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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.

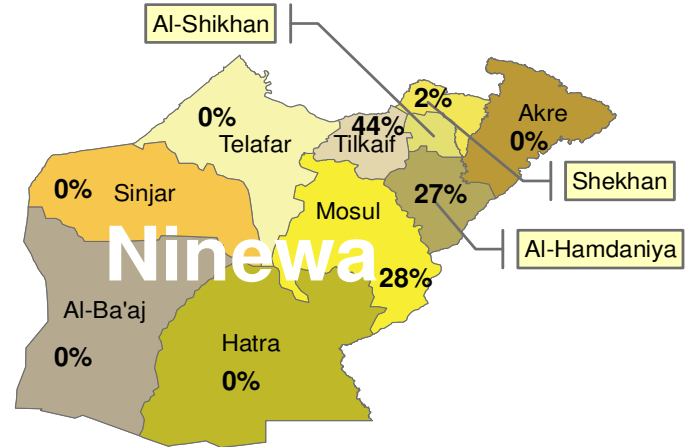
<sup>1</sup> The UN Country Team cluster for IDPs, Refugees, and Durable Solutions, of which IOM is Deputy Cluster Coordinator.

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

## II. IDP OVERVIEW

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

<b>Capital:</b>	Mosul
<b>Districts:</b>	Al-Ba'aj, Hatra, Shekhan, Sinjar, Telafar, Tilkaif, Al-Hamdaniya, Mosul, Al-Shikhan.
<b>Population (as per 1997 census):</b>	2,453,116
<b>Total IDPs post-Feb. 2006<sup>3</sup>:</b>	6,105 families (est. 36,630 individuals)
<b>Total IDP and IDP returnees pre-Feb. 22, 2006<sup>4</sup>:</b>	11,709 families (est. 70,254 individuals)



### 1. Governorate Background

Ninewa Governorate remains the centre of some of Iraq's most important oilfields. Mosul, the capital of the governorate, is Iraq's third largest city after Baghdad and Basrah. The city hosts a diverse mix of ethnicities and religions, including Arabs, Kurds, Shabaks, Assyrians, Turkmen and Armenians. It is also currently one of the most unstable areas in Ninewa, along with Telafar.

The Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MoDM) estimates that almost **6,105 families<sup>5</sup>**, or an estimated **36,630 individuals**, have been displaced to or within Ninewa since February 2006.

IOM's assessments cover 5,543 families of the total displaced<sup>6</sup>. Average family size is six persons, yielding an estimated total of 33,258 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:

No restriction on IDP entry into the governorate has been reported.

### 3. Ethnicity and Religion:

A large majority (71.9%) of post-February 2006 IDPs assessed in Ninewa are Assyrian Christians. Christians are frequently fleeing to Ninewa, where there are Christian communities, or to the northern three governorates.

Ethnicity:

Assyrian	71.9%
Arab	21.7%
Turkmen	6.1%

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

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

<sup>5</sup> May 2007 MoDM report "Internally Deportees and Displaced Families of 15 Governorates"

<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.

Other 0.2%

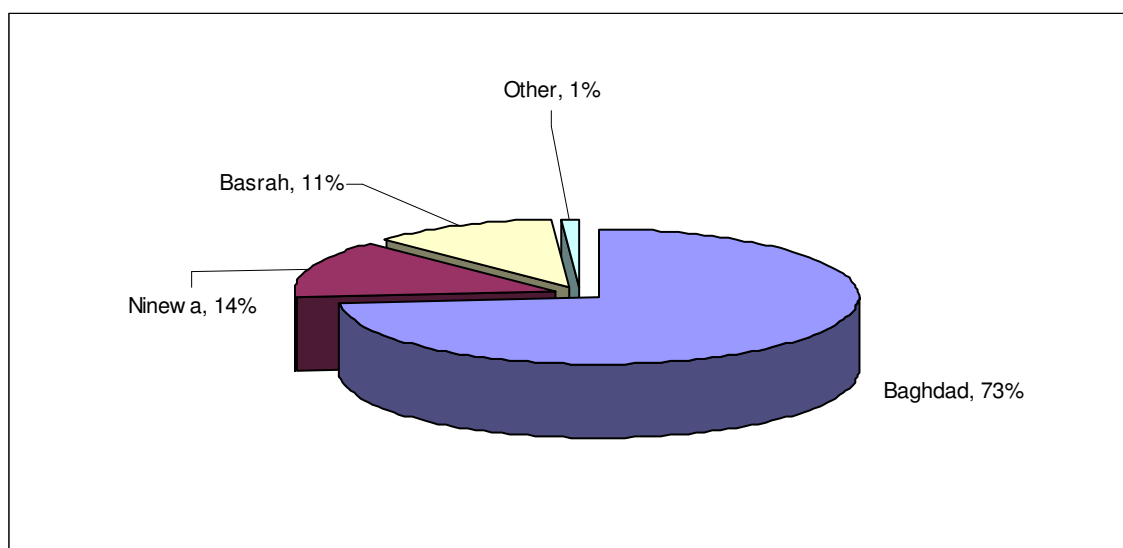
Religion:

Christian 71.9%  
Sunni Muslim 27.3%  
Shia Muslim 0.8%

**4. Places of Origin:**

The majority of IDPs assessed in Ninewa come from Baghdad (73%), while a few come from within Ninewa itself (14%), Basrah (11%) and other governorates (1%).

Place of origin:



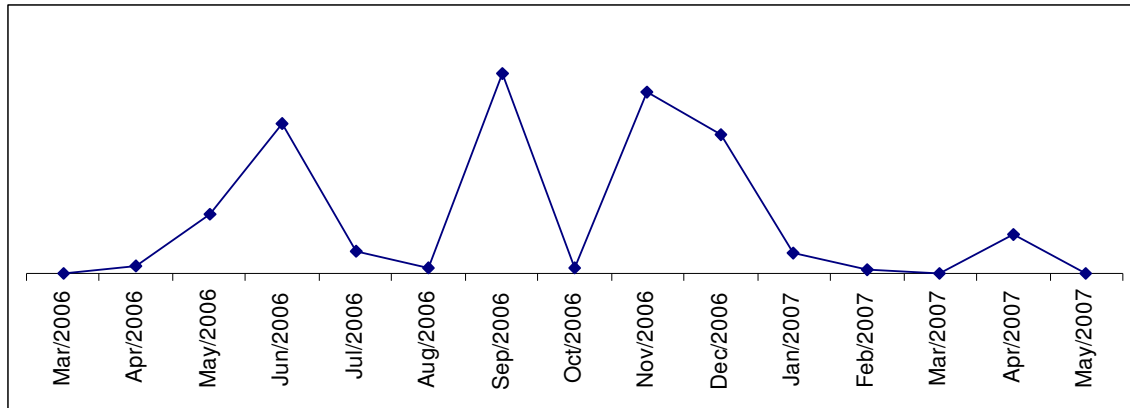
**5. Reasons for Displacement:**

Usually IDPs displaced since February 2006 cite direct threats to their lives as the reason for fleeing. However, in Ninewa, an overwhelming majority of IDPs assessed left their places of origin due to generalized violence or fear:

Generalized violence 95.9%  
Left out of fear 94.1%  
Direct threats to life 59.2%  
Forced displacement from property 2.0%  
Other 1.9%  
Armed conflict 1.7%

Most IDPs assessed (79%) said that their group had not been specifically targeted, while the rest (21%) said that they had been targeted because of sectarian identity.

IDPs fled to Ninewa in several waves in June, September, and November:



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.

Over 99% of IDPs reported only one displacement.

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

Prior to February 2006, IOM identified a total of 6,572 pre- and post-2003 IDP families and 5,137 IDP returnee families, for a total of 11,709 families. Of these, the majority of the IDPs were displaced after the commencement of conflict in 2003.

During July 2005, there was a massive displacement of Turkmen from Telafar city due to MNF-I/IF operations. After two months of displacement, most of these newly-displaced people started to return to their homes in spite of restrictions on movements, a precarious security situation and disruption of the local economy. Nowadays, the majority of the population in Telafar continues to face many security problems and difficulties in resuming their lives.

At the beginning of August 2006, it was reported that local authorities in Mosul issued a decision that IDPs displaced from Telafar (both pre- and post-February 2006) must return to their homes by August 20. It was reported that police forces even visited IDP communities in order to exert pressure on them to depart Mosul. Since then, deteriorating security in Telafar has produced another wave of displacement into Mosul and the older policy is now obsolete.

Regarding IDP returnees, the majority have not been able to reintegrate due to the poor conditions of their houses and a lack of essential basic services (water, electricity, health, and transport), leading to continuous movements of this population to other places looking for better living conditions and services.

Apart from those displaced due to violations of human rights, generalized violence or armed conflict, there is an important group who have migrated for economical reasons that are facing similar situations as IDPs, including the progressive worsening of the economic situation, lack of income-generating opportunities, bad security situations and generalized violence.

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

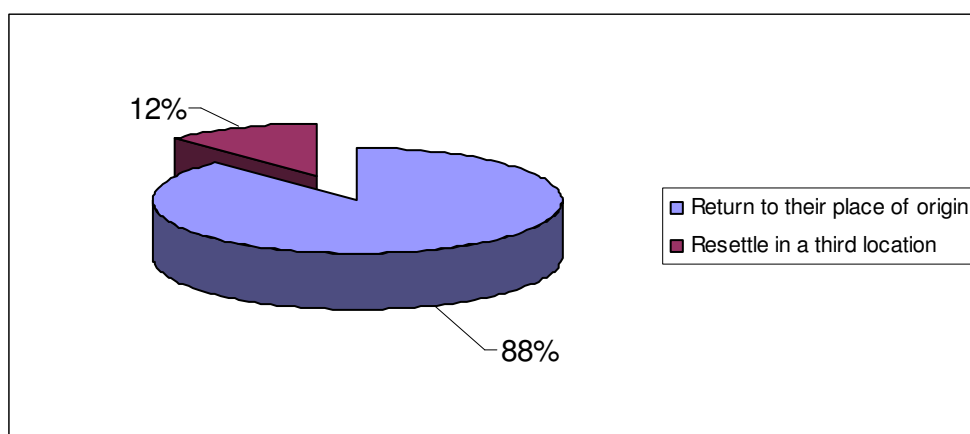
Local authorities take security precautions when dealing with IDPs, and in some areas IDPs felt that the host community was unreceptive. However, most IDPs in Ninewa feel welcomed by the host community and receive assistance from local families, charities, or religious

establishments. Some charities have provided free housing to IDPs. Religious affinity plays a large role in IDP acceptance by the host community; Arab Sunni families have settled inside Mosul city where the majority are Arab Sunni, while Christian IDPs have settled in majority Christian areas such as Al-Hamdaniya and Tilkaif district.

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

Assessments of IDP intentions in Ninewa help target humanitarian assistance (durable solutions for IDPs planning to remain, and short-term assistance for those planning to return home) and will help determine the potential for future mass returns.

IDPs assessed find it particularly difficult to adapt to Ninewa's colder climate or conservative religious environment (especially in Mosul). Many of those displaced from Basrah are determining if the security situation in Basrah, which has reportedly improved, would allow them to return. Given the lack of employment opportunities in Ninewa, nearly all IDPs assessed plan to either return home or move on; less than 0.1% of those assessed intend to remain in Ninewa:



Ninety-eight percent (98%) of those assessed are waiting for the security situation to improve before they implement these intentions.

## **III. EMERGENCY ASSESSMENT AND NEEDS**

### **1. Security & Vulnerabilities**

In general security in Ninewa is unstable. The situation is deteriorating in the central and western parts of the governorate as suicide car bomb attacks, abductions, ransom threats and executions have been noticeably increased, especially inside Mosul city. Roads are subject to frequent insurgent attacks, and there is general fighting between police forces and insurgents. Telafar is especially unstable.

The security situation in Tilkaif and Al-Hamdaniya is stable but prices in general are rising due to the presence of thousands of IDPs and their growing need of goods and services.

Insecurity hinders IDP and monitor movements, as do new security measures that have placed checkpoints throughout the governorate. Districts with Christian majorities are reportedly more stable.

In Ninewa, 10% of IDP families reported a serious death or injury since they were displaced. However, only 3% of these were related to conflict between militants/insurgents and the MNF-I/IF:

Other deaths	92.0%
Group members killed by another citizen	4.4%
Group members killed by militants/MNF-I/Iraq Forces	3.1%
Other injuries	0.4%

Less than 1% of IDPs assessed reported that members had been detained. Four percent (4%) said that they required authorization to move from their current location, although less than 1% must pass through a checkpoint when moving near their current location.

Three percent (3%) of those assessed reported that family members were missing and unaccounted for.

### Vulnerabilities

Four hundred and fifty-six (456) families, only 1.4% of those assessed, reported vulnerabilities. Vulnerability types are as follows:

Elderly person	44.7%
Female head of household	31.4%
Pregnant woman	14.9%
Person with mental disability	3.5%
Person with serious illness	5.0%
Other vulnerability	0.4%

### Women & Children

Women and children face special challenges in places of displacement, including lack of needed health care, nutrition, social constraints, etc.

Many women IDPs assessed expressed concerns about living in Ninewa's religiously conservative community, which they characterized as more restricted. Women also reported harassment due to their IDP status. Some women are financially unable to obtain required medical care, such as gynecological care.

As the length of their displacement extends, some IDP families require their children to work rather than attend school. In some areas, insurgents try to recruit IDP youth with either monetary incentives or threats.

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

### Shelter (living arrangements)

As with the majority of IDPs interviewed in Iraq, most IDPs in Ninewa live in rented housing. A small percentage lives with family or relatives or in a tent in a camp:

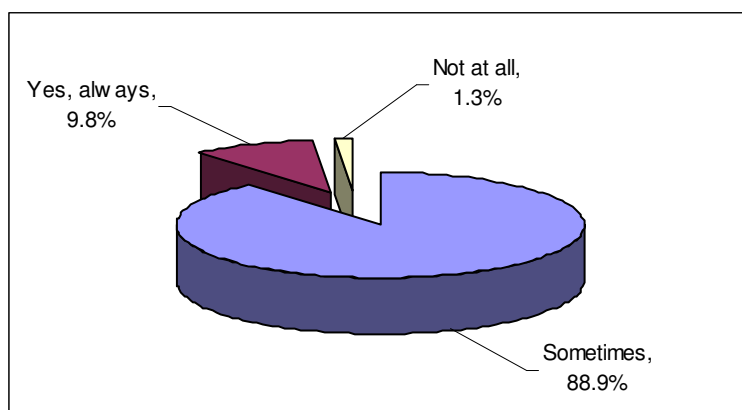
Rented housing	72.1%
In the house of host family or relatives	19.6%
Tent in camp	6.9%
Public building	0.8%
Tent near house of host family or relatives	0.4%
Other	0.2%

Few families in Ninewa (less than 1%) reported threats of eviction or other pressures to leave their premises.

Food/Public Distribution System (PDS)

IDP access to PDS rations in Ninewa is limited by the bureaucratic delays found throughout Iraq: transfer of PDS registration requires IDPs to deregister in their place of origin, which is usually impractical after they have fled their homes. Although transfer delay problems are less frequently reported in Ninewa than in other governments, they do prevent over 13% of IDPs assessed from receiving PDS rations. These IDPs are forced to depend on the host community for food assistance. When IDPs do successfully transfer their PDS cards, distribution is still complicated by insecurity.

Most IDPs in Ninewa are able to access PDS rations at least some of the time:



By district in Ninewa, access to PDS can be broken down as follows:

District	Yes, always	Not at all	Sometimes
Al-Hamdaniya	10%		90%
Mosul	22%	5%	73%
Shekhan			100%
Tilkaif	2%		98%

Seventeen percent (17%) of those assessed reported that they had received PDS rations that were missing items.

Insecurity and resulting transportation problems are the main hindrances to PDS distribution. IDPs unable to receive PDS rations reported the following reasons:

Food transportation route insecure	96.7%
Lack of transportation for food supplies	39.5%
Delay transferring PDS registration to new location	13.3%
Other	12.7%

Fifty-five percent (55%) receive food assistance from another source besides the PDS. The sources for food include the following:

	Of those who received food	Of total assessed
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Others	72.6%	39.6%
Humanitarian organizations	44.7%	24.4%
Religious charities	42.9%	23.4%
Regional authorities	4.6%	2.5%
National authorities	1.4%	0.8%

The most commonly distributed types of food were fresh or intermediate food. Types of food received:

	Of those who received food	Of total assessed
Fresh food / Intermediate food	24.2%	15.2%
Fresh food	24.0%	15.0%
Dried food / Intermediate food	19.4%	12.1%
Dried food / Fresh food / Intermediate food	18.3%	11.5%
Dried food	6.6%	4.1%
Intermediate food	4.7%	2.9%
Dried food / Fresh food	2.9%	1.8%

### Water and Sanitation

A high percentage of IDPs interviewed in Ninewa (28%) do not have regular access to water. In areas such as Hamam Al-Aleel, IDPs depend on river water, which is a health hazard. Many IDPs rely on water trucking, which is intermittent according to the security situation.

Broken down further by district, IDPs have regular water access as follows:

District	No	Yes
Al-Hamdaniya	26%	74%
Mosul	32%	68%
Shekhan	3%	97%
Tilkaif	28%	72%

The main water sources families can access are as follows:

	Of those with regular access	Of total assessed
Municipal water (underground pipes)	94.4%	68%
Water tanks / trucks	55.4%	40%
Open / broken pipe	3.8%	3%
Other sources	1.6%	1%
Rivers, streams or lakes	0.4%	0%
Public wells	0.2%	0%

Less than 1% of those who have regular access to water have to travel further than 500 meters to access it.

Ninety-nine percent (99%) of those assessed have access to toilets, but often sewage networks are either unavailable, overwhelmed by increased population, or in poor condition due to lack of maintenance.

### Fuel & Electricity

IDPs assessed in Ninewa can access electricity as follows:



Four or more hours per day	56.6%
1-3 hours per day	35.8%
No electricity	4.5%
No answer	3.1%

There is a general shortage of fuel in Ninewa and most IDPs are unable to afford the elevated prices. Fifty-eight percent (58%) of IDPs interviewed do not have access to fuel, either because of lack of availability or due to high prices. IDPs can access the following types of fuel:

	Of those with access	Of total assessed
Benzene	98.2%	41.1%
Diesel	50.0%	20.9%
Kerosene	47.6%	19.9%
Propane	46.1%	19.3%

### Health Care

All the hospitals and medical centers are functioning with shortage of medical equipment and medical personnel. Many physicians fled to the northern governorates after receiving threat letters asking for huge amounts of money as ransom. In the case of serious health issues, including surgery, patients are sent to the hospitals in the northern governorates. In some areas, it is difficult for IDPs to reach health care because of remote location or insecurity (particularly in Mosul).

Nearly all (96%) IDPs assessed in Ninewa said they have access to basic health care facilities, but 63% reported that they cannot access medications they require.

Those who do not have easy access to health facilities gave the following reasons:

Too distant to access	85.1%
Financial constraints	14.9%

Only 2.4% of IDPs assessed had been visited by a health care worker in the past 30 days\*. Those who were visited only received vaccinations, without health consultation or education.

Four percent (4%) of IDPs assessed had participated in vaccination campaigns during the following timeframe\*:

1-3 months ago	38.6%
Last week	21.1%
Last month	20.6%
7 or more months ago	9.9%
4-6 months ago	9.9%

Less than 1% of IDP families assessed reported suffering from infectious diseases or epidemics within the last 45 days\*.

### Education

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\* From date of interview

The majority of schools are suffering from lack of maintenance, and many students are prevented from going to school because of the security conditions. Although IDPs assessed generally had no problem registering their children in school, some families prefer to have their children earn income for the family.

There are specific issues in some areas: in Bashiqa the nearest school is distant for those children without transportation. In Tilkaif school staff required IDPs to bring documentation from their place of origin, which is too difficult for most families to obtain, due to security. Some IDPs displaced from Telafar did not send their children to school because they expected that the provincial council would order them to return to Telafar.

### **3. Legal Concerns**

#### Property Issues

Sometimes IDPs leave property behind but are not able to determine its condition for numerous reasons, such inability to access it or lack of contact with people who remained in their place of origin.

When asked what had happened to the property they left behind, most IDPs in Ninewa said that they do not know:

Do not know	90.9%
Property occupied, controlled or claimed by private citizens	13.8%
Property destroyed	4.9%
Property accessible	1.5%
Property occupied, controlled or claimed by government	0.9%

IDPs assessed in Ninewa were able to bring fewer items with them than IDPs from other governorates. This is because of the long distance of their displacement, the cost of transporting possessions, or because they intended to return as soon as security improved. IDPs were able to take the following with them when they were displaced:

Car transportation	37.7%
Tools	30.3%
Food	23.8%
Winter clothing	23.7%
Other	10.0%

#### Documentation

Throughout Iraq, the majority of IDP families carry documentation. Following are the percentages for Ninewa:

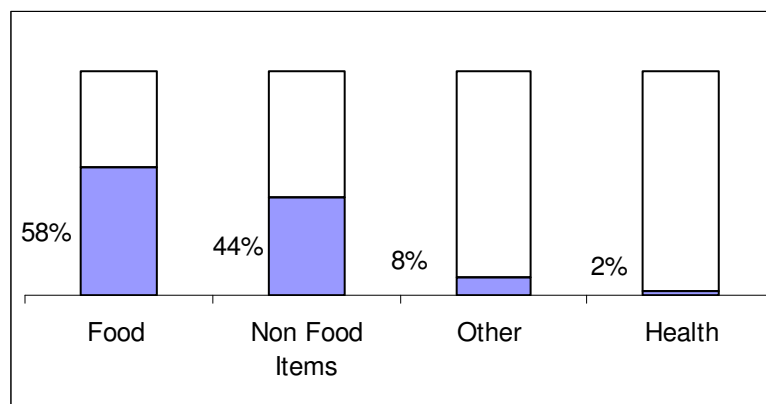
ID cards	97.3%
Nationality certificates	96.8%
Marriage documents	88.0%
Birth certificates	64.6%
Passports	15.5%
Death certificates	2.0%
Other documents	0.9%

#### IV. HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE RECEIVED

The majority of IDP families (67%) have received some type of assistance in Ninewa. Most of this assistance came from the host community, IDPs' relatives, or religious groups. The unstable security situation makes it difficult for NGOs and official authorities to deliver aid in Ninewa. The percentage of families who have received assistance from each is as follows:

	Of those who received assistance	Of total assessed
Host community	73.3%	49.2%
Relatives	63.5%	42.6%
Religious group	48.7%	32.7%
MoDM	23.8%	16.0%
Iraqi Red Crescent	22.8%	15.3%
Other	8.0%	5.4%
Humanitarian agency	0.2%	0.1%

The following assistance was provided to IDP families assessed:



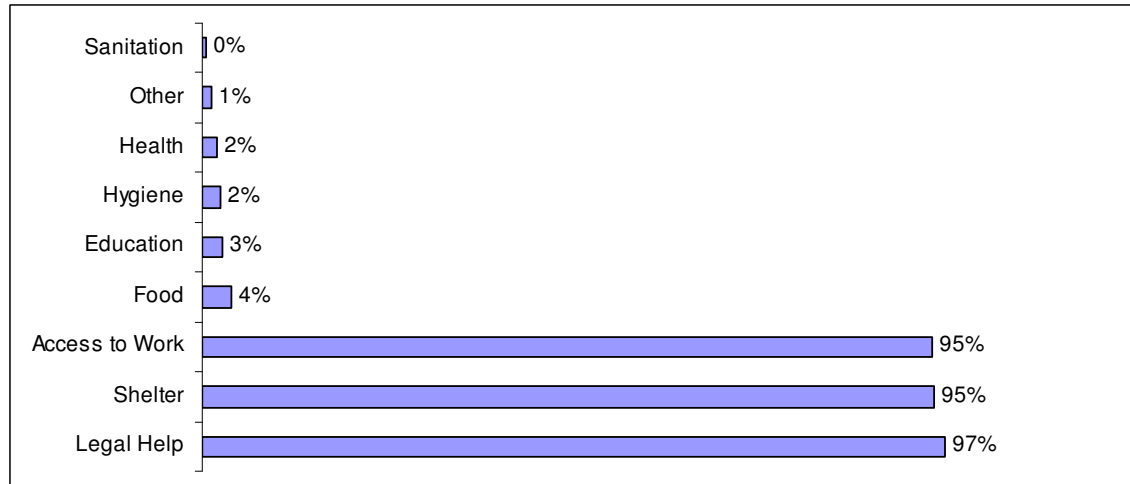
#### V. PRIORITY NEEDS

##### **Top priority needs:**

When asked what their priority needs are, IDPs in Ninewa ranked their top need as legal assistance, and food is ranked unusually low.

This reflects the fact that most IDPs are planning to return to their place of origin where they have property, such as a house, furniture, offices, market space, etc., and over 90% do not know the status of their property. They anticipate that it could be occupied, destroyed, or inaccessible, and IDPs want legal help to deal with these potential problems. Many IDPs are receiving assistance with food from the host community and religious entities, so this priority is lower than in other governorates. However, most IDPs are renting and do not have income to cover basic needs, so shelter and employment also ranked high.

IDPs assessed in Ninewa ranked other priority needs as follows:



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

In Bab Al-Shamis camp, Mosul city there is a group of IDP families who have experienced severe psychological trauma, with 20 persons lost, 17 injured, and 2 kidnapped. Women and the elderly are the only income-generators for this group. They depend on the camp for food and need more food assistance.

In Al-Entisar neighbourhood, Mosul district there are 41 IDP families living in unfinished buildings. Over the winter, two infants died because there were no heaters. They lack potable water and are far from the nearest hospital, which is 10 km away over unpaved roads.

Six families displaced from Telafar are living in Bashiqa sub-district on a chicken farm. The owner allowed them to live there in exchange for working on the farm, but is now asking them to leave because he is concerned that their presence might create problems with MNF-I/IF who are searching for insurgents from Telafar. They urgently need legal help.

Ten Turkmen Sunni families were living in Telafar when intense fighting erupted between insurgents and MNF-I/IF. MNF-I/IF conducted raids on their houses searching for insurgents, which provoked suspicion from the rest of the community that these families were harbouring insurgents. They fled this hostile environment and are living in Mosul. There was a provincial council decision that IDPs from Telafar should return home quickly, but these families do not want to go back to insecurity and communal suspicion. They will need shelter.

There are 24 IDP families living in Hammam Al-Alil sub-district, Mosul who displaced from Samarra district in Salah al-Din due to continuous fighting between MNF/IF and insurgents. Family members were killed and detained, and some of their houses and farms were destroyed. These families have not yet transferred their PDS cards and several have inadequate shelter. Their freedom of movement is now restricted by fighting between MNF-I/INF and insurgents and strict security procedures in the surrounding area. Also, the water supply has been damaged and these families must drink from the nearby river, which is contaminated. They have received some assistance from the host community, religious charities, and NGOs. However, this assistance was sufficient only for a few days. This group urgently needs food assistance and job opportunities.

### **Recommendations for Assistance:**

IDPs were asked to provide recommendations for community assistance projects in their area of displacement:

- Establish a working facility for craftsmen/professionals, e.g. carpenters or mechanics
- Arrange with local farmers to provide jobs for IDPs with agricultural experience
- Have the city council donate land to IDPs for a poultry farm; they would pay the cost back after they established income
- Establish a camp for IDPs in Bartela sub-district, Al-Hamdaniya district
- Have the city council donate one of the spa pools in Hamam Al-Aleel to IDPs so that they can manage it as an income generation project
- Pave roads for IDP neighbourhoods
- Establish a food factory in Tilkaif to employ IDPs
- Start-up loans for IDP small businesses, such as food markets, in Mosul
- For Mosul camp: pave roads, build markets, and supply more tents

## CONCLUSION

Ninewa is an oil-rich governorate with a diverse mix of ethnicities, especially in its capital Mosul, the third-largest city in Iraq. In 2005 large numbers of Turkmen families were displaced within Ninewa when they fled MNF/IF anti-insurgency operations in Telafar district. Many of them arrived in Mosul, where a year later the local authorities ordered them to leave. Since then, continued insecurity in Telafar has forced Mosul authorities to accept these IDPs.

The majority of the more recent, post-February 2006 IDPs assessed by IOM are Assyrian Christians who have fled to Ninewa's Christian areas. The majority of IDPs assessed said they had fled mainly to escape generalized violence, and not because of the direct threat of sectarian violence. The majority originated from Baghdad.

Since IDPs usually settle in homogenous areas of their religion or ethnicity, they are generally accepted by host communities. Most (88%) IDPs assessed intend to return home, citing Ninewa's religious conservatism, unstable security, economic difficulties, and even colder weather.

Security in Ninewa continues to deteriorate as insurgents fight with MNF-I/IF. Insecurity and corresponding security restrictions hinder IDP and monitor movement throughout the governorate.

The majority of IDPs assessed are living in rented housing. Most have at least intermittent access to PDS rations, and over half have received food from other sources, primarily the host community. Nearly a third of IDPs assessed do not have regular access to water. Although 96% of those assessed have access to health care, the majority reported a severe shortage of medication. Only 2.4% have been visited by health workers and 4% have been in a vaccination campaign.

IDPs ranked work, shelter, and legal help as their highest priority needs. The majority of IDPs have received humanitarian assistance, but most of this has come from the host community and relatives. There is a need for more humanitarian assistance focused on vulnerable groups, especially those in remote locations with substandard healthcare or without clean water or food rations.

*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).*