

Saving Behaviors & Finance Services In Northern Iraq

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Preface:

This report presents the results of a field study on "Saving and Finance Systems in Iraq" implemented by Oxfam and UNDP with generous funding from the Government of Germany within the framework of capacity building of communities affected by conflict through access to loans project in Iraq. This study explored the financing sector and informal savings and borrowing behaviors to identify community solutions to financing and facilitate access to sources of financing.

The current crisis has displaced Syrian refugees as well as the displaced population inside Iraq, causing more than 10 million people to be in urgent need of humanitarian assistance depending on the intensity of the fighting and the economic and social conditions left by the attacks and the continuation of the conflict in Syria, extend the mass exodus to the Kurdistan Region, which shared the front lines of armed conflict against ISIS, and have been suffering for more than three years of financial crisis. People exhausted their incomes and assets, and have become increasingly in need of assistance for basic services.

The report is based on detailed data obtained from the field survey of a selected sample of targeted population groups and financial institutions that provide financing services during April and May 2017. We hope to contribute to the creation of a reliable information base that will help the Government of the Region, partners and stakeholders in the humanitarian and development field develop comprehensive and long-term responses that address the living needs of populations affected by conflict and contribute to reducing the burden of hosting them on the local population.