

Findings of the Key Informant Assessments of Syrians Living in Host Communities

Ajloon Governorate - Jordan

13 February 2013

BACKGROUND

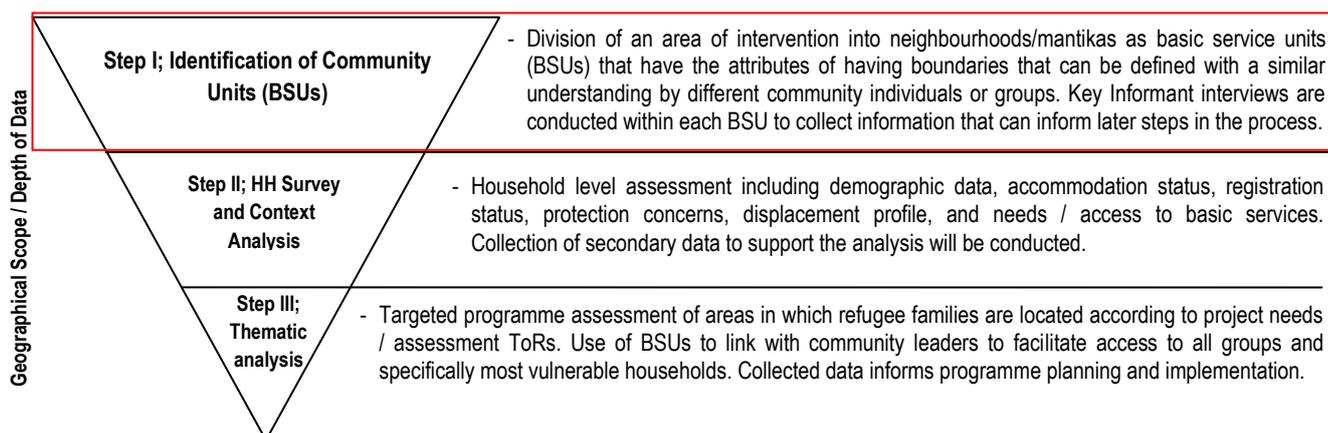
The continued crisis in Syria has caused a large influx of Syrians into Jordan. As of 13 February 2013, UNHCR reports 209,063 registered refugees with just over 45,000 awaiting registration. According to UNHCR registration data, more than 90% have settled in Northern Jordan (including Zaatari camp), 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 facilitate better planning, coordination and traceability of humanitarian aid.

The data presented in this factsheet represents the findings of key informant interviews that were conducted in the host communities of the Ajloon Governorate in January 2013. Key informant interviews were conducted in two stages; first, assessment teams would use the knowledge of key informants to define basic services units (BSUs); secondly, interviews would take place with a set of key informants from each of the defined BSUs to build up a picture of displacement patterns and the refugee profile and context in the target Governorate. During this phase of the project, 67 key informant focus group discussions were conducted, involving 271 key informants.

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 Syrians living in host communities and collects a core baseline of household specific information that enables the preparation of situational analyses. This Fact Sheet is based on the findings of Step I for the Ajloon Governorate. Step II is currently on-going and a separate fact sheet will be produced accordingly.



A partnership of:

IMPACT Initiatives

 **ACTED**

 unitar
UNOSAT

Key Findings

A total of total of **67** BSUs were identified through the assessment, in which key informant interviews were conducted involving more than **271** key informants. **8** of the BSUs identified were located in the Ajloun urban area, and **59** were located in the rural areas of the Governorate. *Annex 1* shows the BSUs identified by assessment teams in which key informant interviews were conducted.

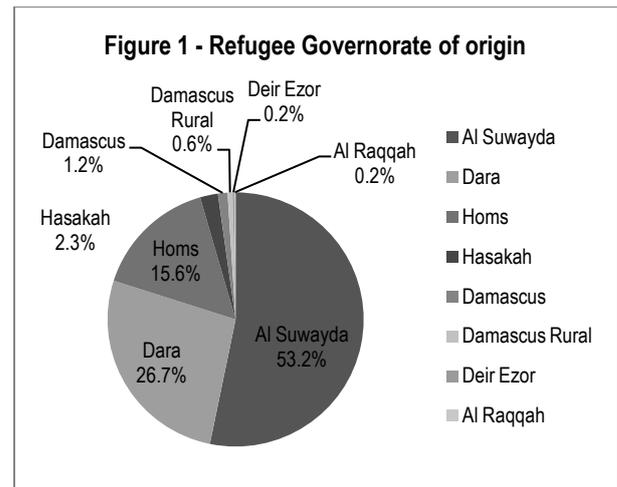
Through this process a total number of **503** refugee families were identified representing approximately **2978** individuals. **268** of the identified individuals were settled in urban BSUs within the Governorate and **2710** in rural BSUs. *Annex 2* shows the breakdown of households per BSU identified in Ajloun Governorate.

25 unaccompanied minors were identified through key informant interviews, with **13** located in the Downtown neighbourhood of Ajloun City and **12** in the village of Ain Janna.

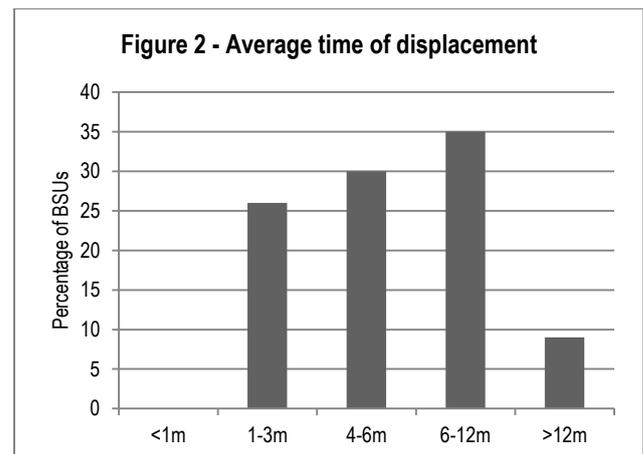
Note that family and individual figures presented in this report should be interpreted as indicative figures as these are reported by key informants within each geographic location / basic service unit. A household survey is currently ongoing and will provide confirmation of these figures. Past experience has shown that demographic figures are subject to increase once the household survey results are compiled.

Displacement Profile

53.2% of Syrians reported by key informants to be resident in Ajloun Governorate were originally displaced from the Syrian Governorate of Al Suwayda. Other Syrian Governorates from which a considerable proportion of Syrians originate were reported to be Dara, **26.7%**, and Homs, **15.6%**. Only a small number of Syrian were reported to have been originally displaced from other Syrian Governorates, representing **4.47%** of the total.



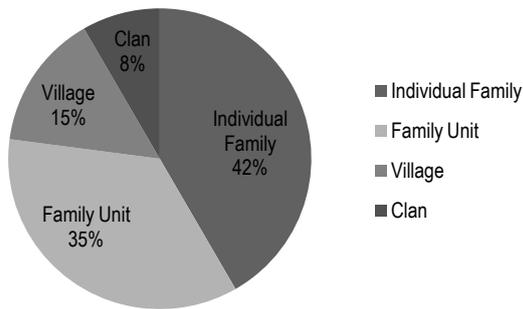
On average only a small proportion of Syrians resident in Ajloun Governorate, **9%**, had been displaced for a relatively long period of time, over 12 months. A considerable proportion, **35%**, was reported to have been displaced for 6 – 12 months. None of the refugee households identified by key informants in Ajloun Governorate were reported to be recent arrivals (within 1 month of the assessment).



The most common group in which Syrians travelled to Jordan was as an individual family, **42%**. Additionally a considerable proportion, **35%**, was reported to have travelled as part of a family unit¹.

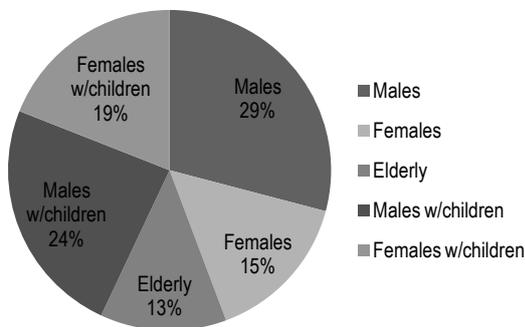
¹ For the purpose of this assessment an 'individual family' represents direct family members only; parents and children. A 'family unit' refers to blood relatives travelling together as a group consisting of multiple individual families.

Figure 3 - Travel Groups during displacement



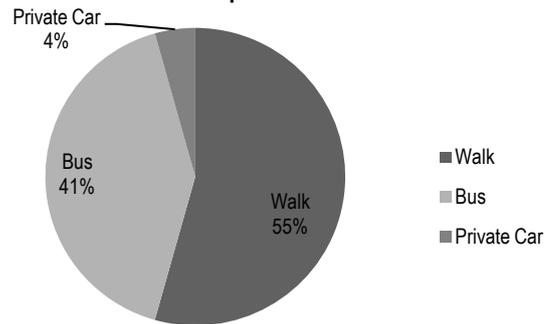
Although key informants reported that the majority of refugee households travelled as either an individual family or as a family unit, there were only **2 BSUs** in which it was reported that no family members were left behind upon displacement. Males and males with children were reported to be the most commonly left behind family members, representing **29%** and **24%** respectively. Despite this, a considerable proportion of females and females with children were left behind in Syria upon displacement, **15%** and **19%** respectively.

Figure 4 - Family members left behind



When asked what the primary form of transportation was during displacement for Syrian resident in their respective BSUs, key informants reported that the majority, **55%**, primarily travelled by foot to reach their current location. In addition, it was reported by key informants that a relatively large proportion, **41%**, of households were able to primarily travel by bus during displacement. Only a very small proportion of Syrians were reported to have access to a private car during displacement, representing only **4%** of the total.

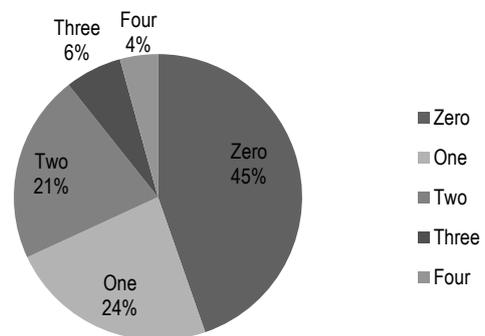
Figure 5 - Primary mode of transport during displacement



Context Analysis within Jordan

According to key informants most Syrians residing in Ajloun Governorate at the time of assessment had settled directly in their current location, **45%**. In addition a considerable proportion of Syrians had been displaced either once or twice within Jordan, **24%** and **21%** respectively. Only a very small proportion, **10%** or **39 households**, of Syrians had been displaced three or four times within Jordan.

Figure 6 - Number of times displaced within Jordan



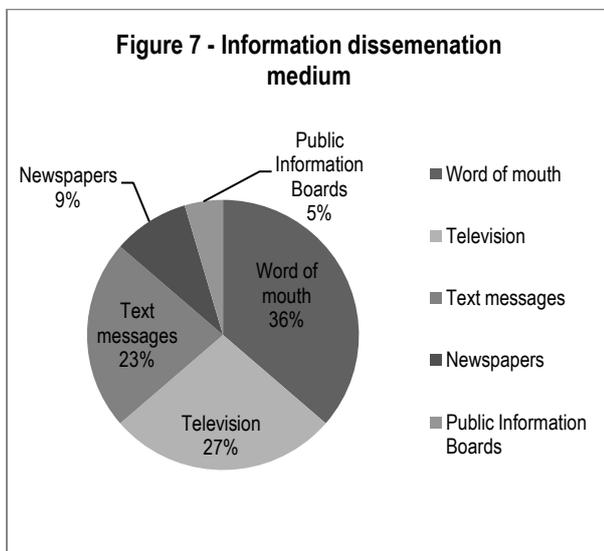
When key informants were asked to provide a reason as to why Syrians were displaced one or more times upon arrival in Jordan, the vast majority (**70%**) responded that the additional displacement had occurred due to economic reasons, with refugee families moving to areas where rent is cheaper. The remainder of key informants reported that some families had been displaced within Jordan due to a will to be with other Syrian families, **18%**, or as a result of safety concerns, **12%**.

Further displacement from Ajloun was identified as being likely by only a minority of key informants, **17%**. Of those that stated that future displacement was a possibility, **100%** identified rental prices as being the primary factor. When asked where these refugee households would be displaced to the most common response from key informants was to

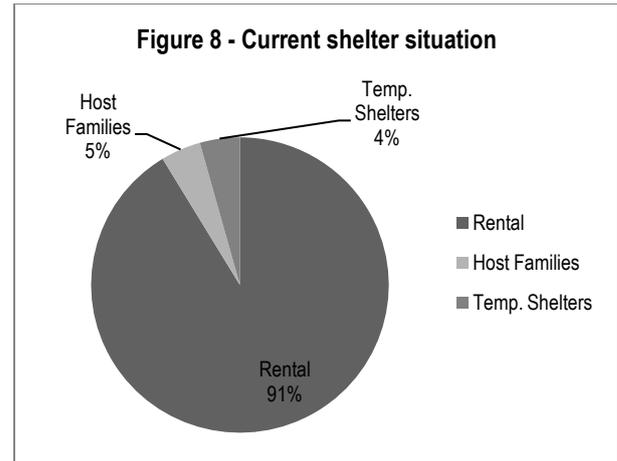
another location within Jordan, **72%**. Key informants in only **1** of the BSUs that identified further displacement as a possibility reported that refugee households were likely to return to Syria if displaced.

The most commonly reported factor that attracted Syrians to settle in the Ajloun Governorate was more affordable rental prices, **68%**. Additionally a number of key informants identified the presence of other Syrian families as a contributing factor, **18%**.

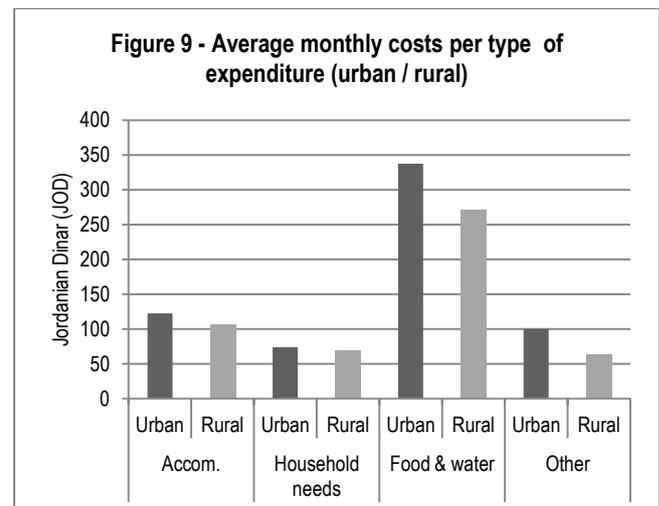
In the vast majority of cases (**64%**) key informants reported that Syrians received information on where to settle from other Syrian families, with the remainder receiving information from local people.. The main medium through which Syrians received information on where to settle was predominately via word of mouth, **36%**, followed by television and text messages, **27%** and **23%** respectively.



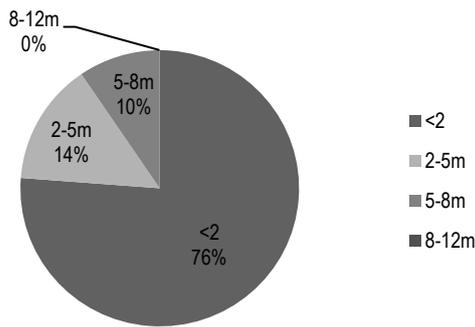
The majority, **91%**, of Syrians residing in Ajloun were reported by key informants as having been able to secure rental accommodation upon arrival. Of those living in rental accommodation at the time of assessment, the average price was reported as being **114 JOD** per month. Rental prices were reported as being slightly higher in urban than rural areas, **123 JOD** and **106 JOD** per month respectively. Of the 23 BSUs identified in which Syrians were reported to have settled, only two reported that the main shelter context saw refugee households living either with host families or in temporary shelters. The household being provided with accommodation by a host family was reported to be paying under average monthly rent at **100 JOD** per month, while the household resident in a temporary shelter was reported to be paying no rent.



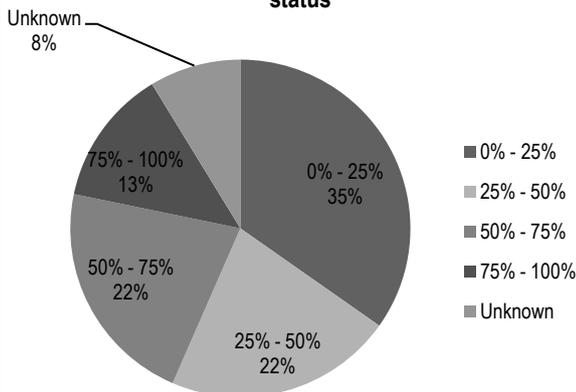
On average the total monthly cost of living in the Ajloun Governorate was reported as being **571 JOD**. The majority of monthly expenditure was attributed to food and water costs, on average **304 JOD** per month. Total average monthly living costs were reported as being **20%** higher for Syrians in urban areas than in rural areas, **633 JOD** compared to **508 JOD**. In absolute terms the most considerable difference to cost of living between urban and rural areas is on food and water expenditure, with an average of **20%** higher prices in urban compared to rural areas, **338 JOD** and **271 JOD** respectively.



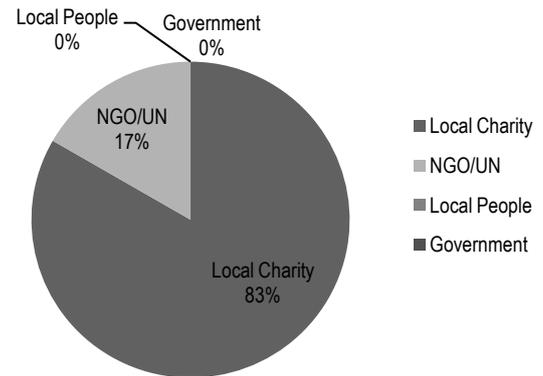
As a result of the high cost of living for Syrians in host communities (as illustrated above), key informants were asked to estimate the length of time Syrians would be able to cope independently in their respective BSUs. The vast majority, **76%**, of key informants estimated that Syrians would be unable to cope for longer than two months. Although a small proportion of key informants reported that Syrians would have the ability to cope independently for either 2 – 5 months or 5 – 8 months independently, **14%** and **10%** respectively, none of the key informants interviewed estimated that Syrians could cope independently in the longer term (8 – 12 months).

Figure 10 - Reported coping capacity


Key informants were asked to estimate what proportion of the Syrian resident in their respective BSUs were registered with UNHCR. The most commonly reported range, by 35% of key informants was 0% - 25%. This low range was in most cases in BSUs where Syrians had arrived in Jordan between 1 and 3 months prior to the time of assessment. Only a minority, 13%, of key informants reported that the majority (75% - 100%) of Syrians resident in their BSUs were registered with UNHCR.

Figure 11 - Reported UNHCR registration status


87% of BSUs in which the presence of Syrians were reported had received some kind of humanitarian assistance at the time of assessment. Food aid was the most commonly reported assistance received in the Ajloun Governorate, representing 71% of all received assistance. The majority of key informants reported that the assistance received in their respective BSUs was from local charities, 83%. No assistance was reported from the local community. Only a small proportion of key informants reported that assistance had been provided by the international community, representing 17% of the total.

Figure 12 - Perceived source of assistance


As with previous governorates targeted for assessment, key informants overwhelmingly responded that cash for rent was the highest priority for refugees living in their respective communities, with 83% of BSUs reporting the need as the top priority. Looking at non-financial needs, winter support and food aid were identified as being high priority needs in a considerable proportion of BSUs.

	Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3
Water	0%	0%	4%
Shelter & NFI	4%	0%	4%
Sanitation / Hygiene	0%	4%	0%
Cash for Rent	83%	13%	0%
Winter support	4%	43%	48%
Work / job placement	0%	0%	0%
Food aid	9%	39%	35%
Health assistance	0%	0%	9%

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.