

YAZIDI SURVIVORS' GRANT

Background:

- **Rationale:** The grant is part of the government of Iraq efforts to provide urgent relief to the Yazidi women survivors affected by the conflict, provided by Ministry of Migration and Displaced (MOMD). The grant was designed after continuous calls of civil society and other actors to provide support to Yazidi survivors including a draft law that was submitted by the Republic Presidency which was addressed to the parliament to compensate the Yazidi survivors, as well as two decisions issued by MOMD's Higher Committee for relief and housing for displaced families.
- **Amount of the grant:** The Yazidi women survivors will be given a one off- grant by MOMD of IQD 2 million each (equivalent to approximately USD 1,670). The grant is separate from the returnee grant of IQD 1.5 million, and the Yazidis will also benefit from the return grant should they eventually return - in addition to the IQD 2 million for the survivors' grant.
- **Start date:** The grant was launched on 17th March 2019, and the first disbursement of the funds was distributed on 18th April 2019.
- **Total budget:** The total amount/ budget allocated at the moment is IQD 1.8 billion (app. USD 1.5 million)
- **Target beneficiaries:** The project will target 899 Yazidi women survivors, out of a total of 2,985. Note that the IQD 2 million is distributed per individual.
- **Beneficiaries reached:** MOMD has distributed the grants to a total of 730 women over the course of 4 months (April-July 2019), with 169 more women to be targeted in the coming months.
- **Total amount disbursed:** IQD 1.46 billion IQD to the 730 women. There have been 9 rounds of disbursements, at least 2 to 3 disbursements happening every month.
- **Methodology of disbursement:** The funds are disbursed directly to the Yazidis in cash. Initial grants were disbursed in groups of women, however now the women go individually to the MOMD branch in Dohuk to collect the IQD 2 million.
- **Geographical location of the funds distribution:** Below is the breakdown of beneficiaries to be targeted so far, and the number as per each area of origin.

	Area of origin/ Previous address	No. Of Survivors Targeted		Area of origin/ Previous address	No. Of Survivors Targeted		Area of origin/ Previous address	No. Of Survivors Targeted
1	Basheeqa	1	8	Dohola	20	15	Seeba	25
2	Till Al-Banat	50	9	Dokarri	20	16	Shnkaal	74
3	Till Aziz	48	10	Nesseriya	4	17	Sollakh	36
4	Till Qassab	119	11	Wardiya	21	18	Kerzeek	18
5	Hatamiya	12	12	Ramboosi	10	19	Camp Mama Rshan	1

6	Hardan	52	13	Zoozna	11	20	Kojer	160
7	Khansoor	26	14	Snooni	12	21	Koheel	10

Necessary clarification on the Yazidi survivor's grant

i) Eligibility:

- Whilst the Yazidi survivor grant targets only Yazidi women, survivors from other ethnic groups are not included in this grant. MOMD/GOI should advise whether there are other funding schemes available for other survivors as stipulated in the draft law, as well as mechanisms in place for disbursement of these funds.
- It is unclear whether survivors' grant is provided to minor girls and boys who were held in ISIL captivity. According to MOMD data there are 1,936 such children. There are numerous credible reports suggesting that Yazidi girls were being subjected to same violations (slavery, rape, etc) as Yazidi women.
- More than 6,000 Yazidi survivors have been identified in Iraq, while only 2,985 have been targeted/registered in the MOMD database - out of which 899 women will benefit from the Yazidi survivor's grant. It is not clear whether the remaining survivors are not targeted as they did not register themselves with MOMD, or the funding allocated for this grant is not enough to cover the entire caseload. In this regard, the plan to reach/target the rest of the over 6,000 survivors should be communicated by MOMD/responsible government entity. Furthermore, it is unclear whether Yazidi women survivors who are still in Syria would also be eligible for the grant if they return (mainly as part of the Al Hol caseload).
- It is further noted that some families are not allowing the survivors to register themselves in the MOMD database due to cultural stigmatization. As such, these survivors will not be able to benefit from the survivor's grant. MoMD should design victims' and culturally sensitive registration procedures to include all survivors, beyond those who are already registered by MOLSA, MOMD and designated Kurdistan institutions. This can include reaching out to other institutions and organizations who have data on survivors, such as Kurdistan Commission for Gathering Evidence, Yazda, etc. MoMD should also try to overcome this cultural barrier by hiring female Yazidi social workers and ensure that they adhere to ethical social work principles related to confidentiality of survivor data.

ii) Documentation and methodology:

- The methodology of the registration of the grant should also be communicated both to the beneficiaries and international community, for instance the application forms and language of the application form, if there are special arrangements put in place to assist survivors to fill out the form should they be illiterate, list of identity or residency documents that need to be attached with the application as well as supporting documentation to confirm if the beneficiary is a survivor etc.
- In addition to documentation provided to confirm whether a beneficiary is a survivor, additional verification processes or witness statements- if required, should be communicated to the beneficiaries as well.

- With regards to receiving the grant, alternative mechanisms put in place to disburse the grants should also be communicated, for instance if a survivor is unable to come to the branch office due to disability, illness etc. MOMD should also explore the option of using Erbil and Ninewa branches (rather than just Duhok) for disbursements, which would help ease access issues.
- Furthermore, the timeframe of the disbursement of the grant following registration should be clarified, as well as informing the beneficiary whether they are eligible or not and mode of communication.
- The methodology behind the geographic distribution should also be communicated (refer to table above), i.e. whether it was determined in consultation with the Yazidi community or based on other data sources etc.
- Data protection: Given the sensitivity of this caseload, the methodology used to store the data should be elaborated, i.e. whether it is electronic or hard copies- and where these are stored/ centralized.
- Survivors' identity should be protected throughout the process, including measures to limit exposure of survivors to many officials when receiving grants.

iii) Responsible entity:

- The focal department responsible for the Yazidi survivor's grant should be clarified, for instance, who main department of MOI in the KRG that is responsible for providing data to MOMD, e.g. the office of rescuing missing persons.
- The responsible entity for reviewing the application and determination of eligibility to the grant once all documentation is completed should also be communicated, and at which level the decision is taken- whether at KRI or national level in Baghdad.
- For the purpose of transparency and efficiency, MoMD should strengthen its public information efforts to clarify to all interested parties its procedures and progress, especially to communities where potential beneficiaries of this scheme live.

iv) Ramifications in relation to access to other reparative measures

- Obtaining interim relief grant from MoMD should not prevent survivors to access any other reparative measures designed by Iraqi institutions (or narrow scope of these measures), particularly rights and benefits introduced by Draft Law on Support to Yazidi Survivors.