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## I. POST-FEBRUARY 22 IDP ASSESSMENTS: BACKGROUND

An alarming increase in displacement after the Samarra shrine bombing in February 2006 has highlighted the need for in-depth needs assessments of recently displaced populations. IOM conducts assessments in the central and southern 15 governorates, complementing the registration work conducted by other entities, such as the Ministry of Displacement and Migration.

IOM monitors use IDP Rapid Assessment Templates created in coordination with Cluster F<sup>1</sup> and the IDP Working Group. Monitors gather information from MoDM, IDP tribal and community leaders, local NGOs, local government bodies, and individual IDP families. Based on this information, IOM is distributing *Iraq Displacement Assessments and Statistics* reports, *Governorate Assessment Profiles*, and *Displacement Year in Review* reports.<sup>2</sup> This information is assisting IOM and other agencies to prioritize areas of operation, plan emergency responses, and design long-term, durable solutions programs.

IOM's assessment efforts are ongoing; this should be kept in mind when reading statistics that are represented over time. Also, some statistics represent questions that allowed multiple responses.

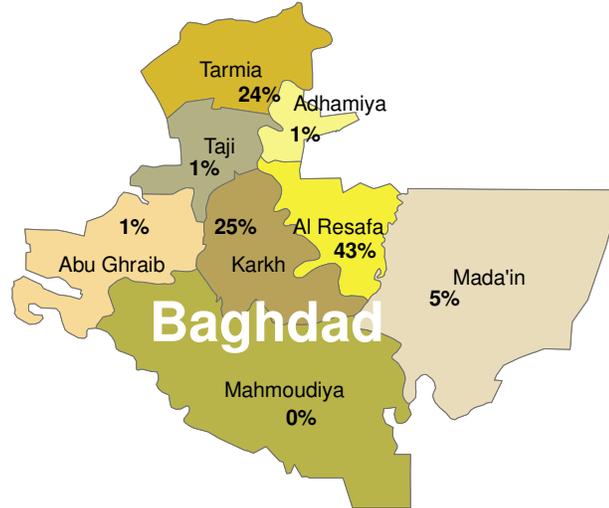
<sup>1</sup> The UN Country Team cluster for IDPs, Refugees, and Durable Solutions, of which IOM is Deputy Cluster Coordinator.

<sup>2</sup> Available at <http://www.iom-iraq.net/idp.html>

## II. IDP OVERVIEW

Percentages on map show distribution by district of the IDP population covered by IOM's assessment.

<b>Capital:</b>	Baghdad
<b>Districts:</b>	Adhamiya, Abu Ghraib, Al Resafa, Karkh, Taji, Tarmia, Mada'in, Mahmoudiya
<b>Population (as per 1997 census):</b>	6,500,000 individuals
<b>Total IDPs post-Feb. 2006<sup>3</sup>:</b>	25,000 families (est. 150,000 individuals)
<b>Total IDP and IDP returnees pre-Feb. 22, 2006<sup>4</sup>:</b>	4,192 families (est. 25, 152 individuals)



### 1. Governorate Background

The Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MoDM) estimates that almost **25,000 families, or an estimated 150,000 individuals**, have been displaced since February 2006<sup>5</sup>, making Baghdad the governorate with the highest number of displaced in the country.

Although situated in a predominantly Sunni Arab region, Baghdad Governorate contains a mix of Iraq's various communities: Arabs, Kurds, Turkmen, Christian Assyrians, and Sunni and Shia Muslims. This complicated makeup of ethnicity, religion and sect, combined with Baghdad's attraction as the Iraqi capital and the home for many international and national entities, makes it especially diverse and as a result, volatile.

IOM's assessments cover 21,087 families<sup>6</sup>; average family size is 6 persons, yielding an estimated total of 126,522 individuals assessed. (Note that these are numbers of IDPs assessed by IOM, not total per governorate. Please refer to the Cluster F Update for total displacement figures.)

### 2. IDP Entry into Governorate:

There are currently no official restrictions on IDP entry into Baghdad, although the unstable security situation and frequent checkpoints and roadblocks prevent freedom of movement.

### 3. Ethnicity and Religion:

IDPs assessed in Baghdad represent two ethnicities (Arab and Kurd) and three religious identities (Shia Muslim, Sunni Muslim, and Yazidi).

<sup>3</sup> As per Ministry of Displacement and Migration. See latest Cluster F Update on IDPs, 15 May 2007

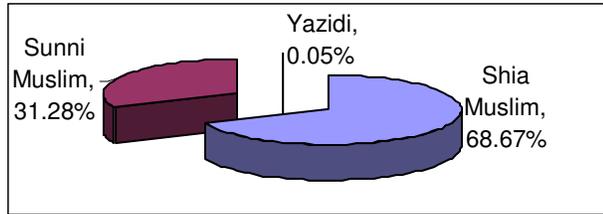
<sup>4</sup> As per IOM's Phase II monitoring, December 2005

<sup>5</sup> Cluster F Update on IDPs, 15 May 2007

<sup>6</sup> The monitors use templates for both IDP groups and individual IDP families; therefore, information obtained from group templates applies to multiple families.

Religion:

Shia Muslim	68.67%
Sunni Muslim	31.28%
Yazidi	0.05%



Ethnicity:

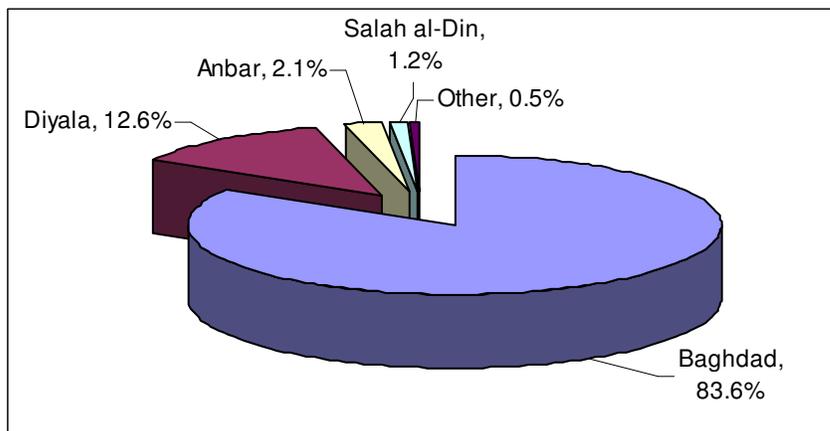
Nearly all IDPs assessed in Baghdad identified themselves as Arab:

Arab	99.73%
Kurd	0.21%
No Answer	0.06%

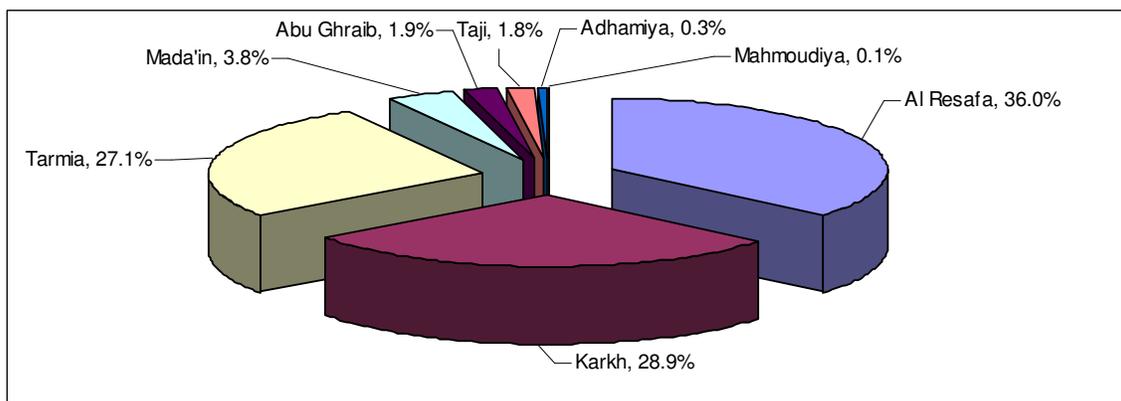
**4. Places of Origin:**

Since February 2006, more IDPs have originated from Baghdad than from any other governorate. Within Baghdad city, Shias tend to be fleeing to the east of the city, while Sunnis tend to be fleeing to the northwest and southwest parts of the city.

Places of origin by percentage:



Places of origin for the 83/6% that was displaced *within* Baghdad:



:

## 5. Reasons for Displacement:

As with most governorates throughout Iraq, Iraqis displaced to or within Baghdad fled due to overall security and concern for their well-being.

When asked why they fled their former place of residence, IDPs responded as follows:

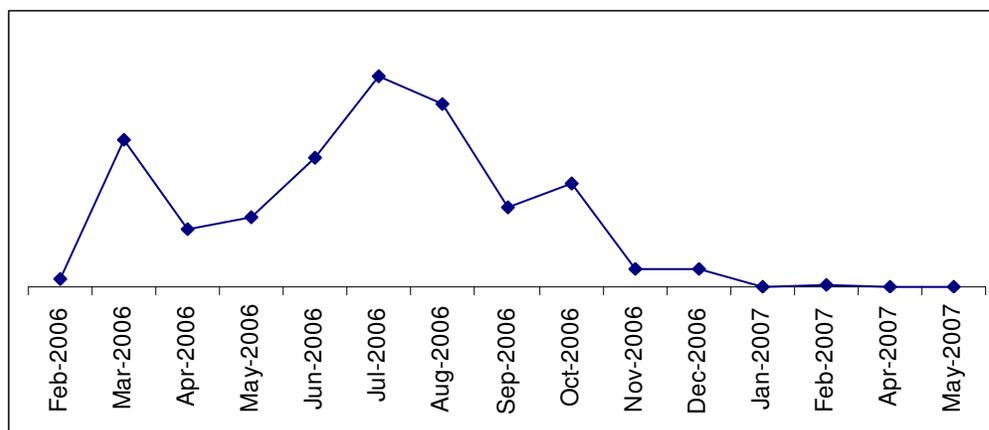


When asked if they thought their family or the IDP group was targeted, and if so, why, the response was as follows:

Belonging to a certain religion or sect	98.52%
Do not think the group was targeted	1.37%
Holding a certain political opinion	0.08%
Belonging to a certain social group	0.02%
Belonging to a certain ethnic group	0.01%

The majority of families have only been displaced once since February 2006. Less than 1% has been displaced two or three times. The majority were displaced in the summer of 2006.

Displacement per month is as follows:



Please note that this is not a representation of population displacement rate in Iraq. This simply represents the various dates of displacement reported by those IDPs in the sample IOM assesses. Since assessments are ongoing, the fact that few IDPs reported dates of displacement in 2007 does not mean that fewer Iraqis are being displaced; it simply means that these populations are just now being identified during the assessments.

## **6. Outline of Pre-Existing IDP Population (pre-February 22, 2006)**

Prior to 2006, IOM monitored 4,192 IDP and IDP returnee families in Baghdad.

Until September 2004, there were few actual IDPs in the capital city. Much of the population movement in Baghdad involved urban and rural poor either seeking employment or using the general lack of law and order following the 2003 conflict to camp in public buildings and receive assistance. The genuinely displaced were few and mainly persons whose houses were damaged or destroyed during the 2003 conflict or who fled persecution in the south before 2003. The IDPs were scattered throughout the city, mixed with urban poor in public buildings, many under threat of eviction.

A large change in these dynamics occurred in October 2004 when the military offensive on Fallujah led to the displacement of over 12,000 families into Baghdad over the course of two weeks. Reconstruction efforts and attempts to revive basic services encouraged the return of the majority of the displaced families.

## **7. IDP Population's Relationship with the Host Community**

The majority of IDPs, who generally fled insecure mixed neighbourhoods to religiously mixed neighbourhoods, reported that they were well received by the host community. Only 1% of those assessed in Baghdad reported that they were not well received.

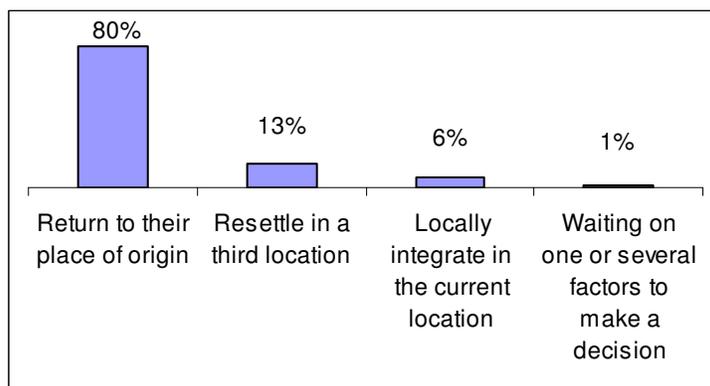
Through local religious establishments, host families in Baghdad have provided financial support to the most affected families, especially those who lost family members. In addition, the host community plays a vital role in providing potable water, such as extending plastic water pipes from their houses to IDPs' shelter.

IDPs who are living with host families or relatives have fewer problems integrating because some are originally from these areas, and those who are not receive assistance and support because they are of the same religious identity and are fleeing persecution in other areas.

## **8. Intentions of post-February 22 IDPs:**

One of the most important and politically charged questions regarding displacement is that of IDPs' intentions: will they stay in their current location (thus crystallizing the polarization of communities), move to a third location, or return home (resulting in potential mass returns)?

By far, the majority of IDPs assessed in Baghdad plan on returning to their place of origin, although for many in Baghdad their place of origin is somewhere within the same governorate. As mentioned, 84% of IDPs assessed were originally from Baghdad, and most plan on returning to their home in Baghdad.



The majority of families are waiting until the security situation improves to implement the aforementioned intentions. Very few plan on returning, moving to a third location, or integrating within a set timeframe. IDPs reported that they would return:

Whenever the security situation improves	96.37%
In 6 to 12 months	2.65%
In less than 6 months	0.78%
In more than 12 months	0.20%

### III. EMERGENCY ASSESSMENT AND NEEDS

#### 1. Security & Vulnerabilities

##### Security

Baghdad is one of the most unstable governorates in Iraq. Ethnic and religious diversity adds to the tension; daily bombing, abductions, and attacks are common.

This instability sometimes affects the movement of the monitors. Checkpoints, closed roads, restricted areas, and overall violence prevent or delay access to some IDP populations.

After months of continued deterioration, the security situation did improve temporarily under the Baghdad Security Plan, but movement was also restricted. The temporary stability did see some returns of IDPs to Baghdad, although the numbers were not significant and some families returned only to retrieve their belongings and return to their places of displacement.

Over 17% of IDP families reported a serious death or injury within their families or IDP groups. Of these, deaths and injuries were reported as follows:

Other deaths	75.68%
Group members killed by another citizen	20.82%
Group members killed by militants or MNF or Iraqi Forces	3.12%
Other injuries	0.39%

Only 1% reported that family members had been detained, and less than 1% reported that they require authorization to move from their current location or must pass through checkpoints. However, 4% also reported that they had family or IDP group members who were unaccounted for.

When asked if there were any restrictions on freedom of movement, 1% said yes, due to security or due to conservative attitudes that specifically prevented the movement of women.

Despite the instability in Baghdad overall, when asked if they feel safe in their current location, 97% reported that they did. Despite the violence in this governorate, IDPs tend to feel safer in their place of displacement than in their place of origin.

##### Vulnerabilities

Only 4% of those assessed reported vulnerabilities among the family members. Of those who have vulnerabilities, the types are as follows:

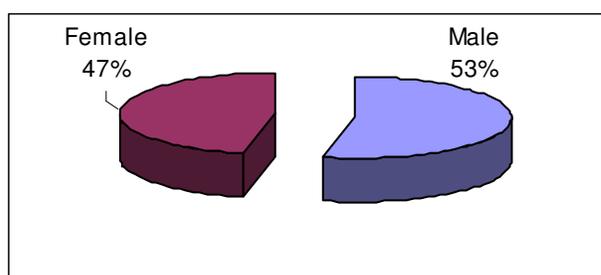
Elderly person	51%
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Female head of household	15%
Other vulnerability	0%
Person with mental disability	2%
Person with serious illness	1%
Pregnant woman	30%

### Women & Children

Women and children face special challenges in places of displacement, including lack of needed health care, nutrition, social constraints, etc. Knowledge of displaced populations' age and gender facilitates needs assessment and the targeting of humanitarian assistance. The following information was obtained through interviews with 486 families (3124 individuals):

Gender:



Breakdown per gender and age group:

Age	Total	Male	Female
Total	100%	100%	100%
Less than 1	7%	6%	7%
1 to 4	17%	18%	17%
5 to 17	44%	44%	43%
18 to 60	25%	25%	25%
More than 60	7%	7%	7%

As with many cities, some IDP children in Baghdad are not attending school because they must work as a source of income for the family.

## **2. Shelter and Basic Services**

### Shelter (living arrangements)

The majority of IDPs are renting. Rented shelter sometimes lacks electricity, water, or sanitation facilities, and is often overcrowded, with numerous families or family members sharing a small space.

Following is the breakdown of shelter for IDPs assessed:

Rented housing	59.3%
In the house of host family or relatives	16.2%
Other	9.1%
Collective town / settlement	6.8%
Public building	6.2%

Tent in camp	2.3%
Former military camp	0.1%

Less than 5% face eviction or other threats to leave their premises:

Threat of court ordered eviction	82.04%
Other threat or pressure	17.35%
Pressure from relatives	0.61%

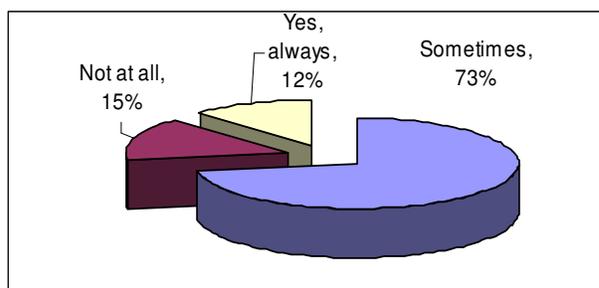
In some areas of Baghdad, insurgents or militias control houses that have been abandoned by the displaced and rent or give them to other displaced families. In other cases, these armed groups destroy the houses.

Families living in certain areas are renting from IDPs who fled their home. These families are being threatened and told that they should not provide the owner with rent, since the owner is of a different sect.

#### Food/Public Distribution System

Depending on their location, some have been able to transfer their PDS ration card. For example, in Al-Shaab neighbourhood, about 60% of the assessed families have transferred their PDS card. However, they are still in need of food assistance due to the delay in PDS distribution or they do not have an income that can cover food costs.

Only 12% percent of IDPs always have access to PDS food rations in Baghdad.



When asked why they did not receive them, IDPs responded as follows:

Food transportation route insecure	42%
Delay transferring PDS registration to new location	29%
Other	10%
Do not know why	5%
No food to distribute	3%
Lack of transportation for food supplies	3%
Families lack documentation or PDS cards	0%
No Answer	7%

Twenty-eight percent (28%) reported that their last PDS distribution was missing items.

When asked if they received food assistance from other sources besides PDS, a large percentage (71%) said they do not. Of those who have received it from other sources, the majority said they receive it from humanitarian organizations or religious charities. A few also received it from national or regional authorities:

Religious Charities & Humanitarian Organizations	78.0%
Humanitarian Organizations	5.5%

Religious Charities	5.4%
Regional Authorities	3.6%
National Authorities & Humanitarian Organizations	2.9%
Other	2.6%
National Authorities & Religious Organizations	0.9%
National Authorities & Religious Organizations	0.6%
Religious Charities & Humanitarian Organizations	0.3%
National Authorities	0.1%

Most IDPs received intermediate or dried food, and a few received fresh food. Types of food received:

Dried food & intermediate food	71.0%
Intermediate food	10.4%
Dried food & fresh food & intermediate food	9.1%
Dried food & fresh food	5.9%
Fresh food	2.5%
Fresh food & intermediate food	0.7%
Dried food	0.4%

#### Water and Sanitation

Access to adequate water and sanitation depends on the location of the IDPs. In some neighbourhoods, municipal water and sewage systems are available, in others, they are not. For example, in Abu Dicheer/Dora there are no adequate sewage systems or water networks. Stagnant water in these areas is increasing cases of diarrhea and skin diseases.

When asked if they have regular access to water, 20% reported that they did not. Of those 80% who do have regular access, the main water sources the group has access to are as follows:

Municipal water (underground pipes)	97.54%
Open / broken pipe	21.78%
Water tanks / trucks	16.76%
Rivers, streams or lakes	4.74%
Public wells	1.57%
Other sources	0.29%

The majority with access to water can access it within 500 meters of their current location. Less than 1% does not have access to toilets.

#### Fuel & Electricity

Throughout Baghdad, electricity is available intermittently, often only for a few hours. Generators are required, although not an option for families who cannot afford them. Access to electricity is as follows:

1-3 hours per day	76.89%
Four or more hours per day	22.88%
No electricity	0.13%
No answer	0.10%

IDPs in Baghdad complained of a lack of fuel, especially kerosene. Religious parties and host communities have provided fuel to some IDP families. However, 25% of IDPs assessed in

Baghdad do not have access to fuel, either because of lack of availability or due to high prices. Those who *do* have access can access the following:

Benzene	98%
Diesel	74%
Propane	33%
Kerosene	31%

### Health Care

Fighting among armed groups and Multi-National Forces in Iraq/Iraqi Forces (MNF-I/IF) has damaged health centers, and the flight of qualified health care professionals and the fear of traveling to or being in a hospital has greatly affected IDPs' access to health care. Frequent attacks and bombings also put a strain on medical facilities when urgent cases arrive and supplies are scarce.

Due to the urban nature of the governorate, there are more health care facilities available than in other governorates. Only 2% reported that there were not accessible health care services in their area. Those without access gave the following reasons:

Financial constraints	39.96%
Other	28.82%
Too distant to access	19.43%
Too dangerous to access	7.64%
No female staff	7.64%

Less than 1% reported suffering from infectious diseases or epidemics within the last 45 days. In addition, over half of the IDPs have been visited by a health care worker in the past 30 days. Health care workers provided the following:

Vaccinations	99.26%
Medical examination	0.72%
Consulting or education	0.02%
No Answer	0.01%

Seventy percent (70%) of group or family members have been involved in vaccination campaign during the following timeframe (as of interview date, not as of report date):

4-6 months ago	37.89%
Last week	29.73%
1-3 months ago	23.32%
Last month	8.53%
7 or more months ago	0.53%

Much more concerning is access to medications: 22% of families do not have access to medications they require.

### Education

IDP movement into and within Baghdad is causing overcrowded conditions in schools and requires multiple sessions in one day. For example, some classrooms have increased to 60 students, especially in primary schools. Violence also prevents children from travelling to the nearest school. Some schools are requiring students to bring documentation proving their place of origin, which is impossible for most IDPs who fled their place of origin due to violence

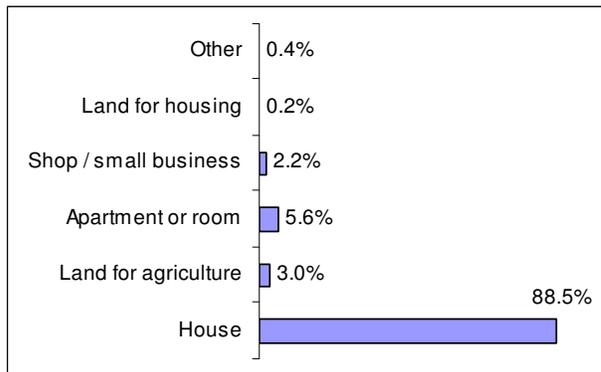
or threats to their lives. Some families simply can't afford the basic requirements for their children to attend school such as books, writing material, and clothes.

### 3. Legal Concerns

#### Property Issues

One of IDPs' concerns is the status of the property they left behind. For example, some IDPs own homes, furniture, office space, etc., and they do not know its condition or if it has been illegally occupied.

Four hundred eighty-six (486) families were asked what type of property they owned in their place of origin, and their responses were as follows:



An alarming number of IDPs claim that their property is illegally occupied. When IDP groups and individual families were asked if they could access their property, their responses were as follows:

Property occupied, controlled or claimed by private citizens	52.66%
Do not know	24.42%
Property destroyed	13.39%
Property accessible	7.02%
Property currently in military use	1.53%
Property occupied, controlled or claimed by government	0.98%

If conditions allow, IDPs take possessions with them when they flee their home; this facilitates integration into their place of displacement. IDPs were able to take the following with them when they were displaced:

Car transportation	72.60%
Food	47.46%
Winter clothing	44.03%
Tools	41.50%
Other	37.49%
Livestock	33.13%

#### Documentation

The majority of IDPs assessed in Baghdad carry some form of documentation, as follows:

Nationality Certificates	95.50%
ID Cards	94.60%
Marriage Documents	80.04%
Birth Certificates	67.63%
Passports	31.16%
Death Certificates	21.48%
Other Documents	17.40%

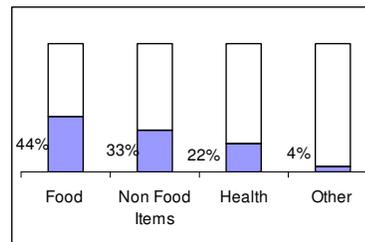
#### IV. HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE RECEIVED

The majority of IDPs in Baghdad have received some type of humanitarian assistance. The host community and relatives have provided the most support, followed closely by religious groups and humanitarian organizations:

Has not received assistance	25.30%
Host community	14.62%
Relatives	13.59%
Religious group	13.48%
Humanitarian agency	11.01%
Iraqi Red Crescent	10.79%
MoDM	10.13%
Other Iraqi Government body	1.05%
Other	0.03%

When asked what type of assistance the aforementioned entities provided, responses were as follows:

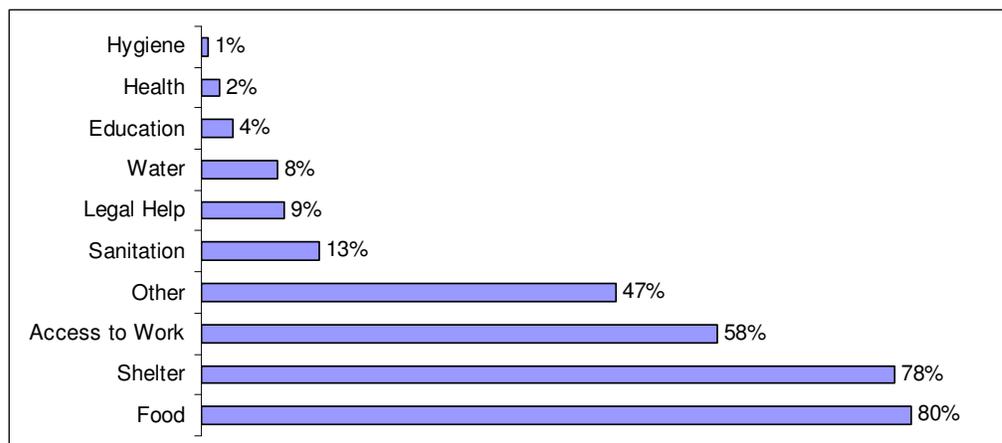
Food	43.56%
Non Food Items	32.75%
Health	21.85%
Other	4.41%



#### V. PRIORITY NEEDS

##### Top priority needs:

IDPs were asked to list their top priority needs in order to best identify what projects can be implemented to help the population. The most urgent needs were identified as follows:



### **Areas/Populations in Need of Priority Assistance:**

Several especially vulnerable IDP populations were identified as requiring priority assistance:

Monitors identified a group of Christian IDPs recently displaced from Al-Dora neighbourhood due to general violence and insurgents targeting Christian IDPs. These IDPs have reported that at their place of origin, they rarely left their homes over the past six months due to fear of being targeted. These IDPs feel safer in their current location, but are still concerned about their wellbeing. They claim that they have not received their PDS rations for seven months due to a delay in receiving their new ration card and due to the security situation in Al-Dora. These IDPs are greatly in need of food assistance.

In May, 70 families were identified in Al-Zafraniya in need of assistance. These IDP families live on public land in mud and block houses without water/sanitation or no electricity services. The IDPs access water through broken pipes they have set up, or by walking one kilometer to host communities' houses. The families are in need of water tanks and generators.

Another vulnerable group of IDPs (45 families) were identified in Kharadet-Mariam neighborhood. Due to threats they have received due to intermarriage (Shia and Sunni), they request legal help to obtain official marriage contracts/licenses for their marriages. They also requested assistance in obtaining birth certificates for their children.

Several months ago a bombing in Al-Sadryia, a popular shopping area, destroyed rented housing and left many IDPs homeless. They in need of shelter assistance.

Recently about 85 IDP families fled to Al-Hussieniya sub-district, a suburb of Baghdad, due to growing violence of Diyala. They are living in tents that have been set up by the Iraq Red Crescent Society, but they do not have access to health services, sanitation facilities, etc. They are in urgent need of food and non-food items.

### **Recommendations for Assistance:**

Interviewed IDPs provided suggestions on priority assistance their communities require:

In Al-Baladiat area, a former military base, IDPs suggested that this land be allocated to them and assistance provided to help them build simple homes.

Many IDPs suggested assistance in obtaining employment in the governmental sector, such as working in the police force or Iraqi army. Others who worked in factories in their places of origin, such as brick factories, suggested assistance in finding jobs in these same occupations.

A financial donation for a limited period of time was suggested by another group of IDPs in order to help them start income-generating projects or to cover rental fees.

IDPs in Al-Sadryia suggested the rehabilitation of flats destroyed or damaged by the bombing.

In Abu Dicheer/Dora, IDPs suggested the installation of a water compact unit since there is no available water network.

IDPs in Al-Zafraniya suggested building a new school, since the current school does not have the capacity for the large influx of IDP children. These IDPs also suggested paving the road that leads to Al-Zafraniya and supplying them with generators.

## CONCLUSION

Baghdad is Iraq's most populous and diverse governorate. More people have been displaced from or within Baghdad than any other governorate, and Baghdad also contains the largest IDP population. The majority of IDPs in Baghdad fled due to threats to life, and nearly all felt they were targeted for their religious identity. Most of the displaced left houses behind, many of which have been illegally occupied. Despite general insecurity, IDPs in Baghdad tend to feel safe in their new location. Most of them are living in rented housing with access to water and health care. Bureaucratic delays and distribution issues are preventing many IDPs from accessing PDS food rations; there is also a general need for shelter and employment.

Although many humanitarian organizations are working in Iraq, insecurity and the sheer size of the displaced population complicate the delivery of aid. IDPs ranked food, shelter, and employment as their most important needs. There is a great need for a comprehensive humanitarian response in coordination with an overall Iraqi government plan to respond to the displaced.

Insecurity is the root cause of displacement and displacement will continue while insecurity persists. Since IDPs are generally displaced from ethnically diverse areas to more homogenous ones, continued insecurity fuels communal polarization in Iraq. There is a danger that continued displacement will entrench sectarian divisions.

*For further information on IDP displacement in Iraq, please contact Martin Ocaga, IOM Iraq IDP Program Manager at [mocaga@iom-iraq.net](mailto:mocaga@iom-iraq.net) (+962 79 64 00581) or Dana Graber, Iraq Displacement Specialist, at [dgrab@iom-iraq.net](mailto:dgrab@iom-iraq.net) (+962 79 611 1759).*