

Situation Overview

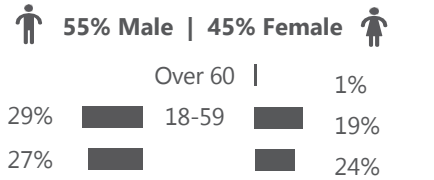
When Turkish airstrikes in Northeast Syria (NES) escalated in December 2021, the conflict and accompanying humanitarian crisis in Syria resulted in further internal displacement, as well as movement into the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I).¹ With 248,404 refugees registered with UNHCR as of January 2022, the local authorities are concerned about their ability to host additional households (HH).² In response to the increase in cross-border displacement, REACH Initiative conducted an assessment among Syrian refugee households who arrived in KR-I since December 2021 and were relocated to the Bardarash refugee camp. As of April 2022, Bardarash refugee camp hosted 4,009 Syrian refugees. To enhance the understanding of living conditions of Syrian refugee households in Iraq and inform subsequent programming, household demographics, displacement history, intentions, as well as reported needs and vulnerabilities were assessed.³

Methodology

This assessment focuses on the needs and vulnerabilities of the estimated 1,300 refugees from Syria who have arrived into the KR-I since December 2021 and were brought to the pre-existing Bardarash camp.⁴ The assessment employed a quantitative approach to primary data collection and used a structured survey tool to conduct HH level interviews. Building on a simple random sampling method, 92 households were interviewed to ensure that findings are statistically representative at a 95% level of confidence with a 10% margin of error. To ensure representativeness, randomly generated GPS points were located within the Bardarash camp map which guided enumerators to the nearest HH to conduct interviews. In addition to this, a representative from the Bardarash camp management was interviewed as a key informant.



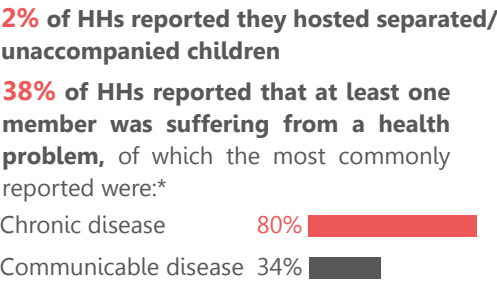
Demographics



25% of HHs were headed by a female

31% of HHs were single-headed (e.g. divorced, widowed, single)

Vulnerable Groups



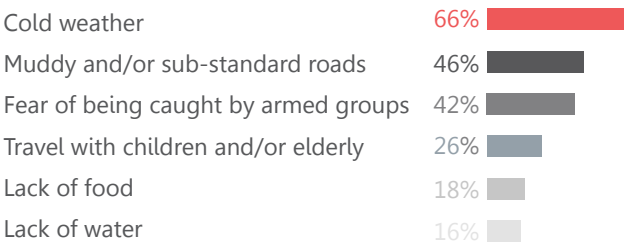
25% of HHs reported that at least one member was facing at least some level of physical and/or cognitive disability. Among these, difficulties with seeing (even with glasses), walking, and hearing (even with hearing aid), were the most reported types of difficulties.

Displacement

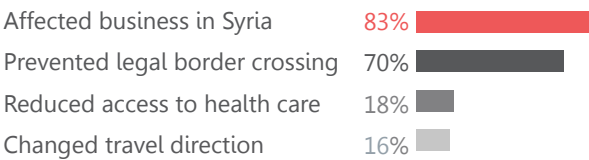
The majority of HHs reported having arrived either in January (89%) or February (8%) 2022 and having crossed from Syria into the KR-I through the Sahila border crossing (84%). Nearly all HHs reported spending either one day at the screening centre (38%) or two to four days (55%) before being moved to Bardarash camp.

The high reported proportion of HHs with health issues (38%) likely further aggravated their vulnerabilities to the difficulties reported during the HH's journey (e.g. cold weather, lack of food and water). Female respondents were substantially more likely to report the lack of food (23%), water (20%) or money (11%), as well as fear of being caught by armed groups (50%) and risks of travelling with children or elderly (32%) as difficulties experienced during their journey, compared to male respondents (15%, 13%, 2%, 35%, and 21% respectively).*

Most commonly reported difficulties experienced during HH's journey from Syria into KR-I:*



Most commonly reported impacts of the Syria-KR-I border closure:*



1. Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, [Nearly 30 people killed in separate attacks, while deteriorating living conditions ignite popular protests](#) (December 2021).

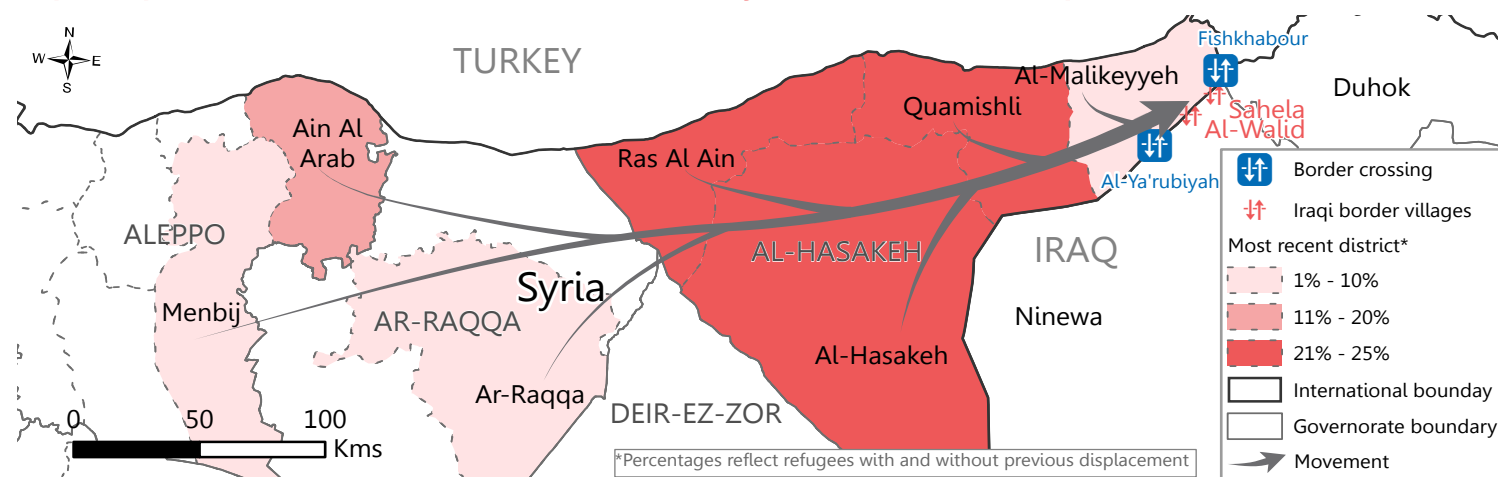
2. UNHCR, [Syrian Refugee Response-Iraq](#). (April 2022).

3. Population figures as provided by a representative from the camp management during key informant interview.

4. Please refer to other IMPACT Initiatives assessments, such as the Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment (MSNA) for additional information about the needs and vulnerabilities of Syrian HHs and/or camp conditions in Iraq.

* This indicator refers to a multiple-choice question. Therefore, results may exceed 100%.

Map 2: Reported Districts of Most Recent Residence in Syria Prior to Arrival in Iraq



Previous Locations in Syria and Push Factors

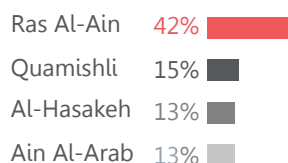
A substantial proportion of the HHs who recently arrived in Bardarash camp had reportedly been experiencing multiple phases of displacement, both within Syria (29%) and in Iraq (36%). **This secondary displacement is reflective of the ongoing instability and repeated uprooting of life (e.g. disrupted education, inability to invest), which can be expected to further aggravate multi-sectoral HH needs.** Nearly half (42%) of HHs reported having experienced fear of being caught by armed groups during their journey, with such **safety concerns also being reflected by the 68% of HHs who reported the unstable security situation in Syria as a primary push factor.** Note that the 16% of HHs who reported fear of conscription as a push factor for leaving Syria could explain in part the higher proportion of male HH members over the age of 18 who reportedly crossed into Iraq (29%) compared to female HH members (19%), as well as the prevalence of single heads of HH (31%).⁵

Civil Documentation & Livelihoods

Only 10% of HHs reported that none of their HH members was missing a Syrian civil document.⁶ Note that 15% of HHs reported that at least one HH member was missing their Syrian ID card, which was expected to obstruct their access to basic services and legal protection in Syria. The majority of HHs reported that they did not have any type of civil documentation from Iraq (71%), while 28% of HHs reported having a residency card in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. However, among these, 11% reported that not all HH members had this KR-I residency card.

More than two-thirds of HHs (67%) reported relying on non-employment income sources in the 30 days prior to data collection, and 10% of HHs reported no income in this timeframe. This is likely to further reduce household resilience among newly arrived Syrian refugees in Bardarash camp if regular income sources cannot be accessed in the near future. Female respondents were more likely to report having relied on irregular employment (23%) and charity (18%) as their main income source, compared to male respondents (15% and 4% respectively), but were less likely to report having relied on community support (14% compared to 25%). Concerns related to precarious livelihood conditions were also reflected as push factors to leave Syria (i.e. lack of employment reported by 74% of HHs) and as a key impact of border closure (i.e. negative impact on business in Syria reported by 83% of HHs).

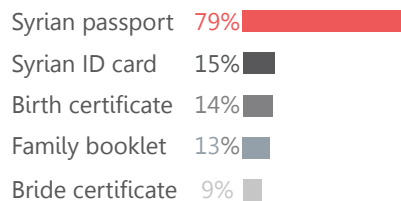
Most commonly reported districts of origin in Syria:



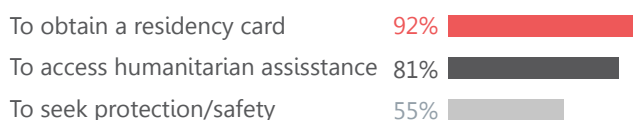
Most commonly reported reasons for leaving areas of origin (AoO) or areas of last residence in Syria:*



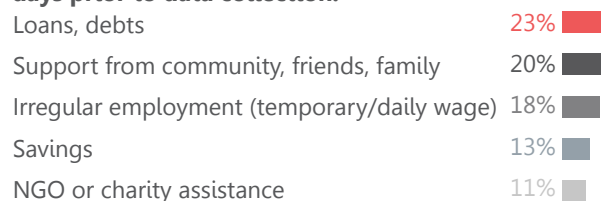
Reported lack of Syrian civil documentation by at least one HH member:*



9% of HHs reported not being registered with UNHCR at the time of data collection. Among HHs who reported being registered with UNHCR, the most commonly reported reasons were:*



Most commonly reported primary income sources in the 30 days prior to data collection:



5. Enumerators observed that several HHs were composed of single male individuals, reflecting the specific protection concerns that affect males in conflict-affected areas.

* This indicator refers to a multiple-choice question. Therefore, results may exceed 100%

6. Syrian civil documentation surveyed consisted of: Syrian ID card, ID certificate (issued by Mukhtar), Passport, Family booklet, Birth certificate and Bride certificate.

➦ Priority Needs and Concerns

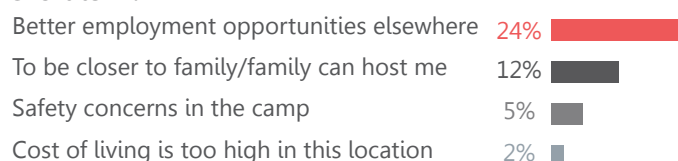
While many HHs reported awareness about a variety of services provided by humanitarian and/or government actors (e.g. **24%** of HHs reported access to multi-purposes cash assistants), it should be noted that **only 17% of HHs reported access to education services and 21% reported access to health services.** In line with the previously discussed livelihood concerns, **82%** of HHs reported livelihood support and/or employment as a primary priority need for the three months following data collection.

Only **10%** of HHs reported having access to legal (protection) services and enumerators noted that they repeatedly received questions from HHs about UNHCR registration and its link to accessing assistance, employment, and freedom of movement. Considering that nearly one in ten HHs (**9%**) were not registered with UNHCR at the time of data collection, **enhancing the information and communication about documentation and legal protection issues may address some of the reported HH concerns.** Indeed, **18%** of female respondents noted access to information as a primary concern, while **50%** of male respondents reported civil documentation as a key concern, potentially due to its (perceived) link to employment. **Reported priority needs and concerns varied at times between female and male respondents which may require specific targeting of assistance and/or information sharing,** e.g. female respondents were more likely to report food (**52%**) and health care (**20%**) as primary needs. A representative from the Bardarash camp management highlighted the need for specialized health care (e.g. gynecology, mental health), rehabilitation of WASH infrastructure, as well as food and NFIs (including female hygiene items).

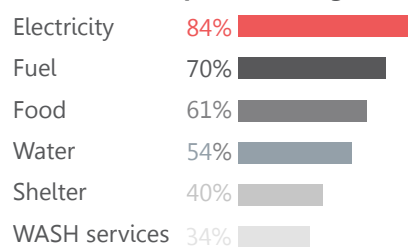
➦ Movement Intentions

The short- and medium-term movement intentions (i.e. 3 and 6 months following data collection) reportedly varied, with a small majority (**60%**) having reported they intended to remain in Bardarash camp. Among HHs who reported intending to remain in Bardarash camp in the short term, the most commonly reported reasons were the lack of alternative options (**55%**) and the need to follow government directives (**15%**). **Considering that more than two-thirds (85%) of HHs reported intending to integrate in Iraq in the long term, these HHs would benefit from efforts to enhance their self-resilience through accessing education, employment, and legal safety.**

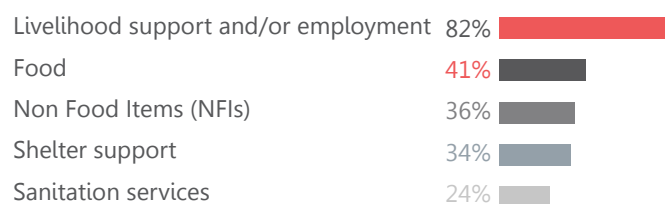
Most commonly reported reasons to leave the current location in the short term:*



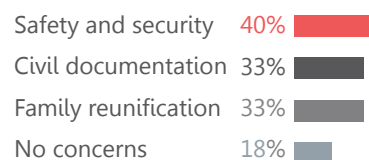
Most commonly reported government and/or humanitarian services HHs reported having access to:*



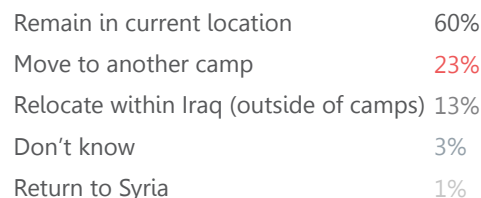
Most commonly reported priority needs for the three months following data collection:*



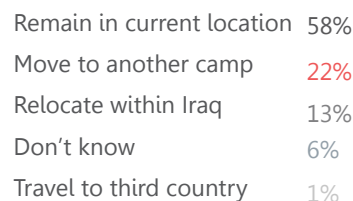
Most commonly reported concerns affecting the HH:*



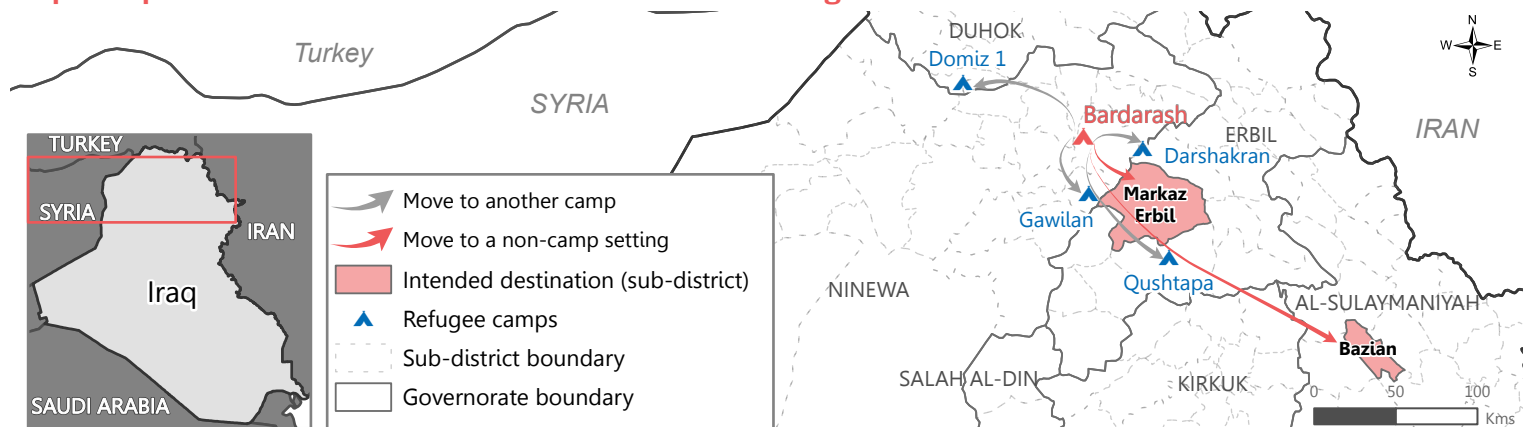
Reported movement intentions in the 3 months following data collection:



Reported movement intentions in the 6 months following data collection:



Map 3: Reported Movement Intentions in the 6 Months following Data Collection



* This indicator refers to a multiple-choice question. Therefore, results may exceed 100%