# METHODOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

## CONTEXT

With the end of the conflict with the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), protracted displacement has come to characterize the post-conflict environment in Iraq. Around 1.2 million people remain internally displaced, nearly all of whom fled their areas of origin more than three years ago. In light of the above, it is essential to advance durable solutions to displacement in Iraq through improving the living conditions that will enable internally displaced persons (IDPs) to voluntarily take the first steps towards return, local integration or settlement in new locations.

## DATA COLLECTION APPROACH

The Displacement Index (DI) is a tool designed to measure and monitor the living conditions of IDPs. Data collection for the DI take place across 18 governorates, 94 districts and around 2,000 locations of displacement in Iraq. The unit of the analysis is the location, which can be a town, village or neighbourhood in a city. Data is collected through IOM's Rapid Assessment and Response Teams (RARTs), composed of over 80 staff members deployed across Iraq

(20% of enumerators are female). IOM's RARTs collect data through structured interviews with KIs using a large, well-established network of over 2,000 KIs (5% are female) that includes community leaders, mukhtars, local authorities and security forces.

## DI INDICATORS

The DI is based on 17 indicators across five domains: (1) infrastructure and services, (2) safety and security, (3) livelihoods, (4) social inclusiveness and (5) housing. The indicators were selected upon consultation with stakeholders, descriptive and exploratory statistical analysis using DTM datasets, including Integrated Location Assessments and Master Lists. Each indicator was formulated into a survey format, with a pre-set of answers and associated values, ranging from 0 (the most positive option) to 5 (the most negative option). For instance, in the case of water sufficiency, answers range from "all or nearly all IDPs can access water" (0 value) to "no one has access" (5 value).

Figure 1. Displacement index domains and indicators

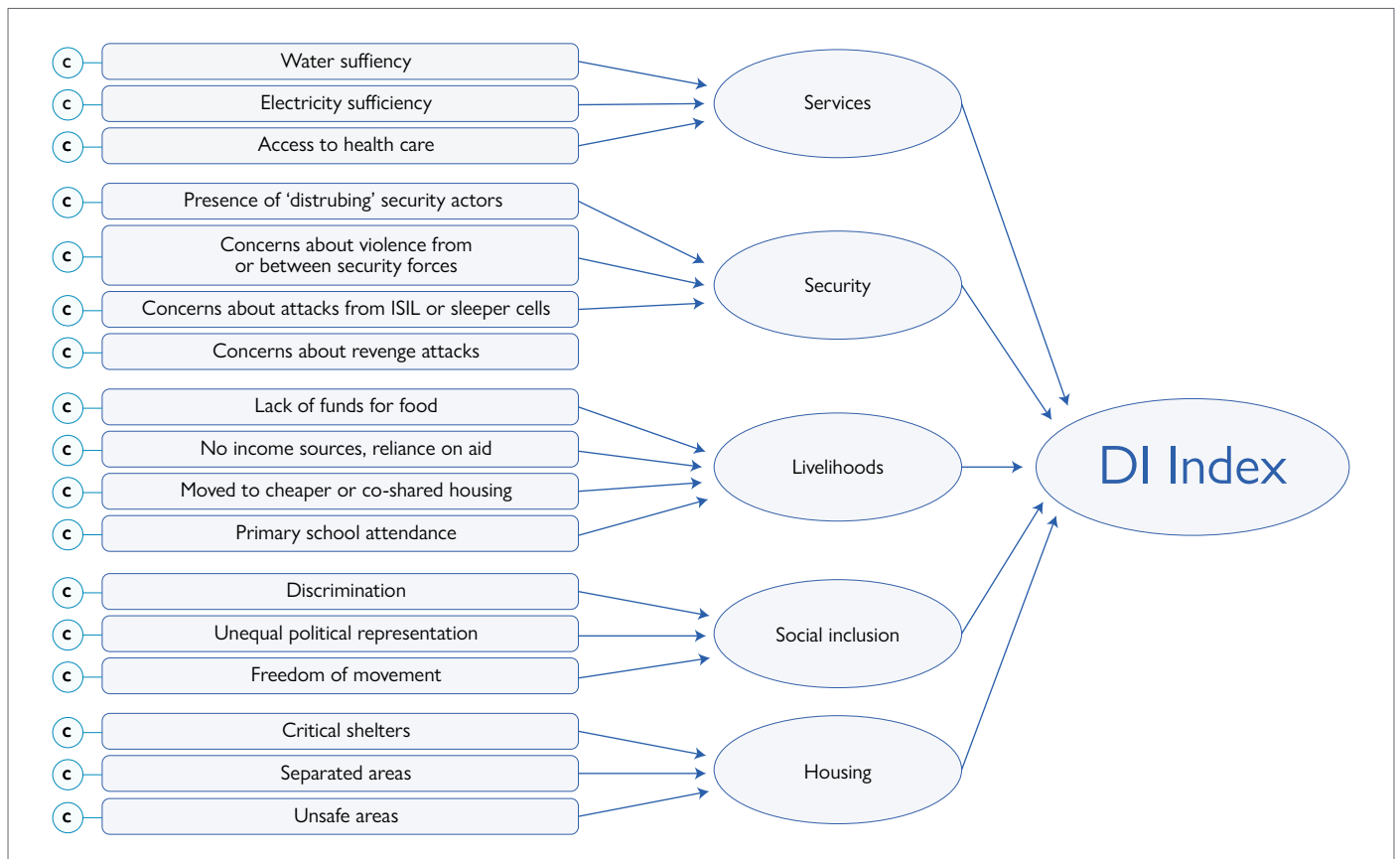| INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES | SAFETY AND SECURITY | LIVELIHOOD | SOCIAL INCLUSIVENESS | HOUSING |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Water sufficiency<br><br>Did IDP families have enough water for their drinking and domestic needs in the past 60 days? | Presence of other security actors<br><br>PMU, TMU or other groups apart from the Iraqi army, the local police and the federal police)<br><br>How many different security groups/actors are present in this location? | Households without enough funds for food<br><br>Are there IDP families who did not have enough funds for food in the past 60 days? | Discrimination due to IDP status when it comes to access to employment, rental housing or basic services<br><br>In the past 60 days, have IDPs encountered cases of discrimination or unfair treatment due to their status when it comes to access to employment, rental housing or services? | Households who live in critical shelters<br><br>Percentage of families |
| Electricity sufficiency<br><br>Did IDP families have enough electricity for their needs in the past 60 days? | Concerns among IDP families on violence from or between security forces or armed groups<br><br>How concerned are IDP families about violence from or between security forces or armed groups? | Households without income sources, who rely on aid<br><br>Are there IDP families without income sources who are only relying on aid?<br><br>Note: This includes all types of assistance (including food), including provided by the government | Unequal political representation<br><br>In the past 60 days, have IDPs encountered cases of discrimination or unfair treatment due to their status when it comes to political representation<br><br>This relates to IDPs having someone to talk on their behalf, to IDPs feeling they can access support from the authorities. | Households who live in separated areas<br><br>Are there IDP families who are settled in separated/isolated areas? |

| Access to health care | Concerns among IDP families on ISIL attacks | Households who moved to cheaper housing | Freedom of movement | Households who live in unsafe areas |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Were IDP families able to access health care (doctor/health centre/hospital) in the past 60 days? | How concerned are IDP families about ISIL attacks? | Are there of IDP families who moved to cheaper housing or co-shared housing in the past 60 days? | Are most IDPs allowed freedom of movement within the governorate in day-to-day activities | Are there IDP families who are settled in unsafe/insecure areas?<br><br>Note: This could be due to contamination from explosive remnants of war, risks of flooding or landslides, solid waste dumping site, etc. |
| | Concerns among IDP families on revenge attacks<br><br>How concerned are IDP families about revenge attacks? | Primary school attendance<br><br>Were IDP children aged 6-12 attending primary school regularly (at least 3 days per week) in the past 60 days?<br><br>This includes both online or in-person education. Include any method that will lead to children graduating the school year. | | |

## STATISTICAL MODEL

Confirmatory factor analysis is used to examine the relationship between these observed indicators and their domains (constructs) and to obtain scores that capture both the relevance of each indicator for a certain domain and the importance of each domain for the overall index. In line with the previous studies, housing is the domain with the highest impact on the overall living conditions of IDPs. Domains with the second highest impact are services and security, followed by livelihoods and social inclusiveness.

Figure 2. Measurement model [1] of the living conditions of IDPs in Iraq



1  *Goodness of fit: Estimator DWLS, CFI = 0.975 (good if >0.95), TLI=0.968 (good if >0.95), RMSEA= 0.045 (good if <0.06), SRMR= 0.078 (good if <0.08)*
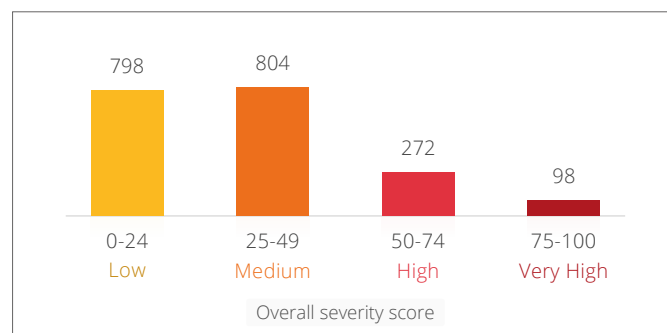
Scores are computed separately for each domain and for the overall index, and then normalized to a common scale which ranges from 0 (where all essential living conditions are met) to 100 (where no essential living conditions are met). Higher scores denote more severe living conditions for IDPs. The scores of the DI are grouped into three categories: low, medium and high (which also includes the identified 'very high' locations).

Table 3: Score intervals per category of severity

| CATEGORY OF SEVERITY | SCORE INTERVAL |
|---|---|
| Very high | 75-100 |
| High | 50-74 |
| Medium | 25-49 |
| Low | 0-24 |

Figure 4: Number of locations per category of severity



## LIMITATIONS

The data of the DI is collected through KI interviews in each location with IDPs. This methodology has the advantage of allowing extensive coverage over a short period of time but relies on one representative per location, mainly mukhtars and community or local council representatives, who report on the views of a potentially large and diverse population, which might lead to limited representation for smaller groups with distinct characteristics or discrepancies caused by social desirability bias, particularly regarding the domain of social inclusiveness.

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