

IDP AND REFUGEE PERCEPTIONS, NORTHERN IRAQ

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Ground Truth Solutions is looking at IDP and refugee perceptions of humanitarian assistance in northern Iraq as part of the [Mixed Migration Platform](#) (MMP). Ground Truth is one of seven partners that jointly provide analytical services as part of the platform. The other partners are [ACAPS](#), [Danish Refugee Council](#), [Internews](#), [INTERSOS](#), [REACH](#), and [Translators without Borders](#). The goal of MMP, which was launched in October 2016, is to

provide information related to mixed migration flows for policy, programming and advocacy, as well as providing information to people on the move in the Middle East and Europe. Ground Truth Solutions' contribution to the platform is the collection and analysis of feedback on the perceptions of people in different stages of displacement - in the borderlands, transit countries and countries of final destination.



Two separate reports present the perceptions and opinions of IDPs and Syrian refugees on various topics including humanitarian aid, information needs, and their relations with aid providers, authorities, and the host community. Data was collected in urban areas in Dohuk and Erbil as well as in camps - with refugees in Domiz and Kawergosk and with IDPs in Khazer and Haj Ali. More background and information on the methodology can be found at the end of the reports.

In May 2017, this first round of quantitative data collection will be followed by a qualitative round of data investigation and validation by Ground Truth Solutions which will dive deeper into some of the issues surfaced in this survey. One more round of both quantitative and qualitative data collection will take place in the summer of 2017.

Below are some of the key findings from the data collected in March 2017. For more information consult the full refugee and IDP reports.

Priority needs are not met

The majority of refugees and IDPs do not feel that their most important needs - cash, healthcare, and food - are met.

Cash distribution – not fair or transparent

IDPs and refugees do not consider the distribution of cash to be fair or transparent. Their explanations range from a lack of access to cash transfer programmes to perceptions of corruption.

Lack of livelihood opportunities and empowerment

Access to employment in the local economy is regarded as extremely difficult by both IDPs and refugees, particularly women. Neither refugees nor IDPs feel that the support they receive will enable them to live without aid in the future, with a lack of job opportunities a major obstacle.

Unmet information needs

There is a lack of clarity surrounding the distribution of aid. IDPs and refugees need more information about when, where and who provides aid. There is also a lack of information on how to move between countries. In general, people want a go-to place for information and guidance.

Lack of awareness/trust in complaints mechanisms

Knowledge of how to make suggestions or complaints about services is low, particularly among women, recent arrivals and IDPs. There seems to be a general sense of scepticism about whether people will get a response to a complaint.

High levels of respect

Both refugees and IDPs feel they are treated with respect by aid providers, government authorities and security forces.

High levels of safety and social cohesion

There is an overall sense of safety among refugees and IDPs, mainly due to the general stability and security in the area. The security forces are mentioned as contributing to the sense of safety. Moreover, IDPs and refugees feel welcomed by the host community.

Fear around returning home

There is a general sense of anxiety among refugees and IDPs about returning home at this time, with both citing war and fear as the main reasons.