

Iraq IDP Crisis Overview, 3-18 August 2014

CONTEXT

Before the start of 2014, Iraq already had one of the largest internally displaced populations in the world, at up to an estimated 1.3 million. Around half of these had been displaced by sectarian violence since 2006. In addition, Iraq is hosting around 215,000 Syrian refugees, and many more unregistered, over 95% of these in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI).

The recent escalation of conflict in Northern and Central Iraq since June 2014, on top of the Anbar crisis earlier this year, has led to the further displacement of an estimated 1.2 million people since January 2014. Recent displacement has closely followed a pattern of sectarian lines. As the conflict has expanded, a number of ethnic and/or religious minority groups have been displaced, many undergoing multiple displacements since June.

To help inform the humanitarian response to the crisis, this series of briefing notes outlines a number of key displacement patterns observed in Iraq since June 2014. The briefings are based on primary data collected by REACH enumerators in Northern and Central Iraq between 10-18 August 2014. Data collected includes 225 key informant interviews, 16 focus group discussions, and 172 household-level surveys, triangulated with available secondary data.

Main Displacement Waves since June 2014

1st wave of displacement: June 2014

The takeover of the city of Mosul on 6 June by Armed Opposition Groups (AOGs), and intense fighting in Tal Afar on 16 June displaced an estimated total of more than 500,000 people to areas controlled by Kurdish forces in Dohuk and Erbil Governorates, as well as to Sinjar and the Ninewa Plains. Simultaneous conflict in Northern Diyala District triggered displacement to the cities of Kanaquin and Kalar, close to the border with Iran.

2nd wave of displacement: 3rd-18th August 2014

The further advance of AOGs into the Ninewa Plains and Sinjar resulted in the displacement of over 400,000 people, mainly from ethno-religious minority groups, to perceived safer areas of the KRI and Shia-majority governorates in Southern Iraq. The capture of Jalawla by AOGs on 10 August also intensified displacement in Northern Diyala to Kalar, Kanaquin and surrounding areas.

DISPLACEMENT TRENDS BY POPULATION GROUP

This series of briefing notes captures the distinct displacement trends of four population groups:

Shabak and Turkmen Shia Minorities from Ninewa Governorate

An estimated 30,000 IDP households have arrived in Shia-majority governorates of Southern and Central Iraq since the end of July 2014. The large majority of IDPs are Shias from Turkmen and Shabak communities of Ninewa Governorate. With little to no established links with the host communities, Turkmen and Shabak Shia IDPs are dependent on humanitarian support to meet their most basic needs.

Christian Minorities from the Ninewa Plains

Christian minorities were displaced following the takeover of Mosul by Armed Opposition Groups (AOGs) in June and their further advance into Al Hamdaniya and Tilkaif Districts in the Ninewa Plains on 6 August. These minorities have been primarily displaced to Christian communities of Erbil and Dohuk Governorates, hosted in churches, collective shelters and host families. While host communities have been providing immediate support, their absorption capacity remains limited and services are overstretched.

Yazidi Minorities from Sinjar and surrounding areas

Yazidi communities were displaced from their homes in Sinjar City and surrounding villages following AOG advances on 3 August. While a small percentage was able to flee northwards directly into the KRI, up to 130,000 remained trapped on Mount Sinjar before a 'safe corridor', established by Kurdish forces, enabled them to evacuate through Syria. Approximately 200,000 Yazidis are currently hosted by Kurdish and Yazidi communities in north-eastern Syria and in the neighbouring Dohuk Governorate of the KRI, where they are hosted in camps, by host families or (for the large majority) in empty buildings, collective centres and in the open.

Mixed displacement from Northern Diyala Governorate

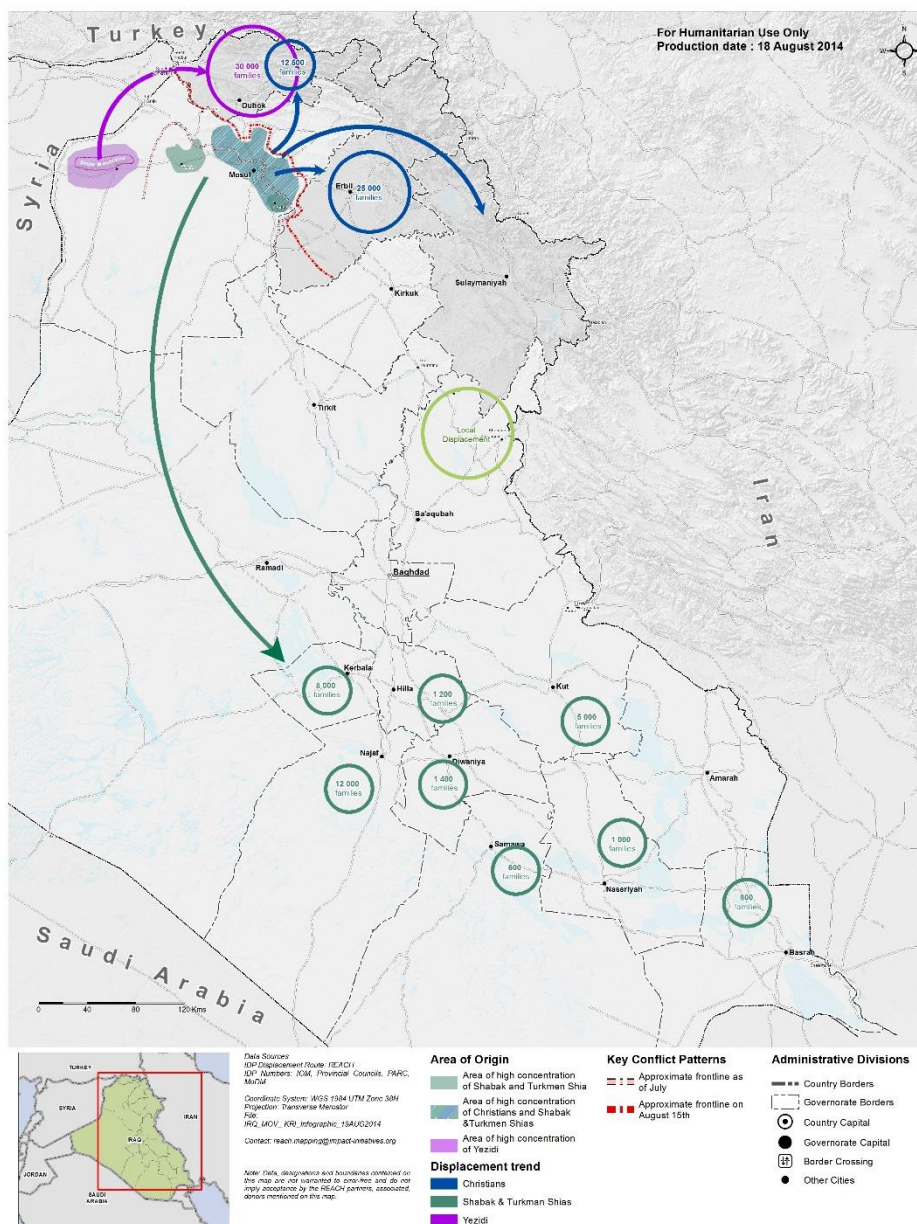
Northern Diyala Governorate is home to a mixture of Sunnis and Shias, from Arab, Kurdish and Turkmen population groups. Ongoing fighting between Armed Opposition Groups has continued to intensify since June, causing multiple localised displacements towards the safer-perceived cities of Kalar and Kanaquin, and surrounding areas under Kurdish control.

OVERVIEW OF HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Since the onset of the recent displacement crisis, humanitarian actors have lacked the required resources to ensure a rapid response to the life-saving needs of the displaced population. Despite the significant mobilisation of host communities, local civil society and authorities, **there remain significant humanitarian gaps that will need to be met in the immediate term**. Having left in a rush and without their assets, displaced populations are in need of life-saving support, including food, water and shelter.

In the mid-term, **government authorities, together with the aid community, are planning the creation or extension of at least six new IDP camps, mainly in the KRI, for an estimated total hosting capacity of 57,000 individuals**. In addition to this, five further camps are currently under discussion. Humanitarian actors have been requested to support government authorities in the establishment and management of these camps.

In parallel, and especially given the potential for sectarian polarisation, **there is an urgent need for community-led and community-level response**, aiming to assist both displaced and host populations while building and preserving social cohesion, as well as supporting the return of these population groups to their area of origin, whenever this becomes possible.



REACH was created in 2010 to facilitate the development of information tools and products that enhance the capacity of aid actors to make evidence-based decisions in emergency, recovery and development contexts. All REACH activities are conducted in support to and within the framework of inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms. For more information, you can write to our in-country office: iraq@reach-initiative.org or to our global office in Geneva geneva@reach-initiative.org. You can also visit our website www.reach-initiative.org or follow us @REACH_info.

Displacement of Shabak & Turkmen Shi'a Minorities from Tal Afar & Ninewa Plains

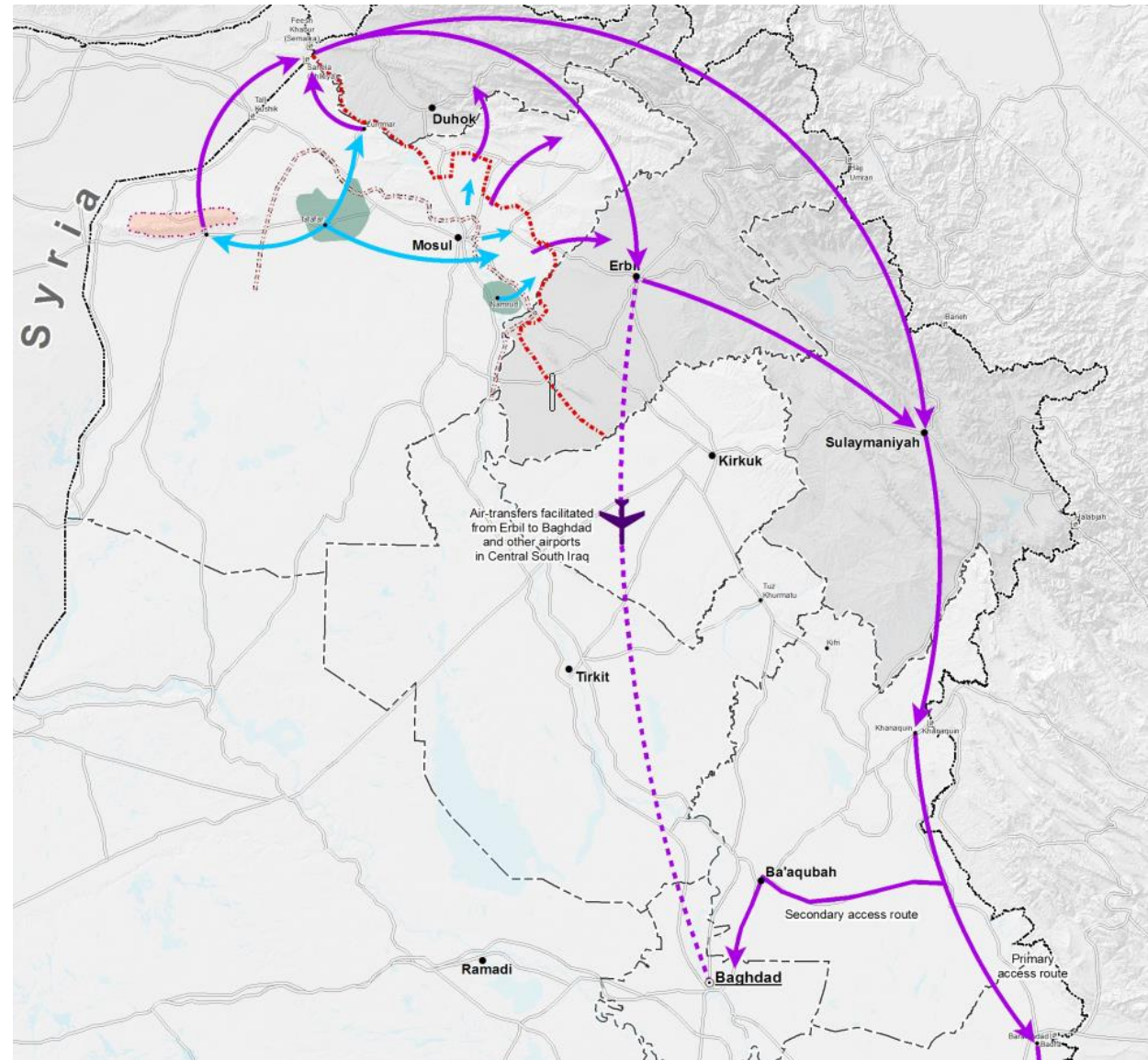
June - 18 August 2014

OVERVIEW

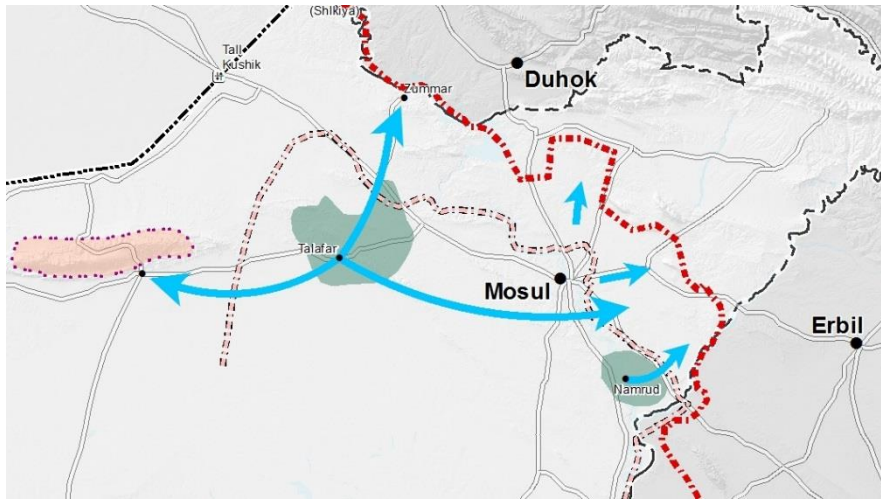
The takeover of the city of Mosul on 6 June by Armed Opposition Groups (AOGs), and intense fighting in Tal Afar on 16 June displaced an estimated total of more than 500,000 people. Tal Afar and the Ninewa Plains, an area located east of Mosul and proximate to the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI), are home to a variety of religious and ethnic minorities, including Shabak and Turkmen populations, who had to escape the conflict. Both Iraqi Turkmen, who are Iraq's third minority group, and Shabak people, include a significant proportion of Shia Muslims, whose displacement patterns were found to be distinct from that of other minority groups.

Initially sheltered by other minorities located throughout Ninewa Governorate during the early stages of the conflict in June, the majority of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) then fled to Shia-majority governorates in the south of Iraq when AOGs expanded their presence further into the Ninewa Plains. It is now estimated that 30,000 Shabak and Turkmen Shia displaced families, located in central and southern Iraq, are living in precarious conditions and in dire need of support.

Through key informant interviews conducted by REACH enumerators in northern and southern Iraq, this brief outlines the overall trends of displacement of Shabak and Turkmen Shia communities originating from the Ninewa Plains and Tal Afar area.



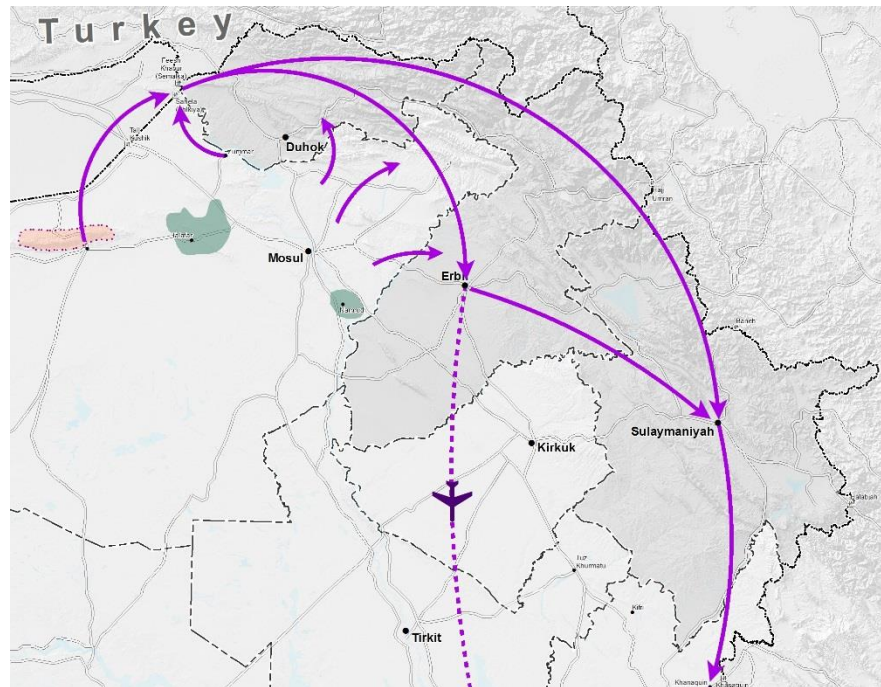
KEY PHASES OF DISPLACEMENT



Phase 1: Primary displacement 6 June – 2 August 2014

Throughout the month of June, AOGs expanded their geographical presence in North Eastern Iraq, threatening and marginalizing non-Sunni ethno-religious groups and leading to their rapid exodus to other parts of Iraq and neighbouring countries. The two main origins of displacement Turkmen and Shabak Shia were Mosul and surrounding towns as well as the Tal Afar District.

The overwhelming majority of the Tal Afar residents fled towards Sinjar, Zummar and surrounding areas. Those from Mosul City, Namrud and surrounding villages fled northwards into the KRI and to other minority villages in Hamdaniya District; many found refuge in Khazer transit site. Most IDPs remained in their location until the end of July, although some were being flown to the south of Iraq, as explained in the Phase 2.



Phase 2: Secondary displacement 3 - 18 August 2014

The spread of violence into the Ninewa Plains, towards Sinjar, Zummar, and areas to the north and east of Mosul, resulted in a second wave of displacement of Turkmen and Shabak Shia IDPs and residents. A majority of them headed towards the KRI, and many found refuge in Khazer transit site. From there, a large number travelled onwards towards Shia-majority governorates in southern Iraq, namely Wassit, Thi Qar, Qadissyia, Muthanna, Missan and Al Najaf.

Two main routes were used to reach southern Iraq. From the end of July to the beginning of August, thousands of IDPs originating from Tal Afar were flown by chartered flight organised by the Iraqi government from Erbil to Baghdad or directly to Najaf, from where they were distributed among the different governorates. Furthermore, throughout this displacement phase, IDPs either drove down or were bussed through Khanaqin District and then further southwards towards Baghdad. Reports suggest that a recent deterioration of the security situation in Baghdad has forced IDPs to travel along the Iran-Iraq border.

CURRENT SITUATION

The majority of Turkmen and Shabak Shi'a IDPs are currently found in the south of Iraq, more specifically in the Wassit, Thi Qar, Qadissyia, Muthanna, Missan and Al Najaf Governorates. Some Shabak Shi'a have found refuge in the KRI, with pockets of Shabak Shi'a populations located throughout the Erbil Governorate, notably in Baharka Camp, Kalak and Chamchamal. Reports also point to some Turkmen remaining in Zummar, while others, previously displaced to Sinjar, are estimated to have fled to Turkey.

IDP situation in the north of Iraq

The situation of the Shabak Shi'a IDPs in the KRI varies considerably according to their location. They are either living in camp settings in Baharka, or in collective shelters—generally schools—or in unfinished buildings.

While some have reported having received some form of assistance, from the host community or local authorities in Chamchamal or through organisations in Baharka, the majority is still struggling to meet their basic needs, most specifically the population displaced from Khazir transit site and currently living in Kalar. MoDM has started distributing cash assistance of 1,000,000 IQD per family in Baharka.

Most of the IDPs are hoping to leave the KRI, either to head towards the south of the country, or to leave Iraq altogether. Many also report hoping to be able to return to their area of origin if the situation were to stabilise.



IDP situation in the south of Iraq

IDPs in the south of Iraq are predominantly living in temporary collective shelters, such as mosques, schools, public or unfinished buildings, with often little means to sustain themselves. The most vulnerable are the IDPs who are still travelling to their final destination. As the flow of displaced families increased dramatically, the authorities have restricted freedom of movement of IDPs both within and around governorates. This has resulted in IDPs having to travel to the governorates located further east in the hope to find local authorities willing to register them. It is only upon registration (through local muktars, local council, police, and finally MoDM), that they will receive a ration card and be allowed full freedom of movement as well as the opportunity to access employment. The registration process has so far been very slow, and in the meantime very limited assistance has been received.

The most pressing needs relate to core relief items, as most IDPs arrived with little to no possessions. Food is being provided by host communities, although they have a limited capacity to do so. People are reportedly receiving some assistance from authorities, notably water, cash upon registration (1,000,000 IQD/family) and organised transport. Government authorities are overstretched in responding to this influx, with numbers estimated at around 30,000 displaced Turkmen and Shabak Shi'a families, and have requested lifesaving support from humanitarian actors to urgently meet the needs of displaced populations.

Displacement of Christian Communities from Ninewa Plains, 3 - 7 August 2014

OVERVIEW

As a result of armed opposition groups occupying the towns of Tilkaif, Bashiqa, Bartella and Qaraqosh, and surrounding villages, an estimated 200,000 Christians and scores of other minorities living in the area of Ninewa Governorate north and east of Mosul, known as the Ninewa Plains, were displaced by 6 August. Among those people fleeing from the Ninewa Plains were approximately 50,000 predominantly Christian IDPs, who had previously been displaced from Mosul following the fall of the city to armed opposition groups between 6th-10th June. Christian communities followed a specific displacement pattern, with up to 130,000 fleeing to Erbil Governorate—in particular its Christian Ainkawa neighbourhood—and up to 70,000 to Christian communities in Duhok Governorate. The influx of such a large group of IDPs has led to overcrowding in communal shelters, forcing approximately 8% to stay in unfinished construction sites or in the open.

This briefing is informed by primary data collection (98 key informant interviews, and 172 household level interviews) by REACH enumerators, triangulated by secondary data review and interviews with Christian community leaders.

TIMELINE OF DISPLACEMENT

The displacement of Christian communities from the Ninewa Plains, north and east of Mosul took place in two phases:

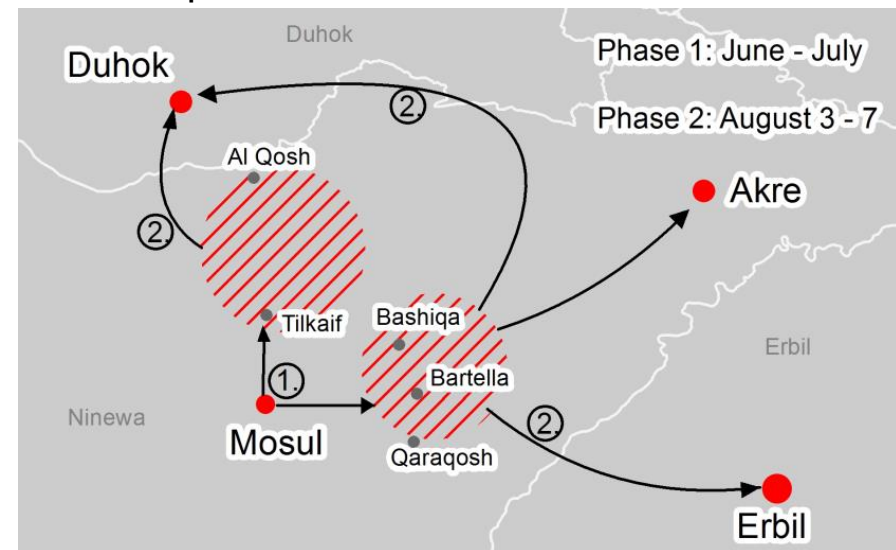
1. Fall of Mosul—June 6th - 10th

Following the take-over of Mosul by armed opposition groups on 10 June, a first wave of up to 300,000 people fled to Duhok and Erbil Governorates and to the disputed areas of Ninewa Governorate north and east of Mosul. Members of the Christian minorities of Mosul, including Chaldean Catholics, Syrian Catholics, Syrian Orthodox and members of the Assyrian Church of the East were forced to seek refuge in areas under control of Kurdish forces.

2. August offensive in Ninewa Plains—August 3rd - 7th

A renewed offensive by Armed Opposition Groups in the first week of August caused Kurdish armed forces to retreat on 6 August, leading to the occupation of a number of predominantly Christian towns including Tilkaif, Bashiqa, Bartella and Qaraqosh. According to REACH assessments, 79% of IDPs left their areas of origin between 5 - 7 August, fleeing at short notice as Armed Opposition Groups advanced into Tilkaif, Shekhan and al-Hamdaniyah Districts. The majority of IDPs from the Ninewa Plains are Christian, and as a result sought refuge in Christian neighbourhoods, towns and villages spread across Duhok and Erbil Governorates as well as Akre District in Ninewa.

Phases of displacement of Christian communities



TYPES OF ACCOMODATION

REACH carried out assessments in areas with a high concentration of displaced Christians, which identified three main types of accomodation:

1. Open air and construction sites of unfinished buildings

An 8% are estimated to be staying in the open air, in parks or in unfinished construction sites. These IDPs are exposed to the high summer temperatures and face a number of protection issues without proper shelter, and have little or no access to WASH facilities.

2. IDPs in communal shelter (public buildings, schools and churches)

The majority of IDPs were reported to be staying in communal shelters, such as schools, churches and public buildings. While these communal shelters provide some protection from the summer heat and from outsiders, they are not a sustainable solution and do not have adequate facilities to host such large numbers. The use of schools as IDP shelters also means they cannot be used for their original purpose, putting the start of the school year in September in jeopardy for a large number of Kurdish children.

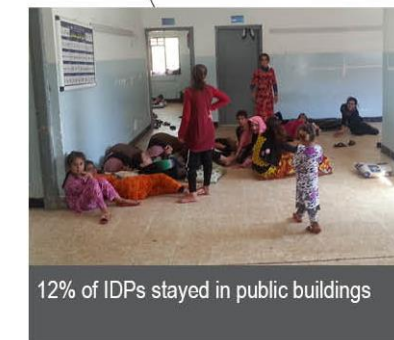
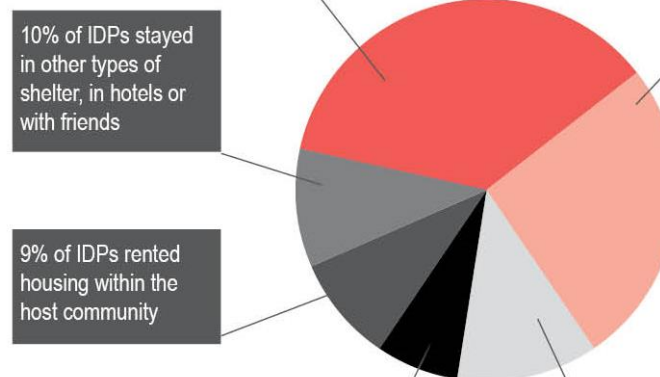
3. IDPs renting or hosted by friends or family

Assessments identified that approximately 10% of IDPs have found shelter in a rented apartment or with friends or family. While these IDPs are better off than their peers in the open air or in communal shelters, without a sustainable source of income this is likely to become an unsustainable solution. Due to the assessment focus on areas with visibly high concentration of displaced families, this group, which is inherently less visible, may be underrepresented in assessments so far.

PRIORITY NEEDS AND COPING CAPACITY

REACH identified primary priority needs to be **shelter improvement, water, food and medical assistance**. Families staying in the open air in particular are in need of shelter support, WASH facilities and drinking water. Almost 50% of the displaced Christians were under 18 years old, suggesting that child protection will be an important secondary need once initial life-saving assistance is provided. The high number of schools being used to accommodate displaced families is also a concern, as the start of term is rapidly approaching, which will require alternative solutions to be found

SHELTER TYPES FOR CHRISTIAN IDPS



At the time of data collection, only 1% of the Christian IDPs was reportedly able to provide for their basic living costs through employment, leaving the remaining 99% dependent on savings or charitable donations.

Over half of Christian IDPs from the Ninewa Plains are reportedly dependent on the charity of others. So far the donations they have received have come mostly from the host community or from religious groups, with a small amount reportedly assisted by family and friends. Without adequate intervention by international humanitarian organisations, this will place continued strain on local resources, and may lead to tension between IDPs and their hosts.

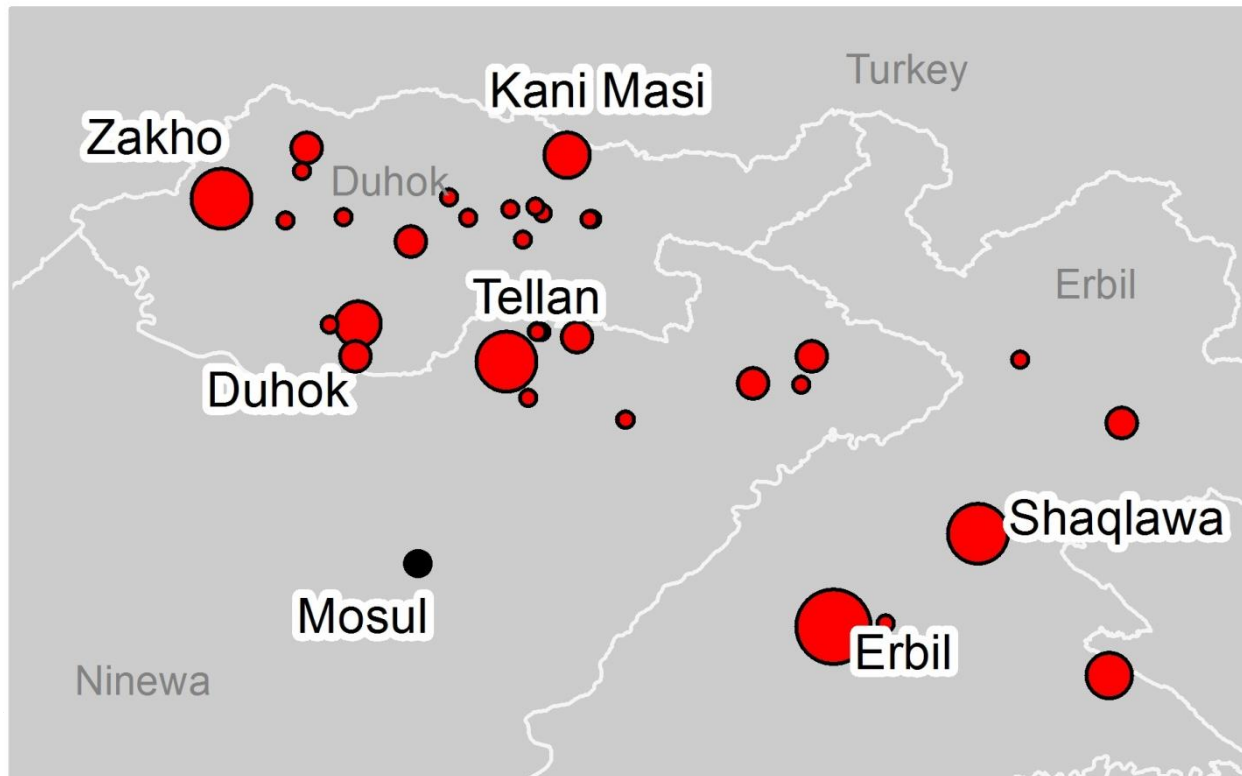
Just under half of IDPs are reported to rely on personal savings to cover their living expenses and basic needs. As savings are a finite resource, members of this group will likely also become dependent on others over time.

The majority of KIs interviewed in KRI reported that their communities had **received some distributions of food (84%) and water (69%)** at the time of assessment. Other types of assistance received included shelter (24%), hygiene kits (11%) and clothing (4%).

Of the Christians who had received assistance, 83% had received water and 76% had received food three times or more since their displacement two weeks prior.

Key informants and focus groups both specified that **the majority of food and water distributions at assessed displacement sites had been conducted by local charity organizations or by the host community**, with a small proportion provided by the government. At the time of data collection, 2% of Christian IDPs had received food distributions from international humanitarian actors, while none of the interviewed IDPs reported receiving water from international NGOs.

Identified locations of Christian IDPs



Displacement from Sinjar, 3-14 August

OVERVIEW

On 3 August 2014, the arrival of Armed Opposition Groups (AOG) caused up to 200,000 people to be displaced from their homes in Sinjar City and the surrounding towns and villages. Predominantly home to Yazidi communities, the area was also hosting Shia Turkmen who had previously fled to Sinjar when AOGs took over towns and villages in and around Tal Afar. Turkmen Shia communities that remained in Sinjar on 3 August experienced secondary displacement.

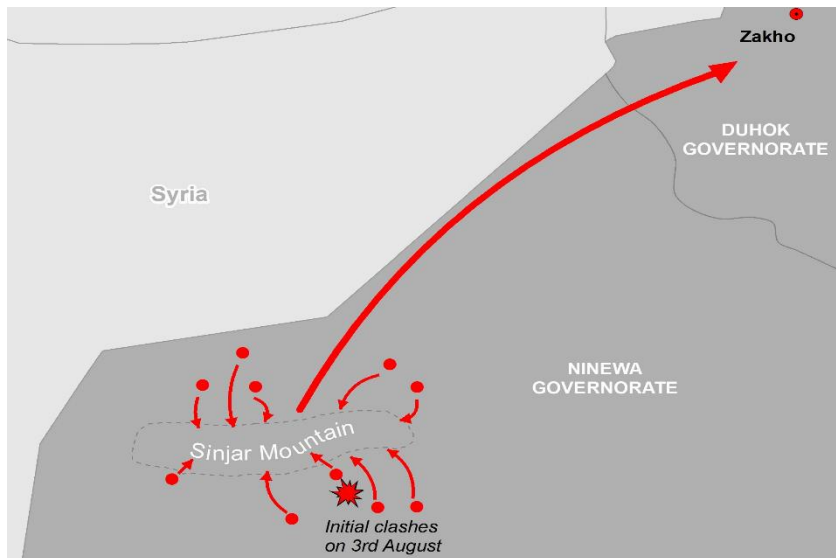
The Yazidis are one of Iraq's oldest minorities, whose population in northern Iraq represents the vast majority of the estimated 700,000 Yazidis worldwide. Now displaced to the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI), Syria and Turkey, many Yazidis fear to return to and represent a particularly vulnerable group. With ongoing plans to establish camps to host them, the large majority of displaced Yazidis are in the meanwhile staying in temporary accommodation in public and empty buildings, and in the open; relying on host community and humanitarian assistance to meet their basic needs.

Findings presented in this factsheet are informed by primary data collected between 13 – 18 August by REACH enumerators through 136 Key Informant interviews, complemented by Focus Group discussions and triangulated by available secondary data.

KEY PHASES OF DISPLACEMENT:

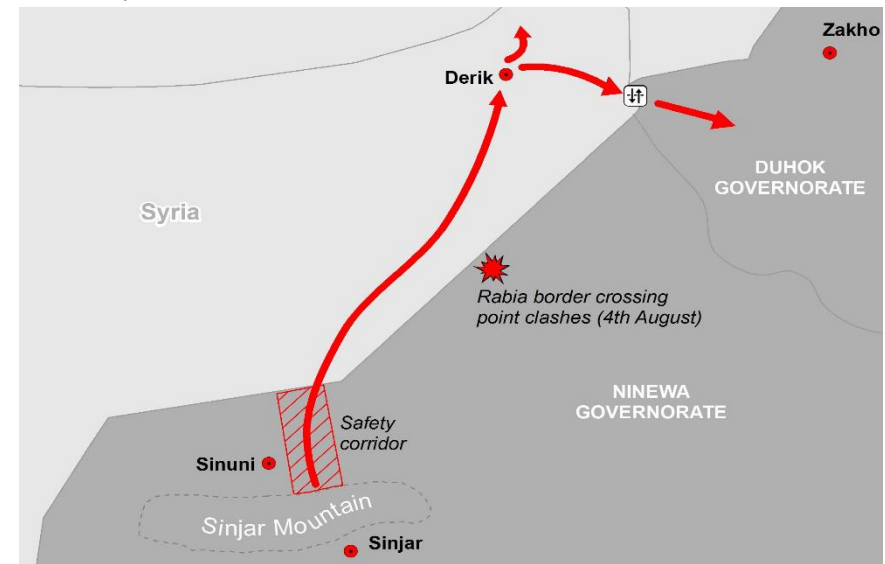
Phase 1: August 3rd

On August 3rd an initial wave of IDPs fled their homes directly along the Syrian / Iraqi border towards Duhok Governorate, mainly by vehicle. The road became inaccessible to IDPs from August 4th following intensification of fighting on the Rabia'a Crossing, on the Syrian / Iraqi border. Approximately 130,000 IDPs were stranded on Mount Sinjar with little access to food, water and shelter, in addition to coming under sporadic attacks from AOGs.



Phase 2: August 4th – 13th

Evacuation of the stranded population began on August 4th following the establishment of a safe corridor by Kurdish armed forces. The majority of people left Mount Sinjar between August 9th-13th, and travelled through Syria in order to reach Nawroz Camp in Northern Syria, or camps and communities in Duhok Governorate, KRI. Travel within Syria was facilitated by trucks provided by Kurdish groups, Yazidi community members, and the local population.



CURRENT SITUATION

Displacement from Sinjar has resulted in the total displacement of around 200,000 people. While a small number are estimated to remain in the Sinjar Mountains, the majority of people have been displaced across to the KRI, Northern Syria and Turkey, and can be grouped as follows:

1. IDPs in Dohuk governorate, KRI

An estimated **125,000** displaced from Sinjar have settled in Dohuk governorate of KRI. Among these, up to **10,000** individuals are estimated to have settled in Bajid Kandala camp, close to the border with Syria. An estimated **170,000** are being hosted by communities in the KRI, notably Yazidi ones around Zakho, Duhok, and Khanke.

2. Refugees in Nawruz camp, Northern Syria

An estimated up to **13,000** people have chosen to remain in Nawruz camp in Syria, which they reportedly believe offers better future access to their homes and livelihoods in and around Sinjar. The population of Nawruz fluctuates daily, including reported recent returns to Nawruz from Yazidi IDPs that initially settled in Dohuk governorate.

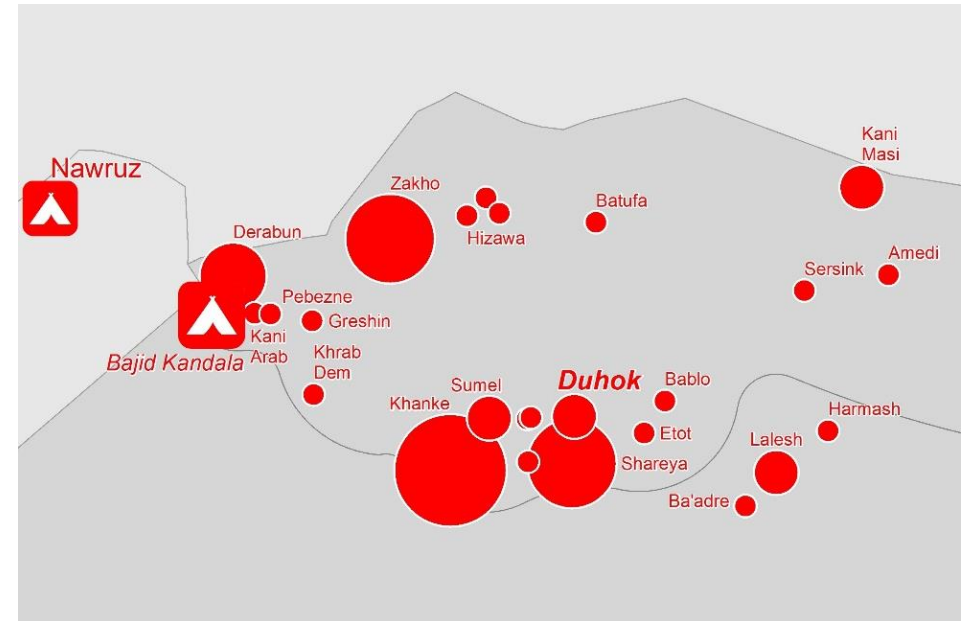
3. Refugees in Turkey

Key informants estimate that up to **12,000** Yazidis have fled to Turkey through both official and unofficial border crossings.

4. Remaining populations on Sinjar mountain

An estimated up to **5,000** IDPs are reported to remain on Mount Sinjar, who are unwilling and/or unable to leave. The majority are reported to be men, including goat-herders, who had chosen to remain close to their homes and livelihoods. Key informants report that small numbers of vulnerable individuals may also remain, notably the elderly with limited mobility.

Locations of displaced Yazidis in Syria & Dohuk Governorate



PRIORITY NEEDS AND COPING CAPACITY

Having left their homes in a rush and taking little or no assets with them, the vast majority of displaced Yazidi communities are in need of humanitarian assistance to meet their most basic needs.

65% of key informants identified **food** and **water** as the priority need of displaced Yazidi communities, reflecting their high level of vulnerability. **Shelter** assistance was also among the top three needs for over 60% of Key Informants interviewed. Displaced Yazidi families are staying in a variety of different shelter types, with over a fifth squatting in unfinished buildings and in the open. These families are particularly vulnerable, with little privacy and no protection from high daytime temperatures.

Key informants reported that there are no sustainable income sources for community members in their current location. Although 63% reported that community members brought some savings with them, these were small amounts, which were rapidly depleting. As the length of displacement continues and these savings are depleted, increasing numbers of people are likely to require assistance to meet their basic needs.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Displaced Yazidis have been heavily reliant on support from host communities and local NGOs in their area of displacement. While displaced communities in the KRI reported receiving distributions of food (82%) and water (54%) at the time of assessment, only a minority of distributions were reportedly conducted by international humanitarian actors.

In order to cater for communities currently residing in the open or in collective shelters, camps are being set up and extended across Dohuk governorate, several of which are planned to cater specifically for Yazidis:

- Existing camps at Bajed Kandala (1 & 2), close to the border with Syria, are being extended to provide a combined capacity of 15,000 individuals.
- Planning is underway new Yazidi camps at Khanke (capacity 9000 individuals); Garmawa (reopening for up to 7,000 individuals); Sharya (up to 17,000 individuals); and Zakho, where the Turkish government plans a mixed camp for up to 13,500 individuals.
- Seven further camps are proposed for Dohuk governorate, but none have yet been finalised.

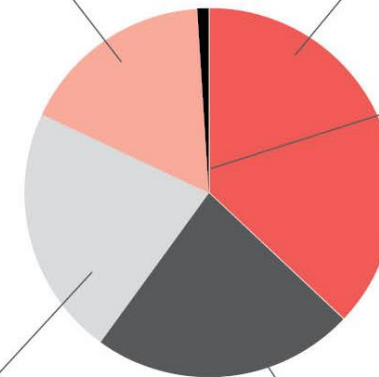
SHELTER TYPES FOR IPDS FROM SINJAR



17% of IDPs stayed in other types of shelter including churches and unfinished buildings



37% of IDPs sought temporary shelter in school buildings



1% of IDPs assessed were hosted by friends or family. This group may be under-represented due to a focus on areas with a high concentration of IDPs



22% of IDPs squatted in the open, in parks and public spaces



23% of IDPs sought shelter in camps

Displacement from al Muqdadiya, Sa'adiya and Jalawla to Khanaqin & Kalar

5 June – 18 August 2014

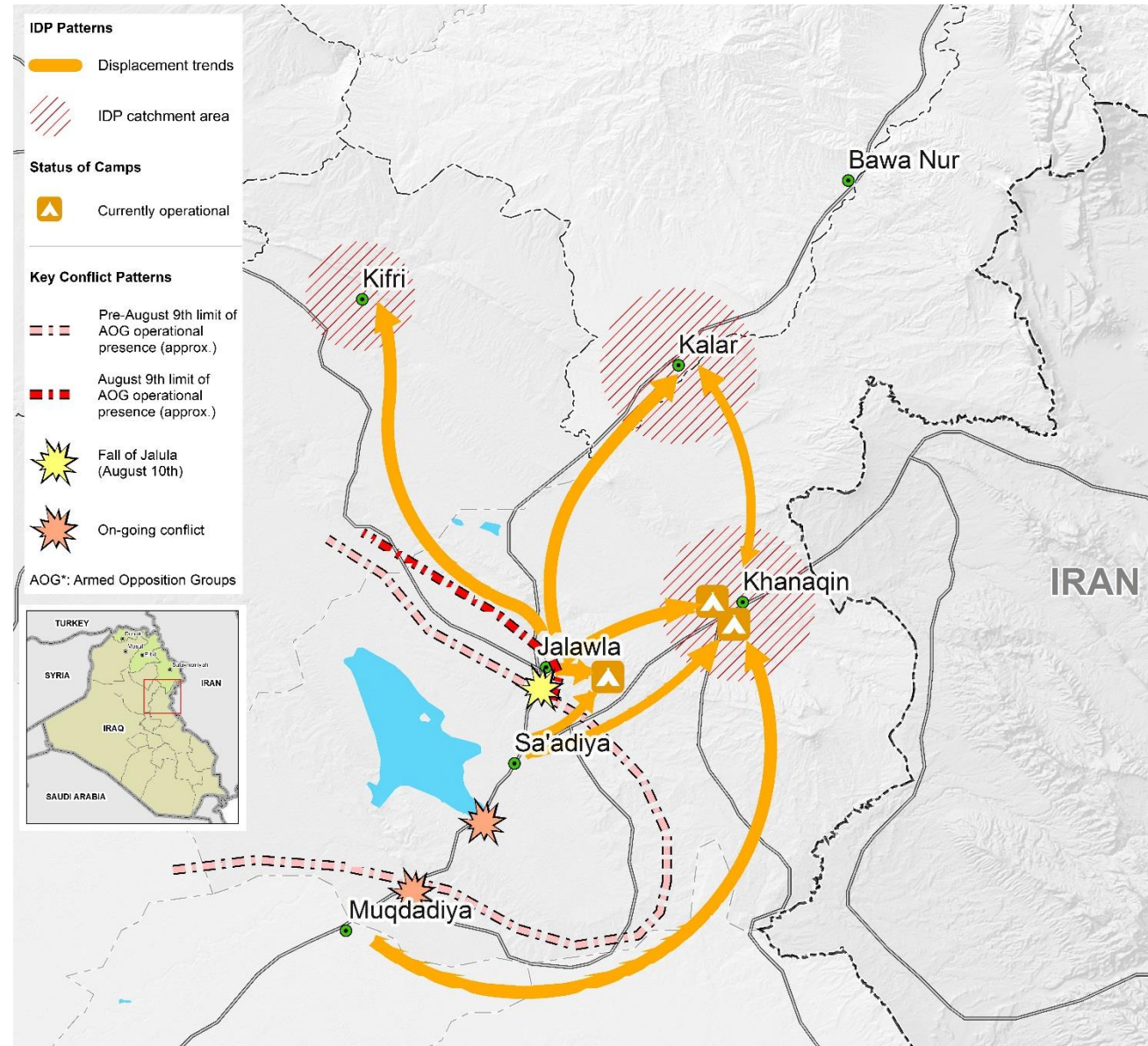
OVERVIEW

Ongoing fighting between Armed Opposition Groups (AOGs) in Northern Diyala Governorate has caused a series of localised displacements between early June and August 2014.

In early June AOGs expanded their reach throughout Southern and Central Iraq, advancing in greater numbers and with increased coordination into Diyala Governorate, home to a mixture of Sunnis and Shias, from Arab, Kurdish and Turkmen population groups.

Following the initial escalation of conflict in early June, fighting continued throughout July, causing the gradual displacement of populations from towns and villages in Northern Diyala Governorate into Kurdish controlled territory, perceived as safer. While lulls in fighting allowed some displaced families to return to their place of origin, IDP numbers steadily increased. Simultaneous clashes between AOGs and Shia militias in the town of al-Muqdadiya; and the seizure of Sa'adiya in late June, followed by Jalawla on August 10th, resulted in widespread displacement towards the perceived safer towns of Kanaquin, Kalar, and other towns under Kurdish control.

Findings presented in this briefing note are informed by primary data collected between 17 – 18 August by REACH enumerators through 13 Key Informant interviews and 11 focus group discussions, consolidated and triangulated with available secondary data.



PRIORITY NEEDS & COPING CAPACITY

Primary data collection by REACH teams in Kalar and Khaniqin identified the priority needs of IDPs as **food, shelter improvement, and rental support**. The high proportion of key informants reporting food as the first priority need can be attributed to the lack of sustainable financial resources available IDP families, similarly for the high proportion of KIs who reported rental support as their 3rd priority need.

All key informants reported that **IDPs were receiving some assistance from friends and/or relatives**, emphasising the personal ties between both IDP and hosting communities. Focus group discussions highlighted that this was not just a case of tribal or family connections, with many IDP families reporting they had chosen their destination because they knew Kurdish families from Garmian who had sought refuge in Diyala when displaced in past decades and Kurdish returnees from Iran.

The majority of key informants reported that small numbers of IDPs in their communities (10-20%) had access to employment, which was helping to support displaced families. While some members of displaced communities reported having access to savings, **15% reported that their community members had no savings and were relying directly on support from host communities**.

ASSISTANCE

Most displaced families in northern Diyala governorate have received very little or no external assistance, with 75% of key informants stating that nobody in their community had received any kind of assistance since being displaced. Of those communities who had received assistance, shelter and food were the most common (both 67%) followed by hygiene items and cash (both 33%).

INTENTIONS

All key informants reported that **IDPs in their communities intended to stay in their current location for the next week**, 50% of these suggesting this was due to a lack of alternative places to go. Focus groups of IDPs from Jalawla and Sa'adiya, confirmed these findings, stating they intended to wait until they were sure their homes were safe before returning. Many also reported that the likelihood of return in the short term had been reduced, due to the destruction of property and crops as a result of the conflict. However, some key informants in Muqyadiya suggested that people may be starting to return to the town as a result of a reduction in violence in the area since the change of government in Baghdad.

SHELTER OPTIONS

IDPs displaced to Kalar, Khanaqin, and other nearby towns are staying in **IDP camps, unfinished buildings, and private rental accommodation**. Much IDP accommodation is crowded, with rented accommodation frequently shared by multiple families.

While large numbers of IDPs are able to rely on relatively cheap or even free shelter solutions—namely unfinished buildings or IDP camps—a significant proportion of IDPs are currently staying in relatively expensive private rental accommodation, costing up to 500,000 IQD per month. Accommodation costs in Kalar are higher than those in Kanaquin, reportedly home to the poorer and more vulnerable of those displaced.

Findings from key informant assessments were corroborated by focus group discussions, with cash or employment commonly reported needs. This is particularly relevant to longer term IDPs, who prior to the surge in violence were able to return to their place of origin for employment, or to retrieve household assets. The deteriorating security situation, resulting in direct routes being cut off, has this type of movement increasingly difficult. IDPs wishing to move in this part of Diyala Governorate are forced to take significantly longer routes to avoid areas of fighting and damaged infrastructure.

About REACH Initiative

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