

# REIMAGINING REINTEGRATION: Sustainable Returns After Conflict

*April 2023*



# Key Findings

## Safety and security.

There is a moderately positive situation as returnees tend to feel safe, effectively protected in their community, and well accepted as part of the community; freedom of movement is also widely guaranteed with some exceptions. However, *many communities are heavily polarized*, and households fear their *communities may relapse into violence*.

## Standard of living.

There is nearly full access to the public services needed for households' well-being. Water and electricity access has also been largely restored, or even improved since 2012. However, *wide gaps remain for the capacity of public services*, and *quality has declined* for healthcare and education.

## Livelihoods and economic security.

Employment levels are largely restored to pre-conflict levels; however, pockets of discrimination remain for some returnees. Strikingly, there is an extended sense of economic insecurity: *One in three returnee households* reported either not having enough money for food, or having enough money for food but not for other essential items.

# Key Findings

## Housing, land and property.

Returnees have been able to recover their pre-conflict housing. When eligible for housing compensation, they have been able to apply for it; however, issues remain in terms of delays and inefficiency. Other vulnerabilities remain in the long-term, with *one in three returnee households* living with informal and irregular housing and tenure.

## Participation in public affairs.

Returnees generally feel able to participate in social and civic activities without discrimination. However, *one in three households* felt that they are not able to express critical views without retributive violence against them. Moreover, most feel that participation is not meaningful because it does not bring change.

## Legal remedies and justice.

This area is where the gaps are significant, and much work remains to be done. A large majority of returnees report a failure to see their grievances and violations addressed. They also report inadequate implementation of justice and the rule of law more broadly. Some of these conditions are also reportedly considerably worse now than before the conflict.

# OVERVIEW

The report **measures the reintegration of the returnees** through the below criteria:

1. Safety and Security
2. Adequate Standard of Living
3. Livelihoods and Economic Security
4. Restitution and Protection of Housing, Land, and Property
5. Personal Documentation
6. Family Reunification
7. Participation In Public Affairs
8. Legal Remedies And Justice

Indicators were formulated through a **combination of frameworks**, including:

1. IASC Framework on Durable Solutions
2. Joint IDP Profiling Service – Indicator Library
3. EGRIS guidelines
4. Conflict and Stabilization Monitoring Framework
5. OECD and World Bank fragility frameworks
6. Iraq’s Durable Solutions Monitoring and Analysis Framework
7. IOM frameworks deployed in previous durable solutions studies

*(Citation links available in full report)*

**To understand the changes over time, this report uses pre-conflict data as a benchmark:**

*Household Socio-Economic Survey and the Iraq Knowledge Network Survey (Gov. of Iraq, citation in report).*

This data covers the same districts assessed in 2012, two years prior to the official start of the ISIL conflict.

# METHODOLOGY

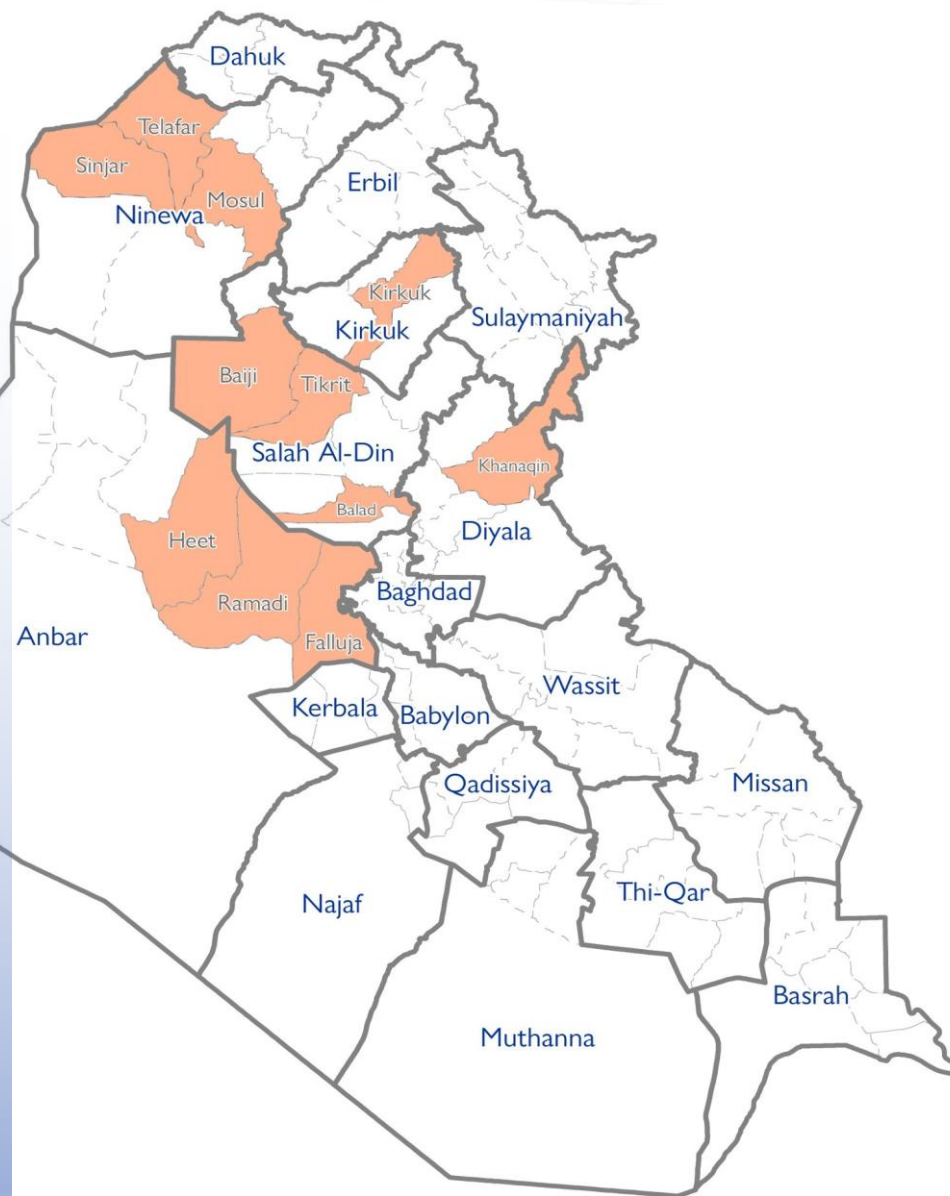
The study generated representative data from the top **14 districts with the largest number of returnees**; these districts contain approximately 80% of all returnees in Iraq.

Data collection between **March- April 2022**,

Sample covered 2803 households, resulting in a *95% confidence interval, and 10% margin of error at district level*

Respondents were asked questions related to themselves as individuals, as well as questions about their household

Study was produced by **Social Inquiry** in partnership with **IOM**



## Districts covered

- Baiji
- Balad
- Fallujah
- Hamdaniya
- Hawija
- Hit
- Khanaqin
- Kirkuk
- Mosul
- Ramadi
- Shirqat
- Sinjar
- Telafar
- Tikrit



# Safety, Movement, and Social Cohesion

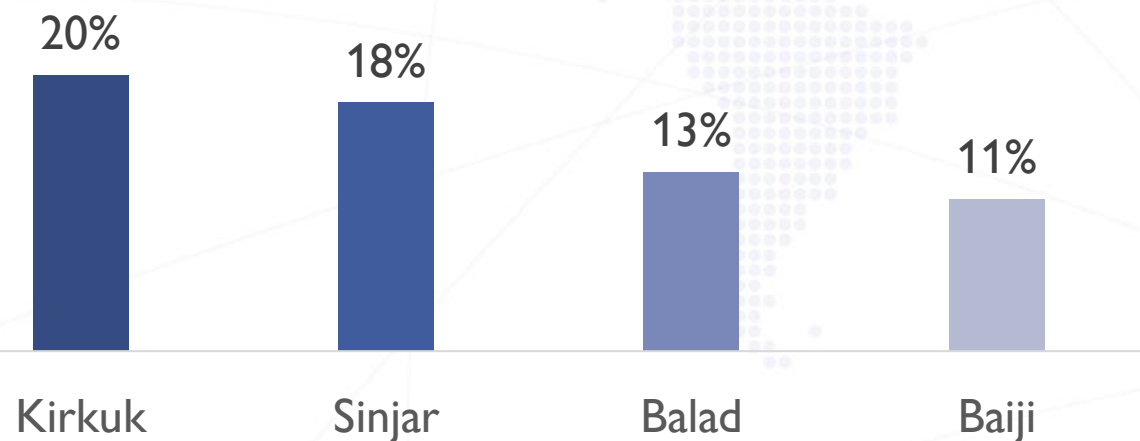
# SAFETY AND SECURITY

People generally feel safe in their day-to-day life. The feeling of **safety has improved** compared to 2012

## Returnees who feel day-to-day safety is not ensured

Districts of Return	
2012	2022
20%	5%

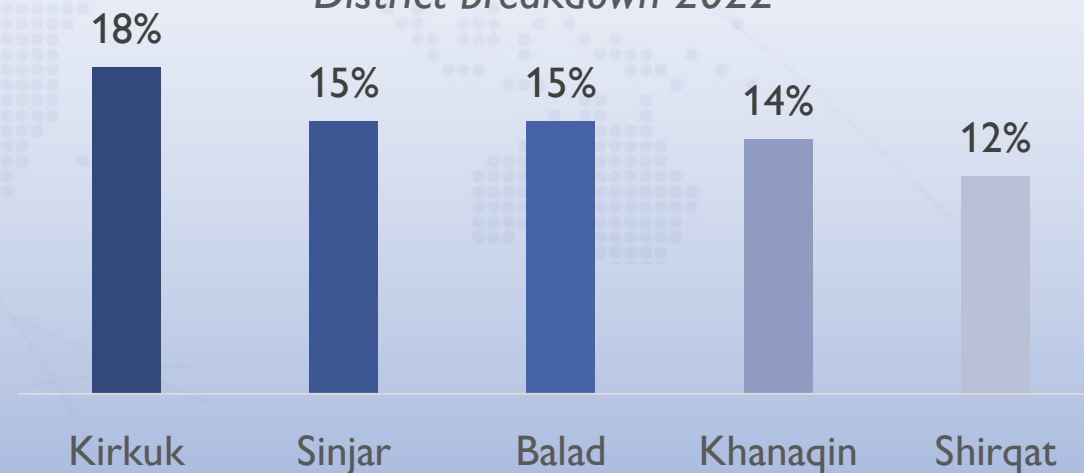
### District breakdown 2022



## Returnees who lack confidence in security forces

Districts of Return	
2012	2022
16%	7%

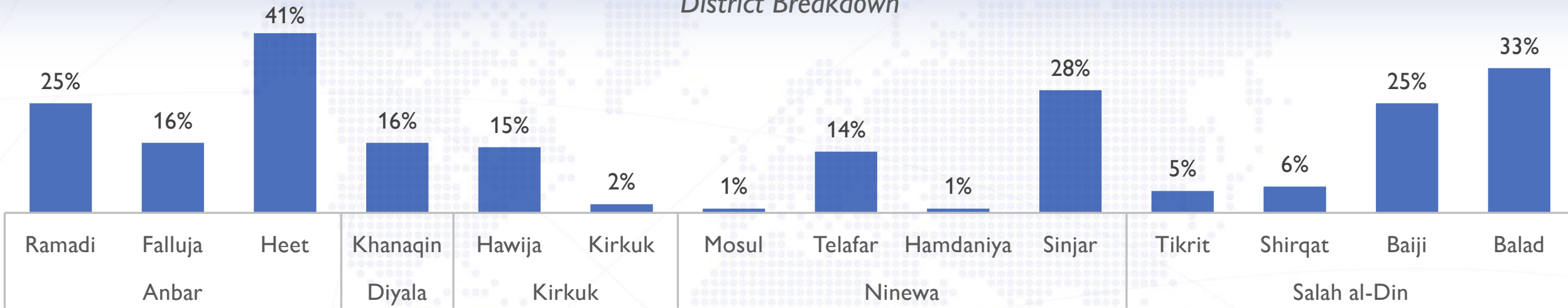
### District breakdown 2022



# MOVEMENT AND SECURITY

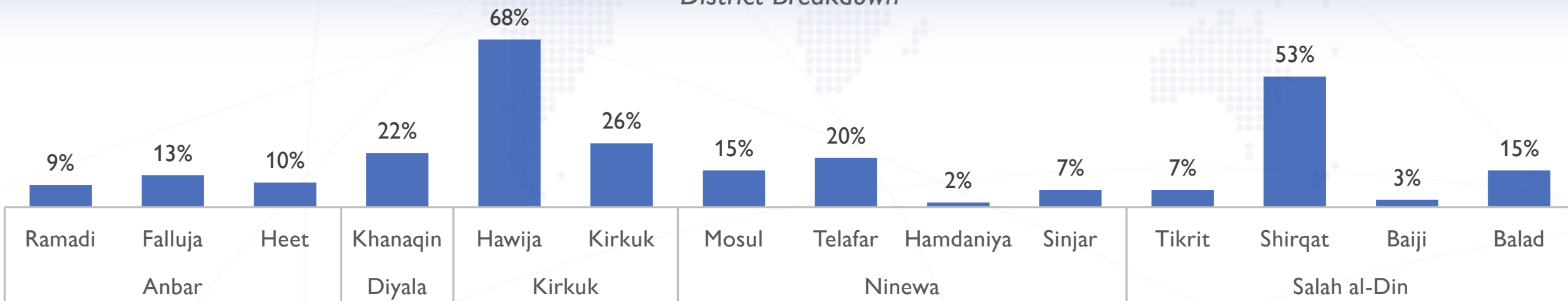
*About 1 in 10 returnees experience movement restrictions*

*District Breakdown*



*About 2 in 10 returnees do not feel comfortable accessing formal law enforcement*

*District Breakdown*



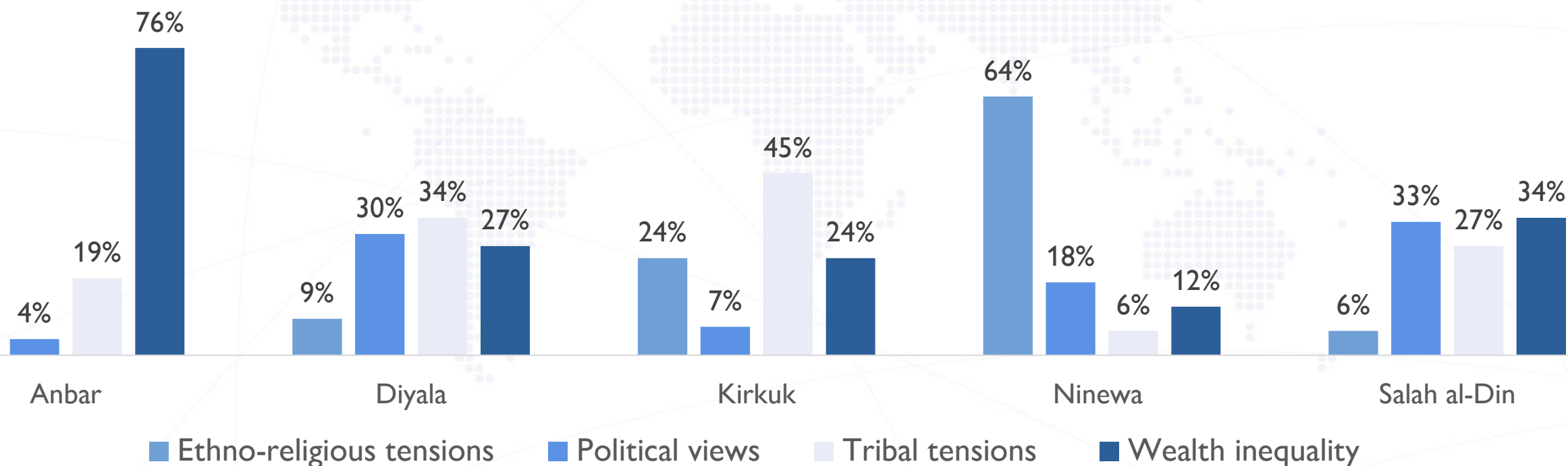


# SOCIAL COHESION

The root causes of conflict have not been durably addressed. Many communities are heavily polarized, and households fear their communities may relapse into violence.

4 in 10 returnees reported irreconcilable social divisions among the community; the same amount fear a recurrence of violence

*What is the main driver of divisions in the community in this district?*





# Standard of Living

# ESSENTIAL SERVICES

There is nearly full access to essential utilities, education, and healthcare.

Wide gaps remain for capacity to meet people's needs and expectations, with decreases in quality since 2012 for healthcare and education.

Top reported issues with **healthcare capacity**:

- Financial barriers
- The treatment was not available
- The medicine was not available

Top reported issues with **education capacity**:

- Lack of supplies provided by the school
- Overcrowding in the classes
- Lack of staff to run the school

% of returnees without ACCESS to...	Districts in 2012	Districts in 2022
Public water	19%	3%
Public electricity	1%	0%
Health facilities	0%	1%
Education facilities	2%	2%

% of returnees without SUFFICIENT ....	Districts in 2012	Districts in 2022
Water supply	45%	30%
Electricity supply	93%	78%
Capacity of healthcare	45%	64%
Capacity of education facilities	19%	31%



# Livelihoods and Economic Security

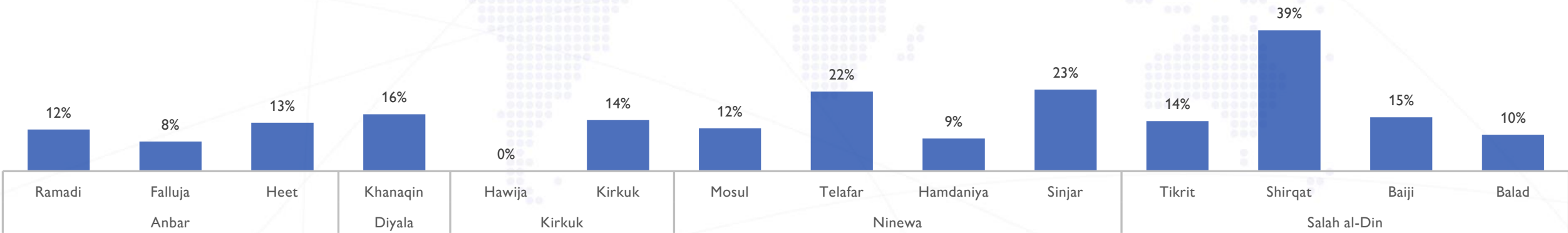
# LIVELIHOODS AND ECONOMIC SECURITY

Returnees generally have access to the labor market, and employment rates resemble those from 10 years ago. However, 1 in 10 households reported having a member being discriminated against when trying to find employment, particularly in Shirqat (41% of returnees).

### Returnees who are unemployed in target districts

2012	2022
15%	14%

District breakdown from 2022



# LIVELIHOODS AND ECONOMIC SECURITY

While the employment rate is positive, domestic finances remain weak, and there is an extended sense of economic insecurity.

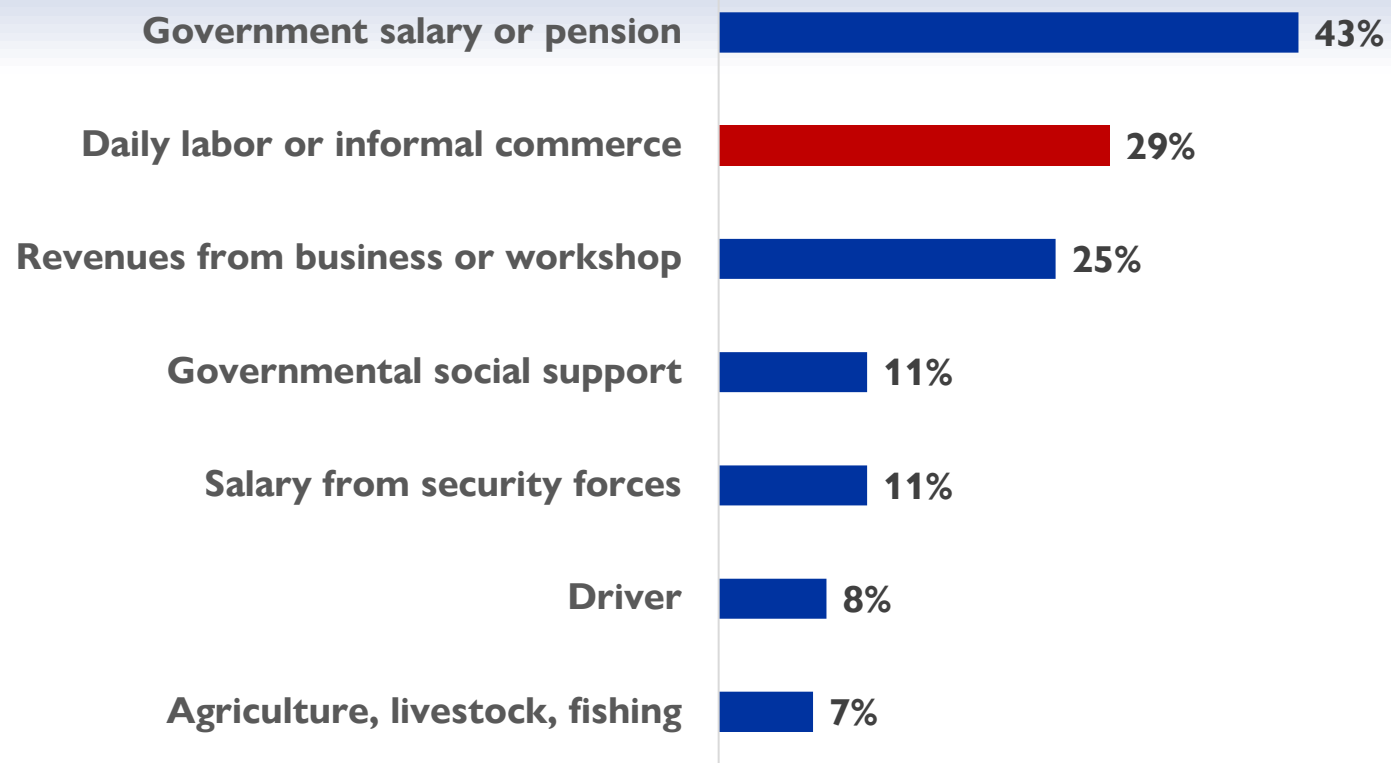
1 in 5 returnee households *rely solely* on unstable income sources. Overall, one third of households earn such income (see graph).

1 in 3 returnee households reported either not having enough money for food, or having enough money for food but not for other essential items. This was even higher in some districts:

- Hawija 62%
- Khanaqin 54%
- Baiji 46%

## Household income sources

\*multiple choices allowed, not all sources displayed here, unstable sources marked red



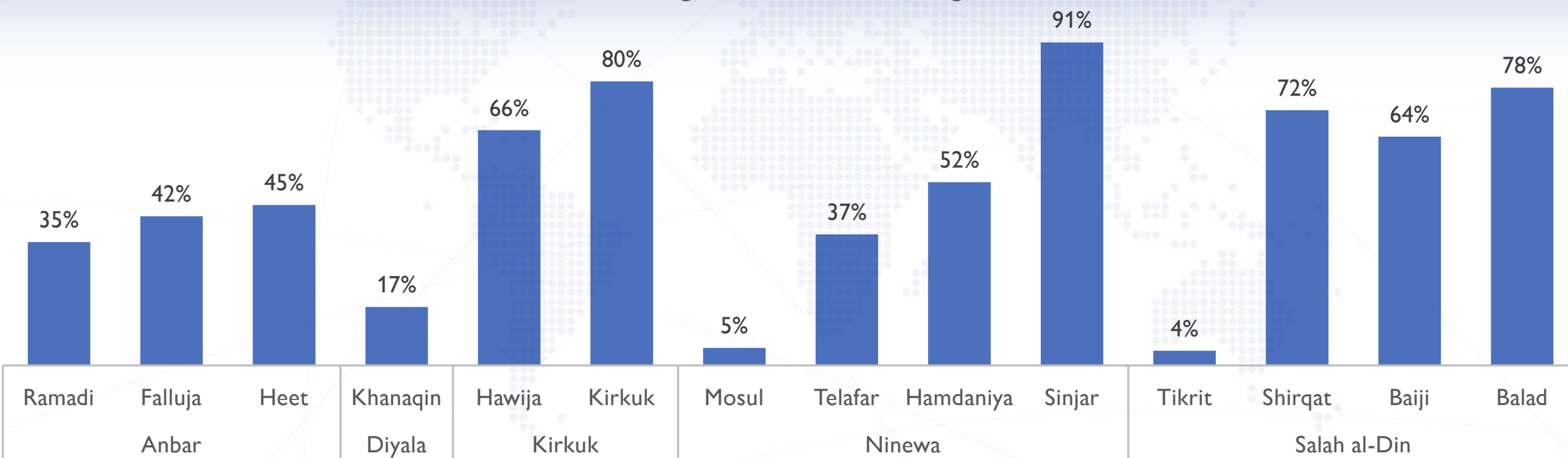


# Housing, Land, and Property

# HOUSING, LAND, AND PROPERTY

By large, returnees have been able to recover their pre-conflict housing. Vulnerabilities remain in terms of land protection in the long-term, with one in three returnee households living with informal and irregular housing and tenure.

*Returnee households living in informal housing or land*





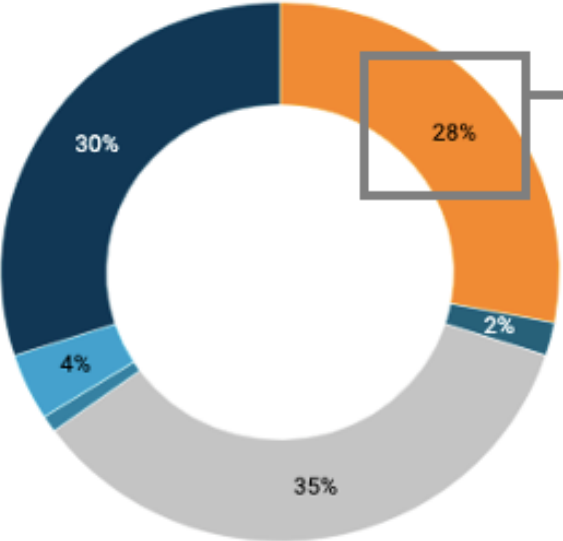
# HOUSING, LAND, AND PROPERTY

Based on self-reported levels of house destruction or damage returnees have experienced, around 70% of households would seem potentially eligible for compensation.

People who wanted to apply have been effectively able to file a claim, with only 2% of households report being prevented from accessing this legal mechanism. Others have chosen not to apply for the moment for various reasons (see graph).

Have you or do you plan to seek compensation for property from authorities?

- No
- Yes, we have received it
- Yes, we have applied for it
- Yes, but our claim was rejected
- Yes, we plan to do it
- Not applicable - HH not eligible



What is the reason you do not plan to seek compensation?

It is not worth it	8%
We do not trust the system	7%
We do not want to go through the process	5%
It is an expensive process	4%
We are prevented from seeking compensation	2%
We miss the documentation needed	1%
Other	2%



# Personal Documentation & Right to Family Reunification

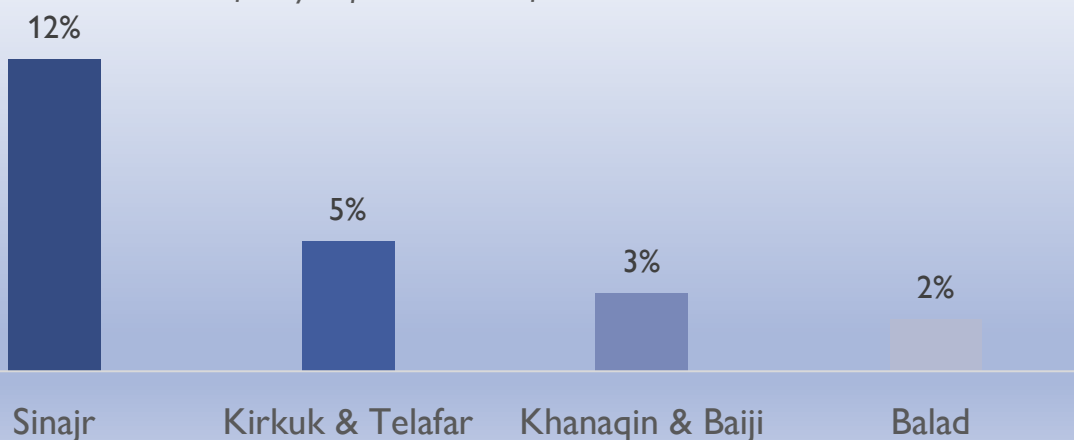
## PERSONAL DOCUMENTATION

2% of returnee HHs have a member with a missing document.

Issues with personal documentation are mostly restricted to specific profiles of families, frequently with close relatives (allegedly) associated with ISIS.

Some respondents reported a lack of information on how to replace documents.

*Districts breakdown of returnee households with a member still missing key family or personal identification documentation*



## FAMILY REUNIFICATION

Less than 1% of households reported a member currently missing by force or prevented from returning. (This indicator, however, may underreport cases of close relatives that are missing or disappeared.)

There is no broad prevalence of cases where returnee households are forcibly separated with some members blocked from returning.

However, of the reported cases, most are concentrated in Heet district. The reason most often indicated by households is that they are blocked from returning by authorities, security forces, or tribes.



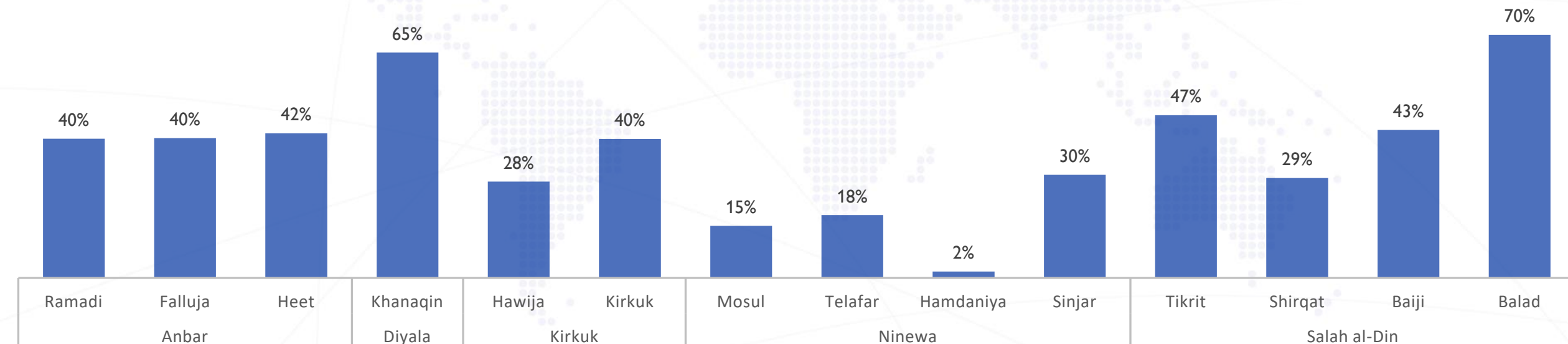
# Participation in Public Affairs

# PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC AFFAIR

Returnees generally feel able to participate in social and civic activities without discrimination. Respondents reported being able to register to vote should they choose to.

However, *1 in 3 households* felt that they are not able to express critical views without retributive violence against them. Moreover, most feel that participation is not meaningful because it does not bring change.

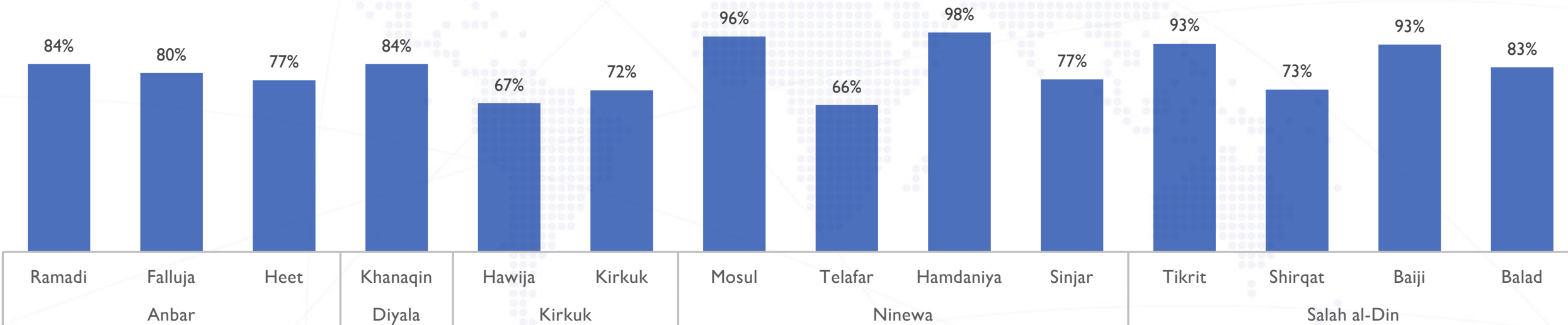
*Returnees feeling unable to express critical views without retributive violence against them*



# PARTICIPTION IN PUBLIC AFFAIR

8 in 10 of returnees feel that the electoral processes do not translate to their expectations, and 3 in 10 of returnees are not able to express critical view without fear of violence against them.

*Returnees who feel electoral processes do not translate needs/expectations into outcomes*





# Legal Remedies and Justice

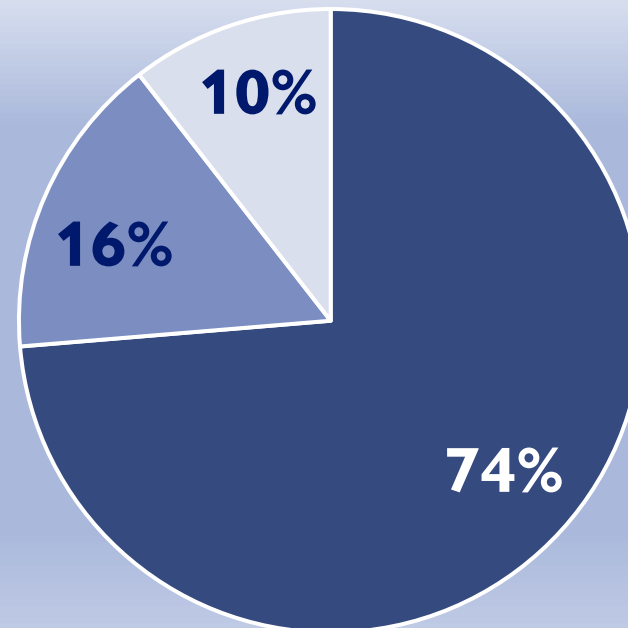
# LEGAL REMEDIES AND JUSTICE

This area is where the gaps are significant, and much work remains to be done. A large majority of returnees report a failure to see their grievances and violations addressed.

They also report inadequate implementation of justice and the rule of law more broadly. Some of these conditions are also reportedly considerably worse now than before the conflict.

*What kind of remedies do you prefer?*

- Financial compensation for all affected people
- All perpetrators punished to full extent of the law
- Material and social investment in district to remedy the issue



**56%** of returnees reported not having accessed or experienced remedies for conflict-related violations





# Looking Ahead

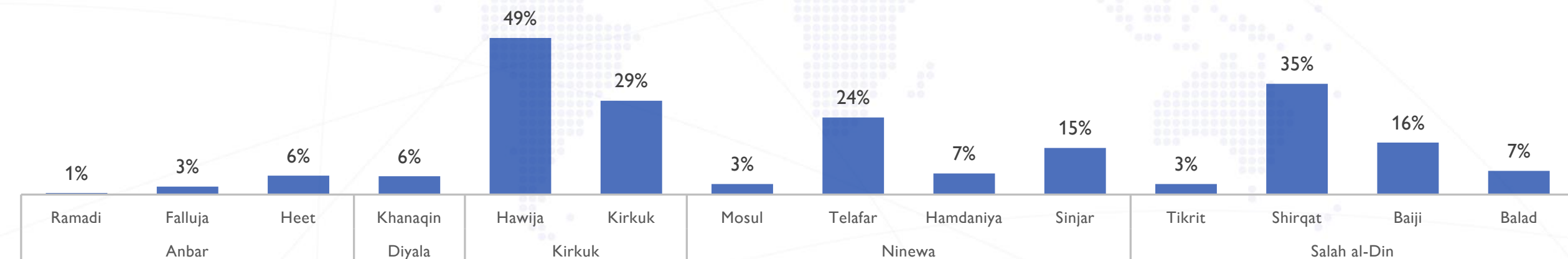
# LOOKING AHEAD

Significant progress has been made to return people to their areas, and to return many conditions to pre-conflict levels. However, structural and other barriers are preventing sustainable reintegration.

## Looking to the future:

More than half of respondents feel that the next generation will not live better, and that they are unable to prosper in their current location. More than half feel marginalized or neglected as citizens. 1 in 10 returnees feel that someone in their household will have no option but to migrate/displace again.

*Returnees who feel they that someone in their household will have no option but to migrate/displace again*





# THANK YOU TO



Social Inquiry

*For their partnership in designing and  
conducting this study*



*And for the support from the U.S. Department of State,  
Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM)*

