

IOM IRAQ

# INFORMAL SITES ASSESSMENT 2022

DTM Integrated Location Assessment VII, 2022



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## ACRONYMS

**CCCM** Camp Coordination and Camp Management

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**HLP** Housing, Land and Property

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**ICCG** Inter-Cluster Coordination Group

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**IDP** Internally Displaced Person

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**ILA** Integrated Location Assessment

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**ISIL** Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant

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**IOM-DTM** International Organization for Migration Displacement Tracking Matrix

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**RART** Rapid Assessment and Response Teams

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**WASH** Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides a detailed overview of the conditions faced by internally displaced persons (IDP) and returnee families residing in informal sites at the time of data collection of the Integrated Location Assessment 7 (ILA 7, April–June 2022). The ILA informal sites assessment was conducted in two parts. First, the location, population and shelter type of all informal sites were collected nationwide. Second, if the informal site had 15 or more families, a full assessment of the location was conducted, designed in partnership with the Cluster members of the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG). In this report, data attributed to ‘fully assessed sites’ refer only to sites with 15 or more families.

As of June 2022, ILA 7 recorded a total of 401 informal sites. IDP families were present in 376 informal sites and returnee families were present in 27 sites. Dahuk governorate contains 35 per cent of the informal sites nationwide (142 sites), with Ninewa and Salah al-Din accounting for a further 18 per cent and 13 per cent, respectively (74 and 52 sites). Overall, 14,366 families were recorded as residing in informal sites in ILA 7 (13,245 IDP families and 1,121 returnee families). The largest share of this population is in Anbar governorate (27%), followed by Dahuk (21%) and Salah al-Din (15%).

In the period between ILA 6 and ILA 7, 35 per cent of fully assessed informal sites witnessed new arrivals (67 sites). Among the sites recording new arrivals, roughly one fifth (21%) involved arrivals from camps (14 sites). Camp arrivals were most common in the districts of Falluja in Anbar governorate, Al-Ba’aj in Ninewa governorate and Samarra in Salah al-Din governorate.

The share of sites in which the majority of families are unable to meet basic needs increased between the ILA 6 and ILA 7 assessments, from 81 per cent to 87 per cent (176 to 167 sites). Despite the vulnerability of those residing in informal sites, only 30 per cent of fully assessed

informal sites received assistance in the past three months, predominantly from humanitarian organizations (84%) and charities within the area of residence (61%).

Most IDPs in 83 per cent of informal sites intend to stay in their current location in the short term (153 sites). Of the 4 per cent of informal sites where most IDP families intend to return in the six months following the assessment (seven sites), 57 per cent of them are in Baiji district (four sites). If they were to receive the assistance necessary to return, most or all families would return in 17 per cent of sites (30 sites). These figures indicate a decline in short-term return intentions compared to ILA 6, when 9 per cent of fully assessed sites reported intentions to return and 45 per cent expressed a willingness to do so with assistance. On the other hand, the share of fully assessed sites where families were undecided or did not know their short-term intentions increased compared to ILA 6 (13% vs. 6%, respectively). In the long term, only 13 per cent of sites (24) reported an intention to return, down from the 18 per cent share reported in ILA 6. This intention was most common in Kirkuk, Baiji and Samarra districts.

The report concludes that families residing in informal sites face significant economic challenges impacting their ability to meet basic needs. Greater assistance and livelihoods programming are thus critical to support these groups. Additionally, the concerns surrounding water quality and waste collection highlighted in this assessment call for increased water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) programming in informal sites. Despite the challenges of living in these sites, most families intend to remain in the short term and remain undecided about their intentions in the long term, which points to a need for greater durable solutions programming. More broadly, further assessments and monitoring of informal sites should be conducted to better understand conditions and emerging trends.

# INTRODUCTION

Displaced and returnee families residing in informal sites are vulnerable and face significant challenges in achieving durable solutions to displacement. Conditions in informal sites can be highly dynamic, with access to basic services, agreements on land ownership and livelihood opportunities liable to change at short notice. While the share of families that reside in informal sites has remained low (8% of IDPs and 0.1% of returnees), targeted research and programming is required to support this highly vulnerable population.

This report provides a detailed overview of the conditions faced by IDP and returnee families residing in informal sites during ILA 7 data collection

(April–June 2022). The report describes the number of informal sites and population residing in them, including an analysis of sites that have received arrivals from camps between July 2021 and June 2022. The report also provides a thematic analysis structured around livelihoods; housing, land and property (HLP); WASH; climate and protection, as well as the intentions of displaced families in informal sites. Where possible, districts that exhibit concerning trends or dynamics are highlighted to support further research and targeted programming.

# METHODOLOGY AND COVERAGE

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) assesses all informal sites in Iraq as part of the yearly Integrated Location Assessment (ILA). ILA 7, conducted from April to June 2022, covered 401 locations, reaching 79,470 IDPs and 6,726 returnees (8% and 0.001% of the IDP and returnee populations, respectively). The ILA is conducted by IOM’s Rapid Assessment Response Teams (RARTs) through a survey of key informants and direct observation at the aggregate level, that is, on the majority of IDPs or returnees living in the site (not on individual households). Informal sites are defined by the following criteria provided by the Iraq Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster: (1) areas not built to accommodate displaced and returnee families but serving that purpose; (2) authorities are not responsible for management or administration; (3) services and assistance may be absent or provided irregularly and (4) there are at least five households in the site.<sup>1</sup>

The ILA also identifies whether the informal site contains: (1) families displaced from their neighbourhood or village of origin as a result of Iraq’s war against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), the group considered IDPs for the purpose of this assessment; (2) families who have been displaced and subsequently returned to an informal site in their neighbourhood or village of origin, who are defined as returnees or (3) both IDPs and returnees.

Some discrepancies exist between the informal site and population data published in this report and those published by the CCCM Cluster. While IOM DTM works closely with the cluster to coordinate and align data collection, some key methodological differences explain these discrepancies, namely: (1) IOM DTM conducts bimonthly data collection of the total number of displaced and returnee families across Iraq, and calculates the number of individuals by multiplying the number of families reported in a site by six, the average family size in Iraq; and (2) IOM DTM’s caseload includes only those who were displaced as a result of the war with ISIL in 2014 and its aftermath; the host community and those displaced before 2014 are not included in these assessments.

The informal sites assessment was conducted in two parts. First, the location, population and shelter type of all informal sites were collected nationwide. Second, if the informal site contained 15 or more families, a full assessment of the location was conducted using a longer form designed in partnership with the Cluster members of the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG). In this report, data attributed to “fully assessed sites” refer only to sites with 15 or more families.

Table 1: Total and fully assessed sites and populations for ILA 6 and ILA 7

	ILA 6 (MAY–JULY 2021)	ILA 7 (APRIL–JUNE 2022)
Total no. identified informal sites	418	401
Families in informal sites	13,533	14,366
Fully assessed informal sites (15+ families)	216	192
Families in fully assessed informal sites	11,887	12,599

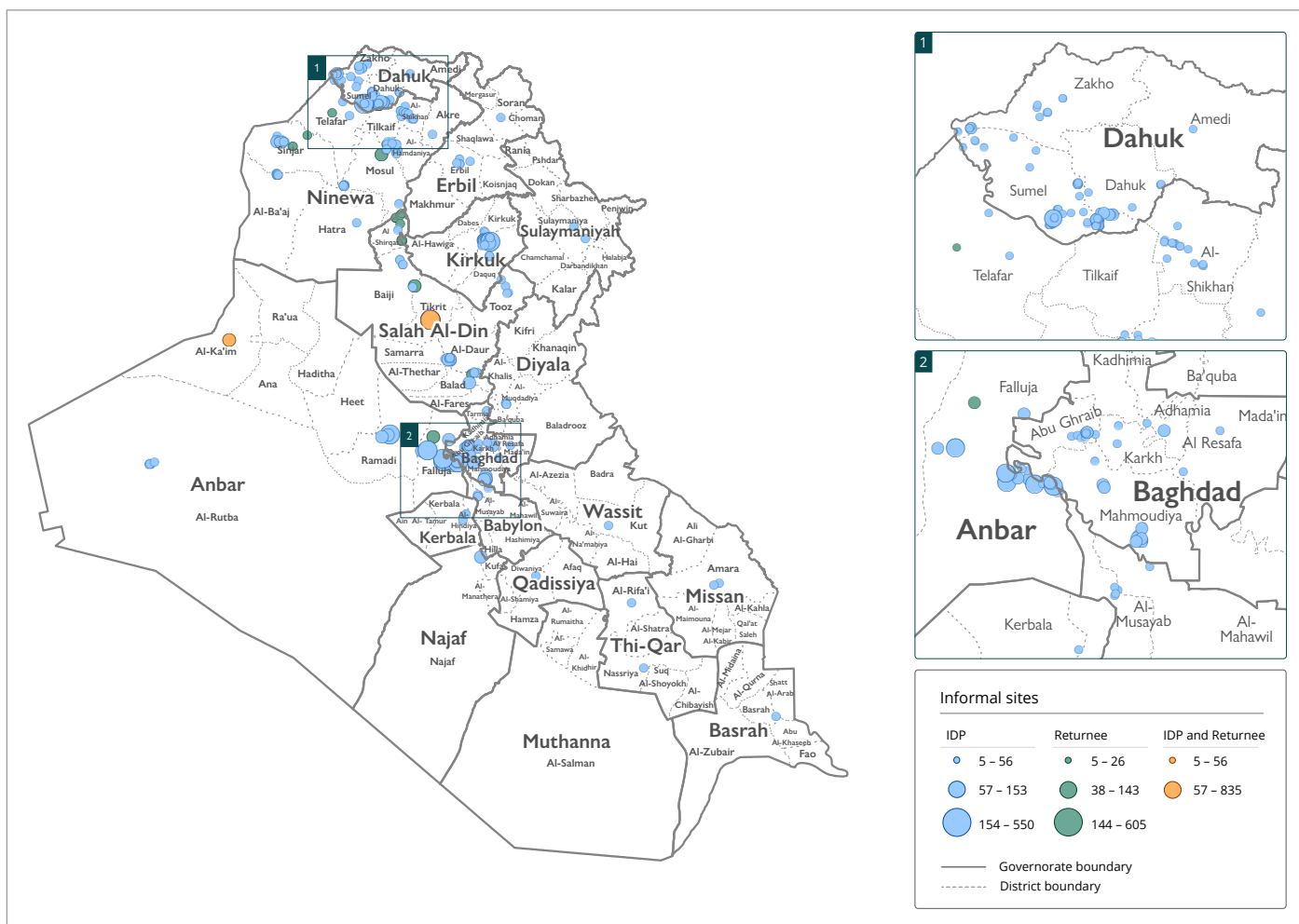
<sup>1</sup> CCCM Cluster Iraq. *Technical Guidance on Informal Site Definition* (V.2 Sep 2020). Note that the distinction between displaced and returnee families is not specified in the original site definition but is used in the ILA.

# INFORMAL SITES: FIGURES AND TRENDS

As of June 2022, ILA 7 recorded a total of 401 informal sites. IDP families were present in 376 informal sites and returnee families were present in 27 sites.<sup>2</sup> Dahuk governorate contains 35 per cent of the informal sites nationwide (142 sites), with Ninewa and Salah al-Din accounting for a further 18 per cent and 13 per cent, respectively (126 sites). At the district level, Sumel accounts for 30 per cent of all informal sites (119), with Kirkuk district containing 8 per cent of Iraq's informal sites (32), followed by Falluja district (6%, 23 sites).

Overall, 14,366 families were recorded as residing in informal sites in ILA 7 (13,245 IDP families and 1,121 returnee families). The largest share of this population is in Anbar governorate (27%), followed by Dahuk (21%) and Salah al-Din (15%). By district, the largest share of the IDP population in informal sites reside in Falluja (20%), Sumel (18%) and Kirkuk (11%).

Map 1: All informal sites by type and population<sup>3</sup>



## NEW ARRIVALS

New arrivals to informal sites, including families departing camps, may place additional pressure on access to services, availability of shelter and relationships with local or stayee communities in and around informal sites.<sup>4</sup> Across fully assessed informal sites, 35 per cent witnessed new arrivals in the 12 months between ILA 6 and ILA 7 (67 sites).

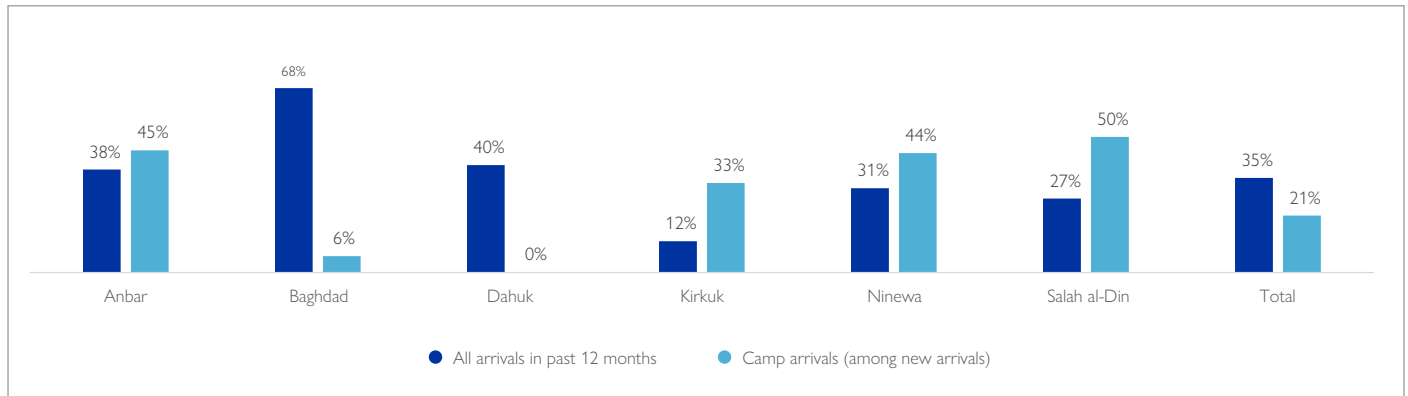
New arrivals to informal sites were most prevalent in Baghdad (68% of sites, 17 sites) and Dahuk governorates (40%, 21 sites). At the district level, sites with new arrivals were concentrated in Sumel (38% of sites, 18 sites) and Mahmoudiya districts (86%, 12 sites), as well as in Falluja district (43%, 10 sites). As a share of all sites within the district, Al-Ka'im (100% of sites, one site), Mahmoudiya (86%, 12 sites) and Zakho districts (75%, three sites) had the highest proportions of sites with new arrivals.

2 There are two sites in which both IDPs and returnees are present. The first site is in Al-Ka'im district, Anbar governorate and the second site is in Tikrit district, Salah al-Din governorate. In both sites, the majority of individuals are returnees rather than IDPs.

3 An interactive version of this map can be found [here](#).

4 Stayee communities are defined here as families residing in their area of origin who were not displaced because of Iraq's conflict with the ISIL or its aftermath.

Figure 1: Percentage of informal sites witnessing arrivals in the last 12 months and arrivals from camp by governorate (among all new arrivals)



Among sites recording new arrivals, 21 per cent of such arrivals came from camps (14 sites). Arrivals from camps were most common in Balad district (100%, one site), Al-Ba'aj district (100%, two sites), Hatra district (50%, one site) and Falluja district (50%, five sites). Key informants for fully assessed informal sites were asked if none, some, most or all new arrivals were from camps. Only two informal sites reported that all or most new arrivals came from camps, namely one site in Al-Ba'aj district and one site in Mosul district. New camp

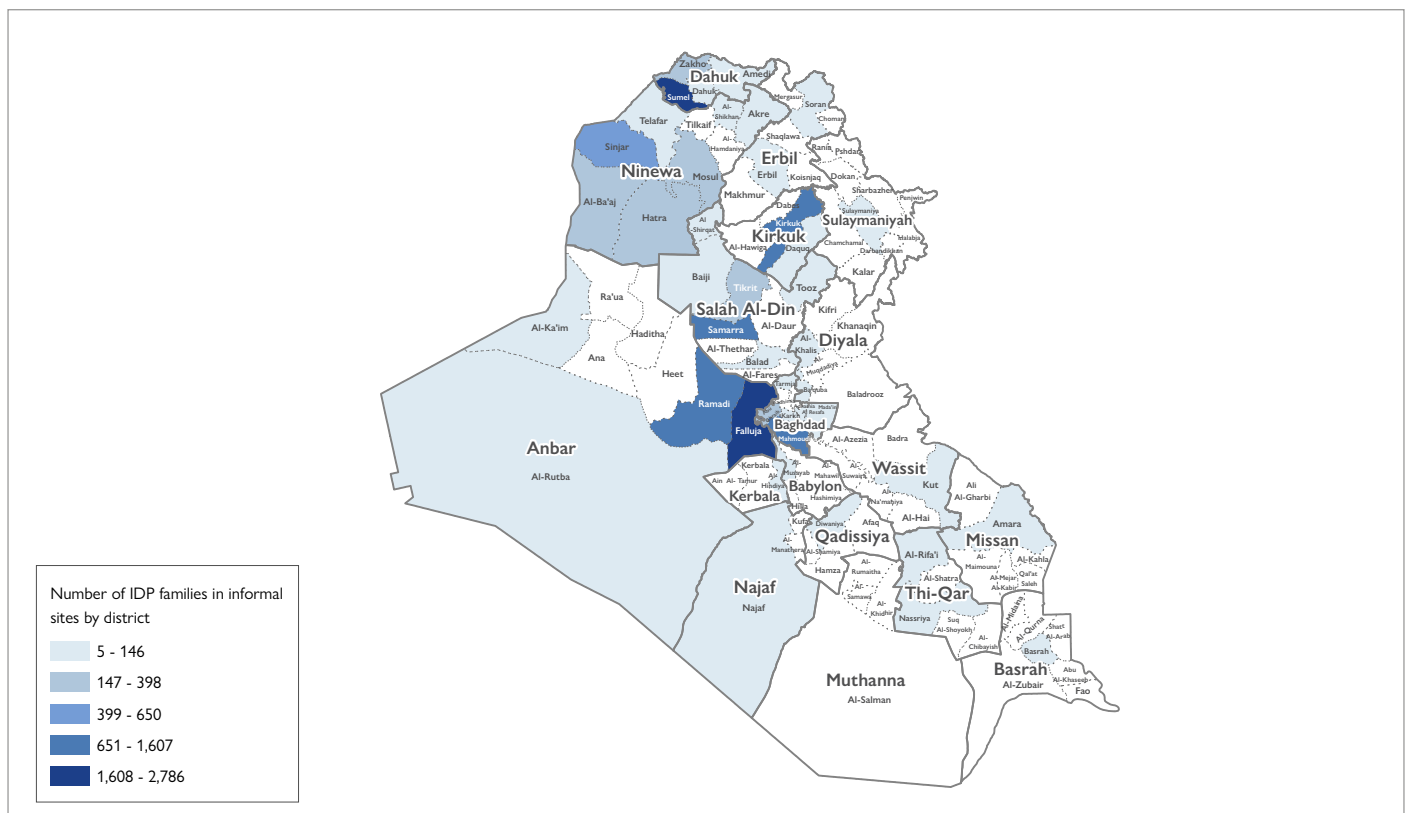
arrivals to informal sites in Ninewa, Kirkuk and Salah al-Din originate from Jeddah 1, which hosts individuals with perceived ISIL affiliation repatriated from al-Hol Camp in the Syrian Arab Republic, and Jeddah 5, which shelters IDP families primarily from Ninewa Governorate.<sup>5</sup> Additionally, new camp arrivals in Anbar governorate moved from Ameriyat Al-Fallujah, a formal camp that closed in November 2021 and was reclassified as an informal site.<sup>6</sup>

## IDP POPULATION IN INFORMAL SITES

A total of 13,245 displaced families residing in informal sites were recorded in ILA 7. Anbar governorate hosted 27 per cent of these families (3,632 families), followed by Dahuk (22%, 2,959 families), Baghdad (13%, 1,730 families) and Kirkuk governorates (13%, 1,727 families).

Districts with the highest IDP population in informal sites include Falluja and Sumel, which account for 21 per cent and 19 per cent, respectively (2,786 and 2,582 families). Kirkuk district accounts for a further 12 per cent, with 1,607 families.

Map 2: IDP families in informal sites by district, ILA 7



5 IOM DTM Iraq, *Master List 126, IDP Dataset*, (April-June 2022).

6 CCCM Cluster, REACH and UNHCR, *Ameriyat Al-Fallujah: IDP Needs and Challenges* (February 2022).



### IDPS' DISTRICT OF ORIGIN

In each of the 192 fully assessed IDP sites, key informants were asked how many families originated from each district. Notably, around one quarter of IDPs (24%) are displaced within their district of origin (2,789 families). The districts with the greatest number of families displaced within their district of origin include Falluja, Samarra and Kirkuk.

Falluja district has the largest caseload of IDPs in informal sites, with the primary districts of origin being Al-Musayab, Babylon governorate (1,292 families) and Falluja itself (1,209 families). In Sumel district, Dahuk governorate, most displaced families in informal sites originate from Sinjar (1,450 families) and Al-Ba'aj districts (540 families) in Ninewa governorate. In Samarra district, nearly all displaced families in informal sites originate from either Samarra itself (389 families) or neighbouring Balad district (309 families).

### PROTRACTED DISPLACEMENT

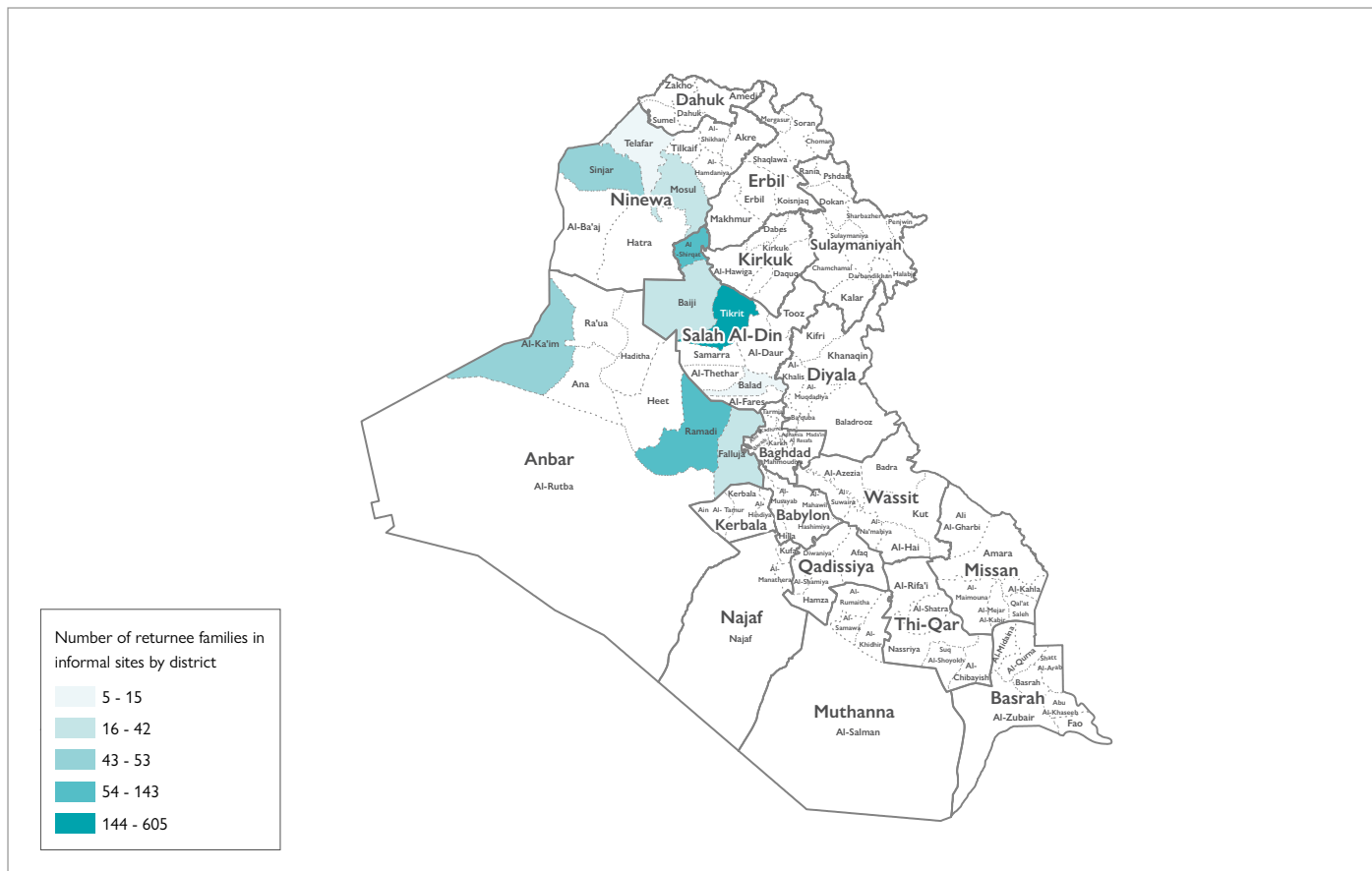
Data on the period of first displacement for IDP families were only collected for fully assessed informal sites with 15 families or more. In at least 96 per cent of informal sites, the majority of families were displaced before June 2017, suggesting they have been in protracted displacement for at least five years at the time of ILA 7. In Ninewa governorate, 61 per cent of displaced families in informal sites were displaced in August 2014, with a further 39 per cent displaced between October 2016 and June 2017. In Erbil governorate, by contrast, roughly equal shares of IDPs were displaced in August 2014 and in the period of July 2017–December 2018.

## RETURNEE POPULATION IN INFORMAL SITES

As of June 2022, there were 1,121 returnee families residing in informal sites. More than two thirds (70%) of the returnee population in informal sites reside in Salah al-Din, with 54 per cent in Tikrit district alone (605 families). A further 21 per cent of returnee families

in informal sites reside in Anbar governorate, many of whom returned from intra-district displacement in Falluja and Ramadi. Ninewa governorate contains 9 per cent of the returnee population in informal sites, split between Sinjar (53 families) and Mosul districts (47 families).

Map 3: Number of returnee families in informal sites by district, ILA 7



## RETURNEES' DISTRICT OF LAST DISPLACEMENT

Of the 980 returnee families currently living in fully assessed sites, 62 per cent returned from Al-Shirqat district, Salah al-Din governorate. All families returning from this district returned to Tikrit district in Salah al-Din governorate (605 families).

Of the 85 returnee families currently living in fully assessed sites that

reported their district of last displacement was Falluja, a plurality (48%) returned to their area of origin from within Falluja itself, as well as to Ramadi district (47%). Mosul, Soran and Ramadi districts were also significant districts of last displacement for returnees in informal sites (57, 55 and 54 families, respectively). A significant proportion of these returns occurred within the same district, with the exception of Soran, from which all families returned to Ramadi (Map 3).

## LIVELIHOODS AND NEEDS

The ILA collects information on livelihoods and main needs in informal sites, as well as assistance from humanitarian, government or other charitable local actors, in sites hosting 15 families or more.

The majority of families in 81 per cent of the sites were not economically active. In Kerbala, Qadisiya, Salah al-Din and Wassit governorates, the majority of families in all locations were not economically active (100% for each governorate). Additionally, most locations in Dahuk (98%), Ninewa (90%) and Baghdad (84%) reported that the majority of families were not economically active.

In more than four fifths of fully assessed sites (87%), less than half of families can meet their basic needs. Erbil is the only governorate in which a majority of families can meet their basic needs across more than half of sites (67%). In 22 districts, less than half of families can meet their basic needs in all locations. Less than a quarter of families can meet basic needs in all locations in six districts, namely Al-Hindiya, Al-Ka'im, Hatra, Najaf, Telefar and Tuz Khurmatu.

### RECEIVING ASSISTANCE

Despite the vulnerability of those residing in informal sites, only 30 per cent of fully assessed informal sites received assistance in the three months prior to data collection, predominantly from humanitarian organizations (84%) and local charities (61%). The governorate with the highest concentration of informal sites receiving assistance was Baghdad (68%, 17 sites), including 86 per cent of sites in Mahmoudiya district (12 sites) and 71 per cent of sites in Abu Ghraib district (five sites). Additionally, a higher share of assistance went to Anbar governorate (66% of sites, 19 sites), with 75 per cent of sites in Ramadi (three sites) and 70 per cent of sites in Falluja (16 sites) receiving some form of assistance in the three months prior to ILA 7.

Assistance from humanitarian organizations also appears to be concentrated in Baghdad governorate, with all sites in Mahmoudiya (12 sites)

and Abu Ghraib (five sites) receiving humanitarian assistance. Anbar governorate had similarly high rates of humanitarian assistance, as reported by all sites in Ramadi (three sites) and 75 per cent of sites in Falluja (12 sites).

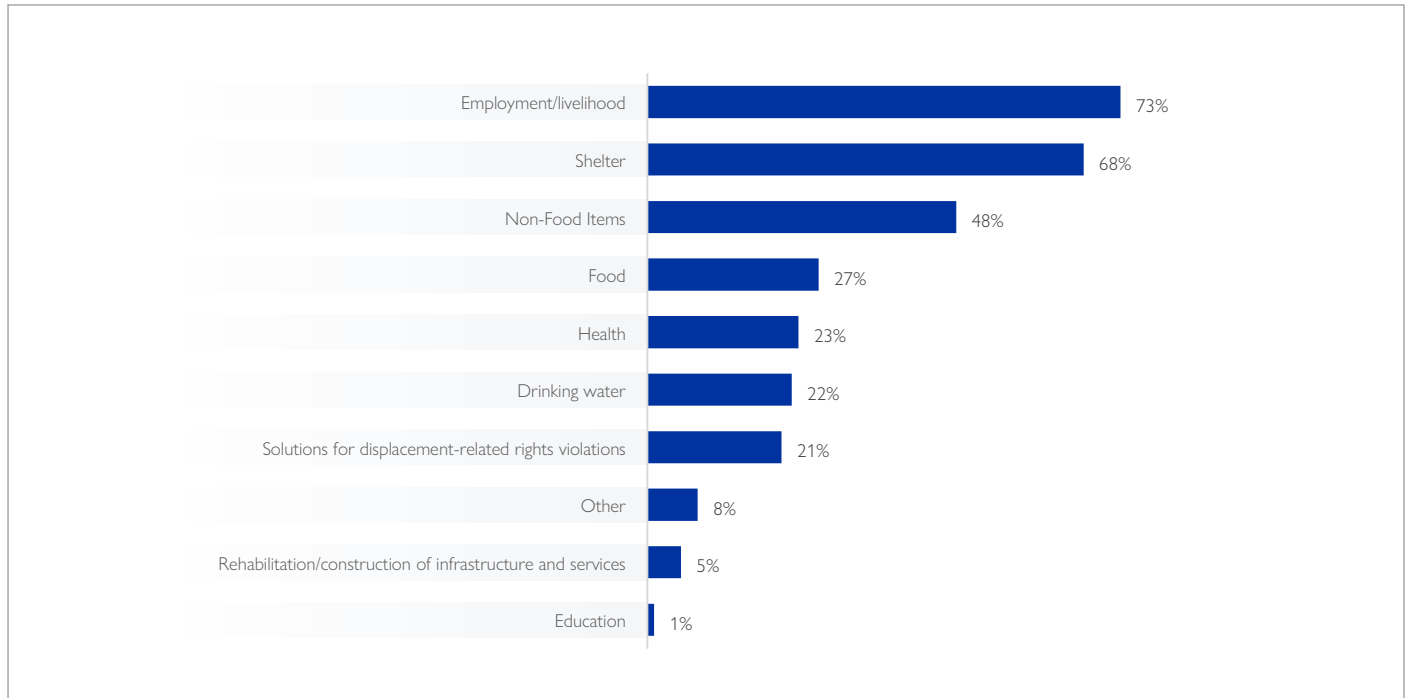
Regarding assistance from charities in the host community, Mahmoudiya (12 sites), Balad (one site) and Najaf (one site) reported the highest share of sites receiving assistance (100% each). Additionally, Falluja district had the largest number of sites (15) receiving assistance from host community charities. Government assistance was received in only 21 per cent of fully assessed informal sites which indicated receiving assistance. It was mostly concentrated in Mahmoudiya (58%, seven sites) and Ramadi district (67%, two sites).

### UNMET NEEDS

Key informants were asked to identify the top three unmet needs in each informal site. Employment and livelihood opportunities were reported by the greatest share of sites (73%, 141 sites), followed closely by shelter/housing (68%, 130) and non-food items (48%, 92). Employment and livelihoods were among the top three needs for informal sites in Dahuk (100%, 53 sites), Baghdad (100%, 25 sites) and Ninewa governorates (72%, 21 sites).

Shelter/housing also featured as a primary need for informal sites in Salah al-Din (73%) and Kirkuk governorates (69%). In these two governorates, most or all families reside in mud or block shelters that may need repair after years of inhabitation (100% of families in Kirkuk and 84% in Salah al-Din). On the other hand, food was the need identified by most sites in Anbar governorate, as reported by 69 per cent of sites, and non-food items in Erbil governorate (100%).

Figure 2: Unmet needs in informal sites



## HOUSING, LAND AND PROPERTY

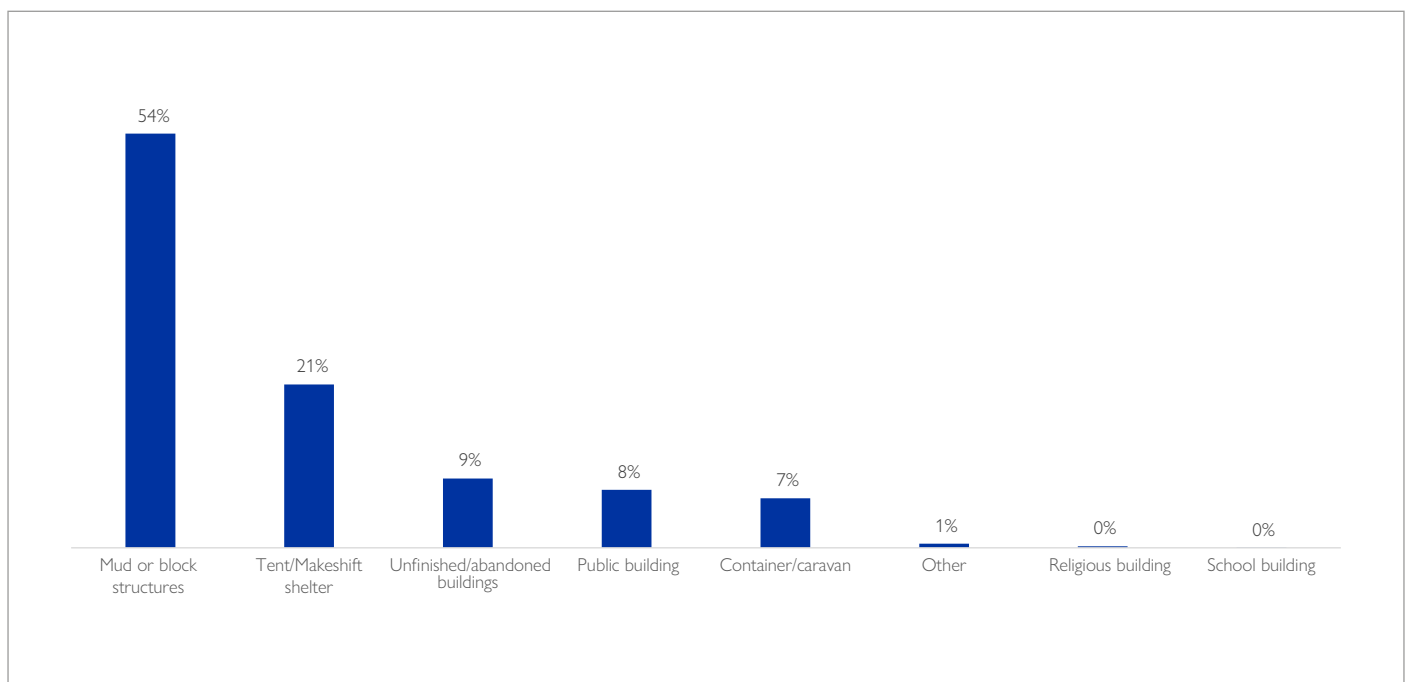
The ILA also aims to better understand the state of housing, land and property within informal sites, including shelter types, agreements on land use and the prevalence of evictions and rent-paying.

### SHELTER TYPE

The ILA collects the number of families per shelter type for fully assessed informal sites. Just over half of families (54%) reside in

mud or block houses (6,863 families). Tents or makeshift shelters accounted for 21 per cent of families (2,706 families), unfinished or abandoned buildings for 9 per cent of families (1,149 families) and public buildings or collective centres for 8 per cent of families (961 families).

Figure 3: Percentage of families in informal sites by shelter type



At the governorate level, mud or block structures provide shelter for the majority of families in Babylon (100% of sites), Kirkuk (100%), Baghdad (93%) and Salah al-Din (84%). Anbar governorate has a diverse range of structure types, including 36 per cent of families who reside in tents or makeshift shelters and 24 per cent of families in mud or block structures, all of whom reside in Falluja district. Those in informal sites in Dahuk governorate reside in tents/makeshift shelters (36%), mud or block structures (34%) or unfinished/abandoned buildings (30%). In Ninewa, the predominant shelter types are tents/makeshift shelters (48%) and mud or block structures (37%).<sup>7</sup>

## AGREEMENTS ON LAND AND EVICTIONS

Slightly more than half of fully assessed sites had formal or informal agreements that allow families to reside there (54%, 104 sites). Governorates with a high prevalence of such agreements include Baghdad (25 sites), Erbil (three sites) and Najaf (one site), where all sites have a formal or informal agreement. Additionally, most sites in Dahuk governorate (89%, 47 sites) have a verbal agreement. On the other hand, more than three-quarters of informal sites do not have an agreement on land usage in Babylon governorate (100%, one site), Kerbala (100%, one site), Qadissiya (100%, one site), Wassit (100%, one site), Ninewa (83%, 24 sites) and Kirkuk (81%, 21 sites).

Districts where few, if any, sites have land usage agreements include Kirkuk district where 21 sites lack an agreement, Falluja district where 16 sites lack an agreement and Samarra district where 10 sites lack an agreement. Only sites without a land agreement reported evictions or fears of evictions in the three months prior to ILA 7, as reported by 17 per cent of such sites. Districts with the most sites facing this concern include Samarra (seven sites), Falluja (two sites) and Sinjar (two sites). Among sites facing evictions or fears of the same, 80 per cent of sites attributed the eviction or fear of eviction to a decision or pressure from authorities.

## CLIMATE

In light of the present threat of climate change and environmental degradation in Iraq, this round of ILA assessed the prevalence of adverse environmental phenomena and conditions for IDP and returnee families residing in informal sites.

The most common environmental phenomena affecting informal sites include sand or dust storms (73%, 141 sites), followed by changing rainfall patterns (32%, 62 sites), drought (29%, 56 sites) and increased temperatures (21%, 40 sites). Most informal sites (90%) reported at least one environmental phenomenon in the 12 months before data collection.

Dahuk governorate reported the greatest number of informal sites experiencing climactic phenomena (64%, 34 sites), largely stemming from incidences of drought in Sumel district, which occurred in 32 sites (68%). Anbar governorate reported 29 informal sites experiencing climactic phenomena, 79 per cent of were in Falluja (23 sites). Across the governorate, sand or dust storms (100% of sites, 29 sites), followed by increased temperature (72%, 21 sites), were the most common. Ninewa governorate

## PAYING RENT

In more than one third of informal sites, at least some families are paying rent (36%, 69 sites). Key informants were asked if some, most or all families were paying rent. 'All' families are paying rent in the two informal sites in Mahmoudiya district, Baghdad governorate, one informal site in Erbil district, Erbil governorate, and one informal site in Tikrit district, Salah al-Din governorate.

In five sites in Sumel district, Dahuk governorate, one site in Al-Ba'aj district, Ninewa governorate and one site in Al-Musayab district, Babylon governorate, 'most' families were paying rent. However, Kerbala, Najaf and Wassit governorates are notable exceptions in that no families pay rent across all sites.

## OWNING PROPERTY IN THE AREA OF ORIGIN

In three fifths (60%) of fully assessed sites, the majority of families owned property in their area of origin. The governorates with the highest share of sites in which the majority of families owned property in their area of origin include Babylon (100%, one site), Wassit (100%, one site), Baghdad (84%, 21 sites) and Anbar governorates (72%, 21 sites).

The proportion of sites where the majority of families owned property in their area of origin was higher than the average in districts with high intra-district displacement, such as Al-Musayab, Al-Rutba, Baiji, Balad, Hatra and Tuz Khurmatu. A better understanding of the barriers to return for those displaced intradistrict – such as residential destruction in the area of origin or insufficient livelihood activities in the area of origin – could inform programming aimed at reducing intra-district displacement in Iraq.

The same opportunity arises in instances where the families in an informal site come from a single area of origin. For example, Mahmoudiya in Baghdad governorate is the district with the fourth highest caseload of IDPs in informal sites, and 'most' or 'all' of the families in 14 out of 14 fully assessed sites own property in their area of origin, which is in Al Musayab district in Babylon governorate.

similarly reported 29 sites witnessing climactic phenomena, although such sites were more evenly distributed across the districts. Sand or dust storms (100%, 29 sites), changing rainfall patterns (66%, 19 sites) and drought (48%, 14 sites) were the phenomena reported by the greatest number of sites within the governorate. Other notable districts include Kirkuk district in Kirkuk governorate, which experienced sand or dust storms across all sites (23), as well as changing temperatures in 35 per cent of sites (eight sites).

Out of the 173 locations experiencing negative environmental conditions, more than half (55%) reported two or more phenomena. A single site in Al-Rutba district, Anbar governorate, experienced five different climactic phenomena, namely drought, biodiversity loss, changing rainfall patterns, increased temperature and sand or dust storms. Additionally, three sites in Baiji district and one site in Tuz Khurmatu district in Salah al-Din governorate and one site in Al-Ka'im district, Anbar governorate, experienced four different climactic phenomena.

<sup>7</sup> More granular data of shelter types can be found at the governorate and district level on the [ILA 7 informal sites dashboard](#).

## WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

The ILA aims to assess, in each fully assessed informal site, the proportion of families who have access to adequate water for drinking and domestic needs, as well as soap for handwashing, latrines and waste collection. The survey also asks if any families in each informal site have reported issues with the taste, appearance or smell of drinking water in the month prior to the assessment. The analysis that follows highlights the sites in which the majority of families lack access to essential WASH infrastructure and services.

### ACCESS TO WATER FOR DRINKING AND DOMESTIC PURPOSES

In 20 per cent of fully assessed informal sites, around half or more families lacked adequate access to water for drinking or domestic purposes (38 sites). Access to water is a concern in Ninewa governorate, where over half of all resident families lack sufficient access to water in 59 per cent of informal sites and in Anbar governorate for 31 per cent of sites. In Ninewa governorate, no families had sufficient access to water in all sites in Hatra district (four sites), whereas in all sites in Al-Ba'aj district (seven sites), half or more families lacked access to adequate water supplies. In Anbar governorate, around half of families did not have adequate access to water in all sites in Al-Rutba district (one site). In Salah al-Din governorate, access to water is comparatively better, with half or more families unable to access sufficient water in 27 per cent of fully assessed sites (six sites). In Baiji district, however, all sites (five) reported half or more families did not have enough water for drinking or domestic purposes.

### WATER QUALITY

Families reported issues relating to the taste, appearance or smell of drinking water in the month prior to the assessment in 40 per cent of fully assessed informal sites (76 sites). In Salah al-Din governorate, issues with water quality were reported in all sites in Samarra (ten sites), Baiji (five sites), Tikrit (three sites) and Tuz Khurmatu (one site)

## VULNERABILITIES

The ILA also collects data on the presence of vulnerable populations in informal sites. The assessment asks for the proportion of female-headed households within each site, as well as the presence of any unaccompanied minors or persons with disabilities, functional difficulties or special needs.

### FEMALE-HEADED HOUSEHOLDS

In ILA 7, 87 per cent of fully assessed informal sites had female-headed households present (167 sites), up from the 76 per cent of informal sites reported in ILA 6. Key informants were asked if each fully assessed site contained 'few' (0–9%), 'some' (10–20%) or 'many' (over 20%) female-headed households.

Similarly, 24 informal sites in Anbar governorate reported the same issue, 96 per cent of which are in Falluja district (23 sites). Other districts of concern include Abu Ghraib district, Baghdad governorate (75% of sites within the governorate), and Al Ba'aj district, Ninewa governorate (100%, seven sites).

### ACCESS TO SOAP, LATRINES AND WASTE COLLECTION

Access to soap posed a challenge for around half of the families in 6 per cent of informal sites assessed in ILA 7 (11 sites), down from the 13 per cent of informal sites indicated in ILA 6 (28 sites). Issues surrounding access to soap were concentrated in Salah al-Din governorate (36%, eight sites). Around half or more families did not have access to soap for handwashing in all sites in Baiji district (five sites), 67 per cent of sites in Tikrit district (two sites) and 50 per cent of sites in Balad district (one site).

### LATRINES

Only four informal sites were found to have insufficient access to private or communal latrines. These were located in Baiji district, Salah al-Din governorate (20%, one site) and Kirkuk district, Kirkuk governorate (9%, two sites).

Access to waste collection or communal garbage bins was reported as an issue in 52 per cent of informal sites (99 sites), up from the 44 per cent of informal sites reported in ILA 6. No sites in the districts of Samarra (10 sites), Abu Ghraib (seven sites), Al Ba'aj (seven sites), Baiji (five sites), Hatra (four sites), Daquq (three sites), Mada'in (two sites), Al Ka'im (one site), Al-Musayab (one site), Al-Shirqat (one site) and Telefar (one site) had access to waste collection or communal garbage bins. Other districts of concern include Falluja (83% without access, 19 sites), Mosul (80%, four sites), Mahmoudiya (71%, 10 sites) and Kirkuk (70%, 16 sites).

Only three sites, all located in Salah al-Din governorate, reported that 'many' households were headed by women in ILA 7. These sites are in Al-Shirqat (one site), Balad (one site) and Tikrit districts (one site).

In six districts, namely Al-Hindiya (one site), Al-Musayab (one site), Baiji (one site), Karkh (one site), Kut (one site) and Najaf (one site), all sites reported women headed 'some' households (10–20%). Additionally, eight sites in Falluja (35%), six sites in Samarra (60%) and five sites in Mahmoudiya (36%) indicated the presence of 'some' female-headed households.

## UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

Unaccompanied minors were present in only 3 per cent of fully assessed informal sites (five sites). In ILA 7, there was one informal site with unaccompanied minors in each of the districts of Al-Ba'aj, Kirkuk and Samarra, as well as two informal sites in Sumel district.

## INTENTIONS (IDP SITES ONLY)

The ILA aims to ascertain the short-term (within 6 months) and long-term (beyond 6 months) intentions of most displaced families within each fully assessed informal site. Key informants were also asked what proportion of households would return if they were provided with assistance to do so.

### SHORT-TERM INTENTIONS

The majority of IDPs in 83 per cent of informal sites intend to stay in their current location in the short term (153 sites). The share of sites in which most IDPs intended to return to their areas of origin

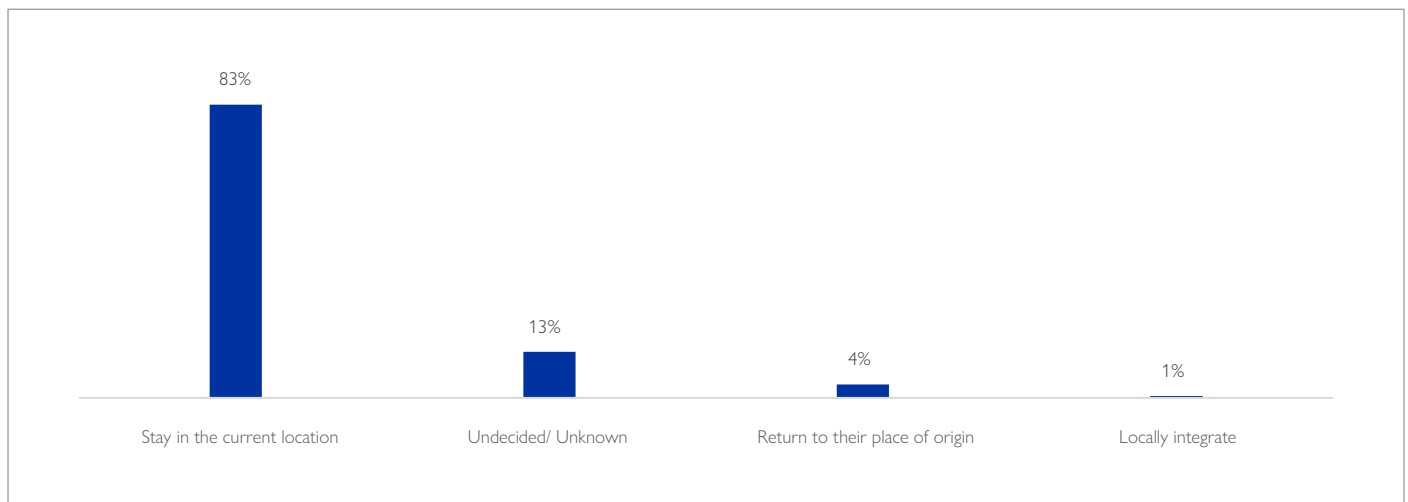
## DISABILITIES

Most informal sites (95%) hosted people with disabilities, functional difficulties or special needs due to old age, chronic medical conditions or other vulnerabilities. Sumel district had the highest number of sites indicating 'some' households with a person with a disability (29%, 12 sites), followed by Kirkuk district with eight sites (35%). Additionally, all sites in Al-Hinidya (one site) and Tuz Khurmatu districts (one site) reported that 'some' households have a member with a disability.

fell from 9 per cent in ILA 6 to 4 per cent in ILA 7. Of these sites (seven in total), more than half (57%) can be found in Baiji district (100%, four sites).

Sites in which most IDPs were undecided about their short-term intentions were concentrated in Mahmoudiya district, Baghdad governorate (71%, 10 sites), as well as Al Ba'aj district, Ninewa governorate (86%, six sites), and Tikrit district, Salah al-Din governorate (100%, three sites). Only one site in Mosul district, Ninewa governorate, indicated that most IDPs intended to locally integrate within their current area of residence.

Figure 4: Short-term intentions for most IDPs in the site



### ASSISTANCE TO RETURN

If they were to receive the assistance necessary to return, most or all families who do not intend to return in the short-term would do so in 17 per cent of sites (30). This figure represents a significant decrease compared to the 45 per cent of sites reported in ILA 6. All sites in Al-Musayab (one site), Al-Rutba (one site), Karkh (one site), Najaf (one site) and Telefar districts (one site) indicated most or all families would return upon provision of assistance. Additionally, 86 per cent of sites in Mahmoudiya reported the same (12 sites).

Some families would return if they received assistance in 51 per cent of sites (90), including all sites in Abu Ghraib (seven sites), Al-Ba'aj (seven

sites), Daquq (three sites), Tikrit (three sites), Al Resafa (one site), Al-Ka'im (one site), Al-Shikhan (one site), Balad (one site), Diwaniya (one site) and Kut (one site).

In 31 per cent of sites, most would still not return if provided with the necessary assistance (56). At the district level, all sites in Al-Hindiya (one site), Ramadi (two sites) and Zahko (four sites) indicated this intention. Additionally, the proportion of sites in Sumel (79%) and Erbil (67%) in which most IDPs would not return even with assistance was high. The decision to remain, despite assistance, does not appear to be related to livelihoods in the area of displacement. Among the 30 sites in which most would not return even with assistance, 25 sites indicated that less than half of families can meet their basic needs.

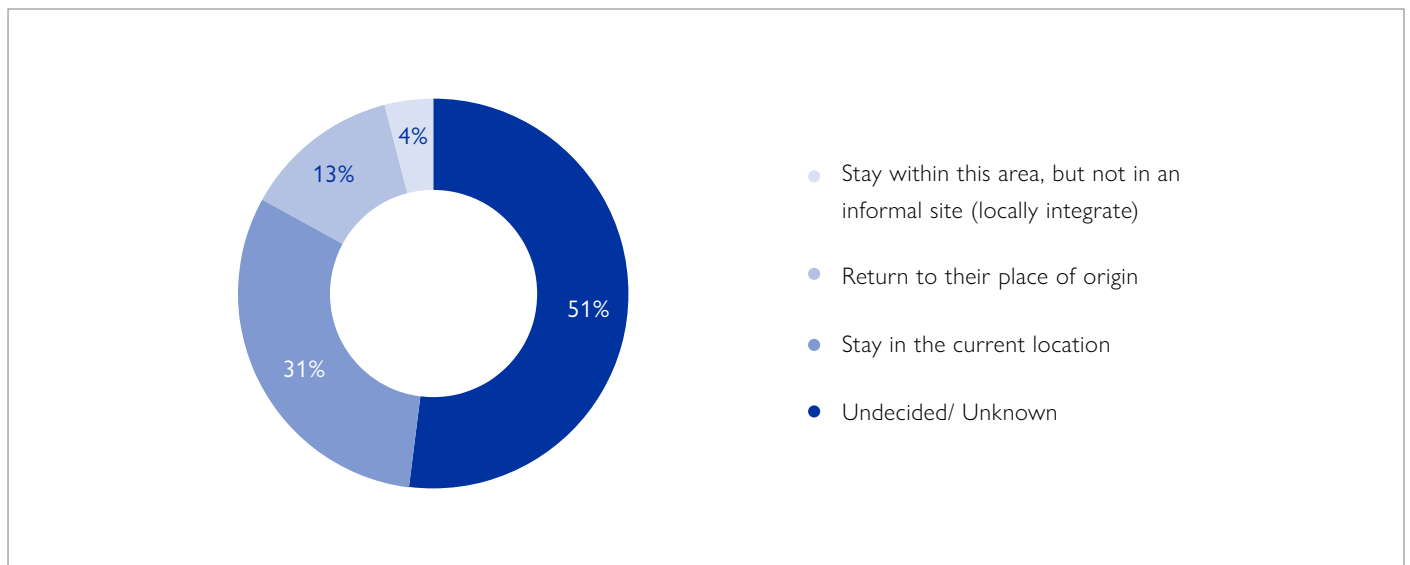
### LONG-TERM INTENTIONS

In just over half of all fully assessed informal sites, most families were undecided about their intentions beyond the six months after the assessment (51%, 95 sites). Most reportedly intend to return in only 13 per cent of sites (24). This intention was reported in all sites in Baiji district (four sites), Balad district (two sites), Karkh (one site) and Telefar (one site).

Local integration into formal housing within families' current location was the intention of most families in 4 per cent of sites, including 33

per cent of sites in Ramadi district (one site) and 22 per cent of sites in Kirkuk district (five sites). Al Resafa (one site), Al-Hindiya (one site), Daquq (three sites), Hatra (four sites) and Erbil districts (three sites) were notable in that most families in all sites intend to stay in their current location without locally integrating. The same was reported for 82 per cent of locations in Falluja district (18 sites), 50 per cent of sites in Dahuk district (one site) and Mada'in district (one site) and 48 per cent of sites in Kirkuk district (11 sites).

Figure 5: Long-term intentions (beyond six months) for IDPs in informal sites



## CONCLUSION

While IDP and returnee families residing in informal sites make up only a small share of the total IDP and returnee populations in Iraq, their particular vulnerability merits special focus in light of the challenges they face to achieving durable solutions while living in such sites. This report has provided an overview of conditions for IDP and returnee families in informal sites and highlighted governorates and districts where specific trends warrant further investigation and, potentially, programmatic intervention.

The majority of informal sites recorded in ILA 7 were located within three governorates, namely Dahuk, Ninewa and Salah al-Din. A similar share of IDP families residing in informal sites were spread within Dahuk and Salah al-Din, as well as Anbar. Returnee families in informal sites were even more highly concentrated, with the majority residing in Salah al-Din and a fifth in Anbar governorates. Between ILA 6 and 7, around one third of sites witnessed new arrivals, particularly in Dahuk and Baghdad governorates. Roughly a fifth of such arrivals came from camps, which may be related to recent camp closures. This finding suggests a need to provide greater support to families leaving camps to ensure they have access to formal housing options.

In terms of economic well-being, access to livelihoods appears to be a challenge across most informal sites. Relatedly, many IDP and returnee families living in informal sites struggle to meet their basic needs. Despite the vulnerability of these groups, less than a third of sites received assistance in the three months before data collection. Among sites receiving assistance, humanitarian organizations appear to be the primary benefactor, as well as local charities.

With respect to living conditions, ILA findings highlight the precarity of housing and inadequacy of WASH infrastructure in informal sites. Just under half of informal sites do not have a written or verbal agreement regarding land use. Only sites without a land agreement

faced evictions or fears of the same, with pressure coming largely from authorities. Regarding WASH-related concerns, half or more families lacked sufficient access to water in one fifth of fully assessed informal sites. This appears to be a particular issue in Ninewa and Anbar governorates. Additionally, two fifths of sites reported poor water quality, including nearly all sites in Falluja district, Anbar governorate, and Samarra, Salah al-Din governorate. Furthermore, ILA findings highlight concerns related to sanitation, with a majority of sites not having access to waste collection or communal garbage bins.

Despite these difficult living conditions, most IDP and returnee families intend to stay in their current location in four fifths of sites. Compared to ILA 6, intentions to return have declined slightly, while the share of sites in which families were undecided in their intentions increased in return. If provided with assistance, only 17 per cent of sites said most or all families would return, down from 45 per cent in the previous round of ILA. Relatedly, in just under one third of sites, most IDPs would still not return, even with assistance. Intentions to return are similarly low in the longer term (13% of sites), in contrast to the roughly half in which families remain undecided. Nonetheless, intentions to return appear to be higher in select districts, such as Baiji, Balad, Karkh and Telefar. Only a minority of families intend to locally integrate, but these shares were comparably higher in Ramadi and Kirkuk. Taken together, these findings highlight the limited options for families residing in informal sites and thus the need for increased durable solutions programming in these areas.

With the humanitarian cluster coordination mechanism drawing to a close by the end of 2022, targeted interventions guided by rigorous data collection will be essential to future durable solutions programming aimed at addressing the trends identified in this report in informal sites.



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