



Rapid Perceptions Assessment of Recently Displaced Iraqis from Mosul

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Acknowledgements

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Max Marder drafted this report, with Daniel Seckman, Scott McCoubrey and Matt Trevithick providing edits and review.

Cover Photo: Hassan Sham IDP Camp, December 11, 2016

About NRC

The Norwegian Refugee Council is an international independent humanitarian organisation working with displaced people in both new and protracted crises across 30 countries, providing food assistance, clean water, shelter, legal aid, and education. It has been working in Iraq since 2010, with programmes in the Anbar province, Baghdad, Erbil, Dohuk and Kirkuk.

About SREO

SREO is an independent, non-partisan evaluation center based in Gaziantep, Turkey. SREO's team of researchers includes Syrians, Turks, Europeans, and Americans who have all spent significant time in Syria and the Middle East. Its researchers speak local languages and are dedicated to providing objective analysis of what is transpiring inside Syria as well as in the host communities of neighboring countries.

SREO provides monitoring and evaluation services along with needs assessments and feasibility studies. Together, the SREO team has more than two decades of experience working in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq, Syria and Turkey.

Contact: communications@sreoconsulting.com

List of Abbreviations

FR	Field Researcher
IDP	Internally Displaced Person

Executive summary

This rapid assessment is based on findings from 315 short surveys collected in Al Khazer, Hassan Sham, and Baharka camps between November 28 and December 8, 2016. The vast majority of the sample resided in Al Khazer and Hassan Sham, two new camps devoted to hosting IDPs as recently displaced from Mosul as one to two months prior to data collection. About eight percent of the sample was interviewed in Baharka, which represented a “control group” and further data point for analysis. Baharka residents were displaced in 2014. The sample was evenly divided between men and women. Observations by field researchers (FRs) are also included to provide more context and fill gaps from the surveys.

A major finding from this assessment is that IDPs from Mosul remained upbeat, despite or perhaps because of the recent trauma they faced living under the control of the Islamic State. A majority of respondents reported that they would like to return to their home areas; stay in Iraq even if they had the chance to leave; that their needs were mostly being met; they had received good treatment from organizations and authorities alike; and that they believed their families would live in comfort and safety in Iraq in the future. Respondents, by only a very slim majority, rather than the overwhelming consensus that was expected, were more likely to perceive the future of Iraq as marked by conflict and displacement than by peace and security.

On the other hand, FRs observed respondents living in poor conditions, particularly in Al Khazer, without freedom of movement or access to basic services like medicine, baby milk or good-tasting water.

The best way to interpret respondents’ general optimism is to be cognizant that, despite the conditions in the camps, the majority were better off in the camps than under the Islamic State’s control. As such, respondents had a difficult time complaining about the services or treatment they received when the status quo ante, even as recently as one or two months prior, were significantly direr. A major in the Asaish interviewed informally remarked that “the people here seem happy now and are just glad to not be in Mosul anymore. That will not be the case two months from now.”

In addition, many respondents expressed optimistic viewpoints followed by the Arabic expression *inshallah*, or God willing, which often connotes cautious optimism more so than a realistic expectation for a positive outcome.

Importantly, there were variations between camps. For nearly all indicators, Al Khazer compared unfavorably to Hassan Sham. Respondents in Al Khazer, while still optimistic, had more needs unmet than those in Hassan Sham. Interestingly, Baharka residents, who had been displaced the longest and therefore would have been expected to have more stable lives, reported having fewer needs met and worse treatment by authorities and organizations than the newly displaced. This almost definitely was the product of diverging expectations from the newly

displaced. However, Baharka residents were also the most likely to report a desire to remain in Iraq and express optimism that Iraq in general, and their families in particular, would see peace and comfort in the future.

There have been even more variation by gender. While largely optimistic as well, female respondents were less likely than males to report: wanting to return home; receiving good treatment from both organizations and authorities; having their needs met; and believing that their families would live in comfort and safety in the future Iraq.

These data make clear that the international and humanitarian communities have a moment of opportunity to provide relevant, appropriate and effective support to these communities. It is up to the international community and humanitarian organizations to improve the quantity and quality of their support of IDPs in order to ensure that their optimistic hopes for their families and for Iraq as a whole, rather than their worst fears, become a reality.

Methodology

Sample

For this assessment, 315 surveys were conducted with camp residents recently displaced from Mosul. Due to timeliness, SREO decided to conduct a small portion of the sample's surveys in Baharka camp, where access was more efficient to obtain than newly constructed camps closer to the front lines. Baharka camp residents were not recently displaced—the majority were displaced 24-30 months before the data collection period—but were from the outskirts of Mosul and the Tel Afar area. The Baharka component of the sample also functions as another data point and frame of reference for comparison, allowing SREO to make some limited evaluations about the condition of those who were displaced in 2014. In other words, the findings from Baharka can shed some light on the medium-term outlook for recently displaced IDPs who were interviewed in Al Khazer and Hassan Sham camps.

Of the 315 surveys, SREO endeavored to attain gender parity. The size of the Baharka sample was calibrated to be large enough to provide statistically significant findings, and small enough so as not to reduce the sample size of the primary target: recently displaced IDPs. The size of the sample in Al Khazer camp was larger than that of Hassan Sham because access was obtained more quickly in the former than the latter. Data collection in Baharka took place on the afternoon of November 28, 2016 and the morning of November 29, 2016. In the afternoon on November 29, 2016, access to Al Khazer camp was obtained and FRs move there to begin data collection promptly, continuing on November 30 and December 1, 2016. Access to Hassan Sham camp was not obtained until December 3. One day of work in Hassan Sham was enough to obtain 315 surveys. SREO examined the initial findings on December 4 and 5, and found the data to have produced findings that different from initial expectations. In order to check and confirm that the findings were accurate, four FRs were sent—one male and one female to each Al Khazer and Hassan Sham—to collect quality check surveys on December 6 and 7. The findings from these final days of data collection largely confirmed SREO's initial findings. Throughout data collection, SREO used five FRs—three females and two males.

Table 1: Sample size by camp and gender

Name of Camp	Male Respondents	Female Respondents	Total Respondents
Baharka	13	14	27
Al Khazer	91	91	182
Hassan Sham	53	53	106
Total	157	158	315

FRs took care to survey respondents of the same gender as themselves, to ensure both gender parity and the comfort of the respondents. Respondents were chosen randomly with FRs selecting every third tent or every third resident walking around the camp for survey participants. The refusal rate for the survey was reported by FRs to be less than one percent. When possible, FRs interviewed respondents in private. In some instances, respondents were

surveyed while waiting in line for distributions, although it was made clear that survey participation had no bearing on the distribution. This decision was made in order to bolster the chances of achieving a random sample. Additionally, when sampling from a group waiting in line for a distribution, FRs ensured that the following survey participant—in this case the FR would skip at least eight members waiting in the line—was not a relative of the former participate by leading with a filter question. Finally, FRs took care to adjust their sampling strategy if they surveyed a cluster of respondents from the same age group.

Data collection tools

In collaboration with SREO, NRC developed a rapid perceptions questionnaire for newly displaced IDPs, which was used to obtain information about household needs, perceptions of the future of Iraq and the treatment received from organizations and authorities. The receipt and sufficiency of humanitarian aid were also involved in the questionnaire, as was a question ascertaining whether Iraqi IDPs would prefer to live abroad. In order to supplement the findings from this short survey tools, SREO relied on the observations and reports of its field researchers who collected the data in the three camps included in the sample.

SREO translated the tool into Arabic, and entered the questions into SREO's mobile data collection platform. SREO's staff in Erbil trained five field researchers, two males and three females, in late November. Data collection began on November 28, 2015 and ended on December 8, 2016. Male FRs took care to interview mostly male camp residents and female FRs to interview mostly female camp residents, with the dual purpose of ensuring the respondents' comfort and the gender parity of the sample.

Limitations and challenges

As mentioned above, the data obtained through this survey tools were surprising to SREO's evaluation team in its general optimism toward the future of Iraq, the treatment received by camp residents, and the extent to which camp residents' needs were reported to be met. As such, SREO decided to send field researchers back to the camps to collect approximately 150 new surveys. After randomly replacing the same number of surveys from the first phase of data collection with these new entries, the findings were slightly less optimistic but largely held, confirming the validity of this assessments most important finding: camp residents newly displaced from Mosul are, for the moment, optimistic about their future, almost definitely because they have just escaped the trauma of their recent past.

As well, it is worth noting, that due to the time constraints present in conducting a rapid assessment, the goal of this report is limited to several key indicators and does not constitute an in-depth assessment of newly displaced IDPs' condition. The survey tool was comprised only of close-ended questions and therefore the findings below are largely quantitative and not

qualitative. In other words, this assessment can report facts and figures with high confidence but we are limited in our ability to fully explain our findings without further research.

There are a few pieces of information that were not reflected in the data itself that bear on several of the findings detailed below. First and foremost, many of the residents of Al Khazer and Hassan Sham that were surveyed were displaced very recently from Mosul and, and such, had difficulty disentangling their current conditions from their recent past. In effect, many respondents may have been comparing their current situation in the camps to their recent experiences living in Mosul under Islamic State control. This frame of reference helps us to understand the level of optimism and positivity of respondents, who FRs observed were not in a position to complain since they had been recently liberated.

Relatedly, FRs noted that many of the positive or optimistic responses regarding the ability of respondents to return home or the possibility of Iraq having a stable and peaceful future were expressed by respondents using the term “*inshallah*.” While this term literally means “God willing,” it is difficult to translate into English, and represents not just a unique linguistic expression, but retains unique cultural and religious connotations as well. *Inshallah* can be used in several ways, but in the context of this survey, it is important to be mindful of the usage of *inshallah* as a way of expressing cautious optimism and vague hope more so than a realistic expectation. Therefore, when answering, for example, the question ‘can you and your family live in Iraq in safety and comfort in the future,’ the respondent said ‘yes, *inshallah*,’ this may reflect more of a hope than an expectation, that this would actually come to pass. According to New York Times opinion writer, Wajahat Ali, the usage of the term ‘*inshallah*’ sometimes “transports both the speaker and the listener to a fantastical place where promises, dreams and realistic goals are replaced by delusional hope and earnest yearning.”¹ According to one of SREO’s FR, respondents told her after the survey that they “are happy with being here [in Al Khazer] and saved from the previous situation. They didn’t expect to escape or witness the day where they would reach a safe haven, if asked two years ago about it. They are hopeful that someday they will return home and back to the life they had before the Islamic State.”

A more granular finding that was not included in the data was that FRs reported that a substantial number of respondents, but not a majority, in all three camps, and including both male and female respondents, would have selected “employment” as their most-pressing or second-most-pressing concern had it been an option in the survey tool. Regrettably, SREO did not anticipate this, nor did we allow the form to have the flexibility to allow respondents to provide additional answers to this set of questions.

¹ <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/04/24/opinion/sunday/inshallah-is-good-for-everyone.html>

Findings

It is worth noting that field researchers observed conditions in Hassan Sham to be far better than those in Al Khazer camps. This finding was largely borne out by the data below. Hassan Sham was observed to have better facilities and road than Al Khazer. Additionally, field researchers reported that at the time of data collection, Al Khazer was more than three times as populated as Hassan Sham, 6,500 residents to 2,000 residents. The FRs reported a lot of people complaining in Al Khazer camp about the mud from unpaved road, as well as a lot of complaints that the tents themselves were too crowded. Neither of these complaints was heard in Hassan Sham. This comparative finding between the two camps, that otherwise host IDPs of similar profiles, was largely borne out by the data below.

It is important to note several findings from FR observations, albeit many of which were not in the scope of this assessment. The survey questionnaire was not meant to be exhaustive and therefore many relevant issues that FRs encountered were outside of the narrow focus of the tool.

In both Al Khazer and Hassan Sham, complaints about having mixed sex bathroom was common. Almost all of the female respondents who were mothers complained about there not being enough milk. A lack of sufficient gas supplied for heating was a common complaint across the board, as well as it being cold in the tents at night and there not being enough winter clothing available. A lack of proper medical facilities and medicine was another common complaint across the board. Two pregnant women complained that there were no proper facilities for giving birth. Many camp residents complained about having preexisting conditions like high blood pressure and diabetes and not being able to get medicine.

Several camp residents complained about the taste of drinking water provided in the tanks and said it tasted bad. With regard to the distribution of supplies and food, almost everyone complained about the lines, that they were too long, too chaotic, and that sometimes there was not enough for everyone at the back of the line. All the FRs heard complaints about the distribution points being too far from their tents and from women complaining of having to carry too much too far.

A place to live in the future

Respondents were asked if they wanted to return to their homes and were given four options:

- a. I have a home to return to and I want to go back
- b. I have a home to return to but I don't want to go back
- c. I have no home to return to but want to go back
- d. I have no home to return to and therefore don't want to go back

The majority of the sample—60 percent—both reported a desire to return and the presence of a home to return to. Twenty five percent reported having a home but not wanting to return. Only 14 percent reported not having a home to return to and, among that group, half wanted to return and half did not. About one percent of the sample said “I don’t know.”

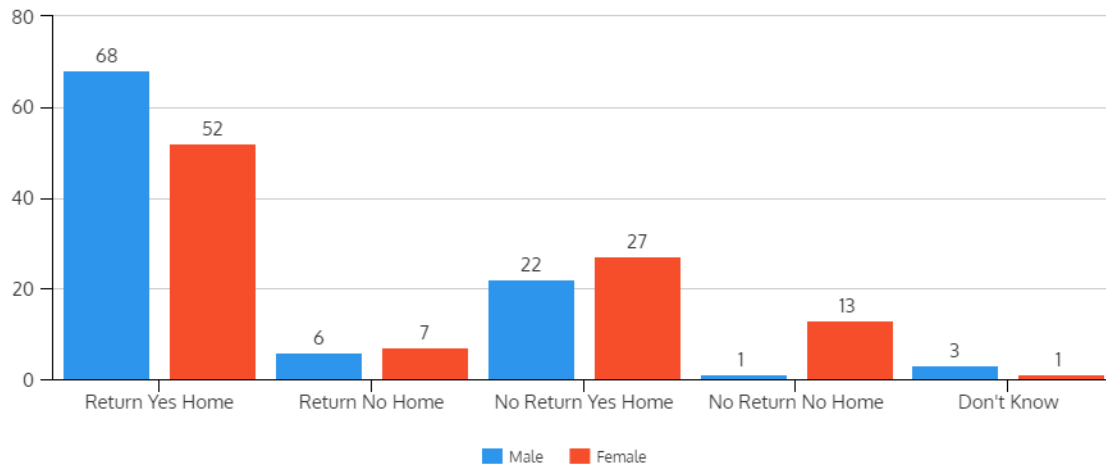
There was little variation between the data from Al Khazer and Hassan Sham: a slightly higher proportion in Al Khazer wanted to return and a slightly higher proportion in Hassan Sham had a home to return to. However, the largest variation was between Baharka, which hosts those who were displaced in 2014 to the other two camps, which contain the recently displaced. Much higher proportions in Baharka wanted to return home, despite the similarity in the sample of the proportion having homes to return to. This might indicate a higher perceived level of stability in the homes areas of the Baharka residents, which are outside of Mosul city, a higher level of fatigue with live in the camps after spending more time there, or a combination of the two.

Table 2: Do you want to return to your home (percentages—by camp)

Camp	Return Home	Yes	Return No Home	No Home	Return Yes	No Return No Home	Total Surveys
Al Khazer	58		8	24		9	182
Hassan Sham	59		4	31		6	106
Baharka	81		7	7		0	27
TOTAL	60		7	25		7	315

Males were more likely than females to want to return to their home areas: 74 percent of males wanted to return as opposed to only 59 percent of females. Interestingly, 90 percent of males considered that they had a “home” to return to while only 79 percent of women did.

Chart 1: Do you want to return to your home (percentages—by gender)



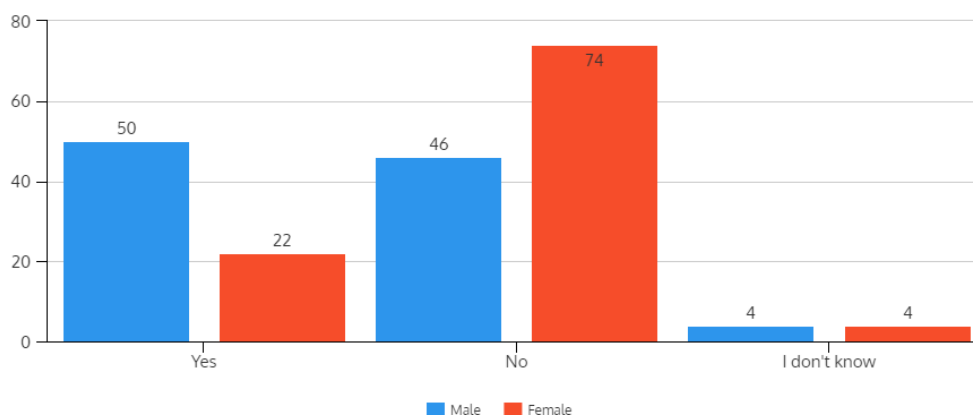
Survey participants were more likely than not to want to stay in Iraq rather than move abroad, even if they could. This finding represented a surprisingly optimistic viewpoint about IDPs' perceptions about the future of Iraq. Indeed, those who had been displaced longest, the Baharka proportion of the sample, were most likely to want to stay in Iraq and remained hopeful about a future in that country.

Table 3: If you had the option to leave Iraq and live abroad, would you? (percentages- by camp)

Camp	Yes	No	Don't Know	Total Surveys
Al Khazer	41	54	5	182
Hassan Sham	33	64	3	106
Baharka	22	74	4	27
TOTAL	37	59	4	315

However, females were significantly more likely than males to prefer to stay in Iraq. While the overall sample favored staying in Iraq, males, taken alone, slightly preferred a move abroad to staying in Iraq.

Chart 2: If you had the option to leave Iraq and live abroad, would you? (percentages- by gender)

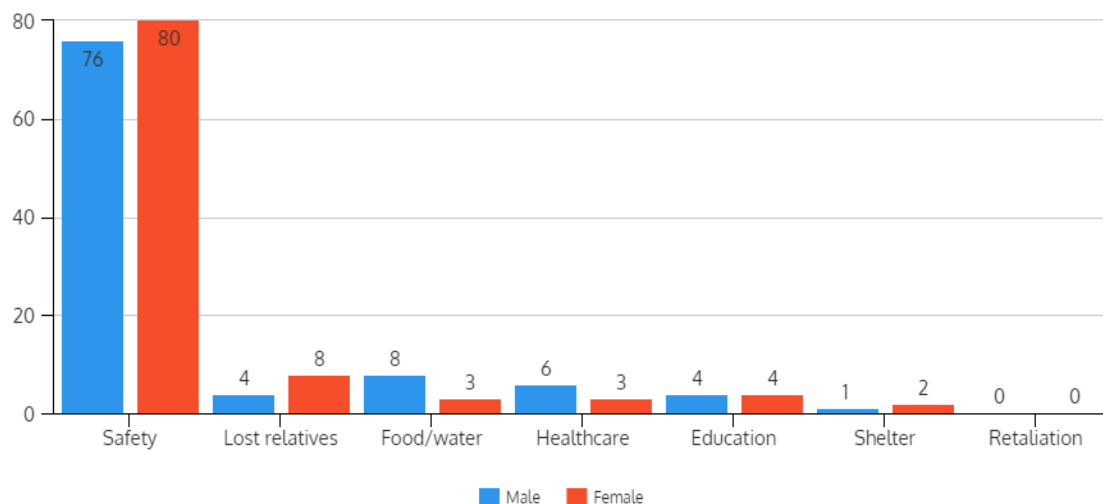


IDPs most pressing current concern

Respondents were asked “what is your most pressing concern right now” and were given several options.

- a. Safety and security
- b. Finding or hearing news about lost relatives
- c. Food and water
- d. Medical services
- e. My children’s education
- f. Shelter
- g. Retaliation/revenge by others

Chart 3: Most Pressing Current Concern (percentages-by gender)



Regardless of location or gender, safety was overwhelmingly the respondents’ most pressing reported concern. It is worth noting that the field researchers’ impression was that for the most part, the respondents felt safe in the moment in the camps, but the fear and insecurity of living in Mosul was still very fresh in their minds.

The largest variation between the camps was that the proportion of respondents in Baharka reporting safety and security as the most pressing concern (67 percent), while still a majority within that camp, was a significantly lower percentage than in the two camps hosting more recently displaced IDPs, (74 percent in Al Khazer and 87 percent in Hassan Sham). This difference was made up in Baharka by a higher proportion indicating food water (22 percent) and education (7 percent) as top concerns.

The main variations between genders were that females were slightly more likely to report safety/security and finding lost relatives as top concerns while males were slightly more likely to highlight food/water or healthcare.

As one FR observed: “They chose safety because they still had fear in them. They did not necessarily mean they were concerned with safety inside the camp because they made it very clear that they felt safe in the camp. They just wanted safety in Iraq in general; they wanted to live safely.”

Due to respondents’ overwhelming consensus that safety and security was their most pressing current concern, more information about other pressing concerns can be gleaned by examining the data for respondents’ second-most-pressing concern.

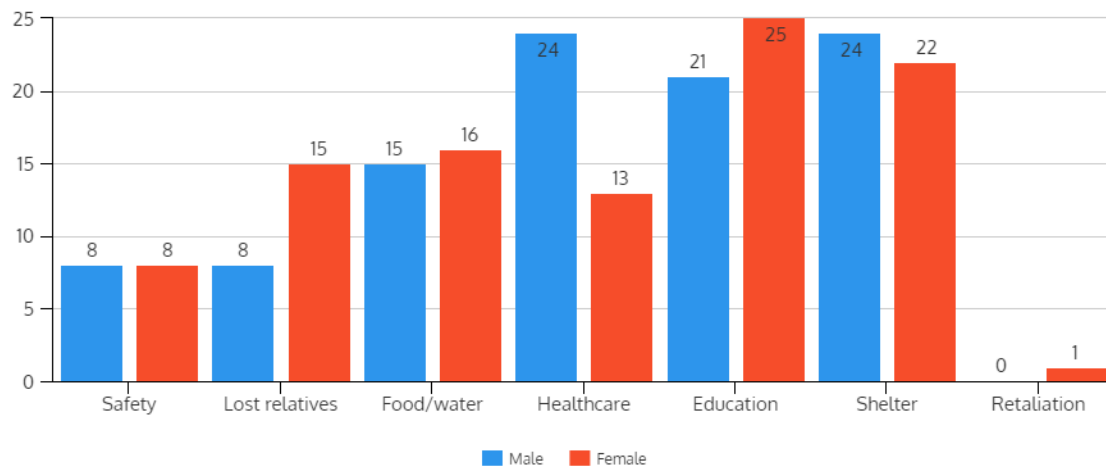
In descending order, shelter, education and healthcare were respondents’ top-three most common answers for their most pressing concerns after safety and security. Food and water was still highlighted as a major concern in Baharka and Al Khazer camps, but not Hassan Sham. When excluding safety and security, education was the top concern in Baharka, followed by shelter and food/water. In Al Khazer, education, food/water, healthcare, and shelter were all emphasized as concerns in roughly equal proportion. In Hassan Sham, shelter was by far the most often indicated non-safety concern, followed far behind by healthcare and education. It should also be noted that FRs reported several respondents across all three camps that would have selected “employment” if that option were provided. Female FRs in particular observed that a majority of female participants expressed concern about what their husbands or sons would do for work in the future.

Table 4: What is your second-most-pressing concern right now? (percentages—by camp)

Camp	Al Khazer	Hassan Sham	Baharka	Total %
Safety and Security	8	6	15	8
Lost Relatives	13	11	0	11
Food/water	20	8	15	15
Healthcare	19	21	7	18
Education	23	19	41	23
Shelter	17	37	19	24
Revenge/Retaliation	1	0	4	1
TOTAL RESPONSES	182	106	27	315

There was not much significant variation by gender. The most notable difference was that females were more concerned about lost relatives and, to a lesser extent, education while males were more concerned with healthcare and, to a lesser extent, shelter.

Chart 4: What is your second-most-pressing concern right now? (percentages—by gender)



Receipt and effectiveness of humanitarian aid

The vast majority of camp residents (96 percent) surveyed confirmed receipt of humanitarian aid. This finding was largely consistent when comparing by gender, although men (98 percent) were slightly more likely than women (94 percent) to confirm receipt of humanitarian aid. Intriguingly, only 81 percent of Baharka residents confirmed receipt of humanitarian aid, as opposed to 97 percent in Al Khazer and 98 percent in Hassan Sham. This was almost definitely an indication of dissatisfaction with the effectiveness and sustainability of humanitarian aid in Baharka rather than its complete absence.

Respondents who indicated the receipt of humanitarian aid were then asked “to what extent has the humanitarian aid you’ve received so far met your needs?”

- It has fully met my needs
- It has met most of my needs
- It has met some needs but not others
- It has met few of my needs
- It has barely met any of my needs

To make the findings clearer, a value was assigned to each answer: five points for fully meeting needs, four for meeting most needs, and so forth, until one point was assigned for barely meeting any needs. Scores were then averaged to calculate a total score for the camp: the higher the score, the more likely camp residents there had their needs fully met by humanitarian aid.

Table 5: To what extent has the humanitarian aid you've received so far met your needs (percentages—by camp)

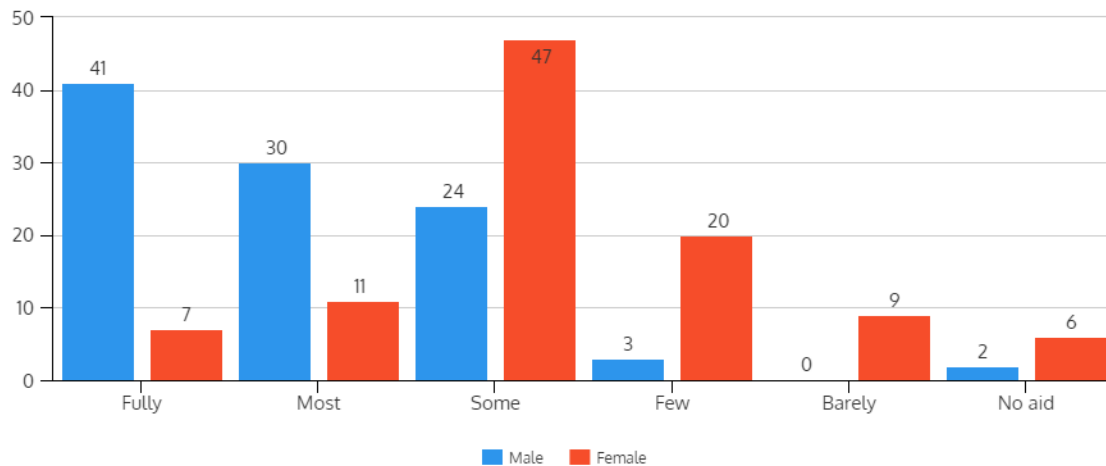
Camp	Fully (5)	Most (4)	Some (3)	Few (2)	Barely (1)	Score (1-5)
Al Khazer	20	16	38	16	5	3.15
Hassan Sham	29	30	34	3	2	3.75
Baharka	30	7	22	7	15	2.73
Total	24	20	36	11	5	3.35

We found that the average newly displaced IDPs reported that their needs were between somewhat and mostly met, which was a positive surprise. Again, this was almost definitely a reflection of the negative experiences of respondents' recent pasts rather than of a positive situation in the camps. A major in the Asaish, who was originally from Mosul, was interviewed in Al Khazer informally by SREO's Iraq country director in late October said that "the people here seem happy now and are just glad to not be in Mosul anymore. That will not be the case two months from now."

There was significant variation by camp, as Hassan Sham respondents were much more likely to report needs were met than respondents in Al Khazer or Baharka. Given the gap in needs between Al Khazer and Hassan Sham and the similar profiles of respondents there, it is very possible that services are not as effective in Al Khazer as in Hassan Sham.

Our interpretation for the negative reports from Baharka is that respondents had adjusted to displacement and had higher expectations and different needs than the recently displaced had. For the recently displaced, their frame of reference was likely the time in the recent past living in Mosul under the authority of the Islamic State, without any access to humanitarian assistance. The frame of reference for Baharka residents appeared to be different: comparing their current situation to what they hoped their situation would be after being displaced for so long. In any case, Baharka represents a potential indication for conditions and perceptions of Al Khazer and Hassan Sham two years after displacement. From these data, it appears that if the humanitarian response to the newly displaced remains constant to the approach that has been taken for Baharka residents, Al Khazer and Hassan Sham respondents will be more disappointed two years from now than they are currently with the humanitarian support they are receiving.

Chart 5: To what extent has the humanitarian aid you've received so far met your needs (percentages—by gender)



As the chart above shows, there was very significant variation by gender regarding the extent to which needs were met by humanitarian organizations. This gender gap existed across all three camps. Overall, 71 percent of males said their needs were fully or mostly met as opposed to just 18 percent of women. Using the same scale as above, the average male scored 4.03 and the average female score 2.69. This means that the average male's needs were mostly met, while the average female met between few and some of her needs.

Treatment by organizations and authorities

Overall, respondents generally reported positive treatment from organizations. In Hassan Sham, treatment was reported to be particularly well compared to Al Khazer. This finding mirrors the finding in the section above in which Hassan Sham residents reported that their needs were met to a greater extent than Al Khazer residents' needs were.

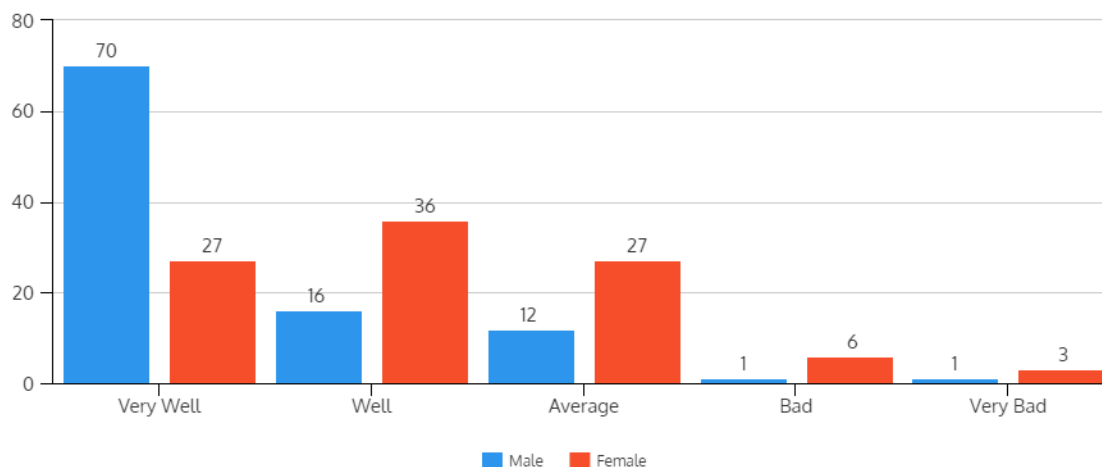
Once again, the data from Baharka were more negative than the data in camps hosting the more recently displaced. Our best explanation remains that the frame of reference and expectation varied considerably between the newly displaced and the more long-term displaced; and that this situation in Baharka represents the trajectory towards which the newly displaced would be going unless the humanitarian approach towards them is different. In other words, without a significant improvement in the effectiveness and sustainability of services, the newly displaced will become more disheartened over time.

Table 6: In the last weeks the way you were treated by organizations was (percentages—by camp)

Camp	Very Well (5)	Well (4)	Average (3)	Bad (2)	Very Bad (1)	Score (1-5)
Al Khazer	45	23	26	4	3	4.06
Hassan Sham	58	35	6	1	0	4.50
Baharka	33	15	33	11	7	3.53
Total	49	26	20	3	2	4.17

Men reported receiving better treatment from organizations than women. This aligns with the finding that men reported that their needs were met to a greater extent than women. Eighty-six percent of men reported being treated well or very well by organizations, as opposed to 63 percent of women. Nine percent of women reported bad or very bad treatment while just two percent of men did. Using the same scale above, the average female respondent scored 3.75 while the average male scored 4.53. This meant that the average male was treated between well and very well, while the average female was treated between averagely and well.

Chart 6: In the last weeks the way you were treated by organizations was (percentages—by gender)



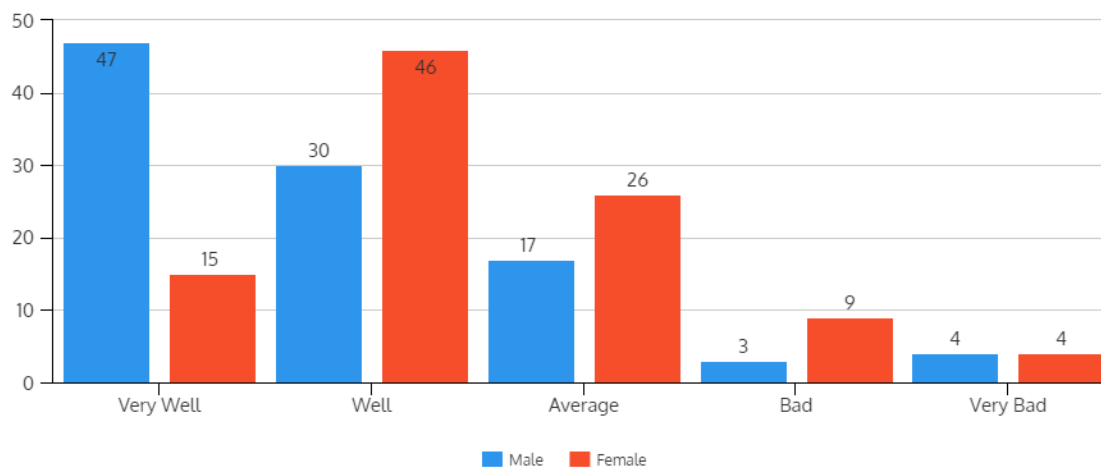
Findings regarding camp residents' perceived treatment by authorities was similar to the data regarding treatment by organizations: treatment was generally well-perceived, but was better in Hassan Sham than in Al Khazer. As before, the treatment in Baharka was perceived to be much worse than in the camps hosting newly arrived IDPs. Almost definitely once again, the best interpretation for this finding was the difference in expectations and frame of reference between the IDPs who had been displaced over two years ago and those who only recently escaped from Islamic State control.

Table 7: In the last weeks the way you were treated by authorities was (percentages—by camp)

Camp	Very Well (5)	Well (4)	Average (3)	Bad (2)	Very Bad (1)	Score (1-5)
Al Khazer	34	29	25	7	5	3.80
Hassan Sham	29	55	10	4	2	3.95
Baharka	15	33	37	7	7	2.91
Total	30	38	21	6	4	3.81

As was the case with questions regarding treatment by organizations and the extent to which needs had been met by humanitarian aid, the data from female respondents were more pessimistic than that coming from male respondents. Seventy-seven percent of males said authorities treated them well or very well, contrasting with only 61 percent of females. Using the scale, the average male scored 4.16 and the average female scored 3.59.

Chart 7: In the last weeks the way you were treated by authorities was (percentages—by gender)



Perceptions about the future of Iraq

Respondents were given two opposite statements and asked to indicate their level of agreement was the statement that they felt most applied.

Statement A: Iraq's future will be marked by conflict and displacement with no future for us and our children

Statement B: Iraq's future will be stable and peaceful

- Strongly agree with Statement A
- Somewhat agree with Statement A
- Strongly agree with Statement B
- Somewhat agree with Statement B

e. I don't know

Once again, a score was created to help present average findings in a clear fashion. Strongly agreeing with Statement A led to a score of four, somewhat agreeing with Statement A led to a score of three, and so forth. The higher the score, the more likely that respondents in the group strongly agreed with Statement A. In other words, the higher the score, the more pessimistic the viewpoint about Iraq's future and the lower the score, the more optimistic the viewpoint about Iraq's future. A score of 2.5 would mean that respondents were perfectly divided on their perceptions for Iraq's future. Respondents who answered "I don't know" were not included in calculating the average score.

Overall, respondents were more likely to lean toward a perception of Iraq's future as one marked by conflict and displacement (50 percent) rather than peace and stability (40 percent). But the difference in support for the two statements was extremely slight. Interestingly, in this regard, the Baharka respondents were the most optimistic and the Hassan Sham respondents were the most pessimistic, despite Hassan Sham respondents reporting more optimistic answers to questions regarding service provision and treatment by organizations and authorities.

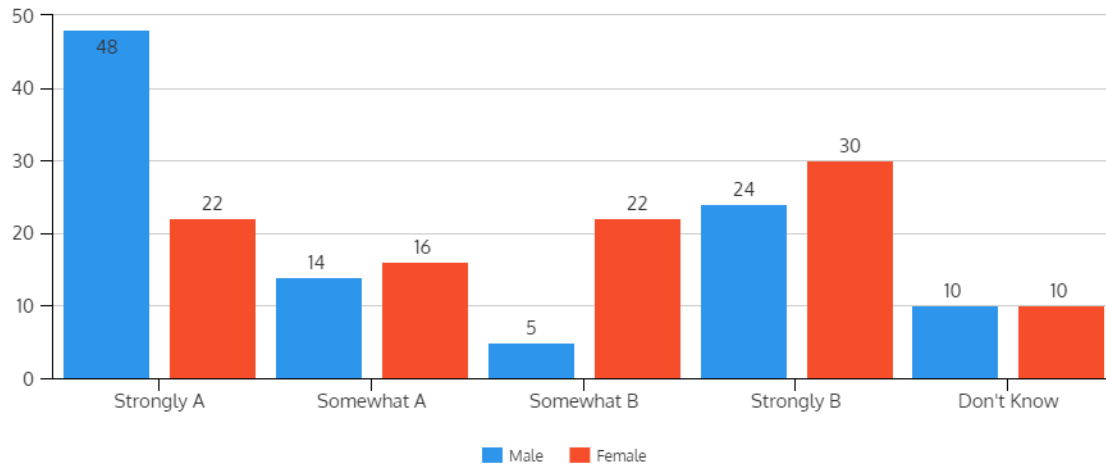
Lastly, it is worth reminding the reader that many respondents expressed support for the more positive outlook for Iraq's future by using the term "*inshallah*," which often connotes a very cautious optimistic hope for the future more than a realistic expectation.

Table 8: Indicate your level of agreement with the two statements (percentages—by camp)

Camp	Strongly A (4)	Somewhat A (3)	Somewhat B (2)	Strongly B (1)	I don't know	Score (1-5)
Al Khazer	31	11	13	35	10	2.42
Hassan Sham	44	25	18	8	4	3.07
Baharka	26	0	0	44	30	2.11
Total	35	15	13	27	10	2.64

In this context, but few others, women were more sanguine than men. Fifty-two percent of females either somewhat or strongly believed that Iraq's future would be peaceful and stable as opposed to just 29 percent of males.

Chart 8: Indicate your level of agreement with the two statements (percentages—by camp)



Lastly, respondents were asked how strongly they agreed with the following statement:

Myself and my family can live in Iraq with safety and comfort in the future:

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't know

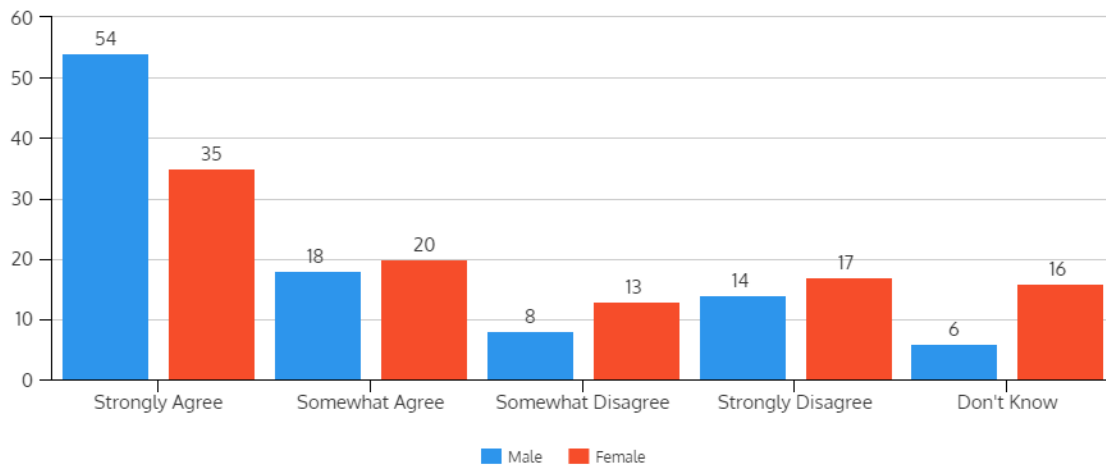
Overall, the average respondent “somewhat agreed” that themselves and their family could live in Iraq with safety and comfort in the future. Here as well, the reader should consider the cautious optimism connoted by the use of the term *inshallah*. While respondents in all three camps were optimistic, Baharka residents were the most optimistic and the Hassan Sham respondents were the most pessimistic. Despite over two years of living as IDPs, Baharka residents were more hopeful that Iraq in general and their families in particular would see comfort, peace and security in the future than were the more newly displaced IDPs.

Table 9: Indicate your level of agreement with the statement (percentages—by camp)

Camp	Strongly Agree (4)	Somewhat Agree (3)	Somewhat Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)	I don't know	Score (1-5)
Al Khazer	51	13	7	16	14	3.17
Hassan Sham	27	34	18	16	5	2.76
Baharka	67	4	7	11	11	3.43
Total	44	19	10	16	11	3.02

While overall respondents were optimistic that themselves and their families would live in safety and comfort in the future Iraq, men were more optimistic than women. In short, women were more optimistic about the future of Iraq in general while men were more optimistic about their families futures in Iraq in particular. This may be explained by the “*inshallah*” element, in addition to a cultural expectation that would make it shameful for men to admit that they could not provide safety and comfort for their families. Finally, it is worth noting that both genders reported higher levels of optimism about their individual families’ futures than the future of Iraq in general. This further reinforced our interpretation of the importance of *inshallah* in this analysis, as respondents displayed a relative unwillingness to be pessimistic when it came to something as personal as their hopes for the families’ safety and comfort.

Chart 9: Indicate your level of agreement with the statement (percentages—by gender)



Conclusions

The euphoria and relief that the residents of the Al Khazer and Hassan Sham felt upon escaping Islamic State-controlled Mosul and surrounding villages have allowed the international donor and humanitarian communities an opportunity, albeit a fleeting one, to ensure that recent Iraqi IDPs believe that a safe and comfortable future in their own country is possible. For the moment, optimism is prevailing. However, it is will not be long before providing a better life than the Islamic State is an acceptable standard for this population in need.

Comparatively, camp residents are better off than they were a short time ago, leading to a positive perception of the authorities, organizations, and the extent to which their needs are met. Camp residents reported to SREO's field researchers that bathrooms are not gender segregated, their water taste fowl, and they have no freedom of movement nor access to essential health services. As the weather gets colder, camp residents have insufficient means to provide a warm home for their families.

The findings from the Baharka camp also indicate that the response, in addition to being rapid, must be sustainable over time to continue meeting needs. A gender appropriate focus is also of enormous importance, as female respondents were more critical of the extent to which their needs were met and the treatment they received than men. For the moment, Iraqi IDPs would prefer to live in their own country and return to their homes, a result that presumably is in the interest of us all. It is up to the international community and humanitarian organizations to work on behalf of recently displaced IDPs and ensure that the optimistic hopes of the moment become their future reality.

Annex 1 – The questionnaire

- 1 Do you want to return to your home? (choose one):
 - a. I have a home to return to and I want to go back
 - b. I have a home to return to but I don't want to go back
 - c. -I have no home to return to but want to go back__
 - d. -I have no home to return to and therefore don't want to go back
 - e. -I don't know__
2. If you had the option to leave Iraq and live abroad, would you?
 - a. -Yes__
 - b. -No__
 - c. -Don't know__
3. What is your most pressing concern right now? (pick one):
 - a. -Safety and security__
 - b. -Finding or hearing news about lost relatives__
 - c. -Food and water__
 - d. -Medical services__
 - e. -My children's education__
 - f. -Having a roof that protects us from the elements__
 - g. -Retaliation/revenge by others__
4. What is your second most pressing concern right now? (pick one that is different from previous question):
 - a. -Safety and security__
 - b. -Finding or hearing news about lost relatives__
 - c. -Food and water__
 - d. -Medical services__
 - e. -My children's education__
 - f. -Having a roof that protects us from the elements__
 - g. -Retaliation/revenge by others__
5. Have you received humanitarian aid since you were displaced from Mosul?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
6. If yes, to what extent has the humanitarian aid you've received so far meet your needs:
 - a. -It has fully met my needs
 - b. -It has met most of my needs
 - c. -It has met some needs but not others
 - d. -It has met few of my needs
 - e. -It has barely met any of my needs

7. In the last weeks the way you were treated by organisations was:

- a. -Very well__
- b. -Well__
- c. -Average__
- d. -Bad__
- e. -Very bad__

8. In the last weeks the way you were treated by authorities was:

- a. -Very well__
- b. -Well__
- c. -Average__
- d. -Bad__
- e. -Very bad__

9. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements:

Statement A: Iraq's future will be marked by conflict and displacement with no future for us and our children__

Statement B: Iraq's future will be stable and peaceful

- a. Strongly agree with Statement A
- b. Somewhat agree with Statement A
- c. Strongly agree with Statement B
- d. Somewhat agree with Statement B
- e. -I don't know__

10. How strongly do you agree with the following statement:

Myself and my family can live in Iraq with safety and comfort in the future:

- a. -Strongly agree
- b. -Somewhat agree
- c. -Somewhat disagree
- d. -Strongly disagree
- e. -I don't know