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Situation Overview

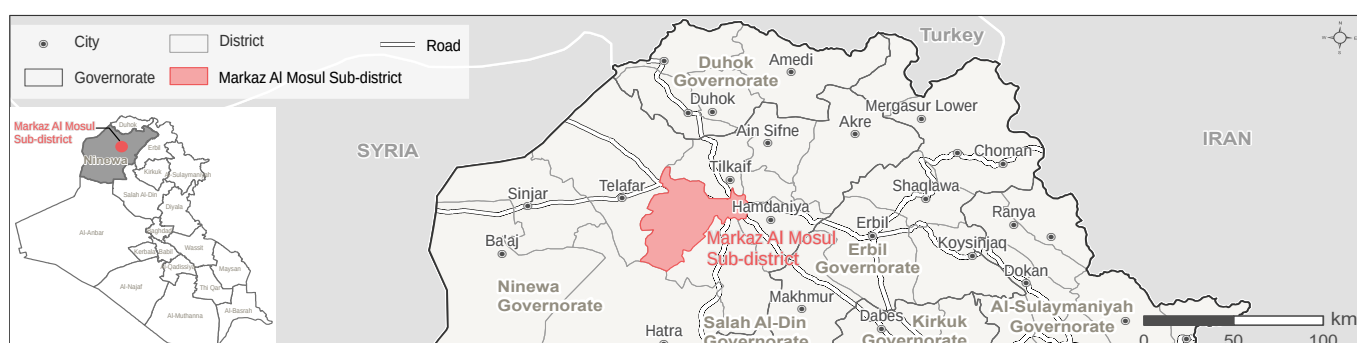
In 2020, the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) returning to their area of origin (AoO) or being re-displaced increased, coupled with persisting challenges in relation to social cohesion, lack of services, infrastructure and - in some cases - security in AoO.¹ Increased returns were driven in part by the ongoing closure and consolidation of IDP camps; at the time of data collection, 16 formal camps and informal sites have been closed or reclassified as informal sites since camp closures started in mid-October, with planning ongoing surrounding the future of the remaining camps across Iraq.² The [International Organization for Migration \(IOM\) Displacement Tracking Matrix \(DTM\)](#)'s Returnee Master List recorded that over 3,370 households returned to non-camp locations across the country between January and February 2021.³

In light of these dynamics, the need to better understand the sustainability of returns, conditions for the (re)integration of IDPs and returnees, and the impact of their presence on access to services and social cohesion has been identified in the context of humanitarian and development planning.

Markaz Mosul Sub-district

Markaz Mosul is a sub-district of Mosul District in Ninewa Governorate. It includes the city of Mosul, which is the capital of the northern Iraqi Governorate of Ninewa and is Iraq's second largest city after Baghdad.⁴

Coverage Map



Background and Methodology

A number of partners are currently tracking population movements and measuring progress towards durable solutions for displaced populations in Iraq.⁷ This includes the [IOM DTM Returns Index](#) which has collected data on a bi-monthly basis to provide indicative trends on the severity of conditions in areas of return (AoR) nationwide.

To build on this information, REACH Initiative (REACH) has been conducting multi-sectoral assessments in AoO or returns across Iraq assessing the overall condition of affected areas to inform how and to what extent durable solutions have or can be achieved. REACH's Returns and Durable Solutions profiles (ReDS) focus on the study of conditions at sub-district level, providing a localized overview of the perceptions of displaced and host communities on a variety of conditions linked to the (re)integration of IDPs and returnees.

In light of recent return and re-displacement movement dynamics, REACH conducted a ReDS assessment in Markaz Mosul Sub-district to provide an in-depth profiling of needs and understanding of social relationships between remainee,⁸ returnee,⁹ and/or IDP populations.¹⁰

The situation in Markaz Mosul has been characterised by waves of insecurity and associated displacement since 2003. After the start of the Iraq War, the sub-district witnessed increasing insecurity and social divisions, particularly between 2006 and 2008, sparking the mass displacement of thousands of people.⁴ On 10 June 2014, Markaz Mosul fell under the control of the group known as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), resulting in a second wave of displacement of around 500,000 people during the first two weeks of occupation.⁵ In July 2017, the Iraqi forces and their allies retook Markaz Mosul from ISIL. Since then, insecurity has gradually reduced and reconstruction has continued, alongside which populations have started to return. At the same time, particularly as the city is an economic and social hub of northern Iraq, IDPs displaced from other areas have continued to seek safety in Markaz Mosul.⁴

Reported Population Profile⁶

295,763-301,171	households were residing in Markaz Mosul Sub-district before the events of 2014.
188,157-191,557	households in Markaz Mosul were displaced since 2014.
106,951-112,815	households displaced since 2014 have returned to Markaz Mosul at the time of data collection.
156-173	IDP households (AoO not specified) were displaced in Markaz Mosul at the time of data collection.

Markaz Mosul Sub-district was selected for the assessment as: social cohesion severity¹¹ was classified as 'high' in at least eight villages in the sub-district;¹² it was an AoO for IDPs in camps at risk of closure or recently closed;¹³ and dynamic population movements to/from this sub-district were reported through the Returns Working Group (RWG). The findings are based on 42 key informant (KI) interviews conducted between 10 and 14 March 2021, combining qualitative and quantitative data collection methods adapted to the context. Data collection was conducted remotely due to movement restrictions and public health concerns linked to the COVID-19 pandemic. Findings are based on the perceptions of KIs who were purposively sampled; all data should therefore be considered as indicative. For further details on the methodology, please see the [Terms of Reference \(ToR\)](#).

KI Profile

Markaz Mosul Sub-district	
Community leaders ¹⁴	15 KIs
Remainees/non-displaced	5 KIs
IDPs (displaced from the area) ¹⁵	6 KIs
IDPs (displaced in the area) ¹⁶	6 KIs
Returnees (more than 3 months ago)	5 KIs
Returnees (less than 3 months ago)	5 KIs
42 KIs ¹⁷	

Key findings

-  The situation regarding returns to Markaz Mosul remained fluid, with KIs reporting ongoing returns and more projected in the six months following data collection, driven in part by decisions surrounding camp closures. According to a [REACH Intentions Survey from September 2020](#), IDP households interviewed across 18 camps in Al-Suleimaniyah, Baghdad, Dohuq, Erbil, Diyala, Karbala, Kirkuk and Ninewa governorates indicated Markaz Mosul Sub-district as their area of return.¹⁸ Six of these camps were closed between November and December, which could have affected the intentions of households to return.¹⁹
-  Perceived improvement in the safety and security situation was the main reported pull factor for returns to Markaz Mosul. In general, most KIs noted that community members felt safe in Markaz Mosul. There were no reported movement restrictions for women, girls,²⁰ men and boys during the day or at night, and households members did not avoid any areas in Markaz Mosul.
-  Despite this, insecurity reportedly continued to be a barrier to the return of IDP KIs originally from Markaz Mosul displaced elsewhere. While there were no groups reported to be unwelcome in Markaz Mosul, some IDPs from Markaz Mosul displaced outside the sub-district reported the fear of being perceived as ISIL-affiliated and the fear of inter-communal disputes, retaliation or harassment. Additionally, due to traditional naming practices in Iraq,²¹ some KIs also reported that some displaced people originally from Markaz Mosul could fear returning as their name may be similar to someone with suspected ISIL affiliation or accused of a crime.
-  Issues related to housing, land and property (HLP) were also reported barriers to return. These included damaged or destroyed housing, inability to claim HLP due to missing or damaged documentation, and that housing was rented or illegally occupied. The perceived lack of public services and job opportunities in Markaz Mosul also reportedly prevented further returns. However, it should be noted that perceptions on access to livelihoods varied, with KIs reporting it as both a barrier and a driver of returns. This could be due to different levels of access to information on available job opportunities and differential access between population groups. For example, community leader KIs reported the availability of jobs as a driver for returns, while IDP KIs originally from Markaz Mosul reported the lack of jobs as a barrier to return to their AoO.
-  KIs reported that IDPs persistently had less access to housing, including being more likely to live in inadequate shelter (including tents) or living under informal - and therefore more insecure - housing agreements. In addition, IDPs were also reportedly disadvantaged in access to compensation for housing and property rehabilitation as well as more at risk of eviction, alongside families with members with alleged links to ISIL and undocumented people who - as a result of not being able to prove their identity - could not access formal ownership/rental agreements. At the same time, returnees were reportedly more likely to live in inadequate shelter (including tents) and under insecure housing agreements, as well as disadvantaged in access to compensation, though this was reported less frequently than for IDPs.
-  The most needed intervention to encourage further returns was reportedly increasing access to livelihoods. All KIs reported an overall decrease in the availability of job opportunities compared to 2014. Reportedly, the types of jobs available had also shifted, with employment in public and private healthcare, finance, public education, manufacturing industry, oil industry, and transportation reportedly less available in 2020, compared to 2014. That being said, the availability of construction jobs had reportedly not reduced due to ongoing work to rebuild the sub-district after the conflict.
-  KIs from different population groups prioritized community needs differently. Livelihoods and access to food assistance were the most commonly reported primary community needs for IDP and returnee KIs. On the other hand, community leaders and remainee KIs reported the need to develop the health and education sectors in Markaz Mosul, and to rehabilitate the public water infrastructure.
-  Generally, there were no reported obstacles to the interaction between groups by the majority of KIs. Kinship ties, work relationships, friendship, common business operation,²² and going to shops and public places were reportedly the most common types of interaction between the different population groups.
-  Friendship, kinship ties between community members, work relationships, (re)integration and acceptance of IDPs and returnees, and to the intervention of local authorities were reportedly factors contributing to the stability in the area in terms of disputes in the six months prior to data collection. However, IDPs originally from Markaz Mosul displaced elsewhere reported concerns about outstanding inter-communal disputes as a barrier to return.

Recent household returns, failed returns and family separation

Recent returns

56-75 households returned to Markaz Mosul in the six months prior to data collection, as reported by 14 KIs (out of 42). Returns were reported from camps in Ninewa (8 KIs)²³ and Erbil (1 KI) governorates. Other households returned from non-camp areas in Al-Baaj (3 KIs) and Hamdaniya (1 KI) districts. The rest of the KIs reported no returns (20 KIs), did not know about recent movements (7 KIs), or refused to answer (1 KI).

According to [IOM DTM Emergency Tracking](#) of February 2021, 330 households returned to their AoO in Markaz Mosul from six camps in Karbala and Ninewa governorates between October 2020 and February 2021. The difference in reported returns might be attributed to the fact that community leader KIs may have provided numbers of households which returned within their specific neighbourhood of coverage, rather than estimates for the sub-district more broadly. This could be due to their interpretation of the question, or reflect the level of their knowledge on related population movements.

Reported drivers for returns (out of 14 KIs)²⁴

Sense of increased safety and security	7 KIs	
Camp closures in area of displacement (AoD)	6 KIs	
Nostalgia about previous life	2 KIs	
Security clearance granted ²⁵	1 KI	
Availability of job opportunities	1 KI	
Difficult living conditions in area of displacement (AoD)	1 KI	

Recent returns reportedly led to positive and negative impacts in terms of access to job opportunities and assistance, with negative consequences reported more frequently than positive impacts. On one hand, over half of KIs reported that these movements led to higher competition in the labour market (8 KIs out of 14), on the other hand some KIs believed that recent returns contributed to increased job

opportunities (3 KIs). Similarly, while the majority reported a decrease in the level of household assistance due to increased demand (5 KIs), one KI reported that access to assistance increased due to the response by different governmental and humanitarian actors to the recent returns.

The rest of the KIs reported that recent returns did not have any effect on the community of Markaz Mosul (3 KIs).

Failed returns

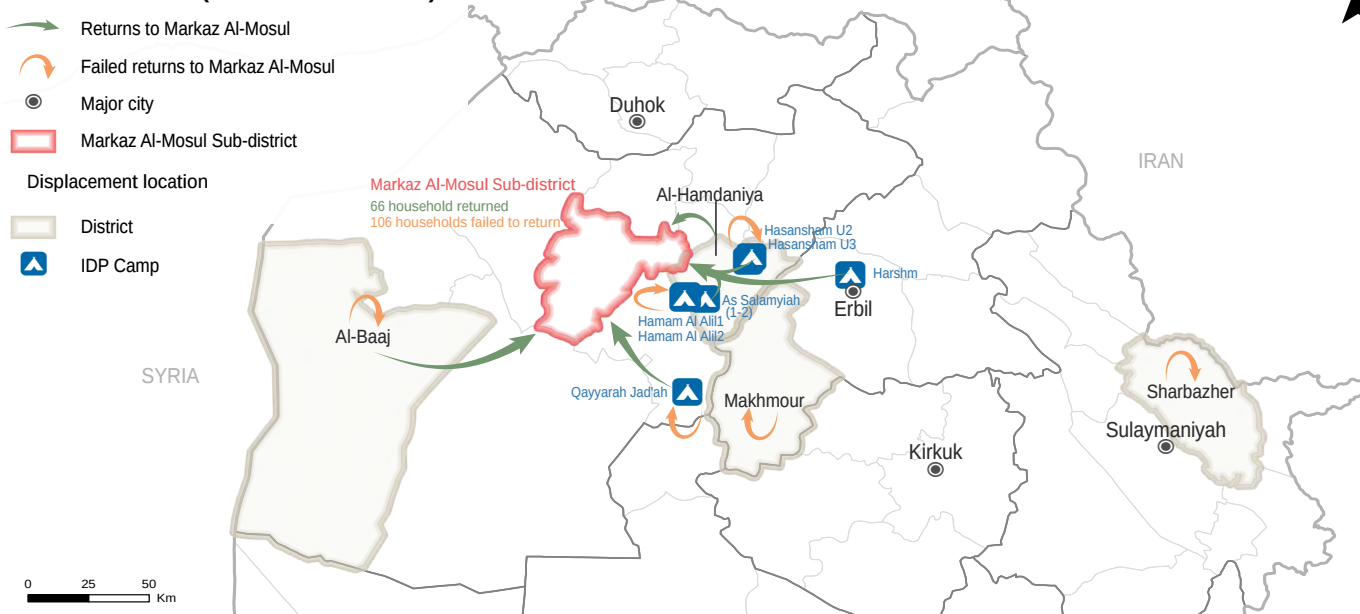
78-133 households attempted to return to Markaz Mosul in the six months prior to data collection but did not succeed (15 KIs out of 42). Attempted returns were reported from camps in Ninewa (9 KIs)²³ and Erbil (1 KI) governorates. Other households attempted to return from non-camp areas in Al-Baaj (2 KI), Al-Makhmour (1 KI) and Sharbazher (1 KI) districts. The rest of the KIs reported no attempted returns (18 KIs), or did not know (9 KIs).

Reported reasons for failed returns (out of 15 KIs)²⁴

Destroyed/damaged housing	7 KIs	
Fear of being perceived as ISIL-affiliated	2 KIs	
Fear of inter-communal disputes or retaliation	2 KIs	
Availability of job opportunities in AoD	2 KIs	
Fear of similarity of names ²¹	1 KI	
Lack of services in AoO	1 KI	
Unstable security in AoO	1 KI	

Reportedly, failed returns negatively impacted on access to livelihoods and assistance. The prolonged displacement of business owners reportedly resulted in more limited access to livelihoods (9 KIs). In addition, less access to assistance was reported due to the perceived lack of interest of governmental and humanitarian actors in the area (3 KIs). The rest of the KIs did not know about the impact of failed returns (3 KIs), reported no impact (2 KIs), or refused to answer (1 KI).

Recent movements and failed return to Markaz Al-Mosul (in the last 6 months)



Recent IDP arrivals

Recent IDP arrivals

41-65 IDP households reportedly arrived in Markaz Mosul in the six months prior to data collection from camps in Ninewa Governorate²³ (4 KIs out of 9) and from non-camp areas in Al-Baaj (1 KI) and Aqra (1 KI) districts. The rest of the KIs reported no IDP arrivals (18 KIs), or did not know (15 KIs).

According to [IOM DTM Emergency Tracking](#) of February 2021, 549 IDP households arrived to Markaz Mosul from five camps in Kirkuk and Ninewa governorates between November 2020 and February 2021. As identified above, the difference in reported returns might be attributed to the fact that community leader KIs may have provided numbers of households which returned within their specific neighbourhood of coverage, rather than estimates for the sub-district more broadly. This could be due to their interpretation of the question, or reflect the level of their knowledge on related population movements.

Reported drivers for IDP arrivals (out of 9 KIs)²⁴

Camp closures in AoD	4 KIs	
Denied security clearance to return to AoO	2 KIs	
Did not know	6 KIs	

Reportedly, IDP arrivals to Markaz Mosul negatively impacted access to livelihoods and assistance; these movements were reported to lead to higher competition in the labour market (6 KIs out of 9), and a decrease in the level of household assistance due to increased demand was also reported (5 KIs).

Family separation

While over half of KIs did not know about family separation in the sub-district (28 KIs out of 42), some KIs reported that there were no households with immediate family members who remained displaced at the time of data collection (9 KIs). The rest of the KIs refused to answer (5 KIs).

IDP arrivals to Markaz Al-Mosul (in the last 6 months)

- IDP arrivals to Markaz Al-Mosul
- Major city
- Markaz Al-Mosul Sub-district
- Displacement location
- District
- IDP Camp

0 25 50 Km



Expected household returns and displacement

Expected returns

While the vast majority of KIs did not know about expected returns to Markaz Mosul (33 KIs out of 42), some KIs reported that no households were expected to return in the six months following data collection (8 KIs). One KI refused to answer.

However, 35 KIs (out of 42) reported drivers that might result in return movements to Markaz Mosul. The rest of the KIs did not know (6 KIs), or refused to answer (1KI).

Reported drivers for expected returns (out of 35 KIs)²⁴

Sense of increased safety and security	30 KIs	
Availability of job opportunities	8 KIs	
Following the return of other extended family members	4 KIs	
Nostalgia about previous life	3 KIs	
Difficult living conditions in AoD	1 KI	

Further returns were expected to have positive and negative impacts in terms of access to job opportunities. A similar number of KIs reported that expected returns could contribute to increased job opportunities due to the return of business owners (19 KIs out of 42) and, on the other hand, that these movements could increase competition for the

limited available opportunities (17 KIs).

Other negative impacts of further returns reported included an expected decrease in levels of assistance due to increased demand (7 KIs) and the perception that such movements could increase the number of COVID-19 cases in Markaz Mosul (3 KIs). The rest of the KIs reported no effects related to these movements (3 KIs), or did not know (1 KI).

Reported barriers to return (out of 42 KIs)²⁴

Destroyed/damaged housing	39 KIs	
Fear of contracting COVID-19	7 KIs	
Lack of services	7 KIs	
Lack of job opportunities	6 KIs	
Lack of security	3 KIs	
Fear of inter-communal disputes or retaliation	2 KIs	
Fear of being perceived as affiliated with ISIL	2 KIs	
House is rented in AoO	2 KIs	
Lack of necessary documentation to claim properties	1 KI	
Lack of specialised medical treatment in AoO	1 KI	
Denial of security clearance ²⁶	1 KI	

Primary community needs

Primary community needs in Markaz Mosul (out of 42 KIs)²⁴

	First Need	Second Need	Third Need
Livelihoods	12 KIs	3 KIs	3 KIs
Healthcare	7 KIs	5 KIs	4 KIs
Food	5 KIs	8 KIs	6 KIs
Education	3 KIs	10 KIs	0 KIs
Cash assistance	3 KIs	3 KIs	2 KIs
Waste disposal	3 KIs	1 KI	4 KIs
Water	2 KIs	3 KIs	7 KIs
Housing rehabilitation	2 KIs	2 KIs	5 KIs
Infrastructure rehabilitation	2 KIs	0 KIs	0 KIs
Non-food items (NFI)	1 KI	3 KIs	5 KIs
Electricity	1 KI	2 KIs	5 KIs
Security	1 KI	1 KI	0 KIs

The most commonly reported primary need in the community was access to livelihoods (12 KIs out of 42) due to the lack of public and private sector job opportunities (8 KIs out of 12), and the lack of investment in the private sector (1 KI). Female heads of household were reportedly more restricted in terms of access to income generating opportunities (3 KIs). In addition, access to healthcare was also considered a primary community need (7 KIs out of 42) (see section on access to basic public services on page six).

The second most commonly reported main community need was access to education (10 KIs out of 42) due to the limited availability of (free) school books corresponding to the new educational curriculum (13 KIs). This led to a perceived decline in the quality of public education in Markaz Mosul (12 KIs) compared with the quality prior to 2014 as - as a result of gaps in up-to-date materials - schools relied on older curriculums now considered obsolete. Other reported barriers to access education were the number of damaged/destroyed schools (2 KIs) and the lack of educational equipment (2 KIs). Access to food assistance was also considered a second community need, particularly for IDPs and returnees, due to the perceived inability of households to afford food (8 KIs out of 42), with large households reportedly disproportionately affected²⁷ (2 KIs).

The third most commonly reported main community need was access to water (7 KIs out of 42) (see section on access to basic public services on page six).

Most commonly reported primary community needs per KI profile^{24, 28}

Community leaders (out of 15 KIs)

Education	11 KIs
Water	9 KIs
Healthcare	8 KIs

Remainees (out of 5 KIs)

Healthcare	2 KIs
Education	2 KIs
Water	2 KIs

Returnees (out of 10 KIs)

Food	9 KIs
Livelihoods	6 KIs
Cash assistance	4 KIs

IDPs (displaced from and in the area)^{16, 17}
(out of 12 KIs)

Livelihoods	9 KIs
Food	6 KIs
NFI	5 KIs

Access to humanitarian aid and presence of non-governmental organisations (NGOs)

36 KIs (out of 42) reported that there were no NGOs implementing activities and projects in Markaz Mosul at the time of data collection. A minority (4 KIs) reported that there were NGOs implementing activities. Two KIs did not know.²⁹

Reported activities implemented by NGOs (out of 4 KIs)²⁴

Livelihoods	2 KIs
Housing rehabilitation	2 KIs
Cash assistance	2 KIs
Social cohesion	1 KI
Food security programmes	1 KI
NFI distributions	1 KI
Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)	1 KI
COVID-19 awareness	1 KI

Of those reporting presence of NGOs in Markaz Mosul, three KIs reported that there were no groups less involved in humanitarian activities and projects. One KI refused to answer.

17 KIs (out of 42) reported that the availability of humanitarian aid would be a factor encouraging returns to Markaz Mosul. The rest of the KIs refused to answer (14 KIs), did not know (10 KIs), or reported that it was not a factor that would encourage returns (1 KI).

The most needed activities or projects in Markaz Mosul to encourage returns as reported by 17 KIs (out of 42) were:

Livelihoods	10 KIs
Infrastructure rehabilitation	4 KIs
Housing rehabilitation	2 KIs
Social cohesion	1 KI

"It is important to provide job opportunities, even if they are simple jobs through which households can meet their basic needs and decide to return."

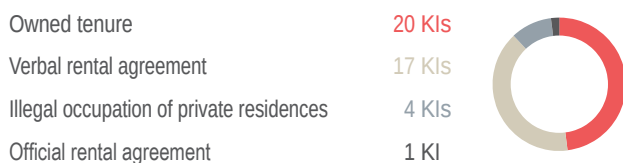
- Female IDP KI originally from Markaz Mosul -

Perceptions on access to housing and basic public services

Access to housing

Most KIs (39 KIs out of 42) reported that the majority of households in Markaz Mosul resided in houses or apartments. However, of populations reported to be residing in tents, IDPs (12 KIs) and returnees (5 KIs) were reported to be more at risk.

Reported types of housing agreement for the majority of households (out of 42 KIs)



The primary type of housing agreement held differed by displacement status. IDP KIs (9 KIs) reported that the majority of IDP households resided in housing under verbal rental agreement. Three IDP KIs reported that some IDP households resided in illegally occupied private residences in Markaz Mosul. At the same time, returnee KIs also reported that the majority of returnee households resided under verbal rental agreement (5 KIs), or that they owned houses in Markaz Mosul (4 KIs). A returnee KI reported that some returnee households also resided in illegally occupied private residences. Community leader and remainee KIs (16 KIs) reported that the majority of host community and remainee households resided in owned houses, though some also reportedly rented under official or verbal agreements (4 KIs).

Damage to housing

30%-60% of houses in Markaz Mosul were damaged during military operations in 2014, as reported by all KIs (42 KIs).^{30, 31}

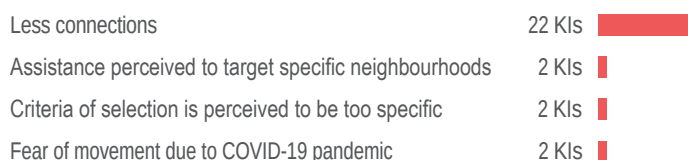
Almost half of KIs (25 KIs out of 42) reported that all population groups were residing in damaged houses. However, IDPs were reportedly most affected (12 KIs), followed by returnees (5 KIs).

Access to housing rehabilitation

24 KIs (out of 42) reported that access to housing rehabilitation was unequal. The rest of the KIs reported that access to rehabilitation was equal (17 KIs), or did not know (1 KI).

However, of those reporting access to housing rehabilitation was unequal, only a small number of KIs specifically identified certain population groups; six IDP KIs reported IDPs as having less access. The majority (16 KIs) were not able to identify specific groups with unequal access to housing rehabilitation, and two KIs believed that all groups experienced similar challenges.

Reported barriers to access rehabilitation assistance (out of 24 KIs)²⁴



Risk of eviction

41 KIs (out of 42) reported that there were no families at immediate risk of eviction in Markaz Mosul at the time of data collection. One KI did not know.

KIs reported risks of evictions for all groups in the long term (17 KIs out of 42). Of these, IDPs were reportedly most at risk (11 KIs), followed by returnees (5 KIs) and remainees (1 KI).

Other groups reportedly at greater risk of eviction in the longer term were: families with members with alleged links to ISIL (3 KIs) and people lacking civil documentation who - as a result - had more limited access to formal rental/ownership agreements (2 KIs).

Access to basic public services

37 KIs (out of 42) reported equal access to basic public services. However, four KIs reported that IDPs have unequal access to basic public services - namely healthcare and water - due to having less connections (3 KIs), lack of financial means to access services (2 KIs) and the criteria of selection for support was perceived as too specific (1 KI). One KI refused to answer.

In terms of access to public education, the vast majority of KIs (40 KIs out of 42) reported that boys and girls between 6-15 years old could access school and there were no children between those ages out of school in Markaz Mosul. However, two IDP KIs reported that around 10% of IDP boys and girls between 6-15 years old were out of school at the time of data collection. This was reportedly due to the lack of schools in Markaz Mosul and the distance to reach those nearest.

Some KIs reported a decline in the quality of the public healthcare services compared to the period before 2014 (10 KIs), particularly due to the limited availability of medication (8 KIs), lack of medical staff (3 KIs) and limited preparedness to confront the COVID-19 pandemic (1 KI). This situation reportedly forced families to resort to private health services in Markaz Mosul (8 KIs), or move to other areas for treatment (1 KI).

Public electricity services reportedly had limited operating hours (8 KIs). Of those that mentioned this, the reported reasons included the deterioration of/damage to the electrical network and transformers (5 KIs) and lack of maintenance (5 KIs). As a result, some households were reportedly resorting to the use of private generators (3 KIs). According to three KIs, limited public electricity services not only affected households' access to electricity but also prevented the full operation of businesses³² in Markaz Mosul.

Some KIs reported there was limited capacity at the municipal level in terms of waste handling, transportation and disposal which resulted in the accumulation of waste in urban areas (7 KIs), and raising associated health concerns (2 KIs).

Challenges in terms of access to water were also reported in Markaz Mosul. This includes the deterioration of quality due to the lack of maintenance of the water network and water filters (18 KIs), which reportedly resulted in water pollution (11 KIs). Some KIs noted these challenges resulted in the reliance of some households on purchased bottled water (12 KIs) and contributed to highly inflated prices for private water services (7 KIs).

Access to livelihoods

22 KIs (out of 42, all IDP (12 KIs) and returnee KIs (10 KIs)) reported that access to livelihoods was unequal for their population groups.³³ The rest of the KIs - including all community leader and remainee KIs - reported that it was equal for all groups (20 KIs).

In addition to IDPs and returnees, KIs reported that people with disabilities (19 KIs), elderly people (14 KIs), and female heads of household (11 KIs) also had less access to livelihoods opportunities.

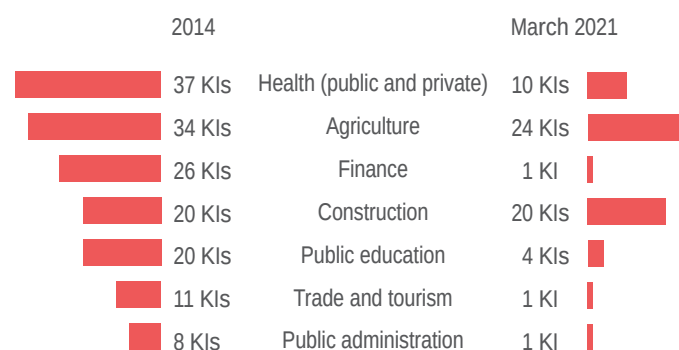
The main reported reasons for differential levels of access to livelihoods were: perceived limited physical capacity, skill or education attainment (19 KIs), and the lack of connections (3 KIs).

"Households need to have access to livelihood opportunities to ensure a monthly salary, even if it is [only] 300,000 Iraqi Dinars per month [approximately 200 US dollars]. Many households [in Markaz Mosul] depend on the head of household's public pension, which is not enough to subsist."

- Female IDP KI displaced in Markaz Mosul -

The number and diversity of jobs available had reported reduced compared to the period before 2014.

Types of jobs reportedly available in Markaz Mosul in 2014 compared to March 2021 (out of 42 KIs)²⁴



Employment in public and private health (27 KIs), finance (25 KIs), public education (15 KIs), the manufacturing industry (11 KIs), the oil industry (7 KIs), and transportation (6 KIs) were reportedly less available in 2021, compared to 2014. However, there was reportedly no change in the availability of jobs in construction, mainly due to ongoing rehabilitation to rebuild the sub-district following military operations between 2014 and 2017 (20 KIs).

Access to public judicial mechanisms

The vast majority of KIs (40 KIs out of 42) reported that access to public judicial mechanisms was equal. Two KIs reported that access was affected for all population groups due to movement restrictions and health concerns linked to the COVID-19 pandemic.

All KIs reported that there were **no governmental offices closed** in Markaz Mosul at the time of data collection and all population groups reportedly had access to documentation - including renewal or replacement - in the departments nearest to them.

Perceptions on governance

Governance and influencing bodies

Reported influential local actors related to governance (out of 42 KIs)²⁴

Local authorities	42 KIs
Mukhtars	19 KIs
Tribal leaders	11 KIs

Over half of KIs (22 KIs out of 42) did not know about expected **changes in the most influential local actors related to governance** in the six months following data collection. The rest of the KIs reported no expected changes (19 KIs), or refused to answer (1 KI).

Over half of KIs (23 KIs out of 42) did not know about appointments for new local authorities in the six months prior to data collection. Eighteen KIs reported no new appointments. However, one community leader KI reported that there were appointments for new local authorities in the six months prior to data collection in Markaz Mosul.

Perceptions in safety and security³⁴

Safety and security

The vast majority of KIs (41 KIs out of 42) reported that their community members felt safe in Markaz Mosul. One KI refused to answer.

"Security is one of the most important needs for the region in general. When security is ensured, individuals can move around, go to work, knowing that their family is safe at home while s/he is out. Individuals can easily move [outside Markaz Mosul] to work."

- Male community leader KI -

Freedom of movement

The vast majority of KIs (40 KIs out of 42) reported that women, girls,²⁰ men and boys from all population groups can freely move during the day and at night. Two community leaders refused to answer.

29 KIs (out of 42) reported that community members from all population groups did not **avoid specific areas** in Markaz Mosul. The rest of the KIs refused to answer (12 KIs), or did not know (1 KI).

Explosive remnants of war (ERW) contamination

All KIs (42 KIs) reported that there were **no contaminated fields** in Markaz Mosul at the time of data collection.

Perceptions on the presence of security forces

The vast majority of KIs (41 KIs out of 42) reported that the presence of security forces contributed positively to a feeling of safety. One KI did not know.

Reportedly, all KIs (42 KIs) perceived that security forces in Markaz Mosul were effective in resolving disputes within neighbourhoods and between different villages.

Community disputes³⁴

Community disputes within neighbourhoods

The vast majority of KIs (40 KIs out of 42) reported that there were no disputes within neighbourhoods in Markaz Mosul in the six months prior to data collection. The rest of the KIs did not know (2 KIs).

19 KIs (out of 42) reported expecting no changes in the current situation due to the kinship ties between families (18 KIs), the integration (18 KIs) and acceptance (4 KIs) of IDPs in the community. The majority of KIs (23 KIs) did not know if there would be a change in the occurrence of disputes within neighbourhoods in the six months following data collection.

Community disputes between neighbourhoods

All KIs (42 KIs) reported that there were no disputes between neighbourhoods in Markaz Mosul Sub-district in the six months prior to data collection.

20 KIs (out of 42) reported expecting no change in the current situation due to the (re)integration of IDPs and returnees in the community (18 KIs), kinship ties between families (14 KIs), acceptance of IDPs in the community (12 KIs), the existence of work relationships (2 KIs), and the intervention of the local authorities (1 KI). The rest of the KIs did not know if there would be a change in the occurrence of disputes between villages in the six months following data collection (22 KIs).

Retaliation incidents

The vast majority of KIs (41 KIs out of 42) reported that there were no retaliation incidents in the six months prior to data collection. A returnee KI did not know about the occurrence of these types of incidents.

Community inter-relations³⁴

All KIs (42 KIs) reported that there were **no specific population groups** which are not welcomed by the majority of the community.

In addition, almost half of KIs (20 KIs out of 42) reported that community members trust each other. The rest of the KIs refused to answer (12 KIs), or did not know (10 KIs).

Interaction between population groups

20 KIs (out of 42) reported that community members from different groups interact with each other. The rest of the KIs did not know (17 KIs), or refused to answer (5 KIs).³⁵

Reported types of interaction (out of 20 KIs)²³

Kinship ties	19 KIs	
Work relationships (employment)	14 KIs	
Friendship	12 KIs	
Common business operation ²¹	7 KIs	
Attending to shops and public places	1 KI	

20 KIs (out of 42) reported no obstacles to interaction between population groups. The rest of the KIs did not know (22 KIs).

Participation in social and public events

15 KIs (out of 42, all community leader (11 KIs) and remainee KIs (4 KIs)) reported that community members were not interested to participate in social and public events. The rest of the KIs did not know about community members participation in social and public events (16 KIs), or refused to answer (11 KIs).

According to [IOM DTM Return Index](#), in all assessed locations in Markaz Mosul (159 locations) the severity score for concerns around community reconciliation was ranked 'low' representing that which represents that there is no need for a reconciliation process that is not currently taking place.

End Notes

1. [IOM DTM Return Index](#)

2. A total of 16 IDP camps and informal sites have now been closed or reclassified since mid-October (12 formal camps closed including Salamiyah), 2 informal sites closed, 2 formal camps reclassified to informal sites). As a result, 43,097 individuals have departed from these sites - CCCM Cluster meeting, Camp Closures Status, 28 March 2021 (Not published)

3. [IOM DTM Returnees rounds 118 and 119](#), October 2020 and December 2020

4. [City Profile of Mosul, Iraq: Multi-sector assessment of a city under siege](#), UN-Habitat, 2016

5. [Iraq Displacement Profile](#), ACAPS, 4 July 2014

6. The ReDS questionnaire is tailored to ask questions related to demographics only to community leaders based on their knowledge about the location and population groups. In the case of Markaz Mosul there were 15 community leader respondents. Population figures for returns and IDP populations in Markaz Mosul are based on their estimates at the time of data collection.

7. To date, IOM DTM's bi-monthly tracking of returnees and IDPs provides an overview of numbers and trends in movement and returns. Simultaneously, since 2018, the Returns Index was run as a joint initiative of DTM, Social Inquiry and the Returns Working Group (RWG), collecting data bi-monthly to provide indicative trends in the severity of conditions in areas of return (AoR) nationwide. Similarly, the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster, IOM DTM, Protection Working Group (PWG), and RWG have conducted assessments with IDPs that have left camps following or in anticipation of closures to better understand and map AoR and secondary displacement.

8. For the purpose of this research, remainees (non-displaced persons) will be categorized as individuals or households who were not displaced from their AoO during the events of 2014 or after. They represent the host community members in their AoO.

9. For the purpose of this research, returnees will be categorized as an IDP returning to their AoO, where AoO is defined as the stated original sub-district of origin for the IDP as per the IOM returnee index. Given the complexity of (re)integration, this could mean that returnees still face challenges to their sustainable return to their AoO.

10. As clarified by the Iraq Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) in 2018, secondary displacement covers multiple scenarios: 1) IDPs who are voluntarily or forcibly displaced to another displacement location; 2) IDPs who voluntarily or forcibly, return to their AoO, but are unable to achieve sustainable solutions and are consequently re-displaced to their first place of displacement or to a new location of displacement; and 3) IDPs who voluntarily or forcibly, return to their AoO, but are unable to resume habitation in their former habitual residence and cannot achieve sustainable solutions and are consequently re-displaced to a new location within their AoO.
11. "To measure the severity of conditions in each location of return, the Return Index is based on 16 indicators grouped into two scales: (i) livelihoods and basic services, and (ii) social cohesion and safety perceptions. To compute an overall severity index, the scores of two scales are combined. The severity index ranges from 0 (all essential conditions for return are met) to 100 (no essential conditions for return are met). Higher scores denote more severe living conditions for returnees. The scores of the severity index can be grouped into three categories: 'low' severity conditions, 'medium', and 'high' (which also includes the identified 'very high' locations)." - [IOM DTM Methodology](#)
12. The most severe areas in Markaz Mosul reportedly: Al-Hoedir village, Iskan Smint Factory Village, Tel Al-Nasr Village, Kesooma Village, Al-Konseia Village, Badosh Al-Thania Village, Halabiya Village and Aski Mosul Village: [IOM DTM Return Index Round 11](#), December 2020
13. The following camps, with populations originally from Markaz Mosul, were closed in 2020: Al-Ahel closed on 18 October; Al-Kawthar closed on 18 October; Al-Shams informal site closed on 19 October; Al-Nabi Younis closed on 21 October; Saad Camp closed on 27 October; Al Wand 2 closed on 11 November; Jeddah 1 closed on 12 November; Ishaqi informal site closed on 12 November; Yahyawa closed on 13 November; Hamam Al-Alil closed on 15 November; Al Wand 1 closed on 28 November; Laylan IDP closed on 30 November; and, Al-Karama camp closed on 6 December - CCCM Cluster, Camp profiling dataset, December 2020 (Not published)
14. Community leaders are members of the host community represented by 11 mukhtars (from eight different neighbourhoods in Markaz Mosul), three governmental employees in different ministries and a national NGO employee. A mukhtar can be defined as the head of a village or neighbourhood in some Arab countries.
15. IDPs (displaced from the area) refer to households from Markaz Mosul displaced the events of 2014 to areas different than their AoO, specifically in Bazian Sub-district (Al-Suleimaniyah Governorate), and Markaz Erbil Sub-district (Erbil Governorate).
16. IDPs (displaced in the area) refer to households from AoO different than Markaz Mosul Sub-district who were displaced after 2014 events and reside in Markaz Mosul. Households were reportedly originally from different sub-districts in Sumeil, Sinjar and Telafar districts of Ninewa Governorate.
17. There were 42 individuals aged between 24 and 71 years old interviewed for the Markaz Mosul assessment. The majority were male (33 KIs). Ensuring gender balance still a limitation to the assessment, mainly due to the limited response rate of female KIs. One KI was over the age of 65, and one KI was considered in the youth group (between 18 and 24).
18. During the assessment 155 IDP households originally from Markaz Mosul, displaced in 18 IDP camps were interviewed including Baharka, Debaga 1, Al-Ahel, Al-Kawthar, Arbat IDP, Assalamiyah, Harshm, Hasansham U2 and U3, Khazer M1, Laylan IDP, Mimilian, Kabarto 1, Zayona, Hamam Al-Alil, Qayyara Jada'a 1 and 5, and Tazade camps. The findings should be considered as indicative - [Intentions Survey Round VII, REACH Iraq](#), August 2020
19. Six of the seven camps reported Al-Ahel, Al-Kawthar, Laylan IDP, Hamam Al-Alil, Qayyara 1 and 5 camps were reported closed between November and December 2020 - CCCM Cluster meeting, Camp Closures Status, 28 March 2021 (Not published)
20. It should be noted that gender indicators can be subject to potential under-reporting due to the limited number of female KIs interviewed.
21. "Similarity of names refers to the traditional way to name children in Iraq – based on male relatives, religion and inter-communal tradition – means that a lot of locals end up with similar names. The problem of the detention of people with names similar to wanted individuals was also going to be tackled. Remedies included the need to verify the arrested person's mother's name as well as the name of their paternal grandmother. Additionally, their place of residency would need to be verified. And finally, the informant that had given their name would need to be present on the day that the accused was brought into custody, in order to ensure that the right person had been arrested." - [Too Many Iraqis With Same Names As Terror Suspects](#), Mustafa Habib, Niqash.org, November 2014
22. For the purpose of this assessment, common business operation refers to the action of operating an income generating business in partnership involving members of different population groups.
23. Hamam Al-Ali, Qayyara Jada'a 1 and 5 camps in Ninewa Governorate were closed between November and December 2020 - Camp Closures Situation Report 11, 10 December 2020 (Not published)
24. Sum of answers may exceed the 100% due to KIs being able to select multiple response options.
25. "Security clearance is the first step that is taken into consideration for any return movement across the country. IDPs need to obtain approvals from local authorities and security forces in the AoOs to be able to return. The procedures to obtain security clearance vary, depending on the political and security dynamics at the AoO, number of security forces present, time of application, type of IDPs (in-camp or out of camp), and so on. Security clearance may typically be issued in a period ranging from one day to two weeks and may be denied in some cases." – [Return and Security Clearance Process, Focus on returns to Sinjar from Dohuk and Ninewa](#), RWG, June 2020
26. The severity of blocked returns to Markaz Mosul was classified as medium in 16 locations (out of 159 assessed locations), which in addition to other factors included the concern around the number of households which have applied for security clearance to return but which have had it denied by operations command due to outstanding inter-communal conflicts - [Return Index round 11](#), IOM DTM, November and December 2020
27. For the purpose of this research, large households refer to household who have over seven members including parents and children, which is the average size for a household in Iraq - [Household Size and Composition](#), United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs, 2019
28. Findings were indicative of each population group but not representative.
29. According to the Iraq 3Ws from October to December 2020, over 50 international and local NGOs were operating in Mosul District. The difference in reported presence of NGOs implementing projects in Markaz Mosul might be attributed to the limited access to information KIs had about available services - [IRAQ: Humanitarian Operational Presence \(3W\) for HRP and Non-HRP Activities](#), October-December 2020
30. The severity of the residential destruction in Markaz Mosul was classified as high or medium in 126 locations (out of 159 assessed locations) - [Return Index round 11](#), IOM DTM, November and December 2020
31. Proportion of damage could vary compared to other sources based on the perspective of KIs and taking into consideration varying rates of damage by area, with West Bank reportedly being more affected than the East Bank of the city - [Household recovery in Mosul one year after the defeat of ISIS](#), R. Lafta, M. Al-Nuaimi, L. R. Sultan & G. Burnham, Conflict and Health 14:1, January 2020
32. Recovery of businesses severity in Markaz Mosul Sub-district was classified as medium which refers to the existence of businesses that have not been restarted - [Return Index round 11](#), IOM DTM, November and December 2020
33. Access to employment in Markaz Mosul was classified as medium in 100 locations (out of 159 assessed locations) which represents that part of the population in Markaz Mosul was unable to find employment - [Return Index round 11](#), IOM DTM, November and December 2020
34. The findings of this section represent the perceptions of a relatively small group of respondents, and therefore are not representative and may differ from other reporting on these topics. Additionally, differences in report compared to other metrics could also be due to the methodology, with people being less open to sharing sensitive information over the phone.
35. "Social sustainability allows for the consideration of the importance of social interaction and cohesion for the sustainability of communities [...] Socially sustainable communities are equitable, diverse, connected and democratic and provide a good quality of life." - [Measuring Social Interaction and Social Cohesion in a High Density Urban Renewal Area](#), UNSW Sydney and Macquarie University, March 2013