

MERCY CORPS RAPID ASSESSMENT – SYRIAN REFUGEES IN NORTH BEKAA VALLEY

MARCH 15-17, 2012

COMMUNITIES AND INTERVIEWS

Interviews per village – North Bekaa communities

Addous	7
Aarsal	10
Baalbek	10
Douris	1

BACKGROUND AND DEMOGRAPHICS

28 refugee households were surveyed, which represented a total of 501 refugees, 48% male and 52% female, which is approximately 11% of the Syrian refugee population in North Bekaa. There were approximately 2.8 families per household, with an average of 16.75 people per HH, with a range of 51 (max) and 5 (min).

The following is a disaggregation of interviewed households by sex and age:

% 6 years and under	24% (50% female)
% ≤18 years (includes <6 years)	48% (49% female)
% Age 19-57	40% (56% female)
% Over 57	6% (50% female)

81% of those interviewed were male, 19% female

Most came from communities, average population of 34,000. Only 29% of those interviewed indicated that there are others from their same community that settled near them.

71% of those interviewed arrived in the month (25% within last week, 29% two weeks ago, 7% three weeks and 11% 4 weeks ago).

Literacy for males is approximately 40% and females is 28%

2% (6 boys and 6 girls) of the surveyed population are disabled, although there is a question with the data, since 6 were identified as physically disabled and 0 as mentally disabled. None of the disabled individuals are receiving support.

There were 3 households where children either lost their birth mother (9 boys and 3 girls) or were orphaned (9 boys and 4 girls), although there is some confusion with the data so may not be entirely accurate.

EDUCATION/CHILDREN'S ISSUES RESPONSES

The survey identified that 35 children are attending school (20 boys and 15 girls) but I suspect that the surveyor inadvertently counted children that attended school before they arrived in Lebanon, so the number is not accurate.

Child labor (at home, outside home, paid/in-kind) does not appear to be a coping strategy.

PSYCHOSOCIAL RESPONSES

92% of the households surveyed left their homes "unexpected" with only 4% with a "plan" to leave their home.

89% of the HH's surveyed were "very close" to the fighting, with 4% "close" and 4% "distant".

21% of HH's have friends and/or family that were injured or are missing. 11% of the HH's are not sure if any family and friends have been injured or are missing.

25% of HH's say their children are NOT able to talk about their feelings, with 32% "not sure" if their children can talk about their feelings.

46% of HH's say their children do NOT play with children from other households, with 7% saying they're "not sure"

54% of HH's say their children worry that "something bad is about to happen" with 7% "not sure" if their children worry.

43% of HH's say their children feel "disconnected from others" with 7% "not sure"

71% of HH's report that their children are having trouble sleeping with 0% or "not sure"

71% of HH's report that their children are frightened when reminded of the conflict with 4% "not sure"

Observation Notes/Comments by Surveyors

- Children are afraid of people that come to their homes or talk to them.
- the kids feel afraid and don't want to return to their homes
- children were crying while talking
- Fear of being beaten and of sounds
- feel very sad when they remember the war in Syria

- crying and scared

NUTRITION/FOOD SECURITY RESPONSES

0% of HH's reported eating breakfast, 54% ate lunch, 46% at dinner and 11% had snacks.

No HH's reported as having "not eaten"

Primary foods eaten include:

- Mortadela (a local type of salami) and cheese sandwich
- Tuna from a can
- Chicken
- Milk
- Pasta
- "canned food" – likely tuna and fowl (local beans)
- Soup
- Potato
- Rice

0% of HH's reported having grown their own food before the conflict, with 97% reporting either getting their food from the "market" or "in town" before the conflict.

When asked where they will get their food "today" 46% responded that they would "barter," 9% said from the "local market," 7% from "distribution" and 11% from "other" with "other" being described as either neighbors or NGOs.

1 HH reported having a one month supply of food stocks; 5 HHs reported having, on average, 1.4 weeks supply of food stocks; 19 HHs reported having, on average, 2.4 days of food stocks; and 3 HHs reported have no food stocks.

29% of HHs reported having debts with shopkeepers at an average of 142k LBP (Lebanese Pounds) (~93 USD) with a range of 300k LBP (197 USD) and 25k (16 USD).

Men, as opposed to women, primarily go to the market and handle the HH cash (89% reporting men go to market and handle the cash).

There are 8 pregnant and lactating women, which is 7% of the HH women between the ages of 18 and 57.

71% of HHs reported received food aid, predominantly from NGOs. Enumerators also made several notes that HH's reported that the food aid received is not enough.

LIVELIHOODS RESPONSES

HH livelihoods before the emergency includes:

- works with tiles
- from renting home and 2 garages
- the man in this house works with tiles
- own business(mini shop)
- farming
- furniture maker
- fuel shop
- bakery
- mini-shop
- electrical labor
- tailor
- taxi driver
- wood worker
- chewing gum seller
- mason
- trade
- day laborer
- concierge

Since arriving in Lebanon, 4 HHs reported occasionally having some day labor, otherwise no livelihood with no alternative source of income

79% of HHs reported receiving NFIs, including:

- Shelter –4%
- Shelter Materials – 46%
- Money – 25%
- HH Goods – 14%
- Clothing – 36%
- Other – 14% (primarily fuel)

HHs are primarily receiving assistance from:

- NGOs – 79%
- Friends – 14%
- Family – 14%
- Government – 4%
- Religious Body – 43%
- Neighbors – 64%

21% of HHs reported receiving a loan with an average of 217k LBP (~143 USD)

11% of HH's reported giving loans with an average of 50k LBP (~33 USD)

Ranking of what HHs prioritize spending their money on include:

- Food – 79%
- Health – 64%
- Fuel – 54%
- Education – 18%
- Clothing – 11%

- Other – 7% (rent, medicine, repay loan)

Before arriving in Lebanon, 11% of HH's reported that they farmed, with an average of 2000 hectares (this seems like a lot wondering if there was a translation problem). 1 HH farmed "communal" land, 2 HHs farmed vegetables and 3 HHs had fruit trees.

SHELTER RESPONSES

93% of HHs reported either paying rent, staying with a host family/relatives, or staying in a public place (mosque or municipal building)

82% of HHs reported that housing was scarce, with several comments that it was bad.

29% of HHs reported that they expected their current housing situation to be "temporary" (<6 months) with 39% reporting they didn't know if their current housing would be temporary or not.

Estimates for the average HH size of the temporary shelter was 27 square meters, with an average of .66 square meters for each individual per HH.

Average damage to their homes in Syria (either before departing or since) is 2.5 on a scale of 0-5 (0 = no damage, 5 = falling down) with 8 HHs (29%) reporting no damage and 9 HHs (32%) reporting their homes are falling down.

HOUSEHOLD ITEM RESPONSES

Surveyed HHs reported having the following:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| • Mattresses – 93% | • Hygiene Supplies – 21% |
| • Blankets – 71% | • Sheets – 25% |
| • Soap – 50% | • Cooking Utensils – 21% |
| • Stove – 75% | • Cooking Pot – 21% |
| • Change of Cloths – 39% | • Bowls, Plates, Cups – 18% |

71% of HHs reported cooking with kerosene, with a few commenting that they use wood.

WATER AND SANITATION RESPONSES

89% of HHs report that men and boys primarily collect water, with many of the shelters having piped water.

89% of HHs reported having access to latrines before they departed Syria.

86% of HHs report having access to latrines now and nearly all (89%) share the latrine(s) with other HHs.

Garbage is collected from 82% of the HHs

HEALTH RESPONSES

The majority of HHs reported that they go to the Hariri Clinic if they are ill, which range from 60 to 2 minutes distance from their HH.

0 HHs are currently using family planning

HHs reported in the last 2 months experiencing the following illnesses (although there may have been interpretation issues as noted by the high rate of reported measles, which is highly unlikely):

- Trauma – 14%
- Diarrhea – 11%
- Fever – 32%
- Measles – 21%
- Vomiting – 32%
- Malnourished – 18%
- Respiratory – 54%
- Many HHs are also reporting skin, stress and pressure

39% of HHs reported that the reason they did not treat the above illnesses was because they did not have enough money

36% of HHs reported having a death in the family in the last 3 months, several having more than one, with a total of 14 deaths among the surveyed population in the last 3 months.

PROTECTION RESPONSES

82% of HHs reported that they currently “feel safe” with 0% reporting tension with other cultural, religious, or ethnic groups.