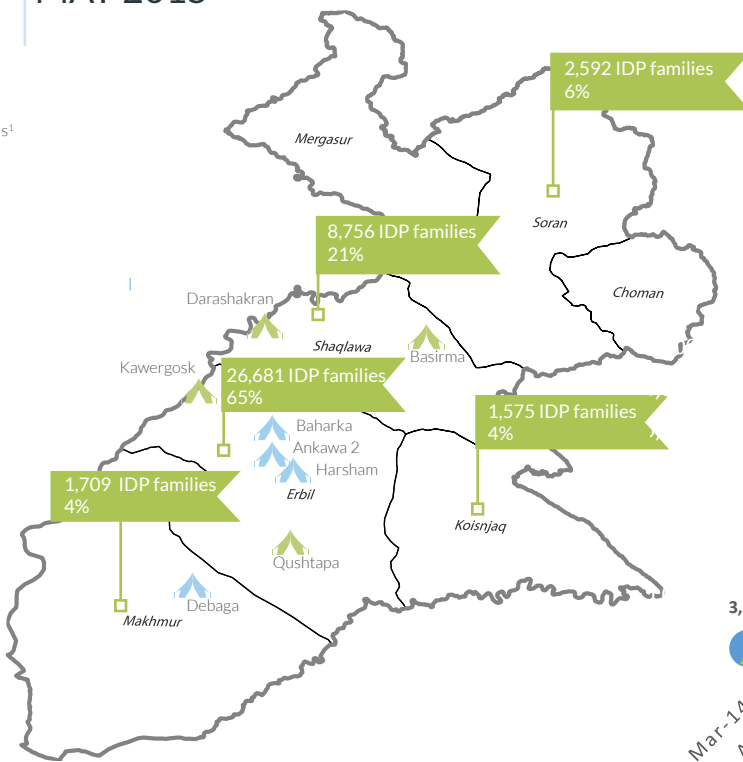


ERBIL GOVERNORATE PROFILE

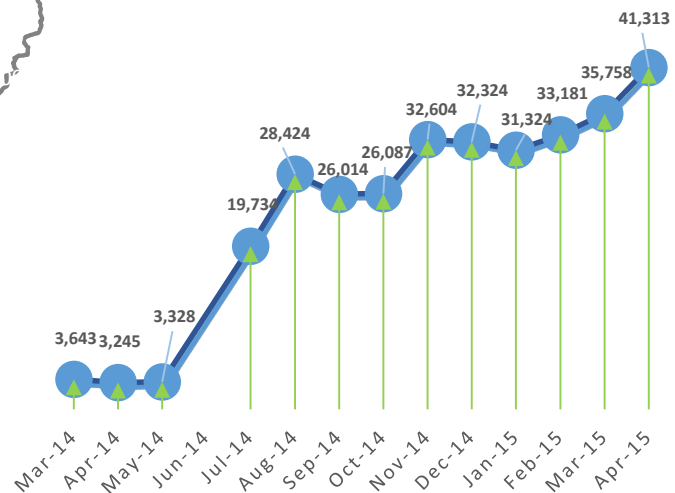
MAY 2015

IDP camps
total population: 6,598 individuals¹
planned: 13,732 individuals

Syrian refugee camps



DISPLACEMENT OVER TIME



OVERVIEW²

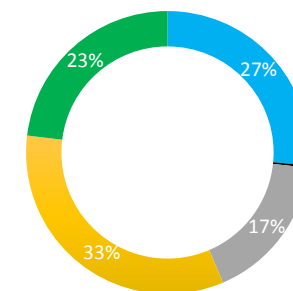
41,313 IDP FAMILIES

247,878 IDP INDIVIDUALS

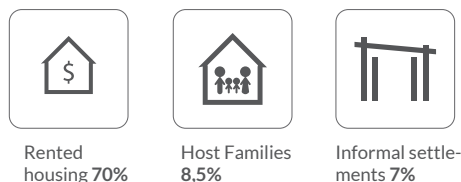
110,378 SYRIAN REFUGEE INDIVIDUALS

38% OF ALL IDPS ARE UNDER 14

GOVERNORATE OF ORIGIN



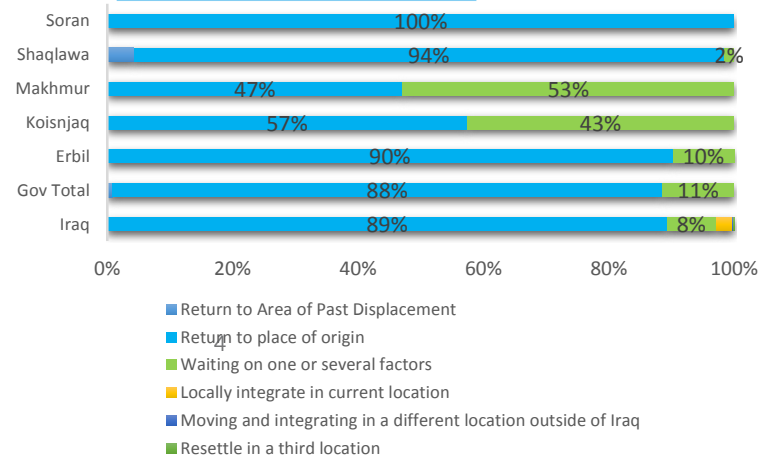
MOST COMMON SHELTER TYPE



TOP PRIORITY NEEDS

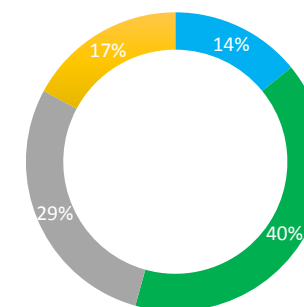


INTENTIONS



Anbar ■ Diyala ■ Erbil ■ Ninewa ■ Salah al Din

WAVES OF DISPLACEMENT



1. Iraq - CCCM Camps status report, April 2015. Camp sites based on REACH report: IDP and refugee camp locations as of 28 April 2015

2. All information, unless otherwise specified, in this report is from IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) from 28 April 2015 and from field reports of the Rapid Assessment and Response Teams. For more information on the DTM, visit: <http://iomiraq.net/dtm-page>

OVERVIEW

Situated in northwest Iraq with a total population of 1,542,421³, Erbil hosts the capital of Kurdistan region administrated by the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG).

As the economy and security of Erbil are generally better than many other areas of Iraq, this governorate continues to be a common destination for displaced populations. Since the onset of violence in December 2013, the number of IDPs⁴ in Erbil skyrocketed and currently, the governorate hosts 9% of 2014-2015 IDPs in the entire country, in addition to over 110,000 Syrian refugees. As the cost of living in Erbil is comparatively high, it has been noted that many families displace first to Erbil and then to other surrounding governorates or countries in search of job opportunities and less expensive places to live. Reportedly, the increasing population has placed strain on the local economy, services and local infrastructure, hampering delivery of basic services and stretching the economic capacity of the KRG to its maximum. Erbil was facing problems with respect to central budget allocation that caused delays in salary payments. Notably, the poverty rate in the KRI increased from 3.5 percent to 8.1 percent since 2013. The influx of individuals and deteriorated security situation outside the KRI resulted in the rise of housing costs by almost 12 percent in Erbil while the cost of electricity rose by 30%.⁵

Overall the security situation in Erbil remains stable, however there were isolated incidents such as the April car bombing near the American consulate in Ainkawa, a Christian neighborhood in Erbil.

DISPLACEMENT TRENDS

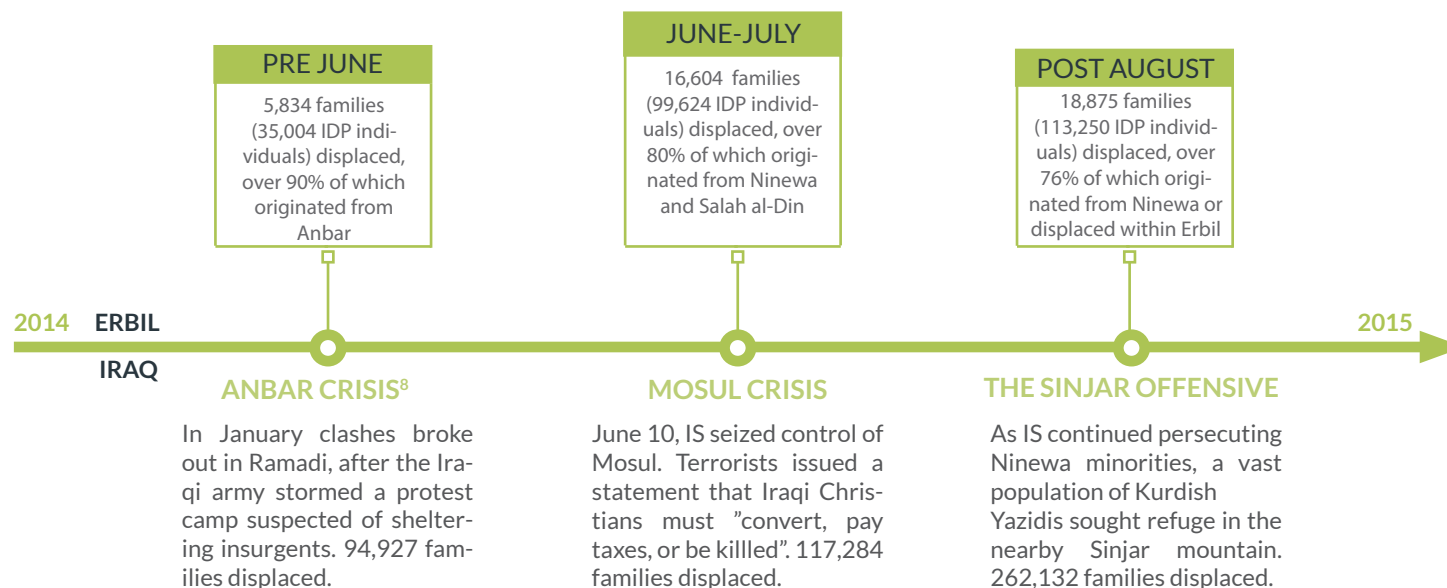
Since the onset of violence in December 2013 until June 2014, Erbil saw the arrival of over 35,000 IDP individuals⁶ forcibly displaced in the aftermath of Anbar crisis. An additional 99,624 IDP individuals were driven to Suly in June and July as a result of Mosul crisis. As the conflict unfolded, a number of security incidents followed by the Sinjar offensive in August resulted in the increase of the IDP population residing in Erbil to almost 205,375 individuals. An additional 113,250 individuals fled after August.

Currently, Erbil governorate hosts 9% of all 2014-2015 IDP population in the entire country, amounting to 247,878 IDP individuals. The vast majority of these IDPs left their houses due to generalized violence, however over 20% who were driven to Erbil fled after their family member was killed. In general, those driven from Nine-wa and Anbar composed almost 60% of all IDP population currently residing in the governorate, most of whom settled in Erbil and Shaqlawa districts. A small number of families from Diyala was also residing in Erbil district. 17% of IDPs displaced within the governorate out of fear when AGs were approaching their villages or due to the high cost of living in the KRI. This reportedly pushed many families to leave Erbil district and move to Shaqlawa in search of cheaper cost of housing.⁷

1. IDPs by governorate of origin

District	Anbar	Diyala	Ninewa	Salah al Din	Erbil	Total
Erbil	4,977	105	12,208	4,135	5,256	26,681
Koisnjaq	585	0	661	329	0	1,575
Makhmur	0	0	0	0	1,709	1,709
Shaqlawa	4,220	0	766	3,770	0	8,756
Soran	1,150	0	142	1,300	0	2,592
Grand Total	10,932	105	13,777	9,534	6,965	41,313

WAVES OF DISPLACEMENT IN 2014



3. Figures don't include IDPs and Syrian refugees population and are based on Gol COSIT (2007)

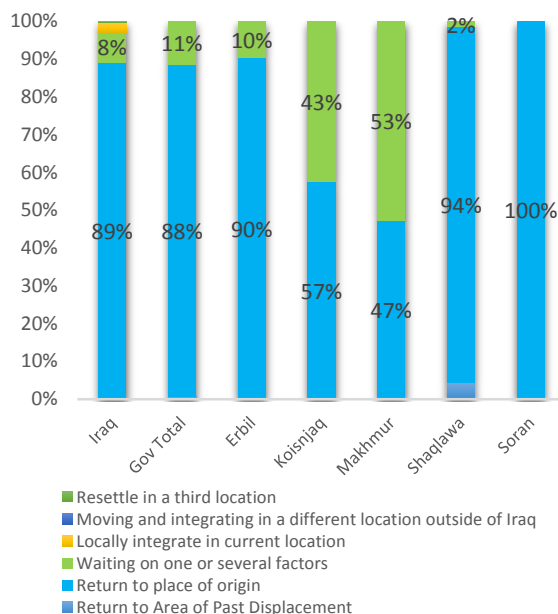
4. IDPs and returnees are generally categorized in three different groups: those displaced prior to 2006 due to circumstances such as the first and second Gulf Wars, policies of the former regime, and environmental issues; those displaced after the dramatic rise in sectarian conflict between 2006-2008; and those who were displaced in late 2013 until present due to the armed group offensives that affected Iraq and Syria.

5. According to the World Bank Report, Iraq - Economic and social impact assessment of the Syrian conflict and the ISIS crisis (English), February, 2015; 6. Number of individuals is counted by multiplying number of families by 6, that is an average size of an Iraqi family.

7. Monthly narrative report; 8. Ongoing displacement, IOM 2014

As of the end of April 2015, 9% of all IDPs in Iraq were living in Erbil governorate. Reportedly, Erbil district hosted almost 65% of the displaced population in the governorate, with over 160,086 IDP individuals, while Shaqlawa district held more than 50,000 IDP individuals (21%). In general, Erbil, Koisanjaq and Shaqlawa had the most diverse IDP population make up, composed of families from at least three different governorates, in addition to the host community. Displacement in the governorate has been dynamic. It reached its peaks in the end of August and by November 2014, it hosted over 32,000 displaced families. Between these months, the number of IDPs was slowly decreasing as IDPs were presumably returning to their areas of origin. From February until currently, IDPs are continuing to flee to Erbil and now figures amount to the highest number in the history of the latest crisis. Presumably, the Ramadi crisis that broke out on 10th of April and was ongoing in May will significantly affect the aforementioned figures. As of May 5th, 780 families had been driven from Ramadi to Erbil, most of whom settled in Shaqlawa district.⁹ IDPs were facing difficulties upon arrival as KRI borders were reportedly closed.¹⁰

1. Percentage of intentions by districts



INTENTIONS

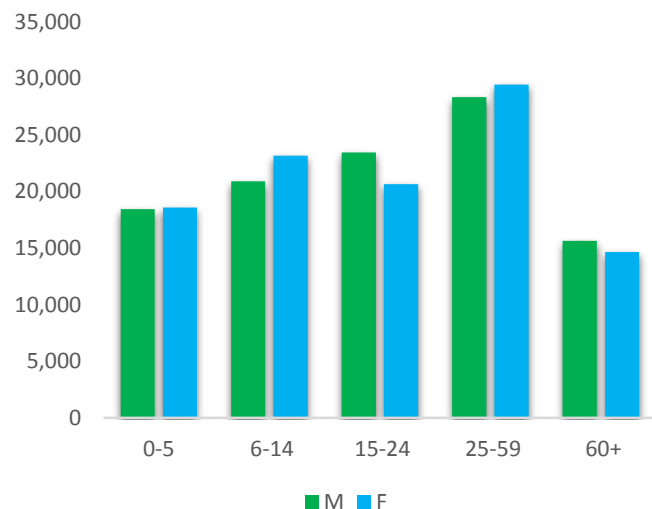
In general, there was a prevailing trend indicating that over 68% of those assessed in Erbil wanted to return regardless of the wave of displacement, corresponding with figures observed Iraq wide. However, 9% of this population was waiting on one or several factors to determine their intentions. Over half of the IDPs who were still undecided originated from Ninewa. 60% of them were staying in critical shelters while almost 20 % was renting house.

Most of those who wanted to return displaced from Ninewa and Anbar. Many of the respondents who indicated desire to return were living in rented houses in Erbil and Shaqlawa district. Only a few families who were driven from Salah al-Din and were currently residing in hotel/motel in Shaqlawa intended on returning to the area of past displacement. These figures reflected the complicated ethno-religious composition of Iraqi Kurdistan, where IDPs were reportedly facing language and cultural barrier.¹² Displaced populations rarely speak Kurdish, an official language of KRI which affects their access to employment, daily communication and creates a sense of disconnection as well as causes food insecurity. Unemployment results in financial depletion and a situation where IDPs can no longer afford to pay the rent or buy daily products. Presumably, the aforementioned trends were also affected by the tribal character of governorates such as Anbar, Ninewa or Salah al-Din, being another factor shaping IDP intentions.

GENDER- AGE BREAKDOWN

Notably, 38% of all IDPs assessed in Erbil were under 14. Additionally, overall there were nearly as many men as there were women among IDPs in the governorate.

2. Gender-age breakdown



SYRIAN CRISIS¹¹

Erbil governorate is also a safe haven for Syrian refugees affected by the prevailing crisis, the number of which reached 110,378 individuals as of May 5. Reportedly, refugees were staying in multiple locations within the governorate, as well as in four refugee camps, which are Kawergosk, Basirma, Qushtapa and Darashakran camps. Reportedly, Kawergosk camp held the largest population of Syrians, amounting to over 10,000 registered individuals. However, the vast majority, 73%, of those driven to Erbil were residing outside of formal camps.

⁹ DTM updates on Anbar crisis as of 5th May; ¹⁰ Monthly narrative report

¹¹ UNHCR as of May 5.

¹² Monthly narrative field reports

SHELTERS

In general, shelter trends in Erbil district were similar to those observed Iraq wide. A very small number of IDPs was residing with host families, due to the fact that the vast majority of the displaced population was driven from governorates of Arab origin, therefore rarely had relatives in the KRI. There is a high rate of families staying in critical shelters and private housing, of which rented houses were the most common. Makhmur district, with 64% of IDPs accommodated by informal settlement, clearly stand out from the others. This district held only IDPs (almost 1,800 families) who displaced within Erbil governorate, and fled out of fear when AGs were approaching their villages. Reportedly, these IDPs came from rural areas, suffered financial depletion and couldn't afford to stay in private housing. Makhmur, now-days is overwhelmed by population residing in critical shelters, such as informal settlements, unfinished/abandoned buildings, school and religious buildings.

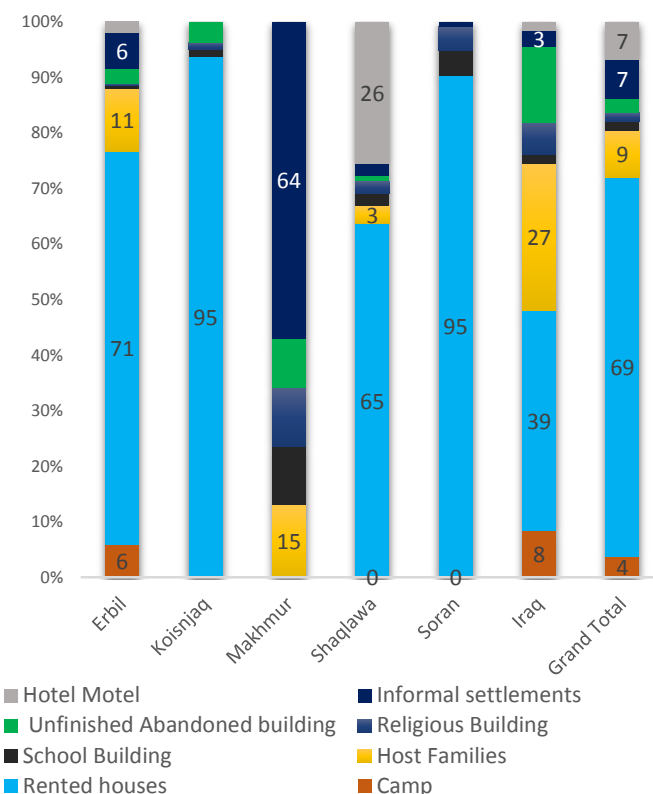
Additionally, families who originated from Ninewa seemed to be the most vulnerable group among the IDP population in the governorate. They were the only groups residing in all types of critical shelters, including a small number of individuals living in school building in Erbil district. Those who displaced within Erbil governorate were also very vulnerable in terms of shelter conditions.

In general, private housing figures were growing over time, while critical shelters seemed stable until March when they declined slightly. Lastly, the number of IDPs living in camps remained stable.

SHELTER MOVEMENT OVER TIME

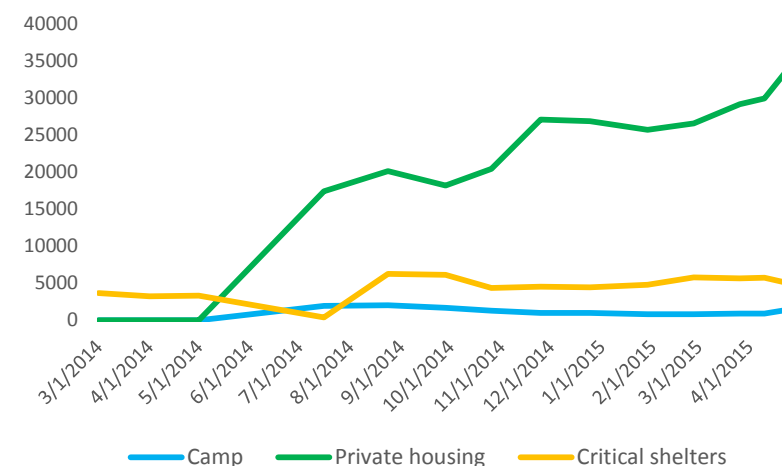
Overall, since the beginning of 2015, rented houses and informal settlements in the governorate saw the biggest increase in population. These extremes indicated that until February the prolonged displacement was shaping a two-tier IDP community in Erbil: those who could still afford to rent a house and those who had suffered financial depletion settling in critical shelters. These trends changed during the period of February to April, where there was a slight decrease in the number of IDPs residing in critical shelters overall and stable growth of those who were renting house. In the previous month, Erbil district noted the most dynamic shelter movement with a drop of IDP families living in critical shelters and a significant increase in rented houses that amounted to almost 5,700 IDP families.

3. Percentage shelters by districts



IDPs in Erbil often live in unsound living conditions

4. Shelters over time¹³



¹³ Critical shelter arrangements include: unfinished and abandoned buildings, religious buildings, school buildings, informal settlements, other formal settlements, as well as unknown arrangements. These shelter types are classified as critical since the facilities are either not sustainable or inadequate to provide safe living conditions to the displaced population. Private settings include host families, rented housing and hotels/motels. While these shelter arrangements should ensure better living standards to their occupants, they can entail a considerable burden to the host community as well as place strain on the functioning of basic services. Please refer to Annex 3 on DTM Shelter definitions for further information.

PRIORITY NEEDS

The majority of respondents in Erbil identified food and access to income to be the top priority needs. IDP population in KRI was affected not only by prolonging displacement, but also by economic impact of disagreement between Baghdad and KRG with regard to central budget allocation.¹⁴

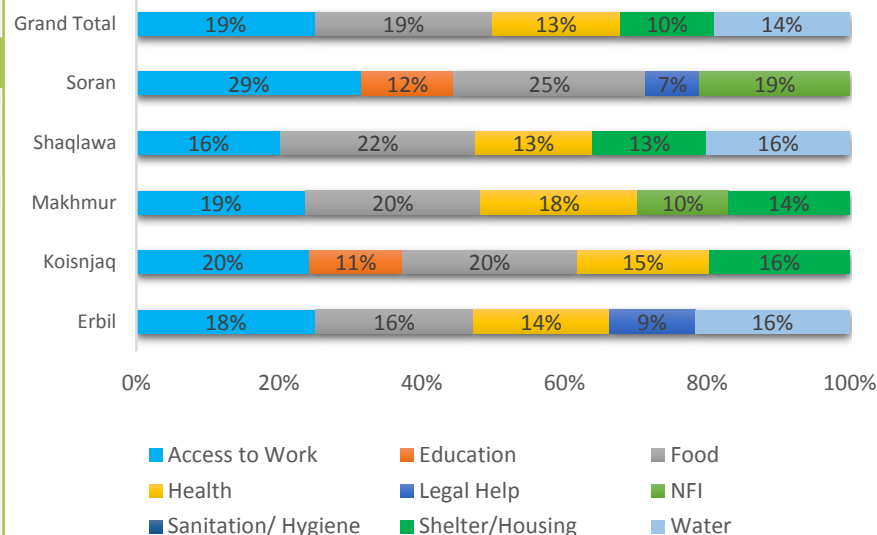
Need for access to income reflected difficulties faced by IDPs in terms of employment originating from language and cultural barriers.

For basic services in KRI were reportedly overloaded due to increase in population¹⁵ water was a dire need for 14% of respondents, most of whom were held by Erbil and Shaqlawa districts that also host the largest number of IDPs in the governorate, therefore struggle the most with service delivery.

Overcrowding resulted in hardship in access to medical care¹⁶, hence health appeared among the top priority needs, identified to be so by 13% of the respondents. Makhmur district, in the vast majority composed of critical shelters and the most vulnerable population in the governorate showed the highest need for health among all districts.

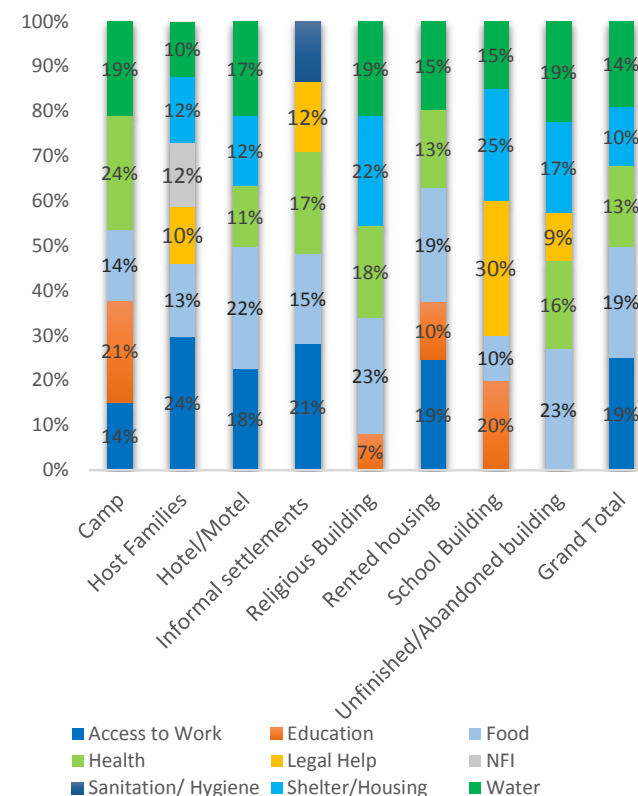
Although, shelter was considered dire need only for 10% of IDPs within governorate overall, districts such as Makhmur (14%), Koisanjaq(16%) and Shaqlawa(13%) assured of its importance, especially for families living in critical shelter types, that were widely spread in aforementioned districts.

5. The five top priority needs by districts



Even though legal help didn't make it way through the most pressing needs for IDPs in Erbil governorate, 30% of families staying in school buildings considered it to be the top priority need what might be related to their unregulated shelter status and primary use of the occupied facility that was creating sense of instability. Moreover, some IDPs lost or have been deprived by AGs of their personal documents, as it occurred in case of Ayda Hanna whose story has been described on the next page.

6. The top five priority needs by shelter types



14. Monthly narrative report
15. ibidem
16. ibidem

PEOPLE BEHIND THE NUMBERS¹⁷

Ayda Hanna is 44 year-old mother of five. Her husband retired and lost his sight due to unsuccessful surgery. Family used to live in Ham-daniyah, Ninewa but was forced to flee due to AGs offensive in August 2014. Ayda recalls that day with a deep sadness in her eyes.

"I was scared when ISIS attacked our village, so I sent my children to Erbil, together with our relatives. I hoped they would be safer there. Shelling lasted for two days. We were alone with my husband and my small daughter Christine who stayed with us. On 8th, at nine o'clock in the morning ISIS men rushed into the village, screaming Allahu Akbar and ordered all Christians to leave before they kill each one of us. It was terrifying but we decided to stay where we are. Thanks to Mullah Abdulhakim, the local imam we had food and water. Two weeks later a man came to our house and dragged us to the local clinic, promising to give us treatment and carry out some medical tests. I didn't know what was happening. After we spent some time in the clinic they ordered us to pack up and leave this area. They took all what we had: money, gold, personal documents...even my daughter. Their driver grabbed her suddenly. I was shrieking, asking him to give her back. But they wouldn't listen... Christine, she was only 4... Then they took us to desert area near Khazir Bridge. We had to walk for seven hours until we reached safety post in Erbil governorate. We were transferred to Ainkawa, then settled in Ashti camp, where we live right now, I'm so grateful to IOM for its help! But my only wish is to see my daughter again..."

Ayda's husband lost his sight due to unsuccessful surgery



Ayda's daughter, Christina, was only four when she was kidnapped by AGs.

17. A human interest story has been provided by Erbil RART team