

Movement Intentions Among Out-of-Camp IDP Households

March, 2023
Iraq

KEY MESSAGES

- Nearly all (96%) of out-of-camp Internally Displaced Person (IDP) households (HH) reported no intention to return to their Area of Origin (AoO) within twelve months after data collection.
- The most reported reasons not to return were related to the lack of livelihood options in their AoO, damaged/destroyed housing in their AoO, fear/trauma associated with returning to their AoO, and lack of financial means to return to the AoO.
- Lack of housing and unstable security situations in their AoO were the most expected obstacles reported among out-of-camp IDP HHs intending to return.
- More than three-quarters of out-of-camp IDP HHs live in another district within their governorate of origin, which may contribute to the high reported intention to integrate into the local community.

CONTEXT & RATIONALE

As of December 2022, 1,168,619 individuals were still internally displaced within Iraq. The rate of return among IDPs remained low.¹ Around 15% of the IDP population live in formal IDP camps, while the majority live in out-of-camp areas, including informal sites.² To support humanitarian and durable solutions actors, this factsheet provides an updated overview of out-of-camp IDP movement intentions, including intentions to integrate, movement intention, barriers to return, and failed returns.

METHODOLOGY:

A total of 4,984 out-of-camp IDP HHs surveyed across 58 districts. Data collection took place from June 5 to August 16, 2022. Findings are representative at a 90% confidence level and a 10% margin of error the district level per population group. (for more information see page 3)

96%

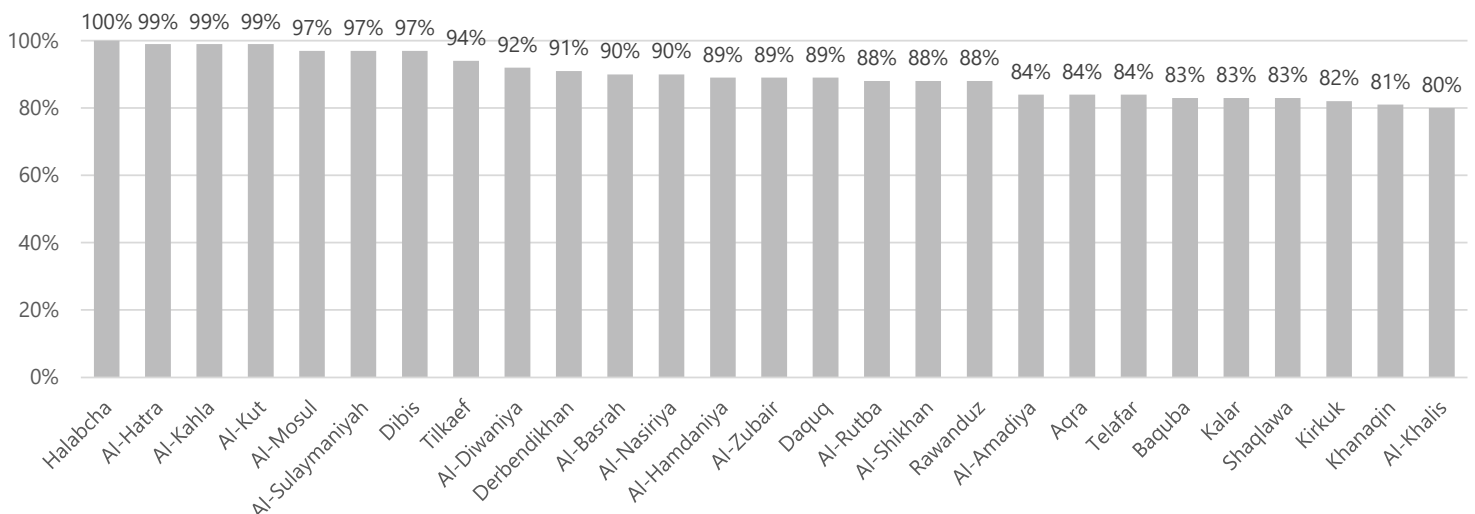
of out-of-camp IDP HHs reported **no intention to return** to their AoOs within twelve months following data collection.

77%

of out-of-camp IDP HHs reported intending to **integrate into the local community** of their current district in the long term.

Integration and Social Cohesion

Proportion of out-of-camp IDP HHs reported intending to integrate into the local community of their current district in the long term, by district of displacement.³



The majority of out-of-camp IDP HHs reported intentions to integrate into their areas of displacement were originally from Diyala (98%), Salah Al-Din (97%), Ninewa and Al-Anbar (95% each) governorates. Nationwide, almost 79% of out-of-camp IDP HHs live in another district within their governorate of origin, particularly out-of-camp IDPs who were originally from

Ninewa (88%), Kirkuk (83%), Diyala (81%), Al-Anbar (65%), and Salah Al-Din (46%) governorates, which may contribute to the high reported intention to integrate into the local community. Correspondingly, nearly three-quarter (71%) of out-of-camp IDP HHs reported they would cooperate with people from others from different tribal or ethnoreligious backgrounds to solve community problems. This shows out-of-camp IDP HHs' willingness to positively integrate with the local society. Out-of-camp IDP HHs that were living in Tikrit (40%), Beygee (42%), Tooz Khurmato (47%), Kerbela and Samarra (49% each), Balad (50%), Al-Falluja and Al-Mussyab (54%), Al-Najaf and Ana (60% each) reported the lowest intention to integrate.

Movement Intentions

Intention to Return

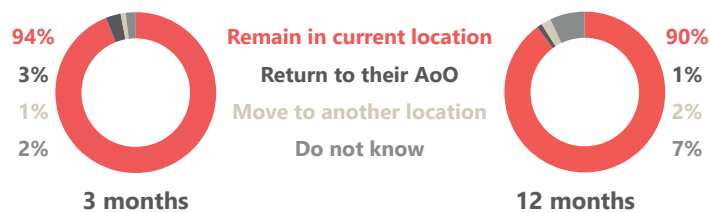
4% of out-of-camp IDP HHs reported **intending to return** within twelve months after data collection.

Out-of-camp IDP HHs currently living in Sinjar (23%), Al-Hatra (15%), Al-Kahla (12%), and Al-Mosul (10%) districts were most likely to report an intention to return to their AoOs within twelve months. Moreover, out-of-camp IDP HHs who reported intention to return were originally from Al-Hatra (11%), Al-Baaj (10%), Sinjar (7%), Balad, Al-Mosul (5%), and Al-Hamdaniya (4%).

Top reasons to return reported by out-of-camp IDP HHs intending to return within twelve months after data collection:⁴

Improved security situation in their AoO	59%
Livelihood options available in their AoO	37%
Emotional desire to return	29%
Other community members returned	19%
Basic services available in their AoO	18%

Movement intentions - three and twelve months after data collection



More out-of-camp IDP HHs reported uncertainty regarding movement intention to return to their AoO in the twelve months time-frame, compared to three months following data collection. Balad (38%), Tikrit (35%), Beygee (33%), Samarra (26%), Tooz Khurmato (23%) districts were most likely to report uncertainty about their movement intention within twelve months after data collection. Almost all out-of-camp IDP HHs who were originally from Babil, Baghdad and Erbil (100% each) reported no intention to return, followed by Diyala, Salah Al-Din, and Al-Anbar governorates (98%, 97%, and 95%, respectively).

Expected challenges to return reported by HHs intending to return within twelve months after data collection:⁵

No housing in their AoO	53%
Unstable security situation in their AoO	51%
Lack of livelihood in their AoO	25%
Basic services unavailable in their AoO	17%
No financial means to return	14%

Barriers to Return

Among HHs with no intention to return (96%), the most reported reasons to not return were related to the lack of livelihood options in their AoO (36%), damaged/destroyed housing in their AoO (35%), fear/trauma associated with returning to their AoO and lack of financial means to return to the AoO (26% each) and better living conditions in the area of displacement (AoD) (22%).

Most reported barriers to return, by district of origin to which return was reported as least likely:⁶

Al-Mosul

Better living conditions in their AoD	41%
Lack of livelihood in their AoO	39%
No financial means to return	26%
Fear/trauma associated with their AoO	24%

Sinjar

Damaged/destroyed housing in their AoO	43%
Fear/trauma associated with their AoO	30%
Lack of livelihood in their AoO	24%
Lack of security forces	22%

Al-Mussyab

Fear of discrimination/rejection	51%
Lack of livelihood in their AoO	40%
Damaged/destroyed housing in their AoO	39%
Lack of security forces	30%

Telafar

Damaged/destroyed housing in their AoO	41%
Lack of livelihood in their AoO	37%
Better living conditions in their AoD	35%
No financial means to return	25%

Al-Falluja

No financial means to return	52%
Better living conditions in AoD	43%
Fear/trauma associated with their AoO	31%
Damaged/destroyed family assets in AoO	24%




Failed Return

8% of out-of-camp IDP HHs reportedly **attempted to return** to their AoO but were displaced again within twelve months prior data collection.

Out-of-camp IDP HHs originally from Al-Baaj (20%), Telafar (16%), Al-Hatra (13%), Sinjar (11%), Balad (10%), Al-Falluja (9%) and Al-Mosul (5%), were most likely to report having attempted to return but failed to do so within twelve months prior data collection.

Accountability to Affected People

Most commonly reported types of household information needs from aid providers among out-of-camp IDP HHS.^{7, 8}

How to register for aid	45%	
How to find work	33%	
How to get shelter materials	31%	

One-fifth (20%) of out-of-camp IDPs reported news on what is happening in their AoO as an information need from aid providers. Top-5 districts reporting this need were out-of-camp IDPs originally from Al-Hatra, Al-Kut, Kifri, Derbendikhan, and Al-Kahla.

Conclusion

Considering the consistently low reported intention to return over the past years; the structural and political nature of reported barriers to return; as well as the reported reasons for failed returns which confirm that HHs perceived barriers to return were often well-informed, no large scale voluntary return movements among out-of-camp IDPs expected throughout 2023. IDPs living in Sinjar, Al-Hatra, Al-Kahla, and Al-Mosul reported the highest intention to move elsewhere, indicating some departures from these districts are likely. Simultaneously, these include some of the districts of origin from which HHs reported the highest intention to return to (e.g., Al-Hatra, Al-Baaj, Sinjar). However, the large majority of out-of-camp IDPs reported intending to integrate into their current local community, confirming the importance of local integration and/or integration in a third location as key avenues for durable solutions in Iraq.

METHODOLOGY OVERVIEW

The MCNA X was implemented through a nationwide household-level survey, which was conducted between June 5 and August 16, 2022. For all out-of-camp samples, a two-stage stratified cluster sampling approach was employed (with 90% level of confidence and a 10% margin of error at population group and district level). Based on the population figures from the IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) Master List, sampling frames were developed for all districts with a minimum of 200 IDP or returnee households and adjusted to align with OCHA-defined administrative boundaries. Within each location, a set of geo-points was randomly generated and provided to enumerators who would then interview an eligible household nearest to a given geo-point. The in-camp IDP population was sampled through a simple random sampling approach (95% level of confidence, 10% margin of error). The adjacent Camp Profiling assessment was conducted using an expanded MCNA questionnaire in all formal IDP camps with at least 100 households (all 26 camps). Districts for host community coverage were selected based on 2021 HNO findings on high number of people in need and/or high severity scores. As such, findings on host community needs should not be considered generalisable to be reflective of the entire country.

ENDNOTES

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¹ According to [IOM-DTM](#), 41,748 IDPs returned between December 2021 and December 2022, compared to 156,400 between October 2020 and September 2021.

² [IOM-DTM](#) Iraq, 2022.

³ Proportions with frequencies below 80% not reported.

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⁴ Totality of all answers for such questions may exceed 100%.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ The top four reported reasons.

PAGE 3

⁷ Households were asked for top-3 needs.

⁸ Totality of all answers for such questions may exceed 100%.

ABOUT REACH

REACH Initiative facilitates the development of information tools and products that enhance the capacity of aid actors to make evidence-based decisions in emergency, recovery and development contexts. The methodologies used by REACH include primary data collection and in-depth analysis, and all activities are conducted through inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms. REACH is a joint initiative of IMPACT Initiatives, ACTED and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research - Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNITAR-UNOSAT).