

# INTENTIONS SURVEY

## NATIONAL LEVEL MOVEMENT INTENTIONS OF IDP HOUSEHOLDS IN FORMAL CAMPS

### CONTEXT AND METHODS

Between the years 2013 and 2017, conflict intensified in north and central Iraq, which resulted in large scale displacement. As of April 2020 there still are 1.4 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) identified across Iraq.<sup>1</sup> Of these, approximately 57,000 are estimated to be residing in 42 formal camps across the country.<sup>2</sup>

In 2018, rates of IDP households moving to their area of origin (AoO) across Iraq slowed down, whilst in 2019 camps closure accelerated across the country.<sup>3</sup> In this context, and with the additional unknown effects on movement intentions deriving from the spread of COVID-19, it is essential to understand movement intentions. This assessment will provide a better understanding of the perceived barriers to return, as well as requisite conditions for safe and voluntary returns. To address this information gap, REACH, in partnership with the Iraq Camp

Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster, conducted an intentions survey in all identified formal camps with 100 or more households.<sup>4</sup> The survey took place between 12 February and 16 March 2020.

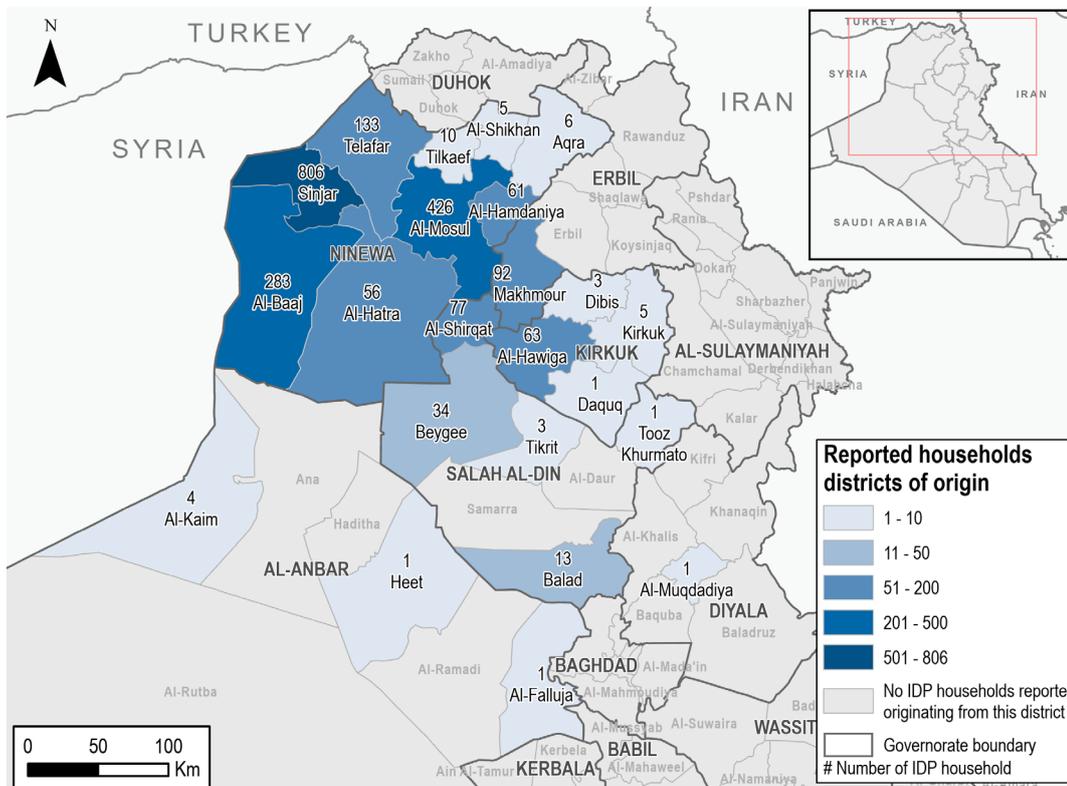
**A total of 4,300 households were interviewed across 23 formal camps located in Dohuk, Erbil, Kirkuk, Ninewa, and Salah al-Din governorates. This factsheet presents national level findings for IDP households in formal camps.** At the national level, findings are generalised with a minimum 95% level of confidence and maximum 10% margin of error. This level is guaranteed for all questions that apply to the entire population surveyed. Full details on the methodology are included in the [Terms of Reference](#).

### KEY FINDINGS

- **Returns:** only two percent of IDP households intended to return in the 12 months following data collection, with 69% intending to stay in their current location.
- **Barriers to return:** reported factors such as **damage to shelter in their AoO, perceived lack of security and perceived lack of livelihood opportunities** prevented IDP households to return to their AoO.
- **Shelter conditions in AoO:** 58% of IDP households reported their property in their AoO to be completely destroyed.
- **Safety conditions in AoO:** 61% of IDP households reported having concerns about safety in their AoO.
- **Basic services in AoO:** 42% of IDP households reported perceiving a lack of basic services in their AoO.
- **Livelihood opportunities in AoO:** 61% of IDP households reported perceiving a lack of livelihood opportunities.
- **Humanitarian assistance in AoO:** 53% of IDP households reported to perceive that no humanitarian assistance was available in their AoO.

### DISPLACEMENT DEMOGRAPHICS

Map 1. Districts of origin of IDP household displaced in formal IDP camps



**Districts of origin:**

Sinjar	50%
Al-Baaj	16%
Al-Mosul	14%
Makhmour	4%
Telafar	3%
Al-Hatra	3%
Al-Hawiga	2%
Al-Hamdaniya	2%
Al-Shirqat	1%
Beygee	1%
Other <sup>5</sup>	2%

**Districts of displacement:**

Sumail	31%
Al-Hamdaniya	19%
Daquq	14%
Al-Shikhan	13%
Al-Mosul	9%
Zakho	5%
Akre	3%
Erbil	3%
Makhmur	2%
Tikrit	1%

<sup>1</sup>International Office for Migration (IOM), Displacement Tracking Matrix (April 2020). Available [here](#).  
<sup>2</sup>CCCM, 2020. Iraq Operational Portal: February Camp Master List and Population Flow. Available [here](#).  
<sup>3</sup>The New Humanitarian. 'Nowhere to go: Mosul residents in limbo as camps close' 11 March 2020. Available [here](#).

<sup>4</sup>Formal camps were selected based on camp lists provided by CCCM.  
<sup>5</sup>Other includes Agra, Balad, Al-Shikhan, Tilkaef, Kirkuk, Al-Kaim, Tikrit, Dibis, Al-Muqdadia, Daquq, Al-Falluja, Tooz Khurmato, and Heet districts.

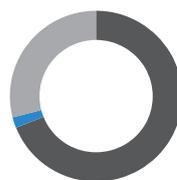
## MOVEMENT INTENTIONS

During the three months following data collection:



87% Remain in current location  
1% Return to AoO  
12% Do not know

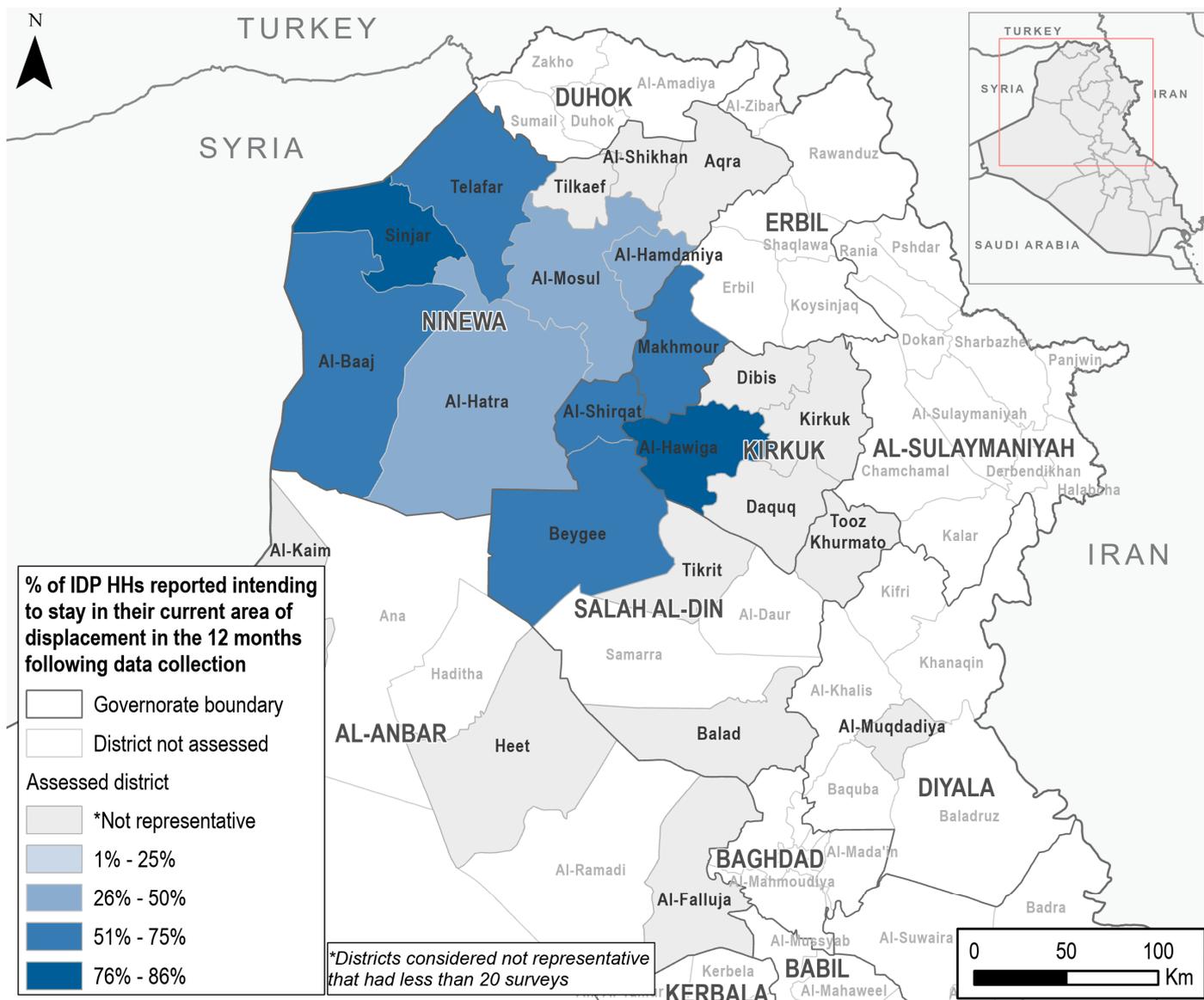
During the twelve months following data collection:



69% Remain in current location  
2% Return to AoO  
29% Do not know

Intentions to return to AoO were reportedly low for the majority of IDP households, for both short term returns (three months following data collection) with one per cent of IDP households and long term returns (12 months following data collection) with less than two per cent of IDP households. Conversely, almost a third of IDP households (29%) reported being uncertain regarding their movement intentions in the long term. At district of origin level, there are two areas where IDP households were proportionally less likely to intend to return in the following 12 months: the districts delimiting with the Syrian border (Sinjar, Telafar, and Al-Baaj), and in the districts at the east-bank of the Tigris river following the Hamrin mountains (Al Hawiga, Al-Shirkat, Makhmour, and Beygee). Many of these areas, on top of being severely affected during the conflict, are still considered to be unstable due to clashes between security forces and terrorist groups.

**Map 2. Proportion of IDP households reporting intending to stay in their current area of displacement in the year following data collection**

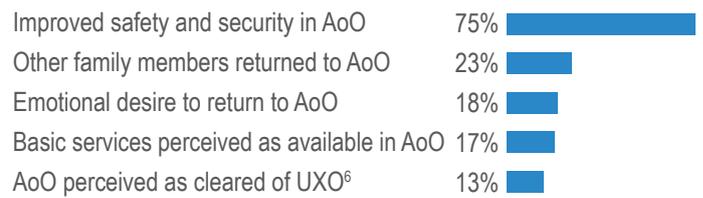


\* Respondents could select multiple options. Therefore, results may exceed 100%.

## REASONS TO RETURN TO AREA OF ORIGIN

Among IDP households that intended to return (less than two per cent), the majority reported that the perceived stabilization of the security situation in their AoO was the main reason for intending to return (75%), followed by other family members having already returned (23%) and an emotional desire to return to their AoO (18%).

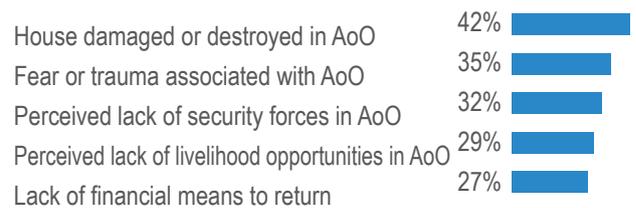
Among IDP households intending to return to their AoO, the five most commonly reported reasons were:\*



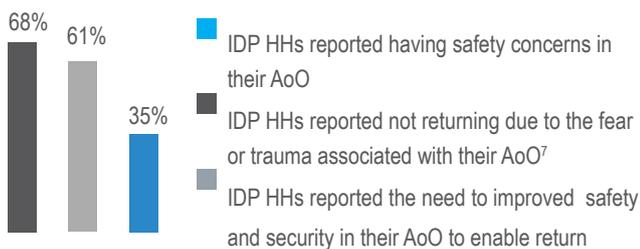
## REASONS NOT TO RETURN TO AREA OF ORIGIN

Conversely, the most reported reasons for IDP households to not intend to return to their AoO were damage or destruction of their homes in their AoO (42%), the fear or trauma associated with returning to their AoO (35%) and the perceived lack of security forces in their AoO (32%). Reasons for intending to return and not intending to return underlined that security was a key factor in influencing decisions to return. Damage or destruction of housing in their AoO and the perceived lack of livelihoods also had an important impact on IDP households' decision for not intending to return.

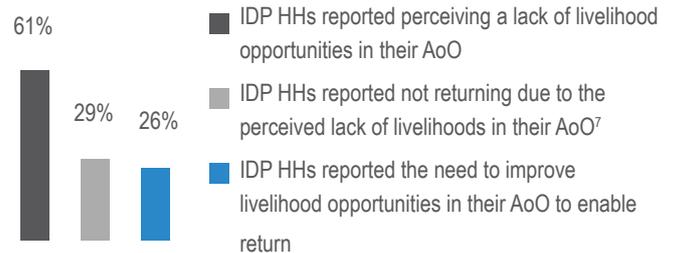
Among IDP households not intending to return to their AoO, the five most commonly reported reasons were:\*



Perceptions of IDP households (IDP HHs) considering security as a barrier to return to their AoO:



IDP households' perceptions of livelihood opportunities in their AoO as a barrier to return:



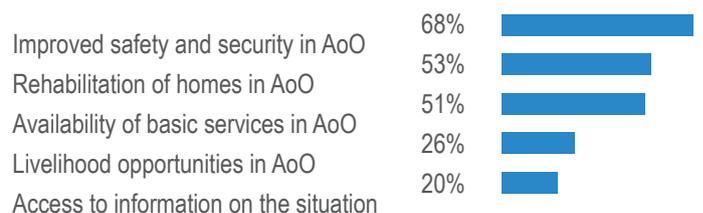
## PRIMARY NEEDS AND BARRIERS TO RETURN TO AREA OF ORIGIN

A majority of IDP households reported the need to increase safety and security conditions in their AoO (68%) and more than half reported the need of rehabilitation and reconstruction of their homes (53%) as primary needs to enable return to their AoO. Other primary needs indicated to enable return were the availability of basic services (51%), the increase in livelihood opportunities (26%) and the improvement of access to information on the current situation (20%). The latter could explain the relatively high proportion of IDP households reporting uncertainty regarding their movement intentions over the 12 months following data collection (29%).

Proportion of IDP households that reported attempting to return to their AoO, but were re-displaced to a formal camp:



Top five needs IDP households reported to enable return to their AoO:\*

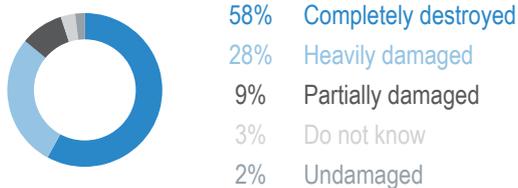


\* Respondents could provide multiple reasons. Therefore, results may exceed 100%.  
<sup>6</sup> Unexploded ordnance (UXO)

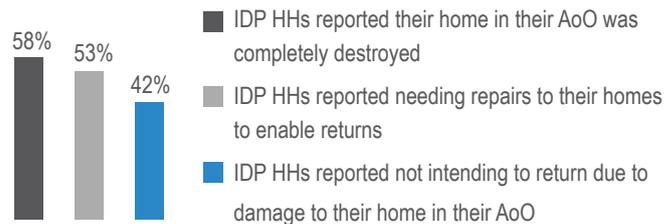
<sup>7</sup> From a subset of 69% households reporting intending to remain in their current location within the next year following data collection.

## PERCEPTIONS OF SHELTER CONDITIONS IN AREA OF ORIGIN

Reported level of damage to home in IDP households' AoO:

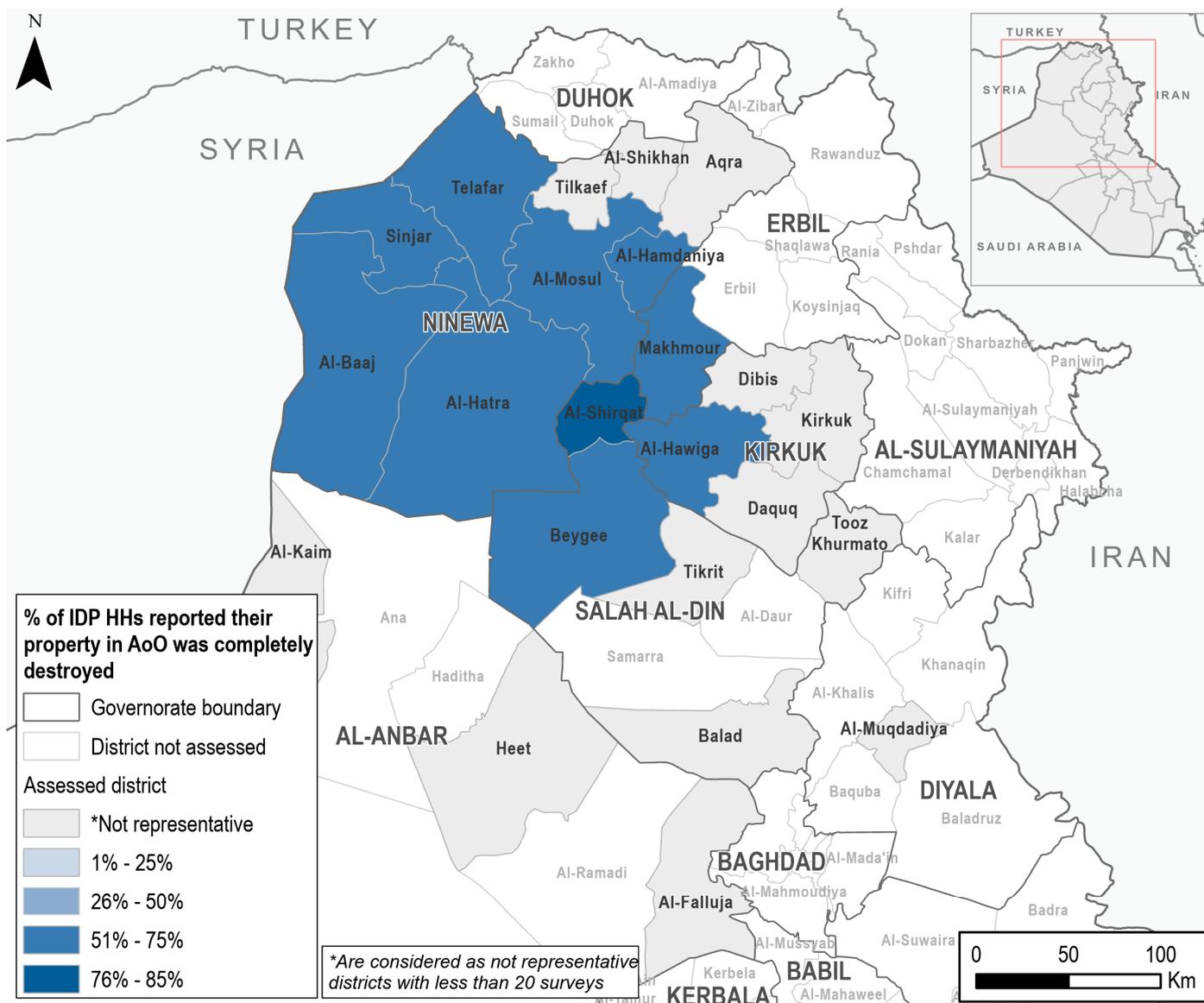


Reported level of damage to home in AoO and its reported impact in households' decision or needs to return:



A high proportion of IDP households (86%) reported important damage to their homes, being either completely destroyed or heavily damaged. This was also reflected in 53% of IDP households reporting the need for rehabilitation and reconstruction to enable returns to their AoO, as well as 42% of IDP households reporting that house damage and destruction was one of the main reasons for not intending to return to their AoO. These findings highlight the importance of facilitating the rehabilitation and reconstruction of shelter through shelter-focused programs. Findings by area of origin provide a better insight into where needs may be highest in terms of shelter-based intervention. Across all districts of origin, high proportions of IDP households reported their property to be completely destroyed, with Al-Shirqat being the district that was reportedly more affected.

Map 3. Proportion of IDP households reporting their property in their AoO to be completely destroyed



\*Respondents could select multiple options. Therefore, results may exceed 100%.

## PERCEPTIONS OF SAFETY CONDITIONS IN AREA OF ORIGIN

IDP households that reported having concerns about safety in IDP households' AoO:



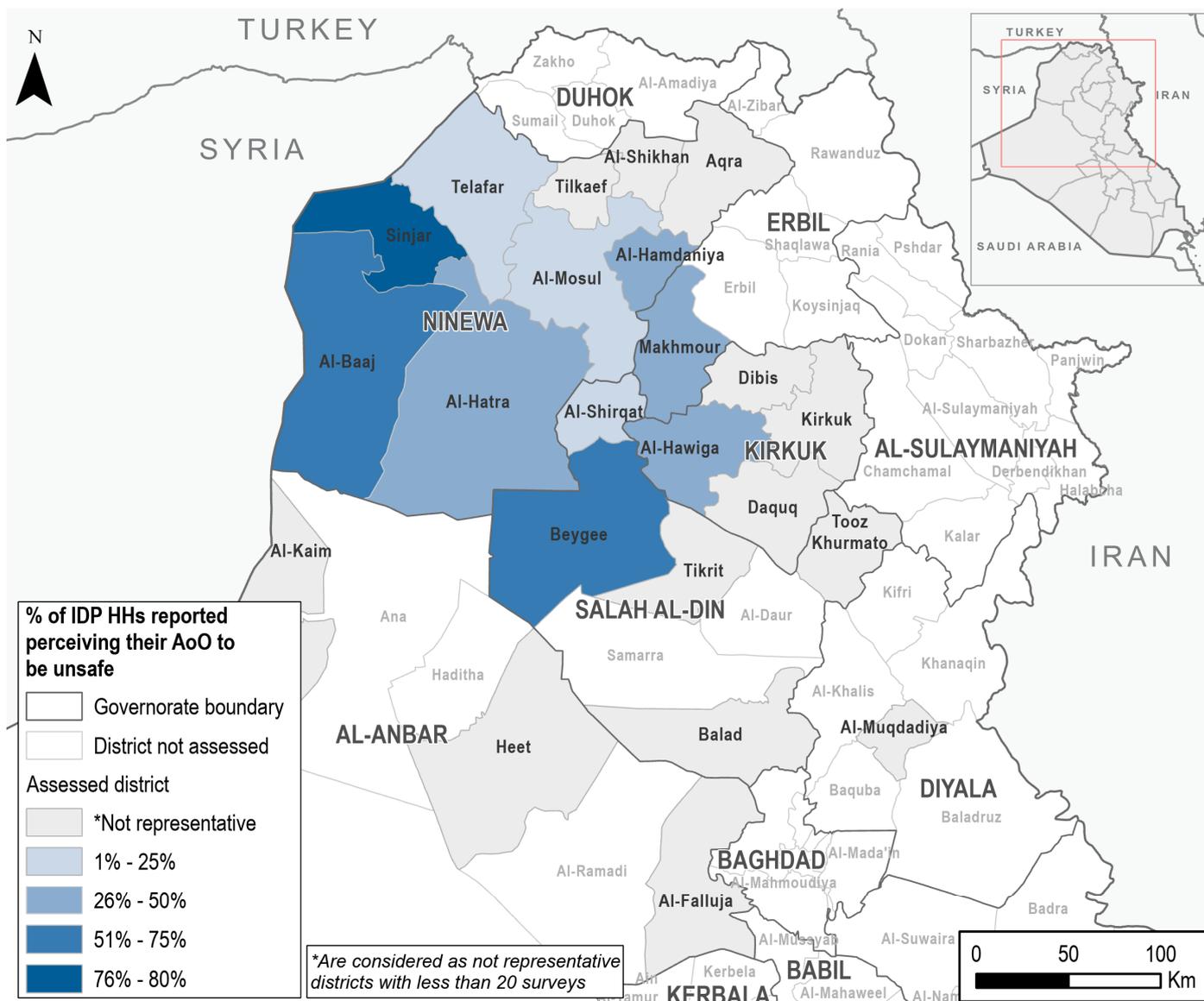
61% Have concerns about safety  
27% Have no or little concerns  
12% Do not know

Top five reported reasons for not feeling safe in their AoO (among IDP households who had concerns about safety in their AoO):\*



Many IDP households reported having concerns about safety in their AoO (61%). Among these concerns, the most frequently reported were related to security and conflict: fear of armed actors (37%), fear of extremist groups (33%), fear of land contamination (23%), and a perceived prevalence of sporadic clashes (19%). There were also safety concerns not directly related to the conflict such as poor infrastructures in their AoO (36%). These concerns were linked with safety being the most reported need to enable IDP households to return (68%). The perceived presence of extremists groups could be related to a perceived instability of the security situation in some areas of Diyala, Kirkuk, Ninewa, and Salah al-Din governorates.<sup>8</sup> IDP households originally from districts closer to Syria (Sinjar, Al-Baaj) and the Hamrin mountains (Beygee) were more likely to perceive their districts of origin as unsafe, due to conflict experienced in these areas and perceived presence of extremists groups. In order to improve perceptions of security and safety of IDP households' AoO, programming could focus more on the restoration of buildings and infrastructure as well as land decontamination in the areas most affected by the conflict.

Map 4. Proportion of IDP households reporting perceiving their AoO to be unsafe



<sup>7</sup> Respondents could select multiple options. Therefore, results may exceed 100%.

<sup>8</sup> More information about the security situation at the time of data collection available here: [ISHM: February 13-February 20, 2020](#); [ISHM: February 20-February 27, 2020](#); [ISHM: February 27-March 5, 2020](#); and [ISHM: March 5-March 12, 2020](#).



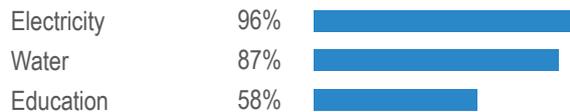
## PERCEPTION OF AVAILABILITY OF BASIC SERVICES IN AREA OF ORIGIN

Reported perceived availability of basic services in IDP households' AoO:



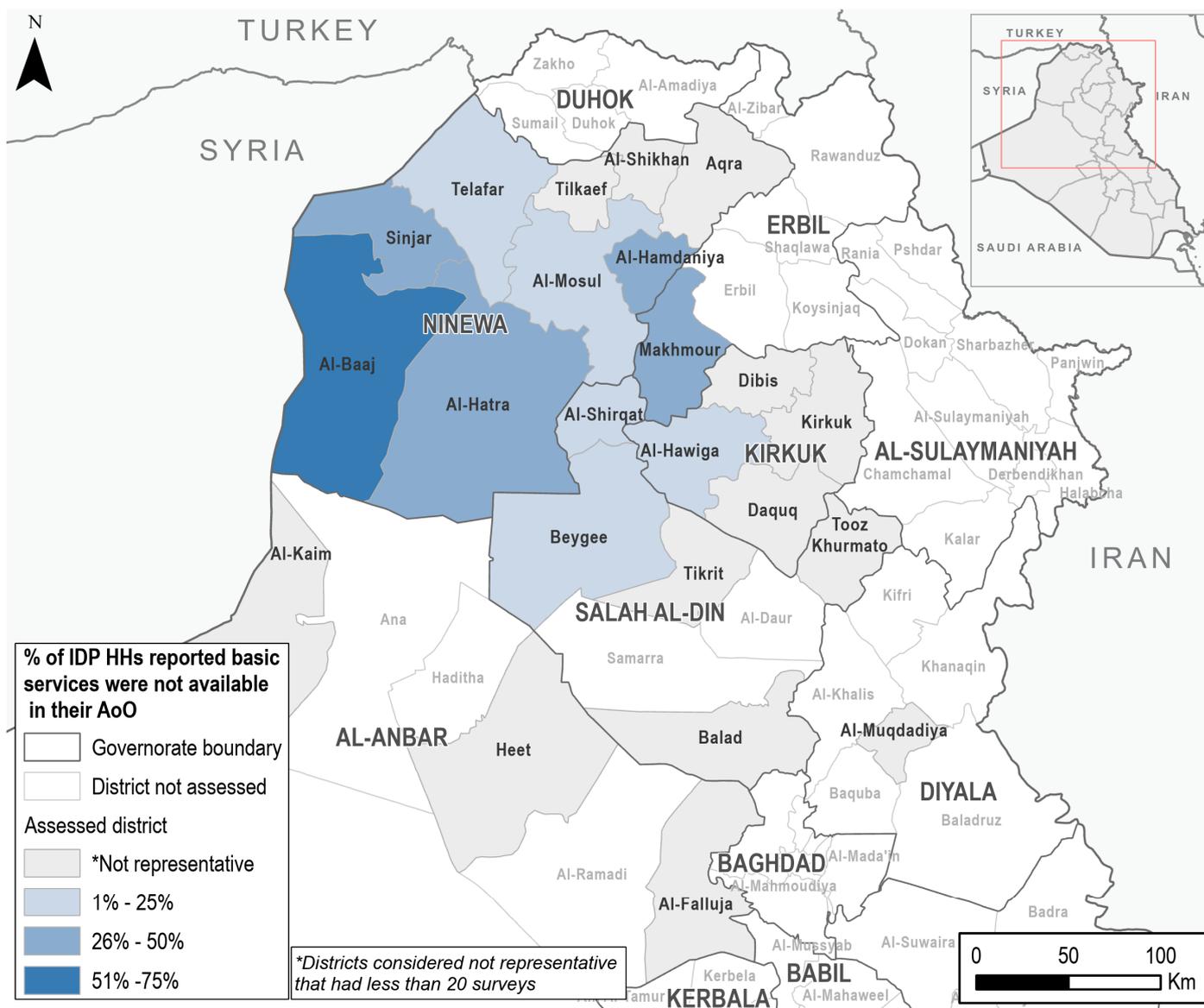
42% None available  
35% Some available  
23% Do not know

Most frequently reported types of services perceived to be available (among IDP households reporting availability of basic services):\*



Less than half (42%) of the IDP households reported perceiving a lack of availability of basic services in their AoO, which was reflected in the commonly reported need to improve availability of basic services to enable IDP households to return to their AoO (51%). Among IDP households perceiving basic services to be available in their AoO (35%), the most commonly reported to be available were electricity (96%) and water (87%), while waste disposal services (47%) and health services (55%) were reportedly perceived to be less commonly available. At the district of origin level, the reported perception of lack of basic services was particularly higher for IDP households originating from Al-Baaj district. These findings highlight the need to improve availability and access to basic services in IDP households' AoO, through infrastructure investment.

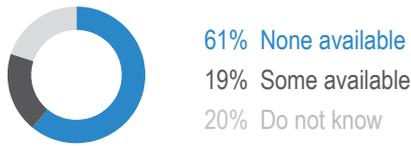
Map 5. Proportion of IDP households reporting perceiving basic services were unavailable in their AoO



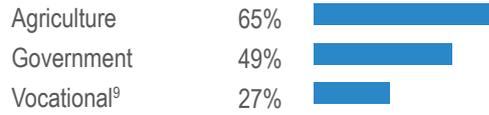
\*Respondents could select multiple options. Therefore, results may exceed 100%.

## PERCEPTION OF AVAILABILITY OF LIVELIHOODS IN AREA OF ORIGIN

Reported perceived availability of livelihood opportunities in IDP households' AoO:

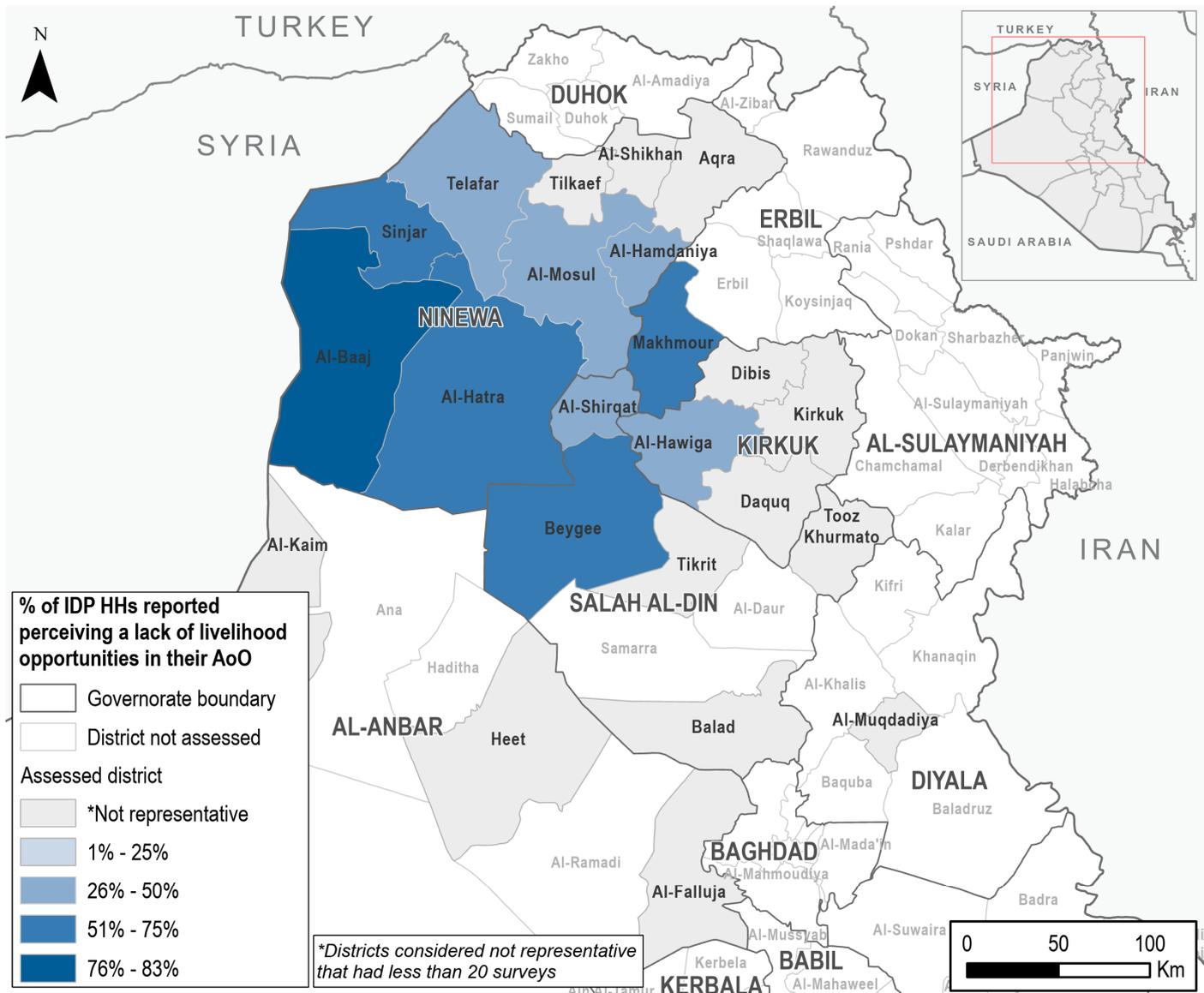


Most frequently reported perceived employment sectors to be available (among IDP households reporting availability of livelihood opportunities):\*



A low proportion of IDP households reported perceiving livelihood opportunities to be available in their AoO (19%). This was also reflected in the main reported reasons by IDP households not to intend to return to their AoO, such as the perceived lack of livelihood opportunities (29%) and lack of financial means to return (27%). The most commonly reported livelihood opportunities were agriculture (65%) and government (49%). However, considering the current environmental situation in Iraq, mainly climate change and water scarcity,<sup>10</sup> coupled with the COVID-19 effects on the economy, and the drop of oil prices, these figures are expected to change in the near future.<sup>11</sup> The districts of origin with the lowest proportions of IDP households reporting livelihoods opportunities to be available were Al-Baaj, Sinjar, and Al-Hatra in Ninewa, Makhmour in Erbil and Beygee in Salah al-Din governorate. This could be due to their relative isolation, as well as these district being heavily affected during the conflict.

Map 6. Proportion of IDP households reporting perceiving a lack of livelihood opportunities in their AoO



\* Respondents could select multiple options. Therefore, results may exceed 100%.

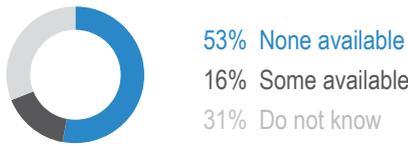
<sup>9</sup> Carpenter, electrician, plumber, etc.

<sup>10</sup> The Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC). When canals run dry: Displacement triggered by water stress in the south of Iraq. February 2020. Available [here](#).

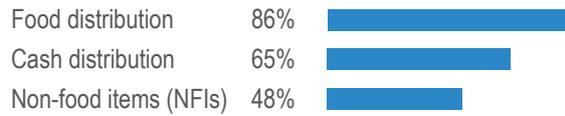
<sup>11</sup> World Bank Group. Iraq Economic Monitor: Navigating the Perfect Storm (redux). Spring 2020. Available [here](#). Analysis from Al-Monitor: 'Is another economic crisis looming in Iraq, with dropping oil prices?', 26 March 2020. Available [here](#).

## PERCEPTION OF AVAILABILITY OF ASSISTANCE IN AREA OF ORIGIN

Reported perceived availability of assistance in IDP households' AoO:



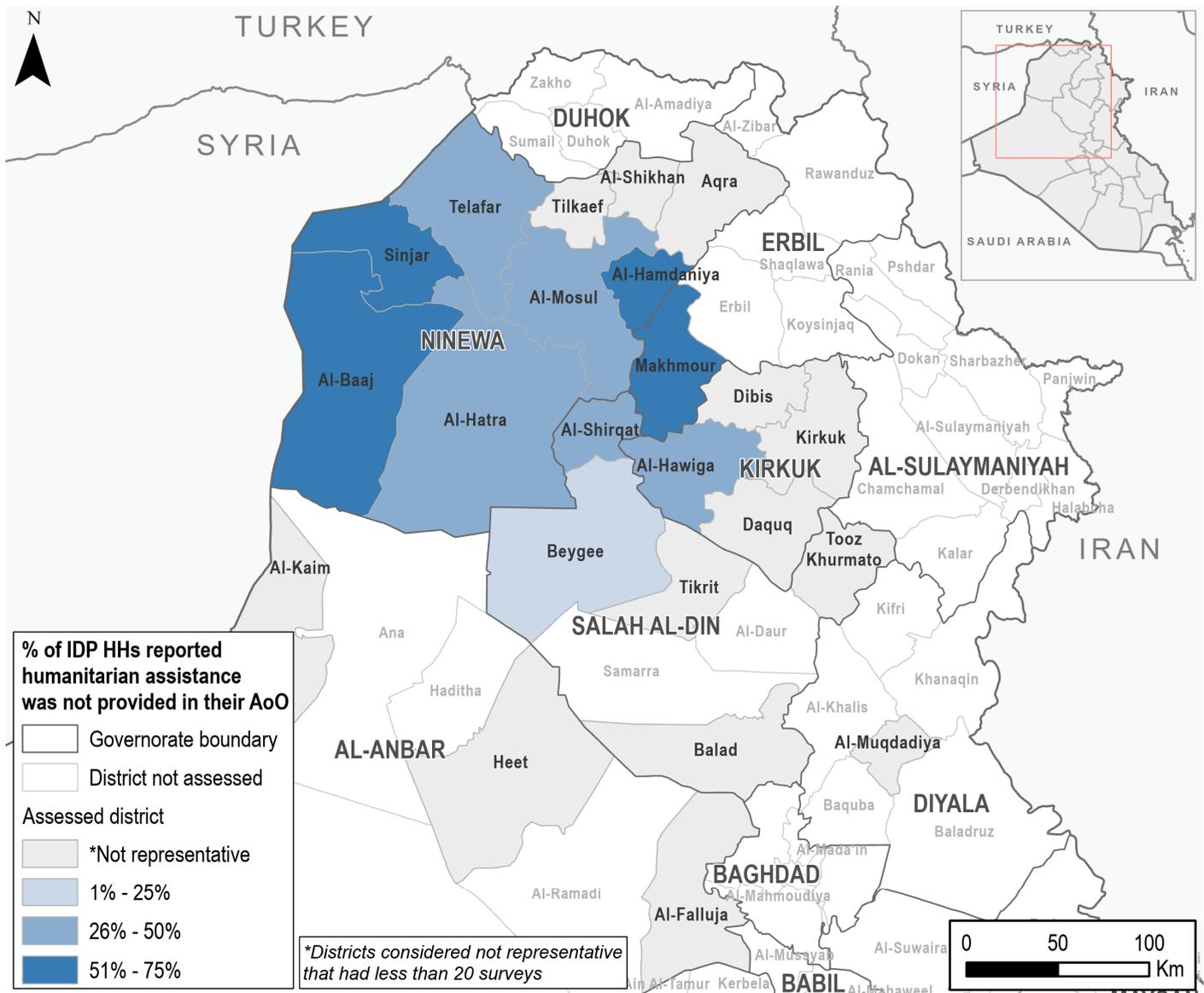
Most frequently reported types of assistance perceived to be available (among IDP households reporting perceiving assistance was available in their AoO):\*



More than half of IDP households (53%) reported perceiving that humanitarian assistance was not available in their AoO. This combined with the high proportion of IDP households reporting perceiving a lack of availability of basic services (42%) and livelihood opportunities in their AoO (61%) acted as a barrier for IDP households to return to their AoO. The most common types of humanitarian assistance reported to be available were related to food (86%), cash (65%) and NFIs distribution (48%).

Results from the national analysis highlighted the need for humanitarian assistance to focus on **shelter repair and in-kind assistance** for IDP households returning to their AoO. It also brought attention to the need to **improve availability and access to basic services, especially education and healthcare services, by improving access through infrastructure investment**. For example, in the healthcare sector by providing ambulance services, mobile units, medical equipment, medicines, and training specialised medical staff, and for education school buses, increase the number of teachers, and rehabilitation of school buildings. This is also linked to the **need to improve availability and access to livelihood opportunities and income generating activities**, to enable a safe and durable return for in-camp IDP households.

Map 7. Proportion of IDP households reporting perceiving humanitarian assistance not to be available in their AoO



\* Respondents could select multiple options. Therefore, results may exceed 100%.