

### Situation Overview

In 2021, the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) returning to their area of origin (AoO) or being re-displaced increased, coupled with persisting challenges in relation to social cohesion, lack of services, infrastructure and - in some cases - security in AoOs.<sup>1</sup> Increased returns were driven in part by the ongoing closure and consolidation of IDP camps. As of July 2021, 16 formal camps and informal sites have been closed or reclassified as informal sites since camp closures started in mid-October 2020. For the camps that remain open across Iraq, there is an ongoing planning procedure to determine their future.<sup>2</sup> The [International Organization for Migration \(IOM\) Displacement Tracking Matrix \(DTM\)](#)'s returnee master list recorded that over 5,460 households returned to non-camp locations across the country between January and July 2021.<sup>3</sup>

There were no additional camp closures between January and July 2021, however IDPs continued returning or secondarily displacing. 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 humanitarian and development planning.

### Coverage Map



### Background and Methodology

A number of partners are currently tracking population movements and measuring progress towards durable solutions for displaced populations in Iraq.<sup>10</sup> For example, IOM has collected data on a bi-monthly basis, found in the [IOM DTM Returns Index](#). This tool provides indicative trends on the severity of conditions in areas of return (AoR) nationwide.

To build on this information, REACH Initiative (REACH) has conducted multi-sectoral assessments in AoOs or areas of return (AoR) 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-Qahtaniya Sub-district to provide an in-depth profiling of needs and understanding of social relationships between returnee<sup>11</sup> and/or IDP populations.<sup>12</sup>

### Al-Qahtaniya Sub-district

Al-Qahtaniya is a sub-district of Al-Baaj District in Ninewa Governorate.<sup>4</sup> It is part of the disputed territories of Northern Iraq.<sup>5</sup> Al-Qahtaniya Sub-district is mostly populated by Yazidis who have been historically exposed to additional hardship.<sup>6</sup> In June 2014, Al-Qahtaniya fell under the control of the so-called Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). After October 2017, the Iraqi forces and their allies retook the sub-district from ISIL, resulting in a new wave of displacement caused by military operations.<sup>7</sup> According to an IOM [Integrated Location Assessment \(ILA\) Round VI](#), as of July 2021, households residing in 33 villages in Al-Qahtaniya (out of 34 villages) were still somewhat concerned about possible ISIL operations in the area.<sup>8</sup>

### Reported Population Profile<sup>9</sup>

- 3,378-3,618 households** were residing in Al-Qahtaniya before the events of 2014.
- 95%-97%** of households originally from Al-Qahtaniya were displaced since 2014.
- 52%-57%** households displaced since 2014 had returned to Al-Qahtaniya at the time of data collection.
- 5-7 IDP households** (AoO not specified) were displaced in Al-Qahtaniya at the time of data collection.

Al-Qahtaniya Sub-district was selected for the assessment as: social cohesion severity<sup>13</sup> was classified as 'high' in 24 villages out of 34;<sup>14</sup> it was an AoO for IDPs in camps at risk of closure or recently closed;<sup>15</sup> and dynamic population movements to/from this sub-district were reported through the Returns Working Group (RWG). The findings are based on 23 key informant (KI) interviews conducted between 27 July and 18 August 2021, combining qualitative and quantitative data collection methods adapted to the context. Data collection was conducted remotely due to movement restrictions and public health concerns linked to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### KI Profile

#### Al-Qahtaniya Sub-district

IDPs (displaced from the area) <sup>16</sup>	7 KIs	
Community leaders <sup>17</sup>	5 KIs	
Returnees (more than 3 months ago) <sup>18</sup>	5 KIs	
Returnees (less than 3 months ago) <sup>19</sup>	3 KIs	
Subject matter experts (SMEs) <sup>20</sup>	3 KIs	23 KIs <sup>21</sup>

### Key findings

-  The situation regarding returns to Al-Qahtaniya remained stable, with KIs reporting a **few ongoing returns** and **some projected in the six months following data collection**, driven primarily by the **sense of increased safety and security**. In general, the majority of KIs believed that **recent returns had positively impacted the community** by revitalizing the agricultural sector and promoting the reconstruction of residential areas in Al-Qahtaniya.
-  The **most commonly reported pull factor was the sense of increased safety and security** in Al-Qahtaniya. However, drivers for return varied per KI profile. While SME, community leader, and IDP KIs from the community reported that households returned following the return of other extended family members, returnee KIs reported that households felt nostalgia about their previous life in the sub-district.
-  The majority of KIs reported that **households faced challenges in accessing housing rehabilitation** in the sub-district, as well as difficulties in accessing the government compensation for damaged properties. Issues related to access to housing rehabilitation, and access to services and livelihoods, were reported as the main barriers for households to return and as reasons for failed returns to Al-Qahtaniya.
-  All returnee and IDP KIs from the community reported that **the availability of humanitarian aid for housing rehabilitation would be a factor encouraging further returns** to the sub-district.
-  The majority of KIs believed that **most of the households** in Al-Qahtaniya **resided in owned houses** and **had access to housing, land and property (HLP) documentation proving ownership**. However, one SME KI reported that some households resided in residential compounds in Al-Qahtaniya.<sup>22</sup>
-  KIs from different population groups prioritized community needs differently. **Housing rehabilitation and livelihoods** were the most commonly reported primary community needs **for returnee KIs** (recent and older returnees).<sup>18, 19</sup> **Community leader and SME KIs** commonly reported the need for further efforts to develop the **healthcare infrastructure** as the primary community need.
-  Perceptions on accessibility to services and assistance varied between KI profiles. While **most returnee KIs** reported that **households faced challenges in accessing** basic public services, livelihoods and public judicial mechanisms; **community leader KIs** - in majority - believed that **there were no challenges** affecting accessibility.
-  KIs reported an **overall decrease in the availability of job opportunities compared to 2014**. Reportedly, the type of jobs available had also shifted, with governmental jobs (specifically public administration and defense), trade, hotels, restaurants, transportation, and finance being reportedly not available at the time of data collection. KIs reported that the construction sector was not as affected by the decrease in job opportunities, which was assumed to be a result of the reported reconstruction and rehabilitation of houses and infrastructure taking place in the sub-district.
-  Overall, jobs in the agricultural sector were the second most reported as available in the sub-district. **Agriculture** was the most commonly reported **livelihood sector of interest for recent and older returnee** households or individuals. It was also commonly reported by community leader and SME KIs as **the livelihood sector with growth potential** in the 12 months following data collection.
-  Generally, **local authorities were reportedly the most influential bodies regarding governance**. The majority of returnee and IDP KIs from the community reported that the **presence of formal security forces** contributed **positively to a feeling of safety** between community members and that they were effective in resolving disputes. However, one community leader KI reported that tribal leaders played an active role in resolving inter-communal disputes.
-  In general, **all returnee KIs** noted that **community members felt safe or very safe in Al-Qahtaniya**. Additionally, the majority of returnee households reportedly **felt welcome or very welcome** to the sub-district. According to KIs, this was mainly driven by kinship ties between members of the community and consequently strong inter-family bonds.
-  The majority of returnee KIs reported that **returnee households mostly interacted with IDPs in the community**. This was reportedly due to the kinship ties and work relationships between these groups.
-  Reported participation in decision-making processes varied slightly between KI profiles. While all **returnee KIs** reported that **returnee households participated in decision-making processes**, over half of **IDP KIs** from the community reported that **IDP households did not participate** in these processes. One possible explanation for this difference could be the connection that each household had with existing tribal systems and their bonds with the community in Al-Qahtaniya.

Findings are based on the perceptions of KIs who were purposively sampled; all data should therefore be considered as indicative. The occasionally large variation between perceptions is potentially due to KIs varying profiles and personal interests. For further details on the methodology, please see the ReDS [Terms of Reference \(ToR\)](#).

### Recent household return movements

**29-36 households** returned to Al-Qahtaniya in the six months prior to data collection, as reported by 15 KIs (out of 23). The rest of the KIs reported no returns (7 KIs) or did not know about recent movements (1 KI).

Returns were reported from camps in Duhok Governorate (12 KIs). Other households reportedly returned from non-camp areas in Markaz Al-Baaj Sub-district (2 KIs). One KI did not know where these movements were from.

KIs reported different pull and push factors influencing these movements. The most commonly reported pull factor was the sense of increased safety and security in Al-Qahtaniya (8 KIs). According to one KI, camp closures in areas of displacement (AoD) was the reported push factor for households to return to the sub-district.

#### Reported drivers for returns (out of 15 KIs)<sup>23</sup>

Sense of increased safety and security	8 KIs
Following the return of other extended family members	6 KIs
Nostalgia about their previous life	4 KIs
Availability of basic public services	3 KIs
Camp closures in AoD	1 KI
Did not know	1 KI

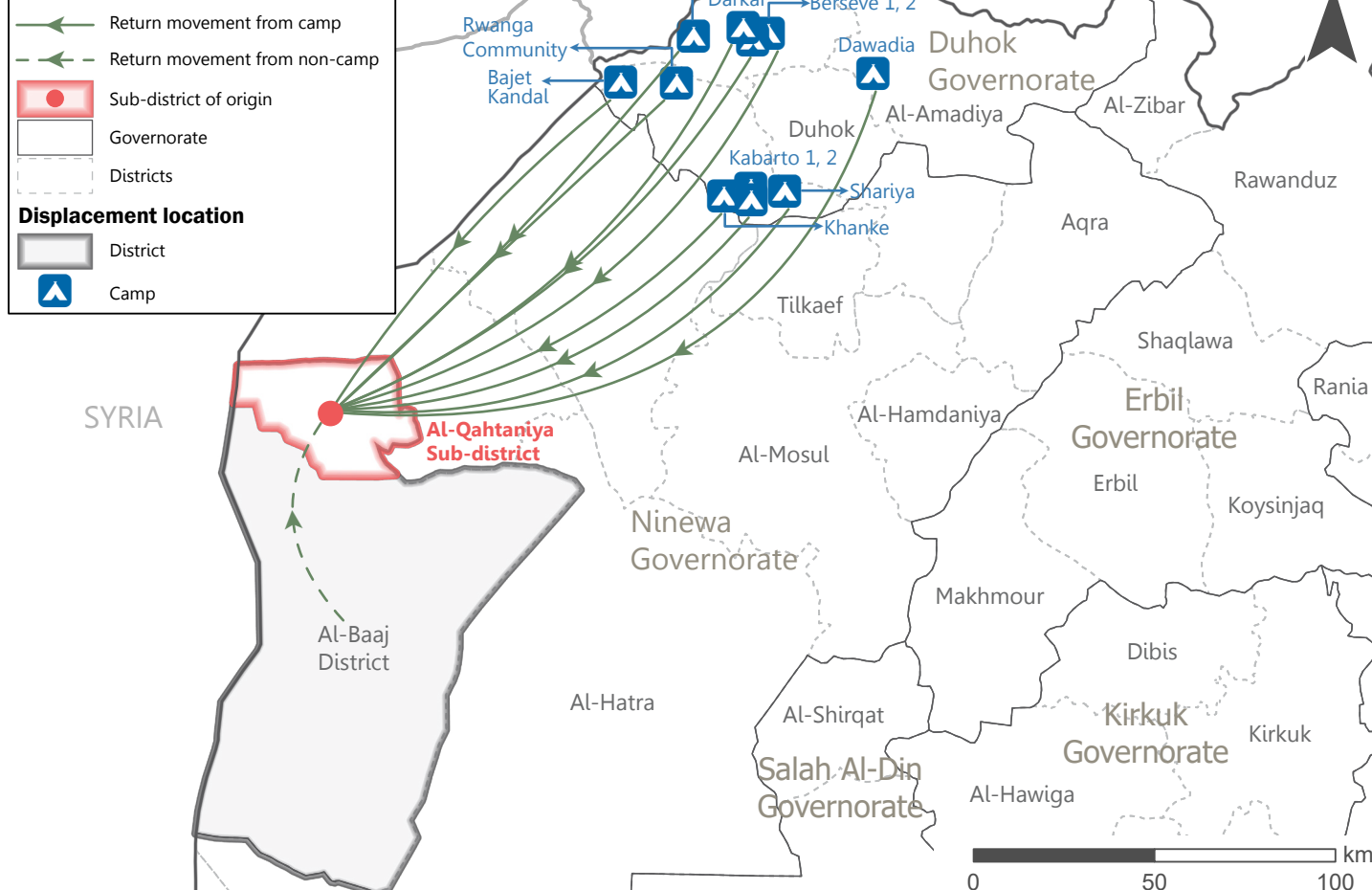
#### Reported impact of returns in the community<sup>23</sup>

Over half of KIs (15 out of 23 KIs) reported that recent returns had positive impacts in the community of the sub-district. Reportedly, the reconstruction of houses (10 KIs) started with the return of households to their AoD and remained ongoing at the time of data collection. This situation allegedly encouraged other displaced households to return (8 KIs), helping to repopulate the area with original families (1 KI) and creating a more stable community (7 KIs).

According to KIs, the agricultural sector was revitalized (10 KIs) with the return of landlords (4 KIs) and skilled workers (3 KIs), and as a result of interventions from humanitarian actors (4 KIs) and financial support from the government (3 KIs) in response to the return of households to the area. KIs noted the reopening of shops and small businesses (6 KIs). The reported rehabilitation of public infrastructure (7 KIs) and the return of specialized personnel (3 KIs) further supported the reopening of public basic service institutions and offices, leading to the gradual restarting of service provision (9 KIs).

All these factors combined reportedly revitalized the labour market (8 KIs), restored trade and commerce relations in the sub-district (6 KIs), ensured job opportunities for youth (4 KIs), and improved the economic situation in Al-Qahtaniya (2 KIs).

#### Reported recent return movements to Al-Qahtaniya (in the last six months)



### Recent failed household returns

The majority of KIs reported no attempted returns (16 out of 23 KIs) or did not know (4 KIs). However, three IDP KIs from the community reported that:

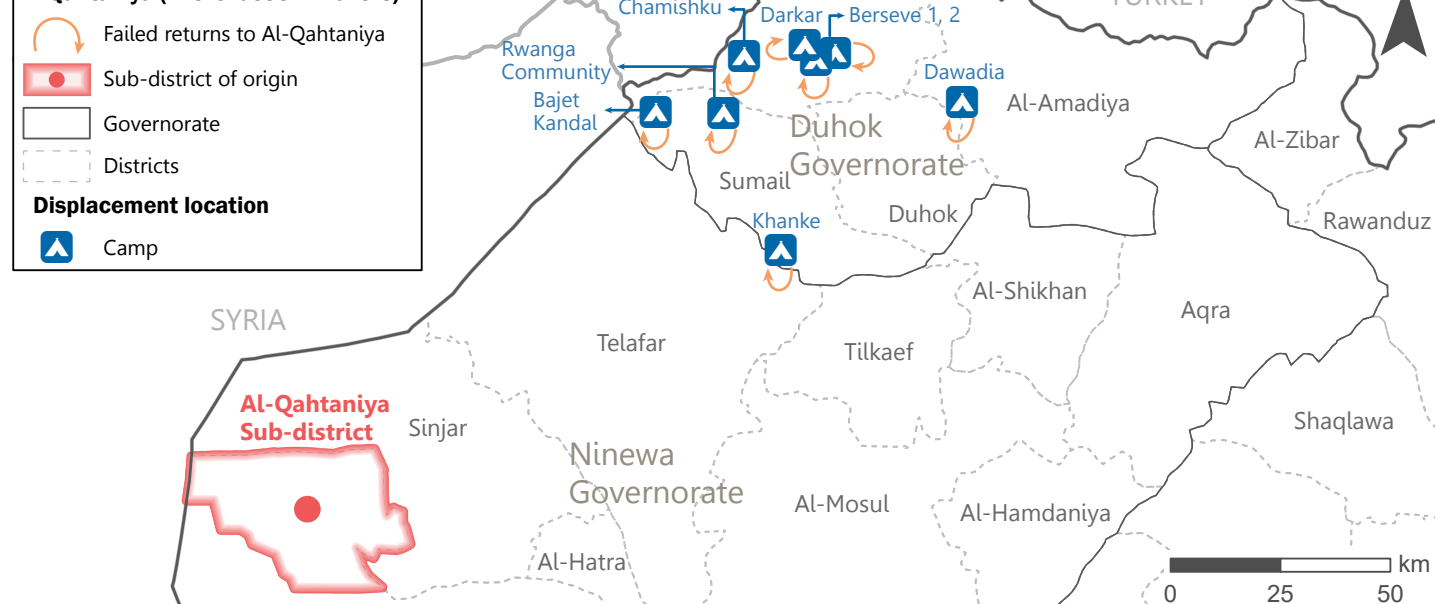
**18-60 households** attempted to return to Al-Qahtaniya in the six months prior to data collection but did not succeed.

Reportedly, all households attempted to return from camps in Duhok Governorate (3 KIs). After they failed to return, households moved back to the same previous AoD, according to these KIs.

#### Reported reasons for failed returns (out of 3 KIs)<sup>23</sup>

Destroyed/damaged housing	3 KIs	■
Lack of job opportunities in AoO	3 KIs	■
Lack of basic public services in AoO	3 KIs	■
Absence of specialised medical treatment in AoO	3 KIs	■
Unstable security in AoO	1 KI	■

#### Reported failed return movements to Al-Qahtaniya (in the last six months)



#### Reported impact of failed returns in the community<sup>23</sup>

The three KIs who reported failed returns believed that these movements had negative impacts in the community. In addition, KIs reported that the unsuccessful attempts to return affected the revitalization of the agricultural sector due to the fact that lands remained abandoned, damaged houses were not rehabilitated and affected households were not compensated for their loss.

This situation reportedly discouraged other households or negatively influenced others' decisions to return (2 KIs). Moreover, these discouraged households remain in displacement (3 KIs) affected by difficult conditions, whether in camps or non-camp areas. Further returns would be encouraged by financial support from the government (3 KIs), the restoration of public basic services (namely water, electricity, and healthcare) (3 KIs) and irrigation support for farmers and their lands (1 KI).

### Family separation and reunification plans<sup>24</sup>

The majority of SME and returnee KIs reported that **there were no family separation cases** in the sub-district (5 out of 11 KIs) or did not know (5 KIs).

However, one SME KI reported that some households had family members who remained in displacement at the time of data collection.

#### Parents

According to the SME KI, some households had parents who remained in displacement due to available jobs in AoD being unavailable in AoO.

#### Adolescent children

The same SME KI reported that some households had adolescent children who were reportedly involved at school in AoD which affected families' decisions to return during the 2020-2021 academic year. This hesitation to return was also reportedly influenced by household fears of ISIL.

#### Family reunification plans

As reported by the SME KI: "After providing security in the area and re-establishing basic services, including electricity, water, healthcare, and education. After the reactivation of municipal departments; cleaning the area from mines, as well as ensuring job opportunities for all", households and their separated members will be reunited.

### Expected household returns

The majority of KIs reported no expected returns in the six months following data collection (9 out of 23 KIs), did not know about these movements (8 KIs), or refused to answer (3 KIs). However, three KIs reported that:

**83-147 households** were expected to return to Al-Qahtaniya in the six months following data collection.

KIs reporting expected returns (3 KIs) also reported that these households would be arriving from camps in Duhok Governorate.

### Reported drivers for expected returns (out of 3 KIs)<sup>23</sup>

Sense of increased safety and security	2 KIs	■
Following the return of other extended family members	1 KI	■
Availability of basic public services	1 KI	■
Availability of job opportunities	1 KI	■
Nostalgia about previous life	1 KI	■

### Reported impact of expected returns in the community<sup>23</sup>

Compared to recent movements, expected additional returns were perceived to have positive and negative impacts. The majority of KIs (21 out of 23 KIs) believed that additional returns might have positive effects in the situation of the sub-district and its community. This was mainly attributed to socio-economic and stabilization factors. According to KIs, the restoration of the labour market and an increase in available job opportunities was expected (15 KIs). KIs further noted the potential revitalization of the agriculture sector (11 KIs) and the reopening of shops and workshops (10 KIs), influenced by the return of skilled workers like carpenters, grocers, farmers, blacksmiths (7 KIs), and shop owners (3 KIs). These factors may lead to the restoration of markets, trade, and commerce links (9 KIs) and improve the overall economic situation (2 KIs).

Additionally, KIs reported that the return of specialized personnel, namely doctors, nurses, public employees and teachers (6 KIs) and the planned rehabilitation of the public infrastructure,

including water complexes, health centers and schools (13 KIs), could consequently ensure the reopening of public basic services institutions and departments (16 KIs). At the same time, housing rehabilitation could occur with the return of households (12 KIs). The reconstruction process must be led primarily by the financial support from the government (8 KIs) and partially by humanitarian actors (4 KIs), which will ensure access to jobs mainly for youth (3 KIs). All these factors reportedly may result in the stabilization of the area (13 KIs), might encourage others to return (7 KIs) and could represent opportunities for social cohesion (1 KI).

However, two KIs (out of 23) believed that further returns may have negative impacts in the shorter term until conditions are created to absorb the increased number of individuals in the sub-district and the demand for services, housing and livelihoods. The most commonly reported negative effects were the potential reduction of services for all members of the community (1 KI), an increase of the workforce for limited available job opportunities (1 KI) and the expected occurrence of internal disputes affecting social cohesion (1KI).

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

#### Access to housing

Destroyed/damaged housing	21 KIs	■
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#### Access to livelihoods and basic public services

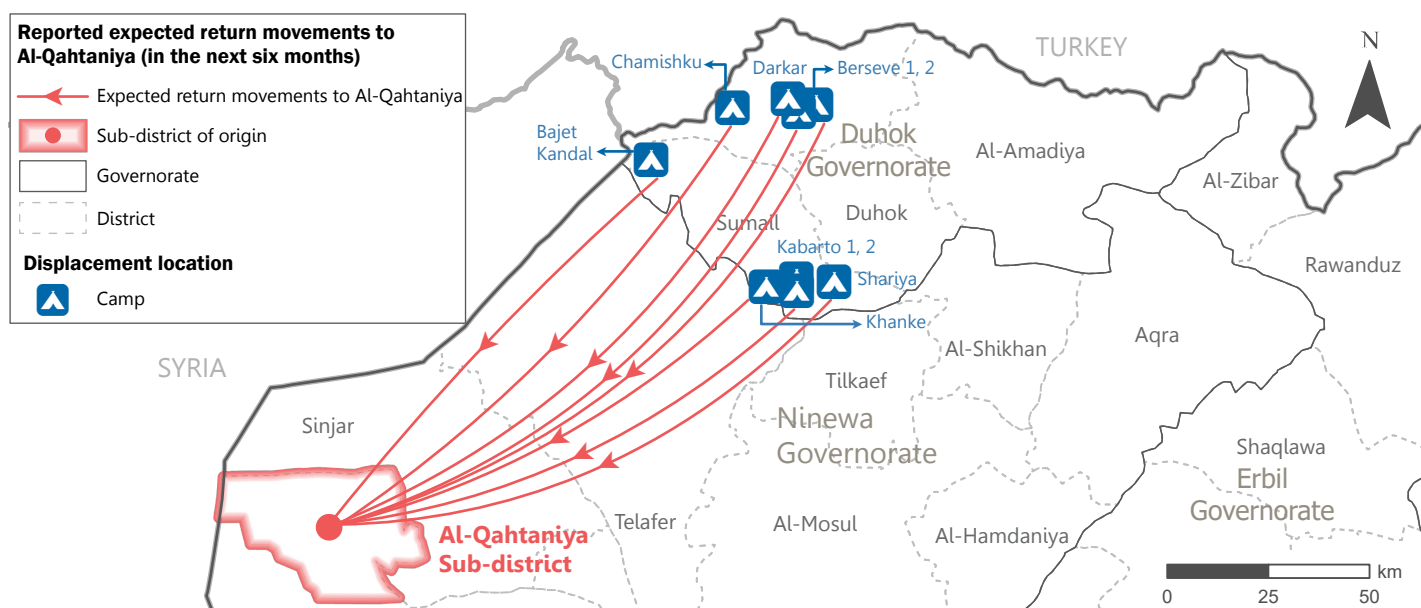
Lack of job opportunities	20 KIs	■
Lack of basic public services	16 KIs	■
Absence of specialised medical treatment in AoD	4 KIs	■

#### Safety and security

Concerns about security in AoD	3 KIs	■
Fear of being perceived as affiliated with ISIL	2 KIs	■
Presence of armed groups	1 KI	■

#### Other barriers

Fear of contracting COVID-19	4 KIs	■
Preferred life in AoD	4 KIs	■



### Primary community needs<sup>25</sup>

#### Primary community needs in Al-Qahtaniya (out of 16 KIs)<sup>23</sup>

	First Need	Second Need	Third Need
Housing rehabilitation	9 KIs	3 KIs	0 KIs
Livelihoods	1 KI	5 KIs	3 KIs
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)	2 KIs	1 KI	4 KIs
Healthcare	0 KIs	1 KI	5 KIs
Infrastructure rehabilitation	1 KI	2 KIs	2 KIs
Electricity	1 KI	2 KIs	0 KIs
Explosive remnants of war (ERW) removal	1 KI	1 KI	0 KIs

Other less reported primary needs were access to food assistance (1 out of 16 KIs), reconciliation and social cohesion programmes (1 KI), and access to education (1 KI).

The most commonly reported primary community need was **access to housing rehabilitation** (12 out of 16 KIs). KIs reported that the high proportion of destroyed or damaged housing (12 KIs), the lack of financial means households had to rehabilitate their homes (8 KIs), the lack of compensation transactions (3 KIs) and the slow process for compensation claims (1 KI) made of housing rehabilitation the main requirement to encourage returns (7 KIs). According to KIs, the sub-district required financial loans from humanitarian actors to facilitate housing rehabilitation (3 KIs).<sup>23</sup>

The second most commonly reported primary community need was **access to livelihoods** (9 out of 16 KIs). KIs reported that the lack of decent job opportunities<sup>26</sup> (9 KIs) negatively influenced the decision of displaced households to return (7 KIs) as members preferred to remain in their AoD due to their access to employment (7 KIs).<sup>23</sup>

The third most commonly reported primary community need was **access to WASH** (7 out of 16 KIs). Additionally, access to healthcare was one of the most needed services in Al-Qahtaniya (6 KIs).<sup>23, 27</sup>

#### Most commonly reported primary community needs per KI profile<sup>23, 28</sup>

Community leaders (out of 5 KIs)		SMEs (out of 3 KIs)		Recent returnees (out of 3 KIs) <sup>19</sup>		Older returnees (out of 5 KIs) <sup>18</sup>	
WASH	4 KIs	Housing rehabilitation	3 KIs	Housing rehabilitation	3 KIs	Housing rehabilitation	5 KIs
Infrastructure rehabilitation	2 KIs	Livelihoods	2 KIs	Electricity	2 KIs	Livelihoods	4 KIs
Healthcare	2 KIs	Healthcare	2 KIs	Livelihoods	2 KIs	WASH	3 KIs

### Access to humanitarian aid and impact on returns

**15 KIs** (out of 16)<sup>25</sup> reported that **there were humanitarian activities or projects implemented** in Al-Qahtaniya. One KI reported that there were no activities implemented.

#### Reported activities implemented in Al-Qahtaniya (out of 15 KIs)<sup>23</sup>

Livelihoods programmes	8 KIs
Food security programmes	5 KIs
WASH <sup>29</sup>	4 KIs
Housing and infrastructure rehabilitation	3 KIs
Non-food item (NFI) distributions	2 KIs
Social cohesion	1 KI
Cash assistance	1 KI

#### Activity implementers<sup>23, 25</sup>

The majority of KIs reported that these **activities or projects were implemented primarily by humanitarian actors** (12 out of 16 KIs). Three KIs reported that local authorities were involved in the implementation of WASH and livelihood programmes. According to one KI, local community members supported in social cohesion activities.

#### Reported groups less involved in activities<sup>23</sup>

Returnee KIs were consulted about the groups less involved in activities. Reportedly, **IDPs from the community were less involved** than other displacement groups in activities or projects (5 out of 8 KIs), followed by returnees (2 KIs). The rest of the KIs believed that all displacement groups were similarly involved in these activities or projects (1 KI) or did not know (1 KI).

Regarding vulnerable groups,<sup>30</sup> KIs reported that elderly people (3 out of 8 KIs) and people with disabilities or special needs (PWSN) (1 KI) were less involved in these activities or projects than other vulnerable groups. The rest of the KIs believed that all vulnerable groups had the same access to participation/involvement (3 KIs), did not know (1 KI), or refused to answer (1 KI).

#### Humanitarian aid as a factor to encourage returns<sup>31</sup>

All KIs consulted for this section (15 KIs) reported that the **availability of humanitarian aid would be a factor encouraging returns** to Al-Qahtaniya.

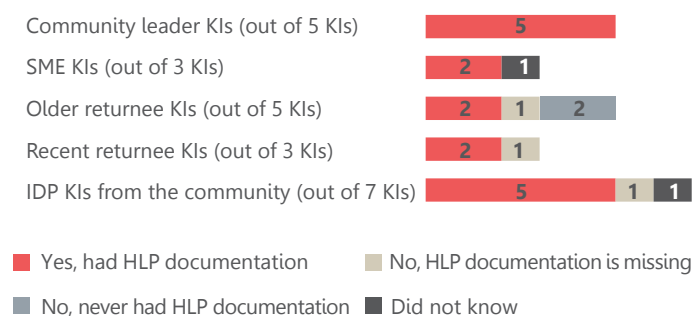
Reportedly, housing rehabilitation was the activity identified by KIs as the most needed to encourage further returns. **"If there is available support for the rehabilitation of houses, most of the displaced households will return"** - male recent returnee KI.

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

The majority of KIs consulted for this section (15 out of 16 KIs)<sup>25</sup> reported that the majority of households in Al-Qahtaniya resided in **owned houses**. One SME KI reported that some households were hosted in governmental residential compounds in the sub-district.<sup>22</sup>

#### Access to HLP documentation

Almost three quarters of KIs reported that **the some of households** in Al-Qahtaniya **had ownership documents** (16 out of 23 KIs). Returnee and IDP KIs from the community reported that the some of returnee and IDP households had the housing property certificate to prove ownership (4 out of 8 KIs).



#### Reported type of missing HLP documentation

A few returnee and IDP KIs from the community (3 out of 23 KIs) reported that the majority of returnee and IDP households from the community did not have HLP documentation to prove property ownership. Allegedly, returnee households were missing the housing property certificate, while IDP households from the community were missing their housing property certificate and the residence card (also known as housing card).<sup>32</sup>

#### Evictions<sup>33</sup>

The majority of returnee KIs (5 out of 8 KIs) reported that **there were no households or families evicted** in the last six months prior to data collection. Three returnee KIs did not know about evictions.

In the longer term, half of returnee KIs did not know about groups that could be at risk of eviction (4 out of 8 KIs). A few returnee KIs believed that none of the displacement groups would be at risk of eviction in the longer term (2 KIs). Other KIs reported that all groups could be at risk of eviction (3 KIs), and one KI refused to answer. However, one older returnee KI reported that IDP households in the community might be at risk of eviction in the longer term, especially families with members with alleged links to ISIL.<sup>23</sup>

"There are many destroyed houses in Al-Qahtaniyah, especially these built with mud and natural materials and not all residents in the area have financial means to rehabilitate the houses. This is why households in the sub-district need financial support from the government or grants from organizations in order to rehabilitate their homes and to return from the long displacement."

- Male recent returnee KI -

#### Access to housing rehabilitation

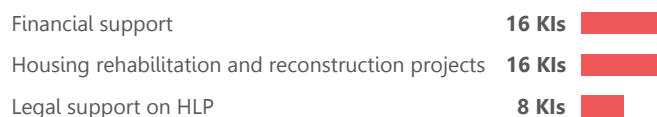
**56%-65%** of houses in Al-Qahtaniya were reportedly destroyed or heavily damaged during the military operations between 2014 and 2017, according to all KIs (16 KIs).<sup>25, 34</sup>

#### Challenges to access housing rehabilitation

The majority of KIs reported that **households faced challenges in accessing housing rehabilitation** in the sub-district (17 out of 23 KIs). The rest of the KIs reported no challenges (4 KIs), did not know (1 KI), or refused to answer (1 KI).

Reportedly, the rehabilitation of houses in Al-Qahtaniya was negatively affected by the lack of financial support or compensation from the government (15 out of 17 KIs) and the inability of households to pay for the reconstruction of their shelters with private resources (9 KIs). In addition, KIs reported delays for applied compensation claims which resulted in households being reluctant to return (8 KIs).<sup>23</sup>

Additionally, KIs reported that the most difficult supports to obtain in terms of access to housing rehabilitation were (out of 17 KIs):<sup>23</sup>



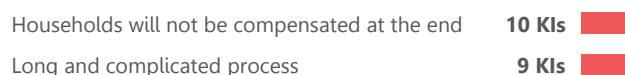
#### Reported groups with less access to housing rehabilitation<sup>23</sup>

Regarding affected groups, IDPs from the community reportedly faced more challenges when attempting to access housing rehabilitation (10 out of 13 KIs),<sup>35</sup> followed by returnees (9 KIs). The rest of the KIs believed that all groups were equally affected (3 KIs). While analysing vulnerabilities,<sup>30</sup> the majority of KIs reported that PWSN (6 KIs), elderly people (5 KIs), and female-headed households (3 KIs) encountered more difficulties to access housing rehabilitation compared to other groups. The rest of the KIs believed that all groups were equally affected (3 KIs), did not know (1 KI), or refused to answer (1 KI).

#### Access to compensation mechanisms

Most of the KIs reported that the majority of households in Al-Qahtaniya **faced difficulties in accessing government compensation for damaged properties** (15 out of 23 KIs). The rest of the KIs (mostly returnee KIs) reported no challenges (6 KIs) or did not know (2 KIs).

Reportedly, out of 15 KIs, perceptions toward the compensation process included:<sup>23</sup>






KIs believed that the process to claim compensation was worsened by the lack of legal support to process these claims (7 KIs) and the lack of awareness on compensation mechanisms (3 KIs).<sup>36</sup> This situation caused households to reportedly mistrust the governmental support process (2 KIs) and negatively affected the intentions of IDP households, preferring instead to remain in the AoD (5 KIs).<sup>23</sup>

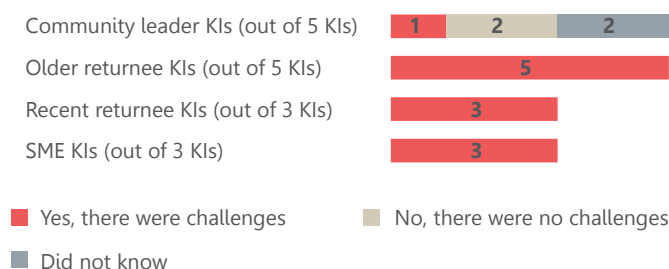
### Perceptions on access to basic public services

The majority of KIs reported that **households faced challenges in accessing basic public services** in the sub-district (12 out of 16 KIs).<sup>25</sup> The rest of the KIs reported no challenges in access (2 KIs) or did not know (2 KIs).

#### Reported affected basic public services (out of 16)<sup>23, 25</sup>

Healthcare	9 KIs	
WASH	9 KIs	
Education	9 KIs	

Perceptions on accessibility slightly varied with the KI profile. While all returnee KIs reported that households faced challenges in accessing basic public services, almost half of community leader KIs believed that there were no challenges affecting accessibility.



#### Challenges to access basic public services<sup>23</sup>

Reportedly, services were mainly affected by the high level of infrastructure destruction from military operations (11 out of 12 KIs) and the slow progress of ongoing rehabilitation works (9 KIs), followed by the lack of specialized staff, such as doctors, nurses and teachers, who remained in displacement (6 KIs). This situation was also allegedly affected by the lack of financial allocations from the government to rehabilitate infrastructure in the sub-district (1 KI) and the lack or delay in paying public employees' salaries (1 KI). This together was consequently considered a barrier for returns (1 KI).

#### Access to public healthcare services<sup>23</sup>

According to one KI there was a lack of preparedness from the government towards the rehabilitation of the available primary health center (PHC) as well as a neglect by the relevant local authorities. However, one community leader KI reported that the available PHC was rehabilitated by humanitarian actors. Some KIs reported the lack of medicines (5 KIs), supplies and equipment (4 KIs), and specialized medical staff, who remained in displacement (3 KIs). Overall, this situation reportedly showed a decline in available healthcare services compared to 2014 (1 KI). Additionally, two KIs reported that households were forced to travel to other areas to receive medical treatment and, according to a third KI, households resorted to private doctors for medical attention.

#### Access to public water and waste management services<sup>23</sup>

When analysing WASH components separately, findings showed that **access to water** was reportedly affected by the destruction or serious damage of the public water network (5 out of 12 KIs) which was allegedly worsened by the lack of maintenance of the water network and the collective water treatment plants (5 KIs).

This situation reportedly caused households to access insufficient (3 KIs) and polluted potable water (3 KIs). Consequently, households were compelled to depend on handmade water wells (2 KIs), which did not meet minimum standards for water quality and quantity (2 KIs), as well as purchased water (2 KIs). It also caused an increased demand for water, which resulted in inflated prices for private water services (1 KI).

Regarding waste management, one community leader KI reported that **"before the events of 2014, there was a municipal department in charge of the waste management in the sub-district and there were also employees, as well as cleaning workers who removed the garbage from residential areas and disposed of them."**

KIs reported that the lack of sanitation employees reporting for work was due to delayed salaries (2 KIs), which resulted in the accumulation of waste in the sub-district's residential areas (1 KI). In addition, this situation was reportedly affected due to relevant municipal departments remaining closed (1 KI) and the neglect from the government regarding sanitation in the sub-district (1 KI).

One community leader KI reported the need to create a safe removal and transportation of waste in the sub-district by the municipal authorities. According to the KI, it would be necessary to ensure the timely payment of employees' salaries and to create motivation systems that could encourage sanitation employees to return to work.

#### Access to public education services<sup>23</sup>

Access to public education was considered affected because most of the schools in the sub-district were destroyed or seriously damaged in the course of the military operations between 2014 and 2017. In addition, one community leader KI reported neglect from the government towards the educational sector in Al-Qahtaniya. This reportedly embodied in a lack of free school books compared to the academic years previous to 2014, which forced households to purchase them.

#### Access to public electricity services<sup>23</sup>

Access to public electricity was reportedly limited by the reduced service hours (3 KIs), affected by the deterioration or serious damage of the electrical network suffered during the military operations (3 KIs), and the lack of maintenance assigned to the electricity sector (2 KI). This situation reportedly affected the provision of public water services (1 KI) and negatively influenced the decision of households to return (1 KI).

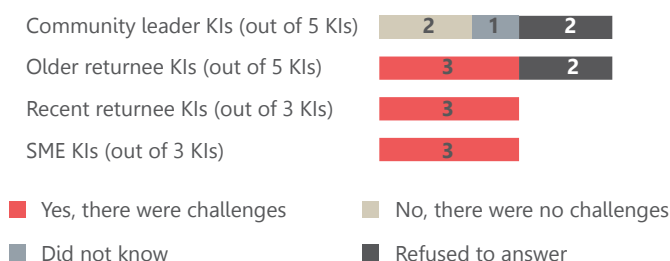
#### Reported groups with less access to basic public services<sup>23</sup>

Returnee KIs were consulted about the most affected groups in accessing public services. KIs reported that returnees were reportedly the group who faced the largest challenges when attempting to access basic public services (6 out of 8 KIs), followed by IDPs in the community (2 KIs). Two KIs believed that all displacement groups had the same chance to access basic public services. Regarding vulnerabilities,<sup>30</sup> KIs reported that PWSN (5 out of 8 KIs), elderly (3 KIs), and families with members with alleged links to ISIL (1 KI) faced more challenges when attempting to access basic public services compared to other groups. One KI refused to answer.

### Perceptions on access to livelihoods

Over half of KIs reported that **the majority of households faced challenges in accessing livelihoods** (9 out of 16 KIs).<sup>25</sup> The rest of the KIs refused to answer (4 KIs), believed that there were no challenges to access livelihoods (2 KIs), or did not know (1 KI).

Perceptions on accessibility varied with the KI profile. While all returnee KIs reported that households faced challenges in accessing job opportunities, community leader KIs believed that there were no challenges affecting accessibility.



### Challenges to access livelihoods<sup>23</sup>

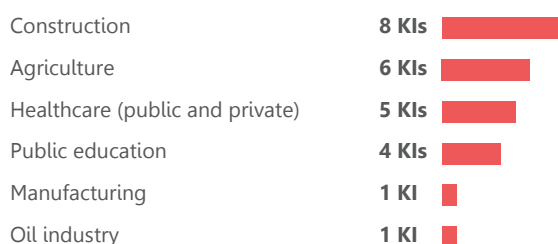
Overall, reported challenges impacted the recovery of the sub-district in different aspects. All KIs who reported challenges in accessing livelihoods (9 KIs) also believed that the lack of decent job opportunities<sup>26</sup> limited households' ability to meet their basic needs. Additionally, the unrecovered private sector (2 KIs) and the lack of reconstruction projects (1 KI) limited the number of job opportunities in the sub-district. Reportedly, the neglect from the government towards the situation in the sub-district caused IDP households to prefer remaining in displacement (4 KIs). KIs highlighted agriculture as one of the most important income-generating activities in Al-Qahtaniya (2 KIs). However, the reported lack of support towards affected agricultural businesses negatively impacted access to livelihoods in the sub-district (2 KIs).

**"The lack of sufficient job opportunities, together with the return of the displaced households worsened the situation in Al-Qahtaniya. Additional support projects are needed to serve the sub-district in a longer term."**

- Male older returnee KI -

According to KIs, some humanitarian actors conducted livelihood programmes in Al-Qahtaniya (2 KIs), however, these were limited and involved a reduced number of households (1 KI). It was recommended by KIs to implement longer-term livelihood programmes in the sub-district, namely cash-for-work (3 KIs).

### Most reported livelihood sectors available in Al-Qahtaniyah at the time of data collection (out of 16 KIs)<sup>23, 25</sup>



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

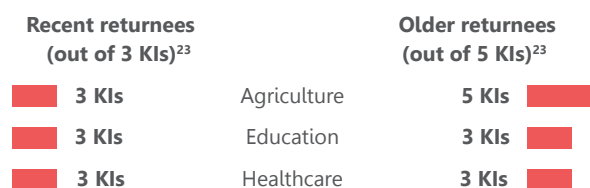
Findings indicated that the availability of some livelihood sectors was affected at the time of data collection. Governmental jobs (specifically public administration and defense), trade, hotels, and restaurants, transportation, and finance were reportedly not available at the time of data collection. In addition, findings suggested that in some sectors there were more jobs available at the time of data collection compared to before 2014. These included construction, assumed to be a result of the reported reconstruction and rehabilitation of houses and infrastructure taking place in the sub-district (10 KIs), and manufacturing. One KI reported that jobs were available in the oil industry at the time of data collection whereas this, according to the same KI, was not the case before 2014.

### Reported groups with less access to livelihoods<sup>23</sup>

Returnee KIs were consulted about the most affected groups in accessing livelihoods. Returnees was reportedly the group who faced the largest challenges when attempting to access livelihoods (4 out of 8 KIs), followed by IDPs in the community (3 KIs). Regarding vulnerabilities,<sup>30</sup> KIs reported that PWSN (4 KIs), elderly (3 KIs), and female heads of households (1 KI) faced more challenges when attempting to access livelihoods compared to other groups. One KI refused to answer and a second KI believed that all groups faced the same challenges.

### Livelihood sectors of interest for returnees<sup>23</sup>

The most commonly reported livelihood sector of interest for recent and older returnee households/individuals was **agriculture**.



Additionally, older returnee KIs reported that households/individuals from their displacement group were interested in jobs in the industrial and manufacturing sector (2 KIs) and in these assigned by the government (1 KI).

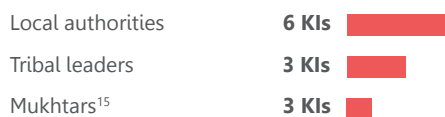
### Livelihood sectors with reported growth potential<sup>23</sup>

**Agriculture** was commonly reported by community leader and SME KIs (6 out of 8 KIs) as **the livelihood sector with growth potential** in the 12 months following data collection. Community leader KIs also reported that other sectors showed potentials to extend such as jobs in construction (2 KIs), manufacturing (2 KIs), trade and commerce (1 KI), and the assignment of governmental jobs (specifically public administration and defense) (1 KI).

### Perceptions on governance<sup>37</sup>

The majority of KIs consulted for this section (6 out of 8 KIs)<sup>38</sup> believed that **local authorities were the most influential bodies in terms of governance**. One SME KI did not know.

#### Reported influential local actors regarding governance (out of 8 KIs)<sup>23, 38</sup>



One community leader KI reported that tribal leaders had a relevant role in the community, specifically to facilitate reconciliation between community members in the sub-district.

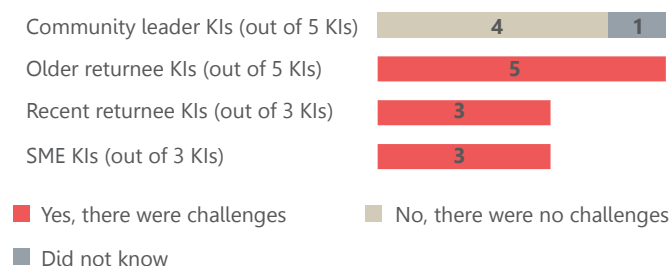
#### Influential bodies in terms of IDP and returnee affairs<sup>25</sup>

The majority of KIs consulted for this section (15 out of 16 KIs) reported that **there were no bodies or structures in place to influence IDP and returnee affairs**. One KI did not know.

### Access to public judicial mechanisms

The majority of KIs reported that **the majority of households faced challenges in accessing public judicial mechanisms** (11 out of 16 KIs).<sup>25</sup> The rest of the KIs believed that there were no challenges (4 KIs) or did not know (1 KI).

Perceptions on accessibility varied with the KI profile. While all returnee KIs reported that households faced challenges in accessing public judicial mechanisms, community leader KIs believed that there were no challenges affecting accessibility.



#### Challenges to access public judicial mechanisms<sup>23</sup>

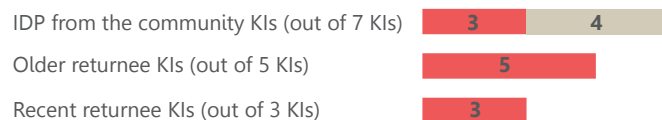
Of those KIs who reported challenges in accessing public judicial mechanisms (11 KIs), the main reported challenge was the lack of a court in Al-Qahtaniya even before 2014. To process their legal files, households were forced to travel to Sinjar, Al-Baaj and Telafar districts (9 KIs), going long distances, which affected the well-being of household members (5 KIs) and had negative effects on their compensation claims, such as delays (1 KI).

#### Reported groups with less access to judicial mechanisms<sup>23</sup>

Returnee KIs were consulted about the most affected groups in accessing public judicial mechanisms. Returnees reportedly faced more challenges in compared to other groups (6 out of 8 KIs), followed by IDPs (4 KIs). Two KIs believed that all displacement groups were equally affected. In terms of vulnerabilities,<sup>30</sup> the majority of KIs believed that all vulnerable groups were equally affected (3 KIs), refused to answer (2 KIs), or did not know (1 KI).

#### Participation of returnee and IDP households from the community in decision-making processes (out of 15 KIs)<sup>23, 31</sup>

All returnee KIs and almost half of IDP KIs from the community reported that households participated in decision-making processes.



■ Yes, households participated
 ■ No, households did not participate

All returnee KIs who reported households' participation in decision-making processes also reported that returnee households felt welcome or very welcome in the community, or mentioned that households had kinship ties with other families and tribes in Al-Qahtaniya. Based on these findings, it can be assumed that participation in decision-making processes for IDP households from the community were equally affected by the presence or lack of bonds with the community in Al-Qahtaniya.<sup>39</sup>

#### Status of public offices or departments<sup>25</sup>

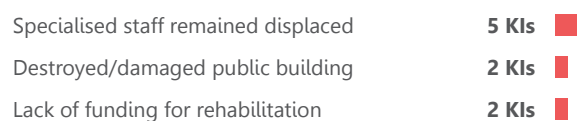
The majority of KIs consulted for this section (12 out of 16 KIs) reported that **there were closed offices or departments** in Al-Qahtaniya at the time of data collection. Four KIs believed that there were no public offices or departments closed.

#### Reported closed public offices or departments (out of 12 KIs)<sup>23</sup>



#### Reported reasons for institutional closure

Half of KIs reported that the sub-district lacked public offices or departments since before 2014. However, the rest of KIs reported that these offices were available before but closed at the time of data collection due to:<sup>23, 40</sup>



#### Presence of missing or expired documentation

The majority of KIs consulted for this section reported that **there were no households with missing, damaged, or out-of-date personal documentation** (13 out of 15 KIs).<sup>31</sup> One KI did not know.

However, one IDP KI from the community reported that some IDP households had missing, damaged, or expired passports, birth certificates, national certificates, civil identification documentation (ID) card and/or Unified IDs.

The KI reported that these documents were challenging to obtain due to **"the long travel distance that households need to cover between Al-Qahtaniya, or the area of displacement, to Sinjar, Al-Baaj and Telafar districts. In addition to the long time needed in order to obtain the document(s) and the expensive process."**

### Perceptions on safety and security, community disputes, and community inter-relations<sup>37</sup>

#### Perceptions on safety and security<sup>33</sup>

All returnee KIs (8 KIs) reported that **the majority of returnee households felt safe or very safe** in Al-Qahtaniya. This situation was reportedly the same for women, girls,<sup>41</sup> men, and boys, according to the majority of returnee KIs (7 KIs). One recent returnee KI refused to answer.

#### Freedom of movement<sup>31</sup>

All returnee KIs (8 KIs) reported that **the majority of returnee households could freely move during the day and at night** in Al-Qahtaniya if they desired. This situation was reportedly to be the same for women, girls,<sup>41</sup> men, and boys according to the majority of returnee KIs (7 KIs). One recent returnee KI refused to answer.

#### ERW land contamination

Almost two thirds of KIs (15 out of 23 KIs) reported that **there were fields contaminated with ERW** in Al-Qahtaniya at the time of data collection. The rest of the KIs believed there were no contaminated lands in the sub-district (6 KIs), or did not know (5 KIs).

The majority of returnee KIs who reported land contamination (5 out of 8 KIs)<sup>30</sup> also confirmed the occurrence of incidents in the six months prior to data collection which involved injuries caused by ERWs explosions in the sub-district. The rest of the returnee KIs reported that there were no incidents in the last six months (3 KIs).

Additionally, two KIs (out of 16 KIs)<sup>25</sup> reported the need to remove ERW from contaminated lands in the sub-district as a primary community need. One community leader KI highlighted the importance to implement **"awareness-raising activities by the Civil Defence and others specialised actors. In addition to identifying the location of the ERWs, cleaning the area of them or enclosing them with wires and adding signs are the most important preventive measures to reduce the number of incidents and casualties in the sub-district."**

#### Community disputes<sup>33</sup>

All returnee KIs (8 out of 23 KIs) reported that **there were no disputes within neighbourhoods** in Al-Qahtaniya **or between villages** in the six months prior to data collection. However, one community leader KI reported expected future internal disputes with the return of additional households, which could affect social cohesion (3 KIs).

#### Retaliation incidents<sup>33</sup>

There were no reported retaliation incidents according to all returnee KIs.

#### Perceptions on the presence of formal security forces

The majority of returnee and IDP KIs from the community (14 out of 15 KIs)<sup>31</sup> reported that the **presence of formal security forces contributed positively** to a **feeling of safety** between community members. One KI did not know.

Reportedly, all returnee KIs<sup>33</sup> perceived that official security forces in Al-Qahtaniya were effective in resolving disputes within the sub-district and between villages.

However, one community leader KI reported that **"tribal leaders played an active role in resolving inter-communal controversies and disputes, and this type of intervention is one of the most important required for the families in the sub-district to feel safe."**

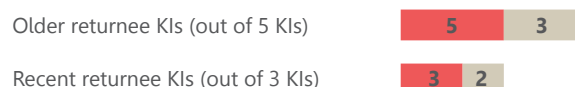
#### Community inter-relations<sup>33</sup>

Returnee KIs (6 out of 8 KIs) reported that **returnee households felt welcome or very welcome** in the sub-district. Two KIs did not know.

Reportedly, returnee households felt accepted in the community due to the fact that they had -and still have- good relationships with other families in the sub-district (6 out of 8 KIs), that there were kinship ties between members of the community and consequently strong inter-family bonds (5 KIs), work relations (2 KIs) and friendships (1 KI). Also, reportedly, this was attributed to the support of social cohesion initiatives (1 KI).<sup>23</sup>

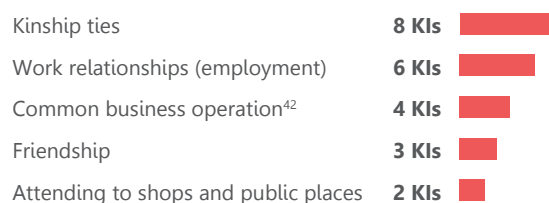
#### Interaction between displacement groups

In general, returnee KIs reported that **returnee households most commonly interacted with IDP households** in the community (5 out of 8 KIs).<sup>33</sup>



- Returnee households interacted with IDPs
- Returnee households interacted with returnees

#### Reported types of interaction between groups (out of 8 KIs)<sup>23, 33</sup>



#### Challenges for interaction between groups

The majority of returnee KIs (7 out of 8 KIs)<sup>33</sup> reported that **there were no challenges for interaction between groups**. One KI did not know.

Additionally, one community leader KI (out of 16 KIs)<sup>25</sup> reported that reconciliation was one of the primary community needs, noting that **"the community in Al-Qahtaniya is gentle and welcoming, and the most important priority for the households is to keep the stability in the sub-district."**

1. [IOM DTM Return Index](#)
2. A total of 16 IDP camps and informal sites have now been closed or reclassified since mid-October 2020 (12 formal camps closed, including Salamiyah, two informal sites closed, and two formal camps were reclassified to informal sites). However, as per July 2021, 2 camps in federal Iraq and additional 26 in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) (mostly in Dohuk) remained open. The Ministry of Migration and Displacement in Iraq (MoMD) announces from time to time their attempts to find solutions for the remaining in-camp IDPs in federal Iraq in the way to close the remaining two camps accordingly, while no plans have been set in place to support the IDPs who settled in the informal sites nationwide - RTONLINE, [Iraq discusses the situation of the displaced with the IOM](#), October 2021
3. IOM DTM Master List, [Returnees rounds 120 and 122](#), January-February 2021 and June-July 2021
4. "Al-Qahtaniya subdistrict was part of Sinjar district and was administratively linked with Sinjar city until the 1970s, when the central government redrew some provincial and district borders as part of the Arabization process. In 1979, Al-Qahtaniya subdistrict was included in Al-Baaj district, and its population had to rely on the administrative institutions in Al-Baaj instead of those of Sinjar city. However, people from Al-Qahtaniya and Sinjar still include this area when they talk about Sinjar. Moreover, maps and reports produced by NGOs and UN agencies often include Al-Qahtaniya as part of Sinjar district (see reference map at start of report). For these reasons, as well as the similarity and relation of the protection issues found, Al-Qahtaniya will be considered here as part of Sinjar district for the sake of simplification. When "Sinjar district" is mentioned in this report, it includes the subdistricts of Al-Shimal (Sinuni), Markaz Sinjar, Al-Qaeyrawan (Bulaji), and Al-Qahtaniya (Tel Ezer), unless otherwise specified."; Center for Civilians in Conflict, [Caught in the Middle](#), October 2020
5. "The official boundary of the Kurdistan region is the Green Line, the ceasefire line that the Iraqi army unilaterally established after quelling the 1991 Kurdish uprising. The Green Line is captured in Article 53.A of Iraq's 2004 Transitional Administrative Law as -the territories that were administered by that government [the Kurdistan Regional Government, or KRG] on 19 March 2003 in the governorates of Dahuk, Erbil, Sulaymaniya, Kirkuk, Diyala and Ninewa-": United States Institute of Peace, [Iraq's Disputed Territories, a view of the political horizon and implications for u.s. policy](#), 2011
6. UN-Habitat, [Emerging land tenure issues among displaced Yazidis from Sinjar, Iraq](#), November 2015
7. Center for Civilians in Conflict, [Caught in the Middle](#), October 2020
8. IOM DTM, [Integrated Location Assessment \(ILA\) Round VI](#), May, June and July 2021
9. The ReDS questionnaire is tailored to ask questions related to demographics only to community leader and SME KIs based on their knowledge about the sub-district and population groups. In the case of Al-Qahtaniya, there were 5 community leader and 3 SME respondents. Population figures for returns and IDP populations in Al-Qahtaniya are based on their estimates at the time of data collection.
10. 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 (AoR) 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.
11. For the purpose of this research, returnees are categorized as an IDP returning to their AoO, 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 AoO.
12. As clarified by the Iraq Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) in 2018, secondary displacement covers multiple scenarios: 1) IDPs who are voluntarily or forcibly displaced to another displacement location; 2) IDPs who voluntarily or forcibly return to their AoO but are unable to achieve sustainable solutions and are consequently re-displaced to their first place of displacement or to a new location of displacement; and 3) IDPs who, voluntarily or forcibly, return to their AoO but are unable to occupy in their former habitual residence and cannot achieve sustainable solutions and are consequently re-displaced to a new location within their AoO.
13. "To measure the severity of conditions in each location of return, the Return Index is based on 16 indicators grouped into two scales: (i) livelihoods and basic services, and (ii) social cohesion and safety perceptions. To compute an overall severity index, the scores of two scales are combined. The severity index ranges from 0 (all essential conditions for return are met) to 100 (no essential conditions for return are met). Higher scores denote more severe living conditions for returnees. The scores of the severity index can be grouped into three categories: 'low' severity conditions, 'medium', and 'high' (which also includes the identified 'very high' locations)." - [IOM DTM Methodology](#)
14. The most severely affected areas in Al-Qahtaniya in terms of social cohesion were reportedly Wardeya, Qaserki, Qezelkand, Jedala, Hayala, Sekiniya, Razka, West Rambosi, Kun Rovi, Kharab Bazar, Kharbat Qawala, Qahtaniya (Ger Ezear), Seeba Shikheder, Kharab Sorek, Jwar-Algharbiya, Til al khnam village, Um jurais, Gundi Ezeer, Kani Sarik, Marzugta almurgab, Bab alkhair, Mutalat almurgab, Al-jalodiah, and Kania Avdo: IOM DTM, [Return Index Round 12](#), March and April 2021
15. The following camps, with populations originally from Al-Qahtaniya, were closed in 2020: Hamam Al-Alil 2 and As Salamiyah 2: CCCM Cluster, Camp profiling dataset, December 2020 (Not published)
16. IDPs (displaced from the area) refer to households from Al-Qahtaniya displaced during the events of 2014 to areas different than their AoO, specifically in Markaz Al-Baaj Sub-district (Ninewa Governorate) and Markaz Sumail Sub-district (Duhok Governorate).
17. Community leaders are members of the host community represented by two tribal leaders or sheikhs, one mukhtar, one religious leader and one youth representative. A mukhtar can be defined as the head of a village or neighbourhood in some Arab countries. A sheikh can be defined as an elder male in a particular Arab tribe, family, or village who is respected and consulted.
18. For the purpose of this assessment, older returnees refer to households who returned to Al-Qahtaniya Sub-district since more than three months prior to data collection.
19. For the purpose of this assessment, recent returnees refer to households who returned to Al-Qahtaniya Sub-district since less than three months prior to data collection.
20. SMEs are members of the community with a high level of expertise in different sectors or topics. These were represented by: one public sector senior manager (water sector), one university student and one UN agency employee.
21. There were 23 individuals aged between 23 and 71 years old interviewed for the Al-Qahtaniya assessment. The majority were male (21 KIs). The lack of gender balance among the KIs is a limitation to the assessment. Integration of vulnerable age groups was considered, 2 male KIs were over the age of 65 representing elderly, and one female KI was considered in the youth group (between 18 and 24).
22. "Yazidi population of the district had their villages destroyed and were forcibly resettled into eleven collective compounds." - United States Institute of Peace, [Iraq's Disputed Territories, a view of the political horizon and implications for u.s. policy](#), 2011
23. Sum of answers may exceed the 100% due to KIs being able to select multiple response options.
24. This question was asked only to returnee and SME KIs (11 out of 23 KIs).
25. This question was asked only to returnee, community leader and SME KIs (16 out of 23 KIs).
26. "Decent work sums up the aspirations of people in their working lives. It involves opportunities for work that is productive and delivers a fair income, security in the workplace and social protection for families, better prospects for personal development and social integration, freedom for people to express their concerns, organize and participate in the decisions that affect their lives and equality of opportunity and treatment for all women and men." - International Labour Organisation (ILO), [Decent Work Definition](#)
27. See section on access to basic public services on page 8.
28. Findings were indicative of each population group and not representative.
29. WASH activities reportedly included UNICEF led water distribution in Al-Qahtaniya.
30. In this assessment, vulnerable groups included were: female heads of households, elderly, 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. This question was asked only to returnee KIs and IDP KIs from the community (15 out of 23 KIs).
32. "UN-Habitat has been mapping and verifying occupancy claims by each Yazidi returnees, and issuing occupancy certificates [...]" - UN-HABITAT Iraq, [Leave No One Behind: Land Tenure in Post-Conflict Iraq](#), March 2021
33. This question was asked only to returnee KIs (8 out of 23 KIs).
34. Four KIs reported that the most damaged houses in the sub-district were those made of mud and other natural materials.
35. This question was asked only to returnee and IDP KIs from the community who reported challenges to access services or assistance.
36. One KI reported that access to compensation mechanisms was also affected by the presence of intermediaries, and that households reportedly needed to pay bribes to have their claims processed.
37. 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.
38. This question was asked only to community leader and SME KIs (8 out of 23 KIs).
39. For this assessment, IDP KIs from the community were not included for the feeling welcome section, therefore findings were not precise.
40. "The civil affairs department (CAD) and Unified ID office was rehabilitated [by UNHCR] and furnished between the end of 2020 and 2021 Qahtaniya [however it is] yet to be officially opened and also await the recruitment of additional staffing by the authorities in order to become fully functional." - UNHCR, IDPs civil and identity documentation, May 2021
41. 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.
42. For the purpose of this assessment, common business operation refers to the action of operating an income generating business in partnership involving members of different population groups.