



Human Security Survey

Iraq — 2019

Research Methodology

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 carried out in three governorates of Iraq: **Kirkuk, Basra** and **Salahaddin**. In 2017 it was possible to survey in all three governorates, but due to political and security conditions in 2018 we surveyed only in the latter two governorates. Sampling is done by employing **approximately random selection procedures both at community, household and respondent levels**. Target numbers for the sample are allocated across districts and sub-districts **proportional to population density** and considering **representation of rural and urban areas**. Specific research sites are selected in cooperation with the local partners based on security, physical accessibility, permission from local authorities and with an eye to ensuring demographic diversity. As the most insecure areas at the time are excluded **there is a likelihood that the survey findings underestimate the extent of insecurity in the surveyed governorates**.

Within the selected sites, households are selected using a **"random walk" procedure** where every 3rd household on the enumerator's way is surveyed up to the target number for the specific area. Within the households, individual respondents are selected using the **"most recent birthday"** method. If it is not possible to use this method (e.g. people don't know their birthday), enumerator switch to randomly selection respondents by **drawing cards**. Only one respondent is surveyed per household. Due to cultural sensitivities, **enumerators can only interview respondents of their own gender**. This should allow the data to be more reliable on gender-related perception questions.

To be eligible, respondents have to be current members of the household (defined by sharing meals and cooking facility), at home during the respondent selection process, and at least 16 years old.

Interviews are conducted during day time hours due to security and logistical concerns, thus likely effecting a lower sampling of people working outside their households.

Prior to the data collection, **enumerators participate in a 4 day training** covering the survey purpose and overall methodology, as well as practical training and procedures for sampling, interviewing techniques, interviewer effects, security and data protection protocols and importance of informed consent. In each location, one or more survey coordinators are appointed to guide enumerators in the day to day work.

The questionnaire is structured in modules, covering **demographics, security context, security threats experienced, perceptions of vulnerability and security actors**, as well as perceptions about the **broader security environment** and **longer term expectations**. Most questions in the questionnaire are posed in an open manner without reading response categories aloud. Multiple answers are allowed for many questions. The questionnaire is translated and **interviews are conducted in Arabic**, spoken by all the enumerators and the vast majority of the population in the surveyed areas.

Data is analysed in Stata using testing methods for nominal, ordinal and interval scale data. Often times two-sample t-tests on proportions and means, chi-square tests for independence, and Tukey tests for pairwise comparison.

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*. Please check out our website for more information (see below), and feel free to be in contact with questions or comments.

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