

Situational Assessment Report Template



Project Number:	#3017
Implementing Partner(s):	Zakho Small Villages Projects (ZSVP)
Assessment location(s):	Telaafar and Sinjar Districts, Ninewa Province, Iraq
Assessment Timeframe:	June 15 – August 31, 2021
Report Date:	25 th August 2021

Notes:

- If possible, include pictures, timelines, diagrams and maps to complement the text.
- Reports should be no longer than 25 pages

1. Executive Summary

a. **Brief Summary of the Assessment:** Summarize the key findings of the assessment.

The intermittent conflicts, internal disputing and the fragile security situation prompted the Iraqi people facing food insecurity and humanitarian crises. Since the ISIS crisis 2014, food security in conflict affected areas in Iraq namely in Ninawa governorate has already become a matter of concern not only by the local government side, but also by national and international non-governmental organizations. Accordingly, this assessment was conducted to assess the food security situation in Sinjar and Telaafar districts (the two districts most affected by the ISIS conflict and score high on the humanitarian needs overall severity index in Iraq) and determine the vulnerabilities related to agriculture and food security sectors. It assesses the causes of food insecurity, analyses the strategies that people adopt to cope with food insecurity, and highlights the required information and knowledge for stockholders for better interventions toward achieving of food security.

Firstly, a pre-assessment was conducted to determine the most appropriate villages (seven villages, 3 from Sinjar and 4 from Telaafar) for conducting this assessment. The selection was based on criteria designed to fit with the scope and objectives of the assessment. The assessment was depending on preformed questionnaires made by assessment team of ZSVP in cooperation with MCC/CFGB team; the field research was carrying out by ZSVP assessment team. The following data collection methods were utilized: Household survey, Focus Group Discussions (FGD) with men and women/ stakeholders/ related directorates, Key Informant Interviews (KII) with Mukhtars/ related directorates and stakeholders, literature review and triangulation and Synthesis.

The FCS and rCSI at the community level of the targeted areas were computed and analyzed. The collected data indicated that the study area is at the risk of food shortage/ food insecurity and the locals are adopting various coping strategies.

Several factors have been reported to have impact on food insecurity such factors including unsuccessful government policies, security, damage/ lack of infrastructure, lack of education and health services, particularly for women and children, inadequate human resources and skilled human resources, lack of employment opportunities, low level of agricultural technology, insufficient water resources for agriculture, refugees and IDP migration, etc.

The government interventions toward achieving food security are not meeting the demand of locals in targeted villages; the capacities of the government are very limited or rather are absent at this stage. Therefore, locals are looking for actions to be taken to move them from government reliance into self-dependent and to be active productive communities.

b. Assessment Location: *Describe the community/communities or region where the assessment took place. Why were these locations selected?*

Telafar and Sinjar have been chosen as the targeted areas for the upcoming project due to the disruption and displacement caused by ISIS between 2014 – 2017 which resulted in mass displacement as well as the loss of productive assets including agricultural machinery and livestock by 90 – 100% of households in many villages. Communities across Ninewa province, including Telafar and Sinjar also saw the destruction wells and irrigation systems that by ISIS, removing access to potable water for household consumption and water to support agricultural livelihood activities. Not only were those households who remained in their villages affected by this situation but it has also inhibited displaced households to return to their homes due to a lack of infrastructure and economic opportunities to re-establish themselves in the area. A recent multi-sectoral needs assessment of returned households found that 52% reported utilizing stress level coping strategies with a majority going into debt in order to pay for food, health care and other basic needs. Nearly two thirds of returnee households face stress conditions (severity score 2) related to food security. Across all groups in the area, many rely on daily labour for their household income which is season and unreliable, particularly since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic¹. There are fewer opportunities in rural areas, especially for women who are not typically allowed to work outside the home. In addition, the Government of Iraq and the humanitarian community are anticipating drought conditions in the coming year with the Ministry of Water Resources announcing in May 2021 that the water supply of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers had decreased by 50% over the last year. In combination with inadequate rainfall across the region during the recent winter and spring, communities in Ninewa are in more need than ever to account for the impacts of climate change in their approach to livelihoods and food security.

In late June, ZSVP staff conducted a pre-assessment of 18 villages in the targeted sub-districts. Based on the analyzed collected data from interviews that were triangulated with what have been suggested and recommended by the stakeholders, including villages leaders, and the pre-assessment team, the following villages have been selected for data collection at the community level for the situation assessment including a value chain development and feasibility study.

1. Kharba village/ Sinon Sub district/ Telaarfer
2. Atika village/ Sinon Sub district/ Telaarfer
3. Abtakh Shor Village / Rabi'a Sub district/ Telaarfer
4. Qabosya Village/ Qeyrewan Sub district/ Sinjar
5. Jdyda Village / Rabi'a Sub district/ Telaarfer
6. Mujeleje Village / Rabi'a Sub district/ Telaarfer
7. Omkahif Village / Rabi'a Sub district/ Telaarfer

The selections of the theses villages based on their criteria in terms of village livelihood profile, agriculture and allied sectors, agriculture production system, source of the potable and irrigation water, impact of recent conflicts or conflict-related events and openness of the community to participate in the assessment.

c. Assessment Team: *Describe the assessment team, including areas of expertise and the gender balance of the team. Describe the role that CFGB and the member organization played for this assessment process.*

ZSVP Staff

Project Manager Assistant – Mr. Badal al Dosky

¹ REACH(2020). Iraq, Multi-Cluster Needs Assessment (MCNA) available at <https://reliefweb.int/report/iraq/iraq-multi-cluster-needs-assessment-mcna-viii-erbil-protection-working-group-3-february>

- Supervise the two assessments plan and deliverables, lead project planning, budgeting, action plans and monitoring processes.
- Prepare the final narrative project report and flow up the assessment reports requirement to be submitted within the time; prepare the new phase proposal.
- Support the consultant through managing all logistics requirements for staff of the two assessments.
- Assist the consultant in training of the field staff on how to collect the required data from the field per the assessment questioners of the two assessments (VCA and SA) and monitoring the activities of the previous projects in terms of extension services
- Visit the targeted locations regularly and contact the village leaders to prepare for conducting data collection for the SA and VCA.
- Participate as a trainer under supervision of the VCA external consultant to train the VCA field staff.

Situation Assessment Technical Advisor – Dr. Nawzat A. Issa

- Supervise the situation assessment, prepare a work plan, ensure the quality of assessment deliverables and oversee all administrative, technical,
- Provide technical direction and external engagement of the assessment.
- Prepare the tool for the assessment, train and supervise the field staff on how to collect the required data for assessment as per the work plan,
- Prepare and submit the final situation assessment report.
- Participate as a trainer under supervision of the VCA external consultant to train the VCA field staff.

Situation Assessment Activities Officer- Alan Mustafa

- Support the preparation of data collection tools
- Coordinate with local authorities to gain approval for visits to targeted areas for data collection
- Visited targeted villages for data collection with the support of project monitoring staff
- Support technical advisor for preparing situation assessment report

Data Collection Assistants – (Khalia Khalaf, and Duha Hayder) ladies community officers

Fadhil Taher/ Monitor
 Hashim Sharif/ Monitor
 Jeger Hikmat/ Monitor
 Mahmood Khalaf/ VCA assistant
 Qutaiba Qasim/ VCA Assistant

In order to implement the assessments in due time per the plan, ZSVP hired two women (aforementioned above/ community officers) from the targeted areas (Sinjar and Telafer) to take part in HHs survey and lead the women FGDs exercises after their participation in training courses conducted by EDS (Economic Development Solutions award) at ZSVP office. Besides, ZSVP has used their monitors in this assessment to support the assessment staff in data collection process in addition to the staff that have been hired for the VCA as value chain assistants.

MCC Staff

External Grants Coordinator – Stephanie Dyck

- Assist with the development of the situation assessment plan and tools.
- Review data analysis, findings and recommendations
- Assist with the writing and review of the situation assessment report as needed

Gender Technical Officer – Dana Dia

- Assist with the review and analysis of results of the focus group discussions and household surveys
- Provide assistance with the integration of gender analysis findings into the project design including the concept note and proposal

2. Summary of Assessment Methodology: *Summarize the methodology that was used to conduct the situational assessment, with reference to the tools that were used, and who participated in the assessment (key informants, focus groups, etc).*

To determine the most appropriate villages for conducting this assessment, initially, a pre assessment was conducted and the project team met with following to provide project orientation:

- Director Sinon and Qayrawan sub-district/ District Sinjar
- Director Rabiaa sub-district/ District Telafer
- Manager Agriculture Department
- Local Mukhtars (of 18 villages),

Based on the collected and analysed data from the pre-assessment, seven villages were selected; the selected villages are the most appropriate villages that are in line with the scope and objective of food security situation assessment (**FSSA**). The selection was based on the aforementioned above selection criteria.

Following, the project team oriented the stakeholders, as per discussions and agreement of the local leaders and relevant department – three villages were selected from Sinjar District and four villages were selected from Telaar district for the data collection and roll out of community level assessment, list of the selected villages also aforementioned above.

According to a pre-designed plan, ZSVP assessment team has undertaken FSSA at community level in Sinjar and Telaar districts. Ninawa province, Iraq from the 3rd August–31st August, 2021; the assessment was following a preformed questionnaire (Annex 2 **P17**) made by ZSVP project team in cooperation with MCC team, the questionnaire was designed to meet the scope and the objectives of the assessment. The following data collection methods were utilised by the assessment team:

- Key Informant Interviews (**KII**) with the households leaders (Household survey/ face to face)
- Key Informant Interviews / Mukhtars/ related directorates and stakeholders
- Focus Group Discussions (**FGD**) with men and women/ stakeholders/ related directorates
- Literature review
- Triangulation and Synthesis

A total of **301** KIIs were carried out with household leaders and **12** KIIs with key actors within the target areas/ selected villages were made. Besides, the project team conducted four focus group discussions through selecting 3-4 people (males and females) from each village together with local Mukhtars and local leaders for FGD. KIIs included community (elders, local leaders/ stakeholders, women, youth) members.

During the mission FGD's were held within the selected villages, groups of locals (8-12 members/ group) were invited from the selected villages (4 villages in Sinjar and 3 villages in Telaar) involved within the conducted exercises/ male and female groups, the females groups was led separately by a lady/ ZSVP community officer. The conducted FGD for Sinjar villages was conducted in **Atika** village and for Telaar district was conducted in **Mujeleje** village.

The exercises were conducted with strict adherence and follow-up of the COVID19 instruction through using PPE (Figure 1).



Figure 1: Photos from household survey, FGD (males and females groups) and KII with the key actor conducted exercises in visited villages; (A) HH survey, (B) FGD- men group, Mujeleje Village (C) FGD-women group/ Mujeleje Village and (D) KII interview with stakeholder (directorate of agriculture).

Study area (Target Area)

Two sub-districts (Sinon and Qayrawan) from Sinjar and Rabia sub-districts of Telaar were chosen to do this assessment (Figure 2); for more details about the locations of the targeted villages please see below table, GPS location (Table 1).

Table 1: GPS location of the targeted villages

#	District	Sub-district	Villages	Location/ GPS	
				GPS latitude	GPS longitude
1	Sinjar	Qayrawan	Qabosya	36.24328270261198	41.871682675298956
4	Sinjar	Sinon	Atika	36.44087103378414	41.75583071674745
5	Sinjar	Sinon	Kharba	36.452492638739656	41.89603969601861
7	Telafer	Rabia	Mujeleje	36.557202306695714	42.09939347554128
8	Telafer	Rabia	Omkahef	36.570348563975166	42.14561633552786
10	Telafer	Rabia	Jdyda		
11	Telafer	Rabia	abtakh shor		

Sinon is a sub-district located in the Sinjar District of the Ninawa Governorate in Iraq. The city is located north of the Sinjar Mount; the city has a population of 16798.

Al-Qayrawan sub-district is located in the southeast of Sinjar district in Ninawa Governorate, where Mount Sinjar constitutes an important linking area between the Syrian and Iraqi lands. Al-Qayrawan has a population of about 74,000 citizens and is divided into three densely populated urban centers around which a group of villages with diverse races and religions are spread². It also includes the village of Kocho, with a population of about 1200 Yazidis, followed by the village of Al-Hatmiya, with a population of 2000 Yazidis as well, and many other villages of diversity. The different population consists of Yazidis, Muslim Kurds, and other ethnic components of the Islamic religion.

Rabia is a town in the north-west of Iraq, near the border crossing to the town of Al-Yarubiyah in Syria; it is a sub-district of Telafer. It lies on the border between Syria and Iraq and has seen a large displacement of the population a consequence of the ISIS control on the area. Rabia sub-district has (78) seventy-eight villages. In terms of population, it is inhabited by (84,000) eighty-four thousand inhabitants, about (14,000) of which are in the city Centre, while the rest are in villages. They consist of two ethnicities, the Arabs (mostly of Shammar clan) and Kurds.



Figure 2: The map of the targeted area (location of study/Green stars) where the assessment conducted in Telafer and Sinjar districts.

The target areas were selected due to the high level of need in regards to livelihoods programming combined with a strong background in the agricultural sector. Besides, the two districts of the Ninawa are representing the districts most affected by the ISIS conflict and score high on the humanitarian needs overall severity index in Iraq with significant density of internally displaced people (IDP) population and a high density of host community population who have recently returned.

Assessment limitations

² UN-Habitat(2019). Sinjar Urban Profile available at https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2021/03/sinjar_urban_profile_-_english_3.pdf

Obtaining the required data from the locals especially the data related to the availability of sufficient daily food and debts where the interviewees (HHs leaders) showed signs of shyness and anxiety. Besides, the loss of hope by the locals in obtaining the required aid whether from the government or from organizations (NGOs) made some households to refrain in responding to the enumerators. Further, COVID19 health concerns, namely due to the increasing reported cases within the area.

Assessment challenges

The situation of the distrust among the locals toward the NGOs was the main challenge that the team was faced which due to the lack of the provided aids by either government or non-government side since retaken of the area from ISIS in 2015, but after clarifications on the importance of the assessment by the team, the interviewees accepted to take part in the assessment.

Gathering of people from the selected villages to do FGD in one village in context of COVID19 was challenge; however, distribution of Person Protection Equipment and conducting field activities in a village close to others made it possible to collect data. The remoteness of the selected villages and the difficulty in accessing them due to the old unqualified roads; meeting with the stakeholder/ directors of the related directorates on due time was another challenge especially after a long distances of transportation and passes through so many security check points.

3. Summary of Key Assessment Findings: Provide a summary of the key findings for each theme.

The themes and questions below are meant to guide the response but are not exhaustive. Please adapt as necessary. Note that some themes are specific to food assistance projects only.

a. Theme: Food System Actors, Roles, and Visions

- *Who are the main actors in the local food system? What activities do they do in the food system? What roles do they play?*
- *What interests, capacities, levels of interaction and influence does each actor have? How does this affect the food system?*
- *What does each actor think is working well about the food system now, and has worked well in the past?*
- *What are the visions of the different actors for their food system five years from now? How will they know they have gotten there/achieved this vision?*
- *What are the government, business, or NGO actions that have had a positive or negative impact on food security in the past 20 years?*
- *What are the cultural practices that impact food security?*

Various key actors involve in different activities in the local food system; the involved key actors are: government and non-governmental and civil society, food companies, general community and farmers. Governments plays important role in the local food security through regulating and facilitating food system of the country, controlling import and export of the produces, managing and and participating in food production, processing, trade and retail. The government could support the farmers and the other food system key actors with the needed requirements for the successful food system regulations, financial support, and education and training services.

Civil society groups can actively engaged in the area of food systems and natural resources at the local level. NGOs sometimes have a large role in initiating changes in food systems; however, since the ISIS crisis the area did not receive any support either from government or NGO in terms of agricultural input and subsidizes.

Food companies (food processing, packaging, preparing and selling food) play very crucial roles in providing the communities with the daily needs nourishments. Besides, the Input suppliers (agricultural input) are involved within the food system development either directly or in indirect way through providing the farmers with the essential requirements needed for agribusiness. Since the ISIS crisis, the government has largely replaced by the private sectors (input suppliers) that provide the local farmers with required seeds fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides and mechanization.

The target area is still predominating by the large, medium and small-scale farmers especially in the rural areas. Small farms are doing much of the work and are playing very crucial role in food production. However, these farmers are lacking adequate infrastructure and have limited access to key inputs such

as knowledge and technology, fertilizers, seeds and capital; and/or market opportunity namely in conflict affected areas and after ISIS crisis. With the right support of the farmers through providing them with the required agricultural inputs in terms of irrigation water facilities, good quality seeds, fertilizer, required training courses (on planting, weeding, harvesting, storing and selling of the produces) smallholders can increase their productivity toward securing food system of the area in especial and the whole country in general.

There is a general consensus among the actors interviewed (village leaders, district managers, agriculture manager) that government-issued support, inputs and regulations have worked well in the past and the food system has also been working well. After the ISIS crisis and the government's loss of control over the food system in favor of the private sector, the system went from bad to worse.

The visions of the different key actors involved within this assessment are not very optimistic toward the future of food security and food system due to the absence of the governmental support and fully control of the system by the private sectors; in addition to the environmental changes and lack of the precipitation.

In past, the government used to support the farmers through providing them with the all of agricultural inputs required. Since the ISIS, not only the government support stopped, but also the locals lost all their agricultural assets during their displacement. Regarding the non-governmental agencies and organizations, nothing has been done for the locals in past years.

Local custom and tradition of the local community regarding to the gender found to refrain women/ female from mixing and prohibit women to work out of village. Besides, as mentioned below, to date, the majority of the productive activities including agriculture staple crops, land preparation/tilling and seeding are over dominated by the men.

Theme: Livelihoods and Coping Strategies

- *What are livelihoods patterns in the current food system and how have these changed over the past ten years?*
- *What coping strategies do people use (either past or present) when faced with shocks or stresses and how have these changed over the past ten years?*
- *What have been major shocks to the local food system and how have actors in this system adapted to those shocks?*
- *Which external actors have been involved or what interventions have been put in place to help local actors adapt to shocks in the food system?*

Currently, the communities of the targeted areas mainly depend on agribusiness namely crops production in arable land (semiarid) which totally depends on precipitation. Wheat and barley are main rainfed crops produced within the area. Besides, some of the locals are relying on livestock industry for their living. Environmental condition / drought could result in great economic losses; the drought of this year resulted in great loses of farmers' crops products, where both of quality and quantities of produces were affected and in some area no harvest.

In our practices FGD with the communities' leaders and representatives, the background and knowledge of the locals on drought are weak and their adopted capacities are short termed solutions with a low drought resistance management level. The interviewees are vulnerable to the drought disaster. Therefore, there is a consensus on a need for conducting a tailored training courses to build the locals capacity and increase the locals knowledge and information on the natural disasters namely drought to enable them to put proactive measurements to combat the upcoming natural/manmade disasters

The whole area (Ninawa province) including the study area was affected by the ISIS crisis which was continued from 2014-2017(three years), the crisis resulted in:

- Mass displacement of the locals,
- Losses of the locals' assets
- Losses of livestock
- Agricultural based livelihood assets (machines, wells) were looted/ destroyed.
- Household potable water wells were destroyed or blocked through filling the well with dirt and

To date, most of the farmers (small farmers) are suffering from the consequences of the crisis, where most of the agricultural assets, livestock were looted and destroyed. To replace them, the farmers need financial support and the government intervention which are not available at this stage or non-government

intervention (NGOs support) to restore their agricultural based livelihood and reactivate them to be active and productive communities.

Further, the emerging of the pandemic (COVID19) within the area since March 2020 imposed various instructions ranging from lockdowns with varying levels of restrictions were prevalent across the study areas. The imposed instructions resulted in immediate impacts of the restricted movement of locals and goods caused varying disruptions in food system mainly through preventing of the farmers in selling their produces and consumers for purchasing the produces which led to disturbance of food system and shortage of the food stuff and finally to insecure food system.

The disruptions and the disturbance that have been brought by both of the environmental disaster/ drought and the pandemic COVID19 into the local food system are considered shocks and stressors that affected food systems and their actors within the targeted areas of this study. The fragile security situation/ political condition mainly within the disputed area between the central government of Iraq and Kurdish government (KRG) also played roles in disturbing of the food system. As mentioned above, most of the key actors are not optimistic/positive about the future of current system in absence of the government intervention at the high level.

The main local key actors (peasants and farmers) of the food system since the ISIS crisis 2014 did not receive any support either from the government or non-government institutes, this may be due to the remote geographical location of the target area and/ or due to the central government's loss of its ability to support farmers and displaced people, as well as the vulnerable people at this stage. Besides, due to the local key actors' loss of necessary agricultural assets during the crisis are currently unable to compensate for the required assets, especially in amid of no production this year due to the drought and also the epidemic (COVID19) that exacerbated the difficult economic situation in the region. Therefore, the locals in general and the key actors in specific are looking for support to restore their life and build up their produces toward the secure food system.

Coping Strategies/ Reduced Coping Strategies Index (r-CSI)

Household coping strategies

Based on the conducted household survey; it has been revealed that eleven coping strategies used by households within the targeted areas namely, less expensive foods, consuming seed stock held for next season, reduction of portion sizes at meal time, borrowing food and restriction adult consumption. Variations within the adopted coping strategies were found between the households. The assessment found that 97% of households reported consuming less expensive foods as a coping strategy and the lowest coping strategy at 2% of household sending members to beg, for more detail on r-CSI and the percentage of the household adopting coping strategies see below tables (Table 2 and 3).

Table 2: Reduced Coping Strategies Index (r-CSI)

#	Reduced Coping Strategies Index (r-CSI)	N=301		
		Average Number of Days (0-7)	Severity Weight	Weighted Score
1	Rely on less preferred and less expensive foods?	3.58	1	3.58
2	Borrow food, or rely on help from a friend or relative?	1.10	2	2.2
3	Gather wild food, hunt, or harvest immature crops?	0.40	4	1.6
4	Consume seed stock held for next season?	1.70	3	5.1
5	Send household members to eat elsewhere?	0.24	2	0.5
6	Send household members to beg?	0.05	4	0.2
7	Limit portion size at mealtimes?	1.60	1	1.6
8	Restrict consumption by adults in order for small children to eat?	0.91	3	2.7
9	Feed working members of HH at the expense of non-working members?	0.59	2	1.2
10	Reduce number of meals eaten in a day?	0.77	1	0.8
11	Skip entire days without eating?	0.12	4	0.5

Table 3:Percentage of Households Engaged in Coping Strategies*

#	Reduced Coping Strategies Index (r-CSI)	n=301	
		# HHs	%
1	Rely on less preferred and less expensive foods?	291	97%
2	Borrow food, or rely on help from a friend or relative?	131	44%
3	Gather wild food, hunt, or harvest immature crops?	67	22%
4	Consume seed stock held for next season?	146	49%
5	Send household members to eat elsewhere?	35	12%
6	Send household members to beg?	6	2%
7	Limit portion size at mealtimes?	144	48%
8	Restrict consumption by adults in order for small children to eat?	111	37%
9	Feed working members of HH at the expense of non-working members?	50	17%
10	Reduce number of meals eaten in a day?	80	27%
11	Skip entire days without eating?	23	8%

b. Theme: Local Context

- Describe the local context, including the population, climate, natural resources (soil, water, forests, etc.), infrastructure (markets, roads, dams, etc.) and other important social, economic, and environmental features.
- What are the past and current government policies that impact food security (positively or negatively)?
- Are there any environmental or other trends (such as immigration, climate change, etc.) that may have an impact on the project area?

The collected data through the conducted FGD and KII with the interviewees of the targeted villages regarding to the population/village, area of arable land (semiarid/ irrigated land)/ village, and livelihood and agriculture profile are listed in below table (Annex-2). The data revealed that wheat and barley are main crops produced within the area; the locals are almost totally relying on agricultural based livelihood (crops production and livestock industry) for their living. The crops production system is open system and the majority of the crops production is rainfed, making the production susceptible to rainfall variations. The rainfed arable land is estimated to be more than 34000 acre and located within the villages' boundaries and the irrigated land is estimated to be around 3820 acre which is commonly relied on the artesian wells that almost all are broken due to the ISIS crises.

Climate of the target area

In Sinjār, the summers are sweltering, arid, and clear and the winters are cold and partly cloudy. Over the course of the year, the temperature typically varies from 11-41°C. The hot season lasts for 3.5 months, from June 4 to September 18. The cool season lasts for 3.7 months, from November 23 to March 13, with an average daily high temperature below 16°C. The average temperature for the year in Sinjar is 68.0°F (20°C). The warmest month, on average, is July with an average temperature of (40.9°C). The coolest month on average is January, with an average temperature of (11.5°C) (Figure 3A).

The rainy period of the year lasts for 6.7 months, from October 20 to May 9, with a sliding 31-day rainfall of at least 0.5 inches. The most rain falls during the 31 days centered around March- April. The rainless period of the year lasts for 5.3 months, from May 9 to October 20. The least rain falls around July and August with an average total accumulation of 0.0 inches. The average amount of precipitation for the year in Sinjar is 17.7" (449.6 mm). The month with the most precipitation on average is March with (83.8 mm) of precipitation. The months with the least precipitation on average are July and August with an average of 0.0" (0 mm).

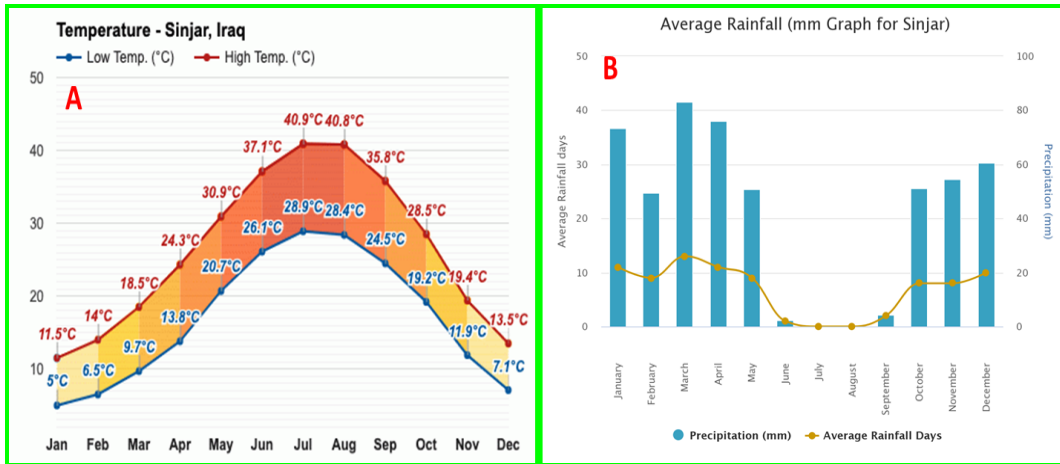


Figure 3: Monthly average temperature and rainfall in Sinjar, Ninawa, Iraq; (A) the daily average high (red line) and low (blue line) temperature, the thin dotted lines are the corresponding average perceived temperatures, (B) the days/ month in which various types of precipitation are observed.

In Tall 'Afar, the summers are sweltering, arid, and clear and the winters are cold and partly cloudy. Over the course of the year, the temperature typically varies from 2.2°C to 41°C. The hot season lasts for 3.5 months, from June 2 to September 18, with an average daily high temperature above 35°C. The hottest day of the year is July 25, with an average high of 41°C. The cool season lasts for 3.7 months, from November 23 to March 13, with an average daily high temperature below 16.6°C. The coldest day of the year is January 15, with an average low of 2.2°C (Figure 4A)

The wetter season lasts 6.4 months, from September to May. The chance of wet day's peak in March and April; the drier season lasts 5.6 months, from May to October. The smallest chance of a wet day is 0% in July (Figure 4B).

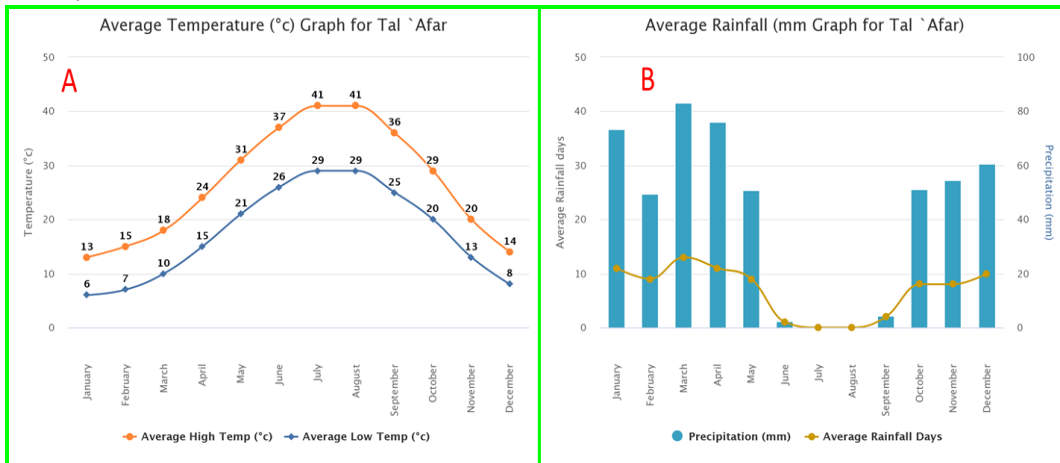


Figure 4: Monthly average temperature and rainfall in Telafer District, Ninawa, Iraq; (A) the daily average high (red line) and low (blue line) temperature, the thin dotted lines are the corresponding average perceived temperatures, (B) the days/ month in which various type of precipitation are observed.

In past, before 2003 and before the ISIS crises, the government was in well control of importing the produces from the neighboring countries, where the government was banning the imports during the productivities seasons for favor of the local produces. Besides, there were subsidies on seeds, herbicidal, pesticides and even fuels. After the 2014, the government lost the control on the imports and lost its abilities for subsidizing farmers. Further, the farmers used to sales their produces at fixed price to Silo before, but recently now farmers are facing difficulties in transporting and selling their produces in good prices.

c. Theme: Gender/Power

- Describe how different groups of women, men, girls and boys have had opportunities to provide input in this assessment.
- Describe gender norms in these communities and describe how they intersect with food security.
- Describe labour roles, including labour availability and constraints, for different groups of women, men, girls and boys.
- What kinds of decisions related to food security can different groups of women, men, girls and boys make?
- Who has access to and control over the resources that impact food security?

Women, girls, boys and men all have different experiences, needs, abilities and needs, abilities and priorities in a crisis and each could have important roles in their families and communities and contribute in good programming and enhancing their in both of household and community food security. Accordingly, the used questionnaire was carefully designed to understand the role of each category in developing food security; where the questionnaire include the reason, the number of times and the place of activity (productive, reproductive / Household / Care and community activities) each family member is undertaking. Besides, the interviewees (men and women) were asked about their roles in decision making at the household and community levels to see the role and the dominancy of each in making decisions, for more details on their role please see below.

The tribal lifestyle is prevailing in the region, so most of the tribal customs and traditions are valid. However, differences regarding to the gender and power can be found from village to village, but generally, the regional communities are conservative toward the gender, in many circumstance mixing between genders is prohibited. Women do the majority of the household work because they are housewives and the locals do believe that the societal gender norms can stunt children's growth and creativity. However, to some extent, the regional communities are more open now than before the ISIS crises especially after open and contact of the communities with surrounding communities and introducing and working of national and international agencies/ organizations into the area.

Labour job opportunities to some extent is available for men, women, boy and girls namely in agribusiness projects. Women and girls are commonly working in agricultural projects (mostly doing harvesting and weeding) but within the village territories, it is hard to see women move to work in nearby villages. The pandemic (COVID19) greatly affected the available job opportunities through its impact on productions due to curfew and the related instructed which led to a decrease in sales. Besides, the environmental changes including the drought of this year has aggravated the condition and reduced the job availability.

The majority of the productive activities including agriculture staple crops, land preparation/tilling and seeding are dominated by the men and boys simply because women do not know how to drive agricultural vehicles for ploughing and seeding activities. Whereas, other activities such as weeding, vegetables planting, livestock and poultry care are joint works however mostly dominated by women, girls and boys.

The reproductive / household / care activities such as cooking, childcare health, cleaning, laundry are over dominated by women; collecting water, collecting firewood and household repairs are joint work but still women dominated.

Community activities religious ceremonies and environmental care are the whole family members' responsibility/ joint duties.

Household decisions and the community decisions are joint decision between men and women. Men and women share decisions relating to daily budget, household budget, investments, taking out a loan, agriculture, family planning (contraceptive use and how many children to have), health services for self and children, community organizations and religious decisions. Whereas, buying or selling household assets and formal community decisions are dominated by men.

d. Theme: Food Security

- Describe the availability, access, utilization, and stability of food for the different segments of the population.
- Identify current and projected trends that may impact food security

Food consumption scores (FCS)

Households were grouped per similarity in household food consumption characteristics and patterns. The standard food consumption groups are poor, borderline and acceptable. For the grouping, the collected data were analyzed and food consumption scores (FCS) were calculated to differentiate between those different consumption groups.

- **Poor food consumption (0 — 28)** corresponds to a diet that is dominated by cereals eaten on a daily basis, complemented by condiments and spices. The average percentage of interviewed people in the poor food consumption group within the targeted areas for the poor food consumption group is 14 percent.
- **Borderline food consumption (29 — 42)** the average percentage of interviewed people in the borderline food consumption group is 28 percent.
- **Acceptable food consumption (above 42)** the average percentage of people in the acceptable food consumption groups is 58 percent.

The data related to food consumption score of the target households are shown in below tables (Table 4 and Table 5). The average FCS of the targeted families is 48.2 (Sinjar District=48.6 and 47.9 in Telafer) for more details about FCS and food consumption score classification please see below tables.

Table 4: Food Consumption Score (FCS).

	All HHs (N=301)	MHH (N=252)	FHH (N=49)
Max	87	87	72
Minimum	3.5	8	3.5
Average	48.2	51.4	31.7

Table 5: Food Consumption Score Classification

Classification	All HHs (N=301)		MHH (N=252)		FHH (N=49)	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Poor (0-28)	43	14%	26	10%	17	35%
Borderline (29 - 42)	84	28%	61	24%	23	47%
Acceptable (>42)	174	58%	165	65%	9	18%
Total	301	100%	252	100%	49	100%

Vulnerability of households and associated factors

Households in both districts (Sinjar and Telafer) of Ninawa governorate, Iraq are at risk of food shortage. Data revealed that 19% of the interviewed HHs in Telafer have FCS less than 28% (poor families) comparing to 8% in Sinjar district, for more detail see below table (Table 6). It is expected that the vulnerability and hungry among the households within the targeted areas to be further aggravated by the current situation related OVID-19 pandemic, fragile security condition and the economic inflation that has increased food prices; increasing the price of staple food affects the house's access to food.

District	Sub district	Village	# HHs/District	0-28	29-42	>42
Telafer	Rabia	Jdyda	166	6	10	4
Telafer	Rabia	Abtakhsor		16	12	18
Telafer	Rabia	Mujeleje		9	16	47
Telafer	Rabia	Omkahif		1	0	27
Sinjar	Sinon	kharba	135	5	9	10
Sinjar	Qayrawan	Atika		1	6	44
Sinjar	Qayrawan	Qabosya		5	31	24
Total			301	43	84	174

Generally, several factors have been reported to have impact on food insecurity such factors including unsuccessful government policies, security, damage/ lack of infrastructure, lack of education and health services, particularly for women and children, inadequate human resources and skilled human resources, lack of employment opportunities, low level of agricultural technology, insufficient water resources for agriculture, refugees and IDP migration, etc. All of these factors found to have roles in impeding food security and improving economic situation of the targeted areas of the study.

Which people belong to vulnerable segments of the population and where do they live?

Host communities/ returnees without sustainable livelihood strategies are among the most food insecure groups. In itself, displacement increases vulnerability to food insecurity, particularly for poorer people. Conflict makes IDPs and returnees more food insecure.

Poor, disabled headed households increasingly have limited or no access to markets and agricultural land. They have had to depend on charity and humanitarian aids, which has also become less available namely due to the COVID19 and the associated instructions while the inflation and the increasing food prices have made them particularly vulnerable to food insecurity.

Saeh Mae Jirran is a 59 years old disable household leader from Jdyda village, Saeh said" I am living in very difficult economic situation, he continued" I am used to live in debt, I have a family of eight members, two are disables, we don't have any source of income and we are relying on charity and neighbors, so many times a week we don't have enough food to eat" he ended his talk.

Heads of household living with disability or chronic illness have experienced reduced access to medicines and health facilities. They typically have no regular or stable sources of income.

How is the food security situation different for men, women, boys and girls

Female headed households, some of which are also IDPs, are the most vulnerable group. Some of these households are in urgent need to obtain psychological comfort to mitigate their stress and suffering. Besides, creating job opportunities for these families through conducting training course to increase their skills and supporting them with home based business and agribusiness (especially they have access to the arable land and they used to practice agricultural activities) could ameliorate their food security.

e. Theme: Access to Water

- *Describe the water needs both for house use/consumption and for agriculture and livelihood activities.*
- *Mention any differences in access or use for men, women, girls and boys*

The locals are not only suffering from the insufficient good quality of potable water, but also are in great dire need of good quantities irrigation water. The main potable used water sources are the ground water/ superficial Syrian wells; where both quality and quantity of the available water are affected/ deteriorated by the climate change/ drought of the year. The locals forced to use water filters which are costly process and not it is afforded by the all families namely the vulnerable with very limited incomes. As a coping strategy, the locals (males, females, boys and girls) used to reduce water use for even essential daily activities such as cleaning and sanitation which resulted in prevalence of the diseases among their household on regular bases, once/ month at minimum.

The main challenges faced the locals to have good quality and quantities of potable water and irrigation water per the conducted FGD are:

- 1- pumping problem/ sub miserable pumps
- 2- Electric support

To overcome the aforementioned challenges, locals suggested the following solutions

- 1- Installing of water projects/ drinking water projects
- 2- Installing of water network
- 3- Providing existing wells with sub miserable pumps
- 4- Electric support/ solar energy to provide farmers with the required electricity to function their artesian wells for both of drinking and irrigation purposes.

The expected longer term outcomes from supporting beneficiaries with better access to water, training and inputs are listed below

The proposed water project will not only serve the current locals but also will enhance the displaced households to return especially when enough water of good quality is available and meet the locals' daily needs. Besides, the projects will mitigate the burden on the families member namely females (women and girls) from bringing water on their shoulders and/ or save the required money that the locals used to pay for potable water/ tanker. Available of good quantities of potable water will be very helpful for overcoming the prevalence of the diseases linked to poor hygienic and sanitation as the locals will be using it for daily activities and house cleaning.

The required training courses in both of agricultural and livestock sectors are highly recommended by the locals for strengthen their knowledge and developing their current skills in management and marketing. In terms of management and marketing, the required training courses will be very helpful in developing the locals' skills regarding to:

- Use modern technology in agriculture/ agriculture smart technology/ greenhouse
- choosing the best seeds (highly productive and drought resistant seeds),
- best time for plant seeding
- combating weeds
- using the friendly eco fertilizers and chemical (pesticides)
- Maintaining of the soil and adoption of rotation-cultivation planting system instead of one-crop system
- changing the agricultural systems from drought- vulnerable sensitive rain fed into irrigation and most resistant system
- knowledge of animal husbandry methods, using most modern methods in breeding, feeding and diseases control
- maximizing produces and minimizing the costs
- developing value chain for the agricultural/ livestock produces

Implementation of the agribusiness projects (agricultural and livestock sectors) will very helpful in restoring the livelihood resources within the area mainly for the vulnerable people in especial and the whole community in general. The area is well known by its favourable environmental condition for arable and animal husbandry, the crises that faced the area resulted in the losing capacity of the locals to restore their livelihood assets (livestock, apiaries, poultry and agricultural projects). Supporting the locals with the agribusiness inputs following their participation within the tailored training courses to strengthen their management and post harvesting (marketing) skills will empower the locals economically and ensure their food security, in turn this will be very much helpful to increase the local produces and help the government to be self-dependent and reduce the imports as a long-term impacts.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Conclusions

Based on the collected data from the key actors/ local institutions, and the feedback obtained during the structured interviews and the community consultation, the following key conclusions can be made:

1. The study shows that 14% of households in the study area are food insecure, 28% are at borderline food consumption and only 58% of the households are food secure. Significant association was found between sizes of household, level of education, employment status, gender led household, presence of diseases and household food insecurity in the area. Households must ensure they have sufficient quantities of food necessary for a balanced diet. Project activities need to be implemented to acquire this food through cash incomes or access to productive resources. Clean water and adequate sanitation need to be provided in order to achieve maximum food security.
2. The locals are really in dire needs of water (potable and irrigation water). The locals are highly vulnerable to water scarcity, climate change/ drought risks; the locals are suffering from shortage of clean water for human and animal consumption and irrigation water for irrigated crops and vegetable productions.
3. Various coping strategies are adopted by the locals in trying to cope with the insecure food system; the coping mechanisms were identified are consuming of less expensive foods, consuming seed stock held for next season, reduction of portion sizes at meal time, borrowing food and restriction adult consumption..
4. There is a general consensus amongst the stakeholder that the current food system is at the risk and urgent intervention and support need to be provided to enhance the food security system.
5. The local government capacities to deal with insecure food system at this stage is insufficient and very limited and in most of the cases are absent in the field.

Recommendations

- Promoting of existing potable water system through repairing the repairable wells, establishing of water store and water network to ensure each household has free access to enough quantities of potable water to enable them overcome the diseases linked to poor hygienic condition.
- Upgrade and improving the current irrigation schemes (construction of water channel) as access to irrigation enables households to produce more than once in a year through reducing water stress and the risk of crop failure and thereby helps them to reduce and/or eliminate food insecurity.
- Enhancing and improving present agricultural infrastructures through using of:
 - Water efficient Irrigation systems i.e. drip and sprinklers
 - Introducing drought resilient seeds
 - Encouraging farmers to adopt climate or weather resilient techniques e.g. greenhouses
- Subsidize the farmers (smallholder farmers) with good quality seeds, fertilizer, pesticides and herbicides to overcome the problem of inferior quality of the produce.
- Enhancing poor, disabled-, elder-women-, chronically ill people- led household's access to income sources fit with their capability to enables them to improve their production and thereby help them to reduce and/or eliminate food insecurity and improve their wellbeing.
- Enhancing off-farm incomes earning opportunities of the householders who do not have arable land through providing of sufficient input (livestock, apiaries, poultry, dairy production (yogurt and its derivatives) to increase their productivity and improving their households' food security situation.
- Improving technical skill and awareness of the beneficiaries on utilizing of the off-farm income inputs through conducting tailored training courses.
- Development and implementation of gender-based violence prevention strategies and mechanisms for addressing victims of gender-based violence.
- Development and implementation of strategies for the prevention of gender-based violence to reduce the prevailing social stressful condition based on the customs and traditions toward women in order to activate their role in contributing to income earning and improving family food security.

4. **Financial Report:** Please include a separate financial report that reports against all approved budget lines with clear and detailed variance descriptions for all lines over or underspent by 10% or more.

Annexes

Annex 1: Questionnaire for focus group discussions (FGD) with farmers and KII with Key actors

This interview / focus group is about understanding your process / what you do / how you deal with water sources and gender roles (woman and man). Through it, we want to better understand what are the limitations on available water sources (for drinking and irrigation), the role and customs of society towards women, and what are your recommendations for improvement. We'll start a little more general and then get more specific

Focus group discussion questionnaire							
A- Source of the potable water							
1 What do you think about the quantity of the available water source?							
2 What are the main challenges faced the locals to have good quality and quantities of potable water? What do you think can be done? (Information can be summarized using the table template below)							
Challenges	Potential solution						
	Installing of water projects	Installing of water network	Providing existing wells with sub miserable pumps	Electric support	Other		
3 What is the source of drinking water?							
<input type="checkbox"/> Ground Water / well <input type="checkbox"/> Surface water							
3.1 What do you think about the quality of the available water source?							
3.2 How do you use potable water in your household?							
3.3 Do you have capacity to buy clean/ healthy water? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No							
If yes, how much does it cost/ (cubic meter)/ month in ID. -----							
if not please mention how do you cope with this:							
4 Could you tell us about the situation of cleanliness at your home?							
5 What is the frequency of illness in household members e.g. diarrhea or other diseases							
<input type="checkbox"/> Once in a week <input type="checkbox"/> Once in a month <input type="checkbox"/> Once in 3 months <input type="checkbox"/> Once in 12 months							
B- Source of the irrigation water							
<input type="checkbox"/> Ground Water / well <input type="checkbox"/> Surface water							
1. What do you think about the quantity of the available water source?							
2. What are the main challenges faced the locals to have good quality and quantities of potable water? What do you think can be done? (Information can be summarized using the table template below)							
	Potential solution						
Challenges	pumping problem/ sub miserable pumps	Electric support			Other		
C- Gender and Power							
1. What are the gender norms in these communities?							
2. Could you please tell us about the roles and responsibilities of different household members							
3. Could you tell us how people spend their time throughout the year?							
4. Who is doing the majority of domestic work?							
5. Could you please tell as how the community deals with stereotypical gender roles on a daily basis?							
6. Do you think that societal gender norms can stunt children's growth and creativity? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No							
7. Activity Profile Matrix							
Activity	W	M	G	B	Time	Location	Reasons why this activity is done by this person
Productive activities							
Agriculture – staple crops							
• Land preparation/tilling							
• Seeding							
• Weeding							
• Etc.							
Agriculture – vegetables							
• Land preparation/tilling							
• Seeding							

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weeding • Etc. Livestock and poultry care <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Feeding o Milking o Selling o Etc. 							
Reproductive / Household / Care Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooking • Childcare • Health • Cleaning • Laundry • Collecting water • Collecting firewood • Household repairs 							
Community Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community advisory groups • Church ceremonies • Environmental care 							

8. Decision-Making Matrix

Who makes this decision most of the time about the below listed activities?

Types of Decisions	Who makes the decisions?				
	Women Alone	Women Dominant	Joint Decision	Men Dominant	Men alone
A) Household decisions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily budget • Household budget • Investments • Buying or selling household assets • Taking out a loan • Agriculture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o What to plant o When to plant o When to sell crops • Land use • Education of children • Family planning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Contraceptive use o How many children to have • Health services for self • Health services for children B) Community Decisions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal community decisions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Political decisions o Legal decisions o Economic decisions • Informal community decisions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Community organizations (such as CBOs or PTAs) o Religious decisions 					

9. Which people belong to vulnerable segments of the population and where do they live?

10. Why are they in this situation (analysis of the causes and effects)? Please mention the most common reasons:

11. How have your livelihood activities changed since the conflict?

12. How is the food security situation different for men, women, boys and girls?

13. What do women, men, boys and girls do the same or differently to cope with the situation?

14. Are there safety concerns associated with going to markets, agricultural lands, or accessing water (or other places that participants would have to go as part of your project)?

Questions for Key informant Interview (KII)/ Stakeholders (KII)

Food system actors, roles and visions

1. Position/ directorate

-District leader

1- Director 2- Deputy of director

-Directorate of agriculture

1- Director 2- Deputy of director 3- head of department

District Director of Planning and Development

1- Director 2- Deputy of director 3- head of department

District Gender Officer

2. What are the major challenges to achieving food security in the area?

- Political causes
- Security causes
- lack of livelihood sources/ lack of the governmental support
- Knowledge and information/ required skill
- Lack of agricultural infrastructures/ machines and other inputs such seeds
- Climate condition and lack of precipitation
- Society: human health, demographics, social-political issues
- social conflict and migration
- and the relationship between supply and demand for food.
- Other

3. How has the community worked to cope with these challenges?

4. How well does the current local food system function? What is your vision for the future of the local food system?

Recommendations

Profiles of the targeted villages								
Village	Location	#HHs	Arabal land in Arce	Irrigated land in Acre	% of locals engaged in agriculture and allied activities	Agriculture Production System	Livelihood sources available locally or nearby?	Primary crop type
Kharba	Sinon Sub district/ Sinjar	80	4000	150	50-75%	Food crops/ Livestock/sheep and cattle/Yogurt production Apiaries and Fruit growing	Agriculture based livelihood	Wheat and Barley
Atika	Sinon Sub district/ Sinjar	165	6000	2500	75-100%	Food crops/ Livestock/sheep and cattle/Yogurt production	Agriculture based livelihood	Wheat and Barley
Qabosya	Qeyrewan Sub district/ Sinjar	190	8900	600	50-75%	Food crops/ Livestock/sheep and cattle/Yogurt production	Agriculture based livelihood/ labours /daily wages	Wheat and Barley
Abtaykh Shor	Rabi'a Sub district/ Telaafer	110	5000	340	50-75%	Food crops/ Livestock/sheep and cattle/Yogurt production Apiaries	Agriculture based livelihood/ labours /daily wages	Wheat and Barley
Jdyda Village	Rabi'a Sub district/ Telaafer	70	3000	80	50-75%	Food crops/ Livestock/sheep and cattle/Yogurt production	Agriculture based livelihood	Wheat and Barley
Mujeleje	Rabi'a Sub district/ Telaafer	130	600	150	50-75%	Food crops/ Livestock/sheep and cattle/Yogurt production	Agriculture based livelihood/ labours /daily wages	Wheat and Barley
Omkahif	Rabi'a Sub district/ Telaafer	150	6500		25-50%	Food crops/ Livestock/sheep and cattle/Yogurt production	Agriculture based livelihood/ labours /daily wages/ Employment	Wheat and Barley
Total		895	34000	3820				

Annex 2: Profiles of the targeted villages