



## JIPS Technical Mission to Erbil, Iraq - November 2015

### Support to profiling exercise in Erbil Governorate

**Participants:** JIPS Technical Advisor & Profiling Advisor

**Dates:** November 14 - 27, 2015

#### GENERAL BACKGROUND

JIPS engagement with the KRI operation was initiated by a support request, led by the Erbil Refugee Council (ERC) and UNHCR in June 2015, to support the planning for a collaborative profiling exercise of IDPs, refugees and host communities in urban areas in the Erbil Governorate of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. To lead the exercise, a Profiling Steering Committee consisting of ERC, Joint Crisis Coordination Centre, Kurdistan Region Statistics Office (KRSO), IOM, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNHABITAT and UNOCHA has been set up. JIPS was invited for a scoping mission in September to support the Profiling Steering Committee members in identifying the relevance of a profiling exercise in Erbil and outlining a methodology for the profiling exercise. A technical working group consisting of representatives of Profiling Steering Committee organisations was set up to lead the implementation of the profiling exercise.

In October the profiling exercise progressed with i) the development of an indicator set, ii) the collection of neighbourhood level information to inform the stratification of the sample, and iii) the drafting of an agreement between UNHCR and Erbil Statistics office/KRSO for the data collection to be conducted by the Erbil Statistics Office (ESO).

A second technical support mission took place between November 14 - 27, 2015 to support the partners of the exercise in finalising the profiling methodology and household survey and neighbourhood profiling tools as well as to prepare for the household survey data collection to take place before the end of the year.

#### MISSION OBJECTIVES

The specific objectives of the technical support mission were:

- To finalise the methodology document together with KRSO/ESO based on their proposed sampling approach.
- To support the technical working group in reviewing the collected information on all neighbourhoods within the scope of the exercise in order to i) create *urban typologies* required for the stratification of the sample, ii) categorise all neighbourhoods according to these defined typologies, and iii) inform the final sampling approach taken by KRSO/ESO.

- To finalise the data collection tools for the *household survey* as well as the *neighbourhood profiling* based on the collaboratively developed set of indicators and on consultations, which will take place with local experts to ensure the appropriateness and relevance of question formulations.
- To support the technical working group on deciding upon the modality of the data collection (mobile vs. paper and pen) and support in the finalisation of the tools and database in the relevant format.
- To support KRSO/ESO with the preparations for the training of the enumerators who will conduct the household survey and pilot through developing a training outline based on relevant objectives.
- To plan for the implementation of the neighbourhood profiling with the technical working group, and to provide guidance/training to the focal person in charge of this.

Please refer to the mission Terms of Reference (*Annex 1.*) for more details on the mission objectives and work arrangement.

### **MISSION ACTIVITIES**

For the detailed mission activities, see the attached mission agenda (*Annex 2*). Overall the JIPS mission worked with the profiling technical working group on a daily basis on the following tasks:

#### **Coordination:**

- Consolidation of the profiling technical working group with focal points from the UNHCR IM unit, ERC, ESO and JIPS, via daily joint work mainly at the ESO office.
- The technical working group, including JIPS, held several coordination meetings in order to develop a shared work plan over the activities to be conducted until the end of year. Effective coordination between all working group members was of particular importance given the necessity of completing the data collection by the end of this year (*See Annex 3 for the agreed upon work plan*).
- Profiling Steering Committee meeting held to review the progress and next steps with all committee members (ERC, JCC, KRSO/ESO, IOM, OCHA, UNFPA, HABITAT, UNHCR).

#### **Questionnaire finalisation:**

- Discussions with ESO on the possible data collection modalities; agreement on the use of tablets for the data collection.
- Drafting of the household survey questionnaire, consolidating feedback from the Steering Committee, and reviewing all aspects in detail with technical working group (ESO, ERC, UNHCR/IM) to ensure relevance and contextualisation of all questions and answer options.

- Coordination with the World Bank on aligning questions on key indicators that are shared between the profiling exercise and the World Bank Study<sup>1</sup>, in order to ensure the possibility of future joint analysis of part of the data.
- Translation to Kurdish and Arabic and back translation into English of the questionnaire together with ESO and ERC to ensure accuracy.
- Supporting UNHCR/IM in the coding of the questionnaire for the tablets by reviewing skip patterns and testing the coded questionnaire.
- Drafting of the enumerators' manual for the questionnaire to be used at the training to be arranged by ESO.
- Drafting of tabulation plan based on final questionnaire.

#### **Creation of urban typologies for the stratification of the sample:**

- Reviewing information collected by ERC on all neighbourhoods within the exercise scope. This information was complemented during the mission by additional work done by ERC and JIPS in reviewing satellite images of all neighbourhoods (provided by ESO GIS).
- JIPS compiled and analysed this information and worked on conceptualising criteria for urban typologies. Based on the information available, JIPS proposed to create the following strata:
  - i. Erbil city; Erbil peri-urban locations; and towns
  - ii. Neighbourhoods composed by predominantly newly developed residential structures and neighbourhoods composed by predominantly old residential structures. This was based on the high-resolution satellite images (in Erbil from 2013 and in towns from 2008).
- The suggested strata were discussed with ERC and agreed upon with KRSO who was developing the sampling approach. The aim of these suggested strata was to ensure that the survey would capture the diversity not only between population groups, but also within population groups. Stratifying the sample is intended to address the Steering Committee's decision to take an area-based approach to look at the target populations in different types of areas within the exercise scope (*see Annex 3 for the updated methodology description*).

#### **MISSION LIMITATIONS**

As agreed during the first mission, the profiling will entail three components: i. population profile (via survey); ii. neighbourhood profile (via desk review, service mapping and key informant interviews); and iii. community profile (via qualitative data collection). Due to the tight deadline of having household survey data collection completed by the end of this year, all survey preparations had to

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<sup>1</sup> World Bank study in KRI planned for early 2016. The study will target IDPs, refugees and host communities in KRI, as part of a regional study on the impact of the Syrian refugee crisis in Jordan, Lebanon and the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

be prioritised during the technical support mission. Therefore, less time was available for working on the methodology and tools for the neighbourhood profiling. However, the work done on the urban typologies will directly feed into the conceptual plan for the neighbourhood profiles. JIPS will work on the neighbourhood profiling tools during December 2015 and discuss the approach and implementation together with the technical working group.

## **MISSION OUTPUTS**

**The outputs of the mission are the result of the joint work of the profiling technical working group:**

- Final household survey questionnaire
- Draft tabulation plan
- Translated and back translated questionnaires in Kurdish and Arabic
- Coded and tested questionnaire on KOBO for the mobile data collection
- Draft enumerators' manual
- Agreed upon work plan for the rest of the year (*Annex 3*)
- A methodology document with finalised urban typologies and sampling approach for the household survey (*Annex 4*)
- Steering Committee meeting held to update all partners to the exercise

## **NEXT STEPS**

**During December 2015, the technical working group intends to undertake the following activities:**

- KRSO to select a list of neighbourhoods, based on the baseline population estimates and locations available for IDPs (from KRSO's listing exercise in June 2014) and refugees (from the UNHCR registration database).
- UNHCR/IM to prepare mobile data collection devices for the listing and the survey, and to support the training of enumerators and the survey pilot.
- ESO to conduct a listing of all households in a block within all the selected neighbourhoods.
- KRSO to draw a sample based on the listing, which will be representative of the three population groups in the urban locations included in the exercise.
- ESO to train enumerators and conduct the household survey.
- JIPS to share tabulation plans with technical working group for input and to prepare a work plan proposal for the analysis phase.
- JIPS to develop an approach for the neighbourhood profiling that will complement the population profile of the survey.

### **Activities for next year (January – March, 2016):**

- **January/February:** Analysis of data (JIPS with the involvement of technical working group members – modalities to be discussed in more detail)
- **February:** Workshop with Steering Committee members, technical working group and other relevant sector experts, where data and preliminary findings will be presented and discussed (Steering Committee, technical working group, JIPS)
- **February:** Qualitative data collection and analysis based on preliminary findings (technical working group, Erbil UNHCR office, JIPS)
- **February/March:** Further analysis based on workshop results and qualitative data findings (technical working group, JIPS – modalities to be arranged)

### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

JIPS mission is grateful to:

- The hard work of the profiling technical working group colleagues from Erbil Statistics Office (ESO), Erbil Refugee Council (ERC) and UNHCR/IM.
- The Erbil Statistics Office for providing the mission with working space, as well as the ESO GIS unit for providing the mission with the relevant maps and satellite images.
- The excellent mission hosting arrangements of UNHCR.
- JIPS staff in Geneva for their remote support.

### **ANNEXES**

Annex 1: Mission ToR

Annex 2: Mission agenda

Annex 3: Work plan of technical working group until end of year

Annex 4: Updated methodology description ***(to be seen as work in progress, as certain methodology components – e.g. neighbourhood profile and the qualitative data collection - will only be finalised early next year together with the technical working group)***