Your House is Your Homeland: How Housing, Land and Property Rights Influence Returns in Sinjar
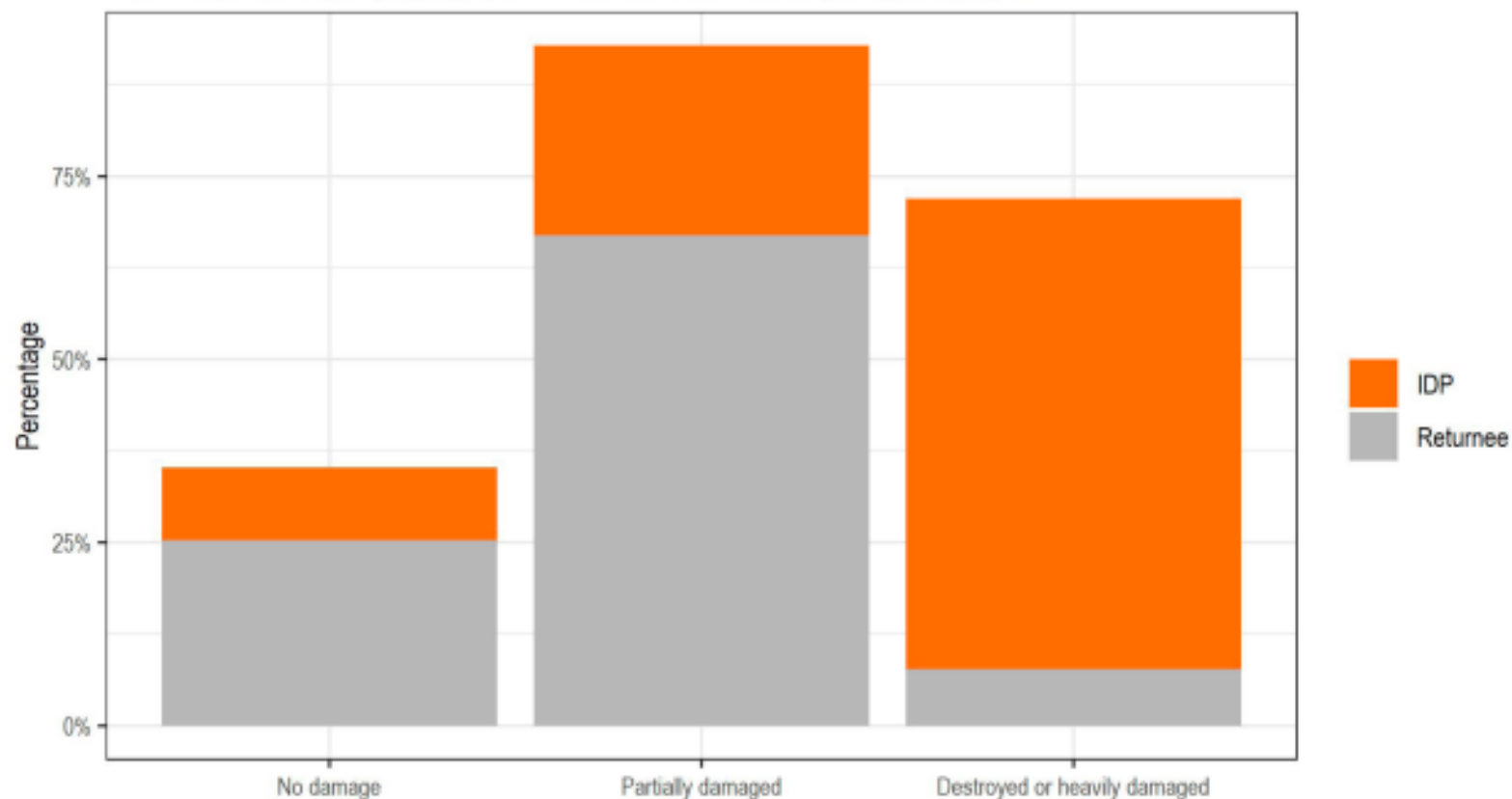
Methodology

- Research conducted in collaboration with researchers at the University College of London

- November 2021 household survey of 1,474 IDP and returnee households in Sinjar, Dohuk, and Mosul, including:
  - 1,250 Yezidis in displacement and in return
  - 179 Sunni Arabs in displacement
  - 636 women

  - 18 key informant interviews

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Accessibility—or inaccessibility—of HLP is a significant factor in return decisions to Sinjar

More than half of IDPs and returnees from Sinjar face heavily damaged property, IDPs particularly hit by destruction
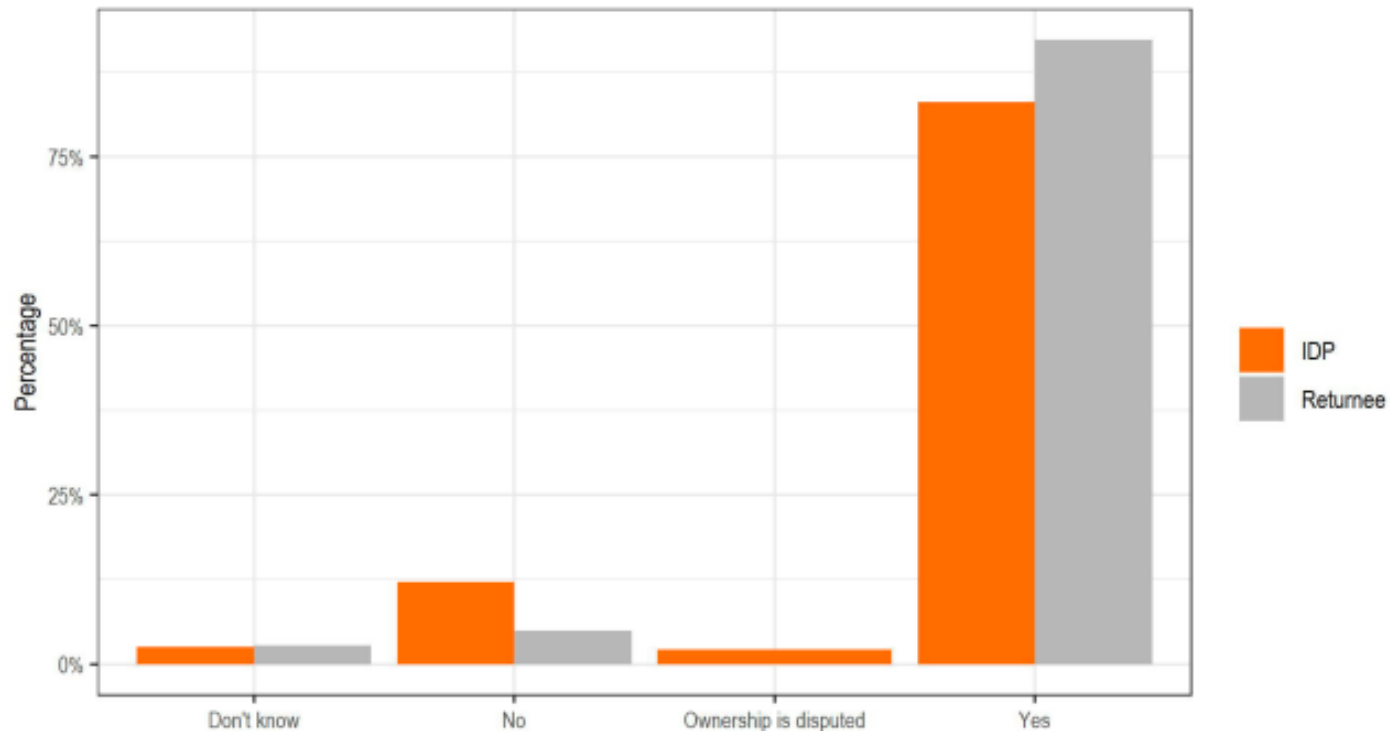
Condition of the owned property by IDPs and returnees from Sinjar in percentages

Most IDPs and returnees still own property in Sinjar, but IDPs report more losses and disputes

Most IDPs and returnees from Sinjar still own their property but more losses and disputes amongst IDPs

Percentage of respondents that still own their property after displacement

Security and social tension concerns outweigh the pull factor of home ownership amongst IDPs who have chosen not to return

- **One third** of IDPs indicated that security is the main reason they have not returned.

- KII interviewees cited ruptured social structures, inaccessibility of dispute resolution mechanisms in Sinjar, and lack of trust in security actors present

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Dispute resolution mechanisms differ between return and displacement

- Both IDPs and returnees prefer informal customary mechanisms when asked to compare

- 74% of Yezidi **returnees** indicated that they would rely on formal dispute resolution mechanisms, and that customary methods are unavailable because community dispute resolution social structures remain displaced

- By contrast, Sunni and Yezidi **IDPs** indicated that they would rely on customary dispute resolution mechanisms and that formal mechanisms are slow (Yezidis) and discriminatory (Sunnis)

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Thank you