

FACTS & FIGURES ON THE SYRIAN REFUGEE CRISIS

Nasser Yassin

Volume II



Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs
American University of Beirut

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Nasser Yassin

*Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs,
Faculty of Health Sciences,
American University of Beirut*

With the contribution of

Rawya Khodor

*Refugee Research and Policy Program,
Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs,
American University of Beirut*

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<http://www.aub.edu.lb/ifi>

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UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

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List of Acronyms

3RP	Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan
EU	European Union
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
ILO	International Labour Organization
LCRP	Lebanon Crisis Response Plan
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PRS	Palestine Refugees from Syria
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UN OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization

Introduction

“The Wolf is Back”, ran the title of the story in the New York Times on April 23, 2019. Wolves, few hundred of them, have been sneaking from the Polish borders into Germany. The packs, apparently, started creeping into the quiet hinterland of Forstgen in East Germany to prey on its sheep. The story, presumably of interest to zoologists and livestock farmers, became a national piece of news, debated in parliament with polarizing views on how to tackle the beasts. Things flared when parallels were made between the “invasion” of wolves and the influx of refugees and migrants. Right-wing politicians made a clear analogy of the wolf, as one violating the serenity and stability of rural landscapes, with the migrants and refugees who have come *to transgress the peaceful landscape, suck blood from the economy, and assault the innocents.*

This is how polarizing the subject of refugees has become in our time. Refugees are portrayed as leeches who could bring societies to a breaking point. Granting asylum and helping refugees, sadly, have shifted from being a matter of civilized pride and a noble cause of compassion to becoming derided as a matter of naivety and irresponsibility, and are portrayed by xenophobes as an unpatriotic act. The toxic rhetoric is being played to polarize society into “nationals who care for their country from the risks of aliens” and the “pro-refugees and pro-migrants of self-loathing citizens”.

This is happening West and East: The same anti-refugee (and anti-immigrant) narrative is being used. It is largely woven on fallacies and on twisting facts to either exaggerate or generalize the impact of hosting refugees and receiving immigrants on host societies and economies. From increasing crime to the sluggishness of the economy, refugees and immigrants are falsely blamed for the ills of society and failures in governance. Data and studies show a different story. The idea that refugees tend to increase crime is a huge misconception, albeit powerfully used by many populist

politicians. In Germany, for example, crime rates dropped 10 percent in 2017 even with the influx of refugees. Another case in Italy, based on data collected over the period of 2007-2016, showed a decline in crime rate across all regions against the fallacy created by politicians that immigrants increased crime. As for the economy, studies debunk the myth that refugees burden host countries' economies. Research shows that refugees can bring assets and have agency to contribute to their host economies. A study published in *Science Advances* in June 2018, which analyzed 30 years of datasets in 15 European countries, showed that countries' economies receiving refugees and migrants got stronger and unemployment rates dropped.

But the anti-refugee rhetoric is powerful and is being translated into action on the streets: demonstrations against businesses run by refugees, restrictions of their movement, clamping on NGOs that support them and narrowing the space for civil society dissent. Attempting to save refugees from drowning in the Mediterranean has now been criminalized as an illegal act.

What could be the role of academics in such a polarized context? We need to continue, as engaged academics, to work on what we do best: show hard, contextualized and nuanced evidence of the impact of refugees on their host societies, as well as undertake more research to reflect their contribution. We also need to educate students and engage the wider public to counter the myths and fallacies around refugees.

We need, as well, to come together in loose or structured networks, locally, regionally, and globally. Academics need to work closely and frequently with civil society actors (associations or informal grassroots) as well as faith-based groups, the media (especially the progressive among them), the private sector, and international organizations. A case in point is the Alliance of Leading Universities on Migration (ALUM), a policy-focused network across disciplines currently encompassing 20 universities in Europe, the Middle East and North Africa as well as America, boosting academic

knowledge across regions. Around 165 of the ALUM members and partners from civil society and international organizations met in November 2017 in Beirut at the American University of Beirut to engage and reflect on the same question raised above on the role of the academy in the refugee crisis. Driven by a firm belief that academics need to engage and make an impact, we worked together and issued *the Beirut Declaration on Human Mobility* which strongly and expressively shows the role of academics in the current refugee crisis and their commitment to:

- Make evidence more readily available and accessible to the media and the public;
- Disseminate evidence and best practices on migrant protection, integration and return in the framework of improved legal pathways;
- Support the access of migrants and refugees to higher education;
- Assess and promote the adoption of good practices for migrant and refugee access to physical and mental health services;
- Work with responders to evaluate the quality and access to humanitarian assistance that people-on-the-move have today;
- Monitor governments' and other stakeholders' commitment to global burden sharing arrangements in order to ensure accountability.

In an age flaunted by some as post-truths, we should adhere to showing the facts and evidence and more importantly fight for our shared universal values. If our universal values on refugee protection are compromised then there is no end to their violation. Continuously crying an “imaginary wolf” this time might make people believe it and turn against each other to save their own skin.

I. Syria's Displacement Crisis in Numbers

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1.2 million

is the number of population movements recorded between July 2017 and June 2018 inside Syria

Internal displacement continues at large scale inside Syria with 1.2 million population movements recorded between July 2017 and June 2018. It was shown that, during the 12 months preceding June 2018, armed battles resulted in 1,273,718 displacements from areas of northern and southern Syria. The vast majority of these displacements, approximately 1,201,107 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), were from affected areas in northern Syria, namely, Idlib, Hama, Deir ez-Zor, Aleppo, Raqqa, Homs, Al-Hassakeh, and Latakia governorates. The remaining displacements (72,611) came from the affected areas of Damascus, Rural Damascus, Sweida, and Dara'a. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) expressed growing concerns for civilians who are constantly being forced to flee their homes and seek refuge elsewhere due to the ongoing hostilities inside Syria. Up until March 2019, a total of 6.2 million people remain displaced inside Syria.

Sources:

UNHCR. (2018, June). Syria: Flash update on recent events. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/180705%20syria%20flash%20update%20cccm%20snfi%20protection.pdf>

UN OCHA. (2018, August). 2018 Humanitarian Response Plan: Monitoring report (January - June 2018) - Syrian Arab Republic. Retrieved from https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/2018_syria_mid_year_pmr_full.pdf

UN OCHA. (2019, March). 2019 humanitarian needs overview: Syrian Arab Republic. Retrieved from https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/2019_Syr_HNO_Full.pdf

95,000

is the number of internally displaced persons from Eastern Ghouta in Syria who settled in sheltering sites in a period of almost three months prior to May 2018

After the outbreak of the war in Syria in 2011, Eastern Ghouta became a “rebel stronghold of opposition fighters”, and have been held by opposition fighters since 2012. However, following fierce offensive battles that lasted for several weeks in the beginning of 2018, the Syrian army regained control of the area, leaving Eastern Ghouta in rubble and creating another form of massive forced displacement. In a period of almost three months, nearly 95,000 individuals were internally displaced from Eastern Ghouta and settled in sheltering sites (as of May 15, 2018). Out of this figure, nearly 31,000 resided in eight IDP sites in rural Damascus. The remaining 64,000 initially stayed in sheltering sites but then left through a “sponsorship” programme. This programme allowed women with children under 15 years as well as men over 55 years who wanted to leave the shelter to be subject to sponsorship. However, after this period, UNHCR missions revealed that there was an increased trend of return to the IDP sites among those who had earlier left the shelters, owing to the fact that many of them had exhausted their coping mechanisms outside the sites, including their own and host families’ resources. Another reason for IDPs returning to the sites was the ability to register and to receive security clearance, and the possibility to leave the sites back to their areas of origin.

Sources:

Al Jazeera. (2018, April 14). Eastern Ghouta: What happened and why. Retrieved from <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2018/02/eastern-ghouta-happening-180226110239822.html>

UNHCR. (2018, May). UNHCR Syria situation report for the Eastern Ghouta and Afrin humanitarian emergencies as of May 29, 2018. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/UNHCR%20Flash%20Update%20for%20Eastern%20Ghouta%20%26%20Afrin%20-%2029MAY18.pdf>

20,000

is the approximate number of people who had died in Syria in 2018 as a result of war and violence

According to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, 2018 is considered the lowest year in terms of the number of yearly deaths since 2011. Around 20,000 people were killed, including approximately 6,500 civilians. The highest death toll was recorded in 2014 when 76,000 people were killed because of the Islamic State jihadist group taking over large parts of Syria and neighboring Iraq. In 2017, an estimated 33,400 people were killed, including 10,000 civilians. While the death toll is comparatively lower in 2018 when compared to previous years, it was found that 2018 had the largest wave of displacement since the beginning of the conflict, with more than one million people forced to flee their homes. In total, it was estimated that around 500,000 people have been killed due to war and violence in Syria.

Sources:

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. (2019, January 1). Death toll in Syria falls in 2018. Retrieved from <http://www.syriaahr.com/en/?p=111152>

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. (2019, January 1). 2018 death toll Syria war's lowest at under 20,000. Retrieved from <http://www.syriaahr.com/en/?p=111143>

1,300

grave violations against children and related child protection concerns were verified during the first six months of 2018

Grave child rights violations continue to occur in Syria. More than 1,300 grave violations against children and related child protection concerns were verified during the first six months of 2018. 60% of these cases (792) included the killing and maiming of children. Other reported child rights violations in Syria involved child recruitment, detention of children for their alleged association with armed groups, sexual violence, attacks on schools and education personnel, attacks on hospitals and medical personnel, incidents of military use of schools and hospitals, and incidents of denial of humanitarian access. The burden of war is most felt by children.

Source:

UN OCHA. (2018, August). 2018 Humanitarian Response Plan: Monitoring report (January - June 2018) - Syrian Arab Republic. Retrieved from https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/2018_syria_mid_year_pmr_full.pdf

1 million

is the number of Syrian refugee children who were born in Lebanon, Turkey, Jordan, Iraq, and Egypt since 2011

In 2019, the Syrian refugee crisis entered its ninth year with nearly 5.6 million Syrian refugees registered in Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, and Egypt, and approximately one million newly born in displacement. The consequences of displacement are severe on children, who are mostly living in a situation that is compounded with poverty, insecurity, and vulnerabilities at many levels. Although the main countries hosting refugees have been responding to the presence of Syrian refugees, they have been increasingly under strain and their capacities have been exhausted. Many children have been experiencing difficulties in accessing public services, such as education and health care, while others have been subject to child labor or have been vulnerable to abuse and exploitation, such as human trafficking and early marriage. Many have also been experiencing civil documentation challenges. Without the support of the international community in the upcoming years, the impact of the prolonged refugee crisis will continue producing a major burden on host communities as well as refugees. Supporting refugees to live in dignity as well as working towards safe and sustainable solutions for the crisis should be priorities for 2019.

Source:

UNHCR. (2018, December). UN and partners launch plan to support Syrian refugees and countries hosting them as number of Syrian refugee new-borns reaches one million mark. Retrieved from <https://www.unhcr.org/uk/news/press/2018/12/5c0f80eb4/un-partners-launch-plan-support-syrian-refugees-countries-hosting-number.html>

51%

of Syrian refugees registered with UNHCR in Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, and Egypt are children below the age of 18

51% of all Syrian refugees registered with UNHCR in Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, and Egypt are children below the age of 18. This figure clearly shows current as well as future needs of refugee families and children, including education, health, and protection. It is also important to mention that, throughout the displacement journey, family dynamics in regard to responsibilities and tasks inside and outside the household have changed. Prior to the crisis, many Syrian women used to manage their households but largely depended on the financial security and protection provided by the men in their families. After the displacement, it was shown that many Syrian refugee women started to assume roles and responsibilities which they may not have previously had, such as “participating in decision making on income and expenses and how to allocate home spending on supplies, food and other utilities”. Various social support and livelihood programmes have been implemented by many actors to provide refugee women with a clear base to cope with the harsh realities of displacement, and to avoid the possibility of resorting to negative coping mechanisms in order to provide for their families while in exile but also when they eventually return to Syria.

Source:

UNHCR. (2017, October). Update: Durable solutions for Syrian refugees. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/60201>

63.7%

of Syrian refugees in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, and Lebanon originate from four governorates: Aleppo, Dara'a, Homs, and Rural Damascus

By the beginning of 2018, over five million Syrian refugees were displaced to Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, and Lebanon as the result of the war in Syria. UNHCR's data on refugees currently residing in these four countries showed that the large majority of refugees, approximately 63%, originate from four governorates in Syria: Aleppo (17.2%), Homs (17.5%), Dara'a (16.7%), and Rural Damascus (12.2%). A significant proportion of refugees also originate from Hassakeh, Damascus, Idleb, and Hama. On the other hand, data on refugees in Turkey, which is held by the Turkish government, confirmed that a significant proportion of refugees originate from northern Syria, particularly from Aleppo, Homs, Hama, and Idleb. Fewer numbers come from Damascus, Rural Damascus, and Dara'a. Efforts aimed at preparing the conditions for a safe, dignified, and voluntary return of Syrian refugees need to consider the situation in their areas of origin in Syria.

Source:

UNHCR. (2018, February). Comprehensive protection and solutions strategy: Protection thresholds and parameters for refugee return to Syria. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/ar/documents/download/63223>

23,409

is the number of Syrian resettlement departures to a third country in 2018

2018 saw a drastic reduction of resettlement places made available to Syrian refugees. The main cause of this decrease was a global drop in the number of resettlement places that are available as well as a shift in the resettlement quotas to other priority situations. In 2018, 23,409 was the number of Syrian resettlement departures to a third country. It is important to note that UNHCR called for the pledging of resettlement and complementary pathway places for at least 10% of the Syrian refugee population (480,000 refugees) from neighboring host countries. Pledging increased resettlement places and opportunities for Syrian refugees is still needed.

Sources:

UNHCR. (2018, April). Comprehensive protection and solutions strategy: A roadmap to advance resettlement and complementary pathways in the Syrian crisis. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/63759>

UNHCR. (2019, March). Resettlement Data Finder. Retrieved March 27, 2019, from [data.unhcr.org: https://rsq.unhcr.org/en/#dC7l](https://rsq.unhcr.org/en/#dC7l)

4%

is the percentage of the Syrian refugee population in neighboring host countries that has been referred for resettlement between 2013 and 2018

Resettlement is “the transfer of refugees from an asylum country to another State that has agreed to admit them as refugees and ultimately grant them permanent settlement”. Refugees who are accepted for resettlement receive upon their arrival in the third country guarantees of protection against *refoulement*, and access to civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights (similar to those granted to nationals or permanent residents), and will eventually have a pathway to naturalization. Since 2013, over 30 traditional and emerging resettlement countries have pledged more than 300,000 places for resettlement and complementary pathways for Syrians, allowing UNHCR MENA and Turkey to submit 222,511 vulnerable Syrian refugees for resettlement by the end of 2018. However, the latter figure represented approximately 4% of the Syrian refugee population in neighboring host countries having been referred for resettlement between 2013 and 2018. It is also important to compare these figure to the actual Syrian resettlement departures, representing refugees who have physically departed the asylum country for resettlement in a third country. In the same period, only around 123,185 resettlement departures took place. This is worrying, especially in light of the continuous decrease in the resettlement places made available to Syrian refugees.

Sources:

UNHCR. (2018, April). *Comprehensive protection and solutions strategy: A roadmap to advance resettlement and complementary pathways in the Syrian crisis*. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/63759>

UNHCR. (2019, June). *Resettlement Data Finder*. Retrieved June 13, 2019, from [data.unhcr.org: https://rsq.unhcr.org/en/#dC7I](https://rsq.unhcr.org/en/#dC7I)

10,000

refugee children in Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, and Egypt have been recorded as either separated, unaccompanied or in institutional care as of 2017

Separated children are those “separated from both parents, or from their previous legal or customary primary care-giver, but not necessarily from other relatives”, but can be accompanied by other adult family members. Unaccompanied children are those “who have been separated from both parents and other relatives and are not being cared for by an adult who, by law or custom, is responsible for doing so”. In the region, there are over 10,000 refugee children in Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, and Egypt recorded as either separated, unaccompanied or in institutional care (as of 2017). Special attention needs to be directed towards the legal identity and birth registration of these children, particularly because many children might not be registered at birth at the time they were separated from their family or are at risk of losing their nationality. As such, the implications are serious. Relevant authorities and organizations caring for these children must seek to take appropriate measures and obtain the documentation needed to record children’s identity and affiliation, if known. In addition, efforts should be directed towards finding solutions that are in their best interest, such as providing them with social follow-ups, and ensuring that they have access to judicial systems. Family reunification, if in their best interest, should also be explored.

Sources:

ICRC, IRC, Save the Children, UNICEF, UNHCR, & World Vision International. (2004). Inter-agency guiding principles on unaccompanied and separated children. Retrieved from <http://www.unhcr.org/protection/children/4098b3172/inter-agency-guiding-principles-unaccompanied-separated-children.html>

Inter-Agency Coordination. (2017, December). 3RP Regional Refugee & Resilience Plan 2018-2019 in response to the Syria crisis: Regional strategic overview. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/61264>

81%

of registered Syrian refugees in Lebanon are women and children

In Lebanon, 81% of registered Syrian refugees are women and children as of December 2018. Displacement was shown to increase the risk of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). Unaccompanied and separated boys and girls, married girls (including child mothers, adolescent girls), women and girls with disabilities, female heads of households, and socially marginalized groups were reported to be among the most at risk. In Lebanon, the most commonly reported types of violence, based on the gender-based violence information management system, involved physical violence, mostly linked to violence within the family or home, sexual violence (rape and sexual assault), emotional violence, and forced and child marriage. Yet, despite this harsh reality, the disclosure of incidents of SGBV remains extremely challenging for several reasons. The latter include the widespread acceptance of violence, fear of retaliation, religious beliefs, belief that no one can help, disruption of services due to humanitarian funding gaps, documentation requirements, restrictions on mobility, and high costs and limited availability of specialized services such as legal and mental health services, limited availability and strict criteria for admission to long-term residential safe shelter, mental health, and lack of employment opportunities. The Protection Sector under the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP) is focusing on protecting the rights of women, children, and others at risk such as older persons and persons with disabilities. However, despite all efforts, ensuring a protective environment surrounding women and children is still challenging.

Sources:

UN, & Government of Lebanon. (2018, November). LCRP 2017-2020: Protection Sector chapter (situation analysis, strategy and logframe) - 2018 update. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/62236>

UNHCR. (2018, December). Operational portal - Refugee situations: Syria Regional Refugee Response: Lebanon. Retrieved January 24, 2019, from [data.unhcr.org: https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/syria/location/71](https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/syria/location/71)

UN, & Government of Lebanon. (2019, January). Lebanon Crisis Response Plan 2017-2020 (2019 update). Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/67780>

62%

of registered Syrian refugees in Lebanon live in the areas of Bekaa and North Lebanon, including Baalbek and Akkar as of December 2018

Given the fact that the Lebanese government has adopted a “no camp” policy and prevented the establishment of formal settlements for Syrians fleeing the war, Syrian refugees sought shelter in two types of areas. Those who have settled within host communities, particularly in already impoverished neighborhoods and in informally developed urban areas, have been the majority. 26% of registered Syrian refugees in Lebanon are living in the northern region of Lebanon (including Akkar), and 36% are in the Bekaa region (including Baalbek). The settlement of refugees in these regions is linked to different historic, social, political, and economic factors. Moreover, 19% of displaced Syrians reside in non-permanent structures, mainly informal tented settlements. This percentage had increased from 17% in 2017, as a result of deteriorating socio-economic conditions of Syrian refugees in the country.

Sources:

UN, & Government of Lebanon. (2018, February). Lebanon Crisis Response Plan 2017-2020 (2018 update). Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/61740>

UNHCR. (2018, December). Operational portal - Refugee situations: Syria Regional Refugee Response: Lebanon. Retrieved January 24, 2019, from [data.unhcr.org: https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/syria/location/71](https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/syria/location/71)

UNHCR, UNICEF, & WFP. (2018, December). VASyR 2018: Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/67380>

29%

of Syrian refugee girls between the ages of 15 and 19 in Lebanon were married in 2018

Child marriage is on the rise among the most vulnerable Syrian refugees in Lebanon. It was found that 29% of girls between the ages of 15 and 19 were married in 2018, a notable increase of 7% from 2017. The statistics are consistent with the results of a study done by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the American University of Beirut, and Sawa for Development and Aid. This study showed that more than one-third of surveyed Syrian refugee girls between the ages of 20 and 24 years married before turning 18. Before the conflict in Syria, child marriage was significantly less common among Syrians. Some figures showed child marriage rates to be four times higher among Syrian refugees today than among Syrians before the crisis. Child marriage can occur when refugee families are in need of financial support and social stability in times of hardship, and is considered among the many negative coping mechanisms that families resort to. Its consequences can be devastating on young girls.

Sources:

UNFPA. (2017, January). New study finds child marriage rising among most vulnerable Syrian refugees. Retrieved from <https://www.unfpa.org/news/new-study-finds-child-marriage-rising-among-most-vulnerable-syrian-refugees>

UNHCR, UNICEF, & WFP. (2018, December). VASyR 2018: Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/67380>

224,750

Syrian babies were born in Turkey from 2011 till August 2017

The “Temporary Protection” regulation in Turkey mandates the Directorate General of Migration Management (DGMM), which is the national asylum institution, to carry out the registration of individuals under Temporary Protection. This regulation applies to Syrian refugees who are also registered by the Turkish authorities. Refugees undertake several steps to ensure their registration. These steps begin with a pre-registration phase where the refugee seeking protection need to be pre-registered by the Turkish authorities (Foreigners’ Police). Afterwards, he/she should approach the Provincial Directorate of Migration Management (PDMM) in the province of residence. During registration, they are expected to provide correct identification information and submit any available documents they have from Syria and cooperate with the Turkish officials. In the case of a newborn baby, early registration is possible by providing the birth report or a doctor’s report to the Foreigners’ Police and the PDMM. The issuance of a Temporary Protection Identification card might be then prioritized. With this card, refugees can have access to a set of rights and services. Furthermore, the Directorate General of Migration Management also retains the authority for carrying out registration of refugees residing in camps through registration facilities located within each camp. Registration of Syrians is conducted throughout Turkey, except for a few provinces. Nevertheless, in 2018, the Turkish authorities in Istanbul and nine provinces on or near the Syrian border have de facto stopped registering and granting documents to newly arriving Syrian refugees, with the exception of vulnerable cases. According to Human Rights Watch, the suspension is leading to unlawful deportations, coerced returns to Syria, and the denial of health care and education.

Sources:

AFAD. (2017). Turkey response to Syria crisis. Retrieved from <https://www.afad.gov.tr/en/2601/Turkey-Response-to-Syria-Crisis>

Human Rights Watch. (2018, July). Turkey stops registering Syrian asylum seekers. Retrieved from <https://www.hrw.org/news/2018/07/16/turkey-stops-registering-syrian-asylum-seekers>
aida, & ecre. (2019). Registration under Temporary Protection. Retrieved from <https://www.asylumineurope.org/reports/country/turkey/registration-under-temporary-protection>

UNHCR. (2019). Registration with the Turkish authorities. Retrieved from <https://help.unhcr.org/turkey/information-for-syrians/reception-and-registration-with-the-turkish-authorities/>

11.6%

of the total Syrian refugee and asylum seeker population in the world is in Europe

11.6% of the total Syrian refugee and asylum seeker population in the world is in Europe, while 87% is in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region and Turkey. The burden of the Syrian refugee crisis remains on the shoulders of Syria's neighboring host countries. More resettlement and complementary pathway opportunities for refugees are needed to demonstrate solidarity and share responsibility for refugees. Complementary pathways for admission of refugees can include 1) enhancing family reunification for refugees with family links in third countries, 2) creating educational opportunities for refugees such as scholarships, apprenticeships, and traineeship opportunities, 3) facilitating labor migration schemes, and 4) increasing private or community sponsorship programmes for refugees.

Sources:

UNHCR. (2017, November). "Towards a global compact for refugees" - Thematic discussion four: Measures to be taken in the pursuit of solutions. Retrieved from <http://www.unhcr.org/5a182f647.pdf>

UNHCR. (2018, April). Comprehensive protection and solutions strategy: A roadmap to advance resettlement and complementary pathways in the Syrian crisis. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/63759>

141,500

is the total number of refugees and migrants arriving to Europe through the Mediterranean between January and December 2018

The total number of refugees and migrants arriving to Europe through the Mediterranean has been on decline since 2015. Between January and December 2018, 141,500 refugees and migrants crossed the Mediterranean Sea. When compared to the same period in previous years, it was found that 1,032,400, 373,700, and 185,100 refugees and migrants arrived to Europe in 2015, 2016, and 2017, respectively. Moreover, due to the high risks associated with crossing the Mediterranean Sea, it has been estimated that around 2,277 refugees and migrants have died between January and December 2018, a 27% decrease when compared to 3,139 deaths in the same period in 2017. Throughout 2018, there were significant changes to the pattern of routes taken by refugees and migrants heading to Europe. In the first half of the year, more people arrived in Greece than Italy or Spain. Most of those arriving in Greece were from Syria, Iraq, and Afghanistan. Noteworthy, Syrians were also among the primary nationalities arriving to Cyprus in 2018. Cyprus received several boats carrying Syrians from Lebanon, in addition to those crossing from Turkey. In the second half of 2018, the primary entry point became Spain as more and more people attempted the perilous sea crossing over the Western Mediterranean. While there were many Moroccans amongst these arrivals, there were also increased numbers from Guinea, Mali, Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, and Algeria.

Sources:

UNHCR. (2018, December). *Desperate journeys: Refugees and migrants arriving in Europe and at Europe's borders: January - December 2018*. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/67712.pdf>

UNHCR. (2018, December). *Refugees & migrants arrivals to Europe in 2018 (Mediterranean): Jan - Dec 2018*. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/68006.pdf>

29,948

is the number of sea and land apprehensions/interceptions of refugees and migrants crossing from Turkey to Europe from 2018 to February 2019

Despite their exposure to different and various types of risks, refugees and migrants continue crossing the Mediterranean Sea to reach safe lands in Europe. Many have been apprehended and intercepted, while others have died or gone missing. Between 2018 and February 2019, 29,948 sea and land apprehensions/interceptions of refugees and migrants crossing from Turkey to Europe have been recorded. This represents a decrease when compared to previous years. In 2016 alone, approximately 47,000 sea and land apprehensions/interceptions of refugees and migrants were recorded.

Sources:

UNHCR. (2016, October). UNHCR Turkey: Key facts and figures - October 2016. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/52526>

UNHCR. (2019). UNHCR Turkey: Key facts and figures - February 2019. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/68619.pdf>

10,400

is the number of Syrian refugees who arrived to Italy, Greece, Spain, and Cyprus by sea from January to December 2018

In general terms, there has been an overall decrease in the level of arrivals of refugees and migrants to Europe in 2018 in comparison to 2017, with relatively lower arrivals in Italy and increased arrivals in Spain and Greece. When it comes to Cyprus, the overall number of sea arrivals has also dropped in comparison to 2017, despite the fact that several boats carrying Syrians arrived directly from Lebanon and Turkey. Between January and December 2018, 10,400 Syrian refugees arrived to Italy, Greece, Spain, and Cyprus by sea. Greece recorded the highest percentage of these arrivals.

Sources:

UNHCR. (2018, December). Desperate journeys: Refugees and migrants arriving in Europe and at Europe's borders: January - December 2018. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/67712.pdf>

UNHCR. (2018, December). Refugees & migrants arrivals to Europe in 2018 (Mediterranean): Jan - Dec 2018. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/68006.pdf>

II. Losses in Human Development and Local Economy inside Syria

US \$226 billion

is the cumulative losses in GDP in Syria from 2011 until the end of 2016

Since the beginning of the conflict in Syria until the end of 2016, the cumulative losses in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) have been estimated at US \$226 billion, about four times the Syrian GDP in 2010. A 2017 report produced by the World Bank revealed simulation results that show that the cumulative GDP losses are largely due to disruptions in the economic organization, more than the capital destruction. This is mainly because the effects of “capital destruction” on investments are limited. Capital can be rapidly rebuilt and its economic repercussions can be contained. However, disruptions in the economic organization have a more negative impact on investments by reducing profitability. The conflict has not only ended lives and destroyed productive factors, but has also “severely diminished economic connectivity, reduced incentives to pursue productive activities, and broken economic and social networks and supply chains”. The contrast between the two different types of economic impact on the GDP raises questions concerning which efforts will be more emphasized and put into perspective in Syria. It was stated that without rebuilding economic institutions and restoring economic networks, replacing the capital damage by itself will not greatly contribute towards recovering the Syrian economy.

Source:

The World Bank. (2017). The toll of war: The economic and social consequences of the conflict in Syria. Retrieved from <http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/syria/publication/the-toll-of-war-the-economic-and-social-consequences-of-the-conflict-in-syria>

800%

is the increase in the food basket prices in Syria as compared to pre-crisis prices

The crisis in Syria has devastated the entire country. Among the many facets of war, the increase in food basket prices is shockingly noticeable. Compared to the pre-crisis period, the food basket prices are currently 800% higher. With intensified depletion of livelihoods assets and opportunities throughout the country, the food insecurity situation in Syria is alarming. It was found that 6.5 million people in Syria are food insecure, while an additional 4 million people are at risk of becoming acutely food insecure. This means that 10.5 million people are considered in need of urgent life-saving and life-sustaining food, agriculture, and livelihoods assistance. It was also found that the reliance on food assistance for a significant proportion of people living in Syria is expected to continue in the coming year. As such, the implementation of agricultural and livelihood interventions in Syria is critical to decrease the self-reliance on assistance, and strengthen the resilience and early recovery for acutely food insecure individuals as well as for those who are at risk of food insecurity.

Source:

UN OCHA. (2018, August). 2018 Humanitarian Response Plan (January - December 2018): Syrian Arab Republic. Retrieved from https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/2018_2018_hrp_syria.pdf

56%

of Syrian refugees in Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, and Jordan who had property in Syria before their flight said in spring 2018 that their property is now “fully destroyed” or “partially damaged/ destroyed but uninhabitable”

The lack of housing or shelter upon return is a major obstacle for the return of Syrians to their country, as emphasized by Syrian refugees in several rounds of a survey on Syrian refugees’ perceptions and intentions regarding their return to Syria. According to the same survey that UNHCR conducted in spring 2018, 74% of refugees in Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, and Jordan mentioned they had a property in Syria before their flight. Among them, 46% stated that their property was “fully destroyed”, and 10% said that their property was “partially damaged/ destroyed but uninhabitable”. Another 30% stated that their property is “inhabitable”, either because it remained “intact” (10%) or because it was only “partially damaged/destroyed but inhabitable” (20%). As for the rest, 14% said that they did not know about the status of their property. The status and conditions of the properties of Syrian refugees inside Syria shall be taken into consideration when working towards enabling a voluntary return in safety and dignity for Syrian refugees and IDPs.

Source:

UNHCR. (2018, July). Fourth regional survey on Syrian refugees’ perceptions and intentions on return to Syria (RPIS). Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/66198>

III. Living Conditions of Displaced Syrians

Shelter	36
Localities	43
Poverty	44

5.3 million

is the number of people in Syria who live in inadequate shelters in 2018

Humanitarian and development needs inside Syria are momentous. These needs include food, health, education, and shelter. In regard to the latter, 5.3 million people in Syria live in inadequate shelters in 2018, with 4.2 million in need of shelter support. The magnitude of the damage of shelter and infrastructure has been massive. As such, the shelter response to the situation in Syria has been challenged with a lack of capacity and funding. This presents a concern, particularly in the context where there are still emergency needs for new displacements as well as needs of a significant number of IDPs who were able or would like to return to their communities of origin. Moreover, the possible increases in returns requires the repair and rehabilitation of damaged shelters and infrastructure, and scale-up and potential further development of return-oriented shelter interventions to address the unique needs of former IDPs as well as refugees returning home.

Source:

UN OCHA. (2018, August). 2018 Humanitarian Response Plan (January - December 2018): Syrian Arab Republic. Retrieved from https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/2018_2018_hrp_syria.pdf

6%

of the Syrian refugee population in Syria's neighboring countries live in camps

Out of the approximately 5.6 million Syrian refugees registered with UNHCR in Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, and Egypt, 362,994 refugees – a mere 6% of the Syrian refugee population – live in camps (as of January 2019). This percentage decreased from almost 8% in 2017. The vast majority of Syrian refugees continue to live with host communities in urban, peri-urban, and rural areas. Many live in impoverished regions alongside their host communities. Formal refugee camps for Syrians only exist in Turkey, Iraq, and Jordan. According to statistics, Iraq has the highest number of refugees in camps (37.1%), followed by Jordan (18.7%), and Turkey (4%). Lebanon has not established formal camps for Syrian refugees, owing to a combination of factors such as the country's experience of hosting Palestine refugees in camps for decades. Similarly in Egypt, there are no refugee camps. Based on the government's non-camp policy, the majority of Syrian refugees in the country are living in urban settings among their Egyptian communities.

Sources:

Inter-Agency Coordination. (2016). 3RP Regional Refugee & Resilience Plan in response to the Syria crisis 2018-2019: Egypt. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/64760>

Inter-Agency Coordination. (2017, December). 3RP Regional Refugee & Resilience Plan 2018-2019 in response to the Syria crisis: Regional strategic overview. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/61264>

UNHCR. (2019, January). Operational portal - Refugee situations: Syria Regional Refugee Response. Retrieved January 21, 2019, from data.unhcr.org: <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/regional.php>

UNHCR. (2019, January). Turkey: Operational update - October 2018. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/67514>

10%

of Syrian refugee households in Lebanon changed accommodation in the six-month period prior to April/May 2018

10% of Syrian refugee households in Lebanon indicated that they had changed accommodation in the six-month period prior to April/May 2018, when data was collected for the 2018 Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon (VASyR), a joint annual survey by UNHCR, UNICEF, and WFP. This is slightly lower than in 2017 (12%). It was found that those who had already moved mentioned eviction as the main reason, along with the cost of rent. According to the survey, 13% of those residing in non-residential shelters had changed accommodations in the past six-month period versus 11% of those living in residential shelters and 6% of those living in non-permanent structures. The main reasons for the changes in accommodation were the same across shelter types, and included eviction by owner or authorities (37%), the fact that the rent was too expensive (25%), and unacceptable shelter/WASH (water, sanitation, and hygiene) conditions (11%). In addition, 7% of Syrian refugee households were planning to change accommodation in the six-month period following the survey, with refugees residing in Beirut and Mount Lebanon having a higher incidence of planning to move than other governorates. The majority (72%) indicated that they plan to reside in apartments and houses as their future accommodation types.

Sources:

UNHCR, UNICEF, & WFP. (2018, December). VASyR 2018: Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/67380>

Inter-Agency Coordination. (2019, March). In focus: Evictions of Syrian refugees in Lebanon in 2018. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/68333>

35%

of Syrian refugees in Lebanon in 2018 live in shelters that are substandard

The condition of shelters in which Syrian refugee households are living are worsening over time. In 2018, more than one-third of refugees indicated that they were residing in substandard shelters (35.5%), a slight increase when compared to 2017 (32%) and 2016 (26%). Among the shelters that were found to be substandard, the most common issues were a leaking roof (83%), followed by having a leakage/rot in walls (63%) and unsealed windows or doors (62%). It was also found that an additional 6% of refugees were residing in shelters in dangerous conditions, a slight increase compared to 2017 (4%) but a decrease compared to 2016 (12%). Moreover, one-third of refugee families (34%) continued to live in overcrowded shelters, defined as having less than 4.5 square meters per person, a proportion which was stable from 2017. Overcrowding was less common in residential shelters (29%) compared to non-residential (49%) and non-permanent (41%) structures.

Source:

UNHCR, UNICEF, & WFP. (2018, December). VASyR 2018: Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/67380>

34%

of Syrian refugee households in Lebanon are living in non-permanent or non-residential structures

In 2018, a decline in the share of households living in residential buildings, and a shift toward non-residential structures across almost all governorates was observed. It was shown that 34% of Syrian refugee households are living in non-permanent or non-residential structures, an increase from 26% in 2017. 19% of these households are residing in non-permanent structures, mainly informal tented settlements. The remaining households (15%) were occupying different non-residential structures such as agricultural rooms, engine rooms, pump rooms, active construction sites, garages, and farms. This is an indication of the inability of Syrian refugees to pay for rent in residential structures, due to increasing debt levels and limited access to work opportunities. Households that remained in residential buildings (66%) mostly reside in apartments and houses. As the refugee crisis in Lebanon is still ongoing and the levels of funding for the Shelter Sector is decreasing, refugees might continue to move to more substandard shelter types, exposing themselves to health risks as well as unsafe and insecure situations.

Source:

UNHCR, UNICEF, & WFP. (2018, December). VASyR 2018: Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/67380>

4.9

is the average household size of Syrian refugees living in Lebanon in 2018

In 2018, the average household size of Syrian refugees living in Lebanon is 4.9. This figure did not change when compared to 2017. However, it witnessed a decline when compared to the years preceding 2017. Household composition was 7.7 in 2013, 5.3 in 2015, eventually reaching 4.9 members in 2017. This has been suggested as an indication of Syrian refugee households moving from extended family households upon arrival in Lebanon towards a more nuclear family set-up. There has not been much variation in the share of households headed by females: 18% in 2018 compared to 19% in 2017. Additionally, looking at households with children or older members, 29% of households had children under the age of two years old, 58% had children under five, 26% had children aged 12 to 14, 21% had children between the ages of 15 and 17, and 10% of households had a member above the age of 59. Those figures remained stable when compared to 2017.

Source:

UNHCR, UNICEF, & WFP. (2018, December). VASyR 2018: Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/67380>

2/3

of monthly expenditures of Syrian refugee households in Jordan is spent on shelter

A study conducted in Jordan, between December 2016 and March 2017, revealed that rent was the largest expense facing Syrian refugee households, accounting for more than two-thirds of monthly expenditures (69%). With the majority of Syrian refugees in Jordan living outside camps, challenges to cover the rent of shelter are mounting. Although cash assistance plays a critical role in helping vulnerable refugee families in meeting their rental payments, the levels of payment have not been sufficient for them to have decent living conditions or to meet other basic needs. The situation might even worsen with the apparent funding shortages. Noteworthy, nearly all Syrian refugees live in rented apartments or houses, but supply constraints have driven up rent costs, and have led to the subdivision of already small spaces, especially in urban areas. It was also found that the housing conditions for those who live in urban host communities are of poor quality and very overcrowded.

Source:

Overseas Development Institute, UNICEF, & UNHCR. (2017, November). A promise of tomorrow: Effects of UNHCR and UNICEF cash assistance on Syrian refugees in Jordan. Retrieved from <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/download.php?id=14564>

8,100

is the number of Syrians who lived in besieged areas inside Syria by June 2018

The United Nations (UN) defines a besieged area as one surrounded by “armed actors with the sustained effect that humanitarian assistance cannot regularly enter, and civilians, the sick and wounded cannot regularly exit”. Of the total number of people living in hard-to-reach areas across the country, 8,100 lived in areas considered besieged by June 2018. As fighting in the densely-populated Eastern Ghouta region has subsided after the first half of 2018, the number of Syrians living in besieged areas has declined. When compared to figures from late 2017, differences are striking. At the end of September 2017, nearly 420,000 people lived in besieged locations, the vast majority of whom (~393,000) lived in Eastern Ghouta. In July 2018, it was reported that Foah and Kefrayal, which were the main two besieged towns, were evacuated. Nevertheless, 1.16 million people are still in need and in hard-to-reach areas. The latter are considered places that are “not regularly accessible to humanitarian actors for the purposes of sustained humanitarian programming but that are not entirely blockaded”.

Sources:

UN OCHA. (2017, October). Syrian Arab Republic: Besieged communities (as of 27 September 2017). Retrieved from <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/whole-of-syria/infographic/syrian-arab-republic-besieged-communities-27-september-2017> OCHA

UN OCHA. (2018, June). Syrian Arab Republic: Overview of hard-to-reach and besieged locations (as of 20 June 2018). Retrieved from https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/acc-11_syr_overview_of_hard_to_reach_areas_and_besieged_locations_20180620.pdf

BBC news. (2018, July). Syria conflict: Besieged towns of Foah and Kefraya evacuated. Retrieved from <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-44870998>

UN OCHA. (2018, October). Syrian Arab Republic: Overview of hard-to-reach locations (as of 29 October 2018). Retrieved from https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/acc-11_syr_overview_of_hard_to_reach_areas_20181029.pdf

69%

of Syrian refugee households in Lebanon were living below the poverty line in 2018

Despite some improvements in vulnerability levels, due to many efforts that included cash assistance programming, 69% of Syrian refugee households still live below the poverty line according to the 2018 Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon. The share of households living below the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) and the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) decreased for the first time since 2015, due to the provision of humanitarian assistance. 51% of Syrian refugee households lived below the SMEB in 2018 compared to 58% in 2017. This means that these households are living in extreme poverty and are unable to meet their survival needs of food, shelter, and health. In Lebanon, other communities also suffer from poverty. 65% of Palestine Refugees in Lebanon and 89% of Palestine Refugees from Syria (PRS) are living below the poverty line. Notably, approximately 1.5 million Lebanese are also currently living in poverty. As mentioned in the 2018 LCRP report, the “long-term resilience of the country’s vulnerable communities is eroding”.

Sources:

UNHCR, UNICEF, & WFP. (2017, December). VASyR 2017: Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/61312>

UN, & Government of Lebanon. (2018, February). Lebanon Crisis Response Plan 2017-2020 (2018 update). Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/61740>

UNHCR, UNICEF, & WFP. (2018, December). VASyR 2018: Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/67380>

52%

of Syrian refugee households in Lebanon currently rely on informal debt as a main source of income

Non-sustainable sources of income were increasingly adopted among Syrian refugee households in Lebanon. It was found that 52% of Syrian refugee households currently rely on informal credit from shops and friends/family as one of their main sources of income, while 32% named the World Food Programme (WFP) assistance, and 16% cited cash assistance from humanitarian organizations, notably UNHCR. As for the debt level, the share of households incurring debt and borrowing money remained extremely high in 2018. Nearly nine out of 10 households acquired debt and 82% borrowed money during the three months prior to the 2018 Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees. It was also indicated that 43% of households with debt have a debt higher than US \$600, while 33% have debt between US \$201-600 and 12% at US \$200 or below. The average debt per household increased by US \$97 in 2018 compared to 2017, reaching an average total amount of US \$1,016 for households, and US \$250 per capita.

Source:

UNHCR, UNICEF, & WFP. (2018, December). VASyR 2018: Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/67380>

US \$111

is the average per capita monthly expenditure of Syrian refugees in Lebanon in 2018

In 2018, Syrian refugees in Lebanon reported an average per capita monthly expenditure of US \$111, representing an increase of US \$13 when compared to 2017 (US \$98). All governorates, except Baalbek-Hermel reported an increase in the per capita monthly expenditure. Nevertheless, this increase was not even across governorates. While Beirut remained the governorate with the highest per capita expenditure (US \$160), Baalbek-Hermel and Bekaa recorded the lowest per capita expenditure (similar to 2017). These figures show that households had more resources to cover their needs. However, some of these resources are due to debt, as nearly nine out of 10 households acquired debt and 82% borrowed money during the three months prior to the Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon.

Source:

UNHCR, UNICEF, & WFP. (2018, December). VASyR 2018: Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/67380>

85%

of Syrian refugees in Jordan live below the poverty line

Jordan has ranked second after Lebanon, which has recorded the highest share of refugees in the world in proportion to its population, by hosting 89 refugees per 1,000 inhabitants. 48% of refugees in Jordan are children, and 4% are elderly. The highest number of refugees in the country come from Syria, followed by Iraq, Yemen, Sudan, Somalia, among other nationalities. The majority of Syrian refugees in Jordan live in urban areas, and are suffering from high rates of poverty. In 2018, it was documented that over 85% of Syrian refugees in Jordan live below the poverty line.

Poverty levels remain high across the region, providing major challenges to the living situation of Syrian refugees. 69% of Syrian refugees in Lebanon were living below the poverty line in 2018. Over 64% of refugee households living outside of camps in Turkey live below the poverty line. 82% of registered Syrian refugees in Egypt have been either classified as highly or severely vulnerable, meaning they have been unable to afford the minimum requirements for a dignified life. It was also shown that the overall situation for refugees in Iraq has been deteriorating, particularly for those who do not have the ability to obtain an income. 37% of refugees in Iraq were estimated to be living below the poverty line. Under such circumstances, refugees continue to face various challenges that affect their ability to sustain their livelihood. These challenges mainly include limited economic opportunities, exhaustion of savings, and adoption of negative coping mechanisms.

Sources:

Inter-Agency Coordination. (2017, December). 3RP Regional Refugee & Resilience Plan 2018-2019 in response to the Syria crisis: Regional strategic overview. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/61264>

UNHCR. (2018, June). Fact sheet: Jordan - June 2018. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/64114.pdf>

UNHCR, UNICEF, & WFP. (2018). VASyR 2018: Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/67380>

88.9%

of Syrian urban refugees in Jordan surveyed in 2017 reported having an average debt level of US \$979, slightly higher than 2016's average reported debt

An income-expenditure gap refers to the difference between income and spending levels, and indicates the extent to which a household can become caught in financial distress. In Jordan, the income-expenditure gap among Syrian urban refugees in 2017 has slightly widened when compared to 2016. It was found that Syrian refugees' expenditures were on average 25% more than their income. In addition, the percentage of Syrian urban refugees who reported that they have debt reached 88.9% in 2017 with an average debt level of US \$979. This amount was marginally higher than the 2016's average reported debt. To cover the income-expenditure gaps, refugees reported utilizing a range of coping strategies, most commonly borrowing money (57%), relying on humanitarian assistance (47%), and selling their property (20%).

Source:

CARE International. (2017, June). 7 years into exile: How urban Syrian refugees, vulnerable Jordanians and other refugees in Jordan are being impacted by the Syria crisis. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/60392>

50%

of Syrian refugee respondents taking part in a household survey between December 2016 and March 2017 in Jordan reported UN cash assistance as their sole source of income

UN cash assistance was the sole source of income for approximately 50% of Syrian refugee respondents taking part in a household survey between December 2016 and March 2017 in Jordan. It was found that cash assistance was allowing households to meet their basic needs without going further into debt, as the reported proportion of households in debt was the lowest among those receiving all three types of UN cash assistance (cash from UNHCR and UNICEF (United Nations Children’s Fund), and food vouchers from WFP). Those receiving all three UN cash (the highest absolute benefit value) were also the ones who had incomes that exceeded their expenditures, unlike those only receiving WFP vouchers. In addition, the survey showed that cash has helped all beneficiaries pay rent, and many reported that it has helped them pay for utilities or move to a better area. UN cash assistance is critical when it comes to helping households meet their expenditure needs in Jordan as well as helping them in avoiding the adoption of negative coping strategies. However, they are not enough to “meet all of the needs families face and cannot resolve the underlying factors that make them vulnerable”.

Source:

Overseas Development Institute, UNHCR, & UNICEF. (November, 2017). A promise of tomorrow: The effects of UNHCR and UNICEF cash assistance on Syrian refugees in Jordan. Retrieved from <https://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/resource-documents/11877.pdf>

20%

is the increase in per capita expenditure of Syrian refugees in Egypt since 2015

The findings of the 2016 Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Egypt revealed that more than 50% of Syrian refugee households were severely vulnerable. The deteriorating economic situation of Egypt, due to the liberalization of the Egyptian pound in late 2016 and the increase of fuel and cooking gas prices, had further affected the purchasing power which added to the hardship of the vulnerable Syrian refugee population. It was found that the per capita expenditure of Syrian refugees has increased by 20% since 2015, with food and rent comprising 80% of total monthly expenditures. In order to address gaps in the households' cash flow, 86% of households borrowed money. This has resulted in 73% of them incurring debt. While needs have been increasing among the refugee community, the capacities to provide assistance have been diminishing due to funding shortages, mainly related to the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP) and its partners' activities.

Sources:

UNHCR. (2017, October). 3RP Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan 2017-2018 in response to the Syria crisis: 2017 progress report. Retrieved from <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/download.php?id=14381>

UNHCR. (2018, January). Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Egypt 2016. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/61527>

IV. Legal Status of Syrian Refugees in Host Countries

21%

of Syrian refugee children born in Lebanon had their birth registered with the Foreigners' Registry in 2018

In Lebanon, registering the birth of a Syrian refugee child requires following a four-step process. It includes 1) obtaining a birth certification from the hospital or midwife, 2) obtaining a birth certificate from the Mukhtar, 3) registering the birth with the local civil registry office (i.e., Nofous), and 4) registering the birth with the Foreigners' Registry. In 2018, 21% of parents managed to complete the four-step process of registering the birth of their child. This figure has slightly increased from 17% in 2017. Yet, it still reflects that the vast majority of Syrian refugee families (79%) are not completing the birth registration process. This is mainly due to the inability of parents to provide all the required documents to register their child, financial costs, and fear of being arrested at checkpoints when traveling to the Foreigners' Registry due to lack legal residency. If the registration of a child is not complete at the time of birth, the process of birth registration at a later stage becomes even more difficult and costly. An unregistered Syrian refugee child may not be recognized as a Syrian national nor obtain proper identity documents, making access to many services, including health care and education, much more challenging. This would also present a major issue upon a return back to Syria.

Source:

UNHCR, UNICEF, & WFP. (2018). VASyR 2018: Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/67380>

18%

of Syrian refugee households in Lebanon reported all members, aged 15 years and above, having legal residency in 2018

18% of Syrian refugee households indicated that all members, aged 15 years and above, had legal residency in 2018, in comparison to 17% in 2017. Without a legal residency, granted by the General Security Office (GSO), individuals and families are at an increased risk of detention and harassment. In addition, refugees without legal residency have limited freedom to travel within the country, and may be thus less likely to access the birth registration offices as well as essential services such as schooling, health, and medical services, among others. Refugees mainly cited the cost of the annual renewal fee of US \$200 as a barrier to obtaining legal residency. Limitations in the capacities of the GSO have also been reported as a challenge that hinders refugees from being able to submit their application for residency. Nevertheless, UNHCR has been supporting the GSO through the provision of equipment to enable electronic processing at numerous GSO centers.

Source:
UNHCR, UNICEF, & WFP. (2018). VASyR 2018: Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/67380>

105,404

is the total number of work permits issued to Syrian refugees in Jordan up until June 2018

According to the Ministry of Labor in Jordan, a total of 105,404 work permits were issued to Syrian refugees living in Jordan during the first six months of 2018. It was also shown that the total number of work permits issued from the beginning of 2018 until June 2018 exceeded the number of work permits issued in the same period in 2017. Noteworthy, figures comparing the issuance of work permits by economic activity between June 2017 and June 2018 revealed significant increases in work permit issuances in sectors that are mainly related to “agriculture, forestry, and fishing”, “construction”, “hospitality and food service activities”, and “public administration and defense”. Figures have also shown that work permit issuances mainly decreased in sectors related to “manufacturing”, “wholesale and retail trade”, and “administrative and support service activities”. For Syrian refugees living in camps in Jordan, the highest number of permits were issued for those who live in the Azraq and Za’atari camps.

Source:

Ministry of Labor. (2018, July). Syrian Refugee Unit Work Permit: Progress report - June 2018. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/64904>

V. Social Relations between Syrian Refugees and Host Communities

1,500,000

is the estimated total number of host community members affected by the Syrian crisis in Lebanon

The Syrian crisis remains one of the largest crises of our time with unparalleled impact on refugees but also on vulnerable host communities. Under the 3RP, 3.9 million members of impacted host communities in Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, and Egypt will be directly targeted for assistance in 2019. Of this figure, 1,005,000 members of impacted Lebanese communities will be targeted. Overall, it is estimated that 1,500,000 host community members are affected by the Syrian crisis in Lebanon. Noteworthy, 87% of Syrian refugees and 67% of the poorest Lebanese are living in the 251 most vulnerable cadasters of the country. These cadasters are marked by poverty, youth unemployment, and high demand for basic services. As such, one would envisage the levels of tensions among refugee and Lebanese communities that are currently facing major burdens of unpredictable duration. The magnitude of the tensions in the different regions in Lebanon should be looked at through a lens that incorporates the complex socio-political system of Lebanon with its “consociational power balance”, “multi-confessional state-society relations”, and “internal and regional-proxy conflicts”.

Sources:

Norwegian Church Aid. (2015, June). The Syrian crisis and its impact on Lebanon - A conflict analysis. Retrieved from http://civilsociety-centre.org/sites/default/files/resources/conflict_analysis_impact_-_norwegian_church_aid_-_2015.pdf

UN, & Government of Lebanon. (2018, February). Lebanon Crisis Response Plan 2017- 2020 (2018 update). Retrieved from https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/LCRP2018_EN_Full_180122.pdf

Inter-Agency Coordination. (2018, December). 3RP Regional strategic overview 2019-2020 - Summary version. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/67235>

UN, & Government of Lebanon. (2019, January). Lebanon Crisis Response Plan 2017-2020 (2019 update). Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/67780>

54%

of Syrian refugees in Lebanon surveyed in 2016 thought their displacement to Lebanon would last for a month or less

More than half of Syrian refugees in Lebanon surveyed in 2016 thought their displacement to Lebanon would last for a month or less. 38% of them believed it would last a month, while 16% thought that they were leaving for only a few days or a few weeks. These figures reveal that a great number of refugees perceived the conflict as temporary, and did not expect it to be protracted in nature. They left their homes in belief that they would be able to go back “to collect their things”. As mentioned in a report published by Oxfam, the difference between the current protracted reality experienced by refugees and what they had expected reflects, to a great extent, the loss of hope or belief in a safe and dignified future, as commonly felt by refugees.

Source:

Oxfam. (2017, May). ‘WE’RE NOT THERE YET...’: Voices of refugees from Syria in Lebanon. Retrieved from <https://policy-practice.oxfam.org.uk/publications/were-not-there-yet-voices-of-refugees-from-syria-in-lebanon-620273>

96.3%

of Lebanese and Syrian respondents reported in a survey that where they live in Lebanon was either 'safe' or 'very safe' during the day

According to the fourth wave of the regular perception surveys on social tensions throughout Lebanon, for which data was collected in June and July 2018, 96.3% of Lebanese and Syrian respondents stated that they felt 'safe' or 'very safe' in their neighborhood during the day, and 90.4% reported the same during the night. When compared to the first wave of the survey, second wave results documented improved perceptions of safety and security in all governorates except for Beirut, where the percentage of respondents who rated their area as 'safe' or 'very safe' had slightly dropped from 99.4% to 93.5%. It was also shown that the perceptions of safety and security improved in cadastres that were identified as vulnerable. 24.9% of respondents residing in vulnerable cadastres stated that the situation has 'improved a lot' or 'improved a little', as opposed to 11.6% of respondents in non-vulnerable cadastres. Positive perceptions regarding the level of safety and security in the areas where refugees and host communities live provide ground for building social cohesion.

Sources:

ARK. (2018, March). Regular perception surveys on social tensions throughout Lebanon: Wave II. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/62549>

ARK. (2018, September). Regular surveys on social tensions throughout Lebanon: Wave IV. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/67048>

94%

of Syrian refugees in Lebanon taking part in a 2018 survey described their relationship with the host community as neutral, positive or very positive

In Lebanon, 94% of Syrian refugee households taking part in the Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in 2018 described their relationship with the host community as neutral, positive or very positive. Across governorates, Bekaa had the highest share of refugee households (55%) indicating a positive relationship with host communities, while the North and the South had the highest shares of refugee households (9% and 8%, respectively) describing this relationship as negative. In addition, when Syrian refugee households were asked about how they felt about the situation and future of their household, 52% of them indicated that they frequently felt negative or hopeless, with only 14% mentioning that they felt somewhat optimistic or optimistic about their situation. Noteworthy, 58% of Syrian refugee female-headed households reported frequently feeling negative or hopeless about their situation, compared to 51% of male-headed households.

Source:

UNHCR, UNICEF, & WFP. (2018, December). VASyR 2018: Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/67380>

13,700

is the number of evicted Syrians tracked by UNHCR in Lebanon in 2017

In 2017, the approximate number of evicted Syrians tracked by UNHCR in Lebanon was 13,700. The main reasons for eviction varied from “risk to security” in the North, Akkar, Bekaa, and Baalbek-Hermel, to “inability to pay rent” in Beirut, Mount Lebanon, South, and Nabatieh. The largest number of families that were evicted (1,300 families) took place in the Bekaa and Baalbek-Hermel, while the lowest number was in the South and Nabatieh (80 families). Most of these evictions were initiated by security forces, landlords, and municipalities. A report published by Human Rights Watch found that Syrian nationals have been targeted disproportionately by Lebanese municipalities for eviction in comparison to Lebanese nationals and other foreigners. Evictions do not only lead to a loss of property and income for refugee families, but can also adversely impact refugee children who often must change schools, miss several months of the academic year or drop out entirely.

The overall number of evictions in Lebanon has gone down in 2018 compared to 2017. This is mainly due to the fact that there were fewer large-scale, collective evictions in 2018 than in 2017. Individual evictions remain highly prevalent, primarily because of refugees’ inability to afford rent payments. As per the 2018 Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon (VASyR), 3.7% of Syrian refugees were evicted in 2018 (estimated number of almost 11,300 households). UNHCR, in collaboration with partners, tracked collective evictions affecting 1,538 households during 2018.

Sources:

UNHCR. (2018, March). Evictions of Syrian refugees in 2017. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/fr/documents/download/63104>

Human Rights Watch. (2018, April). Lebanon: Mass evictions of Syrian refugees. Retrieved from <https://www.hrw.org/news/2018/04/20/lebanon-mass-evictions-syrian-refugees>

UNHCR, UNICEF, & WFP. (2018, December). VASyR 2018: Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/67380>

Inter-Agency Coordination. (2019, March). In focus: Evictions of Syrian refugees in Lebanon in 2018. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/68333>

29.6%

of Syrian refugees in Lebanon have experienced verbal harassment in the three months prior to a survey on social tensions

The Syrian refugee presence in Lebanon has exerted a substantial impact on Lebanese host communities. This has exacerbated the level of insecurity and social tensions among both communities. According to the fourth wave of the regular perception surveys on social tensions throughout Lebanon, administered between June and July 2018, 29.6% of Syrian refugees reported an incident of verbal harassment in the three months prior to the survey. It was shown that Syrian refugees remain much more likely to be subject to verbal harassment than their Lebanese counterparts. In terms of physical harassment, it was reported that the rate was more than twice as high compared to the rate among Lebanese.

Source:

ARK. (2018, September). Regular surveys on social tensions throughout Lebanon: Wave IV. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/67048>

73.9%

of Syrian refugees in Jordan have ‘mostly positive’ relations with their neighbors according to a 2018 survey

In Jordan, two-thirds of Syrian urban refugees reported living in Jordanian-majority neighborhoods while less than one-fifth live in Syrian-majority neighborhoods. An additional 11.3% live in neighborhoods that primarily have Palestinian residents. Syrians generally regard their relations with neighbors as positive. According to a 2018 survey, 73.9% of Syrian refugee respondents mentioned that their relations with their neighbors was ‘mostly positive’, and 94.3% reported that they have no problems with their neighbors. Only 1% of them described the relations as ‘mostly negative’. On the other hand, Jordanians also rated their relationships with their neighbors as positive, with 80% of respondents characterizing the relations as ‘mostly positive’.

Source:

CARE International. (2018, September). 8 years into exile: How urban Syrian refugees, non-Syrian refugees and vulnerable host communities in Jordan are coping and meeting challenges, eight years into the Syria crisis. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/66543>

VI. Health

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120

is the number of attacks on health care facilities in Syria that have been documented over the first six months of 2018, involving 97 deaths and 165 injuries

Attacks on health care facilities inside Syria continue hemorrhaging whatever remains of the health care system. In the first six months of 2018, the World Health Organization (WHO) reported 120 attacks affecting health care, involving 97 deaths and 165 injuries. The majority of these attacks occurred in Idleb and Rural Damascus governorates. In a context where less than half of the previously existing public health facilities remain fully functional and where there is a flight of and attacks on health care workers, the limited abilities to provide health services result in health service gaps in meeting the “normal” health needs of the population. The latter include vaccination, antenatal care, deliveries, and family planning. Noteworthy, there are also increased health needs related to rising cases of trauma, mental health, and physical disability that resulted from the ongoing crisis and displacement and that also require intensive health interventions.

Source:

UN OCHA. (2018, August). 2018 Humanitarian Response Plan: Monitoring report (January - June 2018) - Syrian Arab Republic. Retrieved from https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/2018_syria_mid_year_pmr_full.pdf

82%

of health workers in six governorates in Syria taking part in a 2017 survey said that bombardments reduced the capacity of their facility to below an acceptable standard

The conflict in Syria and the resulting attacks on medical facilities has led to a violation of international humanitarian law. A report published in 2018 confirmed that health facilities and workers have been “intentional, rather than collateral, war casualties”. The same report revealed that even the presence of a facility did not guarantee that it was fully functioning. According to the survey that was conducted with health workers in six governorates in Syria in 2017, 82% of these workers agreed that bombardments had reduced the capacity of their facilities to below an acceptable standard. This had had a devastating effect on the scope of health care that is not only related to the degraded facilities, but also to the limited access to medical supplies, qualified staff, and specialized care as well as the difficult working conditions of the remaining medical staff. However, these attacks had not prevented the continued delivery of care. Health workers showed “incredible resilience working with little to no interruption and remaining committed to saving lives”.

Source:

UKaid, SIM, TRANSTEC, AKTIS, & RMTeam. (2018, August). Protecting healthcare in Syria. Retrieved from https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/SIM%2003-3%20Health%20Protection%20Report_for%20publication%2015h18%20%281%29.pdf

80%

of Syrian refugee families in Lebanon had at least one member with a specific need at the end of 2017

Specific needs, as registered by UNHCR, refer to “child at risk, disability, older person at risk, family separation, specific legal and physical protection needs, unaccompanied or separated child, serious medical condition, single parent, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), torture survivor, woman at risk”. In a report published at the end of 2017, it was shown that 80% of Syrian refugee families in Lebanon had at least one specific need. The level of refugees with specific needs was higher in Lebanon than any other host country in the region. It revealed that the regional average of Syrian refugee households with a specific need was nearly 63% in 2017. Most of the specific needs in the region were related to medical reasons. In addition to medical cases, Lebanon had high rates of family separation and children at risk as well as torture survivors.

Source:

UNHCR. (2017, October). Update: Durable solutions for Syrian refugees. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/60201>

34%

of Syrian refugee households in Lebanon have been classified as moderately and severely food insecure in 2018

In 2018, approximately 34% of Syrian refugee households in Lebanon have been classified as moderately to severely food insecure. This reflects a slight improvement from 2017. The food insecurity distribution at governorate level masks differences at the district level. In Akkar, Aley, Baabda, Hermel, Koura, Hasbaya, Jbeil, Jezzine, Saida, and Zahle, moderate to severe food insecurity decreased in 2018, while in Beirut, Bint Jbeil, Batroun, Metn, Kesrwan, Marjaayoun, and Sour, the percentage of Syrian refugees with moderate and severe food insecurity increased. It was found that, on average, a greater share of food insecure households borrowed money to buy food compared to food secure households. Severely food insecure households were less likely than marginally and moderately food insecure households to borrow money to cover health expenses, which in turn means that they were less likely to have their health needs met. Moreover, food insecure households were much more likely to live in non-permanent shelters than food secure households. In addition, severely food insecure households were much more likely to live in non-residential shelter than the other groups.

Source:

UNHCR, UNICEF, & WFP. (2018). VASyR 2018: Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/67380>

40%

of Syrian refugee female-headed households in Lebanon had severe and moderate food insecurity in 2018

Female-headed households, which constituted 18% of Syrian refugee households in Lebanon in 2018, are still among the most vulnerable. In 2018, 40% of these households suffered from severe and moderate food insecurity, while 32% of male-headed households reported similar patterns of food insecurity. The greater vulnerability of female-headed households has been partly explained by the fact that 55% of them had no working members compared to only 27% of male-headed households. As a matter of fact, 68% of female-headed households have expenditures below the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) of US \$114/month, compared to 82% in 2017. This is similar to levels found among male-headed households.

Source:

UNHCR, UNICEF, & WFP. (2018). VASyR 2018: Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/67380>

87%

of Syrian refugee households in Lebanon that reported to have at least one member in need of primary health care six months prior to a 2018 survey were able to access the care they needed

In 2018, 54% of Syrian refugee households in Lebanon reported that they have at least one member who needed primary health care six months prior to the 2018 Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees. Of these households, 87% reported that they received the care they required. When compared to the results of the same survey in 2017, it was found that the percentage of households requiring primary health care services increased by 8%. Regarding the access to hospitalization, the figures remained stable when compared to 2017, with three quarters of households reporting being able to access hospitalization (77% in 2018, compared to 78% in 2017). Regional variations in access to hospitalization are similar to those for the access to primary health care, with Beirut and Mount Lebanon having the highest percentage of households unable to get the needed care. 69% of households that reported needing but not accessing hospitalization in the six-month period prior to the survey cited cost of treatment as the main barrier to access. Other commonly cited barriers included transportation costs, and the inability to secure a deposit. Supporting the health system in countries hosting refugees is key to maintain the populations' health.

Source:

UNHCR, UNICEF, & WFP. (2018, December). VASyR 2018: Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/67380>

94.5%

of the total population of Palestine refugees from Syria was food insecure in Lebanon in 2017, with a 3.5% increase when compared to 2014

94.5% of the total population of PRS is food insecure in Lebanon, with 63.2% as severely food insecure and 31.3% as moderately food insecure. When compared to 2014, this figure represents an increase of food insecurity by 3.5%. LCRP's Food Security Sector will continue to play "its humanitarian and stabilization roles to ensure availability of and accessibility to food" for the most vulnerable among the large population of displaced Syrians, Lebanese, and PRS. Its current priorities remain directed towards providing direct and critical food assistance, promoting agricultural investment in order to improve agricultural opportunities for Lebanese small-scale farmers, and supporting national and local food security systems. Yet, PRS vulnerabilities remain the result of a double and protracted displacement, and as stated, are not anticipated to improve. Their lack of legal status and limited access to employment affect all aspects of their well-being.

Sources:

MoA, & 3RP Food Security Sector. (2017, October). Food Security Sector: Presentation Ministry of Agriculture. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/60183>

Inter-Agency Coordination. (2018, July). Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (2017-2020): Annual report - 2017. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/64657>

12%

of monthly expenditures of Syrian refugee households in Lebanon in 2018 was spent on health

In 2018, Syrian refugees in Lebanon reported an average per capita monthly expenditure of US \$111, representing an increase of US \$13 compared to 2017 (US \$98). Looking at the expenditure at the household level, patterns were almost similar in 2017 and 2018. Food (40%), rent (20%), and health (12%) continued to represent the most significant expenses, accounting for nearly 75% of the total. Noteworthy, UNHCR pays up to 75% of the total cost of a wide range of hospital services for Syrian refugees in Lebanon, including life-saving emergencies, delivery services, and care for newborn babies. Additionally, UNHCR covers 85% of the cost of laboratory and diagnostic tests for patients with mental and physical disabilities. Yet, with high levels of poverty among Syrian refugees in Lebanon, the ability to acquire care and cover its expenses, as minimal as they might be, is compromised.

Sources:

UNHCR. (2017, September). Health services for Syrian refugees in Mount Lebanon and Beirut. Retrieved from <http://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/5912>

UNHCR, UNICEF, & WFP. (2018, December). VASyR 2018: Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/67380>

56.4%

of adult Syrian refugees in Jordan taking part in a 2017 survey have restricted their food consumption so that children could eat

More than half of adult Syrian refugees (56.4%) in Jordan mentioned in a 2017 survey that they have restricted their food consumption so that children could eat. In the same survey, Syrian refugees reported resorting to other forms of coping mechanisms. 83.9% of them stated relying on less preferred, cheaper, and lower quality foods at least once one week prior to the survey. 72.7% reported reducing the number of meals eaten during the day. Other coping mechanisms were also used, mostly related to borrowing money, reducing other types of household expenditures, spending savings, selling household goods, and selling productive assets. Food-related needs were particularly reported to be a burden on Syrian refugee female-headed households as well as female Syrian refugees in general, who face large obstacles in accessing and maintaining income-generating opportunities. With shortages in funding levels requested by different plans to respond to the Syrian crisis in Jordan and the region, providing the required food aid to refugees might be jeopardized. This will lead to dramatic consequences on Syrian refugees, and might increase their food insecurity to a dangerous level.

Source:

CARE International. (2017, June). 7 years into exile: How Syrian refugees, vulnerable Jordanians and other refugees in Jordan are being impacted by the Syria crisis. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/es/documents/download/60392>

1,623,233

is the total number of subsidized primary health care consultations that were provided to Syrian refugees and their host community in Lebanon from January to December 2018

In Lebanon, Syrian refugees can have access to a range of subsidized primary health care services. Under the LCRP, 1,623,233 subsidized primary health care consultations were provided to Syrian refugees and their Lebanese host community from January to December 2018, fulfilling around 75% of the 2018 annual target of providing 2,152,000 subsidized health care services. Despite funding shortages for the LCRP's Health Sector in 2018, Lebanon's health system has been able to adapt to the high demand for services from refugees and impoverished host communities. Nevertheless, funding constraints are affecting the ability of the national health care system to continue in its efforts to provide quality and adequate services to refugees as well as vulnerable populations. This can leave refugees with high chances of paying out-of-pocket expenses for their health care in the coming years, and can exacerbate their poverty levels. Noteworthy, any shift from funding humanitarian responses to development-focused interventions should not jeopardize basic needs of refugees and their hosts.

Source:

Inter-Agency Coordination. (2019, February). 2018 end year statistical dashboard. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/67919>

VII. Education

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2 million

school-age children inside Syria were out of school during the 2017/2018 academic year

Children in Syria continue to suffer from the consequences of war. In 2017, the Syria Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM4Syria) verified 26 attacks on educational facilities. It was shown that these attacks resulted in the destruction of, or damage to, 40% of the school infrastructure. These attacks led to an increased number of deaths, injuries, and learning interruptions. In addition, over 150,000 teachers have left their positions since the beginning of the crisis. The reality of the education sector in Syria puts the fate of the new Syrian generation at a serious risk, and can have major consequences on their well-being, livelihoods, and future. An estimated two million school-age children in Syria were out of school during the 2017/2018 academic year.

Sources:

UNICEF. (2017). Syria Crisis: 2017 humanitarian results. Retrieved from <https://www.unicef.org/mena/sites/unicef.org.mena/files/2018-02/UNICEF-Syria-Crisis-Humanitarian-Situation-Report-Year-End-2017.pdf>

UN OCHA. (2018, August). 2018 Humanitarian Response Plan (January - December 2018): Syrian Arab Republic. Retrieved from https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/2018_2018_hrp_syria.pdf

No Lost Generation. (2019). Investing in the future: Protection and learning for all Syrian children and youth. Retrieved from http://www.nolostgeneration.org/sites/default/files/webform/contribute_a_resource_to_nlg/9466/190227_brussels_conference_report_2019_lo_res_.pdf

150,000

is the number of teachers who have left their positions in the education sector in Syria since the beginning of the crisis

One of the dimensions of the damaging impact of war and displacement could be clearly observed in the education sector in Syria. Since the beginning of the crisis, over 150,000 teachers have left their positions. This has led to a severe gap in the capacities of available teachers and in their knowledge and skills to handle children who have missed out on education and are in need of psychosocial support and risk awareness. In 2018, around 27% of children dropped out of primary school, partially due to the low quality of teaching and overcrowded classrooms. In response, UNICEF adopted several initiatives such as providing teachers with professional development programs, developing accelerated as well as self-learning programmes, and rehabilitating damaged schools. Nevertheless, many challenges related to funding shortfalls, capacities of partners, and families' lack of livelihoods continue to exist. The fear of a lost generation is still real.

Sources:

UNICEF. (2017). Syria crisis: 2017 humanitarian results. Retrieved from <https://www.unicef.org/mena/sites/unicef.org.mena/files/2018-02/UNICEF-Syria-Crisis-Humanitarian-Situation-Report-Year-End-2017.pdf>

UNICEF. (2018, September). Syria crisis: September 2018 humanitarian results. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/UNICEF%20Syria%20Crisis%20Humanitarian%20Situation%20Report%20-%20September%202018.pdf>

39%

of school-age Syrian refugee children in Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, and Egypt remained out of formal and non-formal education between December 2017 and December 2018

In Syria and the five main countries hosting refugees (Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, and Egypt), two-thirds of the school-age population between the ages of 5 and 17 years or an estimated 5 million school-age Syrian children are enrolled in formal and non-formal education. Trends continue to show stability in enrollment inside Syria. During the 2017/2018 academic year, it is estimated that the number of out of school children stayed similar to the 2016/2017 school year at around 2 million. Inside Syria, school-age children not enrolled in formal education are considered as out of school. In host countries, figures show progress in enrollment in formal education of Syrian school-age children, from 1.09 million in December 2017 to 1.14 million in December 2018. Yet, noteworthy, the number of school-age refugees had also increased from 1.81 million in December 2017 to 1.92 million in December 2018. Nevertheless, the total number of children in education dwindled slightly as the number of Syrian children enrolled in regulated non-formal education decreased from 159,378 in December 2017 to 119,806 in December 2018. As a result, 801,763 (39%) school-age Syrian refugee children were considered out of both formal and regulated non-formal education in the five host countries between December 2017 and December 2018.

Source:

No Lost Generation. (2019). Investing in the future: Protection and learning for all Syrian children and youth. Retrieved from http://www.nolostgeneration.org/sites/default/files/webform/contribute_a_resource_to_nlg/9466/190227_brussels_conference_report_2019_lo_res_.pdf

46%

of school-age Syrian refugee children in Lebanon remained out of school between December 2017 and December 2018

Currently, there are approximately 666,491 school-age Syrian refugee children in Lebanon (5-17 years). Out of this figure, only around 290,102 Syrian refugee children were enrolled in both morning and afternoon shifts between December 2017 and December 2018, and an additional 67,456 children in certified non-formal education. This shows that nearly half of refugee children (46%) are still out of school or out of any type of learning, mainly adolescents and youth. According to the 2018 Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon, the share of refugee children between 12 and 14 years of age enrolled in grades 7 to 9 (lower secondary school) was stable at 23% (compared to 22% in 2017). Net attendance was also relatively stable at 11%, compared to 13% in 2017. Strikingly, the share of Syrian adolescents between the ages of 17 and 19 years who were enrolled in grades 10 to 12 (upper secondary school) dropped from 5% in 2017 to 3% in 2018. Attendance rates for this age group were the highest in the North (8%), and the lowest in Akkar (less than 1%). The most common reasons for not attending school were found to be related to the inability to afford the cost of transportation to school, and the inability to afford the cost of educational materials. Additional reasons were related to the fact that the school did not allow the children to be enrolled as well as work-related reasons such as when children were looking for work or were not attending due to work.

Sources:

UNHCR, UNICEF, & WFP. (2018, December). VASyR 2018: Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/67380>

No Lost Generation. (2019). Investing in the future: Protection and learning for all Syrian children and youth. Retrieved from http://www.nolostgeneration.org/sites/default/files/webform/contribute_a_resource_to_nlg/9466/190227_brussels_conference_report_2019_lo_res_.pdf

7,315

is the number of Syrian students who were enrolled in private and public universities in Lebanon during the 2017/2018 academic year

Higher education can play a crucial role in protecting young refugees. According to UNHCR, it helps in supporting future generations of educated individuals who can work in different sectors and engage in their communities. In addition, through the acquisition of knowledge and skills obtained from higher education (and often the acquisition of a new language), educated young refugees would have a greater chance of becoming self-reliant. In Lebanon, young refugee students face major challenges when accessing higher education. A study done in 2017 revealed that these challenges mainly include 1) legal issues related to certificates of academic qualifications, proof of registration, and restrictive government policies and procedures (including residence restrictions), 2) lack of academic and career counseling, representing a pathway to the labor market or further education, 3) academic barriers related to issues of language and academic qualifications, 4) psychosocial barriers, and 5) financial shortcomings due to funding gaps and financial affordability. It was found that only 7,315 Syrian students (5,715 in private universities, and 1,600 in public universities) were enrolled in private and public universities in Lebanon during the 2017/2018 academic year. These numbers have not been dramatically changing over the years. For example, during the 2013/2014 academic year, 5,549 Syrians were enrolled in universities. Particular attention should be directed towards ensuring the access of refugees to tertiary education. Investments shall ensure an equitable tertiary education provision that meets the needs of refugees as well their Lebanese counterparts, and respond to the lack of capacities among institutions as well as the gaps within the labor market.

International responsibility helps refugees overcome the major education barriers they are facing.

Sources:

El-Ghali, H. A., Berjaoui, R., & DeKnight, J. (2017, July). Higher education and Syrian refugee students: The case of Lebanon policies, practices, and perspective. Retrieved from http://www.aub.edu.lb/ifi/Documents/publications/research_reports/2016-2017/20170702_refugee_education.pdf

Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE). (2018). Number of Syrian students enrolled in universities in Lebanon 2013-2018.

El-Ghali, H. A., Alameddine, F., Farah, S., & Benchiba, S. (2019). Pathways to and beyond education for refugee youth in Jordan and Lebanon. Retrieved from https://www.aub.edu.lb/ifi/Documents/publications/research_reports/2018-2019/20190305_pathway_to_and_beyond_education.pdf

UNHCR. (2019). Tertiary education. Retrieved from <https://www.unhcr.org/tertiary-education.html>

71%

of Syrian refugee children in Lebanon aged between 3 and 18 years who were in schools during the 2017/2018 school year were enrolled in the afternoon shifts

Since the onset of the Syrian refugee crisis, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) in Lebanon has been intensively working towards ensuring the enrollment of Syrian refugees in schools. In the early stages of the crisis, Syrian refugee children were enrolled in the regular morning shift, studying side-by-side with their Lebanese peers. However, with the increasing number of refugee children, MEHE and UNHCR launched a “second shift” that runs in the afternoon from 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm in order to accommodate a higher number of Syrian refugee children in Lebanese public schools. 376 second shift schools were initially opened, of which around 350 schools remain open and at capacity. Approximately 71% of Syrian refugee children in Lebanon aged between 3 and 18 years who were in schools during the 2017/2018 school year were enrolled in these afternoon shifts. Such efforts contribute to MEHE’s strategy of Reaching all Children with Education in Lebanon (R.A.C.E.), which aims at reaching all school-age children in Lebanon, including more than 250,000 refugee children, with formal and accredited education opportunities. Providing refugee children with access to schooling is commendable. Yet, more is needed to improve the quality of education and to reduce the drop outs among Syrian refugee children.

Sources:

UNHCR. (2016). UNHCR Lebanon: Back to school. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Backtoschoolbrochure2016portal.pdf>

UNHCR. (2018). Education. Retrieved from [unhcr.org: http://www.unhcr.org/lb/education](http://www.unhcr.org/lb/education)

73%

of Syrian refugee children in Lebanon under the age of 18 experienced at least one form of violent discipline in 2018

The Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon in 2018 revealed that a significant majority of Syrian refugee children under the age of 18 (73%) had experienced at least one form of violent discipline, a slight decrease from 78% in 2017. This high percentage of violent discipline is worrying. Violent discipline mainly reflects psychological aggression as well as physical aggression. It was indicated that the lack of access to basic social services as well as protection and livelihood opportunities, among the displaced population as well as the host community, has increased the vulnerabilities of families and affected the protective environment in the home, community, and schools. The LCRP's Protection Sector has been directing its efforts towards ensuring a safe protective environment for children. These efforts include a collaboration with involved partners in the Education Sector to prevent children and adolescents from dropping out of school and curbing violence inside and outside schools. Furthermore, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) has been strengthening its institutional capacity to promote a safe, child-friendly, and protective environment in schools through many initiatives that include, but are not limited to, the adoption and roll-out of the child protection policy, referral mechanisms within MEHE to properly detect and refer children at risk (including those with disabilities, and victims of violence, abuse and exploitation), and increased access to technical and vocational training and education. Yet, shortages in funding can jeopardize the continuation of all related efforts.

Sources:

UN, & Government of Lebanon. (2018, November). LCRP 2017-2020: Protection Sector chapter (situation analysis, strategy and logframe) - 2018 update. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/62236>

UNHCR, UNICEF, & WFP. (2018, December). VASyR 2018: Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/67380>

55%

of the requested funds to support the Education Sector under the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan for 2018 were received by December 2018

For the 3RP's Education Sector, US \$873 million were required in 2018 in order to ensure increased access to safe, equitable, and quality education for Syrian children and youth living in neighboring host countries. However, only 55% of the requested funds were received by December 2018. This shortage in funding affects all related efforts, which also include finding solutions to the underlying causes of school drop outs. For example, in Iraq, transportation support was provided as a solution to refugee children who had dropped out of school because of long distances. As for Egypt, educational grants were considered as an approach to prepare students to register for the academic year. Without the required financial support, the fear of a lost generation among Syrian refugee children is real.

Sources:

Inter-Agency Coordination. (2018, September). Quarterly update: 3RP achievements - March 2018. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/63820.pdf>

Inter-Agency Coordination. (2019, March). Quarterly update: 3RP achievements - December 2018. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/68376.pdf>

US \$1,500

is the average annual cost for every child enrolled in public basic education in Lebanon

The Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) and LCRP's education partners have been working towards strengthening the public education system in Lebanon with the priority of increasing and sustaining the enrollment of displaced Syrian children in the formal public education system. This includes support to prepare out of school children to enter schools, to improve the quality of education through providing supplies and trainings to teachers in the most vulnerable localities in the country, and to empower adolescents and youth to continue their education. Support was also provided to cover parents' contributions to school funds and parents committees' funds. This has allowed MEHE to waive fees for all Lebanese and non-Lebanese children enrolled in basic education in public schools. Nevertheless, as it was reported, the government still bears a large bulk of education costs. For example, the average annual cost of public basic education is US \$1,500 per child, and the cost of public secondary education is US \$2,000 per child. Yet, education donors' contributions have been limited to US \$363 per child for the first shift and US \$600 per child for the second shift (including tuition fees). The higher cost of the second shift is due to all the running costs that are needed to operate a second shift, such as school and parental contribution fees, salaries of school personnel and teachers, depreciation of educational infrastructure, maintenance fees, etc.

Sources:

UN, & Government of Lebanon. (2015). Lebanon Crisis Response Plan 2015-16: Year two. Retrieved from http://www.3rpsyriacrisis.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/20151223_LCRP_ENG_22Dec2015-full-versionoptimized.pdf

UN, & Government of Lebanon. (2018, February). Lebanon Crisis Response Plan 2017- 2020 (2018 update). Retrieved from https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/LCRP2018_EN_Full_180122.pdf

94%

of registered Syrian refugees in Lebanon are not aware of the availability of non-formal education opportunities

The Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) in Lebanon has established several non-formal education (NFE) pathways. Community-based and regular early childhood education (ECE) prepare children between 3-5 years for enrollment in schools. Children between 7 and 14 years who have missed out on schooling can access MEHE's Accelerated Learning Programme (ALP), which prepares them for enrollment in formal education. Those between 10 and 14 years with no prior schooling can access the Basic Literacy and Numeracy (BLN) track. Noteworthy, children within this age group might have learning gaps that hinder them from enrolling in formal education. Children and young people between 15 and 20 years can access an ALP programme, sit for Brevet exams, or benefit from BLN training. It is important to note that Non-Governmental Organization (NGOs) involved in the delivery of these NFE programmes are examined by MEHE. The provision of certified non-formal education provides reintegration pathways to formal education, as well as an equitable option for children who are currently out of school to access vocational education or vocational training opportunities. The latter will be fully mainstreamed within the Youth Programme and will support relevant and smooth school-to-work transition. Nevertheless, very few refugees in Lebanon are aware of the non-formal education pathways. A study, published in 2017, showed that only 6% of Syrians registered with UNHCR are aware of the availability of non-formal education activities and programme. The percentage is the same for Syrians living in informal settlements across Lebanon.

Sources:

UNICEF. (2016, May). Lebanon country office: Education strategy note. Retrieved from http://files.unicef.org/transparency/documents/Lebanon_Education_StrategyNote_3MAY2016.pdf

UNICEF. (2017, November). Cross sectoral formative research: Knowledge, attitude, and practice study. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int/report/lebanon/cross-sectoral-formative-research-knowledge-attitude-and-practice-study>

VIII. Livelihoods

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78%

is the youth unemployment rate in Syria

The Syrian Central Bureau of Statistics reported that more than 50% of Syrians residing in Syria are unemployed. This percentage is even higher among youth, with a 78% unemployment rate. Despite the significant humanitarian response in Syria and the implementation of various response modalities, it remains extremely challenging to mitigate the effects of the crisis, particularly for male youth who need safe and appropriate livelihood opportunities. Without support in sustaining livelihoods or bridging the gap between emergency and longer-term assistance, it is predicted that the consequences would include increased unemployment, economic hardship, and dependence on assistance. Moreover, people returning to their homes would be more vulnerable, and their self-reliance would diminish in a context where livelihood or economic opportunities are limited.

Source:

UN OCHA. (2018, August). 2018 Humanitarian Response Plan (January - December 2018): Syrian Arab Republic. Retrieved from https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/2018_2018_hrp_syria.pdf

32%

of Syrian refugee households in Lebanon did not have a working member in 2018

In 2018, 32% of Syrian refugee households in Lebanon did not have a working member. This means that one-third of refugee households do not have any active breadwinner. To overcome the difficulties of the situation, Syrian refugees continue to rely heavily on humanitarian assistance and adopt livelihood coping strategies. The Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon in 2018 found that nearly all households (97%) applied livelihood coping strategies, which are classified into three categories according to their severity: stress, crisis, and emergency. However, there was a general tendency for those coping strategies to be less severe. It was shown that the use of crisis strategies, including selling productive assets, withdrawing children from school for work, reducing non-food expenses, and marrying off children under 18, registered a decrease from 55% (2017) to 51% (2018). As a consequence, the share of households resorting to stress coping strategies, including spending savings, selling household goods, buying on credit, and incurring debt, increased from 30% to 34%.

Source:

UNHCR, UNICEF, & WFP. (2018, December). VASyR 2018: Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/67380>

4%

of Syrians in Lebanon work in occupations that require higher skill levels

An assessment done by the International Labour Organization (ILO) showed that Syrian refugees in Lebanon tend to maintain the same kind of jobs they used to occupy before the crisis. The largest majority of Syrian refugee workers work in unskilled jobs that are mostly manual. The latter include agricultural activities, construction, and other types of services such as personal services. These jobs provide little income and no security or protection, reflecting the low skill capacities of refugees. Others work in semi-skilled jobs, such as carpeting, metal works, and food processing. Skilled workers who hold positions that require a higher level of education, constitute the smallest share of Syrian refugee labor (13%). Among these workers, only 4% are represented in occupations that require higher skill levels, such as technicians and professionals. Among the regions, Tripoli has the most skilled workers, while Bekaa has the highest share of unskilled workers.

Sources:

ILO. (2013). Assessment of the impact of Syrian refugees in Lebanon and their employment profile. Retrieved from http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---arabstates/---ro-beirut/documents/publication/wcms_240134.pdf

ILO. (2017). Labour market information: Review and analysis in-focus on Northern Lebanon. Retrieved from https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---arabstates/---ro-beirut/documents/publication/wcms_559670.pdf

4.6%

of Syrian refugee children in Lebanon worked at least one day in the 30 days period prior to a survey in 2018

The main three reasons for children having to work are related to the 1) lack of income or household resources (due to a poor economic situation or chronic poverty), 2) lack of access to education (or quality of education), and 3) harmful social norms. According to the 2018 Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon, the share of working children (i.e., having worked at least one day in the preceding 30 days) remained stable at 4.6%, compared to 4.8% in 2017. When assessing child labor, 2.2% of Syrian refugee children between the ages of 5 and 17 were found to be performing economic activities or household chores for more than the age-specific number of hours in the week prior to the same assessment survey. Noteworthy, work carried out by children constitutes child labor when 1) the child is too young, 2) the work is limiting the child's education or 3) the work is harmful to the child's emotional and physical well-being and development. There is still a crucial need for the implementation of strategies that reduce the adoption of negative coping mechanisms among Syrian refugee households, and that mitigate critical child protection risks, such as child labor, child marriage and the use of violent discipline.

Sources:

Inter-Agency Coordination. (2018, November). In focus: Child labour in Lebanon. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/67049>

UN, & Government of Lebanon. (2018, November). LCRP 2017-2020: Protection Sector chapter (situation analysis, strategy and logframe) - 2018 update. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/62236>

UNHCR, UNICEF, & WFP. (2018, December). VASyR 2018: Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/67380>

29%

of Syrian refugees between the ages of 15 and 24 years were working in Lebanon in 2018

In 2018, 29% of Syrian refugee youth (between the ages of 15 and 24 years) were working in Lebanon, a slight increase compared to 24% in 2017. Among those who were working, 86% reported working in three sectors: construction (24%), agriculture (29%), and ‘other services’ (33%). The latter include working in personal services such as cleaning, hair care, cooking, and child care, and in other types of services in hotels, restaurants, transport, etc. These sectors do not provide fixed-term jobs, and can sometimes be affected by several external factors. For instance, it was shown that the noticeable drop in the percentage of men working in the Bekaa region almost one month prior to the 2018 vulnerability assessment survey of Syrian refugees might have been partly attributable to the lack of rainfall and pollution, which deteriorated major crops in the agriculture season and led to the lack of jobs. On the other hand, in Nabatieh, agriculture increased as a main sector of work due to the clearing and the cultivation of the agricultural land. On another note, the same survey has also found that high employment rates in certain areas across Lebanon is also linked to high rates of legal residency and resulting mobility. This has been particularly the case in the South and Nabatieh.

Source:

UNHCR, UNICEF, & WFP. (2018, December). VASyR 2018: Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/67380>

5

is the average number of times an income earner in a Syrian refugee household has changed jobs since arriving to their area of residence in Jordan

In a report published in September 2017, it was found that only 50% of surveyed Syrian refugees in Jordan derive their primary source of income from work. Those who were able to find work often changed their employment due to low wages, transportation costs, work permits, and poor working conditions. On average, an income earner was found to be changing jobs five times since they arrived to their area of residence in Jordan, as reported in the study. The average number of times Syrian refugees in Jordan were changing jobs was shown to be slightly more common in construction and agriculture compared to sectors related to food processing and manufacturing. It was also noticeable that the majority of those who changed jobs did not have work permits (67%) for the sector they were working in. Many Syrians reported that they were reluctant to travel distances for work because they do not have work permits, and are afraid of being stopped by authorities. Others were reluctant to formalize their employment out of fear of losing the cash assistance they were receiving. It is, for all these reasons and among others, that unemployment and dependency on cash assistance remain endemic amongst Syrian refugees living in Jordan. Understanding the livelihood strategies of refugees is key in building their resilience.

Source:

Danish Refugee Council, & UNHCR. (September, 2017). Understanding alternatives to cash assistance - Jordan. Retrieved from https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/UNHCR%20Livelihoods%20Assessment_Sep%202017_Online.pdf

34%

of the requested funds to support the Livelihoods Sector under the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan in response to the Syria crisis for 2018 were received by December 2018

Four years into 3RP planning, the appeal dedicated to the resilience/stabilization-based development component has increased, from 28% in 2015 to 36% in 2018. Although this has been shown as an increase in the commitment of 3RP partners and donors in supporting programmes that strengthen resilience among refugees, host communities, and local as well as national institutions, persistent funding shortages at the sector levels affect all related efforts. This is particularly important when reflecting on the funding level for the Social Cohesion and Livelihoods Sector, which had key strategies for 2018. These strategies include 1) enhancing employability of refugees and host community members, 2) creating employment or income generating opportunities, 3) fostering a business environment for job creation, and 4) promoting social stability through direct community-based programmes as well as indirect approaches. As of December 2018, only 34% of the requested funds to support the Livelihoods Sector under the 3RP for 2018 were received. This regional funding level ranked the lowest among all other sectors (protection, food security, education, health and nutrition, education, basic needs, shelter, and WASH (water, sanitation, and hygiene)).

Sources:

Inter-Agency Coordination. (2017, December). 3RP Regional Refugee & Resilience Plan 2018-2019 in response to the Syria crisis: Regional strategic overview. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/61264>

Inter-Agency Coordination. (2019, March). Quarterly update: 3RP achievements - December 2018. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/68376.pdf>

32%

of the requested funding to support the Livelihoods Sector of the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan was available in 2018

LCRP's Livelihoods Sector in Lebanon is working towards 1) stimulating local economic development and market systems to create income-generating opportunities and employment, 2) improving workforce employability, and 3) strengthening policy development and enabling an environment for job creation. Only 32% of the appeal for 2018 to support this sector was available. This represents a staggering shortage in funding, which in turn, affects the efforts that target the economic conditions of vulnerable communities, including refugees and their host communities. These efforts also consist of addressing the competition over job opportunities, which is one key driver of social tensions between refugee and host communities.

Source:

Inter-Agency Coordination. (2019, March). Livelihoods: 2018 end of year dashboard. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/68242>

986

local businesses in Lebanon were supported through in-kind & cash grants and technology transfers as part of the response to the Syria crisis in 2018

Supporting the private sector can play a crucial role in fostering local economic development and providing job opportunities for host and refugee communities in Lebanon. Businesses are considered “key drivers of inclusive and sustainable growth”, which deliver indispensable goods and services while providing employment opportunities. The Livelihoods Sector under the LCRP has been working towards supporting the development of small businesses in order to foster job creation in vulnerable areas. It has also been working with the private sector, which is considered as a partner and not only as a beneficiary. Most of the livelihood programmes have been including components that work on engaging the private sector in bridging the gap between the demand and the supply side of labour. Overall, 986 local businesses were supported through in-kind & cash grants and technology transfers in 2018. This feeds into LCRP’s broad objective of reinforcing Lebanon’s stability and resilience. Supporting economies of local host communities goes hand-in-hand with responding to the needs of Syrian refugees in Lebanon.

Sources:

Government of Lebanon, UN, & LCRP Livelihoods Working Group. (2017). Private sector engagement lessons learnt workshop report. Retrieved from <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/download.php?id=14059>

Inter-Agency Coordination. (2019, March). Livelihoods: 2018 End of year dashboard. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/68242>

2,365

is the number of jobs created or maintained in Lebanese businesses under the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan in 2018

The Livelihoods Sector under the LCRP has been able to contribute towards “maintaining Lebanon’s economic stability by mitigating the deterioration in the economic condition of vulnerable populations”. In 2017, and in line with the Ministry of Economy’s SME (small and medium-sized enterprises) strategy, 2,738 micro, small and medium enterprises and cooperatives were supported. In addition, in 2018, 2,365 jobs were created or maintained, an almost five-fold increase when compared to 2016. However, most of these jobs (94%) were maintained rather than created. This is mostly because support was mainly provided to nano-businesses, which typically have one or two employees, and are more likely to safeguard existing jobs than create new ones. However, although these figures are reassuring, they remain limited in terms of the number of people that are directly impacted in a context where poverty is affecting 69% of Syrian refugees and 28% of Lebanese.

Sources:

Inter-Agency Coordination. (2018, July). Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (2017-2020): Annual report - 2017. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/64657>

UNHCR, UNICEF, & WFP. (2018, December). VASyR 2018: Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/67380>

Inter-Agency Coordination. (2019, March). Livelihoods: 2018 end of year dashboard. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/68242>

IX. Spending and Investments of Syrian Refugees in Host Communities

US \$334 million

is the amount spent by Syrians in Turkey as initial investments in 6,033 newly established formal companies from 2011 to early 2017

In Turkey, Syrians themselves are contributing to creating jobs, and participating in the Turkish economy by establishing businesses. From 2011 to early 2017, Syrians established 6,033 new formal companies with initial investments of US \$334 million. Other estimates revealed that the Syrian capital investments totaled around US \$1-1.5 billion. Indeed, these investments continue increasing as long as the number of refugee-owned businesses increases over time. As of 2018, around 8,000 refugee-owned businesses have been recorded as formally registered companies in Turkey. Moreover, it was found that the share of new Syrian-owned firms among all new foreign-owned firms in Turkey has also increased, reaching 39% in 2016 and “ranking number one among foreign founders of new companies each year since 2013”. In a survey done with business owners of 230 Syrian-owned small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Istanbul and Gaziantep between January and April 2017, 39% of Syrian entrepreneurs mentioned that they plan to keep their businesses in Turkey, and 39% plan to start another business in Turkey, even if the war ends in Syria. Creating the right enabling environment will allow refugees to become valuable assets capable of giving back to host societies through their complementary skills, diversity, and eagerness to prove themselves.

Sources:

Building Markets. (2017, June). Another side to the story: A market assessment of Syrian SMEs in Turkey. Retrieved from https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/another_side_to_the_story_a_market_assessment_of_syrian_smes_in_turkey.pdf

UNDP, ILO & WFP. (2017). Jobs make the difference: Expanding economic opportunities for Syrian refugees and host communities. Retrieved from <https://www.jobsmakethedifference.org/full-report>

Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey. (2017).

UNHCR. (2018, October). Turkey: Self-reliance and livelihoods. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/66264>

X. Responses to the Syrian Crisis

Humanitarian Aid Channelled to Governments of Host Communities to Support the Syrian Crisis 108

Gaps in Funding for Year 2018 116

US \$7.9 billion

is the total amount in grants that was pledged by donors to Syria, Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt to support the Syria crisis response for 2018-2020

A total of US \$7.9 billion in grants was pledged by donors at the second Brussels conference for 2018–2020. US \$4.3 billion was pledged by 36 donors for 2018, and an additional US \$3.5 billion was pledged for the following two years. In 2018, the pledging donors contributed US \$6.0 billion in grants for the year, exceeding their total original pledges by US \$1.6 billion. In the sixth financial tracking report of the post-Brussels conference for “Supporting the Future of Syria and the Region”, published in September 2018, it was shown that donors have been on track to contribute beyond what was pledged at Brussels II. This has been comparatively similar to 2017 and 2016, when US \$7.5 billion and US \$8.1 billion, respectively, were contributed against the pledges of US \$6.0 billion. Noteworthy, out of the total US \$6 billion in grants reported for 2018, around half were directed to Syria (27%, US \$1.6 billion) and Lebanon (19%, US \$1.1 billion) combined. A further 18% of the funding was directed to Turkey, while Jordan received 16% of the total contributions. Iraq and Egypt received US \$534 million (9%) and US \$34 million (1%), respectively. It was also reported that more funding was allocated to these countries as part of multi-country or regional contributions. Furthermore, close to a quarter of the conference pledges for 2018 were not disaggregated by destination location (“not defined”).

Sources:

EU, & UN. (2018, September). Supporting Syria and the region: Post-Brussels conference financial tracking - Report six. Retrieved from <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/36437/syria-report-six.pdf>

EU, & UN. (2019, March). Supporting Syria and the region: Post-Brussels conference financial tracking - Report seven. Retrieved from <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/38467/syria-report-seven-revised-final.pdf>

US \$4.4 billion

is the amount appealed for by UN agencies & NGOs to support over five million refugees from Syria and vulnerable host communities in neighboring countries for 2018

3RP is a nationally-driven framework made up of two interlinked components: the refugee protection and humanitarian component and the resilience/stabilization-based development component. It incorporates national plans that have been developed with the involvement of the governments of the five main countries hosting Syrian refugees. These plans include the Jordan Response Plan (JRP), the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP), and the country chapters of Turkey, Iraq, and Egypt. Over 270 partners across the region are involved in the 3RP process, either appealing for funding (as partners of appealing agencies), or as part of the platform of policy, advocacy, and programme delivery. The Inter-Agency appealed for US \$4.4 billion for 2018, reflecting the amount that was requested by UN agencies and NGOs within the 3RP country chapters (excluding the multi-year funding). Of this amount, US \$2.62 billion were requested to address the protection and assistance needs under the refugee component, and US \$1.78 billion were requested to support refugees and host communities under the resilience component.

Source:

UNHCR. (2017, December). 3RP Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan 2018-2019 in response to the Syria crisis: Regional strategic overview. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/61264>

US \$3.1 billion

is the amount in grants that has been provided by bilateral and multilateral donors to Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, Egypt and Turkey in 2017 outside the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan pledges

In addition to financial support through response plans, significant support to countries hosting Syrian refugees has also been taking place through other types of funding modalities. For instance, outside the 3RP pledges, different funding agreements have been put into effect in the countries with the highest number of Syrian refugees in the MENA region, namely, Lebanon, Jordan, and Turkey. These agreements have been specifically framed within the bounds of an architecture of funds flowing into the host country, and only by means of defined commitments and priorities between the different parties. In Lebanon and Jordan, an EU (European Union)-Lebanon compact and an EU-Jordan compact have been signed. Another international funding arrangement also took place in Turkey in 2016, namely, the “EU-Turkey agreement”. It was shown that bilateral and multilateral donors have provided nearly US \$3.1 billion in grants to Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, Egypt, and Turkey in 2017. For the same year, US \$4.3 billion in loans were also provided, and included the World Bank’s Global Concessional Financing Facility (CFF), European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) as well as bilateral donors.

Source:

Inter-Agency Coordination. (2017, December). 3RP Regional Refugee & Resilience Plan 2018-2019 in response to the Syria crisis: Regional strategic overview. Retrieved from <http://www.3rpsyriacrisis.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/3RP-Regional-Strategic-Overview-2018-19.pdf>

32%

of UNHCR's global budget for its field work for 2018 was allocated to Middle East & North Africa

UNHCR is mandated by the UN to “lead and coordinate international action for the worldwide protection of refugees and the resolution of refugee problems”. Its global strategic priorities include creating a favorable protection environment, ensuring protection from violence and exploitation, achieving durable solutions, and mobilizing support through strategic partnerships. For 2018, 32% of UNHCR’s global budget for its field work was allocated to the MENA region. This allocation of UNHCR’s global budget ranks second after Africa. For the Syria situation, UNHCR continues to lead, with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the 3RP in response to the Syria crisis, coordinating the work of over 270 partners in the five countries hosting Syrian refugees (Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey).

Sources:

UNHCR. (2017). UNHCR in 2017: Mission. Retrieved from http://reporting.unhcr.org/sites/default/files/ga2017/pdf/02_UNHCR_mission.pdf

UNHCR. (2019). Financials: 2018 global requirements and expenditure - programmed activities. Retrieved from http://reporting.unhcr.org/financial#_ga=2.238379842.336426860.1553592858-160278983.1548054536

US \$7.1 billion

is the total funding Lebanon has received to support refugee and host community response plans between 2012 and 2018

Lebanon has received a total of around US \$7.1 billion between 2012 and 2018 as support to its response to the Syrian refugee crisis. Throughout the years, the level of all reported humanitarian funding for the country has been directed to different sectors in order to address the consequences of the Syrian refugee crisis. These sectors include, but are not limited to, education, food security, health, protection, social stability, and WASH (water, sanitation, and hygiene). Financing refugee and host community response plans in Lebanon has been preventing the deterioration of basic needs, and the exacerbation of communal tensions. As such, funding response plans in Lebanon should continue in parallel with other types of financing.

Source:

UN OCHA. (2019). Affected countries: Lebanon - Trends in reported funding. Retrieved March 26, 2019, from the Financial Tracking Service: <https://fts.unocha.org/countries/124/summary/2019>

US \$3.4 billion

is the amount in grants for 2018 and in loans for 2018-2020 that was provided to Lebanon as part of responding to the needs of countries affected by the Syria crisis

The total support that was provided to Lebanon in 2018 amounted to US \$3.4 billion in terms of grants for 2018 and loans for 2018-2020. The larger share of this amount was contributed in the form of loans, with approximately US \$2.3 billion (67%). Grants totaled US \$1.1 billion. Close to two-thirds of these grants were provided by three donors: the EU institutions (US \$303 million), Germany (US \$291 million), the United Kingdom (US \$134 million). In terms of loans, the European Investment Bank (EIB) provided 62% of all loans to Lebanon (US \$1.4 billion), with the remainder being made available by the World Bank (US \$706 million), France (US \$101 million), and Italy (US \$53 million).

Source:

EU, & UN. (2019, March). Supporting Syria and the region: Post-Brussels conference financial tracking - Report seven. Retrieved from <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/38467/syria-report-seven-revised-final.pdf>

US \$ 40,482,553

is the amount invested through 761 basic services and community support projects in Lebanon from 2014 till the end of 2017 in order to mitigate tensions created by the Syrian crisis

In order to contribute to LCRP's objective of preserving social stability in Lebanon, social stability partners who are involved in this plan have been providing ongoing support to municipalities in order to strengthen their capacity to mitigate tensions created by the socio-economic shock of the crisis. Support has been covering a wide range of interventions, from the provision of garbage trucks to the construction of sport facilities. It has also included implementing small (community support) and medium (basic services) projects to alleviate resource pressure and provide tangible benefits to local communities. All of these basic services and community support projects followed a number of conditions: 1) they have a social stability purpose, mainly aiming at reducing tensions, 2) they primarily target host communities, 3) they represent 'hard' tangible projects that result in investment in service provision/infrastructure, and 4) they are based on a participatory process. As per the end of the year dashboard of the LCRP's Social Stability Sector for 2017, it was noted that these investments have had a positive impact, not only by strengthening municipalities as one of the country's most trusted entities, but also because respondents who benefitted from assistance displayed more positive perceptions of these entities and less prejudice towards other communities.

Sources:

Inter-Agency Coordination. (2017, September). Social stability sector - Support to municipalities: Basic services and community support projects activities in 2014, 2015, 2016 & 2017. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/59189>

Inter-Agency Coordination. (2018, March). Social stability: End of 2017 dashboard. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/62738>

US \$207 million

is the amount invested to support public institutions in Lebanon under the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan in 2017

In 2017, more than US \$207 million was channelled under LCRP to public institutions in order to strengthen service delivery, policy development, capacity building, and institutional stability. Funds were provided to Lebanese governmental agencies and local authorities. Several Lebanese ministries, including the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA), the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE), and the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) received support. The Ministry of Interior and Municipalities (MoIM) was also supported in the form of municipal services projects. It was shown that the amount of support provided to public institutions in Lebanon has been “a consistent and increasing trend” with an increase of 20% since 2015. However, the challenge is to sustain developed capacities and utilize them in local development efforts after refugees return to Syria.

Source:

Inter-Agency Coordination. (2018, July). Support to public institutions in Lebanon under the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP 2017-2020): 2017 results. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/64658>

62%

of the requested funds for the Regional Refugee and Resilience plan for 2018 were received in 2018

Almost two-thirds (62%) of the requested US \$5.61 billion needed for 3RP for 2018 was received by the end of December 2018. The 3RP total requirements for 2018 included up to US \$1.2 billion in multi-year funding and an Inter-Agency appeal of US \$4.4 billion, reflecting the amount being requested by UN agencies, NGOs, and INGOs (within the 3RP country chapters). For 2018, the 3RP had a target of supporting 5.3 million registered Syrian refugees in the five main host countries, and 3.9 million host country members. Support has been given at the level of different sectors, namely, protection, food security, education, health & nutrition, basic needs, shelter, WASH (water, sanitation, and hygiene), and social cohesion and livelihoods. Yet, with this funding gap, 2018 saw the highest gap in financing the 3RP.

Sources:

Inter-Agency Coordination. (2017, December). 3RP Regional Refugee & Resilience Plan 2018-2019 in response to the Syria crisis: Regional strategic overview. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/61264>

Inter-Agency Coordination. (2018, October). 3RP Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan 2018 - 2019 in response to the Syria Crisis: 2018 Progress Report (January - June 2018). Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/68254>

Inter-Agency Coordination. (2018, December). 3RP Regional strategic overview 2019-2020 - Summary version. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/67235>

Inter-Agency Coordination. (2019, March). 3RP Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan in response to the Syria Crisis: Annual report 2018. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/68557>

48%

was the funding gap for the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan in 2018

Sharing responsibility of refugees and host communities is key to ensure that the LCRP will continue in supporting the Syrian refugee crisis in upcoming years. For 2018, LCRP aimed at 1) providing protection and immediate relief assistance to 1.9 million Syrian refugees, vulnerable Lebanese, and Palestine refugees, 2) delivering basic services to 2.2 million people, and 3) investing in Lebanon's infrastructure, economy, and public institutions. Nevertheless, the amount received by implementing partners in support of this plan totaled US \$1.4 billion as of December 31, 2018, which amounts to approximately 52% of the 2018 appeal of US \$2.68 billion. Although the Lebanese society proved to be resilient throughout the years of the refugee crisis, refugees' vulnerabilities are steadily increasing along with the exhaustion of host communities. International solidarity needs to "match the hospitality of Lebanon as host country" in order to "[preserve] tolerance, diversity and stability in the region".

Sources:

UN, & Government of Lebanon. (2018, February). Lebanon Crisis Response Plan 2017- 2020 (2018 update). Retrieved from https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/LCRP2018_EN_Full_180122.pdf

UN. (2018, February). 2018 LCRP appeals for \$2.68 billion for Lebanon response. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/PressreleaseLCRPLaunch01Feb18.pdf>

Inter-Agency Coordination. (2019, February). 2018 end year statistical dashboard. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/67919>

XI. Unmet Needs of Syrians in Syria and Host Countries

2/3

of the population of Syria was affected by disruption to water and electricity systems in 2017

For people in Syria, humanitarian needs remain staggering in terms of “scale, severity, and complexity”. Access to health care and education as well as limited availability of water and electricity continues to be a struggle. It was found that two-thirds of the population of Syria was affected by disruption to water and electricity systems in 2017. When it comes to water, this figure stands in stark contrast to the level of access of Syrians to water prior to the crisis, as nearly 100% of the population was served by centrally managed and ‘free at the point of use’ water systems.

Sources:

UN OCHA. (2017, August). 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan: Monitoring report (January - June 2017) - Syrian Arab Republic. Retrieved from https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/2017_syria_pmr_170830.pdf

UN OCHA. (2017, November). 2018 humanitarian needs overview: Syrian Arab Republic. Retrieved from https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/2018_syr_hno_english.pdf

78%

of people living in areas facing catastrophic and critical needs inside Syria were not reached each month for assistance in the first six months of 2018

In areas facing catastrophic and critical needs inside Syria, service providers and humanitarian workers have been facing major challenges, preventing them from providing a timely response to humanitarian acute and protracted needs. These challenges mainly include denial of authorization to operate and delays in providing facilitation letters, limitations on the quantity and quality of supplies delivered, difficulties in undertaking timely and quality assessments, risk of exposure of humanitarian staff and other service providers to high intensity hostilities and explosive hazard contamination, and border closures and/or restrictions on the shipment of supplies from neighboring countries. In contested areas, humanitarian partners also faced challenges in carrying out and monitoring effective programming in line with humanitarian principles due to interferences in the humanitarian response, including the detention of humanitarian staff and the occupation of humanitarian warehouses or compounds. In the first six months of 2018, it was estimated that approximately 78% of people living in areas facing catastrophic and critical needs were not reached each month for assistance.

Source:

UN OCHA. (2018, August). 2018 summary of Humanitarian Response Plan: Monitoring report (January - June 2018) - Syrian Arab Republic. Retrieved from https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/2018_syria_mid_year_pmr_summary_v13.pdf

32%

of Syrian refugee households in Lebanon used shared sanitation facilities in 2018

In 2018, 32% of Syrian refugee households in Lebanon used shared sanitation facilities. However, it is important to note that the use of facilities which are shared decreased from 39% in 2017. The 2018 Vulnerability Assessment Survey of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon revealed that, with the exception of the North, all governorates had stable results or an increase in the number of refugee households using improved and non-shared sanitation facilities, when compared to year 2017. It was also shown that there were large variations across governorates regarding the share of households that were not sharing sanitation facilities, with Nabatieh recording the highest share and Akkar, Bekaa and Baalbek-Hermel having the lowest share. In terms of shelter types, non-permanent structures had the lowest percentage of households utilizing non-shared facilities.

Source:

UNHCR, UNICEF, & WFP. (2018, December). VASyR 2018: Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/67380>

40%

of Syrian refugees taking part in a survey in Jordan in 2018 reported that their situation had deteriorated since they arrived in the country

40% of Syrian refugees taking part in a survey in Jordan in 2018 reported that their situation had deteriorated since their arrival in Jordan, an increase in the percentage when compared to the result of the same survey conducted in the previous year. When asked about the reasons why they perceive their living situation to have deteriorated, refugees mainly stated the increase in prices, the high cost of living, the security situation, and the lack of assistance. Regarding the latter, approximately half of all surveyed Syrian refugees reported that access to assistance had deteriorated over the past year. Only 15.5% reported it had stayed the same, while 35.6% reported it had improved. Syrian respondents living in Zarqa were the most likely to report deterioration related to the aid situation due to several reasons that include, but not limited to, lack of assistance, cuts in UNHCR aid or coupons, deterioration in quality of assistance, and an increase in costs. With donor fatigue in the horizon and more pressure expected to exert on the already limited resources in host communities, the living conditions of Syrian refugees in Syria's neighboring countries are at risk of further deterioration.

Source:

CARE International. (2018, September). 8 years into exile: How urban Syrian refugees, non-Syrian refugees and vulnerable host communities in Jordan are coping and meeting challenges, eight years into the Syria crisis. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/66543>

81%

of Syrian refugee families with children in Jordan were on the waiting list during the third quarter of 2017 to receive cash assistance from UNHCR

81% of Syrian refugee families with children in Jordan were on the waiting list to receive cash assistance from UNHCR during the third quarter of 2017. Rent was found to be among the most costly expenses for Syrian refugees on the waiting list, representing 21% of the total monthly expenses. It is then followed by food (excluding WFP vouchers), health, education, and debt repayment. However, regarding their unmet needs, food was the biggest unmet need of Syrians on the waiting list (20%), followed by clothes (19%), rent (17%), and health (16%). As shown, the majority of Syrian refugee families residing in Jordan have overwhelming expenses that they struggle with on a monthly basis as well as unmet basic needs. Receiving cash assistance would provide these families with much needed support that could enable them to sustain their living.

Source:

UNHCR. (2017). 3rd quarter - Syrian refugees on the waiting list: Monitoring report. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Q3PDMSyrianWaitingFinal.pdf>

XII. Return of Syrian Refugees

75.2%

of Syrian refugees in Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, and Jordan taking part in a survey between November 2018 and February 2019 hope to return to Syria one day

According to return perception and intention surveys conducted by UNHCR among Syrian refugees in Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, and Jordan between November 2018 and February 2019, the vast majority (75.2%) hope to return to Syria one day. However, despite their hopes, it was shown that their intention to return will not materialize in the near future, as 69.3% of them mentioned that they did not have the intention to return to Syria in the 12-month period following the survey. A report published by the World Bank in 2019 highlighted that refugee return is not a “monotonic” event. It often requires an “iterative”, “staggered” or “cyclical” process. As mentioned, in the case of iterative return processes, a few members of refugee households may return for short periods to perform a number of measures, which include, but are not limited to, assessing the scope for more permanent return, safeguarding and re-establishing entitlements to property, or assisting family members who have stayed in Syria. It was also revealed that trends in spontaneous returns tend to be influenced by few structural factors that are commonly considered by refugees when deciding to move. These factors are related to (i) peace, security and protection, including the scope of peace and reconciliation measures, access to justice, adequate rights protection, and trust in local actors, (ii) livelihoods and economic opportunities, including economic and social absorption capacity of return areas, and access to resources (including financial resources), (iii) housing, land, and property, including the ownership of assets in countries of asylum and origin, property rights, likelihood of asset restitution, conditions of appropriation, and (iv) infrastructure and access to services, including the scale of physical and infrastructure destruction, strategies

and funding for reconstruction/restoration, and access to adequate services, housing, social programs, education, and health.

Sources:

The World Bank. (2019, February). The mobility of displaced Syrians: An economic and social analysis. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/67876>

UNHCR. (March, 2019). Fifth regional survey on Syrian refugees' perceptions and intentions on return to Syria: Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Jordan - March 2019. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/68443.pdf>

5.9%

of Syrian refugees in Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, and Jordan taking part in a survey between November 2018 and February 2019 stated that they intend to return to Syria in the following 12-month period

According to return perception and intention surveys conducted by UNHCR among Syrian refugees in Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, and Jordan between November 2018 and February 2019, only 5.9% intended to return to Syria in the following 12-month period. An analysis done by the World Bank indicated that the actual returns of Syrians have been generally different from large-scale returns, and have been of a “special kind” in terms of their scale and composition. The analysis presented generalized results (i.e., applicable to the entire Syrian refugee population in Lebanon, Jordan, and Iraq) showing characteristics that are important determinants of return. Refugees who are not members of a nuclear family, are single, or male have been more likely to return. It was shown that extended family members are 12 percentage points more likely to return than nuclear family members, singles are 2.7 percentage points more likely to return than married refugees, and male members are 0.6 percentage point more likely to return than females. Noteworthy, these characteristics have been varying greatly across countries of asylum, with individual returns being very common in Lebanon (89% of all returns) and case-level returns being more common in Iraq and Jordan (85% of all returns). “Case” refers to UNHCR’s registration system of “refugee case”, meaning a group of refugees, often families with relatives, headed by a case-head.

Sources:

The World Bank. (2019, February). *The mobility of displaced Syrians: An economic and social analysis*. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/67876>

UNHCR. (March, 2019). *Fifth regional survey on Syrian refugees’ perceptions and intentions on return to Syria: Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Jordan - March 2019*. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/68443.pdf>

48%

of Syrian refugees in Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, and Jordan planning to return to Syria within the 12-month period following a survey conducted between November 2018 and February 2019 mentioned that they do not have sufficient information on their intended area of return

Approximately half of Syrian refugees (48%) living in Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, and Jordan planning to return to Syria in the 12-month period following a survey conducted between November 2018 and February 2019 believed they do not have sufficient information on their intended area of return for the purpose of restarting their lives. The top five information cited as most needed relate to the security situation, availability of basic services, livelihood opportunities, military exemption, and availability of shelter. Regarding the latter, a report published by the World Bank revealed housing-related concerns for Syrians. It was shown that Syrians mentioned looting as the primary housing-related concern in Sweida (80%), Raqqa (42%), and Deir ez-Zor (41%). Damage to land and property was also a main concern in Raqqa, Idleb, and Dara'a. Furthermore, the lack of documents was an important concern in Raqqa (24%), Dara'a (15%), and Aleppo and Homs (10%). It was also revealed that refugees, if and when they return, are likely to face more challenges than IDP-returnees. The same report mentioned specific legislative actions (e.g., Law #10 in 2018, Law #33 in 2017, and Legislatives Decrees #40, 63, 66 in 2012) as key issues that facilitate further confiscation and expropriation of property, especially for those belonging to refugees.

Sources:

The World Bank. (2019, February). The mobility of displaced Syrians: An economic and social analysis. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/67876>

UNHCR. (March, 2019). Fifth regional survey on Syrian refugees' perceptions and intentions on return to Syria: Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Jordan - March 2019. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/68443.pdf>

27,460

is the number of self-organized Syrian refugee returns from Jordan to Syria between January 2016 and January 2019

UNHCR reported 27,460 self-organized Syrian refugee returns from Jordan to Syria between January 2016 and January 2019, fairly evenly spread out across the three years. The figure accounts for approximately 4% of the total number of Syrian refugees who were registered in Jordan at the end of 2018. These returns were based on voluntary decisions by refugees to repatriate on their own initiative, and after receiving information and counselling. Some had also received support for transportation to the border. Dara'a is the main governorate of origin of those refugees returning from Jordan.

Sources:

UNHCR. (2018, June). Spontaneous returns from Jordan - June 2018. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/64998.pdf>

UNHCR. (2019, January). Operational portal - Refugee situations: Syria Regional Refugee Response: Durable solutions. Retrieved March 27, 2019, from data.unhcr.org: https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/syria_durable_solutions

5%

of Syrian refugees in Jordan taking part in a survey in July 2018 said they had intentions to return to Syria in the following 12-month period

A small minority of Syrian refugees in Jordan have the intentions to return back to their county in the near future. According to an intention survey conducted in July 2018, only 5% of Syrian refugees had intentions to return to Syria in the following 12-month period. Among these respondents, 82% plan to return with their family, while 4% intend to return as a partial family, and 13% plan to return by themselves. The vast majority of respondents with return intentions plan to return to their place of origin (88%). Noteworthy, across four intention surveys, the group with return intentions was consistently the smallest with the range of 3% to 8%, while the group with no return intention was the largest group with the range of 73% to 91%. For the majority of Syrian refugees in Jordan who had no intentions to return, the main reasons for not intending to return were related to the 1) lack of safety and security, ongoing conflict, and fear of resumption of conflict, 2) lack of adequate housing and/or concerns over housing and property, and 3) lack of livelihood and work opportunities. These obstacles are preventing the majority of refugees from feeling confident to return back to Syria at the present moment. Therefore, they should be addressed in order to enable the majority, who long to return, to do so in safety and dignity and in a sustainable manner.

Source:

UNHCR. (2018, August). Jordan: Intention survey overview - July 2018. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/65004>

32,272

is the number of self-organized Syrian refugee returns from Lebanon to Syria between January 2016 and January 2019

Out of the total number of registered Syrian refugees in Lebanon, only 32,272 spontaneously returned to Syria in the past three years. 2018 witnessed 14,496 self-organized Syrian refugee returns (between January and December 2018), as verified by UNHCR. Self-organized returnees are usually assisted through ongoing humanitarian programmes. However, UNHCR believes that it is not safe for refugees to return to Syria as conditions are still not considered favorable in the country. As such, UNHCR is not encouraging or facilitating repatriations in the meantime. Its engagement on return is only limited to planning, monitoring, counselling, advocacy, and ongoing analysis of obstacles to and conditions necessary for return, and identifying the necessary actions to address them. When conditions change and large-scale voluntary repatriation is considered by UNHCR and partners and when refugees actively request support from UNHCR to return, the process of assisted return would be governed by 1) a clear legal framework that guarantees the rights of all returnees, 2) a “protection threshold” being met in the place(s) of return, and 3) an improvement in conditions in return areas.

Sources:

UNHCR. (2018, February). Comprehensive protection and solutions strategy: Protection thresholds and parameters for refugee return to Syria. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/ar/documents/download/63223>

UNHCR. (2019, January). Operational portal - Refugee situations: Syria Regional Refugee Response: Durable solutions. Retrieved March 27, 2019, from [data.unhcr.org: https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/syria_durable_solutions](https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/syria_durable_solutions)

69%

of Syrian refugees in Lebanon participating in a survey mentioned the lack of documentation that would prove their ownership or rental of their own houses, land or property inside Syria

Complex challenges affect the housing, land and property (HLP) situation of Syrian refugees, and include lack of documentation, insecurity of tenure, extensive property damage, and secondary occupation. According to an HLP-specific survey conducted by UNHCR in December 2016, more than two-thirds of Syrian refugees (69%) in Lebanon cited that they lack the documentation that would prove their ownership or rental of their own houses, land or property inside Syria. Without legal documentation of HLP rights, returning refugees have no guarantees that they will be able to recover their property. This creates particular difficulties to single female heads of households and widows who want to recover their properties, as almost all properties are in the name of the husbands. Moreover, based on a 2017 HLP survey, only 5% of all properties were reported to be owned by females, and only 3% of female heads of households mentioned they owned their property in Syria. Other problems related to legal documentation include the lack of civil documents, including identity cards and marriage or death certificates, which are also critical to confirm ownership. Any serious attempt for safe and voluntary return should tackle these legal issues.

Source:
UNHCR. (2018, January). A longing to go home, in safety and dignity: Intentions and perceptions of Syrian refugees in Lebanon about their future. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/fr/documents/download/63310>

66%

of Syrian refugees in Lebanon indicated in a survey that, if they were to return to Syria, it would most likely be to their place of origin

According to the return intention survey that was conducted in Lebanon in 2017, 66% of Syrian refugees in Lebanon indicated that, if they were to return to Syria, it would most likely be to their place of origin. 22% were undecided or did not know where they would go, 4% said that they would return to the place of origin of their relatives in Syria (if different than the place of origin), while the rest indicated that they would prefer to go to new areas perceived as safe or to new areas that would offer them job opportunities. When refugees intending to return to their place of origin in Syria were asked what they would do if this is not possible, 74% of them mentioned that they would choose to stay in Lebanon until return to their place of origin is possible, while 9% stated that they would return to the place of origin of their relatives in Syria. Furthermore, 6% indicated that they would go to a new area perceived as safe, and 6% indicated that they would choose to move to a third country.

Source:

UNHCR. (2018, January). A longing to go home, in safety and dignity: Intentions and perceptions of Syrian refugees in Lebanon about their future. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/fr/documents/download/63310>

89%

of Syrian refugees in Lebanon indicated in a survey that they ultimately want to return to Syria

The return intention survey conducted in 2017 found that a vast majority of Syrian refugees in Lebanon (89%) ultimately want to return to Syria. 94% of them indicated that, if they were to return to Syria, they intend to do so with their entire family at once. As per UNHCR, maintaining one's family unity is a crucial aspect of refugees' ability to return with dignity. However, participants who were engaged in focus group discussions in the same study mentioned that it would be easier for women and children to go back to Syria first, as men may fear being conscripted and would remain in Lebanon for the time being to earn an income for the family. On the other hand, some of the male participants stated that Syrian men need to return to help rebuild the country. As such, when reflecting on the issue of return, critical considerations of the views of Syrian refugees on the factors that influence their decisions and intentions to return in the future need to be carefully taken into account.

Source:

UNHCR. (2018, January). A longing to go home, in safety and dignity: Intentions and perceptions of Syrian refugees in Lebanon about their future. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/fr/documents/download/63310>

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Nasser Yassin, PhD

Nasser Yassin is the director of research at the Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs, and professor of policy and planning at the Health Management and Policy Department at the Faculty of Health Sciences at the American University of Beirut (AUB), Lebanon. He co-chairs the AUB4Refugees Initiative that aims to bring together and build synergy among faculty and departments in AUB responding to the Syrian refugee crisis. He holds a PhD from University College London (UCL), an MSc from London School of Economics (LSE), and an MSc and BSc from AUB. His research and practice interests are in development planning and policy-making in fragile and transition states. He researches and works on policy and social innovation especially in areas of refugee, youth, and health policies and programs. His current work looks at how civil society actors, community groups, and informal networks can influence policies and programs. He is currently leading a research project on understanding the informal adaptive mechanisms among refugees and their host communities in the Middle East. He is author of more than 40 internationally published articles and books. His work on Syrian refugee crisis has been featured in many media channels including Al-Jazeera, BBC, The Economist and Deutsche Welle - among others.



Issam Fares Institute for Public
Policy and International Affairs
معهد عصام فارس للسياسات
العامة والشؤون الدولية