BACKGROUND

The information used in this assessment was gathered from reports done by the Returns Task Force. The documented HLP incidents fall under five main types of violations related to the Pinheiro Principles:

a. Destruction: the actual physical damage or destruction of housing, land and property as a result of the conflict (Principle 2.1 on 'the right to housing and property restitution').

b. Eviction from origin or from place of displacement as a denial of basic right to adequate housing property (Principle 5 on ‘the right to be protected from displacement’).

c. Confiscation or the expropriation of land, housing or property (Principle 5 on ‘the right to be protected from displacement’).

d. Lack of compensation related to the right to full and effective compensation as an integral component of the restitution process (Principle 2.1 and 2.2 on ‘the right to housing and property restitution’, and especially Principle 21 on ‘compensation’).

The assessment covers HLP violations reported in the five main governorates: Anbar, Diyala, Kirkuk, Nineveh, and Salah Aldin.

HLP CONTEXT IN IRAQ

The current conflict in northern and central Iraq has resulted in the displacement of millions of individuals, each of whom have reported one or more HLP incidents.

Definition of five main types of violations is as follows:

- **Destruction**
  In areas affected by conflict, unlawful destruction of properties, burning of land, and the systematic looting of homes and properties constitute a violation of HLP rights.

- **Eviction from Origin/Denied Returns**
  Communities that have experienced high levels of violence tend to have discriminatory trends against those who do not share the same religious/sectarian/social backgrounds on the ground that they are/were enemy sympathizers. These trends could be of two kinds relating to eviction. On one hand, local communities make it clear that certain families are not welcomed in the village/city, and force unwelcomed residents to leave there houses and properties and seek new areas to live in order to ‘cleanse’ their area from the said sympathizers. On the other hand, residents of an area are denied return to their area of origin and access to their properties on the ground that they are/were enemy sympathizers.

- **Property Compensation /Confiscation**
  Property restitution and confiscation are often interlinked in newly liberated areas. The absence of property restitution makes it difficult for suspected sympathizing families to return to their homes due to the fact that victims of the hostilities do not believe justice has been served. In other words, certain local groups would begin to confiscate the properties of the suspected sympathizers, and provide them as compensation for victims of the hostilities. Although there is a direct link between the two, compensation and confiscation are not necessarily interlinked.

1 These reports is a compilation of information received from various UN partners, UNAMI’s Office of Political Affairs, UN-Habitat, IOM, OCHA, UNDR, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP and WHO.