

Findings of the Key Informant Assessments of Syrian Households in Host Communities

Balqa Governorate

27th February 2013

BACKGROUND

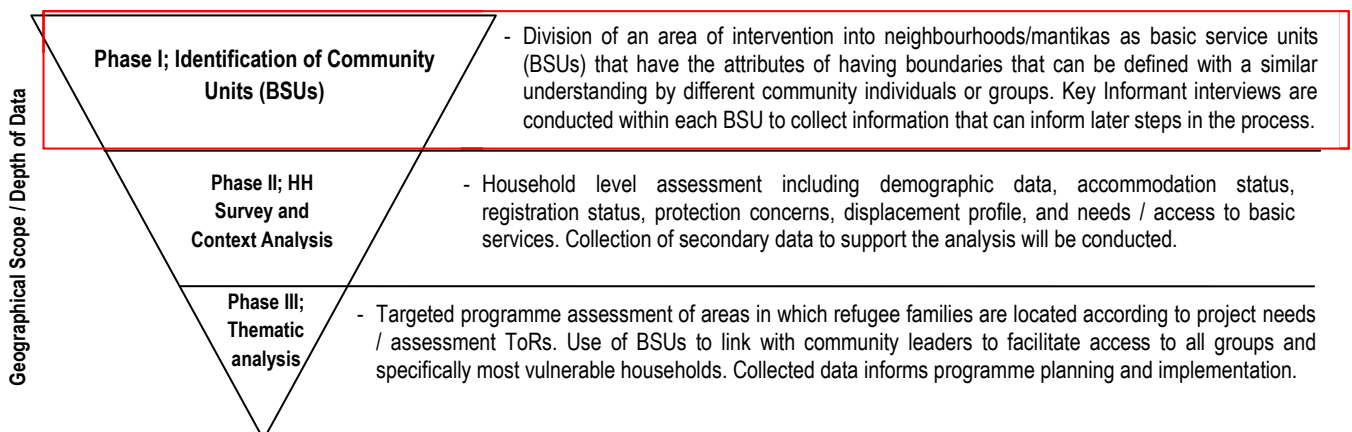
The continued crisis in Syria has caused a large influx of Syrians into Jordan, amounting to more than 245,536 individuals (UNHCR, 26.02.2013). According to UNHCR registration data, more than 90% have settled in Northern Jordan, as well as the urban and peri-urban centres of Amman and Zarqa, with the large majority of Syrian households 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 households 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 key informant interviews that were conducted in the host communities of the Balqa 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, 92 key informant focus group discussions were conducted, involving 482 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 refugees 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 Balqa Governorate. Step II is currently on-going and a separate fact sheet will be produced accordingly.



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Key Findings

A total of **92** BSUs were identified through the assessment, in which key informant interviews were conducted involving more than **482** key informants. **21** of the BSUs identified were located in Al Salt City, and **71** were located in the rural areas of Balqa Governorate.

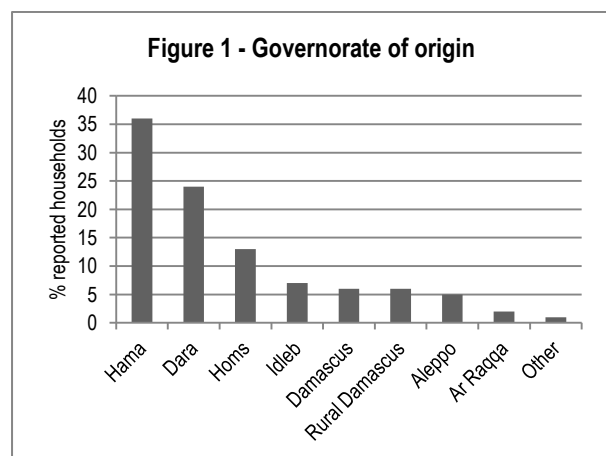
Through this process a total number of **970** refugee families were identified representing approximately **5429** individuals. **2048** of the identified individuals were settled in urban BSUs located in Al Salt City and **3381** in rural BSUs within the Governorate. *Annex 1* shows the breakdown of households and individuals per BSU identified in Balqa Governorate.

34 unaccompanied minors were identified through key informant interviews with **18** located in the urban BSUs of Downtown (**10**), Safot (**5**), and Naqab Al Dabour (**3**), and **16** located in the villages of Al Shoosh Janoobyeh (**7**), Ma'adi (**6**), Al Kofrain (**2**), and Toal Achammala (**1**).

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.

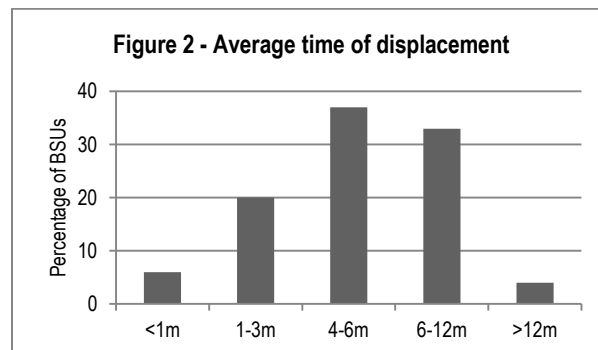
Displacement Profile

The most common Syrian Governorate of origin of Syrian households resident in Balqa Governorate was reported to be Hama, **36%**. Additionally, a considerable proportion of Syrian households were identified as originating from Dara, **24%**, and Homs, **24%**.

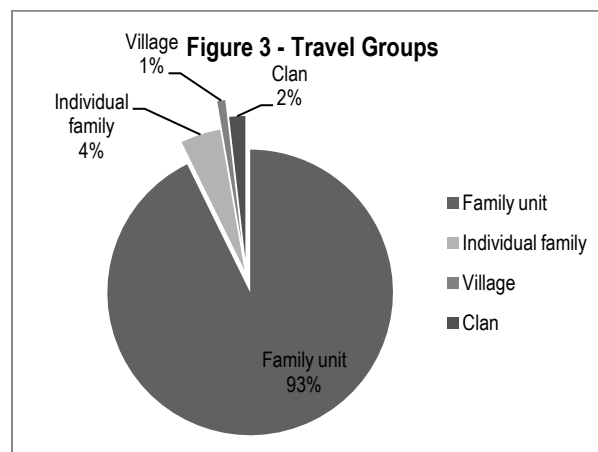


In **37%** of BSUs identified Syrian households were reported to have been displaced from their governorate of origin 4 – 6 months prior to the assessment. A similar proportion of BSUs

reported that Syrian households had been displaced for 6 – 12 months, **33%**. A small proportion of BSUs reported that Syrian households were either recent arrivals (under 1 month) or long term residents (over 12 months) at the time of assessment (January 2013), **6%** and **4%** respectively.



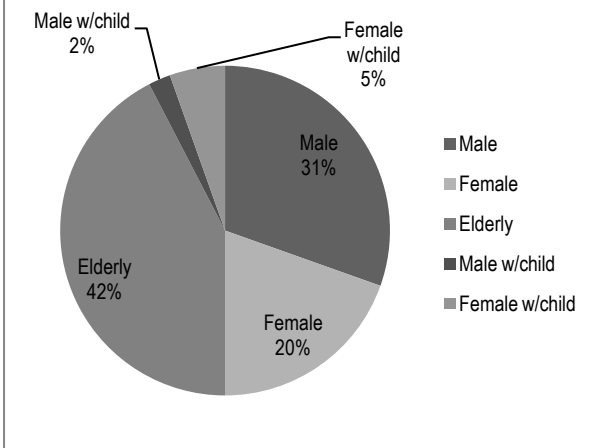
The vast majority of key informants, **93%**, reported that Syrian households resident in their respective BSUs travelled to Jordan as a family unit upon displacement¹. A small proportion of key informants reported that households travelled as an individual family, **4%**, whilst the remainder, representing **3%**, reported that households travelled as part of a larger grouping as a village or clan.



Despite the overwhelming majority of key informants reporting that Syrian households travelled to Jordan in family groupings, **31%** reported that one or more family member had been left behind in Syria. Of this proportion, the most commonly reported family members to be left behind upon displacement were elderly people, **42%**. A large proportion of key informants reported that males had been left behind compared to females, **31%** and **20%** respectively. Only a very small proportion of key informants reported that adults with children were left behind in Syria, representing **7%** of the total.

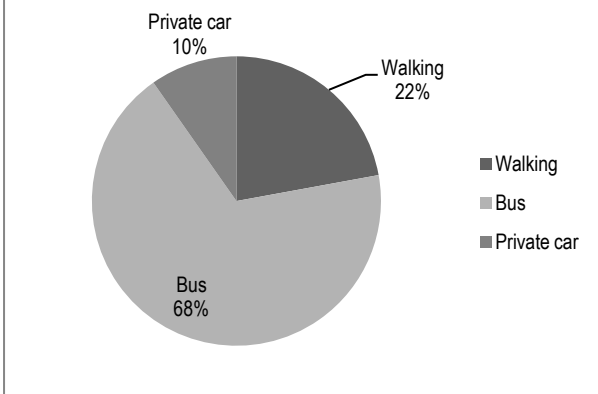
¹ For the purpose of this assessment an 'individual family' represents direct family members only; parents and children. A 'family unit' refers to blood relatives travelling together as a group consisting of multiple individual families.

Figure 4 - Family members left behind



The majority of Syrian households resident in Balqa were reported by key informants to have used busses as the primary form of transportation during displacement, **68%**. The large proportion of key informants that reported busses as the primary means of transportation reflects the considerable distance between the most commonly reported governorate of origin, Hama, and the Jordanian border. Additionally, **22%** of key informants reported that Syrian households primarily walked to reach Jordan. Only small proportion of key informants reported that Syrian households had access to a private vehicle during displacement, **10%**.

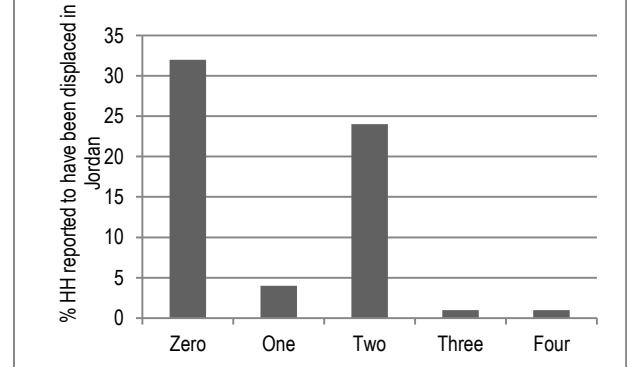
Figure 5 - Primary means of transportation



Context Analysis within Jordan

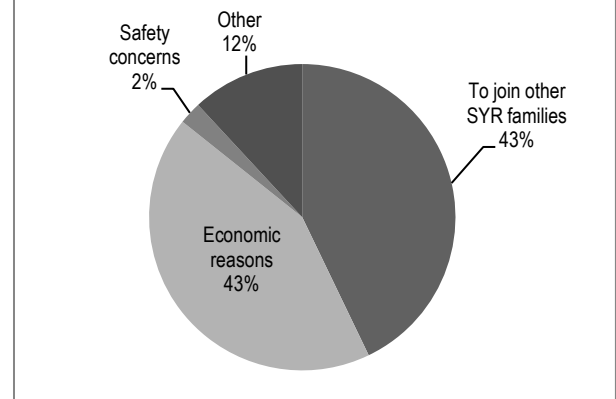
32% of Syrian households resident in Balqa Governorate were reported to have arrived directly at their current location upon arrival in Jordan. However, most commonly, **42%**, key informants reported that households had been displaced once prior to arriving in Balqa, with an additional **26%** reporting two or more displacements.

Figure 6 - Number of times displaced in Jordan



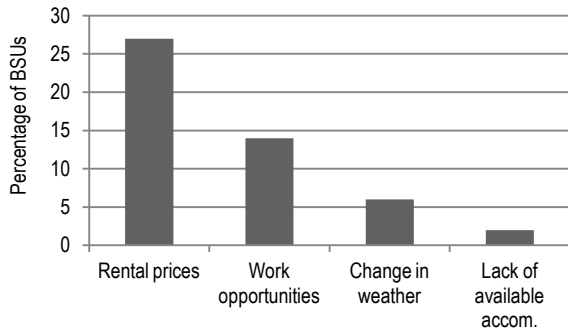
When asked to provide a reason as to why Syrian households were being displaced one or more times upon arrival in Jordan, an equal proportion of key informants attributed it to economic reasons and the presence of other Syrian families in a different location, **43%**. Safety concerns were not identified by key informants as being a particular issue, with only **2%** identifying this as a cause of displacement.

Figure 7 - Reason for displacement within JOR



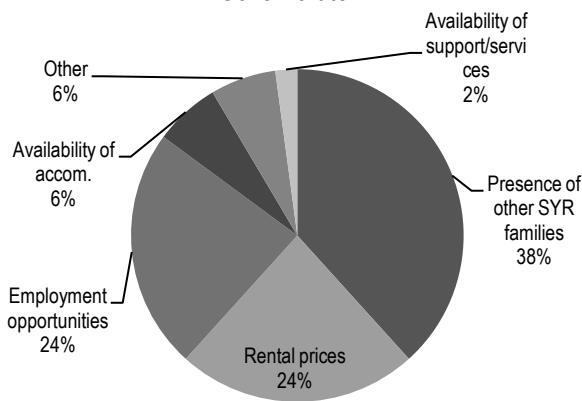
49% of key informants predicted that further displacement of Syrian households resident in their respective BSUs was likely. The most commonly cited factor by key informants was a possible increase in rental prices within the BSU, **27%**. The availability of work opportunities in another location was also considered by key informants to be an important factor in influencing future displacement. Changes in the weather were identified by **6%** of key informants as being a contributing factor towards future displacement. The aforementioned proportion of key informants represents BSUs located in the Jordan Valley in which temporary tented structures is the primary shelter context for Syrian households, *annex 2 maps this information*.

Figure 8 - Most important factor influencing future displacement



The most common factor reported by key informants to have influenced the decision of Syrian households to settle in Balqa Governorate correspond to the reasons provided for internal multiple displacement (figure 7), as show in the figure 9 below. The main reason provided was the presence of other Syrian families, **38%**. Additionally, low rental prices, and the availability of work opportunities were cited as being key influencing factors by an equal proportion of key informants, **24%**. Of the key informants that identified the availability of work as a pull factor towards Balqa Governorate, **55%**, represent BSUs located in the agricultural areas of the Jordan Valley.

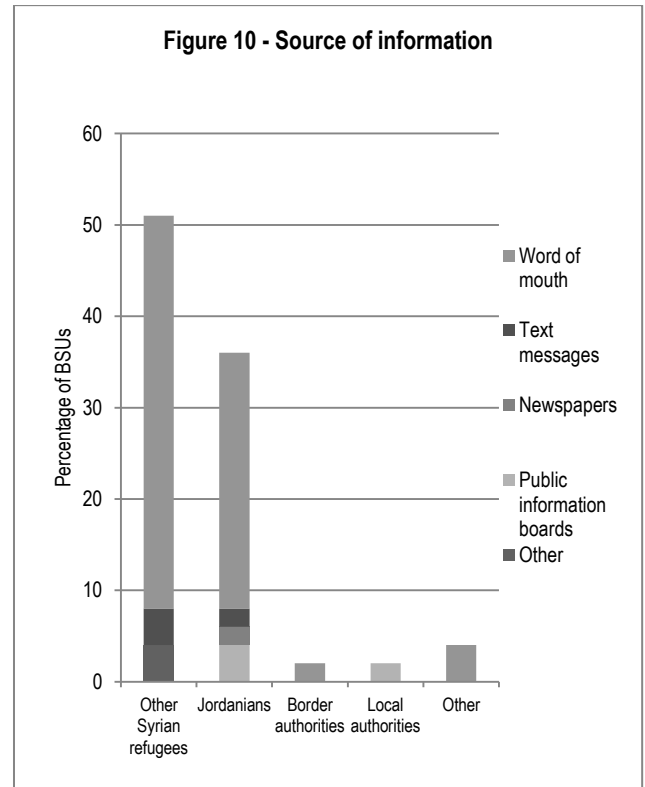
Figure 9 - Reasons for settling in the Balqa Governorate



The vast majority of key informants, **52%**, reported that Syrian households received information from other Syrian families upon arrival in Jordan. The most common means of information dissemination used by Syrian families was reported as via word of mouth, **43%**. A considerable proportion of key informants, **37%**, identified Jordanians as the primary source of information for Syrian households, with **28%** receiving information from this source via word of mouth. Only a very small proportion of key informants identified official channels, such as local or border authorities, as being

the primary source of information, representing **4%** of the total.

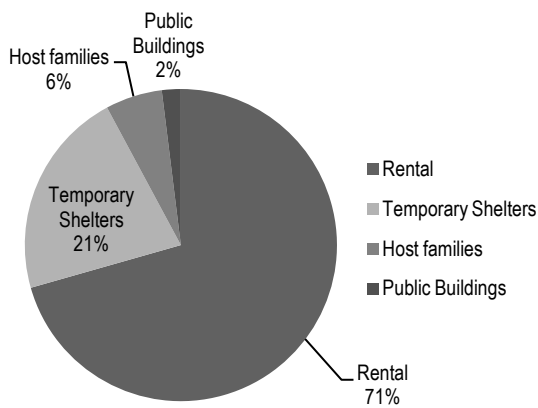
Figure 10 - Source of information



The majority of key informants reported that the primary shelter context in their respective BSUs was rental accommodation, **71%**. In spite of this, a considerable proportion of key informants identified temporary shelters as the primary shelter context, **21%**. The BSUs which the aforementioned proportion of key informants represents are located primarily in the agricultural areas of the Jordan Valley.

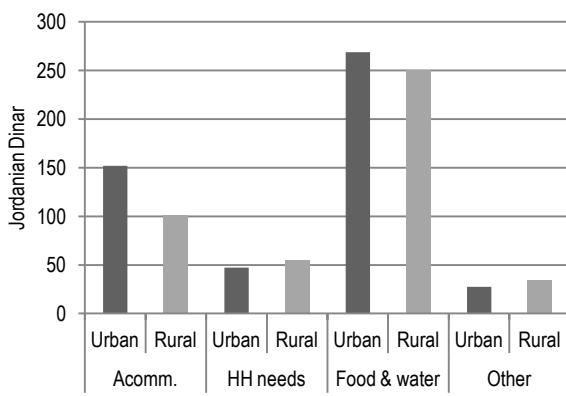
The average monthly rent paid by Syrian households was identified by key informants as being **127 JOD**. Average rental prices were identified as being slightly higher in urban than rural BSUs, **150 JOD** and **102 JOD** respectively. Rent was still paid in BSUs located in the Jordan Valley where temporary shelters were identified as the primary shelter context, with an average monthly price of **70 JOD**. The highest reported rental price for temporary shelters was reported as being **200 JOD** per month in Khazma Village located in the north of the Governorate.

Figure 11 - Primary shelter context per BSU



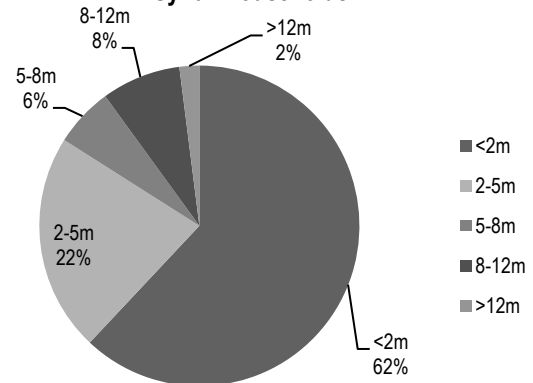
The average total living costs for Syrian households resident in Balqa Governorate was identified by key informants as being **468 JOD** per month, with average prices slightly higher in urban than rural BSUs, **496 JOD** and **441 JOD** respectively. The majority of monthly expenditure for Syrian households was on food & water, representing **55%** of the total average monthly living costs. Additionally, household needs and other costs were reported as being slightly higher in rural than urban areas, **55 JOD** and **47 JOD** respectively.

Figure 12 - Average monthly costs



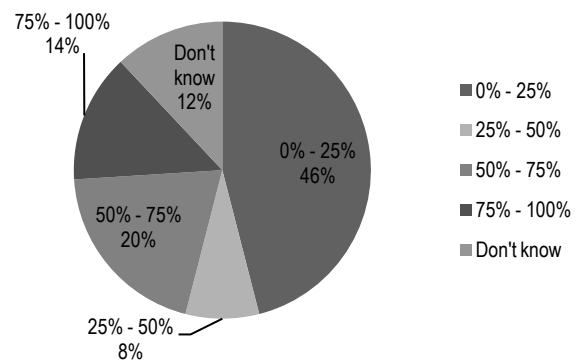
With the high cost of living in mind, particularly as a result of considerable monthly food and water costs, key informants were asked to estimate the length of time for which Syrian households resident in their respective BSUs would be able to cope independently. The vast majority of key informants, **62%**, stated that Syrian households would be unable to cope independently for longer than 2 months. A sizeable proportion estimated that households would be able to cope for 2 – 5 months, **22%**. However, only a small proportion of key informants estimated that Syrian households would be able to cope for over 5 months, **16%**.

Figure 13 - Perceived coping capacity of Syrian households



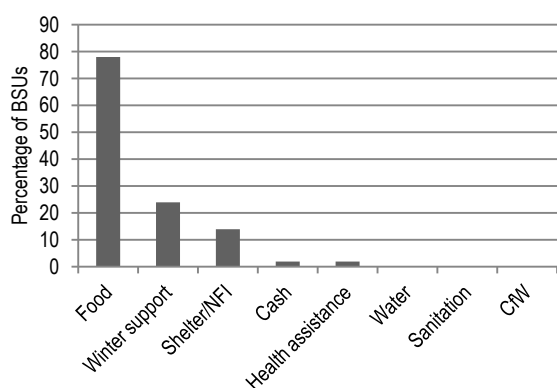
Key informants were asked to approximate the percentage of Syrian households in their BSU registered with UNHCR. The most commonly estimated range was 0% - 25%, **46%**. When considering only BSUs in which temporary shelters were reported as the primary shelter context, **70%** of key informants reported only 0% - 25% of Syrian households were registered with UNHCR. Only **34%** of key informants estimated that over half of Syrians resident in their respective BSUs were registered with UNHCR at the time of assessment.

Figure 14 - UNHCR registration status



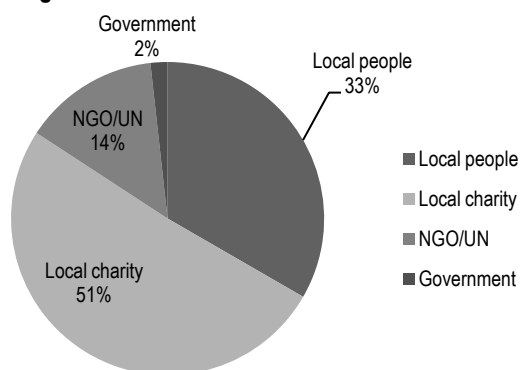
88% of key informants reported that some kind of assistance had been received by Syrian households in their BSUs. The most common form of assistance reported was food aid representing **78%** of all assistance. Additionally a sizeable proportion of key informants reported receipt of winter support or shelter / NFIs, **24%** and **14%** respectively.

Figure 15 - Assistance received



Assistance was in the majority of cases perceived by key informants to have been sourced locally, either from local charities, **51%**, or local people, **33%**. **14%** of key informants reported receipt of assistance from NGOs / the United Nations, whilst only **2%** reported receipt of assistance from the Jordanian Government.

Figure 16 - Perceived source of assistance



As shown by the table below, the vast majority of key informants, **91%**, identified cash for rent as the first priority for Syrian households resident in their respective BSUs. Winter support was identified as a particularly high priority, being selected by a high number of key informants as both a second and third priority, **41%** and **45%** respectively. Despite food having been the most commonly received form of aid, it was still identified by a considerable proportion of key informants as a second or third priority, **29%** and **33%** respectively.

	Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3
Cash for rent	90%	6%	0%
Shelter/NFI	4%	8%	6%
Food Aid	6%	29%	33%
Winter support	0%	41%	45%
Work / job placement	0%	12%	12%
Health assistance	0%	4%	4%
Sanitation	0%	0%	0%
Household Items	0%	0%	0%
Water	0%	0%	0%
Other	0%	0%	0%

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.