

**Community dialogue|
Qny (Sinjar district, Ninewa Governorate)**

Thursday 21 August 2025

Methodology and Objective

The Returns Working Group (RWG), in collaboration with the Ninewa Governorate Office, organized a comprehensive community dialogue session in Qny to address the challenges facing the village and explore opportunities for recovery and reconstruction. This session brought together representatives from the local community and local authorities to openly discuss the critical issues affecting the area. The dialogue highlighted a range of pressing challenges, including widespread housing destruction, the absence of a functioning water network, unreliable electricity supply, inadequate educational facilities, and the sharp decline of agricultural activities.

The community dialogue aimed to achieve two main objectives. The first was to identify the community’s key priorities for rebuilding infrastructure, reviving livelihoods, and restoring essential social services. The second was to evaluate the capacity of local authorities, NGOs, and government departments to contribute to infrastructure rehabilitation, provide support for agriculture and livestock, and improve basic services such as water, healthcare, education, and electricity supply, in addition to addressing compensation and Ministry of Migration and Displacement (MoMD) assistance for the affected families.

Participant List

Name	Position
Community Representatives	
Edo Qassim Khdir	Community leader of Qny & Tal Eosfka
Hajiu Khdir HAJJ	Community member
Haji Edo Namir	Community member
Flit Hajim Kashaan	Community member
Khdir Khalaf Qassim	Community member
Eousif Qassim Khdir	Community member
Khalid Qassim Elias	Community member
Edo Haji Edo	Community member
Sirwan Qolo Hassan	Community member
Abas khdir Mato	Community member
Tahssin Saïdo Khdir	Driver
UN/NGOs	
Saud Ziad Ezdin	IOM
Dilshad Khdir Abdi	
Mahsan Murad Edo	
Sufyan Wahhed Mandoo	RWG-DS coordination

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Background

Qny is a small Yazidi community located about 12 kilometers east of the Sinjar district, near the Sinjar Cement Factory in Ninewa Governorate. Before the ISIS attacks, Qny was a relatively well-established village consisting of about 35 houses and home to approximately 50 families (270 individuals). Most of these houses were constructed from clay, which made them highly vulnerable to environmental damage, while the few concrete houses that existed were destroyed during the conflict.

In 2017, around 20 families, estimated at 105 individuals, returned to their area of origin. However, only 15 families (78 individuals) are currently residing in Qny, while 15 families have relocated to Sinjar Markaz and 3 families are living in Tal Banat. In addition, 13 families from Qny remain internally displaced, including 11 families in Sharyia camp and 2 families in Essian camp. The widespread destruction caused during the ISIS offensive on 3 August 2014 left most homes uninhabitable due to the fragility of clay structures, the destruction of concrete houses, severe environmental erosion, and the lack of basic infrastructure. The community also suffered immense human losses, as Qny was the site of one of the largest massacres in Sinjar. More than 100 people were killed and buried in a mass grave, including 80 individuals from Qny itself and others from nearby villages. Many of the families who returned include survivors of ISIS captivity and atrocities, which has left long-lasting psychological and social impacts on the community.

Access to basic services

Water Supply

Qny currently has no access to a public water network, leaving residents entirely dependent on costly private water trucking services that charge around 30,000 IQD per month, despite the water being unsafe for drinking. Prior to August 2014, ten government-operated boreholes existed in the surrounding areas, but the water project was designed exclusively for Tal Qassab and Tal Banat, excluding Qny from any formal supply system despite its geographical location within the same network coverage area. Some families rely on privately dug deep wells; however, the water extracted is highly saline and unsuitable for consumption. The lack of access to clean and reliable water services forces households into negative coping mechanisms and disproportionately impacts women and children, who often bear the burden of securing water for daily needs.

Electricity

Electricity availability in Qny is unstable and insufficient due to limited coverage of distribution lines and a shortage of transformers needed to support the village's current housing structures. Not all homes are connected to the grid, resulting in unequal access among residents and

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frequent service interruptions. The lack of essential electrical infrastructure restricts the community's ability to safely rehabilitate homes, operate household appliances, and resume productive economic activities, thus undermining efforts toward long-term return and recovery.

Education

Before the conflict, Qny hosted two primary Kurdish schools that served children from Qny and neighboring Tel Eosfka; both facilities were destroyed during the ISIS attacks on 3 August 2014. Today, approximately seventy-five school-aged children are forced to travel 12 kilometers to attend Sinjar Markaz Primary School, facing daily challenges such as lack of transportation, personal safety risks, and high transportation costs that exceed many families' economic capacity. These conditions place children at increased risk of absenteeism and school dropout—particularly among girls—hindering educational continuity and psychosocial recovery for a community that has already endured significant trauma.

Health Services

Qny lacks any form of local health facility—neither a primary health care center nor a medical house existed before 2014, and none have been established since the return of families. Residents must travel 12 kilometers to Sinjar General Hospital to receive even the most basic medical support, including routine consultations, maternal healthcare, chronic disease treatment, and emergency response. Delays in accessing urgent care, combined with transportation barriers, expose residents to preventable health complications and create an ongoing risk for vulnerable individuals including children, elderly persons, and survivors of captivity and violence.

Roads and Municipal Services

The main access road connecting Qny to the highway—approximately four kilometers long—remains unpaved, degrading significantly during winter months and restricting movement of supplies, emergency vehicles, and humanitarian support. Internal village roads are also unpaved, and widespread housing rubble has yet to be cleared due to the absence of municipal support, leaving several areas hazardous and impeding reconstruction. The persistent deterioration of local infrastructure limits mobility reduces access to public services, and continues to discourage displaced families from returning to their homes.