

Findings of the Households Assessments of Syrian Refugees in Host Communities

Ajloon Governorate

8th March 2013

BACKGROUND

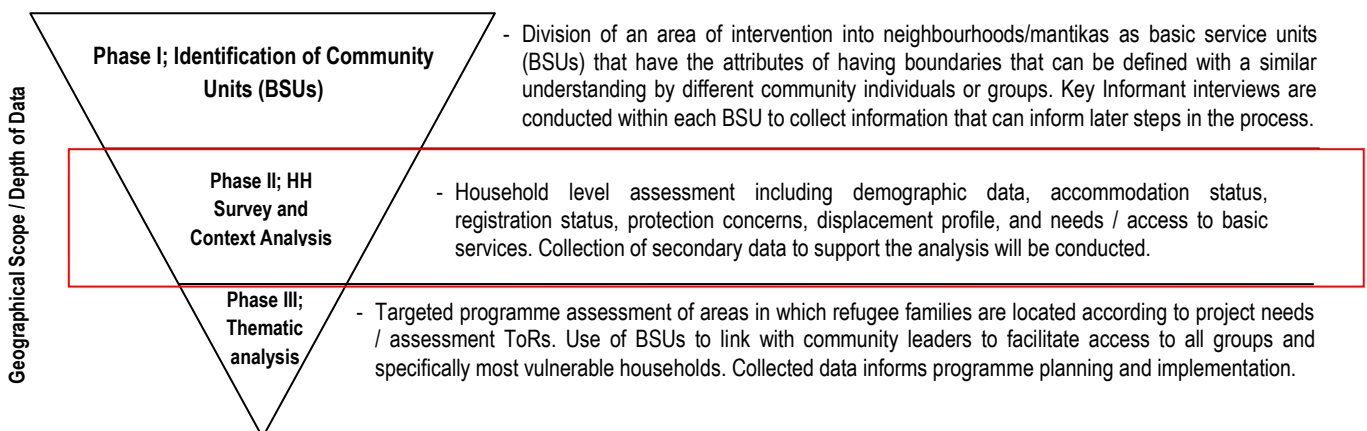
The continued crisis in Syria has caused a large influx of Syrians into Jordan, amounting to more than 271,855 refugees (UNHCR, 06.03.2013). According to UNHCR registration data, more than 90% have settled in Northern Jordan, as well as the urban and peri-urban centres of Amman and Zarqa, with the large majority of refugees settling within host communities.

Information management systems available to humanitarian actors have struggled to keep pace with the rapidly changing refugee context. With this in mind, REACH was deployed to Jordan in October 2012 in order to complement information management efforts undertaken by other humanitarian actors, notably by UN agencies, and to contribute towards addressing information gaps on Syrian refugees located in camps and host communities. By establishing a baseline dataset that includes key information on the geographical distribution, conditions and priority needs of Syrian refugees, REACH aims to ensure better planning, coordination and traceability of humanitarian aid.

The data presented in this factsheet represents the findings of household level interviews that were conducted in the host communities of Ajloon Governorate in February 2013. During this phase of the project, 750 displaced Syrian households, representing 3081 individuals, were assessed. The household assessments focused on collecting five key sets of information from each household: 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.



Key findings

A total of **750** households were identified as living in Ajloun governorate through the assessment, representing approximately **3081** individuals. Of these, 66 households (242 individuals) were settled in Ajloun city (the central urban area in the governorate area) and 684 households (2839 individuals) in rural areas. *Annex 1* shows the breakdown of individuals by BSU in Ajloun Governorate.

Household profile

The average size of households identified through the assessment was **4.1**, with an even split between males and females (**2** and **2.1** per household on average).

57% of individuals identified were reported to be under the age of 18, of which **19%** under the age of 5. Only **28%** of reported direct family members were aged between 25 and 59, indicating a high dependency ratio.

Table 1 – Age profile of displaced households¹

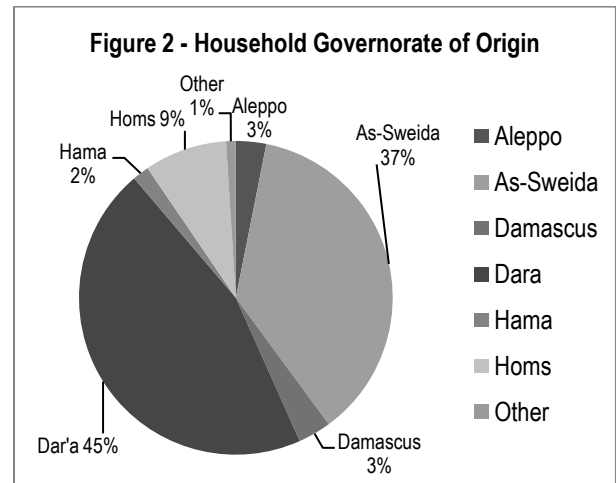
Age	Males	Females	Total %
Under 5	309	265	19%
5 to 11	370	296	22%
12 to 17	254	254	16%
18 to 24	136	211	11%
25 to 59	373	500	28%
over 60	51	64	4%
Total	1493	1590	100%

2.4% (18) of households reported having children under 18 with them who were part of their extended family but not directly related to them, no families reported having children under 18 with them who were not part of the family or extended family. A further **6% (45)** of households reported that a member of their household has a disability.

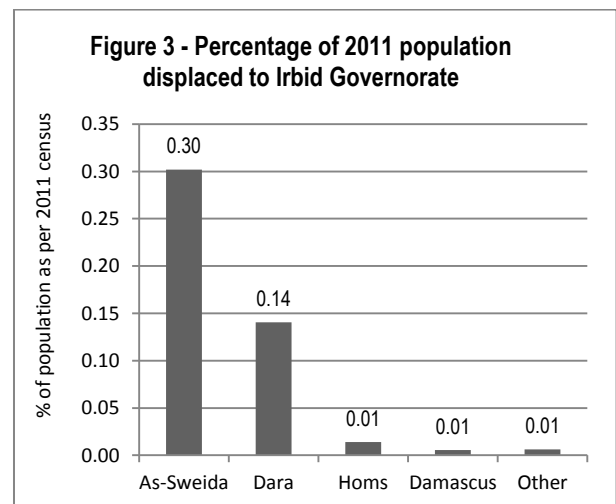
Displacement profile

The vast majority of households identified, **45%**, reported that they were originally displaced from the Syrian Governorate of Dar'a and **37%** from As-Sweida. Other Syrian Governorates from which a sizeable proportion of identified households originate include Homs, **9%**, Aleppo, **3%** and Damascus, **3%** and Hama, **2%**. Additionally, a very small number of households reported being displaced from the Governorates of Deri-ez-Zor, Idlib, Rural Damascus and Tarous,

representing less than **1%** of the total. The geographic spread of household origin covered 10 of the 14 governorates of Syria with the exception of Al Hassakeh, Quneitra, Ar-Raqqa and Lattakia. See *Annex 2* for area of origin by sub-district.



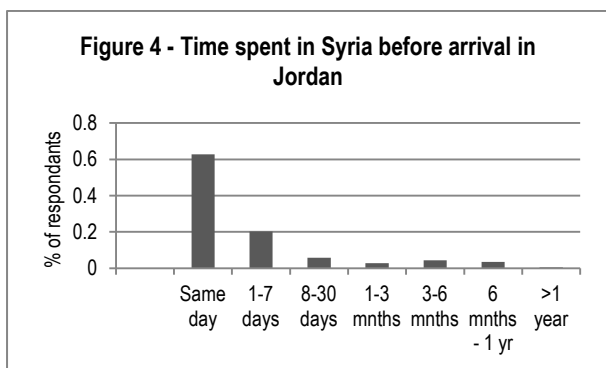
The Syrian Governorates of Dara and As-Sweida, geographically adjacent to Irbid Governorate, had overwhelmingly the largest population displacement rate into Ajloun of all Governorates in Syria at the time of the assessment. The number of displaced Syrian households in Ajloun reporting to be from As-Sweida represents **0.3%** of the population of As-Sweida as per the 2011 census (UNHCR, 2011) and Dara **0.14%** of the population of Dara. *Annex 3* maps this information.



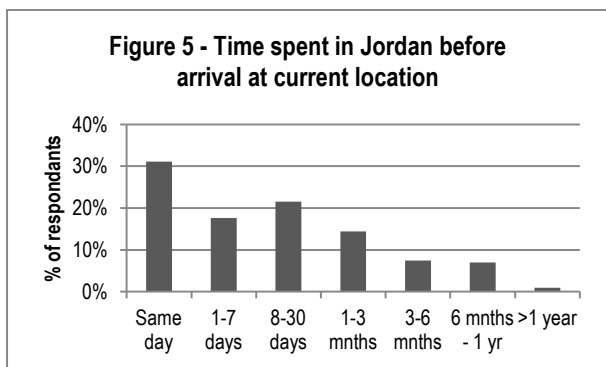
Of the households identified through the assessment, **70%** were displaced from their place of origin in 2012, with a further **25%** displaced during the first two months of 2013. The highest displacement rate amongst households took place in January 2013, when **19% (124)** of families currently resident in Ajloun Governorate left Syria. The third quarter of 2012 also saw large numbers of households leaving Syria, with **112** families (**17%** of those now resident in Ajloun) having

¹ Note: age breakdown of household was not answered by all respondents

left in August alone. **63%** of households arrived in Jordan on the same day that they had left their place of origin in Syria, with a further **26%** arriving within one month. This implies that the majority left the country promptly following initial displacement. Less than **5%** of households were displaced within Syria for more than 6 months.



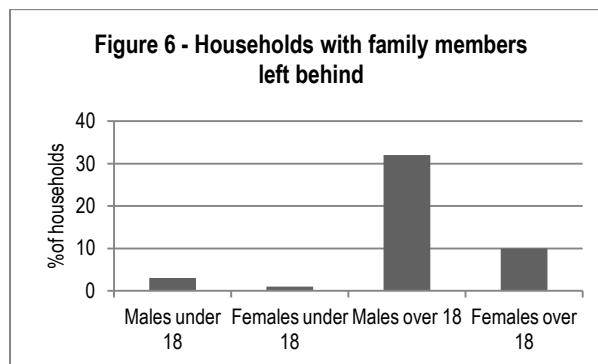
49% of Syrian households identified through the assessment reported that they arrived at their current location in Ajloun within 1 week of entering Jordan, of which **31%** reporting arrival in their current location on the same day. A considerable proportion of respondents, **43%**, reported that they had been present in Jordan for between one and six months before settling in Ajloun. Only a very small proportion, representing **1%** of the total, reported that they had been in Jordan for over a year before settling in Ajloun Governorate.



The majority of households reported that they travelled to Jordan with their complete family unit, **72%**. **36%** of households reported having direct family members left behind in Syria, of which **30%** reported that the absent family members would be joining them in Jordan within two months from the time of assessment, and a further **35%** unsure when the rest of their family would join them.

A very high proportion of households, **32%**, reported that male family members over the age of 18 were left behind in Syria at the time of assessment. Furthermore, a small number of households reported having females over 18 left behind in Syria, **11%**. In addition to those households with family members left behind in Syria, **12%** reported that family

members were residing outside either Jordan or Syria at the time of assessment.

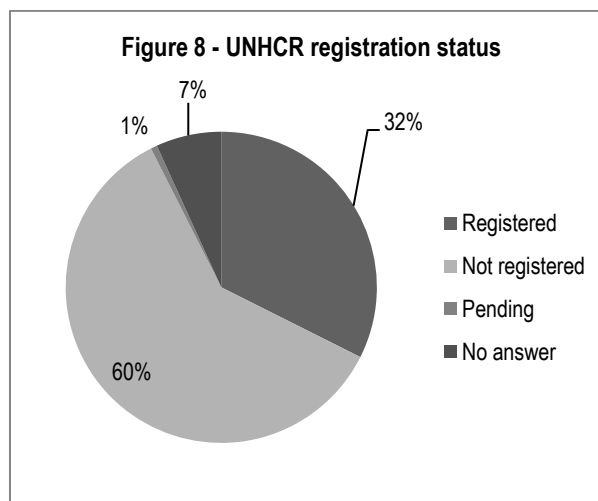


The large majority of respondents, **77%**, reported finding out about services available to them upon arrival in Jordan from other Syrian families, and **19%** reported finding out information from Jordanian families. The remaining **4%** received information from the local community and at UNHCR registration points.

Context analysis within Jordan

Registration status

Of the **750** households identified, **32%** (**243** households) reported being registered with UNHCR. Of the households that reported not being registered, only **1%** had a registration interview date schedule with UNHCR at the time of assessment. **5%** of households reported having a UNHCR ration card, suggesting that they have previously been resident in one of the camps.



A slightly higher proportion of identified households reported registration with an organization other than UNHCR. **34%** of respondents reported being registered with the Red Crescent, **25%** with a local organization, **12%** with a religious organization, and a further **6%** with an international

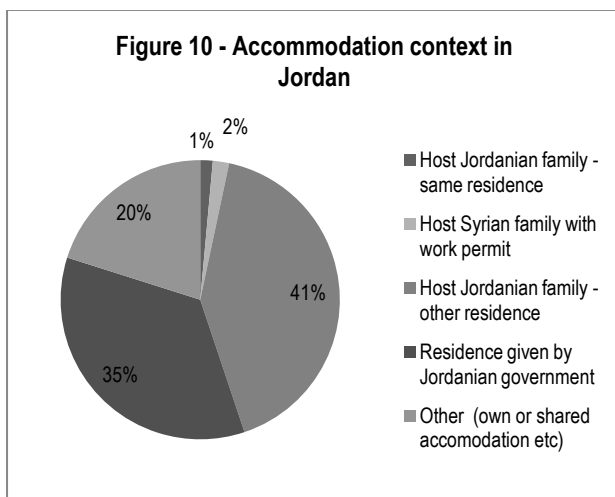
organization. Despite high levels of registration with both UNHCR and local organizations a considerable proportion of households reported that they were not registered with any organization.

Of these households the most commonly given reasons for not being registered with UNHCR or a local organization was a lack of knowledge of the registration process (34%), or that the respondent had just arrived (48%), and a small proportion of respondents stated safety concerns, or time and access issues. Only 1% of respondents reported that they did not wish to register.

Shelter situation

The vast majority of households, 99%, reported residency in an apartment or house at the time of assessment. 2 families were resident in tents or temporary structures, with a further 6 families residing in a garage or basement. 75% of households reported paying rent for their accommodation, with an average price of 94 JOD per month. Rental prices in urban areas were reported to be higher than in rural areas, 103 JOD compared to 92 JOD. See Annex 4 for the predominant shelter situation & Annex 5 for monthly rental costs per BSU.

While a significant proportion of Syrian households, 20%, reported that they had their own or shared accommodation with no support, in the majority of cases, 79%, it was reported by Syrian households to be supported by a host (either a Jordanian or Syrian family, or the Jordanian government, see breakdown below).

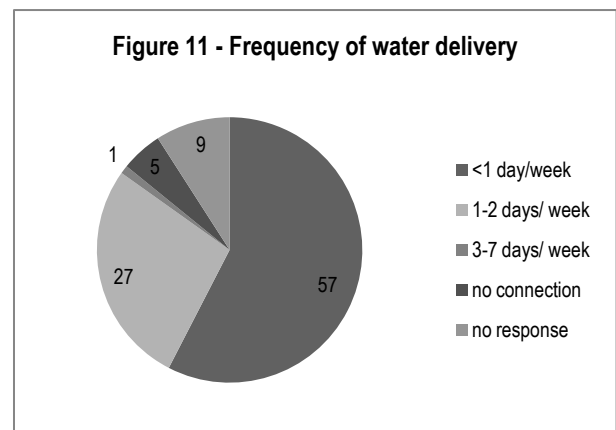


Water and sanitation

With the vast majority of Syrian households being resident in apartments or houses (see above) the majority of households, 90%, reported having a latrine inside their home. Only a very small proportion reported having either a latrine outside their home, 2%, or no access to a latrine at all, 0.1% (1 family). 4%

(29) of respondents with access to a latrine reported that it was not functional. See Annex 6 for the predominant latrine situation per BSU.

Daily delivery was the most commonly reported frequency of water delivery by public network, at 57% of households. Additionally 27% of households were able to receive water deliveries 1 – 2 days per week. 95% of all respondents reported using coping mechanisms to complement their water needs. Of these households, 36% reported buying water from shops, 37% are using water tankers to supplement their water household needs, 13% are getting additional water from a private well, and 4% are getting water from a charitable source. See Annex 7 for access to water supply per BSU.



Employment

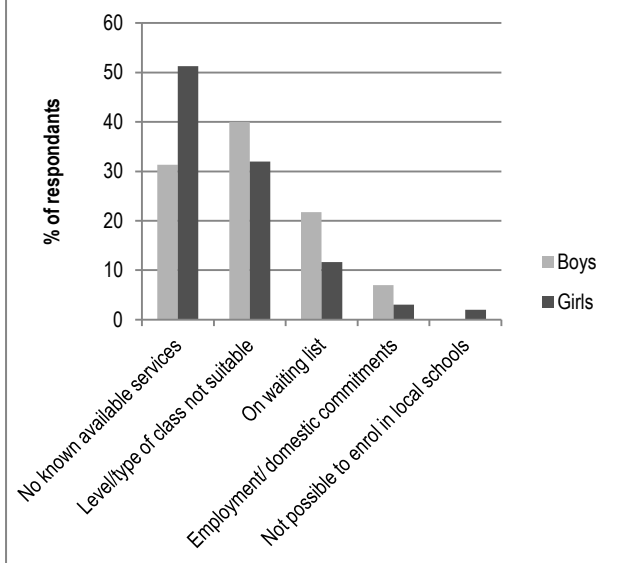
Overall only a very small proportion of households identified reported that at least one family member was in employment at the time of assessment, representing 10%.

All of the family members in employment were male, 93% of whom were over 18, with only 5 under 18 year olds in employment.

Access to education

In total 542 children between the ages of 6 and 17 were reported as not being enrolled in school, 345 of whom were male, and 197 of which were female.

Figure 13 - Reasons for not attending school

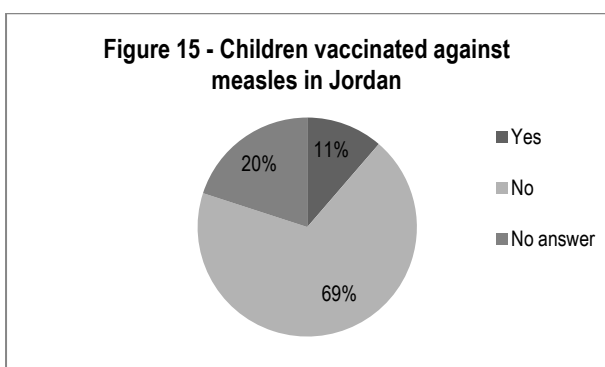


When asked the reason as to why children were not enrolled in school, **39%** reported that they were not aware of available educational services at the time of assessment. Additionally, a large number of households, **37%**, stated that they could not find a suitable level/ type of class. **18%** of respondents are on the waiting list for a school, with **6%** stating domestic or employment commitments as a barrier to school attendance.

Health

The large majority of households, **69%**, reported that their children 6 months to 59 months old had not received any vaccinations against measles since arriving in Jordan. See Annex 9 for the number of children vaccinated against measles per BSU.

Figure 15 - Children vaccinated against measles in Jordan

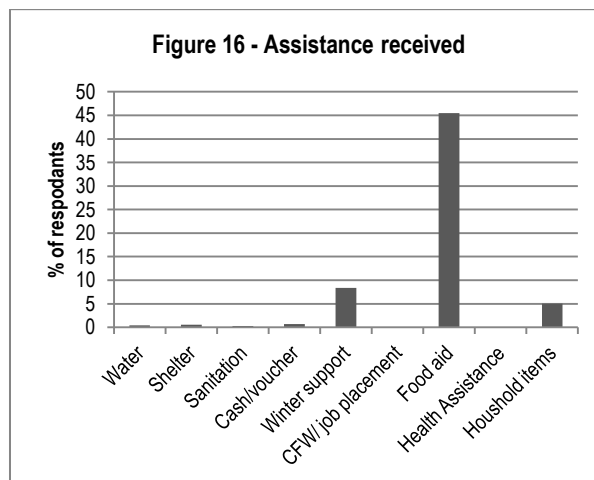


Assistance received and self-perceived needs

51% of all respondents reported having received some kind of assistance by the time of assessment. By far the most commonly received form of assistance was food aid, having been received by **45.5%** of households in receipt of assistance. In addition a sizeable number of households

reported receipt of winter support and household items, **8.4%** and **5.1%** respectively.

Figure 16 - Assistance received



Regarding the source of assistance received, the vast majority was perceived to be locally sourced, having been provided by either local charities or local people **30.8%** and **4.4%** respectively. Only a very small proportion of households perceived that the aid they received was provided by either the humanitarian community (NGOs and UN) or the Jordanian Government, representing **14.8%**, and **2.4%** of the total in turn. The majority (**38.9%**) of received assistance was received in early February, with a further **28.8%** received in January 2013.

When asked to identify their top three priority needs, **72%** of households that responded ranked cash for rent as their top priority, with winter support and household items ranking highly as secondary and tertiary needs.

The considerably low number of households reporting residency in low quality shelters without water and sanitation facilities, such as tents/temporary shelters or unfinished buildings (see above), is reflected in the priority needs identified by households, with only a very small proportion selecting shelter or WASH assistance as either a first, second, or third priority.

Table 17 - Ranking of top three priority needs

Assistance type	Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3
Water	0%	0%	1%
Shelter	1%	4%	3%
Sanitation	0%	1%	3%
Cash for rent	72%	6%	5%
Household items	6%	25%	21%
Work/job	1%	4%	3%
Winter Support	6%	31%	26%
Food	3%	7%	8%
Health	2%	14%	22%
Other	1%	1%	1%
No answer	7%	7%	8%

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.