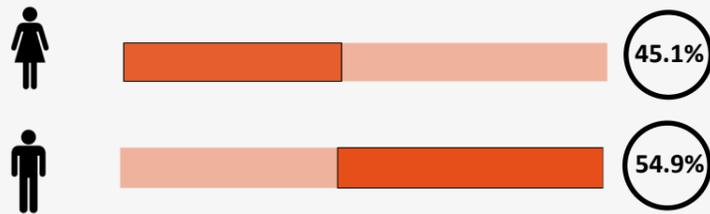


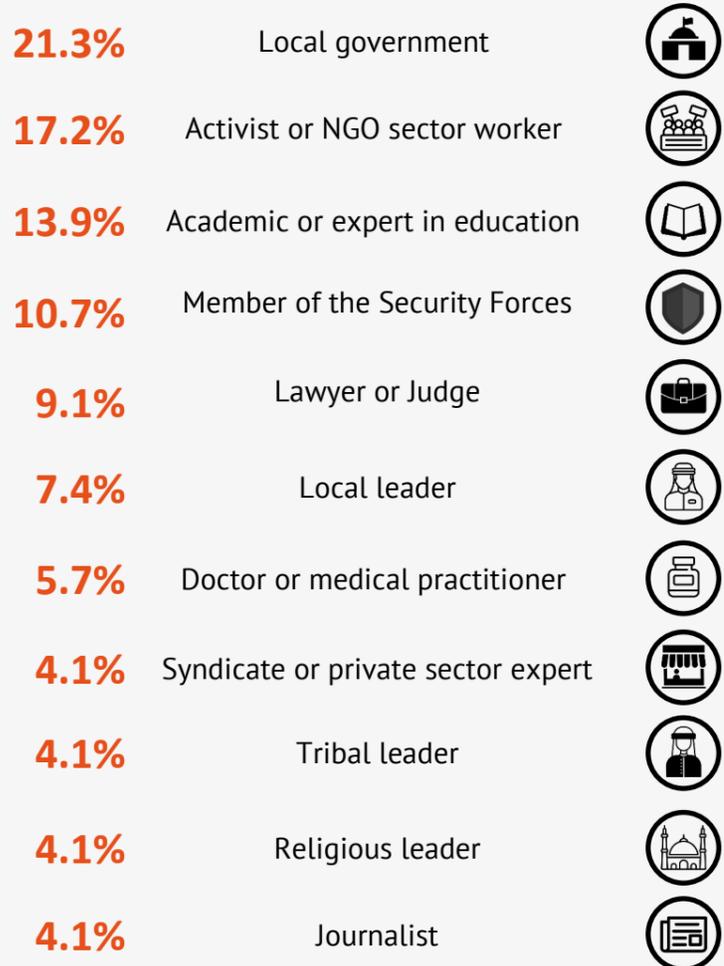
Human Security Survey Iraq Expert Panel Study Diyala – February 2025

Abdullatif Sleibi & Thomas Kiendrebeogo

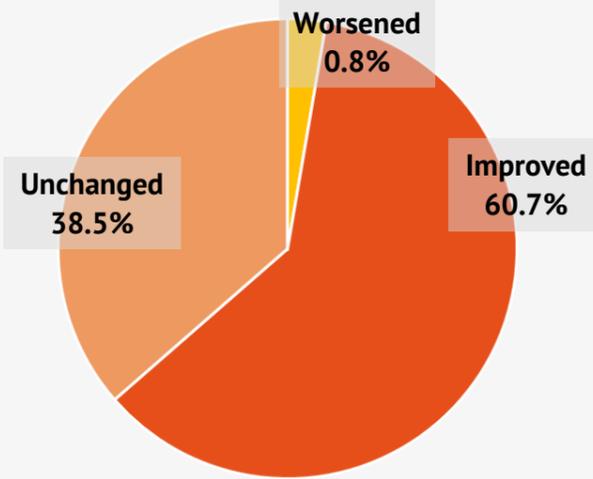
EXPERT RESPONDENTS (122)



WHAT IS YOUR OCCUPATION?



HOW DID YOUR PERSONAL SECURITY SITUATION CHANGE SINCE LAST YEAR?



COULD YOU EXPLAIN HOW AND WHY THE SECURITY SITUATION IMPROVED? (TOP CHOICES)

- 25% There were improvements in the collaboration within, and capabilities of, formal security forces (e.g. training, weapons, or technology)
- 17% As a result of the greater reliance on, and cooperation with, formal institutions and security forces by civilians
- 16% The return of the freedom of movement within and between cities
- 12% Due to wholesale improvements in all areas related to peace and security
- 11% Community members actively supported efforts to achieve peace and stability after their shared losses and sacrifices
- 7% Economic development and investments in infrastructure

Editor's Note

The response categories above were compiled by combining written responses to open-ended questions. The first question gathers answers about why respondents believe the security situation in Diyala has improved (○), while the second question asks respondents to elaborate on the security or political developments that have affected the security situation in Diyala (□).

33.6% Of experts reported witnessing political and security developments which had a significant impact (positive/negative) on the security situation in their area in the last 12 months



COULD YOU DESCRIBE THE POLITICAL AND SECURITY DEVELOPMENTS WHICH HAD A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON YOUR AREA? □



93.4% Of experts agree with the following statement: "Disarmament of civilians in this governorate is needed for improved security"



77.9% Of experts agree with the following statement: "The UN is actively working to protect or support people in this community"



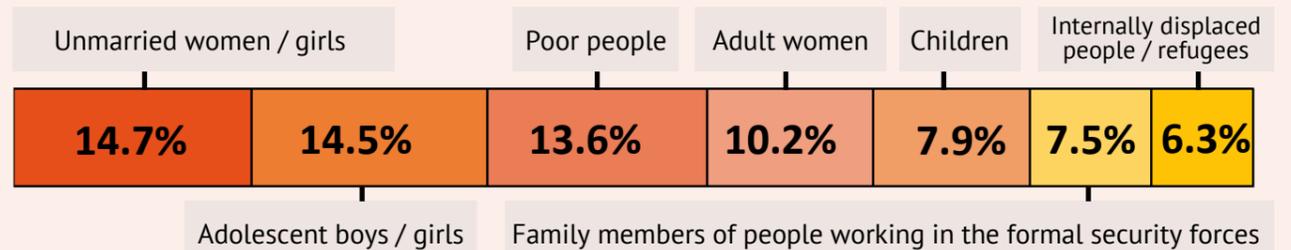
55.7% Of experts agree with the following statement: "It is very easy for civilians to acquire firearms in this community"



70.5% Of experts agree with the following statement: "Some people in this community are more likely to be exposed to violence than others due to their age, religion, ethnicity, work, class, public activities, or other factors"

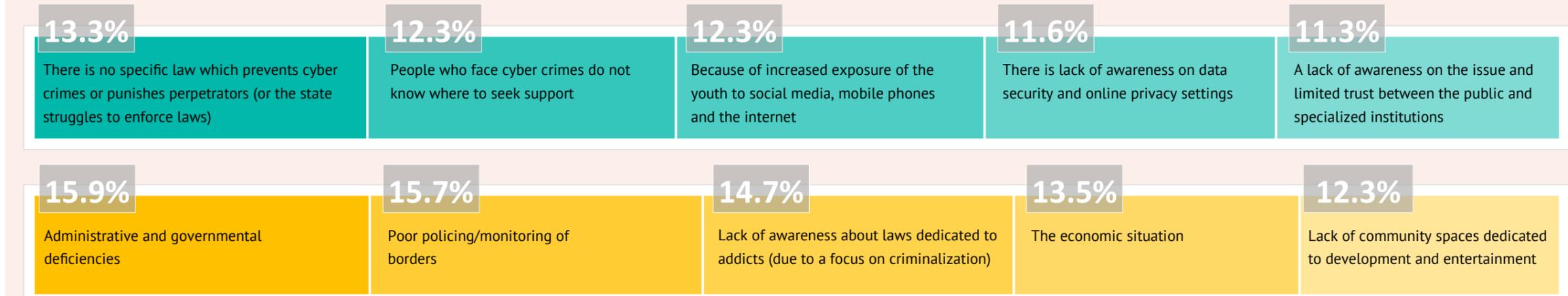
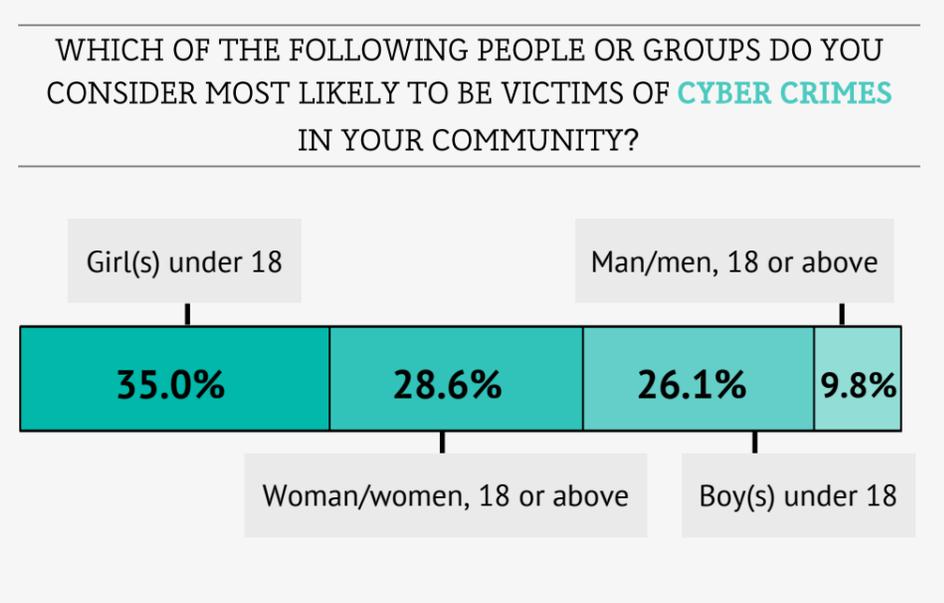
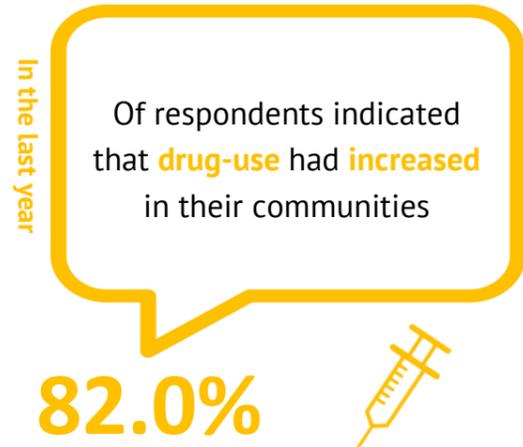


WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE OR GROUPS DO YOU CONSIDER MOST LIKELY TO BE EXPOSED TO VIOLENCE IN THIS COMMUNITY?



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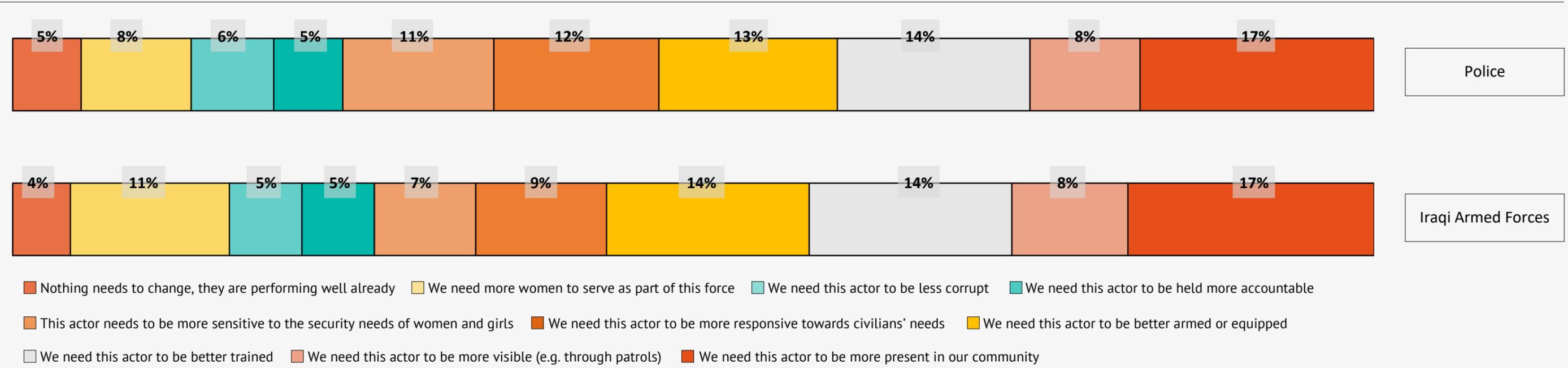
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Why do you think **cyber crimes** have increased in your community?

Why do you think **drug abuse** has increased in your community?

WHAT DO YOU THINK IS NEEDED TO IMPROVE THE PERFORMANCE OF THIS ACTOR IN PROVIDING SECURITY? (TOP CHOICES)



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The **Human Security Survey (HSS)** is a methodology developed by PAX to collect data and facilitate dialogue about civilians' experiences in conflict situations. Read more about PAX or the Human Security Survey in Iraq on protectionofcivilians.org or contact Saba Azeem (azeem@paxforpeace.nl).



HUMAN SECURITY SURVEY METHODOLOGY

Over a period of 3 weeks in February 2025, **10** enumerators conducted **122** face-to-face interviews across all 6 districts of Diyala Governorate using a standardized survey script. For more details on how HSS data is collected and analysed, view our [methodological note](#).

Taking into account the most recent population estimates, respondent targets were set with the aim of a representative distribution across gender, district, subdistrict, and urban/rural areas. However, accounting for the research needs of this report, **The Wand Al-Khair organization**, trusted long-time partner of **PAX**, made use of a more targeted sampling methodology to capture the opinions local experts in each district in order to collect their unique perspectives.

The **Wand Al-Khair organization** will continue its work in Diyala through **community engagement activities** with civilians, authorities, and a multitude of security actors to improve the local security situation using the results of the (Expert Panel) Human Security Survey.

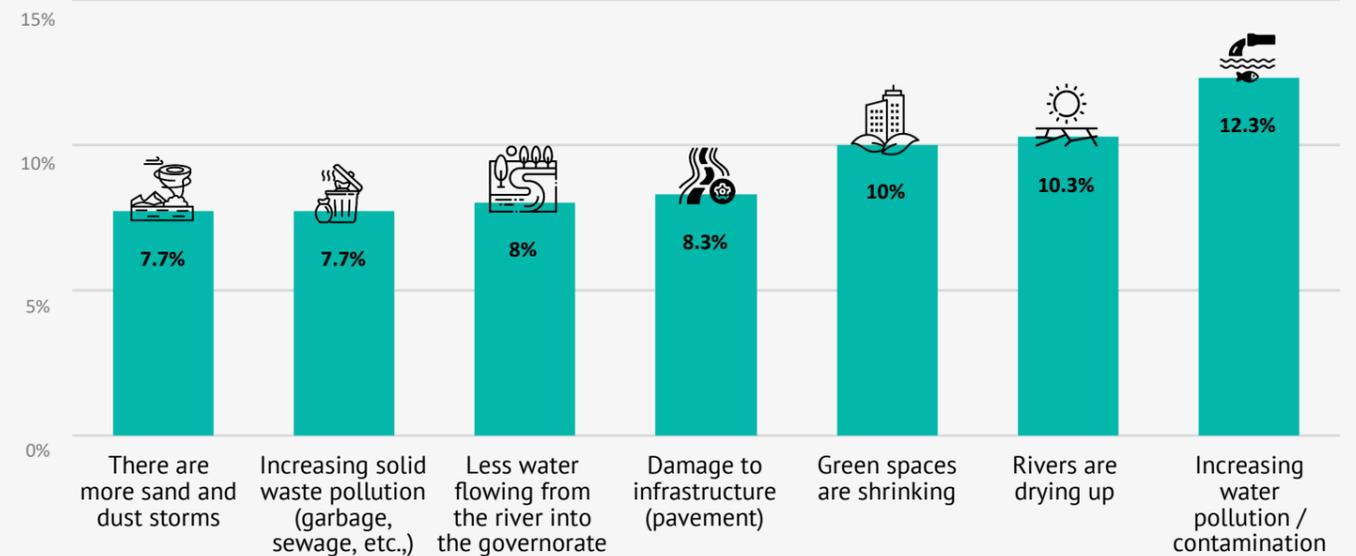


Disclaimer: Provided maps are intended for illustrative purposes only and do not warrant accuracy or completeness. Furthermore, maps used in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of PAX or the authors.

This survey was also conducted in **2024**, and similar questions were posed to a different group of experts. Interestingly, despite the majority of experts in **2024 (41.8%)** predicting that the security situation will remain the same, results indicate the situation in **2025 (60.7%)** has improved in a degree similar to **2024 (60.8%)**. Likewise, experts in both **2025 (15.7%)** and **2024 (15.4%)** indicated that 'poverty or a lack of livelihood opportunities' is the most likely cause further conflict in their communities in the coming year. Despite these similarities, there was a difference in opinion on what significant changes are needed to bring lasting peace to Iraq. In **2024**, the consensus indicated that 'economic development and improved access to education' (**16.8%**) is the essential change to achieve said lasting peace, alternatively experts in **2025** indicated that 'disarmament or security sector reform' (**19.8%**) was a more necessary change as compared to the now less popular option of economic development (**10.1%**).

Editor's Note

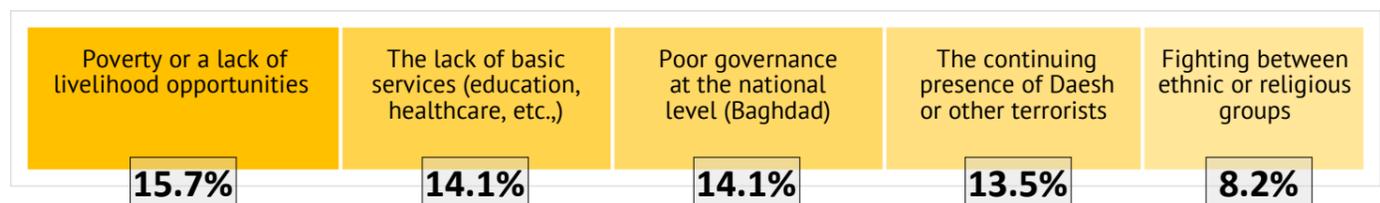
WHAT ARE THE MOST PRESSING ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES THAT NEED TO BE ADDRESSED IN THE COMING YEAR? (TOP CHOICES)



WHAT DO YOU EXPECT WILL HAPPEN WITH SECURITY IN YOUR COMMUNITY IN THE COMING YEAR?



WHAT ARE THE FACTORS THAT ARE MOST LIKELY TO CAUSE FURTHER CONFLICT IN YOUR COMMUNITY IN THE COMING YEAR? (TOP CHOICES)



WHAT ARE THE MOST SIGNIFICANT CHANGES THAT ARE NEEDED TO BRING LASTING PEACE TO IRAQ? (TOP CHOICES)

