Monitoring of the Effects of the Economic Deterioration on Refugee Households (Iraqi and other nationalities)

WAVE I – March 2020

Supported by:
Monitoring changes at the household level over time in key areas in the context of the deteriorating economic situation in Lebanon. The focus will be on the following areas:

- **Livelihoods**: Loss of jobs, salary cuts, job retention and new job opportunities.
- **Economic vulnerability**: household debt
- **Living conditions**: rental costs, mobility, eviction and eviction threats
- **Access to health services**: demand and access to primary healthcare and hospitalization
- **Food and Livelihood Coping Strategies**: Rates of key negative food and non-food related coping strategies

Inform UNHCR/WFP and LCRP partner advocacy in order to: (A) maintain or improve funding for affected refugees; an (B) advocate against the reallocation of funds away from refugee centred programming.

For the initial wave, identify those socio-economic areas most impacted that could be further investigated through VARON 2020 (currently planned for the end of March/April).
To achieve this, we will use a nationally representative simple random sampling approach, extracted from the UNHCR database in Lebanon.

Two nationally representative samples will be extracted: (1) Syrian refugees, and (2) Non-Syrian refugees. Each sample is estimated at 500 (total 1,000) refugee households.

Data collected through the call center via Phone survey

Accounting for non-response rate, sampled: 1,000 Syrian; 1,000 non-Syrian

NB: Please note that while comparison is made to VARON/VASYR, methodologies completely differ and as such comparisons should be approached with caution and not interpreted to the dot. Preference is not to focus on magnitude of differences but rather just to better understand what challenges and difference might be arising and to be further confirmed by VARON 2020.

**Summary of the methodology**

**RESULT:**

- High non-response rate (49% Syrians, 58% non-Syrian)
- 513 Syrian cases and 417 Non-Syrian surveys completed
DEMOGRAPHICS
DEMOGRAPHICS

HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION

AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SIZE:

3.7

(VARON 2019: 3.1)
MAIN PROBLEMS FACED REPORTED BY FAMILIES

1. Economic (cost, income, availability of basic items)
2. Access to services (health, assistance, mobility)
3. Protection environment (restrictions, tensions)
4. Living environment (shelter)
SHELTER
SHELTER
SHELTER CATEGORIES

(Phone wave I)

92%
6%
2%

Residential  Non-residential  Non-permanent

(VARON 2019)

95%
5%
1%

Residential  Non-residential  Non-permanent
Households Renting Accommodation 74% 
(VARON 2019: 71%)

For those paying in LBP or either
- Average rent: 415,000 LBP/month
- Average paid: 394,000 LBP/month

For those paying in USD (12 cases)
- Average rent: 352 USD/month
- Average paid: 327 USD/month
Households Reporting Changes in Rent since Oct 2019

- **80%** No Change
- **15%** Increase
  - Average increase: 97,000 LBP
- **5%** Decrease
  - Average decrease: 91,500 LBP
SHELTER
MOBILITY

Changed Shelter since Oct 2019

- Rent too expensive: 40%
- Eviction: 22%
- Bad shelter conditions: 13%
- Other reasons: 25%

Reasons for planned change in shelter

- Rent is too expensive: 37%
- Living conditions: 17%
- Lack of work opportunities: 12%
- Eviction or tension with landlord: 5%
- Due to change in rental price: 6%
- Due to change in rental currency: 8%
- End of housing agreement: 4%
- Security & community tensions: 3%
- Other: 9%

Planning to change shelter next three months: 26%

Planning to move to third country: 31%

Planning to return to CoO: 2%
LIVELIHOODS & DEBT
LIVELIHOODS & DEBT

DEBT

31% of Households in debt

VARON 2019: 58% in debt

2,235,000

1,608,899

Newly incurred debt
Past three months

61%

863,210 LBP average

(VARON 2019) (phone wave I)
**LIVELIHOODS & DEBT**

**WORK**

- **32%** of households have no working members (above 15)
- **1.5** members working on average among HH with working members
- **2.7** persons above 15 on average per household
- **2%** reported engaging children in income generating activities since Oct 2019
LIVELIHOODS & DEBT

LOSS/GAIN OF JOBS SINCE OCT 2019

44%
Reported at least one HH member (above 15) Loose a job

14%
Reported at least one HH member (above 15) gain a job
COPING STRATEGIES
FOOD & LIVELIHOODS
COPING STRATEGIES

FOOD

- Relied on less expensive or less preferred food: 85% (VARON 2019), 66% (Phone Wave 2)
- Borrowed food or relied on help from friends/relatives: 31% (VARON 2019), 40% (Phone Wave 2)
- Reduced number of meals consumed per day: 75% (VARON 2019), 37% (Phone Wave 2)
- Reduced portion size of consumed meals: 71% (VARON 2019), 37% (Phone Wave 2)
- Restricted consumption of adults family members: 13% (VARON 2019), 29% (Phone Wave 2)

Phone Wave 2 data is from a survey conducted by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The data is based on a sample of households and provides information on various aspects of health and nutrition. The survey covers a wide range of topics, including dietary habits, physical activity, and mental health.
Reduced expenses on health related costs
Reduced expenditure on legal documentation
Sold assets
Withdrew children from school
Engaged children in income generating activities
Household member left Lebanon
Marriage of under 18

VARON 2019
Phone Wave 1

COPING STRATEGIES
LIVELIHOOD
HEALTH
**PRIMAR Y HEALTH CARE**

% HH Requiring Primary health care

- **VARON 2019**
  - 40%

- **2020 (phone)**
  - 64%

% Able to Access (from those requiring)

- **VARON 2019**
  - 89%

- **2020 (phone)**
  - 47%

**SECONDARY HEALTH CARE**

% HH Requiring Secondary health care

- **VARON 2019**
  - 15%

- **2020 (phone)**
  - 27%

% Able to Access (from those requiring)

- **VARON 2019**
  - 84%

- **2020 (phone)**
  - 51%
HEALTH

REASONS FOR NO ACCESS

**PRIMARY HEALTH CARE**
- Cost of drugs/treatment/test: 10%
- Doctor fees: 5%
- Transportation: 28%
- Other: 62%

**SECONDARY HEALTH CARE**
- Cost of treatment: 15%
- Could not secure deposit: 7%
- Other: 78%