

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.¹ The [International Organization for Migration \(IOM\) Displacement Tracking Matrix \(DTM\)](#)'s returnee master list recorded over 4.9 million individuals returning to their AoOs across the country, as of November 2021.

Increased returns and secondary displacement were driven primarily by the closure, consolidation, and reclassification of IDP camps.² In November 2021, Amiriya Al-Falluja camp was reclassified as an informal site representing a risk of re-displacement for over 900 households.³ For the camps that remain open across Iraq, there is an ongoing planning procedure to determine their future.⁴ In light of these dynamics, the need to better understand the sustainability of returns, conditions for the (re)integration of IDPs and returnees, and the impact of their presence on access to services and social cohesion has been identified in the context of durable solutions planning.

Map 1. Coverage Map



Background and Methodology

A number of partners are currently tracking population movements and measuring progress towards durable solutions for displaced populations in Iraq.⁸ For example, IOM has collected data on a bi-monthly basis, found in the [IOM DTM Returns Index](#). This tool provides indicative 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-Ayadiya Sub-district to provide an in-depth profiling of needs and understanding of social relationships between returnee⁹ and/or IDP populations.¹⁰

Al-Ayadiya Sub-district

Al-Ayadiya is a sub-district of Telafar District, located in the north-west of Ninewa Governorate. The sub-district is composed of a Sunni Turkmen population in majority and a minority from a Shia Turkmen background.⁵ Al-Ayadiya was under the control of the so-called Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) since mid-2014, however the sub-district suffered conflict and insecurity since 2005.⁵ As of 31 August 2017, following the recapture of Telafar and Al-Ayadiya, all districts of Nineveh Governorate were declared free from ISIL control.⁶ According to an IOM [Integrated Location Assessment \(ILA\)](#), as of July and August 2021, returnee households residing in the assessed villages in Al-Ayadiya (23 villages) were still somewhat concerned about possible ISIL operations in the area.

Reported Population Profile⁷

16,283-17,923 households were residing in Al-Ayadiya before the events of 2014.

87%-92% of households in Al-Ayadiya have been displaced since 2014.

86%-93% households displaced since 2014 had returned to Al-Ayadiya at the time of data collection.

25-37 IDP households were displaced in Al-Ayadiya at the time of data collection.

Al-Ayadiya Sub-district was selected for the assessment as: social cohesion and safety severity¹¹ was classified as 'high' in 22 villages out of 23,¹² it was classified as a location of interest for Ninewa coordination groups and actors in Iraq, and dynamic population movements to/from this sub-district were reported through the Returns Working Group (RWG). The findings are based on 37 key informant (KI) interviews conducted between 15 and 24 November 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-Ayadiya Sub-district	
Returnees (more than 3 months ago) ¹³	11 KIs 
Subject matter experts (SMEs) ¹⁴	9 KIs 
IDPs (displaced from the area) ¹⁵	7 KIs 
Community leaders ¹⁶	6 KIs 
IDPs (displaced in the community) ¹⁷	4 KIs 
37 KIs¹⁸	

Key findings

- The situation regarding returns to Al-Ayadiya remained stable, with KIs reporting **some ongoing returns** and **more projected in the six months following data collection**, driven primarily by **nostalgia about their previous life in their AoOs**.
- The majority of KIs believed that **these return movements had positively impacted the community**. These did/may **reactivate the economic activity** and promote the **reconstruction of residential areas** in Al-Ayadiya. However, **further returns may** also reportedly **have negative impacts** in the community mainly regarding limited provision/access to resources and services, in addition to the expected deterioration of the security situation.
- Findings showed that the majority of **returnee households resided in owned houses**. Some returnee households resided in owned unfinished buildings since they lacked financial resources for housing rehabilitation. Other returnee households resided in less secure tenures, namely in houses under verbal rental agreements. Regarding **IDPs in the community**, findings showed that the majority of IDP households were **hosted in informal settlements** located in the sub-district or were hosted by other families in their houses.
- All KIs reported that **households faced challenges in accessing housing rehabilitation** in the sub-district. **The main factor affecting access to housing rehabilitation** was related to the challenges faced by households to benefit from **governmental compensation mechanisms**. Access to housing rehabilitation was the most reported barrier for return and the most needed activity to encourage further returns.
- KIs from different population groups prioritized community needs differently. Further efforts to develop the **healthcare and water infrastructure** and **housing rehabilitation** were the most reported primary community needs **for community leader KIs**. In contrast, **SME, returnee and IDP KIs from the community** commonly reported the need to ensure access to livelihoods as the primary community need.
- All KIs reported that **the majority of the households faced challenges in accessing basic public services**. The most affected sector was reportedly **healthcare**. Access to healthcare services was reportedly affected by the lack of hospitals and the neglect from the local government towards this public service in the sub-district.
- All KIs reported that **the majority of the households faced challenges in accessing livelihoods**. Reportedly, there was a lack of job opportunities in Al-Ayadiya, including those suitable for vulnerable women, youth, and skilled workers.
- KIs reported an **overall decrease in the availability of job opportunities compared to before 2014**. Job opportunities in manufacturing, transportation, and trade and commerce were reportedly not available at the time of data collection, while available prior 2014. In addition, findings suggested that the least affected jobs in terms of availability were: public administration and defence, construction, agriculture, and public education.
- Agriculture** was the most commonly reported **livelihood sector of interest for returnee and IDP households from/in the community**. It was also commonly reported by community leader and SME KIs as **the livelihood sector with the most growth potential** in the 12 months following data collection.
- Formal security forces** were reportedly the **most influential bodies regarding governance**. They were also reportedly the most effective at resolving disputes between the sub-district and other areas. **Tribal leaders** were reportedly the **most effective at resolving disputes** within the sub-district.
- All returnee and IDP KIs from the community noted that **community members felt safe or very safe** in Al-Ayadiya. Additionally, all returnee and IDP KIs from/in the community reported that households in their respective displacement groups **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 strong social ties.
- The majority of returnee and IDP KIs from/in the community reported that **the majority of households** in their respective displacement groups **interacted with all groups in the community**, this mainly through social activities and bonds. Additionally, the vast majority of returnee KIs and all IDP KIs reported that **households participated in decision-making** processes in the sub-district.
- All **returnee, IDP from the community and SME** KIs reported that **the most influential actors** in terms of **social cohesion** were the **durable solutions' actors**, while **community leader** KIs granted the major responsibility for social cohesion to the **formal security actors**. **IDP KIs in the community** believed that **durable solutions' actors, local authorities, and the local community** were **equally responsible for social cohesion**.
- Perceptions on durable solutions varied between KI profiles. **All returnee KIs** reported that **returnee households felt reintegrated in the community** of Al-Ayadiya, while **the majority of IDP KIs from/in the community** reported that **IDP households did not feel integrated in their areas of displacement (AoD) or the sub-district**.

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

Returnee, IDP from the community, community leaders, and SMEs were consulted for this section (33 out of 37 KIs). **The majority of consulted KIs** reported that **there were no recent returns** to the sub-district (22 out of 33 KIs) or did not know (10 KIs). However, one SME KI reported that:

10-15 households returned to Al-Ayadiya in the six months prior to data collection.

Returns were reported from non-camp areas in Kirkuk Governorate due to the nostalgia about their previous life in their AoOs.

Reported impact of returns in the community

According to one SME KI, the most recent returns (6 months prior to data collection) were perceived as having had a **positive impact** in the community due to the return of professionals, namely teachers and doctors. Additionally, the KI reported that returnee households - who had sufficient financial resources - rehabilitated their houses, while those with less resources were partially supported by organisations for housing rehabilitation.

Family separation and reunification plans

Returnee, IDP from the community, community leaders, and SMEs were consulted for this section (33 out of 37 KIs). **The majority of KIs did not know about family separation cases** (18 out of 33 KIs) or reported that there were no family separation cases in the sub-district (14 KIs). However, one IDP KI from the community (displaced in Markaz Telafar) reported that some households had family members who remained in displacement at the time of data collection.

Adult males

Reportedly, some households had at least one adult male member who remained in displacement due to available jobs in AoD being unavailable in AoO.

Family reunification plans

As reported by the KI:

"When there are job opportunities available for youths in their areas or origin, they will return."

Expected household returns

Returnee, IDP from the community, community leaders, and SMEs (33 out of 37 KIs) were consulted for this section. **The majority of KIs did not know about potential further returns** (22 out of 33 KIs), reported no expected returns in the six months following data collection (9 KIs), or refused to answer (1 KI). However, one IDP KI from the community reported that:

75-100 households were expected to return in the six months following data collection to Al-Ayadiya from non-camp areas in Zummar Sub-district due to the nostalgia about their previous life in their AoOs.

Reported impact of expected returns in the community

Returnee, IDP from the community, community leaders, and SMEs were consulted for this section (33 out of 37 KIs). The majority of consulted KIs (31 out of 33 KIs) reported that further returns to the sub-district may have **positive impacts** in the community. The majority of KIs (20 KIs) expected attention from the government and NGOs to rehabilitate the public infrastructure and to support the reconstruction of damaged/destroyed houses as a result of these movements. According to 14 KIs, this may support restoring public services, especially healthcare, water, and electricity, as well as the reopening of schools, and the promotion of family reunification. Additionally, 12 KIs reported believing that the increased level of returns may encourage the return of professionals, namely in the education and health sectors, and skilled workers to the sub-district.

Regarding **economic activity**, according to 19 KIs there may be an improvement in economic activity as a result of the reopening of shops and the reactivation of the local market. Nine KIs reported that this may be also positively affected by the revitalization of the agricultural sector, including livestock, with the return of landowners and farmers. Two KIs reported that this may promote the marketing of local products, trade, and commerce.

According to 12 KIs, the potential increase in **reconstruction** projects and the improved economic situation in the sub-district may consequently lead to a higher number of available job opportunities for youth in the sub-district.


From a **security perspective**, one community leader KI believed that further returns may ensure the repopulation of villages in the sub-district, which were empty at the time of data collection, and may reduce the presence of informal armed groups in these areas showing that the sub-district is safer.

A couple of community leader KIs (out 33 KIs) believed that further returns may have a **negative impact** in the community of Al-Ayadiya. Reportedly, there was a **lack of services** in the sub-district, and local authorities lacked a preparedness plan to absorb a potential increase in the population numbers.

From a **security** perspective, the KIs reported that there was a general fear that returnee households may have members with alleged links to ISIL. Reportedly, this may lead to security actors imposing strict security measures in the sub-district, such as increased number of checkpoints. Additionally, there was a potential for increased concerns from the community with a higher military presence in the sub-district. These measures may also affect the residents' freedom of movement in/out of the sub-district.

Most reported barriers for further returns (out of 37 KIs)^{19, 20}

Access to housing

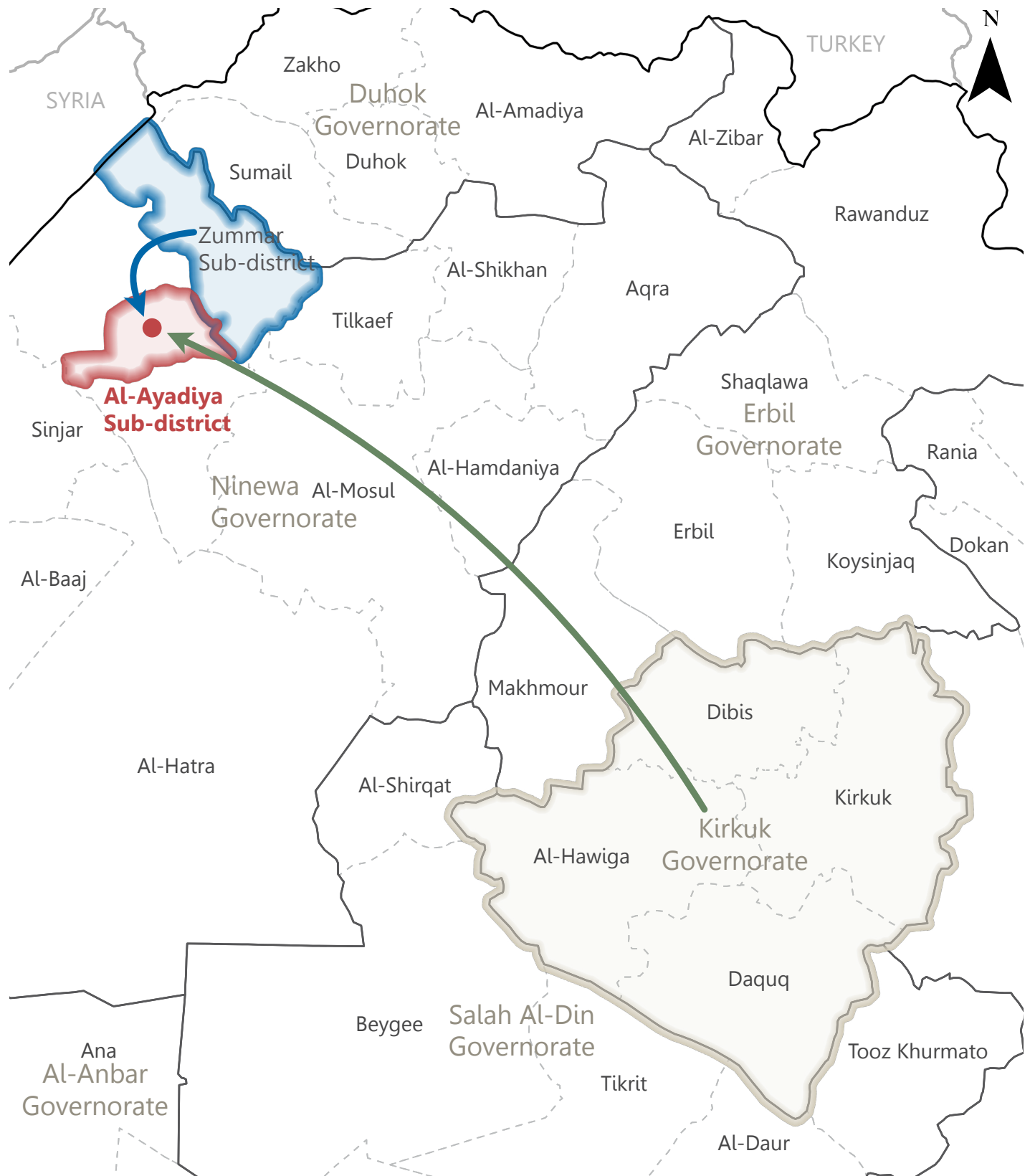
Destroyed/damaged housing 31 KIs 

Access to livelihoods and basic public services

Lack of job opportunities 29 KIs 

Lack of basic public services 22 KIs 

Map 2. Recent and expected return movements to Al-Ayadiya Sub-district



← Recent return movements from Al-Ayadiya

← Expected return movements to Al-Ayadiya

Al-Ayadiya Sub-district

Governorate boundary

District boundary

Displacement location

Governorate

Sub-district

0 25 50 km

Primary community needs

Most reported primary community needs in Al-Ayadiya at the time of data collection (out of 37 KIs)^{19, 21}

	First Need	Second Need	Third Need
Housing rehabilitation	20 KIs	5 KIs	2 KIs
Healthcare	3 KIs	9 KIs	12 KIs
Livelihoods	6 KIs	5 KI	7 KIs
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)	7 KIs	9 KIs	1 KI
Education	2 KIs	2 KIs	1 KI
Explosive remnants of war (ERWs) removal	1 KI	3 KIs	1 KI
Electricity	3 KIs	0 KIs	2 KIs

The most commonly reported primary community need was **access to housing rehabilitation** (27 out of 37 KIs). KIs reported a high level of housing damage or destruction in the sub-district (22 KIs). One KI reported that this situation was a result of neglect from the relevant local authorities towards housing rehabilitation. See section on access to housing rehabilitation on page 6.

The second most commonly reported primary community need was **access to healthcare** (24 out of 37 KIs). According to five KIs, access to healthcare services was affected by the neglect from the local government towards this public service in the sub-district. See section on access to basic public services on page 7.

The third most commonly reported primary community need was **access to livelihoods** (18 out of 37 KIs). The vast majority of KIs reporting livelihoods as a primary community need (16 out of 18 KIs) reported that there was a general lack of job opportunities in the sub-district. The most commonly available jobs were reportedly in the construction sector, which was already limited in the sub-district (3 KIs). See section on access to livelihoods on page 9.

Most commonly reported primary community needs per KI profile at the time of data collection^{19, 22}

Community leaders (out of 6 KIs)	SMEs (out of 9 KIs)	IDPs (out of 11 KIs) ^{15, 17}	Older returnees (out of 11 KIs) ¹³
WASH 4 KIs	Healthcare 7 KIs	Housing rehabilitation 10 KIs	Housing rehabilitation 10 KIs
Education 3 KIs	WASH 7 KIs	Healthcare 6 KIs	Healthcare 8 KIs
Healthcare 3 KIs	Housing rehabilitation 5 KIs	Livelihoods 5 KIs	Livelihoods 7 KIs
	Livelihoods 5 KIs		

Access to durable solutions' assistance²³ and impact on returns

Returnee, IDP in community, community leader, and SME KIs were consulted for this section (30 out of 37 KIs). All consulted KIs reported that **there were humanitarian and development activities or projects implemented** in Al-Ayadiya.

Reported activities implemented in Al-Ayadiya (out of 30 KIs)¹⁹

Food security programmes	15 KIs
Shelter and non-food item (NFI) distributions	13 KIs
Livelihoods programmes	8 KIs
COVID-19 awareness sessions	3 KIs

Other less reported types of programmes were WASH (1 KI) and protection (1 KI).

Activity implementers

Over three quarters of KIs reporting implemented activities in the sub-district (27 out of 30 KIs) also reported that these **activities or projects were implemented by humanitarian and durable solutions actors**, followed by local authorities (11 KIs). According to KIs, local authorities were mainly involved in food distribution (11 KIs) and livelihood programmes such as cash for work (7 KIs). One community leader KI reported that security actors supported in the implementation of COVID-19 awareness campaigns.

Reported groups less involved in activities

Almost half of the consulted KIs (13 out of 30 KIs) reported that none of the displacement groups faced challenges in accessing durable solutions' assistance. Other KIs (13 KIs) believed that **IDPs from the community were less involved** in activities or projects (11 KIs), followed by IDPs in the community (1 KI) and returnees (1 KI). Regarding vulnerable groups,²⁴ KIs reported that **persons with disabilities** (10 KIs) and older persons (5 KIs) were less involved in these activities or projects than other vulnerable groups. Almost half of KIs believed that all vulnerable groups had the same level of access to participation (13 KIs). A few KIs reported that all displacement groups and vulnerable groups faced challenges in accessing durable solutions' assistance (4 KIs).

Durable solutions' assistance as a factor to encourage returns

All returnee and IDP KIs from the community consulted for this section (18 out of 37 KIs) reported that the **availability of durable solutions' assistance would be a factor encouraging returns** to Al-Ayadiya.

Reportedly, **housing rehabilitation** was identified by KIs as the activity **most needed to encourage further returns** (10 out of 18 KIs), followed by livelihoods (7 KIs) and ERWs removal (1 KI).

Perceptions on access to housing, housing rehabilitation, and compensation

Returnee, IDP in community, community leader, and SME KIs were consulted for this section (30 out of 37 KIs). The majority of consulted KIs reported that the majority of households in Al-Ayadiya resided in **owned houses** (24 KIs), followed by hosted in informal settlements (3 KIs).

Types of tenure and housing agreement

Findings showed that the majority of returnee households resided in owned houses (9 out of 11 KIs). Some returnee households resided in owned unfinished buildings since they lacked financial resources for housing rehabilitation (1 KI). Other returnee households resided in less secure tenures, namely in houses under verbal rental agreements (1 KI). Regarding IDPs in the community, findings showed that the majority of IDP households were hosted in informal settlements located in the sub-district (3 out of 4 KIs), other IDP households were hosted by other families in their houses.

Access to HLP documentation

All KIs reporting that the majority of the households in sub-district owned houses (25 out of 30 KIs) also reported that they **had HLP documents** to prove housing ownership.

Regarding IDPs from the community, all IDP KIs (7 KIs) reported that the majority of IDP households from the community had **had HLP documents** to prove housing ownership in their AoO.

Access to housing rehabilitation

Returnee, IDP in community, community leader, and SME KIs were consulted for this section (30 out of 37 KIs).

61%-70% of houses in Al-Ayadiya reportedly remained destroyed or heavily damaged at the time of data collection, according to 24 consulted KIs.

Challenges to access housing rehabilitation

All KIs (37 KIs) reported that households faced challenges in accessing housing rehabilitation. KIs reported a high level of housing damage or destruction in the sub-district (22 KIs). Seven KIs reported that this situation was a result of the neglect from the relevant local authorities towards housing rehabilitation. According to 29 KIs, access to housing rehabilitation was affected by the lack of financial resources households had to rehabilitate their homes by themselves. Most of the households in the sub-district reportedly had low-wages jobs, such as agriculture, and housing rehabilitation was very expensive (4 KIs). Another factor affecting housing rehabilitation was reportedly the lack/limited/delayed implementation of reconstruction campaigns or projects in the sub-district (10 KIs).

Reportedly, there were strategies adopted by some households to cope with the lack of housing rehabilitation support, these included:

- » Remaining in displacement due to lack of financial means to rehabilitate their houses (17 KIs),
- » Paying bribes to access housing compensation transactions (5 KIs),
- » Sharing shelter with more than three households in the sub-district (2 KIs), and

- » Residing under rental agreement, which affected the monthly expenses of the households and presented an additional risk of eviction (2 KIs).

Considering the above challenges, 14 KIs recommended the following to government and humanitarian actors:

- » Launch reconstruction campaigns to rehabilitate houses in the sub-district and promote returns of the displaced families (14 KIs), and
- » Ensure safe and dignified access to housing compensation mechanisms (6 KIs).

As an added value, housing rehabilitation reportedly may increase the availability of job opportunities in the sub-district (3 KIs).

All KIs reported that financial support was the most needed to ensure housing rehabilitation. KIs also reported the need for reconstruction projects (21 KIs) and legal support (3 KIs).

Reported groups with less access to housing rehabilitation

Almost half of KIs (17 out of 37 KIs) reported that households in all groups equally faced challenges in accessing housing rehabilitation. According to 18 KIs, IDPs in the community and from the community faced more challenges when attempting to access housing rehabilitation, followed by returnees (17 KIs) and remainees (14 KIs). While analysing vulnerabilities,²⁴ almost half of KIs reported that all groups faced challenges to access housing rehabilitation (16 KIs). The rest of the KIs believed that older persons (15 KIs) and persons with disabilities (14 KIs) encountered more difficulties to access housing rehabilitation compared to other groups. According to two KIs, households with alleged links to ISIL also faced challenges to access housing rehabilitation.

Access to compensation mechanisms

Over half of KIs (22 out of 37 KIs) reported that **the main factor affecting access to housing rehabilitation** was related to the challenges faced by households to benefit from **governmental compensation mechanisms**. The main reported challenges in accessing compensation included:

- » Compensation transactions were not paid even if households had completed the process (19 KIs),
- » Compensation process was extremely long and complex (5 KIs), and
- » Compensation process needed to be done in the district center, which involved additional cost such as transportation (2 KIs).

According to two community leader KIs, there was a need to:

- » Increase awareness about the process to access governmental compensation and
- » Ensure legal support for households to present their claims.

One SME KI reported that the above situation led affected households to no longer be interested to present their claims for housing compensation.

Perceptions on access to basic public services

All KIs reported that **households faced challenges in accessing basic public services** in the sub-district (37 KIs). The vast majority of KIs reported that **healthcare** was the most affected sector by the events of 2014.

Reported affected basic public services (out of 37 KIs)¹⁹

Healthcare	36 KIs	<div style="width: 97%;"></div>
WASH	34 KIs	<div style="width: 92%;"></div>
Education	32 KIs	<div style="width: 86%;"></div>
Electricity	7 KIs	<div style="width: 19%;"></div>

Challenges to access basic public services

All KIs (37 KIs) reported that households faced challenges in accessing basic public services. Some KIs (6 KIs) believed that all basic public services were equally affected. According to one IDP K from the community, this was a result of the high level of infrastructure destruction in the sub-district, the neglect from the local government towards the public sector and services, and the limited presence of humanitarian and development actors in the area.

To alleviate the above-mentioned situation, four KIs recommended the following:

- » To the central government: Facilitate the allocation of budget and funds for infrastructure reconstruction (3 KIs),
- » To the local government: Launch reconstruction campaigns for local infrastructure (1 KI), and
- » To durable solutions' actors: Implement projects and activities to reactivate the public sector (1 KI).

Access to public healthcare

The majority of KIs (32 out of 37 KIs) reported that households faced challenges in accessing healthcare services. According to 14 KIs, access to healthcare services was affected by the lack of hospitals in the sub-district (13 KIs) and the neglect from the local government towards this public service in the sub-district (10 KIs).

The majority of KIs reporting that households faced challenges in accessing healthcare services (29 out of 32 KIs) also reported factors that affected the quality of healthcare in the sub-district, including the lack of:

- » Medications in the available operating facilities, especially medicines for chronic diseases (25 KIs),
- » Materials, supplies (such as bandages and other emergency room materials), equipment, medical machines (such as X-Rays and MRI), and ambulances (16 KIs),
- » Medical personnel, especially female staff, which limited the hours of operation for the public healthcare centers (PHCs) (13 KIs),
- » Rehabilitation works for the healthcare facilities (5 KIs), and
- » Maternity services, including a delivery room and specialized female personnel (2 KIs).

One IDP KI from the community, originally from Sajaa village in Al-Ayadiya, mentioned that households there faced the most challenges due to the absence of a PHC in the village.

Additionally, almost half of KIs reporting that households faced challenges in accessing healthcare services (15 out of 32 KIs) reported the presence of different coping strategies adopted by households to access medical treatment. These reportedly included:

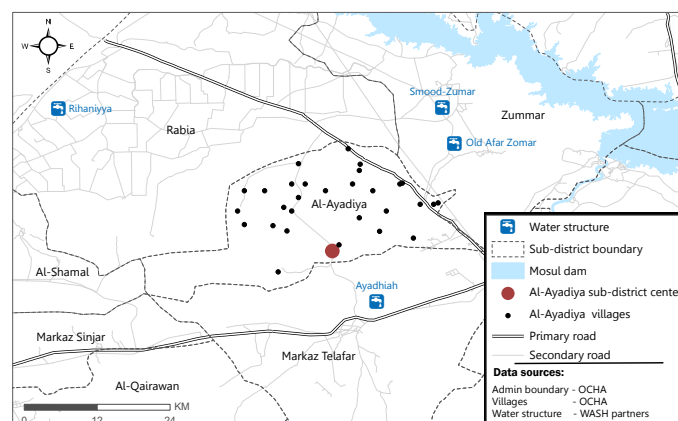
- » Households resorting to local pharmacies for treatment and to purchase medicines, which were usually self-prescribed (9 KIs),
- » Households being forced to travel to Mosul and Telafar PHCs for specialized medical treatment (6 KIs),
- » Some households remaining in displacement to access necessary medical attention and treatments (2 KIs), and
- » Some households resorting to private clinics for their medical needs, which were perceived as expensive (2 KIs).

In order to overcome the challenges in accessing health services, 11 KIs recommended that the government rehabilitate existing PHCs and construct additional ones, as well as new hospitals, to cover the needs of the community in the sub-district.

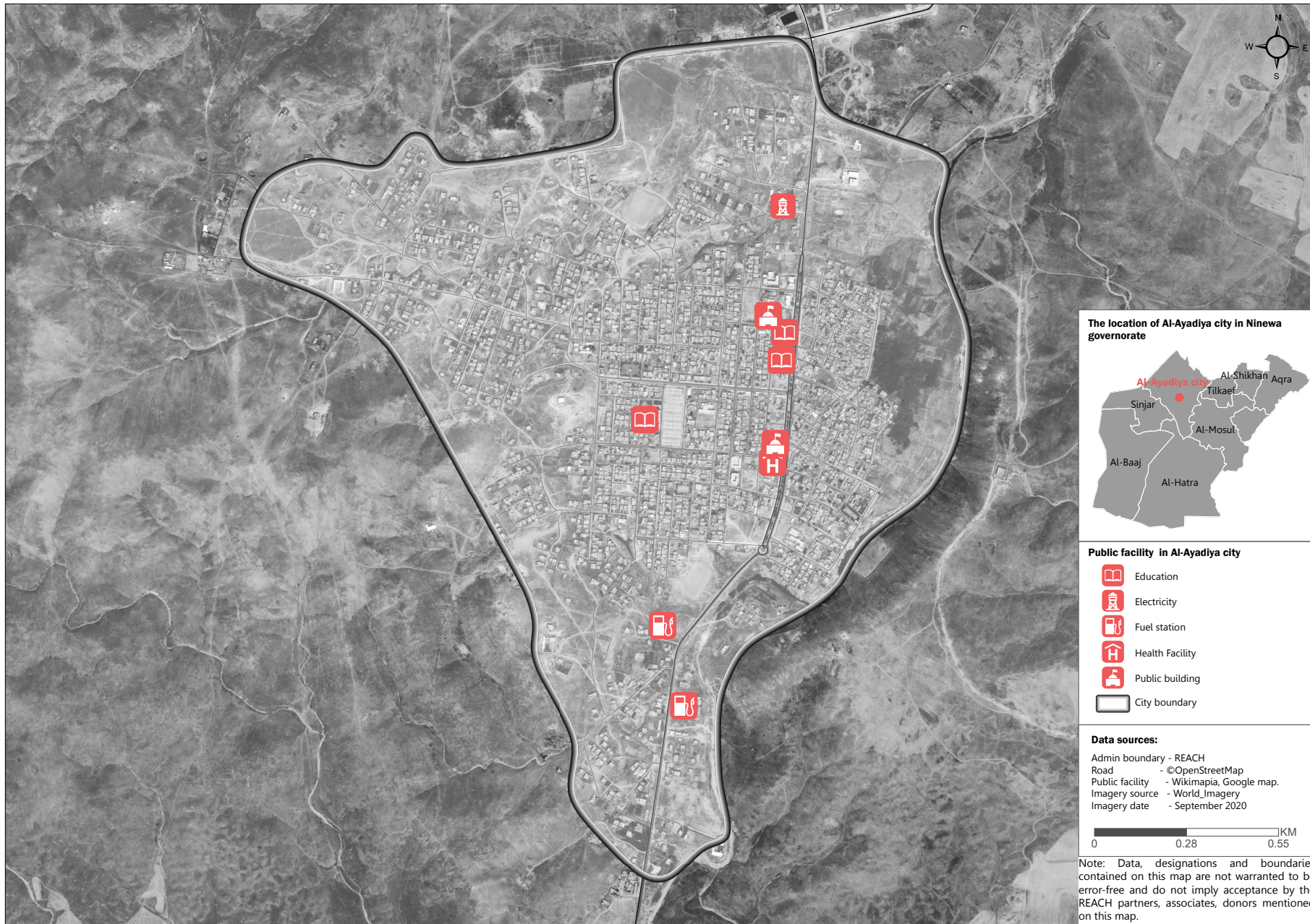
Access to public water, sanitation, and waste management

Almost three quarters of KIs (26 out of 37 KIs) reported that households faced challenges in accessing water services. Over half of these KIs (14 KIs out of 26) reported that most of the water treatment plants and water networks needed rehabilitation. Nine KIs reported that the operating water treatment plants and existing water networks in the sub-district were not sufficient to cover household demand. Additionally, eight KIs reported that water scarcity and the limited electricity service negatively affected households' access to the necessary quantity of water during the day. One older returnee KI reported that water scarcity also affected the agricultural sector with limited irrigation opportunities, farming for animal domestication, and other businesses which depended on water to operate.

Map 3. Water facilities or water plants supplying Al-Ayadiya Sub-district



Map 4. Basic public services providers in Al-Ayadiya city, center of Al-Ayadiya Sub-district



According to four KIs, households resorted to different strategies to overcome the lack of water. Reportedly, the most common compensation mechanism was purchasing bottled water from private shops (3 KIs). One recent returnee KI reported that some households traveled to other areas with available operating water treatment plants to withdraw water for their personal use. One community leader KI reported that some households proceeded to illegally dig water wells in the sub-district to cover their water demands. One IDP KI in the community recommended that the local government rehabilitate the existing water networks, extend them to areas lacking access to public water, and dig formal water wells to ensure full supply to the sub-district, especially in summer.

One community leader KI (out of 37 KIs) reported there was a perceived neglect from the local government to construct a sewage network. One community leader KI (out of 37 KIs) reported waste collection, disposal, and management as a primary community need in the sub-district. The KI reported that the sanitation municipal department lacked employees due to the neglect from the local government to assign sanitation workers to the sub-district.

Access to public education

Almost three quarters of KIs (27 out of 37 KIs) reported that households faced challenges in accessing education services. School facility conditions were reportedly the main element affecting access and quality of education in the sub-district. Nine KIs reported that operating schools needed rehabilitation, including their hygiene facilities. Two KIs reported that these schools did not meet the minimum standards to protect children from the weather conditions in winter and summer. Three KIs reported that operational schools were not equipped to absorb the demand and number of students, forcing staff to run classes in two shifts (the morning covered primary level, and secondary in the afternoon). Additionally, eight KIs reported that there was a shortage of books and educational materials for students in public schools, which were purchased by students' families (5 KIs).

One community leader KI reported that, to alleviate the situation, the local government installed provisional low-cost classrooms in different areas of the sub-district. Over half of KIs reporting that households faced challenges in accessing education (15 out of 27 KIs) also recommended the local government:

- » Build new schools to increase the number of the educational centers in the sub-district (15 KIs),
- » Provide free books and educational materials to students, such as stationary (6 KIs),²⁵ and
- » Assign qualified educational staff to the educational centers in the sub-district (2 KIs).

Access to public electricity

Several KIs (9 out of 37 KIs) reported that households faced challenges in accessing electricity services. Nine of these KIs reported that the majority of the electrical network and transformers in the sub-district were damaged/destroyed during the events of 2014 and that they needed rehabilitation. These KIs also believed that the relevant authorities in the sub-district

neglected the public electricity sector or services. One community leader KI reported that in some areas in the sub-district the electrical cables remained dismantled, representing a high safety risk for the population, especially children. Another KI reported that the lack or limited access to electricity affected the capacity to pump water to some residential areas, leading to an inadequate supply to the sub-district, especially in summer.

Reported groups with less access to basic public services

Almost half of KIs (17 out of 37 KIs) reported that households in all groups equally faced challenges in accessing basic public services. Returnees were reportedly the group who faced the largest challenges when attempting to access basic public services (16 KIs), followed by IDPs in the community (3 KIs) and IDPs from the community (1 KI). Regarding vulnerabilities,²⁴ 15 KIs reported that all groups faced challenges equally. The rest of the KIs reported that older persons (18 KIs) and persons with disabilities (9 KIs) faced more challenges when attempting to access basic public services compared to other groups. According to two KIs, households with alleged links to ISIL also faced challenges to access basic public services.



Perceptions on access to livelihoods

All KIs reported that **the majority of households faced challenges in accessing livelihoods** (37 KIs).

Challenges to access livelihoods

All KIs (37 KIs) reported that households faced challenges in accessing livelihoods. According to 21 KIs, there was a lack of job opportunities in Al-Ayadiya, including those suitable for vulnerable women, youth, and skilled workers. Allegedly, access to job opportunities was affected by the general lack of government job appointments²⁶ assigned to the sub-district, which was influenced by the presence of intermediaries (14 KIs). Four KIs reported that a high number of graduated youth remained unemployed at the time of data collection. One community leader KI reported that there was increased competition for the limited job opportunities after the return of households to the sub-district.

Construction sector

According to 27 KIs, construction and reconstruction projects in the sub-district were limited in some areas and almost non-existent in others. Reportedly, the population in Al-Ayadiya highly depended on jobs in the construction sector, which was already limited in the sub-district (16 KIs).

Agricultural sector

Over one third of KIs (14 out of 37 KIs) reported that the area depended on agriculture and farming as the main sources for livelihoods and food security. These KIs also reported that the agricultural sector was neglected by the local government. According to 12 KIs, the sub-district faced a lack of financial support for farmers to buy needed materials (such as crops, fertilizers, etc.) and to recuperate lost machinery due to the events of 2014. Nine KIs reported that water scarcity and the lack of irrigation projects seriously affected the agricultural sector. Reportedly, farmers were forced to illegally dig water wells to ensure a proper amount of water for their plantations and livestock.

Durable solutions' assistance

Over one third of KIs (13 out of 37 KIs) reported that livelihood projects implemented in the sub-district, including cash for work programmes, were perceived as having had a limited impact. KIs reported that organisations focused their programmes mainly on female beneficiaries, however these programmes were not enough to cover the needs of the population. Additionally, one community leader KI reported that local authorities had denied or limited the access of organisations to the sub-district, which negatively affected access to services.

Several KIs (7 KIs) reported that agricultural lands were contaminated with ERWs, which was considered a risk for farmers and their livestock. There was further reported a lack of compensation for damaged farms (4 KIs) and no legal support for farmers to reclaim their lands (1 KI).

Private sector

Reportedly, the private sector was negatively affected by the lack of investment in the sub-district and the lack of financial support for startups and small businesses (5 KIs). Additionally, the sector was affected by the lack of compensation to owners of damaged businesses (4 KIs) and factories at the time of data collection (3 KIs).

As a response to the aforementioned issues affecting different sectors relevant for the sub-district, household members (mainly referring to young males) adopted different strategies to cope with the limited access to job opportunities, including being forced to:

- » Remain in displacement due to the availability of jobs in AoDs, namely the southern governorates in Iraq (11 KIs),
- » Travel to Mosul and other areas seeking for jobs (4 KIs), and
- » Accept daily low-wages jobs, most commonly available in the construction sector (1 KI).

To overcome this situation, some KIs recommended that the local government and organisations:

- » Support professionals and skilled workers to establish startups which could lead to job creation opportunities (4 KIs),
- » Launch construction and reconstruction campaigns or projects (2 KIs),
- » Promote/advocate for public job assignments based on needs in the sub-district (2 KIs), and
- » Implement projects to support the agricultural sector, including financial support for farmers to purchase materials and crops (2 KIs).

One older returnee KI reported that an increased availability of job opportunities in the sub-district may support to **“revitalize the trade and commerce sector since people will be able to purchase products from the local market.”**

Reported groups with less access to livelihoods

IDPs from the community was reportedly the group who faced the largest challenges when attempting to access livelihoods in the sub-district (13 out of 37 KIs), followed by IDPs in the community (11 KIs). Regarding vulnerabilities,²⁴ KIs believed that older persons (17 KIs) and persons with disabilities (13 KIs) faced more challenges when attempting to access livelihoods compared

to other groups. The rest of the KIs reported that all groups faced the same challenges (16 KIs).

Most reported livelihood sectors available in Al-Ayadiya at the time of data collection (out of 33 KIs)^{19, 27}

Agriculture	33 KIs	<div></div>
Construction	27 KIs	<div></div>
Public education	26 KIs	<div></div>
Private healthcare	22 KIs	<div></div>
Public administration and defence	19 KIs	<div></div>
Public healthcare	15 KIs	<div></div>

Findings indicated that the availability of some livelihood sectors was affected at the time of data collection.²⁸ Job opportunities in manufacturing, transportation, and trade and commerce were reportedly not available at the time of data collection, while available prior 2014. In addition, findings suggested that the least affected jobs in terms of availability were: public administration and defence, construction, agriculture, and public education.

Livelihood activities support for economic growth

Community leader and SME KIs were consulted for this section (15 out of 37 KIs). All KIs reported that livelihood programmes implementation in the sub-district may support economic development.

Revitalization of the agricultural sector (including livestock and aquaculture) (10 out of 15 KIs) depended on:

- » Promoting the marketing of local products and supporting with their transportation outside the subdistrict (6 KIs),
- » Providing financial assistance for agricultural materials, such as fertilizers, and agricultural machinery (5 KIs),
- » Building irrigation channels and networks and rehabilitating the existing ones (1 KI), and
- » Establishing aquaculture projects (1 KI).

“Livelihood activities will support the economic growth by implementing agricultural programs and where farmers continue to cultivate lands. This is all done by the Department of Agriculture located in the center of the district, with the support of international organizations undertake these projects as they aim at the continuous economic life in the region.”

- Male community leader KI -

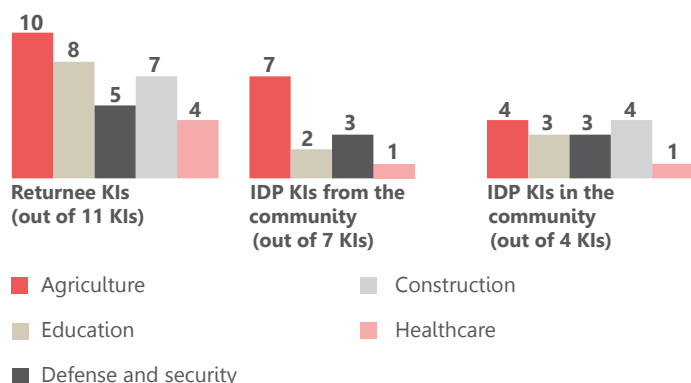
To activate the **private sector**, four KIs recommended the provision of financial support to the private sector, specifically to owners of shops and small businesses to help develop them.

Additionally, seven KIs reported that livelihood programmes implemented by durable solutions actors and partners will promote job creation for women, such as sewing, and will provide job opportunities to youth. One community leader KI recommended that the local authorities in Al-Ayadiya facilitate the access of organisations to the sub-district.

Livelihood sectors of interest for returnees and IDPs from the community

IDP from the community, IDP in the community, and returnee KIs were consulted for this section (22 out of 37 KIs). The most commonly reported livelihood sector of interest for returnee and IDP households from/in the community was **agriculture**.

The most commonly reported livelihood sectors of interest:¹⁹



Challenges to access livelihood sectors of interest

IDP from the community, IDP in the community, and returnee KIs were consulted for this section (22 out of 37 KIs). All consulted KIs reported that households in their respective displacement groups faced challenges in accessing jobs in the different livelihood sectors of their interest. Reported challenges included:¹⁹

Agricultural sector (including farming) (21 out of 22 KIs)

- » The lack of financial resources farmers had affected their ability to purchase seeds and fertilizers (12 KIs).
- » The area highly depended on agriculture. There was a reported lack of governmental support to compensate farmers, to revitalize agriculture and farming, and to reclaim lands (12 KIs),
- » The water scarcity situation in the sub-district and the damage to the irrigation mechanisms seriously affected the agricultural sector and farming (especially livestock). Farmers were obliged to dig water wells illegally to cover their needs (8 KIs), and
- » Agricultural lands were seriously contaminated with ERWs (7 KIs).

Construction sector (19 out of 22 KIs)

The limited quantity of rehabilitation and construction projects.

Private sector (8 out of 22 KIs)

- » The lack of investment in the private sector and the lack of financial support for startups and developing small businesses (4 KIs),
- » The lack of compensation to the owners of damaged small businesses (4 KIs), and
- » The lack of factories in the sub-district (2 KIs).

Governmental employment or public sector (including public sector employment) (8 out of 22 KIs)

The lack of government job appointments²⁶ and the presence of intermediaries.

Livelihood sectors with reported growth potential

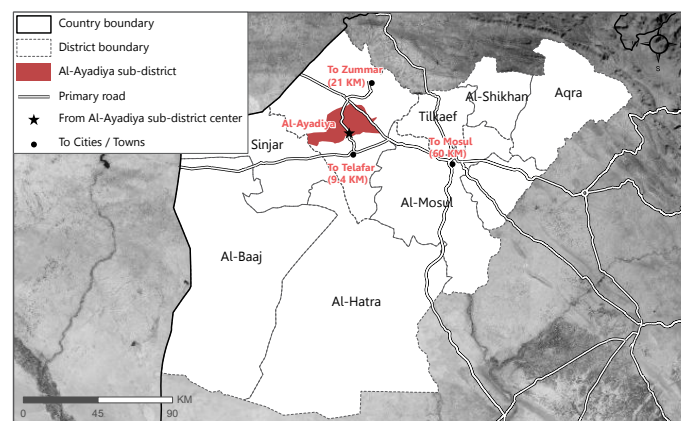
Community leader and SME KIs were consulted for this section (15 out of 37 KIs). Reportedly, **agriculture** was **the livelihood sector with the most growth potential** in the 12 months following data collection (14 KIs). Other sectors reported may have growth potentials were construction (5 KIs), public education (4 KIs), and public healthcare (4 KIs).

KIs also reported that other sectors showed potential to expand such as jobs in construction (5 KIs), public education (4 KIs), and public healthcare (4 KIs). Less reported sectors with growth potential included manufacturing (1 KI), public administration and defence (1 KI), and private healthcare (1 KI).

Access to public judicial mechanisms

The majority of KIs (32 out of 37 KIs) reported that households faced challenges in accessing public judicial mechanisms due to the absence of a court in the sub-district. Additionally, four KIs reported that the Ministry of Migration and Displacement (MoMD) did not have an officer in the sub-district at the time of data collection. This situation was reportedly the same since before 2014. According to 29 KIs, households were forced to travel to Telafar, Mosul, or Zummar to access public judicial mechanisms. These KIs also reported that households faced additional challenges due to the lack of transportation means and were unable to pay transportation fees.

Map 5. Distance from Al-Ayadiya Sub-district to other areas where KIs reported that households could access basic public services, including healthcare and legal services, and livelihoods



The rest of the KIs reported that households did not face challenges in accessing public judicial mechanisms (5 KIs).

Reported groups with less access to judicial mechanisms

Over half of KIs (18 out of 37 KIs) reported that all displacement groups equally faced challenges in accessing public judicial mechanisms. The rest of the KIs reported that IDPs in the community (7 KIs) and IDPs from the community (6 KIs) faced more challenges when attempting to access justice than other groups. In terms of vulnerabilities,²⁴ almost half of KIs (14 KIs) reported that all vulnerable groups equally faced challenges to access justice. The rest of KIs believed that older persons (7 KIs) and persons with disabilities (6 KIs) faced more challenges when attempting to access justice compared to other groups. Additionally four KIs reported that households with alleged links to ISIL also faced challenges to legal services.

Perceptions on governance, safety and security, and community tensions²⁹

Community leader and SME KIs were consulted for this section (15 out of 37 KIs). All consulted KIs believed that **formal security forces were the most influential bodies in terms of governance**.

Reported influential local actors regarding governance (out of 15 KIs)¹⁹

Formal security forces	15 KIs	<div></div>
Tribal leaders	11 KIs	<div></div>
Local authorities	9 KIs	<div></div>
Political parties	9 KIs	<div></div>
Mukhtars ¹⁷	2 KIs	<div></div>

Perceptions on safety and security

Returnee, IDP from the community, and IDP KIs in the community were consulted for this section (22 out of 37 KIs). All consulted KIs reported that **the majority of returnee and IDP households from/in the community felt safe or very safe** in Al-Ayadiya. This situation was reportedly the same for women, girls, men, and boys,³⁰ according to all consulted KIs.

Freedom of movement

Returnee, IDP in the community, community leader, and SME KIs were consulted for this section (30 out of 37 KIs). All consulted KIs reported that **there were no restrictions of movement imposed** in the sub-district.

All returnee and IDP KIs in the community (15 KIs) also reported that **the majority of returnee households could freely move during the day and at night** in Al-Ayadiya if they desired. This situation was reportedly the same for women, girls, men, and boys,³⁰ according to all returnee and IDP KIs in the community.

ERWs land contamination

Slightly over half of KIs (19 out of 37 KIs) reported that **there were fields contaminated with ERW** in Al-Ayadiya at the time of data collection. ERWs were reportedly mostly found in agricultural lands, negatively affecting the main livelihood source for the majority of households in the sub-district (3 KIs). One IDP KI from the community reported that there were clearance mechanisms in place and efforts for ERWs removal from the local relevant authorities and specialized NGOs, however the identification and removal process was slow. This reportedly led to households' fear that incidents would mainly affect children and the occurrence of casualties due to ERW explosions (2 KIs).

The rest of the KIs (18 KIs) reported no lands contamination which may be affected by their level of knowledge or the presence or not of ERWs in the villages where they reside.

"The lands of the Sajaa village [belonging to Al-Ayadiya Sub-district] contain ERWs as a result of the military operations. These war remnants are found in agricultural lands, and the people are not able to cultivate their lands because of the fear these may explode."

- Male IDP KI from the community -

Community disputes and retaliation incidents

Returnee, IDP in the community, community leader, and SME KIs were consulted for this section (30 out of 37 KIs). All consulted KIs reported that there were **no disputes between the sub-district and other areas** (external disputes) or **within neighbourhoods** in Al-Ayadiya in the six months prior to data collection. However, one community leader KI reported that reconciliation was one of the primary community needs. The KI recommended to increase the role of local authorities and tribal leaders to prevent retaliation incidents in the sub-district.³¹

Role of different bodies in resolving disputes

Disputes within the sub-district (internal disputes)

Returnee and IDP KIs in the community were consulted for this section (15 out of 37 KIs).

Tribal leaders

The majority of consulted KIs (12 out of 15 KIs) reported that tribal leaders were the body who effectively intervened to resolve disputes within the sub-district. These KIs believed in the strong nature of the tribal system in Al-Ayadiya and reported that tribal leaders had old bonds and relationships. Allegedly, tribal leaders had a high influence on community members (9 KIs). Additionally, KIs believed that the community was attached to tribal customs, laws, and traditions (5 KIs). One IDP in the community reported that tribal leaders were the responsible to manage tribal affairs according to tribal and local laws.

"The society is of a tribe nature, and the tribal leader has a social role in managing the affairs of the tribe in accordance with the tribal rules and laws. When a problem occurs, the tribal leader works to resolve it and reach a solution that satisfies both parties. Tribe members takes the head of the tribe to represent him [or she] when an issue occurs."

- Male IDP KI in the community -

Local authorities

A couple of KIs (both older returnees) reported that **local authorities** were perceived as representing the law and the judicial system. Therefore, they were responsible for implementing the law and played a role in resolving internal disputes.

Disputes between the sub-district and other areas (external disputes)

Returnee and IDP KIs in the community were consulted for this section (15 out of 37 KIs). The majority of KIs did not know about the bodies intervening to resolve these disputes (11 out of 15 KIs) or refused to answer (1 KI). The rest of the KIs (3 KIs) reported that the formal security forces were effective in resolving disputes between the sub-district and other sub-districts.

Formal security forces

Three KIs reported that the formal security forces were perceived as the highest authority to promote safety and stability and ensure security in the sub-district. Reportedly, they were effective in resolving external disputes between the sub-district and surrounding areas.



Perceptions on community inter-relations and coexistence²⁹

Community inter-relations

Returnee, IDP from the community, and IDP KIs in the community were consulted for this section (22 out of 37 KIs). All consulted KIs reported that the majority of the households in their respective displacement groups **felt welcome or very welcome** in the community of Al-Ayadiya.

Reasons for feeling welcome or very welcome

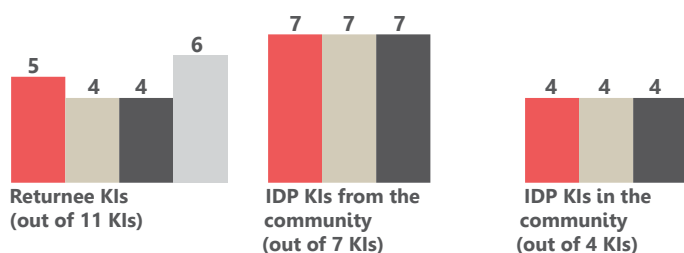
Returnee, IDP from the community, and IDP KIs in the community were consulted for this section (22 out of 37 KIs). All consulted KIs reported that households felt welcome or very welcome to the sub-district. The reported reasons included:

- » Most of households having kinship and social ties with households in the sub-district (14 KIs),
- » The prevalence and strength of different tribes in the area, causing households to feel protected since they belonged to the prevalent tribes (7 KIs),
- » Households having returned home to their areas of origin where they belonged (6 KIs),
- » Pre-existing strong cooperation relationships through trade and commerce, agricultural activities, and work to reactivate the economy in the sub-district (2 KIs), and
- » Their return was perceived as positive by the host community due to the noted reconstruction of the area (1 KI).

Interaction between displacement groups

Returnee, IDP from the community, and IDP KIs in the community were consulted for this section (22 out of 37 KIs). Almost three quarters of KIs (16 KIs) reported that the majority of the households in their respective displacement groups interacted with other groups.

Findings showed the variation of interaction between groups.¹⁹



- Interacted with IDP households in the community
- Interacted with returnee households
- Interacted with IDP households from the community
- None of the displacement groups

Reported types of interaction between groups

Returnee, IDP from the community, and IDP KIs in the community were consulted for this section (22 out of 37 KIs). Almost three quarters of KIs (16 out of 22 KIs) reported ways of interaction between groups, while the rest reported that households did not interact with other groups (6 KIs).

Socially related interactions (14 out of 22 KIs)

- » Attending social events and supporting each other to organise weddings, funerals, or any other event, taking into consideration the pre-existing kinship ties and tribal bonds (8 KIs),
- » Providing financial support and in-kind donations to vulnerable households, especially to vulnerable women (namely widows) (3 KIs),
- » Providing support to returnee households to rehabilitate their houses, remove rubble, or temporarily hosting them (3 KIs),
- » Protecting each other from crime, especially when keeping watch over abandoned houses to ensure displaced household do not lose their goods (1 KI), and
- » Supporting households to access services by providing means of transportation (1 KI).

Work related interactions (2 out of 22 KIs)

- » Providing support to farmers to resume agricultural activities, specifically for those whose lands were cleared from ERWs (1 KI) and
- » Supporting lower-income households to reopen their small businesses, which helped reactivate commercial activity (1 KI).

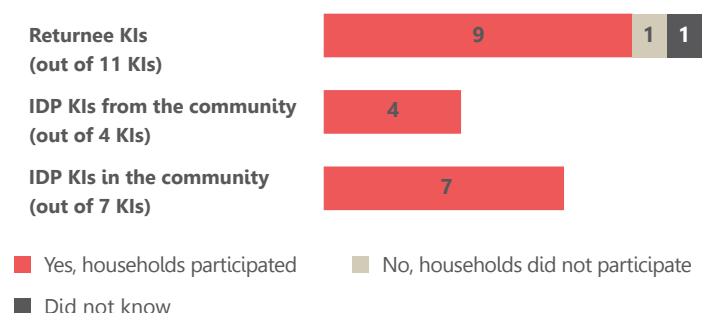
Challenges for interaction between groups

Returnee, IDP from the community, and IDP KIs in the community were consulted for this section (22 out of 37 KIs). Over three quarters of consulted KIs (17 KIs) reported that there were no challenges for interaction between groups. The rest of KIs (5 KIs) reported that **there were challenges for interaction between groups**, these included:

- » Presence or fear of discrimination upon displacement status or ethnicity (4 KIs),
- » Presence or existence of inter-communal disputes (1 KI), and
- » Some households having alleged links to ISIL (1 KI).

Participation in decision-making processes

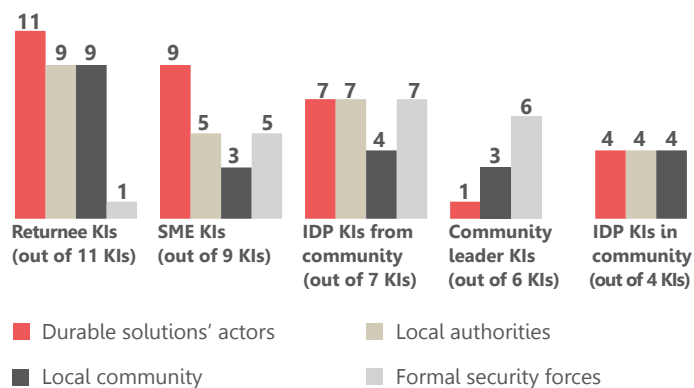
Returnee, IDP from the community, and IDP KIs in the community were consulted for this section (22 out of 37 KIs). **The vast majority of returnee KIs (9 KIs) and all IDP KIs (11 KIs)** reported that households **participated in decision-making** processes in the sub-district.



Perceptions on social cohesion and durable solutions²⁹

Social cohesion influencing actors

Almost three quarters of KIs (29 out of 37 KIs) reported that the most influential actors in terms of social cohesion were the local authorities. Perceptions on influence varied with KI profiles as shown:¹⁹



All returnee, IDP from the community and SME KIs reported that the most influential actors in terms of social cohesion were the durable solutions' actors, while community leader KIs granted the major responsibility for social cohesion to the formal security actors. IDP KIs in the community believed that durable solutions' actors, local authorities, and the local community were equally responsible for social cohesion.

Improving social cohesion

All KIs reported strategies or initiatives to be considered to accelerate or enhance social cohesion processes, such as:

Initiatives promoting access to work for all

Over half of KIs (22 out of 37 KIs) reported that initiatives promoting access to work for all should be considered to improve social cohesion. These included:

- » Supporting job creation projects and skill building and educational programmes, especially for youth and women (18 KIs),
- » (to employers) Promoting interaction at work places (3 KIs),
- » Increasing the ERW clearance process from agricultural lands so landlords could return and jobs were more readily available in the area (1 KI), and
- » Providing financial support to farmers to develop agricultural sector activities (1 KI).

Seminars, awareness sessions, and conferences

KIs believed that organising seminars, sport programmes, conferences, awareness sessions, and workshops was an effective way to promote social cohesion (17 KIs). The most recommended topics for these activities were:

- » Coexistence and tolerance (12 KIs),
- » Peace building and conflict resolution (8 KIs),
- » Acceptance of differences and promoting non-discrimination (including based on gender) (8 KIs), and
- » Human rights (1 KI).

Initiatives promoting community inter-relationships

Over one third of KIs (14 KIs) reported that initiatives strengthening community inter-relationships and interaction may improve social cohesion in the sub-district, such as:

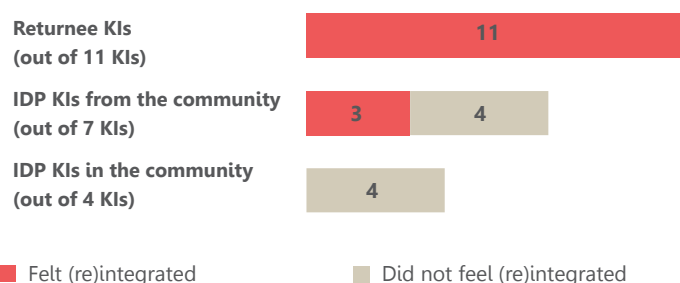
- » Promoting participation in social events and visits to vulnerable households and relatives (6 KIs),
- » Providing assistance to ensure housing rehabilitation, focusing on priorities and vulnerabilities (6 KIs), and
- » Promoting volunteer work to reconstruct the sub-district and restore services (4 KIs).

Initiatives promoting safety and security

A few KIs believed that the local authorities and tribal leaders played an important role to improve social cohesion in the sub-district (7 KIs). Additionally, one community leader KI reported that another perceived way to improve social cohesion in the area was related to the responsibility and commitment from community members to report "suspicious activities" related to potential terrorist actions.

Perceptions on durable solutions

Returnee, IDP from the community, and IDP KIs in the community were consulted for this section (22 out of 37 KIs). All returnee KIs reported that **returnee households felt reintegrated** in the community of Al-Ayadiya, while **the majority of IDP KIs from/in the community** reported that IDP households **did not feel integrated** in their AoDs or in the sub-district. Perceptions on durable solutions varied with KI profiles as the following:



Returnee KIs also reported that returnee households felt re-integrated in the community due to:

- » Belonging to the community, since they were attached by tribal bonds, customs, and traditions (10 KIs),
- » Being returned to their homes in their AoOs (5 KIs), and
- » Returning to their lands, which were their main source of livelihoods (1 KI).

Regarding IDP households from/in the community who reported that IDP households did not feel integrated in their AoDs or in the sub-district also reported that it was due to the fact that they did not own a house there.

Findings showed that some IDPs households from the community felt integrated in their AoDs due to they owned a house where they were displaced (3 KIs). KIs reported this were displaced in Markaz Telafar (2 KIs) and Markaz Mosul (1 KI).

1 [IOM DTM Return Index](#)

2 Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster Iraq, [Iraq Informal Sites Overview](#), September 2021

3 "For instance, Amiriya al-Fallujah camp is inhabited by Sunni families that were displaced from Jurf al-Sakhar in Babil province; Jurf al-Sakhar was taken over by IS in 2014 but then was taken over by Shiite factions. It is still classified as a closed area and the displaced have not been allowed to return, in part because of Jurf al-Sakhar strategic proximity to the Shiite holy city of Karbala." - Al Monitor, [Iraq to shutter displacement camps](#), 14 April 2021

4 Iraqi News Agency, [Minister of Migration announce the closure of all IDPs camps except for Kurdistan](#), 12 December 2021

5 Sanad for Peace Building, [Iraq: Announcement of Peaceful Coexistence Pact of Honor for the Tribes in Al - Ayadiyah Sub - District](#), 10 August 2018

6 Local Area Development Programme in Iraq, [Provincial Response Plan: Ninewa Governorate](#), January 2018

7 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-Ayadiya, there were 6 community leader and 9 SME respondents. Population figures for returns and IDP populations in Al-Ayadiya are based on their estimates at the time of data collection.

8 To date, [IOM DTM's bi-monthly tracking of returnees and IDPs](#) provides an overview of numbers and trends in movement and returns. Simultaneously, since 2018, the Returns Index was run as a joint initiative of DTM, Social Inquiry and the Returns Working Group (RWG), collecting data bi-monthly to provide indicative trends in the severity of conditions in areas of return (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.

9 For the purposes of this research, "returnees" are categorized as IDPs returning to their AoOs, where AoO is defined as the stated original sub-district of origin for the IDP as per the [IOM returnee index](#). Given the complexity of (re)integration, this could mean that returnees still face challenges to their sustainable return to their AoO.

10 "The [DTM](#) considers as Internally displaced persons (IDPs) all Iraqis who were forced to flee from 1 January 2014 onwards and are still displaced within national borders at the moment of the assessment." - IOM DTM Iraq, [Location Assessment Methodology](#)

11 "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](#)

12 The most severely affected areas in Al-Ayadiya in terms of social cohesion and safety perceptions were reportedly Karash village 1, Karash village 2, Karash village 3, Gul Mohamed village, Qasr Sarij, Hokna, Fakerok, Abu Wni, Amla, Qaryat Tal Mara Al Sufla, Alsalihiyah, Kharbat Allsaedun, Al Wailiyah Village, Bashshar Village, Sahl Al Milhah Village, Tamarat Al Tihani Village, Tamarat Al Fawqanii Village, Tamarat Al Wastani Village, Faqah Village, Qasbat Al Raei Village, Qasabat Ayadiya, Tuluh bash Village, and Qabak Village: IOM DTM, [Return Index Round 13](#), August and September 2021

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

14 "SMEs" are members of the community with a high level of expertise in different sectors or topics. These were represented by: five public sector employees (education, telecommunications, legal, and municipality), two local authority representatives, and two civil society representatives.

15 "IDPs (displaced from the area)" refers to households from Al-Ayadiya displaced during the events of 2014 to areas different than their AoO, specifically in Markaz Telfar Sub-district (6 KIs) and Markaz Mosul Sub-district (1 KI).

16 "Community leaders" are members of the host community represented by four senior public employees (electricity, education, and healthcare sectors), one mukhtars, and one local authority representative. A mukhtar can be defined as the head of a village or neighbourhood in some Arab countries, this position is officially recognised as local authority.

17 "IDPs (displaced in the community)" refers to households originally from areas different than Al-Ayadiya who displaced to Al-Ayadiya during the events of 2014 and after. Interviewed IDP KIs were originally from Shamal Sub-district (3 KIs) and Markaz Sinjar Sub-district (1 KI).

18 There were 37 individuals interviewed for the Al-Ayadiya assessment aged between 19 and 55 years old. The majority were male (30 KIs), a large majority of them community leaders. The lack of gender balance among the KIs is a limitation to the assessment. Integration of vulnerable age groups was considered, five male KIs were considered in the youth group (between 18 and 24).

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

20 Other reported barriers for returns were the related to security namely the denied security clearance to return (3 KIs) and fear of being perceived as affiliated with ISIL (2 KIs). Other households were reportedly willing to remain in the AoDs (3 KIs) and other feared contracting COVID-19 during the return movement (2 KIs). One KI did not know about barriers for further returns.

21 Other less reported primary needs were access to infrastructure rehabilitation (3 KIs), food assistance (1 KI), and reconciliation and social cohesion programmes (1 KI).

22 Findings were indicative of each population group and not representative.

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

24 For this assessment, vulnerable groups included female heads of households, older persons, people with disabilities, unaccompanied/separated children (UASC) and minor heads of households. Other groups mentioned in the report were reported by KIs under 'other vulnerable groups' option.

25 "In previous years, students used to receive free learning materials, including books, notebooks, and transportation from the Ministry of Education (MoE). These distributions were affected in the 1990s, and the situation remained the same at the time of data collection. "During the 1970s and 1980s, primary and secondary schools developed to provide learning materials, free meals, public healthcare, and transportation for their students. [...] particularly for the country's isolated rural and semi-rural populations. [...] This system suffered under international sanctions in the 1990s, creating infrastructure shortages and competing exigencies for students and teachers that undermined education provision. [...] Widespread looting after the 2003 events gutted many schools of their supplies and equipment, including computers, desks, pens, and copper wiring. Entire libraries burned. [...] In November 2016, over 4,000 textbooks were stolen from the Ministry of Education and sold on the black market, following a nationwide shortage." - EPIC, [Empty classrooms and black-market textbooks](#), December 2016

26 "The Iraqi state cannot afford to keep creating government jobs to appease its underemployed, ever-growing, and increasingly dissatisfied population [...]" - Institute for the Study of War (ISW), [IRAQ 2021-2022: A FORECAST](#), June 2021

Returnee, IDP from the community, community leaders, and SMEs (33 out of 37 KIs) were consulted for this section.

28 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 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.

29 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.

30 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.

31 "On August 9 [2018], tribal and community leaders, representatives of the Permanent Higher Committee for Coexistence and Social Peace at the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers, and the local government in Nineveh Governorate and in Tal Afar District signed an agreement covering peaceful coexistence among Ayadiyah citizens, between surrounding communities, and with the local and central government in Al-Ayadiyah. The agreement allows for the facilitation of return processes for internally displaced persons (IDPs) to the town, [...] and its surrounding villages. [...] The agreement, signed by