Access to Durable Solutions among IDPs in Iraq

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Erbil

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65 YEARS

International Organization for Migration

1789

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

Research questions

1. How do the experiences of displacement and access to durable solutions among IDPs in Iraq change over time?
2. What are the needs, coping strategies and aspirations of IDPs, and which events or factors are perceived to impact these needs, coping strategies, and aspirations over time?
3. How does the experience of IDPs in Iraq inform our conceptualization and operationalization of quasi-durable and durable solutions?

IASC Framework on Durable Solutions

United Nations A/HRC/13/21/Add.4

General Assembly

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Thirteenth session
Agenda item 3
Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

Report of the Representative of the Secretary-General on the human rights of internally displaced persons, Walter Kälin

Addendum

Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons*

Summary

The Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement (E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2, annex) stipulate in principle 6 that "displacement shall last no longer than required by the circumstances". Drawing on existing international law, the right of internally displaced persons to a durable solution is articulated in principles 28–30.

The Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons set out in this report is organized around four questions.

Question 1. What is a durable solution for internally displaced persons?

The specific needs and human rights concerns of internally displaced persons (IDPs) do not automatically disappear when a conflict or natural disaster ends. Nor do they fade away when people initially find safety from ongoing conflict or disaster. Rather, the displaced — whether they return to their homes, settle elsewhere in the country or try to integrate locally — usually face continuing problems, requiring support until they achieve a durable solution to their displacement.

A durable solution is achieved when internally displaced persons no longer have any specific assistance and protection needs that are linked to their displacement and can enjoy their human rights without discrimination on account of their displacement. It can be

* Late submission.

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Please recycle

"A durable solution is achieved when internally displaced persons no longer have any specific assistance and protection needs that are linked to their displacement and can enjoy their human rights without discrimination on account of their displacement."

Durable solutions can be in terms of their return to their place of origin, integration in their current place of residence, or resettlement elsewhere.

*A **rights-based process** to support DS should be organized around the principles of **choice, access and participation***

IASC Framework on Durable Solutions

What criteria determine to what extent a durable solution has been achieved?

1. Long-term safety & security
2. Adequate standard of living
3. Access to livelihoods and employment
4. Effective & accessible mechanisms to restore housing, land & property
5. Access to personal & other documentation
6. Family reunification
7. Participation in public affairs
8. Access to effective remedies & justice

:: Experienced without discrimination ::

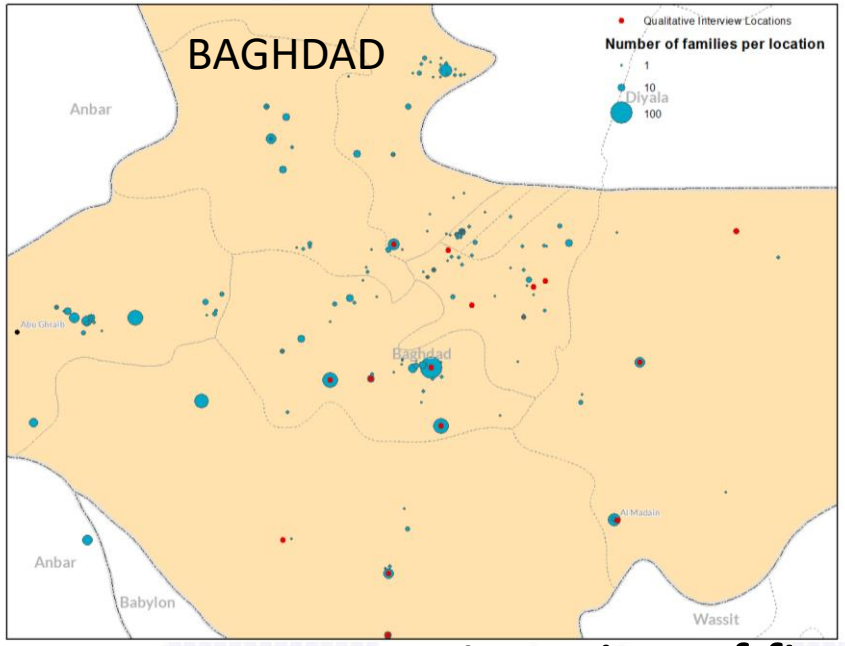
Research Design and Methodology

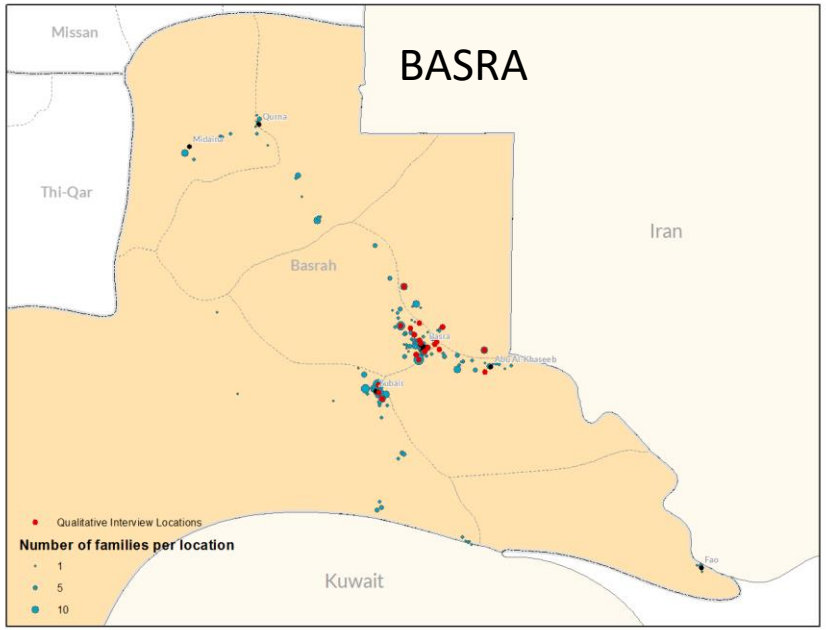
- Mixed methods and longitudinal design: 3 rounds over 1.5 years
- Quantitative structured questionnaire to a 4,000 Households in 4 governorates
- Qualitative interviews with 80 IDPs, 80 host community members per round
- Family tracking: TEXTIT, and monthly compensation of 10,000 IQD per family
- Data collection teams involved in question generation and data analysis

Sample in Round 1 and Round2

GOVERNORATE OF DISPLACEMENT	NUMBER OF INTERVIEWS (ROUND 1, APRIL 2016)	NUMBER OF INTERVIEWS (ROUND 2, DECEMBER 2016)	NUMBERS WHO CHANGED DISTRICT/ GOVERNORATE BETWEEN ROUNDS	NUMBERS WHO RETURNED HOME BETWEEN ROUNDS	NUMBERS WHO REMAINED IN SAME GOVERNORATE	NUMBERS WHOM SURVEY WAS UNABLE TO CONTACT
BAGHDAD	1054	1021	10	67	944	33
BASRAH	600	588	43	62	483	12
KIRKUK	1118	1100	84	173	825	18
SULAYMANIYAH	1082	1037	34	156	847	45
TOTAL:	3854 (100%)	3746 (97%)	171 (5%)	458 (12%)	3099 (83%)	108 (3%)

2.8% of the initial sample was lost

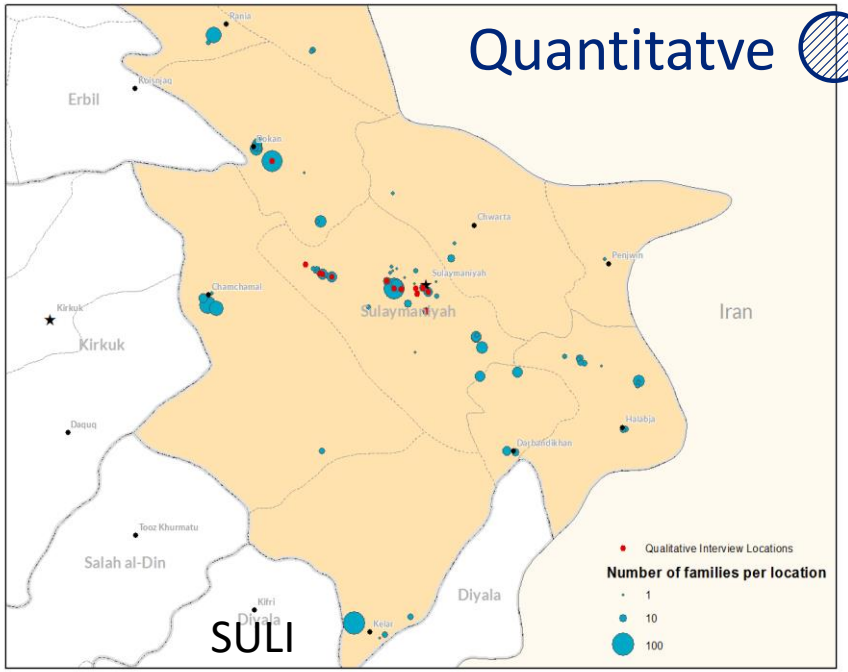


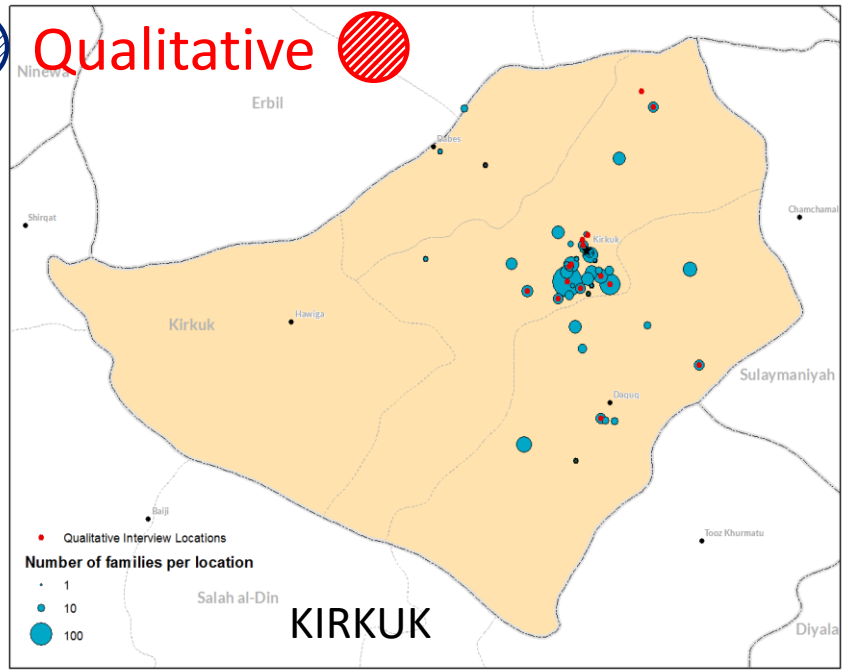


Location of first round of Interviews:

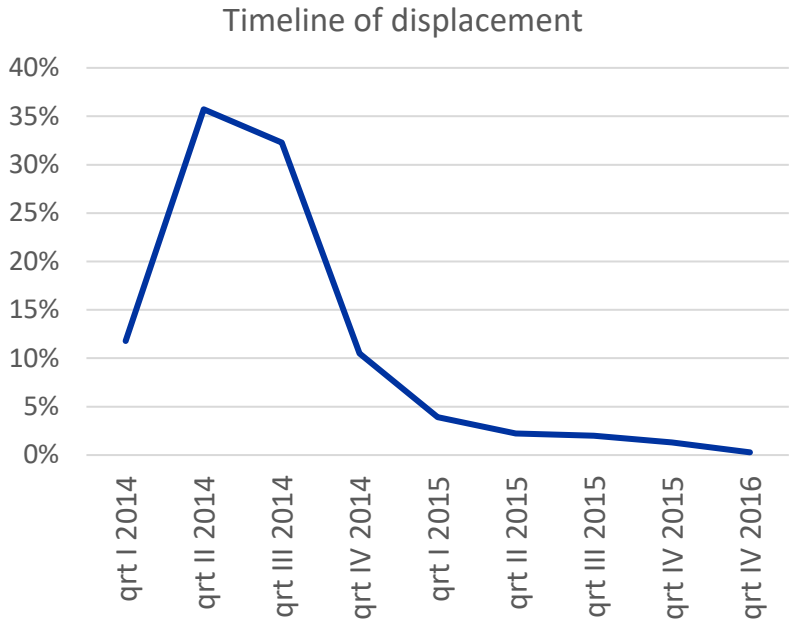
Quantitatve

Qualitative

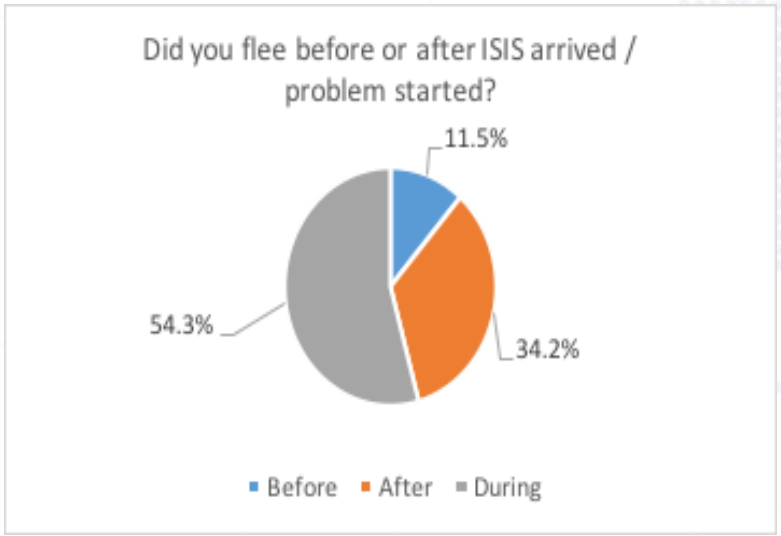


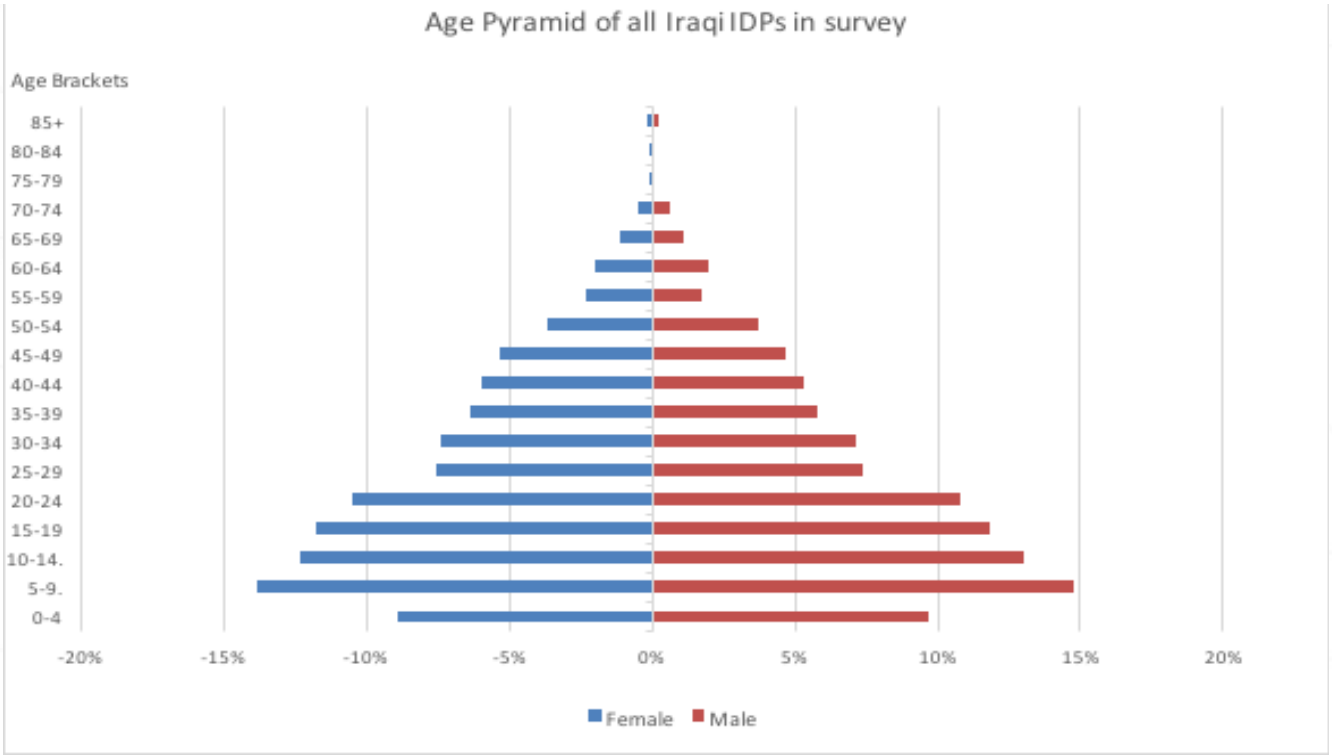


General description of the sample



GOVERNORATE	PERCENT ARAB	PERCENT KURD	PERCENT TURKMEN	OTHER
BAGHDAD	96.8	1.2	1.9	0.1
BASRAH	81.2	1.5	13.7	3.6
KIRKUK	92.9	1.9	3.7	1.5
SULAYMANIYAH	89.7	7.1	1.6	1.6

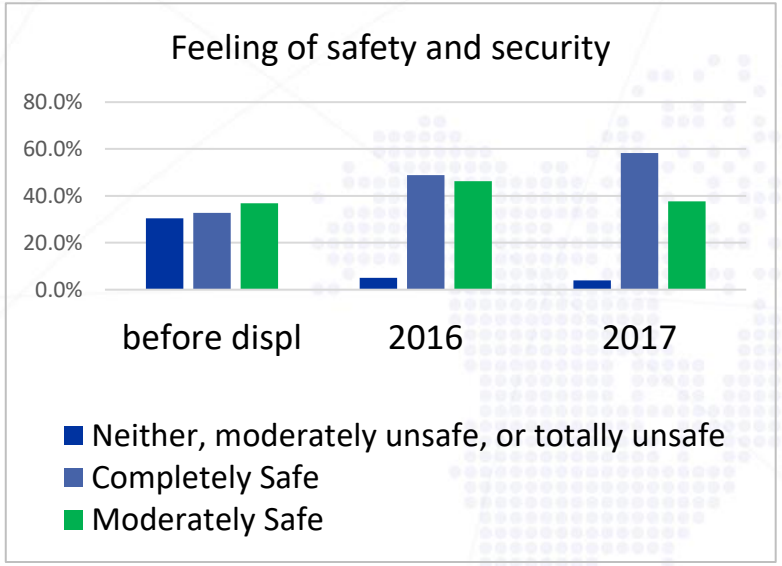


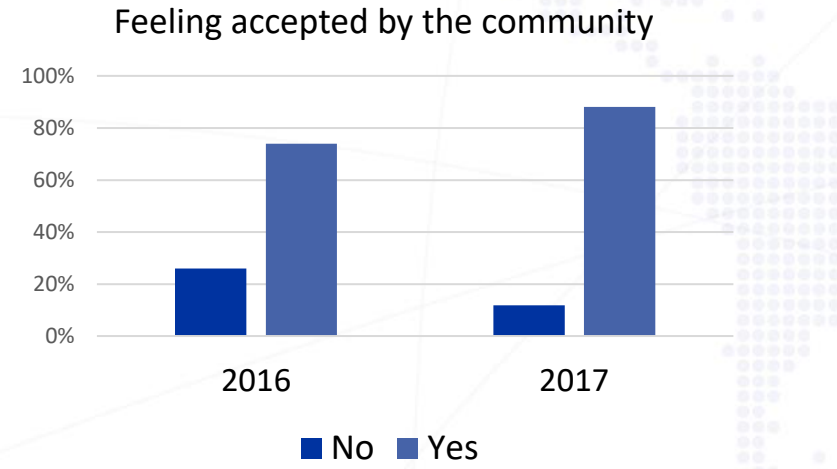


Findings and Conclusions related to the 8 Durable Solutions

1. Long-term safety & security
2. Adequate standard of living
3. Access to livelihoods and employment
4. Effective & accessible mechanisms to restore housing, land & property
5. Access to personal & other documentation
6. Family reunification
7. Participation in public affairs
8. Access to effective remedies & justice

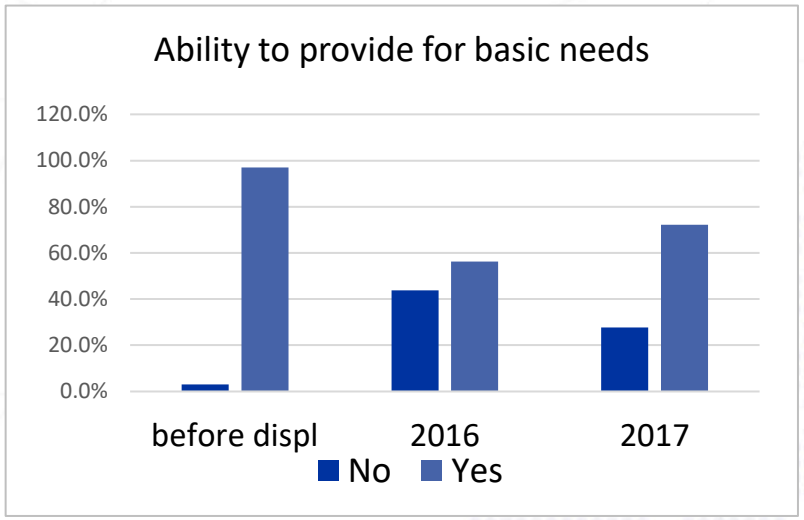
1. Long term safety & security

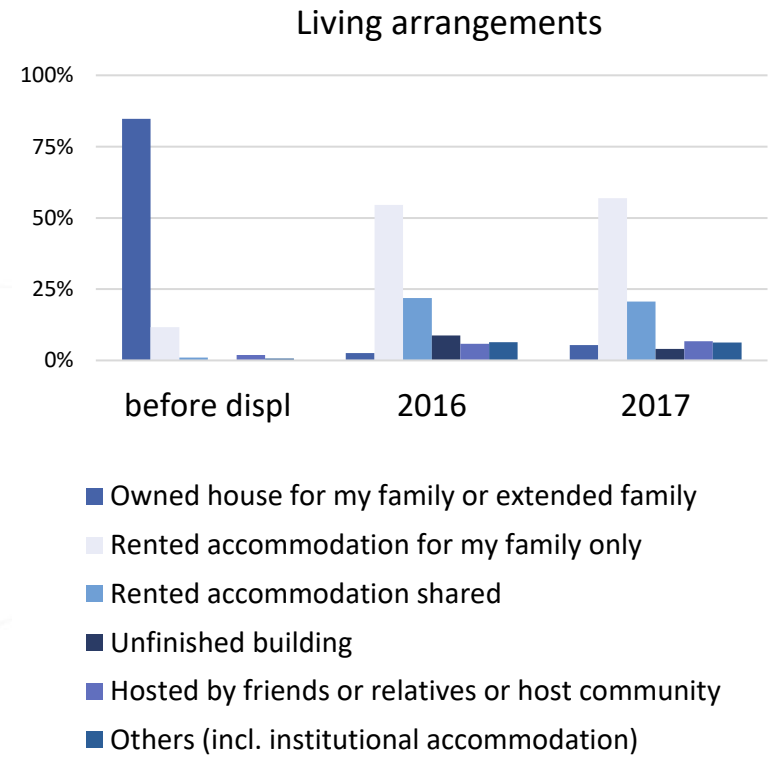




IDPs feel safer in their current place of residence than in the areas where they were living before they had to flee.

This sense of safety increases with length of displacement and is tied to feeling more accepted by the community.





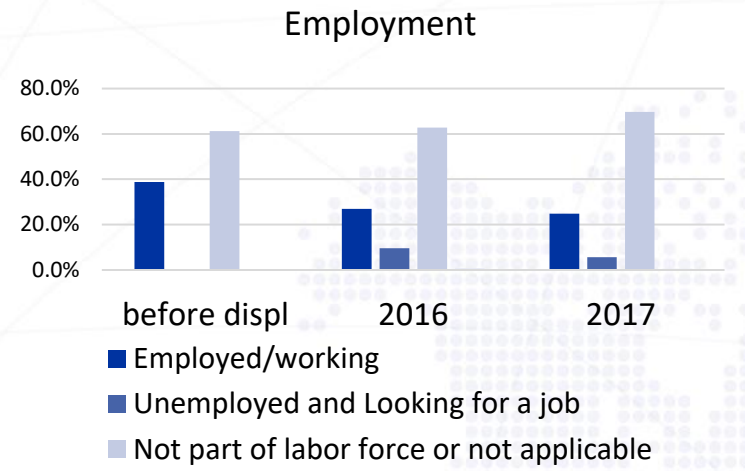
2. Standard of Living

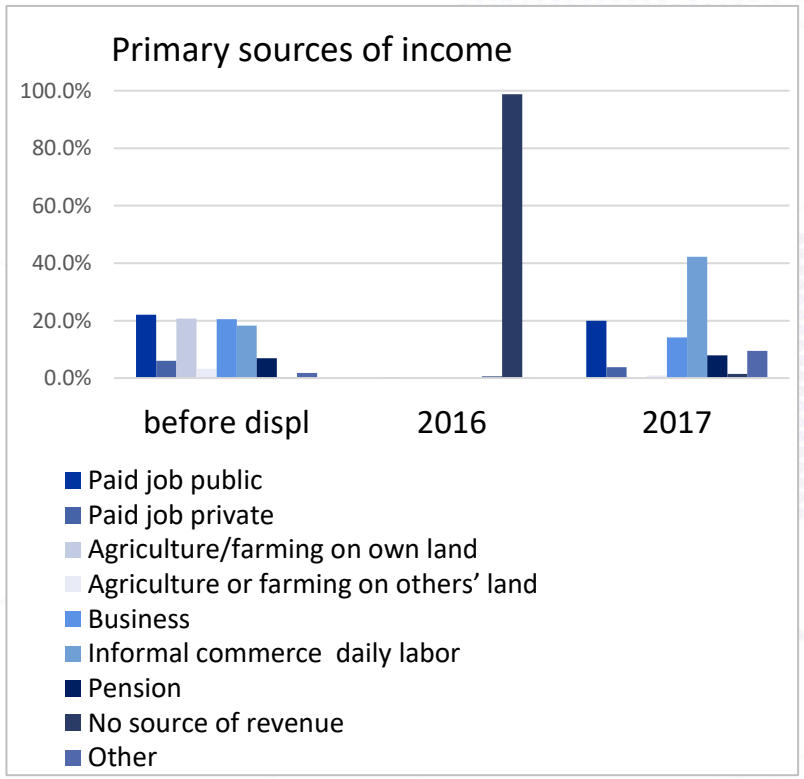
IDPs experience

- a considerable decline in their standard of living
- decreased ability to provide for basic needs decreased sharply right after displacement.

Basic needs provision and housing situations improve with time.

3. Livelihood

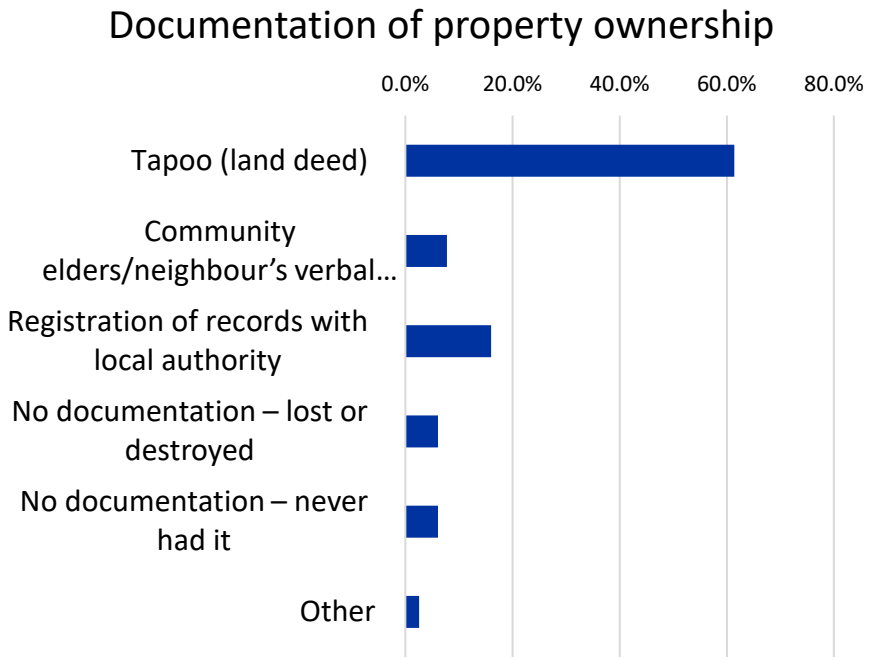


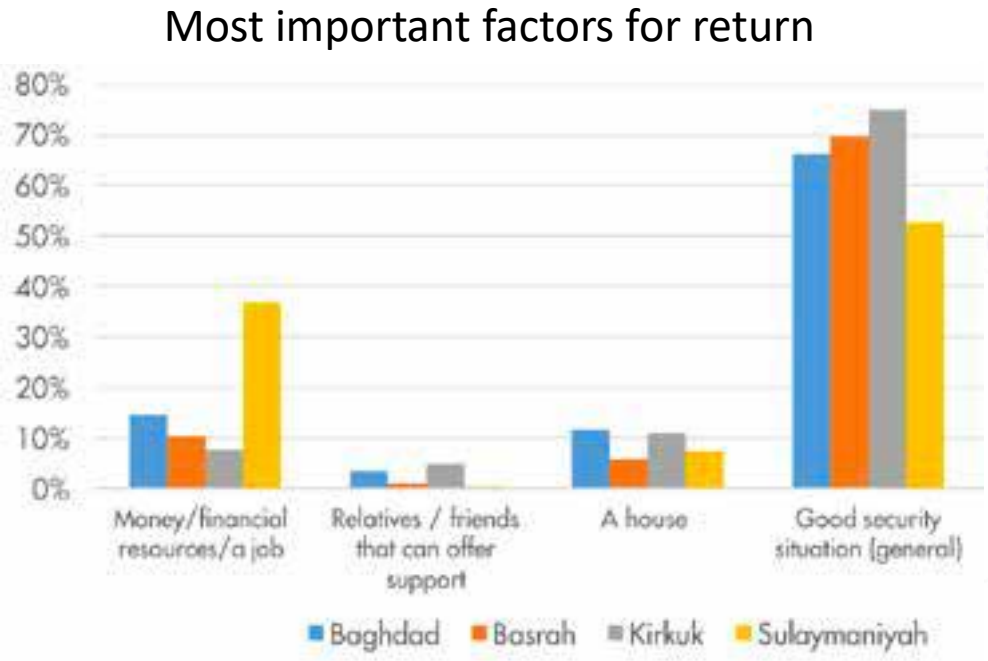


- Growing pool of "discouraged workers"(from 60 to 70%)
- People working in daily labour as primary income source nearly doubled from 18% before displacement to 43% after displacement (no change in 2017).
- Agriculture: 24% of families before displacement obtained their primary income from agriculture. In 2017, this was only 1% of families.
- Government employee salaries/transfers

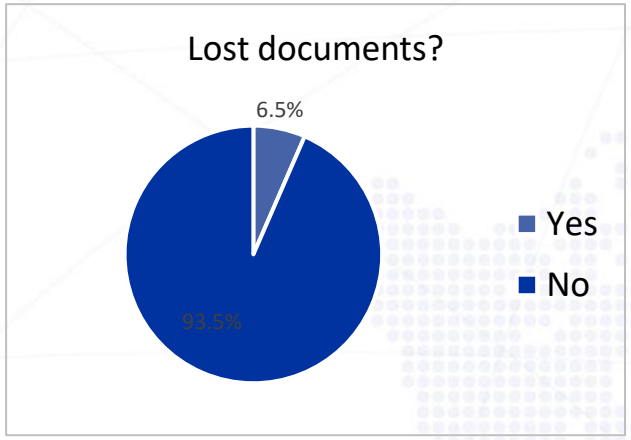
4. Effective & accessible mechanisms to restore housing, land, & property

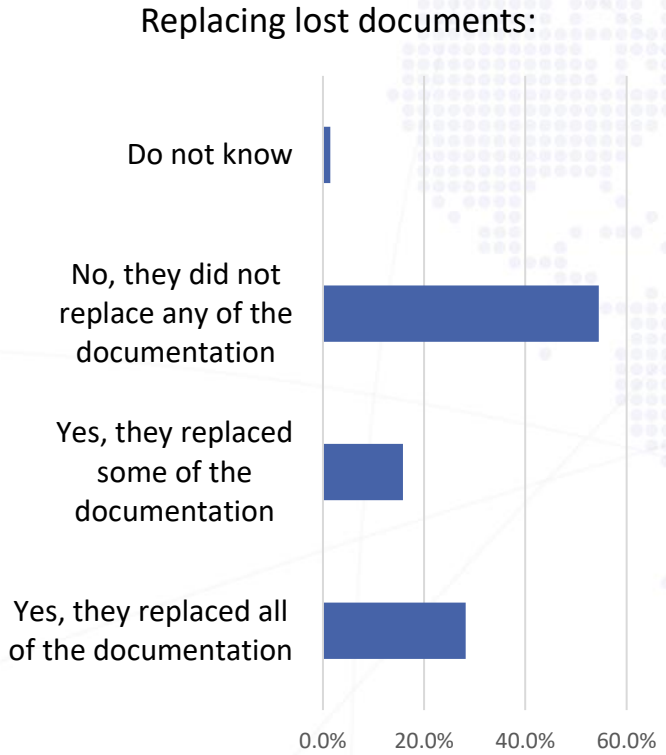
The vast majority of IDPs (96% in 2016) were unable to access their place of residences as of 2014, citing “active fighting” and “community tensions” as the primary obstacles.





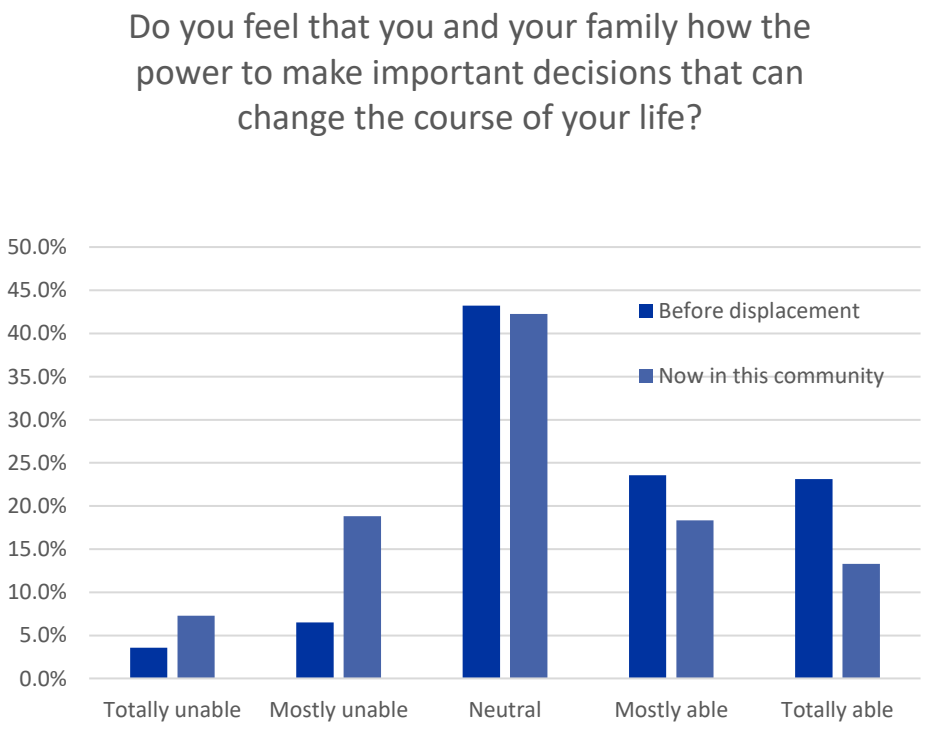
5. Access to personal & other documentation AND 6. Family reunification





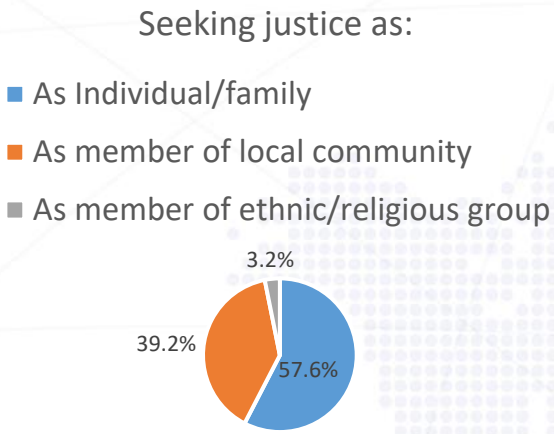
Unlike other IDP situations, loss of documentation and separation of family members seems not to be a significant problem among IDP populations in these governorates.

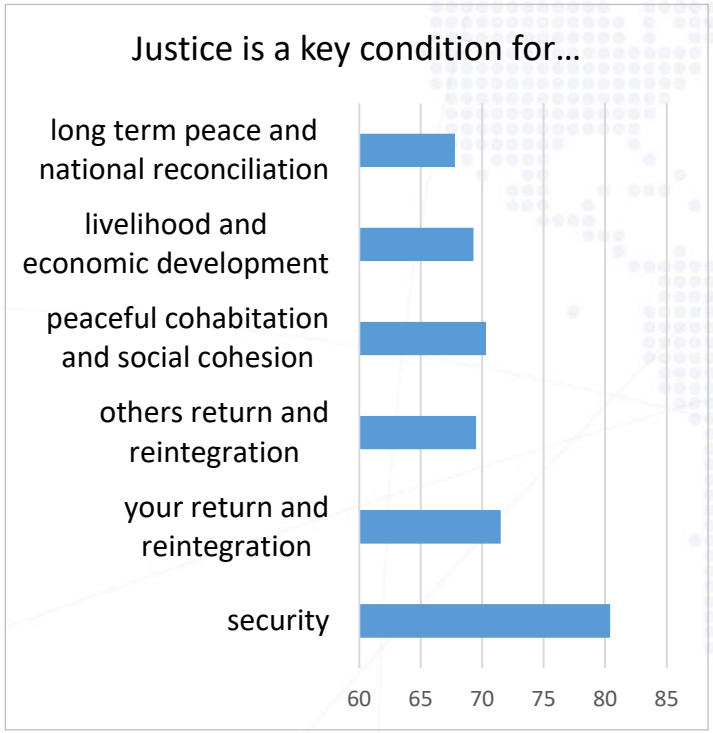
7. Participation in public affairs



Very low rates of participation in public affairs suggests substantial lack of IDP involvement in community decisions and their absence from consultative processes.

8. Access to effective remedies and justice





IDPs believe in the need for justice, especially to create the desired security and safety; however, great variations exist in what justice means, and how it should be pursued.

Main Conclusions from Findings

- Since 2014, displacement in Iraq:
  - is an urban phenomenon.
  - is an effective protection strategy
- Neither loss of documentation nor family separation seems to be a significant problem among IDP study participants
- In 2017, by less than 2% of remaining IDP families argue that IDPs as a group are strongly or very strongly discriminated against.
- Registration with the MoMD has been successful, with 94% registered.

- Safety and security is most important factor in IDPs' willingness to return, followed by housing and livelihoods.
- Safety and security is also most likely to keep people where they live now.
- Borrowing from family and friends is the most widespread strategy to cope with the decline in living standards. But this puts a huge burden on the family.
- IDP participation in governance and community life is very low, and thus challenges aid programming, political participation, and the growth of civil society.

The study is funded by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration.