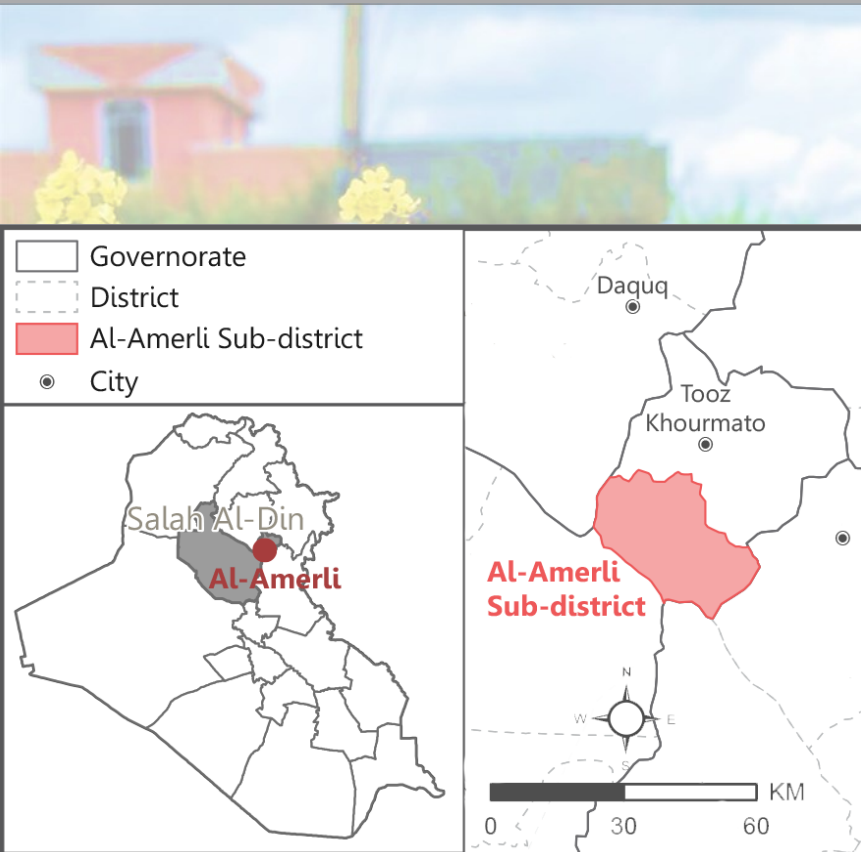


Returns and Durable Solutions (ReDS) Assessment

**Al-Amerli Sub-district
Tooz Khurmato District, Salah Al-Din Governorate
Preliminary Findings Presentation, Iraq**

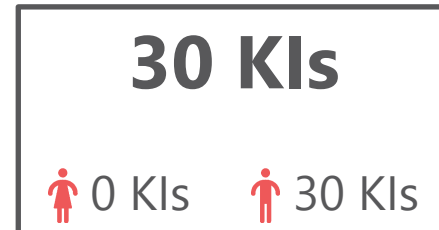
Assessment Methodology



- **Multi-sectoral** assessment tool, which combined **qualitative and quantitative** data.
- Data collection was done **remotely by phone** between 4 and 7 September 2022.
- Methodology based on **key informant interviews (KIIs)**.
- **Purposive sampling** methods were employed to identify KIIs. Findings should therefore be considered as **indicative**.

↓ ↓ KI profiles in Al-Amerli Sub-district

Returnees ¹	8 KIIs	
IDPs from the community	8 KIIs	
Community leaders	8 KIIs	
Subject matter experts (SMEs)	6 KIIs	



¹ Returned within three months prior to data collection.

Barriers for Returns and Family Separation



Barriers for returns

The most frequently reported barriers included:

Access to housing and housing rehabilitation

- Damage/destroyed homes in areas of origin (AoOs).

Access to jobs and basic services

- Limited job opportunities in AoOs and
- Limited basic services in AoOs, especially access to medical treatment.

Security concerns

- Perceived ISIL² affiliation in AoOs and
- Security concern in AoOs.

Family separation

The majority of the KIs reported that there were **no cases of family separation**.

However, a few KIs reported that household members, mainly **youth**, resorted to **temporarily moving to other areas** in Kirkuk, Tooz Khurmato, Khalis, Baquba, Karbala, Najaf, Baghdad, and Basra **seeking jobs**, causing family separation.

² The so-called group Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL).

Access to Durable Solutions Assistance³



Activity and/or project implementation

Reportedly, **there were activities and/or projects** implemented by **humanitarian and durable solution actors** and **local authorities** in the six months prior to data collection.

The most reported activities and/or projects implemented were:

- Infrastructure rehabilitation,
- Livelihoods,
- Cash assistance, and
- Social cohesion.

Assistance as a factor to encourage returns

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

The most reported activity or programme needed was **housing rehabilitation.**

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

Access to Housing and Type of Tenure



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

All IDP KIs from Al-Amerli (reportedly displaced in Markaz Tooz Khurmato and Markaz Kirkuk) reported that **IDP households from their group did not have HLP documents to prove ownership** of their houses in the sub-district.

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)

60%-70%

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 housing reconstruction projects** and **inflated prices for construction materials**, and
- **Lack of government compensation** for housing rehabilitation.

Frequent KI recommendations included:

- Implementation of **housing rehabilitation projects** and
- Facilitating **access to government compensation transactions**.

Access to Basic Public Service

Photo credit: Electric power towers in Amerli@[Iraqi News Agency](#)/2021



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

Reportedly, **returnees** were the displacement group **least likely to have access to basic public services**.

Among the vulnerable population,⁵ **older persons were reportedly less likely to have access to basic public services**.

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 Public Water Services



Challenges

The most commonly reported challenges in accessing public water services included:

- Access to **water was not available in some neighbourhoods and villages** due to the **public water network needing rehabilitation**, and in some locations, needing to **be extended**.
- **Perceived neglect by the local government** of the public water services.

Coping strategies adopted by households

- Resorting to water wells for domestic use only,
- Resorting to water trucking for domestic use, mainly transported from Markaz Tooz Khurmato, and
- Purchasing bottled water for drinking purposes.

Access to Livelihoods



Potential for sectoral growth

Community leader and SME KIs reported that the **agricultural sector** (including livestock) showed the **most growth potential** in the 12 months following data collection, followed by the public education sector.

Livelihood sectors of interest for returnee and IDP households

The most commonly reported sector in which **returnee and IDP households were interested in working** was **agriculture** (including livestock), followed by recruitment in the formal security forces⁶ under the Iraqi Ministry of Interior.

⁶ 'Formal security forces' refers to the [Iraq security forces and all its components](#).

Access to Livelihoods

Challenges

All KIs reported that most households faced **challenges in accessing livelihoods**.

The most reported challenges included:

- Lack of job opportunities across various sectors,
- Challenges for land irrigation,
- Lack of government support and compensation to farmers, and
- Lack of construction projects.

Climate change impact

A few KIs reported that **climate change impacted the agricultural sector**.

This was reportedly due to the lack of rain in 2022, compared to previous years, which negatively impacted agriculture.

Economic support

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

The most reported livelihood activities needed included:

- Revitalization of the agricultural sector,
- Reactivation of the construction sector, and
- Implementation of livelihood programmes by NGOs.

Perceptions on Social Cohesion

Photo credit: Amerli city@[Opensooq](#)/2022



Social cohesion bodies

Durable solution actors, followed by local authorities, were reportedly perceived as the **main bodies promoting social cohesion**.

Improving social cohesion

The most reported initiatives to improve social cohesion included:

- Initiatives promoting **access to work for all**,
- Organising **seminars, awareness sessions**, and **conferences**,
- **Advocacy** to encourage the voluntary return of IDP households from the community to their AoOs, and
- Implementing **activities and projects** conducted by **NGOs** and the **local authorities**.

Perceptions of IDP KIs from Al-Amerli



Feeling welcome

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

Interaction

All IDP KIs from the community reported that the majority of IDP households from Al-Amerli **interacted with all groups⁷** in the sub-district.

The most reported ways of interacting included:

- Family and social bonds and
- Work relationships.

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

Feeling integrated

All IDP KIs from the community reported that **IDP households from Al-Amerli did not feel integrated in their AoDs** because **they were not residing in their own homes**, despite reports that these households felt that they somewhat belonged to their AoDs.

Perceptions of returnee KIs



Feeling welcome

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

Interaction

Three quarters of returnee KIs reported that the majority of returnee households **did not interact with any other group**.

One quarter of returnee KIs reported that returnee households interacted with all groups⁸ through **work relationships** and **family and social bonds**.

⁸ 'All groups' refers to returnees, IDPs in the community, IDPs from the community, and remainees.

Feeling reintegrated

The majority of returnee KIs reported that most **returnee households felt reintegrated** in Al-Amerli, had a **strong sense of belonging to their AoOs**, and **did not have "security indicators"** or alleged links to ISIL.

Key Findings

- Reportedly, **future returns** may **positively impact the agricultural sector, the reconstruction in the sub-district, and access to the public service sector** in the sub-district.
- Additionally, a few KIs reported that **further returns** may reportedly have **negative impacts on the safety and security perceptions and access to job opportunities.**
- **Damage to housing or need for housing rehabilitation** was the most reported barrier for returns, the most commonly reported primary community need, and the most needed activity to encourage further returns to the sub-district.
- The most challenging basic public sector to access was reportedly **water**. Access to water was reportedly not available in some neighbourhoods and villages due to the public water network needing rehabilitation.
- **Agriculture** was the most frequently reported **sector with the highest growth potential** in Al-Amerli for the 12 months following data collection. It was also reported to be the most available type of livelihood activity in the sub-district and the sector of most interest to work in, for returnees and IDPs, at the time of data collection.
- Reportedly, **agriculture** was **negatively affected** at the time of data collection due to various **challenges to ensuing land irrigation** and the **lack of government support and compensation** to farmers.

Key Findings

- All IDP KIs from the community reported that **IDP households may feel welcome or very welcome** and **accepted** if they return to Al-Amerli. All IDP KIs from the community reported that these households **did not feel integrated in their AoDs**.
- All IDP KIs from Al-Amerli reported that **the majority of IDP households from the community interacted with all population groups** in the sub-district, mainly through **family and social bonds** and **work relationships**.
- **All returnee KIs** reported that the majority of returnee households felt welcome or very welcome in their AoOs in the sub-district. The majority of returnee KIs reported that most **returnee households felt re-integrated** in their AoOs in Al-Amerli.
- Perceptions about interaction between returnee households and other groups reportedly varied between returnee KIs. Three quarters of returnee KIs reported that the majority of **returnee households did not interact with other groups** in Al-Amerli.

THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION



Erbil, Iraq



cristina.carrandi@impact-initiatives.org

aaishah.karim@reach-initiative.org



Upon request