

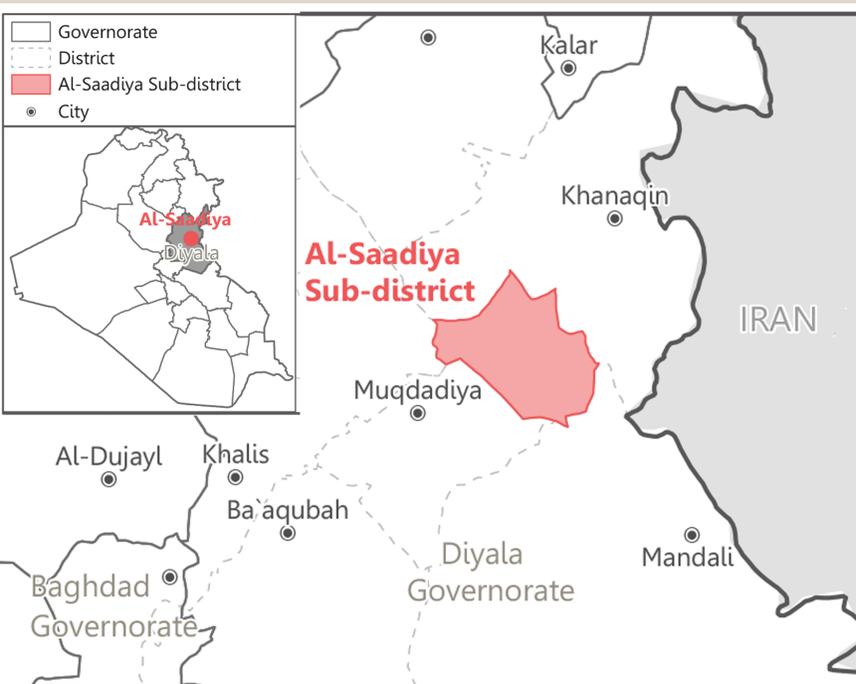
# Returns and Durable Solutions (ReDS) Assessment

**Al-Saadiya Sub-district  
Khanaqin District, Diyala Governorate  
Preliminary Findings Presentation, Iraq**

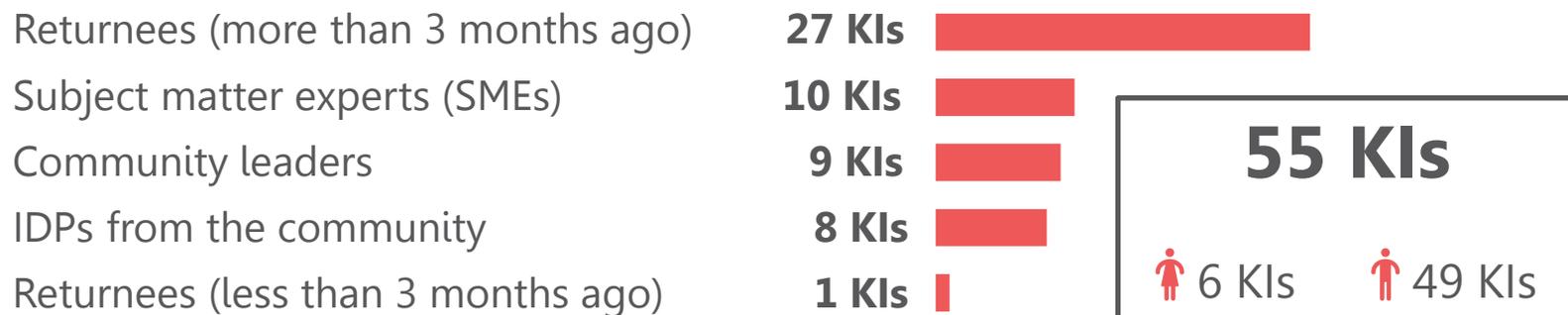
08/2022

# Assessment Methodology

- **Multi-sectoral** assessment tool, which combined **qualitative and quantitative** data.
- Data collection was done **remotely by phone** between 13 and 20 June 2022.
- **Purposive sampling** methods were employed to identify KIs. Findings should therefore be considered as **indicative**.
- Methodology based on **key informant interviews** (KIIs).



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



# Recent Returns and Barriers

Photo credit: Al-Saadiya ©Tommy Trenchard/Oxfam/2016



## Returns from non-camp areas

**19-24** households

were reported by several KIs to have returned from non-camp areas in other districts of Diyala Governorate, namely Baquba, Beladruz, and Muqdadiya and from Markaz Khanaqin Sub-district.

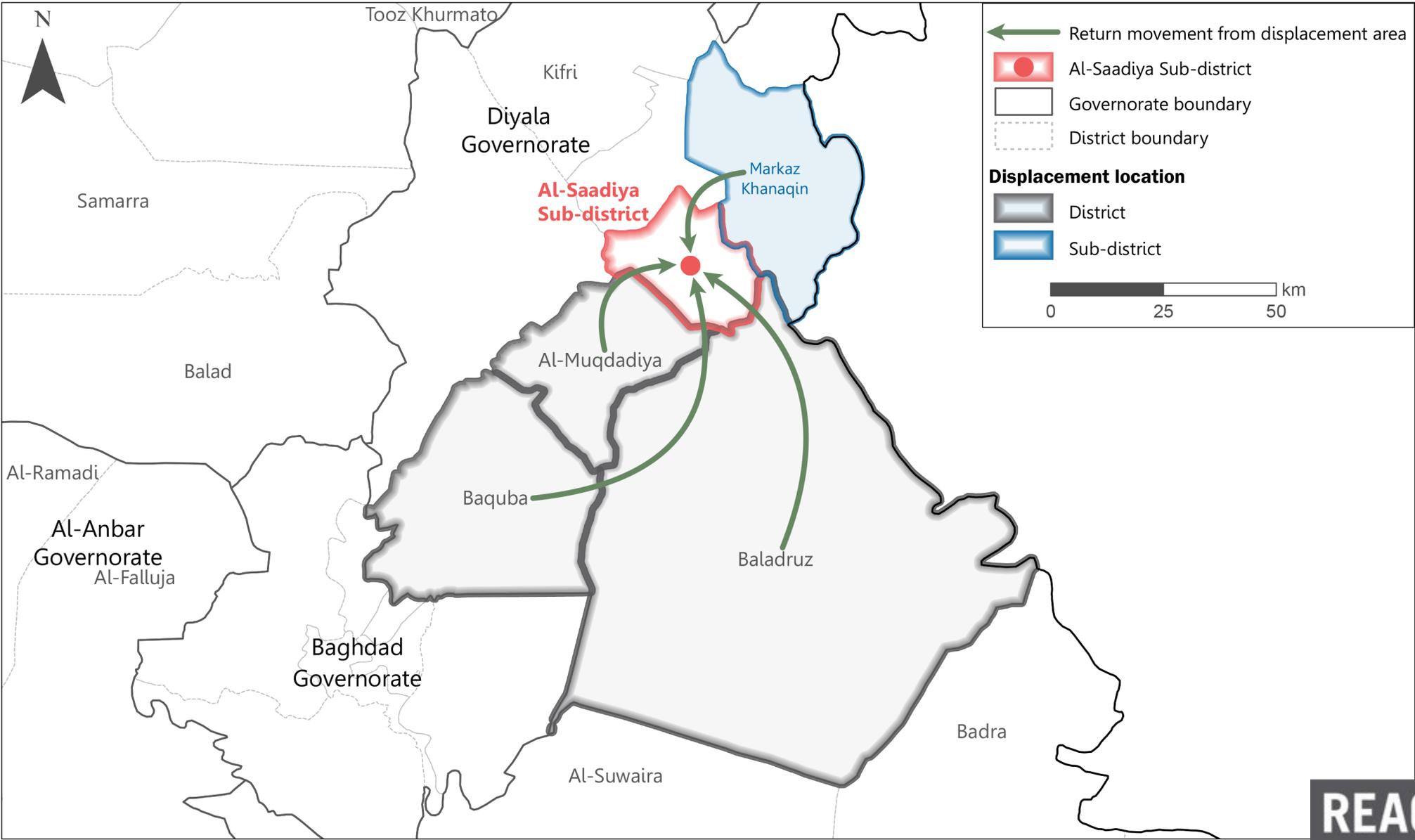
Nostalgia for previous life was the only reported reason for return.

## Barriers to return

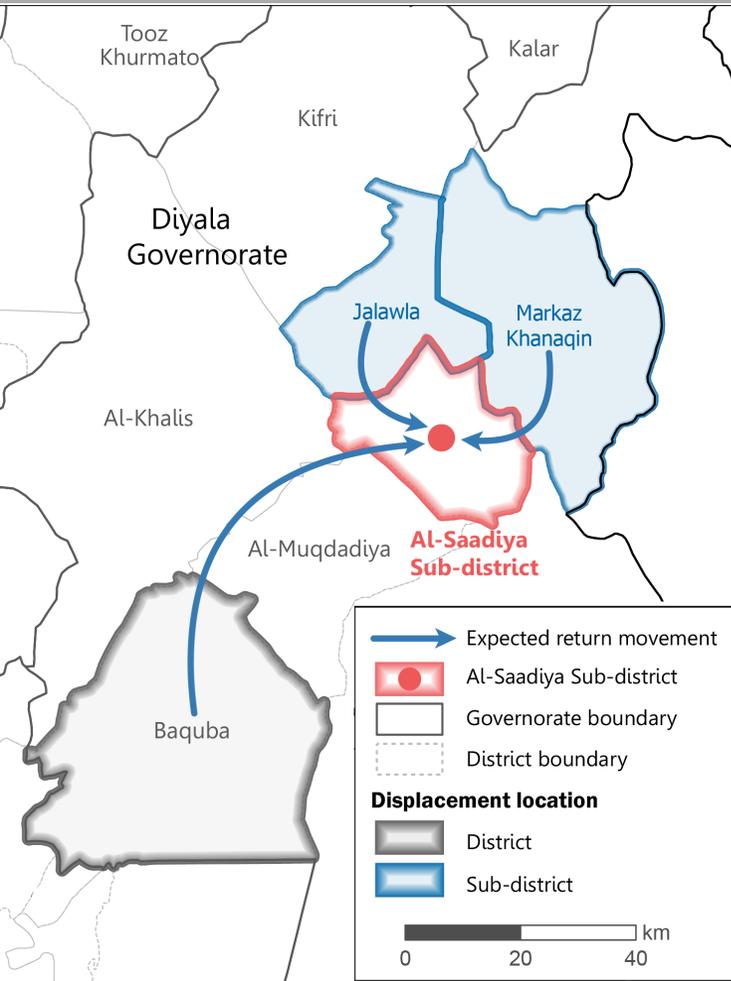
The top five most reported barriers for further returns included:

- Damaged/destroyed housing and challenging access to rehabilitation;
- Lack of/limited jobs in areas of origin (AoOs);
- Lack of/limited access to basic public services, namely healthcare and education;
- Preference to remain in areas of displacement (AoDs); and
- Security concerns in AoOs.

# Recent Returns



# Expected Returns



## Expected returns from non-camp areas

**225-325 households**

reportedly may return from Diyala Governorate, namely from Baquba District, and Jalawla and Markaz Khanaqin sub-districts in Khanaqin District.

Reported reasons for expected returns included:

- Nostalgia for previous life, and
- Following the return of other family members.

## Family separation

A few KIs reported that **adult males remained in displacement** at the time of data collection due to **the availability of jobs in their AoDs and lack of jobs in AoOs.**

One KI also reported that there were cases of separation of adult males due to their need to generate income to finance **housing rehabilitation in AoOs.**



# Access to Durable Solutions Assistance<sup>1</sup>

## Activity/project implementation

Reportedly, **there were activities and/or projects** implemented by **humanitarian/development actors and local authorities** in the area.

The top four frequently reported activities/projects implemented:

- Water, sanitation and hygiene,
- Livelihoods,
- Reconciliation and social cohesion, and
- Housing rehabilitation.

## Assistance as a factor to encourage returns

Reportedly, access to durable solutions assistance **was a factor encouraging returns.**

The two humanitarian activities most reported as needed were:

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

<sup>1</sup> Durable solutions assistance includes humanitarian, stabilization, development, and peacebuilding assistance under its umbrella.



Photo credit: Al-Saadiya ©Tommy Trenchard/Oxfam/2016

# Access to Housing and Type of Tenure

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

The **majority of households reportedly had** housing, land, and property **(HLP) documents proving ownership**.

Families with alleged links to ISIL were commonly reported as being at higher risk of eviction compared to other vulnerable groups.



**Reported Proportion of Damaged Housing**  
**33%-42%**



Photo credit: Al-Sadiya © Tommy  
Trenchard/Oxfam/2016

# Access to Housing Rehabilitation

## Challenges

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

The three most reported barriers were:

- Affected households having limited access to financial resources for housing rehabilitation;
- Lack of government compensation for housing rehabilitation; and,
- Existing factors affecting construction and reconstruction, including high cost of construction materials.



Photo credit: Al-Saadiya © Tommy Trenchard/Oxfam/2016

# Access to Basic Public Services

## Challenges

All KIs reported that the majority of the households faced **challenges in accessing basic public services**, mainly **healthcare**.

The most commonly reported challenges to healthcare were:

- Conditions in public health centers (PHCs), including shortages in medicine and medical supplies and equipment;
- Lack of operational hospitals and needing to reconstruct/rehabilitate hospitals with surgical services; and,
- Shortage of specialized medical personnel.



# Access to Livelihoods

## Challenges

All KIs reported that the majority of households faced **challenges in accessing livelihoods**.

The three most reported challenges were:

- Lack of job opportunities across various sectors, mainly affecting the youth;
- Lack of support from the local government towards the reactivation of agriculture; and,
- Lack of public sector jobs available.

## Economic support

Community leader and SME KIs reported that **livelihood programme** implementation **may support economic development** in the sub-district.

The main reported economic development needed was:

- Revitalization of the agricultural sector by providing support to local product marketing, and
- NGOs supporting livelihood programmes, including cash-for-work and facilitation of loans.



# Access to Livelihoods

## Potential for sectoral growth

Community leader and SME KIs reported that the **agricultural sector** showed the most growth potential in the 12 months following data collection followed by **education** and **healthcare**.

## Livelihood sectors of interest for returnee and IDP households

The most commonly reported sectors in which returnee and IDP households were interested in working were **agriculture** (including animal husbandry), **construction**, and **education**.



# Perceptions on Social Cohesion

## Social cohesion bodies

**Durable solution actors** were perceived by KIs as the **main body promoting social cohesion**, followed by the local authorities.

## Improving social cohesion

KIs believed that **humanitarian actors**, **local authorities**, and **security actors** played an important role in improving social cohesion.

Reported strategies or initiatives to improve social cohesion:

- Seminars, awareness sessions, and conferences;
- Initiatives promoting access to work for all; and
- Initiatives promoting community inter-relationships.

Photo credit: Iraq © [Tommy Trenchard/Oxfam](#)/2016

# Perceptions of IDP KIs from the community



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## Feeling welcome

KIs reported that the majority of households **felt they may be welcome and accepted** by the community in their AoOs if they decided to return.

The most reported reason was the existing social bonds and kinship ties, followed by strong relationship and cooperation between communities.

## Interaction

Reportedly, the majority of IDP households from the community **interacted with returnees, followed by households from their own group**, according to several IDP KIs.

The majority of IDP KIs from the community reported that IDP households participated in decision-making processes.

## Feeling integrated

All IDP KIs from the community reported that **IDP households from the community did not feel integrated** due to the fact that they were displaced in areas they were not originally from.

*“Because they have not come home yet.”*



Photo credit: Iraq © [Tommy Trenchard/Oxfam](#) /2016

# Perceptions of returnee KIIs

## Feeling welcome

The majority of returnee KIIs reported that returnee households felt **very welcome** or **somewhat welcome**.

The two most reported reasons were:

- Strong relationship and cooperation between communities and
- Kinship ties and social bonds with other households.

## Interaction

KIIs reported that the majority of returnee households **interacted with all groups** and that **they participated in decision making**.

## Feeling re-integrated

All returnee KIIs reported that **returnee households felt re-integrated** in Al-Saadiya where they felt at home and had a **strong sense of belonging**.

*“Returned to our homes and lands after a long period of displacement.”*

# Key Findings

- Recent returns reportedly **positively impacted the community** with the **return of business and shop owners galvanizing the private, trade and commercial sectors**, and the **return of farmers and recultivation of their lands reactivating the agricultural sector**.
- Expected returns **may reputedly positively impact trade and commerce, the private sector, agriculture, social inter-relations in the community, reconstruction, and access to services** in the sub-district.
- **Damage to housing/need for housing rehabilitation** was one of the most reported barriers for returns, the second most commonly reported community need, and the third most needed activity to encourage further returns to Al-Saadiya.
- Further efforts to support **livelihoods, healthcare, and housing rehabilitation** were the most reported primary community needs for **SME, community leader, returnee, and IDP KIs from community**.
- The most affected public sector was reportedly **healthcare**, followed by access to public water. Conditions at PHCs in Al-Saadiya, lack of specialised operating hospitals, shortage of medicines, and shortage of medical staff, namely doctors, were reportedly the main factors affecting access to healthcare in the sub-district.

# Key Findings

- **Agriculture** was the most frequently reported **sector with the highest growth potential** in Al-Saadiya for the 12 months following data collection.
- **Formal security forces** were reportedly the **most effective at resolving disputes** within the sub-district.
- Almost half of the **IDP KIs from the community reported that IDP households may feel welcome and accepted** if they return to Al-Saadiya. KIs reported that these households mainly **interacted with returnees** and participated in decision-making processes in their AoOs.
- All IDP KIs reported that **the majority of IDP households did not feel integrated** in their AoDs.
- The **majority of returnee KIs** reported that returnee households **interacted with all groups in the community** and felt welcome or very welcome in Al-Saadiya. This was mainly reported due to existing strong relationships they had with other members of the community and the presence of kinship ties with other households in the sub-district.
- **All returnee KIs** reported that **returnee households felt reintegrated in the community** of Al-Saadiya.

# THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION



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Upon request