

# Human Security Survey

## Salahaddin, Iraq — 2019

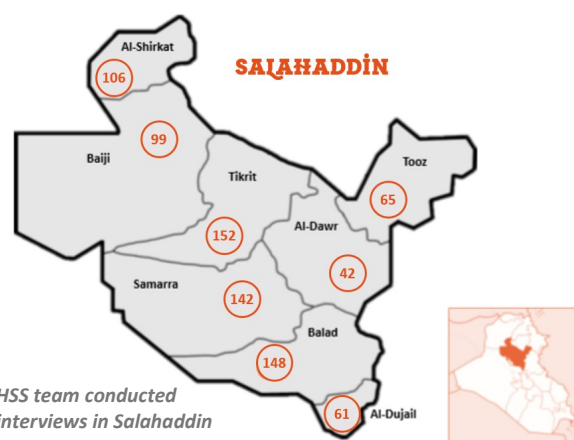
### Summary of Key Findings

The survey in Salahaddin took place over **three weeks in August 2019**. A total of **15 enumerators** (7 females and 8 males) conducted **815 surveys** (47% female respondents and 53% male respondents) **across all eight districts in the governorate**. Target numbers were allocated across sub-districts based on population density, with specific research sites being selected or omitted based on security and access, with an eye to ensuring demographic diversity. Communities, households and individual respondents were selected to participate as randomly as possible using a set of systematic procedures in order to maximize generalizability. Furthermore, our research protocol determines that female enumerators interview women, and male enumerators interview men. Participation is entirely voluntary with respondents given the choice to opt out of the survey at any point, and data are kept strictly confidential.

Salahaddin's population is **one of the most rural in Iraq**, which was also evident in the survey results, where **54%** of the respondents resided in rural areas. Salahaddin has also been **one of Iraq's most insecure governorates** since the American invasion of Iraq in 2003.<sup>1</sup> Moreover, the district Tooz Khurmato also came under the 'Disputed Internal Boundaries' (DIBs) as per Article 140 of the Iraqi Constitution,<sup>2</sup> further complicating things in the governorate. While the Kurds took the advantage of US backing and occupied buildings of the former Iraqi regime following 2003, the Turkmen community also viewed Tooz Khurmato as their key cultural capital and historical population centre.<sup>3</sup> The diversity of Tooz Khurmato was also evident in the survey demographics; while in the other seven districts a majority of the respondents were Arabs (ranging from **99%** to **100%**),

#### 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 third year that the survey was conducted in Iraq.



The HSS team conducted 815 interviews in Salahaddin

in Tooz Khurmato, the majority were Turkmen (**35%**), followed by Kurds (**34%**) and then Arabs (**29%**).<sup>4</sup> Samarra on the other hand is seen as the ground zero of Iraq's sectarian civil war which started in 2006, and most recently as the home of Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi.<sup>5</sup> By 2014, Da'esh (also known as the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria — ISIS) had taken control of important cities such as Tikrit, Baiji, Samarra and Shirqat; the latter of which was only recaptured in 2016. Al-Shirqat, with its geographical proximity to Mosul and Hatra also saw turbulent times in recent years. This was also evident in the HSS: while **91%** of the overall respondents in the governorate shared that they felt that their areas were safe from Da'esh, a major deviation was noted in Al-Shirqat, where by comparison **75%** of the respondents shared that their area was safe from Da'esh.

Under this backdrop, while in 2017, the first year of the HSS, PAX and its partner, the Iraqi Al-Amal Association, were able to access all eight districts for surveys, in 2018, Tooz Khurmato and Al-Shirqat districts were inaccessible due to security challenges; in 2019, all eight districts were surveyed. About one in five respondents shared that their household did not have access to a regular source of income, with the highest incidence being in Tooz Khurmato (**38%**), followed by Al-Dawr (**33%**). It is also interesting to note that while the national average household size is five in Iraq, the average household size in Salahaddin as recorded during the survey was 8 members, ranging from 6 in Balad to 10 in Baiji. While a majority (**86%**) of the respondents had lived in the same town or city in the last five years, of those who had been displaced, the most pertinent (**71%**) reason was violence. The incidence of those who had been displaced was greatest in Al-Shirqat (**48%**), followed by Tooz Khurmato (**22%**).

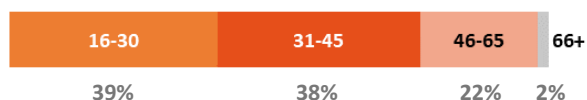
## OUR RESPONDENTS IN SALAHADDIN:

Participation in the HSS is entirely voluntary and data are kept strictly anonymous and confidential. 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. (Note that our research protocol determines that female enumerators interview women, and male enumerators interview men.) Below is some information about our Salahaddin sample:

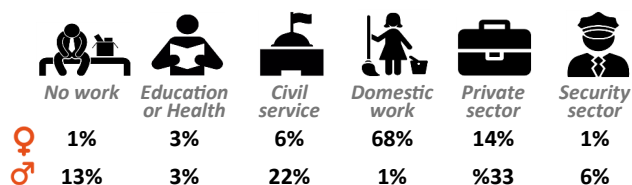
### Gender balance:



### Age distribution:



### Livelihood:



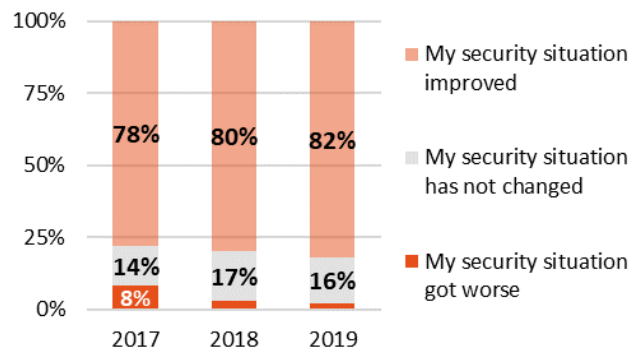
### Ethnic and religious identity:

Our respondents included 94% Arabs, 3% Kurds and 3% Turkmen. When asked about religious identity, 99% said Muslim, and less than 1% each said that they are not religious or refused to answer.

In terms of the security situation, more respondents (93%) now feel generally safe in their communities, which is significantly up from 2017 (68%) and 2018 (80%), most likely attributable to the improvements in the security situation described above. Similarly, when asking about changes in personal security, 82% respondents shared that their personal security improved in the last 12 months, while 2% shared that their personal security worsened. These rates are similar to the ones recorded in 2018, where 80% reported their security situation improved and 3% reported that their security situation worsened; however, as mentioned above, data from 2018 was not fully representative of the entire governorate. Of those who reported that their security situation improved in the past 12 months, 67% reported that they feel less exposed to violence or harassment when outside their house, 50% reported that they were able to leave their homes more often, and 42% reported that they can travel between their communities and other areas more easily.<sup>6</sup> When asked if the respondents or their household did something to protect themselves in the last 12 months, 48% shared that they travelled less frequently outside of their house, while 33% shared that they did not make any changes. There were however

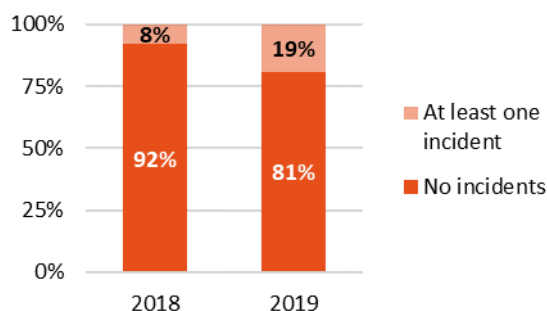
some differences in answers when analysed district wise; 80% of respondents in Balad shared that they travelled less frequently outside their houses, while 31% in Al-Dawr and 28% in Tooz Khurmato shared that they migrated or sent members of their household away to safer areas.

## HOW WOULD YOU RATE YOUR PERSONAL SECURITY SITUATION COMPARED TO LAST YEAR?



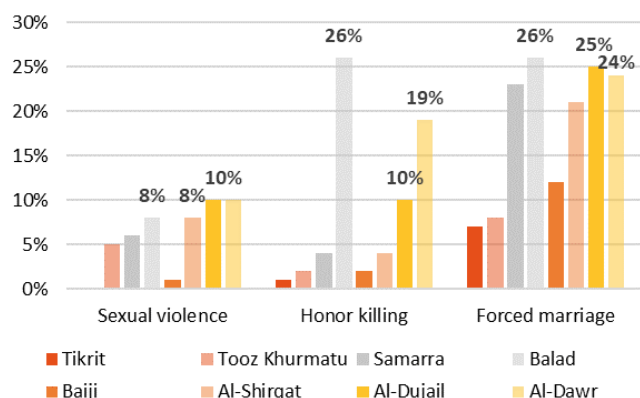
While the respondents reported feeling generally safe, in 2019, about one in five households were a victim of at least one security threat, compared to only 8% in 2018. However, as stated above, in 2018, the data set did not include Tooz Khurmato or Al-Shirqat districts. When analysing the incidence of security threats district wise, 34% respondents in Tooz Khurmato shared that either them or a member of their household were victim of a security threat, followed by 26% in Al-Dawr and 25% in Samarra. While about one in ten households were a victim of robbery or seizure of property in this year compared to 3% in 2018, there were again notable differences observed district wise; 22% respondents in Tooz Khurmato shared that either them or a member of their household had been a victim of robbery or had their property seized, followed by 13% respondents in Tikrit district. Similarly, while only 3% of the respondents shared that someone from their household had been a victim of bombing or explosion, the incidence was much higher in Tikrit district (7%), followed by Tooz Khurmato (5%). While 8% of the respondents shared that someone in their household experiences prolonged physical or psychological trauma as a result of being exposed to violence or insecurity, the highest incidence of such cases was in Al-Shirqat (20%), followed by 14% in Baiji and 11% in Tooz Khurmato.

## HAVE YOU OR MEMBERS OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD BEEN A VICTIM OF SECURITY THREATS WITHIN THE PAST 12 MONTHS?



While this is a sensitive topic with PAX and its partners feeling that the incidence of issues related to sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) are under-reported,<sup>7</sup> less than 6% of those surveyed reported that within the last year they heard of cases of SGBV against women and girls in their community. There were significant deviations district wise though, with 10% of respondents in Al-Dawr and Al-Dujail sharing that they hear of such incidents at least once or more per year, followed by 8% in Balad and Al-Shirqat. At times incidents of SGBV are also normalised; when asked if it was common for men to discipline women or girls through the use of physical or verbal violence, 28% of the respondents agreed, with a significant deviation noted in Al-Shirqat and Baiji districts, where 52% and 37% of the respondents respectively, agreed with this statement.

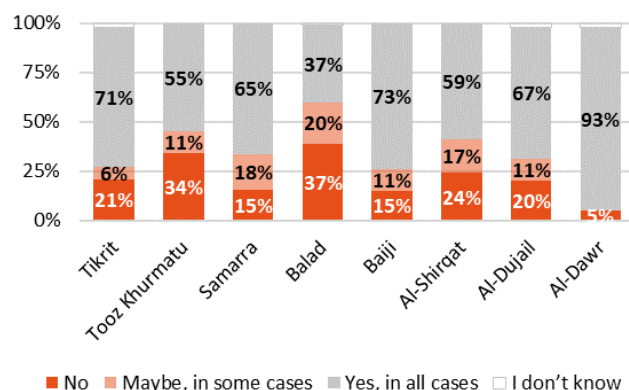
#### WITHIN THE LAST YEAR HAVE YOU HEARD OF CASES OF ... HAPPENING TO WOMEN OR GIRLS IN YOUR COMMUNITY?



Similar patterns were noted when asked about the incidence of honour killing or forced suicide; while less than 5% overall respondents shared that they heard of such instances, 26% of respondents in Balad shared that they hear of such incidents at least once or more per year, followed by 19% in Al-Dawr and 10% in Al-Dujail. Similarly, 13% of overall respondents agreed that honour killing was an effective way to restore a family's honour, with a notable difference observed in Al-Shirqat district, where 35% of the respondents agreed with this statement. In the case of forced marriages involving females over the age of 18 years, one in five overall respondents shared that they heard of such instances within their communities. The highest instances were in Balad districts where 26% respondents heard of such instances at least once or more per year, followed by 25% respondents in Al-Dujail and 24% respondents in Al-Dawr. The latter may again be under-reported, since when asked if forced marriage is considered a form of violence, 23% of the respondents disagreed, while another 14% shared that only in some cases is forced marriage a form of violence. Here also, the highest incidence was in Balad, where 37% respondents shared that forced marriage is not a form of violence, and 34% in Tooz

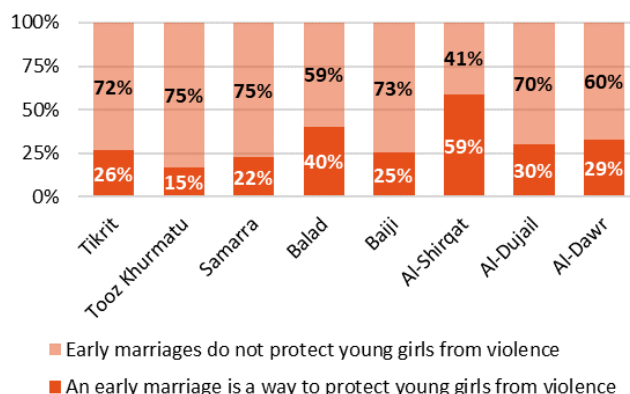
Khurmatu shared that they do not consider forced marriage to be a form of violence.

#### DO YOU CONSIDER FORCED MARRIAGE A FORM OF VIOLENCE RATHER THAN AN APPROPRIATE CULTURAL PRACTICE?



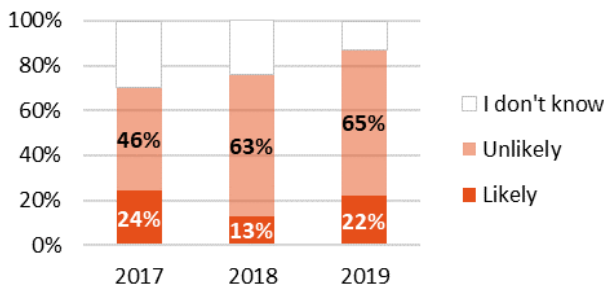
When asked if they had heard of cases of marriage involving girls less than 18 years of age in their community, an astoundingly high three in five respondents shared that they had heard of such instances. The highest incidence was seen in Al-Shirqat, where 73% respondents shared that they heard of such instances at least once or more per year; followed by Samarra with 72% respondents shared that they hear of such instance at least once or more per year. Even though 66% of all respondents felt that early marriages do not provide girls with more protection from violence, only 41% of respondents from Al-Shirqat believed in this statement, with 59% believing that early marriage is an effective way to protect young girls from violence, possibly a reason which explains the more than governorate average incidence of early marriage in the district.

#### WITH WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING TWO STATEMENTS DO YOU AGREE MOST?



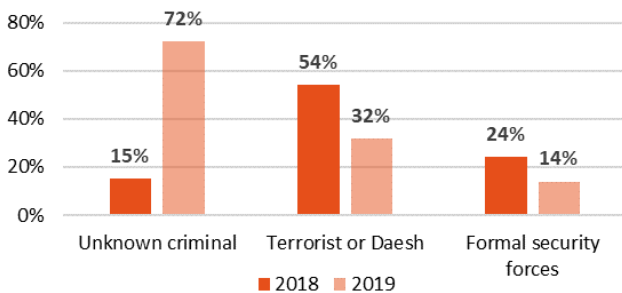
Looking towards the near future, when respondents were asked if they expect to become a victim of violence in the next year, 22% felt that there was some likelihood. This has gone up considerably since 2018, where 10% of the respondents felt that they expect to become victims of violence. When analysing results district wise, those in Balad (37%), followed by those in Samarra (25%) felt that their likelihood of becoming a victim of violence was notably greater than the governorate average.

**IN THE NEXT YEAR, DO YOU EXPECT THAT YOU ARE LIKELY TO BECOME A VICTIM OF VIOLENCE ?**



Among those who anticipated becoming victims of violence, 59% felt that they would fall victim by getting caught up in a random or indiscriminate act of violence, followed by 26% feeling that they would fall victim to violence based on their ethnicity or religious identity, followed by 26% sharing that they expect to be a victim of violence because of their relationship to certain security forces.<sup>8</sup> Similarly, of those who expect to become victims of violence, 72% of the respondents expected the perpetrators to be an unknown criminal, the highest proportion of those who shared this option being in Balad (96%); followed by 32% who expected the perpetrators to be Da'esh or a terrorist group, with the highest proportion of those who chose this option being in Al-Dawr (60%) and Balad (50%).<sup>9</sup> The answers have changed considerably since 2018, when 54% of all respondents believed that the likely perpetrator of violence would be Da'esh or other terrorist groups, the highest in Al-Dujail (67%); followed by 24% of all respondents sharing that they expected the police to be the likely perpetrator of violence.

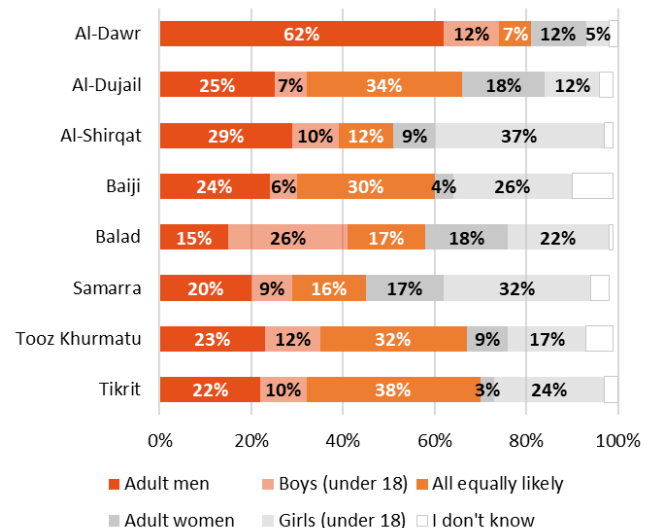
**WHO DO YOU EXPECT TO BE THE MOST LIKELY PERPETRATOR(S) OF THAT VIOLENCE AGAINST YOU?**



Around half of all respondents feel that some people in their community are more likely to be exposed to violence than others, with 52% feeling that internally displaced persons (IDPs) or refugees are most vulnerable, followed by 42% sharing that people from religious or ethnic minorities are more likely to be exposed to violence, followed by 33% sharing that adolescent boys are more likely to be exposed to violence.<sup>10</sup> However, when asked about exposure to violence on the basis of gender and age, a quarter of all respondents shared that they feel that girls under the age of 18 years to be the most vulnerable group, with 37% respondents in Al-Shirqat and 32% of respondents in Samarra

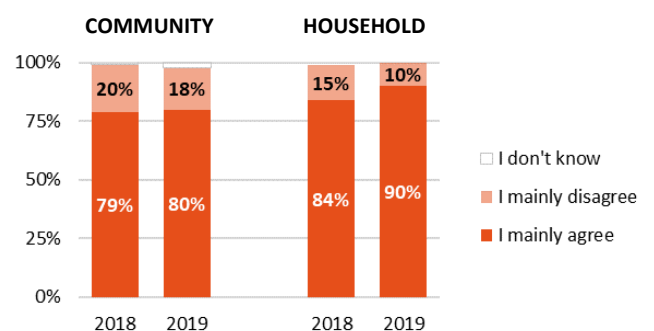
choosing this option; followed by 24% of respondents stating that they feel that adult men over the age of 18 years are most likely to be exposed to violence, with respondents in Al-Dawr (62%) feeling this group is most vulnerable compared to the governorate average; followed by 24% sharing that men, women, boys and girls are all equally exposed to violence. When asked why the respondents felt that men and boys are exposed to violence, the most common response (46%) was that they cannot physically protect themselves, followed by 'they are often out of the house' (44%), and 'they do not have anyone to protect them' (35%).<sup>11</sup> Similarly, when asked why the respondents felt that women and girls are exposed to violence, the most common response (70%) in this case again was that they cannot physically protect themselves, followed by 'they do not have anyone to protect them' (43%), and 'their rights are often ignored' (29%).<sup>12</sup>

**DO YOU THINK THAT MEN, BOYS, WOMEN, OR GIRLS ARE MOST LIKELY TO BE EXPOSED TO VIOLENCE?**



In terms of feeling safe in their surroundings, every 4 out of 5 respondents shared that they generally feel safe in their communities; notable deviations from the governorate average were seen in Samarra (62%), Al-Dujail (69%) and Balad (74%). While every 9 out of 10 respondents shared that they feel safe within their own household, noteworthy deviations from the governorate average were again seen in Al-Dujail (74%) and Samarra (79%).

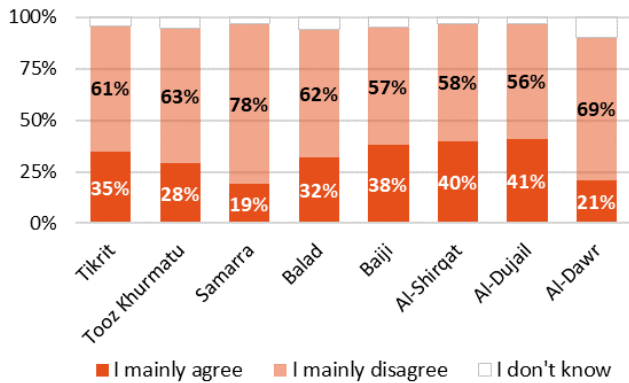
**I GENERALLY FEEL SAFE FROM VIOLENCE OR CRIME IN MY...**





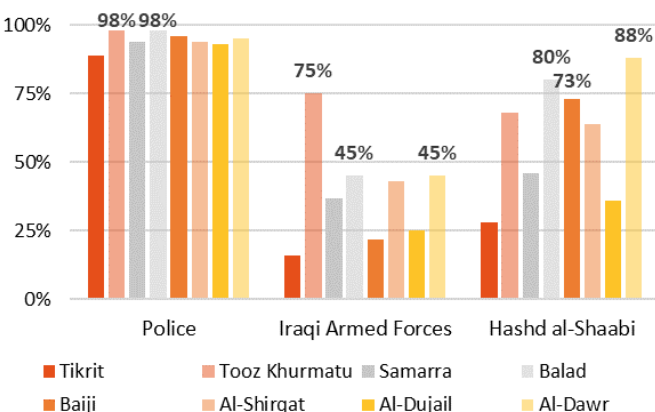
Approximately a third of the respondents also shared that it was fairly easy for civilians to acquire firearms in their community, the highest incidence observed in Al-Dujail (41%), Al-Shirqat (40%) and Baiji (38%) districts. Only a fifth of the respondents felt that the United Nations (UN)<sup>13</sup> was effective in protecting or providing support to people from their communities, while 35% of all respondents felt that the Federal government is taking clear steps to reduce violence in their communities.

**IT IS VERY EASY FOR CIVILIANS TO ACQUIRE FIREARMS IN THIS COMMUNITY. DO YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE?**



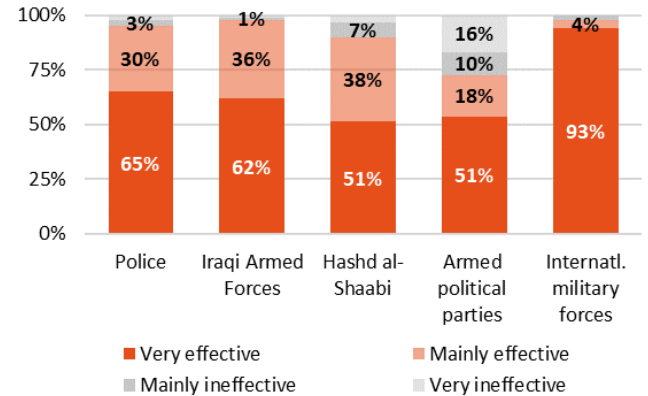
While discussing security actors and their capabilities, 94% of all respondents shared that the police have a consistent presence in their communities, and there were no major deviations noted across districts. Approximately, 95% of the communities also shared that they mainly find the performance of the police effective, again with no major deviations across districts. In the case of the Iraqi armed forces, 36% shared that they have a constant presence in their communities, with respondents from Tooz Khurmato (75%), Balad (45%) and Al-Dawr (45%) sharing a higher presence. Effectiveness was also recorded at approximately 98% percent, with no major deviations across the districts. Similarly in the case of the Popular Mobilisation Forces (PMF, locally known as Al-Hashd Al-Sha'abi), 58% of the overall respondents shared that they were consistently present in their communities, with residents of Al-Dawr (88%), Balad (80%)

**DO ... HAVE A CONSISTENT PRESENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY, MEANING THAT THEY ARE NEARLY ALWAYS PRESENT OR AVAILABLE?**



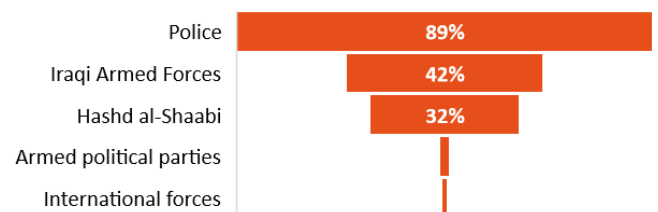
and Baiji (73%) seeing the PMF's presence more than others. PMF's performance was also rated at 89%, with no significant deviations observed across districts. Every one in ten respondents also shared that armed political parties had a consistent presence in their areas, with significant deviations observed in Al-Dujail (23%) and Tooz Khurmato (22%). Their effectiveness was rated at 69%, with major deviations seen in Al-Dujail where only 7% of respondents believed them to be effective compared to 100% of respondents in Tikrit who viewed them as effective.

**HOW WOULD YOU RATE THE PERFORMANCE OF ... IN PROVIDING SECURITY IN YOUR COMMUNITY ?**



In terms of trusting the security providers, the most trusted actor was the police (89%), followed by the Iraqi Armed Forces (42%) and the PMF (32%).<sup>14</sup> While there were no notable deviations observed in the case of the police, in the case of the Iraqi Armed Forces, 78% respondents in Balad trusted them compared to only 26% in Baiji. Similarly, in the case of the PMF, 61% respondents in Balad trusted them compared to 7% in Samarra. Respondents (77%) also shared that local leaders also worked towards improving security in their communities, mostly mentioned by respondents from Balad (96%), Al-Dujail (90%) and Baiji (88%).

**WHICH OF THESE SECURITY ACTORS DO YOU TRUST TO WORK TOWARDS IMPROVED SECURITY IN YOUR COMMUNITY?**



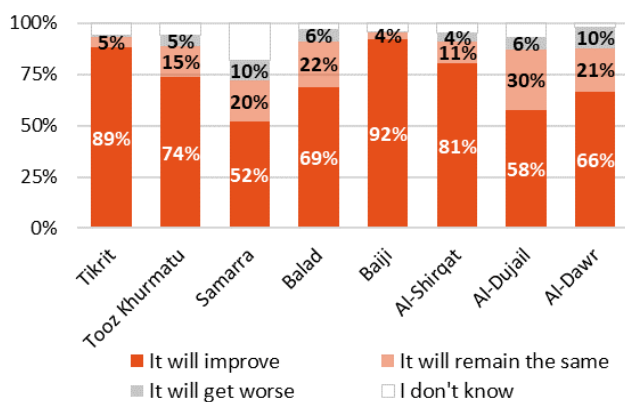
Discussing the means of improving protection, 64% of all respondents agreed that disarmament of civilians is needed in the governorate for improved security. While 80% of respondents from Samarra agreed with this, only 50% of respondents from Al-Shirqat agreed with it, with 48% respondents stating that civilians need to be armed in order to be able to protect themselves.<sup>15</sup> In terms of dispute resolution, 55% of all respondents believed that disputes should be handled by the formal judicial system, however

this was only true for **31%** of the respondents in Al-Shirqat, **38%** residents in Balad and **38%** residents in Al-Dujail, as the rest felt that dispute resolutions between communities should best be handled by local tribal leaders. A majority (**86%**) of respondents also believe that it is best when security forces are from within their own communities as they know them well; no notable deviations were noted across districts. While **56%** respondents shared that sectarianism has little to no impact in their communities, there were significant differences seen across districts. Over three-quarter respondents from Samarra and **55%** respondents in Tooz Khurmatu believe that sectarianism does indeed have a big impact in their communities. In the case of the latter, it can be attributed to the diverse ethnic population of the district which has seen turbulent times as a result of this diversity, however in the case of Samarra, it can be attributed to the multitude PMF (mostly Shi'a) checkpoints and the presence of Saraya Al-Salam, one of Iraq's most fearsome Shi'a militias, dotted across a primarily Sunni district.<sup>16</sup>

*A vast majority (87%) of the respondents shared that they believe that political and security actors need more information about civilians' priorities in order to improve the security situation — a reason reaffirming the need for initiatives such as the HSS and sharing of aggregated findings with local security providers.*

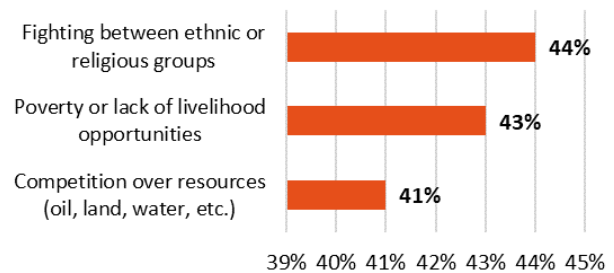
Talking about the future outlook, about three-quarters of the respondents felt that their security situation will improve in the coming year. However, respondents from all districts were not as positive; with only **52%** residents of Samarra and **58%** residents from Al-Dujail sharing the positive outlook.

#### WHAT DO YOU EXPECT TO HAPPEN WITH SECURITY IN YOUR COMMUNITY IN THE NEXT YEAR ?



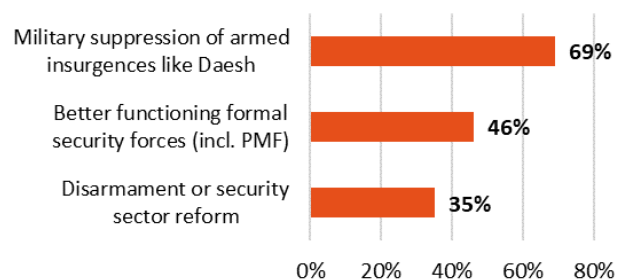
When asked what the respondents felt would be the most likely factors that would cause further conflict in their communities in the next year, the top responses included fighting between ethnic or religious groups (**44%**), poverty or lack of livelihoods (**43%**), and competition over resources such as land, water, oil, etc. (**41%**).

#### WHAT ARE THE 3 MAIN FACTORS THAT ARE MOST LIKELY TO CAUSE FURTHER CONFLICT IN YOUR COMMUNITY IN THE NEXT YEAR?



When asked what three most significant changes are needed to bring lasting peace to Iraq, the top answers included military suspension of armed insurgencies like Da'esh (**69%**), better functioning formal security forces (**46%**) and disarmament or security sector reform (**35%**).

#### WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE 3 MOST SIGNIFICANT CHANGES THAT NEED TO HAPPEN TO BRING LASTING PEACE TO IRAQ?



#### Notes

<sup>1</sup> [https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/0BDD36464B63B98DC12576000033A01F-Full\\_Report.pdf](https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/0BDD36464B63B98DC12576000033A01F-Full_Report.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/100100/3/DIBsReport.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> 2% of the respondents chose not to answer.

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2019/05/samarra-sunni-city-shia-militias-iraq/588772/>

<sup>6</sup> Respondents were asked to choose as many options that applied to them, hence the sum is greater than 100%.

<sup>7</sup> PAX and its partners are in the process of piloting remote data gathering techniques to gather data on the incidence of SGBV in Basra, Kirkuk and Salahaddin governorates in 2020.

<sup>8</sup> Respondents were asked to choose as many options that applied to them, hence the sum is greater than 100%.

<sup>9</sup> Idem.

<sup>10</sup> Idem.

<sup>11</sup> Idem.

<sup>12</sup> Idem.

<sup>13</sup> Please note that for most respondents, the UN equates to all international nongovernmental organisations (INGOs).

<sup>14</sup> Respondents were asked to choose as many options that applied to them, hence the sum is greater than 100%.

<sup>15</sup> 2% of respondents from Al-Shirqat stated that they did not know.

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2019/05/samarra-sunni-city-shia-militias-iraq/588772/>

The HSS is made possible with the generous support of the **Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs**. In case of questions, please contact Saba Azeem at [azeem@paxforpeace.nl](mailto:azeem@paxforpeace.nl)

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