Population Monitoring Initiative: Return Atmospherics

**Services:** Research and Analysis, Data Management, and Field Operations

The PMI Jordan Refugee Returns project was aimed at strengthening the planning capacity for Syrian refugee return preparedness in Jordan to help understand the current conditions affecting return-related decision-making along with expected developments and trends, which are essential in preparing, planning and eventually supporting the future of this population.

Little is known about the social and economic structures that refugees from Syria have formed during their years of refuge in Jordan that will follow them back to some degree and influence the situation as they return. Understanding the dynamics — of both when and why refugees choose to return and what happens when they do — is essential to understanding the landscape, needs, conditions and potential points of conflict that may develop on return to Syria.

The iMMAP Population Monitoring Initiative (PMI) sought to advance the UNHCR-funded project which examined, analyzed and reported on the complex of refugees return scenarios in Jordan for 2019. This project was designed around supplying UNHCR as well as the broader community of implementing partner organizations with the necessary information required to efficiently and effectively understand and manage their programs in relation to refugee returns.

*664,330* were registered Syrian refugees in Jordan

*123,372* were stationed in-camp

*540,958* Syrian refugees were stationed out-camp.

(Source: UNHCR)
Background
There are over 5 million Syrian refugees registered with UNHCR and various governments within the region. The majority have been outside of the country and now make up significant populations in their host communities, including seven percent in Jordan alone.

As the war comes to end, the future path of these refugees through and around the UNHCR frameworks will have a significant impact on Syria, Jordan and other host countries and the international landscape. However, an established mechanism for monitoring key factors in the big picture influencing returns was missing and there were significant information gaps regarding nuanced conditions for specific groups among the refugee population.

With the help of UNHCR, the Population Monitoring Initiative (PMI) looked to fill the information gaps and strengthen the planning capacity for return preparedness.

Deliverables:

Return Intention Surveys:
1800 surveys statistically representative of Syrian refugees originating from: Rural Damascus/Damascus (combined), Aleppo and Homs governorates.

Return Follow-Up Surveys:
500 follow-on calls with Dar’a refugees.

Focus Group Discussion (FGD) Summaries:
A summary of transcripts from each of the 10 FGDs (one for men and one for women in each of the five major host communities).

Return Atmospherics Reports:
Scenario reports that informed on and analyzed the various factors that affect returns across the strategic, operational and programmatic levels.

Profile Analyses:
Comprehensive written reports on the three governorates that included a quantitative profile of the community survey and contextualized with qualitative data from Focus Group Discussions.