

# INTENTION SURVEY OVERVIEW - JORDAN - MARCH 2018

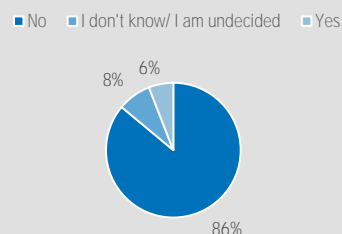
## BACKGROUND AND METHODOLOGY

- UNHCR Jordan conducted an intention survey, through telephone interviews, among Syrian refugees in Jordan on 2 and 3 March 2018 to obtain an understanding of their intentions and perceptions associated with returns to Syria.
- Out of the total 2,286 calls completed, 1,555 respondents or 68 per cent were available and willing to participate in the interview, making up the sample for the overall analysis.
- Respondents to the survey originated from fourteen governorates in Syria.
- Ten per cent of respondents live in a camp, while the remaining respondents live in urban areas. 34 percent of the respondents were female, 66 per cent were male. Overall, 83.5 per cent of respondents said they have family members in Syria. Female-headed households (10%) were included in the sample as well, as well as respondents who participated in the October 2017 survey (16%).

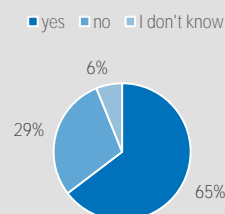
## RETURN INTENTIONS

- 6 per cent expressed intentions to return to Syria in the coming year (12 months). 86 per cent said they had no such intentions, while 8 per cent were undecided or did not know.
- Camp-based refugees seem to be more reluctant than urban refugees to consider return with 89 per cent having no return intention for the coming year, while it is three per cent less for urban refugees (86%).
- Interestingly, men are slightly more inclined to return than women, with six and five per cent respectively, while 88 percent of females and 85 per cent of males said to have no return intentions. Female-headed household's interest in return was average, with six per cent expressing an intention to return in the coming year, while 88 per cent said they had no such intention.
- Having family members in Syria is an important factor that shapes return intentions. Overall, the vast majority of 83.5 per cent have family members in Syria. Of those with no family members, only two per cent have a return intention, while six per cent have return intentions if they have family members in Syria.
- Those 94 per cent who said they had no intention to return to Syria in the coming year and those who were undecided, were asked an emotional question as to whether they hope to return to Syria one day. 65 per cent expressed a hope to be able to return to Syria one day. A relatively high percentage of 29 per cent said they had no such hope.

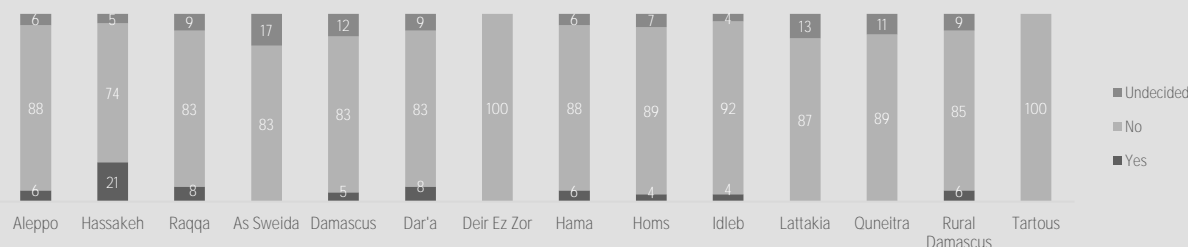
Do you plan to return to Syria in the next 12 months?



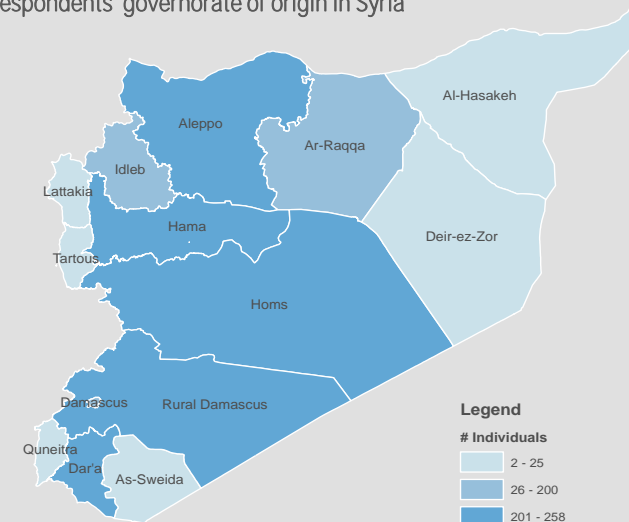
Do you hope to go back to Syria one day?



Return Intentions by Governorate



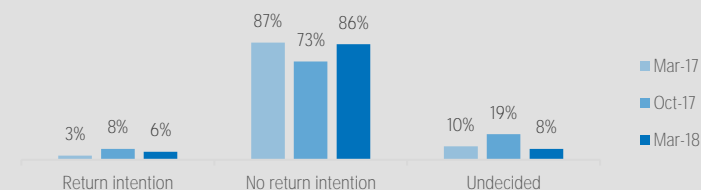
Respondents' governorate of origin in Syria



## INTENTIONS OVER TIME: MARCH 2017 - MARCH 2018

- An intention survey is a snapshot. It is valid for the particular time and circumstances prevailing in the country of asylum and origin at the time of the interviews, i.e. March 2018. Possibilities to draw trends from previous surveys are therefore limited.
- The only notable difference between March 2017 and March 2018 is that return intentions have doubled from three to six percent, however remains low.
- From March to October 2017, of interest is the increase in return intentions and the group of the undecided with a stark reduction of the group with no return intentions by 14 per cent.
- From October 2017 to March 2018, the increase of the group with no return intentions by 13 per cent is of note. While return intentions decreased by two per cent, the increase in the group with no return intentions is mostly due to the shrunk group of the undecided (minus 11%).

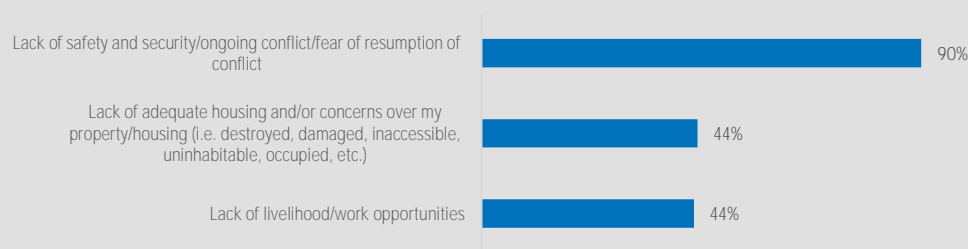
Return intentions comparison



## CATEGORY 1: NO INTENTION TO RETURN

- Overall, the largest category among respondents, **86 per cent** said they had no intention to return in the coming year.
- The three main reasons for not intending to return to Syria next year are (1) lack of safety and security, ongoing conflict and fear of conflict resumption (90%), (2) lack of adequate housing and concerns related to housing and property (44%), and (3) lack of livelihood and work opportunities (44%).
- The different durable solutions are interconnected: For example, two per cent or 21 respondents cited possible resettlement prospects as a reason for not returning, with an additional five respondents saying they do not intend to return because they plan to depart to a third country on their own.

Top 3 obstacles to return



Top 3 circumstances under which return would be considered



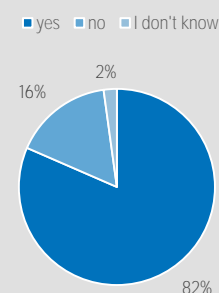
## CATEGORY 2: UNDECIDED

- Overall, the second largest category among respondents, **8 per cent**, were undecided as to whether or not return to Syria in the next twelve months.
- The vast majority of 78 per cent of those undecided said they would return to their place of origin should they decide to return in the future, 17 per cent was not sure where they would go and six per cent said they would return to another place in Syria.
- When prompted about the main factors that would help in the return-related decision making, respondents quoted (1) an improved security situation, (2) confidence of having livelihood opportunities, and (3) confidence to have access to basic services.

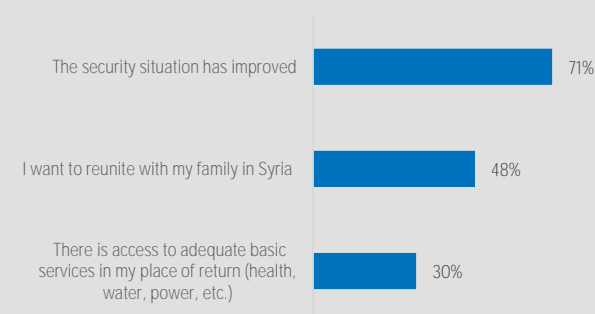
## CATEGORY 3: RETURN INTENTIONS

- Overall, the smallest category among respondents, **6 per cent**, said they had intentions to return to Syria in the coming year.
- 89 per cent plan to return with their family, while only five per cent intend to return either as partial family or by themselves.
- The vast majority of respondents with return intentions plans to return to their place of origin (90%). Only few exceptions would move to a safer area, to the last residence prior to fleeing to Jordan or to the spouse's or family's place of origin, or to an area with livelihood options.
- The main reason why refugees said they intend to return to Syria is the improved security situation (71%) followed by family reunification (48%).
- 82 per cent of refugees who have an intention to return in the coming year continue to have fears about returning, while only 16 per cent have no such fears. By far, the main fear relates to the security situation, such as fear of experiencing conflict and violence or conflict-related limitations to freedom of movement. This is followed by fears related to the lack of basic services and work and livelihood opportunities.

Do you have concerns or fears about returning?



Top 3 reasons for return

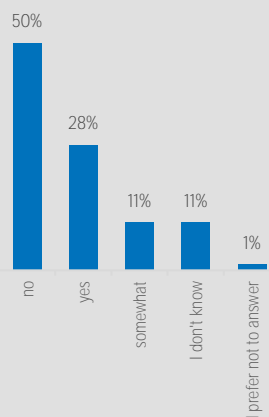


- INFORMATION NEEDS:** Despite their intention to return to Syria in the coming year, 45 per cent of the respondents said they do not have sufficient information on their respective area of return, while 38 per cent were confident they had enough information, and 17 per cent were not sure. Those 62 per cent who do not have enough information or were not sure, gave priority to additional information on the prevailing security situation in the intended area of return (54%).
- JOB PROFILE:** The largest group of respondents with a return intention (32%) had no job prior to fleeing Syria, followed by those working in the agriculture sector (21%) and small businesses (9%). Upon return, a quarter of respondents said they do not know what job they will do and 13 per cent said they will not work. The main productive sector, in which refugees plan to engage in is the agricultural and livestock sector (22%), followed by small businesses (9%), and the construction sector (8%).
- ASSETS:** Half of the responding refugees said they had nothing to take back home with them and an additional 18 per cent did not know what to take back. Among the items refugees intend to take back are furniture and electronics.

## PLACE OF ORIGIN, TERRITORIAL CONTROL & CEASEFIRE

- Of concern, 44 per cent of respondents did not know under whose control their place of origin is. Among them are 40 per cent with return intentions, pointing at the need for additional information as prioritized by the refugees.
- 41 per cent said their place of origin was under control of the Government, while 11 per cent cited the presence of opposition groups in their respective places of origin, while 44 per cent was not sure who was in control of their place of origin.
- Also, for half of the respondents from opposition-controlled areas, the ceasefire played no role in their return-related decision making, while it did influence the decision for 28 per cent or at least somewhat influence such decision making for an additional 10 per cent. For respondents originating from opposition-controlled areas of Dar'a, Quneitra and As Sweida, the ceasefire plays a more important role in influencing the decision making related to their future (for 36 per cent, the ceasefire influences the decision making and for an additional 19 per cent the ceasefire somewhat influences it).

Does the ceasefire play a role in deciding on your plans for the future?



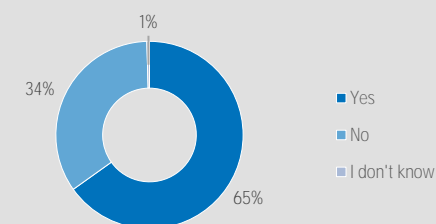
## ALTERNATIVE TO RETURN

- Just half of those not wishing to return to Syria at the present time plan to stay in Jordan for the time being. This is a 16 per cent reduction compared to the October 2017 survey, when 66 per cent intended to stay in Jordan. 43 per cent consider travelling to a third country, an increase of 14 per cent compared to October 2017.
- Canada, the United States, Germany and the United Kingdom are the preferred third countries for most, although a large group of about 30 per cent said they would go to any country. Family links or presence of friends were the primary factor influencing the selection of a specific third country, alongside education opportunities and - to a lesser extent - job opportunities.

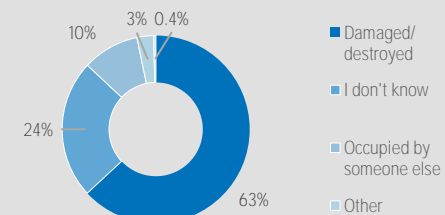
## HOUSING, LAND AND PROPERTY

- Among the overall respondents, 65 per cent said they own property back home in Syria, while 34 per cent do not own any property in Syria. Property ownership is higher among those with return intentions at 72 per cent, while among those with no return intention only 65 per cent said to own property.
- Of those with property ownership, 63 per cent said their property was damaged or destroyed and ten per cent said their property was occupied. Almost a quarter (24%) did not know about the status of their property. Of those with return intentions, 59 per cent said that their property was either damaged/destroyed or occupied, while for those with no return intentions this was the case for 75 per cent. This suggests that housing, land and property concerns are a deterring factor to return.
- The degree of damage influences return intentions:
- Return intentions: 75 per cent of the property was fully damaged, 13 per cent suffered partial damage and another 13 per cent mild damage, to the respondents with return intentions.
- No return intentions: 81 per cent of the property was fully damaged, 11 per cent suffered partial damage and another eight per cent mild damage, according to respondents with no return intentions.
- Hence, the higher the degree of damage, the less a respondent is inclined to consider to return.

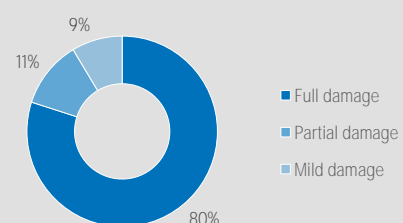
Do you own property in Syria?



What is the status of your property?



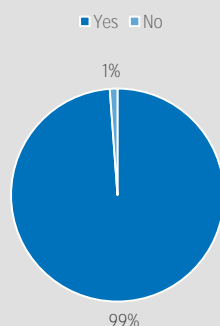
Degree of damage



## CIVIL DOCUMENTATION

- The respondents to the survey overall showed a good level of formal Syrian documentation (99%), with IDs, passports and family booklets being the three main documents. Only 18 individuals or 1% of the respondents did not have any individual civil documentation issued by the Government of Syria.
- However, civil documentation coverage beyond the principal applicant is lower. While 73 per cent stated that all their family members have at least one official document issued by the Government of Syria, 13 per cent did not and an additional 12 per cent said that only some of the family members had official Syrian documentation.

Do you currently possess at least one civil document issued by the GoS?



Do your family members have at least one official civil documentation issued by the GoS?

