



FACT SHEET # 2

REACH ASSESSMENT OF SYRIAN REFUGEES IN HOST COMMUNITIES, DOHUK GOVERNORATE, IRAQ

21 FEBUARY 2013

BACKGROUND

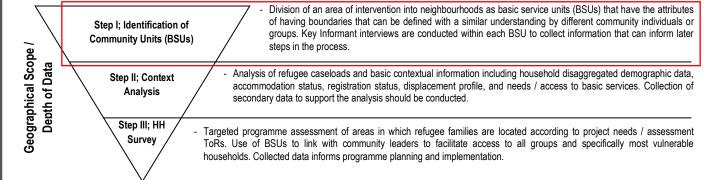
Of the over 793,597 Syrian refugees estimated in Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, Turkey and Egypt as of 5th March 2013, 106,697 have registered with UNHCR in Iraq¹. In the Kurdistan region a number of factors including: (a) the onset of winter conditions; (b) a continuing influx of new refugee arrivals from Syria causing an increased stress on host community infrastructure and services; and (c) weakened coping mechanisms within refugee communities living in hosted conditions given the prolonged period of displacement; are causing increased pressure on individual refugee families, forcing many to be drawn towards the choice to either relocate towards the main refugee camp in Domiz, Dohuk Governorate, or consider a return to Syria. With the carrying capacity of Domiz camp limited, the focus of the humanitarian community is to support refugees hosted within communities across Kurdistan. The major challenge for actors on the ground however lies in identifying the refugee families hosted in communities across villages and cities of Iraq, and accessing baseline information that would allow for a quicker and more effective targeting of resources necessary to launch relevant and timely responses.

The data presented in this factsheet represents the preliminary findings of a first phase of an assessment (see methodology summary section below for more details) carried out between the 18th of December 2012 and the 20th of January 2013 in Erbil Governorate, Iraq as part of a UNHCR funded project aimed at addressing the information deficit existing in relation to refugees hosted in cities and villages around the region. All numbers of total refugee populations are based on Key Informant Interviews and final results are still in the process of verification and completion. It is important to note that numbers are not gathered through a registration process or household interviews but are estimated figures based on key informant information. What is important to highlight with this level of assessment is where concentrations of refugees are gathering and what trends in vulnerabilities and perceived issues are identified. As the **REACH database** is progressively updated and verified further updates to these factsheets will be prepared, contributing to a wider analysis at the Governorate level.

Summary of the Assessment Methodology

The 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 them to make informed decisions with regards to their targeting specific areas or locations based on their programme planning needs. As such the REACH methodology focuses primarily on steps I & II. The definition of the terms of reference (TORs) for step III is left to the individual actors' prerogative.

This factsheet is based on the results of step I, in which Basic Service Units were identified based on a focus group discussion with members of a given target area. Key informant interviews were then organised with members of each BSU. These key informant interviews focused on identifying the general caseload, profile of displacement, and overall living conditions of the refugees that are hosted in each of the BSUs within the area of interest. It is the results of these interviews that are presented here.



¹ Source: UNHCR Syria Regional Refugee Response; Information Sharing Portal, 22/01/2013

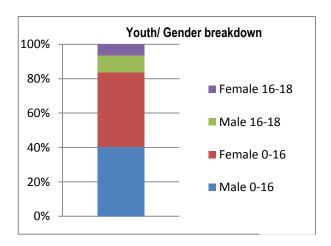




1. OVERVIEW OF FINDINGS - DOHUK CITY

Dohuk City, the largest in the governorate is home to an estimated 950,000 people. A total of **60** key informant group interviews have been conducted to date in the Dohuk city. These interviews were conducted with up to four individuals representing both the hosts and refugees within a given community. These included: the Mukhtar for a given area, an informal community leader/member of a CBO, as well as two representatives (wherever possible one male and one female) of the refugee community.

For the purpose of the **Key Informant Interviews**, all single individuals were considered as 1 member family units. Nonetheless, to ensure a comprehensive overview of the refugee context at this stage in the process one question within the interview required that the refugee data be disaggregated between Iraqi returnees and Syrian refugees and further between families (multi-member groups) and singles (individuals who left their families behind elsewhere). Through this process a total of **181** refugee families and **560** singles (estimated **1050** individuals) have been identified within **60** BSUs between the 10th of December 2012 and the 25th of January 2013. The latest population figures were updated the week of 20/1/13-27/1/13 however, the analysis represents population numbers collected up to 15/01/13.



Figures 1 displays the breakdown of gender throughout the age groups.

BSUs	Est.# of Families	
Mazi Land		35
Zirka		17
Shahidan		16
Upper Malta Village		11
Nzarke Department		11
Gali		10
Shiva Shorke		8
Zozan		6
Sharky 2-3		6
Shelle 2		5

Table 1 shows the 10 Basic Service Units currently hosting the highest number of refugee families

Displacement Profile

As part of the key informant interviews, the assessment team sought to identify the primary areas of origin in Syria from which refugees in Dohuk City originated. Preliminary findings show that a majority of refugees were displaced from the sub-districts of Quamishli (Al Hasakeh Governorate) (54%), Al Malikeyyeh (Al Hasakeh Governorate) (22%), Al-Hassakeh (Al-Hassakeh Governorate) (5%), Ras Al Ain (Al-Hasakeh) (5%), Afrin (Aleppo Governorate), Damascus City (5%), As-Zabdani (Rural Damascus) (2%), Rural Damascus District (Rural Damascus) (2%).

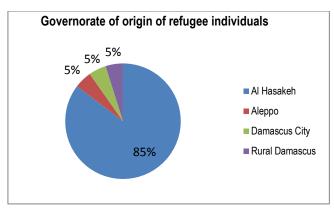


Figure 2: 4 main districts of origin of Syrian refugees in Dohuk Governorate





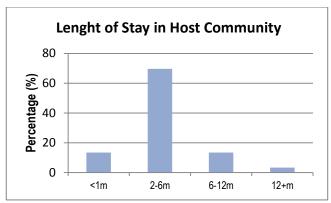


Figure 3: Duration of stay Syrian refugees in Dohuk host community (representing data collected from 15/12/12-15/1/13)

Vulnerability Analysis

A key objective of the assessment was to gain an enhanced understanding of key factors that affect refugee families' vulnerability. As part of the assessment, key informants were asked to identify particularly vulnerable populations within the refugee community. Table 1 below shows the number of families that pertain to particularly vulnerable groups or contain specific persons of concern (PoCs). Figure 4 shows the breakdown of specific vulnerability reported by key informants.

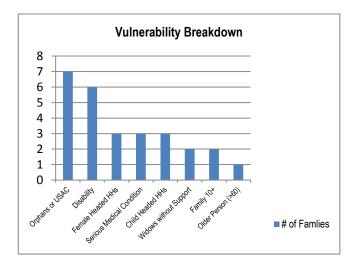


Figure 4: Breakdown of specific vulnerability reported by key informants (# of families)

Registration

A key mechanism for governmental and non-governmental agencies involved in protection activities to provide protection service/support to the refugee community are the registration structures with Directory of Displacement and Migration (DDM) and/or UNHCR/PARC. Although the large majority of the refugee population was reported as having registered with DDM and/or UNHCR, key informant groups in only one quarter (15) of the communities reported a need of additional assistance to ensure that all refugees are registered, however none of the interviewees

reported that this was because of not being aware of the procedures.

Shelter

Key informants reported that the most common housing type of the refugee families in Dohuk City was brick or concrete residential houses which are mainly in good condition or in need of minor repairs. Overall refugees were mostly reported to be living in brick buildings of some sort (46% of key informant respondents), however tents/plastic sheeting consisted of 26% of the shelter type (see figure 5) (Map Annex, Refugees living in damaged structures)

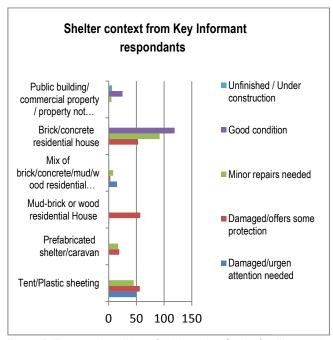


Figure 5: Type and condition of shelters that Syrian families reside in Dohuk City

Evictions

The key informants were also questioned about forcible evictions of refugee families that may have occurred in their area. Only 3 cases of eviction were collected in which it was reported that the families were evicted by the landlord or the neighbours. However, the data collected do not specify the reasons why those families have been evicted.

Income and Livelihoods

43 of the BSUs reported that the refugee families had at least one member of the family over 15 years of age were working in fulltime employment. Almost all of them, 93%, are reported as being involved in informal daily labour activities. 22% of the child population, under the age of 15 throughout Dohuk City are reported to be in employment at the time of the key informant interviews.





Security

According to the key informant responses, only 1 security incident was reported in Dohuk city in the last 3 months. However, no details regarding the type or kind of incident were given. In addition, 3 key informant groups did report some tensions between refugees and the local community. This BSUs are: Masika2 (which also reported the security incident), Shiva Shorke and Mazi-Land.

Access to Basic Services

The interviews also focused on the level of access of the refugees community to basic services within their area. Overall key informants reported that the refugee community in Dohuk City has access to electricity, water and sanitation to the same extent as local residents, via national networks. While this may generally be the case, it is only at the time of the household-level assessment that this statement can be verified, as it is likely that despite the availability of services, individual refugee families may not in fact be able to do so for financial or other reasons.

Water

While **49** BSU key informant groups reported that refugees access their water through the national network, however **2** BSUs, Alwen-Feqi and Gasara Village have access only to an unprotected well. In addition, when asked about their perceived quality of water **48** key informant groups indicated it was potable, **4** claimed it was only good for cooking and washing and **3** indicated the water is contaminated (Nzarke Department, Azadi and Alwen-Feqi).

Sanitation

According to the interviews conducted, majority of the refugee families have access to family sanitary facilities. Nonetheless, 3 BSUs indicated that the refugee community did not have access to any sanitary facilities. These BSUs are: Alwen-Feqi, Raza and Shiva Shorke. Refer to Figure 6 to get an overview of the Sanitation Facilities in Dohuk City.

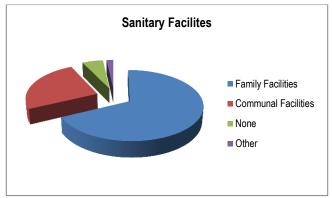


Figure 6 showing the access of Syrian refugees to sanitary facilities

Health

While majority of key informants indicated that there were no serious health concerns in the area, 13 BSUs reported that the Syrian refugee population does not have access to adequate health care and health services. A deeper analysis of the obstacles to the access to health services is required to have a better understanding of the situation.

Access to Information

Understanding the system in which refugees are receiving information is vital for any future endeavor to communicate with the displaced community. As part of the key informant interview, key informants were also asked how the refugees received information concerning services available to them. The assessment reflects that the majority of the refugee community receive and exchange information via other Syrian families, their relatives, television or host community leaders or through local/international NGOs. This information is vital for any organisation interested in communicating with refugee community, either for service delivery or for education and awareness campaigns.

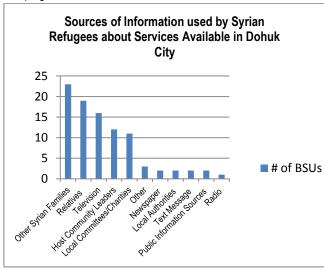


Figure 7, Usage of sources of information by the refugee community in Dohuk City





Needs Analysis

As part of this assessment, key informant groups were asked what currently represents the area of greatest concern at the household level. As reflected in Figure 8, it is apparent that income generation, shelter and winter support represent the greatest concerns of Syrian refugee families in Dohuk City.

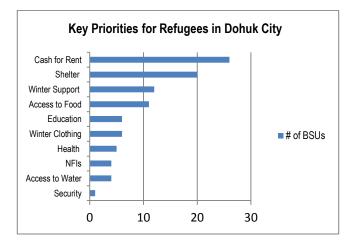


Figure 8, Priority needs of Syrian refugees in Dohuk City reported by key informants

Education

Based on key informant interviews, the data indicates that an estimated 51 refugee children from Dohuk City are not attending school. The majority of the key informant groups explained that it was due to language barriers that exist between the refugee population and the host community. Only 2 key informant groups stated that the reason the children are not attending school is that there were no educational facilities in their area, while the majority indicated there were primary and secondary schools in close proximity.

2. OVERVIEW OF FINDINGS - ZAKHO CITY

Zakho City represents the second largest urban center in Dohuk Governate, with a total population estimated around 336,000 people and is also one of the key areas of focus regarding Syrian Refugee populations. A total of **50** key informant group interviews have been conducted to date in the Zakho city. These interviews were conducted with up to four individuals representing both the hosts and refugees within a given community. These included: the Mukhtar for a given area, an informal community leader/member of a CBO, as well as two representatives (wherever possible one male and one female) of the refugee community.

For the purpose of the **Key Informant Interviews**, all single individuals were considered as 1 member family units. Nonetheless, to ensure a comprehensive overview of the refugee context at this stage in the process one question within the interview required that the refugee data be disaggregated between Iraqi returnees and Syrian refugees and further between families (multi-member groups) and singles (individuals who left their families behind elsewhere). Through this process a total of **276** refugee families and **198** singles (estimated **1256** individuals) have been identified within **50** BSUs between the 10th of December 2012 and the 25th of January 2013. The latest population figures were updated the week of 20/1/13-27/1/13 however, the analysis represents population numbers collected up to 15/01/13.

BSU	# of Families
Bedar(1-3)	51
Ashti	26
Fraq-High	20
Milan-12	13
Amad 2	12
Blan-Area	12
Charchra	10
Dalal	10

Table 2, shows Basic Service Units currently hosting the highest number of refugee families in Zakho City

Vulnerability Analysis

A key objective of the assessment was to gain an enhanced understanding of key factors that affect refugee families' vulnerability. As part of the assessment, key informants were asked to identify particularly vulnerable populations within the refugee community. Figure 9 below shows the number of families that pertain to particularly vulnerable groups or contain specific persons of concern (PoCs).

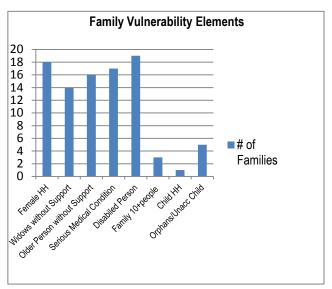
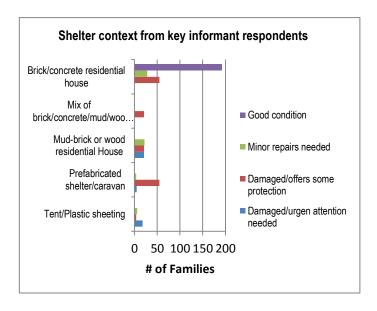


Figure 9, displaying the vulnerabilities of Syrian families

Shelter

Key Informant groups indicated that the majority of refugee families were living in brick or concrete houses that were described as in good condition. However, there were few BSUs where refugee families were reported to be living in tents or in severely or moderately damaged houses and prefabs.

Figure 10, showing shelter context of Syrian refugees



Livelihoods

According to the Interviews with key informant groups, there is an estimated **412** individuals in Zakho City who are currently working, with **8** children being reported as working too. **41 key informants** stated that the most common form of income came from **informal daily labor**.



REACH Informing more effective humanitarian action

Access to Basic Services

The interviews also focused on the level of access of the refugees community to basic services within their area. Overall key informants reported that the refugee community in Zakho City has access to electricity, water and sanitation to the same extent as local residents, via national networks. While this may generally be the case, it is only at the time of the household-level assessment that this statement can be verified, as it is likely that despite the availability of services, individual refugee families may not in fact be able to do so for financial or other reasons.

Water

Within Zakho City only 1 key informant group reported that the available water sources are damaged (Fraq-High) and 1 is not usable (Tanin). The majority of key informant groups reported that refugees have potable water at their disposal.

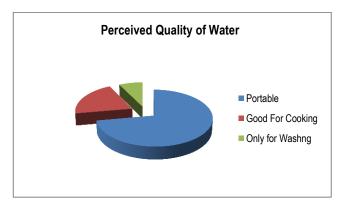


Figure 11, displaying perceived quality of water

Sanitation

Key informant groups indicated that the majority of the refugee families have access to family sanitation facilities (51 families) with only a small number having access to communal sanitation facilities (6 families). The conditions of these facilities are shown Figure 12 below.

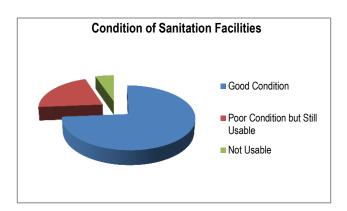


Figure 12, displaying conditions of sanitation facilities

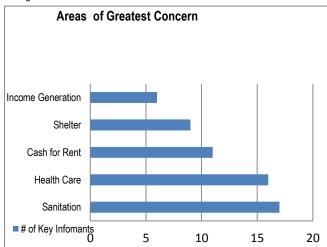
Health

14 key informants indicated that refugees in their area did not have adequate access to healthcare. However, 44 key informants in Zakho City indicated that refugees have regular access to hospitals and 8 have access to Public Health Clinics. Please refer to Map Annex for Zakho Inadequate Health Care.

Needs Analysis

As part of this assessment, key informant groups were asked what currently represents the area of greatest concern at the household level. As reflected in Figure 13, it is apparent that sanitation, health care and cash for rent represent the greatest concerns of Syrian refugee families in Zakho City.

Figure 13, showing the greatest needs or areas of concern of Syrian refugees







3. Overview of Findings – Semel City

With around 101,000 inhabitants, Semel city is the third largest city in the Dohuk governate and given its proximity to the border, it attracts a large number of Syrianrefugees. A total of 17 key informant group interviews have been conducted to date in the Semel city. These interviews were conducted with up to four individuals representing both the hosts and refugees within a given community. These included: the Mukhtar for a given area, an informal community leader/member of a CBO, as well as two representatives (wherever possible one male and one female) of the refugee community.

For the purpose of the **Key Informant Interviews**, all single individuals were considered as 1 member family units. Nonetheless, to ensure a comprehensive overview of the refugee context at this stage in the process one question within the interview required that the refugee data be disaggregated between Iraqi returnees and Syrian refugees and further between families (multi-member groups) and singles (individuals who left their families behind elsewhere). Through this process a total of **84** refugee families and **214** singles (estimated **554** individuals) have been identified within **17** BSUs between the 10th of December 2012 and the 25th of January 2013. (The latest population figures were updated the week of 20/1/13-27/1/13).

Vulnerability Analysis

A key objective of the assessment was to gain an enhanced understanding of key factors that affect refugee families' vulnerability, focusing in particular on registration, security and shelter.

Registration

7 key informants reported that Syrian refugees seem to be in need of further assistance with the registration either with UNHCR or DDM.

Security

According to the key informant group interviews, security is not seen as an important issue to the majority of Syrian refugees. However, 2 BSUs reported that tensions between the refugees and the host community occurred. Those BSUs are Kashe Village and Doban.

Shelter

Key informants reported that vast majority of Syrian refugees from Semel City are living in prefabricated shelter or caravans that are severely damaged and offer just some protection. While some other refugees are reported to be occupying brick or concrete buildings of good conditions, from Figure 14, it is evident, that shelter remains one of the areas of concern of the Syrian families.

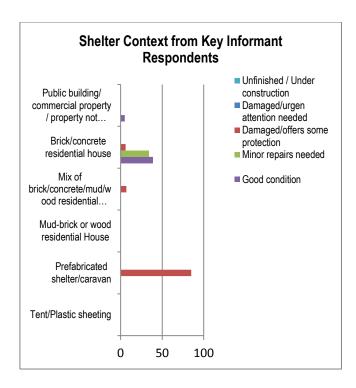


Figure 14, displaying shelter context and living conditions of Syrian families

Access to Basic Services

The interviews also focused on the level of access of the refugee community to basic services within their area. Overall key informants reported that the refugee community in Semel City has access to electricity, water and sanitation to the same extent as local residents, via national networks. While this may generally be the case, it is only at the time of the household-level assessment that this statement can be verified, as it is likely that despite the availability of services, individual refugee families may not in fact be able to do so for financial or other reasons.

Access to Information

Understanding the system in which refugees are receiving information is vital for any future endeavor to communicate with the displaced community. As part of the key informant interview, key informants were also asked how the refugees received information concerning services available to them. The assessment reflects that the majority of the refugee community receive and exchange information mainly via host community leaders, relatives or other Syrian families. There appears to be a lack of access or absence of technological information sources such as radio or television. This information is vital for any organisation interested in communicating with refugee community, either for service delivery or for education and awareness campaigns.





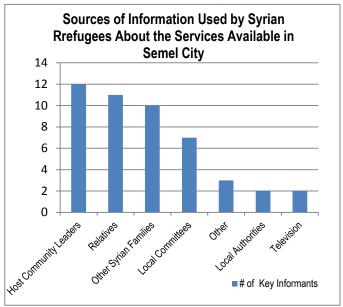


Figure 15, displaying sources of information used by Syrian refugees about the services available in Semel City

Education

While it seems that majority of children in Semel city are attending schools, some of the key informants in reported that an estimated 19 children were not attending school but the data as to why this is the case are not available. However, it most like is not the absence of schools in their respective areas as only 5 key informant groups stated that there is no schools within close proximity to their BSU. Moreover, 16 key informants indicated that within their particular location there were primary schools and 13 key informants reported to have secondary schools in their area.





4.OVERVIEW OF FINDINGS – RURAL AND MINOR URBAN AREAS

A large number of Syrian refugees is reported to be living outside the major urban centres in Dohuk Governorate. Based on the information collected from the initial key informant assessments there are an estimated 408 families residing in the rural areas of the governorate. This is most likely an underestimated number of the real amount of Syrians living in rural areas, however these figures still highlight the key areas of refugee population density and indicate key trends and their most urgent needs.

Key informant group interviews were conducted with up to four individuals representing both the hosts and refugees within a given community. These included: the Mukhtar for a given area, an informal community leader/member of a CBO, as well as two representatives (wherever possible one male and one female) of the refugee community.

For the purpose of the **Key Informant Interviews**, all single individuals were considered as 1 member family units. Nonetheless, to ensure a comprehensive overview of the refugee context at this stage in the process one question within the interview required that the refugee data be disaggregated between Iraqi returnees and Syrian refugees and further between families (multi-member groups) and singles (individuals who left their families behind elsewhere). Through this process a total of **408** refugee families (estimated **1950** individuals) have been identified within BSUs in rural Dohuk between the 10th of December 2012 and the 25th of January 2013. For a breakdown of refugee demographics, please refer to Figures 2 and 3 below.

BSU	# of Families	# of Individuals
War City	105	300
Greshin	16	84
Dargale	10	66
Hizawa 1	10	46
Merina	10	50
Kani Rashke	10	45

Figure 1, shows Basic Service Units currently hosting the highest number of refugee families in rural Dohuk

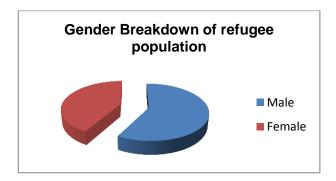


Figure 2, displaying gender breakdown of Syrian refugees

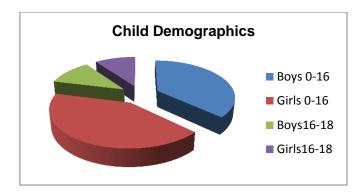


Figure 3, displaying the numbers of boys and girls between the ages of 0-16 and 16-18 years

Vulnerability Analysis

A key objective of the assessment was to gain an enhanced understanding of key factors that affect refugee families' vulnerability. As part of the assessment, key informants were asked to identify particularly vulnerable populations within the refugee community. Figure 4 below shows the number of families that pertain to particularly vulnerable groups or contain specific persons of concern (PoCs).

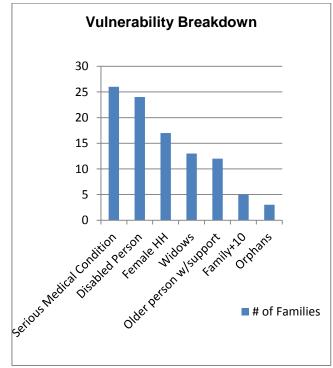


Figure 4: Breakdown of specific vulnerability reported by key informants (# of families)

Registration





A key mechanism for governmental and non-governmental agencies involved in protection activities to provide protection-service/support to the refugee community are the registration structures within the Directory of Displacement and Migration (DDM) and/or UNHCR/PARC. Although the majority of the refugee population was reported as having registered with DDM and/or UNHCR, key informant groups in 49 cases indicated a need of additional assistance to ensure that all refugees are registered.

Shelter

Key informants reported that the large majority of the refugee families in rural Dohuk Governorate are settled in brick or concrete houses reportedly with only minor repairs needed. According to the information collected, a large group of Syrians are also living in tents and plastic sheeting constructions and in public housing.)

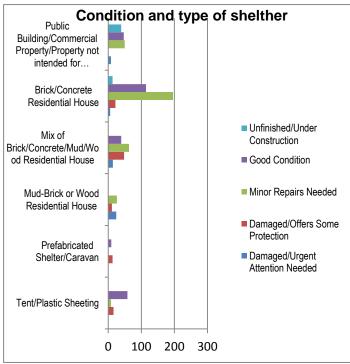


Figure 5, Conditions and types of the houses the refugees are mainly settled in.

Security

Only 1 security incident (in Old Darkare) was reported by the key informant groups in the past 3 months. However, no details regarding the type of kind of incident were given. 1 key informant group also reported some tensions between refugees and the local community, in Kashe Village.

Livelihoods

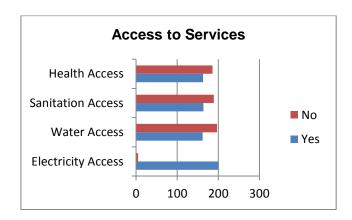
Majority, 106 key informant groups indicated that most of the Syrians in rural areas of Dohuk Governorate are involved in informal daily labour that provides the main source of income for them. Only 3 key informant groups indicated no employment.

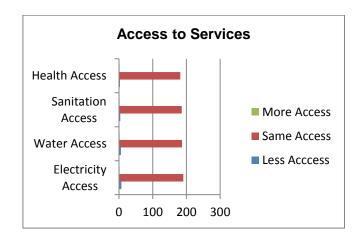
Access to Basic Services

The key informants were asked about the access of the refugee community to basic services within their area. The assessment also sought to understand the level of access for the refugees to these services.

Overall key informants reported that the refugee community in rural Dohuk Governorate has access to electricity, but a large portion of the refugee population reported that they have no access to water and sanitation or to health services. However, those who have access to the these service reported to have the same extent as local residents, via national networks, as displayed in Figures 6 and 7.

Figures 6 and 7 showing level of access to basic services for refugee families









Water

Water sources were generally reported by all key informants, as working adequately. The main water sources were identified as shown in Figure 8, with majority of refugees (82%) being connected to the national network. The condition of the water source is perceived as working by 94% of key informant groups, and only 3% of key informant groups indicated that the water source are available to them are not usable.

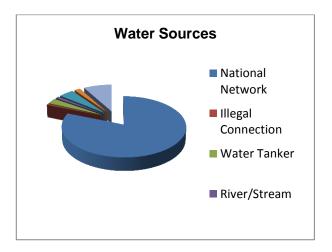


Figure 8, showing the main water sources used by refugee community

In majority (75%), the key informants groups perceive the quality of water as potable. 20% of the key informants maintain that the water is only good for washing or cooking. 4% of the key informants indicated that the quality of water is only good for washing and 1.5% perceive the water to be contaminated.

Sanitation

According to the interviews conducted, in 20 key informant groups (5.5%) reported that the refugee community in their respective areas does not have access to any sanitary facilities. Remaining 71% key informants indicated that they have family sanitary facilities while the 23% key informant groups maintained the availability of communal sanitary facilities, as shown in Figure 9.

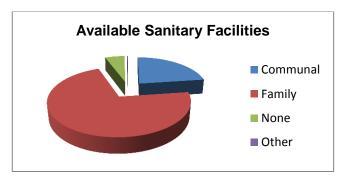


Figure 9, showing the available sanitary facilities

As Figure 10 displays, in **72%** of the BSUs, the sanitary facilities are perceived as being in good conditions, and in **24%** they are in poor condition but still usable. Only **4%** of key informant groups indicates that the sanitary facilities were not usable at all. Further details will be collected at the household level at which time a more developed analysis of the sanitation infrastructure can be undertaken.

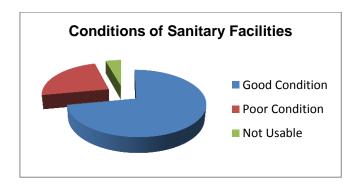


Figure 10, showing the conditions of sanitary facilities in the refugee community

Health

The majority of key informant groups (121) indicated that there were no serious health concerns in the area or special medical cases within the refugee community; however, a total of 36 BSUs did indicate that serious health concerns were prevalent within their communities. Moreover, 54% of key informant groups reported that do not have access to the adequate health facilities, with 44% indicating that the health facilities available to them were adequate. A deeper analysis of the obstacles to the access to health services is required to have a complete understanding of the situation.





Needs Analysis

As part of this assessment, key informants groups were asked what currently represents the area of greatest concern at the household level. As reflected in Figure 11, it is apparent that shelter, winter support and access to food represent the greatest concerns for Syrian refugee families in rural areas of Dohuk Governorate.

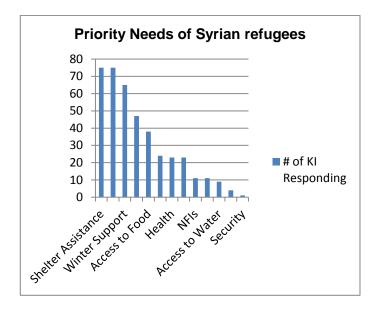


Figure 11, displaying priority needs of Syrian refugee community reported by key informants

Education

As reflected in Figure 12, different type of schools are available in the area, with most prevalent being the primary schools Regarding school attendance, the preliminary results indicate 197 children in the rural Governorate of Dohuk are not attending the school. Language barriers and lack of proper documentation seem to be the main reasons for this statistic, as displayed in Figure 13.

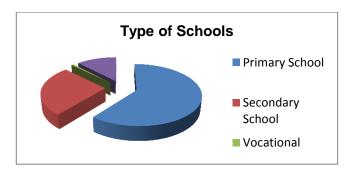


Figure 12, showing number availability of type of schooling in the respective BSUs

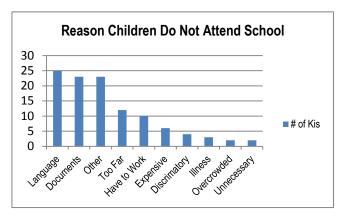


Figure 12, displaying the reasons why refugee children do not attend school





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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.

A partnership of



