



JIPS Technical Mission to the Kurdistan Region of Iraq – February – March 2016

Participants: JIPS Technical Advisor & Profiling Advisor

Dates: February 13 – March 4, 2016

GENERAL BACKGROUND

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

In November 2015 a second JIPS mission took place to support the profiling partners in the finalisation of the methodology and the survey tools, the preparation for the upcoming data collection, as well as the work on a neighbourhood profiling methodology. In December 2015 the household survey was conducted by the Erbil Statistics Directorate and in January 2016 the collected data was cleaned and organised.

In February and March 2016 the third JIPS mission took place with the aim to support the collaborative analysis of the household survey data as well as the methodology finalisation and data collection of the qualitative data.

In addition, JIPS received a request from UNHCR in November 2015 to support two new profiling exercises of displaced and hosting populations in the urban areas of Duhok and Sulaymaniyah Governorates of the KRI. These exercises will take place under the oversight of the same Profiling Steering Committee and be implemented by the Statistics Office of each Governorate. Both in Duhok and Sulaymaniyah a technical working group has been established to lead the implementation. The third JIPS mission to KRI In February/March therefore also supported the initiation of these two additional profiling exercises.

MISSION OBJECTIVES

The specific objectives of the technical support mission were:

In Erbil Governorate:

- To finalise the preliminary analysis of the household survey together with the Technical Working Group (TWG), and share with all Steering Committee members and other interested actors.

- To support the TWG in preparing and facilitating the Analysis Workshop to review the preliminary findings with all partners of the exercise and decide upon the focus of the further analysis.
- To finalise together with the TWG the methodology for the qualitative data collection based on the workshop results.
- To train the qualitative data collectors from the Field Response Unit in UNHCR Erbil and plan the field work.
- To support the systematisation and analysis of the qualitative data together with the TWG.
- To review with the TWG the secondary material available for the neighbourhood profiling/service mapping and decide upon the possibility and direction of a neighbourhood profile analysis.

In Dohuk and Sulaymaniyah Governorates:

- To meet the members of the TWGs in Dohuk and Sulaymaniyah, as well as other partners as relevant.
- To support the TWGs/Statistics Office in Dohuk and Sulaymaniyah in developing the profiling methodology and tools.
- To support the TWGs/Statistics Office in drafting a detailed work plan including roles and responsibilities for the subsequent phases.

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* in Erbil, Sulaymaniyah and Duhok on the following tasks:

Erbil profiling: analysis

- JIPS together with the analysis and reporting consultant finalised the tabulation plan and produced all relevant tables for the analysis.
- A report with the preliminary findings was drafted and shared with all Steering Committee members and other actors invited to an analysis workshop.
- An analysis workshop on the preliminary findings from the household survey was organised together with the Technical Working Group and input/feedback provided by participants documented to guide further analysis.
- The data weights and the specifications of all tabulations were agreed with the Erbil Statistics Directorate and the final tables were produced.
- The qualitative data methodology with input from the TWG and the results of the analysis workshop was developed.
- Focus group discussion facilitators from UNHCR's Field Response Unit in Erbil were trained; staff from the Erbil Statistics Directorate and the Erbil Refugee Council (ERC) also attended the training.
- Focus group discussions, with the host community (youth and adults) in neighbourhoods with high and low density of IDPs, were conducted by UNHCR Erbil and ERC.
- The neighbourhood profiling/service mapping was explored with the analysis/reporting consultant. Additionally the group agreed which information to look for, how to use it and to complement the desk review on service availability and capacities, with key informant interviews with school teachers and health care service providers to explore the coping mechanisms used.

- Secondary data on location and type of schools (acquired from ESD) and health services (from the Ministry of Health, acquired from WHO) was cleaned and mapped within the coverage of the exercise.
- Baseline population estimated of the refugees (from UNHCR) and IDPs (from KRSO) were cleaned and mapped within the coverage of the exercise.

Sulaymaniyah profiling: kick starting the profiling

- JIPS and UNHCR IM unit met with key partners to the exercise in Sulaymaniyah: UNHCR, Joint Crisis Coordination Centre (JCCC) of the Governorate, Civil Development Organisation (CDO) and Sulaymaniyah Statistics Office (SSO). Together with the SSO the profiling process and the methodology as conducted in Erbil were reviewed and preparations for the profiling work began. The profiling objectives and process were also presented to the UN Inter Cluster Coordination Meeting.

Duhok profiling: finalisation of methodology and tools

- In Duhok, the UNHCR IM unit had already conducted two missions prior to this, introducing and discussing the profiling exercise with key partners (UNHCR, Governorate, DSO, BRHA), as well as reviewing the methodology with the Duhok Statistics Office (DSO). During this third mission, JIPS and UNHCR IM met with the UNHCR profiling focal point and the DSO, in order to finalise the methodology approach and the household survey questionnaire. DSO presented a sampling approach and the questionnaire was reviewed and finalised –incorporating the lessons learned from the Erbil profiling. A work plan was reviewed and agreed upon.

MISSION OUTPUTS

The outputs of the mission are the result of the joint work of the profiling technical working groups in the different locations:

Erbil profiling:

- Finalised tabulation plan with agreed upon table specifications
- Agreed upon weights and final set of weighted tables
- Report on preliminary findings
- Consolidated results from the analysis workshop
- Focus group discussion methodology and tools
- Focus group discussion training material
- Mapped schools and health services
- Mapped baseline population estimates from UNHCR on refugees and from KRSO on IDPs

Duhok and Sulaymaniyah profiling:

- Final questionnaire for Duhok and Sulaymaniyah based on lessons learned from the Erbil profiling
- Revised questionnaire instructions for Duhok and Sulaymaniyah
- Revised methodology description for Duhok and Sulaymaniyah (incl. work plan)

RECOMMENDATIONS

The JIPS mission recommends that:

- **The lead profiling partners in Duhok and Sulaymaniyah keep the Profiling Steering Committee, which was set up in Erbil, involved at the KRI level.** This would entail keeping Committee members informed about the progress of the profiling exercise in each Governorate at key steps, and later on involved in the analysis phase, which would eventually enhance the use of the data and the results.
- **The technical working groups in Duhok and Sulaymaniyah maintain a good communication with other agencies/organisations from the humanitarian/development community as well as the Governorates.** This would entail keeping them informed about the profiling process and ensure opportunities for their input – their involvement will be particularly important during the analysis phase and the development of recommendations, where the contextual and expert knowledge of different actors in the Governorates would ensure that the analysis is relevant. In Erbil the analysis benefitted greatly from involving interested actors in the analysis workshop, where their input ensured that the analysis is relevant for the data users.
- **The neighbourhood-profiling component of the exercises** (i.e. i) the stratification of the sample by urban typologies; ii) the mapping of services and their capacities based on available information, and iii) an analysis of the general capacity of the local communities and neighbourhoods to absorb/accommodate the displaced populations) **is well planned for** in the technical working groups, in order to deepen the area-based analysis.

NEXT STEPS

Erbil:

- By the end of March, the analysis and reporting focal point will draft the profiling report, and based on bilateral meeting with relevant actors develop recommendations. JIPS will support in reviewing and providing input to report as needed.

- Two pending focus group discussions to be conducted and data transcribed, as well as the ensuing data to be analysed by JIPS and reporting focal point.
- Service mapping information to be included in the analysis as relevant and key informant interviews with service providers (e.g. in school and hospital) to be conducted. JIPS will support this analysis as needed.

Duhok:

- Duhok Statistics Office to organise the training and data collection phase of the profiling in March-April 2016.

Sulaymaniyah:

- Sulaymaniyah Statistics Office to finalise the project agreement with UNHCR in March.
- Sulaymaniyah Statistics Office together with UNHCR IM unit to finalise methodology and sampling by the of March in order to conduct the survey in April.

JIPS will continue providing support to the Profiling Steering Committee and the technical working group partners as agreed upon.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

JIPS mission is grateful to:

- The work of the profiling technical working group colleagues from UNHCR IM and UNHCR Erbil FRU, Erbil Refugee Council, Erbil Statistics Directorate as well as the work of the Duhok Statistics Office, the Sulaymaniyah Statistics Office and UNHCR in Duhok and Sulaymaniyah.
- The excellent mission hosting arrangements of UNHCR.
- JIPS staff in Geneva for their remote support.
- Statistics Norway and NRC for fruitful and continuing collaboration in support of field operations.

ANNEXES

Annex 1: Mission TOR

Annex 2: Mission agenda