

## **SHELTER and CCCM CLUSTER RAPID ASSESSMENT**

### **IRAQ INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT CRISIS Assessment Report 10 September 2014**



In partnership with:

**REACH** An initiative of  
IMPACT Initiatives  
ACTED and UNOSAT

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## Acronyms and Abbreviations

<b>AOG</b>	Armed Opposition Group
<b>CCCM</b>	Camp Coordination and Camp Management
<b>HNO</b>	Humanitarian Needs Overview
<b>IDP</b>	Internally Displaced Person
<b>NFI</b>	Non-Food Items
<b>KRI</b>	Kurdistan Region of Iraq
<b>OCHA</b>	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
<b>UNHCR</b>	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

## Geographic Classifications

<b>Governorate</b>	Highest form of governance below the national level.
<b>District:</b>	Governorates are divided into districts.

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## SUMMARY

An estimated 1.7 million people have been displaced in Iraq following the presence of Armed Opposition Groups (AOGs) in northern and central parts of the country since the start of 2014, with displacements peaking in June and August of 2014.<sup>1</sup> Roughly 800,000 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) are reported to have arrived or passed through the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) since June 2014,<sup>2</sup> with hundreds of thousands remaining in Ninewa Governorate, or fleeing through the KRI towards the south of Iraq.

As a result of this mass displacement, and in addition to approximately 210,000 Syrian refugees currently residing in the KRI, the availability of housing to host the displaced population has become drastically limited, and the cost of accommodation has significantly increased. This has led some IDPs to living in collective shelters or in the open air, which poses serious implications for their access to basic services and other vulnerabilities related to poor living conditions.

In this context, the Shelter and Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) clusters jointly mobilised the REACH initiative **to assess the immediate needs of IDPs in northern Iraq** (where direct household data collection was possible), with a particular **focus on shelter and Non-Food Items (NFI) for winterization programming**.

Using secondary data, it was identified that **a majority of IDPs are hosted by friends or family or living in rented accommodation (60 per cent)**<sup>3</sup>. With a minority having access to regular employment and general uncertainty regarding the sustainability of economic resources, financial constraints may cause secondary displacements to find alternative shelter solutions.

**Over a third of assessed IDPs were staying in collective shelters (24 per cent), in tents (3 per cent) and in unfinished buildings or open air spaces (11 per cent), making them the most vulnerable group in need of urgent support.**

**Few IDPs are prepared for the upcoming winter**, with widespread lack of access to heating system and the average number of carpets, blankets and winter sets per child falling below the minimum NFI standards. IDP households who do have access to a heating system rely primarily on electricity which is not or little available the open air, camps or collective shelters where they may be settled. Preparing for winter is clearly a concern, with the most commonly reported long-term priorities by IDPs being winter clothing and winterised shelter.

**External assistance is widespread. A majority of IDPs who do not have access to a regular income rely on charitable donations** to meet their basic needs. Food and rent were the top two primary sources of expenditure, which likely has an impact on capital available to cover the cost of adequate housing. Overall, adequate access to water for drinking and other uses was reported but it depends primarily on a pipeline network, which may increase the risk of contamination. Access to toilets and showers was also common among the assessed population though usually through communal rather private services. This reflects the fact that most IDPs are living in shared accommodation arrangements rather than their own space.

**Assessment findings will directly inform the Humanitarian Needs Overview** due to be released early September 2014, in addition to the subsequent inter-agency Strategic Response Plan and general humanitarian programming for the current internal displacement crisis in Iraq. A follow-up key informant assessment will be conducted throughout the central and southern belts where direct data collection is not possible due to access constraints related to the current security situation.

<sup>1</sup> OCHA. Iraq IDP Crisis: Situation Report No.8 (16 – 22 August 2014).

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup>Data source: IOM DTM 18 August 2014. Available at: <http://iomiraq.net/dtm-page>

## INTRODUCTION

An estimated 1.7 million people have been displaced in Iraq following the presence of Armed Opposition Groups (AOGs) in northern and central parts of the country since the start of 2014, with displacements peaking in June and August of 2014.<sup>4</sup> Iraq is now among the countries with the highest number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the world.

Roughly 800,000 IDPs are reported to have arrived or passed through the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) since June 2014,<sup>5</sup> with hundreds of thousands remaining in Ninewa Governorate, where much of the conflict has been concentrated, seeking refuge outside their place of origin, or fleeing south through the KRI to the south of Iraq.

As a result of this mass displacement, and in addition to approximately 210,000 Syrian refugees currently residing in the KRI, the availability of housing to host the displaced population has become increasingly limited, combined with financial constraints to cover the cost of paid and adequate accommodation. Consequently, some IDPs have resorted to living in collective shelters or in the open air, which poses serious implications for access to basic services and other vulnerabilities related to poor living conditions.

On 13 August 2014, the situation in Iraq was declared as a Level 3 humanitarian crisis by the United Nations<sup>6</sup>, the highest classification, to ensure a more effective humanitarian response. At the time of the assessment, only three other countries shared this status: Syria, South Sudan and the Central African Republic, reflecting the extremity of the situation.

The Level 3 declaration led to the activation of the cluster system, including the establishment of the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster on 22 August 2014) and up-scaling of pre-existing clusters in Iraq.

The Shelter Cluster and the CCCM in Iraq are led by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

The rapid developments and dynamic context of the situation has rendered the humanitarian response very challenging. In particular, important information gaps exist regarding displacement patterns within the KRI, shelters conditions and needs according to different arrangements, Non-Food Item needs and access to assistance.

In response, the Shelter and CCCM clusters, commissioned this assessment to identify the immediate needs of IDPs in northern Iraq, with a particular emphasis on shelter and NFIs. In this report is a discussion of the findings, including the identification of specific vulnerabilities that may affect access to certain needs addressed. The wider purpose of this information is to inform the immediate IDPs response as well as targeted winterization programming and other multi-sector service provision across northern Iraq.

The assessment was conducted by the REACH Initiative<sup>7</sup>, a partner of the Global Shelter Cluster. This report provides a detailed description of the methodology and why it was chosen, and then outlines the key assessment findings, categorised into the following sections:

- 1) Shelter and NFI Findings;
- 2) Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH); and
- 3) Livelihoods and Assistance.

<sup>4</sup> OCHA. Iraq IDP Crisis: Situation Report No.8 (16 August – 22 August 2014).

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> Date Source:

<http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/IRAQ.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> Referred to as REACH from here on out.

## METHODOLOGY

This section presents the methodology designed and implemented by REACH Initiative for this shelter and CCCM rapid assessment. It outlines the approach applied to select geographical locations and shelter themes, and the corresponding methodology for household-level surveys. The data cleaning and analysis processes are also described as well as the limitations to the data collection methodology.

### Data Collection

Three tools were developed and used during the primary data collection phase: (1) a household survey questionnaire; (2) Key informant interviews and (3) Area of Origin Key informant interviews. **The current report will present the household survey findings only.**

A household-level survey was conducted across the KRI governorates of Dohuk, Erbil and Sulaymaniyah and Kurdish-controlled areas in Diyala and Ninewa which were accessible for REACH assessment teams. In total, 784 families (5,301 individuals) were assessed between 24 August and 1 September 2014. Locations were chosen based on reports of large IDP populations being hosted there, coming from various sources such as: 1) the International Organization of Migration's (IOM) Displacement Tracking Matrix; 2) REACH's own key informant network (including mukhtars<sup>8</sup> and hotel owners); 3) contact with local authorities (Asayish<sup>9</sup>, etc.); 4) REACH entry point monitoring; and 5) other humanitarian organizations.

### Sampling strategy

The sampling methodology for the household surveys aimed at a weighted random sampling (in this case multi-stage location group sampling) The assessment employed a 95 per cent confidence level and 7 per cent confidence interval.

The sampling was completed in three stages:

- 1) **Random selection location groupings:** the entire population of interest (IOM DTM data plus other data sources) was divided into small, distinct and coherent geographic areas (or groups), such as a group of villages, cities, camps, etc. In total, 17 location groupings were covered in the targeted areas.<sup>10</sup>
- 2) **Random selection of location groupings for each shelter type:** groups of shelter were stratified by geographical location. Camp settings, however, were assessed separately and considered as location groupings in themselves.
- 3) **Random selection of households within location groupings:** households were chosen randomly within each location grouping using simple or systematic random sampling.

Since families, as opposed to individuals or communities, will be the basic sampling unit a clear definition of the term household is a key part of the survey planning. Given the differences across shelter settings, the only useable definition is based on the nuclear family, defined as the head of household plus dependents (which may include any family members or separated children).

Based on an unknown total number of IDPs estimated to be around 1.7 million across Iraq<sup>11</sup>, the minimum number of basic sampling units needed for the sample is 196 per shelter solution (as previously mentioned, to a statistical significance of 95 per cent and 7 per cent margin of error). Since any data entry error would require specific sample units to be excluded from the analysis, in order to maintain a representative sample, a minimum of 10 per cent additional responses were collected if possible.

<sup>8</sup> The head of a village or neighborhood.

<sup>9</sup> Kurdish security forces.

<sup>10</sup> A total of 28 geographical groups were identified but 11 were not included in the sample analyzed as a result of data cleaning.

<sup>11</sup>Data source: IOM DTM 18 August 2014. Available at: <http://iomiraq.net/dtm-page>

When any sample sizes per theme went beyond the 196 target size, the additional surplus samples were randomly deleted from the stratification to ensure a statistical consistency between the four shelter themes.

**Table 1: Sample size by shelter solution**

Shelter type	Sample size
Collective shelters	196
Open air / unfinished buildings	196
Renting / hosted	196
Tents	196
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>784</b>

Camps were selected based on the list of known operational IDP camps prior to the start of data collection 24 August 2014. Hotspots in host communities were selected and weighted based on the latest IOM DTM data available at the time, 18 August, complimented by REACH data collected on the basis of key informants.

**Data collection / cleaning & analysis**

The questionnaire is composed of a core set of multi-sector indicators used as part of the ongoing Harmonised Needs Overview (HNO), primarily developed by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the assessment working group. Additional shelter and WASH related questions were added based on discussion with the Shelter and CCCM cluster leads.

The survey was conducted using a questionnaire administered by REACH mixed-gendered teams using Open Data Kit (ODK) technology on Android-based hand-held devices. This means data can be entered directly during the interview, and minimizes data entry cost and potential errors that can occur during manual entry as well as almost real time availability of the data. All data collection has been geo-referenced using Geo-Spatial System (GPS) technology to enable future mapping.

On a daily basis the forms were checked by the REACH assessment teams. The time of the forms were tested for mistakes. The median value for time taken varied between 12 to 17 minutes over the course of the data collection period, with all forms falling below the first quartile and above the third quartile double checked for data consistency.

Key columns were checked for mistakes, and thus excluded from analysis for that specific question type. In total 53 entries have been removed for data inconsistencies with an additional 169 removed to ensure a sample size of 196 per theme.

Finally, it should be noted that indicators collected are perceptions of the IDP population assessed. Therefore, under- or over-representation may occur. An example of this would be the principal providers of assistance, where international NGOs are significantly under-represented despite the fact that service provision by international humanitarian organizations is regular and widespread (as can be noted in Clusters 4ws).

**Data Limitations**

The methodology was designed to be representative at the KRI and shelter-specific level, therefore while a geographical classification of the different groups was identified (between urban, peri-urban and rural) the relationship between these and shelter solutions should be viewed as indicative of general trends and not representative.

Furthermore, due to the dynamic context of the current situation in Iraq there continues to be high mobility among the displaced population which means that population figures used to determine the sampling change constantly overtime. Nevertheless, findings are representatively indicative of the shelter and WASH situation using the most reliable and up-to-date figures available at that time

## DEMOGRAPHIC OVERVIEW

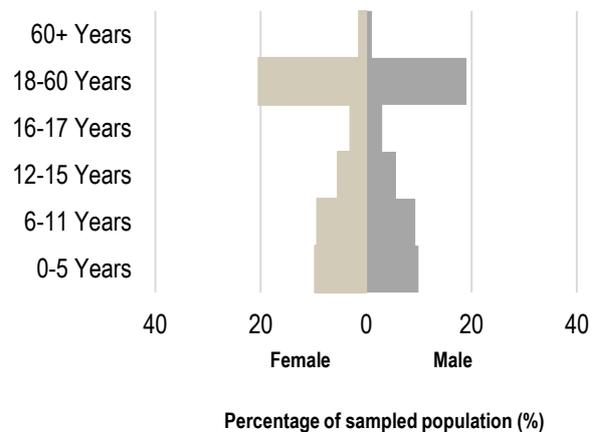
Displaced populations were distributed fairly evenly between males (51 per cent) and females (49 per cent).

The average IDP household consisted of **almost seven members (6.7)**. This is marginally larger than what was reported during a previous REACH assessment conducted in June 2014 at the start of the Iraq crisis,<sup>12</sup> at which time the average size was 5.7. This is likely to be a result of **greater displacement over this time as the presence of AOGs spreads across parts of northern and central Iraq**, and family members outside of the nuclear structure joining already displaced relatives thereby creating larger households.

**Households have approximately 1.3 children under five per household. The prevalence of female-headed households is 5 per cent.** The data show that a majority of female headed households come from Baghdad governorate. However Baghdad account only for 2 per cent of the IDPs and therefore the above figures should be carefully used in further analysis. 30 per cent of IDP households with a women of child-bearing age amongst their members were found to be pregnant or lactating.

Individuals between 18 and 60 years old comprise the largest age cohort (40 per cent). **More than half of the IDP population assessed were below the age of 18 (57 per cent).**

Figure 3: Age pyramid



The following common categories of vulnerability have been identified as potentially having an impact on access to assistance and basic services. The Shelter and CCCM clusters advises that individuals and households that fall under one or more categories should be prioritised in any response to ensure a targeted response that is based on equal access to basic services and assistance.

Table 2: Vulnerability categories

Vulnerability	Average Number Per Household
Persons with a disability	0.2
Persons with a serious illness	0.2
Pregnant or lactating women	0.3
Separated children	0.1
Older persons (above 60)	.08
% of total population	
Female-headed households	5
Very large families (8+)	23%

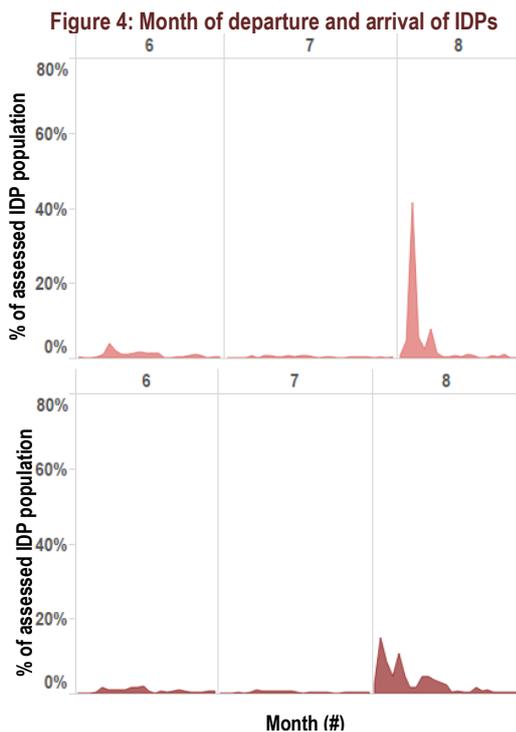
\*As reported by assessed households

<sup>12</sup> REACH. Vulnerability, Needs and Intentions of IDPs in Northern Iraq (July 2014).

## DISPLACEMENT TRENDS

The majority of IDPs originated from Sinjar District (48 per cent) and Mosul District (13 per cent) from Ninewa Governorate. Overall, **Ninewa Governorate accounts for 72 per cent of the IDPs** and Diyala for 10 per cent of them. 9 per cent are originated from Anbar Governorate and 6 per cent from Salah Al Din. A map on the areas of origin of IDP households assessed is included in *Annex F*.

A majority of IDP households assessed left their area of origin August 2014 (66 per cent), with the second largest group reported to have left in June 2014 (20 per cent); this reflects the two primary waves of displacement in the context of this crisis. It is the same case regarding date of arrival, whereby 70 per cent arrived in August and 16 per cent in June 2014.



**Secondary displacement was a commonly reported trend**, with 20 per cent of IDP households citing that they had relocated more than once between their area of origin and current location at the time of the assessment. Generally speaking, IDPs had moved or been displaced as a whole unit, with few reporting to have family members remaining in their area of origin (17 per cent).

A fairly large discrepancy from this mean was noted at the area of origin level, with more than 54 per cent of IDPs originating from Baghdad Governorate with family members still there, compared to 5 per cent of those from Ninewa Governorate. Of the 17 per cent with family members left behind, 48 per cent said that these had been prevented by local authorities from joining them in the location where they were at the time of the assessment.

### Registration status of assessed households

Generally speaking IDPs were not in possession of an entry permit or entry documentation (77 per cent). This type of documentation is often requested in order to access employment or for renting houses and/or apartments. Of the remaining households, 12 per cent had a tourist permit and 9 per cent a residency permit. **Dohuk Governorate is by far the target area where fewer IDPs have been granted any type entry permit (2 per cent).**

At the contrary, a majority of households assessed had been registered as an IDP with location authorities (93 per cent). It is unclear however if this registration is formal or informal and to what extent these figures are consolidated at governorate level by the local authorities. Figures also slightly differs according to shelter solutions.

**Table 3: IDP registration per shelter solution**

	Yes	No
Collective shelter	94%	6%
Hosted or Renting	86%	14%
Open air or unfinished building	96%	4%
Tent	95%	5%

It was not common for IDP households to be missing any civil document (only 10 per cent reported this and the question did not specify how many members in the household are missing civil documents), but among these most were not in possession of either their citizenship certificate (32 per cent), food ration card (32 per cent), and Identity card (32 per cent). Particularly in the case of a food ration card, this can limit access to food assistance or other means of external support.

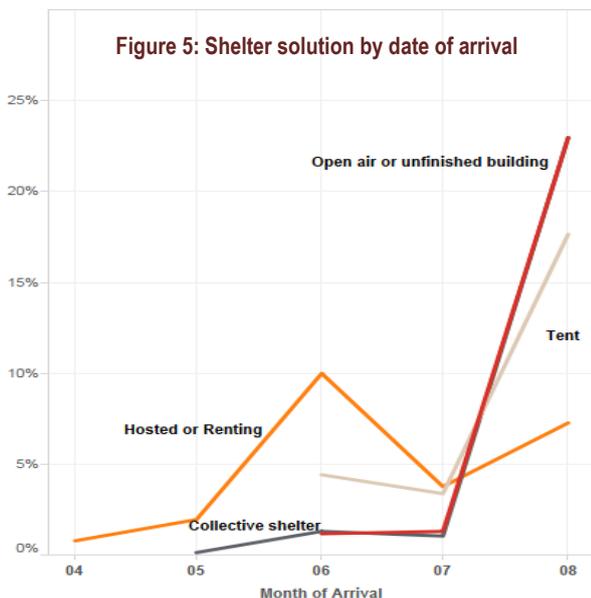
## SHELTER & NON-FOOD ITEMS

This section of the report presents the main findings from the shelter and NFI indicators collected, with a specific focus on primary shelter needs and indicators relevant for winterization programming. Significant variations between shelter types are noted but for more detail on core indicators by shelter type please see the *Shelter and CCCM Profiles* annexed to this report.

### Shelter

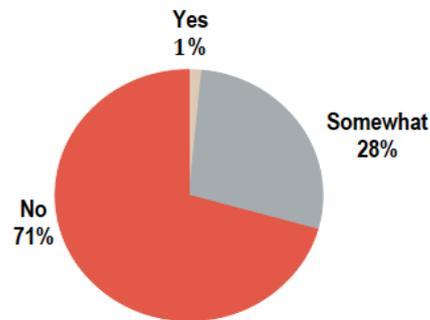
Currently the most common type of shelter arrangement is either to be hosted by family or friends, or to rent accommodation, either an apartment or hotel. According to the last IOM DTM data available prior to the start of the assessment (18 August 2014), 60 per cent of IDP households are being hosted by families, renting a hotel room, or renting/own a house or apartment. 24 per cent lives in collective shelters, 3 per cent in tents and finally 11 per cent lives in unfinished buildings or open air spaces.

Shelter solutions varies according to the date or arrival of the IDP household. Most of the IDPs who arrived in July and August 2014 moved in collective shelters, unfinished building or tents (see Figure 4). On the other hand, being hosted by families or renting were the prominent choices for IDP families who arrived in June 2014.



Shelter conditions and shelter standards varied according to shelter solutions. For instance, 70 per cent of IDP households located in tents at the time of the assessment had received a new tent upon arrival. Of the IDP families living in tents, 19 per cent cited that their tent needed repairs (37 per cent amongst those who received an older tent and 11 per cent amongst those who received a new one). **Only 2 per cent of the surveyed tents met three minimum winterization standard requirements**, according to observations by REACH assessment teams (adequate coverage and fabric, presence of a plinth, tent capacity to safely host a stove).

Figure 6: Tents meeting minimum winterization criteria



**IDP households living in collective shelters were mainly occupying schools (77 per cent) and religious buildings (15 per cent). Schools will need to be emptied for the start for the start of the academic year usually in early September**, which has already been already postponed in certain areas as a result of schools being occupied by IDP families.

Table 3: Eviction threats by shelter solution

	Yes	No	Don't know
Open air or unfinished building	20%	38%	41%
Tent	5%	47%	48%
Collective shelter	32%	28%	40%
Hosted or Renting	12%	68%	19%

Overall, 18 per cent of IDP households believed there was a possibility they would eventually be evicted. These figures are higher for collective shelters (32 per cent), and particularly IDP families living in schools (41 per cent).

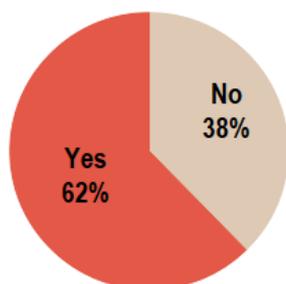
It is worth noting however that almost one household out of two (45 per cent) were undecided if they were concerned or not by the threat of eviction. This figure has to be monitored over time as host communities become more and more saturated with IDPs. The possibility of increased occurrence of evictions from collective shelters, hotels and rented accommodation will affect the movement of IDPs between different shelter solutions.

Beside the fear of eviction, households reported other concerns related to their current location: 11 per cent citing lack of assistance, 11 per cent no access to schools and 13 per cent no access to livelihood opportunities.

**More than one-fourth of IDP households (27 per cent) are paying for their accommodation**, concerning only those renting a house, apartment or hotel room. The burden of rent is likely to deter or prevent access to apartments or hotels for IDP households who left their homes with little capital and who do not have access to employment, thereby forcing them to resort to inadequate shelter solutions such as collective shelters, unfinished buildings or the open air, or camps. Concomitantly, paying for accommodation will be unsustainable for IDPs currently staying in rented accommodation who do not have access to income-generating activities. **Without the proper economic support, more IDP households will have to move to camps, collective shelter or open air settings.**

A majority of households share their current shelter with at least one other family (62 per cent).

Figure 7: % of HHs that share accommodation with other families



Households living in collective shelters or unfinished buildings were more likely to share their accommodation. One family out of two that is hosted by a family or renting is also sharing their current shelter with other families. Surprisingly, **26 per cent of IDP households living in tents reported to share their current accommodation.** These households are likely to have lower standards in terms of shelter conditions and adequacy and could be considered amongst the priority target groups for the next wave of shelter support.

Table 4: % of HHs that share accommodation with other families by shelter solution.

	Yes	No
Open air or unfinished building	95%	5%
Tent	26%	74%
Collective shelter	96%	4%
Hosted or Renting	42%	58%

The onset of winter is likely to leave many IDP households in a serious predicament, particularly as **65 per cent cited no access to a heating system at the time of the assessment.** IDPs living in open air or unfinished building will be particularly vulnerable if they do not have permanent access to a heating system during the winter months.

Figure 8: Access to heating systems

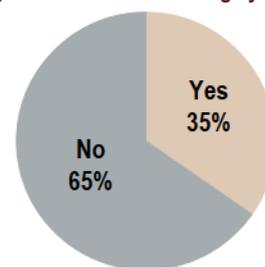


Table 5: Access to heating systems by shelter solution

	Yes	No
Open air or unfinished building	21%	79%
Tent	11%	89%
Collective shelter	43%	57%
Hosted or Renting	60%	40%

Those living in the open air (including unfinished buildings) or camps, and in some cases collective shelters depending on the type, are even more at-risk, with limited or no access to electricity. Indeed, an overwhelming majority of IDP households who did have access to a heating system relied on electric appliances (79 per cent; mainly referring to air-conditioning appliances that are used in summer season as well). **Electric heating equipment should be considered as inefficient for shelter solutions with a low level of insulation such as tents, unfinished building and collective shelter.**

### *Non-food items*

The average number of blankets per household was 3.7. With the average household size above 6., this is unlikely to be sufficient to protect every member of the household from the harsh winter conditions that can be expected. The average number of blanket varies according to the shelter solution, with IDP households living in tents reporting an average of 5 blankets against 2.8 reported by the households living open air or in unfinished buildings. On average, IDP households at the time of the assessment reported 1.2 carpets per home which reflects poor insulation measures against the cold. There is no significant average variation from a shelter solution to another.

Furthermore, the average set of winter clothes (comprised of shoes, warm pants and jacket) per child under the age of 12 was 0.25 whereas the standard for winterization is two sets per child. However, it is worth mentioning that households usually report less NFIs compared to what they actually own.

**Generally speaking, winterization was clearly a major concern among IDP households;** with winter clothing and the winterization of shelter the most commonly reported long-term priorities (29 per cent and 28 per cent, respectively).

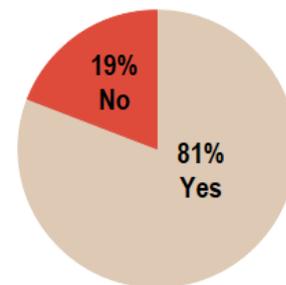
## **WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE**

This section summarises findings for core indicators related to shelter and focusing on access to water and sanitation services, in particular the use of toilets and showers.

### *Water*

Generally speaking, access to drinking water is adequate to meet basic needs (81 per cent of IDP households reported this). The figures are consistent and very similar even when disaggregated by shelter solution.

Figure 9: Access to drinking water



Not only was external water provision common, as previously reported, but this could also be explained by the fact that IDPs relied primarily on existing local community pipeline networks to access drinking water (60 per cent).

Other sources include bottled water (14 per cent) and water is that is delivered by trucks (17 per cent), which are likely to reflect external assistance. Poor maintenance or old-aged pipeline networks can create a risk for water contamination, so IDPs should have adequate access to bottled or trucked water that is properly treated. A majority of IDP households reported that they have sufficient access to clean water for other purposes such as washing clothes or dishes (83 per cent).

## Sanitation

Most of IDP households had access to toilets and showers (83 per cent and 65 per cent, respectively). Predictably, IDP households who were living in open air spaces or unfinished buildings have far lower access to toilets compared to those living in collective shelters or in a house, apartment or hotel room.

Table 6: access to toilets by shelter solution

	Yes	No
Open air or unfinished building	39%	61%
Tent	62%	38%
Collective shelter	60%	40%
Hosted or Renting	99%	1%

Table 7: Access to communal and private toilets by shelter solution

	Communal	Private
Open air or unfinished building	82%	18%
Tent	94%	6%
Collective shelter	98%	2%
Hosted or Renting	34%	66%

With a majority of IDPs living in shelter conditions that require them to share a space with other households, it is not surprising that communal toilets were the most commonly reported type of toilet used (75 per cent). This could also be explained by the fact that IDP households being hosted with friends or relatives cited having a communal toilet because they have to share with people that are not their immediate family, as opposed to if they were renting their own accommodation, and not a private toilet.

Table 8: Access to showers by shelter solution

	Yes	No
Open air or unfinished building	58%	42%
Tent	78%	22%
Collective shelter	96%	4%
Hosted or Renting	99%	1%

Similar trends were observed to with showers too with limited access for the IDPs living in open air or unfinished building (only 39 per cent).

Finally, it worth mentioning that access to toilets and showers did vary when comparing access by day and night.

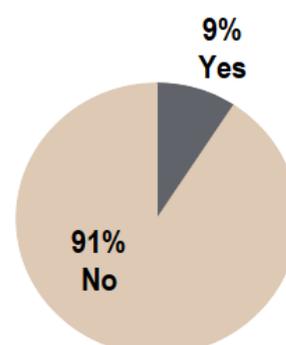
## LIVELIHOODS AND ASSISTANCE

In regards to livelihoods, this section summarises the findings related to IDP households' ability to meet basic needs and the primary sources of expenditure. Information related to assistance discusses access to assistance and the principal providers as reported by the IDP population assessed.

### Livelihood

Despite the large proportion of IDP households reporting to pay for their accommodation, only 9 per cent had access to income-generating activities.

Figure 10: Access to income



Among the remaining 91 per cent, reliance on charitable donations was **the most commonly reported solution for meeting basic needs (cited by 47 per cent)**. **More than one-third of IDP households were relying on their own savings at the time of the assessment (38 per cent)**, which will have severe implications on the type of shelter they are able to access, and ability to cover basic needs for all household members in the future. Support from friends or relatives was also a common coping strategy, reported by 11 per cent, but long-term reliance could leave these supporting parties with financial problems.

Generally speaking, at the time of the assessment which took place a few weeks after they were displaced from their homes, most IDP households were able to adequately cover their basic needs (61 per cent), using various means. However, only 11 per cent were certain that they would be able to sustain this for more than one month.

**Table 9: Ability to meet basic needs over time**

For less than one week	28%
Between one and two weeks	12%
Between two weeks and one month	11%
For more than one month	11%
Do not know	38%

There was clearly uncertainty as to the sustainability of means used, with 38 per cent not sure how much longer they would be able to meet their basic needs. Even more concerning is the fact that **28 per cent of IDP households reported they did not have the means to afford the cost of basic needs for even one week past the assessment**.

**Table 10: Sustainability of economic resources meet basic needs by sex of head of household**

	Yes	No
Female	53%	47%
Male	62%	38%

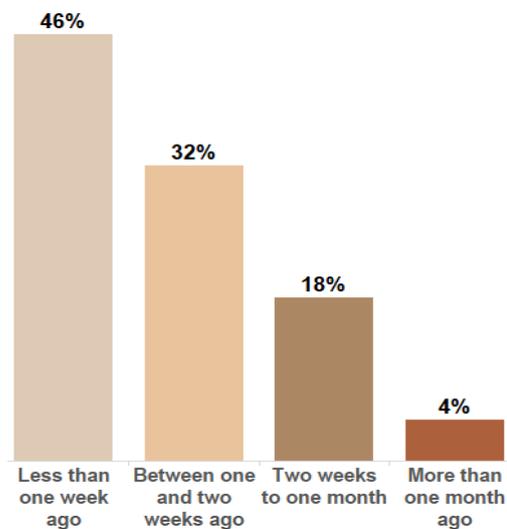
Female headed households have less capacity to meet basic needs than men headed household. These findings are not surprising, however, based on demographic data, **2.65 per cent of households (female headed household with no capacity to meet basic needs) should be immediately targeted as highly vulnerable**.

**Food was the primary source of expenditure for 66 per cent of IDP households**, with 13 per cent reporting rent which aligns with roughly one-fourth of households having to pay for their accommodation. Communication was the most commonly cited second and third source of expenditure (19 per cent in both cases) which could be explained by the fact that IDPs rely on contact with family or friends who were not displaced, or that relocated elsewhere, for updates on the situation in their area of origin and safety. Medical expenses were equally cited as a third source of expenditure (18 per cent).

### Assistance

The rapid local and international humanitarian response has been effective in reaching a majority of the IDP population assessed, 84 per cent cited that they have received assistance since the start of the crisis. Just under 46 per cent said they had last received assistance less than one week before the assessment, and 32 per cent between one and two weeks, which suggests that the regularity of assistance has also been adequate.

**Figure 11: Assistance received over time**



Among those who had not received any assistance, this was primarily because it was not available on the site where they were located (reported by 31 per cent) or they had not been informed about distributions (20 per cent).

**While food was most commonly reported as the principal household expenditure, it was also cited as the primary type of assistance received (30 per cent).** Water and non-food items (NFIs) were second and third (reported by 21 per cent and 19 per cent, respectively). If we disaggregate by shelter solution, figures significantly changes in collective shelters only with food aid accounting for the 55 per cent of the aid received while Cash and NFI for 16 per cent and 9 per cent. Only 16 per cent reported having received shelter or rental support.

Despite the presence of international humanitarian actors in Iraq, they were not viewed as the forefront providers of shelter or NFI assistance. **The government was reported as the primary provider of NFIs (27 per cent) and the local community as the most effective supporters for shelter solutions,** reported by half of the IDP households assessed (51 per cent). This figure may have been affected by the large number of IDPs being hosted by family or friends that were part of the local community before the crisis began.

International NGOs were recognised by only 2 per cent of IDP households as providers of shelter assistance, and 5 per cent of NFI assistance. This could be a matter of visibility but also merits a review of assistance programmes by relevant humanitarian organizations.

**NFI are by far the priority that has been the most reported by the IDP households** involved in the survey. NFI answers include winter clothing, household items and footwear. Shelter is the second reported priority with 24 per cent of the answer, which include both shelter improvement material as well as rental support.

Figure 12: Reported priorities by IDP households

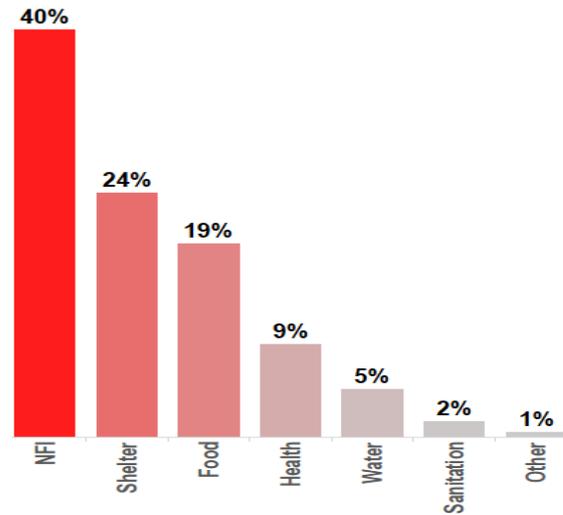


Table 11: Reported priorities by shelter solution

	Open air or unfinished building	Tent	Collective shelter	Hosted or renting
NFI	39%	26%	48%	34%
Shelter	26%	27%	18%	31%
Food	22%	24%	17%	19%
Health	5%	12%	12%	11%
Water	6%	8%	4%	3%
Sanitation	2%	2%	1%	1%
Other	0%	1%	0%	1%

Future programming will need to focus on providing adequate winterization support, with winter clothing and winterized shelter the top two cited long-term priority needs by the IDP households assessed (29 per cent and 28 per cent, respectively).

Unsurprisingly, **access to employment opportunities was the third long-term concern** reported (20 per cent). A sustainable mean of generating capital will not only ensure that basic needs such as food and water can be covered for a continuous period of time, but it could contribute to the affordability of more adequate shelter and facilitate access to effective heating systems.

## CONCLUSION

While most assessed IDPs were found being hosted by family/relatives or renting accommodation, over a third were found living in open air spaces, unfinished buildings, tents and collective shelters, making them more likely to have little or no access to assistance and basic services. Immediate Shelter and CCCM response interventions should prioritize these most vulnerable households staying in precarious shelter situations. In the meantime, the context remains volatile and may cause a shift of households between the different sheltering solutions currently available, which will render irrelevant the caseload presented above. Nevertheless, this assessment has enabled a better understanding of the conditions that households are likely to face depending on their shelter solution.

Medium terms programming should be focused on providing additional tents that are appropriately equipped with NFIs in preparation for the winter. Additionally, in the next few months programmatic decisions will also need to take into account winterization issues. Ideally, monthly assessments could be conducted to monitor the impact of winterization programming and to ensure that all IDPs are supported equally.

Furthermore, a long-term solution will need to be identified to support displaced households paying for their accommodation. Not only the exhaustion of economic resources is a serious concern but, as findings show, so is the possibility of eviction. This is also relevant for displaced households living in collective shelters, especially schools.

Although external assistance thus far has been successful in reaching a majority of IDPs, the international community, in coordination with local governments and communities, will need to establish mechanisms for effectively tracking IDPs.

The context in Iraq is likely to remain dynamic, meaning that the caseload of IDPs per shelter solution will change, and so will the conditions that have been reported from the findings of this assessment.

While access to water and sanitary services such as toilets and showers was generally common among the IDP population assessed, the situation can change very quickly, particularly in camps. Therefore, regular and in-depth assessments related to WASH should be conducted on a regular basis to monitor developing needs and ensure that rapid responses are possible.

Monitoring should be considered by other sector clusters as well. To be effective it should take place on a monthly basis, particularly in the run up to and throughout the winter season and be integrated into the Strategic Response Plan. Furthermore, relief aid can be a pull factor, especially in camps, and rapid, mass displacement towards camps can have further impact on current conditions and access. Finally, the increasing possibility of returnees should be taken into account, especially in terms of preparing for immediate assistance to areas where IDPs return to.

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### About REACH Initiative

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