

# Returns and Durable Solutions (ReDS) Assessment

**Al-Forat Sub-district – Heet District, Al-Anbar Governorate  
Preliminary Findings Presentation, Iraq**

# Assessment Methodology

- Used **multi-sectoral** assessment tool, which combined **qualitative and quantitative** data.
- Data collection was done **remotely by phone** between 6 and 17 October 2021, adapted to the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Purposive sampling** methods were employed to identify KIs. Findings should therefore be considered as **indicative**.
- Methodology based on **key informant interviews** (KIs).

## 👥 KI profiles in Al-Forat Sub-district

Returnees (more than 3 months ago) 23 KIs

Community leaders 7 KIs

Subject matter experts (SMEs) 6 KIs

IDPs (displaced from the area) 4 KIs

40 KIs

👤 10 KIs 👤 30 KIs







# Recent Movements

## Recent returns 15-18 households

As reported, all households returned from non-camp areas in:

- Baghdad Governorate
- Haditha District
- Baghdady and Markaz Heet Sub-districts

The most reported reasons for returning were:

- Sense of increased security,
- Nostalgia from previous life, and
- Following the return of other family members.

## IDP in the community returns 7-10 households

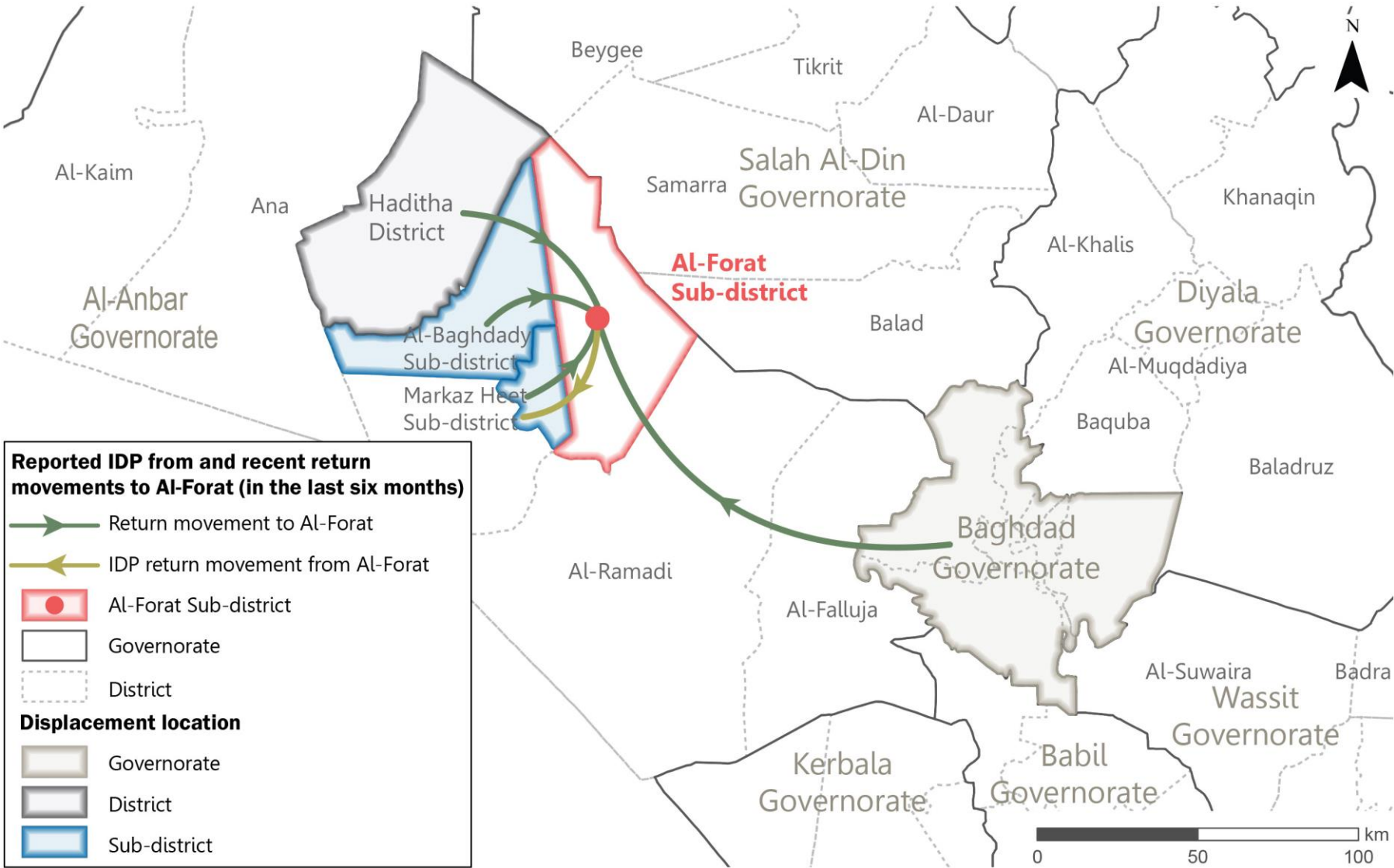
Only one KI reported that IDP households in the community returned to their areas of origin (AoO) in:

- other districts in Al-Anbar Governorate and
- other sub-districts in Heet District.

Returns occurred due to the perceived **improved safety and security situation** in their AoO.



# Recent Movements







# Expected Movements

## Expected returns

**7-8** households

Only one KI reported that households were expected to return from non-camp areas in Ramadi District due to the perceived **improved safety and security** in their AoO.

The most reported barriers for further returns were:

- Damaged housing,
- Lack of job opportunities, and
- Limited access to services.

## Family separation

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

The main reasons:

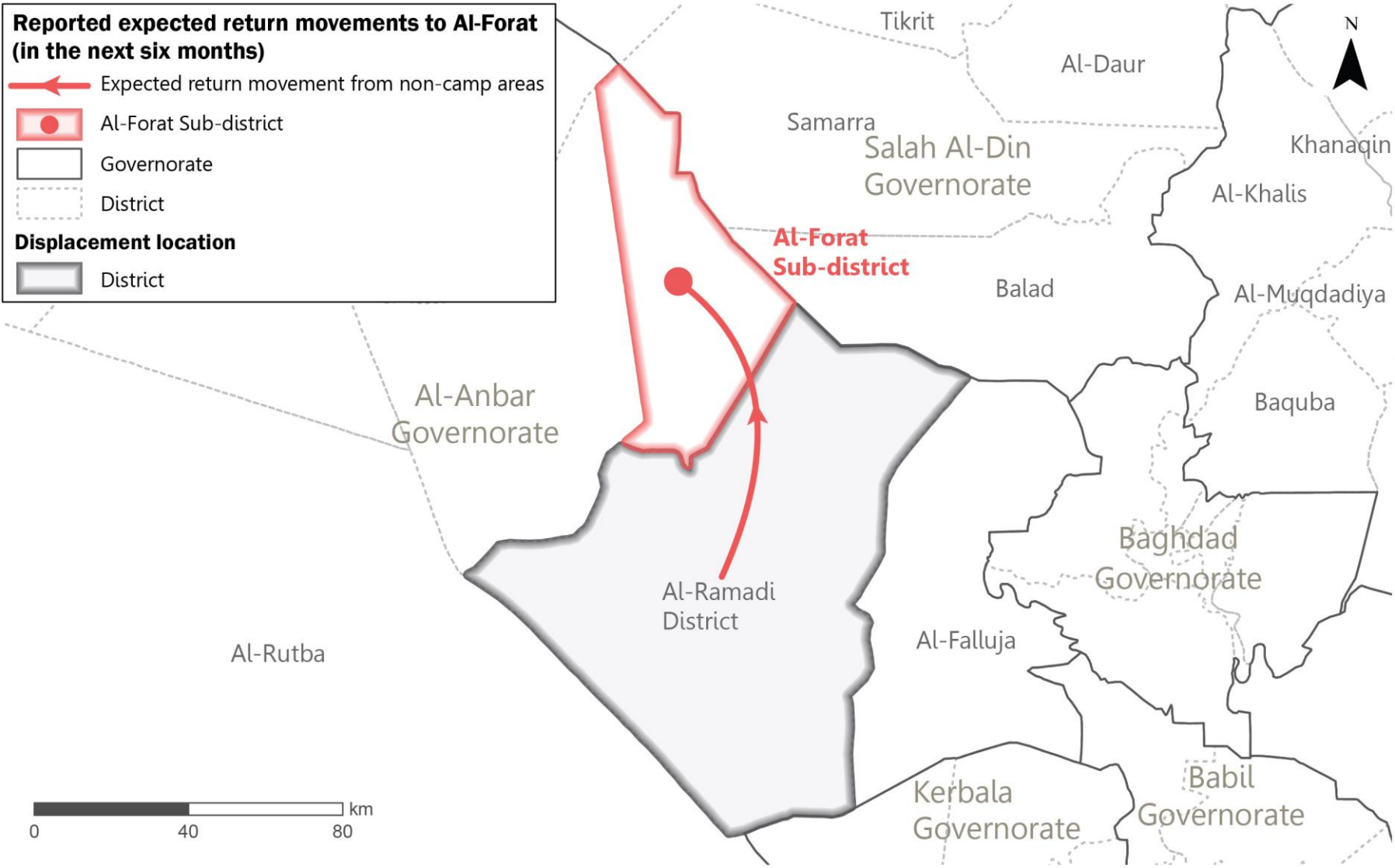
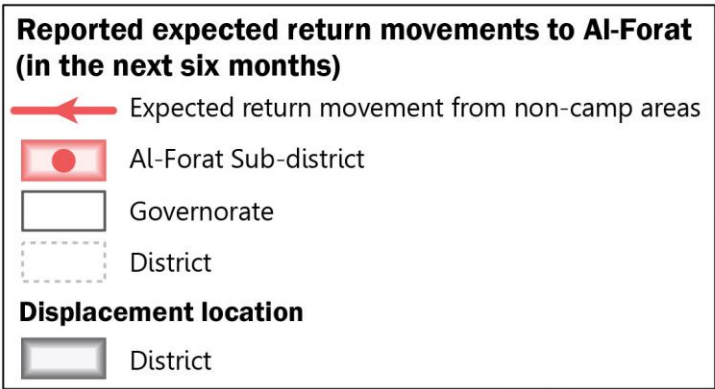
- Lack of jobs in AoO,
- Available jobs in areas of displacement (AoD), and
- Housing damaged in AoO.

## Reunification plans

Two KIs believed that *“when the houses are rehabilitated, and job opportunities are provided for them, they will return to their original areas.”*



# Expected Movements







# Access to Housing and Type of Tenure

## Housing type and tenure

(Questions in this section excluded IDP KIs from the community)<sup>1</sup>

As reported, the majority of households in the sub-district resided in **owned houses**.

The majority of KIs reported that **returnee** and **IDP households** from the community in Al-Forat **had** housing, land and property **(HLP) documents proving ownership**.

However, one returnee KI believed that some households were missing the heirs deed certificate.<sup>2</sup>



**Reported Proportion of Damaged Housing**

**31%-45%**

<sup>1</sup> The tool was tailored to ask specific questions to KIs based on their physical presence or not in the area of assessment at the time of data collection and assuming their knowledge the assessment topics, such as their understanding of factors which might impacted the households' intentions.

<sup>2</sup> It is needed to claim ownership and compensation on HLP: [Inheritance Tax Law No. \(64\)](#).

# Access to Housing Rehabilitation

## Challenges

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

The three most reported challenges were:

- Returnee households lack financial resources to rehabilitate their houses,
- Lack of financial support and loan provisions from NGOs and relevant authorities, and
- Lack of rehabilitation campaigns.

## Support needed

As reported, the **most difficult support mechanisms to obtain access to housing rehabilitation** were:

- Financial support,
- Reconstruction projects, and
- Legal support (HLP).







# Access to Compensation Mechanisms

## Accessibility

Over a quarter of KIs reported that the majority of **households were not able to access HLP compensation mechanisms**.

## Challenges

- Delays or lack of transactions for compensation claims (long and complicated process),
- Lack of support or neglect from the relevant public institution/department regarding compensation,
- Households had to pay bribes to intermediaries to present and process their claims,
- Households needed to travel long distances to present their claims,
- Lack of legal support for households to present their compensation claims, and
- Lack of awareness about the compensation process.



# Access to Basic Public Services

## Challenges

All KIs reported that households faced **challenges in accessing basic public services**, such as healthcare, WASH, education, and electricity.

The four most reported challenges were:

- Negligence from the government towards infrastructure rehabilitation,
- Lack of interest from NGOs in public infrastructure rehabilitation,
- Lack of rehabilitation campaigns for the infrastructure in the sub-district, and
- Lack of governmental funds allocated to reactivate the public sector.





# Access to Livelihoods

## Access to job opportunities

KIs reported a **shift in the availability of job opportunities** compared to before 2014.

As reported, the most affected sectors were:

- Manufacturing,
- Transportation, and
- Oil industry.

## Challenges

Almost half of KIs reported that households faced **challenges in accessing livelihoods**.

The most reported challenges were:

- Lack of decent job opportunities;
- Lack of livelihood projects; and,
- Lack of private and/or governmental investment in small businesses and projects.

## Potentials for sectoral growth

The most commonly reported sectors of interest for returnee and IDP households were:

**agriculture, defense and security, education, and healthcare.**

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



# Access to Humanitarian Aid

## Activities

(Questions in this section excluded IDP KIs from the community)

The majority of KIs reported that **there were humanitarian activities or projects implemented** in the area, such as:

- WASH,
- Food and NFI distribution,
- Livelihoods,
- COVID-19 awareness,
- Social cohesion,
- Psycho-social support, and
- Cash assistance.

The majority of KIs reported that these activities were mainly **implemented by humanitarian actors**.

## Aid as a factor to encourage returns

The majority of IDP KIs from the community and returnee KIs reported that access to humanitarian aid **was a factor to encourage returns**.

The most reported needed humanitarian activities were:

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





# Access to Judicial Mechanisms

## Challenges

The majority of KIs reported that households **did not face challenges in accessing public judicial mechanisms**.

However, two KIs reported that:

*"the district does not have a court. The court is located in the governorate center. The main challenge is the distance from the district to the court."*

- Male older returnee KI -

and

*"households with less resources can not afford the travel cost to reach the court."*

- Female SME KI -

# Perceptions on Governance

## Bodies influencing governance

(Questions in this section excluded returnee and IDP KIs from the community)

All KIs reported that **mukhtars** were the **most influential bodies in terms of governance** in Al-Forat, followed by local authorities, tribal leaders, and formal security forces.

## Bodies influencing IDP and returnee affairs

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





# Perceptions on Safety and Security

## Feeling safe

All returnee and IDP KIs from the community reported that **returnee** and **IDP households felt safe or very safe** in Al-Forat.

This situation was reported to be the same for women, girls,<sup>3</sup> men, and boys, according to all KIs.

3 Gender indicators can be subject to potential under-reporting due to the limited number of female KIs interviewed.

## Disputes

(Questions in this section excluded IDP KIs from the community)

Over a quarter of KIs reported the **occurrence of disputes within the sub-district** in the six months prior to data collection.

The most reported reasons were:

- Minor personal disputes,
- Disputes about access to work,
- Crimes, like theft, and
- Presence of specific households/individuals in the area (alleged affiliation with ISIL).

## Solving disputes

The majority of KIs who reported the occurrence of disputes also reported that these may **decrease** in the six months following data collection.

The most reported reasons were:

- Intervention of local authorities and tribal leaders, and
- Expulsion of tribes alleged to be ISIL supporters or affiliated.



# Perceptions on Social Cohesion

## Feeling welcome

Almost a third of returnee KIs and all IDP KIs from the community reported that **displaced** and **returnee households will feel/felt welcome or very welcome** in Al-Forat.

The most reported reasons were:

- Strong inter-family bonds and kinship ties, and
- Area ruled by tribal law which the majority of households belong to.

## Interaction

A quarter of returnee and IDP KIs from the community reported that **households interacted with other groups**, mostly with **returnees**.

The most reported **ways of interaction** were through the **support provided to recent returnee households for housing rehabilitation and furniture**.

## Social cohesion bodies

**Local authorities** were perceived as the **main body to promote social cohesion**, followed by humanitarian actors and the local community.





# Perceptions on Durable Solutions

## Returnee households feeling re-integrated in AoO

(This section included returnee KIs)

Almost three quarters of returnee KIs reported that **returnee households felt re-integrated** in Al-Forat.

The most reported reasons were:

- Households reported a feeling of strong belonging to Al-Forat, considering it their *"homeland"* and claiming to be its *"original population"*,
- Some households only displaced because of the fear of ISIL presence, and
- Strong communication and kinship ties between households.

## IDP households from the community feeling integrated in AoD

(This section included IDP KIs from the community)

The majority of IDP KIs from the community reported that **displaced households did not feel integrated** in the AoD, due to the **lack of own housing**.

However, KIs reported that **displaced households felt somewhat belonging** to the AoD.



# THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION



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Upon request