



PROTRACTED DISPLACEMENT
AL-KHAIRAT SUB-DISTRICT
COMMUNITY DIALOGUE

DECEMBER 2024

Location: Al-Khairat- Al-Anbar Governorate

Target Community: Returned and displaced population



Figure 1: Community Dialogue Participants

Participants	
Name	Position
Government (List each by name)	
Mohammed Hamid	Al-Khairat Mayor
Ahmed Al-Dulaimi	Mayor's office
Community Members and Representatives	
Ahmed Mahdi Hdeab	Community Member
Fakhri Fayadh Mohammed	Community Member
Kathum Obaid Morwa'a	Community Member
Tariq Khamees Rasheed	Community Member
Khamees Nathum Obaid	Community Member
Ahmed Azeez Sultan	Community Member
Waleed Muhsin Hilfa	Community Member
Marwan Mohammed Mushhin	Community Member
Obaid Mansur Azeez	Community Member
Mohammed Anbad Zwayed	Community Leader
Hussein Khleif Lafta	Community Member
Abdulla Abbas Khthayer	Community Member
UN Agency/NGOs (list each by name)	
Samer Sulaiman	RWG (organizer)
Aqeel Salim	RWG (organizer)

METHODOLOGY

The RWG organized a community dialogue session bringing together returned community and local authorities together to advance durable solutions for the displaced families that cannot return to their homes. The displaced families from Khairat are in different areas, and it was difficult to bring them to this activity, through some of them who are displaced in close areas attended.

OBJECTIVES

- To facilitate open engagement between the community and the local authorities
- Understand current situation and needs, intentions and priorities of the displaced to facilitate sustainable return and reintegration
- Identify challenges and potential solutions
- Set advocacy action points

OVERVIEW AND DISPLACEMENT HISTORY

Al-Khairat sub-district is located in Al-Garma district, east of Al-Anbar Governorate. It is historically known for its agricultural productivity, especially wheat and barley. Before the conflict with ISIS, the population ranged between 40,000 and 50,000. However, the 2014 conflict forced massive displacement between Baghdad and Falluja. The security and administrative files of the area used to be under the authority of Anbar government prior to ISIL events, however after the liberation a security wall has been constructed in the Al-Khayrat subdistrict that resulting in falling the security file under the Baghdad authority while the administrative file remain under Anbar authority which created a difficulty in arranging return movements due to the need to coordinate with both Anbar and Baghdad operations command

Post-liberation in 2016, returns were slow due to extensive destruction, insecurity, and damaged services. For the present, approximately 2,000–3,000 families remain displaced today for various reasons, but most of them are settled in areas displacement and set their life and livelihoods there, however, dozens of families could not return due to the perceived affiliation with ISIL. These families are displaced in different areas, mainly in Garma center, Ramadi, Falluja, and KRI. While there are no blocked areas in Al-Khairat subdistrict, severe needs infrastructure, services, and economic stability remain obstacles to achieving recovery and durable solutions.

CHALLENGES AND NEEDS

AGRICULTURE

While agriculture remains a cornerstone of Khairat's economy it is hindered by several challenges. Farmers struggle with the high cost and limited availability of seeds and fertilizers, forcing many to rely on expensive black-market supplies. Government support, when available, is often entangled in bureaucracy and inaccessible to the majority. Traditional farming techniques dominate due to a lack of access to modern machinery and irrigation technologies, limiting productivity and profitability.

Participants requested government and NGO action to revitalize agriculture as source of livelihoods and stability of returnees by offering subsidies, modernizing farming equipment, and providing technical training to farmers to enhance yield and efficiency.

EDUCATION

The education sector in Khairat faces profound challenges. Many schools suffer from war-related damage and deteriorated infrastructure, lacking basic services such as electricity, water, and sanitation. Overcrowded classrooms compromise the quality of education, limiting teachers' ability to engage students effectively. Moreover, there is an imbalance in teacher distribution, with shortages in essential subjects such as math, science, and languages. Limited government investment deepens disparities between rural and urban educational facilities.

Returnee community Participants stated that rehabilitation of school facilities, expansion of classroom capacity, strategic deployment of qualified staff, and consistent professional development programs are essential to improving educational outcomes and are a priority for the community.



Figure 2: School classroom in Khairat

WATER

The water infrastructure in Khairat is severely outdated. Pumps are inefficient and frequently malfunction due to age and poor maintenance, resulting in weak water pressure and inconsistent supply. Filtration and treatment systems are ineffective, posing health risks due to potential contamination. The discussion shows that participants are calling on the authorities to rehabilitate the pumps and distribution networks, for modernization of filtration technologies, and training of technical maintenance teams are crucial to ensuring a reliable supply of clean water.

ELECTRICITY

The electricity network in Al-Khairat has seen some improvements, particularly through international support projects. However, areas such as Albu-Zaid still face critical shortages. Existing infrastructure cannot meet growing demand, and outdated transformers and wires cause frequent outages and voltage instability. During the session, the community called on the government to install new transformers, upgrade wiring systems, and expand the grid's capacity and noted that this would be essential to stabilize and extend electricity services.

YOUTH

Youth in Khairat are particularly vulnerable due to a lack of structured support and employment opportunities. High unemployment rates have led to frustration and social instability. The absence of vocational training prevents young people from acquiring marketable skills, trapping them in cycles of poverty and marginalization.

Participants discussed how Establishing youth-focused development programs, creating vocational training centers offering practical skills, and promoting entrepreneurship through funding and technical assistance will empower young people adapt with new market needs, given the deteriorated dependence on agriculture as a source of income.

HOUSING

The housing sector remains a significant bottleneck for returns. Despite the existence of a government compensation program for damaged homes, bureaucratic inefficiencies and delays mean that many families have not received any payments. This has left affected families unable to rebuild or rehabilitate their homes, prolonging their displacement and hardship.

Participants requested acceleration of the compensation disbursements, streamline processing of claims, and implement transparent monitoring mechanisms to restore housing security and support durable returns.

SOCIAL COHESION

Social cohesion in Al-Khairat is steadily improving, supported by a welcoming host community and positive reintegration of the majority of returnees. There are no blocked areas, and most families have returned without major social friction. However, some families remain displaced due to fear of rejection, as they are perceived as affiliated with individuals who were part of ISIL, and these families have chosen to remain in displacement despite the open possibility of return. While no formal barriers prevent their return, underlying social tensions and concerns about acceptance persist, slightly hindering full community reconciliation and long-term social cohesion.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

The safety and security situation in Al-Khairat is currently stable, with effective control maintained by the Iraqi Army in coordination with the local police. “Following the liberation of the area in 2016, security forces have worked to restore order and prevent the resurgence of extremist groups,” said the mayor. There are no active security threats or blocked areas, and freedom of movement is generally upheld.



Khairat Dialogue Session

NEXT STEPS

#	ACTION POINT	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMELINE
1	Organize a DS discussion with authorities and decision makers	RWG, JCMC	March 2025
2	Discuss further collaboration with JCMC and JCF to coordinate and advocate intentions by both local government and NGOs to address DS challenges in Khairat	RWG	April 2025
3	Discuss issues of IDPs unable to return with Tribal Affairs Department	RWG, JCMC	June 2025

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