



**GROUND TRUTH
SOLUTIONS**

MIXED MIGRATION PLATFORM

PERCEPTIONS OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

NORTHERN IRAQ

– SURVEY AND FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION REPORT –

OCTOBER 25, 2017

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MIGRATION
PLATFORM

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INTRODUCTION

This report summarises the findings of interviews and focus group discussions conducted in July and August 2017 with 340 internally displaced persons (IDPs) at five different sites in northern Iraq. Interviews and discussions took place with IDPs living in urban areas of Erbil and Dohuk, as well as in Khazer, Hajj Ali, and Al Salamiyah camps.

This is part of a series of data collection rounds looking at IDP perceptions of humanitarian assistance in northern Iraq under the [Mixed Migration Platform \(MMP\)](#). The survey was developed with input from humanitarian agencies in Iraq to gather feedback from IDPs on the provision of humanitarian aid there. The discussion topics were designed to further explore some of the more salient issues raised in interviews with [IDPs](#) at the same sites in March and again in July 2017, as well as [focus group discussions](#) held in May and June 2017. More background and information about the demographics and methodology can be found at the end of this report.



Map of camps and urban areas covered in northern Iraq

READING THIS REPORT

This report presents the findings from the focus group discussions with the main conclusions drawn from each discussion topic. Where relevant, we also include bar charts for several questions from the first round of quantitative data collection with responses quantified on

a Likert scale from 1 to 5. The charts show the distribution (in %) of answer options chosen for each question – with colours ranging from dark red for negative answers to dark green for positive ones. The mean or average score is also shown on a scale of 1 to 5.

SUMMARY FINDINGS

The survey and focus group discussions reveal that serious problems remain in meeting the basic needs of displaced persons in northern Iraq. Access to healthcare, medical supplies, and reduced food distribution continues to trouble those living in camps and urban areas, according to discussion participants. Adequate shelter is also lacking, with camp residents who are living in uninsulated tents in fear of the coming winter months, and those living in urban areas describing cramped, overcrowded conditions. Difficulty accessing potable water and proper sanitation is pronounced in the camps, posing a risk to public health in densely populated areas.

Access to employment in the local economy is difficult and participants said they need cash assistance, compensation for homes that were lost, as well as job opportunities. Survey data reinforces these concerns about the lack of self-sufficiency, as over half of those interviewed say the support they currently receive is

insufficient to live without aid in the future. Respondents were also distressed by their inability to afford essential goods, including medicine and electricity. Quantitative survey data reveals that IDPs generally do not feel that circumstances are improving for people in Iraq (Figure 1).

Overall, is life improving for people in Iraq?*

- 1 = Not at all
- 2 = Not really
- 3 = Neutral
- 4 = Mostly yes
- 5 = Yes, very much
- No opinion
- Do not want to answer

(values in %)



Figure 1: Improvement in living conditions

*This question was asked to 282 respondents of the quantitative survey conducted in July 2017.



GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations for local actors and authorities based on findings from the focus group discussions and survey data:

- ✓ Increase transparency of criteria to qualify for aid distributions;
- ✓ If suggestions or complaints are made, try to address the issues and close the feedback loop;
- ✓ Ensure better access to information, particularly about employment, mobility, and the roles of different aid organisations;
- ✓ Create mechanisms to allow IDPs to participate in decision-making;
- ✓ Ensure oversight of the distribution process to ensure fairness, and that items do not go missing;
- ✓ Integrate feedback into the prioritisation and distribution of services.

More detailed suggestions and recommendations from the participants for improving current conditions are summarised at the end of the report.

OVERALL CONCERNS



PROVISION OF SERVICES

Discussion participants report an appreciable reduction in services. While many participants said that they received aid upon first arriving to the camps or upon registering as IDPs, they report a significant reduction since with some saying no aid has been received at all. IDPs in Erbil said basic needs have gone unmet for as long as two years, while residents in Hajj Ali and Khazer camps feel that services are decreasing, as attention and resources are diverted to newer camps.

These perceptions are supported by quantitative data collected in July 2017, in which at least half of surveyed IDPs living in Erbil, Hajj Ali camp, and Khazer camp said their most important needs are not covered by services provided (Figure 2). The quantitative data points to more positive sentiments in Dohuk and Al Salamiyah, although several focus group discussion participants in Dohuk claimed they have never received services.

Are your most important needs met by the services you receive?*

- 1 = Not at all
- 2 = Not very much
- 3 = Neutral
- 4 = Mostly yes
- 5 = Completely
- Do not know
- Do not receive support

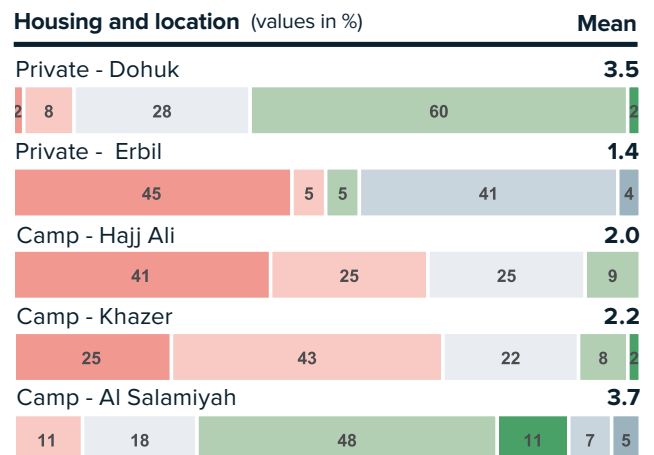


Figure 2: Priority needs

*This question was asked to 282 respondents of the quantitative survey conducted in July 2017.





FOOD

Most participants feel that the quality and frequency of food distributions have been steadily deteriorating. Items routinely go missing from the food baskets, the number of food coupons is reduced, and there are distribution delays in the camps. They also report insufficient supplies of basic food items such as flour, oil, and vegetables. There was consensus among female participants from the Al Salamiyah camp that most of the food baskets had already been picked over with good items often removed.

“NGOs distribute items such as lentils, chickpeas, beans, and oil, but this isn’t sufficient. People need meat and chicken and vegetables. So, people are forced to sell the food baskets, so that they can buy vegetables and other items.” (Male IDP, Khazer camp)

These complaints highlight the large-scale problem of food insecurity in Iraq – in 2017, it is estimated that 3.2 million Iraqis may need assistance with food, as well as 1.5 million who are expected to face severe food insecurity.¹

“There is no flour and we receive the packages missing some materials or opened. Even the laundry powder is opened. In addition, we did not receive diapers or milk – only the lentils and chickpeas were sufficient.”

(Female IDP, Hajj Ali camp)



HEALTHCARE

Participants drew attention to a general lack of adequate healthcare, with insufficient medical supplies at dispensaries mentioned multiple times. Problems of accessing medical help was also reported in urban areas, with participants in Dohuk lamenting the fact that they cannot afford transportation to the doctor, nor would they be able to afford prescribed medication. A REACH assessment report from July 2017 supports these complaints: “Even though healthcare facilities

were reported accessible across the country, since August-September 2016 IDPs have been increasingly reporting the cost of services and the lack of medicines as obstacles to accessing healthcare.”²

“When I go to the doctor (in the health centre) for my rheumatism, he only gives me four to five tablets in a sachet! This is a chronic disease; this amount of medication can’t help.” (Female IDP, Khazer camp)



EDUCATION

The availability and quality of education for children was a serious cause for concern among participants. IDPs in cities report that not all children have the opportunity to attend school and those in camps said that while schools are accessible, the teaching is very poor. Participants in Erbil expressed concerns over schools taught in Arabic being closed, despite the fact that Iraqis have the constitutional right to have their children educated in their mother-tongue, be it Arabic or Kurdish.³

“The education in the camp is so bad. They don’t teach them how to write, they just give them some cookies and juice.”

(Female IDP, Al Salamiyah camp)

In camps, the education that is available is not structured or consistent, and they described how many schools lack resources and qualified teachers. Parents in and outside of camps want education to be treated as a priority, so as not to disadvantage their children.

“We hope that the organisations provide better education because the schools were closed for four years. Education is essential to life.” (Female IDP, Dohuk camp)

¹ Regional Food Security Analysis Network, “Food Security Quarterly Update, January-March 2017 - Iraq,” 2.

² REACH Initiative and CCCM Cluster, “Comparative Multi-Cluster Assessment of Internally Displaced Persons Living in Camps - Iraq,” 2.

³ “Full Text of Iraq Constitution.” The Washington Post, WP Company, 12 Oct. 2005.





EMPLOYMENT

All participants say that it is nearly impossible to find work, as there are very few jobs available, which means that only those with connections or those who pay bribes find employment. Nonetheless, there still is a strong desire to work and be self-sufficient. Many participants also indicated that they were concerned for the youth in the camp who are suffering from the psychological stress of being unemployed and staying at home or in their tents all day.

“As youths are jobless, they get so nervous and act aggressively, as a result of hard living. They suffer from psychological problems – they are aware of the fact that they are living inside of a camp with no job opportunities.”

(Male IDP, Hajj Ali camp)

The discussions also revealed that those who find employment are often those with some level of education, women, and those living in cities. Women cited skills such as sewing, which means they can earn a wage without facing the barriers of leaving the camp and language, which their male counterparts often face. Further barriers such as age discrimination and the municipality discriminating against IDPs, remain. Those who do manage to find jobs face long hours and are often not paid their wages in full.

“I need a sewing machine to work and provide for my family and help the IDPs in the camp to improve their lives. I’m working with a machine that is not mine but I can’t buy one because it’s expensive.” (Female IDP, Al Salamiyah camp)



SHELTER

“We are a family of 10 and one of us is disabled. They give us only one tent.” (Male IDP, Hajj Ali camp)

A primary concern for all participants was the inadequacy of the shelter provided. Many IDPs said that the tents are too hot in the summer months, and will likely be too cold in the winter, as many of them do not have fans or heaters. Those living in camps requested better tents to withstand the extreme weather conditions. Camp residents described cramped living conditions with very little, if any, privacy. One female IDP from Al Salamiyah camp said that as many as three families are often expected to share one tent.

“It’s summer now and we are sleeping outside, but what will happen to us in winter?” (Female IDP, Erbil)

“We registered our names to find jobs but they ignored us and only gave jobs to IDPs who had connections. Every day I go to check with them to see if there are any work opportunities for me but there is no chance. We want to work and help our husbands, we want to provide food and clothes for our kids.” (Female IDP, Al Salamiyah camp)

Quantitative data from both March and July 2017 indicates that most IDPs believe access to employment in the local economy is difficult, with similar results across the two rounds (Figure 3). Findings from July reveal an increase in “do not know” answers, pointing to the need for more information about employment opportunities.

Are displaced families able to make a living by working in the local economy?*

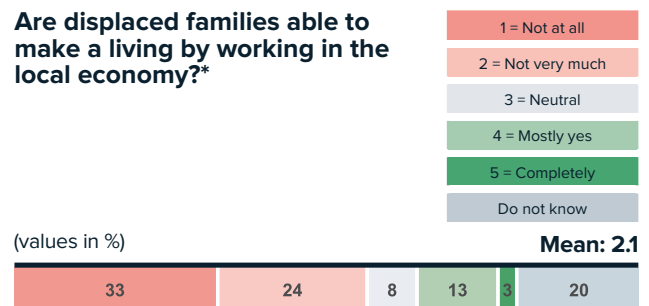


Figure 3: Livelihood

*This question was asked to 282 respondents of the quantitative survey conducted in July 2017.

“There are no job opportunities. We are IDPs and do not know Kurdish, all jobs require a knowledge of this language.” (Male IDP, Erbil)

Inadequate shelter is not only a problem for those living in camps, it is also a concern for those living in the cities of Dohuk and Erbil, where issues of cramped living conditions and high rental costs are mentioned. Those living in urban areas also expressed concern about the winter months, saying they need blankets, heaters, and warm clothing.

“We live with 30 people in a small house. We are suffering and it is embarrassing to talk about.” (Male IDP, Dohuk)

Iraqi IDPs feel that they should be compensated for the homes that were destroyed, and appeal to the government as well as NGOs to help in rebuilding their homes and cities in order for them to be able to return home.





WATER AND SANITATION

Many IDPs reported a shortage of water in camps. While some in Hajj Ali and Khazer camps said they had seen an improvement in water distribution, the vast majority said it is still inadequate. The REACH assessment of IDPs living in camps also points to a lack of potable water as well as the bad smell, colour, and taste of available water, leading to increased health risks and financial burdens as people resort to buying bottled water to avoid the spread of illnesses.⁴

“The water distribution point is very far away and the camp is so big. We are so tired. Providing a water tanker to distribute water to tents would be so much better. I’m disabled so I can’t carry the water.” (Female IDP, Khazer camp)

“The camp management should pay more attention to sanitation and waste disposal, this is essential and should be a high priority issue, as it is the cause of many illnesses.”

(Male IDP, Hajj Ali camp)

The issue of poor sanitation and waste disposal was raised by many participants, who complained that poor hygiene was making their children sick. Male IDPs from Hajj Ali camp also highlighted the relationship between sanitation and public health, suggesting that sanitation should be prioritised to prevent illnesses.



GAS AND ELECTRICITY

Access to consistent electricity and gas is a problem in urban areas and the camps. Those living in cities have access to electricity as normal citizens in the region would, but face difficulties covering the cost. A number of IDPs in camps mentioned that electricity is often only available to those who are able to pay a monthly subscription, which in many cases arbitrarily increases without warning or reason.

Gas was also cited as insufficient, making cooking difficult. The lack of electricity and gas, as well as proper cooking facilities, means that camp residents are often forced to cook over an open fire, which presents safety hazards, as the tents are extremely flammable. A participant from Hajj Ali camp mentioned an incident in which cooking over an open flame resulted in the death of a child in the neighbouring tent.

“We don’t even have a gas bottle so we use paper to set up a fire to cook bread.” (Female IDP, Khazer camp)



IMMEDIATE CONCERNS

When facilitators asked IDPs to identify their biggest concerns for the coming year, most expressed a fear of weather conditions in winter, as well as fears of ISIS regaining control. Displaced people in Erbil voiced their concerns that living in the autonomous Kurdish region as non-Kurds exposes them to the risk of being sent back to Mosul.

“We are afraid of hunger, cold, illness. We do not know what is going to happen to us, our homes are gone I am afraid of everything that the new year will bring.”

(Female IDP, Khazer camp)

“We are afraid to be attacked again by ISIS. We were in a very bad situation. Nothing was provided. We could not even get food. Nothing was allowed.”

(Female IDP, Hajj Ali camp)

⁴ REACH Initiative and CCCM Cluster, “Comparative Multi-Cluster Assessment of Internally Displaced Persons Living in Camps - Iraq,” 22.



FAIRNESS OF SERVICE PROVISION



CORRUPTION, BRIBERY & FAVOURITISM

Service provision was overwhelmingly seen as unfair by those living in the urban areas of Dohuk and Erbil, as favouritism and connections were cited as factors which determine access to services, rather than need. Those living in camps were more mixed in their responses, and while not all felt that there was discrimination, all agreed that service provision was insufficient and often illogical, with a participant in Khazer camp saying that families of ten receive the same amount as a family of two. The quantitative data reveals that female IDPs are less convinced that support reaches the people who need it most (Figure 4).

Does the support reach the people who need it most?*

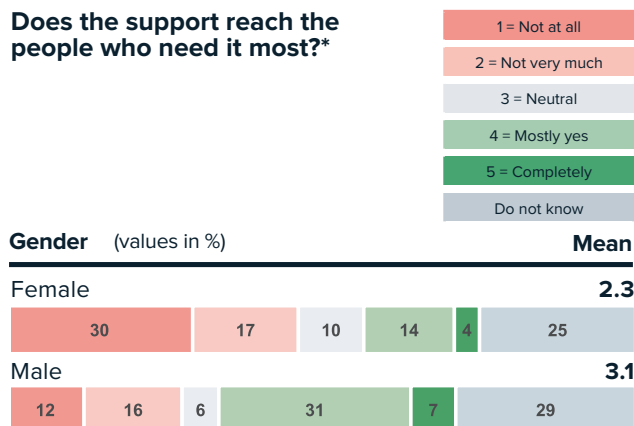


Figure 4: Reaching those in need

*This question was asked to 282 respondents of the quantitative survey conducted in July 2017.

“We have been here for two years and we haven’t received any aid. There is discrimination because there are some families that have received aid and some that have not. However, it’s the organisations’ job to distribute services fairly.” (Female IDP, Erbil)

Corruption, bribery, and favouritism were identified by IDPs living in camps and cities in northern Iraq as barriers to services being provided fairly and without discrimination. The problem of needing “*wasta*”⁵ (واسطة) came up in every single discussion – *wasta* does not have a direct English translation but is similar to the English phrase “it’s not what you know, it’s who you know,” meaning contacts and connections are essential to success in all spheres of life.

“There is no equality in the distribution of services, and those with “*wasta*” receive services. We need organisations to provide us with basic services, we need foodstuff, we need health services and medicine.” (Female IDP, Dohuk)



LACK OF MONITORING & TRANSPARENCY

Several participants said monitoring by aid agencies is needed to instil fairness and equality in the distribution of services. The fact that international NGOs are said to delegate these responsibilities to the *mukhtars* (heads of the community) who live in the camps seems to have led to a mismanagement of resources as well as anger and frustration.

“The distribution is not fair; some families in other camps have received aid three times while we haven’t received any. It is just people with “*wasta*” who receive aid. We want the organisation to have an organised plan to cover the needs of all the IDPs.” (Male IDP, Erbil)

“Organisations should visit the camps and see what the needs are.” (Female IDP, Khazer camp)

There were several appeals throughout the discussions for organisations to come and see first-hand the situation in which IDPs are living, as organisational staff typically do not enter the camps, but drop off items at the entrance of the camps. This has strengthened the perception that most organisations are detached from the reality of the camps, and are primarily consumed with higher-level bureaucratic and administrative tasks.

⁵ “Wasta: Vitamin W”, accessed September 19, 2017, Al-Bab, www.al-bab.com/society-politics/wasta



ACCESS TO INFORMATION, COMPLAINTS MECHANISMS & VOICE



ACCESS TO INFORMATION ABOUT GETTING HELP FROM LOCAL AGENCIES OR LOCAL AUTHORITIES

There seems to be a general lack of information about how to seek help from aid providers or authorities. One respondent from Erbil said that information is provided, while another said that they had not received any information in the past four years. Male respondents from Khazer camp said that they sometimes receive information from the camp management, but the majority do not receive any.

Do you have the information you need to get help from relief agencies or local authorities?*

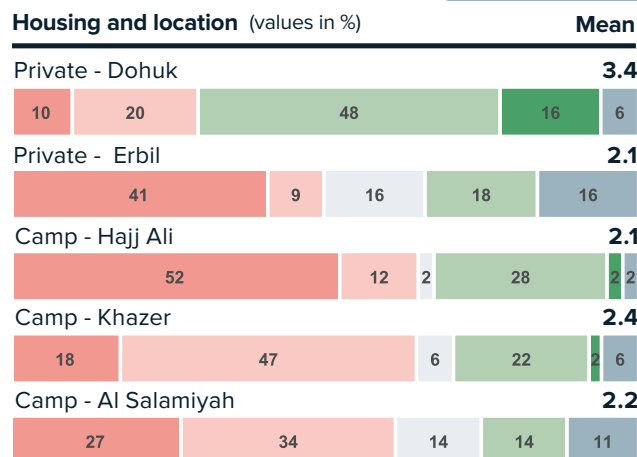


Figure 5: Information

*This question was asked to 282 respondents of the quantitative survey conducted in July 2017.

“We do not know anything – we hear in the news that relief agencies gave lots of money for the IDPs but nothing has been provided to us.” (Female IDP, Hajj Ali camp)

Interviews with IDPs in July indicate information gaps in all locations apart from Dohuk, where over half of respondents indicate having the information necessary to seek help (Figure 5). Despite these more positive scores in Dohuk, focus group discussion participants in the area explained that while they know several organisations by name, they do not know what they provide. They suggested that the relief organisations introduce themselves to make it clear what services fall under their remit.

“I have no clue where these organisations are located or what services they provide or how to reach to them to get help. Only those with connections (“abu wasta”) have this information.” (Male IDP, Erbil)

Corruption and the tendency of camp management to favour informing their immediate families and friends about available services were cited as reasons for this lack of information.





ACCESS TO INFORMATION ABOUT MOVING INSIDE OR OUTSIDE OF IRAQ

IDPs feel uninformed about their options for moving between countries or within Iraq. As many of them do not have passports or proper residency, they cannot leave the region they live in, and some described feeling imprisoned: “We have no information. We are like prisoners” (Iraqi female IDP, Al Salamiyah camp). Participants said that they currently resort to asking taxi drivers for information about mobility, indicating that they would appreciate more information from official sources.

“We heard they are going to make us leave the camp. We do not know where to go if they make us leave.”
(Female IDP, Hajj Ali camp)

While the quantitative data supports the lack of information about further movement expressed in the focus group discussions, it also reveals more mixed sentiments, with almost a third of those surveyed in July saying they feel they have the information they need to make decisions about further movement (Figure 6).

Do you have the information you need to make informed decisions about moving between countries or within Iraq?*

1 = Not at all
2 = Not very much
3 = Neutral
4 = Mostly yes
5 = Completely
Do not know

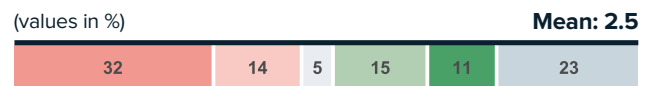


Figure 6: Information on further movement

*This question was asked to 282 respondents of the quantitative survey conducted in July 2017.



MAKING SUGGESTIONS & COMPLAINTS

“If we want to make a complaint they treat us badly.”
(Female IDP, Al Salamiyah camp)

Awareness of complaints mechanisms among discussion participants are mixed. Most believe they have either no hope of getting a response if they were to make a suggestion or complaint, or are fearful of making one in the first place. Participants reported that receiving a response is the real issue, for which bribery or *wasta* is needed. A female resident in Al Salamiyah camp explained that submitting a complaint is not sufficient, and that “you have to invite them for dinner or lunch or give them money to help you.”

“If someone has contacts and complains then they will be listened to, but if someone does not have any contacts then they will not be listened to.” (Female IDP, Hajj Ali camp)

Findings from the quantitative interviews reveal that well over half of surveyed IDPs do not know how or where to make suggestions or complaints (Figure 7). Awareness of complaints mechanisms seems to be particularly low in Erbil, Hajj Ali camp, and Al Salamiyah camp, with greatest awareness in Dohuk. The preferred methods for giving feedback are in person or at a complaints desk, followed by anonymous channels including helplines or suggestion boxes. Opinions are mixed as to whether respondents would receive a response upon making suggestions or complaints.

Do you know how to make suggestions or complaints about the assistance provided?*

No
Yes



Figure 7: Complaints mechanisms

*This question was asked to 282 respondents of the quantitative survey conducted in July 2017.





VOICE

“They don’t pay attention to our feedback and they only give promises.” (Male IDP, Hajj Ali camp)

Most participants do not feel their views are taken into account when decisions are made about the support they receive. Female IDPs in Khazer camp responded particularly negatively, saying that their views are not valued. There is a general apathy towards offering opinions as many explained there is no accountability, and their views are simply ignored. Al Salamiyah camp and Dohuk city respondents said they have no knowledge of how organisations make these decisions, and therefore could not say whether their opinions are taken into account or not. Survey results show particularly negative scores in Hajj Ali (Figure 8).

“They came and took our views but no organisation responded. We wish they would consider our views.” (Male IDP, Dohuk)

Do you feel your views are taken into account in decisions made about the support you receive?*

- 1 = Not at all
- 2 = Not very much
- 3 = Neutral
- 4 = Mostly yes
- 5 = Completely
- Do not want to answer

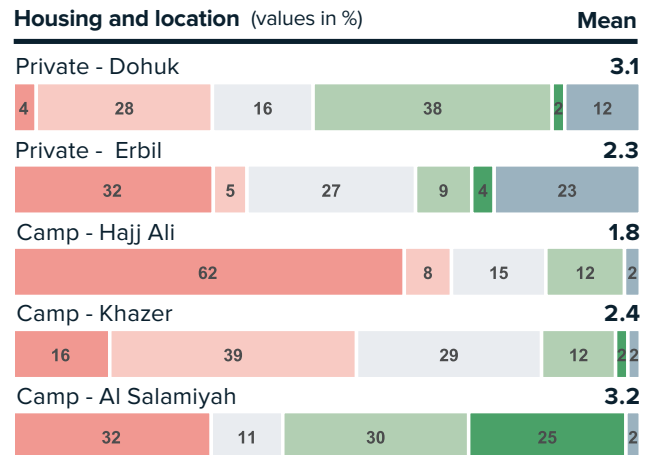


Figure 8: Voice

*This question was asked to 282 respondents of the quantitative survey conducted in July 2017.

RESPECT

Overall, participants in the discussions said they feel respected by aid providers and security forces. Quantitative data collected in Erbil and Dohuk, as well as Hajj Ali, Al Salamiyah, and Khazer camps shows that surveyed IDPs feel treated with respect by aid providers, government authorities, and security forces (Figure 9).

Do aid providers/government authorities/security forces treat you with respect?*

- 1 = Not at all
- 2 = Not very much
- 3 = Neutral
- 4 = Mostly yes
- 5 = Completely
- Do not know

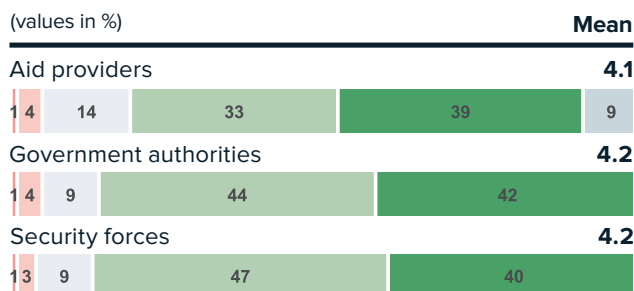


Figure 9: Respect

* These were asked as three separate questions to 282 respondents of the quantitative survey conducted in July 2017.

“The aid providers are very respectful and nice but we need more support. The security forces treat us well.” (Male IDP, Khazer camp)

Many expressed gratitude toward the security forces, saying that security and protection is one of the only positive aspects of living in a camp. Some participants distinguished security forces from camp security, pointing out that forces including police officers and soldiers are respectful, while camp security sometimes act as if they are ‘above the law’. A less favourable picture was painted by two participants in Khazer camp, one of whom said that security forces have been violent when people try to discuss issues with them, and another who said that although security forces treat them well in general, there have been instances in which they use excessive force to control chaotic aid distributions, sometimes resulting in hospitalisations.



Several camp residents said that they do not interact with aid workers often enough to comment on the level of respect. They did, however, report that the *mukhtars* that are appointed by aid providers are often corrupt, and that items are routinely missing from distributions.

“We don’t see the aid providers. We just deal with the *mukhtars* who send the aid to our tents, however the boxes are always opened and many items are missing. Where do they go?” (Female IDP, Al Salamiyah camp)

IDPs living in urban areas spoke of good relations with aid providers, authorities, and security forces. Those in Erbil said they are very helpful and do not discriminate, treating both Kurds and Iraqis with respect. Dohuk residents had similar experiences, saying that even if one does not speak Arabic they are cooperative and try to communicate the needed information.

Survey findings suggest a harmonious relationship between IDPs and host communities, with the vast majority of respondents saying they feel welcomed by the host community (Figure 10).

Do you feel welcomed by the host community?*

- 1 = Not at all
- 2 = Not very much
- 3 = Neutral
- 4 = Mostly yes
- 5 = Completely
- Do not know



Figure 10: Relationship with host community

*This question was asked to 282 respondents of the quantitative survey conducted in July 2017.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PARTICIPANTS



INCREASE TRANSPARENCY & REPLACE MUKHTARS WITH NGO PRESENCE ON THE GROUND

In order to improve the situation and increase transparency and fairness, participants suggested that international aid agencies take a more active role in supervising the aid distribution process. Issues of corruption and discrimination were attributed to the laissez-faire approach that agencies take, often appointing *mukhtars* to oversee the day-to-day running of humanitarian operations in the camps.

“We want the organisations to be honest and not trade with our lives.” (Male IDP, Dohuk)

“We need help, the organisation should come and see our needs. The bulgur they provide even a dog can’t eat! No one helps us here.” (Female IDP, Khazer camp)



LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT

Many discussion participants appealed to organisations to provide compensation for the homes they lost, monthly cash allowances, or job opportunities, so that they can be self-sufficient and be able to support their families. Over half of survey respondents do not believe that the aid they receive will enable them to be self-sufficient in the future (Figure 11). Respondents repeatedly complained that agencies employ staff from outside of the camps, despite there being many educated and skilled people within the camps who have a better understanding of the needs of the population living there.

Do you feel the support you receive will enable you to live without aid in the future?*

- 1 = Not at all
- 2 = Not likely
- 3 = Neutral
- 4 = Most likely
- 5 = Yes, definitely
- Do not know

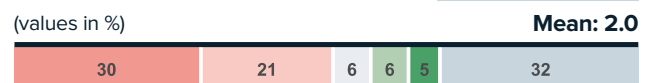


Figure 11: Empowerment

*This question was asked to 282 respondents of the quantitative survey conducted in July 2017.

“We wish aid agencies would provide job opportunities inside the camp, like cleaning services, maintenance and so on. Wages are somewhat sufficient but there are thousands of jobless people. Aid agencies should hire 10-25 youths from each sector and *mukhtars* would help with this.” (Male IDP, Hajj Ali camp)





REBUILD CITIES AND HOMES

Participants in urban areas of Dohuk and Erbil called for the rebuilding of Mosul's infrastructure as one of the first steps for them to be able to return to their normal lives. This desire to rebuild what was lost in their places of origin is reflected in the quantitative data in which over half of participants would want to return home (Figure 12).

"Our main and united request is for us as IDPs to be able to return to our homes in Mosul. But even if this happens, the city has to be reconstructed, and this should be a collaborative effort between the government, charity workers, and NGOs on a global front...what happened to Mosul was effectively the destruction of a city. It will only be possible if all share in this responsibility, all NGOs, institutions, charities, states, and citizens in a concerted effort." (Male IDP, Dohuk)

Would you feel comfortable returning home at this time?*

1 = Not at all
2 = Not really
3 = Neutral
4 = Mostly yes
5 = Completely
Do not know

(values in %)



Figure 12: Returning home

*This question was asked to 282 respondents of the quantitative survey conducted in July 2017.



PROVIDE PROTECTION AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN

Female IDPs raised the issues of harassment as well as restrictions on their freedom of movement and suggested that families should not be separated into different sections of camps. They also requested sewing machines and vocational training to provide the means to be self-sufficient and the opportunity to work from home. Most female participants from Al Salamiyah camp identify as the head of their households and therefore feel more pressure to provide for their families. Female-headed households tend to rely on less stable income sources as well as lower income, leaving them more vulnerable and reliant on coping strategies to meet their needs.

"Why did they put us in different sections? My family was divided into groups A,B,C [and so on] in the camp. We demand to be put together as one family. Women are being harassed inside the camp; my daughter-in-law was crying because of the harassment. She's really afraid so I send my son to her section to check on her every single day."

(Female IDP, Al Salamiyah camp)

"They could provide some job opportunities, if they provided us with sewing machines." (Female IDP, Erbil)

"I suggest that the organisation provide first aid and sewing courses for women inside the camp to make it easier for them to learn, as they cannot travel far." (Female IDP, Erbil)

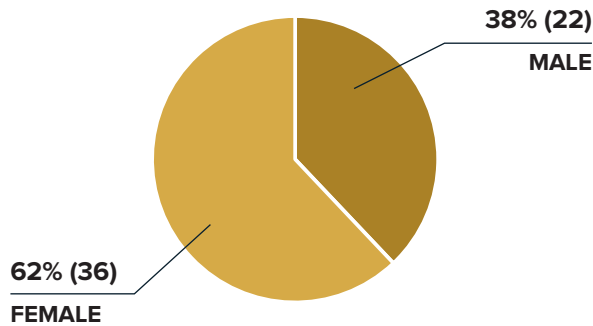


DEMOGRAPHICS

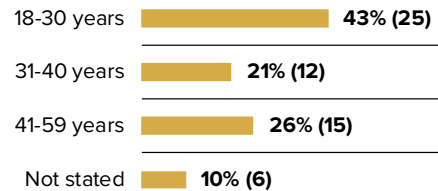
Focus group discussion participants

The graphs below depict the demographic breakdown of the 58 IDPs participating in the focus group discussions conducted in August 2017. Each graph includes percentages, as well as the frequency in parentheses.

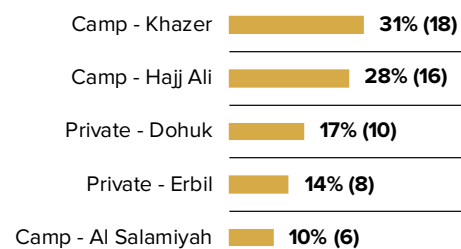
Gender



Age



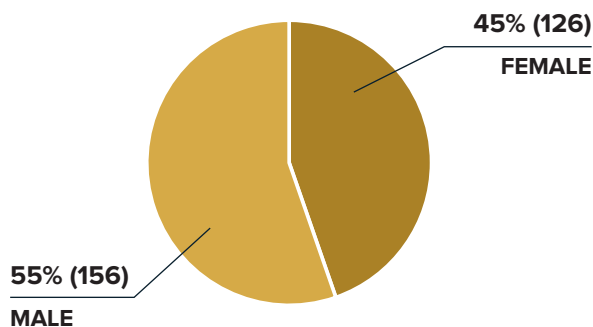
Housing and location



Survey respondents

The graphs below depict the demographic breakdown of the 282 internally displaced respondents in the quantitative surveys conducted in July 2017. Each graph includes percentages, as well as the frequency in parentheses.

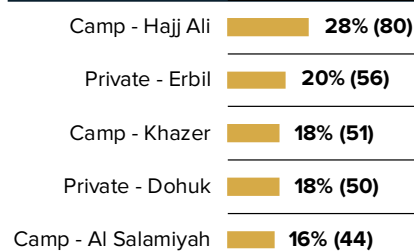
Gender



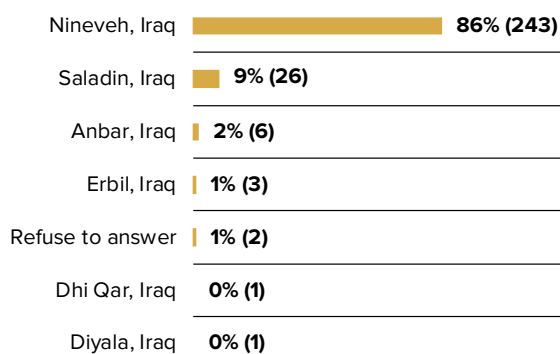
Age



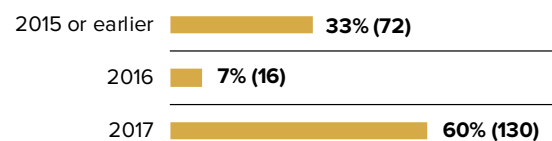
Housing and location



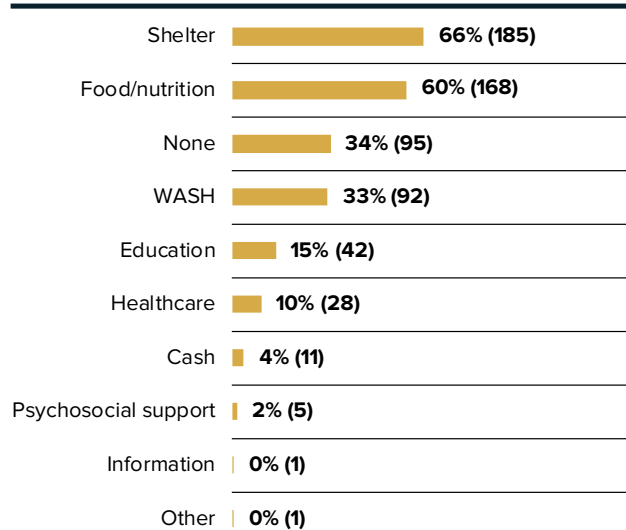
Place of origin



Year of arrival in current area



Type(s) of services received*



*Percentages do not total 100% because respondents could list multiple services.

NOTES ON METHODOLOGY

Background

Ground Truth Solutions is one of seven partners that jointly provide analytical services as part of the [Mixed Migration Platform](#) (MMP). The other partners are [ACAPS](#), [Danish Refugee Council](#), [Internews](#), [INTEROS](#), [REACH](#), and [Translators without Borders](#). The goal of MMP, which was launched in October 2016, is to provide information related to mixed migration for policy, programming, and advocacy work as well as providing information to people on the move in the Middle East and Europe. Ground Truth Solutions' contribution to the platform involves the collection and analysis of feedback about the perceptions of people in different stages of displacement – in the borderlands, transit countries, and countries of final destination.

Survey development

Ground Truth Solutions developed the surveys and focus group discussions – with input from humanitarian agencies in Iraq – to gather feedback from IDPs about the provision of humanitarian aid in northern Iraq. The goal is to inform the programming of humanitarian agencies and contribute to a more effective response. Ground Truth Solutions' perceptual surveys complement regular monitoring and evaluation of the response, and the focus group discussions are designed to delve deeper into some of the issues that surface in the surveys.

Sample size

Interviews were conducted with a total of 282 people; a total of 58 people participated in the focus group discussions across five locations in northern Iraq, including three IDP

camps (Khazer, Haji Ali, and Al Salamiyah), and two urban locations (Dohuk and Erbil).

Sampling methodology

Survey respondents

IDPs were interviewed in five different locations. Sampling strategies differed slightly between urban areas and camps. In camps, where respondents were grouped in one location, a random walk approach to sampling was adopted and every fifth household was sampled. In the urban centres, where the target population was more spread out, a more systematic sampling approach was adopted – identifying clusters of possible target respondents and then randomly sampling them in multiple areas. The objective was to have a representative sample of IDPs in both urban centres and camps. The aim was also to have a roughly balanced split between the sexes and have at least 50 respondents for each area to ensure sufficient representation.

The apriori confidence intervals of the Likert questions for the IDP sample is 7%, with a 5% false alarm rate. In other words, we can be 95% certain that the broader population's attitudes fall within 7% of the responses of the full IDP population, assuming no sampling or response biases. Missing responses on particular questions are excluded from mean comparisons and correlations.



Focus group discussion participants

Focus group discussions were held at the same sites as the quantitative data collection, covering three camps as well as two urban areas. Seven focus group discussions were conducted; three discussions were held with only female participants, two with only male participants, and two were held among mixed groups. Individuals were selected to participate at random. Enumerators walked through camps and urban areas identifying a homogenous focus group participant body to best yield views and attitudes of the group in each site.

Language of the survey

The focus group discussions were conducted in Arabic and Dari.

Data collection

Quantitative surveys

Quantitative data was collected in July 2017 by SREO, an independent data collection company contracted by Ground Truth. Enumerators conducted face-to-face one-on-one interviews.

Focus group discussions

Focus group discussions were held in August 2017 by SREO. There was no need to have uniform agreement on any one topic, and the enumerators encouraged each participant to voice their own thoughts. No incentives were given for participation. There were some challenges during the recruitment of participants, including scepticism surrounding the purpose and use of the data, unwillingness to be recorded, as well as issues of trusting the data collectors. Participation was entirely voluntary and participants were informed of the confidentiality and purpose of the discussions.

For more information about Ground Truth surveys in Iraq, please contact info@groundtruthsolutions.org or Rebecca Hetzer (rebecca@groundtruthsolutions.org).

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