



2014 – MULTI SECTORAL RAPID NEEDS ASSESSMENT FOCUS ON IDP FROM NORTHERN IRAQ.

From June 24th to July 23rd, 2014

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1. NEEDS ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

1.1 Assessment justification: focus on the current Iraqi context.

Iraq has been facing an outburst of instability and violence since the end of 2013 with the capture of a part of the Anbar governorate by the Islamic State, an Islamist jihadist group aiming at creating a Sunni caliphate in the region, including Iraq, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Palestine. Previously affiliated to Al-Qaeda/ Al Nostra, the latter disavowed all links to the organization following the current Syrian crisis. For several weeks, the worsening situation in the Anbar province, leading to the capture of Ramadi and Fallujah cities, caused the displacement of around 500,000 people, mainly towards Baghdad and within Anbar itself.

This new crisis in Iraq must be considered in a broader context than Iraqi political crisis alone. Sectarian tensions between Sunni and Shia communities are concretized by the parliamentary elections and recent victory of Prime Minister Maliki, accused of exacerbating sectarian tensions by further marginalizing the Sunni community. There are also territorial tensions and economic disputes between Baghdad and Erbil about the borderlines of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq and the sharing of benefits related to the oil resources exploitation.

Beginning of June 2014, ISIS launched an attack on Ninewa governorate and quickly captured the city of Mosul, virtually abandoned by Iraqi armed forces. It then continued gaining territory, capturing other key points such as Tikrit and Samarra and reportedly Baiji, the biggest refinery in the country even though fighting is ongoing. The insurgents, including Sunni tribal groups, took control of border crossing points with Syria and Jordan. To be noted that a fatwa was issued by the grand ayatollah Sistani calling on the Shia population to take up arms. Thousands of volunteers also responded to the call of the famous Shia leader Moqtada Sadr to fight against the insurgents.

Meanwhile, the Peshmergas (the Kurdish armed forces) are taking advantage of the situation and are gaining territory. In particular, they took control of Kirkuk, a highly strategic and symbolic city. On July 3rd, the president of KRG, Mustafa Barzani, called on the Kurdish parliament to prepare for a referendum on the long-awaited independence of the Kurdish territory. Today, Iraq is facing a political deadlock as the Parliament is failing to find an agreement on a national unity government. Since June 28th, Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) launched a massive counter-offensive on Tikrit and other areas under the control of IS while on June 29th, IS declared the establishment of a Sunni caliphate, straddling Syria and Iraq, spreading from Aleppo in northern Syria to Diyala in eastern Iraq. Its chief Abu Bakr Al Baghdadi was declared the caliph and leader of all Muslims and called for their obedience.

650,000 people have been displaced over the last six weeks, placing the total displaced since the start of the year at 1.2 million¹. In southern provinces, most of IDPs are living in public spaces such as schools or residing in mosques and their vicinities.

1.2 Timeframe.

The multi-sectorial rapid needs assessment was designed by PU-AMI Quality Department under the leadership of the Program Coordinator based at the coordination office in Amman. All the phases of the assessment were elaborated in close coordination with the Operations Department and the Head of Mission while the implementation in the field was led under the responsibility of Baghdad Base Coordinator. The assessment was conducted from June 24th until July 23rd 2014.

This multi-sectorial rapid needs assessment consisted of 4 steps:

1. Design and development of assessment methodology and tools, including questionnaires and databases (June 24th – 26th).
2. Coordination with local authorities (June 29th – July 19th).
3. Field assessment of targeted neighborhoods (July 2nd – July 20th).
4. Needs Assessment analysis and recommendations (July 21st – July 23rd).

1.3 PU-AMI staff in charge of the assessment.

PU-AMI mission in Iraq is managed by remote control from Amman where the coordination team (Head of Mission, Program Coordinator, Grants Officer, Administration & Logistics Coordinator) is responsible for the strategy, project implementation follow-up and security management. The Operational Base is located in Baghdad where approximately 35 national staffs ensure the good implementation of the projects.

The present assessment was lead through cooperation between the Quality Department (Program Coordinator, Grant Officer and M&E Staffs) and the Operations Department (Base Coordinator and Team Leaders). Specific assessment protocols of survey and questionnaires were developed by Amman’s coordination team and Baghdad’s Quality Department. Assessment protocols were validated by PU-AMI Head of Mission and Program Coordinator in Amman.

Data collection was carried-out jointly by the M&E Officers and PU-AMI project team leaders working under the direct supervision of Baghdad’s Base Coordinator. Data entry, data analysis and assessment reporting were carried out under the responsibility of the Quality Department in Amman.

Table 1. PU-AMI staff involved for the assessment:

Position	Base	Specific responsibilities
Head of Mission	Amman	Full process validation
Program Coordination	Amman	Design, follow-up & Data analysis

¹ ACAPS briefing note – Jul7 26th, 2014.

(Head of Quality Department)		
Grants officer	Amman	Design & Data analysis
Base coordination	Baghdad	Design & implementation
M&E Officer	Baghdad	Design, implementation & data collection
M& Assistant	Baghdad	Design, implementation & data collection
Project team leaders	Baghdad	Data collection

Source: PU-AMI.

1.4 Objectives of the assessment.

1. Mapping and coordination: with key stakeholders in Baghdad Urban Areas and in Najaf, including mapping of newly displaced households, local authorities and humanitarian actors :
 - Meetings with local authorities (Baghdad Provincial Council) to have a clear understanding of where IDPs are currently living.
 - Meetings with local authorities to identify existing interventions and services provided to recently displaced families, including meetings with: City Councils, Najaf Provincial Council, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Displacement and Migration, Electoral Commission of Iraq and Najaf Civil Defense Directorate and religious stakeholders in Najaf.
 - Meetings with humanitarian stakeholders including: IOM, UNHCR, Muslim Aid, NRC.

2. Assess living conditions:
 - Collect general information on communities (demographic data and general living conditions of host and displaced population) and the impact on their access to basic services (protection, shelter, water & sanitation, NFI, food, health and education).
 - Collect specific information on needs perceived as priority at community and households levels.
 - Conduct qualitative assessment of households level with regards to their perception of own needs.
 - Identify sectorial specific vulnerabilities.
 - Identify protection issues and the impact they may have on project design and implementation.

3. Assess relevance and technical feasibility of multi-sectorial emergency interventions:
 - Cross check priority needs expressed by community leaders and households with services already provided in order to identify gaps.
 - Assess legal and technical feasibility of potential interventions tackling identified gaps.
 - Pre-define the curriculum of activities to be implemented in order to address Newly Displaced Households' urgent needs.
 - Pre-define activities to be designed and implemented in order to address IDP's longer term needs.

4. Additional:

- Measure the willingness of local authorities to develop partnership and activities with PU-AMI.
- Determine the feasibility of the project in terms of security / authorizations.

1.5 Methodology.

1. Design and development of assessment methodology and tools, including questionnaires and databases.

PU-AMI assessment tools were reviewed and adapted to the current context: relevant questionnaires were created for this specific assessment. Tools and methodology aimed at collecting data through a multi-layered system. Indeed, the methodology developed for this specific assessment allowed collecting information both at key informants and household levels. Two specific questionnaires were developed by Amman coordination team and the Quality department as supporting tools to conduct this multi-sectorial assessment:

- Key informants Questionnaire: To be rolled out with city councils, ministries and humanitarian stakeholders as well as community leaders (Mukhtar, traditional leaders and IDP representatives). Informations were collected through semi-structured interviews. This questionnaire allowed having a general perception of community leaders (both host and displaced communities) regarding current needs of IDPs as well as general access to services for both host and displaced families.

- Household Questionnaire: To be rolled out at household level. Informations were collected through focus group discussions as well individual interviews with heads of households. This questionnaire allowed having a detailed understanding of the needs of assessed households both in terms of access to services as well as required immediate external support.

Collected information were then cross-checked to identify perception of needs at micro and macro levels. Such evaluation system also allowed a global perception of needs at the community level, not focusing only on displaced families but also encompassing host communities' needs.

2. Coordination with local authorities.

A first meeting with Baghdad Provincial Council was set up on June 29th in order to identify areas within the governorates hosting the highest number of IDPs. This meeting also allowed PU-AMI to obtain formal approval from local authorities to conduct this multi-sectorial rapid needs assessment in the identified neighborhood's hosting high number of displaced families. Accordingly, from June 30th, PU-AMI developed its coordination with the City Councils of 4 identified neighborhoods of Baghdad City including: **9 Nissan, Al Rasheed, Ala'Adameah** and **Nahrwan**. Authorizations were obtained on July 1st so as to proceed with field assessment and focus groups gatherings with displaced families.

Furthermore, PU-AMI assessment team attended a coordination meeting organized by Baghdad Provincial council on July 13th. Representatives from Ministry of Displacement and Migration, The International Organization for Migration as well as UNHCR were present during this meeting that aimed at facilitating coordination between stakeholders willing to intervene within Baghdad city boundaries.

Despite high density of newly displaced families in Abu Ghraib, in total 4,000 households (according to Baghdad Provincial Council), PU-AMI decided not to conduct the assessment there given the current impossibility to access families and assess their needs. This decision

was based on PU-AMI extensive experience working in this area (until April 2014) and on its knowledge of security risks related to project implementation in this area.

Based on discussions with Baghdad Provincial Council members, PU-AMI decided to extend its geographical scope of assessment by including **Najaf area**. Indeed, the central government raised concerns about sudden increase of number of families reaching daily Najaf and Kerbala and their surroundings. On July 14th, Provincial Councils and City councils of Najaf and Kerbala were contacted to authorize field access to PU-AMI assessment team. A specific meeting was set-up on July 19th between Najaf Provincial Council, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Displacement and Migration, the Electoral Commission of Iraq as well as Najaf Civil Defense Directorate.

3. Field assessment of targeted neighborhoods.

Between July 2nd and July 20th, several visits were organized at field level both with community leaders and household members. 8 complete days of field visits were carried-out during the above mentioned timeframe.

Living conditions of displaced families living in the bellow mentioned places were evaluated through the framework of the hereby assessment:

Table 2. Areas identified for the assessment:

Governorate	District	Site / City / Village name
Baghdad	9 Nissan	Baghdad Aljadedah
Baghdad	9 Nissan	Hay Alnasir (Albaweah)
Baghdad	Al Rasheed	Doraa
Baghdad	Ala'adameah	Hay Uor
Baghdad	Nahrwan	Madaen / Alohdah
Najaf	Highway between Najaf & Karbala	Ya Hussain street

Source: PU-AMI.

Through the framework of the hereby assessment, living conditions of **49 households**, representing a total of **281 individuals**, were evaluated. Identification of IDPs households in Baghdad urban settings is quite difficult as displaced families often adopt a very low profile as they are afraid of inter-sectarian tensions. Therefore, PU-AMI targeted for this assessment registered IDPs living in public places such as schools, mosques or any other governmental buildings provided by the authorities to welcome them.

In Baghdad urban setting, PU-AMI was unable to organize individual meetings with heads of households. In this area, the assessment was conducted only through focus groups methodology but using similar supporting questionnaire. Focus groups consisted of groups of 7 to 15 family leaders participating in focus groups discussions.

In Najaf, focus group discussions as well as individual interviews with heads of households could be conducted.

Both questionnaires allowed collecting information on the following topics but from different stand points:

- Section A. BASIC INFORMATION
- Section B. AREA & HOUSEHOLD DEMOGRAPHICS
- Section C. POPULATION MOVEMENT (IDPs)
- Section D. SUPPORT AND COPING MECHANISMS
- Section E. PERCEPTION OF NEEDS
- Section F. ACCESS TO SERVICES & ASSISTANCE RECEIVED
- Section G. PROTECTION
- Section H. SHELTER
- Section I. FOOD SECURITY
- Section J. HEALTH
- Section K. NON FOOD ITEMS (NFIs)
- Section L. WATER AND SANITATION
- Section M. EDUCATION

4. Needs Assessment analysis and recommendations.

Data collected was processed and analyzed by the Quality Department and validated by the Head of Mission. Key facts and recommendations were identified as starting points for propositions of intervention.

The present assessment was finalized by July 23rd.

2. ASSESSMENT FINDINGS

2.1 IDP Households' census, status and movement.

2.1.1. Identified areas hosting Newly Displaced Households.

As mentioned in the “1.4 Methodology / 2. Coordination with local authorities” section, PU-AMI selected for its assessment **4 neighborhoods of Baghdad city and Najaf area** based on Baghdad Provincial council and in line ministries recommendations (including Ministry of Displacement and Migration).

According to data collected through local authorities (Baghdad provincial councils and city councils), a total of **7,951 displaced families**, representing around **45,560** individuals, are currently residing in the assessed neighbourhoods.

These data, such as all information regarding newly displaced households in Baghdad, are provided by the local authorities based on MoDM² and City Councils registrations. In the current context and given the reluctance of newly displaced families to register themselves as IDPs, PU-AMI considers that a much higher number of displaced families are currently living in Baghdad city and its outskirts.

While access to registered IDPs might be facilitated by governmental stakeholders through the provision of households' lists, PU-AMI has concerns regarding accessibility and specific vulnerabilities of unregistered families.

The estimated number of families living in Najaf is based on information provided by Najaf provincial council, the Ministry of Displacement and Migration and well as the civil defense directorate. Regarding Najaf, the figure is probably underestimated as more IDPs are reaching each and every day the area and as some of them are moving in informal settlements. In addition, a high proportion of families were unable to bring their official documents as they had to urgently leave their places of origin. This will complicate their registration process and will compromise the accuracy of the census of families who moved towards Najaf and its surroundings. Given the rapid deterioration of the security situation and more specifically growing inter-sectarian tensions in and around Mosul and countrywide, it is expected that the number of IDP families will further increase in the coming weeks and months.

The table bellow summarizes the number of IDP households identified during the assessment as well as their places of origin:

Table 3. Household census:

Governorate	Districts	Site / City / Village	Place of origin	Nb of IDP HH
Baghdad	9 Nissan	Baghdad Aljadedah	Mosul	79
Baghdad	9 Nissan	Hay Al Nasir (Albaweah)	Mosul	25
Baghdad	Al Rasheed	Doraa	Mosul + Tikrit + Dyala	1,232
Baghdad	Ala'adameah	Hay Uor	Al-Anbar	400
Baghdad	Ala'adameah	Hay Uor	Mosul	200
Baghdad	Nahrwan	Madaen / Alohdah	Mosul	15

² Ministry of Displacement and Migration

Najaf	Highway between Najaf & Karbala	Ya Hussain street	Mosul	6,000
				7,951

Source: Baghdad Provincial Council and City Councils.

Most of the assessed families were displaced over the last few weeks as few families interviewed during the assessment stated being settled in Baghdad for more than 6 weeks. Indeed few families originally coming from Anbar were identified in Baghdad city. According to the figures provided by the government, they represent 400 families out of the 1,951 who settled in the assessed areas (21%). These families settled from 2 to 4 months ago. All these families settled in the same area, which is a mixed Sunni / Shia area.

For security reasons and as per requested from the displaced families who wanted to keep a profile as low as possible, it was considered impossible to roll out the household survey questionnaire with families originally coming from the Anbar province, therefore data presented in the following chapters do not reflect their specific needs.

2.1.2. IDP Households demographics.

According to data collected through the Households survey, the average family size is 5.73 individuals per household and the proportion of children is 3.83 per household. This information shall be taken cautiously as the definition of household in the Iraqi culture does not match with western perception. Indeed, several extended families met during the assessment considered themselves as a unique household. So as to harmonize and clarify demographics, the present survey considered such cases as several households sharing the same living area.

According to data collected during the course of this survey, the gender and age disaggregation of the 281 screened individuals was:

Table 4. PU-AMI individuals sample disaggregation:

Age Bracket	Male	Female	Total
0-4	11%	10%	20%
5-11	10%	10%	21%
12-17	11%	15%	26%
Adult	17%	16%	33%
Total	50%	50%	100%

Source: PU-AMI Household survey.

Around 67% of the individuals were either children or teenagers, while around 41% of the assessed population is under 12 years old. Therefore the household profile composition is very young.

2.1.3. IDP Households Legal Status.

While all families assessed in Baghdad governorate are effectively registered by the Ministry of Displacement and Migration, the legal status of assessed IDPs who settled in Najaf is up to date unclear as a high proportion of families were unable to bring official documents when they escaped from their place of origin. As mentioned previously, PU-AMI has some

concerns with regards to unregistered families. These families settle in Baghdad city among host communities (family or relatives) and therefore will be hardly identifiable and risk to be excluded from service delivery streams.

In further steps, PU-AMI will coordinate with local authorities, ministries and main humanitarian stakeholders the consideration of these specific urban families.

2.1.4. IDP Households movements.

100% of assessed families mentioned the intensification of fighting in their area of origin as the main reason for fleeing.

Through the conducted household's surveys, PU-AMI succeeded in gathering more precise information regarding the place of origin of the assessed displaced families.

Table 5. IDPs place of origin:

Current place of settlement	Ninewa Governorate / District of Origin			Total
	Tel a'afer	Al-Rasheed	Telkeef	
Baghdad	100%			100%
Najaf	43%	7%	50%	100%

Source: PU-AMI Household survey 2014. Data from IDP originally coming from Anbar excluded.

On average, IDP families had been settled for around 9.5 days when they were assessed by PU-AMI team.

Striking information is that it took on average 21 days for the displaced families to reach the place they are currently staying in. Most families went through multiple displacements before being able to settle down.

Even though Kurdistan, which was the first stop after fleeing from Mosul, was considered as a safe location, families had to move forward as they could not obtain residency cards or they considered it would be too complicated to obtain this residency.

While the government is currently facilitating the repatriation towards south of Shia Turkmen from Mosul by providing free flights from Erbil, most of the assessed families had to use the Erbil – Baghdad main road crossing the Diyala province where fighting are quite intense. Families that do not own a car or other type of vehicles had to pay around 1,300 USD per vehicle for the trip from Kurdistan to southern provinces while most of them are low income families, mainly farmers and breeders. Assessed families were not authorized to bring belongings and few of them had the opportunity to bring their savings and therefore moved with limited financial resources. Families were extorted either at Peshermga controlled check points or at fake check points on their way to the southern provinces. On average, families who went through Kurdistan spent 7 days there before moving further south and they had to pay the equivalent of 127 USD per car to Peshermga forces to pass the border when leaving Kurdistan.

Map 1. Main road used by IDP families to reach Baghdad and Najaf:



Source: PU-AMI Households Interviews 2014.

According to interviewed IDP families, more people coming from their area of origin are on their way to southern provinces and some people are still blocked up north of Diyala combat zones. The respondents also mentioned that some people that undertook the long way from Mosul to the southern provinces were either wounded or killed during the trip.

It is interesting to highlight that IDP families’ reasons for settling in their current location are slightly different between Baghdad and Najaf respondents. While 100% of households interviewed in Najaf answered that they selected this location because they were feeling safe there, a high proportion of families recently established in Baghdad decided to settle there because shelters were available.

Table 6. IDPs justification of selected settlements:

Current place of settlement	Availability of shelter	High Level of Security	Presence of people of same religious / ethnic group
Baghdad	72%	14%	14%
Najaf		100%	

Source: PU-AMI Household survey.

100% of the household survey respondents mentioned that they were planning to stay in their current location for the next 10 days. 100% of Baghdad respondents and 31% of the people interviewed in Najaf were “feeling the host community receptive for the time being but were worried that host communities hospitality would not last long ». On the contrary, 69% of people settled in Najaf declared feeling safe enough to extend the duration of their stay in the given areas.

Interviewed families were unanimous as all stated that they will not return to their place of origin until security is restored.

2.2 IDP's living conditions and access to basic services.

2.2.1. Shelter.

Baghdad neighborhoods:

Even though, according to Baghdad Provincial Council and City Councils, a high proportion of displaced families are currently residing at relative's places, PU-AMI only had the opportunity to meet people who settle in public places such as mosques and schools. PU-AMI assessment team visited two schools and two mosques located inside Baghdad city boundaries and found the buildings in quite good condition. Displaced families had the same statement and were satisfied by the general condition of the buildings they are currently residing in.

Najaf:

In Najaf, as the city is one of the main Shia pilgrimage areas in Iraq, around 1,253 guest houses are located along the Najaf – Kerbala highway and displaced families are currently residing in these infrastructures. These guest houses are mostly composed of two main rooms (one for men, one for women) that can accommodate either extended or several families. These guest houses are located 10km away from Najaf city and most of them do not have cooking spaces. Based on observations of the assessment team as well as answers from respondents to the household surveys, the general condition of the places hosting the IDP families is quite good. When the first families started to arrive in the area, local authorities replaced the broken windows and started to undertake small rehabilitation works.

Even though displaced families were generally satisfied with their housing condition, all of them expressed their concerns about long-term stay in such buildings. Lack of financial resources is up to date the main barrier to rent their own place. Baghdad Provincial Council and Ministry of Displacement and Migration announced on July 20th that they will create a first camp in Baghdad city to host 400 displaced families. PU-AMI is currently working on 5 IDP settlements inside Baghdad City but noticed so far no significant arrivals of new IDPs in the project areas.

2.2.2. WASH.

Access to water:

Baghdad neighborhoods:

Regarding access to water, assessed displaced families in Baghdad have direct access to the water supplies of the buildings they are currently residing in. 2 buildings out of 5 are directly connected to the city supply while the remaining 3 were using water collection tanks connected to roof pressure tanks. 37% of the individuals interviewed in Baghdad considered that their accessibility to water was still limited while 23% stated that the water did not taste good. 63% of the assessed families declared that they were unable to afford buying drinking water.

Najaf:

In Najaf, none of the guest houses in which displaced families are living is connected to the city supply. All guesthouses have access to an independent system that must be supplied through water trucking. The civil defense directorate has allocated 10 fire trucks (10,000

liters) and 30 tankers (35,000 liters) to supply daily or twice a day the main tanks of the guest houses. All assessed families declared that the supplied water, even though it is allegedly drinkable, did not taste and look good while 92% of the families believed that water was unsafe for drinking. According to assessed families, a high proportion, and more specifically children and infants, are suffering from diarrhea, these troubles being probably related to the quality of the supplied water. It is also worth noting that families are located 10 kilometers away from Najaf city and that they have limited access to markets to purchase drinking water.

□ Access to sanitation and hygiene items:

Baghdad neighborhoods:

All families assessed in Baghdad mentioned that they have direct and good access to the toilets of the buildings they were living in but that toilets were not gender separated. Even though such set up may represent a risk for women by exposing them to SGBV, this risk was considered limited as residents were either relatives or acquaintances established prior to the crisis. From observations, toilets of mosques and schools where IDPs live were considered in good condition. 86% of the survey respondents considered that showers and/or appropriate places to wash themselves were severely missing while 14% stated that showers were “somewhat insufficient”.

23% of the assessed families declared that sanitation and hygiene items were severely insufficient, 49% that they were somewhat insufficient while 28% stated that these items were available. 100% of Baghdad’s respondents answered that women hygiene kits were severely insufficient.

Unsurprisingly, the same 23% of respondents that declared that hygiene items³ were severely insufficient declared that they were unable to have proper hygiene practices even though they know about these good hygiene practices.

Najaf:

All Najaf assessed families, with no exceptions, stated that toilets and showers were severely insufficient and that hygiene items were somewhat insufficient. 13% of the respondents answered that women hygiene kits were available while the remaining 87% do not have access to these sanitary items (due to lack of savings or excluded from direct aid). The same 13% answered that they were aware of good hygiene practices and that they were able to apply them, which was not the case of the 87% having no access to women sanitary items. Only 2% of the population declared having access to gender separated toilets, which given the current set up of the latrines represents a high risk of SGBV for the displaced families.

In Najaf, 250 blocks of latrines are either located in or nearby the 1,253 guest houses. These blocks can contain from 2 to 6 toilets and sinks each and are supposed to accommodate the 34,000 individuals that are currently residing in the area. Based on information provided by local authorities and on observations made by the assessment team, not all of these blocks are currently operational and most of them need either rehabilitation or upgrade of their components (such as water tanks) to be fully operational. Even if all of these 250 blocks contained 6 toilets (which is not the case) and if all of them were fully operational, we would still be below the SPHERE standards regarding access to sanitation⁴. The above-mentioned

³ Refer to Chapter 2.2.3 NFI for further details.

⁴ The Sphere handbook defines minimum service standards from the perspective of beneficiaries – For sanitation, the minimum standard is one latrine for 20 individuals.

statement is based on the currently estimated population while the foreseen massive influx of displaced families will worsen the sanitary living conditions of the IDP families.

2.2.3. NFI.

A wide range of None Food Items (NFI) was expressively requested by displaced families in Baghdad and Najaf. NFI needs are quite different for IDPs that settled in Baghdad and those who are established in Najaf.

Table 7. Respondents' priority NFI needs:

	NFI Priority 1		NFI Priority 2		NFI Priority 3	
Baghdad	Mattress	49%	Hygiene Kits	52%	Hygiene Kits	71%
	Cooking stove	37%	Kitchen Sets	34%	Kitchen Sets	29%
	Blanket	14%	Mattress	14%		
Total		100%		100%		100%
Najaf	Kitchen Sets	89%	Hygiene Kits	90%	Cooking stove	76%
	Hygiene Kits	10%	Cooking stove	10%	Mattress	13%
	Cooking stove	1%			Hygiene Kits	10%
					Kitchen Sets	1%
Total		100%		100%		100%

Source: PU-AMI Households Survey 2014 – Baghdad and Najaf.

49% of the families encountered in Baghdad requested mattresses as priority NFI need while mattresses were not designated as a priority need of populations that settled in Najaf as most of the guest houses were already equipped with foam ones and as local authorities distributed these items upon arrival of new families.

Kitchen sets are the main concern of families living in guest houses located nearby the Najaf – Kerbala highway. Indeed, few of them were distributed in the area while Baghdad families received basic kits when they reached the places they are currently residing in. Nevertheless, even though families that settled in Baghdad initially received kitchen sets, this kind of sets come at the second rank of their second NFI priority need. These families explained that received initial kits were quite basic and do not allow cooking for all the family members at once as families were either numerous or extended. In addition to cooking sets, cooking stoves were often requested by the displaced families; such items should be supplied with gas bottle, which may be problematic to find in big quantities at once.

Hygiene kits remain a main concern for all the displaced families, qualitative interviews allowed understanding that families were more specifically lacking of women and infants hygiene kits.

Even though blankets are not among the most requested NFIs, these items as well as other winterization NFIs (fuel heaters and fuel, high thermal capacity blankets, etc) will probably become a priority once winter will get closer. IDPs in Najaf have already received blankets but in limited quantity.

2.2.4. Food.

100% the interviewed people stated that they eat at least 2 meals a day for the time being and that all meals were provided through humanitarian assistance either coming from governmental or non-governmental institutions such as mosques or hosting communities. Families stated that they received rations of dry food but that they have no access to places to cook them. None of the families received up to date the PDS rations provided by the government.

97% of the families noticed a slight increase in the market prices of food stuff since their arrival. According to displaced families in both areas, all required food stuff is available at the local market level. While IDPs living in Baghdad have direct access to local market, the distance between the place of settlement and the city was considered as a major obstacle to buy dry food and fresh vegetables for families encountered in Najaf.

Based on food consumption scores, 100% of families that settled in Baghdad had acceptable nutrition intakes. The situation in Najaf is slightly different as 82% of the assessed families had borderline food consumption, 11% had poor nutritional intakes while only 7% were properly feeding themselves.

2.2.5. Health.

63% of the displaced individuals in Baghdad mentioned that health facilities were present at their current location while the other 37% were not aware of such services nearby their settlement place.

Even though 100% of the assessed families in Najaf mentioned that there were some health posts in their current area of residence, all of them also mentioned facing physical or logistical constraints to reach these places. There is no gynecologist or obstetrician in the health posts but there is an ambulance available to transport pregnant women to the nearest hospital. The Red Crescent is currently providing medical services in Najaf through 6 medical mobile teams. According to the interviewed households, the proposed service is far from being sufficient as many people are currently in need of medical support.

48% of the families assessed in Baghdad mentioned that their children were immunized for both measles and polio while children of the remaining 52% were only immunized against polio. 100% of the families assessed in Najaf stated that their children were neither immunize against polio nor measles.

2.3 IDP's coping mechanisms, perception of needs and received support.

2.3.1 Coping Mechanisms.

63% of the families encountered in Baghdad stated that they were exclusively living thanks to charitable support and donations (mostly from religious stakeholders and host community members), 23% were supported by families and friends while 14% were living on their own savings. 100% of the people established in Najaf outskirts depend on charity and donations.

63% of the families in Baghdad evaluated their coping capability (affordability of shelter, food and water) to last between one and two weeks while others (37%) considered that their available means could last between two weeks and one month.

People met in Najaf appeared to be more vulnerable as 52% of the households considered having a coping capacity inferior to a week, 34% between one and two weeks and the remaining 14% of households estimated their coping capacities between two to four weeks.

As above mentioned (see: 2.1 IDP Households' census, status and movement), most of the assessed population are low-income families, mainly farmers and breeders. The few families who succeeded to flee with savings were extorted on their journey.

Najaf Provincial councils gave the equivalent of 254 USD to 350 families located in Najaf but the criteria of selection of these families are not clear. According to Najaf Provincial Council, the government allocated a budget of 675,000 USD to be distributed as "gift for Eid". UNHCR and IRC are currently implementing a cash assistance project in the area. PU-AMI was unable to identify the amounts of transfers during the assessment phase.

2.3.2 Needs identification and Received support.

Table 8. IDPs need identification by priority:

	Priority Need		2nd Priority Needs		3rd Priority Need		SUM	
	Baghdad	Najaf	Baghdad	Najaf	Baghdad	Najaf	Baghdad	Najaf
HH items	63%	8%	0%	13%	14%	39%	77%	60%
Rent/Cash Assistance	14%	60%	0%	0%	63%	24%	77%	84%
Sanitation	23%	0%	0%	7%	0%	0%	23%	7%
Water	0%	31%	0%	11%	0%	13%	0%	55%
Food	0%	0%	63%	45%	23%	24%	86%	69%
Medical Assistance	0%	0%	37%	24%	0%	0%	37%	24%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%		

Source: PU-AMI Household Survey – Baghdad / Najaf.

No real mainstream response appeared during the assessment phase with regards to the needs. Expressed needs were quite different from one family to another. Discrepancies are due to non-standardized assistance already received by families.

Needs expressed and assistance received in both assessed areas:

1. Rent / Cash assistance:

All assessed families are either living in public places in Baghdad and in guest houses in Najaf and have seen their few savings depleted on their way to southern provinces; therefore cash for rent / cash assistance has been mentioned either as first, second or third priority needs for 77% of the families met in Baghdad and 84% of the families met in Najaf. 100% of the surveyed households declared having never received any kind of cash assistance even though 350 IDPs families among the 6,000 located in Najaf benefited from this type of support⁵.

2. Food assistance:

Food assistance is also considered as a priority need: 86% of the households in Baghdad and 69% of the families in Najaf mentioned this kind of support as one of their top 3 priority needs. PU-AMI is raising concerns about the current food assistance supplied by humanitarian stakeholders as 63% of Baghdad and Najaf respondents stated having received food assistance (food baskets) from religious authorities and host communities that apparently does not allow them to cover the households' needs. What is even more

⁵ Source: Najaf Provincial Council.

concerning is the correlation between food assistance and food consumption score⁶. Unlike IDPs in Baghdad who are falling within the “acceptable” FCS category; 98% of food assistance recipients in Najaf are either falling in the “borderline” (80%) or “poor” (18%) categories regarding nutritional intakes.

3. Household items / NFIs:

Household items / NFIs’ come at the third rank of priority needs. Indeed, 77% of Baghdad and 60% of Najaf respondents requested such support. It is worth noting that 49% of Baghdad IDPs and 71% of Najaf assessed families already received this kind of support. It is also important to highlight that the definition of Household items / NFI used for this assessment also includes Wash NFIs’ such as Hygiene kits. In that regard, 22% of Baghdad and none of Najaf assessed families received Hygiene kits support.

Najaf specific expressed needs:

4. Water:

Access to water is considered as top priority need for 31% of the assessed population in Najaf while 55% of the families stated that access to potable water was part of their top 3 priority needs. All IDPs in Najaf have access to the water supplied by the department of civil defense but PU-AMI would like to raise concerns about its quality as it represents major health risk for the displaced populations.

⁶ FCS calculated accordingly with WFP Protocol.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

To address the IDPs needs identified throughout the assessment phase, PU-AMI recommends to design and to implement urgently a multi-sectorial intervention to prevent displaced families from being further vulnerable and at risks.

3.1 Rent / Cash assistance.

Given that assessed IDPs are currently living in shelters for which conditions were considered acceptable (according to both IDPs and surveyors), it is not recommended to invest in rent assistance programs without having a prior clear positioning from local authorities with regards to shelter assistance. Indeed, Najaf authorities are currently cooperative and willing to provide support to the displaced families, nevertheless, assessed families are currently staying on private land and it is currently impossible to have a long term vision of where these IDPs will be in a near future. In addition, as local authorities have not yet decided if they will support or not the creation of camps or rather facilitate the integration of IDPs in urban settings, it seems somehow too early and risky at this stage to design rent assistance programs. Nevertheless, such rent support would highly benefit to particularly vulnerable populations such as female headed households. Indeed these households are highly exposed to risks of sexual and other forms of gender based violence (SGBV) and therefore rent support would be a protective measure.

As most families fled their homes with no or few belongings, emergency cash assistance programs targeting the most vulnerable ones could be envisioned in the current context. Such assistance would allow addressing urgent needs or needs related to specific vulnerabilities that are difficult to address through large scale humanitarian interventions. Nevertheless, precautions must be taken regarding the provision of such services as presence of cash may represent a risk for the beneficiaries. Indeed, in their current areas of location, IDPs that settled in Najaf are somehow isolated from banking services and options such as prepaid ATM cards do not seem the best option for the time being. PU-AMI recommends to specifically target the most vulnerable households through emergency cash assistance program and by providing limited amounts of cash to answer their specific urgent needs (i.e medications, etc).

Given the current uncertainty about the length of stay of the displaced persons in their current area of residence, it seems unrealistic to envision the implementation of programs aiming at sustainably generate income at this stage. Nevertheless, such programs should be considered in a few months once humanitarian stakeholders will have a clearer vision of the “long-term” relocation of the displaced families. Such program should encompass economic integration of the displaced individuals and should benefit as well to host communities in order to mitigate tensions.

3.2 Food assistance.

PU-AMI recommends to urgently address the food needs of the displaced families by providing food items offering proper nutritional intakes and by providing adequate cooking equipment (cooking sets and cooking stoves) to allow families to prepare complete and healthy meals.

At this stage, a parallel should be made with the previous chapter (cash assistance and incomes) as all the displaced families in Najaf are either farmers or breeders. Indeed, if it happens that IDPs will stay in their current area of residence for a long time, support to

agricultural activities would allow both generating and/or saving income and improving the nutritional intakes of the displaced families. The equilibrium between improving nutrition and generating income should be explored by inducing a relevant balance between crops that allow having high vitamin intakes, crops having high value at the local market level and/or basic food processing activities.

3.3 Household items / NFIs’.

As mentioned above, support provided up to date to the displaced populations is neither matching with their needs nor taking into account their demographic specificities. While based on qualitative interviews, PU-AMI considers that some items (i.e mattresses) are not a priority, cooking sets adapted to the sizes of the households, cooking stoves combined with bottles of gas as well as hygiene kits are considered as life saving items as they will prevent deterioration of the health condition of the targeted populations.

PU-AMI would like to draw a special attention on winterization NFIs as none of the assessed places was equipped with heating systems. Supply of standardized winter NFI kits should be anticipated as temperatures will drop until 2°C nighttime during the coldest months. Such winterization kits should include fuel or gas heating systems, energy refills, high thermal capacity blankets and winter clothes. When deemed relevant winterization interventions should be coupled with shelter activities to improve thermal insulation of IDPs places of residence.

3.4 WASH.

Najaf area is known to be poor in terms of water resources and has low aquifer. Investing in deep boreholes and pumping stations cannot be foreseen for the time being as we do not have guarantee that IDPs will stay for a long time in their current area of residence. Even though such pumping stations equipped with basic gravity fed systems (elevated tanks and water points) would be the best solution to address the current needs, shorter term alternatives can be provided so as to mitigate risks related to consumption of the supplied water. Ceramic water filters are commonly found in Iraq and made of good quality materials. Such filters are cleaning water from bacteria, protozoa, and microbial cysts and would play a predominant role in reducing the observed diarrheas. As each filter can treat up to 20 liters a day, the supplied number should be determined according to the number of individuals in the household and recipients such as jerry cans should be separately provided to transport water from the main tank to the filter and to store the filtered water. Awareness raising activities should also be organized to prevent risks of using contaminated water for domestic purposes. Indeed, boiling water before cleaning vegetables intended to be eaten raw would prevent further risk exposure.

Access to sanitation was not considered as a main priority need for the displaced populations. PU-AMI would like to raise concerns about this issue as according to figures from governmental entities, access to sanitation is already below SPHERE standards regarding access to sanitation. Foreseen further massive influx of IDPs will worsen the sanitary situation while lack of access to hygiene items will facilitate the propagation of diseases.