



Human Security Survey

Kirkuk, Iraq — 2017

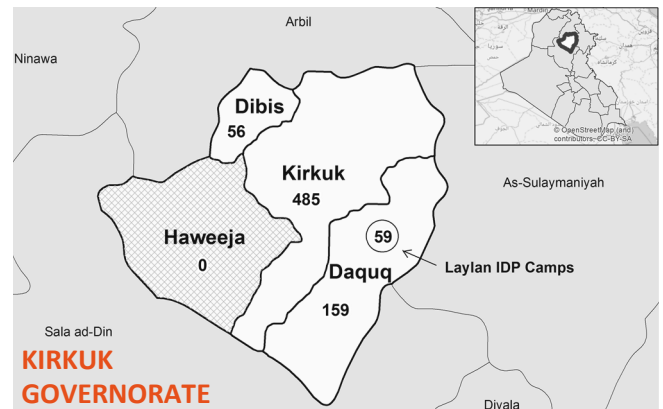
Summary of Key Findings

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 just one week in **April 2017**. Our enumerators completed **759** surveys across 3 of the governorate's 4 districts. Target numbers were allocated across sub-districts based on population density, and specific research sites were selected or omitted based on security, physical accessibility, and with an eye to ensuring demographic diversity. Note that it was not possible to conduct interviews within Hawija district, where many communities remained at the time under the territorial control of Daesh (also known as the Islamic State or ISIS). Interviews intended for this region instead occurred in internally displaced persons (IDP) camps where people from Hawija had relocated. Aside from specifically targeting these displaced populations, the remaining communities, as well as all households and individual **respondents were selected as randomly as possible using a set of systematic procedures in order to maximize generalizability**. Participation is voluntary and data are strictly confidential.

13 ENUMERATORS CONDUCTED 759 INTERVIEWS WITH 397 MEN & 362 WOMEN

The context in Kirkuk governorate has changed markedly in recent months since we conducted our survey, due to both new political realities developing after the Kurdish independence referendum in September 2017, as well as a series of military interventions to liberate territories previously held by Daesh. However, we and our partners argue that the findings of our survey remain relevant, novel, and of practical significance for those concerned with or contributing to the protection environment in the region.

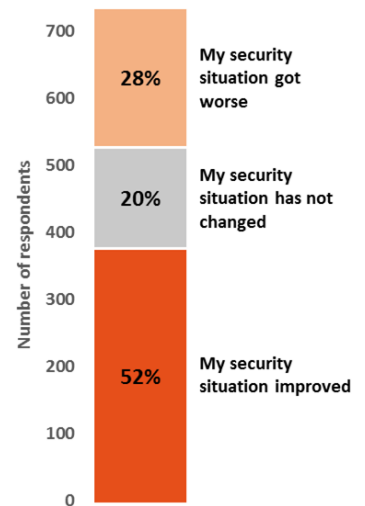


Number of surveys completed per district

Overall, we found that **many people across Kirkuk were optimistic about positive changes they saw in their security situation**. More than half of our respondents (including **53%** of women and **50%** of men) said that their security situation improved over the previous year (2016), and **56%** reported that they expect security to improve either a little or a lot in their community in the course of the coming year (2017-2018).

HOW HAS YOUR PERSONAL SECURITY SITUATION CHANGED IN THE LAST YEAR?

(PAX and its partners will seek to explore the deeper rationale behind these responses through qualitative discussions during the community engagement phase of the HSS.)



While this generally favourable outlook may be surprising to those who read the news coming out of Kirkuk in 2017, these self-assessments are certainly relative. For many people that we spoke to, their security situation improved only in comparison with the far worse circumstances they had been living under during the previous year(s). **More than one-third of our respondents (34%) migrated or experienced displacement within the previous 5 years, with 91% of these individuals pointing to insecurity as a primary reason**. Other common causes of migration included: humanitarian needs (**42%**), economic reasons (**35%**), and political or social pressure (**15%**), among others.

The nature and scope of civilian experiences of insecurity varied across Kirkuk. In total 53% of households surveyed reported that no member of their household was a victim of violence in the previous year, compared with 26% of households reporting one or more incidents of insecurity. [The remaining respondents either did not know (18%) or declined to answer (3%).] People living in the Laylan IDP camps were the most likely to report having experienced violence, with a full 76% reporting incidents affecting their households. Those living in Daquq District had the second highest frequency, comprising 33% of respondents, followed by those in Dibis District at 25%. People in Kirkuk district were the least likely to report experiences of violence (19%).

From among the more than 1/4 of all respondents who reported incidents, the most commonly reported types of violence included: being forced to flee (26% of affected households), murder (22%), bombing or explosives (19%), robbery or seizure of property (16%), abduction or disappearance (12%), imprisonment or detention (11%); assault with a weapon or attempted murder (10%), and intimidation or harassment, either in person or via phone/online (7%). There were also limited reports of exposure to chemical weapons, beating or torture, and slavery, forced labor, or trafficking.

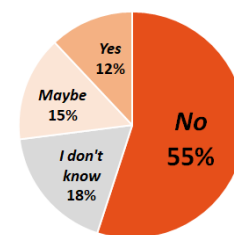
199 HOUSEHOLDS (26%) REPORTED THE FOLLOWING MOST COMMON TYPES OF INSECURITY (AMONG OTHERS), AND THE MINIMUM # OF TIMES THEY EXPERIENCED EACH INCIDENT. AVERAGE RATES OF THE WHOLE SAMPLE:

Being forced to flee (1 in 8 households)		Bombing or explosives (1 in 14 households)	
Murder (1 in 15 households)		Robbery or seizure of property (1 in 19 households)	
Assault with a weapon or attempted murder (1 in 24 households)		Abduction or disappearance (1 in 24 households)	
Intimidation or harassment (1 in 25 households)		Imprisonment or detention (1 in 26 households)	

Respondents either did not experience, or felt less comfortable speaking about certain types of violence that are considered more sensitive, such as forced recruitment into security forces (1%), honour killing or forced suicide (>1%), and sexual assault (0%). When compared with the experience of our local partners and other secondary data sources that are more qualitative in nature, we anticipate potentially significant under-reporting of these types of violence in the HSS. This may be due to a desire to preserve the honour of the family and/or a fear of retribution from perpetrators or other community members. It also reflects an inherent limitation of this type of quantitative survey methodology.

When asked about the type of perpetrator of the security incident, terrorists or Daesh were named most frequently (81% of all cases), followed by criminals (10%), or local armed groups (8%). These incidents reportedly occurred most often close to or inside of the home (51%), in the street (20%), or in custody of police, military, or another armed group (7%).

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



Just 12% of respondents anticipated that they would become victims of violence in the coming year. That said, perceptions about vulnerability do still affect behaviour. When asked about common protection strategies, 2/3 of people said that they now rely more on formal security forces. (This rate was even higher specifically among female respondents, at 72%.) Interviewees also reported that household members had joined formal security forces (8%) or provided money, food, or services to armed groups in exchange for protection (5%). Smaller percentages spoke about short-term displacement or long-term migration, or about greater reliance on the UN or NGOs. In contrast, 1 in 5 respondents reported that their household had made no changes in their daily lives as a result of insecurity.

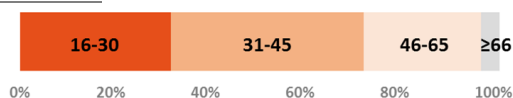
OUR RESPONDENTS IN KIRKUK:

Participation in the survey was completely voluntary, anonymous, and confidential. Randomization procedures were used to identify communities, households, and individuals, although the sampling and participant selection processes were structured so as to maximize the likelihood of gender balance and an appropriately diverse representation on the basis of ethnic and religious identity. Below is some data about our Kirkuk sample:

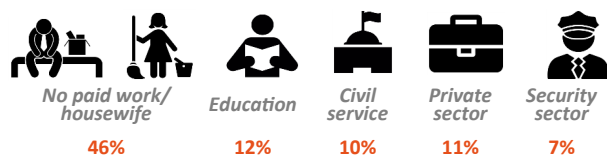
Gender balance:



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 were a small number each of people who identified as representing the following minority groups: Assyrian, Baha'i, Christian, Circassian, Feyli, Kaka'i/Yarsani, Shabak, and Yezidi.

In general, respondents in Kirkuk felt rather optimistic about security trends in the governorate at the time of the survey. When asked about expectations for the future, **more than half of people (56%) said they expected security to improve either a lot or a little in their community in the coming year.** This is in contrast with just **14%** who said they thought it would get either a little or much worse. The remaining people expected that security would remain the same (**19%**) or said they did not know (**11%**).

Respondents pointed to a number of factors that they saw as likely to cause further conflict in their communities, including: **poverty or economic issues: 65%; poor governance at the national level (Baghdad): 28%; sectarian conflict: 26%; terrorism: 23%; conflict between Daesh and security forces: 20%; poor governance at the governorate level: 15%; corruption: 13%; and/or easy access to weapons: 12%** (among many others).

When asked about the most viable solutions for lasting peace in Iraq, respondents referred to many of the same dynamics, such as **improved governance or political reform at the national level (65%)** or at the **governorate level (24%),** or the need for **economic development (14%).** However, **1 in 4** respondents also spoke about the need for a **resolution of the status of Kirkuk,** and **14%** called for more **local reconciliation** efforts. Another **14%** of respondents said that **military victory over Daesh** is a necessary precondition for peace. Notably, just **4%** of respondents said that **more support from international military forces** is needed to achieve lasting peace, whereas **2%** of respondents argued that **less international intervention** would have the same effect.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PHASE OF THE HSS:

One of the key components of the HSS methodology is the process of bringing the data back to the communities where we conduct interviews. **The key purpose is to create or leverage opportunities for civilian populations to articulate and advocate for their security priorities with relevant local authorities.** We hope the survey findings can also be utilized by local people and civil society to raise the collective voice of victims of violence—particularly those from often marginalized populations—to hold authorities accountable for fulfilling their protection responsibilities for all people without sectarian or gender bias.

The HSS community engagement activities in Kirkuk governorate were planned for autumn 2017. Unfortunately, the dynamic political and security realities on the ground constrained our ability to conduct local activities, particularly on such sensitive topics. We and our partners will follow through with the original plans for local dialogues and advocacy as soon as the context allows. We will provide updates on these efforts via our website and future reports.

SECURITY PERCEPTIONS	AGREE	DISAGREE
I generally feel safe from violence or crime in my community	72%	23%
People that have been displaced from Daesh-held areas should be treated first with suspicion	29%	63%
Handing in all of our weapons would reduce violence and crime in this community	73%	22%
The national government in Baghdad is taking clear steps to reduce violence in our community	33%	53%
There should be more women serving in the police to address security issues facing women	82%	15%

Here again we must stress that the survey was conducted in April 2017, 5 months before the Kurdish independence referendum and subsequent seismic shifts in both political and security dynamics on the ground. **It is very likely that civilian experiences and perceptions have changed in the intervening period since our survey, potentially significantly.** We anticipate that this is especially the case for certain subsets of the population, such as ethnic Kurds and communities living in territories that are disputed between the Kurdish Regional Government (KRG) and Federal Iraq. Individuals living in areas recently liberated from Daesh control, such as much of Hawija District, may also have very different sentiments to share, and will hopefully be more accessible in the future. 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.

91%

RESPONDENTS WHO SAID THAT THEY WOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE SURVEY AGAIN IF WE WERE TO RETURN IN THE FUTURE

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: *Gendered Security Dynamics; Experiences and Perceptions of Vulnerability; and Civilian Relationships to Security Actors and Other Authorities*. We will also make available a more detailed overview of our survey methodology. Please check out our website for more information (see below), and feel free to be in contact with questions or comments. For information regarding the Iraq program please visit: www.paxforpeace.nl/our-work/programmes/iraq.

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

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