

SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN IRAQ 2003-2018: A MAPPING REPORT



General Context

1

Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) is strongly linked to the widespread use of violence within the country, be it in the state's relationship with society or in relationships within society itself



2

Lawlessness and recurring armed conflicts have undermined the mechanisms in place for protecting women, which were already inadequate and unable to protect them in peacetime, amid a widespread 'victim-blaming' mentality



3

Conflicts in Iraq not only fostered an enabling environment for violence, but also saw various parties use SGBV against women and girls as a means for imposing political agendas and a justification for the destruction of their adversaries.



4

Discrimination, a lack of gender equality and equity, and the stereotyping of gender roles in relation to family, society, and the law, are among the main factors that fuel the existence and persistence of sexual violence, both in peacetime and in war.



Aim of the Report

In the clear absence of gender-sensitive data, particularly data dealing with taboo issues such as sexual violence, this mapping report seeks to address this gap and shed light on the general contexts in which SGBV crimes and violations are increasingly perpetrated.

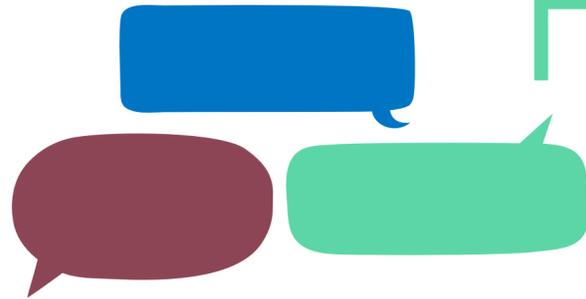
The mapping exercise also seeks to identify the most common patterns (and locations) in which these violations are committed and their root causes, as well as the general profiles of perpetrators.



Report Methodology



Information gathered from published reports

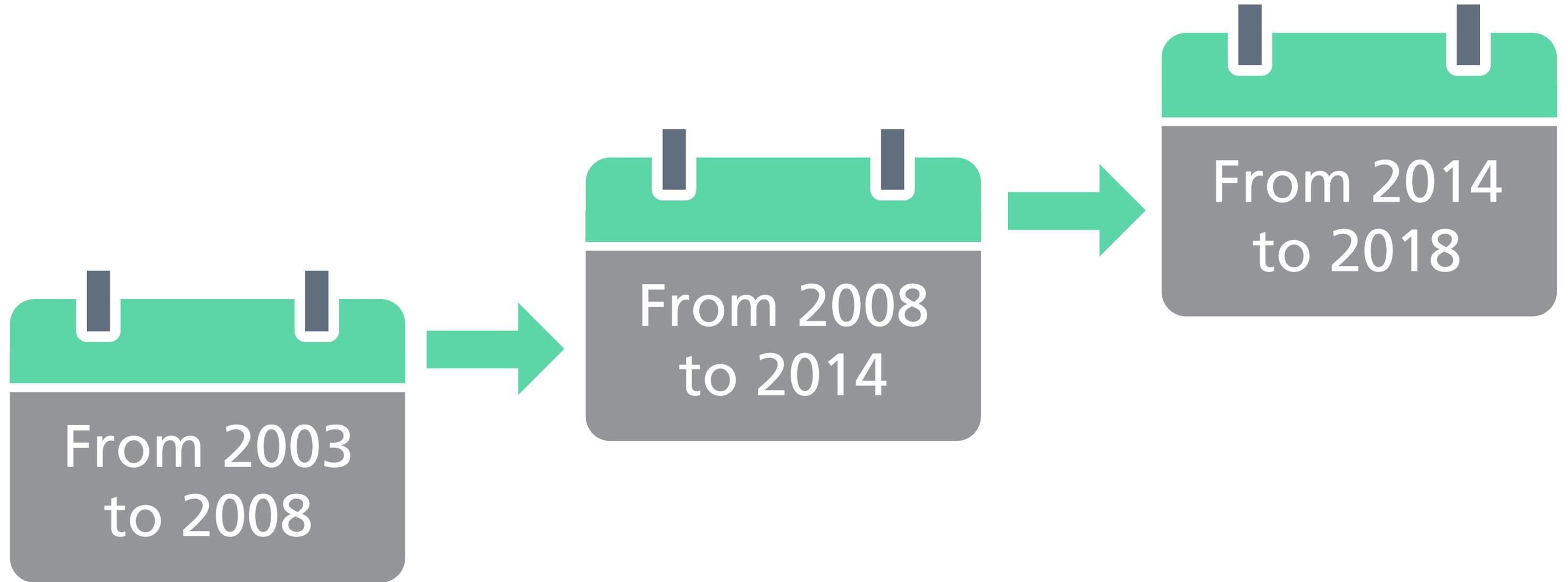


Direct testimonies obtained during interviews with survivors, as well as researchers and activists working alongside them

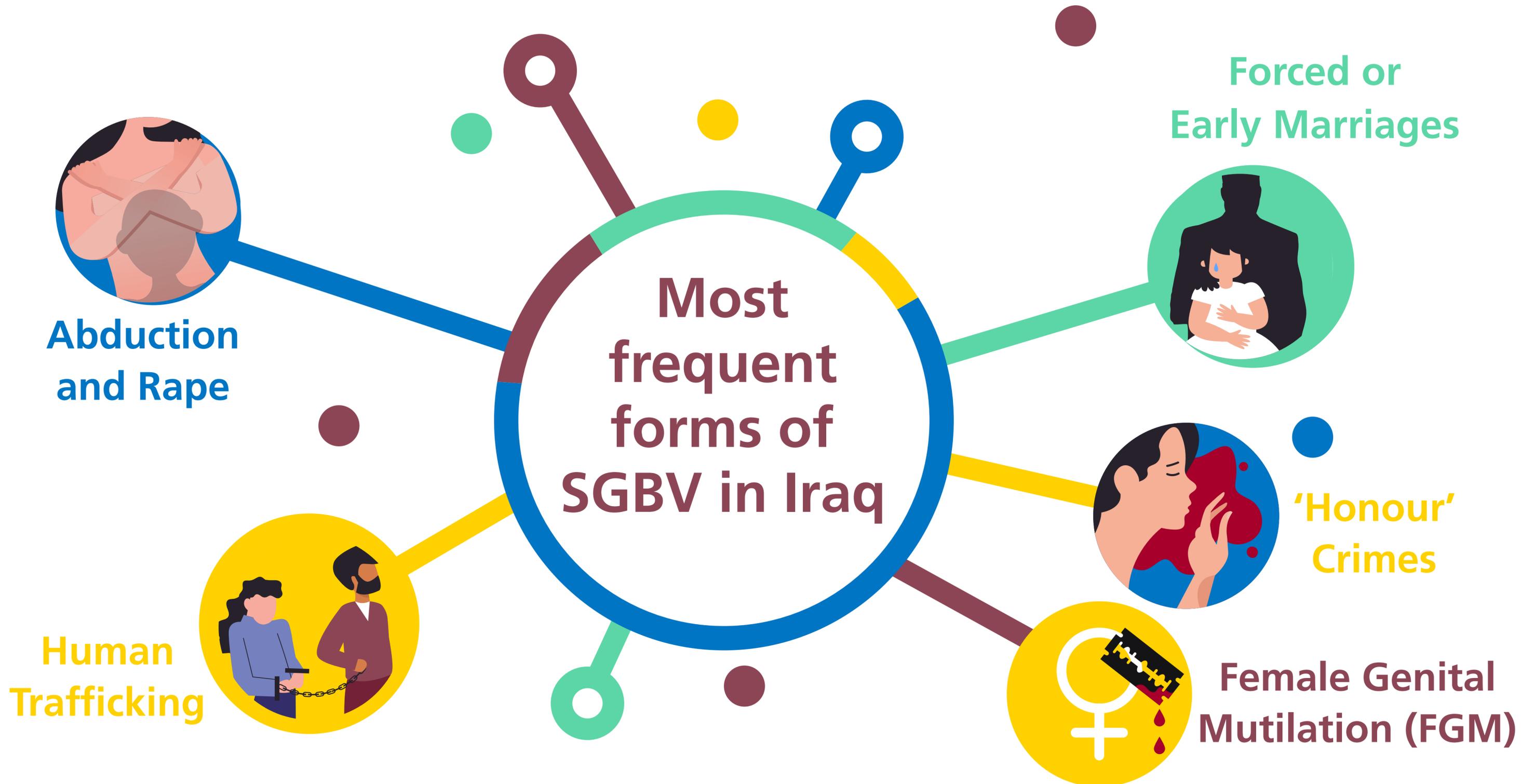


**Focus group discussions in 4 governorates:
Baghdad, Basra, Salah El Din, Kirkuk**

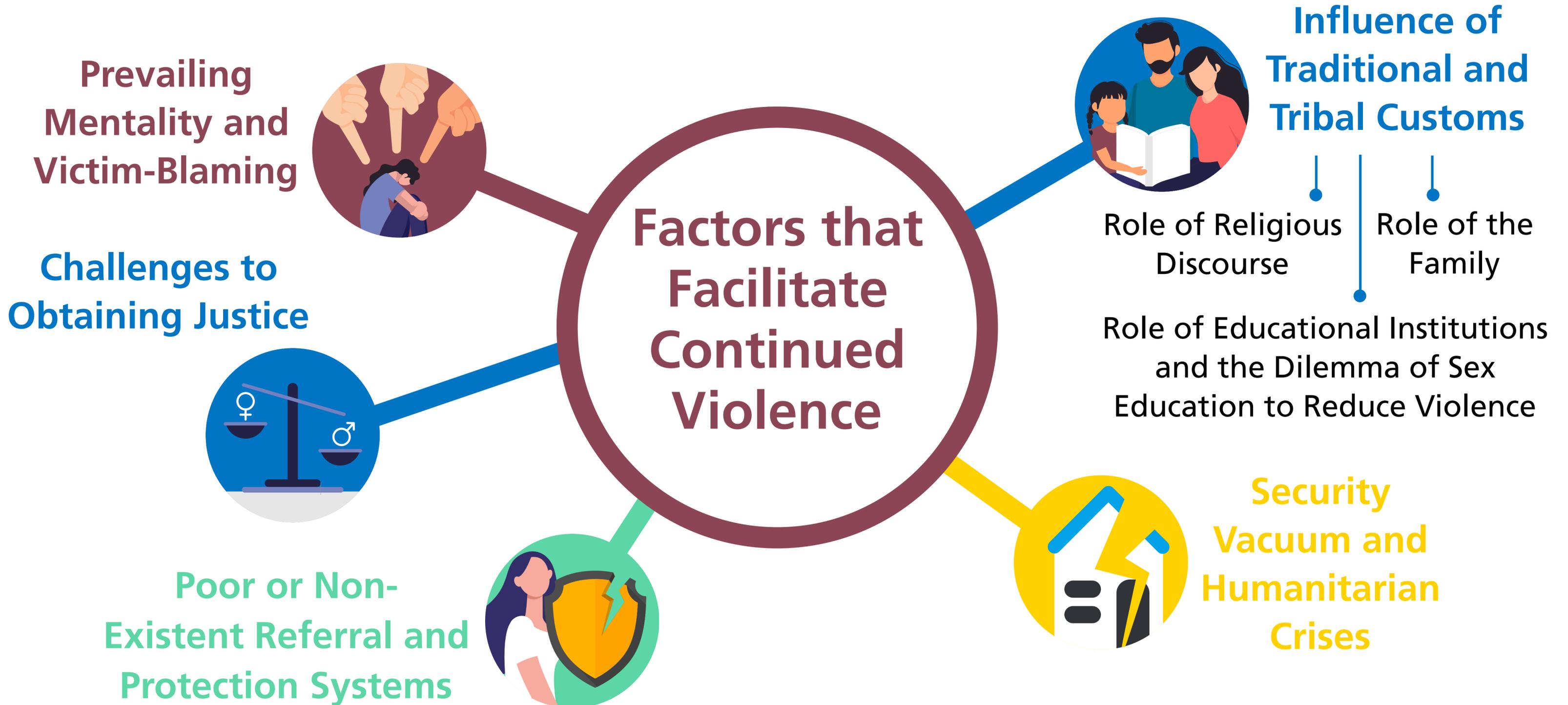
The mapping exercise covers three periods



Findings of the report



Findings of the report

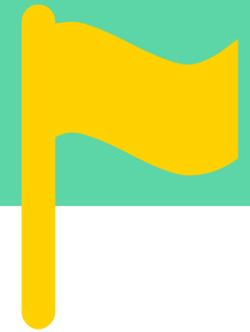


Findings of the report



Many Iraqi laws still enshrine discriminatory practices against women and girls and include many loopholes that limit the ability of SGBV victims to obtain justice

Recommendations to the Iraqi Government



- Review, reform, and strengthening of the legal system
- Development of accountability and reparation frameworks for victims
- Observing objective international standards to ensure fair trials and to protect victims
- Development of procedures and measures to protect survivors
- Ensuring training and capacity building of medical staff and psychologists to provide support for the survivors
- Providing rehabilitation and reintegration programs for survivors
- Development of specialised training programmes for judges, public prosecutors, and law enforcement officers on gender
- Amending school curricula and adopting an educational policy that is open to the principles of human rights, women's rights, and gender sensitivity

Recommendations to Iraqi CSOs



- Facilitate the establishment of support networks within local communities for women subjected to SGBV and other forms of violence
- Maintain and expand efforts to document SGBV and other forms of violence against women. 📄
- Provide training to judicial officials, security personnel, and police officers on ways to deal with SGBV cases
- Work with judicial, legislative, and security institutions to review policies, strategies, and legal provisions that mitigate penalties and uphold impunity for perpetrators.

Recommendations to the international community



- Encourage Iraq to ratify the Rome Statute of the ICC as well as other international human rights treaties that Iraq has not yet ratified.