



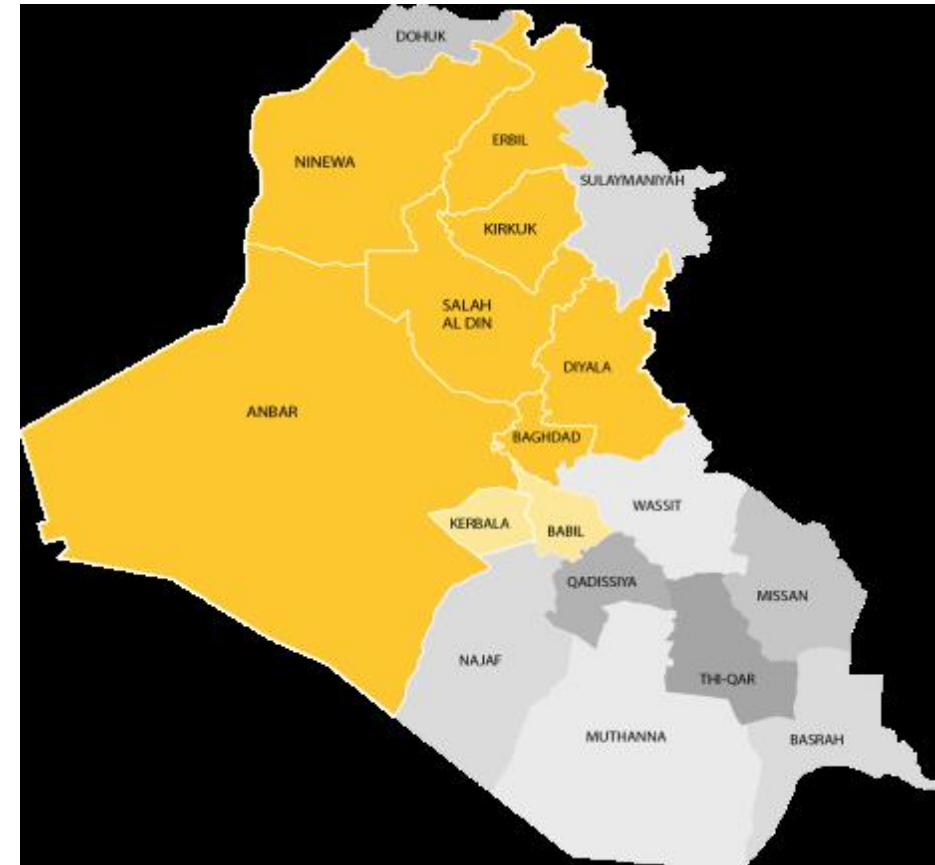
IRC Iraq: Protection Needs Overview (October 2022-March 2023)

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The IRC in Iraq

- Program Sectors: Integrated Protection (CYPD, PRoL, WPE); Early Childhood Development; Economic Recovery and Development; Peacebuilding and Governance
- Programs target IDPs, returnee IDPs, and host communities
- Nine local partners
- Strategic partnership with government ministries including MOLSA, WED, MOI, MOMD at governorate and Baghdad levels with focus on systems strengthening, organizational capacity building, scaling of successful programming, and policy and advocacy
- IRC maintains the INGO seat on the DSTF and is actively engaged in conversations around Durable Solutions architecture in Iraq, including the Compact



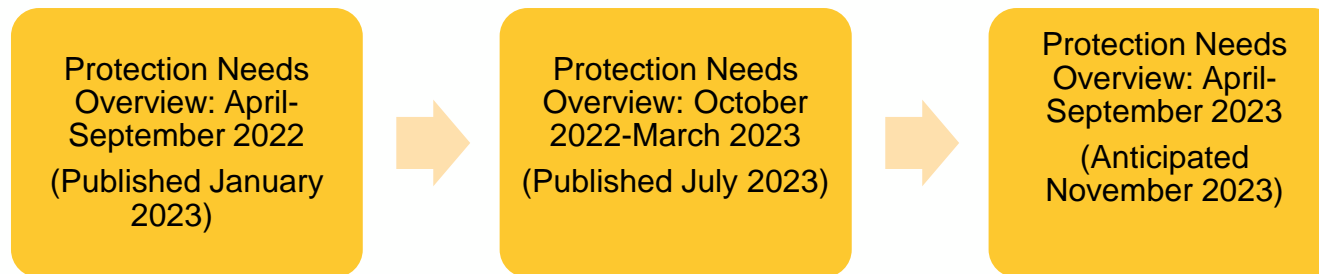
IRC Iraq: Integrated Protection

- Integrated Protection addresses access to justice and protection of human rights, with a focus on enhancing access to justice and services for marginalized groups.
- Access to justice interventions support clients in exercising their legal rights, accessing the formal justice system, public services, and seeking remedies for violations.
 - Activities include legal awareness sessions, legal counseling, advocacy and capacity building for justice actors.
- Protection of human rights interventions support households and individuals in identifying risks and protection their rights.
 - Activities include protection monitoring reports, cash for protection, special needs funding.
- Funding through FCDO, BPRM, UNHCR, and ECHO



IRC Iraq: Protection Needs Overviews

- The IRC publishes a Protection Needs Overview twice per year, presenting data and analysis on data collected during a six month period.
- Data and analysis is based on household-level surveys, key informant interviews, and focus group discussions in IRC's areas of operation.
- Findings from protection monitoring activities inform program direction, advocacy efforts, and identify evolving needs in humanitarian and development response landscapes.
- Reports are shared widely with partners, peer organizations, donors, diplomatic missions, UN partners, and select government ministries.



Methodology

April-September 2022

- 16 locations across Anbar, Kirkuk, Ninewa, and Salah al-Din
- IDPs, returnee IDPs, host community, and refugees included in data collection

Methods	Q2			Q3			Grand Total
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
HH Survey	404	452	856	250	311	561	1417
KII	155	43	198	203	48	251	449
FGD	524	699	1223 (159 groups)	617	539	1156 (172 groups)	2379 (331 groups)

October 2022-March 2023

- 14 locations across Anbar, Kirkuk, and Ninewa
- One site modification in Anbar and one site modification in Ninewa
- Salah al-Din data collection did not take place due to program implementation modality (through partner)

Methods	Q4 2022			Q1 2023			Grand Total
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
HH Survey	126	177	303	127	195	322	625
KII	97	25	122	116	40	156	278
FGD	186	345	531 (80 groups)	204	330	534 (78 groups)	1065 (158 groups)

Methodology

- Due to methodology, findings and analysis are **not intended to provide holistic overview of needs in Iraq**.
 - Participants for FGDs, KIIs, and HH-level interviews are identified through IRC and partner activities in areas of operation; observation assessments take place over course of IRC and partner implementation in same areas.
 - Due to data-collection locations, needs identified may vary from observations presented by peer organizations who work with different communities, or use different methodologies.
- All data collection personnel and IRC/partner staff are trained on gender-sensitive approaches to data collection and referral pathways.

Findings From Protection Needs Overview: October 2022-March 2023

Basic Needs

Majority of households reported facing difficulties in accessing public services, with no significant improvements over the 6 month monitoring period. Cost of services and transportation costs are significant barriers. Livelihoods and healthcare are primary needs in communities.

Vulnerable Populations

Q1 2023 showed that 41% of respondents witnessed exploitation against specific groups or individuals, a vast increase from Q4 2022.

Around 14% of respondents indicated that the security situation in their areas was 'unsafe' or 'very unsafe', with women and girls reporting risks of SGBV

PWDs continue to face heightened vulnerabilities such as restricted movement, lack of appropriate services, and far distance of services.

Civil Documentation

In Q4 of 2022, 60% of HHs reported missing civil documentation with highest needs in IDP returnee communities. Q1 of 2023 saw improvement, with only 27% of respondents indicating missing civil documentation. Increased access to documentation, however, did not translate to ability to register with MOMD or MOLSA for services (Q4 '22=40% not registered, Q1 '23=52% not registered).

Displacement

Majority (47% in Q4 2022, 55% in Q1 2023) of respondents indicated lack of willingness to return to areas of origin, due to lack of shelter, lack of livelihoods, lack of access to services, and community tensions.

Findings From Protection Needs Overview: October 2022-March 2023

HLP and Evictions

- 13% of HHs reported eviction threats (by property owners, local authorities, community leaderships, and security actors) during six month period
- 34% of HHs live in rented accommodations, 18% in informal sites. These groups are at heightened risk for evictions.
- 19% of HHs report missing housing card.

Child Labor

Approximately 30% of respondents indicated that one or more children in their HHs were engaged in labor during school hours, with 'daily wage labor' such as trash collection the most prominent.

Basic Services

- Despite humanitarian transition as of January 2023, needs for affected populations remain high.
- Return to area of origin, possession of civil documentation are not translating to ability to access services, particularly through MOMD/MOLSA where registration remains a challenge.

Needs in Ninewa | Jeddah 1+5 IDP Returnees

IRC Iraq's Protection Monitoring methodology includes populations returning to their areas of origin (AoO) or moving into secondary displacement following release from Jeddah Center (J1) or Jeddah 5. The following concerns have been documented through KIIs, HH-level surveys, and observation assessments:

- Barriers to returning to AoO
 - Willingness of HHs and individuals to return
 - Issues in AoO such as security situation (political block), social cohesion concerns, and lack of livelihood opportunities
- Some survey respondents perceived a 'Lack of government support' to facilitate their returns or sustainable settlement in a different area
 - This includes lack of access to civil documentation or expensive/time consuming legal processes and HLP cases
- Female-headed households reported increased vulnerability to GBV, harassment, difficulty with freedom of movement
- HHs and individuals with perceived affiliation to ISIS experience worse outcomes
- In general, the data showed that those returning from J1 and J5 were in sub-optimal living conditions, with considerable protection risks

Sinjar and Blocked Returns

Protection Monitoring pointed to multiple reasons for IDPs experiencing challenging when attempting to return to their AoO in Sinjar:

- Security situation
- Lack of services
 - Many HHs still rely on NGOs for basic services, therefore lack of NGOs in certain areas prevents returns
 - In some cases, services are more readily available inside camps (KRI)
- Lack of civil documentation
- Lack of job opportunities
- Lack of governmental support and sufficient staffing of government offices
 - Including delays of compensation
- Community tension

Thank you

For further information on the IRC's protection monitoring activities in Iraq please contact M. Idrees Hayat, Protection and Rule of Law Coordinator. Idrees.Hayat@rescue.org