

Findings of the Household Assessments of Syrian Refugees in Host Communities

Duhok Governorate

July 2013

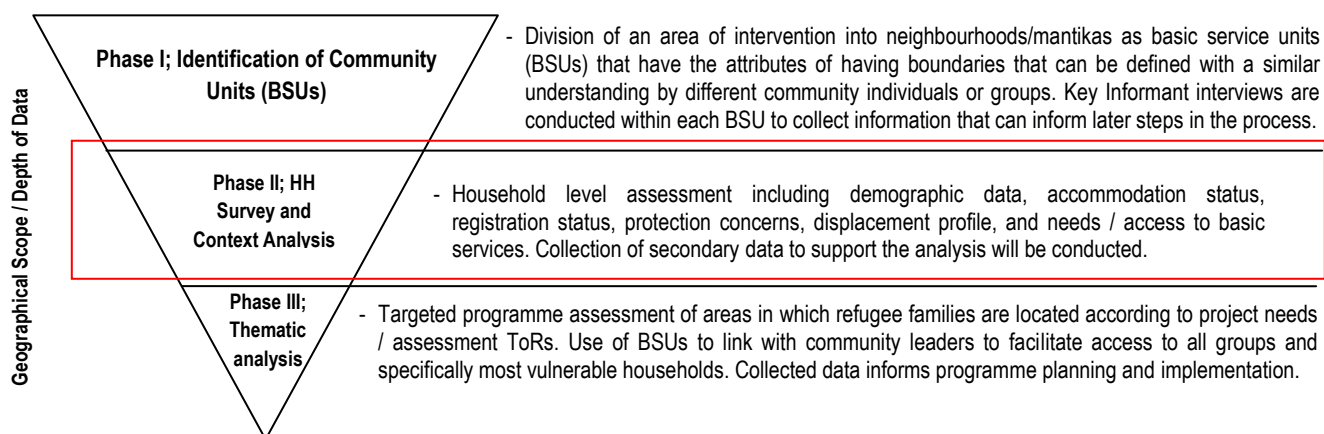
BACKGROUND

Of the over 1,811,867 Syrian refugees estimated in Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, Turkey and Egypt as of 5th March 2013, 161,652 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 capacity of Domiz camp limited, there is a need for the humanitarian community to focus on support to 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 findings of household level interviews that were conducted in the host communities of Duhok Governorate in March to May 2013. During this phase of the project, **4,182** displaced Syrian households, representing **11, 859** individuals, were assessed. The household assessments focused on collecting five key sets of information from each household: 1. Household demographic data; 2. Registration card numbers; 3. Displacement profile; 4. Accommodation context; 5. Services and Needs. Additionally, assessment team leaders collected GPS data for each building housing Syrian refugee households in order to allow for the mapping of key data trends discovered through the analysis of collected data.

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. It is important to note that this represents a snap shot of the situation and is based on the self-perception of the interviewees.



¹ <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/country.php?id=103>

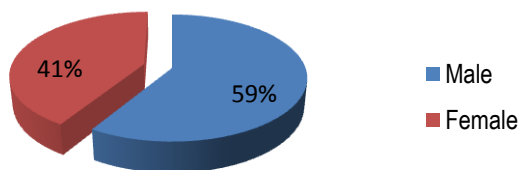
Key findings

A total of **4,182** households were identified and surveyed through the assessment, representing approximately **11, 859** individuals, all settled in Duhok Governorate. The assessment was conducted in **165** neighborhoods including **3** of the largest urban areas: Duhok, Semel and Zakho. The assessment was conducted in rural areas as well, which were previously identified as hosting large numbers of Syrian refugees. The 165 neighborhoods were further delineated into **206** BSU (as according to the above detailed methodology) of which names and boundaries are recognized and identified at the community level.

Household profile

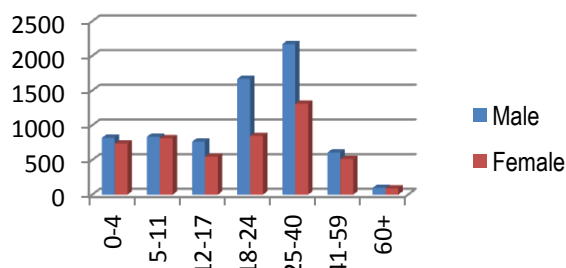
The total respondents identified demonstrated a male preponderance of **59%** of the total population surveyed; females representing **41%**. The assessment found that **1944** men and **56** women were single.

Figure 1: Gender Breakdown



38% of individuals identified were reported to be under the age of 18, of which **34%** under the age of 5. **39%** reported direct family members were aged between 25 and 59, indicating a moderate dependency ratio. **50%** of the Syrian respondents were aged between 18 and 40. Interestingly, within this age span, the male to female ratio is **2 to 1** on an average respectively or twice as many men then females.

Figure 2: Age and Gender Breakdown

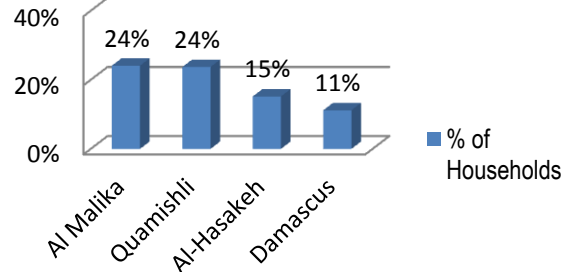


Displacement profile

An even **24%** of the refugee households residing in Duhok Governorate originate from Al Malika and Quamishli

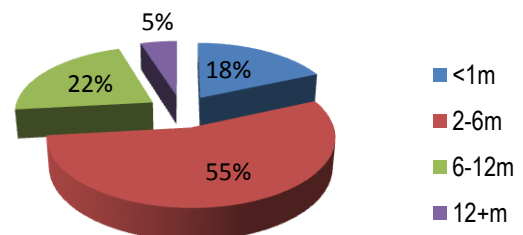
respectively; other governorates from which the refugees were displaced from were reported to be Al Hasakeh in a **15%** proportion and **11%** originating from Damascus.

Figure 3: Area of Origin



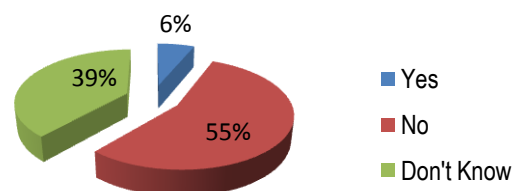
Of the households identified through the assessment, the majority represented by **55%** of the respondents reported being in Iraq for 2 to 6 months. **22%** reported being located in Iraq for less than one month, while **18%** of the respondents were in the country for 6 to 12 months. Only **5%** reported being in Iraq for 1 year or more.

Figure 3: Time in Iraq



The majority of the displaced population identified, **2299** representing **55%** of the surveyed households, at the time of the assessment reported that they do not intend on leaving their current location in the following 2 months. **1606** households or **39%** were not able to provide a clear indication of their intention to remain or leave their location while only **5%** reported expecting to leave their location within two month time.

Figure 4: Planned Movement

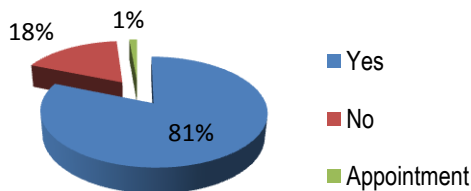


Context analysis within Iraq

Registration status

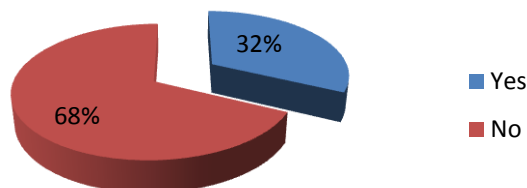
Of the **4,182** households identified, **81%** (3,392 households) reported being registered with UNHCR. Of the households that reported not being registered representing (**18%**), only **1%** had a registration interview date schedule with UNHCR at the time of assessment.

Figure 5: UNHCR Registration



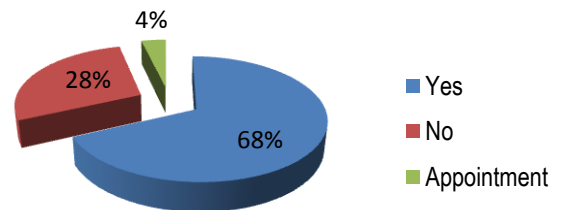
A higher proportion of households, **68%** reported not requiring assistance regarding the registration process while **32%** indicated that assistance is needed. The difference between the percentage of households reporting not to be registered with UNHCR and the percentage indicating that registration assistance is required is due the fact that the registration process is often seen as including the procedure of obtaining a residency card. The two are directly connected in camp settings however, when located outside of the camp this is not insured due to the government's policies.

Figure 6: Registration Assistance



At the time of the assesment only **68%** responded positively when asked if they poses a residency card while **28%** reported not having one and **4%** reported having an application appointment which would start the process of obtainings one.

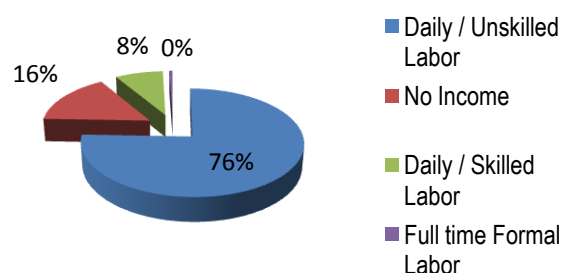
Figure 6: Residency Card



Employment

Over three quarters of the surveyed Syrian population, **76%** reported that their family's primary source of income was provided by income generated through daily/unskilled labor, followed by **16%** reporting that they their families have no source of income. Daily skilled labor provides a source of income for only **8%** of the households while less than **1%** of the Syrian families identified were formally employed in full time labor.

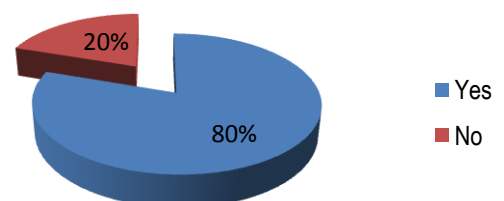
Figure 7: Source of Income



As mentioned above, at the time of the assessment, **650** refugee households reported not having any source of income however, less than 1% (**14**) of other reported sources of income include loans or money sent from abroad.

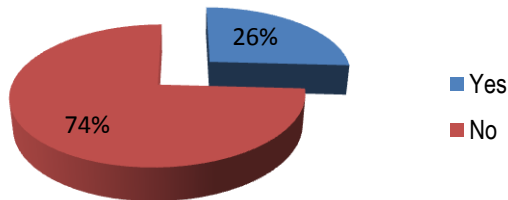
The vast majority of the households **80%** (or **3346** households) reported that at least one of their family members was employed at the time of the assessment. **20%** (or **826**) reported that none of the family members was working at the time of the assessment.

Figure 7: Currently Employed



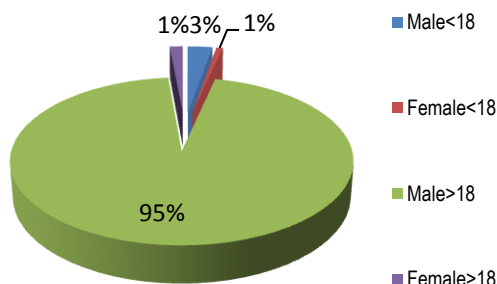
A similar number of households, **26%** (3065) indicated that someone in their family was looking for work at the time of the assessment, while **74%** (1069) reported no one was seeking employment.

Figure 8: Looking for Work



At the time of the assessment, the vast majority of those reporting to be employed, **95%** were adult men (males over the age of 18). A slightly higher number of females over the age of 18 were reported to be working than females under the age of 18, **51** compared to **26** (or **1%** respectively), belonging to the identified households. However, **3%** of respondents that reported to be working were males under the age of 18.

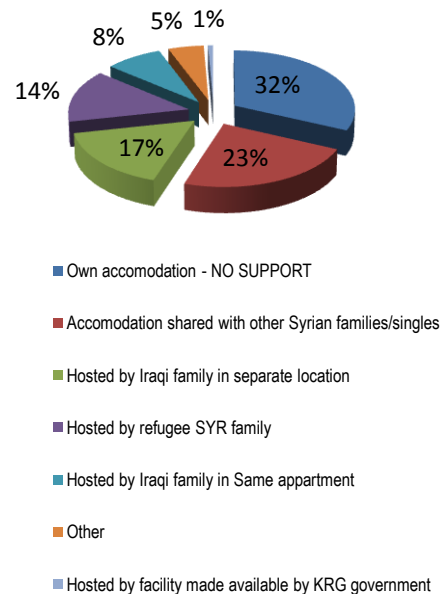
Figure 9: Employment Breakdown



Shelter situation

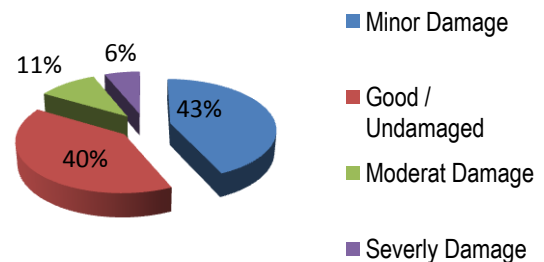
The majority of households, **32%**, reported residing in private accommodation as a single family without being otherwise supported. **23%** of household representatives surveyed indicated sharing their accommodation with other Syrian families or singles at the time of assessment, **17%** were hosted by Iraqi family in a separate location and **14%** were hosted by other Syrian families while Iraqi families hosted **8%** of the assessed households in the same apartment as their own. A smaller proportion of the households assessed, **5%** (or **211** households) indicated "other" as describing their shelter arrangement.

Figure 10: Shelter Arrangement



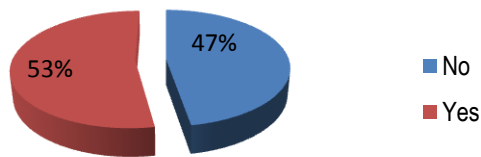
The majority of households, **43%** reported that the shelter they live in has minor damages while **40%** indicated living in good/undamaged housing. **10%** of the shelters that the identified Syrian households reside in were reported as moderately damaged while **6%** were described as severely damaged.

Figure 11: Shelter Condition



More than half of the assets households, **53%** (2205) reported paying rent for their accommodation while **47%** (1973) do not. **56** female headed households reported having to pay rent which is worrisome considering that the data presented above states that men are the sole income providers in the large majority of cases.

Figure 12: Do you pay rent?

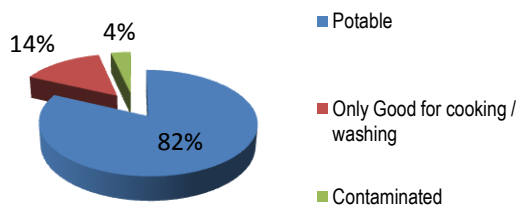


An overwhelming majority, **85%** of the respondents described their shelter as able to protect them from the elements while **15%** reported that their housing is not able to protect against them. However, when the analysis is narrowed to the BSU, **72%** of respondents located in Tanahi Collective and **46%** in Domiz (BSU) consider that their shelter is not in adequate condition to protect their families from the elements.

Water and sanitation

The majority of Syrian households, **82%**, considered the water they have access to as potable. However, **14%** of the respondents reported that the water quality is considered good enough only for cooking and washing while **4%** indicated that they perceive the water as being contaminated.

Figure 12: Water Quality



Household Vulnerability

Out of the households identified by the assessment, a total of **119** families reported having at least one chronically ill family member. An interesting finding is that the information provided by assessing one's own general household's vulnerability in terms of chronically ill members does not numerically equate with the information provided on strictly health related issues. It is highly recommended that further follow-up is conducted.

111 families reported that a female is the head of their households, which is concerning considering that men are reported as being the sole income providers in the large majority of cases and half of these female headed households report having to pay rent (according to data previously presented).

69 households reported being headed by an elderly (above 60 years of age) member of the family and **53** families indicated having a disabled family member within their household. Among the assessed families, **32** reported being victims of violence and **20** being composed of more than 10 family members. Although this represents a small percentage of the assessed population, the real value is more important.

Health

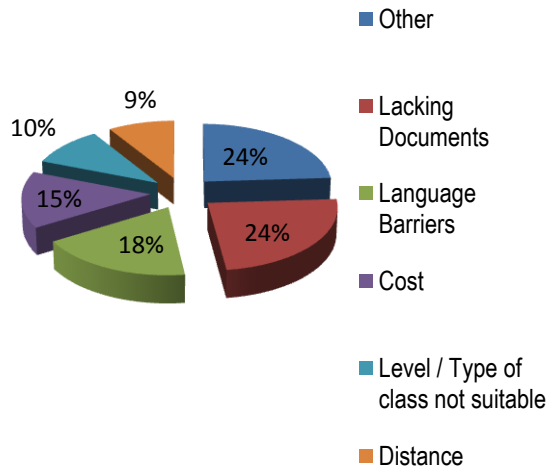
With regards to health care access, an overwhelming majority **98%** of the refugee households indicated they have access to health care while the remaining **2%** indicated the contrary. However, a surprising **99%** stated that have not received a government issued health care card. When asked if anyone in their family suffers from specific health care issues, **330** households stated that someone in their family suffers from a chronic disease, **80** reported having a physically handicapped/disabled family member, **59** households stated that someone in their family suffers from psychological trauma, and **26** reported serious physical injuries or trauma.

Access to education

Within the families identified through the assessment, a total of **2,048** children between the ages of 6 and 17 were reported as not being enrolled in school, with an almost 50/50 gender split in the Duhok Governorate, at the time of the assessment.

When asked for a reason as to why children were not enrolled in school, the majority, **24%** indicated the lack of documents as preventing the children's enrollment in schools, and an equal proportion, **24%** indicated "other" which from discussions with the assessment teams was clarified as indicating that the child was not of age or they were too late for enrollment. **18%** of the respondents reported that language barriers was an impediment while **15%** reported that they were not able to cover the cost of education services at the time of assessment. Additionally, a large number of households, **10%** of the respondents indicated that the level or types of classes offered were not considered suitable and **9%** explained that distance to the education facility is a factor contributing to the choice of children not being enrolled in school.

Figure 13: Reasons for not attending school?

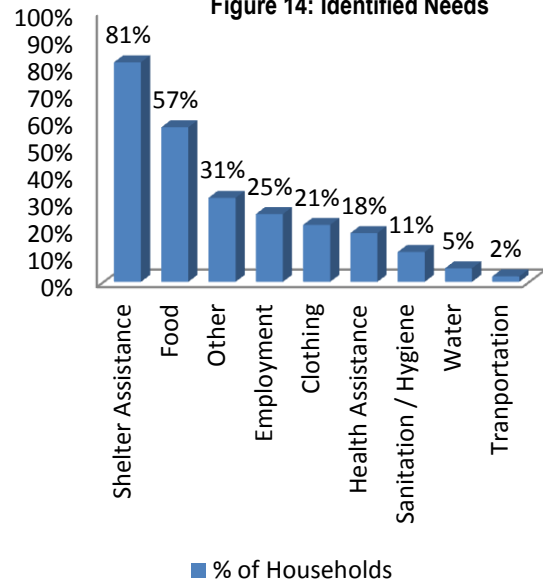


Services and Needs

Shelter assistance is the most frequently self-identified need by the Syrian refugees at the time of the assessment with an overwhelming **81%** of households indicating it as their family's most immediate need.

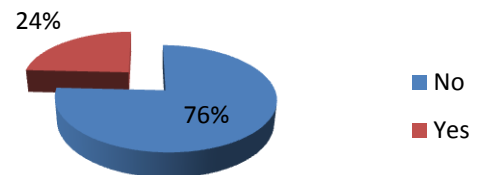
Food is the second most immediate need identified by **57%** of households located in Duhok governorate followed by **31%** indicating **other**, which in many cases meant the need for cash assistance. **25%** ranked employment as their most immediate necessity. **21%** of households reported requiring clothing for their family members and **18%** identified health assistance as a priority need. Following in proportion of **11%**, households stated that they feel that hygiene and sanitation is a necessity while water is identified as a need by **5%**. **2%** of the assessed households stated transport as an identified family need. It is important to note that the respondents could choose 3 options in no order of importance.

Figure 14: Identified Needs



When inquiring if the household received assistance by the time of the assessment, the majority, **75%** responded negatively while only the remaining **25%** reporting having received assistance

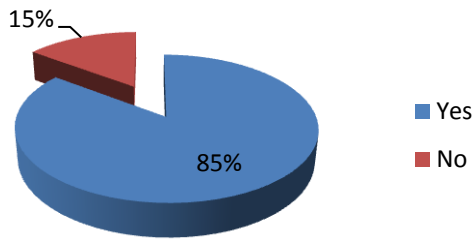
Figure 14: Have you received assistance so far?



Out of the **24%** of households reporting that they have received assistance, the majority stated that this took the form of household item distribution. **61%** of the respondents stated that they household received assistance from NGOs or the UN.

While the majority of households, **85%** indicated that in the past 7 days they had enough money to buy food, **613** families did indicate not being able to provide sufficient food for their families.

Figure 15: Food Security



92% of the respondents indicated that the local markets are able to provide sufficient food for their family.

Communication

When inquired about the method through which information is obtained regarding services available, 73% of the households surveyed indicated that they rely on other Syrian families for information, 17% utilized text messaging for information updates, while 14% stated they obtained information from the border authorities while 11% indicated obtaining information from Iraqi Families.

An overwhelming majority, 94% of households surveyed indicated that when faced with problems or threats they would speak to the police, while only 7% would approach local community leaders.

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.