

IRAQ MULTI-CLUSTER NEEDS ASSESSMENT BRIEF

DECEMBER 2019

CONTEXT AND METHODOLOGY

This document highlights **key findings** from the Multi-Cluster Needs Assessment (MCNA) carried out in Iraq in 2019. The 2019 MCNA was conducted within the framework of the **Iraq Assessment Working Group (AWG)**, to provide a nationwide, impartial, and evidence-based overview and understanding of the **needs of conflict-affected populations**, to further strategic planning within the **2020 Humanitarian Planning Cycle (HPC)**.

Findings presented in this brief are based on an analytical approach proposed by REACH for the 2019 MCNA, which incorporates elements of the draft Joint Inter-Analysis Framework (JIAF), and on a **Multisectoral Needs Index (MSNI)** developed to classify a household's severity of needs in each sector. The index is based on the inability to meet immediate sectoral needs (Living Standards Gaps), the use of negative coping strategies (Capacity Gap), and household-level impact of the crisis, thus giving a **crisis-specific indication of the severity of needs**¹.

Within the framework of the AWG, MCNA tools and indicators were developed following consultations with the relevant **11 clusters and sub-clusters** active

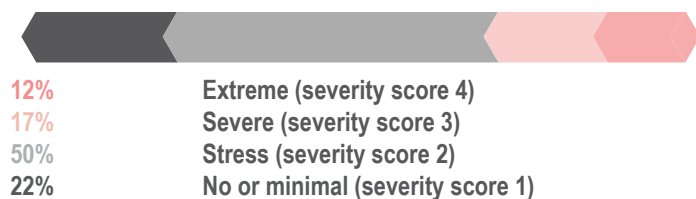
in Iraq, in line, to the extent possible, with the draft JIAF. In parallel, the scope of the MCNA was decided following discussions with the **United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)**. Preliminary findings were then shared bilaterally with each cluster and a second round of analysis of MCNA data was conducted in line with OCHA global guidance. This data was used to provide MSNI calculations as presented in this brief.

In Iraq, this seventh round of MCNA was implemented through a **nationwide statistically representative household survey** for which data was collected between mid-June and mid-August 2019. A total of **13,086 Internally Displaced Person (IDP) and returnee households** across Iraq were surveyed. REACH, together with **19 partners**, provided support to the AWG by contributing to the data collection process, which covered all accessible districts with a set threshold of target populations. Findings are generalizable with a 90% level of confidence and 10% margin of error at the district level for out-of-camp IDP households and returnee households, and at the camp level for in-camp IDP households.

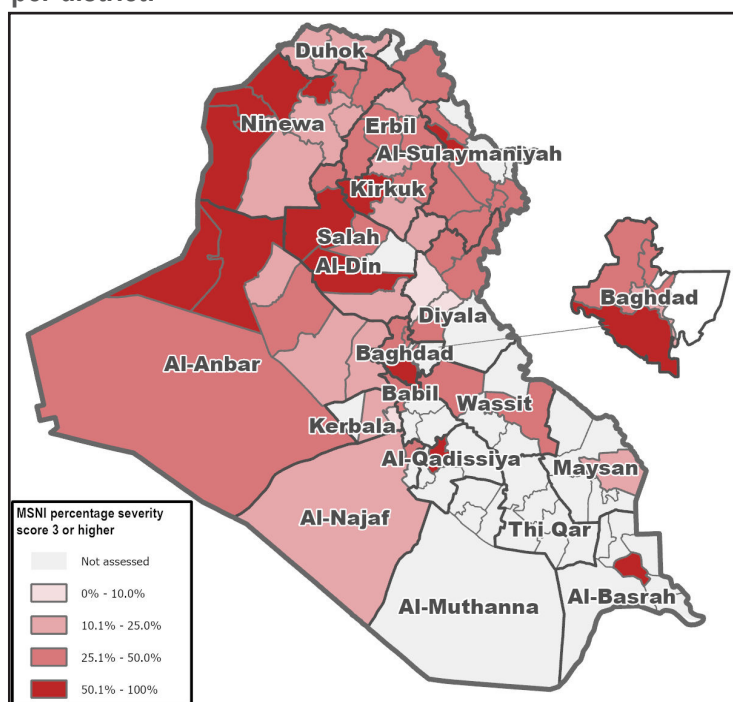
MULTISECTORAL NEEDS INDEX (MSNI)

1.77 million people² (29% of households) were found to have severe or extreme severity of needs.³

% of households per severity of needs:



% of households with severe or extreme severity of needs, per district:



Primary drivers:

For **42%** of households with severe or extreme severity of needs in Iraq, the primary drivers of needs were sectoral needs in **emergency livelihoods, and/or water, sanitation and hygiene, and/or food security**.



For **12%** of households with severe or extreme severity of needs, the primary driver of needs was the use of **negative coping strategies** to cover basic needs.



For **40%** of households with severe or extreme severity of needs, the primary drivers of needs were sectoral needs in **health and protection, and/or health and shelter, and/or protection and shelter**.



For **6%** of households with severe or extreme severity of needs, the primary drivers of needs were sectoral needs in **health or shelter or protection and the direct impact of the crisis**.



¹ The MSNI and LSGs were contextualised to each crisis context which has to be considered when comparing crises.

² Taken from OCHA's calculations of People in Need (PiN) based on MCNA data. Available in the [2020 Iraq Humanitarian Needs Overview \(HNO\)](#).

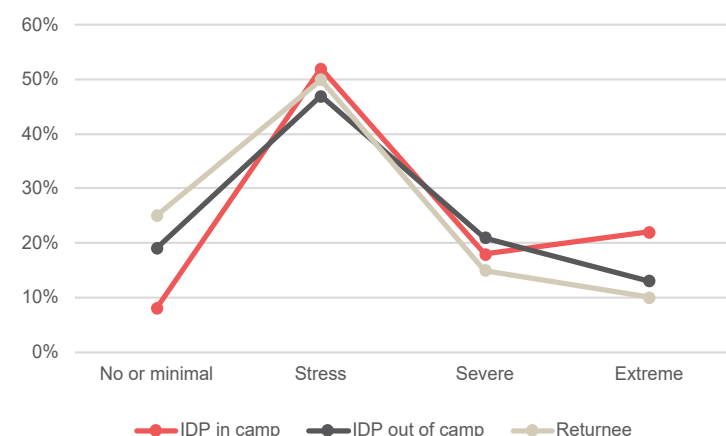
³ MSNI severity score of at least 3.

POPULATION GROUPS

% of households with severe or extreme severity of needs, per population group:

In-camp IDP households	40%	
Out-of-camp IDP households	34%	
Returnee households	26%	

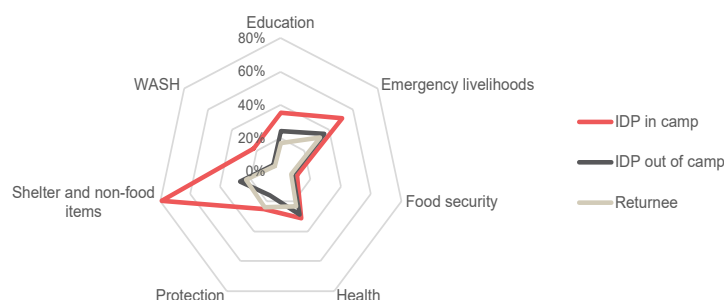
% of households, by severity of needs per population group:



SECTORAL NEEDS

82% of households were found to have severe or extreme sectoral needs in one or more sectors.⁴

% of households with severe or extreme sectoral needs, per population group:



Besides a **severe or extreme sectoral need in shelter** for a high proportion of **in-camp IDP households**, the proportions of households across all three population groups with **severe or extreme sectoral needs** were found highest in **livelihoods** (employment and income) and **health** (access to essential services).

⁴ LSG severity score of at least 3.

MCNA TIMELINE



IMPACT OF MCNA FINDINGS

*“The MCNA facilitates a **deep understanding** of the **humanitarian situation and evolution of needs since 2015**. Furthermore, in support of, and reinforced by the MCNA process, the humanitarian community in Iraq has a more **robust understanding** of critical indicators to include in jointly-conducted needs assessments.”*

- Iraq Humanitarian Needs Overview 2020

167 references in the Humanitarian Needs Overview 2020

19 partners involved in data collection

REACH facilitates the development of information tools and products that enhance the capacity of aid actors to make evidence-based decisions in emergency, recovery and development contexts. All REACH activities are conducted through inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms. REACH is a joint initiative of IMPACT, its sister-organisation ACTED and the United Nations Operational Satellite Applications Programme UNOSAT.

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