PROFILING OF SYRIAN ARRIVALS ON GREEK ISLANDS IN JANUARY 2016

CONTEXT
In the month of January 2016, 60,000 people made the journey across the Mediterranean to Greece. In 2015, there were 856,000 sea arrivals. UNHCR initiated a data collection and analysis exercise with support from the Joint IDP Profiling Service (JIPS) in order to better inform the wider community on the profile of refugees arriving to Greece, and improve immediate response and longer term planning.

The exercise focused on Syrian and Afghan arrivals, and this factsheet illustrates the results of interviews with SYRIANS during January 2016.

METHODOLOGY
The profiling exercise was implemented on the islands that are receiving the majority of the arrivals to Greece: Chios, Leros, Lesvos, and Samos. The survey was administered in locations on each island where all arrivals pass. The survey was not administered while individuals waited in line (e.g., for registration) and minors and persons with mental disabilities were interviewed in the presence of a caretaker.

A systematic random sampling was utilized and the enumerators interviewed respondents at regular intervals. The methodology was designed using the individual as unit of analysis. The purpose of the methodology is to provide a representative sample over the period of one month. Data by Greek authorities on age and gender breakdown of the Syrian and Afghan populations arriving during the same period on the islands were used to apply weights to the data collected, to ensure a representation of each age and gender group based on the actual distribution of arrivals.

The methodology was tested and closely monitored throughout the data collection period. Four teams of Arabic speaking enumerators based in Chios, Leros, Lesvos and Samos interviewed 222 Syrians from 15 to 31 January. The number of interviews done in January is not sufficient for the results to be representative of the whole Syrian population arriving to Greece that month. The January results illustrated in this factsheet are, therefore, only representative of the interviewed population. This analysis, however, provides indications to the humanitarian community on the "profile" of Syrian arriving in Greece between 15 and 31 January 2016.

This exercise will be repeated each month for the first half of 2016 and results will be analyzed at the end of each month to give a profile of the arrivals from the main nationalities.

LIMITATIONS
Operational constraints were significant: time for conducting a survey is limited, tensions may be high, some locations had to be left out due to lack of access, etc.

Many of the individuals staying overnight in hotels as well as unaccompanied minors might not have been reached. The methodology attempted to factor in these challenges as much as possible.

The non-response rate was very high and the number of interviewees per nationality group did not reach the needed minimum for a representative sample. These challenges must be considered when reading the profiling results.
SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

**Age and Gender breakdown of interviewed Syrians**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age groups</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 to 1</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 to 4</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 to 9</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 to 14</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 to 18</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 to 24</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 to 59</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 and above</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**% of the interviewed population**

**Marital status**
- Widowed, 2%
- Divorced, separated, 1%
- Single, 53%
- Union, married, 44%

**Highest level of education achieved for > 4 yr-old**

- None: 7% adults, 39% children
- Primary: 15% adults, 18% children
- Secondary: 22% adults, 35% children
- High School: 23% adults, 29% children
- University: 0% adults, 0% children
- Vocational: 0% adults, 4% children

**Education**

27% of all respondents are students, 88% of whom have interrupted their education to take this journey.

Most frequent levels of education interrupted are UNIVERSITY and HIGH SCHOOL.

**Special needs**
- 2% of women interviewed are pregnant
- 1% of women interviewed are lactating
- 5% have a physical disability
- 2% have a mental disability

**Religion & Ethnicity**

- Ethnicity: Arab 87%, Kurdish 5%, Other 3%
- Religion: Don't want to answer 5%, Other 5%, Yazidi 3%, Christian 88%

**Professional background**

What was your main occupation back in your country of origin?

- Agriculture (2%)
- Construction (8%)
- Education (8%)
- Manufacturing (5%)
- Service (18%)
- Transport (4%)
- Student (13%)
- Retail (5%)
- Food (4%)
- Health (2%)
- Administration (5%)

19% of adult respondents did not have professional activities back in the country of origin. Of those, 87% are WOMEN and 13% are MEN.

38% of all women and 4% of all men indicated no professional/education activities before leaving their place of residence.

For a global overview of the age/gender breakdown of the arrivals, go to: from http://data.unhcr.org/mediterranean/regional.php

*only for 18 years old and above*
INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT

Internally displaced due to violence/conflict in Syria before journey

- 15% no
- 85% yes

REASONS TO LEAVE SYRIA

Main reason to leave the country of origin

- Conflict/Violence: 94%
- Reunify with family abroad: 2%
- Fear of forced recruitment: 2%
- Discrimination: 1%
- Economic: 1%

JOURNEY

53 days Average duration of travel for those moving directly from Syria to Greece

Distribution by time spent en route

- < 1 week: 3%
- 1 to 2 weeks: 21%
- 2 weeks to a month: 39%
- More than a month: 37%

Governorates of origin in Syria

- Aleppo: 24%
- Damascus: 21%
- Homs: 10%
- Deir-ez-Zor: 10%

43% of all respondents started their journey to Greece in 2015

Distribution of respondents by year of departure from Syria

- 2010: 0%
- 2011: 1%
- 2012: 5%
- 2013: 9%
- 2014: 6%
- 2015: 43%
- 2016: 35%

Profiling of Syrian arrivals on Greek islands - January 2016
**ROUTES**

Four main routes taken by Syrians to reach to Greece:

- **45%** - SYRIA > TURKEY > GREECE (Syrians coming directly from Syria).
- **25%** - TURKEY > GREECE (Syrians previously living in Turkey).
- **19%** - SYRIA > LEBANON > TURKEY > GREECE (Syrians coming directly from Syria).
- **2%** - LEBANON > TURKEY > GREECE (Syrians previously living in Lebanon).
- **2%** - JORDAN > TURKEY > GREECE (Syrians previously living in Jordan).
  (3% other minor roads).

**15%** of respondents indicated that they had made previous attempt(s) to cross the border between Turkey and Greece.

**FINANCE**

Main ways to finance the journey

- Borrowing from friends: 41%
- Own savings: 18%
- Family paid for the journey: 18%
- Sold assets: 16%
- Borrowing from other entities: 1%
- Worked during the journey: 3%
- Other: 1%

**DESTINATION COUNTRIES**

Reasons of the choice of the country of destination

- Family reunification: 43%
- Education: 22%
- Community of my culture: 15%
- Economic: 14%
- Respect for human rights: 10%
- Feel welcome: 8%
- Faster asylum process: 7%
- Other: 3%
- Welfare system: 2%
- Don’t know: 7%
- Didn’t choose: 6%
- Don’t want to answer: 0%
**COUNTRY WHERE PEOPLE STAYED FOR 6 MONTHS OR MORE - OUTSIDE SYRIA**

34% lived in another country (not Syria) for 6 months or more before starting the journey to Europe. Average stay in the country of residence was of two and half years.

Main countries where people stayed for 6 months or more outside of Syria

- **TURKEY** (25% of all respondents)
- **LEBANON** (4%)
- **IRAQ** (2%)
- **JORDAN** (2%)
- Other (1%)

47% of those who stayed in another country for more than 6 months reported having no legal documentation in that country. The rest had temporary residence (14%), refugee card (32%) or other documents (7%)

**Main reason for departure from countries where people stay for 6 months or more outside Syria**

- Job adequate to their skills, meets basic living expenses, avoid exploitation (41%)
- Discrimination (16%)
- Education (9%)
- Reunify with family abroad (8%)
- Survival essentials are not met (7%)
- Persecution or fear of future persecution (7%)
- Conflict, violence (7%)
- Fear of expulsion (1%)
- Sent by my family (1%)
- Don’t want to answer (1%)

**Main accommodation in countries where people stay for 6 months or more outside Syria**

- Hosted by friends, family (11%)
- Camp, Site (5%)
- Other (3%)
- Rented accommodation (81%)

**Distribution of time spent in countries where people stay for 6 months or more outside Syria**

- 6 months (3%)
- 6 months to a year (29%)
- 1 to 2 years (21%)
- More than 2 years (48%)

**TRAVELLING GROUP**

74% of all respondents are travelling at least with a close **FAMILY MEMBER** (child, spouse, parent and sibling). 13% are travelling at least with a member of their extended family (in-law, uncle, aunt, cousin, etc.).

14% of all respondents are travelling **ALONE**.
TRAVELLING GROUP

20% of respondents were part of a single male-headed household while travelling.

20% of respondents were part of a single female-headed household while travelling.

Limitation: 3% of the entire sample identified themselves as Unaccompanied Children. However, access to separate spaces for unaccompanied children was not always possible.

60% of respondents with close family members that were left behind, plan to eventually bring them to the country of destination.

Why did household members stay behind?*

- Lack of financial resources: 58%
- Journey is too risky: 21%
- They were prevented from moving: 15%
- Too vulnerable to travel: 15%
- Look after relatives: 11%
- Didn't want to come: 18%
- I was more at risk: 7%
- Other: 3%

ACCESS TO INFORMATION RELATED TO JOURNEY (ROUTE, PROCESS, etc.)

Information sources used*

- Travel companions: 60%
- Calling individual ahead of us: 28%
- Social media: 23%
- Friends and family at destination: 20%
- Smugglers: 14%
- Mobile app: 11%
- Other: 6%
- Specialized websites: 3%
- Sign boards: 2%
- Don’t want to answer: 1%
- Don’t know: 6%

Main challenges to access information*

- None: 65%
- Contradicting information: 10%
- No information in my language: 7%
- No internet connection: 8%
- No access to trustworthy info: 8%
- No SIM card: 3%
- No phone: 2%
- No phone credit: 2%
- No electricity: 2%
- Don’t want to answer: 0%
- Don’t know: 13%

* in % of respondents. Respondents could provide multiple answer, hence total of all answers can be above 100%
ASSISTANCE RECEIVED EN ROUTE AND GAPS

Access to assistance in any country en route (% of respondents who received …)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Turkey</th>
<th>Greece</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WASH facilities</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blanket, sleeping bags</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clothes/shoes</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelter</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safe space for children</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safe space for women</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information in my language</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electricity</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal assistance</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psycho-social support</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Help to access money transfer</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash assistance</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Assistance gaps en route identified by respondents:

in TURKEY: #1 Clothes, shoes (17%), #2 Cash (12%), #2 Medical (12%), #2 Shelter (12%)

in GREECE: #1 Clothes, shoes (32%), #2 Shelter (17%), #3 Food (13%)

PROTECTION

35% of respondents directly witnessed or experienced protection incidents during the journey.

Protection incident witnessed or experienced

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Turkey</th>
<th>Greece</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Emotional abuses</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robbery, theft</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical assault</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shooting, threat of shooting</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shipwreck</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic exploitation</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detention</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Held against his/her will</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death of family members</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extortion, corruption</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attempt of shipwreck</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual harassment</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forced separation</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t want to answer</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6% of respondents have been separated from a family member during the journey. Separations took place in Turkey or in Greece. None had found the separated individuals at the time of the interview.