

Cash Working Group - Oct 2013 Baseline

Methodology:

Two technical discussions between partners (16 and 30 Sep 2013) were held. Contributing partners included ACTED, IRW, Oxfam, Sadaqa, Save the Children and UNHCR. The objective was to repeat the exercise of February 2013 where datasets, assessments and PDMs were compared to establish a shared understanding of the operating context.

Results:

1.) Average family size

There are many data points for to calculate the average family size. UNHCR proGres data yields 4.5 as an average, however, in cash assistance programmes the number tends to be higher as larger families tend to be more vulnerable. Some members of the CWG have programmes that have an average family size that is 7 or higher.

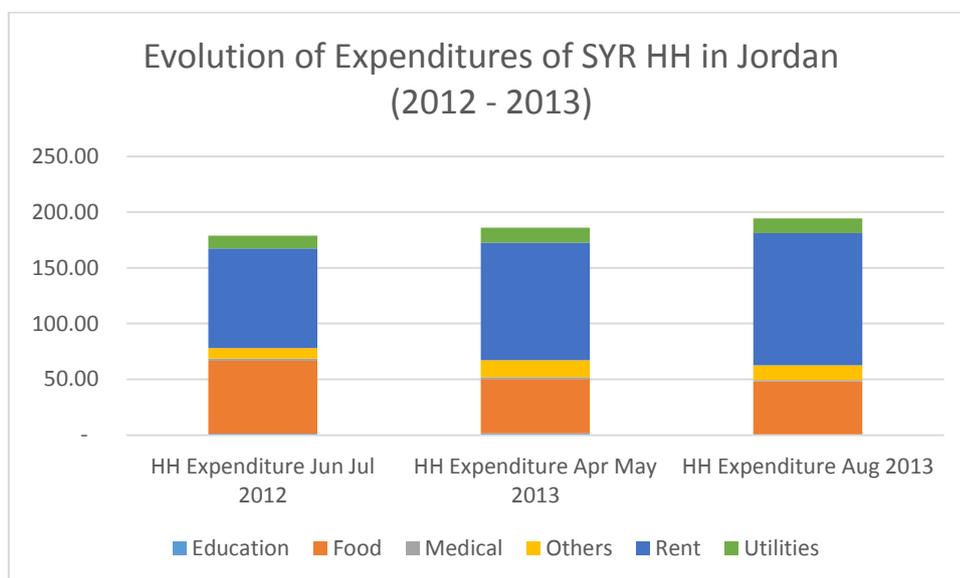
In order to avoid discrepancies and to align with other sectors, **the CWG agreed to use 5 as an average family size.** This will not apply to monitoring and reporting where specific assessment data on demographics is available. The average is only to be used as a generic number to convert the number of individuals to families and vice-versa if there is no detailed breakdown of the population available.

2.) Average vulnerabilities

Based on assessment data, the CWG identifies the average vulnerability rates per Governorate as per table below. This is based on a definition of vulnerability as defined by the CWG through the ACAPS process. The figures as part of the established baseline exclude health condition as a vulnerability, and the CWG agreed to include health condition. This can be done either through a health specific vulnerability percentage in the ratio table below – or it can be accounted for in the household economy breakdown that conditions sizing of the assistance. The table below also contrasts this with the location of the registered population taken from the UNHCR registration database.

	Vulnerability ratio	Share of total registered SYR population living in the respective Governorate
Ajloun	50%	2.27%
Amman	37%	30.66%
Aqaba	35%	0.48%
Balqa	40%	6.21%
Irbid	49%	28.73%
Jarash	54%	2.44%
Karak	56%	2.00%
Ma'an	44%	1.29%
Madaba	47%	1.67%
Mafraq	57%	13.50%
Tafileh	59%	0.50%
Zarqa	54%	10.23%

3.) Average HH Expenditure Structure



Source: UNHCR HV database – sample n=60,445 cases

It is worth noting that the average rent as of August 2013 is just under 120 JD monthly. It should also be highlighted that average HH expenditure does not necessarily represent the needs, as families will be forced to cut expenditure due to limited means. The rental cost plus the cost of utilities belong to the most fixed items in the above compositions.

4.) Sizing

The CWG agreed to define sizing more precisely in the formulation of the cash strategy for 2014. An important element in determining appropriate sizing of assistance should follow the MoSD poverty alleviation approach under the NAF. The NAF applies the following cash transfer breakdown.

	Family Size			
	1	2	3	4+
NAF	45	90	135	180

The NAF has also set the current poverty line at 68 JD / month. However, it needs to be noted that the NAF project design is also budget-driven and it must be fully understood where budget considerations impact the assistance figure and calculation.

The current approach of assistance corridors is upheld until the formulation of the cash assistance strategy 2014:

Family Size	1-2	3-5	6+
Assistance in JD	50-100	100-150	120-180