



Displacement it is NOT ENDING WITH the Re-Entering



SHELTER BASELINE STUDY
Needs Assessment of the Returnees'
in Balad District,
Salah al-Din Governorate

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This assessment was designed and developed by the Director of Research and Development Department and Emergency Department staff at Mercy Hands for Humanitarian Aid.

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Disclaimer

The baseline study was conducted by Mercy Hands for Humanitarian Aid staff in Baghdad, Iraq.

The views expressed in this baseline study are those of the authors and the interviewers and do not necessarily represent those of the Mercy Hands for Humanitarian Aid, or any other organization mentioned in this study.

Baghdad, June 2022

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Acknowledgements

We want to express our deep appreciation to UNHCR, which since 2018, has had an enormous impact on the returnee lives and in the area targeted by this baseline study through the CRI project (*Core Relief items project implemented with MH*).

We want to express our acknowledgment to the returnees of the Khazraj Tribe and Rifayat Tribe, the Community Leaders (Mukhtar) for their readiness to fulfil the process in time, the MH staff located in Salah al-Din and all MH staff for their help in coordination, logistics and feedback.

Acronyms

AoO	Area of Origin
DTM	Displacement Tracking Matrix
HH	Household
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
KRI	Kurdistan Region of Iraq
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
ISIL	Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant
MH	Mercy Hands for Humanitarian Aid
NGOs	Non-governmental organizations
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
UDHR	Universal Declaration of Human Rights
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UN	United Nations organization

i. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Iraq's war against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) has caused the displacement of millions, of over 6 million Iraqis. Displaced communities began to return in waves from March 2015, following the military campaigns to retake areas under ISIL control and driven by expectations of restored stability, which peaked between June 2017 and June 2018 when nearly 4 million individuals returned to their location of origin, and since then the rate of return has slowed considerably¹. As of July 2021, around 4.9 million returns have been recorded across 2,162 locations in Iraq, but 287 locations nationwide have not yet witnessed returns². Around 1.2 million individuals remain in displacement, including those enduring secondary displacement and/or failed returns, mostly because of ongoing safety and security issues at the area of origin³.

Shelter is an essential survival mechanism in times of crisis or displacement as well as should be a temporary mechanism. This coping mechanism is also key to restoring personal security, self-sufficiency and dignity. Times of crisis and displacement seems to overlook self-sufficiency and dignity but re-entering one's place of origin after a period of displacement should mark a return to normality with dignity without leaving behind the personal security and self-sufficiency. The re-entering in the place of origin of the displaced persons should be done in an appropriate manner keeping in consideration the material, legal, physical and mental dimensions of the returnees. The re-entering in the place of origin it is appropriate when adequate enabling conditions for successful return are met. When forced or under pressure to close camps the re-entering meets a goal, of making possible the return, but opens up new problems and challenges caused by forced re-entering.

Returnees in Balad District, Salah al-Din Governorate

The forced re-enter (*taking people out of camp*) can cause displacement of persons in out-of-camp locations or informal sites, such is the case for the Balad District, in Salah al-Din Governorate. The forced re-entering of returnees brings multiple problems and obstacles. There are returnees that can return and they do return, but they face extreme and catastrophic needs. People displaced in out-of-camp locations, including informal sites such as Balad district in Salah Al-Din Governorate tend to experience a wider range of extreme or catastrophic needs⁴.

There are other group of returnees that are not allowed to re-enter to their place of origin. Displaced persons have been blocked from returning due to issues related to security or documentation⁵. Instances of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) being blocked from accessing their areas of origin occur primarily in the governorates of Salah Al-Din (*Balad District*)⁶.

¹ Overview of return in Iraq, DTM Integrated Location Assessment VI, IOM Iraq, 2021 page 5.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ HUMANITARIAN NEEDS OVERVIEW, IRAQ, March 2022, page 50.

⁵ Ibid, page 6.

⁶ Ibid, supra note 26.

Mercy Hands for Humanitarian Aid (MH) has conducted a shelter baseline study, a needs assessment of the returnees in Balad District, Salah al-Din Governorate. This baseline targeted the returnees in Balad District, Salah al-Din Governorate. The participants in the survey were stakeholders (*Community Leaders of Community Leader of Rifayat Tribble and the Community Leaders of Khazraj Tribble, all of Sayed Gharib village, Balad District of Salah al-Din Governorate*) and returnees as well. From the returnees interviewed returnee, twenty-seven percent (27%) were females and seventy-three (73 %) were males.

The results and findings of the baseline study will be shared broadly in the following section. The interviewees were selected randomly. In general, from the baseline study, it was found, in regards to the shelter status of returnees, that about 33 % of the houses of returnees need critical improvements and 67 % of the of the houses of returnees need shelter improvement. From the findings, the returnees needed major kitchen and toilet repairs, 22 % needed kitchen repairs and 22 % of them needed toilet repairs. Whereas, 15 % of the returnees needed major room repairs. Other needs were related to replacement of roofs, doors, windows, water tanks, electricity systems for the house. Furthermore, it was found that, 79 % of the returnees live in unfinished buildings home, 14 % live in unqualified homes, 7 % in makeshift shelter.

The interviews were particularly crucial to better understanding their needs and concerns. The concerns raised by returnees and the Community Leaders are related to the obstacles that they were facing which impeded their ability to find durable solutions in return areas, including restoration of their housing, employability, protection, and support from the local authorities or NGOs. The returnees as well as the Community Leaders of the targeted area had pointed out the fact that there were a lot of interviews for studies, assessments, but not concrete help/assistance offered by local authorities or donor/NGOs in relation to the housing needs.

From the interviews, it was found that there are not compensation mechanisms to effectively meet the returnees needs, and here we are talking about shelter needs. The lack of a mechanism or a proper one that support the needs of returnees it is vital to prevent the re-displacement of returnees.

The needs of returnees do not leave much space to elaborate on indicators such as social cohesion, personal aspirations/subjective feeling about where they belong, which help on the road to achieving durable solutions. When the needs are roof, doors, windows, food, all emergency needs – then indicators that help measure the road towards achieving durable solutions – the social cohesion, personal aspirations do not even cross most of returnees' minds.



The needs of returnees do not leave much space to elaborate on indicators such as social cohesion, personal aspirations or subjective feelings about where they belong, which help on the road to achieving durable solutions.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Country context

Iraq has experienced decades of conflict and wars that have had its effect towards the domestic security and development as well. Iraq's war against ISIL has caused the displacement of over 6 million Iraqis. Five years after the conclusion of the large-scale military operations against ISIL, significant progress has been made in Iraq, enabling more than 80 % of the 6.1 million people displaced to return home, and slowly bringing many of those directly impacted by the ISIL crisis back towards parity with other Iraqis⁷. Since 2018, the pace of returns (*the percentage change in the number of returns*) has continuously *slowed*, reaching around 10 % between June 2018 and August 2020 and 4 % between August 2020 and July 2021, following the closure and consolidation of camps between September and December 2020⁸.

Internal displacement it is not just a human rights and humanitarian issue, it is a complicated and complex development challenge issue. Towards the achievement of sustainable development and a steady re-entering of the displaced persons it will be vital the focus on efforts to increase the engagement of development stakeholders/actors on internal displacement in coordination with humanitarian organizations, as well as to ensure the involvement of governmental institutions throughout the whole process. The involvement of the above-mentioned actors plays its role in a steady re-integration of the returnees. Why?

The re-entering, the reintegration of the returnees should be carried out keeping in consideration the material, legal, physical and mental dimensions of the returnees. While at the 'acute' state the humanitarian actors play the most vital role, after that, for all the four dimensions the government should take lead assisted by the humanitarian and development actors. Ending displacement will require government support, political will, and community reconciliation, in addition to the sustained attention of the international community⁹. This should be the order of action-oriented actors and the activities that will accompany these actions (*support – from government, will – of the politics, reconciliation – of community, sustain – of the international actors*) The re-entering should be a process that does not push and pressure but through support, willpower, reconciliation, sustain of the above-mentioned actors, with each playing their role in the right order.

Iraq government is increasingly pushing for displaced persons to return to their place of origin but prematurely, often before conditions for a safe and dignified return are met. In doing so, the basic humanitarian standards are not met, in which their rights are not respected, their psycho-social well-being not guaranteed, without the means to plan for their own reintegration.

⁷ HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLAN IRAQ, March 2022, page 6.

⁸ Overview of return in Iraq, DTM Integrated Location Assessment VI, IOM Iraq, 2021 page 7.

⁹ HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLAN, IRAQ, March 2022, page 5.

Those who have returned home may find that their areas of origin lack government-supported basic infrastructure, services, security, and livelihood opportunities¹⁰. The humanitarian community's calculations for 2022 indicate that more than half a million returnees remain in acute need of humanitarian assistance¹¹. About 12 per cent of returnees (593,000 people, some 61,000 more than last year) live in fragile environments with very severe conditions¹². In these areas, the majority of people cannot access livelihoods or markets; most residents do not have enough water, food, or access to health care and education; and where there are significant concerns about safety and social cohesion¹³. These shows the panorama of the effects of forced and premature returning.

There are governorates, their districts, that face multiple challenges with returnees, challenges that affect them in different dimensions. Balad District in Salah al-Din Governorate is among the districts that has safety and security, social cohesion issues and shows that needs better solutions to meet the returnees' rights. Incidents, threats and mistrust between stayees, IDPs and returnees were reported only in four locations: one in Al Muqdadiya, one in **Balad** and two in Telafar¹⁴. Around 15 per cent of returnees live in locations where better access to solutions for displacement-related rights violations is needed – with peaks in Al-Daur, Al-Fares, **Balad**, Sinjar, Telafar and Tikrit¹⁵. **Balad** is among the Districts that the returnees have difficulties in proving ownership of housing¹⁶. **Balad** returnees, who live in critical shelter, are significantly more likely to face other severe humanitarian needs, including not having access to health care or sanitation facilities, increased food insecurity, and heightened protection risks¹⁷.

MH conducted an assessment on the needs of the returnees in the Balad District, Salah Al-Din Governorate. MH has prepared a questionnaire that targets stakeholders, such as: Community Leaders of Rifayat Tribe and of Khazraj Tribe, all of Sayed Gharib village, Balad District, Salah al-Din Governorate as well as the returnees of this targeted area.

1.2. Objectives of the Baseline

This baseline aims to assess the needs of the returnees in the Balad District, Salah Al-Din Governorate. The specific objectives are:

- i. *To improve the understanding of constraints and challenges faced by returnees, and their current state of needs.*
- ii. *To identify main needs of the returnees in Balad District.*
- iii. *To explore grant opportunities - returnee needs vs. donor, government priority.*

In this baseline study, to make possible the assessment, we have involved Mukhtar(s) or as they are known differently, the Community Leaders of Rifayat Tribe and of Khazraj

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² HUMANITARIAN NEEDS OVERVIEW, IRAQ, March 2022, page 24.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Overview of return in Iraq, DTM Integrated Location Assessment VI, IOM Iraq, 2021, page 19.

¹⁵ Overview of return in Iraq, DTM Integrated Location Assessment VI, IOM Iraq, 2021, page 20.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Humanitarian Needs Overview 2022, Iraq, page 27.

Trible, all of Sayed Gharib village, Balad District, Salah al-Din Governorate as well as the returnees of this targeted area.

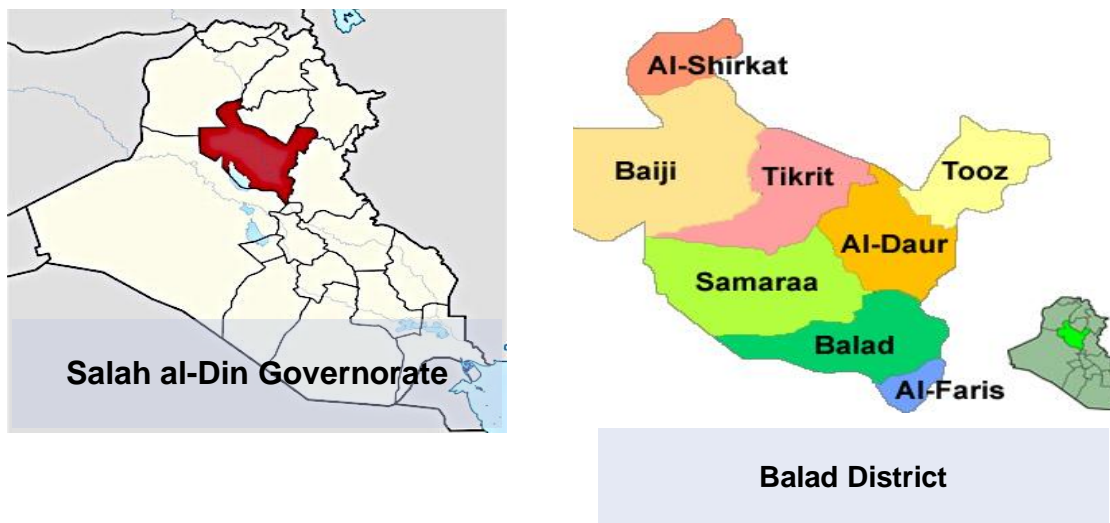
1.3. Baseline Structure

This baseline is divided into five (5) main sections which include introduction, methodology, results and findings, conclusions and recommendations and its annexes. The introductory section gives a background of the IDPs situation and status of Iraq, the objectives of the baseline study and the baseline structure. The next section of the study describes the methods used to address the objectives of the baseline. The methodology discusses the data collection tools, data collection and analysis. In section three, the results and findings are presented. In the fourth section summarizes conclusions and lays out recommendations. The final section of the baseline has the questionnaire design for the baseline study.

2. METHODOLOGY OF THE BASELINE

2.1. Geographical Study Area and Survey Period

The study area for the shelter baseline study of the needs assessment of returnees it is Balad District in Salah al-Din Governorates of Iraq.



Balad District is a district of the Saladin Governorate, Iraq. It covers an area of 2,469 km²(953 sq mi), and had a population of 167,590 in 2003. The district capital is the city of Balad.

Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) identified 46 locations with no returns in Salah al-Din Governorate, mainly in the districts of Tuz Khurmatu (29), Baiji (7) and Balad (3)¹⁸. As of December 2020, Balad (47,256 individuals) hosts the largest number of returnees living in severe conditions¹⁹. According to the DTM report above, Balad has the highest proportion of returnees living in severe conditions (69%)²⁰.

Because of above we targeted Balad District to assess the main needs of the returnees in these areas. The baseline for the purposes of this assessment study was conducted between the months of April – May 2022.

The study targeted the returnees of Sayed Gharib Village, Balad District of Salah al-Din Governorate. As well as the Community Leader of Rifayat Tribble and the Community Leaders of Khazraj Tribble, all of Sayed Gharib village, Balad District of Salah al-Din Governorate.



The Sayed Village (*part of the Balad District*) is one of the areas that had the latest and most recent round of returnees on Balad District. Hence, having this status we targeted this village to study their needs of the new returnees in this area.

2.2. Data Collection tools used in the Baseline

2.2.1. Data sources

For the purposes of this baseline study primary and secondary data sources were used. The ways we obtained data were:

¹⁸ RETURN DYNAMICS IN SALAH AL-DIN GOVERNORATE, DTM, IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix, RWG Q, Social Inquiry, May 2021.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Ibid.

- **Review** of published and unpublished **written materials**;
- **Survey**, which were based on the questionnaire we designed for the purpose of this study and targeted the stakeholders involved in the returnee process (*Community Leader of Rifayat Tribe and of Khazraj Tribe, all of Sayed Gharib village, Balad District, Salah al-Din Governorate*) as well as the returnees of this targeted area, specifically of Balad District, Salah al-Din Governorates;
- **Interviews** with key informants, where representatives of MH conducted the interviews with the Community Leaders of Rifayat Tribe and of Khazraj Tribe, all of Sayed Gharib village, Balad District of Salah al-Din Governorate.

2.2.2. Questionnaire design for the stakeholders and returnees

The survey questionnaire created for the baseline draws on a number of sections targeting Community Leaders of Rifayat Tribe and of Khazraj Tribe as well as the returnees of this targeted area. The survey, based on the questionnaire MH designed, was a combination of quantitative and qualitative approach.

Through the quantitative data approach, using a survey methodology, the data is presented in tables and graphs with associated explanatory text.

Through the qualitative data approach, we ‘processed’ open-ended text from interviews that explored on the topic of the assessment.

For the baseline study, two instruments were used for data collection:

1. **Stakeholders questionnaire:** The stakeholders’ questionnaire was administered to Community Leaders of Rifayat Tribe and of Khazraj Tribe, all of Sayed Gharib village, Balad District, Salah al-Din Governorate, in order to gather information on registered returnees, houses destroyed/damaged/fixes, number of returnees that continue to live in critical shelters, houses that need shelter improvements, means of information to inform the returnees on the available financial/shelter support.
2. **Returnees questionnaire:** Returnees were also asked to respond to a separate ‘Returnees questionnaire’ that had questions about the place they are currently living, the number of the members of their family, the number of rooms they had in their shelter, the reasons they are still in shelter and not at their house, the support that they have received by far. In addition, individual-level questions around living conditions, utilities.

The survey questionnaires for the baseline are provided as an attachment to this baseline study.

2.3. Findings

The findings from the interviews with the returnees and with the stakeholders, the Community Leaders will be discussed broadly and specifically in the two upcoming sections of the study. Mainly it was found out that in the targeted area of study, Balad District we have two groups of returnees’. The first group belong to Khazraj Tribe, where

most of the returnees cannot go back to their homes due to lack of infrastructure and houses completely destroyed. The second group belongs to Rifayat Tribe, where there are: **i)** returnees' that are back at their houses and where able to rehabilitate/reconstruct just part of their houses and **ii)** returnees' that cannot come back since they do not have any means to reconstruct/rehabilitate their houses and **iii)** returnees that come back just to work their land during the day and go back in the camp or where they are currently staying with their relatives.

The findings give a panorama of the situation showing that returnees' lack not just shelter but even the basic services. In the Rifayat Tribe there are no schools in the area, there is a completely destroyed school, which is not a qualified building and it was used as a school.

In the Rifayat Tribe one of the reason commonly given by the Mukhtar, Community Leader, of why the returnees do not come, was that they lack the support from the local authorities.

From the survey, we have found out that there is a large number of the returnees that even though their houses are not qualified building they continue to live in them. Most of the families live in just one rehabilitated room even though they are very large families, some of them with 9, 10 or 13 members for Household (HH). We will discuss broadly the findings at the respective sections object of study.

2.4. Limitations

The road towards designing, drafting and finalizing a study has its *limitations*. Some of the limitations that were observed during the shelter baseline study were the following:

- The questionnaire is a self-reported scale, and being so has the risk of subjectivity, especially in qualitative questions.
- The number of stakeholders as well as the range of them it is not as high and mix as we would have wanted. We had three (3) Community Leaders of the targeted area for the study, although their inputs, the data provided by them where very valuable to the study.

One *challenge* was related to the restrictions by the security forces in Sayed Gharib area, where it is not possible to work in the area without the presence of a security member.

2.5. Ethics

The shelter baseline study took into consideration all different ethical issues of informed consent (*the actors involved were asked if they wanted to participate in the study, if we could use their answers for the study, if we are allowed to get pictures of their houses*), and taking into consideration the respect for anonymity and confidentiality as well as the respect for privacy.

3. RESULTS AND FINDINGS

A. RETURNEES – findings and results

Sayed Garib village is located in South of Salah al-Din governorate in Balad District. After ISIL took control of most of Salah al-Din in 2014, the families fled their homes and farmlands, where they were forced to live for 8 years in displacement. The families were displaced to Samara District or other camps in Kurdistan region of Iraq (KRI), Kirkuk, and a large number of IDPs families from Sayed Garib live now in Balad station informal site. As a result of the displacement, the IDPs families lost their homes, agricultural lands and most of returnees' lost all of their belongings. Returnees' families do not have fixed incomes and they depend on agriculture, which makes it harder to reconstruct or rebuild their house and have a stable income.

In June 2021, the security forces have allowed the families to return to their Area of Origin (AoO) by obtaining the security approvals. The numbers of returnees to Sayed Gharib Village is low due to the fact that their homes are completely destroyed, lack of services and infrastructure. Upon return, most of the returnees' found their homes totally destroyed or damaged and they don't have the financial means to rehabilitate their homes. According to Mukhtars, the Community Leaders, until now, NGOs, such as UN, ICRC, INTERSOS, have visited their area, but not providing any kind of assistance or services. The local government has been involved only in rehabilitating parts of the electricity system. The pictures below give a panorama of the housing situation in Rifayat Village.

Picture 1 The field visit to Rifayat area, Sayed Gharib Village



Rifayat Village



Rifayat Village



Rifayat Village



Rifayat Village

3.1. Results and findings from the **RETURNEES**

In this section of the baseline study we present the results and findings as indicated by the respondents/returnees, numbers and percentages of the females and males respondents (in numbers and in percentage), the Group-Age range of the returnees' interviewed.

3.1.1. Characteristics of Respondents

Section III of the questionnaire gives an overview of the characteristics of the respondents, specifically of the returnees'.



As we will observe from the Figure 1 and 2, which were built with the data from the returnees, there are males and females respondents to the questionnaire.



From the data given by the returnees we will see, from the Figure 3, that their ages ranges from 28 years old (*the youngest interviewed*) – to 65 years old (*the oldest interviewed*).

3.1.2. Numbers and percentage of male and female respondents

Results of Section III of the questionnaire show that from the fifteen (15) respondents, eleven (11) were males, representing seventy-three percent (73%) of the interviewers and four (4) were females representing twenty-seven percent (27%) of the interviewers that partook on answering the questionnaire. *We should emphasize though that, the returnees interview, through their answers they represent the situation of all the one-hundred twenty-two (122) members of their families of which they are composed of.* The returnees' interviewed were the heads of the Household (HH). As you can observe from the Figure 1 and Figure 2 there are four (4) females that are the head of the HH. And their needs at their houses were different, from: Repairs of Kitchens, Toilets, Doors; Rooms.

The female respondents that were the head of the HH were living in the current houses although the needs of repair and rehabilitation were present. Two of the females that were the head of the HH were living in unfinished building (with its status of 'critical improvement'), and the other two females head of the HH were living in houses qualified as 'unfinished building that needed rehabilitation. The support from the local authorities and of the NGOs for the females HH, as for the males' head of the HH, had been very little. Some of them have gotten support from the local authorities to repair the electrical system of their houses. Whereas, we will notice from the figures below that their house

situation is qualified as critical for some of them, where all of them live in unfinished buildings.

Figure 1 Number of Females and Males Respondents – in numbers

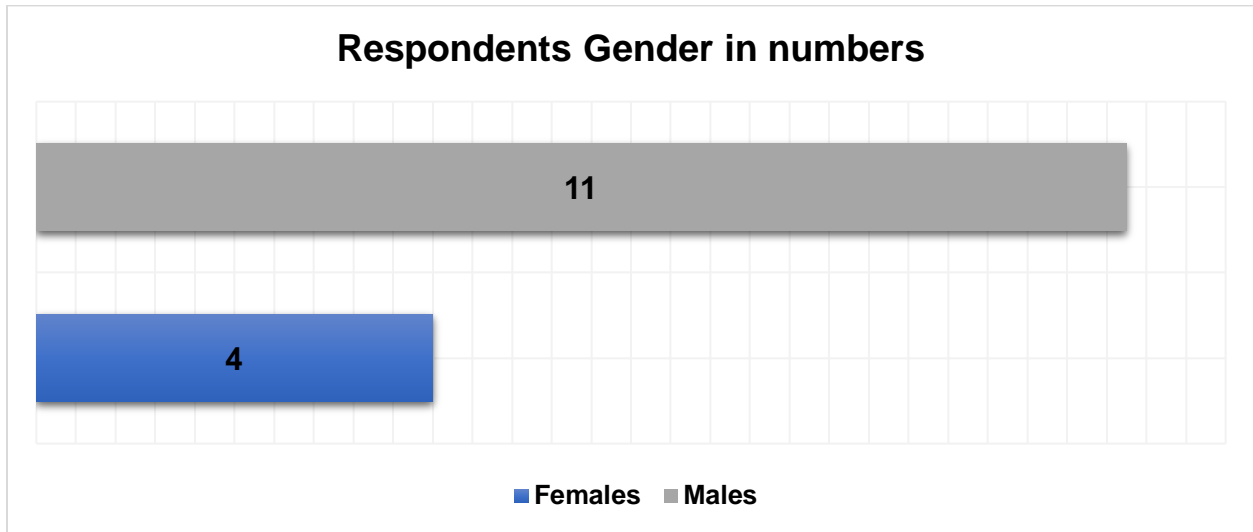
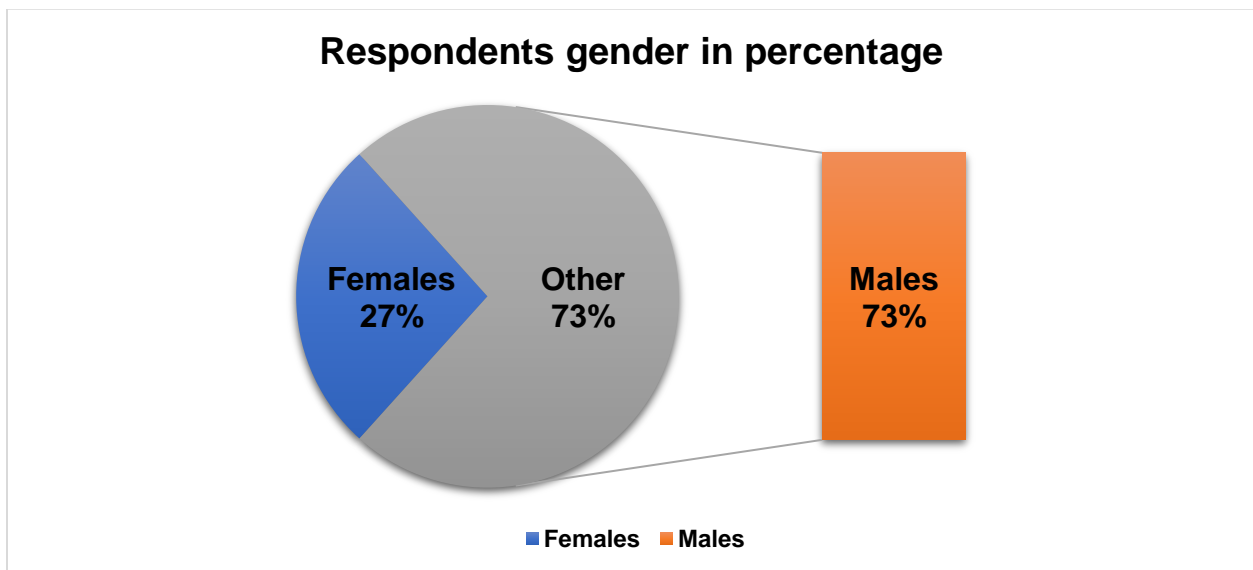


Figure 2 Percentage of Females and Males Respondents – in percentage

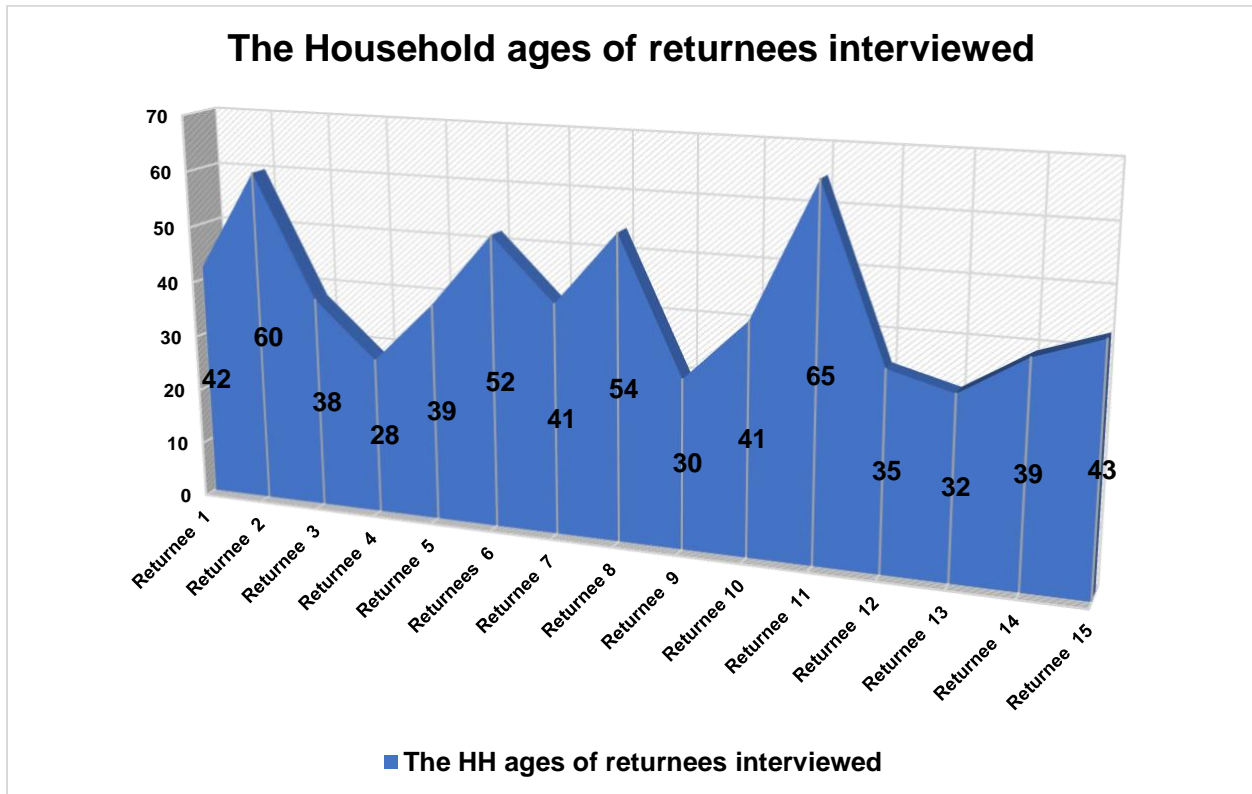


The number of the family members for the females head of the HH is different, one HH was composed of nine (9) family members with just one (1) room fixed and three (3) others in need to be fixed; the other HH was composed of eleven (11) family members with two (2) rooms fixed and two (2) in need to be fixed; the other family HH where the female was the head of the HH had five (5) family members with zero (0) rooms fixed and two (2) rooms that needed to be fixed and the last one was composed of five (5) family members with one (1) room fixed and one (1) in need to be fixed.

3.1.3. The group age of the returnees

The group-age of the returnees interviewed ranges from 28 years old, the youngest interviewed, to 65 years old, the oldest interviewed. Keeping in mind that the interviewed were the head of the HH, reading the data, this means that we have head of HH that were twenty-eight (28) years old and their family was composed of nine (9) members of the family. Figure 3 below gives a view of age range of the interviewees that were the head of the HH.

Figure 3 Group-Age range of the returnees' interviewed

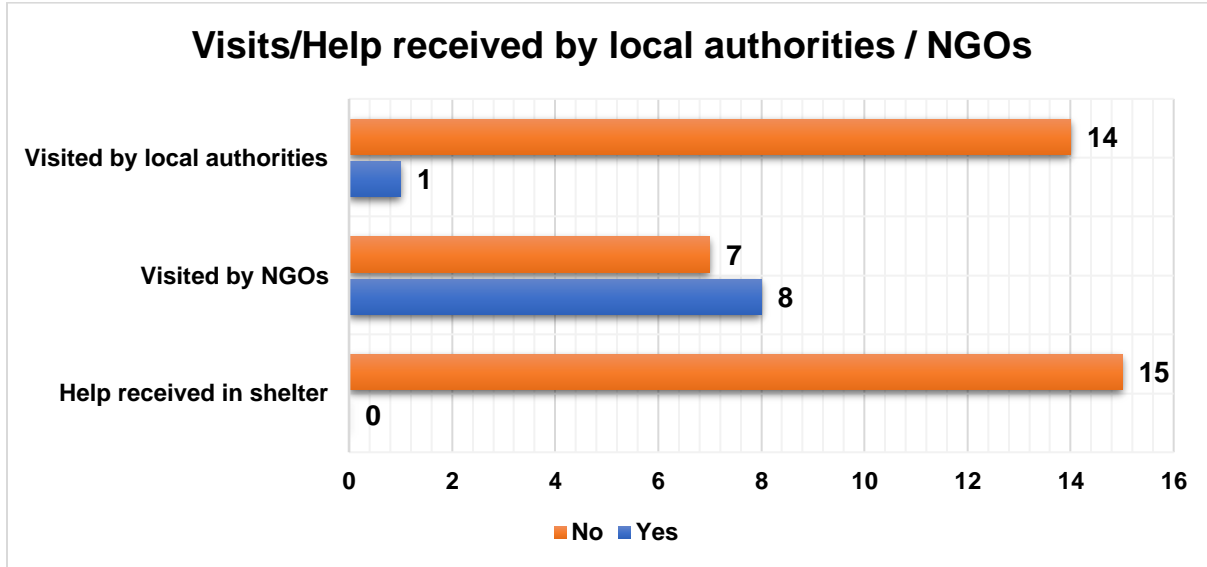


3.1.4. Help/visits received

The returnees declared that they received just visits from the local authorities and from the NGOs. One returnee declared that they have had some support from the local authorities in fixing part of the electrical system of their house. All fifteen (15) returnees interviewed declared that they have not received, to date, any help in reconstruction/rehabilitation of their houses.

Figure 4 with its data, gives a view of the visits / help received by the returnees from the local authorities and NGOs. We notice from Figure 4 that there was just one declared visit from the local authorities to the returnees' house. From the NGOs, the returnees declared that they have had eight (8) visits and they emphasized that there was no support offered to them other than interviews for assessments and studies.

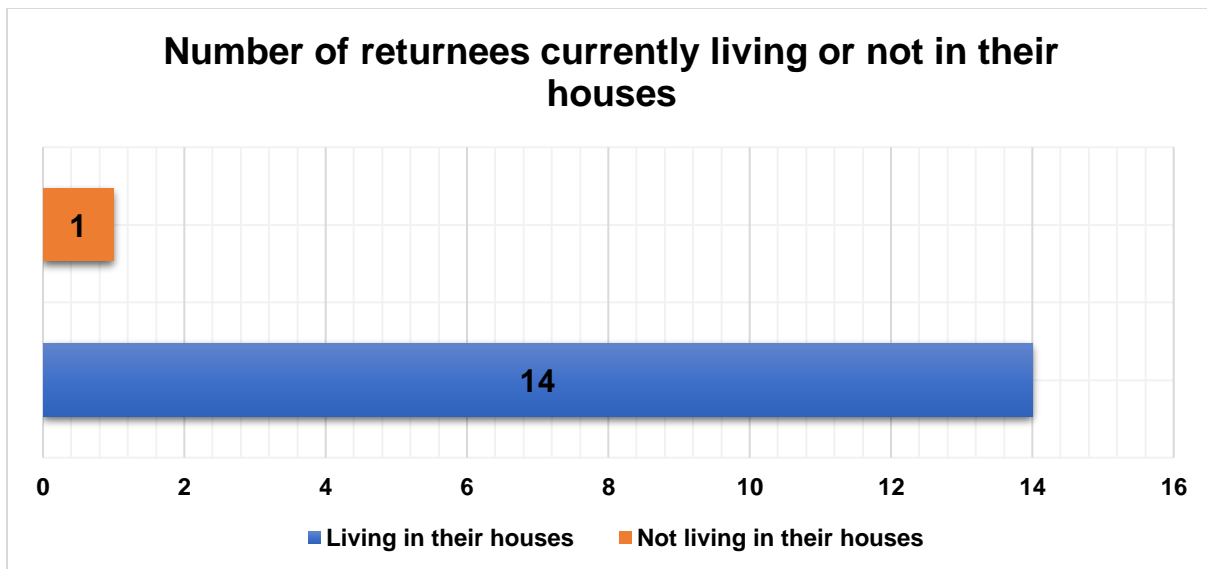
Figure 4 Data of the visits/help received by the returnees'



3.1.5. Number of returnees living in their houses upon return

From the interviews performed in the Sayed Village, Balad District, there were a large number of the returnees' that were living in their houses, specifically fourteen (14) of returnee's families interviewed were living in their houses and just one (1) of returnee was not living in its house.

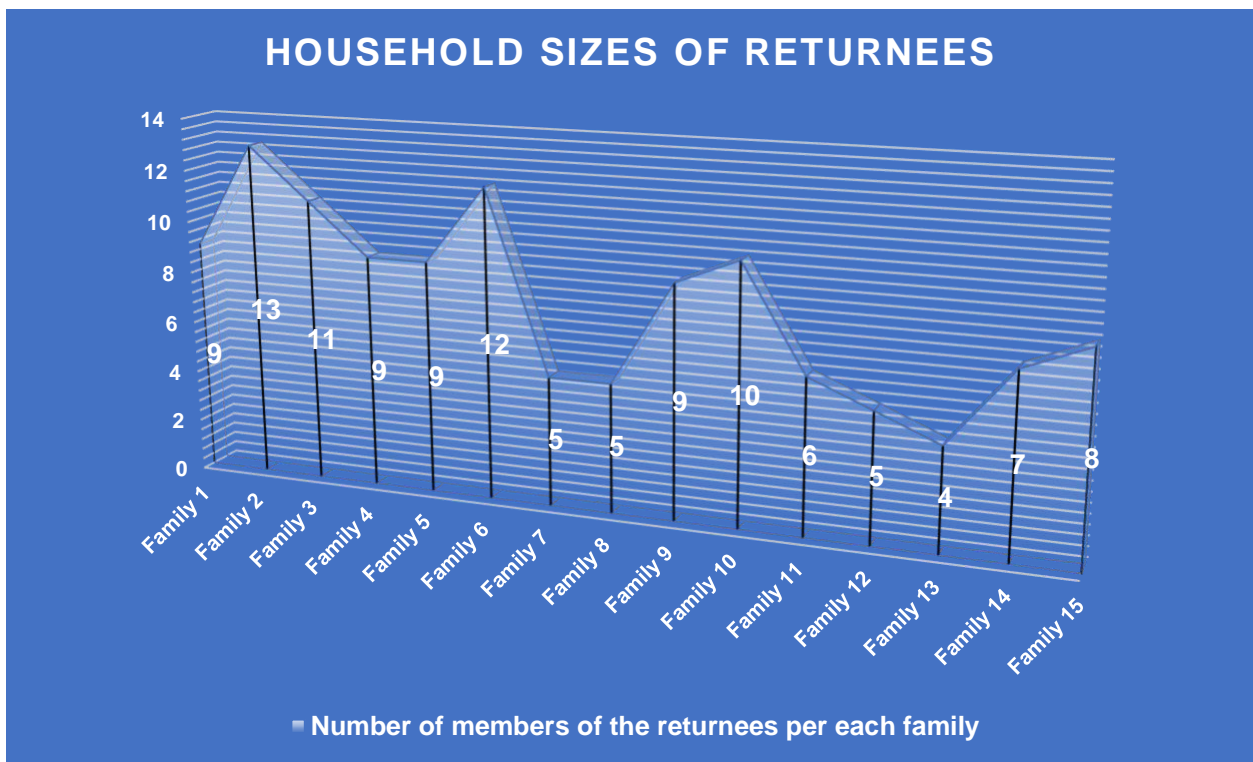
Figure 5 Number of returnees' living or not in their houses



3.1.6. Household (HH) sizes per family of returnees'

The Household (HH) sizes of the returnees interviewed were different. There were families with four (4) family members, as were families with thirteen (13) family members. From the data below we can see that there was one family with thirteen (13) family members; there was one family with twelve (12) family members; there was another family with eleven (11) family members; another one with ten (10) family members; there were two families with nine (9) family members; there was another family with eight (8) family members; there was one family with seven (7) family members; there was one family with six (6) family members; there were three families with five (5) family members; and there was one family with four (4) family members.

Figure 6 Household sizes of returnees per family members of each returnees'



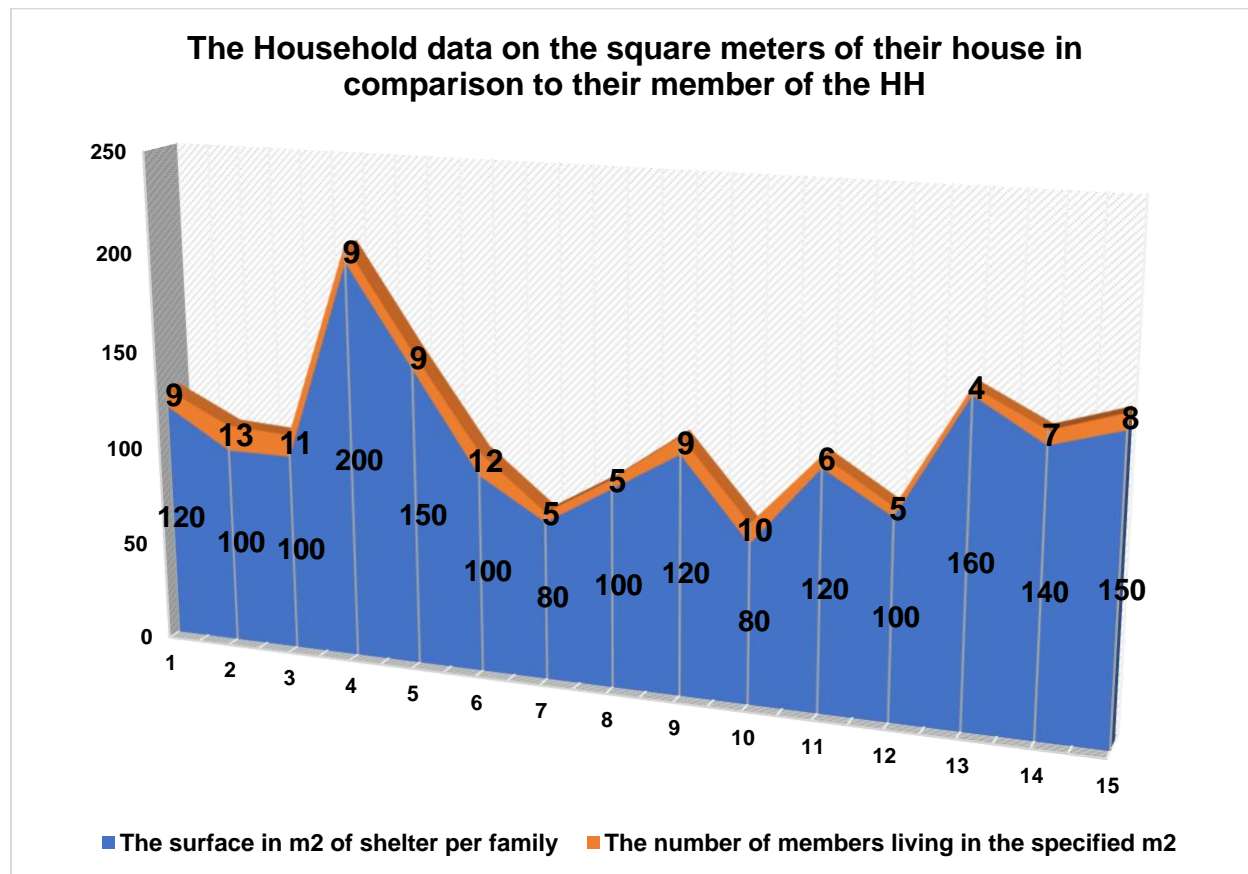
3.1.7. Household data - surface square meters of the house for each returnees'

Returnees that were able to return to their AoO had different surfaces of their houses in square meters. There were large families that had small surface available in square meters and there were other families that their surface in square meters was good, even though we have to emphasize that not all of the houses/rooms were reconstructed or rehabilitated.

Figure 7 gives a view of the surface in square meters of their houses for each of the returnees, this in comparison to their family sizes. From the data gathered we see that

there are returnees that have just 100 m2 available and there were composed of thirteen (13) family members and the other with the same surface composed of eleven (11) family members; there were families that they had just 80 m2 available and their family was composed of ten (10) family members and the other of five (5) family members; there was one family that had 160 m2 and was composed of four (4) family members.

Figure 7 Household data on the m2 of the returnees' houses per family



3.1.8. Data of the actual living conditions of the returnees interviewed

Shelter is one of the main needs of the returnees and it is even causing re-displacement for many of them. Shelter and housing are among the top five priority needs for both IDPs and returnees, while damaged or destroyed shelter that resulted from heavy fighting remains a major obstacle to return²¹.

Based on the data from the Humanitarian Needs Overview for Iraq, among the returnees, up to 330,000 people (7 per cent) are estimated to be living in critical shelter, *an increase compared to last year* when up to 185,000 returnees (4 per cent) were estimated to be

²¹ HUMANITARIAN NEEDS OVERVIEW IRAQ, HUMANITARIAN PROGRAMME CYCLE 2022, page 27.

living in critical shelter²². The majority live in unfinished buildings (59 per cent), followed by non-residential buildings (16 per cent), refugee housing units (8 per cent) and makeshift shelter (7 per cent)²³. Due to the precarious living conditions, these returns are neither sustainable nor dignified²⁴. The increase in the number of returnees living in critical shelter is likely due to a combination of premature returns, in part linked to camp closures, socioeconomic stresses caused by COVID-19, and slow reconstruction of housing²⁵.

Critical Shelter includes the following shelter types: *un finished or abandoned buildings; war-damaged residential buildings; makeshift shelters; tents; religious buildings; public buildings; containers or caravans (prefab); and non-residential buildings*²⁶. People who live in critical shelter are more exposed to multiple risks and needs as well. They have less access to health care, water and sanitation services and education, and face challenges in meeting their basic food needs. And as we will see from the data gathered, the returnees themselves pointed out these needs and difficulties. Households that are females headed are particularly more vulnerable, as they face additional severe barriers to accessing health-care services, face challenges of food insecurities, employability.

Even in Balad District the returnees continue to live in critical shelter, with inadequate access to basic services and livelihoods, and limited prospects of finding durable solutions. Figure 8 and Figure 9, its data, give an overview of the situation of the HH data of shelter types of the returnees of the Balad District. From the interviews, it was declared and from the data below we can notice that all the returnees live in critical shelter of different types. There is one (1) returnee family that lives in a critical shelter, specifically in the shelter type of 'makeshift shelter'; there are two (2) families that live in a shelter type of 'unqualified home'; there are eleven (11) returnee families that live in unfinished building.

Given the data above it is noticeable the effects of the premature closure of camps and the return in their AoO. The returnees are faced with multiple challenges without the support from the government or local authorities. From our data, all the interviews returnees had to undertake themselves the initiative to rehabilitate part of their shelter. From the data, we can see that there are returnees who live even in unqualified homes (which are not qualified as safe to live in).

Figure 9 gives an overview of the HH data, in percentage, of shelter types where returnees are forced to live. Their shelter types vary from unfinished shelter, to unqualified shelter and makeshift shelter. As we can notice seventy-nine percent (79%) of returnees' live in unfinished building, where returnees have repaired just one room or two; fourteen percent (14%) of the returnee's live in unqualified buildings (which are not safe to live in them) and; seven percent (7%) live in a makeshift shelter type.

²² Ibid.

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ Ibid.

²⁶ Ibid, supra note 62, page 38.

Figure 8 HH Data of shelter types of the returnees' – in numbers

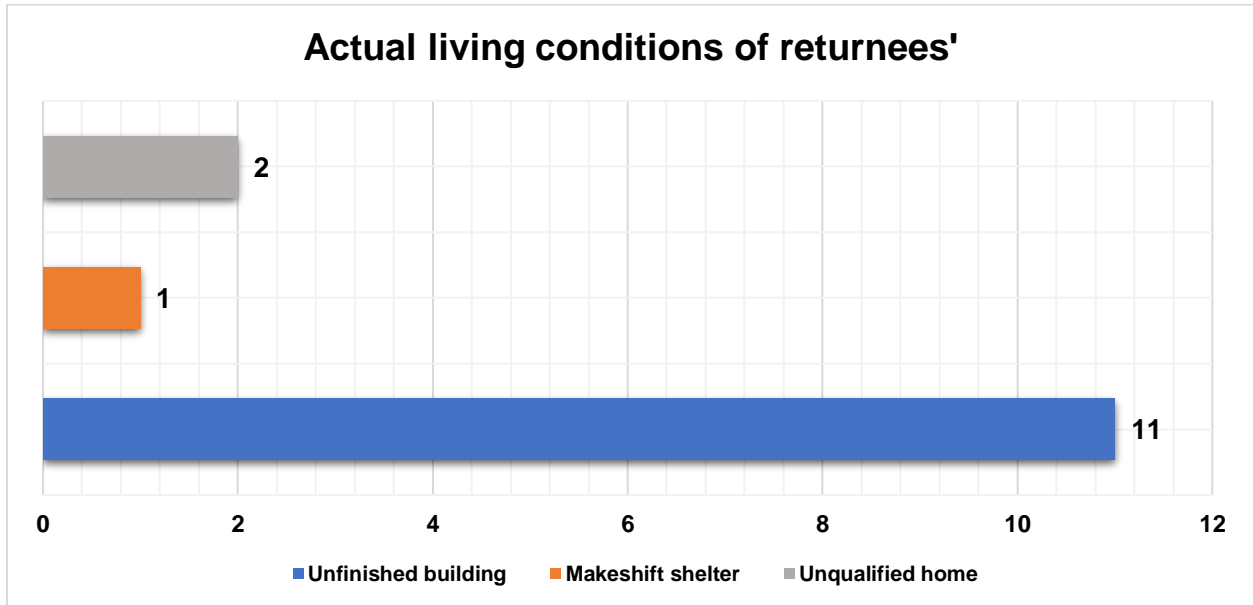
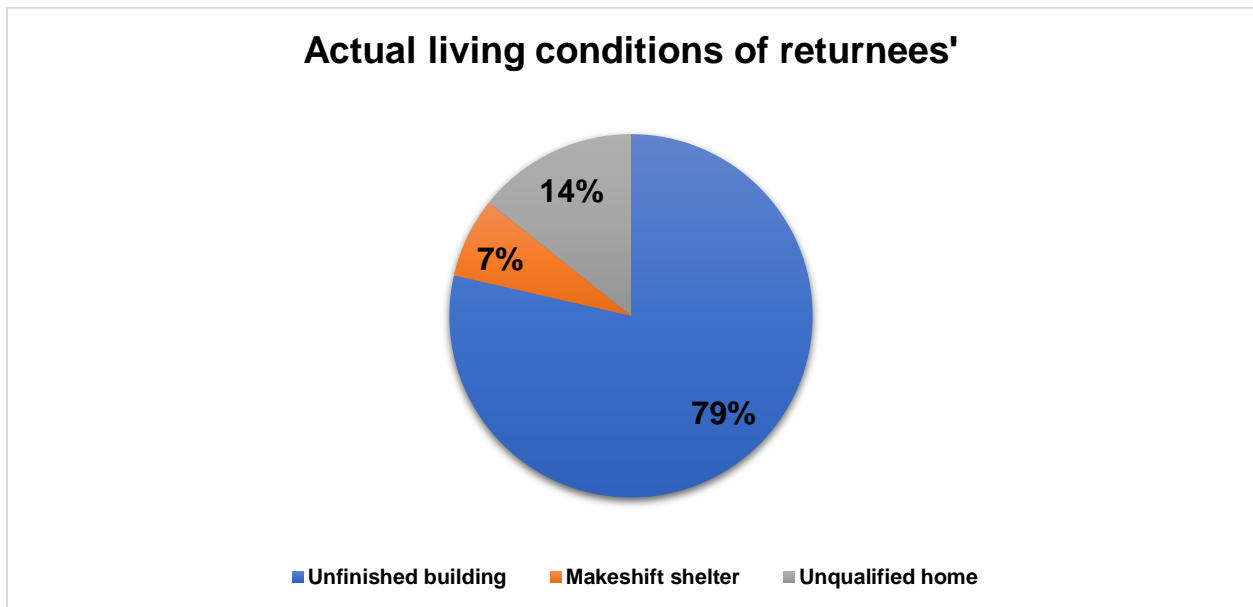


Figure 9 HH Data of shelter types of the returnees' - in percentage



3.1.9. Shelter needs of returnees'

Fourteen out of fifteen returnees that were interviewed were living in their houses, but their needs in regards to shelter were critical. There were ten (10) returnee families who declared that needed shelter improvement and five (5) of the returnee families needed

critical improvements in their houses. As we will see from the data, in the following figures and even pictures, there were even houses that needed roofs, walls, windows or doors, which they were missing them. Sixty-seven percent (67%) of the returnee families needed shelter improvement and thirty-three percent (33%) needed critical improvement of their houses. As we emphasized above, the urgency of taking action is high, keeping in mind that the returnees interviewed were living in the houses that were even unqualified for living, endangering their lives by living in them.

Figure 10 Data of shelter needs of the returnees' – in numbers

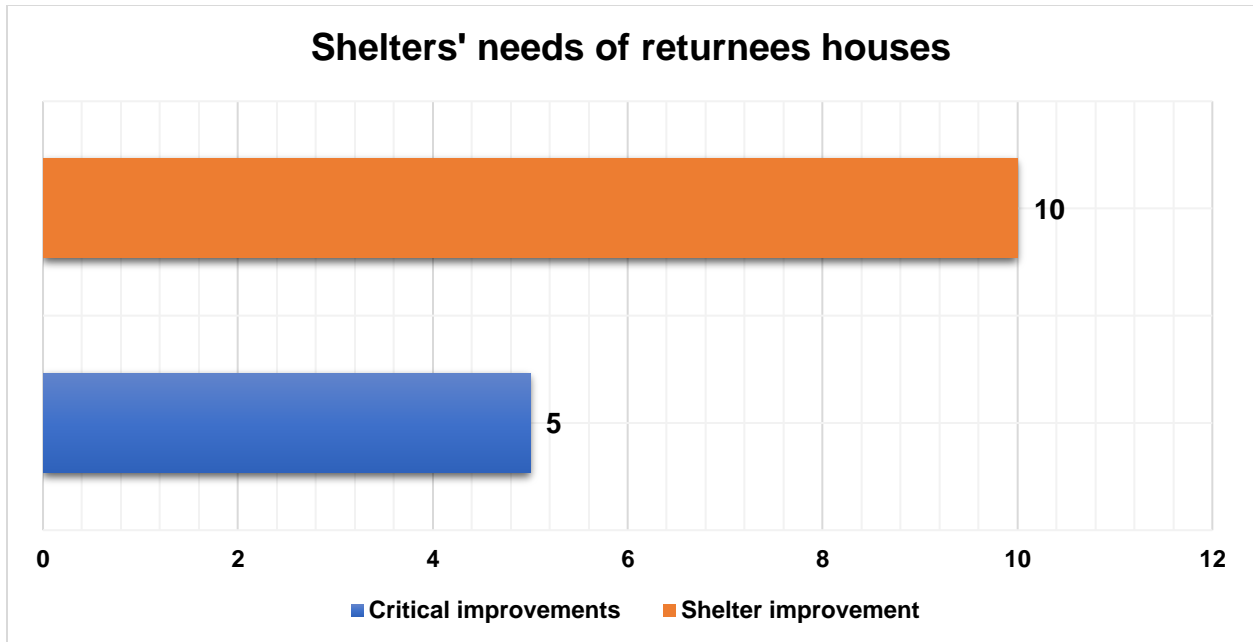
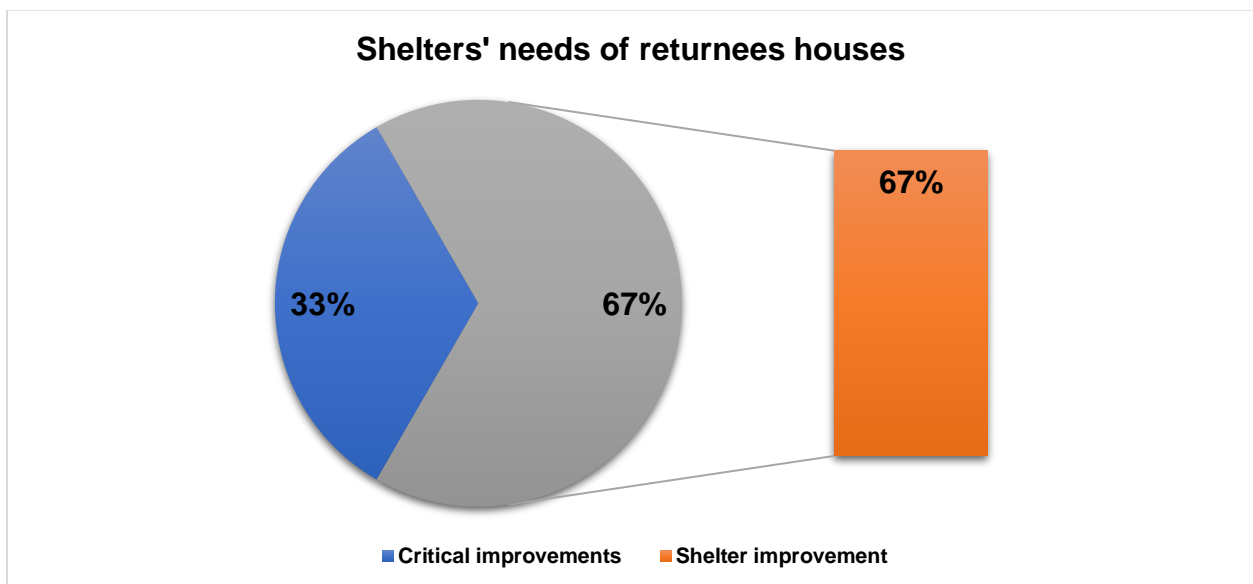


Figure 11 Data of shelter needs of the returnees' – in percentage

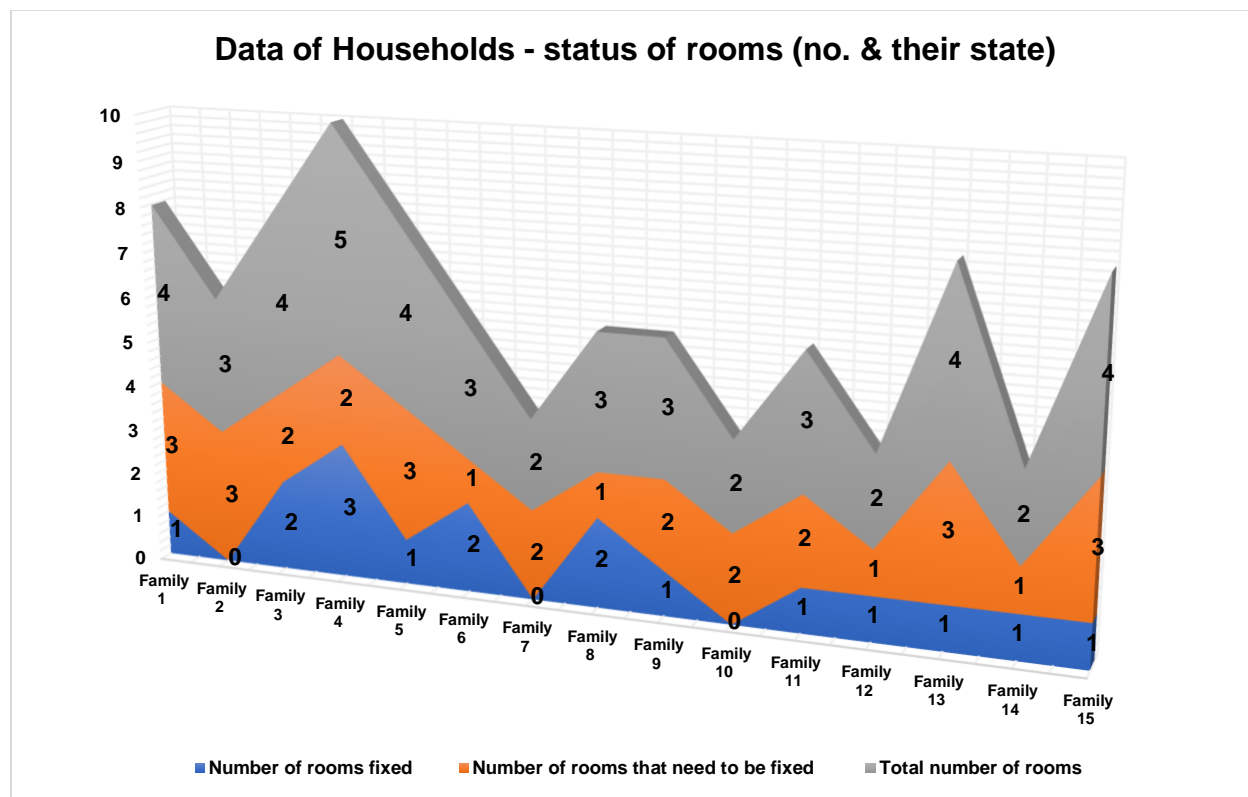


3.1.10. Data of the Households – status of rooms

In order to have an idea of the rooms each returnee had in their houses, how many of these rooms were fixed and how many needed to be fixed we gathered the data that will give us the information in this regard. As we can see from the Figure 12 below there are two (2) returnees’ families that did not have any rooms fixed yet. There were seven (7) of the returnees’ families that had just one room fixed. There was one (1) returnee family that had five rooms altogether, and three (3) of the rooms they were able to fix them.

The Figure 12 below gives a throughout data of the total of rooms the returnees have, the total of rooms they were able to fix as of now and the total of rooms each of the returnees’ families needed to fix.

Figure 12 Household data of the returnees’ – status of the rooms in their HH



3.1.11. Household data of returnees - kitchens

Returnee’s need to have in their houses conditions that meet, at least, a minimum standard of living to make possible a safe and healthy living environment. The data we gathered in regards to the existence of a kitchen and their functionality gives a view of the living condition of the returnee families interviewed.

Figure 13 and Figure 14 give a view of the HH data in relation to kitchens. From the data gathered we can see that there are three (3) returnee families that do not have kitchen at all; there are twelve (12) returnee families that have kitchens. The situation is not good when it comes to the kitchens functionality. There were ten (10) returnee families that their kitchens were not functional and just five (5) returnee families have functional kitchens.

Figure 13 Household data – Shelters with kitchens

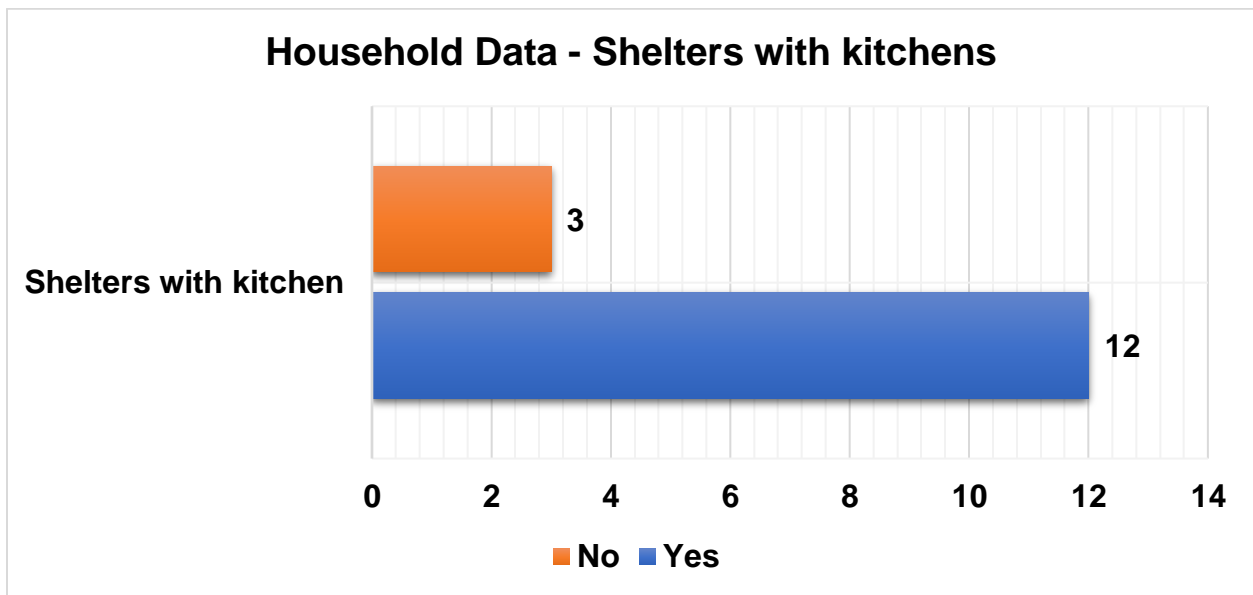
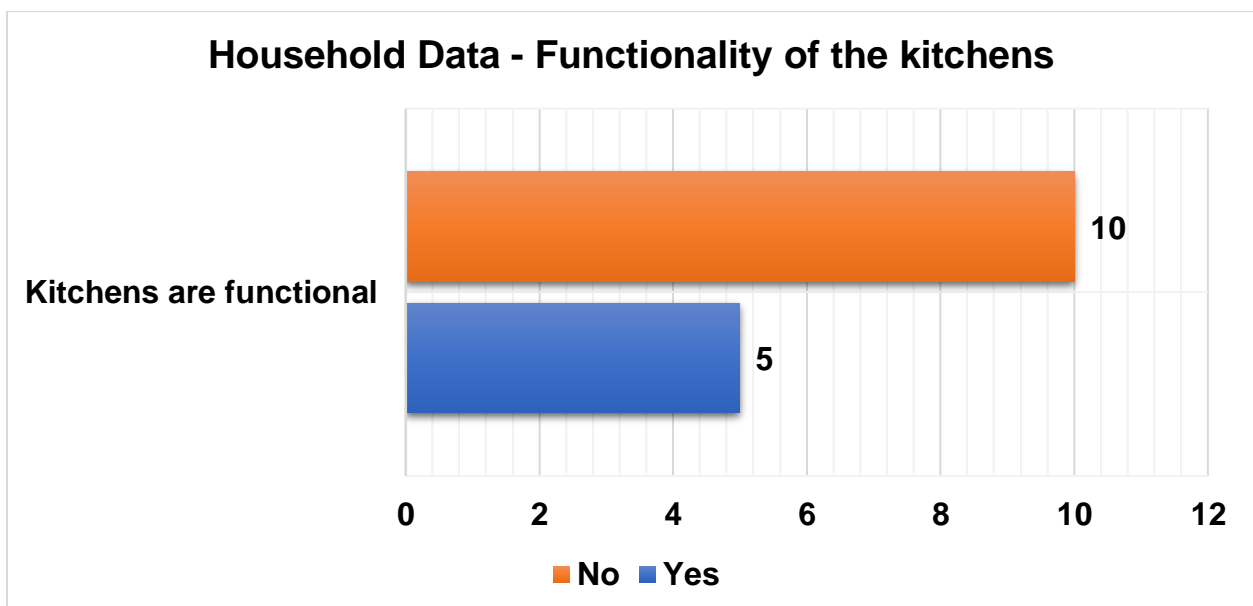


Figure 14 Household Data - Functionality of the kitchens



3.1.12. Household data of returnees' - toilets

Returnee families were living in dire conditions even in regards to the functionality of their toilets. From the data gathered (Figure 15 and Figure 16) we can see that there are two (2) returnee families that do not have toilets at all; there are thirteen (13) returnee families that have toilets. The situation is worse when it comes to the toilets functionality. There were eleven (11) returnee families whose toilets were not functional and just four (4) returnee families have functional toilets.

Figure 15 Household data – Shelters with toilets

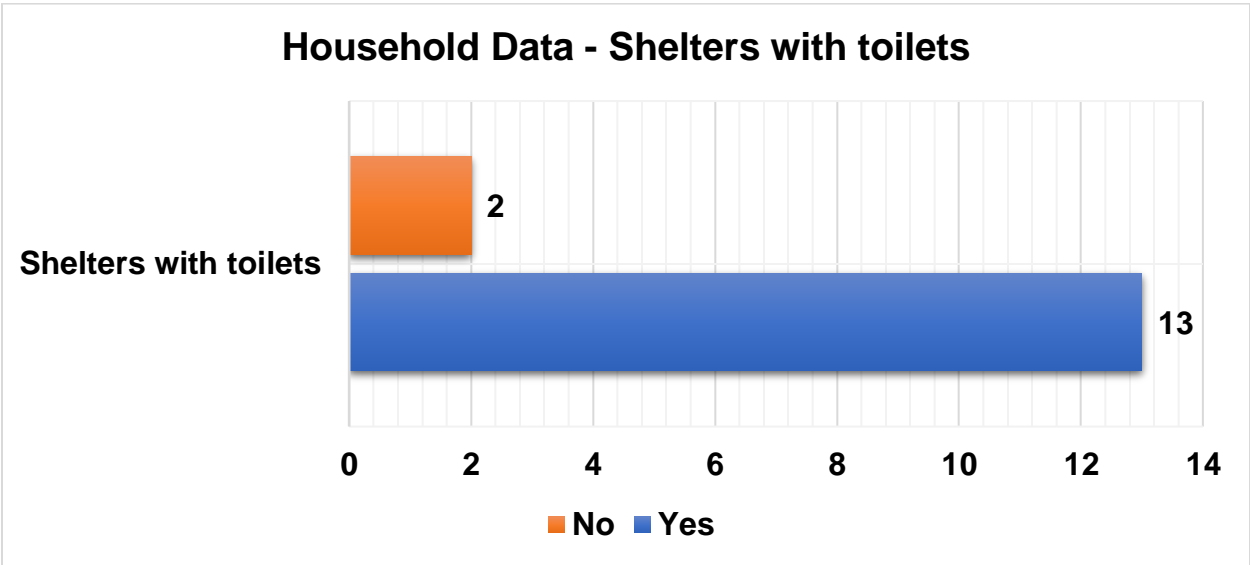
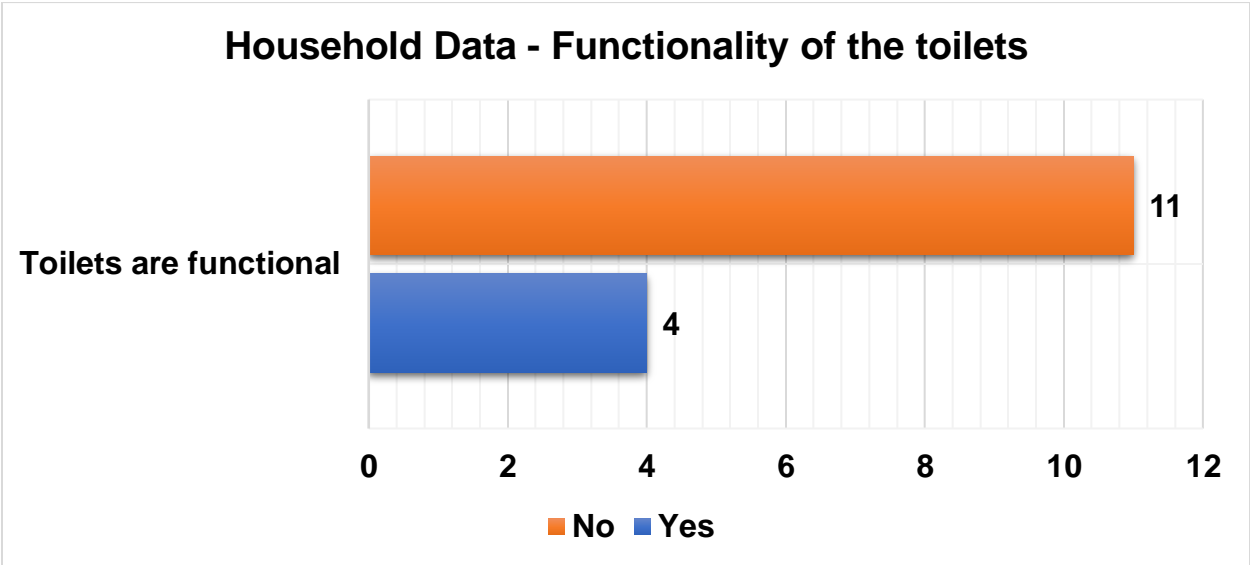


Figure 16 Household Data - Functionality of the toilets



3.1.13. Data of the needs (grouped) of returnees'

In order to have a view of the main needs of the returnees we have grouped their needs in the Figure 17 and Figure 18 (*in numbers and in percentage*). Their main needs are related to toilet and kitchen repairs and then to room repairs. There were six (6) returnees that listed as needs: kitchen repairs and toilet repairs; four (4) returnees listed room repairs as their needs; three (3) of them listed doors and windows needs; two (2) of returnees listed repair of the electric system and water tanks as their main needs and one (1) returnee listed cash to repair the house as their need. Figure 17 and Figure 18 give a clear view of the listed needs of the returnees in numbers and in percentage.

Figure 17 Data of the needs of returnees' in their houses – in numbers

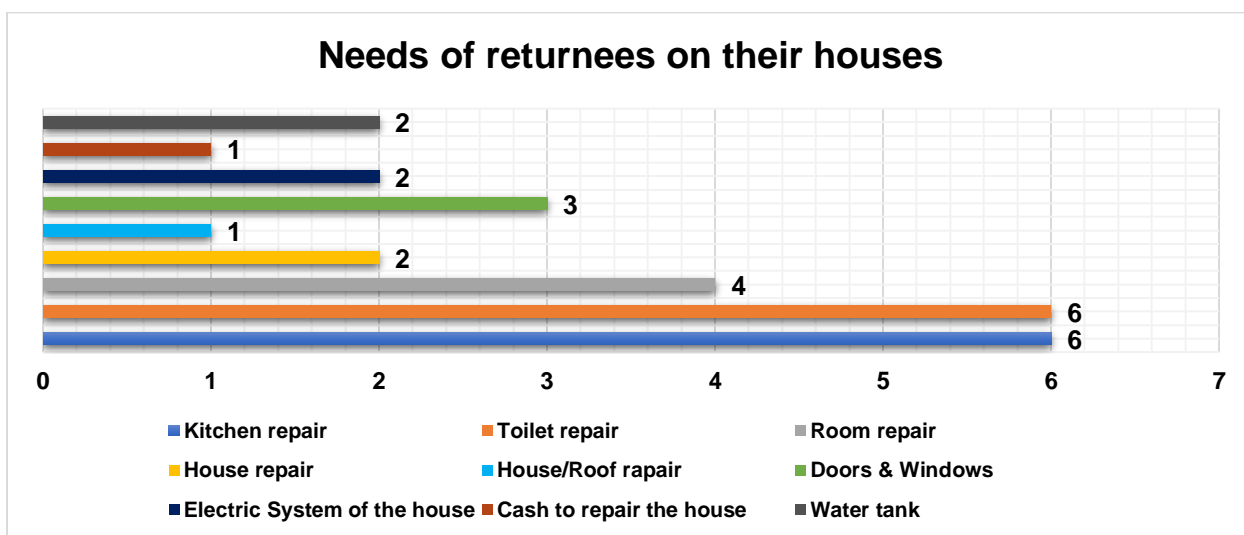
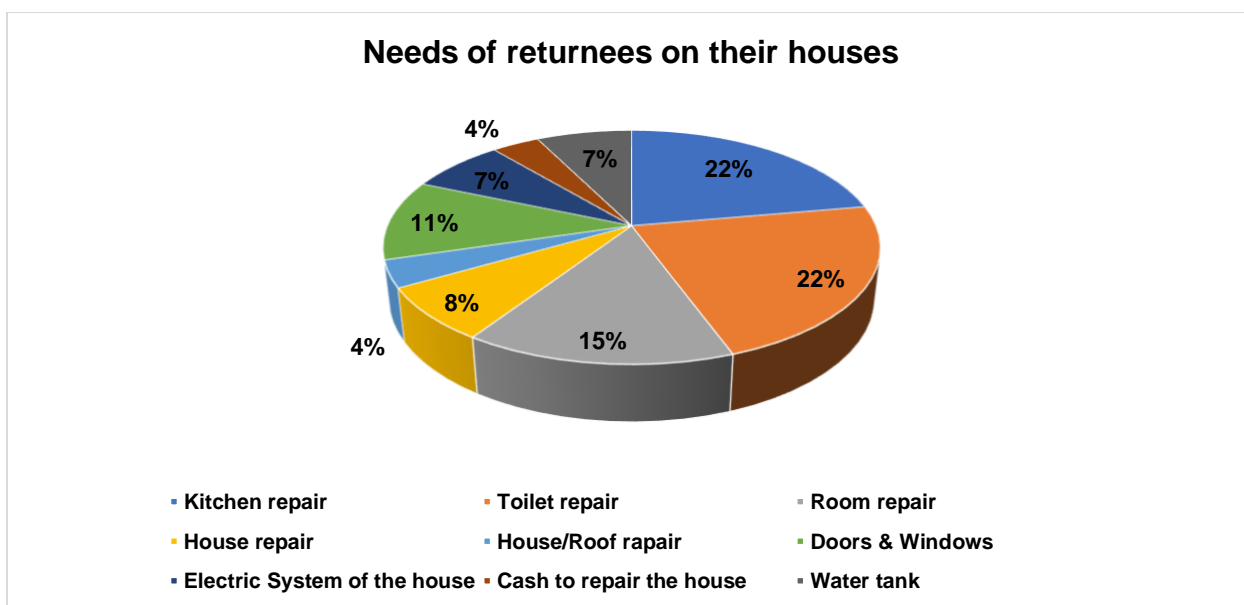


Figure 18 Data of the needs of returnees' in their houses – in percentage



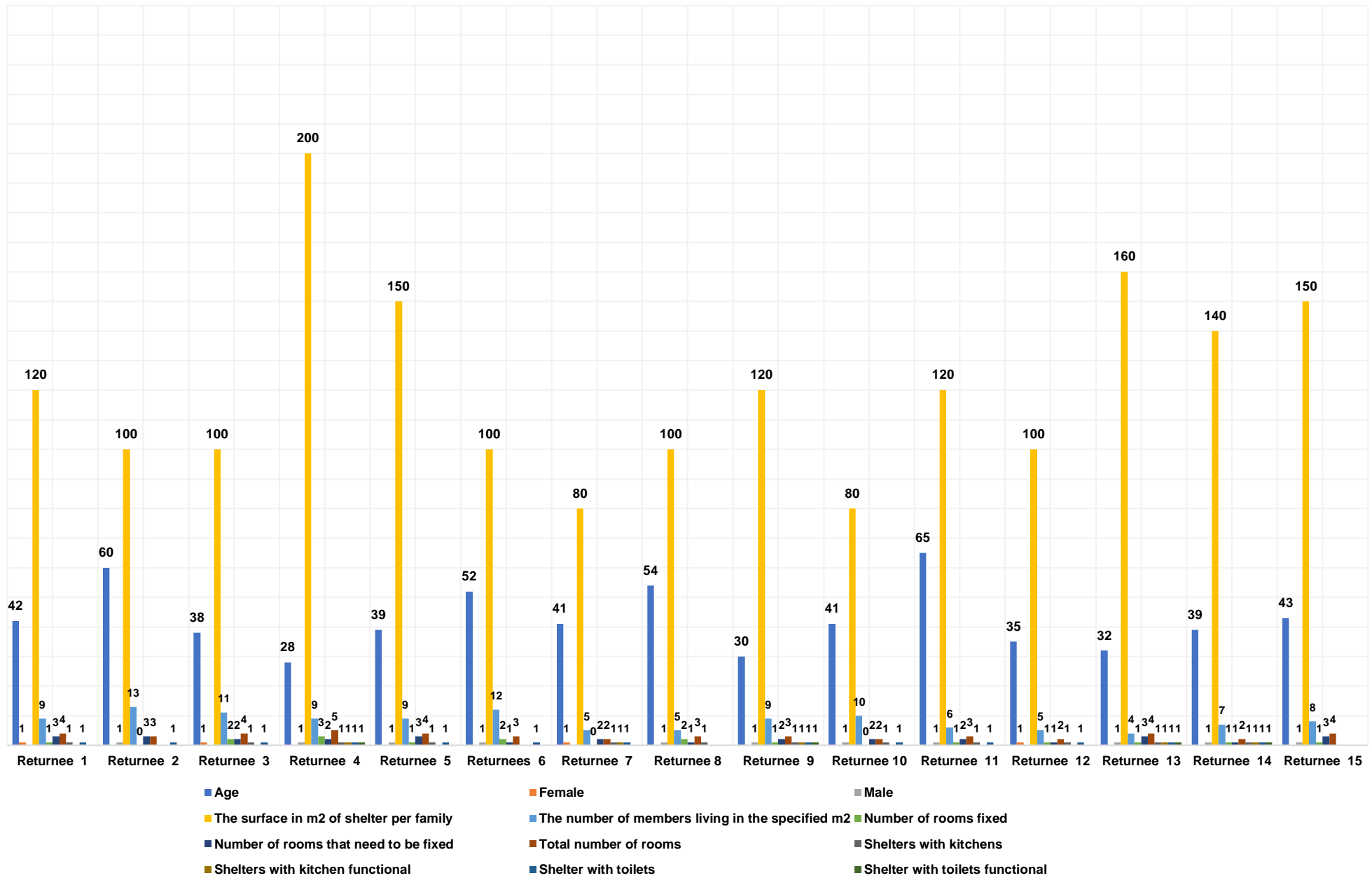
To better have a throughout overview of the data of returnees interviewed, we have inserted the below table and the graphics in one page each. Table 1 and Figure 19 below, give a clear view of the respondents' characteristics, data on the surface of their houses in square meters per family, numbers of members per each family, numbers of rooms fixed, numbers of rooms to be fixed, total number of rooms for each returnee, shelters with kitchen and with toilets and their functionality or not for each of the returnees. Gathering these main data in one table (see Table 1) and in one Figure (see Figure 19) it makes possible to have some of the main data of the returnees organized in one page each, giving a clear panorama of the situation of the returnees interviewed in the Sayed Village of Balad District.

Table 1 Main data of the returnees' interviewed, Sayed Village, Balad District of Salah al-Din Governorate

<i>Returnees</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Head of HH Female</i>	<i>Head of HH Male</i>	<i>The surface of the house in m2 of shelter per family</i>	<i>The number of members living in the specified m2</i>	<i>Number of rooms fixed</i>	<i>Number of rooms that need to be fixed</i>	<i>Total number of rooms</i>	<i>Shelters with kitchens</i>	<i>Shelters with kitchen functional</i>	<i>Shelter with toilets</i>	<i>Shelter with toilets functional</i>
<i>Returnee 1</i>	42	1	-	120	9	1	3	4	1	0	1	0
<i>Returnee 2</i>	60	-	1	100	13	0	3	3	0	0	1	0
<i>Returnee 3</i>	38	1	-	100	11	2	2	4	1	0	1	0
<i>Returnee 4</i>	28	-	1	200	9	3	2	5	1	1	1	1
<i>Returnee 5</i>	39	-	1	150	9	1	3	4	1	0	1	0
<i>Returnees 6</i>	52	-	1	100	12	2	1	3	0	0	1	0
<i>Returnee 7</i>	41	1	-	80	5	0	2	2	1	1	1	0
<i>Returnee 8</i>	54	-	1	100	5	2	1	3	1	0	0	0
<i>Returnee 9</i>	30	-	1	120	9	1	2	3	1	1	1	1
<i>Returnee 10</i>	41	-	1	80	10	0	2	2	1	0	1	0
<i>Returnee 11</i>	65	-	1	120	6	1	2	3	1	0	1	0
<i>Returnee 12</i>	35	1	-	100	5	1	1	2	1	0	1	0
<i>Returnee 13</i>	32	-	1	160	4	1	3	4	1	1	1	1
<i>Returnee 14</i>	39	-	1	140	7	1	1	2	1	1	1	1
<i>Returnee 15</i>	43	-	1	150	8	1	3	4	0	0	0	0

Figure 19 Main data of the returnees' interviewed, Sayed Village, Balad District of Salah al-Din Governorate

Main data of the returnees' interviewed



B. STAKEHOLDERS – findings and results

In this baseline study, we interviewed the Mukhtar (Community Leaders) of Khazraj Tribe and of Rifayat Tribe of Sayed Village, in Balad District, part of the Salah al-Din Governorate.

Based on the information given from the Community Leaders, the return process in Khazraj Tribe has been very slow due to the large scale of the damage of their houses. The destroyed houses, lack of infrastructure, were mentioned as some of the reasons that there have been not so many returnees' in this area, Khazraj Tribe, of Balad District. According to the Community Leaders, some of the returnees' come back just to work on their lands and then leave. They informed us that approximately two hundred (200) HHs have returned to the area, *but most of them cannot live in their houses*. Some families were able to rehabilitate a small part of the houses and live in it, *while there are families who share their houses with relatives*, and *other families have not returned till now*, because they don't have the possibilities to rehabilitate their houses. According to the Community Leaders of Khazraj Tribe, the returnees need shelter improvement, support and assistance in employability, livelihoods, and ways to generate income, as they depend on agriculture and have no sources of income.

Picture 2 below shows the damage scale of some of the returnees' houses in Khazraj, Sayed Gharib Village. It is obvious that these houses have substantial damages and are not in living condition. There is nothing left except piles of rubble.

Picture 2 The destroyed houses from Khazraj, Sayed Gharib Village

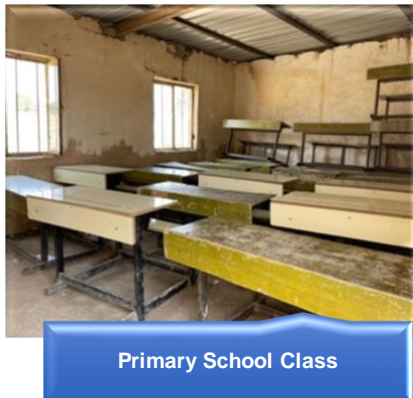


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Providing shelter and services contributes to the stability of return and settle in the area. One of the main services needed for the returnees with children is the education. Currently in one of the targeted area of the baseline study, Rifayat Tribe, in Sayed Village of Balad District, there is a completely destroyed school, and there is a 'unqualified building' that was used as a school. As the Picture 3 below shows, the school buildings are either destroyed or damaged, which makes learning a challenge for pupils and for the teachers. The Picture below gives a view of a school building inside and out, where it is obvious the scale of damage and the dire situation of the education and of learning in this area. This is another reason that makes the return even harder and challenging for returnees, where their children do not have a normal or a decent school building with minimum conditions, a safe building that does not endanger their children' lives.

Picture 3 gives a panorama of the Primary School buildings and of a class. It is noticeable the scale of damage at the schools, where one (1) it is completely damaged and another is unfinished building. The first Picture up-left shows a classroom used for teaching; The second Picture, up-right shows a school, an unfinished building, that is currently used for education; The third Picture down-left shows just the rubbles from an existing Primary School and; The fourth Picture down-right shows again the views of an unfinished Primary School building.

Picture 3 Primary schools and Primary School Class situations – Rifayat Tribe



3.2. Results and findings from the **STAKEHOLDERS**

3.2.1. Characteristics of Respondents



As we will observe from Figure 20, which was built with the data from the Community Leaders, there are only male respondents to the questionnaire.

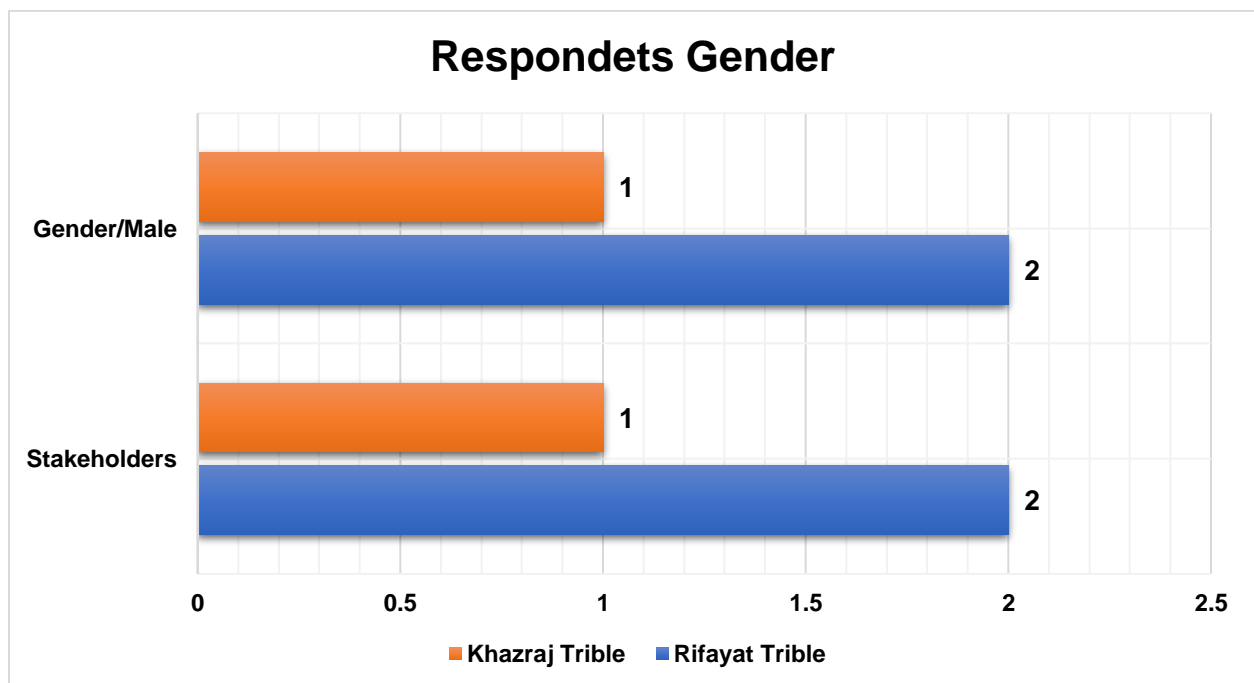


From the data given by the Mukhtar, Community Leaders, their ages ranges from forty-three years old (*Community Leader of Rifayat Tribble, in Sayed Gharib*); fifty-two years old (*Community Leader of Khazraj Tribble, in Sayed Gharib*) and forty-eight years old (*Community Leader of (Rifayat Tribble) in Sayed Gharib*).

3.2.2. Percentage of males and females respondents

There were three (3) respondents from the stakeholders, specifically, one (1) Mukhtar/Community Leaders from the Khazraj Tribble and two (2) from Rifayat Tribble in Sayed Gharib Village, Balad District of Salah al-Din Governorate. The Mukhtar were all male. Figure 20 gives a view of the Mukhtar(s) and their geographical area they cover.

Figure 20 Number of Respondents in Rifayat and Khazraj Tribble



3.2.3. Data of returnees' status given by Community Leaders - RIFAYAT TRIBLE

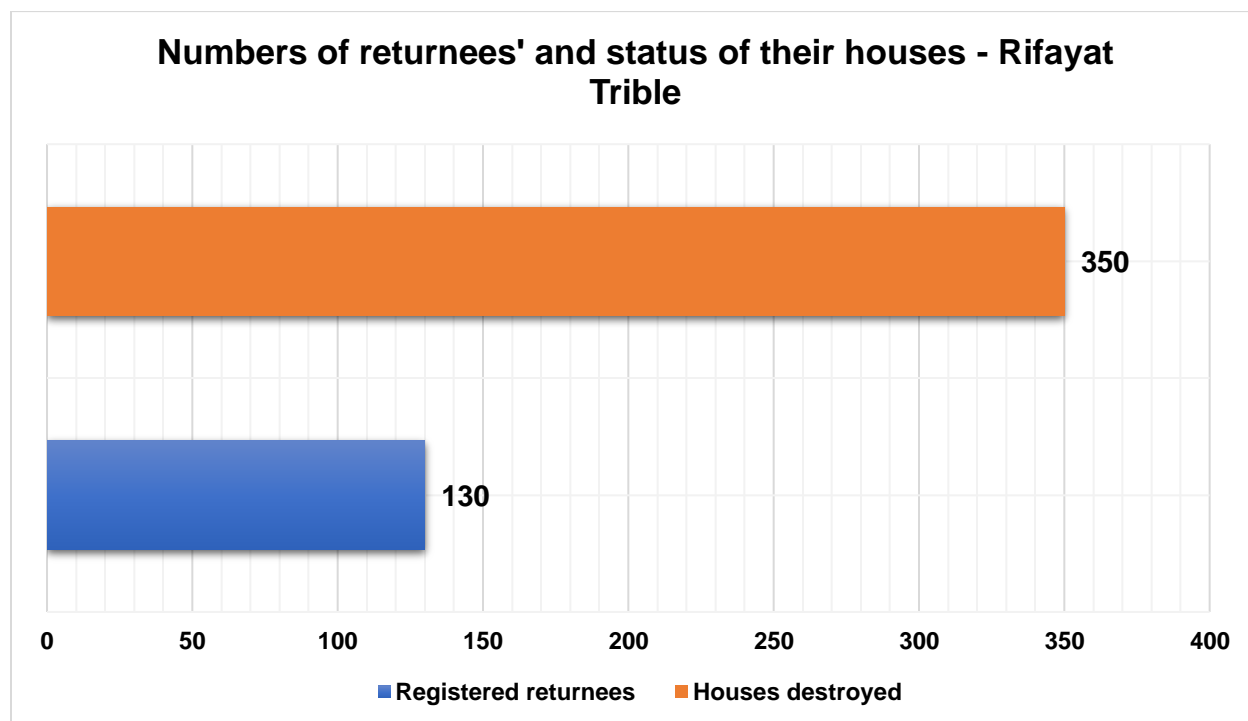
According to the Community leaders of the Rifayat Tribble there are one-hundred thirty (130) HH that has returned. The Community Leaders reported that there are three-hundred fifty (350) houses destroyed. The figures give a grim view of the shelter situation in Rifayat Tribble.

The two (2) Mukhtar (Community Leader) of Rifayat informed that approximately there are just one-hundred thirty (130) HHs who have returned to their AoO. However, several families have not returned, until the reporting period, for various reasons, where the main reason communicated was the one related to not enough support neither from the local authority nor the NGOs.

There were a few families who were able to rehabilitate part of the houses and live in them, while there are families who share their houses with relatives. Another reason listed from the Mukhtar(s) of why the returnees are not coming back to their AoO was that they don't have the enough financial possibilities to rehabilitate their houses.

Figure 21 gives an overview of the shelter situation from the data provided by the Community Leaders of Rifayat Tribble, Sayed Village.

Figure 21 Data of the numbers of registered returnees' and the status of their houses

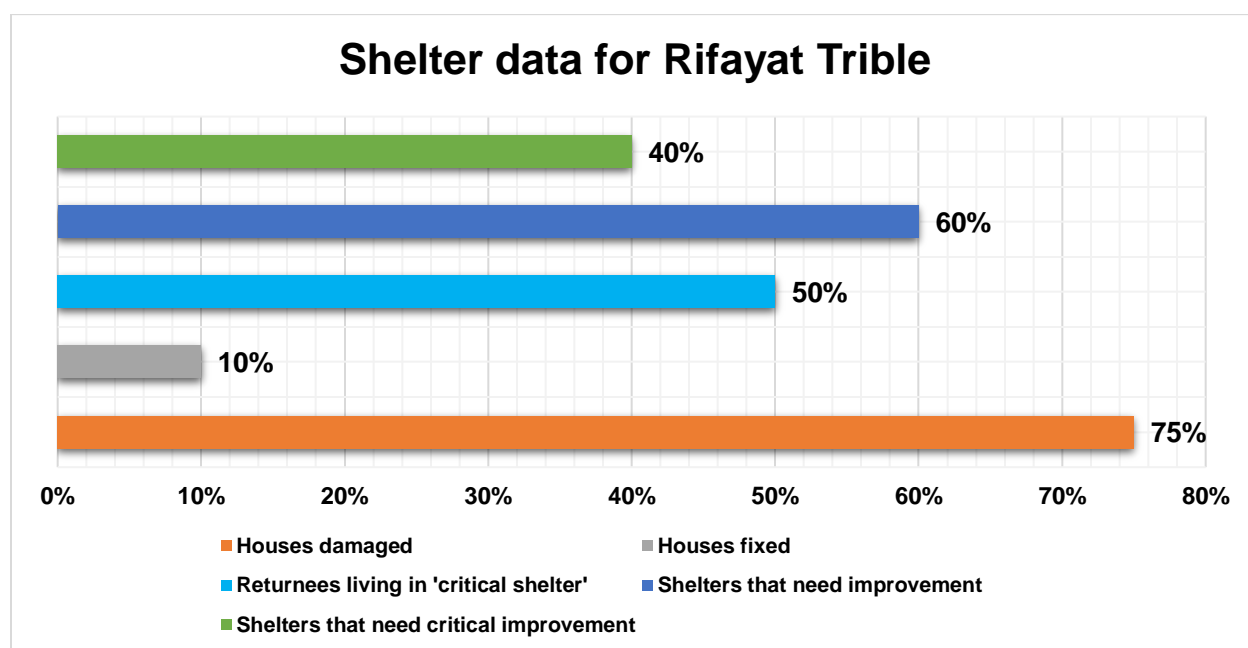


3.2.4. Data of the needs of returnees – according to Community leaders - RIFAYAT TRIBLE

The Community Leaders provided shelter data of returnees needs of the Rifayat Tribble, Sayed Village.

Figure 22 gives the respective data in regards to the most immediate needs of the returnees. From the Figure below we notice that seventy-five percent (75%) of the returnees' houses are damaged; sixty percent (60%) of the returnee shelters need improvement; fifty percent (50%) of the returnees live in critical shelter; forty percent of the returnees' shelters need improvement and only ten (10%) of the houses of the returnees are fixed as of now (the period when the interviews were conducted).

Figure 22 Shelter data of returnees' needs of the Rifayat Tribble, Sayed Village



3.2.5. Shelter types used by returnees - RIFAYAT TRIBLE

The data provided by the Community Leaders of Rifayat Tribble, Sayed Village gives a view of the situation the returnees are currently living.

Figure 23 and 24 provides data, in numbers and in percentage, of the shelter types where returnees of Rifayat Tribble, Sayed Village are living. From the data provided there were twenty-five percent (25%) of the returnees who were living in a makeshift shelter and there were ten percent (10%) of the returnees who were living in tents. From the data provided by the Community Leaders thirty-five percent (35%) of the returnees are living in critical shelter. In numbers, there were thirteen (13) returnee families of Rifayat Tribble who were living in tents and there thirty-two (32) returnee families who were living in a makeshift shelter. From the data provided by the Community Leaders forty-five (45) of the returnees are living in critical shelter.

Figure 23 Shelter types where returnees' are living, Rifayat Trible, Sayed Village - in percentage

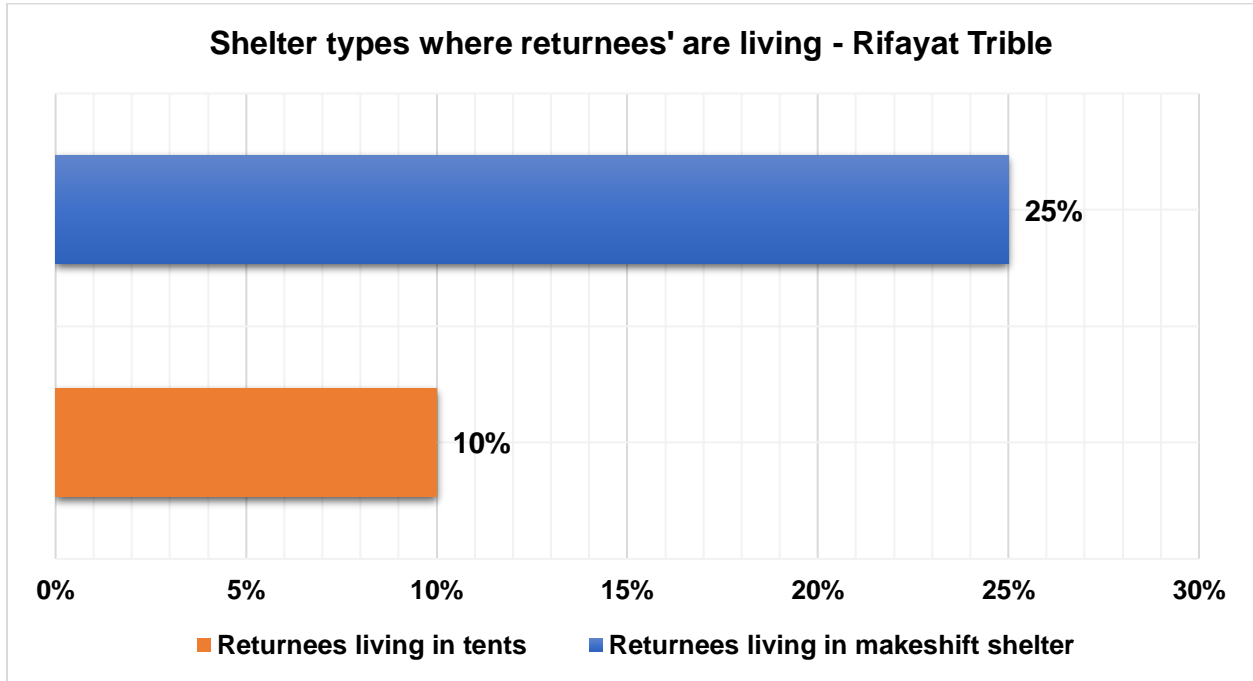
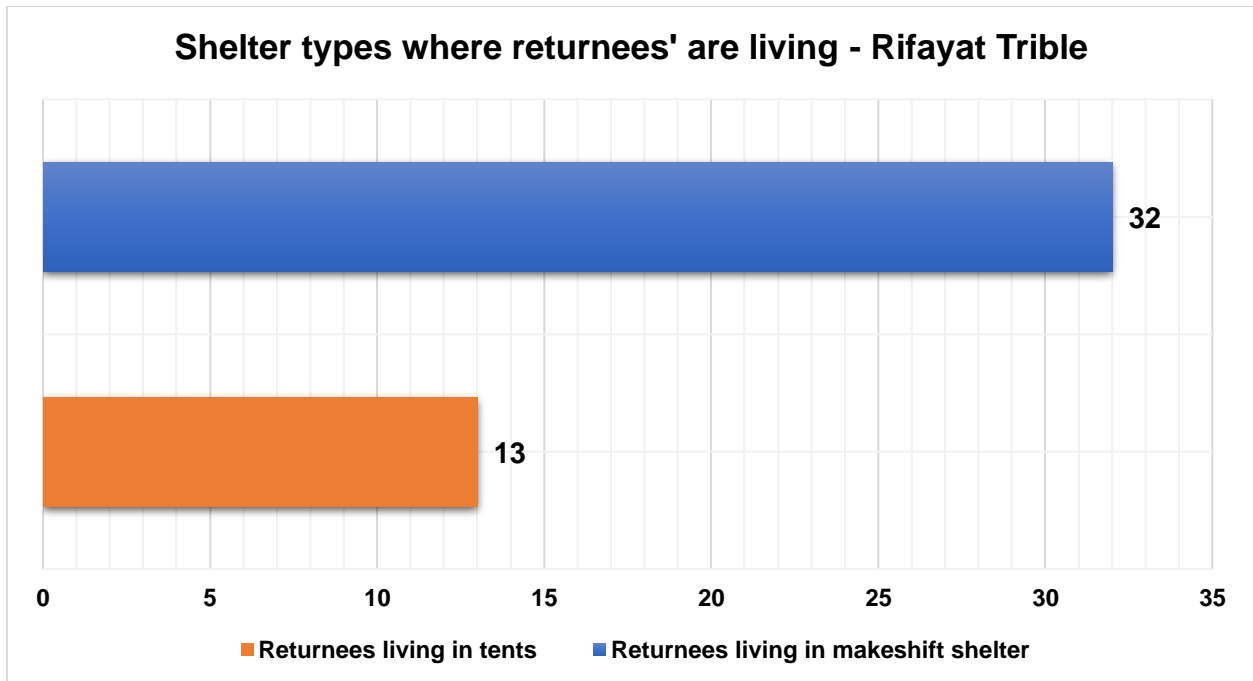


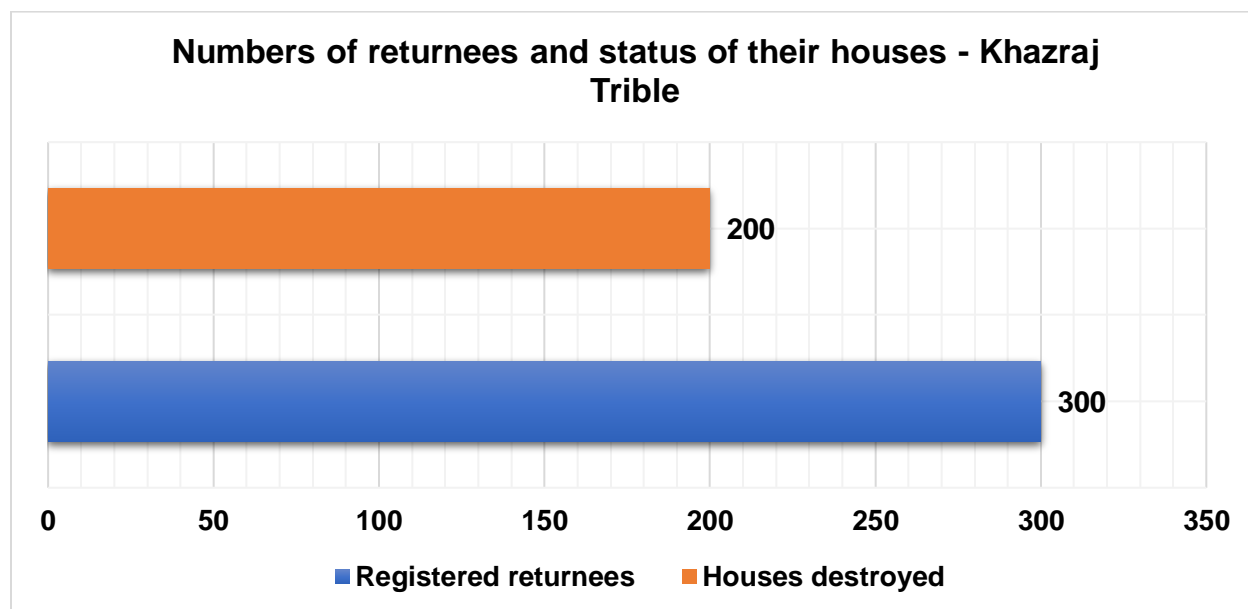
Figure 24 Shelter types where returnees' are living, Rifayat Trible, Sayed Village - in numbers



3.2.6. Data of returnees' status given by Community Leaders – KHAZRAJ TRIBLE

In Khazraj Tribel, Sayeed Villege there was reported that are three-hundred (300) registered returnees. From the data provided by the Community Leaders there are two-hundred (200) destroyed houses in Khazraj Tribel. Figure 25 gives a view of the houses destroyed and of the registered returnees. There is a considerate number of houses that are destroyed and the returnees do not have the means or the financial capacities to repair them.

Figure 25 Data of the numbers of returnees' and the status of their houses



3.2.7. Shelter types used by returnees - KHAZRAJ TRIBLE

The data provided by the Community Leaders of Khazraj Tribel, Sayed Village gives a view of the situation the returnees are currently living.

Figure 26 and Figure 27 provides data, in percentage and in numbers, of the shelter types where returnees of Khazraj Tribel, Sayed Village are living. From the data provided there were five percent (5%) of the returnees who were living in a makeshift shelter and there where eighty percent (80%) of the returnees who were living in damaged houses. From the data provided by the Community Leaders eighty-five percent (85%) of the returnees who are living in critical shelter. By numbers, there were fifteen (15) returnee families of Khazraj Tribel who were living in makeshift shelter and there two-hundred forty (240) returnee families who were living in damaged houses. From the data provided by the Community Leaders two-hundred fifty-five (255) of the returnees are living in critical shelter conditions.

Figure 26 Shelter types where returnees' are living, Khazraj Tribe, Sayed Village – in percentage

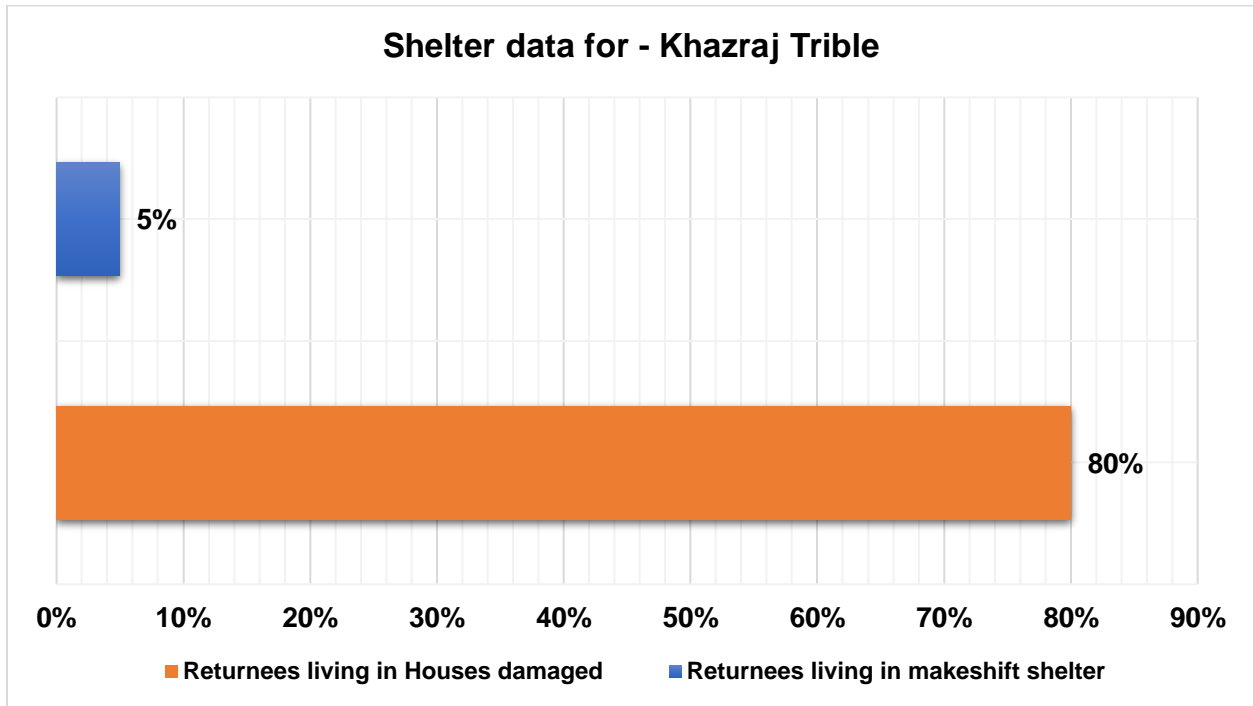
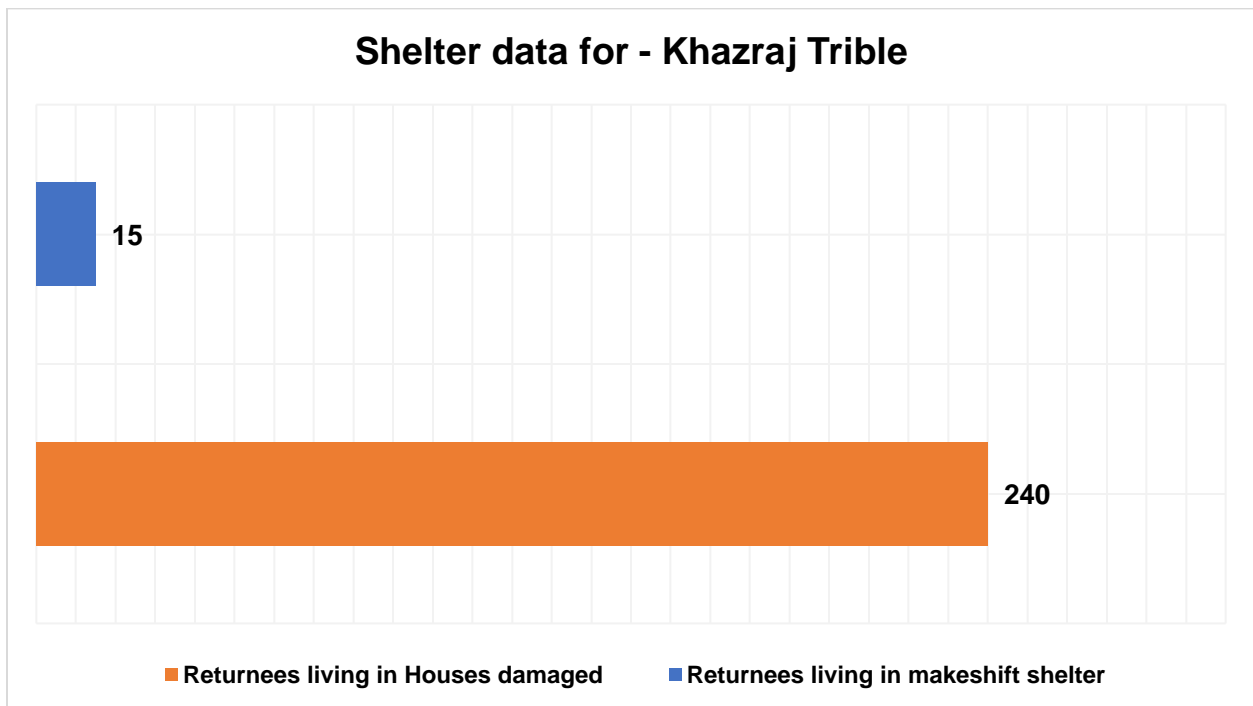


Figure 27 Shelter types where returnees' are living, Khazraj Tribe, Sayed Village – in numbers



3.2.8. Comparison data of returnees - Khazraj and Rifayat Tribes

Based on the data provided from the Community Leader of the Khazraj and Rifayat Tribes we notice that the number of houses destroyed is higher in Rifayat Tribes than in the Khazraj Tribes. There are three-hundred fifty (350) houses destroyed in Rifayat Tribes and there are two-hundred (200) houses destroyed in the Khazraj Tribes. The number of the returnees is lower in the Rifayat Tribes than in Khazraj one. There are one-hundred thirty (130) registered returnees in Rifayat Tribes and there are three-hundred (300) registered returnees in the Khazraj Tribes. Figure 28 gives an overview of the returnees that live in makeshift shelters, where again the number of the returnees living in makeshift shelter is higher in the Rifayat Tribes than in the Khazraj one. In the Rifayat Tribes the number of returnees living in makeshift shelter is thirty-two (32), whereas in the Khazraj Tribes there are fifteen (15) returnees living in makeshift shelter (Figure 29).

Figure 28 Data on the numbers of returnees' and status of their houses – Rifayat and Khazraj Tribes

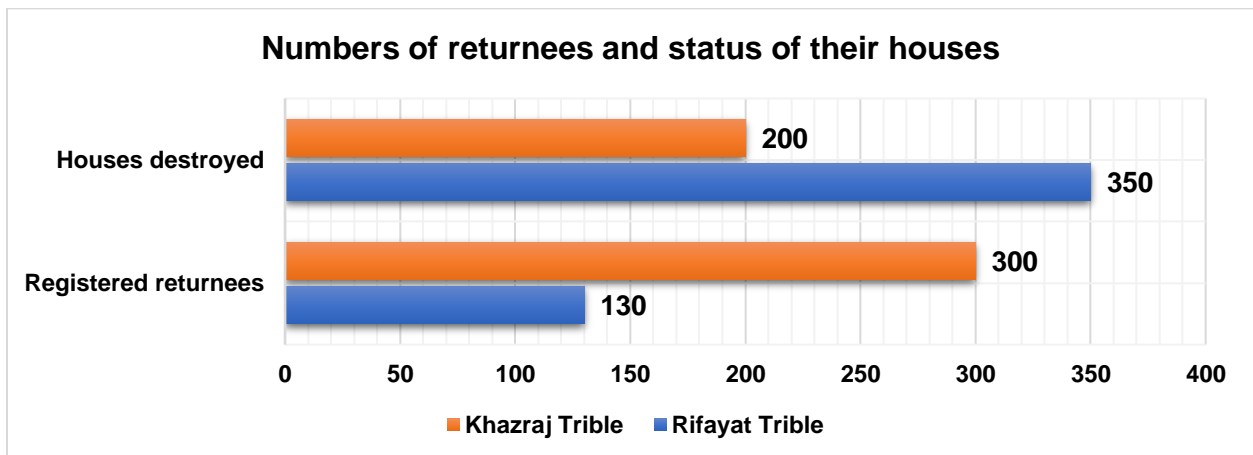
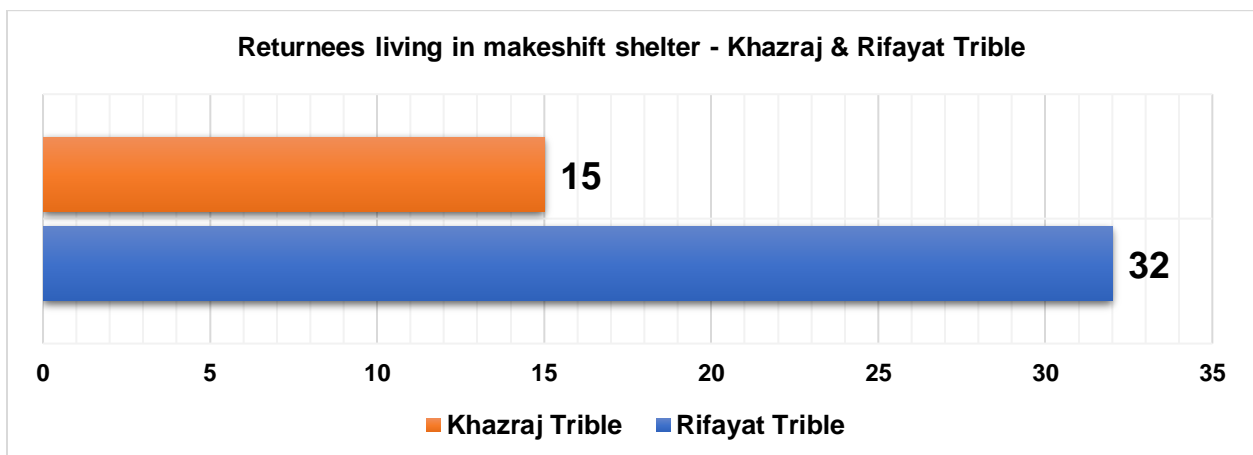


Figure 29 Data on the returnees' living in makeshift shelter – Rifayat and Khazraj Tribes



4. CONCLUSIONS AND RECCOMANDATIONS

4.1. Overall Conclusions of the baseline study



From the baseline study, we conclude that social cohesion with some of its main elements such as the:

- Social services;
- Housing;
- Employment;
- Social protection;

is lacking to meet the rights, the human rights that are related to these elements of the social cohesion of the returnees in Iraq.



There are not compensation mechanisms to effectively meet the returnees needs, and here we are talking about shelter needs. The existence of a of a proper mechanism that supports the needs of returnees it is vital to prevent the re-displacement of returnees.



The above-mentioned elements of social cohesion are being violated. The re-entering in the area of origin it is appropriate when adequate enabling conditions for successful return are met, which this was not the case for the targeted area of the baseline study.



The re-entering is being forced or under pressure to close camps. Hence, the re-entering is meeting just a goal, *of making possible the return*, but opens up a whole other new problems and challenges caused by forced re-entering.



The returnees are facing obstacles which impede their ability to find durable solutions in return areas, including restoration of their housing, employability, support from the local authorities, government or NGOs.



Once we gather all the puzzle pieces together then one of the main conclusion is that: The Iraq government is increasingly pushing for displaced persons to return to their area of origin but prematurely, often before conditions for a safe and dignified return are met. In doing so, the basic humanitarian standards are not met, the rights of the returnees are not respected, their psycho-social well-being not guaranteed and without the means for the returnees to plan for their own reintegration.

4.2. Recommendations

Internal displacement it is not just a human rights and humanitarian issue, it is a complicated and complex development challenge issue. Towards the achievement of sustainable development and a steady re-entering of the displaced persons it will be vital to focus on efforts in increasing the engagement of development stakeholders/actors on internal displacement in coordination with humanitarian organizations, as well as to ensure the involvement of governmental institutions throughout the whole process. The involvement of the above-mentioned actors plays its role in a steady re-integration of the returnees.

Keeping in mind all these, the recommendations will not be much related to emergency ones but the more recommendations that relate to sustainable development and durable solutions. The recommendations after this baseline study go towards two important directions or levels, specifically they are related to the role/impact of:

1. **National actors and**
2. **International actors.**

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) was 'a document that, for the first time, articulated the rights and freedoms to which every human being is equally and inalienably entitled²⁷'. The UDHR is a 'tool in the fight against oppression, impunity and affronts to human dignity²⁸'. And Article 26, paragraph 1 of the UDHR states that: 'Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services' This Declaration was voted among other countries even by Iraq on 1945. The Declaration has served as the foundation for two other binding UN human rights covenants: **i)** International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and **ii)** International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), which are signed by Iraq and have already entered in force²⁹. The principles of the UDHR are elaborated in other binding international treaties as well, such as: The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the International Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, the United Nations Convention Against Torture, and many more. Iraq's representative to the UN, **Bedia Afnan's** insistence on wording that recognized gender equality resulted in Article 3 within the ICCPR and ICESCR, which, together with the UDHR, form the International Bill of Rights. Hence, Iraq has legal binding obligations in regards to the treaties that signed and are into force. Hence, legally, Iraq is internationally obliged to take action in conformance to these international laws. Hence, the first recommendations are related to the above-mentioned treaties that are legal binding documents for Iraq as well.

²⁷ UN. (2019, September 23). Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Retrieved from United Nations: <https://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/> , last visited on May 27th, 2022.

²⁸ Ibid.

²⁹ Look: https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/TreatyBodyExternal/Treaty.aspx?CountryID=82&Lang=EN , last visited on May 23rd 2022.

The international actors, which are one of the main donors and contributors in Iraq such as UN, keeping in mind the above, might work in an approach that fosters functional accountability toward the international treaties that Iraq is obliged to abide. The financial, human and technical support of the international actors *in one hand* and the Iraqis' obligations to work towards fulfilling its duties and responsibilities towards these treaties *in the other hand* should be two parallels that are interlinked together. As of now, the functionality of the parallel is one sided, with the international actors contributing financially and technically, but the recommendation is that the international actors operating in Iraq and that have a voice internationally outside of Iraq to purposely and systematically contribute towards finding, proposing and implementing mechanisms that help Iraq to approve and implement mechanisms, laws, policies, in regards to the returnees and their integration, that are in compliance to the international laws and treaties to which Iraq is legally binding.

The international actors operating, assisting, contributing financially and technically in Iraq should press more on the Iraqi government to integrate the social cohesion in its laws, by laws and policies. The Agreements of the international actors with the government of Iraq (which are approved by Parliament) should be accompanied with rules and responsibilities that foresee ways of implementation of these international treaties which have legal bindings for Iraq. Moving on from the emergency status of Iraq to a development path should be an approach pressed to be followed not just by Iraq but by all international actors operating in Iraq or contributing to the development of Iraq, this through mutual agreement (financial, technical ones) that foresee and require the obligation of Iraq to approve and implement laws and policies that relate to returnees which ensure the enforcement, the execution of the international treaties and laws to which Iraq is legally binding.

One last recommendation related to the international actors is to find mechanisms that will make possible the elaboration on indicators such as social cohesion, personal aspirations, subjective feelings about where the returnees belong, which helps on the road to achieving durable solutions. These actions prove to be very important to make possible the achievement of the durable solutions and to help Iraq towards the sustainable development.

At the national direction or level the recommendations are various but we will focus just on the ones that are related to the object of this baseline study, the returnees.

The shift of focus in dealing with the returnees, such as the shift of focus on the ways of coping mechanisms it is vital for a dignified return as well as a return that does not end with re-displacement. The national actors should focus on the coping mechanism in parallel to meeting the emergency needs of the returnees. This coping mechanism is also key to restoring personal security, self-sufficiency and dignity. Self-sufficiency and dignity should not be overlooked anymore. The national actors should make possible through their assistance so that the returnees are provided with a return to normality in dignity without leaving behind the personal security dignity and self-sufficiency.

The re-entering as well as the reintegration (*which are two different things*) of the returnees should be carried out keeping in consideration the **material, legal, physical** and **mental dimensions** of the returnees. While at the 'acute' state the humanitarian actors play the most vital role, after that, **for all the four dimensions *the government should take lead* assisted by the humanitarian and development actors**. For this recommendation, it is important to act not sporadically but very well organized, with concrete action-plans that make possible the implementation of this recommendation.

The national actors should develop compensation mechanisms to effectively meet the returnees needs, and here we are talking about shelter needs. The finding of a mechanism or of a proper one that supports and sustains the needs of returnees is vital to prevent the re-displacement of returnees, which we have noticed it is the case from the baseline study conclusions.

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3. ANNEXES

ANNEX I – Questionnaire of Balad District, Salah al-Din Governorate



Final_Questionnaire_Shelter_Balad_A