

at a glance

THE USE OF PROFILING IN  
**KOSOVO**

2018



# Why a profiling?

Many individuals, who had fled their place of habitual residence in Kosovo as a result of the events taking place in 1998-1999 and in 2004, continued to live in protracted displacement. While finding solutions had been a concern to both authorities and international actors, for a number of years, emphasis had primarily been placed on returns (both to and within Kosovo), with less focus on other potential solutions or alternative preferences of concerned populations.

Relevant stakeholders, including from government institutions in Kosovo and Serbia and the international community, in 2013 agreed on the need to develop a shared evidence base to inform a more comprehensive approach to the displacement situation in Kosovo.

On these grounds, a profiling process was initiated with the aim of assessing the extent to which durable solutions had been achieved and to provide an account of the intentions of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in pursuing their preferred durable solution. Owing to the high level of coordination needed among a number of stakeholders, the exercise was finally completed in 2016 and the final report with recommendations was released in 2017.

# What difference did the profiling make?

## SHARED UNDERSTANDING OF THE DISPLACEMENT SITUATION

**For the first time** since the displacement occurred 20 years ago, a comprehensive analysis of the situation of different IDP groups was available to all relevant duty bearers, including information that had not been capture in earlier analyses.

**Results were accepted and shared by all partners.**

The results informed the development of the **national Strategy for Communities and Return** led by the Ministry for Communities and Return of Kosovo; this included, importantly, the budgetary aspects of the Strategy.

## INFORMED THE NATIONAL SOLUTIONS STRATEGY AND BUDGET

## ENABLED EVIDENCE-BASED AND NUANCED DISCUSSIONS ON SOLUTIONS

The profiling results contributed to a more factual and differentiated discussion on future intentions and durable solutions for Kosovo's IDPs. Based on significant findings that a large proportion of IDPs preferred to stay in their current location, the study **made space for discussions on local integration.**

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The report is truly invaluable. It constitutes the first comprehensive, evidence-based analysis on internal displacement in Kosovo, and it indicates what support is needed. The participatory approach adopted throughout the process found its most significant expression in the development of recommendations : consensus was reached on every single recommendation.

Chiara Mossina,  
Project manager & profiling focal person from DRC, Pristina

# How was the process shaped?

Initiated in 2013 by Kosovo's Ministry for Communities and Return (MCR), UNHCR and DRC, the profiling exercise constituted a **truly collaborative process with strong involvement from relevant duty bearers**. Building and sustaining trust throughout the exercise were instrumental in achieving consensus on the results and recommendations. Two bodies were formed to steer and guide the process:

- › **The Profiling Management Group (PMG)**, in charge of overseeing the entire exercise as well as specific management responsibilities over the process. The PMG was composed of the Kosovo Agency for Statistics (KAS), the Kosovo Ministry for Communities and Return (MCR), the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration of the Republic of Serbia (KIRS), the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), and the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR).
- › **The Profiling Working Group (PWG)**, responsible for providing input and expertise. In addition to PMG members, the PWG was composed of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe – Mission in Kosovo (OSCE), the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), the UN Development Programme (UNDP), and the UN Population Fund (UNFPA).

JIPS supported the exercise throughout, both by engaging in an advisory capacity and by directly supporting implementation in each of the steps outlined below.

# How was data collected?



The profiling exercise was based on the **IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons** criteria and covered key demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the surveyed populations, their access to rights and services, their preferences for the permanent location of residence, as well as the challenges they faced in achieving their preferred durable solution.

Data collected combined quantitative and qualitative methods. The methodology was jointly developed and agreed upon by the PMG, including the population baseline estimates for each population group covered, as well as the indicators and data collection tools. The methodology included:

- › **A sample-based household survey**, conducted on a total of 1,327 households using baseline population estimates that were collaboratively established by the PMG for each of the three subgroups: a) Albanian IDPs; b) Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian IDPs; and c) Serb IDPs.
- › **A comparative analysis approach** was taken as follows:
  - the results on the **Albanian IDP population** were compared to national level statistics on the Kosovo population;
  - the result on the **Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian IDPs** were compared against earlier studies on the non-displaced population of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians; and
  - the **Serb IDPs** in private accommodation were compared against the Serb IDPs in Collective Centres. This allowed for a better understanding of the displacement-related vulnerabilities and obstacles to solutions.
- › **Focus group discussions**, conducted with two different age groups (18-29 years, and 30 and above) on selected topics, to complement available data on the preferred location of residence and on community relations, as well as to capture differences between younger and older generations of adults.
- › **A desk review of secondary data** on the displaced population groups as well as national level statistics on the general Kosovo population.

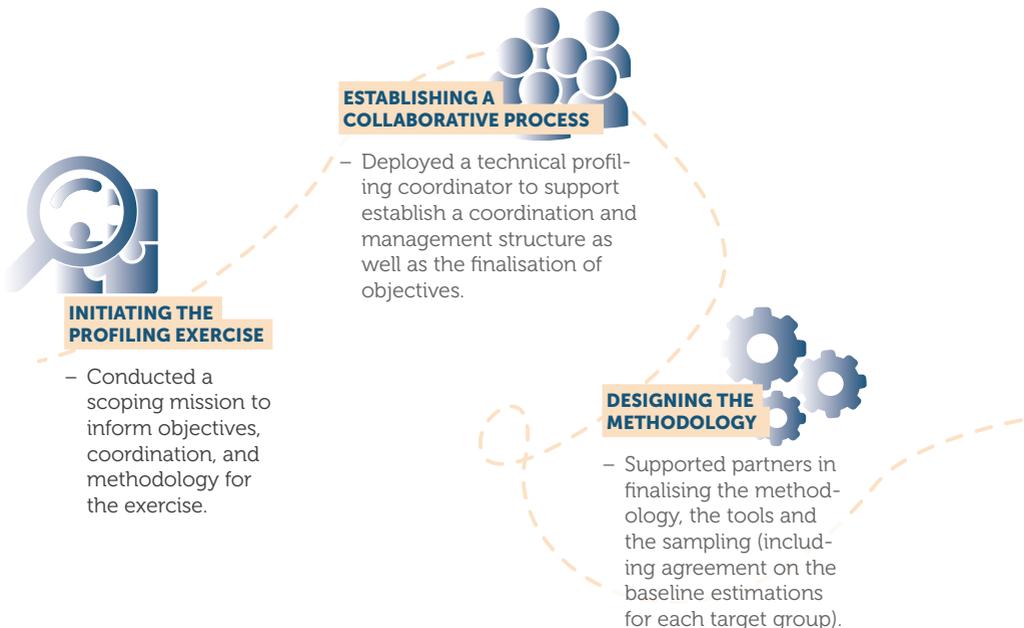
# How did JIPS support?

JIPS provided technical support throughout the process, including continuous remote support to partners and several field missions at various stages of the process. In addition, in its role as honest broker JIPS also helped to sustain the collaborative process and ensure consensus at each key stage.

Through Statistics Norway (SN) under our NORCAP partnership, we also deployed a technical profiling coordinator to help on the methodology development and later a technical expert to contribute to the data cleaning and analysis.

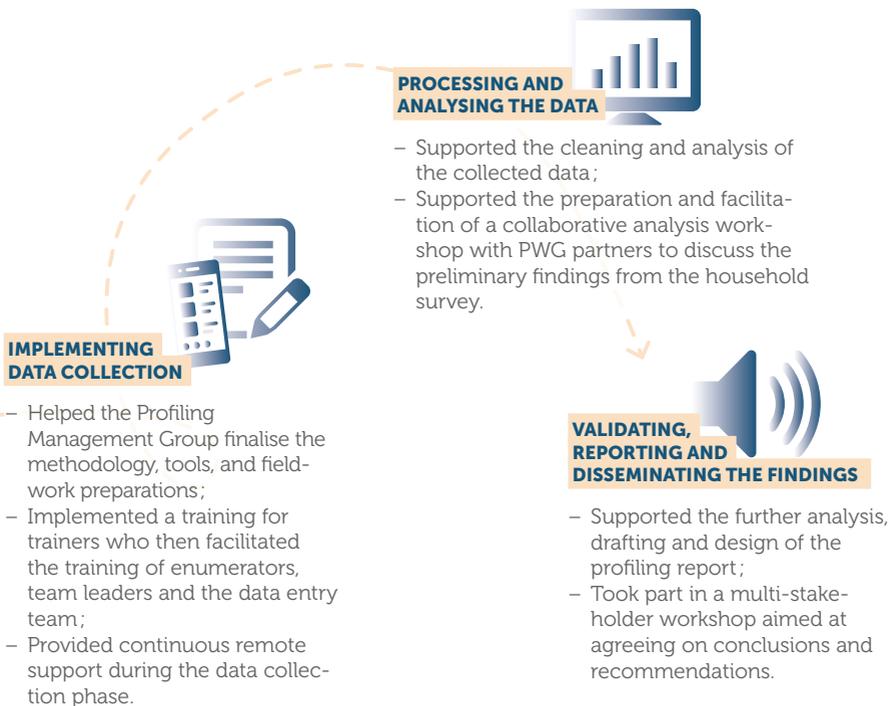
## At a snapshot

From initiating to reporting and dissemination of the findings of the profiling exercise.



## Profiling lessons learned

- › **Focusing on a consultative and collaborative process is especially critical in politically sensitive contexts** with protracted displacement situations. Building and sustaining trust between the stakeholders taking part in the exercise, as well as their joined work on each stage of the exercise enabled endorsement of the results by all involved actors.
- › **Technical solutions can help overcome political disagreements** that might arise during the process. For example, establishing agreed-upon baseline figures for each IDP population group and using a tailored sampling design addressed concerns pertaining to the representativity of results.
- › **Neutral coordination is invaluable to engage productively with all actors.** The combination of JIPS' neutrality with DRC's existing constructive partnerships ensured a transparent process that considered input from all partners, thus strengthening the broader buy-in and consensus building throughout the process.



# What were the key findings?

Of the 1,327 households that were surveyed, **almost 92% reported having lived in displacement for 17 years** at the time of data collection, and having thus far been unable to achieve a durable solution. As a result of this protracted displacement situation, almost one-fifth of the 1,327 surveyed households (4,932 individuals) were born in displacement.

These findings confirm the pressing need to address the displacement situation that prompted government authorities and international stakeholders to implement the exercise.

## Education

**Severe challenges related to education are observed among the Roma/Ashkali/Egyptian population**, with lower school attendance rates than those reported by the other target groups, a significantly higher illiteracy rate (Kosovo average 3.85%, Roma/Ashkali/Egyptian IDPs average 13%), and a very large proportion of individuals who hadn't completed a formal education (progressively raising from 35% in the 18-24 age group to 75% among those aged 60 and above).

In terms of gender equality, **women generally showed lower access to education than men**. The gender gap favouring boys over girls was observed to progressively increase from primary to secondary education.

“ With JIPS’ support, a technical solution pertaining to the sampling was found to overcome obstacles related to political sensitiveness around IDPs in Kosovo.

Bujar Prebreza,  
profiling focal point in UNHCR, Pristina

## Employment and economic vulnerability

The **economic situation of the surveyed population groups was found to be precarious**, with significant shares of the households relying primarily on social benefits as a source of income (29% in total against 4% Kosovo average), high unemployment rates, and substantial proportions of the employed earning less than EUR 300 per month (which is at the lowest end of average salaries in Kosovo).

The **unemployment rate reported by all IDP population groups exceeded that of the general Kosovo population** (average 27,5%), with 41% among surveyed Albanian IDPs, 84% among Roma/Ashkali/Egyptian IDPs, and 48% among Serb IDPs in private accommodation (reaching 71% among youth) and 62% among those in collective centers

**Graph 1 | Access to employment of the working age individuals among the surveyed IDP and general Kosovo population by gender**

Age 15-64		Male	Female	Total %
<b>Albanian IDPs</b>	Labour force participation	55%	31%	43%
	Employment rate	34%	17%	25%
	Unemployment rate	38%	47%	41%
<b>Roma / Ashkali / Egyptian IDPs</b>	Labour force participation	66%	27%	49%
	Employment rate	12%	2%	8%
	Unemployment rate	82%	92%	84%
<b>Serb IDPs in private accommod.</b>	Labour force participation	68%	59%	64%
	Employment rate	37%	30%	33%
	Unemployment rate	46%	50%	48%
<b>Serb IDPs in collective centres</b>	Labour force participation	74%	47%	61%
	Employment rate	30%	16%	24%
	Unemployment rate	59%	65%	62%
<b>Kosovo population</b>	Labour force participation	58%	19%	39%
	Employment rate	43%	13%	28%
	Unemployment rate	26%	32%	28%

## Housing, land and property

Despite the significant share of IDPs having left assets in their place of origin, **access is hindered by several factors**.

Firstly, while the proportion of households having filed a repossession claim vary, they all indicate challenges in the process and only a very small proportion has had their claim resolved. Secondly, the shares of property reported illegally occupied or damaged are substantial. (see Graph 2).

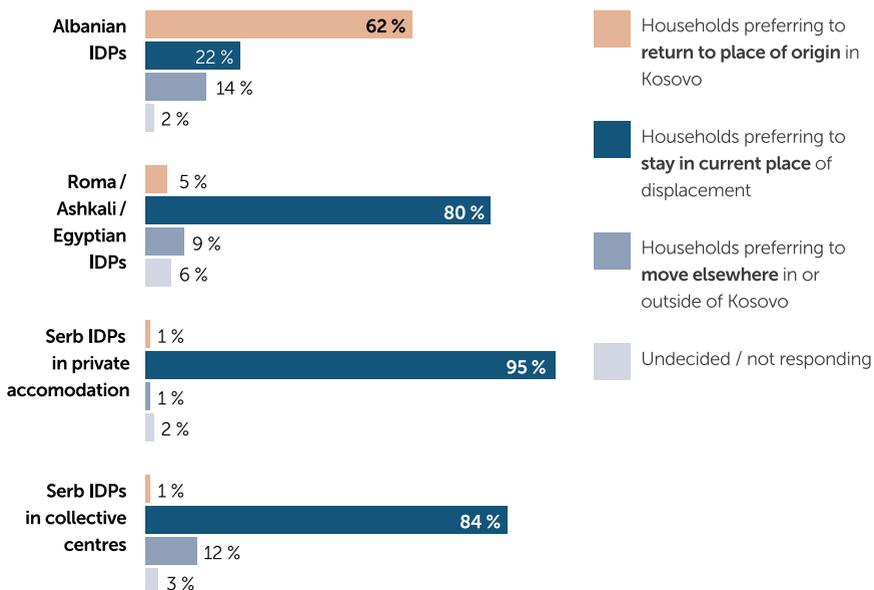
<b>Graph 2   Assets in place of origin and filed repossession claims</b>	<b>Albanian IDPs</b>	<b>Roma/Ashkali /Egyptian IDPs</b>	<b>Serb IDPs in private accommodation</b>	<b>Serb IDPs in collective centres</b>
Proportion of HHs that reported <b>possessing property in the place of origin</b>	83%	31%	72%	47%
Proportion of HHs that reported <b>possessing ownership documents</b> (as a proportion of those possessing property)	93%	45%	93%	86%
Proportion of HHs that reported <b>filing a repossession claim</b> (as a proportion of those possessing property)	34%	3%	68%	33%
Proportion of HHs that reported <b>their claim as being resolved</b> (as a proportion of those submitting a claim)	11%	/	4%	7%
Proportion of HHs whose <b>property is reportedly occupied</b> (as a proportion of those possessing property)	39%	/	74%	44%
Proportion of HHs whose <b>property is reportedly destroyed/damaged</b> (as a proportion of those possessing property)	50%	/	50%	48%

## Preferred durable solution

The majority of Albanian IDPs prefer to return to the place of origin, while the overwhelming majority of Roma / Ashkali / Egyptian IDPs as well as Serb IDPs prefer to **integrate in the place of displacement** (see graph 3).

Regarding the conditions listed by the surveyed populations as conducive to them considering return or local integration, **housing support was indicated as the main form of assistance needed** by all respondents, independently from their preferred solution.

Graph 3 | Overview of preferred durable solutions of surveyed households

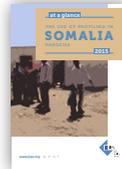


JIPS' publications '**At a glance : the use of profiling**', or formerly 'Profiles at a Glance' look at the impact of the profiling exercises supported by JIPS. While providing an overview of the profiling methodology and findings, these publications bring attention to how the collaborative process was shaped and how JIPS concretely contributed.

Through our **At a glance** series we hope to spark an interest in both the specific impact of the exercise in a given context, and profiling of displacement situations in general.

For more on the impact of displacement profiling, please go to :

[www.jips.org/profiling/uses-of-profiling/](http://www.jips.org/profiling/uses-of-profiling/)



For more on specific exercises, check out our "At a Glance" series or visit our country pages :

[www.jips.org/profiling/country-map/](http://www.jips.org/profiling/country-map/)



The profiling exercise in Kosovo produced a **shared analysis of the displacement situation of Albanian, Serb and Roma / Ashkali / Egyptian IDPs in Kosovo**. The outcome of a thoroughly consultative process from 2013 till 2017, it provides a comprehensive and common understanding of the displacement situation within the republic, providing decision-makers with an agreed upon evidence base for solutions-oriented responses for Kosovo's IDPs.

The exercise was conducted under the guidance of a steering body comprising the Ministry for Communities and Return of Kosovo, the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration of the Republic of Serbia, UNHCR and the Danish Refugee Council. The Kosovo Agency for Statistics, IOM, OSCE, UNICEF, UNDP and UNFPA were also involved in the project. JIPS provided technical support throughout the process.



The **profiling report** from the Kosovo exercise is available at :

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