

**PROTRACTED DISPLACEMENT:
FOCUS GROUP
DISCUSSION REPORT**

**IDPS FROM HASANSHAM
VILLAGES DISPLACED IN MOSUL**



January 2024

Methodology:

The RWG/DSTWG team conducted 9 FGD with families who are originally from Hasansham villages and are now displaced in different neighborhoods inside Mosul including Intisar, Quds, Karama, Gogjally and other neighborhoods. The aim of the FGDs, which consisted of 6-10 participants, is to understand the intentions of these families and their obstacles to solutions. Some FGDs were dedicated to specific villages, while others were mixed depending on the availability of the people from a particular village and, in some cases, villages being close to each other. One KII was also conducted with a member of the Hamdaniyah local council who has been part of the advocacy efforts for the return of the families from parts of Ninewa.

Table 1: Breakdown of FGD Participants

Village Name	Male	Female	Reason for combining FGD
Ash Qala Kabir	8	6	
Hasansham	6		
Tal Aswad Kabir & Sagheer & Aliyawa	10		Request by participants due to the proximity of the villages to each other
Shirkan and Seif Dinan	9	6	Request by participants
Ash Qala Saghir (small)	6		
Chamakor	7		
Mangoba	7		
Total Participants	53	12	

Background:

In July 2023, KRI authorities announced that families of the 12 villages of Hasansham and the blocked villages in Telafar can return to their areas of origin. Following this, families displaced in East Moul camps and inside KRI who received security clearance from KRI authorities returned to their areas of origin. However, families who are displaced in Mosul did not receive information on what procedures they could follow to facilitate their return. Authorities in Ninewa, who are coordinating with authorities in KRI, informed RWG/DSTWG during meetings that there is no objection to the return of these families who are currently displaced in Mosul but to date, no further action has been taken. The purpose of the FGD was to solicit the views of the displaced families related to their intentions, obtain more information on estimated numbers of those affected by the decision and also their displacement needs to inform advocacy efforts for these families to pursue durable solutions.

Table 2: Reported pre-displacement population estimates.

Village	Population prior 2014
Hasansham	7000
Shirkan	1500
Seif Dinan	335
Chamakor	1200
Tal Aswad Kabir	750
Tal Aswad Saghir	900
Aliyawa	750
Mangoba	800
Ash Qala Saghir (small)	65

Village	Population prior 2014
Ash Qala Kabir	100
Turkmaz	1200
Zengal Village	1630
Total	16,230 individuals

Displacement History:

IDPs from Ash Qala Kabir, Tal Aswad Kabir, Sagheer, Shirkan, Seif Dinan, Mangoba, and Chamakor explained that ISIS evacuated them from their villages between 4-11 August 2014. Most of the families fled to, while some families fled towards KRI. As most of the families displaced in Mosul, some families re-displaced towards Hasansham and Khazir Camps (East Mosul Camps) during the Mosul liberation operations between 2016-2017 while others remained in Mosul. Some families left the camps in recent years due to frustration about the possibility of returning to their homes, movement restrictions in the camp and the lack of livelihood opportunities. The families who are currently displaced in Mosul are mostly located in east Mosul in Gogjally, Intisar, Karama, Quds, and a few other neighborhoods. The FGD participants mentioned that they chose these neighborhoods due to their proximity to their areas of origin and because some of their relatives live there.

Families from Hasansham mentioned that they left the village because of the heavy shelling between ISIS and Peshmerga. The participants also explained that most families from Turkmaz and Zengal Village stayed in the villages or left for a short period and returned, as such very few families from these two villages are still displaced. The situation for Ash Qala Kabir is different, as according to the 8 families who participated in the FGDs, these families were evicted in November 2003 by Shabak members of the Peshmerga claiming that these lands belong to them despite the families showing documents proving that these lands belonged to them. Since then, these families have been displaced in various areas including Salameya, Bartella, Intisar, and Gogjally in east Mosul.

Current Situation in Area of Displacement:

Most of the displaced families from the 12 villages are living in rented houses, unfinished buildings and in informal settlements mainly in Al Intisar, Quds, Karama, Gogjally and other neighborhoods. They described their current situation as difficult since they lack livelihoods. Most of them used to be farmers and depend on livestock. Some of them worked as daily workers working in Erbil and Mosul, however currently they depend on irregular daily work in Mosul. Those with family networks also depend on these when there is no work.

In terms of services for the people who are living in formal neighborhoods, they are receiving the same services as the other residents. Meanwhile some families living in informal settlements are having services formally provided by the government while others have managed to obtain electricity or water (illegal connections). Meanwhile, IDPs from Ash Qala Kabir stated that they are not sending their kids to schools despite schools being free, they cannot afford to cover expenses such as stationery and uniforms.

Return Process:

All the FGD participants reported they do not have approvals to return to their areas of origin, despite their willingness to return. The participants stated that community representatives have approached authorities both in Ninewa and KRI to facilitate their return, including meetings with two former governors Nawfal Al Aghoob and Najm Al Juboory. The family representatives also approached authorities in Kurdistan to advocate for their return, including the Minister of Interior and other high-profile personnel from the Kurdistan Democratic Party but to no avail. The participants also stated that returns to Hasansham and Ash Qala Kabir villages have not been approved by KRI authorities for anyone, including for IDPs in the East Mosul Camps and those displaced in urban areas of Erbil. The table below demonstrates the number of families who managed to return to the mentioned villages as reported by the mukhtars:

Table 2: Breakdown of households who have returned to the Hasansham Villages

Village Name	No. of returned HH	Breakdown
Hasan Sham	0	
Shirkan	163	118 Arab, 30 Kurd, 15 Shabak
Seif Dinan	62	15 Kurd, 47 Arab
Chamakor	44	Arab
Tal Aswad Kabir	71	Arab
Tal Aswad Saghir	12	Arab
Aliyawa	18	Arab
Mangoba	50	Arab
Ash Qala Kabir	29	22 Kud, 7 Arab
Zengal Village	350	140 Arab, 210 Kaka'e
Turkmaz	280	160 Arab, 120 Kurd
Total	1,079	

Current Situation in Areas of Origin:

Participants have reported that while they are unable to return to their areas of origin they have been able to visit their villages. Those who have visited report that, depending on the village, most houses are destroyed or damaged. The participants also stated that families who recently returned are currently living in tents or in the rooms that suffered partial damage while they try to reconstruct homes. They reported a lack of services such as schools and health centers in the villages. The participants reported that the water stations were damaged and looted with no rehabilitation and no internal water networks inside the villages. Roads are also yet to be rehabilitated. Regarding electricity, the electricity source has reached the villages, but there are no internal connections. In these instances, families have to connect to the main source of electricity on their own even if their residence is far from the main electricity lines. Families mentioned that those who have returned need support to resume their previous business especially agriculture and livestock.

MoMD registration:

The participants reported that around 20-30 % of the families are registered as IDPs with MoMD. Only the families who fled to KRI or KRI camps are included in the registration. Meanwhile, families who stayed in Mosul during the conflict were not eligible to register according to MoMD policies.

Compensation:

According to the participants, most of the families have applied for compensation for damaged properties. Some have completed the validation visit while others are still in the process of doing so. Few participants reported that they have received compensation.

Intentions:

Participants stated that the situation is not good in their areas of origin in terms of services and that circumstances in areas of displacement are also challenging. Some households would prefer to return to their areas of origin while others have settled in Mosul and prefer to remain in Mosul.

