

QANDIL

New IDPs in the Northern Iraqi Kurdistan Region

INTERIM REPORT

11th January 2007



Foreword

This report is an initial presentation of data, collected throughout the Iraqi Kurdistan region. The aim of this document is to highlight the increased arrival to the region, of families and individuals, displaced from the areas outside of the Iraqi Kurdistan region post January 2006. The analysis is of the most significant information regarding needs. Further analysis of the data is still ongoing.

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Introduction

In 2006, the Northern Iraqi Kurdistan region saw a significant influx of displaced persons from the central and southern areas of Iraq (including the city of Mosul). In February 2006, the bombing of the Al Askari Mosque in Samarra, intensified sectarian violence, resulting in a further deterioration of the security situation throughout the country, with the conspicuous exception of the Northern Iraqi Kurdistan region. The increased conflict, resulting from the Samarra attack, was a catalyst for many Iraqis to seek a safer living environment; therefore, in order to distinguish this new wave of displacement, and for the purposes of this survey, all persons displaced from their place of origin, since the beginning of 2006, are hereafter referred to as 'new' IDPs.

Qandil, a Swedish Humanitarian Organisation, has been implementing in Northern Iraq since 1992. From its' inception to the present day, one of Qandil's primary focus's has always been humanitarian assistance to displaced groups (refugees/refugee returnees/IDPs/IDP returnees), accordingly, the organisation has traditionally monitored the flow of displacement in the region, being the rationale behind this survey.

Method

In mid-September '06, a group of expertise was formed within the organisation, to plan the survey, and the format of the survey questionnaire (see Annex 'A'). The questions in the survey were selected based on the organisation's previous experience, the aim being to keep the questionnaire as short as possible, whilst still recording all relevant/important information. Once a plan and format was agreed upon, a one page question sheet was designed and realized, the form was in English, although translated into both Kurdish and Arabic for reference purposes (local authorities). Staff were seconded/recruited for six survey teams, on the principle of two per Governorate (Dohuk, Erbil, and Sulimania). The teams were subsequently trained in the delivery of the questions, and correct completion of the questionnaire, each team was furthermore supplied with a set of survey questionnaire guidelines. A database, corresponding directly to the questionnaire, was designed and built into which each completed form was transcribed electronically. The survey was conducted over a period of three months, from concept to conclusion, as mentioned previously beginning in mid-September '06, concluding in mid-December '06.

A major impediment being faced by the teams was the locating displaced families/individuals, due to their random diffusion (with few exceptions), in particular in the urban environment. Through cooperation with Kurdish Regional Government (KRG) residency offices in each Governorate, as well as the relevant security and religious authorities, an understanding was reached as to the various whereabouts of IDP groups and individuals. Due to the scattered nature of the IDPs, it was decided in order to get a comprehensive overview, the best method of surveying, would be to collect a sample of the estimated total number of IDPs, in a random manner throughout the region, thereby, collecting a cross section of the 'New' IDP populace. In mid-September '06, the generally accepted estimate figure of 'new' IDPs in the region was 10,000 families (50,000 individuals). For the purpose of the survey, it was decided, that the questionnaire would be completed in interview with the 'head of household' (HH), who would be determined by the holding of a 'food ration card' (FRC). Qandil planned to carry out 1000 interviews per Governorate (3000 total), thereby, representing 3000 'new' IDP families (30% of estimated total).

Results

Despite prior instruction to the contrary, a number of the completed questionnaires were found to have recorded IDP families displaced prior to January 2006. Whilst the planned total of completed forms for each Governorate had been 1000 at inception, it was decided that time was of the essence, and the report would be written using the post Jan 2006 data available. Several areas where the IDPs were found to be living, bordering Dohuk Governorate, administratively fall under Ninewa Governorate; however, they should be included in this survey (and considered for assistance as part of Dohuk Governorate).

Below is a table showing the number of, post 1st January 2006, 'New' IDP questionnaires completed, by Governorate.

Table 1:

Name of Governorate	Number of (post 1st Jan '06) Completed Forms
Dohuk	860
Erbil	749
Ninewa	134
Sulimania	822
Total	2565

The survey teams visited multiple locations, throughout the Iraqi Kurdistan region, over the three month period as shown in Annex 'B'.

Data Presentation

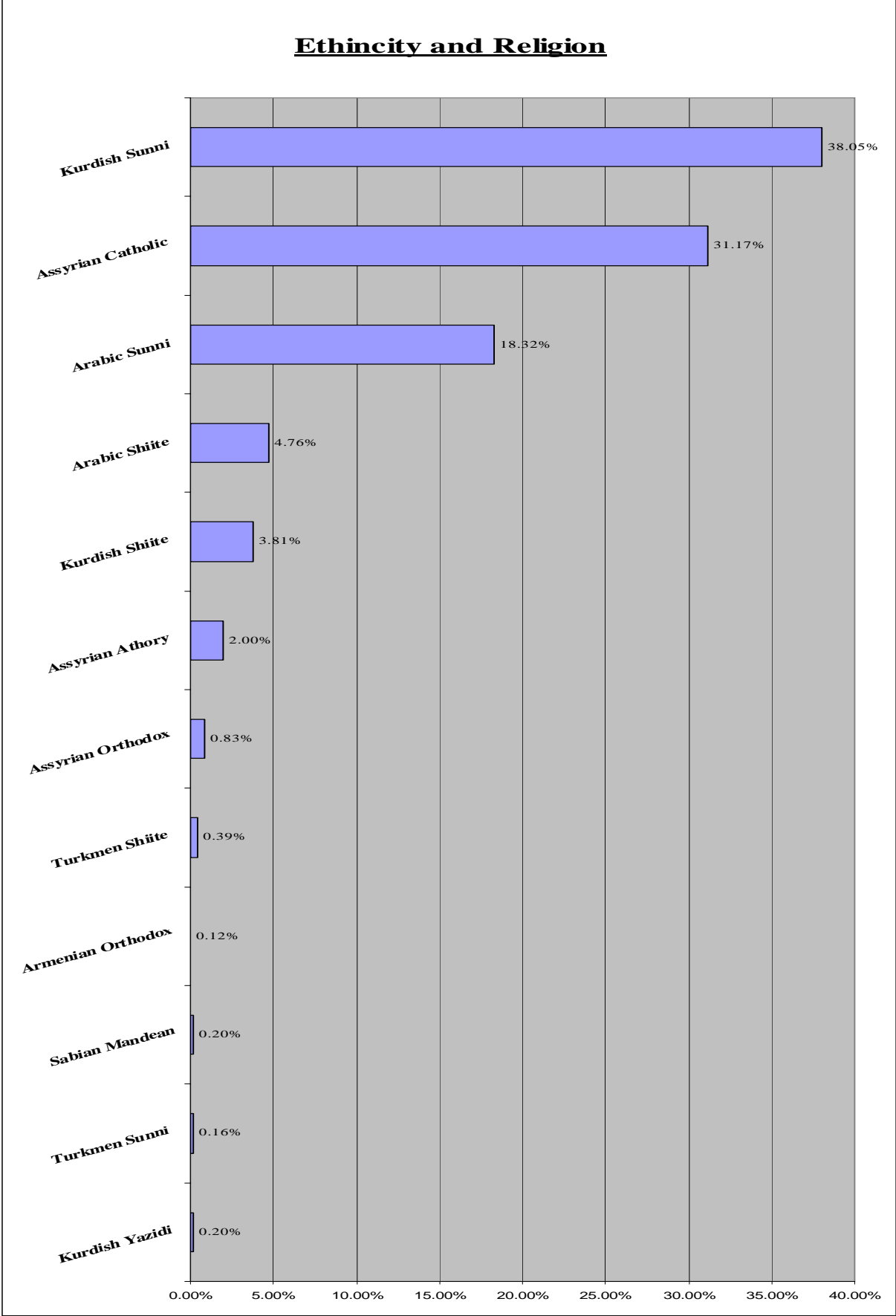
The database results, from four serials of the questionnaire (see Annex 'A'), have been selected for this survey in order to show, *"Who are the 'new' IDPs?"* by determining the ethnic/religious affiliation of the new arrivals (Questionnaire: SN's 41 & 42). This report aims to interpret what may motivate one group more than another. *"Where are they from?"* by looking at where the 'new' IDPs are coming from (Place of Origin SN 3), it is again the intention of this report to reason why the 'new' IDPs may be displaced from one area more than another. *"What help do they need?"* the survey questionnaire asked the IDPs to state their most urgent need (SN's 23,24,25,26,27,28,29, and 30); this aims to demonstrate the types of assistance most required by the 'new' IDPs. And finally, *"How are their 'present' living conditions?"* the survey teams were trained to (without asking the interviewee), assess the social economic status of the 'new' IDPs (SN 40), through examining their shelter, possessions, clothes, access to services, etc, this report concludes by reflecting upon the current circumstance of the 'new' IDPs.

1. Ethnicity and Religion

As is demonstrated in the chart on the following page, the composition of the 'new' IDPs is multifarious, with almost every ethnic/religious group in Iraq represented. Looking at the statistics it is immediately evident that the two largest groups represented, are the Kurds (Kurdish Sunni 38.05%) and the Christians (Assyrian Catholic 31.17%), accounting for two thirds of the total number.

The two most populace ethnic/religious groups, after Kurds and Christians, to have arrived in the region show an interesting marked contrast in terms of numbers. Sunni Arabs make up nearly 20% of the overall number of 'new' IDPs, whereas, Shiite Arabs merely represent 5% of the total figure.

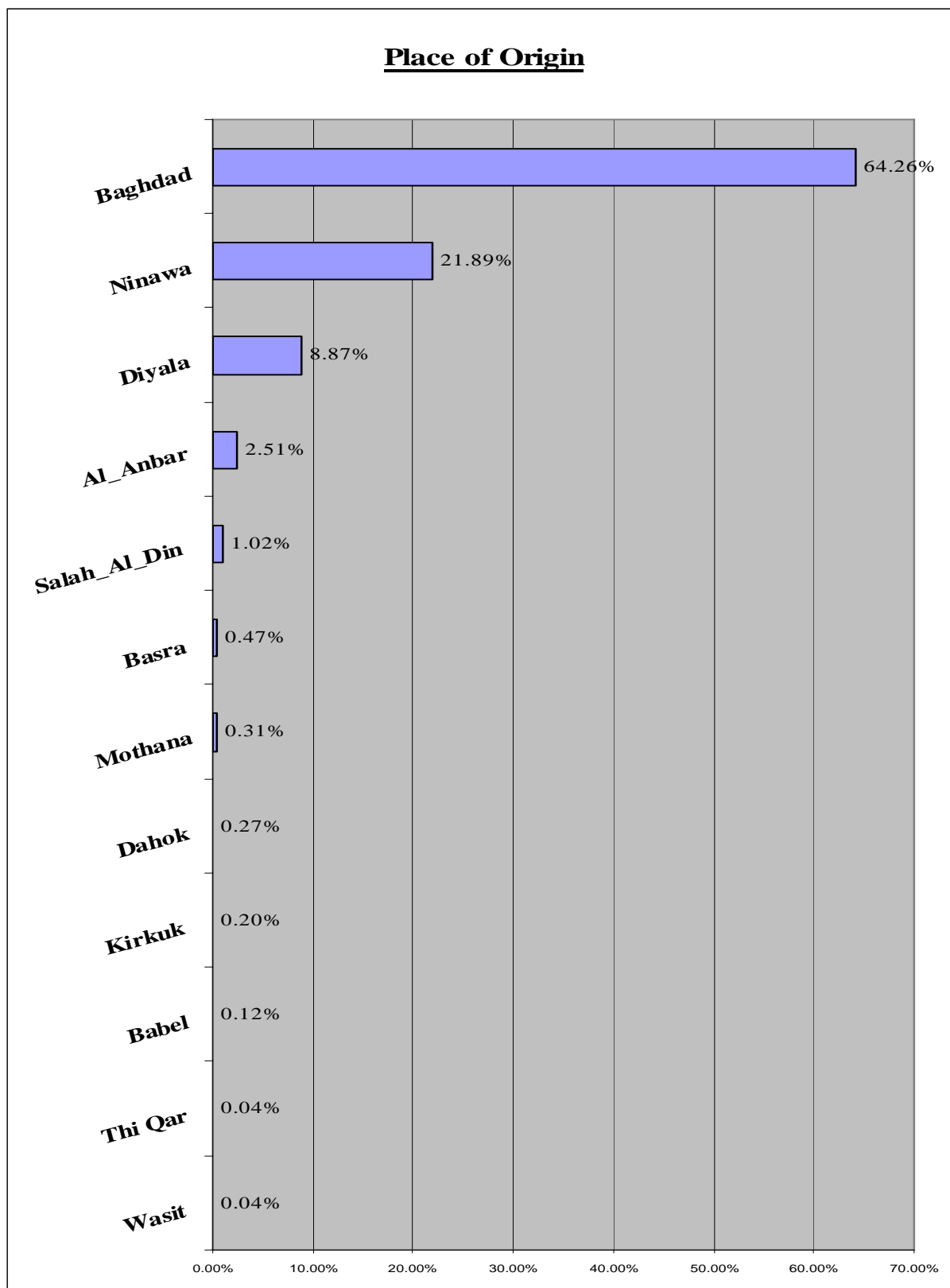
The survey results showed 21 different ethnic/religious combinations, the reasoning for this is assumed to be human error in the completion of the questionnaire. For the purposes of this report, several ethnic/religious combinations have been amalgamated into their logical groups. The original results (i.e ethnic/religious combinations) are shown in Annex 'C'.



2. Place of Origin

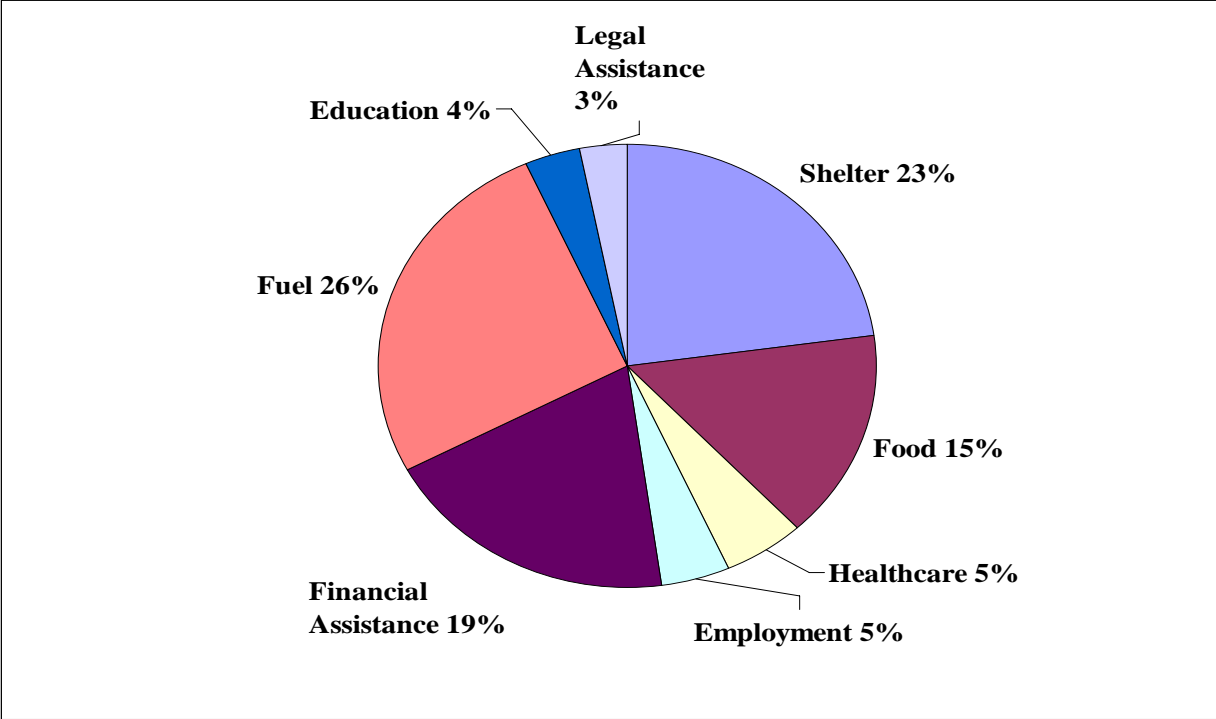
The graph below shows the Governorates, the 'new' IDPs, stated as having been displaced from.

Baghdad (64.26%) is by far the most prominent area of displacement, with the Governorates of Ninewa (21.89%) and Diyala (8.87%) making up sizeable portions of the total.



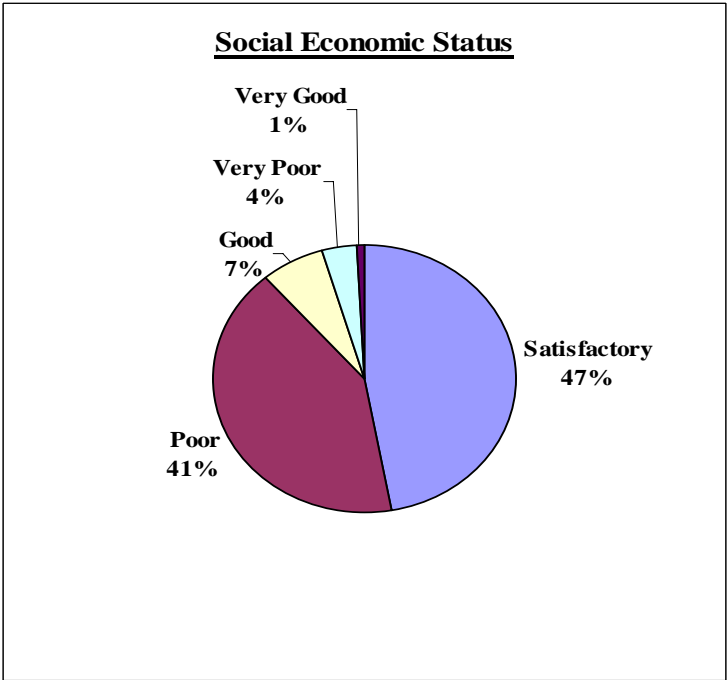
3. Urgent Needs

The pie-chart below represents the forms of assistance; the 'new' IDP families gave as being a priority at the time of interview. No 'one' need is apparent as being a priority over the rest, however, shelter (23%), food (15%), fuel (26%), and financial assistance (19%) make up over four-fifths of the total when combined.



4. Social Economic Status

The questionnaire required the survey teams to assess the 'new' IDP's living conditions/social economic status as being either very poor, poor, satisfactory, good, or very good. The pie-chart below shows that nearly half (45%) of the 'new' IDP's living conditions, were considered to be either 'poor' (41%), or 'very poor' (5%).



Data Analysis

The results of the ethnic/religious affiliation data are to a large extent logical, as the Kurds, the largest single 'new' IDP group according to the data, have the strongest ethnic/religious/familial (not to mention lingual) ties to the Iraqi Kurdistan region. The second most populace group represented are the Assyrian (Catholic) Christians, which is again logical, as like the Kurds, they have natural connections with existing communities in the region. The next two most prominent groups featuring in the data, Sunni and Shiite Arabs, differ greatly in terms of numbers despite sharing the same ethnicity. This may be explained by the fact that Sunni Arabs have stronger links with the Iraq Kurdistan region traditionally, geographically, and religiously (the vast majority of Kurds in the region are Sunni). Stronger affinity to the region, to explain the difference, should be combined with fact that with sectarian conflict being one of the key factors for the displacement, it is supposed, that many Shiite Arabs may consider the South of Iraq, where they have stronger religious (and feasibly familial) ties as a more appealing area to relocate to. What the results do clearly show is that all ethnic/religious communities have been affected, and displaced, by the current security situation in Iraq.

Baghdad, as a place of origin, markedly accounts for the majority of the 'new' IDPs. Sectarian conflict, coupled with anti-coalition/anti-government violence, has increased to astonishing levels in, and around, the Iraqi capital during 2006. Minority groups such as the Assyrians, who were pervasive in Baghdad prior to 2003, have been victims of religious violence (in particular the Church bombings of 2004). With the general security situation deteriorating, and with it quality of life, added to the relative ease with which they are able to assimilate into their own communities in the Iraqi Kurdistan region, it is the Assyrians who constitute the majority of the 'new' IDPs arriving from Baghdad. The 'new' IDPs arriving from Baghdad are also largely comprised of Sunni and Shia Arab professionals, who have relocated to the Kurdistan region to work in the safe environment that it provides. Besides Baghdad Ninewa and Diyala Governorates combined make up the only other notable portion of the total, however, the reasoning differs from Baghdad, in that these two groups largely consist of Kurds leaving the cities of Mosul and Baqubah, because of the ethnic violence being targeted at their communities.

The priorities for most of the 'new' IDPs, in terms of humanitarian assistance, are to a large degree restricted to four main needs. Fuel, shelter, financial assistance, and food combined make up 83% of the total according to the data. The urgent need for fuel and food (41%), are linked to the food ration card (FRC) system as the vast majority 'new' IDPs, have been prohibited from transferring their food ration cards from their Governorate of origin, to the authorities of the governorate that they have been displaced to. Without a valid FRC the 'new' IDPs do not qualify for the national 'free' food distribution, that is handed out on a monthly basis, nor do they qualify for the subsidized fuel that is available with the FRC. With the market price of fuel currently at a higher price than in most western countries, and still rising, it is evident with the winter setting in that this is a serious concern for the displaced families of a low social economic status. Added to this dilemma is the fact food ration cards require re-registration at the beginning of each calendar year in Governorate that they recorded in, therefore, the 'new' IDPs face the scenario of either returning to there place of origin, or potentially forfeiting their right to the FRC system. Shelter and financial assistance (42%), combined, make up virtually the same percentage as food and fuel, these two needs, again like food and fuel are very much interlinked. The vast majority of the 'new' IDPs are renting the properties they are living in, in the Iraqi Kurdistan region, in the case of IDP families that have no members working financial assistance in order to pay rent, or subsidized shelter, are obviously pressing issues. According to the data, nearly half (45%) of the 'new' IDP population is in dire need of assistance (poor or very poor).

LIST OF ANNEXES

- Annex 'A':** Survey Questionnaire.
- Annex 'B':** Map and Key of Areas Visited.
- Annex 'C':** Original Results of Ethnic/Religious Affiliation.

IDP Emergency Preparedness Survey Form

(1) Date of Displacement / /200		(2) Date of Arrival / /200	
Place of Origin	(3) Governorate		(4) District
(5) Name of HH			
(6) FRC No.		(7) Governorate of FRC Registration	
(8) Total No. family members		(9) No. of members present	
No. of children	(10) Pre-school age	(11) School age	(12) Young adult
(13) No. of disabled members		(14) No. of chronically ill members	
No. of working members	(15) Male	(16) Female	
(17) Main Reason for Displacement (one answer)			
<i>Ethnic Conflict</i>	<i>Political Conflict</i>	<i>Religious Conflict</i>	<i>Eviction</i>
<i>General security Situation</i>	<i>Direct Threat</i>		<i>Economic</i>
(18) Have you received, or are you receiving, any form of assistance?		Yes	No
If 'YES' from?			
(19) Local Authorities	(20) Mosque/Church	(21) Family	(22) Charity
Urgent needs?			
(23) Shelter	(24) Food	(25) Healthcare	(26) Employment
(27) Financial Assistance	(28) Fuel	(29) Education	(30) Legal Assistance
Access to Services			
(31) Education	Yes		No
(32) Healthcare	Yes		No
Current Address			
(33) Street/Road		(34) Quarter	
(35) District		(36) Governorate	
(37) Type of Residence			
<i>Rented</i>	<i>Owned</i>	<i>Public building</i>	<i>With Relatives</i>
<i>Building House</i>	<i>Tent/Camp</i>	<i>Vehicle</i>	
Number of families living in the same residence		(38) Displaced	(39) Host
(40) Social Economic Status (guideline criteria)			
<i>Very Poor</i>	<i>Poor</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Good</i>
<i>Very Good</i>			
(41) Ethnicity	<i>Arabic</i>	<i>Kurdish</i>	<i>Turkmen</i>
	<i>Assyrian</i>	<i>Armenian</i>	<i>Sabian</i>
(42) Religion	<i>Sunni</i>	<i>Shiite</i>	<i>Catholic</i>
	<i>Orthodox</i>	<i>Yazidi</i>	<i>Zoroastrian</i>
	<i>Mandean</i>	<i>Athory</i>	

SN	PLACE NAME/LOCATION	SN	PLACE NAME/LOCATION
1	Dihe	51	Maloumar
2	Teni	52	Bastora
3	Ashor/Badrashky	53	Masif Salahadin
4	Aradna	54	Akre/Alayi
5	Enishke	55	Kochina
6	Benata	56	Hizarjot
7	Blejank	57	Derki
8	Bebad	58	Brifka
9	Amediya	59	Mamyazdin
10	Kani	60	Baleta
11	Tshish	61	Shekhasen
12	Sosna	62	Domis
13	Bioke	63	Fayda
14	Kore	64	Etite
15	Harir	65	Dohuk city
16	Shaqlawa	66	Qashafre
17	Espindara	67	Semel
18	Brak	68	Mansorya
19	Ranya	69	Hawresk
20	Said Sadiq	70	Auzrik-Miri
21	Arbat	71	Shkavdal
22	Darbandikhan	72	Baklij
23	Khanaqin	73	Sorya
24	Kalar	74	Auzrik-Shamo
25	Kefri	75	Bajidnasara
26	Chamchamal	76	Fish Khabour
27	Bazyan	77	Seje
28	Sulimania city and suburbs	78	Derabon
29	Koya	79	Qarawla
30	Perzeen collective town/Kasnazan	80	Sardarav
31	Sefaia collective town	81	Skreen
32	Dararoo collective town	82	Daudiya
33	Ainkawa	83	Erbil (Hawler) city
34	Kurani Ainkawa		
35	HawlerGulan		
36	Erbil city – Gulan and Brayati Quarters		
37	New Khabat, Raparin, and Sitagan Qtrs		
38	Sarwaran, Shoresh, and Ulama Qtrs		
39	Nosaran, Kurdistan, and Bakhtiari Qtrs		
40	Tairawa, Salahadin, and Bakr Qtrs		
41	Qushtappa collective town		
42	Temar		
43	Qupaqran		
44	Kawerqusik collective town		
45	Jadida collective town		
46	Bahrka		
47	Rizgari sub-district		
48	Khabat sub-district		
49	Kaniqerzhala collective town		
50	Shawis collective town		

Ethincity and Religion

