

Webinar: Analysis of durable solutions in places of displacement and return (Iraq, Sudan and Somalia)

# Combining analysis at the area and household levels: lessons from the Return Index and the longitudinal study in Iraq

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## Protracted Displacement – Setting the Scene

*Prof. Roger Zetter, Refugee Studies Centre, University of Oxford (Dec 2016)*

The three durable solutions are underscored by a preoccupation with ending mobility and movement. They are predicated on a **finite physical place/event** (i.e. return) **leading to a finite status** - when protection and assistance are terminated.

However, populations set in place their **livelihood strategies along a continuum of mobility and migration**, which provides a sustainable means of dealing with the long-term consequences of displacement, rather than pointing at a definitive event.

Likewise, there is unlikely to be a finite status. For many, displacement does not end at a point in time – households may have continuing requirements for livelihood assistance and rights protection. These necessities vary from place to place, community to community and through time.

In sum, the **relatively narrow conceptualization of durable solutions as sequential, mutually exclusive and permanent** seems to be too inflexible and rigid to capture what happens on the ground.



# Household level analysis

TAKE HOME FROM THE LONGITUDINAL STUDY ON DURABLE SOLUTIONS FOR IRAQI IDPS

*AN IOM IRAQ & GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY STUDY*

## IDPs



### CRITERIA 1: SAFETY AND SECURITY

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

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### CRITERIA 2: STANDARD OF LIVING

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



### CRITERIA 3: LIVELIHOOD AND EMPLOYMENT

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

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

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

# IDPs



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

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

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

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



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

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

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This report offers four key findings:

**1** *Access to Durable Solutions Among IDPs in Iraq* suggests that displaced households move for the purpose of finding jobs or securing livelihoods; however, such economically motivated moves are facilitated more commonly by extended family networks.

**2** Mover households may have visited their original homes, but the vast majority have not tried to return to live in them. Thus, the study shows that movers constitute a new category, different from “failed returns”.

**3** Some of the “mover” households are “in process” returnees, i.e., have returned to areas very close to their original homes.

**4** The conditions of their homes in the area of origin are likely relevant to where people move. Movers face a higher level of damage to housing, land and property than returnee households. Thus, movers may be “in process” returnees who want to return but cannot because their homes are too badly damaged.

## Movers

## Different from failed returns

## Moving closer to home

# 4 years later ...

*IDPs 62.1%, returnees 30.3%, movers 7.6%*

- None of the 8 criteria gets worse over time, and trends first observed in Round 2 continue throughout Round 4
- Temporary Solutions, not Durable Solutions (i.e. precarious livelihoods)
- Agriculture never rebounded (28% before displacement, 0.5% Round 4)
- Many employed in informal labor (42-43% in Rounds 2 & 3, 30% Round 4)
- Movers are not failed returns but families who get closer to home

Strategies employed:

## BORROWING

- Main strategy to meet basic needs. (N who needed to borrow money rose to 95 % in Round 3, but the number who were able to borrow money remained at 50 %).
- Loans and aid (overwhelming % from family and friends);
- Microfinance sector limited in areas of return

## REDUCING FOOD CONSUMPTION



# Area level analysis

TAKE HOME FROM THE RETURN INDEX ON AREAS OF IDP RETURN IN IRAQ

*AN IOM IRAQ & SOCIAL INQUIRY STUDY*



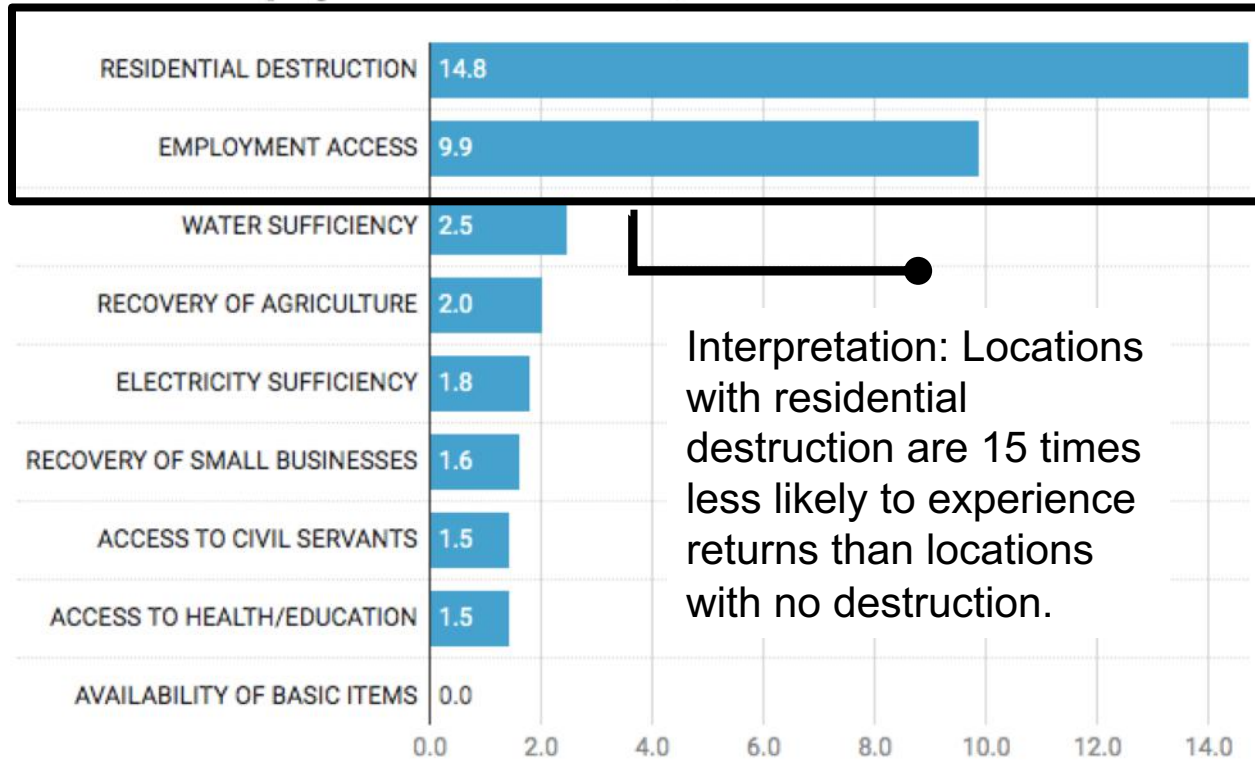
# LESSONS LEARNED FROM IMPLEMENTATION

#1

Some indicators are more relevant than others in explaining returns.

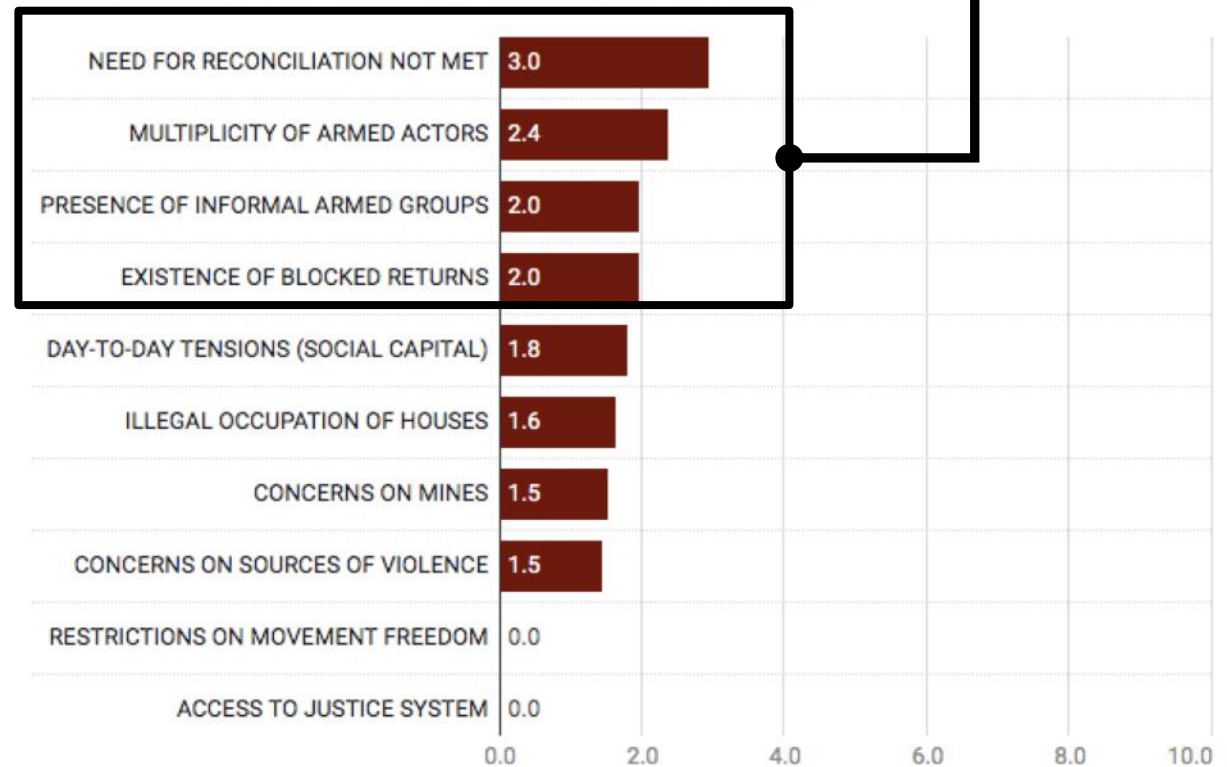
Indicators that address the root causes of the conflict are ALSO some of the most important.

### Model with "physical conditions", odds ratio



Interpretation: Locations with residential destruction are 15 times less likely to experience returns than locations with no destruction.

### Model with "social conditions", odds ratio



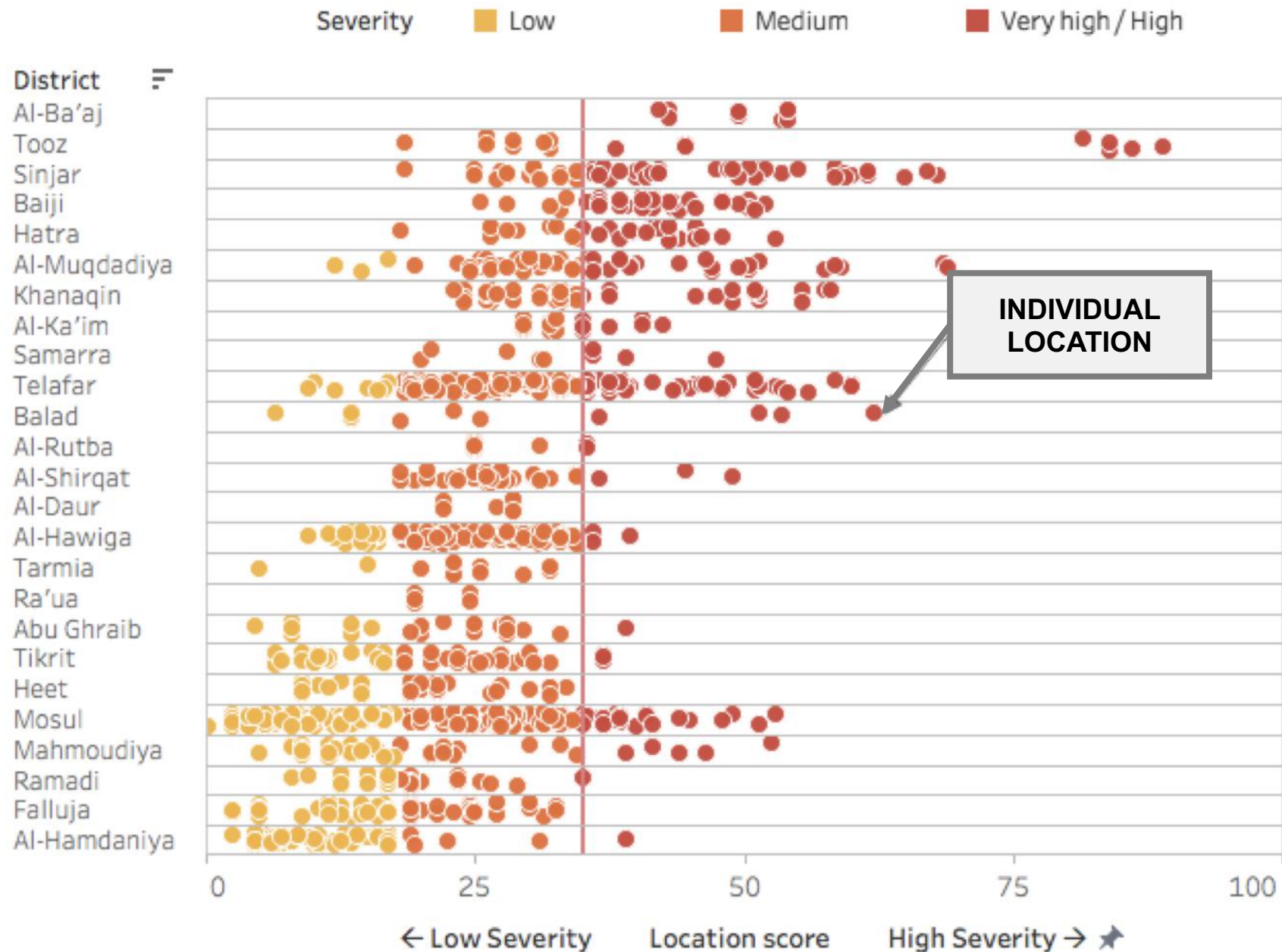
# LESSONS LEARNED FROM IMPLEMENTATION

#2

Using it to prioritize the most severe areas using an evidence base.

**BUT NEED TO**

- Unpacking the index for programming or for addressing / targeting specific areas of intervention / programming.





# Methodological & policy implications

THE MOBILITY DIMENSION AND THE FRAGILITY CONTEXT/FRAME/LENSE?

# Methodological perspective

- Some criteria are better measured at **area** or **institution** level, some at **individual** or **household** level (Ex.)
- Aggregate measures at area level are good for studying area level variables as availability of services, markets, policies, security apparatus, political context, and even so when aggregating then it needs to be unpacked again if we need to look at programs
- Indexes are built using different methodologies and with different components so there is the risk to measure different aspects in different places trade off between contextualizing and comparing
- Other dimension to account for:
  - Progress over time (LS)
  - Comparison with the nondisplaced population (discrimination) (cross sectional)
  - At household level, not all members voices are heard (different modules)
- Overall, how this all links to the current EGRIS work and measuring the end of displacement for official statistics purposes?

# Accounting for the mobility dimension

- **Mobility** should be recognized not as a problem but as a **self-directed and self-sustaining ‘solution’** and encouraged as an opportunity – cfr. IOM Framework
- HH level (and LS) surveys better at accounting for the mobility dimension and fit the understanding that that displacement is dynamic and **resolving it** isn't a box you can tick but a **process**
- The category of **movers** needs more attention and understanding

# Policy implications and considerations on fragility and protection needs

- Once it is understood that the end of displacement is a dynamic processes, it is also clear the **need for supporting more fluid and nuanced sustainable ways** of resolving displacement situations
- Consider the **role fragility plays** in helping or hindering return, integration, or settlement – capturing dimensions of displacement and its resolution that are beyond the Framework and often overlooked but important to measure and account for. These dimensions are better captured at area level (even at country level when it concerns institutions)
- This is critical to understand how to characterize the achievement of durable solutions on the ground and how much their attainment is **dependent on individual household factors** and how much on the **(fragile) environments** in which they reside.

# Policy implications and considerations on fragility and protection needs – Iraq

- Return to area of origin is the “durable solution” most promoted, and alternatives are often not fully captured by existing frameworks or recognized by authorities.
- What is the implication/rationale for **keeping or removing populations from the caseload**?
- In this light, it is important to establish some metrics for determining how the **thresholds of assistance, protection and rights are measured**
- IDPs moved into locations of varying levels of fragility, therefore it is important to understand how factors linked to institutional functioning and stability, employment, social inclusion, and equity, among others **influence whether or not durable solutions can be achieved** – and whether these durable solutions indicators alone are appropriate to understand the end of displacement in fragile contexts.

# Thankyou!

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[Middle East and North Africa \(MENA\) Mixed Migration Overview](#)

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