



**MERCY HANDS**  
FOR HUMANITARIAN AID  
جمعية ايادي الرحمة الانسانية

## **Supporting Livelihood Activities for Vulnerable Host Communities, IDPs, Returnees and Refugees in the Sinjar District of Iraq**

**Prepared by:  
Mustafa Ziad & Megan Vanselow  
2021**

# Contents

Page 3 ..... Introduction  
Page 4 ..... Area of Residence  
Page 4 ..... Residential status  
Page 5 ..... Age and Gender  
Page 5 ..... Employment Status  
Page 6..... Main Needs and Gaps  
Page 7 ..... Resettling in Sinjar district  
Page 7 ..... Barriers to attending trainings  
Page 7 ..... Conclusion

# Introduction

Mercy Hands has grown from a small local NGO to a nationwide organization that has helped millions of people since its establishment in 2004. We serve people in need, regardless of their religion, gender, ethnicity or political affiliation.

This assessment was conducted by 11 of our employees currently working on our TAGHIR project in Sinjar, a \$1.3MUSD project which Mercy Hands is currently implementing in partnership with Mercy Corps. The project seeks to bring psychosocial support, social cohesion initiatives and livelihood restoration to affected communities in the region.

The assessment was conducted at random, over a period of five days. 478 people participated and provided the answers within. The following districts were selected, in order to cover both the inner and outer regions of the Sinjar district:

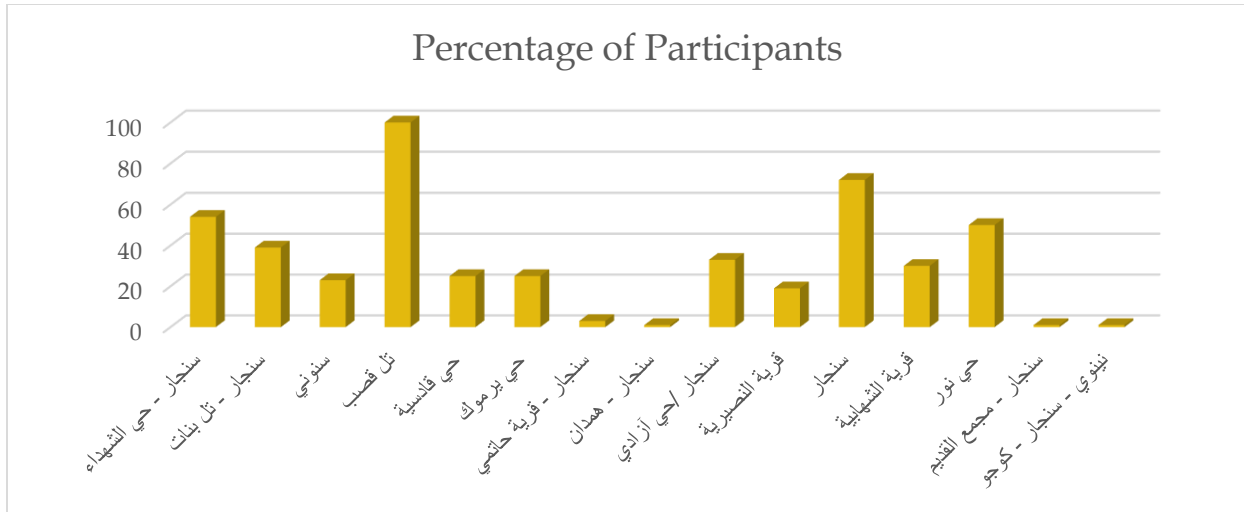
Sinuny, Azadi, Sinjar Center, Tal Banat, Tal Qasab, Qadsia, Yarmok, Hai Al-Shuhada`a, Shahaby, Nasirya, Hay Al-Nour, Taaky



*Sinjar District Neighborhoods*

## Area of Residence

Data was collected from various areas in the Sinjar District. Most respondents were from Tal Qasab (تل قصب) - nearly 100 people – and Hai Al Shuhada’a (حي الشهداء) - nearly 54 people – followed by Hai Al-Nour.

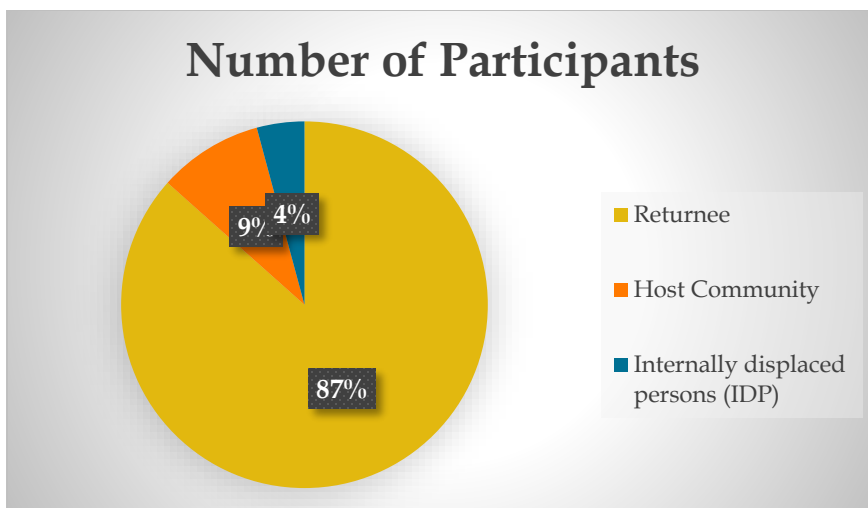


Graph 1: Number of Participants from each area

## Residential status

The residential status of the participants in this assessment was as follows:

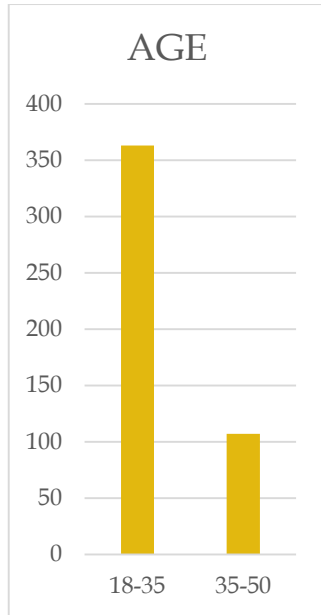
- a- Returnees 87%
- b- Host Community 9%
- c- Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) 4%



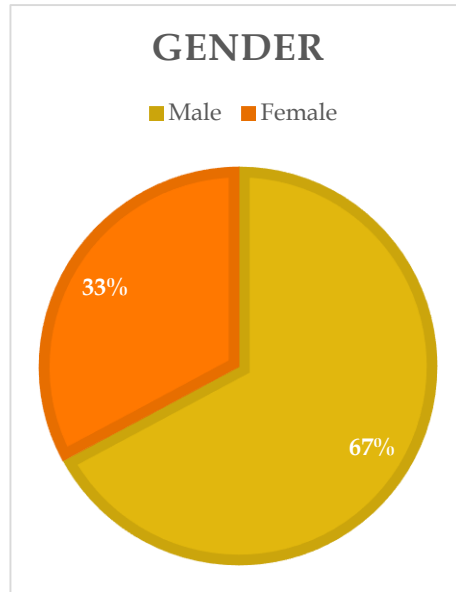
Graph 3: residential status

## Age and Gender

Most of the participants in the assessment were youth, with a one third females and two thirds males.



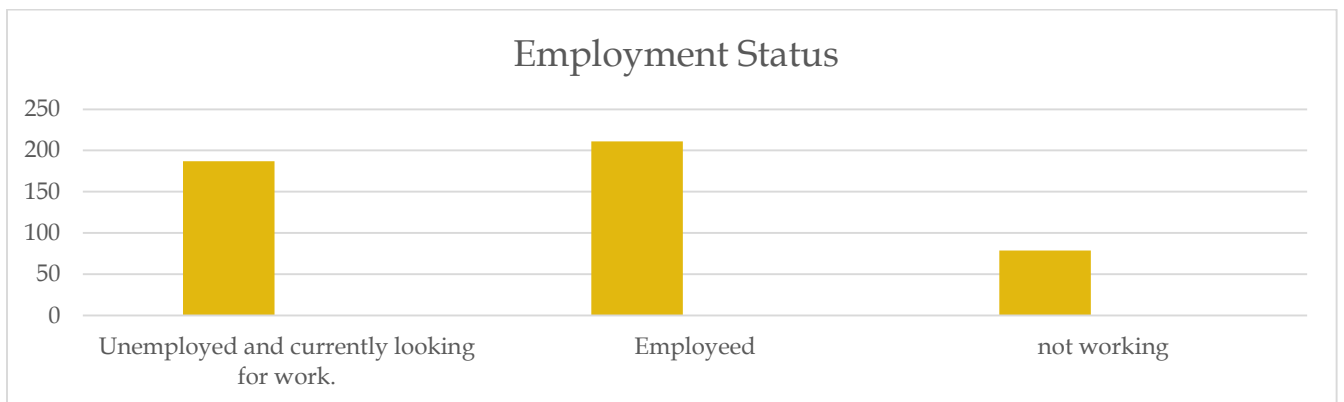
Graph 4: Age



Graph 5: Gender

## Employment Status

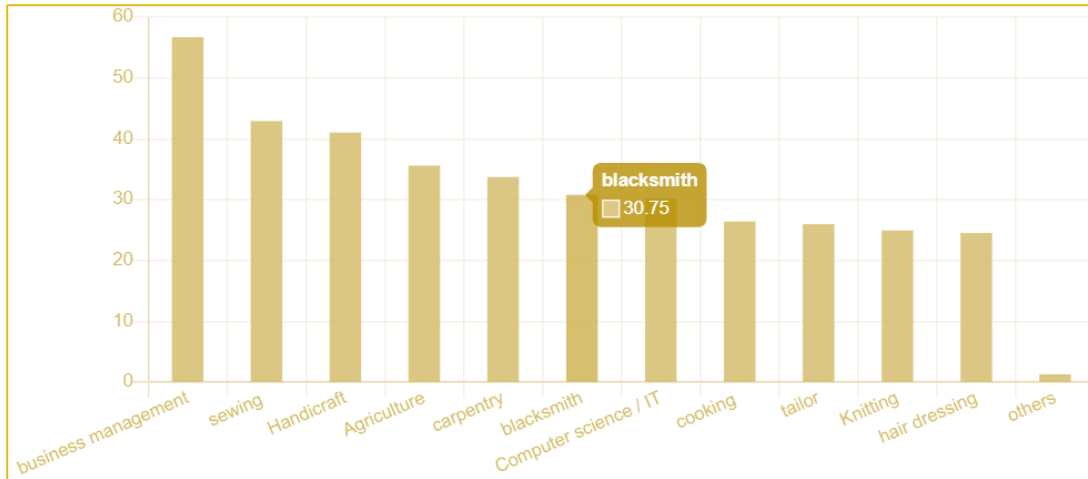
Out of the 478 participants, 211 of them were employed, however mostly in temporary positions. 187 claimed they were looking for a job and 79 are not working due to disabilities, health reasons, or are retired. Income is predominantly from employment, with few people receiving income from farming. Principal skills in Sinjar are Agricultural and Handicraft.



Graph 6: Employment Status

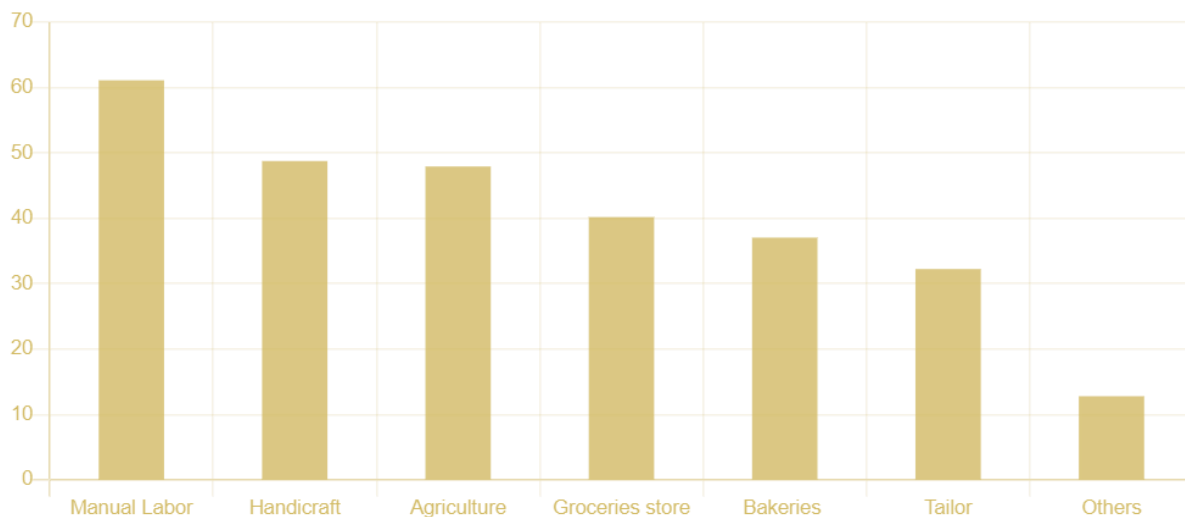
## Needs and Gaps

Identified training needs were mainly Business Management, Sewing, Agriculture, and Handicraft, followed by manual labor skills and computer/IT skills.



Graph 7: Training Needs

The main gap in skills/labor available in the area were Manual Labor, Handicraft and Agriculture.



Graph 8: Main gaps in skills/labor

63 of the 478 participants have already received some assistance from the other NGOs (IRC, IOM, WHH), such as cash support, business support, and food supplements.

## Resettling in Sinjar

The most helpful assistance to facilitate resettlement in Sinjar was reconstruction of private and public infrastructure, improved security, and increased employment opportunities.

## Accessing Trainings

Barriers to access trainings were stated to be security issues, community views (especially with regards to women), and poor transportation. However, most participants claimed they would NOT have issues accessing training and were very keen to participate in such initiatives.

## Conclusion

As a result of the assessment in Sinjar District, it seems most appropriate to implement activities in Tal Qasab, Sinjar Center, and Hai Al-Shuhada, due to easy access, slightly better security situation, mix of residential status, a great number of returnees, and a great need to develop professional skills and aid in resettlement.

The training topics will be selected as per the needs identified and displayed in Graph 7 above.

The remaining activities are based on the results of the assessment, in terms of support for the private sector (business grants).



Magdalena Penninger  
Regional Coordinator – North Iraq



مختبر مہربانی ہاں ہاں  
Mercy Hands  
For Humanitarian Aid  
(NGO)