

Inter-Agency Initial Humanitarian Assessment Shabwah Governorate

Ar Rawdah, Ataq, Habban, Mayfa'a and Rudum Districts

21 – 26 September 2014

Final report

26 October 2014



Background and using the report

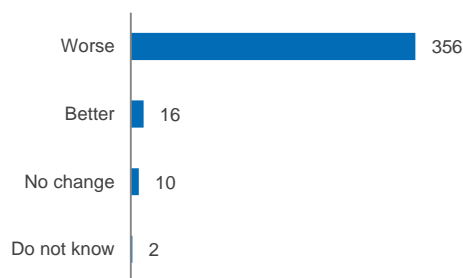
The Aden Area Humanitarian Coordination Team (AHCT) organized a multi-sector rapid assessment to Shabwah Governorate in the last week of September 2014. The purpose of the assessment was to establish priorities in areas that had been affected by conflict during the Government campaign against Al Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) in April and May 2014. Estimates during that conflict projected that up to 24,500 people had been displaced, with most having reportedly returned by the end of May. An earlier version of this report was circulated to participants on 12 October for comments and endorsement. This report is also accompanied by an Excel data file that should allow partners to run their own analysis with ease.

Partners have struggled to establish programmes in Shabwah due to insecurity. The results of this assessment provide community-level information on major needs and priorities, and should help partners to develop project proposals in the coming months. A separate annex on methodology explains how the assessment was organized, using an adapted multi-sector initial rapid assessment (MIRA) approach.

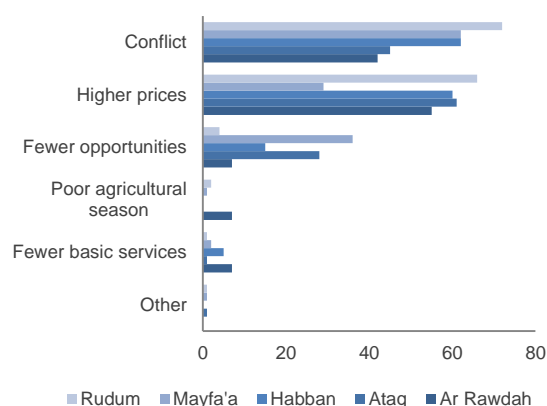
Profile of humanitarian needs in assessed Districts

In all charts, figures refer to number of responses unless otherwise indicated.

Life now versus one year ago



Main causes of deteriorated living conditions

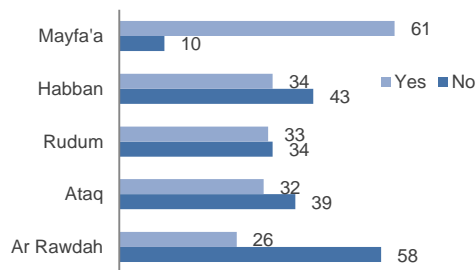
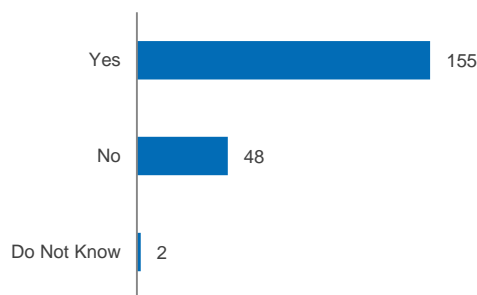
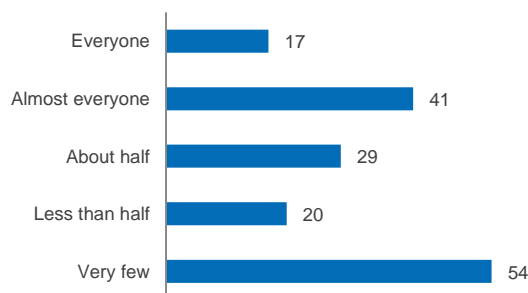
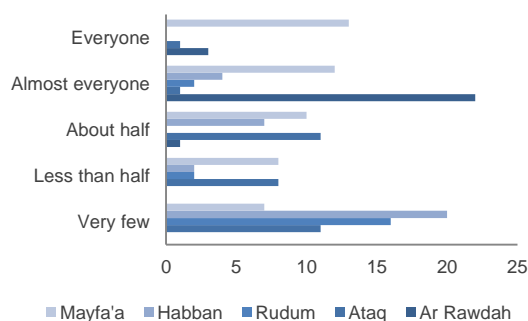


Conflict and rising prices intensify needs

Humanitarian needs in Shabwah have intensified in the last year, primarily as a result of the recent conflict (April – May 2014) and rising prices of fuel and other commodities. An overwhelming majority (92 per cent) of respondents agree that life is worse than it was one year ago, and this conclusion does not vary significantly across Districts or respondent category.

Respondents mainly attribute deteriorating conditions to conflict and rising prices of fuel and other basic commodities. In Rudum, Mayfa'a and Habban Districts, conflict was the most frequently identified source, while respondents in Ataq and Ar Rawdah are more likely to cite rising prices.

These results are significant because they help to establish that needs in conflict-affected Districts are a worthwhile focus for humanitarian programmes. Rapid assessments elsewhere in Yemen frequently identify tangible needs, but struggle to conclude whether these needs are due to “crisis” or chronic under-development. Based on this lesson, the Aden AHCT added general questions to the assessment asking respondents to characterize their lives today versus one year ago, and to identify drivers of any changes. Although an imperfect measure, the results provide a strong justification that needs in conflict-affected Districts are not strictly a “development problem”. In fact, respondents rank traditional development issues – fewer opportunities, weak agriculture, etc. – substantially behind generally recognized as humanitarian drivers: conflict and rising prices.

Displacement during conflict**Previous displacement before recent conflict****Share of IDPs who have returned (all Districts)****Share of IDPs who have returned by District****Displacement**

Across all Districts, half of respondents (50 per cent) indicate that their communities were displaced by the recent conflict. This answer varies widely by District, from 31 per cent in Ar Rawdah to 86 per cent in Mayfa'a. In the other three Districts, respondents are almost split on whether displacement occurred from these areas. This indicates that displacement was widespread from Mayfa'a and more limited from other Districts. Respondents universally identify conflict as the reason people fled their homes.

About 76 per cent of respondents indicate that displaced communities had experienced displacement before, which may indicate weaker coping mechanisms among IDP or returnee families. In all Districts, respondents broadly agree (69 per cent) that entire families left, with a substantial minority (24 per cent) indicating that some – but not all – adult men stayed behind. As a result, most families were likely accompanied by an adult male, which may have helped mitigate some protection risks during displacement.

Return

By the end of May, the Deputy Governor of Shabwah asserted that over 80 per cent of internally displaced persons (IDPs) had returned. However, respondents indicate that some displacement continues. While one third of respondents agree that everyone or almost everyone has returned, another third assert that very few people have returned. This second group is primarily concentrated in Habban and Ataq Districts, which original data from the IDP Executive Unit indicate were frequent IDP destinations. People in these locations may have better knowledge of IDPs who continue to live within host communities.

In Mayfa'a – which was the largest source of IDPs – half of respondents agree that everyone or almost everyone has returned. Although a vast majority (96 per cent) of respondents in Ar Rawdah claim that all or nearly all IDPs have returned, about 70 per cent of respondents there also claimed that no displacement had occurred from the District. Partners focusing on support for returnees may wish to focus initial programmes on Mayfa'a.

Programme priorities: General profile of needs

Based on assessment results regarding communities' overall perception of their lives and experiences with displacement and return, humanitarian partners may wish to:

- Develop project proposals for conflict-affected Districts, using evidence of deteriorating living conditions

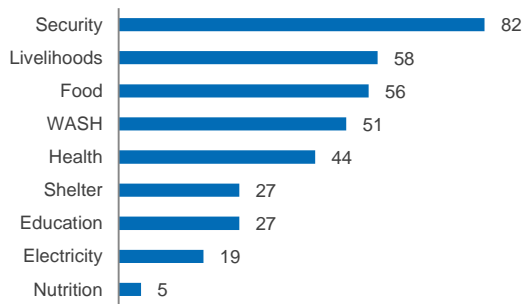
due to conflict and rising prices as justification for humanitarian (versus development) funding

- Target Mayfa'a District for programmes supporting returnees
- Investigate reports of continuing displacement in Ataq and Habban to determine need for programmes supporting IDPs and host communities

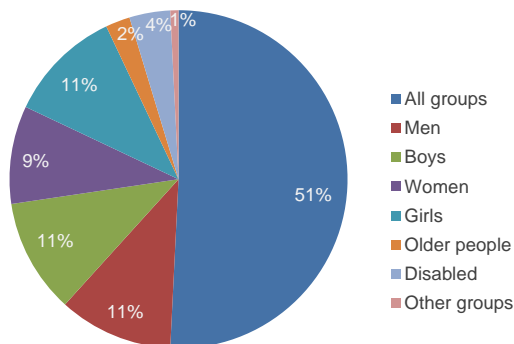
Community and programme priorities

Security, food, livelihoods, health and education

First priority problem (all Districts)



Groups most affected by insecurity



First priority: Security

After identifying serious problems in their communities, respondents were asked to rank their three most urgent problems and identify who suffered most from these problems. These results give a strong sense of what types of humanitarian programmes will be most appreciated in affected communities.

When all responses were tallied, security was most often identified as the top priority. Half of respondents feel that insecurity affects all groups equally; 22 per cent feel men and boys are most affected; and 20 per cent feel women and girls suffer most. Although protection and conflict-resolution programmes could potentially address some consequences of insecurity, communities did not identify these sorts of programmes as their top priorities (details below).

First priority: Geographic differences

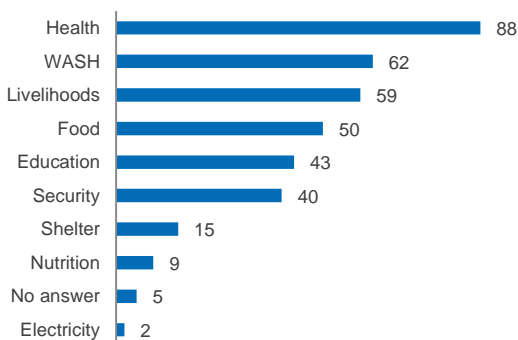
Although security emerged as the most frequently identified area-wide priority, it rarely did so within individual Districts. Humanitarian partners could therefore have a significant impact by addressing District-specific priorities beyond the security issue.

Top priority by District

Ar Rawdah	Security
Ataq	Livelihoods
Habban	Shelter
Mayfa'a	WASH
Rudum	Food

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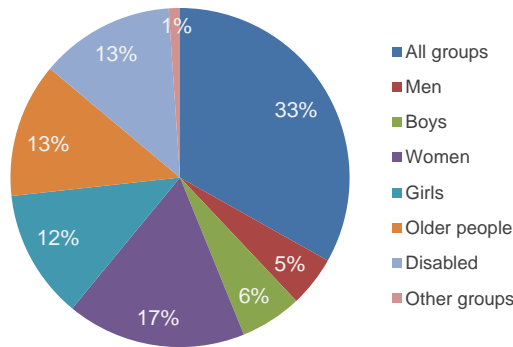
Second priority problem (all Districts)



Second priority: Health

Respondents most frequently identified health as their second priority. About one third of respondents believe this problem affects all groups equally, and nearly 30 per cent feel that women and girls suffer most. Few people identified men (5 per cent) and boys (6 per cent) as most affected. These results indicate that general health programmes – with a specific focus on boosting access for women, girls, the disabled and the elderly – would be appropriate in conflict-affected areas.

Groups most affected by health problem



Second priority: Geographic differences

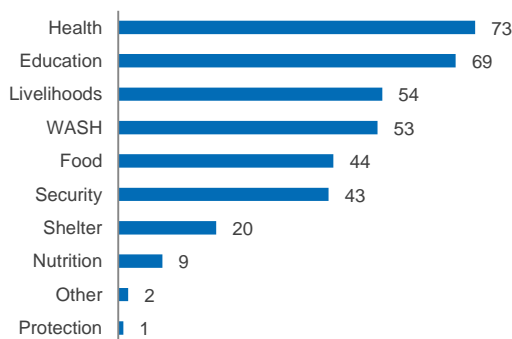
As for the top priority, results for people’s second priority varied considerably by District. Partners who wish to plan programmes in only one District may wish to refer to these results when developing proposals.

Second priority by District

Ar Rawdah	Health
Ataq	WASH
Habban	Livelihoods
Mayfa’a	Health
Rudum	WASH

2

Third-priority problem (all Districts)

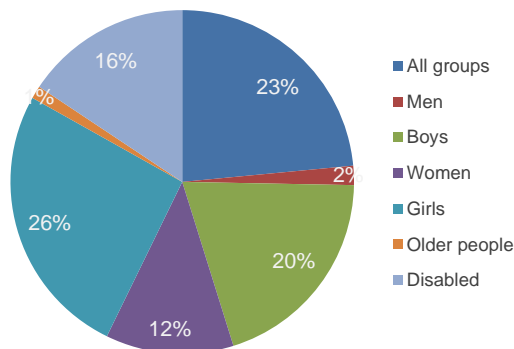


Third priority: Education

Aggregate responses to what people considered their third priority initially also indicate health. Because health also occupies second place, this report takes the next most frequent answer: education. In identifying the most affected groups, the largest bloc of respondents (26 per cent) agree that girls suffer most from lack of access to education.

In discussions with assessors, respondents also indicated that poor children are least likely to attend school, perhaps explaining why a slightly less numerous group (20 per cent) identified boys as the most affected. Disabled children were also identified by a significant (16 per cent) number of respondents.

Groups most affected by education problem



Third priority: Geographic differences

As for the first and second priorities, results for people’s third priority varied considerably by District. Partners who wish to plan programmes in only one District may wish to refer to these results when developing proposals.

Third priority by District

Ar Rawdah	Education
Ataq	Health
Habban	Security
Mayfa’a	Education
Rudum	Health

3

Programme priorities: Reviewing community priorities

Determining top community priorities across all areas introduces challenges for analysis. This report has tried to address these challenges by presenting the top three area-wide priorities, as well as offering District-specific results.

Partners may find District-specific results more useful when considering what types of programmes to develop. The list below lists the top three priorities in each District, starting from the highest. Partners can obtain more details on these issues in these Districts in the sections below, or by running their own analyses in the data file associated with this report.

- **Ar Rawdah:** Security, health, education
- **Ataq:** Livelihoods, WASH, health

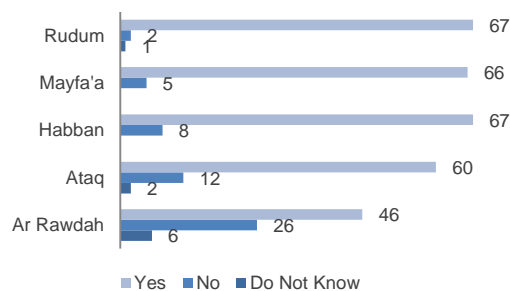
- **Habban:** Shelter, livelihoods, security
- **Mayfa'a:** WASH, health, education
- **Rudum:** Food, WASH, health

Other recommendations:

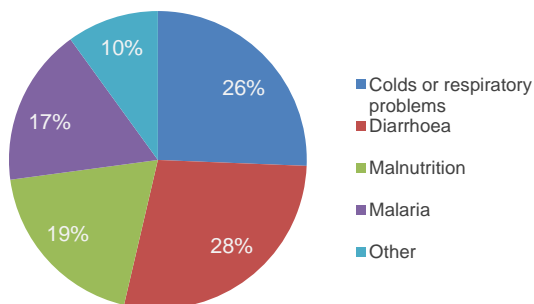
- Ensure that health programmes have strong components focusing on women's health, as well as services for disabled and elderly people.
- Ensure that education programmes especially promote female enrolment, enrolment of poor children and learning opportunities for disabled children.

Sector analysis and programme priorities

Health: Serious problem by District



Health: Main types of health problems



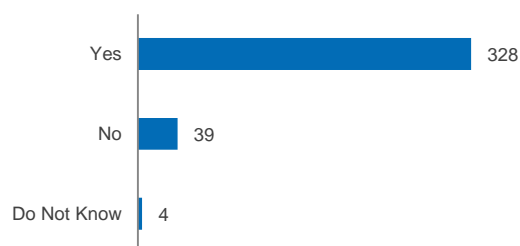
Health and nutrition

Health was identified as the second area-wide priority after security, and therefore the top area-wide priority where humanitarian partners can have significant impact. All Districts but Habban identified health as among their top three priorities. However, respondents in Habban overwhelmingly agree that health is a serious problem in their community, even if they do not rank it among their top three concerns. Results do not change substantially when comparing answers from male and female respondents.

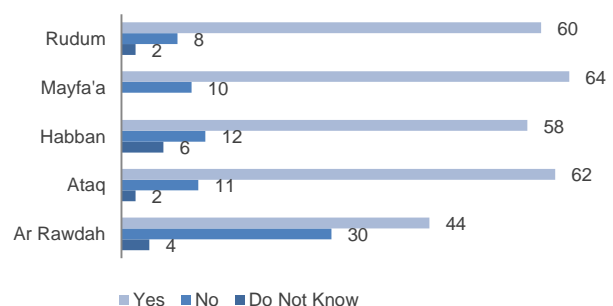
Diarrhoea (28 per cent) and respiratory problems (26 per cent) were most frequently identified as major health problems. Malnutrition came in at 19 per cent, with significantly higher shares in Mayfa'a and Rudum, where it was the second-most and most frequent response, respectively.

Respondents agree in all locations that they do not receive adequate healthcare and that they are largely unable to access health facilities. In Ar Rawdah, the access issue is less acute than in other Districts, but a majority of respondents still agree that it constitutes a serious problem.

Health: Problem with adequate healthcare (all Districts)



Health: Difficulty accessing facilities (by District)



Programme priorities: Health

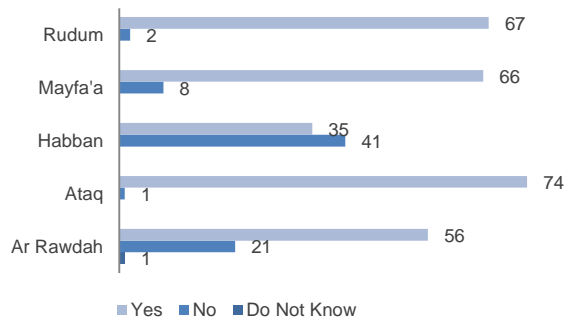
In designing health programmes, partners may wish to consider the following recommendations:

- Prioritize the development of health programmes that will increase access to medical care, especially for diarrhoea and respiratory problems. These programmes are most urgent in Ar Rawdah, Ataq, Mayfa'a and Rudum.
- Based on community priority results in the previous section, ensure that health programmes include measures to ensure access of women and girls to healthcare, as well as disabled and elderly people.
- Integrate malnutrition programmes into health services in affected areas, particularly in Mayfa'a and

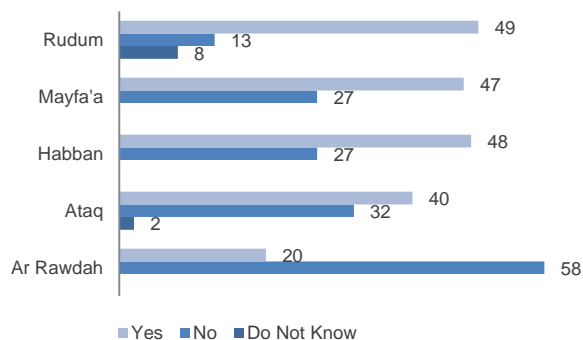
Rudum.

- Explore opportunities for integrated programming in health, nutrition and WASH, as these issues are frequently linked – particularly in treating diarrhoea.

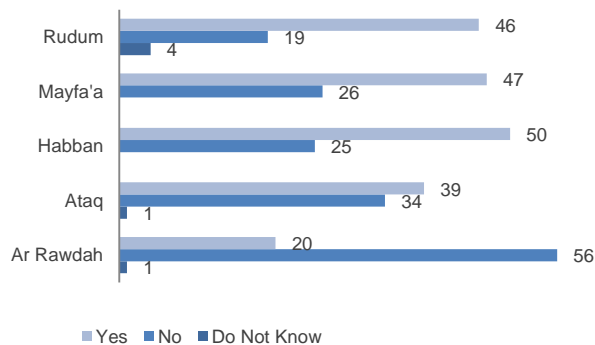
Clean water: Serious problem by District



Toilets: Serious problem by District



Keeping clean: Serious problem by District



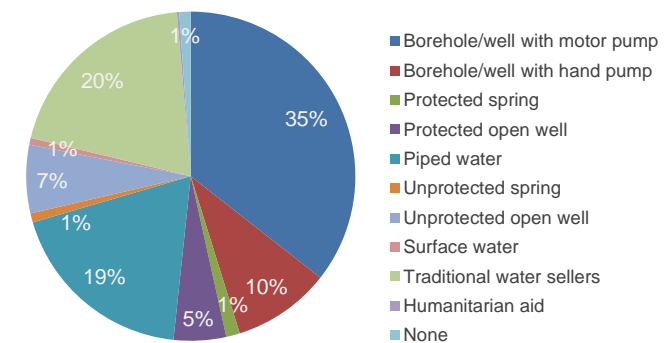
Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)

WASH concerns did not appear among the top three area-wide priorities. However, three Districts rank WASH among their internal top three priorities (Ataq, Mayfa'a and Rudum), with respondents in Mayfa'a identifying WASH as their most pressing concern.

Strong majorities in all Districts but Habban agree that access to safe water is a serious problem, while access to toilets is a serious problem for communities in all Districts but Ar Rawdah. In terms of hygiene, all Districts but Ar Rawdah agree that difficulty keeping clean is a serious problem, though by narrower margins than for water and toilets. On the hygiene issue in Ar Rawdah, substantially more women than men claim that hygiene is a serious problem, though a slight majority still disagree.

Water sources were similar in all communities, with 45 per cent of respondents indicating they relied on boreholes or wells with pumps, and 20 per cent each relying on traditional water sellers and piped water.

Current water source: All Districts

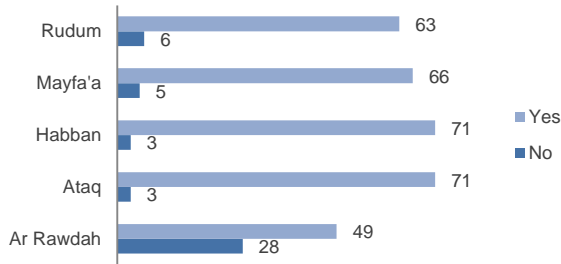


Programme priorities: WASH

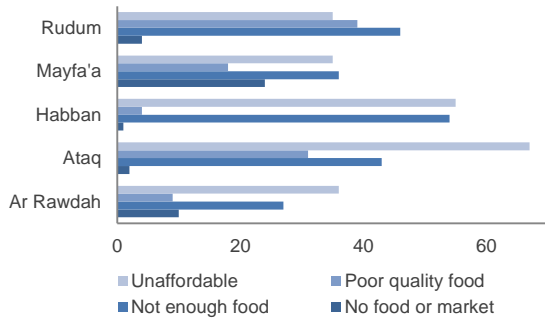
In designing WASH programmes, partners may wish to consider the following recommendations:

- Focus efforts on improving access to safe water in Ar Rawdah, Ataq, Mayfa'a and Rudum Districts.
- Develop programmes to promote better sanitation and hygiene in Ataq, Habban, Mayfa'a and Rudum Districts. In Ar Rawdah, partners should concentrate efforts on outreach to women.
- Develop integrated programmes with health and nutrition, as noted above.

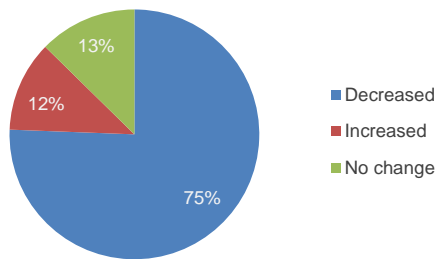
Food: Serious problem by District



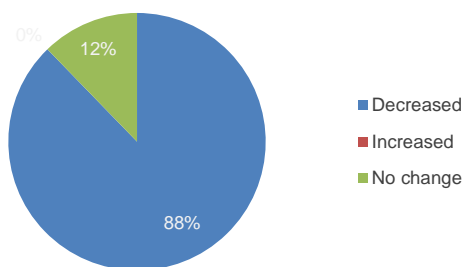
Food: Reasons for serious problem by District



Food: Change in consumption since conflict (all Districts)



Food: Change in consumption since conflict (Female respondents only)



Food security

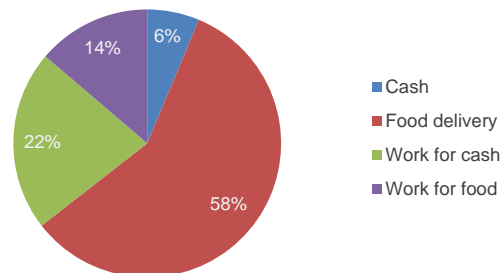
Respondents in all Districts indicate that food is a serious problem in their communities. This position is shared by overwhelming majorities (91 to 96 per cent) in all Districts but Ar Rawdah, where 64 per cent of respondents agree. Although food concerns are not among the top three area-wide priorities, respondents in Rudum identify food as their top concern.

Respondents in Ataq, Habban and Ar Rawdah primarily attribute community problems with food to it being unaffordable, with the next most frequent response indicating that not enough food is available. In Mayfa'a and Rudum, respondents primarily feel that not enough food is available. Mayfa'a is the only location where a substantial number of respondents indicate that no food is available.

The impact of the recent conflict is illustrated clearly in community food consumption, which respondents in all Districts agree has decreased. Area-wide, 75 per cent of respondents indicate that food consumption has fallen, with 13 per cent unsure. Female respondents are even clearer in their assessment: 88 per cent of women feel that food consumption has decreased. As women are more often responsible for preparing food, they are likely to have better knowledge of food consumption patterns. The gap between male and female estimates may also indicate that it is mainly women who are eating less following the conflict.

At the request of WFP, the assessment included a questions polling communities on what type of food assistance they would prefer. All Districts prefer direct food distributions (58 per cent) to other kinds of assistance, although significant numbers prefer cash-for-work (22 per cent) and food-for-work (14 per cent) programmes. Perhaps surprisingly, only a small number of respondents prefer direct cash transfers (6 per cent), although this may be because they are not aware of this as an option for "food aid".

Food: Preferred food aid (all Districts)

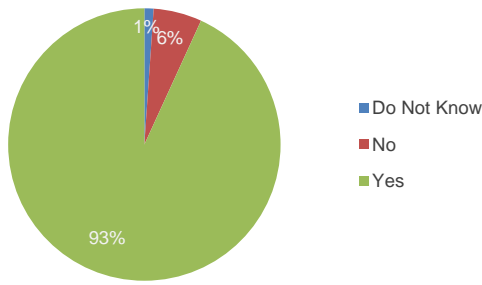


Programme priorities: Food security

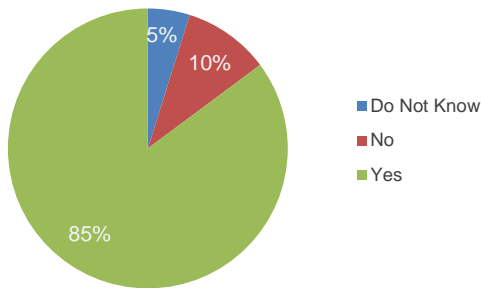
In designing WASH programmes, partners may wish to consider the following recommendations:

- Prioritize food aid programmes in Rudum District, which identified food as its top priority.
- In other Districts, examine more closely what type of food assistance will best address food concerns, particularly in light of data that indicate that people – especially women – are eating less.

Lack of income or supplies: Serious problem (all Districts)



Too much free time: Serious problem (all Districts)



Livelihoods

People in all Districts overwhelmingly agree that serious problems exist in their communities due to lack of income or resources to live (93 per cent) and having too much free time during the day (85 per cent). These figures do not vary substantially by location or gender.

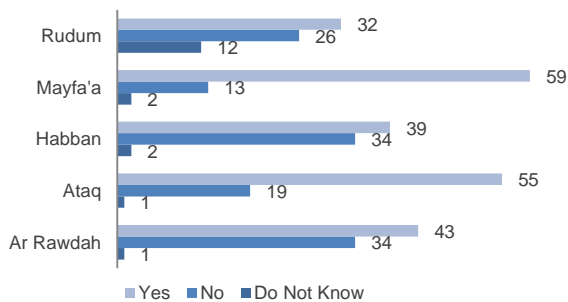
Shabwah Governorate has faced decades of under-development and lack of opportunities for residents, and it is difficult to link the livelihoods issue directly to the recent conflict. However, given that substantial numbers of IDPs have returned home – especially in Mayfa’a – and that two affected Districts (Ataq and Habban) identify livelihoods among their top priorities, a strong argument exists in favour of livelihoods programmes that will promote recovery.

This argument is even stronger considering that 76 per cent of respondents indicate that displaced communities had already been displaced at least once before. These families are likely to have seen their coping mechanisms eroded by multiple displacement and will need support to re-establish normal lives.

Livelihoods: Programme priorities

- Prioritize livelihoods programmes that promote recovery among returning IDPs, particularly families that had experienced multiple displacement. These efforts should concentrate on Mayfa’a, where respondents have indicated high numbers of returnees.
- Examine livelihoods needs in other locations more closely to determine whether they warrant humanitarian support, particularly in Ataq and Habban.

Education: Serious problem (children not in school or poor-quality education) by District



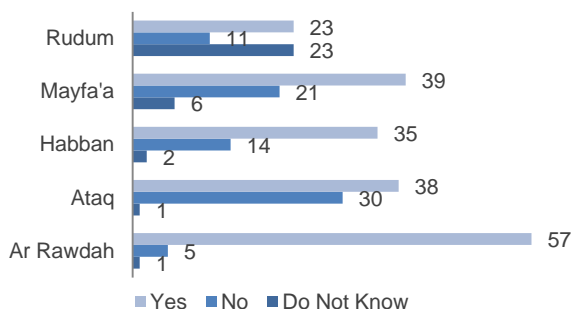
Education

Education emerged as the third area-wide priority among assessed Districts, and was cited by two Districts (Ar Rawdah and Mayfa’a) as among their top three District priorities. Substantial majorities in Mayfa’a and Ataq indicate that a serious problem exists because children are out of school or unable to receive a good education; majorities in other Districts were narrower.

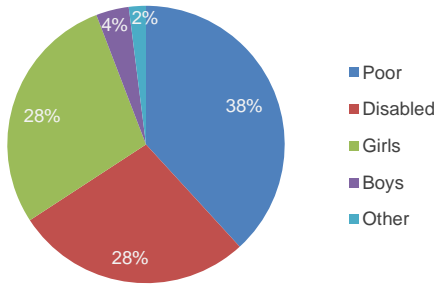
On closer analysis, it appears that the main concerns with education revolve around quality, as substantial majorities in all Districts but Rudum agree that most children attend school during the school year. In Rudum, respondents are split among those who say children do attend school, and those who do not know.

Respondents also indicate that poor children are least likely to attend school, followed by disabled children and girls. These results change only slightly when asking women only, who agree that poor children are least likely to attend, but indicate by a slightly higher margin that girls are the next least likely group.

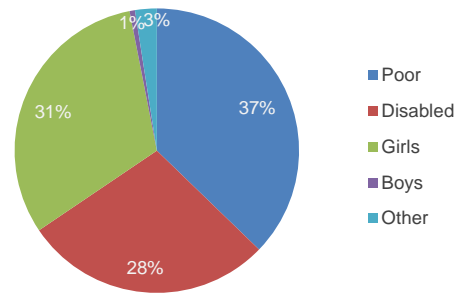
Education: Most children in school during school year by District



Education: Groups least likely to attend school (all Districts)



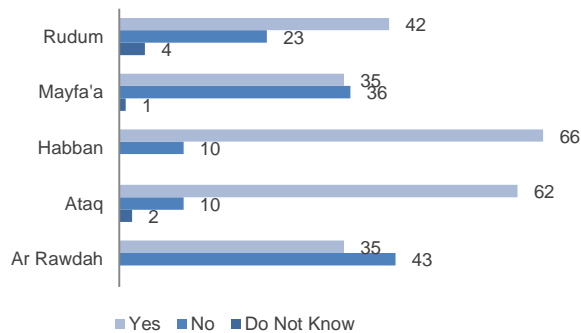
Education: Groups least likely to attend school (all Districts, female respondents only)



Education: Programme priorities

- Partners should prioritize education programmes that seek to improve quality of instruction, particularly in Mayfa'a and Ar Rawdah.
- Partners should develop programmes to boost enrolment among poor children, disabled children and girls, especially in Rudum District.

Shelter: Serious problem by District



Shelter and essential items

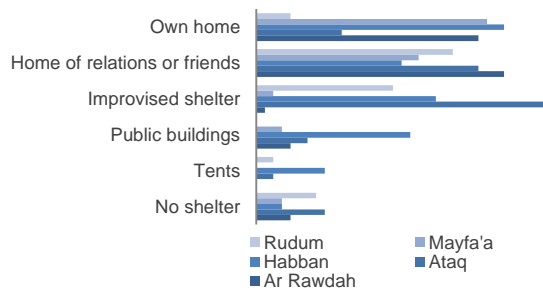
Respondents in two Districts identify shelter as a serious problem in their community by a large margin: Habban and Ataq. In Rudum, respondents also agree that shelter is a serious problem, albeit by a narrower margin. In Habban, respondents identify shelter as their top priority.

According to respondents, people mainly live in their own homes or the homes of family members or acquaintances in all Districts but Ataq, where improvised shelters are most frequently identified. Ataq is the location of Shabwah's capital (Ataq City) and was a frequent destination for IDPs during the recent conflict, according to IDP Executive Unit data. The relatively higher incidence of people living in improvised shelters could potentially be a result of remaining IDPs or – perhaps more likely – a consequence of urban poor unable to afford other accommodations.

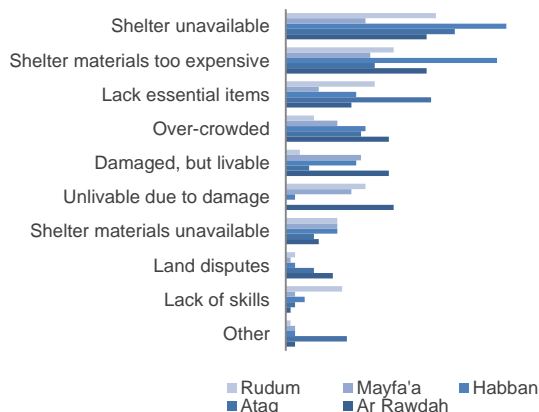
According to respondents who identify shelter as a problem, the most frequent sources of the problem are the unavailability of adequate shelter and the cost of shelter materials. Over-crowding is also a significant issue. Damage from the recent conflict ranks considerably behind other causes, but is cited most frequently in Ar Rawdah, Mayfa'a and Rudum.

Regarding essential non-food items (NFIs), respondents in two Districts identify their lack as a serious problem: Mayfa'a and Rudum. Even in these locations, the proportion of people who agree that a lack of essential items constitutes a serious problem is substantially smaller than other sectors.

Shelter: Type of current shelter by District



Shelter: Main problems with current shelter by District

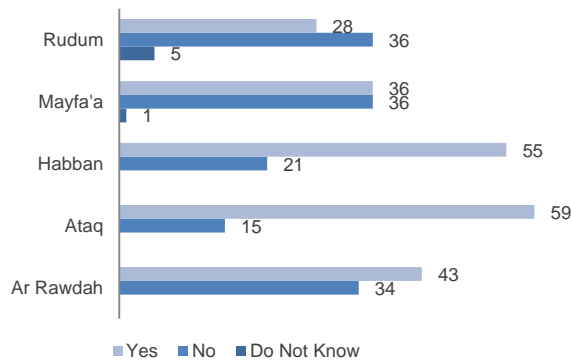


Shelter and essential items: Programme priorities

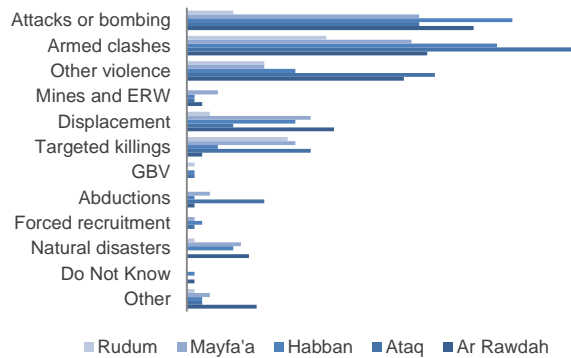
In designing shelter programmes, partners may wish to consider the following recommendations:

- Focus shelter support in Habban District, where it is identified as a top priority, and in Ataq, where improvised shelters are most frequently cited as the type of shelter people inhabit.
- Prioritize shelter rehabilitation in Ar Rawdah, Mayfa'a and Rudum, where a significant number of respondents indicate that some shelters have been damaged or destroyed.
- Consider providing essential items in Mayfa'a and Rudum, although this appears to be a less urgent priority than other sectors.

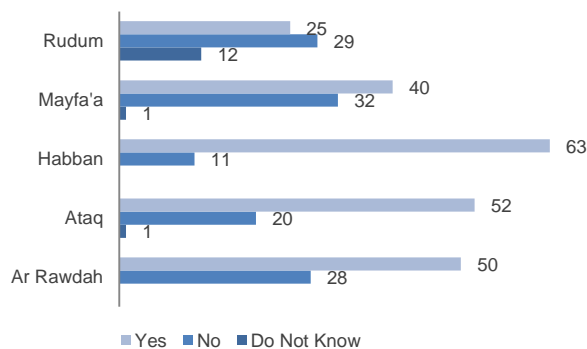
Safety in community: Serious problem by District



Reasons for lack of safety by District



Safe travel: Serious problem by District



Security and protection

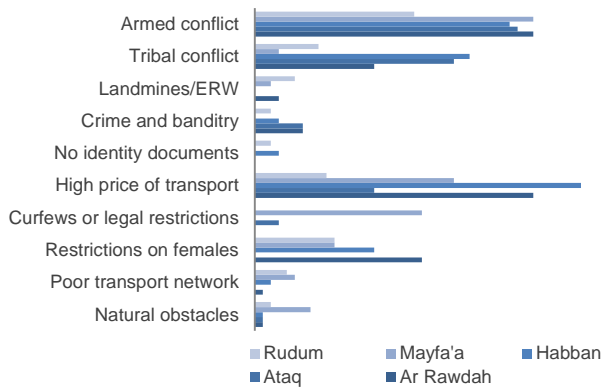
Humanitarian partners have little ability to address direct security concerns in affected areas. However, they are well placed to provide assistance that promotes protection and psychosocial well-being. Understanding communities' chief security concerns will help in the design of such programmes.

Safety concerns are somewhat localized within affected areas. In only two Districts (Habban and Ataq) do substantial majorities of respondents agree that a serious problem exists because people do not feel safe in their communities. Respondents are split on this question in Mayfa'a – which saw the most fighting during the conflict.

Among people who feel that community safety is a serious problem, the main causes are violence: attacks or bombings, armed clashes and other violence (crime, etc.). Four Districts (Mayfa'a, Habban, Ataq and Ar Rawdah) agree that a serious problem exists because people cannot always travel safely to markets or villages in neighbouring areas. This problem is most pronounced in Habban. Movement is restricted primarily by conflict and high transport costs; social restrictions on women moving freely are also cited relatively frequently. As a result of movement restrictions, communities face greater difficulty in accessing food, water and healthcare.

Regarding more established protection issues, gender-based violence (GBV) and forced recruitment are cited considerably less frequently as reasons that communities feel unsafe. Respondents in all Districts agree that violence against women (including violation of women's dignity) is not a serious community problem; answers from only female respondents confirm this perception. However, research demonstrates that GBV is often dramatically under-reported, and these results may indicate a need for more outreach on the issue. This result is especially interesting in light of overwhelming agreement (93 per cent) across all Districts that the lack of justice and lack of awareness of rights constitute serious

Reasons for travel restrictions by District

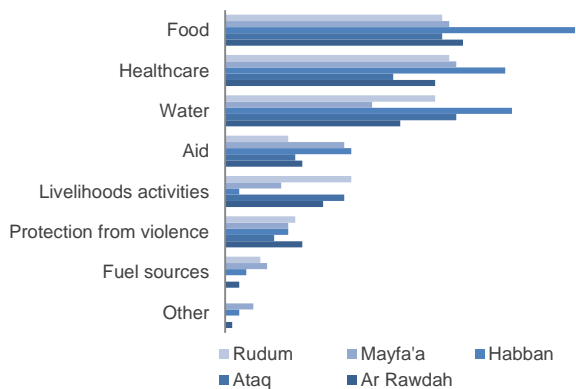


problems. This may provide an opening for outreach on rights that will be appreciated by the community, while offering an opportunity to address GBV issues as part of a larger rights education initiative.

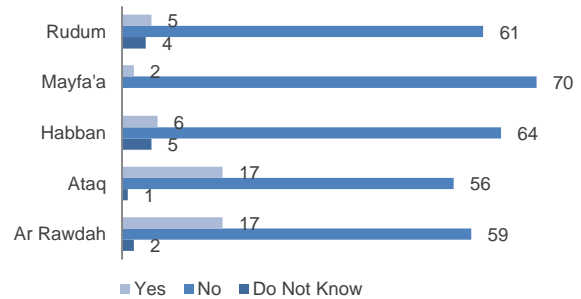
Family separation is considered a serious problem in three Districts (Mayfa'a, Habban and Ataq). However, Habban and Ataq were relatively less affected by direct conflict, and so it is not clear whether separation is due to conflict or other reasons (migrant labour, etc.). In Rudum, answers are split on family separation, but this is considered a serious problem when only women are asked.

Psychosocial well-being is identified as a serious problem by 73 per cent of respondents across all assessed areas. These results do not vary significantly by District or gender, with general agreement that a serious problem exists due to people feeling sad, upset or angry.

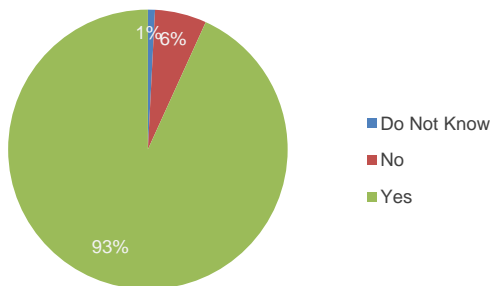
Decreased access due to travel restrictions by District



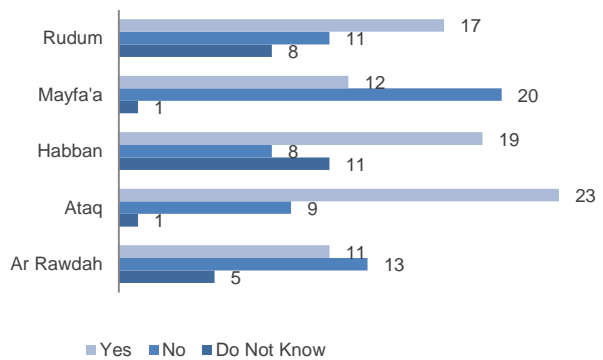
Violence against women: Serious problem by District



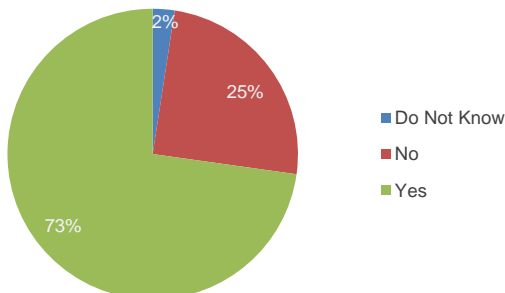
Lack of justice or rights awareness: Serious problem (all Districts)



Family separation: Serious problem by District



Sad, upset, angry: Serious problem (all Districts)



Protection: Programme priorities

In designing protection programmes, partners may wish to consider the following recommendations:

- Develop outreach programmes to promote greater understanding of rights and justice. These programmes should include a GBV component in order to gauge the accuracy of assessment results on GBV. This component should be part of the larger programme so as to mitigate traditional sensitivities around GBV issues.
- Develop psychosocial support programmes that will help alleviate trauma among men, women, boys and girls.
- Investigate reports of family separation to determine whether this is conflict-induced and if additional measures are required. These efforts should start in Mayfa'a, Habban and Ataq Districts.

Geographic ranking

The table below summarizes how many serious problems were identified in each District. This will give partners a rough indication of which areas are currently suffering from the greatest number of problems (out of 24 asked in the assessment).

Serious problem?	Ar Rawdah	Ataq	Habban	Mayfa'a	Rudum
Safe water	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Toilets	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cleanliness	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Food	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Illness and injury	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Adequate healthcare	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Access to health facilities	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Care for family members	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Family separation	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No*
People alone	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Shelter	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Essential items	No	No*	No	Yes	Yes
Reach community structures	No	No	No	No	No
Travel to neighbouring areas	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Education	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Upset, sad, angry	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Qat, alcohol, drugs	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Humiliation, respect	No	Yes	No	No	No
Safety	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Violence against women	No	No	No	No	No
Justice, rights awareness	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Money, resources	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Free time	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Information	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Total	16	20	18	18	17

* Yes and no answers split; some respondents unsure

Annex: Methodology

Assessment scope

Geography	Five Districts most affected by conflict in April and May 2014: Mayfa'a, Ataq, Ar Rawdah, Habban and Rudum.
Respondents	Conflict-affected people and most vulnerable: Displaced people, returnees, host communities, people who remained in high-displacement areas, migrants and refugees
Topics	MIRA cluster modules with additions: history of displacement, living conditions comparison (now vs one year ago and five years ago), mental health

In selecting respondents, partners recalled that past assessments in conflict-affected areas have often highlighted very poor living conditions. However, it is difficult to determine to what extent these conditions were crisis-induced, or the result of chronic under-development. To address this shortcoming, the assessment questionnaire will be modified to include specific questions on whether living conditions are worse than they were one year ago and five years ago. This will allow partners to draw more confident general conclusions on the degree to which recent conflict has influenced conditions.

Partners are also aware of their responsibility to account for varying needs based on gender and age differences. To meet this responsibility, the pre-assessment identification module will collect basic information on gender and age (minor/adult). The main questionnaire will also include questions on which groups suffer most from specific problems, and at least one key informant at every site will be female (see below). Reasonable gender parity will also be ensured among assessors.

Precision and statistical rigour

Partners reviewed several potential levels of statistical rigour and weighed the benefits and drawbacks of each in terms of resources required and intended use of assessment results. Given that most partners need results for medium- to longer-term planning and to support donor advocacy, an advanced level of statistical rigour (95% confidence level) is not required. Instead, partners endorsed a household assessment with 90% confidence level, meaning a minimum sample size of 68 households providing usable responses per District.

After the AHCT meeting OCHA reviewed the likely resources required to support this approach. Based on past experiences, a certain number of assessment responses are not usable, and so the sample size should be somewhat larger than the absolute minimum size needed. In addition, one assessment team is typically able to complete about 10 forms per day. Assuming 75 households must respond to generate 68 usable responses per District, and seven teams processing 10 forms per day, this approach would take six working days for data collection. Partners estimated staff availability at a maximum of four days.

As a result, partners agreed that the assessment would move forward as a community-level exercise (i.e., the MIRA methodology). This methodology is well suited to partner needs (medium- to longer-term planning and donor advocacy) and will minimize resource needs. Although in many cases 68 forms were collected per District, the results are interpreted as community-level results.

Site selection

Partners used Executive Unit IDP lists as the basis for selecting sites to assess. No other available sources provide comprehensive estimates of conflict impact. Assessing conflict-affected locations in Shabwah faces several challenges, mainly distance, accessibility, size (dispersed settlements) and location awareness (confidence of where a place is). Although it would save time to target only larger settlements, this would exclude a sizeable portion of affected people. Executive Unit figures estimate that just over 40% of IDPs came from settlements with fewer than 1,000 people or from villages that do not appear in databases.

Partners established the following inclusion criteria:

- Minimum pre-conflict population of 300
- IDP movement (to or from) of at least 9 per cent of pre-conflict population
- Precise locations (certainty that location can be found)

- Distance from Ataq City or Mayfa'a City allows a return trip within a single day (for security purposes)
- Security and access (DSS approval)

Based on these criteria, partners selected the following locations (one team per location):

District	Village name (EN)	Village name (AR)	Type of IDP movement	Reported IDPs	Pre-conflict population	IDPs as share of pre-conflict population*
Mayfa'a	Mayfa'a Jowal Al Redh	ميفعه	Origin	1,050	9,602	11%
Mayfa'a	Al-Salamah	السلامه	Origin	110	627	18%
Mayfa'a	Al-Haweil	الحويل	Origin	462	313	148%
Mayfa'a	Joal Al-Sheikh	جول الشيخ	Origin	2,923	2,349	124%
Ataq	Ataq	عق	Destination	2,816	31,320	9%
Rudum	Rudum (town)	رضوم	Destination	963	4,892	20%
Habban	Habban (town)	حبان	Destination	833	5,849	14%
Ar-Rawdah	Ar-Rawdah (town)	الروضه	Destination	788	8,707	9%

* This value is based on available figures: official statistical projections and IDP Executive Unit registrations. The value is meant to give a general barometer of severity of conflict impact, rather than an exact measure of IDPs as share of pre-conflict population. Some figures exceed 100%, indicating problems with source estimates. Nevertheless, these figures are valuable estimative indicators of overall impact.

Respondent selection

The community-level assessment relies primarily on key informants (KI), who are questioned to gather information on the impact of the crisis and on priority community needs. KIs are selected for their knowledge of the community and the local situation, based on professional background, leadership responsibilities or personal experience. An adequate representation of respondents of different groups and gender at a minimum is necessary to guarantee accuracy and impartiality in the assessment. At least one female key informant per site is to be interviewed.

The key informant selection criteria included (non-exclusive):

- Respected member of the community;
- People with a special tasks in the community: religious leader, community leader, leader of women's group, health workers, social service representatives, etc;
- Based in the village/site;
- Good knowledge of the situation of the community.

Best practices for identifying key informants were covered in the assessment refresher workshop before teams went into the field.