



# Protracted Displacement Report

## Al-Mashru' Al-Sharqi Village, Riyadh Sub-district Community Dialogue

December 2024

## METHODOLOGY AND OBJECTIVE

**Date:** 28 October 2024

**Location:** Riyadh Mayor's Office, Hawija District

**Organized by:** Zaid Agha

## BACKGROUND

Al-Mashru' Al-Sharqi Village, located southwest of Riyadh Subdistrict, was entirely displaced in 2014 due to ISIL occupation. Previously home to approximately 100 families, the village remained uninhabited, despite two years of stability. Around twelve families have relocated to the Riyadh subdistrict, primarily due to employment opportunities and affordable housing. Among the displaced are 20 female-headed households, mostly widows with perceived ISIL affiliation, who face unique challenges with social stigmatization, limited livelihood options, and restricted access to government compensation.

Efforts to support these families focus on creating conditions conducive to safe return by addressing essential services, housing, and economic recovery. This dialogue aimed to bring together displaced residents and local authorities to collaboratively identify solutions for these challenges.



Figure 1&2: Dialogue with IDPs and local authority

## METHODOLOGY

To facilitate an open discussion, the community dialogue allowed the community and local authorities to engage directly. A set of guiding questions was used to focus discussions. Representatives from the village and key local authority departments engaged in dialogue about the challenges and potential solutions. Relevant departments provided feedback on each issue, helping to outline a realistic and community-centered approach.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMUNITY DIALOGUE

1. **Facilitating communication:** Foster open dialogue between displaced residents and local authorities to identify and address barriers to return.
2. **Assessing needs:** Evaluate specific needs regarding infrastructure, housing, and access to essential services.
3. **Promoting Reintegration:** Explore opportunities to support the social and economic inclusion of female-headed households.
4. **Developing Action Plans:** Identify collaborative measures to establish the conditions necessary for a safe and dignified return.

## Participants

Proposed Participants	
Name	Position
<b>Government (List each by name)</b>	
Mohammed Ibrahim	Mayor of Riyadh Subdistrict
Ali Ahmed	Director of Water in the Subdistrict
Hussein Ali	Director of Agriculture in the Subdistrict
Hassan Ahmed	Director of Municipality in the Subdistrict
Mohammed Mahmoud	Engineer of the Subdistrict
<b>Community</b>	
Taher Ahmed	Mukhtar of Al-Mashru' Al-Sharqi Village
Kareem Saleh	Community member of Al-Mashru' Al-Sharqi Village
Fanner Ahmed	Community member of Al-Mashru' Al-Sharqi Village
Taha Saleh	Community member of Al-Mashru' Al-Sharqi Village
Hassan Ali	Community member of Al-Mashru' Al-Sharqi Village
Zabin Ibrahim	Community member of Al-Mashru' Al-Sharqi Village
<b>UN Agency/NGOs (list each by name)</b>	
Shivan Salih	IRC
Zaid Al Agha	RWG

## KEY CHALLENGES IDENTIFIED

### 1. Water and Electricity Infrastructure:

The water network is severely damaged, leaving the village without potable water. The electricity grid also lacks functionality, with insufficient transformers, highlighting the need for rehabilitation.

### 2. Education:

Prior to displacement, the village had one primary school and one secondary school. The primary school structure remains in poor condition and requires renovation, while the secondary school was completely destroyed and is currently non-functional. The nearest functional schools in Riyadh Subdistrict, located about 3 kilometers from the village, have been accommodating displaced students from the village, but the influx of returnees may put additional pressure on classroom capacity and teaching staff.

**3. Road and Debris Clearance:**

- Roads within the village are obstructed by debris and dirt mounds left by security operations. Clearing these is essential to enable residents to access their homes and rebuild them.

**4. Housing:**

- Approximately 20 houses are completely destroyed out of 100, with another 60-70 requiring substantial rehabilitation.

**5. Agricultural Employment and Storage Facilities:**

- The village's economy relied on agriculture and livestock, but the supporting infrastructure, including storage facilities, remains non-operational, impacting employment opportunities and economic recovery.

**6. Social and Economic Integration of Female-Headed Households:**

- Female-headed households face heightened vulnerability due to social stigma associated with perceived ISIL affiliations. Limited employment opportunities, compounded by restricted access to compensation, pose additional barriers.

**7. Security Situation:**

- The village has remained secure for over the past two years, with no recent security incidents, which is promising for a return. The area is now under the control of the Federal Police, Third Brigade. However, essential services are required to make return feasible.

**8. Compensation:**

- Among the displaced families from Al-Mashru' Al-Sharqi Village, 60 households have applied for government compensation for housing destruction, but only 11 families have received payments so far, while the rest remain in pending status due to bureaucratic delays. Families also reported challenges in navigating the compensation process, with limited guidance on eligibility and required documentation.

## RETURN INTENTIONS OF FAMILIES

- During the dialogue, community members were asked about their willingness to return to Al-Mashru' Al-Sharqi Village. While some families expressed a desire to return if basic services such as water, electricity, and road clearance are restored, others remain hesitant due to uncertainty about livelihood opportunities and security concerns. Female-headed households voiced particular concerns about social stigma and

economic reintegration, emphasizing the need for targeted support programs before considering a return. Additionally, some families currently residing in Riyadh Subdistrict indicated that they have adapted to urban life and do not plan to return, citing better access to employment and education for their children.

## INSIGHTS FROM LOCAL AUTHORITY DEPARTMENTS

- **Water Department:** Ali Ahmed noted that the rehabilitation of the water network is included in the governorate's project plan but awaits 2025 budget allocation funding. Temporary repairs could be considered if residents start returning.
- **Electricity Department:** The electricity grid project is part of the governorate's plans, but funding remains unallocated until 2025. Transformer shortages are a critical barrier.
- **Municipality Directorate:** Hassan Ahmed explained that while the village falls outside municipal boundaries, an assessment of road conditions has been completed, with a project pending budget allocation of 2025 to clear debris.
- **Education Directorate:** Currently, the schools in the village are not functional. The Directorate of Education is already accommodating students from the village who are still internally displaced in schools within the subdistrict. Mr. Mohammed suggested that returning students could also be temporarily accommodated in these central schools if they return, as they are prepared to host the rest of the returning students.
- The subdistrict schools are conveniently located approximately 3 kilometers from the village, directly across from the municipality office, with only a main road separating them from the village.
- **Agriculture Directorate:** Hussein Ali confirmed that storage facilities are operational for fertilizers but are constrained by staffing shortages and a lack of resident presence, which affects overall security.

## COMMUNITY REQUESTS AND PRIORITIZED NEEDS

- **Rehabilitation of Water and Electricity Networks:** Addressing these critical services is prioritized to support daily needs and safety.
- **Road Clearance:** Removing debris from roads will help facilitate access to homes and other infrastructure.
- **School Renovation:** The primary school renovation was identified as essential for children's education and community well-being.

## RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION STEPS

Estimated timeline: February 2025

1. **Coordination with the Deputy Governor's Office for Social Affairs and Organizations:** Advocate for the funding and prioritization of projects, presenting the village's needs to the governorate and relevant stakeholders.

2. **Road and Debris Clearance Project:** The municipality expedites clearance of roads and obstacles, enabling returning families to move freely and reconstruct their homes.
3. **Resource Mobilization with NGOs and Agencies:** Report to agencies operating in Kirkuk to mobilize support, specifically targeting infrastructure, housing rehabilitation, and livelihood programs.
4. **Empowerment of Female-Headed Households:** Develop targeted support programs for female-headed households, focusing on livelihood training and access to financial assistance to address unique challenges related to social integration and economic stability.
5. **Engagement with Governor's Office and JCF Members:** Raise the identified issues with the governor's office and engage JCF members to advocate for necessary budget allocations, support for infrastructure projects, and coordinate with national agencies for continued progress on return initiatives.

## Outcomes

- **Enhanced Infrastructure:** A collaborative action plan with local authorities to address critical infrastructure needs, specifically for water and electricity restoration.
- **Increased Educational Opportunities:** Renovation of the primary school and accommodations for students within the subdistrict's central schools.
- **Social Inclusion Support:** Specialized programs for female-headed households to mitigate social stigma and provide economic support.
- **Strengthened Partnerships:** A commitment from local authorities to work alongside the displaced community in fostering sustainable return conditions.

## CONCLUSION

This community dialogue fostered crucial communication between Al-Mashru' Al-Sharqi residents and local authorities. By identifying immediate needs and facilitating collaborative solutions, this session laid the groundwork for an actionable plan to support safe and dignified returns. Emphasis on infrastructure, housing, and targeted support for vulnerable groups like female-headed households will create an environment conducive to sustainable reintegration and economic recovery in Al-Mashru' Al-Sharqi. The recommendations from this dialogue will be presented to both local authorities and NGOs for resource mobilization and ongoing support, engaging with the governor's office and JCF members will be pivotal in securing necessary resources and advocating for strategic support, ensuring long-term sustainable solutions for Al-Mashru' Al-Sharqi.

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