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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 F¹ 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.² 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.

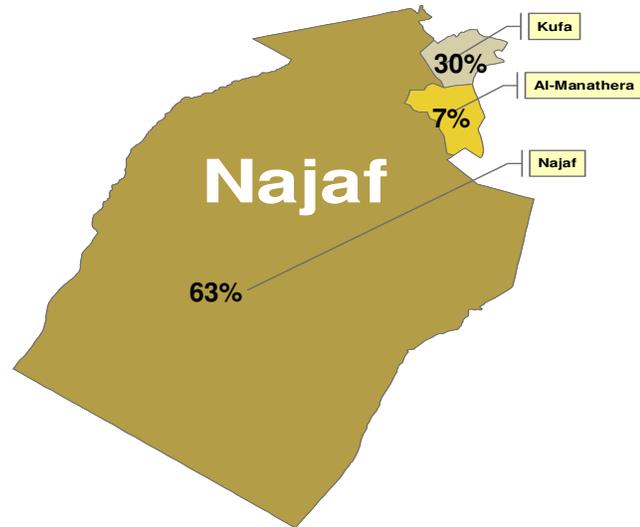
¹ The UN Country Team cluster for IDPs, Refugees, and Durable Solutions, of which IOM is Deputy Cluster Coordinator.

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

II. IDP OVERVIEW

Percentages on map show distribution by district of the post-Feb. 2006 IDP population covered by IOM's assessment.

Capital:	Najaf
Districts:	Kufa, Al-Manathera, Najaf
Population (as per 1997 census):	929,995 individuals
Total IDPs post-Feb. 2006³:	7,151 families (est. 42,906 individuals)
Total IDP and IDP returnees pre-Feb. 22, 2006⁴:	3,993 (est. 23,958 individuals)



1. Governorate Background

Najaf is situated in southern Iraq and hosts one of the two holiest Shia cities in Iraq. Najaf city is a destination for Shia pilgrims, with Mecca and Medina being the only other locations that receive more Muslim pilgrims. The city is also the centre of Shia political power in Iraq.

The Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MoDM) estimates that **7,151 families**, or an estimated **42,906 individuals**, have been displaced in Najaf since February 2006⁵.

IOM's assessments cover 4,768 families⁶ of these IDP families. Average family size is six persons, yielding an estimated total of 28,608 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:

On 12 December 2006, the Governor of Najaf issued an order preventing new IDPs from entering Najaf district; the order allows them to enter the other districts.

3. Ethnicity and Religion:

All IDPs assessed were Shia and 99.8% were Arab; nine Turkmen Shia families were assessed.

4. Places of Origin:

Most IDPs assessed in Najaf originated from Baghdad governorate, and almost all fled the central governorates.

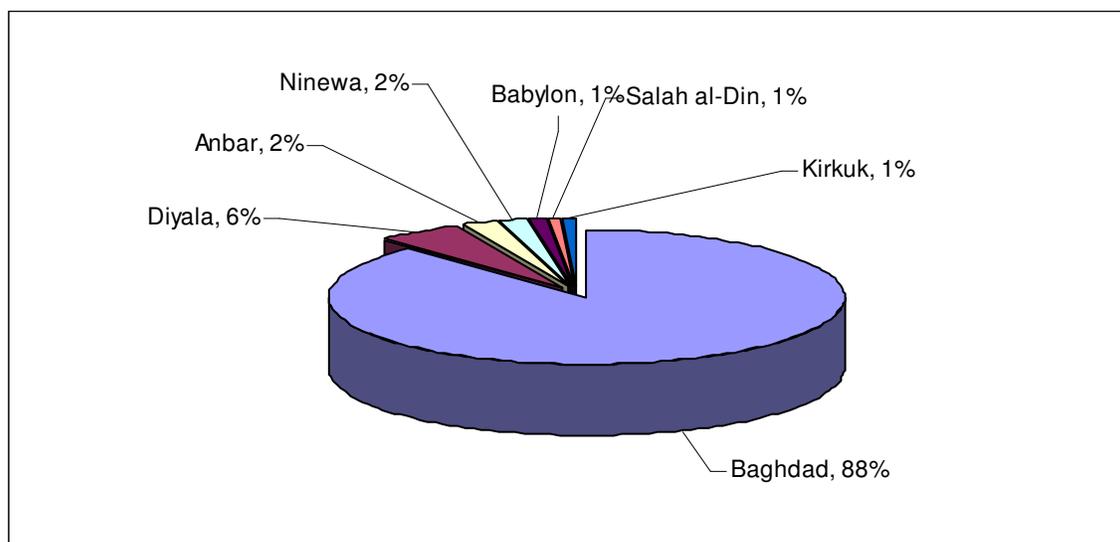
Places of origin for IDPs in Najaf:

³ As per Ministry of Displacement and Migration. See May 2007 MoDM report "Internally Deportees and Displaced Families of 15 Governorates"

⁴ As per IOM's Phase II monitoring, December 2005

⁵ May 2007 MoDM report "Internally Deportees and Displaced Families of 15 Governorates"

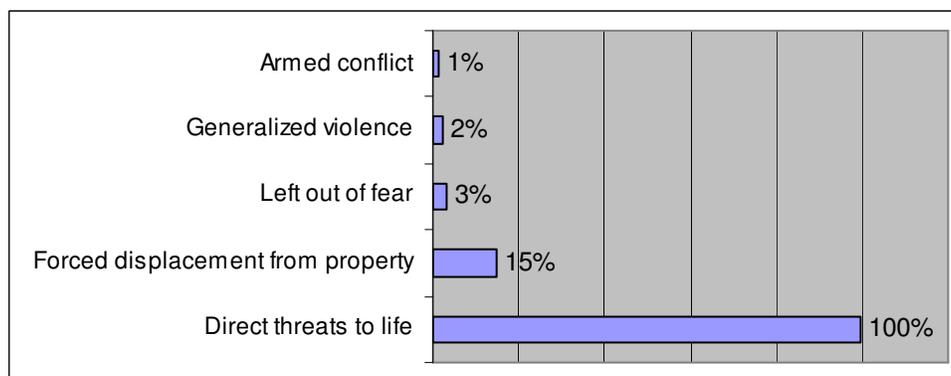
⁶ The monitors use templates for both IDP groups and individual IDP families; therefore, information obtained from group templates applies to multiple families.



5. Reasons for Displacement:

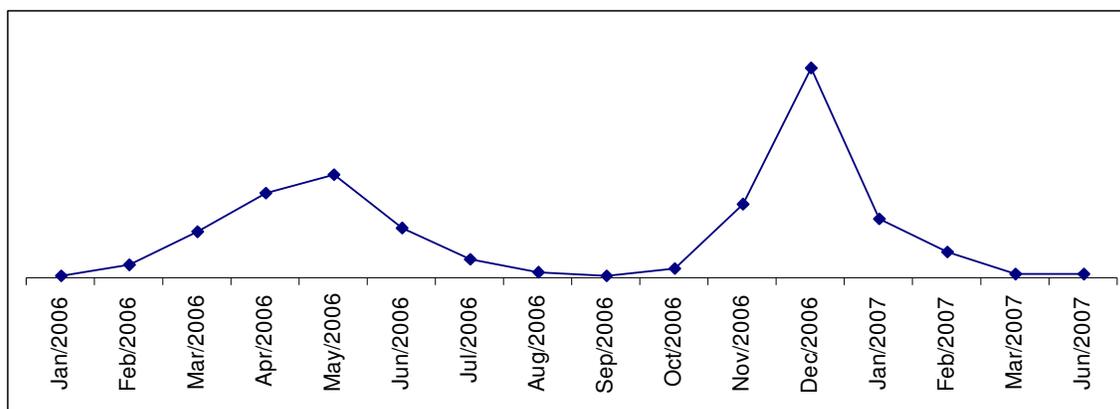
All IDPs interviewed in Najaf said they fled because of direct threats to life, whether it was the abduction or assignation of family or neighbours, or direct threats communicated via mobile, texts, anonymous notes, messengers, etc.

IDPs listed their top reasons for fleeing as follows:



When asked why they or their families were targeted, 99.3% of IDPs assessed responded that they thought it was due to belonging to a certain religion or sect. Almost all (99.7%) IDPs assessed had been displaced once.

December 2006 was by far the most frequently reported date of displacement among IDPs assessed. In the months before implementation of the Baghdad Security Plan, which started in February, the security situation deteriorated greatly, which might explain the spike in displacement from Baghdad to Najaf.



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)

Before February 2006, the total number of IDP families IOM monitored in Najaf was 3,993. Around 160 post-2003 conflict IDP families and 3,833 pre-2003 conflict IDP families resided in Najaf before the newly-displaced arrived. Most of these IDPs were from Basrah, Thi-Qar and Missan. The majority lived in Najaf city and the remainder lived on farms in the surrounding countryside. Some of them occupied buildings or lands belonging to the government.

The majority of the displaced in Najaf came to Najaf prior to the 2003 conflict. The primary reasons for their displacement were the Iraq/Iran war, human rights violations, the draining of the marshes and drought.

Most of the pre-February 2006 displaced people are women and orphans suffering from poverty. Some have up to seven or eight children, many under ten years of age. Most of those who were displaced before the 2003 conflict report that they are unwilling to return to their place of origin.

There is a noticeable pocket of economic migrants heavily infused with the IDPs in search of better economic opportunities.

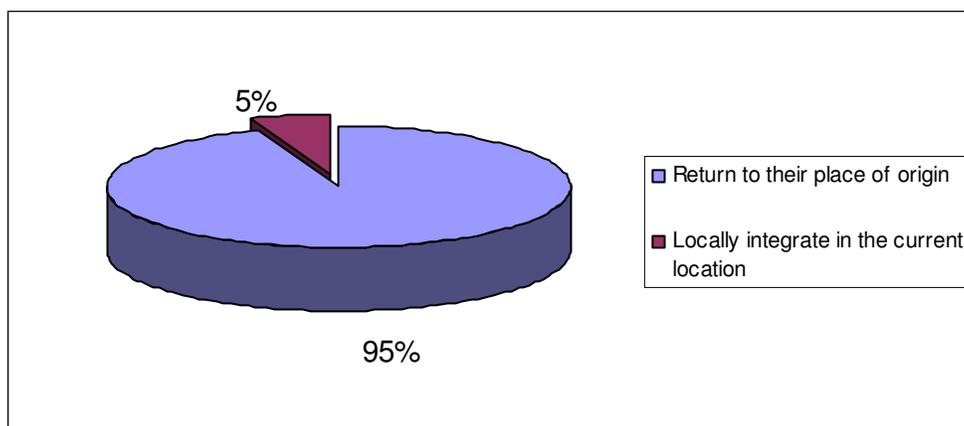
7. IDP Population's Relationship with the Host Community

There are some tensions between IDPs and the host community over competition for employment, increased rent prices, etc. These tensions are more pronounced in poorer areas (Al-Ansar, Al-Jazera, Al-Thawra). Generally the relationship is good, although IDPs assessed in Najaf have received less aid from the host community than in other governorates.

8. Intentions of post-February 22 IDPs:

Assessing IDPs' intentions is a critical component of targeting humanitarian aid, since appropriate aid will depend on whether IDPs stay and integrate or return home. This question also has political significance in Iraq: since much displacement has occurred along communal fractures, integration of IDPs into homogenous communities could entrench those divisions.

Nearly all IDPs assessed (95%) intend to return home, which is unusual, considering that most IDPs who flee to the south plan to stay in their current location.



The majority of IDPs assessed in Najaf responded that they will wait until the security situation improves to implement their intentions.

III. EMERGENCY ASSESSMENT AND NEEDS

1. Security & Vulnerabilities

Security

The security situation in Najaf has been generally stable over recent months. Security tightens intermittently in response to specific incidents, such as bombings, or at times of peak pilgrimage to Najaf's Shia shrines. Almost all (99%) IDPs assessed reported that they felt safe in their current location.

IDPs and monitors have relatively good freedom of movement; six percent (6%) of families reported needing authorization to move from their current location, while none of those assessed reported having to pass through a checkpoint in order to move near their homes.

Ten percent (10%) of 183 individual IDP families assessed in Najaf reported a death or serious injury within their families. Eighty percent (80%) of these deaths were reported as members killed by another citizen; however, these most likely occurred in their place of origin.

Only 3% of IDPs assessed reported that they had family members who were unaccounted for. One percent (1%) reported that family members had been detained.

Vulnerabilities

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

Elderly person	53.7%
Female head of household	24.9%
Person with serious illness	17.6%
Person with mental disability	2.3%
Pregnant woman	1.5%

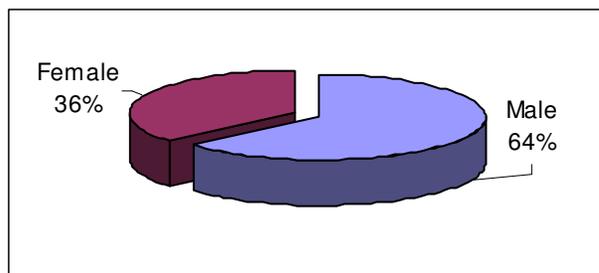
Women & Children

Displacement can be particularly problematic for women and children because they require specific types of nutrition and health care, and may also be more impacted by social constraints in their place of displacement. Assessment of a population's gender and age makeup helps aid planners determine the most appropriate types of assistance.

IDP women interviewed in Najaf reported a number of concerns. Najaf city is religiously conservative and IDP women expressed discomfort with covering themselves and with the general restrictions on their movement. In Manathera camp a lack of bathrooms prevents women from washing themselves and therefore complicates their religious practice.

Throughout Iraq, assessments are revealing that displacement is close to equally distributed among females and males. For Najaf, the following information was obtained through interviews with 183 families (1185 individuals):

Gender:



Breakdown per gender and age group:

Age	Total	Male	Female
Total	100%	64%	36%
Less than 1	1%	0%	0%
1 to 4	5%	3%	2%
5 to 17	50%	32%	18%
18 to 60	43%	27%	16%
More than 60	1%	1%	0%

2. Shelter and Basic Services

Shelter (living arrangements)

The majority of IDPs assessed in Najaf are renting. The next most frequent type of shelter is collective settlement. An unusually low number of IDPs are living with relatives or a host family; many IDPs do not know anyone in Najaf but came due to its relative safety.

Many IDPs are also living in Manathera camp, which lacks property sanitation facilities for men and women, has overcrowded conditions in the tents, and lacks proper hygiene and health care⁷.

Following is the breakdown of shelter for IDPs assessed:

⁷ For more information on this camp and others, see IOM's IDP Camp Update, to be released July 2007.

Rented housing	80.0%
Collective town / settlement	15.0%
In the house of host family or relatives	2.8%
Public building	2.1%
Former military camp	0.1%
Other	0.1%

One percent (1%) reported that they face eviction or other threats to leave their premises. For those who face these threats, the reasons were reported as follows:

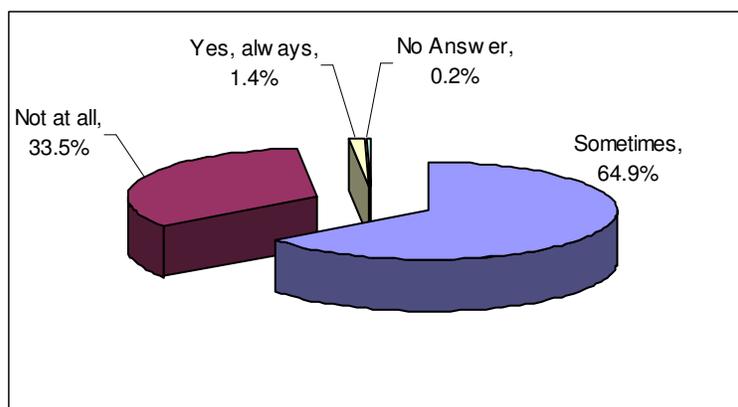
Threat of court ordered eviction	71.1%
Pressure from relatives	28.9%

Food/Public Distribution System (PDS)

Iraqis throughout the country depend on the Public Distribution System food rations, and this is especially true for IDPs, many whom do not have a source of income or savings to adequately cover their needs, including food. In Najaf, a high percentage (34%) of IDPs assessed reported no access to PDS rations.

Insecurity prevents the transport of PDS rations from outside of Najaf to the distribution locations. However, a major factor that prevents IDPs from receiving rations is difficulty in transferring their PDS registration cards. This bureaucratic process requires documentation, sometimes necessitating deregistration in place of origin – an impractical trip for most IDPs due to the same insecurity that caused their displacement. The transfer process is long, requiring IDPs to rely on the host community or their own finances in the meantime.

PDS access is as follows:



This can be further broken down by district:

District	Yes, always	Not at all	Sometimes
Al-Manathera		36%	64%
Kufa		35%	64%
Najaf	2%	32%	65%

Reasons presented for lack of PDS access are as follows:

Food transportation route insecure	54.1%
Delay transferring PDS registration to new location	45.1%
Do not know why	1.2%
Families lack documentation or PDS cards	0.4%

Only 6% of those who did receive rations said that they were missing items.

A large majority (84%) of IDPs assessed in Najaf had received food assistance from a source besides PDS. For those who did receive food aid from other sources, national authorities were the most frequent source:

	Of those who received food	Of total assessed
National authorities	66.0%	55.4%
Humanitarian organizations	33.0%	27.7%
Religious charities	6.8%	5.7%

Types of food received:

	Of those who received food	Of total assessed
Dried food	97.1%	81.1%
Dried food / Intermediate food	2.9%	2.4%

Water and Sanitation

The IDP water and sanitation situation in Najaf is better than in most governorates. Nearly all (99%) IDPs assessed have regular access to water, practically all of whom can access municipal water networks. Access to water sources is as follows:

	Of those with access	Of total assessed
Municipal water (underground pipes)	99.0%	98.0%
Open / broken pipe	0.6%	0.6%
Water tanks / trucks	0.5%	0.5%

Ninety-seven percent (97%) of those assessed have access to toilets. There is however an urgent need for sanitation in some areas. In Al-Rahma and Al-Askari neighborhood, IDPs live in a collective settlement without a sewage network. The unsanitary conditions produce health problems, such as widespread diarrhea among children. IDPs here illegally tap into existing municipal pipes for potable water. In Manathera camp, a lack of bathrooms produces a general lack of hygiene.

Fuel & Electricity

Most IDPs have good access to electricity (4 or more hours a day). In some areas IDP families tap into the host communities' electrical networks, which tends to overload the supply and cause power cuts.

Access to electricity is as follows:

Four or more hours per day	91.9%
1-3 hours per day	5.7%
No electricity	2.1%

No answer 0.2%

There is a general shortage of fuel which affects both IDPs and the host community. Ninety-six percent (96%) of IDPs assessed reported that they have no access to fuel, due to financial constraints or unavailability in the market. For those who can access fuel, availability is as follows:

	Of those with access	Of total assessed
Benzene	64.7%	1.8%
Diesel	41.2%	1.2%
Kerosene	6.6%	0.2%
Propane	92.6%	2.6%

Health Care

The IDP health care situation in Najaf is exceptionally good compared with other governorates. The Ministry of Health has ordered that all health facilities treat IDPs free of charge, and that IDPs be vaccinated along with the local population. Only 1.5% of IDPs assessed in Najaf reported that there were no health care services available to them, while less than 1% reported that they could not access medications that they need. Less than 1% reported suffering infectious diseases/epidemics in the past 45 days*. There is however a serious lack of health care in Manathera camp, where many are sick and must wait for the ambulance which comes every two days from Al-Manathera hospital.

Only 23% of IDPs assessed in Najaf have been visited by a health care worker in the past 30 days*. When healthcare workers did visit, they provided the following services:

	Of those who were visited	Of total assessed
Vaccinations	95.0%	22.1%
Medical examination	5.0%	1.2%
Drug distribution	5.0%	1.2%

Twenty-three percent (23%) of IDPs assessed in Najaf reported being involved in a vaccination campaign. Those who were received vaccinations during the following timeframe*:

1-3 months ago	73.7%
Last month	20.6%
Last week	2.8%
7 or more months ago	1.6%
4-6 months ago	1.4%

Education

In general IDP children are able to attend schools, although some families keep their children at home to work because of their poor economic condition. IDP children are accepted into classes and allowed a month to provide documentation to verify their class level in place of origin. In Manathera camp there are about 200 IDP students who cannot study because there are no schools nearby.

* From date of interview

3. Legal Concerns

Property Issues

Nearly all IDPs assessed in Najaf simply do not know the condition of the property and possessions they had left behind. Responses were as follows:

Do not know	97.4%
Property occupied, controlled or claimed by private citizens	2.6%
Property destroyed	1.4%
Property accessible	0.5%
Property occupied, controlled or claimed by government	0.1%

Those 183 individual families who were interviewed were asked if they had property they left behind. Most IDPs owned a house:

House	98.4%
Land for agriculture	0.5%
Apartment or room	0.5%
Shop / small business	0.5%

IDPs who fled to Najaf generally took fewer items with them than IDPs in other governorate. IDPs were able to take the following with them when they were displaced:

Car transportation	26.3%
Winter clothing	24.8%
Tools	23.8%
Other	10.5%
Food	9.8%
Livestock	6.0%

Documentation

IDPs assessed in Najaf possessed the following types of documentation:

Nationality certificates	95.9%
ID cards	94.1%
Marriage documents	29.5%
Birth certificates	28.3%
Death certificates	11.4%
Passports	8.2%
Other documents	1.8%

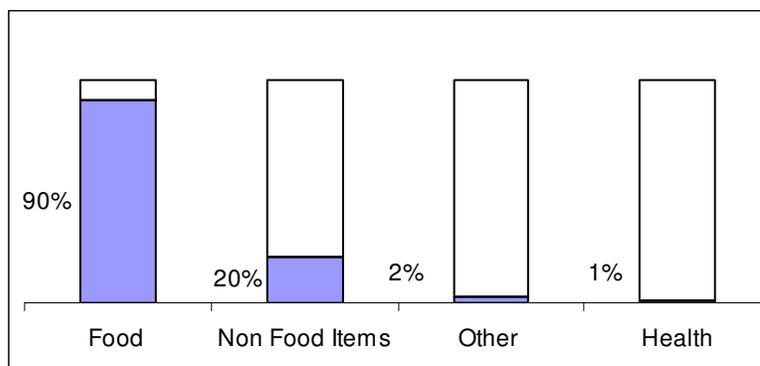
IV. HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE RECEIVED

Ninety-one percent (91%) of IDPs assessed in Najaf reported that they had received assistance since they fled. This was primarily provided by MoDM:

	Of those who received aid	Of total assessed
MoDM	76.9%	69.9%

Iraqi Red Crescent	35.2%	32.0%
Humanitarian organizations	27.8%	25.3%
Religious group	14.4%	13.1%
Host community	1.6%	1.5%
Relatives	1.5%	1.4%
Other Iraqi Government body	0.3%	0.3%
Other	0.2%	0.2%

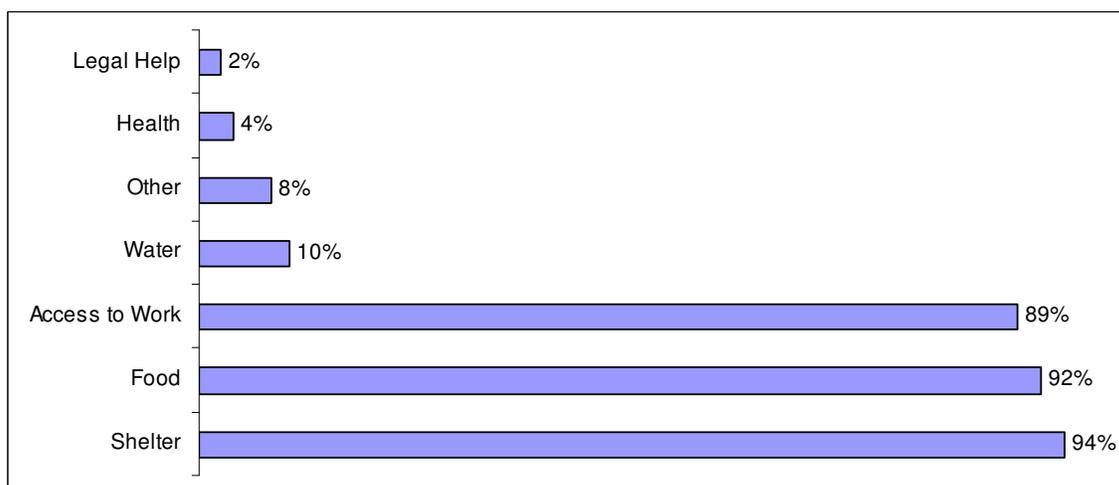
These organizations provided the following:



V. PRIORITY NEEDS

Top priority needs:

IDPs assessed ranked shelter and food as their highest priority need, followed closely by employment opportunities. Priority needs were as follows:



Areas/Populations in Need of Priority Assistance:

There is an IDP family (10 members) in Al-Huwaysh, Najaf district that was displaced from Abu Ghraib, Baghdad. This family is living in an unfinished building. The head of the family is crippled and one of the children is paralytic and epileptic. They have not transferred their PDS card yet and depend on the daily work of one of the children. They urgently need food and non-food items.

In Al-Qudus, south of Najaf city, there are nine IDP families displaced from Baghdad. They are camping in tents after local authorities demolished their settlement. They depend completely on host communities and charities. They urgently need food, non-food items, employment, and proper shelter.

In Al-Melad neighbourhood, Najaf city there are six IDP families displaced from Baghdad. They are crowded together in one house. There is only one man able to work in the group. The families cannot afford to send their children to school and some were banned because they did not wear shoes. Most of these people have anaemia, one has pneumonia, and another has pregnancy problems. This group urgently needs food, non-food items, proper shelter, job opportunities, and health care.

Recommendations for Assistance:

IDPs provided the following recommendations for community assistance projects:

- Garbage collection project for the IDP collective settlement in Al-Rahma, Najaf district, since IDP settlements are not covered by municipality garbage collection
- Establish toilets and water tanks for Manathera camp
- Caravan for Manathera camp, with dimensions of (3.75 * 12) m consisting of six latrines, six baths, four wash basins with mirror and electrical water heaters
- Provide sewing machines to those IDP women in Mesan neighbourhood, Kufa district who are skilled seamstresses
- Extend water pipes to Al-Radhawiya neighbourhood, since IDPs there have no potable water
- Provide IDPs with start-up loans for income generation projects
- Build an ice factory near Manathera camp, which will employ large numbers of IDPs and also provide ice for the camp during the hot season

CONCLUSION

Najaf city is a sacred destination for Shia pilgrims worldwide and is the seat of the Iraqi Shia clerical establishment. There is a sizeable pre-2003 displaced population in Najaf mostly consisting of Shia who fled central governorates during the former regime. Nearly all post-February 2006 IDPs assessed were Shia Arab and the majority had fled sectarian violence in Baghdad.

Security in Najaf is relatively stable. Restrictions on movement tighten after bombings or during times of peak pilgrimage. Nearly all IDPs assessed reported that they feel safe, and IDP and monitor movement is generally free. The majority of IDPs assessed in Najaf are renting, while 15% live in collective settlements. Nearly all (95%) those assessed intend to return home, which is unusual in the south.

A third of IDPs assessed have no access to PDS rations due to insecurity but also because of bureaucratic obstacles to PDS registration transfer. Many (84%) IDPs had received aid from an alternate source, mainly national authorities or humanitarian organizations. IDPs assessed in Najaf generally had good access to water and sanitation, although in areas such as Al-Rahma and Al-Askari neighbourhoods or in collective camps there is a severe shortage of water and lack of sanitation. Very few IDPs are able to access fuel at all, which reflects the general shortage throughout Najaf governorate.

IDP access to health care in Najaf is very good compared with other governorates; nearly all IDPs assessed could access clinics and medications. However, only a quarter of those assessed had received vaccinations.

IDPs reported food, access to work and better shelter as their highest priority needs. Ninety-one percent (91%) of IDPs assessed had received humanitarian assistance, primarily provided by MoDM. This aid was mainly food. Humanitarian agencies should continue to seek to reach vulnerable groups in more remote areas. As displacement prolongs, IDPs will need employment, especially the majority who rent. Durable solutions should include projects that at least generate short-term income for those IDPs that cannot return home soon due to insecurity.

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