

SYRIAN HOUSEHOLDS IN JORDAN, THE KURDISTAN REGION OF IRAQ AND WITHIN SYRIA

Regional Multi-Sector Analysis of Primary Data
August 2014

CONTENTS

SUMMARY	2
Abbreviations and Acronyms	4
Geographical Classifications.....	4
Figures	4
INTRODUCTION.....	5
FINDINGS.....	7
Household characteristics.....	7
Household composition	7
Disability within the household	7
Heads of household	8
Time of arrival, area of origin and intentions to move.....	8
Time of arrival.....	8
Area of origin and intentions of Syrian refugees in Jordan.....	8
Area of origin and intentions of Syrian refugees in the KRI.....	9
Area of origin of households displaced within north and central Syria	9
Education.....	9
Food Security.....	10
Health.....	11
Non-Food Items.....	12
Livelihoods.....	13
Shelter.....	13
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene.....	14
CONCLUSION.....	16

SUMMARY

At least 2.7 million Syrians are now reported to have fled to neighbouring countries, as the conflict enters its fourth year.¹ Those displaced outside Syrian borders are matched by more than twice as many who have been forced to relocate inside the country, where an estimated 6.5 million people are reported to have been displaced. Overall, 9.3 million Syrians remaining inside the country are believed to not have access to basic human needs.²

To inform the humanitarian response for Syrian households living in different contexts across the region, REACH developed a regional multi-sector analysis of primary data collected on Syrian populations affected by the ongoing crisis and currently living in a variety of camp and non-camp settings within northern and central Syria, as well as on Syrian refugees across Jordan and the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI). This data was collected within the framework of partnerships with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations' Fund for Children (UNICEF), the World Food Program (WFP), the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) and the Syria Integrated Needs Assessment (SINA) process. The findings presented in this report highlight a need for **the humanitarian response to the Syrian Crisis to be tailored to both country and context.**

The rate at which Syrian populations have been displaced by the crisis is on the rise in northern Syria and in parts of the KRI. The number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) within Syria is increasing at a higher rate in 2014 than in 2013. Syrian refugee households in camps within the KRI were found more likely to have arrived in the second half of 2013, while households in the host community and in Jordan arrived earlier. Further research is recommended to explore differences in challenges facing recent and less recent arrivals.

Displaced households tend to move close to their area of origin both inside Syria and in neighbouring countries, with a large proportion of Syrian refugees arriving from governorates bordering the respective host country. This indicates that effort should be made during response planning to closely monitor the locations from where families are being displaced to anticipate their most-likely destinations. Livelihoods play a key role in decisions to move both within Syria and neighbouring countries. Loss of income earning opportunities were stated as a primary reason to leave areas of origin amongst IDPs inside Syria, while search for income generating opportunities was the most frequently stated reason for movement amongst Syrian refugees residing in informal settlements in Jordan.

The profile of affected Syrian populations show similar high levels of vulnerabilities across the region, comprising large numbers of children and with up to 1 in 3 households being headed by a woman. Half of the Syrian population that has sought refuge in camps and settlements in northern parts of Syria or in Jordan and the KRI is aged less than 18 years old, with households in Jordanian informal settlements tending to be largest and have the highest proportion of members aged less than 18.

¹ The exact figure at the time of writing of registered refugees was 2,709,605, with 136,512 in Egypt; 219,579 in Iraq; 589,792 in Jordan; 714,552 in Turkey; and 1029,473 in Lebanon (UNHCR Syria Regional Refugee Response portal).

² Available at: <http://syria.unocha.org/>, last accessed 26 April 2014

Displaced Syrian households are also characterised by other vulnerabilities, including single female heads of households and household members living with a disability. Syrian refugee households in Jordan were found more likely to include members with a disability, and to be headed by a woman, compared to KRI.

Syrian households reported a range of priority needs showing variations across settings and countries within Education, Food, Health, Livelihoods, Shelter, Non-Food Items, Water, Hygiene and Sanitation (WASH) sectors. Across all settings and countries, only half of the school-aged population was accessing education. Food was consistently ranked as the highest priority need across camps in the KRI, Jordan and the northern and central parts of Syria. In stark contrast to camps, rental support was singled out as a top priority need by a large majority of Syrian refugee households in the KRI and Jordan host communities. Syrian households are facing challenges accessing health services, particularly inside Syria and in host communities in Jordan and the KRI. Access to livelihoods is most limited across north and central Syria, in addition to in Jordan and KRI camps. Better access to livelihoods was seen amongst households that had settled in the KRI host community. WASH needs were also apparent amongst Syrian households, in particular access to water in Jordanian host communities, KRI camps and across parts of north and central Syria, as well as improved sanitation access across informal settlements in Syria and Jordan. Sector-specific findings are further discussed in the report.

With field presence and active involvement in sector and multi-sector assessments and information management in the KRI, Jordan, Turkey and Lebanon, REACH is beginning to undertake regional analysis on sectors and themes using data collected with various partners. The aim is to provide aid actors engaged in the response to the crisis in Syria and neighbouring countries with a regional overview and thus contribute to a deeper understanding of the impact of the crisis on Syrians as well as populations in refugee hosting countries.³

About REACH

REACH is a joint initiative of two international non-governmental organizations - ACTED and IMPACT Initiatives - and the UN Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNOSAT). REACH's mission is to strengthen evidence-based decision making by aid actors through efficient data collection, management and analysis before, during and after an emergency. By doing so, REACH contributes to ensuring that communities affected by emergencies receive the support they need. All REACH activities are conducted in support to and within the framework of inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms.

In support of the response to the regional Syria Crisis, REACH established in 2012 a regional team in Amman, Jordan, as well as country-level teams in Iraq, Lebanon and Turkey. Applying a collaborative approach, REACH teams are undertaking sector specific and multi-sector assessments in camps, informal settlements and host communities to identify the needs and challenges of populations affected by the Syrian crisis, with the aim to inform the response provided by local, national and international aid actors.

For more information about REACH and to access our information products on the Syrian crisis, please visit: www.reach-initiative.org. You can also write to us at: geneva@reach-initiative.org and follow us @REACH_info.

³ See REACH (forthcoming) Displaced Syrians in Informal Settlements within Syria and in neighbouring countries: Regional Thematic Report; and REACH (forthcoming) Food security among Syrian Households within Syria and in neighbouring countries: Regional Thematic Report

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ARI	Acute Respiratory Infection
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
KRI	Kurdistan Region of Iraq
MSNA	Multi-sector Needs Assessment
NFI	Non-Food Items
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
RRP	Regional Response Plan
SHARP	Syria Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan
SINA	Syria Integrated Needs Assessment
UNHCR	The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
USD	United States Dollar
VIP	Ventilated Pit Latrine
WFP	World Food Program

GEOGRAPHICAL CLASSIFICATIONS

Governorate	The highest administrative boundary below the national level.
District	Governorates are sub-divided into districts

FIGURES

Figure 1: Map of primary data coverage according to REACH partner	6
Figure 2: Map of most commonly reported need by Syrians at home and in neighbouring countries	11

INTRODUCTION

Displaced by a conflict that is continuing unabated in its fourth year, Syrian refugees are in 2014 replacing Afghans as the world's largest refugee population.⁴ The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reports that at least 2.7 million have sought refuge in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey. More than one million Syrian refugees have fled to Lebanon; over 700,000 to Turkey and almost 600,000 have been registered in Jordan. Over 200,000 have sought refuge in Iraq, of which 96% reside in the northern Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI), and more than 130,000 in Egypt.⁵

Those displaced outside Syrian borders are matched by more than twice as many who have been forced to relocate inside the country. The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reports that 6.5 million people have fled their homes to find refuge in other parts of Syria and estimates that overall, 9.3 million Syrians remaining in the country do not have access to basic human needs.

With field presence and active involvement in sector and multi-sector assessments and information management in the KRI, Jordan, Turkey and Lebanon, REACH is beginning to undertake regional analysis on sectors and themes using data collected with various partners. The aim is **to provide aid actors engaged in the response to the crisis in Syria and neighbouring countries with a regional overview and thus contribute to a deeper understanding of the impact of the crisis.**⁶

This Multi-sector Analysis of the Syrian Crisis draws on primary data collected by REACH since November 2013 across three countries – northern and central parts of Syria, Jordan and the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) – to provide an overview of displaced Syrians across the region. The result is a **regional analysis of comparable key sector-specific indicators across the countries and contexts**. It should be noted that the geographical and contextual scope of this report is limited to areas where recent, nation-wide primary data has been collected by REACH, hence additional countries that are hosting a considerable number of Syrian refugees, notably Lebanon, Turkey and Egypt, as well as the southern parts of Syria, are excluded from the analysis.⁷

The map below outlines the primary data sources used for the analysis. Data was available for all governorates and camps in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (collected in April 2014 in partnership with UNHCR); all governorates in Jordan (collected in January 2014 in partnership with the World Food Program - WFP) and Al Za'atari camp (collected in January with WFP and in April 2014 with UNHCR); in addition to accessible districts across all governorates in Syria with the exception of Tartous Governorate which was not accessed at all (data collected in November 2013 through the Syria Integrated Needs Assessment for northern and central parts).

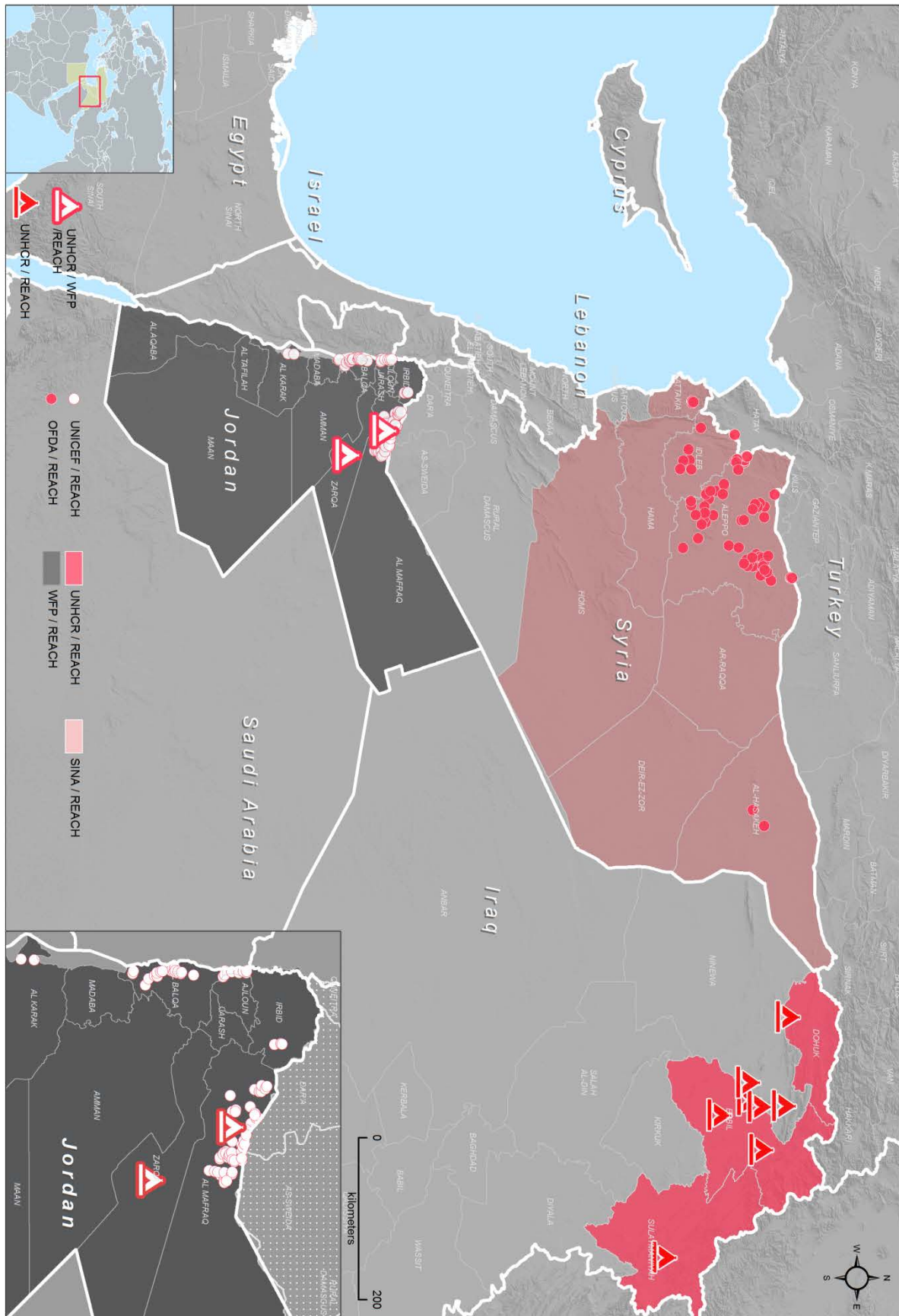
⁴ The exact figure at the time of writing of registered refugees was 2,709,605, with 136,512 in Egypt; 219,579 in Iraq; 589,792 in Jordan; 714,552 in Turkey; and 1029,473 in Lebanon (UNHCR Syria Regional Refugee Response portal. Available at: <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/regional.php>, last accessed 26 April 2014)

⁵ UN Daily News, Issue DH/6597, Tuesday, 25 February 2014: <http://www.un.org/news/dh/pdf/english/2014/25022014.pdf>

⁶ See REACH (forthcoming) Displaced Syrians in Informal Settlements within Syria and in neighbouring countries: Regional Thematic Report; and REACH (forthcoming) Food security among Syrian households in Syria and in neighbouring countries: Regional Thematic Report

⁷ Data has been collected by REACH in southern Syria but permission to share findings based on this data was not granted by the partner and could therefore not be included in this report.

Figure 1: Map of primary data coverage by REACH partners



FINDINGS

HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS

Half of the Syrian refugee population across Jordan and KRI was aged less than 18 years old. Households in Jordanian informal settlements tended to be largest and have the highest proportion of members aged less than 18. Syrian refugee households in Jordan were found more likely to have members with a disability compared to KRI, and were more likely to be headed by a woman than in any other of the assessed countries.

Household composition

Syrian refugee households were slightly larger on average in Jordanian communities (5 members) compared to in the KRI (4 members). Households were also on average larger in Jordanian camp and settlement settings, ranging from 5.5 members in Al Za'atari to 6 members in informal settlements.

At least half of the refugee population in both camp and host community settings was aged less than 18 years of age, ranging from 45% in KRI host communities to 56% in informal settlements in Jordan. Similarly, almost half (47%) of the IDP population across camps in northern Syria was estimated to be aged less than 18. This is particularly concerning given the large proportion of school-aged children that were found not to be receiving an education (see Education below). Detailed population data from southern parts of Syria was not available but assuming a similar ratio of children to adults seen in northern camps and settlements – coupled with the equal or worse level of access to education reported (see Education below), indicates that a large proportion of the Syrian population inside the country is growing up without an education. Amongst other devastating impacts resulting from loss of education, an increasing cohort of school-aged Syrian children are thus at risk of being excluded from the labour market, thereby reducing their future capacity to sustain themselves and their families, in addition to their ability to help rebuild the country.

Disability within the household

A slightly higher proportion of Syrian refugee households in Jordanian host communities reported having a member living with a physical (7%) or mental (3%) disability compared to in the KRI (5% and 1% respectively). A comparatively small proportion of households contained members with a physical or mental disability in KRI camps (2% and 1% respectively). Similarly to Jordan host communities, a higher proportion of households in Al Za'atari camp and in informal settlements had members with a physical (10% respectively) and mental (3% respectively) disability, compared to households in KRI camps, where 2% contained a member with a physical impairment and 1% had a member with a mental impairment. Comparable information on disabilities within households was not available for Syria; however key informants interviewed in camps located in northern Syria had attempted to provide information regarding disabilities.⁸ This amounted to less than 1% of households in the camps, however this figure should be considered with caution given obvious difficulties of key informants to hold reliable information on this level of detailed household data in camps hosting up to 1,500 families.

⁸ Camps were primarily distinguished from informal settlements by whether they had been identified by the Camp Coordination and Camp Management Cluster. The overall goal of the CCCM Cluster is to improve living conditions of internally displaced persons by facilitating the effective provision of protection and services in camps and camp-like settings, advocate for durable solutions and ensure organized closure and phase-out of camps upon the IDPs' relocation, return, resettlement or local integration. The Cluster primarily supports all IDP operations in which the CCCM Cluster has been activated. Its support also extends to any IDP operation without a formally activated CCCM cluster but which has camp or camp-like IDP population. Found at: <http://www.globalccmcluster.org/about/who-we-are>

Heads of household

Syrian refugee households in Jordan were found considerably more likely than in the KRI to be headed by a woman. A third of households in Al Za'atari camp (34%) and the Jordanian host community (33%) were female headed, compared to just 7% in KRI host communities. Camps and settlements in northern parts of Syria were similar to the KRI host community in this respect, with 5% of households reported to be headed by a woman. Corresponding sex disaggregated information was not available for household heads for the Syrian population residing outside camps and settlements, or for households in KRI camps.

TIME OF ARRIVAL, AREA OF ORIGIN AND INTENTIONS TO MOVE

Syrian refugee households in KRI camps were found more likely to have arrived in the second half of 2013, while households in KRI host communities and in Jordan arrived earlier. The number of IDPs inside Syria appears to be increasing at a higher rate in 2014 than in 2013. Syrian households in both KRI camps and host community tended to originate from Al-Haseke Governorate, while households had settled along sectarian lines in Jordan, with the vast majority of Al Za'atari residents originating from Dar'a. Internally displaced households in northern and central Syria tended to have moved within their districts of origin.

Time of arrival

The vast majority of Syrian refugees in camp and host communities in Jordan were found to have arrived before mid-2013 (90%). Syrian refugees in KRI host communities were similarly likely to have arrived before mid-2013 (80%). In contrast, Syrian refugees in KRI camps are more likely to have crossed the border at a later date, with 58% of households arriving in the second half of 2013. IDPs in camps and settlements in northern Syria were largely reported to have arrived between July and December 2013 (32%), however the comparatively large proportion that had arrived in the first four months of 2014 (26%) indicate that the overall proportion in the first six months of 2014 may exceed the numbers that arrived in the prior six months. In sum, the number of IDPs in informal settlements appears to be increasing at a higher rate in 2014 than in 2013.

Area of origin and intentions of Syrian refugees in Jordan

The main governorate of origin amongst refugees settling in Al Za'atari camp was Dar'a (87%) while refugees in informal settlements tended to originate from Hama (56%), which may be an indication of intra-communal tensions that make refugees from some Syrian governorates, reluctant to settle in Al Za'atari camp⁹. A quarter of refugees residing in informal settlements in Jordan (25%) were planning to leave the settlement, primarily to attempt integration into the host community in search of income generating opportunities. A comparatively small proportion of Al Za'atari residents reported an intention to leave the camp (2%), with the main planned destination being Azraq Camp which is opened at the end of April 2014. The most common reason for a desire to leave Al Za'atari was lack of access to health, a topic that will be further explored in a forthcoming REACH report¹⁰.

⁹ See REACH (forthcoming) Displaced Syrians in Informal Settlements within Syria and in neighboring countries: Regional Thematic Report

¹⁰ UNICEF/REACH (forthcoming) Health assessment in Al Za'atari Camp

Area of origin and intentions of Syrian refugees in the KRI

Syrian refugees in KRI tended to originate from Al-Hasakeh, the governorate of origin reported by 77% of households in KRI camps and 55% of households in KRI host communities. Almost a third (31%) of refugees in the KRI host community originated from Aleppo governorate while another 5% came from Damascus.

The second most common governorate of origin in KRI camps was Damascus (12%). It is thus notable that a relatively large proportion in KRI host communities arrived from Aleppo, which was much less reported in KRI camps. Bearing in mind that households in the camps tended to have arrived earlier, this may be an indication of restrictions on movement from Aleppo during the second half of 2013. Only 3% of refugees in KRI camps reported an intention to leave the camp, mainly due to lack of services in the camp. The majority of those who intended to leave reported that they wanted to return to their district of origin inside Syria. Amongst households residing in KRI host communities, 10% reported that they intended to leave KRI, their preferred destination will be further analysed in the forthcoming REACH Multi-Sector Needs Assessment: Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

Area of origin of households displaced within north and central Syria

Syrian IDPs in northern and central parts of the country were most likely to have remained within their district of origin. The main reasons for not moving, amongst the population that had remained in their homes, were reported to be restrictions on movement and a need to protect household assets.

EDUCATION

Across all settings and countries, roughly half of the school-aged population was accessing education, which is concerning given that half of the Syrian population assessed was found to be aged less than 18 years old, thus indicating that a growing cohort of school-aged Syrian children are at risk of future exclusion from the labour market. Main reasons for not sending children to school included cost in KRI and Jordan and lack of facilities and resources inside Syria.

The school attendance rate amongst school-aged girls was higher amongst Syrian refugees in Jordan (55%) than in KRI (39%). Attendance was lower amongst boys overall but again more were attending school in Jordan (50%) compared to KRI (38%). The primary education challenge reported amongst households where some children were not attending school in the KRI was lack of funds (51%), followed by differences in curriculum (31%) and distance to education facilities (25%). Education was not amongst the three most commonly reported needs in either setting.

The proportion of school-aged girls attending school was comparatively lower in KRI camps (30%) than in Jordanian and KRI host communities. Here, boys were instead more likely to be attending school (43%). Boys were however less likely to be attending school in Al Za'atari camp (35%) compared to girls (46%), which was similar to Jordanian host communities although children were here more likely overall to be attending school. No household in Al Za'atari camp reported education as a priority need and a relatively small proportion (5%) rated education as priority in KRI camps, amongst which 69% highlighted admission capacity as the main priority. The proportion of girls and boys attending schools in refugee informal settlements in Jordan was roughly equal (40% and 41%), notably boys were here more likely to be attending school than in Za'atari, while girls were less likely. The main reason for not attending school in informal settlements was cost, reported by 29% of households that were not sending some children to school, followed by distance to school facilities (22%).

Sex specific information on school attendance rates was not available for Syria but overall, 42% of primary school-aged and 41% of secondary school aged children were reported to be attending a learning space at least 4 days per week in northern and central parts of the country.

The most commonly reported reason for not attending school in northern and central Syria were lack of resources and poor facilities, followed by cost of schooling and, as in southern parts of the country, lack of facilities due to damage, occupation by IDPs or overcrowding. In camp and settlement settings in northern parts of Syria, education facilities were found to be available in less than half (41%) of informal settlements. Where schools existed, 79% of children were reported to be attending. In 35% of camps, school facilities were felt to be a priority need and 33% needed school equipment.

FOOD SECURITY

Food was consistently ranked as the highest priority need across camps in KRI, Jordan, and north and central Syria. Households inside Syria tended to borrow food or money from family and friends while those in the KRI host community tended to spend their savings when experiencing lack of food. In Jordan the primary strategy used in communities was to reduce spending on other essential needs, while in Al Za'atari, sale of household goods was most frequently reported.

Food was the third most frequently reported need amongst Syrian refugee households in KRI communities (12%) but did not feature amongst the three most commonly reported needs in Jordan. However, a higher proportion of households in Jordan reported experiencing lack of food (88%), compared to households in KRI (12%). This could reflect the relative impact felt on the household level in meeting other essential needs in Jordan, specifically the cost of rent noted above. Interestingly, bearing in mind the high proportion reporting lack of food, 97% of households in Jordan were receiving food assistance, compared to 60% of households in KRI host communities. It may be the case that food assistance is relied on for sale to cover other needs in Jordan; hence additional food assistance would be welcomed by households. Alternatively, households may feel a lack of particular types of foods which are not accessible through food assistance. A forthcoming REACH report on food security aims to provide more in-depth analysis of food security amongst Syrian households across the region by incorporating available secondary data with primary data collected by REACH¹¹.

The most commonly reported strategies used to cope with lack of food were spending of savings in KRI (36%), followed by sale of household goods (13%) and reduced spending on other essential needs 10%). A higher proportion of households reporting lack of food in Jordan, said they reduced spending on other needs to cope, being the most commonly reported coping strategy used (61%). Sale of household goods also featured highly, reported by 60% of households. A worryingly high proportion of households reported relying on high risk, illegal or socially degrading employment (45%) to cope with lack of food.

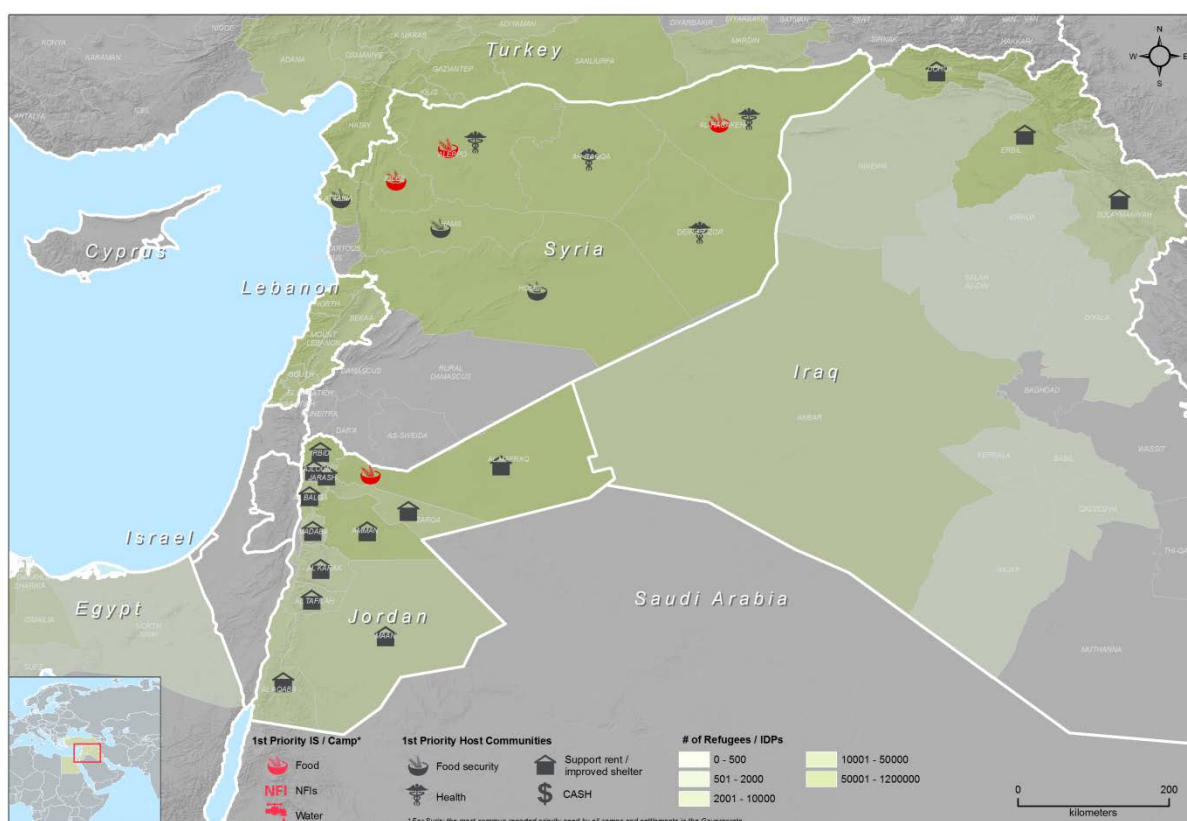
Food was ranked as a higher priority in camp settings, with more than a quarter (27%) of households in KRI reporting food as a priority need, the most commonly reported need across all sectors. Amongst these, increase in volume (food distributions) was called for by 76% while 17% highlighted increased diversity as a priority need. In Al Za'atari in Jordan, half of households highlighted food as their priority need (50%), again the most commonly reported need across all sectors. The majority of those who ranked food as highest priority needed higher volume (83%), followed by 13% who specified better quality food. The proportion of households reporting lack of food in informal settlements across Jordan was comparable to those living in the host community (87%).

¹¹ REACH (forthcoming) Food security among Syrians within Syria and in neighbouring countries: Regional thematic report

Main strategies used to cope with lack of food included similarly to host communities, sale of household goods (79%), followed by sale of productive assets and reduction of expenditure on other essential items (29%). Here a third (33%) of those who reported lack of food also said they sold productive assets to cope, a concerning trend that may signal a reduction in household resilience in the long-term.

Food was ranked as the second highest priority need in northern and central Syria, with 39% of the total population reported to be in need of food assistance. It was ranked as the highest priority in northern camps, where 32% of settlements and camps reported food as a priority need and only 3% IDPs received food assistance. Almost half (46%) of camps specified a need for food distributions and 25% highlighted a need for increased diversity. The main challenges in accessing food in northern and central parts of Syria included lack of infant food, followed by overall cost and cost of specific food types.

Figure 2: Map of most commonly reported need by Syrians at home and in neighbouring countries



HEALTH

Syrian households were facing challenges accessing health services, particularly inside Syria and in host communities in Jordan and KRI.

In host communities in KRI, 18% of Syrian refugee households that had sought health services faced access challenges. Amongst these households, the most frequently reported challenge was high cost (78%), followed by lack of specialization (37%) and administrative issues (5%). Challenges were even more frequently experienced in Jordanian host communities, reported by 27% of all households. Amongst those facing challenges, cost was also here most frequently reported (36%) followed by lack of specialization (28%) and a comparatively high proportion that had struggled with administrative issues (25%). Lack of admission capacity was also reported by 11% in Jordanian communities, which refugees in KRI communities had not faced at all. In Jordan, 70% and 69% of children aged less than 18 years had been vaccinated against polio and measles respectively, data on KRI was not available.

Health care challenges were also felt amongst Syrian refugee households in KRI camps, although a relatively small proportion (6%) reported health as a priority need. Amongst those who did, an increased number of doctors and decrease in waiting time, related to admission capacity, was highlighted as the priority need by 50%. The second highest priority was medicine (39%). Health was highlighted as a priority need by a comparatively smaller proportion in Al Za'atari camp (4%). No comparable information was available on specific health priorities but a forthcoming REACH report on health amongst refugees in Al Za'atari camp will explore the sector in more detail¹².

Refugees living in informal settlements had in 15% of cases experienced health issues in the 30 days preceding data collection. Amongst those that experienced health problems, the main reported issues were diarrhoea (31%), followed by respiratory diseases (29%) and skin diseases (24%). Only a third of refugees that had fallen ill had received medical treatment (34%). Amongst children under 18, 64% had been vaccinated against polio and 70% against measles, comparable to the vaccination rate amongst children living in host communities (see above).

Main health problems experienced inside northern and central Syria were skin diseases, followed by diarrhoea and chronic diseases. In northern parts, severe diseases affecting children less than 5 years were highlighted as the severest health problem, followed by conflict related injuries and chronic diseases, which were compounded by lack of access to treatment. Acute respiratory infection (ARI) amongst children aged less than 5 was the most frequently reported health problem in informal settlements across the north, followed by skin disease amongst children under five and ARI amongst adults. ARI amongst residents aged over and under 5 was similarly the most commonly reported health problem in official camps, followed by diarrhoea amongst children aged less than 5.

The strongest felt health care challenges in northern and central areas included lack of access to medicine, followed by lack of vaccination of children and cost of health care. Less than 1% of settlements in the northern parts of the country reported having access to medical services, with 42% of settlements reporting medical services and 31% reporting medicine as the top priority across all sectors.

NON-FOOD ITEMS

Syrian refugees and IDPs across Jordan highlighted fuel as a priority need.

Non-food items (NFI) was the third most commonly reported need amongst Syrian refugees in Jordanian communities, highlighted by 12% of households that specifically highlighted fuel and electricity as their most urgent need. The average monthly expenditure on gas here amounted to 18 JOD. NFI was the second most commonly reported need in KRI, with 15% of households reporting that household items was most needed. Data on expenditure on fuel was not available.

NFI was the second most frequently reported need in Al Za'atari Camp in Jordan, highlighted by 33% of households. Amongst those reporting NFI needs, 70% needed fuel or electricity, amounting to almost a quarter (23%) of the overall refugee population in the camp. Data on fuel expenditure was not available for the camp but the need for fuel and electricity appears to be felt on the country level amongst refugees in Jordan, while being most strongly felt in the camp setting.

NFI was also reported as a priority need by 10% of households living in KRI camps, although a higher proportion were highlighting livelihood opportunities, water and food as priority needs. Mattresses and utensils were most

¹² UNICEF/REACH (forthcoming) Health assessment in Al Za'atari Camp

commonly needed, specified by 26% of households respectively that reported NFI needs. No data on fuel use and expenditure was available.

Syrian refugee households living in informal settlements in Jordan largely had access to electricity (93%), although data on fuel usage or the perceived need for fuel and electricity was not available. Conversely, in northern and central parts of Syria, 79% of households had accessed electricity in the 30 days preceding data collection. No comparable information on fuel access was available for these areas, including camps and settlements in the north.

LIVELIHOODS

Syrian households were struggling to access livelihoods across Syria, in addition to Jordan and KRI camps. Better access to livelihoods was seen amongst households that had settled in the KRI host community.

Households in KRI host communities were more than twice as likely to have at least one member employed (84%) compared to Syrian refugee households in Jordan (32%). Similarly, while a fifth of households in Jordan (20%) reported having no access to economic resources, this was not reported by any household assessed in the KRI (0%). Mirroring the higher level of access to income earning opportunities in the KRI, 61% of households here reported relying on primarily on skilled wage labour for income, followed by 18% relying on unskilled labour and only 5% that relied on informal loans to cover household needs. In Jordan on the other hand, households tended to rely on less sustainable economic resources, with more than a third (34%) reporting reliance on credits and borrowed money as the primary economic resource. An additional 19% relied on unskilled labour and 14% relied primarily on savings to cover essential needs.

No comparable data was available on livelihoods in official camps but a forthcoming REACH livelihoods report on Syrian refugees in KRI camps will shed further light on access to income. However, in informal settlements across Jordan, 53% of households reported having at least one household member employed, higher than in Jordanian host communities but lower than in KRI.

Similarly to KRI, no household reported having no access to economic resources but a worryingly high proportion relied on borrowed money (24%) to cover essential needs, an unsustainable resource that is likely to reduce household resilience over time. The most common source was otherwise agricultural waged labour (29%), reflecting the tendency of informal settlements to be established in agricultural areas near labour opportunities. More analysis on informal settlements across the region, building on REACH primary data and secondary sources, can be found in a forthcoming report¹³.

Food production was also the most commonly reported income source in northern and central parts of Syria, followed by waged labour and humanitarian assistance, perhaps reflecting the relatively easier access of humanitarian organisations to northern, as opposed to southern, parts of the country. No comparable data was available on economic resources and livelihoods in camps and settlements.

SHELTER

Rental support was singled out as a top priority need by a large majority of Syrian refugee households in KRI and Jordan host communities.

¹³ REACH (forthcoming) Displaced Syrians in Informal Settlements within Syria and in neighbouring countries: Regional Thematic Report

The vast majority of Syrian refugees living in host communities in the KRI (70%) and Jordan (89%) were renting an apartment or house at an average monthly rent of 283 USD (KRI) and 216 USD (Jordan).¹⁴ Shelter, particularly support with rent, was identified as a priority need by 70% of refugee households living in Jordanian and 43% of refugees living in KRI host communities. Rental support was the most commonly reported need across all sectors by refugees in host communities in both countries.

More variation in types of accommodation was seen across camps – refugee households in KRI camps were mostly living in manufactured tents alone (75%), which was only the case for 21% of households in Al Za'atari camp in Jordan. Caravans were more common in Al Za'atari, occupied by 79% of households and an additional 16% that had a combined living space of caravans and tents. Only 7% of households in KRI camps were living in caravans but 13% had created permanent structures, all found in Duhok Governorate in the largest, most established camp, Domiz, and in Akre camp which is hosted inside a building in Akre town. Shelter needs were less reported in official camps than in host communities, with 9% of households in KRI stating shelter as a priority need, of which 47% specified a need for new shelters and 42% highlighted a need for summerisation. None of the assessed households in Al Za'atari camp in Jordan rated shelter as a priority need.

Informal settlements hosting Syrian refugees, identified and assessed in Jordan, showed that a large majority (97%) were living in manufactured tents, with a small proportion (3%) living in makeshift shelters. Refugees in the KRI had reportedly not settled in informal settlements but were either living in host communities or official camps.

Detailed information on shelter conditions in northern and central parts of the country was not available, but 43% of overall infrastructure was reported to be destroyed, followed by 28% that was heavily or moderately damaged. The high level of destruction may be mirrored by the most frequently reported challenges to accessing shelter in the north, which in 40% of cases was reported to be lack of available space for renting. Key informants reported that 10% of the population in assessed districts was in need of shelter assistance.

Families that settled in camps or informal settlements in northern Syria were most likely to be occupying manufactured tents (75%) or makeshift shelters (12%). Detailed information on types of shelters in settlements in Southern Syria was not available. Shelter was overall not the most frequently reported priority need in Syria, being superseded by Health, Food, WASH and NFIs¹⁵.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

A need for better access to water was seen in Jordanian host communities, KRI camps and across Syria. An urgent need for improved sanitation access appears across informal settlements in north and central Syria as well as Jordan, reflected by a majority of refugees without any, or limited, access to latrines.

More than a quarter (29%) of Syrian households living in host communities in Jordan reported having access to less than 35 litres per person per day, the water quantity standard that Al Za'atari camp aims to provide to its residents. The corresponding proportion in the KRI was just 7%. A large majority of households in KRI reported having a connection to water networks (90%), while corresponding data on Jordan was not available. Water was not reported as a priority need in either setting. The opposite trend was observed in official camps, where water was more frequently reported as a priority need amongst households living in KRI camps (21%) compared to Za'atari (1%). Data on level of water access was not available here. Amongst households in informal settlements

¹⁴ 328,925 IQD was the equivalent of 283 USD and 153 JOD was the equivalent of 216 USD on 30 April 2014: <http://www.xe.com/>

¹⁵ Further analysis on refugees and IDPs living in informal settlements in the Syrian Crisis is available in the forthcoming REACH report; Displaced Syrians in Informal Settlements within Syria and in neighbouring countries: Regional Thematic Report

in Jordan, the most commonly reported water source was through private vendors, with the average monthly cost of water per households reported as 17 JOD. Information on level of water accessed in litres was not available.

The main water source in northern and central Syria was reported to be wells. However, the quality of water and regularity of access was unknown except for in camps and settlements, where the reported average litres per person per day was 23. The overall average thus exceeded the SPHERE threshold of 15 litres per person per day in emergency settings but camps were in some districts reported to have access to just 3 litres per person per day, notably in Al-Haseke district in Al-Haseke Governorate and Jisr-Ash-Shugur in Idleb Governorate. The main challenges in accessing water were reported to be lack of purchasing power in northern and central Syria.

The most common type of latrine used in host communities was flush latrine in Jordan (73%), followed by pit latrine (25%). A small proportion of households reported practicing open defecation (3%). Flush latrines were much less frequently reported in KRI host communities, used by just 1% of Syrian refugee households. The main latrine used was here ventilated pit latrine (VIP), accessed by 93% of households, followed by 5% that were using pit latrines and 1% that reported practicing open defecation. Sanitation was not felt to be a priority need in either setting. A small proportion (4%) of households in KRI camps reported sanitation to be a priority need. Amongst those who did, latrines were the most commonly reported need (47%). Sanitation was reported as a priority need by a similarly small proportion in Al Za'atari camp (5%), where type of need was unspecified. In stark contrast, a majority of households (57%) living in informal settlements in Jordan reported having no access to latrines, while 22% were accessing public latrines and 21% used private latrines.

WASH services and infrastructure in general were the third most commonly reported need across north and central Syria, including camps and settlements, with 17% of camps and settlements in northern parts of the country rating it as the most urgent need. In a non-camp setting in northern Syria, the main challenges to accessing sanitation were reported to be lack of regular rubbish collection, followed by lack of sewage treatment. No information was available on latrine types used in northern and central Syria. IDPs in some settlements in the northern parts of the country were reported to have access to latrines, although the overall average number of individuals per latrine amounted to 86 across the settlements, more than four times higher than the SPHERE recommended number of individuals per latrine (20).

CONCLUSION

This multi-sector regional analysis is a **first attempt by REACH towards providing country level comparisons across sectors, countries and contexts in the Syrian Crisis**. The exercise has shown that even when drawing on primary data collected with various partners, covering every governorate of Jordan and the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI), and the northern and central parts of Syria, **the level of comparability is limited by several factors**. These include differences in indicators used for the same sector in different assessments and lack of indicators on specific contexts and geographical areas. Nevertheless, this consolidation of available data represents an important first step towards providing regional level comparisons of the situation faced by Syrians at home and in neighbouring countries. It has solidified the objective of REACH to work with partners in moving beyond country, sector and context specific information gathering towards regionalised, multi-sector, multi-context data collection that enables the comparison that is needed but not currently fully possible.

This regional analysis allows a comparison of the situation faced by Syrian households in different contexts. Syrian refugees may for example, **highlight similar issues in camps across the region, regardless of country**. One such cross-cutting issue that became apparent in the regional analysis conducted here, was the prioritisation of housing support over all other sectors, which was strongly felt amongst Syrian refugees in host community settings in both Jordan and the KRI.

Where possible, REACH integrates indicators from the Syria Regional Response Plan (RRP) and Syria Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan (SHARP), adding need, vulnerability and outcome indicators to go beyond measurement of outputs to assess the effect of the humanitarian response on displaced Syrian households. For example, both the RRP and SHARP includes an indicator on number of people receiving food assistance. Where possible, the proportion of Syrian households that receive food assistance has thus been measured by REACH and complemented by indicators such as the proportion reporting use of strategies to cope with lack of food, to assess the effect of assistance on household resilience.

REACH is also currently engaged in data collection on host populations, to shed light on the impact felt by neighbouring countries hosting the world's largest refugee population. This regional multi-sector report has focused on primary data to assess comparable indicators and identify information gaps that remain. Two regional thematic reports have been prepared concurrently to explore food security and informal settlements across the region in further detail, incorporating secondary data alongside data collected by REACH.