



Restoring Dignity, Inspiring Change.



Profile of Syrian refugees and Jordanians living in northern Jordan

ICMC outreach statistical analysis
Q3 report | June 2017



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Report overview

CONTEXT

Six years into displacement, Syrian refugees living in urban and rural areas of Jordan face complex, multiple challenges that increase their level of vulnerability. These range from meeting the daily needs of all family members, to securing shelter despite accumulated debts, accessing regular income through work, obtaining proper civil and legal documentation, and pursuing Syrian children's education.

The influx of the Syrian refugee population and the protracted nature of the displacement has put pressure on the local infrastructure, economy, education system and protection services. This has, in turn, intensified the vulnerabilities of families in the Jordanian host community who were already in poor socioeconomic standing prior to the conflict.

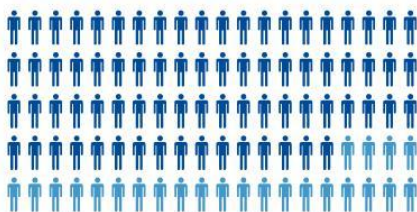
Since 2012, ICMC has been responding to the effects of Syrian displacement in Jordan. ICMC has focused its operations in the urban and rural areas in the North of Jordan where the majority of the Syrian refugees in Jordan live.

10,484 families

This report reflects key findings from more than 10,400 Syrian and Jordanian families assessed by ICMC since September 2016, representing 60,124 individuals. The data was collected through BPRM current funded project, as well as OCHA and ECHO projects.

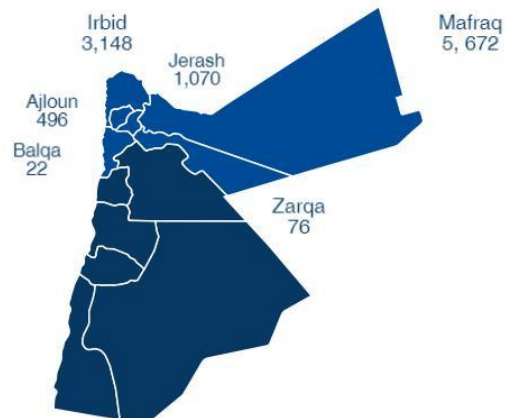
The data collected through outreach teams helps ICMC to understand the complex and changing needs of beneficiaries, and how to target programming accordingly, particularly in terms of protection activities.

Assessed families consisted of 7,937 Syrian refugee and 2,547 Jordanian households



■ Syrians (75.71%) ■ Jordanians (24.29%)

Respondents reside in the Northern governorates of Jordan.



The report is a follow up from the profile of the Syrian refugee population and Jordanians submitted in March 2017. It looks at:

1. Basic demographic and living conditions of displacement affected populations;
2. Children's vulnerabilities
3. Financial situation;
4. Building on protection monitoring exercises conducted through an ongoing, complementary ECHO-funded project, the report also explores the dire need of civil and legal documentation faced by Syrian refugees, and the consequences of this missing documentation on access to services.

#1

Demographic and living conditions



There is a gender imbalance in favor of women among the adult Syrian and Jordanian population.

56% of the assessed adults are female, while 44% are male.

Girls represent 49% of all children, and boys 51% of them, with no difference between Syrians and Jordanians.



Syrian adults in Jordan have higher marriage rate than Jordanians. 74% of Syrian adults are married, while only 58% of Jordanian adults are.

This might be because marriage among the Syrian refugee population can be used as a negative coping mechanism, meaning it is often understood as a form of social protection, and a means to distribute resources among different families. Particularly in large families, parents may marry off children very early, often resulting in a child marriage.



Syrian refugees have higher birth rate than Jordanians.

32% of the Syrian children are below 4 years of age, VS 25% among the Jordanian population. 22% of Syrian women are pregnant or lactating, while this rate drops to 10% of Jordanian women.

Overall, 34% of Syrian and Jordanian adults suffer from a chronic illness or serious medical condition requiring special care.



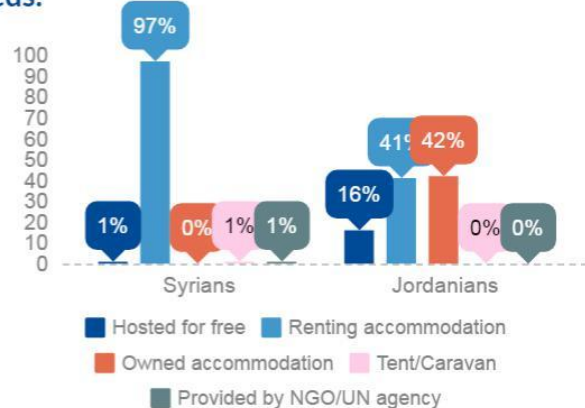
8% of Syrians and 7% of Jordanians responded they faced problems in accessing health care, with the main reasons for both groups being the inability to cover the financial costs (61% of Syrians, 56% of Jordanians). 25% also reported that the needed treatment and medicines were not available and 15% said the health facility was too crowded or the waiting time was too long, reflecting that health services are overburdened with the demand.



Syrians and Jordanians have different living conditions, which determine their expenditure patterns and priority needs.

Most Jordanians live in their own house, while 97% of Syrians rent a home for their family.

61% of Syrians and Jordanians have 1 or 2 household members per room, but 38% of Syrians have 3 to 5 members per room (VS 33% Jordanians), reflecting that moving to a smaller, or overcrowded shelter is a mechanism to cope with the lack of financial resources and expensive rent.



#2

Children's vulnerabilities

Syrian children face severe protection risks, including child labor and early marriages.



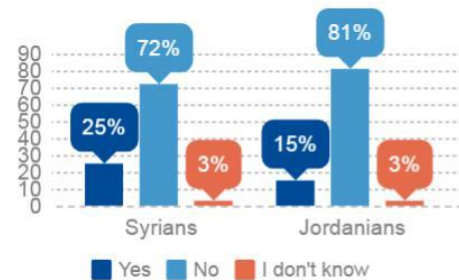
Child marriage of young girls is more prevalent within the Syrian community than Jordanians. 25% of Syrians said they were considering marrying a female family member under 18 (15% Jordanians).

Child marriage of girls is a common traditional practice in rural areas of Syria. However, the protracted nature of the displacement has exacerbated the problems associated with the practice. In addition to the negative impact it has on a girl's physical and mental health, dire economic situations, increasing social pressures, and high rates of unaddressed trauma mean that child brides often end up in abuse or exploitative situations.

ICMC also found that 1.6% of Syrian girls under 18 were pregnant.

The intention regarding early marriage of boys is of 7% for Syrians and 5% for Jordanians.

Intentions of early marriage for girls under 18



Syrian and Jordanian children do not have equal access to education: 25% of Syrian children over 6 of age do not attend school, against 7% of Jordanians.

5% of Syrian children of school-going age have never attended school, highlighting the risk of a lost generation with children being deprived of education opportunities.

School drop out affect both gender equally among Syrians and Jordanians, but the reasons behind this vary:



The main reason for Syrian boys not to go to school is because they need to work outside of the house (25%);

For Jordanian boys, it is because the child faces challenges due to a medical condition or disability (31%) or because he does not like school (21%).



Syrian girls do not attend school mainly because they are married (21%),

While Jordanian girls drop out of school because of financial reasons (22%) or because they have a medical condition or disability (25%).

Inability to afford the costs related to school and issues with enrollment are the second most frequent reasons explaining school drop outs for Syrian children (18% of the cases).



In terms of medical needs:

8% of the Syrian children and 7% of the Jordanian children suffer from a medical chronic disease or serious medical conditions.

1.8% of the Syrian children and 2.6% of the Jordanian children present a form of disability, mainly physical and mental.

#3

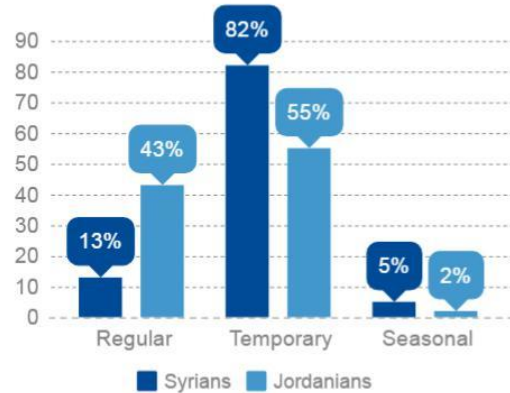
Financial situation



Access to the work opportunities differs greatly between Jordanians and Syrian refugees, reflecting the legal context in Jordan.

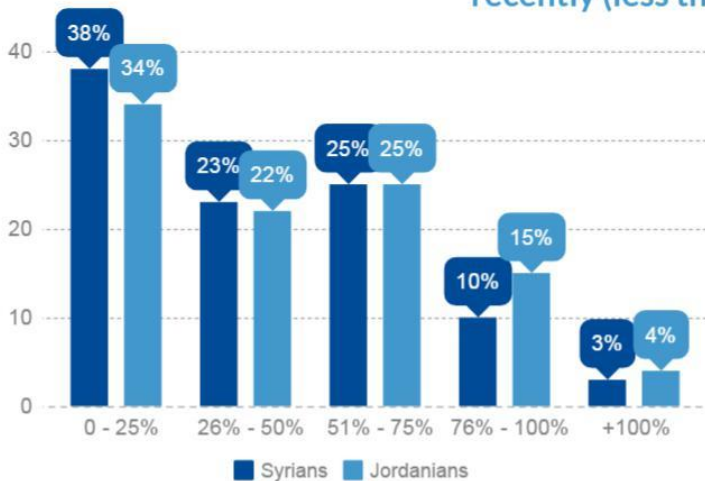
While Jordanian and Syrian adults had relatively the same access to the job market (23%), the type of job varied significantly across both groups, with Jordanians having by far more access to regular employment than Syrians.

Syrians typically fill in temporary or seasonal jobs, providing them with less steady income.



Both Syrians and Jordanians assessed by ICMC faced significant challenges, and adopt negative coping mechanisms to meet their family needs and absorb financial shocks.

3% of the Syrian households reported having sent a child to work recently (less than 1% of the Jordanians).



ICMC looks at the coverage capacity of the households, which indicates the percentage of the regular income that covers the monthly expenditure.

Households with less than 25% coverage capacity are among the most vulnerable, and more represented among the Syrian refugee population.

Only 3% of the Syrians and 4% of the Jordanians have sufficient income to cover their expenditure (more than 100% expenditure coverage capacity).

Coping strategies includes borrowing from neighbors, buying on credit/taking on debt, selling assets, working temporarily, and selling assistance received



The inability to pay for HH monthly expenditures resulted in 95% of the Syrians assessed by ICMC and 93% of the Jordanians with accumulated debts.

1.27% of the Syrian respondents said they had savings, against 0.6% of the Jordanians.

#4

Civil and legal documentation for Syrian refugees

Syrian refugees living outside refugee camps in Jordan require some legal documentation which compound their access to services and legal protection.

They must possess the new Ministry of Interior Service Cards (MOI cards), as well as the Asylum Seeker Certificate (ASC, UNHCR-issued documentation). These two pieces of documentation confirm that the holder is officially registered as a refugee in Jordan, is permitted to live outside designated refugee camps and access a range of services. In addition to this legal documentation, many Syrian refugees experience life events that require documentation such as births, deaths and marriages. This 'civil documentation' is essential for securing the legal identity of individuals and families, preventing statelessness, and protecting a range of human rights. Both civil and legal documentation is inexorably linked to the protection of individual wellbeing.

Civil and legal documentation are inextricably linked to protection outcomes and the failure to issue one document can begin a cascade of consequences; creating barriers to issuing other documents and heightening vulnerability to an array of legal and social protection concerns.

For example, if a couple does not have a valid marriage certificate (nor a Syrian family book) they are unable to obtain birth certificates for their children, or death certificates if any have passed away. Without a birth certificate, a child is unable to obtain a MOI card. If an individual is missing an MOI card (or has one based on incorrect information) they are unable to access their rights to services as refugees.

1 Registration with UNHCR

85%

of the Syrians assessed by ICMC had all their HH member registered with UNHCR.

For the remaining 15%, the majority had only one household member who was not registered, but 4% had none of them registered with UNHCR, representing 282 individuals.



56% of those who did not have all family members registered with UNHCR said it was because they left the camp without an official bailout. Another very common reason is because they had a new born child who was yet to be registered.

2 Ministry of Interior service card

For 79% of the Syrian refugees, all family members possessed an up-to-date MOI card. 13% had one household member who was not registered, most frequently in the case of a new born child.

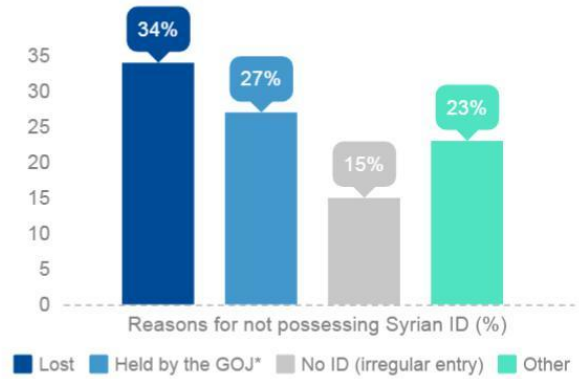
Respondents cited various reasons for not having all household members possessing a MOI card, including irregular camp exit (33%), lack of documentation (8%), including lack of stamped rent contract; ; lack of information (8%); belief that the MOI card is useless (4%); new born child.

3 Syrian ID

While 98% of the Syrian Head of Households possessed their Syrian IDs, 94% of all other family members had their own. The reasons for that were varied, as highlighted in the graph.

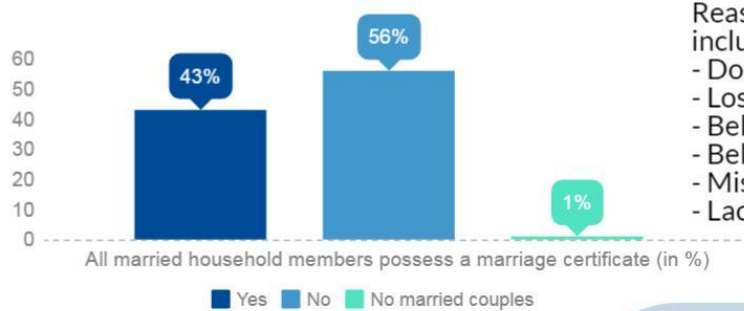
Among the 104 respondents who said "other," 61 (59%) reported that the child was born in Jordan.

11 respondents said their documents were in Syria.



4 Marriage certificates

The majority of married Syrian couples did not possess a marriage certificate (56%).



Reasons for not possessing such a certificate included:

- Documents are in Syria (71%)
- Lost certificate (41%)
- Belief that it is useless (21%)
- Belief that the family book is enough (19%)**
- Missing documents (8%)
- Lack of information (1%)

****While the family book is enough to acknowledge a marriage, it is not sufficient to issue a birth certificate of a new born baby in Jordan. In this case, a marriage certificate is necessary.**

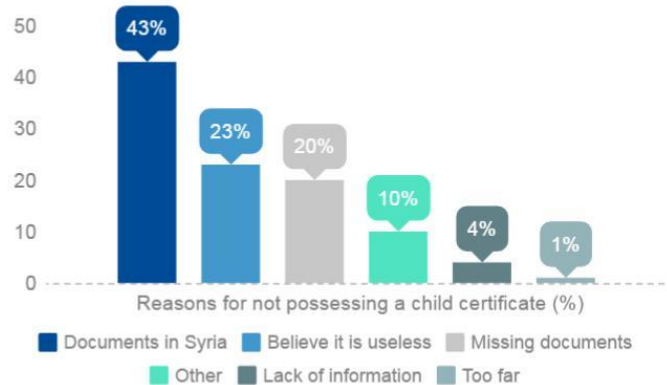
5 Birth certificates

Children disproportionately account for those missing legal documentation.

65%

Of the Syrian refugee children assessed by ICMC (between 0 and 17 year old) do not possess a birth certificate.

The reasons provided to explain why children do not possess a birth certificate highlight the need for awareness raising among parents about the usefulness of the birth certificates. They also demonstrate the consequences of the lack of other adequate documentation.



*Government of Jordan