



# **UNHCR**

**United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees**

Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés

## **Rapid Needs Assessment (RNA) of Recently Displaced Persons in the Kurdistan Region**



**ERBIL  
GOVERNORATE  
May 2007 – March 2008**

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## List of Abbreviations

<b>GDDM</b>	General Directorate of Displacement and Migration
<b>HOH</b>	Head of Household
<b>ICRC</b>	International Committee of the Red Cross
<b>ID</b>	Iraqi Dinar
<b>IDP</b>	Internally Displaced Person
<b>IOM</b>	International Organization for Migration
<b>IRCS</b>	Iraqi Red Crescent Society
<b>IRD</b>	International Relief and Development
<b>KRG</b>	Kurdistan Regional Government
<b>MNF-I</b>	Multi-National Forces in Iraq
<b>MoDM</b>	Ministry of Displacement and Migration
<b>NFI</b>	Non-food item
<b>PAC</b>	Protection and Assistance Centre
<b>PDS</b>	Public Distribution System
<b>PHC</b>	Public Health Centre
<b>PWJ</b>	Peace Winds Japan
<b>UNHCR</b>	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
<b>US</b>	United States
<b>WFP</b>	World Food Programme

## Executive Summary

UNHCR's partner International Relief and Development (IRD) surveyed a total of 1,214 IDP families in the Governorate of Erbil between May 2007 and March 2008. The majority surveyed had fled in the wake of escalating violence after the February 2006 Samarra bombing and reported having faced direct threats on the basis of their religious or ethnic belonging. The IDPs are Arab and Kurdish Muslims as well as Christians, mostly originating from the Governorates of Baghdad and Ninewa.

### ***Key findings***

**Access to the Governorate:** Persons not originating from the Governorate need to have a sponsor.

**Permission to remain in the governorate:** Persons not originating from the Governorate must have a sponsor and need to obtain a temporary permit to stay.

**Freedom of movement:** No restrictions to move within the three Northern Governorates, provided entry and stay are permitted.

**Documentation:** 26% of the IDP families surveyed reported difficulties in obtaining/renewing documentation, in particular their food ration cards.

**Housing:** Most surveyed IDPs are living in rented housing in urban areas of the Governorate and about one quarter is living with relatives. Many are living in sub-standard accommodation and more than half of those surveyed reported problems with overcrowding.

**Employment:** The survey showed that 68% of the IDPs of working age have been unemployed since their displacement. In the District of Shaqlawa, 85% are unemployed.

**Source of income:** 29% of the IDP families surveyed reported having no source of income.

**Food:** 47% of the IDP families surveyed did not have access to their food rations through the Public Distribution System (PDS) in displacement. The majority of these had solely relied on the food rations prior to displacement and are therefore likely to be vulnerable and in need of food assistance. Some of these families may benefit from the World Food Programme's (WFP) rations programme, which started in March 2008.

**Health:** All IDP families surveyed have access to primary healthcare (PHC) and basic drugs in their current location.

**Education:** 25% of families surveyed with children have primary school-age children not attending school. The main reason for non-attendance is the lack of schools teaching in Arabic.

**Water and sanitation:** All IDP families surveyed reported having access to potable water. They also reported having sufficient water for cooking and hygienic purposes.

**Electricity and fuel:** Almost all IDP families surveyed reported having access to four or more hours of electricity per day and were able to afford kerosene.

**Humanitarian assistance:** Only 22% of the IDP families surveyed received some form of assistance since their displacement.

### ***Priority Needs***

Shelter was overwhelmingly identified as a priority need across all sub-districts in Erbil Governorate given that many are living in sub-standard, crowded and overpriced rental accommodation that exceeds their financial means. Also employment and food were identified as major needs.

# 1. Introduction<sup>1</sup>

The purpose of this report is to reflect the situation of the recently displaced in the Governorate of Erbil and, in particular, the movement and demographic profile of IDPs, their access to shelter, employment and basic services (including food, education, healthcare and water) as well as their future intentions.

It is estimated that over 2.77 million persons remain displaced within Iraq as of March 2008, with more than 1.5 million displaced following the Samarra bombing in February 2006.<sup>2</sup> These attacks resulted in the escalation of sectarian violence, alongside an insurgency directed against the Iraqi Government and the Multi-National Forces in Iraq (MNF-I), counter-insurgency, intra-Shi'ite fighting and high levels of criminality. Mixed communities, particularly in Baghdad, have borne the brunt of the conflict between members of Iraq's principal religious groups, Shi'ite and Sunni Muslims. Minority groups in Southern and Central Iraq, including Christians and Kurds, are without strong protection networks and, are therefore, particularly vulnerable to violence and intimidation.

A significant number of IDPs displaced since February 2006 have sought refuge in the three Northern Governorates of Dahuk, Erbil and Sulaymaniyah, which, in comparison to other areas of Iraq, remain relatively secure. According to the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG), 39,185 families<sup>3</sup> have been displaced from the south and centre to the three Northern Governorates since 2003, the majority of whom were displaced after February 2006. Erbil Governorate hosts 6,333 IDP families (31,783 persons).<sup>4</sup>

The influx of new IDPs has had a significant impact on the host communities: increasing housing and rental prices, additional pressure on already strained public services and concerns about security and demographic shifts. At the same time, the three Northern Governorates have also benefited from the migration of professionals, bringing with them skills and disposable incomes that boost the local economy. Unskilled IDPs have also provided cheap labour for the construction industry. Some returns have also taken place; according to the General Directorate of Displacement and Migration (GDDM), figures for June – November 2007 (195 families), and a recent survey of mayors in Erbil, at least 315 families left Erbil Governorate between June 2007 and March 2008.

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<sup>1</sup> The report was researched and drafted with UNHCR's partner, IRD.

<sup>2</sup> IDP Working Group, *Internally Displaced Persons in Iraq Update*, 24 March 2008.

<sup>3</sup> Figures for Erbil Governorate provided by the Directorate of Displacement and Migration (DDM), November 2007; figures for Dahuk Governorate provided by DDM, January 2008; figures for Sulaymaniyah Governorate provided by the Directorate of Security, February 2008.

<sup>4</sup> DDM, November 2007. 370 families reported as displaced by Turkish shelling in December 2007 returned home (UNHCR reports).

## 2. Summary of Governorate<sup>5</sup>

Figure 1: Summary of Governorate

<b>Size</b>	14,428 km <sup>2</sup>	<b>Administrative Capital</b>	Erbil City
<b>Districts</b>	Erbil City, Shaqlawa, Soran, Koysinjaq, Mergasor, Choman ( <i>de facto</i> control over Makhmur District) <sup>6</sup>	<b>Administration</b>	<i>Qadha</i> (district) and <i>Nahiya</i> (sub-district) Councils, Governorate Council
		<b>Checkpoints<sup>7</sup></b>	Choman District, Soran District, Shaqlawa District, Pirmam (Masif Salahuddin sub-District checkpoint), Erbil City checkpoint
<b>Internal Boundaries</b>	Dahuk, Ninewa, Kirkuk, Sulaymaniyah		
<b>Population</b> (excluding IDPs)	1,392,093 <sup>8</sup>	<b>IDPs from the Centre and South</b> (since 2003) <sup>9</sup>	<b>Individuals: 31,783</b>
			<b>Families: 6,333</b>
<b>Dominant Religion</b>	Islam (Sunni Muslims)	<b>Dominant Ethnicity</b>	Kurd

## 3. IDP Monitoring

### a) Methodology

UNHCR's partner IRD monitors IDPs in Erbil Governorate through its local monitoring team,<sup>10</sup> which collects information from household interviews,<sup>11</sup> consultations with UNHCR field staff, the Erbil Protection and Assistance Centres (PAC) and interviews with local community leaders. A survey plan was established according to geographic concentrations of IDPs in the Governorate. The target was to survey 15% of the post-2003 IDPs from the South and Centre in a given area. From a total of 6,333 IDP families in the target areas, 1,214 families (19%) were surveyed by IRD between 20 May 2007 and 31 March 2008.<sup>12</sup>

As all new IDP arrivals to Erbil Governorate are required to register their temporary stay at the Erbil Directorate of Residency and Housing, IDP figures used in this analysis are based on statistics received from the General Directorate of Displacement and Migration (GDDM),

<sup>5</sup> For further details on the Governorate of Erbil, please consult UNHCR's *Governorate Assessment Report*, September 2007, <http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/iraq?page=governorate>.

<sup>6</sup> Makhmur was detached from Erbil Governorate in 1996 and reassigned to the predominantly Arab Governorate of Ninewa as part of the former regime's *Arabization* campaign. The Kurdish authorities hope to incorporate the district into the Region of Kurdistan through a popular referendum on the basis of Article 140 of the Iraqi Constitution; see also Chicago Tribune, Liz Sly, *In vulnerable, remote north, Iraqis await a vote on future*, 2 September 2007, [http://www.iraqupdates.com/p\\_articles.php?refid=DH-S-03-09-2007&article=21300](http://www.iraqupdates.com/p_articles.php?refid=DH-S-03-09-2007&article=21300).

<sup>7</sup> List includes permanent checkpoints only.

<sup>8</sup> MoPDC/UNDP, *Iraq Living Conditions Survey*, April 2005.

<sup>9</sup> See above footnote 4.

<sup>10</sup> The IRD monitoring team in Erbil consists of one male and one female monitor, working in partnership.

<sup>11</sup> IRD monitors use UNHCR's IDP/Returnee Household Monitoring Form, Version C, October 2006.

<sup>12</sup> In Erbil Centre (Erbil Centre, Ankawa and Khabat sub-Districts), 20% of the IDPs were surveyed, in Shaqlawa District (Shaqlawa sub-District) 16% and in Makhmur District (Makhmur sub-District) 18%. Sub-districts with less than 50 IDP families and quarters or villages with less than 25 families were excluded from the survey (see *Figure 3 Percentage of IDP families surveyed*). The IDP figures of June 2007 are the baseline for above mentioned percentages.

Erbil Branch, which quoted the Erbil Directorate of Residency and Housing as its source. The figures used in this report for survey analysis are as of June 2007<sup>13</sup> and data is rounded off to zero decimal places. An effort was made by monitors to ensure a representative sample of ethnicities based on the information provided by GDDM/Erbil and the Directorate of Residency and Housing.

## ***b) IDP monitoring summary***

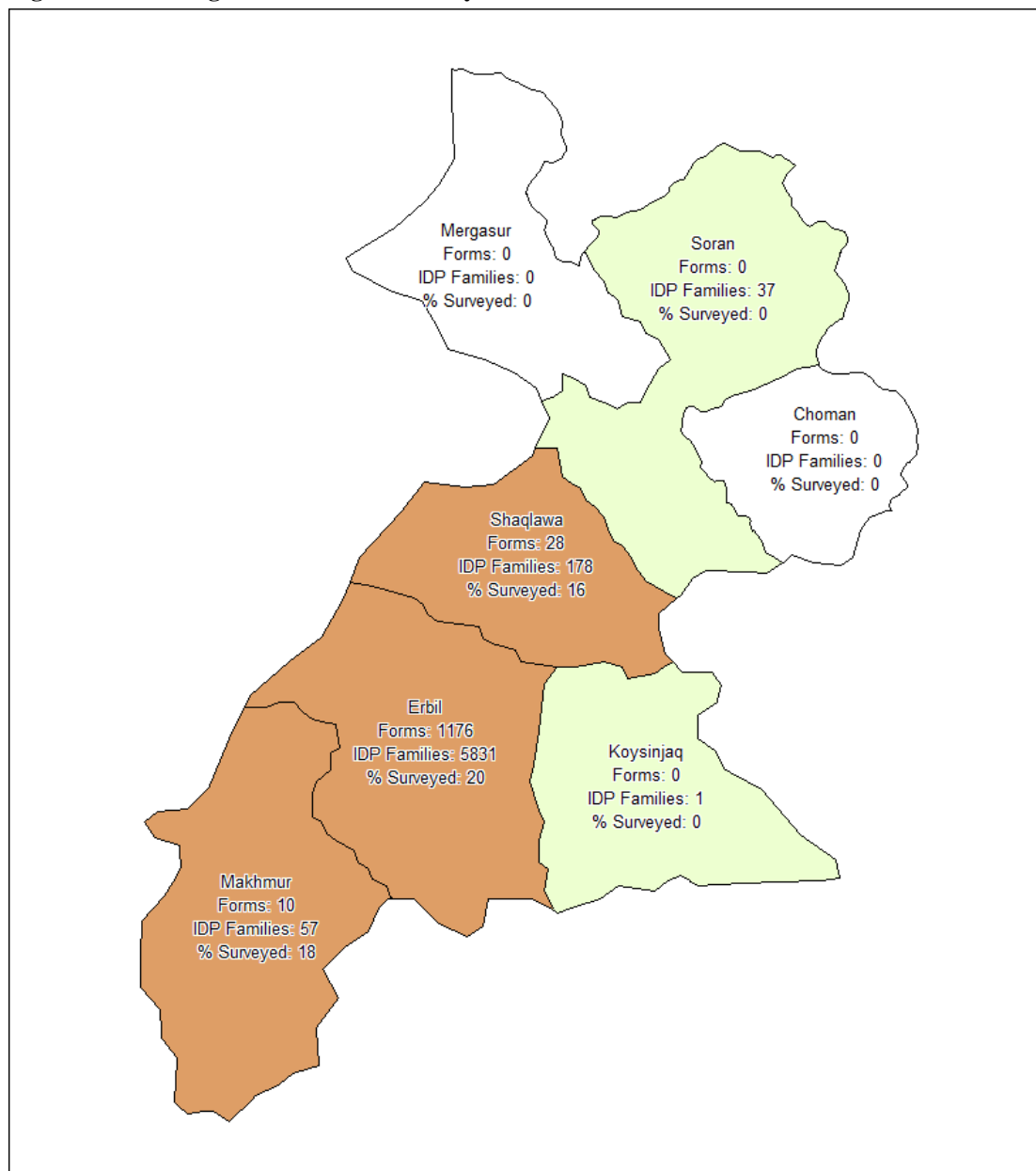
**Figure 2: Monitoring Summary**

<b>Districts surveyed</b>	Erbil Centre, Shaqlawa, Makhmur
<b>Number of surveys</b>	1,214
<b>Percentage of IDP population surveyed</b>	19%
<b>Districts with highest IDP concentration (families)<sup>14</sup></b>	Erbil: 5,831, Shaqlawa: 178, Makhmur: 57, Soran: 37
<b>Main cause of flight</b>	Post-Samarra events (97%)
<b>Main governorate of origin</b>	Baghdad (69%)
<b>Main ethnicity</b>	Arab (39%)
<b>Main Religion</b>	Islam (65%)
<b>Priority protection needs</b>	Access to food, including issuance of temporary food ration cards; access to education for Arabic-speaking IDP children
<b>Priority assistance needs</b>	Shelter
<b>Received assistance</b>	22% of surveyed IDP population

<sup>13</sup> Given that the statistics received from GDDM/Directorate of Residency and Housing for November 2007 have not been broken down by districts, the June 2007 figures have been used in the report unless otherwise indicated.



**Figure 3: Percentage of IDP families surveyed<sup>15</sup>**



## 4. IDP Profile

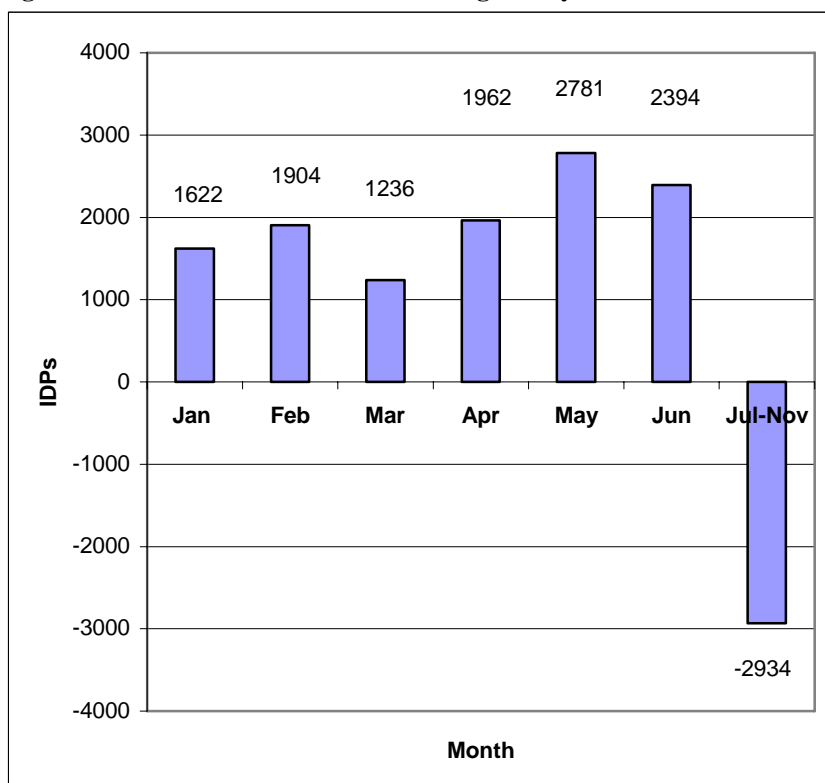
### *a) IDP flow*

The number of IDPs arriving in Erbil Governorate increased steadily since February 2006, with the highest increase in May 2007, coinciding with the end of the school year. However, figures issued by the Directorate of Residency and Housing for the period of July to November 2007 show a sharp drop in the number of IDPs in the governorate (see Figure 4).<sup>16</sup>

<sup>15</sup> Source of map: <http://www.esri.com>.

<sup>16</sup> This suggests a fall of almost 3,000 individuals, yet in the same document issued by GDDM, only 195 families and 988 individuals were reported as leaving the Governorate during this period. The Directorate was unable to account for this discrepancy.

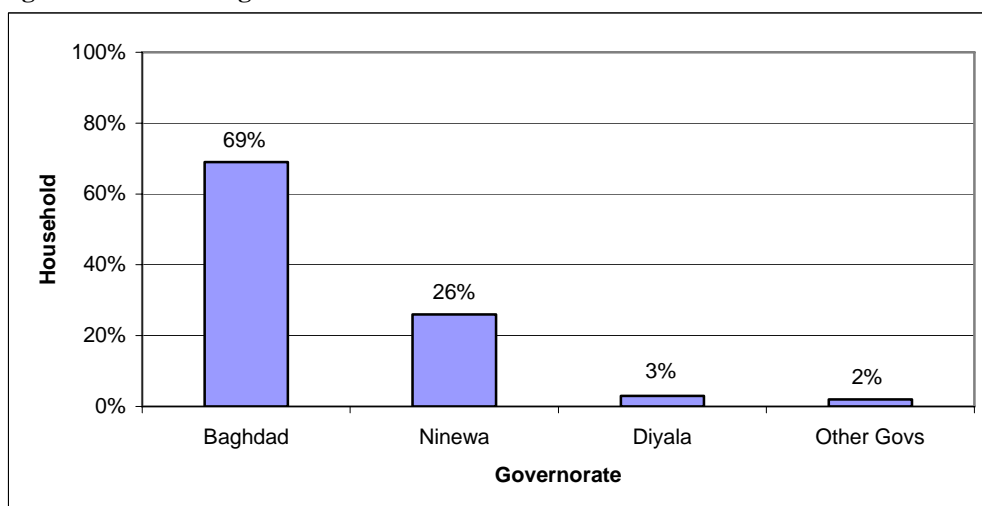
**Figure 4: Increase/decrease in 2007 IDP figures by month<sup>17</sup>**



### ***b) Movement profile***

**Place of origin:** The majority of the IDP families surveyed are from Baghdad Governorate (69%). Families also fled from Ninewa (26%), Diyala (3%) and other governorates (2%). Of those that came from Baghdad, 61% were from Al-Rusafa and 39% from Al-Karkh Districts. All families from Ninewa came from Mosul City (Figure 5).

**Figure 5: Place of origin<sup>18</sup>**



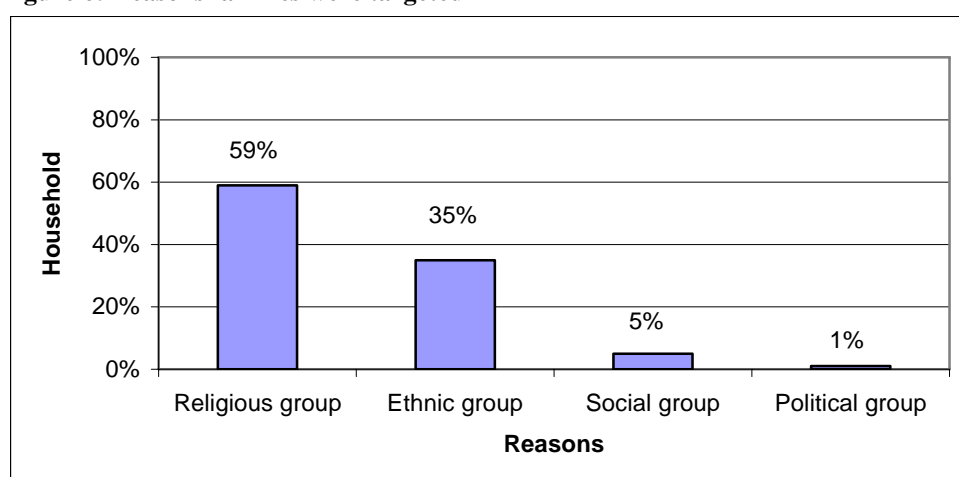
<sup>17</sup> GDDM through Erbil Directorate of Residency and Housing.

<sup>18</sup> Sample size of 1,214 families.

**Flight:** Sectarian violence in the aftermath of the 22 February 2006 Samarra bombing was the main cause of flight for 97% of the IDP families surveyed. 3% fled because of other violent events occurring since 2003.

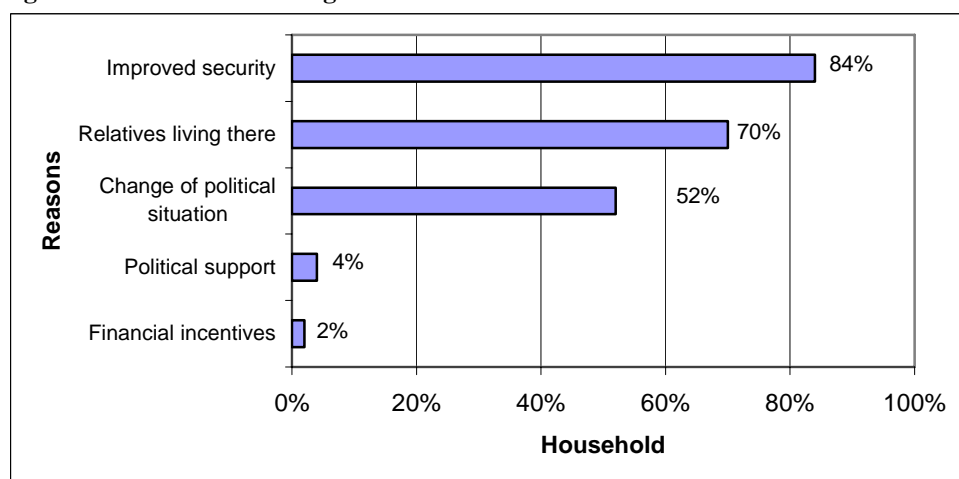
82% of the IDP families surveyed stated they were specifically targeted. 94% of the families surveyed stated that the reason they were specifically targeted was because of their association with a religious (59%) or ethnic group (35%; see Figure 6).

**Figure 6: Reasons families were targeted**<sup>19</sup>



Better security in the Governorate of Erbil was a key motive for IDPs relocating to Erbil (84%). 70% chose to come to Erbil as they have relatives living there. Financial incentives were of least concern to the families surveyed (Figure 7).

**Figure 7: Reasons for moving to current location**<sup>20</sup>



*Note: Multiple answers were possible.*

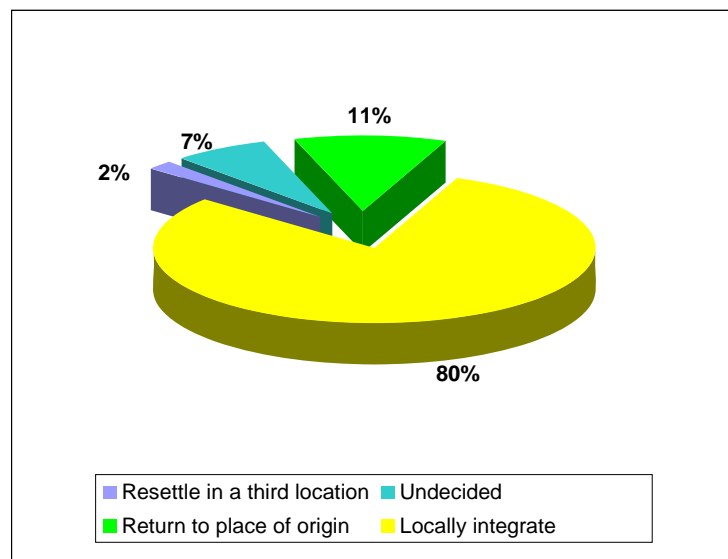
**IDP Intentions:** A large majority of the families surveyed intend to locally integrate into their host community whilst very few families plan to return to their place of origin or to

<sup>19</sup> Sample size of 999 families targeted.

<sup>20</sup> Sample size of 1,214 families. The values may not add up to 100% because households may list up to three reasons for moving.

relocate to a third location. A number of families are waiting on one of several factors in order to make a decision (Figure 8).

**Figure 8: IDP intentions<sup>21</sup>**

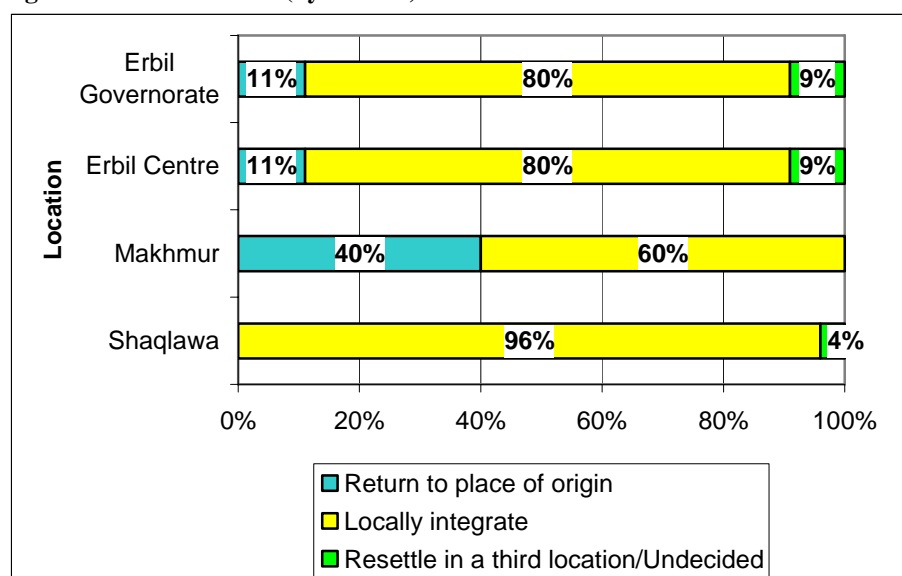


IDP intentions varied across the various districts surveyed. In particular, the intentions of IDPs surveyed in Makhmur District differed significantly from the other districts with more than 40% intending to return to their places of origin. In Shaqlawa District, no family indicated the wish to return to their place of origin (Figure 9). This may be partly due to different living conditions in each location. Also, 80% of the families surveyed in Makhmur District are Arabs from Baghdad, who may have difficulties to locally integrate. In comparison, IDPs in Shaqlawa District come from a mixture of ethnic and geographical backgrounds.

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<sup>21</sup> Sample size of 1,214 families.

**Figure 9: IDP intentions (by district)**



### ***c) Demographic profile***

**Gender and age breakdown of families:** Of the IDP families surveyed, the male / female ratio was almost equal (49% / 51%). Female heads of households represented 15% of the survey group, compared to 85% male. Children under the age of 18 represented over 39% of the survey group and persons over 60 accounted for 5% (Figure 10).

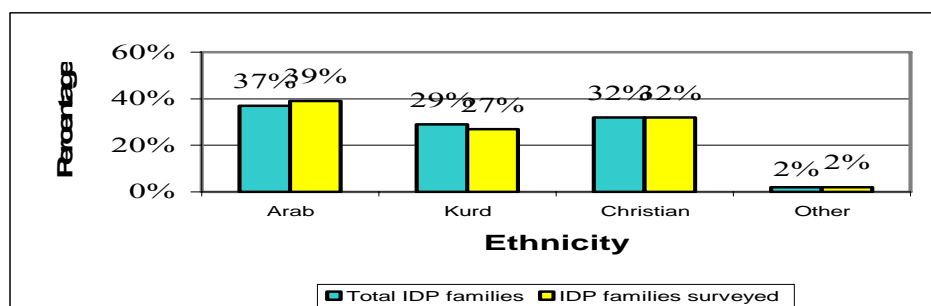
**Figure 10: Age breakdown<sup>22</sup>**

Age of members of IDP families surveyed by district								
	Shaqlawa		Makhmur		Erbil Centre		Erbil Governorate	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Pop 0-4	11	11	8	25	575	13	594	13
Pop 5-17	30	29	1	3	1,146	26	1,177	26
Pop 18-59	55	53	19	59	2,495	56	2,569	56
Over 60	7	7	4	13	228	5	239	5
Total	103	100	32	100	4,444	100	4,579	100

<sup>22</sup> Sample size of 4,579 individuals.

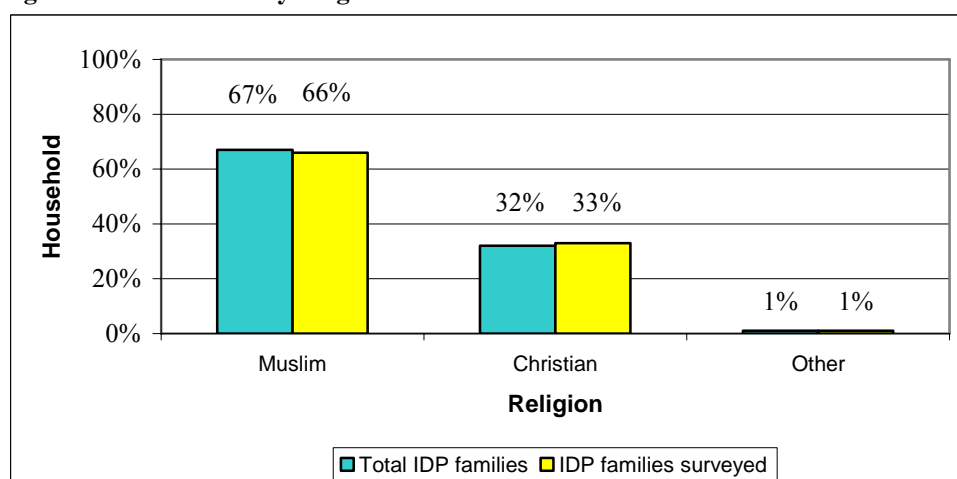
**Ethnicity:** The ethnic make-up of the IDP families surveyed is largely representative of the ethnic breakdown of IDPs across the Governorate of Erbil. Arabs, ethnic-based Christian groups and Kurds are the dominant three ethnic groups. The group “other” includes Turkmen and Armenian (Figure 11).

**Figure 11: Breakdown by ethnicity**<sup>23</sup>



**Religion:** The IDP group surveyed is largely representative of the religious breakdown of the IDPs across the Governorate of Erbil. The large majority of those displaced to Erbil Governorate in the surveyed group are Muslims.<sup>24</sup> Christians represent approximately one third of the surveyed group (Figure 12).

**Figure 12: Breakdown by religion**<sup>25</sup>



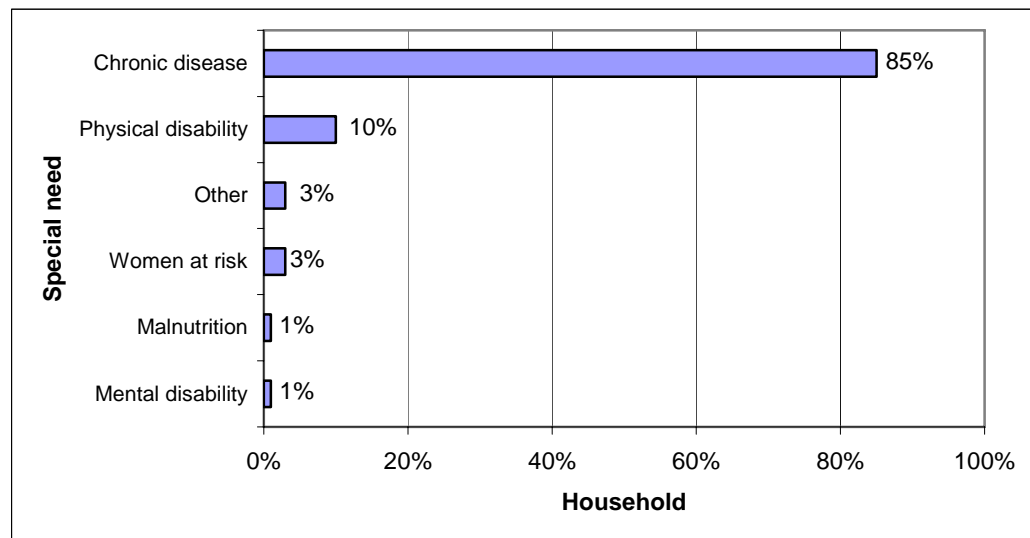
**Vulnerabilities:** A fifth of the IDP families surveyed reported having one or more family member with special needs, chronic diseases being the main cause of vulnerability (Figure 13).

<sup>23</sup> Sample size of 873 IDP households versus Directorate of Security and Housing IDP statistics on ethnicity from June 2007.

<sup>24</sup> Estimate based on the assumption that all Kurds and Arabs are Muslims.

<sup>25</sup> Sample size of 1,214 families.

**Figure 13: Special needs** <sup>26</sup>



Note: Multiple answers were possible.

## 5. IDP Protection

### a) Access to governorate

Persons not originating from one of the three Northern Governorates require a sponsor in order to be admitted to the Governorate of Erbil.<sup>27</sup> This may prove difficult for persons with no family or other links.<sup>28</sup> The sponsor must present him/herself at the entry checkpoint and provide personal details. IDPs must fill out a card at the entry checkpoint to enter the Governorate. IDPs without a sponsor are denied entry.

### b) Permission to remain in the governorate

Persons not originating from the three Northern Governorates must fulfil specific criteria and also require a sponsor in order to legalize their stay in the Governorate of Erbil.<sup>29</sup> Provided a person has a sponsor and has established a reason allowing him/her to remain, he/she will be issued a quasi-residency permit (*karta manaw*), valid for three months, after which an extension is required.<sup>30</sup> Persons without a sponsor will generally not be able to obtain a quasi-residency permit.<sup>31</sup> IDPs allowed to remain in Erbil Governorate must report to the Residency Section or the nearest security office if they wish to move, visit or return permanently to their place of origin.

<sup>26</sup> Sample size of 174 out of 873 families.

<sup>27</sup> The sponsor must be a government or private company employee. The sponsor must inform the KRG authorities that he/she knows the IDP and will be questioned in the event of a security-related incident.

<sup>28</sup> Christian and Kurdish IDPs often have previous links with the governorate (e.g. family or business relations). Some IDPs without previous links manage to find a sponsor based on their economic or professional profile.

<sup>29</sup> IDPs must report to the Residency Section in the Security Department together with their sponsor and establish either political links to the region or that s/he has fled violence or persecution. UNHCR is not aware of persons being removed from the governorate.

<sup>30</sup> In the case that no extension is granted, a person is required to leave the governorate.

<sup>31</sup> In rare cases, exceptions are made, but the person remains under security surveillance.

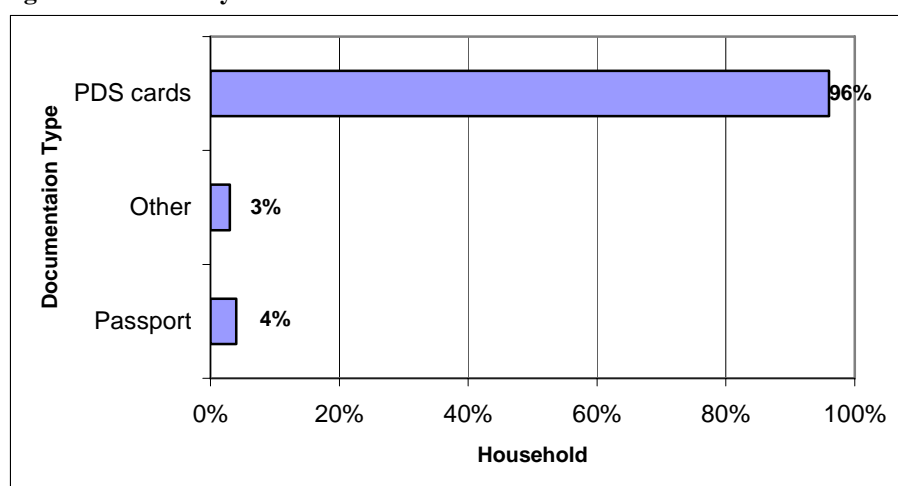
### **c) Freedom of movement and security**

IDP families with temporary residency in one KRG-administered governorate are free to move within the three Northern Governorates and are also free to leave. All women surveyed reported feeling safe.

### **d) Documentation**

Just over a quarter of the IDP families surveyed reported having difficulties in renewing documentation. Problems with the transferral of PDS cards from the governorate of origin to the Governorate of Erbil was most widely reported (Figure 14).<sup>32</sup>

**Figure 14: Difficulty to renew documentation<sup>33</sup>**



*Note: Multiple answers were possible.*

## **6. IDP Living Conditions and Access to Services**

### **a) Housing**

The majority of the IDP households surveyed live in rented housing and 7% own their own house (Figure 15). The type of shelter does not vary greatly among districts.<sup>34</sup>

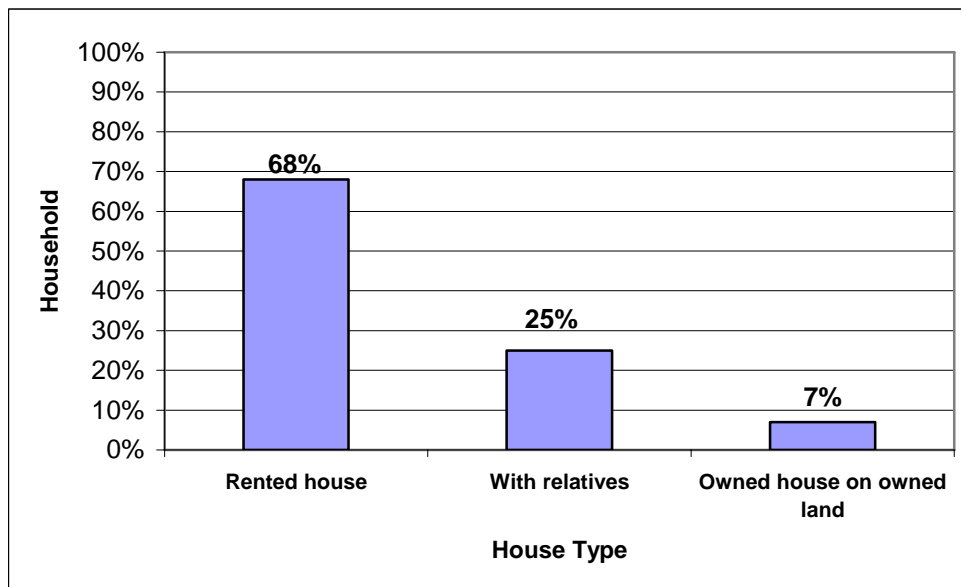
<sup>32</sup> Sample size of 321 of 1,214 families.

<sup>33</sup> Other documentation includes: National ID Card (1.25%) and Birth Certificate (0.31%).

<sup>34</sup> Only two families reported living in a public building (less than 1 %).



**Figure 15: Shelter type**<sup>35</sup>



84% of the families surveyed live in urban areas of Erbil Governorate.<sup>36</sup> Overcrowding is an issue for 52% of the families surveyed, with many living in either somewhat crowded or extremely crowded conditions.<sup>37</sup> Only two IDP households surveyed faced pressure to leave.

Rental accommodation<sup>38</sup> used by IDPs in Erbil Governorate is generally of a low standard and often dilapidated with poor or no ventilation, leaking roofs, missing window panes, no internal doors separating communal areas from bathrooms or kitchens and no or very poor kitchen and bathroom facilities. IDPs are reportedly paying between US \$200-300 a month for poor quality small housing and US \$400+ for minimum standard small housing. Many IDP families are unable to afford these high rents and some are living in one room of a house, sharing communal facilities with several other families. Some families are living in former storage rooms of mosques or shops (Figure 16).

<sup>35</sup> Sample size of 1,214 families.

<sup>36</sup> 84% of the families surveyed live in urban areas, 1% in semi-urban and 15% in rural areas.

<sup>37</sup> 52% of IDP the families surveyed reported living in crowded housing, 38% somewhat crowded (5+ person per room) and 14% extremely crowded (8+ persons per room).

<sup>38</sup> Any housing that an IDP family is paying rent for is recorded as rental housing.

**Figure 16: Examples of rented housing**



**One-room IDP shelter in Berkut Quarter of Erbil Governorate, home to a family of five.  
Rent: US \$100 per month.**



**One-room IDP shelter in Khabat sub-District of Erbil Governorate housing a family of eight.  
Rent: US \$70 per month.**

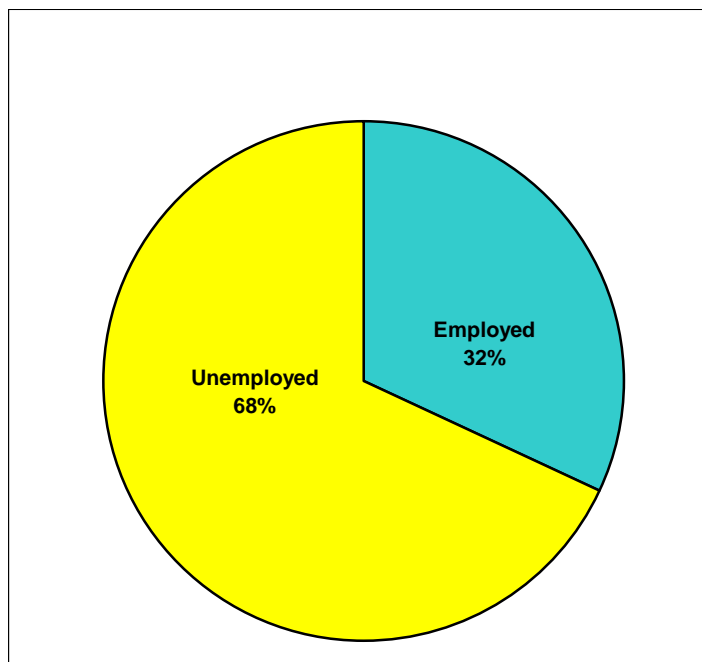


**A two-room IDP shelter in Baharka village of Erbil Governorate, home to a family of seven.  
Rent: US \$100 per month.**

## ***b) Employment***

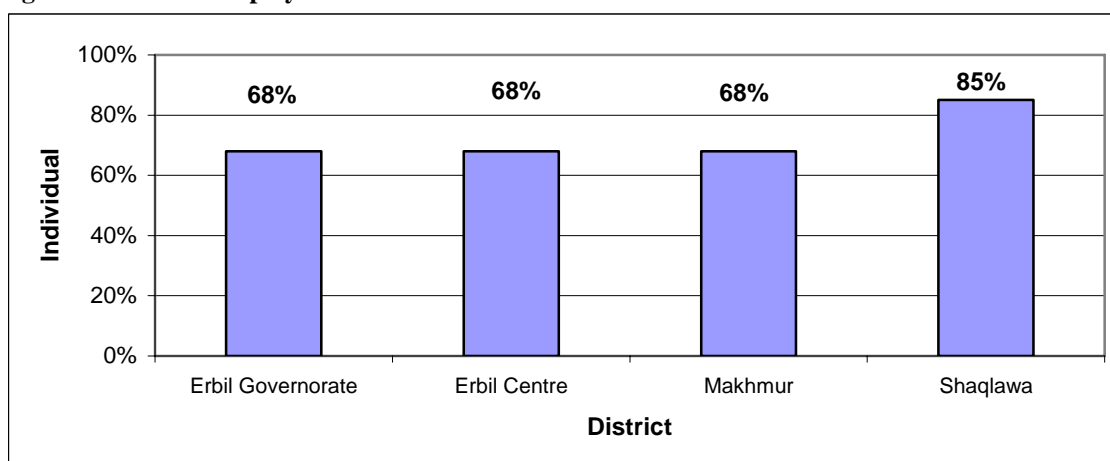
68% of the surveyed IDPs of working age have been unemployed since their displacement at the time of the survey (Figure 17).

**Figure 17: Employment**<sup>39</sup>



This percentage varied marginally across districts with the highest unemployment rate surveyed in Shaqlawa District, where 85% of the IDPs surveyed reported being unemployed (Figure 18).<sup>40</sup>

**Figure 18: IDPs unemployed**<sup>41</sup>



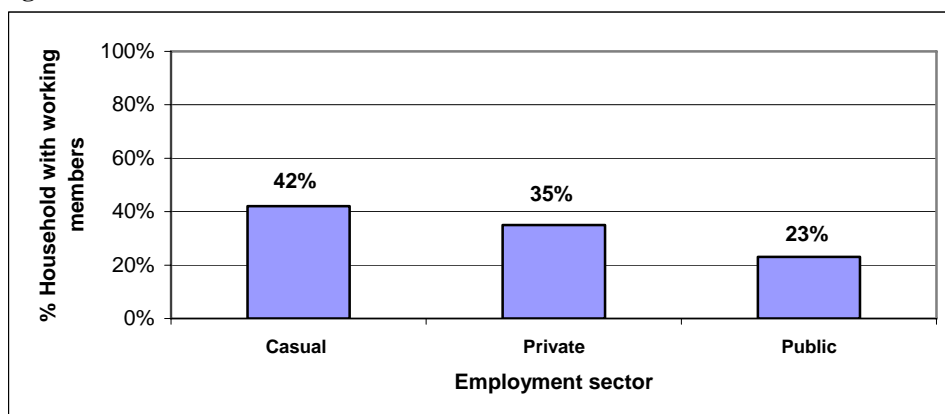
Of 811 individuals who reported having some kind of employment, the majority are working as casual labourers (Figure 19).

<sup>39</sup> Sample size of 2,569 individuals from 1,214 families.

<sup>40</sup> Shaqlawa is traditionally a tourist area with no major industry or other economic activity.

<sup>41</sup> Sample size of 1,214 families.

**Figure 19: Work sectors<sup>42</sup>**



**Source of income:** 29% of the families surveyed reported having no source of income. Of the 71% that did report having some income, 92% listed some form of employment as their main source of income, 5% remittances and 3% savings.

Christian families, particularly those with roots in the governorate, are often assisted financially either by the Church<sup>43</sup> or the office of Sarkis Agha Jan, the KRG's Minister of Finance.

In late 2007, the Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MoDM) launched a monthly stipend of 150,000 Iraqi Dinar (approximately US \$120) for each IDP family registering with MoDM. Despite the absence of MoDM in the Kurdistan Region, it is intended to be a national programme covering the three Northern Governorates as well. However, the programme has not yet been launched in Erbil Governorate. According to the KRG, the Central Government has not yet provided the funding; the Central Government, however, says that the KRG has not provided the data required to transfer the funds.<sup>44</sup>

### **c) Basic services**

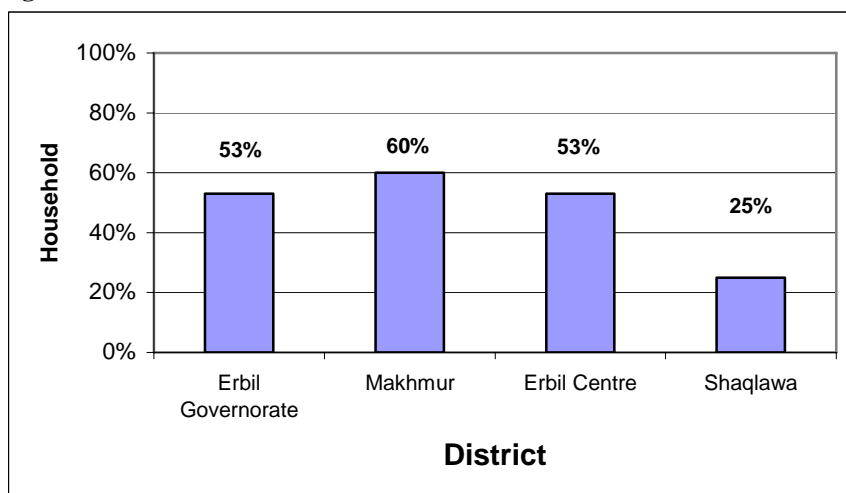
**Food:** 96% of the IDP families surveyed said that they relied solely on food rations through the Public Distribution System (PDS). However, only 53% of the IDP families surveyed are currently able to access their food rations in displacement. Access to the PDS varies slightly across districts (Figure 20).

<sup>42</sup> Sample size of 811 out of 1,214 families

<sup>43</sup> According to research done by the PAC, a family of 1-2 received 50,000 Iraqi Dinar (ID), a family of 3-4 gets 75,000 ID and a family of 5+ gets 100,000 ID per month from the Church. Families that own their own house are not eligible for this assistance.

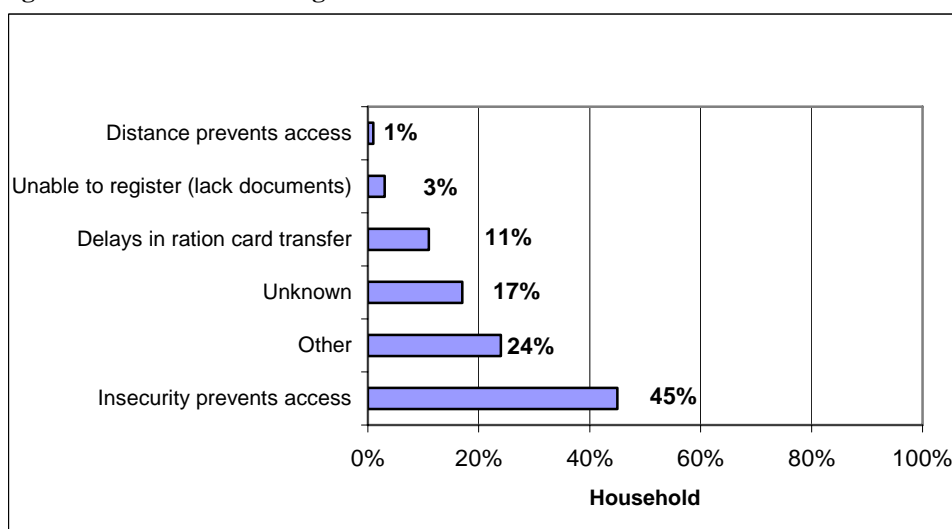
<sup>44</sup> Public discussions between MoDM and KRG officials at the 2007 UNHCR Participatory Planning Meeting for 2008. The PAC confirmed that no payments have been made as of March 2008 and continues monitoring the situation.

**Figure 20: Access to PDS<sup>45</sup>**



47% of the households surveyed did not have access to their food rations. The majority listed inability to transfer their PDS registration to their current location and insecurity in their place of origin as the main barrier to access (Figure 21).

**Figure 21: Reasons for being unable to access PDS<sup>46</sup>**



IDPs are generally allowed to apply for a temporary PDS transfer to Erbil Governorate.<sup>47</sup> However, persons from disputed areas are not entitled to do so. According to the Governor of Erbil, 1,800 IDP families (approximately 9,000 individuals) successfully managed to temporarily transfer their food ration cards to Erbil and received their food rations in 2007 and until March 2008.<sup>48</sup> Between 1 May 2007 and 31 March 2008, the PAC in Erbil recorded 409

<sup>45</sup> Sample size of 1,214 families.

<sup>46</sup> Sample size of 573 families.

<sup>47</sup> Local authorities are unwilling to allow for the permanent transfer of PDS registrations given its potential political and demographic implications with the PDS records being the basis for voter registration. To apply for a temporary transfer, the IDP must present the following: valid PDS card for previous location; civil ID cards of all the family members listed on the PDS card; temporary quasi-residency card; and support letters from the local mayor (*mukhtar*), Residency Office and Security Directorate.

<sup>48</sup> Erbil Governors Office, April 2008.

cases related to the PDS, mostly requests for assistance to temporarily transfer IDPs' food ration cards.<sup>49</sup>

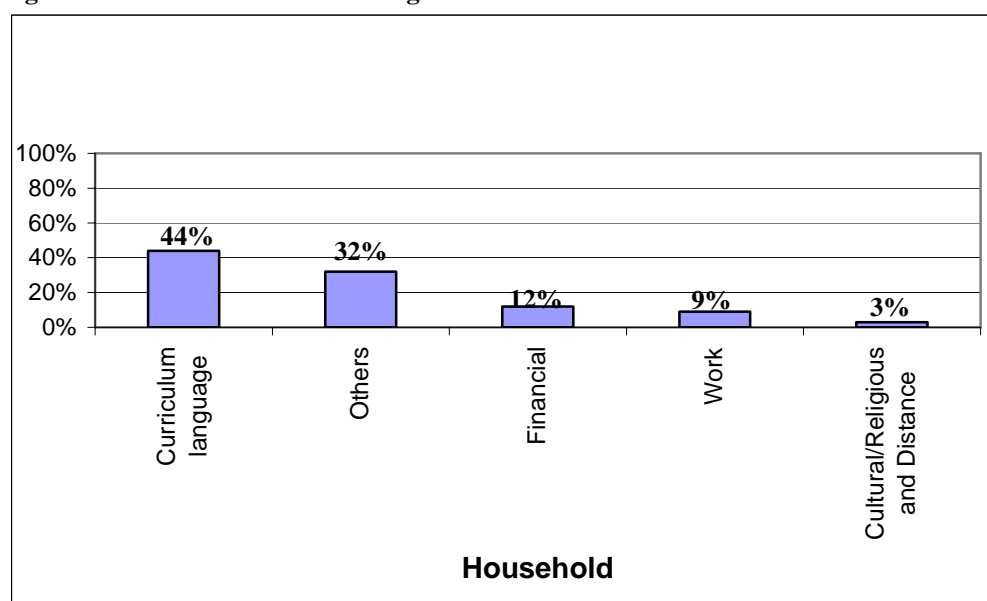
The World Food Programme (WFP) rolled out a food subsidy programme for IDPs across Iraq in March 2008. The programme will provide a food package (equal to 50% of the daily energy requirement of 2,100 kcal) to up to 750,000 IDPs throughout Iraq, provided they meet the following criteria: they are displaced outside their governorate of origin; they have not transferred their food ration card; and they hold a food ration card from their place of origin.

**Health:** All IDP families surveyed reported access to primary healthcare services and basic pharmaceuticals and 99% of the children have up to date vaccination records. 25% of the families received visits from a health worker (most visits pertained to vaccinations).

**Education:** Literacy rates were high amongst the surveyed group. Only 1% of the IDP families surveyed with children under the age of 15 had a child which is illiterate.

25% of the IDP families surveyed have school-age children not attending school.<sup>50</sup> The majority of families (44%) listed curriculum language as the main reason for non-attendance (Figure 22). There are eight Arabic language schools in Erbil Governorate<sup>51</sup> with 6,801 IDP children currently enrolled.<sup>52</sup>

**Figure 22: Reasons for not attending school<sup>53</sup>**



**Water and sanitation:** All IDP families surveyed reported having access to potable water, which they receive from municipal underground pipes in sufficient quantities for cooking, cleaning and washing. All IDP families surveyed reported having access to toilets. However, 50% share the toilets with other families.

<sup>49</sup> 352 cases involved post-February 2006 IDPs and the majority of the other 57 cases involved post-2003 IDPs.

<sup>50</sup> Of 826 households surveyed with children aged 5-17.

<sup>51</sup> Six Arabic language schools in Erbil City (two primary, two intermediate and two secondary) and two primary schools in Ankawa, a sub-District close to Erbil City.

<sup>52</sup> Information provided by the Ministry of Education in September 2007. The figure will be updated at the beginning of the next school year in September 2008.

<sup>53</sup> Sample size of 117 families with children not attending school out of 472 families with children.

**Electricity and fuel:** Over 99% of IDP families have access to four or more hours of electricity per day. 94% reported being able to afford kerosene and 37% are able to afford benzene.

#### ***d) Humanitarian assistance***

Only 22% of the surveyed families received some assistance, including food (15%) and other assistance (85%). According to the survey, the Church delivered 78% of the assistance received by respondents (food and other assistance), while the Iraqi Red Crescent Society (IRCS), the KRG, relatives and other religious groups made up the remaining 23% of assistance.<sup>54</sup> Only 23% of the female heads of households received assistance.

UNHCR, directly and through its implementing partners, provided the following assistance to post-February 2006 IDPs and host communities:

**Protection and Legal Advice:** The UNHCR-funded PAC in Erbil assisted 740 post-February 2006 IDPs in 2007 and until March 2008.<sup>55</sup> The top three cases included: PDS (352), “Other” (mainly NFIs, 145) and housing (140).

**Distribution of Non-Food Items (NFIs) and shelter materials:** around 4,059 post-February 2006 IDP families in Erbil Governorate received NFIs between January 2007 and March 2008, including 1,900 families in Khabat; 1,000 families in Ankawa; and 59 families in Sidakan. In addition, in December 2006/January 2007, UNHCR provided 1,800 NFIs to the local authorities to allow them to directly assist IDPs.

**Community-based and IDP Camp projects:** Two water projects in Khabat sub-District, benefiting 650 IDP and host families in 2007.

## **7. Priority Needs and Suggested Interventions**

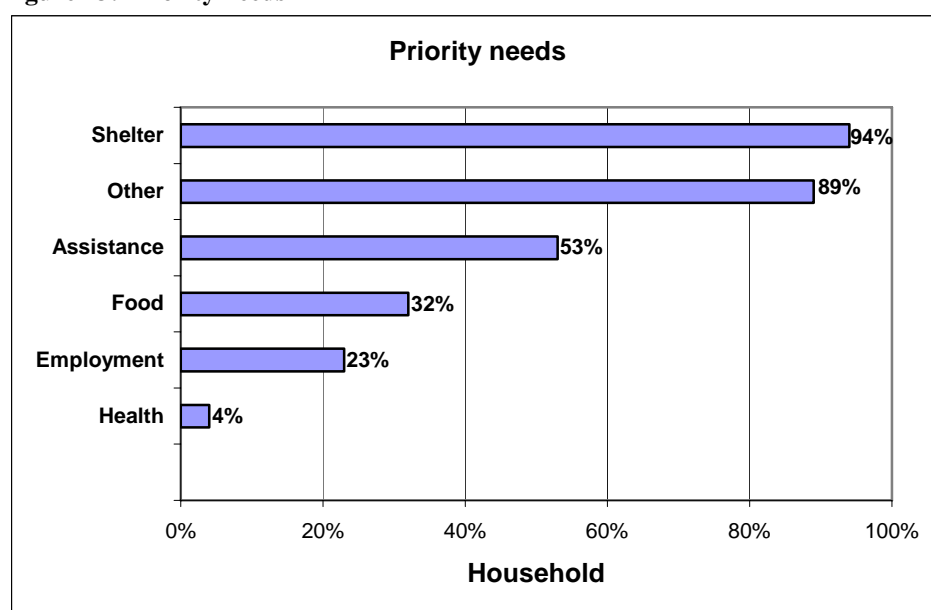
Shelter was overwhelmingly identified as a priority need across all sub-districts (Figure 23).

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<sup>54</sup> Out of 266 families that received assistance once or more than once.

<sup>55</sup> The total number of clients assisted from 2007 until March 2008 is 1,629.

**Figure 23: Priority needs<sup>56</sup>**



*Note: Multiple answers were possible.*

**Interventions are urgently needed in the areas of shelter, food, education and access to employment for vulnerable IDP families in Erbil Governorate:**

**Shelter:** While most IDPs appear to be renting houses, resources are limited. Assistance programmes should also target the upgrading of sub-standard shelters, taking into account ownership rights. Since poor quality accommodation is often rented out for very high prices, the local authorities should be encouraged to regulate rent prices by introducing standard rent ceilings for some categories of accommodation.

**Food:** Recognizing that some agencies operating in the three Northern Governorates are providing limited food provisions for some families, namely WFP and IRCS, a two-pronged approach is recommended for the large number of families who do not have access to the PDS. Firstly, continue to lobby the authorities to issue temporary food ration cards for all IDPs and, secondly, prioritize vulnerable IDP families.

WFP's food subsidy programme for IDPs that started in March 2008 across Iraq should help alleviate the situation of some vulnerable IDPs.

**Income:** Interventions should target vulnerable families through income-generating projects. To support vulnerable IDPs, an assessment of the viability of vocational training for IDPs should be undertaken. Also, language lessons should be offered for adult IDPs, for whom the lack of Kurdish language skills is the main barrier to employment. In addition, the required steps should be taken for the KRG to issue the national government stipends in its area of responsibility.

**Education:** The local authorities in Erbil should be supported to provide access for children to primary and secondary schooling in Arabic language. Additional support to vulnerable IDP families covering transportation, school uniform and book costs should also be considered.

<sup>56</sup> Sample size of 1,214 families.



## ANNEX: Data Sheet

### Household Survey Summary

Governorate: Erbil

Duration of data: 20/05/07 - 02/04/08

Sample size; 1,214 households

*Some questions were omitted because they pertain to returnees only or do not draw data.*

No	Question	Result	%	Comments
1-16	Distinguish between IDP and Returnees and record interviewer details	N/A	N/A	N/A
Basic Profile				
Head of household and age and gender breakdown				
17	Head of Household			Out of 1,214 IDP households surveyed
	HOH is Male	1,032	85.01%	
	HOH is Female	182	14.99%	
18	Household Profile			Out of 1,214 IDP households surveyed
	Average family size	4.0		
a	Males	2,251	49.16%	
b	Females	2,328	50.84%	
c	Age under 1	170	3.71%	
d	Age 1-4	424	9.26%	
e	Age 5-17	1,177	25.70%	
f	Age 18-59	2,569	56.10%	
g	Age 60 and above	239	5.22%	
Ethnicity and religion				
19-	To which ethnic group does the family belong to			Out of 1,214 IDP households surveyed
a	Arab	474	39.04%	
b	Kurd	306	25.21%	
c	Feili Kurd / Iranian Kurd	22	1.81%	
d	Turkmen	5	0.41%	
e	Other (specify)	3	0.25%	
f	Assyrian	115	9.47%	
g	Chaldean	270	22.24%	
h	Armenian	19	1.57%	
21-	What is the family religion			Out of 1,214 IDP households surveyed
a	Islam - Shi'ite	80	6.59%	
b	Islam - Sunni	714	58.81%	
c	Other Islam (not Shi'ite or Sunni)	1	0.08%	
d	Other (specify)	12	0.99%	
e	Christian	402	33.11%	
g	Sabaeen-Mandaeen	5	0.41%	

<b>Most recently displaced from Governorate/District</b>				
<b>28</b>	<b>Most recently displaced from Gov</b>			Out of 1,214 IDP households surveyed
	Baghdad	833	68.62%	
	Ninewa	319	26.28%	
	Diyala	39	3.21%	
	Kirkuk	15	1.24%	
	Salah Al-Din	7	0.58%	
	Basrah	1	0.08%	
	<b>Most recently displaced from District</b>			Out of 1,214 IDP households surveyed
	Baghdad – Abu Ghraib	5	0.41%	
	Baghdad – Al Resafa	504	41.52%	
	Baghdad – Karkh	323	26.61%	
	Baghdad – Mada'in	1	0.08%	
	Basrah – Al-Zubair	1	0.08%	
	Diyala – Al-Khalis	3	0.25%	
	Diyala – Baladrooz	5	0.41%	
	Diyala – Ba'quba	29	2.39%	
	Diyala – Khanaqin	2	0.16%	
	Kirkuk – Daquq	1	0.08%	
	Kirkuk – Kirkuk	14	1.15%	
	Ninewa – Mosul	319	26.28%	
	Salah Al-Din – Baiji	1	0.08%	
	Salah Al-Din – Tikrit	6	0.49%	
<b>Number of displacements and reasons for leaving village/town</b>				
<b>29-</b>	<b>How many times has the household been displaced inside Iraq</b>			Out of 1,214 IDP households surveyed
	1	1,144	94.23%	
	2	66	5.44%	
	3	4	0.33%	
<b>30-</b>	<b>Reasons for leaving village/town</b>			Out of 1,214 IDP households surveyed. The values may not add up to 100% because households may list up to three reasons for leaving
a	March 2003 events	41	3.38%	
r	Post-Samarra events	1,173	96.62%	
<b>Cause of flight and reasons for moving to other locations</b>				
<b>31</b>	<b>Why did the family flee</b>			Out of 1214 IDP households surveyed. The values may not add up to 100% because households may list up to three reasons for moving to other locations
a	Direct threats to life	447	36.82%	
b	Specific sectarian threats	26	2.14%	
c	Left out of fear	934	76.94%	
d	Generalized violence	883	72.73%	
e	Armed conflict	136	11.20%	
f	Forced displacement from property	16	1.32%	
g	Discrimination	385	31.71%	
h	Other	72	5.93%	
<b>32</b>	<b>Why was the family targeted</b>			Out of 999 IDP households surveyed targeted
a	Belonging to a certain ethnic group	351	35.14%	
b	Belonging to a certain religion or sect	594	59.46%	
c	Holding a certain political opinion	5	0.50%	
d	Belonging to a certain social group	49	4.90%	
e	Do not think the family was targeted	215	17.71%	
				Out of 1,214 IDP households surveyed

33	Reasons for moving to current location			Out of 1,214 IDP households surveyed. The values may not add up to 100% because households may list up to three reasons for moving to current location
a	Improved security	1,024	84.35%	
b	Change of political situation	630	51.89%	
d	Property claim	1	0.08%	
e	Harassed in displacement	13	1.07%	
f	Relatives living there	850	70.02%	
i	Political support	44	3.62%	
k	Other	3	0.25%	
m	Tribal links	6	0.49%	
n	Financial incentives	22	1.81%	
Intentions				
34	What are the main intentions			Out of 1,214 IDP households surveyed
a	Return to their place of origin	134	11.04%	
b	Locally integrate in the current location	974	80.23%	
c	Resettle in a third location	27	2.22%	
d	Waiting on one or several factors	79	6.51%	
35	When does the family plan to return			Out of 1,214 IDP households surveyed
a	In less than 6 months	41	3.38%	
b	In 6 to 12 months	82	6.75%	
c	In more than 12 months	929	76.52%	
d	Whenever the security situation improves	162	13.34%	
Shelter				
36	Type of shelter			Out of 1,214 IDP households surveyed
a	Owned house on owned land	83	6.84%	
b	Rented house	823	67.79%	
c	With relatives	305	25.12%	
d	Public building	2	0.16%	
f	House on land not owned	1	0.08%	
37	House crowding			Out of 1,214 IDP households surveyed
a	Not overcrowded	586	48.27%	
b	Somewhat overcrowded	462	38.06%	
c	Extremely overcrowded	166	13.67%	
38	House location			Out of 1,214 IDP households surveyed
a	Rural	187	15.40%	
b	Urban	1,016	83.69%	
d	Semi-rural	11	0.91%	
Pressure to leave				
39	Pressure to leave			Out of 2 IDP households surveyed faced pressure to leave
b	Pressure from relatives	1	50.00%	
f	Other threat or pressure	1	50.00%	
a	No pressure to leave or threat of eviction	1,212	99.84%	Out of 1,214 IDP households surveyed

Property owned before being displaced				
40	Property owned before being displaced			Out of 493 IDP households surveyed owned property before displacement
a	House	481	97.57%	
b	Apartment or room	8	1.62%	
c	Land for housing	0	0.00%	
d	Land for agriculture	2	0.41%	
e	Shop/small business	20	4.06%	
f	Other	4	0.81%	
Now able to access property				
41	Now able to access property?			Out of 493 IDP households surveyed property owned before displacement
a	Yes, property accessible	132	26.77%	
f	Do not know	263	53.35%	
	If no why?			
b	Property destroyed or damaged so as to be unusable	21	21.43%	Out of 98 IDP households surveyed having property not able to access
c	Property occupied, controlled or claimed by private citizens	67	68.37%	
d	Property occupied, controlled or claimed by the government	3	3.06%	
e	Property currently in military use	1	1.02%	
g	Property occupied by militia groups	4	4.08%	
h	Property sold or exchanged	2	2.04%	
42-A	Did your family loose property between 17 July 1968 and 9 April 2003, if so, how?			Out of 3 IDP households surveyed who lost property between 17 July 1968 and 9 April 2003
	Other	2	66.67%	
	Threats by others	1	33.33%	
42-B	Property lost between 9 April 2003 and 2 February 2006			Out of 7 IDP households surveyed who lost property between 9 April 2003 and 22 February 2006
	Threats by others	6	85.71%	
	Other	1	14.29%	
42-C	Property lost after 22 February 2006			Out of 102 IDP households surveyed who lost property after 22 February 2006
	Threats by others	79	77.45%	
	Other	23	22.55%	
Water				
49	Family normally drinks clean water	1,214	100.00%	Out of 1,214 IDP households surveyed
50	If no access, why not?			
51	Main water sources (multiple choice)			Out of 1,214 IDP households surveyed
a	Municipal water (underground pipes)	1,214	100.00%	
d	Tanker/truck vendor	323	26.61%	
h	Other	221	18.20%	
52	Other water questions			
a	Enough water for drinking & cooking	1,210	99.67%	Out of 1,214 IDP households surveyed
b	Enough water for hygiene	1,210	99.75%	

<b>53</b>	<b>Access to sewerage system</b>	1,214	100.00%	Out of 1,214 IDP households surveyed
<b>54</b>	<b>What type is it?</b>			Out of 1,214 IDP households surveyed having access to sewerage system
a	Modern (underground pipes)	685	56.43%	
b	Traditional (runs through the streets)	529	43.57%	
<b>55</b>	<b>Access to toilets</b>	1,213	99.92%	Out of 1,214 IDP households surveyed
<b>56</b>	<b>Toilets shared with other families</b>	612	50.41%	Out of 1,214 IDP households surveyed
<b>Food</b>				
<b>57</b>	<b>Receives PDS rations</b>	641	52.80%	Out of 1,214 IDP households surveyed
<b>58</b>	<b>If not receiving PDS rations, why</b>			Out of 573 IDP households surveyed not receiving PDS rations
a	Delay transferring PDS registration to new location	64	11.17%	
b	Unable to register for PDS because of lacking documentation or PDS card	16	2.79%	
d	Inability to access food distribution point due to insecurity	257	44.85%	
e	Inability to access food distribution point due to distance	5	0.87%	
g	Do not know why	95	16.58%	
h	Other	136	23.73%	
<b>59</b>	<b>Do you receive food from other sources on a regular basis?</b>	18	1.48%	Out of 1,214 IDP households surveyed
<b>60</b>	<b>Do you rely solely on the PDS?</b>	1169	96.29%	Out of 1,214 IDP households surveyed
<b>Health care</b>				
<b>61</b>	<b>Access to PHC in village</b>	1,214	100.00%	Out of 1,214 IDP households surveyed
<b>62</b>	<b>Access to drugs mostly needed</b>	1,210	99.67%	Out of 1,214 IDP households surveyed
<b>63</b>	<b>Reason for no access to health</b>			
<b>64</b>	<b>Children have vaccination records</b>	420	99.06%	Out of 424 IDP households surveyed with children under 5
<b>66</b>	<b>Purpose of visit by health worker</b>			Out of 1,214 IDP households surveyed
a	Has not been visited	909	74.88%	
b	Medical examination	3	0.98%	Out of 305 IDP households surveyed visited by health workers
d	Vaccinations	280	91.80%	
f	Other services	22	7.21%	
<b>67</b>	<b>Family's main health problems</b>			
a	Dysentery	0	0.00%	Out of 219 IDP households surveyed who indicated having a health problem
b	Child health	24	10.96%	
c	Maternal health	4	1.83%	
d	Malnutrition	2	0.91%	
e	Chronic diseases	179	81.74%	
f	No health problems	995	81.96%	Out of 1,214 IDP households surveyed

<b>Education</b>				
<b>68</b>	<b>Access to education in village</b>	477	93.53%	Out of 510 IDP households surveyed having children/adolescent of school or university age.
<b>70</b>	<b>Students attending school</b>	921	79.26%	Out of 1,177 of school age
<b>70a-1</b>	<b>Primary students – Male</b>	251	52.84%	Out of 475 primary students
<b>70a-2</b>	<b>Primary students – Female</b>	224	47.16%	
<b>70b-1</b>	<b>Intermediate – Male</b>	89	46.35%	Out of 192 intermediate students
<b>70b-2</b>	<b>Intermediate – Female</b>	103	53.65%	
<b>70c-1</b>	<b>Secondary – Male</b>	74	46.54%	Out of 159 secondary students
<b>70c-1</b>	<b>Secondary – Female</b>	85	53.46%	
<b>70d-1</b>	<b>Higher – Male</b>	38	40.00%	Out of 95 higher students
<b>70d-2</b>	<b>Higher – Female</b>	57	60.00%	
<b>70e-1</b>	<b>Total Male</b>	452	49.08%	Out of 921 students
<b>70e-1</b>	<b>Total Female</b>	469	50.92%	
	<b>Percent of children in primary and secondary school</b>	826	70.18%	
71	Families with children >6 not attending	117	24.79%	Out of 472 IDP households surveyed with children age 5-17
a-1	Primary – Male	143	59.34%	Out of 241 6-18 years old students
a-2	Primary – Female	98	40.66%	
<b>72</b>	<b>Reasons for not attending</b>			Out of 117 IDP households surveyed having children not attending school.
a	Work	10	8.55%	
b	Curriculum language	51	43.59%	
c	Distance	2	1.71%	
d	Financial	14	11.97%	
f	Cultural / religious	2	1.71%	
g	Other	38	32.48%	
<b>74</b>	<b>Children enrolled at correct grade level</b>	379	79.45%	Out of 477 IDP households surveyed having children attending school
<b>75</b>	<b>Illiterate children under 15</b>	8	0.72%	Out of 472 households surveyed with children 5-17
<b>76</b>	<b>Children not speaking school language</b>	120	10.76%	Out of 472 households surveyed with children 5-17
<b>Access to services</b>				
<b>80</b>	<b>Access to electricity</b>			Out of 1,214 IDP households surveyed
a	No electricity	7	0.58%	
				Out of 1,207 IDP households surveyed having access to electricity
c	4 or more hours per day	1,207	100.00%	
<b>81</b>	<b>Access to Fuel</b>			
a	No access to fuel	1	0.08%	Out of 1,214 IDP households surveyed

b	Benzene	450	37.10%	Out of 1,213 IDP households surveyed having access to fuel
c	Diesel	3	0.25%	
d	Propane	713	58.78%	
e	Kerosene	1,141	94.06%	
f	Other	178	14.67%	
Documentation				
82	Problems getting documents	321	26.44%	Out of 1,214 IDP households surveyed
				Out of 321 IDP households surveyed having problem in getting documents
a	National ID new	4	1.25%	
b	Passport	14	4.36%	
c	Birth certificate	1	0.31%	
d	PDS Card	307	95.64%	
e	Other	6	1.87%	
Security situation				
85	Family members feel safe	1,214	100.00%	Out of 1,214 IDP households surveyed
87	After 2003, how many people in family have been			
a	Detained	3		Out of 1,214 IDP households surveyed
b	Kidnapped	35		
c	Killed by Militants	7		
d	Killed by Another citizen	7		
88	Number still not accounted for	72		Out of 1,214 IDP households surveyed
Gender				
90	Women/girls feel safe outside the house	1,184	100.00%	Out of 1,184 IDP households surveyed having a woman in the family
91	Women approach whom for help			Out of 1,184 IDP households surveyed having a woman in the family
a	Family	1,181	99.75%	
b	Tribal leaders	2	0.17%	
e	Women's organizations	1	0.08%	
92	Women's ability to move outside of home since 2003			Out of 1,184 IDP households surveyed having a woman in the family
b	Less able	129	10.90%	
a	More able	1,055	89.10%	
Special needs				
98	Families with special needs			Out of 220 IDP households surveyed having one need or more. The total may not adding 100% as some households may list more than one need.
1	Mentally disabled	3	1.36%	
2	Physically disabled	22	10.00%	
3	Malnutrition	2	0.91%	
4	Serious medical condition	2	0.91%	
9	Woman at risk	6	2.73%	
13	Old age in need of support	1	0.45%	
17	Chronic diseases	187	85.00%	
18	Other	6	2.73%	
19	One or more need	220	18.12%	Out of 1,214 IDP households surveyed
Income and commodities				
99	Main source of income			Out of 857 IDP households surveyed having a source of income
a	Full time employment	261	30.46%	
b	Casual / irregular employment	193	22.52%	
c	Self-employment	336	39.21%	
e	Remittances	38	4.43%	
f	Savings / benefits	29	3.38%	
				Out of 1,214 IDP households surveyed

d	No employment (no income)	357	29.41%	
100	Family members of working age who are			
a	Of working age	2,569		
b	Working	811	31.53%	Out of 2,569 individuals of working age
c	Working and paid (casual labour)	339	41.80%	Out of 811 IDP households surveyed having a family member working
d	Working in private sector	286	35.27%	
e	Working in public sector	186	22.93%	
102	Items brought with family			
a	Livestock	3	0.25%	Out of 1,214 IDP households surveyed
b	Agricultural tools	0	0.00%	
c	Shelter material	0	0.00%	
d	Car / transportation	78	6.43%	
e	Winter clothing	1,206	99.34%	
f	Other	244	20.10%	
Assistance				
103	Received assistance	266	21.91%	Out of 1,214 IDP households surveyed
104	Type of assistance received			Out of 266 IDP households surveyed
f	Other	227	85.34%	
g	Food	40	15.04%	
	Number of FHH received assistance	41	22.53%	Out of 182 IDP households surveyed
Priority needs				
105	Top priorities			Out of 1,214 IDP households surveyed. The values do not add up to 100% because households listed up to three priorities for assistance
a	Electricity	3	0.25%	
b	Health	48	3.95%	
c	Job	285	23.48%	
d	More money	14	1.15%	
e	Public services	8	0.66%	
g	Shelter	1,145	94.32%	
l	Documentation	4	0.33%	
m	Education	3	0.25%	
n	Agriculture	1	0.08%	
q	Assistance	645	53.13%	
u	Food	393	32.37%	
z	Other	1,075	88.55%	