

Human Security Survey

Salahaddin, Iraq — 2018

Gender Security Dynamics

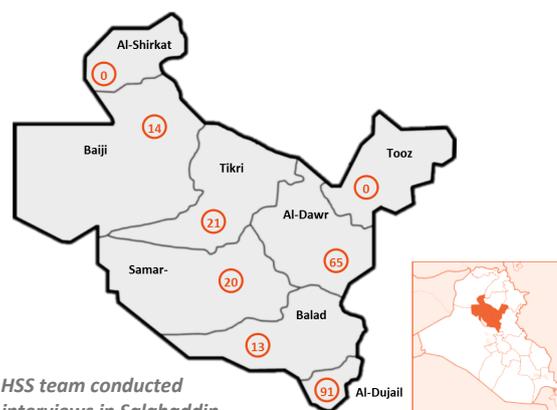
In April and May 2018, PAX and its local partner, the Iraqi Al-Amal Association conducted a survey across Salahaddin governorate about the experiences of civilian populations with issues of insecurity and conflict. (See the next page for more information about the project, and please visit our website for additional reports in this series.) **This report discusses the key survey findings that relate specifically to gender dynamics, including the different ways in which men and women in Salahaddin perceive and are affected by their security environment.**

The results detailed herein were drawn from interviews with **330 men** and **343 women**. Conservative gender norms in this part of Iraq can make it difficult to gain access to women or to discuss sensitive issues, such as sexual and gender-based violence. **We therefore anticipate some level of under-reporting of certain types of violence.** Furthermore, the sensitivity of the topics discussed in general may induce **positive response bias** in how respondents reflect their perspectives about security threats, key security actors, or the security environment in general.

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 local partners, the **IRAQI AL-AMAL ASSOCIATION** and the **IRAQI AL-FIRDAWS SOCIETY**. The HSS is currently also conducted in Kirkuk and Basra governorates. This is the second year that the survey was conducted in Iraq.

The survey in Salahaddin took place over 4 weeks in **April-May 2018**. Fourteen enumerators completed **673** interviews across 5 of the governorate's 7 districts. (Note that Tooz and Al-Shirqat governorates were omitted from the sampling framework due to serious security concerns). **Communities, households, and individuals are approached for the survey through systematic and approximately random procedures, although the sampling and participant selection processes are structured to maximize the likelihood of gender balance and an appropriately diverse representation on the basis of ethnic and religious identity.** Furthermore, our research protocol determines that female enumerators interview women, and male enumerators interview men. Participation in the HSS is entirely voluntary and data are kept strictly anonymous and confidential.



The HSS team conducted 673 interviews in Salahaddin

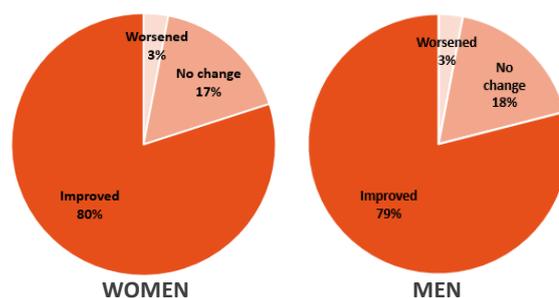
Respondents were selected from five districts within Salahaddin governorate. The distribution of completed surveys per district is illustrated in the figure above.

HOW DO PEOPLE EXPERIENCE CONFLICT IN SALAHADDIN?

Overall, a **relatively small percentage of respondents reported one or more violent incidents** happening to a member of their household in the previous year (**6%** of men and **9%** of women). The most commonly reported types of incidents are *killing or murder* (**3%** of all households), and *robbery* (**3%** of all households). However, we expect some level of under-reporting of violence, primarily due to the sensitivity and taboos associated with speaking openly about insecurity. **We will reality-test these findings in community dialogue sessions across Salahaddin** to better understand both frequency of security threats and potential reasons for under-reporting in this survey.

Nevertheless, **80% of respondents report that his or her personal security situation improved over the last year.** This is in contrast with just **3%** of both male and female respondents who said that their personal security situation worsened over the same time period. For those noting improvement, respondents mention "*less violence*", and "*less crime*" as main impacts of this improved security situation on their daily lives (**73%** and **39%** respectively).

HOW DID YOUR OWN PERSONAL SECURITY SITUATION CHANGE IN THE LAST YEAR? (N= 673)



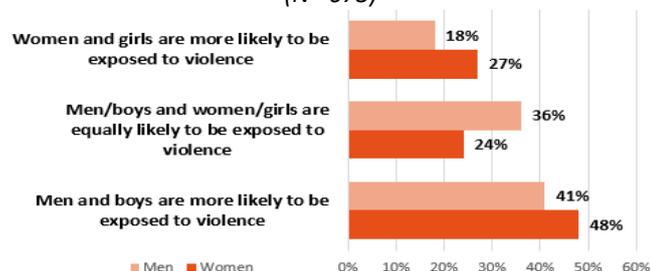
DOES GENDER AFFECT PERCEPTIONS OF VULNERABILITY?

When asked to reflect on their personal exposure to insecurity, the **majority of both male and female respondents expect it is unlikely they will become a victim of violence** (61% of men vs. 65% of women), though women are more likely to say “very unlikely” (39% vs. 23% of men). On the other extreme, **more women than men also expect that it is likely they become a victim of violence** in the future (17% vs. 9%), though at much lower overall rates.

Around 48% of women and 41% of men indicate that **men and boys are more likely to be exposed to violence than women and girls**. A much smaller proportion of both men and women say that women and girls are more likely to be exposed to violence (18% and 27% respectively).

WHO IS MOST LIKELY TO BE EXPOSED TO VIOLENCE?

(N= 673)



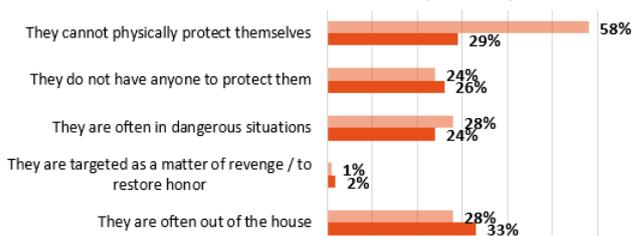
More men than women indicate gender does not play a role in likelihood of becoming a victim (38% vs. 24%). Note that no differences in answers are found when asking about gender and likelihood of being exposed to violence when disaggregating by age groups or employment status.

When asked to identify the most important reasons why men and boys are exposed to violence, 58% of men and

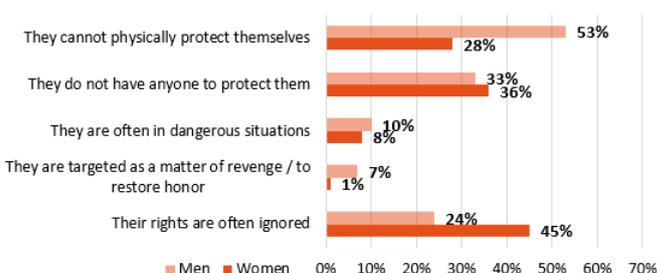
29% of women say “they cannot physically protect themselves.” Around **one-third** of all respondents indicate “they are often out of the house” as one of the main reasons, followed by “they are often in dangerous situations” (26%) and “they don’t have anyone to protect them” (25%).

As for women and girls, more men say that “they cannot physically protect themselves” (53% vs. 28% of women). Women more often state “their rights are often ignored” (45% vs. 24% of men). Slightly over **one-third** indicate women and girls “don’t have anyone to protect them.”

WHAT ARE THE MAIN REASONS MEN AND BOYS ARE EXPOSED TO VIOLENCE? (N= 673)

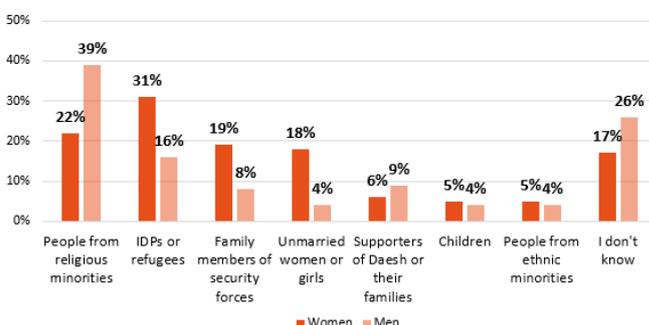


WHAT ARE THE MAIN REASONS WOMEN AND GIRLS ARE EXPOSED TO VIOLENCE? (N= 673)



When posed with the statements “all people in this community are equally likely to be exposed to violence” and “some people in this community are more likely to be exposed to violence than others due to their age, gender, ethnicity, or other factors,” the majority of both male and female respondents argue that **demographic factors do not play a role in likelihood of being exposed to violence** (74% of men; 61% of women). When asking just those who agreed with the latter statement (18% of men; 34% of women) what type of people are most likely to be exposed to violence, the most common responses are “people from religious minorities” (29%), and “internally displaced people or refugees” (26%).

WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE IS MOST LIKELY TO BE EXPOSED TO VIOLENCE? (N= 219)



OUR RESPONDENTS IN SAJAHADDIN:

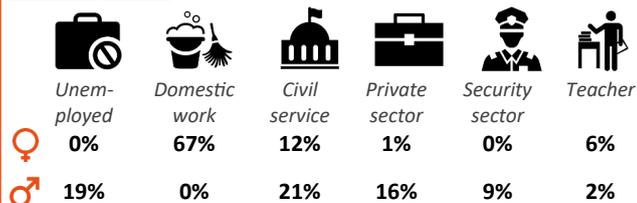
Gender balance:



Age distribution:



Job/occupation:



Ethnic and religious identity:

Our respondents included 99.9% Arabs, and less than 1% Turkmen. When asked about religious identity, all respondents said Muslim (although out of this group 7% explicitly identified themselves as Shi’a, and 18% as Sunni).

HOW COMMON IS GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE?

Respondents were also asked to provide their own perceptions of whether and how often sexual and gender based violence occur in Salahaddin. Only **11%** of women and **19%** of men indicate that men in their community use **physical and/or verbal violence to discipline women or girls**; the majority of respondents disagreed. Also the majority of respondents disagree that **honour killing or forced suicide can be an effective way to restore a family's honour**, with more women opposing the statement (**92%** vs. **79%** of men). Further, more respondents (**58%** of men; **67%** of women) argue that **early marriages do not provide girls with more protection from violence**, than that it see it as a valid protection mechanism (**40%** of men; **31%** of women).

It is common in this community for men to discipline women or girls in their household through the use of physical and/or verbal violence

I mainly agree	Women 11%	Men 19%
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Honour killing or forced suicide can be an effective way to restore a family's honour

I mainly agree	Women 3%	Men 13%
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With which statement do you more agree?

An early marriage when girls are still young is a way to protect them from violence	Women 31%	Men 40%
Early marriages do not provide girls with more protection from violence	Women 67%	Men 58%

HOW ARE PROTECTION MECHANISMS GENDERED?

Respondents tend to argue that men and women have similar experiences when reporting crimes to authorities. The majority agrees that men and women are equally likely to receive helpful assistance when reporting a security incident to the police (**82%** of men; **78%** of women).

Men and women in this community are equally likely to receive helpful assistance when reporting a security incident to the police

I mainly agree	Women 78%	Men 82%
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One often-suggested way of improving relationships between women and law enforcement agencies is to increase the proportion of women serving in the police. We asked respondents for their perspectives on this, and found discrepancies in how people responded depending on whether they were asked about women in general, versus a hypothetical female member of their own family. In general respondents are in favor of women serving in the police (**75%** of men; **58%** of women), whereas **around half of respondents say that women from their own family should not be serving the police (49%)**. Thus, when it comes to one's own family, respondents display different attitudes.

There should be more women serving in the police to help with security issues facing women

I mainly agree	Women 58%	Men 75%
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With which statement do you more agree?

I would support my sister if she wanted to apply for a position in the police force	Women 46%	Men 48%
Women in my family should not be serving in the police	Women 51%	Men 46%

Many respondents identified various self-protection mechanisms they have utilized to protect oneself and the household from violence. We asked about a set of protection mechanisms and whether respondents or members of their households had engaged in them in the previous year as a result of insecurity. The most often reported mechanism was "assistance from formal security forces" (**39%** of men; **52%** of women). More men than women reported "joining formal security forces" (**15%** vs. **8%**), and/or "providing money, food, or services to security forces or other armed groups" (**17%** vs. **3%**). Furthermore, **more women than men mentioned having made no changes in their daily life as a result of insecurity (27% vs. 11%)**.

Out of all **24%** respondents who have migrated during the last five years, **86%** of women and **100%** of men indicate this was because of insecurity. This finding points to migration being a self-protection strategy as well, though it is not always by choice. Only **1%** of respondents mentioned "migration, fleeing, or sending household members away to safer areas" explicitly as self-protection mechanism.

WHAT ARE CIVILIANS' EXPECTATIONS FOR THE FUTURE?

With regards to the future, **most respondents are quite positive about what will happen to their personal security situation: 66%** of women and **47%** of men believe it will either improve a little or a lot.

When asking what is needed to bring lasting peace to Iraq, the majority of both men and women indicate "economic development" (**68%** of men; **66%** of women), followed by "political reforms" (**48%** of men; **40%** of women), and "victory over Daesh" (**26%** of men; **43%** of women).

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). In addition to a general summary report at the governorate level, 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 (see below), and feel free to be in contact with questions or comments.

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

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