



— at a glance —


THE USE OF PROFILING IN THE

KURDISTAN REGION OF IRAQ

ERBIL, DUHOK & SULAYMANIYAH

2016





This profiling entailed a collaborative approach, capacity sharing, and developing long-term responses to the displacement concerns in Erbil Governorate. We did not know a lot about IDPs and refugees residing out of camps, we did not know the impact of the crisis on the host community. **This profiling enlightened us about these issues.**

Diyar Lateef Omar
National Humanitarian Advisor
Erbil Refugee Council,
Erbil Governorate

Why a profiling?

While a significant amount of information was available on IDPs and refugees residing in camps in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI), **less was known about those residing outside of camps, particularly in urban areas.**

Furthermore, most of the existing strategies to mitigate the effects of displacement focused on addressing the needs of either the IDP or refugee populations, while the needs of the host communities living alongside these displaced groups received much less attention.

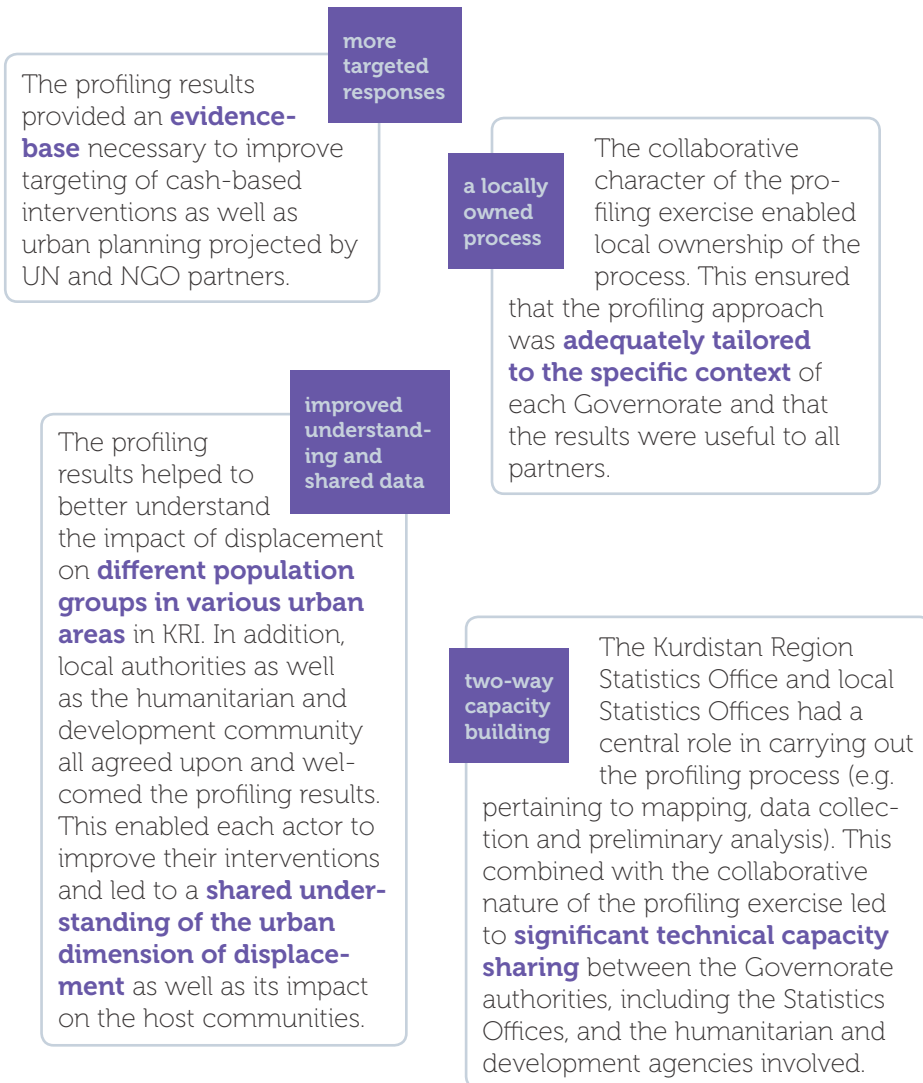
However, the **local communities and authorities were deeply affected by the waves of displacement** resulting from the conflicts in Syria and the rest of Iraq. By 2016 the urban population in Erbil Governorate had increased by 25%, in Duhok Governorate by 31% and in Sulaymaniyah Governorate by 15% due to the displacement crises. This combined with the pervasive financial crisis greatly exacerbated the strains already placed on local communities.

In this context, the Governorate authorities in Erbil, Duhok and Sulaymaniyah together with UN partners decided to conduct studies comparing population groups (IDPs, refugees, and host communities) in different urban areas to **inform longer term planning** for the Kurdistan Regional Government authorities as well as the humanitarian and development community.



Do your own analysis of the data from Erbil, Duhok, and Sulaymaniyah on dart.jips.org!
Or download the full datasets from the Humanitarian Data Exchange (data.humdata.org).

What difference did the profiling make?





This study shows the **importance of joining efforts** between Government, including Statistics Offices, and humanitarian organisations to avoid multiple data collection with different methodologies and objectives.

Serwan Mohamed,
Kurdistan Region
Statistics
Office

How was the process shaped?

A collaborative approach was taken in designing and implementing each profiling exercise, with a **Profiling Steering Committee** comprising all relevant partners jointly overseeing the process and contributing at different stages. Partners included:

- ◆ **Government and Governorate bodies:** Joint Crisis Coordination Centre (JCCC), Kurdistan Region Statistics Office (KRSO), Governorate Statistics Offices (Erbil Statistics Directorate, Duhok Statistics Office and Sulaymaniyah Statistics Office), the Erbil Refugee Council (ERC), the Board of Relief and Humanitarian Affairs (BRHA) in Duhok and the Sulaymaniyah Governorate;
- ◆ **Humanitarian and development actors:** UNHCR, UN-HABITAT, OCHA, UNFPA and IOM.

In addition to this, each exercise established a **Technical Working Group** made up of representatives from the respective Governorate bodies, Statistics Offices, and UNHCR to lead the technical work, with support from JIPS throughout the process.

The Statistics Offices administered the household surveys while the Governorate authorities and UNHCR organised the qualitative data collection. All members were involved in data analysis, and the findings were shared and validated with each Governorate as well as humanitarian and development stakeholders in a one-day workshop. **This multi-stakeholder collaboration resulted in significant knowledge and capacity sharing** including the introduction of new data collection and analysis methods.

How was data collected?

The urban profiling exercises in Erbil, Duhok and Sulaymaniyah **combined quantitative and qualitative methods** to explore i. the diversity within each target group by different types of urban areas, and ii. the differences as well as similarities between groups by location. Methods used included:

- ◆ A **sample-based household survey** of approximately 1,200 households in each Governorate targeting IDPs, refugees and host communities. The profiling produced a basic demographic profile of the groups disaggregated by sex, age, location and diversity focusing on livelihoods, community cohesion, education and future intentions;
- ◆ **Focus group discussions** with the host community and a desk review of already collected qualitative data with the displaced populations to complement the survey on the topic of social cohesion and inter-group relations and perceptions; and
- ◆ **Key informant interviews** and a **desk review** focusing on availability and capacity of services in targeted urban areas.

An area-based methodology was developed for the exercises, which allowed for a **comparative analysis** not only between **population groups** but also between certain types of **urban areas/geographic strata** with the highest concentration of displaced populations. These comprised the following areas:

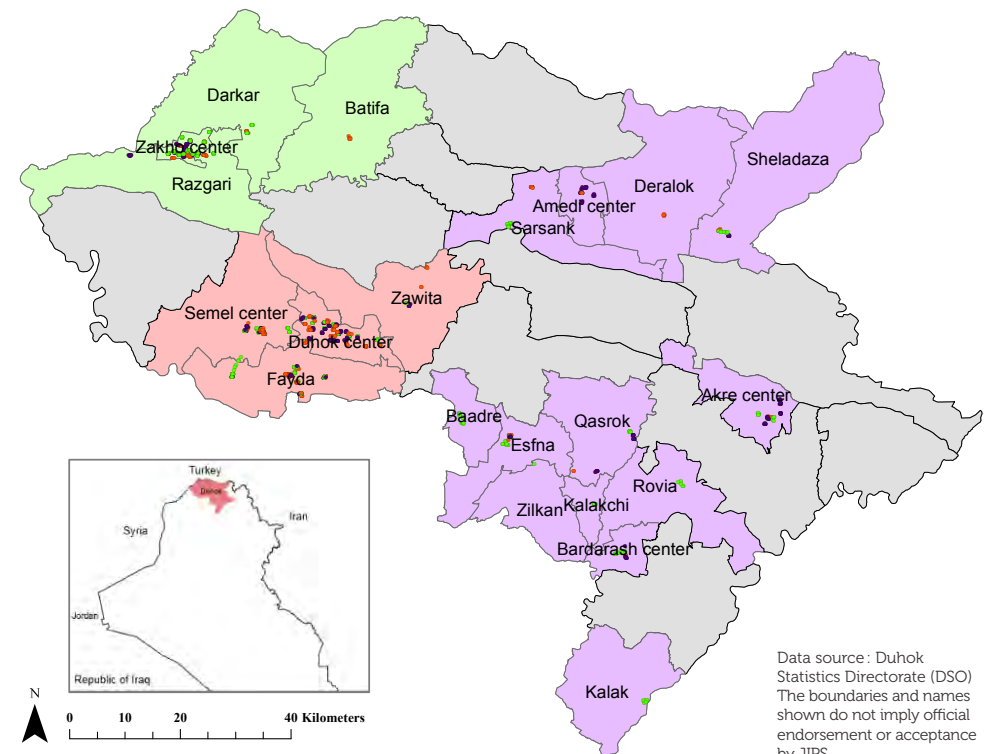
- ◆ In **Erbil**: Erbil District Centre, Erbil District Periphery and selected towns.
- ◆ In **Duhok**: high-density districts, medium-density districts and low-density districts.
- ◆ In **Sulaymaniyah**: Sulaymaniyah District Centre, Sulaymaniyah District Periphery, as well as Kalar and Kifri District Centres.

DUHOK GOVERNORATE

Distribution of the households interviewed in the coverage area by geographical stratum

Stratification method, each point representing one sampled household per strata:

- Strata 1: high density areas
- Strata 2: medium density areas
- Strata 3: low density areas
- Subdistricts



Data source: Duhok Statistics Directorate (DSO)
The boundaries and names shown do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by JIPS.

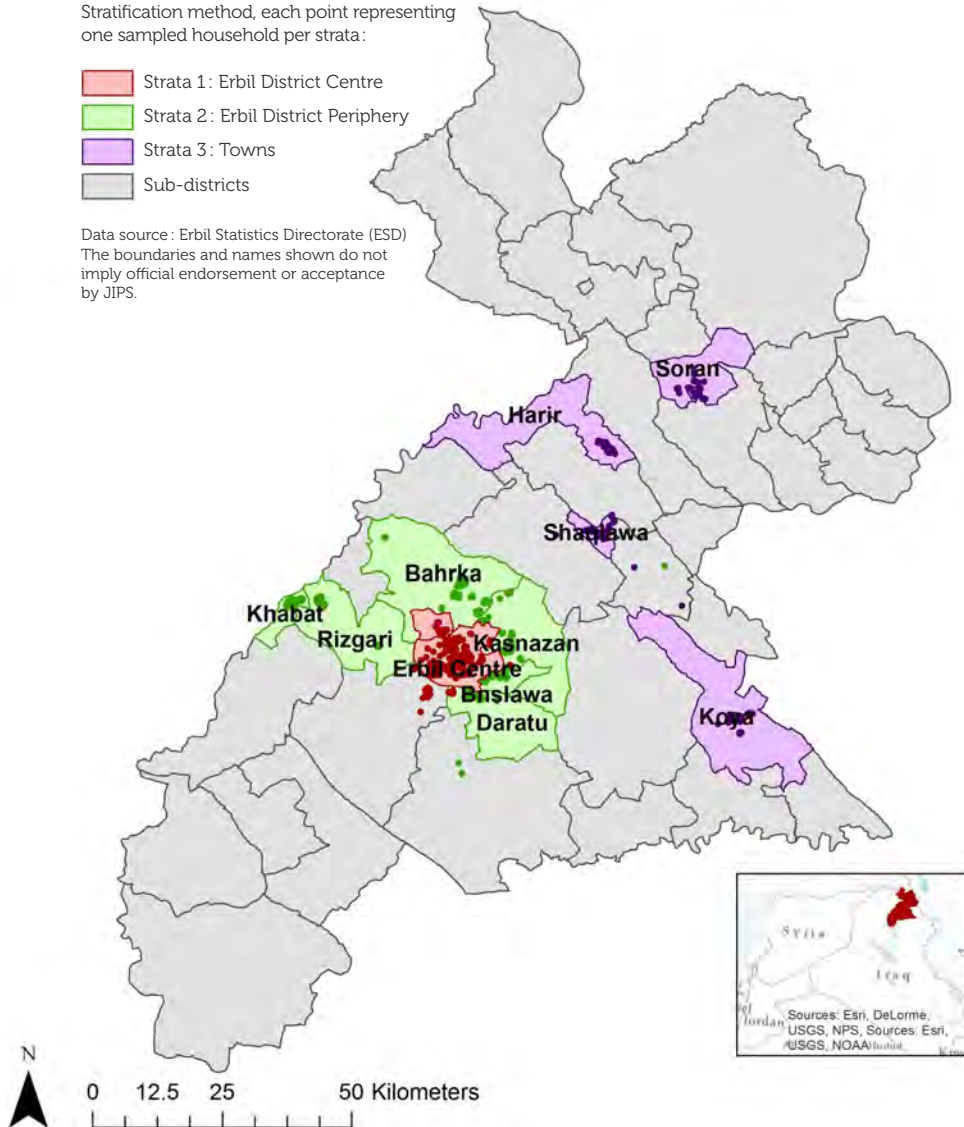
ERBIL GOVERNORATE

Distribution of the households interviewed in the coverage area by geographical stratum

Stratification method, each point representing one sampled household per strata:

- Strata 1: Erbil District Centre
- Strata 2: Erbil District Periphery
- Strata 3: Towns
- Sub-districts

Data source: Erbil Statistics Directorate (ESD)
The boundaries and names shown do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by JIPS.



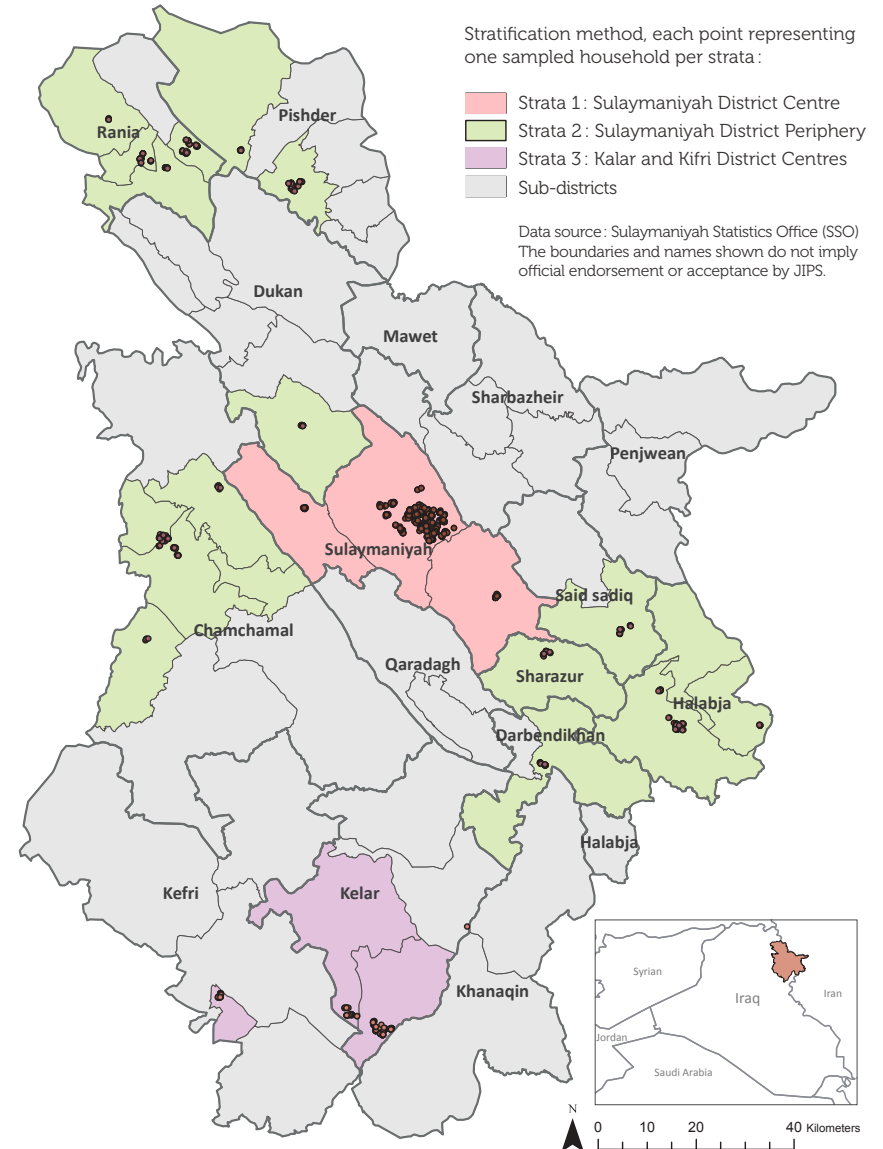
SULAYMANIYAH GOVERNORATE

Distribution of the households interviewed in the coverage area by geographical stratum

Stratification method, each point representing one sampled household per strata:

- Strata 1: Sulaymaniyah District Centre
- Strata 2: Sulaymaniyah District Periphery
- Strata 3: Kalar and Kifri District Centres
- Sub-districts

Data source: Sulaymaniyah Statistics Office (SSO)
The boundaries and names shown do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by JIPS.

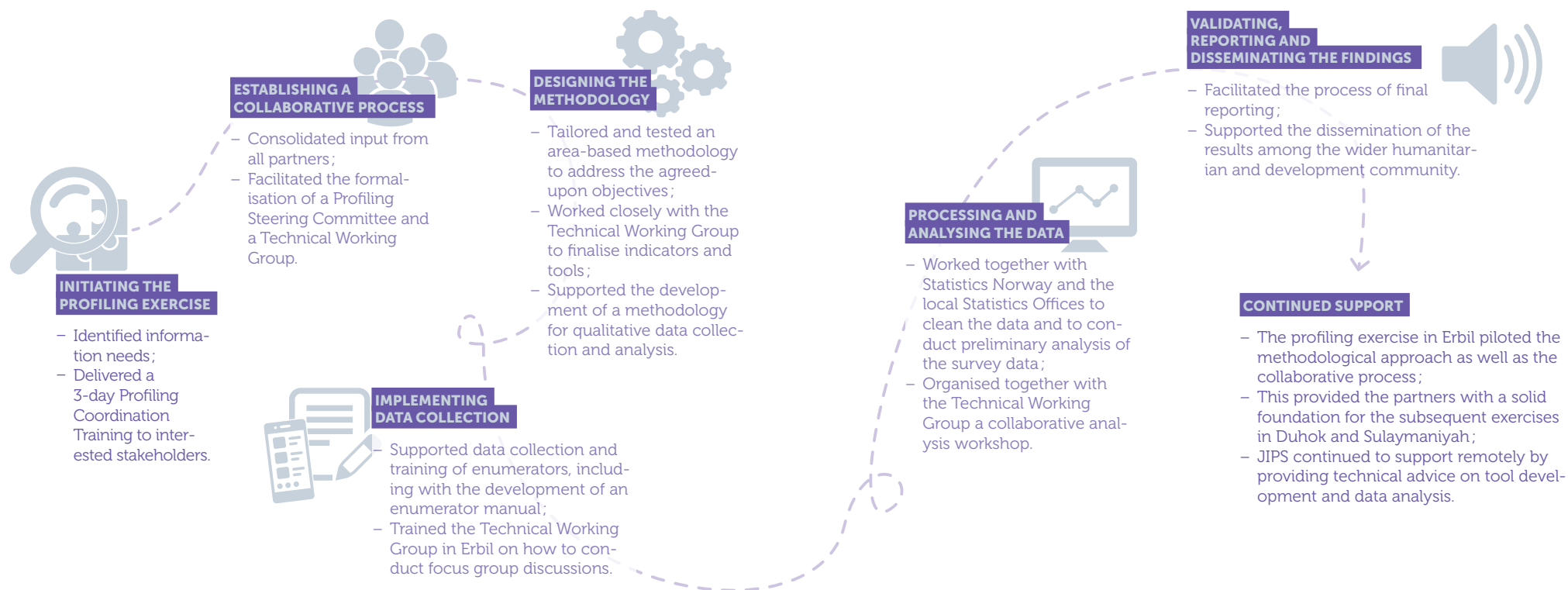


How did JIPS support?

JIPS provided **technical support throughout each of the three profiling exercises**, from initiation in Erbil in September 2015 to the dissemination of the profiling results for Duhok and Sulaymaniyah in August 2016. This included four joint field missions with Statistics Norway, as well as remote support.

At a snapshot

From capacity sharing during pilot profiling to self-run profiling exercises in subsequent Governorates



Profiling lessons learned:

- ◆ How to **develop and tailor area-based methodologies** to profiling exercises;
- ◆ Productive **capacity sharing process**, whereby Governorate authorities, including the respective Statistics Offices, constituted key partners of the profiling and shared their technical capacities with the humanitarian and development community.

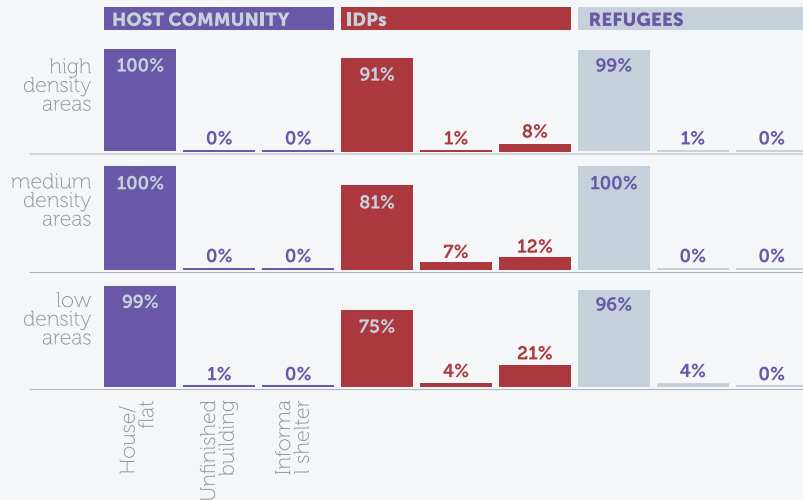
What were the key findings?

Housing

95% of the total urban population across all Governorates live in either houses or apartments. In Duhok Governorate 90% of the host community households own their housing, while 60% of IDP households and 90% of refugee households pay rent.

The resulting drastic increase in demand for housing has had an **impact on the housing market**, and due to the difficulties of paying rent, survey results also point to evictions and overcrowding.

Duhok Governorate : housing tenure
by population group and geographic strata

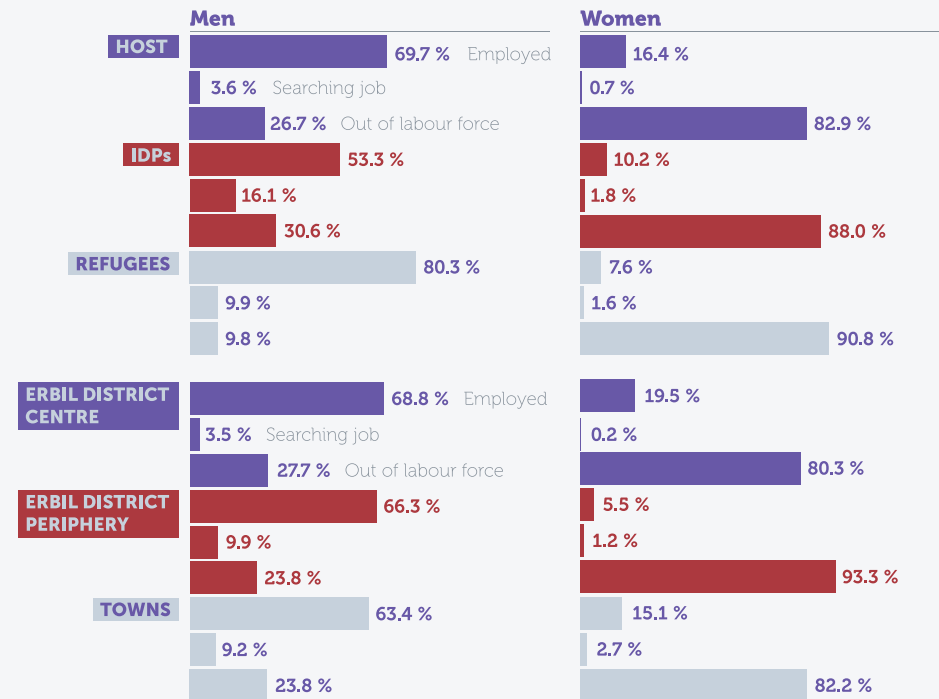


Employment

The data in Erbil Governorate showed that the host community had maintained similar employment rates to those prior to the crisis. Employment for the Syrian refugees was high, with rates for the adult male population at about 80%. **IDP households had relatively lower**

employment rates and a higher number of people searching for jobs. This situation is, however, compensated in general by IDPs' access to income transfers by the Federal Government of Iraq for their previous employment in their place of origin.

Erbil Governorate : work status of individuals between 15 to 64 years
by gender, population group and geographic strata

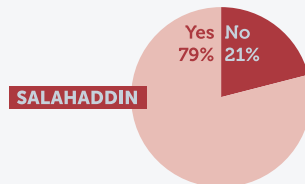
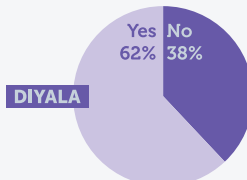
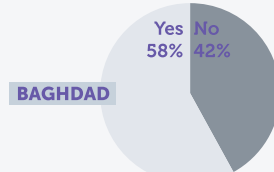
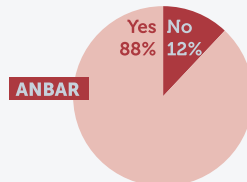
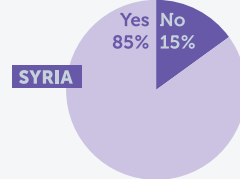


Returns

The profiling data indicated that the displaced populations from all Governorates were **unlikely to return to their places of origin in the near future**. For example, in Sulaymaniyah Governorate 21% of IDP households and 15% of refugee households stated that they were unwilling to return.

In addition, 31% of both IDPs and refugees interested in returning indicated various conditions for this (e.g. liberation and reconstruction of areas of origin, reclamation of property) as well as limitations by external factors (e.g. reconstruction needs, financial costs, legal land and property disputes). In sum, this implied that about **half of the displaced households were likely to remain** in their current location for the subsequent 5 to 10 years.

Sulaymaniyah Governorate : willingness to return to area of origin



Community cohesion

The profiling used qualitative methods to understand relationships between different communities. The results indicate that with the increase of the urban population across all Governorates in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq as a result of the displacement crisis, **competition over resources as well as distrust and tensions** between the host community and the displaced groups have increased.

» Many things changed since the arrival of IDPs. There is no freedom anymore, our parents do not let us go out at night. The displacement situation has taken control of our lives because we used to go out, take walks, and now it is not easy to do that because our parents said that it is not safe.

Young girl from host community, Duhok

Nevertheless, many host community members also acknowledged the very difficult situation of the refugees and IDPs and had a more nuanced description of the displacement impact on the local community:

» The arrival of Arabs at least has a positive effect on the market activity, there are more customers. The return will be bad because it will have a bad effect, less customers will lead to more unemployment...

Shop owner from host community, Erbil

» Each family provided some items to the IDPs; food, TVs, blankets... at the start, Syrian people came, and we assisted them. And likewise when people came from Nineveh, irrespective of their ethnicity or religion. But the IDP situation has been 'heavy' on our community.

Adult man from host community, Duhok

In line with the advocacy for a shift from emergency to mid or long term planning for humanitarian interventions, the profiling exercise was implemented by Government institutions in collaboration with local Statistics Offices and humanitarian partners. The resulting evidence-base helps build **a bridge between the UN and the Government.**

Shadman Mahmoud,
Profiling Coordinator, UNHCR



JIPS' publications '**At a glance: the use of profiling**', or formerly 'Profiles at a Glance' look at the impact of the profiling exercises supported by JIPS. While providing an overview of the profiling methodology and findings, these publications bring attention to how the collaborative process was shaped and how JIPS concretely contributed.

Through the **At a glance** series we hope to spark an interest in both the specific impact of the exercise in a given context, and profiling of displacement situations in general.

For more information about the profiling exercises, visit our **country operations** page.



➔ www.jips.org/en/field-support/country-operations

The collaborative profiling exercises conducted between the end of 2015 and 2016 in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (Erbil, Duhok and Sulaymaniyah) produced multiple impacts: improved targeting of cash programming; two-way capacity building; and a better understanding of how displacement affects not only the internally displaced and refugees but also host communities in urban areas. The exercises were coordinated by the Profiling Steering Committee, which included Governorate authorities and UN partners. JIPS provided technical support throughout the process. Additional technical support was provided by Statistics Norway through the NORCAP roster.

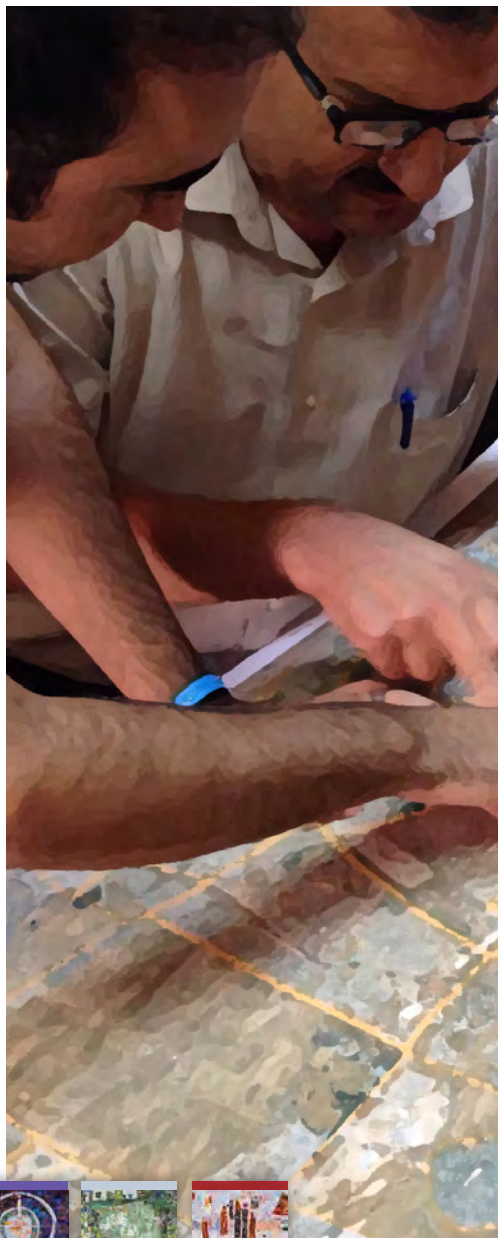
Government partners



Governments from Erbil, Duhok and Sulaymaniyah
 Erbil Statistics Directorate (ESD)
 Sulaymaniyah Statistics Office (SSO)
 Duhok Statistics Office (DSO)
 Joint Crisis Coordination Center (JCC)



Humanitarian & development partners



Check out the [profiling reports](#) from the Kurdistan Region of Iraq for detailed analysis and findings: www.jips.org.