

Findings of the Household Assessments of Syrian Refugees in Host Communities

Sulaymaniyha Governorate

25 July 2013

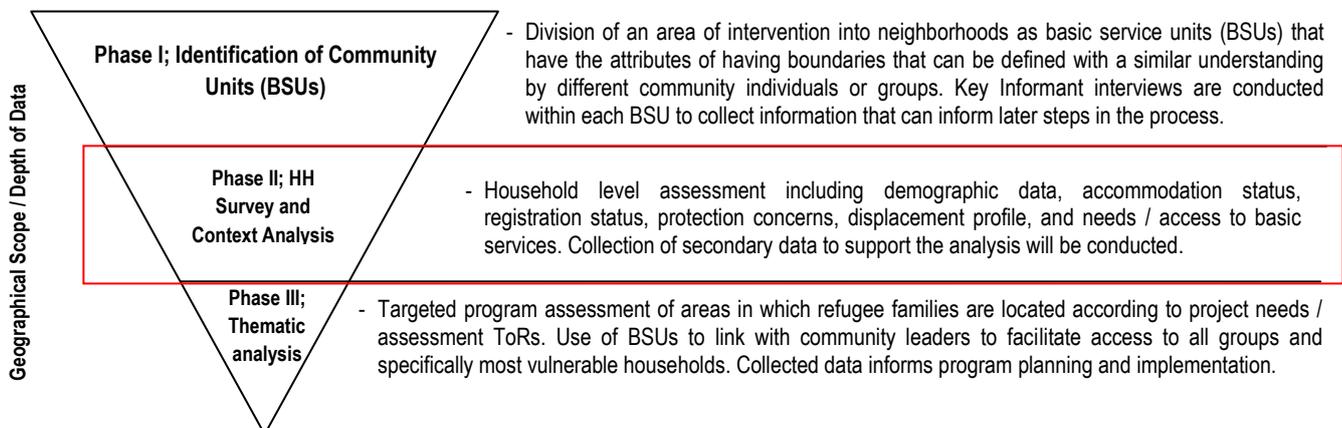
BACKGROUND

Of the over 1,863,113 Syrian refugees estimated in Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, Turkey and Egypt as of the of July 2013, 160,335 have registered with UNHCR in Iraq¹. In the Kurdistan region a number of factors including: (a) the onset of winter conditions; (b) a continuing influx of new refugee arrivals from Syria causing an increased stress on host community infrastructure and services; and (c) weakened coping mechanisms within refugee communities living in hosted conditions given the prolonged period of displacement; are causing increased pressure on individual refugee families, forcing many to be drawn towards the choice to either relocate towards the main refugee camp in Domiz, Dohuk Governorate, or consider a return to Syria. With the capacity of Domiz camp limited, there is a need for the humanitarian community to focus on support to refugees hosted within communities across Kurdistan. The major challenge for actors on the ground however lies in identifying the refugee families hosted in communities across villages and cities of Iraq, and accessing baseline information that would allow for a quicker and more effective targeting of resources necessary to launch relevant and timely responses.

The data presented in this factsheet represents the findings of household level interviews that were conducted in the host communities of Sulaymaniyha Governorate between March – May 2013. During this phase of the project, **1,987** displaced Syrian households, representing **5,014** individuals, were assessed. The household assessments focused on collecting five key sets of information from each households: 1. Household demographic data; 2. Registration card numbers; 3. Displacement profile; 4. Accommodation context; 5. Services and Needs. Additionally, assessment team leaders collected GPS data for each building housing Syrian refugee households in order to allow for the mapping of key data trends discovered through the analysis of collected data.

ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

REACH's assessment methodology is based on a three step approach to data collection that gradually sharpens the understanding of the context both in terms of geographical focus as well as depth of data, as shown in the figure below. The objective of this process is to provide humanitarian actors with information that allows for more informed decision-making with regards to their targeting of specific geographic locations or beneficiary group based on their programme planning needs; thus enabling better planning, coordination and traceability of aid. As such the REACH methodology (outlined in the figure below) focuses primarily on the geographic identification of refugees living in host communities and collects a core baseline of household specific information that enables the preparation of situational analyses. It is important to note that this represents a snap shot of the situation and is based on the self-perception of the interviewees.



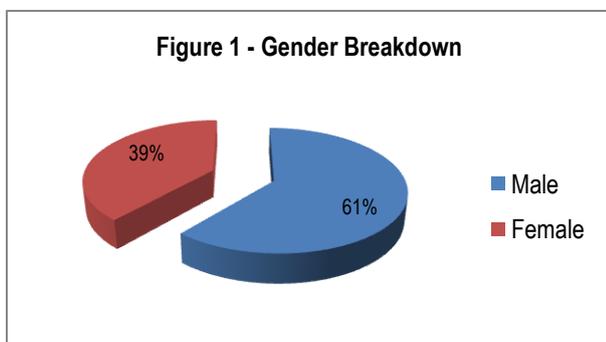
¹ <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/country.php?id=103>

KEY FINDINGS

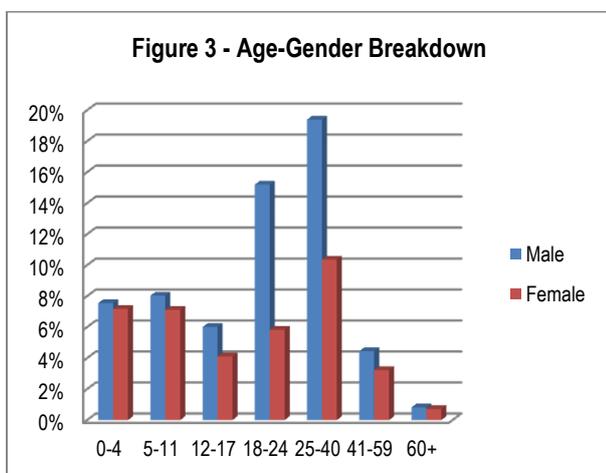
A total of **1,987** households were identified through the assessment in the Sulaymaniyha Governorate, representing approximately **5,014** individuals. The assessment was conducted in **92** neighborhoods (*mahala*) which were delineated to **102** BSUs. The BSUs, also known as *mahala*, take the form of the smallest community level delimited area, not always corresponding with geographical boundaries, which are identified and verified directly by the communities.

HOUSEHOLD PROFILE

The total population identified demonstrated a slight male majority representing **61%** of the total assessed. A total of **1,086** single men were identified, representing **22%** of assessed individuals.

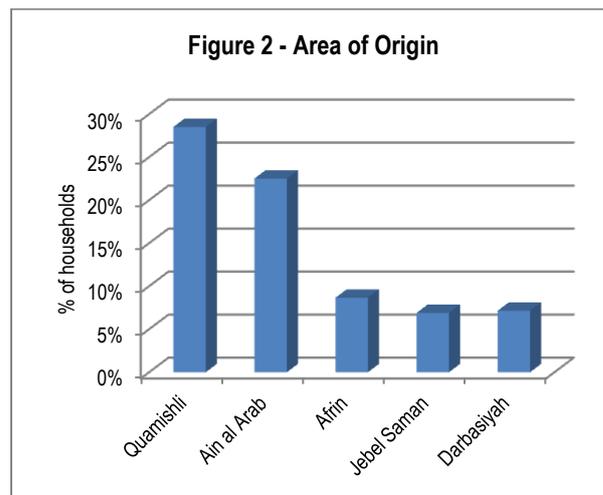


40% of individuals identified throughout the assessment were reported to be under the age of 18, of which **15%** were reported to younger than 5 years old. Overall, an almost equal gender breakdown can be observed; however, **15%** of identified males were aged between 18 and 24, compared to **6%** of women; and **19%** of males were between the age of 25 to 40, compared to **10%** of women.

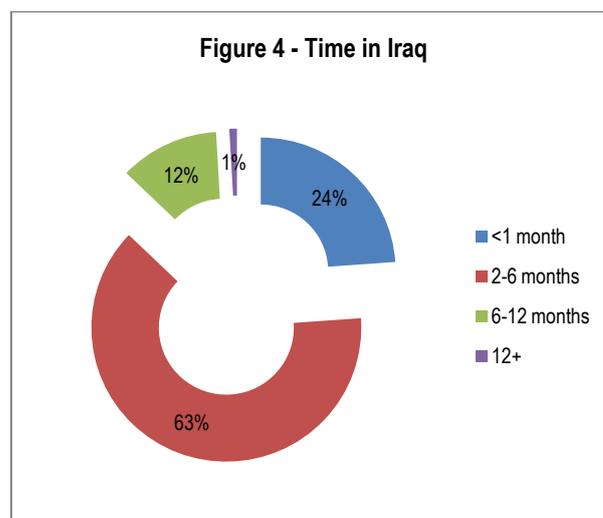


DISPLACEMENT PROFILE

The two main reported areas of origin for assessed households were the neighborhoods of Quamishli and Ain al Arab, **29%** and **23%** respectively. This considerable proportion of households that reported originating from aforementioned Syrian neighborhoods can be explained by the predominant Kurdish population in these locations. Additionally, a sizeable proportion of households now located in Sulaymaniyha Governorate originate from Afrin, **9%**, Jebel Saman, **7%**, and Darbasiyah, **7%**.



Of the households identified through the assessment, the majority, **63%**, reported that they had been in Iraq between 2 to 6 months. Almost a quarter of households, **24%**, reported they had been displaced from their area of origin recently and had been in Iraq less than a month, while **12%** of respondents indicated having been in Iraq between 6 to 12 months. Only a small proportion of households, **1%**, reported being in Iraq for a year or more.

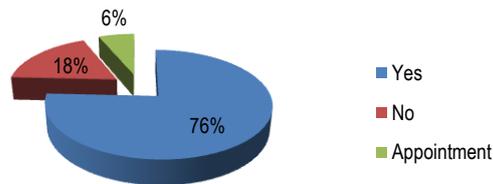


CONTEXT ANALYSIS WITHIN IRAQ

REGISTRATION STATUS

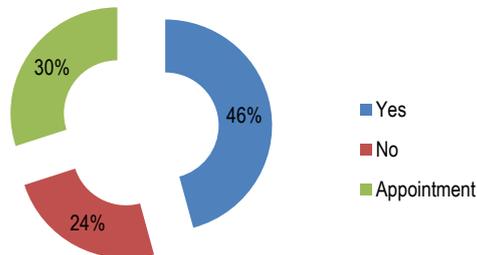
The vast majority of households, **76%**, reported that they were registered with UNHCR at the time of assessment. In addition to the **18%** of households that reported they were not registered with UNHCR, **6%** of households reported that they had a registration interview scheduled with UNHCR.

Figure 5 - UNHCR Registration



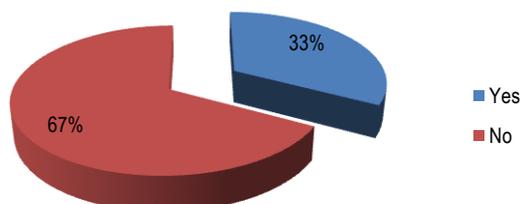
Only **46%** of assessed households indicated to possess a residency card; however, **30%** of households reported that they had an appointment scheduled. **24%** of households indicated they did not possess a residency card nor had an appointment to obtain one at the time of assessment.

Figure 6 - Possession of Residency Card



The majority of households, **67%**, reported they did not require assistance during the registration process. This proportion of individuals is significantly higher than in the other targeted Governorates in this assessment.

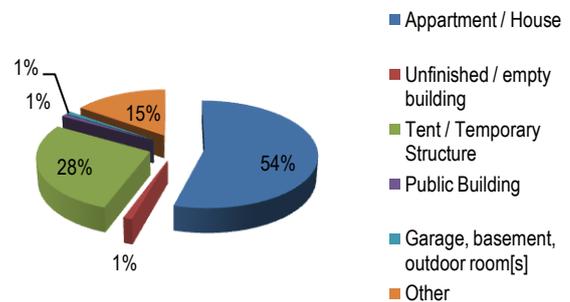
Figure 7 - Registration Assistance



SHELTER SITUATION

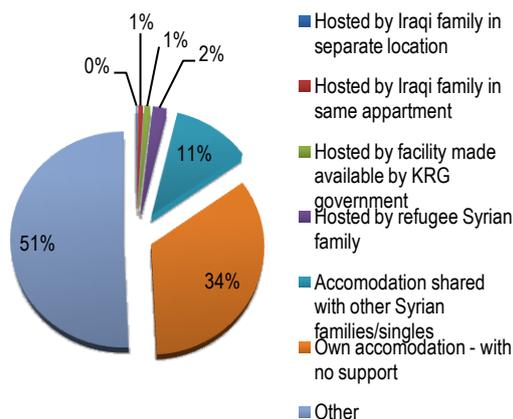
The majority of households identified in Sulaymaniyha Governorate, **54%**, were resident in apartments or houses at the time of assessment. Crucially, a significant proportion of households, **28%**, indicated that they were living in tents/temporary structures. Many of these households are located in the informal camp in the BSUs **Arbat, Ibrahim Ahmed, Shekhan, and Green Land**. Further assessments into the living conditions of households residing in tents/temporary structures is advisable, as this type of shelter often lacks basic services, such as latrines, water access and electricity.

Figure 8 - Shelter Type



In terms of shelter arrangement, the majority of households, **51%**, of households indicated "other" as their living arrangement during the assessment, which in most instances referred to accommodation being provided at the place of work. A considerable proportion of households, **34%**, reported that they were residing in their own accommodation and not receiving any support. In addition, **11%** of households reported to reside in an accommodation shared with other Syrian families/singles. A negligible proportion, **1%**, of households indicated they were resident in a facility made available by the KRG Government.

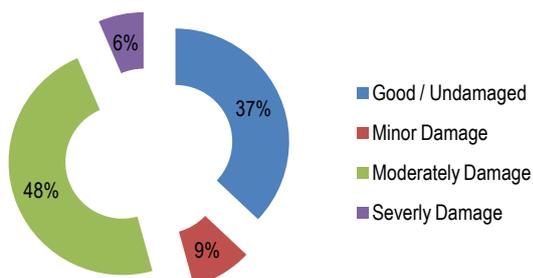
Figure 9 - Shelter Arrangement



32% of the respondents indicated that they did pay rent, with an average rent cost at 87,000IQD.

Almost half of all households identified throughout the assessment, 48%, described their accommodation as having moderate damage, whereas 37% of households described their accommodation as good/undamaged. 9% of households reported to reside in an accommodation with minor damage and 6% of households reported their accommodation to be severely damaged. It is important to note that these figures reflect the reported shelter condition of Syrian households and is based on their self-perception.

Figure 10 - Reported Accommodation Condition

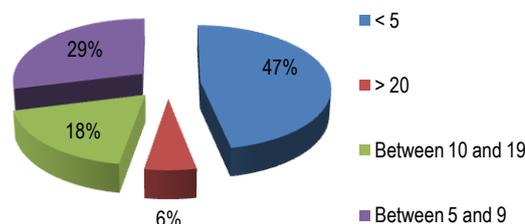


Furthermore, an overwhelming majority, 93% of respondents described their shelter as able to protect them from the elements.

Most commonly, households reported that the room they live in is shared with less than 5 individuals, 47%, while 29% of households indicated to share a room with 5 to 9 individuals. However, a significant proportion of households, 18%,

reported to share a room with 10 to 19 individuals, and 6% reported to share a room with over 20 individuals.

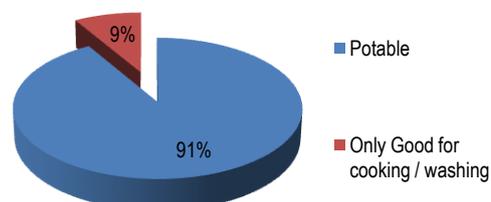
Figure 11 - Individuals per Room



WATER AND SANITATION

The majority of households, 91%, considered the water in their home as being potable, whereas 9% reported to consider the water quality good enough only for cooking and washing purposes. Interestingly, only 4 households reported the water to be contaminated.

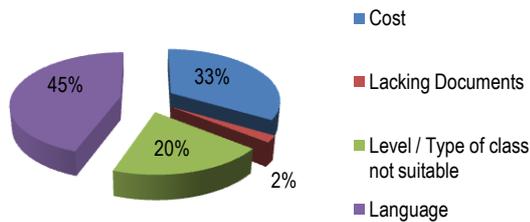
Figure 12 - Perceived Water Quality



EDUCATION

An alarming 77% of children were reported to not be enrolled in school at the time of assessment. When asked to provide a reason as to why children were not enrolled in school, most commonly reported was the language barrier, indicated by 45% of households who had children who were not attending school. Moreover, the cost of school and lack of documents were other main reported reasons, 33% and 20% respectively.

Figure 13 - Reasons for not Attending School



HEALTH

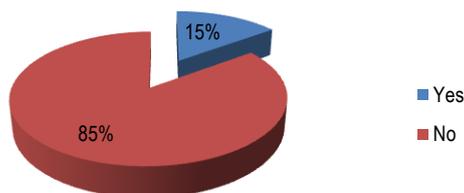
The REACH assessment teams identified **19 households** with physically handicapped family members, as well as **88 households** indicating that they had a family member suffering from a chronic disease.

Almost all respondents, **98%**, indicated that they have access to health care. As this number varies strongly between the assessed Governorates, more research on the provision of health care is required.

LIVELIHOODS AND EMPLOYMENT

The overwhelming majority of households, **85%**, reported that they did not have any family members who were employed at the time of assessment, while **15%** of households reported that they had at least one family member in employment. Furthermore, **36%** of households reported they had at least one family member looking for employment.

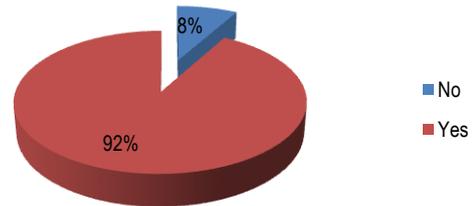
Figure 14 - Employment of Family Members



82% of households reported that their primary source of income was provided through daily/unskilled labor, while **15%** of households reported that their family had no source of income. **90%** of the employed were male.

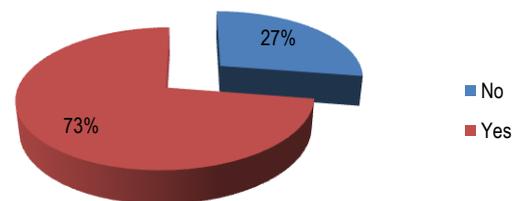
An overwhelming majority, **92%**, of households reported that in the week prior to the assessment, they had enough money to buy food for their family at the market.

Figure 15 - Food Security



When asked if the local markets were able to provide sufficient food for their families, **27%** of households responded negatively. Importantly, 18 neighborhoods that REACH assessment teams covered had over **50%** of their surveyed population respond that the local markets were not sufficient, these include, Arbat Camp, Garden City, Said Sadiq, and Tafan Villiage.

Figure 16 - Market Sufficiency

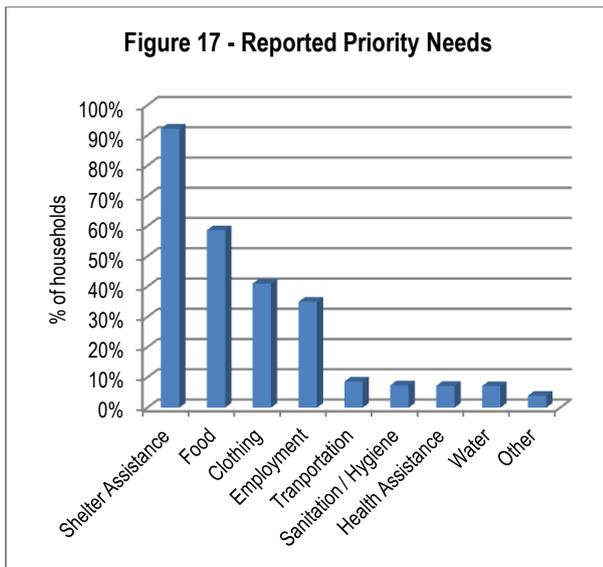


ASSISTANCE RECEIVED AND SELF-PERCEIVED NEEDS

35% of all households identified to be resident in Sulaymaniyha Governorate reported that they had received some kind of assistance since arriving in Iraq, whereas **65%** responded negatively.

By far, the main reported priority need of households identified throughout the assessment was shelter assistance, namely **92%**. In addition, food and clothing were selected by identified households as priority needs, respectively **59%** and **41%**. Furthermore, employment was reported by **35%** of households as their main priority needs. . It is important to note that the respondents could choose 3 options in no order of importance.

Figure 17 - Reported Priority Needs



COMMUNICATION

When asked "How do you find information about services available to you?", **98%** indicated that they relied on Syrian families for information. **97%** of the respondents indicated that they would speak to the police if faced with violence or threats.

REACH

REACH was formed in 2010 as a joint initiative of two INGOs (ACTED and IMPACT Initiatives) and a UN program (UNOSAT). The purpose of REACH is to promote and facilitate the development of information products that enhance the humanitarian community's capacity to make decisions and plan in emergency, reconstruction and development contexts.

At country level, REACH teams are deployed to countries experiencing emergencies or at-risk-of-crisis in order to facilitate interagency collection, organisation and dissemination of key humanitarian related information. Country-level deployments are conducted within the framework of partnerships with individual actors as well as aid coordination bodies, including UN agencies, clusters, inter-cluster initiatives, and other interagency initiatives.