

## INTRODUCTION

After the Government of Iraq (GoI) declared victory over the group known as Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) in December 2017, Iraqis who had been displaced since the start of the conflict in 2014 started returning to their areas of origin (AoO). As of September 2022, it was estimated that approximately 4.97 million Iraqis had returned to their homes, while over 1.17 million remained internally displaced.<sup>1</sup>

For this ABA, REACH focused on the area of al-Latifya town and Kilo 18, which are in Mahmoudiya district in Baghdad governorate. The governorate experienced a large scale of displacement and sustained substantial damage to infrastructure and housing due to the violence that ensued following the US-led invasion in 2003 and continued with the conflict with ISIL between 2014 and 2017.<sup>2</sup>

As of REACH's April 2022 Informal Sites assessment, there were eight informal sites in al-Latifya subdistrict, with the majority of IDPs originating from Babil governorate and armed conflict being their main reason for displacement.<sup>3</sup> Two-thirds of households intended to remain in their current location, commonly reporting that their barriers to return were the fear/trauma associated with their AoO, housing destruction, and movement restrictions by militias.<sup>4</sup>

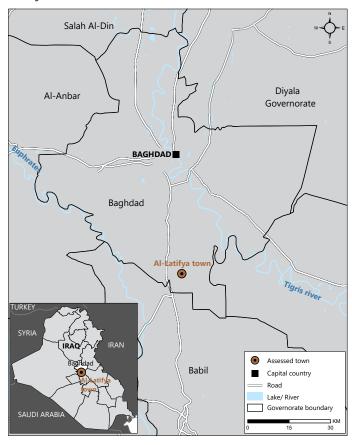
Mahmoudiya district hosts the largest number of IDPs and returnees in Baghdad governorate, and al-Latifya is the sub-district hosting the largest number of IDPs.<sup>5</sup> As of December 2022, it was estimated that al-Latifya subdistrict hosted 1,083 IDP households (6,498 individuals) and 1,937 returnee households (11,838 individuals).6 The whole population was estimated to be 52,138 individuals in 2020.7 As of July 2021, the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) International Organization for Migration (IOM) Informal Site Assessment (ILA VI), Baghdad Governorate recorded 11 new informal sites, making it the governorate with the largest increase in the number of displaced families in informal sites compared to August 2020. This increase of IDPs living in informal sites meant a shortage of basic services and infrastructures like public sewage and electricity network to meet the increased need.8

According to IOM DTM's return index (June 2022), the primary challenges in al-Latifya were poor recovery of agricultural activities and small businesses, blocked returns, and residential destruction/shelter reconstruction. During 2020, issues related to the availability of employment opportunities, the quality of daily public life, and access to sufficient electricity increased sharply

in terms of severity for both IDPs and returnees.9, 10

As there is a shift in focus from humanitarian to development programming, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) created the Area-Based Programming for Protection and Solutions (A2PS), an intervention approach to promote sustainable integration or reintegration of those affected by conflict. Instead of focusing on specific population groups, it focuses on specific geographical areas to identify obstacles to integration, social cohesion, and protection across sectors, and directs UNHCR's advocacy towards different stakeholders to work on addressing those.11 UNHCR aims to implement their A2PS approach in al-Latifya, and this ABA conducted by REACH intends to complement UNHCR's assessments in the area for their A2PS proposal. This ABA may also provide information for the potential founding of an area-based coordination group for Baghdad.

Map 1: Coverage map of the assessed location of Latifya and Kilo 18



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>International Organization for Migration (IOM) Displacement tracking matrix (DTM) Iraq, IDP and returnee master list 127, September 2022, Available here.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Non-governmental organisation (NGO) Coordination Committee for Iraq (NCCI), Baghdad Governorate Profile, December 2015. Available here.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> REACH and CCCM Cluster, Informal Sites Dashboard, April 2022. Available <u>here</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> REACH, Informal Sites Profiling and Intentions, April 2022. Available here.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> IOM DTM Iraq, IDP and returnee master list 128, December 2022, Available here

 $<sup>^6\,\</sup>text{IOM}$  DTM Iraq, IDP and returnee master list 128, December 2022, Available  $\underline{\text{here}}.$ 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> REACH, Iraq population distribution dashboard. Available <u>here</u>.

<sup>8</sup> IOM Iraq, Cut off and Critical: Life in al-Latifiya Informal Site, 17 August 2022. Available here.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> IOM DTM Iraq, Return Index Government Profiling: Return Dynamics in Baghdad Governorate, June 2022. Available here.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> IOM DTM Iraq, Displacement Index 4, September 2022. Available <u>here</u>.

## **METHODOLOGY**

This ABA implemented a predominantly quantitative methodology (household survey in al-Latifya and Kilo18, and key informant interviews), with qualitative elements in the key informant interviews (KIIs), and KI mapping. The geographical coverage of this ABA was al-Latifya town and Kilo 18. Before the start of primary data collection, REACH conducted a secondary data review (SDR) of existing data (the district-level data from the MCNA X, and the Informal Sites Profiling 2022, as well as the national-level data for comparison purposes. Further reports, documents, and datasets – such as the IOM DTM's outputs) relevant to the situation in this geographical area and information gathered through this process was used to build contextual knowledge to inform the data collection plan, identify information gaps, and triangulate findings from the ABA primary data.

Between 28 November and 22 December 2022, a total of 311 household surveys were collected remotely via phone interviews and kobo tools (166 in al-Latifya town and 145 in Kilo 18). Household contacts were compiled from partners, other REACH assessments and snowballing. Face-to-face data collection was not possible due to time and access constraints, only being able to conduct the KI mapping through this method. Because of this methodology, findings cannot be considered representative but indicative. However, the sample aimed to have a minimum number of households that would have been required for a 95% confidence level and 8% margin of error by location (Latifya and Kilo 18) and population group (host community and IDPs).

The KIIs had two components: KIIs with community leaders and KIIs with subject-matter experts (SMEs). For the community leaders, REACH conducted 10 phone-based KIIs with the neighbourhoods' mukhtars, eight in al-Latifya and two Kilo 18 to obtain general information on the living conditions, the functionality of services, social cohesion and the rule of law within their areas of responsibility. For the SMEs, REACH conducted 34 phone-based KIIs with experts from

Table 1: Number of household surveys conducted

Location	IDPs	Host	Total
Al-Latifya	79	87	166
Kilo 18	69	76	145
Total			311

different sectors: education (five), healthcare (five), waste management (five), water (five), livelihoods (five), electricity (five), and legal services (four).

REACH also conducted 8 participatory mapping exercises with community leaders to map the infrastructure and services in each neighbourhood, including their presence, quality, and other attributes. The mappings were conducted face-to-face using physical maps obtained from satellite imagery.

Some limitations to consider while interpreting the findings are as follow:

- Household surveys were done remotely and that may affect the accuracy of the responses.
- All findings are self-reported and thus subjective.
- Households may have self-identified as IDPs despite only having moved within the sub-district after 2014.
- Although REACH staff explained that the households' participation in the assessment would not translate into humanitarian assistance, households may have misreported their situation in hopes of receiving it.

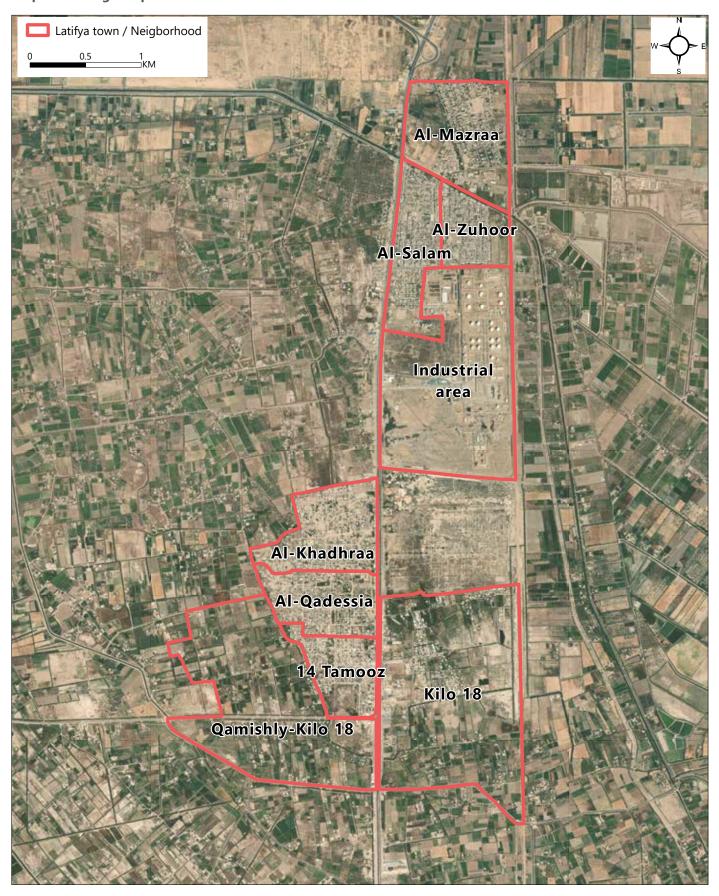
A dashboard presenting the data from the household survey component of the ABA can be found via this <u>link</u>. The participatory mapping can be found via this <u>link</u>.

**Table 2: Number of surveys conducted with KIs** 

	Data Collection Method	Disaggregation	#	Total
	Mapping KIIs	NA	8	8
	Community	Al-Latifya	8	10
	leader KIIs	Kilo 18	2	10
	Education	5		
		Water	5	
SME KIIs		Waste	5	
	Livelihoods	5	34	
	Electricity	5		
	Healthcare	5		
	Legal	4		

## **団 MAPS**

Map 2: Coverage map of the area assessed



### **KEY TAKEAWAYS**

Overall, the findings of the assessment suggest that in al-Latifya and Kilo 18, despite the experts' perceptions of improved access to some services, multiple factors such as damage of infrastructure and a rapid population increase since 2014 had strained others such as WASH, electricity, education and healthcare. Livelihood opportunities, health, food, and shelter rehabilitation were the primary reported needs for both population groups, host communities and IDPs. Below are some local stakeholder recommendations reported by community leaders and subject matter experts, including their opinion on improving the provision of services and filling existing gaps. Some key takeaways were also added, which included findings extracted from this assessment to inform local and humanitarian actors.

# Livelihoods Findings

Findings from this ABA indicated significant challenges in accessing livelihoods in al-Latifya and Kilo 18, as employment was the most reported priority need. Only a fifth of adult household members were reportedly employed, commonly in construction and as daily workers, making their income low and unstable. As a result, almost all households relied on some sort of coping strategies to afford food. According to community leaders, the negative factors decreasing livelihoods opportunities were lack of liquidity of households to invest in enterprises, population rise and high competition for jobs, decrease in farming due to low rainfall, and lack of job opportunities for young graduates.

Local Stakeholder Recommendations: community leaders and livelihoods experts suggested several ways to improve livelihoods in the area such as cash-forwork programmes, creating livelihood programmes by NGOs and government, supporting small businesses via grants, investing/opening projects (factories, workshops, agricultural) to provide job opportunities, vocational training courses, especially for women and youth, supporting low-income families, government employment for new graduates, and cooperation between the security forces and government to facilitate working.



### Electricity and WASH Findings

The water infrastructure and treatment plant in the area were insufficient to cover household needs, leading to a lack of clean and accessible water. Due to unofficial housing construction, households built their own low-quality water networks, septic tanks and electrical network, affecting WASH and electricity services. The lack of electricity at pumping stations also negatively affected water provision. Solid waste collection was available to most households in the area, but Kilo 18, as an informal site, was not covered by the municipality, leading to reliance on informal waste disposal methods by households.

**Local Stakeholder Recommendations:** Water experts suggested ways to improve water provision, such as maintenance work on the water network, provision of repair equipment, and alternative water pumps. Community leaders suggested 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, provision of collection vehicles, and distribution of waste containers. Electricity experts and community leaders highlighted the need to repair electrical infrastructure and improve the voltage. Community leaders reported that it was important for the municipality to include informal sites in their service provision planning.

# **\$** Healthcare Findings

All health experts reported an improved access to healthcare compared to pre-ISIL times. However, there were still barriers, the most reported being the cost of services, not enough treatment and medicine available at the health centres, and distance to health facilities. Furthermore, community leaders reported access barriers to healthcare such as the early closing of al-Latifya health clinic (2 pm), limited availability of specialised healthcare, overcrowded health centres, long distances to health services, and the poor financial state of families. This reportedly forced households to seek healthcare elsewhere.

Local Stakeholder Recommendations: Health experts recommended improving healthcare in the area by building a hospital, building or expanding the health centres, and providing health centres with treatments, medicine, medical equipment, and ambulances.

Additionally, community leaders highlighted the need for vaccination campaigns, public health awareness sessions for families, first aid courses, and mobile units for underserved neighbourhoods.



# **Education Findings**

Findings from this ABA indicated significant gaps on education services. Education experts and community leaders reported that schools were overcrowded, and lacking qualified teachers, school materials and furniture. In addition, community leaders reported that it was dangerous for some children to go to school due to the lack of a safe passage to cross the roads or muddy roads during the rainy season.

**Local Stakeholder Recommendations:** To improve education in the area, education experts provided some recommendations like building new schools with sufficient space or building extensions, the need to have only one shift per school, provide school supplies and materials, increase the salaries of teaching staff, improve and provide a clear curricula at all stages, and gender segregation to encourage some parents to send girls to school. Community leaders added the need to hire more qualified staff to improve public education.

# **Shelter and NFIs Findings**

A minority of host community households in al-Latifya town and Kilo 18 village experienced damage to their properties and infrastructure during the 2014-2017 conflict with ISIL. However, the majority of IDPs reported shelter damage in their area of origin and having not received any compensation. In terms of their current shelter, all population groups reported shelter issues (leaking roofs, lack of insulation from cold, broken windows) and the need for shelter improvements (protect from climatic conditions, improve privacy, and basic infrastructure). No households reported eviction, but a minority (mostly IDP households) expressed concerns about eviction in the 90 days preceding data collection.

**Key Takeaways:** Local actors could bring to the government's attention the need to streamline the applications processing for property damage compensation. In addition, 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 to the relevant authorities the need to include these shelters in the official municipality boundaries or provide sustainable alternatives for these households.

# Social Cohesion and Civil Society Findings

The findings for this assessment showed that there were relatively high feelings of trust between population groups, as well as feelings of belonging by IDP households. In addition a majority agreed that the community would cooperate to solve communal problems. However, nearly a fifth of the households reported mistrusting other groups or having negative feelings about the high influx of population since 2014, which may be associated with the perceived strain on services and employment opportunities in the area. Although community leaders were concerned about youth violence in public spaces. Households' reported key social issues were unemployment, the lack of services in the area, environmental degradation and property disputes.

Local Stakeholder Recommendations: 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, the improvement of service provision (especially electricity, water, education and health), environmental degradation, and property rights and disputes, may improve community relations.

### **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 interagency 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). All REACH resources are available on our resource centre: <a href="https://www.reachinetiative.org">www.reachinetiative.org</a>.





## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

# TT DEMOGRAPHICS

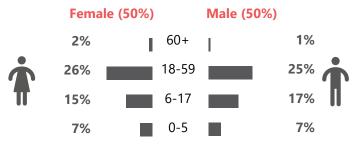
The household-level survey was conducted across two geographical and population group strata: 53% living in al-Latifya town (28% host community households and 25% IDP households), and 47% living in Kilo 18 village (24% host community households, and 22% IDP households). Of the households interviewed for this ABA, the combined al-Latifya and Kilo 18 host community made up 52% of the overall household sample (those that reported having lived in the same area before January 2014). Around half (48%) of the households were reportedly IDPs. While the majority of households reported being displaced from al-Mussyab district in Babil governorate (44% in al-Latifya, and 41% in Kilo 18 of IDPs), a minority were displaced within Mahmoudiya district in Baghdad governorate (8% in IDP households in al-Latifya and 6% in Kilo 18).

The ABA indicates that IDP households were scattered across al-Latifya town and Kilo 18. Around half of IDP households interviewed (46%) reportedly lived in Kilo 18. The other half of IDP households were in al-Latifya, which primarily concentrated in the neighbourhoods south of the town (14% of interviewed IDP households in 14 Tamooz, 10% in al-Qadessia, and 10% in Khadraa/al-Askary). Furthermore, community leaders reported that Kilo 18 was considered an informal site, and there were IDP families living in informal settlements, which were informal expansions of the neighbourhoods of al-Kadhraa/al-Askary, al-Qadessia, and 14 Tamooz.

Figure 1: Gender of the head of household



Figure 2: Population pyramid



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> The Washington Group on Disability Statistics (WG) promotes and coordinates international cooperation in the area of health statistics focusing on the development of disability measures suitable for census and national surveys. To identify a disability, the group developed a short set of six questions and four identifiers. Disability is best under-

According to the household survey, the average household size in al-Latifya town and Kilo 18 village was six individuals. The most common demographic profile of the head of household was male (80% in al-Latifya, and 84% in kilo 18), married (96% in al-Latifya, and 98% in kilo 18), between the age of 30 and 59 (82% in al-Latifya, and 70% in Kilo 18) and working (81% in al-Latifya, and 85% in Kilo 18) (Figure 1). However, female heads of households (20% in al-Latifya, and 16% in kilo 18) were mostly widows (75% in al-Latifya, and 70% in kilo 18), 30 years or above (100% in both areas) and not working (91% in al-Latifya, and 74% in Kilo 18).

The population distribution by gender was roughly the same, with 50% of household members in al-Latifya and 48% in Kilo 18 being male, and 50% in al-Latifya and 52% in Kilo 18 being female. The population of al-Latifya and Kilo 18 was very young, with children under 18 years old making up around half (46%) of individuals, and the largest adult age group being between 18-29 (22%) (Figure 2). One percent of children between 12-17 years old were reported to be married (Figure 3), and 13% of women between the ages 16 and 50 were reportedly pregnant or lactating.

In terms of households with vulnerable members, nearly a fifth of households reportedly had at least one member with a type 3 physical or mental disability (16% in al-Latifya, and 20% in Kilo 18).<sup>12</sup> Additionally, more than half of households reported having at least one member with chronic disease (57% in al-Latifya, and 69% in Kilo 18) (Table 3).

Figure 3: Head of household's marital status

Al-Latifya				Kilo 18
	15% 4%	Married Widowed Separated Single	<b>13%</b> 3%	
		Divorced		

**Table 3: Vulnerable groups** 

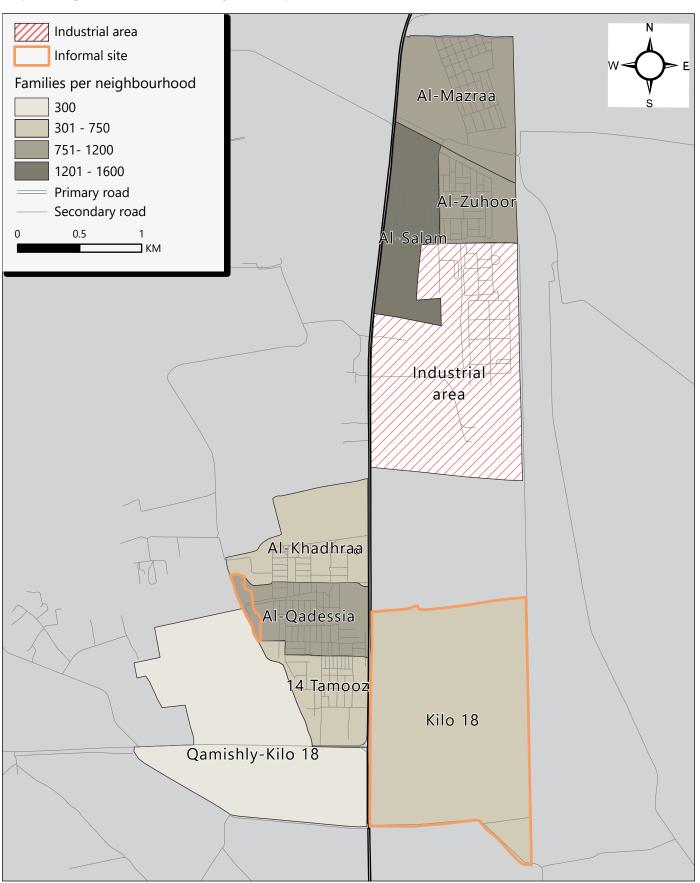
	% of % of female pregnant headed or lactating HHs: persons:		% of HHs with chronic diseases:	% of HHs with disability:
Al-Latifya	<b>†</b> 20%	<b>†</b> 12%	<b>%</b> 57%	<b>अं</b> 16%
Kilo 18	<b>†</b> 16%	<b>†</b> 15%	69%	<b>दें 20</b> %

stood as a continuum in terms of difficulty. If households reported that a household member had a lot of difficulty or could not do at all the following: seeing, hearing, walking, self-care, thinking or remembering, it was considered as having a disability level 3. More information available <a href="here">here</a>.





Map 3: Neighbourhoods of al-Latifya and Populations



## PRIORITY NEEDS AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

All households living in al-Latifya and Kilo 18 reported having humanitarian needs (100%), which were similar across locations and population groups. The most commonly reported priority needs by households were employment (81% in al-Latifya and 82% in Kilo18), healthcare (54% in al-Latifya and 56% in Kilo 18), shelter (53% in al-Latifya and 45% in Kilo 18), and food (53% in al-Latifya and 63% in Kilo 18). Differences between locations were relatively small, food being more commonly reported in Kilo 18 compared to al-Latifya, and shelter needs being reported by a larger proportion of households in al-Latifya compared to Kilo 18 (Figure 4). When disaggregating the findings by population group, reports between host community and IDP households were very similar, although host community households were more likely to report having shelter needs (54%) than IDP households (41%). In comparison, the national findings from MCNA X had a lower proportion of households reporting that employment was their priority need (63%).13

IDP households living in both settlements were asked whether their needs had changed since displacement,

Figure 4: Households' most reported priority needs by location<sup>14</sup>

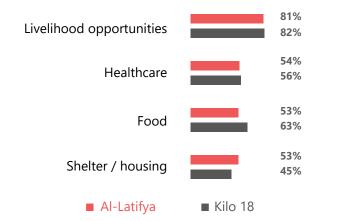
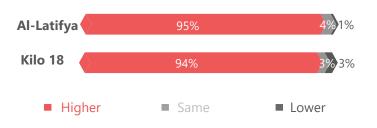


Figure 5: IDP households reporting how their needs have changed compared to before displacement by location



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> REACH Iraq, Multi-Cluster Needs Assessment (MCNA X), July 2022. Available here.

95% of them reported that they were now higher (Figure 5), most commonly mentioning livelihood opportunities (81% in al-Latifya and 82% in Kilo 18), healthcare (54% al-Latifya and 56% in Kilo 18), and food (53% in al-Latifya and 63% in Kilo 18).

**Humanitarian assistance** 

The majority of households did not receive humanitarian assistance (80% in al-Latifya and 73% in Kilo 18), while the rest received humanitarian assistance in the form of food (18% in al-Latifya and 20% in Kilo 18) and cash (4% in al-Latifya and 9% in Kilo 18) (Table 4). Of those who reported receiving humanitarian assistance (20% in al-Latifya and 27% in Kilo 18), some reported not being satisfied with the quality of the assistance (28% in al-Latifya and 43% in Kilo 18). The same proportions of IDP (21%) and host community households (21%) received humanitarian assistance, however, host community households were more likely to report receiving assistance from the government (84%) or a religious institution (11%). IDP households reported more varied sources of assistance, such as assistance from the government (42%), local NGOs (23%), religious institutions (23%), and international NGOs (19%) (Table 5).

Table 4: Households by reported type of assistance received<sup>14</sup>

	Al-Latifya		Kilo	18
	IDP Host		IDPs	Host
None	90%	79%	67%	80%
Food	6%	20%	23%	17%
Cash	5%	3%	7%	12%

Table 5: Households by reported type of assistance provider, by population group<sup>14</sup>

	Host	IDPs
Government	84%	42%
Religious institution	11%	23%
Local charity or NGO	6%	23%





<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Multiple answer options could be selected for this question so the total result may exceed 100%

# LIVELIHOODS

Findings from this ABA indicated significant challenges to accessing livelihoods in al-Latifya and Kilo 18, as employment/livelihoods support was the most commonly reported priority need. In both areas, a third of economically active adult household members (18 or older) were reportedly working or employed at the time of data collection (32% in al-Latifya, and 33% in Kilo 18) (Figure 6). Out of those, the majority were reportedly adult males (93%), and only 7% were female. Nine children (4 in al-Latifya and 5 in Kilo 18) aged 13-17 years were reportedly working for pay or profit at the time of data collection. The primary obstacles to employment reported by household members actively seeking work were: high competition for jobs or not enough job opportunities (71% in al-Latifya and 96% in Kilo 18), followed by available jobs being too far away (21% in al-Latifya and 33% in Kilo 18), and lack of livelihood or employment opportunities for women (30% in al-Latifya and 21% in Kilo 18) (Table 6).

#### **Employment sectors**

The most reported employment sectors among employed household members were construction (63% in al-Latifya, and 74% in Kilo 18), public administration or services (e.g., civil servant, police, public healthcare worker) (14% in al-Latifya), and skilled manual (carpenter, butchers, plumber etc.) (8% in Kilo 18) (Figure 7). All livelihood experts agreed that some economic sectors such as agriculture, construction, and small businesses were acutely affected and had declined in their availability since June 2014, mainly due to a lack of water, lower demand, security concerns, and a reduction

Figure 6. Proportion of economically active adult household members who reportedly worked for pay or profit by location

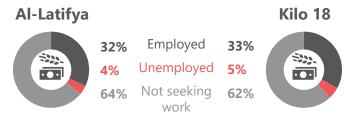


Table 6: Most reported obstacles to finding work, among individuals actively seeking work<sup>15</sup>

1	75%	High competition for jobs
2	29%	Lack of employment for women
3	23%	Available jobs are too far away

 $<sup>^{15}</sup>$  Multiple answer options could be selected for this question so the total result may exceed 100%

in businesses' capital. Additionally, three-quarters (75% in al-Latifya, and 74% in Kilo 18) of IDPs reportedly used to be employed in agriculture before displacement.

#### **Income Source**

The most frequently reported sources of income for households in the 30 days preceding data collection were irregular employment (temporary or daily wage earning) (71% in al-Latifya, 82% in Kilo 18), loans (76% in al-Latifya and 71% in Kilo 18), support from community, friends, or family (21% in al-Latifya, and 15% in Kilo 18), and social services (14% in al-Latifya and 26% in Kilo 18) (Figure 8). IDP households from al-Latifya were more likely to report receiving support from community, friends or family (34%) as a source of income compared to host community (20%). Six IDP households in al-Latifya and Kilo 18 reported no income over the past 30 days, three of whom were widowed female-headed households in al-Latifya town.

Over the 30 days preceding data collection the reported income of the majority of households in al-Latifya and Kilo 18 (86%) was below their expenditure, meaning what households were gaining was less than what they spent. The households' reported median income was 300,000 IQD, while their median expenditure was 491,000 IQD (Figure 9). Almost all (97%) households in both areas were reportedly in debt, and their median debt was 1,500,000 IQD,

Figure 7: Most reported sectors of employment, among individuals who reported currently working<sup>15</sup>

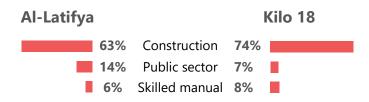
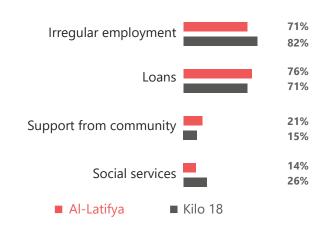


Figure 8: Most reported household income sources for the 30 days preceding data collection by location<sup>15</sup>







which could explain that all households (100%) in both areas reportedly found it difficult or very difficult to financially advance or save income. The primary reasons reported by households in al-Latifya and Kilo 18 for taking on debt were very similar, in both locations listing healthcare (38% in al-Latifya, and 40% in Kilo 18), food (22% in al-Latifya, and 29% in Kilo 18), and basic household expenditures (rent, utilities) (25% in al-Latifya, and 15% in Kilo 18). Although similar, a slightly higher proportion of IDP households reportedly needed to take on debt for basic household expenditure compared to the host community in both areas (30% of IDP households and 23% host community). In comparison, host community households were slightly more likely to take on debt for food (24%) than IDP households in both areas (18%).

At the time of data collection, households reported that the costs for basic needs, such as transportation, health, and food, had increased significantly over the previous six months (77% in al-Latifya, and 83% in Kilo 18). Therefore, to cope with not having enough food or money to buy it, almost all (98%) households reportedly relied on some coping strategies in the 30 days before data **collection.** The most reported types of coping strategies were buying food on credit or through borrowed money from relatives and friends (93%), reducing expenditure on non-food items (57%), and selling household properties (55%). Almost all households (98%) reported having used coping strategies falling in the stress category, and a considerably high proportion of households used crisis or emergency coping strategies. IDP households in both areas (33% of IDP households in al-Latifya and 36% in Kilo 18) were more likely to use crisis coping strategies than host community households (14% of host community households in al-Latifya and 13% in Kilo 18). IDP households in al-Latifya were more likely to report using emergency coping strategies (19%) compared to the other groups (9% of host community

Figure 9: Median reported income, expenditure and debt

	IQD	USD <sup>16</sup>
Median monthly income	300,000	205
Median monthly expenditure	491,000	336
Median food expenditure	150,000	103
Median debt	1,500,000	1026

households in al-Latifya and 7% Kilo 18, and 6% of IDP households in Kilo 18). Out of those that used emergency strategies, the most used coping strategies in both areas were: changing place of residence and accommodation to reduce expenses (48 households), selling means of transport (31 households), and children dropping out from school (28 households).

Furthermore, the vast majority of community leaders were concerned about unemployment (7/10), especially among young graduates, reporting that they had to rely on daily work in construction (4/10). A third of community leaders reported that it was common for families to be in a bad economic situation (3/10), and there was high competition for jobs (3/10). Community leaders in Kilo 18 reported a decrease in farming due to low rainfall (2/2), that the main jobs available were in construction (1/2), and that wages were too low (1/2). One community leader from al-Latifya highlighted that IDPs depended more often on daily work.

#### **Improvement Recommendations**

Among the recommendations that community leaders provided to improve the livelihood opportunities in the area, they mentioned: cash-for-work programmes (8/10), the creation of livelihood programmes by NGOs and government (7/10), business grants (6/10), investment projects in the area (5/10), and coordination between the municipality and NGOs on livelihood programmes (2/10).

Livelihood experts also suggested several ways that can help boost livelihoods in their area. The most reported suggestions were: supporting small businesses (4/5), investing/opening projects (factories, workshops) to provide job opportunities (4/5), vocational training courses, especially for women and new graduates (3/5), supporting low-income families (2/5), cooperation between the security forces and government to facilitate working (1/5) (Table 7).

Table 7: 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 government

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Exchange rate of 1 USD = 1,460 IQD, 9 of February 2023 at  $\underline{\text{xe.com}}$ .





# (NFI) SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFI)

By the end of the conflict with ISIL, al-Latifya subdistrict saw extensive damage to its infrastructure and buildings and was left in need of basic services while having experienced a large scale of displacement within the area.<sup>17</sup> The vast majority of IDP households reported that their property in their AoO had been damaged or destroyed during the 2014-2017 conflict (75% in al-Latifya and 68% in Kilo 18). On the other hand, host community households less often reported damage to their properties (18% in a-Latifya and 16% in Kilo 18). Out of the households who reported shelter damage (26%), around half (51%) applied for land, housing or property compensation since June 2014, but none reportedly received any cash from the government. The bureaucratic procedures being too complicated and too long (65%) and lack of trust in the claiming process (23%) were the most reported reasons among households who were not receiving or applying for compensation (Table 9).

The household survey indicated a considerable difference in households' status of current shelter documentation between population groups in both areas. The most reported types of tenure were shelter owned without valid documentation indicating ownership (29%), shelter owned with valid documentation indicating ownership (e.g. property title) (24%), renting without

written rental contract/agreement (21%), and renting with written rental contract/agreement (16%) (Table 8). IDP households in al-Latifya were more likely to report renting without written rental agreement (58%) compared to host community households in al-Latifya (17%). 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).

In terms of current shelter type, almost all (95% of IDPs, and 100% of host community) households in both areas reported a house as their current living shelter. However, some households reported living in unfinished or abandoned residential buildings (5% IDP households in Kilo 18, and 3% IDP households in al-Latifya), and sub-standard shelter not for residential purposes (2% IDP households in Kilo 18). The average number of rooms (only counting living rooms and bedrooms) was 3.5 per house.

Nearly two-thirds of IDP households (64% in Kilo 18, and 58% in al-Latifya) reported that their current living space 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 (Table 10).

Table 8: Households' most reported current types of housing tenure

Shelter owned without valid documentation Renting without written rental contract /agreement Renting with written rental contract /agreement Shelter owned with valid documentation

Al-Latifya		Kilo 18		
IDP	Host	Host	IDP	
14%	17%	34%	18%	
58%	17%	34%	18%	
21%	17%			
	28%		16%	

Table 9: Households' most reported reasons for not applying for or receiving compensations<sup>18</sup>

	Al-Latifya	Kilo 18
The bureaucratic procedures are too heavy and too long	68%	53%
Lack of trust in claim process	25%	13%
Information or communication are unclear	22%	17%

Table 10: Households reporting that their current living space is damaged, by level of damage

	Al-Latifya		Kilo	18
	IDP Host		Host	IDP
Undamaged	42%	51%	51%	36%
Partially damaged	50%	37%	37%	52%
Heavily damaged	6%	6%	9%	9%
Completely destroyed	2%	6%	3%	4%

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Institute for the Study of War (ISW), Backgrounder: ISIS in the Southwest Baghdad Belts, 24 November 2014. Available here.





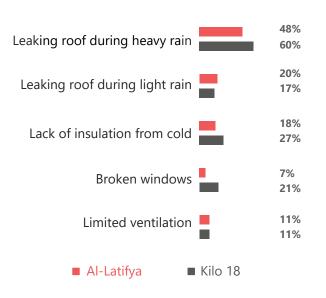
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> Multiple answer options could be selected for this question so the total result may exceed 100%

Household's most reported shelter issues were leaking roofs during heavy rain (48% in al-Latifya, and 60% in Kilo 18), lack of insulation from cold (18% in al-Latifya, and 27% in Kilo 18), leaking roofs during light rain (20% in al-Latifya, and 17% in Kilo 18), and broken windows (7% in al-Latifya, and 21% in Kilo 18) (Figure 10). In addition, more households in Kilo 18 reported needing shelter improvements compared to households in the town (67% in al-Latifya, and 83% in Kilo 18), namely protection from climatic conditions (47% in al-Latifya, and 61% in Kilo 18), improving its privacy and dignity (25% in al-Latifya, and 30% in Kilo 18), and improving the basic infrastructures and utilities such as access to electricity, cooking and bathing/toilet facilities (16% in al-Latifya, and 24% in Kilo 18). (Table 11)

The majority of households in both areas reported needing at least one NFI item that was not available in their home, including winter heater or stove (38% in al-Latifya, and 49% in Kilo 18), mattresses/sleeping mats (25% in al-Latifya, and 31% in Kilo 18), and a cooking stove (28% in al-Latifya, and 25% in Kilo 18) (Table 12).

While no households reported eviction from a shelter that they were living within the past 12 months before data collection, a minority (5% in al-Latifya, and 10% in Kilo 18) reported that they were worried their household may be evicted or that they were threatened with eviction in the 90 days preceding data collection (Figure 11). IDP households were more likely to report being concerned about eviction (9%) compared to host community (5%). The reported reasons for their eviction concerns were mainly due to a request to vacate from the owner of the building/

Figure 10: Households' most reported issues with their current shelter <sup>19</sup>



land (6 households), and authorities requesting the household to leave (6 households). Furthermore, two host community households in al-Latifya reported their shelter needed to be cleared of explosive hazards.

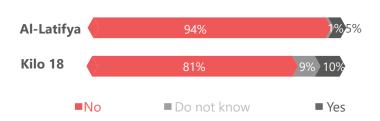
Table 11: Most reported shelter improvement needed by households <sup>19</sup>

	Al-Latifya	Kilo 18
Protect from climatic conditions	47%	61%
Improve privacy and dignity	25%	30%
Improve basic infrastructure	16%	24%

Table 12: Most reported non-food items needed by households <sup>19</sup>

	Al-Latifya	Kilo 18
Winter heaters/stove	38%	49%
Mattresses/Sleeping mats	25%	31%
Cooking stove	28%	25%
Blankets	19%	22%
Bedding items (bedsheets, pillows)	24%	18%
Cooking utensils/kitchen set	20%	13%
Clothing	19%	16%
Fuel (Cooking / Heating)	13%	14%

Figure 11: Households reporting fear of eviction from their living space or having been threatened with eviction in the last 90 days



 $<sup>^{19}</sup>$  Multiple answer options could be selected for this question so the total result may exceed 100%



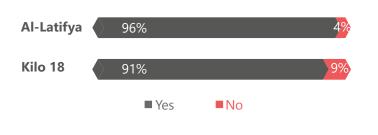
# WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

The WASH findings from this ABA indicated the area's damaged water infrastructure and water treatment plant were insufficient to provide clean and accessible water to all households. In order to obtain access to piped water for unofficially built homes outside the municipality boundaries, households reportedly built their own low-quality water network and septic tanks, which affected the provision of WASH services in the area. Furthermore, the availability of electricity at the pumping stations also negatively affected the provision of water. In terms of solid waste collection, the service was reportedly available to most households in al-Latifya. However, due to Kilo 18's status as an informal site, it was not covered by the municipality services, which led households to rely on informal waste disposal methods, mostly throwing in designated open areas, and throwing in the street or undesignated open areas.

#### Water

While the vast majority of households reported being connected to the public water network, a small minority of households said they were not (9% in al-Latifya and 4% in Kilo 18) (Figure 12). Nearly half of households in both areas (46%) reported relying on bottled water for drinking, almost a third (30%) of households used water trucking, and 21% of households reported piped water into the house as their primary source of drinking water. On the other hand, the majority (84% in al-Latifya, and 71% in Kilo 18) of households relied on piped water into the house as the primary source for other purposes (cooking, bathing, and washing). Around two thirds of households (60% in al-Latifya, and 64% in Kilo 18) reported that their main sources of water (for drinking, cooking, and/or preparing food) were of bad quality. They reported different reasons, such as water being unclear (38%), the taste being unpleasant (39%), the smell being unpleasant (9%), or water containing materials (27%). Yet, most of these households (77% in al-Latifya, and 80% in Kilo 18) reportedly never treated the water before drinking.

Figure 12: Households reporting being connected to piped water network



 $<sup>^{19}</sup>$  Multiple answer options could be selected for this question so the total result may exceed 100%

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). IDP households were more likely to report that water was insufficient for their needs (33% of IDP households in al-Latifya and 38% in Kilo 18) compared to host community households in the same locations (25% of host community households in al-Latifya and 21% in Kilo 18). Of those reporting that the water was insufficient to cover their needs, households reported several obstacles to accessing drinking water such as poor water quality (78% in al-Latifya, and 61% in Kilo 18), the treatment plant that served the area not being functional (45% in al-Latifya, and 53% in Kilo 18), and the amount of water being insufficient (29% in al-Latifya, and **42% in Kilo 18).** According to water experts, the water infrastructure serving the area needed maintenance, and there was a water shortage in summer due to the low levels of water in the Euphrates River, which in turn affected the water provision from the treatment plant.

Table 13: Households by reported primary source of drinking water

	<b>Al-Latifya</b>	Kilo 18
Bottled water	46%	47%
Water trucking	31%	26%
Piped water (private)	20%	26%
Piped water (public grid)	2%	1%
Surface water	1%	0%

Table 14: Household reporting issues with their main source of water for drinking, cooking, and preparing food<sup>19</sup>

	Al-Latifya	Kilo 18
None, acceptable	40%	36%
The water is not clear	36%	51%
The water tastes unpleasant	39%	39%
The water smells unpleasant	8%	20%
The water contains materials	27%	31%

All community leaders reported gaps and issues with water services (10/10) (Table 15). The most reported issues were: households needing filters or other methods to treat the water at home (8/10), the pumped water being of low quantity and low pressure due to issues with the electricity used for the water pumps (5/10), or the pumps from the water plant being insufficient or damaged, which affected the pressure and quantity of water households were receiving (4/10). In addition, they also reported that the hours and amount of water were insufficient for the families' needs, which seemed to be a widespread problem in Kilo 18 (4/10), that households needed water tanks or that families had become dependent on water tanks (6/10). Some community leaders also reported that some farmers broke the water pipes on purpose to water their fields (2/10), and one community leader reported that some were pumping water directly from the river without treating it. On the other hand, water experts reported that the water treatment plant in the area (station 200 WTP in 14 Tamooz neighbourhood) was ineffective due to damage during the conflict.

To address these gaps water experts highlighted a few suggestions, such as maintenance work to the water network (3/5), providing equipment for the repair and maintenance of the water network (3/5), and the provision of alternative water pumps and/or increasing the number of pumps (2/5) (Table 16).

Sanitation and wastewater disposal

The vast majority of households reportedly had access to improved sanitation facilities, <sup>20</sup> such as ventilated improved pit latrines (84% in al-latifya, and 69% in Kilo 18), and pit latrines with a slab latrine (16%)

# Table 15: Community leaders most reported gaps on water provision

- Households need filters or other methods to treat the water at home
- Low quantity and pressure from the water pump due to issues with the electricity
- Insufficient or damaged water pumps in the water plant
- Insufficient hours and quantity of water for all households needs

# **Table 16: 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

#### Solid waste

While the majority (76%) of households in al-Latifya reported having access to formal solid waste disposal services run by the municipality, **the majority of households in Kilo 18 did not, with only 6% reporting access to formal solid waste disposal services.** Waste experts confirmed this by mentioning that Kilo 18 and other neighbourhoods in al-Latifya were outside the municipality planning. This meant that households had to rely on different methods to get rid of solid waste, such as throwing it in a

Figure 13: Households reporting having access to toilets, by type

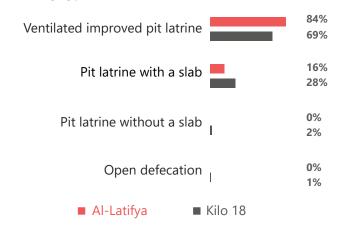
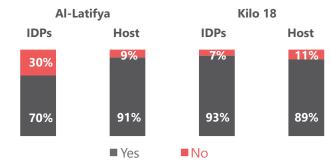


Figure 14: Households reporting having access to sufficient hygiene items (such as soap, feminine hygiene products, baby diapers, toothpaste/brush)



<sup>20</sup> Improved sanitation facilities usually ensure separation of human excreta from human contact, and include flush or pour-flush toilet/ latrine, ventilated improved pit (VIP) latrine, pit latrine with slab, and composting toilet. Available <a href="https://example.com/here">here</a>





in Al-latifya, and 28% in Kilo 18) (Figure 13). A minority (9%) of IDP households in al-Latifya reported sharing toilets with others who are not household members. Furthermore, more households in al-Latifya (32%) compared to Kilo 18 (22%) reported their septic tank or deep pit was never emptied. In addition, the majority of community leaders in both al-Latifya and Kilo 18 (8/10) highlighted a few ways to improve wastewater disposal, such as repairing the sewage system (5/8), providing support for families to empty the septic tanks (3/8) and building a new sewage system (2/8). Almost a third (30%) of IDP households in al-Latifya reportedly did not have access to hygiene items such as soap or feminine hygiene products. (Figure 14).

designated open area (16% in al-Latifya, and 36% in Kilo 18), burning (5% in al-Latifya, and 39% in Kilo 18), or throwing in the street or an undesignated open space (2% in al-Latifya, and 12% in Kilo 18) (Table 17).

Almost all (9/10) community leaders reported households in their neighbourhoods were using informal methods of waste disposal such as dumping (6/9), burning (4/9), or transporting the waste to areas that receive waste collection services (3/9). As a result, all community leaders reported several issues with waste disposal services: a shortage of waste collection staff (10/10), a shortage of waste collection vehicles (9/10), a lack or shortage of communal waste bins (6/10), the neighbourhoods and areas built informally being outside the municipality plan (including all Kilo 18), and hence they could not access waste collection services (4/10) (Table 18). Other issues that were reported were the frequency of waste collection being too low (3/10), and a lack of budget of the municipality to cover the service gaps (2/10). One community leader in Kilo 18 reported that many of these issues came from the large increase of households living in the area since 2014, and one reported that many trucks were stolen during the conflict. In addition, more than half of community leaders were concerned about how waste was being disposed of and its possible consequences (6/10), like the risk of disease (6/10), pests or insects spreading diseases, air and environment pollution (5/10), the smell (1/10), and the adverse effects on the landscape (1/10).

Regarding the level of contamination, a higher proportion of households in Kilo 18 (94%) described the level of contamination of the natural environment, including waterways, rivers, and green spaces, as somewhat contaminated or very contaminated compared to al-Latifya (83%) (Table 19). This contamination could be

Table 17: Households by reported primary method of waste disposal<sup>21</sup>

	Al-Latifya	Kilo 18
Collected by municipality	76%	6%
Throw in designated open area	16%	36%
Burning		39%
Throw in street or undesignated open space	2%	12%
Communal garbage bin	1%	1%
Communal rubbish pit	0%	6%

As solutions, some community leaders proposed for the municipality and NGOs to coordinate in order to fund waste collection services, especially staff, which would also provide livelihood opportunities in the area (4/10). One community leader from Kilo 18 reported the need for the municipality to include the areas with informal buildings in the municipality planning. According to waste experts, a few steps were taken to improve solid waste collection in Al-latifya but only for a short period of time. Therefore, solid waste experts suggested several options to improve solid waste collection in al-Latifya and Kilo 18, most reported suggestions were the renewal of services contract employees that were working and helping the process of waste collection during the past period until the end of their contract on 30th, November 2022 (4/5), providing waste collection vehicles (3/5), distribution of waste containers for public spaces and houses (3/5).

Table 18: Community leaders' most reported waste disposal services gaps

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

Table 19: Households by perceived level of contamination of the natural environment

	Al-Latifya	Kilo 18
Not contaminated at all	2%	0%
Mostly uncontaminated	14%	6%
Somewhat contaminated	71%	72%
Very contaminated	13%	22%
Do not know	1%	0%

(IFRC), Iraq: Cholera Epidemic - Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA), DREF n° MDRIQ015, July 2022. Available here.





related to the reported methods used to get rid of solid waste in the area, which made community leaders concerned that this could lead to air pollution, diseases, and insects spreading diseases. Some community leaders reported that wastewater was leaking into farms, which could also cause diseases such as cholera.<sup>22</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> Multiple answer options could be selected for this question so the total result may exceed 100%.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

# \* ELECTRICITY

Although most households had access to the electrical public grid, community leaders and electricity experts reported several issues. They reported electricity was insufficient for households needs due to the large increase of households in the area since 2014 and poor quality infrastructure, especially in informally built sites.

#### **Access to Electricity**

All households reported having access to electricity (100%), mostly to the public grid (87% in al-Latifya and 96% in Kilo 18), while some households reported using community generators (13% in al-Latifya and 3% in Kilo 18). Households reported different availability durations of electricity, some reporting 17-20 hours (27% in al-Latifya and 34% in Kilo 18), 13-16 hours (32% in al-Latifya and 26% in Kilo 18), and 9-12 hours (31% in al-Latifya and 26% Kilo 18) (Table 20). In terms of electricity costs, households reported spending a median of 28,000 IQD in al-Latifya and 24,000 IQD Kilo 18. All electricity experts reported that many households were informally connected to the public grid (approximately between one to two-fifths of the households), which reportedly affected the quality of the electricity service. Community leaders from Kilo 18 (2/2) reported that due to the informal construction of houses in the area, households had to build and pay for their own electrical infrastructure affecting the quality of the poles, wires, transformers, and the voltage.

### **Electrical Services' Gaps**

Nearly all community leaders (9/10) reported issues with electricity services. Community leaders reported several infrastructural and service issues and needs, indicating the need for more or new transformers (6/9) and wires (5/9) since the voltage was too weak to provide all households with electricity and cover their needs (5/9). The staff from the department of electricity

Table 20: Households by reported average number of hours that electricity was available in their house per day

	<b>Al-Latifya</b>	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%

was reportedly insufficient or unable to provide repair services when issues with the electrical provision arose (5/9), repairs were needed (4/9), especially for wires, and the electrical infrastructure needed to be resistant to weather conditions to avoid damage (2/9) (Table 21).

#### Recommendations

The expansion of al-Latifya town and the unofficial use of the electricity network by households in the area reportedly caused a load on the electricity infrastructure. Thus, electricity experts stated several recommendations to improve electricity in the area like: providing the necessary equipment for maintenance of the network (5/5), removing and preventing unofficial electricity use to reduce pressure on the network (4/5), increasing the number of transformers (3/5), increasing the number of power stations (3/5), replacing old transformers with large and new ones (2/5), providing training for technicians (2/5), and periodic maintenance of the electricity network (2/5). Some community leaders reported the need for regulations in terms of electricity services (3/9) (Table 22).

# Table 21: Electricity experts and community leaders reported service gaps

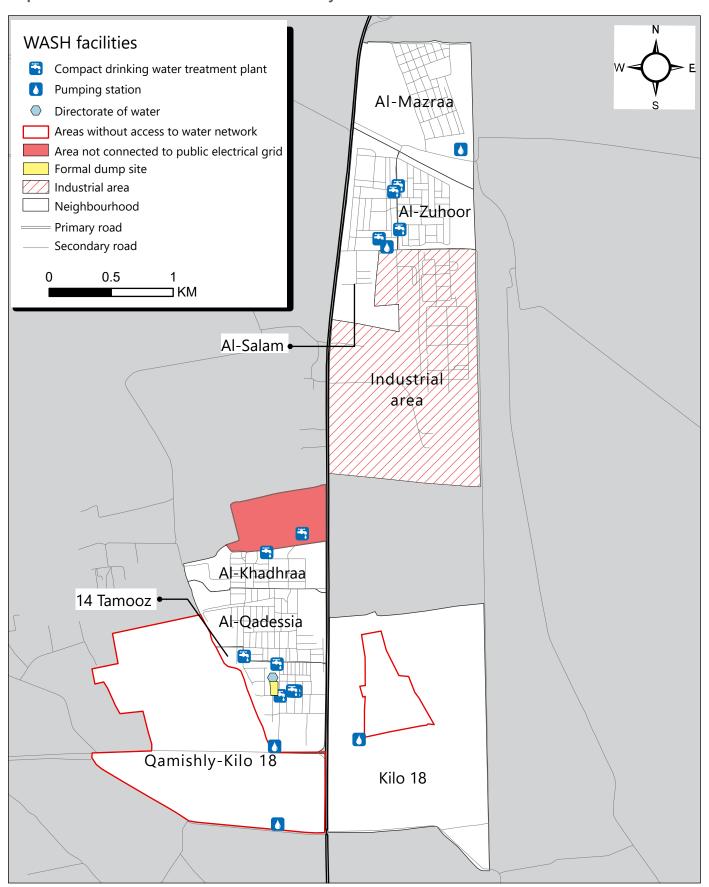
- New transformers and wires
- Increase the voltage
- Hire more staff in the electricity department
- Repair electrical infrastructure
- Electrical infrastructure resistant to weather conditions
- Informal sites/buildings not provided with infrastructure

# Table 22: Electricity experts and community leaders' suggestions to improve electricity services

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



Map 4: WASH facilities and connection to electricity



## **\$ HEALTH**

The findings of this sub-section identify several important gaps in healthcare conditions and access to the service. All health experts reported more access to healthcare compared to pre-ISIL times. Yet, healthcare was the second most reported priority need by households living in both al-Latifya and Kilo 18.

In the three months before data collection, the majority of households (93% in al-Latifya and 97% in Kilo 18) had at least one member that reportedly needed to access healthcare or treatments (Figure 15). Out of those, nearly a quarter of households were unable to access healthcare or treatments (29% in al-Latifya and 25% in Kilo 18) (Figure 16). The most reported barriers to accessing healthcare services were the cost of services and/or medicine being too high (88% in al-Latifya, and 90% in Kilo 18), no treatment being available (23% in al-Latifya, and 19% in Kilo 18), no medicine being available (11% in al-Latifya, and 13% in Kilo 18), and the treatment centre being too far away or transportation constraints (7% in al-Latifya, and 30% in Kilo 18) (Table 23).

In terms of chronic diseases, more than half of households (57% in al-Latifya, and 69% in Kilo 18) reported having at least one household member with chronic disease (hypertension, diabetes, heart disease, lung diseases, renal disease, blood disease, or cancer). A relatively high proportion of households (18% in al-

Figure 15: Proportion of households with at least one member reportedly needing to access healthcare or treatment in the 3 months preceding data collection

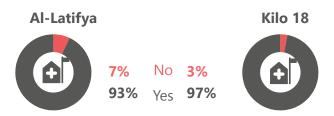
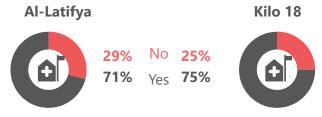


Figure 16: Proportion of households with at least one member reportedly needing but being unable to access healthcare or treatment in the 3 months preceding data collection



<sup>23</sup> If households reported that a household member had a lot of difficulty or could not do at all the following: seeing, hearing, walking, self-care, thinking or remembering, it was considered as having a disability level 3. More information available <a href="here">here</a>.

Latifya and 21% in Kilo 18) reportedly had a household member with a physical or mental disability compared to findings from MCNA X.<sup>23 24</sup> The percentage of households with at least one member with a disability was higher among host community households in Kilo 18 (26%), compared to IDP households in the same area (14%).

#### **Healthcare facilities**

Al-Latifya reportedly had two functional public health centres: al-Mazraa Health centre in the north part of town in al-Mazraa neighbourhood, and al-Latifya health centre in the south of the town. At the time of data collection, both health centres were reportedly operating, however, health experts reported that they were overcrowded with patients and lacked necessary equipment and supplies. Households in Kilo 18 reportedly travelled larger distances to access healthcare facilities than households in al-Latifya. The majority (91%) of households in al-Latifya could access a functioning and accessible health clinic within 2 kilometres. In contrast, in Kilo 18 that percentage was lower (68%), and around a third (31%) reported the distance to their closest healthcare facility was between 2 and 5 kilometres.

There was no hospital in al-Latifya town, around a third of households (31% in al-Latifya, and 30% in Kilo 18) reportedly had access to a functioning hospital within 2-5 kilometres, and around two-thirds (58% in al-Latifya, and 64% in Kilo 18) reported more than 5 kilometres (Figure 17). Furthermore, only 2/8 of community leaders in al-Latifya reported having an ambulance in the area. Health experts reported households were going to the surrounding areas, such as Baghdad city, al-Mahmoudiya town, and Alexandria town, to access the needed healthcare procedures unavailable in al-Latifya. These healthcare facilities included hospitals, private pharmacies and laboratories in al-Mahmoudiya, Baghdad, and Alexandria (Map 5).

Table 23: Most reported barriers to accessing health services, among household members that needed to access health services<sup>25</sup>

	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%

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> REACH Iraq, <u>MCNA X</u>. National findings showed that 3% of households reportedly had at least one household member with a disability. <sup>25</sup> Multiple answer options could be selected for this question so the total result may exceed 100%



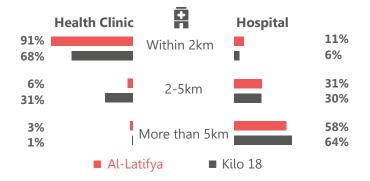


All community leaders in both areas highlighted some access barriers to healthcare, such as: the health clinic in al-Latifya closing at 2pm (5/10), which restricted the ability of households to receive healthcare, the lack of specialised healthcare (5/10), the bad economic situation of families (3/10), overcrowded health clinics (3/10), and the long distance to medical services (2/10).

#### **Improvement Recommendations**

To improve healthcare in al-Latifya, health experts provided different recommendations such as: building a hospital in al-Latifya (5/5), providing health centres

Figure 17: Households by reported distance to closest functioning health clinic and hospital

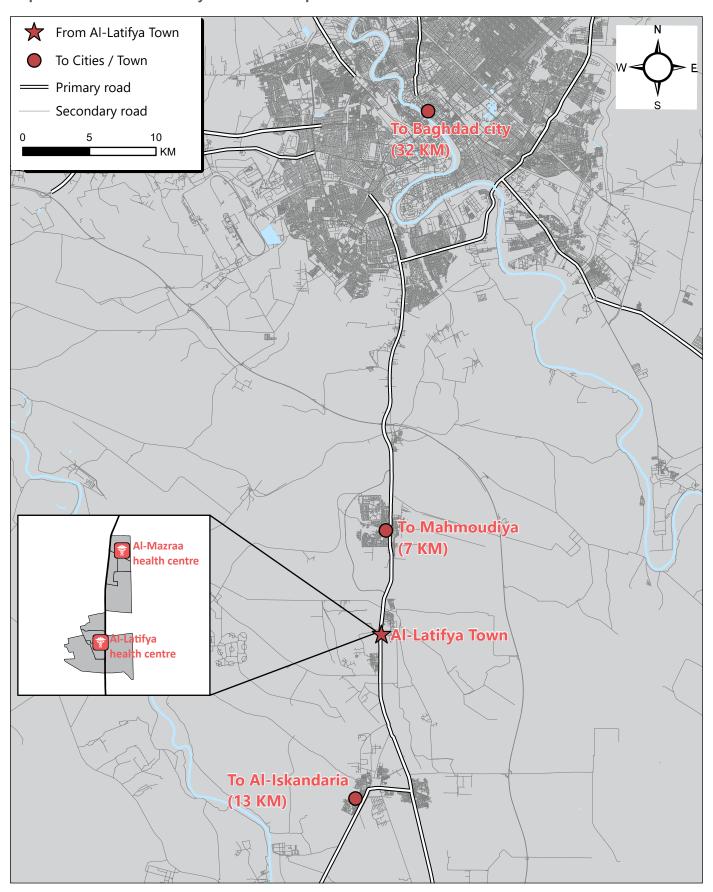


with treatments/medicine (5/5), providing health centres with medical equipment and supplies like laboratory equipment, X-ray and dental chairs (3/5), building a new health centre in al-Latifya (2/5), provide ambulance services in the area (2/5), providing awareness and instruction related to public health to households (2/5), and expansion of the health centres to have more rooms and waiting-area for patients (2/5). Additionally, community leaders requested vaccination campaigns (2/10), awareness sessions in schools on transmittable diseases (1/10), first aid courses, especially for women (1/10), and mobile units attending the neighbourhoods in more need (1/10) (Table 24).

**Table 24: 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 to families
- Expansion of health centres (room, waiting area)

Map 5: Distance from Al-Latifya town to the reported healthcare facilities households had access to



## **EDUCATION**

Overall, the vast majority of children were reportedly attending school, although girls aged 12-17 in Kilo 18 were reportedly less likely to do so. Since 2014 there had been a large increase of households in the area which led to overcrowded and understaffed schools. This combined with lack of funding to cover for school supplies, building new schools, and hiring new teachers strained education services.

#### **School Attendance and Access**

According to households' reports, the vast majority of children were attending school (92% al-Latifya and 89% Kilo 18). When accounting by gender, girls were reportedly less likely to be reported as attending school (88% in al-Latifya and 85% in Kilo 18) compared to boys (95% in al-Latifya and 94% in Kilo 18). This gap increased for children aged 12-17, with 81% of girls in al-Latifya and 74% in Kilo 18 reportedly attending school compared to 90% of boys in al-Latifya and 90% in Kilo 18 (Figure 18). Although these findings indicate that location also affected school attendance, especially for girls aged 12-17, there were no differences between IDP and host community households.

Of the children not attending school (9% or 62 children overall), the main reported reasons were: 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

Figure 18: School-age children reportedly attending formal education by gender

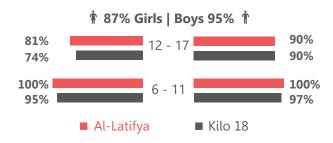


Table 25: Households' most reported reasons why children were not attending school<sup>26</sup>

#	of HH
Unaffordable costs	27
Lack of interest of children in education	18
Children are busy working	7
Physical limitations to access school	7

<sup>26</sup> Multiple answer options could be selected for this question so the

(7 children) (Table 25). Education experts reported that the population groups facing additional barriers to access education were: low-income households (4/5), children who were working (3/5), children who had missed too much school (3/5), children missing documents (3/5), children with physical or intellectual disabilities (2/5), or from a specific area (2/5). Experts also reported that there were **students unable to reenrol to school** (4/5) such as those who had missed too much school (3/5), children who were needed to work (3/5), girls when classrooms were not gender segregated (2/5), and children who were not allocated in the appropriate class according to their knowledge.

#### **Gaps in Education Services**

All education experts (5/5) reported a lack of clean drinking water in schools, mainly due to the lack of filters and other water treatment systems (5/5). As a solution, students brought water from home (5/5) or purchased bottles of water (4/5). All education experts reported that schools were overcrowded due to multiple factors such as insufficient teachers (5/5), lack of classrooms (5/5), students were coming from outside the area (5/5), and schools running in shifts (5/5).

Some experts (3/5) reported that middle and high school students, and students from specific areas had to travel outside the area to continue their education. The majority of experts (4/5) reported that students had to travel 2-4 km which was consistent with household reports (Figure 19). The most commonly reported modes of transport to school was by foot (3/5) or carpooling with other students (3/5). Community leaders reported that it was dangerous for children to go to school since there was a highway with heavy traffic which lacked a pedestrian crossing, and the roads got muddier with rain (4/10). According to community leaders, this seemed to be a prevalent problem for children in Kilo 18.

Figure 19: Reported distance to closest functioning primary and secondary school





total result may exceed 100%



Due to the perceived bad quality of education, some education experts (3/5) reported that some children were attending informal education to cover their education gaps. One expert highlighted that the bad quality of public education was partly a consequence of schools being overcrowded.

The majority of education experts agreed that there was a lack of teachers in schools, because there had been an increase in the number of students (4/5), there were no new appointed teachers (3/5), and of teachers were not being paid (2/5). Community leaders reported that teachers needed to improve their pedagogical skills (8/10), the need for specialised teachers instead of volunteers (7/10), especially for middle and high school, and that the quality of the teaching curriculum needed improvement (5/10).

All experts (5/5) agreed that there was a lack of school supplies like furniture (desks, chairs), stationery, heaters or A/Cs, uniforms and lab equipment. The reported reasons why these materials were missing were that they were too old (5/5), the number of students had increased (5/5), relevant authorities did not provide support (5/5), or they lacked funds (4/5). To address the shortage of these school supplies, households were reportedly purchasing or restoring school supplies like desks and chairs (4/5), students' parents were providing school stationery at their own expense (4/5), students were copying subjects from the books into their notebooks due to lacking their own books (4/5), and teachers

# Table 26: Education experts and community leaders' reported service gaps

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

were purchasing their own teaching supplies (3/5).

Only two experts reported steps were being made to improve education, such as building schools (2/2) and adding temporary structures to schools (2/2) among others. They also reported that these efforts were insufficient, mainly because the government was not providing educational supplies (2/2), the caravan space donated by NGOs was not enough for the number of students (2/2), the pace of the building of schools was very slow (1/2), and they were not hiring enough teachers (1/2) (Table 27).

### **Improvement Recommendations**

According to education experts, al-Latifya had seen an important population increase since 2014, which increased the demand in the education sector.

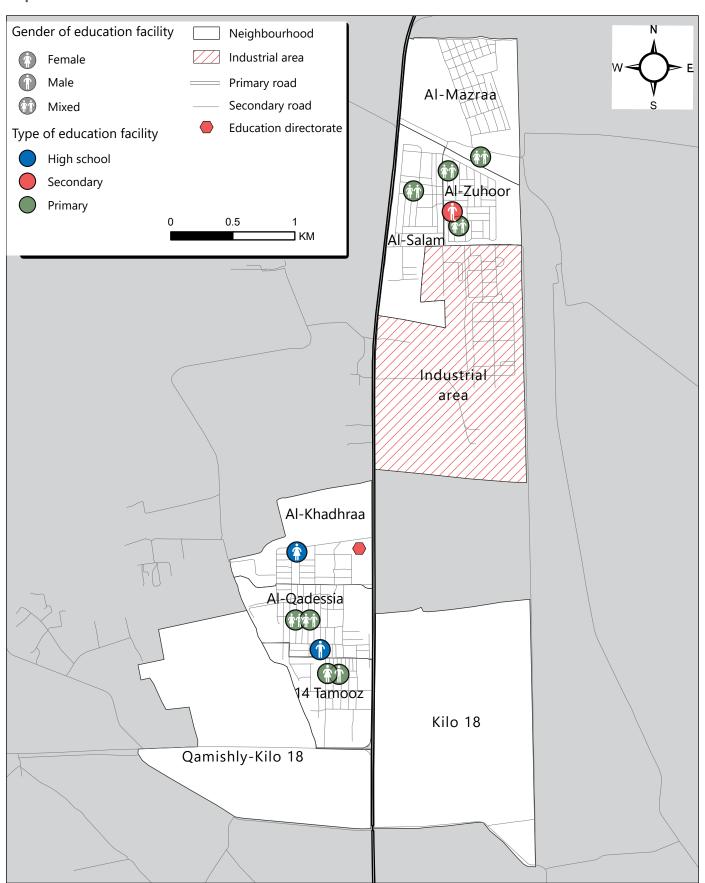
To improve education in the area, education experts provided some recommendations like building new schools with sufficient space or building extensions (5/5), which community leaders supported, adding the need to improve WASH facilities at schools. Education experts also mentioned the need to have only one shift per school (4/5), provide school supplies and materials (3/5), increase the salaries of teaching staff (2/5), facilitate the curricula at all stages (2/5), and gender segregation to encourage some parents to send girls to school (1/5) (Table 27). Community leaders added the need to hire qualified staff (8/10) to improve public education.

# Table 27: Education experts and community leaders' suggestions to improve education services

- Building new schools and expanding existing ones
- Changing school shifts to a single one
- Hiring qualified teachers
- Providing school supplies and furniture
- Increasing teachers' salaries
- Improving the teaching curriculum
- Increasing the teaching hours allocated to academic subjects
- Adding sex-segregated classes to improve girls' access to school



**Map 6: Education facilities** 



### **SOCIAL COHESION AND CIVIL SOCIETY**

**Disputes and Conflict Resolution** 

Only nine households reported having been involved in a civil dispute since 2014; eight were IDP households. The disputes were reportedly related to property (seven responses) and land (four responses). Half of the community leaders in al-Latifya (4/8) and all in Kilo 18 (2/2) reported that households in their area were involved in some kind of civil dispute, mostly family disputes (4/4 in al-Latifya and 2/2 in Kilo 18), violent crime (3/4 in al-Latifya and 2/2 in Kilo 18) or property (two in Kilo 18).

All community leaders reported that law was enforced, that violence was not used to solve the disputes within the community, and that the community trusted the justice system. To resolve their disputes, community leaders reported that households would usually go to their sheikh or tribal leader (6/10), a religious leader (5/10), resolved between families who had the dispute (5/10), mukhtar (3/10), or police (3/10) (Table 28). The majority of community leaders (8/10) reported that these actors were effective in resolving disputes. Legal experts also reported that the main reason why households use informal mechanisms was because they were faster than formal ones as well as the social pressure to use them. This highlights different attitudes towards the formal and informal legal system depending on the location since no legal experts mentioned this in REACH's previous ABA in al-Qairawan, Ninewa governorate.<sup>27</sup> Central and South Iraq have a strong tribal culture where it is preferred to solve disputes within the clan or tribe rather than involving official mechanisms, although both systems often work in parallel and assist each other.<sup>28</sup> Legal experts reported that among the barriers that households may face to access legal services were unaffordable costs or because of the social pressure to use informal systems.

Table 28: Most commonly reported dispute resolution mechanisms that households use according to community leaders

	·	# of community leaders
1	Tribal leader or sheikh	6/10
2	Religious leader	5/10
3	Between families	5/10
4	Mukhtar	3/10
5	Police	3/10

A majority of households reported that it was likely or very likely that the community would cooperate with others from different tribal or ethno-religious backgrounds to solve a communal problem although nearly a quarter reported it was unlikely or very unlikely that they would do so (23% in al-Latifya and 28% in Kilo 18).

Although a majority of households reported a "complete" or "a lot" when asked about whether they felt they belonged in their community (Figure 19), especially in al-Latifya (91% compared to 79% in Kilo 18), some reported they belonged "a little" (9% in al-Latifya and 20% in Kilo 18) or "not at all" (1% Kilo 18) (Figure 20). Lesser feelings of belonging were most commonly reported by IDP households (21% "a little" and 2% "not at all") compared to the host community (9% "a little"). Despite this, a large proportion of IDP households seem to have integrated well into their current communities (76% reported feeling to belong to their community a lot or completely).

Figure 20: Households' reporting whether they felt they belonged in their community, by location and population group

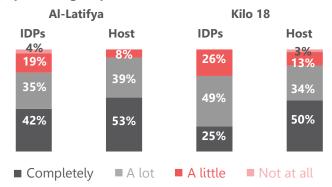
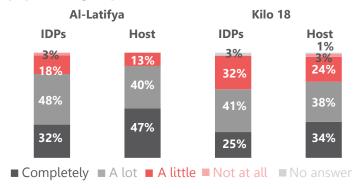


Figure 21: Households' reported level of trust towards other community members, by location and population group



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> REACH Iraq, Al-Qairawan ABA. SMEs dataset and analysis available here.





**Social Cohesion** 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> The Century Foundation. Tribal Justice in a Fragile Iraq, 2019. Available

When reporting the levels of trust towards other community groups, there were similar findings (Figure 21), while in al-Latifya 13% of households reported trusting other groups just a little, 28% of households reported the same in Kilo 18. IDP households reported lower levels of trust (24% trusting a little and 1% not trusting at all) compared to host communities (13% trusting a little). Despite the differences between host and IDP households the gap was relatively small, and an important majority of IDP households (73%) reported trusting other community groups completely or a lot. When reporting about the need for reconciliation between groups in the community or in al-Latifya sub-district, many households reported that reconciliation was somewhat necessary (28% in al-Latifya and 22% in Kilo 18) or very necessary (13% in al-Latifya and 13% in Kilo 18). The vast majority of households reported not facing stigmatisation, except for two IDP households that reported they did.

Overall, 94% of households reported that many had migrated to the area since 2014, which is supported by secondary sources identifying Mahmoudiya district as a districts hosting one of the largest numbers of IDPs in central-south Iraq.<sup>29</sup> More than a quarter of those households reported that this migration negatively impacted the community (27% in al-Latifya and 29% in Kilo 18). This negative perception held by a minority of households could be connected to community leaders' reports attributing infrastructural and service provision

Table 29: Households' most reported social issues in their area, by location:<sup>30</sup>

Al-Latifya		Kilo ′	Kilo 18		
Unemployment 46	% 1	53%	Unemployment		
Lack of services 39	% 2	51%	Lack of services		
Property disputes 16	% 3	26%	Environmental degradation		

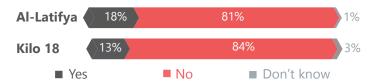
problems to a large population increase in the area (e.g.: the informal building of houses, the informal building of electrical and water infrastructures, and crowded schools).

When asked what the three biggest social issues were, households from al-Latifya reported unemployment (46%), the lack of services (39%), and property disputes or deliberate destruction of property (16%), while households in Kilo 18 reported unemployment (53%), the lack of services (51%), and problems caused by environmental degradation (26%) (Table 29). Community leaders reported some concerns towards the display of violence in public spaces by the youth, and that educational, cultural and social programmes were needed to tackle the issue.

#### **Political and Social Participation**

In terms of civic participation, households reported relatively **low participation in community, social, political or professional organisations/associations in the last six months (13% in al-Latifya and 18% in Kilo 18) (Figure 22).** Although the majority of heads of household were reported to have voted in the previous national elections (88% in al-Latifya and 87% in Kilo 18), some households reported that not all of their members were unable to vote due to legal reasons (4% in al-Latifya and 12% in Kilo 18). Community leaders reported that individuals being unable to vote was mostly due to them being unable to obtain their voting card.

Figure 22: Households reporting that at least one household member had participated in a community, social, political or professional organization in the 6 months prior data collection







<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> IOM DTM Iraq, IDP and returnee master list 128, December 2022, Available here.

 $<sup>^{30}</sup>$  Multiple answer options could be selected for this question so the total result may exceed 100%

# **PROTECTION**

Nearly all households reported feeling safe or fairly safe in the area (100% in al-Latifya and 99% in Kilo 18).

A relatively low proportion of households reported missing at least one key civil document, somewhat higher in Kilo 18 (14%) compared to al-Latifya (3%) (Figure 23). IDP households were more likely to report missing some civil documentation (10%) compared to host communities (3%). The most commonly reported missing documents by households in Kilo 18 were the national ID card for children (9%), and the nationality certificate (8%) (Table 30). 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).

Community leaders reported several additional issues with obtaining civil documentation. Nearly half of community leaders reported the need for government and NGO support (4/10), since IDPs faced further difficulties obtaining documentation (3/10), and they had to travel to their areas of origin. Community leaders reported that households with missing civil documentation were unable to access to some public services like legal services or education (8/10). One community leader reported that IDP families were at a special disadvantage and that because of the lack of documentation, they could not access education. Some households reported that without documentation they could not receive humanitarian aid (six), access PDS (five), or faced movement restrictions (four).

Figure 23: Households reporting having all key household or individual documents

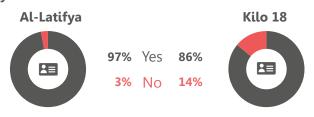


Table 30: Most reported types of civil documents missing by households who reported not having all key household or individual documents<sup>31</sup>



## 

The majority of IDP households originated from Babil (86%) and Baghdad (14%) governorates. The households from Babil governorate reported originating most commonly from the district of al-Mussayab (85%), and within al-Mussayab they commonly reported the subdistricts of al-Sakhar (47%) and Iskandaria (38%). The households reportedly from Baghdad, reported coming from al-Mahmoudiya district (14%), more specifically from other locations in al-Latifya sub-district (11%).

The majority of IDP households reported that they would remain in their location within the 3 months after data collection (88%), 8% reported they would return to their AoO, and 4% reported they did not know. For their movement intentions in the medium term (12 months from the time of data collection), 66% reported they would remain, 12% reported that they would return, 21% did not know, and 1% that they would relocate (Figure 24). 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%) (Figure 25). This is supported by news sources informing about blocked returns in some areas in Babil governorate.<sup>32</sup> For those intending to return, IDP households commonly reported the reasons being their emotional desire to return (43%) and not feeling integrated in the area (36%).

Host community households were asked if they intended to move from their current location in the following six months, 3% reported yes, while 87% reported would stay 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.

Figure 24: IDP households by reported movement intentions for 3 and 12 months following data collection



Figure 25: Most commonly reported reasons not to return to their area of origin, among households not intending to return<sup>31</sup>

3		
Movement restrictions by militias	49%	
Ongoing community tensions	30%	
Fear of discrimination	27%	
Fear or trauma associated with AoO	24%	

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup> RUDAW. Sunni IDPs in Garmiyan administration under pressure from Iraqi Government, 25 December 2022. Available <u>here</u>.





 $<sup>^{31}</sup>$  Multiple answer options could be selected for this question so the total result may exceed 100%