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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>	Amara
<b>Districts:</b>	Al-Kahla, Al-Maimouna, Al-Mejar Al-Kabi, Ali Al-Gharbi, Qal'at Saleh, Amara
<b>Population (as per 1997 census):</b>	1,100,000 individuals
<b>Total IDPs post-Feb. 2006<sup>3</sup>:</b>	4,820 families (est. 28,920 individuals)
<b>Total IDP and IDP returnees pre-Feb. 22, 2006<sup>4</sup>:</b>	27,667 families (est. 166,000 individuals)



### 1. Governorate Background

Missan shares the longest border with Iran of any Iraqi governorate; it is located in the lower south of Iraq and is considered one of the poorest governorates.

The Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MoDM) estimates that almost **4,820 families**, or an estimated **28,920 individuals**, have been displaced in Missan since February 2006<sup>5</sup>.

IOM's assessments cover 3,263 families<sup>6</sup>; average family size is six persons, yielding an estimated total of 19,578 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 Missan.

### 3. Ethnicity and Religion:

All IDPs interviewed in Missan were Arabs and Shia Muslims.

### 4. Places of Origin:

The majority of IDPs assessed in Missan came from Baghdad (88%), while a few come from Diyala (6%), Salah al-Din (4%) and other governorates (2%). This movement from mixed communities in central governorates to the religiously homogeneous governorate of Missan supports information received that the majority of IDPs in Missan fled due to sectarian violence.

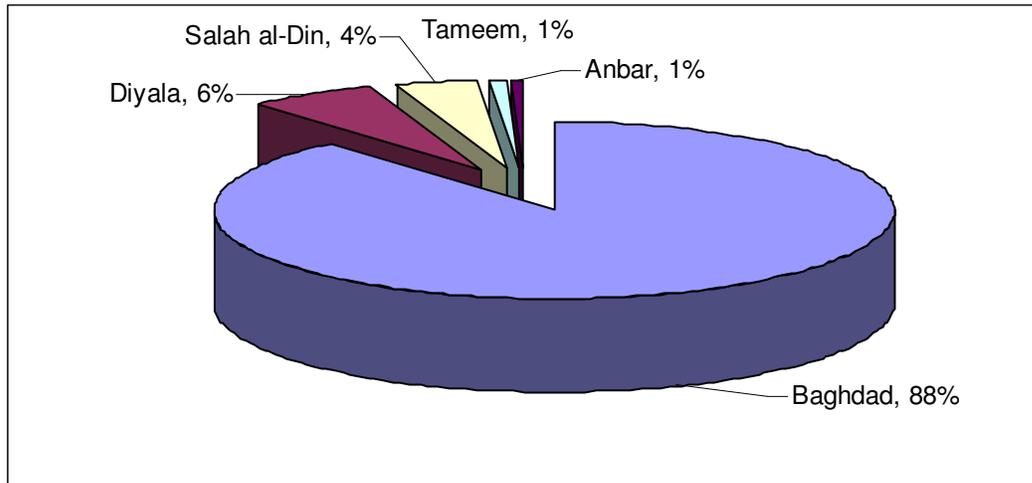
<sup>3</sup> As per Ministry of Displacement and Migration. See latest Cluster F Update on IDPs, 15 May 2007

<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.

Place of origin:



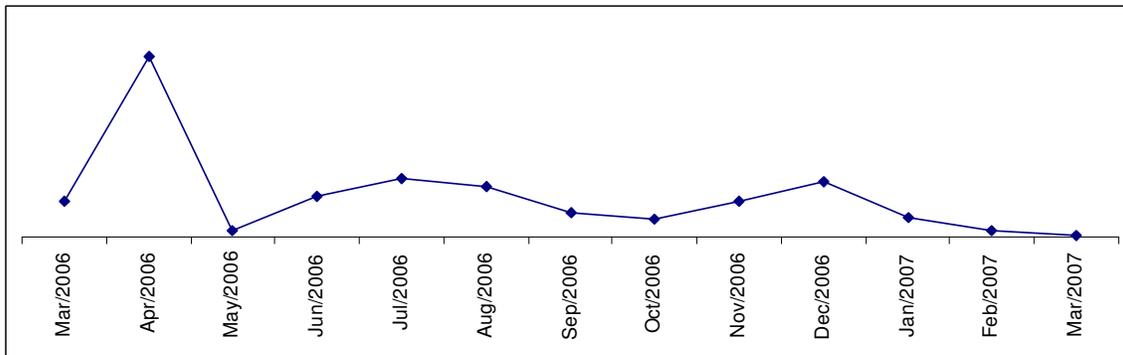
**5. Reasons for Displacement:**

The majority of IDPs assessed in Missan left due to direct threats to their life or forced displacement from property:

Direct threats to life	82%
Forced displacement from property	50%
Left out of fear	43%
Generalized violence	35%
Armed conflict	21%
Other	1%

Ninety-one percent (91%) said they were targeted due to belonging to a certain religion or sect. More cited being targeted due to their religion or sect than in other governorates; this suggests that the majority of IDPs who fled to Missan fled due to the rise in sectarian violence.

In addition, the majority were displaced in April, a couple months after the bombing in Samarra that caused a spike in sectarian violence. 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.

Over 99% of IDPs reported only one displacement. Missan's religious homogeneity and relative stability has prevented multiple displacements.

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

Missan contains one of the largest populations of pre-2003 conflict IDPs. During its Phase II monitoring (through December 2005), IOM identified 18,465 families who had been displaced pre-2003. An additional 406 post-2003 conflict families and 8,796 IDP returnees brings the total IDP population to 27,667 displaced before 2006.

Missan experienced several displacement waves during the Iraq-Iran War of the 1980s; the majority of the displacement was intra-governorate.

Part of Missan was covered by the marshlands, which were drained during the 1990s by the former regime. Many of Missan's IDPs are Marsh Arabs displaced by this drainage; they settled in southern Missan close to their former homes. They sought agricultural land to support their traditional activities (fishing, hunting, agriculture). An estimated 80 to 90 percent of these people are illiterate.

The majority of those under 30 years old expressed a desire to settle in their present place of residence rather than return to the place of origin. This differs from the wish of most of their parents/elders, who wish to return to their place of origin.

Forty percent (40%) of IDPs were reported as unemployed and 60% lack technical skills.

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

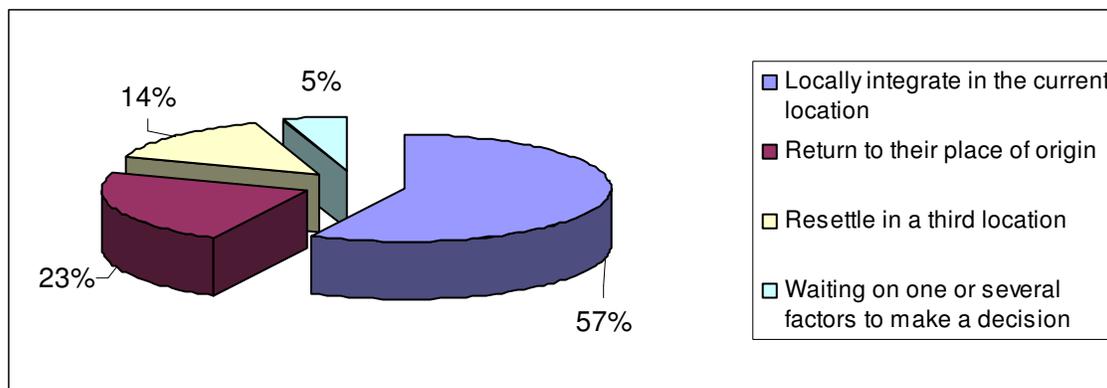
IDPs moving to Missan found that the host community is generally accepting; almost all IDPs reported that they were well-received. Missan has a history of displacement, both within the governorate (due to the draining of the marshlands and the Iran/Iraq War) and from other governorates. IDPs in Missan have always assimilated well and usually mingle with the host community instead of living in isolated communities.

However, the increased influx of IDPs is placing a burden on some communities. For example, it was reported by families in Al-Zeot that relatives have started requesting that alternative housing be found because hosting IDP families is becoming a burden.

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

The intentions of the IDPs displaced in Missan will help determine the best type of assistance to provide (durable solutions for those who plan to stay, short-term assistance for those who will return) and will help determine whether mass returns are possible.

Generally, the majority of IDPs displaced to southern Iraq plan to locally integrate; however, of those interviewed in Missan, this figure is only 57%, and the rest plan to return or resettle:



Also unique to Missan is the fact that 65% of those interviewed plan to implement their intentions in less than six months; usually IDPs are unsure and are waiting on the security to improve, which is the case for only 34% of IDP families in Missan.

### III. EMERGENCY ASSESSMENT AND NEEDS

#### 1. Security & Vulnerabilities

##### Security

Compared to other governorates throughout Iraq, Missan is relatively stable. All IDPs interviewed reported that they feel safe in their current location. There are reported cases of assassinations, but these are fewer than in neighboring governorates. There are also fewer attacks on MNF-I.

In Missan an unusually low number (1%) of IDP families reported a death or serious injury. However, 6% of IDP family members are still unaccounted for.

No one reported that family members had been detained and only two families said that they required authorization to move from their current location. Forty-six (46) families, less than 2%, must pass through a checkpoint when moving near their current location. No other restrictions on freedom of movement were mentioned.

##### Vulnerabilities

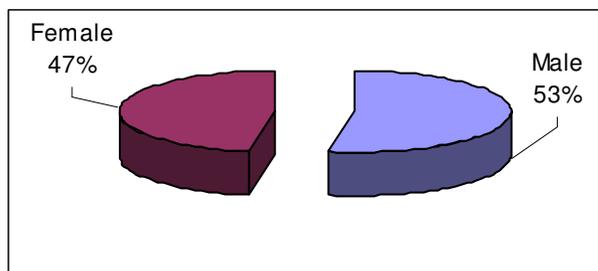
Few families interviewed, only 7%, reported vulnerabilities among the family members. Of those who have vulnerabilities, the types are as follows:

Elderly person	37%
Female head of household	34%
Other vulnerability	1%
Person with serious illness	2%
Pregnant woman	25%

##### Women & Children

Women and children face special challenges in places of displacement, including lack of needed health care, nutrition, social constraints, etc. In Amara, numerous women are forced to sell products, such as confection or tissues, on the streets to earn an income for their families. There were numerous reports of Shia women in Missan who were forced to divorce their husbands because they were Sunni.

Women sometimes represent the highest number of displaced, especially in places of conflict where men stay behind to work or have been killed or detained. In Missan, the breakdown is almost equal, according to the 126 families (4,330 individuals) assessed:



Breakdown per gender and age group:

Age	Total	Male	Female
Total	100%	100%	100%
Less than 1	10%	7%	14%
1 to 4	26%	26%	26%
5 to 17	36%	34%	37%
18 to 60	24%	28%	20%
More than 60	4%	5%	3%

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

### Shelter (living arrangements)

As with the majority of IDPs interviewed in Iraq, most IDPs in Missan live in rented housing, but a high percentage also live with family or relatives:

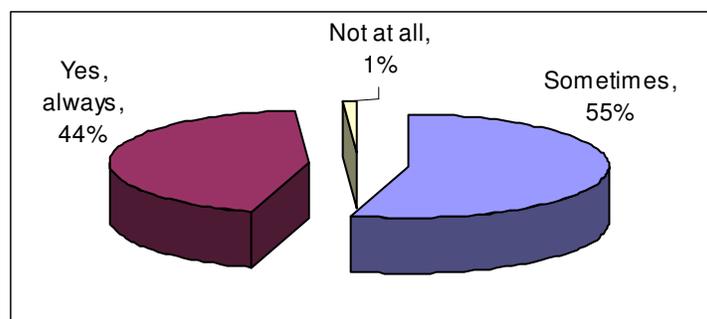
Rented housing	44.1%
In the house of host family or relatives	24.1%
Other	14.7%
Public building	9.3%
Collective town / settlement	7.3%
Tent near house of host family or relatives	0.5%

Protracted displacement often makes renting increasingly difficult, as families do not have the income to cover rental prices. In addition, rented places sometimes lack basic service (electricity, water, sanitation, etc.). Living with family or friends leads to crowded conditions.

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

### Food/Public Distribution System (PDS)

According to the responses, IDPs in this governorate have fewer problems accessing PDS rations. Almost all IDPs have access always or sometimes:



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

District	Yes, always	Not at all	Sometimes	No Answer
Ali Al-Gharbi	50%	2%	45%	3%
Al-Kahla	29%	1%	70%	
Al-Maimouna	43%	4%	54%	
Al-Mejar Al-Kabi	27%	2%	71%	
Amara	55%	1%	44%	
Qal'at Saleh	19%		81%	

However, over half said that the distributions were missing items, which is higher than in most governorates.

The 1% who does not receive PDS rations in Missan blames it on the following:

Delay transferring PDS registration to new location	34.1%
Food transportation route insecure	23.3%
Families lack documentation or PDS cards	2.6%
Do not know why	1.9%
Other	1.4%
Lack of transportation for food supplies	0.9%
No food to distribute	0.7%

Forty-four percent (44%) receive food assistance from another source besides the PDS. The sources for food include the following:

	Of those who received food	Of total assessed
Others	76.1%	33.62%
Regional authorities	37.2%	16.46%
Humanitarian Organizations	37.0%	16.37%
Religious charities	30.7%	13.55%
National authorities	1.2%	0.55%
No food to distribute	0.7%	0.67%

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

	Of those who received food	Of total assessed
Dried food / Fresh food	41.32%	18.0%
Dried food	35.07%	15.3%
Dried food / Intermediate food	13.98%	6.1%
Intermediate food	5.90%	2.6%
Fresh food / Intermediate food	1.34%	0.6%
Fresh food	1.3%	0.6%
Dried food / Fresh food / Intermediate food	1.1%	0.5%

### Water and Sanitation

A very high percentage of IDPs interviewed in Missan (31%) do not have regular access to water, and 8% do not have access to toilets, which is higher than in other governorates. For example, in Ban, Keremiya, and Beeda villages, IDPs depend on river water as the main source of water, and there is no sewage system, both which lead to infections and disease.

Broken down further by district, access to water is as follows:

District	No	Yes
Ali Al-Gharbi	32%	68%
Al-Kahla	70%	30%
Al-Maimouna	44%	56%
Al-Mejar Al-Kabi	14%	86%
Amara	21%	79%
Qal'at Saleh	57%	43%

The main water sources families have access to are as follows:

	Of those with regular access	Of total assessed
Municipal water (underground pipes)	100.0%	87.77%
Water tanks / trucks	48.0%	42.11%
Rivers, streams or lakes	47.6%	41.77%
Open / broken pipe	2.7%	2.36%
Other Sources	2.2%	1.90%
Public Wells	0.5%	0.43%

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

### Fuel & Electricity

Although electricity is intermittent throughout the country and Iraqis must use generators, most IDPs in Missan have access. IDPs in some areas, such as Al-Sabaa and Bab Al Hawa, do not have access to electricity and must buy fuel at high costs to run generators, preventing them from accessing electricity throughout the day.

The frequency of access is as follows:

Four or more hours per day	95.53%
No electricity	2.48%
1-3 hours per day	1.16%

Twenty-one percent (21%) of IDPs interviewed do not have access to fuel, either because of lack of availability or due to high prices.

	Of those who have access	Of total assessed
Benzene	91.2%	70.4%
Diesel	18.3%	14.2%
Kerosene	4.5%	3.5%
Propane	95.9%	74.1%

### Health Care

Seventeen percent (17%) of IDPs assessed said they did not have access to health care facilities, although those IDPs in Amara district tend to have good access. IDPs in Nahar Al Eaz must travel about 30 kilometers to access the nearest provincial health center, which is challenging for those without transportation. This is also the case for IDPs in Al-Fakhriya and Al-Thahab Al Abiayd sub-districts in Ali Al-Gharbi district.

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

Too distant to access	61.30%
Not available	37.16%
Financial constraints	20.72%
Other	10.79%
Refused service	0.34%

Forty-five percent (45%) of IDPs have not been visited by a health care worker in the past 30 days. Those that have been visited were provided with the following:

	Of those who were visited	Of total assessed
Vaccinations	94.92%	52%
Consulting or education	13.56%	7%
Other services	3.29%	2%

Many of those visited were provided with vaccinations, and 76% have been involved in a vaccination campaign during the following timeframe (as of interview date, not as of report date):

In the last month	45.49%
1-3 months ago	38.36%
last week	9.55%
7 or more months ago	3.91%
4-6 months ago	2.70%

A very high percentage (61%) of IDP families interviewed reported suffering from infectious diseases or epidemics within the last 45 days. This is much higher than in most governorates. In addition, 23% of families do not have access to medications they require.

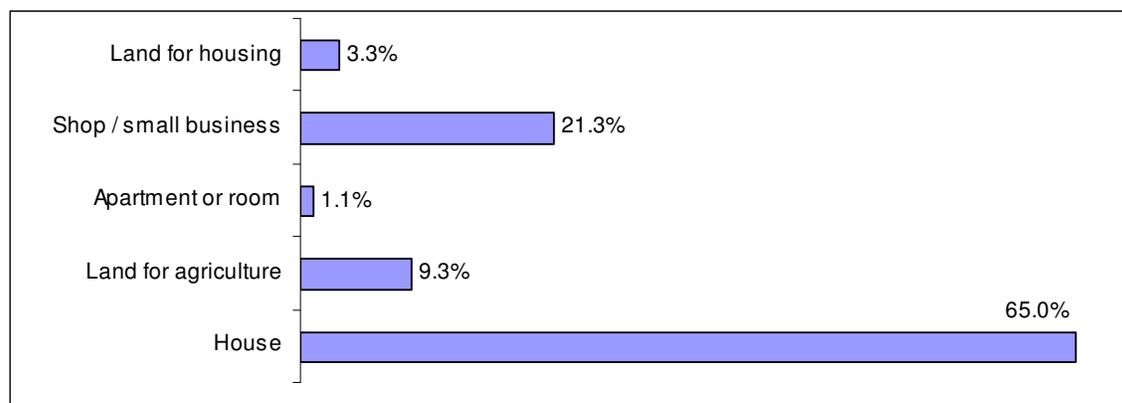
### Education

Lack of income to fund requirements for studying and education is the main reason that children of IDP families in Missan do not attend school. In Sooda-and-Beeda village in Al Ezear sub-district, IDP families prefer that their children help with income-generating activities, such as raising livestock, than attend school. In Al-Maimouna district, some children work in jobs unsuitable to their ages.

### 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. One hundred twenty-six (126) families were asked what type of property they owned in their place of origin, and their responses were as follows:



Over 50% do not know the status of their property, and an equally high number claim it has been destroyed or illegally occupied. Responses ranged as follows:

Do not know	53%
Property occupied, controlled or claimed by private citizens	47%
Property destroyed	44.74%
Property accessible	43.24%
Property currently in military use	0.37%
Property occupied, controlled or claimed by government	0.21%

More IDPs in Missan brought items with them, especially livestock, than any other governorate. This suggests that IDPs had time to plan their movement and take items with them. IDPs were able to take the following with them when they were displaced:

Livestock	82.61%
Car transportation	78.93%
Winter clothing	76.93%
Tools	67.11%
Food	56.14%

#### Documentation

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

Nationality certificates	96.05%
ID cards	95.77%
Marriage documents	76.16%

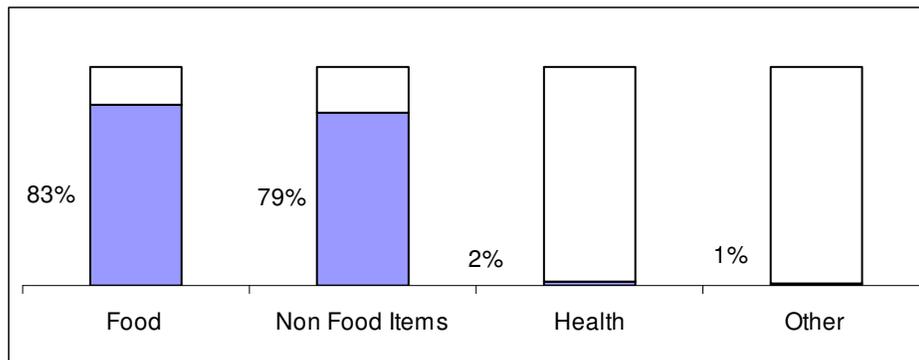
Birth certificates	71.22%
Death certificates	45.27%
Other documents	18.57%
Passports	14.83%

#### IV. HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE RECEIVED

Many IDP families (84%) have received some type of assistance in Missan. Many NGOs, Iraqi Ministries (MoDM), and host community members have assisted the newly-displaced. The percentage of families who have received assistance from each is as follows:

	Of those who received assistance	Of total assessed
Relatives	88.0%	73.46%
Host Community	66.0%	55.10%
MoDM	56.8%	47.44%
Iraqi Red Crescent	51.0%	42.63%
Religious Group	32.3%	26.97%
Other Iraqi Government body	6.9%	5.79%
Humanitarian Agency	6.0%	5.00%
Other	0.0%	0.00%

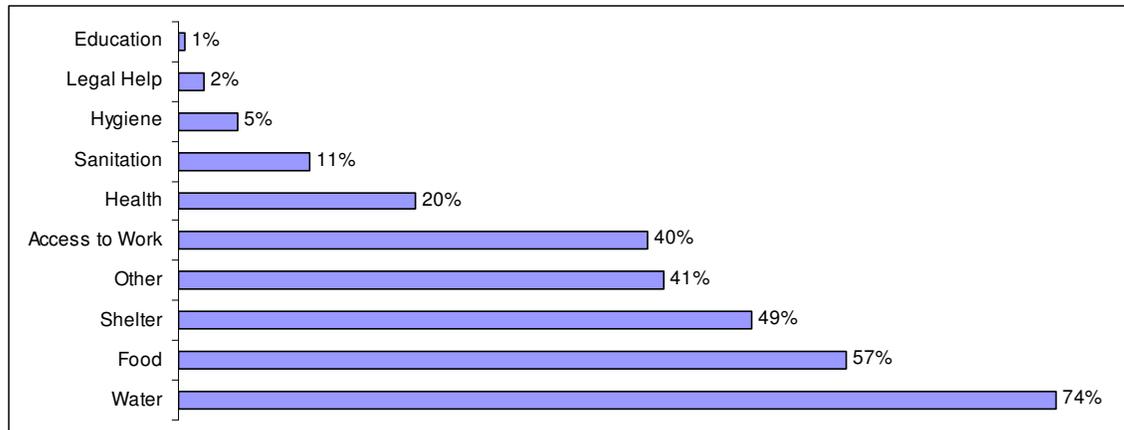
The following assistance was provided to IDP families assessed:



#### V. PRIORITY NEEDS

##### Top priority needs:

As mentioned above, many IDPs (over 30%) do not have regular access to water, and this is reflected in the priority needs that the IDPs expressed; water ranked as the most frequently mentioned priority need. Others are as follows:



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

Twenty-four IDP families were identified in rural areas (Abo-Sabaa sub-district in Al-Maimouna district) living in mud houses with host families in very poor living conditions. Health services and municipality water are absent.

In the Al-Majediya sub-district in the Sa'aed Ashour area, fourteen families were identified, all female-headed households by widows who lost their husbands in their place of origin. Family members must walk more than 400 meters to obtain water from the nearest source, which is a pipe in an abandoned public building.

Six families were found in Al Jihad neighbourhood who have no source of income. They are living in poor conditions and are in need of food and non-food assistance.

### **Recommendations for Assistance:**

IDPs were asked to provide recommendations for community assistance projects in their area of displacement. Due to poverty and the low level of infrastructure in Missan, many suggestions were provided:

- Establish fish pools in Al Adel sub-district in Al-Mejar Al-Kabi district, where fishing is common.
- Agricultural activities could be supported in areas such as Saddam Falih village in Kumait sub-district in Ali Al-Gharbi district.
- IDPs in Sooda and Beeda and Nahar Al- Eaz villages suggested establishing a new school in the area due to overcrowding of the current one.
- IDPs in Keremiya village requested the construction of a bridge to connect them with a neighbouring area that has a provincial health center.
- In Abo-Sabaa and Bab Al-Hawa sub-districts, the IDPs suggested building a new health center to provide both IDPs and hosting community with medical assistance.
- IDPs in Al-Kheer sub-district suggested converting their reed houses into mud houses.
- Some IDPs in Al-Zeot area suggested extending their relatives' houses in order to support both the IDP family and host family.
- IDPs in Majeediya sub-district recommended establishing a block factory, which would provide work for IDPs.
- IDPs in Nahawand neighbourhood of Amara district demonstrated an urgent need for a health centre.
- Al Thura and Resalah neighbourhoods in Amara district lack sewage systems, so IDPs recommended this as a priority.
- Installation of water pipes in Al Mustafa neighbourhood in Amara district.

## CONCLUSION

Because of its long border with Iran, Missan was a major battle ground during the Iran-Iraq war. Many of its indigenous Marsh Arabs were displaced both then and later during the draining of the marshes during the 1990s. These IDPs settled in the southern regions of the governorate.

Since the February 2006 bombing of the Samarra shrine, Missan has seen a large influx of Shia Arab IDPs fleeing sectarian violence in central Iraq. These IDPs primarily originate from Baghdad and have found refuge in Missan's homogenous Shia communities. This sectarian affinity has meant that IDPs are generally well-accepted by the host community.

Most IDPs in Missan receive PDS rations and receive humanitarian aid. Electricity and fuel are available. There is a shortage of potable water and a corresponding lack of sanitation; nearly a third reported that they cannot regularly access water. There is also a lack of healthcare, especially for those IDPs located in the more rural areas of the governorate. A majority of IDPs reported recent infectious diseases or epidemics. Humanitarian aid has effectively provided food and non-food items to most IDPs, but there is a need for better water supply and health care.

A slight majority (57%) of IDPs assessed plan to settle in Missan permanently, while the rest intend to return home or settle in a third location. Significantly, 65% plan to implement their intentions within the next six months – a sharp contrast with IDP intentions in other governorates, where most IDPs are awaiting improved security before they move. This may reflect Missan's relatively stable security situation when compared with the surrounding governorates. In the long term, Missan will have to both assimilate the IDP population that settles permanently, and provide for the mass migration of the rest (nearly half) who intend to return home.

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