

Women Navigating Durable Solutions To Displacement: Experiences From Ninewa Governorate

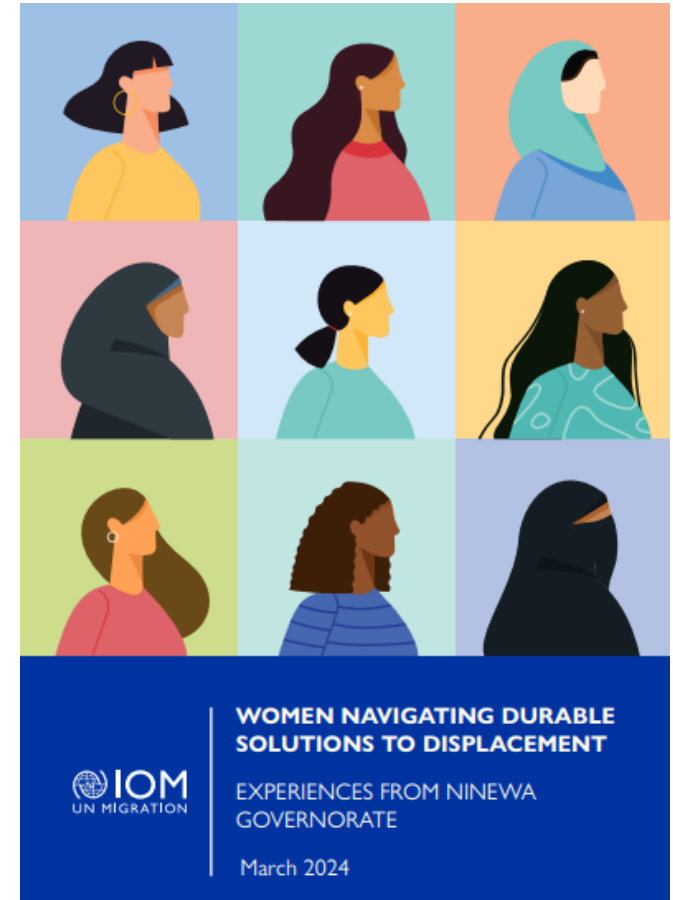
Women Navigating Durable Solutions To Displacement report Overview

Why? qualitative companion analysis to previous quantitative reports. This study gathers all of these sources and provides new qualitative understanding to existing research on gender and displacement

What? Study on factors influence decision-making during the durable solution process, women's agency to overcome reintegration barriers, experiences of displaced women and their reintegration in areas of origin, female-related vulnerabilities and obstacles that affect their reintegration.

How? A desk review, 20 FGDs with women returnees and IDPs and 19 KIs were conducted, including with mukhtars from 6 of the districts, 2 local civil society organizations (CSOs), local/international experts and government officials.

Where? 14 locations spanning 10 subdistricts in Ninewa



Decision to return

- Women make the decision to return after consultations with their family (FHH) or husbands (non-FHH), but the final decision often rests with adult men if they are present in the family
- Children play a significant role in decision-making – mainly seeking to ensure their education, opportunities and security.
- Family considerations, including basic needs and family ties, strongly influence the decision to return.





Access to documentation

- Women's access to documentation is heavily shaped by **social customs** discouraging them from travelling alone, especially in areas like Sinjar, where Yazidi women fear societal judgment and the unstable security situation.
- Women with perceived affiliation to ISIL face further challenges in accessing services due to **fear, discrimination and lengthier procedures**.





Housing tenure



- Women's ability to live independently is **influenced by their financial status** and **how society views this decision**, especially in rural areas.
- Women living in a shared household **may have less control over their personal decisions** and the upbringing of their children, including limiting their exposure to violence.

“When I arrived to Al-Ba’aj I wanted to stay alone with my kids; however, because I did not have any source of income, I was obliged to live with my brother-in-law’s family and defer to them” (IDP, FHH, Urban, Al-Thawra, Al-Ba’aj).



Livelihoods

- Women are **restricted to a limited range of “acceptable” jobs** based on customs and traditions, typically subject to family consent.
- **Age, marital status and childcaring responsibilities** further impact their choices.
- However, in some locations, the **challenging living conditions brought on by the conflict**, and the organizations raising awareness have helped **change cultural attitudes** around what is perceived as acceptable.





Social networks

- Social customs play a significant role in women's perceptions of self and relationship with the community.
- FHH feel a **sense of belonging** but also **isolation** due to their dual roles as providers and caregivers.
- Widowed and divorced women face an **additional level of scrutiny** due to their marital status and may feel pressured to remarry.
- Stigma is strongest for **women with perceived affiliation** or those who have signed tabria, although there is increasing recognition that many were compelled to do so.
- **Forced/early marriage** further hinders women's agency and progress.

“Our relationship with the family and relatives was not affected because of the “tabria”. They understand that we cannot practice our normal lives if there is no “tabria”, as children cannot go to school, and we also cannot live [in a rented house]”

(IDP, non-FHH, Rural, Young).



THANK YOU