

### Situation Overview

In 2022, the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) returning to their areas of origin (AoOs) or being re-displaced continued to rise, coupled with persisting challenges in relation to social cohesion, lack of services, infrastructure and - in some cases - security in AoOs.<sup>1</sup> The [International Organization for Migration \(IOM\) Displacement Tracking Matrix \(DTM\)](#)'s returnee master list recorded over 4.9 million individuals returning to their AoOs across the country, as of June 2022.

Increased returns and secondary displacement were driven primarily by the closure, consolidation, and reclassification of IDP camps throughout 2021.<sup>2</sup> Between January and May 2022, no camps were closed, consolidated, or reclassified. However, for the camps that remain open across Iraq, there is an ongoing planning procedure to determine their future.<sup>3</sup> In light of these dynamics, the need to better understand the sustainability of returns, conditions for the (re)integration of IDPs and returnees, and the impact of their presence on access to services and social cohesion has been identified in the context of durable solutions planning.

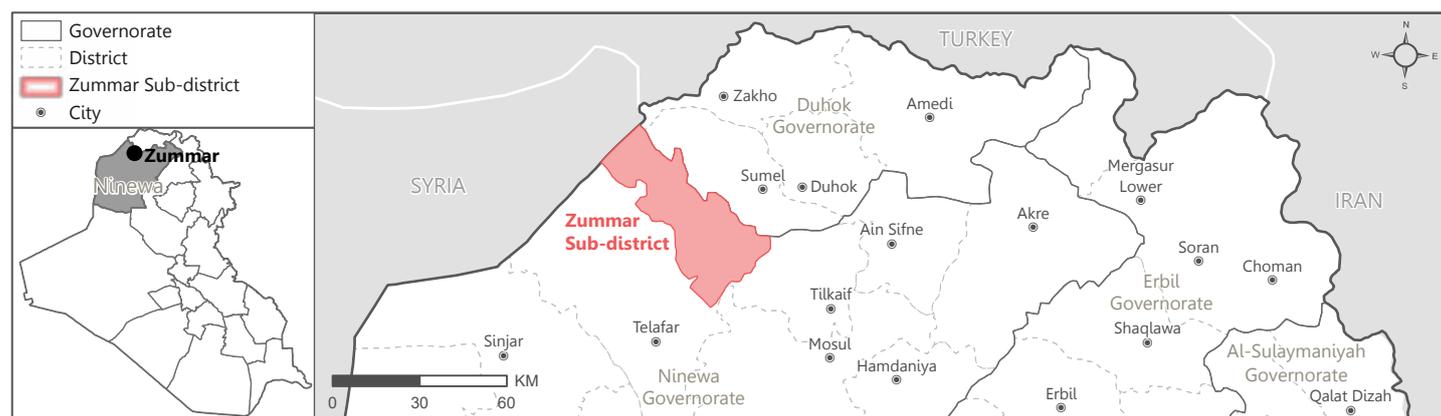
### Zummar Sub-district

Zummar is a rural sub-district of Telafar District, in Ninewa Governorate, Iraq. It is located to the west of the Mosul Dam Lake, almost 60 kilometres north of Mosul city. Zummar is among Iraq's disputed territories between the Federal Government of Iraq (GoI) and the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG),<sup>4</sup> and Sunni Arabs and Kurds are the main population groups in the sub-district.<sup>4</sup> In 2014, the group known as Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) took control of the area. However, in October later that year, Kurdish Security Forces, with support from Coalition air-strikes,<sup>5</sup> retook control of the sub-district.<sup>4</sup>

### Reported Population Profile<sup>6</sup>

- 3,390-3,897 households\*** were residing in Zummar before the events of 2014.
- 85%-95%** of households\* in Zummar were displaced after 2014.
- 85%-90%** of households\* displaced after 2014 had returned to Zummar at the time of data collection.
- 4-6 IDP households\*** were displaced in Zummar at the time of data collection.

\* Data reflects the lowest and highest estimates given by KIs.



### Background and Methodology

A number of partner organisations are currently tracking population movements and measuring progress towards durable solutions for displaced populations in Iraq.<sup>7</sup> For example, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) has collected data on a bi-monthly basis, found in the [IOM DTM Returns Index](#). This tool provides indicative trends on the severity of conditions in areas of return (AoRs) nationwide.

To build on this information, [REACH Initiative \(REACH\)](#) has conducted multi-sectoral assessments in AoOs or AoRs across Iraq assessing the overall condition of affected areas to inform how and to what extent durable solutions have or can be achieved. REACH's Returns and Durable Solutions profiles (ReDS) focus on the study of conditions at the sub-district level, providing a localized overview of the perceptions of displaced and host communities on a variety of conditions linked to the (re)integration of IDPs and returnees.

In light of recent return and re-displacement movement dynamics, REACH conducted a ReDS assessment in Zummar Sub-district to provide an in-depth profiling of needs and understanding of social relationships between remainee,<sup>8</sup> returnee,<sup>9</sup> and IDP populations.<sup>10</sup>

Zummar Sub-district was selected for the assessment as social cohesion and safety severity were classified as 'high'<sup>11</sup> in the majority of assessed villages (46 out of 56),<sup>12</sup> and it was reportedly an under-served location of interest for local authorities, humanitarian, and durable solution partners operating in Zummar. The findings are based on 57 key informant (KI) interviews conducted between 20 July and 2 August 2022, combining qualitative and quantitative data collection methods adapted to the context.<sup>13</sup> Findings are not generalisable with a known level of precision and should be considered indicative only. Data collection was conducted remotely.

### KI Profile

#### Zummar Sub-district

Returnees (return more than 3 months) <sup>14</sup>	9 KIs	<div style="width: 90%;"></div>
Returnees (return less than 3 months) <sup>15</sup>	8 KIs	<div style="width: 80%;"></div>
IDPs from the community <sup>16</sup>	8 KIs	<div style="width: 80%;"></div>
IDPs in the community <sup>17</sup>	8 KIs	<div style="width: 80%;"></div>
Subject matter experts (SMEs) <sup>18</sup>	8 KIs	<div style="width: 80%;"></div>
Community leaders <sup>19</sup>	8 KIs	<div style="width: 80%;"></div>
Remainees	8 KIs	<div style="width: 80%;"></div>

### Key findings

-  **The majority of the KIs reported that there were no recent returns to the sub-district** in the six months prior to data collection. However, a few KIs reported cases of households returning. Reportedly, these movements may positively impact the agricultural and private sectors, in addition to promoting **construction** in the sub-district through the rehabilitation of housing.
-  There were reports of **IDP households departing from Zummar Sub-district**. The **lack of basic services and job opportunities** in Zummar, along with the perceived improvement of security in the AoOs, were the most reported reasons for their departure.
-  There were reports of **host community households departing from the sub-district** due to the reported lack of jobs available there.
-  **The lack of jobs** in Zummar Sub-district was **one of the most reported barriers for returns**. **Access to livelihoods** was the third most commonly reported community need and the third most needed activity to encourage further returns to Zummar.
-  Further efforts to **support housing rehabilitation, access to basic services** (namely healthcare, water, and electricity), **and the rehabilitation of the public infrastructure** (namely roads) were frequently reported as **primary community needs** by SME, community leader, returnee, IDP KIs from and in the community.
-  **The rehabilitation of public infrastructure, social cohesion and reconciliation, livelihoods, and sanitation** were commonly reported programmes **implemented** by durable solutions and humanitarian actors in the sub-district.
-  **The majority of IDP households in the community** reportedly **resided in houses under verbal rental agreement**. It was also reported that IDP households had rental agreements because their homes were **illegally occupied**. One IDP KI in the community reported that some **IDP households** in the community were **hosted by other families**.
-  The most challenging public sector service to access was reportedly **healthcare** due to the lack of medicine, shortages in healthcare staff, and the lack of operating hospitals inside the sub-district.
-  **Agriculture** was the most reported sector with the **highest growth potential in Zummar** for the 12 months following data collection. It was also reported as the sector that **returnees, remainees, and IDPs had the most interest to work in**. Findings showed that the **agricultural sector was negatively affected** at the time of data collection due to the **lack of support and compensation to farmers from the local government, water scarcity, climate change, and the lasting negative impact from the 2014 conflict with ISIL**.
-  All KIs reported that the **majority of households faced challenges in accessing livelihoods** in the sub-district. KIs reported an overall **decrease in the availability and diversity of job opportunities** at the time of data collection.
-  Employment in the **private healthcare, construction, and agriculture sectors** was reportedly the **most negatively affected** at the time of data collection.
-  The vast majority of the KIs reported that **households in the sub-district had all their personal documentation** and that it was up-to-date. However, there were some households that had missing unified identification cards and passports, which were difficult to renew at the time of data collection.
-  The majority of **returnee, remainee and IDP (from and in Zummar) households** reportedly **felt safe or very safe** in Zummar Sub-district
-  **Local authorities and formal security forces** were most frequently reported as **the most influential bodies in governance** at the time of data collection.
-  **Tribal leaders were reportedly the most effective at resolving disputes** within the sub-district.
-  Almost half of the IDP KIs from the community reported that **IDP households from Zummar may feel very welcome and accepted if they return** to the sub-district. KIs reported that IDP households interacted with all groups in the sub-district and participated in decision-making processes in their AoOs.
-  The vast majority IDP KIs in the community reported not knowing if most IDP households in Zummar felt integrated in their areas of displacement (AoDs). However, one IDP KI in Zummar reported that some households did not feel integrated in the sub-district.
-  All returnee KIs reported that returnee households interacted with **all groups in the community and felt welcome or very welcome in Zummar**. Also, all returnee KIs reported that returnee households felt reintegrated in the community of Zummar.
-  It was suggested that **organising seminars, conferences and awareness sessions would help improving social cohesion**. Other important factors mentioned were the promoting of intra-communal relationships as well as ensuring access to employment for all members of the community.

### Recent household return movements

All of the KIs were consulted for this section (57 KIs). The **majority of the KIs reported** that there were **no recent returns** to the sub-district in the six months prior to data collection (46 out of 57 KIs). However, 11 KIs did report the occurrence of recent returns to the sub-district.

#### Returns from non-camp areas

**20-30 households<sup>20</sup> returned to the sub-district** from Mosul District in Ninewa Governorate (5 KIs), and Baghdad (2 KIs) and Erbil (4 KIs) governorates.

#### Reported drivers for returns

Findings showed that pull factors in AoRs for households to return reportedly included:<sup>21</sup>

Nostalgia about their previous life	<b>10 KIs</b>	
Perceived increase in safety and security	<b>5 KIs</b>	
Following the return of other family members	<b>2 KIs</b>	

#### Reported impact of returns

According to 11 KIs reporting the occurrence of recent returns (out of 57 KIs), these movements had **positive impacts** on the agricultural sector (5 KIs), social life (5 KIs), reconstruction and rehabilitation of housing (3 KIs), and security (2 KIs) among other factors in the sub-district.

##### Impact on agriculture

Reportedly, farmers were among the returnee households (5 KIs) and their return encouraged the re-cultivation of agricultural lands, which was also noted to reduce the desertification of the area (2 KIs). According to one returnee KI, recent returns also reinvested in agricultural lands and reportedly promoted the agricultural sector (1 KI). Furthermore, because of returns, it was cited that the increased availability of produce brought a sense of normalcy to life in the sub-district (1 KI). Additionally, aquaculture was also reportedly positively affected as returning fisherman increased fishing activities, especially with the reopening of the Mosul Dam Lake (1 KI) since its rehabilitation began in 2016 to repair foundational damages.<sup>22</sup>

**“The return of the displaced households led to the return of life to the villages with the re-cultivation of lands”**

- Female Returnee KI -

##### Impact on social life

Social life in the community was positively impacted by the reported return of households to their homes (5 KIs) which facilitated family reunification and restored bonds between relatives and neighbours (1 KI), and encouraged further returns to the area (1 KI).

##### Impact on the private sector, including trade and commerce

According to two KIs, recent returns positively impacted the private sector as shops were reopened, contributing to the availability of jobs, and increased investment and improvements in knowledge and skills.

Additionally, one returnee KI reported that trade and commerce was positively impacted due to the increased economic activity.

#### Security

The return of households to Zummar reportedly positively impacted security conditions in the sub-district (2 KIs). According to one IDP KI in the community, returnees may support **“security forces to report any security related incidents that may occur”**. Additionally, it was suggested that as returnee households obtained security clearance<sup>23</sup> to facilitate their return, it would signify that **“area is safe and the people are not part of any terrorist group”** (1 KI).

#### Other impacts of recent returns

Findings suggest that the return of additional households led to increased reconstruction activities in the sub-district, specifically reconstruction and rehabilitation of housing (3 KIs). Additionally, according to two KIs, returns led to improved access to the public electricity service (1 KI) and access to education, resulting in children returning to school (1 KI).

**“In the last three months, life began to return to the villages [with the return of households] as it encouraged other families to return. These movements led to the local government restoring the public electricity service.”**

- Male Returnee KI -

### Expected return movements

All KIs were consulted for this section (57 KIs). **All KIs reported not expecting returns** in the six months following data collection.

#### Reported impact of expected returns

All KIs were consulted for this section (57 KIs). The majority of consulted KIs (49 out of 57 KIs) reported that **further returns would have impacts on the community** in Zummar. Eight KIs did not respond to how further returns would affect the community.

#### Expected positive impacts

The majority of consulted KIs (40 out of 49 KIs) reported that **expected returns may positively impact the community** in the sub-district. This was attributed to the potential positive effects these movements may have on trade and commerce (14 KIs), the private sector (12 KIs), reconstruction in the sub-district (11 KIs), the agriculture sector (11 KIs), the social life of the sub-district (10 KIs), access to basic services (8 KIs), and safety and security (8 KIs).

#### Impact on the private sector, including trade and commerce

KIs reported that additional returns may contribute to the development of the private sector and increase employment with the return of professional and skilled workers such as barbers, carpenters, blacksmiths, and engineers (10 KIs). Reportedly, the return of shop owners may lead to them reopening their businesses, which may lead to increased job opportunities (7 KIs).

As for the impact on trade and commerce, it was relayed by some KIs that an increased population and their demand for basic items from the local markets may lead to increased commercial activity (12 KIs), and more jobs and income generating opportunities (3 KIs). KIs also suggested that additional returns may potentially increase trade, especially the export of agriculture products outside the sub-district (7 KIs) and increased purchases of everyday items (5 KIs).

### Impact on the sub-district's reconstruction

According to 11 KIs, expected returns to the sub-district may lead to increased job opportunities within the construction sector, especially with increased housing construction and rehabilitation projects.

### Impact on the agricultural sector

Reportedly, future returns may also include the return of farmers (5 KIs), resulting in the revitalization of (7 KIs) and reinvestment in the agricultural sector (1 KI). It was also suggested that the reclamation of some agricultural lands may occur (4 KIs).

### Impact on social life

According to four KIs, future returns may support the normalization of life in the area, returning it to a similar state to that experienced before 2014, in addition to reportedly bringing life to deserted villages (3 KIs). It was also suggested that returns may encourage more households to return (3 KIs) and enable family and friends to be reconnected (2 KIs).

### Impact on access to services

Reportedly, the return of healthcare and education professionals would compensate for shortages in personnel in these sectors and consequently improve the quality of these services for the community (8 KIs). In addition, a few KIs (2 KIs) expected that, with further returns, the local government may focus their attention on the availability of basic public services in the sub-district such as water and electricity.

**“There are a number of professionals in education and healthcare, including doctors, that are displaced; their return will fill the shortages [in staff prevalent in basic services available in the sub-district], particularly in healthcare.”**

- Male Remainee KI -

### Impact on safety and security perceptions

According to two KIs, having an increased population may increase the sense of safety and security in the sub-district, as returns reportedly signify that the area is habitable. Furthermore, an increased population may reportedly result in further cooperation with security forces on the reporting of possible security incidents, thus, reinforcing a sense of increased security (2 KIs).

### Expected negative impacts

According to six KIs, future returns may have negative effects in the sub-district, namely due to issues regarding safety and security (5 KIs), access to employment (4 KIs), and basic services (4 KIs).

### Impact on safety and security

According to four KIs, the potential return of households may lead to potential resurgence of outstanding inter-communal disputes and to potential retaliation from families who have lost family members to ISIL (2 KIs).

### Impact on access to employment

A few KIs reported that future returns may lead to increased competition for the limited available job opportunities in the sub-district (4 KIs).

**“There are few job opportunities in the area, and returns will increase competition for jobs, leading to problems between community members”**

- Female SME KI -

### Impact on access to basic public services

Reportedly, the increase in population, as a result of additional returns, may require more attention from the local government, especially to enhance access to public electricity and water services (3 out of 4 KIs). One community leader KI stated that if access to basic public services was not improved, access would worsen and negatively impact the sustainability of durable solutions, leading to re-displacement of returnee households.

**“There are few [basic] services in the area, and households who return will put a strain on access to public water and electricity.”**

- Female SME KI -



## Barriers for further returns

All KIs were consulted for this section (57 KIs). Several factors were cited as causes which could block/delay further returns to the sub-district.

### Reported barriers for further returns (out of 57 KIs)<sup>21</sup>

#### Access to livelihoods and basic public services

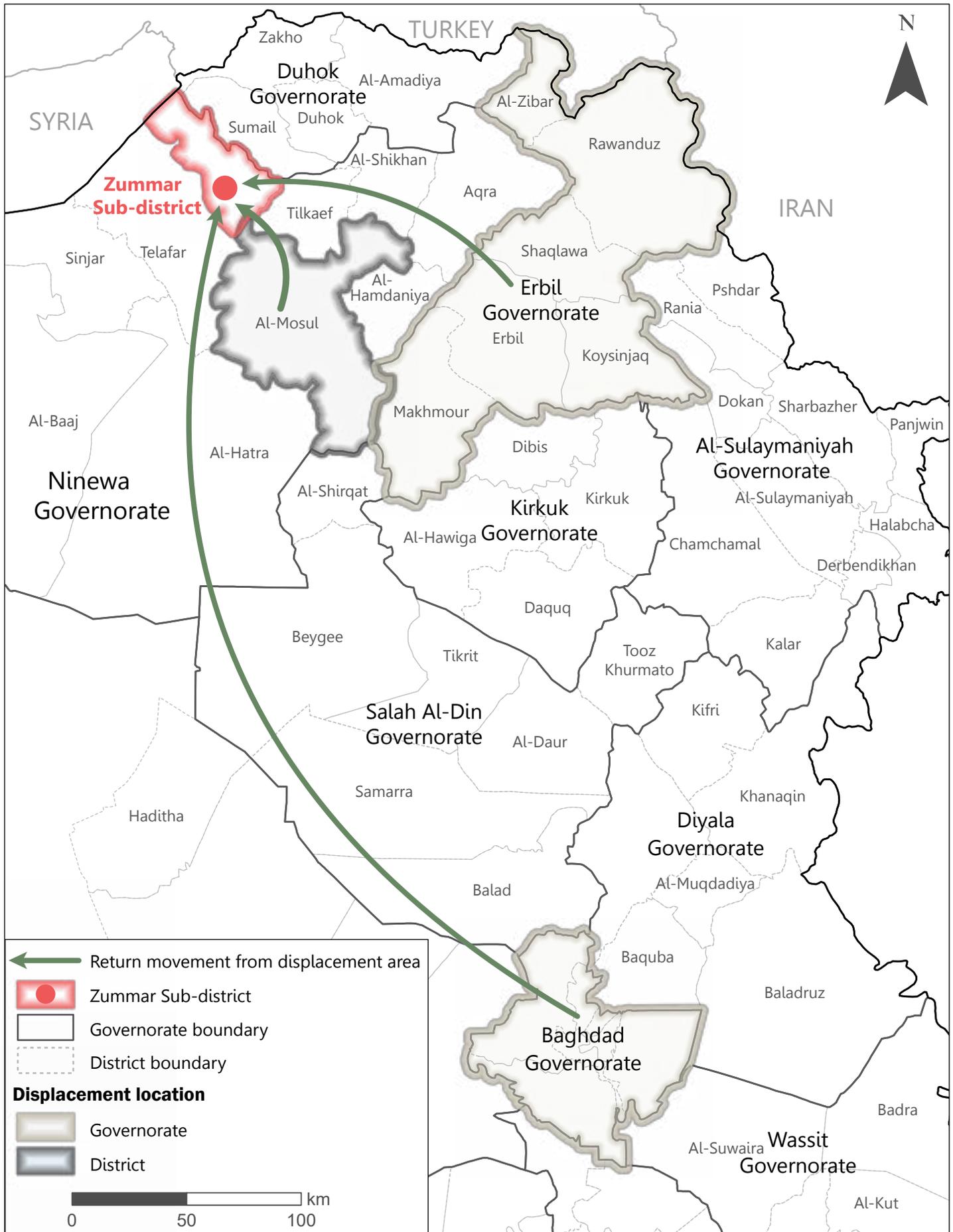
Limited availability of job opportunities	54 KIs	<div style="width: 95%;"></div>
Limited access to basic public services	40 KIs	<div style="width: 70%;"></div>

#### Access to housing and housing rehabilitation

Destroyed/damaged housing	53 KIs	<div style="width: 93%;"></div>
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Additionally, it was shared by KIs that a lack of safety and security posed a barrier for return, as households reportedly feared being discriminated against and persecuted by community members in Zummar (1 KI). Furthermore, it was said that households feared return due to the perception of being an ISIL affiliated family. It was also shared that access to civil documentation, particularly missing identification cards was a barrier for return (1 KI). Civil documents such as identification cards were necessary to obtain security clearance for return.<sup>23</sup>

Map 2. Recent returns to Zummar Sub-district from non-camp areas (in the six months prior to data collection)



### Recent IDP movements

Returnee, remainee, IDP in the community, community leader, and SME KIs were consulted for this section (49 out of 57 KIs). This section refers to IDP households who were not originally from Zummar Sub-district.

#### IDP departures from Zummar

All consulted KIs (49 KIs) reported that there were no IDP movements to the sub-district. However, taking into consideration the small sample for this assessment, movements may be under-reported.

#### IDP departures from Zummar

The vast majority of consulted KIs reported no recent departures from Zummar in the last six months prior to data collection (47 out of 49 KIs). However, one community leader and one IDP KI from Zummar reported that three to four IDP households<sup>7</sup> reportedly departed from the sub-district in the six months prior to data collection and were reported to have returned to their AoOs. One IDP KI in the community reported that IDP households returned to their AoOs in Mosul District and one community leader did not know where these households moved to.

#### Reported reasons for departures

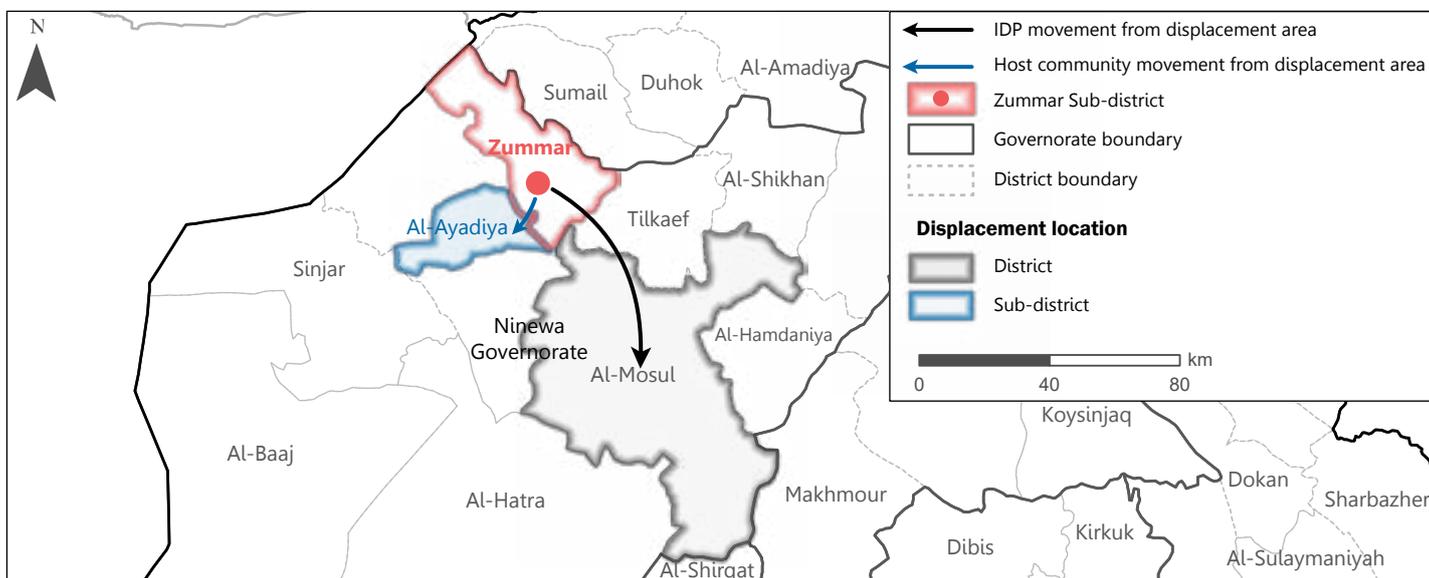
One IDP KI from the community noted that IDP households left Zummar due to:

- » Lack of basic services available in Zummar,
- » Perceived improvement in security in IDP households' AoOs, and
- » Availability of jobs in other areas.

### Recent host community movements

Returnee, remainee, IDP in the community, community leader, and SME KIs were consulted for this section (49 out of 57 KIs). This section refers to host community households from Zummar Sub-district.

#### Map 3. IDP and host community departure from Zummar



### Host community departure from Zummar

The vast majority of the KIs reported that there was no departure of host community households from Zummar Sub-district at the time of data collection. However, one returnee KI did report that four to six host community households<sup>20</sup> departed from the sub-district to Ayadiya Sub-district in Ninewa Governorate to search for job opportunities as they were not available in Zummar.

### Family separation

Returnee, remainee, IDP from the community, community leader, and SME KIs were consulted for this section (49 out of 57 KIs). Just under two thirds of consulted KIs reported no cases of family separation in the sub-district (30 KIs), and almost one third did not know about family separation cases (16 KIs). However, three KIs reported that **some households had adult male members who remained in displacement** at the time of data collection, namely adult sons. It was also reported that **boys were separated from their family** (1 KI).

Reportedly, the main factor influencing the decisions of these household members to remain in displacement was associated with the **lack of job opportunities in the sub-district**, while being available in AoDs (3 KIs). Additionally, one recent returnee KI reported that some of these household members, who were displaced at the time of data collection, were working in their AoDs to cover their housing rehabilitation costs. As for boys reportedly being separated from members of their family, it was noted that this was due to being enrolled and registered in schools in their AoDs.

#### Most commonly reported reunification plans

According to three KIs, the most commonly reported reunification plan was related to **returning when job opportunities were available** in the sub-district. One community leader also suggested that households would return when education staff were available and educational activities were restored.

### Primary community needs

#### Most reported primary community needs in Zummar at the time of data collection (out of 57 KIs)<sup>21, 24</sup>

	First Need	Second Need	Third Need
Livelihoods	22 KIs	17 KIs	3 KIs
Housing rehabilitation	19 KIs	8 KIs	4 KIs
Healthcare	5 KIs	13 KIs	6 KIs
Education	5 KIs	6 KIs	3 KIs
Water	3 KIs	8 KIs	3 KIs
Infrastructure rehabilitation	2 KIs	1 KI	3 KIs
Electricity	0 KIs	2 KIs	3 KIs

The most commonly reported primary community need was **access to livelihoods** (42 out of 57 KIs). According to all reporting KIs (42 KIs), the general lack of job opportunities in the sub-district negatively affected households access to income. See section on access to livelihoods on pages 13 and 14.

The second most commonly reported primary community need was **access to housing rehabilitation** (31 out of 57 KIs). All reporting KIs (31 KIs) noted that access to housing rehabilitation was mainly affected by the high level of housing damage in the sub-district at the time of data collection. See section on access to housing and housing rehabilitation on page 8.

The third most commonly reported primary community need was **access to healthcare** (24 out of 57 KIs). In terms of healthcare needs, it was reported that access to healthcare was mainly affected by the shortages of medicine (13 out of 24 KIs) and healthcare staff (12 out of 24 KIs). See section on access to basic public services on page 9.

#### Most commonly reported primary community needs per KI profile at the time of data collection<sup>21, 25</sup>

Community leader KIs (out of 8 KIs)	SME KIs (out of 8 KIs)	Remainee KIs (out of 8 KIs)	IDP KIs in the community (out of 16 KIs)	Returnee KIs (out of 17 KIs)
Livelihoods 5 KIs 	Livelihoods 8 KIs 	Livelihoods 8 KIs 	House rehab 8 KIs 	Livelihoods 9 KIs 
Education 4 KIs 	Healthcare 6 KIs 	House rehab 4 KIs 	Livelihoods 7 KIs 	House rehab 8 KIs 
Water 4 KIs 	House rehab 5 KIs 	Healthcare 3 KIs 	Education 6 KIs 	Healthcare 6 KIs 
House rehab 4 KIs 	Reconcile 2 KIs 	Infra rehab 3 KIs 	Healthcare 3 KIs 	Water 4 KIs 

### Access to durable solutions assistance<sup>26</sup> and impact on returns

Returnee, IDP from the community, community leader, and SME KIs were consulted for this section (49 out of 57 KIs). All consulted KIs (49 KIs) reported that **there were humanitarian and development activities or projects implemented in Zummar**.

#### Most reported activities implemented in Zummar in the six months prior to data collection (out of 49 KIs)<sup>21, 27</sup>

Rehabilitation of public infrastructure	18 KIs 
Reconciliation and social cohesion	17 KIs 
Livelihoods	15 KIs 
Sanitation	11 KIs 

#### Activities' implementers

The vast majority of the KIs reporting implemented activities in the sub-district (48 out of 49 KIs) also reported that these activities or projects were **implemented by humanitarian and durable solutions actors** (42 KIs), followed by local authorities (28 KIs) and security actors (1 KI). It was commonly reported that local authorities were supporting infrastructure rehabilitation (16 KIs), sanitation (11 KIs), and livelihood activities (11 KIs) in the sub-district. Furthermore, according to one KI, security actors were providing food and non-food items to the community.

#### Reported groups less involved in activities<sup>21</sup>

Returnee, remainee, and IDP (in and from the community) KIs were consulted for this section (33 out of 57 KIs). Almost one third of consulted KIs reported that **IDP households from the community were less likely to be involved in activities or projects** in the sub-district (12 out of 33 KIs), followed by IDP households in the community (9 KIs).<sup>28</sup> The rest of the KIs (13 KIs) believed that there were no groups less likely to be involved in these activities.

Regarding vulnerable groups,<sup>29</sup> KIs reported that **older persons** (14 KIs) and **persons with disabilities** (11 KIs) **were less involved in activities or projects** compared to other vulnerable groups. According to 27 KIs, all vulnerable groups had the same level of access to participate. The rest of the KIs (2 KIs) did not know about vulnerable groups involvement in activities.

#### Durable solutions assistance as a factor to encourage returns

Returnee and IDP KIs from the community were consulted for this section (25 out of 57 KIs). The vast majority of these KIs (22 out of 25 KIs) reported that the **availability of durable solutions assistance would be a factor encouraging returns to Zummar**. Reportedly, **livelihood programmes were identified** by KIs as **the most needed initiative** to encourage further returns (17 KIs), followed by access to housing rehabilitation (7 KIs) and electricity (1 KI).

### Perceptions on access to housing, housing rehabilitation, and compensation

Returnee, remainee, community leader, SME and IDP KIs in Zummar were consulted for this section (49 out of 57 KIs). All consulted KIs reported that the majority of households in the sub-district resided in houses.

#### Types of tenure and housing agreement

Findings showed that the majority of households in the sub-district resided in owned houses (42 out of 49 KIs).

However, the vast majority of the IDP KIs in Zummar reported that **most IDP households in the community resided in houses under verbal rental agreement** (6 out of 8 KIs) because they did not own one in the sub-district. Additionally, one IDP KI in the community noted that some households had rental agreements because their homes were **illegally occupied**.<sup>30</sup> Another IDP KI in the community reported that some IDP households in Zummar were hosted by other households in the sub-district as they did not own a house in the sub-district.

#### Risk of eviction

According to 17 KIs, **households with alleged links to ISIL** were more at **risk of eviction** than other vulnerable groups.<sup>29, 31</sup>

#### Access to housing, land and property (HLP) documentation

The majority of consulted KIs reported that most households owned houses in the sub-district and also had HLP documents to prove housing ownership (40 out of 42 KIs). The rest of the KIs (2 KIs) reported that **some households** in the sub-district **may not have HLP documents** related to property ownership.

#### Access to housing rehabilitation

Returnee, community leader, SME, and IDP KIs in community were consulted for this section (49 out of 57 KIs).

**40%-50% of houses<sup>20</sup> in Zummar reportedly remained destroyed or damaged** at the time of data collection.

#### Challenges to access housing rehabilitation

Returnee, community leader, SME, and IDP (in and from the community) KIs were consulted for this section (57 KIs). All KIs reported that the majority of affected households faced challenges in accessing housing rehabilitation. It was reported by the majority of consulted KIs that affected **households in the sub-district required support for housing rehabilitation** (31 KIs), however, there were a number of challenges affecting housing rehabilitation. These reportedly included the lack of financial resources of affected households for housing rehabilitation (47 KIs) and factors negatively affecting access to government compensation mechanisms (24 KIs).

#### ◊ Limited access to financial resources for housing rehabilitation

According to the majority of the KIs, the **lack of financial resources was reportedly affecting housing construction, reconstruction, and rehabilitation** (47 KIs). This was reportedly due to households not having jobs (7 KIs), difficulty accessing

cash assistance (3 KIs), high cost of construction materials needed (2 KIs), and households reportedly being in debt (1 KI). In relations to this, KIs relayed that households set up tents next to destroyed houses (3 KIs) and borrowed money from family and friends (1 KI) as coping strategies.

#### ◊ Lack of government compensation for rehabilitation

Two KIs implied that the government was not addressing housing challenges in Zummar. Additionally, it was stated by almost half of the KIs that the lack of government compensation negatively affected households and impacted their ability to rehabilitate their homes (23 KIs).

Findings suggest that there were households that did not have access to the government compensation mechanisms (14 out of 57 KIs). It was stated by KIs (13 out of 14 KIs) that the government compensation process was complex, and that affected households lacked awareness of it. It was also suggested that there was a lack of legal assistance to facilitate access to the government compensation process (8 KIs), in addition to the perception that affected households will not be compensated (1 KI).

Additionally, two KIs noted that for households to obtain government compensation for housing rehabilitation, they needed to pay bribes (3 KIs). Furthermore, households reportedly needed **“to go to the governorate centre, which is very far and some families did not have wages”**.

#### ◊ Impact of housing rehabilitation challenges on return

Over one third of the KIs (20 out of 57 KIs) reported that addressing housing rehabilitation issues may facilitate return and households would no longer pay rent in their AoDs (1 KI). However, one returnee KI suggested that affected households may require financial support for housing rehabilitation. Additionally, one returnee KI reported that some returnee households were hosted by their relatives due to housing damage and their inability to rehabilitate their shelters.

#### ◊ Other reported challenges to access housing rehabilitation

There were other reported issues pertaining to accessing housing rehabilitation, including reported blocked returns of households (1 KI). Reportedly **“there were villages, including Barzan and Karkafir with blocked returns, therefore households could not rehabilitate their homes”**. Furthermore, it was noted by some KIs that there was a lack of reconstruction projects, including from government and NGOs (19 KIs).

#### Reported recommendations to enhance access to housing rehabilitation

To overcome challenges to access housing rehabilitation, KIs recommended the following:

- » Financial compensation for housing rehabilitation, especially to facilitate return (2 KIs),
- » The implementation of housing rehabilitation projects (1 KI), and
- » Debris removal by the municipal government or relevant authority (1 KI).

### Perceptions on access to basic public services

All KIs reported that the majority of **households faced challenges in accessing basic public services** in the sub-district (57 KIs). Furthermore, the majority of the KIs (44 out of 57 KIs) reported that **healthcare** was the most negatively affected sector at the time of data collection.

#### Reported affected basic public services (out of 57 KIs)<sup>21</sup>

Healthcare	44 KIs	
Water	32 KIs	
Education	30 KIs	
Electricity	20 KIs	

### Challenges to access basic public services

#### Rehabilitating public infrastructure

Almost a quarter of the KIs reported that there was a need for public infrastructure to be rehabilitated (14 out of 57 KIs). It was stated by several consulted KIs that roads needed paving (11 KIs) to facilitate movement within the sub-district during the rainy and winter seasons (7 KIs). However, it was implied by one IDP KI from the community that one of the challenges for rehabilitating infrastructure was the prevalence of bribes for work to be carried out. It was suggested by one remainee KI that concrete block factories should be established in the sub-district to provide jobs.

#### Access to public healthcare

The majority of the KIs (44 out of 57 KIs) reported that households faced challenges in accessing public healthcare services. The most reported challenges were related to:

- » Shortage in medicine (33 KIs),
- » Shortage in healthcare staff (25 KIs),
- » Conditions at operating hospitals (12 KIs), and
- » Conditions at operational PHCs in Zummar (8 KIs).

#### ◊ Shortage in medicine

According to the majority of the KIs, Zummar was impacted by shortages in medicine and vaccines, including their lack of availability in PHCs (33 KIs).

Several KIs reported that households adopted certain strategies to cope with the challenges to accessing healthcare (10 KIs). These reportedly included households:

- » Purchasing medication from private pharmacies (7 KIs) and
- » Travelling to Mosul and Zummar center for medication (4 KIs). One KI reported doing so despite it being an expensive journey.

#### ◊ Shortage in healthcare staff

Reportedly, the healthcare sector was affected by shortages in medical staff, including the lack of specialised doctors (21 KIs). There were also reported shortages of ambulances and drivers (2 KIs). It was also shared by several KIs that **households would go to Telafar and Mosul for treatment** (8 KIs).

#### ◊ Lack of operational hospitals in the sub-district

Reportedly, there were shortages in hospitals (12 KIs),<sup>32</sup> and functional hospitals did not meet the demand of residents (1 KI).

It was suggested that NGOs and the government should:

- » Provide treatment, staff and equipment (10 KIs) and
- » Build new hospitals (9 KIs).

#### ◊ Conditions at the functional public healthcare centres (PHC)

Conditions negatively affecting the operation of the PHC reportedly included:

- » Shortages in PHCs, and few providing services (7 KIs) and,
- » Lack of medical treatments (1 KI).<sup>33</sup>

It was suggested that PHCs be constructed and provided with medical staff and equipment (2 KIs).

#### Access to public water

Over half of the KIs (32 out of 57 KIs) reported that the majority of households faced challenges in accessing public water services. According to 19 KIs, there were shortages in water, with **households reportedly having access to water every three days**. The reported challenges accessing water services included:

- » Low water quality, making water unsuitable for drinking (6 KIs),
- » Water networks being over **"30 years old and not being maintained"** (2 KIs), and
- » Dependency on the Mosul dam opening to facilitate access to water in the sub-district (1 KI).

According to a few KIs (4 out of 32 KIs), some of the reported **coping strategies employed by households** in Zummar to address the access challenges included:

- » Buying water from markets (2 KIs) and
- » Digging water wells for agricultural purposes (1 KI).<sup>35</sup>

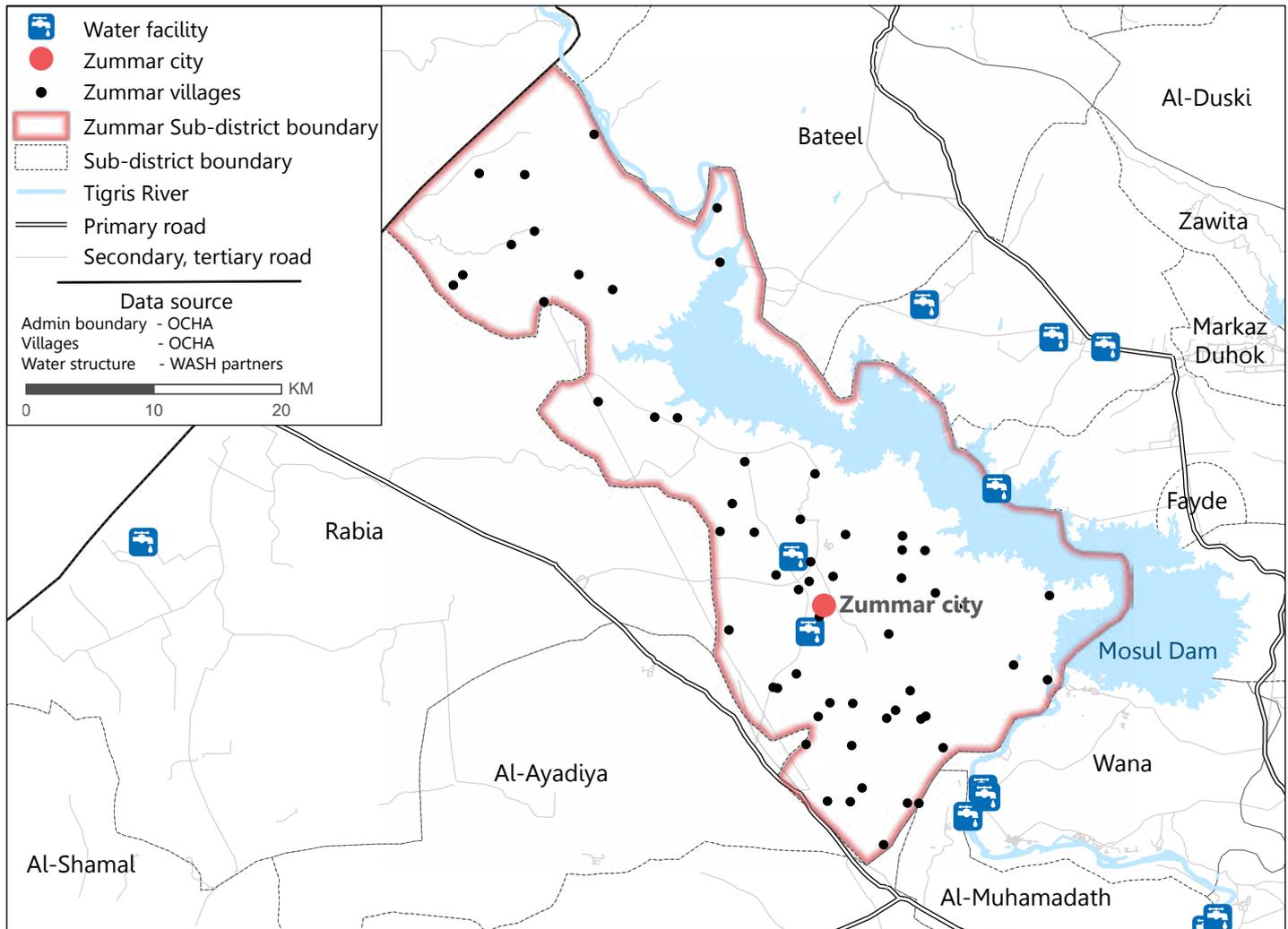
#### Access to public education

According to 30 KIs (out of 57), there were challenges to accessing public education in the sub-district. According to a notable number of the KIs, there was a shortage of functional schools in Zummar, including secondary schools (18 KIs). According to one KI, schools were destroyed and/or used as shelters during the sub-district's occupation by ISIL and, thus, needed rehabilitation.

In terms of schooling conditions, it was reported by one IDP KI in the community that schools were not suitable to withstand the weather conditions. Another IDP KI in the community reported that schools needed amenities and equipment. Activities recommended by KIs to enhance access to education reportedly included:

- » Construction of new schools and reconstruction of existing ones (16 KIs),
- » Allocation of teaching staff (2 KIs), and,
- » Provision of books and stationery (1 KI).<sup>34</sup>

**Map 4. Water facilities stations supplying Zummar**



**Access to public electricity**

Almost half of the KIs (20 out of 57 KIs) reported that the majority of households faced challenges in accessing public electricity services. The most reported challenge to access electricity was the electrical source not being suitable to cover demands, resulting in limited hours of electrical supply (12 KIs). Furthermore, it was shared by two KIs that the electrical power decreased in their neighbourhood, and one IDP KI from the community noted that the reason for this was because the "electrical supply was being rerouted to touristic areas and the district centre." Additionally, it was cited by a few KIs that households had resorted to depending on private generators to ensure access to electricity (4 KIs).

In addition to the electrical supply being limited, it was reported that the electrical equipment was old, which resulted in low electrical power, negatively affecting the work of craftsmen and other professionals (4 KIs). Additionally, one KI reported that overcrowded power cables installation may represent a safety concern for the community members in Zummar (1 KI).

It was reported that the electrical network needed rehabilitation (4 KIs) and that new transformers should be installed (2 KIs) to increase the availability of electricity throughout the day (1 KI). Additionally, it was shared by two KIs that electricity was needed for land irrigation as well as to encourage IDP households to return to their AoOs in the sub-district (1 KI).

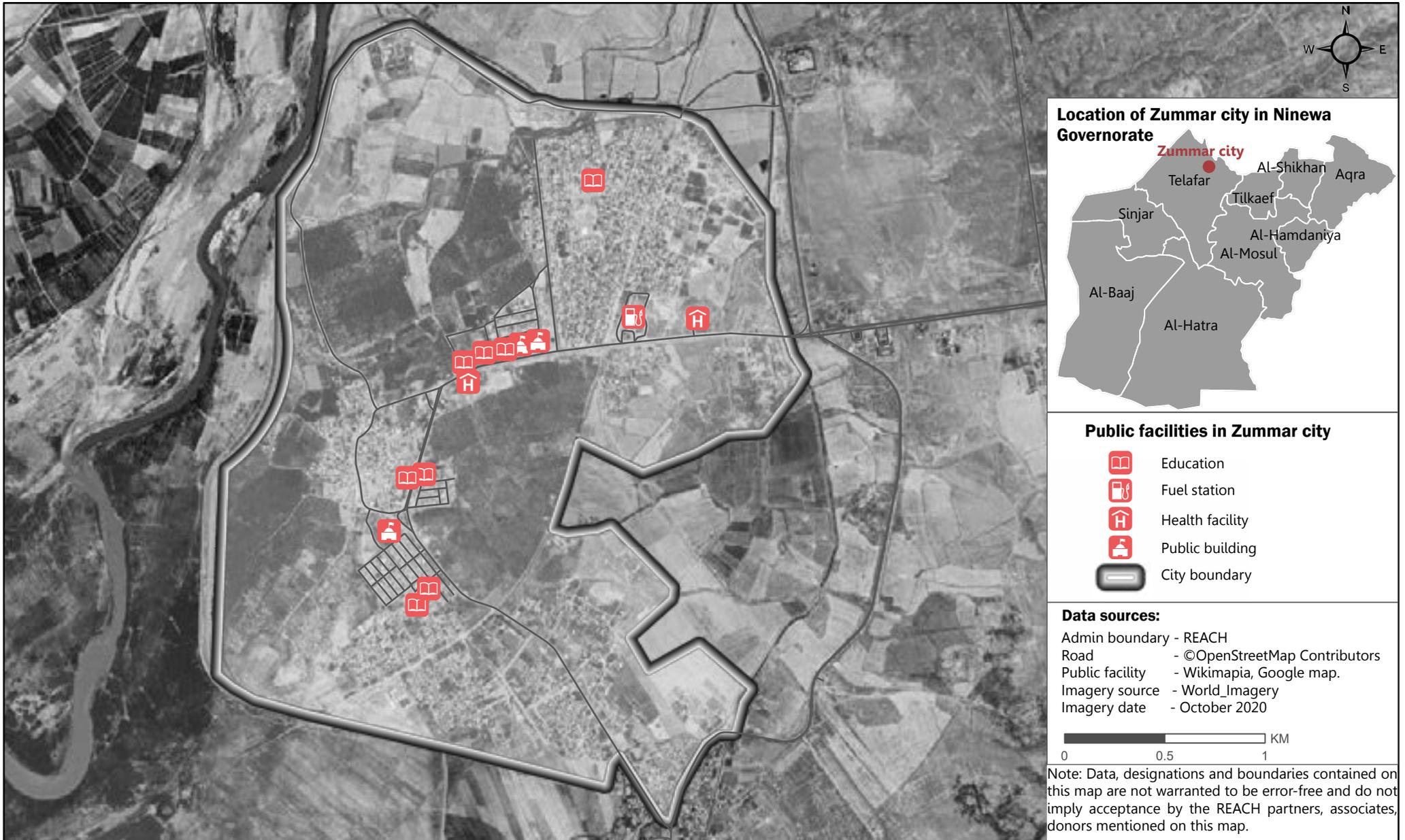
**Access to waste collection, disposal, and management**

It was reported by eight KIs (out of 57) that the majority of households faced challenges in accessing public waste collection, disposal, and management services. The reported challenges included:

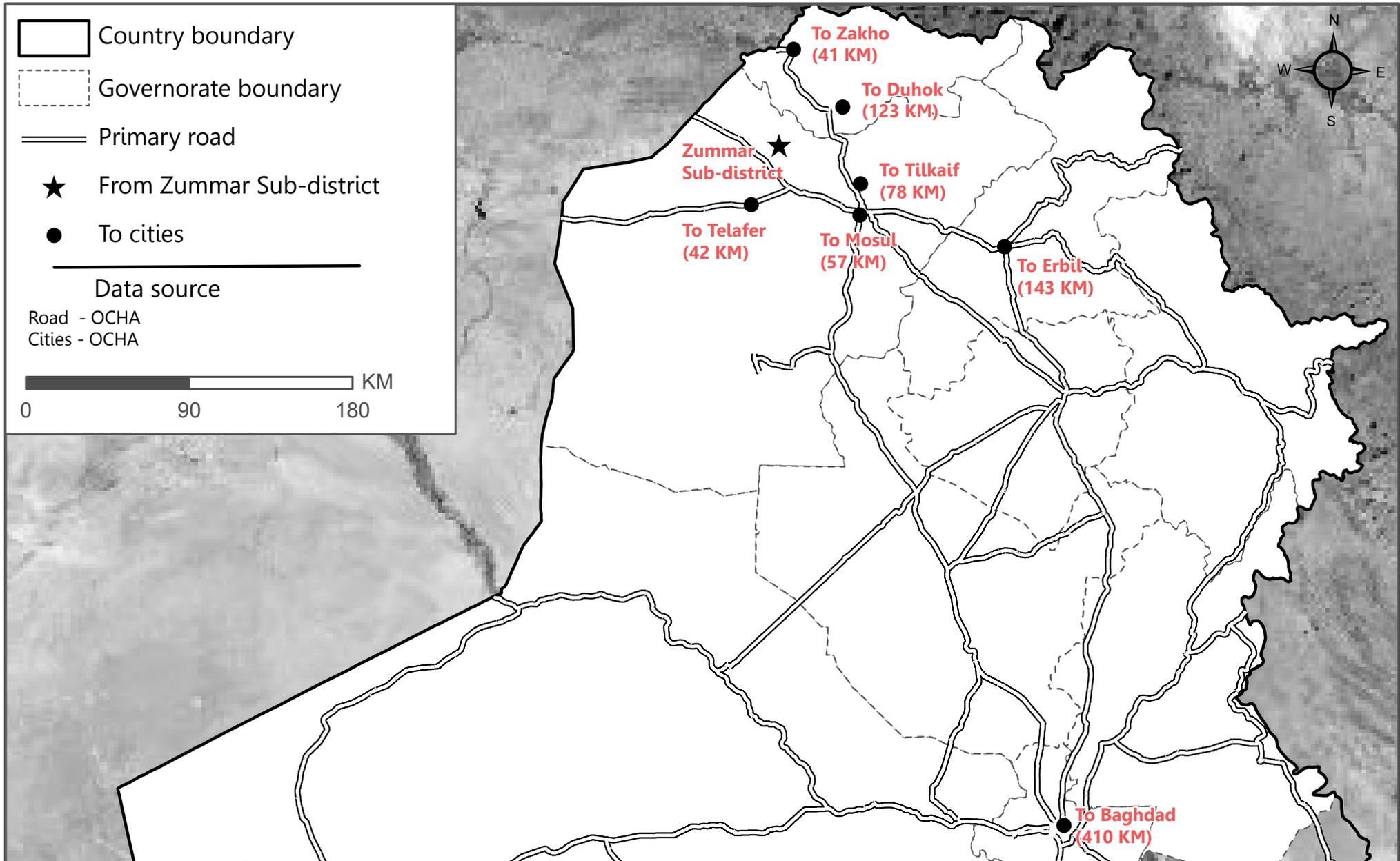
- » Lack of vehicles for safe waste collection (4 KIs),
- » General neglect by the municipality towards waste collection, with waste being collected once a week (3 KIs), and
- » Shortage in sanitation workers for the municipality (1 KI).

It was reported by one community leader KI that households have resorted to renting trucks and collecting waste at their own expense. Moreover, another KI reported that families were throwing waste into an open yard which was then burned every three to four days by the municipality (1 KI).

**Map 5. Basic public services providers available in Zummar city at the time of data collection**



**Map 6. Distance from Zummar Sub-district to other areas where KIs reported that households could access basic public services**



### Perceptions on access to livelihoods

The vast majority of the KIs (54 out of 57 KIs) reported that most households faced challenges in accessing livelihoods, while three KIs refused to answer. Some of the reported challenges in accessing livelihoods were attributed to the general lack of job opportunities in the sub-district (42 KIs) and more specifically within the agricultural (28 KIs), construction (14 KIs), and private (10 KIs) sectors.

#### Challenges to access livelihoods

##### Lack of job opportunities

According to almost three quarters of the KIs, Zummar lacked employment opportunities and projects, affecting households' ability to meet their basic needs (42 KIs). More specifically, it was cited that the reported lack of job opportunities and projects affected youth and recent graduates as well as women (15 KIs). It was also shared by one community leader KI that the devaluation of the Iraqi Dinar negatively affected the price of raw materials and the operation of local shops, which consequently negatively impacted the labour market.<sup>36</sup>

Reportedly, the region lacked diversity in the types of jobs available (2 KIs) and cash-for-work programmes (2 KIs). According to one IDP KI, there were reported restrictions for investors in the sub-district because of barriers put in place by entrepreneurs from different ethnic and religious groups. Furthermore, it was suggested that connections were needed to access employment, while favouritism was shown towards some groups more than others (5 KIs).

##### Job opportunities for IDPs in Zummar

Reportedly, IDPs in Zummar faced challenges in accessing livelihoods. It was reported by one IDP KI in the sub-district that displaced households found it challenging to secure jobs, especially ones matching their skills. Another IDP KI in the community reported that IDPs in Zummar were not employed because their AoOs have reported "terrorist incidents."

**"IDPs in the sub-district complain about the lack of job opportunities available to them and their skills set"**

- Male IDP KI -

Given the reported challenges with securing employment, two coping strategies were stated to have been employed by community members (19 out of 54 KIs). These reportedly included:

- » Household members, especially the youth, engaging in work, including daily work, outside of Zummar Sub-district in Telfar, Tel Kaif, Mosul, Dohuk, Erbil, and Baghdad (18 KIs) and
- » Joining the Iraqi army and/or the tribal mobilization force (1 KI).

It was relayed by some KIs that there should be initiatives to provide job opportunities, especially by the government (11 out of 16 KIs),<sup>37</sup> as it would facilitate returns (7 KIs).

#### Challenges in the agricultural sector

Findings suggest that there were a number of factors affecting the agriculture sector at the time of data collection (28 KIs).

##### ◊ Lack of support and neglect from the local government towards the reactivation of agriculture

It was relayed by KIs that farmers lacked government support to access seeds, fertilizers, and agricultural equipment (3 KIs), and that seeds and fertilizers were expensive (3 KIs). Additionally, it was reported that support from the government had reduced in terms of subsidies provided for fertilizers, seed provisions, and support to access to water by digging wells (10 KIs). Furthermore, it was stated that the price at which produce was sold in the market was not enough for farmers to cover their needs (2 KIs). One returnee KI also noted that the agricultural sector lacked initiatives that would facilitate the selling of produce in the local markets.<sup>38</sup>

It was recommended by KIs that **support should be given to farmers by way of fertilizers and seeds** to facilitate the cultivation of land. In addition, KIs reported that farmers needed support for livestock rearing and animal husbandry (6 KIs).

##### ◊ Challenges in food security

Findings suggest that challenges faced in the agricultural sector negatively impacted food security in Zummar (14 out of 54 KIs). Firstly, it was suggested by one community leader KI that the agricultural sector was negatively affected due to the conflict with ISIL.<sup>50</sup> Secondly, according to several KIs, climate change negatively affected the agricultural sector with reports of reduced levels of water in the Tigris River and occurrences of drought in recent years (11 KIs). Additionally, it was reported by two IDP KIs that agricultural production decreased due to farmers leaving the sector and the sub-district altogether. Due to reduced agricultural production, food was reportedly imported (1 KI).

#### Challenges in the construction sector

It was shared by almost a fourth of the KIs (14 out of 54 KIs) that the construction industry presented challenges to access livelihood opportunities. It was stated by 10 KIs that there was a lack of construction and reconstruction projects leading to unemployment in the sector.

#### Challenges in the private sector

The private sector reportedly lacked jobs and support for business owners (2 KIs). In particular, it was noted that the lack of trade affected the availability of jobs (2 KIs). In terms of available factories and projects, it was shared by one KI that there were shortages in cement, glass and textile factories and laboratories, and another KI reported that tiling projects were lacking.

In order to respond to these challenges, it was suggested that the Zummar Sub-district needed an active private sector that will support concrete block factories (1 KI). It was also reported that the price of manufactured goods had increased, which decreased their purchases by relevant parties (1 KI).

### Livelihood activities supporting economic growth

Community leader and SME KIs were consulted for this section (16 out of 57 KIs). The three sectors that were cited as contributing to economic growth were the agricultural (8 KIs), construction (4 KIs) and private sectors (2 KIs).

### Supporting the revitalization of the agricultural sector (including livestock and fishing)

It was reported by almost half of consulted KIs (8 out of 16 KIs) that there was a need to support the sector through a number of agriculture-based initiatives which included:

- » Supporting farmers by providing seeds and fertilizers (5 KIs),
- » Improving watering and irrigation systems (2 KIs),
- » Supporting farmers by digging wells (1 KI),
- » Supporting farmers to sell local products in the market (1 KI), and
- » Implementing livelihood projects for animal rearing and fishing, for example chicken and sheep raising (1KI).

### Supporting construction sector

Almost one quarter of consulted KIs (4 out of 16 KIs) noted that support to the construction sector may ensure the recovery of Zummar's economy. This may reportedly be achieved by:

- » Supporting housing construction and rehabilitation efforts (2 KIs),
- » Monitoring the importation of construction materials into the sub-district to monitor bribery at the checkpoints (1 KI), and
- » Implementing infrastructure and housing construction and projects (1 KI).

### Supporting private sector

According to two KIs, the private sector may support the economy of Zummar through the establishment of factories (1 KI) and the implementation of projects that may facilitate economic development, more generally (1 KI).

### Livelihood sectors with reported growth potential

Community leader and SME KIs were consulted for this section (16 out of 57 KIs). Reportedly, agriculture was the livelihood sector with the most growth potential in the 12 months following data collection (15 KIs), followed by private and public healthcare (11 KIs) and construction (9 KIs).

### Most reported livelihood sectors available in Zummar at the time of data collection (out of 57 KIs)<sup>21, 39</sup>

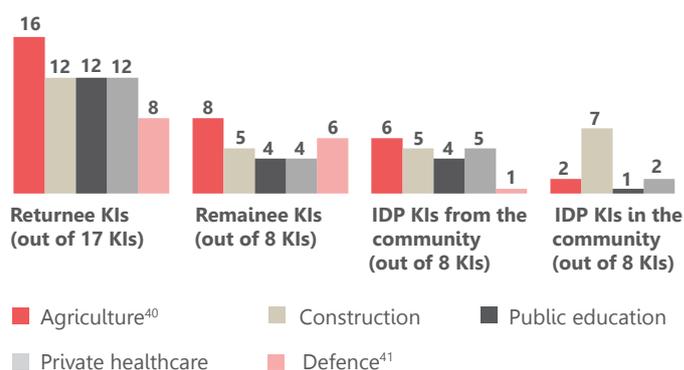
Agriculture <sup>40</sup>	57 KIs	<div style="width: 100%; height: 10px; background-color: #e91e63;"></div>
Construction	39 KIs	<div style="width: 68%; height: 10px; background-color: #e91e63;"></div>
Public education	32 KIs	<div style="width: 56%; height: 10px; background-color: #e91e63;"></div>
Private healthcare	32 KIs	<div style="width: 56%; height: 10px; background-color: #e91e63;"></div>
Public healthcare	25 KIs	<div style="width: 44%; height: 10px; background-color: #e91e63;"></div>
Defence <sup>41</sup>	24 KIs	<div style="width: 42%; height: 10px; background-color: #e91e63;"></div>

Findings indicated that employment in transportation, manufacturing, and in the service sectors such as restaurants were reportedly not available at the time of data collection.<sup>42</sup> In addition, findings showed that jobs in the private healthcare, construction, and agricultural sectors were less available at the time of data collection compared to prior to 2014.

### Livelihood sectors of interest for returnees, remainees and IDPs

Returnee, remainee, and IDP (in and from the community) KIs were consulted for this section (41 out of 57 KIs). The most commonly reported livelihood sector of interest for identified households from the community to work in was agriculture (including animal husbandry) (32 out of 41 KIs).

The most commonly reported livelihood sectors of interest:



### Reported groups with less access to livelihoods

Almost half of the KIs (28 out of 57 KIs) reported believing that **all displacement groups faced challenges in accessing livelihoods equally**. According to 17 KIs, IDPs in the community faced more challenges to access livelihoods compared to other displacement groups (17 KIs), followed by IDPs from Zummar (7 KIs). The rest of the KIs did not know about displacement groups with less access to livelihoods (5 KIs).

Regarding vulnerable groups,<sup>29</sup> over half of the KIs (32 out of 57 KIs) reported believing that **all vulnerable groups faced challenges in accessing livelihoods equally**. Some KIs reported that people with disabilities (14 KIs) and older persons (11 KIs) faced more challenges in accessing livelihoods than other vulnerable groups. Two KIs did not know about vulnerable groups with less access to livelihoods.

## Access to public judicial mechanisms

### Challenges to access public judicial mechanisms

All KIs (57 KIs) reported that households did not face challenges in accessing public judicial mechanisms.

### Presence of public judicial offices/departments and missing personal documentation

Returnee, remainee, community leader, SME, and IDP KIs in the community were consulted for this section (49 out of 57 KIs). According to the vast majority of the consulted KIs (48 out of 49 KIs), there were no public judicial offices closed in the sub-district at the time of data collection.

Returnee, remainee and IDP KIs in and from the community (41 out of 57 KIs) were consulted on missing documentation. The vast majority of consulted KIs (40 out of 41 KIs) reported that most households in the sub-district did not have missing personal documents and that their personal documents were up to date.<sup>50</sup>

### Perceptions on safety and security<sup>43</sup>

Returnee, remainee, and IDP (in and from the community) KIs were consulted for this section (41 out of 57 KIs). All consulted KIs reported that the majority of returnee, remainee, and IDP households in and from Zummar felt safe (17 KIs) or very safe (24 KIs) in the sub-district. This situation was reportedly the same for women, girls, men, and boys.<sup>44</sup>

#### Freedom of movement

Returnee, remainee, community leader, SME, and IDP KIs in the community were consulted for this section (49 out of 55 KIs). All consulted KIs reported that there were no restrictions on movement imposed in the sub-district. Furthermore, among returnee, remainee, and IDP KIs in the community that were asked about day and night-time restrictions (33 KIs out of 49 KIs), all reported that the majority of households could freely move during the day and at night in Zummar. This situation was reportedly the same for women, girls, men, and boys.<sup>44</sup>

#### Explosive remnants of war (ERW) land contamination

The vast majority of the KIs (54 out of 57 KIs) reported not being aware of the presence of lands contaminated with ERWs in Zummar at the time of data collection. However, one IDP KI in the community reported that there was ERW contamination in the sub-district. The rest of the KIs did not know about contamination of land with ERWs.

### Perceptions on governance<sup>43</sup>

Community leader and SME KIs were consulted for this section (16 out of 57 KIs). Local authorities (13 out 16 KIs) and formal security forces (12 KIs) were the most frequently reported bodies influencing governance at the time of data collection.

#### Bodies influencing returnees and IDPs affairs

All KIs were consulted for this section (57 KIs). The vast majority of the KIs (51 out of 57 KIs) reported that there were no local bodies influencing returnees and IDPs affairs at the time of data collection. However, four KIs reported that security actors were influencing returns to the sub-district at the time of data collection. In particular, KIs believed that these actors were preventing returns to some villages such as Sheikhan.

### Perceptions on community tensions<sup>43</sup>

Returnee, remainee, community leader, SME, and IDP KIs in Zummar were consulted for this section (49 out of 57 KIs). The vast majority of consulted KIs (48 out of 49 KIs) reported that there were no disputes within the sub-district in the six months prior to data collection. One returnee KI did not know about occurrence of these disputes. In addition, all of the consulted KIs reported that no disputes between the sub-district and other areas or retaliation incidents occurred in the six months prior to data collection.

### Resolving disputes within the sub-district

Returnee, remainee, and IDP KIs in the community were consulted for this section (33 out of 57 KIs). Six KIs refused to answer the question on which actors were most effective in resolving disputes within the community in Zummar Sub-district, and two KIs did not know the answer to this question.

Reportedly, tribal leaders (16 KIs) formal security forces, (7 KIs) and local authorities (6 KIs), were there most effective bodies in resolving disputes within the sub-district.

#### Tribal Leaders

According to almost half of consulted KIs, tribal leaders were reportedly effective (16 out of 33 KIs) because they are part of the local tradition in which tribal leaders resolve clan disputes. Furthermore, it was reported that tribal leaders have traditionally played an important role in resolving disputes in the area (8 KIs) and simple disputes among tribes (2 KIs).

#### Formal security forces<sup>45</sup>

According to some KIs, formal security actors were effective because they were officially responsible for resolving disputes and capable of imposing the law (3 KIs). Furthermore, they were perceived to be a powerful body (2 KIs) that represented the state (1 KI). One community leader reported that formal security forces were responsible for peacekeeping and, therefore, responsible for protecting civilians and assisting in disarming, demobilizing, reintegrating, and educating ex-combatants.

#### Local authorities

According to two consulted KIs, local authorities were effective in resolving disputes because they were responsible for enforcing the law.

### Resolving disputes between the sub-district and other areas

Returnee, remainee, and IDP KIs in the community were consulted for this section (33 out of 57 KIs). About half of consulted KIs (17 out of 33 KIs) did not have answers on which actors were the most effective bodies at resolving disputes between Zummar Sub-district and other areas, and six KIs refused to answer question.

Reportedly, formal security forces (7 KIs), local authorities (2 KIs) and tribal leaders were the most effective at resolving disputes between the sub-district and other areas.

#### Formal security forces<sup>45</sup>

Formal security actors were reportedly effective because they were responsible for resolving disputes and imposing the law (7 KIs), and thereby responsible for the security in the area (7 KIs).

#### Tribal Leaders

Tribal leaders were reportedly effective because they were the clan leaders and responsible for resolving disputes (2 KIs).

#### Local authorities

According to two consulted KIs, local authorities were effective in fulfilling their responsibility of resolving disputes.

### Perceptions on community inter-relations<sup>35</sup>

To understand community inter-relations in Zummar, it is important to highlight that Zummar Sub-district is strategically important for security and political reasons. The sub-district, comprised of Kurdish and Sunni Arab households, is listed under Article 140 of the Iraq constitution as one of the contested areas between Gol and Kurdish Regional Government.<sup>46</sup> It was reported that competition for governance in the area between different political factions has been fuelling “feelings of discontent and division” within the community.<sup>46</sup>

#### Community inter-relations

Returnee and IDP (in and from the community) KIs were consulted for this section (33 out of 57 KIs). The vast majority of consulted KIs (32 out of 33 KIs) reported that most households in their respective displacement groups felt very welcome (17 KIs), welcome (14 KIs), or somewhat welcome (1 KI) in Zummar. One IDP KI in Zummar, did not know how IDP households felt in the sub-district.

#### Returnees feeling welcome

Returnee KIs were consulted for this section (17 out of 57 KIs). The majority of consulted KIs (10 out of 17 KIs) reported that **returnee households felt welcome in Zummar** while just under half of the KIs (7 out of 17 KIs) reported households felt very welcome.

#### IDPs from the community feeling welcome

IDP KIs from Zummar Sub-district were consulted for this section (8 out of 57 KIs). The majority of the KIs shared that **IDP households from the community may feel very welcome** (5 KIs) and/or welcome (3 KIs) if they returned to the sub-district.

#### IDPs in the community feeling welcome

IDP KIs in the community were consulted for this section (8 out of 57 KIs). It was reported by over half of consulted KIs that the **majority of IDP households in Zummar felt very welcome** (5 out of 8 KIs) or welcome (1 KI) in the sub-district. However, one IDP KI in the community reported some households felt somewhat welcome (1 KI) in the sub-district. One KI did not know how IDP households felt.

#### Interaction between displacement groups

Returnee, remainee and IDP KIs from the community were consulted for this section (41 out of 57 KIs). The majority of consulted KIs (25 out of 41 KIs) reported that households in their respective communities interacted with households from different displacement groups in the community, including returnees and IDP households, in addition to remainee households. Sixteen consulted KIs did not answer this question.

#### Reported interaction by returnee KIs

Just over half of consulted KIs (10 out of 17 KIs) reported that **the majority of households from their same displacement group interacted with other groups** in the community (including remainees, returnees, IDPs in the community, and IDPs from the community).

Reportedly, returnee households interacted with other groups in the following ways (out of 10 KIs):

- » Providing financial assistance<sup>47</sup> to financially vulnerable households,<sup>48</sup> including orphans and households with a family member killed during the conflict, to meet basic needs (5 KIs),
- » Interacting the workplace (4 KIs),
- » Forming kinship ties through marriage and friendships (3 KIs),
- » Supporting returnee households by providing accommodation until their homes are rehabilitated (2 KIs), and
- » Cooperating in managing water distribution for the neighbourhood (1 KI).

Seven returnee KIs reported that they did not know about interaction between groups.

#### Reported interaction by remainee KIs

All consulted KIs (8 out of 57 KIs) reported that **the majority of households from their same displacement group interacted with other groups** in the community (including remainees, returnees, IDPs in the community, and IDPs from the community).

Reportedly, remainee households interacted with other groups in the following ways (out of 8 KIs):

- » Guarding homes of families who left Zummar in order to prevent illegal occupation and theft (2 KIs),
- » Supporting financially vulnerable families<sup>48</sup> to meet their basic needs (2 KIs),
- » Through work either in the shops or farming (2 KIs),
- » Participating in cleaning schools (1 KI), and
- » Through kinship ties and friendship (1 KI).

#### Reported interaction by IDP KIs from the community

IDP KIs from Zummar were consulted for this section (8 out of 57 KIs). Three-quarters of consulted KIs (6 out of 8 KIs) reported that the majority of households from their same displacement group **interacted with other groups in the community** (including remainees, returnees, IDPs in the community, and IDPs from the community) in the sub-district. Two KIs, however, did not know how households from their community interacted.

Reportedly, IDP households from the community interacted with other groups in the following ways (out of 6 KIs):

- » In the workplace (3 KIs),
- » Attending social and religious events (2 KIs),
- » Supporting returnees to rehabilitate their homes (1 KI),
- » Supporting financially vulnerable families<sup>48</sup> in Zummar (1 KI), and,
- » Ensuring transportation for vulnerable households<sup>47</sup> in the sub-district (1 KI).

### Barriers for interaction between groups

Returnee, remainee, and IDP (in and from the community) KIs were consulted for this section (41 out of 57 KIs). The vast majority of consulted KIs (37 out of 41 KIs) reported perceiving that there were **no challenges for interaction between displacement groups** in the sub-district. The remaining KIs did not know about challenges for different groups to interact.

### Participation in decision-making processes

Returnee, remainee, IDP from the community, and IDP in the community KIs were consulted for this section (41 out of 57 KIs). Just over three quarters of consulted KIs (30 out of 41 KIs) reported that **most households participated in decision-making processes** in the sub-district.



## Perceptions on social cohesion<sup>43</sup>

### Actors influencing social cohesion

The vast majority of KIs (55 out of 57 KIs) reported that the most influential actors in terms of social cohesion in the sub-district were the **durable solutions actors**.

Perceptions on influential actors were:<sup>21</sup>



### Improving social cohesion

All KIs reported strategies or initiatives meant to improve social cohesion processes, 33 KIs (out of 57) suggested more specifically seminars, conferences, and awareness sessions. The most frequently suggested topics for these activities included (22 out of 33 KIs):

- » Cooperation and peace-building (14 KIs),
- » Trust and equal participation of community members without discrimination (6 KIs),
- » Security and preventing extremism (5 KIs), and
- » Dialogue between different ethnic/ religious communities (3 KIs).

It was suggested by three KIs that **local authorities, tribal leaders and NGOs should organize these activities** and that all **different groups** in the community **should be targeted**.

### Initiatives promoting access to work for all

Access to work was identified by KIs as an important factor to promote social cohesion in Zummar (28 KIs). This could reportedly be achieved by providing job opportunities (22 KIs) and implementing livelihood projects that benefit all sections of the community (4 KIs). Through work, there may be reported interactions (3 KIs). Additionally, it was suggested that training should be provided to community members on how to apply for and secure jobs (2 KIs).

### Initiatives promoting community inter-relationships and social bonds

Findings suggest that improving social bonds and inter-relationships were seen as important ways to improve social cohesion (23 out of 57 KIs), and related initiatives could be promoted by NGOs, local authorities, and religious leaders (9 KI). The following activities were recommended to improve community inter-relationships and social bonds, and consequently social cohesion:

- » Promoting voluntary work that brings members of the community together (6 KIs),
- » Providing financial assistance to financially vulnerable households (3 KIs),
- » Promoting kinship ties, specifically encouraging marriages between different ethnic groups (3 KIs),
- » Advocating for and promoting the return of displaced households (2 KIs), and
- » Organising and attending religious and/or social gatherings (2 KIs).

## Perceptions on durable solutions<sup>43, 49</sup>

### Returnees feeling reintegrated

The vast majority of consulted returnee KIs (16 out of 17 KIs) reported that **returnee households felt re-integrated** in the sub-district after returning home to their AoOs (14 KIs) and returning to their lands (3 KIs). One KI refused to answer this question.

### IDPs from the community feeling integrated

IDP KIs from the community were consulted for this section (8 out of 57 KIs). The vast majority of consulted KIs reported that most IDP households from the community did not feel integrated in their areas of displacement (6 out of 8 KIs) due to households not returning home (6 KIs). In addition, one IDP KI from Zummar reported that some IDP households from the community did not return home due to their houses being destroyed. Two consulted KIs did not provide a reason for their response on why IDP households from Zummar continued to feel displaced.

### IDPs in the community feeling integrated

IDP KIs in the community were consulted for this section (8 out of 57 KIs). Most consulted KIs reported that they did not know whether most IDP households in the community felt integrated in the sub-district (7 KIs). However, one IDP KI in the community reported that IDP households in Zummar did not feel integrated as they were **“still outside their AoOs”** and they did not reside in their own houses.

### About the Returns Working Group in Iraq

The [Returns Working Group \(RWG\)](#) is an operational and multi-stakeholder platform on returns, which was established in line with Strategic Objective 3 of the 2016 Iraq HRP “to support voluntary, safe and dignified return” of IDPs, so as to monitor and report on conditions in areas of return, and determine to what extent durable solutions have been achieved, or progress made, for returnees. The key objective of the group is to establish coherence of information, data and analysis, strengthen coordination and advocacy, give guidance on activities related to key areas, and enhance complementary action among its partners with the overall goal of supporting and reinforcing the national response to displacement and reintegration. Currently, IOM serves as the chair.

### About REACH

REACH 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). For more information, please visit our website: [www.reach-initiative.org](http://www.reach-initiative.org). You can contact us directly at: [geneva@reach-initiative.org](mailto:geneva@reach-initiative.org) and follow us on Twitter @REACH\_info.

### End Notes

1 [IOM DTM Return Index](#).

2 Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCCM) Cluster Iraq, [Iraq Informal Sites Overview](#), September 2021.

3 Iraqi News Agency, [Minister of Migration announce the closure of all IDPs camps except for Kurdistan](#), 12 December 2021.

4 Global Public Policy Institute, [Iraq after ISIL: Zummar](#), August 2017.

5 The Coalition refers to a US led military task force that fought against ISIL during the 2014 civil conflict. - [Coalition Airstrikes Enable Local Forces to Fight ISIL](#), 13 October 2015

6 The ReDS questionnaire is tailored to direct questions related to demographics only to community leader and SME KIs based on their knowledge about the sub-district and population groups. In the case of Zummar there were 8 community leader and 8 SME respondents. Population figures for returns and IDP populations in Zummar were based on their estimates at the time of data collection.

7 To date, [IOM DTM's bi-monthly tracking of returnees and IDPs](#) provides an overview of numbers and trends in movement and returns. Simultaneously, since 2018, the Returns Index was run as a joint initiative of DTM, Social Inquiry and the Returns Working Group (RWG), collecting data bi-monthly to provide indicative trends in the severity of conditions in areas of return (AoRs) nationwide. Similarly, the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCCM) Cluster, IOM DTM, Protection Working Group (PWG), and RWG have conducted assessments with IDPs that have left camps following or in anticipation of closures to better understand and map AoR and secondary displacement.

8 For the purposes of this research, “remainee” refers to members of the host community who did not displace during the events of 2014 or after.

9 For the purposes of this research, “returnees” are categorized as IDPs returning to their AoOs, where AoO is defined as the stated original sub-district of origin for the IDP as per the [IOM return index](#). Given the complexity of (re)integration, this could mean that returnees still face challenges to their sustainable return to their AoOs.

10 “The DTM considers as Internally displaced persons (IDPs) all Iraqis who were forced to flee from 1 January 2014 onwards and are still displaced within national borders at the moment of the assessment.” - IOM DTM Iraq, [Location Assessment Methodology](#).

11 “To measure the severity of conditions in each location of return, the Return Index is based on 16 indicators grouped into two scales: (i) livelihoods and basic services, and (ii) social cohesion and safety perceptions. To compute an overall severity index, the scores of two scales are combined. The severity index ranges from 0 (all essential conditions for return are met) to 100 (no essential conditions for return are met). Higher scores denote more severe living conditions for returnees. The scores of the severity index can be grouped into three categories: ‘low’ severity conditions, ‘medium’, and ‘high’ (which also includes the identified ‘very high’ locations).” - [IOM DTM Return Index Methodology](#).

12 The most severely affected areas in Zummar in terms of social cohesion and safety perceptions were reportedly Karlawnd Village, Jamasuh Village, Al Aziziya, Amala Alkabira, Abu wani Alshamaliu, Ain Zalah, Shindukhah, Abu Wajna, Jamrud, Sahlij, Qadisih, Shikak Village, Eayan manie, Girchal village, Barzan, Eayan Alturs, Tabibat Alriyah, Dabashih Village, Musifinah, Al-Jazera Village, Humur Eafin, Gisari, Alsawfih, Mueaskar Ayen Zalh, Karakafir Village, Tal aldhhdhab, Hdeimh, Tel Reem, Hamd Agha Village, Bardiah complex, Sahel Hamad Village, Qaryat Tal Maraq Ulya, Tal Mus, Wadi shour, Domez complex, Kirver village, Kharabat Ashiq, Jussa, Al Mafri, Ain Hilwa Upper, Ein Gaheshaya Village, Kahreez, Kharab Alteben, Qasabat Zummar, Tal Khidr - IOM DTM, [Returns Index Round 15](#), March 2022.

13 Findings are based on the perceptions of KIs who were purposively sampled; all data should therefore be considered as indicative. The occasionally large variation between perceptions is potentially due to KIs’ varying profiles and personal interests. For further details on the methodology, please see the ReDS [Terms of Reference \(ToR\)](#). There were 57 individuals interviewed for the Zummar assessment aged between 25 and 60 years old. The majority were male (46 KIs). The lack of gender balance among the KIs was a limitation to the assessment.

14 For the purposes of this research, “returnees more than 3 months” refers to households who returned to Zummar Sub-district more than three months prior to data collection.

15 For the purposes of this research, “returnees less than 3 months” refers to households who returned to Zummar Sub-district less than three months prior to data collection.

16 For the purposes of this research, “IDPs from the community” refers to households from Zummar displaced during the events of 2014 to areas different than their AoOs. Interviewed IDP KIs were displaced in Markaz Dohuk Sub-district (4 KIs) in Dohuk Governorate, and Markaz Zakho (2 KIs), Hammam Ali (1 KI), Markaz Sumail (1 KI) Sub-district in Ninewa Governorate.

17 For the purposes of this research, “IDPs in the community” refers to households originally from areas different than Markaz Al-Hawiga who displaced to Markaz Al-Hawiga during the events of 2014 and after. Interviewed IDP KIs were originally from Hammam Ali (3 KIs), Muhamadath (2 KIs), Bashiqa (1 KI), Markaz Sinjar (1 KI), Qairawan (1 KI) sub-districts (Ninewa Governorate).

18 For the purposes of this research, “SMEs” are members of the community with a high level of expertise in different sectors or topics. These were represented by: four teaching professionals, three NGOs representative and a lawyer.

19 For the purposes of this research, “community leaders” are members of the host community represented by six mukhtars, two tribal leaders. A mukhtar can be defined as the head of a village or neighbourhood in some Arab countries, this position is officially recognised as local authority.

20 There were 57 individuals interviewed for the Zummar assessment aged between 25 and 60 years old. The majority were male (46 KIs). The lack of gender balance among the KIs was a limitation to the assessment.

21 KIs were able to select multiple responses to this question.

22 Al Jazeera, [Mosul Dam collapse 'will be worse than a nuclear bomb'](#), 11 December 2016.

- 23 "To obtain security clearance, families need to approach the designated intelligence force in their area, which differs among the governorates, to submit their names and request clearance. Officers will run their names through a database of people flagged as "wanted" for their suspected links to ISIS." – Human Rights Watch, [Iraq: Not a Homecoming](#), 14 June 2019.
- 24 Other less reported primary needs were access to waste collection, disposal, and management (2 KIs) and reconciliation programmes (2 KIs).
- 25 Findings were indicative of each population group and not representative. Due to the small sampling, findings may be under-reported.
- 26 Durable solutions assistance includes the humanitarian, stabilization, development and peace-building assistance under its umbrella.
- 27 Other less reported types of programmes implemented in Zummar in the six months prior to data collection included: non-food items distribution (4 KIs), food assistance (4 KIs) psycho-social support (3 KI), and awareness sessions on COVID-19 (2 KIs).
- 28 "Community participation is the active involvement of the people of a particular community in a developmental program/project. It is universally accepted that without community involvement and participation, developmental initiatives in the economic and social sectors have little chance to succeed." – SlideToDoc, [World Bank community participation definition](#).
- 29 For this assessment, vulnerable groups included female heads of household, older persons, people with disabilities, unaccompanied/separated children (UASC) and minor heads of households. Other groups mentioned in the report were reported by KIs under 'other vulnerable groups' option.
- 30 Reuters, [In fight against Islamic State, Kurds expand their territory](#), October 2016.
- 31 One KI reported that older persons were also at risk of eviction.
- 32 "Telefar district has one general hospital with limited capacity and accessibility for all people in the district." - [UNAMI Herald](#), June 2019.
- 33 The World Health Organization (WHO) has established a Health Care "to support far reaching villages of returnees in Zummar and Rabeaa sub-districts with services other than the Primary Health Care, in relations to emergency and maternity. WHO will continue to support the Ministry of Health and directorates of health to cover critical gaps in service delivery, however, given the rapid pace of resettlement, the needs are enormous." - [UNAMI Herald](#), June 2019.
- 34 "In previous years, students used to receive free learning materials, including books, notebooks, and transportation from the Ministry of Education (MoE). These distributions were affected in the 1990s, and the situation remained the same at the time of data collection. "During the 1970s and 1980s, primary and secondary schools developed to provide learning materials, free meals, public healthcare, and transportation for their students. [...] particularly for the country's isolated rural and semi-rural populations. [...] This system suffered under international sanctions in the 1990s, creating infrastructure shortages and competing exigencies for students and teachers that undermined education provision. [...] Widespread looting after the 2003 events gutted many schools of their supplies and equipment, including computers, desks, pens, and copper wiring. Entire libraries burned. [...] In November 2016, over 4,000 textbooks were stolen from the Ministry of Education and sold on the black market, following a nationwide shortage." - EPIC, [Empty classrooms and black-market textbooks](#), December 2016.
- 35 "In Ninewa, the watering of crops depends on digging wells. In the northern region of Iraq, watering for crops depends on rainfall during four months per year (in the winter) and on wells for the rest of the year. Farmers are forced to dig wells at depths between 150 and 400 meters at a high cost." – IOM, [In search of economic opportunities for agribusinesses in Iraq](#), 2021.
- 36 NPR, [In Iraq's 'Dire' Economy, Poverty Is Rising — And So Are Fears Of Instability](#), February 2021.
- 37 "The Iraqi state cannot afford to keep creating government jobs to appease its underemployed, ever-growing, and increasingly dissatisfied population [...]" : Institute for the Study of War (ISW), [IRAQ 2021–2022: A forecast](#), June 2021.
- 38 Five KIs reported that the government neglected the agriculture sector by not coordinating with rural-urban institutions to plan agricultural activities.
- 39 Other reported jobs available in Zummar Sub-district were: public administration (4 KIs), transportation (3 KIs), trade and commerce (2 KIs), hospitality sector related to hotels and restaurants (2 KIs), real estate (1 KI) and manufacturing (1 KI).
- 40 Agriculture works also reportedly included livestock raising and animal breeding.
- 41 Referring to the official police and the Iraqi Security Forces under the Iraqi Ministry of Defence.
- 42 When the KIs were asked to compare which types of jobs were available in the sub-district before 2014 and at the time of the data collection, the availability had reportedly decreased. The KIs were asked to recall the period before 2014 and the perceived difference was understood keeping this in mind. In addition, the seasonality aspect of the situation at the time of data collection might have had an impact on the perceived availability.
- 43 The findings of this section represent the perceptions of a relatively small group of respondents and therefore are not representative and may differ from other reporting on these topics. Additionally, differences in reporting compared to other metrics could also be due to the methodology, with people being less open to sharing sensitive information over the phone.
- 44 It should be noted that gender indicators can be subject to potential under-reporting due to the limited number of female KIs interviewed. In addition, there might be a stigma around reporting on safety for men and boys.
- 45 "Formal security forces" refers to the Iraq security forces and all its components. "There are three principal components of the Iraqi Security Forces: the Iraqi Army (IA), the Iraqi Police (IP), and the National Police (NP). The Iraqi Army and the National Police are both national-level assets, with the IA under the command of the Ministry of Defence and the NP under the command of the Interior, respectively." – Institute for the Study of War, [Iraqi Security Forces](#).
- 46 USIP, [Four Years After ISIS, Iraq's Tal Afar Remains Riven by Communal Divisions](#), August 2021.
- 47 "Financial assistance means any form of direct, insured or guaranteed loan, including re-amortization and assumption on new terms of any loan, any form of grant, or other form of direct or indirect assistance extended by the Agency." Cornell Law, [Financial assistance](#).
- 48 "Financial vulnerability has been described as the inability to recover from sudden financial shock, such as an unexpected loss of income or uncontrollable increase in expenditure." – Money101, [What can you do to reduce financial vulnerability?](#)
- 49 Returnee and IDP (from and displaced in Zummar) KIs were consulted for this section (33 out of 57 KIs).