

# URBAN DISPLACEMENT IN THE KURDISTAN REGION OF IRAQ



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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As displacement within Iraq becomes increasingly protracted for internally displaced persons (IDPs), further research is needed to understand its causes and put forward potential durable solutions. The United Nations (UN) International Organisation for Migration Displacement Tracking Matrix (IOM DTM) undertook this research project “Urban Displacement in Iraq” with the primary objective of supporting evidence-based planning for the humanitarian community and the government of Iraq, and to inform the response to protracted displacement in this post-emergency phase. This report will detail findings from urban centres within the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI). An equivalent report is available for urban centres assessed within Federal Iraq.

Data for this assessment was collected on a sample of households, representative at the city level (95%, 5%), between March and December 2020 across ten urban centres of Iraq: Baghdad and Abu Ghraib, Baquba, Dahuk, Erbil, Kirkuk, Mosul, Sulaymaniyah, Tikrit, Tuz Khormatu, and Zakho. Please refer to the [methodological overview](#) for further details.

The findings for the KRI cities – Dahuk, Erbil, Sulaymaniyah and Zakho – are presented in the attached factsheets, which give a detailed analysis of the conditions for IDPs in protracted urban displacement. The main findings are:

### Socio-demographic composition

- Whilst the remaining IDP caseload is largely stationary overall, the IDP population increased between August 2019 and August 2020 in half of the assessed KRI cities, namely Erbil and Sulaymaniyah. This population increase was mainly linked to the movement of IDPs due to camp closures in governorates of Federal Iraq.
- Sulaymaniyah city hosts the lowest proportion of IDPs compared to the host community, with an IDP to population ratio of 8.45, whilst Zakho has the highest with a ratio of 15.69.
- Between 11 per cent (Dahuk, Sulaymaniyah) and 14 per cent (Zakho) of the IDP population is 5 years old or younger and was born in displacement.

### Livelihoods

- The extent to which households can rely on the income of the head of the household varies considerably across the assessed cities, with 72 per cent of households in Dahuk reporting that they are able to rely on such income, compared to only 45 per cent of households in Erbil. For female heads of household, this ranges from a high of 30 per cent in Dahuk to a low of 13 per cent in Erbil.
- Dahuk also has the largest share of households who report having a stable source of income, with 69 per cent of households reporting this to be the case, compared to only 38 per cent of households in Sulaymaniyah. The highest proportion of households relying on informal commerce or daily labour is also at its highest in Sulaymaniyah where 61 per cent of households report this as a main source of income.

### Primary needs in area of displacement

- Medical care is the most pressing need across the four cities, with the situation most severe in Dahuk where 58 per cent of households reported this as one of their top three needs.

- Shelter conditions appear to be worst in Sulaymaniyah, with 69 per cent of households reporting the need for a new shelter, compared to around one-quarter of households in the other three cities.
- Food was reported as a main need at a much higher rate in Dahuk, with 42 per cent of households reporting compared to between 20-30 per cent in the other cities.

### Levels of peaceful coexistence and feelings of safety and security

- IDPs are living in relative safety across all four cities. The lowest levels of safety were reported in Dahuk, where 91% of households reported feeling completely safe, compared to 100% in the other three cities. Additionally, the good security situation was reported as the best aspect of living in the area of displacement in all four cities.
- IDPs are coexisting peacefully in all four cities, with low levels of discrimination reported and the majority reporting comfort in seeking help from the authorities if needed. The highest levels of discrimination were reported in Dahuk, where 13 per cent of families reported having experienced unfair treatment as a result of being an IDP, whilst the highest proportion of families reporting they would not feel comfortable seeking help from authorities were in Zakho with 16 per cent of households reporting this.

### Future intentions and influencing factors

- Zakho had the largest proportion of IDPs reporting that, in the event that no obstacles to return existed, they would prefer to stay in their area of displacement at 66 per cent of households. When asked the same question, Sulaymaniyah had the largest proportion of households that reported a future intention to return to their area of origin, with 44 per cent. Of this 44 per cent, however, only 10 per cent had made any concrete plans to return, and over half (53 per cent) reported they will return in 1-2 years or longer, showing that despite this greater intention to return, the majority are likely to remain in the area of displacement for at least the next 1-2 years.
- Even though more than half of IDP households across all four cities reported an intention to stay in their area of displacement in the long term, the vast majority continue to self-identify as being IDPs, ranging from 70 per cent in Dahuk and Sulaymaniyah up to 87 per cent in Zakho.
- Across all cities, those households that reported having previously attempted to return (once or more than once) are more likely to report that their future intention is to return to their area of origin. This shows that failed returns do not discourage households from wanting to return in future, and potentially even make them more determined to do so. Additionally, the findings indicate that households who attempted return have greater economic means than those who do not, which is likely a factor in their ability to attempt return rather than an indicator of their vulnerability.
- Households headed by a female are more likely to report that their future intention is to stay in the area of displacement, which is likely related to their higher level of vulnerability making return more challenging.

## METHODOLOGY

This section provides a summary of the methodology used for this assessment - please refer to the [Methodological Overview](#) for a more detailed description. As the majority of the remaining caseload of IDPs reside in urban centres across Iraq, DTM determined that this study would focus on those centres, with data collected at the household-level to generate findings that are representative at the city and national level.<sup>1</sup> Existing data on IDPs in – or at risk of – protracted displacement was used to select the main urban centres which are the focus of this study. These areas were selected with the aim of understanding the progress and challenges related to achieving durable solutions to displacement. For the purpose of this study, protracted displacement is defined as three years of displacement or longer, and all IDPs included were displaced as a result of the 2014 crisis (or re-displaced as a result of this crisis, if they had already been forced to resettle prior to 2014).<sup>2</sup> Additionally, all IDPs included in the study are residing in the host community and not in camp setting, as conditions for IDPs vary substantially between camps and from conditions in the host communities.

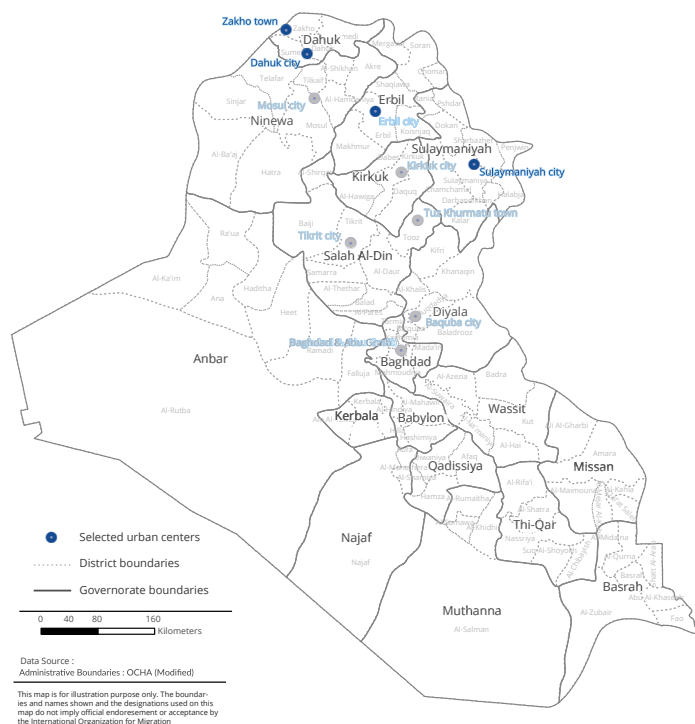
The cities selected for the study are: Baghdad city and Abu Ghraib, Baquba city, Dahuk city, Erbil city, Kirkuk city, Mosul city, Sulaymaniyah city, Tikrit city, Tuz Khurmatu town, and Zakho town. These urban centres were determined using the DTM Master List round 112 (the most up to date at the time of selection), taking in to consideration the areas with the greatest non-camp IDP concentration, accessibility and security conditions.<sup>3</sup>

These factseets present the findings for the assessed cities of the KRI: Dahuk, Erbil, Sulaymaniyah and Zakho. The findings for the assessed cities of Federal Iraq are presented in a seperate document.

Following selection, the IDP population of the urban centre was mapped at the neighbourhood level to show the distribution of the IDP population across the city/town. IOM DTM's Rapid Assessment and Response Teams (RARTs) then used their detailed knowledge of the locality to determine which neighbourhoods are considered to be part of the urban centre, so as to exclude peri-urban and rural locations. For the purposes of this assessment, 'urban' neighbourhoods were considered to be those that were fully reliant on an urban centre for jobs and basic services such as healthcare and education.

For the purpose of sampling, each urban centre was treated separately, depending on the IDP population size and the number of neighbourhoods over which the population of interest was distributed. Over-sampling was conducted in some areas to ensure that representative data could be collected regarding the district/governorate of origin, to improve the efficiency of the sample overall.

Map 1: Sampled urban centres



## ACRONYMS

<b>AoD</b>	Area of displacement
<b>AoO</b>	Area of origin
<b>HH</b>	Household
<b>HoHH</b>	Head of household
<b>IDPs</b>	Internally displaced persons
<b>KRI</b>	Kurdistan Region of Iraq
<b>ML</b>	Master List
<b>MoMD</b>	Ministry of Migration and Displacement

<sup>1</sup> Findings from ILA V show that 64% of IDPs are living in urban settings across Iraq, 24% are living in camps, 3% are living in peri-urban and 9% in rural locations. More information can be found at: <http://iraqdtm.iom.int/ILA5>

<sup>2</sup> Protracted displacement is generally described as a condition in which IDPs are prevented from accessing durable solutions that would reduce their displacement-induced vulnerability, impoverishment and marginalization. The criteria for this determination relate to: the duration of displacement (UNHCR defines protracted displacement as three or more years in displacement); locations where durable solutions are not possible (i.e., return, settlement in the area of displacement, or resettlement in a third area); the continued dependence on humanitarian assistance while economic conditions are either not improving or are further deteriorating; and the continuing or worsening psychosocial impacts of displacement and marginalization.

<sup>3</sup> The most up to date Master List, round 112, was used for the initial drawing of the sample, and subsequently data was collected for the cities of Erbil, Dahuk, Zakho, Sulaymaniyah and Mosul. After data collection began, movement restrictions aimed at curbing the spread of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic were implemented and data collection was paused. Before data collection could resume in September 2020 the sample for the remaining five locations – Baghdad and Abu Ghraib, Baquba, Kirkuk, Tikrit and Tuz Khurmatu – was updated using Master List 117.



Table 1: Sample breakdown for the cities of the KRI<sup>4</sup>

City	Population		Sample	
	# of locations	# of HHs	# of locations	# of HHs
Dahuk	44	5,972	44	343
Erbil	93	20,604	68	500
Sulaymaniyah	151	10,035	72	525
Zakho	13	6,869	13	350
Baghdad and Abu Ghraib	365	4,869	74	452
Baquba	16	2,299	16	330
Kirkuk	38	12,104	38	396
Mosul	86	17,512	62	486
Tikrit	23	1,815	23	308
Tuz Khurmatu	8	3,288	8	332
Total	837	85,367	422	4,022

Enumerators randomly selected households for interview using randomly draw GPS locations, selecting the nearest households to the GPS point. ArcGIS Beta and Open Data Kit (ODK) were used for the selection of households and collection of data.

The following definitions are used throughout this factsheet:

**Adequate/good access<sup>5</sup>** – DTM created a composite index to better understand access to infrastructure and services. All indicators were weighted with the number of IDPs living in the location where the issue was reported to determine the severity of conditions in each location, using a three-point scale of high severity, medium severity and low severity. For the assessed services/facilities to be considered as adequate, the location had to fulfil at least 13 of the following 17 criteria:

- Electricity/water: at least 75 per cent of residents at the location were connected to the public electricity network, and at least 75 per cent had tap water running.
- Primary and secondary schools, health clinics, hospitals, markets, places of worship and police stations: these services were present and functional within 5km, with the hospital within 10km.
- Courts, legal services for Housing, Land and Property (HLP) issues, offices for Public Distribution System (PDS) and civil directorates: these services were functional and present within the sub-district.
- Access to latrines, desludging and waste collection services, and immunisations for the community

**Dependency ratio** – The dependency ratio relates to the number of children (aged 0–17 years) and older persons (aged 60 years or older) in relation to the working-age population or active citizens (aged 18–59 years).

**IDP to population ratio** – the ratio of IDPs to the population in each city. IDP estimates refer to IOM DTM Master List 117 (August 2020), while urban population estimates refer to 2009 figures and official

estimation of the urban population at sub-district level according to the household listing.<sup>6</sup>

**Male to female (sex) ratio** – the ratio of males to females in the IDP population. A sex ratio of 112, for example, means that males slightly outnumber females by 112 males to every 100 females.

**Stable income sources** – regular income generated from salaried work (public or private sector), pensions, own business or from rented property that is not fluctuating significantly on a month-by-month basis.

**Female-headed household** – households that are headed by a female member. When female heads of households are described as 'alone' it means that they are single, widowed, separated, divorced, or if married, not living with their husband.

**Essential identity documents** – the documents considered to be essential are: proof of nationality, national ID, residency card, birth certificate. All others are not considered to be essential for the purpose of this study.<sup>7</sup>

**Functional difficulties** – the Washington Group Questions on Disability Statistics use the term functional difficulty/ies instead of disability. This choice is intended to focus on those who have difficulty in carrying out basic universal tasks in order to identify those within a population who would be at greater risk of social exclusion if their environment is not enabling. Additionally, verification of 'disability' requires a medical diagnosis that cannot be ascertained during an assessment of this nature.<sup>8</sup> The questions use a 5-point assessment scale ranging from 'no difficulty' to 'cannot do at all'. As recommended by the developers of the methodology, any answer from point 3 on the scale 'a lot of difficulty' and upwards in at least one domain is considered to be a functional difficulty for the purpose of this assessment.

4 Sample for Erbil, Dahuk, Zakho, Sulaymaniyah and Mosul drawn in December 2019 using Master List 112, sample for Baghdad and Abu Ghraib, Baquba, Kirkuk, Tikrit and Tuz Khurmatu updated using Master List 117 in September 2020.

5 More details on the infrastructure and services composite indicator can be found in the 'Urban displacement in Iraq: A preliminary analysis' factsheets which serve as a baseline to this study. Available from: <http://iraqdtm.iom.int/DurableSolutions>.

6 Estimates available from: <https://www.citypopulation.de/Iraq-Cities.html>

7 This definition of essential documentation used for this study includes all those considered critical in the Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (as defined by the Protection Cluster and REACH 2020) but also considers additional documentation that is considered necessary to be able to obtain a durable solution to displacement. Additionally, the questionnaire allowed space for the respondent to list another document if missing and considered essential. More information on essential documentation is available from: <https://www.reachresourcecentre.info/country/iraq/theme/multi-sector-assessments/cycle/28380/#cycle-28380>

8 The Washington Group on Disability Statistics, Conceptual Framework. Available from: <https://www.washingtongroup-disability.com/about/conceptual-framework/>

## City IDP population

High recipient	City hosting 10% or more of the total caseload of current non-camp IDPs in Iraq
Medium recipient	City hosting between 3% and 10% of the total caseload of non-camp IDPs
Low recipient	City hosting less than 3% of the total caseload of non-camp IDPs

## Rate of change in IDP population

The rate of change is used to highlight the fluidity of IDP arrivals and departures between two points, in this case between ML 117 (August 2020) and ML 111 (August 2019). On occasion, a positive rate of change can be seen, highlighting an increase in the IDP population over the reporting period. The rate of change is classified using the following categories:

Stationary	City with a rate of change for the displaced population of between 0% and -10%, indicating that IDPs are not (or only very slowly) moving out of their location of displacement
Fairly stationary	City with a rate of change for the displaced population between -10% and -20%
Fairly dynamic	City with a rate of change for the displaced population between -20% and -30%
Dynamic	City with a rate of change for the displaced population greater than -30%, indicating that IDPs have been rapidly or very rapidly moving out of their location of displacement

## District of origin

Homogeneous	City with 80% or more of the IDPs coming from the same district of origin
Fairly homogeneous	City with between 50% and 80% of the IDPs coming from the same district of origin
Heterogeneous	City with no majority group found in terms of district of origin

## Ethno-religious composition

Homogeneous	City with 80% or more of the IDPs coming from the same ethno-religious group
Fairly homogeneous	City with between 50% and 80% of the IDPs coming from the same ethno-religious group
Heterogeneous	City with no majority group found in terms of ethno-religious group

## Length of displacement

Homogeneous	City in which 80% or more of the IDPs displaced within the same time period
Fairly homogeneous	City in which 50% to 80% of the IDPs displaced within the same time period
Mixed	City with no majority group found in terms of time of displacement
Protracted displacement	IDPs who fled before October 2016

## GENERAL CONTEXT<sup>9</sup>

	Displaced individuals	34,050
	Displaced households	5,675
	Neighborhoods hosting IDPs	44
	IDP to host population ratio	9.1

In addition to hosting a large number of IDPs in camps on the outskirts of the city (around 78,000 individuals), the phenomenon of urban displacement is extensive in Dahuk city. It hosts 34,050 IDPs – nearly 3.5 per cent of the total out of camp displaced population – which means that around one in every 10 individuals living in the city is an IDP.<sup>10</sup> The neighbourhood of Avro city has the highest concentration (18%), whereas the rest of the displaced population is evenly spread among the remaining locations.

### Recipient of out of camp IDPs

	3% of total out-of-camp IDPs	Low Recipient
		Medium Recipient
		High Recipient

### Rate of change in IDP population

	-8% IDPs (August 2019 – August 2020)	Stationary
		Fairly Stationary
		Fairly Dynamic
		Dynamic

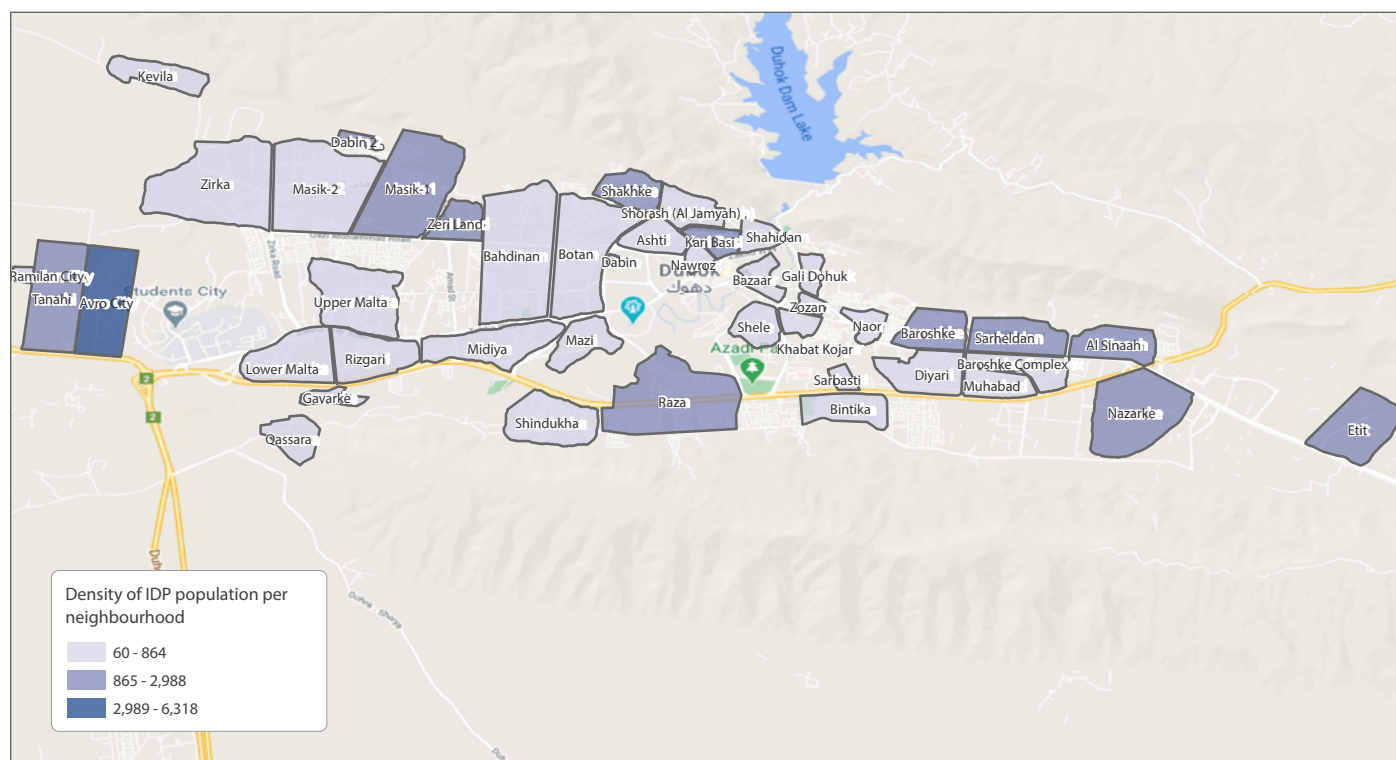
### Districts of origin

	45% Sinjar	3% Tilkaif	Homogeneous
	45% Mosul	1% Kadhima	Fairly Homogeneous
	5% Telafar	1% Other	Heterogeneous

### Ethno-religious composition

	54% Kurd Sunnis	5% Christians	Homogeneous
	25% Arab Sunni	3% Yazidi	Fairly Homogeneous
	11% Kurd Shia	2% Other	Heterogeneous

Map 2. IDP locations in Dahuk city



Like other cities in the KRI, the displacement situation in Dahuk is stationary – less than 10 per cent of IDPs have left their location of displacement within the city since August 2019 – in part due to good widespread security and access to basic services, especially healthcare and schools. The majority of the IDP and host communities also share a common ethnic and/or religious affiliation, which

is an important pull factor. Nearly 65 per cent of current IDPs are Kurdish (53% Sunni and 11% Shia) and there is also a 10 per cent share of minorities, including Christians, Yazidis and Turkmen Sunnis – each of these communities has a historical presence within the city. Nearly all IDPs are originally from Ninewa governorate, mostly from the two districts of Mosul (43%) and Sinjar (41%).

<sup>9</sup> Population figures as of August 2020




<sup>10</sup> Proportion of out-of-camp IDPs determined using figures from Master List 117.



Table 2. Best aspects of living in current location, compared to the area of origin<sup>11</sup>

98%	Good security situation
51%	Freedom of movement
38%	Functioning healthcare services
24%	Functioning schools
14%	Psychosocial care
13%	Presence of relatives and/or friends
10%	Jobs and livelihood generating opportunities

## VULNERABILITY FACTORS AND SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC COMPOSITION

	Average HH size	7 individuals
	Male to female ratio	112
	Dependency ratio	97

The displaced population appears, overall, to be the youngest among the KRI cities sampled, with a dependency ratio of 97, meaning that potentially active individuals (in the 18-59 age-bracket) slightly outnumber dependents. School-aged children account for around one-third of the total IDPs and, considering that nearly all households have been displaced for more than five years, an additional 11 per cent of children have been born in displacement. Males slightly outnumber females, especially in the younger age groups. The household size is consistently large (7 members on average) possibly reflecting the clustering of IDPs under the same roof in order to better provide for the wellbeing of its members. The head of household is 47 years old on average, and increases to 52 years old on average when the household is headed by a female.

Figure 1. Sex and age of displaced population

Male		Female
6%	Under 5	5%
18%	School aged children (5-17 years)	14%
26%	Active population (18-59 years)	25%
3%	Older people (60+ years)	3%

Displaced households display a number of vulnerabilities. Ten per cent of the households are female-headed, while around one quarter have at least one member with functional difficulties. Protracted displacement and multiple displacement are both very common, with nearly 30 per cent of household having been displaced four or more times. Nearly all households have been displaced for more than three years (99%) – 15 per cent of which had already endured internal displacement prior to the 2014 crisis – and around 65 per cent have been displaced more than once since 2014 – around half of which four or more times.

Table 3. Vulnerability profile

99%	HHs in protracted displacement
64%	HHs who experienced multiple displacement
25%	HHs with members with functional difficulties
15%	HHs who were displaced before 2014
10%	Female HoHHs, 7% of which are 'alone'

## LIVELIHOODS

Although most households can count on the head of household working (72%) and are able to meet basic needs (74%), their livelihoods are hardly comparable to the pre-crisis level: only 13 per cent of households own the house they live in (versus 74% prior to displacement) and only 29 per cent consider their current situation better or the same as it was before displacement. The majority of households (69%) can count on a stable source of income among their top three sources of income – mainly jobs in the public sector. Still, around 5 per cent of households have no source of income and no one farms land or rears animals, although farming and herding may have been important livelihood generating activities before displacement.<sup>12</sup> In addition, in the event that the household would have additional financial resources, around one in three households would use them to repay debts (32%).

Table 4. Livelihoods profile

74%	HHs able to meet basic needs
72%	HoHH is working
69%	HHs who have a stable source of income among the top three income sources
29%	HHs whose situation is better or the same as before
13%	HHs living in owned house

Table 5. Main sources of income

38%	Paid job (public sector)
29%	Informal commerce or daily paid labour
18%	Paid job (private sector)
11%	Pension
4%	Own business
4%	Money from family/friends inside Iraq
2%	Borrowing money from friends or family
1%	Savings
1%	Income from rent of house or land
1%	Cash/grants or aid from national institutions
1%	Government assistance, including compensation
1%	Other

<sup>11</sup> Other response options include: 'A better house', 'Freedom to voice my political opinion/participate in political life', 'Support reconciling with the community', 'Affordable cost of living' and were mentioned each by less than 7 per cent of families. These figures may have been underestimated considering that IDPs could name only three response options.

<sup>12</sup> According to ILA 5 data, agriculture, farming and herding are among the main sources of income in 49% and 77% of returnee locations of Mosul and Sinjar, which are the main districts of origin of IDPs currently in Dahuk city.

Table 6. Primary needs<sup>13</sup>

57%	Medical care
44%	Food
32%	Repaying debts
28%	Supporting extended family
25%	Pay for new shelter
25%	Commercial or livelihood activity
18%	Education
17%	Clothing
10%	Repairing house in AoO
9%	Repairing house at AoD
8%	Investment
5%	Transport
5%	Assisting others

## SAFETY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION IN CURRENT LOCATION

The levels of safety and peaceful coexistence with the host community appear to be very high.<sup>14</sup> Nearly all IDPs feel completely safe (97%), and have only very rarely experienced discrimination (4%). Most IDPs would also feel comfortable seeking help from local authorities if needed (88%). Over 80% have registered with the MoMD and the same share has voted in the 2018 elections. In general, displaced households appear to be interested in the political process. Lack of biometric card (32%) and inability to travel to voting locations (41%) are the main reasons for not voting, whereas, only 19 per cent of household stated that they did not vote because they have no interest or faith in the political system.<sup>15</sup>

Table 7. Safety and social inclusion

97%	Feel completely safe
88%	Would feel comfortable to seek help from local authorities
87%	Have not suffered discrimination
81%	Registered with MoMD
81%	Voted in 2018 elections

## WILLINGNESS AND PLANNING FOR RETURN

Nearly all IDPs seem to have the key personal documents (92%).<sup>16</sup> However, around one in four households are missing information on their area of origin, either because they do not trust the information they receive or do not have relatives or friends in the area of origin who can provide this information. Livelihoods and shelter are

other urgent issues: only 12 per cent of households stated that at the area of origin they would have better livelihood opportunities and affordable conditions of living (as compared to the conditions in displacement), only half have property documents and only one quarter own a habitable house – although around 74 per cent of households still own a house in the area of origin.

Table 8. Conditions surrounding return

92%	Have personal documentation
76%	Have enough information on AoO
48%	Have house ownership documents
25%	Owns a habitable house
12%	Livelihoods and living conditions are better at the AoO

Although return seems possible – around half of households know someone who actually made it back to the area of origin – very few households have made concrete steps toward return or display a strong rootedness with their area of origin. Only 13 per cent have tried to go back or have made plans to do so (6%). Among households who had made plans, the most common action has been checking the conditions at the location of origin (41%), followed by arranging accommodation (33%) and making arrangements with family, friends or community members (22%). Of the 74 per cent that own a house in the area of origin, 63 per cent report that the house is either completely or partially damaged. Despite this situation, only 13 per cent of households have applied for compensation even though 30 per cent are aware of the compensation scheme.

Table 9. Planning for return

48%	Know people who successfully returned
13%	Tried to return at least once
13%	Have applied for compensation (if home owner in AoO)
6%	Have made plans to return
2%	Tried to return more than once

## INTENTIONS AND PREFERRED DURABLE SOLUTION

Although around 70 per cent of households still consider themselves 'displaced', intentions to stay (54%) and indecision (8%) nearly double the willingness to return (34%). Moreover, nearly all households who wish to return have taken no action in this direction (81%) and are either unsure about the date of their return (51%) or plan to do so not earlier than in one or two years (37%). These figures suggest that about 90 per cent of the total displaced population is likely to remain in their current location in Dahuk city for the next two years.

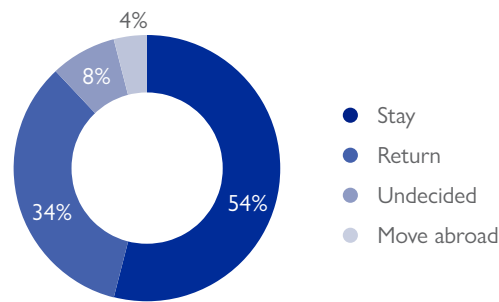
<sup>13</sup> In order to assess main needs households were asked 'Imagine for a moment that your household inherit a large sum of money. Please rank the three main items your household would use this money for (starting with 1 for the most important).' The table shows the percentage of respondents that mentioned each option, but not the prioritization given to each option.

<sup>14</sup> This confirms findings from the safety and social cohesion data as outlined in Urban Displacement: A preliminary Analysis. IOM, DTM Iraq 2020. Available at <http://iraqdtm.iom.int/DurableSolutions/Description/342>

<sup>15</sup> Among those households who reported no one in their household voted in the 2018 elections.

<sup>16</sup> Proof of nationality, national ID and residential card are the top three documents reported missing by between 1 and 2.5 per cent of households. All other types of documents are each missed by less than 1 per cent of households.

Figure 2: Intentions of household, in the event that no obstacles are faced<sup>17</sup>



For those households wishing to return, the main reason for delaying appears to be the lack of security at the area of origin (55%), followed by the lack of basic services (22%), livelihood-generating opportunities (18%) and shelter (16%). Around one in ten households reported tribal/reconciliation issues and/or fear or trauma associated with return. Around 5 per cent of households stated that ‘they are prevented from return’ – nearly all of which are originally from the district of Sinjar. Factors associated with the area of displacement are less prevalent and include stable security (29%), children enrolled in school (12%) and better economic opportunities (9%).

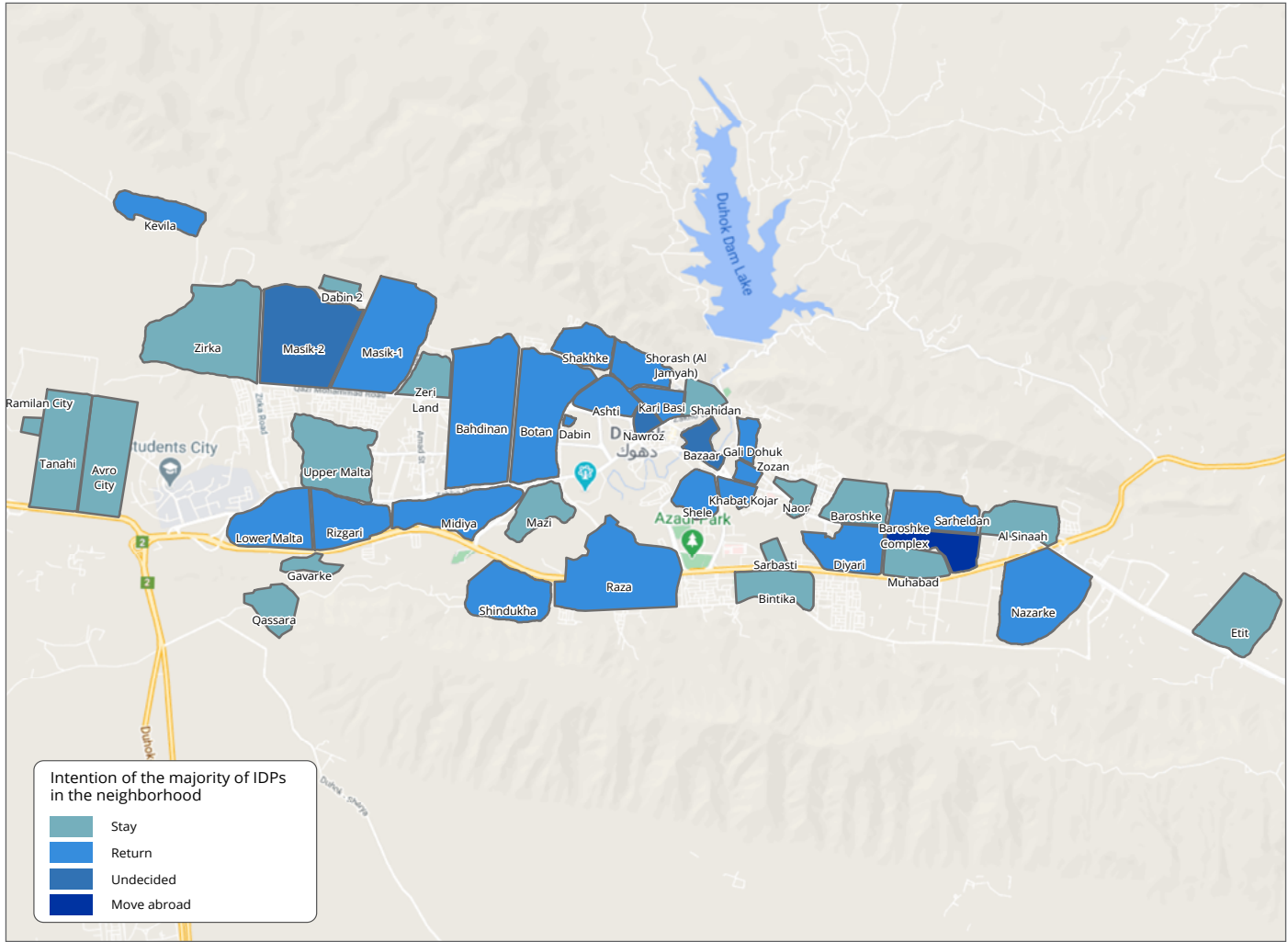
Table 10. Factors associated with area of origin

55%	Unstable security
22%	Basic services unavailable or inadequate
18%	Lack of economic opportunities
16%	No housing
14%	Fear or trauma associated with return
8%	Tribal and reconciliation issues
3%	Prevented from return <sup>18</sup>

Table 11. Factors associated with area of displacement

29%	Stable security
12%	HH member in school
12%	No financial means to return
9%	Better economic opportunities
4%	Better living conditions
4%	Health conditions prevent household from returning

Map 3. Future intention per neighbourhood



17 Respondent was asked ‘Imagine for a moment that you faced no obstacles to return or to remain in the current location: what would be your household’s preferred place to live in the future?’

18 In most cases, ‘prevented from return’ means that the attempt to return has been blocked by security actors.



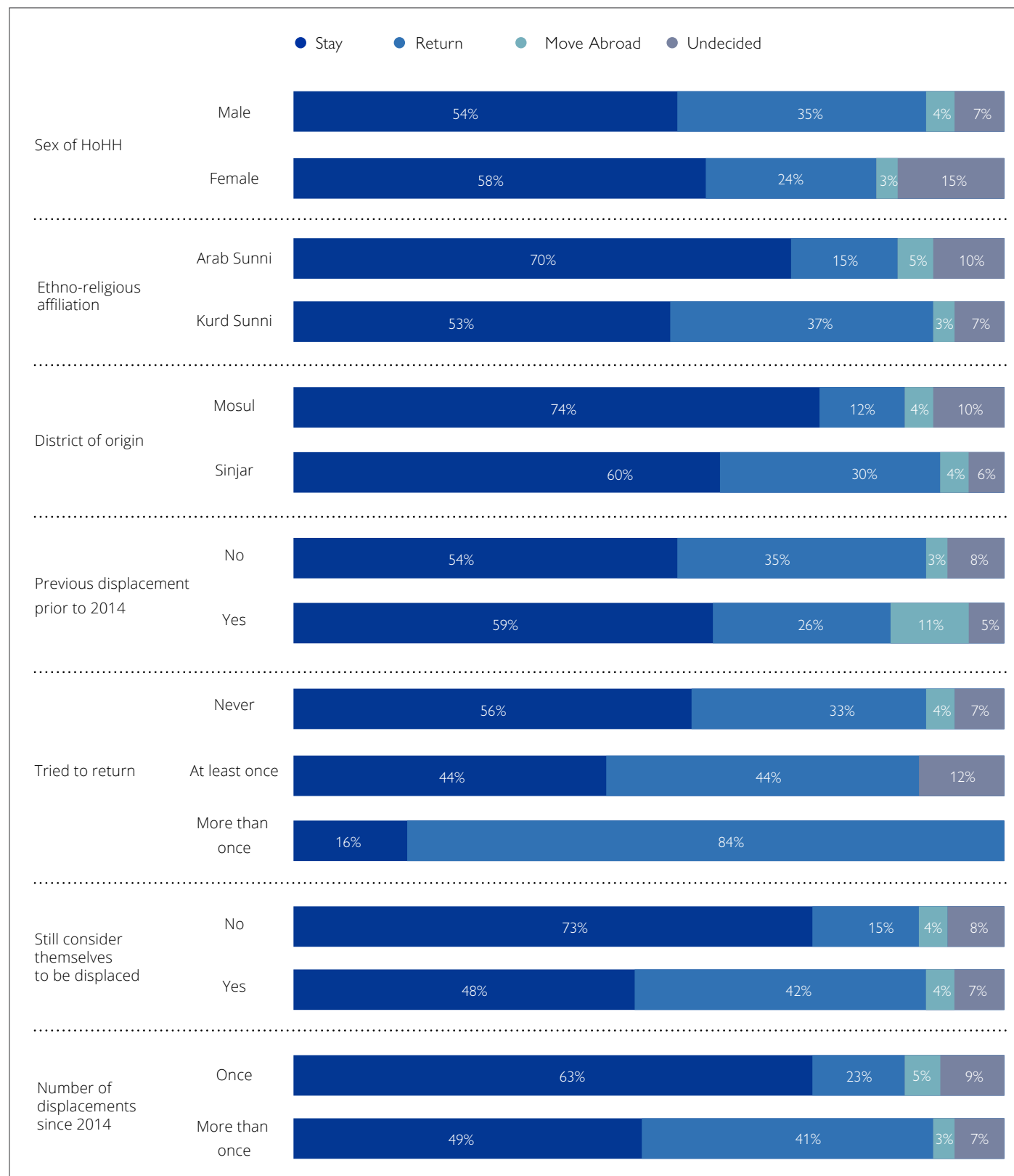
## FACTORS AFFECTING THE INTENTIONS OF DISPLACED URBAN POPULATIONS

Future intentions do not vary widely according to gender, although females were more likely to report that they were undecided (15%, to males 7%), and less likely to report an intention to return to their area of origin (24%, to males 35%). Of the two predominant ethnic groups in Dahuk, Arab Sunnis were more likely to report an intention to stay (70%) compared with Kurdish Sunnis (53%). Those originating from Mosul were slightly more likely to report an intention to stay (74%) compared to those from Sinjar (60%).

Notably, those who had tried once to return, or had tried more than once, were far more likely to report an intention to return (44% and 84% respectively). Conversely, 73 per cent of those who no longer consider themselves displaced intend to stay in Dahuk.

Previous displacements also play a role in IDPs future intentions. Those who were displaced prior to 2014 were more likely to intend to stay in Dahuk (59%). Those who had been displaced one or more times were also more likely to report an intention to stay (63% and 49% respectively).

Figure 3. Factors affecting intentions



## GENERAL CONTEXT<sup>19</sup>

	Displaced individuals	123,774
	Displaced households	20,629
	Neighborhoods hosting IDPs	93
	IDP to host population ratio	12.34

Erbil city is the largest recipient of IDPs in the KRI, with an estimated 123,774 individuals representing around 12 per cent of the total out-of-camp displaced population nationwide. In addition, Erbil has a relatively high IDP to population ratio, with one out of every 12 individuals living in the city being an IDP.<sup>20</sup> By contrast, the camp population is low (around 6,000 individuals) making displacement a predominantly urban phenomenon in Erbil. Zanko and Zaiton Collective are the neighbourhoods hosting the greatest numbers of IDPs; however, the displaced population is spread over a large area of the city as shown in map 4.

## Recipient of out of camp IDPs

	Low Recipient
	Medium Recipient
	High Recipient

**12% of total out-of-camp IDPs**

## Rate of change in IDP population



**+2% IDPs**

(August 2019 – August 2020)

Stationary
Fairly Stationary
Fairly Dynamic
Dynamic

## Districts of origin



40% Ninewa (primarily Mosul and Al Hamdaniya)  
25% Anbar (Ramadi, Falluja and AlKa'im)  
21% Salah al Din (Baiji, Tikrit, Samarra)  
6% Baghdad  
4% Kirkuk  
2% Diyala  
<1% for Basra and Babylon

Homogeneous
Fairly Homogeneous
Heterogeneous

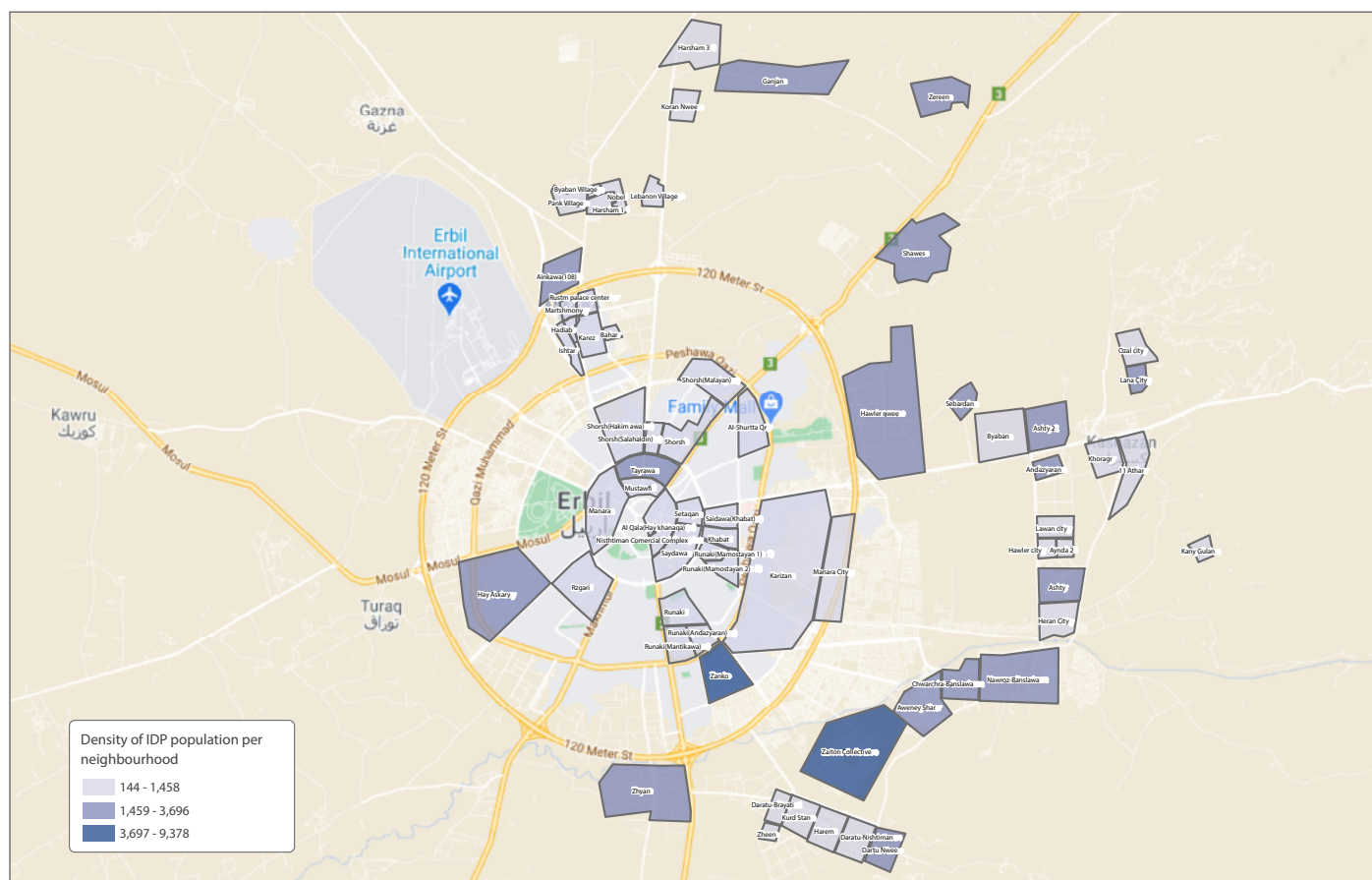
## Ethno-religious Composition



72% Arab Sunni Muslim  
7% Kurd Sunni Muslim  
6% Chaldean Christian  
5% Christian  
2% Assyrian Christian  
2% Syriac Christian  
and 1% each of Arab Shia Muslim, Kurd Yazidi, Shabak Sunni Muslim, Shabak Shia Muslim, and Turkmen Sunni Muslim

Homogeneous
Fairly Homogeneous
Heterogeneous

Map 4. IDP locations in Erbil city



<sup>19</sup> Population figures as of August 2020




<sup>20</sup> Proportion of out-of-camp IDPs determined using figures from Master List 117.

Erbil city has seen a slight increase in the displaced population since June 2019, largely due to camp closures (+2%). By virtue of good service provision and a good security situation, Erbil continues to attract a mixed population of IDPs, who fled their area of origin during different waves of displacement.<sup>21</sup> While most IDPs in Dahuk city and Zakho town were displaced in August 2014 and are of Kurdish ethnic affiliation, around one third of IDPs in Erbil city fled in June–July 2014. All waves are represented in Erbil – although with different weights – including the most recent ones (5% between July 2017 and December 2018, and 2% after January 2019). The majority are Arab Sunnis, unlike the mainly Kurdish host population, and the rest belong to various minority groups, including Chaldean, Assyrian, Syriac and other Christians, as well as a small proportion of Yazidi, Shabak and Turkmen. As for areas of origin, many IDPs come from Ninewa, primarily from Mosul and Al Hamdaniyah, but there is also a significant population displaced from Anbar (25%), Salah al-Din (21%) and Baghdad (6%).

Table 12. Best aspects of living in current location, compared to the area of origin<sup>22</sup>

95%	Good security situation
37%	Freedom of movement
29%	Functioning healthcare services
25%	Functioning schools
22%	Jobs and livelihood generating opportunities
13%	Presence of relatives and/or friends
7%	Psychosocial care

## VULNERABILITY FACTORS AND SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC COMPOSITION

	Average HH size	6 individuals
	Male to female ratio	110
	Dependency ratio	104

The displaced population appears, overall, to be quite young compared with other cities in KRI, with a dependency ratio of 104, meaning that there are 104 minors and older people for every 100 individuals in the working age bracket (18–59 years). School-aged children account for one third of the total IDPs and, considering that nearly all households have been displaced for more than five years, an additional 12 per cent were born in displacement. Males slightly outnumber females, especially in the 5–17 years age bracket. The head of household is on average 47 years old, although female heads households tend to be older with an average of 51 years, and the household size is equal to the average for an Iraqi family, at six persons per household.

Figure 4. Sex and age of displaced population

Male		Female
6%	Under 5	6%
18%	School aged children (5–17 years)	16%
25%	Active population (18–59 years)	24%
3%	Older people (60+ years)	2%

21 More details on the waves of displacement can be found in the Methodology Note.

22 Other response options include: 'A better house', 'Freedom to voice my political opinion/participate in political life', 'Support reconciling with the community', 'Affordable cost of living' and were mentioned each by less than 7 per cent of families. These figures may have been underestimated considering that IDPs could name only three response options.

23 See also below, AoO rootedness indicators.

Displaced households display a number of vulnerabilities. Nineteen per cent are headed by females, which is nearly double the figures observed in the other assessed urban centres of KRI, while one quarter have at least one member with functional difficulties. Protracted displacement is common (92% of households fled before July 2017) and households tend to display relatively more stability than in Dahuk governorate (Dahuk and Zakho urban centres) with 28 per cent having undergone multiple displacements, which points to better living conditions than in Dahuk's urban centres, although at similar levels of Sulaymaniyah city. Around one in five households (19%) had already endured displacement prior to the 2014 crisis.

Table 13. Vulnerability profile

92%	HHs in protracted displacement
28%	HHs who experienced multiple displacement
25%	HHs with members with functional difficulties
19%	HHs who were displaced before 2014
19%	Female HoHHs, 12% of which are 'alone'

## LIVELIHOODS

Around half of households can count on the head of the household working (55%), around 70 per cent reported being able to meet their basic needs and around 40 per cent having a comparable standard of living with the pre-crisis period (14% stated that their conditions are better). Around 71 per cent of households can count on a stable source of income among their top three sources of income, including pensions (20%). Around 5 per cent of households also stated that they have savings, versus 29 per cent who may be indebted – both figures are slightly better than those reported in other cities of KRI. However, life in Erbil city appears to be expensive and health care can be out of reach: if the households had additional financial resources, half of them would use it for medical care. Shelter may also be a critical issue: only 6 per cent of the households were able to own the house they live in (versus 61% who owned prior to displacement) and around one third would use additional financial resources to change (25%) or repair (7%) it. It is worth noting that 14 per cent of households stated that they would use any additional money to repair their original house, which indicates stronger rootedness to their area of origin than observed elsewhere.<sup>23</sup>

Table 14. Livelihoods profile

71%	HHs who have a stable source of income among the top three income sources
70%	HHs able to meet basic needs
45%	HoHH is working
40%	HHs whose situation is better or the same as before
6%	HHs living in owned house

Table 15. Main sources of income



26%	Paid job (public sector)
23%	Informal commerce or daily labour
20%	Pension
19%	Paid job (private sector)
13%	Own business
4%	Money from family/friends inside Iraq
3%	Savings
2%	Cash/grants or aid from national institutions
1%	Borrowing money from friends or family
1%	Income from rent of house or land
1%	Other

Table 16. Primary needs<sup>24</sup>

50%	Medical care
29%	Repaying debts
27%	Supporting extended family
25%	Food
25%	Pay for new shelter
24%	Education
22%	Commercial or livelihood activity
14%	Repairing house in AoO
11%	Investment
7%	Repairing house at AoD
6%	Clothing
4%	Transport
1%	Assisting others

## SAFETY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION IN CURRENT LOCATION

The levels of safety and peaceful coexistence with the host community appear to be very high. Nearly all IDPs feel completely safe (96%), have only very rarely experienced discrimination (3%), and would feel comfortable seeking help from local authorities if needed (87%). Most have registered with MoMD (65%) and voted in the 2018 elections (56%), which is a lower share than in the other urban centres of the KRI, and appears to be a consequence of their disillusionment with the political system. Households appear to be less interested in the political process than elsewhere in KRI. Lack of faith or interest in the political system is the main reason for not voting (38%), followed by inability to travel to voting locations (36%).<sup>25</sup> Nearly all need a special permit to move freely, and 2 per cent are restricted from moving.

Table 17. Safety and social inclusion

97%	Have not suffered discrimination
96%	Feel completely safe
87%	Would feel comfortable to seek help from local authorities
65%	Registered with MoMD
56%	Voted in 2018 elections

## WILLINGNESS AND PLANNING FOR RETURN

Nearly all IDPs report that they have the key personal documents (96%).<sup>26</sup> Nearly all are also able to obtain reliable information on their area of origin (88%) and only very few seem to have lost contact with family, friends or community members who can provide them with updates. Households seem to be missing information on their area of origin, either because they are not able to access it (34%) or because they feel they cannot trust their information source (36%). Only 15 per cent stated that they have no family, friends or community members who can provide information. Livelihoods and shelter, on the other hand, appear to be more complicated, though less so than in other urban centres of the KRI, with half of households having property documents, around one quarter owning a habitable house and 30 per cent stating that they would enjoy better livelihood opportunities and affordable conditions of living in the area of origin (as compared to the conditions they enjoy in displacement).

Table 18. Conditions surrounding return

96%	Have personal documentation
88%	Have enough information on AoO
50%	Have house documents
30%	Livelihoods and living conditions are better at the AoO
26%	Owns a habitable house

As previously noted, households in Erbil city tend to exhibit a stronger rootedness to their area of origin than observed in other urban centres of the KRI. Three quarters of households (75%) know someone who made it back to the area of origin, and one in five have already attempted return (20%) and/or applied for compensation (19%). The higher number of IDPs who have applied for compensation can also be explained by the greater share of individuals aware of the CCCA. However, only 3 per cent of households have made concrete plans to return. Among households who made plans, the most common actions taken were to check the conditions of the location of origin (56%), followed by arranging accommodation (32%) and making arrangements with family, friends or community members (29%).

Table 19. Planning for return

75%	Know people who successfully returned
20%	Tried to return at least once
19%	Have applied for compensation (if home owner in AoO)
5%	Tried to return more than once
3%	Have made plans to return

<sup>24</sup> In order to assess main needs households were asked 'Imagine for a moment that your household inherit a large sum of money. Please rank the three main items your household would use this money for (starting with 1 for the most important).' The table shows the percentage of respondents that mentioned each option, but not the prioritization given to each option.

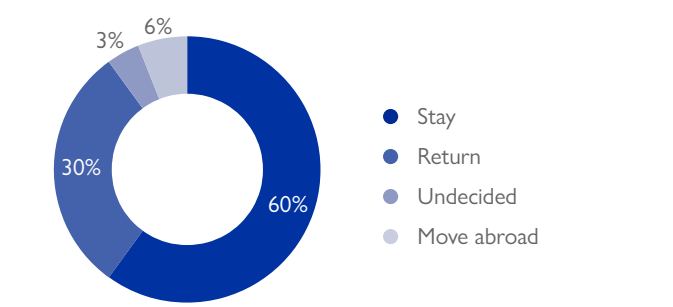
<sup>25</sup> Among those households who reported no one in their household voting in the 2018 elections.

<sup>26</sup> Proof of nationality, national ID and residency card are the top three documents reported missing.

INTENTIONS AND PREFERRED DURABLE SOLUTION

Although around 80 per cent of households still consider themselves 'displaced', intentions to stay (60%) and indecision (3%) more than double the willingness to return (30%). Moreover, nearly all households who wish to return have taken no action in this direction (90%). Of the 30 per cent of households who intend to return, most are either undecided (43%) or postponing their decision for 1–2 years (22%), indicating that they are likely to remain in their current location in Erbil city for the next couple of years.

Figure 5: Intentions of household, in the event that no obstacles are faced<sup>27</sup>



The reasonably good living conditions in Erbil city seem to account for a large share of delayed returns<sup>28</sup> and pull factors associated with the area of displacement, including stable security (50%), economic opportunities (29%) and better living conditions (14%), tend to overcome push factors at the location of origin, including lack of security (34%), lack of economic

opportunities (12%) and lack of housing (11%). Tribal/reconciliation issues, fear or trauma associated with return and prevented returns were not mentioned or only very rarely, making these less significant issues than elsewhere in the urban centres of the KRI.

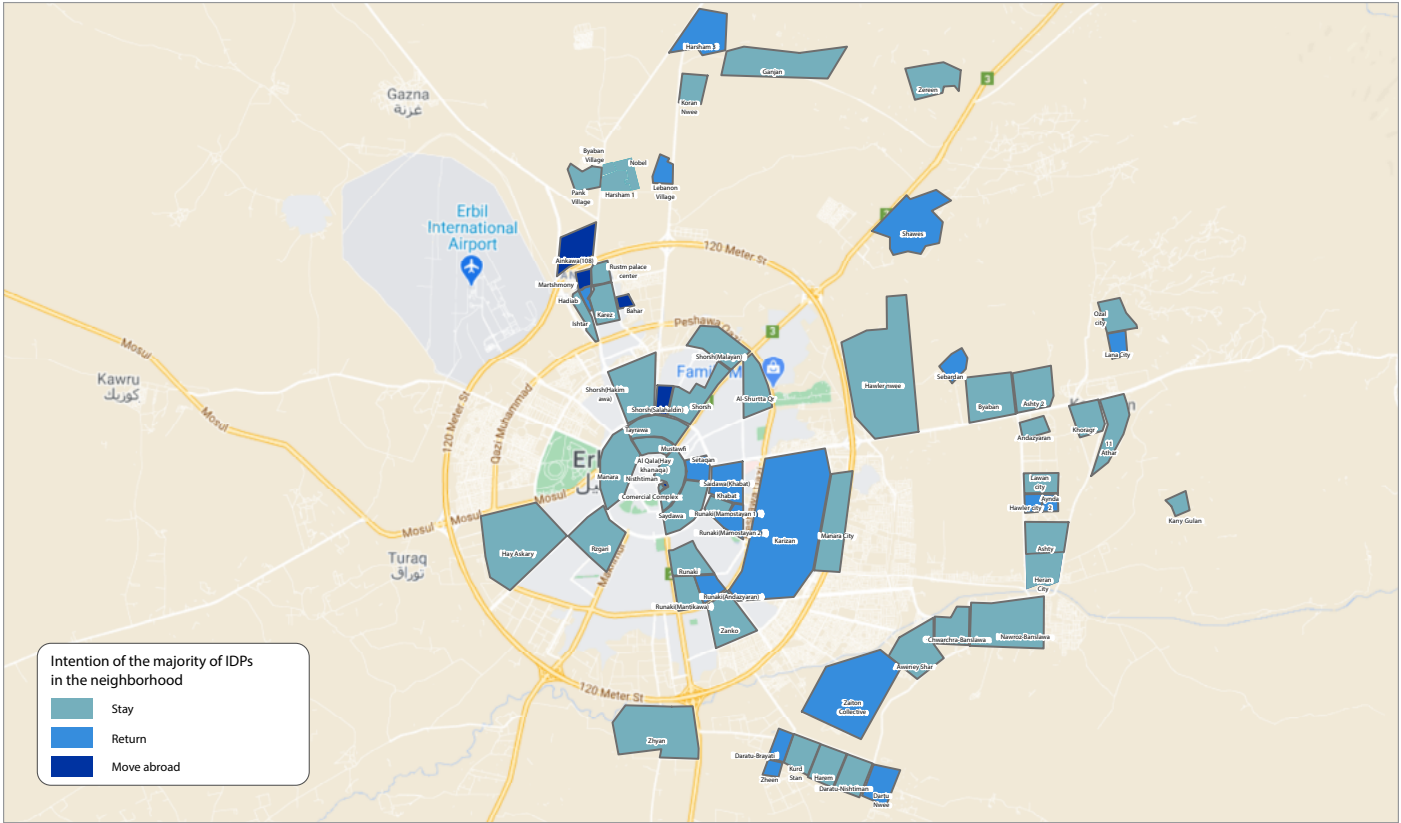
Table 20. Factors associated with area of origin

34%	Unstable security
12%	Lack of economic opportunities
11%	No housing
10%	Basic services unavailable or inadequate
3%	Fear or trauma associated with return
1%	Prevented from return

Table 21. Factors associated with area of displacement

50%	Stable security
29%	HH members in school
14%	No financial means to return
8%	Better economic opportunities
3%	Better living conditions
1%	Health conditions prevents HH from returning

Map 5. Future intention per neighbourhood



27 Respondent was asked 'Imagine for a moment that you faced no obstacles to return or to remain in the current location: what would be your household's preferred place to live in the future?'

28 This question was asked only to household who expressed the intention to return, whether or not they have made plans to do so.

## FACTORS AFFECTING WILLINGNESS TO RETURN

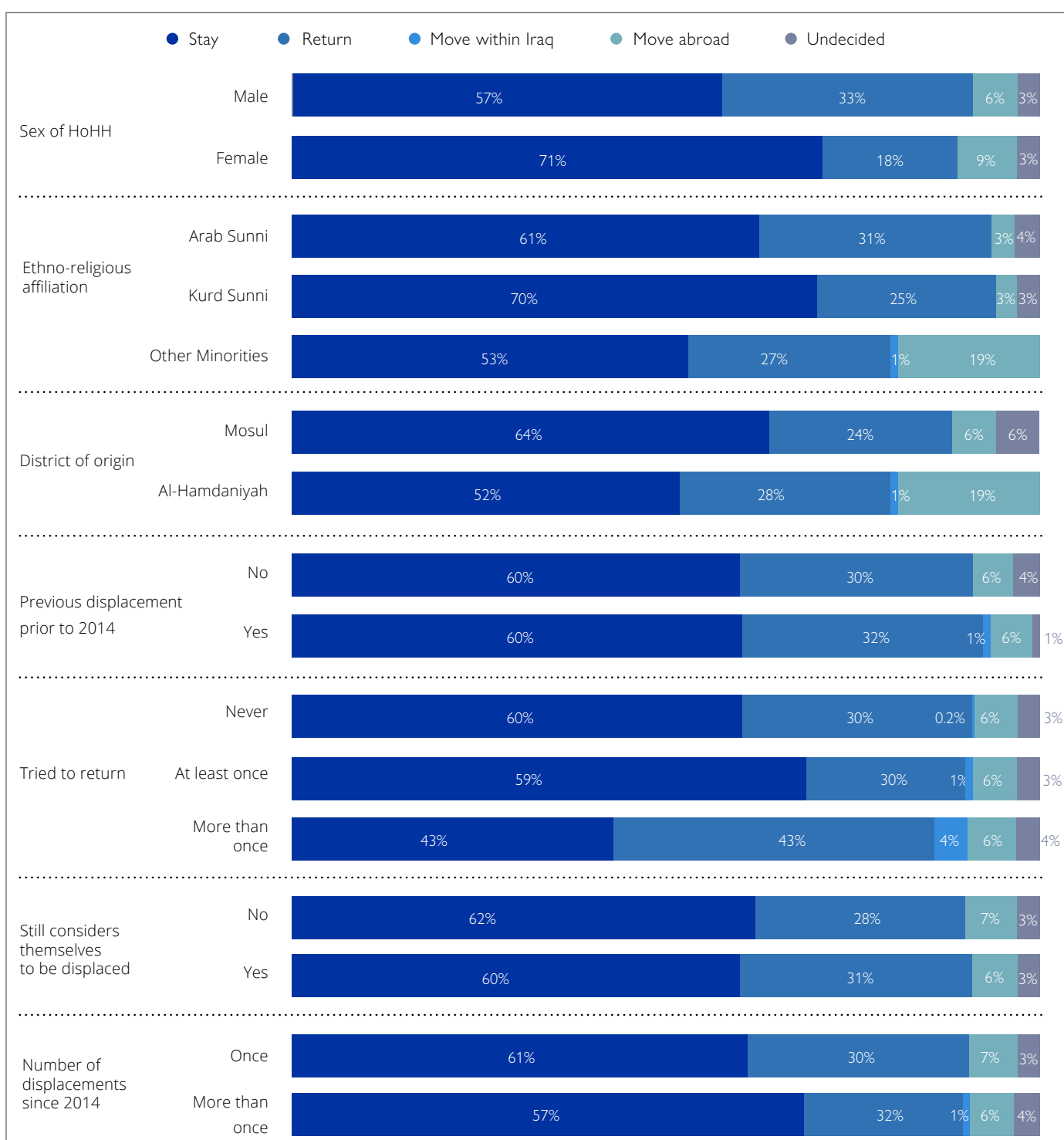
Several characteristics of the household seem to have a direct effect on future intentions. Female-headed households are more likely to intend to stay in their current location than male-headed (71% vs 57%), a finding that may be linked to lower self-sufficiency, considering that only 13 per cent of female heads of household are working (versus 53% of male heads of household).

Kurdish Sunnis are more likely to want to stay in their current location (70% wish to stay, compared to 61% of Arab Sunnis and 53% for other minority groups) which is likely due to their shared ethnoreligious affiliation with the host community. The origin of IDPs does not seem to impact strongly on the intention to return or stay in the current location, but rather on that to move abroad. Around one in five households originally from Al

Hamdaniyah are planning to leave the country, versus 9 per cent of those from Mosul (these are the two main districts of origin).<sup>29</sup> The same holds true for households who experienced displacement prior to the 2014 crisis (19%) and for religious minorities such as Christians and Yazidis.<sup>30</sup> Several reasons may account for their intention, but the most important factor refers to the perceived lack of security – not only at the area of origin but also at current location.

Multiple displacements do not seem to have had a significant impact on intentions for the households in Erbil, whereas failed returns show an indication of strong rootedness to the area of origin. Forty-three per cent of households who tried to return more than once intend to return, compared to 30 per cent of those who have never tried to return or only once.





Figure 6. Factors affecting intentions



<sup>29</sup> The analysis for the other districts of origin was not carried out since the number of households in the sample was too low

<sup>30</sup> This finding is indicative only since the number of households belonging to religious minorities (Christians, Yazidis, Turkmens and Shabaks) in the sample was very low.

GENERAL CONTEXT<sup>31</sup>


	Displaced individuals	62,472
	Displaced households	10,412
	Neighborhoods hosting IDPs	151
	IDP to host population ratio	8.45

Though Sulaymaniyah city hosts a significant number of IDPs in camps (around 12,195; 10% of in-camp IDPs), the majority reside in the urban centre (around 6% of the total out-of-camp displaced population). This means that just less than a tenth of the city's residents are IDPs. The highest numbers are in the neighbourhood of Markaz Sulaymaniyah, though the population is spread throughout the city.


## Recipient of out of camp IDPs

 <b>6% of total out-of-camp IDPs</b>	Low Recipient
	Medium Recipient
	High Recipient


## Rate of change in IDP population

 <b>+3% IDPs</b> <i>(August 2019 – August 2020)</i>	Stationary
	Fairly Stationary
	Fairly Dynamic
	Dynamic

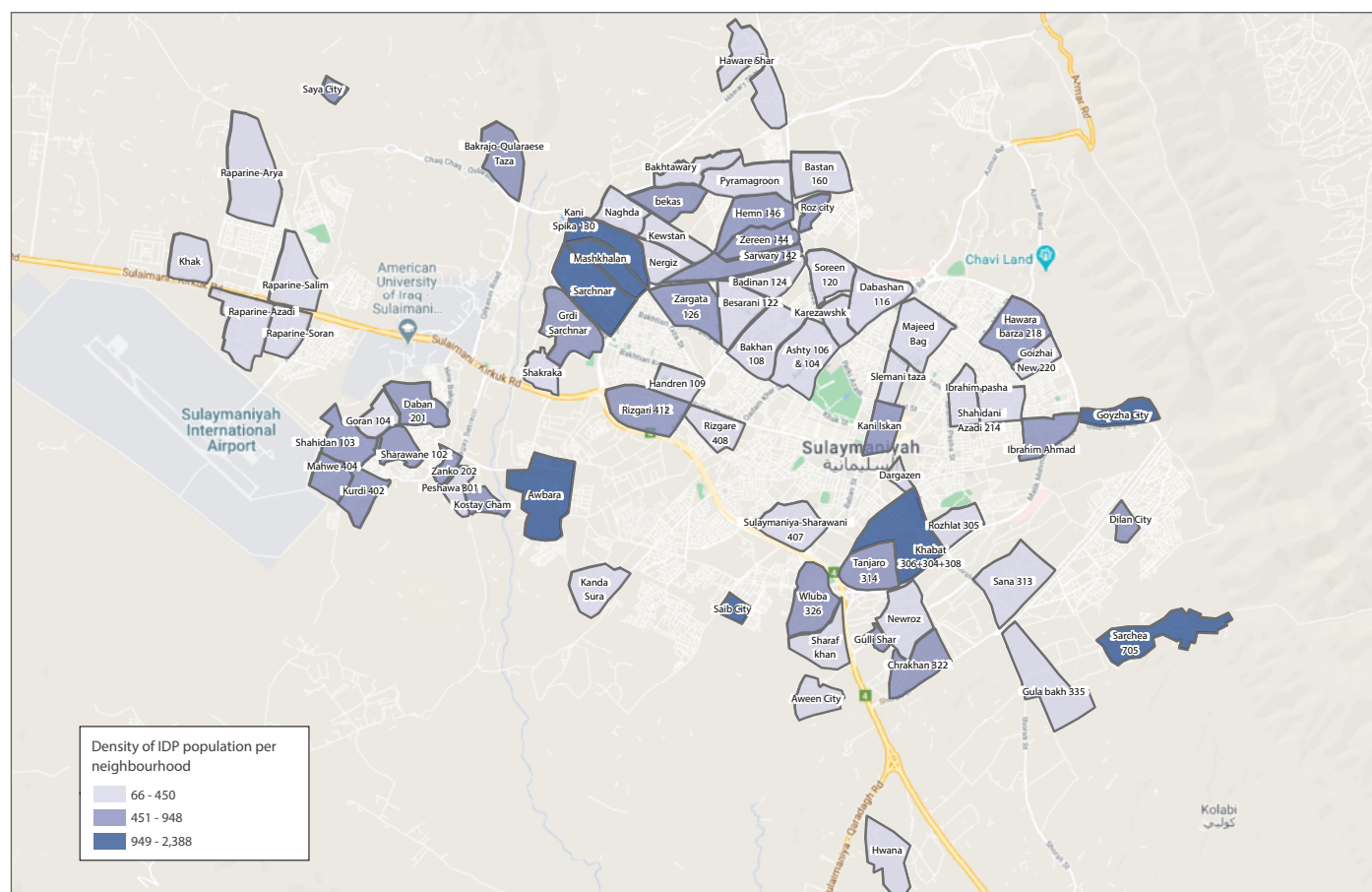
## Districts of origin

	25% Baghdad (mixed)	Homogeneous
	24% Salah al Din (mixed with largest cluster from Balad)	
	20% Anbar (mixed with largest cluster from Ramadi)	
	12% Diyala (mixed with largest cluster from Baquba)	Fairly Homogeneous
	9% Babylon (primarily Al -Musayab)	Heterogeneous
	6% Ninewa (mixed)	
	2% Kirkuk	
<1% Basrah		

## Ethno-religious Composition

	91% Arab Sunni Muslim	Homogeneous
	3% Kurd Sunni Muslim	
	2% Arab Shia Muslim	Fairly Homogeneous
	2% Turkmen Sunni Muslim	
	1% Kurd Shia Muslim	
	1% Kurd Yazidi, with a small number of Chaldean and Assyrian Christians, and Shabak and Turkmen Shia Muslims	Heterogeneous

Map 6. IDP locations in Sulaymaniyah city



31 Population figures as of August 2020






Sulaymaniyah has also seen, as elsewhere in the KRI urban centres, a largely stationary displacement situation over the year prior to data collection, with a positive rate of change due to new displacements in the city. By virtue of good provision of services and, in general, a good security situation, Sulaymaniyah city continues to attract a mixed population of IDPs who fled their area of origin throughout different waves of displacement.<sup>32</sup> The majority are Arab Sunnis, unlike the host population. The rest belong to many minority groups including Kurdish Sunni and Shia, Arab Shia, Chaldean, Assyrian and non-denominative Christians, Shabak and Turkmen Shia.

IDPs come from a wide range of governorates and districts. IDPs from Baghdad are highly mixed in terms of area of origin with no dominant group. IDPs from Salah al-Din include a cluster from Yathreb, and IDPs from Anbar include a cluster from Markaz Ramadi. There is also a cluster of IDPs from Ba'quba district in Diyala, with smaller populations from Babylon, Ninewa, Kirkuk and Basrah governorates.

Table 22. Best aspects of living in current location, compared to the area of origin<sup>33</sup>

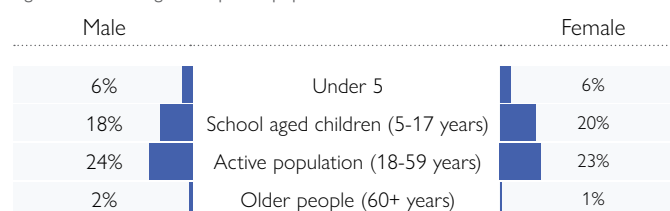
98%	Good security situation
51%	Freedom of movement
38%	Functioning healthcare services
24%	Functioning schools
14%	Psychosocial care
13%	Presence of relatives and/or friends
10%	Jobs and livelihood generating opportunities

## VULNERABILITY FACTORS AND SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC COMPOSITION

	Average HH size	8 individuals
	Male to female ratio	110
	Dependency ratio	113

The displaced population appears to have a slightly higher dependency ratio than elsewhere in KRI, with around 113, meaning that there are 113 minors and older people for every 100 individuals in the active population bracket (18-59 years). School-aged children account for nearly two fifths of the total IDPs (38%) and, considering that the majority of households have been displaced for more than five years, 12 per cent were born in displacement. The head of household is on average 44 years old, whilst female heads of household tend to be slightly older at 46 years on average, and the household size is equal to the average for an Iraqi family, at six persons per household.

Figure 7. Sex and age of displaced population



Displaced households display a number of vulnerabilities. Ten per cent are female-headed, of which most are single female heads of household (8%). Around one tenth of households have at least one member with functional difficulties, a notably low figure in comparison to the IDP population of the other assessed urban centres of the KRI which hovers around one quarter of households. Protracted displacement has become the norm, with 87 per cent of households having been displaced for at least three years; most were initially displaced to Sulaymaniyah and remained there since, with 75 per cent having displaced only once, showing relative stability and indicating that living conditions in the area of displacement are relatively good.<sup>34</sup> Around one in ten households (11%) had already endured displacement prior to the 2014 crisis.

Table 23. Vulnerability profile

87%	HHs in protracted displacement
25%	HHs who experienced multiple displacement
11%	HHs who were displaced before 2014
10%	Female HoHHs, 8% of which are 'alone'
9%	HHs with members with functional difficulties

## LIVELIHOOD

Around half of households can count on the head of household working, and 70 per cent reported being able to meet their basic needs. Just over one third (35%) reported having a comparable standard of living compared with the pre-crisis period. Only 38 per cent reported having a stable source of income among their top three sources of income, which is considerably lower than in the other assessed urban centres of the KRI. Only 1 per cent of households reported having any savings, and 6 per cent may be indebted. Whilst access to health-care seems to be better than in other areas of the KRI, with fewer households reporting that health care is where they would direct additional financial resources if they had them, housing conditions appear to be poor, with 69 per cent reporting that they would use any additional money to improve their shelter conditions, which is far higher than the rest of the KRI.<sup>35</sup> Only 8 per cent reported they would use additional money to repair their house in the area of origin, indicating that either the house is beyond repair or that they would not go back to it upon return, although 65 per cent own a house in the area of origin. Additionally, only 4 per cent are living in an owned house in the area of displacement.<sup>36</sup>

<sup>32</sup> Full details on the waves of displacement can be found in the extended methodology document.

<sup>33</sup> Other response options include: 'A better house', 'Freedom to voice my political opinion/participate in political life', 'Support reconciling with the community', 'Affordable cost of living' and were mentioned each by less than 7% of families. These figures may have been underestimated considering that IDPs could name only three response options.

<sup>34</sup> Protracted displacement is considered to be displacement lasting more than three years. At the time the initial sample was drawn, protracted displacement included all those displaced since July 2017 or longer.

<sup>35</sup> In order to assess main needs households were asked 'Imagine for a moment that your household inherit a large sum of money. Please rank the three main items your household would use this money for (starting with 1 for the most important).'

<sup>36</sup> See also below, AoO rootedness indicators.

Table 24. Livelihoods profile

70%	HHs able to meet basic needs
47%	HoHH is working
38%	HHs who have a stable source of income among the top three income sources
35%	HHs whose situation is better or the same as before
4%	HHs living in owned house

Table 25. Main sources of income

61%	Informal commerce or daily paid labour
16%	Paid job (public sector)
15%	Pension
6%	Paid job (private sector)
5%	Money from family/friends inside Iraq
2%	Own business
1%	Borrowing money from friends or family
1%	Savings
1%	Income from rent of house or land
1%	Cash/grants or aid from national institutions
1%	Government assistance, including compensation

Table 26. Primary needs<sup>37</sup>

69%	Pay for new shelter
26%	Medical care
24%	Supporting extended family
20%	Food
18%	Commercial or livelihood activity
12%	Transport
11%	Investment
11%	Clothing
9%	Education
8%	Repaying debts
8%	Repairing house in AoO
1%	Repairing house at AoD
1%	Assisting others

## SAFETY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION IN CURRENT LOCATION

The levels of safety and peaceful coexistence with the host community appear to be very high. All IDPs reported feeling completely safe (100%), and no households reported having experienced discrimination. Nearly all would feel comfortable seeking help from local authorities if needed (98%). Most have registered with MoMD (67%), though only around half (47%) voted in the 2018 elections, which is a lower share than in the rest of the other assessed urban centres of KRI, and appears to be

a consequence of their disillusionment with the political system. Lack of faith or interest in the political system is the main reason for not voting (38%), followed by inability to travel to voting locations (36%).

Table 27. Safety and social inclusion

100%	Feel completely safe
100%	Have not suffered discrimination
98%	Would feel comfortable to seek help from local authorities
67%	Registered with MoMD
46%	Voted in 2018 elections

## WILLINGNESS AND PLANNING FOR RETURN

Nearly all IDPs seem to have the key personal documents (92%).<sup>38</sup> Nearly all are also able to obtain enough reliable information on their area of origin (94%), with very few seeming to be unable to access information and even fewer have lost contact with family, friends or community members who can provide them with updates. The main reported reasons for missing information on their area of origin were not being able to access information (34%) or feeling that information received could not be trusted (36%). Among those who own a property in the area of origin, the livelihoods and shelter situation appear to be complicated. Just under half of households reported having their property documents, only one quarter reported owning a habitable house and just under one quarter stated that they would enjoy better livelihood opportunities and affordable living conditions in their area of origin (as compared to the conditions they enjoy in displacement).

Table 28. Conditions surrounding return

94%	Have enough information on AoO
92%	Have personal documentation
47%	Have house ownership documents <sup>39</sup>
26%	Owens a habitable house
22%	Livelihoods and living conditions are better at the AoO

Just over two thirds of households (69%) know someone who made it back to the area of origin successfully, whilst only one in ten have attempted to return themselves (10%), and very few have applied for compensation (5%).<sup>40</sup> Despite that, nearly half of households report an intention to return, and only 4 per cent of households have made concrete plans to return, which in most cases means they have checked the conditions at the location of origin.<sup>41</sup>

Table 29. Planning for return

69%	Know people who successfully returned
10%	Tried to return at least once
5%	Have applied for compensation (if home owner in AoO)
4%	Have made plans to return
3%	Tried to return more than once

<sup>37</sup> In order to assess main needs households were asked 'Imagine for a moment that your household inherit a large sum of money. Please rank the three main items your household would use this money for (starting with 1 for the most important).' The table shows the percentage of respondents that mentioned each option, but not the prioritization given to each option.

<sup>38</sup> Proof of nationality, national ID and residency card are the top three documents reported missing.

<sup>39</sup> These two indicators are among those who reported owning a house in area of origin.

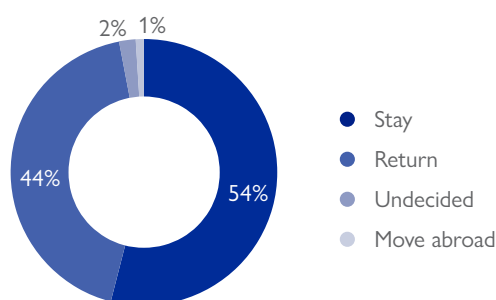
<sup>40</sup> The higher number of IDPs who have applied for compensation can also be explained by the greater share of individuals aware of the CCCA.

<sup>41</sup> Among households who have made plans, the most common action has been 'checking the conditions of the location of origin' (56%), followed by 'arranging accommodation' (32%) and 'made arrangements with family, friends or community members' (29%).

## INTENTIONS AND PREFERRED DURABLE SOLUTION

Around 70 per cent of households still consider themselves 'displaced', while around 54 per cent report an intention to stay in the current location and 2 per cent have not decided. Comparatively, 44 per cent express a willingness to return to their area of origin, which is far above the KRI average. Moreover, only 10 per cent of households who wish to return have taken any action in this direction. Of the around 44 per cent of households who intend to return, most expect it to take more than two years (32%) or are undecided regarding the timeframe for return (29%), indicating that they are likely to remain in their current location in Sulaymaniyah city for the foreseeable future.

Figure 8: Intentions of household, in the event that no obstacles are faced<sup>42</sup>



The reasonably good living conditions in Sulaymaniyah city seem to make a difference in terms of delaying return.<sup>43</sup> Pull factors associated with the area of displacement, including stable security (25%), better

living conditions (11%) and economic opportunities (10%), tend not to be as significant as push factors at the location of origin, including lack of security (54%), lack of housing (16%) and lack of economic opportunities (8%). Tribal/reconciliation issues, fear or trauma associated with return and prevented returns were not mentioned or only very rarely.

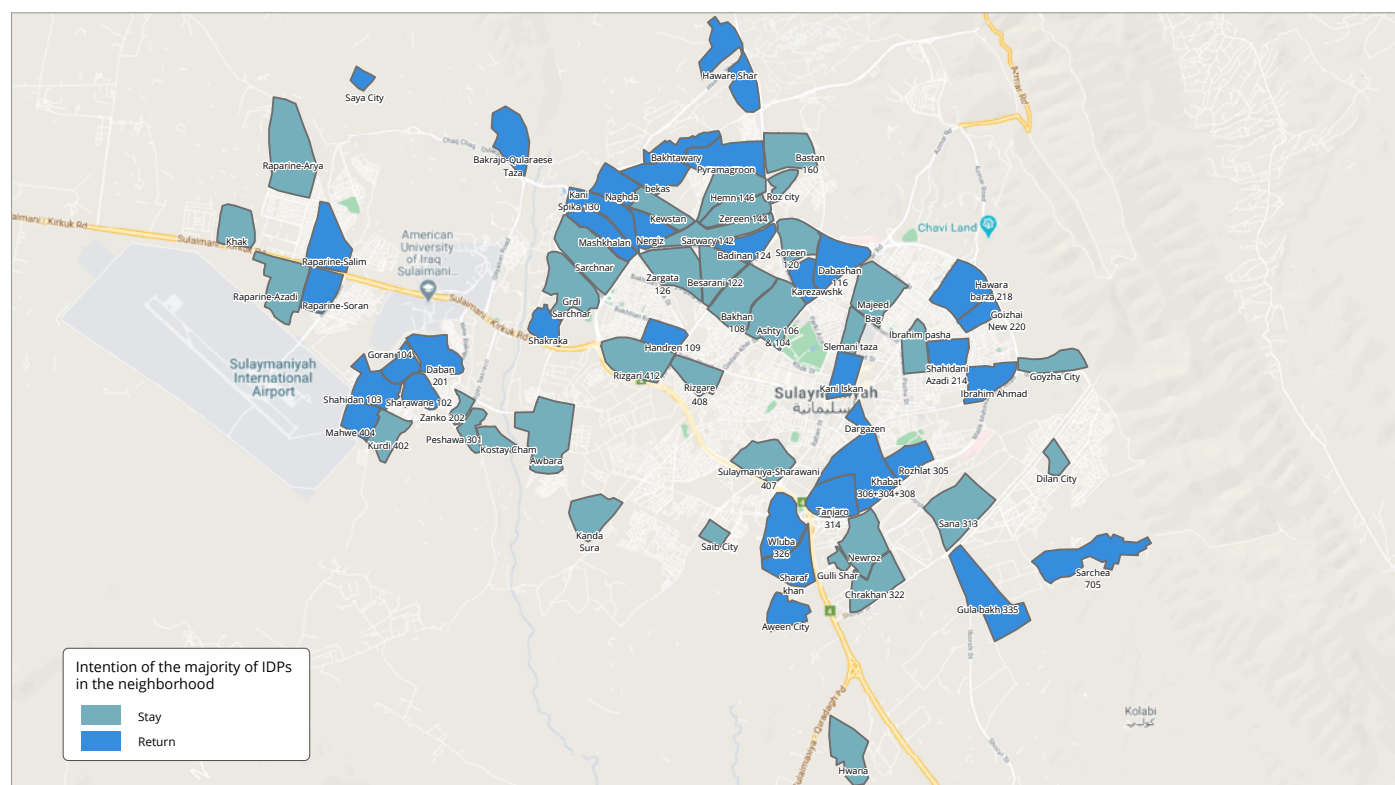
Table 30. Factors associated with area of origin

54%	Unstable security
16%	No housing
8%	Lack of economic opportunities
8%	Basic services unavailable or inadequate
3%	Prevented from return
1%	Fear or trauma associated with return
1%	Tribal and reconciliation issues

Table 31. Factors associated with area of displacement

25%	Stable security
10%	Better eco-nomic opportunities
11%	Better living conditions
11%	No financial means to return
5%	Health conditions prevents HH from returning
1%	HH members in school

Map 7. Future intention per neighbourhood



<sup>42</sup> Respondent was asked 'Imagine for a moment that you faced no obstacles to return or to remain in the current location: what would be your household's preferred place to live in the future?'

<sup>43</sup> This question was asked only to households who expressed the intention to return, whether or not they have made plans to do so.

## FACTORS AFFECTING WILLINGNESS TO RETURN

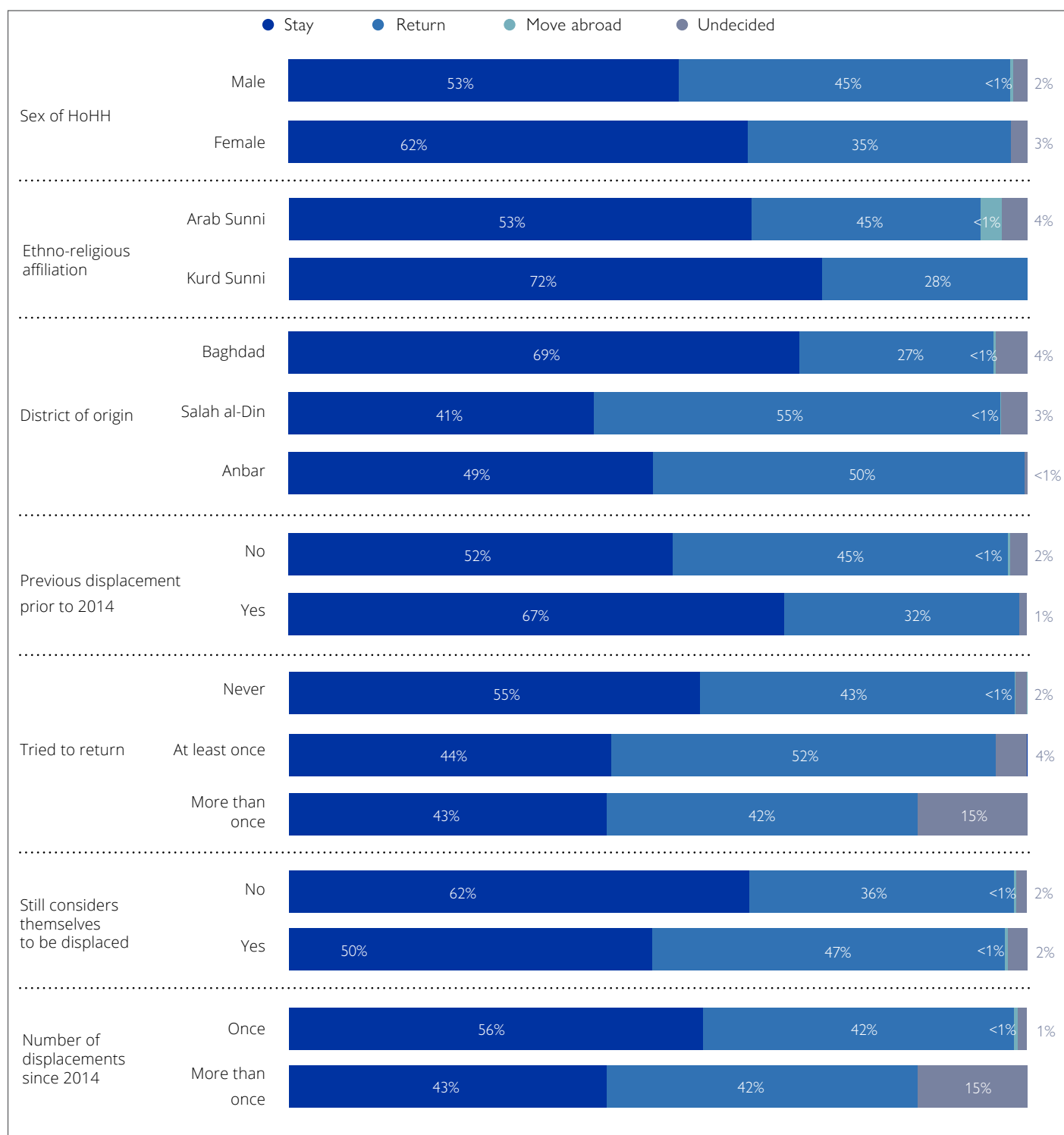
Several characteristics of the household seem to have a direct effect on future intentions. Female-headed households are more likely to want to stay than male-headed (62% vs 53%), which may be due to economic opportunities in the area of displacement, since 73 per cent of female heads of household are working compared to only 51 per cent of male heads of household.

As has been seen in other urban centres of the KRI, Kurdish Sunnis are more likely to want to stay in their current location compared to

Arab Sunnis (72% compared to 53%), likely as a result of their shared ethnoreligious affiliation.

As might be expected, those who have attempted return at least once are more likely to have a strong desire to go back to the area of origin. Multiple displacements do not seem to have had a significant impact on intentions, until the household has been displaced four times or more, in which case the intention to return increases from around 40–47 per cent to 69 per cent.<sup>44</sup>

Figure 9. Factors affecting intentions



<sup>44</sup> This finding is indicative due to a small sample size.

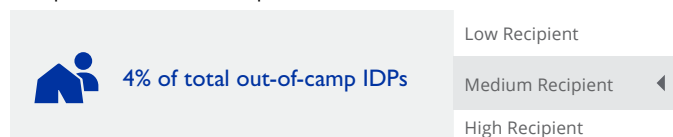


## GENERAL CONTEXT<sup>45</sup>

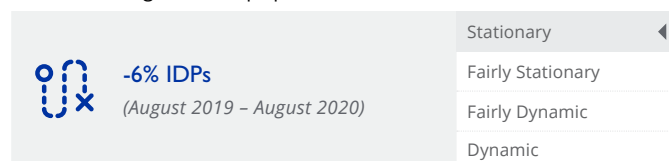
	Displaced individuals	39,444
	Displaced households	6,574
	Neighborhoods hosting IDPs	13
	IDP to host population ratio	15.7

In addition to hosting a large number of IDPs in camps on the outskirts of the city (around 42,000 individuals), urban displacement is extensive and Zakho town hosts 39,444 IDPs (nearly 4% of the total out-of-camp displaced population nationwide), which means that around one in every 16 individuals living in the town is an IDP. The neighbourhood of Markaz Zakho has the highest concentration of IDPs, with around 94 per cent of the city's IDPs residing there, with the remaining population in Rizgari subdistrict.

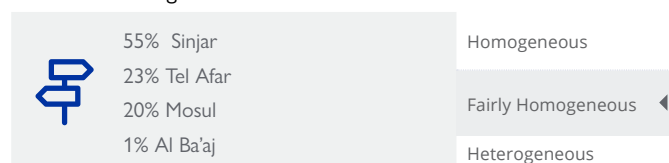
### Recipient of out of camp IDPs



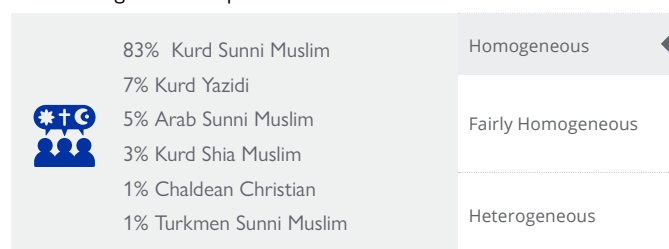
### Rate of change in IDP population



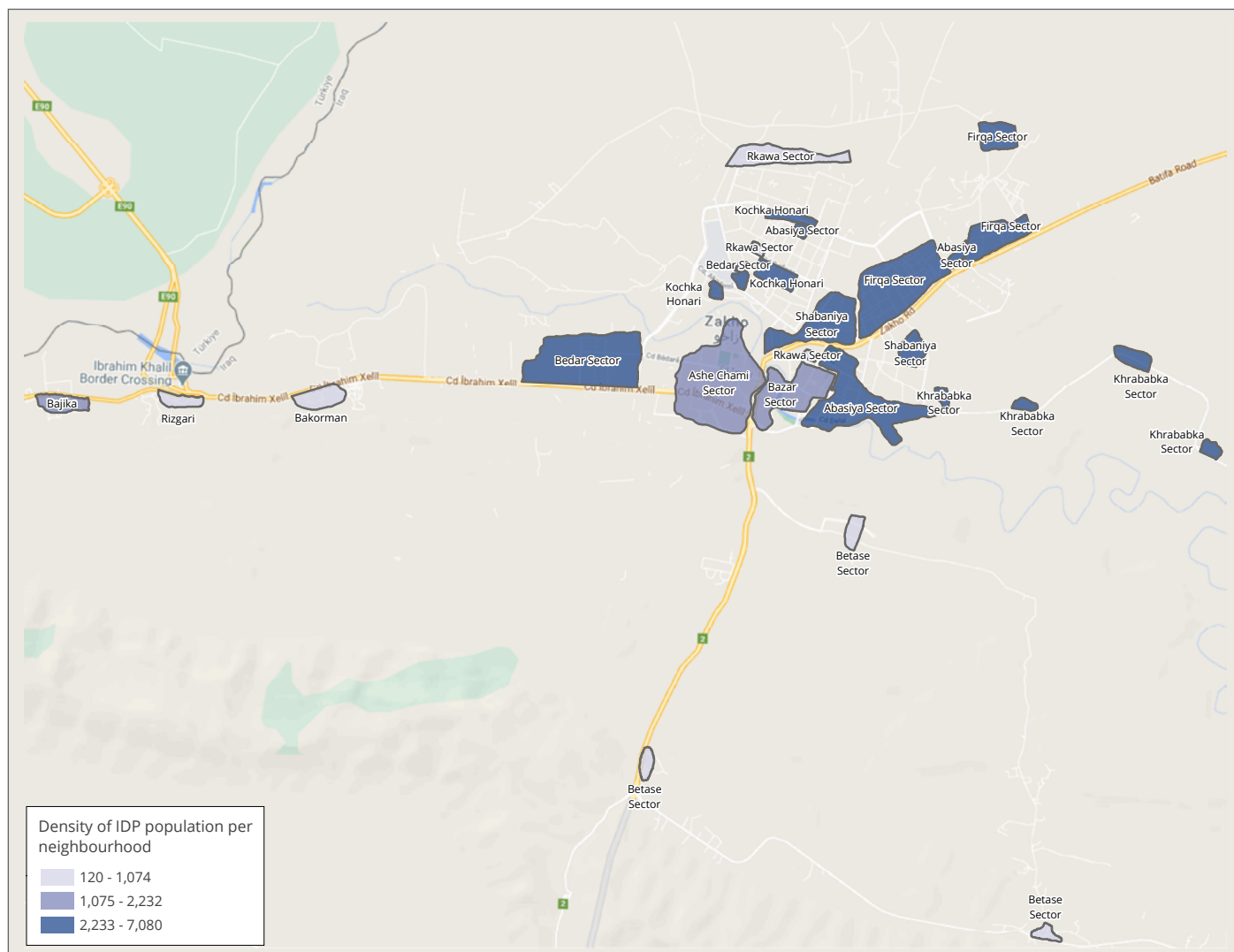
### Districts of origin



### Ethno-religious Composition



Map 8. IDP locations in Zakho town






<sup>45</sup> Population figures as of August 2020

Like other cities in the KRI, the displacement situation is stationary – only around 6 per cent of IDPs have left their location of displacement within the city since August 2020 – in part due to widespread security, freedom of movement and good access to basic services, especially health care and schools. Ethno-religious affiliation is another important pull factor in Zakho: 93 per cent of current IDPs are Kurdish (83% Sunni, 7% Yazidi and 3% Shia) and only 7 per cent are of non-Kurdish minority groups including Arab Sunnis, Chaldean Christians and Turkmen Sunnis. Nearly all IDPs are originally from Ninewa governorate, mostly from the three districts of Sinjar (55%), Tel Afar (23%) and Mosul (20%).

Table 32. Best aspects of living in current location, compared to the area of origin<sup>46</sup>

93%	Good security situation
45%	Freedom of movement
38%	Functioning healthcare services
31%	Functioning schools
16%	Jobs and livelihood generating opportunities
13%	Psychosocial care
11%	Presence of relatives and/or friends

## VULNERABILITY FACTORS AND SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC COMPOSITION

	Average HH size	7 individuals
	Male to female ratio	108
	Dependency ratio	112

The displaced population appears, overall, to be quite young, with a dependency ratio of 112. School-aged children account for just over one third of the total IDPs and, considering that nearly all (98%) households have been displaced for more than five years, 14 per cent of the children were born in displacement. Males slightly outnumber females, especially in the active population group (18–59 years). The head of household is 42 years old on average for both males and females and the household size is consistently large (7 members on average) possibly reflecting the clustering of IDPs under the same roof to better provide for the household's members. It is worth adding that, although households in Zakho town (and other cities in the KRI) appreciate the quality of available services, very few consider the cost of living affordable (7%) compared to their area of origin.

Figure 10. Sex and age of displaced population

Male		Female
7%	Under 5	7%
18%	School aged children (5-17 years)	17%
25%	Active population (18-59 years)	22%
2%	Older people (60+ years)	2%

Displaced households display a number of vulnerabilities. Ten per cent of the households are female headed, while around one quarter have at least one member with functional difficulties. Nearly all households have been displaced for more than three years (99%) – 11 per cent of which

had already endured internal displacement prior to the 2014 crisis – and around 41 per cent have been displaced more than once since 2014 – around a quarter of which four or more times (9%).

Table 33. Vulnerability profile

99%	HHs in protracted displacement
41%	HHs who experienced multiple displacement
21%	HHs with members with functional difficulties
11%	HHs who were displaced before 2014
10%	Female HoHHs, 3% of which are 'alone'

## SELF-SUFFICIENCY AND LIVELIHOOD

Living conditions tend to be slightly harsher than those reported in Dahuk city, with around 60 per cent of households able to count on the head of household working (62%) and able to meet their basic needs (65%). As much as 42 per cent of households' earnings depend on informal commerce/daily labour and only half on stable sources of income – mainly jobs in the private sector. As a result, livelihoods are hardly comparable to the pre-crisis level: only around one third of households consider their current situation better or the same as it was before displacement and the same share are likely to be indebted, since they reported that they would use additional financial resources to repay debts. Around 4 per cent have no source of income and only 1 per cent farmland or rear animals, although farming and herding may have been important livelihood generating activities before displacement.<sup>47</sup> Shelter seems to be another urgent issue: over 40 per cent of households would like to change (23%) or repair (19%) the shelter they are living in, a much higher percentage than those wishing to repair their house at the area of origin (6%). Around 15 per cent of households own the house they live in, versus 81 per cent prior to displacement.

Table 34. Livelihoods profile

65%	HHs able to meet basic needs
62%	HoHH is working
52%	HHs who have a stable source of income among the top three income sources
32%	HHs whose situation is better or the same as before
14%	HHs living in owned house

Table 35. Main sources of income

42%	Informal commerce or daily paid labour
28%	Paid job (private sector)
22%	Paid job (public sector)
3%	Pension
3%	Own business
2%	Money from family/friends inside Iraq
1%	Borrowing money from friends or family
1%	Savings
1%	Cash/grants or aid from national institutions
1%	Other

<sup>46</sup> Other response options include: 'A better house', 'Freedom to voice my political opinion/participate in political life', 'Support reconciling with the community', 'Affordable cost of living' and were mentioned each by less than 7% of families. These figures may have been underestimated considering that IDPs could name only three response options.

<sup>47</sup> According to ILA 5 data, agriculture, farming and herding are among the main sources of income in 39%, 69% and 77% of returnee locations of Mosul, Telafar and Sinjar, which are main districts of origin of IDPs currently in Zakho city.

Table 36. Primary needs<sup>48</sup>

37%	Medical care
32%	Repaying debts
30%	Food
29%	Supporting extended family
27%	Clothing
23%	Pay for new shelter
22%	Commercial or livelihood activity
20%	Investment
19%	Repairing house at AoD
9%	Education
6%	Repairing house in AoO
2%	Transport
2%	Assisting others

## SAFETY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION IN CURRENT LOCATION

The levels of safety and peaceful coexistence with the host community appear to be very high.<sup>49</sup> Nearly all IDPs (99%) feel completely safe and have only very rarely experienced discrimination (95% report never having faced discrimination). IDPs would also feel comfortable seeking help from local authorities if needed (84%), although this is the lowest reported among the assessed urban centres of the KRI. Around 86 per cent have registered with MoMD and nearly all voted in the 2018 elections (93%). In general, displaced households appear to be 'interested' in the political process. Lack of biometric card (40%) and inability to travel to voting locations (34%) are the main reasons for not voting, whereas, only 13 per cent of households stated that they did not vote because they have no interest or faith in the political system.

Table 37. Safety and social inclusion

99%	Feel completely safe
95%	Have not suffered discrimination
93%	Voted in 2018 elections
86%	Registered with MoMD
84%	Would feel comfortable to seek help from local authorities

## WILLINGNESS AND PLANNING FOR RETURN

Although nearly all IDPs seem to enjoy freedom of movement and have all the key personal documents (96%),<sup>50</sup> other factors may limit their ability to return. First, many households (43%) seem to be missing information on their area of origin, either because they are unable to access information or because they have no relatives or friends in the area of origin who can provide it. Second, only 24 per cent have property documents, although in most cases, the lack of property documents can be linked

to the origin of households since 55 per cent stated that they never had them.<sup>51</sup> Finally, only 12 per cent own a house that is in a habitable condition, and over half of households who own a house at the area of origin reported that it is completely destroyed.

Table 38. Conditions surrounding return

96%	Have personal documentation
57%	Have enough information on AoO
24%	Have house ownership documents
22%	Livelihoods and living conditions are better at the AoO
12%	Owens a habitable house

As a consequence, very few households have made concrete steps in the direction of return and display a strong rootedness with their area of origin. Fewer than 10 per cent have tried to go back and/or have made plans to do so (9% and 3% respectively) and only around 13 per cent have applied for compensation, despite the high number of households reporting residential damage to their properties among other consequences of the 2014 crisis.<sup>52</sup> This low figure can also be explained by the fact that people may not be aware of the compensation mechanism: only 25 per cent of households who own an inhabitable house reported that they know about this mechanism. Among households who made plans to return, the most common action taken was arranging accommodation (41%), followed by checking the conditions of the location of origin (33%), and making arrangements with family, friends or community members (22%). Nevertheless, return can be possible for many households, and 44 per cent of households reported knowing someone who made it back to the area of origin.

Table 39. Planning for return

44%	Know people who successfully returned
13%	Have applied for compensation (if home owner in AoO)
9%	Tried to return at least once
3%	Have made plans to return
1%	Tried to return more than once

## INTENTIONS AND PREFERRED DURABLE SOLUTION

Although around 87 per cent of households still consider themselves 'displaced', the highest figure across the assessed urban centres of the KRI, intention to stay (66%) and indecision (3%) account for more than twice the number who are willing to return (28%). Moreover, nearly all households who wish to return have taken no action in this direction (90%) and are either unsure about the date of their return (20%) or plan to do so in 6–12 months following data collection (40%), which means that around 80 per cent of the total displaced population is likely to remain in their current location in Zakho town for the next year.

<sup>48</sup> In order to assess main needs households were asked 'Imagine for a moment that your household inherit a large sum of money. Please rank the three main items your household would use this money for (starting with 1 for the most important).' The table shows the percentage of respondents that mentioned each option, but not the prioritization given to each option.

<sup>49</sup> This confirms findings from the safety and social cohesion data as outlined in Urban Displacement: A preliminary Analysis. IOM, DTM Iraq 2020.

<sup>50</sup> Proof of nationality, national ID and residency card are the top three documents reported missing.

<sup>51</sup> Over half of IDPs in Zakho town are originally from the district of Sinjar, where the lack of HLP documentation is a widespread, well known and previously documented issue.

<sup>52</sup> 55% of households who own a house at the location of origin stated that it is completely destroyed and 23% that it is partially destroyed/damaged, hence inhabitable.

Table 40. Factors associated with area of origin

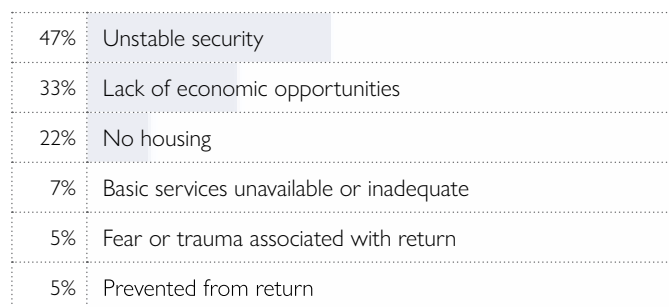


Table 41. Factors associated with area of displacement

38%	Stable security
13%	Better economic opportunities
11%	Better living conditions
7%	No financial means to return
5%	HH members in school
4%	Health conditions prevents HH from returning

**Intention of the majority of IDPs in the neighborhood**

- Stay
- Return

53 Respondent was asked 'Imagine for a moment that you faced no obstacles to return or to remain in the current location: what would be your household's preferred place to live in the future?'



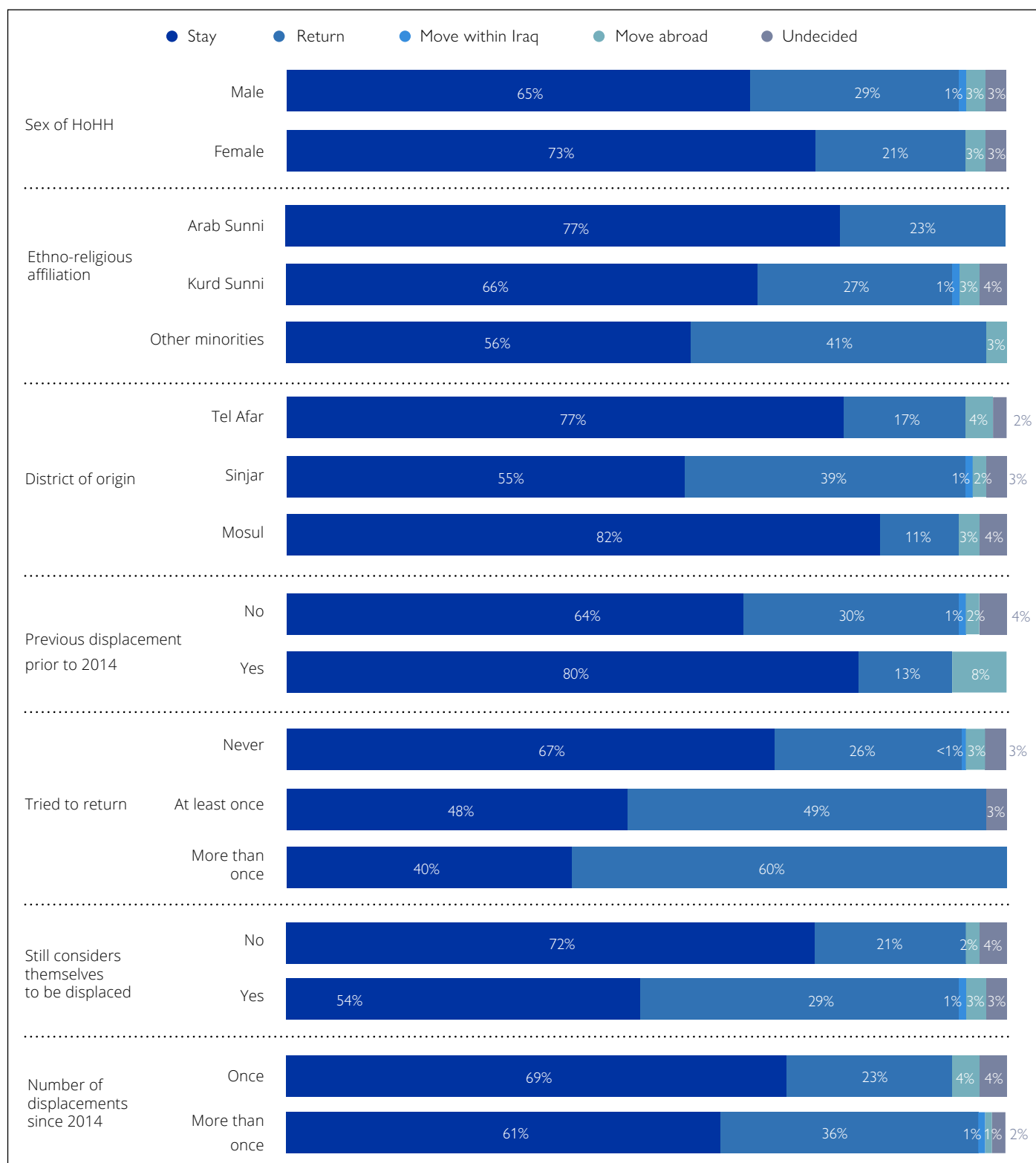
## FACTORS AFFECTING WILLINGNESS TO RETURN

Several characteristics of the household seem to have a direct effect on future intentions. Female heads of household are slightly more likely to want to stay or are undecided – likely due to the fact they are more vulnerable, considering that only 27 per cent are working, compared to 66 per cent of male head of household. Additionally, minority groups were more likely to show a preference for return (41%) than those from the main ethno-religious groups.

Figures also vary depending on where the household is originally from: households from Sinjar are more willing to return to their areas of origin compared to those originally from Mosul and Telafar, nearly all of which would like to remain in their current location in Zakho.

Multiple displacements impact positively on the intention to return, a finding that highlights that failed returns are not discouraging people from returning. Whilst 23 per cent of households that have been displaced once wish to return to the area of origin, this figure increases to 62 per cent for those who have been displaced four times or more.<sup>54</sup> Only 3 per cent of households would like to move abroad. Several reasons may account for their intention, but the most important refers to the perceived lack of safety – not only at the area of origin but also at current location. This is the case for households who experienced displacement prior to the 2014 crisis (8%)

Figure 12. Factors affecting intentions



<sup>54</sup> This finding is indicative due to small sample size.

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