

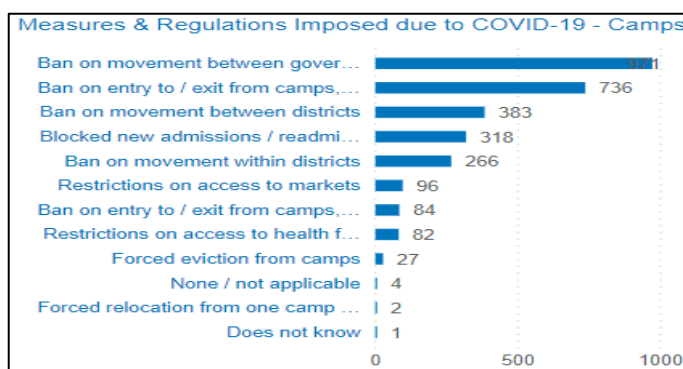


Protection monitoring in response to COVID-19 Summary of findings – July 2020

The National Protection Cluster (NPC) is coordinating a **joint protection monitoring exercise at the community level** through key informant interviews to **measure the protection impact of the COVID-19 pandemic** on conflict-affected and displaced communities in Iraq. The fourth round of data collection took place from **28 June - 19 July 2020** with **11 organizations** interviewing **5142 respondents** in **17 governorates** and **127 sub-districts**.¹ Interviews were conducted in IDP camps, informal sites and out-of-camp/return areas.

Impact of COVID-19 measures and regulations

- 62% of respondents in camps report a **ban on entry into / exit from camps, but with exceptions**. The highest level of reporting is 78% in Ninewa and Anbar governorates, compared to 60% in Erbil, 16% in Duhok and 0% in Kirkuk governorates. 7% of respondents in camps in Iraq also report a ban on entry into / exit from camps, but without exceptions.
- 27% of respondents in camps report a **ban on new admissions to camps**. The highest level of reporting is 37% in Erbil governorate, compared to 33% in Ninewa, 6% in Duhok, 2% in Anbar and 0% in Kirkuk governorates.
- 41% of respondents in out-of-camp locations report facing **restrictions on access to markets** compared to 8% in camps. The highest level of reporting for out-of-camp locations is 76% in Kirkuk governorate, compared to 70% in Salah al-din, 47% in Anbar 41% in Ninewa, 38% in Diyala, 31% in Duhok and 21% in Erbil governorates.
- 7% of respondents in camps report facing **restrictions on access to health facilities**, compared to 5% in out-of-camp locations. All locations combined, the proportion is the highest in Salah Al-Din governorate with 11%.



- The **first main consequence reported for breaching public health regulations is a verbal warning** cited by 61% of respondents in camps and 74% out-of-camps. The **second main consequence is a fine, with arrest coming as third**. The highest level of reporting for arrest is 55% in Duhok governorate, compared to 45% in Anbar, 25% in Diyala, 24% in Salah al-Din, 23% in Ninewa, 18% in Erbil and 16% in Kirkuk governorates.

- 20% of respondents in camps report that **measures and regulations apply solely or more strictly to IDPs and/or returnees**, compared to 4% in out-of-camps. In camps, the

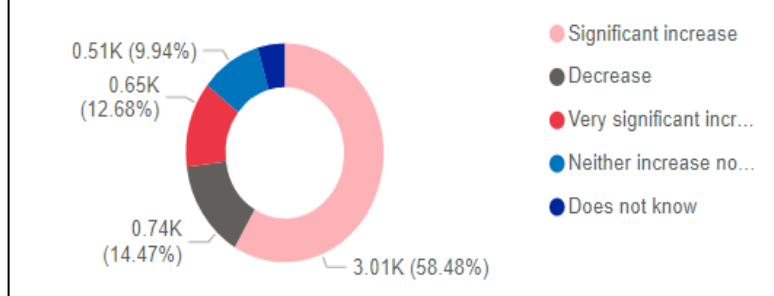
highest level of reporting is 64% in Anbar governorate, compared to 24% in Ninewa, 17% in Erbil and 0% in Kirkuk, Duhok and Diyala governorates.

General protection

- 85% of respondents in camps report that **protection issues affecting communities have significantly or very significantly increased since the beginning of the pandemic**, compared to 67% in out-of-camps. The highest level of reporting for all locations is 98% in Anbar governorate, compared to 86% in Kirkuk, 83% in Salah Al-Din, 73% in Ninewa, 68% in Erbil, 47% in Duhok, 41% in Diyala governorates.

¹ The participating organizations are Dorcas, DRC, Heartland Alliance, Harikar, Intersos, IOM, IRC, LCN, Nonviolent Peaceforce, SWEDO, UNHCR.

Severity of these Issues Evolved since the Beginning of the COVID-19 Situation



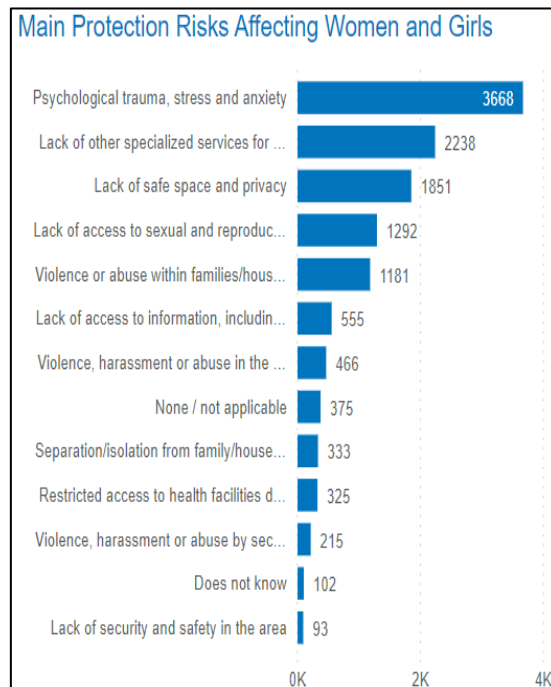
- **Restrictions on freedom of movement are identified as the first main protection concern affecting communities**, reported by 70% of respondents in camps and 65% out-of-camp. The highest level of reporting is 90% in Anbar governorate, compared to 83% in Kirkuk, 80% in Duhok, 78% in Salah Al-Din, 64% in Ninewa, 45% in Erbil and 41% in Diyala governorates.
- **Trauma, stress and anxiety are identified as the second main protection concern**

concern affecting communities, reported by 61% of respondents in camps and 42% in out-of-camps. The highest level of reporting is 61% in Duhok governorate, compared to 51% in Ninewa, 45% in Salah Al-Din, 45% in Erbil, 32% in Kirkuk and 28% in Diyala governorates.

- **Lack of civil documentation is identified as the third main protection concern affecting communities**, reported by 51% of respondents in camps and 18% out-of-camp. The highest level of reporting is 44% in Ninewa governorate, compared to 32% in Anbar, 23% in Duhok, 21% in Salah Al-Din, 15% in Kirkuk, 12% in Erbil and 1% in Diyala governorates.
- **Lack of access to health care is identified as the fourth main protection concern affecting communities**, reported by 39% of respondents in camps compared to 16% out-of-camp. The highest level of reporting is 43% in Salah al-Din governorate, compared to 31% in Ninewa, 27% in Anbar, 16% in Kirkuk, 15% in Erbil, 8% in Duhok and 4% in Diyala governorates.
- **Social-cohesion issues are identified as the fifth main protection concern affecting communities**, reported by 27% of respondents in camps compared to 12% out of camp. The highest level of reporting is 32% in Salah al-Din governorate, compared to 24% in Duhok, 16% in Anbar, 12% in Ninewa, 11% in Kirkuk and 2% in Erbil governorates.

Gender-based violence

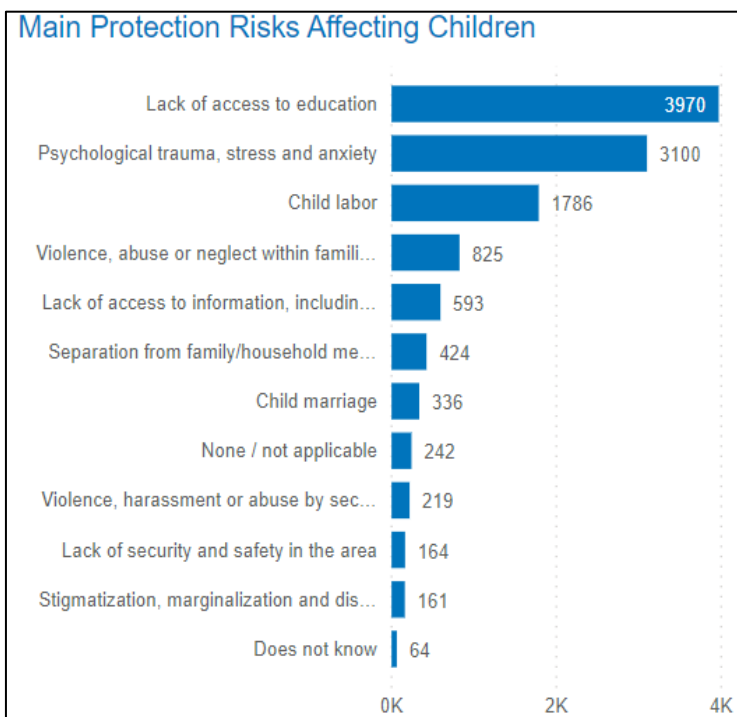
- 78% of respondents in camps report that **protection issues affecting women and girls have significantly or very significantly increased since the beginning of the pandemic**, compared to 63% out-of-camp. The highest level of reporting is 97% in Anbar governorate, compared to 86% in Kirkuk, 69% in Salah al-Din and Ninewa, 63% in Erbil, 47% in Duhok and 40% in Diyala governorates.
- **Trauma, stress and anxiety are identified as the first main protection concern affecting women and girls**, reported by 67% of respondents in camps and 63% out-of-camp. The highest level of reporting is 85% in Duhok governorate, compared to 79% in Kirkuk, 75% in Erbil, 70% in Anbar, 67% in Ninewa, 65% in Salah al-Din and 55% in Diyala governorates.
- **Lack of specialized services for women is identified as the second main protection concern affecting women and girls**, reported by 59% of respondents in camps and 39% out-of-camp. The highest level of reporting is 57% in Duhok governorate, compared to 55% in Ninewa and Salah Al-Din, 44% in Anbar, 34% in Kirkuk, 27% in Diyala and 24% in Erbil governorates.
- **Lack of safe space and privacy is identified as the third main protection concern affecting women and girls**, reported by 39% of respondents in camps and 35% out-of-camp. The highest level of reporting is 59% in Salah al-Din governorate, compared to 49% in Kirkuk, 44% in Anbar and Duhok, 41% in Ninewa, 14% in Erbil and 12% in Diyala governorates.



- **Lack of access to sexual and reproductive health is identified as the fourth main protection concern affecting women and girls**, reported by 32% of respondents in camps and 23% out-of-camp. The highest level of reporting is 46% in Salah al-Din governorate, 39% in Ninewa, 28% in Kirkuk, 18% in Anbar, 21% in Duhok, 11% in Erbil and 3% in Diyala governorates.
- **Violence and abuse within the household is identified as the fifth main protection concern affecting women and girls**, reported by 26% of respondents in camps and 22% out-of-camp. The highest level of reporting is 43% in Kirkuk, 36% in Salah al-Din, 30% in Diyala, 27% in Ninewa, 22% in Duhok 20% in Anbar and 11% in Erbil governorates.

Child protection

- 82% of respondents in camps report that **protection issues affecting children have significantly or very significantly increased since the beginning of the pandemic**, compared to 61% out-of-camp. The highest level of reporting is 99% in Anbar governorate, compared to 98% in Kirkuk, 76% in Salah Al-Din and Ninewa, 69% in Erbil, 56% in Diyala and 43% in Duhok governorates.
- **Lack of access to education is identified as the first main protection concern affecting children**, reported by 87% of respondents in camps and 74% out-of-camp. The highest level of reporting is 92% in Kirkuk governorate, compared to 87% in Anbar, 84% in Ninewah, 78% in Duhok, 72% in Salah al-Din, 67% in Erbil, 63% in Diyala governorates.



- **Trauma, stress and anxiety are identified as the second main protection concern affecting children**, reported by 60% of respondents in both camp and out-of-camp locations. The highest level of reporting is 92% in Kirkuk governorate, compared to 77% in Duhok, 64% in Erbil, 56% in Anbar, 55% in Ninewa, 44% in Salah al-Din and 32% in Diyala governorates.
- **Child labor is identified as the third main protection concern affecting children**, reported by 39% of respondents in camps and 34% out-of-camp. The highest level of reporting is 69% in Kirkuk governorate, compared to 52% in Salah al-Din, 40% in Ninewa, 33% in Erbil, 25% in Diyala, 21% in Duhok and 20% in Anbar governorates.
- **Violence, abuse or neglect within the household are identified as the fourth main protection concern affecting children**, reported by 25% of respondents in camps and 13% out-of-camp. The highest level of reporting is 33% in Salah al-Din, 29% in Kirkuk, 26% in Anbar, 20% in Ninewah, 10% in Duhok, 4% in Erbil and 3% in Diyala governorates.

Access to services and basic needs

- The **first main socioeconomic impact reported is the loss of employment and livelihoods**, reported by 86% of respondents in camps compared to 93% out-of-camp. The **second main impact reported is the difficulty or inability to purchase basic necessities**, reported by 41% of respondents in camps and 68% out-of-camp; and the **third main impact is the inability or difficulty to pay rent** cited by 74% of respondents out-of-camp.
- The **first main coping mechanism reported is reducing or changing food consumption**, reported by 70% of respondents in camps and 76% out-of-camp. The **second main coping mechanism is going into debt**, reported by 68% of respondents in camps and 72% out-of-camp. The **third main coping mechanism is spending savings**, reported by 56% of respondents in camps and 74% out-of-camp. The **fourth main coping mechanism is reducing the purchase of non-food items**, reported by 60% of respondents in camps and 70% out-of-camp.

- Other **coping mechanisms directly linked to protection risks** are also being reported, including **continuing to work despite government restrictions** cited by 20% of respondents, **use of child labor to generate an income** cited by 14% and **begging** cited by 9%. The **use of marriage - including child marriage - to generate an income or settle debt** is also reported by 9% of respondents in camps.
- 31% of respondents report that **none or not all of their community members have access to health care**, with similar proportions in both camp and out-of-camp locations. The highest level of reporting is 72% in Salah al-Din governorate compared to 69% in Anbar, 41% in Ninewah, 30% in Kirkuk, 21% in Diyala, 15% in Erbil, and 7% in Duhok governorates.
- The **first main barrier to access health care is the lack of medical facilities and personnel**, cited by 23% of respondents. The **second main barrier is the cost of medical care**, cited by 18%. The **third main barrier is the lack of information about medical facilities**, cited by 14%. The **fourth main barrier is the distance and lack or cost of transportation**, cited by 12%. The **fifth main barrier is the fear of mandatory quarantine or isolation at a government facility**, cited by 9%.

