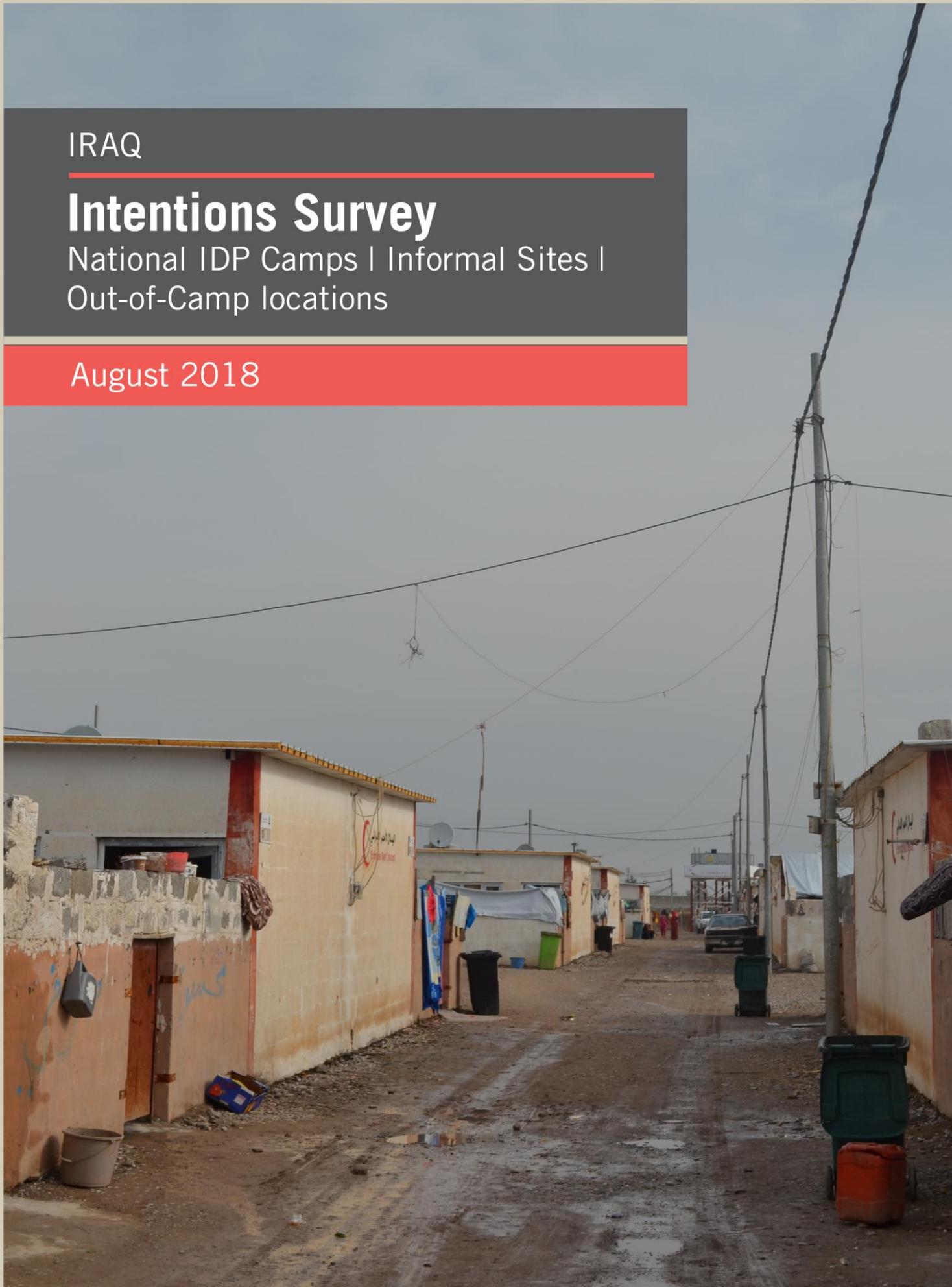


IRAQ

Intentions Survey

National IDP Camps | Informal Sites |
Out-of-Camp locations

August 2018



CCCM CLUSTER
SUPPORTING DISPLACED COMMUNITIES

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About REACH

REACH is a joint initiative of two international non-governmental organizations – ACTED and IMPACT Initiatives – and the UN Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNOSAT).

REACH 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. All REACH activities are conducted through inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms. All our reports, maps and factsheets are available on the REACH Resource Centre. For more information, visit our website at www.reach-initiative.org, follow us on Twitter at @REACH_info or write to geneva@reach-initiative.org.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Between late 2013 and 2017, intensification of conflict in north and central Iraq resulted in large scale displacement, with 1.9 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) identified across the country as of August 2018.^{1,2} Among them, between 95,000 and 116,000 IDPs were estimated to be living in informal sites,³ about 469 000 in 128 formal camps,⁴ and the remaining in out-of-camp settings, in both rural and urban areas. In 2018, many IDP households were returning home, but this rate significantly slowed down throughout the year.⁵

These movement trends highlighted the need to better understand why IDPs are choosing to remain in their area of displacement, what is preventing them from returning, and ultimately required conditions for safe and voluntary return. In addition, observed movement dynamics raised the question of the extent to which intentions varied based on population groups, where IDPs are originally from, and where they are currently displaced.

To address these information gaps and effectively support both those returning to their area of origin (AoO) and those who are displaced, as well as to advocate against premature return to unsafe areas, REACH, in partnership with the Iraq CCCM Cluster, conducted several rounds of intentions surveys with IDP households across Iraq.⁶ Data was collected between July 2 and August 16, 2018, at the same time as other REACH assessments (MCNA VI, Camp Profiling X, and RASP VII). The assessments were led using a quantitative methodology consisting of structured surveys with randomly sampled households in all camps and informal sites with 100 IDP households or more, and in out-of-camp locations. Overall, 9,699 households were interviewed in 54 formal camps, 17 informal sites, and 54 out-of-camp locations, across Anbar, Babylon, Baghdad, Dahuk, Diyala, Erbil, Kerbala, Kirkuk, Missan, Najaf, Ninewa, Qadissiya, Salah Al-Din, Sulaymaniyah, Thi-Qar and Wassit governorates.⁷

This report compiles and provides an analysis of findings collected during the different rounds, at different levels (national, by governorate of origin and by governorate of displacement), as well as by population group (in-camp, out-of-camp⁸, and in informal sites). Key findings outlined below are representative at the time of data collection and should be read with a minimum 95% confidence level, and 10% margin of error.

Overviews of findings by governorate of origin, governorate of displacement, and population groups are summarized in factsheets available on the REACH Resource Centre as well, and accessible through this [link](#).

Demographics

The majority of IDP households were displaced in Ninewa, Dahuk, and Erbil governorates (31%, 18%, 12% respectively)⁹, and the majority reported to originate from Ninewa, Salah al-Din and Anbar governorates (58%, 14%, and 13% respectively). In most cases, IDP households were displaced within their governorate of origin. This was particularly the case in Ninewa (97%), Salah al-Din (86%), Anbar (86%), Diyala (75%), and Kirkuk (64%).

Movement intentions

The majority of IDP households did not intend to return, which indicated the possibility for large-scale, long term protracted displacement. Nevertheless, intentions differed between population groups, governorates of origin and governorates of displacement, suggesting that both conditions in displacement settings and perceived conditions in AoO influence movement intentions.

¹ According to the Iraq Humanitarian Response Plan 2018.

² International Organisation for Migration, Displacement Tracking Matrix (August 2018).

³ IOM Integrated Location Assessment III and the RASP informal site assessment.

⁴ National CCCM Cluster Reporting, as of September 2018.

⁵ International Organization for Migration, Returns Working Group & Social Inquiry, Reasons to Remain: Categorizing Protracted Displacement in Iraq, November 2018.

⁶ As highlighted in the [2019 Iraq Humanitarian Response Plan](#).

⁷ No IDP households in Muthanna and Basrah were included due to there not being any camps or informal sites with 100 households or more in these areas at the time of data collection.

⁸ IDP households residing out-of-camp were defined as living outside of identified formal camps or informal sites, in host communities. IDP households residing out-of-camp can include those living in both urban and rural areas and both in critical shelter conditions or in adequate housing.

⁹ Between less than 1% and 8% of the remaining IDP households were displaced in other governorates across the country.

- At the national level, only 12% of IDP households reported intention to return to their AoO during the year following data collection (between August 2018 and July 2019). Among these 12%, more than half reported they would do so within 3 months. **This suggests that approximately half of IDP households that intended to return will have done so by the end of 2018.**
- Reported intentions to return varied between population groups. **Only 3% of IDP households living in informal sites intended to return in the year following data collection, compared to 11% and 13% living in out-of-camp locations and in formal camps, respectively.** Meanwhile, IDP households living in formal camps expressed the most uncertainty regarding their movement intentions (31%).
- Intentions to return by governorate of origin ranged from 0% (Erbil) to 24% (Salah al-Din), while intentions to return by governorate of displacement ranged from <1% (Erbil) to 75% (Thi-Qar).

Reasons to return

Reasons for intending to return were mostly related to emotional attachment to AoO and perceived improvement of security conditions there. However, they also shed light on potential issues in areas of displacement that contribute to IDP households' decision to leave in the short-medium term.

- At the national level, IDP households reported emotional desire to return (50%) and stabilization in their AoO (45%) as reasons for intending to return. This was followed by 25% of IDP households that reported the necessity to secure housing and land, and 24% that reported wanting to follow family and community members that had already returned.¹⁰
- Factors for intending to return varied between governorates of origin. Reasons related to attachment and integration (emotional desire to return, not feeling integrated in areas of displacement) were particularly prevalent among IDP households from Babylon, Kirkuk and Salah al-Din, while reasons related to security were mostly reported by IDP households from Anbar and Ninewa.

Reasons not to return

Main reasons for not intending to return included complex and systemic issues that are unlikely to be solved in the short term, which might explain the low proportion of IDP households intending to return.

- At the national level, close to half of IDP households reported their house being damaged or destroyed in their AoO as a reason for not intending to return (48%), underlying the need for rehabilitation and reconstruction of homes. This was reported by a comparatively higher proportion of IDP households living in informal sites (56%) and in out-of-camp locations (52%) than among those living in formal camps (39%). At the AoO level, damage to the house as a reason not to return was least reported among IDP households from Diyala (17%) and most reported amongst those from Anbar (64%).
- Fear and trauma, followed by lack of security forces in AoO, were reported (as reasons for not intending to return) by about a third of IDP households at the national level (34% and 31%, respectively), indicating need for both psychological support for the affected population and context monitoring to inform on security conditions in AoO. These two reasons were particularly prevalent among IDP households from Diyala (60% and 43% respectively).
- At the national level, a quarter of IDP households referred to the lack of livelihood generating opportunities as a reason for not intending to return, and 11% reported scarcity of basic services in AoO. The former was mostly reported by IDP households from Anbar, Erbil and Ninewa (33%, 29% and 28%, respectively).

Needs to enable return

At the national level, the primary reported needs, to enable a safe and dignified return to AoO, mirrored key trend factors affecting returns, including reconstruction and rehabilitation of housing, safety and security in AoO, availability of basic services, access to information to better understand conditions in AoO, and availability of livelihood opportunities and financial security.

¹⁰ Respondents could choose multiple answers so percentages may add up to more than 100%.

- Increased safety and security to enable return to AoO was the most reported need among IDP households living in informal sites (58%) and in formal camps (69%). Meanwhile, IDP households originally from Babylon and Diyala expressed concerns about safety at comparatively higher proportions than other governorates of origin (77% and 78%, respectively).
- Addressing housing concerns (namely through rehabilitation or reconstruction of homes) came across as a key need to enable returns. This was raised by approximately 40% or more of IDP households for each governorate of origin, with the exception of Diyala (16%).
- Access to information was the fourth most frequently expressed need to enable returns, and was particularly high among IDP households living in formal camps, which echoes their comparatively high reported uncertainty regarding movement intentions.

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Acronyms

AoD	Area of Displacement
AoO	Area of Origin
CCCM	Camp Coordination and Camp Management
DTM	Displacement Tracking Matrix
GIS	Geographical Information System
HNO	Humanitarian Needs Overview
HRP	Humanitarian Response Plan
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
ILA	Integrated Location Assessment
IOM	International Organization for Migration
MCNA	Multi Cluster Needs Assessment
OSM	Open Street Maps
RASP	Risk Assessment Site Priority
SPSS	Statistical Package for (the) Social Sciences
UNOSAT	United Nations Operational Satellite Applications Programme

Population classifications

In-Camp IDPs: As set out in the CCCM Iraq HRP Guidelines March 2016,¹¹ formal camps are those 1) that are recognized, administered and usually managed by the host government, 2) CCCM Cluster partners may provide management services to, 3) are built to accommodate refugees or IDPs on a site in an open field, 4) government and partners provide basic services and infrastructure to.

Informal Site IDPs: Informal sites are defined as congregations of five or more IDP households, living outside a formal camp, and either within 1) the same shelter, 2) a shared boundary, 3) a similar shelter typology (based on CCCM definition of informal sites at the time of data collection).

Out-of-camp IDPs: IDP households residing out-of-camp were defined as living outside of identified formal camps or informal sites, in host communities. IDP households residing out-of-camp can include those living in both urban and rural areas and both in critical shelter conditions or in adequate housing.

¹¹ CCCM, CCCM Iraq HRP Guidelines, March 2016, available at: <https://data2.unhcr.org/fr/documents/download/52224>.

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INTRODUCTION

Between late 2013 and 2017, intensification of conflict in north and central Iraq resulted in large scale displacement, with 1.9 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) identified across the country as of August 2018.^{12,13} Among them, between 95,000 and 116,000 IDPs were estimated to be living in informal sites,¹⁴ about 469 000 in 128 formal camps,¹⁵ and the remaining in out-of-camp settings, in both rural and urban areas. In 2018, many IDP households were returning home, but this rate significantly slowed down throughout the year.¹⁶

These movement trends have highlighted an information gap regarding movement intentions of IDPs in Iraq, and raised the question of the extent to which intentions varied based on population groups, where IDPs are from, and where they are currently displaced. Understanding the intended movement dynamics of displaced populations supports humanitarian actors to meet the needs of people in need, either in their area of displacement (AoD), or intended area of return, to ensure they are able to live safely and with dignity. Indeed, findings from these assessments have been used to inform the 2019 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) to feed into the Iraq Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP). In addition, understanding where IDPs are settled and why they are choosing to remain in their AoD, what is preventing them from returning, and therefore implementing the required conditions are key to supporting safe, durable, and voluntary returns.

To address these information gaps and effectively support both those returning to their area of origin (AoO) and those who are displaced, as well as to advocate against premature returns, REACH, in partnership with the Iraq CCCM cluster, conducted several rounds of intentions surveys with IDP households across Iraq. Data was collected between July 2 and August 16, 2018, at the same time as other REACH assessments ([MCNA VI](#), [Camp Profiling X](#), and [RASP VII](#)). Overall, 9,699 households were interviewed across 54 formal camps, 17 informal sites, and 54 out-of-camp locations, across Anbar, Babylon, Baghdad, Dahuk, Diyala, Erbil, Kerbala, Kirkuk, Missan, Najaf, Ninewa, Qadissiya, Salah Al-Din, Sulaymaniyah, Thi-Qar and Wassit governorates.¹⁷

This report compiles data collected through multiple surveys conducted among these various IDP displacement settings. The analysis is presented at different levels (national, by governorate of origin and by governorate of displacement), and across the different population groups (in-camp, out-of-camp, and informal site IDPs). Following an overview of the methodology, this report is organized into four sections:

1. Movement intentions and dynamics,
2. Reasons why IDP households intend to return,
3. Reasons why IDP households do not intend to return,
4. Key trends in needs to return.

Overviews of findings by governorate of origin, governorate of displacement, and population groups are summarized in factsheets available on the REACH Resource Centre as well, and accessible through the following [hyperlink](#).

¹² According to the Iraq Humanitarian Response Plan 2018

¹³ International Organisation for Migration, Displacement Tracking Matrix (August 2018).

¹⁴ IOM Integrated Location Assessment III and the RASP informal site assessment.

¹⁵ National CCCM Cluster Reporting, as of September 2018.

¹⁶ International Organization for Migration, Returns Working Group & Social Inquiry, Reasons to Remain: Categorizing Protracted Displacement in Iraq, November 2018.

¹⁷ No IDP households in Muthanna and Basrah were included due to there not being any camps or informal sites with 100 households or more in these areas at the time of data collection.

METHODOLOGY

Methodology Overview

The intentions assessments were led using a quantitative methodology consisting of randomly sampled household-level surveys, conducted between July 2 and August 16, 2018. All surveys were conducted in conjunction with other REACH assessments, to ensure wide coverage of geographic areas and populations, and more efficient use of resources.

Research questions and objectives

The intentions assessment was driven by the following main research questions, addressed throughout this report:

- 1) What are the movement intentions of IDP households, within the next three and twelve months?
- 2) What factors affect IDP intentions to return to their AoO, or not to return to their AoO?
- 3) How do IDP households perceive their conditions in their AoO?
- 4) How do findings differ depending on geography and population group?

Sampling and population of interest

A random sampling methodology was used, with households stratified by IDP population group and type of location level. IDP population groups included: IDPs living in formal camps (with 100 households or more), IDPs living in informal sites (with 100 households or more), and IDPs living in out-of-camp locations.

IDPs in formal camps were sampled at the camp level, in informal sites at the site level, and out-of-camp at the district level. However, levels of representativeness vary when aggregated to governorate of displacement, as well as to the national level, and then further disaggregated by governorate of origin.

Table 1: Confidence level and margin of error of findings by governorate of displacement and origin

Governorate	Confidence level and margin of error	
	Governorate of displacement	Governorate of origin
Anbar	95/5	95/5
Baghdad	95/5	95/10
Babylon	N/A	95/5
Diyala	95/5	95/5
Erbil	95/5	95/10
Kirkuk	95/5	95/5
Ninewa	95/5	95/5
Salah al-Din	95/5	95/5
Sulaymaniyah	95/5	N/A
Others	95/10	N/A

These levels are guaranteed for all questions that apply to the entire surveyed population. Findings relating to a subset of the population may have a lower confidence level, wider margin of error, or may be indicative only.¹⁸

¹⁸ Findings need to have a minimum 90% confidence level and maximum 10% margin of error in order not to be indicative. When findings are based on a small subset of the sample population, they should be considered indicative rather than statistically generalizable.

Table 2: Sampling frame by governorate of displacement and by population group

Governorate of displacement	In-camp	Informal Sites	Out-of-camp	Total
Anbar	328	136	366	830
Babylon	-	-	313	313
Baghdad	175	73	569	817
Dahuk	763	437	363	1,563
Diyala	181	-	485	666
Erbil	248	-	359	607
Kerbala	-	-	135	135
Kirkuk	258	52	228	538
Missan	-	-	81	81
Najaf	-	-	129	129
Ninewa	1,011	430	673	2,114
Qadissiya	-	-	97	97
Salah al-Din	234	-	393	627
Sulaymaniyah	247	60	648	955
Thi-Qar	-	-	80	80
Wassit	-	-	147	147
Total	3,445	1,188	5,066	9,699

Primary data collection

A stratified random sampling methodology was used for each IDP population group. However, the method used to select households differed by group:

IDP households in formal camps: households were sampled at the camp level, to a 90% level of confidence and 10% margin of error. Households were either randomly selected from a list provided by the camp manager or using interval sampling.

IDP households in informal sites: households were sampled at the site level, to a 95% level of confidence and 10% margin of error. For each site, GPS points were randomly generated within the site area, and the household closest to each point was interviewed. Where this was not possible, interval sampling was used.

IDP households residing out of camp: households were sampled using a multi-stage cluster sampling approach in 62 districts where a minimum of 200 IDP households were residing, as recorded in the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) database. The sampling frame information regarding the presence, quantity, and specific locations of the households has been verified with community or neighbourhood leaders. For each area, GPS points were randomly generated within the site area, and the household closest to each point was interviewed.

Data was collected in all cases by trained enumerators who interviewed heads of households (when available) and recorded responses using an Open Data Kit (ODK) form.

Data analysis

Once the data was collected and cleaned, it was analyzed using statistical software (Excel and Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS)). Data was weighted by population size to allow aggregation of findings above the level of stratification. For more details on the data analysis process, see the [Terms of Reference](#) on the REACH resource centre.

Limitations

1. Findings based on the responses of a subset of the sample population have a lower confidence level and higher margin of error. For example, questions regarding the reasons why IDPs return to their area of origin were asked only to households who reported intention to return at the time of data collection and will therefore yield results with a lower precision.
2. As the exact numbers for IDP populations by area of origin are unknown, levels of representativeness were calculated assuming infinite population in those areas. As a result, the level of representativeness is not exact, but reflects the known minimum level.
3. Across different population groups, surveys differed slightly. For example, out-of-camp IDPs were not asked what needs could enable them to return to their area of origin and are therefore not included in that section of the report.

KEY FINDINGS

Part 1: Movement Intentions

The intentions assessment was conducted to provide better understanding of the dynamics of IDP households' movement intentions across Iraq. However, these trends may vary according to characteristics and demographics of displacement. This section provides an overview of trends in IDP movement intentions by population group, areas of displacement (AoD), and areas of origin (AoO).

Demographics of Displacement

It is important to note that as findings are reported as proportions of IDP households that reported an intention to return, this should be understood in relation to the overall proportion of IDPs in or from each governorate. These two figures in relation to each other provide a better understanding of the scale and scope of intended movement and continued protracted displacement.

Area of Displacement

The vast majority of IDPs in Iraq has been displaced across the Northern governorates of the country, including to the Kurdish Region of Iraq (KRI). This was reflected in the distribution of IDP households that participated in the assessment. At the time of data collection, 31% of IDP households were displaced in Ninewa governorate, 18% in Dahuk and 12% in Erbil. Between 1% and 8% of all remaining IDP households were living in each of 13 other governorates¹⁹ across the Centre and South of Iraq.

Area of Origin

In terms of areas of origin, over half of all assessed IDP households (across all population groups) were reported to originate from Ninewa governorate (58%), 14% from Salah al-Din and 13% from Anbar. All other IDP households' areas of origin were spread out across 13 other governorates.²⁰

In addition, for five governorates, the majority of IDPs was displaced within its governorate, including in Ninewa (97%), Salah al-Din (86%), Anbar (86%), Diyala (75%), and Kirkuk (64%). This may have a considerable impact on perceptions of AoO, assuming that households displaced within their governorate are in closer proximity to their AoO than those displaced out of the governorate. Meanwhile, 99% of IDP households in Dahuk were displaced from Ninewa.

Table 3: Proportion of IDP households by top seven reported districts of origin²¹

District of origin	Proportion of IDP households
Sinjar (Ninewa)	22%
Mosul (Ninewa)	19%
Telafar (Ninewa)	9%
Kaim (Anbar)	5%
Hawiga (Kirkuk)	4%
Baiji (Salah al-Din)	4%
Falluja (Anbar)	4%

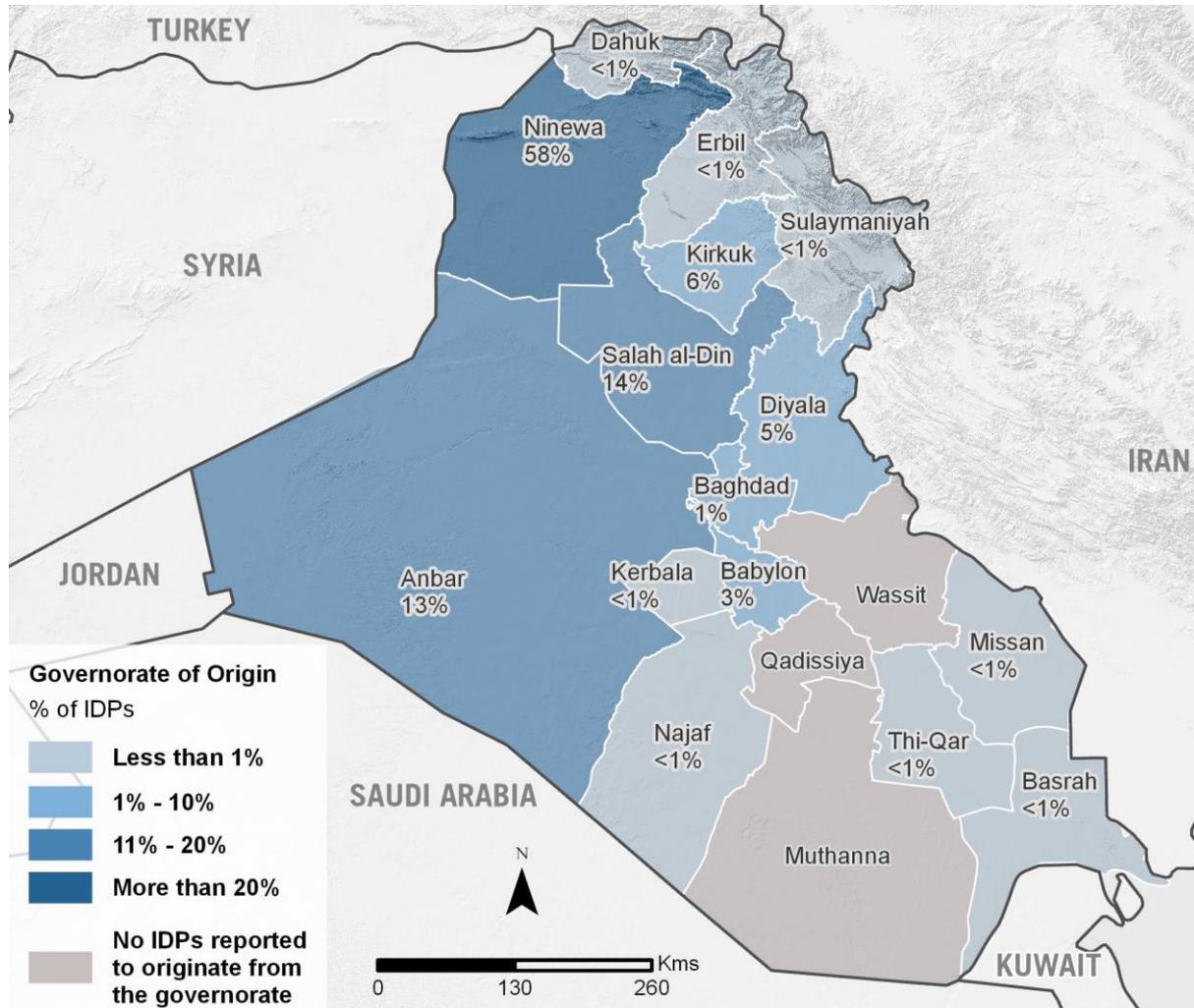
¹⁹ Others include Sulaymaniyah, Salah al-Din, Kirkuk, Baghdad, Anbar, Diyala, Babylon, Najaf, Wassit, Kerbala, Missan Thi-Qar, and Qadissiya. No IDP households in Muthanna and Basrah were included due to there not being any camps or informal sites with 100 households or more in these areas.

²⁰ Other governorates of origin include Babylon, Baghdad, Basrah, Dahuk, Diyala, Erbil, Kerbala, Kirkuk, Missan, Najaf, Sulaymaniyah and Thi-Qar.

²¹ The remaining 32% of IDP households were from 51 other districts (3% or less from each).

IDP households were also asked to detail their district of origin. The proportion from each district largely reflected the governorate of origin-level findings, with the top three districts of origin all reported to be in Ninewa: Sinjar (22%), Mosul (19%), and Telafar (9%). Detailed findings at the district of origin level are included in AoO intentions factsheets, available on the REACH resource centre.

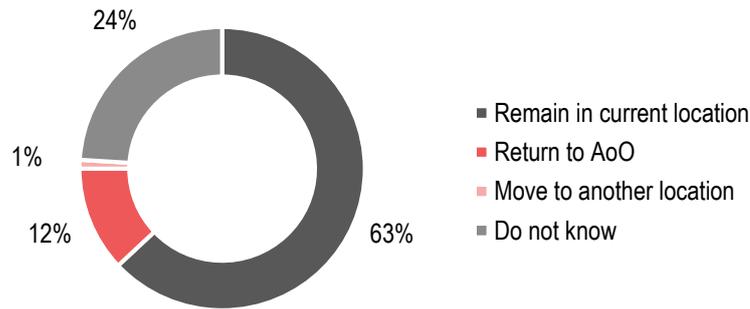
Map 1: Proportion of IDP households, by governorate of origin



Movement intentions

The majority of IDP households did not report that they intended to return to their AoO in the short or long term. Indeed, across all population groups, **7% reported intending to return within the three months following data collection (until October / November 2018)**. This proportion went up to **12% when IDP households were asked about their intention to return within 12 months (until August 2019)**. Overall, this suggests that those who intended to return will have likely done so by the end of 2018, and the rate of return in the first half of 2019 will remain low.

Figure 1: Reported movement intentions of IDP households over the 12 months following data collection



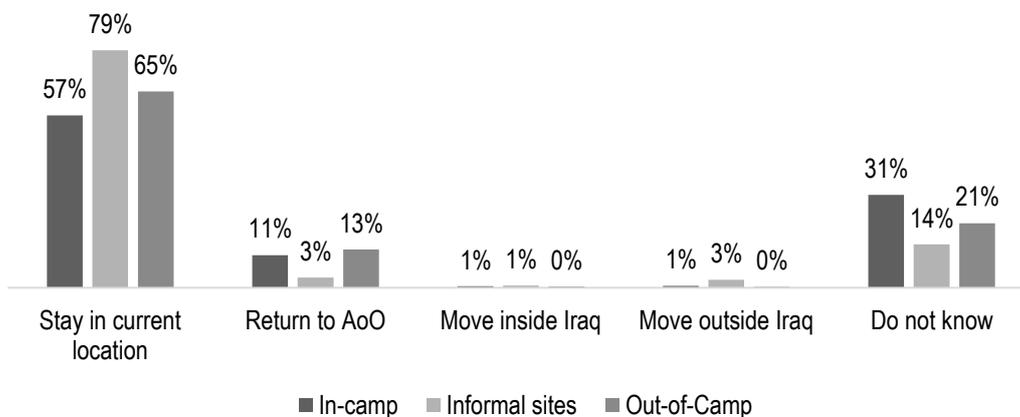
It is important to note that **roughly two thirds of IDP households (63%) explicitly reported that they intended to remain in their current location over the 12 months**. A quarter of IDP households (24%) reported that they did not know, or were waiting to decide. This suggests that changes in the area of displacement or origin may still affect movement trends. Indeed, **intentions varied across population groups and geographical areas, suggesting different movement trends by population group and area of displacement, as well as by AoO.**

Trends by population group

Despite generally similar movement trends reported across population groups, reported intentions did somewhat vary. IDP households in informal sites were the ones who least reported an intention to return, followed by those in formal camps, and out-of-camp: 3%, 11%, and 13%, respectively, over the 12 months following data collection.

Further reflecting these differences, the highest proportion of IDP households reporting an intention to remain in their current location over this timeframe was found in informal sites (79%). This was notably higher compared to IDP households living out-of-camp (65%), and those in formal camps (57%). Conversely, the proportion of households reporting that they did not know was much higher for these two groups: 21%, and 31% respectively. **These findings suggest that the majority of IDP households of all population groups intend to remain in their current location, but especially those residing in informal sites.**

Figure 2: Movement intentions during the 12 months following data collection, by population group



Trends by geographic area

Overall, intentions to return were low for most governorates of displacement, and particularly among those with the largest IDP populations. Less than 1% of IDP households in Erbil and 2% in Dahuk reported intending to return; this was particularly notable given that 12% and 18% of all households assessed were displaced in these governorates, respectively. **However, there was still considerable variation across governorates of displacement.** The highest proportion of households reporting an intention to return was found in Thi-Qar (75%). That being said, findings for Thi-Qar were considerably higher than for households displaced in any other governorate; furthermore, households displaced in Thi-Qar represented less than 1% of households displaced.²²

More broadly, **variation in reported intentions to return across governorates of displacement may indicate that displacement conditions play a significant role in influencing decisions to return.** This is further supported by the different proportion of households reporting an intention to return in the short term versus the longer term. For example, in Babylon only 7% reported intentions to return within three months, but this went up to 35% within 12 months. Conversely, in Kirkuk and Najaf, the proportion of IDP households that intended to return within 12 months compared to those that intended to return within three months only increased by 4 percentage points (from 22% and 28%, respectively).

Table 4: Proportion of IDP households intending to return to their AoO, by governorate of displacement

Governorate of displacement	3 months	12 months ²³
Erbil	<1%	<1%
Dahuk	1%	2%
Sulaymaniyah	2%	5%
Diyala	5%	7%
Kerbala	2%	9%
Baghdad	2%	11%
Ninewa	8%	14%
Qadissiya	10%	17%
Anbar	8%	18%
Missan	12%	24%
Kirkuk	22%	26%
Salah al-Din	18%	31%
Najaf	28%	32%
Babylon	7%	35%
Wassit	17%	42%
Thi-Qar	66%	75%

Reported intentions to return over 12 months also varied by governorates of origin, although the range was more limited than by area of displacement: from less than 1% of IDP households from Erbil to 24% from Salah al-Din. With the exception of Salah al-Din and Kirkuk, 11% or less of IDP households from each governorate reported intending to return in either the short or longer term, further suggesting low rates of intentions to return up to Summer 2019.

Finally, although reported intentions to return were low for IDP households from Ninewa (10%), households displaced from this governorate constituted over half of all IDP households (58%). This **suggests that whilst the majority of those displaced in Ninewa may likely not return to their AoO, there may have been considerable population shifts within the governorate in late 2018. Similar inferences may be drawn from the proportion of IDP households from Anbar and Salah al-Din** reporting an intention to return, with IDP households from these governorates constituting 13% and 14% of all IDP households nationwide, respectively.

²² As of August 2018, [2019 Iraq Humanitarian Needs Overview](#).

²³ Includes both those that reported intention to return within 3 months and those that reported intention to do so within 12 months.

Table 5: Proportion of IDP households intending to return to their AoO, by governorate of origin

Governorate of origin	3 months	12 months
Erbil	<1%	<1%
Baghdad	2%	3%
Diyala	3%	5%
Anbar	4%	10%
Ninewa	6%	10%
Babylon	4%	11%
Kirkuk	17%	22%
Salah Al-Din	15%	24%

Part 2: Reasons to return

Reasons for intending to return can be influenced by conditions in areas of displacement (which could be considered as “push” factors), by perceived conditions in areas of origin and emotional attachment (“pull” factors), or a combination of the two.²⁴ This section looks into these factors and their prevalence at the national level, as well as how reasons may vary across population groups and by AoO.

Reasons to return at the national level and by population group

At the national level, 12% of IDP households reported intending to return to their AoO over the 12 months following data collection. Among these households, the top five reported reasons to return were pull factors. Emotional desire to return²⁵ was reported by 50% of all IDP households that intended to return, and following family and community members that had already returned by 24%. In addition, almost half cited perceived stabilization of the security situation in AoO (45%), the necessity to secure housing and/or land (45%), as well as the availability of livelihood opportunities (17%) as reasons for returning. **This suggests that intentions to return were more strongly influenced by IDP households’ perceptions of conditions in AoO and emotional attachment to their family and communities than by the situation in the area of displacement at the time.**

As for push factors, 10% to 12% of IDP households across assessed areas referred to limited livelihood opportunities in AoD, not feeling integrated and/or limited services in the area of displacement as reasons for intending to return to their AoO. **The range of different reasons cited suggests that no specific factor influenced intentions to return, although perception of conditions in AoO may play a greater role.**

Table 6: Top reported reasons to return (among IDP households who reported intending to return), by population group and at national level²⁶

Reason to return	Type of factor	In-Camp	Informal Sites	Out-of-camp	National
Emotional desire to return	<i>Pull</i>	45%	68%	52%	50%
Security situation is stable in AoO	<i>Pull</i>	55%	39%	42%	45%
Necessary to secure housing and/or land in AoO	<i>Pull</i>	19%	31%	27%	25%
Family and community members have returned	<i>Pull</i>	23%	26%	24%	24%
Livelihood opportunities in AoO	<i>Pull</i>	9%	29%	20%	17%
Limited livelihood opportunities in AoD	<i>Push</i>	14%	11%	11%	12%
Do not feel integrated in AoD	<i>Push</i>	8%	1%	12%	11%
Limited services available in AoD	<i>Push</i>	15%	9%	8%	10%

The higher frequency of IDP households citing pull rather than push factors as reasons to return to their AoO was consistent across population groups. However, there were some notable variations across groups in the frequency with which different reasons were cited. Although the proportion of households reporting that they had family or community members who had already returned was similar, the proportion who reported an emotional desire to return was much greater amongst IDP households in informal sites than any other population group: 68% compared to 52% for out-of-camp IDP households and 45% for in camp.

Similarly, **securing resources in AoO was more frequently cited by IDP households in informal sites.** A notably higher proportion of IDP households in informal sites mentioned returning was necessary to secure housing and/or land, or the availability of livelihood opportunities in their AoO as reasons to return: 31% and 29% respectively, compared to 19% and 9% for in-camp populations, and 27% and 20% for out-of-camp. **This may**

²⁴ Push factors may include: limited livelihood opportunities in AoD, not feeling integrated in the AoD, limited services available in AoD; Pull factors may be: emotional desire to return, security situation is stable in the AoO, need to secure housing and land in the AoO, family and community members have returned.

²⁵ Emotional desire to return refers to IDP households wanting to return because of attachment to their home or community in their AoO.

²⁶ Multiple reasons could be provided; results may therefore exceed 100%.

suggest that emotional ties and economic factors have a greater influence on the decision to return for IDP households residing in informal sites, than for other population groups.

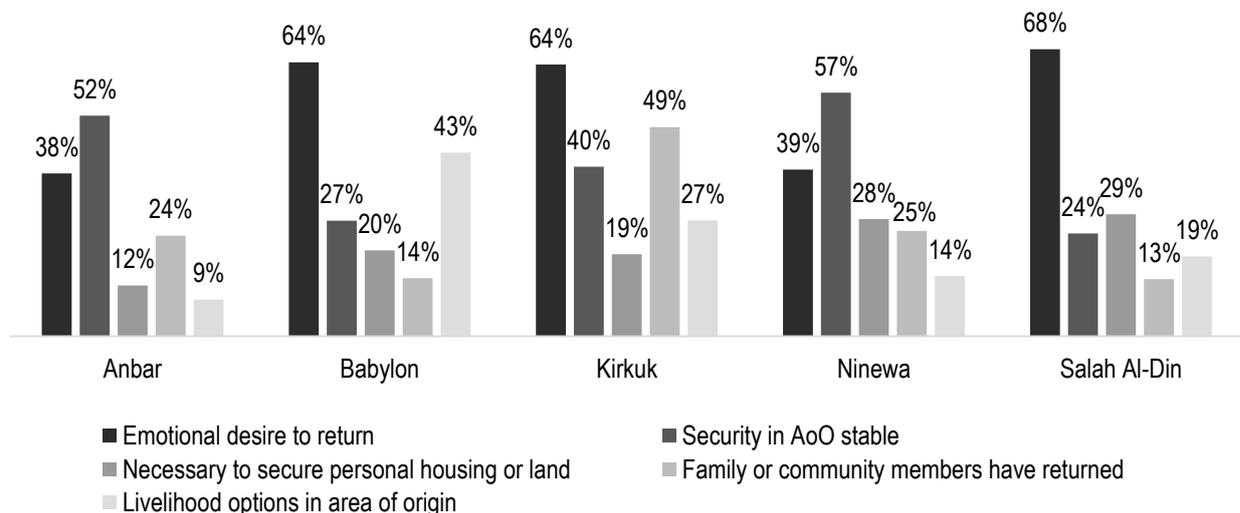
Conversely, the proportion of households reporting perceived stability of the security situation in AoO as a reason to return was considerably lower in informal sites (39%), compared to households in formal camps (55%). This could reflect the prioritization of emotional desire to return by IDP households in informal sites, and/or that security and stabilization is the most cited reason for returning among in-camp populations. This may be better understood by looking at reasons to return by reported area of origin.

Reasons to return by governorate of origin

Trends in reported reasons to return by area of origin reflected those at the national level, with ‘pull’ factors reported more frequently by IDP households across all governorates of origin than “push” factors. However, as with population groups, the frequency with which different reasons were reported did vary. Emotional desire to return was particularly prevalent among IDP households originating from Salah al-Din, Babylon, and Kirkuk (68%, 64%, and 64%, respectively). Furthermore, almost half of IDP households from Kirkuk (49%) cited family or community members having already returned as a reason to do so, far more than IDP households from any other governorate (13% to 25%). This indicates that for IDP households intending to return to their AoO in Kirkuk, Babylon and Salah al-Din, emotional and community ties were predominant factors in influencing intentions to returns.

Meanwhile, IDP households from Ninewa and Anbar that intended to return to their AoO most frequently cited perceived stabilization of the security situation in their AoO as a reason: 57% and 52%, respectively. This was notably higher than what was reported by IDP households from Babylon (27%) or Salah al-Din (24%). These findings reflect the importance of security as a factor motivating return or not and show the importance of context monitoring to prevent premature return to unsafe areas. Differences within governorates of origin further underline this point. For example, in Ninewa, although 57% reported perceived stabilization of the security situation as a reason to return, this varied between districts, ranging from 38% in Sinjar to 71% in Hatra.

Figure 3: Top five reasons²⁷ to return (among IDP households intending to return), by governorate of origin²⁸



²⁷ Top five reasons reported at the national level. The top five reasons most frequently reported may differ across governorates.

²⁸ Baghdad, Diyala, and Erbil are not included because there were either no reported intentions to return, or the size of the sample sub-sets were too small to be representative (5% or less of the assessed IDP households from these governorates reported intending to return).

Although push factors were not frequently cited, the extent to which they were reported by IDP households from each governorate of origin often supported main reasons for intentions to return. For example, 35% of IDP households from Babylon reported that limited livelihood opportunities in their AoD was a reason for intending to return, which was comparatively higher than other AoO. As previously reported, the highest proportion of IDP households that referred to livelihood opportunities in their AoO as a reason to return were from the same governorate, thus suggesting livelihood concerns were prevalent among IDP households from Babylon. Similarly, 22% of IDP households from Salah al-Din reported that they did not feel integrated in their AoD, which echoes the high proportion of IDP households from the same governorate that reported emotional desire to return. In this case, concerns related to sentiment appeared to be prevalent among IDP households from Salah al-Din.

Part 3: Reasons not to return

The vast majority of IDP households reported no explicit intention to return to their AoO within the 12 months following interview (88%). Looking at the reasons for which they did not intend to return can contribute to understanding issues that might still need to be addressed, particularly in AoO, in order to enable safe and voluntary returns. Moreover, understanding the nature of the barriers to return may give further insight into potential displacement trends and protracted caseload. This section looks into reported reasons not to return at the national level, as well as how reasons may vary according to population groups and by AoO.

Reasons not to return at the national level and by population group

A majority of IDP households cited damaged or destroyed houses, safety and security issues, poor livelihood opportunities, as well as lack of financial means in AoO as reasons for not intending to return. Precisely, 48% reported their house being damaged or destroyed. This was followed by security-related issues, with 34% citing fear and trauma and 31% lack of security forces. Meanwhile, 25% and 19% referred to scarcity of livelihood-generating income in AoO, and no financial means to return, respectively.

Figure 4: Top ten reported reasons for not intending to return at the national level (among IDP households not intending to return)^{29,30}

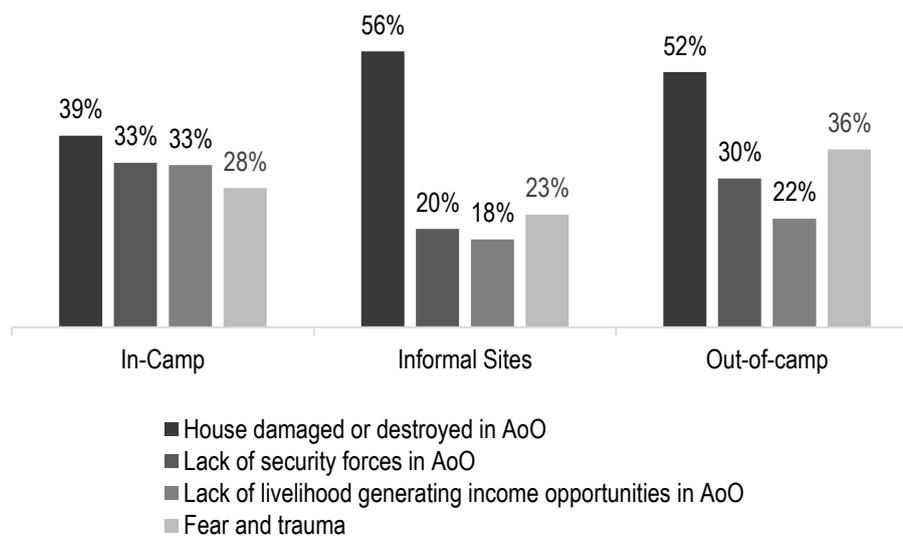


These findings point to multi-faceted systemic issues that are likely not able to be addressed in the short term. The high proportion of IDP households that reported houses being damaged or destroyed on the one hand, and those that reported lack of livelihood opportunities on the other, indicates a strong need for rehabilitation and reconstruction of homes, as well as support for relaunching income generating activities. These general trends also underlined the need for protection-related measures, such as provision of mental health support for those dealing with the psychological consequences of the conflict. Finally, following the high proportion of IDP households that reported the lack of stability and security in their AoO (among those that intended to return), concerns related to security once again emphasized the need for context monitoring to avoid premature return to unsafe areas.

²⁹ Multiple answers could be provided; results may therefore exceed 100%.

³⁰ Comparison by population group was not included as findings did not show any notable differences. Furthermore, given that the focus was on areas of origin, IDP households' population profile was not considered as relevant.

Figure 5: Top four reported reasons³¹ for not intending to return (among IDP households not intending to return), by population group³²



Between different population groups, reasons for not intending to return varied, particularly when comparing in-camp IDP households with informal sites and out-of-camp IDP households. The top four reasons for not intending to return (at national level) were each reported by about a third of IDP households living in formal camps, with a slightly higher proportion citing destruction or damage to housing in AoO (39%). Meanwhile, just over half of IDP households living in informal sites (56%) and about half of those living in out-of-camp settings cited destruction of houses. Lack of livelihood generating income opportunities was also cited by lower proportion of IDP households living in out-of-camp locations (22%) and informal sites (18%), compared to those living in formal camps (33%). **These findings suggest that current conditions of displacement might affect the importance given to different perceived conditions in AoO.**

Reasons not to return by governorate of origin

Across governorates of origin, **damaged and destroyed houses as a reason for not intending to return was particularly prevalent among IDP households originally from Anbar (64%), Kirkuk (56%), and Salah Al-Din (57%).** Meanwhile, **protection-related concerns – namely fear and trauma, lack of security forces and discrimination in AoO – were particularly high in Diyala (reported by 60%, 47% and 30% of IDP households, respectively).** The proportion of IDP households referring to fear and trauma as a reason for not intending to return was also higher than the national average (34%) for IDP households from Babylon, Kirkuk and Salah Al-Din, while lack of security forces was particularly prevalent for IDP households from Erbil, Ninewa and Salah al-Din. Thirty percent of IDP households from Erbil reported better living conditions in their AoD as a reason for not intending to return, which was significantly higher than for other governorates of origin.

³¹ Top four reasons reported at the national level; these might vary from one population group to another.

³² Multiple answers could be provided, and results may therefore exceed 100%.

Table 7: Top ten reasons³³ for not intending to return (among IDP households not intending to return), by governorate of origin³⁴

Governorate of origin	Anbar	Babylon	Diyala	Erbil	Kirkuk	Ninewa	SaD
Fear/ trauma of return	26%	45%	60%	22%	45%	30%	39%
House damaged or destroyed in AoO	64%	39%	17%	45%	56%	45%	57%
Lack of security forces in AoO	14%	29%	47%	34%	19%	34%	32%
Lack of livelihood opportunities in AoO	33%	9%	13%	29%	7%	28%	19%
No financial means to return	26%	8%	13%	16%	13%	20%	15%
Fear of discrimination in AoO	8%	32%	30%	14%	14%	21%	19%
Presence of mines in AoO	6%	25%	12%	16%	34%	21%	16%
Basic services not enough in AoO	7%	4%	3%	17%	13%	14%	9%
Assets stolen or damaged in AoO	15%	16%	5%	5%	10%	11%	11%
Living conditions better in AoD	14%	5%	11%	30%	17%	9%	11%

The third type of reasons for not intending to return were related to livelihoods and basic services in AoO: at the national level, 25% of IDP households reported lack of livelihood generating income opportunities, and 11% scarcity of basic services in the AoO as reasons for not intending to return. **As these are complex and systemic issues, they are not likely able to be resolved in the short term, which is reflected by the low proportion of IDP households that intended to return in either the 3 or 12 months following data collection.** Lack of livelihood generating opportunities was mostly cited by IDP households from Anbar (33%), Erbil (29%), Ninewa (28%) and Salah Al-Din (19%). Following the previously reported trends regarding the reasons to return, conversely, the regions of Babylon and Kirkuk were the ones where the lack of livelihood opportunities as a reason for not returning was the least mentioned (9% and 7%, respectively).

³³ Top ten reasons reported at the national level. These might differ from one governorate to another.

³⁴ Does not include governorates of origin for which the obtained sample was too small to provide statistically generalizable results (minimum 90% confidence level and maximum 10% margin of error).

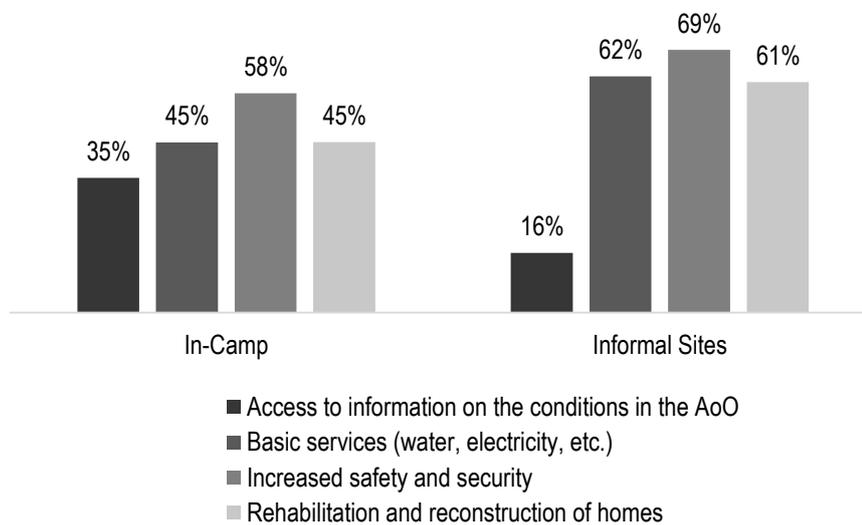
Part 4: Needs to enable return

Where the full intentions survey was conducted for IDP populations living in formal camps and informal sites, additional questions were asked concerning the overarching needs to enable a safe and dignified return to their AoO, as well as perceptions of conditions in AoO. These indicators provide additional insight into factors affecting IDP households' intentions to return, both those residing in formal camps and in informal sites. Findings do not apply to out-of-camp locations.

Needs to enable return at the national level and by population group

The most frequently reported needs that IDP households cited to enable a safe and dignified return to their AoO mirrored previously explored key trends in factors affecting returns. These included reconstruction and rehabilitation of housing, safety and security, availability of basic services, and livelihood opportunities. **Access to information to better understand conditions in AoO was also frequently cited as a need to enable return.**

Figure 6: Top four needs to enable return to AoO among IDP households living in formal camps or informal sites, at the national level and by population group³⁵



Needs to enable return differed between population groups. Overall, IDP households in informal sites cited basic services, increased safety and security, as well as rehabilitation and reconstruction of homes frequently (over 60% for all three), compared to IDP households living in camps (ranging between 58% and 45%). However, the need for information on the conditions in AoO was much more frequently cited by IDP households living in formal camps (35%), than by those in informal sites (16%). As discussed in the first part of the report, a higher proportion of IDP households living in formal camps reported uncertainty regarding their intention to return, **suggesting that there might be a correlation between the need for more information and uncertainty about movement intentions.**

Needs to enable return by area of origin

Across governorates of origin, reported needs to return followed similar trends, with a high prevalence of increased safety and security in AoO reported as a need to enable return.

³⁵ Multiple answers could be chosen; totals may therefore exceed 100%.

Table 8: Top five reported needs to enable return to AoO among IDP households living in formal camps and in informal sites, by governorate of origin^{36,37}

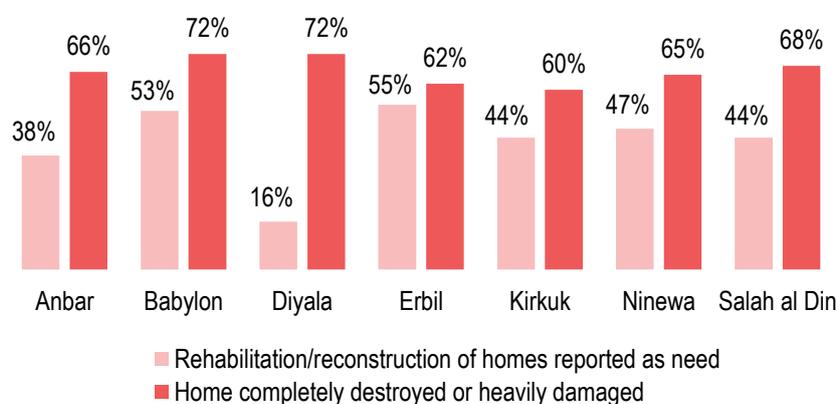
Governorate of origin	Anbar	Babylon	Diyala	Erbil	Kirkuk	Ninewa	SaD
Increased safety and security in AoO	50%	78%	77%	46%	52%	59%	63%
Basic services (water, electricity, sanitation)	37%	48%	32%	40%	44%	49%	33%
Rehabilitation/Reconstruction of Homes	38%	53%	16%	55%	44%	47%	44%
Access to information on AoO	58%	31%	55%	24%	53%	28%	53%
Livelihood/income-generating opportunities	18%	14%	2%	33%	11%	22%	17%

Reconstruction and rehabilitation of housing

Over a third to more than a half of IDP households reported reconstruction and rehabilitation of housing as a need to return across all governorates of origin (ranging from 38% for Anbar to 55% for Erbil), except for Diyala (16%). This difference echoes previous findings on houses being destroyed or damaged as a reason not to return, where an equally small proportion of IDP households from Diyala cited it as a reason (also 16%).

Additionally, between 60% and 72% of IDP households (living in informal sites and formal camps)³⁸ from each governorate of origin (except Baghdad) indicated that their home was completely damaged or destroyed. For Diyala government too, this was reported by 72% of the households. This raises the question as to why such a comparatively small proportion of IDP households from Diyala cited reconstruction as a need to return. Possible reasons might be related to the prevalence of other factors influencing intentions to return or the fact that the scope of destruction is such that they do not see the point in addressing this issue. The low proportion of IDP households that reported intentions to return to their AoO in Diyala (7% within a year) goes in that direction as well.

Figure 7: Reported need for rehabilitation of homes compared to proportion of IDP households reporting their home to be completely destroyed or heavily damaged, by area of origin³⁹



Safety and Security

Increased safety and security was the most frequently reported need to enable return by both population groups.⁴⁰ This was also the case across most governorates of origin, with the exception of Anbar, Erbil and Kirkuk, and was notably high for IDP households from Babylon (78%) and Diyala (77%).

³⁶ Multiple answers could be chosen; results may therefore exceed 100%.

³⁷ Does not include governorates of origin for which the obtained sample was too small to provide statistically generalizable results (minimum 90% confidence level and maximum 10% margin of error).

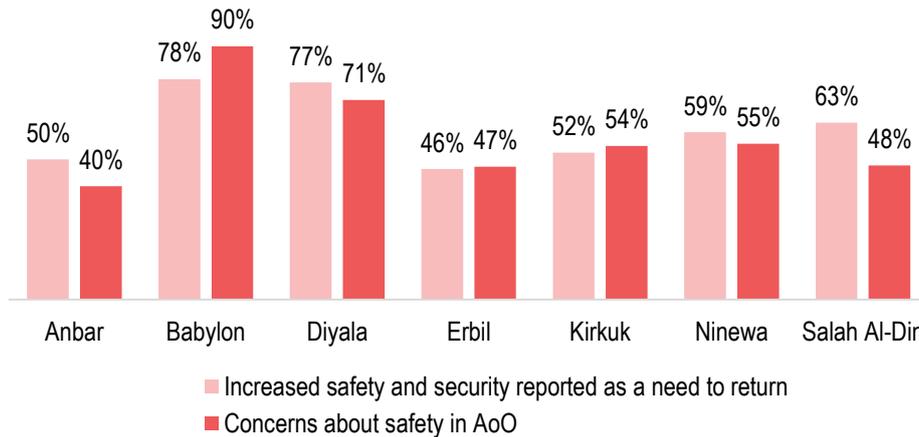
³⁸ Additional questions were included in surveys conducted with IDP households living in formal camps and informal sites on perceptions of shelter in AoO.

³⁹ Multiple answers could be chosen; results may therefore exceed 100%.

⁴⁰ Additional questions were included in surveys conducted with IDP households living in formal camps and informal sites on perceptions of safety in AoO.

As discussed previously, at the population group level, fear and trauma, discrimination, as well as lack of security forces as reasons for not intending to return were primarily/mostly cited by IDP households who originated from Diyala or Babylon. In addition, high proportions of IDP households living in formal camps and informal sites from Babylon and Diyala also reported concerns about safety in their AoO (90% and 71%, respectively). **This suggests that although perceived security and safety issues were problematic across all governorates of origin, it was particularly the case for IDP households originally from Babylon and Diyala.** Overall, the need for increased safety and security to return and concerns about safety and security in AoO appeared to be correlated for all governorates of origin.

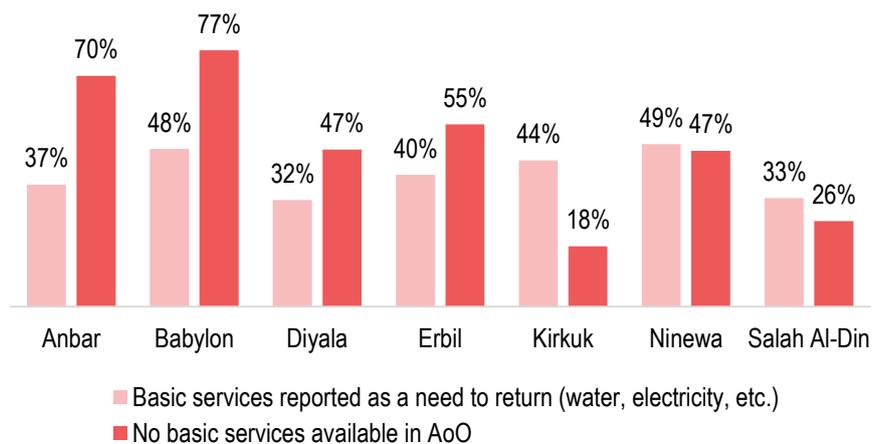
Figure 8: Reported need for increased safety/security to enable return compared to proportion of IDP households that had concerns about safety/security in their AoO, by governorate of origin⁴¹



Availability of basic services

Need for basic services in AoO was reported consistently across governorates of origin (between 32% in Diyala and 48% in Babylon), and confirmed the previously expressed lack of services as a reason for not intending to return. However, perceived lack of basic services in AoO⁴² varied substantially from one governorate to another, indicating that perceived lack of basic services and basic services reported as a need to return were not necessarily correlated.

Figure 9: Reported need for basic services in AoO to enable return, compared to proportion of IDP households that reported lack of basic services' availability in AoO



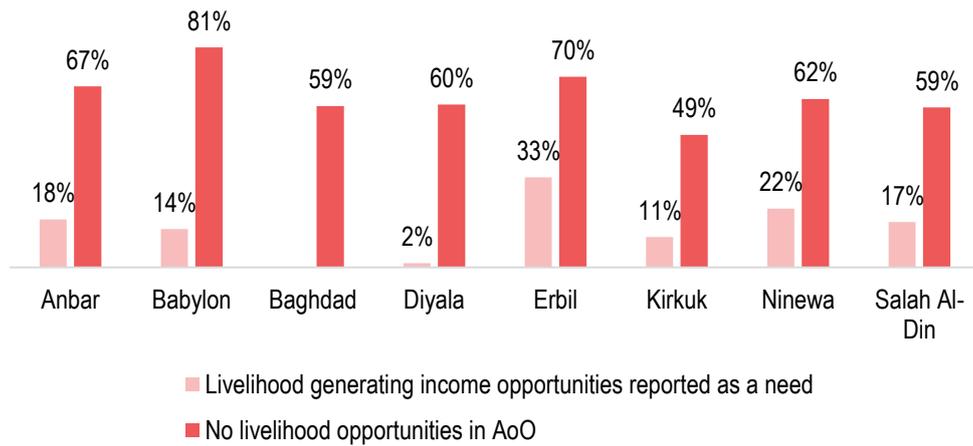
⁴¹ Multiple answers could be chosen; totals may therefore exceed 100%.

⁴² Additional questions were included in surveys conducted with IDP households in formal camps and informal sites on perceptions of basic services in their AoO.

Livelihood opportunities

Livelihood generating income opportunities in AoO was not one of the top needs to enable return reported by IDP households at the national level. However, this varied substantially across governorates of origin, ranging from 2% for Diyala to 33% for Erbil. In addition, perceived lack of livelihood generating income opportunities in AoO was high across all governorates, ranging from 49% for Kirkuk to 81% for Babylon. This suggests that, although the presence of livelihoods was frequently cited as a reason to return or not return (as discussed throughout the report), other needs, namely security and reconstruction and rehabilitation of housing, tended to be prioritized by IDP households when identifying needs to enable return. It also indicates that the two dimensions are not necessarily correlated.

Figure 10: Reported need for livelihood-generating income opportunities to enable return, compared to proportion of IDP households reporting lack of livelihood opportunities in AoO, by governorate of origin



CONCLUSION

This assessment allowed to identify key trends in terms of IDP households' intentions to return to their areas of origin (AoO) across Iraq in the year following data collection (August 2018 to July 2019), and how these intentions differed depending on where they were from, where they were displaced, and the setting in which they were displaced (formal camps, informal sites, or out-of-camp). Furthermore, **this assessment contributed to better understanding the reasons, needs and perceptions influencing movement intentions among different population groups and across various geographic areas.** By providing information on the potential scope of continued protracted displacement and reasons influencing it, **findings from this assessment fed into key humanitarian planning milestones for 2019, including the Iraq Humanitarian Needs Overview.**

Overall, the majority of IDP households reported that they did not intend to return to their AoO in the 12 months following data collection, and of those who did, most planned to do so within 3 months. Although intentions to return were low across all population groups, this was particularly the case among IDP households living in informal sites. In addition, differences in movement intentions between areas of displacement and AoO indicated that both perceived conditions in the latter or conditions in the former may have had an influence.

Trends in reported reasons not to return and needs to enable safe and durable returns indicated that security continued to present a barrier to the protracted caseload of IDP households. Indeed, increased safety and security in AoO was the most reported need to enable return across all population groups, which echoed frequently cited reasons for not intending to return, such as fear and trauma, and lack of security forces in AoO. **Conversely, improvement of security in AoO was reported as a reason for intending to return among almost half of IDP households that intended to return.** Emotional attachment to AoO, combined with frequently reported lack of feeling integrated or wanting to follow other community and family members that had already returned, were particularly prevalent as well.

Findings also shed light on shelter concerns as being key in influencing intentions to return. Indeed, close to half of IDP households at the national level reported that their house being damaged or destroyed in AoO was a reason for not intending to return, which was compounded by a high proportion of IDP households that indicated that their house in AoO was heavily damaged or destroyed, and those citing rehabilitation and reconstruction as a need to enable their return. **Finally, lack of livelihood generating opportunities and scarcity of basic services in AoO were also frequently cited, and added to IDP households' intentions to not return.**

As stated in the Humanitarian Response Plan for 2019, many obstacles remain in facilitating returns of IDPs. **Due to the many systemic issues that were raised throughout the intentions assessment, and which are unlikely to be solved in the short term, the humanitarian community may continue to be faced with a large-scale protracted displacement crisis in Iraq.** It will therefore be important to **continue monitoring movement intentions** in coming months to determine which factors and needs influencing decisions persist, and how these are correlated to how perceptions of AoO evolve over time. In addition, it could also be interesting for any future analysis to compare reported intentions with DTM recorded movement trends over the relevant time periods.