

Returns and Durable Solutions (ReDS) Assessment

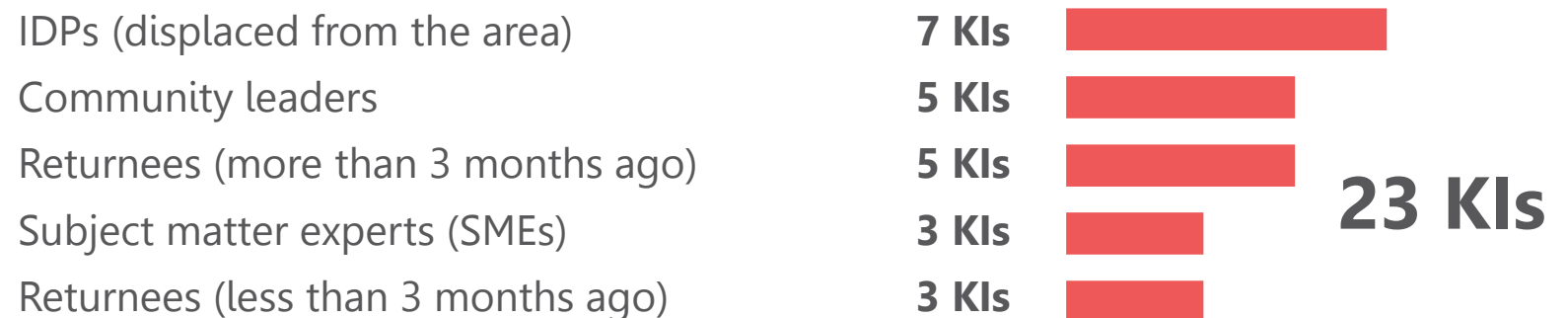
Al-Qahtaniya – Al-Baaj, Ninewa
Preliminary Findings Presentation, Iraq



Assessment Methodology

- Used **multi-sectoral** assessment tool, which combined **qualitative and quantitative** data.
- Data collection was done **remotely by phone** between 27 July and 18 August 2021, adapted to the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Purposive sampling** methods were employed to identify KIs. Findings should therefore be considered as **indicative**.
- Methodology based on **key informant interviews** (KIIs).

👥 KI profiles in Al-Qahtaniya Sub-district





Recent Movements

Recent returns 29-36 households

As reported, the majority of households returned from camps Dohuk governorate.

The most reported reasons for returning were:

- Sense of increased security;
- Following the return of other family members;
- Nostalgia from previous life; and,
- Perceived improved access to services in AoO.

Failed returns 18-60 households

As reported, all households who failed to return attempted coming back home from camps in Dohuk governorate.

The most reported reasons for failing to return were:

- Destroyed/damaged housing;
- Lack of job opportunities; and,
- Lack of basic public services.

Barriers to return

All KIs reported barriers for IDP households to return.

The most reported barriers were:

- Destroyed/damaged housing;
- Perceived lack of job opportunities and services;
- Fear of being perceived as ISIL-affiliated; and,
- Fear of informal security actors presence.



Expected Movements

Expected returns

83-147 households

As reported, the majority of households were expected to return from camps in Dohuk governorate.

The most reported reasons to expect further return were:

- Sense of increased security;
- Following the return of other family members;
- Perceived availability of job opportunities and services; and,
- Nostalgia from previous life.

Family separation

One KI reported that there were households with **adolescent brothers and sisters** who remained displaced at the time of data collection.

The main reasons were:

- Fear of ISIL to return to the area; and,
- These children were enrolled in the scholastic year in their AoD.

Reunification plans

The KI said: *“After providing security in the area and re-stabilizing basic services, in addition to the return of municipal departments, cleaning the area from mines, and providing job opportunities”* households would decide to return.



Access to Housing and Type of Tenure

Housing type

(Questions in this section excluded IDP KIs from the community)¹

As reported, the majority of households in the sub-district resided in **owned houses**.²

One SME KI reported that **some households resided in collective compounds**.

¹ The tool was tailored to ask specific questions to specific KIs considering their presence or not in the area of assessment at the time of data collection. Additionally, some questions were asked based on the assumed knowledge of the KIs about specific topics, such as their understanding of factors which might have an impact on decisions to return.

² KIs reported that some houses were made of mud and other natural materials.

Owned housing

The majority of households who owned house(s) reported **having documents proving ownership**.

A few KIs reported that **some households were missing HLP documentation**, such as:

- Housing property document; and,
- Housing endorsement certificate.



Evictions

Eviction occurrence

(Questions in this section were only asked to returnee KIs)

Over half of returnee KIs reported that there were **no households or families evicted** in the six months prior to data collection.

Risk of eviction

(Questions in this section were only asked to returnee KIs)

KIs reported that **IDPs in the community** were the displacement group **most at risk of eviction** in the longer term.

As reported, the most affected vulnerable group was **families of members with alleged links to ISIL**.



Access to Housing Rehabilitation

Challenges

The vast majority of KIs reported that households faced **challenges in accessing housing rehabilitation**.

The most reported challenges were:

- High level of destroyed or damaged housing;
- Limited support or neglect from the government to compensate; and,
- Lack of private financial resources for housing rehabilitation.

Support needed

As reported, the **most difficult support to obtain towards access to housing rehabilitation** were:

- Financial support;
- Access to reconstruction projects; and,
- Legal support (HLP).

Reported Proportion of Damaged Housing

56%-65%

Affected profile

KIs reported that **IDPs from the community** faced greater challenges, followed by returnees.

As reported, the following vulnerable groups had, overall, the least access:

- People with disabilities or special needs (PwSN);
- Elderly-headed households; and,
- Female-headed households.



Access to Compensation Mechanisms

Accessibility

Over half of KIs reported that the majority of **households were not able to access HLP compensation mechanisms**, affecting all categories similarly.

Perceptions toward the compensation process, as reported, included:

- Households will not be compensated; and,
- Long and complicated process.

This situation reportedly led households to mistrust the government capacity to support them.

Challenges

- Delays for compensation claim applications;
- Lack of legal assistance for compensation claims;
- Lack of awareness about compensation mechanisms;
- Presence of intermediaries to process the claims; and,
- Households forced to pay bribes to have their claims processed.



Access to Basic Public Services

Challenges

(Questions in this section excluded IDP KIs from the community)

The vast majority of KIs reported households faced **challenges in accessing basic public services** such as education, healthcare, and WASH.

The most reported challenges were:

- High level infrastructure destruction from military operations;
- Slow progress of rehabilitation ongoing works; and,
- Lack of specialized staff such as doctors, nurses and teachers who remained in displacement.

Affected profiles

(Questions in this section excluded IDP KIs from the community)

KIs reported that **returnees** were the most affected displacement group, followed by IDPs in the community.

As reported, the following vulnerable groups had, overall, the least access:

- People with disabilities or special needs (PwSN);
- Elderly-headed households; and,
- Families of members with alleged links to ISIL.



Access to Livelihoods

Access to job opportunities

(Questions in this section excluded IDP KIs from the community)

KIs reported a shift in the availability of job opportunities compared to 2014.

As reported, the most affected sectors were:

- Governmental jobs (public administration and defense);
- Trade, hotels, and restaurants; and,
- Transportation.

Challenges

(Questions in this section excluded IDP KIs from the community)

The majority of KIs reported that households faced **challenges in accessing livelihoods**.

The most reported challenges were:

- Lack of decent job opportunities;
- Lack of cash for work projects; and,
- Limited support for agriculture.

Potentials for sectoral growth

(Questions in this section excluded IDP KIs from the community)

Returnee KIs reported that members of their community were most commonly interested in the **agriculture, education, and construction** sectors.

Community leader and SME KIs reported that **agriculture, construction, and manufacturing** showed growth potential in the 12 months following data collection.



Access to Humanitarian Aid

Activities

(Questions in this section excluded IDP KIs from the community)

The majority of KIs reported that there **were humanitarian activities or projects implemented** in Al-Qahtaniya.

- Livelihoods;
- Food and NFI distribution;
- WASH;
- Housing and infrastructure rehabilitation;
- Social cohesion; and,
- Cash assistance.

Affected profiles

(Questions in this section excluded IDP KIs from the community)

KIs reported that **IDPs in the community** had less access to humanitarian aid, followed by returnees.

As reported, the following vulnerable groups had, overall, the least access to humanitarian aid:

- Elderly people; and,
- People with disabilities or special needs.

Aid as a factor to encourage returns

All IDP KIs from the community and returnee KIs reported that **access to humanitarian aid was a factor that encouraged returns.**

The most reported activity to encourage returns was **housing rehabilitation.**



Access to Judicial Mechanisms

Challenges

(Questions in this section excluded IDP KIs from the community)

Almost three quarters of KIs reported that households faced **challenges in accessing judicial mechanisms**, such as:

- The lack of a judicial court in Al-Qahtaniya, even before 2014; and,
- Households were forced to travel to Sinjar, Al-Baaj, Telafar, and sometimes to other areas in KRI.

Affected profiles

(Questions in this section excluded IDP KIs from the community)

KIs reported that **returnees and IDPs from the community** faced more challenges accessing judicial mechanisms than other groups.

As reported, the following vulnerable groups had, overall, the least access:

- Elderly people; and,
- People with disabilities or special needs.

Missing personal documentation

One IDP KI from the community reported that **IDP households had missing personal documentation**, such as:

- Passport;
- Birth certificate;
- National certificate;
- Civil ID card; and,
- Unified ID.

Perceptions on Governance

Bodies influencing governance

(Questions in this section excluded returnee and IDP KIs from the community)

The majority of KIs reported that the most influential bodies in terms of governance were:

- **Local authorities;**
- Tribal leaders; and
- Mukhtars.

“Power of tribal system”

According to one KI, the **tribal system played an important role in social cohesion.**

Reportedly, the **presence of internal disputes and tensions destabilized the community** in the sub-district, and **tribal leaders intervened to solve these disputes.**

Bodies influencing IDP and returnee affairs

(Questions in this section excluded community leader and SME KIs)

The majority of KIs reported that there were **no bodies or structures influencing IDP and returnee affairs.**



Perceptions on Safety and Security

Feeling safe

(Questions in this section were only asked to returnee KIs for this round)

All returnee KIs reported that **returnee households felt safe or very safe** in Al-Qahtaniya.

This situation was reported being the same for women, girls,³ men, and boys, according to most of KIs.

³ It should be noted that gender indicators can be subject to potential under-reporting due to the limited number of female KIs interviewed.

Freedom of movement

(Questions in this section were only asked to returnee KIs for this round)

All returnee KIs reported the **ability of household members to move freely during the day and night if desired**.

This situation was reportedly the same for women, girls,³ men, and boys, according to most of KIs.

Disputes

(Questions in this section were only asked to returnee KIs for this round)

All returnee KIs reported that there were **no disputes within the sub-district or between villages and that no retaliation incidents** occurred in the six months prior to data collection.

However, a few KIs reported that further returns may lead to internal disputes, which could affect social cohesion.



Perceptions on Social Cohesion

Feeling welcome

(Questions in this section were asked only to returnee KIs)

The vast majority of returnee KIs reported that **returnee households felt welcome or very welcome** in Al-Qahtaniya.

This was reportedly due to:

- Households having good relations with other families in the sub-district;
- Kinship ties and strong inter-family bonds; and,
- Work relations and friendship.

Interaction

(Questions in this section were asked only to returnee KIs)

The majority of returnee KIs reported that **returnee households interacted with IDPs in the community**, followed by returnees.

This interaction was reported to be a result of:

- Kinship ties; and,
- Work and business relations.

Participation in decision making

(This section included IDP KIs from the community and returnee KIs)

All returnee and a few IDP KIs from the community reported that **households participated in decision-making processes**.

The majority of IDP KIs from the community reported that **IDP households did not participate in decision-making processes**.



THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION



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Upon request