Returns Context Monitoring, COVID-19 Emergency Coordination, and Mine Action Coordination in Syria

Services
Research and Analysis, Data Systems, Field Operations, GIS, Data Visualization, and Coordination

Objectives
- Fill information gaps concerning the barriers to safe and secure returns for displaced Syrians.
- Provide a dedicated coordination capacity to sustain the ongoing COVID-19 response in parts of Syria.
- Provide and maintain a comprehensive picture of explosive hazard contamination along with the progress of the intervention measures set in place.

Background
Current conditions that would make it possible to honor the European Union and humanitarian community’s commitment to safe, voluntary, dignified and sustainable return for millions of displaced Syrians and refugees remain nonexistent.

Efforts to understand these conditions on the ground in communities of return and what returnees experience once they arrive remain limited. In contrast, the minimal ongoing efforts that could support and aid in providing this information remain disjointed and unorganized. iMMAP seeks to address this issue by 1) filling information gaps through nuanced community-based and thematic analysis of the key barriers to return; 2) capitalizing on the untapped complementarity of existing efforts; and 3) contextualizing analysis reports within the national, regional, and international environments.

On a different but equally worrying note, COVID-19 is worsening conditions throughout Syria. As of June 2021, approximately 19,000 cases and 800 deaths were recorded in parts of Syria alone. However, due to a lack of testing and low vaccine inoculations, the actual numbers are expected to be much higher. With the challenges in ensuring equitable access to any viable vaccine, resources to support the emergency response to COVID-19 in these areas of interest will remain critical throughout the year, including support to any eventual vaccine rollout. iMMAP will assist in overseeing the emergency response, monitoring the implementation of the Preparedness and Response Plan, maintaining a COVID-19 dashboard, and supporting epidemiological analysis on the spread of COVID-19 cases in the region.

Better Data, Better Decisions, Better Outcomes
Not only is the COVID-19 pandemic crippling Syria. Explosive ordnance scattered throughout the region has proven deadly, generating tens of incidents and leaving hundreds of victims on average per month. Its presence needs immediate mitigation to keep an unsettled Syria and its residents as safe and unharmed as possible. iMMAP seeks to address this issue by providing information management support for mine action partners and producing and disseminating reliable information on the level of explosive ordnance contamination along with ongoing activities and gaps to support mine action efforts.

Deliverable Descriptions

**Area-Based Profiles**
Nuanced, clear, and accessible area-specific profiling and analysis to understand the local environments and conditions for returnees and residents, including the identification and assessment of key barriers to return.

**Thematic Reports**
These reports address existing conditions that play a key role in the return landscape and are critical to understanding the return context but cannot be captured in area-specific profiling and analysis.

**Risk Communication and Community Engagement Plans**
These plans will tackle emerging topics relevant to COVID-19 awareness, such as vaccine hesitancy, through trainings, public broadcasts or other methods to promote public health adherence among the community members in parts of Syria.

**COVID-19 Situation Reports**
The COVID-19 Situation Reports will be drafted by the Emergency Coordinator, who will consolidate data and information from a myriad of sources, including but not limited to the following:

- Epidemiological update, including an updated number of cases and deaths and lab results
- Surveillance data, which includes the number of callers with symptoms and number of referrals
- Stock inventories, such as PPE and lab equipment
- Assessment findings
- Shared meeting presentation and readout
- Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices (KAP) surveys
- Public health directives and communications

**COVID-19 Situation Dashboard**
The aim of the dashboard is to visualize in a holistic manner the COVID-19 situation in the areas of interest, highlighting the number and location of cases, deaths, and demographic and severity information for implementing partners to use to plan and revise their COVID-19 response.