

## FACT SHEET # 3

# REACH ASSESSMENT OF SYRIAN REFUGEES IN HOST COMMUNITIES, SULAYMANIYAH GOVERNORATE, IRAQ

20 JANUARY 2013

## BACKGROUND

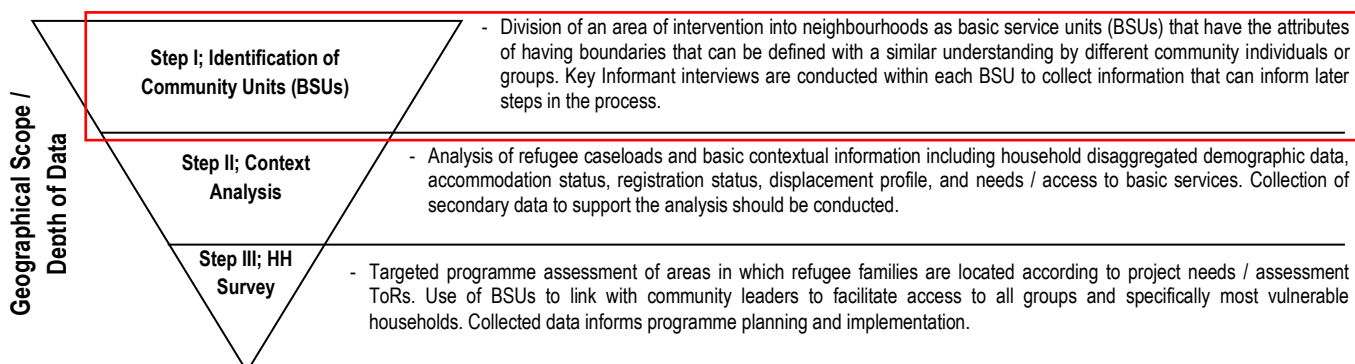
Of the over 793,597 Syrian refugees estimated in Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, Turkey and Egypt as of 5<sup>th</sup> March 2013, 106,697 have registered with UNHCR in Iraq<sup>1</sup>. In the Kurdistan region a number of factors including: (a) the onset of winter conditions; (b) a continuing influx of new refugee 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 18<sup>th</sup> of December 2012 and the 20<sup>th</sup> 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.



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

## OVERVIEW OF FINDINGS

A total of **167** Basic Service Units have been identified to date in which key informant group interviews were conducted in the Sulaymaniyah Governorate; **25** of these were completed in rural areas of the Governorate and **142** within the city of Sulaymaniyah. 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 **180** refugee families and **802** singles (estimated **6412** individuals) have been identified within **142** BSUs of Sulaymaniyah City between the 17<sup>th</sup> of December 2012 and the 20<sup>th</sup> of January 2013.

Figure 1 shows the 10 basic service units currently hosting the highest number of refugee families.

Basic Service Units	Est. # Families
<i>Names are provided as phonetic representations of their Arabic or Kurdish original</i>	
Gulli Shar 332 (Sulaymaniyah City)	24
Khabat 304 (Sulaymaniyah City)	20
Awal (Sulaymaniyah City)	20
Raparin (Sulaymaniyah City)	12
Kani Spika 130 (Sulaymaniyah City)	11
Khabat 306 (Sulaymaniyah City)	10
Twi Malik 211 (Sulaymaniyah City)	9
Wluba 326 (Sulaymaniyah City)	6
Mashkhalan 128 (Sulaymaniyah City)	6
Zerinok (Sulaymaniyah City)	4

Figure 1, Breakdown of Refugee Numbers per BSU

## 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 Sulaymaniyah Governorate originated. Preliminary findings show the following sub-districts in Syria as locations from which refugees were most commonly displaced: Rural Damascus, Al Malika and Afrin.

For a breakdown of refugee demographics, please refer to Figure 2.

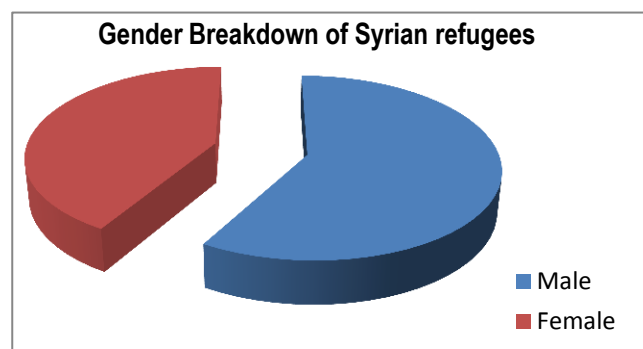
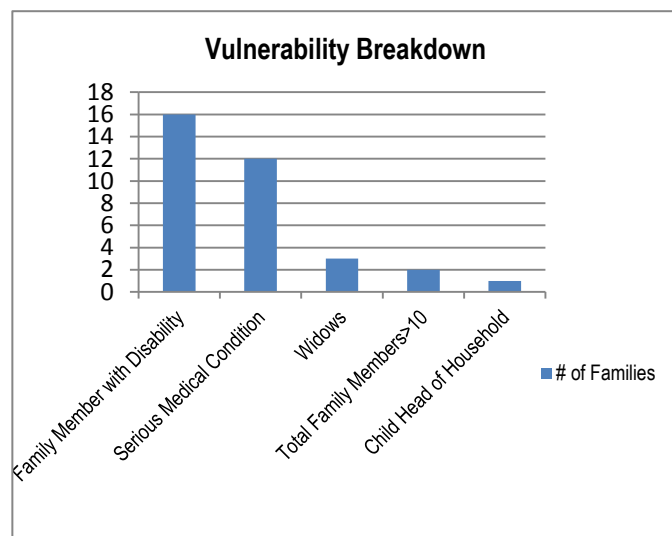


Figure 2, displaying gender breakdown of Syrian refugees

## 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 3, 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 7 BSUs in Sulaymaniyah City 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 (114 families) in or adjacent to Sulaymaniyah City are settled in brick/concrete houses reportedly in good conditions. However, there are accounts of families living in severely damaged brick houses (5 families), in moderately damaged brick houses (24 families) and 1 family is living in a public housing.

Note however, that although no cases were reported of refugee families in Sulaymaniyah Governorate settled in tent, caravan or transitional structures. Given the nature of key informant interviews the possibility that individual families may face issues

including internal damage to individual accommodation units and/or overcrowding, should not be discounted. This will be assessed further as part of the household interviews which REACH is in the process of rolling out as part of step II of the methodology.

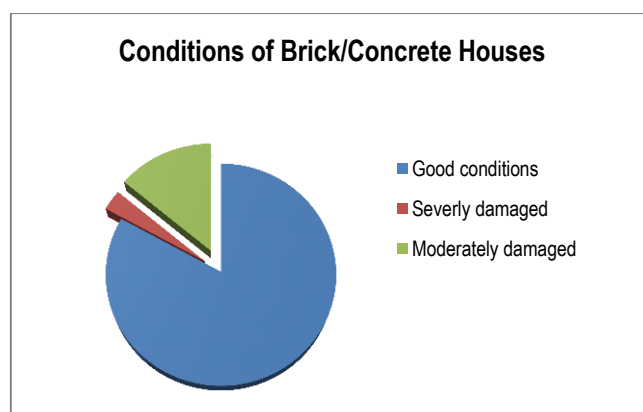


Figure 3, Conditions of the houses the refugees are mainly settled in.

## Security

8 key informant groups indicated that there had been security incidents in the past 3 months between the host community and the refugee population in the following areas: Bayragani 201, Dabahan11, Hakari 113, Kareza 114, Kareza Wshk 118, Shekhan 203, Soren 203 and Zargata 126. Additionally, the incidents in 7 out of these 8 areas (apart from Bayragani) have directly affected the refugee families. However, no details regarding the type of kind of incident were given.

## Livelihoods

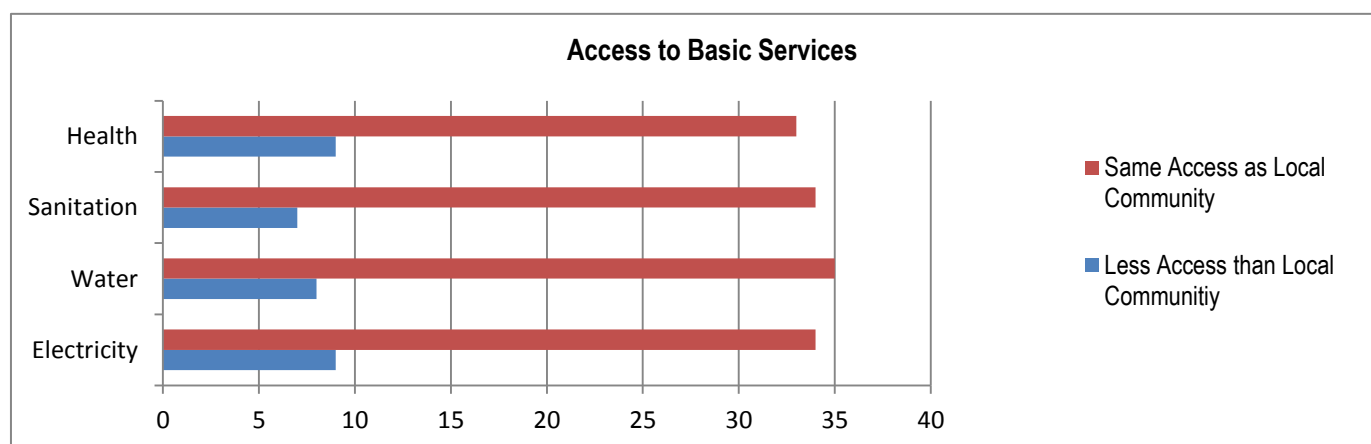
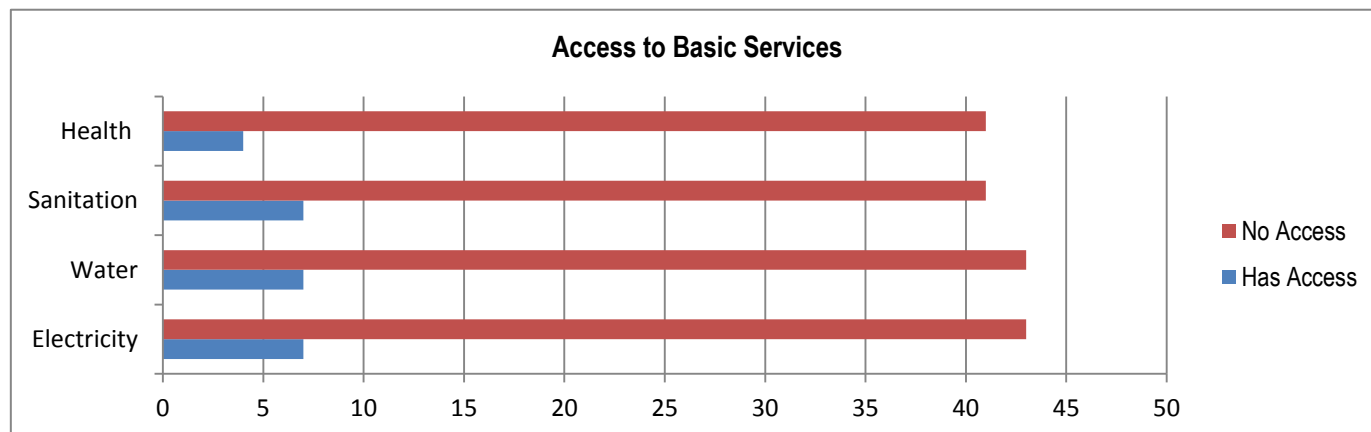
Key informant groups in 24 BSUs reported that the most common type of income generation was through engagement in informal daily labour activities. 2 BSU informant group indicated begging as the main source of income (Kani Goma, Arbat).

## 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 Sulaymaniyah 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 in fact not be able to do so for financial or other reasons.

Figures 4 and 5 Level of access to basic services for refugee families



## Water

Water sources were reported by 44 key informants, as working adequately. Majority of the key informants groups perceive the quality of water as potable. However, 2 key groups (Kani Goma and Gozha New 220) indicated that their water was only good for washing.

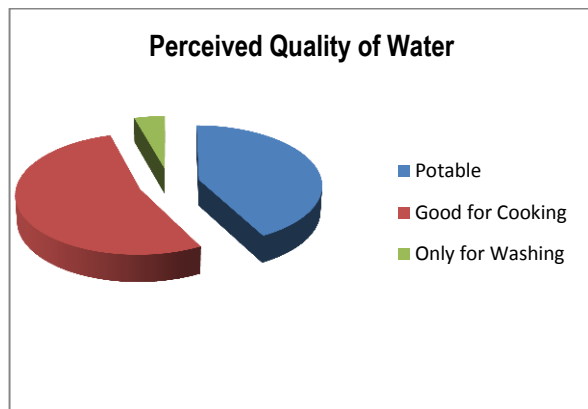


Figure 6, Key informants perception of the quality of water

## Sanitation

According to 49 informant groups interviews conducted, the majority of the refugee population has access to communal sanitation facilities while only 1 BSU was reported to have access to family sanitation facilities (Zir Garwiz) and 1 BSU (Koni Goma) had no access to any type of sanitation facility. Nonetheless, all communal facilities were indicated as being in good condition. Further details will be collected at the household level at which time a more developed analysis of the sanitation infrastructure can be undertaken.

## Health

The majority of key informant groups indicated that there were no serious health concerns in the area or special medical cases within the refugee community; however, a total of 7 BSUs did indicate that the refugee population in those areas have no access to adequate health facilities. These BSUs as well as their estimated population numbers are displayed in Figure 7.

BSU	# Families
Kani Goma(returnees)	37
Gulli Shar 332	24
Peshawa 301	3
Goyzha new 220	2
Sabonkaran 204	1
Sarshaqam 310	1
Sharawani 102	1

Figure 7, showing number of children, individuals and families in the informal camps of Arbat, Baynjan and Kani Gome

## Access to information

The 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 their relatives, other Syrian families, or through the medium of television. It is important to note that neither security forces including military or police officers nor registration points were ever mentioned as potential information sources by key informants.

## 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 a result of the Key Informant Interview, it is apparent that cash for rent, access to food and shelter represent the greatest concerns for Syrian refugee families.

## Education

Regarding school attendance, the preliminary results indicate that majority of the BSUs have primary schools located within close proximity of their area, however, the access to secondary school is limited. This may be due to the distance and may become a an area of concern if further influx of refugees in need of education occurs.

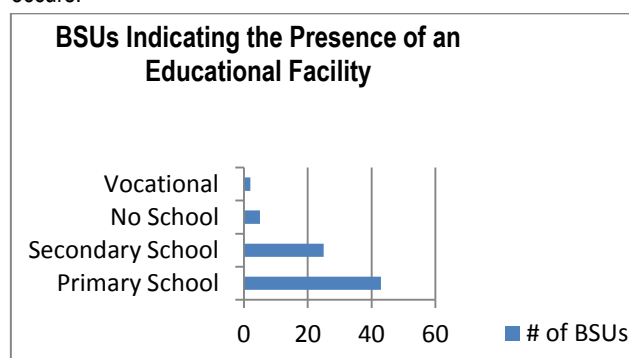


Figure 9, indicating type of educational activity in BSU

## INFORMAL CAMPS

### Overview of Findings

In addition to the information provided above, REACH assessment also identified 3 informal camps within the Sulaymaniyah Governorate. These camps represent one basic service unit each, in which key informant interviews were conducted. These interviews consisted of 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.

It is important to highlight out of the 25 BSUs in rural areas of Sulaymaniyah governorate, only 9 BSUs had Syrian refugee population. Figure 1 clearly shows that the vast majority of these refugees are located in 2 informal camps, Arbat and Baynjan and the returnee settlement/informal camp of Koni Goma. The names used to describe these areas are not official names but based on how each community identifies the informal camps.

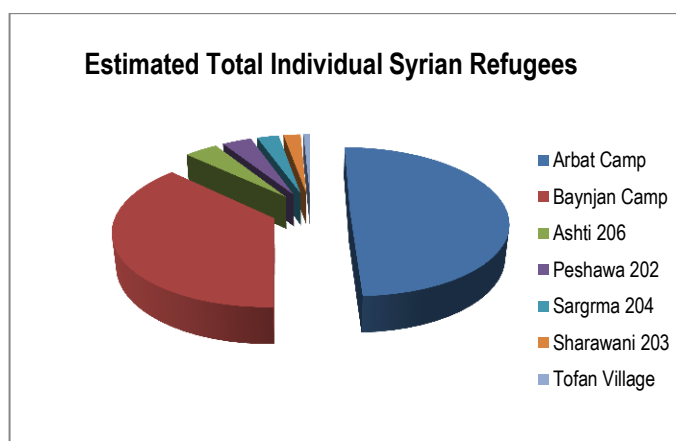


Figure 10, showing locations with Syrian refugee population

BSU	# Families	# Total Individuals	# Total Children (<18 yrs)
Arbat Camp	125	610	236
Baynjan Camp	119	686	276
Kani Goma	37	214	109

Figure 11, displaying the number of families, individuals and children in the three informal camps.

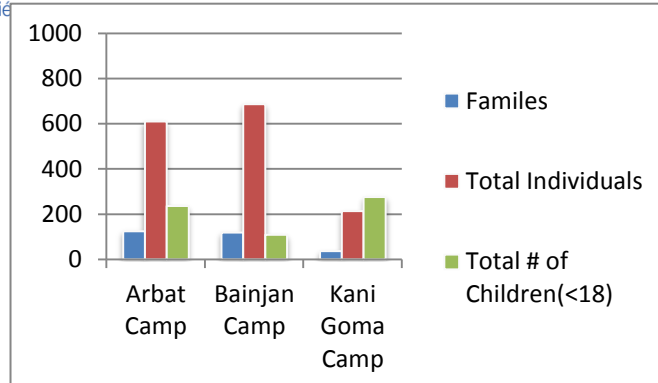


Figure 11, displaying the number of families, individuals and children in the three informal camps.

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 **244** refugee families and singles (estimated **1296** individuals) have been identified within these 3 BSUs between the 17<sup>th</sup> of December 2012 and the 20<sup>th</sup> of January 2013. In addition, a total of **37** returnee families and singles (estimated number of **214** individuals) were reported to live in Kani Goma camp.

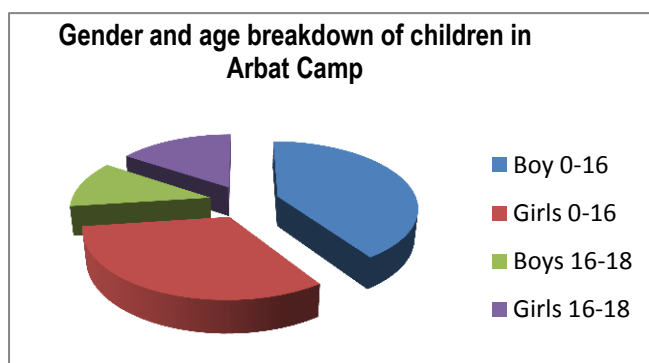


Figure 12, gender and age breakdown of children in Arbat camp

### Demographic Profile

Demographic breakdown of the camps, as displayed in Figures 12 and 13 below show that the numbers of boys and girls aged between 0 -16 and 16 to 18 in both Arbat, Baynjan and Kani Goma camp is approximately the same.

the camp was not specified. Kani Goma key informants also reported that 2 children had gone missing.

## 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.

Key Informant groups in all 3 BSUs reported that the sectors (top 3) currently representing the area of biggest concern at the household level is **shelter** and **health care access**, with Arbat and Baynjan also indicating **access to water** and Kani Goma prioritizing **cash for rent**.

## Access to information

Interviewees were also asked how the refugees received information concerning services available to them. The assessment reflects that the majority of the three refugee communities identified receive and exchange information mainly via their relatives.

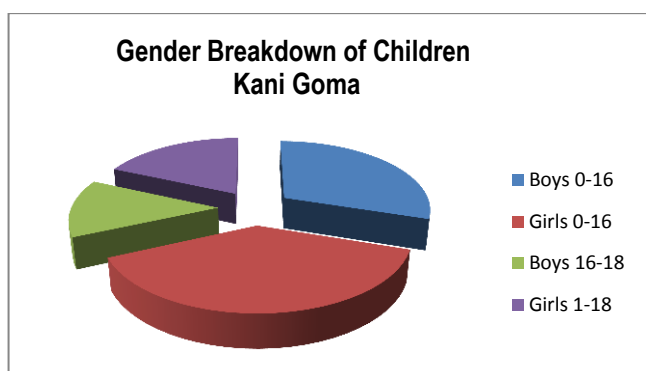


Figure 13, gender and age breakdown of children in Kani Goma camp

## 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 about the registration, accommodation, security as well as livelihoods activities of the communities in the respective areas in order to help determining the vulnerability profiles of the population.

### 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. All three BSUs key informant groups reported that no further assistance with registration was needed.

### Accommodation

Key informant groups information collected point out to an urgent need for shelter assistance. Majority of the refugees are living in a tented structure with minor damages in both Arbat (68 families) and Baynjan (71 families). Kani Goma direct observation reveals that majority of the returnees are living in a brick/concrete walled structures with tented/plastic sheeting roofs that are in a poor condition.

### Security

Key informant groups did not reveal any security incidents in within the last 3 months nor they indicated any tensions between host community and the refugees.

### Livelihoods

Key informant groups in Kani Goma reported that estimated 34 **children were working** the area. In addition, there are also accounts of child **begging** in the city. Begging was also indicated as a major source of income in Arbat camp, although age group in

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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.

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