

Cross-Cutting Needs Assessment (CCNA): Transition Brief

Key Findings

Iraq, October 2024

REACH Informing
more effective
humanitarian action



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01

Scope & Methodology

Context

- Despite the cessation of large-scale conflict in Iraq in 2017, **there remains over 1 million Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Iraq.**
- The **deactivation of the humanitarian cluster system** in Iraq in 2022 has posed challenges by **reducing the structured coordination mechanisms among humanitarian actors**, as the context transitioned from humanitarian to development.
- The **decrease in funding** from major institutional donors, led to **gaps in addressing critical humanitarian needs** that remain.
- This **funding shortfall has necessitated the prioritisation of interventions**, leaving some **vulnerable populations underserved** and **exacerbating existing challenges** such as **insufficient provision of basic services, infrastructure rehabilitation hindering durable solutions, and limited livelihood opportunities.**

Objectives

The objective of the brief was to compare the CCNA findings with the Multi-Cluster Needs Assessment (MCNA) X which was conducted in 2022, a few months prior to the deactivation of the humanitarian cluster system in Iraq. This brief attempts to understand the impact of the transition from a humanitarian to development context within Iraq.

01

Enable evidence-based **prioritization of aid** through the provisioning of robust data on the **severity, magnitude, variance, and drivers** of multi-sectoral household needs of displacement-affected population groups in Iraq.

03

Determine the **movement intentions** and reported **barriers to locally integrate or return** to inform durable solutions planning and decision-making.

02

Ascertain **how the transition and the evolving context have affected multi-sectoral needs** of displacement-affected households assessed through the MCNA X (summer 2022) prior to the transition from humanitarian to development.

04

Inform the transition from humanitarian to development by addressing humanitarian and development actor's most salient topics (e.g. social protection, return and integration processes or sustainable livelihoods).

Population Coverage and Data Collection



REPRESENTATIVE HH SURVEYS

9,977

- 2,241 In-camp surveys
- 4,578 Out of camp surveys
- 3,158 Returnee surveys

All findings in the Transition Brief and this presentation are from the representative dataset.



DATA COLLECTION

From **15 July** to **1 November 2023**



POPULATION OF INTEREST

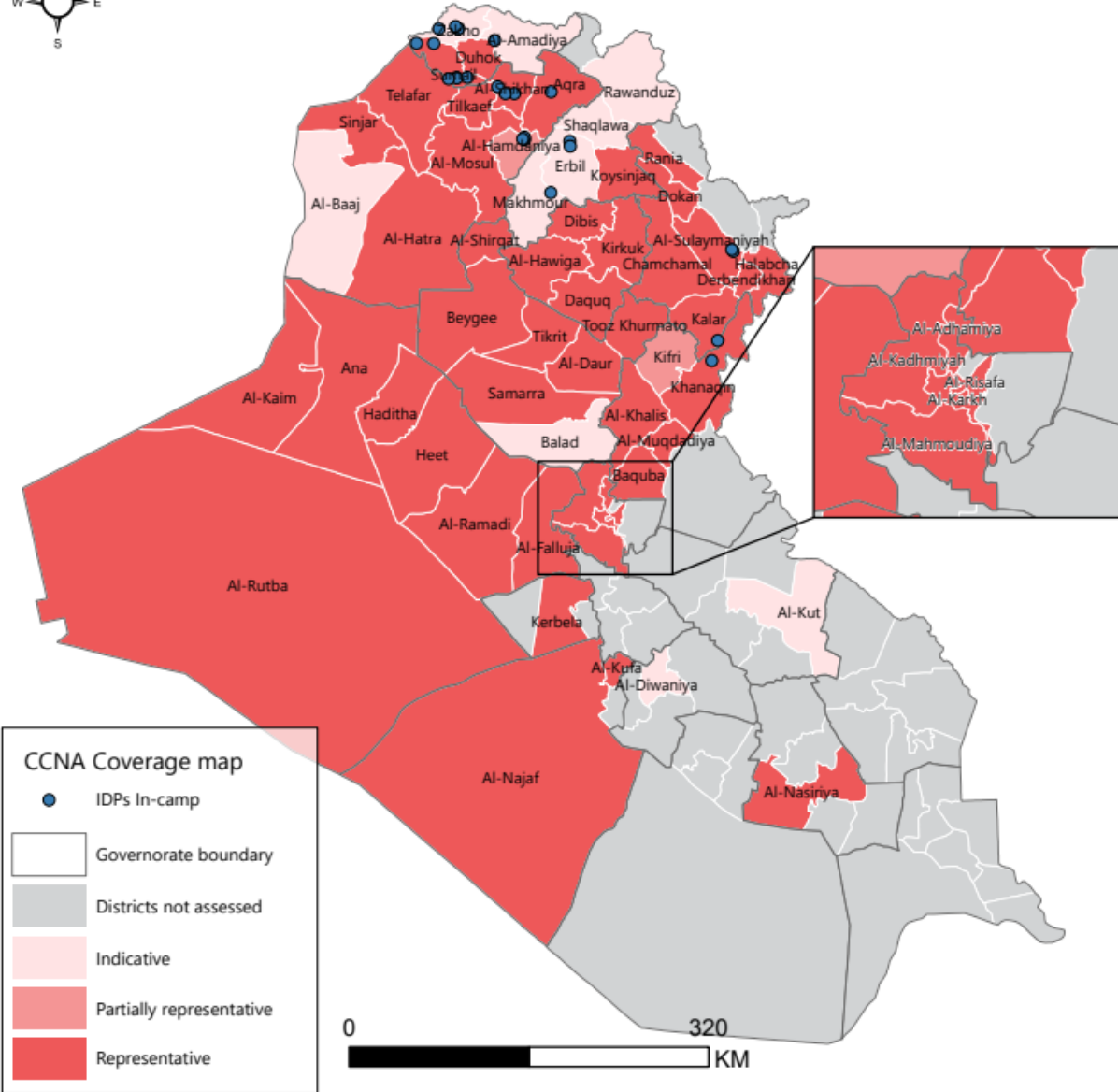
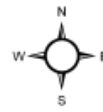
In-camp Internally Displaced People (IDPs), out of camp (OoC) IDPs, and Returnee HHs across Federal Iraq and the Kurdistan Region of Iraq

Coverage and Sampling

- OoC IDP and Returnee data collected in 54 districts in 13 governorates, 50 districts representative
- In-camp IDP data collected in 25 IDP camps in 5 governorates.
- Data is **representative** at a 90% confidence level and a 10% margin of error for OoC IDP and Returnee populations and at a 95% confidence level and a 10% margin of error for the In-camp IDP population.

Challenges and limitations:

- Reliance on HHs' ability to self-report on key indicators and may be influenced by biases.
- Length of data collection period (July-November) may have led to seasonal difference impacting comparability of collected data. In particular, NFI and WASH reported needs.



Indicative districts include Al-Baaj, Balad, Erbil and Zakho.



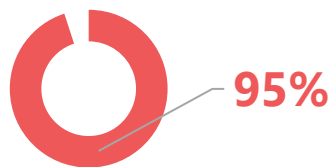


02

Transition Brief Findings

Durable Solutions

Movement intentions



The vast majority of in-camp and out-of-camp HHs reported **intending to remain in their area of displacement in the 12-months beyond data collection (95%)**. No major changes from the MCNA X (96%).*

Top 3 reason to not return	In-camp (n=2168)	OoC (n=4457)	Total (n=6625)
House in AoO is damaged/destroyed	52%	28%	37%
Lack livelihoods in AoO	33%	29%	30%
Fear associated with returning to AoO	26%	25%	25%

The findings showed a **minor increase** amongst **in-camp HHs reporting damaged or destroyed housing at 52% (+12%) and lack of livelihoods in AoO at 33% (+11%)** compared to MCNA X.*

While for out-of-camp HHs, there were similar findings from the MCNA X (**damaged/destroyed housing (-1%)** and lack of **livelihoods in AoO (-7%)**).

Findings indicate that important factors for HHs to remain in displacement and in camps continue to be lack of secure housing and livelihood opportunities in AoOs, especially for in-camp HHs.

* Comparisons between years should be considered indicative as a significance test wasn't conducted.

Durable Solutions

In-camp HHs were asked about the availability of services and jobs in their AoO

	None	Electricity	Water	Education	Health
Available services in AoO	35%	48%	43%	31%	24%
Available job opportunities in AoO	None	Government Jobs	Agriculture	Vocational	Construction
	37%	41%	24%	17%	14%

Over a third of in-camp HHs reported no services or jobs available in their AoO. Lack of livelihoods in AoO (33%) was one of the main reasons for in-camp HHs not intending to return.

The presence of livelihood opportunities could be a pull factor for returns for a third of the in-camp HHs. Additional returns could increase the availability of services as government investment would increase.

Food Security & Livelihoods

% of HHs with acceptable FCS*

2023	99%	At national level, there were similar levels of acceptable food consumption scores (FCS) than in MCNA X.
2022	95%	

Certain locations seemed to go through a **deterioration of acceptable FCS, particularly Al Rutba.**

FCS of HHs in Al Rutba district

	Acceptable	Borderline	Poor
Out of Camp	60%	29%	12%
Returnee	42%	26%	32%

Locations with lowest acceptable FCS also had HHs reporting in higher proportions barriers to markets

Proportion of HHs reporting barriers to accessing markets:

National Average	Al-Rutba Returnee	Al-Rutba Out-of-camp
20%	61%	42%

The findings indicated that rural areas with challenges to accessing markets, such as Al Rutba, experienced increased barriers to achieving food security.

* Comparisons between years should be considered indicative as a significance test wasn't conducted.

Food Security & Livelihoods

- The **most commonly reported means of procuring food** in the 7 days prior to data collection was the **use of cash (54%)** for all groups.
- A larger proportion of Out-of-Camp HHs reported **relying on the Public Distribution System (PDS) (25%)** for food compared to the 2022 MCNA findings (8%).
- **Purchasing food on credit** was the second most frequently reported coping strategy, particularly among in-camp HHs (**53%**).

This increased dependence on PDS and the higher number of HHs resorting to buying food on credit suggests a lack of financial autonomy, leaving displacement-affected HHs more vulnerable to economic shocks.

Access to employment: While HHs in **Baghdad** districts reported the **no barriers to employment**, HHs in **Salah-al-Din** reported the **highest levels of barriers to employment**.

% of HHs reporting barriers to accessing employment

**Salah-al-Din
Out-of-Camp**

99%

**Salah-al-Din
Returnee**

99%

* No reported adult HH members unemployed.

Health

Availability of services: Most locations reported availability of healthcare services, such as emergency (96%), paediatric (93%), surgical (89%), and maternity (88%).

Affordability: High cost was identified as one of the top three barriers to healthcare access. Compared to MCNA X, out-of-camp (-25%) and returnee HHs (-35%). In-camp HHs remained similar.

% of HHs reporting healthcare costs as a barrier for healthcare access.

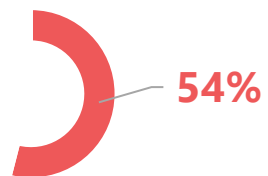
In-camp	Out-of-camp	Returnee	Total
81%	57%	45%	51%

Distance: On a national level, an average of **11% of HHs reported distance as a healthcare barrier**. Although, 58% of returnee HHs and 49% of out-of-camp HHs in Al Hatra reported distance as a barriers.

*Despite the widespread availability of healthcare services, **sustainable access to these services remains challenged by barriers** such as cost, distance, and resource shortages in health centres.*

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Water source: Majority of HHs reported their **main source of drinking water was piped into dwelling** (61%). Although, there were locations **relying mostly on bottled water**, including Al Nasiriya (97%), Al Karkh (96%), and Al Mahmoudiya (89%). **86% of HHs in Shariya camp reported relying on unofficial water connection** for drinking water.



Over half (54%) of HHs reported having water quality issues.

At the governorate level, Diyala, Al Sulaymaniyah, and Kirkuk revealed the highest rates of HHs reporting water quality issues:

	Diyala	Al Sulaymaniyah	Kirkuk	Al Najaf	Salah-al-Din	Al Anbar
In-camp	67%	76%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Out-of-camp	80%	25%	72%	70%	70%	50%
Returnee	90%	N/A	70%	N/A	66%	58%

Water sufficiency: Overall, **79% of HHs reported having a sufficient amount of drinking water** in the month prior to data collection. At governorate level in Ninewa, in-camp (85%) reported better water availability than out-of-camp (71%) and **returnee (66%)**.

Diyala revealed the highest proportion of water quality issues, potentially linked to the placement of Dokan, Derbendikhan and Dibis dams, and the continuing impacts of climate change.

Education

Enrolment: 85% of school-aged children were reportedly enrolled in formal education. The most common reasons to not enrol in formal education be **lack of ability to afford** (21%) and **lack of interest of children in education** (18%). In-camp HHs reported **inability to register** as the most prevalent reason at 36%*.

Reported adult literacy: The 3 **lowest educational levels** assessed (no degree, can read and write; No degree, can read; no degree, cannot read) were **more prevalent amongst female HH members**.

Gender disaggregation by % of individuals reporting this as their educational level.

Male/Female	No degree, can read and write	No degree, can read	No degree, cannot read
Male HH member	43%	44%	36%
Female HH member	57%	56%	64%

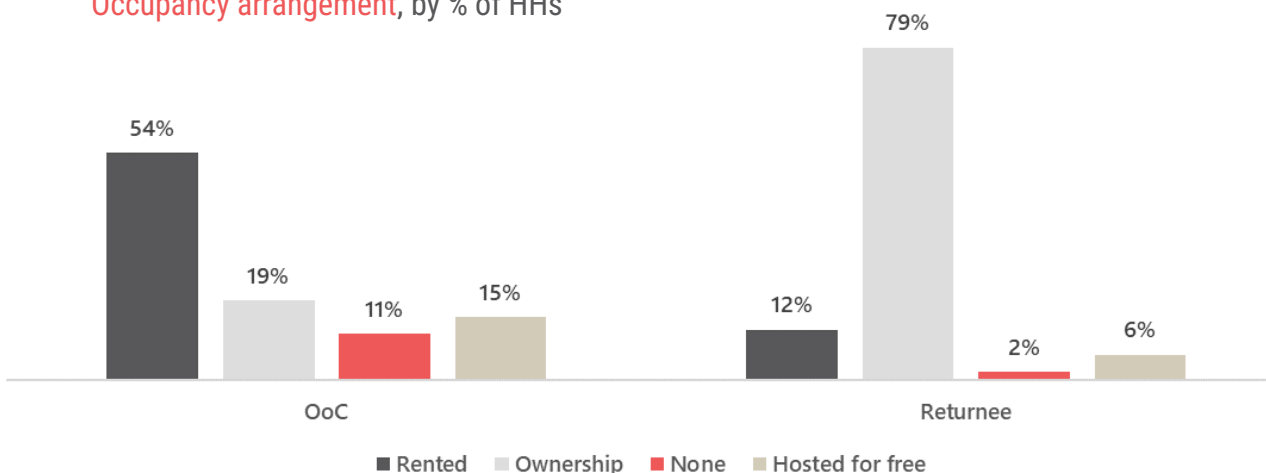
*There was an indicative correlation between districts with **higher rates of school-aged children not being enrolled in formal education and higher proportions of adult illiteracy**. In particular, Al Rutba where the illiteracy rate was 65%, with 52% of school-aged children enrolled in formal education.*

* Inability to register could refer to child being too old/young, child missed or failed too many years of education, lack of documentation, recent/continuous movement to different locations, unable to enroll in school due to discrimination, poor performance/dismissal).

Shelter

Accommodation arrangement

Occupancy arrangement, by % of HHs



The most reported occupancy arrangement for **out-of-camp HHs was rented at 54%**, compared to 12% of returnees, and **ownership was the most reported by returnees at 79%** compared to 19% for out-of-camp.

Of the **out-of-camp (11%)** and returnee (2%) HHs reported **not having an occupancy arrangement**. This was most prevalent in **Al Falluja (36%)**, Al Kadhmiyah (28%), and Al Kufa (26%) for out-of-camp IDPs.

Shelter issues: Nearly half (45%), of HHs reported having shelter issues, with the highest proportion being in-camp HHs at 73%, mostly due to rainwater leakage in shelters. Findings seem to **indicate a trend where IDP HHs had worse housing compared to returnees** on average (i.e.: 39% of returnee HHs reported shelters issues, compared to 73% of in-camp and 55% of out-of-camp HHs).

Property disputes: 8% of HHs stated their property was under dispute, with 17% of out-of-camp HHs reporting this. Further analysis revealed **the highest proportions were in Sulaymaniyah governorate** (42% for out-of-camp) with Halabcha (71%), Kalar (71%), Derbendikhan (60%), Dokan (52%), and Chamchamal (49%).

Protection

Safety concerns for women and girls: Most HHs did not report locations where there were safety concerns for women or girls. **Safety concerns were higher in districts in Kirkuk governorate (29%) compared to the national average (3%).** Specifically at district level, Al Rutba HHs revealed a high proportion of reporting unsafe locations at 43% for out-of-camp and 58% for returnees.

Freedom of movement: Overall, 7% of HHs reporting having to show ID documents to civilian authorities and security actors as a movement barrier during daylight in the 30 days prior to data collection. The locations with higher proportion of HHs experiencing restriction of movement were:

In-camp		Out-of-camp		Returnee	
Hasansham U2	69%	Halabcha	79%	Sinjar	45%
Hasansham U3	67%	Kalar	68%	Al Kaim	18%
Khazer M1	64%	Chamchamal	62%	Al Rutba	12%

Risk of eviction: 7% of out-of-camp and 3% of returnee HHs reported fearing eviction. This proportion was higher in the districts of **Al Rutba, 46% for returnee and 31% for out-of-camp, and Al Kaim out-of-camp at 33%.** Some of the reasons mentioned for fearing eviction were lack of funds for rent, request from owner to vacate land/building, and inability of host family to continue to host.



02

Key Takeaways
from
Transition Brief

Key Takeaways

There has been progress since the end of large-scale military operations against ISIS, although there remains room for improvement to address the remaining humanitarian, durable solutions, and development needs:

- The already existing national social protection schemes are still working to benefit all eligible IDPs with additional obstacles to durable solution goals such as slow bureaucratic process and social safety net programmes. As a result, IDPs often depend on protection actors.
- There were remaining pockets of humanitarian needs that presented higher needs and/or lower resilience such as Kalar, Halabcha, Chamchamal, Al-Shikhan, Al Rutba, Sinjar and Al-Kaim for out-of-camp and returnee HHs. Camps such as Tazade, Ashti, Arbat and Qoratu and the East Mosul camps (Hasansham U2, Hasansham U3, Khazer M1).

Key Takeaways

- The **escalating crises in the region** are a cause of concern as the remaining humanitarian funding will become highly contested with the most vulnerable communities being affected.
- Due to Iraq's 'Upper Middle Income' classification, it could be deprioritised for other contexts. With **reducing humanitarian attention, lesser coordination fora, it is essential to ensure that government actors have capacity to replace humanitarian actors, to ensure that Iraq's most vulnerable are not left behind.**
- Lastly, the **continued monitoring of vulnerable communities and populations remain a critical need** if the transition from humanitarian assistance to development, and social and economic development of Iraq is to be successful for the most vulnerable populations.

Thank you for your attention



Lee GRIFFIN: lee.griffin@impact-initiatives.org



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