



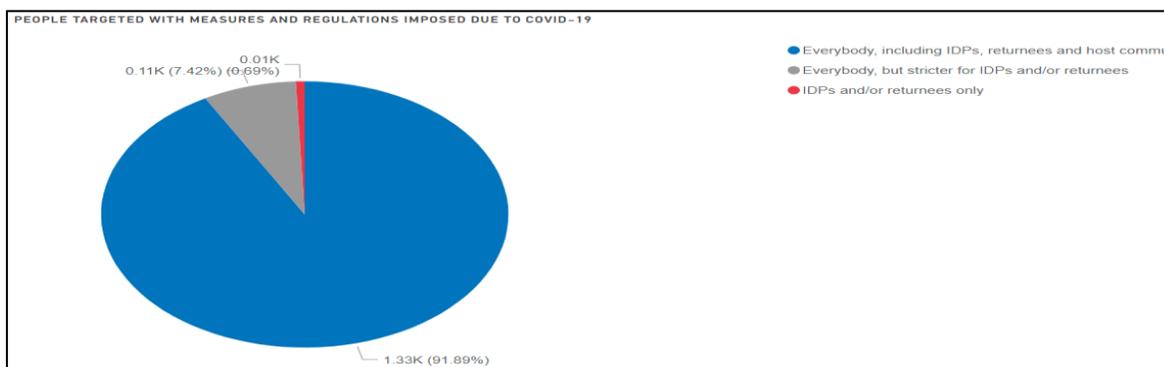
Protection Monitoring in Response to the COVID-19 Outbreak in Iraq

Summary of key findings - June 2020

Due to COVID-19 movement restrictions, the National Protection Cluster (NPC) launched a remote protection monitoring exercise through **Key Informants (KIs) interviews** to **measure the protection impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on conflict-affected and displaced communities** in Iraq. The second round of data collection took place on **11-21 May 2020** with **12 participating organizations** interviewing **1442 KIs** in **110 sub-districts** in IDP camps, informal sites and out-of-camps/return areas.¹

1. Impacts on communities of Covid-19 measures and regulations

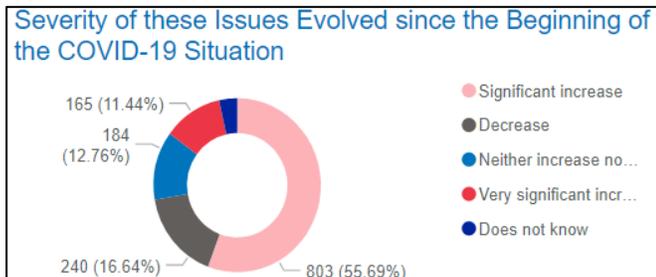
- **Restrictions on movements between/within governorates, on exit/entry/admission in camps remain the main impact** of COVID-19 measures and regulations. However, for camps, the proportion of KIs reporting a **ban on entry into or exit from camps** (with or without exceptions for health and protection measures) decreased from 94% to 80% between the 1st and 2nd round of data collection.
- The **proportion of KIs in out-of-camp locations who report restrictions on access to health facilities decreased from 9% to 2%**. In addition, **36% of KIs in out-of-camp locations report restrictions on access to markets, compared to 10% of KIs in camps**.
- **51% of KIs report that the material conditions for either mandatory quarantine or recommended self-distancing at home are inadequate** including 53% in out-of-camp locations and 45% in camps - compared to 45% who report that conditions are adequate. 28% of KIs in camps report that imposed public health measures include mandatory isolation or quarantine at facilities established by the authorities, compared to 20% for out-of-camp locations.
- In camps, the most commonly reported **consequences for breaching the regulations** include verbal warnings (68%), arrest and detention (32%) and fines (18%). These proportions are similar among **KIs in out-of-camp locations for verbal warnings (68%) and arrest and detention (28%)**, but are much higher for fines (50%).
- The proportion of KIs in camps who report that the **measures and regulations are applied either more strictly or only to IDPs compared to the general population decreased from 24% to 14%**. However, this **proportion is still higher in camps compared to out-of-camp locations** where only 6% of KIs reported the same issue.
- The proportion of KIs who reported that the **measures and regulations impacted more heavily on specific social groups decreased from 26% to 21%**. The proportion of KIs reporting this issue is 23% in out-of-camp locations compared to 14% in camps. Among the KIs who reported that some social groups were more heavily impacted, **84% of KIs in camps cited daily workers being more impacted compared to 67% for KIs out-of-camps**.



¹ Although all governorates are covered, the number of sub-districts decreased from 133 to 100 between the 1st and 2nd round of data collection. In addition, the number of KIs remains uneven among governorates, with 620 KIs in Ninewa, 279 in Dohuk, 104 in Erbil, 101 in Sulaymaniah, 80 in Kirkuk, 61 in Salah Al-Din, 28 in Anbar, and 12 in Diyla. The balance of KIs across location types remains balanced with 70% of KIs in out-of-camp/return areas, 25% in camps and 5% in informal settlements. The proportion of female KIs increased from 19% to 25% between the 1st and 2nd round of data collection. The proportion of customary leaders (mukhtars) reduced from 39% to 20%, while the proportion of other IDPs and returnees among KIs increased from 11% to 23% and the proportion of private sector workers and professionals increased from 8% to 18%.

2. Protection issues during COVID-19 outbreak

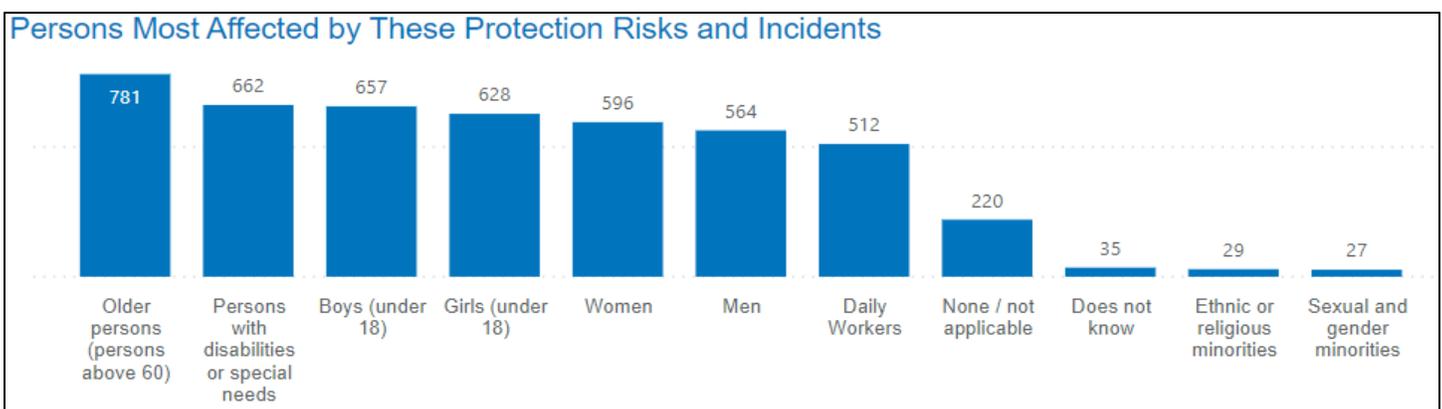
- **79% of KI in camps and 63% of KIs in out-of-camp locations reported that the severity of protection issues affecting communities in general either significantly or very significantly increased** since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Restrictions on freedom of movement is reported as the main protection issue affecting communities by 71% of KIs in out-of-camp locations and 63% of KIs in camps. **Trauma, stress and anxiety is the second main protection issue**, reported by 61% of KIs in camps compared to 36% of KIs in out-of-camp locations. **Lack of civil documentation ranks as the third main protection concern**, cited by 47% of KIs in camps and 24% of KIs in out-of-camp locations. Lack of access to health care and separation from family members ranked as the fourth and fifth most important issues, cited by respectively 26% and 25% of KIs in camps and 20% and 16% of KIs in out-of-camp locations.



- **74% of KIs in camps and 60% of KIs in out-of-camp locations reported that the severity of protection issues affecting women and girls either significantly or very significantly increased since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.** Trauma, stress and anxiety is the main protection issue, reported by 68% of KIs in both camps and out-of-camp locations. The lack of specialized services for women ranked second, reported by 53% of KIs in camps and 43% of KIs in out-of-camps locations. The lack of safe space and privacy ranked third, reported by 34% of KIs in camps and 37% of KIs in out-of-camps locations. Violence and abuse ranked fourth, reported by 25% of KIs in camps and 22% of KIs in out-of-camps locations.

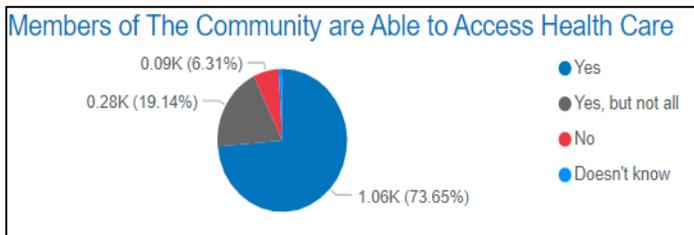
- **81% of KIs in camps and 71% of KIs in out-of-camp locations reported that the severity of protection issues affecting children either significantly or very significantly increased.** Lack of access to education is the main protection issue, reported by 93% of KIs in camps and 85% of KIs in out-of-camp locations. Trauma, stress and anxiety ranked second, reported by 58% of KIs in both camps and out-of-camp locations. Child labor ranked third, reported by 25% of KIs in camps and 21% of KIs in out-of-camp locations. Violence, abuse and neglect within the household ranked fourth, reported by 19% of KIs in both camps and out-of-camp locations.

- The proportion of KIs who reported **incidents of coercion, threats or violence by security actors/authorities to enforce measures and regulations slightly decreased from 13% to 9%**, while the proportion of KIs reporting the **same incidents perpetrated by family/household members remained the same at 10%**. Of particular concern, **the social groups being reported as the most affected by these incidents include older persons** (cited by 54% of KIs), **persons with disabilities** (cited by 46% of KIs) as well as **boys and girls under 18** (cited by 45% of KIs).



3. Basic needs and access to services

- Overall, **KIs in out-of-camp locations report the use of coping mechanisms at a comparatively higher rate than KIs in camps.** The main coping mechanism is to **reduce or change food consumption**, reported by 64% of KIs in camps and 77% of KIs in out-of-camp locations. The second main coping mechanism is **spending savings**, reported by 65% of KIs in camps and 69% of KIs in out-of-camp locations. The third main coping mechanism is **reducing the purchase of non-food items**, reported by 53% of KIs in camps and 70% of KIs in out-of-camp locations. The fourth main coping mechanism **going into debt**, reported by 55% of KIs in camps and 63% of KIs in out-of-camp locations.
- Coping mechanisms directly related to protection issues and risks – **continuing to work despite government restrictions, making children work to generate an income and begging** – were also reported at a comparatively higher rate by KIs in out-of-camp locations compared to KIs in camps, with respectively 12%, 10% and 5% for KIs in out-of-camp locations compared to 4%, 12% and 2% for KIs in camps.



- Overall, the proportion of KIs who reported that **none or not all of their community members have access to health care decreased from 37% to 27%.** For KIs in **IDP camps only, this proportion decreased from 39% to 20%.**

- The main **barriers to access health care** include the **lack of medical facilities, personnel or equipment**, reported by 15% of KIs in camps and 20% of KIs in out-of-camp locations. The second most important barrier is

distance and lack of transportation, reported by only 7% of KIs in camps but 15% of KIs in out-of-camp locations. The third main barrier is the **cost of medical care**, reported by 13% of KIs in both camps and out-of-camp locations. The fourth main barrier is the **lack of information about medical facilities**, reported by 14% of KIs in out-of-camp locations compared to only 3% of IDPs in camps.

- Overall, **94% of KIs report that all or most people have access to sufficient and accurate information about COVID-19.** In camps, 100% of KIs reported that people have access to sufficient and accurate information; whereas in out-of-camp locations only 91% of KIs reported the same.

