IRAQ

Assessment of Informal IDP Sites in Iraq

RASP Round VII

September 2018

CCCM CLUSTER
SUPPORTING DISPLACED COMMUNITIES

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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's mission is to strengthen evidence-based decision making by aid actors through efficient data collection, management and analysis before, during and after an emergency. By doing so, REACH contributes to ensuring that communities affected by emergencies receive the support they need. All REACH activities are conducted in support to and within the framework of inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms. For more information please visit our website: www.reach-initiative.org.
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SUMMARY

Between late 2013 and 2017, intensification of conflict in north and central Iraq has resulted in large scale displacement with 1.9 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) identified across Iraq as of August 2018. [1] Of these, approximately 95,000 - 116,000 IDPs are estimated to be residing in informal sites.[2,3] In order to inform targeting of humanitarian services to meet the needs of IDPs residing in these sites, REACH, in partnership with the CCCM Cluster and partners, conducted round VII of the Informal Sites Assessment in August 2018. This utilised the Risk Assessment of Site Priority (RASP) tool, the technical informal site tool of the CCCM Cluster in Iraq.

For Round VII of the RASP Informal Site assessment, 476 sites were selected to be visited, based on having been reported in IOM's Integrated Location Assessment (ILA) Round III to be settlements of critical shelters with 15 or more families.[4] Of these, 259 sites were found to meet the criteria set out for assessment, as developed by REACH and the CCCM Cluster, and were surveyed between 16 July and 14 August.[5] **The total estimated population of the 259 assessed sites was almost 14,000 households, or 90,000 individuals, based on Key Informant (KI) reporting on the population of each site.** Across governorates, the case-load of IDPs living in informal sites varied. All figures reported are based on one Key Informant Interview (KII) per site and should therefore be considered as indicative only.

The primary purpose of this exercise was to provide a brief overview of key multi-sectoral needs, and identify any gaps in services available and assistance provided to these vulnerable populations. Sectors covered include: shelter and site conditions, WASH, health, food security, livelihoods, education, protection, and safety and security. As with previous rounds of the RASP Informal Sites Assessment,[6] REACH developed a red-flagging index in coordination with CCCM and other clusters, to highlight sites that may be in need of further assessment and/or humanitarian intervention, based on indications of high sectoral need. A total of 18 indicators that KIs for each site reported on were selected, in collaboration with the CCCM Cluster and other relevant Clusters, with at least one indicator included per sector covered in the assessment.

The approximated IDP household population of sites in Dahuk, Ninewa, and Salah al-Din governorates accounted for roughly three quarters of those captured by this assessment (76%).[7] Furthermore, the size and population of each assessed site varied quite considerably, ranging from 15 households (with approximately 65 individuals), to over 1,000 households with more than 13,000 individuals reported to be residing there. This underscores the **need to consider response to informal site vulnerability both in terms of severity and the number of multi-sectoral needs, as well as the total number of households affected.**

KEY FINDINGS

The median number of red flags reported per site was 7 out of 18. This did vary by governorate, however, with the average ranging from 3 red flags in Erbil, to 9 in Basrah. **Some of the most frequently reported red flags related to household vulnerability profiles and protection concerns:** the vast majority of key informants reported to have female headed households in the site, as well as young people under the age of 18 engaged in employment in the 30 days prior to assessment (224 of 259, and 224 of 259). **This indicates that IDP households residing in**

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informal sites fit generally assumed profiles of higher vulnerability and therefore may have potentially greater need in terms of provision of services and assistance.

Although certain demographic profiles were consistently reported by KIs in sites across governorates, such as the high proportion of sites with female headed households and young people under the age of 18 working**, there were some notable sectoral differences, outlined below. These findings may further guide targeting of additional assessments of or service provision to the IDP population in informal sites**.

SHELTER AND SITE CONDITIONS:

- Indicators relating to poor site conditions and inadequate shelter were frequently reported by key informants, suggesting that the **IDP population in informal sites are in need of shelter and CCCM-based services and assistance**. For example, almost all sites reported to not have any fire safety equipment available (249 or 259), as well as high instances of enumerators reporting to observe overcrowding (179 or 259).[8] This was most commonly reported in Kirkuk (all 23 sites), Dahuk (94/115) and Ninewa (29/49).

- Access to electricity was also reportedly limited. In **206 out of 259 sites were households reportedly able to access electricity for at least 4 hours per day in the week prior.** More concerning, in 6 sites, some households were reported to have no electricity access at all.

- Shelter needs were also prevalent, with **KIs in over half of sites reporting residents to have three or more shelter needs (131 out of 259).** The most frequently reported shelter needs were: protection from climatic conditions (173 out of 259 sites), greater privacy and dignity (173 out of 259 sites) and improvement of basic infrastructures and utilities (136 out of 259 sites).

PROTECTION AND SAFETY AND SECURITY

- **Overall, 233 sites reported at least one red flag protection indicator, all of which reported at least one indicator highlighting potential child protection concerns:** either young people under the age of 18 working (224 of 259), presence of child-headed households (79 of 259) or unaccompanied children (65 of 259).

- **Findings indicated that in a considerable number of sites, IDPs were facing restrictions to movement (150 of 259), that may in turn affect their access to needed services or assistance.** For most, these restrictions related to cost and logistics, however**, there are a number of sites where protection-led interventions, such as legal services assistance may also help to alleviate some of these challenges.**

- **Overall security incidents or social cohesion issues were infrequently reported.[9]** Only 2 KIs reported a security incident to have occurred in or near the site in the 30 days prior, and almost all reported that residents felt safe in the site area (258 out of 259 sites).

- However, **forcible evictions in the three months prior were reported in 31 sites, and tensions between the host community and site residents were reported for 14 sites; these sites may be especially vulnerable to eviction and further displacement,** and therefore in need of additional protection monitoring.

BASIC NEEDS AND SERVICES:

Many sites were also reported to have limited access to basic needs and services, including insufficient access to food, drinking water, and healthcare. The scale of and reasons for these access issues will likely vary across sites. However, these indicators highlight where there may be key service gaps in order to meet needs of IDP households in informal sites, and underscores the need for further sector-specific assessment. That being said, **sectoral findings regarding challenges in accessing basic needs and services indicate that distance and cost present considerable barriers for IDP households in informal sites across Iraq.**

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[8] For instance, more than one family living in a single room, or more than 10 people sharing a bathroom.
[9] Whilst this suggests that informal IDP sites did not face issues regarding social cohesion with their local and host communities, it is possible that due to their sensitivity, these indicators were under reported.

WASH

- **In almost half of sites (107 out of 259) it was stated that households spent an average of seven or more days without access to their primary source of drinking water in the 30 days prior to interview**. KIs explained that when there was no access, households would rely on stored water in communal tanks, or purchase water, thereby depleting limited household resources to procure basic items.
- **In roughly a third of sites, the quality of water was reported by KIs to not be acceptable (95 of 259).** This was reported in almost half of all sites in Dahuk (55 of 115) and Kirkuk (10 of 23).
- This suggests that **informal sites may be in need of improved access to drinking water, and the means to treat water to make it potable and store water for when access is limited.**

HEALTH

- **IDPs in informal sites were also reportedly underserved with regards to healthcare.** In roughly half of all sites, the nearest accessible primary healthcare services were over 2km away (122 out of 259 sites).
- **Of the sites where at least one health issue was reported to have been experienced (217 of 259), half were reported to be further than 2km from the nearest primary healthcare service (108 of 217).**[10]
- In addition, the majority of KIs reported that there were not adequate facilities and or/services available for persons with disabilities (218) or mental health and psycho-social support services (221).
- This suggests that **informal sites across the country may be in need of improved access to primary healthcare, and increased specialized services for mental health also.**

FOOD SECURITY

- **In just under half of all informal IDP sites assessed, the KI reported that households in the site did not have sufficient access to food** for at least one day in the seven days prior to data collection (114 of 259).
- In addition, KIs were also asked to report on the nature of any access issues faced. **Reported challenges to accessing food highlighted limited economic resources (166 of 259) and limited access due to physical or logistical constraints such as distance (92 or 259), as primary barriers to IDP households in informal sites being able to meet basic food needs.**

LIVELIHOODS

- Overall, 251 of 259 KIs reported that at least one type of livelihoods-based coping strategy was being used by households in their respective sites. **In three-quarters of sites, KIs reported that households had been using 'severe' livelihoods coping strategies in the 30 days prior to data collection (199 of 259).**[11]
- **The potentially high level of economic insecurity amongst the informal site IDP population was further underscored by the high prevalence of unstable and low wage labour.** For example, 150 of 259 sites pointed to casual unskilled labour as the primary livelihoods source.
- Furthermore, across all sites, 205 KIs reported that no assistance had been received by households in the 30 days prior to data collection.
- **These livelihoods findings further support key sectoral findings that highlighted economic insecurity and lack of financial resources as a primary barrier to meeting basic needs and accessing services.**

EDUCATION

- **In a quarter of sites KIs reported that the number of school-aged children able to access formal education was less than 75% (69 of 259)**. However, over three-quarters of KIs reported that households faced challenges to accessing education (212 of 259).
- **The reported barriers to accessing education reflected those reported for access to other basic services, including limited economic resources (112 of 212), the long distance required to travel (106 of 212), and physical or logistical constraints (104 of 212)**.

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[10] Health issues include: numerous cases of diarrhea, fever, respiratory diseases, pregnancy related disease, trauma-related injury, as well as skin diseases, physical or mental disabilities, cholera, typhoid, hepatitis, or 'other' as identified by the KI.
[11] Such strategies include: selling productive assets or means of transport (e.g. sewing machines, wheelbarrow, bicycle, car, etc); selling house or land; reducing food intake; sending children (under the age of 18) to work; or engaging in high risk or illegal work.

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List of Acronyms

CCCM   Camp Management and Camp Coordination
DTM   Displacement Tracking Matrix
GPS   Global Positioning System
HNO   Humanitarian Needs Overview
HRP   Humanitarian Response Plan
IDP   Internally Displaced Persons
IOM   International Organization for Migration
ILA   Integrated Location Assessment
ISF   Iraqi Security Forces
KI   Key Informants
KII   Key Informant Interview
NFI   Non-Food Items
OCHA   Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
RASP   Risk Assessment Site Priority

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INTRODUCTION

Since December 2013 up to late 2017, the intensification of conflict in north and central Iraq triggered several waves of large scale internal displacement. Although 2018 has seen increased rates of return, 1.9 million Iraqis were identified as internally displaced persons (IDPs) across Iraq, as of August.[12] The IDP population is scattered across the country, living in formal camps and out-of-camp settings, including informal sites or critical shelters. Of this population, approximately 95,000 -116,000 IDPs are estimated to be residing in informal sites.[13,14] Given the profile of informal site populations as living in critical shelters and with potentially more limited access to services and assistance, IDPs residing in these locations are considered to be highly vulnerable.[15]

One of the key objectives for the Iraq Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster has been to enable a safe and dignified living environment for those living in protracted displacement in formal camps and informal sites across Iraq. In order to facilitate the coordination and provision of essential services and assistance to IDP populations residing in these sites for 2018, REACH, in partnership with the CCCM Cluster and cluster partners, conducted round VII of the Informal Sites Assessment in August 2018. This utilized the Risk Assessment Site Priority (RASP) tool, the technical informal site monitoring tool of the CCCM Cluster in Iraq. The primary aim of this assessment was to identify key gaps in service provision in the largest informal sites in Iraq, and highlight populations that may be in need of further assessment and/or humanitarian intervention. This assessment was also timed to feed into strategic coordination for 2019 through informing the 2019 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) and Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP).

For this round, only sites with 15 or more households were assessed, with sites identified using the IOM Integrated Location Assessment Round 3 (ILA III, May 2018). A total of 476 sites were visited; 259 of these sites were fully assessed, across 11 governorates, between 16 July and 14 August 2018. Primary data was collected through one key informant interview (KII) per site with the identified site or community leader. All figures reported are based on one KII per site and should therefore be considered as indicative only.

This report provides an overview of potential service and assistance needs of IDP populations in informal sites based on the data collected. The first section provides an overview of the methodology used and any relevant challenges or limitations. The main body of the report begins with a geographic and demographic profile of the informal sites covered by the assessment. The next section presents key site vulnerabilities through the 'red flag' index developed with CCCM to highlight sectoral and cross-sectoral needs. This is then followed by key findings broken down by sector, including: shelter and site conditions, WASH, health, food security, livelihoods, education, protection, and safety and security.

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[12] IOM, Displacement Tracking Matrix (August 2018).
[13] *As reported by the combined IOM ILA III and RASP dataset population figures.*
[14] Informal sites are defined by the Iraq National CCCM Cluster as: places not built to accommodate the displaced, but that are serving that purpose, where authorities are not responsible for management and administration. In these sites, services and assistance may be available, but are not provided regularly and are at least five households.
[15] Critical shelters include: informal settlements, religious buildings, schools; unfinished or abandoned buildings; and other formal settlements/ collective center. IOM DTM Iraq.

METHODOLOGY

The seventh round of the Informal Site Assessment employed a qualitative methodology of key informant interviews (KIIs) with identified site representatives, to assess informal sites with 15 or more households nationwide. Data was collected from 16 July to 14 August 2018. KIIs were conducted using the RASP tool, with indicators modified in collaboration with CCCM Cluster and partners, as well as Shelter/NFI, WASH, Protection, Health, and Education Cluster focal points. This exercise was led by REACH and the CCCM Cluster, with data collection support from cluster partners nationwide. As this is based on a qualitative methodology, all findings are indicative only.

Sampling and population of interest

The population of interest includes IDP households residing in selected informal sites across Iraq, with 15 or more families. Informal sites were identified for assessment using data from IOM's Integrated Location Assessment (ILA), conducted between March to May 2018. This data was used to provide the locations, profile and size of informal sites in Iraq, as well as the contact information for site leaders. In total, 486 sites were identified for assessment across 14 governorates, although upon visiting, only 259 were found to meet the criteria for assessment.[16]

Primary data collection

During data collection, enumerators visited each identified site and, where possible, identified a site 'leader' or representative to first confirm whether the site was still populated and if it met the criteria for assessment. Where possible, the site leader or focal point was contacted in advance to confirm the location and verify the size of the site. Where the site did not meet the criteria, the reasons were recorded and the enumerator ended the interview. This was done to provide follow up data from IOMs ILA on the presence and population of IDPs in informal sites.

Where sites did meet criteria for assessment and the site leader consented to participate, the enumerator conducted the full key informant interview, using a KoBo tool on a smartphone or tablet. A number of questions relied on enumerator observation, such as evidence of overcrowding, or open defecation at the site. A total of 259 KIIs with site leaders were conducted, covering the same number of sites across 11 governorates and 28 districts.

Once data was collected and cleaning of data was completed, the data was analyzed using Excel and SPSS. All datasets and analyses have been reviewed and validated by the REACH technical Data Unit in Geneva. For more details on the data analysis process, see the Term of Reference on the REACH resource centre.

Challenges and limitations

1. As the methodology is based on one KII per site, the findings are indicative only, and should be read to identify potential service gaps at the site level, and not of individual household needs. The purpose of these findings is to provide a brief overview of potential need and highlight possible sectoral concerns to trigger further assessment and/or intervention.
2. The KI was selected based on their position as a site 'leader' or 'representative'. The formal establishment of an individual in this position varied considerably across sites, and therefore the reliability of the KI to report on site level needs does vary.
3. The definition and identification of an informal site is challenging due to the broad range of 'types' of settlements that fall under this classification, ranging from small congregations of IDP households in tents, to hundreds of households residing in clusters of unfinished buildings or rented accommodation in urban areas. Consequently, confirmation of informal sites visited relied on the self-reporting of households or residents, and belonging to a broader 'site' or 'site community'.
4. Sites were selected for assessment based on IOMs ILA, with enumerators using GPS coordinates from this dataset to locate sites. In certain cases, the GPS data was not clear enough to confirm the location of sites, and it is possible that sites were not included in the ILA, either due to not being included in the assessment, or being established at a later date. For these reasons, this assessment does not necessarily include all informal IDP sites with 15 or more households in Iraq.

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[16] Criteria included: being an informal site, with 15 or more households residing in the site.

<div style="background-color:#e8564f; color:white;">FINDINGS</div>

Informal IDP Site Profile

For Round VII of the RASP Informal Site assessment, 476 sites were selected to be visited, based on having been reported in IOM's ILA Round III to be settlements of critical shelters with 15 or more families. Of these, 259 sites were found to meet the criteria set out for assessment, and were surveyed.[17]

Approximate population Size

The total estimated population of these sites was almost 14,000 households, based on KI reporting on the population of each site, and approximating the total number of individuals.

Across governorates, the case-load of IDPs living in informal sites varied. The largest number of assessed sites were located in Dahuk, Ninewa, and Salah al-Din with 44%, 19%, and 14% respectively, of the total number of sites assessed. The approximated IDP household population of sites in these governorate accounted for roughly three quarters of those captured by this assessment (76%). This highlights initial areas of concern in terms of the potential number of people in need.

Table 1: Number of informal IDP sites visited and assessed, and estimated population figures of sites assessed[18]

Governorate[19]	Number of sites visited	Number of sites assessed	Estimated number of households	Estimated number of individuals
Anbar	8	7	1,060	4,300
Baghdad	5	4	350	1,700
Basrah	3	2	40	200
Dahuk	163	115	4,710	32,500
Diyala	11	0	N/A	N/A
Erbil	2	2	170	500
Kerbala	30	0	N/A	N/A
Kirkuk	27	23	1,100	11,800
Najaf	15	0	N/A	N/A
Ninewa	69	49	2,400	15,200
Qadissiya	1	1	70	300
Salah al-Din	106	37	3,510	24,100
Sulaymaniyah	27	18	530	3,000
Wassit	9	1	20	100
National	**476**	**259**	**13,960**	**93,700**

Furthermore, the size and population of each assessed site varied quite considerably, ranging from 15 households (with approximately 65 individuals), to over 1000 households with more than 13,000 individuals reported to be residing there.

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[17] Where sites did not meet the criteria for assessment, the reasons and GPS location were recorded and reported back to the CCCM cluster for operational purposes.

[18] Key Informants were asked to estimate the number of households and total number of individuals in their respective sites. All population figures should therefore be read as an approximation of the IDP population living in informal sites in each governorate, and not necessarily the true population size. Household figures have been rounded to the nearest 10, and individual figures rounded to the nearest 100. These population figures pertain only to those sites assessed, and does not necessarily represent the total population of informal IDP sites in Iraq.

[19] Due to the small number of sites assessed in Basrah, Erbil, Qadissiya, and Wassit, sectoral findings for sites in these governorates will not be reported at the governorate level.

Map 1: Distribution of assessed informal IDP sites across Iraq
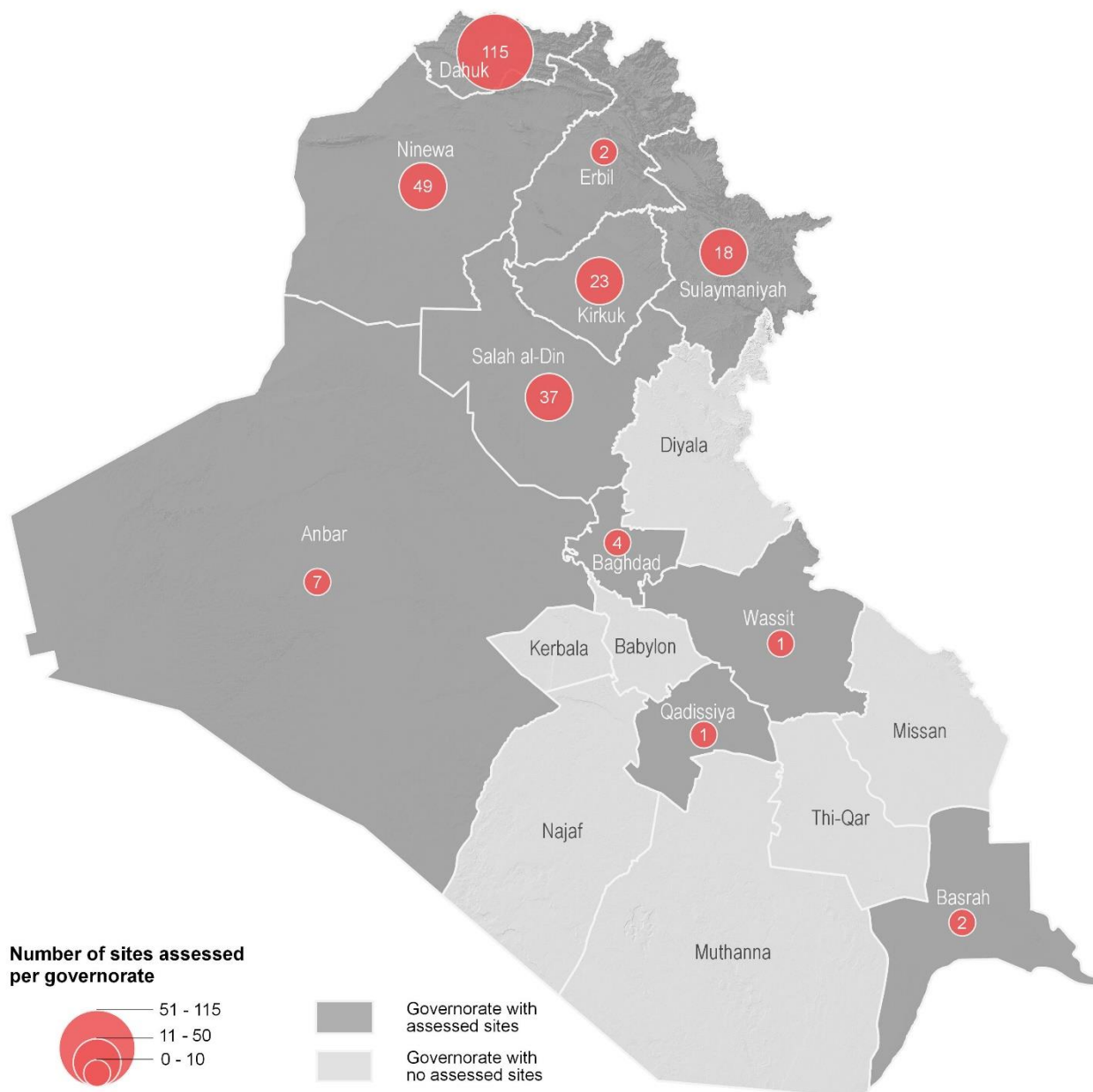
Area of Origin (AoO)

KIs were asked to report on the primary governorate of origin for the majority of site residents. **For roughly two thirds of sites, KIs reported that the majority of residents originated from Ninewa governorate (176 of 259).** The vast majority of these sites were located in Dahuk (114 of 115), followed by Ninewa (49 of 49). This reflects demographic trends across the wider IDP population, with 60% of the 1.9 million IDP population estimated to originate from Ninewa governorate.[20] Furthermore, **KIs reported that most families originated from Sinjar district (148 of 259).** As with IDP households in informal sites in Ninewa, the majority of IDPs in informal sites in Anbar, Kirkuk, and Salah al-Din were reported to originate from within the same governorate: 5 of 7, 19 of 23, and 30 of 37, respectively.

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[20] IOM, Displacement Tracking Matrix (August 2018). Area of origin findings from REACH-CCCM Intentions Surveys across in-camp, out-of-camp, and informal site IDP populations similarly found 58% of households reporting to originate from Ninewa, with 22% reporting to be from Sinjar district. REACH-CCCM Intentions Survey, National findings, August 2018.

The majority of assessed informal sites were reportedly first occupied between June 2014 and December 2014 (194 of 259). This largely correlates with reported waves of displacement in 2014, following the growth and occupation of the so-called Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) in Northern and Central regions of Iraq.[21] This also highlights the protracted nature of the displacement affecting households residing in informal sites, which may in turn limit their coping capacities and affect levels of vulnerability.

Movement Intentions

Given that the informal site IDP population is less regularly monitored or assessed than IDP households in formal camps, the stability of these populations, and general movement trends are not as well known. In order to gather an indication of population stability or intentions to move, KIs were asked to report on what they perceived to be the movement intentions of the majority of site residents over the three months following interview. **For almost all sites, the KI reported that the majority of residents likely intended to remain in their current location of displacement over the three months (239 of 259 sites).**

Although these reports are only indicative, this is supported by the findings from the REACH-CCCM intentions survey conducted across the largest informal sites. Concurrent with the informal sites assessment, REACH interviewed a representative number of households in 17 informal sites found to have 100 or more households, across Iraq.[22] That assessment found that across all 17 sites, only 3% of IDP households reported intending to return to their area of origin (AoO) within 12 months (up to the summer of 2019), with 79% reporting an explicit intention to remain in their current location.[23] **This further indicates that the vast majority of informal site households did not intend to return to their AoO in the short or longer term, and are likely to remain in protracted displacement in informal sites.**

Site Vulnerability and Red Flag Index

As part of the site assessment, REACH and CCCM developed a red-flagging index to highlight sites that may be in need of further assessment and/or humanitarian intervention. A total of 18 indicators that KIs for each site reported on were selected (outlined in Table 3), with at least one indicator included per sector covered in the assessment. These have been summed to provide an overall, cross-sectoral needs index of each site, as well as shown by indicator, to underline sector-specific concerns.

The median number of red flags reported per site was 7 out of 18. This did vary by governorate, however, with the average ranging from 3 red flags in Erbil, to 9 in Basrah.

Table 2: Average number of red flags per site, nationwide and by governorate

	Average number of red flags
Anbar	7
Baghdad	5
Basrah	9
Dahuk	8
Erbil	3
Kirkuk	8
Ninewa	7
Qadissiya	8
Salah al-Din	6
Sulaymaniyah	8
Wassit	4
National	**7**

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[21] https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/IRQ_2018_Full_HRP_0.pdf
[22] No sites in Salah al-Din were included in the intentions assessment due to protection concerns at the time of data collection.
[23] REACH-CCCM Intentions Survey, National findings, August 2018.

Red flag indicators

The below table lists each indicator included in the red flag index, and the number of sites where the key informant reported on the corresponding indicator. In terms of household vulnerabilities and protection concerns, **the vast majority of key informants reported to have female headed households in the site, as well as young people under the age of 18 engaged in employment in the 30 days prior to assessment** (224 of 259 for both indictors). Relatedly, in a notable minority of sites, there was reported presence of child headed households (79 of 259) and unaccompanied children (65 of 259). Whilst this does not provide a concrete indicator of the scale of vulnerability, **it indicates that there are IDP households residing in informal sites that are assumed to be more vulnerable, such as female headed households, and therefore may have potentially greater need in terms of provision of services and assistance.** This is further supported by the high number of sites where key informants reported the use of 'severe' livelihoods coping strategies by households in the 30 days prior to interview (199 or 259).[24]

Table 3: Number of reported red flags per indicator[25]

Sector	Red Flag Indicator	National[26]
Overview	**Total number of sites**	**259**
Demographics	Presence of female-headed households at the site[27]	**224**
Shelter	Site residents reported to have three or more shelter needs[28]	**131**
	No electrical supply reported to the whole site	**6**
	Sites display evidence of overcrowding	**179**
Site conditions	Presence of unlabeled or unknown chemicals and/or UXOs or mines on or near the site	**8**
	No fire safety equipment available within the site	**249**
WASH	On average households within sites spent seven or more days without access to their primary source of drinking water in the 30 days prior[29]	**107**
	Evidence of open defecation at the site	**56**
Health	The nearest accessible primary health care service reported to be further than 2km	**122**
Food Security	Presence of households within sites that did not have sufficient access to food in the seven days prior[30]	**114**
Livelihoods	Presence of households within sites using 'severe' livelihoods coping strategies in the 30 days prior	**199**
Education	Less than 75% of school-age children (6 to 17 years old) are attending formal education	**69**
Protection	Presence of young people under the age of 18 engaged in employment in the 30 days prior	**224**
	Presence of child-headed households at the site[31]	**79**
	Presence of unaccompanied children at the site[32]	**65**
	Households in the site have been forcibly evicted in the three months prior	**31**
	Sites experiencing tension between host community households and the site occupants	**14**
	Security incident reported to have occurred in or around the site in the 30 days prior	**2**

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[24] Severe' livelihoods-based coping strategies include: Selling productive assets or means of transport (e.g. sewing machines, wheelbarrow, bicycle, car, etc); Selling house or land; Reducing food intake; Sending children (under the age of 18) to work; Engaging in high risk or illegal work.

[25] Governorate level findings are reported in Annex 1.

[26] The colour coding is adjusted according to the proportion of sites where each flag is reported, on a scale of 0 out of 259, or 0%, in white, to 259 out of 259, or 100%, in dark red. This system is applied throughout the report.

[27] 'Presence' indicates that one or more of the relevant demographic was reported to be present in the site at the time of interview.

[28] Shelter needs include: protection from hazards (contamination from explosive remnants of war, land at risk of flooding or landslides, solid waste dumping site, fire risks, etc.); improve safety and security (shelter located in an insecure/ isolated area, shelter not solid enough to offer protection from intruders, not fenced, without security of tenure, etc); improved privacy and dignity (no separate rooms, not enough space, shared facilities such as toilets & showers, low/high ceilings, lack of ventilation, lack of natural lighting); protection from climatic conditions (leaking roof, floor not insulated, opening on the walls, broken windows, lack of ventilation, missing heating system, etc.); improved basic infrastructures and utilities (access to electricity, cooking and bathing/toilet facilities); and improved structural stability of the building (signs of failure such as leaning walls, big cracks and bends in structural components - beam, slab, column, rafter, purlin and wall risk of falling debris)

[29] The KI was asked to report how many days in the last 30 days, on average, households spent without access to their primary source of drinking water.

[30] The KI was asked to report how many days in the last seven days, on average, households did not have sufficient access to food. The red flag indicates where households were reported to have insufficient access for any days.

[31] Child-headed households were defined as households where the primary bread-winner/person in charge of financial management is under the age of 18.

[32] Unaccompanied children includes children (under the age of 18) that were not living with their mother or father, or any other adult relative. Children that were reported to be head of their household may not be considered as unaccompanied, and therefore not necessarily reported under this indicator.

In terms of sector-specific needs, indicators relating to site conditions and shelter were frequently reported by key informants, suggesting that the IDP population in informal sites are in need of shelter and CCCM-based services and assistance. For example, almost all sites reported to not have any fire safety equipment available (249 or 259), as well as high instances of enumerator-observed overcrowding (179 or 259). In addition, in roughly half of all assessed sites, it was reported that there were three or more needs to improve shelter conditions present at the site level. Such needs included, but were not limited to, protection from climactic conditions, improved privacy/sense of dignity, improved basic infrastructure, and improved safety/security.

Many sites were also reported to have limited access to goods and services to meet basic needs, including insufficient access to food (114 of 259), limited access to primary source of drinking water (107 or 259), and needing to travel further than 2km to the nearest accessible primary healthcare facility (122 or 259). The reasons for these access issues will likely vary across sites, whether due, for example, to financial cost, limited infrastructure, issues with freedom of movement, or the site being in a remote area. However, these indicators highlight were there may be key service gaps in order to meet needs of IDP households in informal sites, and underscores the need for further sector-specific assessment.

Although certain demographic profiles were consistently reported by KIs in sites across governorates, such as the high proportion of sites with female headed households and young people under the age of 18 working, there were some notable sectoral differences. These findings may further guide targeting of additional assessments of or service provision to the IDP population in informal sites. An overview of the number of sites where each indicator was reported, at the governorate level, is provided in Annex 1. These differences will also be explored in the following sections of the report outlining key sectoral findings.

Site Typology

Across Iraq, the most commonly reported shelter type for IDPs in informal sites was unfinished or abandoned buildings (UABs), with 145 of 259 sites reporting this type of shelter to be present. This was followed by houses or apartments (114 of 259) and then tents (75 of 259). This indicates that the majority of assessed sites were likely in urban or peri-urban settings, which has implications for proximity and access to basic services.

Figure 1: Number of sites, by reported shelter type present[33]

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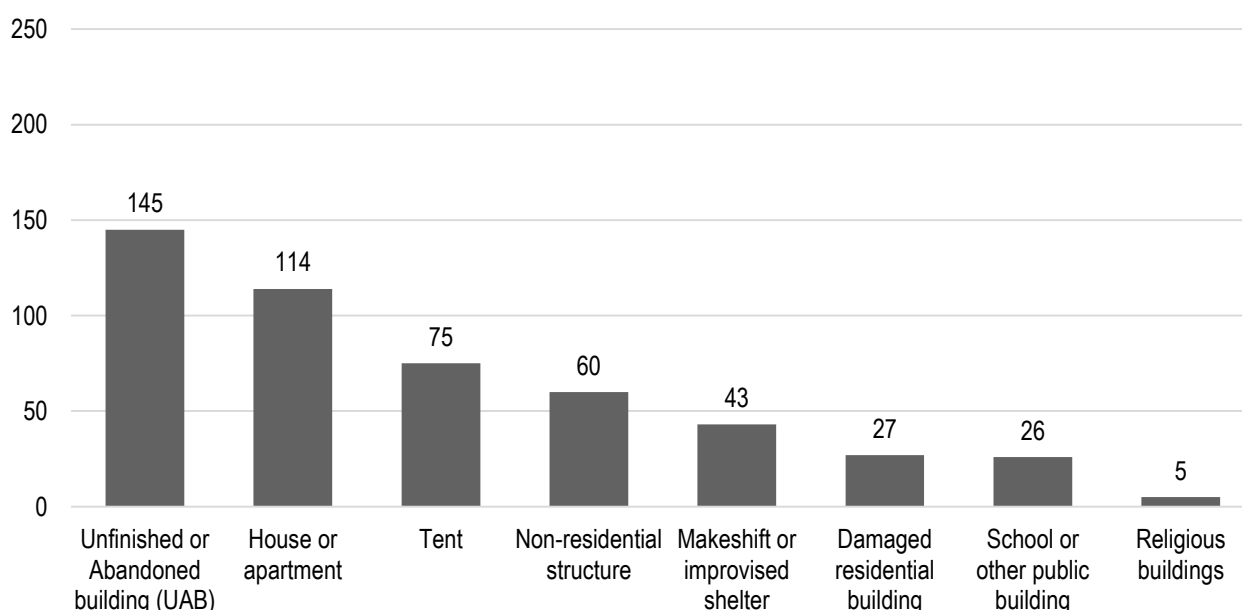
[33] Multiple shelter types could be reported and findings may therefore exceed the total number of sites assessed.

The large number of sites where IDP households were reported to live in UABs suggests that shelter is a primary need. UABs were reported as shelter types in roughly two-thirds of sites assessed in Dahuk (76 of 115), Kirkuk (15 of 23) and Ninewa (31 of 49). A further 15 sites with IDP households reported to live in UABs were assessed in Salah al-Din. For these sites, both in-kind and cash-based assistance may enable households to improve their shelter situation.

In addition, a considerable minority of sites reported IDP households to have tented shelters (75 of 259) or makeshift or improvised structures (43 of 259). Almost all IDP sites with tented shelters were found in Dahuk (57 of 115), Ninewa (10 or 49), and Anbar (4 of 7). A further 29 of the total 43 sites consisting of makeshift or improvised shelters were found in Dahuk. These findings suggest **that the informal IDP site population in Dahuk is especially vulnerable with regards to shelter needs, especially during winter months.**

Table 4: Number of sites where each shelter type was reported, by governorate[34]

	Anbar	Baghdad	Dahuk	Kirkuk	Ninewa	Salah al-Din	Sulaymaniyah
Total number of sites	**7**	**4**	**115**	**23**	**49**	**37**	**18**
UAB	2	1	76	15	31	15	5
House or apartment	3	1	44	17	23	4	17
Tent	4	0	57	2	10	1	1
Non-residential structure	0	1	24	4	14	9	8
Makeshift or improvised shelter	2	2	29	0	4	5	1
Damaged residential building	0	1	7	5	4	3	6
School or other public building	0	2	4	0	5	14	1
Religious buildings	1	1	1	0	0	2	0
Other	0	0	1	0	0	1	3

Shelter

Red Flag Shelter Indicators

Overall, the most frequently reported type of red flag shelter indicator reported was evidence of overcrowding, such as more than one family living in a single room, or more than 10 people sharing a bathroom (179 of 259 sites). Of red flag shelter indicators overall, these were reported most frequently in informal IDP sites in Dahuk and Ninewa. **These indicators further highlight the need for additional shelter assistance to informal sites in terms of greater space or more structures, as well as to improve quality of the existing shelters, in Dahuk and Ninewa in particular.**

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[34] Multiple shelter types could be reported and findings may therefore exceed the total number of sites assessed.

Table 5: Number of sites where each red flag shelter indicator was reported, by governorate

	Anbar	Baghdad	Dahuk	Kirkuk	Ninewa	Salah al-Din	Sulaymaniyah
Total number of sites	**7**	**4**	**115**	**23**	**49**	**37**	**18**
Site residents reported to have three or more shelter needs	6	2	70	6	28	14	3
No electrical supply reported to the whole site	1	0	0	0	4	1	0
Sites display evidence of overcrowding	4	1	94	23	29	16	10

Reported Shelter Needs

Site KIs were asked to report what, if any, shelter needs were experienced by households in the site; almost all sites were reported to have at least one shelter need (257 of 259), 131 of which had three or more needs reported. The most frequently cited needs were for improved privacy and dignity (173 of 259) and protection from climactic conditions (173 or 259), followed by improved basic infrastructure and utilities (136 of 259).

Figure 2: Number of sites, by reported shelter need[35]
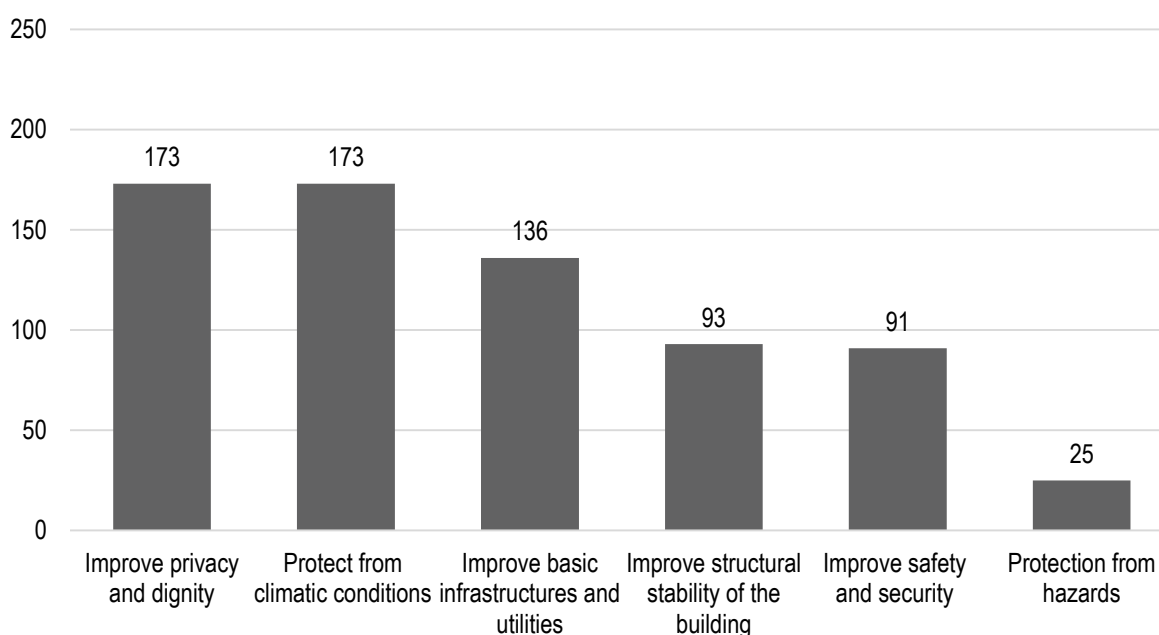
Protection from climactic conditions, indicating a need for shelter rehabilitation, was the most frequently reported need amongst sites in Anbar (7 of 7), Dahuk (87 of 115), Ninewa (39 of 49), and Salah al-Din (22 of 37). However, the need to improve privacy and dignity was most frequently reported in Kirkuk (22 of 23) and Sulaymaniyah (8 of 18), and was reported by KIs in at least half of sites in all other governorates.

The need for protection against climactic conditions was further emphasised by the reporting of instances of flooding in the six months prior to data collection (83 of 259). The majority of these sites were reported in Dahuk (63) and Salah al-Din (11). For sites where flooding was reportedly experienced in the six months prior, the median number of times the site had flooded was two, suggesting that this may be a continuous risk to shelter security in these sites.

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[35] Multiple shelter needs could be reported and findings may therefore exceed the total number of sites assessed.
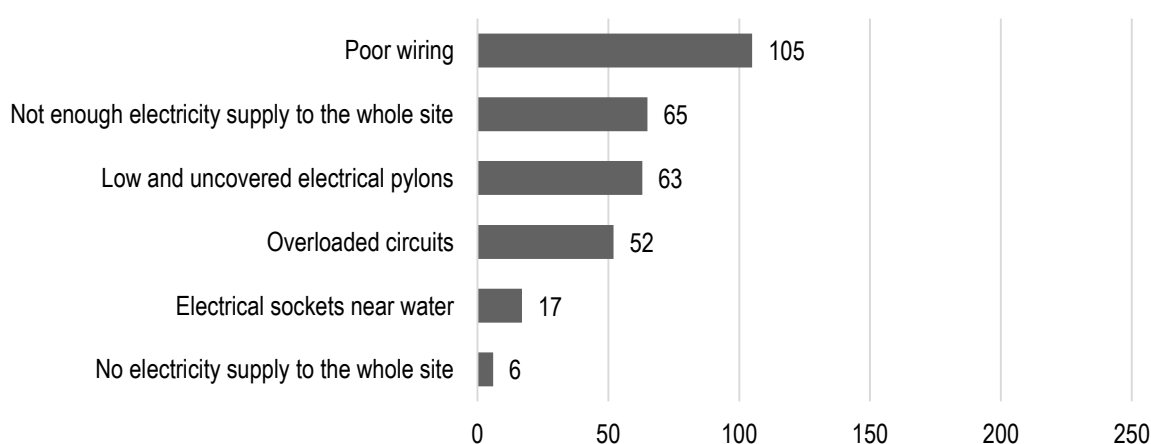
Electricity

Almost all informal sites were reported to have some level of access to electricity, with only 6 of 259 KIs reporting no electrical supply to the whole site. However, the level of access to electricity did vary and a variety of electricity concerns were reported. In 206 of 259 sites, all IDP households in the site were reported to have access to electricity for at least 4 hours per day in the 30 days prior to data collection, which was established as the threshold for minimum level of access to electricity.

In addition to reporting the level of access to electricity, site KIs were also asked to report if there were any electrical concerns at the site. The most frequently cited concern was poor wiring (105 of 259), followed by the supply being insufficient (65 of 259) and low and uncovered electrical pylons (63 of 259).

Figure 3: Number of sites, by reported electrical concern[36]

The highest number of sites reporting at least one type of electricity concern was found in Dahuk (53 of 115), followed by Salah al-Din (26 of 37) and Ninewa (21 of 37). These findings suggest that **although the majority of sites may have at least minimal access to electricity on a daily basis, there are persistent concerns related to electricity infrastructure that may require intervention.**

Site Conditions

Red Flag Site Condition Indicators

A small number of the informal sites assessed reportedly faced the risk of either: unexploded ordinance or mines, or unlabeled or unknown chemicals on the site or in the surrounding areas (8 of 259). Of the 8 sites where thid was reported, seven were in Dahuk and one in Salah al-Din. However, **the high number of KIs reporting their sites not to have any available fire safety equipment indicates a considerable potential health and safety risk to IDP households in informal sites (249 of 259).**

Table 6: Number of sites where each red flag site condition indicator was reported, by governorate

	Anbar	Baghdad	Dahuk	Kirkuk	Ninewa	Salah al-Din	Sulaymaniyah
Total number of sites	7	4	115	23	49	37	18
Presence of unlabeled or unknown chemicals and/or UXOs or mines on or near the site	0	0	7	0	0	1	0
No fire safety equipment available within the site	3	2	115	23	49	34	18

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[36] Multiple electrical concerns could be reported and findings may therefore exceed the total number of sites assessed.

Water, Health and Sanitation

Red Flag WASH Indicators

In over a third of sites, KIs reported that on average, households within the site had spent seven or more days without access to their primary source of drinking water in the 30 days prior to data collection (107 of 259). The largest number of sites where this red flag indicator was reported were found in Dahuk (63), and almost all assessed sites in Kirkuk were reported to face this challenge (19 of 23). When asked where households source water elsewhere, **KIs reported that residents would store water from communal tanks in jerry cans, or purchase water when necessary, indicating an additional burden on household resources.**

In addition to drinking water needs, red flag WASH indicators also included reports of evidence of open defecation at the site, based on enumerator observation. This indicator was reported in over a fifth of sites (56 of 259), with most found in Kirkuk (16), Dahuk (14), and Salah al-Din (11). This highlights the need for improved sanitation infrastructure and potentially hygiene promotion interventions.

Table 7: Number of sites where each red flag WASH indicator was reported, by governorate

	Anbar	Baghdad	Dahuk	Kirkuk	Ninewa	Salah al-Din	Sulaymaniyah
Total number of sites	**7**	**4**	**115**	**23**	**49**	**37**	**18**
On average households within sites spent seven or more days without access to their primary source of drinking water in the 30 days prior	3	1	63	19	10	7	1
Evidence of open defecation at the site	0	0	14	16	7	11	5

Drinking Water

In addition to the red flag indicator highlighting where drinking water resources were limited, **KIs were asked to report on a number of factors concerning availability and quality of drinking water in sites.** Combined, these findings provide a fuller picture of the water needs of IDP households residing in informal sites. **In three-quarters of sites, the KI reported the municipal network to be the primary source of drinking water for households in the site (196 of 259).**

Figure 4: Number of sites, by reported primary source of drinking water
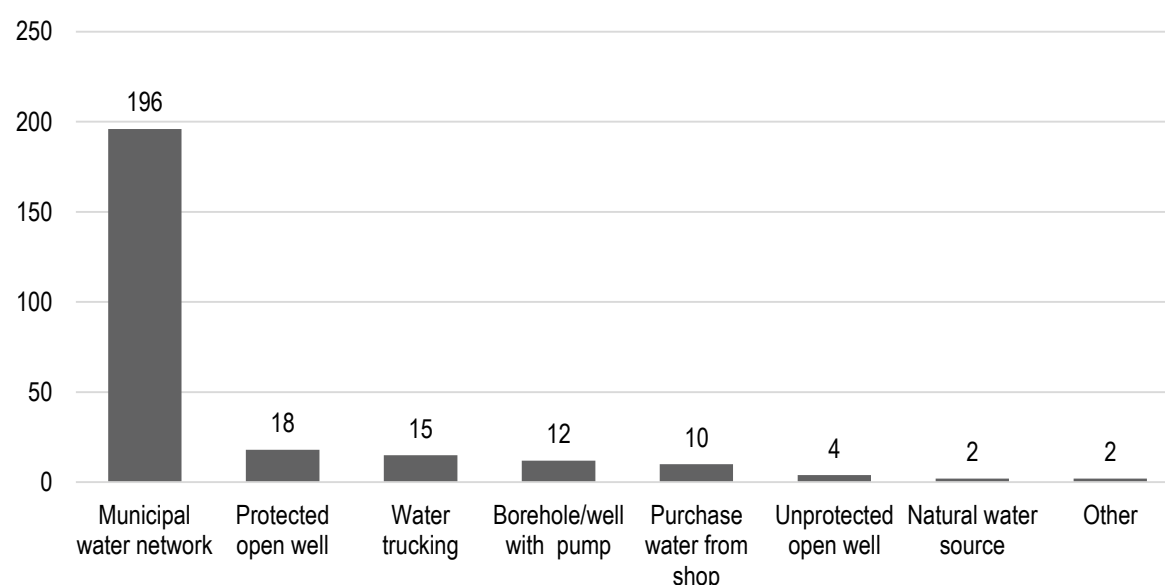
Municipal networks were the primary source for almost all sites in Dahuk (112 or 115), Salah al-Din (33 of 37), and Anbar (6 of 7), and over half of sites in Ninewa (28 of 49) and Kirkuk (15 of 23). An additional 30 sites were reported to rely primarily on protected wells or a borehole/well with a functioning pump, which highlights particular vulnerability in terms of WASH needs. A number of sites were also reported to purchase their drinking water, whether through trucking or from shops (25 of 259), indicating a continuous burden on household resources to meet basic needs.

KIs were also asked to report on the quality of the primary source of drinking water, and whether it was acceptable in terms of colour, taste, and smell. **In roughly a third of sites, the quality of water was reported to be unacceptable (95 of 259).** This was reported in almost half of all sites in Dahuk (55 of 115) and Kirkuk (10 of 23).

Figure 5: Number of sites, by reported acceptability of the primary source of drinking water, by governorate

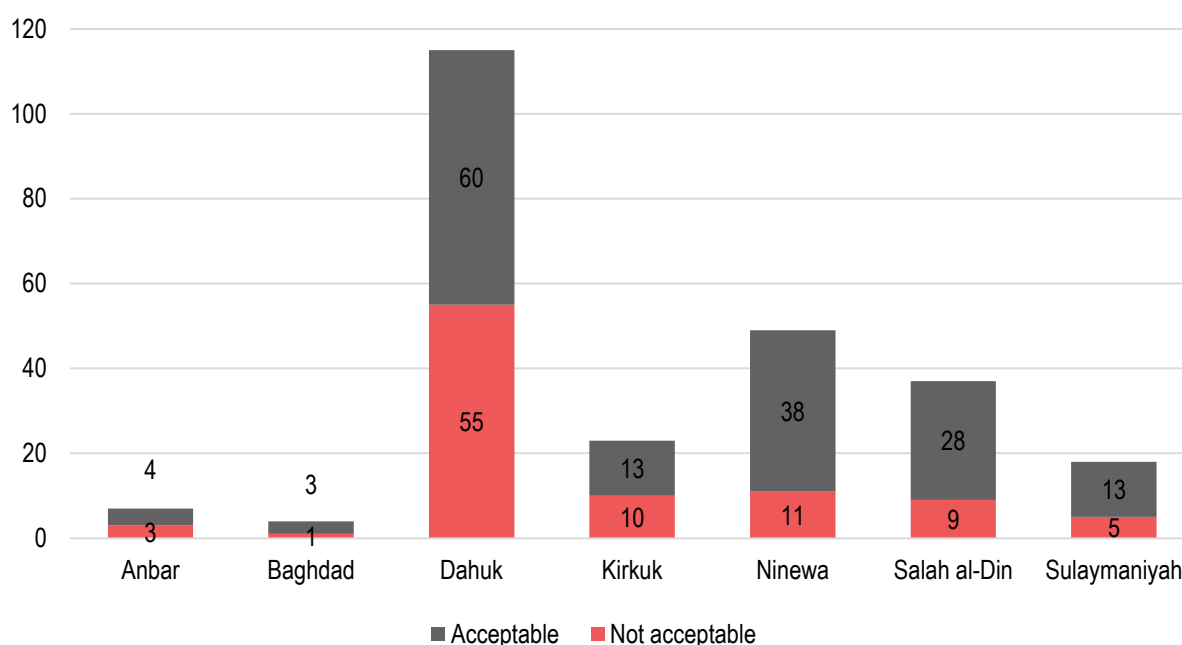Interestingly, over a third of sites that reported the municipal water network to be their primary source of drinking water reported that the quality was not acceptable (74 of 196); this also made up the majority of all sites reporting the water quality to be not acceptable (74 of 95). This highlights that, **regardless of primary water source, a considerable number of sites may be in need of equipment and resources to filter drinking water.**

Furthermore, for a number of sites, drinking water needs were compounded by limited access. **KIs from 57 sites reported that there was no access to the primary source of drinking water for seven or more days and that it was not acceptable in terms of colour, taste, and smell.** Of these 57 sites, 36 were reported in Dahuk, highlighting a particular need for WASH intervention in informal IDP sites in the governorate.

Table 8: Number of sites by reported access to, and acceptability of quality from, primary source of drinking water

		Number of days households spent without access to their primary source of drinking water in the 30 days prior	
		Fewer than 7 days	7 or more days
Primary source of drinking water acceptable in terms of colour, taste, and smell	Not acceptable	38	57
	Acceptable	114	50

Sanitation and Waste Disposal

As noted, in 56 of 259 sites, enumerators observed evidence of open defecation, highlighting potential sanitation and health concerns in these sites. The majority of these sites were recorded in Kirkuk (16), Dahuk (14), Salah al-Din (11), and Ninewa (7). In addition, KIs were asked to report the primary method of waste disposal, in order to develop a better understanding of any potential sanitation needs or health concerns. **In over half of sites, the primary method reported was municipal waste collection (136 of 259).**

Figure 6: Number of sites, by reported primary method of waste disposal
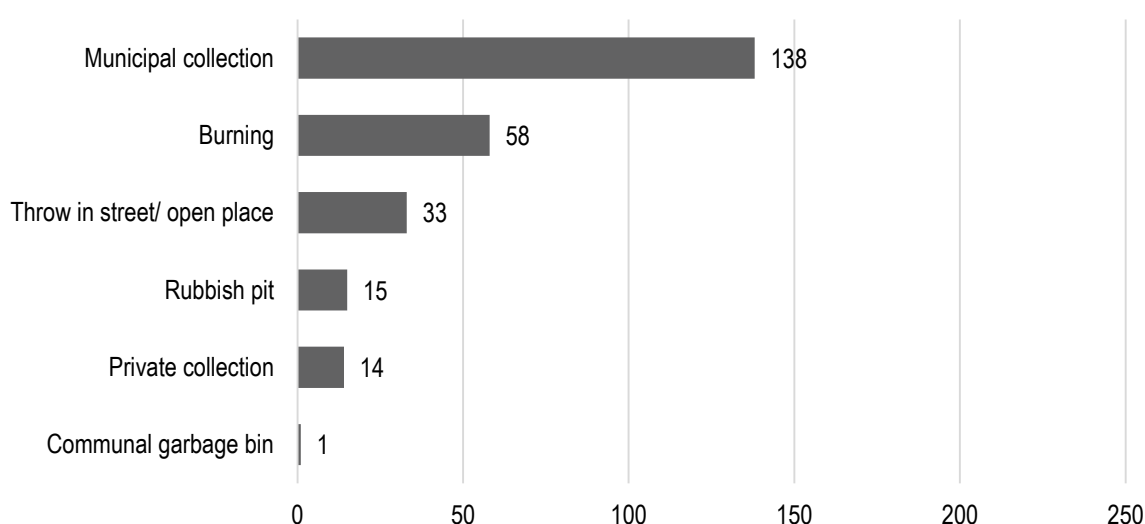
However, in 104 sites, the primary method reported may indicate potential public health concerns, including: burning waste, throwing in the street/open place, or a rubbish pit. Most of these sites were recorded in Dahuk (35), Kirkuk (20), Ninewa (19), and Salah al-Din (16).

Health

Red Flag Health Indicators

In 122 of 259 sites assessed, KIs reported that the nearest accessible basic healthcare facility was further than 2km from the site. This was reported for almost all sites in Sulaymaniyah (15 of 18), but the highest number of sites reported to be more than 2km were recorded in Dahuk (52), followed by Ninewa (21). **This red flag suggests that healthcare may not be fully accessible to IDP households in these sites when most urgently needed. Furthermore, such access issues may be compounded by limitations on freedom of movement, or cost of travel.**

Table 9: Number of sites where each red flag health indicator was reported, by governorate

	Anbar	Baghdad	Dahuk	Kirkuk	Ninewa	Salah al-Din	Sulaymaniyah
Total number of sites	**7**	**4**	**115**	**23**	**49**	**37**	**18**
The nearest accessible primary healthcare service reported to be further than 2km	3	1	52	13	21	14	15

Healthcare Needs

KIs were asked to report on a number of indicators relating to potential healthcare needs within sites, to better understand where further health-based assessments or intervention may be most needed. In almost all sites, KIs reported that at least one individual had a permanent physical disability or chronic illness (219 and 257 of 259 respectively), or that at least one women was pregnant or lactating at the time of data collection (254 of 259).

Figure 7: Number of sites where at least one individual was reported to have a permanent disability or chronic illness, or where at least one woman to be pregnant or lactating at the time of data collection

Number of sites where at least one individual has a permanent physical disability

40
219

■ Yes ■ No

Number of sites where at least one individual has a chronic illness

2
257

■ Yes ■ No

Number of sites where at least one woman is pregnant or lactating

5
254

■ Yes ■ No
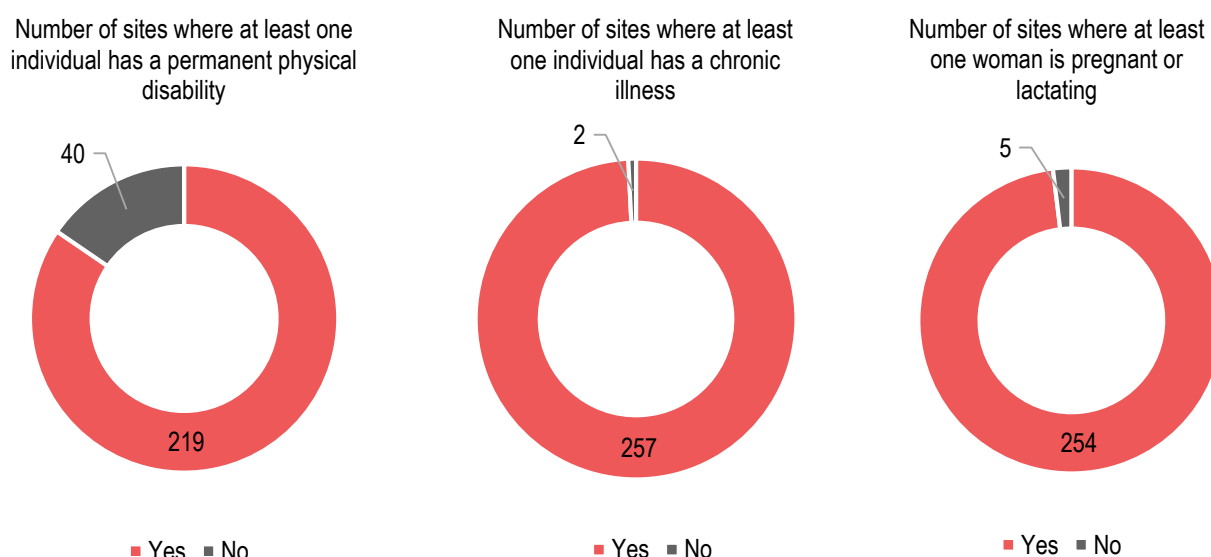
KIs also reported whether any individuals had experiences health issues in the 30 days prior to data collection, and if so, what kind of issues had been experienced. Again, **almost all sites were reported to have had at least one individual experiencing health issues (217 of 259).** The most frequently reported health issues were skin diseases such as scabies, contagious rashes, etc. (152 of 259), and cases of diarrhea (132 of 259).

Of the sites where at least one health issue was reported to have been experienced in the 30 days prior, half were reported to be further than 2km from the nearest primary healthcare facility (108 of 217). These sites were found in Dahuk (45), Ninewa (18), Sulaymaniyah (15), Salah al-Din (14), Kirkuk (13), and Anbar (3).

Table 10: Number of sites by reported distance to primary healthcare service and number of health issues experienced by site residents in the 30 days prior to data collection

		Reported distance to nearest accessible primary healthcare service	
		2km or less	Further than 2km
Any health issues experienced by site residents in 30 days prior to data collection	At least one health issue reported	109	108
	No health issues reported	28	14

Access to Healthcare

Findings suggesting that many of the sites assessed faced limited access to healthcare services were further supported by **KIs from 249 of 259 sites reporting that households encountered problems accessing healthcare when they needed it in the 30 days preceding data collection. Two of the most frequently cited reasons highlighted the cost of healthcare as a primary barrier to access**, with 173 of 249 KIs reporting that residents had insufficient funds to purchase medication, and 133 reporting that the cost of healthcare was too high.

Other reasons cited related to the capacity of accessible facilities, either in that they reportedly lacked medication (147) or qualified healthcare professionals (114), or were otherwise not equipped to deal with the issue (51).

In addition, although 219 of 259 sites reported that at least one individual in the site had a permanent physical disability, only 33 reported that there were adequate facilities and/or services available for persons with physical, mental, or intellectual disabilities. These findings further highlight the **high level of need for regular access to healthcare across nearly all informal IDP sites, and the limited access to primary healthcare services for IDPs in informal sites across Iraq, primarily due to cost or distance.**

Food Security

Red Flag Food Security Indicators

In just under half of all informal IDP sites assessed, the KI reported that households in the site did not have sufficient access to food for at least one day in the seven days prior to data collection (114 of 259). This was reported most prevalently in sites in Dahuk (61), Ninewa (19), Salah al-Din (14), and Sulaymaniyah (12).

Table 11: Number of sites where each red flag food security indicator was reported, by governorate

	Anbar	Baghdad	Dahuk	Kirkuk	Ninewa	Salah al-Din	Sulaymaniyah
Total number of sites	**7**	**4**	**115**	**23**	**49**	**37**	**18**
Presence of households within sites that did not have sufficient access to food for at least one day in the seven days prior	3	1	61	1	19	14	12

Whilst the number of sites where households did not have sufficient access to food provides a useful initial indicator of where IDP households may face food insecurity, KIs were also asked to report of the nature of any access issues faced, as well as distance to the nearest accessible market. **KIs from the majority of sites reported that households faced at least some challenges to accessing food (215 of 259).**

The most frequently reported challenge to accessing food was limited economic resources (166 of 259), followed by limited access due physical or logistical constraints such as damaged roads, long distance to travel, or vehicles not being available (92 of 259). These challenges were reported in a number of sites across all governorates. Furthermore, 73 sites were reported to be more than 2km from the nearest accessible and functional market; KIs from almost all of these sites reported that households faced challenges to accessing food (67 of 73). As with reported difficulties in accessing healthcare services, **reported challenges to accessing food highlighted cost and distance as primary barriers to IDP households in informal sites being able to meet basic needs.**

Figure 8: Number of sites where households faced challenges to accessing food, by type of challenge
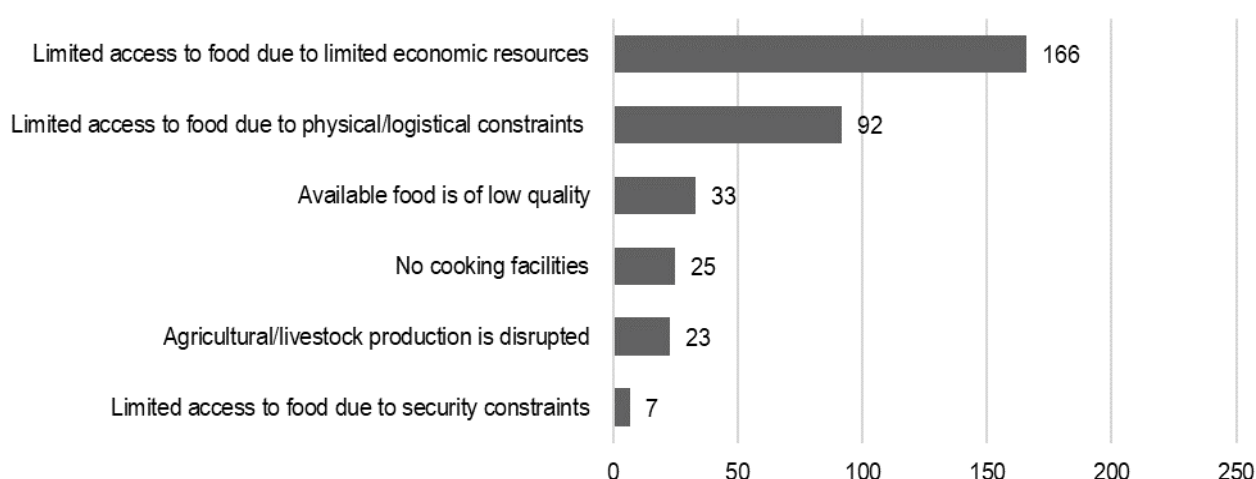
Livelihoods

Red Flag Livelihoods Indicators

In three-quarters of sites, KIs reported that household has been using 'severe' livelihoods coping strategies in the 30 days prior to data collection (199 of 259). Such strategies include: selling productive assets or means of transport (e.g. sewing machines, wheelbarrow, bicycle, car, etc); selling house or land; reducing food intake; sending children (under the age of 18) to work; or engaging in high risk or illegal work. This was reported by KIs in at least half of all sites in Baghdad and Salah al-Din, and more than three-quarters of sites in all other governorates.

Table 12: Number of sites where each red flag livelihoods indicator was reported, by governorate

	Anbar	Baghdad	Dahuk	Kirkuk	Ninewa	Salah al-Din	Sulaymaniyah
Total number of sites	**7**	**4**	**115**	**23**	**49**	**37**	**18**
Presence of households within sites using 'severe' livelihoods coping strategies in the 30 days prior	6	2	98	18	37	18	17

Of the 'severe' strategies, the most frequently reported was households sending children (under the age of 18) to work (151 of 259). This strategy was reportedly used in over a third of assessed sites in Dahuk (77 of 115), Kirkuk (16 of 23), and Sulaymaniyah (12 of 18), and over half in Ninewa (27 of 49). Interestingly, this did not correlate to the number of sites where KIs reported children to be working in the 30 days prior to interview (224 of 259). This suggests that for some of the informal IDP site population, sending minors to work is not necessarily seen as a type of coping strategy.

Figure 9: Number of sites, by reported type of livelihoods-based coping strategy used by households in the 30 days prior to data collection[37]

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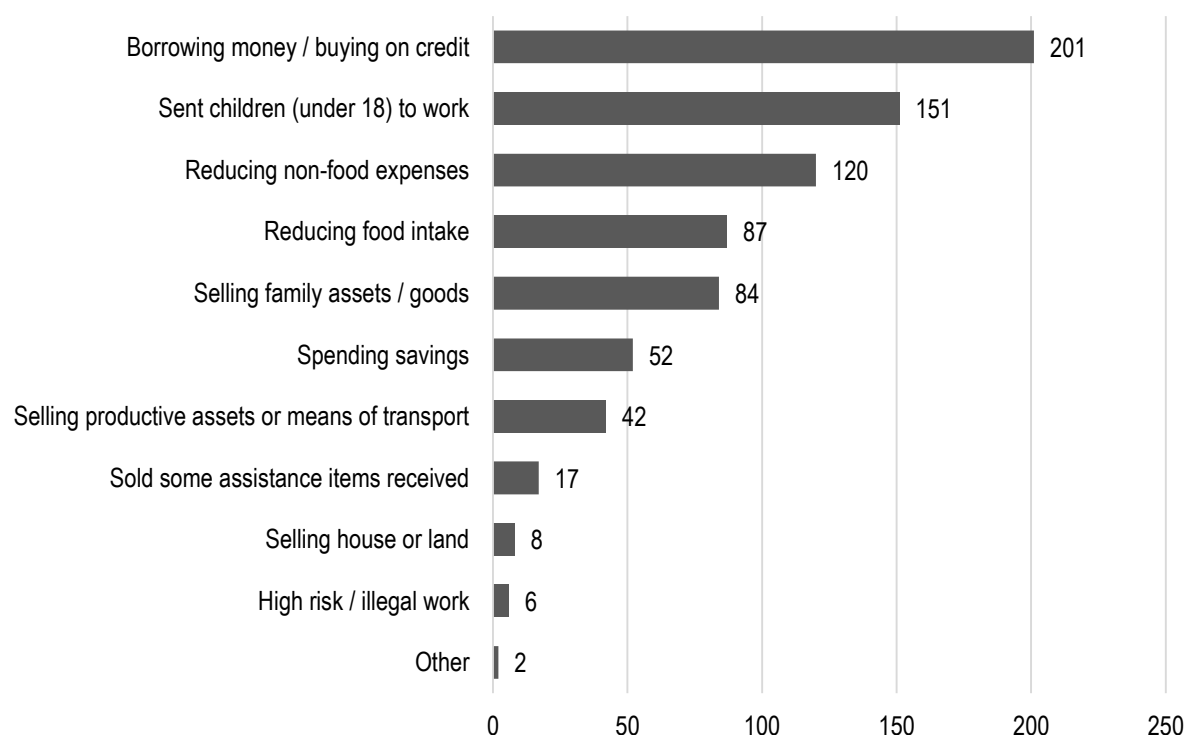
[37] Coping strategies categorized as 'severe' are highlighted in black.

**The second most frequently reported 'severe' coping strategy used was households reducing food intake (87 of 259). Of these 87 sites, 57 also reported red flag food security indicators of households not having sufficient access to food for at least one day** in the seven days prior to data collection. These sites were reported in Dahuk (30), Ninewa (9), Sulaymaniyah (8), Salah al-Din (5), Basrah (2), Qadissiya (1), and Anbar (1). These findings suggest that IDPs in these informal sites may be particularly vulnerable to food insecurity and in need of cash-based or in-kind assistance.

Overall, 251 of 259 KIs reported that at least one type of livelihoods-based coping strategy was being used by households in their respective sites. The top three reported strategies were borrowing money or buying food on credit (201 of 251), sending children (under the age of 18) to work (151 of 259), and reducing non-food expenditures such as healthcare and education (120 of 259). **The level of reported use of livelihoods-based coping strategies, and of borrowing in particular, reflects the frequent reporting of financial challenges to accessing basic needs and services such as healthcare and food, suggesting that distinct sectoral needs in informal sites may be rooted in economic insecurity of IDP households.**

Income and Employment

The most frequently cited primary livelihoods source was casual unskilled labour (150 of 259), followed by unskilled wage labour (133 of 259), and unskilled agricultural labour (91 of 259). **The high prevalence of unstable and low wage labour reported to be primary livelihoods sources further underscores the potentially high level of economic insecurity amongst the informal site IDP population.**

Figure 10: Number of sites by primary livelihood source (top seven sources)[38]
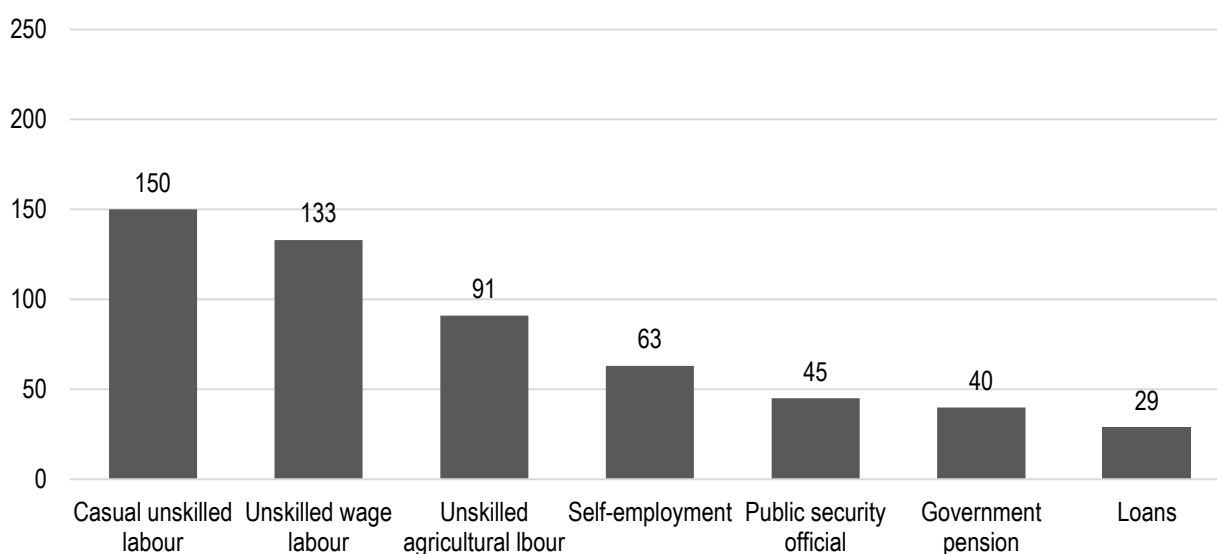
Furthermore, a number of sites reported non-sustainable livelihoods sources, including loans (29 of 259), humanitarian aid (18 of 259), selling assets (7 of 259), in-kind or cash gifts (7 of 259), and savings (5 of 259). Of all sites assessed, KIs in 5 reported only non-sustainable income as primary livelihoods sources (4 in Ninewa and 1 in Salah al-Din). **These sites may be especially vulnerable whether due to lack of access to, low availability of, or inability to engage in, gainful employment.**

KIs were also asked to estimate how many households in their respective sites had earned an income in the 30 days prior to interview. In 26 sites, the KI reported that all households had earned an income. Conversely, KIs from 12 sites reported that no households had earned an income; this included 8 sites in Salah al-Din, 3 in Ninewa, and 1 in Dahuk.

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[38] Respondents could select up to three sources and findings may therefore exceed the total number of sites assessed. Non-sustainable livelihoods sources are highlighted in black.

Excluding sites where no households were reported to have earned an income, the proportion of households within each site that had been able to earn an income did range considerably. The widest range was reported across sites in Ninewa: from sites where all households had earned an income (100%) to almost none (3%). Between governorates, the median percentage of households that had earned an income in the 30 days prior also varied, from 31% of households on average per site in Ninewa, to 100% in Baghdad. **For sites in Anbar, Dahuk, Ninewa, and Salah al-Din, the median percentage of households reported to have earned an income was below 50%, highlighting potentially greater economic insecurity amongst IDPs in informal sites in these governorates.**

Table 13: Maximum, minimum, and median percentage of households in a site reported to have earned an income in the 30 days prior to data collection, by governorate

		Anbar	Baghdad	Dahuk	Kirkuk	Ninewa	Salah al-Din	Sulaymaniyah
Total number of sites		**7**	**4**	**114**	**23**	**46**	**29**	**18**
Percentage of households reported to have earned an income in the 30 days prior	Maximum	62%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
	Minimum	20%	23%	10%	44%	3%	8%	33%
	Median	40%	100%	49%	88%	31%	47%	87%

Assistance

Across all sites, 205 KIs reported that no assistance had been received by households in the 30 days prior to data collection. The 54 sites that did report at least one type of assistance to have been received were recorded in Kirkuk (14), Salah al-Din (12), Sulaymaniyah (12), Ninewa (10), Anbar (4), Baghdad (1), and Erbil (1).[39] The most frequently reported type of assistance received was food (42 of 54), followed by in-kind assistance or NFIs (28), cash (3), healthcare services (3), shelter repairs (3), and vouchers (1).[40]

Education

Red Flag Education Indicators

In a quarter of sites KIs reported that the number of school-aged children able to access formal education was less than 75% (69 of 259). This was reported for nearly all sites in Sulaymaniyah (15 of 18), and a notable minority of sites across all other governorates.

Table 14: Number of sites where each red flag education indicator was reported, by governorate

	Anbar	Baghdad	Dahuk	Kirkuk	Ninewa	Salah al-Din	Sulaymaniyah
Total number of sites	**7**	**4**	**115**	**23**	**49**	**37**	**18**
Less than 75% of school-age children (6 to 17 years old) are attending formal education	2	1	19	4	15	10	15

In order to better understand why school-aged children were reportedly unable to attend formal education, KIs were also asked to report if households in their respective sites faced any challenges to accessing education, and if so, what were they. **Over three-quarters of KIs reported that households faced challenges to accessing education (212 of 259). This was consistent across governorates**, with the exception of Baghdad, where only one of four sites reported households to face challenges in accessing education.

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[39] It is important to note that these numbers may be a result of under-reporting and not necessarily reflect the exact number of sites that received distributions and services.

[40] Multiple assistance types could be reported and findings may therefore exceed the total number of sites that reported to receive assistance.

Of the sites where challenges were reportedly encountered, the most frequently cited challenges were limited economic resources for school fees, supplies, and transport (112 of 212), the long distance required to travel (106 of 212), and physical or logistical constraints (104 of 212).

Figure 11: Number of sites reported to face challenges accessing education, by challenge reported
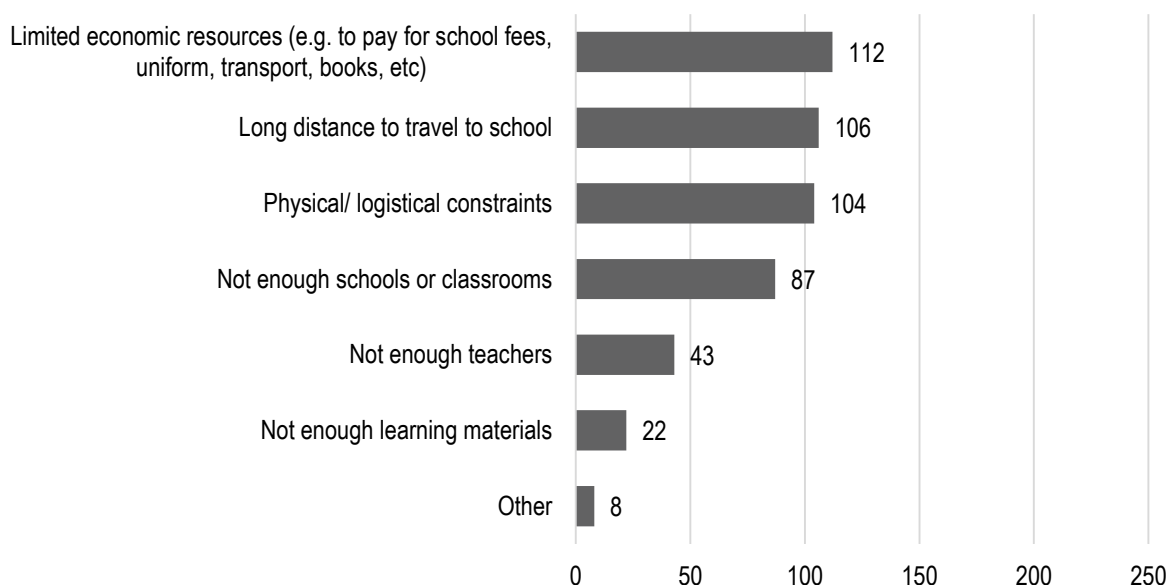
Reported challenges did not vary much across the governorates, with the same top three challenges reported in all governorates, with the exception of Kirkuk, where lack of resources was reported to be the primary issue. **These findings further indicate that distance and cost present considerable barriers to accessing basic needs and services for IDP households in informal sites.**

Table 15: Number of sites reported to face challenges to accessing formal education and top three primary reported challenges, by governorate

		Anbar	Baghdad	Dahuk	Kirkuk	Ninewa	Salah al-Din	Sulaymaniyah
Total number of sites reported to face challenges		**6**	**1**	**95**	**19**	**40**	**29**	**17**
Primary reported challenges	1	**Physical/ logistical constraints (5)**	**Physical/ logistical constraints (1)**	**Long distance to travel (66)**	**Not enough schools/ classrooms (15)**	**Limited economic resources (19)**	**Physical/ logistical constraints (17)**	**Limited economic resources (14)**
	2	Limited economic resources (5)	N/A	Limited economic resources (52)	Not enough teachers (13)	Long distance to travel (19)	Limited economic resources (16)	Long distance to travel (11)
	3	Long distance to travel (2)	N/A	Physical/ logistical constraints (47)	Not enough materials (3); Physical/ logistical constraints (3)	Physical/ logistical constraints (18)	Not enough teachers (7); Long distance to travel (7)	Physical/ logistical constraints (10)

Protection

Red Flag Protection Indicators

Overall, 233 sites reported at least one red flag protection indicator, all of which reported at least one indicator highlighting potential child protection concerns: either young people under the age of 18 working (224 of 259), presence of child-headed households (79 of 259) or unaccompanied children (65 of 259).

Table 16: Number of sites where each red flag protection indicator was reported, by governorate

	Anbar	Baghdad	Dahuk	Kirkuk	Ninewa	Salah al-Din	Sulaymaniyah
Total number of sites	**7**	**4**	**115**	**23**	**49**	**37**	**18**
Presence of young people under the age of 18 engaged in employment in the 30 days prior	7	4	102	23	38	28	18
Presence of child-headed households at the site	2	0	37	14	11	14	1
Presence of unaccompanied children at the site	0	1	22	2	19	8	13
Households in the site have been forcibly evicted in the three months prior	0	0	20	3	1	3	4

Child protection

Overall, the presence of young people under the age of 18 engaged in employment in the 30 days prior to data collection was the second most reported red flag (224 of 259). At the governorate level, this was reported in over three-quarters of sites in Dahuk, Ninewa, and Salah al-Din, and all sites in the remaining governorates.

Furthermore, roughly a quarter of sites reported the presence of child-headed households, and/or unaccompanied children (79 and 65 of 259 respectively). Whilst highlighting the presence of potentially highly vulnerable households in the informal IDP site population, these **findings also raise potential child protection concerns for nearly all assessed IDP sites.**

Forcible evictions

In addition to potential child protection concerns, a red flag indicator for vulnerability to eviction and further displacement was included. In approximately a tenth of sites, the KI reported that households had been forcibly evicted in the three months prior (31 of 259). This was most prevalently reported in Dahuk (20), as well as Sulaymaniyah (4), Kirkuk (3), Salah al-Din (3), and Ninewa (1).

In addition, KIs from 26 sites reported that households were at risk of eviction at the time of data collection. In 12 of these sites, households were also reported to have been evicted in the last three months; these sites were recorded in: Dahuk (8), Salah al-Din (2), Kirkuk (1), and Sulaymaniyah (1). **IDP households in these sites may be especially vulnerable to eviction and further displacement, and therefore in need of additional protection monitoring.**

Safety and Security

Red Flag Safety and Security (Protection) Indicators

Most sites were not reported to have experienced tensions between the host community and the site occupants. However, this was reported in 14 of the 259 assessed sites. These sites were located in Dahuk (6), Kirkuk (3), Salamiyah (2), Ninewa (1), Qadissiyah (1) and Salah al-Din (1). Similarly, reporting of security incidents in or near the site in the 30 days prior to data collection was low (2 of 259). Furthermore, only one KI reported that site residents did not feel safe in the site area; this site was recorded in Salah al-Din, and the reasoning was explained as proximity to ongoing conflict. **Whilst this suggests that informal IDP sites did not face issues regarding social cohesion with their local and host communities, it is possible that due to their sensitivity, these indicators were under reported.**

Table 17: Number of sites where each red flag safety and security indicator was reported, by governorate

	Anbar	Baghdad	Dahuk	Kirkuk	Ninewa	Salah al-Din	Sulaymaniyah
Total number of sites	**7**	**4**	**115**	**23**	**49**	**37**	**18**
Sites experiencing tension between host community households and the site occupants	0	0	6	3	1	1	2
Security incident reported to have occurred in or around the site in the 30 days prior	0	0	1	1	0	0	0

Freedom of Movement

KIs were asked to report what, if any, were the primary types of barriers to movement that site residents faced when it came to moving into and around the site. **Over half of all assessed sites were reported to have some type of barrier or restriction to movement (150 of 259).** Barriers were reported for almost all sites in Kirkuk (21 of 23) and Sulaymaniyah (15 of 18), and around half of sites in Dahuk (56 of 115) and Ninewa (29 of 49). Of the 150 sites where some type of movement barriers were reported, almost all cited limited funds to pay for transportation as a primary challenge (132 sites). However, a notable number of sited reported protection related concerns as challenges to movement, including missing ID documents (44) and gender-based movement restrictions (14).

These findings indicate that a considerable number of IDPs residing in informal sites are facing restrictions to movement, that may in turn affect their access to needed services or assistance. For most, these restrictions related to cost and logistics, however**, there are a number of sites where protection-led interventions, such as legal services assistance may also help to alleviate some of these challenges.**

CONCLUSION

Given the declining rates of return over 2018, there is a continuing need to highlight the needs of those that wish to remain in their area of displacement. Of the IDP population, approximately 95,000 to 116,000 IDPs were estimated to be residing in informal sites, constituting critical shelters, and therefore considered to be highly vulnerable.[41] Furthermore, 97% of the informal site population reported no intention to return in the 12 months following assessment (up to August 2019), or were unsure of their future plans.[42] The **primary aim of the seventh round of the informal sites assessment, therefore, was to identify key gaps in service provision in the largest informal sites in Iraq, and highlight populations that may be in need of further assessment and/or humanitarian intervention.**

Across governorates, the case-load of IDPs living in informal sites varied. **The largest number of assessed sites were located in Dahuk, Ninewa, and Salah al-Din**. The approximated IDP household population of sites in these governorate accounted for roughly three quarters of those captured by this assessment (76%). Although response to informal site vulnerability should be driven by severity and type of need, **this highlights three governorates as initial areas of concern in terms of the caseload of vulnerable IDP populations in informal sites.**

In terms of key sectoral needs, some of the most frequently reported red flags related to household vulnerability profiles and protection concerns, including presence of female headed households and reported instances of child labour. Furthermore**, reporting of forced evictions and tensions between the host community and site residents (in 31 and 14 sites respectively), highlighted sites that may be especially vulnerable to eviction and further displacement**. Given the sensitivity of these issues, it is also possible that such safety and security incidents affecting IDPs in informal sites were underreported. Therefore, **wherever possible, all sites, and especially those flagged as vulnerable to further displacement (31 of 259), require further sectoral assessment and monitoring from protection actors.**

Findings also indicated that a considerable number of IDPs residing in informal sites were facing restrictions to movement (150 of 259), that may in turn affect their access to needed services or assistance. For many, such restrictions related to cost and logistics. **Many sites were also reported to have limited access to basic needs and services, including insufficient access to food, drinking water, and healthcare**. Sectoral findings regarding challenges to accessing basic needs and services further emphasized that **long distances required to travel (reported by 106 sites with regards to accessing education) and physical or logistical constraints (reported by 92 sites concerning access to food items), presented considerable barriers. This was compounded by concerns related to cost**, that were supported by livelihoods findings highlighting economic insecurity and lack of financial resources due to a reliance on unstable and low waged income generating opportunities. **Such challenges continue to frustrate already vulnerable populations, for whom gaps in services and assistance require multi-sectoral interventions through agile and flexible programming, such as mobile support teams. In addition, such populations require longer-term support to achieve durable solutions, such as livelihoods programming.**

Finally, in order to facilitate and coordinate a multi-sectoral response to such needs, informal IDP sites require continuous monitoring. This is both to identify and map any potential new sites, whilst also assessing populations, risks, needs, and gaps in those known to the humanitarian community**. To ensure a safe and dignified environment for IDPs in informal sites, REACH and CCCM will continue to collaborate in implementing yearly sweeps of informal sites across Iraq**, as well as to maintain and update a master list of informal IDP sites to be updated as ad hoc RASPs are implemented by cluster partners based on operational need.

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[41] *As reported by the combined IOM ILA III and RASP dataset population figures.*
[42] REACH Initiative and CCCM Informal Sites Intention Survey, August 2018. This includes 79 per cent reporting intentions to remain, 14 per cent waiting to decide, and 4 per cent intending to move to a different area (within or outside of Iraq).

ANNEXES

Annex 1: Number of reported red flag indicators, by governorate

		Anbar	Baghdad	Basrah	Dahuk	Erbil	Kirkuk	Ninewa	Qadissiya	Salah al-Din	Sulaymaniyah	Wassit	National
Overview	**Total number of sites**	7	4	2	115	2	23	49	1	37	18	1	259
	Average number of red flags	7	5	9	8	3	8	7	8	6	8	4	7
Demographics	Presence of female-headed households at the site	7	3	2	98	1	22	40	1	33	17	0	224
Site conditions	Presence of unlabeled or unknown chemicals and/or UXOs or mines on or near the site	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	8
	No fire safety equipment available within the site	3	2	2	115	2	23	49	0	34	18	1	249
Shelter	Site residents reported to have three or more shelter needs	6	2	2	70	0	6	28	0	14	3	0	131
	No electrical supply reported to the whole site	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	1	0	0	6
	Sites display evidence of overcrowding	4	1	1	94	0	23	29	1	16	10	0	179
WASH	On average households within sites spent seven or more days without access to their primary source of drinking water in the 30 days prior	3	1	2	63	0	19	10	1	7	1	0	107
	Evidence of open defecation at the site	0	0	2	14	1	16	7	0	11	5	0	56
Health	The nearest accessible primary health care service reported to be further than 2km	3	1	0	52	2	13	21	0	14	15	1	122

Category	Indicator												
Food Security	Presence of households within sites that did not have sufficient access to food in the seven days prior	3	1	2	61	0	1	19	1	14	12	0	114
Livelihoods	Presence of households within sites using 'severe' livelihoods coping strategies in the 30 days prior	6	2	2	98	0	18	37	1	18	17	0	199
Education	Less than 75% of school-age children (6 to 17 years old) are attending formal education	2	1	1	19	0	4	15	1	10	15	1	69
Protection	Presence of young people under the age of 18 engaged in employment in the 30 days prior	7	4	2	102	0	23	38	1	28	18	1	224
	Households in the site have been forcibly evicted in the three months prior	0	0	0	20	0	3	1	0	3	4	0	31
	Presence of child-headed households at the site	2	0	0	37	0	14	11	0	14	1	0	79
	Presence of unaccompanied children at the site	0	1	0	22	0	2	19	0	8	13	0	65
	Sites experiencing tension between host community households and the site occupants	0	0	0	6	0	3	1	1	1	2	0	14
	Security incident reported to have occurred in or around the site in the 30 days prior	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2