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Sinjar Assessment
FSC Partners Report
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents a vision and a concrete roadmap for humanitarian and development actors wishing to engage in Sinjar. Rapid food security assessments were conducted in 18 locations by five organisations to assess food security and to advise on appropriate interventions.

In Sinjar there is a strong dependency on food assistance with no predictable line of support from authorities or humanitarian organisations. Families are turning to negative coping mechanisms; from selling key assets to taking out loans with shop keepers. In some cases, people are joining armed groups for a sustainable income.

The impact of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) occupation between 2014-2015 can still be felt in Sinjar, with agricultural lands contaminated with Unexploded Ordnances (UXOs), farmers stripped of their agricultural assets and those returning finding that their key sources of income no longer exist. For many, their worst fears have been confirmed - they need to start again. To add to the strain, families returned to find their homes destroyed, with limited access to basic services such as the Public Distribution System (PDS) and safe drinking water.

With such a wide range of issues needing the attention of the humanitarian community, this report recommends a multi-sectoral response to rebuild the livelihoods of people in need in Sinjar. This can be achieved through the development of systems and sustainable development programmes.

Opportunities for the humanitarian community to engage with local people exist, whether in supporting women with small home gardens, resupplying farmers with livestock or restoring agricultural wells.

This report seeks to draw the attention of the humanitarian community to the key challenges that the people from Sinjar face on a daily basis. It highlights the need for a transition from emergency assistance to early recovery. This report serves as a reminder of the Sustainable Development Goals adopted in September 2015, wherein the humanitarian community vowed to ensure prosperity for all. By addressing the food security concerns of the people of Sinjar, progress towards the SDGs of Ending Poverty & Zero Hunger, amongst others, can surely be made.
FSC ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES

- To have a core understanding of emergency food and livelihood needs.
- To identify key gaps and appropriate responses for the humanitarian community.
- To have an overall understanding of Sinjar and the challenges.

METHODOLOGY

The assessment team consisted of five organisations (Samaritan’s Purse, Barzani Charity Foundation, Mission East, United Nations World Food Programme and Welt-Hungerhilfe) and was led by the FSC. A total of 18 locations were assessed with an agreed assessment tool (please see annex). The questionnaire was developed jointly between the FSC and NGO partners. Partners were allowed to modify the questionnaire with additional questions as needed.

Flexibility with regards to data collection methods was permitted, partners were allowed to conduct household surveys, focus group discussions, or key informant interviews depending on their capacities, available resources, and the security situation in selected villages. Partners selected villages they had access to, but in order to avoid duplication were encouraged to select locations where no known food security assessments had been previously conducted.

All assessments were carried out during the months of May and June.

LIMITATIONS OF THE REPORT

MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE: Recent displacements and the movement of returnees makes it difficult to calculate exact numbers.

TIME CONSTRAINTS: The need to publish this report in a timely manner for humanitarian intervention to take place had led this report to be published earlier than expected, which has limited the research, exploration and further analysis that could be beneficial.
BACKGROUND

In August 2014, ISIL fighters attacked hundreds of towns and villages in the Ninewa Governorate District of Sinjar, including the capital of Sinjar town, displacing 130,000 people to areas throughout Iraq. The fighters were particularly brutal toward the Yazidis, the largest ethnic group in Sinjar. Approximately 40,000 Yazidis were besieged on Mount Sinjar in 50º C temperatures with little access to food or water, resulting in hundreds of deaths. Those who were unable to flee were captured by ISIL and separated by gender. Many of the men were systematically slaughtered and over 3,200 women and children were taken into slavery. Over the year and a half that ISIL occupied the Sinjar District, militants destroyed key livelihoods resources, including farming equipment, livestock and animal shelters. Sinjar was retaken in mid-November 2015 by the Kurdish Peshmerga supported by the coalition forces.

On 03 March 2017, clashes broke out between rival Kurdish groups in the Sinjar District. Much of the population from the town of Khana Sor and neighboring villages fled to other areas within the district to escape the fighting. On 25 April 2017, Turkish air strikes hit key facilities in the Sinjar District, causing further displacement.

Over a year after coalition military forces retook the majority of Sinjar District, families continue to return home with the hope of rebuilding their lives. According to the Sinjar mayor’s office, the pre-crisis population was 93,000 households (HH) (558,000 individuals) and the current estimated population in Sinjar city is 800 HH (4,800 individuals). In Sinuni and Mount Sinjar the estimated population is 9,526 HH (57,156 individuals), though the number could reach 12,000 HH as there are many families have not been registered yet. Over half of this population is composed of returnees and a significant number are internally displaced persons (IDPs) from other villages in Sinjar that are either completely destroyed or still under ISIL control. According to the International Organization for Migration’s (IOM) Displacement Tracking Matrix, 4,837 previously displaced HHs (29,022 individuals) have returned to Sinjar District.

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2 Ibid.
3 Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.
4 Estimation by UNOCHA 2017
• Humanitarian needs are ongoing given the severity of the destruction to homes, infrastructure, and livelihoods equipment as a result of previous ISIL occupation and the recent clashes.

• PDS distributions are fairly sporadic and insufficient. In several areas only wheat flour is being distributed. There is a clear reliance on food assistance, with the Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MoMD) currently providing food baskets through blanket distributions across Sinjar.

• Families stated that households lost all types of livelihood assets upon displacement (equipment, vehicles, animals). Returnees have little to no savings, sources of income to purchase new livestock, necessary inputs to plant new crops, vehicles or equipment to restart. Additionally, several irrigation systems are not functioning, which further hinders farmers from becoming productive once again. It remains unknown how much agricultural land is contaminated by Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) or UXOs. In the rural areas assessed, there are no veterinary services for livestock. Prior to the conflict, female livelihood activities included gardening at home. Women would like to restore their livelihood activities and reported needing cash and seeds in order to rebuild their gardens.

• Unemployment remains high, with many people engaged only in temporary jobs lasting for one or two days at a time. Consequently, negative coping mechanisms have been adopted, including loans from shopkeepers without a clear sight of how these bills will be re-paid, as well as the selling of assets. Purchasing power for food remains low as households are spending money on electricity and medication. Several women noted that their lack of income was the primary barrier to ensuring basic care for children. Men and women are also enlisting in armed groups in order to generate an income.

• Several women interviewed had lost husbands and sons in fighting and now face a range of needs, including generating income and acquiring hygiene items. The lack of opportunities for these women to engage in livelihood activities or earn an income is of concern. Households headed by women often rely on married sons or neighbours to support them with income. Some women reported gender-based violence (GBV) and sexual harassment outside of their homes.

• One of the key concerns rising from this assessment is the lack of access to water both for consumption and irrigation. Female participants indicated that the main issue affecting children under five was a lack of safe drinking water.
• While the supply chain has recently improved with the June 2017 opening of Highway 47 (Tal Afar to Syria road), food and other stocks are still very limited in more remote villages.

• Some humanitarian actors are active in the Sinjar area, however there is a clear need for further livelihood programming to reduce the dependency on assistance and move towards a more sustainable line of development.

• In the villages of Dohula and Dogure, women were found to be breastfeeding. The women noted that they are unable to produce sufficient breast milk for their infants. Breastfeeding women also struggle to purchase baby milk formula as a supplement – one can of powdered milk formula can cost as much as IQD 5,000.

**JOINT RECOMMENDATIONS**

• Basic infrastructure and services (i.e. restoring electricity and water supply systems) need to be rehabilitated, while the rebuilding of livelihoods should also be a key priority for the humanitarian community.

• Organisations should invest in income generation activities to reduce the dependency on food assistance and reduce the number of negative coping mechanisms being employed by families in the Sinjar district. Many farmers lost key agricultural assets under ISIL occupation and currently there is no predictable line of support from humanitarian or government agencies for food. The empowerment of women in income generation activities should be actively considered.

• In areas with functioning markets, a market study is recommended in order to assess the feasibility of cash interventions.

• If security conditions allow, organisations should consider expanding to rural locations where access to basic services is low (villages from Khana Sor to Kolek Mountain and villages south of Sinjar Mountain). Several families are undertaking expensive journeys to the centre of Sinuni to access food. Families in remote areas do not have access to a wide range of products, which limits the possibility of having a healthy diet.

• The clearance of UXOs needs to take place in identified locations. Further guidance is needed from organisations such as the Mine Advisory Group(MAG) and access permission may still be an issue.
External support is needed for the restoration of livestock and sustained veterinary services along with capital assets such as farming machinery. Surveys should be made to investigate the restoration of agricultural wells.

The PDS will need to increase its capacity to provide items other than wheat flour to ensure a diverse diet as well as to ensure food security in the long-term, with regularly-scheduled, equitable distributions.

Donors and humanitarian actors should be diligent in maintaining impartiality and neutrality in addressing humanitarian needs.
FOOD SECURITY ASSESSMENTS
Male focus group discussion respondents estimated that there were roughly 460 households (HHs) residing in Dohula village and in total, approximately 5,000 individuals. Of this total population, male participants believed that around 30 HHs were internally displaced persons (IDPs), and that they were intending to stay until their places of origin are reclaimed from the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). Before the occupation of ISIS, it was estimated that the total population of the village was 1,100 HHs, so many households are still displaced. Male respondents agreed that families will not return until basic infrastructure and living conditions in the village are improved.

In contrast, female only FGD participants believed that there were currently no IDP households in the community and that the village population consisted solely of returnees who returned throughout 2016. Exact population estimates were not known.  

Given the discrepancies/conflicting accounts between male and female FGDs, a follow-up assessment is recommended to verify the information provided.
CHILDREN

Male FGD respondents stated that there were approximately 500 children in the village under five – women however said that this number was slightly less at 200.5

Similar needs were highlighted by female and male FGD’s, namely that families are not able to provide children under five with enough basic food and non-food items such as diapers and baby milk. The female FGD further stressed the urgent need for children to visit a doctor and that healthcare in the village was non-existent. As per the quote below from a female FGD respondent, lack of income was the primary barrier to ensuring basic care for children under five.

“If we don’t have money we can’t provide anything for children.”

Female FGD participant, Dohula, May 22 2017.

Image 1 (left): Full body skin disease reported as common amongst children under five in Dohula village by female FGD members.

WOMEN

When asked about the estimated percentage of the population who are women and concerns related to this group, both men and women interviewed agreed that there are more women than men. Men estimated that approximately 60% of the population comprised of women, and female respondents did not provide an exact percentage.

Male FGDs were of the opinion that there were more women than men as men usually die earlier because they work in more physically demanding jobs, participate in more dangerous activities and because of the ongoing conflict. Men cited the lack of female doctors and female specific healthcare services as critical concerns facing women. Women also raised the lack of access to female doctors and health services generally, but also referred to challenges of not being able to fully meet their expected roles and responsibilities within the home. Examples included not having enough income to care adequately for the family, purchase substantial food and non-food items and or take care of repairs needed for the home.

5 Given the discrepancies/conflicting accounts between male and female FGDs, a follow-up assessment is recommended to verify the information provided.
Male respondents speculated that at least 30% of the village comprised of female-headed households. They explained that this number was high as many men were separated from their families or died in the conflict with ISIL, and or they passed away due to illnesses. The men surveyed understood the challenges faced by female-headed households and echoed similarities with female respondents about the inability to earn an income or partake in livelihood activities. This was highlighted as a major barrier for women to support themselves and their families. When asked about women in work, men confirmed that women can work in the community so long as it is in a female only working environment.

Female participants were not sure about the exact percentage of female-headed households but estimated this to be around 150, which is also around 30% of the village. Women shared that many other women in the village lost husbands and sons and now face a range of needs regarding income and hygiene items. They also highlighted the dire need for basic services to be restored such as electricity and water. Some female respondents referred to the fact that other organisations have visited them and initiated conversations about their needs but the community has yet to receive any assistance.

“Our house is not a home. It has no doors, no windows, everything is damaged! We desperately need money and opportunities for work.”

Female FGD participant, Dohula, May 22 2017.
Observation by the WHH assessment team confirmed that Dohula village suffered extensive damage as a result of the conflict with ISIL. The destruction of homes and buildings throughout the village was ubiquitous, and the need to rebuild livelihoods, rehabilitate basic infrastructure and services was very apparent. Images 2 and 3 below demonstrate this and were taken on 22 May 2017 following the Dohula FGDs with men and women by WHH staff.

Image 2 (above) and 3 (below):
PREGNANT AND BREASTFEEDING WOMEN

Male respondents estimated that 5% of the population is currently pregnant or breastfeeding. Men further highlighted the need for female doctors and female specific healthcare services.

Female respondents were not sure about the number of pregnant or breastfeeding women in the village and no concerns were raised other than not being able to purchase enough milk or items to care for infants.

COMMUNITY OVERVIEW

INCIDENTS OF DIARRHOEA OR DISEASES

The key health concerns raised by male participants (specifically facing them) included diabetes, arthritis and high blood pressure. Men did not report diarrhoea as a problem and referred to the fact that they were drinking bottled water and or water from water trucking in the village.

Female responses indicated the contrary and reported that there were some incidents of diarrhoea (children mostly affected and some adults). They attributed this to the hotter climate, lack of clean water and no electricity.⁶

SOCIAL AND POLITICAL CONTEXT

Both female and male responses stated that their entire community in Dohula village belonged to the Yezidi religious-ethnic group. Additionally, male discussions indicated that there were five tribal groups or clans, namely: “Musqara,” “Gelka”, “Amarara”, “Judkan” and “Qorqorka”. Female respondents also referred to “Musqara,” “Gelka” and “Amarara.”

The presence of the political group PDK was mentioned by both groups; men also referred to the PUK, YPJ and the Yezidi Movement of Kurdistan. Female respondents also mentioned the PDK and Ministry of Peshmerga, which was not referred to by the men.

⁶ Given the discrepancies/conflicting accounts between male and female FGDs, a follow-up assessment is recommended to verify the information provided.
HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

When asked about the current humanitarian needs in the village, both male and female focus group discussions yielded similar responses. Livelihood support, access to a doctor or health clinic, and improved access to electricity (which is weak and sporadic) as well as drinking water were raised as key requirements for the village to recover from the conflict. Both men and women highlighted access to clean water as major issue. The village is currently reliant on water trucking and women in particular explained that the water quality was poor, tastes salty, and is undrinkable. They believed that it was causing a lot of health problems for community members, including kidney issues for both children and adults. A large bottle of water (ca 20 litres) is purchased by households for around 5,000 IQD and it generally lasts households about 10 days.

Both men and women referred to the need to reconstruct the homes of many families. As per the images 2 and 3 above, WHH observed that at least 70% of the village buildings were completely, or partially, destroyed. Respondents stated that if they are not repairable families will not return to the village.

Female focus group respondents shared how they do not want their children playing outside because there are UXO’s from the conflict between security forces and ISIS. Furthermore, children aged five to seven require a primary school which no longer exists as the teachers left due to poor government salaries or not being paid at all.

Gender based violence against women was not mentioned as a concern and was seen as an issue that was more common place 30 years ago, but has gradually diminished over time.

DISPLACEMENT

ORIGIN OF IDPS, TRANSIT POINTS AND TARGET DESTINATIONS

Of the estimated 30 IDP households in the village, male participants stated that the areas of origin included Tal Azar, Tal Qassir, and Sinjar City. Many of these communities remain under the control of ISIL and are currently inaccessible. The men interviewed suspect that the IDPs intend to stay in Dohula until their areas of origin are retaken by security forces. Male participants believed that the majority of IDPs were displaced in August 2016 and relocated to the IDP camps in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) before they relocating to Duhola. The men believe that this is the first occasion of displacement for the majority of IDP HHs.

Male participants further shared that the majority of Dohula’s original population was displaced in August 2014 when ISIS forces entered Sinjar District. Villagers that chose to stay in the village were apparently killed by ISIS. Many of the village’s HHs fled to the IDP camps in Dohuk or into Syria and it was only towards the beginning
of 2016 when they started to return back to the village. Male participants cited poor living conditions in the IDP camps/areas of displacement and the improved security situation in Duhola as the main factors that enabled them to return. However, many households are reported to not be returning as the basic infrastructure and services (electricity, water supply and shelter) are still not restored.

Women explained that there were no IDPs in the village and that the current population consists of returnees only. According to the female participants, villagers were first displaced on August 3rd 2014 (this is congruent with the date provided by male respondents). Upon displacement, villagers fled to Sinjar Mountain for 15 days and then relocated to an informal IDP camp in Zakho District. From the IDP camp in Zakho, the majority of households returned in early 2016.

Female participants indicated there would need to be a complete rehabilitation of the village in terms of buildings, restoring electricity and water supply systems in order to enable still displaced HHs to return. For the many original HHs still in camps, it is likely that they have not returned as their homes have been entirely destroyed or deemed inhabitable.

There were currently no security issues reported in the village by men or women.

### ASSET LOSS (LIVELIHOOD, HOUSEHOLD, FOOD STOCKS)

According to male respondents, most families in Dohula village had to abandon all of their livestock when they were displaced. Upon their return, the livestock was missing, stolen or dead. Returnees had little to no savings or sources of income to purchase new livestock to restart their flocks. Male participants informed that almost every household had around 20 sheep (some even 100) before 2014 and that this was a primary source of income for many families. Finally, men also stated that households lost all types of livelihood assets upon displacement (equipment, vehicles, animals, etc.).

Women reported the loss of tractors and cars. Villagers have been unable to restart agricultural livelihood activities. The main issue repeated throughout the discussion was a lack of income and capacity to purchase the necessary inputs to plant new crops for their home gardens and large scale farms. Women also indicated that most families lost their livestock between 10 to 100 sheep due to their displacement.

"After the crisis we lost everything. When we came back, we found and returned to nothing."

Female FGD participant, Dohula, May 22 2017.

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Given the discrepancies/conflicting accounts between male and female FGDs, a follow-up assessment is recommended to verify the information provided.
**LIVELIHOODS**

The main livelihood activities for men before displacement were livestock husbandry (sheep and goats) or agricultural farming. Men shared that they have not been able to restart agricultural activities due to the lack of income and the expense of purchasing new inputs such as vehicles, seeds, equipment, etc. In addition, there are still UXOs in the village but no mapping has occurred – this uncertainty about safety further compounds any attempt to rebuild livelihoods. Men shared that the most available livelihood is working for the Peshmerga or other militia groups, and that the Peshmerga pays people around 300,000 IQD every 40 to 60 days.

Prior to the conflict, female livelihood activities entailed small home gardens (which were quite profitable), livestock husbandry (especially sheep) - and their households had access to cars and tractors to assist with both male and female livelihoods. Women would like to restore their livelihood activities and reported needing cash and seeds in order to restart their gardens. New livestock would also be beneficial as women could sell the sheep’s milk and meat.

According to women, men used to work in the military in Mosul, Telafar, and Baghdad; and others worked in reconstruction in the KRI. Many women lost their husbands while other men had to resign from their jobs as they could not return to Mosul because of ongoing tensions between Yezidi and Arab people.

**FOOD STOCKS**

Male FGD participants stated that families had to abandon all food stocks upon displacement. Upon their return, all food and non-food item stocks were lost or stolen. Families are currently stocking small amounts of food items like rice and flour; however, amounts are minimal. Many families are consuming the entirety of their food stocks on a weekly basis before they need to be replenished. Food stocks generally last a household 5 to 7 days.

Female respondents shared that families possessed large food stocks prior to displacement. The majority of households had at least 500 kg of flour and 200 kg of rice, all of which was missing upon return. Currently, most households are unable to stock food. Families are often forced to buy food on a daily basis as per their daily needs. Local shops and food vendors also lack large supplies of food items, which requires families to travel outside the village to access larger food markets in Sinuni.

**SOURCES OF FOOD**

The main source of food according to both male and female participants was food purchased from local markets in Duhola and Sinuni. Following this, the second source of food is received through the government PDS distributions, which consist only of flour, and is provided to HHs every 40 to 60 days. Women pointed out that this distribution is not sufficient for the time period, despite it being a reliable distribution. Finally, only male participants referred to food kits received by the BCF; they also mentioned that the YPJ was distributing flour to some HHs every 40 to 60 days as well.
Female participants reported that they require 500,000 IQD to purchase all necessary food items for their households each month. Women also mentioned that they do not always have enough money to pay for food items and therefore they borrow cash from local shops. If they take out a loan from shops, their husbands usually repay the loan once they return from their day labour jobs. Shops do not allow families to take loans for long periods. Women stressed that there is currently not enough food in the village and that they have to buy it from Sinuni and even Zakho if they can arrange to visit there.

**FOOD CONSUMPTION**

Both men and women reported that children and adults eat three times a day. Children might sometimes have extra meals as they take milk. Females shared that most meals consist of yoghurt for breakfast, rice with tomatoes if there are vegetables and yoghurt again for dinner. There is generally no access to meat and many have not eaten meat for a while.

*"We only depend on ourselves, no one is helping us."

Female FGD participant, Dohula, May 22 2017.

**FOOD ACCESS AND PRICES**

Male participants shared that households have access to functioning markets. There are around 15 shops in the village and, according to the men, these shops have food available. Men also reported that food prices are currently stable but emphasised that when the main access point into Ninewa Governorate (via Sehela Bridge) closes, food prices may increase. However, this has not occurred for a few months. They also maintained that shop owners could respond to an increase in demand for food items.

Men explained that lack of income is by far the main challenge in accessing food. Food availability has been stable for the last two months and it is not currently problematic to transport food in to the village from KRI; however, as above, this depends on if supplies and suppliers are blocked from transporting items into Ninewa Governorate from KRI.

Men indicated that if assistance was provided, cash for food would be the most appropriate and relevant modality as households would use the money to prioritise food first. Most men are responsible for managing money within the household; however, some men explained that this depends on the family.

Women shared a slightly different perspective and highlighted that there is no central market area to purchase food and non-food items. Women estimated Duhola to have a maximum of 10 (potentially even less) small shops, of which not all sold food items. Furthermore, shops that did sell food items were not stocking a large variety or had
sufficient quantity of food items to meet their families’ needs. The lack of quantity and variety of food items within Duhola forces families to travel to Sinuni in order to access larger food markets.\(^8\)

In contrast to the men, women in Dohula believed that there had been a price change (especially after the conflict) but other than this no recent change. Prior to the conflict households did not have to purchase food or non-food items from outside the village, so it was cheaper and families were also more self-sufficient as they could grow their own food. Women were not sure if markets and the shops could absorb an increase in demand.

When asked about their preferred assistance modality, women also shared that cash assistance would be most useful and that they would spend all of the money on food. They believed that their husbands would also share their view (which male participants did) and stressed that food would be the first priority, followed by water, and then spending money on health care (doctor visits, medicine, etc.).

### COPING STRATEGIES

Both male and female FGD participants cited borrowing food items or cash (when available) from relatives and neighbours as a coping mechanism. Females also indicated that they would take small loans of food or non-food items from the shop and pay back as soon as possible, so incomes from the husband would go straight to the shops. Men also shared that some families might be reducing meal sizes.

### PRESENCE OF OTHER HUMANITARIAN ACTORS

When asked about other humanitarian actors in the area, men and women referred to the BCF – however the women emphasised that their visits are not regular and that their food basket is not enough to meet their needs and usually only lasts a week. Additionally, sometimes food items are missing.

Men also referred to the WHH Cash for Work (CfW) program, and mentioned that Save the Children have ongoing WASH activities as well. They stated that they are the poorest village in the Sinjar area and support is urgently needed.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

Although there is some market presence in the form of small shops, and humanitarian assistance is reaching HHs in the village, the amount and variety of food items

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\(^8\) Given the discrepancies/conflicting accounts between male and female FGDs, a follow-up assessment is recommended to verify the information provided.
appears to be insufficient. The fact that some households are reportedly traveling to Sinuni to access more robust food markets highlights the difficulties in accessing sufficient food at the village level.

Additionally, the lack of quality water supply infrastructure and access to health clinics requires urgent attention.

Livelihoods and income-earning opportunities also present a great need and if this was addressed, it would assist households in acquiring the income needed to access more food and non-food items.

Therefore, the following interventions are recommended:

1. Support sustainable, non-militarized livelihood and income-earning opportunities for IDP and returnee households in Dohula

2. Conduct a follow up market assessment to assess the feasibility of implementing a cash-based transfer scheme.

3. Support local food production in Sinjar District at the regional, community, and household levels

4. Advocate for the unimpeded access of food items, humanitarian assistance, and livelihood assets to all communities in Sinjar District.
WHH-DOGURE VILLAGE

Author, Position
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Month, Year
May 2017
Contact
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Project Area
Ninewa Governorate
Sinjar District, Sinuni Sub-district
Dogure Village

KEY FINDINGS

DEMOGRAPHICS

VILLAGE POPULATION

According to male participants, Dogure village has a current total population of 1000 HHs (approximately 6,000 individuals). All of Dogure’s HHs were displaced on August 3rd 2014 when ISIS entered and gained military control over Sinjar District. HHs from Dogure originally fled to Sinjar Mountain and later chose different locations of displacement. Male participants mentioned that many families fled to the Dohuk, while others fled to Syria. The majority of HHs returned to Dogure between May and October 2016. Male participants indicated that the recent airstrike against the PKK in Dogure by Turkish security forces might further discourage still-displaced families from returning to the village. The primary factors that influenced HHs to return to Dogure was that the village was retaken by friendly armed forces, the security situation had stabilized to support returning, and that the living conditions in the official IDP camps were poor, which discouraged them from remaining in their areas of displacement.

Female focus group participants estimated Dogure to have a current total population between 900 to 1000 HHs. Female participants depicted a different displacement story for returnee HHs. After fleeing to Sinjar Mountain on August 3rd 2014, HHs stayed there for approximately three months (August-October 2014) before returning to Dogure. HHs were able to stay in Dogure for approximately one month before preemptively fleeing again after hearing reports that ISIL was planning to retake the area.
According to female focus group members, HHs again returned to Dogure in December 2014 and have remained in Dogure since.\(^9\)

**CHILDREN**

According to male focus group participants, 25% (1,500 individuals) of the population are children under the age of five. Male participants indicated that there is a lack of child-friendly spaces and educational facilities (i.e. pre-school and kindergarten buildings) for children under five. Male participants also indicated that village households struggled to afford basic food and non-food items for children under five (baby formula, food, diapers, etc.).

Female participants were unable to provide an estimate for the number of children under five in Dogure. Female participants noted the difficulty in obtaining baby food and non-food items (baby formula, children’s clothing, etc.). In addition, Dogure does not have any available paediatric doctors or healthcare services for children. Female participants also noted that UXOs continue to be discovered in the area, which poses a risk for children and youth playing outside.

**WOMEN**

Male focus group participants estimated that 50% (approximately 3,000 individuals) of the population is female. Male participants indicated that there were no healthcare services available to women in Dogure village. Furthermore, men were uncomfortable to allow women to visit the nearby primary health clinic in Sinuni because there were reportedly no female doctors or healthcare workers on-site to see women.

Female participants were unable to provide an estimate for the number of women in Dogure. Female participants indicated that many women continue to be afraid of the volatile security situation in parts of Sinjar District (proximity to frontline with ISIS, presence of armed groups, recent airstrikes from Turkish air forces). Female participants also noted that women in the village suffer from displacement-related trauma, and are in need of various psychological services.

\(^9\) Given the discrepancies/conflicting accounts between male and female FGDs, a follow-up assessment is recommended to verify the information provided.
PREGNANT AND BREASTFEEDING WOMEN

Male focus group participants estimated that 15% (450 individuals) of the Dogure’s female population is either pregnant or breastfeeding. Male participants indicated that the main issue pregnant or breastfeeding women face is a lack of female healthcare services as well as no available income to purchase basic food and non-food items for babies.

Female participants were unable to provide an estimate for the number of pregnant or breastfeeding women in Dogure. The main issue pregnant and breastfeeding women face in the village, according to the women’s FGD, is the lack of an accessible female healthcare service. As per the quotes below, women allegedly routinely give birth in their homes and receive no pre or post-natal or paediatric healthcare services. Female participants noted that women generally breastfeed, but are often unable to produce sufficient breast milk for their infants. Pregnant and breastfeeding women also struggle to purchase baby milk formulas to supplement their breast milk feeding.

“Pregnant women are forced to breastfeed their babies, and when they do it’s not enough. There is also not enough money to buy milk for infants.”

“A large issue in this village is that there are no appropriate birthing facilities – many pregnant women give birth at home without the necessary care.”

Female FGD participants, Dogure, May 22 2017.

FEMALE-HEADED HOUSEHOLDS

Male focus group participants estimated that 5% (150 HHs) of the population were female-headed. Male participants indicated that main issue female-headed households faced was insufficient income-earning opportunities in order to support household dependents.
Female participants were unable to provide an estimate for the number of female-headed households in Dogure. Female participants also noted that female-headed households struggled to access income-earning opportunities. As a result, female-headed households struggle to afford basic food and non-food items for their household dependents. Female participants noted that female-headed households often rely on married sons or neighbours to support them with income.

**COMMUNITY OVERVIEW**

**INCIDENTS OF DIARRHOEA OR DISEASES**

Male focus group participants indicated that diabetes, high-blood pressure, and kidney problems were the main health issues prevalent in Dogure. Male participants did not feel that diarrhoea, although prevalent in the community, was a major issue for most households. When asked who was most affected by the above mentioned health issues, male participants indicated that adult men were most affected.

Female focus group participants indicated that diarrhoea was a prevalent health issue in Dogure affecting both children and adults. Children were adversely affected by diarrhoea given their young age and susceptibility to disease. Female participants indicated that diarrhoea was likely a symptom of waterborne and/or foodborne illnesses present in the village. Female participants suspect that the food and waterborne illnesses likely result from the consumption of untreated water and/or poor food handling/storage conditions that arise from limited access to electricity.

**SOCIAL AND POLITICAL CONTEXT**

Male focus group participants indicated that the entire community in Dogure belonged to the Yezidi religious-ethnic group. Male participants mentioned that the majority of households belong to the following four tribal groups (although it was mentioned that other smaller tribes exist in the community): “Musqara,” “Aldin,” “Hasan,” and “Joanna.” The political groups PKK, YBS, and KDP were all mentioned as having an active presence in the village.

Female focus group participants also indicated that the entire population in Dogure belonged to the Yezidi religious-ethnic group. The major tribes in the village were the “Musqara,” “Gelka,” and “Amarara.” Both the PKK and KDP political parties were mentioned as having an active presence in the village.
**DISPLACEMENT**

**ORIGIN OF IDPS, TRANSIT POINTS AND THEIR TARGET DESTINATIONS**

Male focus group participants estimated that 30 IDP HHs are currently living in Dogure village. It was reported that IDP HHs occupy the homes of families that had not returned to Dogure. It was unclear whether IDPs households had obtained the informed consent of the still-displaced families, or what the overall level of tolerance of their presence was by the host community. Male participants were unsure about the places of origin for IDP households, but indicated they were from areas of Sinjar District that were still under ISIS control. Male participants predict that IDP HHs will stay in Dogure until their villages are retaken from ISIS and the situation is stable enough to support their return home.

In contrast, female participants estimated that almost 200 IDP HHs are currently living in Dogure village. Female participants indicated the majority of IDP HHs were originally from Tal Ozer, Tal Qasab, and Siba villages in Sinjar District. Female participants mentioned that the recent air strike conducted by Turkish security forces in Dogure village will likely discourage additional IDP HHs from settling in Dogure. Female participants suspected that IDP HHs are waiting for their villages to be retaken and for basic services to be restored before returning to their areas of origin.

**PRIMARY OR SECONDARY DISPLACEMENT AND DATES OF ARRIVAL**

Male participants stated that IDP HHs living in Dogure were displaced in August 2014 and fled originally to Sinjar Mountain before relocating to Dohuk Governorate where they stayed for approximately 2 years. The majority of IDP HHs relocated to Dogure from Dohuk Governorate in August 2016.

Female participants indicated that IDPs (as well as original HHs from Dogure) were displaced in August 2014 and fled to Sinjar Mountain where they remained there for approximately 3 months. After their initial displacement, IDPs and host community

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10 Given the discrepancies/conflicting accounts between male and female FGDs, a follow-up assessment is recommended to verify the information provided.
households returned to Dogure in October 2014 and were displaced a second time for approximately one month in November 2014. After the second round of displacement, the majority of IDP and host community HHs collectively settled in Dogure in December 2014. Women believed that Dogure village will likely be an interim destination for IDP HHs whose villages have not yet been retaken by Iraqi or Kurdish security forces.

FOOD SECURITY

ASSET LOSS

Male participants indicated that all livelihood assets (livestock, tractors, trucks, equipment, etc.) were missing or stolen when households returned to Dogure. Due to the rapid nature of the displacement that occurred on August 3rd 2014, families had to abandon all livestock, crops, and equipment before fleeing to Sinjar Mountain. Male participants indicated that before displacement many families owned dozens of livestock (primarily sheep, goats, and chickens). Now returnee families are struggling to replenish their lost livestock flocks due to a lack of income. It was estimated that most families in Dogure that possess sheep or goats have less than 5 animals per household. No major health issues were present among livestock that families own now. It was also mentioned that the PKK had cleared some of the land around Dogure of UXOs and IEDs. Male participants were uncertain about what areas remained contaminated, if at all. It was also reported that there continues to be significant challenges in transporting equipment and livelihood assets past Sahela checkpoint from the KRI.

Female focus group participants indicated that before their displacement, households in Dogure owned agricultural equipment such as tractors as well personal vehicles. In terms of livestock, the majority of households owned 40 to 150 sheep. Female participants also noted that approximately 100 households managed beehives and sold honey to generate additional income. Many households also maintained small private gardens where they grew vegetables for personal consumption. Female participants also confirmed that households were forced to abandon all household and livelihood assets upon displacement. Female participants confirmed that upon return, households discovered that all assets were either missing or stolen. As per the quote below, female participants mentioned that the majority of beehives had been deliberately burned/destroyed by ISIS.

In regards to land assets, female participants were unsure about the level of remaining UXO/IED contamination in land used for agriculture. Female participants did mention that the Mine Action Group (MAG), had conducted some IED/UXO removal activities, but they were uncertain whether all agricultural land was cleared. Female participants confirmed that the majority of livelihood activities have been severely disrupted as a
result of their displacement and the ongoing conflict in the region. The main reported issue preventing households from restarting livelihood activities was a lack of income needed to purchase farming equipment and agricultural inputs.

“Before the conflict we had cars, tractors, sheep – each family had anywhere from 40 to 150 sheep. We also raised bees – the beehive was burned by ISIS, now nothing is left.”

Female FGD participants, Dogure, May 21 2017.

**LIVELIHOODS (PRE AND POST DISPLACEMENT)**

Male participants indicated that that prior to displacement, the majority of men were working as farmers growing wheat and raising livestock. Farmers are slowly rebuilding their livestock flocks, but are struggling to restart agricultural farming due to the lack of expensive assets needed (tractors, seeds, fertilizers, irrigation systems, etc.). Currently there are very few income-earning opportunities besides some construction work or enlisting with the Peshmerga, which pays 300 USD per month or other political groups and their affiliated armed groups such as the YBS (male group) and YJS (female group) which allegedly pay 400 USD per month. One male participant, affiliated with one armed group, mentioned that Sinjar District is militarizing as a result of vulnerable households enlisting with various parties and their affiliated armed groups in order to earn an income.

“After enlisting, they hand you a gun, and suddenly you’re required to follow their orders.”

Male FGD participant, Dogure, May 21 2017.

Female participants noted that women were involved in a variety of livelihood activities prior to displacement. Many women previously worked in 2-3 large-scale greenhouses owned by a few families in the village and received payment for their work. Women were also responsible for livestock management and helped to raise sheep for their households. Female participants mentioned that men were involved in different types of livelihood activities prior to displacement such as construction, large-scale farming, livestock husbandry, working for Peshmerga security forces, and owning small private businesses that sold food and non-food items or repaired vehicles.
In regards to food stocks, male participants indicated that households did not possess particularly large food stockpiles before displacement. Male participants were not able to provide estimates on the amounts of food stocks that households possessed before displacement. Men reported that most households had stores of flour and cooking oil and replenished perishable food items on a weekly basis. All food items were missing or stolen upon households return to Dogure. Male participants mentioned that returnee household food stocks remain incredibly low due to a lack of income to replenish basic food items.

Female participants reported that the majority of households had food stocks in their homes comprised of food items like oil, flour, and rice. Female participants estimated that households stocked on average 500 kg of flour and 200 kg of rice at any given time. All food stocks were missing or stolen when households returned. It was mentioned that women are primarily responsible for replenishing household food stocks and purchasing food items at the local market. Female participants indicated that before displacement, women were purchasing food items on average three times a week from local vendors in Dogure as well as the larger markets in Sinuni. Female participants reported that after returning, household food stocks are close to non-existent.

Male participants indicated that the main source of food for households were local market in Dogure and Sinuni. Male participants indicated that there were approximately 15 small shops that sold food items in Dogure. For the past few months, food vendors have not encountered issues in stocking food. The other main sources of food households relied on PDS distributions, which consisted of 9 kg of flour per household member every three months. Male participants also reported that the PKK was providing 70 kg of flour per month to households in the village that registered with the group.

Female participants indicated that the primary way households were accessing food was purchasing food items from vendors in Sinuni. Female participants mentioned that there were approximately four local vendors in Dogure that sold food items, but these items are mostly pre-packaged snacks not suitable for meals. As a result, households are forced to travel to Sinuni (approximately 10 minutes by car) to purchase food items. Female participants also mentioned that households are receiving monthly PDS flour distributions. In addition, some households are receiving monthly food kit distributions from the Barzani Charity Foundation (BCF). Female participants mentioned that food kit items were only sufficient to feed one household member for approximately one week before being depleted. There were additional complaints that
the BCF food kits sometimes were missing promised food items. Female participants also confirmed that the PKK had distributed flour and oil rations to households in Dogure approximately one year ago, but were currently only distributing food items to IDP households living in informal camps near Sinjar Mountain.11

FOOD CONSUMPTION

Male participants mentioned that adults and children were consuming at least three meals a day prior to displacement. Upon return, the majority of households are still able to provide three meals to all household members.

According to female participants, households were consuming at least three meals per day prior to displacement. Since returning, some households were consuming up to four meals per day. Female participants mentioned more meals were being consumed as a result of boredom and lack of job opportunities. It was unclear whether portion sizes and/or amount of food consumed had overall increased or decreased since returning.

FOOD PRICES

Male participants indicated that food prices have generally been stable at the local shops for the past few months. The vast majority of food sold at the local markets is transported from the KRI into Ninewa Governorate via the Sahela bridge checkpoint. Male participants did indicate that checkpoint closures in the past have disrupted market chains and increased food prices.

In contrast, female participants indicated that food prices have risen since returning.12 Prior to displacement, families could allegedly purchase food items directly originating from Sinjar District. With the majority of Sinjar-based food production activities disrupted, the majority of food items are now transported from KRI suppliers. Female participant suspected the additional transportation costs had caused the rice in price of food items. Female participants provided the example that prior to displacement, households could purchase one kg of tomatoes for approximately 500 IQD. Since returning, households are paying approximately 2,000 IQD for the same amount of tomatoes.

11 Given the discrepancies/conflicting accounts between male and female FGDs, a follow-up assessment is recommended to verify the information provided.
12 Given the discrepancies/conflicting accounts between male and female FGDs, a follow-up assessment is recommended to verify the information provided.
FOOD ACCESS ISSUES

Male participants indicated that the primary food access issue was a lack of income to purchase sufficient food items and inability to restart livelihood activities. It was also mentioned that unofficial tariffs were being applied to food and non-food items at the Sahela bridge checkpoint, thereby complicating the food shipping process from the KRI into Sinjar District. Checkpoint closures in the past have also shutdown food item transports and greatly impacted the available food on the market. It was also alleged (but not confirmed) that cheaper food items imported from Syria are available in nearby Khana Sor village, which is currently under the control of the PKK. Villagers are however not allowed to bring food items (regardless of origin) purchased in Khana Sor with them past Peshmerga-controlled checkpoints.

Female participants indicated the main issue in accessing food was a lack of income as well as the increased burden in having to pay for transportation to Sinuni to access desired food items. Female participants mentioned that families would normally hire a taxi driver and pay 3-5,000 IQD to travel to and from Sinuni in order to access food vendors with more variety. Female participants reported that the food availability situation in Sinuni was sufficient and that they could purchase the food items they desired. Female participants also mentioned that the distance and cost required to travel to Sinuni impeded households in Dogure from accessing food items. Females reported that they travelled at least once a week to Sinuni to purchase food items and that they were forced to take loans from shops in Dogure, which they would repay when their husbands returned from their day labour jobs.

“We are all affected – we have some food, but we have to borrow money to buy it.”

Female FGD participant, Dogure, May 22 2017.

COPING STRATEGIES

Male participants indicated that the main coping strategies used by households to obtain food included borrowing cash and/or food items from neighbours and extended family. Men also alleged that households are purchasing lower quality, less expensive food items in order to obtain more food.

Female participants indicated the main coping strategies used by households to obtain food items was borrowing cash from neighbours and extended families, as well as taking out loans from local shop owners. Female participants also mentioned that households were also selling personal belongings like jewellery and rifles in order to generate additional income to purchase food items.
PRESENCE OF OTHER HUMANITARIAN ACTORS

Male participants were aware of YAZDA having distributed agricultural livelihood assets in Dogure. Male participants were also aware of WHH having registered households for upcoming cash for work activities.

Female participants were aware of BCF currently providing monthly food kit rations to households.

UTILISATION OF CASH ASSISTANCE

UTILIZATION OF CASH

Male participants indicated they would prefer cash over in-kind food assistance. If provided cash, male participants said they would utilize the extra income to first obtain additional clean water, healthcare services, and then food items. Male participants believed their spouses would agree with how they prioritized spending. All male participants indicated that they control their household’s income and decision making regarding important financial decisions.

Female participants also indicated they would also prefer cash over in-kind food assistance. Female participants highlighted the fact that most basic services and food/non-food items are needed by households in Dogure including electricity, clean water, and shelter reconstruction materials. Female participants indicated that that cash would allow families to be more flexible in prioritizing what basic food and/or non-food items were needed the most. If provided cash, female participants indicated they would use the extra income to purchase additional food items, followed by children’s clothing, and then healthcare services. Female participants would prefer a monthly cash distribution scheme where they receive money for each month in a one-off transfer.
**IMPACTS OF CASH ON THE MARKET**

Male participants indicated that shop owners in Dogure would be able to respond to an increase in demand for food items.

Female participants were less certain that local shop owners in Dogure could cope with an increase in demand for food items as their storage capacities are already quite low. As mentioned before, local markets in Dogure do not stock food items beyond small snack items. It was uncertain whether introducing cash would enable local markets to expand their food item variety or ability to store perishable goods.

**Summary**

According to both male and female groups, all households in Dogure lost the entirety of their personal belongings, food stocks, and livelihood assets as a result of the conflict and their displacement. Recovery remains slow and hindered. In many cases, households prioritize spending their limited income on supporting their families at the cost of being able to restart their livelihoods or rebuild their homes.

In general, markets are functioning in Dogure and Sinuni villages where IDP and returnee households access the majority of their food items. Between the two villages, all desired food items were indicated as being available. The fact that households must however pay to travel to Sinuni in order to access certain food items not in Dogure further drains already limited resources. Further research should be undertaken to understand what key food items are missing in Dogure and whether food availability at the village-level can be increased. On a larger scale, the supply chain situation for Dogure/Sinuni remains precarious as supply routes to the region can be quickly cut off at key checkpoints. Finally, the fact that local food production in Sinjar District remains disrupted requires that food items be transported entirely from the KRI, which has allegedly increased food prices and lowered households’ purchasing power.

According to both groups, the main issue preventing households from accessing food is income based. Widespread unemployment and the inability to restart former livelihoods or find stable, long-term income earning opportunities forces returnee and IDP families into a higher level of food insecurity than would be expected.

As a result of their food insecurity, the returnee and IDP households are receiving multiple types of food assistance (primarily flour and oil), from PDS distributions, BCF, and some political parties. The food assistance that is provided is reported as insufficient and sporadic.

For the time being, households have developed effective coping strategies to the aforementioned food access challenges by borrowing cash from extended family or neighbours, or generating income through the enlistment in local militia groups.
is incredibly concerning, however, is the extremely low resiliency of many households in Dogure. Both male and female groups also reported concerning levels of low household food stocks. If humanitarian assistance and food supply routes were blocked, the majority of households would likely consume the entirety of food stocks within 5-7 days.

It should also likely that returnee and IDP households are no longer in such an emergency state where food kit distributions should be the primary form of food assistance. With markets functioning in Dogure/Sinuni, cash assistance would be an effective and more dignifying aid modality that could potentially increase targeted households overall food security (if food items are purchased). Both focus groups mentioned however that there are many competing needs for clean water, healthcare services, and non-food items (in addition to food). Households might forgo increasing their food security in order to address other important needs. Finally, it must be mentioned that cash assistance is only effective in functioning market settings. Although the market situation has been reportedly stable in Sinjar for the past two months, focus groups have recalled instances where food access was reduced as a result of checkpoint closures. If markets were disrupted for longer than a week, cash assistance would likely become less effective at addressing food insecurity at the household level.

**Recommendations**

1. Support sustainable, non-militarized livelihood and income-earning opportunities for IDP and returnee households in Dogure

2. Advocate for the unimpeded access of food items, humanitarian assistance, and livelihood assets to all communities in Sinjar District

3. Conduct a follow up market assessment to assess the feasibility of implementing cash-based transfer scheme.

4. Support local food suppliers in increasing food item diversity in Dogure village

5. Support local food production in Sinjar District at the regional, community, and household level
WHH-BOREK VILLAGE

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Project Area: Ninewa Governorate
Sinjar District, Sinuni Sub-district
Borek Village

KEY FINDINGS

DEMOGRAPHICS

POPULATION

Male focus group participants estimated Borek to have a total population of 1,300 HHs (approximately 6,000 individuals). Male participants indicated that community HHs started returning to Borek after February 2016. The primary factors that influenced HHs to return to Borek was that the village was retaken by security forces, the security situation had stabilized to support returning, and that the living conditions in the official IDP camps were worse than in their homes. These combined factors incentivized HHs from Borek to return to leave their areas of displacement and return to their homes.

Female focus group participants were not aware of the total returnee population in Borek village. Female participants confirmed that all community members were displaced from Borek on August 3rd 2014 when ISIS entered and gained military control over Sinjar District. HHs from Borek originally fled to Sinjar Mountain and later fled to IDP camps such as Essian Camp in Sheikhan District, Ninewa Governorate. According to the women, community members began returning to Borek after March 2015 and as late as April 2017.
CHILDREN

Male focus group participants estimated that 40% (2,400 individuals) of the total population were children under five. Male participants felt the main issue affecting children under five was a lack of child-friendly spaces such as parks and playgrounds as well as educational facilities (i.e. pre-school and kindergarten).

Female focus group participants estimated that there were between 300-500 children under the age of five living in Borek (5-8% of the total population). Female participants mentioned that there were two primary schools in Borek with a total student population of 900 children (including children over five). Female participants indicated that the main issues affecting children under five was a lack of safe drinking water. HHs also struggle to afford clothing for children under five.

WOMEN

Male focus group participants estimated that 45% (2,700 individuals) of the population to be female. Male participants indicated that women suffered higher rates of psychological issues such as PTSD, anxiety, and trauma as a result of their displacement.

Female focus group participants were unable to provide an estimate for the number of women in Borek. The majority of participants felt however that there were more women than men in the village. The main issues reported were Gender Based Violence (GBV) and a lack of female doctors. Female participants reported that GBV has been in decline (i.e. present time versus 20 years ago) in the village due to increased awareness raising about the issue and improvements in education, but is still prevalent enough that it remains an issue. Early marriage continues to be practiced and child wives are particularly at risk of domestic violence. It was also reported that sexual harassment is common and that all women have experienced it when outside of their homes. It was estimated that maybe 1 in 20 women have experienced some type of physical violence.

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13 Given the discrepancies/conflicting accounts between male and female FGDs, a follow-up assessment is recommended to verify the information provided.
PREGNANT AND BREASTFEEDING WOMEN

Male focus group participants were unable to provide an estimate for the number of pregnant and breastfeeding women in Borek. The primary issue that affected pregnant and breastfeeding women was the lack of female healthcare services, female doctors, and healthcare facilities in Borek. HHs in need of specialized services or wanting female healthcare providers must travel to Dohuk, which adds to the expenses.

Female focus group participants were unable to provide an estimate for the number of pregnant or breastfeeding women in Borek. Female participants reported that it is common practice for women to breastfeed, but often struggle to produce sufficient breast milk for their infants. HHs with pregnant and breastfeeding women struggle to afford powdered milk formulas to supplement women’s breastfeeding (one can of powdered milk formula can cost as much as 5,000 IQD).

COMMUNITY OVERVIEW

INCIDENTS OF DIARRHEA OR DISEASES

Male respondents indicated that diarrhoea is the most prevalent health issue, affecting primarily children. Male participants suspected that diarrhoea was the symptom of a lack of clean water and poor food handling.

Female focus group participants indicated that diarrhoea was also a prevalent health issue in Borek affecting both children and adults. Other health issues indicated were skin diseases (rashes) and fever, which primarily affected young children. Malaria was not listed as a concern in the village.

SOCIAL AND POLITICAL CONTEXT

Male and female focus group participants indicated that the entire population in Borek belonged to the Yezidi religious-ethnic group. The majority of the population in the village belonged to the following tribes “Ganabee,” “Khorka,” and “Joanna”. The political parties KDP, PKK, and PUK were mentioned as being present in the village.
DISPLACEMENT

ORIGIN OF IDPS, TRANSIT POINTS, AND TARGET DESTINATIONS

Male and female respondents estimated that between 30 to 45 IDP HHs were currently living in Borek village and arrived in May 2016. IDP HHs occupy the homes of families that had not returned to Borek. It was unclear whether IDPs HHs were obtaining the informed consent of the still-displaced families, or what the overall level of tolerance of their presence was by the host community. Both groups indicated the majority of IDP HHs were originally from Sinjar City, Tal Ozer, Tal Qasab, and Siba villages in Sinjar District. Both men and women’s groups suspected IDP HHs are waiting for their villages to be retaken and for basic services to be restored before returning to their places of origin.

PRIMARY OR SECONDARY DISPLACEMENT AND DATES OF ARRIVAL

Male focus group participants stated that IDP HHs living in Borek were displaced in August 2014 and fled originally to Sinjar Mountain before moving to Dohuk Governorate where they temporarily settled for two years. The majority of IDP HHs relocated to Borek in May 2016. Female participants mentioned that the main reason IDP HHs relocated to Borek was because they had extended family members living in the village.

FOOD SECURITY

ASSET LOSS (LIVELIHOOD & HOUSEHOLD)

Male and female focus group discussions both reported that the majority of HHs owned livestock before displacement (primarily sheep, chickens, turkeys, and beehives). In addition, many HHs owned tractors, personal vehicles, and various other farming equipment needed for farming wheat. The majority of wheat fields were also irrigated with water pipeline networks and sprinkler systems.

Both men and women’s focus groups reported that all household and livelihood assets were stolen or missing when HHs returned to Borek. Returnee HHs currently struggle to acquire the financial capital needed to restart agricultural livelihood activities.
(purchasing new equipment, agricultural inputs, etc.). In addition, male participants estimated that that only one in ten irrigation systems are currently functioning, which further hinders farmers from restarting their fields. It was not known how much of the surrounding land used for agriculture is contaminated by IEDs or UXOs (if at all). Households that have managed to restart their livestock flocks now own two sheep on average.

**LIVELIHOODS (PRE AND POST DISPLACEMENT)**

Men and women throughout the FGD’s indicated that prior to displacement, the primary sources of livelihoods for households were agriculture (livestock and wheat farming), construction work in the KRI, or working as security personnel with the Peshmerga. Since returning, the majority of the HHs struggle to find consistent and reliable sources of income. Male participants commented that the only current sources of income were day labor activities (construction) or enlisting with the Peshmerga.

Female participants mentioned that returnee HHs struggle to restart livelihood activities because they lack available income to purchase equipment and inputs. Female participants also mentioned that teachers in the village are not paid their salaries on time by the government. Women also reported that their men working for the Peshmerga had observed a decrease in wages from pre-displacement times and were paid only every 2-3 months.

**FOOD STOCKS**

Both male and female focus group participants mentioned that since returning, households have not been able to replenish food stocks to pre-displacement levels. Male participants estimated that most households are consuming the entirety of their food stocks on a weekly. Female participants reported that some households are living day-to-day off the food items purchased.

**SOURCES OF FOOD**

Male and female participants both indicated that the main source of food for returnee households were local vendors in Borek and Sinuni, PDS flour and cooking oil ration distributions, and BCF food kits. Male participants also indicated that some households
were able to restart small vegetable gardens and raise chickens to supplement their primary food sources.

**FOOD CONSUMPTION**

Male and female focus group participants both mentioned that prior to displacement adults and children were consuming on average three meals a day. Upon return, the majority of HHs are still able to provide three meals to all members. Male participants did mention that household adults might be reducing portion sizes in order to provide their children with more food.

**FOOD PRICES**

Male respondents indicated that since returning, food prices have generally been stable at the local shops since returning. In contrast, female participants indicated that food prices have risen since returning. It was unknown at the time of assessment which group might interact more frequently with food items and prices at the local markets. Female participants noted that the majority of food items are now transported from KRI suppliers to Sinjar District. It was suspected that the additional transportation costs had raised the price of food items. Female participants provided the example that prior to displacement, HHs could purchase one kg of tomatoes for approximately 500 IQD. Since returning, HHs are paying approximately 1,000 IQD for the same amount of tomatoes.

**FOOD INSECURE HHs**

Both men and women’s groups stressed that all HHs in Borek struggle to be self-sufficient and all families rely to a varying extent on governmental or humanitarian food assistance in order to provide food for their members.

**FOOD ACCESS ISSUES**

Male and female focus groups indicated that markets are functioning and the majority of desired food items are available between Borek and Sinuni. Male participants estimated that Borek has 60 small local vendors that sell food items. A follow-up

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14 Given the discrepancies/conflicting accounts between male and female FGDs, a follow-up assessment is recommended to verify the information provided.
market analysis should be conducted to learn whether households are purchasing the majority of their food items in Sinuni or Borek. Both focus groups identified that the primary food access issue affecting HHs was a lack of income due to the inability to restart livelihood activities or find reliable income-earning opportunities. Female participants also mentioned that the transportation of food items from the KRI to Sinjar District has been relatively stable over the past three months, but that checkpoint closures had affected food availability in the markets in the past.

**COPING STRATEGIES**

Male and female focus groups indicated that the main coping strategy used by HHs was borrowing money from neighbours and extended family members to purchase food items. Households would repay debts after receiving salaries. Male participants also mentioned that parents might be reducing food consumption in order to allow their children to have access to more food.

**PRESENCE OF OTHER HUMANITARIAN ACTORS**

Male and female focus group participants were aware of the following humanitarian actors that were present or had at one time conducted activities in Borek:

- Barzani Charity Foundation (ongoing food kit distributions)
- Medicines Du Monde (health care services)
- Humanity (hygiene promotion, child protection, and child friendly spaces)
- Save the Children (hygiene kit distribution)
- Qandil (school building renovations)
- Welthungerhilfe (ongoing cash for work activities)

**UTILISATION OF CASH ASSISTANCE**

**UTILIZATION OF CASH**

Both male and female focus groups indicated they would prefer cash over in-kind food assistance. Men and women also highlighted the fact that there are many competing needs besides food that could be supported with cash assistance. Healthcare services, transportation, electricity, clean water, and shelter reconstruction were all identified as important needs alongside food. If provided cash assistance, female participants indicated they would prioritize purchasing food items and then hygiene items.
IMPACTS OF CASH ON THE MARKET

Both male and female focus group participants reported the local markets in Borek and Sinuni could respond to an increase in cash and demand for food items.

Summary

According to both male and female focus groups, all HHs in Borek lost the entirety of their personal belongings, food stocks, and livelihood assets as a result of the conflict and their displacement. Recovery remains slow and hindered. In many cases, HHs prioritize spending their limited income on supporting their families at the cost of being able to restart their livelihoods or rebuild their homes.

In general, markets are functioning in Borek and Sinuni villages where IDP and returnee households access the majority of their food items. Between the two villages, all desired food items were indicated as being available. The fact that HHs must however pay to travel to Sinuni in order to access certain food items not in Borek further drains already limited incomes. Further research should be undertaken to understand what key food items are missing in Borek and whether food availability at the village-level can be increased. On a larger scale, the supply chain situation for Borek/Sinuni remains precarious as supply routes to the region can be quickly cut off at key checkpoints. Finally, the fact that local food production in Sinjar District remains disrupted means that food items are transported entirely from the KRI. This has allegedly increased food prices and lowered households’ purchasing power.

According to both groups, the main issue preventing households from accessing food is income based. Widespread unemployment and the inability to restart former livelihoods or find stable, long-term income earning opportunities forces returnee and IDP families into a higher level of food insecurity than would be expected. As a result of their food insecurity, the majority of returnee and IDP households are receiving multiple types of food assistance from PDS and BCF distributions.

For the time being, HHs have developed effective coping strategies to the aforementioned food access challenges by borrowing cash from extended family or neighbours. What is concerning, however, is the low resiliency of many households in Borek. Both male and female groups reported low household food stocks. If humanitarian assistance or food supply routes were disrupted, the majority of households would likely consume the entirety of food stocks within 5-7 days.

It appears that returnee and IDP households are no longer in such an emergency state where food kit distributions should be the primary form of food assistance. With
markets currently functioning, cash assistance would likely be an effective and more dignifying aid modality that could increase targeted households’ overall food security (if food items are purchased). Both focus groups mentioned however that there are many competing needs such as clean water, healthcare services, shelter, and non-food items (in addition to food). HHs might forgo increasing their food security in order to address other important needs.

Finally, it must be mentioned that cash assistance is only effective in functioning market settings. Although the market situation has been reportedly stable in Sinjar District for the past two months, focus groups have recalled instances where food availability in the markets was reduced as a result of checkpoint closures. If markets were disrupted for longer than a week, cash assistance would likely become ineffective at addressing food insecurity at the household level.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Support sustainable, non-militarized livelihood and income-earning opportunities for IDP and returnee HHs in Borek

2. Advocate for the unimpeded access of food items, humanitarian assistance, and livelihood assets to all communities in Sinjar District

3. Support local food production in Sinjar District at the regional, community, and household levels

4. Conduct a follow up market assessment to assess the feasibility of implementing cash-based transfer scheme.
The purpose of brief is to contribute to the joint assessment led by the Food Security Cluster - Dohuk to obtain a snapshot analysis of the food security situation in Sinjar District following the cessation of in-kind monthly food parcel distribution from WFP and reliance on the governmental Public Distribution System’s regular rations. Mission East decided to focus its FGDs on areas of Sinjar District that were presumed to be more neglected by NGOs, based upon regular coordination with UN OCHA Sinjar Working Group and 3W Matrixes. The vast majority of IDP and returnee project interventions in all sectors since the IS crisis have focused on the Sinuni sub-District of Sinjar (Nahiyat Al Shamel), which, until recently, included all of Sinjar Mountain.

Mission East selected what could be considered two “cluster” areas for the conduction of FGD surveys based on the fact that they are 1. Relatively more remote for INGOs based in Dohuk and/or Sinuni town and have relatively little research done; 2. Outside of the local government authority due to non-state actor control; and 3. Have faced relatively recent population shifts (new IDPs or Returnees) and therefore likely more market destabilization.

Mission East conducted 11 focus group discussions (FGDs) in the following locations:
While many more villages around Sinjar City have been recently liberated in May 2017, Mission East did not deem it suitable to visit these areas at the time. In addition, Mission East also conducted one FGD focused on the informal camp in Sharaf Al Din composed of former refugees in Syria who were forcibly refouled over the second half of 2016 and are now considered IDPs. Sharaf Al Din village has approximately 236 HH, with an additional 100 HH of IDPs returned from Syria in the informal camp.

**Key Findings**

The two collective areas have some similar contexts that affect the food security and livelihoods opportunities, which are much more diminished than villages closer to Sinuni town. First of all, both experienced severe damages to buildings during fighting in 2014-15 (from 15-33%) and a near total livelihood asset loss in heavy farming equipment (stolen or damaged). Both areas had to be liberated from IS forces, Khana Sor in December 2014 and Sinjar City not until November 2015. This meant that the flow of returnees, proportional to the original population, was higher in Khana Sor, and most returnees in the Sinjar City area has happened in 2017.

The dire livelihoods situation has been similar in both locations because of ISIL occupation and fighting. In both areas, agricultural lands have been polluted with UXOs (and possibly IEDs), which have not been prioritized for clearance, meaning farmers (the primary livelihood of nearly the entire population) are too afraid to even visit their lands. Farmlands south of Sinjar City were still under IS occupation or frontline fighting at the time the FGDs were conducted. Livestock losses for both were significantly high (average 61% head loss for Khana Sor collective and 56% for Sinjar City) and in both locations food stocks were completely 100% lost or since depleted. Agricultural road access was also cited throughout as being difficult due to road conditions and sometimes long distances to travel. Finally, every single FGD

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15 Population data collected for Sinjar City area is from June 2017 from the Sinjar City Municipality; data for Khana Sor collective is from informal sources in April and June 2017.
mentioned that there are absolutely no veterinary services for their livestock (sheep can be treated in Sinun from Khana Sor, but only if they travel through the checkpoints on foot).

Food markets exist in both locations, but only with small selections and at higher costs and many remain closed. The high costs are mainly due to transportation, as distributors often choose not to even deal with checkpoint permissions for Khana Sor, and Sinjar City is, until recently, accessible from Sinuni by a 1.5-hour trip over Sinjar Mountain, where only small trucks can traverse the steep roads (the 45 minute route around Sinjar Mountain is now open and accessible as of 25 June). Hence for both locations, households instead make their own trips, at cost, into Sinuni town to make food purchases. While there is some cross-border trade from Syria to the Khana Sor area, respondents said that they prefer the selection in Sinuni markets. Currently, credit and sharing are the predominant means of obtaining food for both locations with direct market purchases following. Finally, of some note, the more remote villages (i.e. further from Sinuni town) reported a lack of cooking fuel in the markets, namely in Bara, Karaj and Sinjar City. Bara itself has no markets at all.

The PDS system is not a reliable source of food for families to depend upon. While the rations are meant to be monthly, the vast majority of respondents say that they receive the 75kg wheat flour ration once every 5-6 months instead. Further to this, families must travel to Sinuni town to obtain it. Finally, the majority reported that the flour is of poor quality. Nevertheless, more than half of the respondents claim that both they and their children have three meals per day (although reduced portion sizes was not evaluated). But upon further inquiry, it was noted that these are smaller portions and not as diverse as they would like to consider a normal meal to be. Sinjar City residents have in the past been able to participate in food distributions from
Barzani Charity Foundation), however many Khana Sor residents report that they do not, presumably because of the political division between the KRG and Partiye Karkeren Kurdistane (PKK).

Security issues are another major factor for livelihoods and food security in both areas, but for different reasons. Until recently, Sinjar City was on the was on the frontline with IS and subject to indirect mortar or rocket fire. The Khana Sor area, however, has faced greater political and security challenges, as the entire area from the Syrian border westward to Khana Sor is under de facto control by PKK, meaning there are several checkpoints between that area and Sinuni town by which civilians and goods must pass. The Asayesh dissuaded NGOs from operating there and have the ability to block movement of goods at checkpoints. Adding further trouble to the situation was an outbreak of violent clashes in March 2017 between the PKK/YBŞ militias and Peshmerga forces. This caused secondary displacement for around 600 households that lasted until the situation calmed in April and May (some newly displaced, located on Sinjar Mountain, have still not returned, possibly due to better access to humanitarian services).

For the informal camp in Sharaf Al Din (Sharafedin), the population lives adjacent to the village. The village lacks a market place, but it is a satellite of Borek village (part of Al Yarmouk Complex) where markets are functioning. However, this requires a transit of about five kilometers. Those in the camp have virtually no livelihoods opportunities, and they are waiting until fighting with IS ends to be able to return to their villages of origin (mainly east of Sinjar City, around Tal Banat and Tal Qasab). Overall, they report losing access to 10,000 dunums of land (10 km²).

Other sectors identified as other needs are consistent with what is reported in other areas of Sinjar District. Typically, these are expressed as electricity, health and education as the top three, along with a preponderance of water needs mainly in the smaller villages around Khana Sor. Livelihoods or cash assistance was requested in Sharaf Al Din, Qasr Ki and Qandil.
CONCLUSION

Overall, these more remote locations in Sinjar District are facing stiff challenges to be able to meet food security needs. Government assistance is not enough (and is minimally reported in Khana Sor area), and the centralized distribution system and sporadic deliveries make it more or less negligible for food security. Logistics and transportation systems are insufficient and yet impaired further by security and political issues. The political disputes do not appear to find resolution anytime soon, and the threat of further clashes remains high. All of these barriers raise the cost of what is a limited amount of food available, and furthermore impede the potential for livelihoods to restart. It should be noted that in related discussions Mission East has had with beneficiaries in its ongoing livelihoods programming in the Sinuni sub-District area, that much of the economy in the area also depended on remittances from Dohuk and/or employment with the government (including armed services).16

Mission East therefore makes the following observations:

- UXO clearance, or as needed - assurance of past clearance, is needed primarily in the agricultural lands around Bahrava, Bara, Sheshmis, Qandil and all areas recently liberated in May 2017 southwest and southeast of Sinjar City.

- The PDS ration system is not sufficient for households to depend upon

- External support is needed for the restoration of livestock herds (mainly sheep) and sustained veterinary services, possibly along with capital assets such as farming machinery.

- Surveys should be made to investigate the restoration of agricultural wells (with hydrological tests of water table and potential outflow rates)

- Capital asset restoration of market shops (e.g. refrigeration units) is needed to restart local markets in villages.

- Checkpoints within Sinjar District and external (Sahela) restrict flow of goods and impact the potential value chain inputs, especially for remote locations.

- Even in a post-IS setting, the continued political divisions has an adverse impact on the livelihoods and access to markets of numerous villages, and further impedes the intervention of INGOs and some local NGOs.

- Due to political and security reasons, the villages around Khana Sor and to the east have been largely neglected for assistance by the international community and national governments since 2014.

Samaritan’s Purse conducted this rapid assessment in Ghobal, Zorava, Adeka, and Useva at the request of the Food Security Cluster (FSC) in Duhok, northern Iraq to provide rapid information flow to other regional actors.

**ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY**

Samaritan’s Purse interviewed three key informants (KIs) per village in Ghobal, Zorava, Adeka, and Useva from May 21-25, 2017. Community leaders in both the private and public sector were selected as key informant interviewees.

**DEMOGRAPHICS**

The demographics represented below in the table reflect the demographic estimations of the key informants interviewed in each of the respective villages at the time of the assessment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Demographics of Four Villages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children under 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ghobal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zorava</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adeka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Useva</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**MARKET ACCESS**

The key informant interviews in Ghobal, Zorava, Adeka, and Useva revealed that all four villages face similar market access climates. None of the villages currently have
local markets. The closest functioning market for all four villages are in Sharaf al-Deen and Snuni. These markets are fully functional with all basic products available including but not limited to flour, rice, sugar, oil, vegetables, and meat. The key informants did not identify any market access problems except in Adeka and Useva road conditions in the winter can be such that residents cannot access markets in Sharaf al-Deen and Snuni.

**Food Security**

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**GHOBAL**

The Iraqi Ministry of Trade and the Barzani Charity Foundation (BCF) distributes flour to displaced families in Ghobal. Respondents did not report any other public distribution systems (PDS). Families have food stocks in their homes that should last a week. There are no complaints about quality of food or food access. Over the last 15 days, respondents estimated that the entire population had sufficient access to food with children under five eating on average four or more times a day and adults three or more times. The main sources of food within the past 15 days included personal agriculture and livestock outputs, cash purchases, and food purchased on credit.

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**ZORAVA**

All but one displaced family receive food from the Iraqi Ministry of Trade and BCF. There are no complaints about the quality of food though PDS distributions can be unreliable. Current food stocks should last residents for one month. With no reported food access barriers, respondents estimated that the entire population of Zorava had sufficient access to food in the past 15 days. Children under five reportedly ate four or more times a day and adults three or more times. People’s main food sources include personal agriculture and livestock outputs, gifts from family and friends, and credit. Residents obtain food through food sharing, foraging, markets, and bartering and trading with neighbours.

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**ADECA**

Displaced families in Adeca receive flour from the Iraqi Ministry of Trade, BCF, and Yazda. Like Zorava and Ghobal there were no complaints about the quality of food though PDS distributions are reportedly unreliable. Residents food stocks should last for one week. Physical and logistical constraints prove to be the primary barrier to accessing food. However, reportedly in the last 15 days, all residents had sufficient access to food. Children under five ate four or more times a day and adults at least three times. Residents of Adeca purchase food using cash or credit. Residents facing potential lack of food cope by consuming more personal agricultural and livestock outputs, selling livestock, working as daily or monthly labourers, and purchasing on credit.
USEVA

The Iraqi Ministry of Trade distributes flour to displaced families in Useva every month and BCF distributes a food basket every three months. Residents expressed no complaints over food quality. Current stocks should last for one week. The main food access challenges reported include small food rations, physical and logistical constraints, not enough cooking utensils, and insufficient cooking fuel. Despite these challenges the key informants estimated that all residents have had sufficient access to food in the last 15 days. Children under five consume at least four meals a day and adults at least three. Residents obtain food by purchasing it at markets with cash or credit, consuming personal agricultural and livestock outputs, forage for food, and fishing. Additionally, neighbours will share or trade for food when necessary. To cope with any potential food shortages residents consume more personal agricultural and livestock inputs, forage, fish, and work as daily or monthly labourers.

Health

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>High Prevalence Health Concerns</th>
<th>Gholbal</th>
<th>Zorava</th>
<th>Adeca</th>
<th>Useva</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diarrhea</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leishmaniosis</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypertension</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Livelihoods: Livestock

GHOBAL

Displaced families in Gholbal reported a significant reduction in livestock after displacement as represented in the table below. Unfortunately, no veterinary services are currently available to residents.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Livestock Before and After Displacement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Before</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chickens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cows</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Respondents were unable to provide accurate estimations for sheep, cow, and goat populations before and after displacement but all reported that the losses proved significant. Respondents estimated that prior to displacement there were 7,000 chickens and now after displacement only 200. There are no veterinary services available.

Key informants had no accurate information with which to estimate livestock levels prior to displacement. As a result of the displacement, all livestock were lost. No veterinary services are available.

Displaced families in Useva reported the following pre and post-displacement livestock numbers. The number of sheep is greater after displacement because of Yazda’s sheep distribution programme. No veterinary services are currently available to residents.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Livestock Before and After Displacement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chickens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200 - 300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200 - 250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,200 - 1,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,000 - 6,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Livelihoods: Agriculture

The following table illustrates the number of cultivated feddans around the respective villages. The key informants interviewed in Zorava were unable to provide an estimate though they did report that all land surrounding the village remains suitable for agriculture.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cultivated Land (Feddans)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gholbal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14,285</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zorava</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adeca</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>476</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Useva</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>238-357</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Residents of Gholbal reported no barriers to land access. Some residents of Zorava mentioned difficulties in accessing land due to the presence of explosives. Both Adeca and Useva’s key informants cited bad roads as barriers to access especially in the winter.
Barrier Analysis: Livelihoods

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Livelihoods Barriers</th>
<th>Ghabal</th>
<th>Zorava</th>
<th>Adeca</th>
<th>Useva</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td>Basic services*</td>
<td>Food</td>
<td>Food</td>
<td>Food</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basic services*</td>
<td>Food</td>
<td>Basic services*</td>
<td>Basic services*</td>
<td>Basic services*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelter</td>
<td>Shelter</td>
<td>Shelter</td>
<td>Shelter</td>
<td>Shelter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livelihood support</td>
<td>Livelihood support</td>
<td>Livelihood support</td>
<td>Livelihood support</td>
<td>Livelihood support</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(*includes water, health, electricity, and education)

Partner Organizations

**GHOBAL**

Five actors currently work in Ghabal. BCF distributes food; Welt Hunger Hilfe (WHH) runs a cash-for-work programme; Samaritan’s Purse implements livelihoods programming with bees and livestock; Yazda engages in registration and information sharing; and UN Habitat reconstructs houses.

**ZORAVA**

Four actors currently implement programming in Zorava. The UN Development Programme is rehabilitating the primary school; WHH is rehabilitating a health centre, Jeen is rehabilitating the Kurdish primary school and a borehole; Save the Children International is engage in water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) programming, and UN Habitat is reconstructing 259 houses.

**ADECA**

Four actors currently implement programming in Adeca. BCF distributes food and hygiene kits; Yazda distributes food; and Save the Children International and Qandil both distribute kitchen kits.

**USEVA**

Five actors currently implement programming in Useva. Medair runs a mobile health clinic; Samaritan’s Purse implements livelihood programmes with both bees and livestock; Yazda has a sheep distribution programme; Norwegian Church Aid (NCA)
organizes a sewing programme; and Save the Children International distributes hygiene kits.

**Child Protection**

**GHOBAL**

Ghobal has six schools with 400 students in attendance. Another 100 school-age children do not attend schools because of the need to work. The village has only one teacher and four lecturers and is in need of at least ten more teachers and lecturers. There are no child protection programmes.

**ZORAVA**

Zorava has two schools with 400 to 450 students in attendance. Another 50 school-age children do not attend schools because of the need to work. The village has only five teachers and four lecturers and is in need of at least ten more teachers and lecturers. There are no child protection programmes.

**ADECA**

Adeca has one school with 228 students in attendance. Another 20 to 30 school-age children do not attend schools because of the need to work. The village only has two teachers and seven lecturers and is in need of at least fifteen more teachers and lecturers. There are no child protection programmes.

**USEVA**

As Useva does not have a school, children attend school in the neighboring Sharaf-Al Deen village. Currently 120 children from Useva attend this school. Another 20 school-age children do not attend schools because of the need to work. Sharaf-Al Deen is currently requesting more teachers and lecturers as the number of students exceeds their current capacity. There are no child protection programmes.
## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER INTERVENTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recommended Areas of Focus</th>
<th>Ghobal</th>
<th>Zorava</th>
<th>Adeca</th>
<th>Useva</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Electricity</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health services</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drinking water</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food vouchers</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Road construction</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School construction</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
KEY FINDINGS

Sinjar where most of the population are Yazidi and their nationality is Kurdish and they do speak in Kurdish and Arabic languages. They fled from their area of origin because of 2014 ISIS attack and hard conditions, so after this fight when they returned to their areas there was no means of life or ration (food), BCF began distributing food and ration to these IDPs who returned to their area of origin.

From this assessment and questions that they were asked about we found out that most of the IDPs who were receiving ration and food from the distribution they no longer are need of or want ration and food instead they prefer cash money in order to invest it in some trading or to buy their essential needs by those moneys.

SECURITY SITUATION

Security situation in the area that this assessment has been done in (Serdesht – Sinjar) is very good, Peshmarga forces are there protecting people and managing everything. Our team during doing the assessment did not face any challenges or safety issues because of this reasons:

1. Security situation in Serdesht is very good.
2. Most of the population and IDPs are Yazidy and they do have the same views and understanding.
3. Our team member who were doing the assessment was from the area and had knowledge on how to deal with people and how to ask their questions.
Conclusion

In conclusion we can say this assessment has been successfully done in Serdasht – Sinjar by May 30, it covered more than (1900) all different people and IDPs that are living in Serdesht. From this assessment we do recommend the following regarding food and ration distribution:

1. The ration to be changed into cash.
2. More livelihood projects to be carried out.
3. Opening more markets in the area.
KEY FINDINGS

- PDS is functional, however unreliable with reports of distributions occurring once every three months for oil; flour distributions are more regular occurring frequently on a monthly basis. Internal capacity remains a challenge for the PDS as several PDS agents are now IDPS.

- Returnees are receiving the PDS according to the local Muktar however several returnees lack official documentation.

- MoMD provided support during March and April, it is expected that support will continue to be provided by MoMD.

- The Mayor estimated unemployment to be around 40%, with several undergraduates unemployed which is negatively affecting the overall situation. Women from the focus group explained most of the work is temporary lasting for a maximum of two days. It was further noted that humanitarian organisations are only concentrating on IDPs and should understand the vulnerabilities of the host communities too.

- Agriculture is an important part of livelihoods. The Mayor noted the Sinuni area used to run 450 deep wells to provide water for irrigation projects before ISIL, now there are only 50 deep wells as ISIL took the generators and related tools leaving the other 400 deep wells out of use.

- Households are developing negative coping mechanisms to survive i.e. taking loans from shop keepers and relatives. One participant explained that her family is 4 million IQD in debt to one shopkeeper. Participants did not perceive prices of goods to be different from Dohuk or Khanke however noted purchasing power is different.
• Other concerns raised by assessment participants include: lack of electricity, lack of water for consumption and irrigation, poor sanitation and a lack of purchasing power to buy essential medication.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

• Humanitarian actors should continue to invest in livelihood activities to reduce the dependency on aid.

• PDS will need to increase its capacity to respond to the current food needs on a long term basis

• Markets are functioning in the Sinuni, and there is a preference for multi-purpose cash and cash for work activities. The key recommendation would be carry out an in-depth assessment to assess the feasibility of a cash intervention.

• If MoMD continues to provide assistance, the agency should work on a set schedule.
**ANNEX**

- Original data can be circulated upon request.

**Rapid Assessment Checklist/Questionnaire – Focus groups discussions**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BACKGROUND, CONTEXT AND OVERVIEW</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Record names and title/position of key informants, by group (sheikhs, women, etc.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a) Estimated % of population are children under five (UNHCR/IOM)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) Estimated % of population who are women (UNHCR/IOM)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bii) Other vulnerable groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c) Reports of unusually high rates of disease or illness like diarrhea or malaria/fever – who is most affected?</td>
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<tr>
<td>d) Describe the social and political context; clans, tribes, ethnic groups</td>
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<tr>
<td>e) Describe the causes of displacement</td>
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<tr>
<td>f) Is it primary or secondary displacement? Explain</td>
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<tr>
<td>g) Date/dates of arrival (exact date of significant numbers)</td>
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<td>h) Area/communities of origin (locality and location)</td>
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<tr>
<td>i) Target destination (if in transit in rural area)</td>
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<tr>
<td>j) Transit points: (e.g. did you come from Khana Sor/other location where food was already distributed)</td>
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<tr>
<td>k) Where are you currently obtaining food?</td>
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<tr>
<td>i) Extent of asset loss – animals</td>
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**m) Describe asset loss – food stocks**

Get an estimate of food stocks owned before displacement and then the current estimate (i.e. percentage of newly displaced HH with actual stocks). Also include agricultural assets losses (equipment, infrastructure, water supply, storage facilities etc.)

**n) Describe asset loss – livelihoods**

Including land that cannot be cultivated due to displacement and insecurity (in feddans)/waiting for UXO clearance

**o) How they access food now?**

- Food sharing
- Wild foods
- Market purchase
- Barter/trade

Try to get proportions by source – even if a rough estimate.

**p) Current coping strategies; negative or positive (within the context)**

And an estimate of proportions of newly displaced using the strategies

**q) Presence of other humanitarian partners (list and sector)**

**r) What is the frequency and reliability of PDS distributions?**

**s) Possibility of return – Necessary security conditions**

**t) Return assistance by sector**

- Food
- Shelter
- Livelihood support
- Basic services (i.e. water, health, electricity and education)
- Protection

What is needed? What has been provided already?

**FOOD SECURITY**

**IS THERE AVAILABLE FOOD STOCKS IN THE HOUSEHOLDS OF THE HOST COMMUNITY?**

1. Yes
2. No
3. Don’t Know

**IS THERE AVAILABLE FOOD STOCKS IN THE HOUSEHOLDS OF THE HOST COMMUNITY?**

1. Yes
2. No
3. Don’t Know

**WHAT ARE THE MAIN CHALLENGES/ISSUES TO ACCESS FOOD?** (select max three)

1. Not enough food available on the markets overall
2. Limited access to food due to physical/logistical constraints
3. Limited access to food due to security constraints
4. Limited access to food due to limited economic resources
5. Agricultural/livestock production is disrupted
6. Available food is of low quality
7. Not enough cooking facilities
8. Not enough cooking utensils
9. There is not enough cooking fuel
10. No other issue reported
11. Other(s) – specify

**WHAT PROPORTION OF THE POPULATION DID NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT ACCESS TO FOOD IN THE LAST 15**

1.0–25%
2.26%–50%
3.51%–75%
| DAYS? (Select only one) | 4.75%-100%  
5.Don't Know |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| WHICH GROUP IS THE MOST VULNERABLE TO THIS PROBLEM? (Select all that apply) | 1.IDP  
2.Refugees  
3.Returnee  
4.Host (people who never left and are hosting other)  
5.Non-host (people who never left and are not hosting other) |
| WHAT WAS THE MAIN SOURCE OF FOOD WITHIN THE PAST 15 DAYS? (Select max. 3) | 1.Own production  
2.Bartering  
3.Bought on credit  
4.Gifts from family and friends  
5.UN or INGO assistance  
6.Food assistance from local charity or community  
7.Assistance from Government/PDS (Public distribution system)  
8.Bought with cash  
9.Gathering/fishing  
10.Other(s) – specify |
| LOGISTIC, SECURITY AND MARKET |
| Record names and title/position of key informants, by group (sheikhs, women, etc.) | |
| Describe the current security conditions | |
| Logistics/transport/access issues | Road conditions, seasonal access problems, security. |
| Livelihoods capital assets | |
| Access to land for host community | |
| Livestock situation | i.e. medical intervention, treatment and medicine |
| Access to the nearest market; functioning market | |
| Available food stocks in the markets | Any price changes (estimates) since displacement/new arrivals? |
Could the local market be able to absorb an increased demand (25-50%)?

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<tr>
<th>If NO why?</th>
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Do you think a food based cash intervention could be an appropriate modality to respond to the current needs?

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<th>If NO, why?</th>
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### MVAM

Please collect telephone number of key informants for monitoring and follow-up purpose (Mvam)

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<tr>
<th>Key Information name</th>
<th>Telephone Number</th>
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Explain to them that they will be participating from time to time to short survey through phone calls

**General Observations:**

**Recommendations:**

The recommendations should take into account:

- Other sectors’ responses, so that overlapping and duplication are avoided
- Host communities’ situation/strain on shared resources
- Need for subsequent food security assessments and timing
  - In-depth?
  - After one month?
  - Multi-sector?