

### Situation Overview

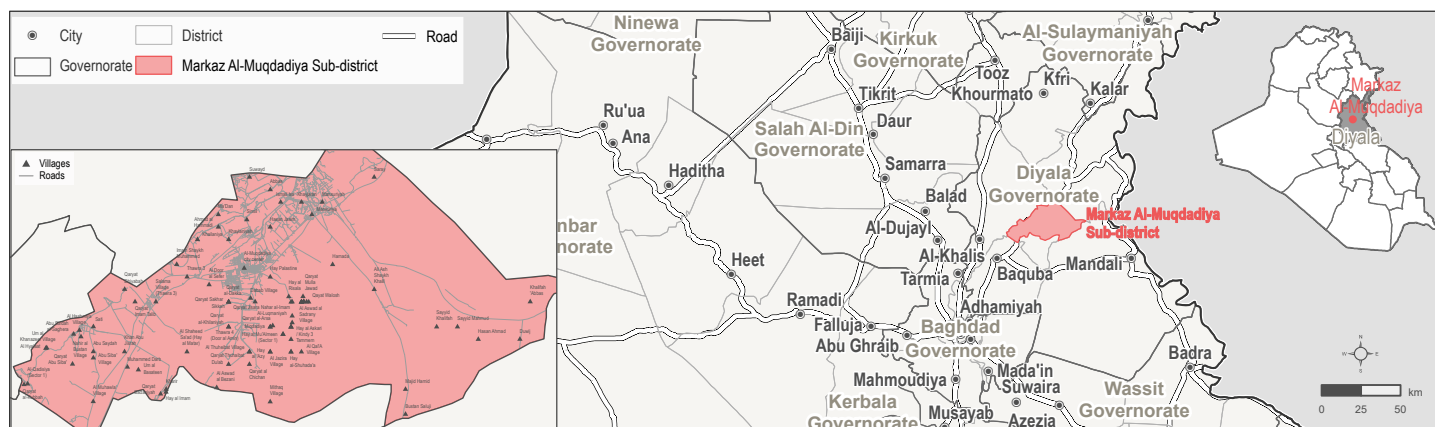
In 2019 and 2020, numbers of internally displaced persons (IDPs) returning to their area of origin (AoO) or being re-displaced for a second time increased, coupled with persisting challenges in relation to lack of services, infrastructure and - in some cases - security in areas of origin. The need to 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 an identified need for humanitarian and development planning. As of mid-2020, decisions related to the closure of all IDP camps by the end of 2020<sup>1</sup> have also impacted these dynamics.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM)'s Emergency Displacement Tracking<sup>2</sup> recorded around 4,320 households returned to non-camp locations between 30 June and 31 August 2020, 5% of which were recorded in Diyala Governorate. Al-Muqdadiya District witnessed 49% of the returns in the governorate.<sup>3</sup>

### Markaz Al-Muqdadiya Sub-district

Markaz Al-Muqdadiya is a sub-district of Al-Muqdadiya District, located in the central area of Diyala Governorate in eastern Iraq. KIs reported that Markaz Al-Muqdadiya Sub-district was housing an average of 14,029 households before 2014.

### Coverage Map



### Background and Methodology

To date, IOM DTM's bi-monthly tracking<sup>7</sup> of returnees and IDPs provides an overview of numbers and trends in movement and returns. Simultaneously, since 2018, the Returns Index<sup>8</sup> 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, and the Returns Working Group (RWG) have conducted assessments with IDPs that have left camps following or in anticipation of closures to better understand and map areas of return and secondary displacement.

REACH Initiative (REACH) has been conducting nationwide multi-sectoral assessments which include indicators concerning sustainability of returns. In addition, in light of recent movement trends, REACH conducted an assessment in Markaz Al-Muqdadiya Sub-district to have an immediate understanding and in-depth profiling of needs and community interrelations between remainee, returnee,<sup>9</sup> and/or IDP populations.<sup>10</sup> This report outlines the overall conditions to determine how and to what extent they are conducive to sustainable returns.

Diyala Governorate witnessed several waves of conflict and displacement, by Al-Qaeda in Iraq (AQI) since before 2012, followed by the so-called Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL).<sup>4</sup> In 2013, 80% of the villages in Markaz Al-Muqdadiya fell under the control of ISIL.<sup>5</sup> During the ISIL occupation the majority of the households in Markaz Al-Muqdadiya were forced to flee their homes, as reported by key informants (KIs) during data collection. The sub-district was retaken between December 2014 and June 2015.<sup>6</sup> At the time of data collection, an estimated total of 3,422 households originally from Markaz Al-Muqdadiya were reported to remain in displacement.

### Reported Population Profile

- 13,927-14,130 households** were residing in Markaz Al-Muqdadiya Sub-district before the events in 2014.
- 81%-83%** of the pre-2014 households in Markaz Al-Muqdadiya were displaced in 2014.
- 70%-71%** of the households displaced since 2014 have returned to their AoO in Markaz Al-Muqdadiya.
- 1,402-1,473 IDP households** (AoO not specified) reside in Markaz Al-Muqdadiya settlements.











The findings are based on 39 KI interviews conducted between 22 and 25 October 2020, combining remote qualitative and quantitative data adapted to the context and restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic. Purposive sampling methods were employed to identify KIs. Findings are based on KI level data and should therefore be considered as indicative. Markaz Al-Muqdadiya Sub-district was selected for the assessment as: more than 50% of IDPs originally from Markaz Al-Muqdadiya are reported to have returned;<sup>11</sup> social cohesion severity<sup>12</sup> is high; it is an AoO for IDPs in camps at risk of closure<sup>13</sup> and dynamic population movements and movement intentions to/from this district were recently reported by relevant actors through the RWG.

### KI Profile




Markaz Al-Muqdadiya Sub-district		
Community leaders <sup>14</sup>	15 KIs	<div style="width: 100%;"></div>
Remainees/non-displaced	5 KIs	<div style="width: 33%;"></div>
IDPs (displaced from the area) <sup>15</sup>	5 KIs	<div style="width: 33%;"></div>
IDPs (displaced in the area) <sup>16</sup>	5 KIs	<div style="width: 33%;"></div>
Returnees (more than 3 months ago)	5 KIs	<div style="width: 33%;"></div>
Returnees (less than 3 months ago)	4 KIs	<div style="width: 27%;"></div>
		<b>39 KIs<sup>17</sup></b>

### Key findings

Overall, Markaz Al-Muqdadiya is perceived to have a positive environment in terms of security and community acceptance of certain groups. Many households have returned due to a sense of increased safety and security in their areas of origin in Markaz Al-Muqdadiya Sub-district. However, further efforts are required to enhance the safety and security situation, mainly related to social cohesion, participation and interaction between groups since mistrust and discrimination were reported as barriers for (re)integration. In addition, the reported damaged or destroyed housing poses a risk to the sustainability of returns, exemplified by returnees being re-displaced mainly due to the lack of adequate (damaged) housing in Markaz Al-Muqdadiya. Moreover, damaged or destroyed housing was identified as the main barrier to return. Further efforts are required to restore public infrastructure such as hospitals, schools, governmental building and roads. There are some reported differences in access to services between different groups. Understanding distinct barriers to access services will improve the overall conduciveness to return as well for sustainable returns, while improving the well-being of vulnerable groups such as IDPs and returnees, female-headed households, child-headed households, unaccompanied/separated children (UASC), large households,<sup>18</sup> elderly-headed households and people with disabilities.

-  While the majority of the pre-2014 population has returned to Markaz Al-Muqdadiya, the situation is still fluid, with ongoing returns occurring alongside failed returns/re-displacement. Additionally, IDP households from five camps in Diyala and Al-Suleimaniya have indicated Markaz Al-Muqdadiya as their area of return.<sup>19</sup> Sixteen percent (16%) of interviewed households originally from Markaz Al-Muqdadiya have indicated their intention to return in the short/long term.<sup>20, 21</sup> Discussions surrounding the closure of these camps is ongoing, though the schedule is not concretized.
-  Perceived improved safety and security was the main pull factors for returns to Markaz Al-Muqdadiya. However, persisting challenges were also reported, including: damaged or destroyed housing; housing, land and property (HLP); and, lack of basic public services and job opportunities. These factors are not only obstacles to future returns but also pose a risk to the sustainability of returns as, reportedly, contributing to the re-displacement of returnees to the area.
-  The movements into and out of Markaz Al-Muqdadiya were reportedly affecting the perception of access to job opportunities:
  -  The return of households originally from Markaz Al-Muqdadiya is perceived as contributing to increased job opportunities due to the return of business owners. At the same time, returns also reportedly result in increased competition for the limited jobs available due to the presence of a higher number of individuals in Markaz Al-Muqdadiya.
  -  The re-displacement of returnees was perceived as a factor negatively affecting the availability of jobs in Markaz Al-Muqdadiya specifically due to the departure of business owners originally from Markaz Al-Muqdadiya.
-  The top reported needs were similar for different respondent groups. Housing rehabilitation was commonly cited by remainee KIs, returnee KIs and IDP KIs as the primary community need, and community leaders highlighted the need to develop the public infrastructure in Markaz Al-Muqdadiya mainly related to water and sanitation, healthcare and education.
-  Reportedly, those with vulnerable profiles<sup>21</sup> are less involved in community projects. In particular, as reported by one KI, female-headed households, child-headed households and elderly were less engaged, suggesting a need for further outreach and participation of displaced populations.
-  There are reported differences in access to services across different groups with IDPs and returnees persistently reported to have less access to housing, housing rehabilitation, and basic public services. This is commonly attributed to lack of relationships and connections in the community. Vulnerable groups such as female-headed households, child-headed households, UASC, large families, elderly-headed households and people with disabilities also face distinct challenges to access.
-  Access to livelihoods was reportedly unequal for different vulnerable groups. In addition, an overall decrease in available types of employment was reported in Markaz Al-Muqdadiya at the time of data collection compared with 2014. Access to employment in agriculture and construction remained almost the same.
-  In general, most KIs noted that community members feel safe in Markaz Al-Muqdadiya, that there are no restrictions of movements and that there are no specific groups that are not welcomed. No disputes were reported; and kinship ties between community members, work relationships, (re)integration of IDPs and returnees and acceptance from the community are reported factors to decrease any tension that might arise within neighbourhoods and between villages.

### Impact of COVID-19 pandemic and the related local restrictions and measures

-  COVID-19 related restrictions of movement were reported as a barrier for the further return of families to Markaz Al-Muqdadiya.
-  Access to housing rehabilitation and basic public services were affected due to the COVID-19 related restrictions of movements. Access to healthcare and the quality of the systemic response to COVID-19 were reportedly limited, due to the general lack of medical staff, health supplies and medications in Markaz Al-Muqdadiya to respond to COVID-19 pandemic.
-  COVID-19 affected the movement of some community members, who reported to avoid specific areas in Markaz Al-Muqdadiya, due to the fear of contracting the virus. Depending on the area, it was reported that more vulnerable groups may have less choice around what areas to avoid, and could therefore be at more risk.

### Recent household returns and displacement

#### Recent returns

**223-256** households returned to Markaz Al-Muqdadiya from other locations in Al-Muqdadiya, Khanaqin and Baquba districts and Al-Wajihia Sub-district in Diyala Governorate in the six months prior to data collection, as reported by 11 KIs (out of 39 KIs). The rest of the KIs reported no returns (21 KIs) or did not know about recent movements (7 KIs).

The main reason for returns was reportedly the **sense of increased security** in Markaz Al-Muqdadiya (11 out of 11 KIs) and **camp closure** (3 KIs).

It was not mentioned by KIs from which camps the households were returning. However, REACH camp profiling updates from October show that between 31% and 88% of interviewed households originally from Markaz Al-Muqdadiya displaced in Alwand 2, Khanaqin District, expressed their intention to return in the short (three months) or long term (12 months) to their AoO.<sup>22</sup> Intentions might be affected due to the fact that the mentioned camp is planned to be closed in 2020.

Reportedly, for all population groups, recent returns contributed to **increased job opportunities** due to the return of business owners (4 out of 11 KIs) but perceived as negative due to the **presence of higher competition in the labour market** (6 KIs). In addition, it was reported that **access to assistance increased** due to the response from different service providers to the recent returns (3 KIs). At the same time, it was reported that the level of household **assistance decreased** due to increased demand (5 KIs) given the presence of a higher number of households in the area.

#### Failed returns

**106-138** households originally from Markaz Al-Muqdadiya failed to return in the six months prior to data collection, as reported by four KIs (out of 39 KIs). The rest of the KIs reported no failed returns (24 KIs) or did not know (11 KIs).

Households reportedly re-displaced to the areas of previous displacement namely in Baquba, Al-Khalis and Khanaqin districts of Diyala Governorate.

#### Reported reasons for failed returns (out of 4 KIs)

Destroyed/damaged house in AoO	2 KIs
Lack of jobs in AoO	1 KI
Did not know the reason	1 KI



Failed returns reportedly contributed to **less competition for the limited available job opportunities** (2 out of 4 KIs). However, failed returns **negatively affected the access to jobs** for the community in Markaz Al-Muqdadiya as displaced business owners did not manage to return (1 KI). In addition, a potential **reduction in access to assistance** was reported due to assumed lack of interest from organizations and government in the area if families do not return (1 KI).

#### Family separation

All KIs (39 KIs) reported that there are **no households** in Markaz Al-Muqdadiya **with members who are still in displacement**.

### Expected household returns and displacement

#### Expected returns

During data collection, 16 KIs (out of 39 KIs) reported that there are **no expected returns**, and 23 KIs did not know about expected return movements.

However, 36 KIs (out of 39 KIs) reported that there are drivers that could result in further returns (3 KIs did not know).

#### Reported drivers for returns (out of 36 KIs)<sup>23</sup>

Increased sense of safety and security	34 KIs
Camp closure in AoD	8 KIs
Perceived increase in access to services and jobs	5 KIs
Return of other family members	4 KIs

*"The most important factor that helps the community to return and live here is safety, through which an individual can reassure his/her family they are safe whenever s/he leaves the house, whether when going to work or to any other place."*

- Male IDP from Markaz Al-Muqdadiya displaced elsewhere KI -

#### Reported barriers to return (out of 38 KIs)<sup>23</sup>

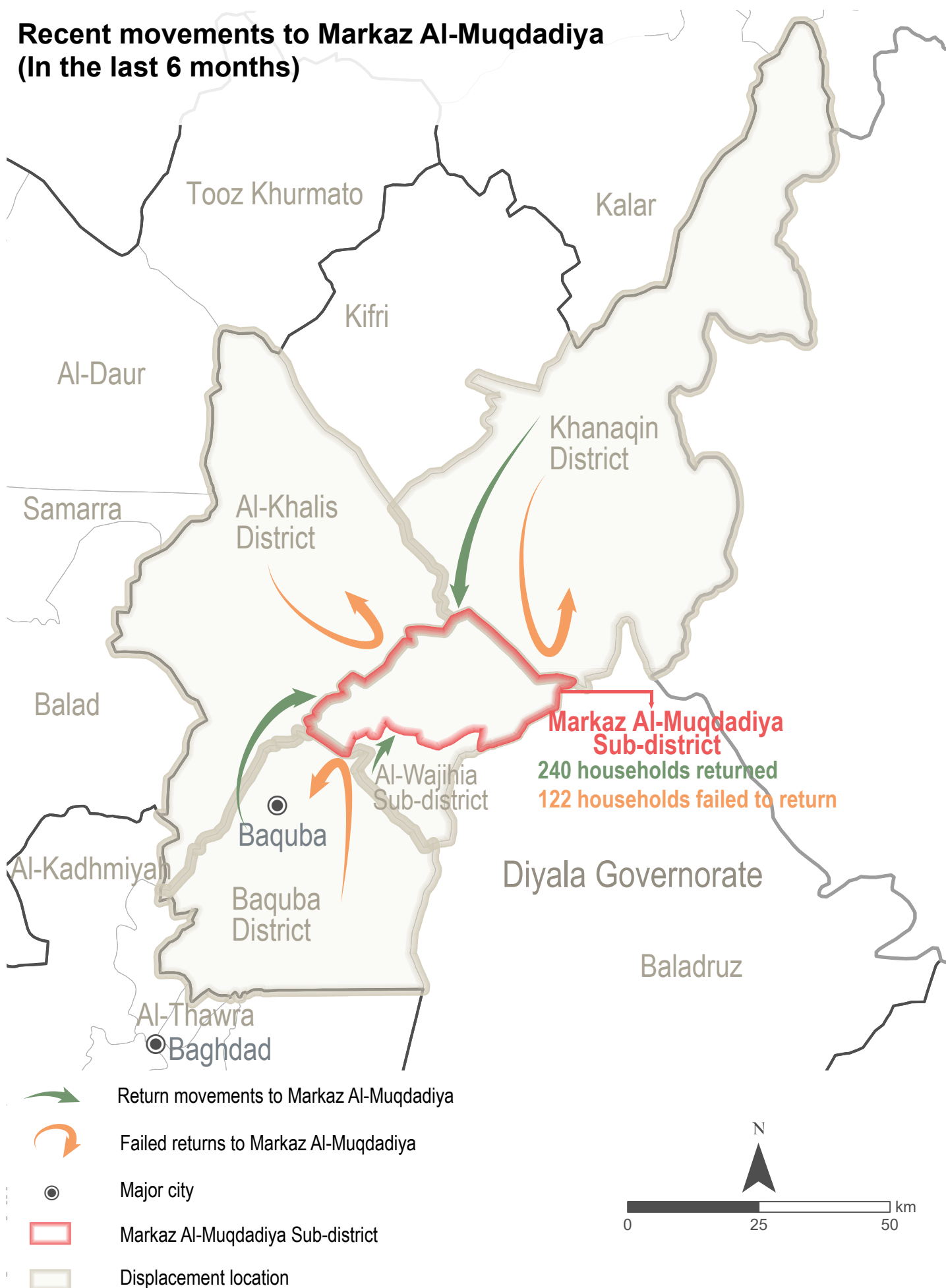
Destroyed/damaged housing in AoO	33 KIs
Lack of documents needed to claim properties	11 KIs
Lack of specialized medical treatment in AoO	9 KIs
Lack of services and jobs	6 KIs
COVID-19 movement restrictions	5 KIs

*"Support for housing rehabilitation is needed in order for a family to live in a good and safe place called home, so that they do not live in bypass areas, or rented."*

- Community leader KI -

For all population groups, further returns reportedly could lead to **increased job opportunities** due to the return of business owners (21 out of 39 KIs). At the same time there would be a **higher competition for the limited available job opportunities** (12 KIs). In addition, an **expected increase to assistance** was reported due the attention of service providers in the area following the returns movements (13 KIs). However, it was reported that households' **assistance might decrease** due to the increased needs (12 KIs) due to the presence of a higher number of households in the area. Further returns of families to Markaz Al-Muqdadiya will reportedly result in **reunification with extended family**.

**Recent movements to Markaz Al-Muqdadiya  
(In the last 6 months)**





### Primary Community Needs

#### Primary community needs in Markaz Al-Muqdadiya (out of 39 KIs)<sup>23</sup>

	First Need	Second Need	Third Need
House rehabilitation	13 KIs	3 KIs	3 KIs
Water and sanitation	12 KIs	8 KIs	7 KIs
Infrastructure rehabilitation	5 KIs	1 KI	7 KIs
Livelihoods	3 KIs	12 KIs	0
Education	3 KIs	4 KIs	2 KIs
Electricity	2 KIs	4 KIs	3 KIs
Healthcare	1 KI	5 KIs	13 KIs
Security	0	2 KIs	1 KI
Food	0	0	2 KIs

KIs reported that the primary need for the community was **housing rehabilitation** taking into consideration that most of the homes are demolished, burnt, or damaged and uninhabitable in Markaz Al-Muqdadiya as reported by 17 KIs. Reportedly, households have no resources to rehabilitate the houses (8 KIs).

The second main community need most commonly reported was **access to livelihoods** which was reportedly related to the lack of jobs in the governmental and private sector and the high level of unemployment<sup>24</sup> in Markaz Al-Muqdadiya (15 KIs). It was usually linked the perception of being able to provide a “decent life” for their families (6 KIs).

The third main community need most commonly reported was **healthcare**. There was reported a decline in the quality of the public healthcare in Markaz Al-Muqdadiya due to limited access to public health clinics (PHCs) and hospitals, low competency and availability of health staff, and lack of medical supplies and medications (11 KIs). As a result, families resorted to services from the private health sector at high cost, negatively affecting their monthly expenditure (8 KIs); and other families were forced to move to other areas for public medical services as they cannot afford the cost of the private health sector in Markaz Al-Muqdadiya (1 KI).

#### Most reported primary community needs per respondent group<sup>23, 25</sup>

##### Community leaders (out of 15 KIs)

Water and sanitation	15 KIs
Healthcare	7 KIs
Education	7 KIs

##### Remainees (out of 5 KIs)

House rehabilitation	5 KIs
Infrastructure	5 KIs
Livelihoods	3 KIs

##### Returnees (out of 9 KIs)

House rehabilitation	7 KIs
Livelihoods	7 KIs
Healthcare	6 KIs

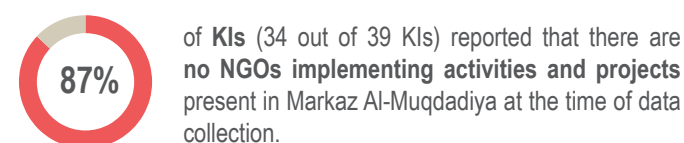
##### IDPs (displaced from and in the area)<sup>15, 16</sup> (out of 10 KIs)

House rehabilitation	6 KIs
Healthcare	5 KIs
Infrastructure	5 KIs

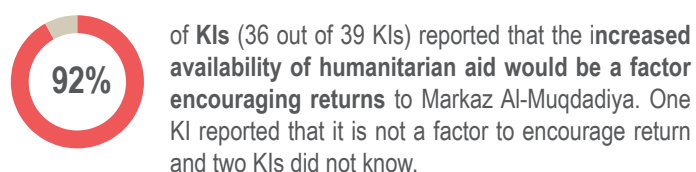
“Infrastructure rehabilitation has two roles: to facilitate social progress and to develop the area in terms of urbanisation and so on, and create employment opportunities for the community.”

- Community leader KI -

### Access to humanitarian aid and presence of non-governmental organisations (NGOs)



One returnee KI reported that **there are NGOs implementing food security programming in the area**. The rest did not know (4 KIs).



The most needed projects or activities in Markaz Al-Muqdadiya were reportedly:<sup>23</sup>

Livelihoods	25 KIs
Housing rehabilitation	7 KIs
Social cohesion	4 KIs
Roads rehabilitation	2 KIs
Water and sanitation	1 KI



REACH Intentions Survey round VII data, gathered in August-September 2020 for IDPs living in camps originally from Al-Muqdadiya District, reported that the main factors and activities to encourage return are: safety and security (55%), housing rehabilitation and reconstruction (52%) and livelihoods activities (40%).<sup>27</sup>

Secondary data reported the presence of three organisations in Al-Muqdadiya District targeting 1% of the total reached population by activities and projects in Diyala Governorate between January and July 2020. The main reported activities/projects/programmes were: CCCM and emergency livelihoods (EL).<sup>26</sup>

A returnee KI reported that **female-headed households, child-headed households and elderly** are less involved in activities or projects.

### Perceptions on access to housing, basic public services and livelihoods

#### Access to housing

All KIs (39 KIs) reported that the majority of families in the area reside in houses.

IDPs and returnees, in addition to **child-headed households**, **UASC**, **people with disabilities**, **large households** and **elderly-headed households** are more likely to reside in tents, as reported by 19 KIs (out of 39 KIs).

#### Reported housing agreement (out of 39 KIs)

Owned tenure	27 KIs
Verbal rental agreement	7 KIs
Official rental agreement	3 KIs
Hosted by other family	2 KIs



IDPs in the community (5 KIs) and two recent returnee KIs reported that the majority of households in their community groups reside in houses under a verbal rental agreement. In addition, two returnee KIs reported that returnee households are being hosted by other community households. Respondent groups who represent the host community namely community leaders, remainees and returnees (more than 3 months ago) reported that the majority of the households in their community groups reside in owned houses. IDPs from Markaz Al-Muqdadiya displaced elsewhere reported that the majority of the households in their community group have an official rental agreement in their areas of displacement.

#### Housing damage proportion

**21%-60%** of **houses** in Markaz Al-Muqdadiya were damaged during military operations in 2014, as reported by all KIs (39 KIs).

IDPs, remainees and returnees are reportedly more likely to **reside in damaged or unfinished buildings/houses**. In all groups, **UASC**, **child-headed households**, **large households**, **people with disabilities**, **elderly-headed households** and **people with less connections** are more affected, as reported by 38 KIs (out of 39 KIs).

#### Access to housing rehabilitation

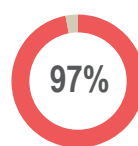
**54%** of KIs (21 out of 39 KIs) reported that access to housing rehabilitation is **unequal**. The rest of the KIs, mainly community leaders (13 out of 15 KIs), reported that access to rehabilitation is equal and three KIs did not know.

As reported by 37 KIs (out of 39 KIs) IDPs and returnees have less access to housing rehabilitation, in addition to **UASC**, **child-headed households**, **people with disabilities**, **elderly-headed households**, **female-headed households** and **large households**.

#### Reported barriers to access assistance for rehabilitation (out of 21 KIs)<sup>23</sup>

Assistance perceived to target specific neighbourhoods	19 KIs
Criteria of selection for support is perceived to be too specific	19 KIs
Less connections	1 KI
COVID-19 restrictions	1 KI

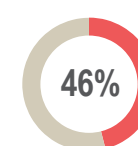
#### Risk of eviction



of KIs (38 out of 39 KIs) reported that there are no families from the different population groups at immediate risk of eviction in Markaz Al-Muqdadiya. One KI refused to answer.

49% of KIs (19 out of 39 KIs) reported that **returnees** and **IDPs** are most at **risk of eviction**, in addition to **child-headed households**, **UASC**, **people with disabilities**, **large households**, **female-headed households** and **elderly-headed households** due to a perceived lack of resources.

#### Access to basic public services



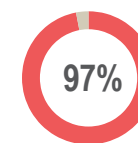
of KIs (18 out of 39 KIs) reported **unequal** access to basic public services, namely healthcare and water and sanitation. The rest of the KIs reported it is equal (19 KIs) and two KIs did not know.

KIs (18 out of 39 KIs) reported that **returnees** and **IDPs**, in addition to **people with disabilities**, **child-headed households**, **UASC**, **elderly-headed households** and **female-headed households** have less access to basic public services due to having **less connections** (18 KIs) and **COVID-19 restrictions** (1 KI).

All KIs (39 KIs) reported that boys and girls between 6-15 years old can access **public education** and there are no children out of school in Markaz Al-Muqdadiya. However, there was reported a perceived decline in the quality of public education was reported in Markaz Al-Muqdadiya (6 KIs). The lack of gratuitous distribution of books and/or educational stationery for students forced families to resort to buy them (6 KIs) negatively affecting their monthly expenditure (3 KIs).

Other reportedly affected public services were: **electricity**, the lack of periodical upgrading and modernization of the electrical transformers reportedly contributed to the deterioration and lack of availability of services compared to the demand of the sub-district (5 KIs). Limited capacity of **municipal waste handling infrastructure** including lack of staff, waster transportation means and unclear waste collection programming to cover all areas in Markaz Al-Muqdadiya reported by seven KIs. The lack of maintenance of the **water network** and water filters in Markaz Al-Muqdadiya reportedly resulted in water pollution and scarcity forcing families to resort to private water trucking and/or to purchase bottled drinking water for highly inflated prices (5 KIs) or to depend on local wells (1 KI).

#### Access to public judicial mechanisms

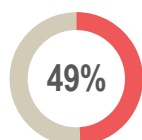


of KIs (38 out of 39 KIs) reported that access to public judicial mechanisms is **equal** for all population groups.

There are no population groups identified with less access to justice.

There are **no reported public offices and/or departments closed** at the time of data collection, and all **population groups reportedly have access to documentation** in the nearest departments to them.

### Access to Livelihoods



of KIs (19 out of 39 KIs) reported that access to livelihoods is **unequal**. The rest of the KIs reported that it is equal for all population groups (19 KIs) and one KI did not know.

**Child heads of households, UASC, people with disabilities, elderly heads of households and female heads of households** have less access to livelihoods opportunities, as reported by 19 KIs. The main reported reasons were **lack of connections** these groups have and the **perceived limited physical capacity, skill or education level, or trauma** that prevents these groups from performing the available jobs.

The types of jobs available have shifted since 2014.

### Reported types of jobs in Markaz Al-Muqdadiya in 2014 compared to October 2020 (out of 39 KIs)<sup>23</sup>

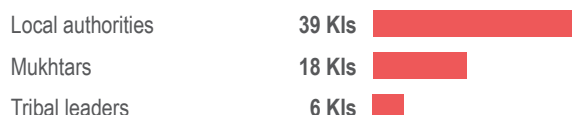


Other reported jobs performed in 2014 and not available at the time of data collection were: employment in the private health sector (14 KIs); trade, hotels and restaurants (9 KIs); manufacturing (4 KIs); public administration and defense (3 KIs); and transportation services (1 KI).

### Perceptions on Governance and Safety

#### Governance and influencing bodies

#### Reported most influential bodies in governance (out of 39 KIs)<sup>23</sup>

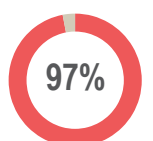


All KIs (39 KIs) reported that **local authorities** are the **most influential in terms of governance**. This is **not expected to change** in the six months following data collection (20 KIs), and 19 KIs did not know about it.

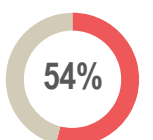


of KIs (15 out of 39 KIs) reported that there has **not been any appointment for new local government** in the six months prior to data collection. The rest of the KIs did not know.

#### Safety and security



of KIs (38 out of 39 KIs) reported that their community members **feel safe** in Markaz Al-Muqdadiya. One community leader KI did not know.



of KIs (21 out of 39 KIs) reported that their community members **avoid specific areas or neighbourhoods** in Markaz Al-Muqdadiya due to the **fear of COVID-19 pandemic** (17 KIs) and one returnee reported that they avoided specific areas because of **discrimination from the community**.

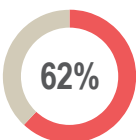
The rest of the KIs did not know (15 KIs), refused to answer (2 KIs) or reported not avoiding areas (1 KI).

#### Freedom of movement

All KIs (39 KIs) reported that **females and males can freely move** in Markaz Al-Muqdadiya during the day. There was no difference in reporting between different respondent groups.

All KIs (39 KIs) reported that **males can freely move at night**, and 85% of KIs (33 out of 39 KIs) reported that females can freely move at night while one community leader KIs refused to answer and five KIs did not know.

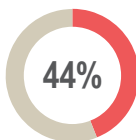
#### Community disputes within neighbourhoods



of KIs (24 out of 39 KIs) reported that there were **no disputes within the neighbourhoods** in the six months prior to data collection. The rest of the KIs did not know (12 KIs) and three IDP KIs refused to answer.

18% of KIs (7 out of 39 KIs) reported disputes might **decrease** in the six months following data collection due to **kinship ties** and **work relationships**, in addition to positive **(re)integration** of IDPs and returnees and **community acceptance**. The rest of the KIs reported that no change is expected in this regard (17 KIs), 12 KIs did not know and three IDP KIs refused to answer.

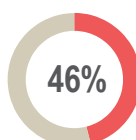
#### Community disputes between villages



of KIs (17 out of 39 KIs) reported that there were **no disputes between villages** in the six months prior to data collection. The rest of the KIs did not know (20 KIs) and two IDP KIs refused to answer.

36% of KIs (14 out of 39 KIs) reported disputes might **decrease** in the six months following data collection due to **kinship ties**, positive **(re)integration** of IDPs and returnees and **community acceptance**. The rest of the KIs reported that no change is expected in this regard (3 KIs), 20 KIs did not know and two IDPs refused to answer.

#### Retaliation incidents

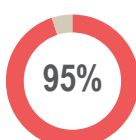


of KIs (18 out of 39 KIs) reported that there were **no retaliation incidents** in the six months prior to data collection. The rest of the KIs did not know (20 KIs) and one IDP refused to answer.

#### Perceptions on the presence of security forces

All KIs (39 KIs) reported that the presence of the security forces (such as the police and the Iraqi armed forces) contributed **positively to a feeling of safety**. In addition, it was generally reported that security forces are **effective in resolving disputes** within the community and between different villages.

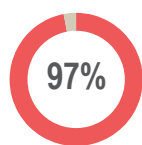
#### Explosive remnants of war (ERW) contamination



of KIs (37 out of 39 KIs) reported that there are **no contaminated lands/fields**. The rest of the KIs did not know. All KIs (39 KIs) reported **no incidents due to ERW** in the six months prior to data collection.

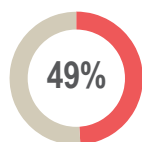
### Community relations and co-existence

All KIs (39 KIs) reported that **their community members trust each other**.



of KIs (38 out of 39 KIs) reported that there are **no specific population groups which are not welcome** by the majority of the community in the area. One community leader KI did not know.

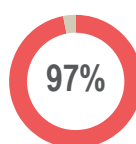
### Participation in social and public events



of KIs (19 out of 39 KIs) reported that community members **participate in social and public events**. The rest of the KIs did not know (12 KIs) and six refused to answer.

**Lack of trust** between community members of different population groups was commonly reported barrier for participation (19 KIs). Three community leader KIs reported that the **lack of interest** is the main barrier to community members' participation. The rest of the KIs did not know (11 KIs) and six KIs refused to answer.

### Interaction between population groups



of KIs (38 out of 39 KIs) reported that community members **interact with other groups**. One community leader KI reported they do not interact with each other.

### Reported types of interaction (out of 39 KIs)<sup>23</sup>

Kinship ties	36 KIs	
Work relationships (employment)	36 KIs	
Friendship	22 KIs	
Operating businesses	3 KIs	

The majority of the KIs reported that there are **no obstacles** for the interaction (20 KIs). However, IDPs, returnees and remainees (17 KIs) reported that there is still **mistrust** between different population groups. Two returnees reported that their community group do not interact due to **COVID-19 restrictions**.

### End Notes

1. Iraq announces intent to close all displaced camps across the country: <https://www.thenationalnews.com/world/mena/iraq-announces-intent-to-close-all-displaced-camps-across-the-country-1.1101741>
2. IOM DTM: <http://iraqdtm.iom.int/>
3. IOM DTM: <http://iraqdtm.iom.int/MasterList#Datasets> - June 2020 and August 2020 - Returnees, rounds 116 and 117
4. Middle East Security Report 18, Jessica Lewis, April 2014 - The Islamic State of Iraq Returns to Diyala: <http://www.understandingwar.org/sites/default/files/Lewis-Diyala.pdf>
5. IOM Integrated Location Assessment (ILA) DTM: <http://iraqdtm.iom.int/ILA5#Datasets>
6. Middle East Security Report 18 Jessica Lewis April 2014 - The Islamic State of Iraq Returns to Diyala: <http://www.understandingwar.org/sites/default/files/Lewis-Diyala.pdf>
7. IOM DTM, April 2020 and June 2020: <http://iraqdtm.iom.int/MasterList#Datasets>
8. IOM DTM, April 2020 and June 2020: <http://iraqdtm.iom.int/ReturnIndex>
9. For the purpose of this research, returnees will be categorized as an IDP returning to their AoO, where AoO is defined as the stated original sub-district of origin for the IDP. Given the complexity of (re)integration, this could mean that returnees still face challenges to their sustainable return to their AoO.
10. As clarified by the Iraq Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) in 2018, secondary displacement covers multiple scenarios: 1) IDPs who are voluntarily or forcibly displaced to another displacement location; 2) IDPs who voluntarily or forcibly, return to their AoO, but are unable to achieve sustainable solutions and are consequently re-displaced to their first place of displacement or to a new location of displacement; and 3) IDPs who voluntarily or forcibly, return to their AoO, but are unable to resume habitation in their former habitual residence and cannot achieve sustainable solutions and are consequently re-displaced to a new location within their AoO.
11. IOM DTM, June 2020 and August 2020: <http://iraqdtm.iom.int/ReturnIndex>
12. IOM DTM: <http://iraqdtm.iom.int/ReturnIndex> - refer to methodology, to compute the severity index, different parameters are combined.
13. Data reported by the CCCM Cluster in Iraq, in April 2020, upon request for the purpose of the assessment.
14. Community leaders are members of the host community and were represented by six mukhtars (from five different locations in Markaz Al-Muqdadiya), eight sheikhs and one public employee. Mukhtar can be defined as the head of a village or neighbourhood in some Arab countries. Sheikh can be defined as a religious leader, or an Arab leader, in particular the chief or head of an Arab tribe, family, or village.
15. IDPs (displaced from the area) refer to households from Markaz Al-Muqdadiya displaced after 2014 events to other areas different than their AoO, specifically in Markaz Khanaqin Sub-district, in Khanaqin District of Diyala Governorate.
16. IDPs (displaced in the area) refer to households from AoO different than Markaz Al-Muqdadiya who were displaced after 2014 events and reside in Markaz Al-Muqdadiya. Households were reportedly originally from different sub-districts in Al-Muqdadiya District.
17. There were 39 individuals aged between 25 and 68 years old interviewed for Markaz Al-Muqdadiya assessment. The majority were male (37 KIs). Ensuring gender balance still a limitation to the assessment, mainly reported due to the lack of informed consent from females to be contacted over the phone for the purpose of the assessment.
18. For the purpose of this research, large households refer to household who have over seven members including parents and children, which is the average size for a household in Iraq: <https://population.un.org/Household/index.html#countries/368>
19. Camp profiling Round XIV, REACH Iraq, August 2020: [https://www.impact-repository.org/document/reach/e61883e2/REACH\\_IRQ\\_Dataset\\_Camp-profiling\\_RoundXIV\\_Aug2020\\_published.xlsx](https://www.impact-repository.org/document/reach/e61883e2/REACH_IRQ_Dataset_Camp-profiling_RoundXIV_Aug2020_published.xlsx)
20. Camp profiling Round XIV, REACH Iraq, August 2020: [https://www.impact-repository.org/document/reach/e61883e2/REACH\\_IRQ\\_Dataset\\_Camp-profiling\\_RoundXIV\\_Aug2020\\_published.xlsx](https://www.impact-repository.org/document/reach/e61883e2/REACH_IRQ_Dataset_Camp-profiling_RoundXIV_Aug2020_published.xlsx)
21. Short-term intentions refer to movement intention in the three months following data collection. Long-term intentions refer to movement intention in the 12 months following data collection.
22. The concept of 'vulnerable groups' is typically based around fairly fixed categories such as women headed households, persons with disabilities and older persons. Sometimes, socio-economic criteria such as land tenure or income are used to classify people. On the basis of classification as 'vulnerable' or 'not', a person or household may be entitled to some form of assistance.: [https://www.lift-fund.org/sites/ift-fund.org/files/publication/Vulnerability%20Profiling\\_0.pdf](https://www.lift-fund.org/sites/ift-fund.org/files/publication/Vulnerability%20Profiling_0.pdf)
23. Sum of answers may exceed the 100% due to KIs being able to select multiple response options, including other topics.
24. The unemployment rate in Iraq is expected to reach 8% by the end of 2020, according to Trading Economics global macro models and analysts' expectations. In the long-term, the Iraq Unemployment Rate is projected to trend around 8.3% in 2021 and 9% in 2022, according to Trading Economics econometric models: <https://tradingeconomics.com/iraq/unemployment-rate>
25. Findings are indicative of each population group but not representative.
26. Diyala Governorate profile and humanitarian response, OCHA Iraq, September 2020: [https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/20201019\\_diyala\\_governorate\\_profile\\_sep2020-final.pdf](https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/20201019_diyala_governorate_profile_sep2020-final.pdf)
27. Dataset Intentions Survey Round VII, REACH Iraq, August 2020: <https://www.impact-repository.org/resources/view-resource/?id=33589>