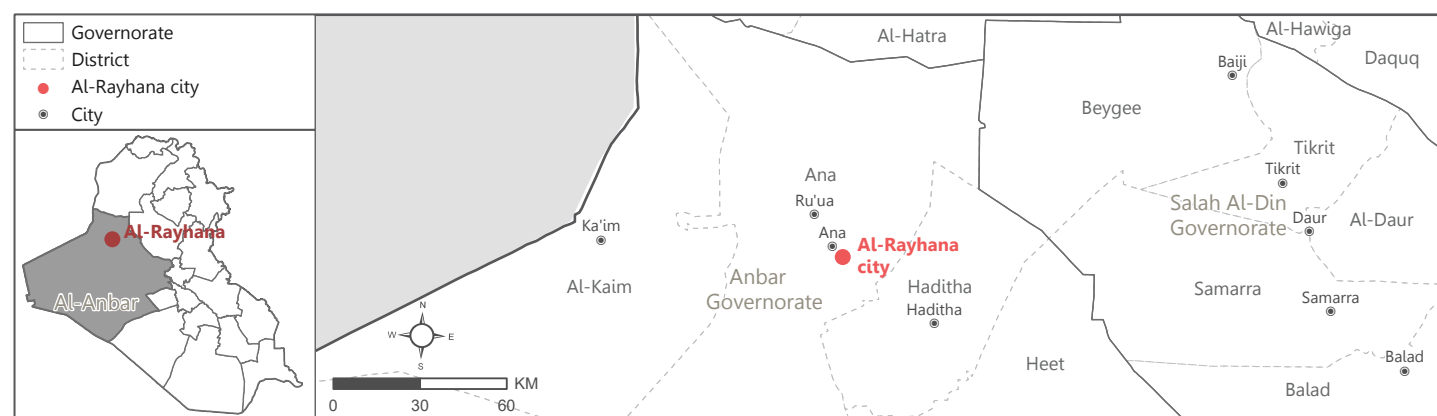


Situation Overview

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.¹ The [International Organization for Migration \(IOM\) Displacement Tracking Matrix \(DTM\)](#)'s returnee master list recorded over 4.97 million individuals returning to their AoOs across the country, as of August 2022.

Increased returns and secondary displacement were driven primarily by the closure, consolidation, and reclassification of IDP camps.² Between January and August 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.³ 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.

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.⁸ For example, IOM has collected data on a bi-monthly basis, found in the [IOM DTM Returns Index](#). This tool provides indicative findings 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 Al-Rayhana Sub-district to provide an in-depth profiling of needs and understanding of social relationships between remainee,⁹ returnee,¹⁰ and IDP populations.¹¹

Al-Rayhana Sub-district

Al-Rayhana is a sub-district of Ana District, located in Anbar Governorate. The sub-district lies on the west bank of the Euphrates River, south of the city of Ana.⁴ In June 2014, Ana District came under the control of the so-called Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL).⁵ The Iraqi forces and their allies liberated Ana District from ISIL control in September 2017.⁶

Reported Population Profile⁷

1,193-1,427	households* were residing in Al-Rayhana before the events of 2014.
92%-96%	of households* in Al-Rayhana were displaced after 2014.
88%-93%	households* had returned to Al-Rayhana at the time of data collection.
33-47	IDP households* were displaced in Al-Rayhana at the time of data collection.

* Data reflects the lowest and highest estimates given by KIs.







Al-Rayhana Sub-district was selected for the assessment as it was reportedly an area of interest for the Area Based Coordination (ABC) group in West Anbar and various stakeholders reported the sub-district being underserved. The findings are based on 55 key informant (KI) interviews conducted between 23 and 27 August 2022, combining qualitative and quantitative data collection methods adapted to the context.¹² Findings are not generalisable with a known level of precision and should be considered indicative only. Data collection was conducted remotely by phone, which facilitates rapid access to information to be shared with implementing partners.

KI Profile

Al-Rayhana Sub-district

Subject matter experts (SMEs) ¹³	13 KIs	<div></div>
Returnees (more than 3 months ago) ¹⁴	10 KIs	<div></div>
Returnees (less than 3 months ago) ¹⁵	8 KIs	<div></div>
IDPs from the community ¹⁶	8 KIs	<div></div>
IDPs in the community ¹⁷	8 KIs	<div></div>
Community leaders ¹⁸	8 KIs	<div></div>

Key findings

-  **Recent returns** reportedly had a **positive impact on the community**, giving the perception of **improved quality of basic services, safety and security, increased economic activity, and reactivation of the agriculture sector in the area**.
-  Reportedly, **expected returns may positively impact the private sector, access to basic services, and social bonds** between households in the sub-district.
-  **Most households** in the sub-district reportedly resided in **owned houses** and **had housing, land, and property (HLP) documents** proving ownership, while the majority of **IDP households in Al-Rayhana** reportedly resided in **houses under verbal rental agreement**, therefore, under a **less secure form of housing tenure**.
-  **Access to housing and housing rehabilitation** in Al-Rayhana was one of the **most reported barriers for returns**, the **third most commonly reported community need**, and the **second most needed activity to encourage further returns** to the sub-district.
-  **Further efforts to support livelihoods, healthcare, housing rehabilitation and access to public water services** were frequently reported as **primary community needs** by SME, community leader, returnee, and IDP (from and in the community) KIs.
-  The **most challenging basic public sector to access** was reportedly **healthcare**, followed by public water and education. Conditions at functional public healthcare centre (PHC), including shortages of medical personnel and medicine, were reportedly the main factors negatively impacting access to healthcare in the sub-district.
-  **Agriculture** was the most frequently reported **sector with the highest growth potential** in Al-Rayhana for the 12 months following data collection. However, it was reported to be negatively affected by climate change and lack of electricity at the time of data collection.
-  All IDP KIs from the community reported that **the majority of IDP households from Al-Rayhana may feel welcome or very welcome and accepted if they return** to their AoOs in the sub-district. The majority of the KIs reported that **these households did not feel integrated in their Areas of Destinations (AoDs)**.
-  IDP KIs from Al-Rayhana frequently reported that **most households from their respective group interacted with other population groups** in the sub-district.
-  Returnee KIs reported that **the majority of returnee households interacted with all groups** in the community and **felt welcome or very welcome** in Al-Rayhana. Also, three quarters of returnee KIs reported that **returnee households felt reintegrated in their AoOs**.
-  All IDP KIs in Al-Rayhana reported that **the majority of IDP households in the community felt welcome or very welcome** in the sub-district, and they **interacted with all groups**.²⁰ However, all KIs also reported that **these households did not feel integrated** in the sub-district.
-  Findings showed that **work relations and family and social bonds** were the most commonly reported **ways of interacting** between returnees and IDPs from/in Al-Rayhana.
-  **Tribal leaders** were reportedly the **most effective bodies in resolving disputes within the sub-district**, while formal security forces²¹ and local authorities were the most commonly reported bodies in effectively resolving disputes between the sub-district and other areas. The vast majority of returnee and IDP KIs from/in the community reported that **the presence of formal security forces** in the sub-district **positively influenced households' perceptions on safety and security** in Al-Rayhana.

Findings are based on the perceptions of the 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 return movements

All KIs were consulted for this section (55 KIs). The majority of the KIs (44 out of 55 KIs) reported there were **no recent returns** to Al-Rayhana in the six months prior to data collection. However, 11 KIs reported that returns occurred in the six months prior to data collection.

Recent returns from non-camp areas

4-5 households²² reportedly **returned** to their AoOs in the sub-district in the six months prior to data collection (11 out of 55 KIs).

These movement occurred from non-camp areas in various districts in Anbar Governorate, namely from Al-Fallujah (3 out of 10 KIs), Haditha (3 KIs), Ramadi (3 KIs), and Al-Kaim (1 KI). Additionally, recent returns also occurred from non-camp areas in Ninewa and Erbil governorates.

Recent returns from camps

3-5 households²² reportedly **returned** to their AoOs in the sub-district from Qayyarah Jad'ah 5 camp in Ninewa Governorate, in the six months prior to data collection (1 KI).

Reported drivers for recent returns

Findings showed that pull factors in AoRs influencing the decisions of households to return reportedly included:²³

Nostalgia from their previous life	6 KIs	<div></div>
Perceived increase in safety and security	4 KIs	<div></div>
Availability of job opportunities in AoOs	2 KIs	<div></div>
Following the return of other family members	1 KI	<div></div>

Reported impact of recent returns

The vast majority of the KIs reporting the occurrence of recent returns (10 out of 11 KIs) also reported that these movements impacted the community of Al-Rayhana. One SME KI did not answer about how returns affected the sub-district in the six months prior to data collection.

Positive impacts of recent returns

The majority of the KIs reporting the occurrence of recent returns (9 out of 11 KIs) also reported that these movements had **positive impacts** in the community of Al-Rayhana. Reportedly, these movements positively affected the community perceptions on safety and security (5 out of 9 KIs), economic activity and the private sector (5 KIs), the agricultural sector (3 KIs), and access to quality services (2 KIs).

Impact on safety and security perceptions

According to two KIs, recent returns ensured an increase in the population of the sub-district. This reportedly enhanced the perceptions of community members on safety and security, which may encourage other households to return (2 KIs). Additionally, one returnee KI reported that returnee households can report suspicious actions to the security forces and facilitate their role of protecting the community of Al-Rayhana.

"The security forces present in the area did not report any suspicious movements or security breaches, as individuals residing in the area are ready to report any suspicious actions as soon as they notice them. When the area is inhabited by community members who are cooperative, this will support the role of the security forces to protect the population in the sub-district."

– Returnee KI –

Impact on the economic activity and the private sector

A few KIs (3 KIs) reported that recent returns supported the restoration of economic life in the sub-district by increasing trade activities and increasing access to the products to be sold in the local market. Another three KIs reported that the variety and quantity of available food products, which were in increased demand, enhanced with the reopening of shops. A few KIs also reported that some shops and markets reopened with the return of their owners, ensuring some job opportunities in the sub-district (2 KIs).

"The only challenge that the families faced when they returned to the sub-district was how to support themselves after they spent all their money during displacement. Households from the sub-district improved their skills when in displacement, so when they returned, they opened their old shops and started trading. Gradually, their lives went back to normal [as they were before 2014]."

– SME KI –

Impact on the agricultural sector

According to a few KIs (3 KIs), recent returns positively affected the agricultural sector through:

- » Increased sales of local agricultural products in the local market (3 KIs),
- » Reclaimed agricultural lands and their re-cultivation (1 KI),
- » Reopened fishing lakes (1 KI), and
- » Increased investment in the area, especially in agriculture (1 KI).

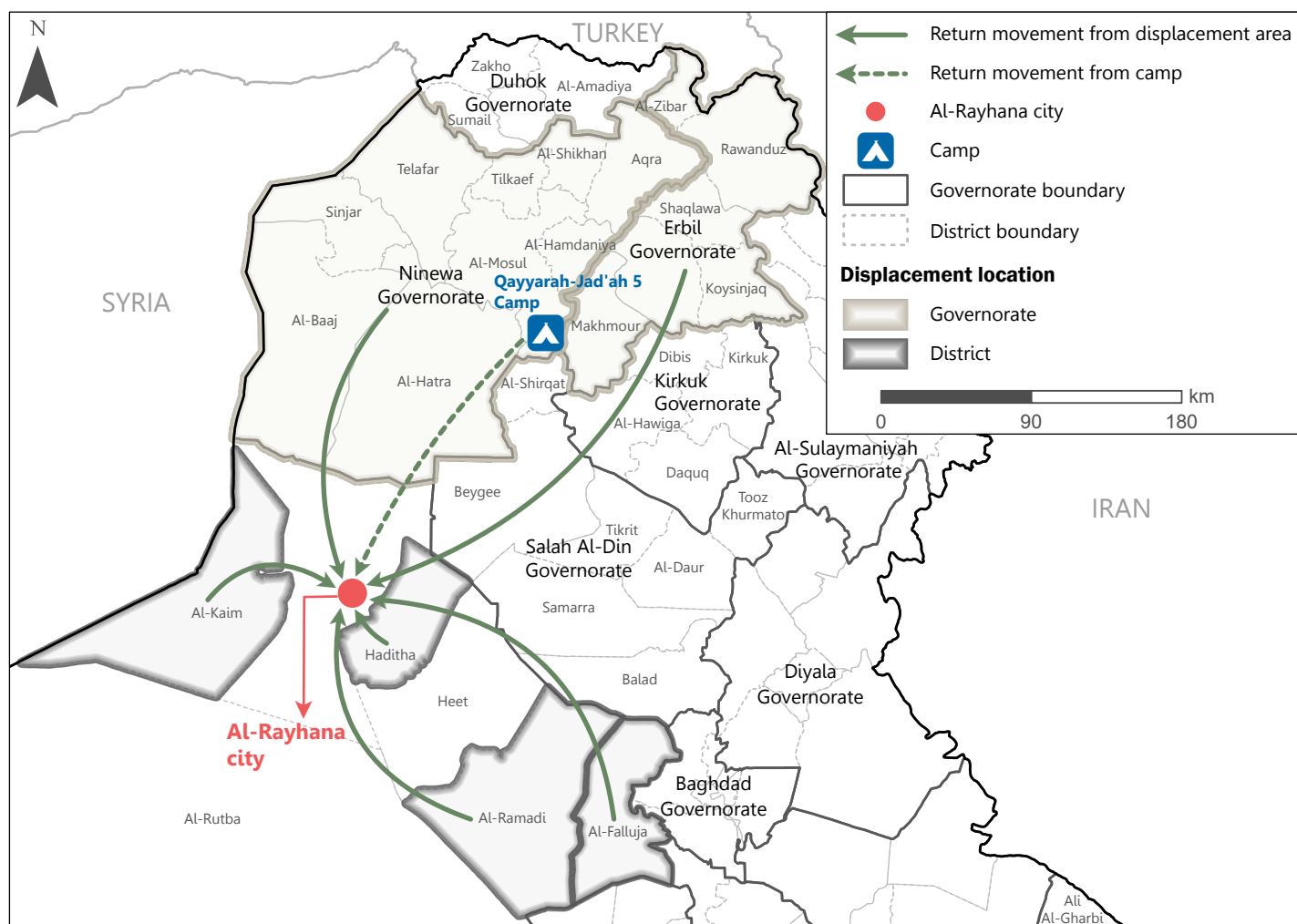
Impact on the quality of services in the sub-district

Additionally, one returnee KI reported that the return of experienced professionals increased the quality of services offered in the sub-district.

Negative impact of recent returns

According to one community leader KI, returnee households with alleged links to ISIL were not welcome in the sub-district and were considered a risk for the community.

Map 2. Recent return movements to Al-Rayhana Sub-district (in the six months prior to data collection)



Family separation

Returnee, IDP from the community, community leader, and SME KIs were consulted for this section (47 out of 55 KIs). The majority of consulted KIs reported no cases of family separation in the sub-district (32 out of 47 KIs) or did not know about family separation cases (13 KIs). However, two KIs reported that **some adult male family members remained in displacement** at the time of data collection, namely adult sons, due to the lack of job opportunities in the sub-district and their availability in AoDs.

Most commonly reported reunification plans

According to two KIs, the most common reunification plan was related to potential returns when job opportunities were available in the sub-district.

"When job opportunities are available for people in their areas of origin, they will return."

– Community leader KI –

Barriers for further returns

All KIs (55 KIs) reported the presence of factors which could block/delay further returns to the sub-district.

Reported barriers for further returns (out of 55 KIs)²³

Access to livelihoods and basic public services

Limited availability of job opportunities	42 KIs
Limited access to basic services	26 KIs

Access to housing and housing rehabilitation

Destroyed/damaged housing	41 KIs
Lack of HLP documentation to claim housing	2 KIs
House being rented in AoOs	1 KI

Access to safety and security

Fear of being perceived as affiliated with ISIL	10 KIs
Security concerns in AoOs	2 KIs
Denied security clearance ²⁴	1 KI

Additionally, a few KIs reported that other barriers for further returns included the fear of contracting COVID-19 (1 KI) and some household members lacking personal documentation needed for security clearance, crossing checkpoints, and accessing livelihoods and basic services (1 KI).

Expected return movements

All KIs were consulted for this section (55 KIs) and they reported **not expecting additional returns** to the sub-district in the six months following data collection.

Reported impact of expected returns

Over two thirds of the KIs (39 out of 55 KIs) reported that further returns to the sub-district in the six months following data collection may have impacts on the community of Al-Rayhana.

Expected positive impacts

Almost three quarters of the KIs reporting potential impacts of further returns (27 out of 39 KIs) also reported that these movements may have positive impacts in the community of Al-Rayhana. Reportedly, these movements may positively impact the private sector (12 KIs), access to job opportunities through housing reconstruction projects for returnee households (11 KIs), the public service sector (10 KIs), the social life in the sub-district (9 KIs), and the agricultural sector (5 KIs).

Impact on the private sector

According to seven KIs, the return of skilled workers, namely blacksmiths and carpenters, may increase the quality of services in Al-Rayhana and increase the availability of job opportunities when they reopen their workshops. Reportedly, this may increase the demand for their services and revitalize commercial activity (5 KIs). A few KIs (3 KIs) reported that investment in Al-Rayhana may increase, and new businesses may be opened. A few KIs reported that some household members may return to their previous businesses increasing the variety of services and suppliers (2 KIs). Regarding real estate in the private sector, one IDP KI from the community reported that returnee households with damaged shelters rented houses from host community members, which ensured landlords had improved incomes.

Impact on the public service sector

Reportedly, healthcare and education professionals may be among the returnee households, and their return may contribute to increasing the quality of services available in the sub-district (10 KIs). Additionally, one returnee KI emphasized the potential reopening of schools in the sub-district with the return of experienced education personnel.

Impact on the social life in the sub-district

According to eight KIs, further returns to the sub-district will increase the number of households in the sub-district ensuring the re-population of abandoned villages. These KIs also reported that returnee households may rebuild the social bonds and relationships with their neighbours. Additionally, five KIs reported that cases of family reunification may occur.

"Their return is positive, they will be back to their families, their homes, their clans, their friends and relatives."

– IDP KI in the community –

"The life will return to normal [as it was before 2014] through the return of households to Al-Rayhana. The area is of a clan nature, there is affection between clan members, therefore their return brings life back to the community."

– IDP KI from the community –

Impact on the agricultural sector

KIs reported that returning farmers may reclaim their agricultural lands in the sub-district (4 KIs). These KIs also reported that the re-cultivation of the lands may increase the trade of crops and increase the commercial exchange with other locations outside the sub-district. Additionally, a few KIs also reported believing that experienced farmers may be among returnee households, and this may support the revitalisation of the agricultural sector in Al-Rayhana (3 KIs).

Expected negative impacts

One third of the KIs reporting potential impacts of further returns (13 out of 39 KIs) also reported that these movements may have negative impacts in the community of Al-Rayhana. The vast majority of these KIs (10 out of 12 KIs) reported that further returns may negatively affect the security situation in the sub-district.

Impact on the safety and security perceptions

According to 10 KIs, some IDP households had alleged links to ISIL. These KIs also reported the presence of outstanding intercommunal disputes, and the return of this specific household profile may increase tensions between them and the host communities. Therefore, additional security measures may be reportedly imposed in the sub-district negatively affecting the feeling of safety for the households residing there (5 KIs). Additionally, one SME KI reported the potential return of female headed households with alleged links to ISIL, which would represent a social burden for the community in Al-Rayhana.

"Most of those who did not return to the sub-district are wanted either by the security forces or by a clan. If they return, clan problems will arise, and this will create chaos in the area and reduce security."

– IDP KI in community –

On other hand, two community leader KIs reported the need for further efforts to reintegrate those households who had at least one member with alleged links to ISIL.

"There are several families who have a family member who was with ISIL. They must return to be reintegrate within the community and for their children to return to school and to rescue them from the darkness."

– Community leader KI –

Impact on access to job opportunities

A few KIs (3 KIs) reported that further returns may negatively affect access to job opportunities with increased competition for the limited available jobs.

Impact on access to food items

Additionally, one returnee KI reported that further returns may negatively affect access to food items which were limited in the sub-district due to the slow revitalization of the agricultural sector.

Primary community needs

Most reported primary community needs in Al-Rayhana at the time of data collection (out of 55 KIs)^{23, 25}

	First Need	Second Need	Third Need
Livelihoods	27 KIs	9 KIs	4 KIs
Healthcare	13 KIs	17 KIs	9 KIs
Housing rehabilitation	5 KIs	10 KIs	8 KIs
Water	6 KIs	9 KIs	3 KIs
Waste collection, disposal, and management	1 KI	3 KIs	2 KIs
Electricity	0 KIs	3 KIs	3 KIs
Education	2 KIs	1 KI	1 KI

The most commonly reported primary community need was **access to livelihoods** (40 out of 55 KIs). Reportedly, the lack of job opportunities and the high unemployment rate among graduated youth (26 out of 40 KIs) was affecting access to livelihoods. See section on access to livelihoods on pages 11.

The second most commonly reported primary community need was **access to healthcare** (39 out of 55 KIs). KIs reported that access to healthcare was mainly affected by the shortage of medical staff (13 out of 39 KIs) and medicine (11 KIs), mainly attributed to the neglect by the local government of the public healthcare sector (12 KIs). See section on access to basic public services on page 8.

The third most commonly reported primary community need was **access to housing rehabilitation** (23 out of 55 KIs). Almost three quarters of reporting KIs (17 out of 23 KIs) reported that access to housing rehabilitation was mainly affected by the high level of housing damage in the sub-district at the time of data collection, representing a high cost for rehabilitation. See section on access to housing and housing rehabilitation on page 7.

Most commonly reported primary community needs per KI profile at the time of data collection^{23, 26}

Community leader KIs (out of 8 KIs)	SME KIs (out of 13 KIs)	IDP KIs from the community (out of 8 KIs)	IDP KIs in the community (out of 8 KIs)	Returnee KIs (out of 18 KIs)
Livelihoods 8 KIs	Healthcare 12 KIs	House rehab 5 KIs	Livelihoods 8 KIs	Healthcare 13 KIs
Healthcare 7 KIs	Livelihoods 10 KIs	Healthcare 4 KIs	House rehab 5 KIs	Livelihoods 10 KIs
Water 3 KIs	House rehab 4 KIs	Livelihoods 4 KIs	Healthcare 3 KIs	House rehab 7 KIs
House rehab 2 KIs	Water 4 KIs	Water 4 KIs	Water 1 KI	Water 6 KIs

Access to durable solutions assistance²⁷ and impact on returns

Returnee, IDP in community, community leader, and SME KIs were consulted for this section (47 out of 55 KIs). All consulted KIs reported that **there were humanitarian and development activities or projects implemented** in Al-Rayhana in the six months prior to data collection. **Infrastructure rehabilitation** projects were the most reported activity implemented in the sub-district in the six months prior to data collection (35 KIs).

Most reported activities implemented in Al-Rayhana in the six months prior to data collection (out of 39 KIs)^{23, 28}

Infrastructure rehabilitation	35 KIs
Livelihoods	13 KIs
Reconciliation and social cohesion	9 KIs
Water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH)	8 KIs
COVID-19 awareness sessions	3 KIs

Activities' implementers

Over three quarters of consulted KIs (37 out of 47 KIs) also reported that these **activities or projects were mainly implemented by local authorities**, followed by humanitarian and durable solution actors (27 KIs). A few KIs also reported that security actors were involved in the implementation of social cohesion initiatives, livelihoods programmes, and infrastructure rehabilitation (2 KIs).

Reported groups' participation in activities

Almost two thirds of consulted KIs (29 out of 47 KIs) reported that there were **no groups less likely to be involved in activities or projects** in the sub-district. According to 18 KIs, IDPs from the community were least likely to participate in these activities or projects.²⁹

Regarding vulnerable groups,³⁰ over one third of consulted KIs (18 KIs) reported believing that **persons with disabilities** (17 KIs) and older persons (3 KIs) were less involved in activities or projects compared to other vulnerable groups.

Durable solutions assistance as a factor to encourage returns

Returnee and IDP KIs from the community were consulted for this section (26 out of 55 KIs). Almost two thirds of consulted KIs (16 out of 26 KIs) reported that the **availability of durable solutions assistance would be a factor encouraging returns** to Al-Rayhana. **Livelihood programmes** were identified by KIs as the **most needed to encourage further returns** (23 KIs). The rest of the KIs reported that the availability of durable solutions assistance was not a factor encouraging returns to the sub-district (7 KIs) or did not know about this subject (3 KIs).

Perceptions on access to housing, housing rehabilitation, and compensation

Returnee, IDP in community, community leader, and SME KIs were consulted for this section (47 out of 55 KIs). All consulted KIs reported that most households in Al-Rayhana resided in houses.

Types of tenure and housing agreement

Findings showed that **most households in the sub-district** resided in **owned houses** (38 KIs). On the other hand, all IDP KIs in the community (8 KIs) reported that the majority of **IDP households in the community** resided in **houses under verbal rental agreement**, therefore, residing in **less secure tenure and housing arrangements**.

Additionally, all IDP KIs in the community reported that some IDP households in the community were residing in rented houses in Al-Rayhana because their own houses in their AoOs were still damaged or destroyed. Reportedly, these KIs were originally from Markaz Ana (4 KIs), Al-Obaidi (2 KIs), Markaz Al-Kaim (1 KI), and Rawa (1 KI) sub-districts.

Risk of eviction

Reportedly, there were households evicted in the six months prior to data collection in Al-Rayhana (4 KIs). The reported reasons included:

- » Households could not pay the rent (2 KIs),
- » Not having an official rental agreement with the landlord (1 KI), and
- » Households had members with confirmed COVID-19 infection (1 KI).

Additionally, **households with alleged links to ISIL** were reportedly more at **risk of eviction** than other vulnerable groups (14 KI).

Access to HLP documentation

All KIs reporting that households owned houses in the sub-district (38 KIs) also reported that these households **had HLP documents** to prove housing ownership.

Regarding IDP households from the community, the vast majority of IDP KIs (7 out of 8 KIs) reported that most IDP households from the community had HLP documents to prove housing ownership in their AoOs. These KIs were reportedly displaced in Markaz Ana (6 KIs) and Markaz Karkh (1 KI) sub-districts. However, according to one IDP KI from the community, some IDP households from Al-Rayhana did not have HLP documentation to prove housing ownership. The KI was reportedly displaced in Markaz Ana Sub-district.

Access to housing rehabilitation

Returnee, IDP in community, community leader, and SME KIs were consulted for this section (47 out of 55 KIs).

50%-60% of houses²² in Al-Rayhana reportedly remained destroyed or damaged at the time of data collection.

Challenges to access housing rehabilitation

All KIs (55 KIs) reported that **most households faced challenges in accessing housing rehabilitation**. KIs reported that access to housing rehabilitation was mainly affected by the limited access to financial resources for housing rehabilitation (40 KIs), lack of government compensation for housing rehabilitation (30 KIs), existing factors affecting construction and reconstruction works (25 KIs), and limited shelter rehabilitation programmes led by NGOs (5 KIs).

"Upon return, we found demolished houses, as they were left for three or four years. The houses here are built of mud, and if you leave a mud house without maintenance for a while it will collapse. We saw several houses that collapsed on their owners."

– SME KI –

Limited access to financial resources for housing rehabilitation

According to 38 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 (10 KIs). Reportedly, this situation was also negatively affected by the lack of bank loans available for housing rehabilitation (21 KIs).

Lack of government compensation for rehabilitation

- » Compensation claims were not processed, or transactions were not delivered to affected households (29 KIs),
- » Lack of awareness on how to access government compensation mechanisms (15 KIs),
- » Compensation process was complex (14 KIs),
- » Lack of legal assistance for affected households to present their claims (14 KIs),
- » Neglect from the relevant institutions to monitor the existing compensation mechanisms (3 KIs),
- » Affected households were forced to pay bribes to complete their compensation claims process (1 KI), and
- » Affected households were forced to travel to the governorate capital to present their compensation claims (1 KI).

Challenges for construction and reconstruction works in the sub-district

- » Lack of projects led by the local or central government to rehabilitate damaged houses in the sub-district (20 KIs) and
- » Inflated prices for construction materials (5 KIs).

Strategies adopted by affected households

According to 10 KIs, affected households adopted several strategies to cope with housing damage. These reportedly included affected households:

- » Remaining displaced due to housing damage (8 KIs),
- » Renting houses which was perceived as unsustainable (1 KI), and
- » Rehabilitating their damaged houses on credit, which increased their debts (1 KI).

KI recommendations to enhance access to housing rehabilitation

The vast majority of the KIs (54 out of 55 KIs) reported the need to provide financial support to affected households for housing rehabilitation led by the local government or NGOs. Additionally, 25 KIs recommended to the local government and NGOs to launch housing rehabilitation projects in the sub-district and for the government to ensure that affected households had timely and facilitated access to compensation (1 KI).

Perceptions on access to basic public services

All KIs (55 KIs) reported that most households in the sub-district faced challenges in accessing basic public services. Access to **public healthcare** was reportedly **the most challenging** (47 out of 55 KIs).

Reported basic public services challenging to access at the time of data collection (out of 55 KIs)²³

Healthcare	47 KIs	<div></div>
Electricity	29 KIs	<div></div>
Water	20 KIs	<div></div>
Education	18 KIs	<div></div>
Waste disposal	5 KIs	<div></div>

Challenges to access basic public services

All KIs (55 KIs) reported that most households faced challenges in accessing basic public services. General challenges affecting households access to basic public services were reportedly related to the high level of public infrastructure damage in the sub-district and the need to remove debris to start reconstruction works (9 KIs). In addition, one returnee KI reported that access to basic services was negatively affected by the lack of NGOs to support with the provision of these services and the lack of budget allocation for the development of the public sector in the sub-district.

Access to public healthcare services

The vast majority of the KIs (51 out of 55 KIs) reported that most households faced challenges in accessing public healthcare services. The most reported challenges were related to the conditions at functional public health centre PHC (48 KIs), the absence of a hospital in the sub-district (19 KIs), and the limited support to the health sector in Al-Rayhana (18 KIs).

Conditions at functional PHC

Conditions negatively affecting the operation of the PHC reportedly included:

- » Shortage of medical personnel namely doctors and specialised staff, and the lack of experience among available staff (41 KIs),
- » Shortage of medicine, especially those for more complex treatments (39 KIs),
- » The functional PHC was not sufficient to cover the population's demand for healthcare (14 KIs),

- » Limited available medical equipment, tools, and supplies (such as ultrasounds) and a lack of laboratory tests at the PHC (6 KIs),
- » Limited operational hours for medical services at the PHC (5 KIs), and
- » Lack of emergency department at the PHC (4 KIs).

Coping strategies adopted and practices implemented by households to enhance access to healthcare

Over half of the KIs reporting challenges in accessing public healthcare services (21 KIs) also reported that, to cope with the deteriorated healthcare situation, households in the sub-district resorted to:

- » Travel to Markaz Ana hospital to access specialised doctors, treatment, and medicines (18 KIs). However, two KIs also reported that Markaz Anna Hospital lacked some of the equipment needed for more complex tests;
- » Visit private outpatient clinics in the sub-district at high prices (5 KIs). One SME KI reported that households with less financial resources could not afford the cost of private medical services; and
- » Purchase medicines from private pharmacies at high prices (2 KIs).

Additionally, one SME KI reported that some households with members suffering specific medical conditions preferred to remain in displacement to access healthcare in their AoDs. According to two KIs patients needing surgeries had to travel to Ramadi Hospital.

"There is no hospital in the sub-district. We are forced to go to a modern hospital [in Ana], and the long distance and cost of the rented car affects the families."

– Returnee KI –

"The hospital in Ana is about three kilometers away from Al-Rayhana, and major medical surgeries are not available."

– Returnee KI –

KI recommendations to enhance access to public healthcare services

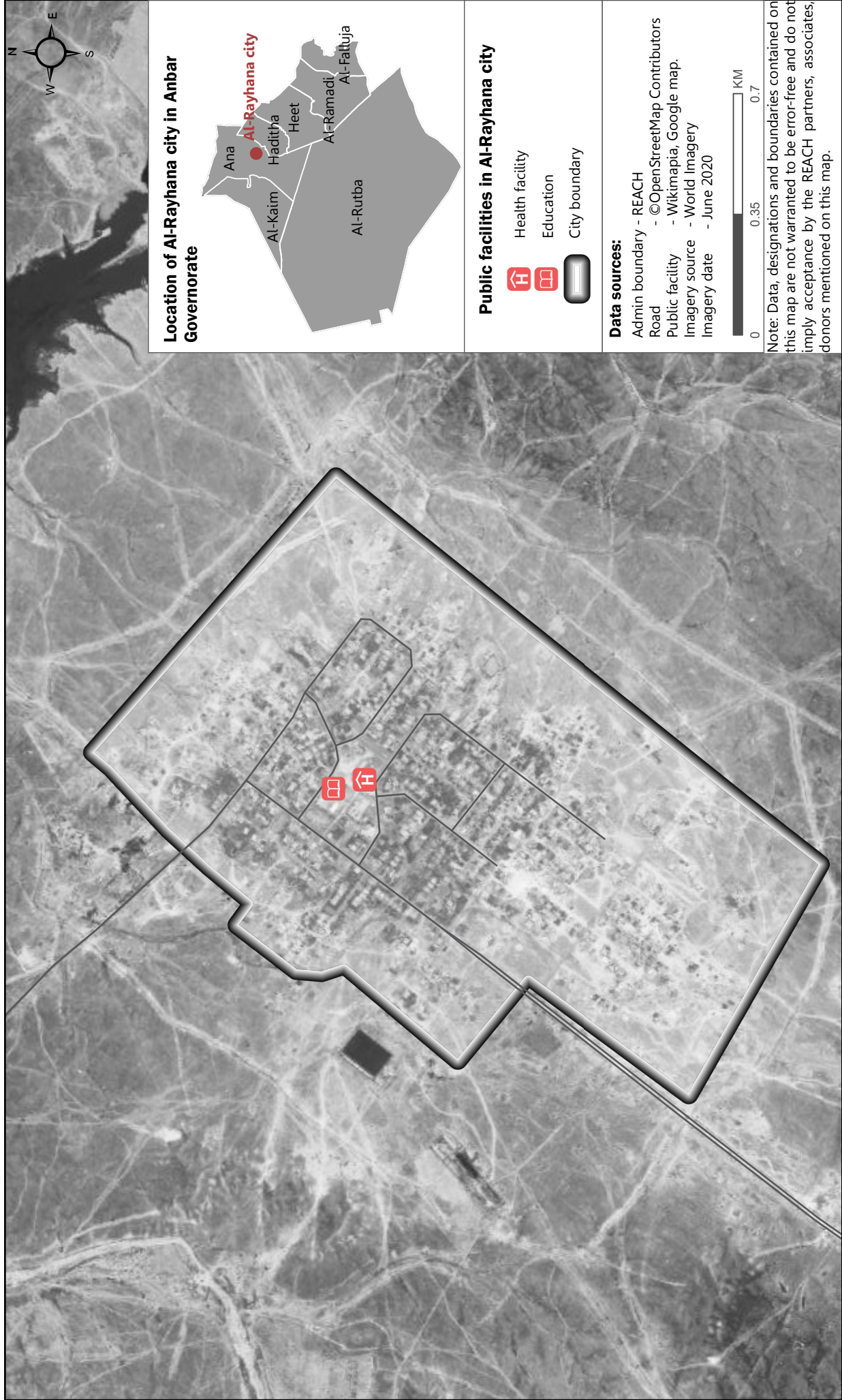
A number of recommendations were made by consulted KIs (28 KIs), which included:

- » Build a hospital in the sub-district (18 KIs),
- » Allocate medical specialised personnel for the PHC in the sub-district (17 KIs),
- » Ensure the provision of medicines and vaccines to the existing PHC (16 KIs),
- » Provide medical equipment to the PHC (5 KIs), and
- » Build additional PHCs in the area to cover the needs of the population (4 KIs).

Access to public water services

Almost two thirds of the KIs (33 out of 55 KIs) reported that most households faced challenges in accessing public water services and clean water. The most reported challenge included low water quality (18 KIs) and quantity (16 KIs).

Map 3. Basic public services providers in Al-Rayhana city



Limited access to improved water sources

Reportedly, the water treatment plants and water filtration stations in Al-Rayhana were damaged/destroyed during the conflict in 2014 and the operating ones were malfunctioning at the time of data collection (17 KIs). Consequently, this negatively affected the quality of potable water at household level (13 KIs).

Limited access to sufficient water

According to 10 KIs, the water complex and network needed rehabilitation, and – in some cases – extension to reach some affected neighbourhoods. Several KIs (7 KIs) also reported that access to sufficient water was negatively affected by the limited capacity of the water complex. Additionally, KIs reported that the sub-district suffered water scarcity due to a decrease in water level of Haditha Lake³¹ and the Euphrates River caused by climate change (5 KIs).³² A few KIs (3 KIs) reported believing that access to sufficient water was also affected by the increased population after returns. In addition, one returnee KI reported that the lack of water negatively affected the irrigation of agricultural lands.

Coping strategies adopted by affected households

A few KIs (3 KIs) reported that households in the sub-district resorted to:

- » Purchasing bottled water for drinking purposes (3 KIs),
- » Digging illegal water wells for domestic use and the irrigation of agricultural lands (1 KI), and
- » Water trucking at inflated prices (1 KI).

Reportedly, to cope with the limited availability of water resources in the sub-district, local relevant authorities imposed a water rationing plan to provide water in shifts – mainly at night – to different neighbourhoods (3 KIs). In addition, one IDP KI from the community reported that some IDP households decided to remain displaced due to the lack of water in their AoOs.

KI recommendations to enhance access to public water services

According to 14 KIs, there were initiatives to be considered by the local government and NGOs to enhance the situation related to access to public water services in the sub-district. These reportedly included:

- » Rehabilitate the public water network and expand it to connect all households in neighbourhoods and villages in the sub-district (5 KIs),
- » Build additional water projects to increase the capacity of the existing water complex and meet the demand of the increased population (5 KIs),
- » Establish water treatment units in the sub-district to ensure water purification using water filtering units (4 KIs), and
- » Build or rehabilitate irrigation systems to support farmers in accessing water for their farms (1 KI).

Access to public education services

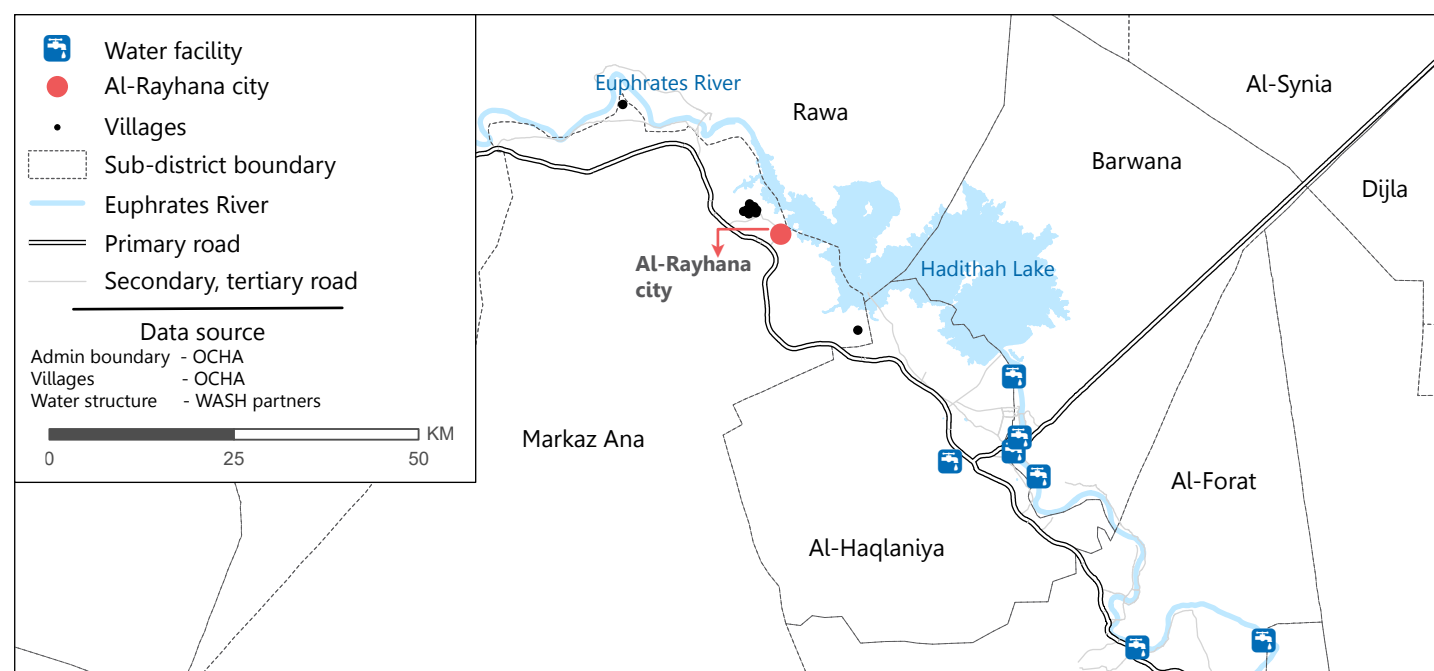
Over one quarter of the KIs (15 out of 55 KIs) reported that household members faced challenges in accessing public education services. The most reported challenges were related to the conditions at operating schools (9 KIs) and the lack of support from the relevant local authorities (2 KIs).

Conditions at functional schools

Conditions negatively affecting the operation of schools in the sub-district reportedly included:

- » Available schools operate below the minimum standards for ensuring students' safety (4 KIs),
- » Operating schools were overcrowded, did not meet the demand of students, and operated in more than one shift, morning and afternoon (3 KIs),
- » Secondary school students needed to travel to Markaz Ana to access schools which were far from their homes (3 KIs),

Map 4. Water facilities supplying Al-Rayhana Sub-district



- » Operating schools were located far from some villages affecting children's access to education due to challenges for households to cover transportation cost or fear about their children's safety and security (3 KIs), and
- » Shortage of education personnel, who remained in displacement (1 KI).

"Schools are not up to standard, there are no faucets in bathrooms, there is broken glass in the schools, and doors are not repaired."

– Returnee KI –

Lack of support from the relevant institutions for the education sector

According to one returnee KI, the lack of government support for students' transportation, books, and stationery negatively affected access to education in the sub-district.³⁴ Another KI also reported the lack of government follow up and monitoring to the education system.

These issues were reported to have had a negative impact in the literacy levels in the sub-district with more children dropping-out of school at the time of data collection compared to before 2014, according to one returnee KI. In addition, one SME KI reported that children were not enrolled in school in previous academic years due to the lack of personal documentation.³⁵

KI recommendations to enhance access to public education services

According to 11 KIs, there were initiatives to be considered by the local government to enhance the situation related to access to public education services in the sub-district. These reportedly included:

- » Building new primary and secondary schools in the sub-district (10 KIs) and
- » Rehabilitating existing schools from damages suffered during military operations (2 KIs).

Access to public waste collection, disposal, and management services

Several KIs reported that households faced challenges in accessing public waste collection, disposal, and management in the sub-district (13 KIs). This was reportedly due to the delays of waste collection – done once per week – from the municipality (8 KIs), limited waste collection vehicles assigned to the sub-district (6 KIs), and the lack of sanitation workers that the municipality had (2 KIs). According to four KIs, waste management services were negatively affected by the absence of a municipal department in sub-district, which operated from Markaz Ana,³⁶ and the limited role played by the municipality in providing sanitation services in Al-Rayhana. Therefore, a few KIs (3 KIs) reported that the noted waste accumulation in residential and public areas represented an environmental concern for the community.

Access to public electricity services

Several KIs (8 out of 55 KIs) reported that most households faced challenges in accessing public electricity services. The most reported challenges were related to the damage to the public electrical network, poles, and transformers which needed to be rehabilitated or replaced (5 KIs) and the limited electricity

supply hours (3 KIs). Reportedly, Haditha hydroelectric power plant³⁶ was under rehabilitation,³⁷ and therefore the public electricity service was negatively affected in the sub-district (1 KI).

Consequently, households were reportedly resorting to private generator services with inflated prices, due to an increase in the price of fuel, which some households could not afford (1 KI). Additionally, a few KIs (3 KIs) reported that the lack of electricity affected the agricultural sector and recommended the extension of the public electric network to agricultural lands so that farmers could enhance irrigation and water pumping.

Access to public sanitation and sewage system services

According to one SME KI, there was a lack of sanitation and sewage network rehabilitation projects in the sub-district. This reportedly lead to grey and black waters³⁸ flowing onto the streets, especially in winter, representing an environmental concern for the community of Al-Rayhana.



Perceptions on access to livelihoods

The vast majority of the KIs (52 out of 55 KIs) reported that most households faced challenges in accessing livelihoods. KIs reported that the general lack of job opportunities (38 out of 52 KIs) and the challenges to reactivate the agricultural sector (38 KIs) were the most reported factors negatively affecting access to employment in the sub-district.

General lack of job opportunities and reduced diversity of employment sectors

According to 37 KIs (out of 38), the sub-district witnessed a general lack of job opportunities, mainly for youth, which resulted in increased unemployment levels compared to before 2014. One returnee KI also reported that there was a high number of recent youth graduates seeking jobs and this increased the levels of competition in the labour market. Regarding IDP households in the community, one IDP KI in the community reported the presence of discrimination, favouritism, and preference for host community members to access employment. Additionally, two KIs reported believing that cash for work programmes led by NGOs were temporary, insufficient, and did not include all groups in the community of Al-Rayhana.

"Many youths in the sub-district need work in order to ensure a decent life and prevent them from being dragged into extremist ideas."

– SME KI –

Challenges in the agricultural sector

Almost three quarters of the KIs (38 out of 52 KIs) reported that access to livelihoods was negatively affected by the presence of challenges to revitalize the agricultural sector. According to 12 KIs, households residing in Al-Rayhana depended on agriculture and aquaculture as their main source of income before 2014.³⁹ These KIs also reported the need to promote a more varied labour market in the sub-district. In addition, KIs reported that the lack of support to farmers (28 KIs), climate change (25 KIs), and the lack of electricity to operate the irrigation systems in cultivated lands (24 KIs) were factors negatively affecting the agricultural sector in Al-Rayhana at the time of data collection.

♦ Lack of support to farmers

According to 17 KIs (out of 28 KIs), farmers in the Al-Rayhana could not afford seeds and fertilizers and other agricultural materials due to the inflated prices of the agricultural products and the lack of support for farmers to access needed materials and services. In addition, 14 KIs reported that the local government did not support farmers to re-establish their damaged agricultural lands, orchards, and fields. One returnee KI also reported a lack of support to farmers to reclaim their agricultural lands.

On the other hand, one IDP KI in the community reported the presence of security measures in some areas in the sub-district affecting livestock grazing. One community leader KI reported that there was not enough support to improve the marketing of local agricultural products.

♦ Climate change

The vast majority of the KIs who reported climate change has affected the agricultural sector (22 out of 25 KIs) also mentioned that fishing was affected by the low water levels in Haditha Lake and the Euphrates River.^{31,32} According to 10 KIs, water scarcity and climate change negatively affected crops cultivation in Al-Rayhana.

♦ Lack of electricity

According to 17 KIs (out of 24 KIs reporting that lack of electricity negatively affected the agricultural sector), agricultural lands irrigation and water pumping were affected by the inflated price of fuel and its unavailability in the sub-district. In addition, 14 KIs also reported that the lack of public electricity affected irrigation and water pumping.

♦ Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) land contamination

Reportedly, farmers abandoned their agricultural lands due to the presence of ERW in some locations in the sub-district (3 KIs) and due to the lack of support from the local government for ERW removal (2 KIs).⁴⁰

Challenges in the construction sector

Over half of the KIs (27 out of 52 KIs) reported the presence of challenges in the construction sector in Al-Rayhana. The vast majority of the KIs (26 out of 27 KIs) reported that there was a lack of construction and reconstruction projects in the sub-district, which could have ensured job opportunities such as tiling and paving. According to one community leader KI, these projects were focused by the local government in Markaz Ana, as the district centre. On the other hand, one SME KI reported that constructions materials were not easily brought into the sub-district due to restrictive measures at the checkpoints.

Challenges in the governmental or public sector

One quarter of the KIs (13 out of 52 KIs) reported challenges in accessing job opportunities in the governmental or public sector. The vast majority of reporting KIs (11 out of 13 KIs) also reported that the main factor affecting access to employment was the lack of graduates appointed to available posts,⁴¹ taking into consideration the presence of intermediaries to access employment (2 KIs). In addition, two KIs reported that access to public employment was negatively affected by the lack of municipal departments in the sub-district (1 KI) and the lack of budget allocation to the public sector in Al-Rayhana (1 KI).

Challenges in the private sector

Several KIs (9 out of 52 KIs) also reported challenges to access jobs in the private sector in Al-Rayhana. KIs reported a lack of efforts from the government to establish factories which may ensure a high number of jobs (6 KIs). According to six KIs, the sub-district suffered from a lack of investment in the private sector (3 KIs) and a lack of jobs in the services sector, such as restaurants and hotels (3 KIs). Reportedly, regardless of the return of shops and business owners that reopened in the sub-district, it was not enough to cover the demand for jobs in Al-Rayhana (2 KIs). On this note, one SME KI reported that there was a lack of support to businesses owners to develop their businesses and ensure additional job opportunities.

Challenges in the industrial sector

Reportedly, access to livelihoods was also affected by challenges in the industrial sector (7 out of 52 KIs). According to four KIs, the local government neglected the establishment and construction of factories and workshops in Al-Rayhana. Furthermore, a few KIs (3 KIs) also reported a lack of investment in the area, for example, to open glass factories, which may ensure a high number of job opportunities for the members of the community.

"Investment companies do not access the sub-district, such as companies extracting glass from the desert."

– Returnee KI –

Coping strategies adopted by household members

These reportedly included:

- » Household members traveling to Markaz Ana, Haditha, and Ramadi seeking jobs (5 KIs),
- » Youth moving to Baghdad and Ramadi seeking jobs resulting in family separation cases (4 KIs),
- » Households remaining in displacement due to the lack of jobs in the sub-district, and their availability in their AoDs (4 KIs),
- » Youth depending on daily jobs in construction and receiving low wages (3 KIs), and
- » Female headed households depending on their relatives for support to cover their basic needs due to the lack of job opportunities available for them (1 KI).

KI recommendations to enhance access to livelihoods

To overcome the identified challenges in accessing livelihoods, KIs (41 out of 52 KIs) suggested to the local government and NGOs to focus on the:

- » Implementation of government-led livelihoods projects, including industrial projects (33 KIs),
- » Implementation of projects led by the local government to support the re-cultivation of agricultural lands and the provision of seeds and fertilizers (15 KIs),
- » Implementation of cash for work programmes by NGOs (10 KIs),
- » Creation of jobs for youth and female headed households (7 KIs),

- » Connection of agricultural lands to the public electricity network and development of irrigation systems to enhance access to water provision (5 KIs),
- » Provision of loans for start-ups (4 KIs), and
- » Ensure a planned allocation of public jobs, especially to cover the needs of young graduates (3 KIs).

Livelihood activities support economic growth

Community leader and SME KIs were consulted for this section (21 out of 55 KIs). According to the vast majority of consulted KIs (20 out of 21 KIs), livelihood programmes implementation in the sub-district may support economic development with special focus on the revitalization of the agricultural sector (14 KIs), the implementation of NGO-led livelihood programmes (11 KIs), and the strengthening of the construction sector (4 KIs) and the private sector (2 KIs).

Supporting the revitalization of the agricultural sector

Reportedly, households residing in Al-Rayhana depended on agriculture and fishing as the main source of income before 2014 (12 KIs). However, as noted above, numerous factors have affected the sector. According to 10 KIs, the implementation of livelihood activities in the sub-district may revitalize the sector through a number of initiatives, which included:

- » Supporting farmers to access or purchase seeds and fertilizers (13 KIs),
- » Extending the public electricity network to agricultural lands to ensure proper irrigation (5 KIs),
- » Providing fuel to operate electric generators for irrigation and water pumping purposes (2 KIs),
- » Establishing modern irrigation systems using solar energy (1 KI),
- » Supporting the marketing of local agricultural products inside and outside the sub-district (1 KI),
- » Removing ERW from agricultural lands (1 KI), and
- » Encouraging and supporting fishermen to enhance fishing and fish farming techniques (1 KI).

NGOs implementing livelihood programmes

Over half of consulted KIs (11 out of 21 KIs) reported that NGOs should support livelihood programmes in the sub-district as well as related projects. Activities recommended by KIs to be implemented included:

- » Cash for work programmes, which may increase household income and consequently may increase commercial activity (8 KIs),
- » Job creation programmes targeting women and youth, including tailoring and sewing (5 KIs), and
- » Providing loans for start-ups (3 KIs).

“Providing assistance for female headed households that lost their male income generator during the conflict in 2014. These programs may increase women skills on the one hand, and the loans given to them will help them to have a dignified life.”

– SME KI –

Supporting the reconstruction of the sub-district (construction sector)

According to four KIs, livelihood activities supporting the reconstruction of the sub-district may ensure access to job opportunities in the construction sector. Therefore, households may reportedly be able to meet their basic needs and reactivate commercial activity (4 KIs). The most reported needed activities included:

- » Implementing large construction projects, such as roads paving and sewage system rehabilitation (3 KIs) and
- » Ensuring and monitoring the access of construction materials to the sub-district (1 KI).

Supporting the revitalization of the private sector

A few KIs recommended that NGOs and the local government provide support to small business owners to enhance and grow their projects (2 KIs). This, according to the KIs, would improve access to job opportunities and in parallel may revitalize commercial activity.

Reported groups with less access to livelihoods

Over half of the KIs (32 out of 55 KIs) reported that **all displacement groups and vulnerable community members faced challenges in accessing livelihoods**. According to 20 KIs, IDPs from the community were less likely to access livelihood opportunities in the sub-district compared to other displacement groups.

Regarding vulnerable groups, according to 13 KIs, people with disabilities faced more challenges in accessing livelihoods than other vulnerable groups, followed by older persons (3 KIs).

Livelihood sectors with reported growth potential

Community leader and SME KIs were consulted for this section (21 out of 55 KIs). Reportedly, **agriculture was the livelihood sector with the most growth potential** in the 12 months following data collection (18 KIs), followed by construction (8 KIs).

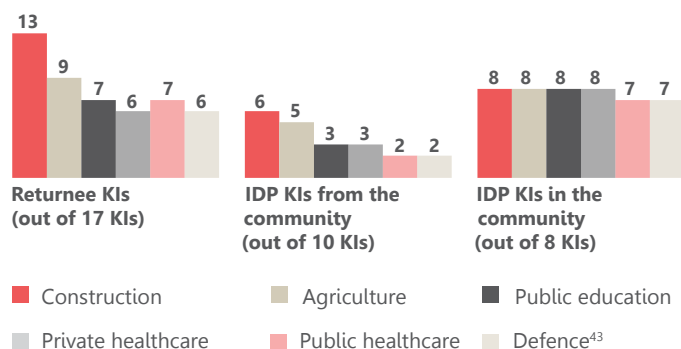
Most reported livelihood sectors available in Al-Rayhana at the time of data collection (out of 55 KIs)^{23, 42}

Agriculture	50 KIs	<div></div>
Construction	41 KIs	<div></div>
Public education	33 KIs	<div></div>
Private healthcare	32 KIs	<div></div>
Public healthcare	29 KIs	<div></div>
Public administration and defence ⁴³	28 KIs	<div></div>

Livelihood sectors of interest for returnee and IDP households

For the following section KIs with the following profiles were consulted: returnee, IDP in the community, and IDP from the community (34 out of 55 KIs). The most commonly reported **livelihoods sector of interest for returnee and IDP households** from/in the community to work in was **construction** (27 out of 34 KIs), followed by agriculture (22 KIs).

Most commonly reported livelihood sectors of interest:²³



Access to public judicial mechanisms

Challenges to access public judicial mechanisms

All KIs were consulted for this section (55 KIs). Over half of the KIs (33 KIs) reported that there were no challenges for most households to access public judicial mechanisms. On the other hand, almost half of the KIs (24 KIs) reported that some households in Al-Rayhana faced challenges in accessing public judicial mechanisms.

Reportedly, the sub-district lacked a public justice department and court (20 KIs) and affected households needed to travel to Markaz Ana to process their legal files, while they lacked financial means to cover the cost of transportation (18 KIs). According to three KIs, Al-Rayhana was recently classified administratively as a sub-district, and it was not yet assigned a judicial department. Additionally, one community leader KI reported that some households needed to pay bribes to have their files processed, and some of these processes were complex.

Challenges for households with members alleged to be ISIL-affiliated

More specifically, four KIs reported that households with members alleged to be ISIL-affiliated faced more complicated challenges. These reportedly included:

- » Presence of female heads of households lacking marriage certificates or with ones issued by ISIL and therefore not recognised by the Iraqi Government, and with children lacking birth certificates and personal documentation (2 KIs),
- » Complex processes for civil and personal documentation for these cases (2 KIs), and
- » Exploitation by lawyers requesting high prices for their services and to review their legal files (1 KI).

As result, according to one IDP KI from the community, some female headed households who had members with alleged links to ISIL were blocked from returning to the area due to the lack of personal documentation.⁴⁴

"Many children are not enrolled in primary schools because they do not have Iraqi nationality. Most of these children were born in camps in Syria during displacement, and the fathers were dead or in jail due to their [alleged] involvement with ISIL, so the government do not recognize these children."

– SME KI –

Missing personal and civil documentation

Returnee, IDP in the community, and IDP KIs from the community were consulted for this section (34 out of 55 KIs). The vast majority of the KIs (32 out of 34 KIs) reported that **most households did not have missing or out of date personal or civil documentation** at the time of data collection.

However, two KIs reported that some returnee and IDP households from the community lacked personal and civil documentation. On this point, one returnee KI reported that some returnees could not access passports due to the lack of a passport department in Al-Rayhana. Additionally, one IDP KI from the community reported that some IDP households from Al-Rayhana lacked passports, birth certificates, civil status certificates, and individual documentation cards (ID cards).

According to the KIs, these documents were challenging to obtain. Reportedly, there were challenges associated with the distance affected households needed to travel (from Al-Rayhana or their AoDs to Ramadi) to present their legal files and the additional cost of transportation households needed to pay in addition to the process-related cost.

Perceptions on governance⁴⁵

Community leader and SME KIs were consulted for this section (21 out of 55 KIs). Almost two thirds of the KIs (13 out of 21 KIs) reported believing that **none of the present bodies** (such as community leaders, local authorities, and security actors) in the sub-district **were influencing governance** at the time of data collection.

The rest of the KIs (7 out of 21 KIs) reported that **local authorities** (7 KIs) and the **formal security forces** (7 KIs) were **the most influential bodies regarding governance**, followed by tribal leaders (5 KIs), mukhtars⁴⁶ (3 KIs), and political parties (3 KIs).

Governing bodies concerned with returnees and IDPs' affairs

The vast majority of the KIs (51 out of 55 KIs) reported that **there were no governing bodies concerned with returnees and IDPs' affairs** at the time of data collection. The rest of the KIs did not know about the presence of governing bodies concerning returnee and IDP affairs in Al-Rayhana at the time of data collection (4 KIs).

Perceptions on safety and security⁴⁵

Returnee, IDP in the community, and IDP from the community KIs were consulted for this section (34 out of 55 KIs). All consulted KIs reported believing that **most returnee and IDP households from/in the community felt very safe (23 KIs) or safe (11 KIs)** in Al-Rayhana. This situation was reportedly the same for women, girls, men, and boys, according to all consulted KIs (41 KIs).⁴⁷

Freedom of movement

Returnee, IDP in the community, community leader, and SME KIs were consulted for this section (47 out of 55 KIs). All consulted KIs reported that **there were no movement restrictions imposed** in the sub-district at the time of data collection.

All returnee and IDP KIs in the community (26 out of 55 KIs) also reported **that most returnee and IDP households in the community could move freely during the day and at night** in Al-Rayhana if they desired. All consulted KIs reported that this situation was the same for women, girls, men, and boys.⁴⁷

ERW land contamination

The majority of the KIs (44 out of 55 KIs) reported that **there was no land known to be contaminated with ERW** in Al-Rayhana at the time of data collection. However, several KIs reported the presence of ERW in some locations belonging to the sub-district (11 KIs).⁴⁰

As previously mentioned, ERW presence negatively affected the re-cultivation of agricultural lands and animal grazing (1 KI). Additionally, one SME KI reported that there were incidents with casualties due to ERW explosions in the sub-district in the six months prior to data collection.

Perceptions on community tensions⁴⁵

Returnee, IDP in the community, community leader, and SME KIs were consulted for this section (47 out of 55 KIs).

Disputes within the sub-district

All consulted KIs (47 KIs) reported not being aware of any disputes within the sub-district in the six months prior to data collection. However, internal disputes, retaliation incidents, and increased crime may reportedly occur in the future if households with alleged links to ISIL decided or were allowed to return (10 KIs).

Resolving disputes within the sub-district

Returnee and IDP in the community KIs were consulted for this section (26 out of 55 KIs). The vast majority of consulted KIs (24 out of 26 KIs) reported the presence of different bodies that were effective in resolving disputes within the sub-district. Two KIs did not know about these bodies.

Tribal leaders

Two thirds of consulted KIs reporting the presence of different bodies that were effective in resolving disputes (16 out of 24 KIs) also reported that tribal leaders were the most effective. Reportedly, Al-Rayhana community was ruled under the tribal system (16 KIs) and applied customary laws⁴⁸ to resolve these disputes (8 KIs).

In addition, KIs reported believing that it was the role of tribal leaders to resolve disputes within the sub-district (15 KIs) and to maintain peace and promote social bonds and cohesion (7 KIs).

Formal security forces²¹

Some KIs (5 KIs) reported that formal security forces were the most effective body in resolving disputes within the sub-district. A few KIs (3 KIs) also reported that formal security forces were the only official armed force to ensure security and promoting safety in the sub-district. In addition, two KIs reported believing that formal security actors represented the government (1 KI), had the role of implementing the law and maintaining order (1 KI), and were trusted by the community to resolve disputes (1 KI).

Local authorities

According to three KIs, local authorities played an effective role in resolving disputes. Reportedly, local authorities were the highest authority in the sub-district (2 KIs) and were responsible for enforcing the law and representing the judicial apparatus, mainly related to the administration of justice (2 KIs).

Disputes between the sub-district and other areas

The vast majority of consulted KIs (41 out of 42 KIs) reported not being aware of any disputes between the sub-district and other areas in the six months prior to data collection. One KI did not know about this type of incidents.

Resolving disputes between the sub-district and other areas

Returnee and IDP KIs in the community were consulted for this section (26 out of 55 KIs). One community leader KI did not know about these disputes.

Formal security forces²¹

Some KIs (8 out of 26 KIs) reported that formal security forces were the most effective body in resolving disputes between the sub-district and other areas. These KIs also reported that formal security forces were responsible for ensuring security and promoting safety in the sub-district (6 KIs) and for implementing the law and maintaining order (6 KIs).

"Because forces are deployed in the area, they are holding the land and protecting the population in the sub-district."

– Returnee KI –

Local authorities

According to one returnee KI, local authorities had the role of resolving criminal incidents and imposing the law while they represented the judicial apparatus (related to the administration of justice).

Influence of formal security forces on safety perceptions

Returnee, IDP in the community, and IDP from the community KIs were consulted for this section (34 out of 55 KIs). The vast majority of consulted KIs (33 out of 34 KIs) reported that the presence of formal security forces in the sub-district positively influenced households' perceptions on safety and security in Al-Rayhana. One IDP KI from the community did not know about the subject.

Perceptions on community inter-relations⁴⁵

Feeling welcome in the sub-district

Returnee, IDP in the community, and IDP from the community KIs were consulted for this section (34 out of 55 KIs). All consulted KIs reported that **most returnee and IDP households** from/in the community **felt welcome** (18 KIs) or **very welcome** (16 KIs) in Al-Rayhana.

Interaction between displacement groups

Returnee, IDP in the community, and IDP from the community KIs were consulted for this section (34 out of 55 KIs). Over three quarters of consulted KIs (27 out of 34 KIs) reported that **households from different displacement groups (returnees and IDP from/in the community) interacted with other groups in the community**. The rest of consulted KIs did not know about interaction in this regard (7 KIs).

Reported interaction for returnee households

Two thirds of returnee KIs (12 out of 18 KIs) reported that most returnee households interacted with other groups in Al-Rayhana. Reportedly, returnee households interacted with other groups through family and social bonds (7 KIs), work relationships (6 KIs), and participating in cleaning campaigns to reopen schools and mosques (1 KI).

The rest of the KIs reported believing that some returnee households did not interact with other groups in the community (5 KIs) or did not know about interaction between groups (1 KI).

Family and social bonds

More specifically, this category included different ways of interacting. Reportedly, returnee households interacted through:

- » Providing assistance to vulnerable households, namely food items and furniture (4 KIs),
- » Providing financial assistance for treatment and transportation of people with specific medical conditions (2 KIs),
- » Gathering and exchanging at the markets and public places (2 KIs),
- » Hosting returnee households whose houses were still damaged on their arrival to the sub-district (1 KI),
- » Conducting family and social visits (1 KI),
- » Attending tribal events (1 KI), and
- » Existing kinship ties between families in the sub-district (1 KI).

“Helping the people among us is important, especially in this period in the absence of sufficient water, the people help in distributing water to the households in the area.”

– Returnee KI –

Work relationships

These reportedly included:

- » Work relationships while working together in different livelihood sectors (6 KIs),

- » Work partnerships and running common businesses (2 KIs),
- » Promoting trade activity (1 KI), and
- » Exchanging professional experiences, opinions, and ideas at workplaces (1 KI).

Reported interaction for IDP households from the community

Three quarters of IDP from the community KIs (6 out of 8 KIs) reported that IDP households from the community interacted with other groups in Al-Rayhana. A few KIs reported that some IDP households did not interact with other groups in the sub-district (2 KIs). Reportedly, IDP households from the community interacted with other groups through family and social bonds (5 KIs), work relationships (3 KIs), and attending awareness sessions and seminars while in displacement (1 KI).

Family and social bonds

More specifically, this category included different ways of interacting. Reportedly, IDP households from the community interacted through:

- » Existing friendship relations (3 KIs),
- » Gathering and exchanging at the markets and coffee shops (2 KIs),
- » Providing assistance to vulnerable households, mainly to female headed households (2 KIs),
- » Attending social and events such as weddings (1 KI),
- » Existing kinship ties (1 KI), and
- » Providing financial assistance for treatment and transportation of people with specific medical conditions (1 KI).

Reported interaction for IDP households in the community

All IDP KIs in the community (8 KIs) reported that IDP households in the community interacted with other groups in Al-Rayhana. Reportedly, IDP households in the community interacted with other groups through family and social bonds (8 KIs), work relationships (7 KIs), and participating in NGOs-led activities and projects (1 KI).

Family and social bonds

More specifically, this category included different ways of interacting. Reportedly, IDP households in the community interacted through:

- » Existing friendship relations (6 KIs),
- » Providing assistance to each other, especially to vulnerable households (4 KIs),
- » Gathering and exchanging at the markets and public places (3 KIs),
- » Conducting family and social visits (2 KIs),
- » Attending tribal events (1 KI),
- » Encouraging marriage between different groups and promoting kinship ties between families in the sub-district (1 KI), and
- » Providing financial assistance for treatment to people with specific medical conditions (1 KI).

Work relationships

These reportedly included:

- » Work relationships while working together in different livelihood sectors (6 KIs),
- » Exchanging professional experiences, opinions, and ideas at workplaces (1 KI), and
- » Work partnerships and running common businesses (1 KI).

“Working with each other opens the horizons of cooperation between community members, and there will be strong and long-term relations.”

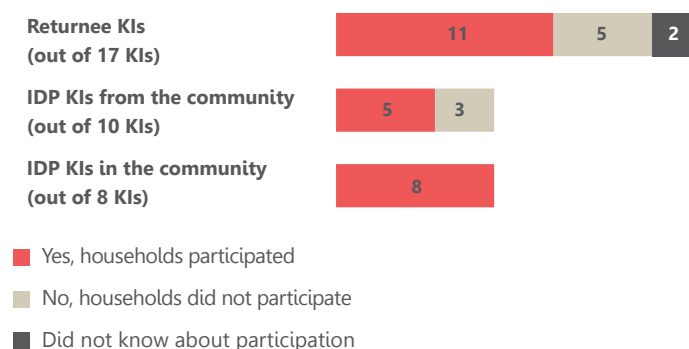
– IDP KI in the community –

Barriers for interaction between groups

Returnee, IDP in the community, and IDP KIs from the community were consulted for this section (34 out of 55 KIs). All consulted KIs reported perceiving that there were **no challenges for interaction between displacement groups** in the sub-district.

Participation in decision-making processes

Returnee, IDP from the community, and IDP KIs in the community were consulted for this section (34 out of 55 KIs). Almost three quarters of consulted KIs (24 out of 34 KIs) reported that **most households participated in decision-making processes** in the sub-district.



Perceptions on social cohesion⁴⁵

Actors influencing social cohesion

The vast majority of the KIs (53 out of 55 KIs) reported that **durable solutions actors should be the most involved actors to improve social cohesion** in the sub-district.

Types of actors that were reportedly perceived as needed to be involved to improve social cohesion in Al-Saadiya, by number of KIs:²³



Improving social cohesion

All KIs were consulted for this section (55 KIs). The majority of the KIs (49 out of 55 KIs) reported initiatives to improve social cohesion in the sub-district.

Initiatives ensuring access to employment for all

Over half of the KIs (29 out of 49 KIs) reported the need for different initiative that may ensure access to employment. Almost three quarters of these KIs (21 out of 29 KIs) reported that encouraging equal access to employment for all community groups may support to the improvement of social cohesion in Al-Rayhana. In addition, KIs recommended:

- » Ensuring job creation for youth and female heads of households (6 KIs),
- » Employers creating spaces for employees to interact and build/strengthen relations between them (5 KIs),
- » Implementing government-led livelihood projects involving all community groups (4 KIs), and
- » Encouraging trade and commerce activities between different groups (1 KI).

“Conducting trade operations as a type of work, buying and selling products, generates great communication between groups in the community, including returnee, host community members and displaced.”

– Returnee KI –

Implementing seminars, festivals, local meetings, and awareness sessions

Over half of the KIs (28 out of 49 KIs) reported that organising seminars, festivals, local meetings, and awareness sessions could effectively promote social cohesion. The most recommended topics for these activities were:

- » Reconciliation and peace building (8 KIs),
- » Coexistence and tolerance (7 KIs),
- » Accepting differences and no discrimination (5 KIs),
- » Participation and discussion about sub-district related topics promoting exchange of ideas (4 KIs), and
- » Citizens’ rights and security (3 KIs).

KIs also reported that these activities should target community members from different population groups (13 KIs), youth (3 KIs), and tribal leaders (1 KI). Reportedly, these should be organised by local authorities (6 KIs), NGOs and civil society actors (4 KIs), and tribal leaders (1 KI).

“It is important to embrace the youth and guide them to the right path.”

– Community leader KI –

In addition to the above-mentioned, KIs also reported that to increase social cohesion all community members should participate in NGOs projects, training, and voluntary work (16 KIs) and in football tournaments organised in the sub-district (2 KIs).

On other hand, KIs also reported that social cohesion may be improved by implementing tribal gatherings and events (6 KIs). Reportedly, these gatherings should encourage open discussions about the sub-district matters (4 KIs) and promote reconciliation and peace building between tribes and their members (2 KIs).

Initiatives promoting community inter-relationships and social bonds

Several KIs (7 out of 49 KIs) reported that initiatives strengthening community inter-relationships and interaction may improve social cohesion in the sub-district. The most suggested initiatives were:

- » Providing assistance to vulnerable households from all different community groups (4 KIs),
- » Promoting frequent visits between households (2 KIs), and
- » Hosting returnee households and supporting them to meet their basic needs (1 KI).

Other initiatives to be considered to improve social cohesion

Additionally, a few KIs (4 out of 49 KIs) reported the need to implement other initiatives promoting social cohesion in the sub-district. These reportedly included:

- » Advocating for the return of displaced households and promoting their reintegration in the community (2 KIs),
- » Creation of community-based structures, such as neighbourhood committees, to report on challenges to local authorities and discuss solutions (1 KI) and security committees to improve safety in public places (1 KI), and
- » Ensure participation of different community groups in decision-making processes and policies (1 KI).

“First, setting a plan of action for the employment of original populations and the less integrated groups. Second, creating an advisory committee to improve safety of the community members in public places. Third, creation of neighbourhood committees that document challenges, share problems with people, and receives solutions.”

– SME KI –

“There are new resources available that can be invested in social development through improved healthcare, education, social protection, and other services. Governments [local and central governments] must reconsider social and economic policies to ensure that all citizens have a voice and access their rights by promoting civic participation²⁹ and strengthening democratic institutions.”

– Returnee KI –

About the Returns Working Group in Iraq

The [Returns Working Group \(RWG\)](#) is an operational and multi-stakeholder platform on returns, which was established in line with Strategic Objective 3 of the 2016 Iraq HRP “to support voluntary, safe and dignified return” of IDPs, so as to monitor and report on conditions in areas of return, and determine to what extent durable solutions have been achieved, or progress made, for returnees. The key objective of the group is to establish coherence of information, data and analysis, strengthen coordination and advocacy, give guidance on activities related to key areas, and enhance complementary action among its partners with the overall goal of supporting and reinforcing the national response to displacement and reintegration. Currently, IOM serves as the chair.

Perceptions on durable solutions⁴⁵

Returnee, IDP in the community, and IDP KIs from the community were consulted for this section (34 out of 55 KIs). Findings showed that returnee households felt re-integrated in the community of Al-Rayhana, while IDP households in/from the community did not feel integrated in the sub-district or in their AoDs.

Returnee households feeling reintegrated

Returnee KIs were consulted for this section (18 out of 55 KIs). The vast majority of consulted KIs (17 out of 18 KIs) reported that **most returnee households felt re-integrated** in the sub-district. KIs reported that this was due to households returning to their homes (11 KIs) and areas of origin where they used to live before 2014 (8 KIs).

Additionally, one KI reported that some returnee households felt re-integrated since “they reported to the security forces about any household member who was involved in ISIL operations”, therefore the community in the sub-district restored their trust in them. One consulted KI did not know about reintegration of returnee households.

IDPs in the community feeling integrated

IDP KIs in the community were consulted for this section (8 out of 55 KIs). All IDP KIs in the community reported that **most households from their respective displacement group did not feel integrated in Al-Rayhana** since they had not returned home yet (8 KIs) and they were not residing in their AoOs (1 KI).

IDPs from the community feeling integrated

IDP KIs from the community were consulted for this section (8 out of 55 KIs). Almost two thirds of consulted KIs (5 out of 8 KIs) reported that **most IDP households from the community did not feel integrated in their AoDs**. This was reportedly due to IDP households from Al-Rayhana not having returned home yet (5 KIs), not being in their AoOs (1 KI), and residing in their AoDs under rental agreements in less secure tenures and therefore at risk of eviction (1 KI). Three consulted KIs did not know about the feeling of integration of IDP households from the community in their AoDs.

About REACH

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. The methodologies used by REACH include primary data collection and in-depth analysis, and all activities are conducted through inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms. REACH is a joint initiative of IMPACT Initiatives, ACTED and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research - Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNITAR-UNOSAT). For more information, please visit our website: www.reach-initiative.org. You can contact us directly at: geneva@reach-initiative.org and follow us on Twitter @REACH_info.

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 AWG, [Rapid Needs Assessment Al-Rayhana Dashboard](#), January 2018

5 UNAMI-OHCHR, [Report on the Protection of Civilians in the Non International Armed Conflict in Iraq](#), July 2014

6 Diyaruna, [Iraqi forces drive ISIS from Anbar city of Anah](#), September 2017

7 The ReDS questionnaire is tailored to direct 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 Al-Rayhana, there were 13 SME and 8 community leader KIs. Population figures for returns and IDP populations in Al-Rayhana were 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 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 \(ToR\)](#).

13 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 education specialists, 3 agriculture and aquaculture experts, 2 lawyers, one NGO representative, and one water expert.

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

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

16 For the purposes of this research, "IDPs from the community" refers to households from Al-Rayhana displaced during the events of 2014 to areas different than their AoOs. Interviewed IDP KIs were displaced in Kirkuk Governorate, specifically in Markaz Kirkuk Sub-district.

17 For the purposes of this research, "IDPs in the community" refers to households originally from areas different than Al-Rayhana who displaced to Al-Rayhana during the events of 2014 and after. Interviewed IDP KIs were originally from Hamam Al-Alil (4 KIs) and Markaz Hatra (1 KI) sub-districts (Ninewa Governorate), Alam Sub-district (2 KIs) (Salah Al-Din Governorate), and Markaz Kifri (1 KI) and Markaz Khalis (1 KI) sub-district (Diyala Governorate).

18 For the purposes of this research, "community leaders" are members of the host community represented by three mukhtars, three tribal leaders, and two religious leaders in the area. 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 There were 55 individuals interviewed for the Al-Rayhana assessment aged between 26 and 67 years old. The majority were male (46 KIs). The lack of gender balance among the KIs was a limitation to the assessment. Integration of vulnerable age groups was considered, two KIs was considered in the youth group (between 18 and 24) and two KIs represented older people (over 65 years old). Vulnerable age groups represented 7% of the KIs.

20 For the purposes of this research, "all groups" refers to returnees, remainees, and IDPs from/in the community.

21 'Formal security forces' refers to the Iraqi security forces and all its components. "There are three principal components of the Iraqi Security Forces: the Iraqi Army (IA), the Iraqi Police (IP), and the National Police (NP). The Iraqi Army and the National Police are both national-level assets, with the IA under the command of the Ministry of Defence and the NP under the command of the Interior respectively." - Institute for the study of war, [Iraqi security forces](#)

22 Findings in this section were based on KIs estimated lower and highest average at the time of data collection.

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

24 "One of the most acute challenges faced by families perceived to be affiliated with ISIS is the denial of security clearance papers and civil documentation that would enable them to leave IDP settlements and return to their areas of origin." - Civilian in Conflict (CIVIC), [Ignoring Iraq's most vulnerable](#), April 2021

25 Other less reported primary needs were ERW removal (2 KIs), access to documentation (2 KIs), sanitation (1 KI), food assistance (1 KI), and security (1 KI).

26 Findings were indicative of each population group and not representative. Due to the small sampling, findings may be under-reported.

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

28 Other less reported types of programmes implemented in Al-Rayhana in the six months prior to data collection included: food item distribution (1 KI), psycho-social support (PSS) (1 KI), and cash assistance (1 KI).

29 "Community participation is the active involvement of the people of a particular community in a developmental program/project. It is universally accepted that without community involvement and participation, developmental initiatives in the economic and social sectors have little chance to succeed." - SlideToDoc, [World Bank community participation definition](#)

30 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.

31 "The average surface area of Haditha Dam Lake for the period 2001-2019 was 313 km², compared to the average surface area of 418 km² for the period 1988-2000. Which means that the difference in the average surface area decreased by 25%" - Iraqi Ministry of Science and Technology, [Monitoring of Water Surface Change of Haditha Dam's Lake Using Satellite Data Technique](#), 2020

32 "Besides, negative impact on lakes and rivers in Iraq resulting from the construction of many dams and irrigation projects in the neighbouring countries which represent the sources of Tigris and Euphrates rivers such as Iran, Turkey and Syria." - Iraqi Ministry of Science and Technology, [Monitoring of Water Surface Change of Haditha Dam's Lake Using Satellite Data Technique](#), 2020

33 "In previous years, students used to receive free learning materials, including books, notebooks, and transportation from the Ministry of Education (MoE). 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. [...] 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

34 "Many children of families perceived to have ISIL affiliation lack civil documentation. Undocumented children are reported to be at risk of statelessness and have difficulty to access essential services, including education and healthcare. [...] Without access to documentation, children are deprived of healthcare (vaccination included), social welfare programs and education. If the issue of the access to documentation is not resolved before they reach adulthood, they are at risk of not having their marriages state-recognized, not being able to own or rent property, and lacking a fair chance at formal employment." - European Union Agency for Asylum, [Country Guidance: Iraq](#), June 2022

35 According to one partner context expert, the municipality building is present in Al-Rayhana, but it is only used by the mayor as the building is damaged. The municipality staff of Al-Rayhana are working from Ana municipality building but their activities are to support the sub-district community.

36 "The project was developed by Technopromexport and is currently owned by Government of Iraq. Haditha is a reservoir-based project. Haditha underwent rehabilitation and modernization during 2004 to 2013. The project generated 1,680 GWh of electricity." - Future Power Technology, [Haditha - Iraq](#), November 2021

37 "The plant, built in the 1980s on the Haditha River in western Iraq, contains six 128 MVA units. The revitalization will be spearheaded by KONCAR - Engineering (KET). Under the agreement, the company will carry out a partial revitalization of generation units; replace part of the equipment, the entire plant management system, the excitation system and electric protection system; and upgrade mechanical subsystems and hydromechanical equipment. [...] The timeline for completing the project was not released." - HydroView, [KONCAR to rehab Haditha hydropower project in Iraq](#), June 2022

38 "Gray water is all of the wastewater that drains from your shower and kitchen and bathroom sinks. Gray water has some bacteria, but it can be filtered and reused in gardens or lawns, if done properly. Black water contains human waste and is unsafe." - Colton RV, [Gray water and black water FAQs](#)

39 "The conflict with the Islamic State group (IS) caused significant damages and losses in agriculture, resulting in an estimated 40% decline in production for the country as a whole. This decline was mainly a result of the loss of equipment and machinery; displacement of local populations including many farmers; insecurity; fields contaminated with landmines and other explosive remnants of war; looting of productive assets; destroyed or damaged infrastructure; damaged storage and crop processing facilities; lack of quality seeds and fertilizers; and the collapse of government support in providing agricultural inputs and extension services to farmers. In addition, agriculture-based livelihoods were constrained by internal displacement, the fear of violence which prevented farmers from accessing and tending to their land, and disruptions to markets for supplying farm inputs and selling agricultural and food products" - NRC, [Terms of reference for agriculture value chains analysis](#), September 2021

40 According to the [Iraqi Ministry of Environment and Directorate for Mine Action updated information report](#) of January-December 2021, over five locations in Al-Rayhana were reportedly contaminated with ERW.

41 "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

42 Other less reported livelihood sectors available in the sub-district at the time of data collection were manufacturing (4 KIs), public administrative jobs (4 KIs), transportation (2 KIs), trade and commerce (2 KIs), services jobs (hotels, restaurants, etc.) (1 KI), finance and real estate (1 KI), and oil industry (1 KI).

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

44 "According to the NRC Barriers from Birth report of April 2019, children missing civil documentation may be barred from attending school, denied access to healthcare and deprived of their most basic rights. Children born under IS rule were issued birth certificates by the group that are considered invalid for the Iraqi government. Without a valid birth certificate, newborns are unable to receive vaccinations in some areas, raising fears of new diseases. Children's enrolment in Iraqi schools also requires ID. Sitting exams or obtaining graduation certificates is often not allowed without civil documentation. As they reach adulthood, these children risk being denied state recognized marriages, owning property, or even being formally employed. [...] While IS was in control, the group also established its own version of state bureaucracy, which included registering births, marriages and documentation of life events. These IS issued documents are considered invalid by the Iraqi government. Iraqi women with either deceased or missing husbands are forced to undergo an even lengthier and more complex process of proving the circumstances of the death, and proof of marriage in order to have the necessary paperwork issued. This is necessary to then obtain birth certificates, nationality certificates or civil IDs for their children." - NRC, [Barriers from birth: Undocumented children in Iraq sentenced to a life on the margins](#), April 2019

45 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.

46 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.

47 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.

48 "Customary law" refers to "Law consisting of customs that are accepted as legal requirements or obligatory rules of conduct; practices and beliefs that are so vital and intrinsic a part of a social and economic system that they are treated as if they were laws." - UN Environmental Programme, [Customary law definition](#), 2007