



# Human Security Survey

## Kirkuk, Iraq — 2019

### Summary of Key Findings

In April 2019, PAX and its local partner, the Iraqi Al-Amal Association, conducted the second round of the Human Security Survey (HSS) across all four districts of Kirkuk governorate to get a sense of the experiences of civilian populations on issues regarding protection, conflict and security dynamics, and how they change over time. The first HSS was conducted in 2017 and did not include Hawija district as it was still under Da'esh control. Due to security and access challenges, the HSS was also not conducted in 2018 in the governorate. (See below for more information about the project, and please visit our website for additional reports in this series.)

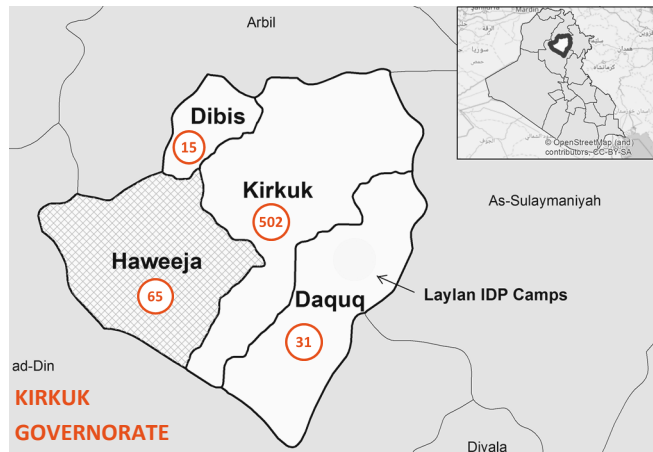
While just over half of the respondents reported feeling safe in their communities, 52% reported that their security situation improved during the last year. This improvement could be attributed to the time that has passed since the

#### 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 HSS is currently also conducted in Basra and Salahaddin governorates. This is the third year in which the survey is being conducted in Iraq.

The survey in Kirkuk took place over 3 weeks in April 2019. A total of 15 enumerators (9 females and 6 males) completed 613 interviews (52% female respondents and 48% male respondents) across all 4 districts in the governorate, accessing Hawija district for the first time since the HSS started in 2017. Communities, households, and individual respondents were selected to participate through a systematic and approximately random procedure in order to increase the likelihood of generalizability. Participation is entirely voluntary with respondents given the choice to opt out of the survey at any point, and data are kept strictly confidential.

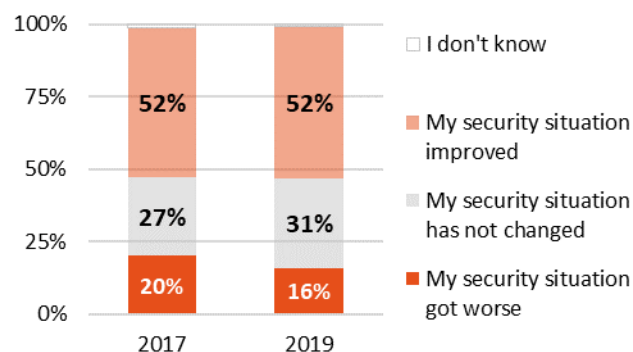
#### Number of surveys completed per district



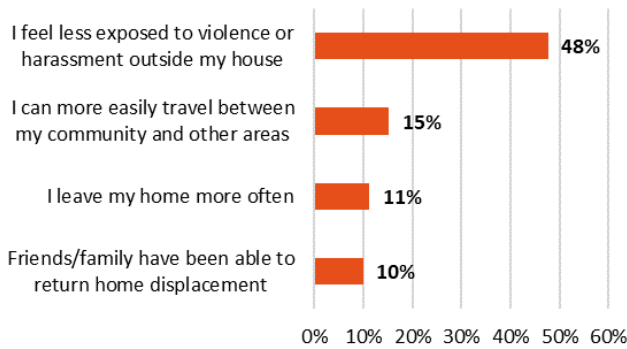
The team conducted 613 interviews in Kirkuk

Federal Iraqi forces took over the governorate following elections for Kurdish independence in October 2017, and since Hawija was retaken from Da'esh (also known as the Islamic State or ISIS/ISIL) in September 2017. It should also be noted that by April 2018, the airspace over the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) was also re-opened, another factor which could contribute to the feeling of relative safety. These factors are especially important since 40% of the respondents identified as Kurdish, compared to 29% Arab and 15% Turkmen. For those who reported their security improving, almost half attributed it to the fact that they felt less exposed to violence or harassment outside of their house. While this was the top option for respondents in Kirkuk, Daquq and Hawija districts, in Dibilis, respondents reported feeling safe because they were able to leave their house more often (a third of the respondents) and they had less financial worries (one-third).

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

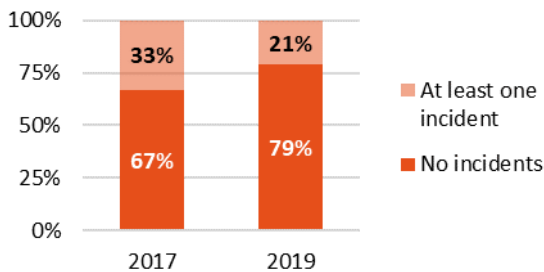


### HOW HAS THE IMPROVED PERSONAL SECURITY SITUATION IMPACTED YOUR DAILY LIFE?



One in three respondents in 2017 reported that either them or someone from their household experienced a security threat in the previous year. However, as noted above, this only contained data from Kirkuk, Dibis and Daquq districts. This improved to one on five respondents reporting in 2019 that either them or someone from their household experienced a security threat in the previous year. This also goes to show that despite the tense times that Kirkuk faced in late 2017, as well as retaking Hawija from Da'esh, residents of the governorate did not face as many security incidents, even during the elections in May 2018.

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



While it is hard to get accurate quantitative data on issues regarding Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) given the cultural norm of not discussing such issues openly, about one on five respondents reported seeing women or girls from their community facing verbal or physical harassment while out on the street. While the proportion of respondents who reported witnessing instances of verbal and physical harassment against women and girls in their communities was somewhat homogenous for Kirkuk, Dibis and Daquq, the proportion was higher in Hawija (26%). Whether this points to more instances in the district or their openness in sharing these details, remains to be explored. Another possible reason for underreporting could be attributed to the fact that almost two in every five people don't even consider forced marriage to be a form of violence. However, in Dibis, all respondents interviewed

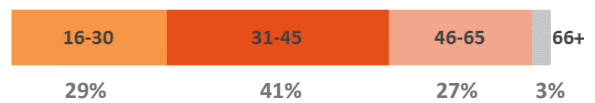
### OUR RESPONDENTS IN KIRKUK:

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 Kirkuk sample:

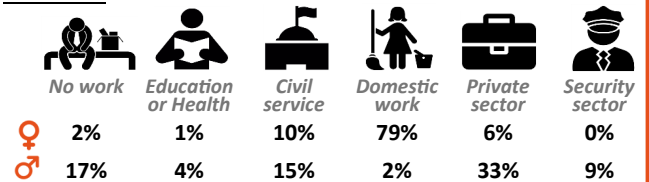
#### Gender balance:



#### Age distribution:



#### Livelihood:

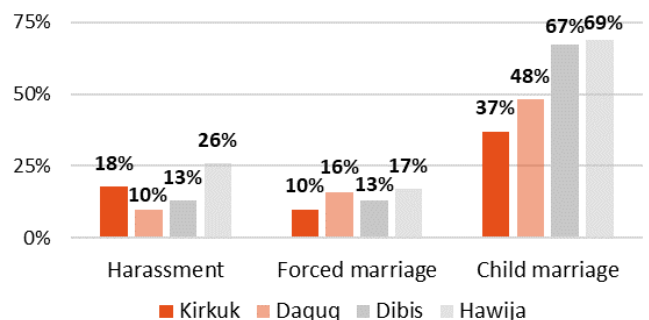


#### Ethnic and religious identity:

Our respondents included 40% Kurds, 29% Arabs, 15% Turkmen, 14% Afro-Iraqis and 2% from other ethnic minority groups (Yezidi, Kakai/Yarsani, or Mandaean). When asked about religious identity, 93% said Muslim, and 5% identified as a member of a religious minority group (Kakai/Yarsani, Christian, or Zoroastrian).

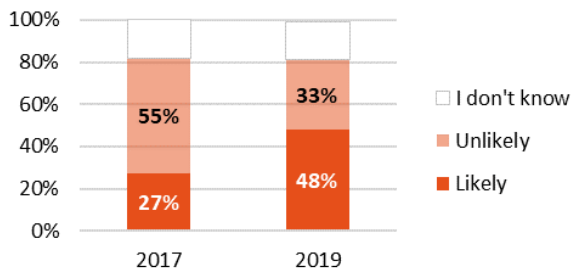
stated that they do not consider forced marriage to be a form of violence at all. Furthermore, over two in five respondents also reported having heard of cases of marriages of girls below the age of 18 years in their communities. The incidence was higher in Dibis where 67% reported having heard of cases of marriages of girls below the age of 18 years in their communities, while this proportion was 69% in Hawija district. The reasons for these need to be further explored.

### CASES OF SEXUAL AND GENDER BASED VIOLENCE HAPPENING TO WOMEN OR GIRLS IN YOUR COMMUNITY



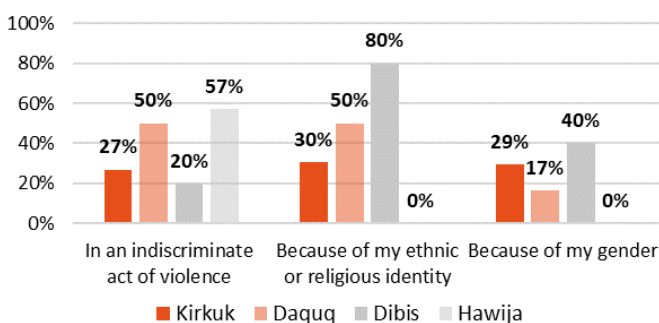
On questions around vulnerability, around half of the respondents felt that they were somewhat or very likely to become victims of violence in the coming year; this is a stark increase from the 27% who felt in 2017 that they might become victims of violence even though Da'esh was still present in the governorate. This shows why the HSS is also essential, since despite the country being declared free from Da'esh officially, the feelings of vulnerability that residents have increased over the past two years.

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



When asked why do they think they would become victims of violence, 31% respondents stated that they are afraid of getting caught up at random in an act of violence, while 29% felt that it would be because of their religious or ethnic identity, and 26% felt that it would be because of their gender. Interestingly, none of the respondents in Hawija chose the latter two as an option. However, 80% of the respondents in Dibis felt that their ethnic or religious identity and 40% felt that their gender could make them victims of violence. Half of the respondents in Daquq felt that their ethnic or religious identity would expose them to violence. These findings also point to how Kirkuk has always been and continues to be a melting pot of different ethnic, confessional, and political groups. In Daquq, these feelings may have been echoes from the past when the area underwent 'Arabisation'; land from Shi'a Turkmen was seized and subsequently released to Arabs. The rise of Da'esh, the Kurdish referendum and Federal Iraqi forces taking over the governorate may have amplified these feelings. However, the exact reason for this was not specifically asked from the

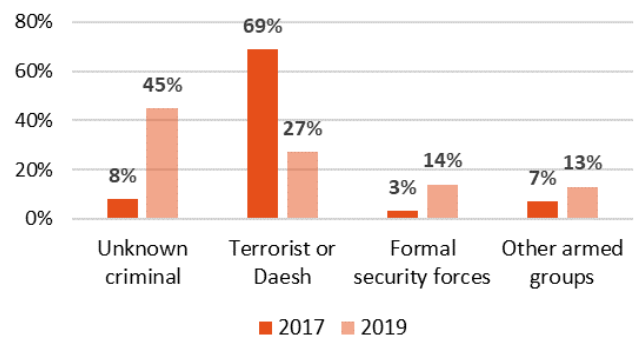
**WHY DO YOU ANTICIPATE THAT YOU ARE LIKELY TO BECOME A VICTIM OF VIOLENCE?**



respondents. Similarly, it is speculated that since Dibis is primarily a Kurdish region, residents may feel more likely to become victims of violence based on their religion and ethnicity since Federal Iraqi forces took control of the governorate. However, no data was collected on these questions prior to 2019, hence longitudinal data is not available.

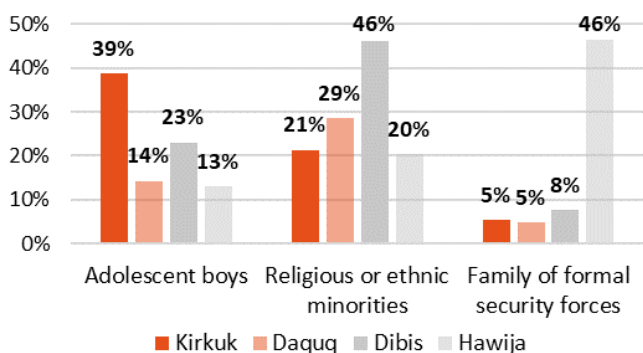
For those who did expect to be victims of violence, when asked who they expect the likely perpetrators to be, 45% chose unknown criminals, while 27% chose Da'esh/terrorists. This has changed considerably since 2017, when 69% of the respondents felt that Da'esh/terrorists would be the likely perpetrator, as the group was still present in the governorate then. In 2019, while in Kirkuk, Daquq and Dibis districts, a majority of the respondents expected perpetrators to be unknown criminals, in Hawija, a vast majority (71%) expected the perpetrators of violence to be Da'esh/terrorists, pointing to the turbulent recent past of the district, and also the fear of sleeper cells.

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



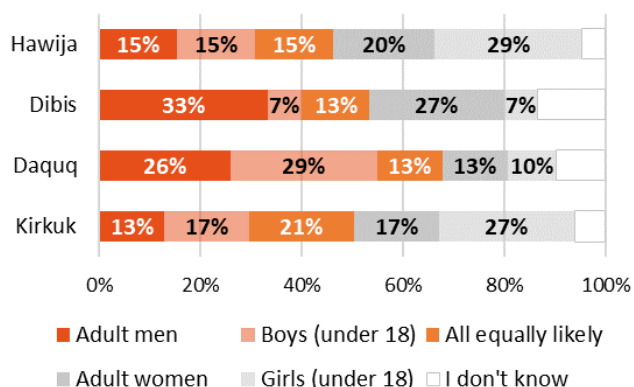
While three in five respondents across the governorate feel that some people in their communities are more likely to be exposed to violence than others due to their age, gender, ethnicity, or other factors, in Kirkuk district, about two in five respondents also felt that all people in their communities are equally likely to be exposed to violence. This may be alluded to indiscriminate arbitrary attacks the district, especially the city, has faced in the past few years. While aggregating at the governorate level for those who felt that some people are more vulnerable than others, about one in three respondents felt that adolescent boys were most at risk. This was also the most chosen (39%) option for Kirkuk districts, however in Daquq (29%) and Dibis (46%) districts the most frequently chosen option was people from ethnic or religious minorities, while the most frequently chosen answer in Hawija (46%) was family members of people in formal security forces. The reasons for these choices may again be alluded to Daquq's significant Turkmen minority, Dibis's majority Kurdish residents and Hawija's recent occupation by Da'esh.

**WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE OR GROUPS DO YOU CONSIDER MOST LIKELY TO BE EXPOSED TO VIOLENCE IN THIS COMMUNITY?**



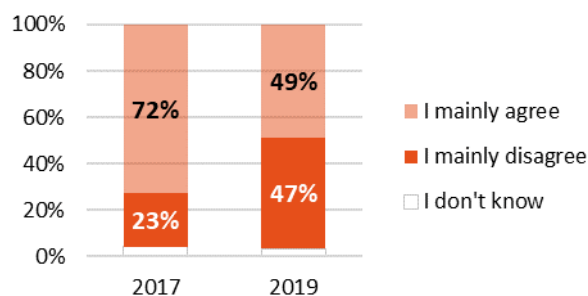
While one in four respondents in the governorate believe that girls under the age of 18 are most likely to be exposed to violence, since they cannot physically protect themselves or have no one to protect them, about one in five respondents also believe that everyone regardless of age and gender are equally exposed to violence. However, within the districts, these answers varied; in Dibis one in three respondents believed that adult men are most likely to be exposed to violence, while about a third of the respondents in Daquq believed that boys under the age of 18 are most likely to be exposed to violence. In 2017, 40% of the respondents stated that young men and boys were the most at-risk group, followed by 30% believing it to be adult men. This change may be explained by Da'esh targeting males and actively recruiting them.

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



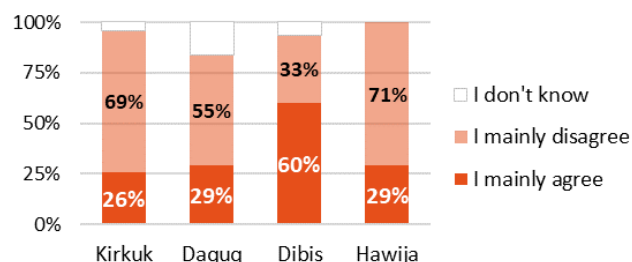
When asked about their safety at the community level, only half of the respondents stated that they felt safe from violence in their community. However, when analysed at the district level, while a majority (83%) of respondents felt safe within their communities in Hawija, only 47% in Dibis and 44% in Kirkuk felt safe in their communities. In 2017, 72% of the respondents felt safe in their communities in the governorate. The reason for this sharp shift needs to be further explored.

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



When it comes to incident reporting, only a third of the respondents believed that men and women are treated equally when reporting to the police or formal authorities. When looking at the proportion district wise, major deviations from the governorate average were seen in Daquq where only 16% of the respondents believed that men and women were treated equally, whereas in Hawija 72% of the respondents believed that men and women were treated equally by the police and formal authorities for incident reporting. However, two-thirds of the respondents across the governorate did agree that more women should be serving in the police to be better able to serve their communities. However, when asked if they would support their sister in joining the police force, a little under half of the respondents said that they would. Major deviations from the governorate wide average were noticed in Daquq where 61% respondents stated that they would support their sister in joining the police, while 73% of respondents in Dibis stated that female members of their family should not be joining the police.

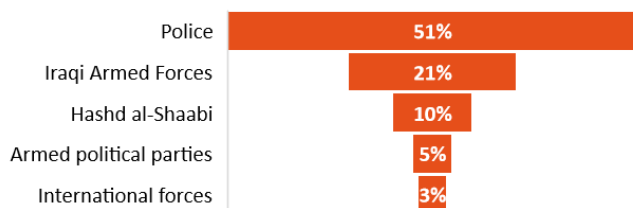
**IT IS COMMON IN THIS COMMUNITY FOR MEN TO DISCIPLINE WOMEN OR GIRLS IN THEIR HOUSEHOLD THROUGH THE USE OF PHYSICAL AND/OR VERBAL VIOLENCE**



While less than a third of the respondents stated that it was common for men in their communities to discipline the women of their own household through verbal or physical violence in the governorate, a major deviation was noted in Dibis where every three in five respondents stated that this sort of violence was common. Furthermore, over two-third of the respondents across the governorate felt that men in their communities are judged by their ability to protect their families. A major deviation was seen in Hawija, where 94% of the respondents believed this statement to be true.

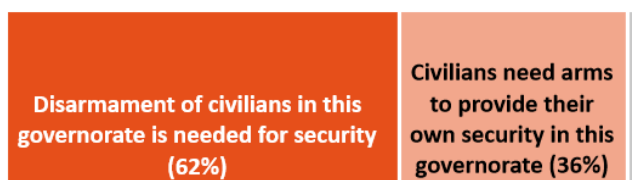
When discussing the presence and effectiveness of security actors in their areas, a little over half the respondents across the governorate stated that there is a consistent presence of the police in their areas. Of those who reported this consistent presence, a little over half stated that they believed the performance of the police as very effective, while another one-third believed the police performance to be mostly effective in their communities. Only about a fifth of the respondents stated that the Iraqi forces had a constant presence in their communities. However, 69% of the respondents in Hawija reported that there was a constant presence of the Iraqi forces in their community. This is probably due to Hawija being besieged by Da'esh until October 2017, and facing a great deal of displacement. Similarly, one fifth of the respondents across the governorate reported a constant presence of Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF- known as Al-Hashd Al-Sha'abi locally) in their communities. In Hawija district however, this proportion was four out of every five respondents. In general, a little over half of the respondents said that they trusted the police towards improved security in their communities, while one-fifth trusted the Iraqi forces. A fourth of the respondents also stated that the local leaders in their communities were also actively working to improve security conditions. These accounted for 87% respondents in Dibis, 74% in Hawija and 52% in Daquq.

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



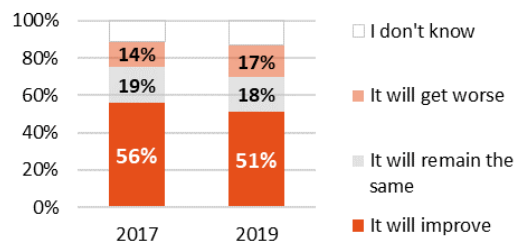
In terms of improving security, 62% stated that disarmament of civilians in the governorate would improve conditions in their community. However, 45% of respondents in Daquq stated that civilians needed to be armed to be able to protect themselves. This can be again be alluded to the districts mistrust between Turkmen and Arab populations. While only half of the respondents stated that sectarianism had a big impact on their communities, in Dibis 73% of the

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



respondents stated that sectarianism did have a big impact in their communities.

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



In terms of looking at the future, about half of the respondents seemed optimistic, with 26% sharing that they expect security conditions to improve a little, while another 25% sharing that they expect security conditions to improve a lot. This is down from 2017 when 20% of respondents felt that the security conditions would improve a lot and 36% shared that they expected the security conditions to improve a little. When asked the three most significant changes that are needed to bring lasting peace to Iraq, 35% of respondents shared that there is a high need for access to justice, followed by 34% who stated the need for economic development, 32% who stated the military suppression of armed insurgencies like Da'esh, and 31% who called for disarmament or security sector reform.

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