



**AREA OF LOW RETURN:**  
TAL BANAT DURABLE SOLUTIONS  
COMMUNITY DIALOGUE

DECEMBER 2024

## METHODOLOGY AND OBJECTIVE:

The Returns Working Group (RWG), in coordination with the Sinjar district- local authorities, facilitated a Durable Solutions community dialogue to explore opportunities for the return of displaced families to Tal Banat – belong to Al-Qairawan sub district – Sinjar district. Prior to this discussion, on 30th Sep- 2024 consultations with the Mukhtar and community members in Tal Banat who are returnees to the area of origin, and IDPs revealed a strong desire to return, and the main obstacles faced by the community which are related to the shelter and basic priority water networks, electricity and extensive housing destruction. The RWG proposed setting up a meeting between the community members and their local authorities to find a solution to the protracted displacement.

Al-Qairawan sub district authorities were agreeable to meet with the community representatives to hear their concerns and expectations of the local authorities. The DS dialogues were semi-structured with a few guiding questions but focused on allowing the community representatives and local authorities to fully scope to dialogue.

The discussion sought to raise the key priorities of the community, the capacity of the local authorities to meet these priorities and the challenges which may need to be overcome.



Figure 1: Community representative speaking during the DS community dialogue

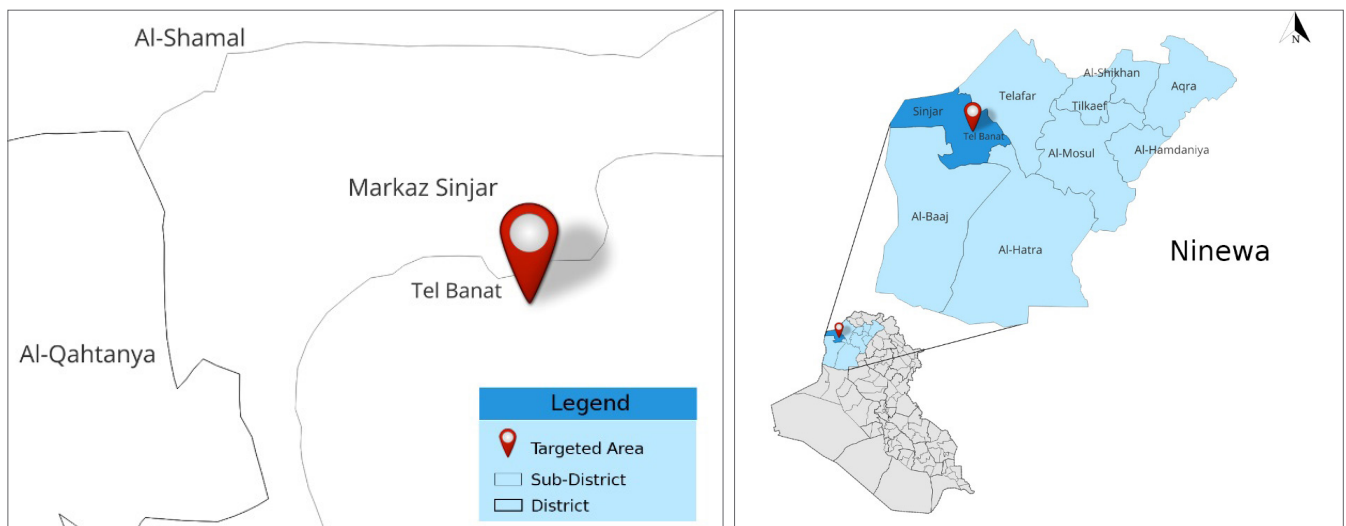
### PARTICIPANT LIST

Name	Position
<b>Government</b>	
Hussain Mahmud Hassib	Municipality
Qassim Suliman Elias	Municipality
Aiman Khudir Fris	Primary health care
<b>Community Representatives</b>	
20 people	Representatives from the village (Local Community) returnees and Within 20 community members 3 of them are IDPs
Hassan Ali Qassim	Mukthar of Tal Banat
Jassim Haji Salih	Community member
Murad Faris Daood	Community member
Tahsin Hamo Ahmad	Community member
Mahmud Abdullah Jono	Community member
Chomar Hussain Ali	Community member
Khdir Faris Khalo	Community member
Abdullah Khalaf Ahmad	Community member
Khalaf Murad Khalaf	Community member
Khalaf Hassan Khalaf	Community member
Aman Salah	Community member
Hussain Hassan Hamad	Community member
Haji Khalid Jono	Community member
Khalaf Ali Ahmad	Community member

Name	Position
Hamad Ayso Jono	Community member
Muhsin Suliman Ibrahim	Community member
Jafar Kinan Ahmad	Community member
Haidar Hussain Ahmad	Community member
Ali Ahmad Qaso	Community member
Khudida Khdir Hussain	Community member

## BACKGROUND AND CURRENT SITUATION

The village of Tal Banat, located in southern Sinjar, 18 km southeast of Sinjar, in route to Al-Qairawan and TalQasab, adjacent to TalQasab village, was home to approximately 5200 households (around 26.000 individuals) before displacement. The village had moderate infrastructure but was severely impacted during the ISIL attacks in 2014, leading to mass displacement. Most families were displaced to camps in Duhok (Khanke, Sharyia, Essian, Kabarto1&2) and Zaxo camps (Jamishko, Rwangah, Berseve1&2 and Dawdyia). Before the conflict, the village had basic water and electricity services, though this required maintenance. Many homes remained intact, and the security situation was stable.



Currently about 1,500 households, 7500 individuals have returned to Tal Banat, participants mentioned that more than 200 families are willing to return, and they are expressing interest in returning if essential services are restored. Despite a stable security situation, the return process is hindered by damaged infrastructure, a lack of potable water, and limited electricity. According to Mukhtar of Tal Banat, more families will return once essential services are restored and security is confirmed in Sinjar broadly. Sinjar remains an international conflict area due to the airstrikes and presence of militias (YBS&PMF) and limited access to some areas in general in the level of Sinjar district, but security situation stable in Tal Banat itself as did not registered security incidents in the village of Tal Banat, Many displaced families are awaiting document approvals from the Ministry of Migration and Displacement (MoMD) office in Duhok before returning.



Figure 3: Tal Banat after 2014

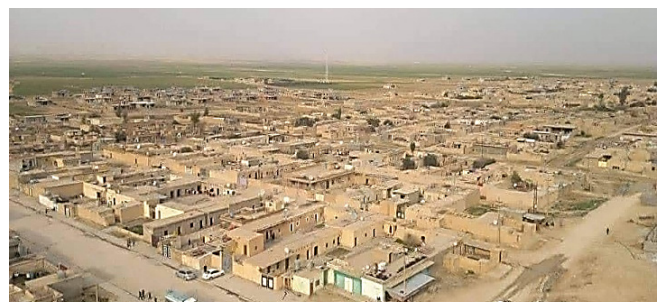


Figure 2: Tal Banat before 2014

## CHALLENGES AND NEEDS

- **Security Concerns:** no security concerns such a security issue or incidents registered and no threats in the level of tribes and families.
- **Livelihoods:** Many families are in need of financial assistance due to the harsh economic conditions. The families in Tal Banat primarily worked in markets in general, car repairers, carpenters, maintenance of doors and windows, barbershops, tailors, before their displacement. The economic situation is challenging as they lost their belongings, and markets were destroyed or need rehabilitation preventing families from rebuilding their livelihoods and resilience so currently the majority are looking for daily work apart from opening around 80 markets in general.
- **Compensation for damaged homes:** Families are facing challenges navigating the compensation process, 95% of families are registered files of the houses, furniture and markets in the compensation office between 2022 to 2024 but approximately 30 families receive compensation grants assistance. Additionally, 5% of families which are approximately 75 families of returnees and IDPs according to the community leader are hesitant to apply for government compensation due they find the process difficult, and since their houses are made of mud, the amount they would receive is insufficient, barely covering even the application process itself. The remaining families have registered their files to the Tal Qassab local police station and approval is getting 6 months because local police station in Tal Banat not receiving files of compensation.
- **MoMD assistance:** 90% of family returnees, which is 1350 families did not receive 1.5M IQD and only 10 families received 4M IQD who return after Feb-2024
- **Infrastructure Needs:** The village's infrastructure, including roads, electricity, and water networks, has been severely damaged. The rehabilitation of these services is crucial to enable the return of more families.
- **Water:** water networks did not exist before 2014, water undrinkable from their private boreholes, they use it for cleaning and washing only. Families are purchasing drinkable water before 2014 until 2024, and it costs 25,000 IQD monthly.
- **Electricity:** Electricity networks were very good regarding columns, wires, and transformers covered the need but currently electricity line reach the access of the Tal Banat but inside the location need to instill network with maintenance of wires and additional transformers, due to volts are 110 only impacted electricity devices in general even lightings and water pumps not working any more so need to increasing voltage from 110V to 220 volts, city power 3h on and 6h off.
- **Education:** There were four primary schools and two secondary schools but currently only three primary schools and one secondary school are functional and one secondary school need reconstruction and one primary school needs rehabilitation. The current functional schools accommodate between 300 to 400 students in each school (6-12 classes 8-16 teachers) so the human resources in all these schools are sufficient to meet the demand.
- **Health Center:** PHC operates with a very good number of staff, but their issues lack medications and especially for chronic diseases they have to get their medications in Sinjar general hospital or PHCC in Sinjar if not available. So, they have to buy it from private pharmacies in Sinjar or even in Tal Banat it is available in the pharmacies, due to the electricity issue of Volts which is 110V refrigerator storing vaccination not working, there is not enough fuel for generator of the PHC, so it is risk to damage vaccinations.
- **Municipality:** The municipality is not doing garbage collection and families are burning the garbage in front of their houses which is impacting patients and sick people with chronic diseases.
- **Road Access:** The access roads to the village are in general very good and paved well, but internal roads need to be paved, and internal paved roads need maintenance.

## MEETING OUTCOMES AND NEXT STEPS

- **Municipality Services:** The municipality representative pledged that they do not have capacity for garbage collection due to the lack of staff and trucks.
- **Electricity:** RWG will organize a thematic meeting with DO electricity.
- **Housing Destruction:** According to community members and confirmed by the Mukhtar, nearly 60% clay houses, so UN Habitat build 70 houses and UNDP also build 70 houses between 2022 -2023, need more support of sheltering to encouraging IDPs to return.

**NEXT STEPS INCLUDE:**

Coordinating Return: The Mukhtar confirmed that he will advocate for his community of Tal Banat with the local government and service departments, including water, electricity and municipality will work together encourage families to return. Once a significant number of families return, services will begin. Discussions with relevant authorities regarding the meeting. Then the next plan is to advocate with INGOs for shelter projects and other infrastructure services in addition to livelihoods projects.

Discussions on Return: The community representatives mentioned that if there is tangible support like shelter, electricity and water as top priorities so IDPs will return

Action point: RWG-DS coordination team to follow up with mukhtar of Tal Banat and local authorities such an electricity department and municipality.

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