CHRISTIAN-SHABAK PERSPECTIVES IN HAMDANIYA DISTRICT

SUMMARY FINDINGS

Conflict and Stabilization Monitoring Framework for Ninewa

JULY 2018
• Return of both Christian and Shia Shabak populations began in 2017, neither group was blocked from coming back.

• Security since 2014 is provided by a constellation of PMUs some Christian, most Shia Shabak in composition.

• Longstanding issue: the post-2003 legal movement of Shia Shabak into the Ninewa Plains.
While the overall responses across groups indicate a relatively stable security environment, concerns remain and seem related to ethno-religious identity.

- The most worrying finding is the relatively high number of Christian residents and IDPs who are concerned political violence is taking place or will take place in the area, particularly compared to Shabak residents.

- Christian residents also report a generalized feeling of discomfort in day-to-day safety in the district.

- Across groups, there is reported uncertainty and inconsistency over whether or not security forces are held accountable for violations.

- Christian and Shabak residents overall feel the interests of their respective identity groups are currently being protected and both groups feel comfortable in manifesting their ethno-religious identities.

- There is low rate of recruitment into security forces or armed groups in the district as compared to other study locations. Recruitment is not for ideological/political desires, but economic need. Shabak residents also report joining to protect their community.
SAFE AND SECURE ENVIRONMENT

GOAL: Security forces or armed groups do not engage in violence to advance political agendas or to oppose the peace process.

INDICATOR: % of people that believe political violence by security forces or armed groups is taking places or will take place in the immediate term

QUESTION: Do you feel security forces or armed groups are carrying out acts of political violence in your subdistrict?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes, very concerned by it</th>
<th>Yes, it is necessary in this moment</th>
<th>Yes, but it doesn't bother me</th>
<th>No, happy it is not</th>
<th>No, but I'm worried it will happen</th>
<th>Don't know / No response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hamdaniya + Bartella</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shabak HC</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian HC</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian IDPs</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• FINDING: A majority of Christian residents in the sample believe that political violence is either currently occurring or will occur in the future by security actors, while Shabak residents and Christian IDPs have a more nuanced, less directive view.
SAFE AND SECURE ENVIRONMENT

**GOAL:** There is a safe and secure environment.

**INDICATOR:** % of residents who feel comfortable to move around the town at any time

**QUESTION:** How comfortable are you moving around your subdistrict day or night?

- **FINDING:** The majority of Shabak residents feel comfortable moving around their subdistricts freely day or night, while Christian residents are largely split on this issue.
**SAFE AND SECURE ENVIRONMENT**

**GOAL:** There is a safe and secure environment.

**INDICATOR:** % of IDPs who feel intimidated by the security actors in the district of origin

**QUESTION:** Given the security forces or armed groups present in your subdistrict of origin, do you or your family feel intimidated by their presence and/or actions? (Question only asked to IDPs)

- **FINDING:** Christian IDPs overwhelmingly do not feel intimidated by the security forces or armed groups present in their places of origin.
SAFE AND SECURE ENVIRONMENT

**GOAL:** Security forces or armed groups do not engage in violence to advance political agendas or to oppose the peace process.

**INDICATOR:** % of people that think there is impunity and no prosecution for any misconduct by security forces or armed groups, including human rights abuses and war crimes

**QUESTION:** If security forces or armed groups in your subdistrict break the law, do they face consequences for their actions?

- **FINDING:** Only a small minority of Christian and Shabak residents perceive that there is impunity and no prosecution for any misconduct by security forces or armed groups in the district; however, there is overall uncertainty regarding the accountability of these actors.
SAFE AND SECURE ENVIRONMENT

**GOAL:** Citizens are confident that the security actors responsible for their areas are impartial.

**INDICATOR:** % of people who think the security forces and/or PMU represents their community's interests

**QUESTION:** How well are your component’s interests protected in the current security configuration in your subdistrict?

![Bar chart showing protection levels for different groups in Hamdaniya + Bartella.]

- **FINDING:** The majority of both Christian and Shabak residents report that their ethno-religious group’s interests are protected or somewhat protected by the current security configuration in their subdistricts, while nearly half of Christian IDPs do not feel their interests are protected.
SAFE AND SECURE ENVIRONMENT

**GOAL:** There is not a growing militarization of the civilian population.

**INDICATOR:** % of civilians recruiting into armed forces

**QUESTION:** There are many security forces or armed groups active in Iraq at present. Is any member of your household part of these security forces or armed groups anywhere in Iraq?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hamdaniya + Bartella</th>
<th>0%</th>
<th>50%</th>
<th>100%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shabak HC</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian HC</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td></td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian IDPs</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td></td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FINDING:** The majority of both resident and IDP respondents, across ethno-religious groups, do not have members of their households in the security forces or armed groups active in the country.
GOAL: There is not a growing militarization of the civilian population.

INDICATOR: % of people that perceive local recruits joining security forces or armed groups for ideological reasons as first option

QUESTION: Why do you think members of your component in general (not only your household) join security forces or armed groups as first option?

FINDING: Christians and Shabak from Bartella and Hamdaniya Center overwhelmingly do not believe ideological and political factors to be the main drivers of recruitment into security forces or armed groups.
POLITICAL MODERATION AND STABLE GOVERNANCE

There are more stark differences between Christian and Shabak residents along this vector than the previous one.

**Belonging & Societal Standing:**

- Christians are more significantly likely to show dissatisfaction with their political and social standing within the district than the Shabak in this sample. Particularly striking among both Christian residents and IDPs is how they distinguish themselves as a group, consolidating around their ethno-religious identity.

- Shabak residents, on the other hand, while perceiving belonging beyond their ethno-religious group are also more acutely aware of their specific perceived marginalization or neglect by local powerbrokers and the international community.

**Grievances & Reconciliation:**

- Both groups were able to point out the grievances the other held and felt that their respective groups should compromise to ensure peace.

- The bulk of Shabak respondents do not feel it reconciliation is necessary, while those who do as well as the majority of Christian residents do not feel it is currently possible due to lack of political will.
GOAL: Political and identity groups do not perceive the political process in exclusive (zero-sum) terms.

INDICATOR: % of people thinking that having another group in power will not govern for them or protect their rights

QUESTION: Which statement comes closer to your views, even if neither is exactly right?

- **FINDING:** Christian residents and IDPs report a much greater concern that their rights would not be protected or they would not be governed for if a different ethno-religious group than theirs was in power in the district, as compared to Shabak residents.
**GOAL:** Political elites and leaders are not polarized on the basis of their identities.

**INDICATOR:** % of people that perceive their local political elites/leaders to be polarizing communities on the basis of identity

**QUESTION:** Which statement comes closer to your views, even if neither is exactly right?

- **FINDING:** The majority of residents and IDP respondents across groups feel that local political elites and leaders in the district stir up identity divisions to gain support.
**GOAL:** Political elites and leaders are not polarized on the basis of their identities.

**INDICATOR:** % of people who closely or very closely identify with a national identity (i.e., Iraq)

**QUESTION:** Please indicate which image most clearly depicts your feeling of belonging in relation to Iraq now.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hamdaniya + Bartella</th>
<th>Option 1 (closest)</th>
<th>Option 2</th>
<th>No response</th>
<th>Option 3</th>
<th>Option 4 (furthest)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shabak HC</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian HC</td>
<td></td>
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<td>22%</td>
<td></td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>14%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christian IDPs</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td></td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **FINDING:** The majority of Christian and Shabak residents feel a relatively strong sense of belonging to Iraq, while the majority of Christian IDPs do not.
GOAL: Political elites and leaders are not polarized on the basis of their identities.

INDICATOR: % of people who feel belonging more to their component than to Iraq

QUESTION: Comparison between feelings of belonging to Iraq and to component now.

- FINDING: The majority of Christian residents and IDP respondents, however, feel more closely aligned with their ethno-religious identity group than with an Iraqi national identity, while Shabak residents, by and large, feel belonging to both on equal terms.
GOAL: Authorities and dominant groups do not engage in political exclusion or repression of dissent on the basis of group identity.

INDICATOR: % of people perceiving their group in the subdistrict as being marginalized

QUESTION: Do you feel your component is politically or socially marginalized and/or neglected in the subdistrict now?

• FINDING: The majority of both Christian residents and IDP respondents feel very marginalized politically or socially as compared to the majority of Shabak who report this but to a lesser degree of severity.
POLITICAL MODERATION AND STABLE GOVERNANCE

**GOAL:** Authorities and dominant groups do not engage in political exclusion or repression of dissent on the basis of group identity.

**INDICATOR:** % of people perceiving their group in the subdistrict as being marginalized

**QUESTION:** By whom do you feel marginalized?

- NGOs: 1%
- Security forces: 10%
- Local authorities: 28%
- Political parties: 40%
- Wider community: 49%
- Central government: 80%
- NGOs: 57%
- Security forces: 2%
- Local authorities: 67%
- Political parties: 55%
- Wider community: 33%
- Central government: 78%

**FINDING:** While Christian and Shabak residents agree that the central government is primarily responsible for their feelings of marginalization, they report markedly different actors thereafter.
POLITICAL MODERATION AND STABLE GOVERNANCE

**GOAL:** There is a desire and need for reconciliation at the district level.

**INDICATOR:** % of people who are ready and willing to compromise with members of other identity groups in their district

**QUESTION:** Which statement comes closer to your views, even if neither is exactly right?

- **FINDING:** The majority of Christian and Shabak residents feel their respective ethno-religious groups should compromise with other groups in their subdistricts for peace.
GOAL: There is a desire and need for reconciliation at the district level.

INDICATOR: % of people who think a reconciliation process is needed and possible

QUESTION: How possible is reconciliation between components now in the district? (Question asked to those who previously answered reconciliation was ‘very necessary’ or somewhat necessary’)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hamdaniya</th>
<th>0%</th>
<th>11%</th>
<th>24%</th>
<th>54%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shabak HC</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>11%</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Christian HC</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian IDPs</td>
<td></td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FINDING: Overall among the sample, less than half of the respondents feel that reconciliation is both necessary and possible in the districts. For Christians, issues related to security configuration necessary to include and for Shabak issues on social, political, or cultural exclusion are necessary to include for reconciliation.
• Residents across groups do not report that the civil and criminal justice systems are trustworthy and effective in high numbers, however the reasons for this have more to do perceived lack of independence, incompetency, and corruption than discriminatory practices against either group.

• More respondents in Hamdaniya district sample indicate that they would report a security concern or crime to the police first as compared to the other locations in this study. It is still critical to note the relatively high proportion of residents who would go elsewhere for conflict resolution: Shabak residents to the PMU and Christian residents to their religious leader.

• There does not seem to be widespread unresolved housing, land, and property disputes in these areas. However, there is a relatively high ‘no response’ rate among Shabak residents in this regard and the non-negligible proportion of Shabak respondents that indicate that housing, land, and property issues should be included in any reconciliation process.
**GOAL:** The criminal and civil justice systems perform essential function effectively.

**INDICATOR:** % of people that feel that the legal system is biased against their group now

**QUESTION:** If you see the criminal and civil justice systems as ‘somewhat trustworthy’ or ‘untrustworthy’, why? (check all that apply)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hamdaniya + Bartella</th>
<th>It discriminates against my component</th>
<th>It is corrupt</th>
<th>It is incompetent</th>
<th>It is not independent</th>
<th>Other</th>
<th>Question not asked</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shabak HC</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian HC</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian IDPs</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FINDING:** The vast majority of respondents do not think the justice systems discriminate against their respective identity groups.
GOAL: Local police forces exercise effective control of law enforcement in the subdistricts.

INDICATOR: % of people that report a crime or a dispute to the local police or formal court (first)

QUESTION: If you face a crime, security issue or dispute, who do you feel most comfortable to speak to and report first?

• FINDING: Approximately half of residents in these subdistricts indicate that they would report a security issue, crime, or dispute to the police or the formal court, ahead of other actors. Shabak responses are further fragmented primarily between going to other security actors and tribal leaders, while Christian residents note going to their religious leader first.
GOAL: Housing, land, and property disputes are resolved, or at least, do not lead to tensions.

INDICATOR: % of people with unresolved HLP issues

QUESTION: Do you have any unresolved house, land and property issues?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hamdaniya + Bartella</th>
<th>Yes, from pre-2014</th>
<th>Yes, from post-2014</th>
<th>Yes, from pre- and post-2014</th>
<th>None at all</th>
<th>No response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shabak HC</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian HC</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian IDPs</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FINDING: The overwhelming majority of Christian residents and IDP respondents and a smaller majority of Shabak residents report having no past and/or current unresolved housing, land, and property issues. Note however the relatively high ‘no response’ rate for Shabak residents. Linked to this, 22% of Shabak residents indicate that housing, land, and property issues are necessary to resolve in any reconciliation process (compared to 6% of Christian residents and 13% of Christian IDPs who feel the same).
SOCIAL WELLBEING AND LIVELIHOODS

This vector provides the most telling findings related to the day-to-day grievances and divisions both groups feel.

- Christian residents are more likely to report higher levels of frustration in relation provision of services and to hold a negative view on the return of those families from other identity groups still displaced to the area. They also have higher feelings of being unacknowledged in their suffering.

- Shabak residents are more concerned with inequality in financial advancement and prefer employment within the security sector rather than the public or private sectors. They are also more likely to feel collectively blamed at a substantially higher rate than either Christian residents or IDPs.

MAJOR FLASHPOINT relates to changes in the composition of the population since 2013:

- Christians not only note that a change in population composition has taken place, but that they are concerned by it.

- Shabak for their part, by and large, do not think a change has taken place and those that do notice this, feel it is a positive development.
**SOCIAL WELLBEING AND LIVELIHOODS**

**GOAL:** Public expectations for essential service provision are met equally across the target populations.

**INDICATOR:** % of people who feel frustrated or very frustrated with the level of essential services currently provided

**QUESTION:** How does the level of services and reconstruction in your district make you feel? (If answered 'not very well met,' or 'completely unmet' in previous question)

- **FINDING:** The large majority of Christian residents and IDP respondents feel frustrated by the levels of reconstruction and essential service provision currently provided in the district, which they report do not meet their needs.
SOCIAL WELLBEING AND LIVELIHOODS

GOAL: Public expectations for essential service provision are met equally across the target populations.

INDICATOR: % of people who feel reconstruction or service provision is provided not very equally or completely unequally in the subdistrict

QUESTION: Are service provision and reconstruction provided equally across locations in the district?

• FINDING: The majority of Christian and Shabak residents and a plurality of Christian IDPs believe essential services and reconstruction are provided unequally across locations in the district.
SOCIAL WELLBEING AND LIVELIHOODS

GOAL: There is social acceptance for the return of those still displaced to target locations.

INDICATOR: % of residents who want (or are comfortable with) those still displaced from different groups to return

QUESTION: How do you feel about the possible return to this subdistrict of those families of different components who are still displaced?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hamdaniya + Bartella</th>
<th>I don't want any of them to return</th>
<th>I want only some of them to return</th>
<th>I want them all to return</th>
<th>I don't mind either way</th>
<th>No response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shabak HC</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian HC</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian IDPs</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• FINDING: Nearly half of Christian residents state that they do not want any still displaced families from other ethno-religious groups in the subdistricts to return while a plurality of Shabak residents did not respond to the question.
SOCIAL WELLBEING AND LIVELIHOODS

**GOAL:** The legacy of past abuses has been recognized, addressed, and reconciled.

**INDICATOR:** % of people who feel the state acknowledged their group suffering

**QUESTION:** Please indicate which image most closely depicts how you feel that the central government acknowledges your component’s suffering.

- **FINDING:** The majority of respondents across groups do not feel the central government has acknowledged their respective suffering, with Christian residents and IDPs reporting this to a higher degree.
**SOCIAL WELLBEING AND LIVELIHOODS**

**GOAL:** The legacy of past abuses has been recognized, addressed, and reconciled.

**INDICATOR:** % of people who feel other groups acknowledge their group suffering

**QUESTION:** Please indicate which image most closely depicts how you feel neighboring components acknowledge your component’s suffering.

- **FINDING:** The majority of respondents across groups do not feel that neighboring ethno-religious groups in the area acknowledge their respective suffering, with Christian residents and IDPs reporting this to a higher degree.
SOCIAL WELLBEING AND LIVELIHOODS

GOAL: There are no group-based inequalities across identity groups that cause conflict.

INDICATOR: % of people who perceive that group-based inequality is a source of tension

QUESTION: How concerned are you that differences between components in their ability to financially advance could serve as source of tension?

• FINDING: Almost half of Shabak respondents indicate being significantly concerned that economic inequalities in the district could cause tensions, while only a minority of Christian residents and IDPs believe so.
SOCIAL WELLBEING AND LIVELIHOODS

**GOAL:** The population, especially military-aged youth, does not face high levels of unemployment or underemployment.

**INDICATOR:** % of population preferring job opportunities within the civil private/public sector as opposed to the military sector

**QUESTION:** Which statement comes closer to your views, even if neither is exactly right?

- **FINDING:** While Christian residents and IDPs overwhelmingly show preference for public or private sector employment, the majority of Shabak residents prefer employment within the military sector of their subdistricts.
SOCIAL WELLBEING AND LIVELIHOODS

**GOAL:** There are no groups marginalized by the rest of society through collective blame, punishment, and/or discrimination.

**INDICATOR:** % of people who believe they or their group are being collectively judged or labelled in a discriminatory way

**QUESTION:** Do you feel you or your component is judged or labelled negatively because of the actions of others who have the same identity as you?

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**FINDING:** There is significantly widespread feeling among Shabak and Christian residents of being collectively judged or labelled in a negative manner in the district, with Shabak having the highest rate of always being judged/labelled as well as not responding to the question.

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![Bar chart showing responses to the question for Hamdaniya + Bartella, with Shabak HC at 25%, Christian HC at 6%, and Christian IDPs at 4%.]
SOCIAL WELLBEING AND LIVELIHOODS

GOAL: There is a sense of trust and reciprocity in society among individuals and groups.

INDICATOR: % of people citing that they are mistrusted by others within their subdistrict

QUESTION: How much mistrust do you think others have of your component in your subdistrict?

• FINDING: While the majority of respondents across groups indicate that they are mistrusted by others in their subdistricts, a relatively larger proportion of Christian residents and IDPs than Shabak report feeling a very high level of mistrust directed toward them.
**SOCIAL WELLBEING AND LIVELIHOODS**

**GOAL:** The population is not concerned or worried about demographic change in the target locations.

**INDICATOR:** % of people who are concerned about demographic change in their subdistrict

**QUESTION:** In general, do you think there have been any changes in the population composition in the subdistrict now as compared to right before 2014?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes, I am concerned about it</th>
<th>Yes, I am supportive of it</th>
<th>Yes, I am resigned to it</th>
<th>Yes, I don’t care</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Don’t know / No response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hamdaniya + Bartella</strong></td>
<td>[6%]</td>
<td>[14%]</td>
<td>[1%]</td>
<td>[3%]</td>
<td>[36%]</td>
<td>[40%]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Shabak HC</strong></td>
<td>[6%]</td>
<td>[14%]</td>
<td>[1%]</td>
<td>[3%]</td>
<td>[36%]</td>
<td>[40%]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Christian HC</strong></td>
<td>[51%]</td>
<td>[2%]</td>
<td>[22%]</td>
<td>[4%]</td>
<td>[0%]</td>
<td>[21%]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Christian IDPs</strong></td>
<td>[65%]</td>
<td>[1%]</td>
<td>[0%]</td>
<td>[11%]</td>
<td>[13%]</td>
<td>[10%]</td>
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</table>

**FINDING:** The majority of Christian residents and IDPs believe changes to the population composition of their subdistricts have taken place since 2013 and are concerned about it, while the majority of Shabak residents indicate that no change has taken place or did not give a response to the question.