This document highlights key findings from the Multi-Cluster Needs Assessment (MCNA) carried out in Iraq in 2019. The 2019 MCNA was conducted within the framework of the Iraq Assessment Working Group (AWG), to provide a nationwide, impartial, and evidence-based overview and understanding of the needs of conflict-affected populations, to further strategic planning within the 2020 Humanitarian Planning Cycle (HPC).

Findings presented in this brief are based on an analytical approach proposed by REACH for the 2019 MCNA, which incorporates elements of the draft Joint Inter-Analysis Framework (JIAF), and on a Multisectoral Needs Index (MSNI) developed to classify a household’s severity of needs in each sector. The index is based on the inability to meet immediate sectoral needs (Living Standards Gaps), the use of negative coping strategies (Capacity Gap), and household-level impact of the crisis, thus giving a crisis-specific indication of the severity of needs.

Within the framework of the AWG, MCNA tools and indicators were developed following consultations with the relevant clusters and sub-clusters active in Iraq, in line, to the extent possible, with the Joint Inter-Analysis Framework (JIAF). Preliminary findings were then shared bilaterally with each cluster and a second round of analysis of MCNA data was conducted in line with OCHA global guidance. This data was used to provide MSNI calculations as presented in this brief.

In Iraq, this seventh round of MCNA was implemented through a nationwide statistically representative household survey for which data was collected between mid-June and mid-August 2019. A total of 13,086 Internally Displaced Person (IDP) and returnee households across Iraq were surveyed. REACH, together with 19 partners, provided support to the AWG by contributing to the data collection process, which covered all accessible districts with a set threshold of target populations. Findings are generalizable with a 90% level of confidence and 10% margin of error at the district level for out-of-camp IDP households and returnee households, and at the camp level for in-camp IDP households.

### MULTISECTORAL NEEDS INDEX (MSNI)

1.77 million people (29% of households) were found to have severe or extreme severity of needs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% of households per severity of needs:</th>
<th>12%</th>
<th>17%</th>
<th>50%</th>
<th>22%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Extreme (severity score 4)</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Severe (severity score 3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stress (severity score 2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>No or minimal (severity score 1)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

% of households with severe or extreme severity of needs, per district:

Primary drivers:

- For 42% of households with severe or extreme severity of needs in Iraq, the primary drivers of needs were sectoral needs in emergency livelihoods, and/or water, sanitation and hygiene, and/or food security.
- For 12% of households with severe or extreme severity of needs, the primary driver of needs was the use of negative coping strategies to cover basic needs.
- For 40% of households with severe or extreme severity of needs, the primary drivers of needs were sectoral needs in health and protection, and/or health and shelter, and/or protection and shelter.
- For 6% of households with severe or extreme severity of needs, the primary drivers of needs were sectoral needs in health or shelter or protection and the direct impact of the crisis.

1 The MSNI and LSGs were contextualised to each crisis context which has to be considered when comparing crises.

2 Taken from OCHA’s calculations of People in Need (PIN) based on MCNA data. Available in the 2020 Iraq Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO).

3 MSNI severity score of at least 3.
Besides a severe or extreme sectoral need in shelter for a high proportion of in-camp IDP households, the proportions of households across all three population groups with severe or extreme sectoral needs were found highest in livelihoods (employment and income) and health (access to essential services).

*LSG severity score of at least 3.