IDP FACTSHEET: ERBIL CITY

ERBIL GOVERNORATE, IRAQ

DATA COLLECTED: 23-24 JUNE 2014

The worsening security situation in parts of northern and central Iraq has caused mass displacement across much of the country. Many internally displaced persons (IDPs) are entering the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI), reportedly perceiving it as a more secure area, and settling in host communities. To inform the humanitarian response, REACH Initiative is conducting rapid assessments in identified displacement sites, collecting data on the location of IDPs, where they are going, and what support is they most need.

The city of Erbil is the fourth largest in Iraq and most populated in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI). It lies 88km south-east of Mosul City in Ninewa Governorate and had a pre-crisis population exceeding 1.4 million. Many IDPs are heading towards Erbil City, principally to join family relatives, as well as due to tribal affiliations or to find temporary housing. A majority of the IDPs originate from the governorates of Ninewa and Salah Al Din. Many are entering Erbil City once they cross the border but struggle with the limited economic resources they have so are leaving to other areas where they have family or tribal affiliations and there is a lower cost of living.

REACH teams deployed on 23-24 June throughout Erbil City and assessed 225 IDP families living in rented apartments, hotels or hosted by family.

About REACH Initiative

REACH was created in 2010 to facilitate the development of information tools and products that enhance the capacity of aid actors to make evidence-based decisions in emergency, recovery and development contexts. All REACH activities are conducted in support to and within the framework of inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms. For more information, you can write to our Iraq office: iraq@reach-initiative.org or to our global team in Geneva geneva@reach-initiative.org. Visit our website at www.reach-initiative.org and follow us @REACH_info.

To better understand where IDPs are staying and in which type of accommodation, REACH called 55 hotels in Erbil City that in total reported hosting 551 families (2,475 individuals). A majority of hotels were in the neighbourhoods of Tairawa and Brayati. Over half of the IDPs assessed in Erbil City are staying in a hotel. (see map Erbil City Accommodation Arrangements for a breakdown on the types of accommodation per area in Erbil City, p. 5)
DISPLACEMENT

CAUSES OF DISPLACEMENT
97% LEFT THEIR PLACE OF ORIGIN BECAUSE OF CONFLICT OCCURRING IN THEIR VILLAGE/NEIGHBOURHOOD OR DISTRICT

OCCURRENCES AND LENGTH OF DISPLACEMENT

ON AVERAGE, IDP FAMILIES WERE DISPLACED FOR 1 DAY BETWEEN THEIR AREA OF ORIGIN AND ARRIVING IN ERBIL CITY

- 74% stayed elsewhere in Erbil District before arriving in Erbil City AND 9% stayed in Ainkawa District, located to the north of Erbil City.

DATE OF ARRIVAL INTO ERBIL CITY FROM JUNE 2014

ENTRY POINTS USED

85% ARRIVED THROUGH THE KHAZIR ENTRY POINT, LOCATED AT THE NINEWA-ERBIL GOVERNORATE BORDER

- 15% crossed through the Tasluja entry point in Sulaymaniayah Governorate. This is a common trajectory for IDPs in Kirkuk Governorate wanting to enter Erbil governorate as the highway linking Kirkuk City and Erbil City is often closed and reportedly very dangerous in the current context.

AREA OF ORIGIN

48% ORIGINATE FROM MOSUL DISTRICT IN NINEWA GOVERNORATE

- 20% originate from Tikrit District, in Salah Al Din Governorate
- 88% have regular contact with people in their area of origin

REASONS FOR SELECTING ERBIL CITY

45% CAME TO JOIN THEIR IMMEDIATE FAMILY

- 38% came because of tribal affiliations and 9% due to the availability of housing.

FAMILY

80% OF IDPS CAME WITH THEIR WHOLE IMMEDIATE FAMILY

- 20% had immediate family still in their area of origin (on average 2 people). Of this percent, 93% said these intended to join them in Erbil City.

See map ‘Primary and Secondary Displacement of IDPs to Erbil Governorate (p.5)
INTENTIONS

PRIMARY REQUIREMENTS FOR RETURN TO AREA OF ORIGIN

69% WILL WAIT UNTIL THE CONFLICT ENDS
- A majority of other families did not know if they will return to their areas of origin.

PLANNED STAY OF MOVEMENT

59% DID NOT KNOW WHERE THEY WILL BE IN THE NEXT 10 DAYS
- 23% intended to stay in Erbil City and 12% planned to return to their place of origin. A majority of those reporting this originate from Mosul District, but also from Abu Ghraib (Anbar Governorate), Baiji and Tikrit (both Salah Al Din Governorate), and Karkh (Bagdad Governorate).

OF THE HOUSEHOLDS INTENDING TO MOVE WITHIN KRI (5%) 67% INTENDED TO MOVE ELSEWHERE WITHIN ERLIL DISTRICT.
- The remaining 33% will go to Shaqalawa District, also in Erbil Governorate. Many will most likely stay in the town of Shaqalawa because of the availability of temporary and affordable housing.

WHILE MOST IDPS DID NOT KNOW HOW LONG THEY WILL STAY IN THE KRI (70%), THOSE THAT DID PLAN TO STAY FOR AT LEAST 1 MONTH

CURRENT SITUATION

PRIMARY ACCOMMODATION TYPES
- See map Erbil City – IDPs’ Accommodation Arrangements (p.7)
- Average cost of a rented apartment per week: 253,223 IQD (c. 217 USD).
- Average cost of a hotel room per week: 476,577 IQD (c. 409 USD).

PRIMARY MEANS OF MEETING BASIC NEEDS
- 72% RELY ON THEIR OWN SAVINGS
- Borrowing from friends was also reported as a common supplementary mean.

EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE

ALL IDPS REPORTED RECEIVING NO EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE

SUSTAINABILITY OF ECONOMIC RESOURCES

PRIORITY ASSISTANCE NEEDS
- 57% REPORTED RENTAL SUPPORT, 10% REPORTED SHELTER IMPROVEMENT, AND 8% REPORTED FOOD AS THEIR FIRST PRIORITY NEEDS.
CASE STUDY: Ainkawa City

The city of Ankaiwa is located north of Erbil City next to the Erbil City International Airport. In the middle of the night on 26 June 2014, it was reported that over 1,000 IDPs had arrived into the city. REACH was immediately deployed and assessed the needs of 59 families (392 individuals). Information on their place of origin and the routes they took to get to Erbil City was also collected. Having been displaced within the 24 hours prior of being surveyed by REACH, this assessment provides an interesting case study on data collection and analysis about immediate plans, priority needs and perceived situation of IDPs having only just been displaced.

98% of the IDPs assessed came from Mosul District and a majority had arrived directly from there to Erbil City through the Khazir entry point, having been displaced abruptly from their homes due to conflict in their neighbourhood of origin. While a majority had arrived with all their immediate family members, 25% still had members left in their place of origin and a majority of families expected they would join them soon in Erbil City.

Due to their arrival in Erbil City only hours before, 90% were staying in collective shelters – primarily two schools in the area; 8% reported staying in a rented apartment and 2% in a hotel. Unlike most other IDP families assessed in Erbil City who reported that they came to join other family members, a majority of these IDPs (61%) said they because they were told to by KRI authorities at the border.

A majority had not yet planned where they would be in the next 10 days but 19% said they intended to stay in Erbil City. Also in contrast to other IDPs in Erbil City who were likely to stay at least 1 month and wait until the conflict ended before returning to their homes, these IDPs said they would wait until security is restored though none of them knew for how long they would be in the KRI for.

Having left their homes less than a day before, many came to Erbil City with few economic resources. A majority (63%) of IDP families said they were relying on charitable donations at the time to meet basic needs, and 22% said they had no economic resources. Only 5% said they would rely on savings which was usually the most commonly reported economic resource in Erbil city and other parts of the governorate assessed by REACH. Of those with savings, 85% said that they only had enough to last them less than 1 week.

### Intentions of IDPs in the next 10 days

- **Return to their place of origin**: 2%
- **Move elsewhere in the KRI**: 3%
- **Stay in Erbil City**: 19%
- **Do not know**: 76%

### First priority needs

- **Water**: 27.12%
- **Shelter Improvement**: 37.29%
- **Sanitation**: 15.25%
- **Household items**: 1.69%
- **Health Assistance**: 1.69%
- **Fuel**: 5.08%
- **Food**: 11.86%