



COMMUNITY DIALOGUE

**Jadala Suflaa Village (Qayyarah
Subdistrict, Ninewa Governorate)**

December 2024

Community dialogue| Jadala Suflaa Village (Qayyarah Subdistrict, Ninewa Governorate)

Wednesday 4 December 2024

METHODOLOGY AND OBJECTIVE

The Returns Working Group (RWG), in coordination with the Ninewa Governorate Office, facilitated a community dialogue session in Jadala Suflaa Village to examine the challenges and opportunities surrounding the return and reintegration of displaced families. The dialogue aimed to identify the primary challenges, priorities of the community and key asks for their local authorities. It also sought to assess the intention of displaced families to return to the village, focusing on the conditions necessary to support their return and reintegration. Importantly, the session provided a platform for community members to directly engage with local authorities, fostering collaboration to address their concerns and rebuild the village with improved living conditions.



Figure 1 discussions during the session

Name	Position
Government	
Saleh Hassan	Mayor
Adress Hani	Deputy Director of Municipality
Yousif Burhan Shihab	Mayor office
Community Representatives	
Khamas Abd Nafel Trad	Community member
Abd Hamaad Diyab	Community member
Musa Abas Khalaf	Community member
Hassan Zayd Qareeb	Community member
Naser Zayd Qareeb	Community member
Ali Rashidy Diyab	Community member

Name	Position
Government	
Zayd Ahmed Ali	Community member
Amaar Hamad Ali	Community member
Jassem Mohamed Ayoush	Community member
Mohamed Khalaf Ayoush	Community member
Ahmed Mohamed Ahmed	Community member
Jassim Mohamed Fream	Community member
Mahmood Abed Freh	Community member
Noory Khalaf Freah	Community member
Ali Khalaf Freah	Community member
Ateya Khalaf Freah	Community member
UN/NGOs	
Karam Eskander	RWG
Hanan Ali	
Firas AlSalman	
Ahmed Jalal Ezat	IOM
Zena Qaleb Abdulsalam	IOM

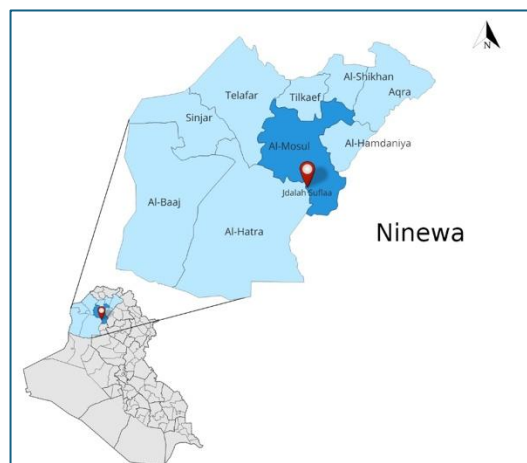
BACKGROUND

Jadala Suflaa village, located in the Al-Qayyarah district about 30 kilometers from the district center, was home to approximately 150 families residing in 100 houses before displacement. During the 2016 liberation operations, most families fled to nearby villages such as Azheyiliah, Al-Sadd, and Al-Jawana. Since 2023, around 35 families have returned, reoccupying approximately 27 houses.

Despite these returns, the village continues to face significant challenges, with over 70% of its infrastructure destroyed. Many displaced families remain in surrounding areas due to perceived affiliation with ISIL, preventing their return. Additionally, female-headed households who wish to return struggle with damaged homes and the lack of essential services.

Following displacement in 2016, some families settled on land owned by the Ministry of Finance. However, they now fear that the Ministry may establish a project on this land, putting them at risk of eviction. As a result, they want to return to their area of origin to secure their housing and avoid displacement once again.

While the village is now secure, with no reported tribal or security conflicts, the absence of services remains a major barrier to return. For families with perceived affiliation, return requires undergoing a "Tabreea" (clearance) process, adding another layer of difficulty to their reintegration. The village's residents primarily belong to the Al-Lahib tribe.



Access to Education

Jadala Al-Suflaa Primary School is the only school in the village and requires rehabilitation and furnishing. It currently has only one teacher and serves 60 students, most of whom lack official identification documents. The school only provides classes for grades 1 and 2, whereas higher-grade students—approximately 15 in number—must travel 5 km to Azhliliya village for education. Previously, the school offered classes up to grade 6.

Some families reported facing challenges enrolling their children in Jadala Al-Sufla Primary School due to the perceived affiliations of their relatives. As a temporary measure, they are required to submit a written pledge, allowing the children to attend school until the necessary legal documentation is obtained to finalize their registration.

Access to Water

The village has long struggled with a lack of reliable drinking water, as there has never been a water treatment plant (WTP) in the area. Residents have always relied on alternative sources, such as purchasing water from tankers, which currently costs 7,000 IQD for 1,250 liters every five days. The water quality remains poor, as it is drawn directly from the river without filtration.

Access to Health Services

The closest health center is situated 30 kilometers away in Al-Qayyarah, with no access to medical supplies in the vicinity. The village lacks its own health facility and has never had one, forcing families to travel to Al-Qayyarah for medical care. While the center does not offer comprehensive services, it provides a variety of medical care options to address the community's healthcare needs.

Assistance and Support

Return Grant: Families received 1,500,000 IQD as a return grant, except for seven families who are not registered with the Directorate of Migration and Displacement, having returned directly from Syria.

Housing Land and Property

House Repairs: Twenty-seven houses were rehabilitated with support from IOM. Debris in the village, requiring machinery (e.g., loaders and dump trucks) for removal.

Compensation

The majority of families have not applied for government compensation due to several key factors. First, compensation amounts vary depending on location, with villages generally receiving lower amounts compared to cities. The cost of reconstruction also differs between urban and rural areas, which affects the level of compensation provided. Families whose homes were built from mud receive even less, making the financial support insufficient for meaningful reconstruction. Second, many displaced families face bureaucratic obstacles, including the requirement to complete Tabree'a (clearance of perceived ISIL affiliation) and other legal procedures, further discouraging them from applying.

For those whose homes suffered extensive damage during the liberation operations, the estimated cost of rehabilitation is significantly higher than the compensation provided, which typically covers only about half of the rebuilding expenses. This disparity leads many families to believe that the effort and cost of applying outweigh the benefits of the limited support they would receive.

It would be important to clarify how many returning families have applied for and received compensation, as well as provide an estimate of reconstruction costs in comparison to the actual funds distributed. Additionally, understanding the specific compensation rates for villages versus cities could help explain why some families feel discouraged from applying.

Agriculture

Farmers are required to pay rental fees for agricultural land, amounting to 800,000 to 850,000 IQD for a 90-day period. This requirement stems from unpaid fees from previous years. Farmers are now being compelled to either pay the fees or vacate their lands. They have expressed concerns that 90 days is insufficient and explained that they were unable to pay earlier because the challenging conditions in the area prevented them from cultivating their land.

Outcome of the Meeting:

The participants expressed their gratitude for the support provided by local authorities and RWG, noting that more families are expected to return. During the session, they raised several concerns and requests:

1. **Education:** The community requested Mr. Salih, the Mayor, to coordinate with the Directorate of Education (DoE) to increase the number of teachers and open additional classes. He advised them to submit an official request, which he would forward to the relevant DoE departments to initiate the process.
2. **Debris Removal:** The community also asked the Deputy Head of Ninewa Municipalities to assist with clearing debris. He encouraged them to submit an official letter, enabling him to address this need.
3. **Land Issues and legal documentation:** Regarding land concerns, it was agreed to contact IOM's legal team to explore potential support for the affected families.

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