



FACTS & FIGURES ON THE SYRIAN REFUGEE CRISIS

Volume III

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

10 FACTS & FIGURES **0** ON THE SYRIAN **1** REFUGEE CRISIS

Volume III

Beirut, October 2021 © All Rights Reserved

The “101 Facts & Figures on the Syrian Refugee Crisis” can be obtained from the Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs (IFI) at the American University of Beirut (AUB) or can be downloaded from the following website: <http://www.aub.edu.lb/ifi>

Any portion of this book may not be reproduced or used in any manner whatsoever without the express written permission of the publisher except for the use of brief quotations.

This publication is supported by United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Lebanon and does not necessarily represent UNHCR views nor that of AUB.



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

Table of Contents

Acknowledgments.....	4
List of Acronyms.....	5
Introduction.....	8
I. Syria's Displacement Crisis in Numbers.....	11
II. Losses in Human Development and Local Economy inside Syria	23
III. Living Conditions of Displaced Syrians	35
IV. Legal Status of Syrian Refugees in Host Countries	51
V. Social Relations between Syrian Refugees and Host Communities	59
VI. Health.....	65
VII. Education and Child Protection	73
VIII. Livelihood Opportunities	85
IX. Spending and Investments of Syrian Refugees in Host Communities	93
X. Responses to the Syrian Crisis	97
XI. Return of Syrian Refugees	111
XII. Impact of COVID-19	117
Index.....	129

Acknowledgments

The “101 Facts & Figures on the Syrian Refugee Crisis” third and final volume is the result of relentless efforts and collaboration at the Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs (IFI) at the American University of Beirut (AUB) that started in 2017, under the guidance of Nasser Yassin, former director of research at IFI. This book would not have been possible without the joint efforts of the Refugee Research and Policy team and especially Program Manager Yara Mourad and Project Coordinator Watfa Najdi, as well as research intern Simon Donat, who through their fastidious labor succeeded in making this book a reality.

It is important to recognize the support of IFI’s Communications team headed by Suzanne El Houssari, who have seamlessly and collegially worked on the publication of this book. Finally, the support of the UNHCR office in Lebanon, especially Mireille Girard, Karolina Lindholm Billing and Carol El Sayed, is profoundly appreciated in making and producing this publication.

List of Acronyms

3RP	Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan
EU	European Union
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
ILO	International Labour Organization
LBP	Lebanese Pound
LCRP	Lebanon Crisis Response Plan
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PRL	Palestinian Refugees from Lebanon
PRS	Palestinian 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

Introduction

2021 marks a decade of conflict in Syria, widespread destruction, and mass displacement of 6.7 million Syrians internally and 6.6 million refugees worldwide, including 5.6 million in neighboring Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, Egypt, and Iraq (UNHCR, 2021). The humanitarian crisis is still ongoing, leaving detrimental effects on the lives of Syrians who have been dealing with loss, trauma, and alienation for the past 10 years. Today, displaced Syrians feel more trapped than ever as the situation continues to deteriorate, while resources diminish, and needs mount.

In crisis-hit Lebanon, both Syrian refugees and vulnerable Lebanese communities are struggling to survive. As such, Syrian refugees along with vulnerable Lebanese communities are left to endure more pain and hardships. The COVID-19 pandemic, the economic meltdown, the severe devaluation of the Lebanese pound, and the devastating Beirut Blast have left more than half of the Lebanese population below the poverty line and the majority of Syrian refugees in extreme poverty.

In this context, cash assistance and humanitarian support, deeply impacted by inflation, rising prices, and bank restrictions, can no longer sustain families' basic needs. Civil society actors and international organizations are receiving increased calls for assistance from both Lebanese and refugees, with limited resources falling short of the growing and urgent needs. Furthermore, the high unemployment rate and lack of livelihood opportunities have triggered the rise of anti-refugee narrative again, attributing part of the economic collapse to the presence of Syrian refugees within Lebanese borders. Parts of society are questioning the prolonged stay of refugees and calling for their return to Syria despite the uncertain situation in the country.

Therefore, it is essential for us as academics and researchers to highlight credible data and research-based studies that portray the real story. Driven by this firm belief, the 101 Facts and Figures on the Syrian Refugee Crisis was developed in a three-volume series that started in 2018 with the aim to respond to the anti-refugee rhetoric, inform the narrative, and counter falsehoods and half-truths, by showing evidence around the true situation of refugees and the impact they have on their host communities. While the current series being issued 10 years into the crisis is the third and final volume, evidence and fact-based research and approaches should never cease. Let us confront myths with facts.

I. Syria's Displacement Crisis in Numbers

3,989,110

host community members remain directly impacted by the Syrian crisis in the region in 2020

March 2020 marked the ninth year since the onset of the Syrian crisis. The prolonged crisis has left many Syrians struggling and without hope. Although much has been achieved to this date, the needs of Syrian refugees and host communities in neighboring countries remain enormous. Focusing on host communities, around 3,989,110 individuals remain impacted by the Syrian crisis in the region in 2020 as they continue to share their limited resources with refugees. This calls for the need to continue supporting lifesaving and resilience-building programs while addressing protection and assistance needs of Syrian refugees and vulnerable host communities simultaneously, enhancing the ability of those communities to respond to the impact of protracted displacement.

Source:

Inter-Agency Coordination. (2020, August). 2020 Progress Report, 3RP Regional Resilience Plan in Response to the Syria Crisis. Retrieved from https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/3RP_MidYear2020_72dpi.pdf

950,674

internal displacements were recorded in Syria in the first seven months of 2019

Internally displaced persons (IDPs) are among the world's most vulnerable populations. In Syria, 6.2 million Syrians have been internally displaced since the onset of the crisis, many of whom reported being displaced as many as 10 times. This protracted internal displacement resulted in depleting Syrians' resources and reducing the effect of their coping mechanisms, resulting in many cases in compounded vulnerability. Despite humanitarian interventions, IDP needs remain immense, as the areas where they settled are stretched beyond capacity. These needs are further exacerbated by the ongoing hostilities. The period from February onwards witnessed increased hostilities, particularly in parts of southern Idlib, northern Hama and western Aleppo. Indeed, in the first seven months of 2019, 950,674 internal displacements were recorded in Syria: the majority from the Idlib governorate. In addition, ongoing hostilities led to some 630,000 displacements in the period from May 1 to August 27, compounding the already dire humanitarian situation for the more than three million people living in these areas.

Source:

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

617,259

IDPs arrived at the camps of Aleppo and Idlib governorates by November 2020

As of November 2020, 617,259 IDPs were residing in the 405 camps in Idlib and Aleppo governorates in northwest Syria. More particularly, 1,104 IDPs arrived at the aforementioned camps in November 2020 alone – placing additional pressure on exacerbated services and resources. Nevertheless, some IDPs left the camps for neighboring villages due to the deterioration of the living conditions in the camps. In fact, the review of shelter conditions determined that tents were in need of reparative maintenance or replacement – considering that tents have not been replaced for more than two years. Additionally, the deficiency in food basket distribution as well as the lack of hygiene kits distribution – with the latter not being distributed for over two months prior to December – suggest the dire humanitarian situation of the assessed camps.

Source:

The Humanitarian Data Exchange. (December, 2020). The Syrian IDP Camps Monitoring Study - Northern Syria Camps. Retrieved from <https://data.humdata.org/dataset/idp-camps-monitoring-november-of-2018>

70%

of Syrian refugees in need in the region are women or children

Since the onset of the Syrian conflict, many Syrians sought refuge in neighboring countries such as, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey. Today, more than 10 years into the conflict, Syrian refugees in the region are living in dire conditions, in need of support and assistance. The fact that 70% of those refugees are women or children makes them even more vulnerable. For example, in Lebanon, women-headed households are more likely to suffer from food insecurity than men-headed households (35% vs. 28% respectively). In addition, labor force participation rate is higher among men (66%) than women (11%). Women often face significantly greater challenges in finding jobs and/or training opportunities vis-à-vis their men counterparts. Indeed, gender inequalities often leave women at heightened risk in refuge. These risks include vulnerability to physical and sexual violence, as well as to exploitation in both the public and private sphere. Moreover, changes to traditional gender roles, including the need for women to work outside of the household, contribute to amplifying these risks.

Source:

UNHCR Operational Portal Inter-Agency Coordination. (2019, December). 3RP Regional Strategic Overview 2020-2021 - Summary version. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/73116>

62%

of internally displaced persons in Syria are hosted in urban areas

The UN estimated there were 6.2 million IDPs across Syria in 2019. Of the total number of IDPs, 871,150 lived in sites of last resort and 62% of IDPs resided in urban areas, corresponding to 3.79 million IDPs. These areas were becoming increasingly saturated with no further or restricted shelter capacity for incoming IDPs. Indeed, both host and refugee populations living in overcrowded IDP sites, particularly in the northwest and northeast of Syria, were overburdened and faced several challenges to secure their daily needs. Key concerns included the increased vulnerability levels of people living in these sites as well as the limited capacities of host communities who share resources with the displaced. Therefore, the 2019 Humanitarian Response Plan aimed to support these communities by implementing household assistance for host and refugee populations and enhancing the capacity to provide basic services to them.

Source:

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

10.4 million

*people in Syria are living in areas hosting over 30% of IDPs/
spontaneous returnees*

The political and security landscape in Syria remains complex. According to the 2019 Humanitarian Needs Overview of the Syrian Arab Republic Report, 10.4 million people in Syria are living in areas hosting over 30% of IDPs and spontaneous returnees. This raises concerns over the living conditions of people residing in overcrowded IDP sites, particularly in the northwest and northeast of the country. Indeed, IDPs often lack basic humanitarian needs. Their physical security, basic rights, dignity and livelihoods continue to be threatened or disrupted. The fact that they struggle to access services, goods and protection makes it hard for them to re-establish a normal life within their accustomed means without assistance.

Source:

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

46%

of all displaced Syrians reside in Lebanese governorates bordering the Syrian territories

The identification of the location of Syrian refugees in Lebanon shows that 46% of all displaced Syrians (around 684,985 people) reside in governorates bordering the Syrian territories, namely Akkar, Baalbek-Hermel and the Bekaa. Refugees often choose to settle in proximity to their areas of origin as this facilitates their access to shelter and services, among other needs. However, it is important to note that settlement patterns of displaced Syrians vary: while the majority of refugees in these governorates live in informal settlements, particularly in Baalbek-Hermel (55%) and the Bekaa (45%), some refugees also inhabit non-residential (such as a factory, garage, workshop) and residential shelters. In 2020, the Shelter Sector targeted 312,383 displaced Syrians in these three governorates, split between temporary assistance to 211,652 individuals in informal settlements and 25,347 individuals in non-residential buildings. Additionally, 75,383 Syrian refugees were targeted for upgrading, rehabilitation and conditional cash for rent in order to support their shelter needs.

Sources:

Government of Lebanon and United Nations. (2020, January). LCRP 2017-2020 (2020 Update): Shelter Sector. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/74641.pdf>

UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP. (2020). VASyR: Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/85002>

19%

of the overall Syrian refugee population in Lebanon, Jordan, and Iraq came from Aleppo governorate

Displacement patterns of Syrian refugees can be determined by several factors. Chief among those is proximity. Indeed, since the onset of the crisis, Syrians often fled to the nearest neighboring country. Lebanon, a country bordering Syria, received large influxes of Syrian refugees. For example, 19% of the overall Syrian refugee population in Lebanon, Jordan, and Iraq came from the Aleppo governorate; and almost 70% of refugees from Homs/Aleppo sought refuge in Lebanon. Nevertheless, proximity to the place of origin was not the sole determining factor of choosing future destinations. Syrians were also observed to choose host destinations based on ethnic-sectarian factors, social networks, access to information and/or economic opportunities rather than proximity. For example, although Raqqa is located closer to the border with Iraq, about 82% of Syrians from Raqqa relocated to Lebanon.

Source:

The World Bank. (2020). The mobility of displaced Syrians: An economic and social analysis. Retrieved from <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/31205>

29%

of all Syrian refugees in Lebanon reside in Beirut and Mount Lebanon

The distribution of Syrian refugees in Lebanon shows that 29% of all displaced Syrians, (around 439,995 people) reside in Beirut and Mount Lebanon. Refugees often prefer residing in urban settings as they believe that these areas provide better living, housing, and work opportunities. Most of the refugees in these governorates live in residential buildings (Beirut: 93%, Mount Lebanon: 86%), while a smaller percentage reside in non-residential structures (Beirut: 6%, Mount Lebanon: 12%). There are only few informal settlements in these governorates with a small number of refugees living in them (Beirut: 0.6%, Mount Lebanon: 1.8%). Unfortunately, they often go unnoticed as very little attention is usually given to vulnerable refugees residing in less visible but nonetheless hazardous locations with dire shelter conditions.

Sources:

Government of Lebanon and United Nations. (2020, January). LCRP 2017-2020 (2020 Update): Shelter Sector. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/74641.pdf>

UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP. (2020). VASyR: Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/85002>

10,056

is the number of resettlement submissions of Syrian refugees in 2020

Durable solutions for Syrian refugees include expanding access to resettlement in third countries and other complementary pathways. However, resettlement submissions of Syrian refugees decreased significantly in 2020. Only 10,056 Syrian refugees were submitted by UNHCR for resettlement to third countries, compared to 29,652 individuals in 2019. This constitutes a small number of the most vulnerable refugees, including women and children traumatized by war, sick and injured civilians who cannot access adequate healthcare, and other victims who continue to be affected by the crisis. While the number of refugees meeting resettlement criteria and with severe vulnerabilities continues to escalate, resettlement submissions continue to decrease due to limited resettlement places.

Source:

UNHCR. (2020). Operational Portal: Refugees Situations. Retrieved from https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/syria_durable_solutions

3,606

Syrian refugees arrived in Greece, Spain, and Cyprus by sea and land from January to December 2020

Between January 1 and December 30 of 2020, 3,606 Syrian refugees arrived to Greece, Spain, and Cyprus by sea and land. This number adds to a total of 10,700 refugees documented to have crossed the Mediterranean in 2018. Indeed, with the root causes of displacement remaining unresolved, many Syrians view the sea crossing as the final attempt to seek asylum and reach safety. It is important to note that crossing the Mediterranean Sea is associated with high risks and that many refugees die during this journey. However, this decision often comes as a final step of a long journey that involved several threats such as travelling through conflict zones, danger of kidnapping, torture, human trafficking, etc. This calls for alternative, safe and legal pathways that refugees can access instead of these dangerous journeys.

Source:

UNHCR. (2021). Mediterranean Situation.

Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/mediterranean>

II. Losses in Human Development and Local Economy inside Syria

6,800

people died in Syria as a result of war and violence in 2020

Fighting raged on three major fronts in Syria during 2020: far east along the Iraqi border, northwest in the region of Idlib, and east along the Turkish borders. According to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, the annual death toll in 2020 recorded its lowest level yet with 6,800 people killed, in comparison to more than 10,000 in 2019. 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. To date, the conflict in Syria has cost more than 387,000 lives including 117,000 civilians. Indeed, since early 2011, an average of more than 40,000 people a year have been killed and millions have been displaced from their homes due to the conflict.

Source:

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. (2021, January). Syrian War killed 6,800 in 2020, lowest annual toll. Retrieved from <https://www.syriaohr.com/en/198491/>

66%

of children in Syria reported to have lost a loved one, had their house damaged or suffered from conflict-related injuries

Syrian youth have spent more than half of their lives amidst conflict, violence and shattered dreams. Today, around 2.6 million refugee children remain internally displaced. They have incurred losses on different layers. Indeed, in a study conducted by Mercy Corps, 66% of children in Syria reported to have lost a loved one, had their house damaged or suffered from conflict-related injuries. While the protection of civilians in armed conflict remains a central focus for the humanitarian response in Syria, a devastating increase in grave violations against children by all parties to the conflict active in Syria is documented each year. Violations against children have progressively increased since 2013, including the killing and maiming of children, recruitment and use of children in armed conflict, detention of children associated to parties of the conflict, and abduction and sexual violence against children, with high levels directed against boys, particularly those who have been held in detention centers. Evidence continues to show the extent of violence and the depth of trauma experienced by many still inside Syria, and the effects of the war on the mental health and psychosocial wellbeing of children.

Source:

Mercy Corps. (2019, February). Adolescence Lost: Forced Adulthood and a Fragile Future for Syria's Next Generation. Retrieved from https://www.mercycorps.org/sites/default/files/Adolescence_Lost-Forced_Adulthood_and_a_Fragile_Future_for_Syrias_Next_Generation.pdf

20%

of all residential buildings in 15 Syrian cities covered in a study suffered damage and about a quarter were fully destroyed

One of the Syrians' main housing-related concerns is looting and expropriation, followed by concerns over damage of land and property. According to a study done by the World Bank in 15 different cities in Syria, 20% of all residential buildings suffered damage, about a quarter of which were fully destroyed. This is one of many reasons that influence refugees' decisions to return, as they expect to face several housing challenges when they do. In addition to property damage, many refugees have concerns related to property documentation, particularly Syrian refugees who do not possess documentation of ownership of their properties back in Syria. Those concerns are exacerbated by controversies surrounding the unclear process of implementation of recently issued laws and legislative decrees, such as Law No. 10, which facilitate the confiscation and expropriation of unclaimed properties.

Source:

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>

34,136

buildings were totally destroyed or severely and moderately damaged in Eastern Ghouta by 2018

Eight years into the crisis, continued warfare in towns and cities across the country damaged urban infrastructure – such as homes, hospitals and schools – with detrimental repercussions to the livelihood of the Syrian population. The damaged condition of infrastructure in Syria deters its population, further protracting its displacement. Eastern Ghouta in the Rural Damascus governorate was one of the regions sustaining the most significant damage. In fact, 34,136 buildings were totally destroyed, or severely and moderately damaged in this region alone by 2018. As of 2013, the UN had declared the region under siege. This siege lasted more than five years, constituting the longest running siege in recent history. The siege and resulting hostilities decimated urban infrastructure. Additionally, it prevented the delivery of humanitarian assistance to a population in need. With the lack of provision of basic goods and services due to damage, more than 390,000 individuals live in catastrophic conditions – including a notable proportion who had to incinerate plastic to generate electricity and depended on manmade tunnels to smuggle basic goods such as medicine and food for survival.

Source:

REACH initiative, UNOSAT. (2019, March). Syrian Cities Damage Atlas - Eight Year Anniversary of the Syrian Civil War: Thematic assessment of satellite identified damage - Syrian Arab Republic. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/syrian-cities-damage-atlas-eight-year-anniversary-syrian-civil-war>

42%

is the decline in the Living Conditions Index in Syria between 2010 and 2019, reflecting the catastrophic impact of the crisis on families and individuals inside the country

According to Chatham House, the Syria Living Conditions Index (LCI) features multidimensional non-money metric deprivation in Syria rather than income and expenditure poverty. This is the first composite index that has ever been developed for Syria to reflect changes in living conditions in the period from 2010 to 2019. LCI ranges between 0 and 1, where 1 suggests good living conditions. It is developed using the weighted average of the following 10 indicators: housing quality, house equipment availability, access to cooking gas, access to heating fuel, access to electricity, access to drinking water, access to appropriate sewage system, solid waste collecting service, communication service, and transportation service. Moreover, the index encapsulates the variations of the aforementioned indicators. LCI in Syria dropped by 42% between 2010 and 2019 (from 0.9 to 0.4), illustrating the disastrous conditions which were brought about by the protracted conflict, and which were inflicted on families and individuals inside the country. More particularly, LCI in Idlib registered a decline of 67%, the highest deterioration in all Syrian governorates – reflecting the gravity of hardship, due to destruction.

Source:

Chatham House. Continuous Deterioration of Living Conditions in Syria (2010–19). (2019, November). Retrieved from <https://syria.chathamhouse.org/research/continuous-deterioration-of-living-conditions-in-syria-2010-19>

1.15 million

jobs in construction and industry were lost in Syria between 2010 and 2015, accounting for 47% of the total jobs lost in the same period of time

Since its onset in 2011, the conflict in Syria has forced the displacement of Syrian citizens, both internally and externally and resulted in the collapse of economic sectors in the country. This has caused changes in the structure of employment in Syria. During the first five years of the conflict, all sectors witnessed a decline in employment, except for the services sector. In fact, according to the Central Bureau of Statistics, approximately 2.4 million net jobs were lost between 2010 and 2015. The sectors which have suffered the most substantial losses are construction and industry; of the total net jobs destroyed in this period, 1.15 million net jobs in these two industries were lost. This loss accounts for 47% of total net jobs lost between 2010 and 2015. The percentage of workers employed in construction as well as in industry, decreased from 16% in 2010 to 8.5% and 10.7%, respectively, in 2015.

Source:

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>

\$ 300 billion

is the cumulative loss in GDP potential suggested when comparing the conflict versus no conflict simulations from 2011 to 2018

According to a simulation performed by the World Bank, the baseline projection of the average real GDP in Syria, had the war not happened, shows a growth of 5.3% per annum over 2011-2018 which would have led to real GDP rising from US\$ 60 billion in 2010 to US\$ 91 billion and real GDP per capita rising from US\$ 2,857 to US\$ 3,774 by 2018. In contrast, another simulation of the impact of conflict points to a negative annual GDP growth of -12% on average over 2011-2018, resulting in a GDP level of US\$ 23.2 billion in 2018. Comparing these two simulations shows a cumulative loss in GDP of around US\$ 300 billion between 2011 and 2018. About 64% of the average negative growth is due to physical capital destruction. Physical capital destruction reflects the compounded effects of large outright damages, low new investments, and a falling output base, that is adversely affected by all growth drivers. Furthermore, demographics and labor account for about 15%, human capital 7%, and total factor productivity 13% of negative GDP growth on average over the conflict years.

Source:

The World Bank. (2019, August). Growth after War in Syria. Retrieved from: <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/424551565105634645/pdf/Growth-after-War-in-Syria.pdf>

12.4 million

Syrians are now food insecure, according to WFP estimates

After 10 years of conflict, families across Syria are facing unprecedented levels of poverty and food insecurity. Severe humanitarian needs persist across the country and a record number of Syrians are now food insecure. Large-scale hostilities and mass displacement across the northern governorates, combined with a severe economic downturn, mean that the overall food security situation is rapidly deteriorating across the country, and families require support to meet their needs and rebuild their lives.

WFP estimates that 12.4 million Syrians are now food insecure. This is an increase of 4.5 million in the last year alone and the highest number ever recorded. Years of conflict, displacement, soaring food prices and a decline in the value of the Syrian Pound have affected the lives and nutritional status of some of the country's most vulnerable people, including women and children. Today, more parents than ever before are struggling to feed their children. The price of basic food items is now 29 times higher than pre-crisis averages.

Source:

World Food Programme. (2021, January). WFP Syria Country Brief. Retrieved from <https://www.wfp.org/countries/syrian-arab-republic>

11.06 million

individuals inside Syria are still in need of humanitarian assistance in 2020

A total of 11.06 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance in Syria, including 6.1 million people that are internally displaced. Moreover, approximately 4.7 million people are in critical need due to a compound of forced displacement, exposure to conflict and restricted access to basic goods. As such, UNHCR committed to deliver critical humanitarian assistance and support to vulnerable populations in Syria by addressing their protection needs, improving their livelihood conditions as well as enhancing their access to basic services. This was done in accordance with the strategic goals of the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP). For example, in Al Hol camp, which is receiving an increasing number of returnees, UNHCR with the support of its partners, installed more than 4,500 tents and made 3,600 tents ready for future instalment. UNHCR has additionally assisted the new arrivals with more than 23,000 basic relief products and winter assistance packages.

Source:

UNHCR. (2020, September). Syria factsheet: September 2020. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/unhcr-syria-factsheet-september-2020>

7.6 million

people in Syria are estimated to be in acute need of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene assistance

The conflict in Syria severely damaged the infrastructure, thereby affecting the water sanitation and hygiene services. The limited access to clean water coupled with sub-optimal hygiene conditions resulted in the deterioration of public health across the country. In fact, the leaks from damaged sewer lines and the deficient chlorination levels, as well as the lack of treatment of water supply systems all contributed to the contamination of water, thereby leading to the resurgence and outbreak of water-borne diseases such as hepatitis and diarrhea. Consequently, 7.6 million people in Syria are estimated to be in acute need of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) services – with children and populations in hard to reach areas deemed as particularly vulnerable. Moreover, 14.6 million people lacked access to safe water, leading many individuals to risk their security in their quest for alternatives. Important to note is that access to safe water is a UN sustainable development goal targeted for 2030.

Sources:

UNDP. Goal 6: Clean water and sanitation: UNDP in Syria. (2020). Retrieved from <https://www.sy.undp.org/content/syria/en/home/sustainable-development-goals/goal-6-clean-water-and-sanitation.html>

UNICEF. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.unicef.org/syria/water-sanitation-and-hygiene>

III. Living Conditions of Displaced Syrians

26%

of Syrian refugees in Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, and Jordan who did not intend to return to Syria in the 12-month period following a survey between November 2018 and February 2019 responded that they do not have access to shelter back in their country

The lack of housing or shelter is a major obstacle for the return of Syrians to their country. According to the fifth regional survey on Syrian refugees' perceptions and intentions to return conducted by UNHCR, 26% of Syrian refugees in Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, and Jordan who did not intend to return to Syria in the 12-month period following a survey between November 2018 and February 2019 responded that they do not have access to shelter back in their country. The magnitude of the damage of shelter and infrastructure has been massive, and many internally displaced Syrians continue to live in inadequate shelters, in desperate need of shelter assistance. This presents a major concern, particularly in the context where there are still emergency needs for new displacements. If anything, this indicates the importance of addressing housing-related challenges and fears of Syrians as a prerequisite to enabling voluntary, safe and dignified returns for refugees and IDPs.

Source:

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>

871,150

IDPs in Syria live in 9,968 IDP sites of last resort

According to the 2019 humanitarian needs overview, out of 6.2 million IDPs in Syria, 871,150 live in 9,968 IDP sites of last resort. These sites constitute 5,946 informal settlements, 2,031 planned camps, 1,810 collective centers, and 181 reception and transit centers. The largest number of sites is concentrated in the Idlib Governorate in northwest Syria. The area has some 325 sites that host 428,138 IDPs. The last surge of hostilities in southeastern Deir-ez-Zor has generated additional waves of displacement towards these sites, often through population relocation encouraged by the local authorities. IDPs, particularly those who have been displaced several times, lack basic services and face pressing and acute needs related to access to shelter, food, and livelihoods. Many of these people, particularly in northwest and northeast Syria, are likely to have been displaced at short notice due to hostilities, forcing them to leave abruptly with no belongings.

Source:

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

2.5 million

children across Syria were internally displaced between January and June 2020

The prolonged conflict and ongoing warfare in Syria has entailed the displacement of Syrians, mainly children. In fact, between January and June 2020, the number of displaced children was determined at 2.5 million. Children represented 40.3% of the IDP population during that period. Newly arriving children to camps suffer from poor living conditions, having been exposed to prolonged displacement and lacking access to basic services and goods. In addition, due to new arrivals fleeing the hostilities, neighboring camps became overcrowded and provided services became overstretched. For instance, the Al Hol Camp in northern Syria, with a capacity for 20,000 people, hosted 73,000 people as of the end March 2019. This raised the need for the involvement of UN agencies such as UNICEF that ensured the provision of humanitarian assistance, services and emergency supplies in different camps in Syria, focusing particularly on child protection, psychosocial assistance, as well as nutrition services.

Sources:

UNICEF. (2020, August). Whole of Syria Humanitarian Situation Report: January – June 2020. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/unicef-whole-syria-humanitarian-situation-report-january-june-2020>

UNICEF Syria Crisis Situation Report - March 2019 Humanitarian Results. (2019, March). Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/unicef-syria-crisis-situation-report-march-2019-humanitarian-results>

25%

of all Syrian refugees in Lebanon reside in the governorates of North, South, and Nabatieh

The governorates of Lebanon with the largest concentration of refugees were the governorates of Akkar, Baalbek-Hermel and the Bekaa. Nevertheless, 25% of all displaced Syrians in Lebanon – corresponding to approximately around 383,236 individuals – resided in the governorates of North, South and Nabatieh. Out of the displaced Syrians in these governorates, the majority lived in residential buildings (North: 72%, South: 71% and Nabatieh: 89%). The rest of the displaced Syrians resided in non-residential buildings and in informal settlements. Under the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan 2017-2020, the Shelter Sector sought to support the needs of displaced Syrians in these governorates. Humanitarian assistance was to be allocated between emergency assistance for 22,483 individuals in informal settlements and 15,042 individuals in sub-standard non-residential buildings. Furthermore, through shelter rehabilitation and conditional cash for rent, the shelter needs of 63,847 Syrian refugees displaced were to be addressed.

Sources:

Government of Lebanon and United Nations. (2020, January). LCRP 2017-2020 (2020 update): Shelter Sector. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/74641.pdf>

UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP. (2020). VASyR: Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/85002>

61%

of displaced Syrian households in Baalbek-Hermel live in non-permanent structures or informal settlements

Shelter conditions of Syrian refugee households in Lebanon are worsening over time. According to VASyR 2020, 61% of displaced Syrian households in Baalbek-Hermel live in non-permanent structures or informal settlements. In fact, a shift toward non-residential structures and a decline in the share of households living in residential buildings across almost all governorates was observed. Non-permanent structures range from informal tented settlements (ITS) to agricultural rooms, engine rooms, pump rooms, active construction sites, garages, and farms. This shift indicates the inability of Syrian refugees to pay for rent in residential structures due to increasing debt levels and limited access to work opportunities. This is expected to increase in the upcoming years, particularly with the refugee crisis turning protracted and the levels of funding for the Shelter Sector decreasing. Refugees are expected to move to more substandard shelter types, exposing themselves to health risks as well as unsafe and insecure situations.

Source:

UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP. (2020). VASyR: Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/85002>

20%

of displaced Syrian households in South Lebanon live in non-residential structures

Syrian refugee households have been downgrading their shelter types, moving to non-residential and non-permanent structures. These structures were not originally designed for residential use such as factories, garages, workshops, etc. They are often invisible and generally underserved by humanitarian interventions due to the non-residential nature of the buildings' original construction permit. For example, in South Lebanon, 20% of displaced Syrian households live in non-residential structures and 9% live in non-permanent structures. This indicates the persisting struggle that Syrians go through to access affordable and adequate housing. The economic vulnerability of refugee households often forces them to settle in shelters characterized with bad conditions. Indeed, non-residential buildings like garages and farms are unlikely to have WASH infrastructure such as water and sewage connections to public networks. Some of these shelters are considered to have below humanitarian standards and are not suitable for upgrading.

Sources:

Government of Lebanon and United Nations. (2020, January). LCRP 2017-2020 (2020 Update): Shelter Sector. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/74641.pdf>

UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP. (2020). VASyR: Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/85002>

86%

of evictions of Syrian refugees in Lebanon in 2020 were due to refugees' inability to pay rent

Evictions are commonly carried out for any of the following reasons: tension with the community or restrictive measures, inability to pay rent, end of rent assistance or free hosting period, safety and security threats, as well as disputes or tension with landlords. According to the VASyR 2020, 19% of Syrian refugees who reported changing their accommodation in the last 12 months did so because they were evicted. Among the evicted, most refugees cited inability to pay rent (86%) as the main reason, followed by not respecting measures implemented locally in the context of COVID-19 (7%) and/or a dispute with the landlord (5%). Furthermore, 5% of the interviewed households noted that they were living under an eviction notice, of which 60% were expected to leave within one month. Based on data and recommendations retrieved from the VASyR 2020, an integrated response that considers shelter, WASH, protection, and social stability needs of Syrian refugees is highly needed in order to decrease the percentage of evictions and eviction threats.

Source:

UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP. (2020). VASyR: Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/85002>

251

is the number of the most vulnerable cadastres in Lebanon which host 87% of Syrian refugees and 67% of deprived Lebanese

Lebanese host community members were greatly affected by the Syrian refugee crisis, particularly those living in poor areas where refugees chose to settle in masses. A national exercise in 2015 correlating poverty data and UNHCR registration data identified 251 cadastres as particularly vulnerable. These cadastres host 87% of Syrian refugees, and 67% of deprived Lebanese. They are marked by poverty, youth unemployment, and high demand for basic services. This led to an increase in the levels of tension among refugee and Lebanese communities who found themselves competing for job and housing opportunities. In this sense, 500 interventions are to take place within the 251 vulnerable cadastres with the aim of creating 15,000 short-term opportunities, 50% of which should benefit displaced Syrians and Palestinian refugees.

Source:

Government of Lebanon and United Nations (2020, April). LCRP key facts and figures - Lebanon Crisis Response Plan 2017-2020 (2020 Update). Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/74641.pdf>

46%

of Palestine refugees from Syria are hosted in the 12 official Palestinian refugee camps, which also accommodate 45% of Palestinian refugees from Lebanon

Similar to Syrian refugees, Palestine refugees from Syria (PRS) generally settled in and around major cities across Lebanon, mostly in dense urban neighborhoods among vulnerable host communities. According to the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP), of the 28,000 PRS, 46% are hosted in the 12 official Palestinian refugee camps, which also accommodate 45% of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon (PRL). The remaining PRL and PRS live in ‘gatherings’ or areas adjacent to camps among other locations. The total Palestinian population in the 12 camps amounts to 94,729, living within a total area of 2.79km². Although the camps are also occupied by other nationalities, population density calculations that factor in only the Palestinian residents give an average figure of 33,953 persons/km². The housing situation in the Palestinian camps is largely characterized by unplanned shelters with overcrowding, unhygienic conditions, poor building materials and high risk of collapse.

Source:

Government of Lebanon and United Nations. (2019, April). Lebanon Crisis Response Plan: 2017-2020: Shelter Sector. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/68659>

1/3

of Syrian refugee families in Lebanon continued to live in overcrowded shelters in 2020

In Lebanon, due to the governmental policy forbidding the establishment of formal refugee camps, the majority of the Syrian refugees had to settle in poor areas in cities and villages, among the host community. In 2020, almost half of Syrian refugee households – accounting for 48% – were living in shelters that are either overcrowded, have substandard humanitarian conditions or were in danger of collapse. More particularly, 29% of these households or almost one third of Syrian refugee families continued to live in overcrowded shelters. This figure is slightly less than that of 2019 (32%). Overcrowding generally refers to shelters that provide less than 4.5m²/person. It is important to note that overcrowding was more prevalent in non-permanent (39%) and non-residential (35%) shelters than in residential shelters (25%). This exacerbates the bad living conditions that refugees living in non-permanent and non-residential shelters suffer from.

Source:

UNHCR, UNICEF, & WFP. (2020). VASyR 2020: Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/85002>

91%

of Syrian refugees in Lebanon spent less than LBP 11,700 per day in 2020

In 2020, 91% of Syrian refugees in Lebanon spent less than LBP 11,700 per day. This amount, LBP 11,700 or LBP 350,200 per person per month, corresponds to the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) or the poverty line. The percentage of Syrian refugees living under the poverty line has increased by almost 20%, from 73% in 2019. It is used as an indicator of the cost of expenditures such as food and non-food items, clothes, communication, rent, health, education, transportation, etc., needed by a Syrian refugee household of five members over a one-month period. Below this amount, individuals are determined unable to meet their survival needs for food, health and shelter. As such, an increase in the percentage of refugees living below the MEB illustrates the increasing economic vulnerability of refugees in Lebanon. Additionally, decreasing purchasing power and an increase in food prices by about 189% since October 2019 have further aggravated this vulnerability in 2020.

Sources:

UNHCR, UNICEF, & WFP. (2020). VASyR 2020: Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/85002>

WFP. (2021, January). Lebanon: VAM Update on Food Price and Market Trends (December 2020). Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int/report/lebanon/lebanon-vam-update-food-price-and-market-trends-december-2020>

92%

of Syrian refugee households in Lebanon were in debt in 2020

Debt constitutes the current amount of accumulated credit or money borrowed by refugees over the past years. The average level of debt per Syrian refugee household (for only households with debt) has increased significantly in 2020 by almost 18%, reaching LBP 1,835,838 (US\$ 1,218). Such an increase reflects the significant rise in living costs and inflation due to the multi-faceted crisis in Lebanon during 2020. The debt of refugee households has already been witnessing an upward trend in previous years, during which the average debt per household has risen by nearly LBP 150,000 (US\$ 100) each year, from LBP 1,385,393 (US\$ 919) in 2017, to LBP 1,530,113 (US\$ 1,015) in 2018 and LBP 1,680,862 (US\$ 1,115) in 2019. The proportion of households that were over LBP 900,000 (US\$ 600) in debt increased dramatically, reaching 63% in 2020 compared to 55% in 2019 and 43% in 2018. Overall, nine out of 10 households (92%) were in debt in 2020, in line with 2019. The reasons Syrian refugees borrow money are mostly related to getting food (93%), paying the rent (48%) and/or buying medicine (34%). It is important to note that Syrian refugees often rely on friends in Lebanon to lend them money (79%) or on supermarkets or grocery stores (46%). This shows that Syrian refugee households continue to lack enough resources to cover their essential needs.

Note: USD values calculated based on the official exchange rate of 1 US\$ = 1,507.5 LBP. In VASyR 2020, all figures are stated in LBP.

Source:

UNHCR, UNICEF, & WFP. (2020). VASyR 2020: Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/85002>

65%

of Syrian refugee households reduced the numbers of meals eaten per day in order to cope with the lack of food in 2020

Syrian refugee households use different food-related and/or livelihood-related ways to cope with lack of food. According to the VASyR 2020, the food-related strategies used by refugees in Lebanon included (1) relying on less preferred or less expensive food (88%), (2) reducing number of meals eaten per day (65%), (3) reducing portion size of meals (65%), (4) borrowing food or relying on help from friends or relatives (43%), (5) restricting consumption by adults so children can eat (30%), (6) sending household members to eat elsewhere (8%), (7) restricting food consumption of female members of households (7%), and (8) spending days without eating (7%). It is important to note that adopting more strategies and/or resorting to severe strategies on a more frequent basis to cope with the lack of food would result in a higher reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI) (only the first five strategies are included in rCSI calculation). While this varies widely between districts, the highest rCSI scores are found in the North and Akkar, indicating higher vulnerability in relation to food.

Source:

UNHCR, UNICEF, & WFP. (2020). VASyR 2020: Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/85002>

3.2 million

people, including vulnerable Lebanese, Syrian refugees, PRL and PRS are in need in Lebanon

According to UNHCR, 3.2 million people in Lebanon, including vulnerable Lebanese, Syrian refugees, PRS and PRL were in need in 2020. More specifically, of those 3.2 million in need, 1.5 million are Syrian refugees, according to LCRP estimates; 1.5 million are vulnerable Lebanese; 180,000 are PRL and 28,000 are PRS. Lebanon has been hosting refugees for a prolonged period of time. This exacerbated the socio-economic vulnerabilities in the country and deepened socio-economic disparities among both refugee and host communities. Indeed, refugees' living conditions have increasingly worsened over the time. With the 'no-camp' policy and the absence of a clear housing solution, most refugees found themselves forced to settle among the host community, often in poor and impoverished neighborhoods. This calls for a neighborhood-based approach capable of addressing the needs of the most vulnerable.

Source:

Government of Lebanon and United Nations. (2020, January). Lebanon Crisis Response Plan 2017-2020 (2020 update). Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/74641.pdf>

207,700

PRS and PRL are in need of a range of interventions, from emergency aid to development assistance, in Lebanon

In addition to Syrian refugees, Lebanon hosts a large community of Palestinian refugees, including PRS and PRL. In fact, the government of Lebanon determines that 27,700 PRS and a pre-existing population of an estimated 180,000 PRL reside between 12 camps and 156 gatherings across Lebanon. Considered as vulnerable populations, 207,700 PRS and PRL in Lebanon are in need of humanitarian intervention, ranging from emergency aid to development assistance. For instance, Palestinian refugees in Lebanon suffer from bad shelter conditions and overcrowded camps that have increasingly hosted Syrian refugees. In addition, education facilities are suffering as classrooms are also overcrowded. With only one of the 65 UNRWA schools running double shifts, the majority of the PRS children have to attend class with their PRL counterparts.

Source:

Government of Lebanon and United Nations. (2020, January). Lebanon Crisis Response Plan 2017-2020 (2020 update). Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/74641.pdf>

IV. Legal Status of Syrian Refugees in Host Countries

80%

of Syrian refugees aged 15 and above in Lebanon lack legal residency

Eighty percent of Syrians in Lebanon aged 15 and above lacked legal residency in 2020 – compared to 78% in 2019. Trends of legal residency by gender and age group show youth and younger adults (under the age of 25) had lower rates of legal residency than their older counterparts. Females across almost all age groups had lower rates of legal residency than males. Among the most common reasons cited as barriers to obtaining legal residencies by Syrian refugees are rejection by the General Security Office (GSO), including inconsistent practices (33%), followed by the inability to obtain a sponsor or pay residency fees (26%); the latter being slightly more commonly cited by men as compared to women. Limitations of the existing regulations which include individuals that have an unrenewable and expired residency or individuals who lack ID documents was cited by 12% of those not having legal residency. Eleven percent of individuals stated personal reluctance and discouragement as the reason they did not have legal residency. The lack of legal status puts refugees at risk of detention for unlawful presence in the country. It also restricts the refugees' access to employment, education, and healthcare – which causes further deterioration of their living conditions.

Source:

UNHCR, UNICEF, & WFP. (2020). VASyR 2020: Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/85002>

98%

of Syrian refugee children in Lebanon in 2020 had a documentation attesting to their birth

It was reported that in 2020 98% of Syrian refugees in Lebanon possessed a form of documentation verifying the birth of their child in Lebanon, whether it was a doctor or midwife certificate (compared to 97% in 2019). However, the rate of births registered with the Foreigners' Registry slightly decreased to 28% in 2020, from 30% in 2019. The highest rate of birth registration with the Foreigners' Registry was among households residing in Beirut (49%); whereas the lowest rate was among households residing in Akkar (8%), followed by those in Baalbek-Hermel (10%). The lowest rates recorded were in fact below national prevalence. It is also worth noting that no gender differences were observed in birth registration rates. When examining birth registration rates by shelter type, a striking difference is noted between those living in non-permanent shelters compared to those living in residential and non-residential buildings. The proportion of births registered at the Foreigners' Registry among those living in residential and non-residential shelters is above the national average, at 35% and 31% respectively. For those in non-permanent shelters however, the rates are much lower at only 9%. Following birth registration at the Nofous, 62% declared unaffordable expenses and transportation fees as the main deterrent for not completing registration at the Foreigners' Registry, while 21% had no knowledge of the next steps to complete registration.

Source:

UNHCR, UNICEF, & WFP. (2020). VASyR 2020: Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/85002>

73%

of Syrian refugees who were married in Lebanon in 2020 possessed the minimum needed documentation for marriage, either a marriage contract from a religious authority or proof of marriage from the Sharia Court

Out of all marriages among Syrian refugees that took place in Lebanon in 2020, 73% possessed the minimum needed documentation for marriage, which is either a marriage contract from a religious authority or proof of marriage from the Sharia Court – the same rate as in the preceding year. In 2020, 27% of those surveyed had registered their marriage with the Foreigners' Registry, in comparison to 26% in 2019. Nevertheless, 27% of Syrian refugee marriages had no documentation attesting to its legality. More particularly, 22% possessed a marriage contract but from an uncertified Sheikh, while 5% had no documentation whatsoever.

Source:

UNHCR, UNICEF, & WFP. (2020). VASyR 2020: Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/85002>

18,125

Syrians applied for the first time for asylum in the EU in the third quarter of 2020

In the last 12 months preceding the third quarter of 2020, a total of 66,880 Syrian refugees applied for the first time for asylum in the EU. Out of this number, 18,125 applied in the third quarter of 2020, compared to 8,295 applications recorded in the second quarter of the same year, which represents a 119% increase. The three main EU member states to which Syrian asylum seekers applied to were Germany with 10,905 applications (60% of all first-time applicants), followed by Greece with 1,880 applications (10% of all first-time applicants), and the Netherlands with 1,370 applications (8% of all first-time applicants). Asylum is a form of international protection granted to a person who is unable to seek protection in his/her country of citizenship and/or residence because of fear of persecution. Unfortunately, with populism sweeping over European countries, EU member states have become less open to hosting refugees. This leaves Syrian refugees, among others seeking a safe environment, with less options to pursue.

Source:

Eurostat. (2020, December). Asylum quarterly report. Retrieved from https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Asylum_quarterly_report#:~:text=First%2Dtime%20asylum%20applicants%20down,27%20Member%20States%20were%20positive.

3%

of all Syrian households were evicted at some point during 2019 and 2020

An increasing number of Syrian refugees are being evicted or are living under the threat of eviction. Lebanon's deepening economic crisis has heightened the risk of eviction for Syrian refugees. According to UNHCR's National Protection Monitoring Report for the month of November 2020, 79% of refugees reported an increased inability to afford rent as a result of the economic crisis, 55% said they are coping with increasing financial difficulties by either reducing spending on rent or not paying rent, and 8% reported living under an eviction notice. According to 2020 VASyR data, 86% of evicted Syrian refugees reported that the reason for their eviction was an inability to pay rent, and in November 2020, 98% of refugees living under an eviction notice reported that the reasons were their inability to pay. This growing severity of this protection issue is reflected in 81% of refugees surveyed in UNHCR's November 2020 national protection report requesting rent payment assistance as a priority need.

Sources:

UNHCR. (2020). UNHCR Protection Monitoring National Report: November 2020.

UNHCR. (2020). Collective Evictions and Eviction Notices: ActivityInfo report covering July 2020 – September 2020. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/83030>

UNHCR, UNICEF, & WFP. (2020). VASyR 2020: Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon.

2,731

Syrians were deported between May and August 2019

The GSO published a statement in the media stating that 2,731 Syrians were deported between May and August 2019. Since then, deportations have continued. The Government of Lebanon has continuously reaffirmed its commitment to the principle of non-refoulement which obliges Lebanon not to transfer any individual to another country if this would result in exposing him/her to serious human rights violations or other harm. This principle requires an independent judicial or administrative review of each case before a decision on deportation is taken and executed. The national law provides for such a court review, but it is not implemented in the current practice of deportations to Syria. According to the latest update of the LCRP, “[f]ollowing decisions by the HDC and the Directorate General of General Security (GSO) in April and May 2019, displaced Syrians and Palestinian refugees from Syria – men, women and children– apprehended for lack of legal residency and found to have entered Lebanon irregularly after 24 April 2019 are subject to deportation and handed over to the Syrian immigration authorities. Discussions are ongoing between the authorities and partners about securing procedural safeguards to eliminate the risk of refoulement while ensuring effective border management.”

Sources:

The Legal Agenda. (2019). Position Paper on the decision to summarily deport Syrian nationals who entered Lebanon irregularly. Position paper endorsed by eight Lebanese civil society organisations.

Government of Lebanon and UN. (2020). Lebanon Crisis Response Plan 2017 – 2020. 2020 Update, page 12.

The Daily Star. (2019). More than 2,700 Syrians deported from Lebanon under new rule.

Independent Monitor’s Report on the Lebanon Commitments from the London and Brussels Conferences. (2020). Retrieved from <https://agulhas.co.uk/our-work/independent-monitors-report-on-the-lebanon-commitments-from-the-london-and-brussels-conferences/>

215,668

work permits were issued by Jordanian authorities to Syrian refugees between January 2016 and December 2020

From January 2016 to December 2020, the Jordanian government delivered 215,668 work permits to Syrian refugees. Work permits allow refugees to work legally, without the constant fear of being caught. It also benefits the employer who risks a fine ranging from US\$ 250 to US\$ 2,100 for employing illegal workers. While work permits do not measure actual job creation, they nevertheless improve the social protection coverage for Syrian workers. Indeed, an employer has the legal obligation to register all employees with social security once the permit has been issued. In December 2020, most of the work permits were delivered for the agriculture sector (46%), followed by the construction sector (18.9%), manufacturing activities (10.4%) and the hospitality sector (8.4%). Finally, of the 215,668 permits, only 5% were issued to Syrian refugee women.

Source:

Government of Jordan. (2021, February). Syrian Refugee Unit Work Permit Progress Report (December 2020). Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int/report/jordan/syrian-refugee-unit-work-permit-progress-report-december-2020>

V. Social Relations between Syrian Refugees and Host Communities

86.6%

of people in Lebanon stated that 'people in this area can be trusted'

The influx of displaced persons has caused pressure on the host community. In fact, in the most affected communities, Lebanese have displayed adversarial conduct against displaced persons. Despite emerging tensions, solidarity within communities – that is, intracommunal solidarity – and perceptions of safety in Lebanon strongly prevailed. According to a UNDP ARK Perception survey, although solidarity remains high with 86.6% of people in Lebanon stated that 'people in this area can be trusted', it corresponds to a decrease of 7.4 points when compared to 2019. Nevertheless, 89% of Syrians and Lebanese disclosed that Lebanese have been good hosts to displaced Syrians since 2011. Moreover, 90% of individuals in Lebanon, both Syrian and Lebanese, reported that they feel safe in their communities during the daytime, corresponding to decrease of 6 points since July 2018. Most importantly, this heightened feeling of safety is perceptible in all demographic cohorts.

Sources:

Government of Lebanon and United Nations. (2020, January). Lebanon Crisis Response Plan 2017-2020 (2020 update): Social Stability Sector. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/74641>

ARK/UNDP. (2020). Perception Survey (Wave 8), July 2020. Retrieved from <https://app.powerbi.com/>

56.7%

of Syrians in Lebanon reported that municipalities have a positive impact on their lives

Pre-existing concerns on the failures of service delivery by municipalities in Lebanon have been exacerbated with the influx of displaced populations to the country. Before the crisis, 70% of municipalities were too small to provide basic services, 57% lacked an administrative structure, and 40% had only a single employee (often working on a part-time or voluntary basis). In an attempt to manage intercommunal relations and to provide services in response to the needs of all groups, more than 1,000 municipalities, 50 municipal unions, and 200 social development centers (SDCs) in Lebanon have all been working jointly with the civil society. Despite the strain on service delivery by these institutions, Lebanese and displaced Syrians still have high confidence in these institutions. In fact, 60% of Lebanese and displaced Syrians are reportedly convinced that municipal authorities improve their lives – corresponding to a decrease of 20 points compared to July 2018.

Sources:

Government of Lebanon and United Nations. (2020, January). Lebanon Crisis Response Plan 2017-2020 (2020 update): Social Stability Sector. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/74641>

ARK/UNDP. (2020). Perception Survey (Wave 8), July 2020. Retrieved from: <https://app.powerbi.com/>

54%

of Syrian refugees in Lebanon described their relationship with the host community as positive or very positive in 2020

In a 2020 survey on community relations, 54% of Syrian refugees reported that their relationship with the host communities in Lebanon was neutral. On the other hand, only a few refugees rated their relations with the host community as negative (3%). These cases were mostly found in Nabatieh and the South where competition for jobs and resources was cited by over 40% (although this decreased from 51% in 2019) of Syrian refugee households as the most frequent issue that caused tension among refugees and host communities. As a matter of fact, 2020 witnessed an increase in the enforcement of restrictions on refugees' ability to work, as Syrians continued to be blamed by the public for the dire economic situation in Lebanon.

Source:

UNHCR, UNICEF, & WFP. (2020). VASyR 2020: Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/85002>

95%

of curfews on Syrian refugees in 2020 in Lebanon were imposed by municipalities

Before curfew was decreed at the national level in attempt to contain the spread of COVID-19, 21% of surveyed refugee households reported curfews in their host area. In almost all the cases (95%), these curfews were imposed by municipalities. According to Human Rights Watch (HRW), at least 21 municipalities have introduced such restrictive measures on refugees that did not apply to Lebanese residents. As such, these curfews were seen as discriminatory and 11% of Syrian refugee families disclosed that curfews represented a safety and/or security issue. These curfews varied across governorates. For instance, refugees in Nabatieh and the North reported most frequently that they had a curfew imposed on them, 68% and 29% respectively, whereas in Akkar, curfews were infrequently reported by refugee residents. These curfews generated concerns among refugees regarding their ability to access health resources and essential supplies.

Sources:

UNHCR, UNICEF, & WFP. (2020). VASyR 2020: Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/85002>

Human Rights Watch. (2020, April). Lebanon: Refugees at Risk in Covid-19 Response. Retrieved from <https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/04/02/lebanon-refugees-risk-covid-19-response>

40%

is the share of Syrian refugees in Lebanon that cited competition for jobs as the main driver of tensions between refugees and host communities in 2020

Among key issues cited by refugees as drivers of tensions between refugees and host communities in 2020, 40% responded 'competition for jobs', making it the most commonly cited issue among respondents. In comparison to 2019, the share of respondents reporting this issue decreased by 11%. Moreover, the percentage of households reporting 'competition for resources and services' as the key driver of tensions fell drastically compared to the previous year (20% in 2019 vs. 8% in 2020). However, in 2020 tension drivers such as 'cultural differences' (20%) or 'political differences' (13%) did increase from 2019. Nevertheless, most of the families (45%) did not report any issues in 2020, a 2% increase since 2019.

Source:

UNHCR, UNICEF, & WFP. (2020). VASyR 2020: Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/85002>

VI. Health

1/2

of all healthcare facilities in Syria were only partially functioning or weren't functioning at all in 2019

Half of all healthcare facilities in Syria were only partially functioning or were not functioning at all in 2019. Moreover, 82% of health workers acknowledged that bombardments in the previous year reduced the capacity of their facilities to below an acceptable standard. Furthermore, almost four out of five healthcare workers in six governorates in Syria – accounting for 79% of surveyed healthcare workers – declared that attacks in their localities resulted in a shortage of qualified medical staff. The ongoing security situation in Syria coupled with the lack of access to medical equipment and medicine contributed to the deterioration in the overall public health in the country, particularly the quality of healthcare provided at these facilities. It is important to mention that factors such as food scarcity, lack of access to drinkable water, injuries as a result of mines and improvised explosive devices, as well as the toxicity associated with waste, biomedical waste and warfare equipment increase the risk of disease contraction.

Sources:

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

UK Aid, SIM, TRANSTEC, AKTIS, & RMTTeam. (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

16

medical facilities were attacked in Syria from January to the end of September 2020

Since the onset of the conflict in Syria in 2011, hostilities have persisted, and often at the expense of civilians rather than combatants. According to the WHO, from January to the end of September 2020, 16 medical facilities were attacked in Syria. Additionally, the UN confirmed over 420 cases of attacks on health facilities since 2014. This is despite that fact that international humanitarian law states that medical facilities such as hospitals must be protected and exempted from attacks. Moreover, half of all healthcare facilities in 2019 were partially functioning or were not functioning at all. In fact, with the contracting of healthcare provision, national routine immunization coverage declined to less than 50% in 2017, compared to 80% in 2010. As a result of the deterioration of healthcare services, vaccine preventable diseases re-emerged as several outbreaks surfaced. The decline in services also included specialized care for children with disabilities, which became unavailable for the majority of children with physical or mental disabilities in their area.

Sources:

UNICEF Middle East and North Africa. (2019, December). Syria Crisis Fast Facts. Retrieved from <https://www.unicef.org/mena/reports/syria-crisis-fast-facts>.

WHO. (2020, November). Syrian Arab Republic: Attacks on health care in Syria, 1 Jan - 30 Sep 2020. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/syrian-arab-republic-attacks-health-care-syria-1-jan-30-sep-2020>

57%

of Syrian refugee households in Lebanon required primary healthcare in the past six months preceding the survey

In 2020, 57% of Syrian refugee households in Lebanon required primary health care (PHC) in the past six months preceding the VASyR 2020 survey, in comparison to 63% in 2019 – corresponding to a 6% decrease. PHC refers to healthcare that does not require hospital admission. The decreased demand can be explained by seasonal variations of incidence of certain diseases and the fact that 2020 VASyR was conducted during a different time-period compared to 2019. Other possible reasons might be related to a change in health-seeking behaviors due to the ongoing crises and financial hardship where households are not prioritizing health needs and are not considering preventive or primary healthcare as a necessity. The COVID-19 situation and restrictive preventive measures implemented at different levels might also have impacted health-seeking behaviors and therefore the perceived need for healthcare. While at the national level, the ability to access PHC remained high with only 10% of households reporting that they were unable to access the needed PHC. However, geographical differences were noted. In the South and Nabatieh, the proportion of families that did not have access to needed care increased drastically from 8% and 3% in 2019 to 26% and 14% in 2020, respectively. In Mount Lebanon, the trend was inversed with 16% of families reporting that they were unable to access the needed PHC, compared to 26% in 2019.

Source:

UNHCR, UNICEF, & WFP. (2020). VASyR 2020: Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/85002>

1,388,599

subsidized primary healthcare consultations were provided to Syrian refugees and their host communities in Lebanon from January to December 2020

The LCRP provides humanitarian assistance to vulnerable populations in Lebanon through different sectors that are bearing the burden of the refugee crisis in Lebanon, including the healthcare sector. For example, as part of the LCRP activities, 1,388,599 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 2020. This represents a 19.6 point decrease from 2019, a difference that is mainly due to the multiple ongoing crises that greatly affected the access to healthcare services in 2020. However, it is important to mention that the funding appeals for health-related needs under the LCRP in 2020 were US\$ 275.9 million, of which only US\$ 158.8 million were received by December 2020 (including funds carried over from 2019), leaving the health sector with an approximate 40% gap in funding. This presents a significant risk for the wellbeing of both the Syrian refugees and vulnerable Lebanese host communities and their access to primary health care.

Source:

Inter-Agency Coordination. (2021, February). 2020 December Statistical Dashboard. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/84571>

800

additional hospital beds are being distributed by UNHCR to support Lebanon's COVID-19 response

UNHCR is currently distributing 800 regular inpatient hospital beds, 100 ICU beds, and eight dialysis beds for COVID-19 patients among Lebanese hospitals. This operation aims at avoiding competition for care by making it accessible to all patients, regardless of nationality. The first phase of distribution targeted the Baalbek Governmental Hospital, the Halba Governmental Hospital, the Rafik Hariri Governmental Hospital, the Saida Governmental Hospital, and the Tripoli Governmental Hospital. Among other initiatives, UNHCR supported the creation of isolation facilities over the country, allowing people living in overcrowded settings to isolate and provided personal protection equipment for caretakers. Since the outbreak of the virus, UNHCR worked to prevent its transmission and deployed its efforts to avoid the overstretching of the Lebanese health system.

Source:

UNHCR. (2021, January). UNHCR's Support to Lebanon's COVID-19 Response Plan January 2021. Retrieved from <https://www.unhcr.org/lb/corona>

84%

of Syrian refugee households in Lebanon reported cost of treatment as the main barrier when accessing hospital care in 2020

In 2020, despite the COVID-19 pandemic being a significant obstacle to accessing hospital care, the cost of treatment remains the most important barrier (84%). It is followed by transportation costs (22%), and hospital refusals due to the inability of the family to secure the hospital deposit (8%). As this top three demonstrates, direct and indirect costs such as transportation, underlines the difficulties that low-income households confront when accessing hospitals. In fact, cost of drugs (77%), doctor's fees (73%) and transportation cost (49%) were also the most cited barriers to receiving primary health care. Compared to 2019, the number of households that cited the cost of transport nearly doubled, (49% in 2020 vs. 28% in 2019). Similarly, the share of households citing the cost of drugs dramatically increased (77% in 2020 vs. 57% in 2019).

Source:

UNHCR, UNICEF, & WFP. (2020). VASyR 2020: Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/85002>

VII. Education and Child Protection

2.1 million

children in Syria were out of school in 2019

Due to the protracted conflict, more than one in three schools were either damaged or destroyed, while others are being utilized for purposes not related to education, such as shelter for displaced populations. The lack of functioning education establishments contributed to the deterioration of schooling in Syria. In fact, 2.1 million is the number of children in Syria who were out of school in 2019, and another 1.3 million were determined at risk of dropping out. To exacerbate the situation further, one in eight children per classroom have psychosocial support needs requiring specialized interventions for effective teaching and learning. Displaced communities are determined to be particularly vulnerable to the deprivation of education services. Over 5.8 million school-aged children (including some Palestine refugee children) and about 245,000 education personnel are in need of education assistance inside Syria, 61% of whom are in acute and immediate need. Schools in areas receiving IDPs have limited absorption capacity for incoming students, resulting in an additional strain on deteriorating education services.

Source:

UNICEF, Mercy Corps, Save the Children, & World Vision. (2019). NO LOST GENERATION 2018 ANNUAL REPORT. Retrieved from [https://www.nolostgeneration.org/sites/default/files/makhalid/pdfresizer.com-pdf-resize%20\(1\)_0.pdf](https://www.nolostgeneration.org/sites/default/files/makhalid/pdfresizer.com-pdf-resize%20(1)_0.pdf)

33.1%

of Syrian refugee children aged 6 to 14 years in Lebanon were out of school in 2020

Among Syrian refugee children aged six to 14 years old in Lebanon, 33.1% were out of school during the school year 2019-2020. Similar to the previous school year, the Bekaa governorate has the lowest rate of school enrolment for this age group, with 54% of Syrian refugee children enrolled. On the other hand, Beirut scores the highest, with an 81% enrolment rate. Among this age group, the main reasons for not being enrolled in school were the cost of educational materials (30%) and the cost of transportation to school (25%). Gender does not seem to be a determinant factor, as the proportion of girls enrolled in primary school during that year is similar to that of the boys. While education remains a fundamental right under international law, it is also a crucial factor to ensure this generation a brighter future.

Source:

UNHCR, UNICEF, & WFP. (2020). VASyR 2020: Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/85002>

35%

of Syrian refugee children aged 6 to 17 years in Lebanon had some access to remote learning since the school closures in March 2020

Among school-aged Syrian refugee children (6-17), 60% enrolled for the school year 2019-2020, which means that 40% of children in this age group had no access to school from the beginning of the school year. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, public schools in Lebanon were all closed starting March 2020, and remote learning was introduced across the country. Since March 2020, 64% of children aged 6-17 enrolled in schools were reported to only have attended school in person during that school year, discontinuing their education since the school closures. The remaining 35% had some access to remote/distance learning, of whom one third were not able to follow such lessons, mostly due to the lack of or inadequate internet. Syrian refugee households cited the cost of education materials (20%), cost of transportation (15%) and school not allowing enrolment (9%) as key reasons for not attending school during that school year (before school closures). Coping strategies, such as not attending school due to work (6%), as well as not attending due to marriage (2%) prevented children accessing their schooling. In fact, UNICEF confirmed that the need for adolescents to contribute to household income generation is a primary cause of abandoning education.

Source:

UNHCR, UNICEF, & WFP. (2020). VASyR 2020: Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/85002>

13%

of Syrian refugee youth aged between 15 and 24 were enrolled in formal education for the 2019-2020 school year

Thirteen percent of Syrian refugee youth in Lebanon aged between 15 and 24 were enrolled in formal education for the 2019-2020 school year. Young women had slightly higher enrolment rates than young men (14% vs. 12% respectively). Rates of enrolment also varied across governorates, with Beirut having the highest enrolment percentage (21%) and Bekaa the lowest (7%). Furthermore, the rates differed across age categories, with 26% of Syrian displaced youth aged between 15 to 18 years enrolled in formal education, compared to only 3% of those aged 19 to 24 years. It is important to note that two thirds of Syrian displaced youth (67%) were neither enrolled in education or a training program, nor participating in the labor market in 2020.

Source:

UNHCR, UNICEF, & WFP. (2020). VASyR 2020: Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/85002>

\$351 million

is the amount required for the education sector in Lebanon for the year of 2020, out of which only US\$ 162 million was received

For the education sector in Lebanon, out of the US\$ 351 million required for the implementation of the LCRP education sector projects in 2020, only US\$ 162 million was received, leaving a funding gap of 54%. Consequently, out of the 471,950 originally targeted children and youth, only 266,562 had their registration fees for public formal education partially or fully subsidized. Although the education sector received the fourth largest amount of funds, following food security, basic assistance, and protection, the lack of funding has had an impact on the humanitarian response initially planned under the LCRP. This in turn affected education delivery programs and other projects in need of financial assistance. It is important to note that further obstacles were faced as a result of the spread of the COVID-19 virus and the adoption of distance learning following the lockdown and school closures.

Source:
Inter-Agency Coordination. (February 2021). 2020 December Statistical Dashboard. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/84571>

4.4%

of Syrian refugee children aged 5 to 17 years were engaged in labor in Lebanon

In Lebanon, the percentage of Syrian refugee children aged 5 to 17 engaged in child labor almost doubled, from 2.6% in 2019 to 4.4% in 2020. The rates of child labor varied across governorates, with the highest rates being registered in the Mount Lebanon (6.4%) and South (5.9%) governorates. Out of those in child labor, 27% were engaged in labor during school hours in the past 30 days. The need to financially contribute to the household for its survival might prevent refugee children from continuing their education. Boys were more vulnerable to child labor than girls in 2020, with 7% compared to 2%, respectively.

Source:

UNHCR, UNICEF, & WFP. (2020). VASyR 2020: Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/85002>

65.9%

of children between 4 and 18 years, of surveyed households living in informal settlements in Bekaa, were engaged in child labor

Nearly two thirds (65.9%) of children between 4 and 18 years, of surveyed households living in informal settlements in the Bekaa, were engaged in child labor. Of those, 75% of were working in the agriculture sector. Their assignments often include work hazards such as exposure to pesticides and fertilizers as well as long working hours. In addition, Syrian refugee children engaged in labor are often prevented from resuming their education; almost half of the children who were not attending school said it was because of work. Regardless of the shortcomings of child labor, it remains a household coping mechanism that helps Syrians generate further income. In fact, among the working children, approximately 58% reported giving all of their wage, or part of it, to their parents.

Source:

AUB & ILO, FAO and UNICEF. (2019). Child Labour in Agriculture in the Bekaa Valley of Lebanon: The case of Syrian Refugees. Retrieved from https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---arabstates/---ro-beirut/documents/publication/wcms_711801.pdf

1 in 3

Syrian refugee girls, under 18 years of age, in Lebanon were married according to UN estimates

The humanitarian crisis of Syrian displaced populations has been associated with gender discrimination in host countries, placing women and girls under further vulnerability. For instance, UNHCR estimates that in Lebanon in 2019 at least one in three Syrian refugee girls, under 18 years of age, were married. Child marriage is defined as the formal marriage or informal union of any child under 18 years of age. It is important to note that child marriage is regarded as a violation of human rights, and more specifically as an act of violence perpetrated against children and girls. Child marriage in refugee communities occurs as a household coping mechanism – and in many instances is forced on girls. It puts girls at risk of marital rape, childbirth complications, domestic abuse, cessation of school education, as well as prostitution.

Source:

UN Women. (2019, September). Addressing gender amongst Syrian refugees in Lebanon. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/72394>

99%

of children in Syria interviewed expressed fear of at least one kind of threat in the school space in 2019

According to a study conducted by Integrity Global, most Syrian families expressed distress about insecurity on the way to or from school. Ninety-nine percent of children in Syria interviewed expressed fear of at least one kind of threat in the school space in 2019. More children were afraid of teacher abuse – whether by the teacher or the head teacher (43%) than of airstrikes (24%). In fact, 42% of children in the study reported incidents of teacher discrimination in the classroom, and that displaced and overage children were targeted. Thus, displaced children are particularly vulnerable to school insecurity. In addition to fear of teacher discrimination and dread of warfare in the school space, most displaced children experience insufficient learning time. Having been out of school due to displacement increases their need for additional attention and intensive learning to catch up with their peers.

Source:

Steele, J. (2019). Internally displaced people and education in Syria. Retrieved from <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000371530>

41%

of children in Syria lied in the borderline to abnormal wellbeing range in 2018, according to Chemonics

A 2018 study conducted by Chemonics reported that 41% of children in Syria are in the borderline to abnormal wellbeing range using a Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire as a guide. More particularly, the report determined that 13% of children in Syria require specialized psychosocial support in the classroom to enhance their learning experience and wellbeing. In fact, the wellbeing of displaced populations is inclined to be lower than that of host populations. Therefore, displaced Syrian children are particularly vulnerable to learning at the school space. Indeed, with deficient well-being, displaced children are less likely to engage in the classroom and thus less likely to benefit from educational learning.

Source:

Steele, J. (2019). Internally displaced people and education in Syria. Retrieved from <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000371530>

VIII. Livelihood Opportunities

52%

of interviewed households had members working in the past 7 days in 2020

The economic activity of Syrian refugee households in Lebanon remains relatively low and irregular. Only 52% of interviewed households had members working in the past seven days in 2020, a decrease from 59% in 2019. Akkar was the governorate with the lowest percentage of households that had at least one member working (32%). Worthy of mention, only 35% of women-headed households had working members, compared to 56% of men-headed households. The overall labor force participation rate was 43% in 2020, with women participating in the labor force a lot less frequently than men (14% for women vs. 74% for men). Refugees stated that the main reason for not working was because there were no work opportunities in their areas (25%). The two principal sources of income for Syrian refugees remained WFP assistance (21%) and informal credit from friends and shops (17%), followed by ATM cards used in ATM machines from the UN or humanitarian organizations (15%). It must be noted that women-headed households are more dependent on assistance compared to men-headed ones: almost half (45%) of women-headed households reported either e-cards from WFP or ATM cards from humanitarian agencies as their main source of household income, compared with 34% of men-headed households. Overall, such figures underscore the high reliance on assistance and the challenges that Syrian refugees face when covering their basic needs through employment

Note: Income-generating activities, employment and unemployment levels were collected and calculated for household members aged 18 years and above in 2020, whereas in 2019, this included household members aged 15 years and above. Note, hence, the limitations in comparing 2019 and 2020 figures.

Source:

UNHCR, UNICEF, & WFP. (2020). VASyR 2020: Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/85002>

LBP 97,600

was the average weekly per capita income of working Syrian refugees in 2020

LBP 97,600 was the average weekly per capita income of working Syrian refugees in 2020 (i.e. per capita income for households that had at least one member working). This presented a decrease from LBP 105,000 in 2019. Nonetheless, it is difficult to make a clear comparison with 2019 figures, due to the significant changes to the Lebanon context in 2020, which included rising inflation and a substantial rise in food- and non-food costs (174% and 175% respectively since October 2019). The decrease in per capita income is, hence, a further testament of the declining purchasing power of Syria refugee households during 2020. The income values varied across governorates: while the lowest income levels were noted among refugees in Akkar (LBP 47,120), the Bekaa (LBP 52,766) and Baalbek-Hermel (LBP 59,244), the highest income continues to be reported in Beirut (LBP 165,868 in 2020). Women-headed households who had at least one member working had only slightly lower income compared to men-headed ones (LBP 96,000 vs. LBP 98,000 respectively). However, this difference became much more pronounced when comparing the per capita income of women-headed households without any working members (LBP 52,000 vs. LBP 65,000 for their male-headed counterparts). For their sources of income, women-headed households are much more dependent on humanitarian assistance and informal credit lines, as opposed to working or depending on household members that work.

Note: Income-generating activities, employment and unemployment levels were collected and calculated for household members aged 18 years and above in 2020, whereas in 2019, this included household members aged 15 years and above. Note, hence, the limitations in comparing 2019 and 2020 VASyR Livelihoods figures.

Source:

UNHCR, UNICEF, & WFP. (2020). VASyR 2020: Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/85002>

77%

of Syrian workers who declared to have an employment in the Bekaa Valley, Lebanon, reported that their contracts have an undetermined duration

Seventy-seven percent of interviewed Syrian workers in the Bekaa Valley reported that their contracts had an undetermined duration compared to 47% of interviewed Lebanese workers involved in the sectors of construction, food services and agro industry. Moreover, only 17% of Lebanese and Syrian workers in the Bekaa Valley working in these sectors had written contracts in 2019 (Lebanese: 30% and Syrian: 4%). The rest either had verbal contracts (32%) or no contracts whatsoever (51%). Out of those who had no contracts whatsoever, 62% were Syrians. This illustrates the informal nature of working in these sectors, particularly in the Bekaa Valley. Furthermore, it also demonstrates that Syrian workers are less likely to have contracts than their Lebanese counterparts and are more likely to have undetermined contract durations, suggestive of the restrictive and discriminatory working conditions Syrians face in Lebanon.

Source:

Working Conditions in the Construction, Food Services and Agro-Industry Sectors in the Beqaa Valley - Lebanon. (2019). Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int/report/lebanon/working-conditions-construction-food-services-and-agro-industry-sectors-beqaa-valley>

32%

is the level of engagement of Syrian refugees in the agriculture sector in Lebanon

In 2020, 32% of working Syrian refugees in Lebanon were engaged in the agriculture sector. Their number nearly doubled from the previous year, growing from 17% to 32%. Agriculture was the principal sector of engagement in Baalbek-Hermel (52% in 2020 vs. 18% in 2019), followed by Akkar (48% in 2020 vs. 35% in 2019) and the South (43% in 2020 vs. 35% 2019). Whereas construction was the first employment sector in 2019, it became second in 2020. However, it remained the leading employment sector in two governorates: Beirut and Mount Lebanon with 32% and 28% respectively in 2020. The increasing prices of imported materials and the COVID-19 lockdown might explain the decrease in employment in the construction sector in 2020. Conversely, the surge in prices of imported food products could explain the increasing need for labor in the local agriculture sector.

Source:

UNHCR, UNICEF, & WFP. (2020). VASyR 2020: Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/85002>

21%

of Syrian refugee households relied on WFP food e-cards as the main source of income in 2020

In 2020, WFP food e-cards were the main source of income for 21% of Syrian refugee households, representing the first main source of income in Lebanon. Food e-cards enable beneficiaries to meet their food needs in WFP-contracted shops and participate in the local economy. WFP assistance has been principally in three governorates, Akkar (50%), the Bekaa (40%) and Baalbek-Hermel (31%). Informal credit and debts represented the second source of income that year (17%), followed by ATM cards used in ATMs from UN or humanitarian organizations (15%). This top three highlights the dependency of Syrian refugees in Lebanon on cash assistance and debts. Income sources from professional activities such as construction or agriculture only ranked fourth and fifth in 2020 (10% and 8% respectively), underlining the challenges refugees face in meeting basic needs through employment.

Source:

UNHCR, UNICEF, & WFP. (2020). VASyR 2020: Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/85002>

IX. Spending and Investments of Syrian Refugees in Host Communities

101,672

vulnerable households received multi-purpose cash assistance in December 2020

101,672 vulnerable households received multi-purpose cash assistance in December 2020. As such, a total of US\$ 10,476,176 were distributed among Syrian, PRS, and Lebanese vulnerable households. Over the year 2020, Syrian vulnerable households benefitted from \$123,372,333 of multi-purpose cash, benefiting both Syrian refugees and their host communities. As this is spent locally, this assistance simultaneously empowers households, stimulates local markets, and decreases the operational costs of assistance delivery. Additionally, cash can lessen the likelihood of vulnerable households to resort to negative coping mechanisms. As a matter of fact, cash assistance decreases economic vulnerability by increasing the purchasing power of households in need. Consequently, it addresses the basic needs of recipients by supporting their access to basic goods on the market.

Source:

Inter-Agency Coordination Lebanon. (2021, March). Lebanon Crisis Response Plan – Basic Assistance Sector Report Dashboard. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/dataviz/149>

500

grocery stores across Lebanon are part of WFP's 'cash for food' e-card used by Syrian refugees

As part of WFP's operations in Lebanon, food assistance is delivered to Syrian refugees through the 'cash for food' e-card program. The electronic food voucher system provides cash assistance that consists of US\$ 27 per month. This amount of money can be redeemed at any ATM or used at any of the 500 WFP-contracted grocery stores across the country. It is important to note that around 33,360 Syrian refugee families received this type of assistance in 2019. With this system, beneficiaries can prioritize their purchases according to their needs in a dignified manner. The e-card system does not only provide critical aid to vulnerable Syrian refugees and Lebanese communities in Lebanon, it also helps stimulate the economy by benefiting Lebanese enterprises. In fact, through this program, over US\$ 1.5 billion has been directly injected into the Lebanese economy since 2012.

Source:

WFP. Lebanon. (2020). Retrieved from <https://www.wfp.org/countries/lebanon>

LBP 198,981

is the average monthly expenditure for a Syrian refugee in Lebanon in 2020

Syrian refugees spent on average LBP 198,981 per capita per month in 2020. Their top three expenditures were food (48%), rent (11%) and soap and hygiene items (11%). While expenditures increased slightly during 2020, several factors hindered a comparison with 2019 values. Due to the economic crisis, inflation, and devaluation of the national currency in Lebanon since October 2019, there has been a significant rise in food costs and non-food costs (174% and 175% respectively since October 2019). The amount of money spent by Syrian refugees locally, even if modest, has a positive impact on the GDP as it contributes to economic growth in the country. For example, the purchase of basic consumer goods in the local market by almost one million refugees boosts revenues from consumption taxes. In addition, renting residential, non-permanent or non-residential shelters from Lebanese landlords enhances the local rental market. Syrian refugee households pay LBP 264,642 on average each month for rent, regardless of shelter type. Therefore, it is important to shed light on the possible benefits of the Syrian refugee presence on the Lebanese market, away from the negative narrative often used by the media to criminalize their presence.

Source:

UNHCR, UNICEF, & WFP. (2020). VASyR 2020: Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/85002>

X. Responses to the Syrian Crisis

\$9.76 billion

is the total reported funding that Lebanon has received from 2011 up to 2020 to support refugee and host community response plan

US\$ 9.76 billion is the total reported funding that Lebanon has received up to the end of 2020 to support refugee and host community response plans, following the influx of Syrian refugees to Lebanon. In this context, the provided humanitarian assistance included funding to meet the requirements of the internationally coordinated response plan advised for Syria's neighboring host countries, namely the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP), as well as external assistance outside of the plan requirements, such as the bilateral funding to Lebanon, and flash appeals. In 2020, Lebanon received approximately US\$ 1.5 billion in funds of which 60% or US\$ 904.5 million was funded through the 3RP, 11% (amounting to US\$ 158.7 million) was funded through the Lebanon Flash Appeal 2020 and 6.5% (US\$ 98.2 million) was received through the Lebanon Intersectoral COVID Response Plan. The largest recipients of total funding in 2020 were the WFP (28%) and UNHCR (25%) among UN organizations, with US\$ 414.9 million and US\$ 379.5 million of allocated funding, respectively. Among non-UN organizations, KfW Development Bank and the ICRC received the highest funding (US\$ 66.1 million and US\$ 32.7 million, respectively).

Source:

Financial Tracking Service (2020). Lebanon Retrieved from <https://fts.unocha.org/countries/124/summary/2020>

\$2.2 billion

is the amount in loans for 2019 and beyond that was granted to Lebanon as part of responding to the needs of countries affected by the Syria crisis

As part of responding to the needs of countries affected by the Syrian crisis, a considerable proportion of the loans granted for 2019 and beyond at the Brussels III conference in March 2019 was directed to the region. Lebanon received US\$ 2.2 billion in loans for 2019 and beyond from international financial institutions and France. This amounted to 12% of the total granted loans for 2019 and beyond Syria and the region, worth US\$ 18.5 billion, representing 88% of the lending target of US\$ 21.0 billion. The main loan providers included multilateral financial institutions, such as the European Investment Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the World Bank, as well as government donors, such as France. Loans are used as a financial instrument alongside grants to provide support to refugee-hosting countries. Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and Turkey all received a combination of grants and loans as financial support. Furthermore, financial mechanisms, such as the World Bank's Global Concessional Financing Facility and the EU's Neighbourhood Investment Platform, use grant funding from government donors to leverage three to nine times the same amount in loans.

Source:

EU, & UN. (2020, June). Supporting Syria and the region: Post-Brussels conference financial tracking – Report nine. Retrieved from https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/44710/ec-syria-tracking-report_nine.pdf

37%

is the funding gap for the LCRP as of December 2020

The LCRP seeks to provide protection and assistance to vulnerable populations in Lebanon, as well as to support economic, social, and environmental stability. Under the LCRP, humanitarian assistance is mainly allocated to sectors such as food security, basic assistance, protection, and education. In 2020, the LCRP appealed for US\$ 2.67 billion. Out of this amount, only 67% were received and 9% were carried over from 2019, amounting to a total of US\$ 1.696 billion, resulting in a funding shortage of 37%. Nevertheless, the LCRP was able to target 2.7 million vulnerable people for direct assistance and protection, as well as 2.16 million persons for service delivery, economic recovery and social stability during the year 2020. More specifically, the number of populations targeted included 1.5 million displaced Syrians, over 1 million vulnerable Lebanese, and 180,000 PRL and 27,700 PRS. Out of the US\$ 1.696 billion granted to the LCRP up until the end of the year 2020, US\$ 273 million were assigned to food security programs and US\$ 202 million were received for basic assistance programs. On the other hand, sectors with the least funding included energy (US\$ 1 million), shelter (US\$ 27 million) and social stability (US\$ 72 million).

Sources:

Inter-Agency Coordination. (2020, 30 September). 2020 Q3 Funding Update - As of 30 September 2020. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/82694>

Inter-Agency Coordination. (2021, 25 February). 2020 Situation Update - Current Operational Environment in Lebanon (Dec 2020). Retrieved from: <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/85116>

Government of Lebanon and United Nations. (2020). Lebanon Crisis Response Plan 2017 – 2020 (2020 update). Retrieved from: <https://www.unhcr.org/lb/wp-content/uploads/sites/16/2019/04/LCRP-EN-2019.pdf>

\$217 million

worth of support to national and local institutions was secured in 2020 by 3RP partners

The influx of Syrian refugees has strained public services and resources, causing tensions between the refugee and host communities. In 2020, the 3RP partners secured US\$ 217 million worth of support to national and local institutions, which is the highest funding secured since 2017. The aim was to empower the crisis response of the public institutions of the host countries by enhancing service delivery, strengthening policy development and building capacities. The funds were granted to Lebanese governmental agencies, including the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, the Ministry of Public Health, and the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities. This was meant to address the ongoing needs particularly since Lebanon was struck by a series of emergencies such as environmental crises, a rise in evictions and consistent dismantlement in informal settlements.

Source:

3RP. (2020, August). 2020 Progress Report - 3RP Regional Refugee & Resilience Plan in Response to the Syria Crisis (August 2020) - Syrian Arab Republic. Retrieved from https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/3RP_MidYear2020_72dpi.pdf

260,000

economically vulnerable households benefited from the winter cash assistance, including refugees and vulnerable Lebanese

As part of the 2019/2020 Winter Support Plan, 260,000 economically vulnerable households benefited from the winter cash assistance, representing 870,000 refugees and approximately 20,000 Lebanese. This program aims to cover the increase of household expenditures during winter months, coupled with the additional challenges generated by the deteriorating economic situation in Lebanon. Syrian and Palestinian families received a one-off package of US\$ 244.62, whereas Lebanese families received US\$ 100 per month. This winter cash assistance program provided a one-off cash payment ranging from US\$ 225 to US\$ 375 (LBP 340,218 and LBP 567,031 [official rate] respectively). With an increase of the cost of living estimated to be between US\$ 75 and US\$ 150 per family/per month during winter (between LBP 113,406 and LBP 226,812 [official rate]), this assistance allowed households access to resources such as heaters, acceptable food consumption, or winter clothes.

Source:

UNHCR. (2020, May). Lebanon – Basic Assistance – UNHCR Winter Cash Assistance Program 2019/2020 – Post Distribution and Outcome Monitoring Report. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/fr/documents/details/76183>

\$99.2 million

million is the requested budget for the energy sector under the LCRP in 2020

Since the outbreak of the conflict in Syria, the influx of Syrian refugees to Lebanon has created additional pressure to resources and services, including electricity. In fact, a study jointly conducted by the Ministry of Energy and Water and UNDP in 2016 estimated the required increase in the production capacity in electricity as a result of the Syrian crisis at 486MW – which is equivalent to five hours of electricity supply per day. Deficient electricity supply compels displaced Syrian communities and their Lebanese hosts to depend on private and environmentally unsustainable generators. In 2020, the average hours of supply by diesel generators exceeded the hours of supply by the electricity grid. Electricity from the grid covered only 45% of the daily needs of Syrian refugee households in 2020 (down from 55% in 2019), on average leaving 13 hours of power cuts nationally. This has caused Syrian refugee households to rely more heavily on diesel generators, exacerbating the economic vulnerability of these households due to their cost. On average, the supply of electricity through diesel generators for Syrian households increased from seven hours in 2019 to almost 13 hours in 2020. To respond to these needs, US\$ 99.2 million was the requested budget for the energy sector under the LCRP in 2020.

Sources:

Government of Lebanon and United Nations. (2020, January). Lebanon Crisis Response Plan 2017-2020 (2020 update). Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/74641.pdf>

UNHCR, UNICEF, & WFP. (2020). VASyR 2020: Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/85002>

30.8%

of UNHCR's global budget for 2020 was allocated to the Middle East and North Africa region

Based on a global needs' assessment, UNHCR determined that it required a budget of US\$ 9.131 billion for 2020, with a 5.7% increase to the budget of 2019. The requirements in the 2020 budget were determined according to the projected needs of 86.5 million people of concern worldwide, an increase of nearly 16% from the 74.8 million of 2018. Key priorities under the global budget as deemed by UNHCR included cash-based interventions, together with basic needs and essential services such as health, water, sanitation, shelter and food. Moreover, the largest share of UNHCR's global budget for 2020 (30.8%, amounting to US\$ 2.81 billion) was allocated to the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. As such, the fund allocations for the MENA region in 2020 increased by 2.3% compared to 2019. It is important to note that the MENA budget was divided between programs targeting refugees and stateless, as well as projects addressing reintegration and internally displaced persons.

Source:

UNHCR. (2020). Financials: 2020 global requirements and expenditure - programmed activities. Retrieved from <https://reporting.unhcr.org/financial#tabs-financial-budget>

\$6 billion

was the total amount required for the 3RP in 2020

US\$ 6 billion was the total amount required for the 3RP in 2020. Out of this amount, US\$ 5.24 billion was the total requirement for the plan's non-COVID-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan, and US\$ 758.3 million was the total requirement for the plan's COVID-19 response. The 3RP, made up of more than 270 partner organizations, continues to support nationally-led responses by host governments to address the protection, assistance and resilience needs of Syrian refugees across the region and their vulnerable host communities. However, the protracted nature of the crisis has left many Syrians destitute and without hope. The compounded crises of 2020, particularly the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic crisis in Lebanon further exacerbated the needs of both the refugee populations as well as the communities hosting them. While the amount of funds needed for the 3RP have stayed almost equal during the previous three years (US\$ 5.53 billion in 2019, US\$ 5.6 billion in 2018 and US\$ 5.57 billion in 2017), the requirements of the 3RP plan increased by almost 20% in 2020. Only 37% of the plan had been funded in 2020, amounting to US\$ 2.22 billion. Therefore, this calls for an increased shared responsibility among the international community to pledge support to host countries and Syrian refugees.

Sources:

UN OCHA. (2020). Financial Tracking Service: Syria Refugee Response and Resilience Plan (3RP) 2020. Retrieved from: <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/73116>.

3RP Regional Strategic Overview 2020 – 2021. Retrieved from: <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/73116>.

37%

of the requested funds for the 2020 3RP were received

Thirty-seven percent of the requested funds for the 2020 3RP were received. In other words, out of the US\$ 6 billion required, only US\$ 2.2 billion in funds were received. The 3RP continued to address the needs of 5.52 million refugees registered with UNHCR as well as 4.54 million members of impacted communities in 2020. The plan addresses key needs through sectors such as protection, food security, education, health and nutrition, basic needs, shelter, WASH, and livelihoods. The highest regional funding requirements in 2020 were under the basic assistance sector with a US\$ 1.1 billion appeal, followed by the food security sector, under which US\$ 965 million was required for 2020, and the protection sector (US\$ 739 million). Of these amounts, only 21% had been received by June 2020 for the basic assistance sector, 19% for the food security sector and 43% for the protection sector. Despite the many achievements of the 3RP, the needs of the refugee population in the region were exacerbated by compounded crises, including the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as high inflation and struggling economies, stressing to the international community and donors the need to continue to support host countries that have been overburdened by the protracted presence of Syrian refugees.

Sources:

UN OCHA. (2020). Financial Tracking Service: Syria Refugee Response and Resilience Plan (3RP) 2020. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/73116>.

3RP Regional Strategic Overview 2020 – 2021. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/73116>.

2020 Progress Report - 3RP Regional Refugee & Resilience Plan in Response to the Syria Crisis (August 2020) - Syrian Arab Republic. Retrieved from https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/3RP_MidYear2020_72dpi.pdf

17%

of the required funds for shelter interventions were received by the end of the third quarter of 2020

For the Lebanon response, US\$ 156 million was required for shelter interventions in 2020, out of which only US\$ 27 million or 17% was received by the end of the third quarter of 2020. Shelter remains one of the most under-funded sectors in Lebanon, along with the energy and livelihoods sectors. Out of the targeted population of 666,772 under the shelter sector in 2020, only 8% had been reached by June 2020. Nevertheless, the shelter sector was able to support households outside of camps with securing shelter and/or upgrading their shelter. The fact that refugees in Lebanon access shelter through the market, which is highly unregulated and mostly relies on informal contracts, calls for an increased support in this sector. Indeed, most Syrian refugees reside in villages and cities among the host community as a result of the ‘no-camp’ policy adopted by the Lebanese government as well as the absence of a national housing policy capable of addressing housing needs of vulnerable populations.

Sources:

Inter-Agency Coordination, Lebanon. (2020). Shelter Mid-Year Dashboard 2020. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/83271>

Inter-Agency Coordination, Lebanon. (2020). 2020 Q3 Funding Update (as of 30 September 2020). Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/82694>.

27%

of the requested funds to support the livelihoods sector under the 3RP were received by December 2020

Only 27% of the requested funds to support the livelihoods sector under the 3RP were received by Dec 2020. The funds received correspond to US\$ 218.2 million out of the US\$ 817 million required for this sector in 2020. However, the allocated funds have successfully helped individuals gain short or long-term employment. This number represents the actual target the plan aims to achieve. It is important to mention that the sector funding is not equally divided between host countries. For example, Turkey is allocated the highest amount of funding for this sector, followed by Lebanon and Jordan. This is mostly due to the fact that these countries host the largest population of registered Syrian refugees in the region (3.6 million in Turkey, 865,531 in Lebanon and 662,790 in Jordan) and continue to share their limited resources and services.

Sources:

3RP Syria Crisis Portal. Retrieved from http://www.3rpsyriacrisis.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/fin_dashboard_2020_Q4.pdf

UNHCR Operational Portal – Refugee Situations, 2020. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/syria>

\$10 billion

is the amount in grants that was contributed by donors to Syria, Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt to support the Syria crisis response for 2019 and beyond 2020 from pledges made at the Brussels III conference

As part of the continuous efforts to support the Syria crisis response, US\$ 7 billion were pledged by donors to Syria, Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, and Egypt at the Brussels III conference for 2019 and beyond, by a total of 41 donors. In fact, donors' contributions exceeded this original pledge by 43%, contributing a total of US\$ 10 billion in grants for Syria and countries in the region. Out of the total funds, Turkey received the largest amount of grants in 2019, totaling US\$ 3.6 billion or 36%. Syria was the second largest recipient of grant contributions in 2020 with US\$ 2.2 billion received (22%). Lebanon, in turn, received US\$ 1.6 billion in grant support in 2019 (16% of the total amount). It is worth mentioning that Brussels III included both Syrian and international civil and non-governmental organizations in order to promote dialogue on comprehensive solutions for the Syrian crisis. The discussions addressed several issues such as humanitarian protection, economic recovery, the situation of displaced Syrians, and the eradication of terrorism, among others. Moving forward, out of the 41 conference grant donors, 15 made future pledges for 2020 and beyond. These pledges amounted to US\$ 2.4 billion at the time of the reporting.

Source:

EU, & UN. (2020, June). Supporting Syria and the region: Post-Brussels conference financial tracking – Report nine. Retrieved from https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/44710/ec-syria-tracking-report_nine.pdf

\$270 million

is the funding required by UNRWA for the humanitarian response to the Syria crisis in 2020

Following the outbreak of the conflict in Syria, roughly 120,000 PRS fled the hostilities to neighboring countries since 2011. Around 27,700 PRS were residing in Lebanon in 2019 and 17,343 PRS were residing in Jordan. Moreover, around 438,000 Palestine refugees remained inside Syria of which 91% live in absolute poverty. PRS are determined as particularly vulnerable because of their restricted legal status and social protection issues in both Lebanon and Jordan, making them extensively dependent on UNRWA's assistance. To support Palestinian refugees in Syria and PRS in Lebanon and Jordan, US\$ 270 million in funding was required by UNRWA for the Syria Regional Crisis Emergency Appeal in 2020. However, because of the shortfall in UNRWA's funding due to cuts in contributions in recent years, UNRWA was unable to fully deliver humanitarian relief projects as planned. As the conflict is ongoing, UNRWA's provision of supply and services is vital to the well-being of PRS across the region.

Sources:

UNRWA Syria Regional Crisis Emergency Appeal 2020. Retrieved from https://www.unrwa.org/sites/default/files/content/resources/2020_syria_ea_eng_03_02_2020_final.pdf

United Nations. (2019, March). Palestine Refugees in Syria: A Tale of Devastation and Courage – UNRWA Commissioner-General Op Ed. Retrieved from <https://www.un.org/unispal/document/palestine-refugees-in-syria-a-tale-of-devastation-and-courage-unrwa-commissioner-general-op-ed/#:~:text=Today%2C%20some%20440%2C000%20Palestine%20refugees,but%20also%20Turkey%20and%20beyond.>

XI. Return of Syrian Refugees

1,474,000

new displacements associated with conflict and violence were recorded inside Syria in the first half of 2020

Syria's conflict escalated in the first three months of 2020, particularly in the Idlib governorate. The armed conflicts in and around Idlib triggered more than 959,000 new displacements between early December 2019 and March 5, 2020, when a ceasefire was agreed. Eighty percent of the people who fled were women and children. The humanitarian situation was aggravated by the fact that options for refuge were limited, particularly because the border with Turkey was closed. For more than half of those displaced it was the second or third time they had been forced to flee. Around 550,000 people moved northwest within Idlib to sites that were already hosting hundreds of thousands of IDPs. Several fires broke out in the cramped conditions, burning people's tents and triggering further displacement. The continuing nature of hostilities risks displacing further civilians.

Source:

IDMC. Internal displacement 2020: Mid-year update. Retrieved from <https://www.internal-displacement.org/mid-year-figures>

534,033

is the estimated number of displaced Syrians that have spontaneously returned to various locations in Syria in 2020

In 2020, UN agencies estimated that 534,033 displaced Syrians have spontaneously returned to various locations in Syria. This number corresponds to 38,233 refugees that have spontaneously returned from neighboring countries (Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey) and some 495,800 spontaneous IDP return movements that were noted across Syria that year. IDP spontaneous returns correspond to IDPs returning to their homes or communities of origin. Except for the month of February, the vast majority of IDP spontaneous returns (between 71% and 93%) occurred within governorates. These self-organized returns usually occur in areas where stability has been restored, and that have become accessible. While the number of voluntary Syrian refugee returns have been increasing between 2016 and 2019, they underwent a significant decrease of nearly 60% in 2020, compared to 2019. This could be due to COVID-19 related restrictions, such as the closing of borders.

Sources:

UNHCR. (2021, February). Syria Regional Refugee Response: Durable Solutions. Retrieved from https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/syria_durable_solutions

OCHA. (2021, January). Syrian Arab Republic: IDP and Spontaneous Returnee Movements Overview – December 2020. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/syrian-arab-republic-idp-spontaneous-returns-december-2020-enartr>

89%

of all returns from Lebanon to Syria since 2015 are individual returns

Individual returns account for 89% of all returns from Lebanon, a main country of asylum for Syrian refugees. An analysis conducted by the World Bank on returns to Syria from Lebanon, Jordan, and Iraq, determined that external conditions, the so-called 'pull factors', such as the security situation in Syria, are one of the most notable determinants of return. In fact, the security situation referred to as the 'dread factor' accounts for 42% of all factors determining individual return. Other factors such as the lack of education, health and basic services in Syria, act as an effective deterrent against return. However, findings do not support the common perception that if refugees face bad living conditions in host communities, what could be considered as 'push factors', then they will be more likely to go back. Similarly, better living conditions in the host country do not reduce the likelihood of return to Syria.

Source:

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>

72.52%

is the increase in verified voluntary refugee returns to Syria from Lebanon, Turkey, Jordan, Iraq, and Egypt in 2019 compared to the previous year

According to UNHCR, there was a 72.52% increase in refugee returns to Syria from Lebanon, Turkey, Jordan, Iraq, and Egypt in 2019, compared to 2018. More particularly, in 2019, 94,971 refugee returns were registered against 55,049 in 2018. Turkey was the host country with the highest number of refugee returns in 2019 – with 34,303 returns. On the other hand, Egypt recorded the lowest number of refugee returns – corresponding to just 484 returns. However, numbers of refugee returns from those countries underwent a net decrease in 2020. This could be attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the introduction of new requirements for individual returning. With the protracted crisis in Syria, and the consequent increasing displacement and population fluxes as demonstrated, a strategic direction denominated as “durable solutions for Syrian refugees” was included in the 3RP for 2019-2020. It aims to enhance the regional response to the Syria crisis by further protecting vulnerable populations including refugees and host communities. This is mainly achieved through supporting voluntary and safe returns for refugees as well as organizing legal resettlement to a third country.

Source:

UNHCR. (2021, February). Syria Regional Refugee Response: Durable Solutions. Retrieved from https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/syria_durable_solutions

9,351

voluntary Syrian refugee returns from Lebanon to Syria were verified by UNHCR in 2020

In 2020, 9,351 voluntary Syrian refugee returns from Lebanon to Syria occurred. It is important to note that this number includes only those verified by UNHCR as the GSO reported additional figures from their group returns which were not known to UNHCR. The year 2020 witnessed a decreased return movement from Lebanon to Syria compared to 2019 (with 22,728 voluntary returns). This could be attributed to COVID-19 related border restrictions whereby the official borders were closed between March 23 and mid-July 2020, following which additional requirements for individuals returning to Syria from Lebanon were introduced including PCR testing for all individuals above 12 and the requirement to exchange a US\$ 100 at the official exchange rate for every adult. While UNHCR does not facilitate voluntary repatriation of refugees to Syria, it endeavors to help refugees who confirm their decision to return to make it more sustainable. This includes fast-tracking access to birth registration, school diplomas and vaccinations.

Sources:

UNHCR. (2021, February). Syria Regional Refugee Response: Durable Solutions. Retrieved from https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/syria_durable_solutions

Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan. (2020, August). 2020 Progress Report. Retrieved from https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/3RP_MidYear2020_72dpi.pdf

XII. Impact of COVID-19

85%

of Syrian and Syrian-Palestinian respondents taking part in a digital survey between March 30 and April 15, 2020 in Lebanon reported losing their main source of income due to the lockdown measures

COVID-19 restrictions on movement have caused widespread disruption to livelihoods. Among the hardest hit are the most vulnerable populations, including refugees and internally displaced people. Indeed, in Lebanon, 85% of Syrian refugees and PRS have lost their main source of income, according to a survey conducted by the Refugee Protection Watch (RPW) Coalition between March 30 and April 15, 2020. Also, the findings of an assessment conducted by the International Labour Organization (ILO) in April 2020, reveal that due to the COVID-19 lockdown measures, income in March 2020 decreased by more than two-thirds for both Lebanese nationals and Syrian refugees. As a matter of fact, the pandemic has only exacerbated the difficult economic situation that Syrian refugees were already experiencing prior to the onset of the crisis. One way to respond to these growing vulnerabilities would be implementing cash-based assistance programs, providing a much-needed financial support to struggling households.

Sources:

Refugee Protection Watch. (2020, April). Briefing on COVID-19 and Lebanon. Retrieved from <https://www.paxforpeace.nl/publications/all-publications/covid-19-in-lebanon-impact-on-refugees-and-host-communities#>

ILO, & the Fafo. (2020, June). Facing Multiple Crises: Rapid assessment of the impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable workers and small-scale enterprises in Lebanon. Retrieved from https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---arabstates/---ro-beirut/documents/publication/wcms_747070.pdf

89%

of Syrian refugees respondents taking part in a digital survey between March 30 and April 15, 2020 in Lebanon reported not having access to or the possibility to buy sufficient sterilization and hygiene materials

Syrian refugees' pre-existing poor living conditions puts them at increased risk of contracting the COVID-19 virus. The lack of basic services such as proper water, sanitation and hygiene facilities makes them more vulnerable to health issues. As a matter of fact, 89% of Syrian refugee respondents taking part in a survey conducted by the RPW Coalition between March 30 and April 15, 2020 in Lebanon reported not having access to or the possibility to buy sufficient sterilization and hygiene materials. Indeed, most of them are unable to afford hand sanitizer and protective equipment due to an increase in prices. In addition, the overcrowded settings in which they live make it impossible for them to practice social distancing. Consequently, the distribution of hygiene and sanitation products in refugee settlements should be considered a priority in responding to COVID-19.

Sources:

Refugee Protection Watch. (2020, April). Briefing on COVID-19 and Lebanon. Retrieved from <https://www.paxforpeace.nl/publications/all-publications/covid-19-in-lebanon-impact-on-refugees-and-host-communities#>

OCHA. (2020, May). Lebanon COVID-19 Emergency Appeal. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int/report/lebanon/lebanon-covid-19-emergency-appeal-07-may-2020>

71%

of Syrian refugees taking part in a survey conducted between March 17 and March 20, 2020 identified increased panic and stress as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak

Recently enforced measures in response to the spread of the COVID-19 virus such as self-isolation have been a source of stress, frustration, and financial loss for Syrian refugees living in Lebanon. According to a phone survey conducted between March 17 and March 20, 2020 by the Lebanese Protection Consortium (LPC) with Syrian refugees living in ITS in Lebanon, 71% of the respondents reported increased panic and stress as they have stopped going to work, school, or social gatherings. Prior to the COVID-19 outbreak, refugees have experienced a range of traumatic and stressful events: war trauma, family losses, forced migration, displacement, coupled with the lack of access to information, the precarious housing situation and the potential hostility of host communities. The pandemic is only exacerbating the existing vulnerabilities of refugees, leading to an increase in physical and mental health issues. In such contexts, psychosocial support activities are needed to help refugees cope with the stress of isolation and loss of livelihood.

Sources:

LPC, Action Against Hunger, GVC, NRC. (2020, April). COVID-19: Concerns and needs of Syrian refugees in Informal Tented Settlements in Lebanon. Retrieved from <https://www.nrc.no/globalassets/pdf/reports/covid-19-concerns-and-needs-of-syrian-refugees-in-informal-tented-settlements-in-lebanon/04072020-lpc-covid-19-concerns-and-needs-of-syrian-refugees-in-itss-in-lebanon.pdf>

JÚNIOR, Jucier Gonçalves, DE SALES, Jair Paulino, MOREIRA, Marcial Moreno, et al. A crisis within the crisis: the mental health situation of refugees in the world during the 2019 coronavirus (2019-nCoV) outbreak. *Psychiatry research*, 2020.

34%

of Syrian refugees taking part in a survey conducted between March 17 and March 20, 2020 stated that there were barriers to health services such as financial constraints and transport challenges

As a result of the COVID-19 crisis, 34% of Syrian refugees taking part in a phone survey conducted between March 17 and March 20, 2020 by the LPC, stated that there were barriers to health services such as financial constraints and transport challenges. Prior to the crisis, refugees were already facing difficulties in accessing adequate healthcare. Indeed, the Lebanese healthcare system is highly privatized and fragmented, resulting in significant costs to the patients. Consequently, vulnerable people, notably Syrian refugees — 70% of whom live under the poverty line — are unable to access health services. The COVID-19 pandemic coupled with extra curfews imposed by municipalities on Syrian refugees to limit the spread of the virus, have only heightened the long-standing discrimination and marginalization of Palestinian and Syrian refugees in Lebanon. Yet, Lebanon has a duty to ensure that everyone, including Syrian refugees, has access to testing and treatment centers.

Source:

LPC, Action Against Hunger, GVC, NRC. (2020, April). COVID-19: Concerns and needs of Syrian refugees in Informal Tented Settlements in Lebanon. Retrieved from <https://www.nrc.no/globalassets/pdf/reports/covid-19-concerns-and-needs-of-syrian-refugees-in-informal-tented-settlements-in-lebanon/04072020-lpc-covid-19-concerns-and-needs-of-syrian-refugees-in-itss-in-lebanon.pdf>

21

Lebanese municipalities have introduced discriminatory restrictions on Syrian refugees that do not apply to Lebanese residents as part of their efforts to combat COVID-19

According to HRW, 21 Lebanese municipalities have introduced discriminatory restrictions on Syrian refugees that do not apply to Lebanese residents as part of their efforts to combat COVID-19. Curfews that restrict the movement of Syrian refugees to certain times have also been implemented by many municipalities since March 2020. Prior to the onset of the COVID-19 outbreak, 330 municipalities had imposed curfews on Syrian refugees, contributing to a climate of increased discrimination and hostility towards refugees. While local authorities defend restrictions on movement as necessary to protect national security and public order, curfews might be unnecessary. Likewise, there is no evidence that curfews imposed on Syrian refugees will protect public health and limit the spread and impact of COVID-19 in Lebanon. As Lebanon has ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, authorities should ensure that everyone has the right to move freely.

Source:

Human Rights Watch. (2020, April). Lebanon: Refugees at Risk in COVID-19 Response. Retrieved from <https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/04/02/lebanon-refugees-risk-covid-19-response>

88,7%

of the Syrian refugee population in Lebanon was pushed below the level of extreme poverty in 2020

The economic crisis, coupled with civil unrest and the COVID-19 pandemic, has pushed almost the entire Syrian refugee population (88.7%) below the level of extreme poverty, as measured by the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (S/MEB) (with monthly household expenditure of LBP 1,543,613 or less in 2020). In addition, nine out of 10 households are in debt, revealing that households continue to lack enough resources to meet their basic needs. The average debt was LBP 1,835,837 per Syrian refugee household, an increase of 18% compared to the previous year. Many refugee households are using coping strategies such as buying food on credit or borrowing money to buy food (71%), reducing expenditure on health (48%) and education (20%), or resorting to negative coping mechanisms such as accepting high risk, exploitative or illegal jobs (3%).

Source:

World Food Programme. (September 2020). Review of the Survival and Minimum Expenditure Baskets in Lebanon - Updated SMEB and MEB Components and Costs. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int/report/lebanon/review-survival-and-minimum-expenditure-baskets-lebanon-updated-smeb-and-meb>

94%

of Syrian refugee households in Tripoli taking part in a survey conducted in the second half of April 2020 declared increasing debt and debt-bonded labor as a coping mechanism

As a result of the COVID-19 lockdown measures, many Syrian refugees in Lebanon have lost their main source of income, forcing them to use new or more coping mechanisms to generate income and cover their basic needs. Indeed, according to a survey conducted in the second half of April 2020 by SEED with Syrian refugees and vulnerable Lebanese in Tripoli, 94% of the respondents declared increasing debt and debt-bonded labor as a coping mechanism, while 65% said that they reduced quantity of meals, and 17% moved to a more affordable house or shelter. More generally, the 2020 Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon (VASyR) showed that the average per capita monthly expenditures in 2020 were LBP 198,981. While it is difficult to compare this amount to the 2019 figure (LBP 157,000) due to the inflation crisis in Lebanon, the slight increase in per capita monthly expenditures did not follow the increase in prices, reflecting the very limited purchasing power of Syrian refugees. Since October 2019, inflation has substantially increased food costs and non-food costs in Lebanon (174% and 175% respectively).

Sources:

UNHCR, UNICEF & WFP. (2020). VASyR 2020: Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/85002>

SEED & People in Need Slovakia. (2020, May). Assessment of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Syrian refugees and vulnerable Lebanese in Tripoli (Lebanon). Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/76228>

84%

of Syrian refugees in Turkey taking part in a survey conducted in April 2020 reported receiving information about COVID-19

According to a survey conducted by Relief International in April 2020, 84% of Syrian refugees in Turkey reported receiving information about COVID-19. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, access to healthcare services for Syrian refugees was challenging. Language, lack of information, and limited financial resources remain an obstacle for Syrians seeking healthcare services. In this context, strengthening communication and awareness of good practices are key to prevent the further spreading of the disease, especially among Syrian refugees in Turkey. As such, considerable efforts have been made by the Turkish government to disseminate information about COVID-19. Indeed, respondents reported receiving COVID-19 information through social media (37%), media (18%), NGOs (17%), government channels (15%), social networks (9%), and other channels (4%). As only 84% of Syrian refugees in Turkey have received information about COVID-19, NGOs should play a role in ensuring that information reaches all Syrian refugees.

Source:

Relief International Turkey. (2020, April). Impact of the COVID-19 Outbreak on Syrian Refugees in Turkey. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/76504.pdf>

87%

of Syrian refugees in Turkey reported they had access to health services prior to the COVID-19 outbreak, but only 25% have access since the outbreak started

According to a survey conducted by Relief International in April 2020, 87% of Syrian refugees in Turkey reported they had access to health services prior to the COVID-19 outbreak, but only 25% have access since the outbreak started. In Turkey, registered Syrian refugees are eligible — under the Temporary Protection regime — to receive the same healthcare as Turkish nationals, while non-registered Syrian refugees are only provided emergency care free-of-charge. However, limited resources, lack of information, and language barriers create significant obstacles for Syrians seeking healthcare services, especially access to medicines, and specialized services. In addition, non-registered and rural Syrians face barriers in accessing curative care, and additional transportation costs when seeking health services. Recently, only 25% of Syrian refugees in Turkey declared having access to health services due to financial issues and the recommendation to stay at home. Moreover, only 53% of the respondents reported having access to medicines. Among the main barriers are limited financial resources, fear of getting infected, and staying at home.

Sources:

Relief International Turkey. (2020, April). Impact of the COVID-19 Outbreak on Syrian Refugees in Turkey. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/76504.pdf>

Inter-Agency Coordination. (2019, March). 3RP Regional Refugee & Resilience Plan 2019-2020 in response to the Syria crisis: Turkey Country Chapter. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/68618>

82%

of Syrian refugees in Jordan reported needing to borrow money in order to access urgent healthcare

In Jordan, Syrians registered with UNHCR were allowed to access healthcare services free-of-charge in public primary healthcare centers and hospitals. However, by November 2014, refugees were required to pay the non-insured Jordanian rate when using health services provided by the Ministry of Health. In early 2018, Syrians were no longer able to access the non-insured Jordanian rate for health, and had to pay the same rates as other foreigners, which is 80%. More recently, in April 2019, the Jordanian government announced a roll-back on the policy of increased healthcare costs for Syrian refugees. As such, Syrian refugees can again access public hospitals at the uninsured Jordanian rate. However, the high cost of medical treatment and transportation, as well as the unavailability of medicines and medical equipment create significant barriers for Syrians seeking healthcare services. Consequently, vulnerable refugees — 78% of whom live below the Jordanian poverty line — are using coping mechanisms. Indeed, according to a report published by the International Rescue Committee in 2019, 82% of Syrian refugees in Jordan reported needing to borrow money in order to access urgent healthcare.

Sources:

MERIP. (2020, April). Refugees at Risk in Jordan's Response to COVID-19. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int/report/jordan/refugees-risk-jordan-s-response-covid-19>

UNHCR. (2019, April). UNHCR Operational Update, April 2019. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int/report/jordan/jordan-unhcr-operational-update-april-2019>

IRC. (2019, December). Public health access and health seeking behaviors of Syrian refugees in Jordan. Retrieved from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/74447>

2/3

of households living in Jordan's Syrian refugee camps have more than three people per room, making effective self-isolation impossible

Syrian refugees pre-existing living conditions puts them at increased risk of contracting the COVID-19 virus. The lack of basic services such as proper water, sanitation and hygiene facilities makes them more vulnerable to health issues. In addition, the overcrowded context in which they live — in both refugee camps and urban areas — makes it impossible for them to practice social distancing. As a matter of fact, two-thirds of households living in Jordan's Syrian refugee camps have more than three people per room, making effective self-isolation impossible. Moreover, the lack of access to hygiene products presents a further challenge to containing the spread of COVID-19. Consequently, cash-based assistance programs, as well the distribution of hygiene and sanitation products should be considered a priority in responding to COVID-19.

Source:

MERIP. (2020, April). Refugees at Risk in Jordan's Response to COVID-19. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int/report/jordan/refugees-risk-jordan-s-response-covid-19>

XIII. Index

Index

3RP (Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan): 98, 101, 105, 106, 108, 115,

A

Abuse: 81, 82

Adolescent(s): 76

Adult(s): 48, 52, 116

Aid: 50, 94

Akkar: 18, 39, 48, 53, 63, 86, 88, 91, 92

Aleppo: 13, 14, 19

Assistance: 12, 15, 16, 17, 18, 27, 32, 33, 36, 38, 39, 42, 50, 56, 69, 74, 78, 86, 88, 92, 94, 95, 98, 100, 102, 105, 106, 110, 118, 128

Asylum: 22, 55, 114

B

Baalbek-Hermel: 18, 40, 53, 91, 92

Basic goods: 27, 32, 94

Beirut: 2, 4, 20, 53, 75, 77, 88, 91

Bekaa: 18, 39, 75, 77, 80, 88, 90, 92

Birth Registration: 53, 116

Budget: 103, 104

C

Camp(s): 14, 32, 37, 38, 44, 45, 49, 50, 107, 128

Cash: 18, 39, 92, 94, 95, 102, 104, 118, 128

Child/ Children: 5, 15, 21, 25, 31, 33, 38, 48, 50, 53, 57, 67, 73, 74, 75, 76, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 112

Child Labor: 79, 80

Child Marriage: 81

Community(ies): 3, 12, 16, 42, 43, 44, 45, 49, 50, 59, 60, 62, 64, 69, 74, 81, 93, 94, 95, 98, 101, 103, 105, 106, 107, 113, 114, 115, 120

Conflict(s): 15, 22, 24, 25, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 38, 67, 74, 103, 110, 112

COVID-19: 42, 63, 69, 70, 71, 76, 78, 91, 98, 105, 106, 113, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 128

Coping Mechanism: 13, 80, 81, 95, 123, 124, 127

Coping Strategy: 48, 76, 123

Crisis: 2, 3, 4, 5, 11, 12, 13, 19, 21, 27, 28, 31, 39, 40, 43, 44, 47, 56, 61, 69, 81, 96, 97, 99, 101, 103, 105, 109, 110, 115, 118, 121,

123, 124

Cyprus: 22

D

Damascus: 27

Death(s): 24

Debt: 40, 47, 92, 123, 124

Development: 3, 5, 23, 33, 50, 61, 98, 99, 101

Dignified: 36, 95

Displacement: 3, 11, 12, 13, 19, 22, 27, 29, 31, 32, 36, 37, 38, 82, 112, 115, 120

Donor(s): 99, 106, 109

E

Economy(ies): 3, 23, 92, 95, 102

Education/ Educational: 3, 46, 50, 52, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 83, 100, 101, 106, 114, 123

Egypt: 15, 36, 99, 109, 113, 115

Emergency: 36, 38, 39, 50, 110, 126

Employment: 29, 52, 86, 87, 89, 90, 91, 92, 108

EU (European Union): 5, 55, 99

Expenditure(s): 28, 47, 96, 102, 123, 124

F

Food: 5, 14, 15, 27, 31, 37, 46, 47, 48, 66, 78, 88, 90, 91, 92, 95, 96, 100, 102, 104, 106, 123

Fund(s): 5, 69, 78, 98, 101, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109

Funding: 40, 69, 78, 98, 99, 100, 101, 106, 108, 110

G

Germany: 55

Ghouta: 27

Governorate: 13, 14, 18, 19, 20, 27, 28, 31, 37, 39, 40, 63, 66, 75, 77, 79, 86, 88, 91, 92, 112, 113

Government(s)/Governmental: 45, 50, 57, 58, 70, 99, 101, 105, 107, 109, 125, 127

Greece: 22, 55

Gross Domestic Product (GDP): 5, 30, 96

H

Hama: 13

Health: 3, 5, 21, 25, 33, 40, 46, 63, 65, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 101, 104, 106, 114, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 126, 127

Health Care: 21, 52, 66, 67, 68, 69, 121, 125, 126, 127

Homs: 19

Hospital(s): 27, 67, 68, 70, 71, 127

Host Community(ies): 12, 16, 43, 44, 45, 49, 60, 62, 64, 69, 93, 94, 98, 101, 105, 114, 115, 120

Host Country(ies): 3, 51, 81, 99, 101, 105, 106, 108, 115

Household: 15, 16, 40, 41, 42, 45, 46, 47, 48, 53, 56, 62, 63, 64, 68, 71, 76, 79, 80, 81, 86, 88, 89, 92, 94, 96, 102, 103, 107, 118, 123, 124, 128

Housing: 20, 26, 28, 36, 41, 43, 44, 49, 107, 120

Humanitarian Assistance: 27, 32, 38, 39, 69, 89, 98, 100

Humanitarian Organizations: 92

Hygiene: 14, 33, 96, 119, 128

I

IDP (Internally Displaced Persons): 5, 13, 14, 16, 17, 36, 37, 38, 74, 112, 113

Idlib: 13, 14, 24, 28, 37, 112

Impact: 3, 12, 28, 30, 61, 68, 78, 96, 106, 117, 122

Income(s): 28, 71, 76, 80, 86, 87, 88, 89, 92, 118, 124

Inflation: 47, 88, 96, 106, 124

Informal(ly): 18, 20, 37, 39, 40, 80, 81, 86, 88, 90, 92, 101, 107,

Infrastructure(s): 27, 33, 36, 41

Investment(s): 3, 30, 93, 99,

Iraq: 15, 19, 24, 36, 99, 109, 113, 114, 115

J

Job(s): 15, 29, 43, 58, 62, 64, 123

Jordan: 13, 19, 36, 99, 108, 109, 110, 113, 114, 115, 127, 128

L

Labor: 4, 15, 30, 77, 79, 80, 86, 90, 124

LCRP (Lebanon Crisis Response Plan): 5, 39, 44, 49, 57, 69, 78, 100, 103

Lebanon: 2, 5, 15, 18, 19, 26, 36, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 68, 69, 70, 71, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 81, 86, 88, 90, 91, 92, 94, 95, 96, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 105, 107, 108, 109, 110, 113, 114, 115, 116, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124,

Legal Residency: 52

Legal Status: 3, 51, 52

Livelihood(s): 3, 16, 27, 32, 37, 49, 85, 89, 106, 107, 108, 118, 120

Living Condition(s): 3, 16, 28, 35, 38, 45, 52, 114, 119, 128

Local: 3, 23, 37, 91, 92, 94, 96, 101, 102, 122

Localities: 66

M

Mediterranean Sea: 22

MEHE (Ministry of Education and Higher Education): 100

MENA (Middle East and North Africa): 5, 104

Middle East: 5, 104

MoSA (Ministry of Social Affairs): 101

Mount Lebanon: 20, 79, 91

Municipalities: 61, 63, 101, 121, 122

N

Nabatieh: 39, 62, 68

Neighboring Countries: 12, 14, 15, 19, 24, 98, 110, 113

NGOs (Non-Governmental Organizations): 109, 125

North/Northern: 13, 14, 16, 17, 24, 37, 38, 39, 48, 63, 104, 112

P

Palestine: 44, 74, 110

Policy: 45, 49, 101, 107, 127

Poverty: 28, 31, 43, 46, 110, 121, 123, 127

Protection: 12, 17, 25, 32, 38, 42, 55, 56, 58, 70, 73, 78, 100, 105, 106, 109, 110, 118, 120, 126

PRS (Palestine Refugees from Syria): 44, 49, 50, 94, 100, 110, 118

Purchasing Power: 46, 88, 94, 124

R

Raqqa: 19

Refugee(s): 12, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 25, 26, 36, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 62, 63, 64, 68, 69, 71, 74, 75, 76, 77, 79, 80, 81, 86, 88, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 98, 99, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 110, 111, 113, 114, 115, 116, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128

Registration: 43, 53, 78, 116

Relation(s): 48, 59, 61, 62

Rent: 18, 39, 40, 42, 46, 47, 48, 56, 96

Resettlement: 21, 115

Residence: 55

Residency: 52, 57

Resilience: 12, 98, 105

Resource(s): 12, 13, 14, 16, 47, 62, 63, 64, 101, 102, 103, 108, 123, 125, 126

Response(s): 16, 25, 32, 39, 42, 44, 61, 70, 78, 97, 98, 101, 105, 107, 109, 110, 115, 120

Return(s): 17, 26, 32, 36, 111, 113, 114, 115, 116

Right(s): 17, 24, 57, 63, 75, 81, 122

S

Safety: 22, 42, 60, 63

Sanitation: 33, 104, 119, 128

School(s): 27, 50, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 116, 120

Security: 15, 17, 31, 33, 42, 52, 57, 58, 63, 66, 78, 82, 100, 106, 114, 122

Service(s): 14, 16, 17, 18, 27, 28, 29, 32, 33, 37, 38, 43, 61, 64, 67, 69, 74, 90, 100, 101, 103, 104, 108, 110, 114, 119, 121, 125, 126, 127, 128

Settlement(s): 18, 20, 37, 39, 40, 80, 101, 119

Shelter(s): 14, 16, 18, 20, 36, 37, 39, 40, 41, 42, 44, 45, 46, 50, 53, 74, 96, 100, 104, 106, 107, 124

South/Southern: 13, 37, 39, 41, 62, 68, 79, 91

Spain: 22

Stability: 42, 100, 113

Support(ing): 12, 15, 16, 18, 31, 32, 39, 70, 74, 83, 95, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109

Syria: 11, 13, 14, 16, 17, 19, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 36, 37, 38, 44, 57, 66, 67, 74, 82, 83, 88, 98, 99, 103, 109, 110, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116

Syrian(s): 12, 12, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 31, 35, 36, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 68, 69, 71, 75, 76, 77, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 86, 88, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 111, 113, 114, 115, 116, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128

T

Tensions: 42, 43, 60, 62, 64, 101

Turkey: 15, 99, 108, 109, 112, 113, 125, 126

U

UN (United Nations): 16, 27, 33, 38, 67, 81, 86, 92, 113

UNDP (United Nations Development Programme): 60, 103

Unemployment: 43, 87, 89

UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees): 21, 32, 36, 43, 49, 56, 70, 81, 104, 106, 115, 116, 127
UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund): 38, 76
UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency): 50, 110
Urban: 16, 20, 27, 44, 128

V

Violence: 15, 24, 25, 81, 112
Voluntary: 36, 61, 113, 115, 116
Vulnerable: 12, 13, 15, 20, 21, 31, 32, 33, 43, 44, 49, 50, 69, 74, 79, 82, 83, 94, 95, 100, 102, 105, 107, 110, 115, 118, 119, 121, 125, 127, 128
Vulnerability(ies): 13, 15, 16, 21, 41, 46, 48, 49, 81, 94, 103, 118, 120, 125

W

War: 21, 24, 25, 30, 120
Water: 28, 33, 41, 66, 103, 104, 119, 128
WFP (World Food Programme): 31, 86, 92, 95, 98
Women: 15, 21, 31, 52, 57, 58, 77, 81, 86, 88, 112
Work(ing): 15, 20, 40, 58, 61, 62, 70, 76, 80, 88, 90, 91, 120
Work Permit(s): 58
Worker(s): 29, 58, 66, 90

Y

Youth: 25, 43, 52, 77, 78



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