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Community level multi-sector community-based assessment and Rapid Gender analysis in Salah Al-Din Governorate (Baiji and Shirqat) – September 2020



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1. INTRODUCTION

The situation in Iraq remains unstable with widespread humanitarian concerns. Years of conflict uprooted millions of people, eroded social cohesion, disrupted access to basic services, destroyed livelihoods and led to increased protection risks. With weak central governance and limited progress towards recovery and development, the situation has become protracted and millions of people across Iraq remain in need of humanitarian assistance.

In 2020, Iraq is simultaneously categorized as an upper-middle-income country and one that INFORM's Global Risk Index labels as "very high risk" of a humanitarian crisis. More than two years after Iraq's military operations against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) ended, social, ethnic and sectarian tensions persist on multiple fronts. Political uncertainty and natural disasters continue to intensify humanitarian needs. In October 2019, protests against the recently-elected federal government erupted in Baghdad and other governorates, threatening the fledgling stability and narrowing the national focus.

Through a multi-sectoral and integrated approach, DCA aims to save lives, provide needs-based humanitarian assistance, enable recovery and enhance the resilience of the most vulnerable conflict-affected communities.

As a proud signatory of the Charter for Change, DCA works with local NGOs to enhance their capacity to enable a more locally-led response to the humanitarian needs. As well as providing technical expertise in programmatic areas, DCA provides training in organizational areas including strategy, vision and plan, policies and procedures, security and staff welfare, fundraising, proposal writing and reporting and AME.

As the humanitarian crisis in Iraq enters its sixth year, an estimated 6.7 million conflict-affected persons are expected to continuously require humanitarian assistance in 2020.

In order to understand the current situation concerning the Protection, GBV, Livelihood, Social cohesion, economic recovery and COVID-19 pandemic impact on the communities in Salah Al-din governorate especially Baiji and Shirqat districts. DCA in cooperation with the Mercy hands NGO in Iraq has conducted GBV and protection rapid assessments in Baiji and Shirqat district.

2. METHODOLOGY

In coordination between DCA and Mercy Hands, a qualitative data collection methodology was composed for a household survey for gender and protection analysis.

It was determined that key informant interviews (KIIs) with local authority, business owners, community representatives, local economic representatives, worker union practitioners in the selected area and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with youth will be used. These tools are designed to explore the needs and to specify the response.

2.1 Study area:

The assessments survey, FGDs and KII conducted in two districts (Shirqat and Baiji) in Salah Al-Din Governorate, the locations are covered by UNDP's program, (50% female, 50% male) for the assessment and 5 FGDs 3 in Baiji and 2 in Shirqat with male and female participants. The

project department and M&E unit targeted the community with KII in Baiji and Shirqat districts, 15 KII interviews were conducted (5 in Baiji and 10 in Shirqat). Host communities in the area were interviewed to conduct FGDs and KII to specify the needs and responses.

2.2 Survey period:

The assessments were conducted by Mercy hands M&E staff in the field and then the results were shared with the DCA Protection Officer and M&E Global Advisor for overview. The assessment data was analyzed by DCA MEAL consultant.

The survey took place on 9 Aug 2020 for one day, FGDs and KIIs are conducted on 9 Sep 2020 by the Mercy hands field enumerators.

The methodology combines a quantitative and qualitative approach, to support further understanding of all community levels and to incorporate the local communities thoughts and perspectives.

Table 2.4: The below shows a breakdown of the FGD's participants in both locations.

Location	Total Participants	Female	Male
Baiji	21	14	7
Alshirqat	15	15	0

Table 2.5: the below shows a breakdown of the KIIs participants in both locations.

Location	Total Participants	Business owner	Social affairs office	Community presentative
Baiji	5	0	0	5
Al shirqat	10	5	1	4

3. LIMITATIONS

One of the limitations was the lack of completed data sets for a limited number of surveys and incomplete answers from the respondents. Also there were a number of questions within the survey did not incorporate the respondents response for the questions which encouraged enumerators to skip the question leaving an empty response. Moreover, there was a lack of information by the participants of the FGD and KII sessions who did not provide a detailed response about several questions. As a result of this, there were a number of responses with limited explanation.

4. FINDINGS:

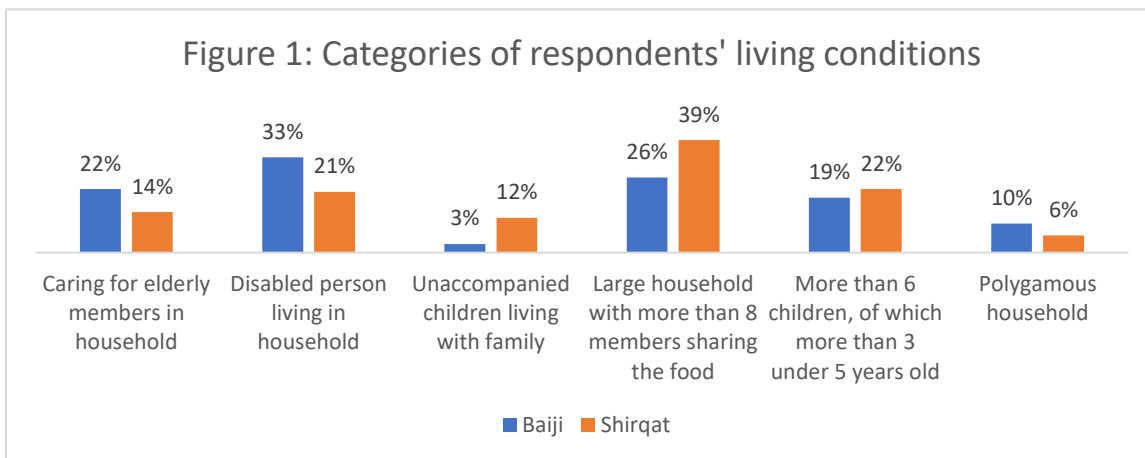
I. GBV, Gender and Protection Analysis household survey:

A. Respondent breakdown

Participants of this survey were 52% male and 48% female and almost all of them (92%) were adults, while 13% of respondents had a physical disability or chronic illness. As for the status of respondents in households, 47% were male heads of households and 36% were the female

heads of the households while the other respondents were not heads of households (7% male, 10% Female).

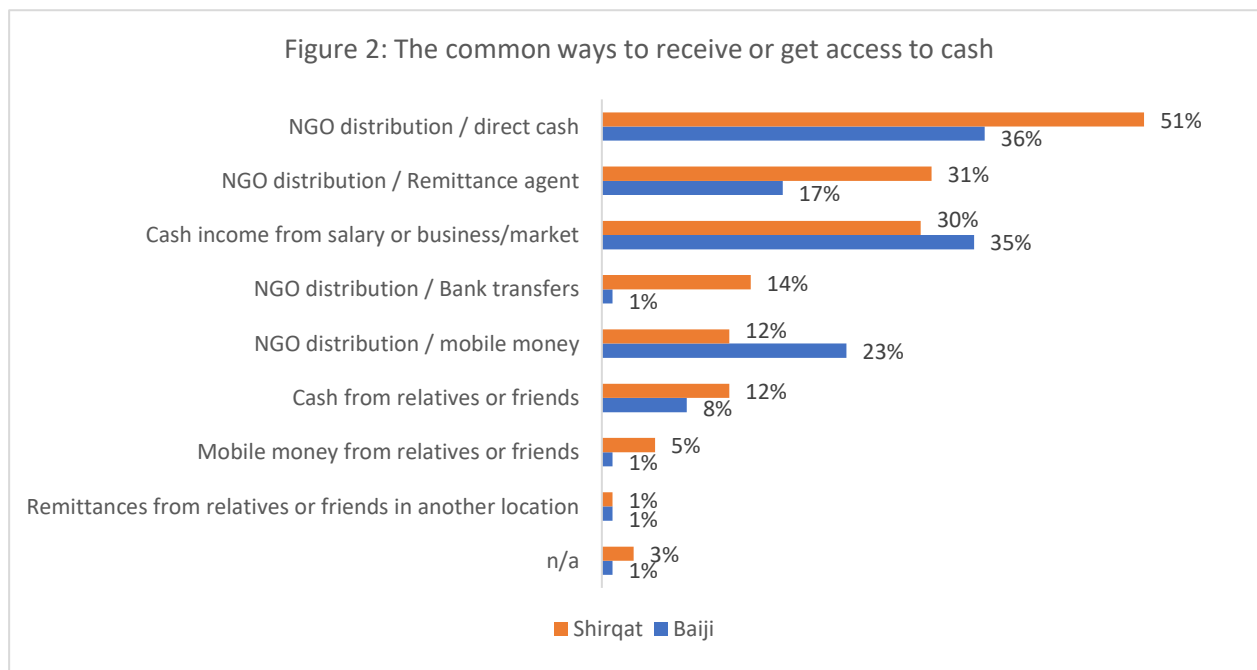
Figure 1 below shows the living conditions of the members in the household:



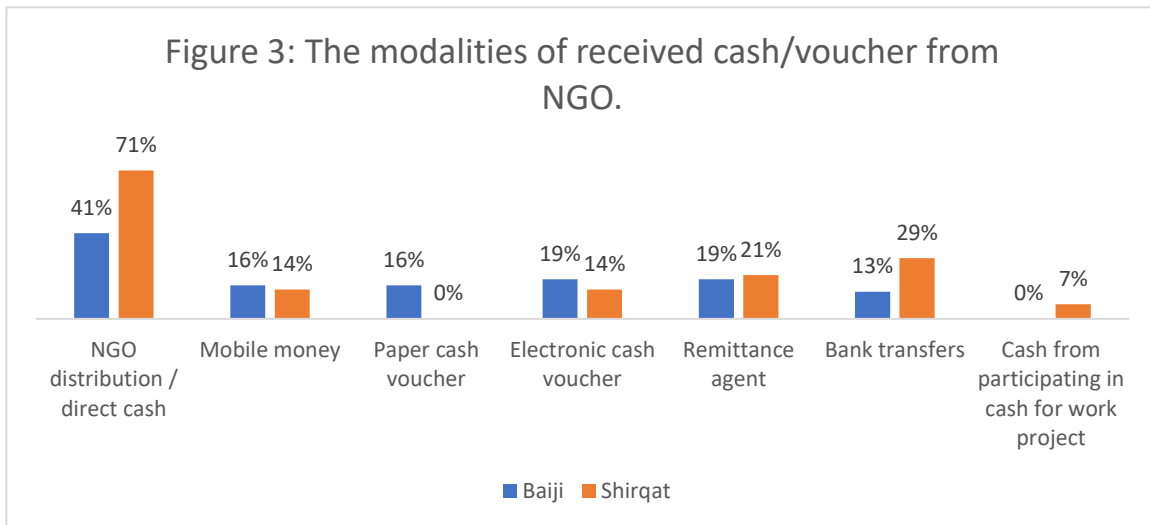
B. Receiving modalities of cash or vouchers safely

For this section, a group of questions have been asked to respondents to obtain information on the most common ways of receiving cash and the modalities and preferences of receiving cash/vouchers from NGO.

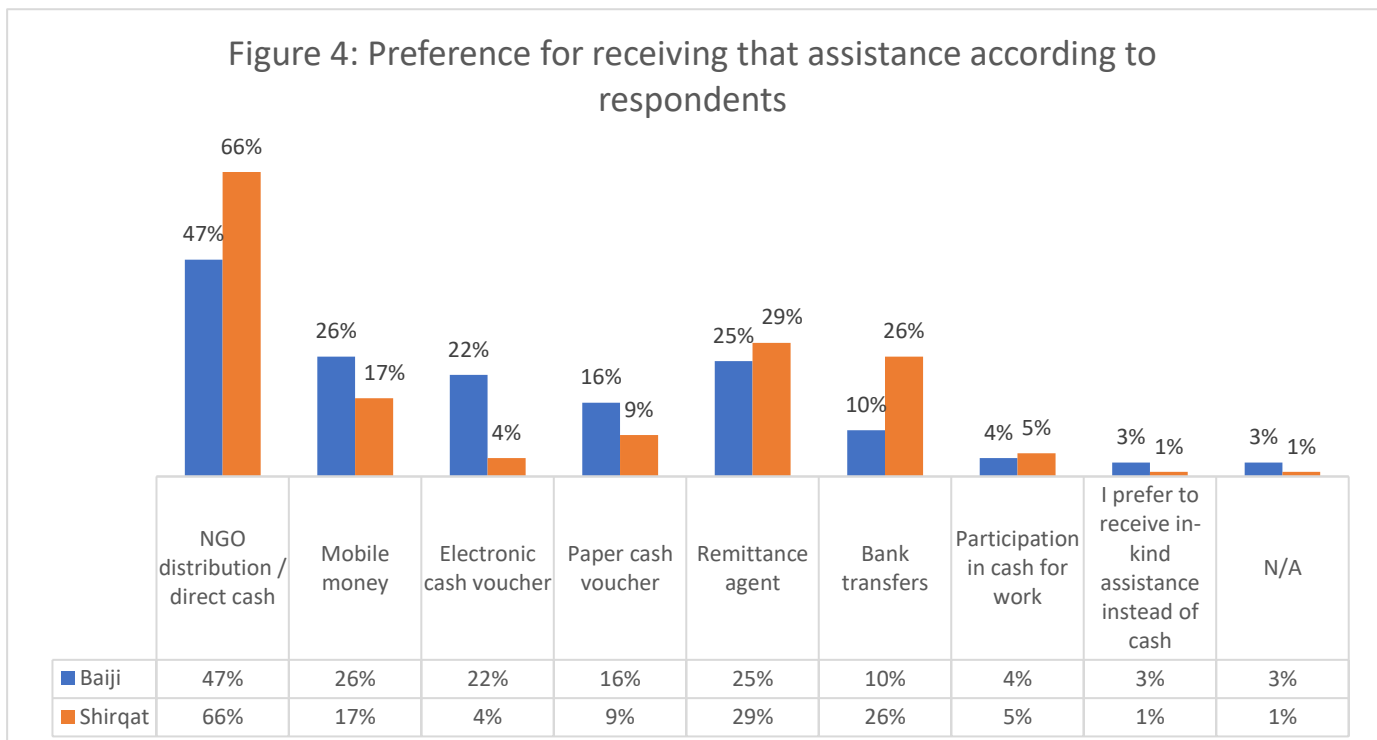
Regarding the two most common ways to receive or get access to cash, the respondents in Baiji district have declared that the NGO distribution / direct cash and the cash income from salary/business/market are the most common ways to receive or get access to cash, while the respondents in Shirqat district have indicated the most common ways are NGO distribution / remittance agent or NGO distribution / direct cash.



Furthermore, 42% of respondents in Baiji district mentioned that they have received cash/voucher from NGO's and only 19% in Shirqat district. Figure 3 below shows the ways of cash/vouchers where received from NGO's.



91% of respondents have stated that the ways mentioned above are a safer way to receive cash/vouchers. Moreover, the respondents in Baiji and Shirqat selected the NGO distribution/direct cash as the most preferred modality for receiving assistance from MercyHands.



96 out of 116 respondents explained that the mentioned preferences above are safe and easy to access.

Regarding the concerns related to a financial service provider/external actor which is responsible for the distribution of cash, 90% of the respondents in Shirqat and Baiji have declared that they do not have any concern on this matter. While only 3% of the respondents stated that they do have concerns and they explained as the following:

Table (3): Respondents concerns about the financial service provider

Concerns	Shirqat	Baiji
They might require me to pay something or give favour to get the cash.	0	1
They might not pay me the full amount that I am entitled to.	3	0
They might require identification that I don't have.	1	0
I'm illiterate and they might require me to be able to read or write.	1	0

When asked about the payment frequency option, 75% of the respondents stated that would like to receive the cash on a monthly basis and 16% preferred to receive cash on a bi-weekly basis.

In this regard, there were different opinions on the use of the cash without pressure. 44% of the respondents declared that the more frequent transfers make it easier to decide on how to use the cash. On the other hand, 43% of respondents do not think that frequent transfer of cash would relieve pressure. Almost half of the respondents stated that the more frequent transfers of cash make it safer.

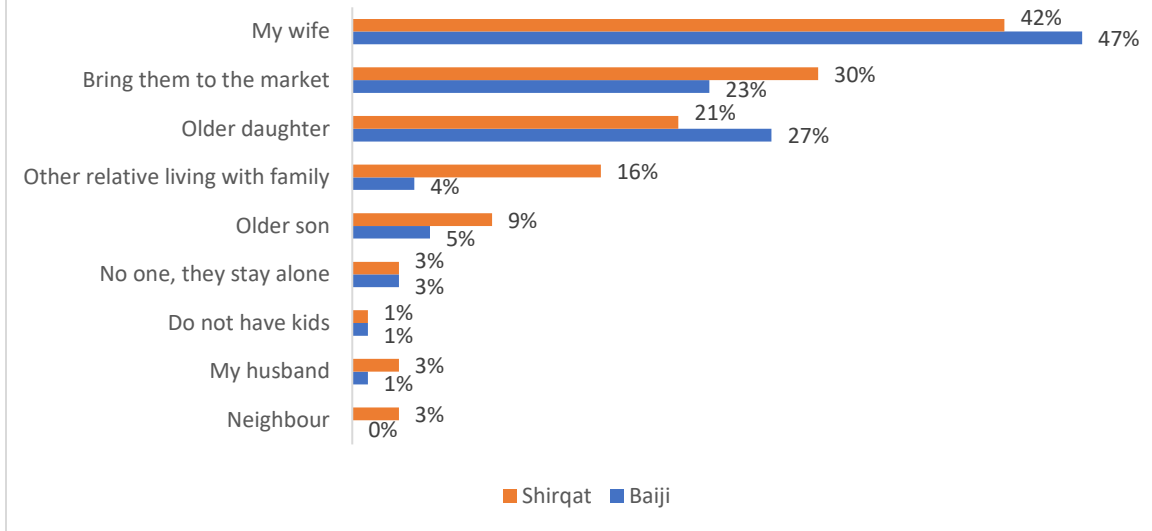
92% of the respondents mentioned that they do have a safe place to keep the cash in.

C. Safe access to markets

In this section, a series of questions have been asked to respondents about the access to the market regarding safety, duration and transportation cost.

The majority of respondents (83%) stated that they usually spent less than 30 minutes to reach the market and about 68% of the respondents mentioned that they do the shopping by themselves. In comparison, 24% refers to the older son and 19% refers to the husband. Concerning who take cares of the children and the dependents while shopping as the following figure:

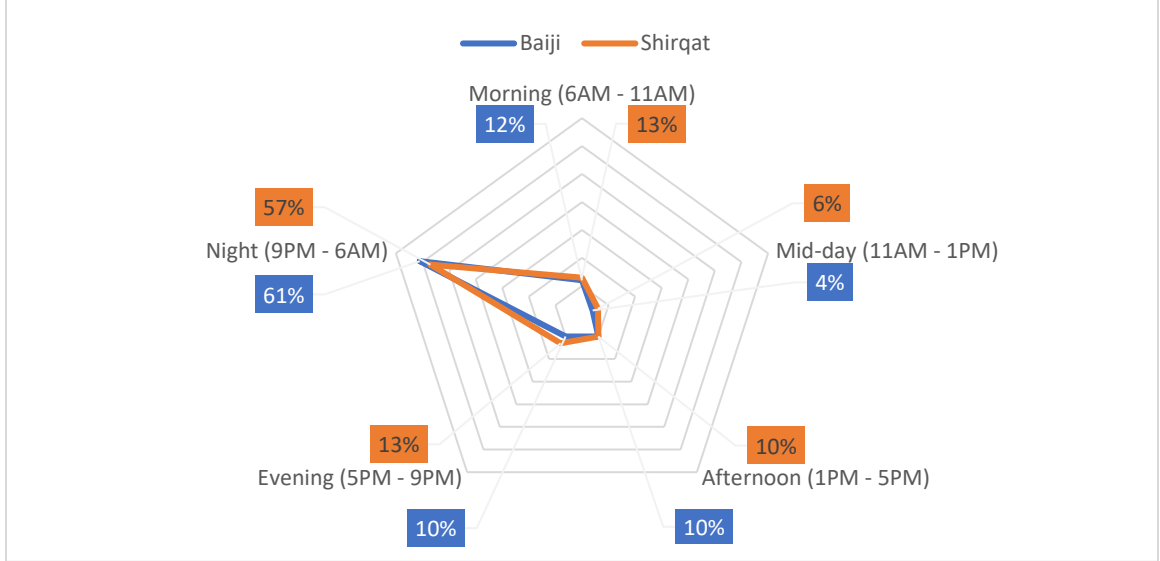
Figure 5: Who take cares of the children and the dependants while shopping



In terms of travelling safely to the market, 86% of the respondents declared that they felt safe to travel to the market with cash and goods. While only 7% stated that they do not feel safe whilst travelling to the market and explained that they might get robbed during the shopping, especially when the market is crowded. Almost all of the respondents (94%) believed that a local market is a safe place for shopping.

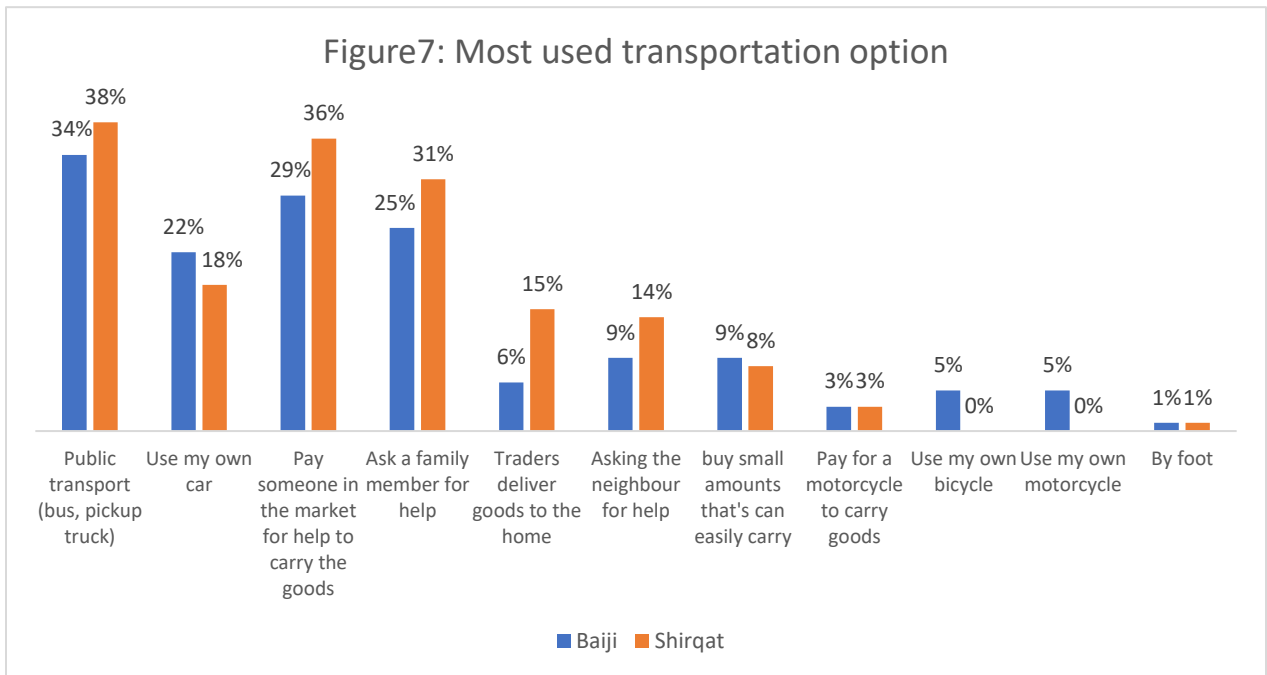
When asked about the unsafe time to access the market, the respondents in Shirqat and Baiji have referred to night time between 9 pm to 6 AM as the less safe time to access the market.

Figure 6: The less safe time to access the market according to the respondents



Following this, the respondents have been asked about the transportation options when going for shopping. The respondents in Baiji and Shirqat have indicated that the most used transportation option is public transport (bus, pickup truck) and the other options are mentioned in figure 7 below:

Figure7: Most used transportation option



127 out of 154 respondents have declared that used to pay for the daily transportation between 500 to 10000 IQD. The following table present the daily cost per the location:

Table (4): Daily transportation cost:

Daily transportation cost	Baiji	Shirqat
500 IQD	0	3%
1000 IQD	3%	23%
2000 IQD	35%	39%
3000 IQD	13%	11%
4000 IQD	4%	1%
5000 IQD	20%	9%
6000 IQD	3%	1%
10000 IQD	0%	11%

Only 53% of the respondents in Baiji and Shirqat have stated that they can afford the transportation cost. While 16% mentioned that they paid for others to do the shopping on behalf of them. 7% mentioned that they paid sometimes.

D. Social relations

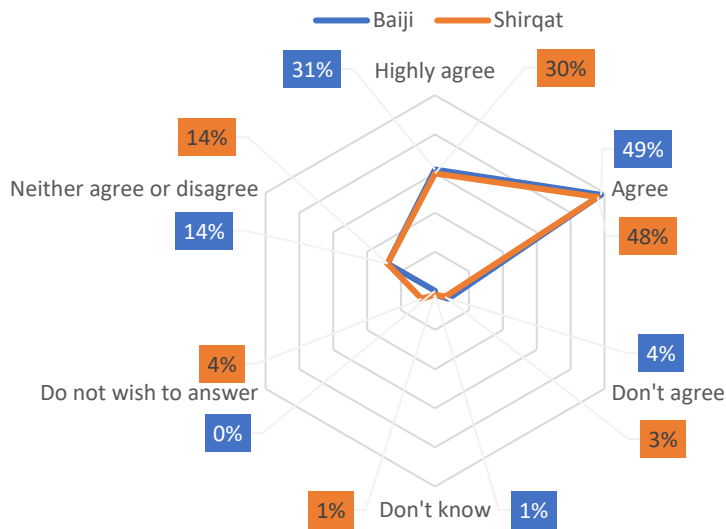
As for this section, a list of questions has been asked to the respondents to understand the relation between their household members regarding the control of the finance within the household.

When asked about who decides to spend the cash that is received from the income source, NGOs, remittances, loans, from relatives and friends, the responses indicated that in 43% of households the men in the household are in charge spend the cash. 31% Man and woman together, 16% Women, 6% Male family member and 3% Older family member (regardless male or female).

While only 33% of respondents declared that they own money and they have the freedom to decide how to use it.

Furthermore. The respondents have been asked if they agree that the man should have the final word in decision-making processes in their household, the response were as the following:

Figure 8: The respondents' acceptance that the man has the final decision-making within the household



Following this, 80% of the respondents have agreed (26% highly agreed) that the man in the household is responsible for controlling the finances of the household. Only 5% disagree.

E. Engagement in the household tasks

In this section, a series of questions have been administered to respondents to obtain information about the engagement of household tasks and potential tension or conflict among the household members.

The following figures 9 & 10 present the engagement level in household tasks among the respondents per location:

Figure 9: Level of engagement in household tasks according to Baiji's respondents

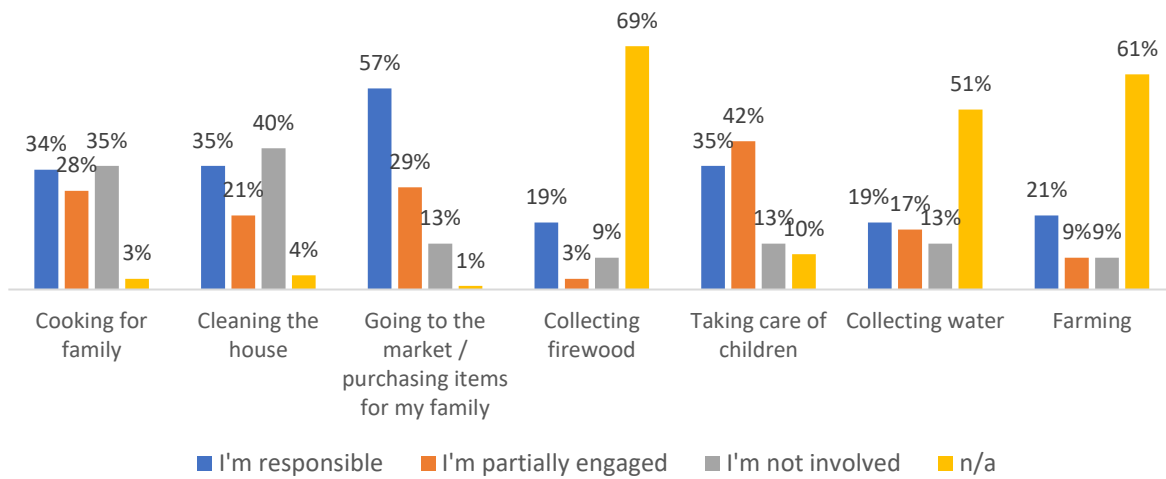
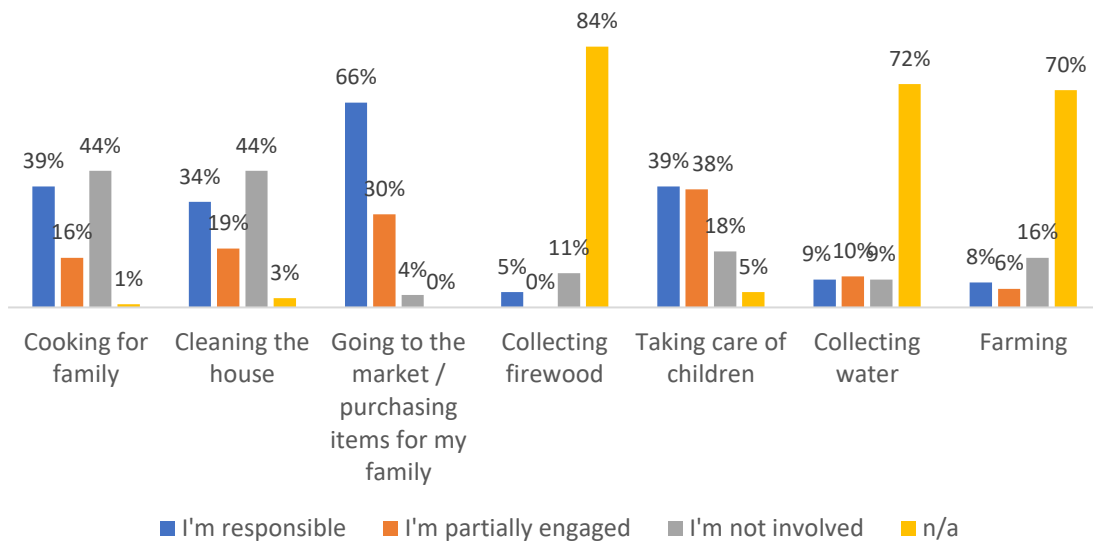


Figure 10: Level of engagement in household tasks according to Shirqat's respondents



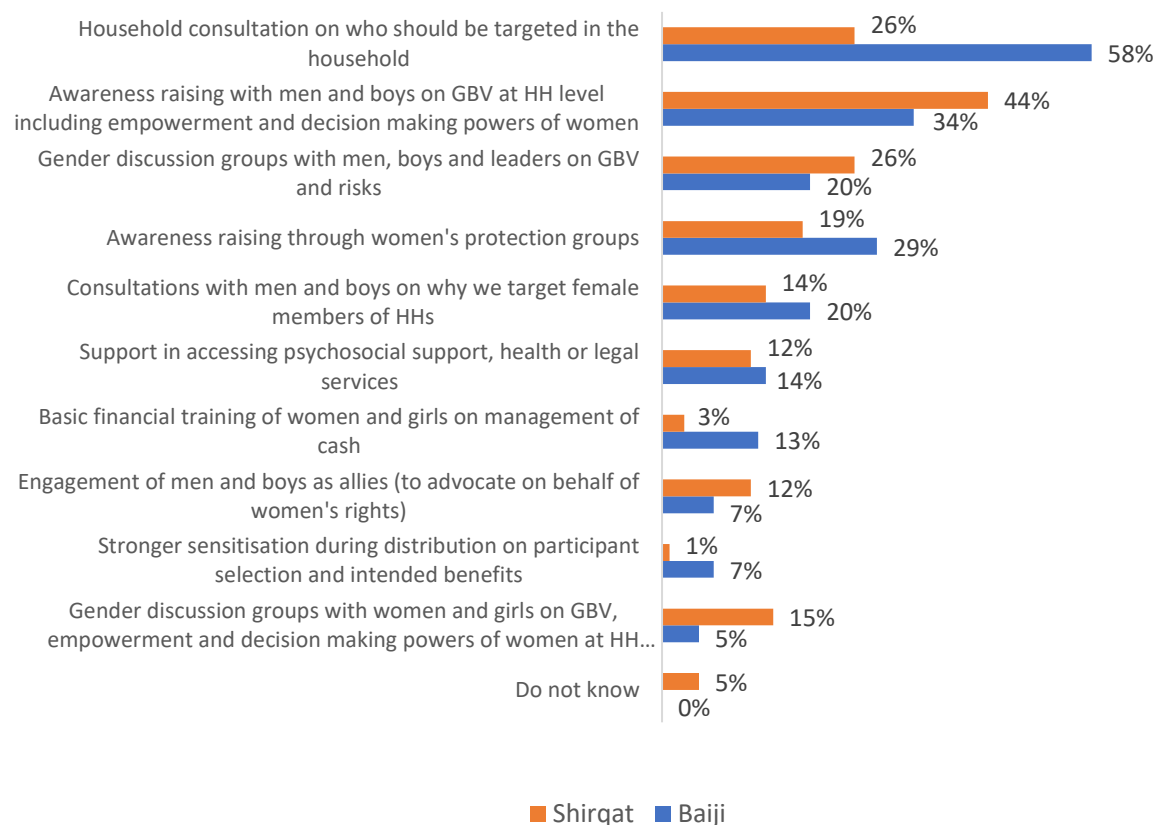
Following this, 27% of the respondents have agreed (11% highly agreed) that the man should have equal responsibility for household tasks (such as cooking, cleaning, child care, and fetching water). 35% disagree, 19% either agree or disagree, 5% do not know and 3% do not wish to answer.

Also, 75% of the respondents have declared that there is no tension or conflict in the household about how to spend money, while only 32 respondents have declared that there are

three main typical reasons for tension or conflict which are normally over who controls the money or the income earner did not share money with the rest of the family.

Concerning what can be done to ease any potential tension at the household level, 58% of the Baiji's respondents stated that household consultation on who should be targeted in the household is the best way to ease any potential tension. 44% of Shirqat's respondents indicated that awareness-raising with men and boys on GBV at HH level including empowering women to be decision makers is the best way to reduce the tension in the household.

Figure 11: What could be done to ease any potential tension at household



More than half of the respondents (63%) in Baiji and Shirqat have indicated that the distributed humanitarian assistance to targeted households did not impact the relationships such as to cause tension or jealousy in the community between those who had received cash/vouchers and those who did not receive any assistance. Furthermore, when asked about what can be done to ease any potential tension at the community level, 50% of Baiji's respondents mentioned that conducting community training on GBV prevention and response can ease tensions. While 38% of Shirqat's respondents stated that there are two effective ways to reduce potential tension in the community which engages the community in gender discussion groups on women's empowerment and conducting community training on GBV prevention and response. The following table presents the other effective ways to ease the potential tension as per location

Table (5): Effective ways to reduce the potential tension in the community:

#	An effective way to reduce the potential tension in the community	Baiji	Shirqat
1	Conduct community training on GBV prevention and response	50%	38%
2	Engage the community in gender discussion groups on women's empowerment and GBV	34%	38%
3	The NGO should ensure confidentiality of cash recipients	36%	30%
4	The NGO should monitor the risks for cash recipients	18%	18%
5	The NGO should target all households with smaller amounts	25%	12%
6	Create more voluntary protection groups to support the community and NGO in the dissemination of information	20%	13%
7	Stronger sensitization on participant selection and intended purpose of the assistance	21%	17%
8	Do not know any	3%	13%

Table (6): Percentage of participation in community decision making according to respondents:

#	Location	Yes	No	Do not wish to answer
1	Baiji	43%	52%	5%
2	Shirqat	44%	47%	9%

5% of the respondents have stated that they are a member of an association, group or club that regularly holds meetings, moreover they have mentioned the group that they are active in as the following table:

Table (7): Active group

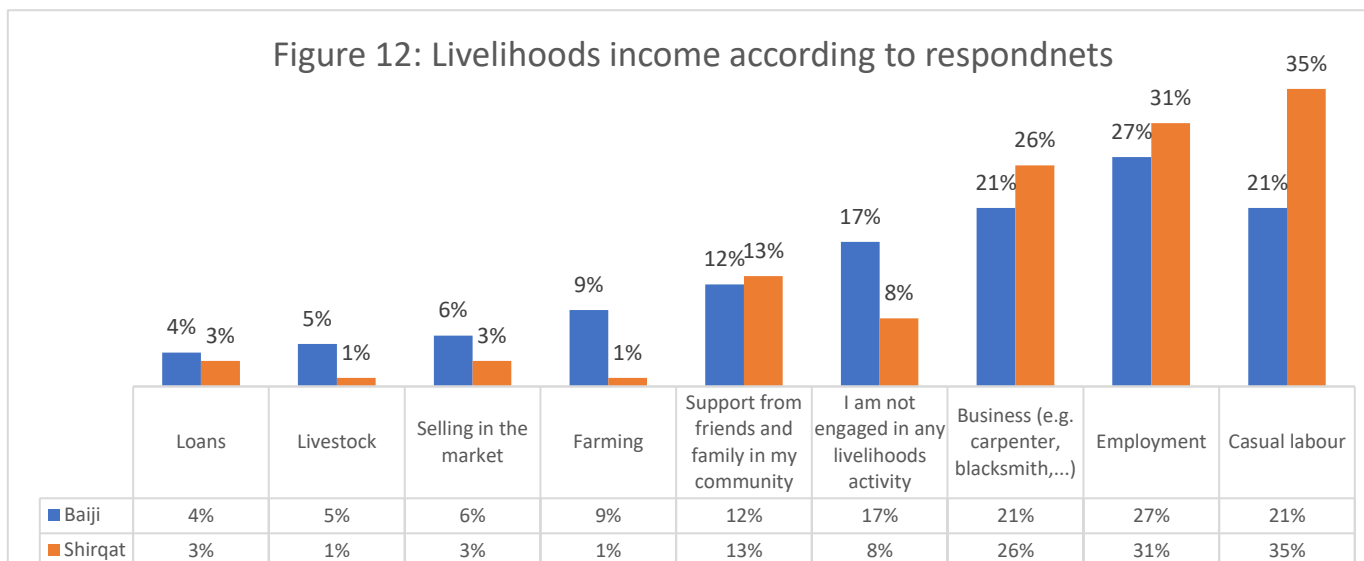
#	Group	Baiji	Shirqat
1	Religious	0	3
2	Social	1	4
3	Women's group	0	1

4	A committee working on behalf of NGO or CBO	1	0
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F. Livelihoods

In this section, three questions have been asked to respondents to understand the livelihood and income source of the respondents.

Figure 12: Livelihoods income according to respondents



86% of the respondents declared that they felt safe while doing their work, while 10% stated that due to the insecure worksite and bad working conditions they do not feel safe during the working hours.

Also, 127 out of 154 respondents have indicated that they do not have additional income sources outside of NGO livelihood programs, while others have explained that they have additional income sources such as remittances and support from relatives.

G. Child protection

As for this section, two questions have been administered to the respondents to obtain information on the most common child protection issues and the access level to education for boys and girls at Baiji and Shirqat communities.

Figure 13: The most common child protection issues in Baiji and Shirqat communities

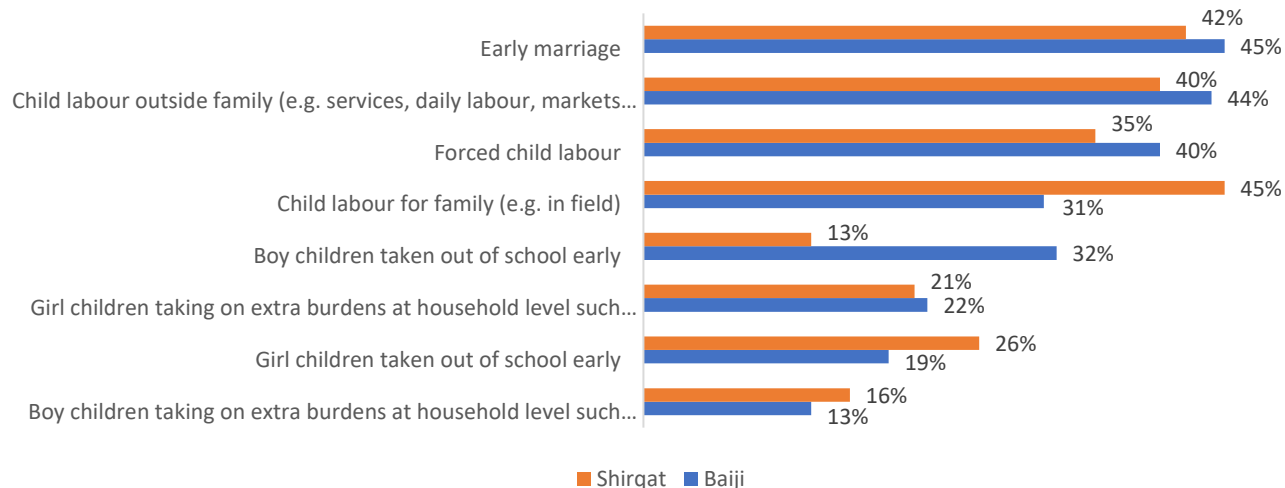
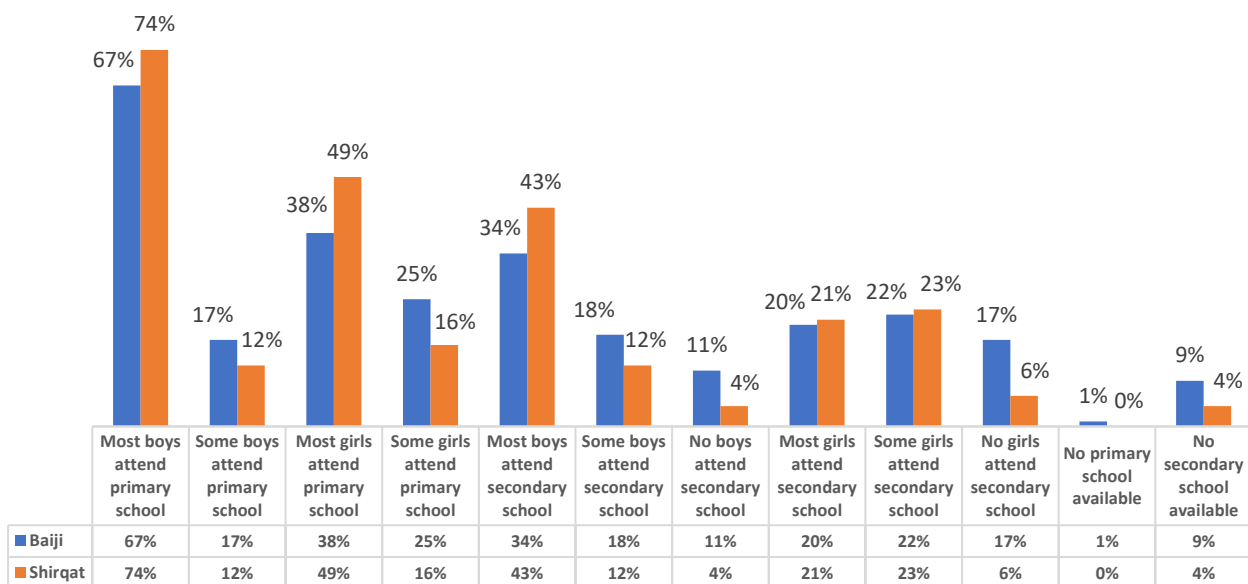


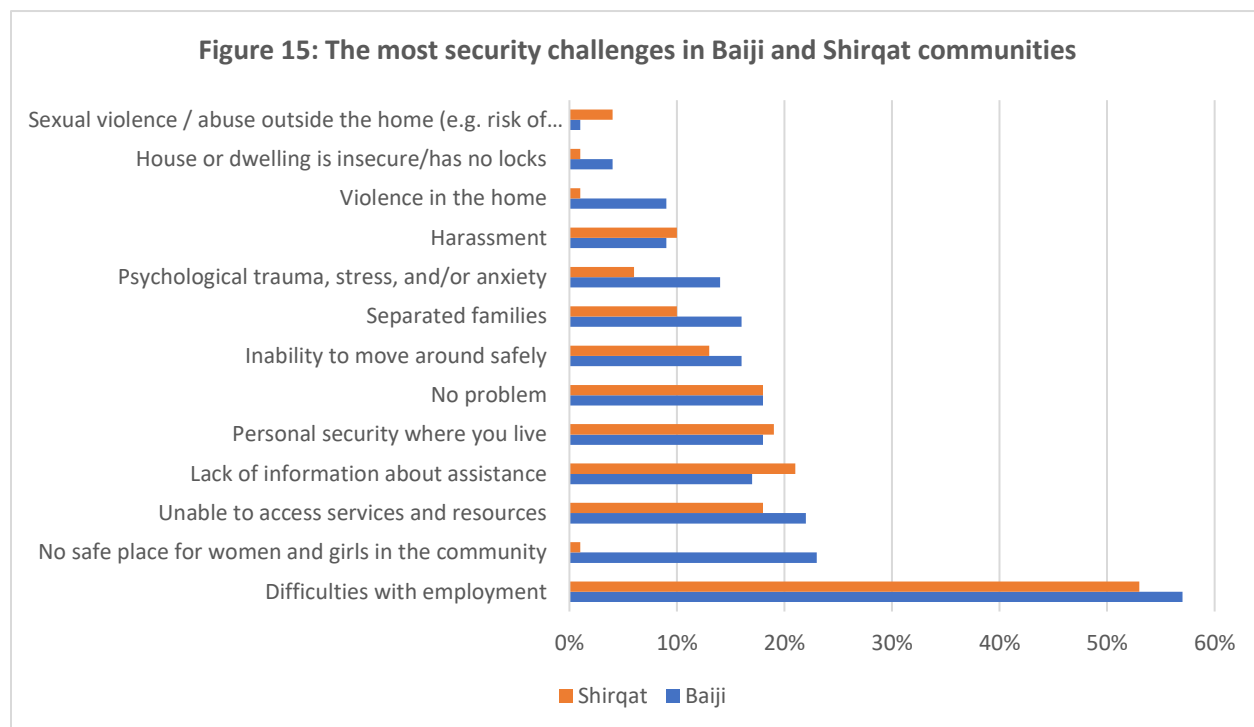
Figure 14: Access to education for boys and girls in Baiji and Shirqat districts



H. Security situation in the community

In this section, a group of questions have been asked to the respondents to understand the security situation at Baiji and Shirqat communities and the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the security situation of these communities.

More than half of the respondents (57%) in Baiji and (53%) in Shirqat have explained that the most common security challenge faced by the population is difficulties with employment. Figure 15 shows all the security challenges that respondents mentioned.



Only 25% of the respondents in Baiji and Shirqat have declared that there is an increase in security concerns facing women and girls recently, while about (64%) in Baiji and 62% in Shirqat have indicated that they usually ask for help from the police in case there were any violence cases.

Table (8):

#	Asking for help from:	Baiji	Shirqat
1	Police	64%	62%
2	Community leader	23%	58%
3	Family member	45%	31%
4	Friend	13%	16%
5	NGO	4%	5%
6	Do not Know	4%	1%
7	Tribe leader or Mukhtar	1%	3%

As for the most common strategies used by respondents to reduce or address protection risks, 51% of the respondents in Baiji stated that they used to seek support from family, friends or neighbourhood, while 49% of the respondents in Shirqat declared that they used to seek support from the community leader.

When asked the respondents were if they have noticed any change in any of the protection issues since the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic, they have responded as the following table:

Table (9): Number of protection issues since the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic:

#	Number of protection issues since the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic	Baiji	Shirqat
1	Very significant increase	18%	32%
2	Increase	32%	38%
3	Neither increase nor decrease	26%	31%
4	Decrease	9%	0%
5	very significant decrease	6%	3%
6	Do not know	8%	3%

The respondents have explained that they noticed an increase in the number of the protection issues due to the financial loss of livelihood or income and the stress from confinement.

I.NGOs delivering humanitarian assistance (protection mainstreaming)

In this section, a series of questions have been asked to the respondents to understand the engagement level with NGOs that are delivering humanitarian assistance.

27% of the respondents in Baiji and Shirqat indicated that they have been consulted by an NGO to gather information about their needs. While 59% of respondents mentioned that they know how to access humanitarian assistance. 37% know how to access assistance but assistance is not available and 23% households have a member who has received assistance in the past).

Moreover, there were different opinions among the respondents about receiving humanitarian assistance. 49% of respondents do believe that the most vulnerable are receiving assistance, while 39% of the respondents explained that the most vulnerable are not receiving assistance. 12% do not know who is receiving assistance.

As for the best way to communicate about the program including distributions and disbursements, 64% in Baiji and 52% in Shirqat have stated that the communication through chief/local authorities is the best to communicate.

Figure 16 show the other selected ways:

Figure 16: Best ways to communicate about program including distributions and disbursements

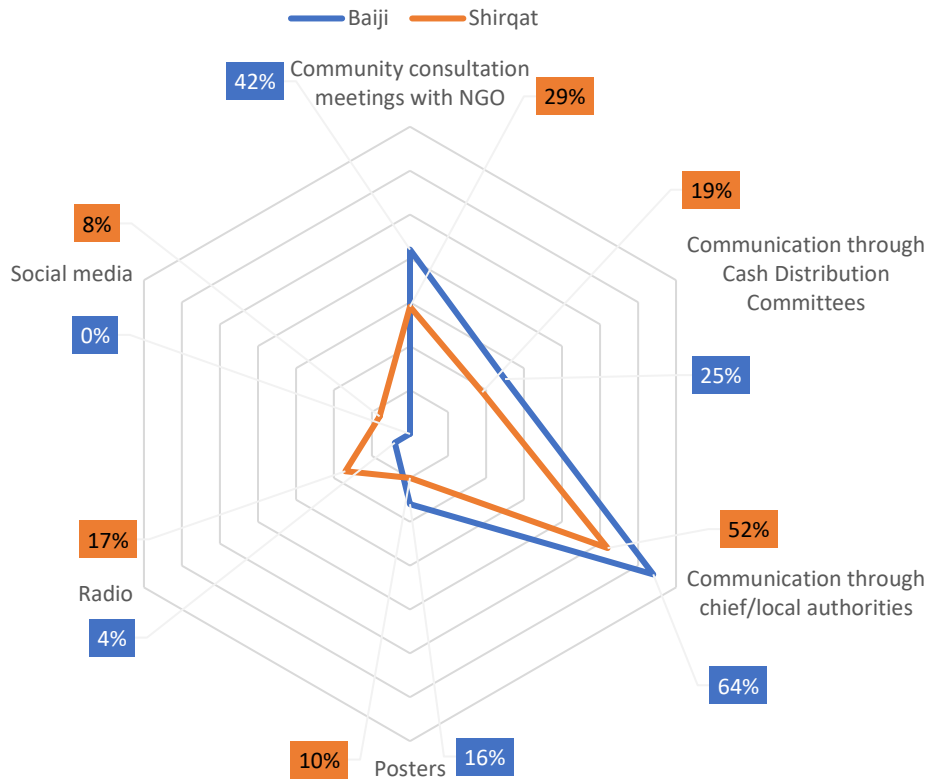
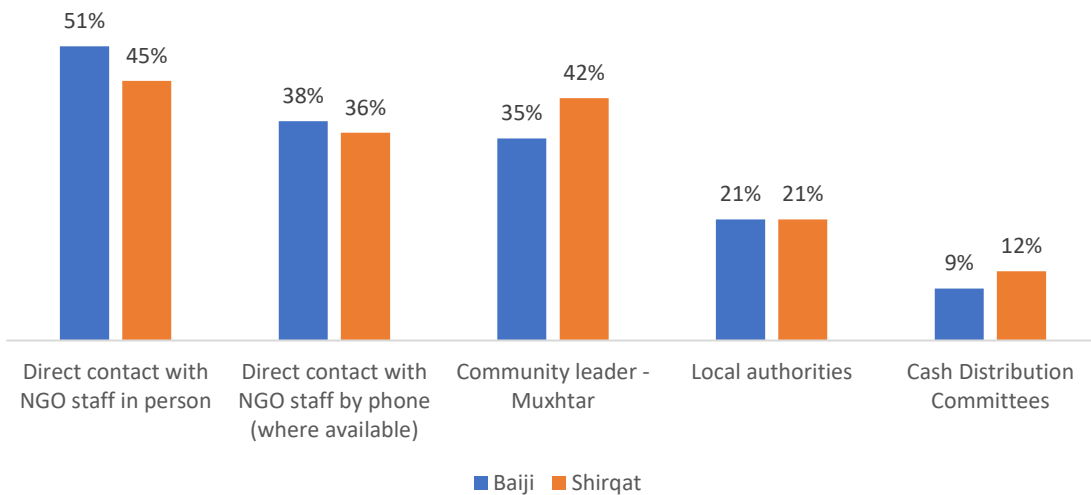


Figure 17: The best way to submit feedback, concerns or complaints according to respondents



II.FGD & KII FINDINGS:

After close cooperation between DCA and Mercy hands, DCA's Protection Officer and Global AME advisor and Mercy hands program unit designed the tool and materials for the FGDs and KII in Baiji and Al Shirqat districts, to conduct the sessions with community representatives, business owner, work and social affairs office.

Those sessions took place on 9 Sep 2020 for one day and conducted in the filed by Mercy hands filed staff, the targets and the overall goals of these sessions are to explore the needs and specify how the NGO can respond and cover the needs. As an overall result of the FGDs and KII sessions, and as all the community representatives stated, that vocational training is a requirement in Salah al-din governorate. further information and facts are listed in the below table.

Biaji	Al Shirqat
Accessing services	
<p>Several questions asked in the KII's to explore and have more knowledge about the communities and most of the interviewed respondents stated that the provided services are PSS services, cash support, education, and they can access the services because its near to their accommodation area. No vocational training activities are available in this district. Females are facing social barriers to access humanitarian services and the services are provided unequally.</p>	<p>Sessions conducted in Shirqat district to provided an overview of the needs and responses provided. The provided services are education, cash support and health services. Half of the KII's stated that they can access the services because they have relations with the Mukhtar and most of the people who cannot access the services are because of social barriers. Services are not provided equally and the most excluded families are the poor.</p>
Safety and dignity	
<p>Two questions were asked to specify the most common challenges and how the process be improved. Environmental reasons are the most common barriers in the district including hot and cold conditions. The distributions cause crowds which is also a barrier. The service site should be accessible by all beneficiaries and it should include all the safety and security standards including COVID-19 compliance.</p>	<p>In Shirqat district no real threats are faced in accessing the humanitarian services according to the KII's. They recommend that NGOs should cooperate more with Mukhtar and the security forces during the distribution to ensure it is safe..</p>
Participation and responsibility	
<p>Interviewed KII stated that they are participating in decision making because they are in a position that allows them to participate, and it should be a community network that represents the community so all people can provide inputs.</p>	<p>Mukhtar is included in the decisions making, while the others are not. Therefore Mercy Hands should establish a community committee that can help the Ngo and launch a volunteering program.</p>

PSS

Several questions asked to have an overview of the community and see how the NGO can respond and provide services.

A huge sample of children are subjected to disturbing behavior and need to have PSS support and entertainment activities. Adolescents are facing difficulties in health care. Male and female youth have challenges in finding jobs to secure their families essential needs and parents need to be educated on GBV.

In Al Shirqat district children are not attending school, teenagers are in need for awareness sessions, elderly are in need for health care and male and females over the age of 18 are in need income generating activities. Children are also facing disturbing behavior due to COVID 19 restriction.

Common threats

The KII's stated that the largest threats are the distances and the site of services. Many people are not able to afford the transportation cost. Other gendered barriers related to being female mean that they can't access the services due to social barriers. The recommended solutions are conducting a protection and awareness program in the district.

Two questions asked during the sessions with the KII to specify the challenges during accessing the services, and the KII stated that some threats are related to gender and harassments, solutions are like delivering the services at beneficiaries' houses, lunch awareness-raising and GBV program.

Al Shirqat business owners

Introduction and convenience:

Two questions asked to the business owners to have more information and acknowledge about the purchasing power of the families in this district, people are paying most of their money on securing food and to meet their most essential needs.

Works section:

Most of the interviewed business owners stated that they are casual labour or a daily worker, and they work in several career aluminium carpentries, bakery, painting and in a plastic factory, and working hours last for 8 to 10 hours per day, hiring workers are preferred if they have the required skills and requirements, and they spend money on buying raw items to produce the product, the material and items cost are different from one career to another one, the cost of the raw materials should go down so the owners can earn more money and try to fix the product price.

Owners are recommending to have vocational training centres in Shirqat districts and they prefer to hire workers with skills so they can speed the work process and save efforts.

Ministry of labour and social affairs

Introduction and convenience:

As the interviewed KII stated that stakeholders are having private interests over the public interests, and the situation does not change pre the covid19 and it becomes worse, and this office stopped the work activities after the war with ISIL, the ministry tries to pay severances for the employees and the civilians due to the war and covid19.

Biggest markets are the food market, nothing changed in these markets but it becomes bigger.

Cosmic luxuries and constructions are in the growth stage in Salah al-din district and it became wider, and no vocational training in this district and those apprenticeships are not effective in securing youth employment because it's not supported by the government.

5. KEY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

I. Summary of key findings and Recommendations

- Access to cash/voucher assistant:
It has been noticed that there is a lack of cash/voucher programme in Shirqat district and the limited number of active NGO in the area. based on this it is strongly recommended to increase the level of humanitarian intervention in this area and conduct an extensive survey in this matter.
- Safe access to markets:
The findings showed that majority of the respondents have clearly stated that access to the market is safe including the travelling to and from the market .
- Social relations:

About 80% of the respondents have agreed (26% highly agreed) on that the man in the household is responsible to control the economy of the household and up to half of the respondents declared that the men in the household are the only members who can decide who to spend the money and they have agreed on the fact the men in the household has the final word in decision making, while only 16% stated that the women have the freedom to spend the money, This means more or less than the women in this community are less involved in decision making concerning spending money and It is highly recommended to implement raising awareness about women's rights and their role in society, Raising Awareness about women's rights and their role in society

- Engagement in household tasks:

Only 38% of the respondents have agreed that the man should have equal responsibility for household tasks that indicate that the community need more intervention in regards to gender equality, women's rights and roles.

The respondents have agreed that the effective way to reduce the potential tension in the community is to conduct community training on GBV prevention and response.

While there were varied responses on the most effective way to reduce the potential tension at the household level, Up to half of the respondents in Baiji district have indicated that the household consultation on who should be targeted in the household is the most way to ease any potential tension, while 44% of Shirqat respondents refer to the awareness-raising with men and boys on GBV at HH level including empowerment and decision making powers of women is the best way to reduce the tension in the household.

- Livelihoods:

In terms of livelihood income, it has been noticed that the majority of the respondents rely on casual labour, employment and other business such as carpenter, blacksmith...etc. While only 6% have an additional income source which is humanitarian support (cash or in-kind).

- Child protection:

The early marriage and child labour were the most common child protection issues according to the respondents in Baiji and Shirqat this means that those communities require an intervention to reduce these issues and ensuring child protection as well as for supporting women empowerment initiatives

- The security situation in the community:

The most security challenge faced by the population is the difficulties with employment, and they have explained that due to the coronavirus pandemic and that has caused an increase in the number of protection issues in these communities

- NGOs delivering humanitarian assistance (protection mainstreaming):

It has been noticed that 27% of the respondents have been consulted by an NGO to gather information about their needs.

Also, up to half of the respondents declared that the best ways to communicate about the program including distributions and disbursements are through communication through chief/local authorities and Community consultation meetings with NGO.

6. ANNEXES:

- DCA GBV, Gender and Protection Analysis household survey Kobo link:
<https://ee.humanitarianresponse.info/x/7aMMicyt>



GBV .KII.docx