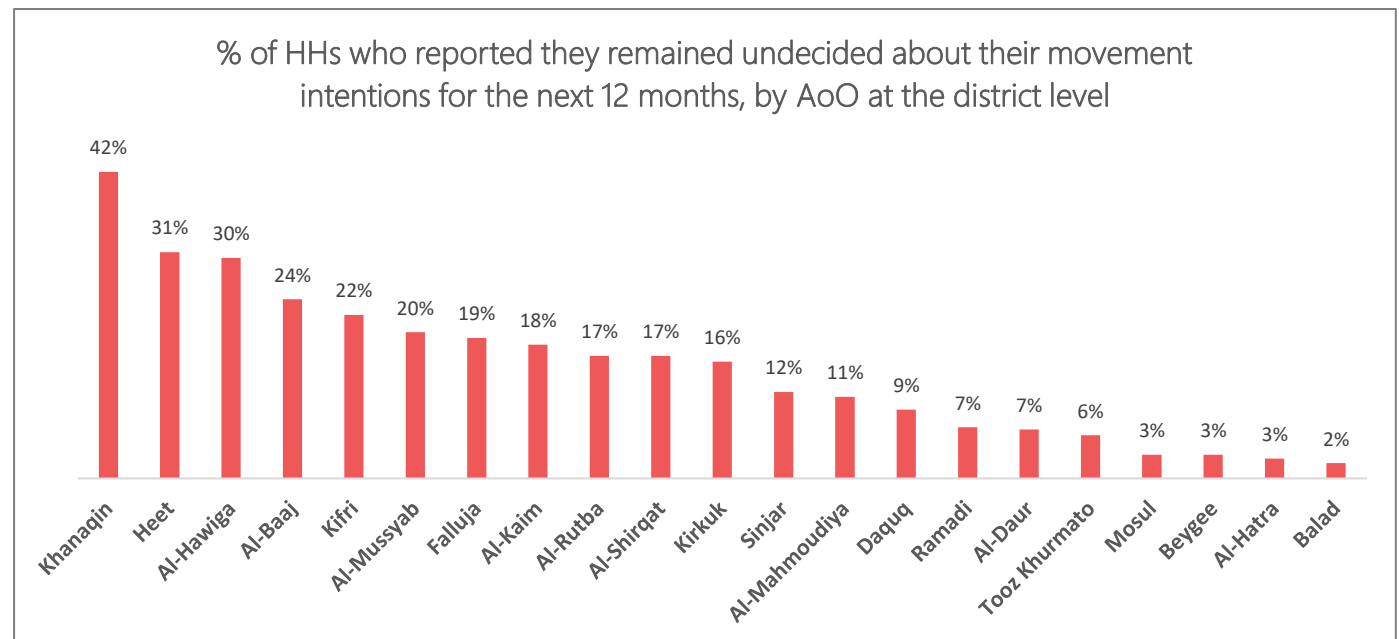
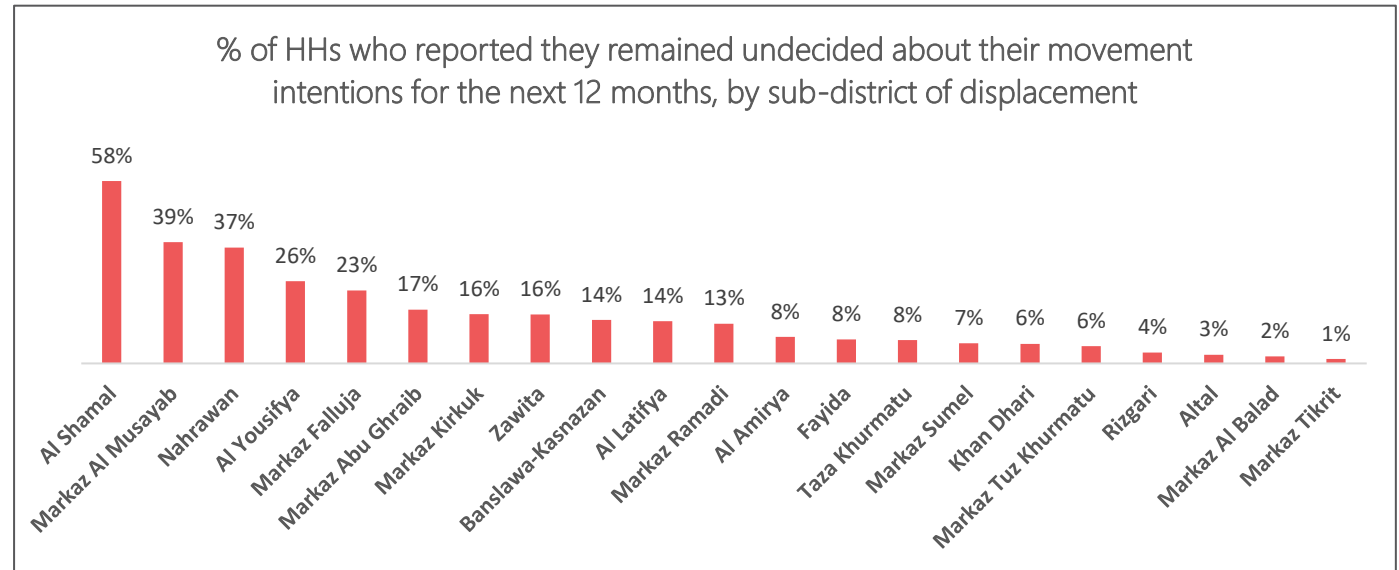
% of HHs who reported their movement intentions for the next twelve months



Undecided

HHs living in informal sites in Al Shamal were most likely to report that they remained undecided about their movement intentions (up to 58%).

HHs originating from Khanaqin were most likely to report that they remained undecided about their movement intentions (up to 42%).



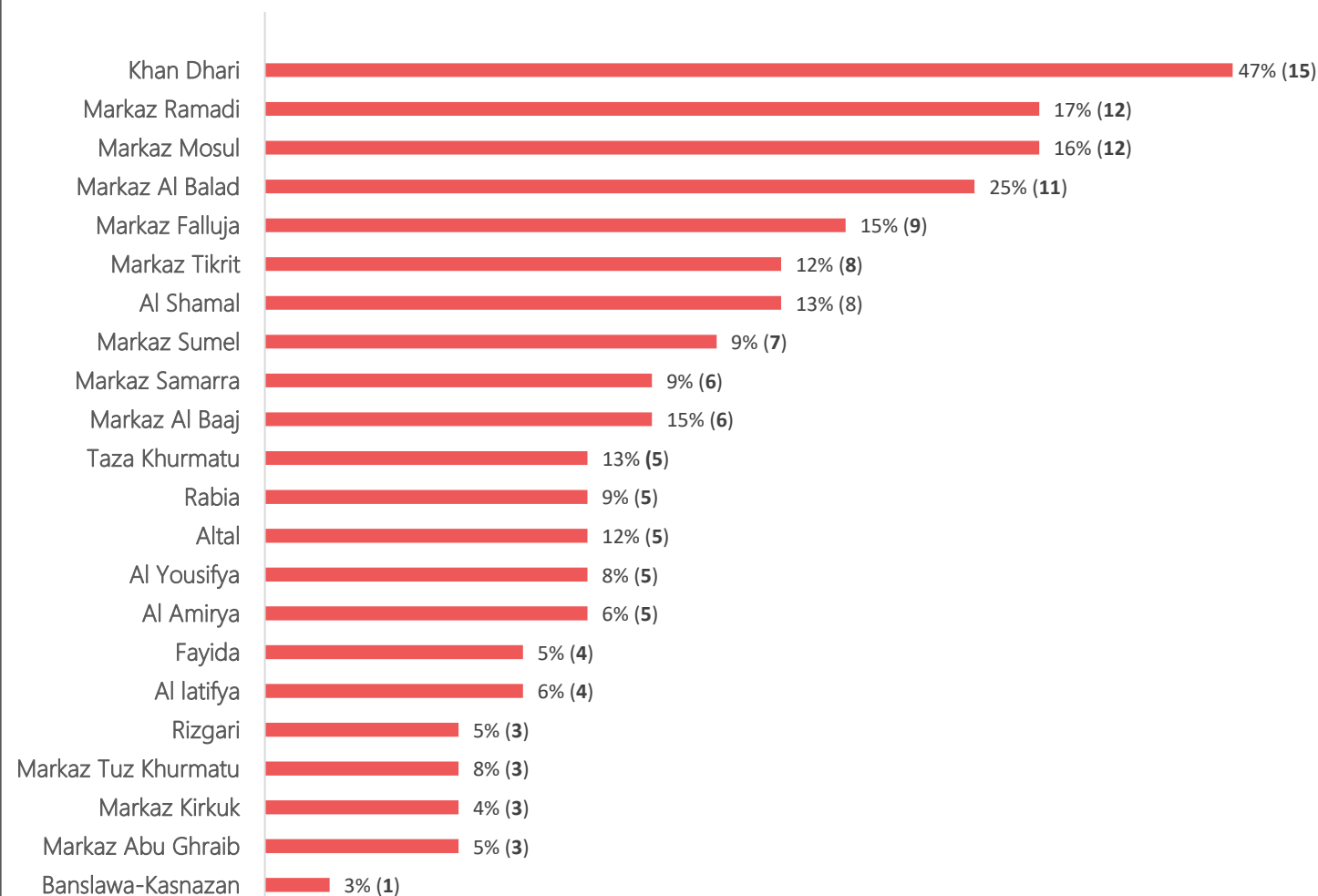
Attempted Return

8% of HHs reported failed return within the past 12 months.

Main reasons behind failed return included:*

- Security concerns in AoO
- House/land damaged/destroyed in AoO
- Lack of livelihood in AoO
- Lack of financial means to return

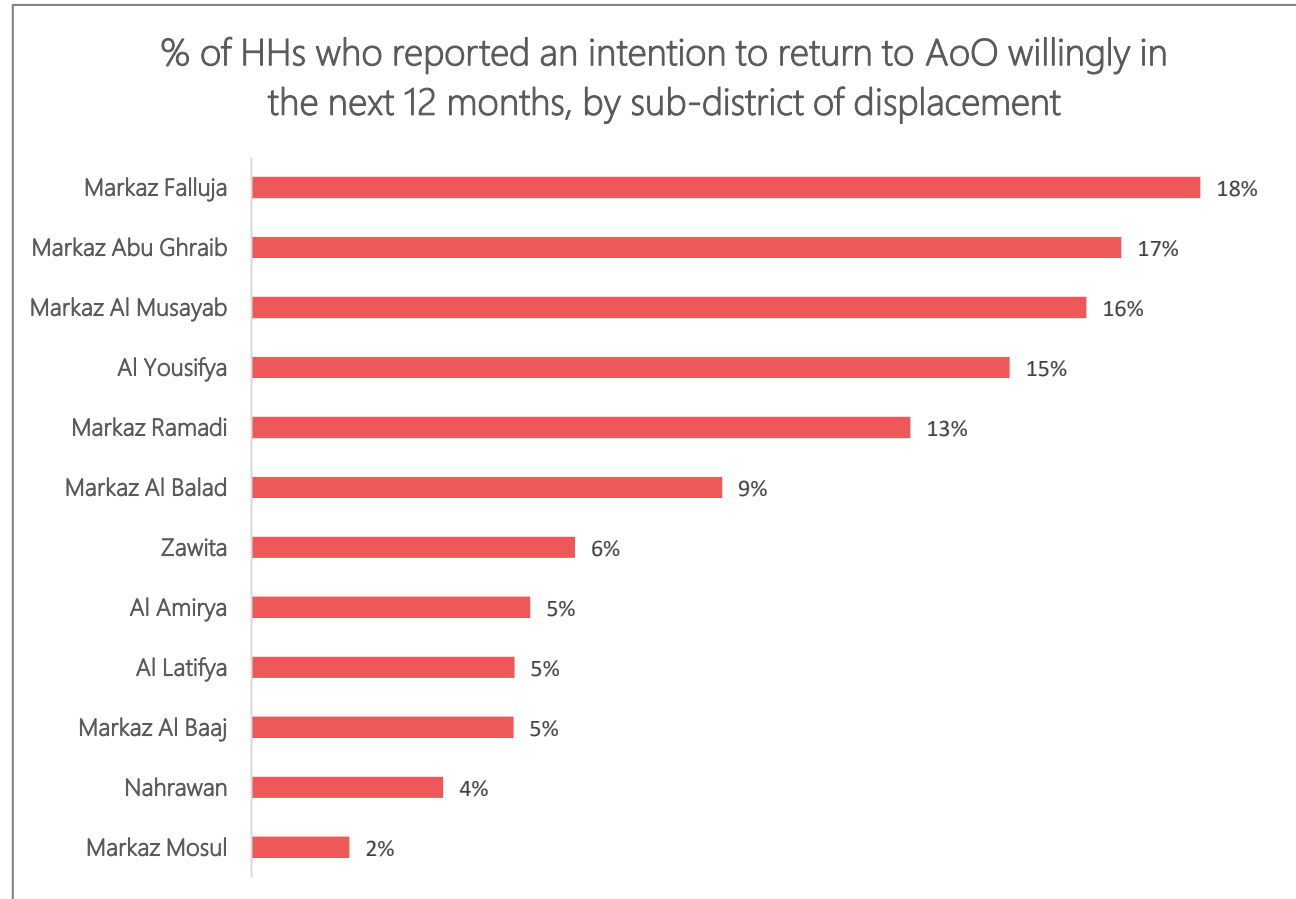
% of HHs who reported a failed attempt to return to their AoO in the 12 month prior to data collection, by sub-district of displacement



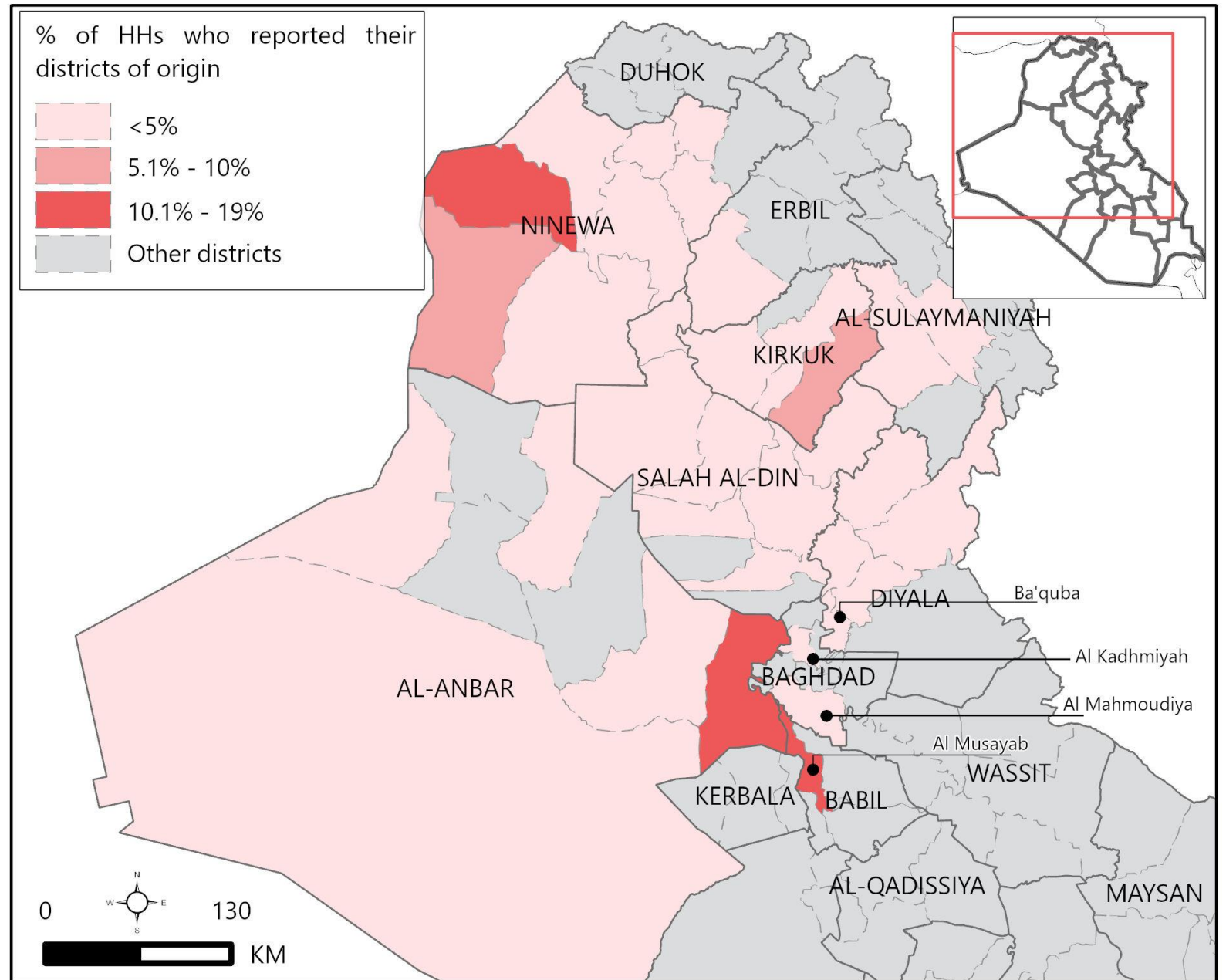
*Multiple choice: Findings may exceed 100%.

Return to AoO Willingly

A relatively high proportion of HHs residing in Markaz Falluja, Markaz Al Musayab, Markaz Abu Ghraib, Al Yousifya, and Markaz Ramadi reported intending to return to AoO willingly, compared to other sub-districts.



Reported Districts of Origin (DoO)



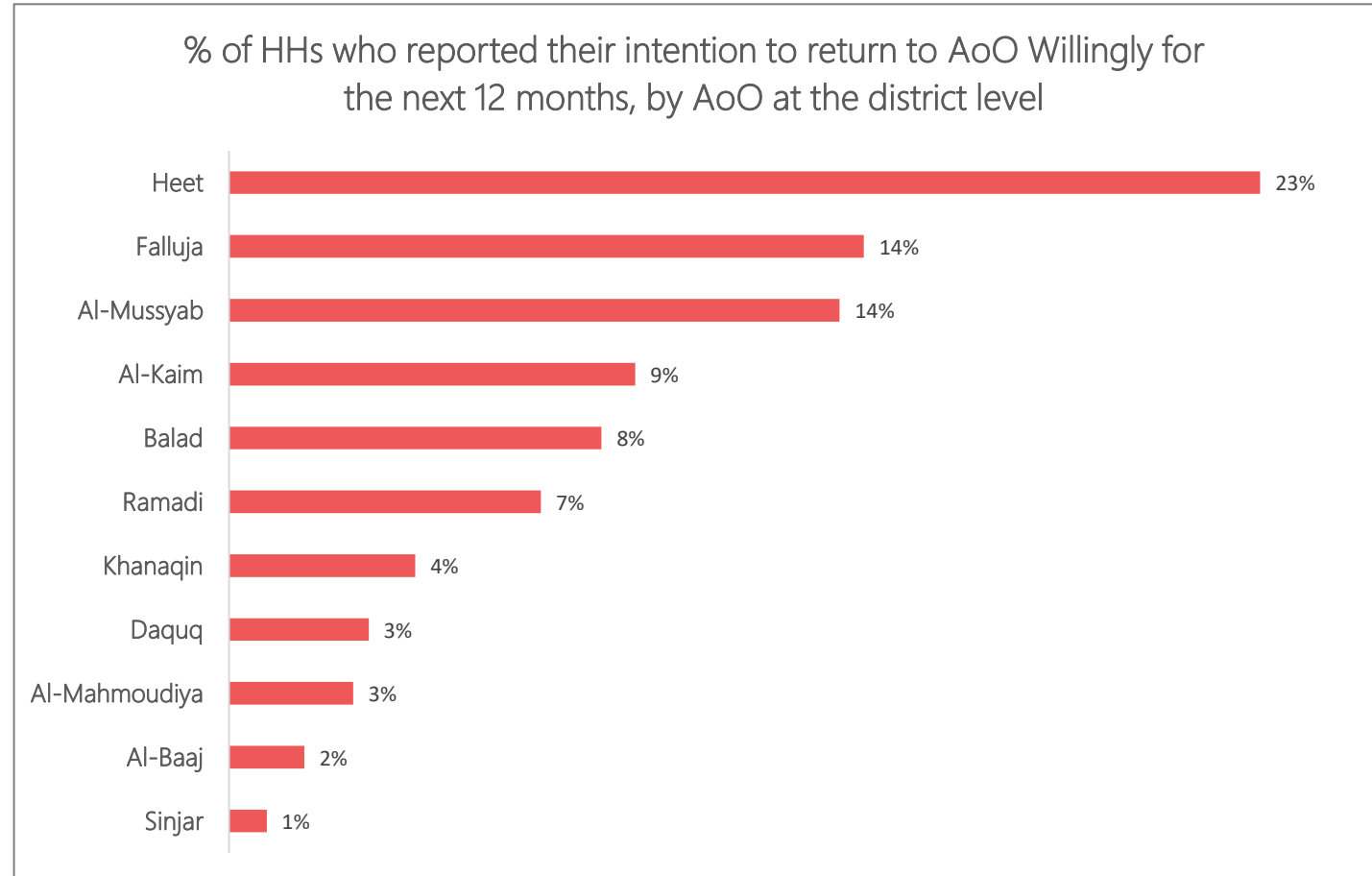
Intentions by District of Origin

HHs originating from Heet, Al-Mussyab, and Falluja were most likely to report an intention to return (up to 23%).

Main reasons:*

- Emotional desire to return (up to 66%).
- Stable security situation in AoO (up to 22%).
- Challenges in their current locations such as the lack of livelihood opportunities (up to 66%).

*Multiple choice: Findings may exceed 100%.



Barriers to Return*

59% of HHs reported having access to enough information about their AoO to reach a decision on whether to return or not.

Destruction of housing and property in the AoO	(40%)
Lack of financial means to return	(34%)
Instable security situation in the AoO	(34%)
Movement restrictions	(30%)
Fear and trauma associated with the AoO	(26%)
Lack of livelihoods	(26%)
Lack of housing in the AoO	(24%)
Lack of economic opportunities	(24%)

*Multiple choice: Findings may exceed 100%.

Barriers to Return with Protection Implications

- Lack of security forces in AoO **(37%-60%)***
- Fear or trauma associated with AoO **(37%-53%)**
- Fear of discrimination or rejection from the community in AoO **(11%-47%)**
- Lack of safety for women/girls in AoO **(21%-36%)**
- House in AoO occupied **(19%-31%)**
- Ongoing community tensions **(13%-33%)**

78% of HHs reported an intention to integrate into the local community of their current district in the long term.

*Proportion of households reporting resp. barrier in the 4 sub-districts in which it was most reported.



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Case Study: Al Shamal

Al Shamal



DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

Distribution of age groups:



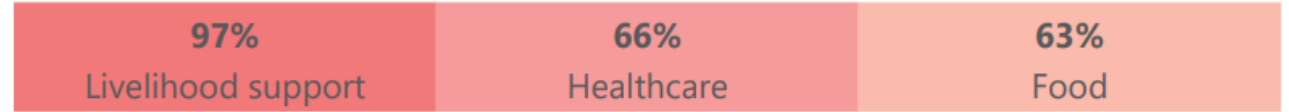
Mean HH size (members) 7
 Mean age of HH head 42
 Female-headed HHs 8%

IDPs' reported AoO:

Baaj 80%
 Sinjar 20%

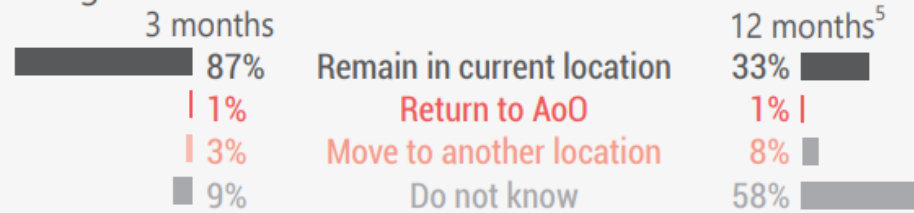
PRIORITY NEEDS

Top three reported by HHs:¹

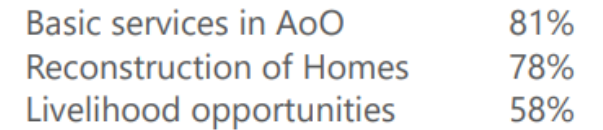


MOVEMENT INTENTIONS & BARRIERS TO RETURN

Reported movement intentions for the three and twelve months following data collection:

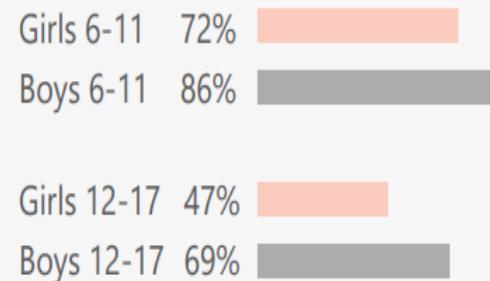


Most reported factors that would enable HHs return to AoO (question asked to all HHs):¹



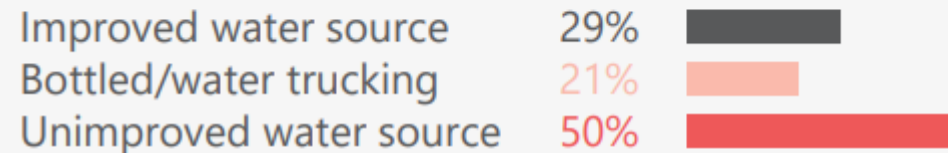
EDUCATION

School attendance by age group and sex:

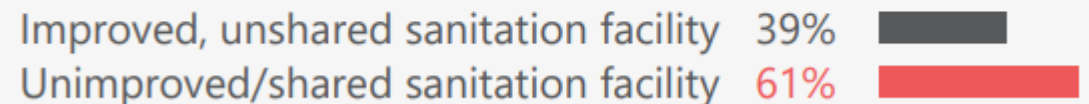


WATER & SANITATION

Reported primary drinking water source:



Reported access to sanitation:²





6

Conclusion

Conclusion

- The nature of informal sites impedes service provision to HHs and a range of basic needs reportedly remain unmet, as illustrated by high levels of vulnerability.
- The majority of IDPs in informal sites in Iraq do not intend to return to their AoO in the next 12 months, with substantial proportions reporting protection-related barriers.
- HHs originating from Heet, Al-Mussyab, and Falluja Districts were most likely to report an intention to return (up to 23%).
- HHs living in informal sites in Al Shamal Sub-District were most likely to report that they remained undecided about their movement intentions in the next 12 months (up to 58%), whereas HHs originating from Khanaqin District were most likely to report that they remained undecided about their movement intentions (up to 42%).
- Stark sub-national differences are obscured when only considering nationwide averages. For instance, in Markaz Tikrit, 72% of HHs reported being at risk of eviction, whereas this was "only" reported by a quarter (24%) of HHs overall.



Questions?

Read more:

[Iraq - REACH Informal Sites Profiling & Movement Intentions Survey, May 2023 - Iraq | ReliefWeb](#)

Iraq

Iraq - REACH Informal Sites Profiling & Movement Intentions Survey, May 2023

Assessment • Sources: [CCCM Cluster](#), [REACH](#), [UNHCR](#) • Posted: 17 May 2023 • Originally published: 17 May 2023 • Origin: [View original](#)

KEY MESSAGES

- Movement intentions varied across sub-district. However, return intentions were generally low, while intentions to remain in current locations were generally high. The most commonly reported barriers to return were a lack of housing in the Area of Origin (AoO), a lack of financial means to return, fear and trauma associated with the AoO, and a lack of livelihood options in the AoO.

- 24% of HHs reported to have been at risk of eviction at the time of data collection; however, this proportion greatly varies across subdistricts. 72% of HHs in Tikrit reported an eviction risk, while 53% in Markaz Al Baaj, 47% in Markaz Mosul, and 44% in Khan Dhari did so.

- Shelter support was the most commonly reported priority need (82% of HHs), particularly with regards to protection from climatic conditions. Other frequently reported priority needs included healthcare (61%), livelihoods support (51%), and food (46%).

CONTEXT & RATIONALE



Primary country:

[Iraq](#)

Sources:

[CCCM Cluster](#) / [REACH Initiative](#) / [UN High Commissioner for Refugees](#)

Format:

[Assessment](#)

Themes:

[Education](#) / [Food and Nutrition](#) / [Health](#) / [Protection and Human Rights](#) / [Shelter and Non-Food Items](#) / [Water Sanitation Hygiene](#)

Language:

[English](#)



Thank you for your attention



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more effective
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