

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

Jarash Governorate

26th February 2013

BACKGROUND

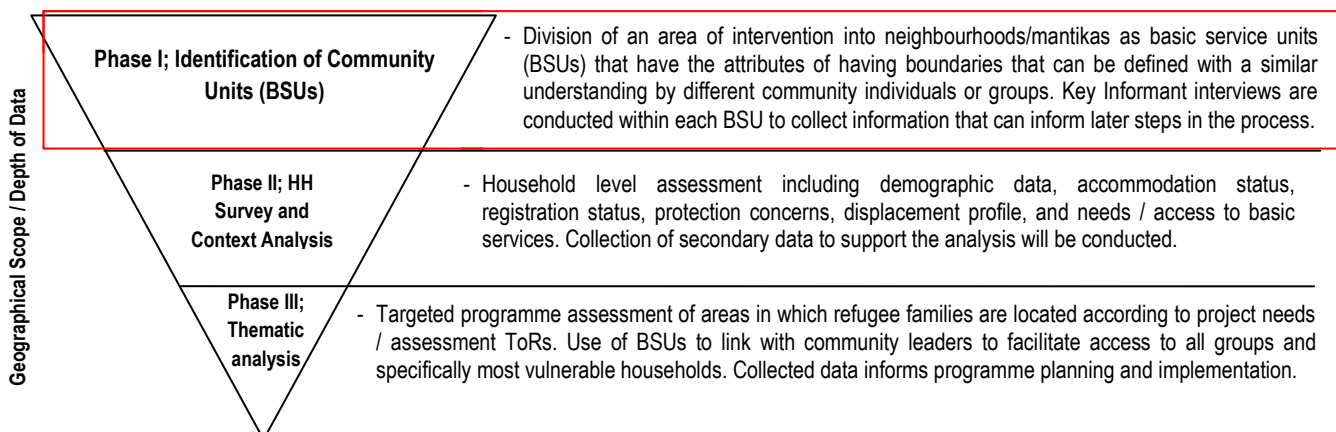
The continued crisis in Syria has caused a large influx of Syrians into Jordan, amounting to more than 245,536 refugees (UNHCR, 26.02.2013). According to UNHCR registration data, more than 90% have settled in Northern Jordan, as well as the urban and peri-urban centres of Amman and Zarqa, with the large majority of 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 key informant interviews that were conducted in the host communities of the Jarash Governorate in January 2013. Key informant interviews were conducted in two stages with representatives of both the host (Jordanian) and Syrian communities; first, assessment teams would use the knowledge of Jordanian key informants to define basic services units (BSUs); secondly, interviews would take place with Syrian 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 294 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 Syrian households 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 phase I for the Jarsah Governorate. Phase II is currently on-going and a separate fact sheet will be produced accordingly.



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Key Findings

A total of **67** BSUs were identified through the assessment, in which key informant interviews were conducted involving more than **294** key informants. **16** of the BSUs identified were located in the Jarash urban area, and **51** 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.

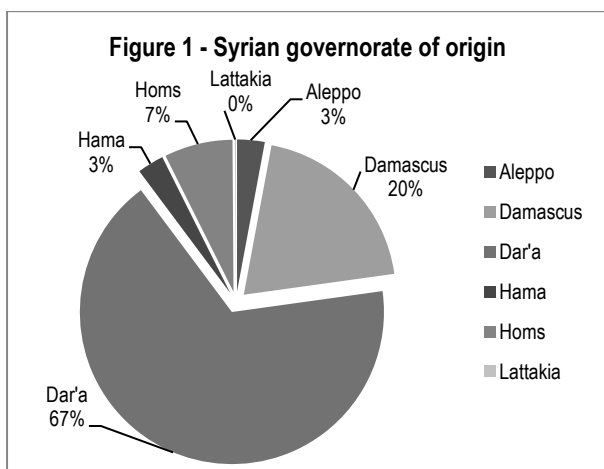
Through this process a total number of **895** refugee families were identified representing approximately **5333** individuals. **3304** of the identified individuals were settled in urban BSUs within the Governorate and **2029** in rural BSUs. *Annex 2* shows the breakdown of households per BSU identified in Jarash Governorate.

26 unaccompanied minors were identified through key informant interviews with **17** located in Rashaydeh Village, **7** in Bailla Village, and **2** in the Downtown neighbourhood of Jarash urban area.

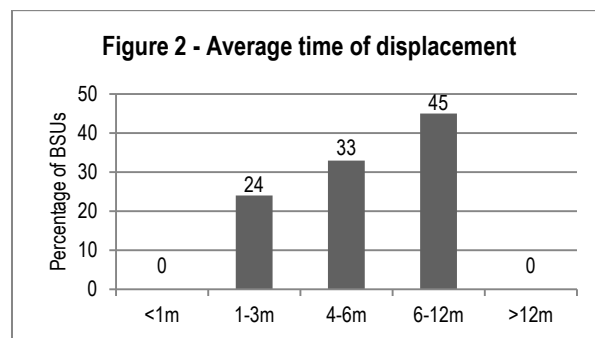
Note that family and individual figures presented in this report should be interpreted as indicative figures as these are reported by key informants within each geographic location / basic service unit. A household survey is currently ongoing and will provide confirmation of these figures. Past experience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

Displacement Profile

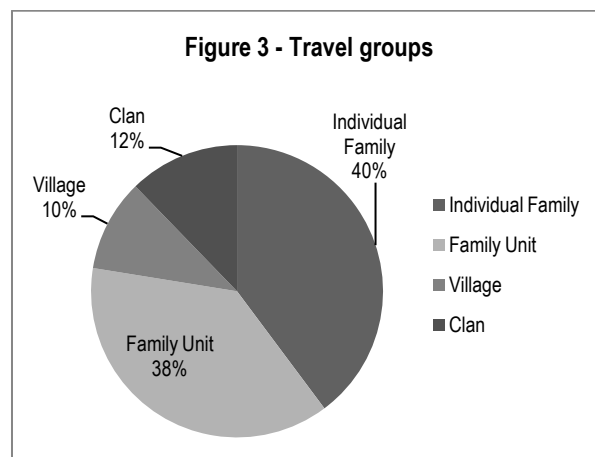
The majority of Syrian families reported by key informants to be resident in Jarash Governorate originate from Dara Governorate (**67%**), with **20%** having come from Damascus. **13%** in total were displaced from four other Syrian Governorates.



The large majority of Syrian families reported by key informants had been displaced for between 4 and 12 months, with **45%** having been displaced for between 6-12 months. None of the households identified were reported to be recent arrivals (within one month prior of January 2013) and similarly no households were reported to be long term residents of Jarash Governorate (over 12 months).



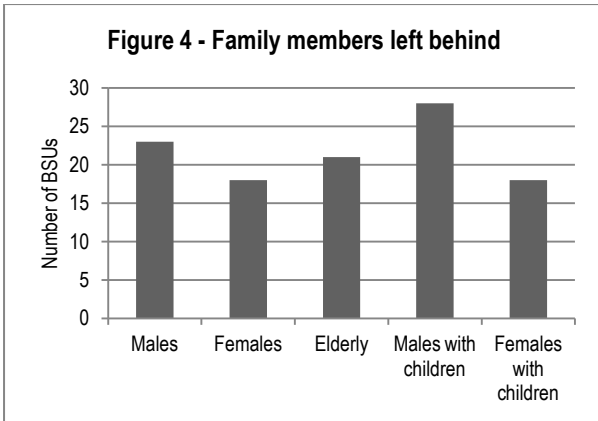
In the majority of cases, displaced Syrians were reported to have travelled to Jarash Governorate in family groups, with **40%** reportedly arriving with their individual families, and **38%** in family units¹. Travel in larger groups of either a clan or a village was less common, **12%** and **10%** respectively.



Despite the majority of displaced Syrians having travelled with either their individual families or with family units, key informants reported that **70** households (**8%** of all identified) had family members that were left behind on displacement. Of these a slightly higher proportion of males than females were left behind, with a quarter reportedly being males with children.

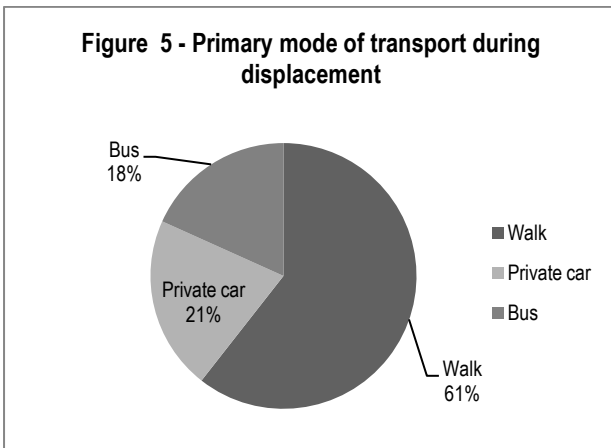
¹ For the purpose of this assessment an 'individual family' represents direct family members only; parents and children. A 'family unit' refers to blood relatives travelling together as a group consisting of multiple individual families.

Figure 4 - Family members left behind



In the majority of cases the primary mode of transport reported to have been utilised by Syrian families during displacement was walking, **61%**. A relatively high proportion, **21%**, of key informants reported private cars as the primary mode of transportation utilised by Syrian families resident in their respective BSUs.

Figure 5 - Primary mode of transport during displacement



Context Analysis within Jordan

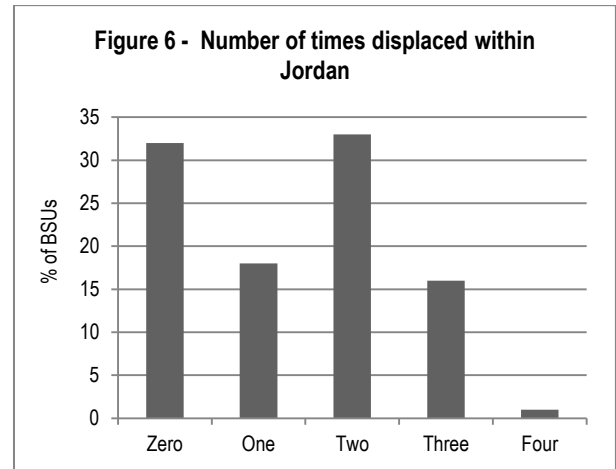
Of the displaced Syrians in Jarash Governorate, **32%** were reported by key informants to have arrived directly at the location they were currently living, while **50%** had been displaced within Jordan two or more times.

When asked to provide a reason as to why Syrian families were displaced multiple times within Jordan, the majority of key informants indicated that economic reasons were the most prevalent factor, **54%**. Additionally a considerable proportion of key informants identified the presence of other Syrian families as the primary reason for additional displacement within Jordan, **38%**.

36% of key informants judged further displacement within Jordan of the Syrian families in their BSU to be likely. Of this number, by far the most prevalent reason identified for possible future displacement was rental prices, **83%**. A small proportion of key informants also identified work opportunities

and a lack of availability of accommodation as a reason for possible future displacement, **9%** and **8%** respectively.

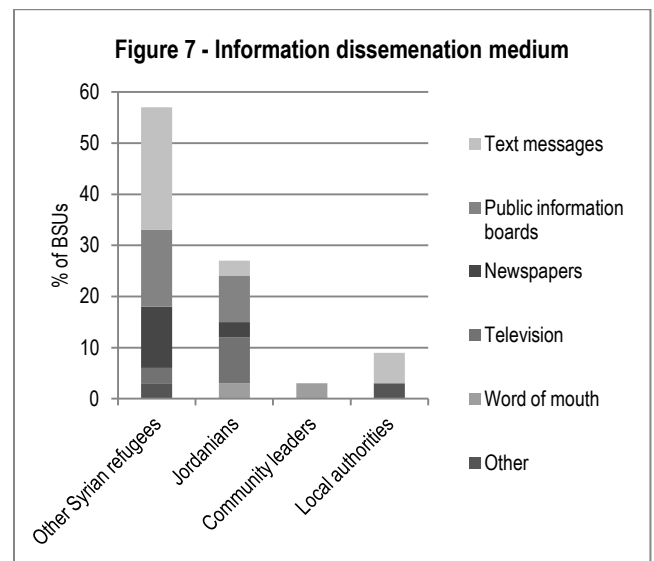
Figure 6 - Number of times displaced within Jordan



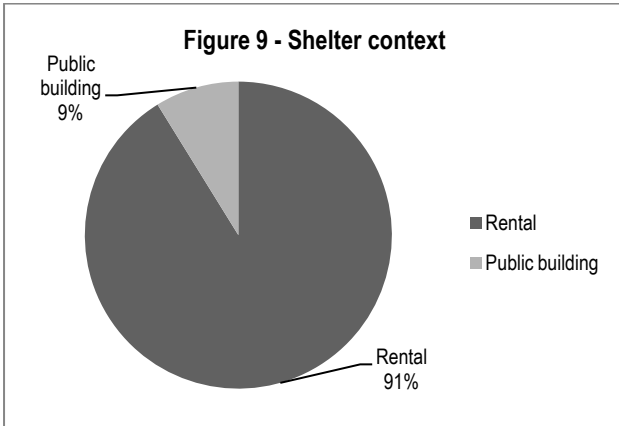
When asked to provide an explanation of how displaced Syrians chose where to settle within Jordan, **47%** of key informants identified rental prices as the primary reason, with **27%** identifying presence of other Syrian families and **23%** availability of accommodation. **3%** cited the availability of support and services as the primary pull factor.

The main medium through which displaced Syrians in Jarash Governorate reportedly receive information is text messages, **40%**, with public information boards being the next most important method of information dissemination, **24%**. Traditional media (television and newspapers) account for **27%** of information received, while word of mouth is little relied upon. The reported lack of use of word of mouth as a medium for information dissemination in Jarash Governorate is in direct contrast to other governorates targeted through this assessment.

Figure 7 - Information dissemination medium

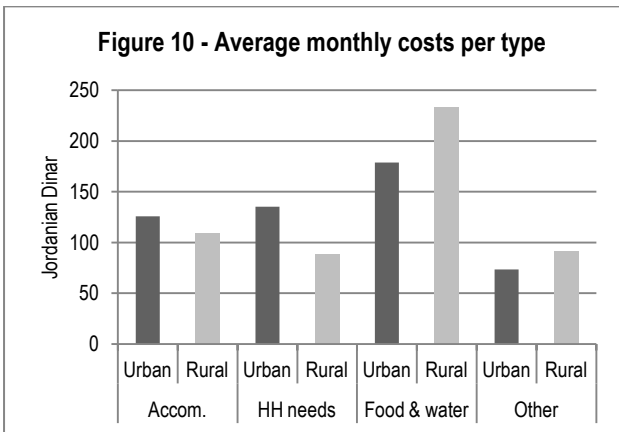


In terms of shelter context, the vast majority of displaced Syrians in Jarash Governorate were reported to be renting their accommodation, **91%**, with the remaining **9%** living in public buildings.

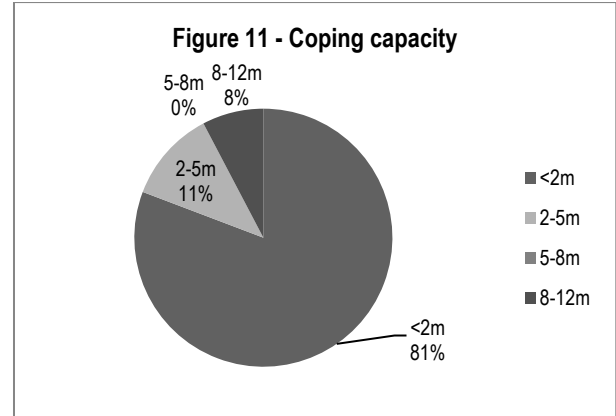


For the **91%** of households in rented accommodation the average monthly rental price reported by key informants was **117 JOD** per month at the time of assessment, with slightly higher prices in urban areas compared with rural areas, **126 JOD** and **109 JOD** respectively.

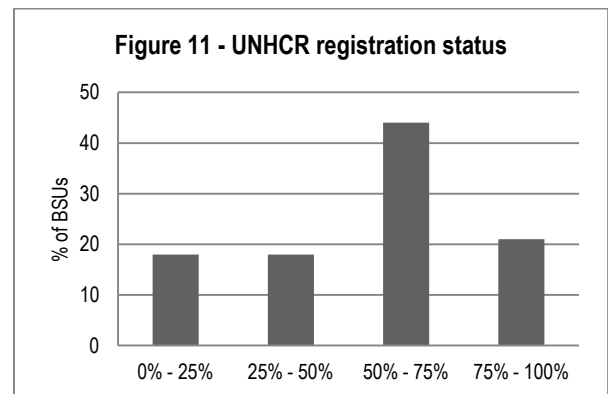
Interestingly, key informants reported a higher total average living costs in rural than urban BSUs, **523 JOD** compared to **513 JOD**. This difference is largely due to the considerably higher reported monthly cost of food and water in rural areas, **233 JOD**, compared to urban areas, **179 JOD**.



When asked the length of time that displaced Syrians families would be able to cope independently in their current conditions, **81%** of key informants estimated that families would be able to cope for less than two months. Only **8%** estimated families to be able to cope in the longer-term (8-12 months).

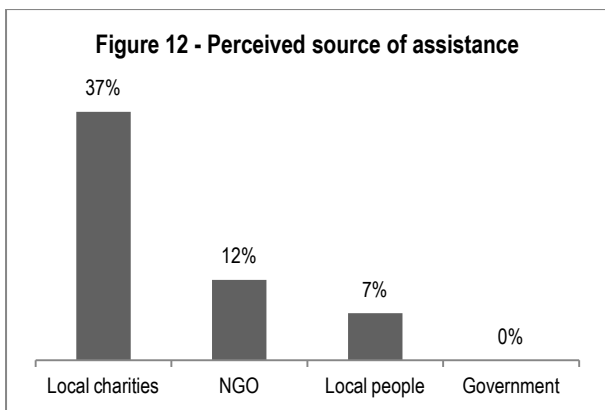


Key informants were asked to approximate the percentage of displaced Syrians in their BSU registered with UNHCR. The most common range of estimation was 50%-75% of families being registered, **44%**. Only **20%** of key informants estimated that 75%-100% of families were registered, with **18%** estimating that only 0%-25% were registered. The majority of key informants that reported 0%-25% of Syrian households registered with UNHCR represented rural BSUs, **67%**, whilst the majority of those reporting 75%-100% registration represented urban BSUs, **71%**, suggesting that Syrian households have a greater access to registration information and services in urban than rural BSUs.



82% of key informants reporting the presence of Syrian families in their BSUs reported that some kind of assistance had been received by the families. The vast majority of all aid received by Syrian families in Jarash Governorate, **79%**, was reported to have been in the form of food aid by key informants.

Local sources were predominately identified as being the source of assistance for Syrian families in Jarash Governorate. **37%** of assistance was reported to come from local charities such as Al Kitab Al Sunna and Othman Bin Affan, and an additional **7%** was reported to have been provided by local people. Only a small proportion of assistance, **12%**, was reported by key informants to have come from NGOs / the United Nations.



When asked to rank the top three priority needs of displaced Syrian families in their BSU, the overwhelming majority of key informants ranked cash for rent as the top priority (94%). 100% of key informants included winter support in one of the top three priorities. The other most highly ranked priority need was food aid.

Table 14 – Ranking of priority needs

	Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3
Cash for rent	94.1%	5.9%	0.0%
Food aid	2.9%	11.8%	58.8%
Winter support	2.9%	73.5%	23.5%
Sanitation	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Work / job placement	0.0%	2.9%	8.8%
Water	0.0%	0.0%	5.9%
Health assistance	0.0%	5.9%	0.0%
Shelter/NFI	0.0%	0.0%	2.9%

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.