

📁 Situation Overview

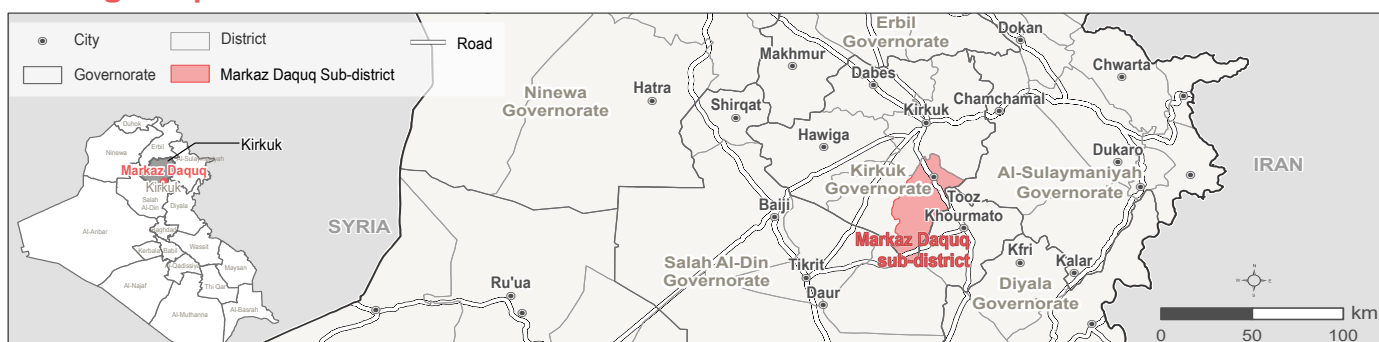
In 2020, the numbers of internally displaced persons (IDPs) returning to their area of origin (AoO) or being re-displaced for a second time increased, coupled with persisting challenges in relation to lack of services, infrastructure, social cohesion and - in some cases - security in areas of origin.¹ The need to better understand the sustainability of returns, conditions for the (re)integration of IDPs and returnees, and the impact of their presence on access to services and social cohesion has been identified in the context of humanitarian and development planning. Ongoing planning around the closure of IDP camps,² often within short time-frames, have also impacted these dynamics.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM)'s Emergency Displacement Tracking³ recorded that over 8,100 households returned to non-camp locations across Iraq between 31 October and 31 December 2020, 6% of which were recorded in Kirkuk Governorate. Daquq District witnessed 1% of the returns in the governorate.⁴

🏠 Markaz Daquq Sub-district

Markaz Daquq is a sub-district of Daquq District, located in the central area of Kirkuk Governorate. Kirkuk Governorate is one of the disputed territories between the Federal Government of Iraq (GoI) and the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) which might affect the region's reconstruction and the re-establishment of services, as well as the return of essential government workers to the area.⁵

📍 Coverage Map



📁 Background and Methodology

To date, IOM DTM's bi-monthly tracking¹⁰ of returnees and IDPs provides an overview of numbers and trends in movement and returns. Simultaneously, since 2018, the Returns Index¹ was run as a joint initiative of DTM, Social Inquiry and the Returns Working Group (RWG), collecting data bi-monthly to provide indicative trends in the severity of conditions in areas of return (AoR) nationwide. Similarly, the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster, IOM DTM, Protection Working Group (PWG), and RWG have conducted assessments with IDPs that have left camps following or in anticipation of closures to better understand and map AoR and secondary displacement.

REACH Initiative (REACH) has been conducting nationwide multi-sectoral assessments which include indicators assessing the sustainability of returns and levels of (re)integration. In light of recent movement dynamics, REACH conducted an assessment in Markaz Daquq Sub-district to provide an in-depth profiling of needs and understanding of the community relationships between remainee, returnee,¹¹ and/or IDP populations.¹² This report outlines the overall conditions to determine how and to what extent they are conducive to supporting sustainable solutions.

In the summer of 2014, the so-called Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) undertook military activities in the district of Daquq, resulting in the displacement of over 23,000 individuals as reported by KIs. ISIL was dislodged from Daquq District in 2017 by the Iraqi armed forces and their allies. As of May 2020, ISIL operations were still recorded in Kirkuk Governorate villages, however this trend is decreasing overall.⁶ The IOM returns index suggests that populations in Markaz Daquq are still concerned about the re-emergence of ISIL activities.⁷ At the time of data collection, an estimated total of 2,748 households originally from Markaz Daquq remain displaced elsewhere as reported by KIs.

👥 Reported Population Profile⁸

- 5,130-5,400** households were residing in Markaz Daquq Sub-district before the events in 2014.
- 3,803-4,010** households in Markaz Daquq were displaced in 2014.
- 1,061-1,121** households displaced since 2014 have returned to their AoO in Markaz Daquq at the time of data collection.⁹
- 906-987** IDP households (AoO not specified) reside in settlements in Markaz Daquq at the time of data collection.

Markaz Daquq Sub-district was selected for the assessment as: social cohesion severity¹³ is high in more than one location in the sub-district (Albu Muhammad village); it is an AoO for IDPs in camps at risk of closure or already recently closed;¹⁴ and dynamic population movements to/from this sub-district were reported through the RWG. The findings are based on 40 KI interviews conducted between 14 and 17 December 2020, combining remote qualitative and quantitative data collection adapted to the context and restrictions due to movement restrictions and public health concerns linked to the COVID-19 pandemic. Findings are based on KI data, and KIs were purposively sampled; all data should therefore be considered as indicative only.¹⁵ Findings represent the perceptions of interviewed KIs and are supported with secondary data as relevant.

👥 KI Profile	Markaz Daquq Sub-district
Community leaders ¹⁶	15 KIs █
Remainees/non-displaced	5 KIs █
IDPs (displaced from the area) ¹⁷	5 KIs █
IDPs (displaced in the area) ¹⁸	5 KIs █
Returnees (more than 3 months ago)	5 KIs █
Returnees (less than 3 months ago)	5 KIs █
	40 KIs¹⁹

Key findings

-  Overall, Markaz Daquq was perceived to have a positive environment in terms of security and community acceptance. In addition, it was considered a transition area²⁰ for IDPs originally from other AoOs outside the sub-district.
-  While the perceived improvement in the safety and security situation has created a pull factor for returns to Markaz Daquq, returns were reported to be mainly attributed to push factors in areas of displacement (AoD) including ongoing processes linked to the closure or consolidation of all IDP camps in Iraq.²
-  In general, most KIs noted that community members feel safe in Markaz Daquq, there were no restrictions of movements and that there were no specific groups that are not welcomed. However, some IDP and returnee KIs voiced concerns around the reported presence of explosive remnants of war (ERW) in Markaz Daquq which negatively affected their freedom of movement.
-  Persistent challenges to sustainable (re)integration and return reported included: damaged homes, lack of basic services and job opportunities, and concerns around housing, land and property (HLP). Those were not only reported obstacles to future returns to Markaz Daquq, but equally contributed to reported risks to the sustainability of durable solutions when contributing to expected departures of host community members, and the secondary displacements of IDPs in Markaz Daquq.
-  Perceptions on primary community needs varied by KI profile. Community leader KIs and remainee KIs reported the need for further efforts to restore public infrastructure such as water and sanitation systems, hospitals and schools. In comparison, access to livelihoods was commonly cited by returnee and IDP KIs as the primary community need closely linked to the need of further efforts to rehabilitate the roads in Markaz Daquq to facilitate safe access to job opportunities in other areas. Many KIs reported a decline in the quality of public healthcare and education services compared to pre-2014.
-  IDP and returnee KIs reported that access to livelihoods in Markaz Daquq was unequal for different vulnerable groups, namely people with disabilities, elderly, and female heads of household. KIs also reported that child-headed households and UASC had less access to income, which may lead to child labour for these groups to meet their basic needs. In addition, an overall decrease in the diversity and availability of employment opportunities was reported in Markaz Daquq compared with 2014.
-  There were reported differences in access to services across different groups with IDPs and returnees persistently reported to have less access to housing, housing rehabilitation, basic public services and being more at risk of eviction. This was commonly attributed to the lack of relationships and connections in the community. Vulnerable groups²¹ such as female-headed households, child-headed households, unaccompanied/separated children (UASC), large households,²² elderly-headed households and people with disabilities and people with less connections were reported to face distinct challenges to access services.
-  Vulnerable groups were reportedly less involved in community projects implemented by non-governmental organisations (NGOs). In particular, UASC, child-headed households and people with disabilities were reported the most affected, suggesting a need for further outreach to and participation of different population groups.
-  KIs reported that the interaction between different population groups in Markaz Daquq was promoted by the friendship, kinship ties and work relationship between community members. However, the majority of returnee KIs reported that the lack of harmony between some groups was the main barrier for interaction, suggesting that further efforts are required to improve participation in social events and interaction between displaced, returnee and host community populations.
-  Some community leaders reported that disputes occurred within neighbourhoods and between villages in Markaz Daquq, and that it was expected that further returns to Markaz Daquq will increase the number of disputes between households. However, community leaders also reported that the situation in this regard was expected to improve in the long-term due to the (re)integration and acceptance of IDPs and returnees in the community of Markaz Daquq, kinship ties between families, work relationships established between community members of different population groups and the intervention of the local authorities to solve those disputes.

Recent household returns, failed returns and family separation

Recent returns

179-205 households returned to Markaz Daquq in the six months prior to data collection as reported by 15 KIs (out of 40 KIs). The rest of the KIs reported no returns (20 KIs), or did not know about recent movements (12 KIs).

Households were reportedly returning from non-camp areas in Erbil Governorate (6 out of 15 KIs), Kirkuk District (2 KIs), Hawiga District (1 KI), and Dibis District (1 KI). Returns were also reported from camps in Kirkuk Governorate namely Laylan IDP (7 KIs) and Yahyawa (2 KIs).²³

Reported drivers for returns (out of 15 KIs)²⁴

Sense of increased safety and security	8 KIs	
Camp closures	6 KIs	
Availability of job opportunities	4 KIs	
Nostalgia about previous life in AoO	3 KIs	
Difficult conditions in the area of displacement (AoD)	2 KIs	
Did not know	1 KI	

Reportedly, recent returns had positive and negative impacts on access to livelihoods and assistance for all population groups. On one hand, recent returns reportedly contributed to **increased job opportunities** due to the return of business owners (9 out of 15 KIs) and **access to assistance reportedly increased** due to the response by different governmental and humanitarian actors to the recent returns (3 KIs). On the other hand, these movements were also negatively perceived due to the presence of **higher competition in the labour market** (6 KIs) and it was reported a **decrease in the level of household assistance** due to increased demand (6 KIs).

Recent IDP arrivals

196-216 IDP households arrived in Markaz Daquq in the six months prior to data collection, as reported by five KIs. The rest of the KIs reported no IDP arrivals (12 KIs), did not know about recent movements (21 KIs), or refused to answer (2 KIs).

IDP households reportedly arrived from non-camp areas in Kirkuk District (2 KIs) and from Al-Rashad Sub-district in Daquq District (2 KIs), both in Kirkuk Governorate. In addition, some households arrived from Laylan IDP camp in Kirkuk Governorate (1 KI) following the camp closure in November 2020.

Reported drivers for IDP arrivals (out of 5 KIs)²⁴

Kinship ties with other families	2 KIs	
Availability of job opportunities and services	2 KIs	
Failed returns to AoO ²⁵	1 KI	
Considering Markaz Daquq as a transition area	1 KI	
Sense of increased safety and security	1 KI	

IDP arrivals were positively perceived by community leader and remainee KIs. KIs reported **increased availability of assistance** due to the attention from governmental and humanitarian actors after the arrival of the households (5 out of 5 KIs), and two remainee KIs reported that IDP arrivals contributed to an **increased number of skilled labourers**.

Failed returns

100-217 households attempted to return to Markaz Daquq in the six months prior to data collection from non-camp areas in Erbil Governorate but did not succeed, as reported by three returnee KIs. The rest of the KIs did not know (20 KIs), reported no failed returns (15 KIs), or refused to answer (2 KIs).

Reportedly, the reasons for households failing to return were linked to the perceived lack of job opportunities (2 out of 3 KIs); limited access to services in Markaz Daquq (2 KIs); and, the unstable security situation in Kirkuk governorate (2 KIs).

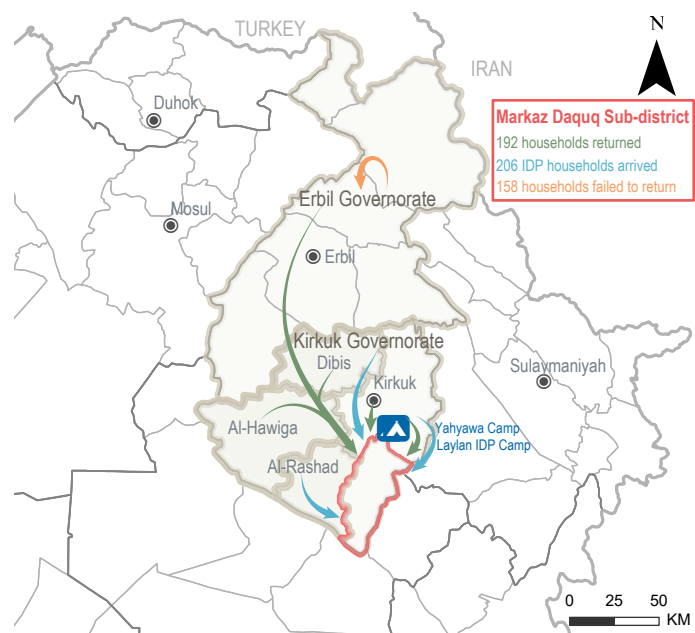
These failed movements reportedly **negatively affected the availability of job opportunities** due to some business owners remaining displaced (3 KIs) and contributed to a **decrease in the availability of assistance** due to the assumed lack of attention from governmental and humanitarian actors due to more limited return movements (3 KIs).

Family separation

5/40 KIs reported that some households still had members who remained displaced at the time of data collection, of which all reported these were male members. The rest of the KIs did not know (27 KIs), reported no family separation (7 KIs), or refused to answer (1 KI).

Reasons for remaining displaced (out of 5 KIs)²⁴

Lack of or not enough resources to return	3 KIs	
Lack of job opportunities in AoO	2 KIs	
Registered in education in AoD	1 KI	
Damaged housing in AoD	1 KI	
COVID-19 pandemic movement restrictions	1 KI	



Recent movements and failed returns to Markaz Daquq (in the last 6 months)

Expected household returns and displacement

Expected returns

140-178 households are expected to return in the six months following data collection as reported by four KIs. The rest of the KIs did not know about expected return movements (29 KIs), reported no expected returns (5 KIs), or refused to answer (2 KIs).

Households are expected to return from non-camp areas in Erbil Governorate (1 out of 4 KIs); Kirkuk District (2 KIs) and Khashimina village of Daquq District (1 KI), both in Kirkuk Governorate.

29/40 KIs reported drivers that might contribute to returns in the future. The rest did not know (10 KIs), or refused to answer (1 KI).

Reported drivers for expected returns (out of 40 KIs)²⁴

Sense of increased safety and security	8 KIs	<div style="width: 20%;"></div>
Camp closures	8 KIs	<div style="width: 20%;"></div>
Increased access to jobs and services	6 KIs	<div style="width: 15%;"></div>
Following the return of other family members	5 KIs	<div style="width: 12.5%;"></div>
Nostalgia about previous life	4 KIs	<div style="width: 10%;"></div>
Difficult conditions in the AoD	4 KIs	<div style="width: 10%;"></div>
Processed security clearance to return ²⁶	3 KIs	<div style="width: 7.5%;"></div>

Reported barriers to return (out of 40 KIs)^{24, 27}

Destroyed/damaged housing	22 KIs	<div style="width: 55%;"></div>
Lack of services	21 KIs	<div style="width: 52.5%;"></div>
Lack of job opportunities	20 KIs	<div style="width: 50%;"></div>
Lack of documentation to claim properties	11 KIs	<div style="width: 27.5%;"></div>
Security concerns	3 KIs	<div style="width: 7.5%;"></div>
Lack of specialized medical treatment	2 KIs	<div style="width: 5%;"></div>
Former housing is rented in AoO	1 KI	<div style="width: 2.5%;"></div>

Further returns reportedly could lead to positive and negative impacts on the community. Expected returns reportedly could contribute to **increased job opportunities** with the return of business owners (16 out of 40 KIs) as well as an expected **increase in assistance** due to the expected attention of humanitarian and governmental actors (2 KIs). At the same time, it was reported that there could be **higher competition for the limited available job opportunities** (22 KIs) in addition to an expected **decrease in the level of household assistance** due to the presence of a higher number of households in the area (22 KIs) and the **limited capacity of humanitarian and governmental actors to absorb the demand for assistance** (1 KI). A community leader KI also reported that the return of further households might **increase the number of disputes** between households.

Expected IDP departures

13-15 IDP households are expected to depart from Markaz Daquq in the six months following data collection to their AoO in different villages in Daquq District of Kirkuk Governorate due to the perceived increase in safety and security in their AoO and the lack of services in Markaz Daquq, as reported by a remainee KI. The majority of the KIs (24 KIs) did not know about expected movements and 15 KIs reported no IDP departures will occur.

Expected host community departures

15/40 KIs reported no expected departures of host community households in the six months following data collection. The majority of the KIs did not know about expected departure movements (25 KIs).

However, 35 KIs (out of 40 KIs) reported drivers that might result in host community departures. The rest of the KIs did not know (5 KIs), or refused to answer (1 KI).

Reported drivers for host community departures (out of 35 KIs)²⁴

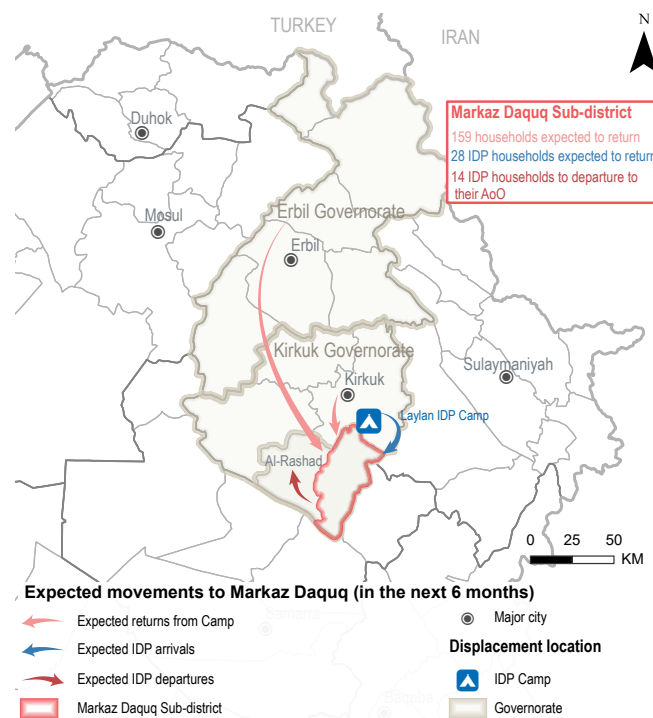
Lack of services	25 KIs	<div style="width: 71.4%;"></div>
Lack of job opportunities	22 KIs	<div style="width: 62.8%;"></div>
Lack of specialised medical treatment	7 KIs	<div style="width: 20%;"></div>
Lack of security	4 KIs	<div style="width: 11.4%;"></div>
Arrival of armed groups	2 KIs	<div style="width: 5.7%;"></div>

Expected IDP arrivals

25-30 IDP households are expected to arrive to Markaz Daquq in the six months following data collection from Laylan IDP camp in Kirkuk Governorate following the camp closure in November 2020, as reported by a remainee KI. The rest of the KIs did not know about expected movements (26 KIs), reported no IDP arrivals (12 KIs), or refused to answer (1 KI).

Reported drivers for IDP arrivals (out of 40 KIs)²⁴

Sense of increased safety and security	10 KIs	<div style="width: 25%;"></div>
Availability of jobs and services	3 KIs	<div style="width: 7.5%;"></div>
Camp closures	2 KIs	<div style="width: 5%;"></div>
Arrival of other family members	2 KIs	<div style="width: 5%;"></div>
Did not know	20 KIs	<div style="width: 50%; background-color: #cccccc;"></div>
Refused to answer	1 KI	<div style="width: 2.5%; background-color: #cccccc;"></div>



Primary Community Needs

Primary community needs in Markaz Daquq (out of 40 KIs)²⁴

	First Need	Second Need	Third Need
Livelihoods	11 KIs	4 KIs	6 KIs
Healthcare	7 KIs	7 KIs	2 KIs
Education	6 KIs	9 KIs	3 KIs
Electricity	6 KIs	7 KIs	6 KIs
Infrastructure rehabilitation	5 KIs	3 KIs	1 KI
Water and sanitation	5 KIs	5 KIs	16 KIs
House rehabilitation	0	4 KIs	2 KIs
Food	0	0	1 KI

KIs reported that the primary need for the community was **livelihoods** (11 out of 40 KIs). As reported by 21 KIs, livelihoods was an overall community need due to the lack of governmental and private sector job opportunities (17 KIs), and the lack of investment in the private sector (1 KI). In some cases (20 KIs) lack of livelihood opportunities were reported as a barrier for returns and a risk to the sustainability of the returns. Five KIs reported that household members were forced to move to other governorates for job opportunities in order to meet the basic needs of their families.

The second main community need most commonly reported was **access to education** (9 out of 40 KIs). Overall, all KIs who reported education as a primary community need (18 KIs) referred to the decline in the public education system in Markaz Daquq compared to pre-2014 (see access to basic services below).

The third main community need most commonly reported was **access to water and sanitation** (16 out of 40 KIs), which was generally reported due to the limited access to public water services in Markaz Daquq (7 out of 26 KIs who reported water and sanitation as a primary need) and water pollution due to lack of filter maintenance (11 KIs). As a result, households resorted to buying bottled water (13 KIs) and/or depending on wells as the main potable water source (3 KIs). In addition, the lack of waste transportation services in Markaz Daquq was reported as an important gap to be covered by the relevant public institution (8 KIs).

"Access to livelihood opportunities for community members will support [an increased] living standard of households and individuals. It will ensure a decent and dignified life for the family."

- Male IDP KI displaced in Markaz Daquq -

Most reported primary community needs per KI profile^{24, 28}

Community leaders (out of 15 KIs)

Education 14 KIs

Water and sanitation 13 KIs

Healthcare 12 KIs

Remainees (out of 5 KIs)

Water and sanitation 5 KIs

Education 4 KIs

Healthcare 3 KIs

Returnees (out of 10 KIs)

Livelihoods 10 KIs

Infrastructure 8 KIs

Electricity 5 KIs

IDPs (displaced from and in the area)^{14, 15} (out of 10 KIs)

Livelihoods 9 KIs

Electricity 8 KIs

Water and sanitation 5 KIs

"Developing the infrastructure [in Markaz Daquq], mainly the rehabilitation of the roads, will improve the movement of community members and mostly facilitate their access to work."

- Male returnee KI -

Access to humanitarian aid and presence of NGOs

7/40 KIs reported that there were NGOs implementing activities and projects in Markaz Daquq at the time of data collection. As reported by six KIs (out of 7 KIs) **IDPs, returnees, UASC, people with disabilities and child-headed households** are less involved in humanitarian activities and projects, in addition to **people with less connections**.

Reported activities implemented by NGOs (out of 7 KIs)

Non-food items (NFI) distributions 5 KIs

Food security programmes 1 KI

Shelter rehabilitation 1 KI



The majority of the KIs reported there were no NGOs present in Markaz Daquq at the time of data collection (27 KIs), and the rest did not know (6 KIs).

11/40 KIs reported that the **availability of humanitarian aid would be a factor encouraging returns** to Markaz Daquq. The rest of the KIs reported that it is not a factor that would encourage returns (4 KIs), or did not know (25 KIs).

The most needed projects or activities in Markaz Daquq as reported by all KIs (40 KIs) were:

Livelihoods 26 KIs

Rehabilitation 6 KIs

Water and sanitation 4 KIs

Social cohesion 2 KIs

Psycho-social support 1 KI

Monthly cash assistance 1 KI

Rehabilitation projects and activities reportedly refer to shelter and road rehabilitation.

Perceptions on access to housing, basic public services and public judicial mechanisms

🏠 Access to housing

39/40 KIs reported that the majority of families in Markaz Daquq resided in houses.

In addition, 20 KIs reported that **IDPs, recent returnees, child-headed households, UASC, people with disabilities and large households** were more likely to reside in tents in Markaz Daquq.

Reported types of housing agreement for the majority of the households (out of 40 KIs)



IDP KIs (6 KIs) reported that the majority of IDP households resorted to illegal tenure occupation.²⁹ Other IDP households resided in houses under a verbal rental agreement (4 KIs). Remainee KIs (5 KIs) and community leader KIs (14 KIs) reported that the majority of community members resided in owned houses. Returnee KIs reported that the majority of returnee households resided in owned houses (8 KIs) and other households rented through verbal agreements (2 KIs).

Damage to housing

30%-50% of houses in Markaz Daquq were damaged during military operations in 2014, as reported by 38 KIs (out of 40 KIs).

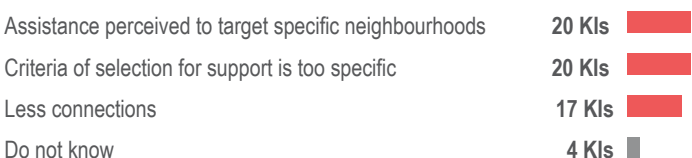
IDPs and returnees were reportedly more likely to **reside in damaged or unfinished buildings/houses**, in addition to **UASC, child-headed households, people with disabilities, large households and elderly-headed households** were more affected, as reported by 20 KIs (out of 40 KIs).

Access to housing rehabilitation

24/40 KIs reported that access to housing rehabilitation was **unequal**. Of those, the majority (20 out of 24 KIs) reported that **IDPs and returnees** had less access to housing rehabilitation, in addition to **child-headed households, UASC, people with disabilities and people with less connections**.

The rest of the KIs reported that access to rehabilitation was equal in Markaz Daquq (15 KIs), or did not know (1 KI).

Reported barriers to access rehabilitation assistance (out of 24 KIs)²⁴



Risk of eviction

All KIs (40 KIs) reported that there were **no families at immediate risk of eviction** in Markaz Daquq at the time of data collection.

However, 22 KIs (out of 40 KIs) reported that **IDPs and returnees** might be most at **risk of eviction in the long-term**, in addition to **UASC, people with disabilities, child-headed households and large households**.

🏢 Access to basic public services

20/40 KIs reported **unequal** access to basic public services namely healthcare, water and sanitation. KIs (19 out of 20 KIs) reported that **IDPs and returnees**, in addition to **child-headed households, UASC and people with disabilities** had less access to basic public services due to having **less connections** and because the **criteria for support is perceived as too specific**.

The rest of the KIs perceived there was equal access to basic public services (19 KIs), or did not know (1 KI).

In terms of access to **public education**, 41 KIs (out of 43 KIs) reported that boys and girls between 6-15 years old can access school and there were no children between 6-15 years out of school in Markaz Daquq. However, there was reportedly no free distribution of books and/or educational stationery for students, resulting in families purchasing them (18 KIs).

There was also a reported decline in the quality of **public healthcare services** after the events of 2014 (7 KIs) due to the lack of medical staff and medications (17 KIs).³⁰ This situation reportedly forced families to resort to private hospitals and doctors (15 KIs). Other households reportedly moved to other areas to access medical treatment.

Households reported frequent cuts of **public electricity services** due to lack of maintenance (18 KIs). This resulted in households using private generators (5 KIs). The limited public service hours and the restricted presence of private generators reportedly prevented small businesses from fully operating (17 KIs).

The limited capacity of municipal **waste disposal infrastructure**, including lack of waste collection services (8 KIs), has reportedly resulted in waste accumulation in urban areas (8 KIs).

The lack of maintenance of the **public water network** in addition to the challenges related to water pollution and scarcity contributed to reliance on purchased bottled water, reportedly contributing to highly inflated prices (12 KIs).

Overall, the above mentioned challenges resulted in key gaps in access to public services, and at the same time negatively affected household income due to reported increased reliance on private services.

⚖️ Access to public judicial mechanisms

All KIs (40 KIs) reported that access to public judicial mechanisms was **equal** for all population groups.

All KIs (40 KIs) reported that there were **no governmental offices closed** in Markaz Daquq at the time of data collection and all population groups reportedly **had access to documentation** in the departments nearest to them.

According to an IOM Integrated Location Assessment done between July and August 2020, courts and the civil status department in Markaz Daquq were open and fully operational. There were no reported HLP or public distribution system offices available in the sub-district.³¹

 Access to livelihoods

20/40 KIs reported that access to livelihoods was **unequal**. The rest of the KIs reported that it was equal for all population groups (20 KIs).

In addition to IDPs and returnees, **people with disabilities, elderly and female heads of household** reportedly had less access to livelihoods opportunities, as reported by 20 KIs (out of 40 KIs). KIs (20 KIs) also reported that **child-headed households and UASC** had less access to income, which may lead to child labour for these groups to meet their basic needs.

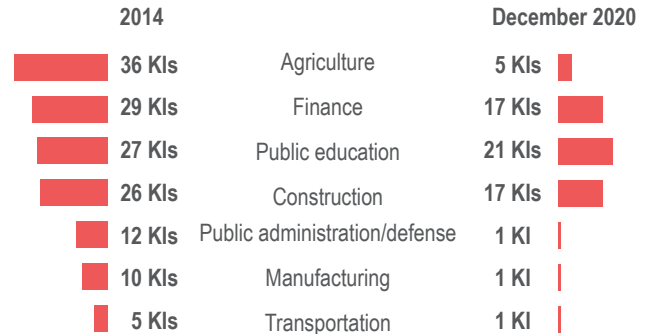
The main reported reasons for different groups to have less access to livelihoods were: **perceived limited physical capacity, lower skill/education level, or trauma** (19 out of 20 KIs); **lack of connections** (1 KI); and, that the **criteria of selection for support is too specific** (1 KI).

“The lack of employment, whether in the private or public sector, prevents families from having a decent life.”

- Female returnee KI -

The types and number of jobs available in Markaz Daquq have shifted compared to 2014. KIs reported that there were fewer job opportunities in 2020.

Types of jobs reportedly available in Markaz Daquq in 2014 compared to December 2020 (out of 40 KIs)²⁴



 Perceptions on governance

 Governance and influencing bodies

Reported influential local actors related to governance (out of 40 KIs)²⁴



2/40 KIs reported that there were **new appointments resulting in turnover of existing local authorities**. The rest of the KIs reported that there were no appointments for new local authorities (15 KIs), or did not know (23 KIs).

23/40 KIs did not know about expected changes in the most influential local actors related to governance. The rest reported that this was not expected to change in the six months following data collection (17 KIs).

 Perceptions in safety and security

 Safety and security

34/40 KIs reported that their community members **feel safe** in Markaz Daquq and they **did not avoid any areas or specific neighbourhoods**.

However, five returnee KIs and an IDP KI (out of 40 KIs) reported that their community members **did not feel safe and avoid certain areas** due to the presence ERW in Markaz Daquq.

 Perceptions on the presence of formal security forces

39/40 KIs reported that the presence of formal security 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.

Freedom of movement

34/40 KIs reported that **both females and males can freely move** in Markaz Daquq during the day and at night.

However, five returnee KIs and an IDP KI (out of 40 KIs) reported that their community members **did not freely move during the day or at night** in Markaz Daquq due to the perceived unstable security situation.

 ERW contamination

6/40 KIs reported that there were **contaminated fields** in Markaz Daquq. The majority of the KIs did not report contaminated lands (33 KIs).

6/40 KIs reported that **ERW incidents occurred** in the 6 months prior to data collection. The majority of the KIs (34 KIs) did not report incidents of this type.

According to an IOM return index assessment done between November and December 2020, there were reported security concerns in Markaz Daquq. In three locations, KIs reported restrictions of movements. All locations reported the presence of different security actors negatively affecting the perception of safety.³¹

Community disputes

Community disputes within neighbourhoods

21/40 KIs did not know about disputes within neighbourhoods in Markaz Daquq, and 15 KIs reported that there were no disputes in the six months prior to data collection.

However, four community leader KIs reported that **disputes within neighbourhoods happened** in the six months prior to data collection. KIs who reported this also reported that the situation was expected to improve due to the integration and acceptance of different groups in the community of Markaz Daquq and the kinship ties between families.

Retaliation incidents

14/40 KIs reported that there were **no retaliation incidents** in the six months prior to data collection. The rest of the KIs did not know (24 KIs), or refused to answer (2 KIs).

Community disputes between villages

25/40 KIs did not know about disputes between villages in Markaz Daquq. A community leader KI reported that there were no disputes in the six months prior to data collection. The rest of the KIs refused to answer (11 KIs).

However, three community leader KIs reported that **disputes between villages happened** in the six months prior to data collection. KIs who reported this also reported that the situation was expected to improve due to the integration and acceptance of different groups in the community of Markaz Daquq, the work relationships established and the intervention of the local authorities to solve the disputes.

According to an IOM return index assessment done between November and December 2020, community reconciliation severity in Markaz Daquq Sub-district was classified as low.^{13, 31}

Community relations and co-existence

37/40 KIs reported that there were **no specific population groups which are not welcomed** by the majority of the community in the area. The rest of the KIs did not know (3 KIs).

In November, 2020, following closure of Laylan IDP and Yahyawa camps in Kirkuk Governorate, returnee households have reported problems with social cohesion with community members in their areas of origin, shelter damage and lack of services.³²

Participation in social and public events





19/40 KIs reported that community members **did not participate in social and public events**. The rest of the KIs did not know (19 KIs), or refused to answer (2 KIs).

4/40 KIs reported that there were **no barriers or obstacles** for different community members to participate in social and public affairs in Markaz Daquq. The majority of the KIs did not know (30 KIs), and six KIs refused to answer.

Interaction between population groups

21/40 KIs reported that community members **interacted with other groups**. Half of the KIs (20 KIs) reported that **their community members trust each other**. The rest of the KIs did not know (20 KIs).

Reported types of interaction (out of 21 KIs)²⁴

Kinship ties	20 KIs	
Friendship	17 KIs	
Work relationships (employment)	11 KIs	
Common business operation	4 KIs	

Although half of the KIs (20 KIs) reported that there were **no obstacles for interaction**, nine returnee KIs reported that the **lack of harmony in the area was the main barrier for the interaction** between different groups. The rest of the KIs did not know (11 KIs).³³

End Notes

1. IOM DTM: <http://iraqdtm.iom.int/ReturnIndex>
2. CCCM Cluster, Camp Closures Status, 6 December 2020: https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/camp_closure_status_mapping_cccm-ocha_06_dec_2020.pdf - A total of 15 IDP camps and informal sites have been closed or reclassified since mid-October (11 formal camps closed, two informal sites closed, two formal camps reclassified to informal sites). As a result, 34,061 individuals have departed from these sites.
3. IOM DTM: <http://iraqdtm.iom.int>
4. IOM DTM, Returnees, rounds 118 and 119, October 2020 and December 2020: <http://iraqdtm.iom.int/MasterList#Datasets>
5. Reviving UN Mediation on Iraq's Disputed Internal Boundaries, International Crisis Group, 14 December 2018: <https://www.crisisgroup.org/middle-east-north-africa/gulf-and-arabian-peninsula/iraq/194-reviving-un-mediation-iraqs-disputed-internal-boundaries>
6. Iraq — Protracted Displacement Study: An in-depth analysis of the main districts of origin, IOM, May-December 2018: http://iraqdtm.iom.int/archive/LastDTMRound/IDP_Districts_of_Origin_Factsheets.pdf
7. Return Index Dataset 11 Dec 2020, IOM DTM, November 2020: <http://iraqdtm.iom.int/ReturnIndex#Datasets>
8. The ReDS questionnaire for community leaders is tailored to ask questions related to the demographics of the area of assessment only to the community leaders due to their knowledge about the different locations and population groups. The reported population profile was developed based on responses from 15 community leaders, and population figures for returns and IDP populations in Markaz Daquq are based on their estimates at the time of data collection.

9. Return Index Dataset 11 Dec 2020, IOM DTM, November 2020: <http://iraqdtm.iom.int/ReturnIndex#Datasets> - KIs reported that, from 10 locations assessed, 9 locations in Markaz Daquq have witnessed the return of the majority of the displaced population originally from the area; and one location witnessed less than 50% of the returns. The return index dataset 11 recorded an estimate total of 996 returnee households.
10. IOM DTM: <http://iraqdtm.iom.int>
11. 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.
12. 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.
13. IOM DTM: <http://iraqdtm.iom.int/ReturnIndex> - refer to methodology, to compute the severity index, different parameters are combined.
14. CCCM Cluster, Camp profiling dataset, December 2020: Not published - The following camps were closed: Al-Ahel closed on 18 October; Al-Kawthar closed on 18 October; Al-Shams informal site closed on 19 October; Al-Nabi Yunis closed on 21 October; Saad Camp closed on 27 October; Al Wand 2 closed on 11 November; Jeddah 1 closed on 12 November; Ishaqi informal site closed on 12 November; Yahyawa closed on 13 November; Hamam Al-Ahil closed on 15 November; Al Wand 1 closed on 28 November; Laylan IDP closed on 30 November; and, Al-Karama camp closed on 6 December.
15. For further details on the methodology, please see the ReDs ToR: https://www.impact-repository.org/document/repository/748b940e/REACH_IRQ_TOR>Returns_and_Durable_Solutions_Rapid_Assessment_April2020.pdf
16. Community leaders are members of the host community represented by eight public sector employees, five health sector employees and two educational sector employees.
17. IDPs (displaced from the area) refer to households from Markaz Daquq displaced after 2014 events to other areas different than their AoO, specifically in Markaz Erbil Sub-district (Erbil District of Erbil Governorate) and in Markaz Dibis Sub-district (Dibis District of Kirkuk Governorate).
18. IDPs (displaced in the area) refer to households from an AoO different than Markaz Daquq who were displaced after 2014 events and reside in Markaz Daquq. Households were reportedly originally from: Hawiga District of Kirkuk Governorate; Kifri District of Diyala Governorate; and, Shirqat District of Salah Al-Din Governorate.
19. There were 40 individuals aged between 20 and 65 years old interviewed for the Markaz Daquq assessment. The majority of the KIs were male (30 out of 40 KIs), showing that ensuring gender balance is a limitation to the assessment, due primarily to the limited response rates of female KIs or their contact details were not accurate.
20. A transition area refers to an area where IDPs stay temporarily until the conditions for return to their AoO are ensured or or move to a new location (relocation/resettlement).
21. The concept of 'vulnerable groups' is typically based around fixed categories such as women headed households, persons with disabilities and older persons. 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
22. 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>
23. Camp Closures Situation Report 11, 10 December 2020: Not published – Yahyawa camp (349 households / 1,906 individuals) [CLOSED] Announcement: 2 November. Closed: 13 November; and Laylan IDP camp (1,323 households / 6,999 individuals) [CLOSED] Announcement: 16 November. Closed: 30 November.
24. Sum of answers may exceed the per cent due to KIs being able to select multiple response options, including other topics.
25. Previous failed returns refer to IDP households originally from areas different than Markaz Daquq initially displaced elsewhere, and who attempted to return to their AoO but did not succeed. Those households were reportedly secondarily displaced to Markaz Daquq after failing to return.
26. Security clearance is the first step that is taken into consideration for any return movement across the country [Iraq]. IDPs need to obtain approval from local authorities and security forces in the AoOs to be able to return. The procedures to obtain security clearance vary, depending on the political and security dynamics at the AoO, number of security forces present, time of application, type of IDPs (in-camp or out of camp), and so on. Security clearance may typically be issued in a period ranging from one day to two weeks and may be denied in some cases - Returns and Security Clearance Process, RWG Iraq, June 2020: <http://iraqrecovery.org/Files/2044/2166.pdf>
27. At least in one location in Markaz Daquq KIs reported that some families are being blocked from returning since they had a denied security clearance document - IOM DTM, November-December 2020: <http://iraqdtm.iom.int/ReturnIndex>
28. Findings are indicative of each population group but not representative.
29. Illegal occupation of private residencies severity in Markaz Daquq Sub-district was classified as low - IOM DTM, November-December 2020: <http://iraqdtm.iom.int/ReturnIndex>
30. None of the six assessed rural villages in Markaz Daquq have operating public health clinics or hospitals - IOM DTM, Integrated Location Assessment round 5, July and August 2020: <http://iraqdtm.iom.int/ILA5>
31. IOM DTM, Integrated Location Assessment round 5, July and August 2020: <http://iraqdtm.iom.int/ILA5>
32. CCCM Cluster, Camp Closure Situation Report 11, 10 December 2020: Not published
33. Measuring Social Interaction and Social Cohesion in a High Density Urban Renewal Area, UNSW Sydney and Macquarie University, January 2013: Social sustainability allows for the consideration of the importance of social interaction and cohesion for the sustainability of communities [...] Socially sustainable communities are equitable, diverse, connected and democratic and provide a good quality of life: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/259782824_Measuring_Social_Interaction_and_Social_Cohesion_in_a_High_Density_Urban_Renewal_Area_The_Case_of_Green_Square