



VULNERABILITY, NEEDS AND INTENTIONS OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS IN NORTHERN IRAQ

RAPID ASSESSMENT REPORT

AUGUST 2014

SUMMARY

Since conflict spread to the city of Mosul on 10 June 2014, fighting across parts of northern and central Iraq has caused an estimated 650,000 people to flee their homes. This latest wave of displacement takes place in a country with one of the highest numbers of internally displaced people (IDP) in the world.¹ The humanitarian response, coordinated by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), has been mobilised to deliver emergency assistance to those affected by the conflict, with relief aid provided by international and national non-governmental agencies and the government now reaching an estimated 1 million people across Iraq.²

The rapidly developing situation has left humanitarian organisations with little reliable information about the number of people internally displaced in northern and central Iraq; where they are, and what type of support they need the most. This report consolidates information attempting to address these questions, which was gathered through household-level assessments carried out by REACH Initiative³ between 3 July and 24 July 2014, at key entry points into the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI); displacement sites; and areas reported to have experienced a large influx of IDPs, referred to as 'IDP hotspots'. These assessments were conducted in close coordination with KRI-based aid coordination structures, which have been consulted and regularly updated on key findings. The vulnerability of assessed IDPs was found to be related to several factors:

- **Absence of family or community networks in current location can lead IDPs to be more vulnerable**, as they are unable to rely on support from relatives in safe areas, or frequently are unable to access those areas. As the conflict forces an increasingly ethnically and culturally diverse IDP population to seek refuge in northern Iraq, many recently displaced persons do not have pre-existing family connections in safe areas.
- **IDPs with a different religious-ethnic profile from the host community are more vulnerable.** The religious-ethnic profile of IDPs in and around the KRI is becoming more varied, especially in the areas in and around Diyala, Kirkuk and Sulaymaniyah governorates. The influx of IDPs from varied locations and ethnic groups has the potential to create host community or cross-community tensions, especially in areas with a history of ethnic or sectarian conflict, or where there was severe military repression before 2003.
- **The influx of new IDPs is having a negative impact on the existing IDP populations.** IDPs who were displaced before June 2014 are facing greater uncertainty over their future movement and the sustainability of assets as new waves of IDPs impact on rental costs and other expenditures. Similarly, there is a significant risk of greater pressure being placed on refugee populations, especially in the KRI. Further, the rapid increase of IDP influx could impact the ability of previously displaced populations to access services, as well as exacerbate or create host community resentment towards IDPs, or highlight sectarian divisions.
- **The inability to reach safe areas in the north of Iraq, or the desire to travel to areas in the south makes IDPs more vulnerable to the direct effects of conflict and less able to access services.** Humanitarian assistance is more available in safe areas, especially in the KRI itself. Those unable to enter these areas are less able to access services, and many make a journey through conflict areas to the south to seek assistance.

While emergency assistance has been provided to many families, coverage is greater in some areas than others. Over half of the IDP families assessed reported not having received any type of external assistance, and food remains a key priority need. A challenge facing humanitarian actors has and will continue to be the delivery of aid in deteriorating security conditions, and the coverage of highly mobile populations in transit to other areas of Iraq. As camps continue to serve only a minority of IDPs, the needs of those staying in host communities, especially in regards to shelter improvement, water and sanitation facilities, and rental support will remain. In both camp and host community settings the need to begin comprehensive winterization assistance is paramount, especially in areas with insufficient or unsustainable shelter options as a result of hurried preparations for IDP influx.

¹UNOCHA (2014) [Iraq IDP Crisis: Situation Report No.4](#), 26.06.2014

² ibid

³ Herein referred to as 'REACH'

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

IDP	Internally Displaced Person
KRI	Kurdistan Region of Iraq
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
ODK	Open Data Kit
AOG	Armed Opposition Group
IOM	International Organisation for Migration

GEOGRAPHICAL CLASSIFICATIONS

Governorate	The highest administrative boundary below the national level.
District	Governorates are divided into districts
Village	Districts are composed of villages
Neighbourhood	Villages are divided into neighbourhoods

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About REACH

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

INTRODUCTION

Since conflict spread to the city of Mosul on 10 June 2014, fighting across parts of northern and central Iraq has caused hundreds of thousands of people to flee their homes. This latest wave of displacement takes place in a country with one of the highest numbers of internally displaced people in the world and adds to the 550,000 people already displaced this year, after violence broke out in Anbar Governorate in January 2014. In total there are an estimated 1.5 million people affected by the conflict, including an estimated 1.2 million internally displaced persons.⁴

With recent fighting in the governorates of Anbar, Diyala, Ninewa and Salah Al Din, moving south towards Baghdad, many displaced people have fled northwards, seeking safety in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) or in other areas controlled by Kurdish security forces. The humanitarian response, coordinated by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, has been mobilised to deliver emergency assistance to those effected by the conflict, with international and national non-governmental agencies and government assistance now being provided to an estimated 1 million people.⁵

The rapidly developing situation has left humanitarian organisations with little accurate information on how many people have been internally displaced in northern Iraq, where they are, and what type of support they need the most. In order to fill such information gaps and facilitate humanitarian planning, REACH was deployed across KRI and Northern Iraq, including disputed areas in Ninewa and Diyala governorates, to identify displacement patterns, intentions, priority needs, and vulnerabilities of the recently displaced population.

This report consolidates assessments carried out by REACH in the KRI and disputed areas between 3 July and 24 July at entry points into KRI, displacement sites and IDP hotspots, and complements the reports produced at governorate level. In total, 1768 families (representing 10,608 individuals) were interviewed within the scope of this assessment. Assessments have been conducted in close coordination with KRI-based aid coordination structures, which have been kept regularly updated on key findings. The findings of this rapid assessment will be complemented by an ongoing IDP area of origin assessment, which examines humanitarian needs and displacement trends in areas currently affected by conflict, and which cannot be directly accessed for field assessments. This report draws trends and comparisons with the previous report, on assessments carried out in June 2014 in the KRI and disputed areas.⁶

METHODOLOGY

The assessment was designed to capture key humanitarian information in a highly dynamic and rapidly evolving context of displacement. Household-level and Key Informant interviews were conducted by REACH teams in the governorates of Duhok, Erbil, Sulaymaniyah, as well as accessible disputed areas of Ninewa governorate (see Figure 1 below). Data was collected among the population on the move (at key entry points into the KRI) as well as the displaced population in host community areas of high concentration of IDPs, (referred to in this document as IDP 'hotspots'). While every attempt has been made to work systematically in this rapidly changing context, all findings are indicative and cannot be generalised to the IDP population overall. Due to shorter available working hours for Ramadan and restrictions imposed by the unstable security environment, it was not possible to ensure even sampling across the areas covered. This is especially true in Duhok, where the sample size is small compared to the other three governorates covered. However, it is possible to observe trends across the areas covered.

ENTRY POINT MONITORING

REACH teams conducted monitoring at each of the entry points to KRI, collecting information from the authorities and among a random sample of IDPs. Information was collected on the number of arrivals since the start of the crisis, displacement and intentions, together with qualitative data on available registration data, opening and closing times and rejections.

⁴ UNOCHA (2014) Iraq IDP Crisis: Situation Report No.4, 26.06.2014

⁵ *ibid*

⁶ REACH Initiative, Vulnerability Needs and Intentions of Internally Displaced Persons in Northern Iraq, July, 2014

IDP 'HOTSPOTS'

IDP hotspots fall into two categories: specific displacement sites and collective centres, and towns and villages hosting large numbers of displaced people within the community.

Upon the establishment or identification of an IDP site, REACH teams assessed a representative random sample of residents, collecting information on displacement, intentions, vulnerabilities, and priority needs of IDPs. In locations with a high reported concentration of IDPs, REACH conducted household level assessments, collecting data on displacement, intentions, vulnerabilities and priority needs from heads of IDP households.

Locations were targeted for assessment based on information from entry point monitoring; local authorities; REACH's community-level key informant network; IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix; and other humanitarian actors. Using a combination of convenience and snowball sampling, REACH conducted a minimum of 20 household assessments in each selected location.

Note on the presentation of findings

Assessments were carried out in IDP 'hotspot' locations across northern Iraq. These locations were selected on the basis of the needs and population density of IDPs in emerging areas. As a result the total sample does not represent a stratified cross-section of IDPs in the north of Iraq. The selection of locations does not represent the total IDP concentration, hence the lower sample in Duhok for example.

While every attempt has been made to make the findings of this report usable for the humanitarian community, findings among those households assessed cannot be generalised for the overall IDP population.

In each community targeted for assessment, the following steps were taken:

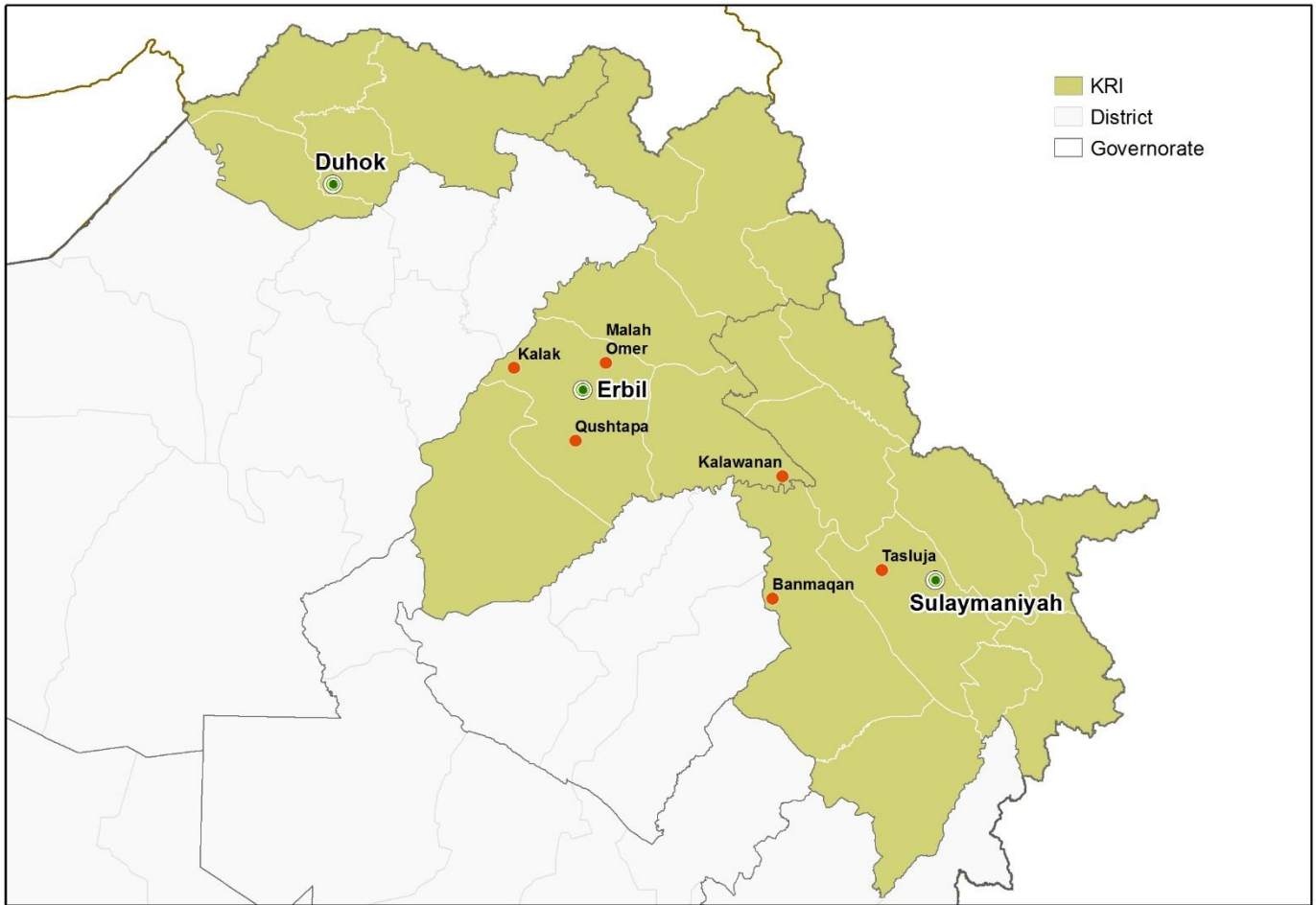
- 1) REACH teams were deployed to sites with reported high concentrations of IDPs to conduct household assessments; and
- 2) working with the IDPs in the pre-identified locations, REACH teams identified other locations (especially private rental accommodation and host families) within the target area.

In large urban areas, notably in the cities of Erbil, Duhok, and Sulaymaniyah, REACH conducted these steps in a number of locations to ensure a representation that included city centre locations, industrial areas, Kurdish, Arab, and minority neighbourhoods, and affluent and impoverished areas. Data collection was conducted using assessment tools deployed on android smart phones through the Open Data Kit (ODK) platform.

Table 1: Sample size in the KRI Governorates and contested areas of northern Iraq

Target Area	Number of families assessed	Number of individuals in assessed families
Duhok Governorate	98	539
Erbil Governorate	705	3,774
Ninewa Governorate	415	2,306
Sulaymaniyah Governorate	550	3,181
Total	1,768	9,800

Map 1: KRI governorates and disputed areas in northern Iraq



FINDINGS

The findings of this assessment are grouped in to three categories. The first section looks at the displacement patterns of IDP populations, their areas of origin and the time and cause of their displacement, as well as reasons for settling in their new location. The second section looks at the intentions of IDPs, and their planned movement in the future. The third section looks at the needs reported by IDPs, and the assistance they have received from external actors.

DISPLACEMENT

Displacement is dependent both on push and on pull factors, i.e. conditions that determine the decision to move from one area and conditions that determine the decision to relocate to another. The primary reason for deciding to leave an area of origin remains the direct effects of conflict, and the primary reason for choosing a location to settle was the presence of immediate or extended family.

During this assessment period a greater diversification of areas of origin was noted, particular among those IDPs residing in Sulaymaniyah Governorate, and with it an increase in people choosing their relocation area on the basis of high security, as opposed to direct familial or kinship ties. As the conflict continues the profile of IDPs moving to northern Iraq is likely to move beyond the predominately Kurdish speaking populations that were displaced in the initial phases following the fall of Mosul. This includes the increased proportion of those who have suffered multiple displacements, especially those forced to move as a result of the Anbar crisis of late 2013 and early 2014.

IDP Area of Origin

The largest proportion of assessed IDPs originated from Ninewa governorate (44%). Significant levels of violence within the governorate have continued since early June 2014, but a decrease in proportion of IDPs that originate from Ninewa from 55% of assessed IDPs in June, reflects the spread of conflict to other areas. Of IDPs originating from Ninewa, 67% came from Mosul District, up from 42% last month, representing 30% of all assessed IDPs. 23% of IDPs assessed originated from Falluja District in Anbar Governorate, which has been the epicentre of conflict in Iraq since late 2013. Furthermore, 14% of assessed IDPs originated from Salah al-Din Governorate, which has experienced heavy fighting since 11 June 2014, particular since AoG attacks on the Baiji oil refinery began on the 18 June.

30%

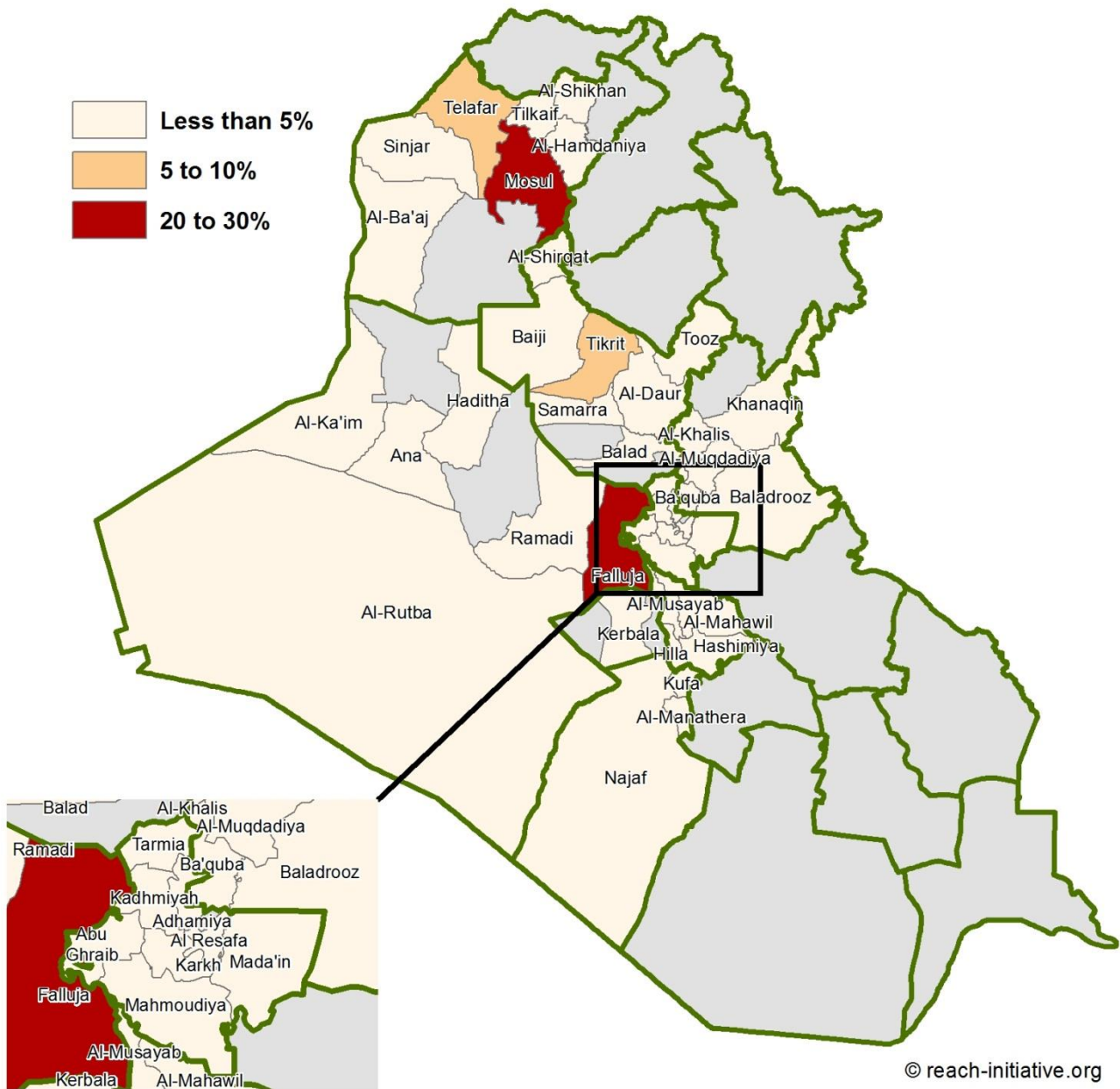
OF IDPS ASSESSED CAME FROM MOSUL DISTRICT OF NINEWA GOVERNORATE

The governorate of Sulaymaniyah in the KRI has experienced the largest diversity of incoming IDPs of the governorates assessed by this report. Seven governorates of origin were represented by IDPs assessed in this governorate: Anbar (51%), Baghdad (15%), Diyala (17%), Salah al-Din (10%), Babylon (4%), Ninewa (2%) and Najaf (2%). This contrasts with Duhok where 98% of IDPs assessed originated from Ninewa Governorate. All of those assessed in Ninewa itself were internally displaced within that governorate.

Date of Displacement

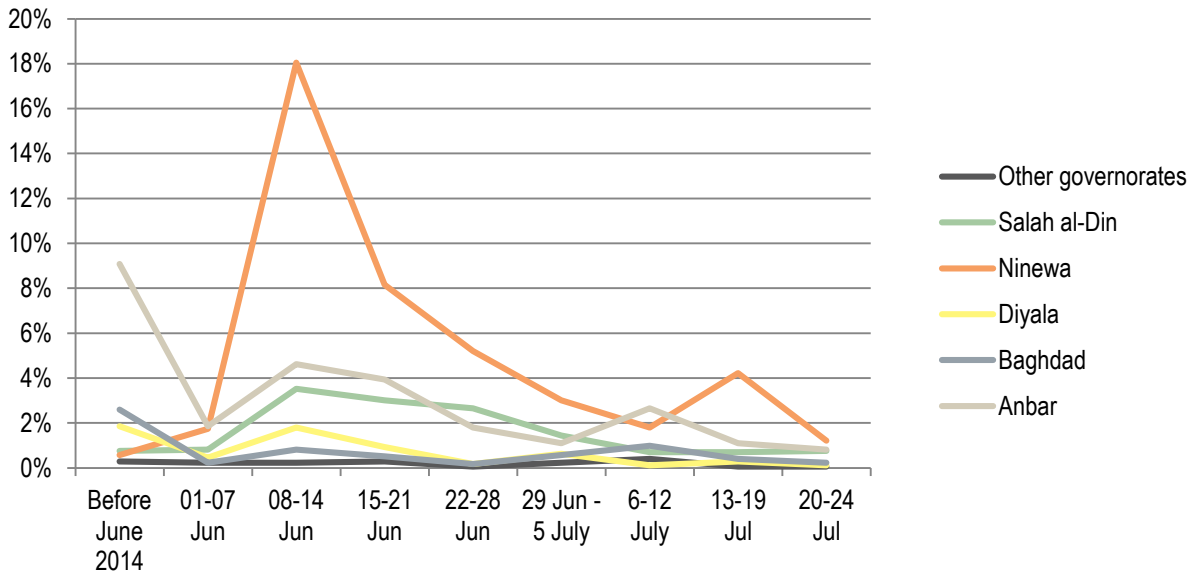
The date of displacement is closely linked to the spread of violence, with peaks in departure from area of origin correlating to both the governorate affected and time of key events in the conflict. A majority of those displaced before June 2014 originate from Anbar governorate (60%), a fact linked to the escalation of violence in that area in the last quarter of 2013 and first quarter of 2014. In addition 34% of IDPs assessed from Anbar arrived prior to June 2014, 40% of these from Baghdad Governorate and 29% from Diyala Governorate.

Map 2: Areas of origin of IDPs in northern Iraq



The principal peak in displacement occurred the week of 8-14 June, when 29% of all assessed IDPs were displaced, due to the AoG assault on Mosul on 10 June and subsequent spread of conflict to neighbouring governorates. Subsequent spikes in displacement represent the continued effects of conflict within central and northern parts of Iraq. For example, an increase in those displaced from al-Qaim in Anbar Governorate in the week of 6 – 12 July reflects heavy fighting prior to the capture of the town and nearby border crossing with Syria by AoGs on the 12 July.

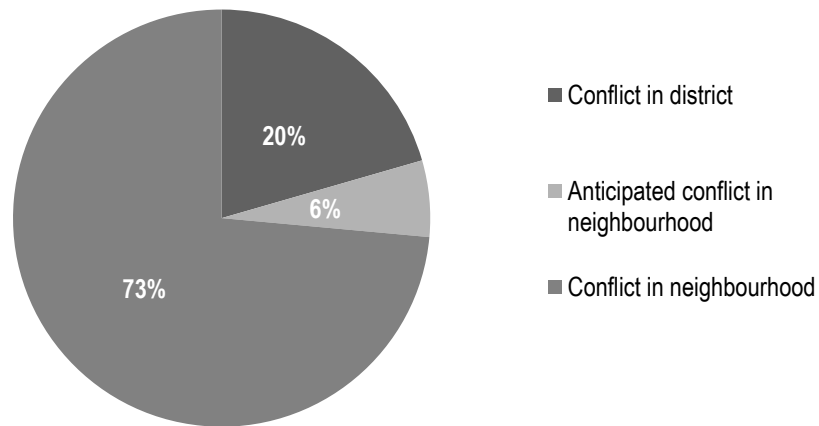
Figure 1: Date of displacement from area of origin



Cause of Displacement

Conflict was the primary cause of displacement for 93% of assessed IDP families. Nearly three-quarters (73%) indicated that conflict in their neighbourhood or town caused their displacement, and a further 20% cited conflict in their district. Service disruption has not yet become a determining factor for displacement.

Figure 2: Reasons for displacement from area of origin



Entry Points to KRI

As with previous findings,⁷ IDPs tend to enter KRI through the entry point that is nearest to their area of origin. However, the proportional increase in IDPs reporting travelling through Sulaymaniyah entry points, up 12% and 10% through Chamchamal and Taslujah respectively, indicates the spread of conflict southwards in Iraq and the increased flow of IDPs from regions outside of Ninewa to Sulaymaniyah.

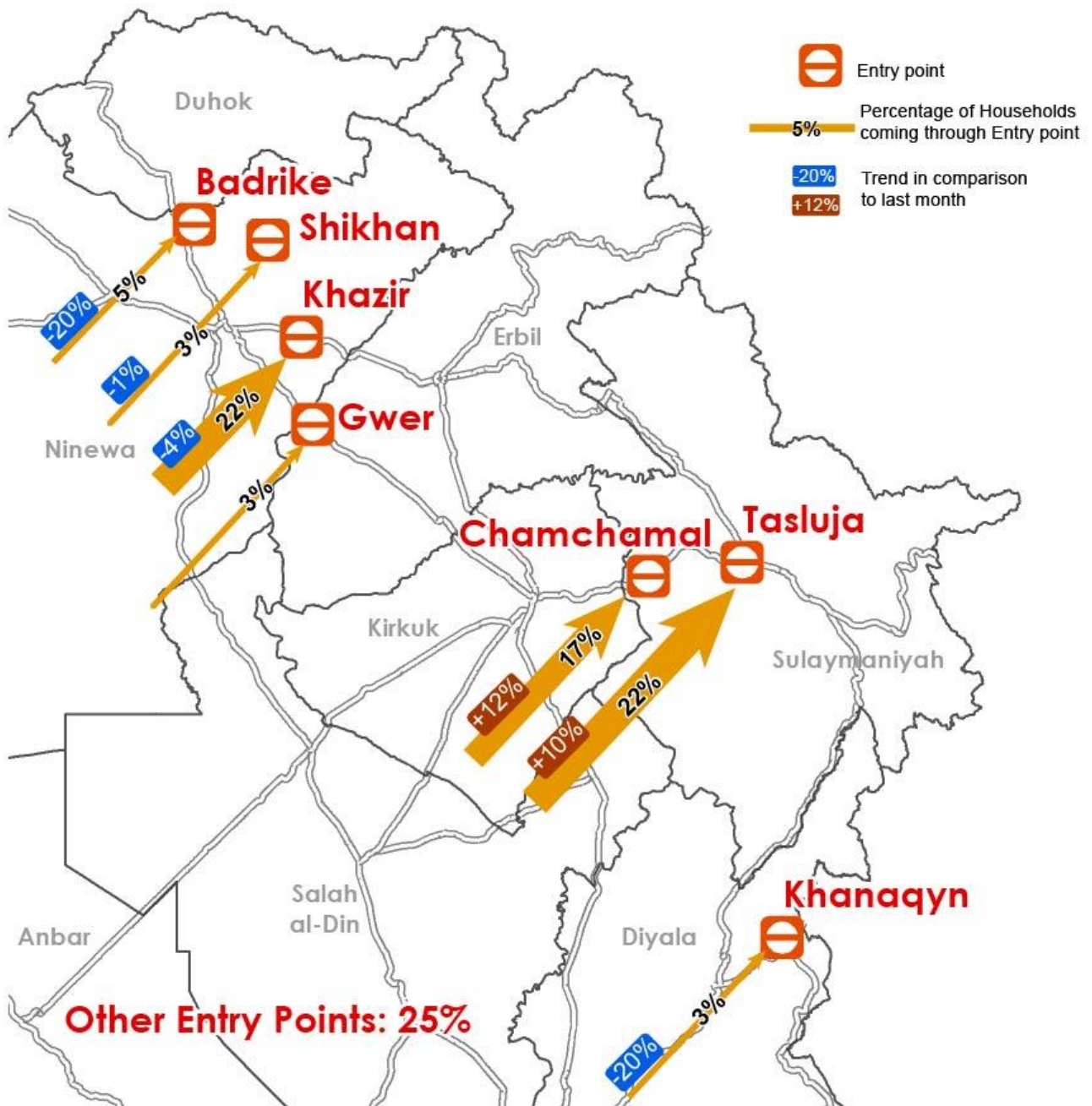
⁷ REACH Initiative, Vulnerability Needs and Intentions of Internally Displaced Persons in Northern Iraq, July, 2014

The sharp decrease in IDPs reporting travel through the Badrika entry point on the Ninewa-Duhok border represents both the limited assessments within Duhok governorate and the increased closure regime in operation at the Badrika entry point, with much traffic being directed towards Garmawa camp, which is not included in this host community report.

The entry point assessment confirms the area of origin findings of the main host community assessment. A majority of those assessed entering the KRI were from Ninewa (71%), but with a greater diversity of origin among those entering Sulaymaniyah, where 30% of IDP families assessed were from Anbar and 31% from Salah al-Din. Only 2% of those assessed in Sulaymaniyah were from Ninewa.

As reflected in previous assessments, just over half of all IDP families assessed entering the KRI arrived at the entry point by private car (51%), and a further 27% crossed by taxi. The continued profile of IDPs as relatively mobile, with access to vehicles, contributes to the fluid nature of IDP hotspots, as many IDPs travel to access cheaper accommodation.

Map 3: Distribution of IDPs assessed through key entry points to the KRI



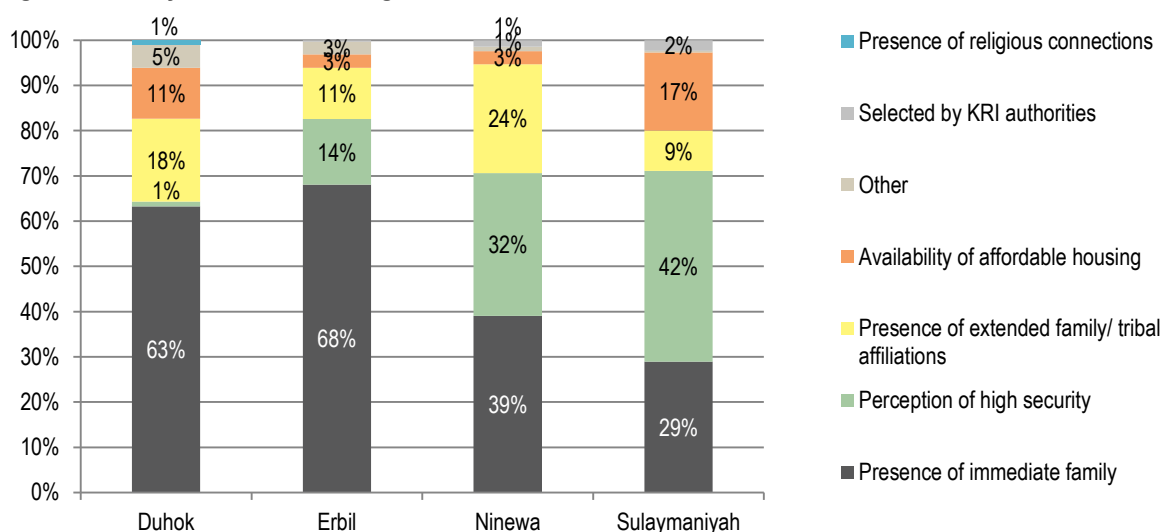
Reasons for Choosing Current Location

The presence of immediate family remains the primary reason for IDP families' choice of current location (49%), with the presence of extended family or tribal affiliations also high (14% respectively). The percentage of those citing immediate family increased from 36% in the previous assessment, whereas those citing extended or tribal affiliations decreased from 20%.

The reasons for choosing location varied both by location and by date of displacement. The presence of immediate or extended family/ tribal affiliations was cited by the majority of assessed IDPs in Duhok (82%), Erbil (79%) and Ninewa (63%) governorates. However, in Sulaymaniyah this proportion drops to 38% of IDPs assessed, with the number of IDP families citing high security (42%) and availability of temporary accommodation (17%) higher than other governorates.⁸ This reflects the higher proportion of IDPs from a different ethnic and/ or religious profile to the hosting community in Sulaymaniyah than other assessed governorates, a result of the governorate's relative proximity to non-Kurdish populations forced to flee escalating violence in north and central Iraq. Supporting focus groups conducted by REACH in early August 2014 also suggest that some IDPs currently in the Garmian area of southern Sulaymaniyah and northern Diyala had pre-existing non-familial connections with the host community as a result of Kurdish displacement to areas of Anbar and Diyala in the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s.

In Ninewa, **high security** was cited as the primary reason for selection of current location by 32% of IDPs assessed; a proportion that rises considerably in specific locations where the profile of IDPs is more likely to be a minority group that face greater risks in the context of this conflict. High security was the most common response in Al Qosh (38%) and Tilkaif (39%). In the former, large numbers of Christian IDPs from the Mosul area have settled, and in the latter many of the IDPs (32%) are internally displaced from elsewhere in Tilkaif district. In Zummar, 77% of those assessed cited high security as the primary reason for choosing their current location. A majority of those assessed in Zummar (87%) originated from Telafar, a district which has seen severe conflict since June 2014 and had a large pre-conflict minority Turkmen population.

Figure 3: Primary reason for selecting current location



55% of those whose date of displacement fell in June 2014 cited the presence of immediate family as the primary reason for choosing their current location. This was a significant increase on the pre-June figure of 28%, and it declines slightly in July to 46%. This reflects that the escalation of conflict in June led those with family connections, and therefore greater capacity to travel and establish themselves in a new location, to move. Whereas pull factors such as the presence of high security conditions were more critical prior to June (40%) and are likely to increase in importance as the continuation of conflict leads more IDPs without family connections to travel to the assessed areas.

⁸ This finding is particularly influenced by the limited data available from Duhok. However, the trend of fewer family ties observed among IDPs in Sulaymaniyah is robust

INTENTIONS

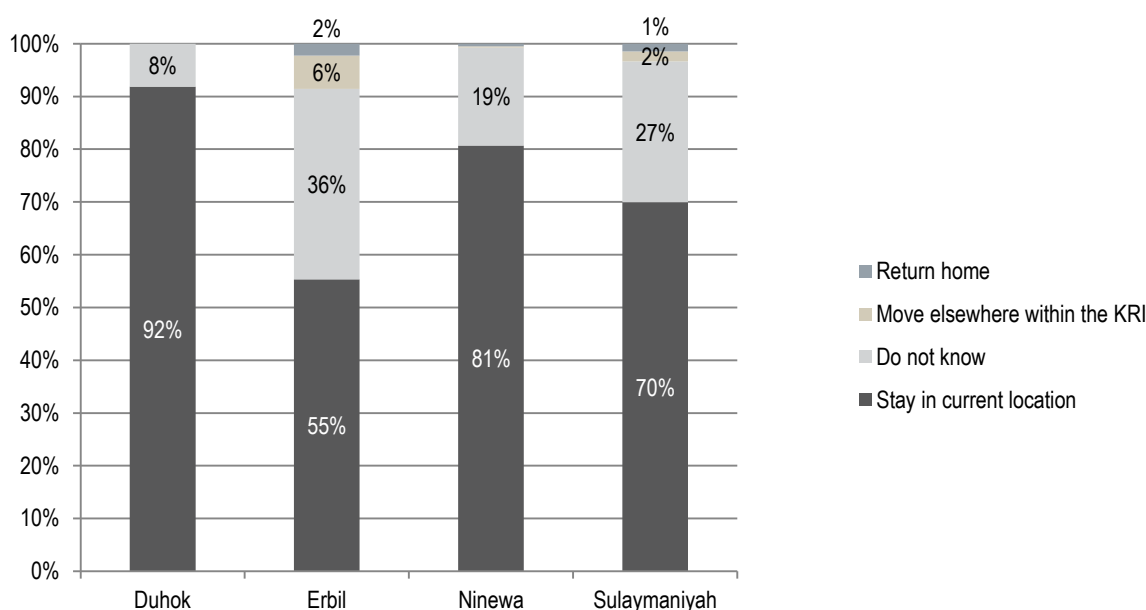
The majority of IDPs intend to stay in their current location for at least 10 days following the day of the assessment but as seen in the previous month's assessment, there was a high degree of uncertainty as to exact length of stay expected. This impacts heavily on the type of accommodation, perception of needs and sustainability of resources of IDPs. Those intending to stay are more likely to rent housing for a more stable living arrangement, potentially increasing pressure on previous IDP and refugee arrivals and adding strain to personal resources.

Planned Stay or Movement

A majority of assessed IDPs (67%) intended to stay in their current location for at least the 10 days following the assessment, and 27% did not know their intentions over this period. Uncertainty was linked to period of time since displacement. 41% of those who had been displaced for less than one week did not know their intended movement, which declines for each time period to a low of 22% for those who had been displaced for between one and two months. For periods of displacement longer than this, uncertainty rose again, to 46% among those who had been displaced for 6 months to one year. This could represent signs that the influx of newly displaced IDPs is affecting the resource certainty of pre-existing IDP populations.

Of those IDPs in the KRI intending to stay, only 9% intended to stay for more than one month, all of which were found in Duhok Governorate. A majority (68%) of those intending to stay in the KRI did not know for how long they intended to stay. This contrasts with the previous assessment, where 43% intended to stay for more than one month, and could represent increased uncertainty of financial resources, as well as tensions emerging with the hosting communities. In Sulaymaniyah Governorate, 90% of those intending to remain in the KRI did not know for how long they would stay.

Figure 4: IDP intentions over the next 10 days



A majority (64%) of IDPs assessed cited a permanent end to the conflict as the pre-condition for their return to their area of origin. In Ninewa, the proportion citing an end to conflict was relatively low (38%) and those citing a restoration of security relatively high (33%). This was particularly true in Kalachi and Zummar, where 46% and 55% respectively cited restoration of security. This is potentially due to the high numbers from Telafar in these two locations, which had a high degree of conflict prior to the collapse of security conditions in early June.

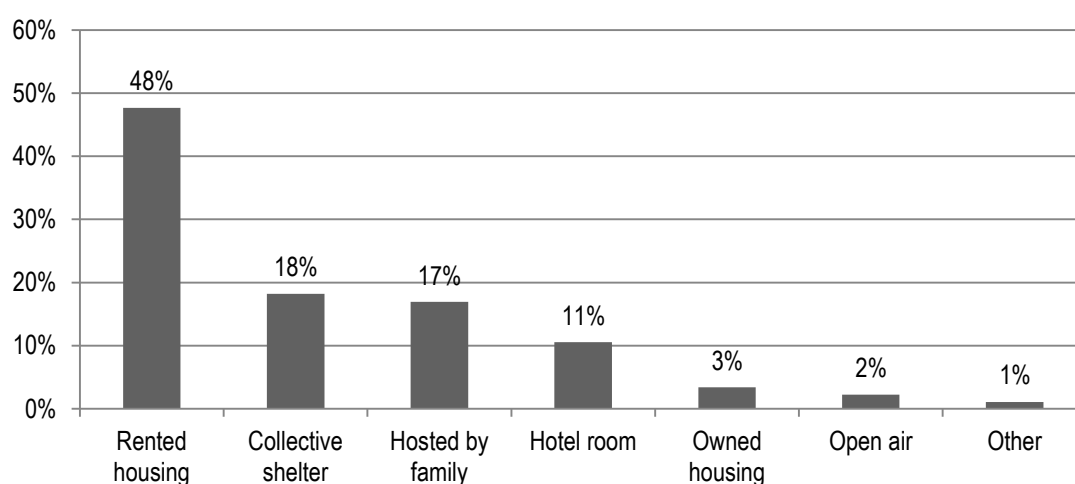
RESOURCES AND NEEDS

Reliance on rented housing is showing signs of increasing, a trend which may continue as collective shelters such as schools become unavailable ahead of the beginning of the school year. This is likely to place an extra burden on the financial resources of households, and there are already signs that support coping strategies are becoming more varied as families feel uncertain on how long their resources will be sufficient to cover their needs. Without a clear plan for the management of those to be moved from schools and other collective shelters ahead of the school year, these IDPs are at risk of becoming even more vulnerable. Food remains a key priority need of households, as does the improvement of shelter and rental support.

Primary Types of Accommodation

Almost half (48%) of assessed IDPs were living in rented accommodation, and among IDPs in the KRI this rose to 57% of assessed IDPs. This is a slight rise from the previous month, with a decline in the proportions reporting staying with family (17%) and in collective shelters (18%). This suggests that for now financial resources are not restricting the capacity of IDPs to rent accommodation, which is likely to change in the future if economic resources are exhausted; but also that IDPs are increasingly viewing their displacement as a longer-term prospect as an immediate solution to the conflict fails to materialise. This is supported by the fact that those renting housing have a longer average displacement time (65 days) compared to those hosted by family (31 days) and those in collective shelter (30 days).

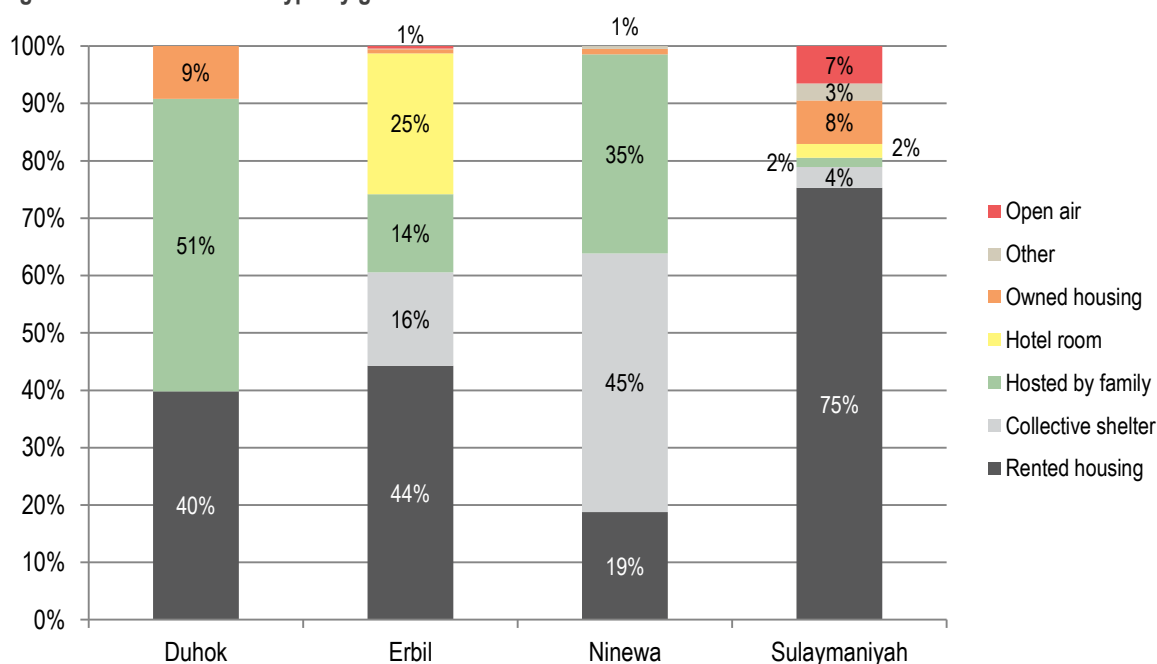
Figure 5: Primary accommodation type of IDPs



As with the previous month, there was significant variation in accommodation type by governorate. In Ninewa, nearly half (45%) of those assessed lived in a collective shelters such as schools, mosques, churches and other public buildings. This group is highly vulnerable given that the school year will begin in September 2014, at which point those currently residing in school buildings will need to find alternative accommodation. The proportion of those within the KRI staying in collective shelters has doubled, to 10% of those assessed.

Reported rental costs have declined from those in the previous assessment, from an average of 143,415 IQD (123 USD) in June 2014 to 138,463 IQD (119 USD) weekly. Erbil Governorate continues to have a higher proportion of IDPs staying in hotels, 25% of those assessed in the governorate, compared to 2% in Sulaymaniyah, and none of those assessed in Duhok and Ninewa. As with rental costs, the average cost of a hotel room at 371,366 IQD (319 USD) compared to 427,882 IQD previously. This could indicate IDPs are finding cheaper accommodation in order to extend their stay away from the KRI.

Figure 6: Accommodation type by governorate

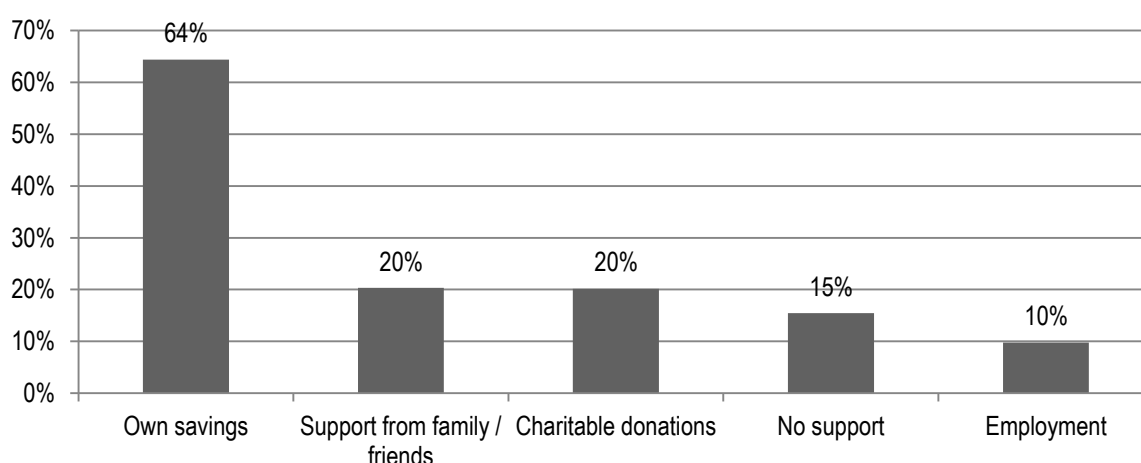


Means of Meeting Basic Needs

A majority (64%) of IDPs reported that at the time of the assessment they were using their own savings to support themselves. This is an increase from 58% in June 2014. Support from family or friends, and charitable donations had also increased marginally, with each reported by 20% of those assessed, up from 18% and 17% respectively. The receipt of charitable donations was highest in Ninewa Governorate, where this was reported by

41% of IDPs as a means of meeting basic needs. It is important to note that one would expect higher rates of donations during Ramadan than at other times of year.

Figure 7: IDP resources for support

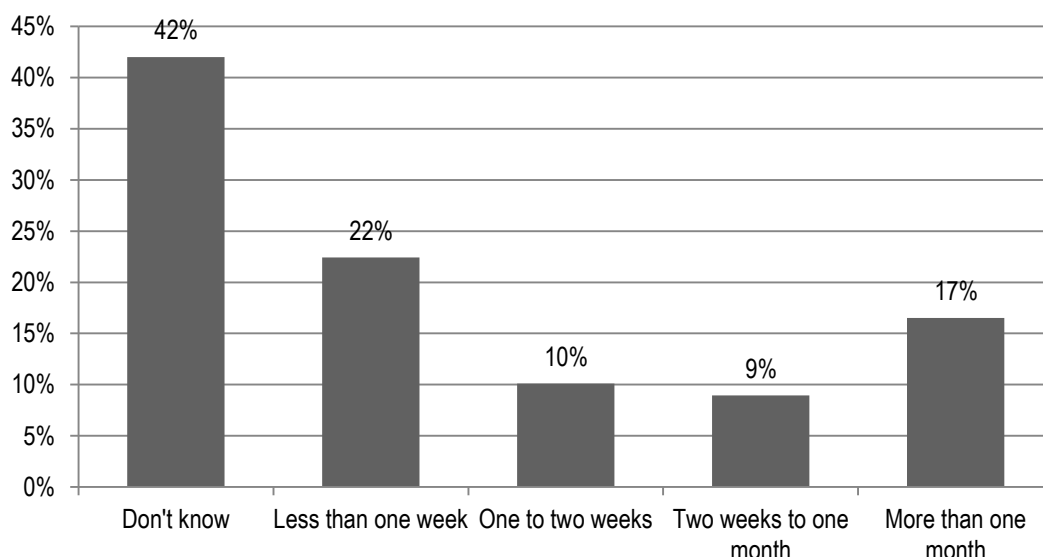


The proportion of IDPs reporting employment has increased from 5% to 10%. However, given the legal requirement of residency for formal work it is unlikely that employment will reduce the burden on personal resources for most IDPs. The proportion of IDPs reporting no means of meeting basic needs has remained stable, at 15%.

Sustainability of Resources

Among those with a means of support knowledge of the sustainability of household resources has decreased significantly since the assessments in June, with 42% of assessed IDP heads of household in July reporting they do not know how long their current means of support would last, compared to 29% in June. The proportion whose resources will last less than one week has also increased marginally, from 20% in June to 22% in July. Ninewa has the highest rates of those reporting resources sufficient for one week or less, with 36%.

Figure 8: Sustainability of resources



Priority Needs

Due to the persistently high levels of rented housing among IDPs, reported need for rental support is high, at 26% across the KRI and 21% across all areas assessed. However, food (28%) and shelter improvement (27%) were the most commonly cited priority needs. The proportion of those citing food as a first priority need is considerably lower, at 10%, in Erbil than Ninewa (35%), Duhok (39%) and Sulaymaniyah (43%). Health assistance needs are high, at 12% of IDPs assessed.

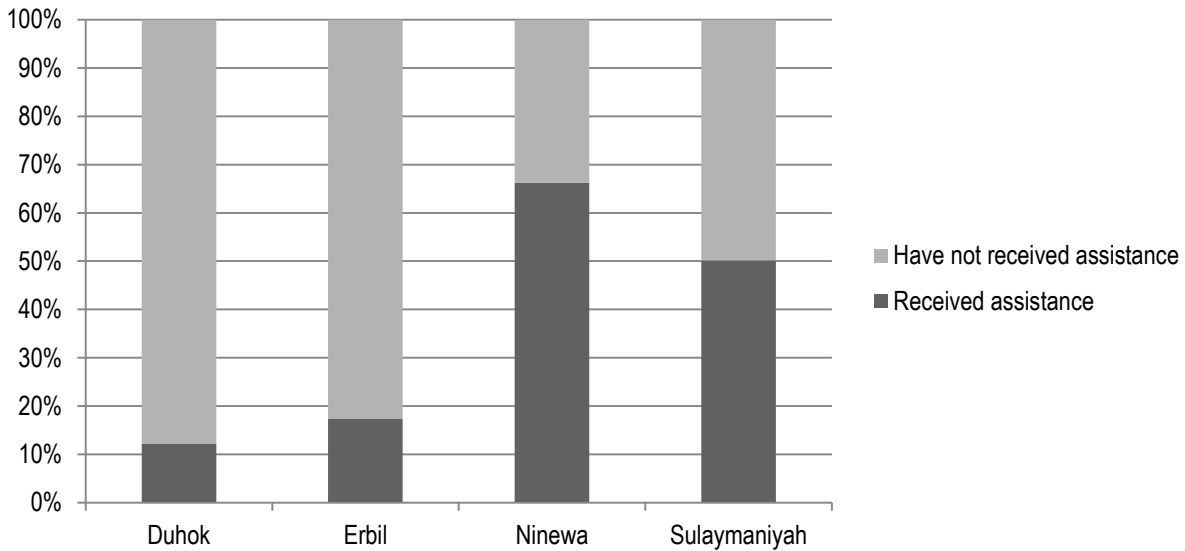
Table 2: IDP identified priority needs

	1 st priority	2 nd priority	3 rd priority
Food	28%	26%	22%
Shelter improvement	27%	5%	10%
Rental Support	21%	19%	15%
Health assistance	11%	9%	12%
Water	6%	1%	6%
Household items	3%	29%	20%
Fuel	2%	10%	7%
Sanitation	2%	1%	3%
Did not know	0%	0%	5%

External Assistance

The majority of IDPs assessed reported that they had received no external assistance since being displaced from their place of origin. The proportion of those who had received assistance, 39%, has increased from June, when 27% of those assessed reported receiving assistance. In particular only 2% of those assessed in Erbil City and 4% of those in Sulaymaniyah City reported receiving assistance, reflecting the early targeting of peripheral areas for assistance at the expense of those in urban centres. A majority of those assessed in Ninewa, 66%, reported having received assistance. The most commonly reported form of assistance received is food, which was received by 35% of IDPs assessed.

Figure 9: Proportion reporting receiving assistance by governorate



CONCLUSION

Findings from the REACH assessment in July 2014 confirm the pressing humanitarian needs of IDPs in northern Iraq. The sustained nature of the conflict in Iraq is creating waves of IDPs with varied needs, intentions and profiles, which creates a complex environment for humanitarian interventions. Following the fall of Mosul, a large population displacement occurred from Ninewa governorate, and a sustained flow of Kurdish, Christian and other minority groups moved or attempted to move to safer areas within the KRI or disputed areas under the control of Kurdish security forces. This displacement adds to previous displacements of Muslim populations from across Iraq, especially Anbar from late December 2013 onwards. Due to the protracted and sectarian nature of the conflict, the diversity of among displaced populations travelling to safe areas has increased, with large numbers from all religious-ethnic groups seeking refuge from violence.

As the latest upsurge of violence, potentially the most serious since the sectarian civil war of 2007, has caught the attention of world and national media, it is important to note that the complexity of the situation is greatly increased by the fact that this is one in a series of displacement waves, compounding the humanitarian situation. The potential impact of IDPs seeking housing, food, water in areas with pre-existing communities will place added pressure on previous IDP populations, refugees from the Syrian conflict, as well as on government authority and services.

Vulnerability of IDP populations is linked to several factors, especially the connections they have with the host community, the resources they have access to, and their ability to access safe areas where assistance is available. Assistance so far provided has been predominately emergency life-saving aid; in the coming period preparations for long term response will be necessary, especially with regard to winterization preparation.

This is particularly crucial for those IDP families who will have to vacate current shelters in order for them to be used for their normal purpose. When the school year begins those currently using schools and other educational buildings will have to find new housing, potentially both creating a severe risk to the IDPs themselves if sufficient quality housing is not available, and creating a price rise in rented accommodation. This has the potential to create a ripple effect for previous IDP waves, refugees (especially from Syria) and on vulnerable members of the hosting community.

It is clear that access is, and will continue to be, a significant issue in the delivery of life-saving aid. The proximity of IDP locations to conflict areas has been a constant challenge for the humanitarian response. Recent developments in early August demonstrate the fragility of security, especially in the disputed territories of Ninewa, Kirkuk and Diyala. In addition, the movement of many IDPs from the north of Iraq, especially Telafar and environs, to the south presents a unique challenge in access, as these communities are regularly not resident in any one area of northern Iraq for long enough for aid to be planned and delivered through normal processes. Given the unstable security conditions of many of the areas through which these IDPs must travel, direct monitoring is difficult, as is the delivery of aid. REACH will continue to complement the work of this report, and the work of other humanitarian actors, to monitor these inaccessible IDPs through expansion of entry point monitoring and area of origin assessments, both utilising networks of key informants to better inform the humanitarian response.