

# Multi-Cluster Needs Assessment (MCNA)

Non-displaced  
September 2018

IRAQ

## CONTEXT

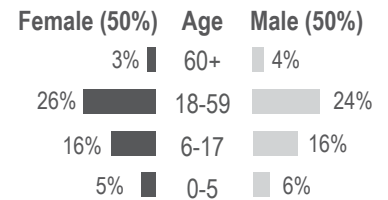
December 2017 marked the end of major military operations in Iraq against the so-called Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). While more than 4 million returns have been recorded as of September 2018, almost 2 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) remain, of whom 71% reside outside of formal camps.<sup>1</sup> Moreover, secondary displacement and new arrivals to formal camps<sup>2</sup> signal the tenuous nature of some returns. Therefore, although recovery efforts in Iraq are underway, understanding the multifaceted and intersecting needs of all affected groups is critical to supporting durable returns, while maintaining services for those in protracted displacement and addressing the unique vulnerabilities of populations who remained non-displaced during active conflict. A Multi-Cluster Needs Assessment (MCNA) was conducted in July 2018 to provide this analysis and inform the 2019 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO). The MCNA was led by the Assessment Working Group and facilitated by REACH, in close collaboration with OCHA and the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG).

## METHODOLOGY

A structured household survey was conducted amongst a representative sample of 12,261 conflict-affected households nationwide (of which 786 were non-displaced) using two-stage, stratified cluster sampling. Target sample sizes were calculated based on population figures from the IOM DTM Integrated Location Assessment III dataset (6 May 2018). Findings are statistically representative of accessible districts in which 200 or more non-displaced households were present, with a 90% confidence level and 10% margin of error. Findings at the national level are representative at a higher level of precision, with 99% confidence level and 5% margin of error. Data collection took place from 1 July to 3 September 2018, coordinated by REACH field staff and team leaders from each partner organisation. Analysis was guided by the Multi-Cluster Initial Rapid Assessment (MIRA) framework (see Annex 1 for the detailed methodology). **Findings in this factsheet are representative of households who remained non-displaced in recently retaken areas only, as depicted in the coverage map below.**

## POPULATION PROFILE

### Demographics



Average household size:

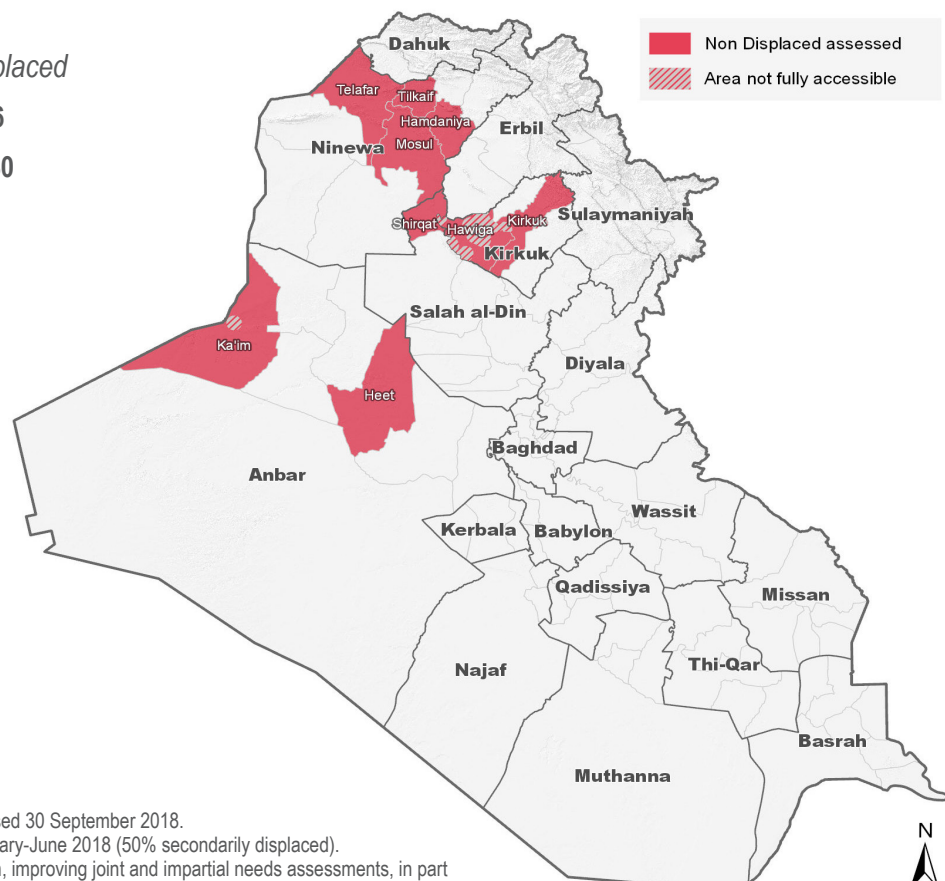
7.7

Single female-headed households:



## ASSESSMENT COVERAGE

	All groups	Non-displaced
Households	12,261	786
Individuals	68,918	4,930
Governorates	16	4
Districts	72	9



### Data collection partners<sup>3</sup>

- |                    |                                 |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 Alkhair          | 11 Premiere Urgence             |
| 2 Bent al-Rafedain | 12 REACH                        |
| 3 DRC              | 13 Sabe'a Sanabul               |
| 4 Human Appeal     | 14 SEDO                         |
| 5 IOM              | 15 Terre des Hommes             |
| 6 IRC              | 16 United Iraqi Medical Society |
| 7 Medair           | 17 War Child UK                 |
| 8 Mercy Corps      | 18 Welthungerhilfe (WHH)        |
| 9 Mercy Hands      | 19 World Vision                 |
| 10 Oxfam           |                                 |

<sup>1</sup> Internally displaced persons. IOM DTM, [Baseline Dashboard](#), accessed 30 September 2018.

<sup>2</sup> CCCM Cluster [recorded](#) 10,891 families arriving to camps from January-June 2018 (50% secondarily displaced).

<sup>3</sup> The MCNA sought to meet Core Commitment 5 of the Grand Bargain, improving joint and impartial needs assessments, in part through coordinated, partner-driven data collection.



# PROTECTION

MCNA | IRAQ  
Non-displaced

Households in need of protection assistance

20%

Severity of need



On average, households categorised as "in need" scored 17 out of 100 using 8 weighted sectoral indicators

see Annex for details on methodology

## GENERAL PROTECTION

Households with vulnerable members



Disabled members

4%

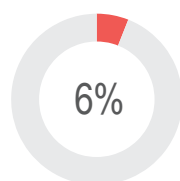


Pregnant / lactating women

15%



Households missing civil documentation of any kind

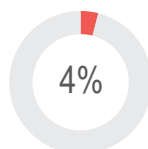


1% of households experienced movement restrictions during daytime hours in the month prior to data collection

## HOUSING, LAND, & PROPERTY (HLP)



Households at risk of eviction



Tenancy agreement

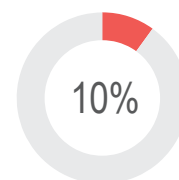
No tenancy agreement 12%  
Expired tenancy agreement 0%  
Verbal tenancy agreement 9%

76% of households reported owning their current shelter

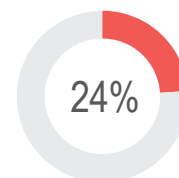
## GENDER



Households with at least one unemployed woman (18+) actively seeking work



Households reporting lack of access to reproductive health services



## MINE ACTION

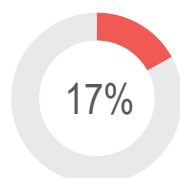


3% of households with members reported to be disabled due to explosive hazards

## CHILD PROTECTION



Households with at least one school-aged child outside of a learning environment (formal or non-formal)



9% of households with children showing signs of psychosocial distress, such as behaviour change since the conflict began



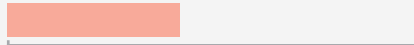
Child labour and marriage

6% of households with at least one child aged 6-17 working during the 30 days prior to data collection

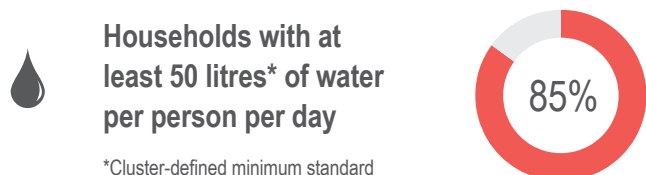
1% of households with at least one married child (aged 12-17)

The above child protection findings are among all non-displaced households in recently retaken areas - not only households with children

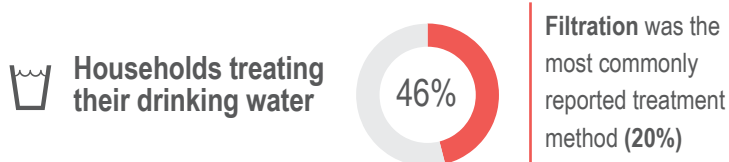
Households in need of WASH assistance **24%**

**Severity of need**   
On average, households categorised as "in need" scored **43 out of 100** using 5 weighted sectoral indicators

## ACCESS TO DRINKING WATER

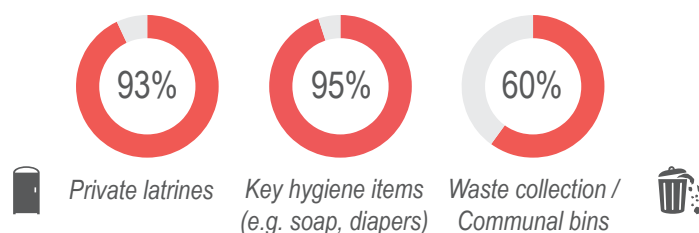


**68%** of households reported private access to the network as their primary source of drinking water



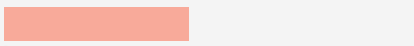
## SANITATION & HYGIENE

 Households with access to:

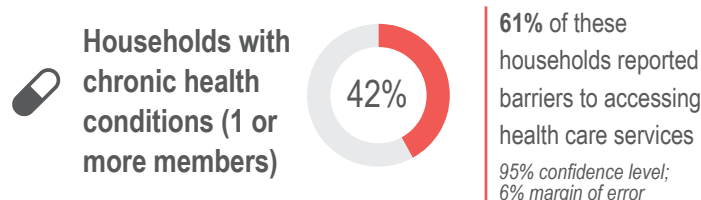
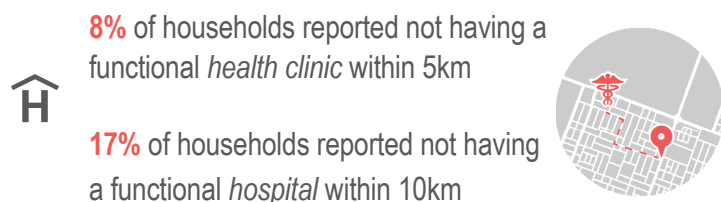


**99%** of households reported being aware of appropriate hygiene promotion messaging

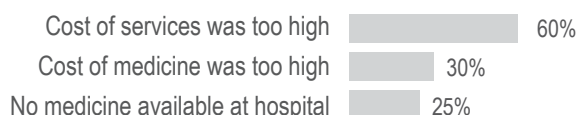
Households in need of health assistance **20%**

**Severity of need**   
On average, households categorised as "in need" scored **46 out of 100** using 5 weighted sectoral indicators

## ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE SERVICES



### ⊗ Top 3 barriers to accessing care\*



\*Multiple response options could be selected; among the 16% of individuals attempting to access health services during 90 days prior to data collection. 99% confidence level and 5% margin of error

### Child vaccination rates\*



\*Among children 0-5 for polio and measles; children 0-2 for Penta-3; 95% confidence level and 4% margin of error



Households in need of shelter assistance **22%**

Severity of need

On average, households categorised as "in need" scored **52 out of 100** using 5 weighted sectoral indicators

### SHELTER TYPE AND OCCUPANCY

#### Households residing in critical shelter<sup>1</sup>

Unfinished or abandoned building | 3%  
Damaged building | 1%  
Public or religious building | 0.5%

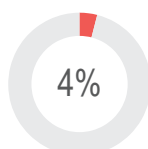
**96%** of households reside in non-critical shelter

#### Priority shelter improvements\*

Protection from climatic conditions | 21%  
Improved basic infrastructures and utilities | 18%  
None | 45%

\*Multiple response options could be selected

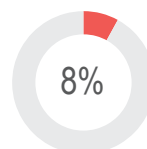
#### Households being hosted by another family



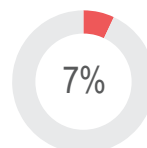
<sup>1</sup>Critical shelter also includes makeshift shelters, containers, and other non-residential buildings; non-critical shelter includes residential housing and apartments.

### NON-FOOD ITEMS

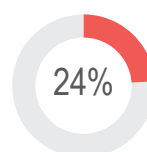
#### Households reporting needing:



At least 3 of 7 basic NFI items:  
(bedding, mattress, blankets, cooking utensils, stove, light source, and fuel storage)



At least 2 of 3 summer items:  
(coolbox, water storage, fan)



A winter heater

Households in need of education assistance **19%**

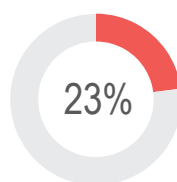
Severity of need

On average, households categorised as "in need" scored **65 out of 100** using 4 weighted sectoral indicators

### ACCESS TO EDUCATION SERVICES<sup>1</sup>

#### Households with at least one school-aged child (6-17) not attending formal education

<sup>1</sup>Among the 76% of households with school-aged children



44% of children not attending formal school dropped out after January 2014

<sup>1</sup>Among the 14% of school-aged children not currently attending

**2%** of households reported not having a functional *primary* school within 5 km

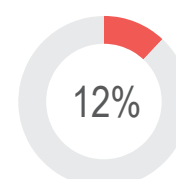
**6%** of households reported not having a functional *secondary* school within 5 km

#### Top 3 reasons for non-attendance\*

Cannot afford education-related costs | 29%  
Do not consider education important | 11%  
Child is disinterested | 6%

\*Multiple response options could be selected; among 6% of school-aged children who never attended formal school

#### Households reporting insufficient certified teachers



<sup>1</sup>Among the 92% of households reporting access to functional schools

<sup>1</sup>Findings regarding subsets of school-aged children are representative with a minimum of 99% confidence level and 10% margin of error



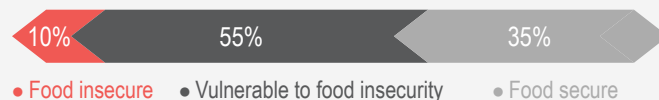
# FOOD SECURITY & LIVELIHOODS

MCNA | IRAQ  
Non-displaced

## Households in need of food assistance

(using WFP CARI Methodology)

10%



## FOOD CONSUMPTION\*

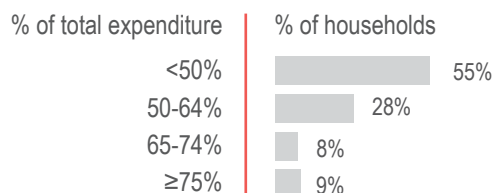


**2% Poor**  
**8% Borderline**  
**90% Acceptable**

87% of households accessed the Public Distribution System in the 3 months prior to data collection

### Food expenditure share

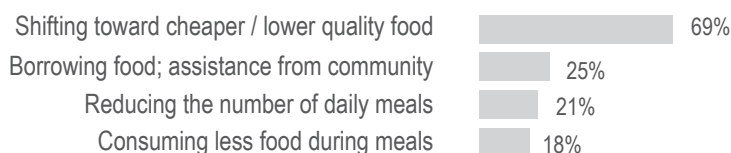
(as a proportion of total monthly expenditures)



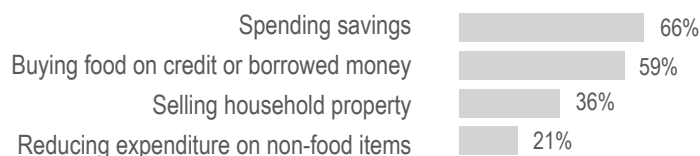
\*The Food Consumption Score (FCS) is a composite score based on 1) dietary diversity 2) food frequency and 3) relative nutritional importance of 9 weighted food groups. The FCS is recorded from a 7-day recall period. In the Iraqi context the thresholds for FCS classifications are as follows: ≥ 42 Acceptable; 28 - 42 Borderline; ≤ 27 Poor

## COPING STRATEGIES\*

### Top food coping strategies



### Top livelihood coping strategies



29% of households engaged in at least one emergency livelihood coping strategy

\*Food coping strategies are recorded from a 7-day recall period while livelihood coping strategies are recorded from a 30-day recall period. In the Iraqi context, 'emergency' livelihood coping strategies are defined as: children dropping out from school, adults engaging in illegal acts, whole family migrating, attending banquets for food, child marriage or forced marriage.

## Households in need of livelihoods assistance

36%

## Severity of need

On average, households categorised as "in need" scored 88 out of 100 using 3 weighted sectoral indicators

56%

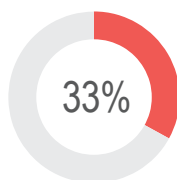
of households reported a total monthly income less than their monthly expenditure

\*in the 30 days prior to data collection

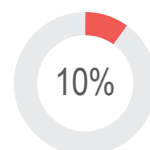


Households with at least one unemployed adult actively seeking work

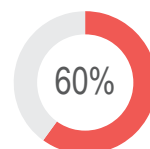
\*At the time of data collection



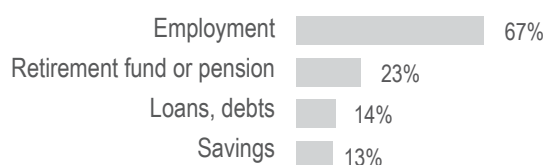
Households with monthly income from employment and pension less than 480,000 IQD (400 USD)\*



Households owing debt valued at more than 505,000 IQD (420 USD)\*



### Top sources of money\*



\*Multiple response options could be selected

### Primary reasons for taking on debt



\*Threshold of 480,000 IQD defined by the Cash Working Group and threshold of 505,000 IQD defined by the Emergency Livelihoods Cluster. 480,000 IQD represents the cash transfer value of the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket. Fixed exchange rate of 1200 IQD to 1 USD.



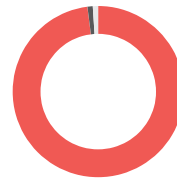
## BACKGROUND

REACH supports the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Task force on Accountability to Affected Populations, which is working towards better representation of the views of affected populations in humanitarian response planning, including Humanitarian Needs Overviews. A series of priority indicators and corresponding questionnaire questions were identified for inclusion in the 2018 REACH-facilitated MCNA.

Additionally, the MCNA asked households about their movement intentions, to better understand how access to services, assistance, and information may affect secondary displacement or the durability of returns.

## MOVEMENT INTENTIONS

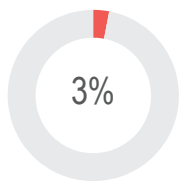
Movement intentions in the three 3 months after data collection



- 97% Remain in current location
- 1% Wait to decide
- 1% Move (within or outside Iraq)

## PERCEPTIONS OF THE RESPONSE

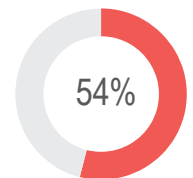
### ➔ Assistance received\*



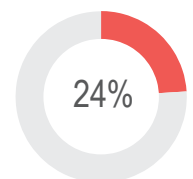
84% of aid recipients were satisfied with the aid received

*\*In the 30 days preceding data collection*

Households satisfied with the behaviour of aid workers in their area

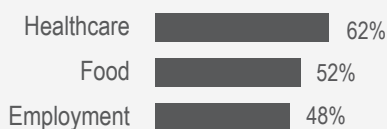


Households feeling that they have a say in decisions that affect their community



## NEEDS & INFORMATION PREFERENCES\*

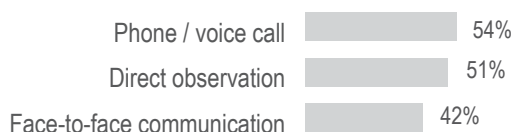
### ➔ Priority sectoral needs



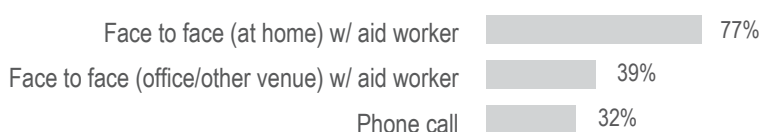
### Priority information needs



### Preferred means to receive information about aid



### Preferred means to provide feedback about the quality, quantity, and appropriateness of aid



*\*Multiple response options could be selected for above questions*



To better understand the needs of conflict-affected populations in Iraq, it is important to consider that households may face simultaneous needs in multiple sectors. Humanitarian needs and conditions are likely most severe for areas and population groups where high proportions of households were categorised as being in need in more sectors at once.

Roughly **one-fifth** of households who remained non-displaced during active conflict in recently retaken areas in Iraq were found to be in need of humanitarian assistance in **three or more sectors**. The below map shows the average number of sectors in which non-displaced households were found to be in need in each district of assessment.

Finally, in support of a coordinated response to address priority needs of conflict-affected populations, Figure 1 below illustrates the most common combinations of sectors for non-displaced households who were found to be in need of humanitarian assistance. Effective response planning in recently retaken areas must consider cross-sectoral needs for households who remained during active conflict, many of whom face simultaneous needs in S/NFI and WASH; S/NFI and health; and WASH and livelihoods.

## Households in need, by number of sectors

None	25%
1 sector	33%
2 sectors	22%
3 sectors	10%
4 sectors	5%
5 sectors	4%
6 sectors	1%
7 sectors	0%

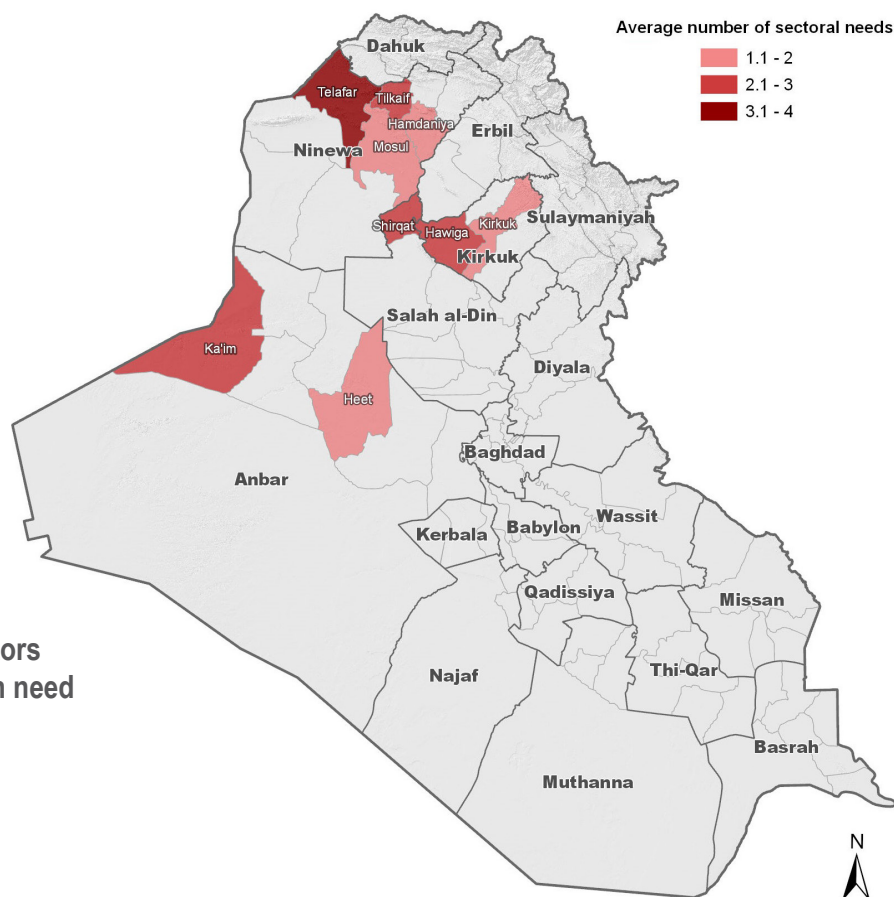
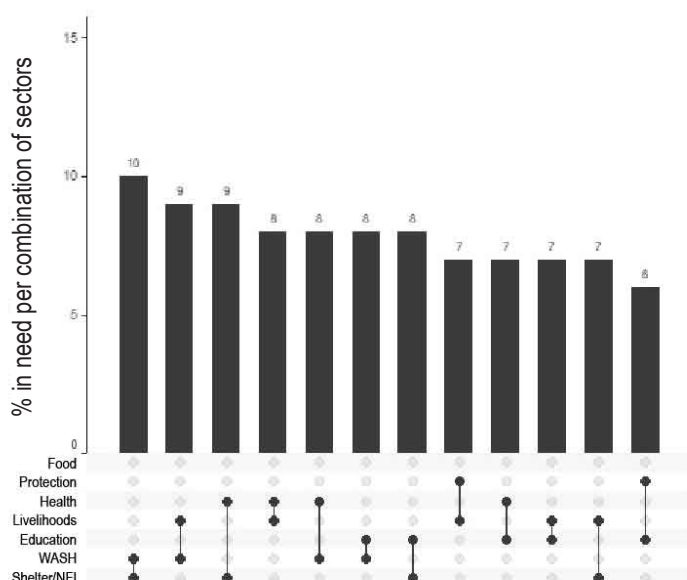


Figure 1: Common combinations of sectors in which households were found to be in need





## OVERVIEW OF THE MIRA ANALYSIS FRAMEWORK

MCNA data collection and analysis was guided by the IASC MIRA Analytical Framework, to allow for a common understanding of where humanitarian needs are most severe and to support a coordinated strategic plan by the humanitarian country team. The MIRA framework supports stakeholders in the identification of the severity of the crisis, gaps in response, and priority areas for intervention.

The full Research Terms of Reference for the MCNA can be found [at this link](#).

### RESEARCH DESIGN

1. Information needs and gaps identified by Clusters
2. Cluster-driven indicator design through Iraq Assessment Working Group's Common Database of Indicators

### DATA COLLECTION

3. Trainings led by REACH on assessment methodology and questionnaire, with additional Cluster-led sessions
4. Household data collection conducted by 18 operational partners and REACH, coordinated by REACH

### ANALYSIS

5. Sectoral index of need defined through Cluster consultations, including indicator thresholds and weights
6. Bilateral presentations and discussions to obtain consensus on preliminary findings

### APPLICATION

7. Culmination in the incorporation of sectoral and cross-sectoral findings at the HNO Joint Analysis Workshop led by OCHA, in support of evidence-based humanitarian needs and responses.

## CALCULATING PROPORTIONS AND SEVERITY OF NEED

Analysis of household-level needs was conducted using Stata's statistical packages, applying the Alkire-Foster (AF) Method for multidimensional needs developed by Oxford Poverty and Human Development Institute. This methodology counts overlapping or simultaneous household needs in different sectors, such as a lack of education or employment, or poor health or living standards.

A sectoral index of need was calculated for each sector, comprised of multiple indicators selected and refined through consultations with each active Cluster in Iraq. Indicators within each sectoral index took on different weights based on their estimated proportional contribution to the overall need, as defined by the Cluster. Households were then identified as "in-need" if the weighted sum of their sectoral deprivation was greater than a specified cut off.

**Severity of need:** For households classified as "in need" in each sector, a total severity score was obtained by aggregating the weights for all sectoral indicators where the household was found to be in need.

**Multi-sectoral needs:** The multidimensional index of need for each household was subsequently calculated as a total of the number of sectoral needs that the household faced (maximum of 7). This aggregated number can then be extrapolated to the district and national levels for each population group.

## SECTORAL INDICATORS AND WEIGHTS

Protection:	Weight
% of HH missing civil documentation	20
% of single female-headed households	20
% of HH with at least one child out of school environments (formal or non-formal)	10
% of HH with children showing signs of psychosocial distress	10
% of HH at risk of eviction	10
% of IDP HH citing HLP issues as a top reason for not intending to return	10
% of HH with at least one member with a disability due to explosive hazards	10
% of IDP HH citing explosive hazard contamination as a reason for not intending to return	10
WASH:	
% of HH with access to less than 50L of water per person per day	30
% of HH who require water treatment prior to drinking	15
% of HH without access to private or communal latrines	20
% of HH without access to hygiene items or unaware of appropriate hygiene messaging	20
% of HH without access to waste collection of communal garbage bins	15
Health:	
% of HH without access to a functional health clinic within 5km	30
% of HH without access to a functional hospital within 10km	30
% of HH with at least one child (aged 0-5) vaccinated against measles, polio, and penta-3	20
% of HH with at least one member with a chronic illness	20
Shelter:	
% of HH reporting at least 2 priority needs to improve current shelter	45
% of HH at risk of eviction	5
% of HH with NFI needs (≥ 3 basic items, ≥ 2 summer items, and a winter item)	25, 15, 10
Education:	
% of HH with at least one school-aged child not attending formal education	60
% of HH without a functional primary and secondary school within 5km	20
% of HH who reported sufficient certified teachers	10
% of HH with at least one school-aged child who dropped out after January 2014	10
Food Security:	
CARI Analysis; Food Consumption Score, food expenditure share, coping strategies	100
Livelihoods:	
% of HH having debt greater than 505,000 IQD	20
% of HH taking on debt due to basic needs	20
% of HH with at least one unemployed adult seeking work	60