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Introduction

- **11%** of the world population are food insecure (WFP Live Map 2021).
- The status of the most vulnerable population groups is likely to deteriorate further due to the **COVID-19** pandemic impacts (FAO 2020).

In Iraq:

- **5%** of the population are severely food insecure (WFP 2021).
- **23.6%** of the population have chronic hunger (WFP 2021).
- Poverty rate in Iraq is 31% and in Kurdistan Region is 22% (Stiftung 2020).

Aims of the study

1. Documenting **household food security** status in both rural and urban areas inhabited at the different altitudes.
2. Identifying the effects of **socio-economic** and **demographic** characteristics on household food security, mainly: gender, age, education, marital status, household size, dependency ratio, assets ownership (livestock, machinery, house, and land), income and the sources of income with the share.
3. Assessing the household's access to **drinking water** and **availability of water**; and the relationship between household food security and their access to **food market**.
4. Finding the impact of the **armed conflict** in some areas on household food security.
5. Addressing the degree of dependency of the households on the **"Public Distribution System"(PDS)** food items. Further, identifying the regularity in receiving the ration, ration items, and preferences between receiving cash or food ration.

Research questions	1. Where do the food insecure people live?
	2. What are the characteristics of the food insecure population?
	3. What are the main drivers of food insecurity in the area?
	4. Are the households in the conflict areas more vulnerable to food insecurity?
	5. To what extend the food ration from the Public Distribution System participates in household food consumption and food security?

Method

Conceptual framework

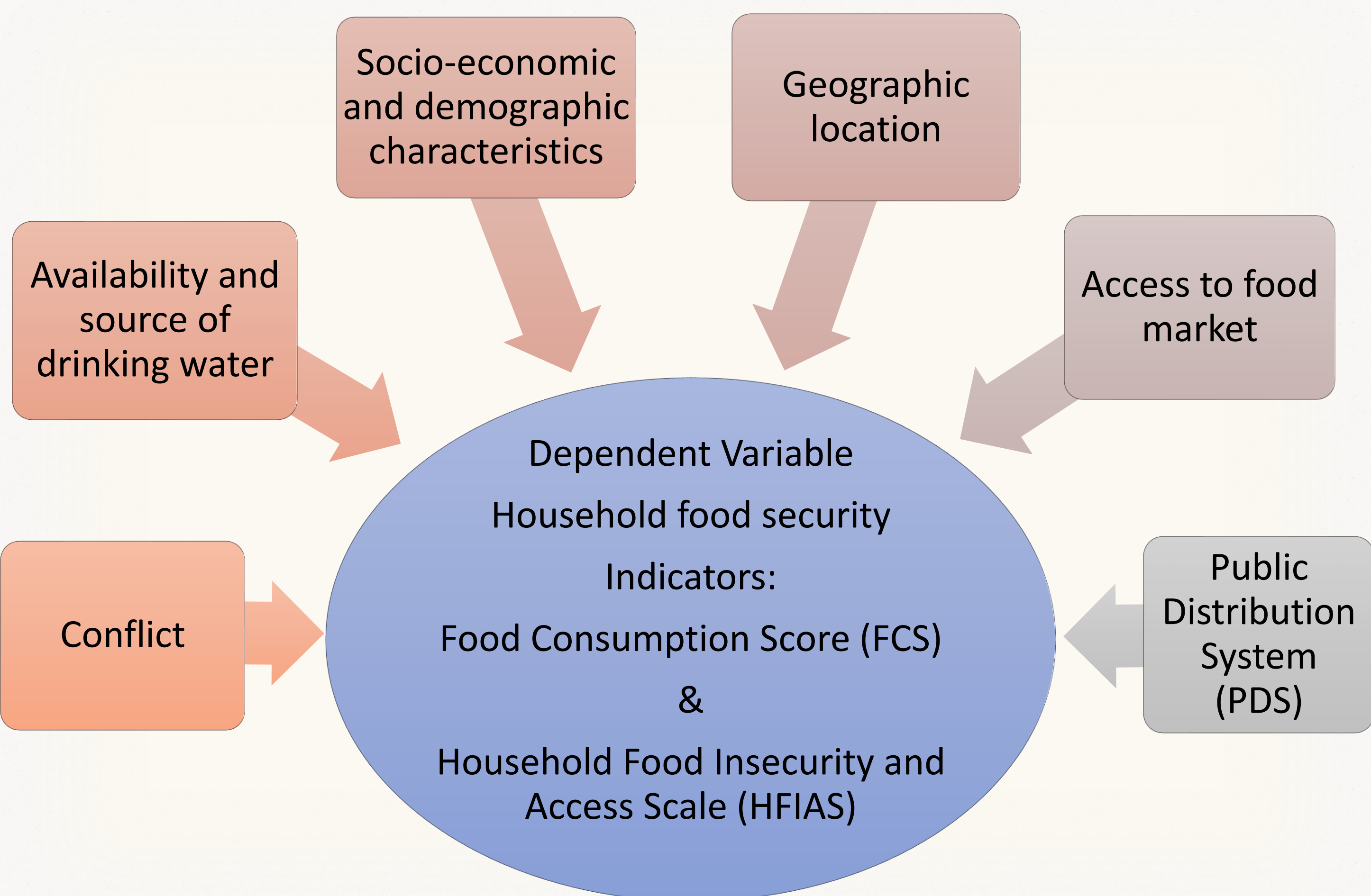


Figure (1): the diagram of the conceptual framework

Study site

Data has been collected during May and June 2021 in Sulaymaniyah Governorate located in the eastern part of Iraqi Kurdistan. Having a population of 2.1 million and an area of 20,143 km², containing 15 districts and 57 subdistricts (Kurdistan Region Statistics Office 2019).

Study site

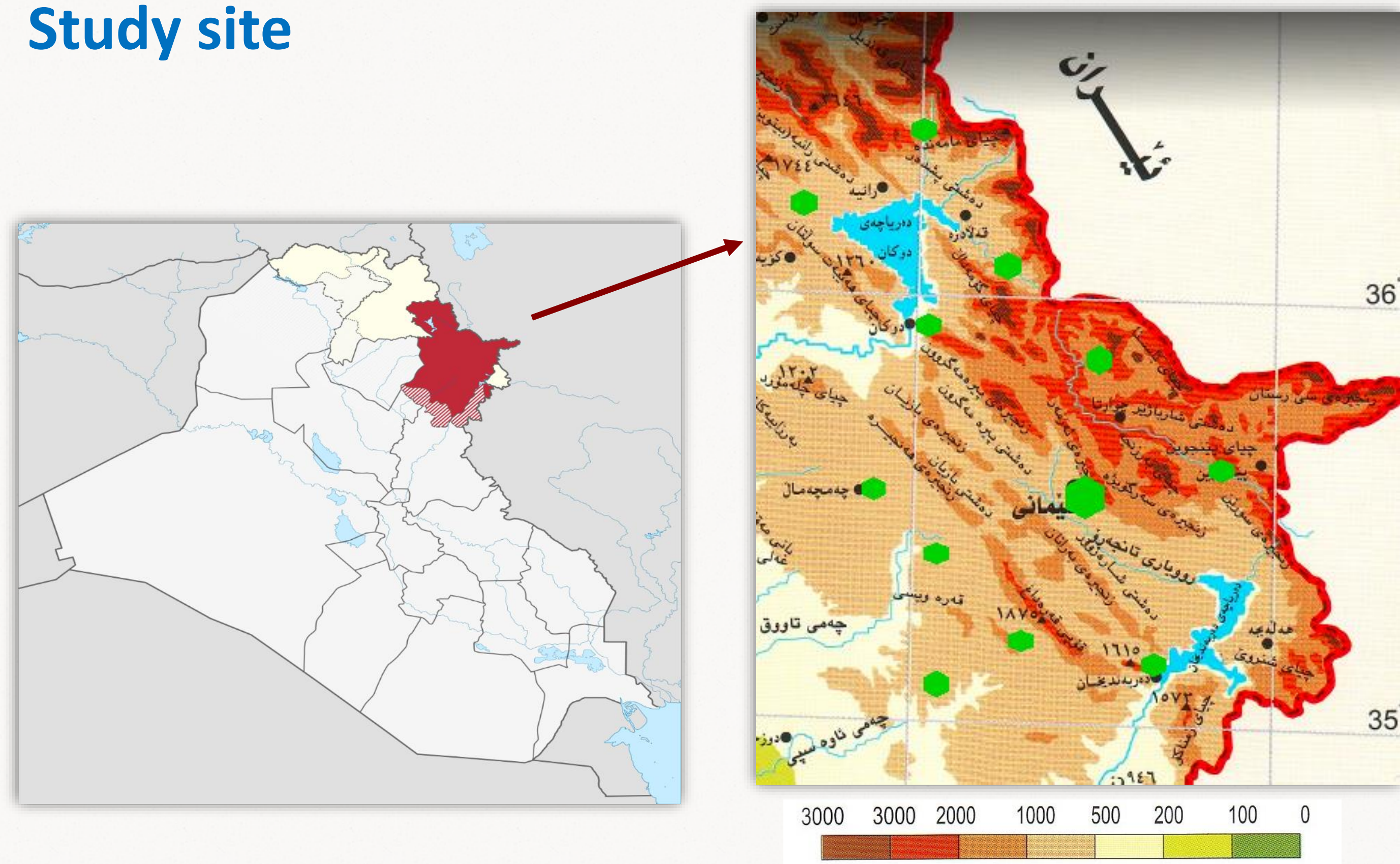
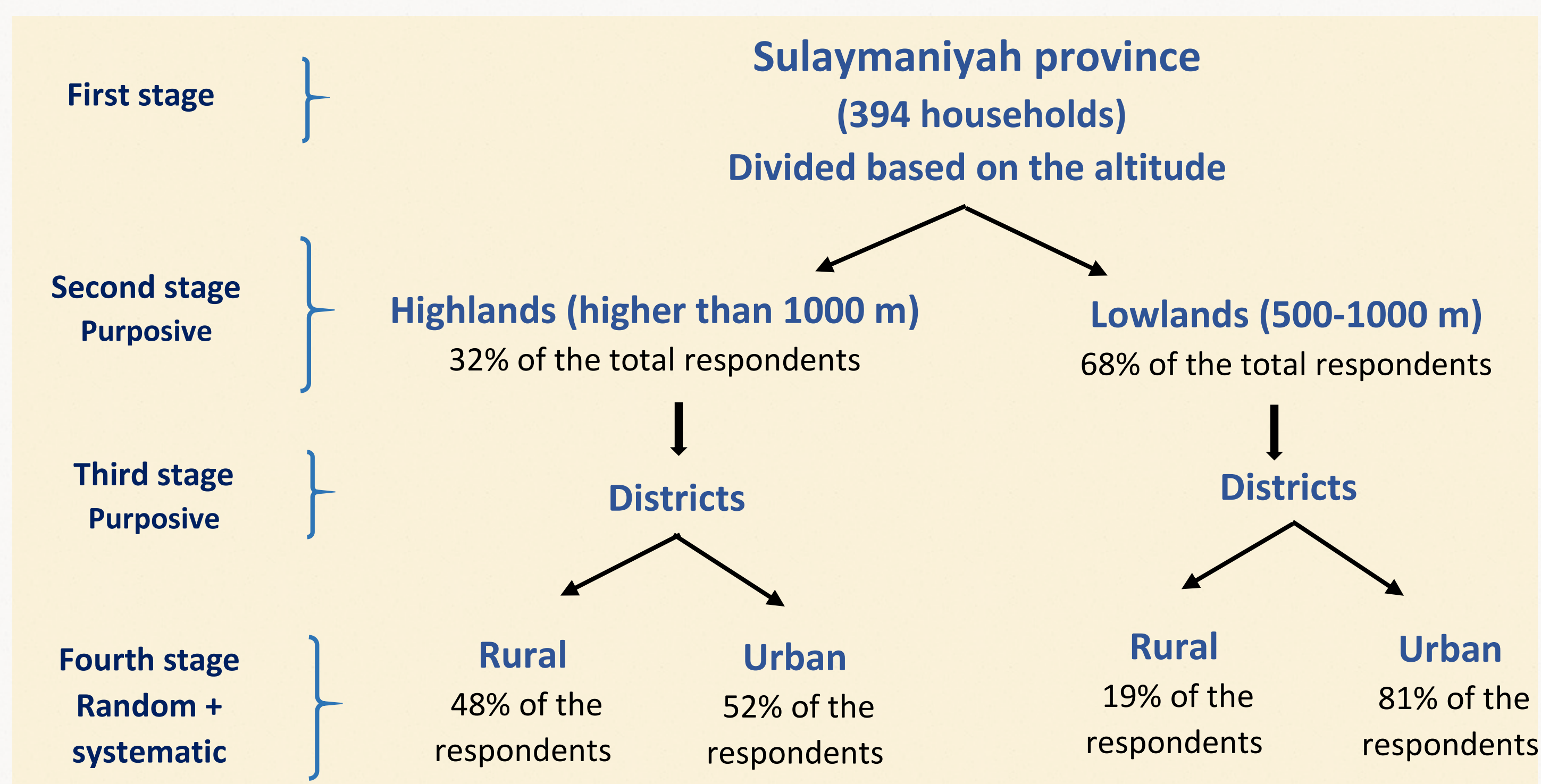


Figure (2): division of the study area according to the altitude (Sabir 2020).

*Green points are the sampling places.

Sampling

394 households has been interviewed using Multistage Sampling with a combination of purposive and random sampling in the different stages was applied.



(Figure (3): the diagram of sampling techniques (Multistage sampling)

Photos from data collection



Further steps and the result contributions

- Data will be analysed using the **descriptive** and **inferential** statistics (Regression Models, Student's *t*-test and Chi-squared test).
- The results will determine the **geographic distribution** and **characteristics** of food insecure population and can be used as a tool by the aid organizations or government for a better targeting.
- The findings regarding the preferences and importance of the **Public Distribution System** for household food security can be used by the policymakers in the ongoing reforms of the system.

References

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