

# Research Terms of Reference

Separated families: who stays, who goes and why?

Mixed Migration Platform, Middle East

17 January 2017

Version 1.4

**REACH** Informing  
more effective  
humanitarian action

## 1. Summary

<b>Countries of intervention</b>	Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon, Syria and Afghanistan				
<b>Type of Emergency</b>	Natural disaster	x	Conflict		Emergency
<b>Type of Crisis</b>	Sudden onset		Slow onset	x	Protracted
<b>Mandating Body/ Agency</b>	Mixed Migration Platform				
<b>Project Code</b>	13iACG0Z2				
<b>REACH Pillar</b>	Planning in Emergencies	x	Displacement		Building Community Resilience
<b>Research Timeframe</b>	January – February 2016				
<b>General Objective</b>	This research seeks to better understand the experience of families in which one or more members have migrated to Europe while others stayed behind				
<b>Specific Objective(s)</b>	<p>Specifically, this research seeks to investigate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- how decisions are made for some members to leave and others to stay, including the relative importance of gender, political, cultural, socio-economic and personal factors for different individuals</li> <li>- how migration has affected the situation and needs (eg. livelihoods, access to assistance, protection) of family members left behind; and the extent to which it has changed the aspirations and migration intention of family members left behind</li> </ul>				
<b>Research Questions</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What are the factors affecting the decision(s) for some family members to migrate and others to stay, and which are most important?</li> <li>2. How has migration affected the humanitarian, economic and security situation and needs of family members left behind?</li> <li>3. How has migration affected the aspirations and intentions of family members left behind?</li> <li>4. For each of the questions above, how have family members been differently affected by migration, depending on gender, displacement status (IDP, refugee, non-displaced), nationality, and socio-economic background?</li> </ol>				
<b>Research Type</b>	Quantitative	x	Qualitative		Mixed methods
<b>Geographic Coverage</b>	Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon, Syria and Afghanistan				
<b>Target Population(s)</b>	Syrian, Iraqi and Afghan families in the above countries, in which one or more individuals have migrated to Europe.				
<b>Data Sources</b>	<p><b>Secondary Data:</b></p> <p>a) An initial review of secondary data will be used to understand the context and inform the research design, sampling strategy and questioning route. This will include statistical data on the number and location of IDPs and refugees in the Middle East and Europe, as well as qualitative data on motivations and influences on decision-making from a range of operational, academic and media sources.</p>				

	<p>b) On completion of primary data collection (see below), secondary data will be used to triangulate and contextualise results.</p> <p><b>Primary Data:</b> Individual, semi-structured interviews (at least 90) with purposively selected male and female individuals who have stayed behind while other members of their family migrated to Europe. Data will be collected from displaced and non-displaced individuals residing in Afghanistan, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria.</p>		
<b>Expected Outputs</b>	Research report		
<b>Key Resources</b>	<p>1 x Analyst (responsible for research design, coordination, analysis &amp; drafting)</p> <p>For each of the five targeted countries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1 x Assessment Officer/Team leader/Field Coordinator (responsible for managing primary data collection at field level, debriefing, and checking transcripts)</li> <li>- 5 x Enumerators (responsible for conducting and transcribing interviews)</li> </ul>		
<b>Audience</b>	Policy makers and responders in government and humanitarian organisations		
	<b>Audience type</b>	<b>Specific actors</b>	
		Operational	MMP Partner organisations, DFID, FDFA
	x	Programmatic	
	x	Strategic	
	Other		
<b>Access</b>	x	Public	
		Restricted	
		Other	
<b>Visibility</b>	MMP, including REACH logo		
<b>Dissemination</b>	<p><b>Design phase:</b> Validation of topic by MMP steering committee (completed 15 December 2016); discussion of research questions with JAU and interested platform partners; validation of terms of reference by platform coordinator.</p> <p><b>Analysis phase:</b> presentation of preliminary findings and joint analysis workshop with JAU and any interested partners and stakeholders.</p> <p><b>Post-publication:</b> publication on MMP website, Reliefweb, Resource Centre etc.; shared via email with MMP mailing list; blog post on MMP website and related social media; bilateral meetings with key stakeholders (eg. donors, UNHCR / IOM); potential presentation as part of MMP event.</p>		

## 2. Background & Rationale

The decision to migrate to Europe is made for a variety of reasons, and not only by the person who actually travels.<sup>1</sup> However, most existing studies have focussed on those who have made the journey, rather than those left behind, despite evidence that family members remaining in their area of origin or location of displacement are also vulnerable – in some cases more so than those who make the journey.<sup>2</sup> In the context of migration from the Middle East towards Europe, further research is required to understand how different factors have influenced the decision for individuals within the same family to leave or to stay – as well as the extent to which gender, cultural, political and socio-economic factors have held similar influences in the decision-making process of people of different nationalities.

<sup>1</sup> The influence of household, family and wider community networks on the decision to migrate has been widely discussed in the context of voluntary migration. For a good overview see: Haug, Sonja (2008) 'Migration Networks and Migration Decision-Making', *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 34:4, 585 – 605.

<sup>2</sup> IOM (2014) [International Dialogue on Migration \(IDM\) 2014 Human mobility and development: emerging trends and new opportunities for partnerships, background paper.](#)

For families in the Middle East and Afghanistan in which one or more individuals have recently migrated to Europe, limited information is available about the impact on those left behind. There is some evidence to suggest that remaining family members have struggled in a practical sense to access income, services and assistance – often due to the absence of a male breadwinner and the tendency to provide assistance to the head of household.<sup>3</sup> Anecdotal evidence suggests the absence of a male head of household has also left some families more vulnerable to a range of protection concerns, including harassment, a lack of access to documentation, and the use of negative coping strategies including boys dropping out of school to take on the role of household head, and girls engaging in early marriage to ease pressure on limited resources. Such factors are sometimes exacerbated by fear and stigma that prevent remaining family members from reporting that people have (often irregularly) migrated.<sup>4</sup> Previous studies also suggest that some families sent individuals ahead of others in the hope that family reunification would be quick, but this process has turned out to be much longer and more complicated than they imagined.<sup>5</sup> Long term separation may serve to exacerbate some of the challenges above, and further result in the need to resort to negative coping strategies.

In addition to these immediate, practical concerns, this study also seeks to understand the effects of migration – if any – on the aspirations and intentions of those left behind. Are, for example, the families of “successful migrants” more likely to feel that the journey is achievable or desirable? Or conversely, has first-hand information about the dangers of the journey and conditions upon arrival made other families less likely to want to migrate at all?

### 3. Research Objectives

This research aims to examine two aspects related to the migration of separated families:

- 1) influences on the decision to migrate
- 2) the effects of migration – both practical and psychosocial – on those left behind

### 4. Research Questions

1) Influences:

- What are the factors influencing the decision for some family members to migrate and others to stay? And how does their relative importance differ?

2) Effects:

- How has migration affected the situation and needs of family members left behind?
- How has migration affected the aspirations and intentions of family members left behind?

3) For both of the aspects above, how do the influences and impacts of migration vary according to gender, nationality, socio-economic background, proximity to conflict, displacement status of separated families, or on the route taken by those who left?

### 5. Methodology

#### Approach

This study proposes a qualitative approach to assessing the drivers and influences affecting the decision to migrate and to stay, as well as how migration has affected the situation and aspirations of those left behind. Using individual, semi-structured interviews with people who have remained in countries of origin, this research seeks to identify common themes around the factors influencing the decision to migrate and the effects of migration on family members left behind. Building upon a recent study by Hagen-Zanker and Mallet<sup>6</sup>, this research will use the “migration thresholds” approach, developed by

<sup>3</sup> El-Masri, R., Harvey, C. & Garwood, R. (2016) [Shifting Sands: Changing gender roles among refugees in Lebanon](#). Oxford: Oxfam

<sup>4</sup> Luigi Achilli (2016) *Tariq al-Euroba: Displacement Trends of Syrian Asylum Seekers to the EU*, MPC RR. Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, San Domenico di Fiesole (FI): European University Institute.

<sup>5</sup> European Council on Refugees and Exiles and the Red Cross EU Office (2014) *Disrupted Flight: The Realities of Separated Refugee Families in the EU*.

<sup>6</sup> Hagen-Zanker, J and Mallet, R (2016) [Journeys to Europe The role of policy in migrant decision-making](#). London: ODI.

van der Velde and van Naerssen, as an analysis framework to understand the extent to which a range of different factors have contributed to decision-making and intentions.<sup>7</sup>

### Primary Data Collection

Primary data collection will focus on a purposive sample of people from the top three nationalities arriving in Europe since 2014: Syrian, Afghan and Iraqi. In total, a minimum of 90 interviews will be conducted with members of refugee and other migrant families remaining in Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and Afghanistan. Existing networks will be used to identify potential participants, whereafter a snowball sampling methodology will be used to identify others who meet the requirements of the sample.

The table below shows how this total is distributed, ensuring adequate representation of displacement status (refugee, IDP, and non-displaced) and gender. Where possible, interviewed women and men will be heads of households for greater comparability, although other family members (siblings, parents, teenage children) may be used to meet the required the sample size where necessary, ensuring no more than one family member per household is interviewed. Once the minimum sample size has been met, data collection will continue until data saturation is reached.

Figure 1: Proposed sample, by location of data collection

Country	Afghanistan	Iraq	Jordan	Lebanon	Syria	Total
<b>Non-displaced</b>	15	12			9	36
<b>IDPs</b>	15	12			9	36
<b>Refugees</b>						
Syrian			6		6	12
Iraqi			6			6
Afghan						0
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>90</b>

Figure 2: Proposed sample, by nationality and gender of participants

	Men	Women	Total
<b>Syrians</b>	15	15	30
<b>Afghans</b>	15	15	30
<b>Iraqis</b>	15	15	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>90</b>

Interviews will be conducted by bilingual data collectors in each country, using a semi-structured questioning route. All interviewers will be trained on interview techniques and on specific issues related to family separation/protection. REACH will conduct data collection in all countries. To facilitate understanding and make participants as comfortable as possible, questions will be asked in each participant's mother tongue (Arabic, Kurdish, Pashto, Dari, Farsi etc.), where possible by an interviewer of the same gender. They will be transcribed and translated to English by the same person who administered the interview and recorded on a debriefing tool to ensure required indicators are covered and to monitor progress towards data saturation. Where possible, interviews will be conducted face-to-face in each of the countries of interest, or alternatively by telephone or Skype where conflict or access pose challenges. Transcripts will be checked by Assessment Officers or another designated focal point in each country of operation before being sent to Amman for processing by the Migration Analyst. All names and other potentially sensitive information that could allow participants to be identified will be removed from the final, clean database. Any audio-recordings will be destroyed transcribed. Once digitised, any paper transcripts will be destroyed.

<sup>7</sup> Van der Velde, M. and van Naerssen, T. (2011) 'People, borders, trajectories: An approach to cross-border mobility and immobility in and to the European Union'; and Van der Velde, M. and van Naerssen, T. (Eds.) (2015) *Mobility and migration choices: Thresholds to crossing borders*. Farnham: Ashgate.

## LIMITATIONS

This research will aim to produce qualitative information on how migration can affect those left behind. The purposive selection of people for interview will ensure representation of a range of characteristics, such as gender, displacement status, and current location, providing generalizable information on trends rather than prevalence.

All selected participants will give their informed consent prior to starting the interview. Anyone under the age of 18 must also have the consent of a responsible adult in order to participate. All participants will be aged 15 or over, as the interview will take some time. In order to limit potential response bias, the interviewer will explain that participation is on an anonymous basis, all data will be securely stored, and that the answers provided will have no link to the provision of assistance to themselves or other family members.

### Data Analysis Plan

Completed transcripts will be coded and analysed using qualitative analysis software (eg. NVivo or Atlas TI). A full analysis plan will be developed further upon finalisation of the research questions and indicators.

## 6. Product Typology

Table 1: Type and number of products required

Type of Product	Number of Product(s)	Additional information
Report	1	n/a
Blog post	1	n/a
Profile		
Factsheet		
Presentation	1	For joint analysis by JAU and other interested platform members.
Map		
Interactive Dashboard		

## 7. Management arrangements and work plan

### 7.1. Roles and Responsibilities, Organogram

Table 2: Description of roles and responsibilities

Task Description	Responsible	Accountable	Consulted	Informed
- Overall coordination, research design, analysis and drafting	Migration Analyst	REACH Global Coordinator	MMP Coordinator & JAU	Steering Committee
- Management of data collection at field level, including securing any required permissions	Assessment Officer	Country Coordinator	ACTED CD	Migration Analyst
- Supervision of data collection, debriefing enumerators and checking transcripts	Assessment Officer	Country Coordinator	n/a	Migration Analyst
- Conducting interviews and transcribing	Enumerators	Assessment Officer	Country Coordinator	Migration Analyst

**Responsible:** the person(s) who executes the task

**Accountable:** the person who validates the completion of the task and is accountable for the final output or milestone

**Consulted:** the person(s) who must be consulted when the task is implemented

**Informed:** the person(s) who need to be informed when the task is completed

## 7.2. Resources: HR, Logistic and Financial

Please refer to separate resource plans for each country.

## 7.3. Work plan

	January 2017				February				March
	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Week 8	Week 9
Tool development & translation									
Data collection									
Data cleaning & analysis									
Drafting									
Joint analysis workshop									
Publication									

## 8. Risks & Assumptions

Table 3: List of risks and mitigating action

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Mitigation Measure</b>
1. Permission is not granted for data collection in all countries of interest	Provide sufficient notice prior to starting data collection; replenish sample from other locations where data collection is allowed
2. Partners cannot be identified to conduct data collection in Turkey*	Provide sufficient notice prior to starting data collection; replenish sample from other locations where data collection is allowed
3. Access to participants with all required characteristics is not possible	Work with partner organisations to identify additional participants to meet minimum requirements from sample
4. Data collection is delayed due to unforeseen circumstances (eg. access limitations, escalation of conflict)	Where possible, additional participants shall be identified to make up any shortfalls in the sample

\*Note that the original plan for data collection included Turkey, but was not possible due to lack of partner capacity.

## 9. Monitoring and Evaluation

Table 4: Monitoring and evaluation targets

<b>Objective</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Data collection methodology</b>
Government and humanitarian actors access information and analysis	# downloads of final report	50	Track downloads and views from Reliefweb, MMP website, emails and REACH Resource Centre (using Google analytics & bitly)
Stakeholders contribute to joint analysis	# participants at joint analysis workshop	10	Attendance lists

## 10. Annexes

1. Data Management Plan
2. Questioning route and indicator list

## Annex 1 : Data Management Plan<sup>8</sup>

Administrative Data	
Project Name	Separated Families: who stays, who goes and why? A Mixed Migration Platform rapid assessment.
Project Code	13iACG0Z2
Donor	DFID
Project partners	Mixed Migration Platform and consortium members
Project Description	Qualitative research into the experience of families in which one or more individuals have migrated, while others have stayed behind.
Project Data Contacts	Megan Passey (megan.passey@impact-initiatives.org)
DMP Version	DRAFT – v1.1
Related Policies	n/a
Data Collection	
What data will you collect or create?	Qualitative data on motivations, influencing factors and the practical and psychological impact of migration on separated families.
How will the data be collected or created?	Individual interviews with women and men in families where one or more members has migrated to Europe.
Documentation and Metadata	
What documentation and metadata will accompany the data?	Dates and location of data collection, contact details of project focal point.
Ethics and Legal Compliance	
How will you manage any ethical issues?	All participants will be asked for their informed consent prior to taking part in an interview. All names and other potentially sensitive information that could allow participants to be identified will be removed from the final, clean database.
How will you manage copyright & Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) issues?	Data collected will remain the property of REACH.
Storage and Backup	
How will the data be stored and backed up during the research?	During data collection, all paper forms will be securely stored in locked premises. Once digitized, these will be destroyed. Digitized data will be stored on a secure cloud-based server and backed up on a daily basis. Any audio recordings will be destroyed once transcribed.
How will you manage access and security?	All data on the cloud server is password protected and only accessible to REACH staff working on the project. Physical access to buildings in which data is stored is controlled.
Selection and Preservation	
Which data should be retained, shared, and/or preserved?	Digital copies of transcripts and the final tabulated dataset.
What is the long-term preservation plan for data?	The dataset will be stored and maintained by REACH.
Data Sharing	
How will you share the data?	Data will be shared through a preliminary analysis presentation and finalized report.
Are any restrictions on data sharing required?	Clean datasets will not be published but can be made available to partners on request.
Responsibilities	

<sup>8</sup> Adapted from: DCC. (2013). Checklist for a Data Management Plan. v.4.0. Edinburgh: Digital Curation. Centre. Available online: <http://www.dcc.ac.uk/resources/data-management-plans>

Who will be responsible for data management?

Regional Migration Analyst or dedicated focal point in REACH HQ.