



# SINJAR DURABLE SOLUTIONS PLAN OF ACTION REVISION 2021–2024



JANUARY 2023



In March 2021 the Ministry of Planning and the Ministry of Migration and Displacement (MoMD) presented the National Plan for Getting the Displaced Back to their Liberated Areas (National Plan) to the Council of Ministers Secretariat (COMSEC). The National Plan provides a national framework to address displacement by identifying priority population groups, and activities—along with their estimated costs, and assigning specific responsibilities between the executive branches of government and local governments.

Building on the National Plan, the humanitarian, development, stabilisation, and peace communities in Iraq are committed to supporting the Government of Iraq in assisting displacement affected communities through the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) and the Inter-Agency Durable Solutions Strategic and Operational Framework. Working together, these mechanisms enhance existing efforts to support IDPs, returnees, and other displacement-affected populations to pursue and achieve sustainable solutions to the situation of displacement.

The National Plan and the Operational Framework recognise that durable solutions outcomes are pursued at both the national and local levels, as effective durable solutions planning is area-based. An initial set of eight Area-Based Coordination Groups (ABCs) have been identified, including (1) East Anbar (Fallujah and Ramadi); (2) West Anbar (Al-Qa'im, Heet and Haditha); (3) Sinjar; (4) Ba'aj (5) northern Salah Al-Din (Baiji & Shirqat); (6) Diyala (Muqdadia, Jalawla & Sa'adiya); (7) Hawija and (8) Mosul, all in priority displacement-affected governorates as outlined in the National Plan. The main task of the ABCs is to develop, implement, and monitor area-level durable solutions Plans of Actions (PoAs) jointly with authorities, displacement-affected communities, and a wide range of additional stakeholders (other organisations working in the area and local government departments). The Plans of Action aim at providing a joint and coherent basis for all relevant actors to (i) identify, (ii) plan, and (iii) implement durable solutions at the operational level in a collective and coordinated way.

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## INTRODUCTION

The current composition of the Sinjar ABC includes 17 UN organisations, 33 international NGOs, and 7 national NGOs, with the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) and Shelter Cluster participating as observers. In 2022, the Sinjar ABC conducted several consultations involving community representatives, government technical departments, and Sinjar government leadership. These consultations aimed to gain insight into the ongoing recovery and development initiatives undertaken by the government and development partners in their pursuit of durable solutions for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Sinjar. Additionally, the ABC sought to identify gaps hindering the achievement of durable solutions for IDPs and shared these findings with the government, fostering collaborative efforts to address them. Building upon these consultations, the Sinjar ABC has finalised in-depth findings for Tal Qasab, Tal Banat, Al Qayrawan Centre, nine villages in the vicinity of Qayrawan, and six collective centres in Sinuni and Sinuni Centre.

The 2023 Sinjar PoA affirms the guideline principles outlined in the Iraq Inter-agency Durable Solutions Operational and Strategic Framework. The plan then outlines the priority target populations and the Sinjar displacement and return context to give the background of the displacement situation, obstacles to durable solutions, and movement intentions of IDPs displaced within and outside Sinjar. The PoA then looks at the summary of all the current/ planned activities in Sinjar, followed by an analysis of the identified priority locations and the sectoral needs and challenges aligned with the eight Operational Framework specific objectives. Furthermore, the PoA comprises an action plan that captures location specific identified implemented activities.

## 2. SITUATION AND CONTEXT ANALYSIS

### 2.1 Displacement Overview

According to International Organization for Migration's (IOM) Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) for January-April 2023, Sinjar has a total of 36,510 remaining IDPs spread across 39 locations. Among them, 20,270 IDPs face medium severity living conditions, while 6,240 experience low severity living conditions.<sup>2</sup> Markaz Sinjar has the highest number of IDPs, with 18,546 individuals settled in 15 locations. It is also identified as one of the top three hotspots<sup>3</sup> based on the highest number of IDP residents.

Table 1: Number of IDPs and Locations by Overall Severity

SINJAR'S DISPLACEMENT INDEX (JANUARY-APRIL 2023)								
SINJAR SUB-DISTRICTS	HIGH SEVERITY		MEDIUM SEVERITY		LOW SEVERITY		TOTAL	
	# OF IDPS	# OF LOCATIONS	# OF IDPS	# OF LOCATIONS	# OF IDPS	# OF LOCATIONS	# OF IDPS	# OF LOCATIONS
Al-Shamal	-	-	17,028	19	648	1	17,676	20
Markaz Sinjar	-	-	12,954	9	5,592	6	18,546	15
Qaeyrrawan	-	-	288	4	-	-	288	4
TOTAL			30,270	32	6,240	7	36,510	39

The safety and security domain is the most critical, with concerns raised by IDPs regarding violence stemming from tensions among security forces or armed groups. These concerns include revenge attacks, ISIL attacks, and the presence of other security actors beyond the Iraqi army, local police, and federal police.

### 2.2. Movement Intentions and Obstacles to Durable Solutions in Sinjar

IOM's Integrated Locations Assessment (ILA) conducted from April to June 2022 in Sinjar reveals IDPs' intentions in two timeframes: short-term (within the next 6 months) and long-term (beyond the next 6 months). In the short term, 91% of IDPs expressed a desire to stay in their current location. If assistance is provided, 62% would consider returning, and a significant portion (38%) would return if given the opportunity. The reasons why most IDPs do not want to return (related to the location of displacement) are better safety and security (44%), the presence of extended family and friends (18%), living conditions are currently better (9%), and households are progressing towards relocation (3%). In relation to the location of return, IDPs do not want to return due to a lack of housing (94%), lack of livelihood opportunities (59%), no financial means to return (53%), lack of safety (12%), and fear of revenge and discrimination (9%).

Regarding long-term plans, 56% of IDPs express a desire to return to their place of origin, 35% remain undecided, and only 9% prefer local integration in their current location. When considering the reasons related to the location of displacement, 7% of IDPs cited failed integration in the host community as the main factor to return followed by no financial means to remain (4%), worsening of livelihood/services (4%), and worsening of security situations (1%). As for the reasons associated with the location of return, IDPs mentioned the emotional desire to return (9%), availability of housing (2%), availability of services (1%),

2 The DI is based on 22 indicators across five domains: (1) livelihoods, (2) housing, (3) infrastructure and services, (4) safety and security, and (5) social inclusiveness. The scores of each domain and overall index are grouped into three categories: low, medium, and high severity of living conditions.

3 Subdistricts are classified as 'hotspots' if they score highly in terms of overall severity and have at least 1,000 IDPs residing in the subdistrict.

availability of assistance (1%), availability of jobs (1%), incentives/support to return (1%), and location is safe (1%).

Apart from IDPs residing in camps, there are thousands of IDPs from Sinjar living outside of camps, including those in informal sites in Duhok and other parts of Ninewa. Priority attention is given to out-of-camp IDPs living in critical shelter conditions under this plan of action. According to CCCM data, there are a total of 477 informal sites in Iraq, with 30 of them located in Sinjar. The majority of families in these sites are from Sinjar and many have attempted to return to their areas of origin but face similar challenges as IDPs in camps. While authorities prioritise return as the preferred solution, there is evidence that out-of-camp IDPs from Sinjar are exploring other options if conditions in their areas of origin do not improve and their concerns remain unaddressed.<sup>4</sup>

## 2.3. Return Context Analysis

A total of 123,348 returnees have been reported in Sinjar across 112 locations. Among the returnees, the majority have settled in the Al-Shamal sub-district (74,202), followed by Qayrawan (29,334) and Markaz Sinjar (19,812). Many of those returning to Al-Shamal originated from Zakho and Sumel districts in Duhok governorate, while most returnees to Qayrawan came from Mosul district in Ninewa governorate. For Markaz Sinjar, the majority of returnees came from Zakho, Sumel, and Duhok in Duhok governorate. Additionally, around 150 individuals reportedly arrived in Sinjar from camps.<sup>5</sup>

Table 2: Number of Returnees and Locations by Overall Severity

SINJAR'S RETURN INDEX (JANUARY-APRIL 2023)								
SINJAR SUB-DISTRICTS	OVERALL SEVERITY							
	HIGH		MEDIUM		LOW		TOTAL	
	# OF RETURNEES	# OF LOCATIONS	# OF RETURNEES	# OF LOCATIONS	# OF RETURNEES	# OF LOCATIONS	# OF RETURNEES	# OF LOCATIONS
Al-Shamal	71,388	29	2,814	11	-	-	74,202	40
Markaz Sinjar	17,652	24	2,118	6	42	1	19,812	31
Qayrawan	19,008	27	10,326	14	-	-	29,334	41
TOTAL	108,048	80	15,258	31	42	1	123,348	121

Out of all the returnee individuals in Sinjar, a significant portion (108,048 returnees in 80 out of 112 locations) are living in areas categorised as having high severity living conditions. 15,258 returnees are living in 31 locations with medium severity, while 42 returnees live in one location in Markaz Sinjar in low severity conditions. Additionally, there are around 7,326 returnees residing in their original residences, but these locations are deemed uninhabitable. Some returnees are living in temporary shelters such as abandoned buildings, tents, caravans, makeshift structures, mud or blockhouses. According to IOM's ILA VII, the level of housing destruction is reported as less than 1%-24% in 52% of the locations, 25%-49% in 33% of the locations, and no destruction in 15% of the locations. Among the returnees, 78% have experienced a decrease in agricultural output due to environmental factors. In terms of freedom of movement, 98% of the returnees can move freely without requiring any special permits. Moreover, around three-quarters (72%) of failed returns<sup>6</sup> occurred in Sinjar district. Failed returns were primarily caused by a lack of public services and job opportunities, along with residential damage or destruction.

<sup>4</sup> A February 2021 OCHA mission report indicated that 1,360 HHs comprising of host communities, IDPs and returnees reside on Sinjar Mountain. Of these families, 380 former IDP families have bought land, built houses, and locally integrated.

<sup>5</sup> IOM DTM Iraq Master List Report 128 (Data Collection period October-December 2022). February 2023

<sup>6</sup> IOM DTM Iraq Master List Report 128 (Data Collection period October-December 2022). February 2023



### 3. OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITY MAPPING

In 2022, ABC Sinjar partners completed a total of 150 activities, with 93 activities in Sinjar Center, 43 in Sinuni, and 14 in Qayrawan.

Table 3: ABC Activities Completed in 2022

SECTOR	2022 COMPLETED ACTIVITIES			
	SINJAR CENTER	SINUNI	QAYRAWAN	TOTAL
Government leadership	1	0	1	2
Housing and HLP	2	0	1	3
Livelihoods	36	0	1	37
Roads	1	0	1	2
Education	8	13	6	27
WASH	5	15	1	21
Health	8	3	0	11
Food security	4	0	0	4
Electricity	2	10	0	12
Social protection	6	0	0	6
Documentation and Rights	4	1	1	6
Social Cohesion	5	0	1	6
Safety and security	9	1	1	11
Facilitated Movements	2	0	0	2
Total Activities	93	43	14	150
% of Total	62%	29%	9%	100%

While the government prioritised road development, the ABC members concentrated on improving livelihoods as their primary focus. Approximately 22% of their available resources were allocated to various initiatives aimed at supporting and enhancing livelihood opportunities. Education and WASH-related activities followed closely in priority. Rehabilitation efforts played a crucial role in enabling the settlement of returning individuals by establishing sustainable water services and rehabilitating water pipeline networks in their respective communities.

Based on the 2023 Activity Reporting, Sinjar ABC mapped out the current and planned activities that partners are implementing to complement government efforts to resolve displacement in Sinjar.

Table 4 reflects the current and planned projects across the spectrum of humanitarian, early recovery/stabilisation, development, and peacebuilding sectors. The 2023 project mapping consists of 30 partners implementing 116 projects (comprising 356 activities) in 96 locations in the 3 sub-districts in Sinjar. In many locations, a single partner is implementing single activities. In addition, WASH, livelihoods, social protection, electricity, and social cohesion activities are the most represented sectors while documentation and rights, government leadership, HLP and facilitated movements have the fewest activities with no budget allocation on food security and road rehabilitation.

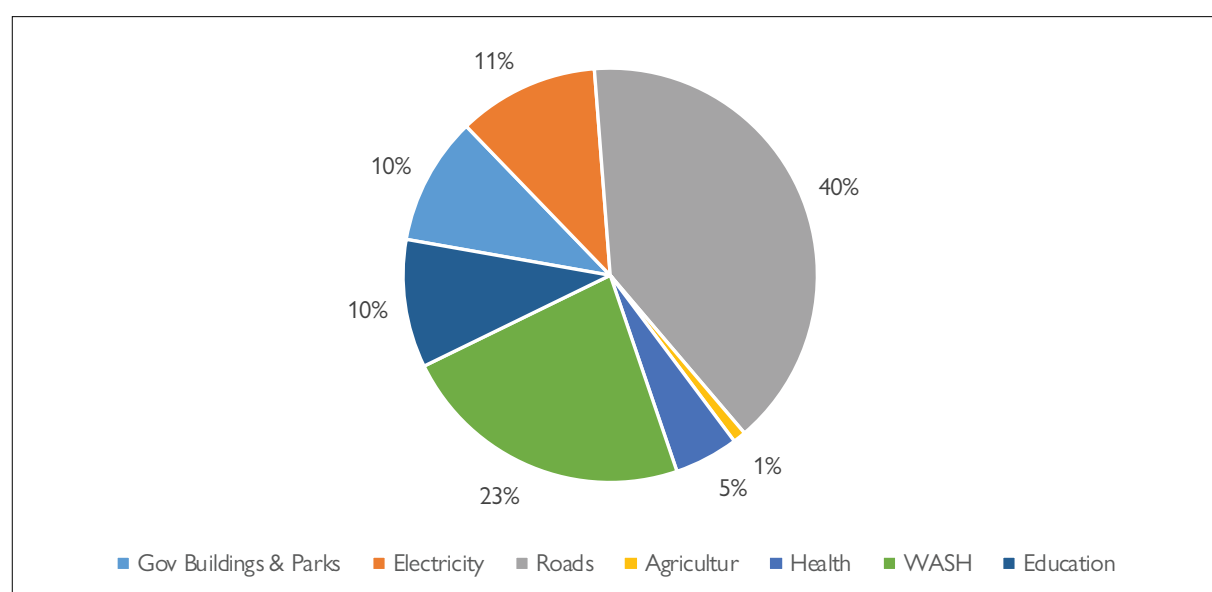
Table 4: ABC Current and Planned Activities in 2023

SECTOR	2023 CURRENT AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES			
	SINJAR CENTER	SINUNI	QAYRAWAN	TOTAL
Government leadership	3	0	0	3
Housing and HLP	1	0	0	1
Livelihoods	21	0	0	21
Roads	0	0	0	0
Education	7	0	1	8
WASH	7	17	2	26
Health	4	2	0	6
Food security	0	0	0	0
Electricity	1	10	0	11
Social protection	5	9	0	14
Documentation and Rights	5	0	1	6
Social Cohesion	10	0	1	11
Safety and security	7	0	1	8
Facilitated Movements	1	0	0	1
Total Activities	72	38	6	116
% of Total	62%	33%	5%	100%

### 3.1. Government & ABC Priorities

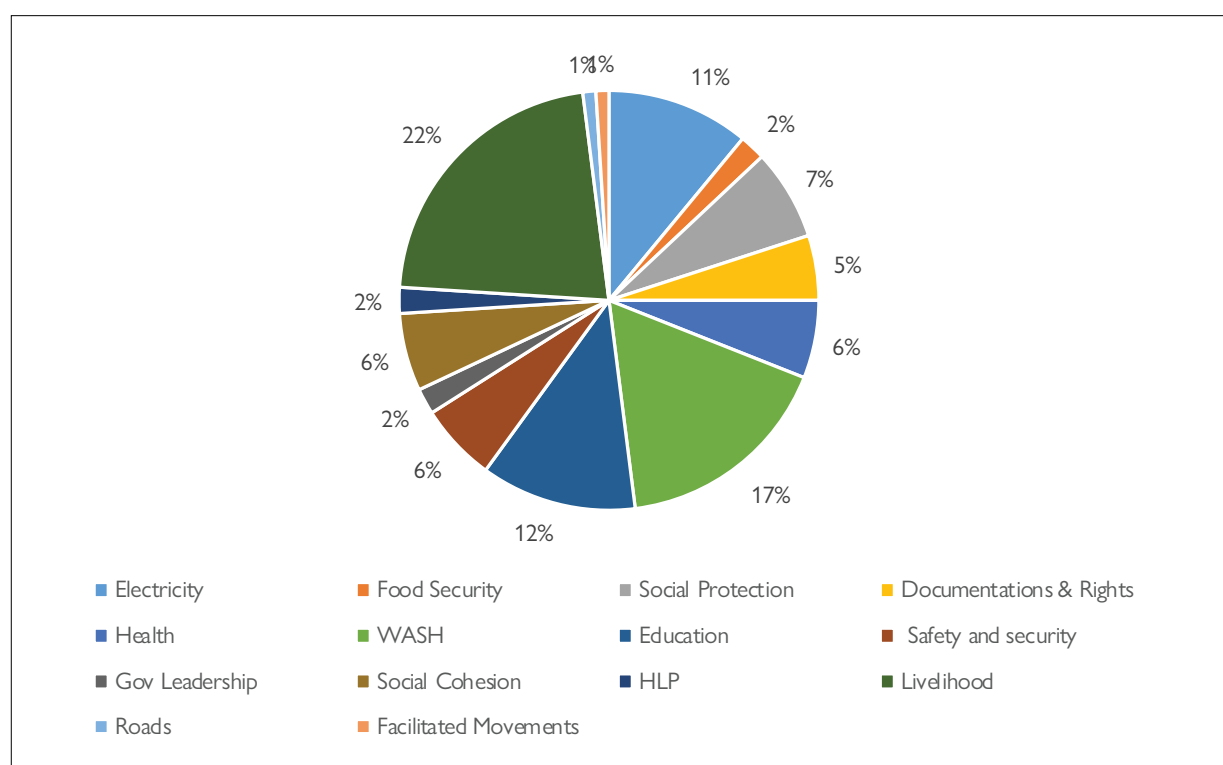
Figure 1 displays completed, ongoing, and planned government-led activities in Sinjar for 2022 and 2023. The local government in Ninewa has allocated 40% of its 2022-2023 budget for road rehabilitation to improve access to main towns and villages. WASH has received 23% of the budget, focusing on rehabilitating basic water services for returnees. Other priorities included electricity (11%), education, government buildings, and parks (10%), health (5%), and agriculture (1%). Notably, livelihood was not included in the priorities.

Figure 1: Government Projects 2022/2023



In contrast, ABC members have allocated 22% of the overall budget to livelihoods and 1% to roads, complementing government efforts and addressing gaps. Figure 3 illustrates the sectoral focus of ABC Sinjar combining the completed, current and planned activities from 2022 to 2023. Analysis of the mapping shows that Sinjar ABC partners' priority sectors for 2022-2023 are livelihoods (22%), WASH (17%), and electricity (11%).

Figure 2: ABC Activities 2022/2023



The allocation of only 1% of funding by the government for agriculture, and the absence of a budget for agriculture from ABC partners (with 2% allocated for food security), is concerning. This is particularly worrisome considering the significant impact of the loss of productive assets in the agricultural sector, such as irrigation systems, machinery, equipment, and tools, which directly affect employment opportunities in rural areas. The loss of livestock further compounds these challenges. As a result, many agricultural-based rural households are compelled to relocate to urban areas, exacerbating the decline in agricultural production. Another significant gap in funding allocation, both from the government and the ABC Sinjar partners, is the lack of resources allocated for shelter, specifically addressing the needs of IDPs/returnees residing in critical and sub-standard shelters, as well as those in informal settlements. There is a pressing need for longer-term solutions to address the shelter needs of a larger number of people, particularly returnees, extending beyond immediate humanitarian response.

Furthermore, issues related to Housing, Land, and Property (HLP) were also identified as a crucial concern in Sinjar. The lack of functioning courts, legal service providers, and land registry offices in the area has resulted in challenges around HLP, including compensation claims. Despite the high demand for HLP support in the Sinjar district, only 2% of the budget was allocated by ABC partners, with no allocation from the government to address these needs. Table 5 below details the government projects/activities per area:

Table 5: Government Projects/Activities per area (2022/2023)

GOVERNMENT PROJECTS/ACTIVITIES IN SINJAR (2022/2023)						
SECTOR	SINJAR CENTER	SINUNI	QAYRAWAN	QAHTANYA/ BA'AJ	TOTAL	% OF TOTAL
Roads	6	7	5	6	24	40%
Wash	3	9	1	0	13	23%
Health	1	0	1	1	3	5%
Agriculture	1	0	0	0	1	1%
Education	1	3	2	0	6	10%
Electricity	2	3	1	1	7	11%
Government Buildings & Parks	2	1	2	1	6	10%

### 3.2. Community Consultations

Multiple community consultations, deep dive sessions and roundtable discussions with local authorities were conducted during 2022-2023 in both Qayrawan and Sinuni, two distinct areas with varying needs. These comprehensive consultations aimed to assess the projects implemented by both the government and durable solution partners and identify the remaining gaps and needs in each target location. Notably, both areas faced similar challenges in the sectors of security, housing, and livelihoods.

Although there has been some improvement in security, it remains fragmented, with various groups responsible for different areas. This fragmentation often hampers the equitable distribution of aid. The ongoing political conflict between Federal Iraq and the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) regarding the administration of Sinjar has contributed to this security instability.

Following security, housing emerged as the next priority, closely intertwined with livelihoods. UNDP estimates that approximately 30,000 houses require rehabilitation, including partially damaged, totally damaged, and mud houses. However, there are notable challenges that need to be addressed prior to undertaking comprehensive rehabilitation efforts. Firstly, the presence of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) or Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) in the area pose serious safety risks and hamper safe return and reconstruction efforts. A swift and thorough removal of ERWs will ensure a safe environment for housing projects, particularly in Adnaniya. Secondly, the presence of mass graves in the Jazeera complex and other areas poses another significant challenge. According to the governorate of Ninewa, there are more than 80 mass graves scattered across different parts of Sinjar. While the locations of these graves have been identified, the task at hand is to properly identify and remove the bodies, aiming to mitigate the social and psychological impact associated with these graves. Lastly, compensation was also mentioned as a concern, but participants expressed scepticism regarding the government's ability to deliver such services due to the lack of a comprehensive compensation plan by the government for the damages suffered during the conflict, which remains unresolved.

The returned population strongly emphasised the crucial importance of sustainable employment opportunities to encourage them to stay in the area, even if housing is available. Moreover, special attention must be given to tackling the high unemployment rate, particularly among farmers who represent approximately 80% of the population in Sinjar.

Education was also identified as another area requiring attention, primarily due to a shortage of teachers

and limited opportunities for further education, such as technical colleges and universities. This limited the returnees' prospects of securing better employment opportunities.

Moreover, it was acknowledged during the discussions that certain services such as water, electricity, education, and healthcare were available in the areas under consideration. However, they were limited in scope and required expansion. In addition, there are several significant challenges that need to be addressed in Sinjar. Firstly, the absence of mayors who operate from exile poses a governance and leadership gap in the district. Secondly, the issues surrounding survivors of ISIL and individuals who were kidnapped present a complex and sensitive situation that requires attention and support. Lastly, participants emphasised the need to improve civil defence and local courts to handle incidents within the community instead of relying on Sinjar for resolution.



## 4. OVERVIEW OF SECTORAL NEEDS AND CHALLENGES

The tables below provide a summary of the current response and remaining gaps/needs in the following areas where deep dives were conducted: Tal Banat, Tal Qasab, Markaz Qayrawan, Sinuni Complex, and Markaz Sinuni categorised by specific objective and location.

### 4.1. Government Leadership

The Sinjar Plan of Action has been developed through collaboration between the authorities in Ninewa and Sinjar, along with the assistance of international and local partners. These partners are providing specialised technical support to build the capacity of local directorates. However, additional support is required to ensure that these directorates have the necessary resources and skills to maintain infrastructure and deliver services to the displaced community. The complex political context in Sinjar poses a significant challenge, as the absence of a legitimate administration hinders progress towards durable solutions.<sup>7</sup> The uncertainty surrounding district administration and government leadership has implications for service delivery, safety, and security, which are key factors influencing IDPs' decisions not to return.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE	IDENTIFIED GAPS					
	TAL BANAT	TAL QASAB	MARKAZ QAYRAWAN	SINUNI COMPLEX (5 LOCATIONS)	MARKAZ SINUNI	QAYRAWAN SUB-DISTRICT (9 VILLAGES)
<b>GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP</b>						
Current Response	- Garbage collection - Roads rehabilitation	- Garbage collection - Roads rehabilitation	-Supporting returns to Qayrawan from displacement in J5 as well as other potential displacement sites in the future	None	None	None
Remaining Gaps/Needs	-No funded plans  -No budget for public services other than electricity	- No funded plans  -No budget for public services other than electricity	- The IDPs do not have a book of acquittal, IDs and a court order for divorce, and they do not have the ability to make these documents.  -There is a need to continue advocacy at the governorate and local level as well as with tribes there to resolve the CAT2 IDPs issues	None Identified	None Identified	-Community members unable to vote due to legal issues

### 4.2. Housing and HLP

The housing challenges in Sinjar are complex and interconnected with various other concerns such as access to services, livelihoods, and documentation. Returnees, particularly minority groups, face difficulties in proving their ownership or occupancy rights due to the absence of cadastral maps defining property

<sup>7</sup> See ABC Sinjar Authority Round Table meeting minutes, page 4.

boundaries and rights. This hampers their ability to access rehabilitation support from aid organisations and claim compensation for damaged or destroyed properties through the National Compensation Scheme. According to the Operational Framework, IDPs in Duhok (mostly from Sinjar) report the highest housing damage, with many requiring assistance in rebuilding fully damaged shelters.<sup>8</sup> The areas south of Mount Sinjar, particularly Qayrawan and Markaz Sinjar, have been heavily affected by the conflict and subsequent occupation, leading to the abandonment of numerous houses and villages. As a result, families returning from displacement have occupied the homes of those who are still displaced.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE	TAL BANAT	TAL QASAB	MARKAZ QAYRAWAN	SINUNI COMPLEX (5 LOCATIONS)	MARKAZ SINUNI	QAYRAWAN SUB-DISTRICT (9 VILLAGES)
<b>HOUSING &amp; HLP</b>						
Current Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Debris removal of Cat 4 houses</li> <li>- Housing reconstruction</li> <li>- Establishment of a local compensation committee</li> <li>-Supporting HHs to receive the compensation and HLP support</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Registration of HLP claims for Yazidis</li> <li>-Housing reconstruction</li> <li>- Establishment of a local compensation committee</li> <li>-Supporting HHs to receive the compensation and HLP support</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Debris removal for CAT 4 houses</li> <li>- Housing rehabilitation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Housing rehabilitation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Mapping of housing, land and property rights claims</li> <li>- Issuance of occupancy certificates</li> <li>-Awareness raising on housing, land and property rights</li> <li>-HLP Legal Assistance</li> <li>-HLP awareness raising,</li> <li>-Forced eviction counselling</li> <li>-Cash for rent referrals</li> <li>-HLP compensation</li> <li>-Legal representation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Shelter rehabilitation in Bisqi Shamali</li> <li>-Transitional shelter intervention (RHUs) for the damaged houses that fall under category 3 or 4 in Al-Qahra, Sibaya Ammash, Bisqi Al Shemali, Al-Mualih.</li> </ul>
Remaining Gaps/Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Debris recycling</li> <li>- Housing rehabilitation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Debris recycling</li> <li>- Housing rehabilitation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Rehabilitation of the destroyed houses that have not yet benefited from IOM or UNDP projects.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Rehabilitation of the destroyed houses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None Identified</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Housing rehabilitation</li> <li>- HLP interventions</li> </ul>

### 4.3. Livelihoods

Prior to the conflict, the livelihoods in Sinjar relied heavily on agriculture, including crops like wheat, barley, figs, tobacco, and livestock farming (sheep, poultry, etc.). While some activities have resumed, substantial parts of Markaz Sinjar still suffer from damage. Previous efforts from partners have focused on rehabilitating the cement factory, which has the potential to generate employment and revitalise the local manufacturing industry. Other activities include vocational and soft-skills training, cash-for-work initiatives, grant support, market-based programmes, and agricultural infrastructure rehabilitation, such as well restoration, provision of greenhouses, and improvement of irrigation systems. For 2022-2023, ABC partners have allocated 22% of the budget to enhance income security in the district. However, there are significant needs remaining, particularly in rebuilding the damaged agricultural economy and providing sustainable alternative livelihoods.

<sup>8</sup> Iraq Durable Solutions Operational Framework, page 11.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE	TAL BANAT	TAL QASAB	MARKAZ QAYRAWAN	SINUNI COMPLEX (5 LOCATIONS)	MARKAZ SINUNI	QAYRAWAN SUB-DISTRICT (9 VILLAGES)
<b>LIVELIHOODS</b>						
Current Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Vocational training for returnees</li> <li>- MPCA</li> <li>- Garden rehabilitation and agricultural promotion in Horyan School</li> <li>- Restoring agricultural irrigation wells to support agricultural activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Vocational training for returnees</li> <li>- MPCA</li> <li>- Restoring agricultural irrigation wells to support agricultural activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provision of livelihoods assistance grants</li> <li>- Provision of agricultural infrastructure rehabilitation projects, agricultural support, market-based activities and training.</li> <li>- Rehabilitation of water channels &amp; agricultural water wells</li> <li>- Construction of local seed storage</li> <li>- Sheep dips</li> <li>- Beekeeping</li> <li>- Poultry farm</li> <li>- Home Gardening</li> <li>- CfW</li> <li>- Supply and Installation of Solar Systems for Agricultural Wells</li> <li>- Vocational training</li> <li>- Job placement</li> <li>- MPCA</li> </ul>	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provision of individual livelihood packages</li> </ul>	None
Remaining Gaps/ Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Critical gaps remain to support small businesses, agricultural projects, cash-based interventions, income generation, etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Critical gaps remain to support small businesses, agricultural projects, cash-based interventions, income generation, etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continued rehabilitation of wells</li> <li>- Rehabilitation of shops as specified by the municipality</li> <li>- Building a local vegetable market</li> <li>- Provision of seeds, agricultural machinery, and livestock</li> </ul>	None Identified	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Construction of vegetable markets</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Food security intervention</li> </ul>

## 4.4. Basic Services

### 4.4.1. Education

Prior to the conflict, Sinjar had 158 schools, all of which were destroyed or damaged along with their furniture, teaching materials, and records. Currently, 66 schools have reopened, with seven rehabilitated by the government and the rest by partners. However, there are notable gaps in staffing across the district, which has been raised as an issue with authorities. Overcrowding and limited access to education are

compromising its quality, particularly for children in informal sites.<sup>9</sup> Recent surveys found that 47% of families interviewed expressed concerns about the distance to formal schools. Additionally, mechanisms are needed to accommodate children who missed formal schooling due to displacement, as age restrictions may prevent them from enrolling in government schools.<sup>10</sup> As a result, some families prefer to remain in displacement where educational facilities are more accessible to their children.<sup>11</sup>

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE	TAL BANAT	TAL QASAB	MARKAZ QAYRAWAN	SINUNI COMPLEX (5 LOCATIONS)	MARKAZ SINUNI	QAYRAWAN SUB-DISTRICT (9 VILLAGES)
<b>BASIC SERVICES EDUCATION</b>						
Current Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- School rehabilitation (Al Waleed School for Girls, Taaffe, Tal Banat School, Waleed Primary School for Boys)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- School rehabilitation (Al Quds High School, Al Thuha Primary School, Al Fajer Al Jadid)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Distribution of teaching and learning materials</li> <li>- School rehabilitation (Baski al-Shemaly school &amp; Al-Razaq School for Boys)</li> <li>- Provision of educational courses in English for primary school pupils</li> <li>- Conducting a back-to-school campaign.</li> <li>- Provision of school furniture (Um Amer Mixed School &amp; Al-Razaq School for Boys)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- School rehabilitation (Hardan &amp; Duhola Secondary School)</li> <li>- Supply of RO unit to Hattin school</li> <li>- WASH rehabilitation in schools (Jabal Sinjar School in Dughury &amp; Belistan Primary School in Duhola)</li> <li>- Rehabilitation of drilled borehole.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- School-based management project by including 2 Arabic curriculum schools (Sinoni 1 and Sinoni mixed) and 2 Kurdish curriculum schools (Adeeka mixed and Qandil)</li> <li>- School Rehabilitation (Sinooni, Al Iraqiya)</li> <li>- Training of teachers on SBM and Violence Against Children</li> <li>- Blended learning project for 7 schools in Sinune and AlShimal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rehabilitation of the primary school in Um Amer &amp; Bisqi Shamali School</li> </ul>
Remaining Gaps/ Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- School rehabilitation (Kurdistan High School &amp; Al Waleed High School for Boys)</li> <li>- Training of teachers</li> <li>- Provision of Stationery and teaching supplies</li> <li>- Need for CFS in some of the schools</li> <li>- Documentation that allows children to access schools</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- School rehabilitation (Tadmor primary school)</li> <li>- Training of teachers</li> <li>- Provision of Stationery and teaching supplies</li> <li>- Need for CFS in some of the schools</li> <li>- Documentation that allows children to access schools</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rehabilitation of WASH facilities in schools</li> <li>- Lack of teachers</li> <li>- Insufficient facilities</li> <li>- Missing documentation for children</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Two schools in need of support</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The current number of students in Sinuni far exceeds the number of schools and teachers; hence, the main remaining gaps are additional schools and teachers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reported barriers to access education: school was too far, lack of trained teachers, unaffordable education costs for the families, and schools not being in good condition.</li> <li>- Provision of educational supplies, equipment and materials and facilities.</li> <li>- Some schools in the villages were not functioning (Hazeel Alwasti, Akhnesi, Sibaya Ammash, Al-Qahra)</li> </ul>

<sup>9</sup> Reach Initiative, Informal Sites Preliminary Findings, page PowerPoint Presentation ([impact-repository.org](http://impact-repository.org)). According to CCCM Cluster an informal site is a site hosting a minimum of 5 displaced families – who were displaced to the location after 2014 – living together collectively in a site that is not built to accommodate people, and with sub-standard living conditions. Shelter type is sub-standard, including tents, makeshift shelters, unfinished or abandoned buildings, or buildings not meant for living in e.g. schools, and mosques.

<sup>10</sup> REACH ABA Tal Banat and Tal Qasab showed that inability to pay tuition was more of a barrier in Tal Qasab (47%) compared with Tal Banat (23%) while other concerns also included the inability to register, challenges with catching up with what has been missed and disability or health concerns.

<sup>11</sup> It has been noted that patterns of return often coincide with the school terms.

#### 4.4.2. Health

Before the conflict, Sinjar had two general hospitals (Markaz Sinjar and Sinuni) and several health centres offering specialised services. Currently, only Sinuni general hospital provides emergency assistance, and less than half of the former health centres are operational. The majority of functioning centres are located in Al-Shamal, requiring residents of Markaz Sinjar and Qayrawan to travel long distances for complex procedures.<sup>12</sup> Additionally, local authorities have rehabilitated and built PHCCs in Hay Al Shuhadaa, Hay al Nasir, Ain Fathi, and Zikdikhan.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE	TAL BANAT	TAL QASAB	MARKAZ QAYRAWAN	SINUNI COMPLEX (5 LOCATIONS)	MARKAZ SINUNI	QAYRAWAN SUB-DISTRICT (9 VILLAGES)
Basic Services Health						
Current Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Rehabilitation of Primary Health Care Centers (PHCCs)</li> <li>-Provision of medical equipment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mobile clinic providing reproductive health services and gynecological, family planning, anti- and post-natal consultation services (IHAO)</li> <li>-PHCC rehabilitation</li> <li>-Provision of medical equipment</li> <li>-MHPSS</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-General physician who provides consultations and essential medicines</li> <li>-Reproductive health and GBV support at Qayrawan PHC</li> <li>-Conduct mhGAP training at Qayrawan PHC</li> <li>-PHC rehabilitation and provision of medical equipment and furniture.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provision of furniture in PHC in Sharf al-Din (Borek)</li> <li>- Rehabilitation of PHC in Dughury and in the Hattin complex.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Capacity building for the covid vaccination teams</li> <li>- Provision of cold chain equipment (refrigerators, cold boxes, vaccine carriers)</li> <li>-Intensification of Integrated Immunization Services</li> <li>-Rehabilitation of the PHCC and general hospital</li> </ul>	None
Remaining Gaps/Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Shortage of equipment and supplies in public health-care facilities (X-ray machines and basic medical supplies such as bandages, needles, and beds)</li> <li>-Pharmacies of the PHCC need support in medications/supplies</li> <li>- Gap in chronic diseases medications</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Shortage of equipment and supplies in public health-care facilities (X-ray machines and basic medical supplies such as bandages, needles, and beds)</li> <li>- Pharmacies of the PHCC need support in medications/supplies</li> <li>- Gap in chronic diseases medications</li> </ul>	<p>Qayrawan PHC requires:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- medication for chronic diseases</li> <li>- female medical staff</li> <li>-specialized medical staff of either gender</li> <li>-ToTs on diagnosis, referrals, and mental health</li> <li>-water pump or connection to a borehole</li> </ul>	None Identified	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Provision of medical services in the PHCC and Hospital</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Rehabilitation of health infrastructure</li> <li>-Increasing medical personnel</li> <li>-Provision of medical equipment and ambulance vehicle</li> <li>- Pharmacies</li> </ul>

12 UN Habitat, Sinjar Urban Profile, page 43. Assessments conducted by REACH found that 31% of respondent household in Tal Banat needed healthcare services in the 3 months prior to the assessment and 20% of the households were not able to access the services.



### 4.4.3. Electricity

Sinjar's electrical network is gradually recovering from the impact of the conflict. Currently, electricity supply ranges from 10-12 hours per day, supplemented by generators at a cost of IQD7,000 per Ampere. The Al-Qayrawan sub-station and the main transmission line between Markaz Sinjar and Qayrawan have been rehabilitated by the authorities, which can help address electricity challenges and promote returns. Partners are assisting the government by providing transformers, poles, power cables, and overall rehabilitation of the electricity network.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE	TAL BANAT	TAL QASAB	MARKAZ QAYRAWAN	SINUNI COMPLEX (5 LOCATIONS)	MARKAZ SINUNI	QAYRAWAN SUB-DISTRICT (9 VILLAGES)
<b>BASIC SERVICES ELECTRICITY</b>						
Current Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Installation of poles and wires, &amp; transformers</li> <li>- Installation of electrical poles high tension, 14000 ML twisted cable/ Tel</li> <li>-Installation of streetlights</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Installation of electrical poles high tension 8000 ML twisted cable and transformers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Provision of transformers and electrical materials</li> <li>-The Electricity Directorate is repairing the substation; this is 60% complete currently.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Supply of transformers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Donation and procurement of electrical poles, cabling, and transformers.</li> </ul>	None
Remaining Gaps/ Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rehabilitation of the internal distribution network</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Installation of streetlights</li> <li>- Rehabilitation of the internal distribution network</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Electricity Department requested the provision of low-voltage poles and cables for villages.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-More transformers needed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-There is a lot of encroachment on the hotline for the Sinuni water project they need a new transmission line 23 KM to solve this problem</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Certain areas in Al-Qahra village were not connected to the public electrical grid.</li> <li>- Broken electrical cable was reported in Al-Qahra, Hazeel Alwasti and Biskqi villages</li> <li>- Low voltage continues to be one of the main issues</li> </ul>

### 4.4.4. Infrastructure

Reconstructing hard infrastructure is crucial for restoring normalcy, but it involves more than just rebuilding physical structures. It requires a trained workforce, ongoing maintenance, and meeting the needs of the community. The destruction also impacted basic infrastructure including water networks, wells, production facilities, schools, hospitals, and housing. Cities and villages suffered severe amounts of damages, both to infrastructures and buildings. After five years, the international community and the Iraqi government began intervening to initiate rehabilitation works for housing, infrastructure, and public facilities.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE	TAL BANAT	TAL QASAB	MARKAZ QAYRAWAN	SINUNI COMPLEX (5 LOCATIONS)	MARKAZ SINUNI	QAYRAWAN SUB-DISTRICT (9 VILLAGES)
<b>BASIC SERVICES INFRASTRUCTURE</b>						
Current Response	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Shops rehabilitation</li> <li>- Court Refurbishment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provision of firetrucks and crane trucks</li> <li>- Building a public transportation centre, shaded areas around transportation points, and local shops.</li> </ul>	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Rehabilitation and provision of furniture for the National Security building in Sinuni</li> <li>-Provision of professional services to develop the design and carry out supervision of ECO building project in Ninawa</li> <li>- Road rehabilitation</li> </ul>	None
Remaining Gaps/ Needs	-Rehabilitation of youth centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Electricity extensions for the rehabilitated stores</li> <li>- Public spaces, mainly public parks, youth and sports halls</li> </ul>	None Identified	None Identified	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Rehabilitation of the main road between Sinuni and Um Al Shababit</li> <li>-Rehabilitation of the main road between Sinuni and Khazoka village</li> </ul>	None Identified

#### 4.4.5. WASH

Pre-conflict, Sinjar relied on artesian wells and rainwater for its water supply. However, most wells were destroyed or contaminated during the conflict with ISIL. While some wells have been rehabilitated, water scarcity and high salinity persist. This has resulted in communities relying on costly and unsustainable water trucking. Tal Banat and Tal Qasab are particularly affected, with over 80% of households depending on water trucking. Authorities have identified the need for desalination systems during well rehabilitation, but significant gaps remain. Regular maintenance of submersible pumps is also challenging due to low voltage and limited government capacity. Given the drought and lack of rainfall, activities promoting water sustainability and resource management are crucial for long-term solutions.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE	TAL BANAT	TAL QASAB	MARKAZ QAYRAWAN	SINUNI COMPLEX (5 LOCATIONS)	MARKAZ SINUNI	QAYRAWAN SUB-DISTRICT (9 VILLAGES)
<b>BASIC SERVICES WASH</b>						
Current Response	-Rehabilitation and installation of RO system water well	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Rehabilitation and installation of RO system water well</li> <li>-Pump installation for handwashing in Al Salam School</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Boreholes rehabilitation</li> <li>- Installation of water desalination plants</li> <li>- RO plant to supply potable water</li> <li>- Rehabilitation of a pump station</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hygiene promotion</li> <li>- Rehabilitation of water network in Borek complex</li> <li>- Rehabilitation of the water line in Dughury</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Upgrading of WASH facilities using WASH Facilities Improvement Tool</li> <li>- upgraded in - Rehabilitation of water systems (including boreholes and ROs)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Implementation of water projects in Abtach, Mawaleh, Alluliya, Sebayat Ammash, Khenesi.</li> </ul>

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE	TAL BANAT	TAL QASAB	MARKAZ QAYRAWAN	SINUNI COMPLEX (5 LOCATIONS)	MARKAZ SINUNI	QAYRAWAN SUB-DISTRICT (9 VILLAGES)
<b>BASIC SERVICES WASH</b>						
Remaining Gaps/Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Water in general is one of the key remaining gaps in both locations.</li> <li>- Rehabilitation of the Qeni Water Project that exists in the mountain to feed the Tal Qasab and Tal Banat complex</li> <li>- More RO systems are needed if more return happens.</li> <li>- Supporting the municipality's capacity in waste collection and disposal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Water in general is one of the key remaining gaps in both locations.</li> <li>- Rehabilitation of the Qeni Water Project that exists in the mountain to feed the Tal Qasab and Tal Banat complex</li> <li>- More RO systems are needed if more return happens.</li> <li>- Supporting the municipality's capacity for waste collection and Disposal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Work with local community members, community leaders, and the Directorate of Water to develop a full understanding of where legal and illegal access to the water network exists and support planning to rehabilitate this network sustainably.</li> <li>- Raise awareness at all levels in the community about salination risks and introduce salination-resistant crops.</li> <li>- Develop a plan with the community and Directorate of Water for sustainable use of water as well as payment to / support of DoW maintenance of the water network.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Some connections need to be repaired.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Drilling of two wells</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rehabilitation of Kojo water plant</li> <li>- Water treatment</li> <li>- Water trucking</li> <li>- Rehabilitation of treatment plants</li> <li>- Provision of garbage trucks</li> <li>- Improving waste collection</li> <li>- Installation of water network infrastructure</li> </ul>

## 4.5. Documentation and Rights

Sinjar is facing significant challenges regarding documentation for IDPs and returnees. Complex and costly procedures have resulted in a high number of individuals lacking appropriate documentation. This poses obstacles to accessing humanitarian aid, recovery assistance, grants, and compensation schemes. Reports from protection post-return monitoring<sup>13</sup> indicate difficulties faced by returnees in obtaining and renewing civil documentation. Surveys conducted in Duhok reveal that the lack of civil documentation is prevalent among IDPs in Sumail and Zakho, primarily due to distance and transportation issues.<sup>14</sup> Access to civil documentation is crucial for sustainable return. Although protection actors have made efforts to address this issue, resolving physical barriers is more feasible while policy barriers require further attention.<sup>15</sup>

13 Protection Cluster, Protection Monitoring System Dahuk and Ninewa Fact Sheet, March to May 2021.

14 Protection Cluster, Protection Monitoring System Dahuk and Ninewa Fact Sheet, March to May 2021.

15 IOM, Cities as Home: Location Factsheets and Case Studies of Local Integration January 2021 page 29 accessed from CITIES AS HOME Location Factsheets and Case Studies of Local Integration | IRAQ MISSION (iom.int).

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE	TAL BANAT	TAL QASAB	MARKAZ QAYRAWAN	SINUNI COMPLEX (locations 5)	MARKAZ SINUNI	QAYRAWAN SUB-DISTRICT (9 Villages)
<b>Documents and Rights</b>						
Current Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Support in obtaining personal documentation</li> <li>- Civil status and passport office</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Support in obtaining personal documentation</li> <li>- Civil status and passport office</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rebuilding the civil services building in Sinjar</li> <li>- Provision of legal support, including civil documentation</li> <li>- Documentation</li> </ul>	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rehabilitation of the National Unified Card Directorate</li> </ul>	None
Remaining Gaps/Needs		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Supporting individuals in addressing access barriers to government social assistance and documentations to reach basic services in the Tal Qasab complex</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There is a need to support undocumented children in accessing documentation, particularly children from ISIS-affiliated families.</li> <li>- There is a need to develop a clear roadmap for children/families in different situations (for example, ISIS-affiliated families, families displaced from or to other areas, orphans, Yazidi families that have historically had limited access to documentation, etc) so that families are clear on the pathways and resources available to them.</li> <li>- There is a need to fast-track programs to license and appoint judges to meet a deficit in the local judicial system.</li> </ul>	None Identified	None Identified	None Identified

## 4.6. Social Cohesion

The ISIL conflict caused deep divisions among different groups, leading to the rejection and stigmatisation of individuals associated with ISIL. Survivors and victims remain traumatised and seek compensation and justice.<sup>16</sup> Fear and trauma deter many Sinjar IDPs in Duhok from returning. Community leaders emphasise the importance of transitional justice in the return process.<sup>17</sup> The National Plan suggests reconciliation programmes, such as removing the sectarian quota system, involving religious institutions in promoting tolerance, and empowering civil society to mediate between the government and communities.<sup>18</sup> These interventions could aid return and reintegration, however, in Sinjar, specific initiatives may be necessary to rebuild social relationships within the community and restore trust with authorities.

<sup>16</sup> IOM Iraq 'Barriers to Return for Ethno-Religious Minorities in Iraq' January 2020 at page 16.

<sup>17</sup> Returns Working Group, Dahuk Applied Training Report, 2343.pdf (iraqrecovery.org) accessed on 30 June 2021. The report notes that community representatives called for an independent court to be established to resolve community and tribal conflicts relating to perceived ISIL affiliation, particularly between Yazidi and non-Yazidi groups.

<sup>18</sup> National Plan, 'Programs and activities related to the security and political aspects and national reconciliation'.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE	TAL BANAT	TAL QASAB	MARKAZ QAYRAWAN	SINUNI COMPLEX (5 LOCATIONS)	MARKAZ SINUNI	QAYRAWAN SUB-DISTRICT (9 VILLAGES)
<b>SOCIAL COHESION</b>						
Current Response	- Rehabilitation of the community centre -Social cohesion activities using sport and baking implemented with youth and women	None	- Football tournament.	None	None	None
Remaining Gaps/ Needs	-Need for social cohesion activities as there are tensions between Yazidis and Arab communities.	-Need for social cohesion activities as there are tensions between Yazidis and Arab communities.	None Identified	None Identified	None Identified	- Social cohesion activities for Yazidi and Arabs

## 4.7. Safety and Security

The safety and security context in Sinjar is described as fractured and decentralised.<sup>19</sup> Returnees encounter multiple security bodies and frequent military clashes between them,<sup>20</sup> which create an unstable and precarious situation. The lack of a unified administrative authority<sup>21</sup> further hinders sustainability. Additionally, the politicisation of security actors deters the return of IDPs with differing political allegiances due to concerns of prejudice or discrimination.

The issue of lack of a unified security force is not the only issue of concern, the Directorate of Mine Action Operations indicates that there are 188 open explosive ordnance (EO) hazardous areas (6,907,929 sqm) in 14 cities in Sinjar, that are yet to be cleared. Of these, 90 per cent of the contaminated areas are in Sinuni, Borek and Sinjar and the contamination is blocking access to roads and infrastructure.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE	TAL BANAT	TAL QASAB	MARKAZ QAYRAWAN	SINUNI COMPLEX (5 LOCATIONS)	MARKAZ SINUNI	QAYRAWAN SUB-DISTRICT (9 VILLAGES)
<b>SAFETY AND SECURITY</b>						
Current Response	None	- Reconstruction of Tal Qasab police station	-Rehabilitation and provision of furniture for Qayrawan Police Station and the Directorate of Police	None	-Mine Risk Education Training -Training teachers on Crisis Context, Conflict Resolution, and Hygiene	None
Remaining Gaps/Needs	None Identified	None Identified	-There is a need to continue advocacy at the governorate level to resolve the double administration issue in Markaz Qayrawan	None Identified	None Identified	- ERW clearance

19 IOM Iraq 'Reconsidering the Security Sector in Sinjar and the Ninewa Plains' May 2021.

20 Notably, the bombardment of Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) locations by the Turkish Army.

21 The district currently has two administrators/Mayors, one appointed by authorities and is based in Sinjar and the other, elected by the provisional council who is based in Dahuk.



### 4.7.1. Protection

Although military operations against ISIS in Sinjar ended in 2017, the conflict-affected area is one of the districts with the lowest return rates of IDPs in Iraq due to protection concerns and a lack of services. Some areas in Sinjar remain abandoned or with very few inhabitants. Displaced persons' perceptions of "poor security" in the district also contribute to insecurity, as well as IDPs' reluctance to return. There remain significant unmet needs in legal assistance, psycho-social support for adults, and emergency cash for protection. Moreover, access to government social welfare benefits remains limited in areas of displacement and origin. In addition, the achievements of general protection partners on community-based activities remain relatively low as compared to the needs. This directly impacts persons with perceived affiliation to extremists – particularly women and children – who continue to be subject to significant and persistent movement restrictions, segregation in camps, and widespread social discrimination.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE	TAL BANAT	TAL QASAB	MARKAZ QAYRAWAN	SINUNI COMPLEX (5 LOCATIONS)	MARKAZ SINUNI	QAYRAWAN SUB-DISTRICT (9 VILLAGES)
<b>PROTECTION (NOT A STANDING-ALONE SO, BUT BETTER TO DISTINGUISH IT FROM SAFETY/ SECURITY)</b>						
Current Response	-Protection community centre for referrals management, protection monitoring, Legal assistance, PSS, Case management, protection of cash assistance and community outreach volunteers for protection monitoring	-Supporting the vulnerable individuals with special need fund or cash for protection as part of the protection case management	-Provide protection services, including legal assistance, prevention and response services for GBV, child protection case management, MHPSS and civil documentation with remote and mobile coverage.	None	-Child protection activities - Case management CP - Parental program - PSS activities - Case management for survivors of GBV - PSS for GBV survivors and normal community - Life skill - Distribution of dignity kits - Physiotherapy unit - Legal assistance -Awareness campaign -Counselling for Civil docs and Family Law, court representation	None
Remaining Gaps/Needs	-Providing adequate protection services to affected people (case management, legal)	-Providing adequate protection services to affected people (case management, legal)	- There is a remaining gap in the area of protection for women and girls, especially widows and single mothers. This gap can be addressed through awareness sessions, improvement of public transportation, and provision of basic services to women and girls.	None Identified	-The absence of a governmental institution that provides rehabilitation services for children with disabilities -Lack of recreational centres for women in Sinuni.	None Identified

## 4.8. Recommendations

Based on comprehensive data analysis for the revision of the Plan of Action, which includes community consultations, activities of ABC members, and government plans and discussions, the following key areas of focus are recommended for actors aiming to support durable solutions in the Sinjar district:

**Prioritising livelihoods and housing:** In the upcoming phase (2024-2025), the primary focus must be on livelihood and housing initiatives, considering that most basic services have been restored in the district.

**Livelihoods:** Sinjar ABC believes that despite the government's stated lack of plans for livelihood support, it remains crucial for facilitating return, integration, and support to host communities. It is recommended therefore for the ABC partners to develop a comprehensive inter-organisational strategy to provide livelihood assistance throughout Sinjar. This strategy will ensure support is inclusive, addressing the needs of Yazidi, Arab, and Kurdish populations to prevent exacerbating social tensions arising from perceived unequal support.

**Housing:** Sinjar ABC recognises the importance of housing as a key target for enabling people to return to their homes in a dignified and honourable manner. To effectively address this, partners recommended beginning with the rehabilitation of partially damaged houses, followed by mud and completely damaged (concrete-made) houses. This phased approach is based on the fact that some houses still contain ERWs. While the Iraqi Army and International NGOs have cleared significant areas in Sinjar and Baaj, such as Qahtaniya, Jazeera, and Adnaniya, there are still certain types of explosives (specifically cluster munitions) that need to be located and safely detonated. By prioritising the rehabilitation of housing in a phased manner, starting with partially damaged structures, and taking into consideration the ongoing clearance efforts, the safety of returning populations can be ensured while allowing them to witness the progress made in clearing the area. This approach will contribute to a more secure and sustainable return process for the affected communities in Sinjar.

**Focus on concerted collective advocacy:** The Durable Solutions architecture in Iraq provides an influential platform for collective advocacy for humanitarian, development, stabilisation and peacebuilding actors. ABC Sinjar partners must pursue raising awareness among the broader public and decision-makers regarding the residual humanitarian gaps and needs in Sinjar including the challenges and rights of displaced populations. There is also a need for continued advocacy for policies and practices that promote inclusive support and address the specific needs of displacement-affected communities as well as advocating to mobilise resources for the advancement of durable solutions. This requires joint analysis, collaboration for integrated service delivery, information sharing and effective coordination.

Some of the priority issues requiring collective advocacy by durable solutions actors in Sinjar include:

1. Continued advocacy for the effective and timely implementation of the Sinjar Agreement<sup>22</sup> with the government, without halting government or NGO activities while awaiting its implementation.
2. Advocate for increased government resources in Sinjar. Specifically, urge the allocation of more budgetary and human resources to improve services in crucial sectors such as health, education, electricity, and water. Examples include advocating for enhanced funding for long-term strategic water projects utilising

<sup>22</sup> Issues related to governance and legitimate authority in Sinjar are some of the main challenges to addressing displacement that federal and regional authorities have tried to address through the Sinjar Agreement of October 2020. The Sinjar Agreement is yet to be implemented and considerable effort is required to restore trust between authorities and the displacement-affected community in Sinjar.

surface water and ensuring access to essential maternal and neonatal healthcare services in Sinjar hospitals.

3. Advocate for political resolutions in areas with blocked returns, while concurrently implementing social programmes to address issues hindering returns due to social cohesion challenges.
4. National advocacy to ensure quicker wider, and equitable disbursement of property compensation schemes.
5. National and local policy advocacy to ensure security for tenure for minorities, through legislation and other reforms including addressing the concerns around the lack of ownership documents.
6. Advocate to donors to ensure that sufficient funding is allocated to Sinjar to support integrated projects, particularly in the areas of shelter and livelihoods.

**Increase government ownership and engagement:** In 2023, Sinjar ABC intends to maintain close collaboration with the government to facilitate durable solutions throughout the district. This entails developing sustainable plans for service rehabilitation and livelihood opportunities and coordinating efforts to support voluntary returns from both the Duhok camps and within Sinjar. At the operational level, this requires building the capacity of local governments and communities for community-driven and locally-led solutions<sup>23</sup> to provide an enabling environment for long-term stability and inclusive development. The passing of the December 2022 law by the Iraqi parliament, which grants house and land tenure to Yazidi communities facing prolonged threats of forced displacement and eviction, presents promising prospects for collaboration between the government, UN agencies and other organisations. For instance, UN Habitat's expertise in ownership and occupancy mapping, IOM's support through the Facilitated Voluntary Movement programme as well as their shelter and livelihood initiatives, can collectively contribute to establishing lasting solutions for these communities.

**Promote Localisation:** To promote localisation and increase the engagement of local NGOs, Sinjar ABC recognises the importance of their involvement in ABC initiatives. To achieve this, the following recommendations can be implemented:

1. Actively reach out to local NGOs in Sinjar, building connections and networks with these organisations.
2. Provide training and capacity-building programmes for local NGOs, focusing on areas such as project management, proposal writing, financial management, and advocacy skills. This empowers local NGOs to effectively participate in ABC initiatives and enhances their overall organisational capacities.
3. Share information, resources, and best practices with local NGOs. Create platforms for knowledge exchange and collaboration where local NGOs can learn from one another's experiences and successes.
4. Seek opportunities for partnership between Sinjar ABC and local NGOs. This can include joint projects, co-implementing initiatives, and resource-sharing arrangements. Encourage collaboration to leverage the strengths and expertise of both parties.
5. Establish grant programmes specifically targeting local NGOs in Sinjar. Provide financial support to enable local NGOs to implement their own initiatives and contribute to the development and stabilisation of the district.
6. Ensure that local NGOs have a voice and representation in ABC meetings held within the district. Provide opportunities for them to share their insights, perspectives, and recommendations.

<sup>23</sup> Locally-led refers to the engagement of local government, other local governance bodies such as community leaders, involvement of civil society, the private sector, and local NGOs.

7. Acknowledge and highlight the contributions of local NGOs in ABC initiatives. Provide platforms for showcasing their work and achievements, both within the district and to external stakeholders.

By implementing these recommendations, Sinjar ABC can actively promote the involvement of local NGOs, fostering a sense of ownership and empowerment within the district. This localisation approach strengthens the sustainability and effectiveness of ABC initiatives while enhancing local capacities and promoting community-led development.

Furthermore, Sinjar ABC aims to utilise its continuous presence in Sinjar by holding ABC meetings inside the district to raise awareness and garner increased attention from both the government and the international community.

## 5. INITIAL TARGET LOCATIONS

Initially, Sinjar ABC's target locations were Tel Qasab, Tel Banat, Qayrawan, and Kojo. Deep dives were conducted for Tel Qasab, Tel Banat, Qayrawan center, and nine surrounding villages. However, based on demand and higher return rates, the focus shifted to include Markaz Sinuni and six surrounding complexes, prioritising areas with significant returnee populations. In accordance with assessment findings, activities impact and the evolution of the situation on the ground, priority locations might be added or deemed completed during subsequent revisions of the PoA.

### 5.1. Tal Banat and Tal Qasab Villages

Tel Banat and Tel Qasab are towns in the al Qayrawan sub-district of Sinjar district, approximately 10 and 17 kilometres southeast of the town of Sinjar. Established in the 1970s, they were designed as housing complexes for Yazidi households displaced from villages in the Sinjar district. In 2014, both communities were depopulated due to the ISIL assault, leading residents to flee. After the areas were recaptured by the Government of Iraq (GoI) forces, some households started returning, but recent figures suggest that a majority remain in primary or secondary displacement.<sup>24</sup> IOM's DTM Return Index indicates high severity of conditions and needs, but localised information on these areas was previously lacking. Existing data shows an estimated 5,000-6,000 IDPs from Tel Banat and 4,000-5,000 IDPs from Tel Qasab still in the main area of displacement (AoD). Additionally, 620 households from Tel Banat and 503 households from Tel Qasab have returned to the area of origin (AoO), with their previous displacement mainly in Ninewa and Duhok.

Based on the deep dive session conducted by Sinjar ABC in 2022, the remaining critical gaps and needs are concentrated mostly on education, health, WASH, housing and HLP, and livelihoods. These gaps include:

- **Education:** There is a need to rehabilitate schools, train education professionals, and provide educational materials, equipment and classroom furniture, while documentation to allow children to go to school was highlighted as the main barrier for children to go to school.
- **Housing & HLP:** A considerable portion of the community, approximately 78% in Tal Qasab and 67% in Tal Banat, reported that their current living spaces are damaged. Destruction of houses was cited as the primary reason preventing IDPs from returning home, while approximately 60% of respondents reported owning their current shelter without proper documentation.
- **Civil documentation:** 40% of households in Tal Banat and 36% in Tal Qasab indicated that they have at least one civil document which is lost, damaged, or expire. Furthermore, accessing the formal justice system is hindered by the cost of court fees in these towns.
- **Water:** Rehabilitation is needed for the Qeni Water Project that exists in the mountain to feed Tal Qasab and Tal Banat complex.
- **Health:** There is a shortage of functional pharmacies, medicines, medical supplies, equipment, and medical practitioners.
- **Livelihoods:** Critical gaps persist in supporting small businesses, agricultural projects, cash-based interventions, and income-generating initiatives.

24 REACH. Sinjar Area-Based Assessment. December 2021



- **Safety & Security:** Approximately 21% in Tal Banat and 29% in Tal Qasab, reported not feeling safe from harm or violence in their current locations.

## 5.2. Markaz Qayrawan and Nine Surrounding Villages

Al-Qayrawan town and the nine surrounding villages in the al-Qayrawan sub-district of Sinjar district were covered in Sinjar ABC's deep dive. The conflict in al-Qayrawan sub-district resulted in the displacement of almost the entire population, causing significant damage to critical infrastructure and essential services such as water supply, healthcare, and schools. This damage has led to limited access to livelihood opportunities and basic services. The conflict also strained inter-communal relationships, creating additional barriers to equitable access to services.<sup>25</sup> Since the liberation from ISIL and the improvement of security in the area, IDPs have been returning to their homes and areas of origin. According to the latest data from the IOM's DTM from January to April 2023, there are 29,334 returnees in 41 locations in al-Qayrawan and the surrounding villages. Among these locations, 27 have high-severity conditions with 19,008 returnees, while 14 locations have medium-severity conditions with 10,326 returnees.<sup>26</sup> Despite the return, challenges persist for these individuals as they strive to rebuild their lives. IOM DTM's Return Index and previous assessments by REACH highlight difficulties in accessing livelihood opportunities, improving shelter conditions, accessing clean drinking water, healthcare, education, and ensuring safety and security in the area. Since then, ABC partners have been consistently working to address these needs in Markaz Qayrawan and surrounding villages. However, despite their extensive efforts to enhance basic services, there are still remaining persistent gaps and needs including:

- **Housing:** In Markaz Qayrawan, a gap exists in housing rehabilitation for destroyed houses that haven't benefited from previous projects by IOM or UNDP.
- **Water:** It is important to collaborate with community members, leaders, and the DoW to assess legal and illegal access points and develop a sustainable plan for rehabilitating the water network. This involves mapping boreholes, identifying legal wells, and addressing illegal access points. Raising awareness about salination risks and introducing salination-resistant crops is crucial, while a comprehensive plan should be developed in collaboration with the community and the DoW to ensure sustainable water use and support the maintenance of the water network through appropriate payment mechanisms.
- **Health:** Ongoing support is required for existing health centres, specifically in the provision of medication for chronic illnesses. It is also essential to provide training for medical practitioners on various aspects such as diagnosis, referrals, treatment, and mental health. Moreover, there is a need for additional medical staff to meet the demands of the population.
- **Civil Documentation:** Support is also needed for undocumented children, especially those from ISIS-affiliated families, to obtain necessary documentation. This requires collaboration among various authorities such as local police, municipality, governorate, judicial system, lawyers, and NGOs. Developing a clear roadmap with stakeholders is crucial to guide families in different situations and ensuring they are aware of available pathways and resources.
- **Protection:** To address the remaining protection gap in Markaz Qayrawan, particularly for widows and single mothers, additional efforts are needed in the areas of awareness sessions, improvement of

25 REACH/UNCHR. Al-Qairawan Area-Based Assessment. August 2022.

26 IOM. Return Index. January-April 2023. <https://iraqdtm.iom.int/ReturnIndex>

public transportation, and provision of basic services. The international community and local authorities can collaborate to bridge this gap and enhance protection for women and girls in the whole sub-district.

- **Livelihoods:** The remaining gaps include the rehabilitation of 20 shops as specified by the municipality, the establishment of a local vegetable market, and the provision of seeds, agricultural machinery, and livestock.

### 5.3. Markaz Sinuni and six of the complexes surrounding Sinun

Sinuni (also called as Center of the Shemal district) is the administrative centre of Al-Shemal in the northern part of the district. According to the Return Index data from January to April 2023, there are a total of 74,202 returnees in 40 locations. Among them, 71,388 returnees are in high-severity living conditions across 29 locations, while the remaining 2,814 returnees are in medium-severity living conditions across 11 locations. Among the returnees in Sinuni, the highest severity cases are related to social cohesion and safety perceptions. These issues pose significant challenges to the community's well-being and stability.<sup>27</sup> On the other hand, the medium severity cases primarily pertain to livelihood opportunities and access to basic services. Addressing these challenges in both areas is crucial for ensuring a sustainable and inclusive return process for the affected populations.

Sinjar ABC conducted deep dive sessions in the main Sinuni town and in the following six complexes: Dughury Complex (Hattin), Duhola Complex (Al- Qadesiya ), Borek Complex (Al-Yarmouk), Guhbal Complex (Al Andalous), and Zorava Complex (Al-Uroba). The key remaining needs and gaps identified are as follows:

- **Education:** The number of students in Sinuni exceeds the available schools and teachers, highlighting the need for additional schools and teaching staff.
- **Electricity:** There are encroachments on the hotline for the Sinuni water project which require the installation of a new transmission line spanning 23 kilometres to address this issue.
- **Healthcare:** The Primary Health Care Center (PHCC) and the general hospital in Sinuni lack sufficient medical services, particularly for patients with epilepsy. Although the facilities have been rehabilitated by UNDP, the main gap lies in the shortage of healthcare staff.
- **Road Rehabilitation:** The main roads connecting Sinuni to Um Al Shababit and Khazoka village are in need of rehabilitation to improve transportation and connectivity.
- **Water:** Two water wells need to be drilled to address the water needs of the community.
- **Security:** The overall security situation in the region remains unstable, posing a challenge to the safety and well-being of the residents.
- **Protection:** There is a lack of a governmental institution that provides rehabilitation services for children with disabilities, highlighting the need for specialised support in this area. Furthermore, the absence of recreational centres for women in Sinuni is another identified gap, emphasising the need for spaces where women can engage in recreational activities and social interaction.

Addressing these needs and gaps would contribute to the overall development and well-being of the community in Sinuni and its surrounding complexes.

27 IOM. Return Index. January-April 2023. <https://iraqdtm.iom.int/ReturnIndex>

## 6. INTER-AREA COORDINATION

Noting that a significant number of people from Sinjar remain displaced in areas outside of the district, coordination between governorates/districts is crucial for the facilitation of movement for those intending to return and for approvals, and documentation for those electing other pathways to durable solutions such as local integration or resettlement. Close coordination is particularly important for locations such as Ba'aj, the district of origin for the majority of IDPs within Sinjar, and the KRI and other parts of Ninewa which host many IDPs from Sinjar.

### **Ba'aj**

About 80% of the IDPs in Sinjar are from Ba'aj, most from Qahtaniya. Some have expressed a preference to locally integrate while others intend to return to areas of origin if they are provided with assistance to rebuild their homes. Those who prefer to return will need to be connected to programming in area.

### **KRI (Kurdistan Region of Iraq) controlled areas**

Some IDPs in Duhok governorate may intend to return to areas of origin through facilitated movement support or through spontaneous returns. Those IDPs who intend to locally integrate or resettle elsewhere may also require assistance through activities which will enable sustainable durable solutions in areas of displacement or resettlement.

### **Mosul and other parts of Ninewa**

To also include the return of Arab IDPs from Sinjar in other parts of Ninewa, partners conducting peacebuilding or reconciliation activities in the community and the camps may coordinate with local peace committees to facilitate the return of families with perceived affiliation.

## ANNEX A: IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

To be updated based on Kobo data indicating which activities have been completed in 2021/22 and which new activities are planned for 22/23.

## ANNEX B: MONITORING AND TRACKING

To be updated with new Monitoring framework with indicators.

# **SINJAR DURABLE SOLUTIONS PLAN OF ACTION REVISION 2021–2024**

حلول دائمة في العراق  
Iraq Durable Solutions

