



Rapid Gender Analysis
Internally Displaced Population of Bersive 1
Dahuk Governorate, Kurdish Region of Iraq

14 February 2015

Front cover image: ©Gabriel Fernandez del Pino/CARE



“No-one is listening”

Yazadi woman

Yazadis, Turkmens, Kurdish and Arabic Muslims and Christians have been displaced in massive numbers since armed groups began targeting Mosul and northern Iraq. Since August 2014, Dahuk Governorate in the Kurdish Region of Iraq (KRI) has experienced the single largest increase in internally displaced people (IDPs) and hosts most of the displaced people. Almost one third (30%) of IDPs in Dahuk live in camps; the highest number of people living in camps in Iraq¹.

This assessment looks at gender relations in *Bersive 1*, one of many camps in Zakho District of Dahuk Governorate hosting displaced Yazadis, Turkmens, and Kurdish Muslims. The gender impact of the humanitarian crisis on women, men, boys and girls in Iraq is only slowly becoming visible. By exploring the impact of the crisis on women, men, boys and girls in *Bersive 1*, the CARE Gender and Protection Assessment has two objectives:

1. To inform CARE’s programming in *Bersive 1* based on the different needs of women, men, boys and girls;
2. To support a Joint Gender Analysis for Northern Iraq by Oxfam and CARE to advocate for more gender sensitive programming throughout Iraq.

Methods

Rapid Gender Analysis (RGA) provides information about the different needs, capacities and coping strategies of women, men, boys and girls in a crisis. Rapid Gender Analysis is built up progressively: using a range of primary and secondary information to understand gender roles and relations and how they may change during a crisis. It provides practical programming and operational recommendations to meet the different needs of women, men, boys and girls and to ensure we ‘do no harm’. Rapid Gender Analysis uses the tools and approaches of Gender Analysis Frameworks and adapts them to the tight time-frames, rapidly changing contexts, and insecure environments that often characterise humanitarian interventions.

- **Community Mapping** with 11 people (six women and five men)
- **Eight Focus Group Discussions** divided by sex and ethnic group of 66 people (44 women and 22 men)
- **Key Informant Interviews** with six people (three women and three men)
- **Safety Audit Tool**
- **Secondary Data Review**

Following the *WHO Ethical and safety recommendations for researching, documenting and monitoring sexual violence in emergencies* this assessment did not involve activities whereby individuals would disclose information about their experiences of sexual violence as basic services for survivors are not yet available. More information on the tools is provided in the annex.

Demographics

There are slightly more women displaced than men in Dahuk Governorate (51% female to 49% male); exactly the inverse of the overall figures for displacement by sex in Iraqⁱⁱ. However it is in-line with the pre-crisis demographic information for Iraq: men and boys (50.6%) to women and girls (49.4%)ⁱⁱⁱ.

The displaced population in Dahuk Governorate by sex and age^{iv}:

Male Age Breakdown					
Governorate	Age 0-5	Age 6-14	Age 15-24	Age 25-59	Age 60+
Dahuk	8%	12%	12%	16%	3%

Female Age Breakdown					
Governorate	Age 0-5	Age 6-14	Age 15-24	Age 25-59	Age 60+
Dahuk	7%	10%	13%	15%	3%

Children under 15 years of age make up over 37% of the displaced population in Dahuk. Women who are of child-bearing age comprise 28% of the displaced population in Dahuk. The Shelter/Camp Coordination Mechanism Clusters found that 30% of IDP households included a woman who was pregnant or lactating. In Dahuk, almost 14,000 displaced women are pregnant^v. Young people between 15-24 years represent a quarter of the displaced population. While 6% of the population is elderly and equally divided between women and men. Throughout Iraq average household size for the displaced population is almost seven members (6.7)^{vi}, which is higher than the pre-crisis average of six people in Iraq, and five people in KRI. The same assessment found that 5% of households are female-headed. This is half the pre-crisis figure^{vii}. There is no information about the number of polygamous households amongst displaced families: pre-crisis 12.3% of wives reported having a co-wife^{viii}. This was highest amongst older and rural women^{ix}.

More than 9,000 people live in Bersive 1 Camp with an average household size of 5.8 members.

Bersive 1: Population by sex and age (January 2015)

Bersive 1 Population by Sex and Age													
0 - 2 yrs		3 - 5 yrs		6 - 11 yrs		12 - 17 yrs		18 - 35 yrs		36 - 50 yrs		50+ yrs	
M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
140	145	303	313	643	618	1067	936	1799	1564	511	398	321	404
285		616		1261		2003		3363		909		725	

The population of Bersive 1 mainly come from Nineveh Governorate. The camp includes Yazadi, Kurdish Muslims, Turkmens, and one Christian family. Almost half of the population living in Bersive 1 (45%) are children under 18 years. Just less than half of those registered in the camp are female. There are approximately 366 pregnant women who require reproductive health services which are not yet available in the camp.

Gender Roles and Relations

Daily life for those in the camp is difficult for women, men, boys and girls. Across all the different communities, household roles and responsibilities continue to be gender specific. Displacement and living a camp has made those roles more challenging. Conditions in the camp mean that women and girls' roles of housework, cooking and caring for children, older people and people with disabilities takes much longer to do: new tasks have been added like fetching water. Previously 60% of Iraqis had piped water into their dwelling or compound^x, cooking on a single camping stove inside the tent, and over-crowding makes it time-consuming to keep (white) tents clean. One Yazadi woman reported she *"works day and night taking care of the kids"*, a sentiment echoed by women across the camp. There are no schools so girls do not go to do school and instead *"help their mothers"*. Iraqi men are responsible for providing for and protecting the family. In the camp, many men reported *"sitting doing nothing all day"*, and expressed that they are frustrated they cannot work to provide for their families. Men who cannot provide for their families are considered *"losers"* by themselves and by other family members. There is no school in the camp. Older boys are bearing a heavy work-load: collecting firewood from the mountainside and working in *"little jobs"* which men are too ashamed to do themselves.

Making decisions for the family is often perceived as being a man's responsibility and this may or may not involve consultation with his wife or other family members. At one end of the spectrum, one Turkmen man reported that *"man is the only decision-maker and he doesn't accept others to interfere"*. Many other families reported that women have some decision-making power especially on household matters. Older women were more likely to report making decisions for themselves than younger ones. Finally, female-headed households explained that male relatives made decisions on their behalf.

Men are often in control over the family's money: receiving any income earned by other family members and decide how it will be spent. Women reported having very few assets left to control and many no-longer had any jewelry left.

Access

Women and girls in Bersive 1 reported having restricted movement within the camp which reduces their ability to access aid and services. Some women reported that they spend all day and night inside their tent, only leaving to use the bathroom and then only in pairs. Most women and girls said that they only travelled in pairs within the camp even to go to the bathroom during the day. They highlighted the need of a 'male protector' to move freely. There are significant differences between ethnic communities about where women can go alone. The graphics below represent this. Men and women with disabilities

GENDER & WASH

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) in Bersive 1 demonstrates some good gender and WASH practice: there are separate toilets and showers for men and women, lockable doors, lighting.

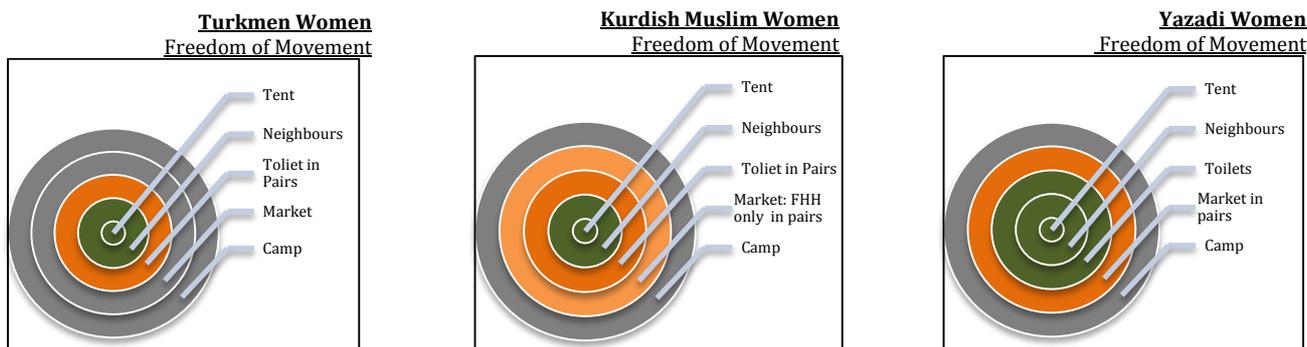
Gender and WASH issues include:

- Women reported either not receiving hygiene kits at all or not enough of them;
- Reports of boys hanging out by the female showers and toilets mean that often women and girls go to the bathroom in pairs and report a lack of privacy.
- Limited access to WASH facilities for people with disabilities;
- Limited participation of women and girls in decision-making bodies related to WASH and kitchens.

Key: Freedom of Movement

Green: women can go there alone
Orange: women can go there in pairs
Light Orange: only some women can go
Grey: women can only go with a male

reported highly restricted movement to the tent alone and no access to toilets or showers because of the gravel and no ramps.



Access to aid is affected by gender and age. All groups reported that men usually go to collect aid but if the men were not available that women could do so if accompanied by another family member and not busy with housework. Some families reported that older boys collect the aid as the men are ashamed to do so. All the women and men with disabilities reported that neighbours or family members collected aid on their behalf or assisted them by carrying relief items.

Men are the only ones to have access to decision-makers within the camp and are most likely to be decision-makers themselves in the camp. The camp management is all male, the community leaders invited to consultations with the camp management were all male, the police are all male, and almost all the sector leaders (selected by the camp management) are male. Amongst 16 sector leaders there is one female sector leader. Women and men both reported that only a male family member could report issues to the decision-makers. Personal problems tend to be kept within the extended family and there is no-one to report such issues to. There was a positive reaction from community consultations to different ethnic groups by hygiene promoters who said people they spoke to “felt that we cared about them and invited them to visit again”.

Coping Strategies

Women, men, boys and girls all have ways of coping with the living conditions in Bersive 1. An extensive array of coping strategies were described:

<p>Working/Pensions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Finding work in the camp like buildings work, camp management or with NGOs; ○ Labouring outside the camp; ○ Working outside the camp; ○ Operating a taxi service to/from camp; ○ Small businesses within the camp including market stalls, barbers, tea-shop; 	<p>Selling Aid for Cash:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Selling aid: kerosene, carpets, solar panels, heaters, and clothes; ○ Exchanging food vouchers for a lower cash amount.
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Older boys peddling phone cards or tissues; ○ Women baking their own traditional bread; ○ Collecting firewood from outside the camp; ○ Receiving pensions from the Government. 	
<p>Borrowing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Borrowing money from relatives; ○ Borrowing items from neighbours; ○ Debt with money-lenders. 	<p>Selling Assets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Selling assets especially cars; ○ Selling women’s gold jewelry which in this context is their traditional insurance and given to them as their dowry.

The loss of regular income since coming to the camp has changed people’s lives and many are struggling to cope. Men are especially likely to have lost their jobs as only 14% Iraqi women had paid jobs before the crisis^{xi}. Much of the work available in the camp is described as “*little jobs*” not befitting a man. In one such case, a male head of household oversees the purchases of goods for a ‘*basta*’ (a stall) but sends his son to work on the stall . Although, generating income is often considered a male responsibility, one Yazadi female headed households spoke of her frustration at no-longer being able to work as a weaver since moving to the camp. There is no school in the camp (although one is under construction) so children are not going to school and instead are working either in their home or earn money outside –or both. People with disabilities were especially likely to report having no-income. They relied on help from relative and neighbours.

Protection

It has been three months since the camp opened and women, men, boys and girls primarily reported on protection issues relating to living in Bersive 1. There were multiple reports of individuals suffering from psychological trauma, caused by conflict and displacement. Throughout the camp, the most vulnerable groups identified by the camp population itself include people with disabilities, widows, the elderly especially those living alone, pregnant women some of whom reported giving birth inside the tents, and female headed households who reported feeling stigmatised. The exact numbers of vulnerable people is not yet available.

Key protection concerns present in Bersive 1 include child labour; domestic violence, self-harm, psychological trauma, and harassment with women and girls reporting being afraid to go out at night especially due to boys hanging out around the toilets and showers. Women who suffer domestic violence “*must keep it to themselves in their own heart*” according to one key informant. One extreme case of domestic violence within the camp involved a man who beat his wife with an iron bar, breaking her legs and fracturing her skull. Many others report an increase in non-specific family disputes because of the difficult conditions in the camp. While there were no accounts of sexual exploitation and abuse in exchange for aid in Bersive 1, this is an issue that has come up in other parts of Iraq since the current crisis began.

Summary

Working with displaced people in the Kurdish Region of Iraq requires a response that understands and responds to the different needs of women, men, boys and girls. Gender relations in Iraq across all the communities living in Bersive 1 affect every aspect of life in the camp and all the decisions made from household level up to the camp management. While this assessment is of one camp and thus offers recommendations for that camp, it offers an insight into the kinds of gender issues which are likely to arise in other camps hosting similar populations including ensuring equal access to aid, participation in decision-making, responsibilities, and protection.

- **Limited Free Movement:** women and girls have limited freedom of movement within the camp setting and often rely on moving in pairs or with a male chaperone. People with disabilities have even less freedom of movement.
- **Lack of Participation:** Decision-Making within the camp is gender blind and does not adequately ensure that women are consulted and their views and preferences taken into account.
- **Equal Access to Aid:** men tend to usually receive the aid given and they generally control what is done with it. Special attention is needed to ensure that women have equal access to aid and services.
- **Protection:** there are no protection services or information publically available in the camp on gender-based violence, child protection, or specific support to vulnerable groups.

Recommendations

GENDER MAINSTREAM WASH:

- **Privacy:** place privacy screens around women's toilets and showers;
- **Access:** include ramps and rails to enable people with disabilities to use them;
- **Participation** in WASH decision-making for women consult women at the planned women's centre;
- With partners, support post-distribution monitoring with women on hygiene kits and baby kits;
- With partners, broaden the role of the hygiene promoters to that of peer educators.

GENDER SPECIFIC PROGRAMMING

- **Access:** women need safe spaces to increase their freedom of movement. CARE should support a women's centre; Leisure activities like parks and youth centres for boys were requested;
- **Participation:** consult women and girls from all the different ethnic groups about what kind of space they would like, what activities to offer, services for children, and opening-hours;
- **Decision-making:** create a women-led decision-making committee for the women's centre;
- **Protection:** include protection programming into the mandate of the women's centre and refer to SOPs for GBV available in Dahuk.

PREVENT SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE (PSEA)

- **Train:** CARE staff and partners on PSEA
- **Reporting:** Establish an agreed reporting mechanism for PSEA
- **Sensitize:** Ensure the camp population know their rights and how to report SEA.

ⁱ IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix *Overview Round XIII Report* January 2015

ⁱⁱ Ibid

ⁱⁱⁱ World Populations Prospects (2012) *Iraq in 2015* by sex <http://esa.un.org/wpp/unpp/p2k0data.asp>

^{iv} IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix *Overview Round XIII Report* January 2015

^v Based on estimated 4% of the Dahuk displaced population as per January 2015.

^{vi} Shelter Cluster and CCM *Rapid Assessment Internal Displacement in Iraq* 2014

^{vii} IOM-Iraq, Special Report Female Headed Households (2012) <http://www.jauiraq.org/documents/1864/Woman-Factsheet.pdf>

^{viii} Republic of Iraq (2008) *Family Health Survey 2006/2007*

^{ix} Huda Ahmed (2010) 'Iraq' in *Women's Rights in the Middle East and North Africa: Progress Amid Resistance*, ed. Sanja Kelly and Julia Breslin (New York, NY: Freedom House; Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2010)

^x UNICEF (2012) *Multi-Indicator Cluster Survey Iraq*

^{xi} UN Iraq (2013) *Women in Iraq Factsheet*