Mass Communications Assessment of IDPs in Northern Iraq
Sulaymaniyah Governorate

May 2018

BACKGROUND

Since the Government of Iraq re-established control over areas previously held by the so-called Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) in 2017, increasing numbers of internally displaced persons (IDPs) have returned to their area of origin (AoO). To support the Returns Working Group objective of voluntary, safe and durable returns, REACH conducted an assessment on the sources and channels of information related to returns in four governorates of northern Iraq, which together contain 65% of IDPs in Iraq. This factsheet focuses on IDP households (HH) in Sulaymaniyah governorate where, as of 15 May 2018, there are reportedly 153,858 IDPs.†

METHODOLOGY

Findings reported in this factsheet are based on data from a representative sample of 186 in-camp and 241 out-of-camp IDP HH in Sulaymaniyah governorate, collected between 22 April - 9 May 2018. Findings are generalisable to the assessed in-camp and out-of-camp IDP population with 95% level of confidence and 7.5% margin of error at the governorate level.
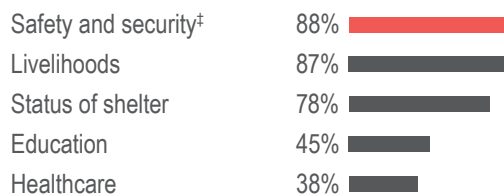
LOCATION MAP

† IOM DTM, Iraq, as of 15 May 2018.
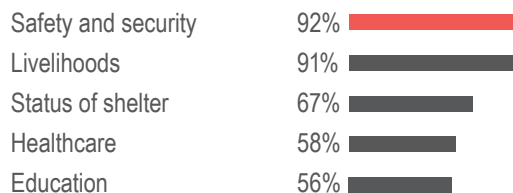* Respondents could select multiple response options.

‡ Fewer responses were collected for this indicator which may effect the margin of error.
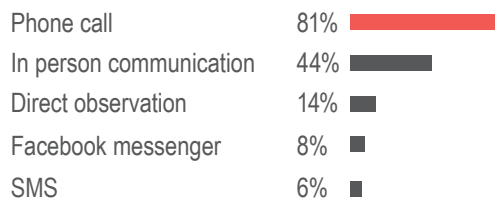
INFORMATION TOPICS

Main topics regarding their AoO that HH received information about in the 30 days prior to the assessment*

Safety and security‡	88%
Livelihoods	87%
Status of shelter	78%
Education	45%
Healthcare	38%

Top 5 HH information gaps regarding their AoO*

Safety and security	92%
Livelihoods	91%
Status of shelter	67%
Healthcare	58%
Education	56%

Top 5 information channels*

Phone call	81%
In person communication	44%
Direct observation	14%
Facebook messenger	8%
SMS	6%

INFORMATION SOURCES

Main sources of information*

■ Out-of-camp IDPs
■ In-camp IDPs

84% / 87% Friends/ family in AoO	39% / 44% Friends/ family visiting AoO	3% / 3% Friends/ family not in AoO	6% / 4% National authority	0.4% / 1% Local authority
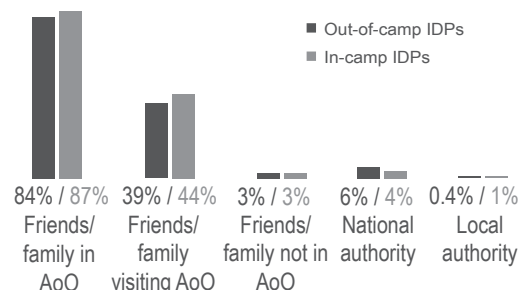
HH receiving returns-related information from humanitarian organisations

88% No
5% Yes
7% Do not know
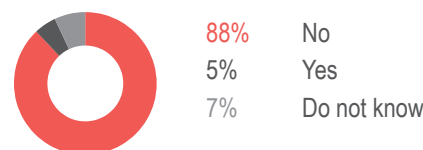
Least trusted information sources

■ Out-of-camp IDPs
■ In-camp IDPs

25% / 38% National authority	26% / 24% Local authorities	10% / 15% Mukhtar	10% / 8% Religious leader	9% / 4% NGOs
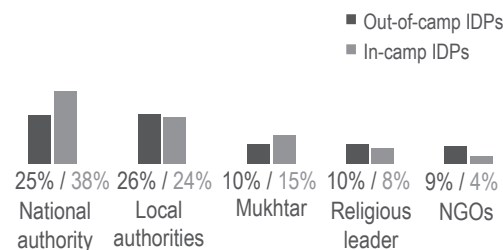
BARRIERS TO INFORMATION ACCESS

Top barriers to accessing returns-related information

Access to a smartphone	35%
Cost of mobile phone credit	21%
Literacy level	9%
Access to a computer	9%
Cost of WiFi	7%
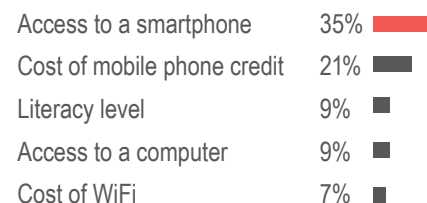
DECISION TO MOVE

Importance of returns-related information to informing decision to move

■ Out-of-camp IDPs
■ In-camp IDPs

25% / 38% Very important	34% / 34% Important	38% / 26% Somewhat important	3% / 1% Unimportant	1% / 1% Totally not important
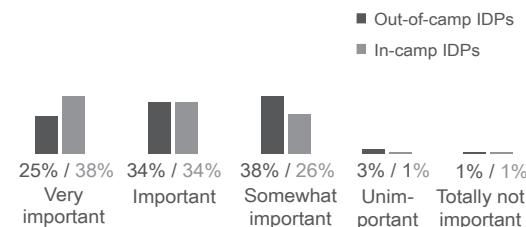
HH reporting more accurate information would help them in planning to return

61% Would help
35% Would not help
4% Do not know
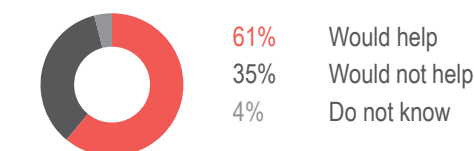
REACH Informing more effective humanitarian action