

# Returns and Durable Solutions Assessment (ReDS)

## Al-Synia – Beygee, Salah Al-Din

Preliminary findings presentation, Iraq

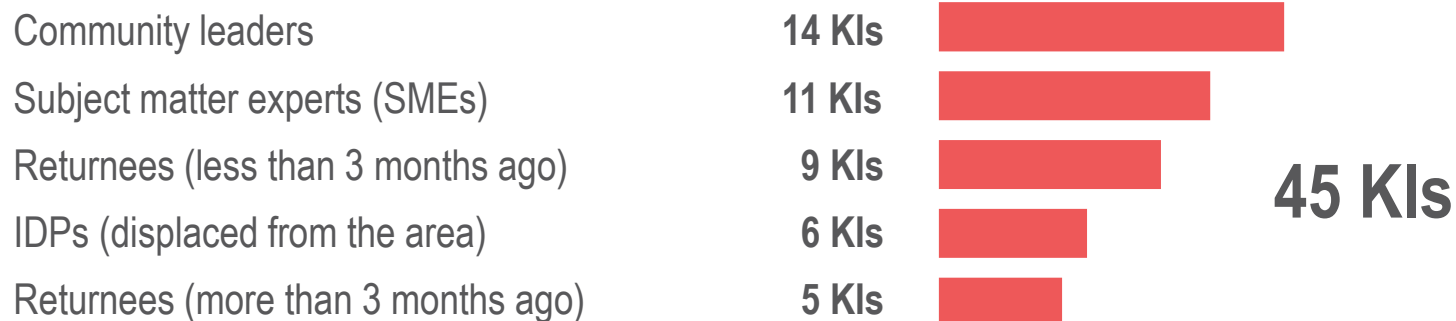
August 2021

# Al-Synia Sub-district Key Findings

## Assessment Methodology

- The **multi-sectoral** assessment tool combined **qualitative and quantitative** data.
- Data collection was done **remotely by phone** between 23 June and 11 July 2021, adapted to the context of the COVID-19 pandemic local restrictions and associated measures.
- **Purposive sampling** methods were employed to identify KIs. Findings should therefore be considered as **indicative**.
- Methodology based on **key informant interviews** (KIIs).

### **KI profile in Al-Synia Sub-district**



# Al-Synia Sub-district Key Findings

## Recent movements

### Recent returns

**24-36** households

As reported, the majority of households who returned came from non-camp areas in Suleymaniya, Erbil and Kirkuk governorates, as well from Tikri District.

The three most reported reasons for returning were:

- Camp closures (or fear of it);
- Following the return of other family members; and,
- Sense of increased security.

### Failed returns

**95-133** households

As reported, the majority of households who failed to return attempted coming back home from camps.

The three most reported reasons for failing to return were:

- Destroyed/damaged housing;
- Lack of job opportunities; and,
- Lack of basic public services.

### IDP movements

**5-8** IDP households

As reported, the majority of IDP households were re-displaced to Tikri District and Kirkuk Governorate.

The three most reported reasons for IDPs movement were:

- Lack of job opportunities;
- Lack of basic public services; and,
- Available jobs in area of re-displacement.

# Al-Synia Sub-district Key Findings

## Expected movements

### Expected returns

#### **54-103** households

As reported, the majority of households were expected to return from camps in Erbil, Kirkuk, Salah Al-Din and Suleymaniyah governorates.

The three most reported reasons to expect further return were:

- Following the return of other family members;
- Camp closures (or fear of it); and,
- Sense of increased security.

### Expected host community departures

#### **28-34** households

The three most reported reasons to expect host community departures were:

- Lack of job opportunities;
- Lack of basic public services; and,
- Perceived availability of jobs in other areas.

### Expected IDP arrivals

#### **20-30** IDP households

As reported, all of these households were expected to arrive from Al-Karama camp in Salah Al-Din Governorate.

The reported reasons for IDPs to arrive were:

- Al-Synia was considered as a transition area;
- Camp closure; and,
- Relatives present in the area.



# Al-Synia Sub-district Key Findings

## Access to Housing and Type of Tenure

Questions in this section excluded IDP KIs from the community (6 KIs out of 45).

### Housing type

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

A few older returnee KIs also reported that some **returnee households resided in unfinished buildings**.

### Owned housing

(included IDP KIs from the community)

The majority of households who owned house(s) reported **having documents proving ownership**.

A few KIs reported that some households **were missing HLP documentation**, such as:

- Heirs deed certificate;
- Housing endorsement certificate; and,
- Housing property document.

### Verbal agreement

KIs reported that some households resided under **verbal rental agreement**.

Some older returnee KIs reported that returnee households resorted to this agreement due to:

- Housing heavily damaged or destroyed; or,
- Never owned a house.

# Al-Synia Sub-district Key Findings

## Evictions

Questions in this section were only asked to returnee KIs (14 KIs).

### Eviction occurrence

Over half of returnee KIs reported that there were **no households or families actually evicted** in the six months prior to data collection.

### Actual evictions

**5-10** returnee households

These families were evicted due to:

- Inability to continue paying rent;
- House needed rehabilitation;
- Landlord planned to use or sell property; and,
- Landlord refused to continue hosting the families.

### Risk of eviction

KIs reported that **returnees** were the displacement group **most at risk of eviction in the long term**.

As reported, the most affected vulnerable groups were:

- Female-headed households;
- Large families; and,
- Families of members with alleged links to ISIL.

# Al-Synia Sub-district Key Findings

## Access to Housing Rehabilitation

### Challenges

The vast majority of KIs reported **challenges to access housing rehabilitation**.

The three most reported challenges were:

- Limited support or neglect from the government to compensate;
- Lack of private financial resources for housing rehabilitation; and,
- High level of damaged or destroyed housing.

### Support needed

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

- Financial support;
- Access to reconstruction projects; and,
- Legal support (HLP).

**Reported Proportion of Damaged Housing**

**76%-85%**

### Affected profile

KIs reported that **returnees and IDPs** from the community faced greater challenges compared to other displacement groups.

As reported, the three most affected vulnerable groups were:

- Female-headed households;
- Elderly-headed households; and,
- UASC.

# Al-Synia Sub-district Key Findings

## Access to Compensation Mechanisms

### Accessibility

Over half of KIs reported that the majority of households **were not able to access compensation**, affecting all categories similarly.

Perceptions toward the compensation process, as reported, included:

- Long and complicated process;
- Households will not be compensated; and,
- Lack of trust in government capacity to support.

### Challenges

- Delays for compensation claim applications;
- Lack of legal assistance for compensation claims;
- Lack of awareness about compensation mechanisms;
- Lack of specialized judges and a public department to claim compensation;
- Presence of intermediaries to process the claims; and,
- Circulation of illegal transactions for compensation.



# Al-Synia Sub-district Key Findings

## Access to Basic Public Services

Questions in this section excluded IDP KIs from the community (6 KIs out of 45).

### Challenges

The majority of KIs reported **challenges accessing basic public services**, such as healthcare, education, and WASH.

The three most reported challenges were:

- High level infrastructure destruction from military operations;
- Specialized staff remaining in displacement; and,
- Lack of financial allocations from the government for rehabilitation.

### Affected profiles

KIs reported that **returnees** were the most affected displacement group.

As reported, the most affected vulnerable groups were:

- Female-headed households;
- People with disabilities; and,
- UASC.

# Al-Synia Sub-district Key Findings

## Access to Livelihoods

Questions in this section excluded IDP KIs from the community (6 KIs out of 45).

### Access to job opportunities

KIs reported a **shifting in the availability of job opportunities** compared to responses in 2014.

As reported, the most affected sectors were:

- Governmental jobs (public administration and defense);
- Trade, hotels and restaurants;
- Transportation.

### Challenges

The majority of KIs reported **challenges to accessing livelihoods**.

The three most reported challenges were:

- Lack of decent job opportunities;
- Lack of financial support for start-ups; and,
- Limited jobs in construction.

### Potentials for sectoral growth

Returnee KIs reported that members of their community were mainly interested in the **agriculture and construction sectors**, followed by education.

The same sectors were reported by community leader and SME KIs, showing growth potential in the 12 months following data collection.

# Al-Synia Sub-district Key Findings

## Access to Humanitarian Aid

Questions in this section excluded IDP KIs from the community (6 KIs out of 45).

### Activities

The majority of KIs reported that **there were humanitarian activities or projects implemented** in their areas.

- WASH;
- Housing and infrastructure rehabilitation;
- Cash assistance;
- Livelihoods;
- Food and NFI distribution;
- COVID-19 awareness; and,
- PSS.

### Affected profiles

KIs reported that **returnees** had less access to humanitarian activities, followed by IDPs from the community, since they remained in displacement.

As reported, the most affected vulnerable groups were:

- Female-headed households;
- Elderly people.

### Aid as a factor to encourage return

IDPs from the community and returnee KIs reported that access to humanitarian aid **was a factor to encourage returns**.

The most reported desired activities were:

- Housing rehabilitation;
- Infrastructure rehabilitation; and,
- Livelihoods.

# Al-Synia Sub-district Key Findings

## Access to Judicial Mechanisms

Questions in this section excluded IDP KIs from the community (6 KIs out of 45).

### Challenges

Almost half of KIs reported **challenges accessing judicial mechanisms**, such as:

- Destruction of the court building in Al-Synia;
- The lack of legal authority in the sub-district to process legal files; and
- Individuals forced to move to other areas, namely to Tikri and Beygee districts.

### Affected profiles

KIs reported that **returnees** faced more challenges to access judicial mechanisms, followed by IDPs from the community, since they remained in displacement.

### Missing documents

Many IDPs from the community and recent returnee KIs reported that **households had missing documents**, such as:

- Passport;
- Birth certificate;
- National certificate;
- Civil ID card; and,
- Unified ID.

# Al-Synia Sub-district Key Findings Perceptions on Governance

Questions in this section excluded IDP KIs from the community (6 KIs out of 45).

## Bodies influencing governance

The majority of KIs reported that the most influencing bodies in terms of governance were:

- **Local authorities;**
- Tribal leaders; and
- Mukhtars.

## “Power of tribal system”

As reported, the “power of the tribal system” played an essential role in ensuring reconciliation in the area, to such an extent that security forces and local authorities could not effectively intervene to solve intercommunal disputes without resorting to tribal leaders involvement.

## Bodies influencing IDP and returnee affairs

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



# Al-Synia Sub-district Key Findings Perceptions on Safety and Security

Questions in this section were asked only to returnee KIs (14 KIs).

## Feeling safe

All returnee KIs reported **feeling safe or very safe**.

This situation was reported being the same for women, girls, men and boys, according to most of KIs.

## Freedom of movement

All returnee KIs reported the **ability to move freely during the day and night**.

This situation was reportedly the same for women, girls, men and boys, according to most of KIs.

## Disputes

The majority of returnee KIs reported that **no disputes within the sub-district or between villages and no retaliation incidents** occurred in the six months prior to data collection.

However, a few KIs **expected occurrence of internal disputes affecting social cohesion with the return of additional households**.

# Al-Synia Sub-district Key Findings Perceptions on Social Cohesion

Questions in this section were asked only to returnee KIs (14 KIs).

## Feeling welcomed

Half of returnee KIs reported **feeling welcomed or very welcomed**.

A few older returnee KIs reported that **some returnee households felt somewhat welcomed**.

- Some family members had alleged links to ISIL; and/or
- Some families had outstanding intercommunal disputes.

## Interaction

The vast majority of returnee KIs reported that **households interacted with other groups** (IDPs) but mostly within the same group.

This interaction was reported to be a result of:

- Kinship ties;
- Work and business relations; and,
- Friendship.

## Participation in decision making

The majority of IDP KIs from the community and older returnee KIs reported that they **were not involved in decision-making processes**.

While all recent returnee and a few older returnee KIs reported their group households involvement in decision-making processes.



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