

Returns and Durable Solutions (ReDS) Assessment

Markaz Al-Kaim Sub-district
Al-Kaim District, Anbar Governorate
Preliminary Findings Presentation, Iraq

Assessment Methodology

- **Multi-sectoral** assessment tool, which combined **qualitative and quantitative** data.
- Data collection was done **remotely by phone** between 1 and 12 February 2022, adapted to the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Purposive sampling** methods were employed to identify KIs. Findings should therefore be considered as **indicative**.
- Methodology based on **key informant interviews** (KIIs).

↓ ↓ 👤 👤 KI profiles in Markaz Al-Kaim Sub-district

Returnees (more than 3 months)	41 KIs	<div></div>
IDPs (displaced from the area)	13 KIs	<div></div>
IDPs in community	13 KIs	<div></div>
Remainees	13 KIs	<div></div>
Subject matter experts (SMEs)	8 KIs	<div></div>
Community leaders	8 KIs	<div></div>

96 KIs



4 KIs



92 KIs



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Recent Movements

Returns from camps 43-63 households

were reported by a few KIs to have returned from Al-Amiriyah camp, in Falluja.

The drivers for these movements were:

- Nostalgia from previous life in their area of origin (AoO),
- Following the return of other family members, and
- Perceived access to services in their AoOs.

Returns from non-camp areas

38-51 households

were reported by the majority of KIs to have returned from non-camp areas in Baghdad and Erbil governorates, and in Falluja, Heet, Haditha, and Ramadi districts.

The top three most reported reasons were:

- Nostalgia from previous life,
- Following the return of other family members, and
- Sense of increased security in their AoO.



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Recent Movements

Host community departures

9-22 households

reportedly departed from the sub-district to Erbil governorate, and Falluja, Heet, and Ramadi sub-districts, according to a few KIs.

As reported, these movements were pushed by the lack of services and jobs in Markaz Al-Kaim.

IDP arrivals

7-11 households

reportedly arrived to the sub-district from non-camp areas in Falluja due to having a denied security clearance to return to their AoOs, according to one KI.

IDP departures

6-10 households

reportedly returned to their AoOs in Karabla and Obeidi, according to a few KIs.

The main reported reasons were:

- Perceived access to jobs in their AoOs and
- Lack of services in Markaz Al-Kaim.



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Barriers to return and family separation

Barriers to return

The top five most reported barriers for further returns included:

- Lack/limited of job opportunities,
- Damaged/destroyed housing and challenging access to rehabilitation,
- Lack/limited access to basic public services, especially healthcare,
- Fear of being perceived as affiliated with ISIL, and
- Prefer life in the areas of displacement (AoDs).

Family separation

Two KIs reported that there were **households with at least one adult male who remained displaced** at the time of data collection.

The four main reasons:

- Lack of jobs in AoO,
- Available medical treatment in AoD, while unavailable in AoO,
- Housing damaged in AoO, and
- Involvement of children at school in AoD (for those who remained in displacement with their children).

Access to Durable Solutions' Assistance¹

Activities/projects implementation

Reportedly **there were activities and/or projects** mainly implemented by **humanitarian and development actors** in the area.

The top four implemented activities/projects were:

- Water, sanitation and hygiene,
- Roads' rehabilitation,
- COVID-19 awareness, and
- Livelihood programmes.

Assistance as a factor to encourage returns

Reportedly access to durable solutions' assistance **was a factor to encourage returns**.

The two most reported needed humanitarian activities were:

- **Livelihoods**, and
- Infrastructure rehabilitation, namely electricity.

¹ Durable solutions' assistance includes the humanitarian, stabilization, development and peacebuilding assistance under its umbrella.



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Access to Housing and Type of Tenure

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

The majority of households from the community reportedly **had** housing, land, and property **(HLP) documents proving ownership**.

IDP households in the community reportedly resided in **rented** shelters because they never owned a house in the sub-district.



Reported Proportion of Damaged Housing

Around 50%

Access to Housing Rehabilitation

Challenges

All KIs reported that households faced **challenges in accessing housing rehabilitation**.

The four most reported barriers were:

- Affected households lacked financial resources to rehabilitate their homes,
- Lack of governmental compensation for housing rehabilitation,
- Limited housing rehabilitation projects led by the government, and
- Lack or loans or financial support from the local government and organisations.



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Access to Basic Public Services

Challenges

All KIs reported that the majority of the households faced **challenges in accessing basic public services**, mainly healthcare, electricity, and water.

The three most reported challenges were:

- Neglect from the local government towards the reactivation of public services,
- Most public services, mainly water, affected by the limited hours of governmental electricity service and
- Lack of public employees assigned by the government to public departments, including medical and education personnel and municipal employees.



Access to Livelihoods

Challenges

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

The four most reported challenges were lack of:

- Job opportunities in the sub-district, especially for youth, and the level of competition for the limited available jobs,
- Rehabilitation projects for the present factories,
- Investment in the private sector, and
- Governmental job appointments.

Support to economy

Community leader and SME KIs reported that **livelihood programme** implementation **may support economic development** in the sub-district.

The main reported economic developments:

- Revitalization of the agricultural sector by providing financial or in-kind support to farmers and
- Establishing well-managed control to products crossing through the borders with Syria.



Access to Livelihoods

Potential for sectoral growth

The most commonly reported sectors of interest for returnee and IDP households were: **agriculture**, **industry**, and **healthcare**.

Community leader and SME KIs reported that the **agricultural sector** showed the most growth potential in the 12 months following data collection.

Challenges to access jobs of interest

- Lack of rehabilitation of the factories in the sub-district, namely the phosphate and cement factories,
- Lack or limited rehabilitation and construction projects, construction skilled workers remaining displaced, and
- Imported products negatively affected the local production with a lack of support to the agricultural sector.



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Perceptions on Governance

Bodies influencing governance

Reportedly, the **local authorities** were the **most influential bodies in terms of governance** in Markaz Al-Kaim, followed by mukhtars and tribal leaders.

Bodies influencing IDP and returnee affairs

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

However, a few KIs reported that some political parties and informal armed groups influenced the decisions on approval/denial of security clearances for IDP households.



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Perceptions on Safety and Security

Feeling safe

Reportedly, returnee, IDP from the community, and IDP households in the community **felt safe or very safe** in Markaz Al-Kaim.

A couple of KIs reported feeling somewhat safe due to the presence of informal armed groups.

Resolving disputes

Disputes within the sub-district

Reportedly, **tribal leaders** were the most effective body in resolving disputes within the sub-district, followed by the formal security forces.

Disputes between the sub-district and other areas

Reportedly, **local authorities** were the most effective body in resolving disputes with the sub-district and other areas.



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Perceptions on Social Cohesion

Social cohesion bodies

The **formal security actors** were perceived by KIs as the **main body promoting social cohesion**, followed by the local authorities and humanitarian actors.

Improving social cohesion

KIs believed that the **local authorities**, **tribal leaders**, and **humanitarian actors** played an important role to improve social cohesion.

Reported strategies or initiatives to improve social cohesion:

- Initiatives promoting access to work for all,
- Seminars, awareness sessions, and conferences,
- Initiatives promoting community inter-relationships, and
- Initiatives promoting safety and security.



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Perceptions of IDP KIs in the community

Feeling integrated

The majority of IDP KIs in the community reported that **IDP households in the community did not feel integrated** and **somewhat belonging** to Markaz Al-Kaim.

“We did not return yet to our homes, our families, and our relatives.”

Feeling welcome

KIs reported that the majority of households **felt welcome and accepted** by the rest of the community.

The two most reported reasons included:

- Belonging to existing tribes and
- Kinship ties and social bonds with households from the community.

Interaction

Reportedly, the majority of IDP households in the community **interacted with returnees**.

There were no reported barriers for interaction, according to the majority of IDP KIs in the community.



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Perceptions of IDP KIs from the community

Feeling integrated

All IDP KIs from the community reported that **households from their displacement group did not feel integrated** and **somewhat belonging** to their AoDs.

“Because they are far from their lands and homes, and they feel marginated while dealing with displacement, far from family and neighbours.”

Feeling accepted

The majority of IDP KIs from the community **did not know how accepted** the households from this specific group felt in their AoDs.

Interaction

Almost two thirds of IDP KIs from the community reported that the majority of IDP households **interacted** with all groups.

Barriers for interaction:

- Dispute regarding access to jobs,
- Presence of discrimination, and
- Existing intercommunal disputes.



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Perceptions of returnee KIs

Feeling re-integrated

The majority of KIs reported that **returnee households felt re-integrated** in Markaz Al-Kaim where they **strongly belong**.

"We feel integrated since we returned to our area of origin in which we lived and returned to our homes in which we were raised by our ancestors."

Feeling welcome

The majority of returnee KIs reported that returnee households **felt welcome** or **very welcome**.

The two most reported reasons were:

- Presence of kinship ties within households and
- Bonds with tribes in the sub-district.

Interaction

KIs reported that the majority of returnee households **interacted with all groups**.

Barriers for interaction

- Presence of discrimination,
- Existing outstanding intercommunal disputes, and
- Alleged link to ISIL.





THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION



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Upon request