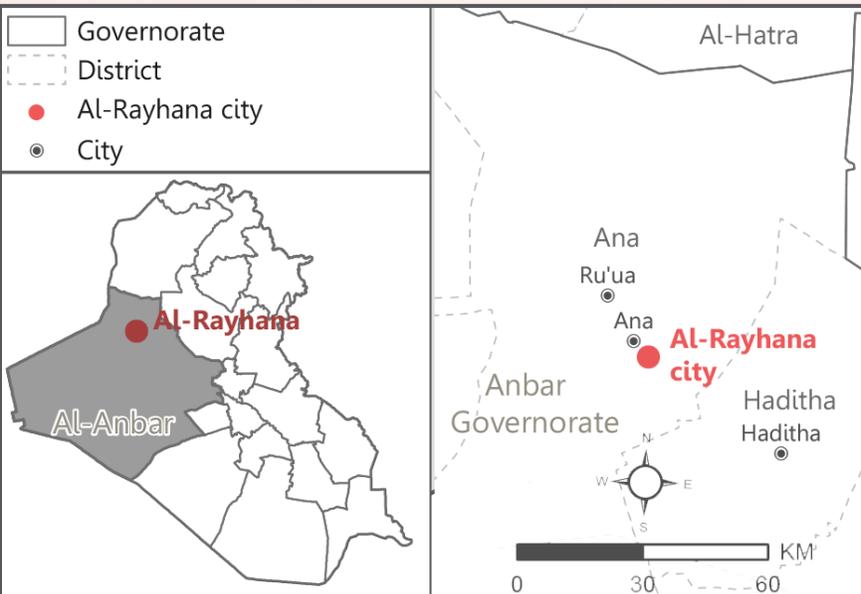# Returns and Durable Solutions (ReDS) Assessment

**Al-Rayhana Sub-district
Ana District, Anbar Governorate, Iraq
Preliminary Findings Presentation**

08/2022

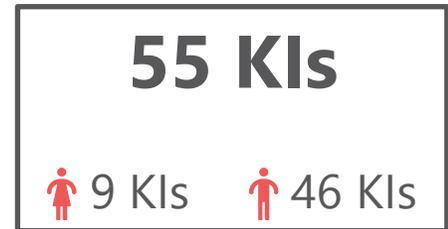**Cover photo: Heet City** ©Abdulrahman Al-Rawi **/2019**
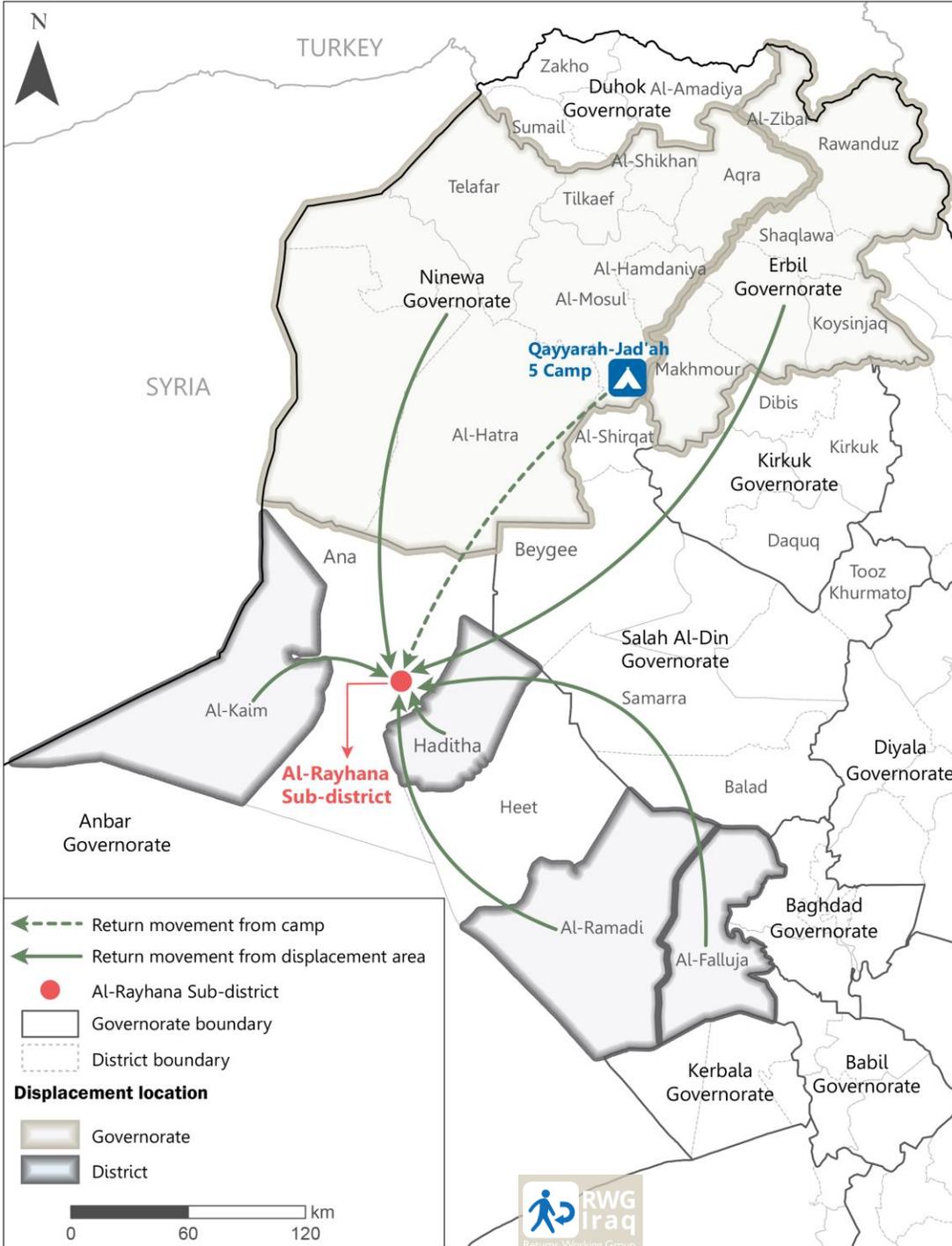
Assessment Methodology

- ➤ **Multi-sectoral** assessment tool, which combined **qualitative and quantitative** data.

- ➤ Data collection was done **remotely by phone** between 23 and 29 August 2022.

- ➤ Methodology based on **key informant interviews** (KIIs).

- ➤ **Purposive sampling** methods were employed to identify KIs. Findings should therefore be considered as **indicative**.

𝕏 KI profiles in Al-Rayhana Sub-district

Subject matter experts (SMEs)	**13 KIs**
Returnees (returned less than 3 months)	**10 KIs**
Returnees (returned more than 3 months)	**8 KIs**
Community leaders	**8 KIs**
IDPs from Al-Rayhana	**8 KIs**
IDPs in Al-Rayhana	**8 KIs**

55 KIs

9 KIs   46 KIs

Recent Returns[1]

Recent returns from non-camp areas

4-5 **households** were reported by KIs to have returned from non-camp areas in Al-Falluja, Haditha, Al-Kaim, and Al-Ramadi sub-districts, and Ninewa and Erbil Governorates.

Recent returns from camps

3-5 **households** were reported by one KIs to have returned **from Qayyarah Jad'ah 5 camp.**

Reported reasons for recent returns

Recent returns from camps and non-camp areas were reportedly enabled due to the **nostalgia** for their previous life in their areas of origin (AoOs), the **return of other family members**, and perceived **availability of jobs in the sub-district**.

1 'Recent returns' refers to return movements that took place within the six months prior to data collection

Return Barriers and Family Separation

Barriers to return

The most frequently reported barriers:

Lack of housing and access to housing rehabilitation

- Damage/destroyed homes in AoOs,
- Lack of documentation proving house ownership, and
- House rented to others in AoOs.

Security concerns

- Denied security clearance,
- Perceived ISIL affiliation in AoOs, and
- Security concern in AoOs.

Missing documentation

ID card, passport, birth certificate, and civil status certificate.[2]

2 Personal documentation is needed to process the security clearance of returning households.

Family separation

Two KIs reported that some households had **adult males who remained in displacement** at the time of data collection.

Reportedly, family separation cases were driven by the **lack of jobs in AoOs in Al-Rayhana,** while these were available in the areas where the household members were displaced.

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Access to Durable Solutions Assistance[3]

Activity and/or project implementation

Reportedly, **there were activities and/or projects** implemented by **humanitarian/development actors, security actors,** and **local authorities** in the area.

The most reported activities and/or projects implemented in Al-Rayhana were:

- Infrastructure rehabilitation,
- Livelihoods,
- Social cohesion, and
- Sanitation.

Assistance as a factor to encourage returns

Reportedly, access to durable solutions assistance **was a factor encouraging returns**.

The most reported humanitarian activities needed were: access to

- Livelihoods,
- Housing rehabilitation,
- Healthcare, and
- Water.

3 Durable solutions assistance includes humanitarian, stabilization, development, and peacebuilding assistance under its umbrella.

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Access to Housing and Type of Tenure

Reportedly, **the majority of the households** in the sub-district resided in **owned houses** and had housing, land, and property **(HLP) documents proving ownership**.

IDP KIs in Al-Rayhana reported that households had **verbal rental agreements due to not owning houses there**.

Families with alleged links to ISIL were commonly reported as being at **higher risk of eviction** compared to other vulnerable groups.[4]

Reported Proportion of Damaged Housing
(at the time of data collection)

50%-60%

4 For this assessment, vulnerable groups included female heads of household, older persons, people with disabilities, unaccompanied/separated children (UASC) and minor heads of households. Other groups mentioned in the report were reported by KIs under 'other vulnerable groups' option.

Access to Housing Rehabilitation

Challenges

All KIs reported that the majority of households faced **challenges in accessing housing rehabilitation**.

The most reported challenges included:

- Affected **households having limited access to financial resources** for housing rehabilitation,

- **Lack of government compensation** for housing rehabilitation, and

- **Lack of housing reconstruction projects**.

Frequent KI recommendations included:

- Implementation of **housing rehabilitation projects** and

- Facilitating **access to government compensation transactions.**

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Access to Basic Public Service

Challenges

All KIs reported that the majority of the households faced challenges in accessing public services. The most reported basic public service that households had challenges in accessing was **healthcare**, followed by water, education, and electricity.

Findings suggested that **returnees had less access to public services,** followed by IDPs in the community.

Among the vulnerable population,[5] **older persons were reportedly less likely to access basic public services**, followed by persons with disability and female-headed household members.

5 For this assessment, vulnerable groups included female heads of household, older persons, people with disabilities, unaccompanied/separated children (UASC) and minor heads of households. Other groups mentioned in the report were reported by KIs under 'other vulnerable groups' option.

Access to Healthcare

Challenges

The most commonly reported challenges to access public healthcare included:

- **Conditions at operational public healthcare centers (PHCs)** in Al-Rayhana, including shortage of medical personnel and medical equipment,

- **Shortage of hospitals** providing medical services in the sub-district, and

- **Neglect by the local government** of the healthcare sector.

It was reported **that households would travel to Markaz Ana Sub-district (about 88 km) for medical treatment and access to medicine**. In addition, households reportedly resorted to private clinics for medical attention, while private healthcare was perceived to be more expensive.

Access to Livelihoods

Potential for sectoral growth

Community leader and SME KIs reported that the **agricultural sector** showed the most growth potential in the 12 months following data collection, followed by the **construction sector**.

Livelihood sectors of interest for returnee and IDP households

The most commonly reported sectors in which returnee and IDP households were interested in working were **construction, agriculture** (including animal raising), and **public education**.

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Access to Livelihoods

Challenges

The majority of the KIs reported that most households faced **challenges in accessing livelihoods**.

The most reported challenges included:

- Lack of job opportunities across various sectors,
- Lack of support to farmers, negatively affecting the agricultural sector, and
- Lack of construction projects.

Climate change impact

Almost half of the KIs reported that **climate change impacted the agricultural sector**.

This was reportedly due to:

- Fishing being affected by low water levels in Haditha Lake and the Euphrates River, and
- Water scarcity and drought affecting crop cultivation.

Economic support

Community leader and SME KIs reported that **livelihood programme implementation may support economic development** in the sub-district.

Frequently reported economic development needed included the:

- Revitalization of the agricultural sector, and
- Implementation of livelihood programmes.

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Perceptions on Social Cohesion

Social cohesion bodies

Durable solution actors were perceived by KIs as the **main body promoting social cohesion**.

In addition, KIs reported believing that **local authorities**, and **security actors** played an important role in improving social cohesion in the sub-district.

Improving social cohesion

The most reported strategies to improve social cohesion included:

- Initiatives promoting **access to work for all** and
- Organising **seminars, awareness sessions,** and **conferences.**
  - Suggested topics: reconciliation and peacebuilding, coexistence and tolerance, discrimination, human rights, and security.
  - Target groups to focus on: youth and tribal leaders.

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Perceptions of IDP KIs from Al-Rayhana

Feeling welcome

All IDP KIs from the community reported that the majority of IDP households from Al-Rayhana **felt they may be welcome or very welcome and accepted** by the community if they decided to return to their AoOs.

Interaction

Reportedly, the majority of IDP KIs reported that IDP households from Al-Rayhana **interacted with all groups**.[6]

Work relationships were the most commonly reported way **IDP households from the community interacted** with other groups.

6 'All groups' refers to returnees, IDPs in the community, and IDPs from the community.

Feeling integrated

Over half of IDP KIs from the community reported that **IDP households from Al-Rayhana did not feel integrated in their AoDs.** A few IDP KIs did know about IDP households' integration.

Perceptions of IDP KIs in Al-Rayhana

Feeling welcome

All IDP KIs in Al-Rayhana reported that the majority of IDP households in the sub-district **felt very welcome and accepted** by the community in the sub-district.

Interaction

All IDP KIs in Al-Rayhana reported that the majority of IDP households in Al-Rayhana **interacted with all groups.**[7]

Reportedly, interaction most commonly took place through **existing friendships,** providing **assistance to vulnerable households,** and interaction at the **market-place**.

Feeling integrated

All IDP KIs in the sub-district reported that **IDP households in the community did not feel integrated in Al-Rayhana**.

However, these households reportedly **felt that they somewhat belonged** to the sub-district, presumably due to the reported existing kinship ties.

7 'All groups' refers to returnees, IDPs in the community, and IDPs from the community.

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Perceptions of returnee KIs

Feeling welcome

The majority of returnee KIs reported that most returnee households felt **welcome or very welcome** in the sub-district.

Interaction

Almost three quarters of the returnee KIs reported that the majority of returnee households **interacted with all groups.**[5]

The **most frequently reported** ways of interacting were through **work relationships** and providing **assistance to vulnerable households** in the community.

Feeling re-integrated

Two thirds of returnee KIs reported that **returnee households felt re-integrated** in Al-Rayhana where they presumably felt at home and had a **strong sense of belonging**.

"We returned to the area in which we were born. We returned to our homes."

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Key Findings

- Recent returns reportedly **positively impacted the community** due to the perceived improvement of **safety and security, increased economic activity, reactivation of the agriculture sector,** and **due to their perceived improvement of basic services**.

- Reportedly, expected returns **may positively impact the private sector**, **access to basic services,** and **social bonds between households** in the sub-district.

- **Access to housing and housing rehabilitation in Al-Rayhana** was one of the most reported barriers for returns, the third most commonly reported community need, and the second most needed activity to encourage further returns to the sub-district.

- Further efforts to support **livelihoods, healthcare, housing rehabilitation, and access to public water services** were frequently reported as primary community needs by **SME, community leader, returnee, remainee and IDP from and in the community KIs**.

- The most challenging basic public sector to access was reportedly **healthcare**, followed by **public water and education**. **Conditions at operational PHC, including a shortage of medical personnel and medicine,** were reportedly the main factors negatively impacting access to healthcare in the sub-district.

Key Findings

- **Agriculture** was the most frequently reported **sector with the highest growth potential** in Al-Rayhana for the 12 months following data collection. However, it was reported to be negatively affected at the time of data collection, mainly, due to the lack of support to farmers.

- **All the IDP KIs from the community reported that IDP households may feel welcome or very welcome** and **accepted** if they return to Al-Rayhana. The majority of KIs reported that these households **did not feel integrated in their AoDs**, and the rest did not answer the question.

- **IDP KIs from Al-Rayhana** frequently reported that the **majority of the IDP households in the sub-district interacted with other population groups** in the sub-district.

- **All IDP KIs in Al-Rayhana** reported that the **majority of IDP households in the community felt welcome or very welcome** in the sub-district, and they interacted with all groups. All KIs also reported that **these households did not feel integrated in the sub-district**.

- **Returnee KIs** reported that the majority of returnee households **interacted with all groups in the community** and **felt welcome or very welcome** in Al-Rayhana. Also, **three quarters of returnee KIs** reported that **households felt reintegrated in their AoOs, however, a few KIs did not know the answer, one KI refused to answer, and one KI reported that some households did not feel reintegrated.**

THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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Upon request

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