



# AL-LATIFYA AREA-BASED ASSESSMENT (ABA)

IRAQ | **March 2023**





# Contents

- 01** ABA Background
- 02** Priority needs and humanitarian assistance
- 03** Livelihoods
- 04** Shelter
- 05** Services
  - 05.1** WASH
  - 05.2** Healthcare
  - 05.3** Education
  - 05.4** Electricity
- 06** Protection
- 07** Social cohesion and civil society
- 08** IDPs' movement intentions
- 09** Conclusion



01

# ABA's Background

# Research Objectives

## Overall objective

To inform evidence-based planning and prioritisation of needs by actors implementing humanitarian, stabilisation and development interventions at the urban area level in Iraq:

- Providing **granular, location-specific information**.
- Targeting locations where **UNHCR** wants to implement their Area-Based Programming for Protection and Solutions(A2PS) approach.
- Supporting **UNHCR's A2PS planning and operations**.

## Specific objectives

1. Define and **profile** the demography and movement intentions of the population in the selected area.
2. Identify and map the **availability and accessibility of services** (WASH, health care, education, electricity, and legal services)
3. Assess the **perceptions and expectations of residents** regarding service delivery.
4. Identify **priority multi-sectoral needs** of the population at the household level.
5. Understand **challenges to achieving durable solutions** for affected populations in the area of assessment

# Methodology

Al-Latifya ABA consisted of various, primarily quantitative components:

## 01

### Household Needs Assessment

A total of **311** household surveys were collected in **al-Latifya and Kilo 18** from the 28th of November to 22nd of December 2022.

Surveys were collected remotely via phone interviews and kobo tools. Findings are indicative.

## 02

### Key Informant Interviews (KIIs)

A total of **10 community leader (CL)** interviews were conducted in **al-Latifya and in Kilo 18**, from 15th the 27th of December 2022

**34** KIIs were conducted with **subject-matter expert (SME)** from different sectors (electricity, water, waste, health, education, livelihoods, legal services). Data were collected from 19th – 22nd of December 2022.

Surveys were collected remotely via phone interviews and kobo tools.

## 03

### Mapping KIIs

**8 mappings** were conducted with community leaders in late December 2022 **to map the infrastructure and services** in each neighbourhood.

The mappings were conducted in a face-to-face setting using physical maps obtained from satellite imagery from ArcGIS.

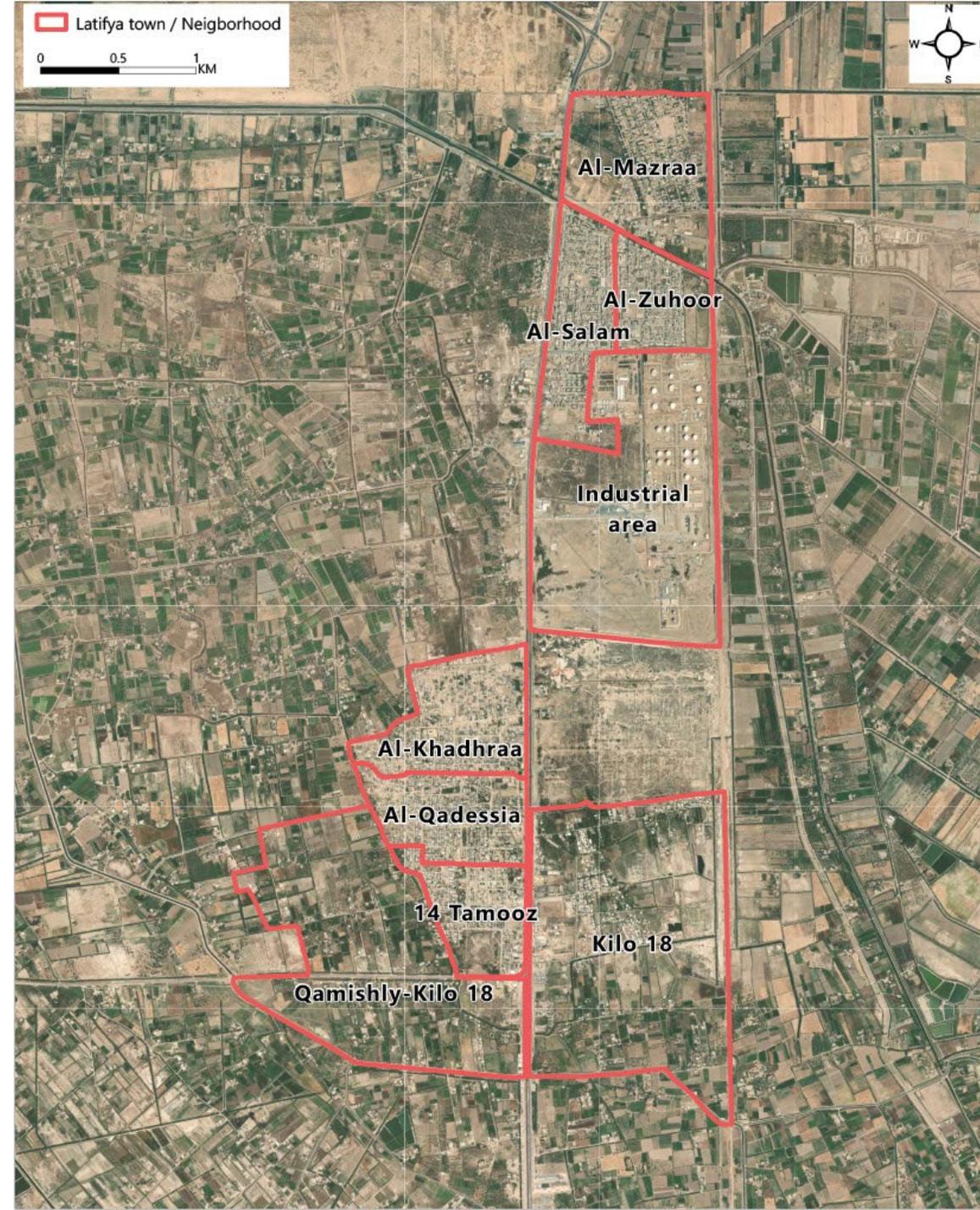
# Overview Map & Sample

## Number of household surveys conducted

Location	IDPs	Host community	Total
Al-Latifya	79	87	<b>166</b>
Kilo 18	69	76	<b>145</b>
<b>Total</b>			<b>311</b>

## Number of KIIs conducted

Data collection Method	Disaggregation	#	Total
Mapping KIIs	NA	8	<b>8</b>
Community leaders	Al-Latifya	8	<b>10</b>
	Kilo 18	2	
SMEs KIIs	Education	5	<b>34</b>
	Water	5	
	Waste	5	
	Livelihoods	5	
	Electricity	5	
	Healthcare	5	
	Legal	4	



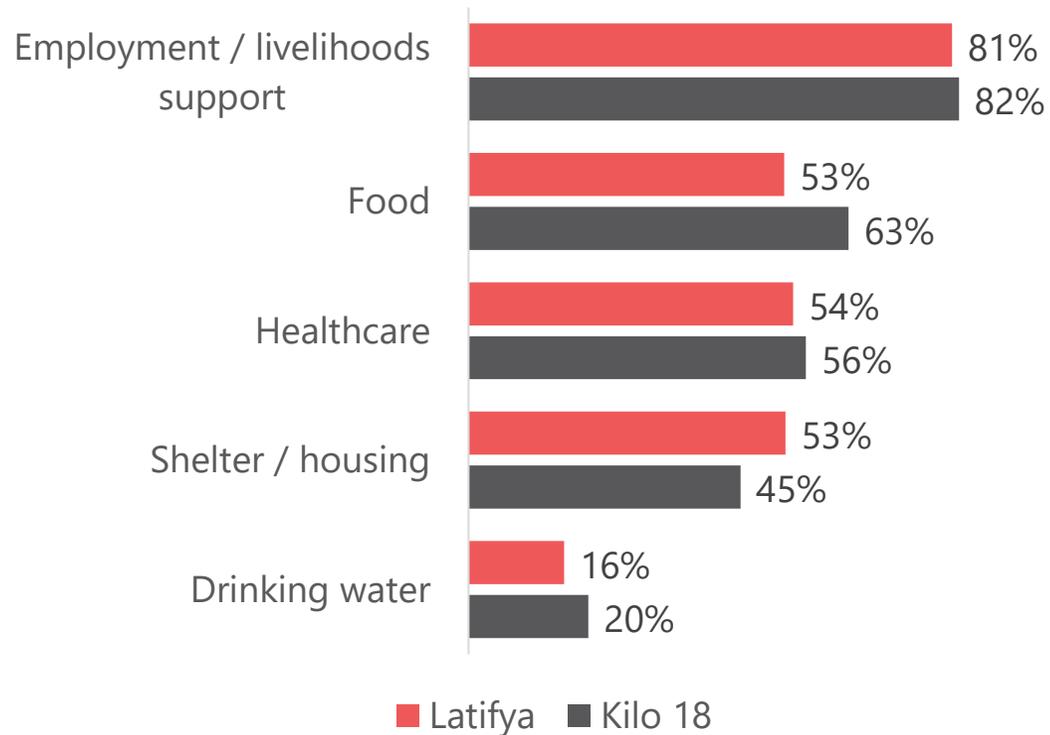


02

# Priority Needs

# Priority Needs

**HHs' most reported priority needs over the year preceding data collection\***

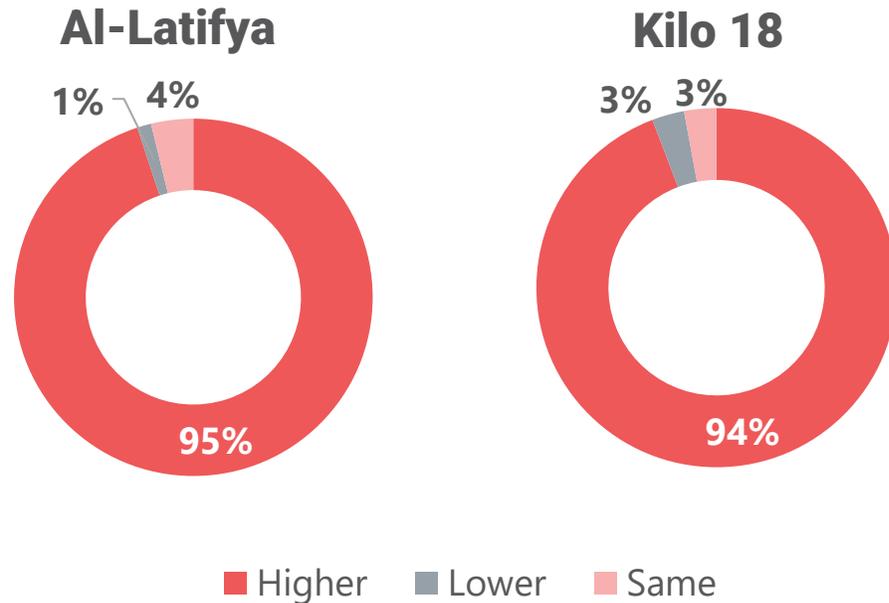


- **Livelihoods support, healthcare and food** were the top priority needs reported by households in Al-Latifya and Kilo 18.
- These findings were similar to the 2022 Multi-Cluster Need Assessment's (MCNA) **national-level findings**, with the main difference being a lower proportion of households reported employment support as their priority need (63%).
- The majority of households (**80%** in al-Latifya town, and **73%** in Kilo 18 village) reported **NOT receiving** any type of **humanitarian assistance** in the 30 days preceding the data collection.

\* Question allowed multiple choices.

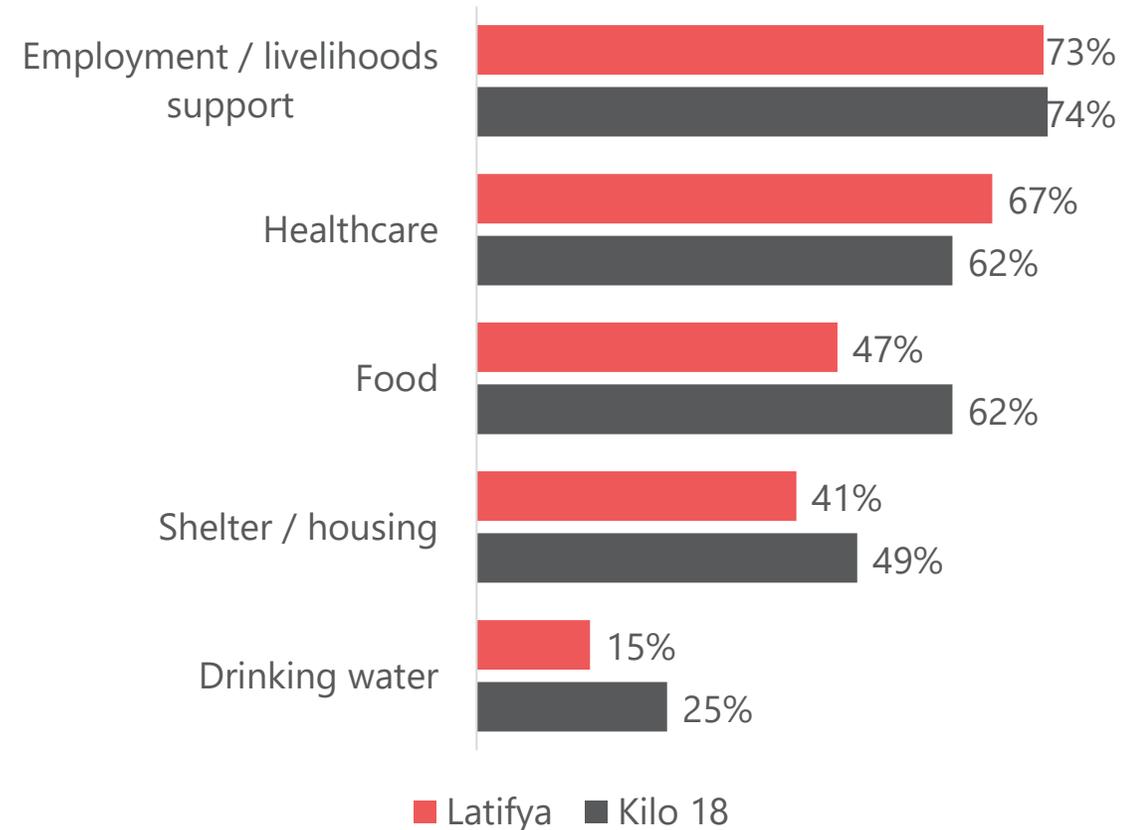
# Changes in IDPs' Needs Pre & Post Displacement

IDP HHs reporting how their needs have changed compared to before displacement:



The majority of the IDP households reported their needs were higher than before displacement. The needs that were reportedly higher were **employment, healthcare, food, and shelter** in both al-Latifya and Kilo 18.

Of the households reporting their needs were higher at the time of data collection compared to before displacement, the types of needs that were reported to be higher were:\*



\* Question allowed multiple choices.



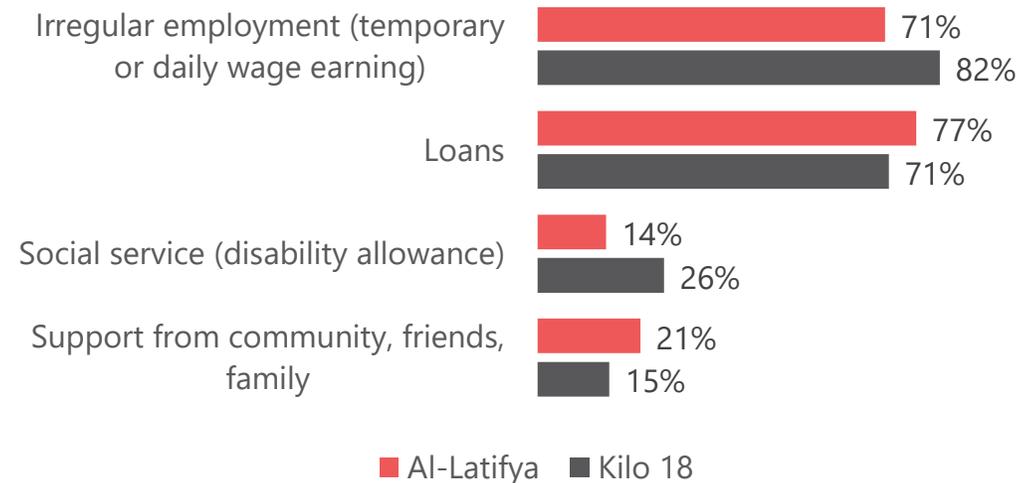
03

# Livelihoods

# Sources of Income

The **median of households' reported monthly income** was **300,000 IQD**, while their **median expenditure** was **491,000 IQD**. Almost all (97%) households in both areas were reportedly in debt, and their **median debt** was **1,500,000 IQD**.

## Most reported household income sources for the 30 days preceding data collection\*



\*Question allowed multiple choices.

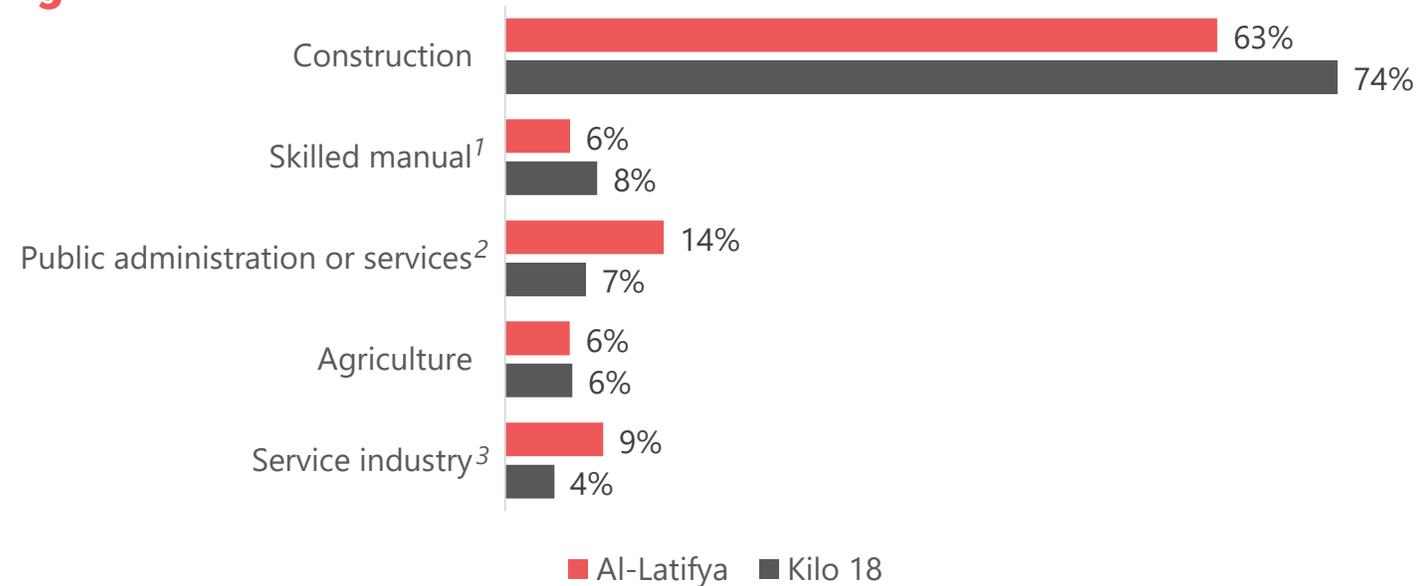


# Employment

A **third** of **adult household members** (18 or older) were reportedly **working** at the time of data collection (**32%** in al-Latifya, and **33%** in Kilo 18). The **majority** were reportedly men (93%), and only 7% were women.

**67%** of head of households in al-Latifya and **75%** in Kilo 18 were reportedly working

## Most reported sectors of employment, among individuals who reported working\*



\*Question allowed multiple choices.

<sup>1</sup> e.g., carpenter, butchers, plumber

<sup>2</sup> e.g., civil servant, police, public healthcare worker

<sup>3</sup> e.g., janitor, waiter, provision of food or accommodation

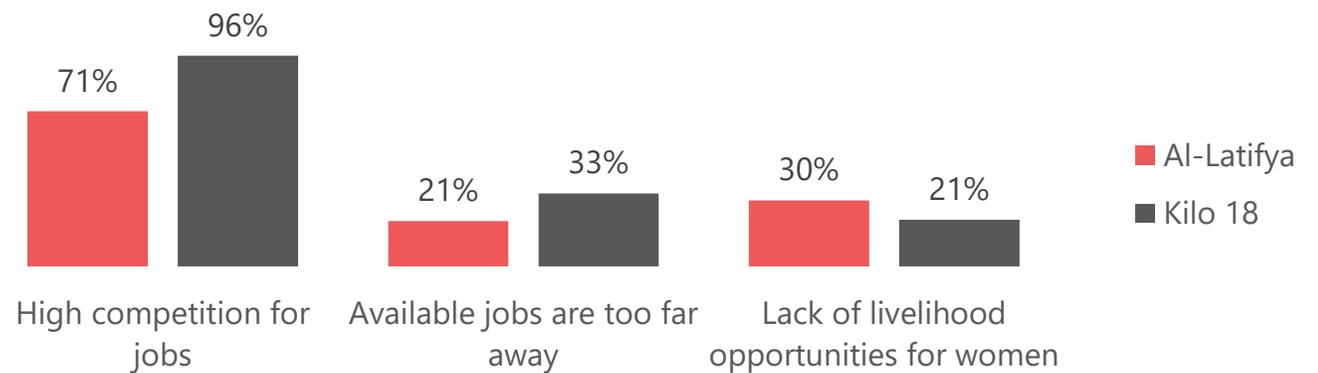


# Primary obstacles to finding employment

**Two thirds of adults were not seeking work** (64% in al-Latifya and 62% in Kilo 18), women being more likely to report so (94% of women compared to 31% of men)

Only **4% of adults in al-Latifya and 5% in Kilo 18 reported seeking work** (a total of 50 individuals) and was similar between genders: 3% of women and 6% of men.

## Most reported obstacles to finding work, among individuals actively seeking work\*

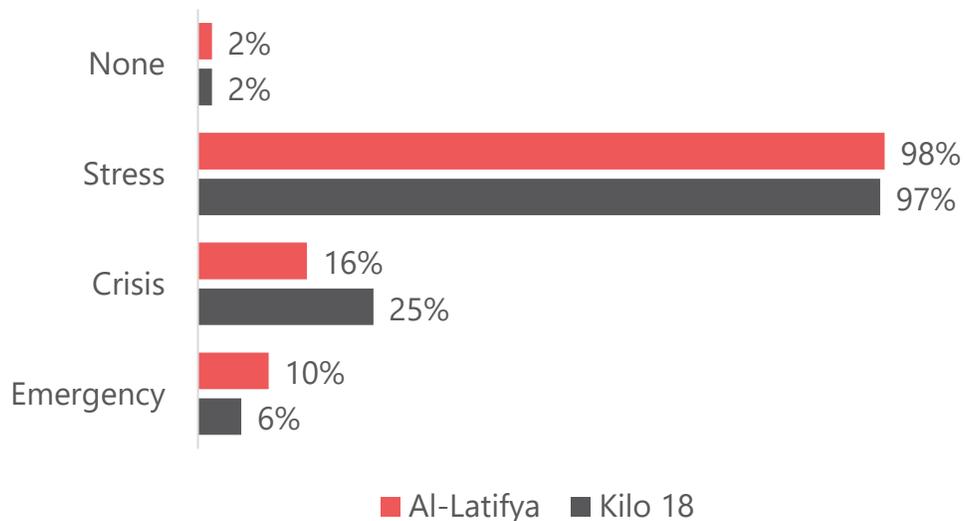


\*Question allowed multiple choices.



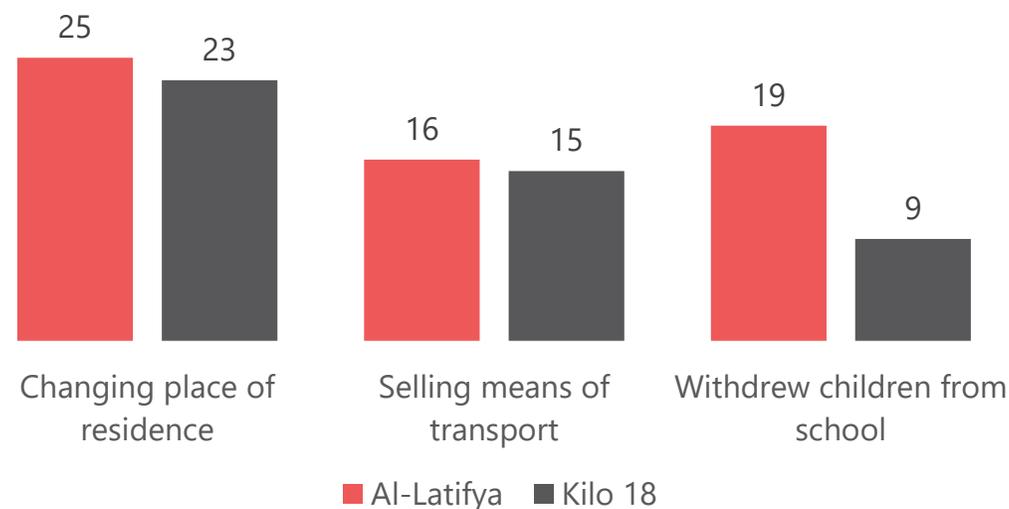
# Livelihood Coping Strategies

**% of households relying on stress / crisis / emergency strategies to cope with a lack of resources to afford food \*\***



Almost all (**98%**) households reportedly relied on some coping strategies in the 30 days before data collection.

**The most used crisis or emergency coping strategies, among households that reported using crisis or emergency strategies, by number of households \***



All households (**100%**) in both areas reportedly found it difficult or very difficult to financially advance or save income.

\*Question allowed multiple choices.

\*\* Question allowed multiple choices unless selected "None". **Stress:** sold HH assets; borrowed money; reduced spending on health/education. **Crisis:** sold means of transport; changed to cheaper accommodation; children worked. **Emergency:** withdrew children from school; engaged in high-risk activities; whole HH migrated; forced marriage.

# Livelihoods improvement recommendations

- **The vast majority of community leaders reported that unemployment was a key issue in their area (7/10)**, especially among young graduates, reporting that some had to rely on daily work in construction (4/10).
- Community leaders in al-Latifya reported a decrease in farming due to low rainfall (2/8) and a lack of small businesses due to families' lack of financial means to make investments (3/8).

## Livelihoods SMEs' suggestions to improve livelihood opportunities in the area

- ✓ Supporting small businesses
- ✓ Business investment
- ✓ Vocational training
- ✓ Supporting low-income families
- ✓ Government employment for new graduates
- ✓ Cooperation between security forces and the government to facilitate movement that grants families the ability to work in agriculture and construction in the area





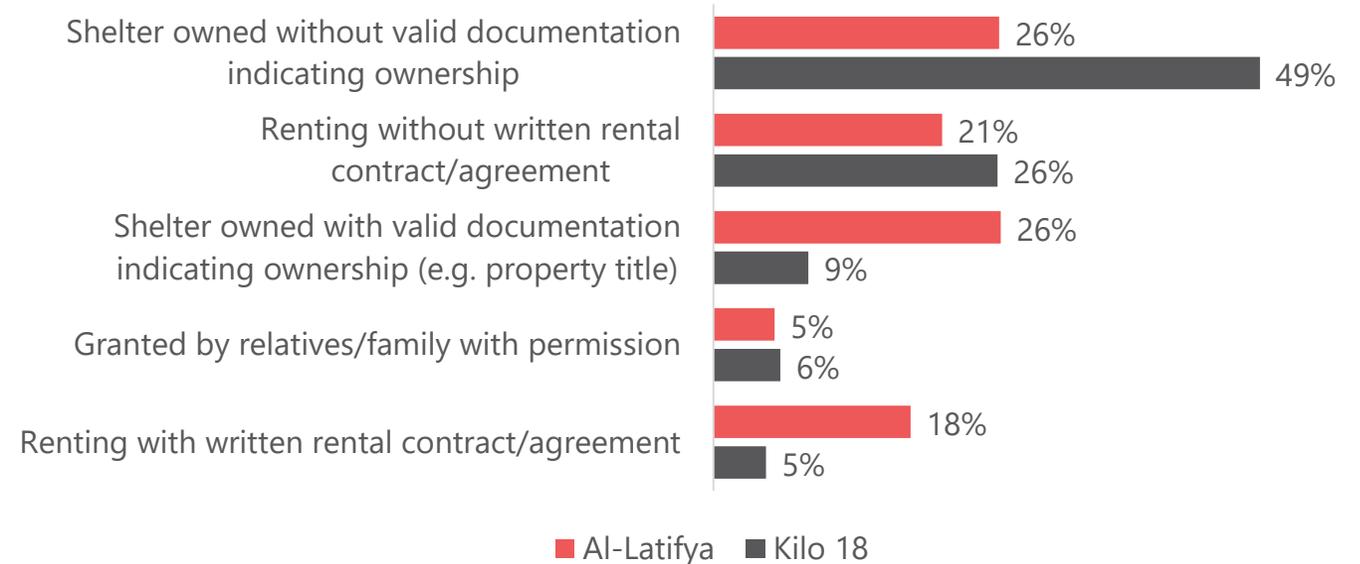
04

# Shelter

# Current housing tenure

- Households in **Kilo 18** were **more likely** to report **living in owned property without ownership documentation** (50% of host community and 48% of IDP households)
- **IDP households** in al-Latifya were **more likely** to report **renting without a written rental agreement (58%)** compared to host community households in al-Latifya (17%).

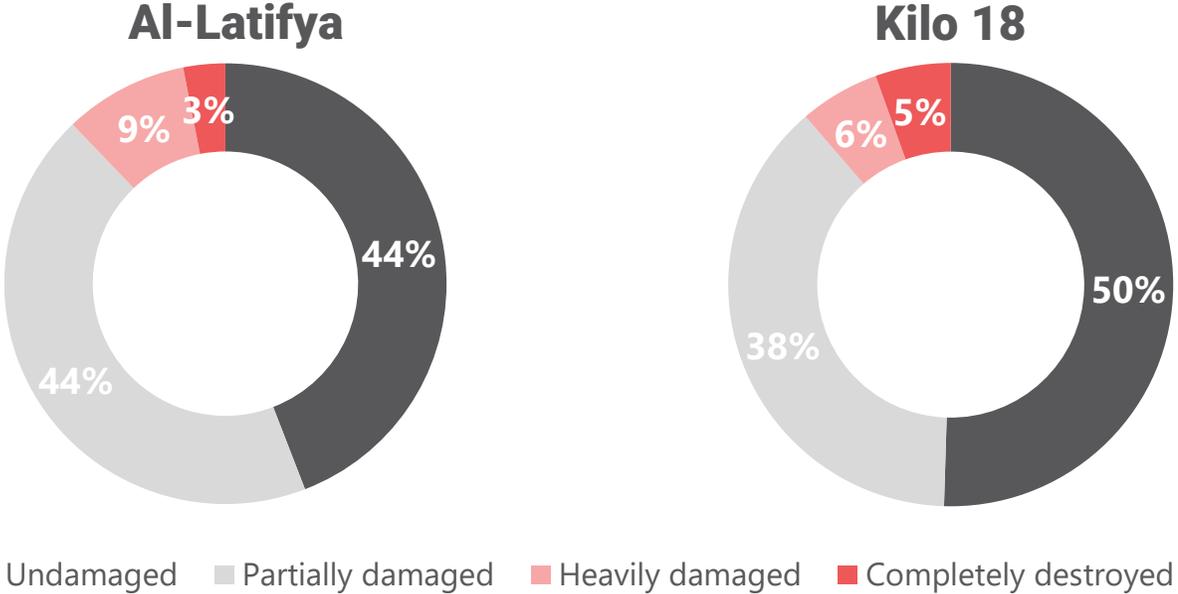
## Households by most reported current housing tenure \*



\*Question allowed multiple choices.

# Shelter Damage

% of households reporting that their shelter was damaged, by the level of damage



Nearly **two-thirds** of **IDP households** (64% in Kilo 18, and 58% in al-Latifya) reported that their **current shelter was damaged or destroyed**, and around half (49%) of host community households in al-Latifya and Kilo 18 reported damage in their current living space.



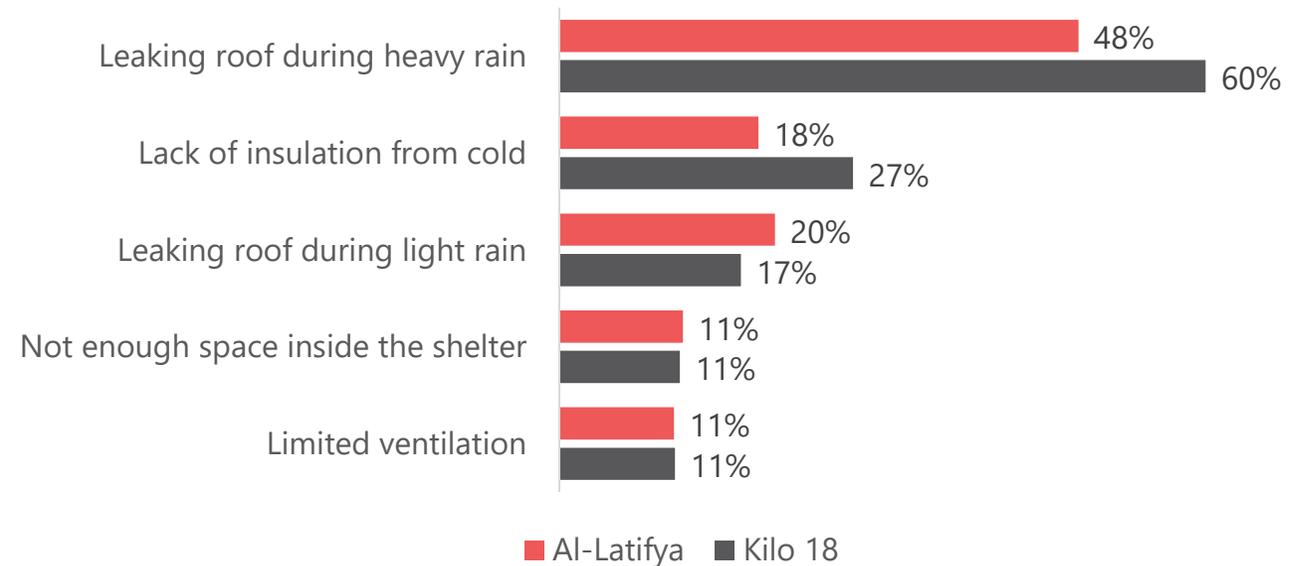
# Shelter issues



@REACH, al-Latifya 2022

**A leaking roof during heavy rain** was frequently mentioned in both al-Latifya and Kilo 18 locations, equally by host community and IDP households.

## Households' most reported issues with their shelter at the time of data collection\*



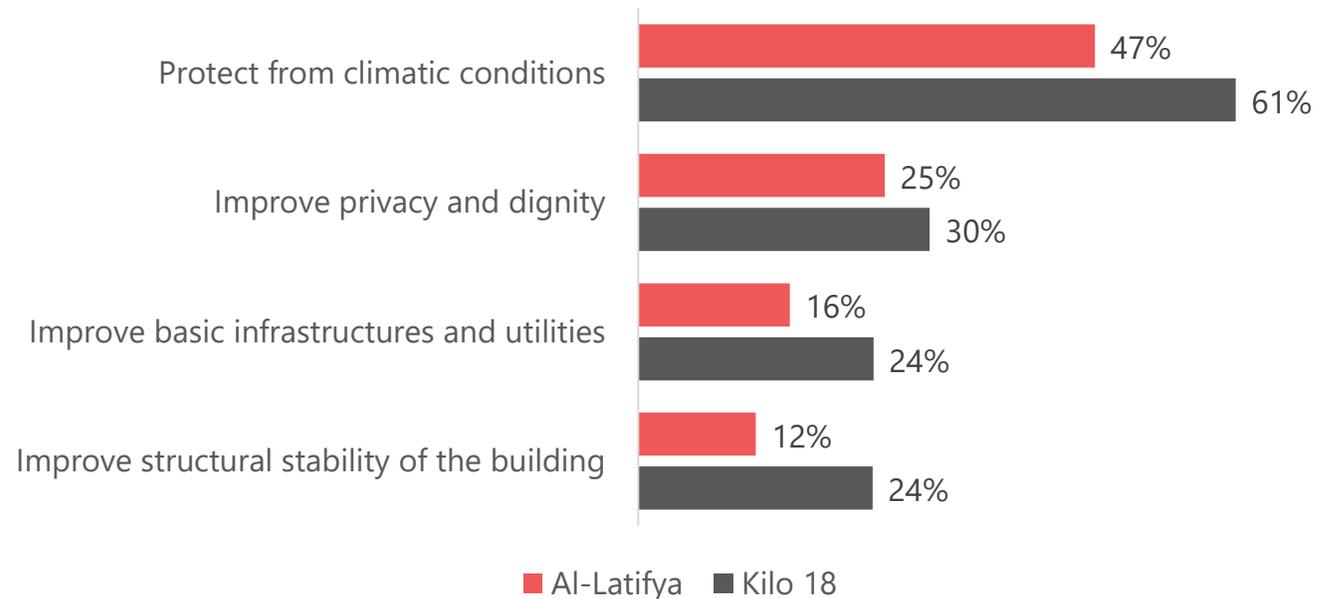
\*Question allowed multiple choices.

# Shelter Improvement Needs

**67%** of households in **al-Latifya town** reported **needing shelter improvements**.

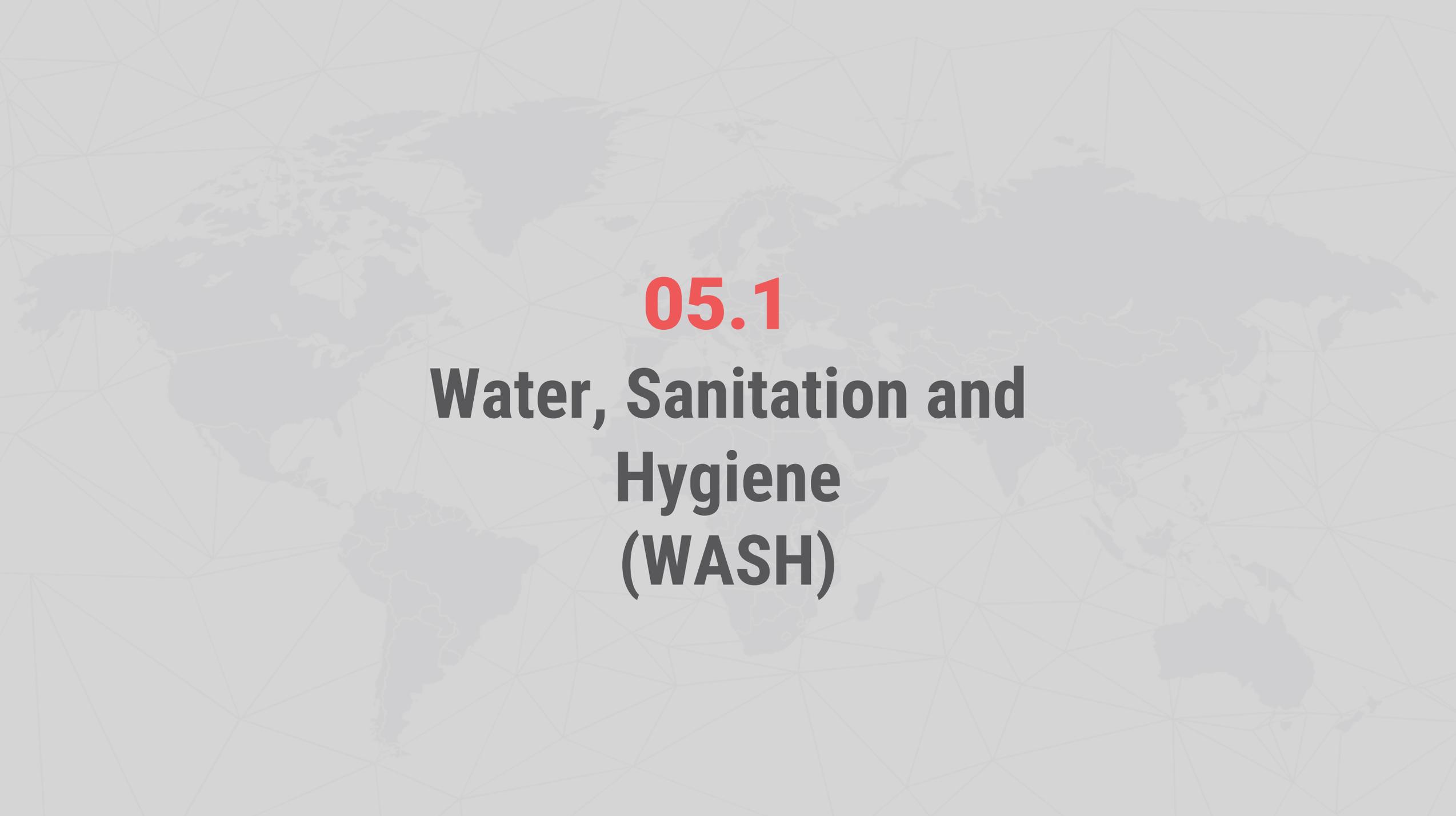
**82%** of households in **Kilo 18** reported **needing shelter improvements**.

**% of all assessed HHs that reported needing shelter improvements, by type of improvement\***



- **Protection from climatic conditions** was reportedly the most needed improvement in both areas.
- **Improved basic infrastructure** and **structural stability of the building** were more reported in Kilo 18 compared to al-Latifya.

\*Question allowed multiple choices.

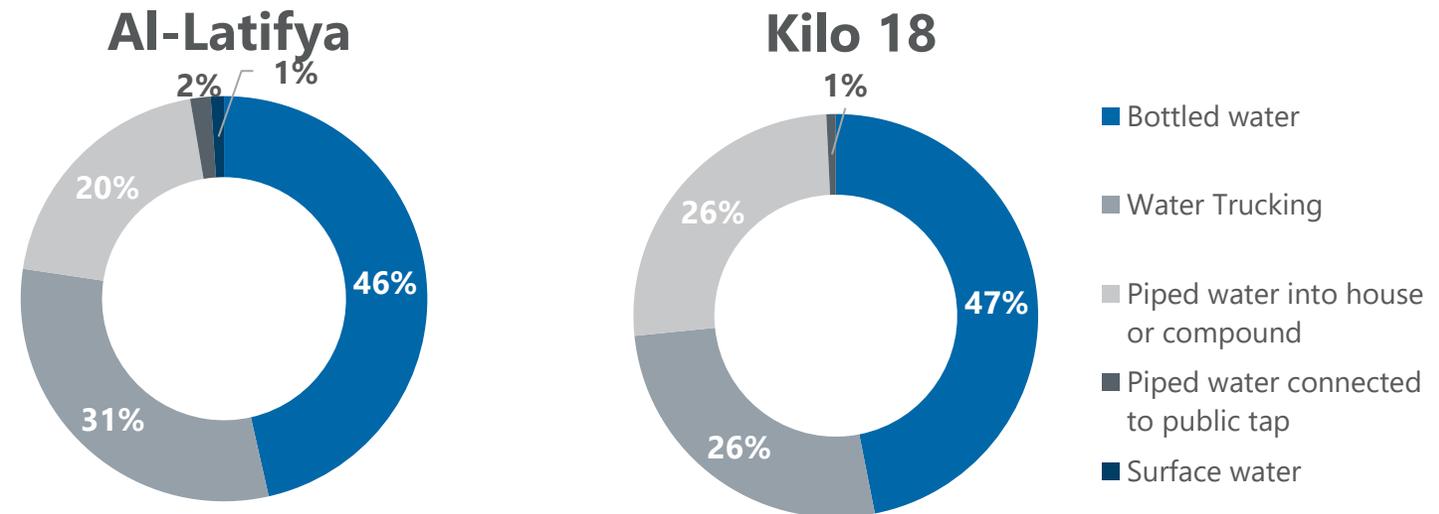


**05.1**

**Water, Sanitation and  
Hygiene  
(WASH)**

# Drinking water sources

## % of HHs by primary source of drinking water



- The vast majority of households reported being connected to the public water network (91% in al-Latifya and 96% in Kilo 18).
- However, a notable minority of households reported **insufficient available drinking water to meet their household's needs** (26% in al-Latifya, and 30% in Kilo 18).



# Water issues and improvement



@REACH, Kilo 18, 2022

## % of households reporting issues with their main source of water for drinking, cooking and preparing food\*

	Al-Latifya	Kilo 18
Yes, acceptable	40%	36%
No, the water tastes unpleasant	39%	39%
No, the water is not clear	36%	51%
No, the water contains materials	27%	31%
No, the water smells unpleasant	8%	20%

**The majority of households** who reported their water was of not acceptable quality reported **not treating their water before drinking (78%)**

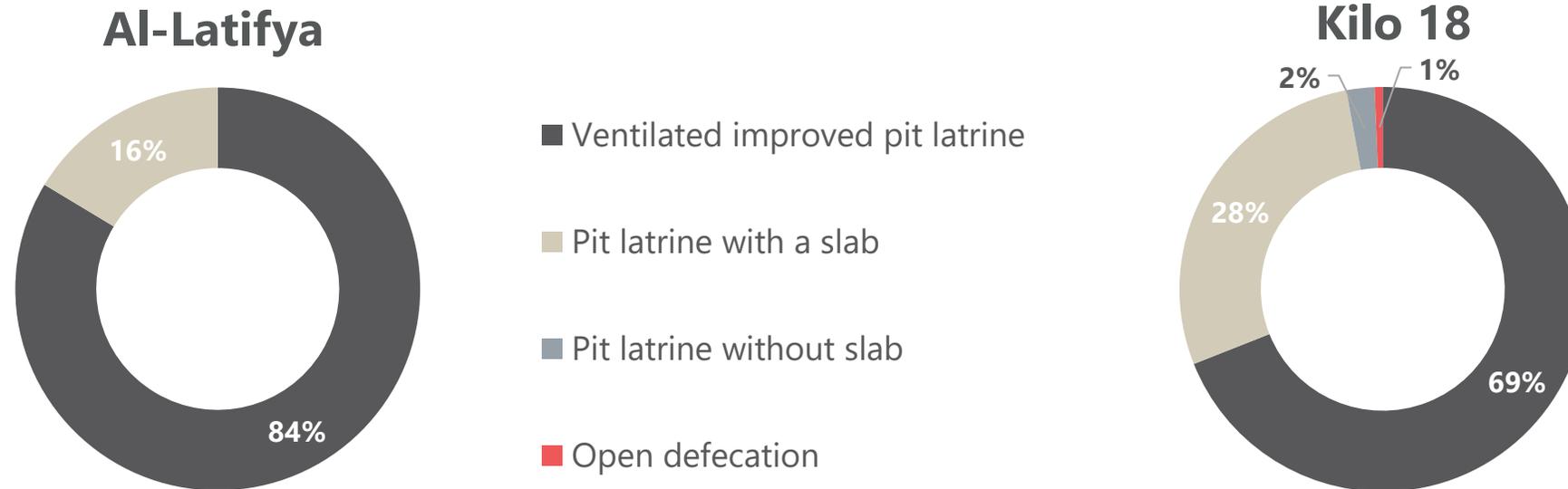
## Water experts most reported improvement recommendations

- ✓ Repair the water network and provide regular maintenance
- ✓ Provide maintenance equipment
- ✓ Provide new water pumps or increase their number

\* Question allowed multiple choices except when selecting "Yes, acceptable".

# Latrine and Hygiene Access

## % of households reporting having access to toilets, by type



- The vast majority of households reportedly had access to improved sanitation facilities in both areas.\*
- The majority (**89%**) of households reportedly had access to sufficient hygiene items e.g.: Soap and feminine hygiene products. However, **almost a third (30%) of IDP households in al-Latifya reportedly did not have access to sufficient hygiene items.**

\* Improved toilet facilities are those designed to hygienically separate excreta from human contact.  
More information available here. <https://washdata.org/monitoring/methods/facility-types>

# Solid Waste Management

## % of HHs by reported primary method of solid waste disposal

	Al-Latifya	Kilo 18
Collected by municipality	75%	6%
Throw in designated open area	16%	36%
Burning	5%	39%
Throw in street or undesignated open space	2%	12%
Communal garbage bin	1%	1%
Communal rubbish pit	0%	6%

## Most reported gaps by waste disposal experts and community leaders

- ✘ Shortage of waste collection staff
- ✘ Shortage of waste collection vehicles
- ✘ Lack or shortage of communal waste bins
- ✘ Some areas had no waste collection services

**84%** of households reported that the **natural environment**, including waterways, rivers, and green spaces of the area was **somewhat or very contaminated**.

- More than half of the community leaders reported the **consequences of informal waste disposal** as a key issue, including the increased risk of contamination and disease.
- The reported contamination could be related to the reported waste disposal methods in the area, which made community leaders concerned that this could lead to air pollution, diseases, and insects spreading diseases.



**05.2**

# Healthcare



# Access to Healthcare

Al-Latifya

Kilo 18

93%

97%

Of HHs reported **needing to access healthcare in the 3 months prior to data collection**

29%

25%

Of these HHs reported being **unable to access healthcare**

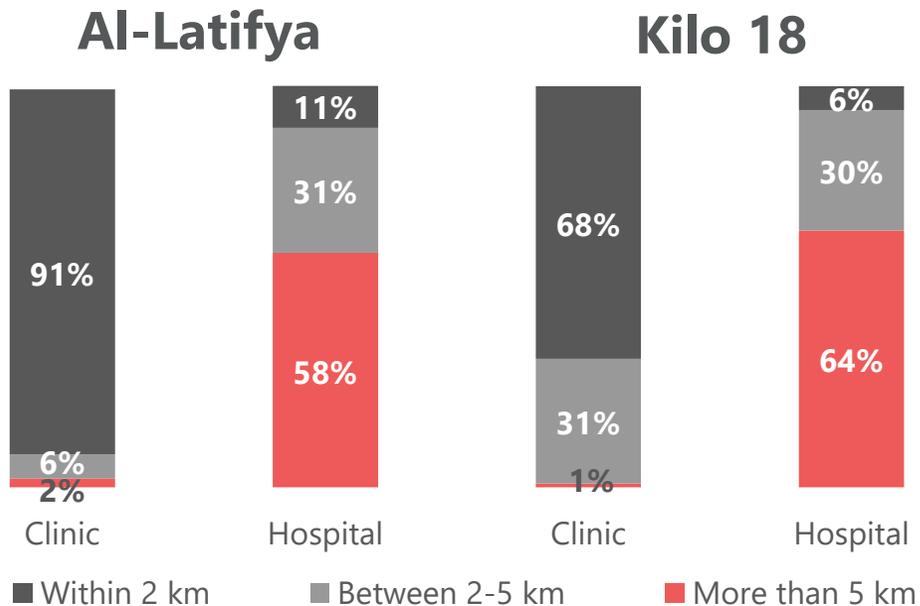
**Most reported reasons why households were unable to access healthcare \***

	Al-Latifya	Kilo 18
Cost of services and medicine	88%	90%
Distance to health centre	7%	30%
Treatment unavailable	23%	19%
Medicine unavailable	11%	13%

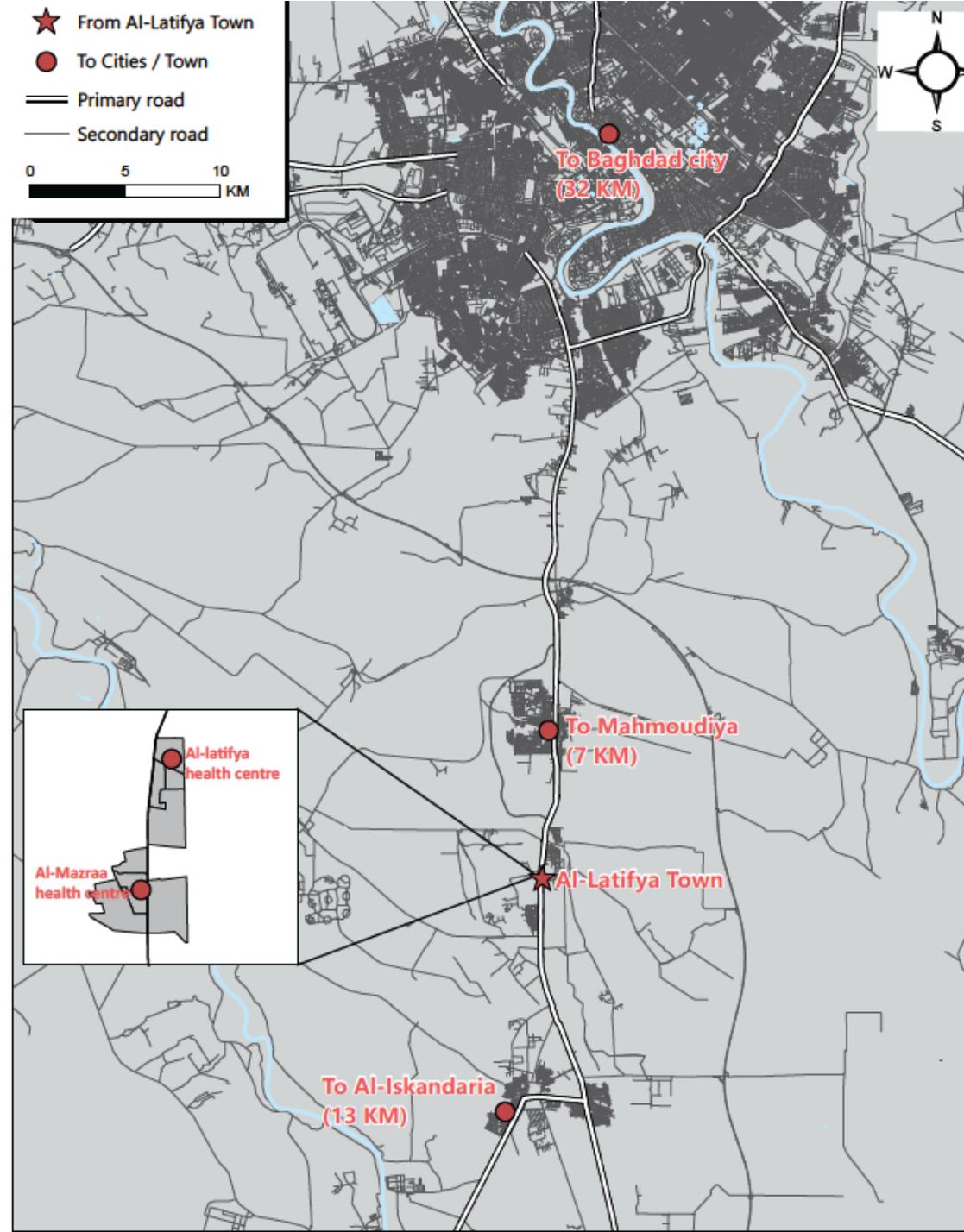
\* Question allowed multiple choices.

# Distance to Healthcare

**% of HHs by reported distance to the closest functioning healthcare facility**



- At the time of data collection, **both health centres in al-Latifya were reportedly operating**. However, health experts reported that they were **overcrowded with patients, lacked necessary equipment and supplies, and closed at 2pm**.
- Health experts reported households were going to the surrounding areas, such as **Baghdad city, al-Mahmoudiya town, and al-Iskandaria town**.



# Improvement Recommendations for Healthcare

@REACH, outskirts of al-Latifya and Kilo 18, 2022



## Health experts' recommendations to improve healthcare

- ✓ Building a hospital in al-Latifya
- ✓ Providing health centres with treatments
- ✓ Providing health centres with medical equipment
- ✓ Building a new health centre in al-Latifya
- ✓ Providing public health awareness sessions to families
- ✓ Expansion of health centres (room, waiting area)

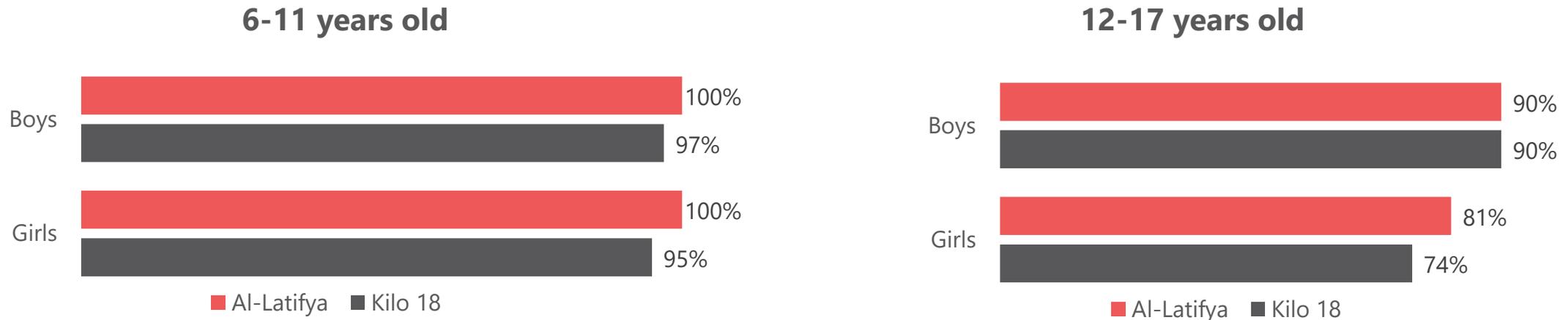


05.3

# Education

# School Attendance

## % of school-aged children reportedly attending school, by age and gender



- Most reported reasons for children missing school: **unaffordability of education-related expenses** (27 children), **lack of interest of children** (18 children), **children were contributing to the household income** (7 children), or **physical limitations** to access school (7 children).
- Community leaders reported that for some children it **was dangerous to walk to school due to a highway** with traffic that had no pedestrian crossing



# Reported Gaps in Education

Education experts and community leaders' reported service gaps

- ✘ Lack of school supplies and furniture
- ✘ Lack of enough schools
- ✘ Lack of qualified teaching staff
- ✘ Lack of clean water at schools
- ✘ Classrooms being overcrowded
- ✘ WASH facilities in schools inadequate
- ✘ Students needing to hire tutors to cover their education gaps
- ✘ Going to school being unsafe for children
- ✘ Lack of funds for public education

Community leaders	Education experts
9/10	5/5
9/10	5/5
8/10	5/5
7/10	5/5
7/10	5/5
6/10	5/5
4/10	3/5
4/10	0/5
2/10	5/5

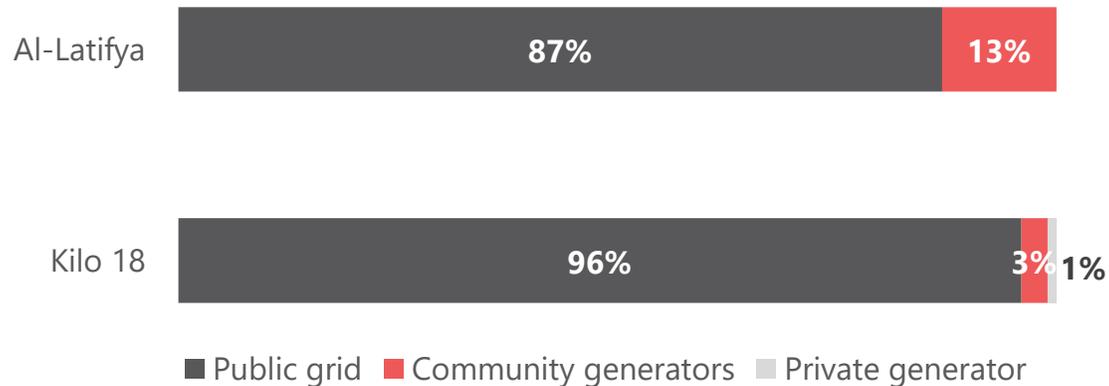


05.4

# Electricity

# Access to Electricity

## % of HHs by reported primary source of electricity



## % of HHs by reported average number of hours that electricity was available in their house per day

	Al-Latifya	Kilo 18
0-4 hours a day	1%	0%
5-8 hours a day	8%	12%
9-12 hours a day	31%	26%
13-16 hours a day	32%	26%
17-20 hours a day	27%	34%
21-24 hours a day	0%	2%

- All electricity experts reported that many households were **informally connected to the public grid, which reportedly affected the quality of the electricity service.**
- Community leaders frequently reported that **electricity was only available in the morning and for a limited time in the evening.**

# Electricity Service Gaps & Improvement Recommendations

## Most commonly reported gaps in electricity services by electricity experts and community leaders

- ✘ Need for new transformers and wires
- ✘ Insufficient voltage for HHs' need
- ✘ Lack of staff in the electricity department
- ✘ Electrical infrastructure needing repairs
- ✘ Need for electrical infrastructure resistant to weather conditions
- ✘ Informal sites/buildings not provided with electricity infrastructure

## Most commonly reported improvement recommendations for electricity services by electricity experts and community leaders

- ✔ Provide network-maintenance materials
- ✔ Prevent unofficial connections to the public grid
- ✔ Increase number of transformers and power stations
- ✔ Replace or repair old infrastructure
- ✔ Financial support to the Electricity Department
- ✔ Add regulations on the electricity services (price, hours)
- ✔ Include informal sites/buildings in the public network

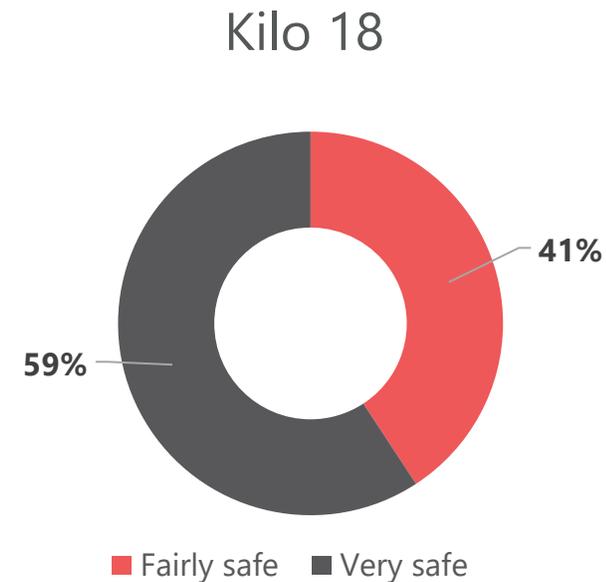
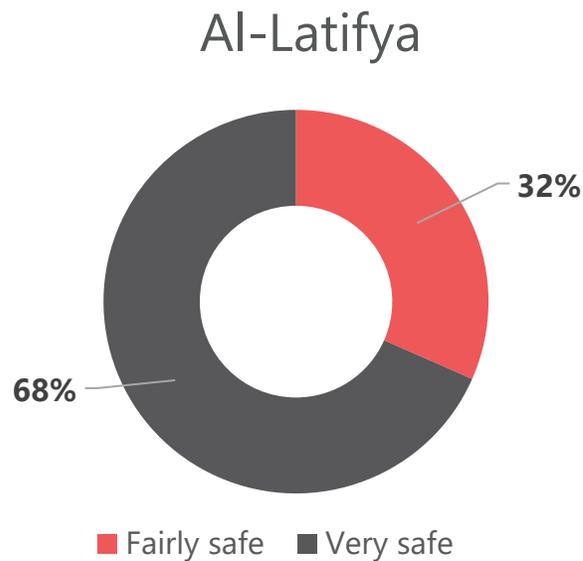


06

# Protection

# Feelings of Safety and Movement Restrictions

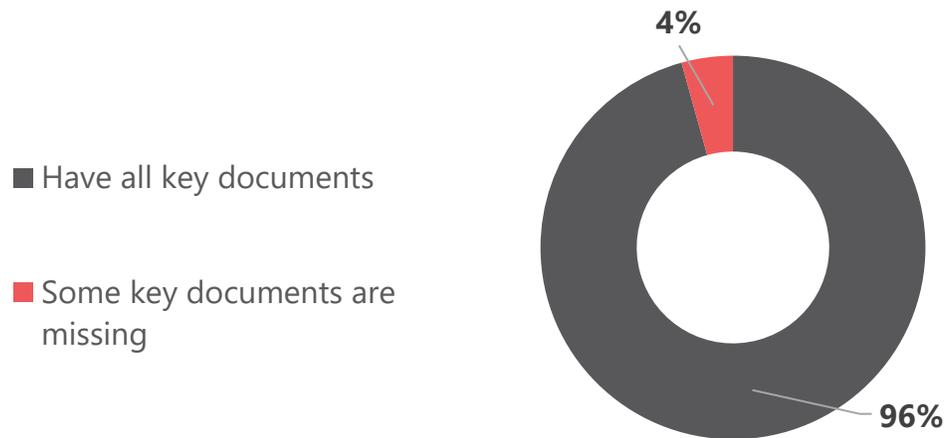
**% of households reporting feeling safe from harm/violence in their current location**



**7%** of households reported facing movement restrictions, both in al-Latifya and Kilo 18.

# Missing Key Civil Documentation

## % of HHs reporting that one or more of their HH members was missing at least one key document



A relatively low proportion of households (4% or 29 households) reported at least one key document was missing. **This proportion was somewhat higher in Kilo 18 (14%) compared to al-Latifya (3%).**

## Most reported types of missing key documents, by number of HHs

National ID/Unified card (children)	16
Nationality certificate/Unified card (children)	15
PDS card	9

The most common reasons for missing documentation were the **costs of obtaining and renewing documents** (11 households), the **complexity and length of the legal process** (10 households), and **having not tried to obtain the documents** (7 households).



07

**Civil Society  
&  
Social Cohesion**

# Political Participation & Civil Society



Al-Latifya

Kilo 18

13%

18% ----->

% of HHs who reported that someone in their household had **participated in a community, social, political or professional organisation in the last 6 months**

88%

87% ----->

% of HHs who reported that the **head of household had voted in the national elections in 2021**

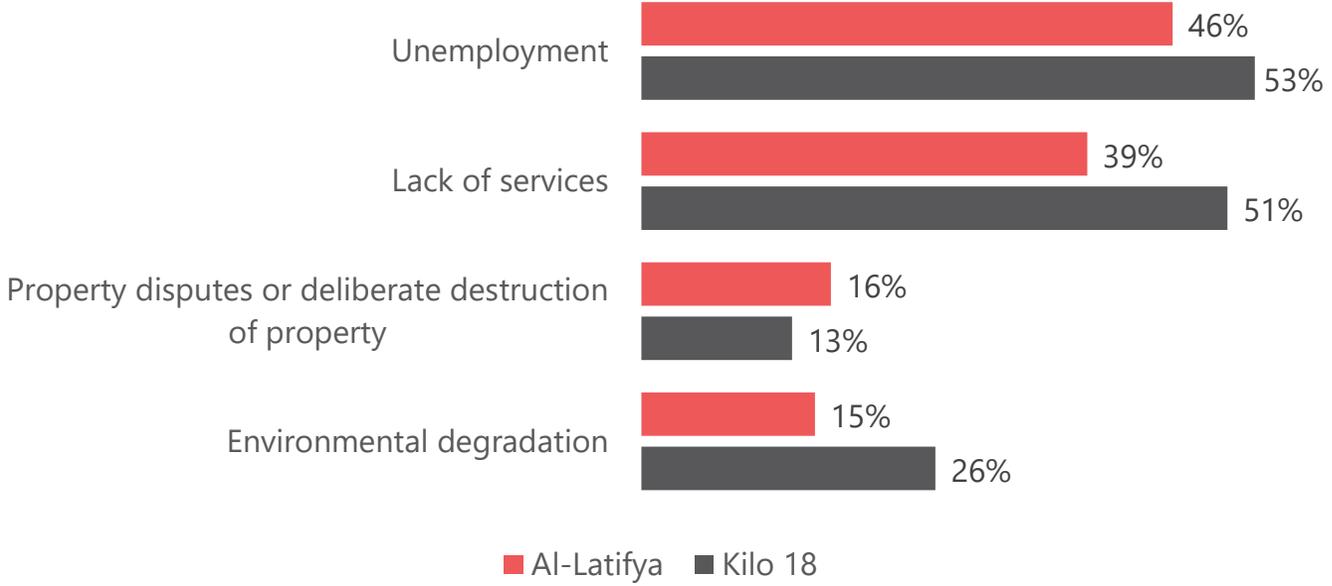
43%

59% ----->

% of HHs who reported that **they did not feel that they were able to play a role in the local decision making**

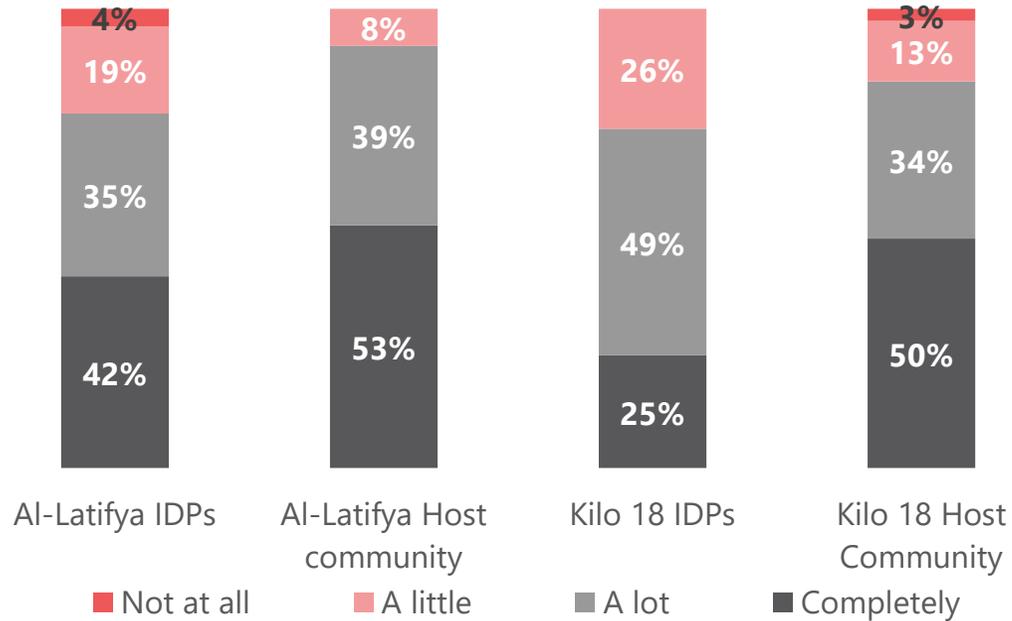
# Key Social Issues

## Most reported social issues that households perceived in their area

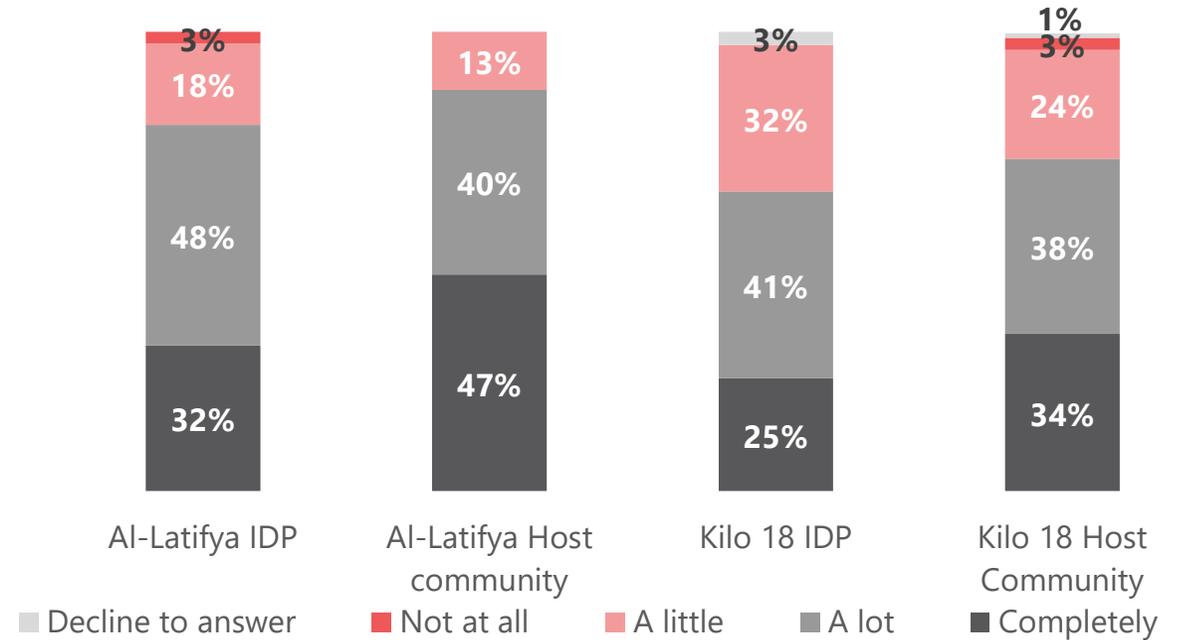


# Social Cohesion

**% of HHs reporting feelings of belonging to their community**



**% of HH reporting having trust in other population groups in their community**



These findings could indicate that a large proportion of IDP households have integrated in their community of displacement, although integration and levels of trust seemed lower for IDPs in Kilo 18.

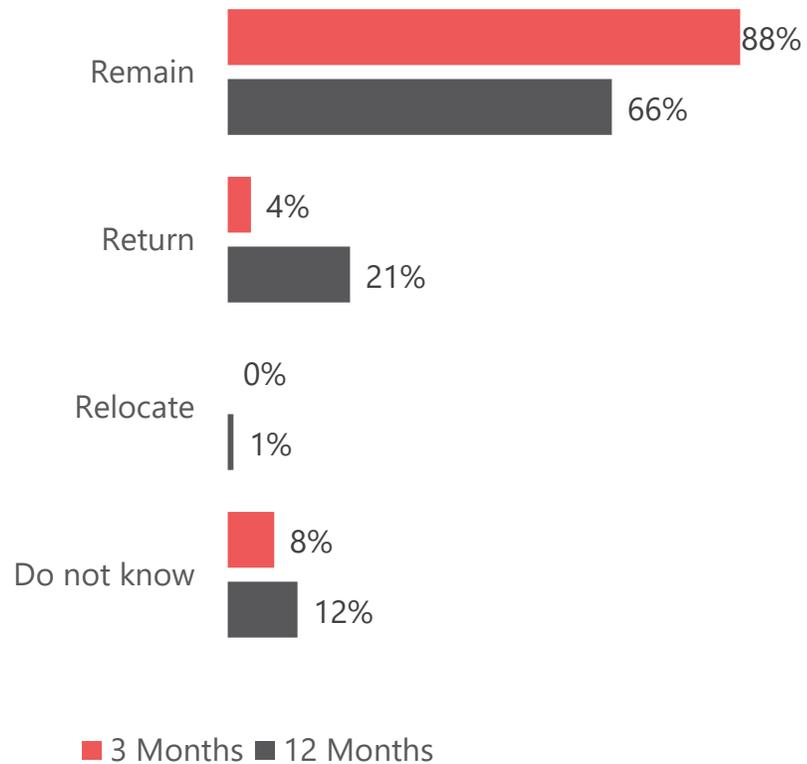


**08**

**Displacement  
&  
Movement Intentions**

# Movement Intentions

## % of IDP HHs by their reported movement intentions in the 3 and 12 months following data collection



The majority of IDP households **originated from Babil (86%) and Baghdad (14%) governorates.**

For those **not intending to return** within the next 12 months, the most commonly reported reasons were:

- **Movement restrictions by militias (49%),**
- **Ongoing community tensions (30%), and**
- **Fear of discrimination or rejection (27%).**

**3% of host community households reported intending to move** in the next six months, and 10% did not know.

Those who reported they intended to move (5 responses) mainly stated this was due to the **lack of livelihoods** or the **need to seek new shelter.**



09

**Conclusions  
&  
Key Takeaways**

# Conclusions & Key Takeaways

01

## Key Social Issues & Social Cohesion

The most reported key social issues by households were **employment (47%), lack of services (40%), property disputes or destruction (16%), and environmental degradation (16%)**.

The majority of **IDP** HHs seemed to feel **integrated** in their community but **less so in Kilo 18**. Access to services may play a role into feelings of belonging.

02

## Livelihoods & Employment

**A third of adult household members (18 or older) were reportedly working**, and HHs mainly reported receiving income from **loans and irregular employment**.

Community leaders and SMEs reported **lack of opportunities in the public sectors**, and **decrease in agriculture and small business** due to a lack of liquidity among households for investment, the population increase making employment more competitive, and low rainfall.

03

## WASH & Electricity

Community leaders reported that **electricity was insufficient for households' needs. Electricity infrastructure needed repairs** and could not cope with the increased demand for electricity after an important influx of households since 2014. With the informal building of shelters, households were **informally connected to the public grid and built their own water infrastructure**, also affecting the quality of WASH services.

# Conclusions & Key Takeaways

04

## Health

Although health experts reported an increase in access to health services compared to before 2014, community leaders reported **that the clinics in al-Latifya were overcrowded or closed too early.**

05

## Education

Although the majority of HHs reported that their children were attending school, there was a **gender divide in school attendance** for boys and girls **aged 12-17**, as girls were less likely reported as attending school ( 81% in al-Latifya, and 74% in Kilo 18) compared to boys (90% in both areas).

Community leaders and education experts also reported that schools were **overcrowded** and lacked funding for **repairs**, were **insufficient in number**, and needed **new furniture and supplies.**

06

## Shelter

**A minority of households reported concerns they may be evicted**, with IDP households being slightly more likely to report this (9%) than host community (5%).

**Nearly two-thirds of IDP households** (61%) reported that **their current living space was damaged or destroyed**, which was higher than host community households (49%)

# Local stakeholder recommendations:

01

## Key Social Issues & Social Cohesion

- To tackle youth violence, community leaders mentioned **the need for cultural and educational programmes to provide healthy outlets and emotional management,**
- In addition, some community leaders reported the **need for community reconciliation programmes in the area,**
- Programmes addressing livelihood opportunities.

02

## Livelihoods & Employment

To improve livelihoods in the area:

- Cash-for-work programmes, creating livelihood programmes by NGOs and government,
- Investing/opening projects (factories, workshops, agricultural) to provide job opportunities,
- **Vocational training courses, especially for women and youth.**

03

## WASH & Electricity

- Increased coordination between the municipality and NGOs to fund waste collection services, and **including informal settlements like Kilo 18 village in the municipality's planning,**
- More steps need to be taken to ensure long-term improvement in solid waste collection such as renewal of service contracts,
- Electricity experts and community leaders highlighted the need to **repair electrical infrastructure and improve the voltage.**

# Local stakeholder recommendations:

04

## Health

Health experts recommended improving healthcare in the area by

- **Building a hospital, building or expanding the health centres,**
- Providing health centres with treatments, medicine, medical equipment, and ambulances,
- Community leaders highlighted the need for vaccination campaigns, **public health awareness sessions for families**, first aid courses, and **mobile units for underserved neighbourhoods.**

05

## Education

Education experts provided some recommendations like

- **Building new schools with sufficient space** or building extensions,
- **Provide school supplies and materials**, and increase the salaries of teaching staff,
- **Gender segregation to encourage some parents to send girls to school.**

06

## Shelter

Key takeaways:

- Local actors could bring to the government's attention the need to **streamline the applications processing for property damage compensation,**
- Local authorities, and humanitarian and development actors could **create or expand their shelter rehabilitation programmes** (i.e.: cash assistance),
- Due to a large number of informally built shelters, local actors could also advocate the relevant authorities the need to **include these shelters in the official municipality boundaries or provide sustainable alternatives for these households.**



# Thank you for your attention



[marta.lopez-sole@impact-initiatives.org](mailto:marta.lopez-sole@impact-initiatives.org)



**REACH**

Informing  
more effective  
humanitarian action