Technical guidance on Informal Site definition

CCCM Cluster Iraq | v.2 September 2020

This document defines site typologies in Iraq where IDPs are hosted, being formal and informal sites. It distinguishes between two different types of informal site: ***informal settlements*** and ***informal collective centres*** and defines different characteristics (attributes) that these sites may have e.g. pre-existing management, shelter type, population type, population density, geographic context, ownership, duration, which can be used to help inform design of humanitarian interventions.

The note is based on and updates previously issued site definitions used in Iraq. Including: "*CCCM Iraq IDP Site Typologies & Duties and Responsibilities, August 2015*" and "*CCCM Iraq HRP Guidelines 2016: A liveable environment for communities displaced in temporary settlement, March 2016*". It references and complements "*Iraq CCCM Cluster Strategy for Transitional Support for Informal Sites, November 2019*". It also draws on global guidance, and was reviewed by members of the CCCM Cluster's Informal Sites Technical Working Group, and the Shelter Cluster in Iraq.

1. Site typologies

In Iraq, a distinction is made between *formal* and *informal* IDP sites.

Formal site (e.g. formal camp):

- Site intentionally built or modified to host people
- Government formally recognizes the site and is responsible for its administration, often supported by humanitarian organizations for its management.
- Government and humanitarian organizations provide basic services, infrastructure, and assistance
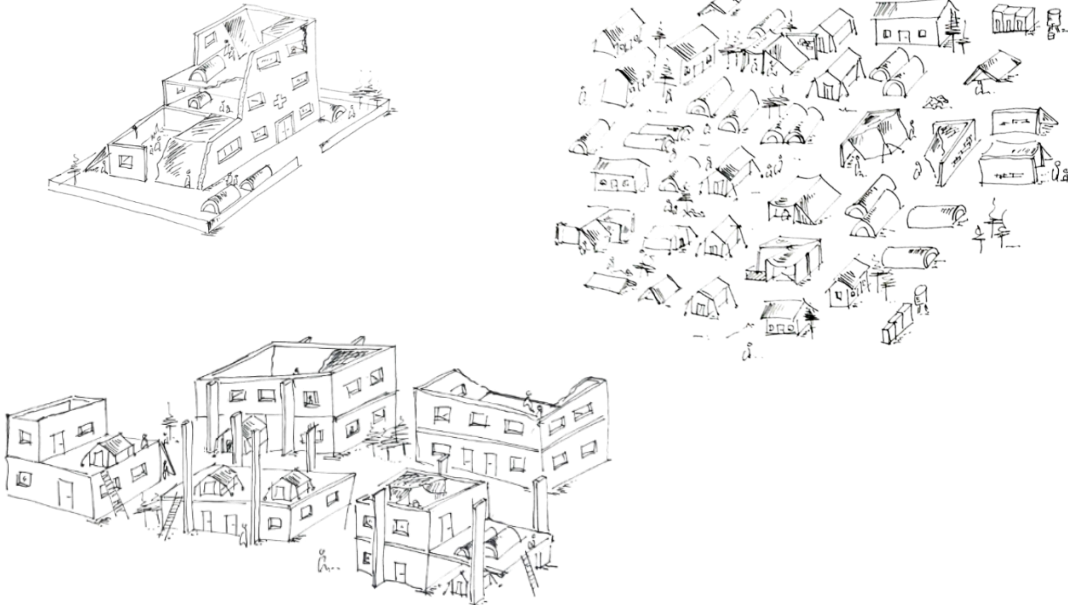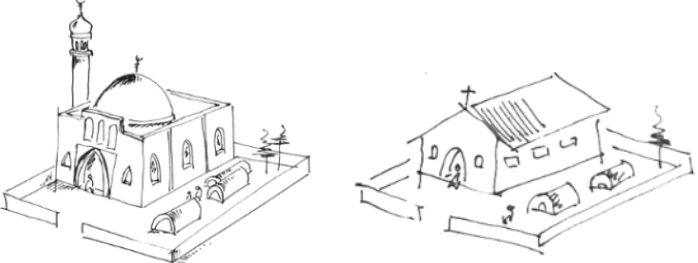
Informal sites:

- Site where more than 5 displaced households have settled collectively[1]
- Sites not built to accommodate people, but serving that purpose, set up on state-owned or private land/buildings[2]
- IDP families are living in the site as a group, possibly with shared leadership
- Shelter is sub-standard (critical shelter) e.g. tents, improvised shelters, unfinished buildings, or buildings not meant for living in e.g. schools, mosques
- Facilities in the site are likely sub-standard. Families share basic public/communal services and facilities, e.g. WASH facilities.
- Government authorities have not assumed responsibility for management and administration
- Services and assistance are delivered collectively, and even if available are not provided regularly
- Land use is conflicting, or not in line with, the land use for the location as defined by approved urban master plans and/or detailed plans, if any
- Degraded urban environment

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[1] Less than 5HH living collectively are not considered to be an informal site, although the families may also be living in critical shelter and in need of humanitarian assistance, The CCCM Cluster recommends CCCM interventions when >30HHs are living collectively, although this depends on context (e.g. multiple smaller sites in a small geographic area).

[2] In general, IDP informal sites are on squatted land, without formal rental agreements in place (although verbal agreements may be made) and living in 'critical shelter'

2. Informal site type definitions

Informal site type	Definition	Illustration
Informal settlement	- Displaced population settled in a location often spontaneously, - Open air or inside (unfinished) buildings - Often privately owned locations, with usually no formal (written) agreement between the displaced population and the owner (building or landowner, local authorities, and/or host community) - Basic services are usually not provided at the site. - In rural situations, where families are establishing their own shelters, this includes displaced population settling immediately together or scattered over a wider area. - E.g. unfinished apartment building, settlement of makeshift shelters	
Informal Collective Centre	- Designated pre-existing facility or structure where infrastructure and basic services are provided - A building or set of buildings - Usually publicly owned, or serving a public purpose e.g. school, mosque - Pre-existing management setup that may also be actively engaged with the IDP families, e.g. mosque leadership	

3. Informal site characteristics

The following outlines potential different attributes (characteristics) of informal sites, demonstrating the diversity of informal sites and designed to help support understanding of site dynamics in order to inform appropriate humanitarian response.

Categories	Mandatory	Options	Definition
Profile of the Population	X	• Post-2014 IDPs first displacement • Post-2014 IDPs secondarily displaced • Mixed (post-2014 IDPs, pre-2014 IDPs, host community)	• **Mixed**: combination of the population groups. It is recommended to disaggregated by group for its analysis and provision of assistance.
Density	X	• Clustered • Single	• **Clustered**: a group of sites in the same geographic area that function as a community • **Single**: one site, functioning by its own not linked to another site
Geographic Context	X	• Urban • Peri-urban • Rural	• **Peri-urban**: An area between consolidated urban and rural regions *(UNICEF definition)*
Ownership (Housing Land Property rights)[3]		• Privately owned • Public-state / government / local authorities • Religious authorities • Other (specify)	• **Privately owned:** The land is owned by a Iraqi citizen that may have given the permission to the displaced population to stay, although likely without a formal (written) rental agreement • **Public state / government /local authorities' property:** educational and health facilities, public transport structures (e.g. train station) • **Religious authorities' property:** Mosque, church or any other building related to religious authorities **Note: Importance to consider and track any risk of eviction arising from the Housing, Land & Property situation: Lack of tenancy agreement, Inability to pay rent, Landlord reclaiming the building or land, Decision or pressure from the authorities, Decision or pressure from armed actors, Social tensions with the host community[4]*
Length of site duration		• Short-term • Medium-term • Long-term • Protracted displacement	The length of the site duration is considered from the time it was formed. Complemented by category of length of families' residence. • **Short-term** is considered 3 months or less (emergency situations) • **Medium-term**: more than 3 months but less than 12months • **Long-term**: more than 12 months • **Protracted displacement:** 3 years or more

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[3] A simplified summary of land ownership categories in Iraq. See CCCM Cluster and HLP Sub-Cluster *"Q&A note on HLP concerns for CCCM organizations in Informal Sites in Iraq"*
[4] See the CCCM Cluster and HLP Sub-Cluster *"Q&A note on HLP concerns for CCCM organizations working in Informal Sites in Iraq"*

			Note: As per Iraq HRP, only population displaced after 2014 is considered by the CCCM Cluster for intervention.
Shelter type	X	• Religious building • School building • Unfinished/Abandoned building[5] • Non-residential structure (garage, farm building, shop, etc.) ** • Tents, makeshift shelters or other emergency/temporary shelters (e.g. caravans, RHUs…) ** • Other types of public building	In the case of **non-residential structures** and **emergency/temporary shelters**, following the Informal Sites Definition, there is a need of at least 5HH sharing services living in this type of structures to be considered a site. The other listed typologies can be considered a de facto informal site due to the size, capacity and shape of the building and infrastructures related to them. *Consult the guidance notes of the Iraq Shelter/NFI Cluster [LINKS]:* • *Guidance Note: Defining Adequacy of Shelter* • *Shelter Unfinished and Abandoned Buildings Guidance Note* • *Technical Guidance for Unfinished and Abandoned Buildings v12*

Other elements to consider for implementation that do not directly define the type of settlement.

Access to basic services	X	• In site • Around the site, less than 5km • None	*Note: It is recommended to identify the differences between formal and informal access to services by the site residents. E.g.: electricity grid connection recognized by the authorities or self-connected by the IDPs.*
Site leadership structure		• Recognized site leadership, conducting liaison/advocacy with local authorities • Recognized site leadership but not linked to local authorities • No recognized site leadership	This attribute is directly related to the definition of clustered and single informal sites, for a group of sites to be considered a cluster it is a mandatory condition that there is a common leadership recognition among the sites and they work with the sense of a unique community.
Length of families' residence in the site		• Short-term • Medium-term • Long-term • Protracted • Mixed	Length of time that families have been resident in the site. May differ from 'length of site duration', being how long the site itself has been open, if if families are moving in and out of the site. • **Short-term:** 3 months or less (emergency situations) • **Medium-term**: more than 3 months but less than 12 months • **Long-term**: more than 12 months • **Protracted displacement:** 3 years or more • **Mixed duration of residence**

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[5] Abandoned buildings, projected with the purpose of being residential or not, are those constructions without owners permanently living on it. The construction works of the building can be finalized or not. The Unfinished buildings taken by IDPs as their temporary residency are a subcategory of abandoned buildings, highlighted on the document due to the unsafe conditions in which IDPs are leaving.

4. Examples of applying informal site characteristics

Type	Characteristics	Visual examples
Informal settlement	• <u>Profile:</u> First displacement • <u>Density:</u> Clustered • <u>Geographic Context</u>: Peri-urban • <u>Ownership:</u> Privately owned • <u>Length of site duration</u>: Long-term • <u>Shelter type</u>: Tents and makeshift shelters • <u>Access to basic services</u>: Around the site, less than 5km – Formal services • <u>Site leadership structure</u>: Recognized site leadership, conducting liaison/advocacy with local authorities	 *Figure 1: Anbar/IOM-DTM* *Figure 2: Dohuk/ACTED*
Informal settlement	• <u>Profile:</u> Secondarily displaced IDPs • <u>Density:</u> Clustered • <u>Geographic Context</u>: Peri-urban • <u>Ownership:</u> Public-state / government / local authorities • <u>Length of site duration</u>: Medium-term • <u>Shelter type</u>: Unfinished / Abandoned building (UAB) • <u>Access to basic services</u>: None – Informal services (electricity, water) • <u>Site leadership structure</u>: No recognized site leadership	 *Figure 3: Anbar / CCCM Cluster*

Informal Collective Centre	- Profile: IDPs in first displacement - Density: Single - Geographic Context: Urban - Ownership: Public-state / government / local authorities - Length of site duration: Medium-term - Shelter criticality and type: School building - Access to basic services: Around the site, less than 5km - Site leadership structure: Recognized site leadership, conducting liaison/advocacy with local authorities	*Figure 4: SAD/Blumont* *Figure 5: Maysan/ IOM-DTM* *Figure 6: Baghdad/IOM-DTM*

5. Example application of the framework:

Settlement ID	Settlement Name	Settlement type	Profile of the Population	Density	Geographic Context	Ownership (HLP)	Length of site duration	Shelter type	Access to basic services	Site leadership structure	# IDPs (indv)	# Returnees (indv)
ID_0001	Road km.1 site	Informal settlement	Mixed	Cluster	Peri-urban	Privately owned	medium-term	Tents	None	No unique leadership	350	100
ID_0002	Primary School A	Informal Collective centre	IDPs in first displacement	Single	Urban	Public-state / government / local authorities	long-term	School building	Around the site, less than 5km	Unify leadership & advocacy with local authorities	200	-

6. CCCM Activities for implementation in Informal Sites

For CCCM interventions, the site typology and characteristics should be used to inform how activities are planned and implemented. The following list is a non-extensive list of main CCCM activities to implement in Informal Sites in Iraq. Depending on the site type and characteristics, other activities may be added and some not included.

See: *CCCM Cluster Iraq note - transitional approaches for informal sites November 2019* for further expansion on CCCM approach in Iraq since 2016.

- **Needs assessments (CCCM Cluster tools: Rapid RASP and full-length RASP)**
- Population overview (site figures)
- 4Ws and service mapping (depending on site population can be site or area specific)
- **Identification of community focal points and establishing and/or supporting community committees for community ownership towards self-governance purposes,** consider an emphasised focus on both host and IDP community relations and capacity building under local municipalities (local governance/ Baladias).
- **Establish and/or maintain basic site safety through basic infrastructure improvements and, in case of larger sites, the set-up of site safety and maintenance committees.** Through, when possible, cash-for-work interventions.
- Service access and delivery monitoring and bi-lateral coordination with humanitarian actors and/or relevant Clusters
- **Advocacy and referrals (including related to Housing, Land and Property rights)**
- Community outreach campaigns including related to risk mitigation
- Awareness sessions/capacity building (firefighting, first aid, PSS, Health)

Those activities highlighted on the list are those identified by partners as critical to be considered part of the CCCM portfolio in Iraq.