Acknowledgements

While there are too many individuals who supported the implementation of this assessment to thank, Samaritan’s Purse would like to acknowledge the kind cooperation of the Government of Iraq, particularly Qasim Al-Araji (Minister of Interior, Iraq), Karim Sinjari (Minister of Interior, KRI), Dr. Mahdi Al-Lak (Chief of Staff, Prime Minister’s Office), Dr. Jassim Mohammed Al-Jaf (Minister of MODM, Iraq), Dr. Walid Al-Hilli (Advisor to the Prime Minister, Iraq), Dr. Haitham Al-Mayahi (Director of Media & INGOs, Mosul Operations Office), and Khalid Talia (Director of Christian Affairs, KRI). Thanks also goes to Lise Grande (Humanitarian Coordinator, Iraq) and Colin Chambers (UNDP, Iraq) for their continued commitment to supporting rapid and equitable post-conflict recovery for minorities in Iraq. Samaritan’s Purse is thankful for the long-time cooperation of leaders of the Yazidi minority group, particularly Baba Sheikh Kurtu Hajji Ismail (Yazidi Supreme Spiritual Leader) and Deputy Prince Hazim Bake (Deputy Prince of Yazidis). Finally, Samaritan’s Purse wishes to thank the strong support of the Christian leaders in Iraq who have suffered greatly and saw their places of worship destroyed, but continue to tirelessly serve their communities: Archbishop Nicodemus Daoud Sharaf (Syriac Orthodox Metropolitan of Mosul, Kirkuk & KRI), Archbishop Yohanna Moshe (Syriac Catholic Archbishop, Qaraqosh), Archbishop Mor Timotheos Mousa Al-Shamani (Syriac Orthodox Archbishop for Bartella & Mar Matti), and Mar Abrs Youkhanna (Bishop of the Ancient Church of the East).
Multiple displacements and the battle against ISIS in recent years have left minority communities, in particular, in a humanitarian crisis of enormous scale. In a press release published on December 13, 2017, IOM announced that more than 2.84 million displaced Iraqis have returned to their areas of origin, mostly to Anbar and Ninewa governorates. The same report estimates that 2.9 million remain displaced.

Samaritan’s Purse has had a presence in Iraq since 2008, providing humanitarian aid to marginalized and vulnerable communities in partnership with local and international actors.

From November 15 through December 23, 2017, Samaritan’s Purse conducted an in-depth field assessment of approximately 16,000 minority households (HHs) from Ninewa Governorate representing over 24,000 HHs. By interviewing internally displaced persons (IDP) and returnee HHs, assessment results capture both the range and scale of barriers that are preventing IDPs from returning to their places of origin, and the immediate challenges that returnees face as they reintegrate into their communities.

After thorough analysis, Samaritan’s Purse concluded the following key findings which are further detailed in this assessment report:

1. Security is critical
2. Education and health are primary concerns
3. Damage is repairable
4. Minorities are returning
5. Restoration of minority communities is possible

For questions on the assessment methodology or key findings, please contact Mara Ladewig at MLadewig@samaritan.org.
Private homes in the Ninewa Plains suffered a variety of damage during the conflict, from complete destruction, to systematic burning of the interior, to broken windows and doors, and looting.

Survey results show that the majority of homes are currently either undamaged, or require minimal rehabilitation. As expected, current IDP HHs report a higher level of damage to their homes (30% structural damage), while only 11% of returnee HHs reported structural damage.

Housing Categories

Housing by Category in the Ninewa Plains

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>IDP HHs</th>
<th>Returnee HHs**</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Category 1: No assistance needed</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Category 2: Roof/wall is intact, est. damage up to $5,000*</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Category 3: Roof/wall is damaged, though full roof not needed; structurally sound</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Category 4: Roof needs to be repaired and structural integrity potentially compromised</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Category 5: Total rebuild</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Estimated budget figure based on 218 homes to-date that SP has rehabilitated in Qaraqosh.

**Returnees may be living in Sinjar town but have not yet returned to their original homes. In these cases, data represents returnees’ true home of origin, not current living environment.

For questions on the assessment methodology or key findings, please contact Mara Ladewig at MLadewig@samaritan.org.
Housing Categories

HOUSING BY CATEGORY IN SINJAR

IDP HHs | Returnee HHs**
---|---
Category 1 | 5% | 2%
Category 2 | 41% | 45%
Category 3 | 4% | 6%
Category 4 | 5% | 5%
Category 5 | 33% | 41%

* Estimated budget figure based on 218 homes to-date that SP has rehabilitated in Qaraqosh.
** Returnees may be living in Sinjar town but have not yet returned to their original homes. In these cases, data represents returnees’ true home of origin, not current living environment.

In June 2016, the UN human rights panel declared the violence that ISIS perpetrated against the Yazidi minority group to be genocide. The Yazidi people group suffered greatly at the hands of ISIS, both in lives lost and destruction of property.

As a majority Yazidi community, Sinjar town was the most destroyed of all surveyed areas. With approximately half of respondents reporting that their home suffered structural damage, the destruction to Sinjar town was so intense that it deserves its own page in this report.
Key Findings

1. Security is critical for the future of minorities

More than 53% of IDP respondents reported that insecurity was the greatest barrier to their return.

Large numbers of people are already returning with whatever safety and security conditions exist.

2. Education and health are primary concerns for IDPs

The majority of IDPs surveyed prioritized schools and health facilities as the most important institutions to be rehabilitated in their communities of origin, indicating the need for restoration of public education and health services.

3. Damage to communities is repairable

While there is widespread damage to HHs in the area, actual percentage of homes that are irreparable is lower than what the international community may have initially assumed.

Approximately 68% of returnees in the Ninewa Plains require minimal to no rehabilitation of their homes (i.e. categories 1-2). Similarly, just 50% of IDPs from the Ninewa Plains reported that their homes classify as a Category 2 or below.
4. **Minority populations are already returning to their communities**

61% of respondents had returned to their home of origin in their community of origin; results revealed that 80% of IDPs are willing to return to their home of origin.

Of the returnees surveyed, nearly 30% said the main reason they returned home was because they did not have the financial means to remain displaced. Approximately 25% reported their main reason was that their home of origin was safe.

5. **Restoration of minority communities is possible**

Given the desire of IDPs to return to their homes of origin and the fact that many are already returning despite stated challenges, Samaritan’s Purse acknowledges that the restoration of minority communities in Ninewa is entirely possible with the aid of the international community through strategic humanitarian and security interventions.

The majority of returnees and IDPs reported that they have the right to build on the land they occupied in their community of origin (78%); however, some private homes are illegally built on public land in a practice known locally as *tajawuz*. The extent of this practice varies by community. Humanitarian actors should consider the legal implications when providing aid for home rehabilitation in particular.
Ninewa Restoration Assessment - Results

16,829 SURVEY ENCOUNTERS
14,975 consenting respondents from focus communities*

Community of Origin

Qaraqosh 5,065
Bashiqa 2,680
Sinjar Town 2,348
Bartella 2,335
Bahzani 1,563
Karemles 521
Telekif 285
Teleskuf 95
Batnaya 77
Baqofa 6

Respondent Housing Classification: IDP Returnee Unknown

Head of Household

Male 70.3%
Female 8.9%
Child 1.7%
Elderly 19.1%

Respondent Living Status

IDP Only
Returnee to house of origin 61%
IDP in Village 34%
IDP in Camp 2%
Other 3%

Respondent Place of Worship

Christian 48%
Yazidi 38%
Shia 4%
Shabak 6%
Other 0%
Sunni 3%
Kakai 1%

Level of Damage to House

Category 5 (14%)
Category 1 (19%)
Category 4 (7%)
Category 3 (19%)
Category 2 (41%)

Would you go back to house of origin?

Yes 80%
No 20%

What is the most important service/facility to be rebuilt?

Health Facility 39%
School 35%
Police Station 10%
Other 9%

*The following responses were excluded from analysis: Mosul, Sinjar IDPs, Other, Declined to answer, and Blanks.
**Returnees**

What is the primary reason you returned to your home?

- No financial means to stay at previous location: 30.5%
- Location of return is safe: 26.8%
- Join family members that had returned: 21.9%
- Possibility for work/economic activities: 16.6%
- Security situation worsened in area of displacement: 1.6%
- Evicted from last place by private owners: 0.8%
- Encouraged by community/religious leader: 0.5%
- Incentive/support provided by gov’t authorities to return: 0.5%
- Incentive/support provided from humanitarian agencies: 0.4%
- Evicted from last place by government: 0.2%
- Other: 0.1%

**IDPs**

What is the main obstacle to returning?

- Area of return is insecure/unsafe: 53.0%
- House in place of origin is destroyed: 15.5%
- Lack of money: 10.0%
- Unable to return because property is inhabited: 10.0%
- Absence of services back home: 8.4%
- Other: 1.7%
- Fear as a result of changed ethnoreligious composition: 0.9%
- Lack of transportation: 0.3%
## Community Snapshot

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATUS</th>
<th>RETURNS AND REPAIRS</th>
<th>COMMUNITY MAKEUP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>BAHZANI</strong></td>
<td>87% of IDP HHs want to return</td>
<td>93% Yazidi; 5% Christian; 1% Muslim; 1% Other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9% of HHs surveyed are IDPs</td>
<td>76% of total HHs report $0-5k in repairs needed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85% of HHs surveyed are returnees</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BARTELLA</strong></td>
<td>67% of IDP HHs want to return</td>
<td>52% Christian; 15% Muslim; 13% Shabak; 20% Declined/Other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24% of HHs surveyed are IDPs</td>
<td>61% of total HHs report $0-5k in repairs needed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73% of HHs surveyed are returnees</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BASHIQA</strong></td>
<td>84% of IDP HHs want to return</td>
<td>61% Yazidi; 15% Muslim; 14% Christian; 9% Declined/Other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29% of HHs surveyed are IDPs</td>
<td>66% of total HHs report $0-5k in repairs needed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>69% of HHs surveyed are returnees</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>KAREMLES</strong></td>
<td>65% of IDP HHs want to return</td>
<td>92% Christian; 6% Shabak; 1% Muslim; 1% Other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>62% of HHs surveyed are IDPs</td>
<td>60% of total HHs report $0-5k in repairs needed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35% of HHs surveyed are returnees</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SINJAR IDPS</strong>*</td>
<td>78% of IDP HHs want to return</td>
<td>88% Yazidi; 10% Muslim; 2% Other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100% of HHs surveyed are IDPs</td>
<td>33% of total HHs report $0-5k in repairs needed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0% of HHs surveyed are returnees</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SINJAR TOWN</strong></td>
<td>46% of total HHs report $0-5k in repairs needed</td>
<td>98% Yazidi; 2% Muslim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>79% of HHs surveyed are IDPs who have returned to Sinjar, but displaced from their home of origin</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21% of HHs surveyed are returnees</td>
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# Community Snapshot

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<td><strong>QARAQOSH</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>25% of HHs surveyed are IDPs</td>
<td>64% of IDP HHs want to return</td>
<td>91% Christian; 4% Shabak;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>69% of HHs surveyed are returnees</td>
<td>53% of total HHs report $0-5k in repairs needed</td>
<td>3% Muslim; 1% Kakai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BATNAYA</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>96% of HHs surveyed are IDPs</td>
<td>77% of IDP HHs want to return</td>
<td>99% Christian; 1% Shabak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1% of HHs surveyed are returnees</td>
<td>35% of total HHs report $0-5k in repairs needed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BAQOFA</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100% HHs surveyed are IDPs</td>
<td>5/6 IDP HHs want to return</td>
<td>100% Christian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 HHs surveyed are returnees</td>
<td>2/6 total HHs report $0-5k in repairs needed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TELEKEF</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>96% of HHs surveyed are IDPs</td>
<td>70% of IDP HHs want to return</td>
<td>49% Yazidi; 36% Christian;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2% of HHs surveyed are returnees</td>
<td>61% of total HHs report $0-5k in repairs needed</td>
<td>13% Muslim; 2% Declined</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TELESKUF</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>88% of HHs surveyed are IDPs</td>
<td>65% of IDP HHs want to return</td>
<td>63% Christian; 37% Yazidi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11% of HHs surveyed are returnees</td>
<td>61% of total HHs report $0-5k in repairs needed</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

The data represented on this page provides a selection of the information collected as part of the HH surveys. Additional categories of information collected as part of Samaritan’s Purse’s comprehensive assessment include vulnerability demographics (e.g., pregnant/lactating women); key barriers to return and community restoration; access to income; access to public services; land tenure; market capacity; etc.

*See Methodology section.

**Batnaya was occupied by Iraqi military forces at the time of the assessment, therefore the majority of assessment findings reflect IDP responses only.

***Community leaders in Baqofa, Telekef, and Teleskuf declined community participation in the assessment, therefore the majority of assessment findings reflect IDP responses only.
More than 270 trained enumerators surveyed over 6,000 IDP HHs and 9,000 returnee HHs from nine select minority communities in the Ninewa Plains and one in western Ninewa between November 15 and December 23, 2017. Enumerators asked each respondent whether they agreed to participate in the survey to screen participants. The final consenting HH survey number is 15,598 and the dataset is based on these consenting HHs alone.

Surveyed HHs represent an estimated 24,000 HHs or 130,000 individuals based on an average HH size of 4.4 in the Ninewa Plains and 6.9 in western Ninewa as reported by survey respondents. This calculation is based on a one-to-one ratio of HH surveys in the Ninewa Plains and Sinjar town, and includes an additional multiplying factor to reflect all HHs represented as part of the sampling methodology used for IDPs from Sinjar. Samaritan's Purse surveyed a randomized sample of 623 HHs from Sinjar in 13 IDP camps, representing 9,235 IDP HHs from Sinjar in formal IDP camps. A representative sample was selected due to the extraordinarily large IDP population from Sinjar town. Non-camp IDP HHs were precluded from the survey because an accurate representative sample was not possible due to the high number of HHs (over 17,000 HHs according to the Duhok Governorate Board of Relief and Humanities Affairs) and the lack of records on the exact location of each HH. Analysis of the sampled population’s data is ongoing.

Wide disbursement of populations throughout the country prevented 100% coverage of IDPs, however, the assessment covered 100% of returnees in the communities to which SP had access. The IDPs surveyed were limited to those currently living in parts of Duhok, Erbil, and Ninewa governorates. Emigrees, or HHs originally from the select communities who have left the country, were not surveyed. Several key informant interviews with community leaders and nine focus groups representing vulnerable HHs also informed this study's key findings.

The nine towns in the Ninewa Plains covered in this assessment include Bahzani, Bartella, Bashiqa, Batnaya, Baqofa, Karemles, Teleskuf, Telekef, and Qaraqosh. Sinjar Town in western Ninewa is also included. The selected geographic areas represent Christian, Kakai, Muslim, Shabak, and Yazidi minority groups that suffered displacement and destruction as a result of the conflict with ISIS. Each community is currently at a different stage in the post-conflict recovery process.

The intention of this assessment is to reflect the perspectives and desires of IDPs and returnees from the communities listed above. This assessment is not intended to serve as a structural survey of homes, however it addresses housing challenges as part of a larger barrier analysis. A detailed breakdown of damage categories to homes is included in this report. Enumerators were trained on the categories and made a category determination for each house based on a rapid on-site visual assessment in returnee communities. For IDP surveys, enumerators explained the housing categories and the respondents made the category determination based on their knowledge of the state of their home. Respondents who have not seen their homes or otherwise could not respond had the option to decline.