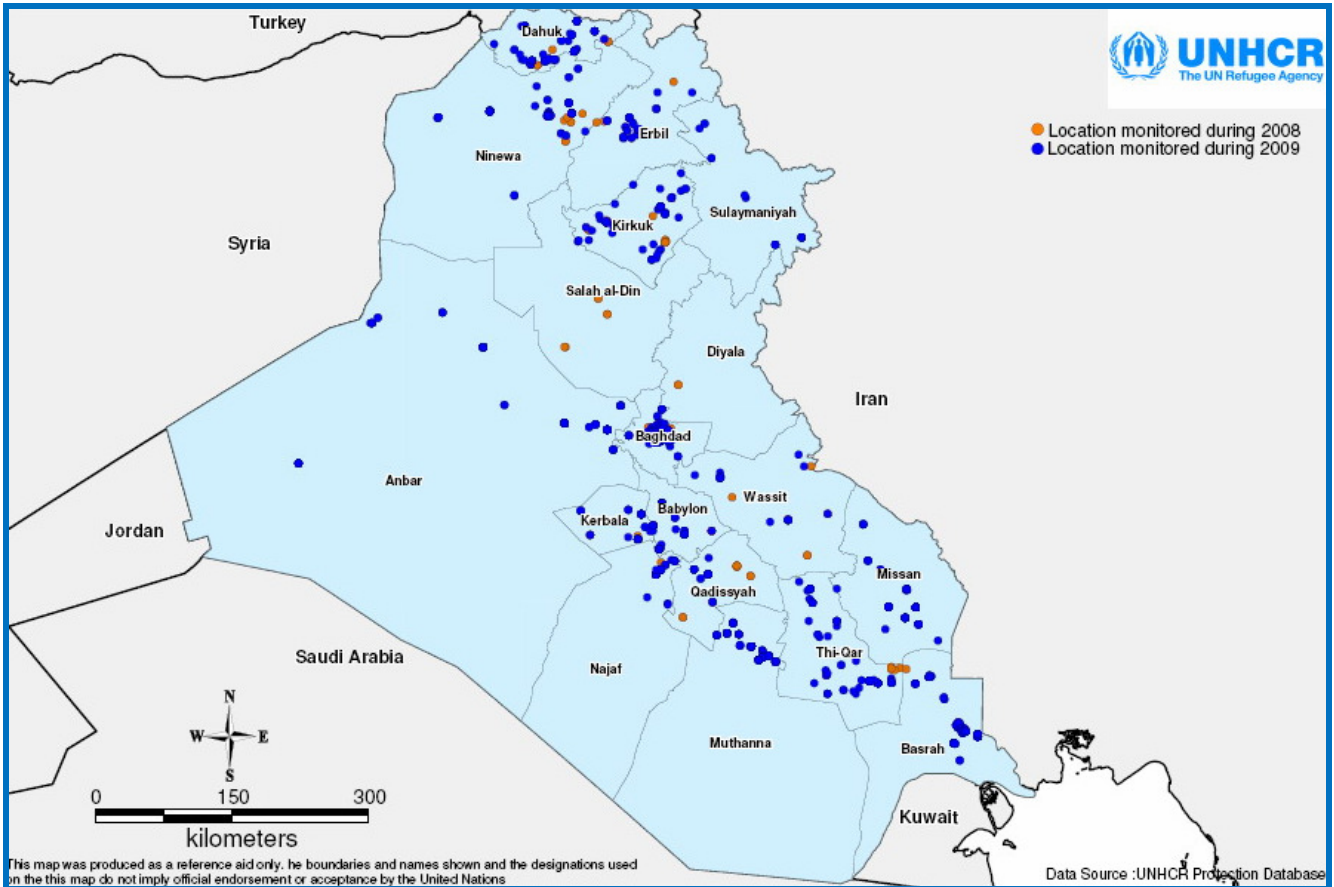


UNHCR IRAQ

Protection Monitoring Assessments Summary

January -October 2009



Between January 2009 and October 20th, 2009, UNHCR and its Protection Assistance Centers (PACs)¹ conducted 631 protection monitoring assessments at the community level in 603 different locations throughout Iraq² and total of 493,211 (94,565 families) persons of concern were identified.³ This ongoing Protection Monitoring enables UNHCR to update understanding of the protection environment in displacement and return locations and to identify the needs of its persons of concern, in order to facilitate their access to basic human rights.⁴

IDPs

From January to March 2009, UNHCR identified 4,653 IDP families (24,167 individuals), of which 748 families (3,479 individuals) had fled before February 2006 with the remaining 3,905 families (20,688 individuals) displaced after February 2006, following the violence erupted after the bombing in Samarra. The majority of the IDPs reported that they were displaced due to generalized violence (52%), targeted threats or attacks (43%), or economic reasons (4%). When asked to rank their intentions, an increasing number would opt to return home (80%), while integrating in the current location and returning to at least the same neighborhood ranked second and third respectively. Fifty one per cent of IDPs were from Baghdad, 21% from Ninewa, 19% Kirkuk and 14% from Diyala.

Since April 2009, 65,095 internally displaced families (342,204 individuals) were identified, of which 49,142 were displaced after February 2006 and 15,953 fled before February 2006. The majority of IDPs were displaced due to general violence (57%), targeted threats or attacks (31%) and economic hardship (11%).

Some 59% of IDPs stated that they originated from

¹ The PAC network is composed of 14 centers and 38 mobile teams consisting of 130 Iraqi staff (lawyers, social workers, monitors and public information and data base officers) - of which 40% are women. PAC teams monitor the protection environment, provide legal counseling, advice and court representation, as well as facilitate access to assistance through a referral system.

² A total of 1,398 assessments have been conducted since the UNHCR Protection Monitoring began (March 2008): Map in the cover page.

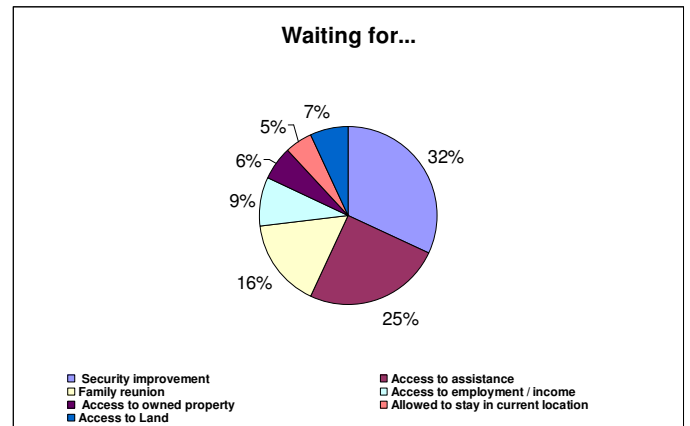
³ Since locations witnessing significant displacement and return were assessed more than once to monitor movements and report trends, a number of persons of concern may be counted double. However, these are a negligible number of cases.

⁴ Methodology: This summary is divided into Phase 2 (January to March 2009) and Phase 3 (April-ongoing) to reflect improved methodology and questionnaire. In each location and throughout the entire period, teams conducted interviews with either an authority or administrative official knowledgeable about the group and focus groups representing the identified group (IDPs, IDP and refugee returnees) to assess access to key rights as well protection risks and factors.

Previous results from protection monitoring: *UNHCR Iraq Protection Monitoring Assessment Summary, March 2008 to March 2009* available at <http://www.uniraq.org/documents/Protection%20Monitoring%20-%20March%202008%20March%202009%20EN.pdf> Updated figures on displacement and return: *UNHCR Iraq Operation: Monthly Statistical Update on Return*.

Baghdad, 19% from Ninewa, and 16% from Diyala.

Locally integrate and to return to their house or neighborhood were reported to be two main intentions of IDPs and a minority stated intentions to relocate to another area others were still waiting to make a decision. IDPs informed waiting for the following factors before being able to return to their locations:



RETURNEES (Refugees and IDPs)

During Phase 2, 6,134 returnee families (32,199 individuals) were assessed: this included 5,607 IDP returnee families (28,764 individuals) and 527 refugee returnee families (3,453 individuals). Some 482 returnees and 3,423 IDP returnee families stated they had fled their homes prior to February 2006, while the others claimed to have been displaced after this date. IDP returnee families initially fled due to the generalized violence (41%), economic reasons (26%) and targeted attacks (24%). The majority of refugee returnees fled due to generalized violence (51%), targeted threats or attacks (39%), or military operations (3%). The majority of IDP returned to their area due to the improved security situation (39%), to benefit from governmental assistance (27%) and due to economic hardship (22%). Refugees returned to their area due to the improved security situation (32%), to benefit from governmental assistance (30%) and due to economic hardship (25%).

Some 18,683 returnee families assessed from April were composed of 14,016 (70,900 individuals) IDP returnees and 4,667 (23,741 individuals) refugee returnee families: 98% of IDP returnees and 85.3% of refugee returnee initially fled after February 2006. IDP returnees had fled due to targeted threats or attacks (45%), general violence (39%) and economic hardship (6.8%). Refugee returnee initially fled due to general violence (55%), targeted threats or attacks (40%) or due to economic hardship (1%).

The majority of IDP returnees went back to their area due to the improved security situation (42%), to benefit from governmental assistance (29%), due to economic hardship (37%). Refugees returned to their area due to the improved security situation (32%), economic hardship (29%) or to benefit from governmental assistance (27%).

Sixty-nine per cent of the IDP returnees and 70% of refugee returnees returned to their homes, 8% of IDP and refugee returnees returned to their neighborhoods.

The identified twenty deportees did not want to disclose much information but explained that they have tried to return to their area of origin, being in need of immediate assistance in accessing documentation, confirmation of their legal status and of finding a safe place.

PERSONS WITH SPECIFIC NEEDS

During the first three months of the year the following specific needs were identified: families with no income (1,043) and those with more than 10 family members (100), elderly heads of households (2,258), female heads of households, widows, divorced women and women without a male relative (502), families with disabled family members (238), minor heads of households (959) and orphans (5).

The assessments identified the specific needs of the UNHCR population of concern.

Specific needs	IDPs	IDP returnees	Refugee returnees	Total
	Number of FAM	Number of FAM	Number of FAM	Number of FAM
Family with no income	12,406	2,619	878	15,903
Female head of household, divorced or widowed women	5,378	1,470	242	7,090
Large family with no income (more than 10 members)	2,390	1,460	144	3,994
Elderly head of household	2,052	476	137	2,665
Child (under 18 years) as head of household	2,481	720	2	3,203
Child under 18 without both parents	145	54	-	199
Disabled family member	1,911	395	106	2,412

PHYSICAL PROTECTION

The security environment as described by the assessed groups was characterized by targeted attacks, generalized violence, criminality, arbitrary arrests and detention.

During the first three months of the year, the majority of persons assessed informed that they were not directly targeted by security incidents (84% IDPs, 87% IDP returnees and 70% of refugee returnees). Those affected by security incidents stated intra-ethnic or intra-religious fighting (5% IDPs and 3% IDP returnees), large explosions (2% IDPs and 1.5% IDP returnees), forced recruitment by armed elements of children and adults (4% IDPs and 2% IDP returnees) and looting, detention, general violence, and mines/UXOs contamination. None

of the groups informed being arrested by the authorities due to displacement or return. Twenty per cent of IDPs and 5% of refugee returnee reported children to be missing. Many IDPs and returnees experienced security measures and restrictions of movement due to checkpoints (38%) and curfews (13%), and fences/walls/barriers. They seemed to consider restrictions necessary in certain areas for security reasons.

Since April 1st, the majority of persons of concern assessed stated that the security situation had not changed (84% IDPs, 68% of IDP returnees and 77% of refugee returnees). The majority informed that the security situation and restrictions were similar to those for the local resident community. However 7,973 individuals stated they had been affected by general violence (20% of IDPs, 15% of IDP returnees and 13% of refugee returnees) and occurrence of large explosions (4% of IDPs and 2% of IDP returnees). Thirteen per cent of refugee returnees reported being affected by mines or UXO injuries. Those who had been specifically targeted stated that it was due to their religious (8% of IDPs, 18% of IDP returnees and 51% of refugee returnees) and political (3% of IDPs, 10% of IDP returnees and 11% of refugee returnees) background. Six per cent of IDPs also stated that they had been specifically targeted simply because they were IDPs. Many communities reported missing family members (30% of IDPs, 30% of IDP returnees, 27% of refugee returnees) indicating that they were missing because of kidnappings, abductions and detentions and that they do not know what happened to their missing family members.

Many IDPs and returnees reported that their movement was restricted by checkpoints, curfews, fences/walls and barriers and permissions from authorities to move. Moreover, restrictions on freedom of movement varied between men, women and children. Generally, men leave the home more frequently than women and children leave the home more regularly than women. This may be due to social-religious constraints that women face as well as the fact that most working children are working in public places such as streets, markets and etc.

DOCUMENTATION AND REGISTRATION

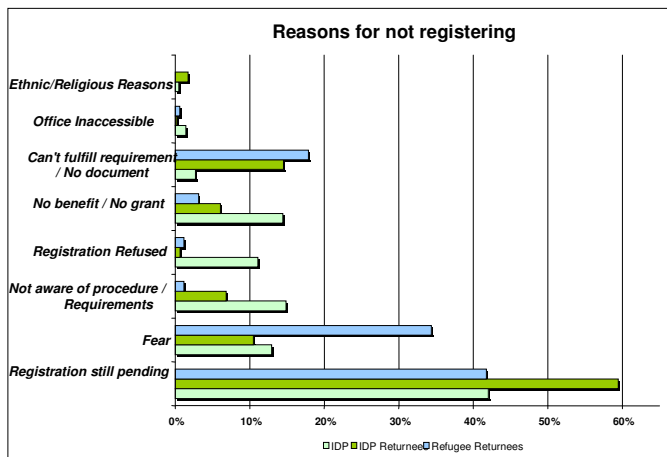
In Iraq, documentation is central to exercise citizenship rights, including registration as IDPs or Returnees, voting and accessing basic services, to accessing income/financial assistance, (pension/service records, driver's licences and car registration, medical committee certificates and property deeds). However, some kind of key documentation was reported lacking. IDPs and returnees indicated the need to register with the authorities in order to stay in their current location but findings highlighted problems with the registration procedures/requirements and/or lack information on the need for/benefits of registration.

From January to March 2009, some 53% IDP, 15% IDP returnee and 40% refugee returnee families reported lacking most commonly PDS ration cards (31% IDPs, 12% IDP returnees, 24% refugee returnees), civil ID (25% IDPs, 18% IDP returnees, 22% refugee returnees), nationality certificate (22% IDPs, 11% IDP returnees, 29% refugee returnees) and passport (21% IDPs, 9% IDP returnees, 15% refugee returnees). About 61% IDPs stated they needed to register with the authority in their current location; however, only 55% IDPs were registered. 75% IDP returnees and 56% refugee returnees approached the authorities to register. The main consequence of not registering for IDPs was the exclusion from government assistance (51%), no PDS distributions (24%), no job opportunities (10%), as well as no fuel distribution (15%). For refugee returnees, not registering makes them ineligible for returnee grants (in 48% of the cases) and land allocations (22%). Asked why some families were not registered, the groups answered that these families were either unaware of the process (12%) or they do not fulfill the requirements (10%).

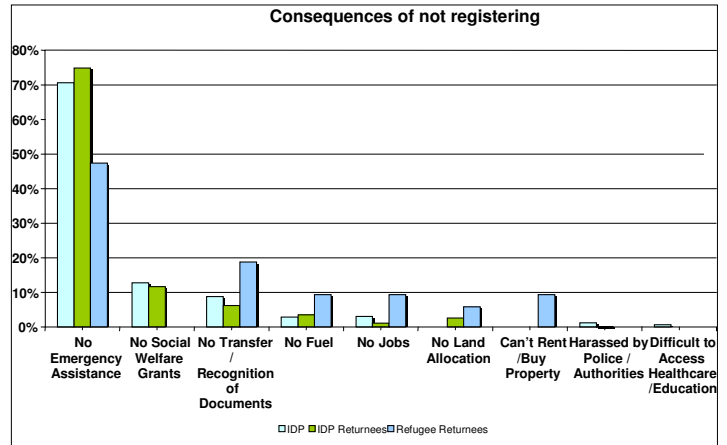
The communities assessed from April reported mainly lacking the key documents and having difficulties in renewing them.

Document	IDPs	IDP returnees	Refugee returnees
Civil ID/Renewal	20%	45%	34%
Nationality certificate	15%	14%	11%
Social welfare	11%	20%	7%
PDS ration card	13.3%	4%	10%
Marriage/Divorce certificate	12%	8.5%	8%
Pension record	6%	28%	1%
Passport	11%	7%	3.5%
Birth certificate	6%	7%	16.5%
Death certificate	4%	8%	10%

In many areas IDP and returnees indicated that their registration was pending due to bureaucratic procedures or could not register as they lacked necessary documents, did not fulfill requirements or were unaware of such requirements:



The main consequence of not registering was the exclusion from government assistance or social welfare, no transfer or recognition of documents, no fuel distribution and no jobs, no rental or purchase of property, land allocation, difficulties in accessing healthcare and education as well as might not be able to vote in the forthcoming elections (30% IDPs, 26 IDP returnees, 21% refugee returnees) as the voter record was not updated.



In order to resolve civil disputes, the assessed group indicated first approaching family and friends and then local authorities, police, tribal and religious leaders. The majority of women indicated approaching families and friends to resolve civil or personal disputes, some approached the local authorities, the police and religious leaders.

HOUSING AND PROPERTY

The majority of the persons of concern assessed during the first three months lived in rented houses or apartments (51%) as well as in occupied public buildings (16%) or settlements (11%). Some 35% of IDP returnees and 33% of refugee returnees assessed lived in allocated houses or land. Other returnees lived in rented houses (26% of IDP returnees, 24% of refugee returnees) as well as settlements (24% IDP returnees, 6% of refugee returnees). Twenty per cent of IDPs, 17% of IDP returnees and 22% of refugee returnees reported that their houses were severely damaged. 2% of IDPs and 1% of IDP returnees stated having been requested to vacate the area where they were living.

The majority of the IDPs stated that some families have lost rights to or cannot access property in their former neighborhood, 56% of refugee returnees and 15% of IDP returnees have lost rights to or cannot access their former property as it was occupied by insurgents or militia (40% of all cases) by resident community, by other IDPs and returnees, sold under duress, destroyed or damaged, fear of religious, ethnic or political harassment.

In January, eviction of families occupying houses and government building was halted by Prime Minister's Order but some families were requested to leave the properties.

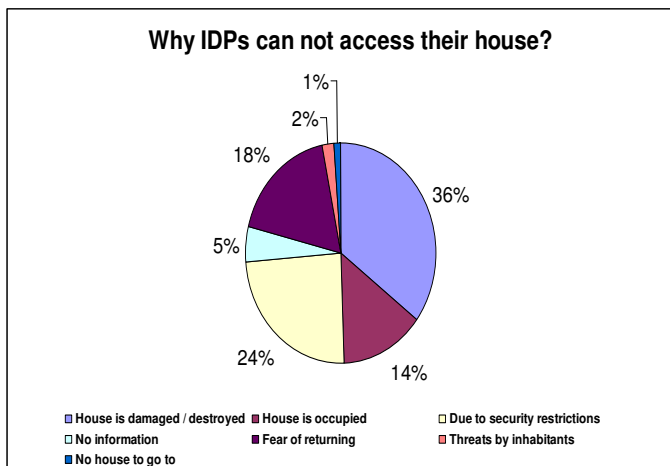
However, only 41% of the families who lost property approached anyone to recover it and the others did not do it due to the costly procedures, unaware of the process, lacked document or feared repercussions.

Since April, the majority of IDPs assessed stated living in rented houses or apartments (50%), owned property (24% of IDPs) or occupying public buildings (20%). The majority of IDP returnees lived in owned property (40%), rented house or apartments (25%) and in allocated lands or house (25%). Most refugee returnees lived in owned property (45%) and rented accommodation (20%). Eight per cent of IDPs and 6.4% of refugee returnees lived in illegal camps (1% of IDP returnees lived in illegal camps).

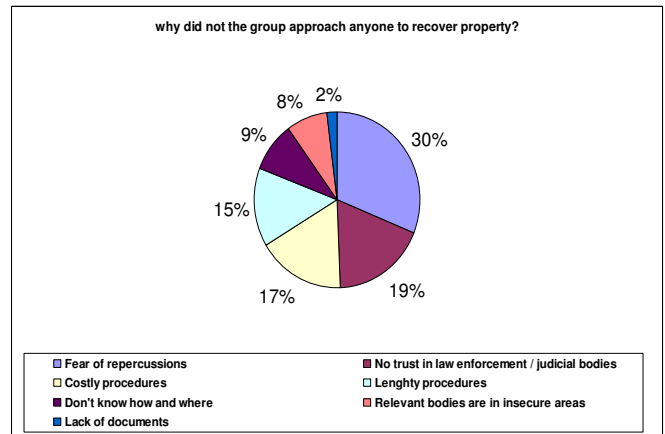
Roughly 15% of the groups were living in severely damaged structures and 41% live in moderately damaged structures. Twenty-seven per cent required minor repairs 6% unfinished and 10% were in good conditions.

Twenty-four per cent of IDPs, 3% of IDP returnees and 4% of refugee returnee were living in public building. Eight per cent of IDPs and 6% of returnees were living in illegal camp, and 2% of IDPs were occupying privately owned buildings. Some female headed IDP returnee households were among those families illegally occupying public buildings. Even if Prime Minister's Orders to halt eviction were still valid, some families reportedly received eviction' requests (18% of IDPs, 3.7% of IDP returnees and 4% of refugee returnees).

Many families informed having lost their rights to or no longer access their property in their former neighbourhood/current locations.



On property issues, results show that most do not approach bodies traditionally involved in dealing with such claims (judiciary or the police). The main reasons were fear of religious or ethnic harassment, unusable or damaged, restricted movement and occupation by other IDPs or returnees. Female headed households experienced challenges in recovering rented and owned properties.



FOOD AND PDS CARDS

About 31% of IDPs, 12% of IDP returnees and 24% of refugee returnees reported that they did not have a valid PDS card and stated that this was due to their inability to transfer their PDS record due to Governorate restrictions (25% of IDPs, 17% of IDP returnees, 12% of refugee returnees) and missing documentation (21% of IDPs, 5% of IDP returnees, 13% of refugee returnees). Assessed communities relied on PDS food rations (91% of IDPs, 75% of IDP returnees, 50% of refugee returnees) and purchases made in the market (75% of IDPs, 64% of IDP returnees, 45% of refugee returnees) and food relief (23% of IDPs, 5% of IDP returnees, 39% of refugee returnees). PDS rations were only in 35% of the cases almost complete and were distributed every month in most locations.

Since April, PDS food rations and market purchases represented the main sources of food of all communities assessed. Food distribution was more important for IDPs. Sixty per cent of IDPs and 80% of returnees had valid PDS cards. The main reasons for not having a PDS card were the inability to transfer it due to governorate restrictions (20% of IDPs) and the lack of necessary documents (21% of IDPs, 2% of IDP returnees and 10% of refugee returnees).

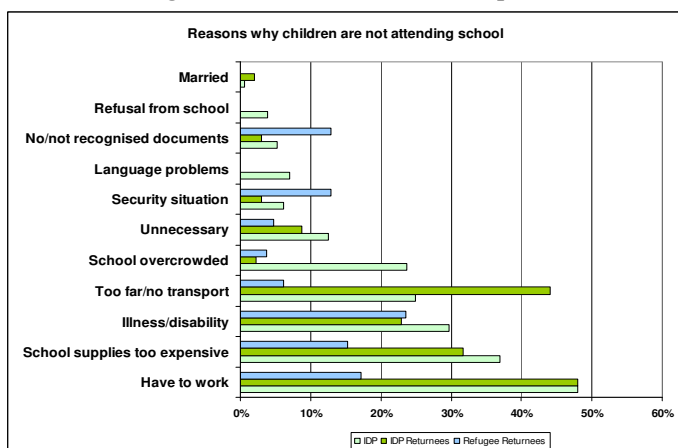
PDS rations were complete for 15% of IDPs, 20% of IDP returnees and 15% of refugee returnees and in the majority of the cases distributed on a monthly basis.

CHILDREN AND EDUCATION

The majority of communities assessed from January to March stated that only "some" children attended school. Only 14% of the groups reported that the majority of boys were attending school (9% of girls). Among the main reasons provided for not attending school, it was reported the need to work (53% of boys, 17% of girls), expensive school supplies (49% of boys, 52% of girls), expensive transportation (20% of boys, 19% of girls), overcrowded schools (12% of boys, 11% of girls) and missing documents for school admission (12% of all children). Communities indicated that education was deemed unnecessary (21% of girls) and tribal habits (19% of girls).

Communities further reported about children working (66% of boys, 15% of girls), children without both mother and father (45% of boys, 47% of girls), and children with mental disabilities (26% of boys, 20% of girls) as well as children experiencing domestic violence (5% of boys, 16% of girls).

Since April, communities confirmed the presence and functioning of primary and secondary schools in their locations. Some primary schools reportedly worked on up to 3 shifts. Some 58% of boys under 14 and 53% of girls under 14 attended schools. The main reasons for children not attending school were various and in particular:



Communities reported children with mental disabilities (20%), experiencing domestic violence (9%), begging (8%), without both father and mother, using recreational drugs as well as some living in the street.

INCOME AND EMPLOYMENT

About 58% of the groups interviewed from January to March stated that the majority of the working-age men were engaged in labor activities, in daily labor, in transport, agriculture, and constructions. High unemployment remains the main obstacle. Some 28% of IDPs also claimed that their qualifications were not recognized in the place of displacement, while 31% of refugee returnees mentioned lacking agricultural land/tools, seeds or fertilizer, 12% of refugee returnees also reported that they could not return to their public service job. Most female headed households worked to support themselves and their children (57% of IDPs, 46% of IDP returnees, 11% of refugee returnees), others were supported by relatives or friends (25% of IDPs, 45% of IDP returnees, 3.5% of refugee returnees), or by their children (20% of IDPs, 44% of IDP returnees, 4% of refugee returnees). Another 20% of female headed households informed not receiving any support.

Since April, 46% of working age males of the assessed communities were employed. Unemployment was due to lack of jobs in the area (mostly affecting refugee returnees), qualifications not recognized (again, affecting refugee returnees the most), restricted movement (mainly

affecting IDP returnees), language skills (mainly affecting IDPs) and in the case of agriculture lack of seeds and necessary equipment (mainly affecting IDPs), as well as loss of business. Female headed households mostly supported themselves though the assistance of relatives and friends, fewer on remunerated work, government social welfare, children's work, community, charities/religious groups and begging.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Many IDPs and returnees community assessed from January to March reported that they were treated similarly and did not indicate problems with local host communities. However, when it was revealed that they were treated worse or that relations with the local host community were tense, primarily it was mostly due to material and social issues: overburdened services, housing/land disputes and rising prices and, to a lesser degree, the (perceived) behaviour of the group and competition over employment.

Since April, most IDP and returnee communities who were assessed confirmed that there were no problems between groups and local communities (86.2% out of those who answered the question) a minority felt they were tense (3.5%). The main reasons for any tense relations were reported to be a combination of factors: overburdened services, rising prices, unemployment and discrimination.

BASIC SERVICES

The delivery of essential services remained a major challenge and could further strain the absorption capacity in assessed locations. From January to March, 53% of the communities reported access to electricity through a public network and 34% through private generators. Twenty-three per cent stated that electricity was available for 5 hours a day. Piped network was the main water source, for about 76% with potable water in 53% of the cases. Some 29% families reported water shortage. Primary health centres were accessible to 94% of IDPs, 89% of IDP returnees and 50% of refugee returnees, but health care fees were not affordable for 24% of IDPs, 1% of IDP returnees and 8% of refugee returnees. 1% of IDPs and 3% of IDP returnees were rejected from health institutions when in need of emergency medical help.

Since April, electricity was considered to be sufficient only for 20% of IDPs, 25% of IDP returnees and 5% of refugee returnees. Forty-two per cent of IDPs, 23% IDP returnees and 60% of refugee returnees stated having sufficient access to water. Access to sanitation facilities was reported as insufficient by 25% of IDPs, 26% of IDP returnees and 25% of refugee returnees. The majority of the communities informed having same level of access to the services as the local resident community.