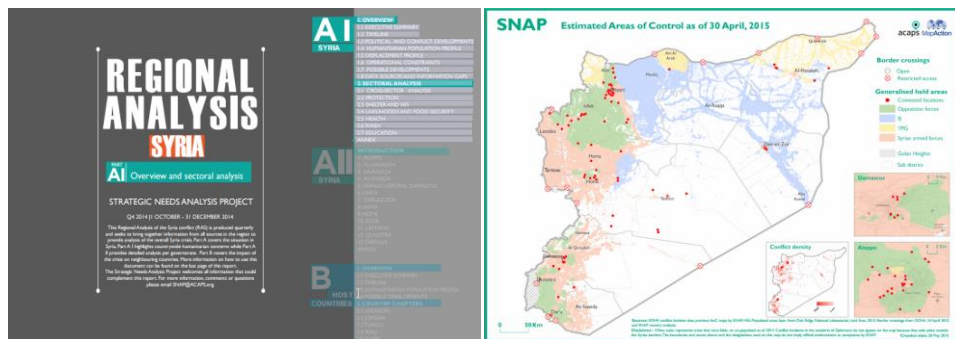# SNAP: SYRIA NEEDS ANALYSIS PROJECT

SUMMARY OF WORK
December 2012 – June 2015

The Syria Needs Analysis Project (SNAP) started in December 2012, as a collaborative project between ACAPS and MapAction, aimed at bring together available information on humanitarian needs in the Syria crisis. At the time, information-sharing and publications on the humanitarian situation were extremely limited; in this context, SNAP's initial goal was to help create a shared situational awareness among humanitarian actors, which in turn would contribute to a better-targeted and more needs-based response and improvements in the situation of crisis-affected populations. Over 2.5 years, SNAP has pursued these goals with a combination of independent information products, technical support and capacity building for humanitarian assessments. At the end of 2014, the project name was changed to Strategic Needs Analysis Project, to reflect the growing need for regional and whole-of-crisis analysis following the declaration of an L3 crisis in Iraq. The project closes at the end of June 2015.

INDEPENDENT INFORMATION PRODUCTS

- 16 editions of the Regional Analysis: Syria (RAS)
- 6 brief RAS updates
- 17 thematic reports
- 6 sets of scenarios
- 7 briefing notes on Iraq
- 4 standalone "areas of influence" maps and conflict dashboards

All these documents remain available on the SNAP page of ACAPS' website.

SERVICES TO THE HUMANITARIAN COMMUNITY

Syria
- Support to coordinated assessments such as the JRANS, JRANS 2, SINA and MSNA in northern Syria,
- Support to the Syria Information Management and Assessment Working Group in defining the Whole of Syria Humanitarian Information Framework,
- Development of People in Need (PiN) and Sex and Age Disaggregated Data (SADD) methodologies for the Needs-Response-Gaps project,
- Technical support to clusters, including WASH in designing severity scale, Health in reviewing severity scale, and the Protection working group in developing a protection framework that has now evolved to the Humanitarian Trends Analysis Unit (HTAU),
- Technical lead to the Syria/Turkey Information Management Task Force (STIMA), and chair of the Syria Monitoring and Assessment Initiative (SAMI).

Lebanon
- Secondary Data Review for Phase 1 of the MSNA Lebanon,
- Support to the Assessment Working Group (AWG) in Lebanon for reviewing assessment design,
- Support to the Regional Coordinator's Office and OCHA Lebanon, through technical support to the Joint Analysis Unit (JAU),
- Support to the Lebanon Humanitarian INGO Forum (LHIF), reviewing actual data processing for the targeting approach.
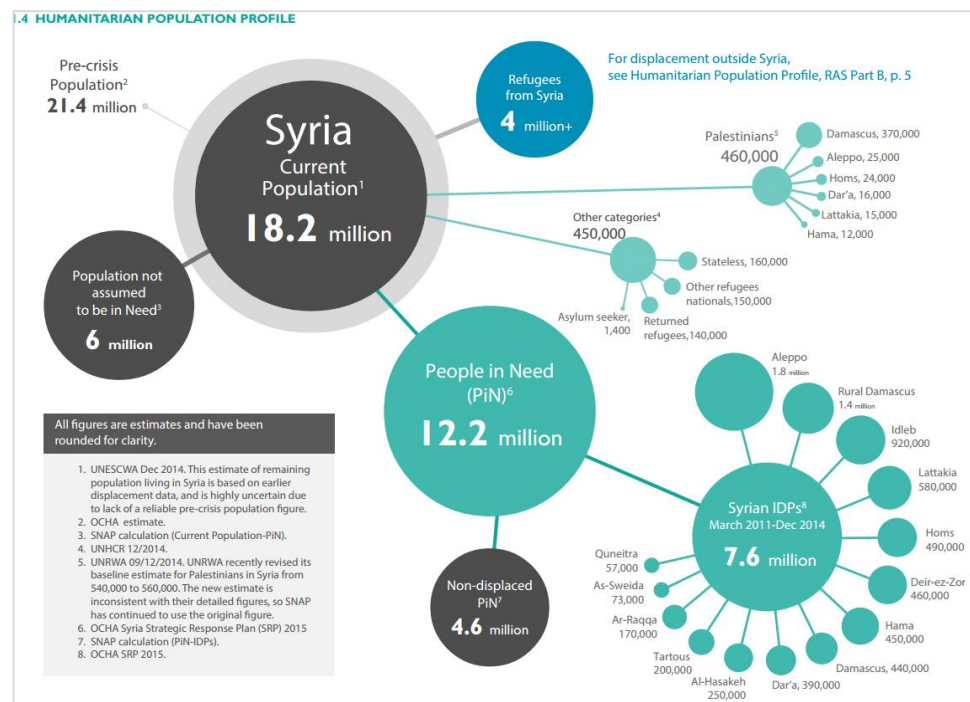
Region
Trainings and capacity building for humanitarian actors, focusing on information management, analysis, and coordinated needs assessments, including:
- 4 trainings on coordinated needs assessment (CNA) for UNHCR in Jordan,
- 2 CNA training for SAMI,
- 1 training on analysis for consumers (regional).

Information Products:
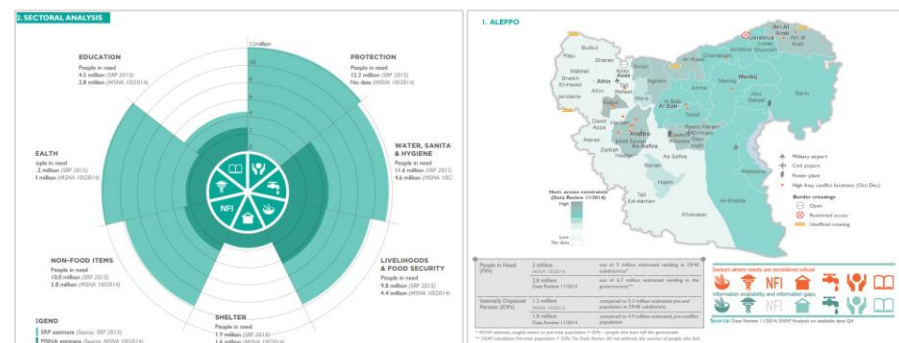## Regional Analysis: Syria (RAS)

First published in February 2013, the Regional Analysis: Syria (RAS) was SNAP's primary information product and vehicle for encouraging shared situational awareness. The goal of the RAS was to gather available humanitarian information into a single overview that would encourage a common vision of the crisis, which donors, regional offices and operational agencies could use for a variety of purposes.

The RAS was based on multiple research streams, including published humanitarian information and reports, a broad (though not comprehensive) system of media monitoring throughout the region, SNAP researchers' consultations with humanitarian actors, and access to un-published data sources. It provided a snapshot of key issues and recent developments in Syria in terms of conflict, displacement, access, and humanitarian need by sector and geographic area, as well as chapters highlighting issues in refugee hosting countries, making it in many cases the only document offering a complete regional perspective on the crisis. Because SNAP was not an operational agency, the RAS had a unique level of independence from operational concerns.

Initially published on a monthly basis in 2013, the RAS was changed to a quarterly product in 2014, and supplemented with brief monthly updates highlighting recent events.

All RAS documents remain available on the SNAP page of ACAPS' website.

- Jan 2013 (Overview, Part I: Syria, Part II: Host Countries)
- Feb 2013 (Overview, Part1: Syria, Part II: Host Countries)
- March 2013 (Overview, Part1: Syria, Part II: Host Countries)
- April 2013 (Complete report)
- May 2013 (Overview Eng, Overview Arabic, Part1: Syria, Part II: Host Countries)
- June 2013 (Overview Eng, Overview Arabic, Part1: Syria, Part II: Host Countries, Annex)
- July 2013 (Overview, Part1: Syria, Part II: Host Countries)
- August 2013 (Complete report)
- Sept 2013 (Overview Eng, Overview Arabic, Part1: Syria, Part II: Host Countries)
- Oct 2013 (Overview, Part1: Syria, Part II: Host Countries)
- Nov 2013 (Complete report)
- Feb 2014 (Overview Eng, Overview Arabic, Part1: Syria, Part II: Host Countries)
- Q1 2014 (Overview Eng, Overview Arabic, Part1: Syria, Part II: Host Countries)
- Q2 2014 (Overview Eng, Overview Arabic, Part1: Syria, Part II: Host Countries)
- Q3 2014 (English, Arabic)
- Q4 2015
  - o Part A1: Overview and Sectoral Analysis (English, Arabic)
  - o Part AII: Governorate Profiles (English, Arabic)
  - o Part B: Host Countries (English, Arabic)

Information Products:
Thematic Reports

In addition to the RAS, SNAP published regular thematic reports, going into depth on specific issues related to the crisis. Topics in these reports, as well as in the RAS briefs, are outlined here.

April 2013
Aleppo governorate profile
Baseline information by sector, both pre- and post-conflict, noting displacement and access, and highlighting future risks. Includes mapping of JRANS results in the governorate.

June 2013
Legal status of individuals fleeing Syria
Rights, obligations and access to state services of people who have fled Syria to Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and Egypt.

July 2013
Impact of the conflict on Syrian economy and livelihoods
Macro-economic effects of the conflict, including government budget, trade, agriculture and the oil industry, and the micro-impact on household livelihoods.

September 2013
Status and Control of Syrian border crossings

Needs Assessment Lessons Learned
Summarizes consultations with many agencies on challenges and good practices for conducting and coordinating humanitarian assessments in the context of Syria.

October 2013
Lebanon baseline information
Demographic and economic information on Lebanon; looks at services by sector, highlights underlying vulnerabilities, impact of the Syrian crisis, and most vulnerable groups and areas.
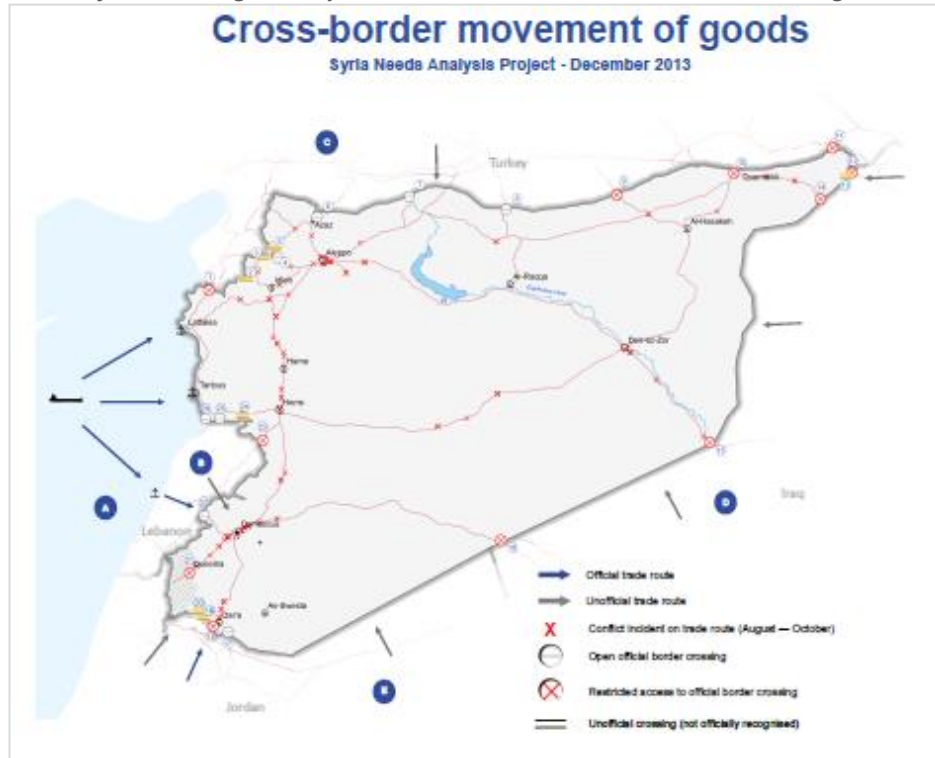
December 2013

Relief actors in Syria

Maps the major categories of relief actors working within Syria, and outlines the structure of the response, noting operational constraints such as access, funding, coordination and accountability.

Cross-border movement of goods

Describes the movement of commercial and humanitarian goods between Syria and each major bordering country, and notes the control of the border crossings.

January 2014

Jordan baseline information

Demographic and economic information on Jordan, looking at services by sector, highlighting underlying vulnerabilities, impact of the Syrian crisis, and most vulnerable groups and areas.

February 2014

Al-Hasakeh governorate profile

Baseline information by sector, both pre- and post-conflict, notes issues of displacement and access, and highlights future risks. Includes a timeline of armed conflict.
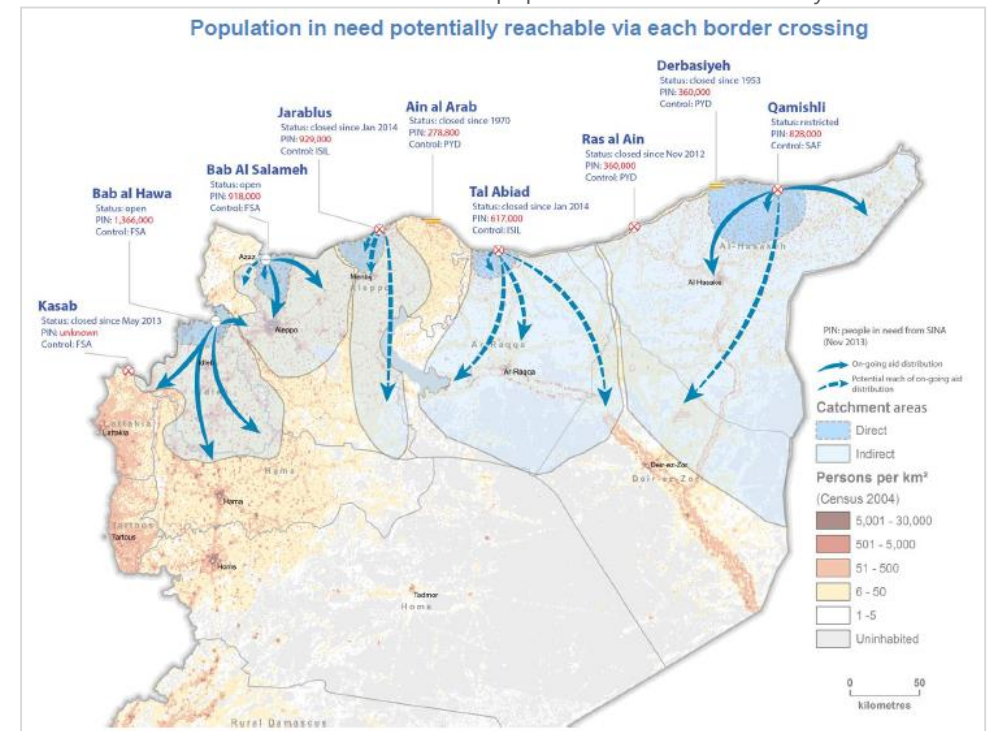
March 2014

Palestinians from Syria

Highlights the situation of Palestinians in camps and settlements in Syria, and the exclusion and protection risks faced by those attempting to flee to Lebanon and Jordan.

April 2014

Potential cross-border assistance from Turkey to Syria

Detailed look at the border crossings and their status, assessing the potential capacity of cross-border assistance to reach known populations in need within Syria.
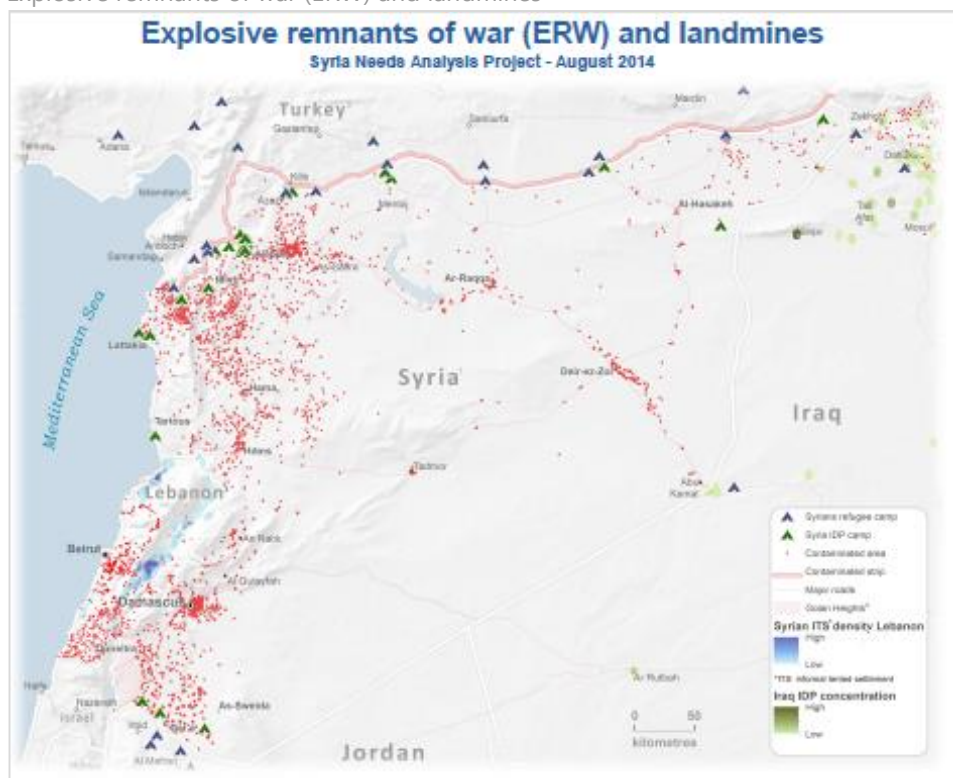
June 2014

Idleb governorate profile + Annexes

Baseline information by sector, both pre- and post-conflict, notes issues of displacement and access, and highlights future risks. Highlights changes in the humanitarian situation noted between JRANS II and SINA.

August 2014

Explosive remnants of war (ERW) and landmines

October 2014

The Onset of Winter in Syria, Iraq and the Region (English, Arabic)

Maps the locations of camps and displaced populations relative to temperature and rainfall, and highlights country-specific winterization issues

Topics Covered in RAS briefs

May 2014
- Increasing risks of a major disease outbreak,
- Cease-fire in old Homs,
- Overview of the Regional Response Plan (refugee) funding in the region (% received out of total requested),
- Noticeable shift in humanitarian response modality from emergency response to early recovery.

June 2014
- IS tightens access restrictions to some 650,000 people in Der-ez-Zor city, leading to severe food shortages,
- Government of Lebanon places additional policy restrictions on the entry of Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS).
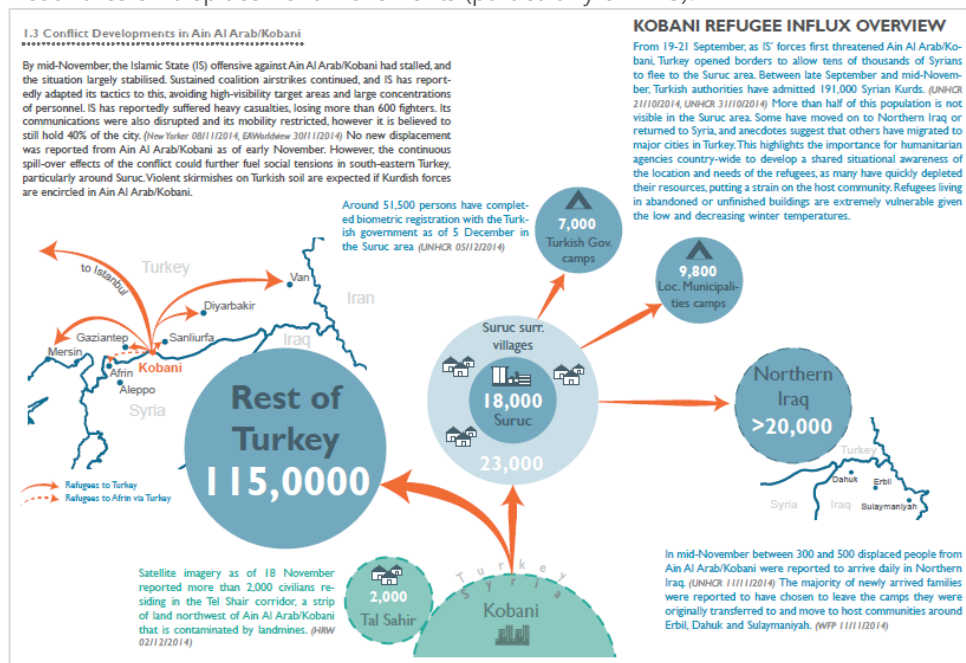
August 2014
- Perceived benefits and changes in cross-border humanitarian access due to the recent adoption of UNSC resolution 2165,
- IS advances and repressive practices increase protection concerns,
- Recent increase in the outbreak of waterborne diseases, such as typhoid and hepatitis A, and underlying factors behind the worsening health situation in Syria,
- An unprecedented push by Syrian armed opposition groups (AOGs) into the Lebanese borderline town of Arsal leads to the displacement of local and refugee population groups and increases social tensions between refugees and the host community.

September 2014 (English, Arabic)
- Protection concerns in Lebanon (access to shelter, freedom of movement, employment and livelihood opportunities),
- Rising social tensions in Turkey,
- Access constraints in IS-held areas, reported prohibition on WFP food deliveries,
- IS advance displaces130,000 Yezidis from Ninewa province, Iraq,
- Protection concerns in IS held areas, including beheadings, crucifixions, trafficking of women, forced child recruitment.

November 2014 (English, Arabic)

- Massive displacement to Turkey from Ain Al Arab/Kobani due to IS attacks, humanitarian needs and impact of refugees,Extreme restrictions by neighbouring countries on displacement movements (particularly on PRS).
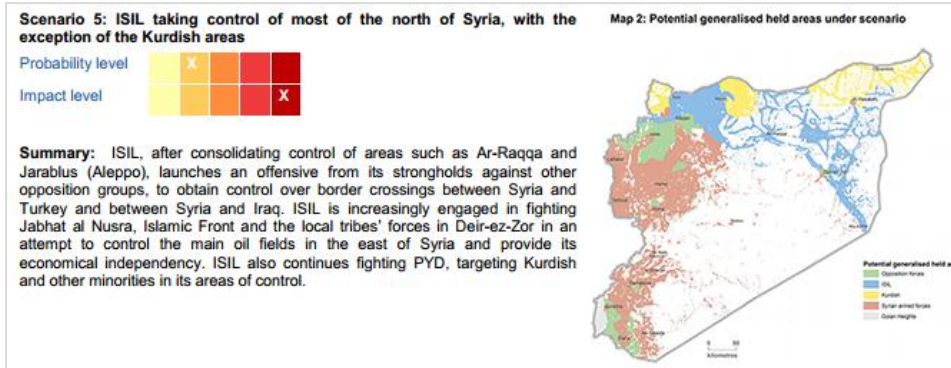

December 2014 (English, Arabic)

- Clashes erupt in the besieged city of Duma, conflicts between AOGs over food supplies,
- Possible outcomes of proposed freeze in Aleppo city and lessons learned from past truces and ceasefires,
- Increasing restrictions by refugee-hosting countries on Syrians' legal residence, documentation, employment opportunities and freedom of movement,
- Temporary cuts in WFP cash assistance to some 1.7 million Syrians across the region.

Information Products:
Scenarios

With the cooperation of other actors, SNAP engaged in regular scenario-building activities, producing documents intended to jump-start contingency planning and assist humanitarian stakeholders in preparing for changes in the situation.

Feb 2013
Syria, three macro-level scenarios: continued fighting/political and military fragmentation, government collapse and negotiated settlement.

Sept 2013
Syria, four macro-level scenarios: continuation of conflict, expanded spill-over into Lebanon, extensive international military intervention, and start of meaningful negotiations.

May 2014
Syria, six local scenarios: Continuation of conflict, drought in northern Syria, Government takeover of Aleppo, cholera outbreak, Islamic State (IS) takeover of northern Syria, significant conflict-induced displacement in Damascus and suburbs.

August 2014
Lebanon, five scenarios: Economic collapse, shift in response due to reduced funding, sharp rise in social tensions, increased activism by armed groups, increased stabilization.

Dec 2014 (English, Arabic)
Syria, nine local and regional scenarios: continuation of the conflict, alliance between IS and Jabhat Nusra (JAN), siege of opposition areas of Aleppo, collapse of government services and subsidies, significant degradation of IS income, establishment of buffer zone near Turkish border, success of the Aleppo freeze, mass refugee returns from Lebanon, escalation of political and social tensions in Turkey.

Information Products:
Iraq

In the aftermath of the Mosul crisis in 2014, ACAPS and SNAP produced a series of briefing notes, and deployed a team to Iraq to provide integrated information on the regional scope of the crisis. Over four months, this effort produced seven briefing notes on changes in the situation in Iraq, two thematic reports and a set of scenarios.

These reports can be found on the Iraq section, on the country analysis page of ACAPS' website.

Briefing Notes
- 18 June
- 26 June
- 2 July
- 24 July
- 7 August
- 21 August
- 4 September

July 2014
Iraq displacement profile
Overview of locations, origins and (where known) priority needs of displaced populations.
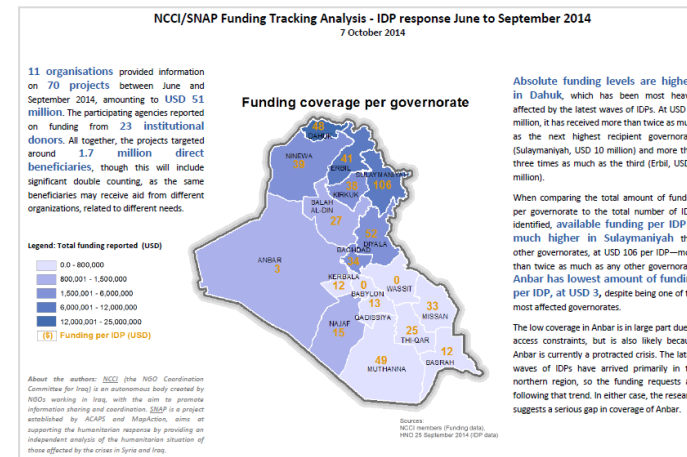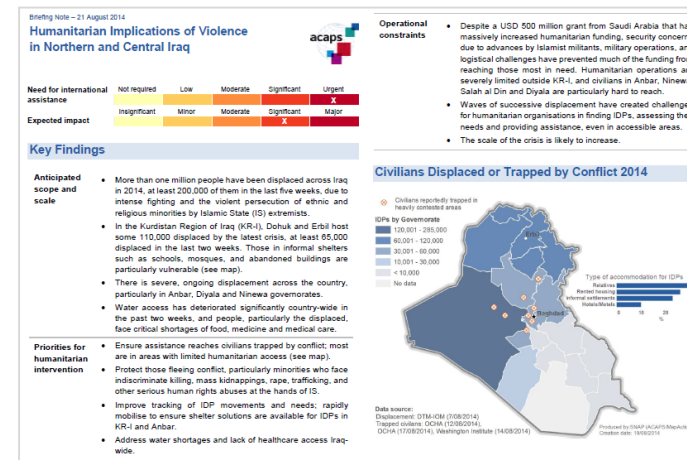
July 2014
Iraq Scenarios
Seven local and regional scenarios: stalemate and sustained sectarian violence, IS offensive on Baghdad, establishment of a coalition government, foreign military intervention, Kurdistan declares independence, cholera outbreak, IS expansion into Jordan.

Oct-14
NCCI/SNAP Funding Tracking Analysis for the IDP response in Iraq
Offers a preliminary analysis of the INGO funding going to different areas of Iraq (by governorate), based on data from a selection of major INGOs partnered with the NGO Coordination Committee for Iraq (NCCI).

For any additional questions or comments on SNAP, or on ACAPS' future support to the region, please contact us on analysis@acaps.org.