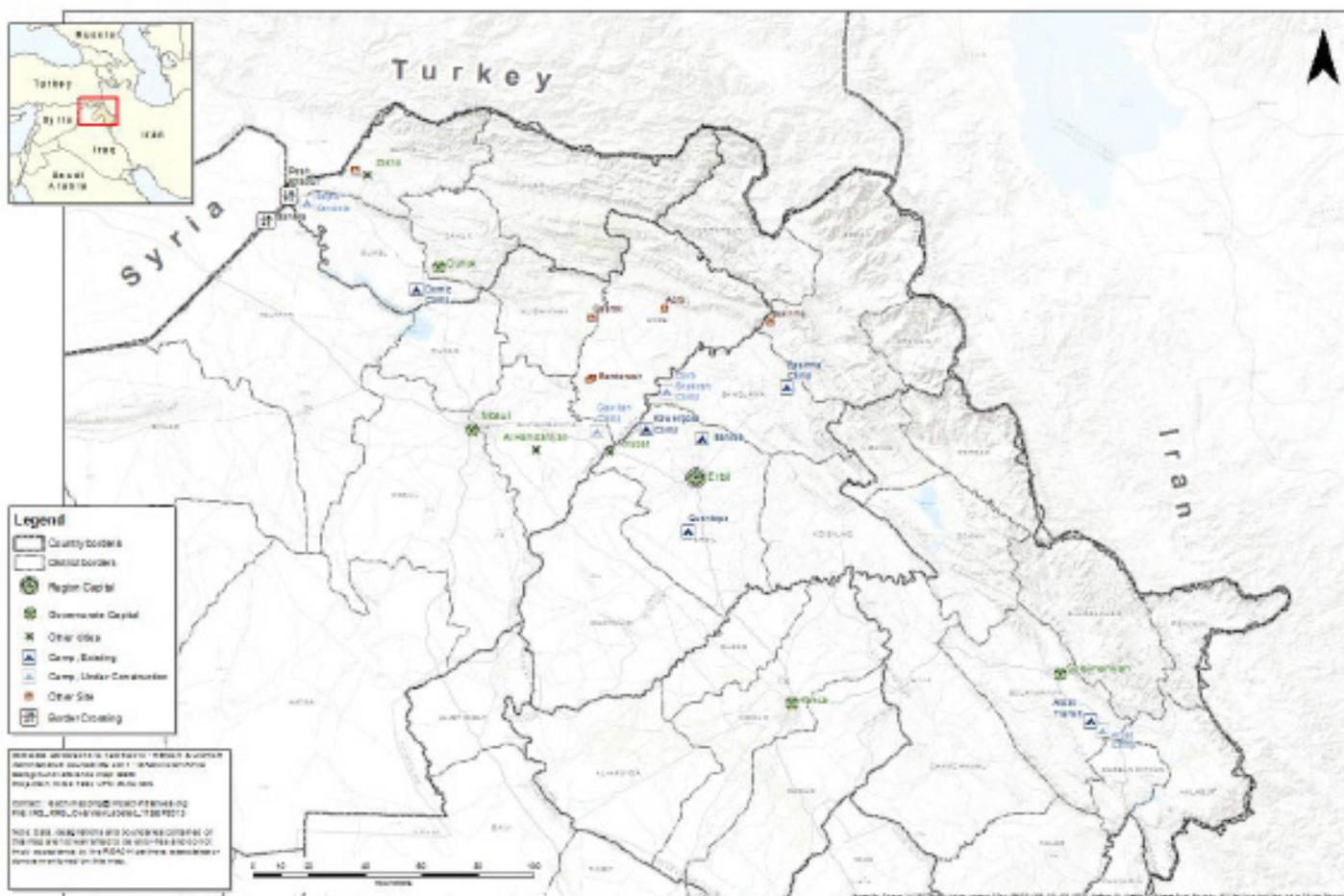




Syrian Refugee influx into Northern Iraq

WASH Baseline Assessment Report
October 2nd 2013



REACH Northern Iraq Situation Reports

This report is produced, in partnership with UNHCR and upon the request of the WASH sector working group, based on information collected by REACH teams in Northern Iraq through field assessments. The aim of the report is to share REACH’s understanding, as of September 22nd, of humanitarian challenges with regards to WASH related themes across the camps due to the new influx of Syrian refugees in Northern Iraq since August 15th.

This WASH Baseline Assessment Report details findings of assessments conducted by REACH between the 15th and 22nd of September in the four Erbil sites (Basirma, Baharaka, Kawergosk, and Quashtapa), the one Sulaymanya site (Arbat), and the four newly established Ninewa sites (Bardarash, Akre, Qasarok, and Bekhme) where newly-arrived refugees have been settled. This report complements REACH’s previous Situation Report of September 12th, focusing specifically on the WASH sector in order to provide a baseline overview on themes such as water access, WASH facilities and sanitation, thereby shedding more light on WASH needs in the camps and gaps in current service provision.

In addition to conducting situational and thematic assessments, REACH teams are closely involved with supporting site planning for all permanent camps in Northern Iraq (maps providing geo-referenced information are available upon request).

Context

The significant deterioration in socio-economic conditions and increased violence in the Syrian Arab Republic has caused an escalation in the number of individuals and families leaving their homes for a more stable environment. Since the evening of August 15th, the sudden influx of refugees from Syria to Northern Iraq has taken many humanitarian stakeholders by surprise. As of the 2nd of October 2013, an estimated 61,000 Syrians have arrived in the Region through the border crossing of Peshkabar and Sahela according to the latest UNHCR statistics - bringing the total number of Syrian refugees settling in camps and host communities in Iraq to approximately 222,000.

Upon arrival in Northern Iraq, refugees are settled in a transitory area adjacent to the border where they can access basic facilities set up by authorities and humanitarian stakeholders. On a daily basis, new arrivals are then quickly relocated to temporary settlement sites (initially to communal buildings such as schools, mosques and youth centres; then, when ready, to camps) in Erbil, Sulemanya, and Ninewa governorates through a shuttle system operated by KRG authorities with support from IOM. In total, there are four sites in Erbil, four in Ninewa, and one in Sulemanya hosting refugees at present, with three new sites under development. The following figures are based on REACH assessments*:

Governorate	Camp/Site	Population
Erbil	Kawergosk	12,019 (as of 20/09)
	Baharaka	4,102 (as of 11/09)
	Basirma	3,258 (as of 11/09)
	Quashtapa	3,572 (as of 11/09)
Sulemanya	Arbat	2,475 (as of 01/09)
Ninewa	Bardarash	2,597 (as of 04/09)
	Akre	1,700 (as of 05/09)
	Qasarok	714 (as of 12/09)
	Bekhme	1,300 (as of 12/09)

*REACH teams conducted a random assessment of tents, ensuring a confidence level of 95%, in order to determine the average occupancy of each tent. This data, combined with tent numbers collected whilst geo-referencing each site, allowed REACH teams to rapidly determine site populations.

REACH WASH Baseline Assessment

This assessment was conducted in order to provide the WASH sector working group with a baseline overview of the WASH conditions in the nine identified sites. REACH deployed teams equipped with android-based smartphones and Open Data Kit software during the seven-day data collection process. Usage of this technology enables greater control over collected data, ensures higher data quality and eliminates the need for time consuming data entry. This, in turn, allows for more rapid data analysis and dissemination of information which will inform humanitarian action. In total, 231 households in Akra, 209 in Arbat, 284 in Baharaka, 225 in Bardarash, 517 in Basirma, 155 in Bekhme, 332 in Kawergosk, 102 in Qasarok and 274 in Quashtapa were selected through random sampling and interviewed. The sample size can be considered statistically representative, with a confidence level of approximately 95%.

Importantly, the data gathered throughout this assessment represents a snapshot in time found at the moment of assessment. Furthermore, due to the sudden opening of the border and the make-shift nature of the camps, stark differences can be noted among the collected data at the identified sites highlighting the need to provide targeted assistance specific to the conditions of each camp. **All information and analysis below only reflects the aforementioned camps and residents.**

Key Assessment Findings

Household Composition

Children under the age of five made up almost a fifth of the refugee population, an average of 19%, across the nine sites identified. In addition, an almost equal gender distribution can be noted among the remaining refugee population over five years of age, with 40% of the population male and 41% female.

The majority of households across the camps were male-headed, an average of 78%, while the remaining 22% of households were female-headed.

19%

of the refugee population consists of children under the age of five

78%

of households were male-headed

WASH Items

The main reported container for water storage was a jerry can, an average of 40% across the identified sites, followed by water tanks (32%), buckets (16%) and water bottles (5%). Jerry cans formed part of the NFI kits that were distributed by, among others, UNHCR and ACTED in Kawergosk, Basirma, Baharaka and Quashtapa, thus explaining its relatively high proportion.

Due to the high temperatures experienced, ice was widely distributed among the sites. A significant majority of households, an average of 83% across the sites identified, reported they had used ice in their drinking water. Out of the 17% of households who reported not to have used ice, 68% indicated this was due to ice not being available and 14% responded that the ice they had received was dirty. It should be noted that the sanitary conditions involved in the storing and transportation of ice are unknown; these issues could potentially be linked to health concerns.

Hygiene Items

Across the identified sites, the majority of households, 74%, reported to have received a hygiene kit, while the remaining 26% reported that they had not.

Health Issues

An average of 36% of children under the age of five across the identified sites were reported to have had diarrhea at least once during the two weeks prior to the time of assessment, with figures as high as 52% in Kawergosk and 49% in Quashtapa. A slightly lower number was reported among adults, namely an average of 29% across all sites identified. Interviews with the on-camp medical staff also suggested that the main illnesses treated were diarrhea and sunstroke. These high figures are a reason for concern and further assessments are recommended in order to develop a more profound understanding as to the causes of diarrhea outbreaks. Possibly, it could be linked to standing water around the tents. During the assessment an average of 22% of households across the nine sites reported to have standing water around their tent, this figure was higher in the sites with the largest proportion of children under the age of five having had diarrhea, namely Kawergosk and Quashtapa, 57% and 32% respectively. Other factors could include gaps in sanitation services and water purification assistance.

36%

of children under the age of five and

29%

of adults were reported to have had diarrhea

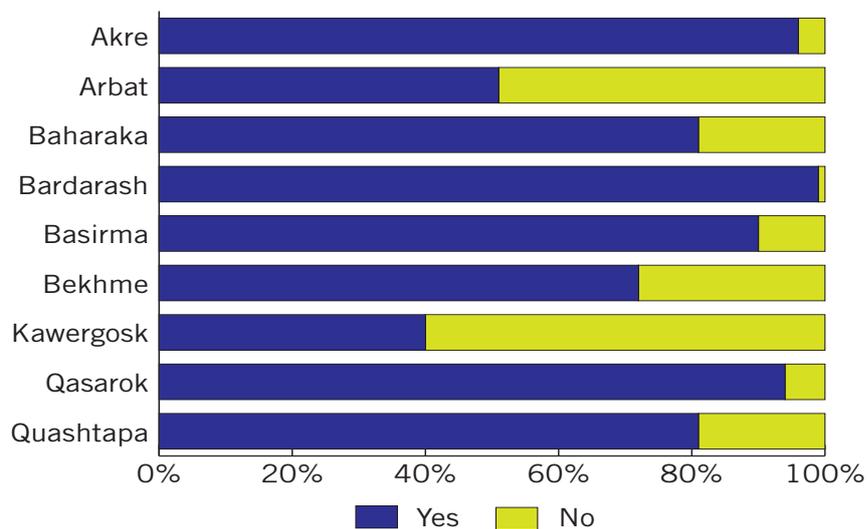
Camp Trends

Water Access

Strongly varying responses can be noted across the identified sites when assessing if households had received sufficient water to meet their needs the week prior to the survey. Due to the new and make-shift nature of many sites, humanitarian actors have struggled to provide enough water to all refugees. In Kawergosk, only 40% of households reported to have had sufficient water, followed by 51% in Arbat. Kawergosk was the first camp to be set up and subsequently has the most developed infrastructure. Yet, the high and rapid refugee influx (12,019 individuals and 2,344 tents, REACH data 20/09) into the camp over the past month has placed a significant strain on WASH facilities as well as on the provision of water. Across all identified sites, an average of 61% of households reported that they would know where to file a complaint were they to have a grievance, which could indicate that humanitarian actors will receive more in-depth information as to the water access issues refugees face.

In the sites Bardarash, Akre, Qasarok and Basirma water access was reported by almost all households, namely 99%, 96%, 94% and 90%. However, during visits of the REACH field team to the two transit sites Bardarash, a football stadium and a youth centre, the sites were found to have limited/poor WASH facilities, particularly in regards to showers and latrines, which may have hindered adequate water access.

Figure 1: Water Access



Perceived Water Quality

Across the identified sites, the perceived water quality was widely varied. In Bekhme, only 18% of households deemed the water they had received as potable, while in Bardarash, 99% of households, in Qasarok 96% and in Akre 86% deemed the received water to be potable. However, notes from the REACH field team in Akre reveal that many refugees had complained that although water was available in abundance, the quality was not good. Similarly, across the identified sites a wide discrepancy among the responses can be found regarding if the water received was deemed as only good enough for cooking/cleaning purposes, with answers ranging as high as 69% of households in Bekhme and 4% in Qasarok. These differing responses could, for example, be attributed to the quality of the water received, the cleanliness of the water storage units and personal perceptions of refugees.

Figure 2: Perceived Water Quality

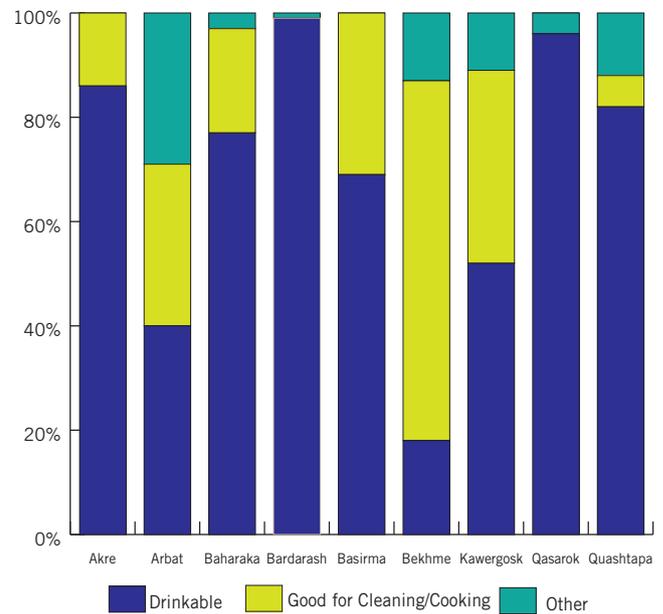
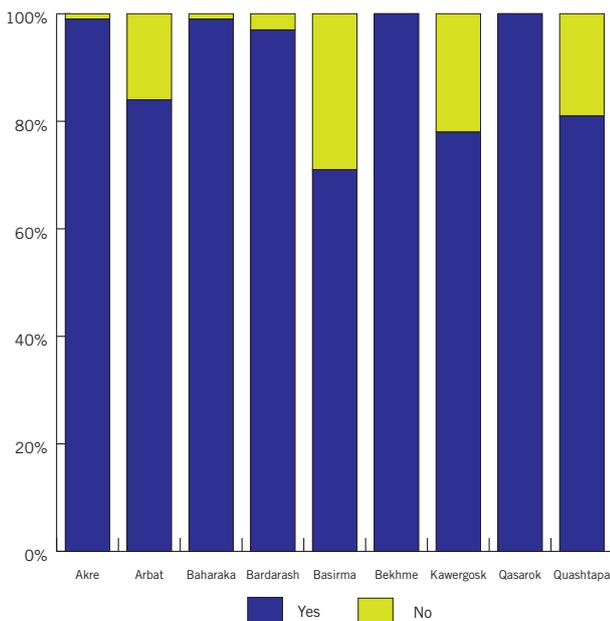


Figure 3: Usage of Nearest Latrine



Sanitation

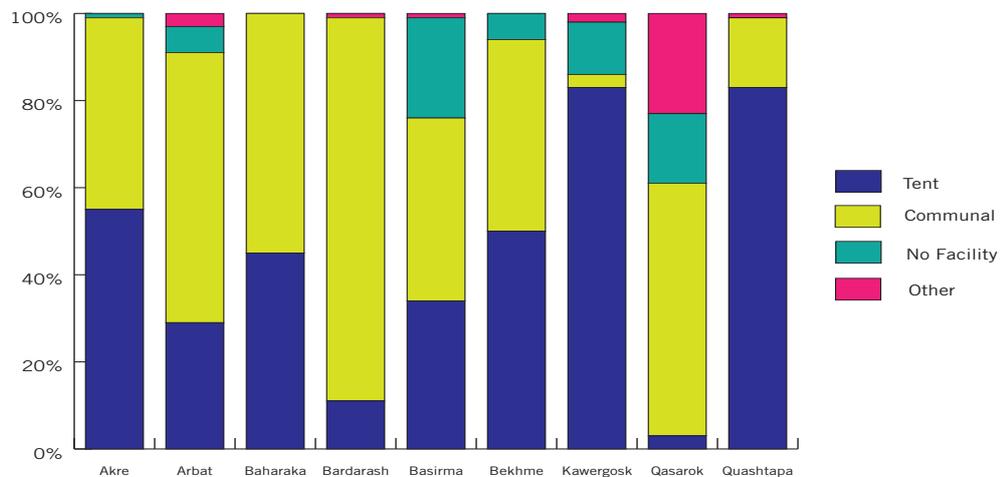
Across the identified sites, the majority of households reported that they used the nearest latrine; the lowest figures can be found in Basirma, namely 71%, followed by Kawergosk and Quashtapa, 78% and 81% respectively. In Kawergosk, a total of 350 latrines or latrines/showers were present according to the latest REACH infrastructure mapping, a very low number considering the site's total population of 12,019 refugees. Due to the exponential growth of this site and the large number of tents, often there was no space available to place stand-alone latrines. However, work is currently underway to relocate tents to accommodate more latrines and showers.

Sanitation (cont.)

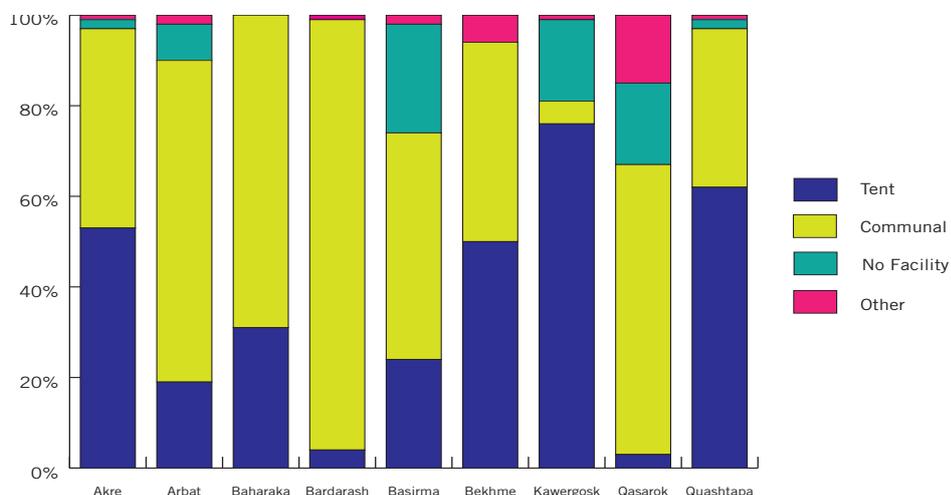
By far, the main reported bathing facility for females in both Kawergosk and Quashtapa was reported to be their tent, in both instances 83%. Visits from the REACH field team reveal that refugees in Kawergosk have constructed make-shift showers at the rear of their tents, thus corresponding with the assessment findings. In Qasarok, only 3% of females were reported to bathe in a tent, while the remainder was reported to bathe in communal facilities (58%), to not have any facility (16%) and other (23%) – the latter which remained unspecified. In Bardarash, the highest proportion of females were reported to bathe in a communal facility, 88%, followed by Arbat, Qasarok and Baharaka, 62%, 58% and 55%. Additionally, in Basirma a high proportion of females was reported to have no facility to bathe in, namely 23%, followed by 16% in Qasarok and 12% in Kawergosk. The responses indicating there was no facility could be due to lack of facilities or the distance being too far to access the facility. Of the females reported to bathe inside their tent, 45% did so due to safety issues, 38% due to access issues and the remaining 35% due to issues related to cleanliness. Humanitarian actors have been addressing the availability of bathing facilities, for example, it has been reported that UNHCR has recently provided Bardarash with 26 showers (UNICEF Situation Report, 19/09).

Figure 4: Bathing Facilities

Female



Male



Similar to the assessment findings for females, the largest proportion of males using their tent as a bathing facility can be observed in Kawergosk and Quashtapa, 76% and 62% respectively, while the smallest proportion can be noted in Qasarok and Bardarash, 3% and 4% respectively. In Bardarash, almost all males, 95%, were reported to bathe in a communal facility, while in Kawergosk only 5% of males reportedly used a communal facility to bathe in. As well as for females, the highest proportion of males reportedly not having access to a bathing facility across the identified sites can be found in Basirma, namely 24%, followed by Kawergosk and Qasarok, in both instances 18%. The main reported reason for males to bathe inside their tent was cleanliness (43%), followed by safety and access issues, 33% and 32% respectively.

45%
of women and
33%
of men
bathe inside their tent
due to security issues

Across the nine identified sites, rubbish around the tent was reported by an average of 18% of households, while the remaining 82% of households indicated they did not have rubbish around their tent.

Non-Cash Priority Needs

Water was named as the first non-cash priority need across the identified sites by 20% of households, followed by food (12%), household items (11%), improved shelter (10%) and latrines (10%). The main priority needs are thus related to WASH, food and shelter issues.

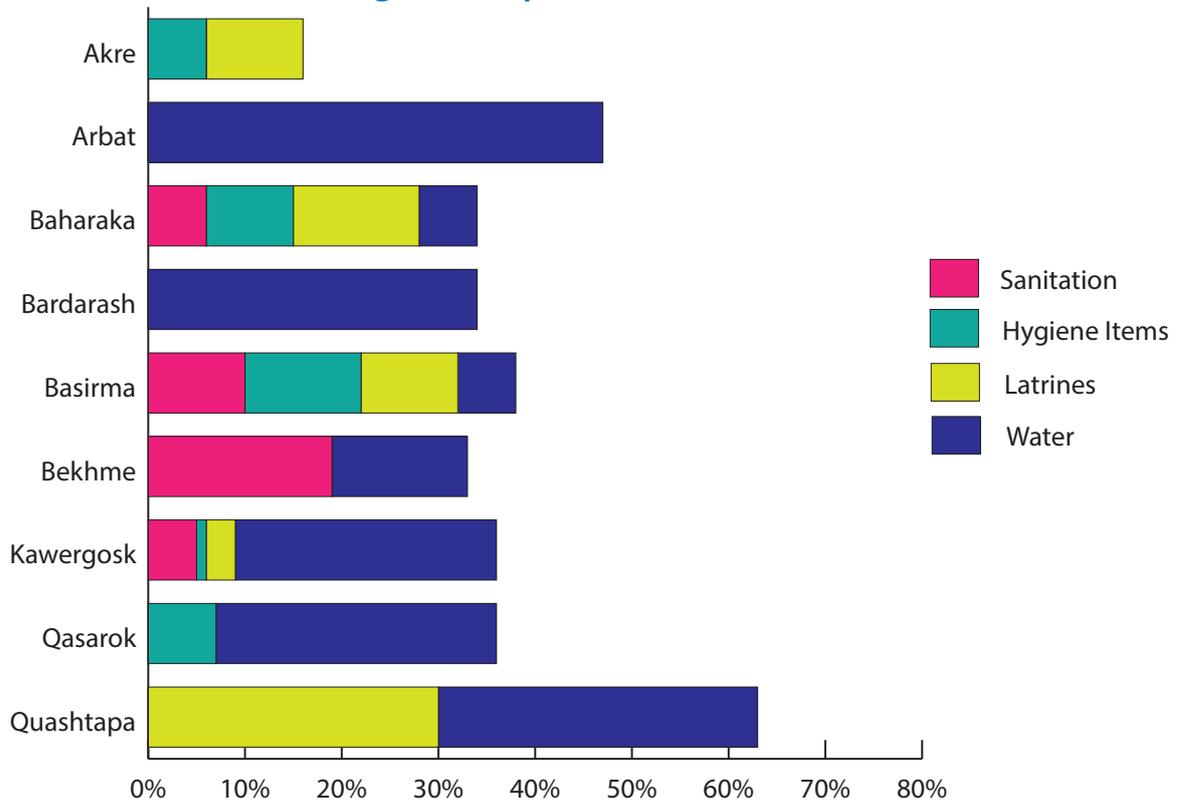
The high demand for water was considered surprising in light of the assessment findings revealing that a large proportion of households reported to have sufficient water to meet their needs. In Akre, water was not mentioned as a first priority need – despite only 51% of households reporting they had enough water to meet their household's needs. In the sites Bardarash and Qasarok, water access was reported by a very large proportion of households, 99% and 94% respectively. However, in Bardarash water was mentioned as the first priority need by 34% of households, and in Qasarok by 29% of households.

In terms of other first reported WASH priorities, in Quashtapa, latrines was named as the first priority need by 30% of households, followed by 13% in Baharaka and 10% in both Akre and Arbat. Hygiene items was indicated by 12% of households in Basirma and 9% in Baharaka as their first priority need. In Bekhme, 19% of households reported sanitation to be their first priority need, followed by 10% in Basirma and 6% in both Akre and Baharaka.

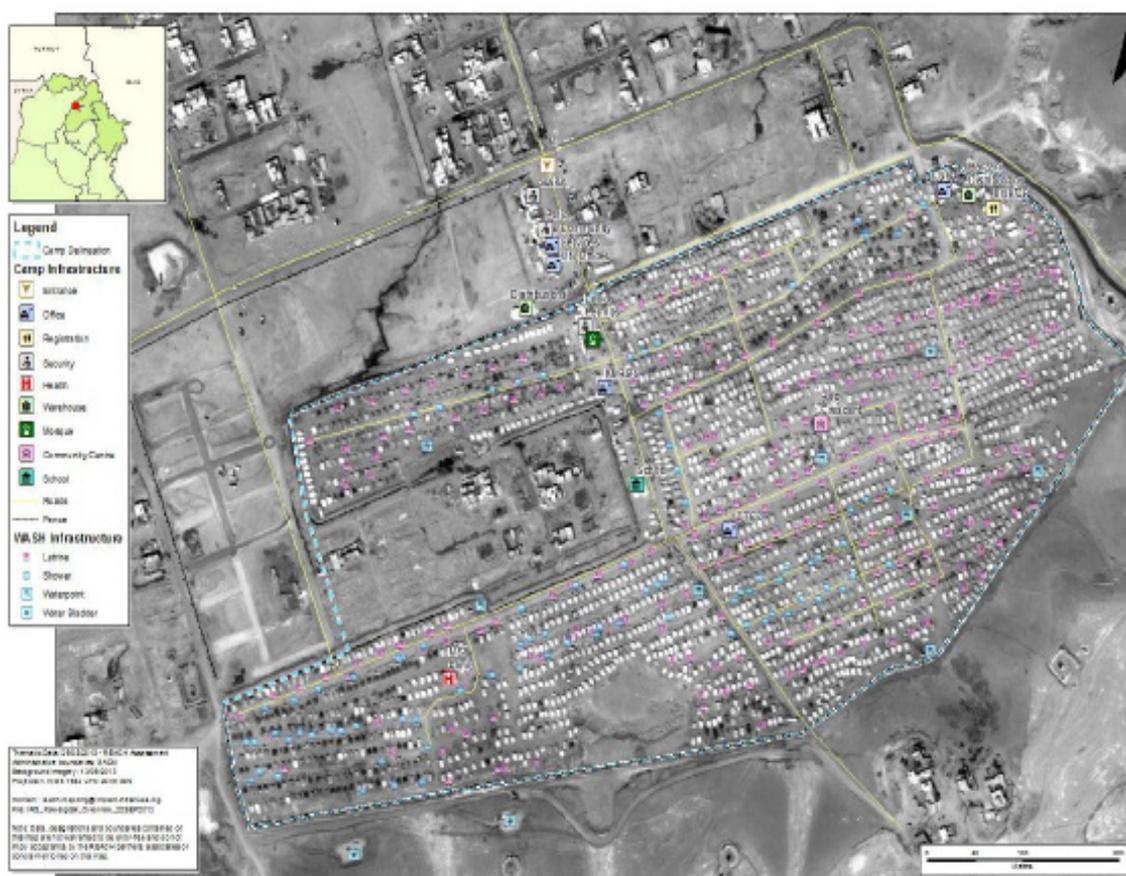
Figure 5: Reported Priorities



Figure 6: Reported WASH Priorities



Map 1: Kawergosk Camp Infrastructure, 22/09/2013



WASH Facilities

In **Akre** all floors have a bathroom, whereby some rooms have a private bathroom (05/09).

In **Arbat** there are 72 latrines and 3 water bladders (05/09).

In **Baharaka** there are 44 latrines, 6 latrines/showers and 1 water point. Additionally, 1 WASH centre is under construction (19/09).

In **Bardarash** there are 35 latrines (04/09).

In **Biserma** there are 68 latrines/showers and 10 water points. Furthermore, 13 WASH centres are under construction (04/09).

In **Bekhme** there are individual bathrooms per building (12/09).

In **Kawergosk** there are 263 latrines, 87 latrines/showers and 3 water bladders (22/09).

In **Qasarok** there are 7 water points - additional data to be collected.

In **Quashtapa** there are 29 latrines and 11 water points. 117 latrines and 11 latrines/showers are under construction (02/09).

About REACH

REACH was formed in 2010 as a joint initiative of two INGOs (ACTED and IMPACT Initiatives) and a UN program (UNOSAT). The purpose of REACH is to promote and facilitate the development of information products that enhance the humanitarian community's capacity to make decisions and plan in emergency, reconstruction and development contexts.

At country level, REACH teams are deployed to countries experiencing emergencies or at-risk-of-crisis in order to facilitate interagency collection, organisation and dissemination of key humanitarian related information. Country-level deployments are conducted within the framework of partnerships with individual actors as well as aid coordination bodies, including UN agencies, clusters, inter-cluster initiatives, and other interagency initiatives.