

IRAQ

Intentions Survey

Round II - National IDP Camps

December 2017 - January 2018



CCCM CLUSTER
SUPPORTING DISPLACED COMMUNITIES

REACH Informing
more effective
humanitarian action

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Netherlands

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About REACH

REACH is a joint initiative of two international non-governmental organizations - ACTED and IMPACT Initiatives - and the UN Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNOSAT).

REACH facilitates the development of information tools and products that enhance the capacity of aid actors to make evidence-based decisions in emergency, recovery, and development contexts. All REACH activities are conducted through inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms. All our reports, maps and factsheets are available on the REACH Resource Centre. For more information, visit our website at www.reach-initiative.org, follow us on Twitter at @REACH_info or write to geneva@reach-initiative.org.

SUMMARY

Over the course of the last four years, nearly six million people were displaced by conflict in Iraq.¹ As of early 2018, 2.3 million people remain internally displaced,² including over 580,000 residing in formal camp settings.³ While new displacements continue, notably in Western Anbar, Western Kirkuk, and Northern Salah al-Din,⁴ the overall number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) has decreased considerably as people have started to return to their areas of origin.⁵ Between November 2017 and the beginning of March 2018, the number of IDPs has decreased by over 800,000 people, and since January 2018 the number of people that have returned to their area of origin has exceeded the number displaced.⁶ The shift in displacement trends is reflected in the 16.3% decrease in IDPs living in formal camps between October 2017 and January 2018,^{3,7} though some camps have seen stable populations due to continuing new arrivals of IDPs.⁸ In response to these movements, the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster has developed a camp consolidation and phase-out strategy with accompanying tools and guidelines to inform discussions.

As the situation continues to change, a better understanding of the needs of IDPs and their plans for the future is key in supporting IDPs' safe and voluntary returns through planning sequenced camp life cycle management strategies in the coming months. To inform this strategy and support evidence-based planning by humanitarian actors, REACH, in coordination with the CCCM Cluster and with funding from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, incorporated the Intentions Survey within the IDP Camp Profiling Assessments. The survey was structured to identify movement intentions of camp populations and the needs and vulnerabilities that may influence intentions to return, relocate, or settle in place. The initial round of the Intentions Survey was conducted by the CCCM Cluster in September 2017, focusing on Mosul response camps, and was expanded to all accessible IDP camps nationwide for this current round, which surveyed 5,731 IDP households living in 61 formal camps across 11 governorates in Iraq from 12 December 2017 to 14 January 2018. At the camp level, findings were statistically representative of the population with a 95% confidence level and 10% margin of error. When aggregated to the national level, findings were statistically representative with a 99% confidence and 3% margin of error.

Through an investigation of IDPs' perceptions and knowledge of the current situation in their areas of origin and movement intentions, the findings indicate that **perceptions of safety in areas of origin are a critical concern for IDPs** in their ability to return home, regardless of current area of residence or the area of origin. The second most commonly cited factor related to intention of return was **livelihood opportunities and financial resources to support a dignified return and restart**. Additional household characteristics and factors regarding conditions in households' areas of origin were slightly correlated with movement intentions, including the sex or marital status of the head of household and condition of households' homes in their area of origin. Nationwide, 75% of in-camp IDP households expressed a desire for more information regarding the availability of basic services (i.e. water, electricity, healthcare, education) in their areas of origin.

The assessment also indicated some key geographic differences between IDP populations, as **the lowest proportions of in-camp IDP households reporting an intention to return were found in Northeast governorates** (Dahuk, Diyala, Erbil, and Sulaymaniyah).

¹ IOM-Iraq Press Release, January 12, 2018, available [here](#).

² UNHCR Iraq, Flash Update, March 8, 2018, available [here](#).

³ CCCM Cluster Iraq Settlement Status Report, January 31, 2018, available [here](#).

⁴ IOM-DTM from November 2017 and March 2018 available [here](#).

⁵ OCHA Iraq, Humanitarian bulletin, January 2018, available [here](#).

⁶ IOM-Iraq Press Release, January 12, 2018, available [here](#).

⁷ CCCM Cluster Iraq Settlement Status Report, October 15, 2017, available [here](#).

⁸ CCCM Cluster Iraq Mosul Camps New Arrivals Monitoring, March 24, 2018, available [here](#).

Key findings

Household profile

- The majority of IDPs in formal camps are children (56%).
- More than one-third of in-camp IDP households reported at least one chronically ill member.
- The majority of in-camp IDP households in Iraq originated from Ninewa Province (67%), in particular Sinjar district.

Conditions in areas of origin

- Forty-seven percent (47%) of in-camp IDP households did not think it was safe in their area of origin.
- Among IDP households reporting that they did not consider it to be safe in their areas of origin, sporadic clashes were the most frequently reported reason (64% of those households who did not consider their areas of origin to be safe).
- The top-reported primary source of information regarding areas of origin was from other people who had recently visited those areas (57%), followed by recent personal visits (24%).
- Among in-camp IDP households who reported knowing others returning to their area of origin, less than one-third reported the availability of assistance for returnees.
- Overall, more than 90% of IDP households reported that their home in their area of origin was damaged, occupied by a non-owner, or contaminated by IEDs or UXOs.
- More than 50% of in-camp IDP households from all areas of origin, except Anbar and Kirkuk, reported that their homes were either heavily damaged or completely destroyed, with the highest proportion found in Diyala (73%).
- IDP households originating from Anbar were most likely to believe that no livelihood opportunities existed in their areas of origin (35%).

Movement intentions

- In-camp IDP households residing in Northeast Iraq (Dohuk, Erbil, Sulaymaniyah and Diyala governorates) were substantially less likely to be planning to return to their areas of origin, with 84% reporting that they had no plans to return at the time of data collection. Of those residing in camps in Northwest Iraq (Ninewa and Kirkuk governorates) and in Central/Southern Iraq (Anbar, Baghdad, Kerbala, Najaf, and Salah al-Din governorates), 33% and 39% respectively reported that they were not planning to return to their governorate of origin.
- Perceptions of safety in areas of origin were correlated with the proportion of IDP households reporting planning to return. Seventy-eight percent (78%) of households planning on returning at the time of data collection believed that it was safe in their area of origin, while only 35% of households not planning on returning reported so.
- Increased safety and security as well as access to basic services including water, sanitation, and electricity remain the greatest needs for surveyed IDP households in order for them to return to their areas of origin.

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List of Acronyms

AoO	Area of Origin
CCCM	Camp Coordination and Camp Management
GIS	Geographic Information System
HH	Household
HoH	Head of Household (ex. Female head of household)
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IOM	International Organization for Migration
MODM	Ministry of Displacement and Migration
NFI	Non-Food Item
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
PDS	Public Distribution System
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
WASH	Water Sanitation and Hygiene

INTRODUCTION

Over 2.3 million people remain internally displaced due to the conflict in Iraq which began in 2014,⁹ including over 580,000 residing in formal camp settings as of January 2018.¹⁰ While new displacements continue, notably in western Anbar, western Kirkuk, and northern Salah al-Din,¹¹ the overall number of IDPs has decreased considerably as people have started to return to their areas of origin.¹² Between November 2017 and the beginning of March 2018, the number of IDPs has decreased by over 800,000 people, and since January 2018 the number of people that have returned to their area of origin has exceeded the number displaced.¹³ The shift in displacement trends is reflected in the 16.3% decrease in IDPs living in formal camps between October 2017 and January 2018,^{10,14} though some camps have seen stable populations due to continuing new arrivals of IDPs.¹⁵ In response to these movements, the CCCM Cluster has developed a camp consolidation and phase-out strategy with accompanying tools and guidelines to inform discussions.

Considering the rapidly-changing context of the crisis, a better understanding of the needs of IDPs and their plans for the future is crucial to supporting safe and voluntary returns through planning sequenced camp life cycle management strategies in the coming months. As the situation across areas of origin as well as the conditions of each camp differ greatly and are constantly evolving, consistent monitoring of camp conditions and the needs of IDPs is essential in order to appropriately prioritize the consolidation and phase-out process of some camps and guide evidence-based programming in camps that will remain open. To inform this strategy, REACH, in coordination with the CCCM Cluster and funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, incorporated the Intentions Survey within the IDP Camp Profiling that aims to provide regular and updated information on developments, needs, and gaps in all accessible IDP camps across Iraq. The initial round of the Intentions Survey was conducted by the CCCM Cluster in September 2017, focusing on Mosul response camps, and was expanded to all accessible IDP camps nationwide for this current round.

The overall objective of this assessment is to support evidence-based planning related to sequenced camp life cycle management, having IDP households' intentions as a central element for safe, dignified and voluntary returns. It was conducted in coordination with the CCCM Cluster in order to understand movement intentions of camp populations and identify needs and vulnerabilities that may influence intentions to return, relocate, or settle in their current areas. The assessment surveyed 5,731 IDP households living in 61 formal IDP camps across 11 governorates in Iraq from 12 December 2017 and 14 January 2018 and was conducted in all accessible IDP camps across Iraq, as identified by the CCCM Cluster. This included camps in Anbar, Baghdad, Dahuk, Diyala, Erbil, Kerbala, Kirkuk, Najaf, Ninewa, Salah al-Din and Sulaymaniyah governorates.

The first section of this report details the methodology used in the Intentions Survey including coverage, tool design, sampling and data collection methods as well as data cleaning and analysis. Next, the main findings are presented in three main sections: household profiles, conditions in areas of origin, and movement intentions. Where appropriate, findings are presented by area of origin as well as area of displacement, with disaggregated factsheets available by the following governorates of origin: [Anbar](#), [Diyala](#), [Kirkuk](#), [Ninewa](#), and [Salah al-Din](#).

⁹ UNHCR Iraq, Flash Update, March 8, 2018, available [here](#).

¹⁰ CCCM Cluster Iraq Settlement Status Report, January 31, 2018, available [here](#).

¹¹ IOM-DTM from November 2017 and March 2018 available [here](#).

¹² OCHA Iraq, Humanitarian bulletin, January 2018, available [here](#).

¹³ IOM-Iraq Press Release, January 12, 2018, available [here](#).

¹⁴ CCCM Cluster Iraq Settlement Status Report, October 15, 2017, available [here](#).

¹⁵ CCCM Cluster Iraq Mosul Camps New Arrivals Monitoring, March 24, 2018, available [here](#).

METHODOLOGY

Research objectives and research questions

The primary aim of the intentions survey was to inform camp closure and consolidation processes in 2018 by understanding household movement intentions, shelter conditions and access to services in areas of origin, and when applicable, reasons for wishing to remain in camps, and priority needs for facilitating safe and voluntary returns. While the first round of the intentions survey [focused exclusively on the 14 Mosul Response camps](#), the second round was expanded to include IDPs living in all accessible formal camps across the country.

Methodology overview

The assessment employed a quantitative data collection methodology in the form of structured surveys administered to a representative sample of households in each of the 61 accessible IDP camps. Households were selected through point-based probability sampling, using GIS to randomly select points from a gridded map of each camp. Based on these sampling maps, trained enumerators selected the nearest household to each point and consenting heads of households were interviewed. If the head of household was unavailable, the household was asked to provide a representative over the age of 18. In total, 5,731 households were interviewed between 12 December 2017 and 14 January 2018. At the camp level, findings were statistically representative of the population with a 95% confidence level and 10% margin of error. When aggregated to the national level, findings were statistically representative with a 99% confidence and 3% margin of error. This exercise covered camps located in the governorates of Anbar, Baghdad, Dahuk, Diyala, Erbil, Kerbala, Kirkuk, Najaf, Ninewa, Salah al-Din and Sulaymaniyah. A full list and map of camps and sample sizes can be found in Annex 1.

Data collection was implemented by an experienced, mixed-sex team of REACH enumerators. REACH Senior Field Coordinators operating out of five regional bases trained enumerator teams and monitored data collection on a daily basis. Oversight of data collection activities was under the responsibility of the REACH Operations Coordinator based in Erbil. Enumerators recorded interview responses digitally using Kobo Collect, an Android-based mobile data collection application, and completed forms were uploaded at the end of each data collection day.

Data processing and cleaning occurred each day by the REACH Assessment Officer in Excel, under the supervision of the REACH Assessment Manager based in Iraq and the REACH Data & Analysis Unit based in Geneva. The data was weighted to accurately reflect the population of each camp vis-à-vis the sample size and analyzed using a variety of descriptive statistics in both SPSS and Excel. As with the data processing, analysis was conducted by the REACH Assessment Officer, then reviewed and validated by both the Assessment Manager and global Data & Analysis Unit.

Limitations

- 1. Camp closures during data collection.** REACH was alerted by the CCCM Cluster and partners about camp closures occurring immediately following the start of data collection, which impacted the data collection workplan and sampling framework. To mitigate these challenges, REACH removed five camps – Chamakor, Habbaniya Tourist Camp, Hasansham M2, Nargizilia 1, and Nargizilia 2 – from the data collection plan and coordinated with CCCM partners in southern areas of the country for updates regarding evictions and camp access. An additional camp, Laylan 3, was closed after the completion of data collection and is not presented in this directory. Finally, a question was added to the interview form asking households if they had arrived to the camp in the last two weeks, to capture these movements.
- 2. Lack of access to Al Iraq Almuahad camp in Salah al Din governorate.** REACH was unable to assess this camp due to access restrictions imposed by security forces. The group did not accept the authorization letter presented by the data collection team which was issued by the governorate, and therefore access was denied.
- 3. Biases due to self-reporting of household-level indicators may exist.** Certain indicators may be underreported or over-reported, due to the subjectivity and perceptions of respondents. These biases

should be taken into consideration when interpreting findings, particularly those pertaining to sensitive indicators.

4. **Findings based on the responses of a subset of the sample population have a lower confidence level and higher margin of error.** For example, questions regarding specific relocation plans were asked only to households who reported intention to move at the time of data collection and will yield results with a lower precision. Findings based on small subsets of the sample may be indicative only and are noted as such in the report.
5. **Certain governorates and districts of origin were not represented across assessed households.** In particular, among all 5,731 interviewed households, only 22, 3, and 1 households reported originally being from Babylon, Baghdad and Dahuk, respectively, and are therefore excluded from findings disaggregated by governorate of origin.

FINDINGS

This section of the report presents the main findings from the intentions survey of IDPs living in formal camps and is comprised of an overview of key household and population demographics, conditions of areas of origin, intentions to move or remain in the camp, and priority needs in order to support safe and voluntary returns for IDP households.

Household profile

Household demographics

Nationally, over half of the in-camp IDP population were children, with 56% of the total population under the age of 18 and 19% under 5. The sex ratio of camp residents was even, at 50.3% male and 49.7% female.

Figure 1. Age distribution of IDP camp population

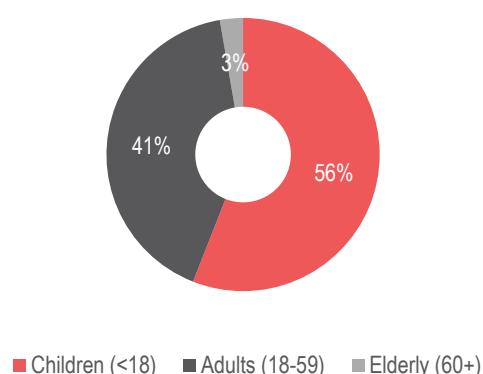
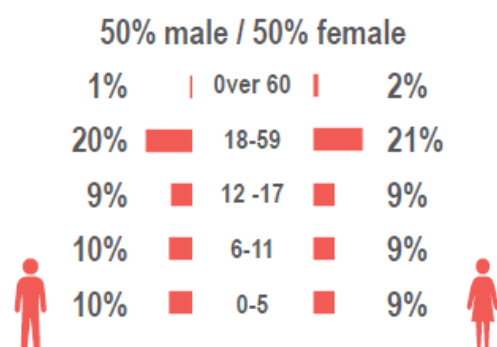


Figure 2. Population pyramid of IDP camp population



As certain household members may require specialized protection and assistance in the context of safe and dignified returns, households were asked to indicate if they were caring for one or more individuals who are chronically ill, elderly, widowed, pregnant or lactating, an unaccompanied minor, or to have mental or physical disabilities. In every governorate, the top reported vulnerable group was people living with chronic illnesses, as more than one-third of households nationwide reported at least one chronically ill member. Pregnant and lactating women and persons living with mental or physical disabilities were also commonly reported.

Table 1. Proportions of households reporting one or more vulnerable household member

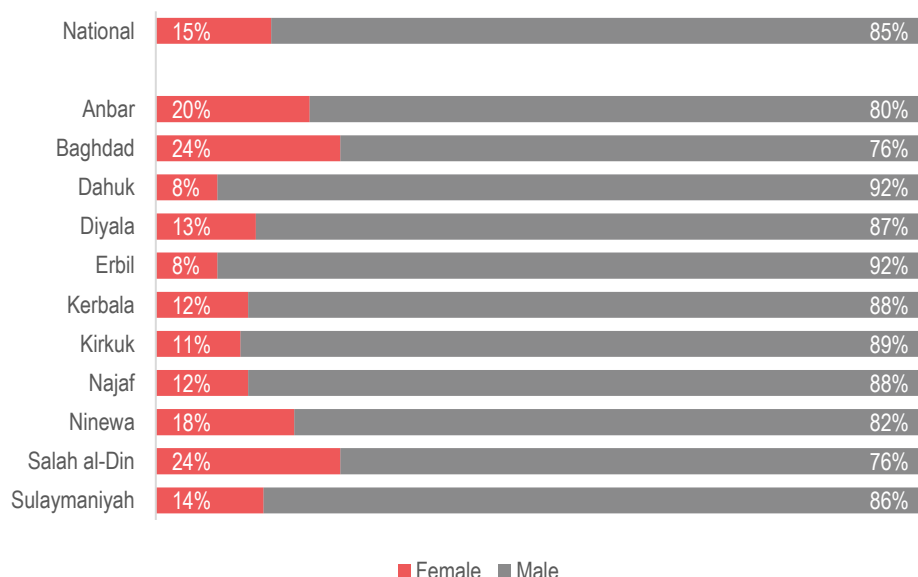
	Chronic illness	Disability	Unaccompanied minor	Pregnant or lactating	Widowed	Elderly
National	34%	17%	1%	19%	11%	2%
Anbar	23%	2%	0%	10%	9%	1%
Baghdad	26%	4%	0%	7%	11%	2%
Dahuk	43%	28%	1%	20%	13%	1%
Diyala	30%	13%	0%	10%	5%	1%
Erbil	29%	10%	0%	24%	7%	4%
Kerbala	39%	5%	0%	9%	13%	2%
Kirkuk	27%	16%	0%	19%	7%	2%
Najaf	25%	4%	0%	17%	18%	6%
Ninewa	37%	20%	2%	25%	14%	3%
Salah al-Din	44%	26%	6%	22%	19%	4%
Sulaymaniyah	33%	28%	2%	29%	8%	2%

*proportions 20% or higher are highlighted

Head of household profile

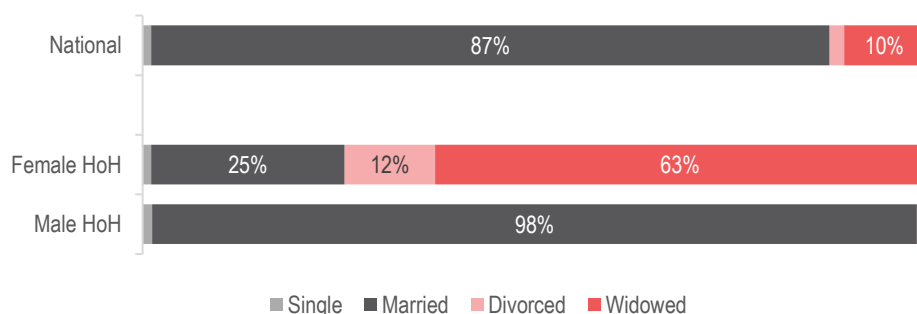
Nationally, the average age of the head of household in formal camps was 41, and 85% of surveyed households were headed by a male member. The proportion of female-headed households is highest in Baghdad and Salah al-Din, at 24%.

Figure 3. Sex of head of household



The majority of heads of household were married, at a proportion of 87% across all camps. However, female heads of household were significantly more likely to either be divorced or widowed, at 12% and 63%, compared to 0.2% and 1% of male heads of household, respectively. As female-headed households are more likely to be single-parent households, this highlights the need for additional support in facilitating safe and voluntary returns.

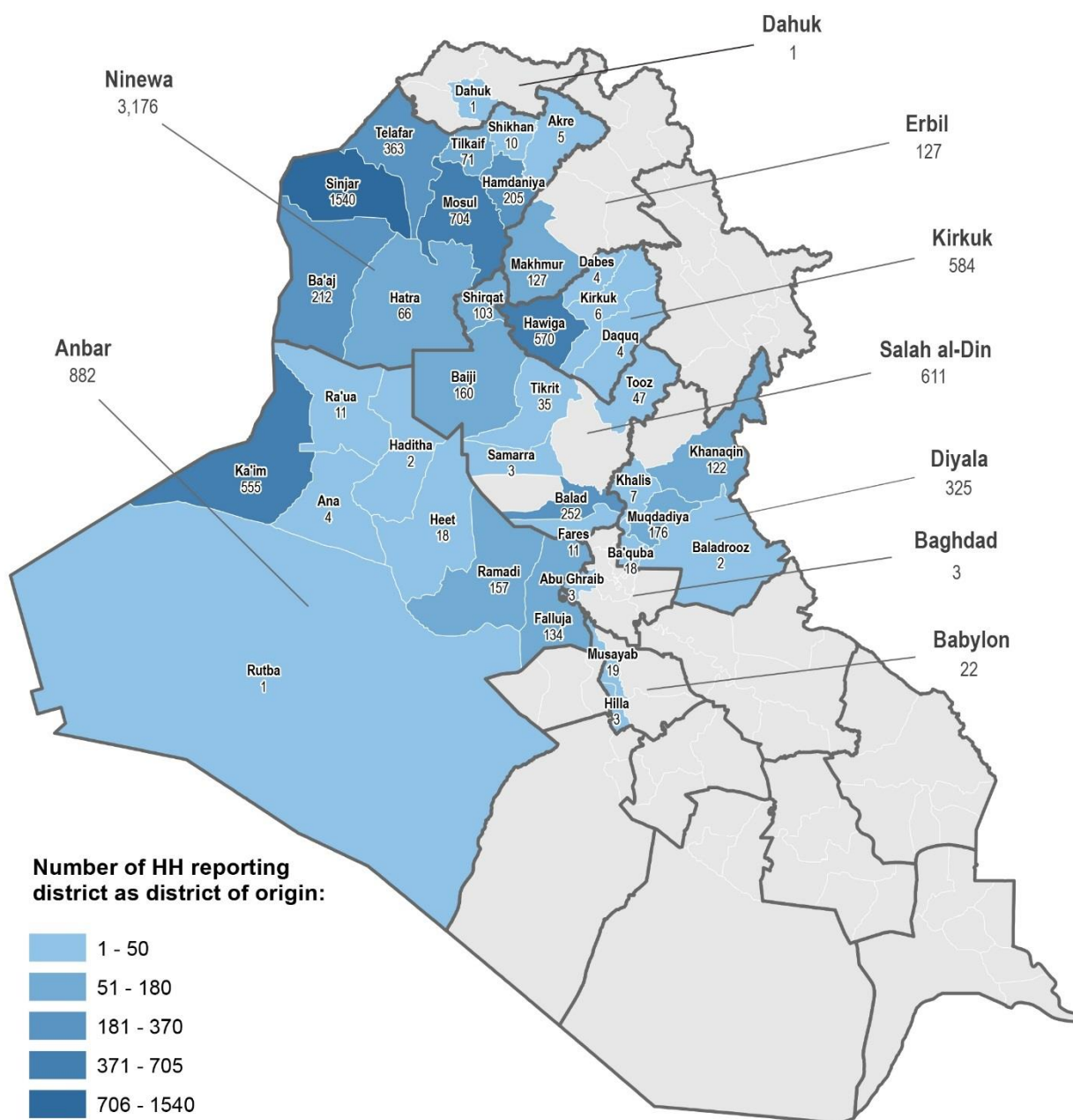
Figure 4. Marital status of head of household, national and by sex



Area of origin

The majority of internally displaced households in Iraq originated from Ninewa Province (67%), followed by Anbar (15%) and Salah al-Din (8%). More than half of all in-camp IDP households originated from four districts in Ninewa – Sinjar (32%), Mosul (15%), Baaj (7%), and Telafar (7%). A large proportion of households also reported originating from Kaim district in Anbar (10%) and Hawiga district in Kirkuk (7%).

Map 1. Number of assessed households reporting governorate and district of origin



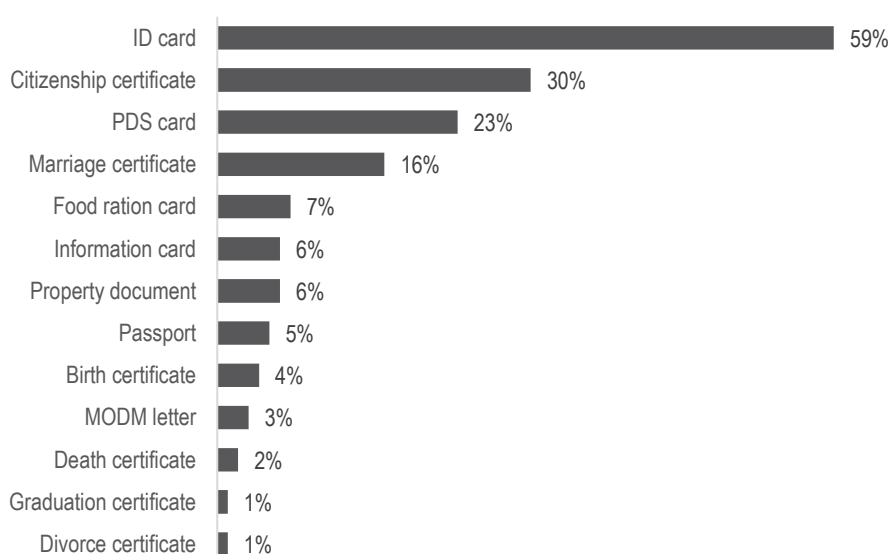
Only one, three, and twenty-two households reported originating from Dahuk, Baghdad, and Babylon governorates; therefore, all future presentation of findings disaggregated by governorate of origin will not include these three provinces.

Civil and legal documentation

At the time of data collection, the vast majority of households across all IDP camps reported that household members were in possession of all of necessary civil and legal documentation, with only 9% of households reporting missing documentation. However, the proportion of households missing documentation is higher among female-headed households, at 15.4% compared to their male counterparts at 8.3%. The proportion is also higher among households originating from the provinces of Kirkuk (13%), Ninewa (10.4%), and Salah al-Din (10.4%).

Figure 5. Proportion of households reporting having all necessary documentation, by sex of head of household and by governorate of origin

Of households reporting missing documentation, the most commonly cited missing document was ID cards (59%), followed by citizenship certificates (30%) and national Public Distribution System (PDS) cards, used to access food and fuel assistance (23%).¹⁶

Figure 6. Proportion of households missing each type of document, among households missing documents nationwide

Conditions in areas of origin

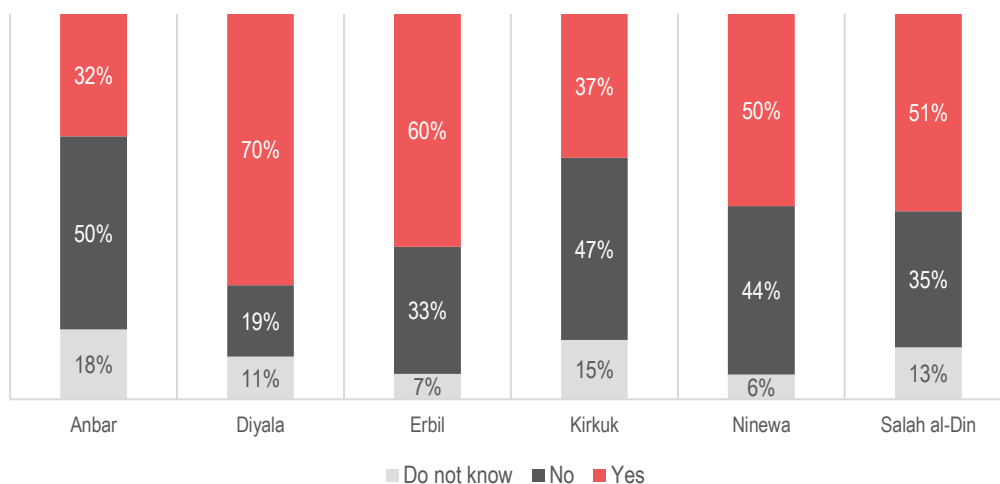
The following section provides an overview of in-camp IDP households' access to information regarding conditions in their areas of origin, including access to basic services, shelter conditions, and perceptions of safety. Findings disaggregated by area of origin are expressed as percentages of households from each respective area regardless of sample size. For example, more than 3,000 households reported being originally from Ninewa, compared to around 300 households originally from Diyala, but results disaggregated by governorate of origin are presented as the proportion of households from each governorate, out of 100%.

¹⁶ Households could select multiple missing documents.

Others returning to areas of origin

When asked “Have people returned to your area of origin?” over half of households in formal camps nationwide reported either “no” (44%) or “do not know” (9%). Households originally from Anbar and Kirkuk reported the lowest rates of households knowing others who have returned, at 32% and 37% respectively, compared to the national average of 47%.

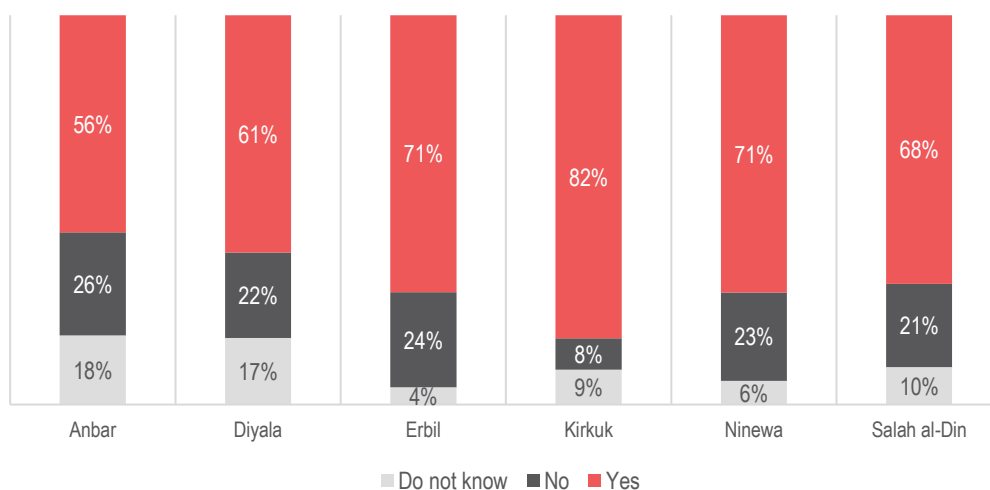
Figure 7. Proportion of households reporting people returning to their areas of origin, by governorate of origin



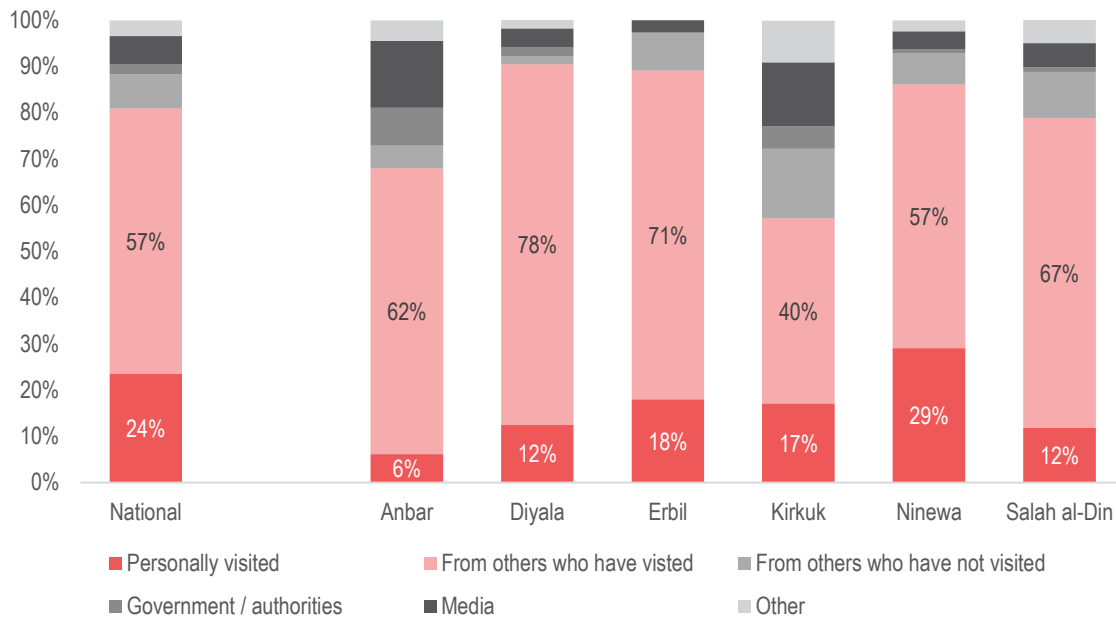
Information sources and needs regarding areas of origin

Despite less than half of in-camp IDP households nationwide reporting knowing that others have returned to their area of origin, the majority of households reported being able to receive information about their area of origin at the time of data collection.

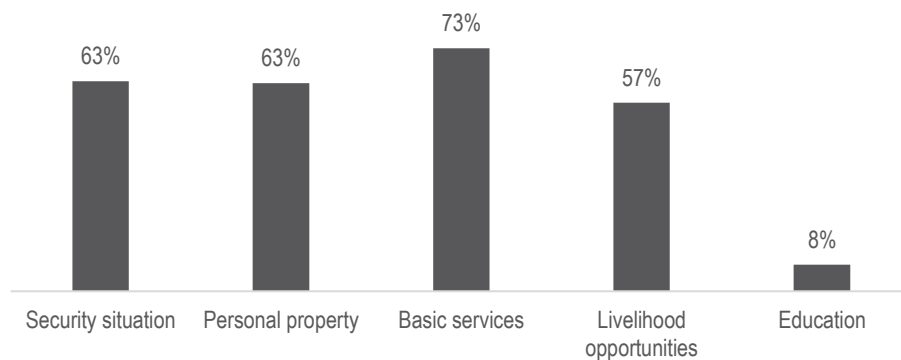
Figure 8. Proportion of households receiving information about their area of origin, by governorate of origin



Informal communication networks remain the most important sources of information for IDPs to learn about their areas of origin. The most commonly cited primary source of information is from other people who have recently visited. For IDPs from all governorates of origin except Kirkuk, this constitutes the majority of IDP households' primary source of information. While substantially lower for IDPs from Kirkuk, it is still the single most common source of information (40% of households). Personal visits to their areas of origin are also a significant source of information, with 24% of all IDP households citing these as their primary source of information. Media is an infrequent primary source of information for IDPs originating in Diyala, Erbil, Ninewa and Salah al-Din (between 3-5%) but is significantly more common as a primary source of information for those originating in Anbar, Babylon and Kirkuk (13-15%), where a smaller proportion of households reported knowing others who have returned.

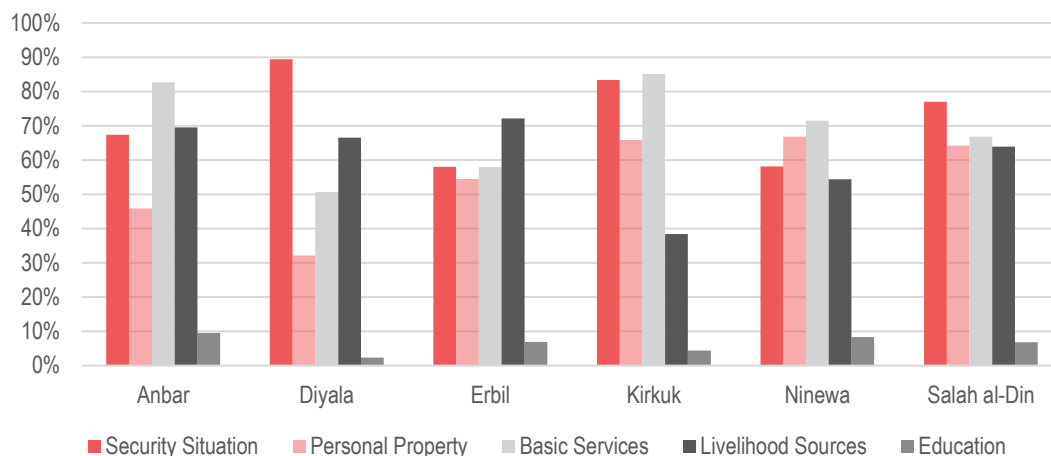
Figure 9. Primary sources of information, as reported by households who are receiving information, by governorate of origin

Nationwide, a majority of IDP households expressed the desire for more information on basic services (73%), security in their area of origin (63%), personal property (63%) and potential sources of livelihoods (57%).

Figure 10. Information needs regarding areas of origin¹⁷, national

In considering information needs according to governorates of origin, IDPs originating from Diyala and Kirkuk were most likely to want information on the security situation (89% and 83% of households respectively), while those originating in Anbar and (again) Kirkuk were most likely to desire information on basic services (83% and 85% respectively). Information on livelihood sources was cited as an information need by a majority of households in Anbar, Diyala, Erbil, Ninewa, and Salah al-Din, and information on personal property was cited by a majority of households in Erbil, Kirkuk, Ninewa, and Salah al-Din.

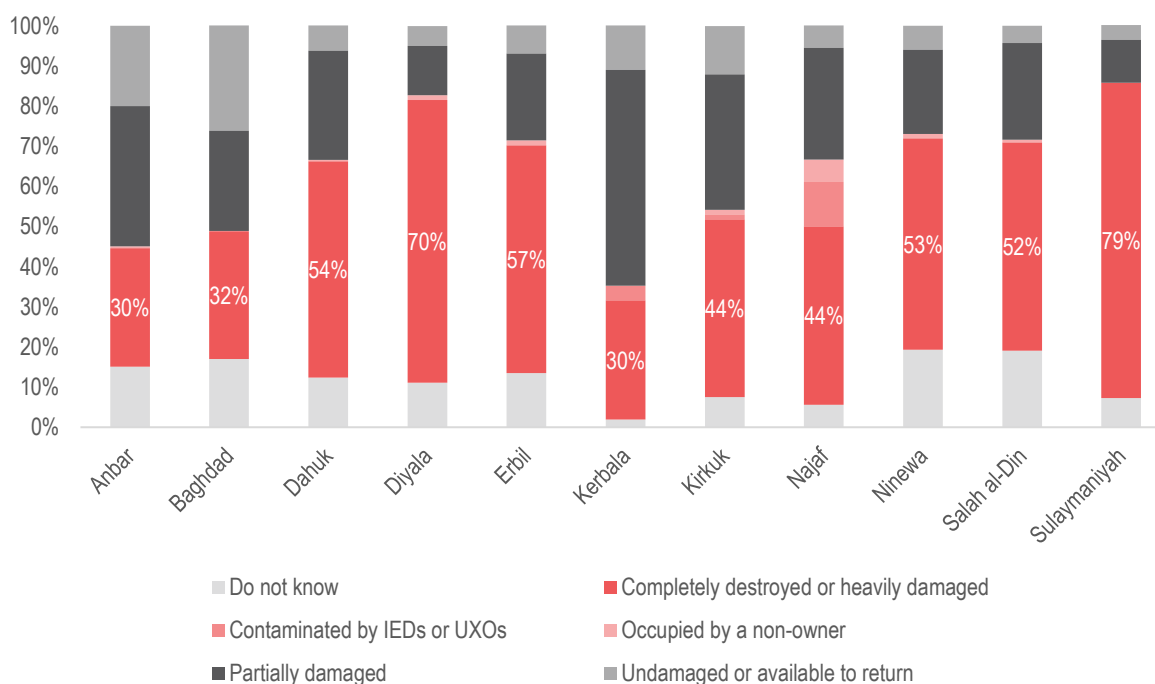
¹⁷ Households were asked to select all information needs that applied.

Figure 11. Information needs regarding areas of origin¹³, by governorate of origin

Conditions of homes in areas of origin

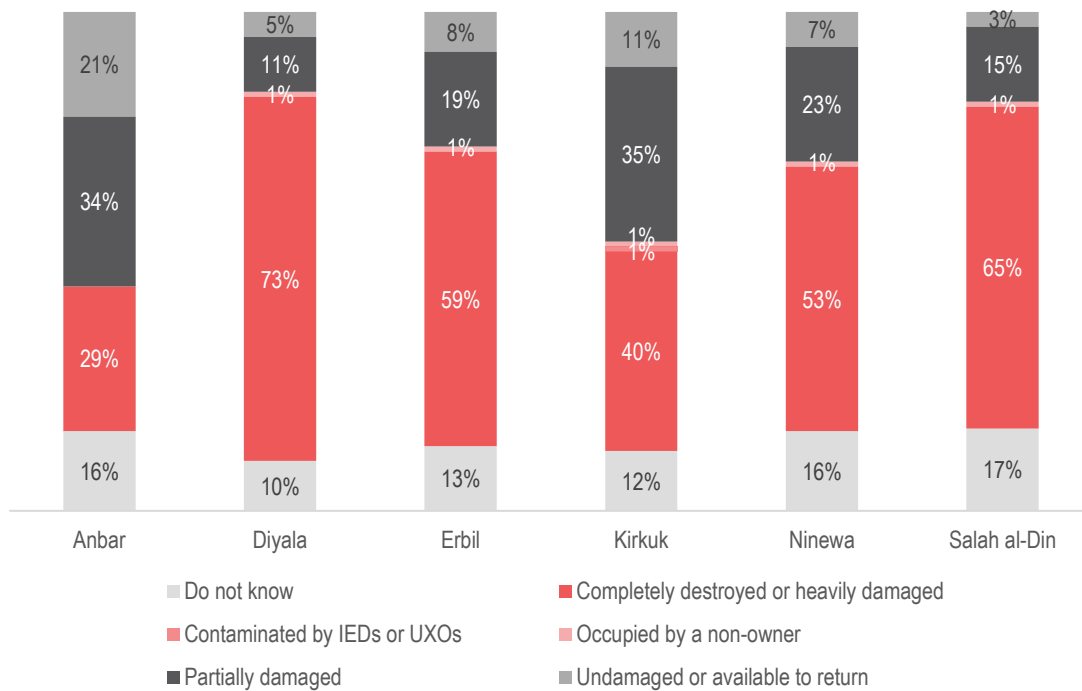
Viewed by either current governorate of residence or by governorate of origin, the majority of IDP households reported that their original homes were partially damaged, heavily damaged, or completely destroyed, when asked about the most significant barrier to return regarding shelters in areas of origin. IDPs residing in formal camps in Diyala and Sulaymaniyah at the time of data collection reported much higher rates of heavily damaged or completely destroyed homes in places of origin (70% and 79% respectively) while those residing in Anbar, Baghdad and Kerbala reported the lowest rates (30-32%).

Figure 12. Primary barrier to return related to conditions of homes in areas of origin, by current governorate of residence



A majority of IDP households from all areas of origin except Anbar and Kirkuk reported heavily damaged or completely destroyed homes as the primary shelter-related barrier, with Diyala having the highest rate (73%). Notably, households originating from Anbar were much more likely to report undamaged homes (21%) compared to all other governorates of origin.

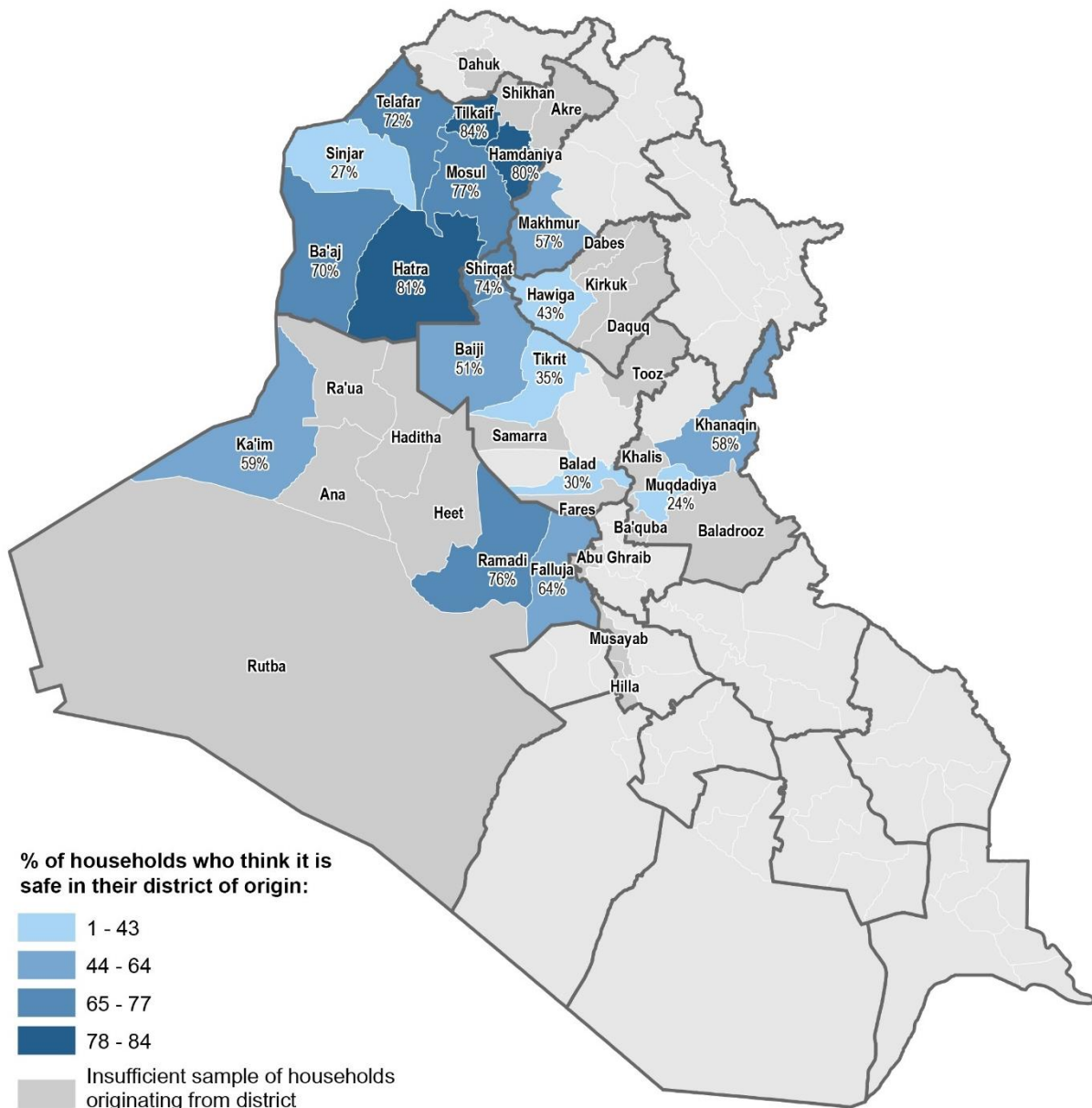
Figure 13. Primary barrier to return related to conditions of homes in areas of origin, by governorate of origin



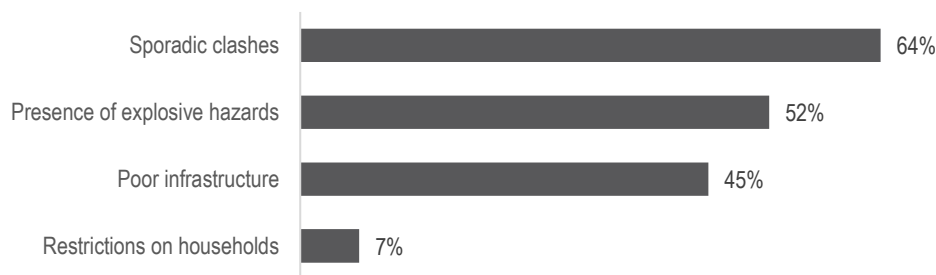
Perceptions of safety in areas of origin

On average, 53% of in-camp IDP households nationwide reported perceiving their area of origin to be safe at the time of data collection, compared to 47% that did not. Areas of origin that were perceived as safe by a lower proportion of IDP households include the districts of Balad (30%) and Tikrit (35%) in Salah al-Din province, Hawiga (43%) in Kirkuk province, Muqdadiya (24%) in Diyala province, and Sinjar (27%) in Ninewa province.

Map 2. Proportion of in-camp IDP households reporting perceptions of safe conditions in their area of origin, by district of origin

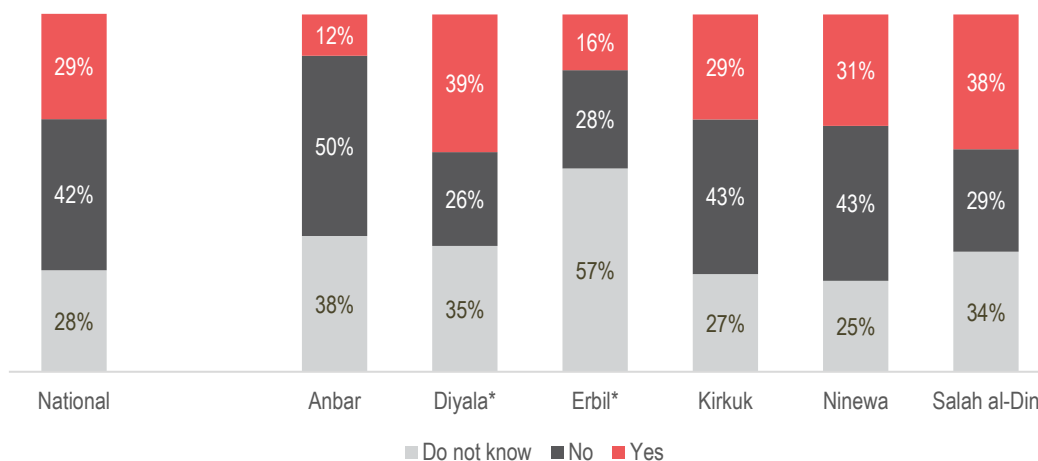


Of in-camp IDP households reporting that they did not perceive it to be safe in their areas of origin, sporadic clashes were most frequently cited reason (64% of households nationally), followed by mines, IEDs and other unexploded remnants of war (52%) and poor conditions of infrastructure (45%).

Figure 14. Top reported reasons for perceptions of unsafe conditions in areas of origin¹⁸, national

Availability of assistance in areas of origin

Among households who reported knowing others returning to their area of origin, the vast majority of households across all governorates of origin reported either that assistance was not being provided to returnees at the time of data collection, or that they did not know if such assistance existed.

Figure 15. Availability of assistance in areas of origin, reported by IDP households knowing others who have returned, by governorate of origin

*results for Diyala and Erbil are indicative only

Livelihood opportunities in areas of origin

Households originating from Anbar were significantly more likely to believe that no livelihood opportunities existed in their areas of origin (35%), compared to 21-24% of households originally from Erbil, Salah al-Din, Diyala and Ninewa. IDP households from Kirkuk were least likely to believe that no livelihood opportunities were available (10%).

The most commonly cited sources of livelihood varied considerably based on area of origin. Crop farming was the most commonly reported source of livelihoods for IDPs originating from Diyala, Salah al-Din and Kirkuk, with over one-third of households citing this as one of the top available livelihood sources in their area of origin. IDP households originally from Erbil were significantly less likely than all others to select any form of agriculture – crop farming or raising livestock – as a livelihood opportunity (only 12% and 8% respectively) but were much more likely to cite working in the government as a livelihood opportunity (31%) than any other group. Casual labour was the most commonly cited source of livelihoods in areas of origin for IDPs originating in Anbar, Erbil and Ninewa.

¹⁸ Households could select multiple reasons for not feeling safe.

Table 2. Reported available livelihood/income earning opportunities in area of origin¹⁹, by governorate of origin

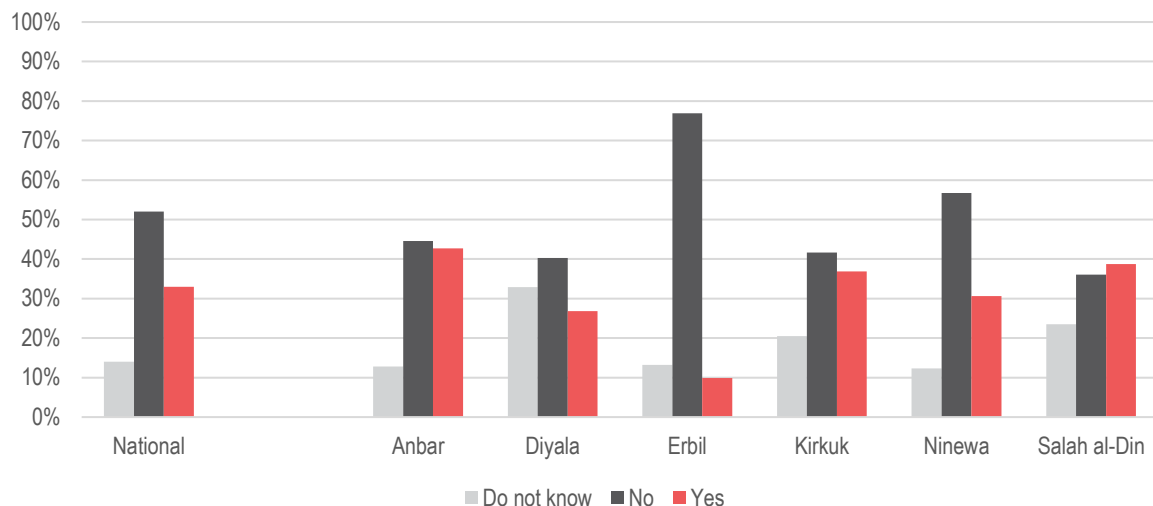
	None	Agriculture (farming)	Livestock	Government	Casual labour	Do not know
Anbar	35%	22%	11%	18%	32%	0%
Diyala	23%	35%	16%	12%	17%	10%
Erbil	21%	12%	8%	31%	32%	13%
Kirkuk	10%	47%	28%	13%	20%	9%
Ninewa	24%	27%	25%	11%	33%	4%
Salah al-Din	22%	43%	26%	6%	31%	10%

Movement intentions

Movement intentions, disaggregated geographically

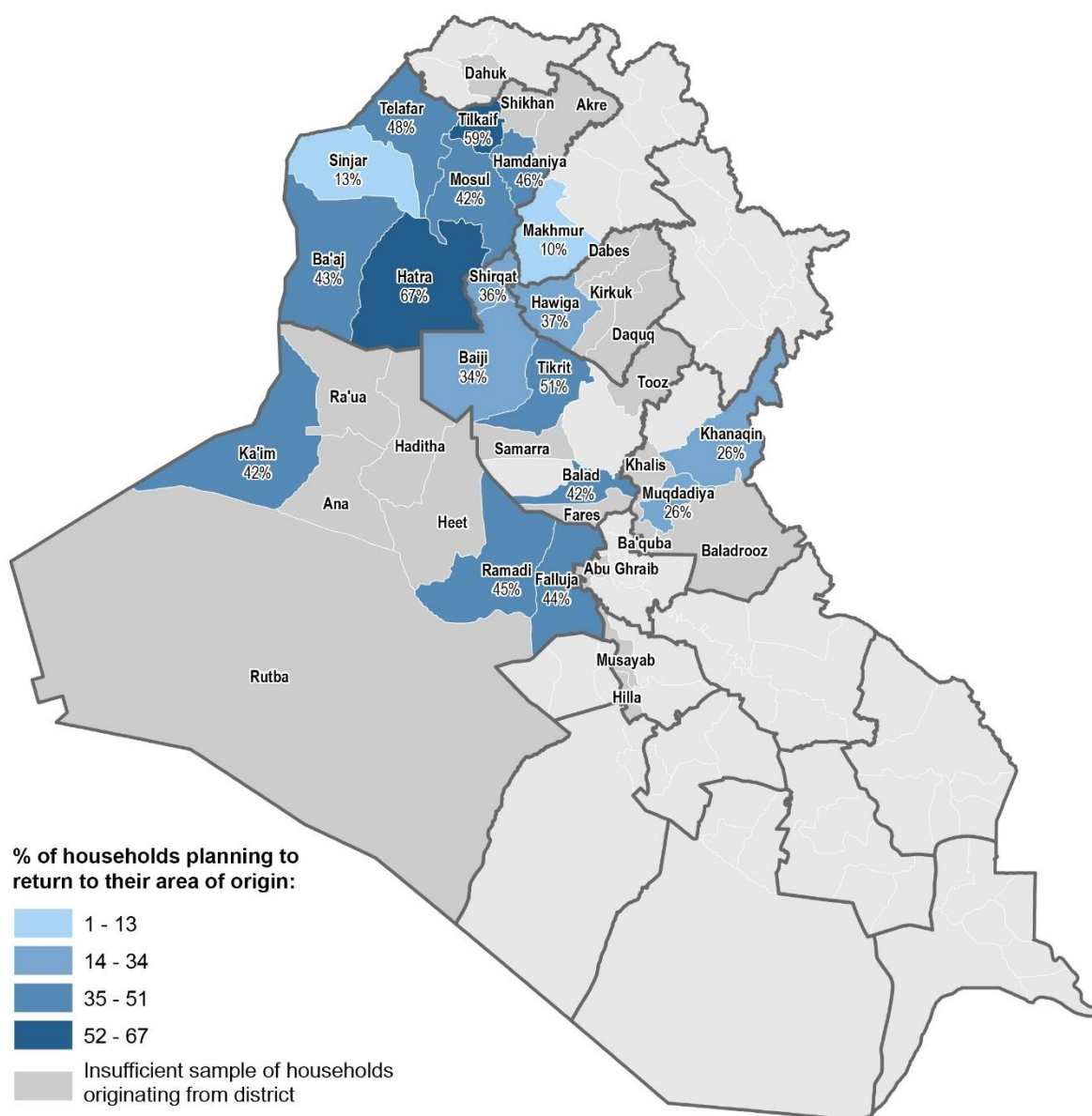
At the time of data collection, 33% of all households expressed an intent to return to their area of origin. While 15% of respondents expressed uncertainty about their plans to move, households originally from Makhmur district in Erbil and Sinjar district in Ninewa were least likely to report that they were intending to return to their areas of origin at the time of data collection (10% and 13%, respectively). The only districts of origin where a majority of households expressed the intention to return to were Hatra (67%), Tilkaif (59%), and Tikrit (51%). Nationwide, intention to return did not appear to vary significantly based on whether or not IDPs had all their required civil and legal documentation.

Figure 16: Intention to return to area of origin, by governorate of origin



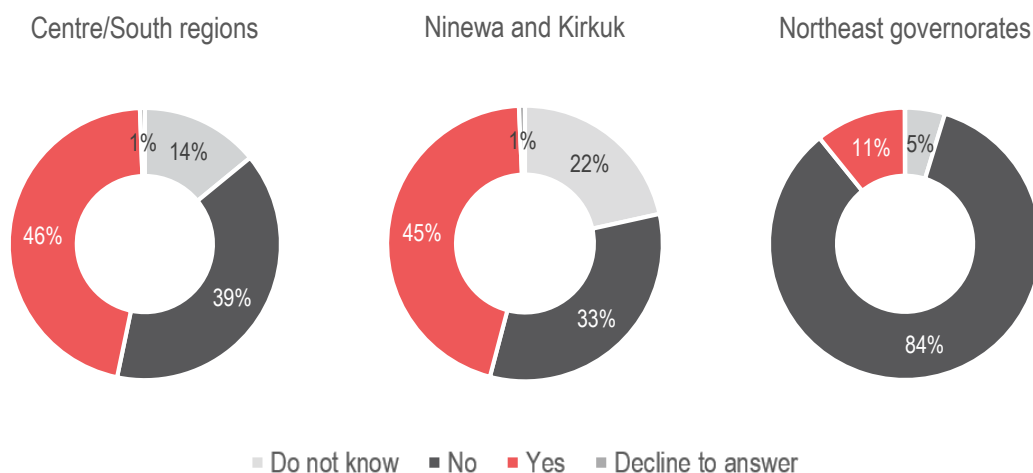
¹⁹ Respondents could report multiple livelihood sources.

Map 3: Proportion of in-camp IDP households reportedly intending to return to area of origin, by district of origin



Movement Intentions, by current location

IDP households residing in formal camps in governorates of Northeast Iraq (Dohuk, Erbil, Sulaymaniyah and Diyala) were substantially less likely to be planning to return to their areas of origin, with 84% reporting that they had no plans to return at the time of data collection. Of those residing in camps in Ninewa and Kirkuk governorates and in Central/Southern Iraq (Anbar, Baghdad, Kerbala, Najaf, and Salah al-Din governorates), 33% and 39% respectively reported that they were not planning to return to their governorate of origin.

Figure 17. Intentions to return, by sub-national area of displacement²⁰

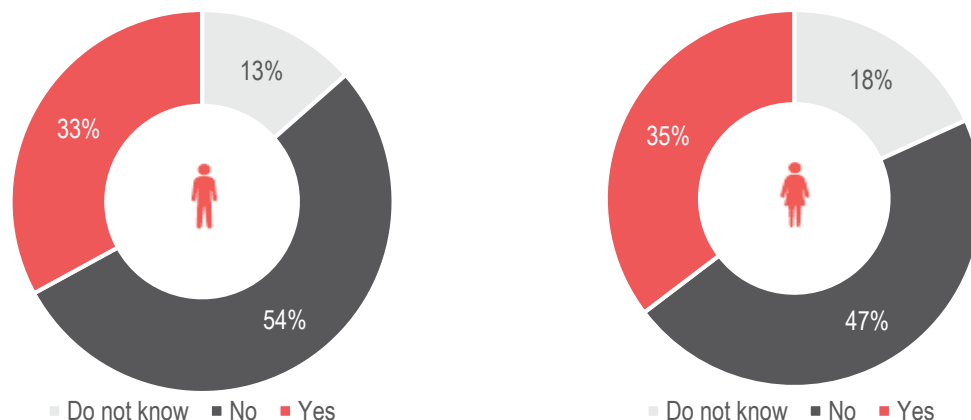
A greater variance in movement intentions was found among IDP households originating from Ninewa, depending on where they were residing at the time of data collection. Ninety (90%) of IDP households from Ninewa residing in formal camps in Northeast Iraq were not planning on returning to their area of origin compared to 19% of IDP households from Ninewa residing in camps in Central/Southern Iraq.

Movement intentions, by household characteristics

Movement Intentions, by sex of head of household

While both male and female heads of household were similarly likely to express intentions to return to their area of origin at the time of data collection (33% and 35% respectively), female heads of household were slightly more likely to express uncertainty about their intention to return, at 18% compared to 13.5% of their male counterparts.

Figures 18 and 19: Intention to return, by sex of head of household

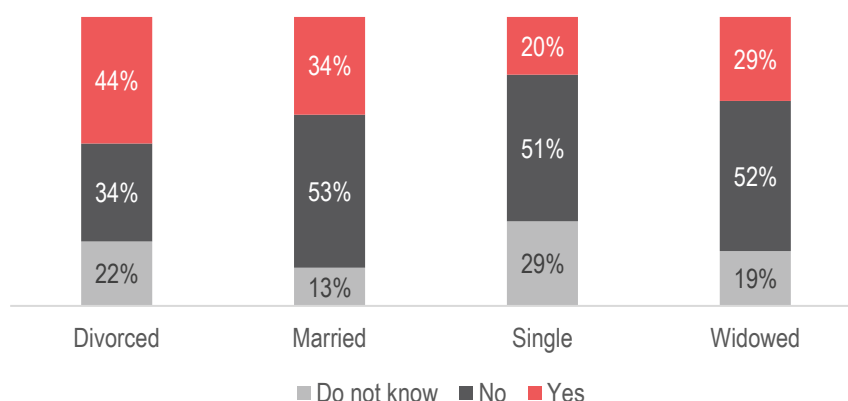


Movement intentions, by marital status of head of household

Divorced heads of household were most likely to express an intention to return to their area of origin at the time of data collection (44%). Single heads of household expressed the least certainty about their intentions to return to their area of origin with 29% responding that they did not know. Single heads of households were also the least likely to answer that they intended to return at the time of data collection (20%).

²⁰ Central/Southern governorates include Anbar, Baghdad, Kerbala, Najaf, and Salah al-Din; Northeast governorates include Erbil, Dahuk, Sulaymaniyah, and Diyala.

Figure 20: Intention to return, by marital status of head of household

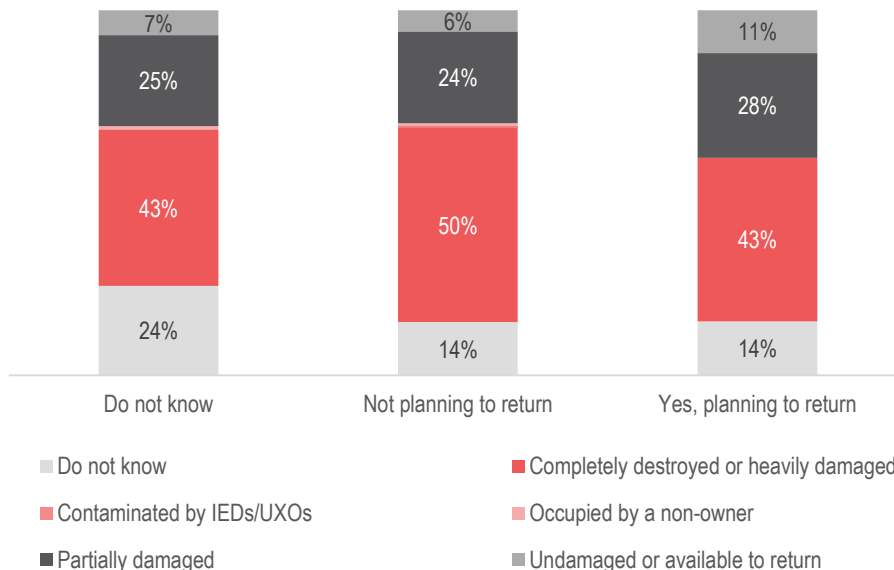


Movement intentions, by conditions in areas of origin

Movement intentions, by condition of homes in areas of origin

Barriers to return related to conditions of homes in areas of origin were slightly correlated with IDP household intentions to return at the time of data collection. Those not planning on returning were slightly more likely to cite completely destroyed or heavily damaged homes than those planning to return (50% versus 43%). Households who did not know the situation of their homes were more likely to be unsure of whether they would be returning to their areas of origin at the time of data collection, as 24% of households who reported not knowing if they intended to return to their area of origin also reported not knowing about the condition of their homes, compared to 14% among IDP households who had made a decision regarding movement intentions.

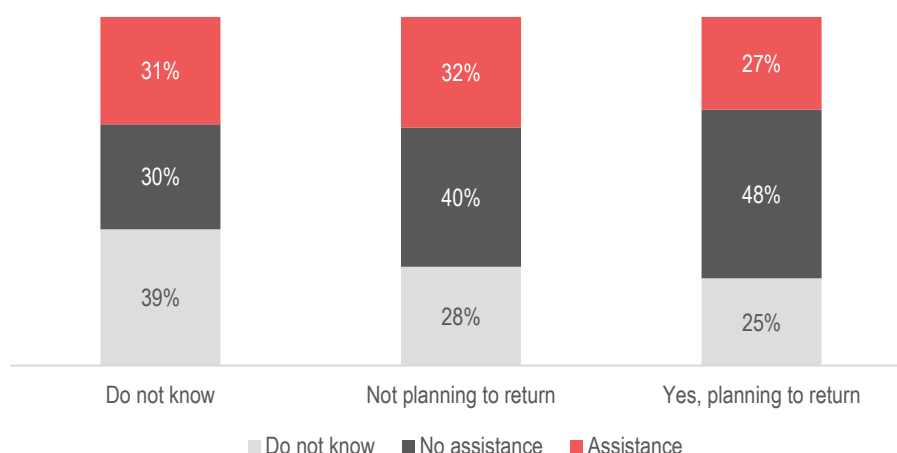
Figure 21: Condition of homes in area of origin, by reported intention to return



Movement intentions, by availability of assistance in areas of origin

Among IDP households who reported knowing that others have returned to their areas of origin, less than one-third reported the availability of assistance to returning IDPs in their areas of origin. Interestingly, those who were planning on returning were slightly less likely to believe that assistance was being provided to returning IDPs at the time of data collection.

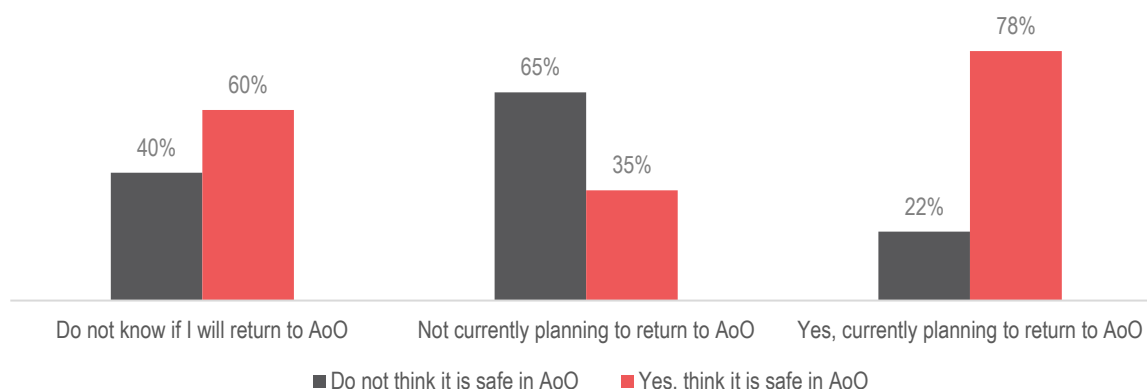
Figure 22: Intention to return to area of origin, by availability of assistance to IDPs in AoO



Movement intentions, by perceptions of safety in areas of origin

Perceptions of safety in areas of origin are strongly correlated with the proportion of IDP households reporting planning to return. Seventy-eight percent (78%) of households planning on returning at the time of data collection perceived their area of origin to be safe, compared to 35% of households not planning on returning.

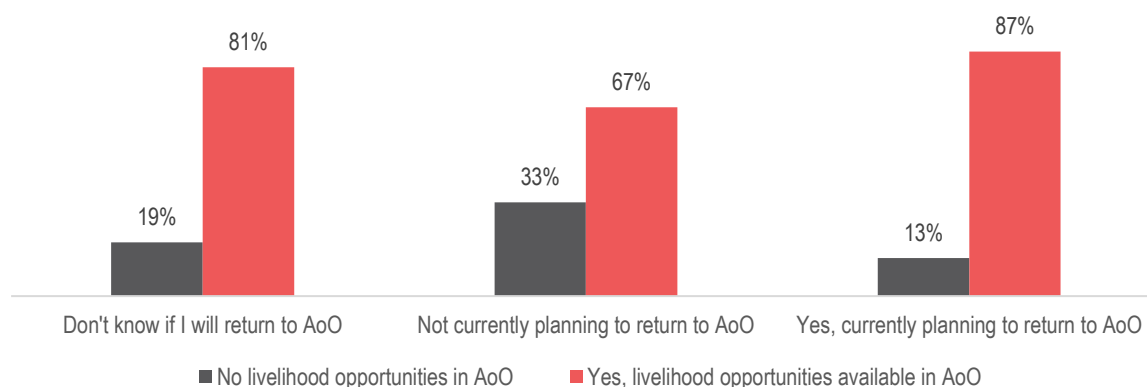
Figure 23: Households perception of safety in area of origin, by intention to return



Movement intentions, by availability of livelihood opportunities in areas of origin

Nationwide, the majority of households reported knowing at least one available livelihood source in their area of origin. However, those who reported not intending to return to their area of origin at the time of data collection were more likely to report the lack of any livelihood sources (33%), compared to those who were planning to return (13%).

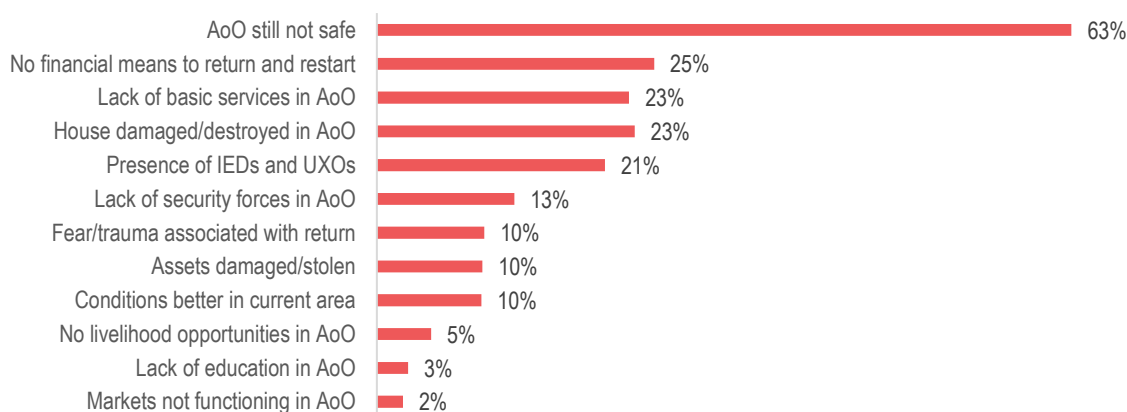
Figure 24: Availability of livelihood opportunities in area of origin, by intention to return



Households not intending to return to areas of origin

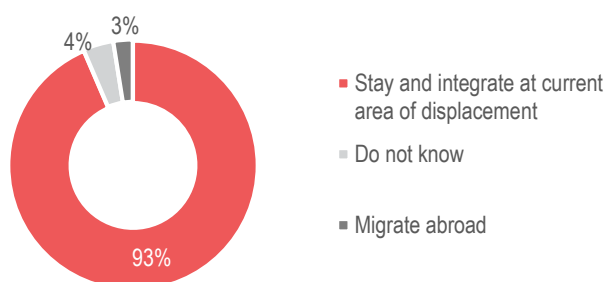
Fifty-two percent (52%) of IDP households in formal camps across Iraq reported that they were not planning on returning to their areas of origin. The following section explores primary reasons and movement intentions for in-camp IDP households who expressed no intention to return at the time of data collection. Among these households, nearly two-thirds said that this was because their area of origin was not currently safe, making this the single most cited reason for not returning. Notably, between one-fifth and one-quarter of those not planning on returning also cited a lack of financial means to return and restart their lives, a lack of services or damaged or destroyed homes in their area of origin, or the existence of explosive remnants of war, including IEDs.

Figure 25. Primary reasons for those reporting not being able to return²¹, national



Among households that reported that they did not plan to return to their areas of origin, 93% intended to stay in their current area of displacement and integrate into the local community. In only three governorates (Sulaymaniyah, Salah al-Din, and Erbil) did less than 90% of households not intending on returning report they planned to stay and integrate, but in each of these governorates it was due to increased proportions of households reporting that they did not know what their intended destination would be (30%, 19% and 11% respectively).

Figure 26. Intended destination for IDP households who do not plan to return to their area of origin, national



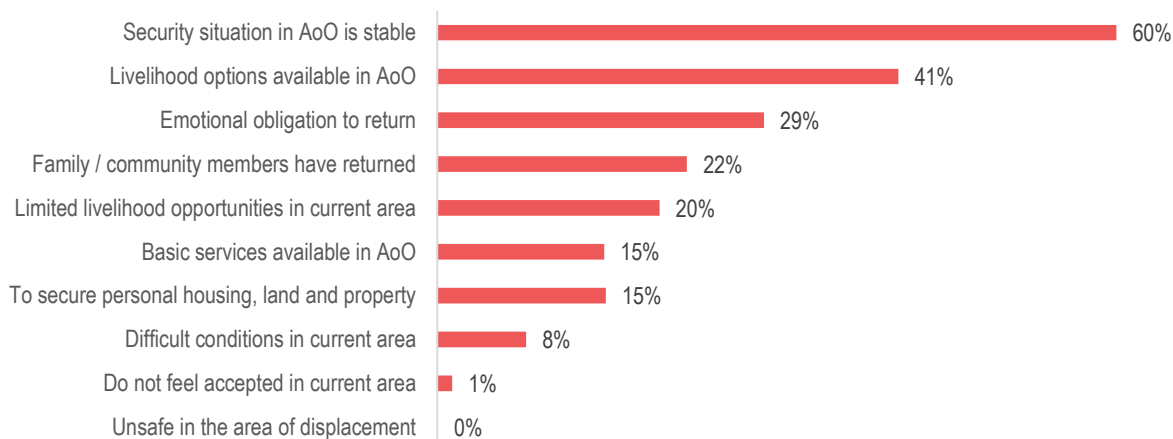
Households intending to return to areas of origin

The following section presents findings specific to the 33% of IDP households nationwide who expressed an intention to return to their area of origin at the time of data collection, including their intended timeframe for returning as well as the primary driving factors behind their intention to return.

²¹ Respondents could select multiple reasons for not being able to return.

Primary reasons for return

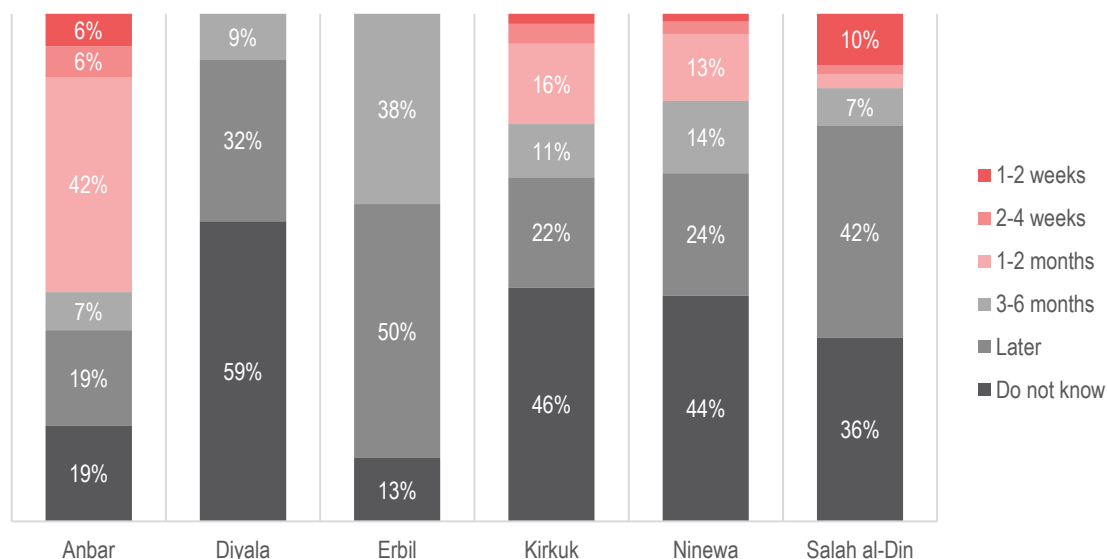
Figure 27. Primary reasons for intending to return



Intended timeframe for return

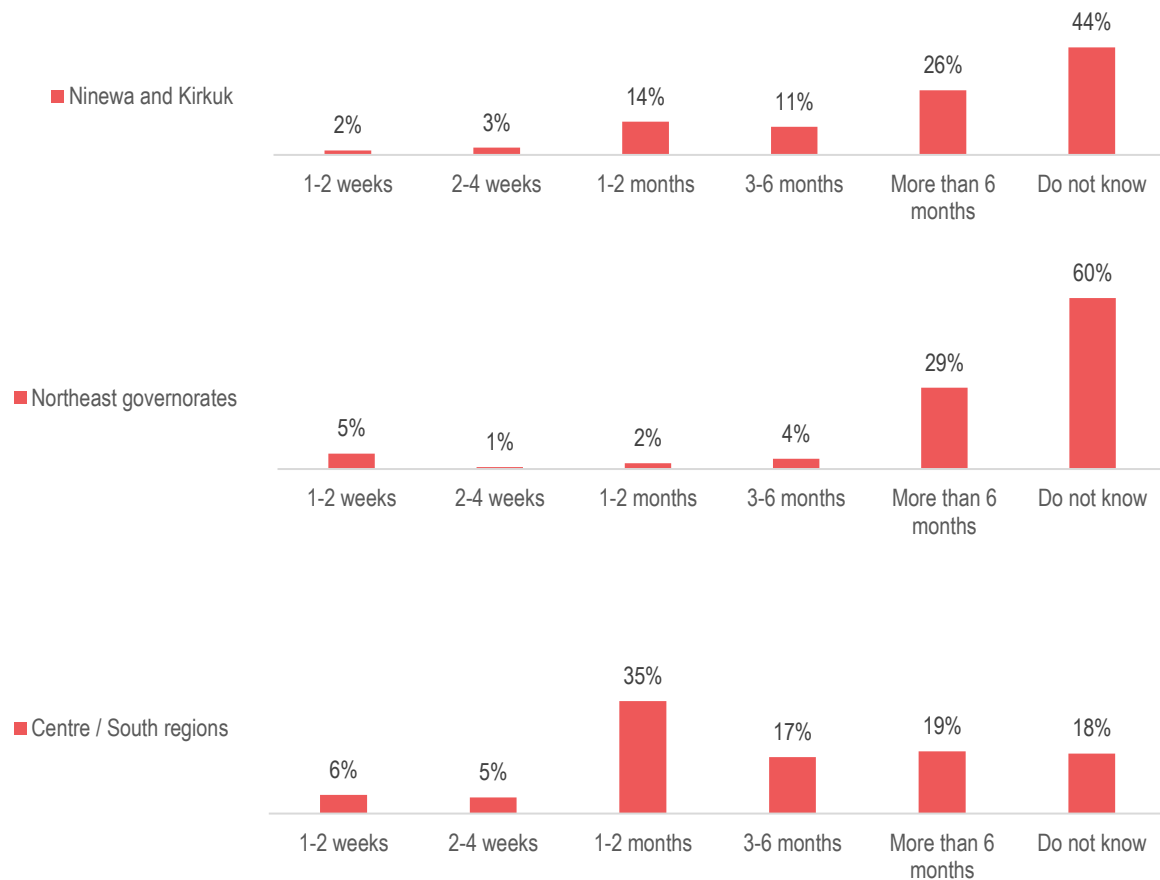
Timeframes for return varied greatly depending on respondents' areas of origin. Over half of in-camp IDP households (54%) originating from Anbar reportedly planned on returning in the two months following data collection. By contrast, only 15%-23% of households from Kirkuk, Ninewa and Salah al-Din and less than 1% of households originating from Diyala and Erbil planned on returning within those two months. Generally, a large proportion of IDP households did not know when they were going to return. This was greatest for those from Diyala (59%).

Figure 28. Timeframe for those intending to return, by governorate of origin



Internally displaced households residing in camps in Central and Southern governorates were more likely to plan to move within the two months following data collection, as compared to those residing in other areas. In the northeast, respondents were most likely to either plan to leave later (after six months) or not know when they would return. This means that not only are those residing in northeastern governorates much less likely to intend to return than those in other areas (See Figure 20. "Intentions to return, by sub-national area of displacement"), among those who do intend to return, it is later or less certain than for IDPs residing in other areas.

Figures 29, 30, 31. Timeframe for those intending to return, by sub-national area of displacement



Intended destination of return

While 88% of those in-camp IDP households intending on returning to their area of origin planned to return to their original homes, one in ten planned to either move in to an abandoned house or apartment in their old neighbourhood, or to move in with another family in their neighbourhood.

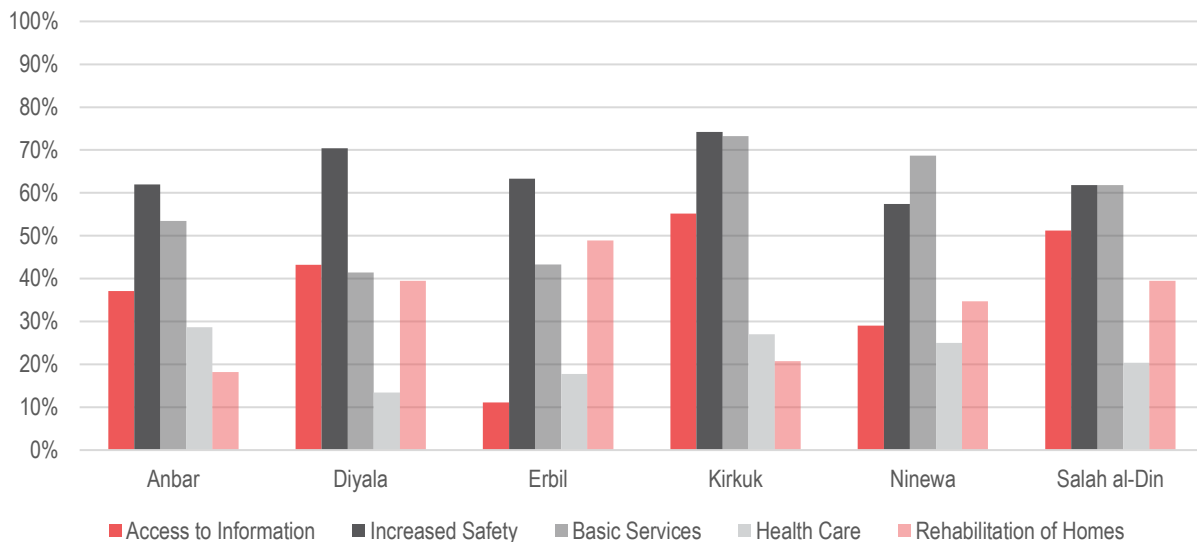
Figure 32. Destination of return, for those who intend to return to their area of origin, national



Priority needs to facilitate a safe and dignified return to areas of origin

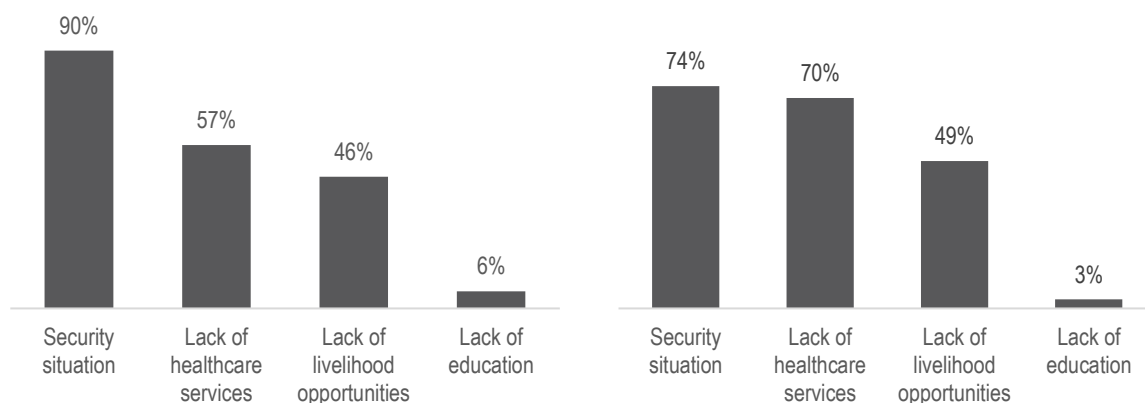
Increased safety and security as well as access to basic services including WASH and electricity remain the greatest needs for surveyed IDP households in order to return to their places of origin. Over 65% of in-camp IDP households nationally cited access to basic services among their top three needs, while 60% selected safety and security. Access to basic services was most frequently cited among IDP households from Kirkuk (73.3%), Ninewa (68.7%) and Salah al-Din governorates (61.8%). The next most commonly cited needs among IDPs from all governorates include access to information about their areas of origin (33.8%), rehabilitation or reconstruction of homes (31.9%) and access to healthcare (25.0%).

Figure 33: Top cited needs in order to return home²², by governorate of origin



Finally, 31% of households expressed having specific concerns regarding women and girls returning to their areas of origin, as did 23% of households with regards to elderly and disabled populations. For these vulnerable groups, the security situation was cited as the top reason for concern.

Figures 34 and 35: Specific concerns about women and girls (left) and elderly and disabled individuals (right) returning to area of origin, among households reporting concerns



²² Respondents were asked to indicate their top 3 needs.

CONCLUSION

As conflict-driven displacement approaches its lowest rates in North and Central Iraq since its escalation in 2014, a deeper understanding of the intention and ability of currently displaced populations to return and restart is essential to informing national camp consolidation and phase-out processes. This assessment of 61 accessible formal IDP camps located in 11 governorates across Iraq, conducted in coordination with the CCCM Cluster, focused on households' access to information and perceptions of safety and conditions in areas of origin in order to determine key factors affecting movement intentions among IDPs living in camps.

Perceptions of safety in areas of origin were highlighted throughout the data collection period as a critical concern for in-camp IDPs. Households who were not intending to return at the time of data collection overwhelmingly cited safety concerns as a main barrier to return. Similarly, among households who did express an intention to return, the most commonly cited reason was the belief that the security situation in their area of origin was safe enough to allow them to return. This finding was consistent across the country, regardless of current area of residence or the area of origin. The security situation was also cited as the top concern for the ability for vulnerable groups, such as women and girls, the elderly, and persons with disabilities, to return home. Nationally, the two most frequently cited reasons for not feeling safe in areas of origin were directly related to the conflict: sporadic clashes and land contaminated with IEDs and other explosive remnants of war.

Those currently living in formal IDP camps in Northeast governorates reported the lowest proportions of households with intentions to return (Dahuk, Diyala, Erbil, and Sulaymaniyah). Even among IDP households who expressed intentions to return, more than half of those from Northeast governorates did not know when they intended to move, furthering the uncertainty of movements for this population. Households originally from Diyala expressed one of the lowest rates of intentions to return (27%) and also the highest levels of uncertainty (33%). Those originating from Ninewa were more likely to definitively answer that they were not intending to return (57%). This geographic difference in intentions to return, both with regards to current location as well as areas of origin, highlights the need for a well-informed camp consolidation and phase-out strategy as well as support and service provision to camps which will remain open. All approaches should consider the different intentions and needs of specific population groups.

When asked about the reason behind household movement intentions, **the second most commonly cited reason following safety and security considerations was related to livelihood opportunities and financial resources to support a dignified return and restart.** Among in-camp IDP households who expressed an intention to return at the time of data collection, 41% cited livelihood opportunities in their areas of origin as a primary reason for returning home. Similarly, among households who did not intend to return at the time of the assessment, the second most commonly cited reason was the lack of financial means to facilitate restarting in their area of origin. Almost 25% of households who did not intend to return also cited the presence of explosive hazards, damaged homes, and the lack of basic services in areas of origin as key reasons for not being able to return. **Additional household characteristics and factors regarding conditions in households' areas of origin were slightly correlated with movement intentions**, including the sex or marital status of the head of household, and perceived barriers to return related to the condition of homes in the area of origin.

Across the country, large proportions of in-camp IDP households reported the ability to obtain information regarding their areas of origin through informal and formal channels. Personal visits to areas of origin and information from others who had visited constituted the primary information sources for the vast majority of in-camp IDP households across all governorates of origin. However, almost 75% of households expressed a desire for more information regarding the availability of basic services (i.e. water, electricity, healthcare, education) in their areas of origin, indicating the need for more formal means of communications regarding official rebuilding and reconstruction efforts.

As the situation continues to evolve in the coming months, particularly regarding security concerns and access to critical basic services in many areas of origin, it is crucial to monitor changes in IDP perceptions as well as their intentions to return. A stronger understanding of IDPs' access to information and its effect on movement intentions can help humanitarian actors employ informed strategies designed to facilitate the safe, dignified, and voluntary returns of displaced populations.

ANNEXES

Annex 1: Assessed IDP camps and sample sizes

