

IOM IRAQ

# ACCESS TO DURABLE SOLUTIONS AMONG IDPs IN IRAQ

FOUR YEARS IN DISPLACEMENT

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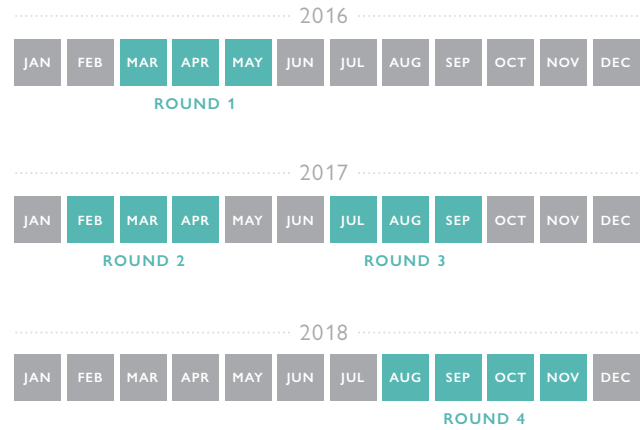
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# INTRODUCTION

*Access to Durable Solutions Among IDPs in Iraq* is an ongoing longitudinal study conducted by IOM Iraq and Georgetown University. The mixed-method project collects data from surveys and interviews to understand how the same 4,000 Iraqi IDP households displaced between January 2014 and December 2015 by ISIL try to access a durable solution to their displacement.<sup>1</sup>








The findings of the study generalize to non-camp IDP households originally from Anbar, Babylon, Baghdad, Diyala, Kirkuk, Ninewa, and Salah al-Din (seven governorates of origin) who were displaced to one of four governorates where the study was fielded: Baghdad, Basra, Kirkuk, and Sulaymaniyah.

To date, four rounds of data have been collected:



## Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) 2010 Framework on Durable Solutions for IDPs

This brief looks at trends in each of the eight criteria that collectively measure a durable solution.

<p>CRITERIA 1</p> <p> SAFETY AND SECURITY</p> <p>CRITERIA 2</p> <p> STANDARD OF LIVING</p> <p>CRITERIA 3</p> <p> LIVELIHOOD AND EMPLOYMENT</p> <p>CRITERIA 4</p> <p> HOUSING, LAND, AND PROPERTY</p>	<p>CRITERIA 5 AND 6</p> <p> PERSONAL AND OTHER DOCUMENTATION AND FAMILY SEPARATION AND REUNIFICATION</p> <p>CRITERIA 7</p> <p> PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS</p> <p>CRITERIA 8</p> <p> ACCESS TO JUSTICE</p>
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The brief is divided into two parts. Part I looks at progress towards durable solutions to displacement among the IDPs who remain displaced in the same location to which they were first displaced at the start of the study in March 2016.<sup>2</sup>

Part II looks at progress among sampled returnee households who returned to their places of origin.<sup>3</sup> This brief summarizes trends observed over these four rounds of data collection for households who participated in all rounds of the study.

1 Durable solutions are generally considered to be return, integration, or resettlement/relocation. The Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) 2010's "Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons" identifies a durable solution to displacement when IDPs "no longer have any specific assistance and protection needs that are linked to their displacement and can enjoy their human rights without discrimination on account of their displacement." United Nations General Assembly. Report of the Representative of the Secretary-General on the human rights of internally displaced persons, Walter Kälin: Framework on Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons, A/HRC/13/21/Add.4, (9 February 2010), p. 1. Available from [www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=A/HRC/13/21/Add.4](http://www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=A/HRC/13/21/Add.4)

2 Findings from the 2,198 households generalize to a population of approximately 83,000 IDPs who remain in displacement. The margin of error on reported findings in Part I is 2.1 percentage points. The study tracked a subset of households who moved from one district to another but who never returned home. These "movers" have been excluded from this report. Instead please see: Access to Durable Solutions Among IDPs in Iraq: Moving in Displacement. September 2019. <https://iraq.iom.int/publications/access-durable-solutions-among-idps-iraq-moving-displacement>

3 Access to Durable Solutions Among IDPs in Iraq is a prospective study and not designed to be representative of future returnees when the study sample was initially constructed. Findings about returnees apply only to sampled households and are not representative of all returnees in areas of return.

A woman wearing a headscarf and dark clothing is walking towards the camera in a makeshift settlement. She is carrying a white bucket in her right hand. The settlement consists of numerous tents and temporary structures. In the background, a white truck with the UNICEF logo is visible. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter.

SECTION 1:

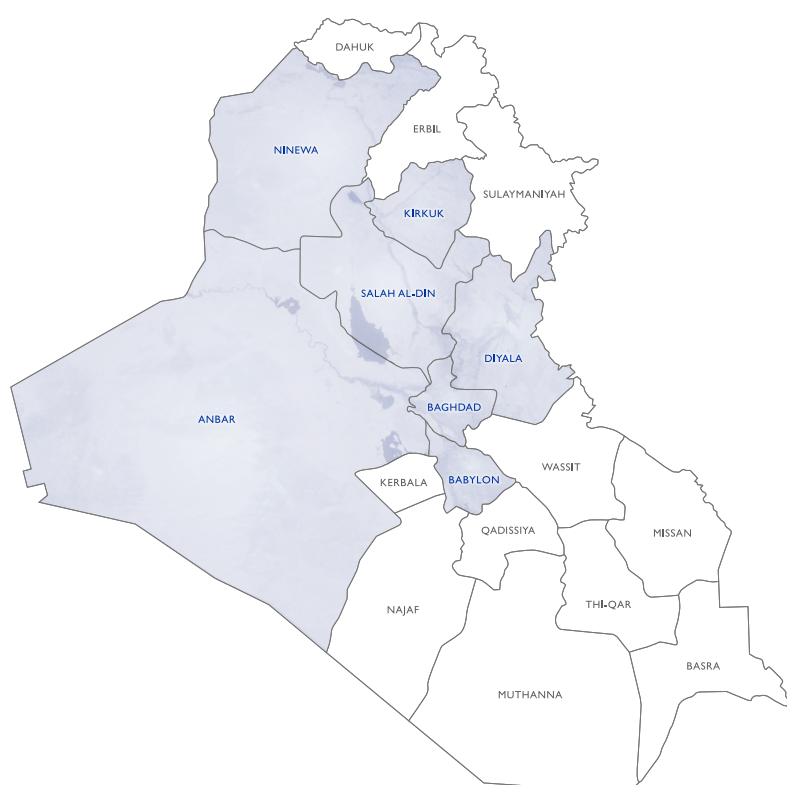
IDPs

## SECTION I: IDPs

IDPs: WEIGHTED SAMPLE*					
Where they were displaced to (Displacement Governorate)					
WHERE THEY WERE FROM (ORIGIN GOVERNORATE)	BAGHDAD %	BASRA %	KIRKUK %	SULAYMANIAH %	TOTAL
Anbar	94.9	0.6	1.3	3.2	41.7
Babylon	69.7	0.7	0.8	28.7	2.6
Baghdad	83.9	0.7	2.3	13.2	6.6
Diyala	40.6	0.8	11.8	46.7	6.7
Kirkuk	3.7	0.9	95.4	0.0	16.7
Ninewa	48.7	7.9	23.4	20.0	7.7
Salah al-Din	44.4	2.3	47.4	5.8	17.9
<i>Total</i>	<i>62.00</i>	<i>1.6</i>	<i>27.8</i>	<i>8.7</i>	<i>100%</i>

\* The population to whom the study generalizes is those non-camp IDP households displaced from one of the seven origin governorates to one of the four displacement governorates. The sample reflects this population as reported in IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) in December 2015.

Map 1: Depiction of Governorates of Displacement



## KEY FINDINGS AMONG IDPs

### **CRITERIA 1:** SAFETY AND SECURITY

IDP households feel increasingly safe in Round 4 (August–November 2018) compared to Round 1 (March–May 2016). In Round 4, for the first time since the beginning of the study, a majority of IDPs reported feeling completely safe in their areas of displacement. A large majority also feel accepted by and share values with their host communities.

### **CRITERIA 2:** STANDARD OF LIVING

The share of those who can provide for basic needs has plateaued at around 70 per cent of the households. There is a significant increase in the share who need to reduce food consumption to be able to meet their basic needs. The cost of food represents the biggest share of monthly expenses. Borrowing money from family and friends remains the most common strategy to provide for basic needs.

### **CRITERIA 3:** LIVELIHOOD AND EMPLOYMENT

IDPs' ability to obtain income to sustain livelihoods is becoming more secure. IDPs are increasingly employed in the public sector and relying less on informal sector jobs and borrowing money to sustain their livelihoods. The vast majority of former farmers and herders have not been able to work in the agriculture sector while in displacement. Nine out of ten IDP households were not receiving humanitarian aid in Round 4 (August–November 2018).

### **CRITERIA 4:** HOUSING, LAND, AND PROPERTY

The proportion of IDPs who can access their property in their areas of origin increased greatly between Rounds 3 and 4 (July–September 2017 and August–November 2018). However, those who have not returned report higher levels of destruction of their homes. Therefore, despite having access, the condition of IDPs' properties in their areas of origin may prevent them from returning. In Round 4 (August–November 2018), half of IDPs report applying for compensation compared to only 4 per cent in Round 3 (July–September 2017).

### **CRITERIA 5 AND 6:** PERSONAL AND OTHER DOCUMENTATION AND FAMILY SEPARATION AND REUNIFICATION

IDPs have reported very low rates of documentation loss and have increasingly been able to recover them. Family separation also remains low among this IDP population and reasons for continuing separation are non-displacement related, such as marriage and employment, except among a small portion of the population where a family member has returned to the area of origin.

### **CRITERIA 7:** PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS

In Round 4 (August–November 2018), reported civic participation nearly doubled from Round 3 (July–September 2017) (23.6% and 14.3% respectively). Over the four rounds, civic participation has remained low. Of those who participated, school groups and committees were the most common types of community engagement.

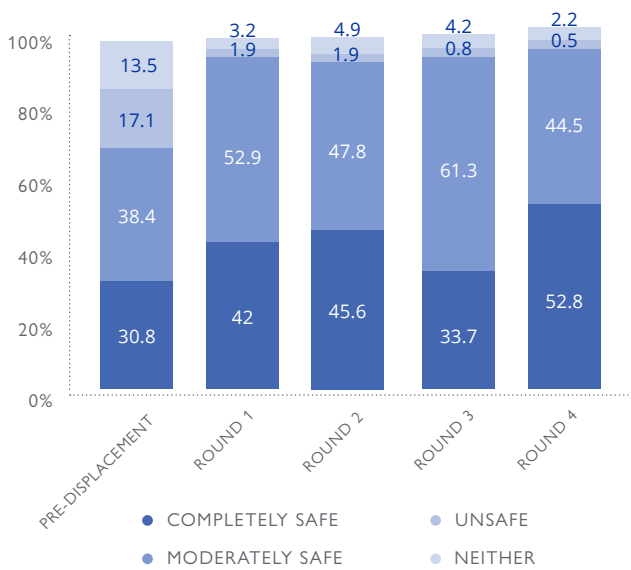
### **CRITERIA 8:** ACCESS TO JUSTICE

According to IDPs, prosecution of criminals is the central element of achieving justice. IDPs report higher levels of trust in the courts when it comes to justice for regular crimes and war crimes. IDPs trust in the international community to deal with war crimes fell between Rounds 3 and 4 (July–September 2017 and August–November 2018).

## CRITERIA 1: SAFETY AND SECURITY

Access to Durable Solutions Among IDPs in Iraq consistently has found that displacement is a strategy IDPs use to overcome threats to their safety and security. Since Round 1 (March–May 2016), more than 95 per cent have reported feeling safe, and in Round 4 (August–November 2018), for the first time, a majority reported feeling “completely” safe. In Round 4 (August–November 2018), fewer than 1 per cent reported facing any security threat, such as petty crime.

*Do you and your family feel safe in this community?*

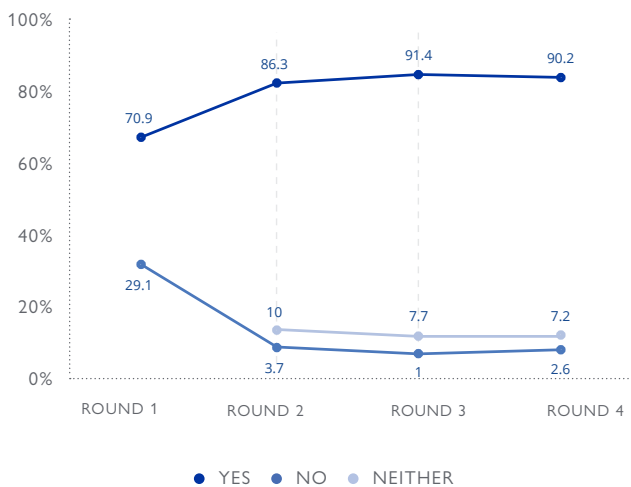


### SAFETY AND SECURITY

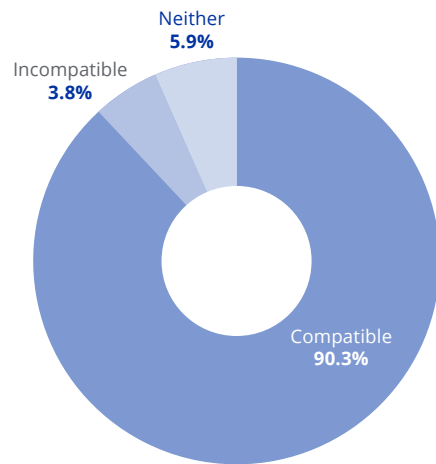
Share of Households That Have Moderate or Complete Trust in...

	ROUND 3 %	ROUND 4 %
Neighbours	74.4	85.4
Shopkeepers and Merchants	44.8	65.0
Local Officials	39.5	38.5
Others in Neighbourhood	44.4	43.1

*Do you and your family feel accepted as members of this community?*



*Do you feel that the norms, traditions, and cultural values of this community are compatible with yours?*



ROUND 4



In addition to feelings of physical and personal security, moreover, IDPs seem to have developed a sense of community trust. By Round 4 (August–November 2018), 90 per cent of households say they feel accepted as members of the host community. This is true across all four governorates (those reporting strongly or somewhat accepted: Baghdad 91%; Basra 95%; Kirkuk 86%; Sulaymaniyah: 93%). IDP households' levels of trust in local community members – particularly neighbours and local shopkeepers and merchants – also increased between 2017 and 2018. The overwhelming majority of IDPs suggests that the values of the host community are compatible with their own.

A university lecturer in Basra commented on the integration of IDPs into local communities:

“*Indeed IDPs have become a part of the community as they are now working, studying, and living here with us in the same environment. I did not notice having real barriers between IDPs and the host community, although that doesn't mean they don't exist. Mostly they have integrated with the community after their initial period of displacement. I will say there was sympathy by the host community when they arrived, which made their acceptance by the community for them happen quickly.*

An IDP from Mosul, Ninewa currently living in Basra comments on the reasons why he feels safe:

“*My family and I feel safe, and it's because of two things. First, the security forces are doing their duty in protecting civilians and are in control of the situation. Second, the host community has embraced us and they understand the word “displaced” to mean people who have escaped from ISIL, and not as those who are affiliated with ISIL.*

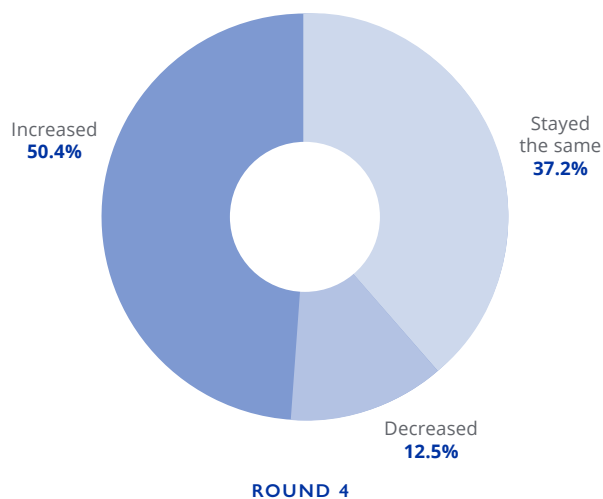
An IDP from Baiji, Salah al-Din displaced to Kirkuk explains why his family feels safe:

“*My family and I feel safe here because the people in this area are peaceful and collaborative with the security forces. The situation has not changed since I came here to this area and until now the situation has stayed the same. People are welcoming of strangers here in this area and they help strangers which is why, until now, the area did not face any security violations or problems.*

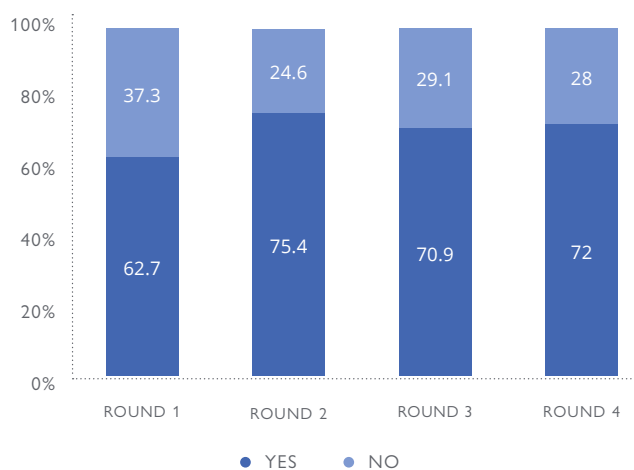
## CRITERIA 2: STANDARD OF LIVING

Since Round 2 (February–April 2017), more than 70 per cent of households have been able to provide for their basic needs. However, being able to do so has become more difficult over time. Around half of all IDP households indicate that the costs of their basic needs have increased in the past three months. Increasingly large shares of IDPs report employing two strategies to cope with rising costs: borrowing money and reducing food consumption. Throughout Rounds 1 to 4 (March–May 2016 to August–November 2018), borrowing money remained the most common strategy that families adopted to provide for basic needs. Between Rounds 3 and 4 (July–September 2017 and August–November 2018), the share that has had to reduce food consumption nearly tripled. Also, among all basic needs, the average amount spent on food per month is higher than all other costs: food expenses amount to 35 per cent of the total amount spent on basic needs per month.<sup>4</sup>

*Over the past three months, have the costs of your family's basic needs:*



*Has your family been able to provide for your basic needs in the past three months?*



Still, by Round 4 (August–November 2018), only 24 per cent households say their standard of living in Round 4 (August–November 2018) was worse than it was before displacement, down from nearly 86 per cent in Round 1 (March–May 2016). A slight majority suggests their standard of living is the same as the host community's, but many still feel that they are worse off than other IDPs.

STANDARD OF LIVING			
What is the main strategy your family has adopted to provide for your basic needs? <sup>a</sup>			
	ROUND 1 %	ROUND 3 %	ROUND 4 %
Borrow money	39.4	36.1	41.2
Receive money	4.9	22.4	8.4
Consume savings	11.5	6.5	4.2
Share house	11.5	6.9	10.6
Reduce food consumption	17.0	9.4	26.0
Reduce other expenses	3.8	13.8	0.4
Other <sup>b</sup>	11.9	4.9	9.2

a. Question not asked in Round 2.

b. Includes employing children under 16, stop sending children to school, limiting medical care, and selling assets or property.

<sup>4</sup> These findings are in line with those reported by the Iraq Knowledge Network in December 2011. "In 2011, the ratio of expenditures on food is 34.5 per cent of total expenditures compared to 2007 when the ratio of expenditures on food from total expenditures was 35.6 per cent." Iraq Knowledge Network. "Food Security and Expenditure Factsheet." December 2011: p. 1 [www.ilo.org/surveydata/index.php/catalog/31/download/384](http://www.ilo.org/surveydata/index.php/catalog/31/download/384).

An IDP from al-Muqdadiya in Diyala, now living in Basra, describes his inability to provide for his family's needs:

“ Our income is no longer enough to cover the basic expenses of the family. What I earn in money is spent on paying rent for the house, which is IQD 150,000 (USD 132) and providing some basic food items such as sugar, tea, bread, and some vegetables. Sometimes I can't even provide for vegetables so my family would depend on the sweets we sell for food. I gave up many things including and most importantly the education for the children because I can't afford transportation fees and provide clothes and school expenses.

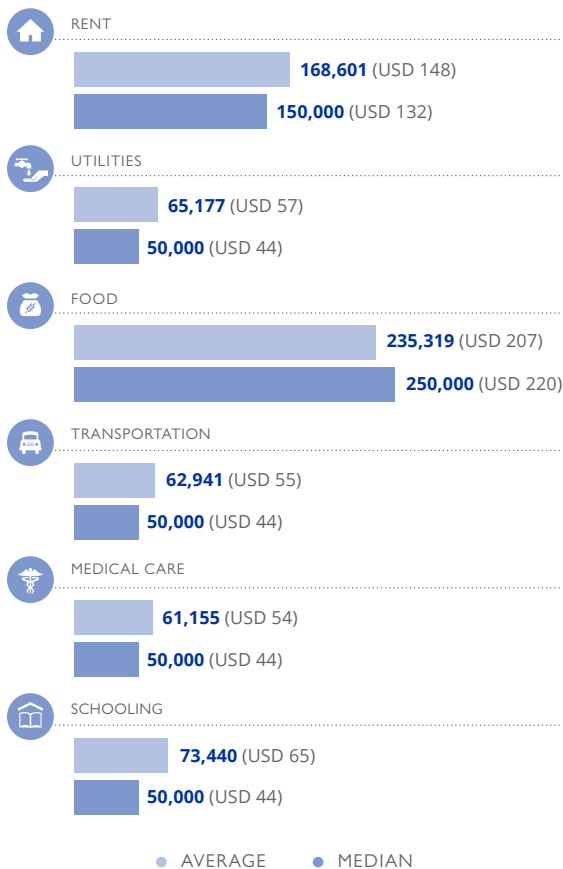
An IDP from Mosul, Ninewa residing in Kirkuk discusses having to give up certain things in order to make ends meet:

“ Because of the high cost of living here I cannot provide for all the needs for the family, despite the fact that I work two jobs for more than fifteen hours a day. I pay IQD 250,000 (USD 220) for rent in addition to services such as electricity, water, municipality, and also car fuel here is expensive because there are no public gas stations like the rest of the areas. In addition to food items, clothes, and many other needs. The first thing we gave up was buying new clothes. We now buy used clothes, and also in terms of food items we don't buy expensive goods. We always try to buy what is suitable for us based on potential.

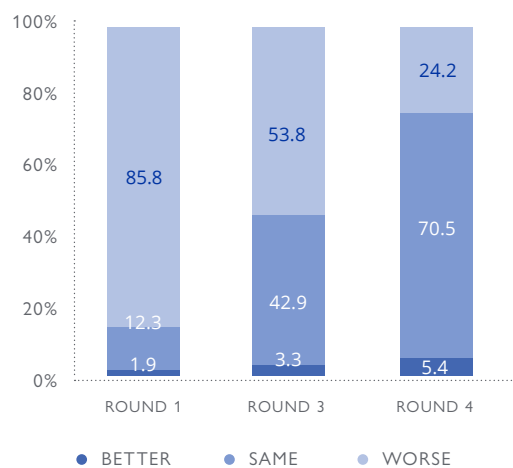
An IDP from Ramadi in Anbar and displaced to Basra describes having to borrow money from relatives to meet his family's needs:

“ I spend about IQD 600,000 (USD 528) a month on rent for the house. During school time, I need to spend about IQD 60,000 to 70,000 (USD 53 to 62) a month for the children's expenses in addition to IQD 550,000 (USD 484) on food and water and other items. Of course, all of these expenses sometimes increase or decrease depending on monthly needs. Of course, this amount is higher than my monthly salary, which makes me sometimes need to borrow from my wife's relatives and pay them back later.

**Reported Amount Spent (Iraqi Dinars) Each Month On:**



**How would you rate your standard of living now in comparison to your situation on 1 January 2014?\***



\*Question not asked in Round 2.

ROUND 4		
How would you rate your standard of living compared to?		
	HOST COMMUNITY	OTHER IDPs IN THE AREA
Better	1.8	9.9
Same	52.5	27.0
Worse	45.7	63.2



### CRITERIA 3:

## LIVELIHOOD AND EMPLOYMENT

LIVELIHOOD AND EMPLOYMENT					
What is your primary source of income/money?*					
	PRE-DISPLACEMENT %	ROUND 1 %	ROUND 2 %	ROUND 3 %	ROUND 4 %
Public job	19.7	0.0	18.5	17.2	24.7
Private job	5.6	0.5	4.8	2.1	5.9
Agriculture	27.6	0.0	0.4	2.4	0.5
Business	16.6	0.0	14.3	16.6	22.3
Informal labour	18.6	0.1	41.8	43.4	30.1
Pension	8.9	1.1	10.7	10.4	11.0
Other	2.2	0.1	8.2	6.2	3.3
No source	0.8	98.2	1.3	1.7	2.4

\* In Round 1, the question wording in Arabic was "income," which respondents understood as a steady, consistent salary. As such, in subsequent rounds, the question wording was changed to ask about the primary source of "money."

For the first time since the study began tracking households in displacement, the share of those working in the informal sector has decreased and the shares working in public jobs or business have surpassed the pre-displacement shares. Though it is not necessarily the same households returning to the same types of jobs they held prior to displacement, the general shift away from the informal sector –one that

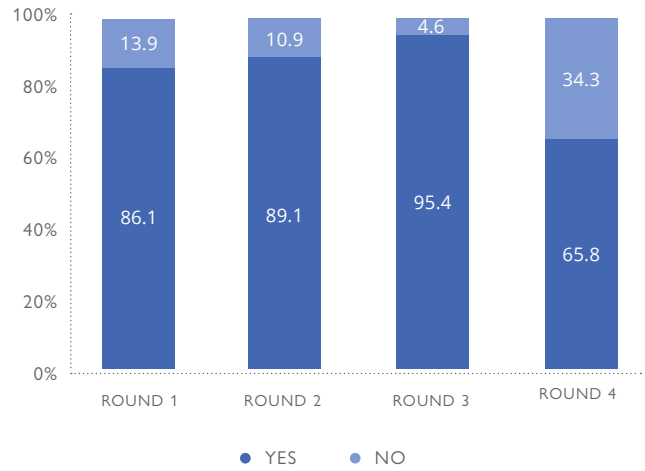
is known to offer little job security or labour protection– to more formal jobs suggests that IDP households are beginning to find job stability in displacement. IDPs regularly expressed in interviews their desires for them or their children to get more regular employment, particularly government jobs. The study shows that they seem to have made efforts and been successful towards doing that.

Observed trends in the need and ability to borrow and repay money provide further evidence of more stability in livelihood when looked at over time. After steadily rising between Rounds 1 and 3 (March–May 2016 to July–September 2017), the share of those who report needing to borrow money drops for the first time in Round 4 (August–November 2018) to the lowest share it has ever been since 2016. Furthermore, almost all households (94%) who needed to borrow money were able to do so, a significant improvement over previous rounds. Among those who had to borrow money at some time since 1 January 2014, a combined majority has either finished or is in the process of repaying debt (60.3%).

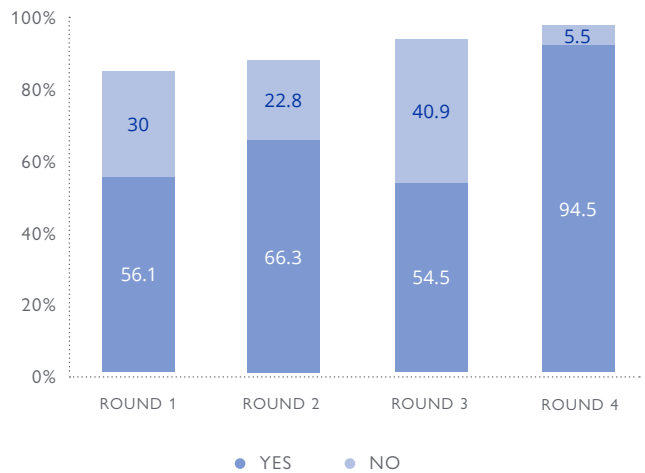
An IDP originally from Mosul, Ninewa, describes having moved from Kirkuk to Erbil in order to start a new job and better provide for his family:

“ I moved to Erbil last year because of job opportunities and the living conditions here are better. I also found a better job as a tour guide with one of the tourism companies in Erbil in addition to my job as a taxi driver in my car. As you know, job opportunities in Kirkuk are few and after the changes in circumstances it became hard to provide for the needs of the family because of lack of assistance and no job opportunities. That is why we decided to look for a better place to live in and we settled here. Yes, we needed to borrow some money in the beginning because there were a lot of needs.

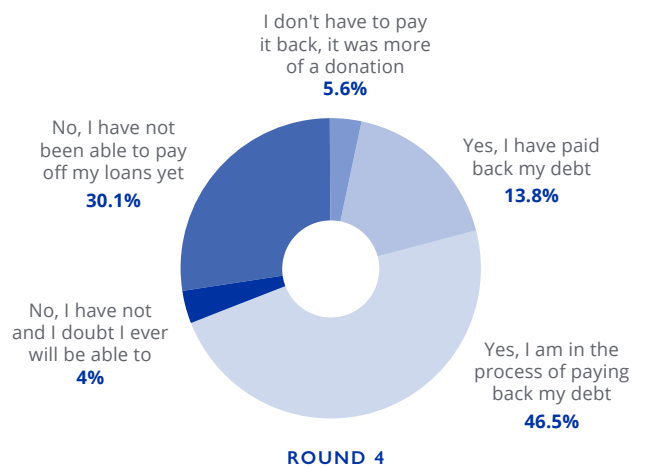
**In the past 12 months, have you needed to borrow money?**



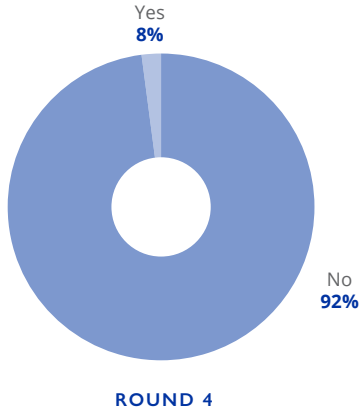
**If you needed money, were you able to borrow it?**



**If you borrowed money at any time since 1 January 2014 (since being displaced), have you been able to pay back this debt?**



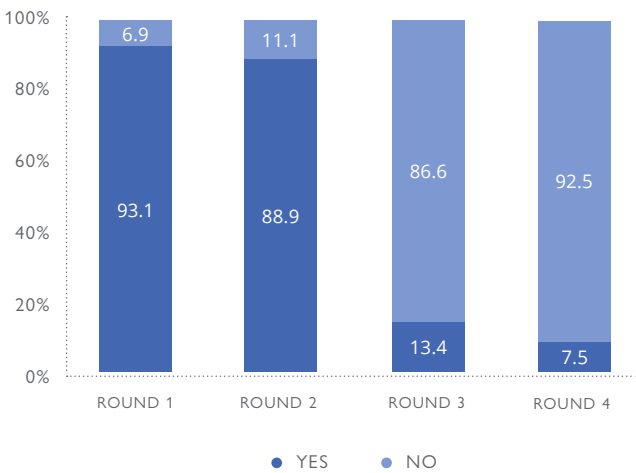
**In the past 12 months, has your household received any assistance from the Ministry of Migration and Displacement?**



Access to humanitarian aid has decreased. By Round 4 (August–November 2018), fewer than 10 per cent of IDP households report receiving aid, mostly in the form of food and water by NGOs.

But among those whose job stability is not yet solidified, humanitarian aid is a necessary lifeline to free up needed funds for basic needs.

**Proportion of IDP Households Receiving Humanitarian Aid**



As one IDP household originally from Mosul, Ninewa and displaced to Basra explained:

“ One time I received food items (food cart) from the Ministry of Migration and Displacement in Basra. I receive a monthly (phone) credit from the IOM. These materials helped us to buy basic food items such as sugar, tea, milk, lentils, cooking oil, etc. for two months. The materials that are distributed cost no more than IQD 34,000 (USD 30) and it is not enough to even pay or help with the rent. It could possibly be spent on visiting the doctor, but we need these items on a monthly basis because they reduce the burden of the costs of living.

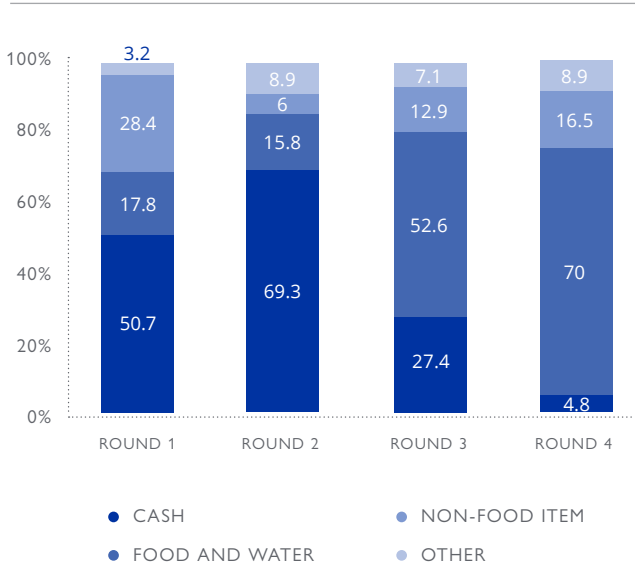
Another IDP from a village in Kirkuk district and now living in Kirkuk, describes how aid was used to help the household, before it stopped entirely:

“ We have not received assistance since we last spoke almost a year ago. Both food and non-food aid was cut. Before, we used to get assistance frequently and it helped us a lot in providing for a part of our needs.

Another IDP originally from al-Musayab, Babylon living in Sulaymaniyah discusses how he found a permanent job while in displacement:

“ Yes, I changed my job. I used to work as a generator operator, and now I am working as sales staff in a car showroom. I got this job through the help of a friend.

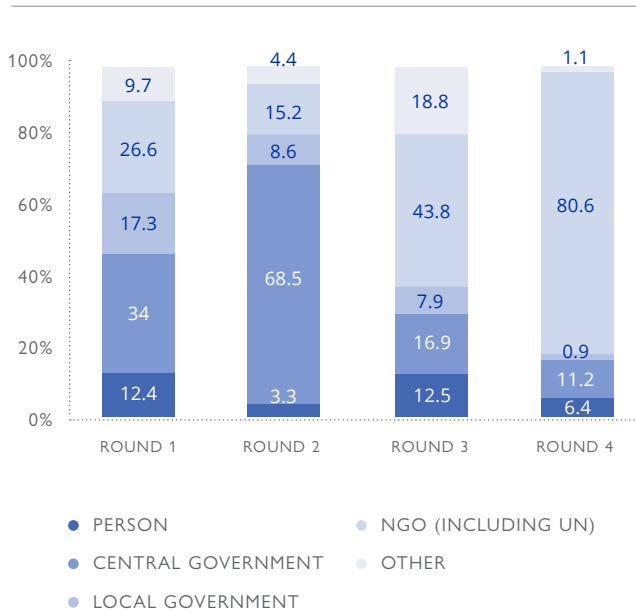
Type of Aid Among Households Receiving It (7.5% in Round 4)



An aid worker from a local NGO operating in Kirkuk and working with displaced children commented:

“ [We face the] problem of funding and obtaining grants and projects for in the current conditions and time. A lot of organizations face the problem of the lack of funding and the lack of donors. This is not like in the beginning when there was strong funding and strong support for the organizations. Our NGO had funding from three sources, and we had more than one project.

Provider of Aid Among Households Receiving It (7.5% in Round 4)



Another aid worker from a local aid organization based in Basra, described the challenges their organization faces:

“ Funding is the biggest challenge. There is not enough funding for the local organizations, despite the local organization’s great knowledge of the societal conditions in all its categories because they are closest to the community. Also, coordination is another challenge, as I mentioned previously. Weak coordination hinders finding a solution to this problem because the international and governmental organizations work according to a vision developed by specialists who have no relations to the [public] street and no full understanding of the public needs. The lack of trust between the local and international community poses an obstacle to the existence of sources of funding for local organizations. The solution is to encourage high coordination and information sharing, creating trust and, thus, joint action.

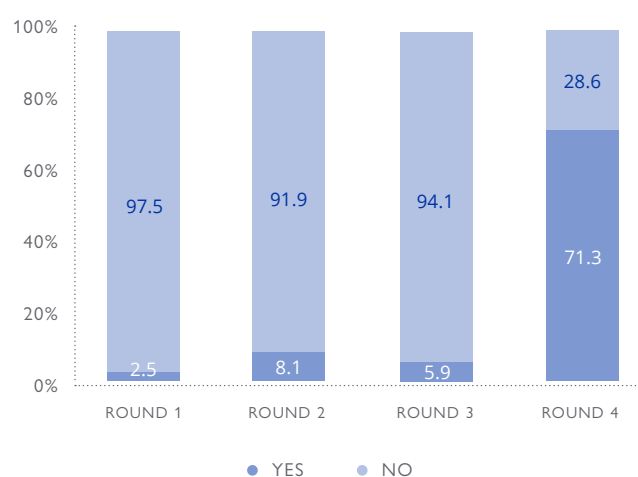
## CRITERIA 4: HOUSING, LAND, AND PROPERTY

Throughout their time in displacement, the overwhelming majority of households rented housing, and of those renting, 94 per cent of households in each round pay the rent themselves. As reported in Criteria 2, rent constitutes the second largest cost that IDP households incur in displacement, with most households paying approximately IQD 168,600 (USD 148) on average per month in rental expenses.

IDPs who returned (and are thus not included in this part of the report) have lower rates of house destruction. While access to property has become less of a problem over time, the condition of the property remains an impediment to return. As IDP families have learned about the condition of their property over time and fighting has ceased, 57 per cent of IDP households in Round 4 (August–November 2018) –the highest share in any round– report heavy damage or destruction of their property. Another third suggest that their property is at least partially damaged. Thus, the condition of IDPs’ property in their areas of origin may be an impediment to return home.

In Rounds 1 through 3 (March–May 2016; July–September 2017), access to property was a concern for nearly all IDP households: in Round 1 (March–May 2016), most of those who could not access their properties cited active fighting (41%) and community tensions (33%), reasons that were also the most frequently cited in Round 2 (February–April 2017) (28% and 23%, respectively). By Rounds 3 and 4 (July–September 2017; August–November 2018) the reasons shifted: 40 per cent of IDP households in Round 3 (July–September 2017) and 58 per cent in Round 4 (August–November 2018) said it was because access was not authorized by security or local officials.

### Access property in governorate of origin?



HOUSING, LAND, AND PROPERTY					
Shelter Type in Displacement					
	PRE-DIS-PLACEMENT %	ROUND 1 %	ROUND 2 %	ROUND 3 %	ROUND 4 %
Owned Home <sup>a</sup>	79.8	3.7	5.2	5.1	13.6
Rented Home <sup>a</sup>	18.1	78.1	78.4	79.7	82.4
Hosted	1.0	7.5	5.7	8.7	1.5
Other <sup>b</sup>	1.1	10.7	10.7	6.5	2.5

a. With immediate or extended family.

b. Includes camps, unfinished building or housing, religious building or institution, hotel/motel, school or other government building.

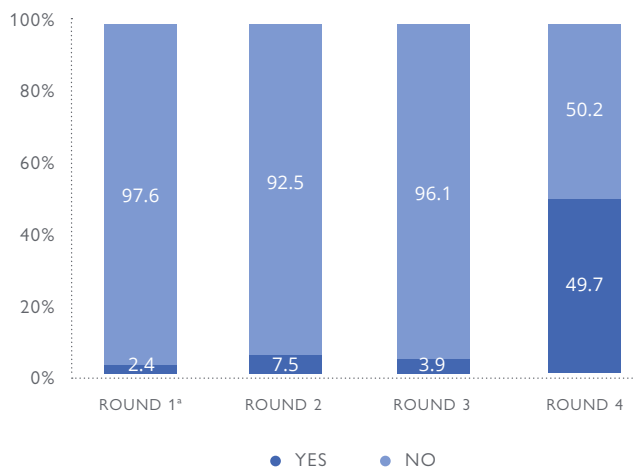
HOUSING, LAND, AND PROPERTY				
Condition of property in governorate of origin?				
	ROUND 1 %	ROUND 2 %	ROUND 3 %	ROUND 4 %
Heavily damaged or destroyed	25.0	42.5	39.5	57.1
Partially damaged	31.0	28.8	30.4	31.7
Good condition	7.5	0.8	6.8	7.9
Do not know	36.5	26.4	23.1	3.2
Other	NA <sup>a</sup>	1.7	0.2	NA <sup>a</sup>

a. Category not asked in this round.



Nearly half of all IDP households indicated applying for compensation by Round 4 (August–November 2018), a significant increase from Round 1 (March–May 2016), where only 9 per cent of all IDPs knew compensation existed, and only 2 per cent applied. Despite the significant increase in Round 4 (August–November 2018) in the share of households applying for compensation, 97 per cent of households who have applied are still waiting to hear back decision on their applications. Only 1 per cent say their claims have been accepted, and 2 per cent say their claims have been rejected.

**Applied to compensation?**



a. In Round 1, only 9.6 per cent of all IDPs indicated they knew compensation existed. The reported numbers in this table apply to all IDPs, regardless of their knowledge of compensation.

As an IDP from Daquq, Kirkuk governorate displaced within the governorate describes their home area:

*“ We visited the area of origin but there are unexploded ordinance and the Iraqi army did not allow us to enter for our safety. Houses there are destroyed and are uninhabitable. The things we used to own were burned.*

An IDP from Mosul, Ninewa displaced to Basra reiterated the importance of compensation to achieve a durable housing solution:

*“ My house is severely damaged and needs reconstruction. My eldest son went there once while my neighbours were there. I need compensation from the government. That is my right. Otherwise, how can I or anyone else return when we don't have the ability?*

An IDP from al-Hawija, Kirkuk and displaced within the Kirkuk governorate describes the destruction of their house and farmland in their village of origin:

*“ We had in the area of origin a house and farmland we used to farm and benefit from its crops. But because of ISIL's attack the house was damaged and only the walls remained. The farmland we used to own was set on fire and a section of the trees planted became ill because of the burning and contamination of the environment with chemicals. We need stability of the security situation there and a reconstruction of our house so that we can live in it again and re-establish the farmland.*

Another IDP originally from Khanaqin, Diyala and now living in Baghdad describes her family's difficulties with rebuilding their home in Diyala:

*“ Some months ago we visited the spot of land that we had previously known as our house. Until now, we are not able to rebuild it because of the lack of compensation by both government and organizations. I do not have enough money. It is impossible to rebuild. I stand with folded hands facing these circumstances.*

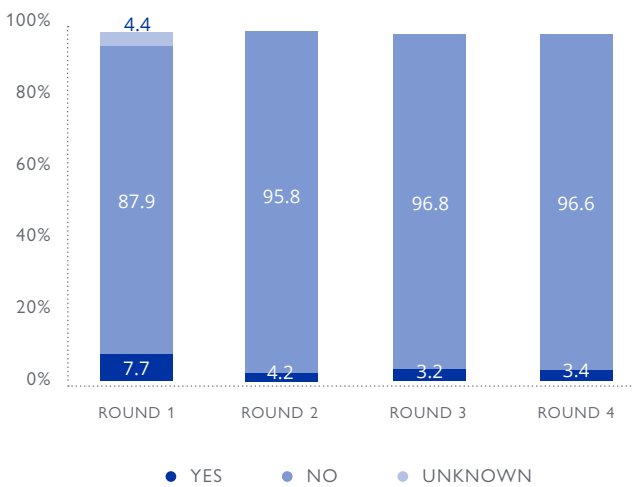


**CRITERIA 5 AND 6:**

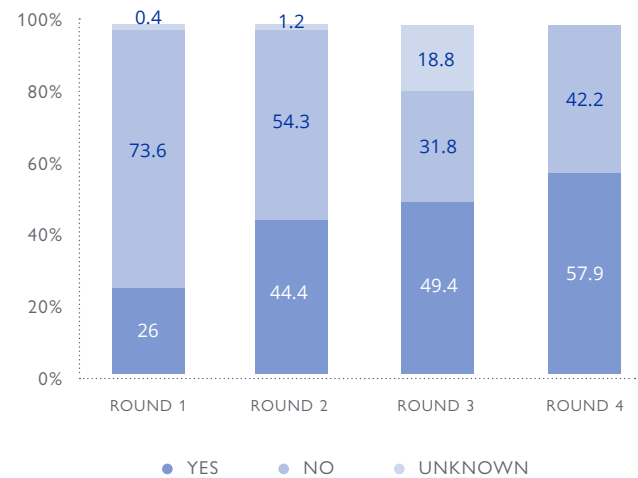
**PERSONAL AND OTHER DOCUMENTATION AND FAMILY SEPARATION AND REUNIFICATION**

This population of non-camp IDPs overall have not experienced loss of documents, and among those who have, increasing shares have been able to recover them over time.<sup>5</sup> A multi-cluster needs assessment survey conducted in September 2018 similarly found that low shares of households displaced in the same time frame as the households in this study (2014–2015) reported having lost documents.<sup>6</sup>

*Have you or any family member lost documents?*



*If yes, were you able to replace those lost documents?*



An IDP from Ramadi, Anbar describes the difficulties she faced in getting her daughters' documents in Basra, their area of displacement:

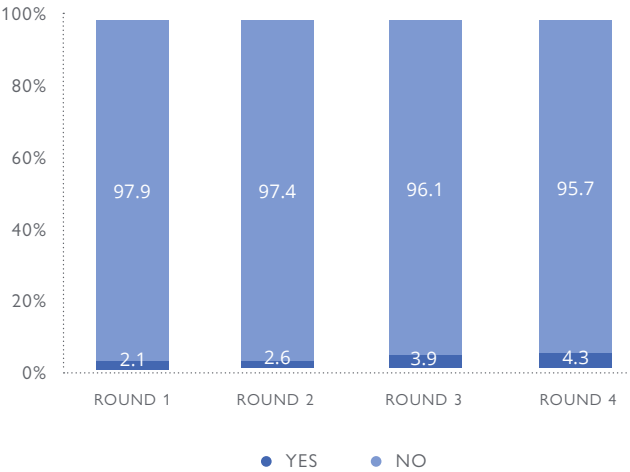
“ The Department of Passports asked for verification of issuance with proof of guardianship from the court because my daughters are underaged and their father is deceased. When I applied to obtain proof of guardianship from the court there were issues between the court and the Department of Passports, so they took my civil status ID and my residency for 6 months because I am from Anbar. Until this day I have not been able to obtain passports for my daughters. I did not feel like I was treated like an equal among the members of the host community at all; they treated me in a bad way. They began assailing me with questions about how we got here and told me that we were the cause of all these problems.

5 As a reminder, the sample frame for the study was provided by the DTM in December 2015. The study findings generalize to the non-camp population of IDPs displaced by ISIS between January 2014 and December 2015 from one of seven governorates of origin to Baghdad, Basra, Kirkuk, and Sulaymaniyah. The study does not generalize to the camp population of IDPs, IDPs in other geographic locations, or IDPs displaced after December 2015.

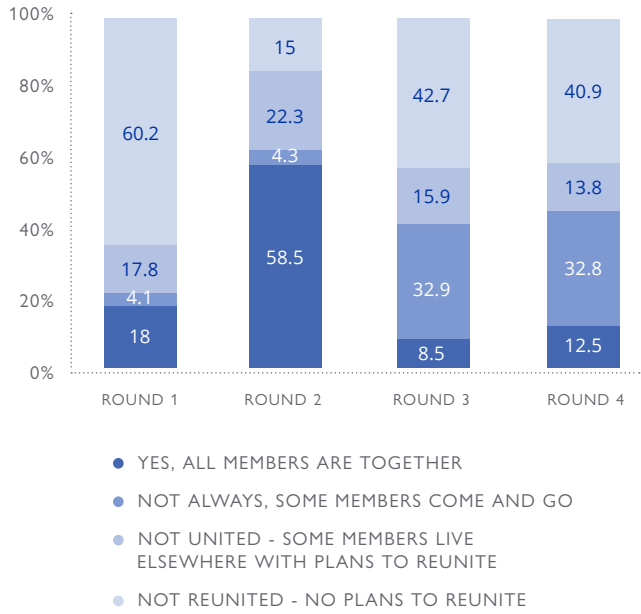
6 REACH Initiative. "Iraq: Multi-Cluster Needs Assessment Round VI." September 2018. [www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/assessments/reach\\_irq\\_report\\_mcna\\_vi\\_sept2018\\_1.pdf](http://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/assessments/reach_irq_report_mcna_vi_sept2018_1.pdf)

Family separations among non-camp IDP households remains very small. Less than five per cent were separated for more than three months in Round 4 (August–November 2018). In part, these separations are due to normal movement such as marriages and jobs. In other cases, a member of the family has returned.

**Were usual members of the family separated for more than 3 months?**



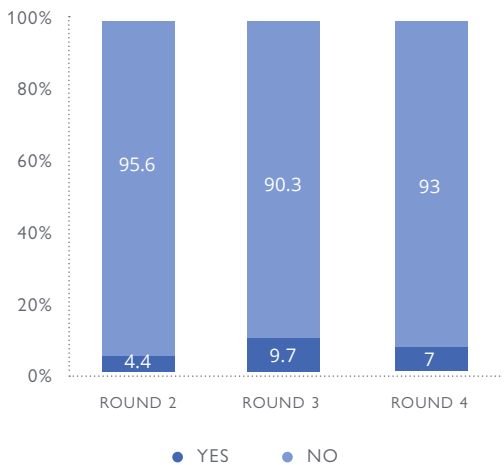
**If separated for more than 3 months, are all members reunited now?**



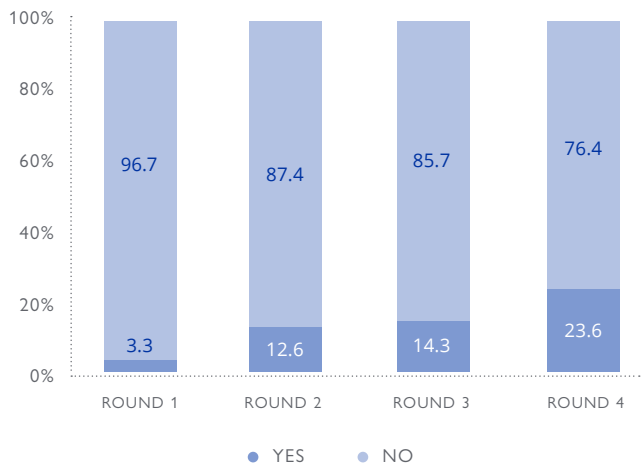
## CRITERIA 7: PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Civic participation –be it through volunteering, donating money, or attending meetings of any groups– has been low among IDP households throughout their time in displacement, though in Round 4 (August–November 2018) the share does increase significantly to 23 per cent, up from 14 per cent a year earlier and just 3 per cent in Round 1 (March–May 2016). Of numerous types of civic organizations or professional associations –including political, religious, cultural, and charity groups– the study asked IDP households about, parent groups or school committees were the only type that registered response rates higher than five per cent.

**Participated in truth and reconciliation councils?**



**Participated in any civic group?**



## PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS

How much influence do you think people like yourself have in making this community a better place to live?

	PRE-DISPLACEMENT %	ROUND 1 %	ROUND 2 %	ROUND 3 %	ROUND 4 %
A lot	28.0	5.2	3.5	2.9	2.5
Some	40.5	17.9	33.6	36.6	43.2
Not a lot	17.6	26.4	29.4	34.6	40.1
None	10.3	35.6	27.1	22.0	14.2
Do not know	3.6	14.9	6.4	3.9	NA

As an IDP from Daquq, Kirkuk who remained in Kirkuk governorate discussed:

“Neither my father nor I belong to any club or official group. But based on our work in the field of education we attend meetings of parents’ council in school in addition to my father who is a member of the teachers’ association which is a governmental committee. But before displacement for me I did not belong to any group or club. But my father was a member of the teachers’ association for a long time.

Parliamentary elections were held in May 2018 and Round 4 (August–November 2018) of this study asked about voting behaviour. A slight majority of IDP household heads indicated they did vote in those elections, and among those who did, the overwhelming majority were able to vote in their governorates of displacement.<sup>7</sup> But among those who did not vote, the majority said it was because they had no interest or faith in the political system. Another portion was either unable to or did not receive the biometric card (29%).

An IDP originally from Khanaqin, Diyala displaced to Sulaymaniyah further explained:

“I voted in my governorate of displacement and was disappointed. I did not trust the process, and I never do, because there is a lot of fraud in the whole process. There is no transparency in elections.

## ROUND 4 VOTING BEHAVIOUR

Did the household head vote in the 12 May 2018 Elections? %		If not, why? %	
Yes	55.8	Did not receive biometric card	18.2
		Unable to apply for biometric card	15.8
		No interest or faith in the political system	53.1
No	44.2	Unable to travel to voting location	11.6
		Other	1.4

<sup>7</sup> The percentage of eligible voters in Iraq who voted was 44.52 per cent, but it varied widely based on governorate. This number cannot be compared to what we found in the Longitudinal Study, however, because we only asked about the head of household, who are majority men. [http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/89698/7/MEC\\_Iraqi-elections\\_Report\\_2018.pdf](http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/89698/7/MEC_Iraqi-elections_Report_2018.pdf)

An IDP from Talkaif, Ninewa and displaced to Basra elaborated why:

“Currently I don't think the Iraqi government is working to improve our situation. They are busy with positions and how they are distributed. Since May, and until now, the results of the election were not announced officially, and the government has not been formed. This indicates that the government is busy with positions and how they distribute the bounty. For example, in Basra you see that the municipality belongs to a specific party and even the local council is supported by a specific party and works towards those who serve it, etc.

An IDP from Baiji, Salah al-Din and living in Kirkuk governorate described the voting process:

“We voted in the elections, and two months before, a committee came to the village from the High Electoral Commission and they updated the electoral card in preparation for election. On the day of voting, we went to the school in the village and we voted. It was an easy process.

Another IDP from Baiji, Salah al-Din and displaced to Sulaymaniyah described his experience with voter cards:

“Our electronic card did not come out. I went to the commission office, but they did not give us the card. They said to go to our original area. So when we went there, they said go to the place where you first applied, and we went there also and did not find anything.

Another IDP from Ramadi, Anbar and displaced to Basra explained her thoughts on Iraq's elections:

“No, because the elections have become like a play or like the Arabs Got Talent program, as the candidates showcase themselves with big ads and commercial campaigns with big promises and hopes for a rosy (happy) life. They raise their voices with these false promises and until they are able to buy the votes of the simple people who suffer from poverty because of them (the candidates). The nominees would pay IQD 100,000 (USD 88) and sometimes IQD 25,000 (USD 22) per Iraqi vote...because the people need the money so bad it makes them willing to sell their voices in exchange for a limited amount of money. In addition, the electoral lists [of nominees] do not bring new faces and the election process is nothing but recycling the garbage, I mean the reshuffling of the corrupt faces.

## ⚖️ CRITERIA 8: ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Measuring access to justice is not straightforward, nor is it something that necessarily happens immediately after violence and fighting have stopped. As such, the study asked respondents about their preferences about the aspects of justice that were most important to them and who they thought should preside over justice-related processes.

Prosecution of criminals is the number one aspect of achieving justice in Rounds 2 through 4 (February–April 2017; August–November 2018). The importance of restoration of prior livelihoods has decreased from Rounds 2 to 4 (February–April 2017 through August–November 2018) from 17 per cent to 5 per cent. This is perhaps due to the above findings that IDP households increasingly have been able to find more stable sources of livelihoods in sectors other than the informal one while in displacement.

An IDP from Falluja, Anbar living in Baghdad stated that:

“Previously, we brought problems to tribal elders so they would be solved. Now, going to the security forces is better because we are strangers in the region, but praise be to God nothing bad has happened to us since we arrived here.”

ACCESS TO JUSTICE			
What is the most important aspect of achieving justice for your family?			
	ROUND 2 %	ROUND 3 %	ROUND 4 %
Prosecution of criminals	61.0	44.2	54.7
Compensation for violations	2.1	27.4	21.0
Restoration of prior livelihood	9.8	4.4	7.4
Finding truth and acknowledging violations	17.7	17.3	10.2
Restoration of prior residence	9.3	6.7	6.5
Other	0.2	0.0	0.1

IDP trust is highest in the courts to achieve justice for both regular crimes (61%) and war crimes (51%) –both of which increased between Rounds 2 and 4 (February–April 2017 through August–November 2018). Notably, the share who trusted the international community to deal with war crimes fell significantly between Rounds 3 and 4 (July–September 2017; August–November 2018).

ACCESS TO JUSTICE			
Who do you trust most to achieve justice for regular crimes?			
	ROUND 2 %	ROUND 3 %	ROUND 4 %
Courts	43.1	48.7	61.4
Police	41.4	38.2	31.9
International community	3.7	10.7	4.4
Other <sup>a</sup>	11.9	2.6	2.4

a. Includes elected officials, administration, religious leaders, tribal leaders, and popular mobilization forces.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE			
Who do you trust most to achieve justice for war crimes?			
	ROUND 2 %	ROUND 3 %	ROUND 4 %
Courts	38.1	43.1	51.1
Police	9.0	8.6	15.4
International community	39.9	44.7	26.4
Other <sup>a</sup>	12.1	3.3	6.7

a. Includes elected officials, administration, religious leaders, tribal leaders, and popular mobilization forces.

An IDP from Baiji, Salah al-Din living in Sulaymaniyah said:

“Because of the weakness of the law, [in our place of origin] we resorted to the tribes. But here, there is law and order. When the window of my car was broken, I went to the Asayish [Kurdish security forces] and they investigated the perpetrator, but I did not pursue the case after he apologized. In the case of an act by racist motivations, in my opinion the law should prevail. The law is the solution to all problems.”



SECTION II:  
RETURNEES

## SECTION II: RETURNEES

Of the 3,853 households who participated in Round 1 (March–May 2016) of Access to Durable Solutions Among IDPs in Iraq, 427 had returned by Round 2 (February–April 2017) of the study and have remained returnees through December 2018 when Round 4 (August–November 2018) of the study was completed.<sup>1</sup>

These findings apply only to those sampled returnees. They face many challenges including safety concerns, rebuilding homes and businesses, securing previous assets, finding jobs and schools, and rejoining their communities. This report identifies the strategies returnees implement to cope with having been displaced and returning to their homes after the violence and conflict associated with the ISIL crisis.

In Round 1 (March–May 2016), these households were in displacement. The overwhelming majority of households who returned home beginning in Round 2 (February–April 2017) of the study were from Anbar, which was an ISIL stronghold. It was one of the first areas the Iraqi military liberated from ISIL (summer 2016).

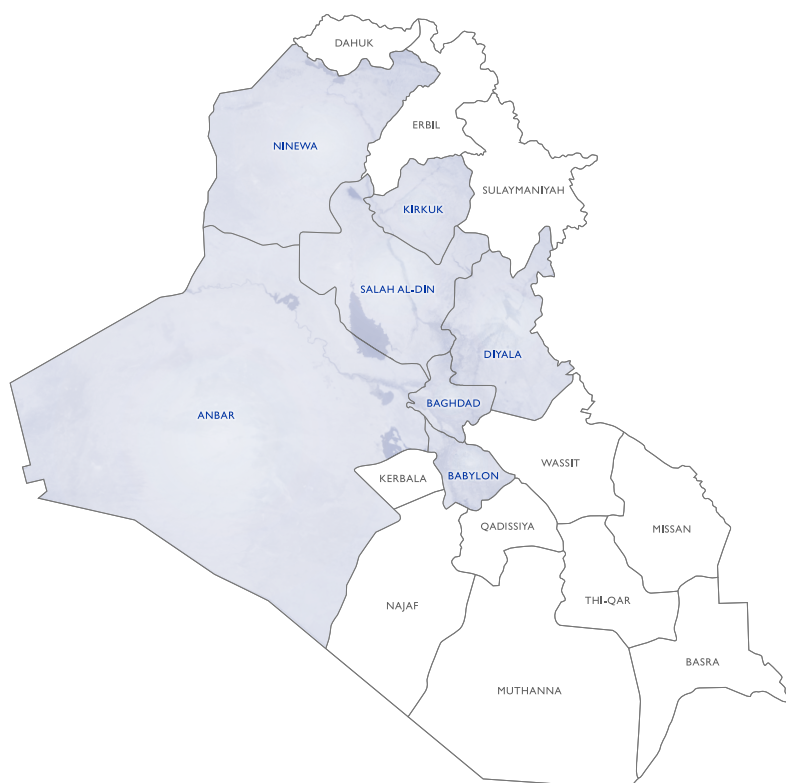
### IDPs IN DISPLACEMENT

#### Sampled Returnees: Where have they returned?<sup>a</sup>

	% (n)
Anbar	73.8 (315)
Babylon	0.2 (1)
Baghdad	1.2 (5)
Diyala	13.8 (59)
Kirkuk	0.7 (3)
Ninewa	2.3 (10)
Salah al-Din	8.0 (34)

a. These are returnee households who moved to their places of origin beginning in Round 2 and have stayed in those places of origin through Round 4. As such, the data provided here reflects where those returnees are in Rounds 2, 3, and 4.

Map 2: Depiction of Governorates of Return



<sup>1</sup> Because the Inter-Agency Standing Committee provides a rights-based rather than a geography-based definition of a durable solution, the study continued to track these returnee households to monitor progress towards a durable solution.



## KEY FINDINGS AMONG RETURNEES

### **CRITERIA 1:** SAFETY AND SECURITY

Only 1.6 per cent of returnees report experiencing a security threat. And over 90 per cent in Rounds 2 through 4 (February 2017 through December 2018) feel some degree of safety. What did change, however, was how safe people reported: feelings of moderate safety doubled from Rounds 1 to 4, while feelings of complete safety dropped by more than half.

### **CRITERIA 2:** STANDARD OF LIVING

Seven in 10 sampled households can provide for their basic needs, however it does not reach pre-displacement levels. Over the rounds, returnees increasingly report that their standard of living is better or the same as before displacement and decreasingly report being worse off. Borrowing money remains a key strategy and just over 40 per cent have finished or begun to pay back the debt they amassed while in displacement.

### **CRITERIA 3:** LIVELIHOOD AND EMPLOYMENT

More than 80 per cent have returned to the jobs they held prior to displacement. However, very few returnees who primarily relied on agriculture prior to displacement have returned to such work. The proportion of returnees receiving humanitarian aid has decreased significantly since Round 1.

### **CRITERIA 4:** HOUSING, LAND, AND PROPERTY

In Round 4 (August–December 2018), 99 per cent of returnees were able to access their property, having increased from 86 per cent in Round 3 and 6.5 per cent in Round 1. However, the conditions of returnees' property are not improving.

### **CRITERIA 5 AND 6:** PERSONAL AND OTHER DOCUMENTATION AND FAMILY SEPARATION AND REUNIFICATION

Returnees have reported very low rates of documentation loss and have increasingly been able to recover them. Family separation also remains low among the returnee population and reasons for continuing separation are non-displacement related, such as marriage and employment.

### **CRITERIA 7:** PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Participation is up significantly among sampled returnees. The most commonly reported civic group they participate in is a parents' group or school committee.

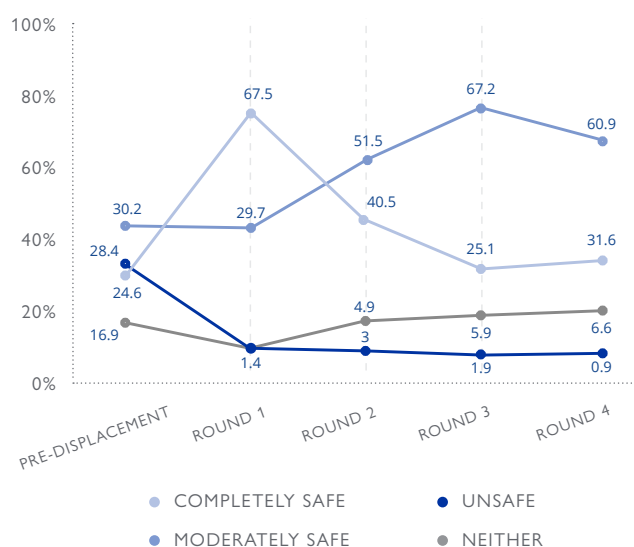
### **CRITERIA 8:** ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Returnees rank the prosecution of criminals as one the most important aspect of achieving justice for their families. There is an increase in the share of those applying for property compensation from the Iraqi Government, but no households report having received compensation money yet.

## CRITERIA 1: SAFETY AND SECURITY

After returning home in 2016, feelings of safety among sampled returnee households remain high: over 90 per cent in Rounds 2 through 4 (February 2017 through December 2018) feel some degree of safety. These feelings of safety are matched by their experiences: when asked in Round 4 (August–November 2018) if they encountered a security threat, only 1.6 per cent say they did. When home, sampled returnees thus felt as safe as they did while in displacement in Round 1 (March–May 2016). However, the proportion of households who report feeling “completely” safe drops over time.

*Do you and your family feel safe in this community?*



SAFETY AND SECURITY		
Share of Households That Have Moderate or Complete Trust in:		
	ROUND 3 %	ROUND 4 %
Neighbours	80.8	80.3
Shopkeepers and Merchants	45.7	56.2
Local Officials	33.7	38.2
Others in Neighbourhood	44.2	50.1

A returnee to Mosul explained how his family felt when they first got home:

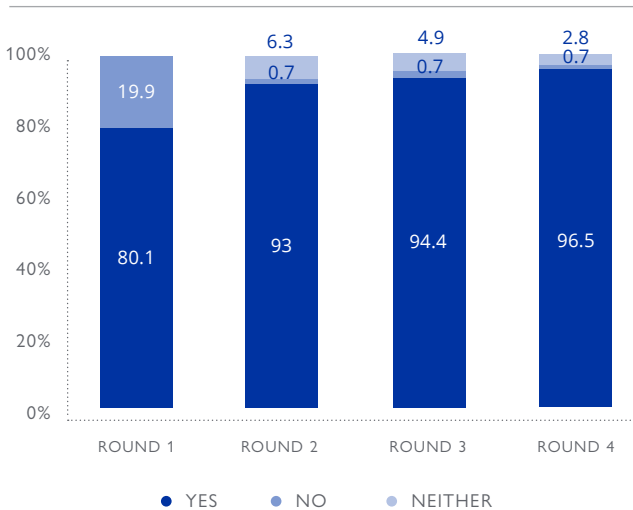
*“Our experience was full of excitement. We missed our home and village. Returning was an experience that gave me great joy; something that I was waiting to happen for a long time. I felt this the first time I arrived to Mecca and saw the House of God. I had goosebumps and time stopped. I felt just like this when I arrived to the village and saw my house, my friends, and my neighbours. That is how I felt when I returned.”*

Another returnee to Kirkuk talks about his relationship with stayees from his area of origin:

*“I’ve had the chance to understand what happened because we see each other and we talk every day. I’ve learned that their situation was worse than those who were displaced because they were locked up in the village and ISIS did not allow anyone to leave or run away from the village. After our return to the village, our relationships with them became stronger than before because we have understood that they were forced to do things they did not want to, but either they did it or be killed. The way we treat each other has not changed at all.”*

Sampled returnees –who were not living in camps during their time in displacement– also seem to have had little difficulty reintegrating into their communities of origin. The vast majority report feeling accepted, and levels of integration remain constant or rise. While trust in local officials remains low, majorities trust neighbours and shopkeepers. As such, more than 70 per cent suggest that differences between stayees –those households who were not displaced– and returnees cause no problems in the community.

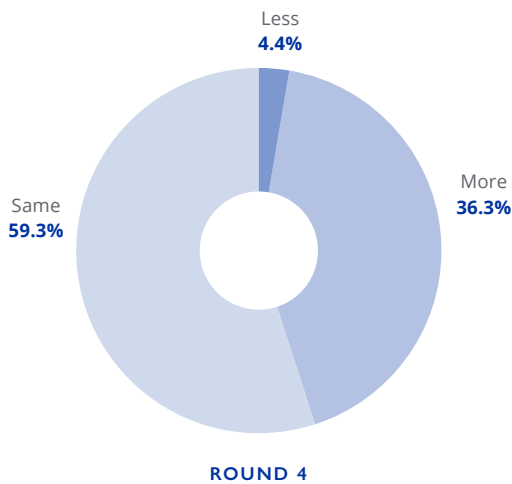
**Do you and your family feel accepted as members of this community?**



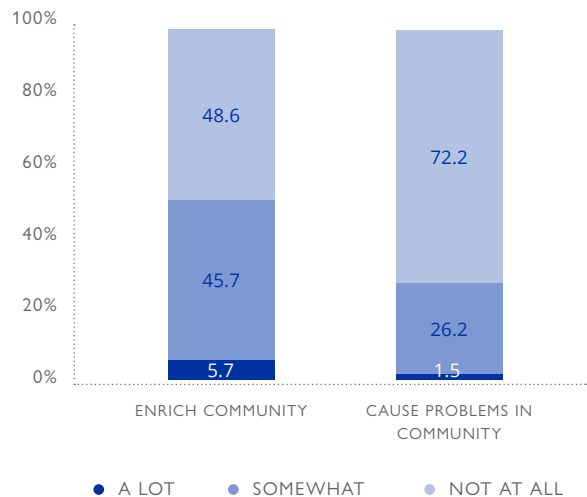
A returnee to Kirkuk described what he felt when he returned to his area of origin:

*“ An indescribable feeling and I cried a lot when I returned to my area of origin and the place of my childhood. I had a fainting incident from how happy I was and how much I had missed it. I hugged my mom and I cannot describe the happiness I felt upon my return because we went through tragedies and very difficult circumstances during displacement. I never expected to return to my area one day.*

**Compared to 6 months ago, do you feel more, less, or equally integrated?**



**Extent to which differences between stayees and returnees:**



## CRITERIA 2: STANDARD OF LIVING

While most sampled returnee households report being able to provide for their basic needs since returning home in Round 2 (February–April 2017), the share of those who say they could through Round 4 (August–November 2018) never reaches pre-displacement levels.

However, the share of those who were able to provide for basic needs doubles between Round 1 (March–May 2016) when these households were still in displacement and Round 2 (February–April 2017) when they returned home. By Round 4 (August–November 2018), 71 per cent said their standard of living was the same as it was prior to displacement, a dramatic change from Round 1 (March–May 2016), when 94 per cent said they were worse off.

A returnee to Anbar describes her family's current standard of living:

*“ We have almost the same expenses as before because we did not live in a rented home in the area of displacement. We spent our money on providing basic needs of clothes and food and if we were able to save, we saved a little in case an emergency happened.”*

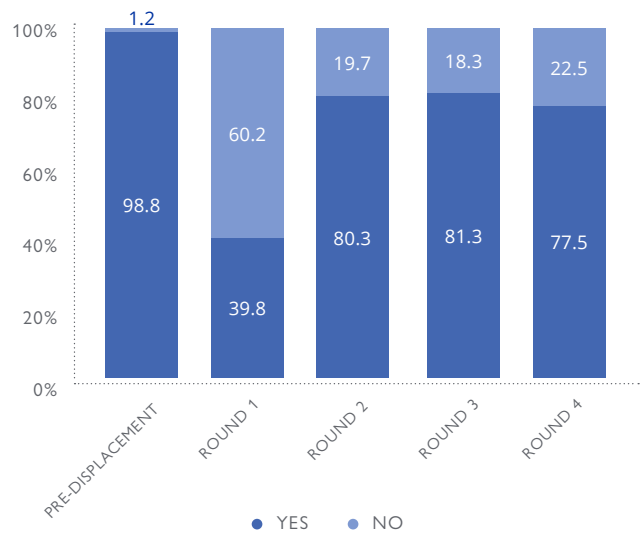
Another returnee to Diyala discusses his family's ability to meet their needs:

*“ I previously told you our living situation is only good in terms of food and drink, but we cannot spend more. For example, I want to buy furniture for my house that was stolen and looted during the military operations. But I don't have the financial ability for that.”*

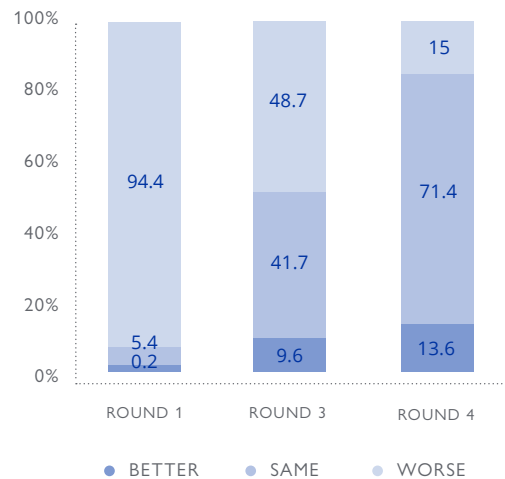
A returnee to Salah al-Din explains what his monthly expenses are now that he returned to his area of origin:

*“ No, I don't have enough resources. My salary now is IQD 300,000 (USD 264) and every month I spend IQD 25,000 (USD 22) on food and IQD 50,000 (USD 44) on children's schools. The electricity is IQD 320,000 (USD 282), in addition to buying milk for my newest child, which is IQD 50,000 (USD 44) a month. Add to that treatment for my daughter who is suffering from psoriasis which costs between IQD 15,000 to 20,000 (USD 13 to 18) a month. And then other matters. Therefore, many times I have had to borrow money from my brother and buy items from the nearby market and pay them back at the end of the month. Yes, of course I gave up on many needs, such as clothes. It has been two years now since I've returned and I have not bought one new piece of clothing.”*

**Has your family been able to provide for your basic needs in the past three months?**



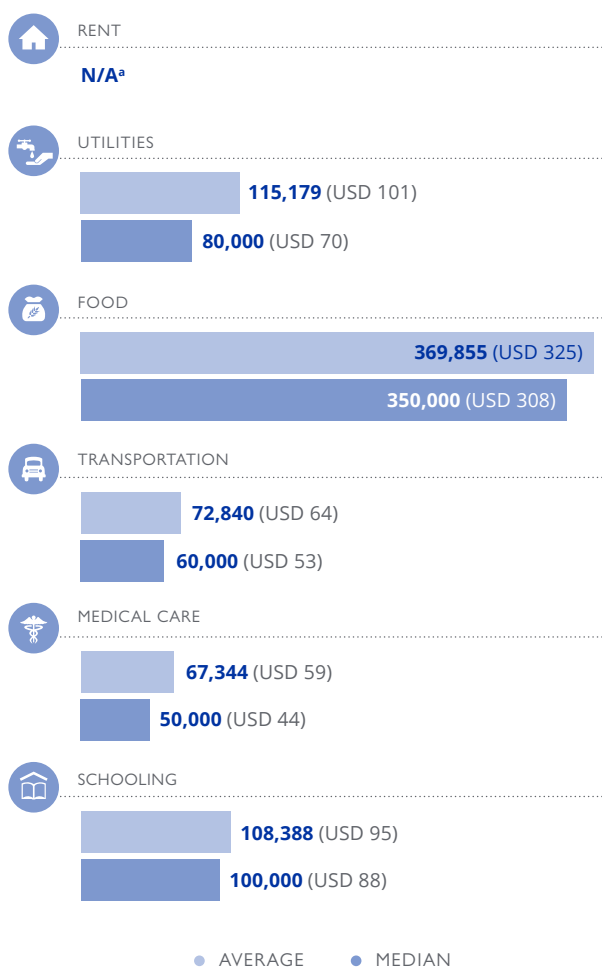
**How would you rate your standard of living now in comparison to your situation on 1 January 2014?\***



\* Question not asked in Round 2

To be able to provide for their needs, most sampled returnees report having to borrow money. Among those who borrowed at any time since January 2016, half have not yet been able to pay off their loans but a sizable share (approximately 43%) have either started or completed paying off their debt. One element that potentially facilitates doing so is relief from the cost of rent: 75 per cent of households now report not paying rent –in large part because many have returned to the homes they owned. Like their counterparts in displacement, however, the cost of food still comprises the biggest part of monthly expenses.

**Reported Amount Spent (Iraqi Dinars) Each Month On:**



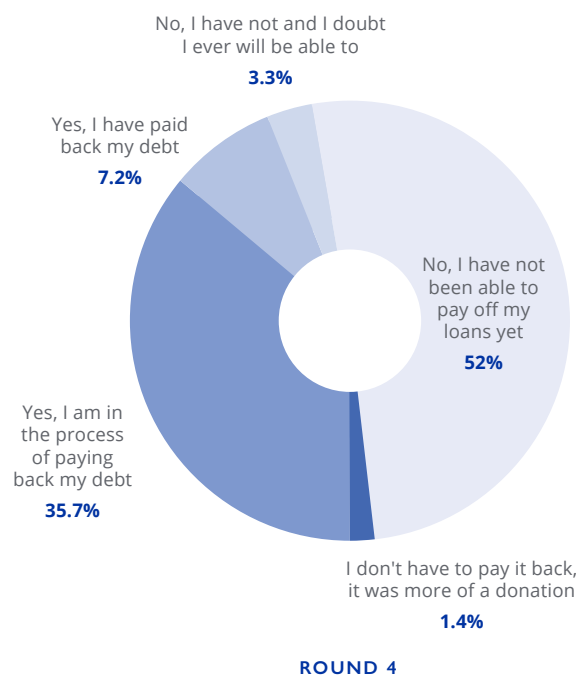
a. Of 427 households, 327 indicated they did not pay for rent. Among 100 respondents who did indicate paying for rent or housing, the average was IQD 227,250 (USD 200) and the median was IQD 200,000 (USD 176).

STANDARD OF LIVING			
What is the main strategy your family has adopted to provide for your basic needs? <sup>a</sup>			
	ROUND 1 %	ROUND 3 %	ROUND 4 %
Borrow money	46.8	39.8	41.9
Receive money	4.5	11.9	3.3
Consume savings	11.7	3.8	5.5
Share house	7.7	5.6	9.7
Reduce food consumption	8.7	10.6	3.1
Reduce other expenses	5.6	19	32
Other <sup>b</sup>	15	6.3	4.5

a. Question not asked in Round 2.

b. Includes employing children under 16, stop sending children to school, limiting medical care, and selling assets or property.

**If you borrowed money at any time since 1 January 2014 (since being displaced), have you been able to pay back this debt?**





## CRITERIA 3:

# LIVELIHOOD AND EMPLOYMENT

### EMPLOYMENT

Just over 85 per cent of sampled returnee households suggest they had returned to the type of job they had prior to displacement. However, the share whose primary source of income came from agriculture has not returned to pre-displacement levels and the share working in informal commerce is twice as high in Round 4 (August–November 2018) as it was prior to households' displacement.

Only among those working in government does the majority suggest that they do not face problems at work. But for those working in agriculture and commerce, the number one problem faced is a lack of currency.<sup>2</sup>

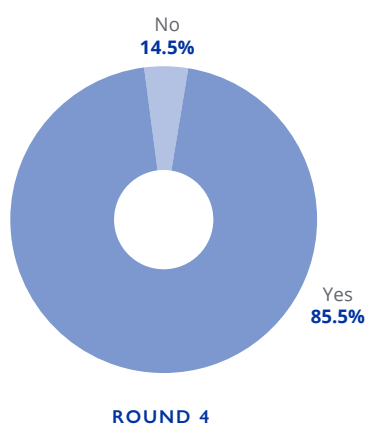
EMPLOYMENT					
What is your primary source of income?*					
	PRE-DIS-PLACEMENT %	ROUND 1 %	ROUND 2 %	ROUND 3 %	ROUND 4 %
Public job	22.5	0.5	21.8	21.3	24.4
Private job	6.3	0.5	1.6	0.5	1.4
Agriculture	14.7	0	2.8	2.1	1.2
Business	26.2	0	34.4	17.8	20.6
Informal labour	20.8	0.2	25.5	45	41
Pension	1	0	5.2	2.3	2.6
Other	6.8	0.5	5.6	8.7	8.2
No source	0.9	98.1	0.7	0.9	0.7

A returnee to Diyala said:

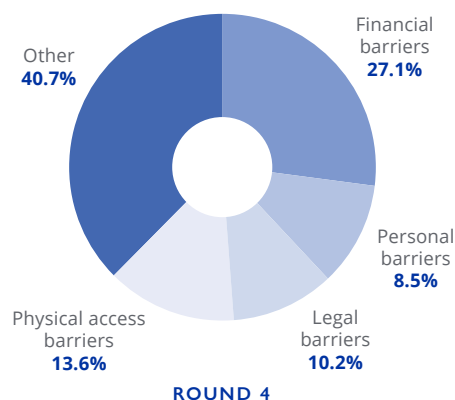
“ Our economic situation is good because I work as an employee of the government. There are a lot of changes because we have received the salary on time during displacement, we are living in our own house and not renting like before.

\* In Round 1, the question wording in Arabic was “income,” which respondents understood as a steady, consistent salary. As such, in subsequent rounds, the question wording was changed to ask about the primary source of “money.”

#### Have you returned to the job you had prior to displacement?



#### If you do not have the same job, why?



2 In the upcoming Round 5 survey, there is a module on agricultural activity and livelihood, conducted in conjunction with the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO).

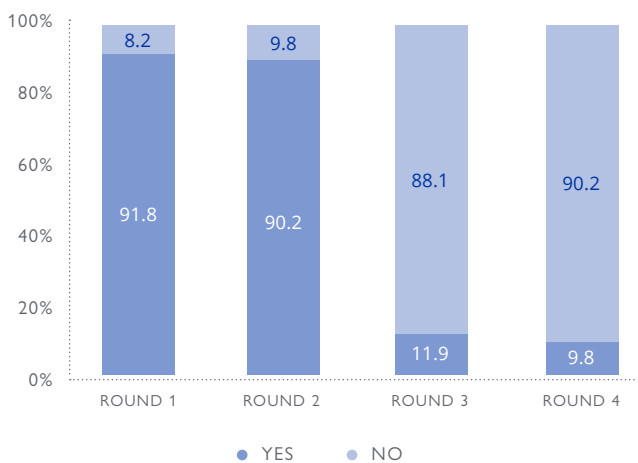
A returnee to Baghdad describes his family's difficulties with resuming their work in agriculture in their area of origin:

“ I currently work in plumbing and setting up electricity lines for newly built houses. This profession I learned during displacement and now I am good at it. I was intending when I returned to my original area to open a shop and start a new life, but I couldn't open the shop because of lack of finances and this subject is still a project I intend to do in the future. I was not able to go back to my previous profession which is farming because I don't have the time for it. My brothers began farming but not to the size we had before displacement, that is why it is not enough to pay for the family's financial needs. On the other hand, some returnees succeeded in returning to their previous jobs if they had the money. That is because the area is damaged and needs reconstruction to be farmed. Others were unable to go back to their previous jobs and had to do another job in case they had professions or skills. As for those who don't have professions or skills, they go towards working in construction for a daily wage in the area of origin or nearby areas.

AID

High shares of sampled returnee households reported receiving aid while in displacement in Round 1 (March–May 2016) and also in returning home in Round 2 (February–April 2017). By Round 4 (August–November 2018), less than 10 per cent are receiving assistance.

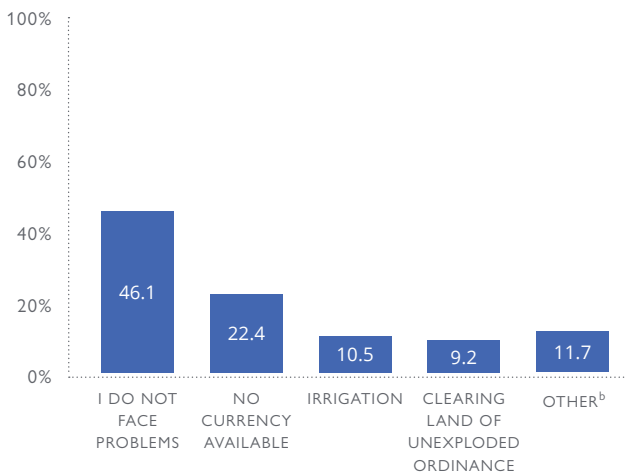
Proportion of IDP Households Receiving Humanitarian Aid



One returnee to Mosul said:

“ We have not received anything since we returned here and until now. It is not like when we were in Basra and we received food items from the Ministry of Migration and Displacement (MoMD) and some food items from other organizations. We had good experiences with them as they helped us pay for some of our needs.

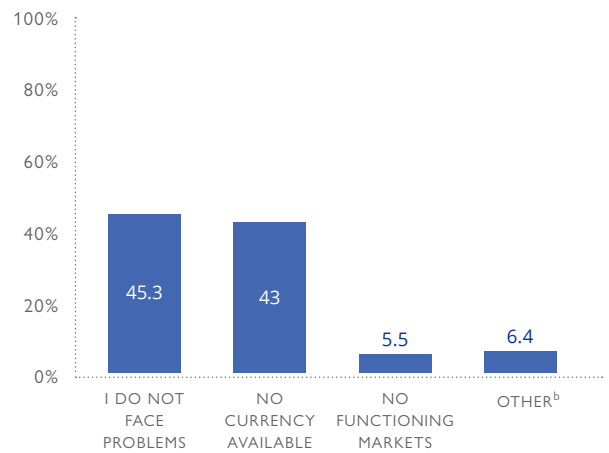
**Main Problem for Households Working in Agriculture<sup>a</sup>**



**ROUND 4**

a. n=76.  
 b. Includes: Supply of seeds and fertilizers, animals supply and repairing tools, transportation to market, no functioning markets, and electricity problems.

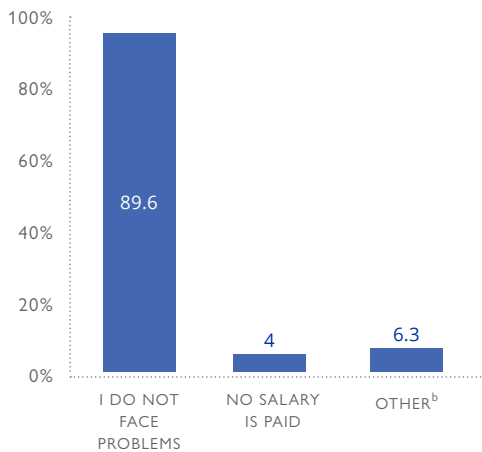
**Main Problem for Households Working in Commerce<sup>a</sup>**



**ROUND 4**

a. n=128.  
 b. Includes raw material supply and no goods to sell.

**Main Problem for Households Working in Government<sup>a</sup>**



**ROUND 4**

a. n=125.  
 b. Includes no physical building, no supervisors or employees, and no supplies.

Another returnee to Anbar described receiving assistance to start a new business in his area of origin:

“ In 2016 I received assistance from an organization in the form of tools for a salon and barbershop. But the project failed in a big way because of the weak purchasing power in the area. Because of that, I sold the tools and used the money to pay for rent and to pay back the debt on time. The experience with organizations was not so good because they helped me with the tools for the barbershop business [but the market wasn't there to make the business a success].

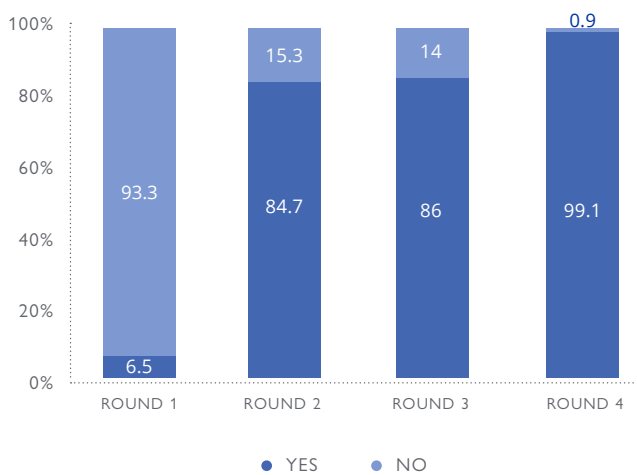


## CRITERIA 4: HOUSING, LAND, AND PROPERTY

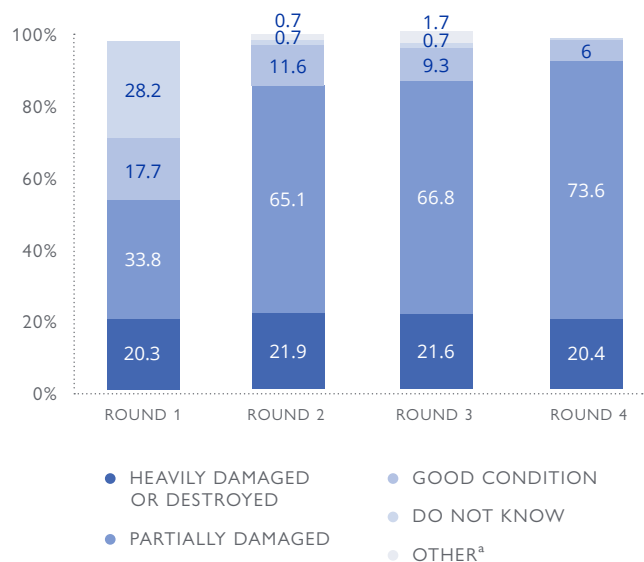
Of all sampled returnee households who reported living in a home they owned prior to displacement, the vast majority have returned to their properties. Overtime, access to property has become less and less of an impediment. In Round 1 (March–May 2016), only 6.5 per cent of returnee households were able to access their property. By Round 4 (August–November 2018) this increased to 99.1 per cent.

While nearly all sampled returnees have access to their property, a key problem that has persisted since Round 1 (March–May 2016) is the condition of properties. Starting in Round 2 (February–April 2017) and continuing into Round 3 (August–November 2018), the share of those reporting heavy damage or destruction to property has stayed constant at around 20 per cent. The proportion of returnees reporting partially damaged property more than doubles from Rounds 1 to 4 (March–May 2016 to August–November 2018). This lack of improvement is a problem: while return home alleviates the cost of housing in displacement, the quality of housing upon return home is not what it was prior to displacement.

### Access property?

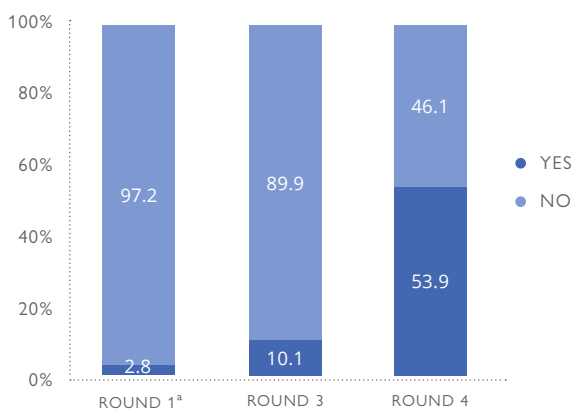


### Condition of property?



a. Category not asked in Rounds 1 and 4.

### Applied to compensation?



Note: Question was not asked to returnees in Round 2.

The Iraqi government has put in place a compensation process for those whose property has been destroyed or damaged or who have lost family members or who have sustained injuries. While the process was established in 2009, it began accepting applications for ISIL-related destruction only recently. Thus, the share of returnee households that applied for compensation in Round 4 (August–November 2018) is five times higher than the share that applied in Round 3 (July–September 2017). As of Round 4 (August–November 2018), however, the 90 per cent of those who applied were waiting to hear a decision about their claims.

## HOUSING, LAND, AND PROPERTY

	Shelter Type				
	PRE-DISPLACEMENT %	ROUND 1 %	ROUND 2 %	ROUND 3 %	ROUND 4 %
Owned home <sup>a</sup>	88.5	1.7	64.2	65.6	76.4
Rented home <sup>a</sup>	8.4	83.1	25.1	21.3	22.0
Hosted	2.1	2.8	5.4	10.1	0.7
Other <sup>b</sup>	1.0	12.4	5.3	3.0	0.9

a. With immediate or extended family.

b. Includes camps, unfinished building or housing, religious building or institutions, hotel, school, or other government building.

As one returnee explained:

“ My housing here consists of a room in an old apartment where I share a room with my brother and the rest of my family. The bathrooms and kitchen walls are destroyed because of shelling, and we have covered it with a piece of cloth. The place is full of rats and all these families share one bathroom.

Another returnee to Diyala described her family's housing situation after return:

“ The house we live in right now is semi-destroyed and we re-built it from clay so that it becomes habitable. Half the house now is made from clay and the other half is made from cement blocks. The house was affected by the bombs and shelling that led to its destruction. The house consists of four bedrooms, a living room, a kitchen, and the roofs are what we made from clay. When it rains the water comes in the room and we cannot stay there. If we were to compare it to our house in Kirkuk, then absolutely our house in Kirkuk was much better to live in, but the difficulty there was having to pay rent, so we could not settle there. We prefer to live in our home and although it is not in good shape, it is ours and we don't pay rent. The village houses around us are destroyed. They are in the same condition as our house.

As one returnee to Salah al-Din stated:

“ I applied for compensation for the damages that occurred to our house because of displacement and the application is still on hold and being investigated. We submitted the necessary papers for the application and we are waiting for the final decision. The procedure for applying for compensation is long and complicated. It requires visiting several departments such as the police, the intelligence, the national security, and the court. It requires waiting and visiting those departments several times and hopefully reaching the final stage of the application to the compensation committee in court. As I mentioned the procedures are long and complicated, which is the point of weakness of the process.

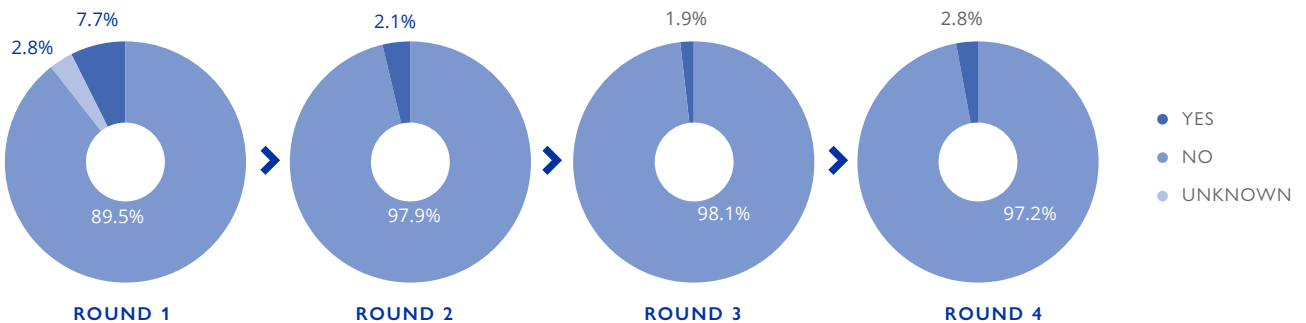
## CRITERIA 5 AND 6: PERSONAL AND OTHER DOCUMENTATION AND FAMILY SEPARATION AND REUNIFICATION

In Round 4 (August–November 2018), only 12 sampled returnee households reported having lost documents, and half of them have replaced all or some of these documents.

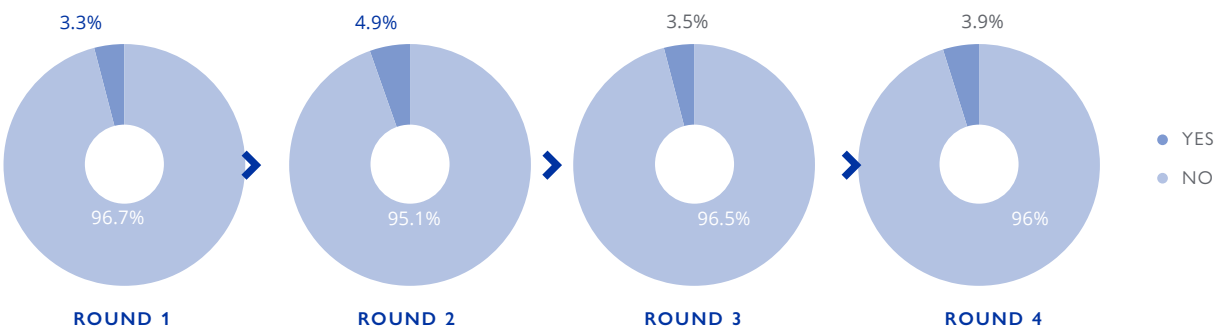
Family separation is also not commonly reported among sampled returnees who were not displaced to camps. At most, 21 households in Round 2 (February–April 2017)

reported family separation for more than three months. Of the 17 households who said they were separated from family members in Round 4 (August–November 2018), 12 said they had no plans to reunite. Four said members come and go, and one household said they are separated but have plans to reunite in the future.

### Have you or any family member lost documents?



### Were usual members of the family separated for more than 3 months?



Another returnee to Kirkuk discusses his family's documents story:

“ I have all of my documents now preserved in a small bag in case anything urgent happens and that's because we have gone through this experience before. It is difficult to issue replacements if they are lost because there are many procedures. We had to go between courts, police stations, and the necessary department to report the missing documents, verify them, and be issued approval in order to obtain a verification from Kirkuk to the other location that was assigned to us in Laylan at the time. In summary, it was tiring and hard.

As one returnee to Kirkuk governorate said:

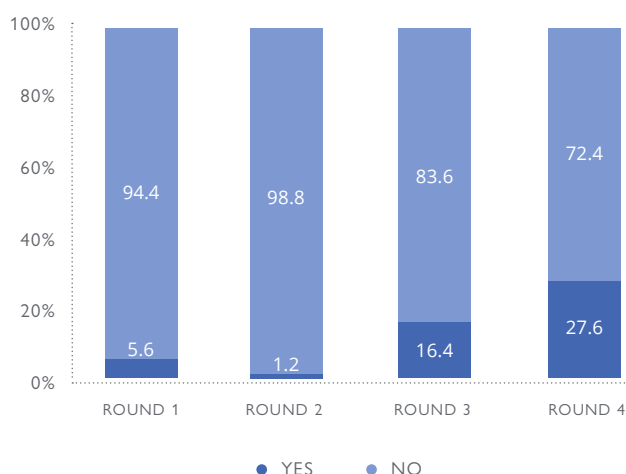
“ There is no incident or a story to talk about except that I was very happy to return because I had not seen my father and mother since I was displaced to Kirkuk.

## CRITERIA 7: PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Participation is up significantly among sampled returnees, and like their IDP counterparts, the most commonly reported civic group they participate in is a parent's group or school committee.

Furthermore, they also report more participation at the level of local and national government. In Round 4 (August–November 2018), 60 per cent said they contacted a local official, and the vast majority of household heads voted in the May 2018 elections. This political participation coincides with a stark increase in the share of households indicating they felt they had a lot or some influence in making their communities a better place to live. By Round 4 (August–November 2018), nearly 55 per cent reported feeling empowered to do so, a share, that, for the first time, nears the 63 per cent that reported the same prior to displacement.

Participated in any civic group?



ROUND 4 VOTING BEHAVIOUR			
Did the household head vote in the 12 May 2018 Elections?		If not, why?	
%		%	
Yes	84.5	Did not receive biometric card	16.7
		Unable to apply for biometric card	9.1
No	15.5	No interest or faith in the political system	65.2
		Unable to travel to voting location	1.5
		Other	7.6

Another returnee to Diyala said:

*I voted in the parliamentary elections that happened recently where the process was done through visiting the Electoral Commission and updating our special electoral card. Then we went to the poll centers on the day of the elections in the village to give our votes. The process was easy and it was done without any obstacles.*

A returnee to rural Baghdad described his recent political participation:

*I voted in my area of origin and the process was easy and we did not suffer from obstacles.*

PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS					
How much influence do you think people like yourself have in making this community a better place to live?					
	PRE-DISPLACEMENT	ROUND 1	ROUND 2	ROUND 3	ROUND 4
	%	%	%	%	%
A lot	25.5	3.3	16.9	3.3	4.2
Some	37.9	19.7	32.3	30.0	50.7
Not a lot	20.4	32.8	33.0	35.4	36.1
None	8.4	29.5	15.9	26.7	9.0
Do not know	7.7	14.8	1.9	4.7	NA

## ⚖️ CRITERIA 8: ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Like IDPs still in displacement, throughout Rounds 2 and 4 (February–April 2017; August–November 2018) the returnees in this survey also rank the prosecution of criminals as one the most important aspect of achieving justice for their families –the highest rate occurring in Round 4 at 63.5 per cent. Smaller shares are split between compensation and acknowledgement of violations (15.5% and 10.1% respective). For the achievement of justice for regular crimes, the most trusted actor in Round 2 (February–April 2017) was the police and by Round 4 (August–November 2018) became the courts. For war crimes, more than half of the share of sampled returnees most trusted the international community for achieving justice in Round 2 (February–April 2017) and by Round 4 (August–November 2018) the courts also became the most trusted actor. Trust in the courts increased from almost 20 per cent in Round 2 (February–April 2017) to almost 50 per cent in Round 4 (August–November 2018).

ACCESS TO JUSTICE			
What is the most important aspect of achieving justice for your family?			
	ROUND 2 %	ROUND 3 %	ROUND 4 %
Prosecution of criminals	56.7	51.5	63.5
Restoration of prior livelihood	17.8	2.8	5.4
Compensation for violations	12.6	27.4	15.5
Finding truth and acknowledging violations	9.8	14.1	10.1
Restoration of prior residence	1.9	4.2	5.2
Other	0.2	0.0	0.2

A returnee to Diyala commented:

*I consult my mother in any topic I face. When we had problems, we would go to the village leaders or the tribe's sheikh and we would solve the problem. But in Kirkuk I would go to the police. The best way to solve problems in the future is to go to the police or courts which are fairer than tribes.*

ACCESS TO JUSTICE			
Who Do You Trust Most to Achieve Justice for War Crimes?			
	ROUND 2 %	ROUND 3 %	ROUND 4 %
Courts	19.7	53.2	56.3
Police	14.8	3.0	5.4
International community	53.9	41.9	32.2
Other <sup>a</sup>	11.6	1.8	6

a. Includes elected officials, administration, religious leaders, tribal leaders, and popular mobilization forces.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE			
Who Do You Trust Most to Achieve Justice for Regular Crimes?			
	ROUND 2 %	ROUND 3 %	ROUND 4 %
Courts	19.7	44.0	49.8
Police	66.0	46.6	37.7
International community	3.3	4.7	10.3
Other <sup>a</sup>	11.0	4.6	2.1

a. Includes elected officials, administration, religious leaders, tribal leaders, and popular mobilization forces.

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