

## Situation Overview

In 2022, the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) returning to their areas of origin (AoOs) or being re-displaced continued, coupled with persisting challenges in relation to social cohesion, lack of services, infrastructure and - in some cases - security in AoOs.<sup>1</sup> The [International Organization for Migration \(IOM\) Displacement Tracking Matrix \(DTM\)](#)'s returnee master list recorded over 4.9 million individuals returning to their AoOs across the country, as of February 2022.

Increased returns and secondary displacement were driven primarily by the closure, consolidation, and reclassification of IDP camps.<sup>2</sup> Between January and February 2022, no camps were closed, consolidated, or reclassified. However, for the camps that remain open across Iraq, there is an ongoing planning procedure to determine their future.<sup>3</sup> In light of these dynamics, the need to better understand the sustainability of returns, conditions for the (re)integration of IDPs and returnees, and the impact of their presence on access to services and social cohesion has been identified in the context of durable solutions planning.

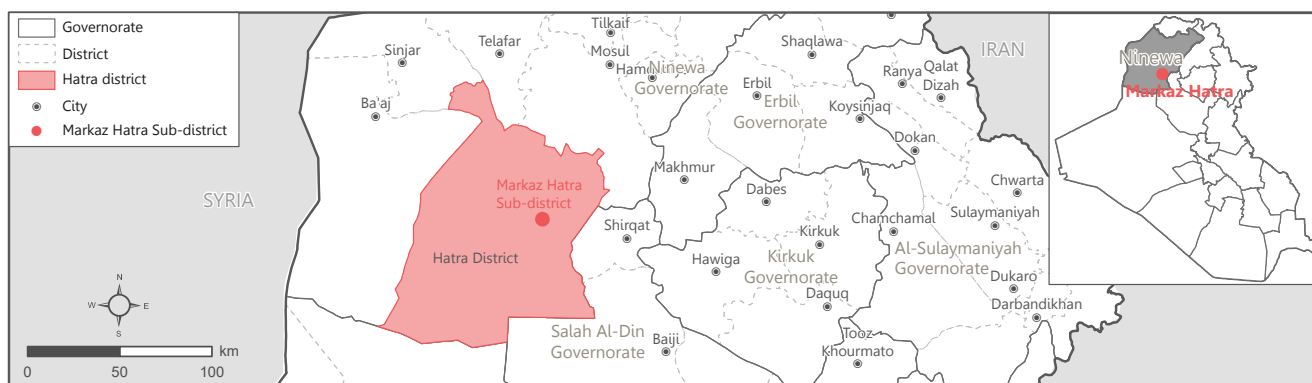
## Markaz Hatra Sub-district

Markaz Hatra is a sub-district of Hatra District, located in the Al-Jazeera region in the southwestern Nineveh governorate, northwest of Baghdad and southwest of the city of Mosul. In the past, Hatra District was considered a major trading crossroads.<sup>4</sup> On late 2014, however, Hatra District became under the control of the so-called Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL).<sup>5</sup> The Iraqi forces and its allies liberated Hatra District's main cities from ISIL control in April 2017.<sup>6</sup> According to an IOM [Integrated Location Assessment \(ILA\)](#), as of July and August 2021, returnee households residing in the assessed villages in Markaz Hatra (12 villages and neighbourhoods, out of 32 villages assessed) reportedly were still somewhat or very concerned about possible ISIL operations in the area.

## Reported Population Profile<sup>7</sup>

<b>3,323-3,668</b>	<b>households</b> were residing in Markaz Hatra before the events of 2014.
<b>94%-98%</b>	<b>of households</b> in Markaz Hatra were displaced after 2014.
<b>78%-84%</b>	<b>households</b> displaced after 2014 had returned to Markaz Hatra at the time of data collection.
<b>15-20</b>	<b>IDP households</b> were displaced in Markaz Hatra at the time of data collection.

## Map 1. Coverage map



## Background and Methodology

A number of partners are currently tracking population movements and measuring progress towards durable solutions for displaced populations in Iraq.<sup>8</sup> For example, IOM has collected data on a bi-monthly basis, found in the [IOM DTM Returns Index](#). This tool provides indicative trends on the severity of conditions in areas of return (AoRs) nationwide.

To build on this information, [REACH Initiative \(REACH\)](#) has conducted multi-sectoral assessments in AoOs or areas of return (AoRs) across Iraq assessing the overall condition of affected areas to inform how and to what extent durable solutions have or can be achieved. REACH's Returns and Durable Solutions profiles (ReDS) focus on the study of conditions at the sub-district level, providing a localized overview of the perceptions of displaced and host communities on a variety of conditions linked to the (re)integration of IDPs and returnees.

In light of recent return and re-displacement movement dynamics, REACH conducted a ReDS assessment in Markaz Hatra Sub-district to provide an in-depth profiling of needs and understanding of social relationships between remainee,<sup>9</sup> returnee,<sup>10</sup> and/or IDP populations.<sup>11</sup>

Markaz Hatra Sub-district was selected for the assessment as: social cohesion and safety severity<sup>12</sup> was classified as 'high' or 'medium' in 36 villages and neighbourhoods out of 37 assessed,<sup>13</sup> and it was reportedly an underserved location of interest for humanitarian and durable solution partners operating in Ninewa. The findings are based on 41 key informant (KI) interviews conducted between 13 and 16 February 2022, combining qualitative and quantitative data collection methods adapted to the context. Data collection was conducted remotely due to public health concerns linked to the COVID-19 pandemic.

## KI Profile

### Markaz Hatra Sub-district

Returnees (more than 3 months ago) <sup>14</sup>	<b>8 KIs</b>	<div></div>
IDPs from the community <sup>15</sup>	<b>7 KIs</b>	<div></div>
IDPs in the community <sup>16</sup>	<b>7 KIs</b>	<div></div>
Subject matter experts (SMEs) <sup>17</sup>	<b>7 KIs</b>	<div></div>
Community leaders <sup>18</sup>	<b>7 KIs</b>	<div></div>
Returnees (less than 3 months ago) <sup>19</sup>	<b>5 KIs</b>	<div></div>
		<b>41 KIs<sup>20</sup></b>

### Key findings

- ➡ The situation regarding returns to Markaz Hatra remained stable, with KIs reporting **some recent returns** (in the six months prior to data collection) driven primarily by **nostalgia about their previous life in their AoOs**.
- ➡ All KIs reported believing that **these return movements had positively impacted the community**. These reportedly **reactivated economic activity and the trade and commerce sector** by increasing the demand for products (especially food and basic items), as a result of the increased population in Markaz Hatra.
- ➡ **Further returns** (expected in the six months following data collection) to the sub-district **may positively impact the community**. KIs reported that the quality of education and healthcare may increase with the return of public employees and professionals. However, additional returns may have negative impacts since they may reportedly lead to an increased level of competition for the limited available job opportunities and raise tensions between returnees and host community members.
- ➡ The majority of **households in the community** reportedly **resided in owned houses**. Some **IDP KIs in the community** reported that there were some IDP households **residing under verbal rental agreement or hosted by other households** and therefore in less secure tenures. Findings suggested that IDP households in the community were at more risk of eviction due to households having limited financial capacity to afford rent, mainly attributed to the high rental fees in the sub-district.
- ➡ All KIs reported that **households faced challenges accessing housing rehabilitation** in the sub-district. **The main factor affecting access to housing rehabilitation** was related to the challenges faced by households to benefit from **government compensation mechanisms**.
- ➡ KIs from different population groups prioritized community needs differently. Further efforts to develop **public water services** was the most reported primary community need for **community leader KIs**. In contrast, **SME and IDP KIs from the community** most commonly reported the need to promote and enhance **access to education**, while **returnee and IDP KIs in the community** most commonly reported the need to ensure **access to livelihoods** as the primary community need.
- ➡ All KIs reported that **the majority of the households faced challenges accessing basic public services**. The most affected sector was reportedly **healthcare**. Conditions in healthcare facilities and the shortage of medical staff were reportedly the main elements affecting access to public healthcare in the sub-district.
- ➡ All KIs reported that **the majority of the households faced challenges accessing livelihoods**. Access to livelihoods was the most reported barrier to return, the most commonly reported community need, and the most needed activity to encourage further returns. The lack of job opportunities in the sub-district was the most reported reason for family separation, especially for young male household's members.
- ➡ KIs reported an **overall decrease in the availability of job opportunities compared to before 2014**. Job opportunities in the oil industry and finance were reportedly not available at the time of data collection. In addition, findings showed that job opportunities in the public health and transportation sectors were less available at the time of data collection compared to prior to 2014.
- ➡ **Construction** was the most commonly reported **livelihood sector of interest for returnee and IDP households from/in the community**. It was also reported as the most available in the sub-district at the time of data collection. **Agriculture** was commonly reported by community leader and SME KIs as **the livelihoods sector with the most growth potential** in the 12 months following data collection.
- ➡ **Formal security forces** were reportedly the **most influential bodies regarding governance** and **the most effective in resolving disputes between the sub-district and other areas**. **Tribal leaders** were reportedly the **most effective at resolving disputes** within the sub-district.
- ➡ Reportedly **the majority of returnee and IDP households from/in the community felt safe or very safe** in Markaz Hatra. Additionally, the majority of returnee and IDP KIs from/in the community reported that households in their respective displacement groups **felt welcome or very welcome** to the sub-district. According to KIs, this was mainly driven by belonging to the same or similar tribe(s) to the ones prevalent in the sub-district.
- ➡ The vast majority of returnee and IDP KIs in the community reported that **most households** in their respective displacement groups **interacted with all groups in the community**, this mainly while attending religious, social, and tribal events. The vast majority of IDP KIs from the community reported that IDP households did not interact with any group in the sub-district mainly due to the fear or presence of discrimination, abuse, and exploitation in their AoOs. Additionally, **all returnee and IDP KIs in the community** reported that households **participated in decision-making** processes in the sub-district, while the majority of **IDP households from the community** reportedly **did not participate** in these processes.
- ➡ **The majority of returnee KIs** reported that **returnee households felt reintegrated in the community** of Markaz Hatra, while **all IDP KIs in the community** reported that **IDP households did not feel integrated in the sub-district**. In addition, **half of IDP KIs from the community** reported that IDP households **felt integrated in their areas of displacement (AoDs)** at the time of data collection.

Findings are based on the perceptions of 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. For further details on the methodology, please see the ReDS [Terms of Reference \(ToR\)](#).

### Recent household return movements

Returnee, IDP from the community, community leaders, and SME KIs were consulted for this section (34 out of 41 KIs). **Slightly over half of consulted KIs** reported that **they were not aware of recent returns** to the sub-district (20 out of 34 KIs). However, almost half of KIs (14 KIs) reported the occurrence of recent returns to the sub-district.

#### Returns from camps

**51-64 households returned** to Markaz Hatra from Qayyarah Jadah 5 camp (9 out of 14 KIs) in Ninewa Governorate.

#### Returns from non-camp areas

**20-29 households returned from Mosul District**, some of these households returned from Hammam Al-Alil Sub-district, to Markaz Hatra in the six months prior to data collection (5 out of 14 KIs).

#### Reported drivers for returns

Findings showed that pull factors affecting the decisions of households to return from camps and non-camp areas were similar. These reportedly included:<sup>21</sup>

Nostalgia about their previous life	13 KIs	<div></div>
Following the return of other family members	3 KIs	<div></div>
Perceived increase in safety and security	2 KIs	<div></div>
Perceived increase in the provision of services	2 KIs	<div></div>

#### Reported impact of returns

Returnee, IDP from the community, community leader, and SME KIs were consulted for this section (34 out of 41 KIs). Over three quarters of consulted KIs (27 out of 34 KIs) reported that recent returns to the sub-district had a **positive impact** in the community. The rest of the KIs reported that no recent returns occurred in the six months prior to data collection (7 KIs).

#### Recent returns positive impacts<sup>22</sup>

##### Impact on the private sector including trade and commerce (24 out of 27 KIs)

Over half of these KIs (14 KIs) reported that shops and markets that reopened in the sub-district noted an increase in the demand for food and basic products which increased their benefits. KIs further reported a general increase in trade and commercial activity (12 KIs). KIs also reported that the gradual repopulation of the sub-district increased the economic movement inside the city (9 KIs). This situation reportedly encouraged the return of professionals, namely engineers, teachers, doctors, and skilled workers, such as craftsmen, carpenters, and blacksmiths (9 KIs), as well as additional business owners (4 KIs).

##### Impact on the reconstruction of the sub-district (12 out of 27 KIs)

According to seven KIs, returnee households started to remove and clean the rubble from their houses upon their arrival and started to rehabilitate them. One SME KI reported that households with less financial resources partially rehabilitated their homes. Reportedly, the housing rehabilitation or reconstruction projects increased the number of job opportunities (3 KIs).

According to three KIs, recent returns encouraged NGOs to provide housing rehabilitation assistance in the sub-district (2 KIs) and encouraged the local government to plan for the implementation of shelter reconstruction campaigns (1 KI). In addition, one community leader KI reported that there an increased availability and access to construction materials and raw materials for construction item producers in the local market.

##### Impact on the agricultural sector (11 out of 27 KIs)

One SME KI reported that the sub-district depended on the agricultural sector as the main economic activity and source of income for households. The recent return of farmers reportedly contributed to the reactivation of the agricultural sector and the recultivation of land (11 KIs). Additionally, one community leader reported that recent returns promoted private investment in agricultural lands, which restored the main source of food in the sub-district.

##### Impact on access to public services (10 out of 27 KIs)

According to six KIs, public employees and professionals were returning, namely educational and medical staff, which enhanced the quality of public services. One returnee KI reported that recent returns increased the attention from the local government to prioritize the sub-district and launch rehabilitation projects to restore basic public services. Reportedly, additional professionals and public employees were encouraged to return to the sub-district (4 KIs). One SME KI further reported that returnee children were gradually reincorporated to education programmes in the sub-district.

##### Impact on safety and security (4 out of 27 KIs)

According to two community leader KIs, the safety and security situation in the sub-district improved allegedly due to the increased number of households in the area. Two IDP KIs from the community reported that recent returns showed that the area was safe and encouraged other households to return. One community leader KI reported believing that households present in the sub-district may protect the area with the support of the formal security forces. Another community leader KI reported that households residing in the sub-district had the responsibility to report suspicious cases or potential criminal attempts.

### Barriers for further returns

Returnee, IDP from the community, community leaders, and SME KIs were consulted for this section (34 out of 41 KIs). The majority of KIs reported the presence of factors in the AoOs which could block/delay further returns (29 out of 34 KIs). The rest of the KIs did not know about barriers for further returns (5 KIs).

#### Reported barriers for further returns (out of 29 KIs)<sup>21, 23</sup>

##### Access to livelihoods and basic public services

Limited availability of job opportunities	24 KIs	<div></div>
Limited access to basic public services	18 KIs	<div></div>
Limited access to medical treatment	2 KIs	<div></div>

##### Access to housing and housing rehabilitation

Destroyed/damaged housing	23 KIs	<div></div>
Former house was rented in AoO	1 KI	<div></div>

### Expected returns impact

Returnee, IDP from the community, community leader, and SME KIs were consulted for this section (34 out of 41 KIs). Almost three quarters of consulted KIs (24 out of 34 KIs) reported that further returns (in the six months following data collection) to the sub-district may **have positive impacts** in the community and different sectors.

#### Expected positive impacts

##### Impact on access to basic public services (13 out of 24 KIs)

KIs reported that the quality of the education and healthcare may increase with the return of public employees and professionals (13 KIs). One returnee KI reported that returnee children may be reincorporated to education programmes in the sub-district.

##### Impact on the private sector including trade and commerce (9 out of 24 KIs)

KIs reported believing that further returns of business owners may reactivate commercial activity (8 KIs). These KIs also reported that further household returns may increase the demand for food and NFIs. In addition, access to food and basic items reportedly may be positively influenced by the return of shops owners (3 KIs).

##### Impact on social life (7 out of 24 KIs)

According to four KIs, some community members rented their houses and shops to returnee households. This was reportedly their main source of income; therefore, further returns may represent additional benefits for landlords. Two returnee KIs reported that additional returns may ensure family reunification. Additionally, one returnee KI reported that further returns may allow household members, especially children, to recover from their displacement trauma.

##### Impact on access to job opportunities (7 out of 24 KIs)

KIs reported that the potential return of shops, workshops, and market owners, namely craft workshops, carpentries, and bakeries, may increase the sources of income for returnee households and increase the availability of job opportunities (5 KIs). These movements may reportedly encourage the reopening of additional small business and factories, which may increase the availability of job opportunities (2 KIs). One returnee KI reported believing that there may be an increased investment in new livelihood projects, which may ensure the development of the sub-district and ensure job opportunities. Additionally, the potential return of farmers and livestock owners may support the reactivation of the agricultural sector (2 KIs).

##### Impact on the reconstruction of the sub-district (3 out of 24 KIs)

According to three KIs, with further returns, construction, rehabilitation, and reconstruction projects may increase, which consequently may ensure job opportunities. In addition, one returnee KI reported that there may be noted an increased availability and access to construction materials and raw materials for construction item producers in the local market produced by local factories and workshops.

#### Expected negative impacts

According to five KIs (out of 34 KIs) further returns may have negative impacts in the community of Markaz Hatra.

Reportedly, these movements may lead to an increased level of competition for the limited available job opportunities and to raise tensions between returnees and host community members (5 KIs). Additionally, there was a lack of services in the sub-district, namely water and electricity, and local authorities reportedly lacked a preparedness plan to absorb a potential increase in the population (3 KIs).

From a security perspective, four KIs reported that there was a general fear that returnee households may have members with alleged links to ISIL, representing a risk for the community members. Three KIs reported household concerns and fear about the potential occurrence of security incidents and inter-communal disputes.

### Family separation and reunification plans

Returnee, IDP from the community, community leaders, and SME KIs were consulted for this section (34 out of 41 KIs). Half of consulted KIs did not know about family separation cases (10 out of 34 KIs) or reported that there were no family separation cases in the sub-district (7 KIs). The other half of KIs reported that **some households had family members who remained in displacement** at the time of data collection.

#### Adult household members

Reportedly, some households had at least one male adult member who remained in displacement due to jobs in their AoDs being unavailable in AoOs (17 KIs). Additionally, one SME KI reported that some displaced households' male adult members did not return due to their fear of being perceived as affiliated with ISIL. Qualitative data findings showed that household members, mainly young males, were forced to travel to Mosul, Erbil, Baghdad, or Tikrit seeking jobs and remaining displaced in these areas to support their families (14 KIs).

#### Wife and minor household members

Reportedly, some households had at least one minor member (boy or girl) and the wife who remained in displacement (5 KIs). The most reported reasons for this included the existing damage to their houses in their AoOs (5 KIs) and/or the registration of children and adolescents in education programmes in AoDs (3 KIs).

#### Main household income generator

Reportedly, some households had the main income generator, usually the husband, who remained in displacement (3 KIs). The most reported reason was related to the availability of jobs in AoDs being unavailable in AoOs (2 KIs). Additionally, one SME KI reported that some displaced income generator members did not return due to their fear of being perceived affiliated with ISIL.

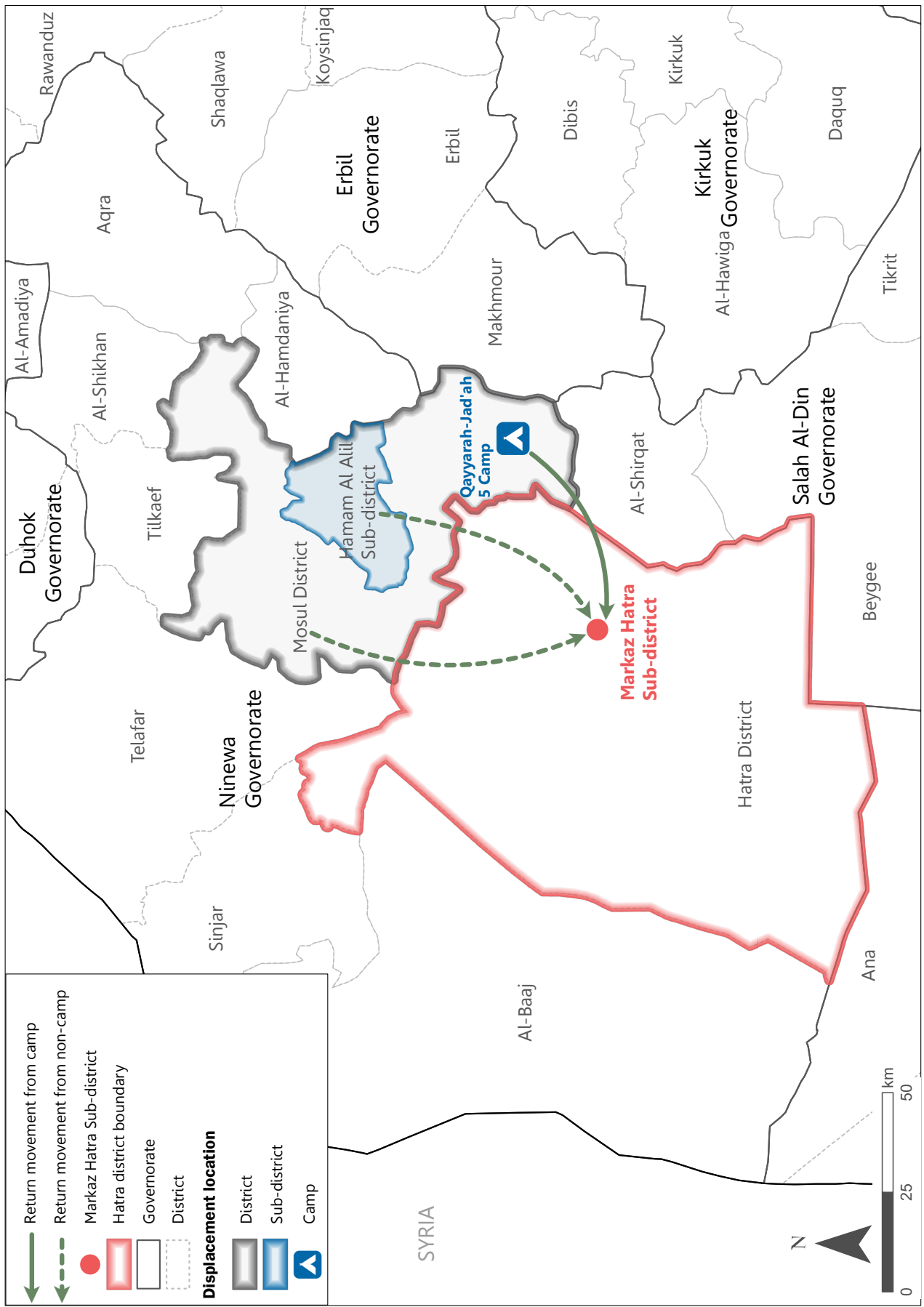
#### Most common family reunification plans

According to five KIs reporting the presence of family separation cases in the sub-district (out of 34 KIs), these households and their separated members had reunification plans.

The majority of these KIs (4 out of 5 KIs) reported that **"if job opportunities were available in the sub-district, the displaced members may return"**. In addition, three KIs reported that **"if the education sector was restored in the different AoOs, displaced households with children may return"**.



Map 2. Recent returns to Markaz Hatra Sub-district from camps and non-camp areas (in the six months prior to data collection)



### Primary community needs

**Most reported primary community needs in Markaz Hatra at the time of data collection (out of 41 KIs)<sup>21, 24</sup>**

	First Need	Second Need	Third Need
Livelihoods	21 KIs	7 KIs	0 KIs
Education	4 KIs	8 KIs	5 KIs
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)	3 KIs	8 KI	6 KIs
Housing rehabilitation	6 KIs	7 KIs	2 KIs
Healthcare	5 KIs	4 KIs	2 KIs
Electricity	0 KIs	5 KIs	1 KI
Security (including explosive remnants of war (ERWs) removal)	0 KIs	1 KI	2 KIs

The most commonly reported primary community need was **access to livelihoods** (28 out of 41 KIs). Almost two thirds of KIs (27 KIs) reported that there was a general lack of job opportunities in Markaz Hatra at the time of data collection. See section on access to livelihoods on page 10.

The second/third most commonly reported primary community needs were **access to education** (17 out of 41 KIs) and **WASH** (17 KIs). Shortages in education staff (17 KIs) and conditions in education facilities (9 KIs) were reportedly the main elements affecting access to public education in the sub-district. Reportedly, the lack of rehabilitation of the existing damaged water networks and treatment plants reduced the quantity and quality of water provision, making it insufficient to cover household demand (13 KIs). See section on access to basic public services on pages 8 and 10.

The fourth most commonly reported primary community need was **access to housing rehabilitation** (15 out of 41 KIs). KIs reported that access to housing rehabilitation was mainly affected by the lack of government rehabilitation projects (12 KIs). See section on access to basic public services on page 7.

### Most commonly reported primary community needs per KI profile at the time of data collection<sup>21, 25</sup>

Community leader KIs (out of 7 KIs)	SME KIs (out of 7 KIs)	IDP KIs from the community (out of 7 KIs)	IDP KIs in the community (out of 7 KIs)	Returnee KIs (out of 13 KIs)
Water 5 KIs	Education 7 KIs	Education 5 KIs	Livelihoods 7 KIs	Livelihoods 11 KIs
Education 3 KIs	Livelihoods 6 KIs	Healthcare 3 KIs	House rehab 5 KIs	Housing rehab 8 KIs
Healthcare 3 KIs	Water 3 KIs	Water 3 KIs	Water 3 KIs	Electricity 4 KIs
Livelihoods 3 KIs	Healthcare 2 KIs	Security 2 KIs		

### Access to durable solutions assistance<sup>26</sup> and impact on returns

Returnee, IDP in community, community leader, and SME KIs were consulted for this section (34 out of 41 KIs). All consulted KIs reported that **there were humanitarian and development activities or projects implemented** in Markaz Hatra.

**Most reported activities implemented in Markaz Hatra in the six months prior to data collection (out of 34 KIs)<sup>21, 27</sup>**

WASH	15 KIs
Protection programmes	11 KIs
COVID-19 awareness sessions	5 KIs
Reconciliation and social cohesion	3 KIs

#### Activity implementers

Slightly over half of the KIs reporting implemented activities in the sub-district (19 out of 34 KIs) also reported that these **activities or projects were implemented by humanitarian and durable solutions actors**, followed by local authorities (16 KIs).

According to KIs, local authorities were mainly involved in infrastructure rehabilitation, including roads paving (19 KIs) and WASH programmes (14 KIs). KIs reported that security actors were involved in the implementation of COVID-19 awareness campaigns (5 KIs) and social cohesion activities (2 KIs). According to one community leader KI, the local community was also involved in the implementation of social cohesion programmes.

#### Reported groups less involved in activities

The majority of KIs did not know about groups less involved in activities (16 out of 34 KIs) or reported that there were not groups less involved (6 KIs). According to 12 KIs, **IDPs in the community were reportedly less involved in activities or projects** in the sub-district.

Regarding vulnerable groups,<sup>28</sup> over two thirds of KIs (23 KIs) reported that all vulnerable groups had the same level of access to participate. However, other KIs reported believing that **older persons** (9 KIs) and persons with disabilities (3 KIs) were less involved in activities or projects than other vulnerable groups.

#### Durable solutions assistance as a factor to encourage returns

Returnee and IDP KIs from the community were consulted for this section (20 out of 41 KIs). The majority of these KIs (16 out of 20 KIs) reported that the **availability of durable solutions assistance would be a factor encouraging returns** to Markaz Hatra.

Reportedly, **livelihoods** were identified by KIs as the activities **most needed to encourage further returns** (12 KIs), followed by housing rehabilitation (3 KIs), the restoration of electricity services (1 KI) and access to water (1 KI).

### Perceptions on access to housing, housing rehabilitation, and compensation

Returnee, IDP in community, community leader, and SME KIs were consulted for this section (34 out of 41 KIs). All consulted KIs reported that the majority of households in Markaz Hatra resided in **houses**.

#### Types of tenure and housing agreement

Findings showed that the majority of returnee households resided in owned houses (12 KIs). According to one returnee KI, some returnee households also resided in houses under official rental agreement since they did not own a house in the sub-district.

Regarding IDPs in the community, findings showed that some of the IDP households were residing in houses under verbal rental agreement (4 KIs). Additionally, three IDP KIs in the community reported that some IDP households in the community were hosted by other households in the sub-district. IDP households reportedly resorted to these types of housing agreements because they did not own houses in the sub-district. One IDP KI from the community reported that households had limited financial capacity to afford rent, mainly attributed to the high rental fees in the sub-district.

#### Risk of eviction

Several KIs (8 KIs) reported that **households with alleged links to ISIL** may be at **risk of eviction** in the longer term.

#### Access to HLP documentation

All KIs reporting that the majority of the households in the sub-district owned houses (26 out of 34 KIs) also reported that they **had HLP documents** to prove housing ownership.

Regarding IDPs from the community, the majority of IDP KIs (5 out of 7 KIs) reported that the majority of IDP households from the community **had HLP documents** to prove housing ownership in their AoOs. These KIs were displaced in Erbil Governorate (Dibaga and Qushtappa sub-districts) and in Ninewa Governorate (Qayyara and Hammam Al-Alil sub-districts). A couple of KIs did not know about the presence of HLP documentation.

#### Access to housing rehabilitation

Returnee, IDP in community, community leader, and SME KIs were consulted for this section (34 out of 41 KIs).

**24%-33%** of houses in Markaz Hatra reportedly remained destroyed or damaged at the time of data collection, according to 33 KIs.

#### Challenges to access housing rehabilitation

All KIs (41 KIs) reported that households faced challenges in accessing housing rehabilitation. KIs reported that access to housing rehabilitation was mainly affected by the lack of government compensation for rehabilitation (25 KIs) and limited financial resources households had to rehabilitate their homes (20 KIs). A lack of reconstruction campaigns or projects in the sub-district was also reported (19 KIs). Other factors reportedly affected access to housing rehabilitation in the sub-district and the capacity of affected households to cope as the following:

**Lack of government compensation for rehabilitation** (25 out of 41 KIs)

- » Compensation claims were not processed, or transactions were not delivered to affected households (21 KIs),
- » Lack of residential land distribution in compensation for housing damage (3 KIs),
- » Affected households need to travel to the governorate center (Mosul) to present their compensation claims and the process is perceived as long and complex (1 KI), and
- » Lack of government financial allocation for compensation in the sub-district (1 KI).

**Limited financial resources households had to rehabilitate their homes** (20 out of 41 KIs)

- » Affected households had no financial means to rehabilitate their houses, this was negatively impacted by the lack of job opportunities in the sub-district (19 KIs) and
- » Affected households had limited financial capacity to rent, mainly attributed to the high rental fees in the sub-district (1 KI). In addition, this was reportedly affected by the fact that the majority of households in the sub-district depended on agriculture as their main source of income and that the agricultural sector was negatively affected by the ISIL crisis (1 KI).

**Lack of reconstruction campaigns or project implementation in the sub-district** (19 out of 41 KIs)

- » Lack of campaigns led by the local or central government to rehabilitate damaged houses in the sub-district (16 KIs),
- » NGOs' limited intervention in housing rehabilitation. NGOs reportedly rehabilitated some of the damaged houses, however it was perceived by KIs as not being enough (6 KIs), and
- » Lack of governmental and NGO loan provisions for housing rehabilitation (1 KI).

Additionally, two KIs reported challenges for construction and reconstruction works in the sub-district. These included:

- » Difficulties to access raw materials for construction due to tightened security measures, mainly at the checkpoints (1 KI) and
- » Raw materials for construction having inflated prices inside the sub-district (1 KI).

Taking into consideration the above-mentioned challenges, 13 KIs recommended the local government to:

- » Launch reconstruction campaigns for housing and infrastructure rehabilitation (12 KIs),
- » Ensure access to compensation for affected households (1 KI), and
- » Ensure construction of low-cost residential compounds for returnee households and/or promote the distribution of residential lands (1 KI).<sup>29</sup>

### Perceptions on access to basic public services

All KIs reported that **households faced challenges accessing basic public services** in the sub-district (41 KIs). The majority of KIs reported that **healthcare** was the most affected sector at the time of data collection.

#### Reported affected basic public services (out of 41 KIs)<sup>21</sup>

Healthcare	35 KIs	<div style="width: 85%;"></div>
WASH	31 KIs	<div style="width: 76%;"></div>
Electricity	24 KIs	<div style="width: 58%;"></div>
Education	24 KIs	<div style="width: 58%;"></div>

#### Challenges to access basic public services

All KIs (41 KIs) reported that **households faced challenges in accessing basic public services**.

##### Access to public healthcare

The majority of KIs (35 out of 41 KIs) reported that households faced challenges in accessing public healthcare services.

Conditions in healthcare facilities and the shortage of medical staff were reportedly the main elements affecting access to public healthcare in the sub-district.

##### Reduced capacity of public health centers (PHC) to operate (25 out of 35 KIs)

KIs reported that the PHC in the sub-district did not have enough capacity to cover the needs of the community (5 KIs). Over three quarters of the reporting KIs (19 out of 25 KIs) reported that there was a notable shortage of medications, especially those for chronic diseases. Three KIs reported that the PHC lacked modern medical devices, machinery, and equipment, in addition to sufficient medical supplies.

Two KIs reported believing that these shortages were the result of the lack or limited financial allocation for the sector due to the limited attention or neglect from the local government to recover healthcare and the slow rehabilitation of the existing health center.

##### Shortage of medical staff (13 out of 35 KIs)

According to the vast majority of reporting KIs (11 out of 13 KIs), there was a serious shortage of medical personnel in the sub-district. One community leader KI reported that the majority of medical personnel remained in displacement. In addition, another community leader KI reported believing that the lack of financial allocation to the health sector in the sub-district led the health public staff to transfer to Mosul healthcare centers.

Additionally, all reporting KIs reported the presence of coping strategies adopted by households to access medical treatment. These reportedly included:

- » Households being forced to travel to Mosul for specialised medical treatment in public facilities or resorting to private healthcare services (7 KIs) and
- » Households being forced to purchase medications from local private pharmacies, which were perceived as expensive (7 KIs).

To overcome the challenges in accessing public healthcare services, KIs recommended the local government:

- » Build a new hospital with an emergency department in the sub-district. KIs reported that **"there was a hospital before 2014 which was damaged during the ISIL conflict and converted into a polyclinic after the liberation of the sub-district"** (10 KIs),
- » Promote the assignment of medical staff and encourage the return of displaced public employees (6 KIs), and
- » Supply health center with medications and provide medical devices, supplies, equipment, and tools to the existing health center (6 KIs).

#### Access to public water and waste management

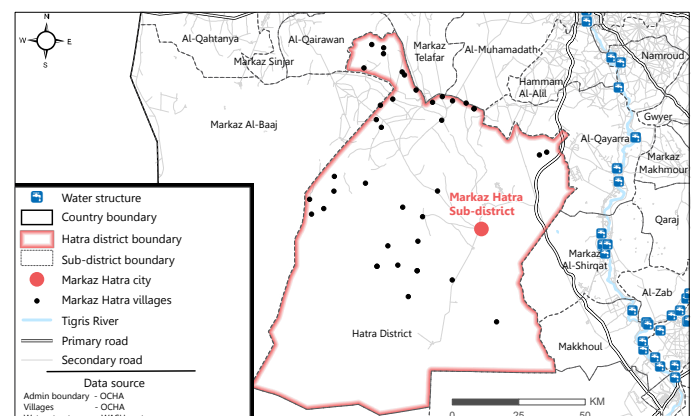
Three quarters of KIs (31 out of 41 KIs) reported that households faced challenges in accessing public water services, mainly during the summer (23 KIs). Reportedly, the lack of rehabilitation of the existing damaged water networks and treatment plants reduced the quantity and quality of water provision, making it insufficient to cover households' demand (13 KIs).

In addition, 11 KIs reported that access to water was highly affected by the lack of electricity in the sub-district and the limited capacity of government water projects. A couple of KIs reportedly believed the water quality was affected by the lack of chlorine, or safe alternatives for water treatment, at the government water projects. One IDP in the community reported that the lack of water affected small businesses which depended on this resource to operate.

Almost three quarters of reporting KIs (22 out of 31 KIs) reported that households resorted to different strategies to cope with the lack of water. These included:

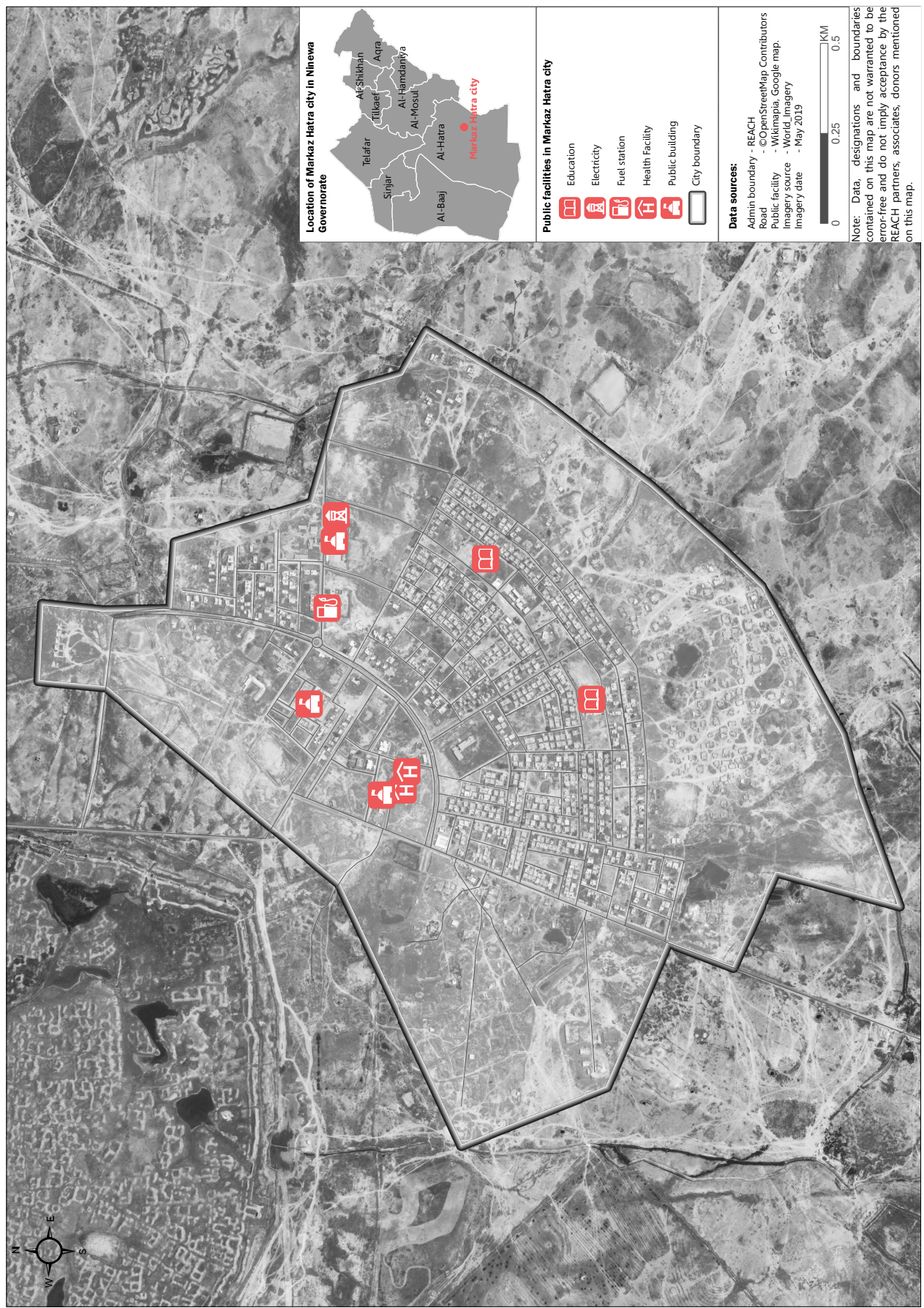
- » Households being forced to purchase water from private sources (16 KIs). Out of these KIs, four KIs reported that some households depended on bottled water purchased from local shops mainly for cooking and drinking purposes.
- » Another four KIs also reported that some households resorted to water trucking extracted from private water wells, which did not meet water quality standards, and
- » Reported illegal or unplanned connections to the public water network in some neighbourhoods which caused shortages in water to others (5 KIs).

#### Map 3. Water facilities supplying Markaz Hatra Sub-district





Map 4. Basic public services providers in Markaz Hatra city, centre of Hatra District





A few KIs (3 out of 41 KIs) reported that households faced challenges in accessing **public waste collection, disposal, and management services** in the sub-district. Three of these KIs reported that there was a limited availability of cleaning materials, machinery, sanitation vehicles, and equipment within the Municipality for sanitation works. One SME KI also reported that waste collection and management was not enough taking into consideration the population density, which has increased with recent returns.

Additionally, one community leader KI reported that there was a lack of waste disposal landfills or recycling plants in the sub-district, or nearby, and that there was a limited number of sanitation workers available at the Municipality. The KI also reported that waste collection occurred once a week, producing a high waste accumulation in residential areas. Reportedly, these challenges forced households to resort to burning their garbage on a periodical basis, which was considered an environmental risk for the population in the sub-district, according to the KI. Therefore, the KI recommended the local government allocate enough budget for the Municipality's sanitation works in the sub-district.

### Access to public electricity

Over half of KIs (24 out of 41 KIs) reported that households faced challenges in public electricity services in the sub-district. The vast majority of these KIs (20 out of 24 KIs) reported that there were limited electricity supply-hours, especially during the summer months. According to one SME KI, the lack of public electricity may be attributed to the fact that electrical networks and transformers need rehabilitation after the ISIL crisis.

In addition, one community leader reported that there was a high level of damage and reported sabotage of the government electrical plants during the conflict. Moreover, three returnee KIs reported that the lack of electricity negatively affected the operation of small businesses and factories in the sub-district (2 KIs), as well as the agricultural sector including the capacity for irrigation and farming, especially the poultry fields (1 KI). One returnee KI reported that households in the sub-district were forced to resort to private generators at inflated prices due to the increased demand.

### Access to public education

Over half of KIs (24 out of 41 KIs) reported that households faced challenges in accessing public education services. Shortages in education staff and conditions in education facilities were reportedly the main elements affecting access to public education in the sub-district.

#### Shortage of education staff (17 out of 24 KIs)

According to all reporting KIs (17 KIs), there was a serious shortage of educational personnel, mainly due to the majority still being displaced. In addition, three KIs reported that education staff from the sub-district displaced to Mosul city seeking better working conditions and higher salaries. To cover this gap, the education system reportedly relied on recent graduates with limited experience for teaching (3 KIs).

#### Lack or limited school rehabilitation projects (9 out of 24 KIs)

Several KIs (7 KIs) reportedly perceived neglect from the local

government towards school rehabilitation or new constructions. Additionally, three KIs reported that operational schools were not equipped to absorb the demand and number of students and did not meet the standards or conditions for students' wellbeing. According to two KIs, active public schools were distant from some villages in the sub-district, and there was a lack of support for transportation of students to/from school. Allegedly, there was a misuse of the budget assigned to school rehabilitation (1 KI). These conditions forced some households to register their children in private schools, which were perceived as highly expensive (2 KIs).

Additionally, three KIs recommended the local relevant authorities:

- » Promote the assignment of education staff and encourage the return of displaced public employees (6 KIs),
- » Provide books for students as in previous years, due to the lack of book distributions at the time of data collection (2 KIs),<sup>30</sup> and
- » Launch a wide campaign for school rehabilitation, construction, and reconstruction (1 KI).

### Reported groups with less access to basic public services

Over two thirds of KIs (28 out of 41 KIs) reported that all displacement groups faced challenges accessing basic public services. According to 13 KIs (mainly SME and returnee KIs), **returnees** reportedly **faced more challenges to access basic public services** compared to other displacement groups.

Regarding vulnerable groups,<sup>28</sup> over two thirds of KIs (28 out of 41 KIs) reported that all vulnerable groups faced challenges accessing basic public services. The rest of the KIs reported that **older persons** (13 KIs) and persons with disabilities (3 KIs) faced more challenges accessing basic public services than other vulnerable groups.

## Perceptions on access to livelihoods

All KIs reported that **the majority of households faced challenges accessing livelihoods** (41 KIs).

### Challenges to access livelihoods

Almost two thirds of KIs (27 KIs) reported that there was a general lack of job opportunities in Markaz Hatra at the time of data collection. Allegedly, access to job opportunities was affected by the general lack of livelihood programmes aimed to ensure job opportunities, namely cash for work for youth (16 KIs). Reportedly, this situation forced household members, mainly young males, to travel to Mosul, Erbil, Baghdad, or Tikrit seeking jobs and remaining in these areas to support their families (14 KIs).

#### Trade and commerce, and private sectors (21 out of 41 KIs)

Reportedly, trade and commerce activity was negatively affected by road closure, the distance from the sub-district to other main cities, and the imposed security measures which made movement in/out of the area difficult (15 out of 21 KIs). According to six KIs, the sub-district lacked factories and workshops that could ensure job opportunities. Some businesses had opened in the sub-district; however, these were not reportedly enough to cover the employment needs (3 KIs).

Additionally, three KIs reportedly believed that the lack of loans to entrepreneurs to develop their projects and enhance their businesses and the blocked access for private sector investors to the sub-district negatively affected the private sector and therefore access to job creation opportunities. A couple of KIs further reported that the lack of compensation to damaged shops and business owners negatively affected the private sector recovery and access to jobs.

### Agricultural sector (16 out of 41 KIs)

Over two thirds of KIs (11 out of 16 KIs) reported that the agricultural sector was affected by the deterioration of the irrigation systems as result of the ISIL conflict and the lack of electricity and water to irrigate the lands. Reportedly, the area suffered from the lack of financial or in-kind support to farmers from the local government to purchase agricultural materials (such as crops and fertilizers) (9 KIs). One IDP KI in the community reported the presence of strict security measures in the sub-district, which negatively affected the access of farmers to their lands and limited livestock herding. Consequently, the main incomes for those involved in the agricultural sector were reportedly reduced to livestock trading, according to one community leader KI.

"The work was limited to the trade of livestock and materials, because the area is on the border, and now the security forces have closed the roads, so the border trade has stopped."

- Male community leader KI -

### Construction sector (16 out of 41 KIs)

According to the majority of reporting KIs (14 KIs), most of the returnee and IDP KIs in the community, there was a lack of construction and reconstruction campaigns in the sub-district, which affected access to jobs. According to 2 KIs, construction was the main source of income for the households in the sub-district at the time of data collection.

### Governmental or public sector (13 out of 41 KIs)

The main factor affecting access to governmental or public jobs was the lack of government job appointments (13 KIs).<sup>31</sup>

To overcome these various livelihood access challenges, 21 KIs recommended the local government:

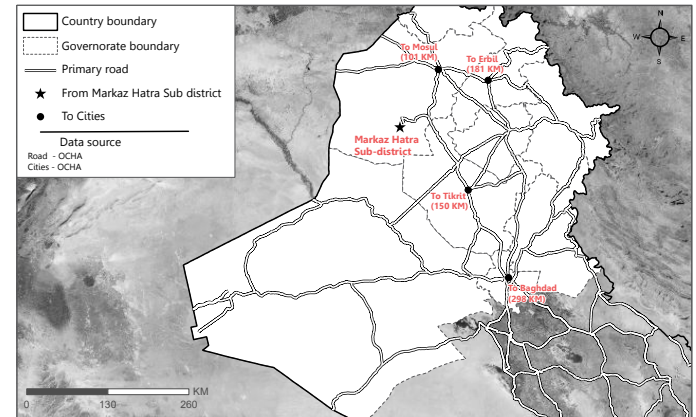
- » Ensure employment opportunities and facilitate access to government jobs for young graduates (20 KIs),
- » Launch reconstruction campaigns and livelihood projects to ensure job opportunities (2 KIs), and
- » "Support in providing seeds and fertilizers at lower prices in order to encourage farmers to farm" (one male IDP KI from the community).

### Reported groups with less access to livelihoods

Over two thirds of KIs (28 out of 41 KIs) reported that all displacement groups faced challenges accessing livelihoods. According to 13 KIs (mainly SME and returnee KIs), **IDPs from the community** reportedly **faced more challenges to access livelihoods** in the sub-district compared to other displacement groups.

Regarding vulnerable groups,<sup>28</sup> the majority of KIs (34 out of 41 KIs) reported that all vulnerable groups faced challenges accessing livelihoods. The rest of the KIs reported that **older persons** (6 KIs) and persons with disabilities (1 KI) faced more challenges accessing basic public services than other vulnerable groups.

### Map 5. Distance from Markaz Hatra Sub-district to other areas where KIs reported that households could access basic public services and livelihoods



### Most reported livelihood sectors available in Markaz Hatra at the time of data collection (out of 34 KIs)<sup>21, 32</sup>

Construction	19 KIs	
Public education	15 KIs	
Agriculture	13 KIs	
Private healthcare	11 KIs	
Public administration and defence <sup>33</sup>	10 KIs	

Findings indicated that the availability of some livelihood sectors was affected at the time of data collection.<sup>34</sup> Job opportunities in the oil industry and finance were reportedly not available at the time of data collection. In addition, findings showed that job opportunities in the public health and transportation sectors were less available at the time of data collection compared to prior to 2014.

### Livelihood sectors with reported growth potential

Community leader and SME KIs were consulted for this section (14 out of 41 KIs). Reportedly, **agriculture was the livelihood sector with the most growth potential** in the 12 months following data collection (8 KIs). KIs also reported that other sectors showed potential to expand such as construction (2 KIs) and trade and commerce (2 KIs).

### Livelihood activities support for economic growth

Community leader and SME KIs were consulted for this section (14 out of 41 KIs). All KIs reported that livelihood programmes implementation in the sub-district may support economic development.

### Revitalization of the agricultural sector (including livestock) (8 out of 14 KIs)

According to a couple of SME KIs, the sub-district was famous for its strong agricultural sector prior to 2014; therefore, reactivating the sector may positively contribute to revitalize

the marketing of local products. On other hand, a third SME KI reported believing that agriculture could ensure employment for a high number of unemployed community members.

Enhancing the agricultural sector could reportedly occur through (but not restricted to):

- » Providing financial assistance to farmers to purchase seeds, fertilizers, machinery, and other agricultural and farming products (6 KIs),
- » Improving and updating the existing irrigation systems and digging new irrigation channels for agricultural lands (1 KI), and
- » Establishing modern farms for livestock care and raising, such as cattle and poultry farms (1 KI).

**Revitalization of the private sector** (8 out of 14 KIs) could occur through (but not restricted to):

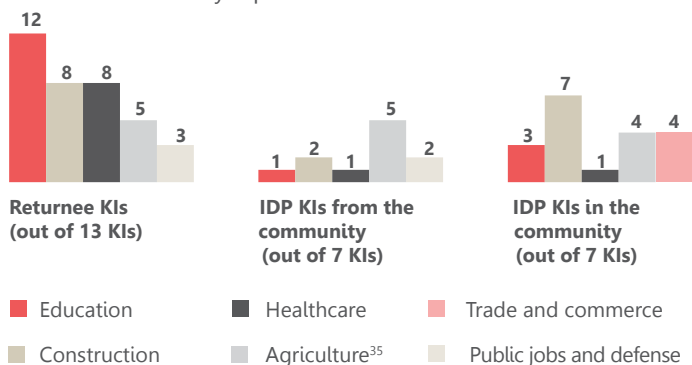
- » Providing loans for new start-ups specifically for youth (3 KIs),
- » Promoting investment for small businesses such as bakery and barbery (2 KIs),
- » Advocating with security forces to facilitate the entry of products and raw materials at checkpoints (2 KIs),
- » Rehabilitating the main commercial roads to enhance trade and goods transportation (1 KI), and
- » Establishing factories for sweets and food production to ensure job opportunities (1 KI).

**Revitalization of the construction sector** (2 out of 14 KIs) may depend on (but not restricted to) the relevant authorities' capacity to establish an effective control system on building materials' prices and entrance to the sub-district.

### Livelihood sectors of interest for returnees and IDPs from the community

Returnee, IDP in the community, and IDP from the community KIs were consulted for this section (27 out of 41 KIs). The two most commonly reported livelihood sector of interest for returnee and IDP households from/in the community were **construction** (17 KIs) and **education** (16 KIs).

The most commonly reported livelihood sectors of interest:



### Access to public judicial mechanisms

#### Challenges to access public judicial mechanisms

The vast majority of KIs (37 out of 41 KIs) reported that households did not face challenges in accessing public judicial mechanisms.

However, four KIs (mostly community leader and SME KIs) reported that some households faced challenges to access legal services. The most affected offices or judicial facilities were the court (4 KIs) and the police station (3 KIs).

Reportedly, there was a court at the sub-district; however, the judge only attended once or twice a week, which affected the process of urgent claims (3 KIs). Additionally, one community leader KI reported that households needed to travel to the governorate center to process their claims, the legal process were complex and took longer time, and they needed to pay bribes to public judicial employees to have their claims processed.

#### Reported groups with less access to judicial mechanisms

The vast majority of KIs (37 out of 41 KIs) reported that **none of the displacement groups faced challenges accessing public judicial mechanisms**. Three SME KIs reported that returnees faced more challenges to access justice compared to other displacement groups. In addition, one community leader KI reported that all groups faced challenges to access justice equally.

Regarding vulnerable groups,<sup>28</sup> the vast majority of KIs (37 KIs) reported that none of the vulnerable groups faced challenges accessing public judicial mechanisms. Three KIs reported that all vulnerable groups faced challenges to access justice equally. Additionally, one SME KI reported that older persons faced more challenges accessing public judicial mechanisms than other vulnerable groups.

### Perceptions on safety and security<sup>36</sup>

Returnee, IDP in the community, and IDP from the community KIs were consulted for this section (27 out of 41 KIs). All consulted KIs reported that **the majority of returnee and IDP households from/in the community felt safe or very safe** in Markaz Hatra. This situation was reportedly the same for women, girls, men, and boys,<sup>37</sup> according to these KIs.

#### Freedom of movement

Returnee, IDP in the community, community leader, and SME KIs were consulted for this section (34 out of 41 KIs). All consulted KIs reported that **there were no restrictions of movement imposed** in the sub-district.

All returnee and IDP KIs in the community (20 KIs) also reported that **the majority of returnee households could freely move during the day and at night** in Markaz Hatra if they desired. This situation was reportedly the same for women, girls, men, and boys,<sup>37</sup> according to all returnee and IDP KIs in the community.

#### ERW land contamination

The majority of KIs (34 out of 41 KIs) reported that **there were no fields contaminated with ERW** in Markaz Hatra at the time of data collection.

However, six KIs (mainly SMEs) reported the presence of ERWs in the sub-district. One SME KI reported that ERWs remained in destroyed houses at the time of data collection and that households feared ERWs explosions when approaching their shelters for reconstruction.



### Perceptions on governance<sup>36</sup>

Community leader and SME KIs were consulted for this section (14 out of 41 KIs). All SME KIs reported believing that none of the present bodies in the sub-district were influencing governance at the time of data collection.

However, most of the other KIs (5 out of 7 KIs) reported that **formal security forces were the most influential bodies in terms of governance**, followed by local authorities (2 KIs) and tribal leaders (2 KIs). One KI reported that also political parties may influence governance.

### Perceptions on community tensions<sup>36</sup>

Returnee, IDP in the community, community leader, and SME KIs were consulted for this section (34 out of 41 KIs). All consulted KIs reported that there were **no disputes between the sub-district and other areas** (external disputes), **within the sub-district** (internal disputes), or **retaliation incidents** in Markaz Hatra in the six months prior to data collection.

However, four KIs reported that there was a general fear that returnee households may have members with alleged links to ISIL, **"representing a risk for the community members"**. Three KIs reported household concerns and fear about the potential occurrence of security incidents and inter-communal disputes.

### Role of different bodies in resolving disputes

Returnee, IDP in the community, and IDP KIs from the community were consulted for this section (27 out of 41 KIs).

#### Disputes within the sub-district (internal disputes)

Returnee and IDP KIs in the community were consulted for this section (20 out of 41 KIs). The majority of KIs (17 out of 20 KIs) reported that tribal leaders were the most effective body in resolving disputes within the sub-district (internal disputes).

According to 16 KIs, the area was based on tribal laws and had tribal traditions and customs from several years ago. KIs also reported believing that tribal leaders were responsible to resolve internal disputes (14 KIs).

Additionally, five KIs reported that tribal leaders had the responsibility to maintain unions between tribe members and the community in general (3 KIs) and to preserve social ties (2 KIs).

The rest of the KIs did not know about the most effective bodies in resolving internal disputes (2 KIs) or refused to answer (1 KI).

#### Disputes between the sub-district and other areas (external disputes)

Returnee and IDP KIs in the community were consulted for this section (20 out of 41 KIs). The majority of KIs did not know about the bodies intervening to resolve disputes between the sub-district and other areas (13 out of 20 KIs) or refused to answer (2 KIs).

The rest of the KIs (5 KIs) reported that the **formal security forces** were perceived to play important role preventing or resolving external disputes (4 KIs), implementing law and maintaining

order (4 KIs), and maintaining security and promoting the safety of civilians (2 KIs). In addition, two IDP KIs from the community reported that households fear the occurrence of security incidents as there were reported clashes between the security forces and ISIL in the unpopulated areas of the sub-district. The KIs also reported that security forces **"must be alert to avoid any incident that may occur"** and that they **"should protect the area to encourage other households to return"**.

### Perceptions on community inter-relations<sup>36</sup>

#### Community inter-relations

Returnee, IDP in the community, and IDP from the community KIs were consulted for this section (27 out of 41 KIs). The vast majority of consulted KIs (26 out of 27 KIs) reported that the majority of the households in their respective displacement groups **felt welcome or very welcome** in the community of Markaz Hatra. One IDP KI from the community refused to answer.

#### Returnees feeling welcome

Returnee KIs were consulted for this section (13 out of 41 KIs). All returnee KIs reported that returnee households felt welcome or very welcome due to belonging to the different tribes prevalent in the area (10 KIs) and having kinship and social ties with other households in the sub-district (5 KIs), causing returnees to feel protected and accepted.

#### IDPs from the community feeling welcome

IDP KIs from the community were consulted for this section (7 out of 41 KIs). The vast majority of consulted KIs (6 out of 7 KIs) reported that households felt welcome in the sub-district. One KI refused to answer. IDP households from the community reportedly felt welcome due to belonging to the different tribes prevalent in the area (6 KIs) and having kinship and social ties with other households in the sub-district (1 KI), causing IDP households to feel protected and accepted.

#### IDPs in the community feeling welcome

IDP KIs in the community were consulted for this section (7 out of 41 KIs). All consulted KIs reported that households felt welcome in the sub-district. This was mainly reported to be because most of the IDP households in the community belonged to similar tribes as the ones in the community of Markaz Hatra (6 KIs). One KI reported that households had existing social bonds and kinship ties with host community members from before the ISIL conflict mainly due to the proximity of their AoOs to Markaz Hatra.

#### Interaction between displacement groups

Returnee, IDP from the community, and IDP in the community KIs were consulted for this section (27 out of 41 KIs).

Two thirds of consulted KIs (18 out of 27 KIs), these being returnees and IDPs in the community, reported that households in their respective groups interacted with households from all displacement groups in the community (including remainees, returnees, and IDP households). On other hand, the majority of IDP KIs from the community reported that the majority of the IDP households did not interact with other displacement groups in the community of Markaz Hatra.

### Reported types of interaction between groups

Returnee, IDP from the community, and IDP KIs in the community were consulted for this section (27 out of 41 KIs).

### Ways of interaction reported by returnee KIs

The majority of returnee KI (11 out of 13 KIs) reported that most households from the same displacement group interacted with all groups in the community (including remainees, returnees, IDPs in the community, and IDPs from the community). According to four KIs, these households belonged to the same tribes prevalent in the sub-district.

Reportedly, returnee households interacted with other groups during the following (out of 11 KIs):

- » Attending religious activities, especially during Friday prayers (5 KIs),
- » Attending social and tribal events and gatherings (5 KIs),
- » Through kinship ties (5 KIs),
- » Through work relationships and trade activities (5 KIs),
- » Through daily life activities, such as interacting at shops and markets (4 KIs),
- » Financially supporting households with lower incomes to cover their basic needs and households with sick members to buy medications (4 KIs), and
- » Participating in voluntary work to clean schools and restore education activities (1 KI).

### Ways of interaction reported by IDP KIs from the community

One IDP KI from the community (out of 7 KIs) reported that some IDP households from the same group interacted with all groups in the community (including remainees, returnees, IDPs in the community, and IDPs from the community). These households reportedly interacted with other groups by providing shelter (gratuitously or rented) to returnee households whose houses remained damaged or destroyed.

### Ways of interaction reported by IDP KIs in the community

Six IDP KIs in the community (out of 7 KIs) reported that the majority of IDP households from the same group interacted with all groups in the community (including remainees, returnees, IDPs in the community, and IDPs from the community).

According to all reporting KIs (6 KIs), these households belonged to the same or similar tribes prevalent in the sub-district and interacted with other groups as the following:

- » Attending religious activities, especially during Friday prayers,
- » Attending social and tribal events and gatherings,
- » Through kinship ties and encouraging intermarriage,
- » Through work relationships and trade activities, and
- » Through daily life activities, such as interacting at shops and markets.

### Barriers for interaction between groups

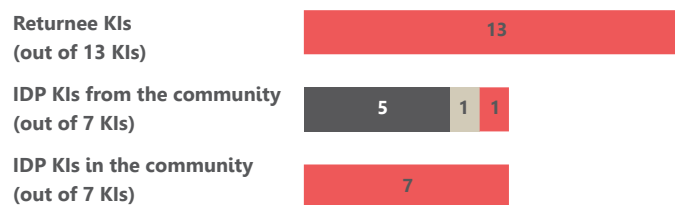
In addition to the above-mentioned, three quarters of KIs (20 out of 27 KIs) reported the presence of factors affecting interaction between groups. These reportedly included:<sup>21</sup>

- » Presence or fear of discrimination, abuse, and exploitation based on tribal belonging, ethnicity, or displacement status (11 KIs),
- » Households feeling marginalised by other groups (8 KIs), and
- » Existence of inter-communal disputes (8 KIs).

The rest of the KIs (7 KIs, mainly returnee KIs) reported no challenges for different groups to interact.

### Participation in decision-making processes

Returnee, IDP from the community, and IDP in the community KIs were consulted for this section (27 out of 41 KIs). **Over three quarters of consulted KIs** (21 out of 27 KIs) reported that households **participated in decision-making** processes in the sub-district.



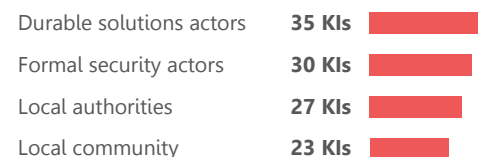
- Yes, households participated
- No, households did not participate
- Did not know about participation

### Perceptions on social cohesion<sup>36</sup>

### Actors influencing social cohesion

The majority of KIs (35 out of 41 KIs) reported that the most influential actors in terms of social cohesion were the durable solutions actors in the sub-district.

Perceptions on influential actors were as the following:<sup>21</sup>



### Improving social cohesion

All KIs reported strategies or initiatives to be considered to accelerate or enhance social cohesion processes. These reportedly included:

### Initiatives promoting access to work for all

Almost two thirds of KIs (26 out of 41 KIs) reported that access to work was one of the main elements to improve social cohesion in Markaz Hatra. Reported initiatives included:

- » Promoting access to work equally for members of the community without preference (16 KIs),

- » Implementing livelihood programmes to ensure job creation without discrimination (14 KIs),
- » Implementing projects to reconstruct the damaged schools and health center, which will ensure job opportunities in the construction, education, and health sectors (2 KIs), and
- » Activating an accountability system for budget allocation monitoring and access to jobs without favouritism (1 KI).

### Seminars, awareness sessions, and conferences

Over half of KIs (23 out of 41 KIs) reported that organising seminars, conferences, awareness sessions, and workshops could be an effective way to promote social cohesion. The most recommended topics for these activities were:

- » Social cohesion, coexistence, and dialogue between affected parties (13 KIs),
- » Peace building, conflict resolution, and tolerance (9 KIs), and
- » Acceptance of differences and promoting non-discrimination (6 KIs).

KIs also recommended these activities to target the following groups (4 out of 23 KIs):

- » Tribal and religious leaders (3 KIs),
- » Governmental officials (2 KIs), and
- » Professionals, intellectuals, and specialists in different sectors (2 KIs).

### Initiatives promoting community inter-relationships and social bonds

Over three quarters of KIs (16 out of 23 KIs) reported that initiatives strengthening community inter-relationships and interaction may improve social cohesion in the sub-district, such as:

- » Encouraging visits between relatives and friends to strengthen bonds and promote forgiveness (10 KIs),
- » Participating in social events (10 KIs),
- » Promoting volunteer work to reconstruct the sub-district and restore services (5 KIs),
- » Organising skills trainings for recent graduates and youth (1 KI), and
- » Building recreational centers where youth can interact (1 KI).

Additionally, one IDP KI in the community reported believing that encouraging marriage between families in the sub-district may ensure strong kinship ties and tribal bonds which may promote social cohesion.

### Initiatives promoting safety and security

One community leader KI reported that reporting illegal activities to the security forces may ensure having a safe and better community, therefore, it may ensure social cohesion.

## Perceptions on durable solutions<sup>36</sup>

Returnee, IDP from the community, and IDP KIs in the community were consulted for this section (27 out of 41 KIs).

### Returnees feeling reintegrated

Returnee KIs were consulted for this section (13 out of 27 KIs). All consulted KIs reported that the majority of returnee households felt re-integrated in the sub-district. The reported reasons included:

- » Households returned to their homes and lands in their AoOs (12 KIs) and
- » Households re-established family and social networks (3 KIs).

### IDPs from the community feeling integrated

IDP KIs from the community were consulted for this section (7 out of 27 KIs). Over half of consulted KIs did not know about households feeling of integration (3 KIs) or reported that the most of IDP households did not feel integrated in their AoDs (1 KI) because they did not return "home" yet.

On other hand, three IDP KIs reported that some households felt integrated in the community, namely in Markaz Tilkaef and Qayarra sub-districts, in Ninewa Governorate (Tilkaef and Mosul districts respectively), and Dibaga Sub-district (Makhmour District) in Erbil Governorate. The main reasons reported by the three KIs were:

- » No barriers or challenges identified for interaction with other community members in the AoDs,
- » Household members had a job in AoDs, and
- » Presence of social and family network in AoDs.

### IDPs in the community feeling integrated

IDP KIs in the community were consulted for this section (7 out of 27 KIs). All consulted KIs reported that the majority of IDP households did not feel integrated in the sub-district since they did not return to their homes and lands yet. One KI also reported that the distance between the AoDs and the AoOs made households "feel disconnected from their homeland".

### End Notes

1 [IOM DTM Return Index](#)

2 Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster Iraq, [Iraq Informal Sites Overview](#), September 2021

3 Iraqi News Agency, [Minister of Migration announce the closure of all IDPs camps except for Kurdistan](#), 12 December 2021

4 Africa News, [Iraq: Ancient city vandalised by Islamic state partly restored](#), 9 March 2022

5 Al Monitor, [Historic Hatra... Will it recover its cultural heritage after its liberation from ISIS?](#), 15 May 2017

6 "Iraqi forces announced that they had regained control of the ancient city of Hatra, located 125 kilometers south of Mosul, from ISIS [...]" - Al Hadath, [Iraq... Reclaiming control of the archaeological site from ISIS](#), 26 April 2017

7 The ReDS questionnaire is tailored to ask questions related to demographics only to community leader and SME KIs based on their knowledge about the sub-district and population groups. In the case of Markaz Hatra, there were 7 community leader and 7 SME respondents. Population figures for returns and IDP populations in Markaz Hatra are based on their estimates at the time of data collection.

8 To date, [IOM DTM's bi-monthly tracking of returnees and IDPs](#) provides an overview of numbers and trends in movement and returns. Simultaneously, since 2018, the Returns Index 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 (AoRs) nationwide. Similarly, the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster, IOM DTM, Protection Working Group (PWG), and RWG have conducted assessments with IDPs that have left camps following or in anticipation of closures to better understand and map AoR and secondary displacement.

9 For the purposes of this research, "returnee" refers to members of the host community who did not displaced during the events of 2014 or after.

10 For the purposes of this research, "returnees" are categorized as IDPs returning to their AoOs, where AoO is defined as the stated original sub-district of origin for the IDP as per the [IOM returnee index](#). Given the complexity of (re)integration, this could mean that returnees still face challenges to their sustainable return to their AoOs.

11 "The [DTM](#) considers as Internally displaced persons (IDPs) all Iraqis who were forced to flee from 1 January 2014 onwards and are still displaced within national borders at the moment of the assessment." - IOM DTM Iraq, [Location Assessment Methodology](#)

12 "To measure the severity of conditions in each location of return, the Return Index is based on 16 indicators grouped into two scales: (i) livelihoods and basic services, and (ii) social cohesion and safety perceptions. To compute an overall severity index, the scores of two scales are combined. The severity index ranges from 0 (all essential conditions for return are met) to 100 (no essential conditions for return are met). Higher scores denote more severe living conditions for returnees. The scores of the severity index can be grouped into three categories: 'low' severity conditions, 'medium', and 'high' (which also includes the identified 'very high' locations)." - [IOM DTM Methodology](#)

13 The most severely affected areas in Markaz Hatra in terms of social cohesion and safety perceptions were reportedly Tarteaa Al-Hermas village, Aljariu village, Al Mahmodyah village, Malihat Alrakei, Malhat Al Bakarah, Easilah Algharbia, Asedyt Al Hishash, Ealibah, Alfundia, Alsila, Albaeiran, Abotank village, Al Bariit village, Altaaysh Alsharqah village, Abaar Gharbah village, Buthah Alrakei village, Rakei Mawhan village, Jadalal Altharthar village, Estielah village, Mreka village, Khabaza Sharqiya village, Ashkech village, Al-Asraj village, Tarteaa Abdalkarem village, Markaz Al-Hatra, Mmdoh Al-Hassan village, Al-Amilah village, Zaaiaa village, Mlihta Al-Sharqia village, Al-Rogaae Al-Wsta village, Al-Rogaae Al-Sharqia village, Rmothaniat Al-Rdin village, Ghioa village, Khrezz village, Al-Boughime village, and Mokhazaga village - IOM DTM, [Return Index Round 14](#), October, November and December 2021

14 For the purposes of this research, "older returnees" refers to households who returned to Markaz Hatra Sub-district more than three months prior to data collection.

15 For the purposes of this research, "IDPs from the community" refers to households from Markaz Hatra displaced during the events of 2014 to areas different than their AoOs. Interviewed IDP KIs were displaced in Qayarra (3 KIs) and Hammam Al-Alil (1 KI) sub-districts in Mosul District (Ninewa Governorate), Markaz Tilkaef Sub-district (1 KI) in Tilkaef District (Ninewa Governorate), Dibaga Sub-district (1 KI) in Makhmour District (Erbil Governorate), and Qushtappa Sub-district (1 KI) in Erbil District (Erbil Governorate).

16 For the purposes of this research, "IDPs in the community" refers to households originally from areas different than Markaz Hatra who displaced to Markaz Hatra during the events of 2014 and after. Interviewed IDP KIs were originally from Khunaifis village in Markaz Hatra Sub-district (7 KIs).

17 For the purposes of this research, "SMEs" are members of the community with a high level of expertise in different sectors or topics. These were represented by: six public sector employees (education, electricity, agriculture, electricity, and municipality) and one ERW specialist.

18 For the purposes of this research, "community leaders" are members of the host community represented by three mukhtars, three community leaders at neighbourhood level, and one local government official. A mukhtar can be defined as the head of a village or neighbourhood in some Arab countries, this position is officially recognised as local authority.

19 For the purposes of this research, "recent returnees" refers to households who returned to Markaz Hatra Sub-district less than three months prior to data collection.

20 There were 41 individuals interviewed for the Markaz Hatra assessment aged between 23 and 82 years old. The majority were male (38 KIs). The lack of gender balance among the KIs was a limitation to the assessment. Integration of vulnerable age groups was considered, two male KIs were considered in the youth group (between 18 and 24) and two male KIs represented older people (over 65 years old).

21 KIs were able to select multiple responses to this question.

22 A couple of KIs reported that recent returns had impacted on social life by allowing household members, especially children, to recover from their displacement trauma.

23 Other less reported barriers to further returns included safety and security concerns, namely fear to be perceived affiliated with ISIL (3 KIs) and fear of discrimination or persecution (1 KI). Other barriers included households preferring life in AoDs (5 KIs) and fear of contracting COVID-19 (1 KI).

24 Other less reported primary needs were access to food assistance (2 KIs) and infrastructure rehabilitation (1 KI).

25 Findings were indicative of each population group and not representative.

26 Durable solutions assistance includes the humanitarian, stabilization, development and peace-building assistance under its umbrella.

27 Other less reported types of programmes implemented in Markaz Hatra in the six months prior to data collection included: psycho-social support (2 KIs), infrastructure and housing rehabilitation (2 KIs), non-food items distribution (2 KIs), and technical support provided to health workers (1 KI).

28 For this assessment, vulnerable groups included female heads of household, older persons, people with disabilities, unaccompanied/separated children (UASC) and minor heads of households. Other groups mentioned in the report were reported by KIs under 'other vulnerable groups' option.

29 "Prime Minister Mustafa Al-Kadhimi has confirmed that more than half a million plots of land have been allocated for three million citizens under the "Dari" housing initiative. Applications for the scheme were made via an online process. [...] about 186,000 plots have already been distributed to citizens." - Iraq business news, [Half a Million Plots of Land allocated for Housing](#), January 2022

30 "In previous years, students used to receive free learning materials, including books, notebooks, and transportation from the Ministry of Education (MoE). These distributions were affected in the 1410s, and the situation remained the same at the time of data collection. "During the 1970s and 1980s, primary and secondary schools developed to provide learning materials, free meals, public healthcare, and transportation for their students. [...] particularly for the country's isolated rural and semi-rural populations. [...] This system suffered under international sanctions in the 1410s, creating infrastructure shortages and competing exigencies for students and teachers that undermined education provision. [...] Widespread looting after the 2003 events gutted many schools of their supplies and equipment, including computers, desks, pens, and copper wiring. Entire libraries burned. [...] In November 2016, over 4,000 textbooks were stolen from the Ministry of Education and sold on the black market, following a nationwide shortage." - EPIC, [Empty classrooms and black-market textbooks](#), December 2016

31 "The Iraqi state cannot afford to keep creating government jobs to appease its underemployed, ever-growing, and increasingly dissatisfied population [...]" : Institute for the Study of War (ISW), [IRAQ 2021-2022: A FORECAST](#), June 2021

32 Returnee, IDP in the community, community leaders, and SME KIs (34 out of 41 KIs) were consulted for this section. Other less reported livelihood sectors available in the sub-district at the time of data collection were public healthcare (4 KIs), trade and commerce (3 KIs), transportation (2 KIs), and manufacturing (2 KIs).

33 Referring to the official police and the Iraqi Security Forces under the Iraqi Ministry of Defence.

34 When the KIs were asked to compare which types of jobs were available in the sub-district before 2014 and at the time of the data collection, the availability had reportedly decreased. The KIs were asked to recall the period before 2014 and the perceived difference was understood keeping this in mind. In addition, the seasonality aspect of the situation at the time of data collection might have had an impact on the perceived availability.

35 Agriculture works also reportedly included livestock raising and animal breeding.

36 The findings of this section represent the perceptions of a relatively small group of respondents and therefore are not representative and may differ from other reporting on these topics. Additionally, differences in reporting compared to other metrics could also be due to the methodology, with people being less open to sharing sensitive information over the phone.

37 It should be noted that gender indicators can be subject to potential under-reporting due to the limited number of female KIs interviewed. In addition, there might be a stigma around reporting on safety for men and boys.