



T.C.
TOKAT GAZIOSMANPASHA UNIVERSITY
GRADUATE EDUCATION INSTITUTE
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY
M.SC RESEARCH

**ANALYSIS OF THE IMPACT OF POPULATION DISPLACEMENT ON
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN NORTHERN IRAQ.**

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Master thesis

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TOKAT - 2024

SCIENTIFIC ETHICS PAGE

According to the thesis writing guide of Tokat Gaziosmanpaşa University Institute of Social Sciences, My Master's thesis named “**ANALYSIS OF THE IMPACT OF POPULATION DISPLACEMENT ON ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN NORTHERN IRAQ**” that I have prepared under the consultancy of “**Doç. Dr. Hüseyin Mertol**” is based on scientific ethical values and rules. I hereby declare that it is an appropriate, original work, and I will accept any legal sanctions if it is determined otherwise.

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ÖZET

KUZEY IRAK'TA NÜFUS GÖÇÜNÜN EKONOMİK VE SOSYAL KALKINMA ÜZERİNDEKİ ETKİSİNİN ANALİZİ

Omed Hakeem Mousa

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2024, xiii ve 69 sayfa

Bireylerin veya grupların yaşadıkları yerlerden zorunlu veya gönüllü olarak ayrılmalarını gerektiren karmaşık bir olgu olan nüfusun yerinden edilmesi; çatışma, sosyo-politik istikrarsızlık ve insani krizlerin iç içe geçtiği kritik bir bağlantı noktasıdır. Bunun sonuçları küresel olarak toplumlar ve ekonomiler arasında yankılanmakta ve iç göçten sınır ötesi mülteci akımlarına kadar uzanan bir deneyim yelpazesini tanımlamaktadır. Son yıllarda, uzun süreli çatışmalar, çevresel bozulma ve sosyo-ekonomik çalkantılar nedeniyle yerinden edilmenin boyutu ve karmaşıklığı artmıştır. Kuzey Irak, jeopolitik, etnik ve ekonomik faktörlerin karmaşık etkileşiminin bir sonucu olarak son yıllarda önemli nüfus geçişleri yaşamıştır. Çatışma, zulüm ve çevresel olumsuzluklar gibi koşulların bir araya gelmesiyle zorunlu nüfus yer değiştirmeleri çok yaygındır. Bu olgu, bölgenin sosyopolitik ortamını derinden etkileyen ayırt edici bir özellik olarak ortaya çıkmıştır. Hem iç göçü hem de mülteci hareketlerini içeren nüfusun yerinden edilmesinin karmaşık dinamikleri, ekonomik büyüme, toplumsal bütünlük ve bölgesel istikrar gibi daha geniş kaygılarla bağlantılı olduğundan, akademik araştırma için ilgi çekici bir yol sunmaktadır. Bu yer değiştirmelerin sonuçları, acil insani kaygıların ötesine geçerek Kuzey Irak'ın büyüme kaderinin temel yönünü önemli ölçüde değiştirmektedir. Bu çalışma, nüfusun yerinden edilmesinin Kuzey Irak'taki ekonomik ve sosyal kalkınma üzerindeki etkilerini incelemeye çalışmaktadır. Erbil, Duhok ve Süleymaniye gibi çeşitli vilayetlerde 138 kadın ve 164 erkek olmak üzere 302 anketten oluşan bir veri seti sistematik olarak toplanmıştır. Daha sonra, standart sapma ve ortalama gibi istatistiksel ölçütler kullanılarak veri setinin titiz bir analizi yapılmış ve çiftler halinde anket soruları arasındaki korelasyonlar incelenmiştir. Özellikle, bu korelasyonların önemi 0.005'lik bir p-değeri eşiği kullanılarak değerlendirilmiş ve bulgular 0.001'lik bir p-değeri ile vurgulanan istatistiksel olarak anlamlı bir korelasyon seviyesine işaret etmiştir. Bulgular, nüfusun yerinden edilmesi ile ekonomik kalkınma

arasında hem olumlu hem de olumsuz etkilerin görülebildiği karmaşık bir ilişki olduğunu ortaya koymaktadır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Nüfusun yerinden edilmesi, Etki, Ekonomik ve Sosyal kalkınma.



ABSTRACT**ANALYSIS OF THE IMPACT OF POPULATION DISPLACEMENT ON
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN NORTHERN IRAQ****Omed Hakeem Mousa****Doç. Dr. Hüseyin Mertol****2024, xiii and 69 pages**

Population displacement, an intricate phenomenon entailing the compelled or voluntary movement of individuals or groups from their habitual places of residence, serves as a critical nexus intertwining conflict, socio-political instability, and humanitarian crises. Its ramifications reverberate across societies and economies globally, delineating a spectrum of experiences ranging from internal migration to cross-border refugee flows. Over recent decades, the amplitude and intricacy of displacement have surged, propelled by protracted conflicts, environmental degradation, and socio-economic upheavals. Northern Iraq has experienced significant population transitions in recent decades, the result of a complex interaction of geopolitical, ethnic, and economic factors. Mandatory population relocation is very common, motivated by a combination of circumstances such as conflict, persecution, and environmental adversity. This phenomenon has arisen as a distinguishing feature that profoundly impacts the region's sociopolitical environment. The complicated dynamics of population displacement, which include both internal migration and refugee movements, provide an intriguing avenue for scholarly inquiry since they connect with wider concerns such as economic growth, societal cohesiveness, and regional stability. The consequences of these displacements go beyond immediate humanitarian concerns, dramatically changing the fundamental direction of Northern Iraq's growth destiny. This study endeavors to scrutinize the ramifications of population displacement on economic and social development in northern Iraq. A dataset comprising 302 surveys, inclusive of 138 females and 164 males, was systematically collected across various provinces, namely Erbil, Duhok, and Sulaymani. Subsequently, a rigorous analysis of the dataset was undertaken, employing statistical measures such as standard deviation and mean, alongside scrutinizing correlations between survey questions in pairs. Notably, the significance of these correlations was assessed utilizing a p-value threshold of 0.005, with findings indicating a statistically significant level of correlation,

underscored by a p-value of 0.001. Findings reveal a complex relationship between population displacement and economic development, with both positive and negative impacts discernible.

Keywords: Population displacement, Impact, Economic and Social development.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We praise and thank God who gave us the gift of knowledge and reason and gave us the determination and will to complete this work.

I am grateful to my supervisor, Doç. Dr. Hüseyin Mertol, for his guidance and support throughout my thesis research. His mentorship and expertise were essential to my success.

I am deeply grateful to my family, particularly my parents, for their unconditional love, trust, support, and belief in me and my choices.



DEDICATED TO

Praise be to God, the Great, the Generous, He opens to whomever He wills of His servants with the truth, and He is the All-Knowing Fattah.

I dedicate this humble deed to those who are my pride and my treasure, to those who have supported me throughout life, and those to whom pleasing God is linked, to the candle of my way and the balm of my life, Father. Mother.

To my sisters, brothers.



LIST OF CONTENTS

ÖZET	i
ABSTRACT.....	iii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	v
DEDICATED TO.....	vi
LIST OF CONTENTS.....	vii
LIST OF TABLES	ix
LIST OF FIGURES	xi
ABBREVIATION	xiii
CHAPTER ONE	1
1. INTRODUCTION	1
CHAPTER TWO	3
2. Literature Review	3
2.1 Environment and Population Displacement.....	3
2.2 Syrian crisis: Impact on Northern Iraq.....	4
2.2.1 Syria and the growth of ISIL/Da'esh.....	5
2.3 ISIL/Da'esh – a reign of terror in Iraq.....	6
2.3.1 Large-scale displacement of Iraqis.....	6
2.3.2 The continued presence of Syrian refugees	7
2.4 Social Development Impact of population displacement.....	7
2.5 The impact on the northern Iraq economy	9
2.5 Northern Iraq Description	10
2.6 Displacement In Iraq (2003-2019).....	11
2.7 Syrian Refugees in the Northern of Iraq	13
2.7.1 Distribution of Syrian refugees in the Kurdistan region	14
2.7.2 The overall situation of Syrian refugees in the Kurdistan region	15
2.7.2.1 Legal status.....	15
2.7.2.2 Humanitarian situation	15
2.7.2.3 Economic status	16
2.8 Urban Displacement In Iraq	16
2.9 Vulnerable Groups of Displaced Populations	18
2.9.1 Some Causes and Effects of Displacement.....	19

2.9.2 The Experience of Displacement	21
2.9.3 Economic Security	22
2.10 Conceptual Framework	23
2.10.1 Displacement conceptualization.....	23
2.10.2 Development oriented Displacement	24
2.10.3 Returns and Post-conflict recovery	25
2.10.2 Property Rights and Contested Politics.....	27
3. MATERIAL AND METHODS	28
3.1 Statistic analysis	28
4. RESULTS	28
5. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION	62
REFERENCES.....	64
BACKGROUND.....	69

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: What is your level of familiarity with the concept of population displacement in Northern Iraq?.....	29
Table 2: In your opinion, what are the primary causes of population displacement in Northern Iraq?.....	30
Table 3: How would you rate the current economic development in areas affected by population displacement in Northern Iraq?	32
Table 4: What are the main economic challenges faced by displaced populations in Northern Iraq?.....	33
Table 5: How has population displacement affected labor markets in Northern Iraq? .	35
Table 6: To what extent has population displacement affected access to education in Northern Iraq?.....	36
Table 7: How has population displacement influenced social cohesion and community dynamics in Northern Iraq?	37
Table 8: What role do you think international organizations play in addressing the challenges of population displacement in Northern Iraq?	38
Table 9: How would you assess the effectiveness of government policies in addressing the needs of displaced populations in Northern Iraq?.....	40
Table 10: In your view, what are the key social development challenges faced by displaced communities in Northern Iraq?	42
Table 11: How has population displacement impacted housing and shelter in Northern Iraq?	43
Table 12: What measures do you think can be taken to promote economic stability and development in areas affected by population displacement in Northern Iraq?.....	44
Table 13: What are the main sources of income for displaced populations in Northern Iraq?	46
Table 14: How has population displacement influenced gender dynamics and women's rights in Northern Iraq?.....	47
Table 15: What opportunities do you think exist for economic growth and development in Northern Iraq despite the challenges of population displacement?	49
Table 16: How do you perceive the role of local communities in supporting displaced populations in Northern Iraq?	50

Table 17: What factors do you believe contribute to the successful integration of displaced populations into host communities in Northern Iraq?	51
Table 18: How has population displacement influenced healthcare access and services in Northern Iraq?.....	53
Table 19: In your opinion, what role does education play in promoting long-term economic and social development for displaced populations in Northern Iraq?	54
Table 20: What additional measures do you think are necessary to address the longterm impact of population displacement on economic and social development in Northern Iraq?	56
Table 21: Mean and standard deviation of questions.	58
Table 22: Paired samples correlations.	60

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: ISIL/Da'esh areas of influence in Syria and Iraq February 2017 (Betts and Collier, 2018).....	7
Figure 2: KRI and IDTs in Iraq	11
Figure 3: Distribution of Syrian refugees in the Kurdistan region (Syrian Civic Platform, 2018).	14
Figure 4: Location of displacement over time (IOM, 2021).	17
Figure 5: Sampled urban centres by IDP population (August 2020) (IOM, 2021).	18
Figure 6: Individual distribution.	28
Figure 7: What is your level of familiarity with the concept of population displacement in Northern Iraq?.....	29
Figure 8: In your opinion, what are the primary causes of population displacement in Northern Iraq?.....	30
Figure 9: How would you rate the current economic development in areas affected by population displacement in Northern Iraq?	32
Figure 10: What are the main economic challenges faced by displaced populations in Northern Iraq?.....	33
Figure 11: How has population displacement affected labor markets in Northern Iraq?	35
Figure 12: To what extent has population displacement affected access to education in Northern Iraq?.....	36
Figure 13: How has population displacement influenced social cohesion and community dynamics in Northern Iraq?	37
Figure 14: What role do you think international organizations play in addressing the challenges of population displacement in Northern Iraq?	39
Figure 15: How would you assess the effectiveness of government policies in addressing the needs of displaced populations in Northern Iraq?	40
Figure 16: In your view, what are the key social development challenges faced by displaced communities in Northern Iraq?	42
Figure 17: How has population displacement impacted housing and shelter in Northern Iraq?	43

Figure 18: What measures do you think can be taken to promote economic stability and development in areas affected by population displacement in Northern Iraq?.....	45
Figure 19: What are the main sources of income for displaced populations in Northern Iraq?	46
Figure 20: How has population displacement influenced gender dynamics and women's rights in Northern Iraq?.....	47
Figure 21: What opportunities do you think exist for economic growth and development in Northern Iraq despite the challenges of population displacement?	49
Figure 22: How do you perceive the role of local communities in supporting displaced populations in Northern Iraq?	50
Figure 23: What factors do you believe contribute to the successful integration of displaced populations into host communities in Northern Iraq?	52
Figure 24: How has population displacement influenced healthcare access and services in Northern Iraq?.....	53
Figure 25: In your opinion, what role does education play in promoting long-term economic and social development for displaced populations in Northern Iraq?	55
Figure 26: What additional measures do you think are necessary to address the longterm impact of population displacement on economic and social development in Northern Iraq?.....	57

ABBREVIATION

DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
ERMs	Ethnic and religious minorities
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
ISIL	Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant
IPCC	The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
NIR	Northern Iraq Region
NGOs	Non-governmental organizations
PHC	Primary health care
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

CHAPTER ONE

1. INTRODUCTION

In recent decades, Northern Iraq has undergone a series of demographic transformations influenced by a complex interplay of geopolitical, ethnic, and economic forces. Notably, the compulsory resettlement of populations, prompted by various factors including conflict, persecution, and environmental challenges, has emerged as a defining feature shaping the area (Black, 2011).

The complexities inherent in population displacement dynamics, which encompass internal migration and refugee movements, present a compelling subject of study as they intersect with broader issues pertaining to economic development, societal integration, and regional stability. The consequences of such displacements extend beyond immediate humanitarian concerns, significantly shaping the foundational trajectory of Northern Iraq's development. As emphasized by scholars such as Castles and Miller (2009) and Black (2011), the intricate interplay between forced migration and development underscores the need for a nuanced understanding of the diverse mechanisms at play (Castles and Miller, 2009; Black, 2011).

This study aims to augment existing scholarly insights by conducting a methodical examination of the effects of population displacement on economic frameworks and social dynamics within Northern Iraq. Utilizing a multidisciplinary approach that integrates viewpoints from economics, sociology, and political science, our goal is to elucidate the intricate interrelations between displacement and developmental processes (THCI, 2015).

The significance of this research is underscored by the urgent imperative to address the complexities arising from displacement within the context of Northern Iraq. Aligned with Sen's (1999) viewpoint, development is conceived as a holistic notion encompassing not only economic growth but also the enhancement of capabilities and freedoms. The manner in which displaced communities are integrated, or conversely marginalized, within the socio-economic framework of Northern Iraq will undeniably shape the trajectory of the region's future (Sen, 1999).

Through a comprehensive analysis of existing literature, empirical evidence, and case studies, this thesis seeks to provide a sophisticated understanding of the effects of population displacement on the economic and social progression of Northern Iraq. By

illuminating the challenges and possible benefits associated with such displacements, this research endeavors to furnish valuable insights for policymakers, development practitioners, and scholars. The overarching aim is to advocate for a more informed and holistic approach in addressing the intricate relationship between displacement and development. This thesis endeavors to investigate the complex implications of population displacement on the economic and social framework of Northern Iraq, carefully examining its far-reaching effects and its significance for sustainable development (THCI, 2015).



CHAPTER TWO

2. Literature Review

2.1 Environment and Population Displacement

Across the span of human history, societies worldwide have consistently faced the need to adjust to environmental variations, frequently manifested as "natural" disasters. Migration, whether temporary or permanent, has emerged as a recurring adaptive strategy for affected populations, facilitating their survival amidst such changes (Hugo, 1996). In contemporary times, the ramifications of societal advancement are instigating environmental transformations that possess the potential for unprecedented severity, surpassing any previous recorded period. These changes entail a significant risk of displacing large populations on a substantial scale. Furthermore, the intricate interaction between social and economic elements within the environment is heightening the susceptibility of both human populations and ecosystems. Additionally, a greater number of individuals are now at heightened risk from the consequences of these changes compared to previous periods. This heightened vulnerability is attributed in part to population growth and the concentration of people in exposed areas, but also to the influence of social, economic, and political dynamics that either generate or exacerbate risks and vulnerabilities to such hazards. Foremost among the ongoing environmental shifts is the phenomenon of global climate change. Individuals residing in precarious circumstances are notably poised to encounter the effects of climate change, whether gradual or abrupt, which may manifest as disasters, particularly if they culminate in involuntary displacement and subsequent resettlement. Indeed, strategies for disaster risk reduction hold significant potential in facilitating adaptation to the challenges posed by global climate change (Birkmann and von Teichman, 2009).

As indicated by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), anthropogenic influences are substantially contributing to elevated global temperatures. These influences are associated with accelerated rates of sea level rise, amplified melting of glaciers, permafrost, and ice in polar regions, heightened precipitation in certain global areas, increased occurrence of severe droughts in tropical and subtropical regions, elevated frequencies of heatwaves, alterations in the distribution and prevalence of diseases, and intensified activity of hurricanes and cyclones. Furthermore, these modifications interact synergistically, hastening their progression rates and are

anticipated to influence natural systems on a global scale, leading to alterations in aquatic, terrestrial, and biological subsystems. The actual and anticipated consequences of these transformations are forecasted to instigate environmental and societal phenomena that will result in the displacement of significant populations, necessitating individual or familial migration or leading to permanent displacement and/or relocation of entire communities. Moreover, global climate variations may intersect with other influences, such as environmental pollution, further compelling individuals to vacate their residences (Birkmann and von Teichman, 2009).

2.2 Syrian crisis: Impact on Northern Iraq

The onset of the Syrian crisis, initially marked by anti-government demonstrations before evolving into a protracted civil conflict, has exerted a significant influence on the neighboring nation of Iraq. Stemming from its operational base in the Syrian town of Raqqa, the 'Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant' (ISIL/Da'esh), originating in Iraq, managed to seize control of a substantial portion of Iraq's territory in 2014, instigating widespread devastation and loss of life. Consequently, this upheaval has resulted in the internal displacement of over 3 million Iraqi citizens to date. It is projected that up to 11 million Iraqis, constituting approximately one-third of the population, will require humanitarian aid within the current year to address the enduring repercussions of ongoing conflict and economic stagnation. Additionally, a quarter of a million Syrian nationals have sought asylum in Iraq due to the protracted conflict in their homeland. The majority have resettled in the Northern Iraq Region (NIR), contributing to a nearly 30% surge in the population of this autonomous area over recent years. The predominantly Kurdish Syrian refugees received favorable reception from the Kurdish Region's government, which granted them authorization to work within the region and access public education, including enrollment in schools and universities. However, the substantial influx of refugees has imposed pressures on the local economy, host communities, and public services. This surge has led to escalated prices and unemployment rates, alongside diminished wages. Consequently, economic expansion within the NIR has decelerated, while the poverty rate has witnessed a more than twofold increase (Duman, 2015a).

2.2.1 Syria and the growth of ISIL/Da'esh

The Syrian conflict, initiated by anti-government demonstrations before evolving into a prolonged civil war, has now persisted for seven years. In the initial stages of the conflict, the Syrian government relinquished authority over extensive territories to a diverse range of opposition factions. Despite originating in Iraq, the entity recognized as the 'Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant' (also referred to as IS, ISIS or ISIL, and known by its Arabic acronym 'Da'esh') aligned itself with the opposition against President Bashar al-Assad. Subsequently, it managed to seize control of substantial territories in Syria, including the central city of Raqqa, with a population of approximately 200,000 residents. Establishing its foothold in Syria provided the group with convenient access to weaponry and financial resources, enabling the accumulation of a substantial fighting force. This development attracted tens of thousands of individuals from various parts of the globe to join its ranks as fighters (Fujio, 2015).

Utilizing its stronghold in Syria as a launching pad, ISIL/Da'esh initiated a concerted effort to seize control of regions in Iraq. This strategic move capitalized on the withdrawal of United States (US) forces from Iraq and exploited prevailing Sunni discontent towards the sectarian policies of the Shi'a-dominated government. In June 2014, ISIL/Da'esh decisively defeated the Iraqi military in Mosul, the nation's second-largest city. Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the leader of the group, made a public appearance at Mosul's central mosque to announce the establishment of a new 'caliphate', declaring himself the 'commander of the faithful' and calling for allegiance from Muslims globally. In the ensuing weeks, ISIL/Da'esh extended its control over the northern and western regions of Iraq, advancing perilously close to the Iraqi capital, Baghdad, and establishing connections with its strongholds in eastern Syria. By the middle of 2014, the Islamic State had achieved territorial control spanning extensive areas of Iraq and Syria, asserting military authority over 126 strategically significant locations and effectively eradicating the border demarcation between the two nations. Estimates suggest that, at a particular juncture, between 6 and 10 million individuals resided within territories governed by ISIL/Da'esh (Fujio, 2015).

2.3 ISIL/Da'esh – a reign of terror in Iraq

2.3.1 Large-scale displacement of Iraqis

As per data from UNHCR, since January 2014, more than three million individuals within Iraq have experienced internal displacement, predominantly due to the progression of ISIL/Da'esh, which has compelled hundreds of thousands to flee their residences. Alternative assessments suggest that the number of internally displaced persons stands at 4.7 million, positioning Iraq, with a population of approximately 38 million, as the nation with the second-largest internally displaced population in the Middle East, following Syria (UNHCR, 2015). In the territories under its jurisdiction, ISIL/Da'esh has perpetrated severe and systematic human rights violations and breaches of international law. These transgressions include indiscriminate killings and intentional targeting of non-combatants, mass executions and extrajudicial killings, discrimination and persecution based on identity, abduction of civilians, forced displacement of Shi'a populations and minority communities, violence against children resulting in death or injury, sexual assault, and a multitude of other atrocities (Neurink and Judit, 2015).

The rate of displacement observed in the last three years is nearly unparalleled and has precipitated a humanitarian emergency of considerable magnitude and volatility, ranking among the largest globally. In 2014, more than 2.5 million individuals were displaced in Iraq, followed by an additional million in 2015 and nearly 700,000 newly displaced individuals in 2016. Each of the nine significant military offensives conducted against ISIL/Da'esh in 2016 resulted in fresh waves of displacement. In 2017, contingent upon the duration and intensity of combat operations in Mosul and other urban centers in Iraq, as many as 1.2 million additional civilians could face displacement from their residences (Betts and Collier, 2018).

poverty rate within the Northern Iraq Region (NIR) experienced a twofold increase, rising from 3.5 percent in 2012 to 8.1 percent in 2014 (Cordesman and Khazai, 2016).

The arrival of displaced individuals into the Northern Iraq Region (NIR) has resulted in a discernible deterioration in humanitarian conditions. The delivery of fundamental social services in the NIR has been significantly impaired, exacerbating the plight of those who have fled due to the conflict. Despite concerted endeavors by both the government and the international community, a considerable portion of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) are deprived of essential requisites including healthcare, education, housing, sustenance, and social support. Moreover, the surge in population has substantial potential ramifications for the provision of public services, considering the constraints on government resources. In fact, the crisis has resulted in diminished per capita expenditure on social services due to the heightened population and reallocation of resources towards critical sectors. Food insecurity persists, with over 243,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) requiring shelter. Failure to address these needs could significantly undermine social cohesion within the population (Higel, 2016).

The comprehensive expenditure required to manage the humanitarian crisis is projected to vary between \$845.9 million and \$1.6 billion across different scenarios in 2015. Substantial investments in primary healthcare (PHC) and hospital services for refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs), both within and outside of camps, are essential within the healthcare sector. Capital expenditures are imperative to sustain sufficient hospital service provision. Within the education sector, financial resources are required to cater to the requirements of both displaced individuals and host communities. Considering the distance between camps and educational facilities, coupled with the prevalent issue of overcrowded classrooms, considerable initial capital investment will be necessary to establish school caravans. Furthermore, prompt measures must be implemented by the authorities to vacate schools currently utilized by internally displaced persons (IDPs), relocating them to suitable accommodations to facilitate the resumption of the school year for the host community. The estimated stabilization requirements for health, education, food security, poverty alleviation, and shelter amount to \$845.9 million for the year 2015. In a high scenario, involving an added influx of 100,000 Syrian refugees and 500,000 Iraqi internally displaced persons

(IDPs) into the Northern Iraq Region (NIR), the stabilization requirements for these sectors are projected to reach \$1.6 billion for the year 2015 (Higel, 2016).

2.5 The impact on the northern Iraq economy

The emergence of ISIL/Da'esh has markedly deteriorated Iraq's economic prospects. The violence ensuing from the crisis has adversely impacted the economy by dampening investment, trade, and overall business operations. The government has been compelled to augment security expenditures to counter ISIL/Da'esh, exacerbating the budget deficit. Iraq's economy is predominantly reliant on oil for both government revenues and export earnings, with crude oil representing nearly 98% of total exports and over 80% of government revenue. Militant assaults have thus far left oil production and exports from southern Iraq largely unscathed, representing the primary source of the nation's oil revenue and foreign exchange earnings. Nonetheless, the Iraqi economy suffered a severe blow due to the sharp decline in global oil prices since 2014, precipitating a fiscal and balance of payments predicament. In response, the Iraqi government was compelled to implement substantial austerity measures, including reductions in public-sector salaries and tax hikes. The budget deficit reached an estimated 13% of GDP in 2016 and is not anticipated to achieve a surplus until 2021 (IDPs, 2016b).

Furthermore, the conflict in Syria and the subsequent emergence and expansion of ISIL/Da'esh have brought about profound transformations across the entire region. As the toll of fatalities, refugees, and internally displaced persons escalated in Syria and Iraq, and as communities were transformed into battlegrounds, regional economies suffered declines, and economic interdependencies disintegrated. By the conclusion of 2014, per capita GDP in Iraq had dwindled by 16%. Apart from the direct repercussions on the Iraqi economy stemming from the Syrian conflict and the confrontation with ISIL/Da'esh, the indirect ramifications of the Syrian war encompass the opportunity cost incurred from forsaken initiatives for regional trade integration. The conflict disrupted trade within the Levant region, which had expanded sevenfold from the early to late 2000s. Additionally, it halted initiatives to strengthen trade connections within the region following the conclusion of the 'Levant Quartet' agreement in 2010. Nonetheless, Iraq's economic outlook holds considerable promise over the long run and surpasses that of most Middle Eastern nations. The nation's substantial oil reserves are anticipated to

sustain a high growth trajectory and generate significant wealth for an extended period with minimal intervention required (IDPs, 2016b).

2.6 Northern Iraq Description

The Northern Iraq Region, situated to the North and North East of Iraq, encompasses four governorates: Erbil, Sulaimani, Dahuk, and Halabja, spanning an approximate area of 40,643 square kilometers. (Kurdistan Region Government Website, 2018). Latest updates (Demographic Survey Kurdistan Region of Iraq, 2018, p. 14) estimate the population of the region to have reached 5,122,747 individuals in 2014. In the Northern Iraq Region, the predominant demographic comprises Kurds, who, along with Arabs, Christians, Sabeen Mandaeans, Turkmens, Yazidis, Kakais, and Jews, have inhabited the region over an extensive period. Owing to successive Iraqi governance policies aimed at demographic restructuring, coupled with challenges such as inaccuracies in population censuses and the politicization of ethnicity, obtaining wholly reliable population data for each community remains a considerable challenge (Ismail, 2011; Ozaltin et al., 2019).

Since 1991, the Northern Iraq Region (NIR) has operated under a de facto autonomous status. Subsequently, in 2005, it attained formal recognition as a self-governing entity within the framework of the Iraqi federal state, as delineated by the Iraqi constitution. Due to discord between the Northern Iraq Region (NIR) and the Iraqi government, the permanent constitution of Iraq in 2005 did not conclusively delineate the geographical confines of the Northern Iraq Region (NIR). Instead, the constitution referred to the "Internally Disputed Territories," as illustrated in Figure 2, encompassing fifteen districts spanning the governorates of Nineveh, Kirkuk, Saladin, Erbil, and Diyala. This designation encompasses a contiguous stretch of land extending from Sinjar in the northwest to Khanaqin and Mandali in the northeast of Iraq (Riordan, 2016).



Figure 2: NIR and IDTs in Iraq

2.7 Displacement In Iraq (2003-2019)

Significant demographic displacements, whether orchestrated systematically or arising from civic unrest, have constituted a recurring pattern throughout the past five decades of Iraqi history. This period has been characterized by a meticulously documented strategy of demographic manipulation, employed with the objective of altering the ethnic makeup and socio-economic dynamics of strategically important regions across the nation (Anderson and Stansfield, 2009; Bengio, 2014). The subsequent phase of displacement, the focus of this study, stands in juxtaposition to the deliberate demographic restructuring mentioned earlier. Primarily stemming from the breakdown of state authority and the pervasive sectarian violence and organized criminal activities that engulfed the nation following the aftermath of the 2003 conflict, this form of displacement differs significantly from the orchestrated demographic shifts described previously.

By 2006, approximately 250,000 Iraqi individuals had already experienced displacement. However, scholarly consensus suggests that the pivotal event inciting sectarian violence in Iraq was the assault on the Al-Askari Shrine, a revered Shi'a sanctuary located in Samarra, transpiring in February of that year. Over the span of 2006 to 2008, in addition to 1.8 million Iraqis seeking sanctuary in neighboring nations, an additional 1.6 million individuals within Iraq were internally displaced (Marfleet, 2011).

A relatively stable era 2008-2012 was followed by a gradual deterioration of situations in predominantly Sunni Arab governorates (Anbar, Nineveh, Diyala and Saladin). The Iraqi government's violent reaction to sit-in demands in those

governorates triggered another wave of displacement, though not of a large scale. IOM (2014, p. 16) reports that 9,991 persons were displaced in 2013. The invasion of predominantly Sunni Arab governorates in 2014 by ISIL marks the beginning of massive waves of displacement. In the span of four months (June to September 2014), 1,901,370 (IOM, 2015) persons were displaced, of which number 836,670 IDPs were from Mosul alone (IOM, 2014). In spite of the return of substantial segments of IDPs in 2017-2018, the latest available figure of 2018 estimates the number of Iraqi IDPs to reach 1.8 million persons (DTM 2018 cited in Ozaltin et al., 2019).

Owing to their stable security conditions, relative economic prosperity, and geographical proximity to predominantly Sunni Arab governorates, the four governorates within the Northern Iraq Region (NIR) served as refuge for a significant number of internally displaced persons (IDPs). Between 2003 and 2010, NIR provided sanctuary for 810,000 Iraqi IDPs fleeing sectarian violence, with an additional 1.8 million IDPs seeking shelter in the aftermath of the ISIL incursion (Ministry of Interior – Kurdistan Regional Government, 2017). Despite a portion of IDPs relocating to their Areas of Origin (AoO) following the liberation of Nineveh and other predominantly Sunni Arab governorates from ISIL, data from the Joint Crisis Coordination Centre, Northern Iraq (JCCC-NI), indicates that as of June 2019, 763,277 registered IDPs still resided within NIR.

It is imperative to underscore two key points: firstly, a distinctive characteristic of displacement in Iraq is its widespread nature, as noted by Marfleet (2011), whereby every governorate (excluding those within the Northern Iraq Region) has both produced and received internally displaced persons (IDPs). The prevailing pattern of displacement entails IDPs gravitating towards communities where their religious and ethnic affiliations align with those of the majority, thereby reinforcing societal segregation along ethnic and religious lines. Consequently, internal displacement has contributed to the reshaping of neighborhood compositions within ethnically and religiously diverse urban environments. For instance, in Baghdad, traditionally characterized by ethnically mixed neighborhoods, this phenomenon has been remarked upon by Ala Hussain Al-Qazzaz (cited in Damluji, 2010), religion and sect never had an impact on one's place of residence, in post-2006, sectarian violence and organized crime enforced a clear-cut geographical segregation along ethnic lines: interestingly by early 2007, an estimate of

5.25 of Baghdad's total population of the then 7 million resided in homogeneous neighbourhoods (Damluji, 2010). A similar trend was the case in many other historically mixed cities of Iraq: in Kirkuk, for example, Kurds mostly moved to the northern neighbourhoods and Arabs to the southern neighbourhoods of the city, and in Mosul, Sunni Arabs remained on the western side of Tigris and Kurds and other minorities concentrated on the eastern side (Rydgren and Sofi, 2011). Adelman and Barkan (2011) conclude: Iraqi society has been fractured along ethnic and religious lines, but these divisions now define not only the predominant political structure, but also the geographical division of the population into virtually exclusive zones of Shi'a, Sunni, and Kurds, with an almost total ethnic cleansing of other minorities.

Second, a significant fact about displacement in Iraq is the disproportionate representation of ethnic and religious minorities (ERMs) in the overall displaced population (The Centre of International Governance Innovation, 2009). Although ERMs make up roughly 5 per cent of the country's population, 20 per cent of the overall Iraqi IDPs are from ERM backgrounds. Intimidation and actual violence against members of ERMs has been a country-wide phenomenon. According to the Minority Rights Group International Report, 90 per cent of Chaldo-Assyrians, 76 per cent of Yazidis, 75 per cent of Shabaks and 85 per cent of Turkmen have received threats motivated by ethnic or religious animosity, including pressure to assimilate to dominant local religious norms and/or to give pledges of support for different militia groups (cited in Marfleet, 2011). The report by the Centre for International Governance Innovation points to the displacement of 80 per cent of Mandaeans and 60 per cent of Christians. Of 1,200 Christian families in Basra in 2003, only a few managed to stay. Nearly 75 per cent of Christians have fled Baghdad, many taking refuge in northern governorates. A report shows that only 10 per cent of Christians who used to reside in Iraq in 1991 remained in the country. The same reports states that half of Iraqi asylum seekers in Europe are Iraqi Christians (Adelman, 2015). This has led some to suggest that Iraq is moving towards a minority-free nation. It is worth noting that 60 per cent of IDPs in NIR are from ERM backgrounds (JCCC, 2019).

2.8 Syrian Refugees in the Northern of Iraq

The Northern Iraq Region constitutes an integral component of the Federal Republic of Iraq. It plays a crucial role as a sanctuary for Syrian refugees who have

been displaced by the enduring conflict that commenced in 2011. Moreover, it serves as a principal sanctuary for Kurds, owing in part to its geographic adjacency to Kurdish regions in Syria, as well as the profound historical and national bonds it shares with its inhabitants. The majority of refugees migrating to the region primarily originate from the northeastern regions of Syria, notably from Hassakeh province, which includes urban hubs like Qamishli and al-Malikiyah (Derik), as well as refugees from Kobani and Afrin towns in Aleppo province. A smaller proportion comes from diverse locations across Syria (Syrian Civic Platform, 2018).

2.8.1 Distribution of Syrian refugees in the Kurdistan region

As of the beginning of 2016, the number of Syrian refugees in the region exceeds 241,000. They are concentrated in nine camps as follows:

- Four camps in the city of Erbil, the capital of Iraqi Kurdistan. These camps are: Kushtaba, Korkosik, Darashukran (12,327) and Basirma (3,078).
- Four camps in the city of Dohuk: Dumiz 1 (25,690), Dumiz 2 (6,688), Quwailan (6,221), and Akra (1,136).
- One camp in the city of Sulaymaniyah: Barakeh (10,000).



Figure 3: Distribution of Syrian refugees in the Kurdistan region (Syrian Civic Platform, 2018).

Although the predominant portion, approximately 60%, of refugees in the Northern Iraq Region have settled in its urban centers and municipalities, a smaller subset of Syrian refugees have chosen to establish residency in cities beyond this region, with Kirkuk being a notable example. Additionally, there exists a group of refugees who remain unregistered by the UNHCR, thus evading inclusion in official statistical analyses. Nonetheless, based on informal data provided by organizations operating within refugee camps, by the conclusion of 2016, the refugee population had exceeded 300,000 individuals. This population is predominantly composed of Kurds migrating from the al-Jazira region, as well as areas such as Kobani and Afrin (Syrian Civic Platform, 2018).

Within the region, more than 40 local Syrian organizations are operational, dedicated to providing assistance and services across a range of sectors including education, cultural enrichment, development projects, humanitarian aid, advocacy for women and children, and support for individuals with specific needs (Syrian Civic Platform, 2018).

2.8.2 The overall situation of Syrian refugees in the Kurdistan region

2.8.2.1 Legal status

The primary demographic among refugees in the region consists of asylum seekers who have officially applied for asylum via the UNHCR. Asylum applications serve as the formal registration process for refugees, granting them legal residency in the area. However, registered refugees encounter limitations on their freedom of movement within the region if they do not obtain or renew their refugee identity certificates annually. Furthermore, refugees face legal barriers when attempting to enter certain professions, particularly in fields such as dentistry, pharmacy, law, and taxi driving. Additionally, they confront numerous hurdles in obtaining crucial identity documents and personal records, including marriage certificates, identity cards, passports, as well as educational transcripts and enrollment records. This difficulty arises due to the lack of official Syrian government or opposition offices tasked with issuing such documentation (Syrian Civic Platform, 2018).

2.8.2.2 Humanitarian situation

The war against ISIS and political tensions with Iraq's central government, particularly in and around the Kurdish region of northern Iraq since October 15, 2017,

shortly following the Iraqi Kurdistan referendum on September 25, 2017, have exacerbated the psychological and humanitarian challenges experienced by refugees in the region. Healthcare services within refugee camps primarily rely on dispensaries and medical clinics. Nevertheless, these facilities often encounter shortages in specialized medical staff and essential medications, particularly those needed for treating chronic illnesses such as cancer. Refugees living beyond the boundaries of these camps face heightened difficulties due to their lack of health insurance and restricted access to healthcare services, typically limited to basic medical check-ups provided at public clinics and hospitals (Syrian Civic Platform, 2018).

2.8.2.3 Economic status

Syrian refugees commonly face significant economic challenges. The primary means of employment among them often involve self-employment endeavors or participation in the private sector, which includes occupations in restaurants, hotels, retail businesses, construction projects, and small-scale workshops, among other professions. Furthermore, some Syrian refugees secure employment in the agricultural sector. Individuals living in urban settings and outside refugee camps encounter additional challenges due to the scarcity of employment opportunities and the high costs of housing, healthcare, and daily essentials. Moreover, the enduring political tensions with Baghdad have significantly influenced the humanitarian situation of refugees. In reaction to the region's endeavor for independence via a referendum, Iraq implemented collective punitive measures against Northern Iraq. These measures comprised an international flight embargo and the deployment of military forces to assert dominance over the majority of disputed territories. Such developments have yielded adverse outcomes not only for the populace of the Northern Iraq Region overall but also for refugees in particular. The discontinuation of operations by numerous organizations in the area, coupled with logistical obstacles in delivering humanitarian aid, has intensified the difficulties faced by those requiring assistance (Syrian Civic Platform, 2018).

2.9 Urban Displacement In Iraq

The present inquiry, conducted by the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) under the auspices of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), represents a systematic analysis of urban displacement. Its principal aim is to furnish empirical foundations for strategic planning within both the humanitarian domain and the

governmental framework of Iraq. This endeavor is especially oriented towards addressing the challenges posed by prolonged displacement in the aftermath of emergency situations (IOM, 2021).

Throughout the recurring cycles of conflict and displacement in Iraq, cities have consistently emerged as the principal destination for internally displaced persons (IDPs). While the relationship between migration, including forced movements, and urbanization has been longstanding, the magnitude and prolonged duration of displacement resulting from the crisis in 2014 have elevated cities as the most viable option for IDPs, particularly in scenarios involving repeated displacement or challenges hindering return. Notably, the proportion of the displaced population accommodated in rural areas has exhibited relative stability over the past two years. The commencement of the consolidation and closure of camps by the Government of Iraq in early 2019 has led to a discernible uptick in the percentage of IDPs settling in urban and peri-urban areas. This trend primarily stems from households vacating camps and transitioning into secondary displacement within urban settings (IOM, 2021).

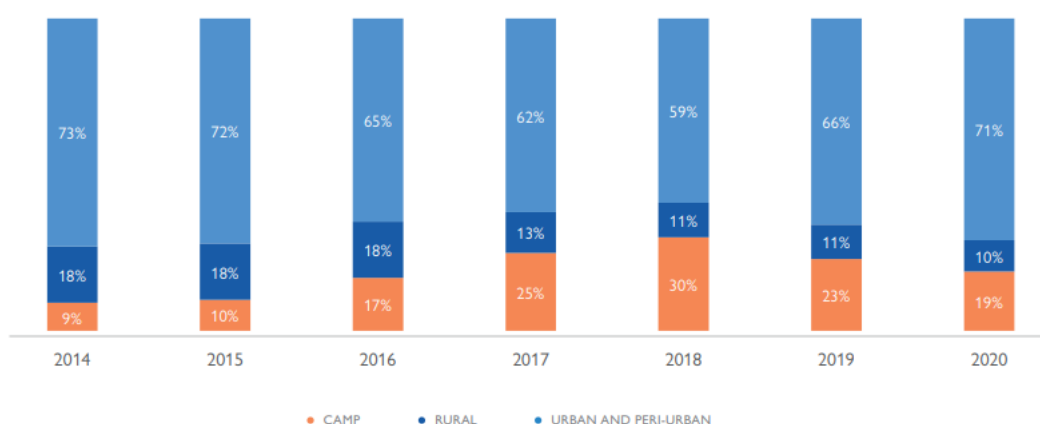


Figure 4: Location of displacement over time (IOM, 2021).

The perceived security, accessibility to essential services, and availability of livelihood prospects in urban centers contribute to the concentration of the displaced population in these areas. The ten cities surveyed in this report represent primary destinations for IDPs, collectively hosting approximately half of Iraq's out-of-camp displaced population (47%). Therefore, comprehending the circumstances of the displaced populace in urban centers, as well as discerning the commonalities and disparities among these centers, is imperative for gaining a more nuanced understanding

of protracted urban displacement and for exploring potential durable solutions (IOM, 2021).

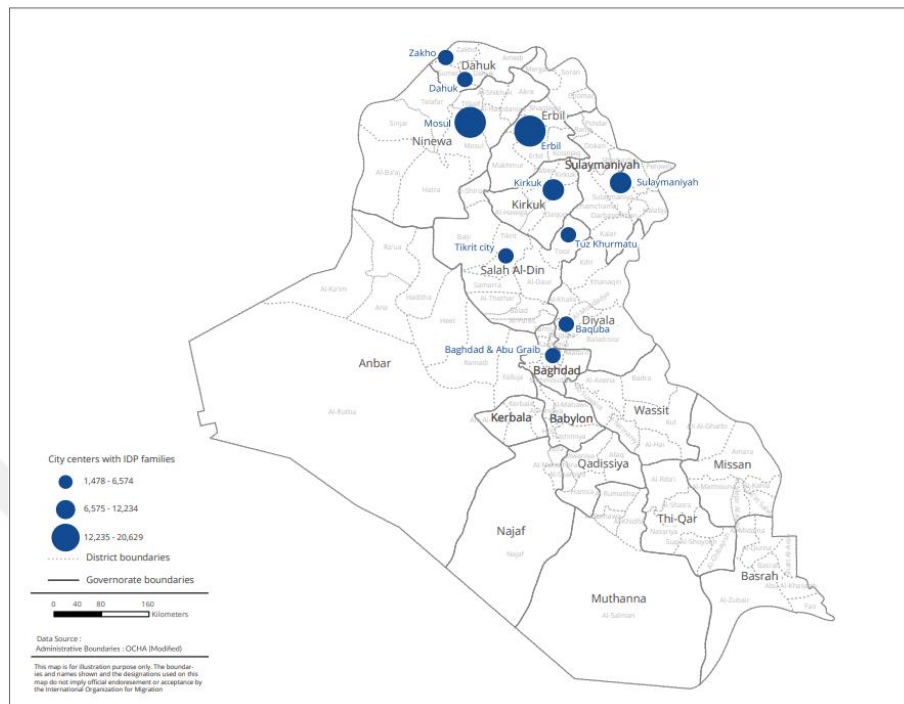


Figure 5: Sampled urban centres by IDP population (August 2020) (IOM, 2021).

2.10 Vulnerable Groups of Displaced Populations

Healthcare professionals are increasingly opting to participate in humanitarian missions worldwide. These assignments can vary in duration, ranging from short-term placements such as involvement in emergency disaster-relief efforts, to considerably longer engagements as integral members of medical teams affiliated with various non-governmental organizations (NGOs) or international organizations (IOs) across the globe. In addition to equipping themselves to address a spectrum of trauma, illness, and diseases they may encounter, healthcare professionals must also familiarize themselves with the socio-political contexts of the environments to which they are being deployed. Healthcare professionals may encounter individuals who, for various reasons, have been compelled to leave their homes, either as refugees or internally displaced people (IDPs). Thus, it is imperative for healthcare providers to comprehend the often complex and challenging contexts surrounding these situations to effectively engage with the affected individuals. It is noteworthy that while there may be similarities in the issues and patterns of displacement, there are also distinct features that must be taken into account.

2.10.1 Some Causes and Effects of Displacement

Undoubtedly, the subject of displacement is vast and intricate, contingent upon various factors such as context, time, and circumstances (Global IDP Project, 2004). The causes of displacement are diverse, spanning from human-induced factors such as revolutions, conflicts, and economic exigencies, to natural occurrences such as floods and earthquakes, and even state-sponsored development initiatives like hydroelectric dams. Regardless of the cause, the repercussions of displacement are invariably manifold and extend far-reaching consequences. The consequences encompass a wide array of challenges, including but not limited to the destruction of homes and the environment, instances of religious or political persecution, social disruption, physical injury, trauma, violence, loss of livelihood, interruption of education, and tragically, loss of life (Global IDP Project, 2004).

Several systemic warning indicators signal the potential for forced migration. These encompass historical precedents, both within domestic borders and on an international scale, levels of democratic governance, economic disparities, and geographic positioning, especially in border regions, which often hold geopolitical significance. As highlighted by Schmeidl (2003), early warning systems are increasingly focused on facilitating the rapid repatriation of displaced individuals to avert potential humanitarian crises. However, this approach often entails returning people to less than ideal conditions and circumstances in an effort to prevent an overflow of refugees and migrants. Furthermore, there is no assurance that such information will be utilized for genuine humanitarian purposes (Schmeidl, 2003).

Concerning forced migration, internally displaced persons (IDPs) are notably vulnerable due to the absence of international protection mechanisms. Efforts are currently being made to address this issue, which includes initiatives such as the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement (Mooney, 2003).

Individuals who cross international borders are legally recognized under international law as refugees, thereby enabling them to claim asylum in other countries. In contrast, those who remain within the borders of their own country are not granted the same legal status. According to estimates from the Global IDP Project, approximately 25 million people are displaced in 52 countries worldwide as of today. Displacement frequently occurs in developing nations characterized by fragile

economies and limited infrastructure development. Many of these internally displaced persons (IDPs) encounter a multitude of challenges including hunger, inadequate shelter, poverty, psychological distress, exposure to natural disasters, and susceptibility to epidemics, notably HIV/AIDS. Examples abound, such as the approximately three million internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), over 750,000 individuals in the western Darfur region of Sudan (as estimated in February 2004), nearly three million in Colombia, and more than a million in Uganda, Iraq, and Burma. It is crucial to note that these figures are dynamic, reflecting only those who have stayed within their country's borders and are thus ostensibly 'protected' by their respective governments. Unlike refugees, who may be temporarily housed in transit centers while their asylum claims are adjudicated, IDPs do not undergo such a formal process. Hence, the destinations where the frequently substantial populations of vulnerable individuals settle may be somewhat influenced by their own decisions. However, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) typically assumes the lead role in providing care and protection for refugees, and to a lesser extent, for internally displaced persons (IDPs). The primary responsibility for internally displaced persons (IDPs) remains with the government of the country in question, which entails various challenges. In numerous instances, governments themselves are implicated in targeting or contributing to the causes of displacement, exacerbating the difficulties faced by IDPs. A notable example of this dynamic is evident in the ongoing humanitarian crisis in the Darfur region of western Sudan, where civilians have been subjected to attacks orchestrated by government-backed militias tasked with targeting and dismantling rebel groups. Similarly, many other nations exhibit weak or ineffective policies regarding their internally displaced populations. Furthermore, the breakdown of state structures, as observed in countries such as Liberia, Somalia, and potentially Iraq (Tempest, 2004), leaves displaced individuals without adequate means of support or protection. Even in countries like Colombia, which boasts what the Global IDP Project deems "the world's most developed IDP legislation," the dire protection situation confronting internally displaced persons (IDPs) underscores the potential for such safeguards to falter. Across the African continent, particularly, there is a profound impact of internal displacement, with an estimated 13 million individuals, predominantly driven by conflicts, experiencing displacement.

2.10.2 The Experience of Displacement

Throughout the phases of displacement—prior to, during, and subsequent to flight—internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees may have endured a myriad of harrowing ordeals. These include experiences of conflict, trauma, and violence, as well as persecution, hunger, exhaustion, family separation, and a multitude of other distressing circumstances. Ager (1999) has conceptualized this entire process as the "refugee experience," despite its applicability to both internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees alike. Within this framework, he delineates several pivotal phases: pre-flight, characterized by factors such as economic hardship, social disruption, violence, and political oppression; flight itself; the reception phase upon arrival in a new location; and ultimately, settlement. Decisions regarding settlement typically stem from one of three options: repatriation, resettlement, or return to the original place of residence. All three of these options—repatriation, resettlement, or return—can be beset with challenges and complexities, as will be elucidated below. These may encompass cultural and intergenerational conflicts, hurdles in securing employment and accessing education, as well as the risk of perpetuating a narrative of refugee vulnerability (Ager, 1999). Additionally, it is essential to recognize that these processes are often protracted and may extend over months or even years, and should not be regarded as strictly linear or sequential in nature.

Derek Summerfield (1999) has underscored a notable shift in focus over the past two decades in both research and service provision for refugees. Initially, there was a predominant emphasis on material support and rapid integration into the labor market. However, there has been a discernible transition towards a heightened focus on addressing psychological needs, coupled with a decrease in emphasis on material requirements. Consequently, this shift has resulted in a diminishing of meaningful roles for refugees, leading to their portrayal as "pathologized" and "helpless" victims, dependent on the assistance of medical professionals to resolve their issues in the absence of alternative structures. Moreover, refugees are frequently marginalized and subjected to second-class citizenship, with expectations for them to express gratitude for whatever assistance they receive (UNDP, 1994). Refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs), particularly women, are frequently marginalized and afforded limited opportunities to express their perspectives. They are often depicted as a monolithic

group facing uniform challenges and issues, with their individual agency and autonomy largely disregarded. They are often portrayed as being entirely dependent on governments, the international community, and, in certain instances, members of their own communities, leaving them vulnerable and powerless in the face of external forces.

2.10.3 Economic Security

Over the long term, conflicts and displacement exert a cumulative impact on the economy of a country, thereby influencing individual economic security. Conflict-induced displacement results in extensive demographic shifts, including a rise in the prevalence of female-headed households and subsequent gender imbalances due to the loss of men either through fatalities in the conflict or migration in search of employment opportunities elsewhere. Migration to urban areas becomes prevalent as economies reliant on agriculture deteriorate, and massive population movements during and after conflicts often contribute to a pronounced decline in industrial sectors. For many individuals, especially the younger demographic, displacement presents an opportunity to encounter urban life for the first time or to consider immigration as a viable option. Numerous welfare domains, notably education, healthcare, housing, and employment, emerge as fiercely contested issues, especially when coupled with economic challenges. Various ethnic and/or religious groups, urban and rural dwellers, as well as local residents and displaced populations, vie to safeguard their respective interests. Moreover, alongside frequently precarious economic circumstances, high unemployment rates are prevalent, particularly within refugee and internally displaced person (IDP) communities. In numerous regions globally, women encounter discrimination within the workforce, often experiencing exclusion from employment training programs or being confined to training in semi-skilled occupations such as knitting and sewing. This situation prompts inquiries regarding the enhancement of opportunities and the mechanisms required to empower local communities (Kett, 2005).

Many internally displaced persons (IDPs), including the elderly, widowed women, and the unemployed, depend on state benefits and pensions for sustenance. However, the provision of social welfare can pose challenges for governments that are already financially strained, particularly those in the midst of transitioning from one economic system to another, as observed in former socialist countries. As programs and funding sources diminish, the financial burden may increasingly fall upon internally

displaced persons (IDPs) themselves. For numerous families, financial assistance or pension entitlements are barely sufficient to meet basic daily living expenses. Furthermore, many are uninformed about their rights and entitlements, further exacerbating their challenges (Kett, 2005).

Economic security serves as a fundamental cornerstone for various other forms of security. Indeed, each of these domains is interconnected: without access to food, individuals lack the strength to engage in work activities; without employment opportunities, they may lack the financial means to procure food. Internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees, in particular, are highly susceptible to economic challenges, and it is frequently economic deprivation that compelled individuals to seek asylum or refuge in host countries initially (Kett, 2005).

2.11 Conceptual Framework

2.11.1 Displacement conceptualization

Displacement is characterized by the forced removal of individuals from their home country or territory. Contrary to alleviating hardships, economic uncertainty, feelings of powerlessness, and social isolation are often exacerbated by displacement rather than mitigated. Loss of communities and economic livelihoods are potential consequences of displacement. Reflecting on historical patterns, migration can be categorized into two main types: voluntary migration, undertaken with the intention of enhancing living standards and pursuing various social, economic, and educational objectives. The other type is forced migration, wherein individuals are coerced to abandon their homes, economic activities, political structures, and social ties. This form of migration, often termed displacement, results in significant economic disparities, discontent, and insecurity within a nation and across the globe due to the extensive environmental interdependence and openness of the global economy (Rwamatwara 2005).

Voluntary migration primarily occurs due to economic factors such as the prospect of higher wages, improved employment opportunities, entrepreneurial ventures, access to quality education, urban lifestyle preferences, and opportunities for skill modernization. Such migration is undertaken intentionally, with the aim of enhancing personal welfare and contributing to development endeavors. Indeed, forced migration and displacement are typically precipitated by various social and political

crises, armed conflicts, human rights violations, natural disasters, and the implementation of infrastructure projects such as dams, power plants, railway lines, and mineral extraction or processing zones. These factors compel individuals to leave their homes involuntarily, often resulting in significant disruptions to their lives and livelihoods. Forced migration and displacement can be examined through multiple lenses. Firstly, there are instances caused by natural disasters, which are beyond human control. Secondly, displacement can result from political unrest, including wars, human rights violations, and conflicts. Addressing these issues requires well-designed political and social policies and regimes aimed at mitigating the root causes of such unrest and providing effective mechanisms for conflict resolution and protection of human rights (Rwamatwara 2005). Indeed, well-crafted political and social policies and regimes play a pivotal role in addressing forced migration. A third type of forced migration arises from the implementation of development projects aimed at benefiting the general population and the economy. However, the construction of such projects often results in crises and suffering for the displaced individuals, creating a paradoxical situation where development efforts inadvertently contribute to human displacement and hardship. Balancing development goals with the protection of human rights and the welfare of affected communities is crucial in addressing this complex issue (Rwamatwara 2005).

2.11.2 Development oriented Displacement

Displacement is often perceived as a necessary evil due to the requirement for land and property for the development of industries and infrastructure projects such as dams, mining operations, roads, and power projects. These projects are intended to serve the broader welfare of society. However, their implementation can disrupt the biosphere and have significant impacts on the affected communities and their environment. Displacement is often attributed to a development model that prioritizes certain technical and commercial decisions without adequately considering those options that would incur the lowest social and environmental costs. This approach neglects to fully account for the broader impacts on communities and ecosystems, leading to involuntary displacement and adverse consequences for affected populations (Sharma, 2003).

Indeed, humanitarian actors face the challenge that development activities can be a major driver of displacement. Individuals are compelled to leave areas that will be

inundated, such as when dams are constructed. Additionally, government initiatives, such as urban renewal projects or the establishment of parks, can result in evictions and displacement as land is repurposed for these endeavors. Addressing the humanitarian needs of displaced populations requires careful consideration of the impacts of development activities and the implementation of measures to minimize displacement and mitigate its adverse effects. Furthermore, communities impacted by relocation policies often experience worsened conditions compared to their previous circumstances. The exact number of people globally displaced due to development initiatives remains uncertain. Unlike refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs), there are no dedicated organizations or publications focused on monitoring and estimating development-induced displacements, whether on a global or national scale. This lack of comprehensive tracking hinders efforts to address the challenges faced by affected communities. Most academics, decision-makers, and activists commonly rely on estimates provided by the World Bank Environment Department (WBED). According to their assessments, approximately 10 million people are displaced annually due to various development activities such as dam construction, urban development, transportation projects, and infrastructure programs. Indeed, while the estimated figure of 10 million annual displacements is remarkably high, it still excludes a substantial portion of the displaced population. It's important to note that the definition of displacement in this context, as outlined in the introduction, focuses solely on individuals who have been physically removed from legally acquired property to accommodate future development projects. This definition may overlook other forms of displacement, such as those resulting from economic or environmental factors, thereby underestimating the true extent of displacement globally (Sharma, 2003).

2.11.3 Returns and Post-conflict recovery

Political scientists and economists have shown a growing interest in understanding the factors influencing the return of displaced individuals to their original places of residence after experiencing displacement. Achieving the restoration of pre-war settlement patterns and ensuring equal access to resources for displaced persons are crucial elements for promoting post-conflict stability and fostering uniform economic recovery (Engel and Ibáñez, 2007). Furthermore, the policy community advocates for voluntary returns following conflict-induced displacement as a means to facilitate

enduring peace and facilitate a successful transition away from conflict (UNHCR, 2016).

Emerging research on return movements indicates that both the level of violence experienced during conflict and the patterns of displacement play significant roles in explaining resettlement decisions (Steele, 2019). Furthermore, recent literature has increasingly focused on the economic aspects of return movements, highlighting the importance of economic factors in shaping individuals' decisions to return to their places of origin after experiencing displacement. Research by Stefanovic et al. (2015) suggests that displaced individuals are more likely to return to their original places of residence if the economic opportunities available there surpass those in the displacement areas. Return decisions are influenced by a combination of factors including economic prospects, access to public services, and the strength of personal networks in the place of origin (Alrababa'h et al., 2020). For instance, Camarena and Hägerdal (2020) analyze the return of Christians in Mount Lebanon, suggesting that appealing economic prospects are instrumental in determining when displaced individuals choose to return to their original residences. Indeed, Camarena and Hägerdal (2020) and Tuathail and O'Loughlin (2009) posit that population dynamics play a significant role in influencing return movements (Joireman, 2017). Displacement exacerbating ethnic separation can have far-reaching consequences for the demographic composition of various territorial and electoral units. Individuals may be less inclined to return to areas with mixed ethnic populations, thus impacting the overall demographic landscape (Lyall, 2021).

Indeed, security in the place of previous residence emerges as a crucial factor. Recent studies on future return intentions among refugees indicate that safety and security concerns in their place of origin exert the primary influence on their decision-making process (Alrababa'h et al., 2020). Indeed, social networks in the original home contribute to understanding patterns of return. However, experiences of violence and trauma during conflict play a central role in shaping intentions to return for refugees. The decision-making process is influenced by the trade-off between remaining anchored in origin communities and becoming attached to the hosting country, alongside the enduring impact of traumatic experiences (Ghosn et al., 2021).

This evidence, along with policy reports from humanitarian and international organizations involved in assisting displaced populations, indicates that the decision of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees to return to their homes is influenced not only by economic factors but also by pre-existing political and social inequalities. These inequalities can significantly shape the feasibility and desirability of return movements (Sert, 2014).

2.11.4 Property Rights and Contested Politics

Property rights institutions encompass a varied array of regulations, norms, and procedures governing the creation and resolution of claims concerning real (immovable) property. While property rights are frequently codified in state laws and documented in written form, they can also arise from informal, unwritten, and adaptable institutions, often rooted in community-level practices. Uncertain and unequal property rights are frequently associated with economic underdevelopment. Classical theories in economic development propose that investments tend to remain suboptimally low when individuals and groups perceive a risk of expropriation. In such circumstances, the lack of clarity and fairness in property rights can deter investment and hinder economic growth (Besley and Ghatak, 2010). As a consequence, over the past 40 years, primarily Western international actors have undertaken significant efforts to formalize, document, and individualize real property rights in numerous countries worldwide. An expanding empirical literature on property rights documentation reveals mixed results across various outcomes. These outcomes include reductions in the risk of expropriation (such as increased tenure security) and the generation of economic benefits for individuals with stronger property rights (Onoma, 2009).

3. Material and methods

The study was undertaken within the Northern Region of Iraq, encompassing a comprehensive survey comprising 302 respondents. Data collection was distributed across three distinct provinces within this geographic area: Sulaimaniya, Erbil, and Duhok. Participants spanned an age range from 18 to 64 years, comprising a total of 138 females and 164 males. The objective of this investigation is to assess the ramifications of displaced populations on the Northern Iraq Region.

The Northern Iraq Region encompasses territories spanning across the administrative divisions of Erbil, Slemani, and Duhok governorates. Geopolitically, it shares its borders with Syria to the west, Iran to the east, and Turkey to the north, where arable lowlands interface with the rugged terrain of the Zagros Mountains. Hydrologically, the region is intersected by prominent watercourses such as the Sirwan River, the Tigris and its affluents, as well as the Great Zab and Little Zab rivers.

With an area spanning 40,643 square kilometers and a population estimated at 6,171,008 individuals, the Northern Iraq Region constitutes a significant geographical and demographic entity within the broader context of the Middle East.

3.1 Statistic analysis

Statistical analysis was performed using IBM SPSS Statistics version 27 to analyze the mean and standard deviation between samples and also for paired sample correlation in the study and also to find out p-value which is significant if it is less than 0.05

4. Results

In the present study, a total of 302 surveys were gathered and subjected to analysis. These surveys encompassed a demographic distribution of 46% female respondents and 54% male respondents. The subsequent analysis yielded the following outcomes

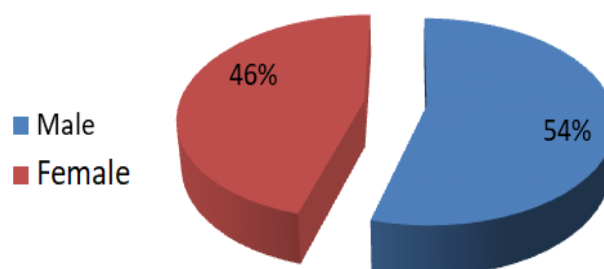


Figure 6: Individual distribution.

Table 1: What is your level of familiarity with the concept of population displacement in Northern Iraq?

	Male	%	Female	%
Very familiar	4	2.3	4	2.8
Somewhat familiar	78	47.5	74	53.6
Not very familiar	58	35.3	38	27.5
Not familiar at all	24	14.6	22	15.9
Total	164		138	

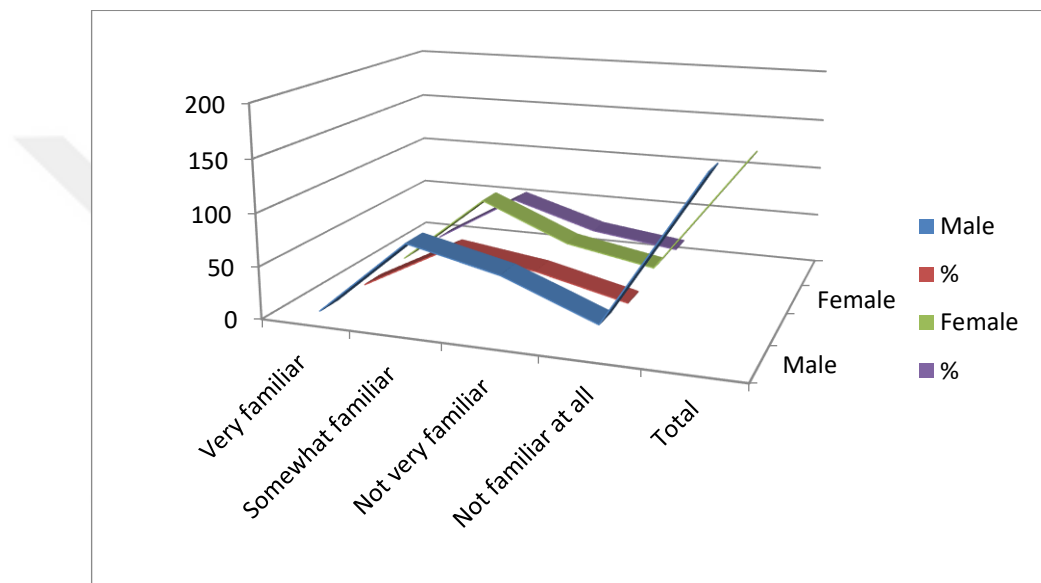


Figure 7: What is your level of familiarity with the concept of population displacement in Northern Iraq?

Table 1 delineates the respondents' degree of acquaintance with the notion of population displacement within the geographical confines of Northern Iraq, categorized according to gender.

- "Very familiar" indicates individuals who possess a high degree of knowledge and understanding regarding population displacement in Northern Iraq.
- "Somewhat familiar" denotes respondents who have a moderate level of familiarity with the concept.
- "Not very familiar" represents individuals who possess a limited understanding of population displacement in Northern Iraq.
- "Not familiar at all" signifies respondents who lack any knowledge or understanding of the concept.

The tabular representation additionally elucidates the dispersion of responses across gender categories, featuring distinct columns for male and female respondents. Each cell within the table denotes the frequency of respondents belonging to specific levels of familiarity.

For example, within the male respondent cohort, 4 individuals (constituting 2.3% of the total male respondents) self-reported as "Very familiar" with the concept, whereas 78 individuals (comprising 47.5%) expressed being "Somewhat familiar." Analogously, among the female respondent group, 4 individuals (equivalent to 2.8%) affirmed being "Very familiar," while 74 individuals (representing 53.6%) disclosed being "Somewhat familiar."

The table culminates with an aggregate count of respondents within each gender classification, thereby facilitating a holistic comprehension of the dispersion of familiarity levels across the sample populace.

Table 2: In your opinion, what are the primary causes of population displacement in Northern Iraq?

	Male	%	Female	%
Conflict and violence	76	46.3	76	55
Economic factors	70	42.6	50	36.2
Environmental factors	18	10.9	12	8.6
Total	164		138	

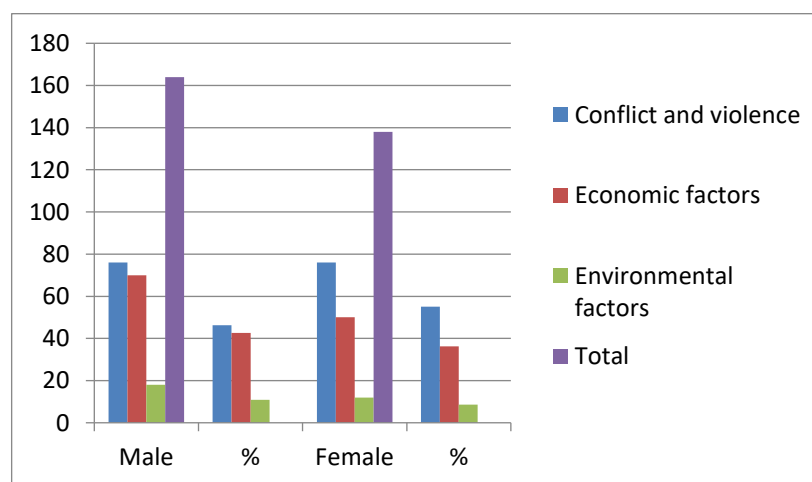


Figure 8: In your opinion, what are the primary causes of population displacement in Northern Iraq?

Table 2 delineates the perceived primary causative factors contributing to population displacement in Northern Iraq, as articulated by respondents, segregated by gender.

"Conflict and violence" emerge as the predominant factor, with 76 male respondents (constituting 46.3% of the total male respondents) and 76 female respondents (representing 55% of the total female respondents) attributing population displacement to this cause. This unanimity across genders implies a consensus regarding the substantial influence of conflict and violence in driving population displacement within Northern Iraq.

"Economic factors" are likewise acknowledged as significant contributors to population displacement, with 70 male respondents (42.6%) and 50 female respondents (36.2%) underscoring economic challenges as primary causative agents. Although marginally more male respondents cite economic factors, the acknowledgment of its relevance by both genders underscores its pivotal role in propelling displacement.

"Environmental factors" are delineated as relatively less influential in instigating population displacement, with 18 male respondents (constituting 10.9%) and 12 female respondents (amounting to 8.6%) attributing displacement to environmental issues. This indicates that while environmental factors may play a role in displacement, they are perceived as less impactful compared to conflict and economic factors by both male and female respondents.

Overall, the table elucidates that conflict and violence are widely recognized as the primary catalysts of population displacement in Northern Iraq, followed by economic challenges. Meanwhile, environmental factors are construed as comparatively less significant contributors to displacement, as indicated by the responses of both male and female participants.

Table 3: How would you rate the current economic development in areas affected by population displacement in Northern Iraq?

	Male	%	Female	%
Strongly improving	16	9.7	4	2.8
Moderately improving	48	29.2	40	28.9
Stable	34	20.7	26	18.8
Declining	66	40.2	68	49.2
Total	164		138	

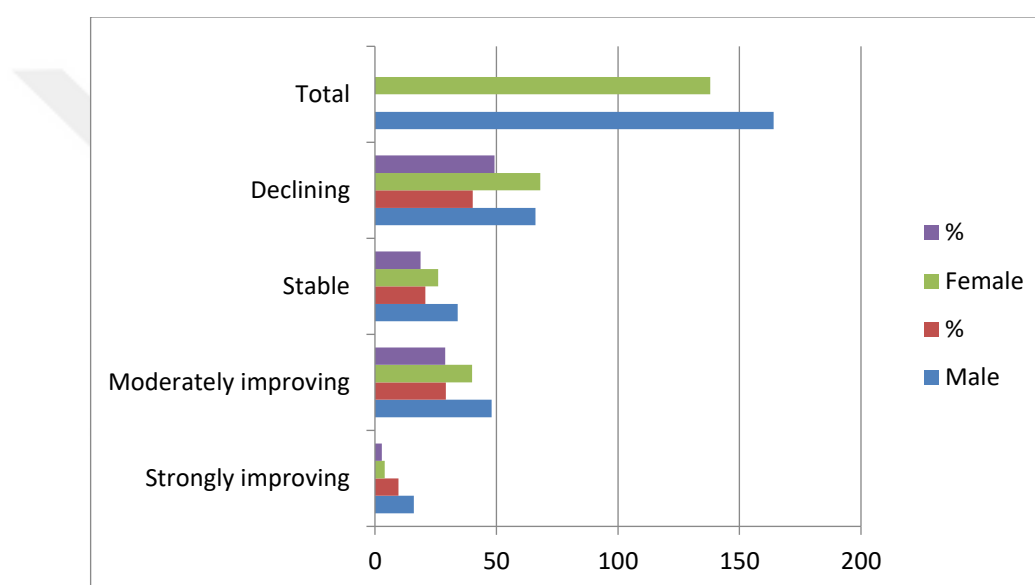


Figure 9: How would you rate the current economic development in areas affected by population displacement in Northern Iraq?

Table 3 presents the perceived rating of the current economic development in areas affected by population displacement in Northern Iraq, as assessed by male and female respondents.

- "Strongly improving": This category reflects a perception that economic development in affected areas is experiencing significant positive growth. Among male respondents, 16 individuals (9.7% of total male respondents) and 4 female respondents (2.8% of total female respondents) hold this view.
- "Moderately improving": Respondents in this category perceive economic development as experiencing moderate positive growth. 48 male respondents (29.2%) and 40 female respondents (28.9%) expressed this perspective.

- "Stable": This category indicates a perception of economic development maintaining a consistent level without significant change. 34 male respondents (20.7%) and 26 female respondents (18.8%) view economic development in this manner.
- "Declining": This category signifies a perception that economic development in affected areas is experiencing a negative trend. The largest proportion of respondents falls into this category, with 66 male respondents (40.2%) and 68 female respondents (49.2%) expressing the view that economic development is declining.

Overall, the table suggests a prevailing perception among both male and female respondents regarding the trajectory of economic development in regions affected by population displacement in Northern Iraq. This perception predominantly indicates either a moderate improvement or a decline, with a notable proportion tending towards the latter evaluation.

Table 4: What are the main economic challenges faced by displaced populations in Northern Iraq?

	Male	%	Female	%
Lack of employment opportunities	96	58.5	90	65.2
Limited access to basic services	38	23.1	12	8.6
Poverty and financial insecurity	30	18.3	36	26
Total	164		138	

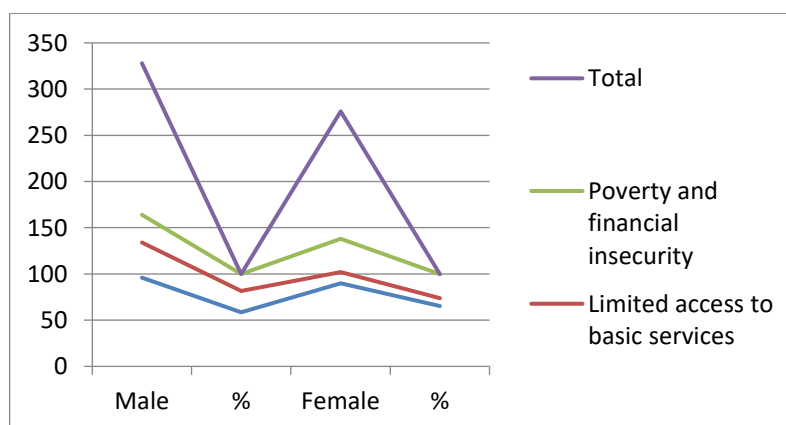


Figure 10: What are the main economic challenges faced by displaced populations in Northern Iraq?

Table 4 delineates the primary economic challenges encountered by displaced populations in Northern Iraq, as perceived by respondents, stratified by gender.

- "Lack of employment opportunities": Identified as the most significant economic challenge, this category reflects the scarcity of viable employment prospects for displaced individuals. A majority of both male and female respondents highlighted this issue, with 96 male respondents (58.5% of total male respondents) and 90 female respondents (65.2% of total female respondents) identifying it as a primary concern.
- "Limited access to basic services": This category underscores the difficulties faced by displaced populations in accessing essential services such as healthcare, education, and sanitation. While fewer respondents cited this challenge compared to the lack of employment opportunities, it remains a notable concern. 38 male respondents (23.1%) and 12 female respondents (8.6%) reported limited access to basic services as a significant economic challenge.
- "Poverty and financial insecurity": This category encompasses the broader socioeconomic vulnerability experienced by displaced populations, including inadequate income levels and financial instability. While fewer respondents identified poverty and financial insecurity as the main challenge compared to employment opportunities, it still represents a substantial concern. 30 male respondents (18.3%) and 36 female respondents (26%) reported this as a primary economic challenge.

The table indicates that the foremost economic challenge confronting displaced populations in Northern Iraq is the dearth of employment opportunities, followed by limited access to basic services and poverty/financial insecurity. Furthermore, discernible disparities in perception between male and female respondents are observed regarding these economic challenges.

Table 5: How has population displacement affected labor markets in Northern Iraq?

	Male	%	Female	%
Increased competition for jobs	46	28	34	24.6
Decreased availability of skilled labor	96	58.5	90	65.2
No significant impact	22	13.4	14	10.1
Total	164		138	

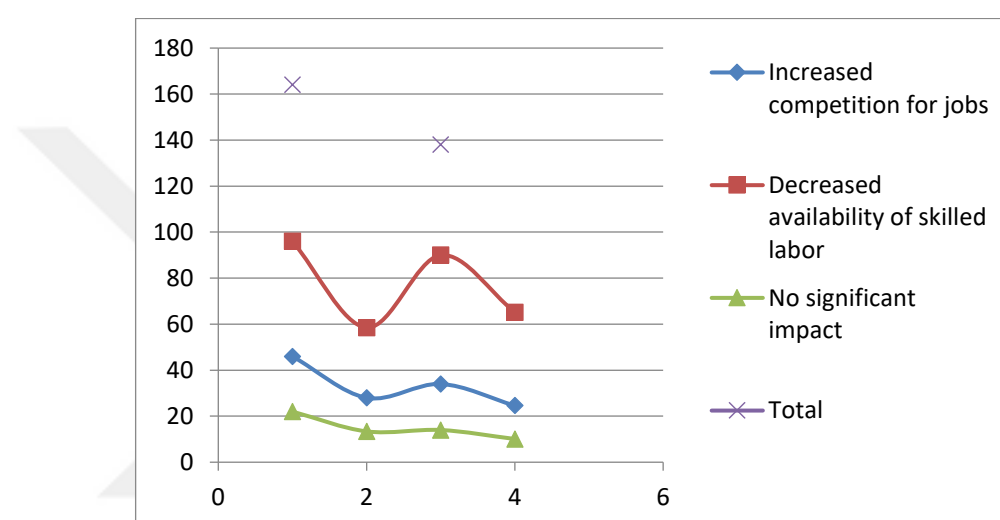
**Figure 11:** How has population displacement affected labor markets in Northern Iraq?

Table 5 appears to present data on how population displacement has affected labor markets in Northern Iraq, broken down by gender.

- Increased competition for jobs: This indicates that 46 out of 164 males (28%) and 34 out of 138 females (24.6%) reported experiencing increased competition for jobs due to population displacement. This suggests that there's a perception or reality of more people vying for the same job opportunities.
- Decreased availability of skilled labor: A majority of respondents, 96 out of 164 males (58.5%) and 90 out of 138 females (65.2%), reported a decrease in the availability of skilled labor. This implies that skilled workers might have been displaced or are otherwise not as accessible in the labor market post-displacement.
- No significant impact: A minority of respondents, 22 out of 164 males (13.4%) and 14 out of 138 females (10.1%), didn't perceive any significant impact of

population displacement on the labor market. This suggests that for some, the displacement hasn't notably altered the labor market dynamics.

In general, the data suggests that respondents believe population displacement has resulted in heightened job competition and a reduction in skilled labor availability in Northern Iraq. Yet, it's important to recognize that these are just perceptions and might not entirely mirror the true conditions of the labor market.

Table 6: To what extent has population displacement affected access to education in Northern Iraq?

	Male	%	Female	%
Improved access to education	28	17	30	21.7
Decreased access to education	44	26.8	36	26
No significant impact	92	56	72	52.1
Total	164		138	

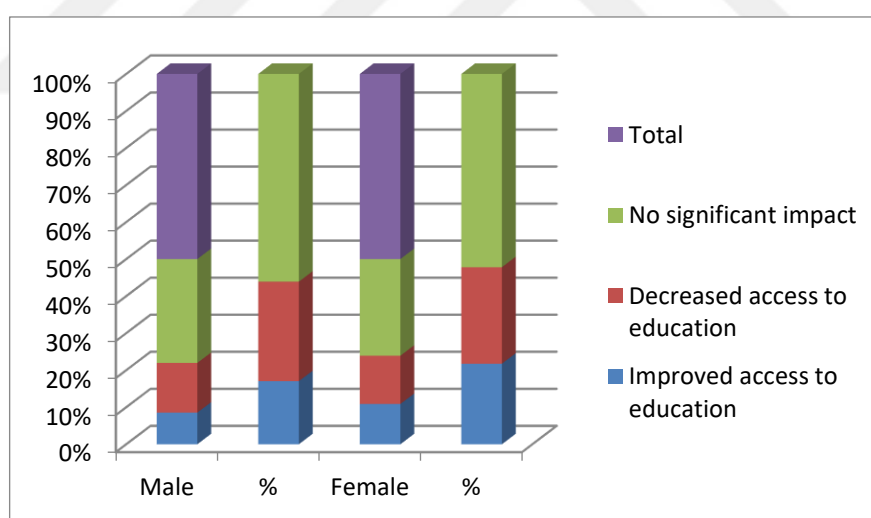


Figure 12: To what extent has population displacement affected access to education in Northern Iraq?

Table 6 presents data on the extent to which population displacement has affected access to education in Northern Iraq, again broken down by gender.

Improved access to education: This indicates that 28 out of 164 males (17%) and 30 out of 138 females (21.7%) reported improved access to education due to population displacement. This suggests that, for some individuals, displacement may have resulted in better educational opportunities.

Decreased access to education: On the other hand, 44 out of 164 males (26.8%) and 36 out of 138 females (26%) reported decreased access to education. This implies that a portion of the population, particularly among both genders, has experienced barriers to accessing education as a result of displacement.

No significant impact: The majority of respondents, 92 out of 164 males (56%) and 72 out of 138 females (52.1%), did not perceive any significant impact of population displacement on access to education. This suggests that, for many, the displacement hasn't notably affected their ability to access education.

Overall, the data indicates a mixed impact of population displacement on access to education in Northern Iraq. While some individuals have experienced improvements, others have faced barriers or no significant change. This underscores the complex nature of the effects of displacement on education access, which can vary depending on various factors such as location, socioeconomic status, and available resources.

Table 7: How has population displacement influenced social cohesion and community dynamics in Northern Iraq?

	Male	%	Female	%
Strengthened social bonds	51	31	34	24.6
Increased social tensions	74	45.1	60	43.4
No significant impact	39	23.7	44	31.8
Total	164		138	

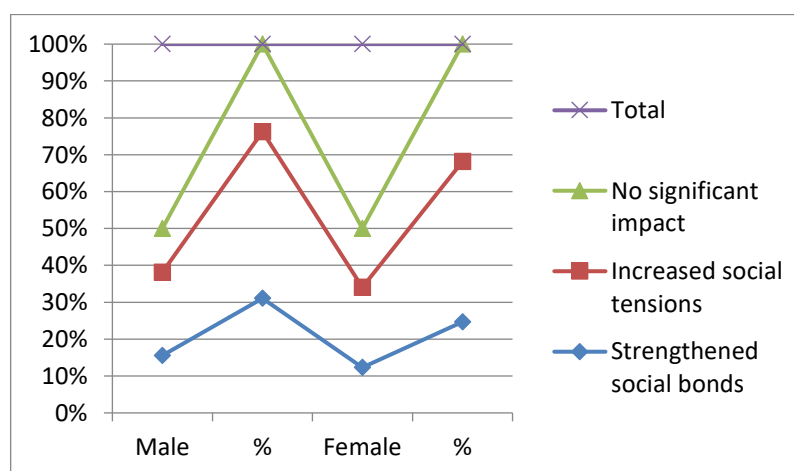


Figure 13: How has population displacement influenced social cohesion and community dynamics in Northern Iraq?

Table 7 provides data on how population displacement has influenced social cohesion and community dynamics in Northern Iraq, categorized by gender.

Strengthened social bonds: According to the table, 51 out of 164 males (31%) and 34 out of 138 females (24.6%) reported that population displacement has strengthened social bonds within the community. This suggests that for a significant portion of respondents, the displacement experience has led to closer connections and cooperation among community members.

Increased social tensions: A larger proportion of respondents, 74 out of 164 males (45.1%) and 60 out of 138 females (43.4%), indicated that population displacement has resulted in increased social tensions. This implies that there is a perception or reality of heightened conflicts or disagreements within the community as a result of displacement.

No significant impact: A notable portion of respondents, 39 out of 164 males (23.7%) and 44 out of 138 females (31.8%), did not perceive any significant impact of population displacement on social cohesion and community dynamics. This suggests that, for some individuals, the displacement experience hasn't notably altered social relationships or community dynamics.

Overall, the data underscores the diverse impact of population displacement on social cohesion and community dynamics in Northern Iraq. While certain respondents observe stronger social ties, others note heightened tensions, illustrating the intricate and diverse consequences of displacement on community dynamics.

Table 8: What role do you think international organizations play in addressing the challenges of population displacement in Northern Iraq?

	Male	%	Female	%
Essential	38	23.1	22	15.9
moderate	58	35.3	60	43.4
Minimal	46	33.3	30	21.7
None	22	13.4	26	18.8
Total	164		138	

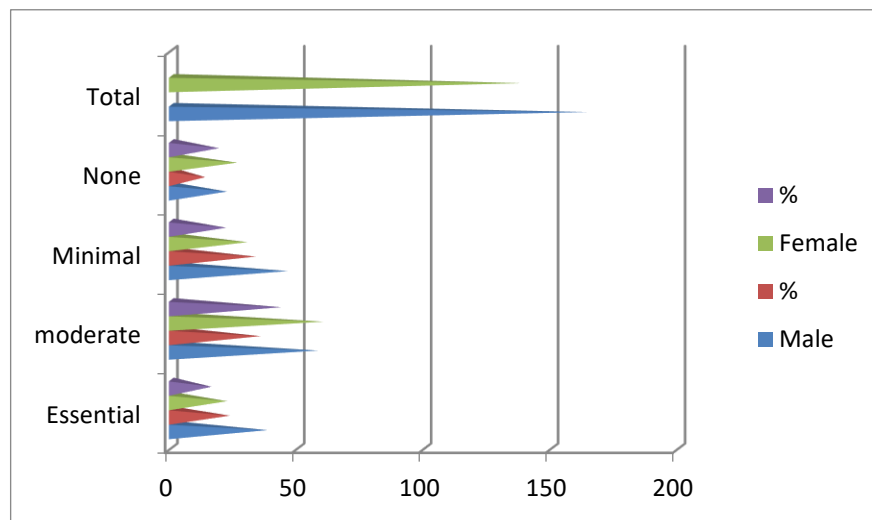


Figure 14: What role do you think international organizations play in addressing the challenges of population displacement in Northern Iraq?

Table 8 presents data on the perceived role of international organizations in addressing the challenges of population displacement in Northern Iraq, categorized by gender.

Essential: According to the table, 38 out of 164 males (23.1%) and 22 out of 138 females (15.9%) believe that international organizations play an essential role in addressing the challenges of population displacement. This indicates that there's a recognition among some respondents, albeit a minority, of the crucial role that international organizations play in providing assistance and support to displaced populations.

Moderate: A larger proportion of respondents, 58 out of 164 males (35.3%) and 60 out of 138 females (43.4%), view the role of international organizations as moderate. This suggests that a significant portion of respondents believe that while international organizations contribute to addressing displacement challenges, their role might not be seen as indispensable.

Minimal: Some respondents, 46 out of 164 males (28%) and 30 out of 138 females (21.7%), perceive the role of international organizations in addressing displacement challenges as minimal. This implies that there's a portion of the population that may not see international organizations as playing a significant role or providing sufficient assistance in addressing the challenges of population displacement.

None: A minority of respondents, 22 out of 164 males (13.4%) and 26 out of 138 females (18.8%), believe that international organizations play no role in addressing displacement challenges. This suggests a perception among some respondents that international organizations are not effective or absent in addressing the challenges faced by displaced populations.

The data overall depicts diverse viewpoints among respondents concerning the role of international organizations in tackling the challenges of population displacement in Northern Iraq. Opinions span a spectrum, ranging from viewing these organizations as crucial to addressing the issues, to perceiving their role as minimal or even non-existent. This variability in perspectives highlights the complexity of the situation and underscores the need for comprehensive analysis to understand the diverse attitudes towards the involvement of international organizations in addressing population displacement challenges in the region.

Table 9: How would you assess the effectiveness of government policies in addressing the needs of displaced populations in Northern Iraq?

	Male	%	Female	%
Highly effective	26	15.8	14	10.1
Somewhat effective	90	54.8	74	53.6
Ineffective	20	12.1	26	18.8
No opinion	28	17	24	17.3
Total	164		138	

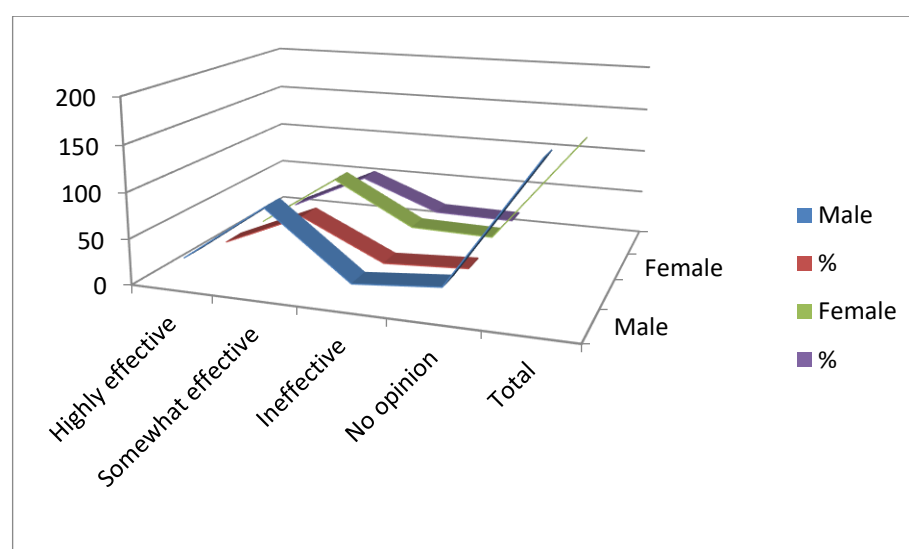


Figure 15: How would you assess the effectiveness of government policies in addressing the needs of displaced populations in Northern Iraq?

Table 9 presents information regarding how government policies are evaluated in terms of their effectiveness in meeting the requirements of displaced populations in Northern Iraq, classified by gender.

Highly effective: According to the table, 26 out of 164 males (15.8%) and 14 out of 138 females (10.1%) perceive government policies as highly effective in addressing the needs of displaced populations. This suggests that there's a minority of respondents who believe that government actions have been particularly successful in meeting the needs of displaced individuals.

Somewhat effective: A larger proportion of respondents, 90 out of 164 males (54.8%) and 74 out of 138 females (53.6%), view government policies as somewhat effective. This implies that a significant portion of respondents see government efforts as having some positive impact in addressing the needs of displaced populations, although there may be room for improvement.

Ineffective: Some respondents, 20 out of 164 males (12.1%) and 26 out of 138 females (18.8%), perceive government policies as ineffective in addressing the needs of displaced populations. This indicates that there's a portion of the population that feels that government actions have not been successful in adequately addressing the challenges faced by displaced individuals.

No opinion: A minority of respondents, 28 out of 164 males (17%) and 24 out of 138 females (17.3%), did not express a clear opinion on the effectiveness of government policies. This suggests uncertainty or lack of information among these respondents regarding the impact of government actions on displaced populations.

In general, the data indicates diverse opinions among respondents regarding the effectiveness of government policies in meeting the needs of displaced populations in Northern Iraq. Views range from considering these policies highly effective to perceiving them as ineffective, with a significant portion also expressing uncertainty or neutrality on the matter. This variability underscores the complexity of assessing the impact of government actions on addressing the needs of displaced populations in the region.

Table 10: In your view, what are the key social development challenges faced by displaced communities in Northern Iraq?

	Male	%	Female	%
Healthcare access	36	21.9	42	30.4
Social integration	79	48.1	54	39.1
Mental health support	49	29.8	42	30.4
Total	164		138	

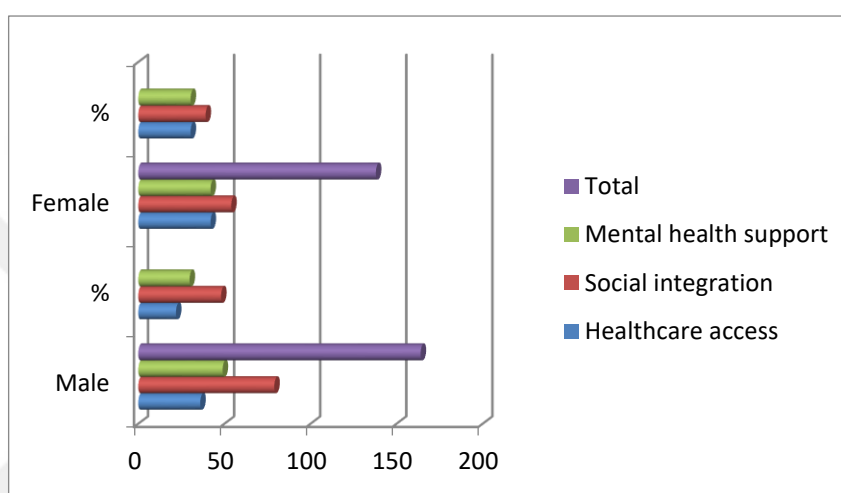


Figure 16: In your view, what are the key social development challenges faced by displaced communities in Northern Iraq?

Table 10 offers data on the primary social development obstacles encountered by displaced communities in Northern Iraq, segmented by gender.

Healthcare access: According to the table, 36 out of 164 males (21.9%) and 42 out of 138 females (30.4%) identified healthcare access as a significant challenge. This indicates that there's a perception among respondents that displaced communities face difficulties in accessing adequate healthcare services, which can be crucial for their well-being.

Social integration: A larger proportion of respondents, 79 out of 164 males (48.1%) and 54 out of 138 females (39.1%), identified social integration as a key challenge. This suggests that there's recognition among respondents that displaced communities may struggle to integrate into the broader society, potentially facing barriers related to acceptance, inclusion, and participation.

Mental health support: A considerable number of respondents, 49 out of 164 males (29.8%) and 42 out of 138 females (30.4%), identified mental health support as a

significant challenge. This indicates an awareness of the mental health issues faced by displaced communities, such as trauma, anxiety, and depression, which may require specialized support services.

The data overall underscores significant social development challenges encountered by displaced communities in Northern Iraq. These challenges encompass limited access to healthcare, struggles with social integration, and the pressing need for sufficient mental health support. Effectively tackling these issues necessitates comprehensive and focused interventions aimed at enhancing healthcare infrastructure, fostering social cohesion, and delivering mental health services tailored to the specific needs of displaced populations.

Table 11: How has population displacement impacted housing and shelter in Northern Iraq?

	Male	%	Female	%
Increased demand for housing	91	55.4	80	57.9
Decreased availability of affordable housing	49	29.8	46	33.3
No significant impact	24	14.6	12	8.6
Total	164		138	

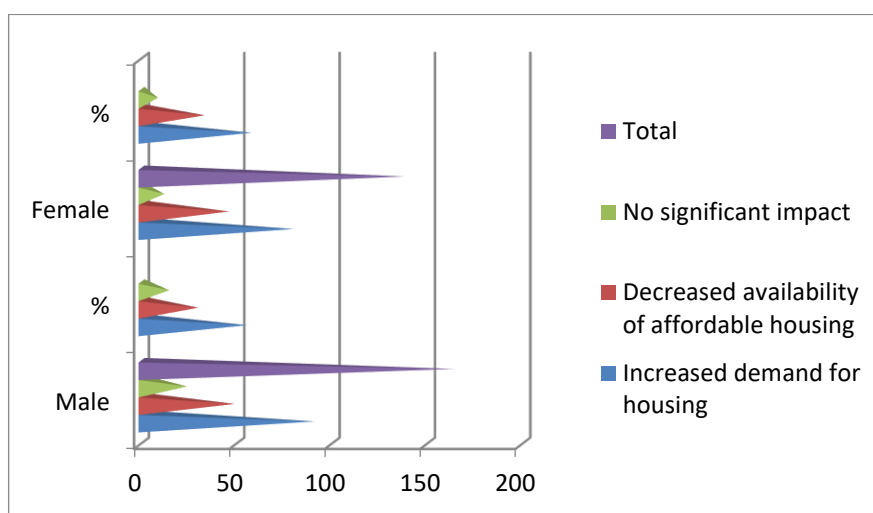


Figure 17: How has population displacement impacted housing and shelter in Northern Iraq?

Table 11 displays data regarding the effects of population displacement on housing and shelter in Northern Iraq, organized by gender.

Increased demand for housing: According to the table, 91 out of 164 males (55.4%) and 80 out of 138 females (57.9%) reported an increased demand for housing due to population displacement. This indicates that a significant portion of respondents perceive that the displacement has led to more people needing housing, possibly due to the influx of displaced individuals seeking shelter.

Decreased availability of affordable housing: A considerable number of respondents, 49 out of 164 males (29.8%) and 46 out of 138 females (33.3%), indicated a decrease in the availability of affordable housing. This suggests that displacement may have contributed to a shortage of housing options that are affordable for displaced populations, potentially exacerbating housing insecurity and affordability issues.

No significant impact: A minority of respondents, 24 out of 164 males (14.6%) and 12 out of 138 females (8.6%), did not perceive any significant impact of population displacement on housing and shelter. This suggests that for some individuals, the displacement has not noticeably affected housing dynamics in Northern Iraq.

The data overall emphasizes the substantial influence of population displacement on housing and shelter in Northern Iraq, characterized by heightened demand for housing and reduced accessibility to affordable options. Addressing these challenges necessitates comprehensive strategies focused on augmenting housing supply, enhancing affordability, and guaranteeing displaced populations' access to adequate shelter.

Table 12: What measures do you think can be taken to promote economic stability and development in areas affected by population displacement in Northern Iraq?

	Male	%	Female	%
Job creation programs	52	31.7	48	34.7
Microfinance initiatives	64	39	38	27.5
Infrastructure development	48	29.2	52	37.6
Total	164		138	

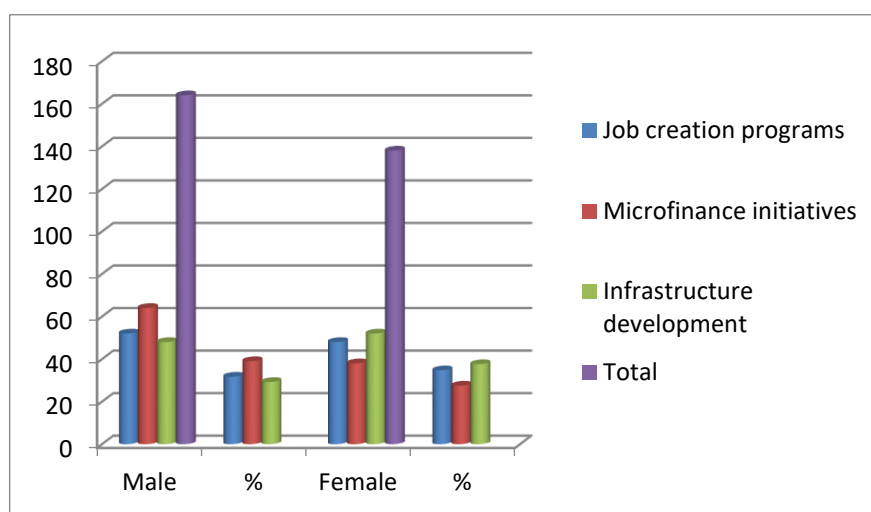


Figure 18: What measures do you think can be taken to promote economic stability and development in areas affected by population displacement in Northern Iraq?

Table 12 provides data on measures that can be taken to promote economic stability and development in areas affected by population displacement in Northern Iraq, categorized by gender.

Job creation programs: According to the table, 52 out of 164 males (31.7%) and 48 out of 138 females (34.7%) identified job creation programs as a measure to promote economic stability and development. This suggests that there's a recognition among respondents that creating employment opportunities can be crucial in rebuilding economies affected by population displacement.

Microfinance initiatives: A significant number of respondents, 64 out of 164 males (39%) and 38 out of 138 females (27.5%), highlighted microfinance initiatives as a measure to promote economic stability and development. Microfinance can empower individuals, particularly those from displaced communities, by providing access to financial services and resources to start or expand small businesses.

Infrastructure development: Another measure identified by respondents is infrastructure development, with 48 out of 164 males (29.2%) and 52 out of 138 females (37.6%) supporting this approach. Infrastructure projects such as roads, utilities, and public facilities can create employment opportunities, improve access to markets, and enhance the overall economic environment in displaced communities.

In summary, the data emphasizes the significance of employing a range of tactics to enhance economic stability and development in regions impacted by population displacement in Northern Iraq. These strategies encompass job creation

programs, microfinance endeavors, and infrastructure enhancement, all of which can play a pivotal role in rejuvenating economies, empowering communities, and fostering sustainable progress among displaced populations.

Table 13: What are the main sources of income for displaced populations in Northern Iraq?

	Male	%	Female	%
Formal employment	34	20.7	32	23.1
Informal work and self-employment	98	59.7	80	57.9
Remittances from relatives	32	19.5	26	18.8
Total	164		138	

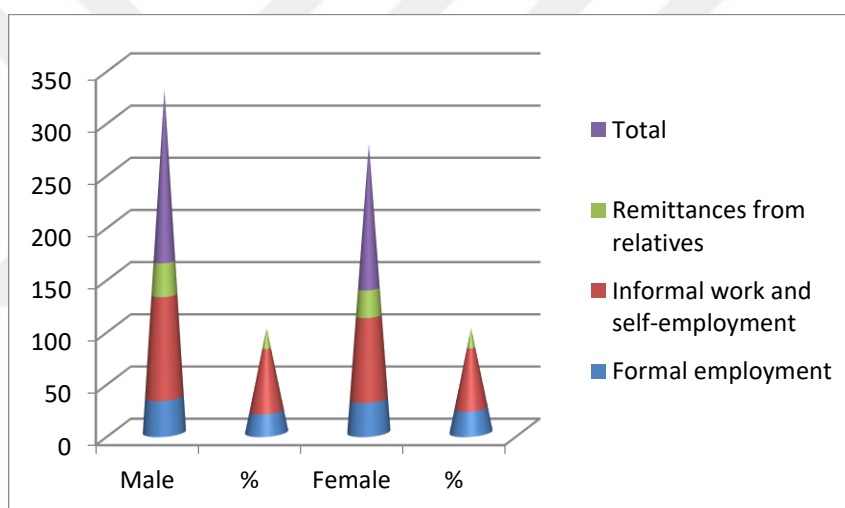


Figure 19: What are the main sources of income for displaced populations in Northern Iraq?

Table 13 presents data on the main sources of income for displaced populations in Northern Iraq, categorized by gender.

Formal employment: According to the table, 34 out of 164 males (20.7%) and 32 out of 138 females (23.1%) identified formal employment as a source of income. This indicates that a minority of respondents rely on traditional, salaried employment for income generation.

Informal work and self-employment: A larger proportion of respondents, 98 out of 164 males (59.7%) and 80 out of 138 females (57.9%), indicated informal work and self-employment as their main source of income. This suggests that the majority of displaced populations in Northern Iraq engage in informal economic activities, such as

street vending, small-scale trading, or artisanal work, to sustain themselves and their families.

Remittances from relatives: Some respondents, 32 out of 164 males (19.5%) and 26 out of 138 females (18.8%), rely on remittances from relatives as a source of income. This implies that a portion of displaced individuals receive financial support from family members who may be residing in other locations, either within Iraq or abroad.

The data overall illuminates the varied sources of income for displaced populations in Northern Iraq, encompassing formal employment, informal labor and self-employment, and financial support through remittances from relatives. These insights underscore the significance of recognizing the informal economy's dynamics and the crucial role of social networks in sustaining the livelihoods of displaced communities.

Table 14: How has population displacement influenced gender dynamics and women's rights in Northern Iraq?

	Male	%	Female	%
Improved gender equality	32	19.5	34	24.6
Increased vulnerability to gender-based violence	68	41.4	44	31.8
No significant impact	64	39	60	43.4
Total	164		138	

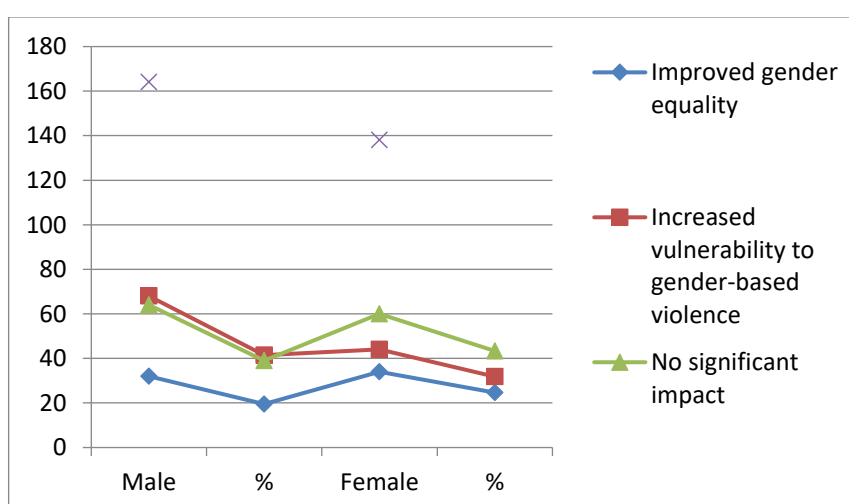


Figure 20: How has population displacement influenced gender dynamics and women's rights in Northern Iraq?

Table 14 presents data on how population displacement has influenced gender dynamics and women's rights in Northern Iraq, categorized by gender.

Improved gender equality: According to the table, 32 out of 164 males (19.5%) and 34 out of 138 females (24.6%) reported improved gender equality as a result of population displacement. This suggests that there's a perception among some respondents, albeit a minority, that displacement has led to positive changes in gender dynamics and women's rights, possibly through increased access to opportunities or shifts in societal attitudes.

Increased vulnerability to gender-based violence: A larger proportion of respondents, 68 out of 164 males (41.4%) and 44 out of 138 females (31.8%), indicated increased vulnerability to gender-based violence. This implies that there's a perception among many respondents that displacement has heightened the risk of gender-based violence, including domestic violence, sexual assault, and exploitation, potentially due to heightened stress, instability, and disruptions in social support networks.

No significant impact: A considerable number of respondents, 64 out of 164 males (39%) and 60 out of 138 females (43.4%), did not perceive any significant impact of population displacement on gender dynamics and women's rights. This suggests that for some individuals, the displacement experience hasn't noticeably altered gender dynamics or women's rights in Northern Iraq.

The data overall sheds light on the intricate and diverse impacts of population displacement on gender dynamics and women's rights in Northern Iraq. This includes perceptions of positive shifts alongside heightened vulnerabilities to gender-based violence. Tackling the challenges confronted by displaced women and advancing gender equality demands comprehensive strategies that delve into the underlying causes of gender-based violence and empower women to access their rights and opportunities in the aftermath of displacement.

Table 15: What opportunities do you think exist for economic growth and development in Northern Iraq despite the challenges of population displacement?

	Male	%	Female	%
Agriculture and agribusiness	48	29.2	36	26
Tourism and cultural industries	44	26.8	44	31.8
Renewable energy development	72	43.9	58	42
Total	164		138	

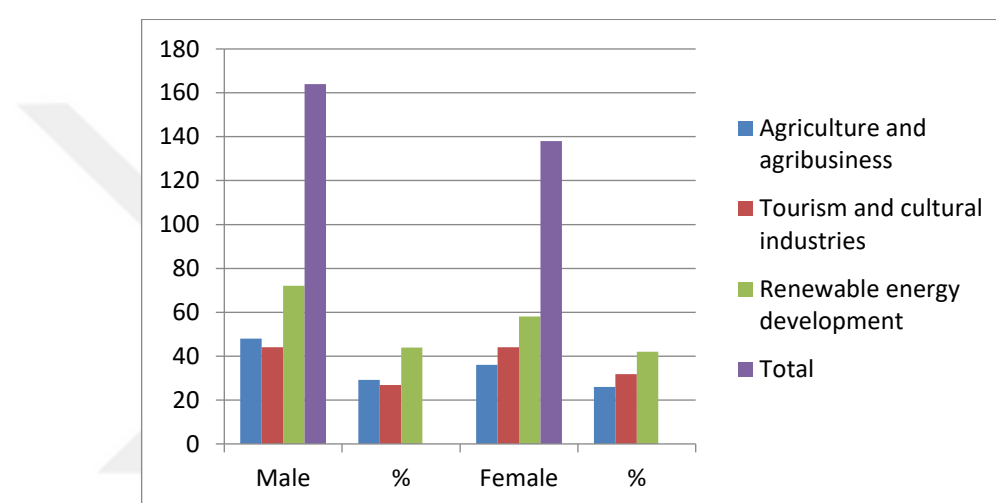


Figure 21: What opportunities do you think exist for economic growth and development in Northern Iraq despite the challenges of population displacement?

Table 15 presents data on opportunities for economic growth and development in Northern Iraq despite the challenges of population displacement, categorized by gender.

Agriculture and agribusiness: According to the table, 48 out of 164 males (29.2%) and 36 out of 138 females (26%) identified agriculture and agribusiness as opportunities for economic growth and development. This suggests that there's recognition among respondents that Northern Iraq has the potential for agricultural productivity and related industries, which can contribute to economic resilience and livelihood opportunities for displaced populations.

Tourism and cultural industries: A significant number of respondents, 44 out of 164 males (26.8%) and 44 out of 138 females (31.8%), highlighted tourism and cultural industries as opportunities for economic growth and development. This indicates that there's potential for leveraging Northern Iraq's rich cultural heritage, historical sites, and

natural attractions to attract tourists and stimulate economic activity, including job creation and revenue generation.

Renewable energy development: Another opportunity identified by respondents is renewable energy development, with 72 out of 164 males (43.9%) and 58 out of 138 females (42%) supporting this approach. This suggests that there's recognition among respondents of the potential for investing in renewable energy sources such as solar and wind power to promote sustainable economic development, reduce dependence on fossil fuels, and create green jobs.

In summation, the data elucidates several avenues for economic advancement in Northern Iraq notwithstanding the obstacles posed by population displacement. These avenues encompass the exploitation of agricultural potential, the encouragement of tourism and cultural sectors, and the allocation of resources towards the development of renewable energy. Through strategic utilization of these opportunities, policymakers and stakeholders can endeavor to fortify economic structures, thereby enhancing the welfare of both displaced populations and host communities.

Table 16: How do you perceive the role of local communities in supporting displaced populations in Northern Iraq?

	Male	%	Female	%
Supportive and welcoming	70	42.6	72	52.1
Indifferent	32	19.5	31	22.4
Hostile	62	37.8	35	25.3
Total	164		132	

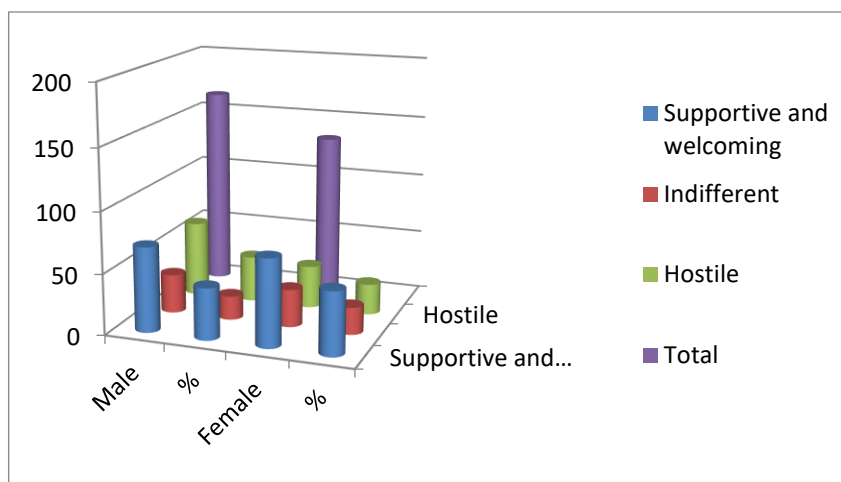


Figure 22: How do you perceive the role of local communities in supporting displaced populations in Northern Iraq?

Table 16 presents data on the perceived role of local communities in supporting displaced populations in Northern Iraq, categorized by gender.

Supportive and welcoming: According to the table, 70 out of 164 males (42.6%) and 72 out of 132 females (52.1%) perceive local communities as supportive and welcoming towards displaced populations. This suggests that a significant portion of respondents, across genders, believe that local communities in Northern Iraq are open and accommodating towards displaced individuals and families, offering assistance and solidarity during challenging times.

Indifferent: A portion of respondents, 32 out of 164 males (19.5%) and 31 out of 132 females (22.4%), perceive local communities as indifferent towards displaced populations. This implies that some respondents feel that local communities may not actively engage or respond to the needs of displaced individuals, possibly due to factors such as fatigue from prolonged displacement or limited resources.

Hostile: A considerable number of respondents, 62 out of 164 males (37.8%) and 35 out of 132 females (25.3%), perceive local communities as hostile towards displaced populations. This indicates that there's a perception among many respondents, particularly among males, that displaced individuals face resistance, discrimination, or hostility from local communities, which can create additional challenges and barriers to integration.

Overall, the data reflects varying perceptions of the role of local communities in supporting displaced populations in Northern Iraq, with some viewing them as supportive and welcoming, others as indifferent, and a significant portion as hostile. Addressing these perceptions and fostering positive interactions between displaced populations and host communities is essential for promoting social cohesion, integration, and resilience in post-displacement contexts.

Table 17: What factors do you believe contribute to the successful integration of displaced populations into host communities in Northern Iraq?

	Male	%	Female	%
Government policies	54	32.9	29	21
Social cohesion initiatives	71	43.2	68	49.2
Economic opportunities	39	23.7	41	29.7
Total	164		138	

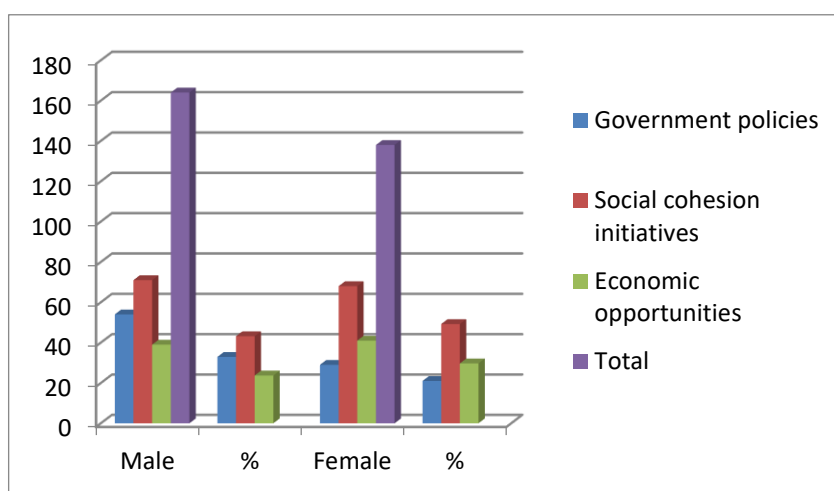


Figure 23: What factors do you believe contribute to the successful integration of displaced populations into host communities in Northern Iraq?

Table 17 provides data on factors contributing to the successful integration of displaced populations into host communities in Northern Iraq, categorized by gender.

Government policies: According to the table, 54 out of 164 males (32.9%) and 29 out of 138 females (21%) identified government policies as a factor contributing to successful integration. This suggests that there's recognition among respondents that supportive government policies, such as those related to legal status, access to services, and social inclusion, can facilitate the integration process for displaced populations.

Social cohesion initiatives: A significant number of respondents, 71 out of 164 males (43.2%) and 68 out of 138 females (49.2%), highlighted social cohesion initiatives as a factor contributing to successful integration. This indicates that there's a perception among respondents that fostering connections, understanding, and collaboration between displaced populations and host communities through social cohesion programs can promote mutual acceptance and integration.

Economic opportunities: Another factor identified by respondents is economic opportunities, with 39 out of 164 males (23.7%) and 41 out of 138 females (29.7%) supporting this approach. This suggests that there's recognition among respondents that providing displaced populations with access to employment, livelihood opportunities, and economic empowerment programs can facilitate their integration into host communities by promoting self-sufficiency and participation in local economies.

In general, the data underscores several pivotal elements conducive to the effective integration of displaced populations into host communities in Northern Iraq.

These include facilitative government policies, initiatives promoting social cohesion, and the provision of economic prospects. By addressing these determinants through holistic strategies and concerted collaborations among governmental bodies, non-governmental organizations, and local communities, the cultivation of inclusive societies and the cultivation of resilience among both displaced populations and host communities can be facilitated.

Table 18: How has population displacement influenced healthcare access and services in Northern Iraq?

	Male	%	Female	%
Improved access to healthcare	30	18.2	35	25.3
Decreased availability of healthcare services	63	38.4	62	44.9
No significant impact	71	43.2	41	29.7
Total	164		138	

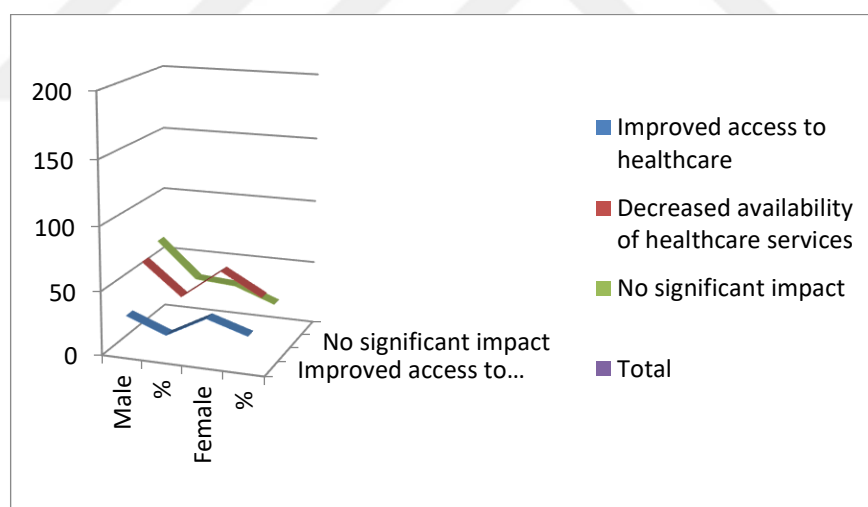


Figure 24: How has population displacement influenced healthcare access and services in Northern Iraq?

Table 18 presents data on how population displacement has influenced healthcare access and services in Northern Iraq, categorized by gender.

Improved access to healthcare: According to the table, 30 out of 164 males (18.2%) and 35 out of 138 females (25.3%) reported improved access to healthcare as a result of population displacement. This suggests that there's a perception among some respondents, albeit a minority, that displacement has led to better access to healthcare

services, possibly through the establishment of new healthcare facilities or increased humanitarian aid.

Decreased availability of healthcare services: A larger proportion of respondents, 63 out of 164 males (38.4%) and 62 out of 138 females (44.9%), indicated a decreased availability of healthcare services. This implies that there's a perception among many respondents that population displacement has led to a strain on existing healthcare infrastructure, resulting in reduced availability of services, longer wait times, or overcrowding in healthcare facilities.

No significant impact: Another notable portion of respondents, 71 out of 164 males (43.2%) and 41 out of 138 females (29.7%), did not perceive any significant impact of population displacement on healthcare access and services. This suggests that for some individuals, the displacement experience hasn't notably affected their ability to access healthcare, or they may not have noticed significant changes in healthcare availability or quality.

In summary, the data presents diverse perspectives on the impact of population displacement on healthcare access and services in Northern Iraq, spanning views from enhanced accessibility to diminished availability, with some respondents indicating no substantial impact. Addressing the healthcare requirements of displaced populations necessitates a dual focus on immediate humanitarian aid and enduring strategies aimed at bolstering healthcare systems and guaranteeing equitable access to high-quality healthcare services for all inhabitants.

Table 19: In your opinion, what role does education play in promoting long-term economic and social development for displaced populations in Northern Iraq?

	Male	%	Female	%
Critical role	34	20.7	18	13
Moderate role	76	46.3	80	57.9
Limited role	42	25.6	26	18.8
No role	12	7.3	14	10.1
Total	164		138	

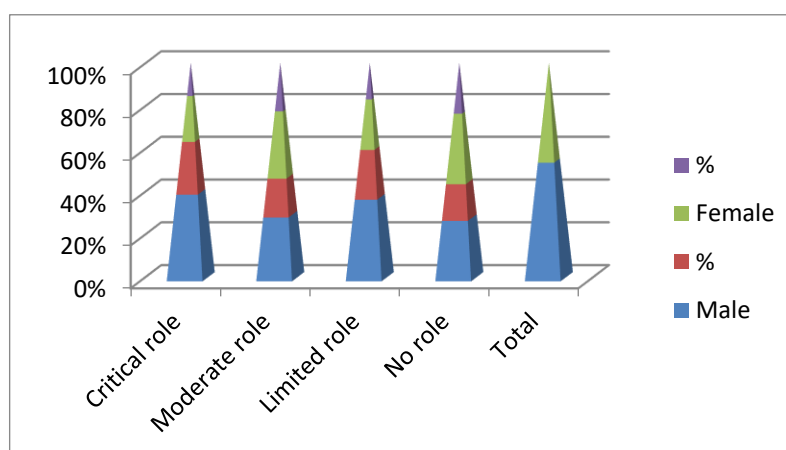


Figure 25: In your opinion, what role does education play in promoting long-term economic and social development for displaced populations in Northern Iraq?

Table 19 provides data on the perceived role of education in promoting long-term economic and social development for displaced populations in Northern Iraq, categorized by gender.

Critical role: According to the table, 34 out of 164 males (20.7%) and 18 out of 138 females (13%) believe that education plays a critical role in promoting long-term economic and social development for displaced populations. This suggests that there's a recognition among some respondents, though a minority, of the fundamental importance of education in empowering individuals, building human capital, and fostering sustainable development.

Moderate role: A larger proportion of respondents, 76 out of 164 males (46.3%) and 80 out of 138 females (57.9%), perceive education as playing a moderate role in promoting long-term economic and social development. This indicates that many respondents acknowledge the significant impact of education on enhancing skills, opportunities, and socio-economic outcomes for displaced populations, although they may not view it as indispensable.

Limited role: Some respondents, 42 out of 164 males (25.6%) and 26 out of 138 females (18.8%), see education as playing a limited role in promoting long-term development. This implies that there's a portion of the population that may underestimate the transformative potential of education in addressing the complex challenges faced by displaced populations, such as poverty, inequality, and social exclusion.

No role: A minority of respondents, 12 out of 164 males (7.3%) and 14 out of 138 females (10.1%), believe that education plays no role in promoting long-term economic and social development for displaced populations. This suggests a perception among some respondents that education may not effectively address the structural barriers and systemic challenges that displaced populations face in achieving economic and social well-being.

Generally, the data demonstrates a spectrum of perspectives concerning the significance of education in fostering enduring economic and social progress among displaced populations in Northern Iraq, spanning viewpoints from pivotal to negligible roles. Nonetheless, a substantial consensus among respondents acknowledges the fundamental importance of education in fostering empowerment and resilience within displaced communities, highlighting the imperative for strategic investment in educational initiatives and resources tailored to the needs of this vulnerable demographic.

Table 20: What additional measures do you think are necessary to address the longterm impact of population displacement on economic and social development in Northern Iraq?

	Male	%	Female	%
International aid and support	65	39.6	74	53.6
Sustainable development initiatives	73	44.5	36	26
Conflict resolution efforts	26	15.8	28	20.2
Total	164		138	

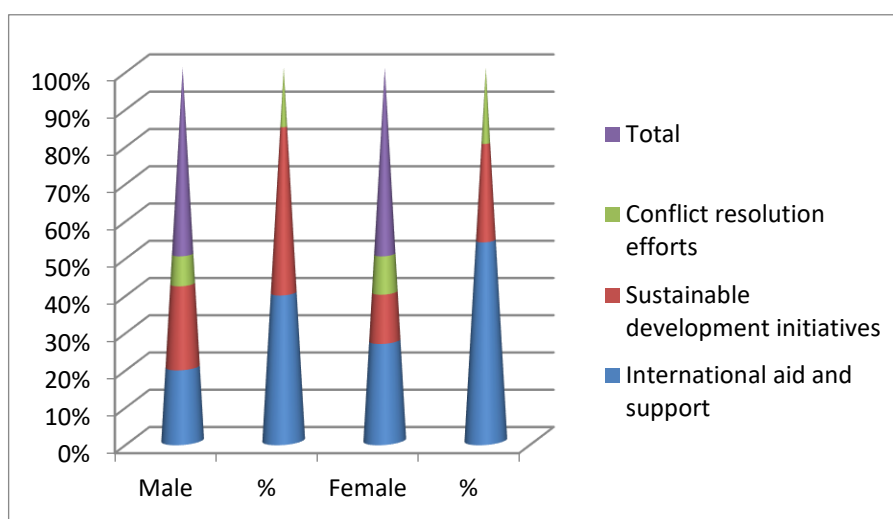


Figure 26: What additional measures do you think are necessary to address the longterm impact of population displacement on economic and social development in Northern Iraq?

Table 20 provides data on additional measures perceived as necessary to address the long-term impact of population displacement on economic and social development in Northern Iraq, categorized by gender.

International aid and support: According to the table, 65 out of 164 males (39.6%) and 74 out of 138 females (53.6%) identified international aid and support as a necessary measure. This suggests that there's a recognition among respondents, particularly among females, of the importance of external assistance and resources in addressing the long-term impact of population displacement, such as humanitarian aid, development assistance, and capacity-building programs.

Sustainable development initiatives: A significant number of respondents, 73 out of 164 males (44.5%) and 36 out of 138 females (26%), highlighted sustainable development initiatives as necessary measures. This indicates that there's a perception among respondents that long-term solutions to the impact of population displacement require sustainable development strategies that address underlying causes, promote resilience, and foster inclusive growth, particularly among males.

Conflict resolution efforts: Another measure identified by respondents is conflict resolution efforts, with 26 out of 164 males (15.8%) and 28 out of 138 females (20.2%) supporting this approach. This suggests that there's recognition among respondents of the importance of addressing underlying conflicts and instability to create conducive conditions for long-term economic and social development, particularly among females.

Overall, the data presents a spectrum of viewpoints regarding the supplementary measures deemed essential for mitigating the enduring repercussions of population displacement in Northern Iraq, encompassing suggestions ranging from international aid and assistance to sustainable development endeavors and conflict resolution initiatives. Effectively addressing the multifaceted challenges posed by displacement necessitates a comprehensive approach integrating humanitarian aid, developmental interventions, and peacebuilding endeavors, aimed at fostering stability, resilience, and inclusive advancement within affected communities.

Table 21: Mean and standard deviation of questions.

Questions	Provinces	Mean	StD
1- What is your level of familiarity with the concept of population displacement in Northern Iraq?	Duhok	2.58	0.778
	Erbil	2.60	0.788
	Sulaymani	2.60	0.765
	Total	2.60	0.775
2- In your opinion, what are the primary causes of population displacement in Northern Iraq?	Duhok	5.59	0.665
	Erbil	5.59	0.666
	Sulaymani	5.60	0.667
	Total	5.60	0.664
3- How would you rate the current economic development in areas affected by population displacement in Northern Iraq?	Duhok	10.02	1.010
	Erbil	10.02	1.010
	Sulaymani	10.02	0.995
	Total	10.02	1.001
4- What are the main economic challenges faced by displaced populations in Northern Iraq?	Duhok	12.60	0.826
	Erbil	12.60	0.826
	Sulaymani	12.60	0.829
	Total	12.60	0.824
5- How has population displacement affected labor markets in Northern Iraq?	Duhok	15.85	0.606
	Erbil	15.85	0.606
	Sulaymani	15.86	0.603
	Total	15.85	0.603
6- To what extent has population displacement affected access to education in Northern Iraq?	Duhok	19.35	0.793
	Erbil	19.36	0.782
	Sulaymani	19.35	0.783
	Total	19.35	0.784
7- How has population displacement influenced social cohesion and community dynamics in Northern Iraq?	Duhok	21.99	0.755
	Erbil	22	0.748
	Sulaymani	21.99	0.745
	Total	21.99	0.747
8- What role do you think international organizations play in addressing the challenges of population displacement in Northern Iraq?	Duhok	25.37	0.977
	Erbil	25.38	0.978
	Sulaymani	25.37	0.981
	Total	25.37	0.976

9- How would you assess the effectiveness of government policies in addressing the needs of displaced populations in Northern Iraq?	Duhok	29.36	0.923
	Erbil	29.38	0.926
	Sulaymani	29.36	0.916
	Total	29.36	0.918
10 In your view, what are the key social development challenges faced by displaced communities in Northern Iraq?	Duhok	33.04	0.747
	Erbil	33.05	0.753
	Sulaymani	33.04	0.751
	Total	33.34	0.748
11- How has population displacement impacted housing and shelter in Northern Iraq?	Duhok	35.55	0.700
	Erbil	35.55	0.700
	Sulaymani	35.55	0.702
	Total	35.55	0.698
12- What measures do you think can be taken to promote economic stability and development in areas affected by population displacement in Northern Iraq?	Duhok	38.99	0.818
	Erbil	39.01	0.818
	Sulaymani	39	0.816
	Total	39	0.818
13-What are the main sources of income for displaced populations in Northern Iraq?	Duhok	41.97	0.640
	Erbil	41.98	0.648
	Sulaymani	41.97	0.643
	Total	41.97	0.641
14- How has population displacement influenced gender dynamics and women's rights in Northern Iraq?	Duhok	45.19	0.771
	Erbil	45.20	0.775
	Sulaymani	45.19	0.775
	Total	45.19	0.771
15- What opportunities do you think exist for economic growth and development in Northern Iraq despite the challenges of population displacement?	Duhok	48.15	0.829
	Erbil	48.16	0.833
	Sulaymani	48.15	0.833
	Total	48.15	0.829
16- How do you perceive the role of local communities in supporting displaced populations in Northern Iraq?	Duhok	50.84	0.880
	Erbil	50.86	0.884
	Sulaymani	50.85	0.880
	Total	50.85	0.878
17- What factors do you believe contribute to the successful integration of displaced populations into host communities in Northern Iraq?	Duhok	53.99	0.742
	Erbil	53.99	0.742
	Sulaymani	53.99	0.732
	Total	53.99	0.736
18- How has population displacement influenced healthcare access and services in Northern Iraq?	Duhok	57.15	0.753
	Erbil	57.16	0.758
	Sulaymani	57.16	0.748
	Total	57.16	0.751
19- In your opinion, what role does education play in promoting long-term economic and social development for displaced populations in Northern Iraq?	Duhok	60.22	0.844
	Erbil	60.24	0.838
	Sulaymani	60.22	0.824
	Total	60.23	0.833
20- What additional measures do you think are necessary to address the longterm	Duhok	63.71	0.753
	Erbil	63.72	0.750

impact of population displacement on economic and social development in Northern Iraq?	Sulaymani	63.72	0.753
	Total	63.72	0.749

Table 22: Paired samples correlations.

Pair	Questions	N	Correlation	P-value
1	Q1/Q2	302	0.909	0.001
2	Q3/Q4	302	0.718	0.001
3	Q5/Q6	302	0.769	0.001
4	Q7/Q8	302	0.874	0.001
5	Q9/Q10	302	0.862	0.001
6	Q11/Q12	302	0.794	0.001
7	Q13/Q14	302	0.844	0.001
8	Q15/Q16	302	0.857	0.001
9	Q17/Q18	302	0.875	0.001
10	Q19/Q20	302	0.805	0.001

Table 22 appears to present correlation analysis results between pairs of questions. Here's what each column represents:

- **Questions:** This column specifies the pairs of questions that were analyzed for correlation. For example, Q1/Q2 refers to the correlation between question 1 and question 2, Q3/Q4 refers to the correlation between question 3 and question 4, and so on.
- **Correlation:** This column shows the correlation coefficient between the pairs of questions. The correlation coefficient ranges from -1 to 1, where:
 - A correlation of 1 indicates a perfect positive correlation, meaning that as one variable increases, the other variable also increases proportionally.
 - A correlation of -1 indicates a perfect negative correlation, meaning that as one variable increases, the other variable decreases proportionally.
 - A correlation of 0 indicates no linear relationship between the variables.
- **P-value:** This column provides the significance level (p-value) associated with the correlation coefficient. The p-value indicates the probability of observing the correlation coefficient if the null hypothesis (that there is no correlation between the variables) is true. In this case, all the p-values are reported as 0.001, suggesting that the correlations are statistically significant at conventional levels of significance (e.g., $\alpha = 0.05$).

For example, the correlation between Q1 and Q2 is 0.909, indicating a strong positive correlation between the level of familiarity with the concept of population displacement in Northern Iraq (Q1) and the perceived primary causes of population displacement (Q2) among respondents. Similarly, all other correlations listed in the table show strong positive relationships between the respective pairs of questions.

These correlation results can provide valuable insights into the relationships between different aspects of population displacement, helping researchers and policymakers better understand the interconnectedness of various factors and their implications.



5. Discussion and conclusion

In recent decades, the issue of population displacement has emerged as a significant global challenge with profound implications for both the displaced individuals and the regions they leave and arrive in. Nowhere is this challenge more pronounced than in the context of Northern Iraq, where waves of displacement, driven by conflict, persecution, and environmental factors, have fundamentally altered the socio-economic landscape of the region (UNHCR, 2020).

This thesis seeks to comprehensively analyze the multifaceted impact of population displacement on the economic and social development of Northern Iraq. By delving into the complex interplay between displacement dynamics and developmental outcomes, this research aims to provide valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities facing policymakers, practitioners, and stakeholders engaged in addressing displacement-related issues. Northern Iraq has been beset by various forms of population displacement, including internal displacement within its borders and the influx of refugees from neighboring countries. The prolonged conflicts, particularly the rise of the so-called Islamic State (ISIS), along with ethnic tensions and environmental degradation, have contributed to the forced displacement of millions of individuals, disrupting communities, straining resources, and reshaping the demographic composition of the region (UNHCR, 2020).

In the study we examined 302 survey from three province in northern Iraq we also focused on means and standard deviation and mean which provides an overall indication of the respondents' perceptions or assessments regarding the specific aspect being questioned. The standard deviation of the responses to each question across the surveyed provinces. Standard deviation measures the dispersion or variability of the responses from the mean. A higher standard deviation indicates more variability in responses, while a lower standard deviation suggests more consistency in responses across provinces.

For instance, if we take question 1: "What is your level of familiarity with the concept of population displacement in Northern Iraq?" The mean response across all provinces is 2.60, indicating a moderate level of familiarity, while the standard deviation is 0.775, suggesting some variability in familiarity levels across provinces.

Overall, this chart provides insights into the perceptions and assessments of the surveyed population regarding various aspects related to population displacement in Northern Iraq, including familiarity, causes, economic development, challenges, and the role of different stakeholders in addressing these issues.

Northern Iraq has frequently been hailed by the international community for its generosity towards refugees and IDPs, and currently hosts the greatest population of refugees and IDPs in the world in proportion to its population size. There are several United Nations Treaty bodies, such as the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Human Rights Committee, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Committee on Enforced Disappearances, the Committee against Torture, the Committee on the Rights of the Child, and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. They have continuously “Northern Iraq (NI) for supporting and providing a safe haven for displaced communities”. Consequently, “the population in the Northern Iraq region has increased dramatically owing to the reported influx of refugees and internally displaced persons from conflict-affected regions”.

However, the significant demand pressure created by this inflow has negatively affected different sectors such as health, education and employment. These challenges also include administrative, economic and housing issues. Although Syrian refugees were initially welcomed by locals because of their identity, as most of the locals are Kurds and regarded these as ‘family’, however strains in relations are appearing as a result of the economic downturn and instability in the region. In fact, there have been reports of tensions between the local population and refugee communities in some of NIR’s cities because they felt that refugees and IDPs have contributed to rising rent prices.

In the context of our study, a rigorous examination of the interrelations among survey questions has been conducted, yielding insightful findings. Notably, a robust positive correlation, denoted by a coefficient of 0.909, is observed between respondents' familiarity with the concept of population displacement in Northern Iraq (Q1) and their perceptions regarding the primary causes of such displacement (Q2). Analogously, all correlations documented in the tabulated data exhibit notable positive associations between respective pairs of inquiries. These correlation outcomes furnish researchers

and policymakers with valuable insights into the intricate nexus between diverse facets of population displacement, thereby enhancing comprehension of the multifaceted dynamics at play and informing more nuanced policy interventions.



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