

# FINDINGS ROUND ONE

DATA COLLECTION PERIOD: MARCH–APRIL 2021

OCTOBER 2021

## CONTEXT

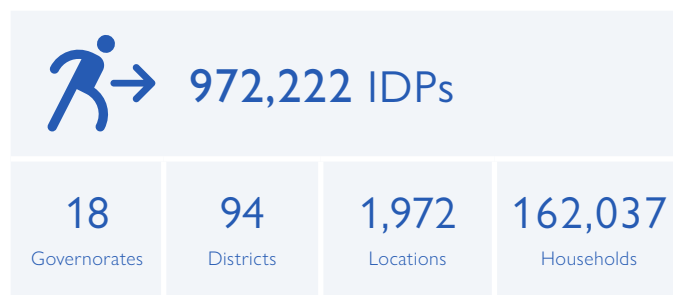
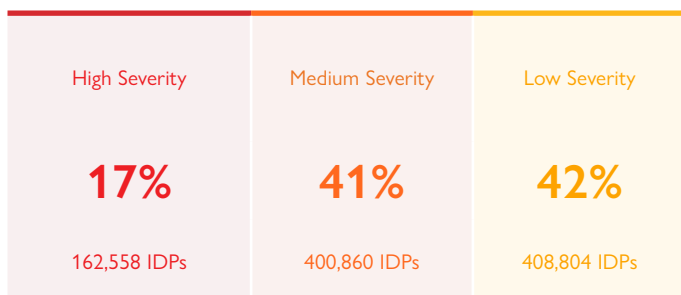
With the end of the conflict with the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), protracted displacement has come to characterize the post-conflict environment in Iraq. Around 1.2 million people remain internally displaced, nearly all of whom fled their areas of origin more than three years ago. In light of the above, it is essential to advance durable solutions to displacement in Iraq through improving the living conditions that will enable internally displaced persons (IDPs) to voluntarily take the first steps towards return, local integration or settlement in new locations. The Displacement Index (DI) is a tool designed to measure and monitor the living conditions of IDPs. Data collection for the DI Round 1 took place during the months of March and April 2021 across 18 governorates, 94 districts and 1,972 locations of displacement in Iraq.

## METHODOLOGY

The DI is based on 17 indicators across five domains: (1) infrastructure and services, (2) safety and security, (3) livelihoods, (4) social inclusiveness and (5) housing. Factor analysis is used to examine the relationship between these domains and their indicators and to obtain scores that capture both the relevance of each indicator for a certain domain and the importance of each domain for the overall index.






The index ranges from 0 (where all essential living conditions are met) to 100 (where no essential living conditions are met). Higher scores denote more severe living conditions for IDPs. The scores of the DI are grouped into three categories: low, medium and high (which also includes the identified 'very high' locations).

Figure 1. Proportion of IDPs by category of severity



Data collected March – April 2021

Table 1: Displacement index domains and indicators

DOMAIN	 INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES	 SAFETY AND SECURITY	 LIVELIHOODS	 SOCIAL INCLUSIVENESS	 HOUSING
INDICATORS	Water sufficiency	Presence of other security actors (PMU, TMU or other groups apart from the Iraqi army, the local police and the federal police)	Households without enough funds for food	Discrimination due to IDP status when it comes to access to employment, rental housing or basic services	Households who live in critical shelters
	Electricity sufficiency	Concerns among IDP families on violence from or between security forces or armed groups	Households without income sources, who rely on aid	Unequal political representation	Households who live in separated/isolated areas
	Access to health care	Concerns among IDP families of ISIL attacks	Households who moved to cheaper housing	Freedom of movement	Households who live in unsafe areas
		Concerns among IDP families of revenge attacks	Primary school attendance		

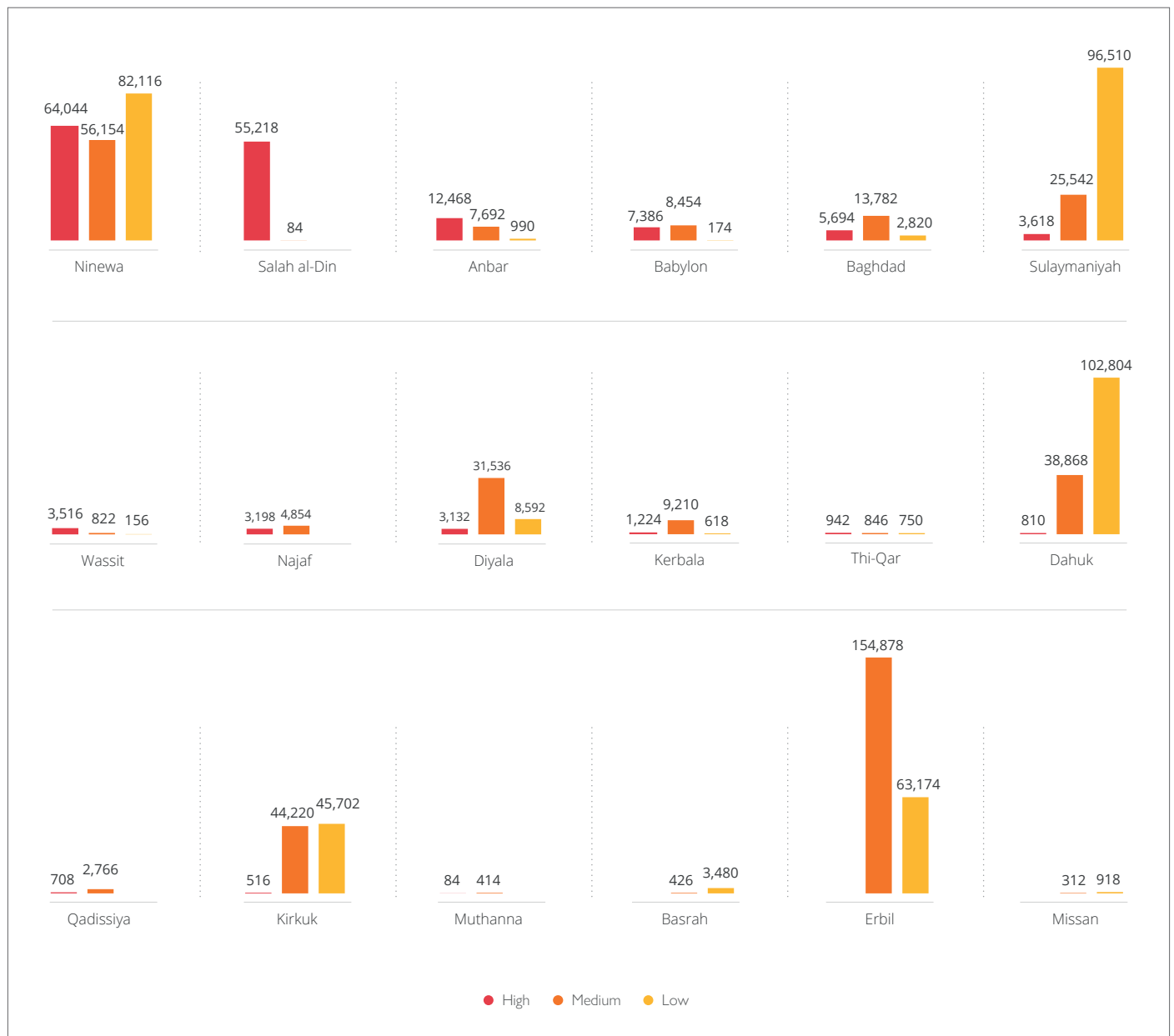
### OVERALL SEVERITY

- Out of the 1,972 displacement locations assessed, 370 present severe conditions. Of these, 98 present very high severity, and 272 present high severity conditions. These locations host 17 per cent of the IDP population, or 162,558 individuals. A further 804 locations are classified as medium severity and host 41 per cent of the IDP population (400,860 individuals) and 798 locations show low severity conditions with 42 per cent (408,804 individuals).
- The governorates with the greatest overall numbers of IDPs in severe conditions are Ninewa (64,044 individuals), followed by Salah al-Din (55,218) and Anbar (12,468). When looking at the overall severity of each domain at the governorate level, Ninewa shows medium severity across all five domains on average, but within the governorate, Markaz Al-Baaj, Al Shamal, Markaz Sinjar, Markaz

Tel Afar, Rubiya and Zummar show high or very high severity. In Salah al-Din, all five domains show high severity, and in Anbar Governorate the domain of social inclusion is the primary driver of high severity.

- Najaf shows high overall severity across three of the five domains: infrastructure and services, livelihoods and social inclusion. However, the number of people living in these conditions is low, at 3,198 individuals. A similar situation can be seen in Wassit, which shows very high severity in the domain of livelihoods, meaning that the overall severity at the governorate level is high. However, the number of individuals living in high severity conditions in Wassit is low, at 3,516 individuals.

Figure 2. Number of IDPs per category of severity, by governorate of displacement



## DOMAINS OF SEVERITY

- The DI methodology seeks to capture the importance of each domain for the overall index. In line with the previous studies, housing is the domain with the highest impact on the overall living conditions of IDPs. Domains with the second highest impact are services and security, followed by livelihoods and social inclusiveness.
- While the domain of housing has the highest impact on the overall living conditions, the severity of conditions is medium, with an average score of 25. Salah al-Din is a significant outlier as the only governorate with severe conditions in this domain with a score of 60; Najaf scores the second highest (45, medium) followed by Anbar (43, medium) and Babylon (42, medium).
- Livelihood scores are lower than average in the governorates of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) and show low severity conditions in all governorates. In contrast, this is the domain with the highest scores across the governorates of Federal Iraq, with Qadissiya (66), Muthanna (64), Salah al-Din (62), and Wassit (62) Kerbala (51), and Najaf (50) all showing severe conditions.
- In the domain of social inclusiveness Erbil is an outlier, as the only domain showing high severity across the KRI governorates. Only three other governorates show high severity in this domain: Anbar, Najaf and Salah al-Din.
- The domain of safety and security shows the lowest scores overall, with the majority of governorates showing low severity. Salah al-Din is a key outlier, showing high severity, and Anbar, Diyala, Najaf and Ninewa show medium severity.

Table 2: Severity level per domain, by governorate of displacement

GOVERNORATES	INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES	SAFETY AND SECURITY	LIVELIHOOD	SOCIAL INCLUSIVENESS	HOUSING	OVERALL SEVERITY
Anbar	Medium	Medium	Medium	High	Medium	Medium
Babylon	High	Low	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium
Baghdad	Medium	Low	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium
Basrah	Low	Low	Medium	Low	Low	Low
Dahuk	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
Diyala	Low	Medium	Medium	Low	Medium	Medium
Erbil	Medium	Low	Low	High	Low	Medium
Kerbala	Medium	Low	High	Medium	Medium	Medium
Kirkuk	Medium	Low	Medium	Medium	Low	Low
Missan	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
Muthanna	Medium	Low	High	Medium	Medium	Medium
Najaf	High	Medium	High	High	Medium	Medium
Ninewa	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium
Qadissiya	Medium	Low	High	Low	Medium	Medium
Salah al-Din	High	High	High	High	High	High
Sulaymaniyah	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
Thi-Qar	Low	Low	Medium	Low	Low	Medium
Wassit	Medium	Low	High	Low	Medium	High
Total	Medium	Low	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium

## HOTSPOTS

Subdistricts are classified as 'hotspots' if they score highly in terms of the overall severity and have at least 1,000 IDPs residing in the subdistrict. Twenty hotspots were identified across eight governorates in this first round. The top three hotspots based on the highest number of IDPs resident are Al-Shamal and Markaz Sinjar in Ninewa and Markaz Tuz Khurmatu in Salah al-Din.

Al Shamal has 18,552 IDPs settled in the subdistrict. Locations are scored with either high or very high severity. The most critical domains are (1) housing, (2) infrastructure and services, and (3) safety and security. In around one third of locations, IDPs are settled in areas considered to be unsafe with a large number of families living in critical shelters. Water and electricity sufficiency is lacking in most of locations. In nearly all locations, there are concerns over violence between armed groups, the recurrence of ISIL and revenge attacks. The presence of additional security actors beside the Iraqi army, the local police and the federal police is an additional exacerbating factor in most locations.

Markaz Sinjar has 17,910 IDPs settled in the subdistrict. All IDPs are living in locations classified as conditions of high or very high severity.

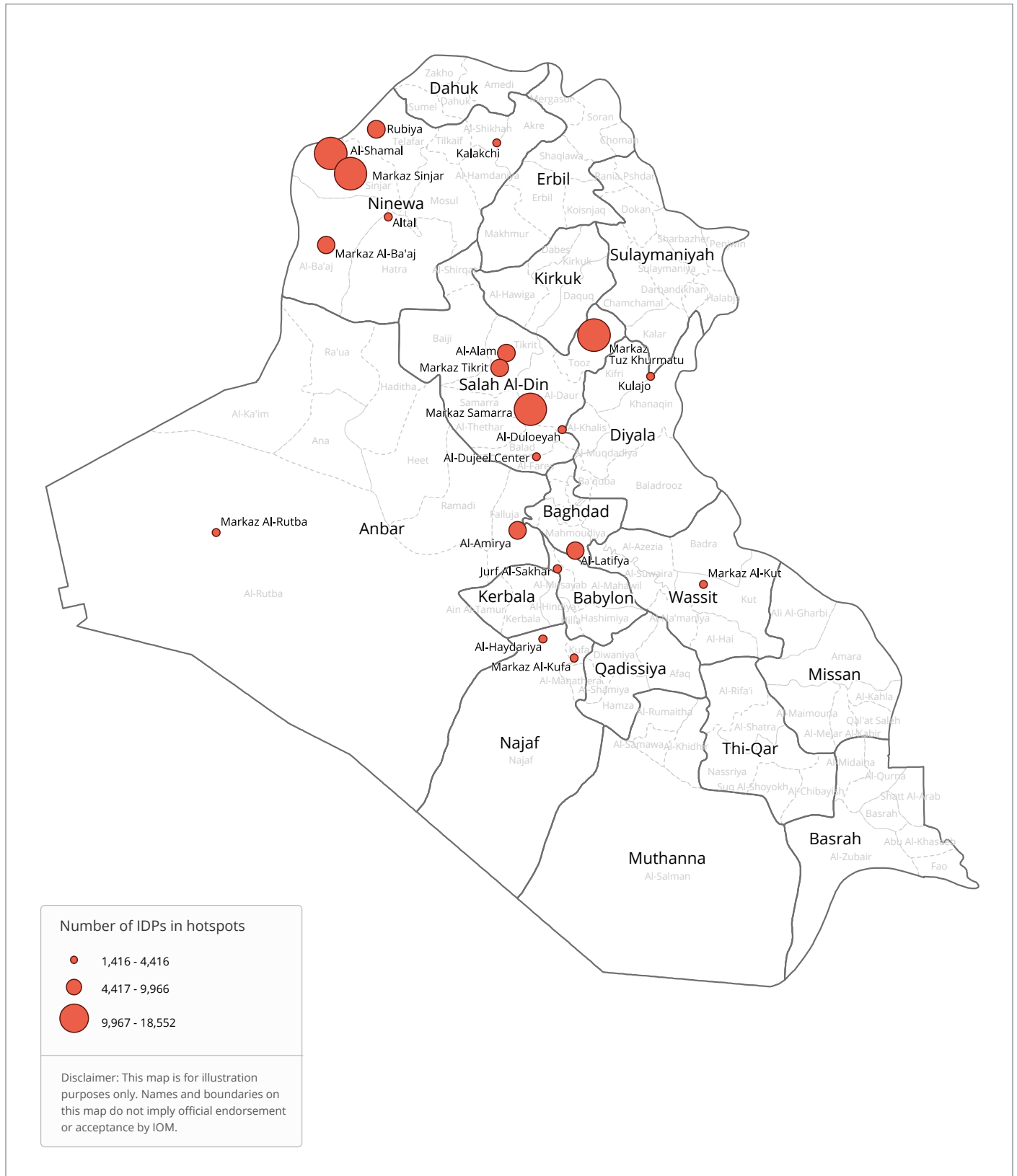
The most critical domain is safety and security, with key informants (KIs) reporting presence of militias, concerns over violence between armed groups, the resurgence of ISIL and concern over revenge attacks in all locations. In some locations, the high severity of conditions is related to water and electricity insufficiency, as well as discrimination due to IDP status when it comes to access to employment, rental housing and basic services.

Markaz Tuz Khurmatu subdistrict hosts 17,652 IDPs. Almost all locations in the subdistrict show conditions of very high severity with a few locations in high severity. The most critical domain is social inclusiveness, with KIs reporting that IDPs are not allowed political representation, while movement is permitted only with a special permit. In all locations, there are concerns over the resurgence of ISIL and in some locations there are concerns over revenge attacks. The presence of other security actors than the Iraqi army, the local police and the federal police is an additional exacerbating factor in terms of security. Access to electricity is the most pressing infrastructural need and problematic in all locations

Table 3: Hotspots of severity

GOVERNORATE	DISTRICT	SUBDISTRICT	OVERALL SEVERITY (AVERAGE SCORE)	OVERALL SEVERITY (CATEGORY)	NO. OF LOCATIONS	NO. OF IDPS
Salah al-Din	Tikrit	Al-Alam	88	Very high	13	5,778
Salah al-Din	Tuz Khurmatu	Markaz Tuz Khurmatu	81	Very high	14	17,652
Anbar	Falluja	Al-Amiryah	78	Very high	11	9,966
Ninewa	Sinjar	Al-Shamal	76	Very high	17	18,552
Salah al-Din	Samarra	Markaz Samarra	71	High	24	15,888
Salah al-Din	Tikrit	Markaz Tikrit	71	High	25	8,838
Salah al-Din	Balad	Al-Duloeyah	69	High	7	3,114
Ninewa	Sinjar	Markaz Sinjar	69	High	10	17,910
Ninewa	Hatra	Altal	68	High	1	3,726
Ninewa	Al-Ba'aj	Markaz Al-Ba'aj	65	High	9	7,206
Ninewa	Telafar	Rubiya	61	High	18	7,206
Salah al-Din	Al-Fares	Al-Dujeel Center	60	High	7	2,328
Wassit	Kut	Markaz Al-Kut	60	High	38	3,000
Sulaymaniyah	Kalar	Kulajo	56	High	8	3,024
Babylon	Al-Musayab	Jurf Al-Sakhar	56	High	8	4,416
Najaf	Kufa	Markaz Al-Kufa	55	High	4	1,554
Ninewa	Al-Shikhan	Kalakchi	54	High	1	1,416
Anbar	Al-Rutba	Markaz Al-Rutba	53	High	9	2,790
Baghdad	Mahmoudiya	Al-Latifya	51	High	9	5,682
Najaf	Najaf	Al-Haydariya	50	High	7	2,718

Map 1: Hotspots of severity



## METHODOLOGY

The DI is developed to measure, describe and monitor the living conditions of the displaced populations in locations across Iraq and builds upon the multivariate statistical procedure of factor analysis. To ‘investigate’ the living conditions of IDPs, the model uses 17 indicators measuring five underlying domains – (1) infrastructure and services, (2) safety and security, (3) livelihoods, (4) social inclusiveness and (5) housing. Each domain is strongly and distinctively identified by a non-overlapping set of indicators that represent different aspects of the same domain and are as different as possible from indicators in other domains. The unit of the analysis is the location, which can be a town, village or neighbourhood in a city. Data is collected through IOM’s Rapid Assessment and Response Teams (RARTs), composed of over 80 staff members deployed across Iraq (20% of enumerators are female). IOM’s RARTs collect data through structured interviews with KIs using a large, well-established network of over 2,000 KIs (5% are female) that includes community leaders, mukhtars, local authorities and security forces.

Factor analysis is used to obtain scores to capture the relevance of each indicator and its contribution to the rating of the overall living conditions of IDPs. Each indicator is assigned a ‘weight’ that expresses both its importance with regard to the overall living conditions of IDPs as well as its influence over other indicators. Scores are computed separately for each domain and for the overall index, and then normalized to give a score between 0 (the best case scenario where all essential living conditions are met) and 100 (the worst case scenario where no essential living conditions are met). Finally, these are translated in to scales that are easy to interpret, where locations are ranked according to the severity of conditions and then grouped in to similar categories: low, medium, high and very high.

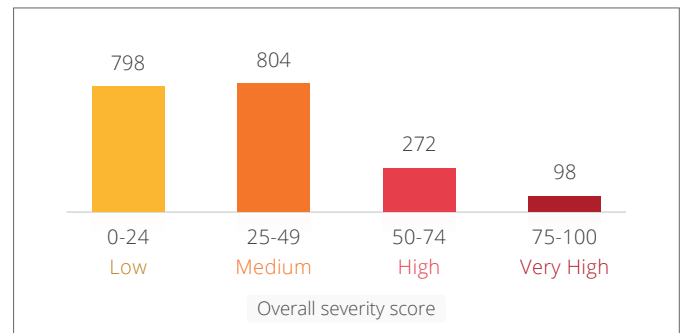
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Table 4: Score intervals per category of severity

CATEGORY OF SEVERITY	SCORE INTERVAL
Very high	75-100
High	50-74
Medium	25-49
Low	0-24

Figure 3: Number of locations per category of severity



The data of the DI is collected through KI interviews in each location with IDPs. This methodology has the advantage of allowing extensive coverage over a short period of time, but relies on few individuals conveying the views of a large and mixed community, which might lead to limited representation for smaller groups with distinct characteristics, anomalies in the data due to misinterpretation of the question by the KI, or discrepancies caused by a biased perception of the situation, particularly with regard to the domain of social inclusiveness.

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