



# Human Security Survey

## Kirkuk, Iraq — 2017

### Gender Security Dynamics

In April 2017, PAX and its local partner, the Iraqi Al-Amal Association conducted a survey across Kirkuk governorate about the experiences of civilian populations with issues of insecurity and conflict. **The following discusses the key survey findings that relate specifically to gender dynamics, and how men and women experience and perceive insecurity.** The results detailed herein were drawn from interviews with **395** men and **364** women. All differences between men and women shown in this report are statistically significant at a 95% probability level unless otherwise indicated.

In Kirkuk, **26%** of the households reported one or more security incidents in the last year, with the most frequent incidents were having experienced **being forced to flee, murder, bombing or explosives and robbery.** As the question pertained to the whole household it is not possible to look directly on gendered differences in victimization.

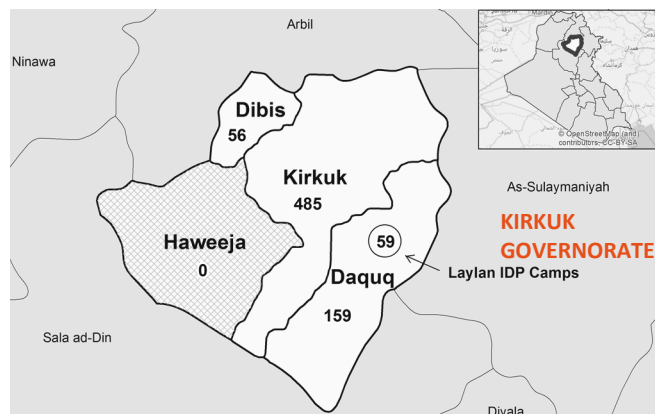
#### About the Human Security Survey:

The **HUMAN SECURITY SURVEY (HSS)** is a methodology developed by PAX's Protection of Civilians (PoC) department to **collect data and facilitate constructive dialogue about civilians' experiences, perceptions, and expectations in situations of conflict.**

The intended purpose is threefold: 1) to increase the understanding of local security dynamics and trends; 2) to enhance the 'claim-making capacity' of civilians to identify their priorities and hold security providers and decision makers accountable; and 3) to inform evidence-based advocacy that enables international stakeholders to design and implement protection activities that reflect local realities. PAX implements all aspects of the HSS in Iraq in close collaboration with its partners on the ground, the **IRAQI AL-AMAL ASSOCIATION** and the **IRAQI AL-FIRDAWS SOCIETY.**

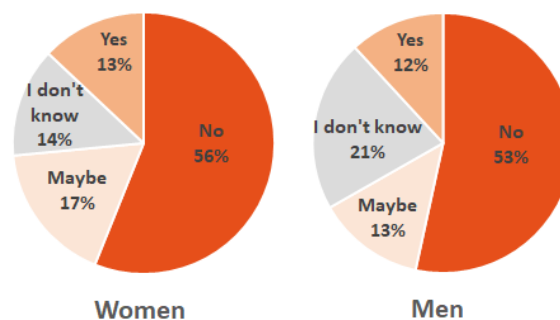
The survey in Kirkuk took place over two weeks in **April 2017.** Our enumerators completed **759** surveys across 3 of the governorate's 4 districts. Note that due to security considerations at the time, it was not possible to conduct interviews within Hawija district. Interviews intended for this region were instead conducted in temporary settlements or internally displaced persons (IDP) camps where people from Haweeja had relocated. **Communities, households, and individual respondents were selected to participate as randomly as possible using a set of systematic procedures in order to maximize generalizability.** For cultural reasons, female enumerators interviewed women, and male enumerators interviewed men. Participation is entirely voluntary and data are kept strictly confidential.

Number of surveys completed per district



When looking at personal expectations of vulnerability across gender, **12%-13%** of both men and women said that they **expected to become victim of violence** in the next year while the majority said they did not expect this. Differences are not statistically significant, thus **gender seems not to be a predictor for whether respondents in Kirkuk see themselves as likely to become victim of violence in the future.**

#### IN THE NEXT YEAR, DO YOU PERSONALLY EXPECT TO BECOME A VICTIM OF VIOLENCE?



We asked respondents about what groups in society they saw as vulnerable, to which they more frequently mentioned "men" (**30%**) and "young men/boys" (**40%**) as vulnerable than "women", "young women/girls" and "unmarried women". **More female than male respondents perceived men as vulnerable (36% women vs 24% men), as well as young men and boys (46% women vs 35% men)** while there were no significant gendered differences on who mentioned the women/girls/unmarried women. The main reason for men's and boys' vulnerability was that they are specifically targeted by perpetrators or criminals.

There were no significant differences between men and women in response to how their security situation had changed over the last year. At the time of the survey, around **20% of both men and women found that their security situation became worse, while 52% found it to be improved.** When looking at **how they felt insecurity changed their personal situation**, women and men generally pointed to the same factors. However, **women more often mention increased cost of living or more poverty** as a main impact of worsened security (**16% of women vs 3% of men**). Women were also more likely than men to report **increased reliance on security forces** as a protection strategy for their household (**72% vs 60% of men**).

Perception differences between men and women are also significant in a number of questions about means of improving the security situation. For example, more often than women, men said that handing in all the weapons would reduce violence and crime in the community with **81% vs. 64% women**. Nearly **81%** of the female respondents answered that they **generally feel safe** from violence or crime in their own homes, which is more often than men do, and a reversal of what we found in Basra.

## SECURITY PERCEPTIONS WOMEN MEN

*Percentage that agrees with the following statements:*

I generally feel safe from violence or crime in my own household	<b>81%</b>	<b>74%</b>
It is best for our protection when security forces are from within our community because they know us well	<b>91%</b>	<b>79%</b>
People need arms to provide their own security in this governorate	<b>43%</b>	<b>28%</b>
Handing in all of our weapons would reduce violence and crime in this community	<b>64%</b>	<b>81%</b>
Women in this community mainly trust the police.	<b>77%</b>	<b>68%</b>

*\*Respondents could also disagree/prefer a juxtaposing statement or answer "I don't know".*

Women are more prone to say security forces should be from within their community with **91% vs. 79%** of men. Despite that women are seen to have only few legal provisions and protection mechanisms to shield them from violence, **the majority of both male and female respondents agree that women mainly trust the police**, with women more often than men agreeing to this statement (**77% women and 68% men**).

It is noteworthy, however, that more than **80%** of both men and women argue that there is a **need for more women serving in the police** to help with security issues facing women.

*The interviews took place 5 months before the Kurdish independence referendum and subsequent seismic shifts in both political and security dynamics on the ground. A follow up survey in 2018 (which we will pursue as soon as local circumstances allow), may indeed reflect dramatic shifts in both experiences and perceptions from those expressed in 2017.*

PAX's PoC team will continue putting out periodic summary reports about different thematic topics for each of the 3 governorates where we currently conduct the HSS in Iraq (**Basra, Kirkuk, and Salahaddin**). Other forthcoming reports in this series will cover: *Experiences and Perceptions of Vulnerability*; and *Civilian Relationships to Security Actors and Other Authorities*. Please check out our website for more information, or contact us via [poc@paxforpeace.nl](mailto:poc@paxforpeace.nl). For other information regarding our Iraq and Gender Programs please visit: [www.paxforpeace.nl/our-work/programmes](http://www.paxforpeace.nl/our-work/programmes).

The HSS is made possible with the generous support of the **Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs**.

*Please note: All icons used herein are sourced from FlatIcon and used in accordance with their author licenses.*

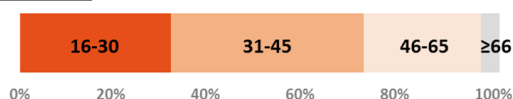
### Our respondents in Kirkuk:

*Participation in the survey was completely voluntary, anonymous, and confidential. Communities, households, and individuals were approached at random to participate, although the sampling and participant selection processes were structured so as to maximize the likelihood of both gender balance, and an appropriately diverse representation on the basis of ethnic and religious identity. Below is some data about our Kirkuk sample:*

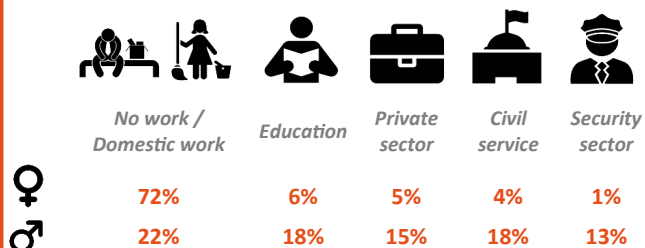
#### Gender balance:



#### Age distribution:



#### Livelihoods:



#### Ethnic and religious identity:

*When asked openly to describe their identity group(s), 79% of respondents said Iraqi, 29% said Kurdish, 20% said Muslim, 17% said Arab, and 8% said Turkmen. Smaller percentages identified more specifically as either Sunni (8%) or Shia (1%), and there was a small number of people who identified themselves as the following minority groups: Assyrian, Baha'i, Christian, Circassian, Feyli, Kaka'i/Yarsani, Shabak, and Yezidi.*