



AREAS OF NO RETURN, DURABLE SOLUTIONS DISCUSSION

**ALJAHAFAT HAMRA VILLAGE,
ALSHURA SUBDISTRICT**

September 2024

METHODOLOGY AND OBJECTIVE:

The Returns Working Group (RWG), in coordination with the Ninewa Governorate Office, facilitated a Durable Solutions Discussion to assess the possibilities for the return of displaced families to Aljahafat Hamra Village, located in the Alshura Subdistrict. Aljahafat Hamra is one of the areas classified as “no return” due to various challenges, including destroyed infrastructure, and a lack of basic services. Prior consultations with the Mukhtar and displaced community members revealed their desire to return to the village, provided the primary obstacles to return— housing destruction, and service provision—are addressed.

This discussion aimed to bring together local authorities, community representatives, and key stakeholders to explore potential solutions to facilitate returns. The discussion provided space for participants to raise key community priorities, assess local authority capacity to address them, and identify barriers that must be overcome.

PARTICIPANT LIST

Name	Position
Government	
Ali Omar	Organizational Affairs
Adres Hani	Nineveh Governorate Municipalities Directorate
Mohammed Abdullah	Vice President of the Provincial Council
Mohammed Salim	Department of Education
Mahmood Raad	Department of Education
Ali Abdulwahab	A representative of the administrative assistant
Abdulrazaq Mohammed	Department of water
Mohammed Farhan	Aljahafat Mayor
Khames Saleh	Alshura Municipality
Mohammed Ahmed	Alshura electricity department
Ahmed Mohammed	Aljahafat Mayor assistant
Ahmed Habash	Ninewa Municipality
Ibrahim Mohammed	Assistance of the Vice President of the Provincial Council
Mohaamed Maan	Assistance of the Vice President of the Provincial Council
Community Representatives	
Ibrahim Ahmed	Community member
Saeed Helal	Community member
Humam Hamoud	Community member
Ali Sultan	Community member
Salama Suliman	Community member
Omar Adel	Community member
Ali Mahmoud	Community member
Sultan Abdalameed	Community member
Elias Hatem	Community member
Sameer Saeed	Community member
Amar Ali	Community member

Amsha Khalef	Community member
Ganyah Taher	Community member
Fawzia Abed	Community member
Salih Moyasser	Community member
Jassim Mohammed	Community member
UN/NGOs	
Loay Youssif	IOM
Jassim Kudar	
Ahmed Jalal	
Abdulla Bakar	
Dr. Saref Ahmed	
Hanan Ali	RWG
Karam Eskander	
Sufyan Mandoo	
Firas AlSalman	

BACKGROUND AND CURRENT SITUATION:

Aljahafat village, located in the south of Alshura Subdistrict, was once a significant transit point for farmers traveling between villages. It is located between the village of Al-Tasa and the village of Shuriat. Before displacement, the village had over 40 houses and was home to approximately 170 individuals. The displacement of the families occurred during the liberation operations in 2016. Most of the families were displaced to Qayyarah-Jad'ah 5, the center of Alshura, and surrounding villages. Currently, around 25 families (roughly 125 people) have expressed their willingness to return and have submitted requests to the mayor for security approvals. Many displaced families relocated to nearby villages within Alshura, Mosul, or camps due to family members' perceived affiliation with ISIL (Qayyarah-Jad'ah 5). Despite these challenges, the remaining families, sometimes headed by women, wish to return, and there is no objection from the local community regarding their return, but the main challenge is the damage of the houses and then the lack of basic services.



CHALLENGES AND NEEDS:

- **Livelihoods:** Prior to displacement, most families depended on agriculture and livestock. Current economic challenges make it difficult for families to rebuild their livelihoods. Economic assistance and agricultural support will be crucial for sustainable returns.

The women from the community expressed that they are grappling with numerous challenges, many of which are centered around housing and financial instability. A primary concern is the high cost of renting. To manage these expenses, they are often forced to rely on their children working, which places an additional burden on the family and disrupts the children's education and development.

Moreover, the financial strain from rent payments is a constant source of stress. These women find it increasingly difficult to make ends meet, highlighting the urgent need for social welfare support. They require assistance not only to cover basic living expenses but also to address their ongoing financial insecurity.

Another significant issue they face is the lack of essential documentation, particularly national IDs. This lack of documentation exacerbates their situation as the women face social mobility restrictions making resolution of their documentation status complicated.

- **Housing Destruction:** Nearly all homes in the village were destroyed during the conflict. The compensation process has been slow, with families facing difficulties in navigating bureaucratic hurdles. Some community members, particularly those with perceived ISIS affiliations, have been denied compensation until they do Tabrea, further delaying their ability to rebuild.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES:

- **Education:** The village has a primary school and used to have approximately more than 50 students, but the number has now grown to approximately 300. The Directorate of Education has informed the families that if they return, the school will be assessed, and a temporary caravan school will be established until the reconstruction of a permanent facility. However, this project is contingent on the return of families, as the village cannot be included in government projects unless residents are present.
- **Electricity:** High-voltage electricity lines reach the area, but the extension of low-voltage lines to individual households is not possible now while no one is in the village and that might cause damage to electricity transformers due to non-use. The Department of Electricity stated that if at least three families return within the next six months, efforts will be made to restore electricity to the village.
- **Health Services:** Prior to the conflict the village had no PHC. Residents must travel to Alshura for medical services if they return.
- **Water Access:** The village is located 2 kilometers from the main water source. The Ninewa Water Directorate has all the necessary documents to initiate a project to restore water access to the village. However, financial constraints have delayed the implementation of this project. The Directorate is willing to provide water trucks to support returning families temporarily, but this support is also contingent on families returning to the village.

- **Road Access:** The village lacks paved roads, making transportation difficult, especially in the rainy season.



Figure2 Aljahafat Hamra village school destruction

MEETING OUTCOMES AND NEXT STEPS:

- **Infrastructure and Service Provision:** Several key services, such as education, electricity, and water are contingent on the return of families. Authorities from the relevant departments have expressed willingness to support the reconstruction of services, but these efforts will only proceed once a significant number of families return.
- **Community Deliberation:** The community representatives have agreed to discuss the possibility of return with the wider displaced population. Once they reach a consensus, they will inform the Mukhtar and local authorities, which will allow planning for the return to proceed.

Ongoing Advocacy and Support: The challenges and needs of Aljahafat Hamra will be presented at the next JCF meeting to ensure that relevant service departments and international organizations are aware of the situation and can coordinate their efforts in supporting the return process.

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