



## Psychosocial Support (PSS) Activities in Iraq 2019 Achievements & 2020 Needs

In 2020, the National Protection Cluster (NPC) and its partners continue to report that mental health and psychosocial needs of affected individuals are alarming, with 419,468 (over 69,000 HHs) individuals identified by heads of households as displaying signs of psychosocial distress.

### 2019 HRP PSS Response at a glance

- **24 districts** across **8 governorates** prioritized.
- For general protection, out of the 34,628 women and men targeted with PSS activities, **30,947 people were reached**.
- For CP, **247,622 children** were reached.
- For GBV, **184,371 beneficiaries** were reached.

### Challenges

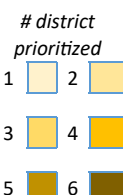
- **Limited understanding** by key stakeholders (including donors) as to **what PSS is, how protection actors can provide quality services, and what resources are needed** to implement PSS programmes;
- **Huge variance in definitions of PSS roles** (i.e. "social workers", "case managers", "counselors").
- **Stigma on mental health concerns** and beliefs that mental health is not important.
- **Engagement of the community/beneficiaries** in activities for which they do not see tangible benefits.

### Proposed solutions to overcome challenges

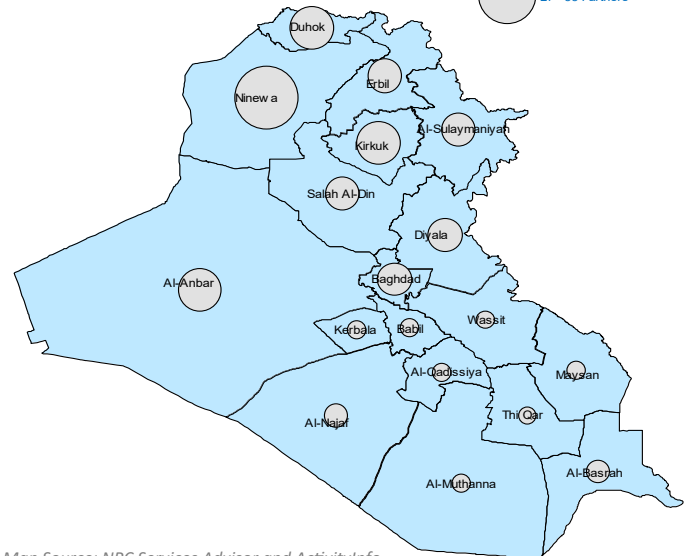
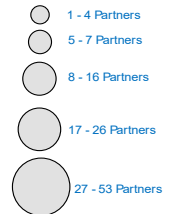
- **Awareness sessions** on mental health topics to reduce stigma.
- **Trainings of PSS workers** on facilitator skills to better engage participants.
- Work with the MPHSS TWG and the MoH to **standardize job descriptions for PSS workers; continue to support certification and credentialing** for social workers, case managers, and specialized MH roles.

### Advocacy

- Advocate with **donors and other key stakeholders on the types of PSS programming** implemented by protection actors and their benefits and importance.
- **Greater awareness of mental health disease pathology and the effectiveness of PSS interventions** among healthcare workers.
- Create a **national certification of social workers/case managers**.



### PSS Partner Presence:

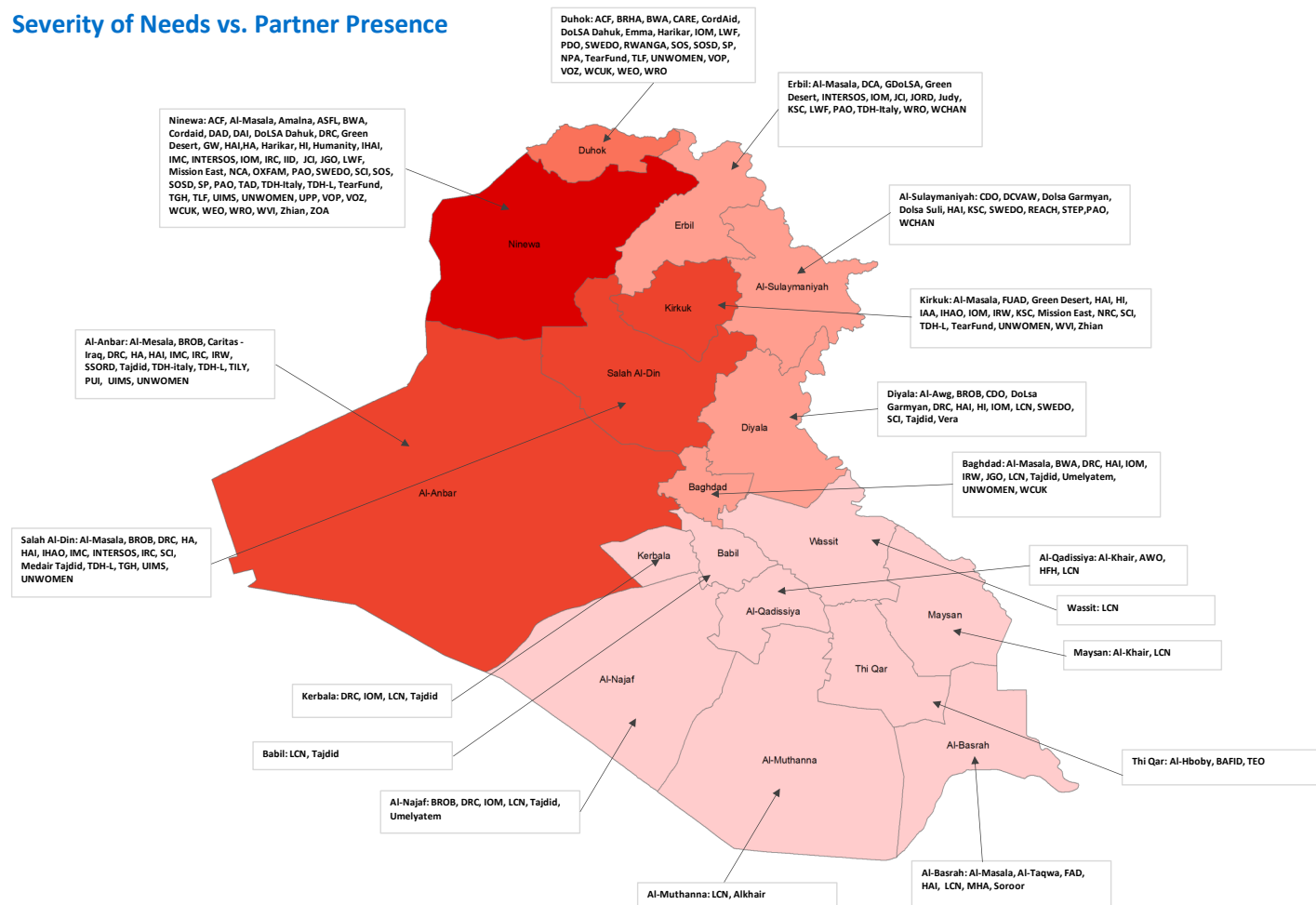


Map Source: NPC Services Advisor and ActivityInfo

Governorate	# of GP PSS Partners	# of GP beneficiaries reached with PSS	# of CP PSS Partners	# of Children reached with PSS	# of GBV PSS Partners	# of GBV beneficiaries reached with PSS
Al-Anbar	4	669	8	15,542	8	39,000
Al-Basrah	2	82	4	1,880	4	636
Al-Najaf	2	201	2	99	3	2,561
Al-Qadissiya	1	40	2	3,642	2	109
Al-Sulaymaniyah	-	-	7	22,861	2	3,056
Babil	-	-	-	-	2	2,252
Baghdad	3	738	3	1,609	5	3,700
Dahuk	9	1,394	10	22,619	12	8,924
Diyala	4	1,949	3	6,131	4	5,792
Erbil	4	801	9	16,761	3	95
Kerbala	2	245	1	36	2	728
Kirkuk	5	4,936	8	26,945	6	13,522
Missan	-	-	1	22	2	8
Ninewa	16	16,902	25	106,719	24	60,599
Salah Al-Din	4	2,972	6	20,761	10	42,420
Thi Qar	-	-	3	1,175	-	-
Others	2	18	-	-	2	139
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>30,947</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>247,622</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>184,371</b>

# Estimated PSS Needs in 2020

## Severity of Needs vs. Partner Presence



## People in Need (PIN) 2020 vs. Partner Presence 2019\*

Top Governorates	2020				Partners presence in 2019
	IDPs	Returnees	HC	Total	
Al-Anbar	1,576	62,423	0	63,999	19
Al-Basrah	/	/	/	/	7
Al-Najaf	584	0	127	711	6
Al-Sulaymaniyah	4,414	0	0	4,414	13
Babil	174	0	0	174	2
Baghdad	656	3,472	61	4,189	13
Dahuk	34,274	0	332	34,607	26
Diyala	5,824	2,966	0	8,808	13
Erbil	9,764	826	8	10,598	16
Kerbala	/	/	/	/	4
Kirkuk	9,282	62,087	0	71,369	20
Ninewa	40,784	104,461	452	145,697	53
Salah Al-Din	7,180	67,458	122	74,760	16
Wassit	142	0	24	142	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>114,672</b>	<b>303,693</b>	<b>1,126</b>	<b>2,883,356</b>	<b>91</b>

\*Based on MCNA VII data, ActivityInfo and NPC Services Advisor

## Impact on children

	IDP in camp	IDP out of camp	Returnees	Host	Total
<b>Total children with PSS needs/distress</b>	6,918	24,947	80,268	49	112,183
<b>Total people affected (OCHA Humanitarian Profile)</b>	370,025	1,212,114	4,175,148	51,587	5,808,874