

Multi-Cluster Needs Assessment (MCNA) VII key findings

December 2019

Iraq

CONTEXT

Iraq has experienced several waves of violence over the past five years, leading to nearly six million people being displaced since 2014 (IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix). While a majority of households have returned to their areas of origin (AoO), more than 1.4 million people remain internally displaced¹. Returns to AoO from which households had fled during the conflict continue to raise the issue of safe and durable returns, while the recent shift towards slowed rates of return since mid-2018 continues to have protracted displacement implications for large populations of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and families living in areas hosting them.

As an initiative of the Assessment Working Group, the purpose of the MCNA VII is to provide impartial and evidence-based information to the cluster system for strategic planning within the Humanitarian Planning Cycle for 2020. By providing a nationwide overview and understanding of the needs of the different populations affected by the conflict, the MCNA data and analysis fed directly into the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) prioritization exercise and People in Need (PiN) calculations.

METHODOLOGY

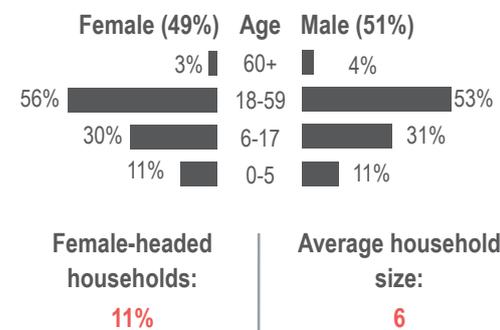
The MCNA VII was implemented through a nationwide statistically representative household survey for which data was collected between mid-June and mid-August 2019. Covering all accessible districts with a set threshold of target populations, the MCNA applies a 90% level of confidence and a 10% margin of error to all sampled population groups. Samples were drawn at the district level for out of camp population groups: out-of-camp IDP, returnee, and host communities.¹ In-camp surveys were drawn at the camp level (see Annex 2 for more information on the methodology).

This factsheet presents findings based on an analytical approach proposed by REACH for the 2019 MCNA, which incorporates elements of the draft Joint Inter-Analysis Framework (JIAF). As part of this approach, findings for sectoral pillars (living standard gaps for Food Security, Emergency Livelihoods, WASH, Health, Shelter, Education), and cross-sectoral pillars (capacity gap, vulnerability, impact of the crisis) are generated and presented in this factsheet. Please see Annex 1 for information on what is included in each of the pillars².

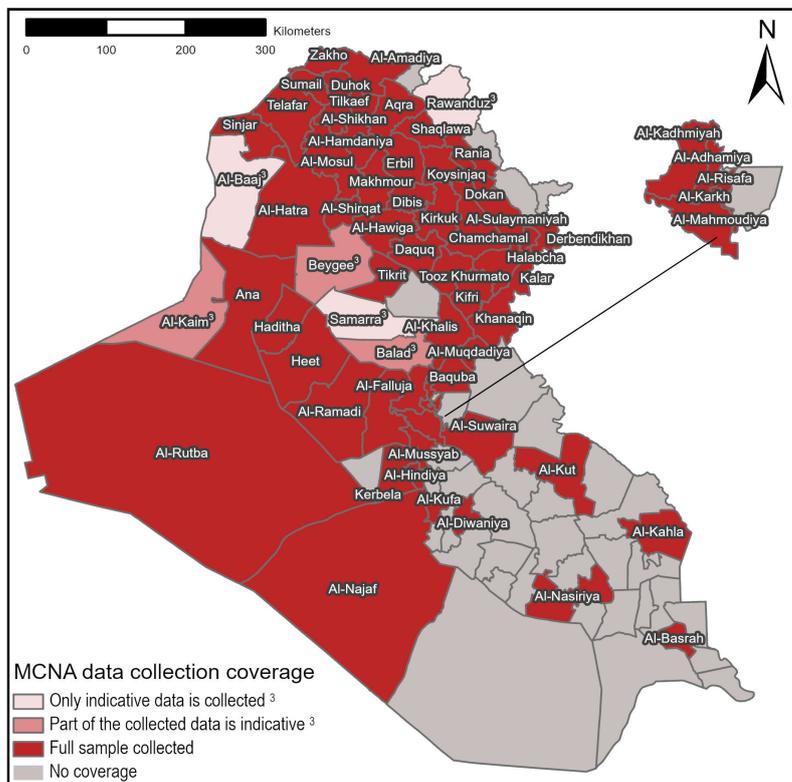
Assessment sample

Households:	13,086
- IDP in camp:	3,209
- IDP out of camp:	5,902
- Returnee:	3,249
- Host:	726
Governorates:	17 (out of 18)
Districts:	63 (out of 101)

Demographics



ASSESSMENT COVERAGE



Data collection partners

- 1 Action Against Hunger (ACF)
- 2 CARE International
- 3 Caritas CZ
- 4 Cooperazione Internazionale (COOPI)
- 5 Human Appeal
- 6 INTERSOS
- 7 International Organization for Migration (IOM)
- 8 International Rescue Committee (IRC)
- 9 Justice Center
- 10 MEDAIR
- 11 Mercy Corps
- 12 Norwegian Refugee Council
- 13 OXFAM
- 14 People in Need
- 15 REACH - Iraq
- 16 Save the Children
- 17 Secours Islamique Français (SIF)
- 18 SSORD
- 19 ZOA International

¹ Households from host communities were surveyed in nine districts for side research on the potential effects of varying IDP caseloads on host communities. Findings pertaining to them have not been included in this factsheet.

² Due to differences in the methodology, the severity findings presented in this factsheet might differ slightly from the sectoral severity findings in the HNO.

³ For some areas, target sample sizes were not fully achieved due to inaccessibility related to authorization restrictions or security limitations.



FOOD SECURITY (FS) LIVING STANDARDS GAP (LSG)¹

MCNA | 2019
IRAQ

% of households with a FS LSG severity score of at least 3: **8%**

see Annex for details on methodology

% of households per FS LSG severity score:

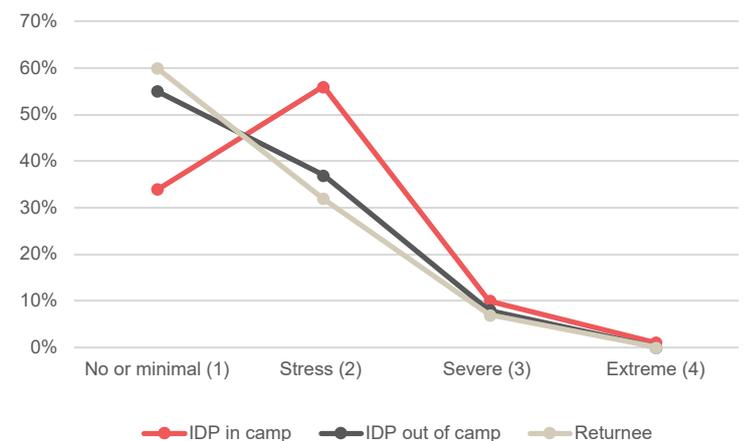


0%	Extreme	(severity score 4)
8%	Severe	(severity score 3)
35%	Stress	(severity score 2)
57%	No or minimal	(severity score 1)

% of households with a FS LSG severity score of at least 3, per population group:

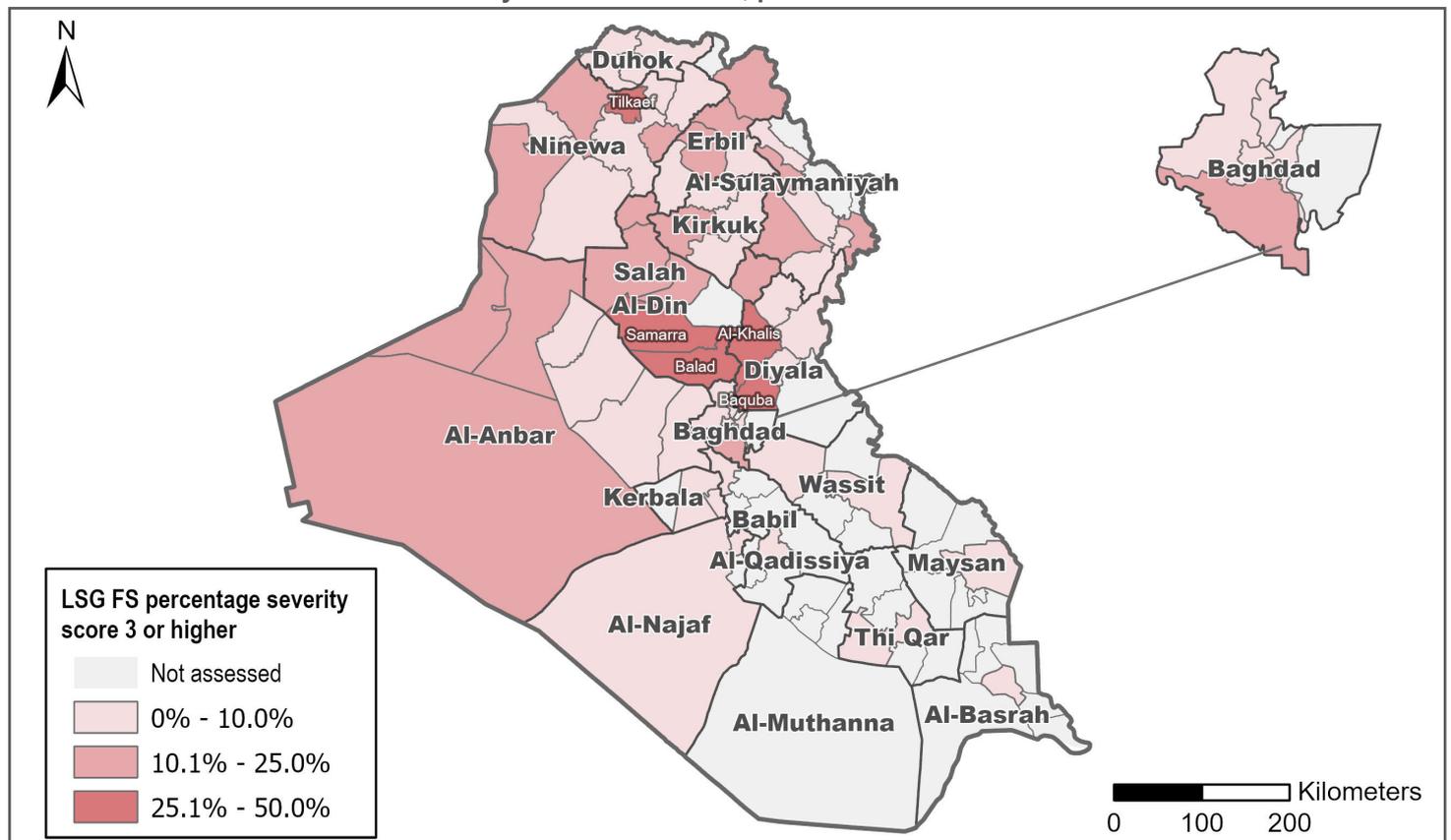
IDP in camp	11%	■
Returnee	7%	■
IDP out of camp	8%	■

% of households per FS LSG severity score, per population group:



Out of the three components of the FS score, largely based on the CARI analysis², **reliance on strategies to cope with the lack of food was the main driver of higher severity levels**. Such strategies included shifting towards cheaper and less quality food items, borrowing food or asking assistance from relatives and friends or reducing the number of daily meals. MCNA data also shows that **food expenditure accounts for a large percentage of total expenditure**, with 53% of IDP households in camp, 21% out of camp and 33% of returnee households reporting that they spent more than 50% of total expenditure on food in the 30 days prior to data collection.

% of households with an FS LSG severity score of at least 3, per district:



¹ The FS LSG composite indicator is composed of indicators relating to food consumption scores, food expenditure share, and coping strategies of households (as outlined in the [Common Approach to Reporting Indicators \(CARI\)](#)).

² CARI is a method used to analyse and report the level of food insecurity within a population.



EMERGENCY LIVELIHOODS (EL) LIVING STANDARDS GAP (LSG)¹

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IRAQ

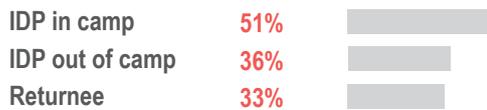
% of households with an EL
LSG severity score of at least 3: **35%**

see Annex for details on methodology

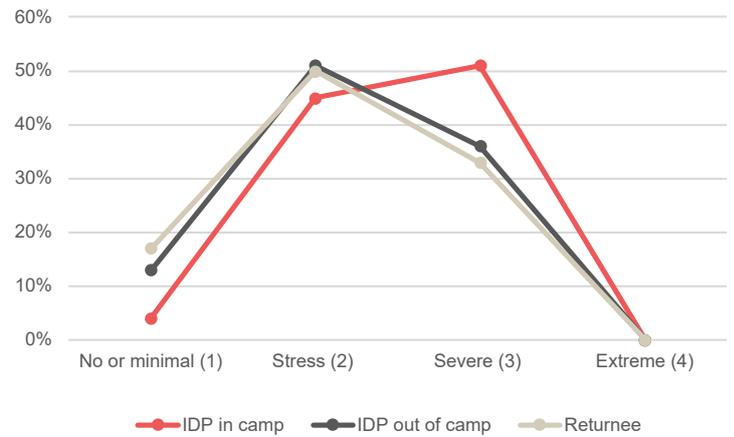
% of households per EL LSG severity score:



% of households with an EL LSG severity score of at least 3, per population group:

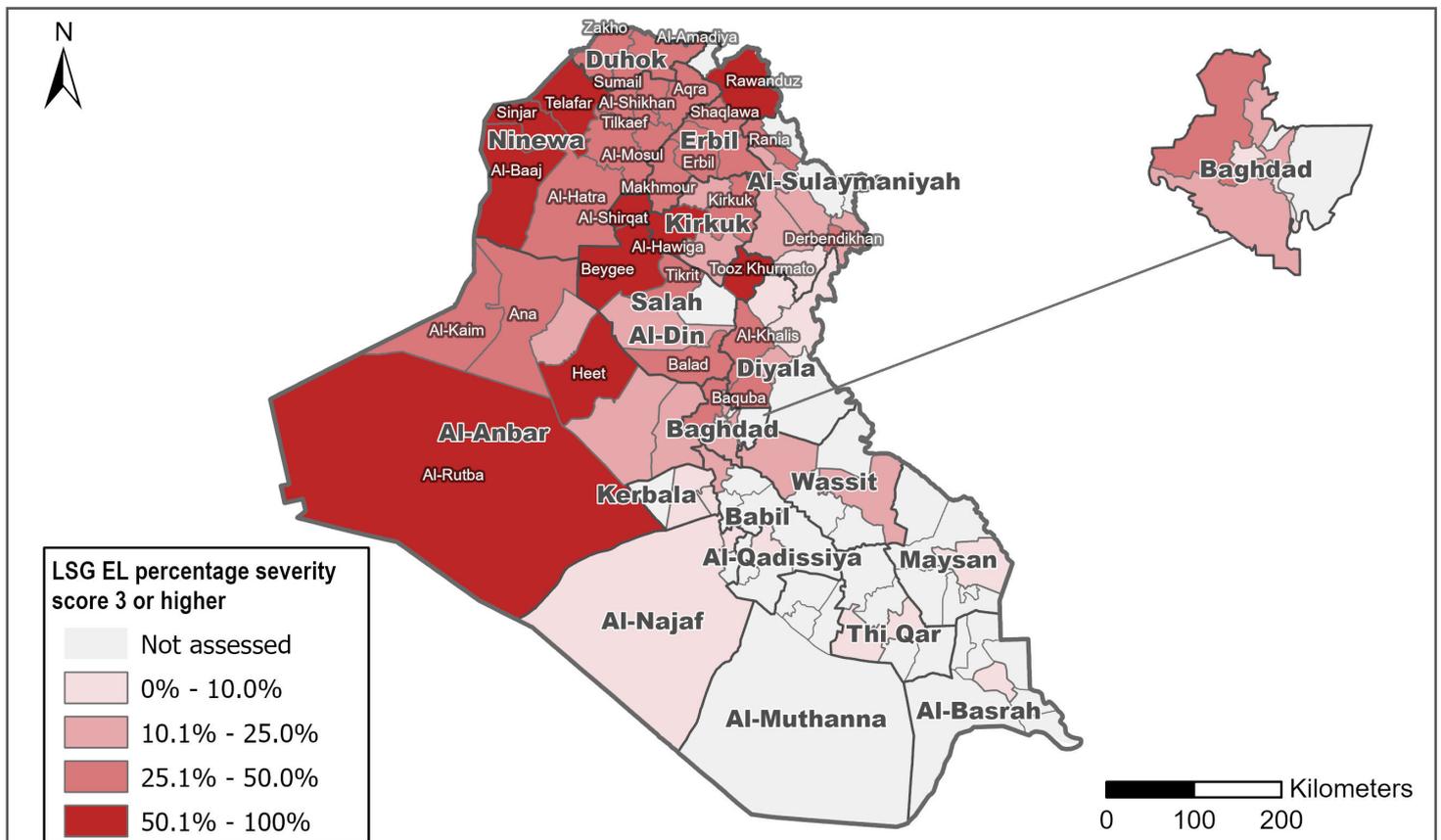


% of households per EL LSG severity score, per population group:



The emergency livelihoods LSG score was primarily driven by a high proportion of households with an income (from employment and pension) of less than 480,000 Iraqi dinars in the month prior to data collection. Eighty-five per cent (85%) of IDP households in camp, 60% IDP households out of camp and 60% of returnee households had a lower income. The score was also influenced by the proportion of households taking on debt to afford basic needs (healthcare, food, education, etc.) that ranged between 76% (IDP households in camp) and 58% (returnee households).

% of households with an EL LSG severity score of at least 3, per district:



¹ The EL LSG is composed of indicators relating to employment, income, and debt.



WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE (WASH) LIVING STANDARDS GAP (LSG)¹

MCNA | 2019
IRAQ

% of households with a WASH LSG severity score of at least 3: **7%**

see Annex for details on methodology

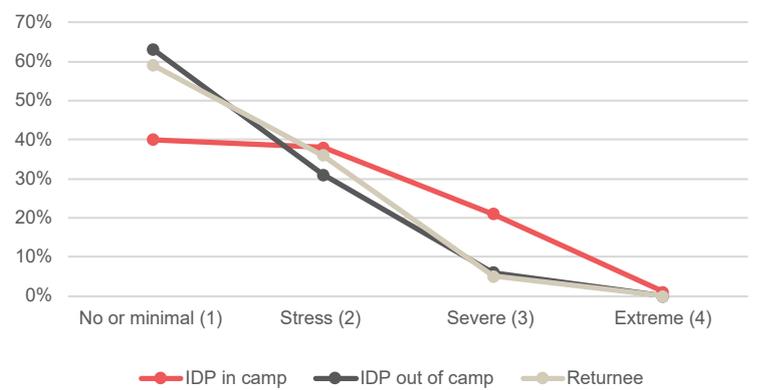
% of households per WASH LSG severity score:



% of households with a WASH LSG severity score of at least 3, per population group:

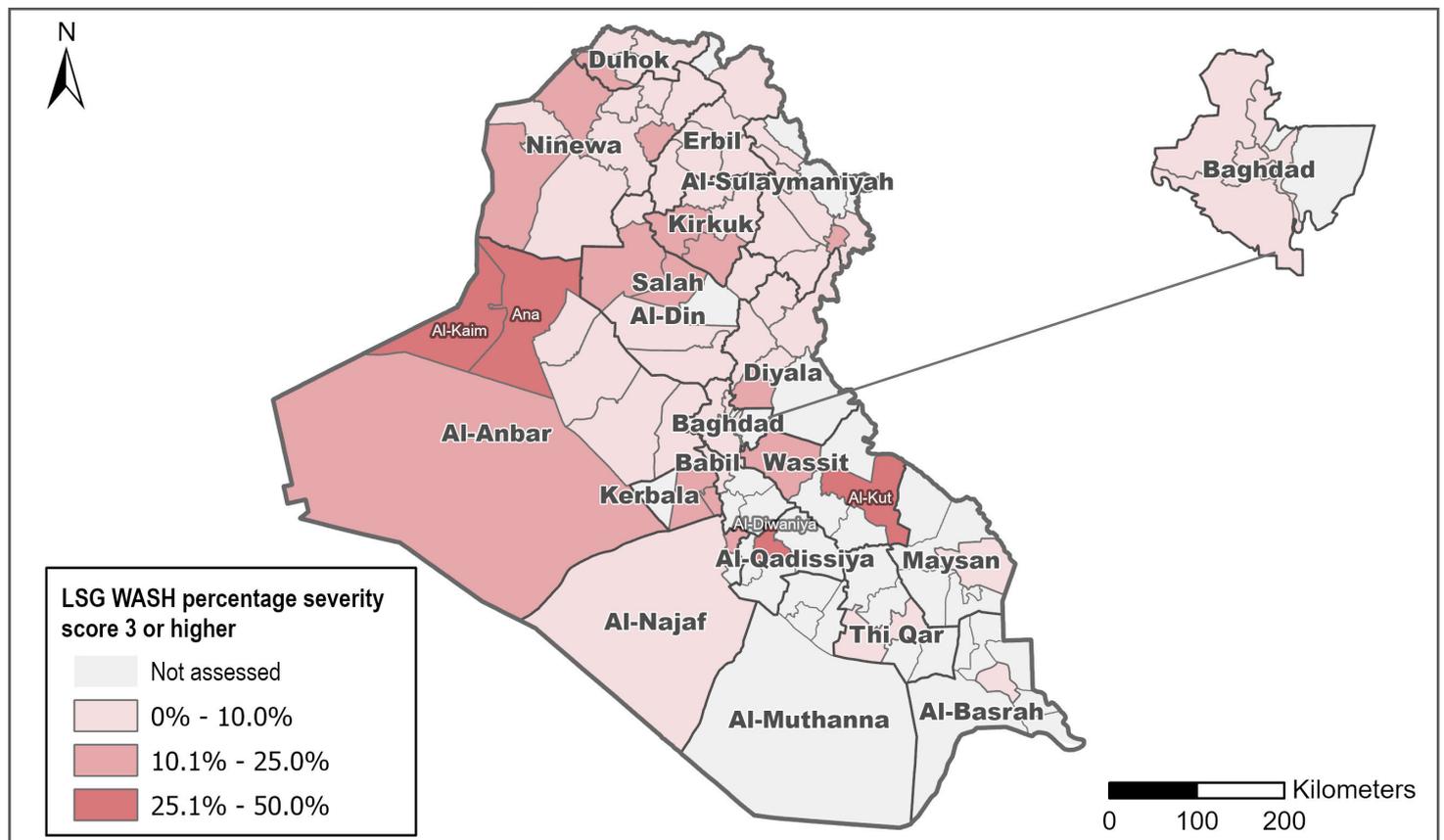


% of households per WASH LSG severity score, per population group:



The WASH LSG score was primarily driven by insufficient access to safe water for drinking and domestic purposes: 19% of IDP households in camp and 31% out of camp did not have access to at least 50 liters of water per person per day in the 30 days prior to data collection. Moreover, 34% of IDP households in camp indicated they had to treat their water before drinking it.

% of households with a WASH LSG severity score of at least 3, per district:



¹ The WASH LSG is composed of indicators relating to (1) access, quantity and quality of water, (2) access to latrines, (3) handwashing and access to soap.



HEALTH LIVING STANDARDS GAP (LSG)¹

MCNA | 2019
IRAQ

% of households with a health LSG severity score of at least 3: **25%**

% of households per health LSG severity score:



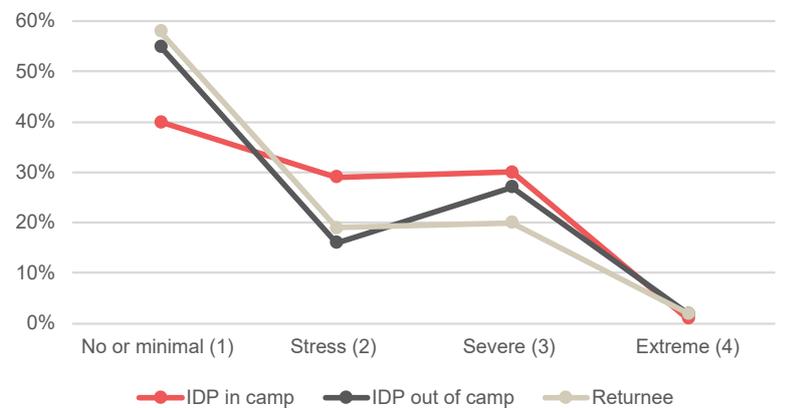
2%	Extreme	(severity score 4)
22%	Severe	(severity score 3)
19%	Stress	(severity score 2)
56%	No or minimal	(severity score 1)

see Annex for details on methodology

% of households with a health LSG severity score of at least 3, per population group:

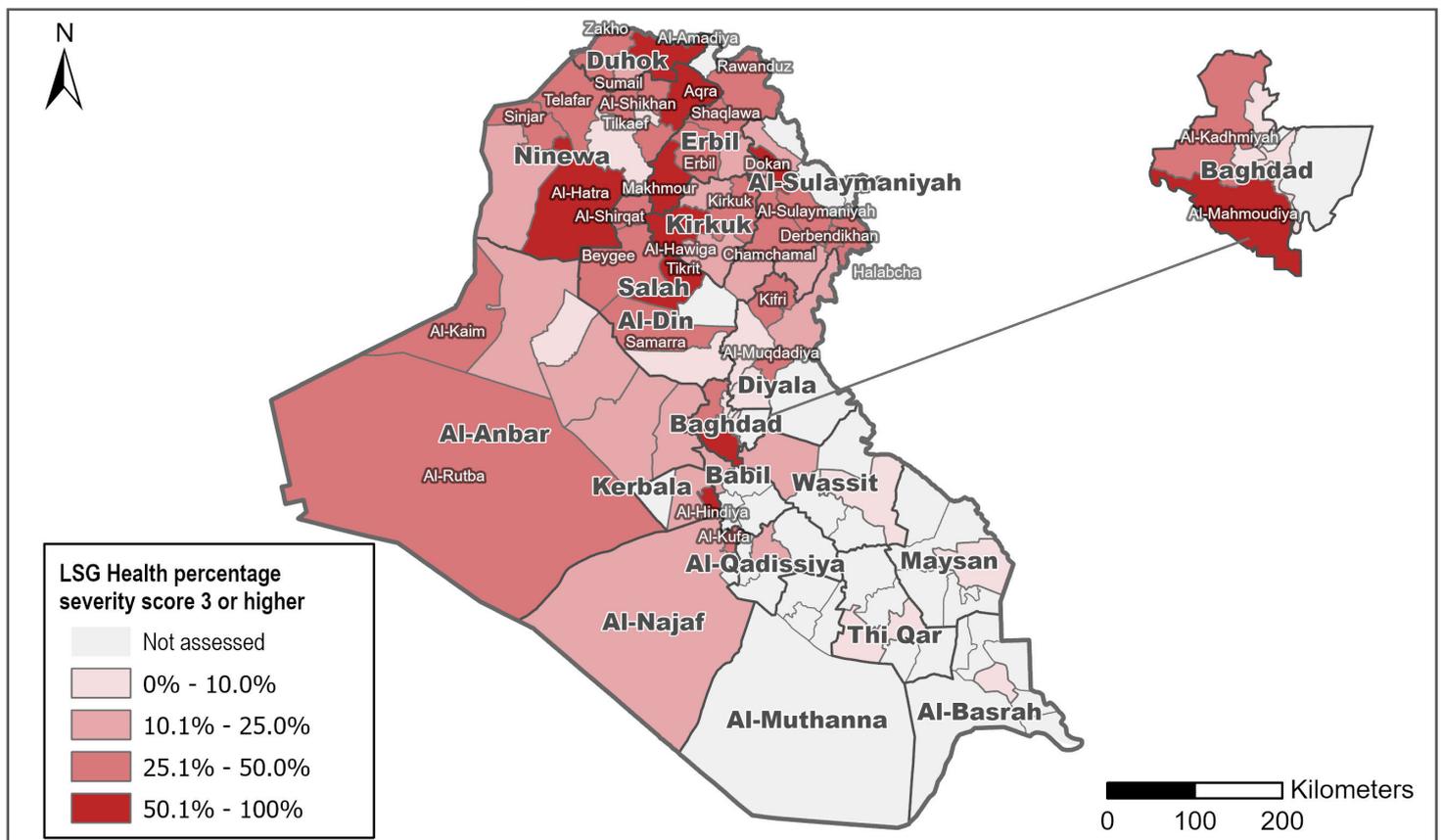
IDP in camp	31%	
IDP out of camp	29%	
Returnee	23%	

% of households per health LSG severity score, per population group:



The health LSG score included access to primary health services, hospitals with essential services (emergency, pediatric, maternity and surgery), and women's access to specialized reproductive care. Low access to hospitals with essential services heavily influenced the health LSG score: **40% of IDP households in camp indicated they had access to a hospital within 10 kilometers with all four essential services available.** For IDP households out of camp this proportion was 56% and 57% for returnee households.

% of households with a health LSG severity score of at least 3, per district:



¹ The Health LSG is composed of indicators relating to access to primary health services, essential services, and specialized services.



SHELTER LIVING STANDARDS GAP (LSG)¹

MCNA | 2019
IRAQ

% of households with a shelter LSG severity score of at least 3: **29%**

% of households per shelter LSG severity score:



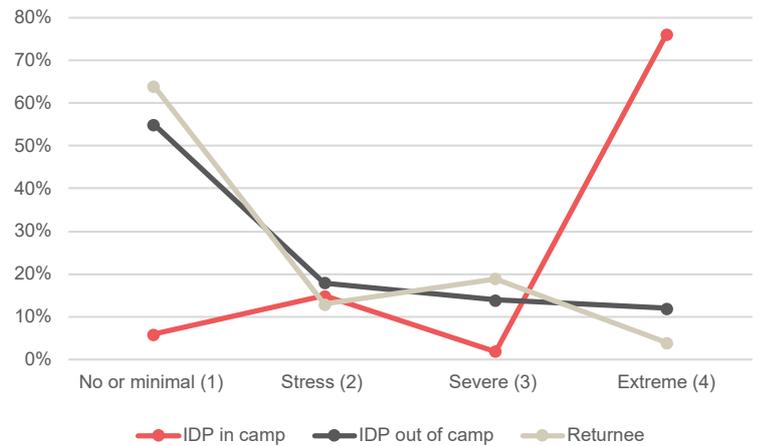
12%	Extreme	(severity score 4)
17%	Severe	(severity score 3)
14%	Stress	(severity score 2)
57%	No or minimal	(severity score 1)

see Annex for details on methodology

% of households with a shelter LSG severity score of at least 3, per population group:

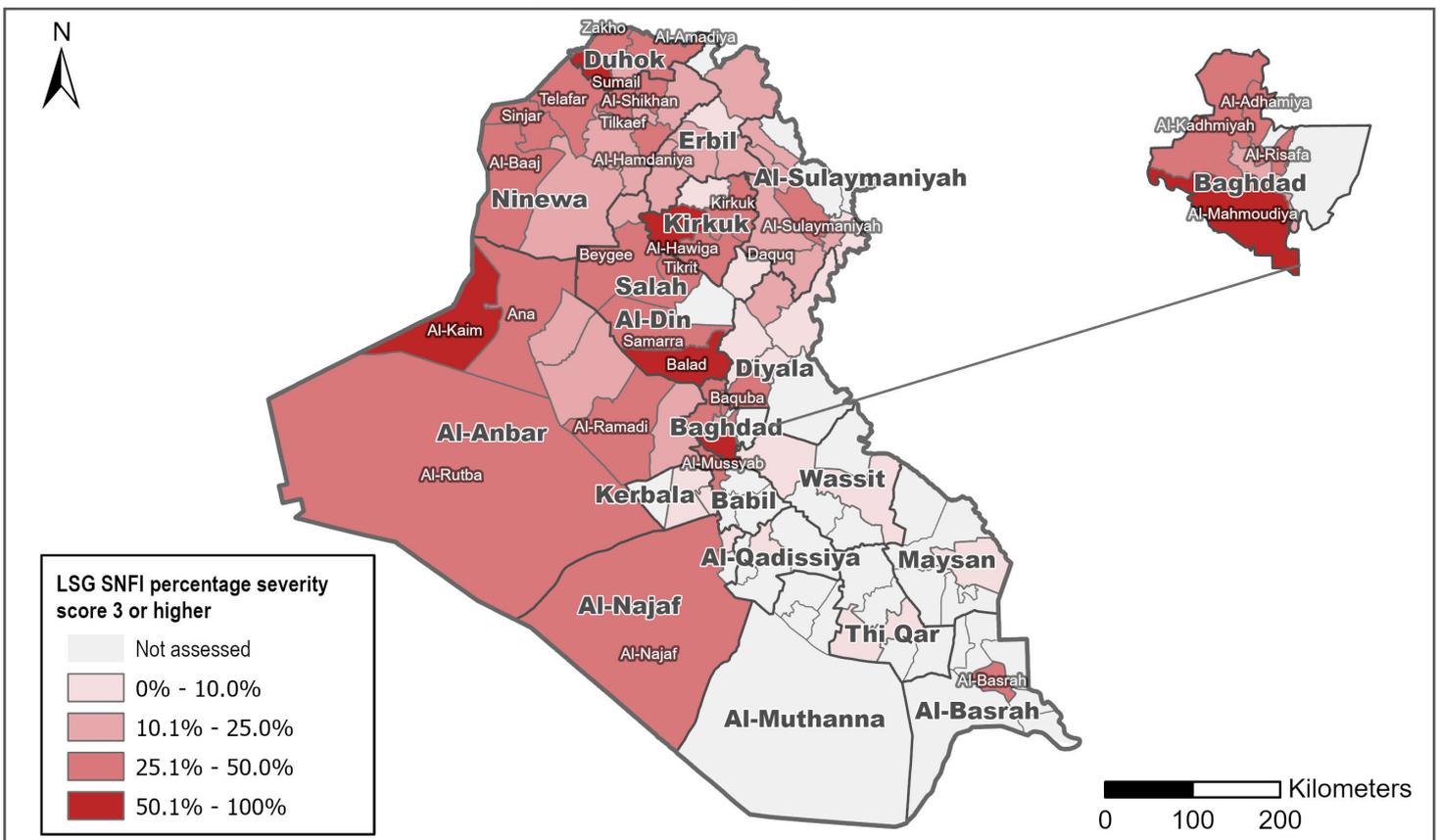
IDP in camp	79%	
IDP out of camp	27%	
Returnee	23%	

% of households per shelter LSG severity score, per population group:



IDP households in camp had a comparatively higher SNFI LSG severity score than the other two population groups because **100% were considered to be living under critical shelter conditions²**. In contrast this proportion was 14% for IDP households out of camp and 4% for returnee households. Another significant factor driving the LSG SNFI score was households needing protection from hazards, safety and security, and/or improved structure with 47% of in camp and 38% of out of camp households reporting the need for at least two shelter improvements.

% of households with a shelter LSG severity score of at least 3, per district:



¹ The SNFI LSG is composed of indicators relating to critical shelter, need for shelter improvements and non-food items needs.

² A critical shelter is defined as any housing situation other than a house, apartment or hotel (as defined by the shelter cluster).



EDUCATION LIVING STANDARDS GAP (LSG)¹

MCNA | 2019
IRAQ

% of households with an education LSG severity score of at least 3²: **20%**

see Annex for details on methodology

% of households per education LSG severity score:

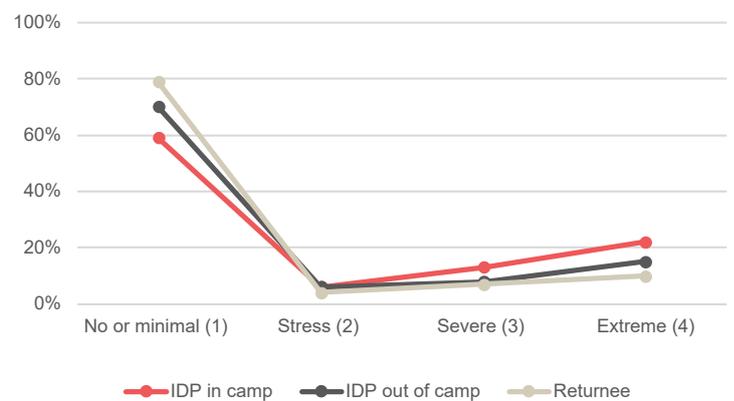


12%	Extreme	(severity score 4)
8%	Severe	(severity score 3)
5%	Stress	(severity score 2)
75%	No or minimal	(severity score 1)

% of households with an education LSG severity score of at least 3, per population group:

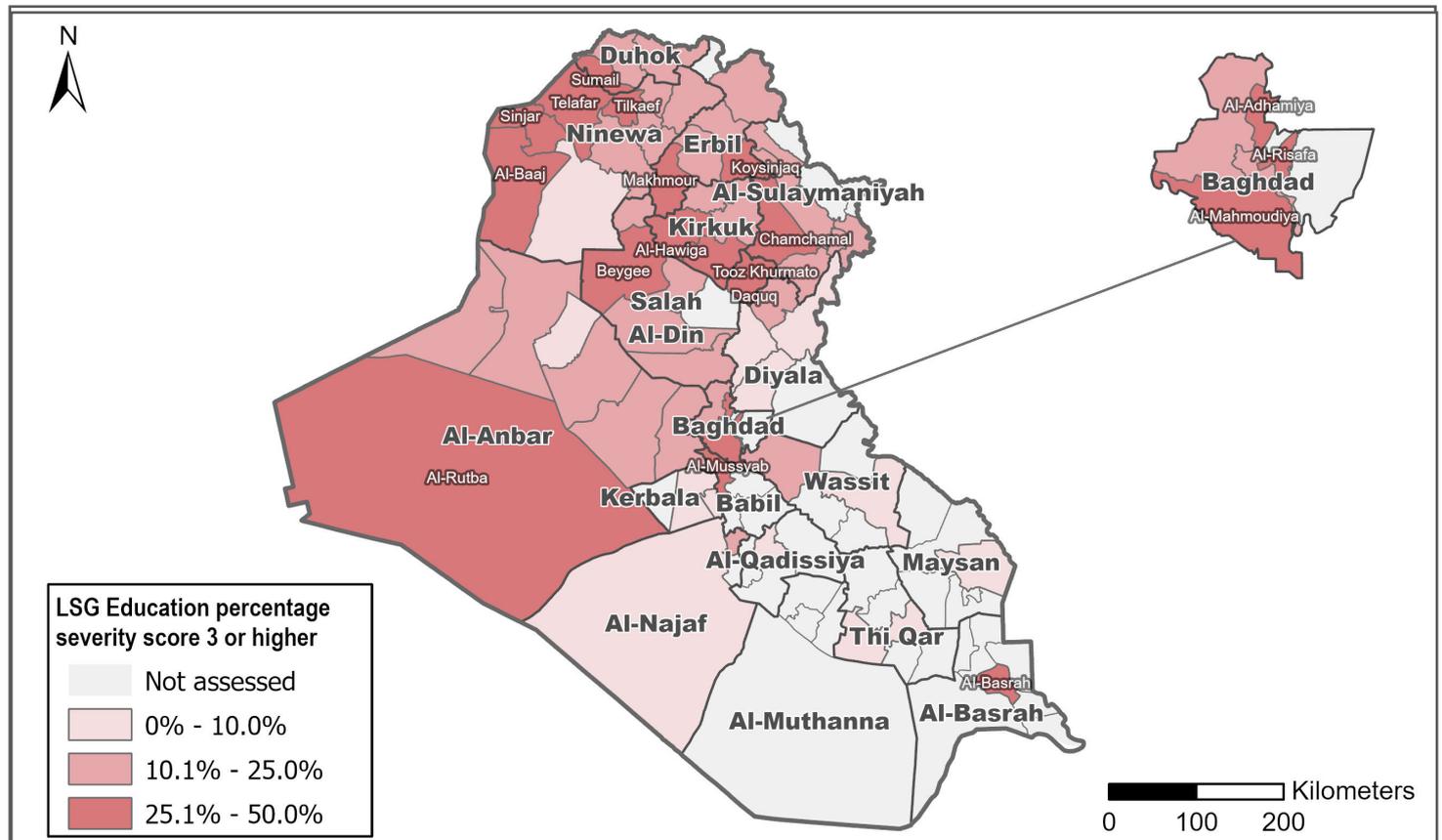
IDP in camp	35%	
IDP out of camp	24%	
Returnee	17%	

% of households per education LSG severity score, per population group:



High education LSG severity scores were driven by households in which **at least half of the school-aged children³ were not attending either formal or informal education**. The percentage of children per household attending either formal or informal education was 72% for IDP households in camp, 81% for IDP households out of camp and 87% for returnee households.

% of households with an education severity score of at least 3, per district:



¹ The education LSG is composed of one indicator relating to school-aged children attendance to formal or informal education.

² The findings relate to a subset of all households with school-aged children.

³ School-aged children are defined as all children between the age of 6 and 17.



PROTECTION LIVING STANDARDS GAP (LSG)¹

MCNA | 2019
IRAQ

% of households with a protection LSG severity score of at least 3: **23%**

see Annex for details on methodology

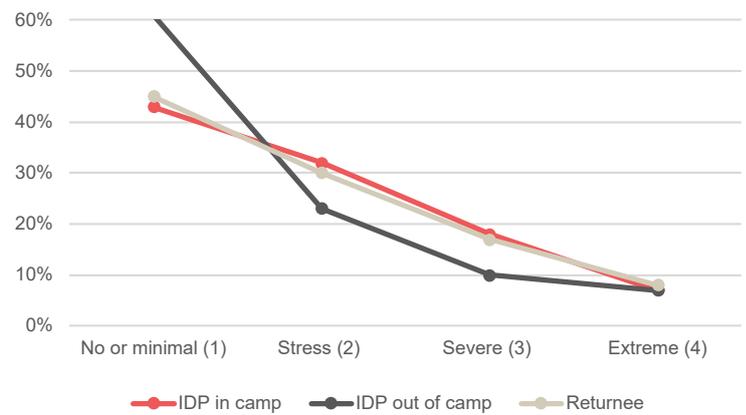
% of households per protection LSG severity score:



% of households with a protection LSG severity score of at least 3, per population group:

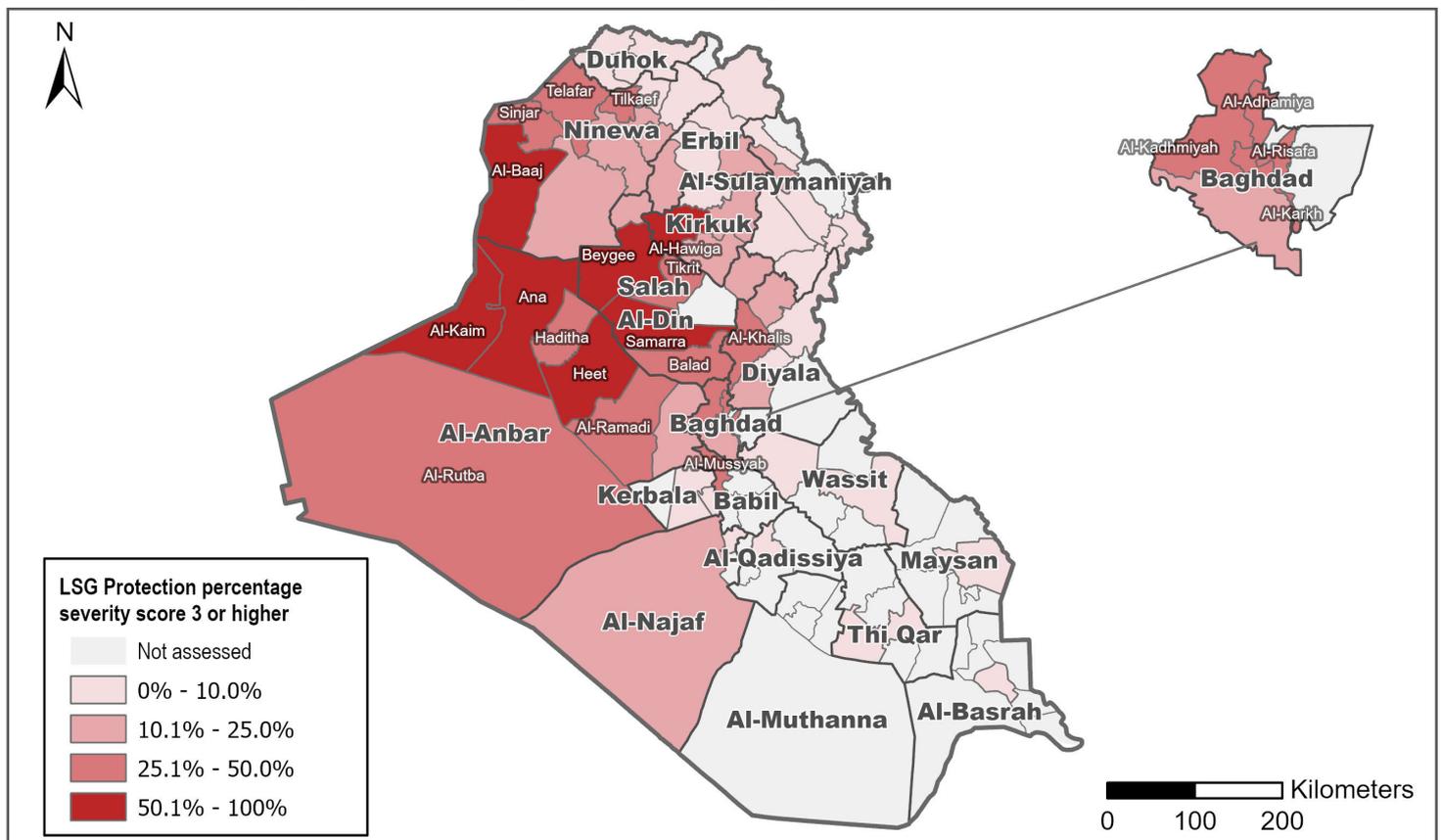
Returnee	24%	
IDP in camp	25%	
IDP out of camp	16%	

% of households per protection LSG severity score, per population group:



The protection LSG was heavily driven by lack of documentation as more than half of all households indicated they were missing at least one core household or individual document². Daytime movement restrictions - often compounded by lack of documentation - also drove the LSG score, with 64% of returnee, 47% of IDP in camp and 31% of IDP out of camp households experiencing them. Finally, the proportion of households with females reportedly avoiding certain areas because they felt unsafe was also a considerable driver of the LSG score (42% for IDP in camp, 20% for IDP out of camp, 42% for returnee households).

% of households with a protection severity score of at least 3, per district:



¹ The protection LSG is composed of indicators relating to documentation, housing land and property issues, mine hazards, gender-based violence, and child protection.

² PDS card, information card, national identity card, birth certificate and/or citizenship certificate.

% of households with a CG severity score of at least 3: **19%**

see Annex for details on methodology

% of households per CG severity score:

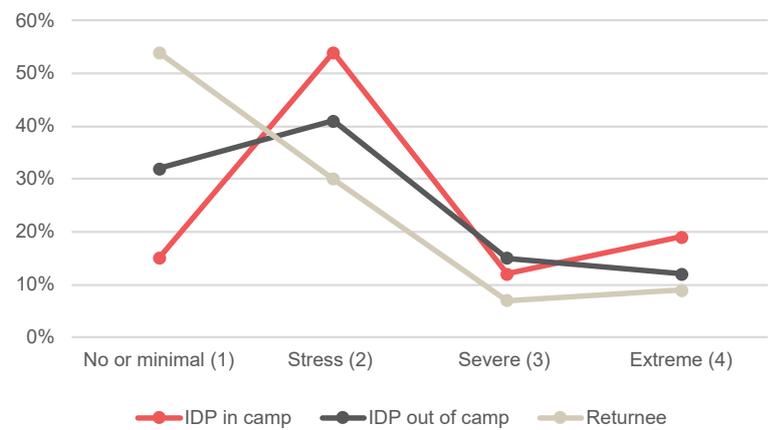


10%	Extreme	(severity score 4)
9%	Severe	(severity score 3)
34%	Stress	(severity score 2)
47%	No or minimal	(severity score 1)

% of households with a CG severity score of at least 3, per population group:

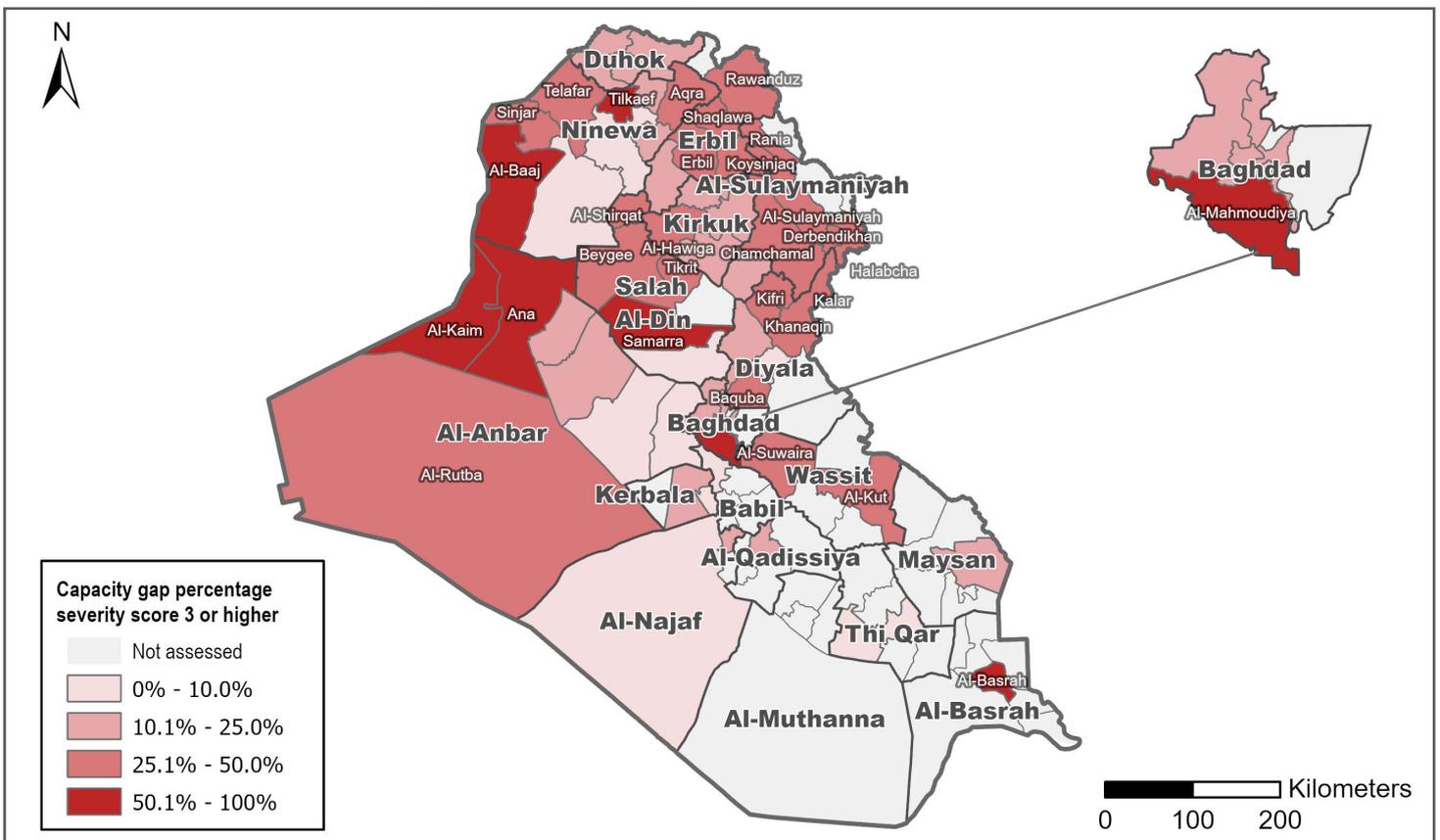


% of households per CG severity score, per population group:



Emergency strategies (including children dropping out from school, accepting that adults engage in risky behavior, migration of all family, and children or adult forcefully married) were employed by 19% of IDP households in camp, 12% of IDP out of camp, and 9% returnee households. A higher proportion of IDP households in camp reported relying on emergency strategies which was the main driver for their CG score.

% of households with a CG severity score of at least 3, per district:



¹ The CG score is composed of indicators relating to households' reliance on stress, crisis or emergency coping mechanisms in order to meet basic needs in the 30 days prior to data collection.



VULNERABILITIES¹

% of households with a vulnerability severity score of at least 3:

11%

see Annex for details on methodology

% of households per vulnerability severity score:



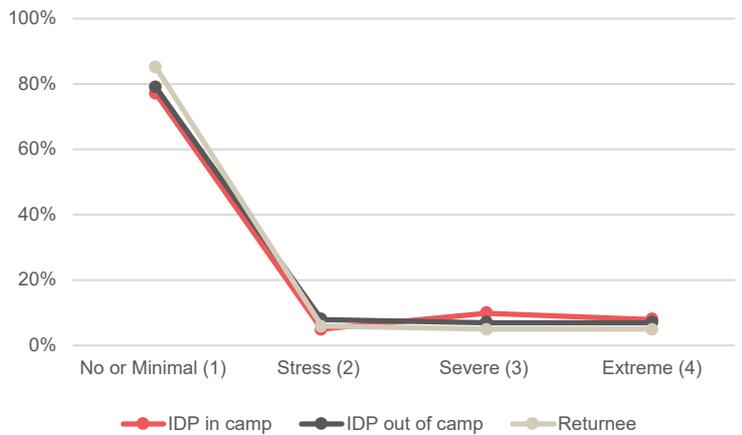
5%	Extreme	(severity score 4)
6%	Severe	(severity score 3)
6%	Stress	(severity score 2)
83%	No or minimal	(severity score 1)

% of households with a vulnerability severity score of at least 3, per population group:

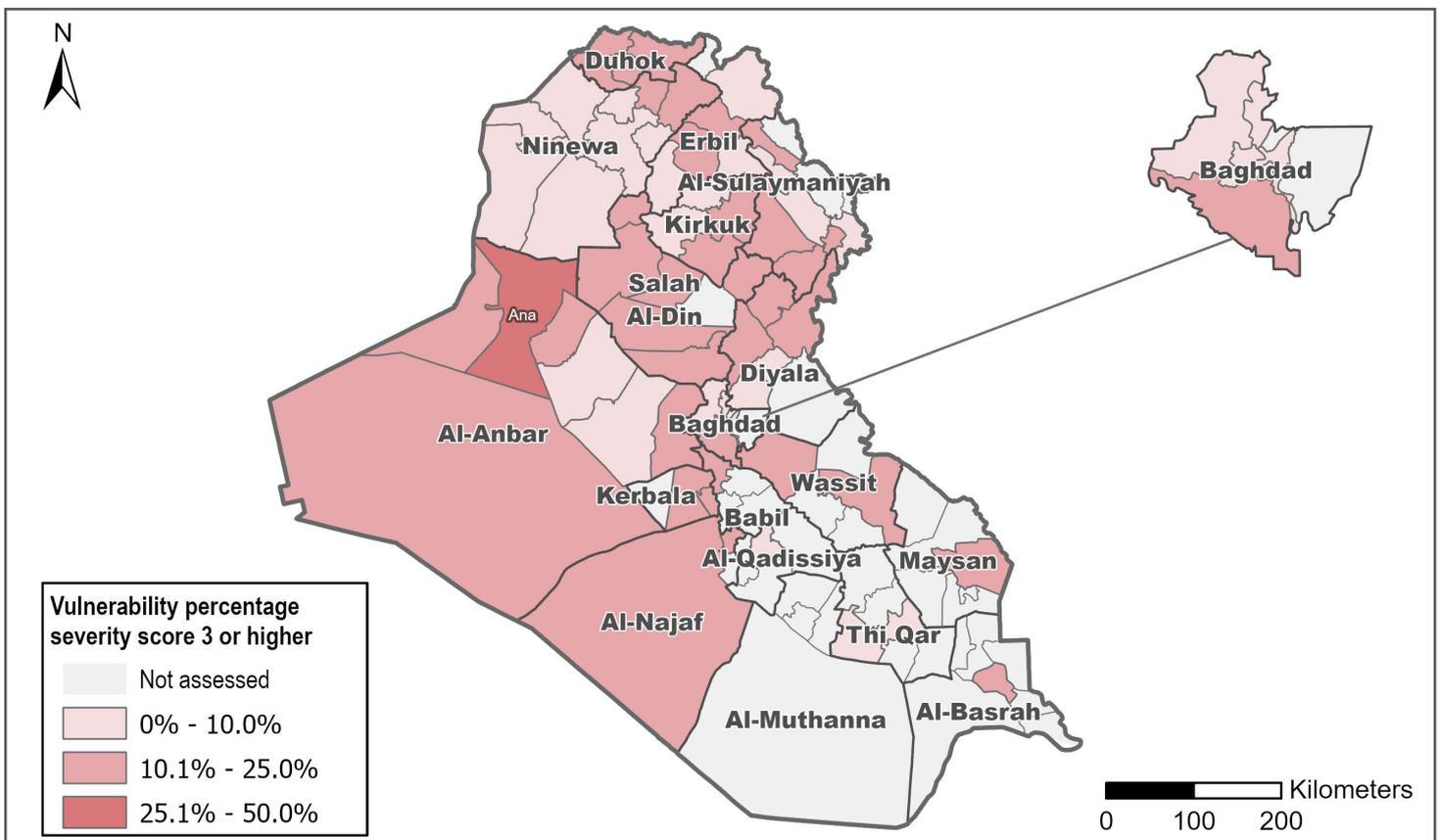
IDP in camp	18%	
IDP out of camp	13%	
Returnee	9%	

With 21% of in camp, 11% of out of camp and 7% of returnee households being female headed, the vulnerability score was largely driven by the percentage of female headed households, to which double the weight was applied compared to the other two indicators included in the vulnerability score. In addition, 27% of all households reported that at least one member suffers from a chronic condition and 12% of all households reported having at least one member with a physical and/or cognitive difficulty² (ranging between 1% and 54% at district level).

% of households with a vulnerability severity score of at least 3, per population group:



% of households with a vulnerability severity score of at least 3, per district:



¹ The vulnerability score was composed of indicators on the gender of the head of household, and individual member vulnerabilities such as physical and/or cognitive difficulties and/or a chronic disease.

² As per Washington Group guidance, this included individuals that had "lots of difficulty" or "could not do at all" one of the following activities: seeing, hearing, walking/climbing steps,

% of households with an impact severity score of at least 3: **18%**

see Annex for details on methodology

% of households per impact severity score:

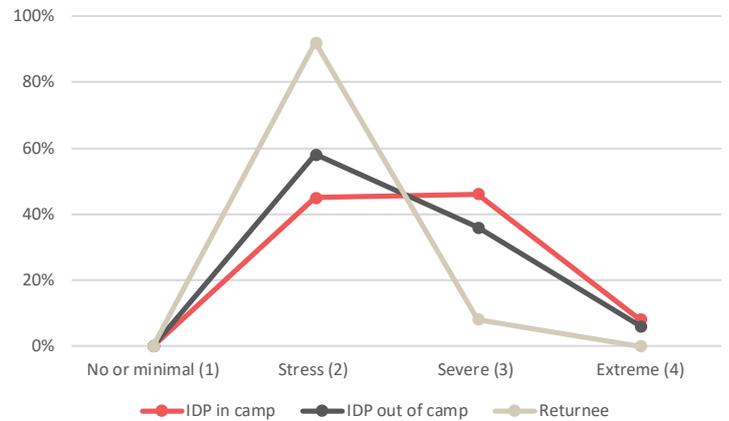


% of households with an impact severity score of at least 3, per population group:

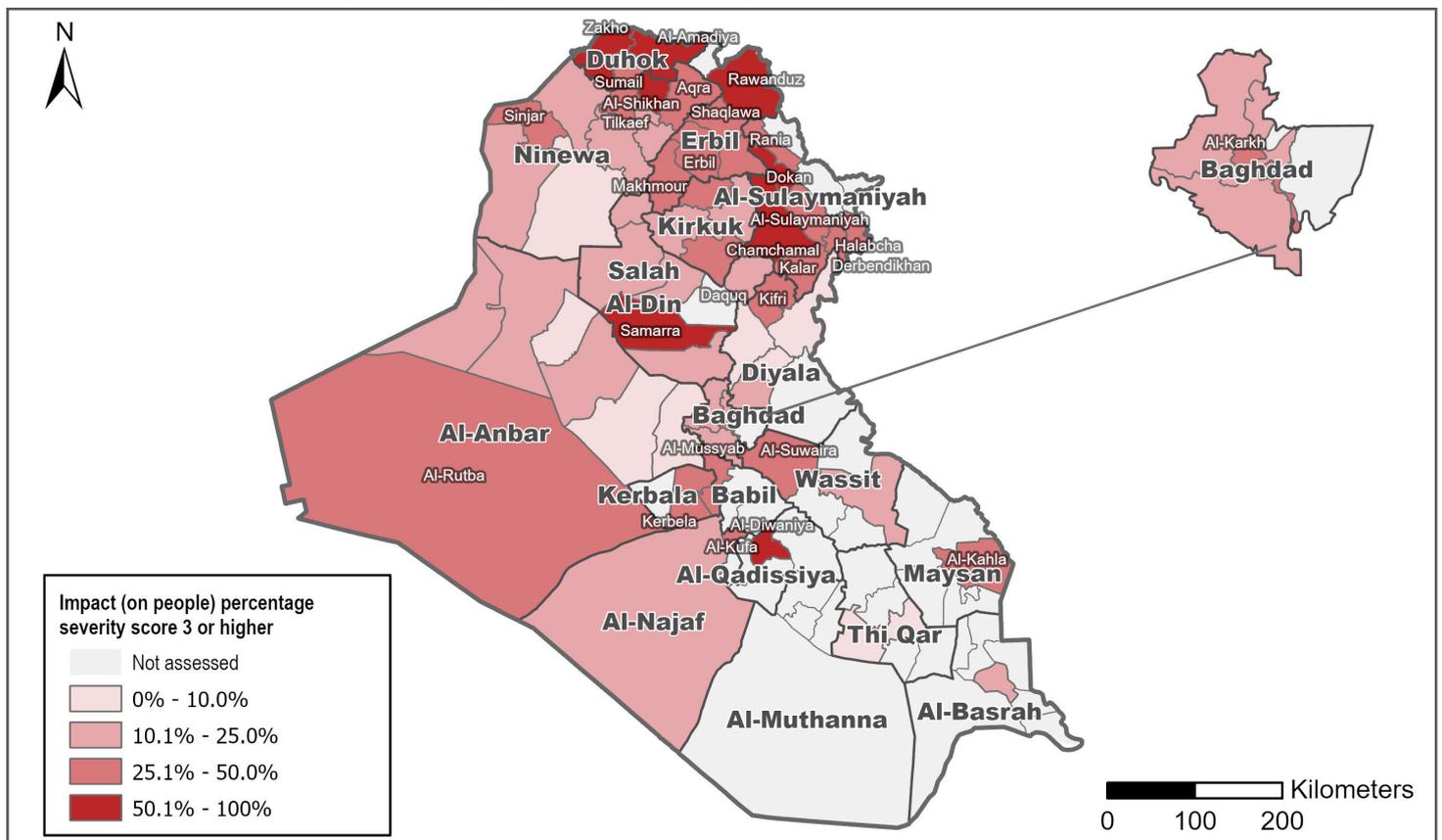


Due to their displacement status (IDP or returnee), all households were considered as having an impact severity score of at least stress-level. Higher severity scores were noticed for IDP households and primarily driven by barriers to return to AoO (namely houses being damaged or destroyed and perceived presence of explosive hazards). Nineteen per cent (19%) of in camp and 10% of out of camp IDP households reported that they do not intend to return to their AoO due to a perceived explosive hazards contamination.

% of households per impact severity score, per population group:



% of households with an impact severity score of at least 3, per district:



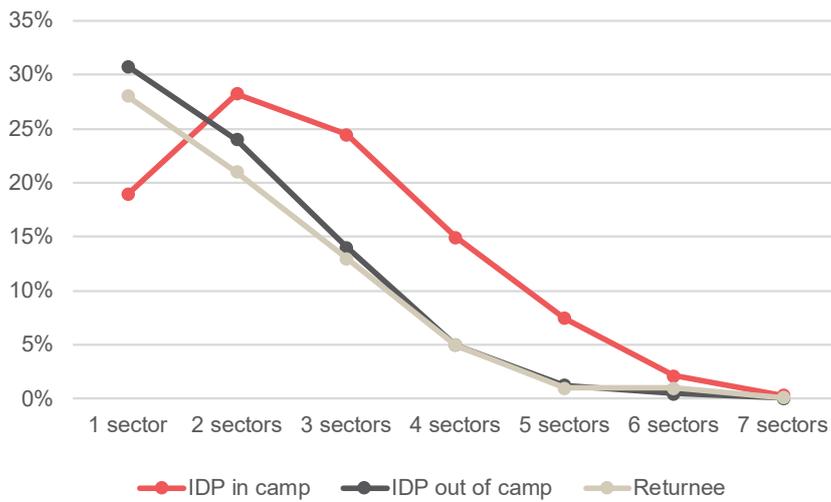
¹ The Impact score consists of displacement status, selected reasons for IDP households not intending to return to their AoO (destruction of homes and perceived presence of explosive hazards), disability caused by explosive hazards, and children dropping out of school after January 2014.



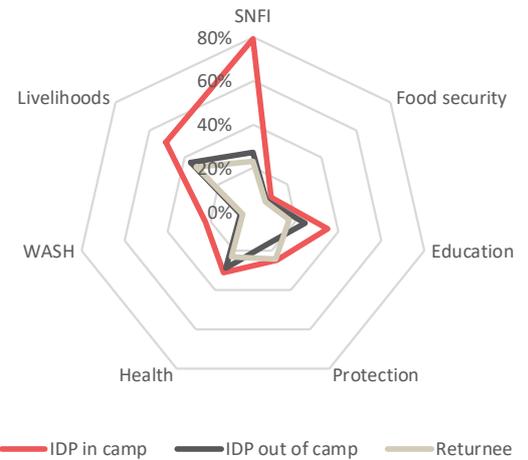
% of households with at least one LSG severity score of at least 3: **82%**

see Annex for details on methodology

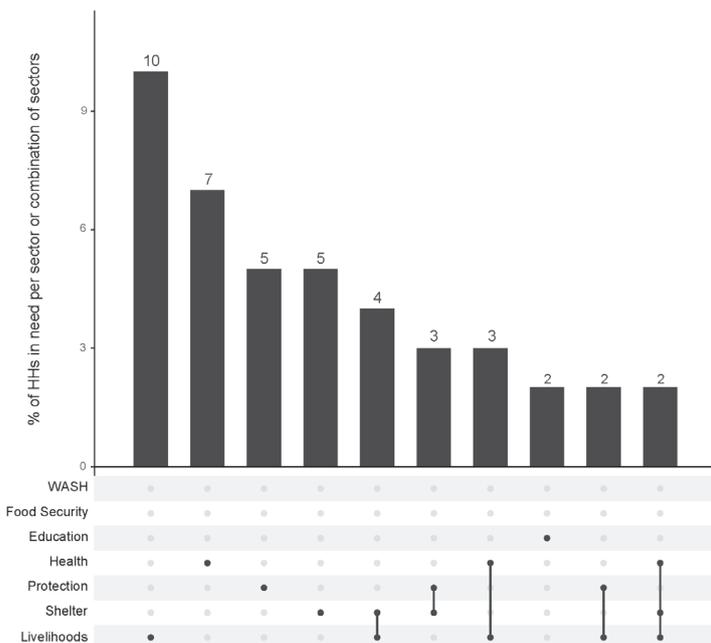
% of households with LSG severity scores of at least 3 in one or more sectors, per population group:



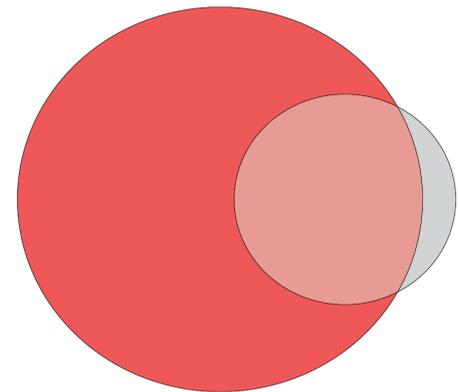
% of households with sectoral LSG severity scores of at least 3, per population group:



Most common needs profiles for households (% of households found to have LSG severity scores of at least 3 per sector or combination of sectors):



83% of households were found to have at least one LSG severity score and/or a CG severity score of at least 3:



- 64% of households were found to have at least one LSG severity score of at least 3 but a CG severity score lower than 3;
- 18% of households were found to have both at least one LSG severity score and a CG severity score of at least 3;
- 1% of households were found to have all LSG severity scores lower than 3 but a CG score of at least 3.

LSGs, capacity gap, vulnerability, and Impact pillars, with conditions and assigned scores:

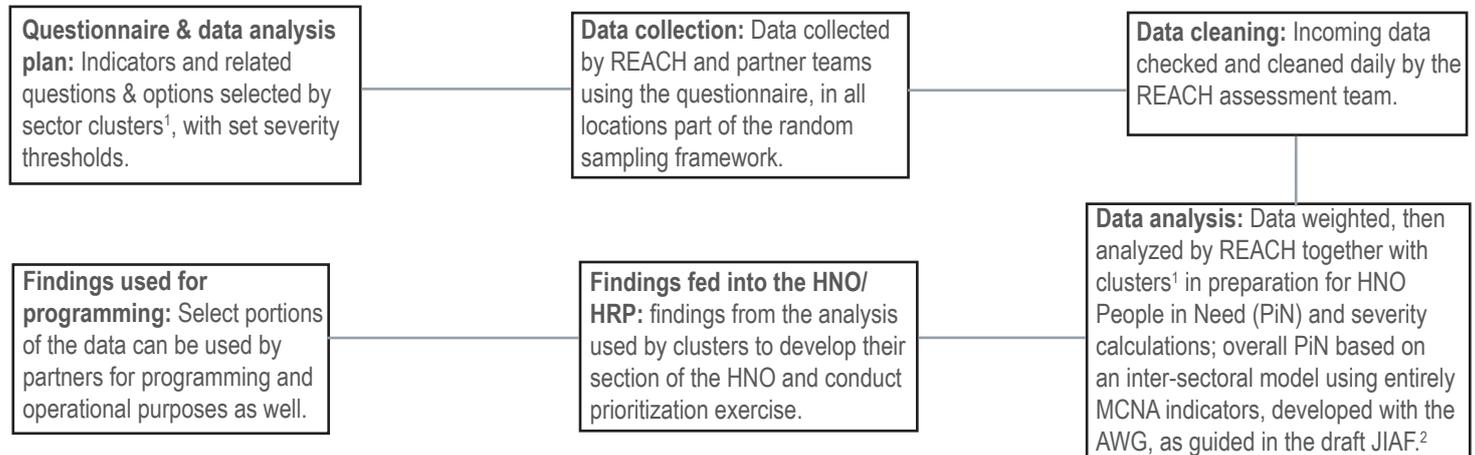
Pillar	Condition	Score assigned
Impact on People	Household displaced (IDP in camp, IDP out of camp, returnee)	3
	Household does not intend to return to AoO due to HLP issues in AoO	1
	Household does not intend to return to AoO due to concern over explosive hazard contamination in AoO	1
	Household has individual with disability related to an explosive hazard	1
	Household has at least one child that dropped out of school after January 2014	1
Humanitarian Condition (HC) - Capacity Gap	Household relying on at least one stress strategy (no crisis or emergency)	2
	Household relying on at least one crisis strategy (no emergency)	3
	Household relying on at least one emergency strategy	4
HC – Living standard gap (LSG) / Food Security	1 'Food secure'	1
	2 'Marginally food secure'	2
	3 'Moderately food insecure'	3
	4 'Severely food insecure'.	4
HC - LSG / Shelter and Non-food items	Household living under critical shelter	2
	Household needs at least 1 basic NFI item	1
	Household needs improved security of tenure, and / or improved basic infrastructures and utilities, and or protection from hazards	2
	Household needs improved privacy and dignity, and / or protection from climatic conditions	3
	Household needs protection from hazards, and / or safety and security, and / or improved structural stability of the building	4
HC - LSG / Health	Household does not have access to a functional health clinic within 5 km	2
	Household does not have access to a functional hospital within 10 km with essential services (emergency, pediatric, maternity, surgical)	2
	Women in household do not have access to reproductive specialized services	1
HC - LSG / Education	Household with at least one child not attending formal or informal education	1

Pillar	Condition	Score assigned
HC - LSG / Protection	Household lacks secure tenure (house they live in or own is under dispute)	1
	Household is missing at least one core household or individual document (PDS, info card, national ID, citizenship ID, birth certificate)	1
	Household is experiencing daytime movement restrictions	1
	Women and/or girls in household avoid at least one area because they feel unsafe there	1
	Household with at least one member <18 working	1
	Household has at least one member <18 years married	1
	Household has at least one child unable to attend due to lack of documentation	1
	Household presently fearing eviction	1
	Household with at least one child with psychosocial distress	1
Household with at least one adult with psychosocial distress	1	
HC - LSG / WASH	Household does not have sufficient access to water (50L/household/day)	2.5
	Household requires water treatment prior to drinking	2.5
	Household has access only to unimproved water sources	1.5
	Household does not have access to improved functional sanitation facilities	2
	Household (1) does not have to access to soap and/or (2) does not practice handwashing	1.5
HC - LSG / Emergency Livelihoods	Household has at least one adult (18+ unemployed and seeking work)	1
	Household had an income from employment / pension less than 480,000 IQD in the 30 days prior to data collection.	1
	Household relies primarily on humanitarian assistance as main source of income	1
	Household has a debt value of over 505,000 IQD	1
	Household is unable to afford basic needs (takes on debt to afford basic needs)	1
Vulnerability	Household is female-headed	2
	Household has at least one individual with a chronic health condition	1
	Household has at least one individual with a physical and/or cognitive difficulty	1



This annex provides further information on the methodology behind different components of the MCNA, including: (1) A summary of the key steps of the MCNA data processing, including how humanitarian stakeholders were involved; (2) A recap of the different sampling methods used prior to data collection; (3) An example on how scores presented in this factsheet (LSG, CG, vulnerability) were calculated

Main steps of the MCNA data processing



Overview of sampling, by population group

Population Group	Sampling methodology	Population data source	Level of confidence / margin of error
IDP households in camp	2-stage random sampling	CCCM June 2019 camp masterlist	90 / 10 at the camp level
IDP households out of camp	Cluster sampling	IOM DTM (April 2019)	90 / 10 at the district level
Returnee households	Cluster sampling	IOM DTM (April 2019)	90 / 10 at the district level

How scores are calculated: example with the Capacity Gap score

Step 1 - Individual indicators are selected

Indicator 1 - % of households relying on stress strategies to cope with a lack of resources to meet basic needs.

Indicator 2 - % of households relying on crisis strategies to cope with a lack of resources to meet basic needs.

Indicator 3 - % of households relying on emergency strategies to cope with a lack of resources to meet basic needs.

Step 2 - Conditions are determined

Condition 1 - Households rely on at least one stress strategy (but no crisis or emergency)

Condition 2 - Households rely on at least one crisis strategy (but no emergency)

Condition 3 - Households rely on at least one emergency strategy

Step 3 - Scores assigned to conditions

Indicator 1 (condition 1) - 1 point

Indicator 2 (condition 2) - 2 points

Indicator 3 (condition 3) - 3 points

Step 4 - Severity determined according to total score

Total CG Score	CG Severity
0	1 (No or minimal)
1	2 (Stress)
2	3 (Severe)
3	4 (Extreme)

Step 5 - Calculation of percentages of households falling under each severity score.

¹ Food security, emergency livelihoods, protection (including the mine action, gender-based violence, child protection, and housing, land and property sub-clusters), WASH, health, CCCM, SNFI, and education clusters.

² The Joint Inter Agency Framework (JIAF) was developed by the Joint Inter Agency Group to standardize PiN and severity calculations across HNOs globally.

ASSESSMENT CONDUCTED IN THE FRAMEWORK OF:

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- 14 People in Need
- 15 REACH - Iraq
- 16 Save the Children
- 17 Secours Islamique Français (SIF)
- 18 SSORD
- 19 ZOA International

About REACH:

REACH Initiative facilitates the development of information tools and products that enhance the capacity of aid actors to make evidence-based decisions in emergency, recovery and development contexts. The methodologies used by REACH include primary data collection and in-depth analysis, and all activities are conducted through inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms. REACH is a joint initiative of IMPACT Initiatives, ACTED and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research - Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNITAR-UNOSAT).