

Jordan Health Aid Society [JHAS], Outreach team; 20th of July 2013

JORDAN HEALTH AID SOCIETY

Outreach team July 2013

Syrian Refugees at East of Mafraq

JHAS

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Syrian Refugees at East of Mafraq



Since 2011 over hundred and forty thousand Syrian refugee have entered the Jordanian borders to settle and find shelter within Mafraq governorate. JHAS outreach team conducted a two-week rapid participatory assessment and baseline survey in order to extract information from a large sample of Syrians living in houses or tents within host communities.

Objectives:

- To locate all Syrian refugees and make full assessment for them.
- Distribution of vaccinations brochures for the vaccination campaign.

Note: Data collection took place between 22nd of June and 10th of July 2013.

Methodology:

The survey methodology was face to face interviews (qualitative and quantitative) by 4 groups of JHAS community outreach workers; each group consisted of two persons. An overall 275 families were interviewed with a total number of 1901 individuals.

Households contained mixed family groups with an average size of 6.9. All survey respondents were Sunni Muslims. Respondents were asked to give biographic data for all family members, their health statuses, their needs, living conditions and identify the most common and important vulnerabilities of them.

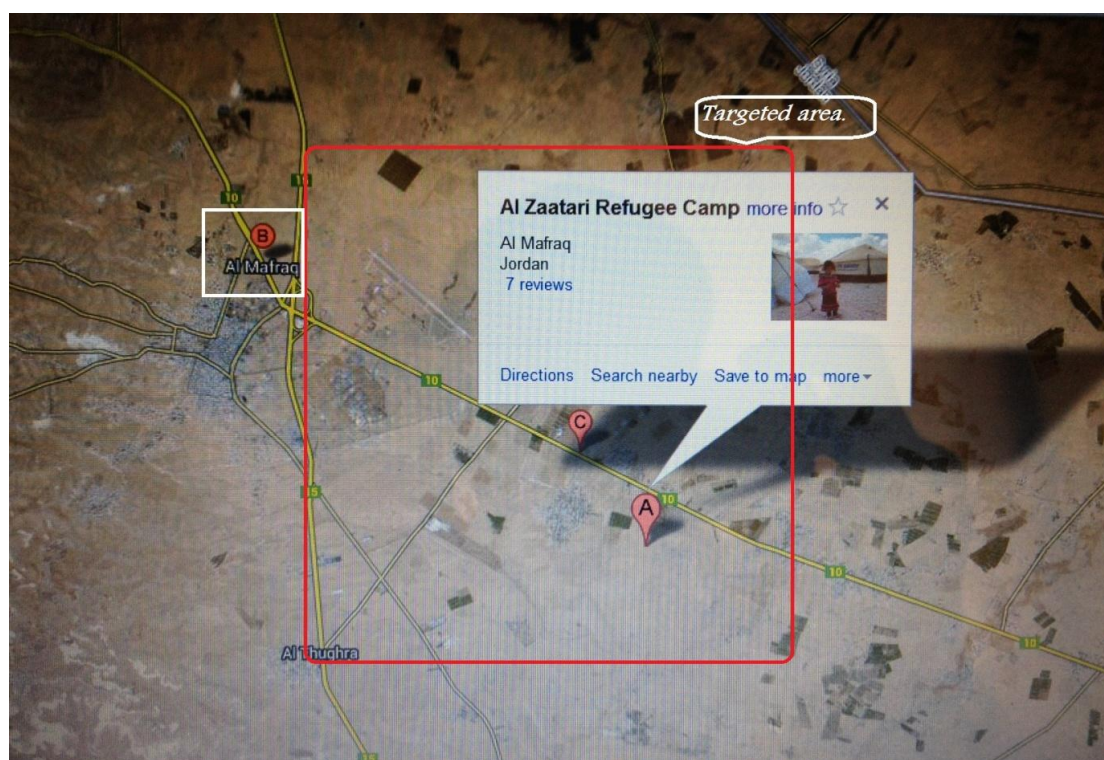


Figure 1: survey area; East of Mafraq to 15 KM after Za'atari as the below map shows.

Most of the targeted areas were small camps for refugees who didn't have houses or Unable to afford a house rent as well as other refugees living in houses within the area.

Human Rights and Protection

Financial vulnerability for sure was the most prevalent vulnerability manifested among respondents. Most of refugees residing in tents chose such living conditions due to financial limitations. On the other hand, refugees living in houses were in debit for at least four months. The average of rent in defined area was 150 JD.

0.3% of the assessment respondents accounted having special needs such as disabilities or elderly residing within household. 40% of respondents were granted identification from the Jordanian administration.

36% of the assessment respondents were engaged in a paid labor at an average of three or more members per household mainly as handworkers within vegetable farms.

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Refugees working as hand workers reported that they work in exchange for a very low payment; which is about 80-100 piaster per hour.

60% of respondents had received some sort of help from local people. Throughout the survey period, the accommodation noticed in the tents was too poor; some tents had wire electricity from farms' landlords. Most of the people had poor access to fans and refrigerator, which are basic needs in such a weather and living conditions.

Listed below; some vulnerabilities that had been manifested throughout survey period.

1. There are Syrian gangs who are using other identities to access the sources of money and assistance.
2. No work permits.
3. Their identification documents kept by the Jordanian government.
4. Disrespect for UNHCR registration police personnel.
5. Worries over ethnic connections and revenge.
6. Payment of 500 JD to get out of the camp illegally.
7. Assault from Jordanian society
8. Police pestering.
9. Discrimination.

Vulnerability type	Number of detected individuals
Disability	7
Elderly in danger situation	4
Lactating women	55
Pregnant women	40
Unaccompanied children	5
Female headed household	50
Mental conditions	6

Livelihoods

Livelihoods and food security are the main fear for the refugees; they are living day by day as they have consumed all their savings and sold all their possessions such as utensils, clothes and trace possessions of gold. For the majority screened refugees, rent wasn't an issue since they are living in tents.

Children and Education

The vast majority of children weren't attending any schools; however, this was explained by the following reasons:

1. Inability to afford auxiliary costs for the school.
2. Some of the targeted rural areas don't have schools close by.
3. Long Distance to be travelled to reach nearest school.

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4. Child labor to afford living.
5. Need UNHCR registration to attend schools.
6. Physiological issues.
7. Bullying and discrimination in school.

Note: Most of the members reached the 6th or 9th grade only.

Health Care

Almost all respondents were living in unhealthy living conditions. Also it was very well noticed that the quality of housing was highly compromised. In addition, refugees exhibit difficulties in accessing medical services due to the distance and cost of transportation.

Most of screened refugees were unaware of available services for refugees not holding UNHCR registration. Most of them received the medical services at Emirati Hospital and JHAS clinic in Mafraq.

Gender

Several considerations were reported in this survey especially gender based victimization for women and overt masculine control over the camp such as:

1. Forced early marriage for girls.
2. Females were forced to keep low profile, even those who accepted photo shooting, taking picture of their families and the tents made those ladies feel shame, cheap, especially when they were asking for NFIs.
3. NFIs were distributed for relatives only discarding basic needs.
4. Female headed households were the worst case scenario, females didn't have any assistance, and they had to sell all their possessions and their savings.

For men, several issues were reported including:

1. Big worries surrounding safety for their children and their families living in tents.
2. Fathers feel shamed for not being able to afford basic house needs and afford better living conditions similar to those they had back home.
3. Unemployment or work with low salary along with working conditions is another issue.

This had made fathers stressed and not feels secure for their family's food and life.

Background Family Characteristics

The surveyed families were 275 families consisting of 1901 individuals. Large households consisting of relatives, couples, brothers, sisters, sisters/ brothers in law, grandparents and others. The majority of the family members were young with one or two older relatives. Most of the surveyed people were younger than 17 years old.

Diseases and Medical Issues

The table below shows the medical cases that reported at each family have been visited.

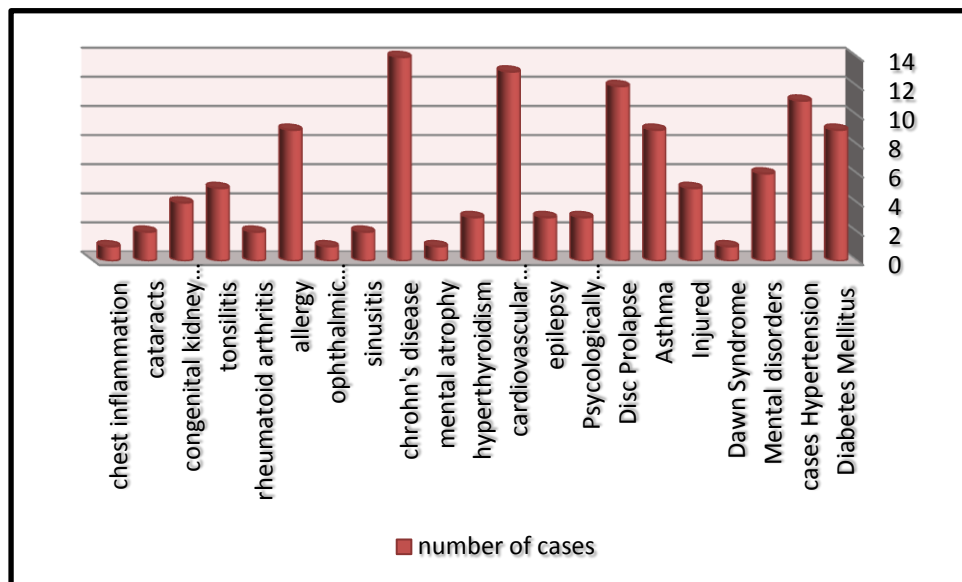


Figure 2: incidence of encountered medical conditions in the screened population

Note: in most cases asthma and allergy that noticed in this study due to weather circumstances.

Food & Water

All kitchens visited in houses and corners used as kitchens in the tents lacked refrigeration tools. Thus, raising potentials for high incidence rates of food poisoning. For families without UNHCR registration, respondents reported that the type of food was limited to vegetables only. But the situation of food and water security is different for UNHCR registered families. Nevertheless, in the mere span of the survey, the number of refugee families with UNHCR registration was 156 families. For the water, refugees had limited access to clean water sources; usually they get it from the farms if they are living or working around it. The water is kept in open barrels or gallons and one can tell that the water is not clean and left out of the tents for the dust, birds, animals, flies and air which would compromise its suitability to human consumption. In other some small camps where people don't work in farms, refugees complain about not having a clean source of water.



Hygiene

This part picked attention very much the situation was more than horrible in this matter there was no bathrooms, or latrines in order to wash or to use for other personal things. The toilets were a small corner made out of the same tent material enclosed pictures describes this matter furthermore. In addition, the settlement lacks proper sewage disposal.



The sewage surrounds the tents which forms ecological and environmental disasters and bring others issues that the refugees don't need. The lack of soap and materials for personal hygiene had worsened the hygienic conditions. Furthermore, there was no running water for the houses for cleaning purposes weather the living area or surroundings, which had limited cleaning, and washing and sanitation conditions.

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The tents were heavily populated with insects, including cockroaches, mites, fleas, spiders, flies and scabies. The flies were well noticed at each tent, some pictures also attached.

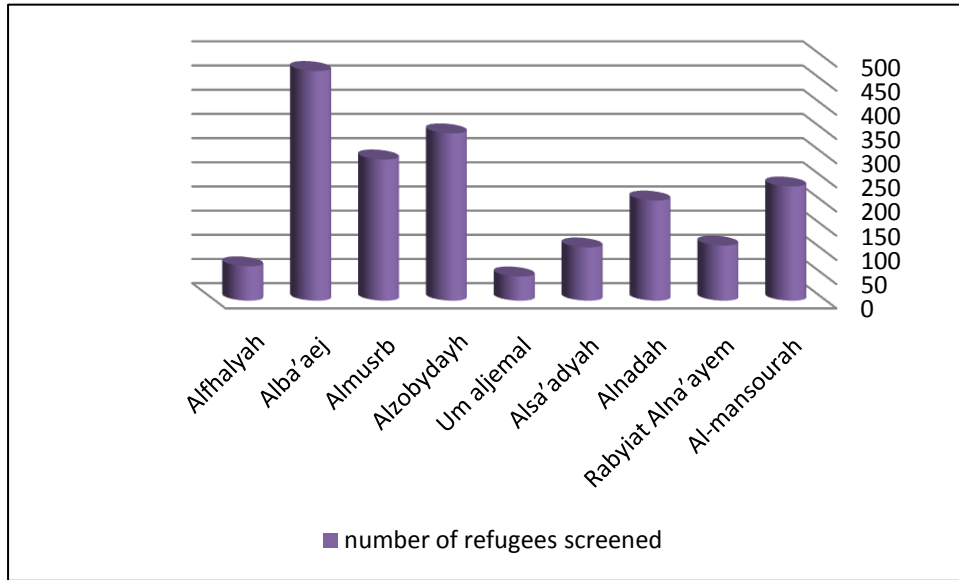


Figure 3: number of refugees surveyed within targeted areas

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