



For a world without hunger



W e l t h u n g e r h i l f e

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

of

Mardin for Syrians and Iraqis

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INTRODUCTION

The main purpose of the Need Assessment report is the new measures to be applied for the PIPS III Project, to identify the needs of the site, to identify the protection risks and gaps, and to meet the services needed with the project to be submitted. To ensure that the project activities are best matched to the needs of the field.

Due to the COVID 19 epidemic, the need assessment study was carried out using telephone and online directives. Accordingly, WHH and LWA team met with 100 Syrian and Iraqi people living in the towns of Artuklu, Nusaybin, Kızıltepe and Midyat, and gathered information about the changing conditions and needs of people in terms of health, ethics, work conditions, psycho-social difficulties and hygiene. In addition, detailed information about the situation of the refugees living in the region was discussed with the Mukhtars and CSG leaders. In the report, the working conditions of Syrians and Iraqis working as workers in areas like construction, furniture, market and load carrier in which they earn as much as they perform are determined and analyzed. The report provides information on the situation of refugees living in the region in the context of basic business conditions losing their job risks and how they made a living after COVID-19 outbreak and in the process. According to the studies and observations carried out, an important number of school-age refugees living in the region cannot go to school for some reasons. In this context, the report analyzes the difficulties of school-aged children in terms of access to education. In addition, people's need for hygienic products increased significantly after COVID-19 virus. For this reason, information on the access to basic hygiene products of refugees living in the region was shared in the report by considering the curfew of some age groups, people living in rural areas and economic difficulties. Finally, in the context of the problem faced by people, it was analyzed whether they received support from public institution, NGO and INGO.

GENERAL OVERVIEW: TURKEY

The humanitarian plight in Syria has caused displacement of many individuals and suffering

since 2011. After the war, Turkey hosted most of the Syrian refugees. The majority of Syrian refugees in Turkey continue their lives as "urban refugees". As of today, the total number of registered Syrian refugees in Turkey is 3,585,046. While 63,549 of these Syrian refugees live in temporary shelters and named (sheltered Syrian refugees), the other 3,521,497 are outside of the temporary shelters. As of April there are 7 temporary shelter centers in Turkey and (3)in Hatay, (1) in Adana, Maraş, Kilis and Osmaniye. According to the data shared by the provincial immigration administration, 1,854,018 (52.65%) of this population consists of women and children as of April. The number of those aged between 15-24, defined as young population, is 749,330. According to the data of the Directorate of Immigration dated April 14, 2020, Istanbul is the city with the highest number of Syrians inhabited by 496.485 people, while the city with the lowest number of Syrians is Bayburt with 24 people. Artvin with 37 people and Tunceli with 43 people follow Bayburt. In this table, Mardin ranks 13th with 88,234 Syrians, while Diyarbakir is 18th with 22,909 Syrians.

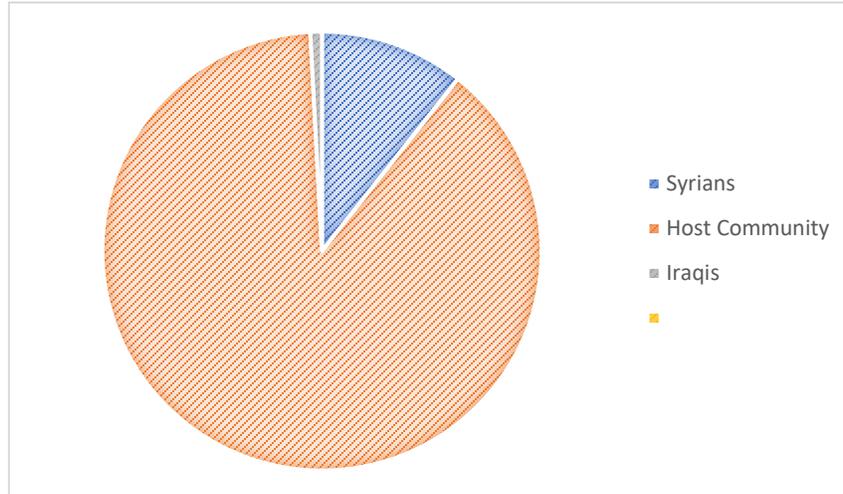
SUB-REGIONAL OVERVIEW:MARDIN

According to the PDMM data, 88,235 Syrians live in Mardin, and there are about 750 Internationally Protected Iraqis in Mardin province. Considering the total population of Mardin is 829,195, it is seen that 10.64% of the total population is Syrian, 0.85% is Iraqi.



In this context, Mardin, with its population of refugees is in the 13th rank in the cities that hosts

the most Syrian refugees in Turkey. ¹



Statistic shows population of Iraqis and Syrians in Mardin

Determining the respective target areas in the field have shown that the location of households differ from district to district; while in Kiziltepe, that is hosting the majority of Syrian refugees, households are spread in the neighborhoods of the city as well as in the villages between Kiziltepe and the Syrian border, the reality of Midyat and Nusaybin shows that people are mostly located within the city. Furthermore, working on the districts has shown that each location is driven by a particular dynamic linked to various reasons. Furthermore, working on the districts has shown that each location is driven by a particular dynamic linked to various reasons. For instance, Syrians living in the center of Mardin have a higher probability to be aware of rights and services. This applies also to Kiziltepe that is located close to Mardin. In both locations there is a stronger presence of NGO assistance. The situation of Nusaybin and Midyat however is very different, where there is a lack of assistance by governmental and non-governmental service providers which left many refugees alone for a long time and hence the knowledge is rather limited. For this reason, WHH and LWA have recently concentrated on works for Midyat. While 27% of CM studies carried out within the scope of WHH's PIPS II project included those living in Midyat, 30% of LWA outreach activities were carried out in Midyat. Therefore, the operations of mobile teams for the two partners has shown its effect. Continuous monitoring of all project components,

¹ "Directorate General of Migration Management" April 9, 2020, <https://en.goc.gov.tr/temporary-protection27>, date accessed: 14 April 2020

including satisfaction surveys, FGDs and other means of beneficiary and non-beneficiary participation will ensure that actions stay in line with community needs and adapts to new threats, exposed vulnerabilities and newly identified capacities of both, for non-Syrian as well as Syrian refugees. Continuous consultations and exchange with local authorities will improve the working relation in this regard and the already established cooperation with local authorities in the area of operation will further contribute to this.

METHODOLOGY

1. Geographic targeting:

- The survey was carried out in 4 different districts in Mardin province: Kızıltepe, Midyat, Nusaybin and Artuklu.

2. Interviews

- The survey was conducted with 100 people.
- LWA's 10 social solidarity group leaders were interviewed.
- 6 Mukhtars of different neighborhoods were interviewed.
- Information of 361 beneficiaries of WHH's database of Mardin Office

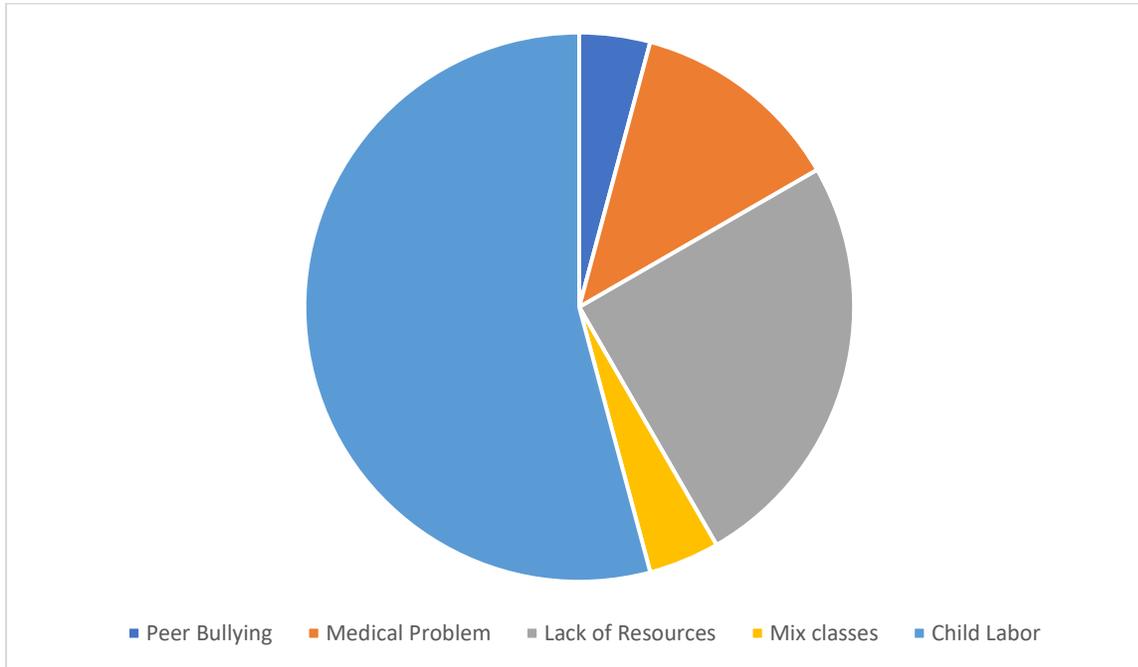
3. Field Reports

- Field observation reports of Case and Outreach team have been transferred

PROBLEMS, NEEDS AND RISK ANALYSES

1-) Access to Education

known that quite a few number of children are out of school. Among the reasons of it, the most commonly known ones are child labor, lack of resources, and language barriers. It was stated that 23 out of 100 families interviewed had children out of school. While 13 of the families have child labor and their children cannot access education, 6 families stated that they cannot send their children to school due to lack of resources and 3 families due to health problems.



Statistics show the reasons of children are out of school

As seen in the table, Many of the families living in the region are in rural areas and there is a need for a shuttle for the children to reach the schools since families cannot afford the transportation fee. As a matter of fact, the mukhtar of Ülker Village in Kızıltepe Abdulkadir Kılınçaslan and the mukhtar of Yumurcak District Bilal Görgün stated that children living in the village could not access education due to the lack of transportation. In addition, these mukhtars stated that some of the children living in the village helped the families in the field work in the watermills, therefore they could not go to school.

In addition, studies that showed that COVID-19 have affected the situation of children going to school and many refugees could not follow courses online or on TV. As is known, on March 11, after the introduction of the first COVID-19 diagnosis in Turkey and increased number of cases day by day, in the third week of March, the schools had been on holiday with the aim to prevent the spread of virus in the first phase until April 30. In this process, WHH and LWA teams, provided information to Syrian and Iraqis who follow their courses over the online system and also constantly contacted people living in the region to identify changing processes and needs. LWA teams also interviewed with Mukhtars and CSG leaders who had an active role in the problems of the region and determined what kinds of difficulties children had in following their classes.

There is a total of 174 children of school age in 100 families surveyed.

According to the information received from families, 105 of 174 children of school age can follow their lessons via TV or online, while 69 children cannot follow their lessons. The families, whose children could not follow the school, put forward lacking access to all channels, Internet access or television. Yalim Neighborhood mukhtar, who has around 900 Syrians in his district, stated that many Syrians do not have a TV or Internet connection in their houses, so children living in the neighborhood cannot access education. While the CSG representatives of Yalim, Yenişehir, Cumhuriyet, Ortaçarşı, Yunus Emre, 13 Mart and Latifiye neighborhoods stated that the Syrian children in their neighborhood are not able to follow the classes online, only the CSG representative of the Gölcüm District stated that the children in their neighborhood can follow the classes.

2-) Employment Opportunities

Employment chances in Mardin region may vary depending on the districts. While some of the Syrians and Iraqis living in the region work irregularly in daily jobs, some work as labor in farming, construction, furniture and restaurants. Only a few of the refugees work as owners of their own businesses. Due to the density of wetlands and farming sector in Kızıltepe, most of the Syrians living in this region work in agricultural works. Transportation, daily agriculture and construction consist a significant part of branches that Iraqi and Syrians living in Midyat employed in. A similar situation goes on in Artuklu and Nusaybin districts. While monthly income of the people working in the region varies between the lower limit of 300 TL and the upper limit of 2200 TL, the monthly income average of the interviewed people is around 700 TL and 1200 TL. According to interviews and the field reports, it was observed that these people had difficulties in providing their livelihoods, as it is known that they pay between 400-600 TL of accommodation rent per month. As a matter of fact, the statement of the *mukhtar* of Yalim Neighborhood confirms this. He stated that in the neighborhood where the house rents cost around 700 TL, there are approximately 1000 Syrians reside. The average monthly income of their varies between 700-1000 TL in works such as construction and furniture, therefore making a livelihood under these circumstances doesn't seem quite possible.

District	Artuklu	Midyat	Kızıltepe	Nusaybin
Farming	1	1	10	-
Construction Works	2	1	5	-
Daily based Weeks	5	10	9	3
Textile	1	2	-	-
Restaurant	2	-	-	-
Hairdressing	-	3	-	-
Other	5	2	1	3
Total	16	19	25	6

Additionally, the COVID-19 outbreak process is seemed to be seriously affect the situation of refugees living in the region. As it is known, many workplaces have been temporarily closed after the outbreak or they have shrunk in the number of employees. This process has negatively affected the employment status of many Syrian and Iraqi people. As a matter of fact, 91 Syrian families interviewed were informed that there were 123 employees before the outbreak, but 78 of them lost their jobs. A similar situation goes on with the Iraqi families interviewed. 8 out of 9 of the Iraqi people interviewed stated that they lost their job after the outbreak. As a matter of fact, it confirms this in the meetings with the *mukhtars*. *Mukhtar* of the Yenişehir Neighborhood, stated that there were about 300 Syrian people in his responsibility area, and the pre-virus construction and furniture firms of the residents were working as workers and most of them were not working after the virus.

3-) Access to Health

The district with the highest number of refugees in Mardin is Kızıltepe. In Kızıltepe, refugees mainly live in rural areas such as villages and watermills due to their job opportunities and better living conditions, nonetheless being afar from the city center brings certain negative consequences. Many of the interviewed refugees stated that they cannot go to the hospitals on occasion due to their distance from the city center and difficulties in transportation.

Many of the interviewees stated that they also encountered a language barrier in the hospital, which has also been acknowledged by Midyat CSG members. The member stated that the Syrian

and Iraqi people living in the district do not speak Turkish and therefore have difficulty in expressing themselves while in the hospital. Psychosocial needs of the interviewees were also identified. Majority of the families interviewed expressed that they are not aware of the concept of PSS. Field staff who surveyed these people have learned what kind of PSS support they may need after explaining what PSS is. While 48 of the families demanded individual PSS interviews, 16 wanted to be involved in group strengthening activities, and 9 of them were interested in Life Skills activities.

Furthermore, the aftermath of COVID-19 negatively affected refugees' access to health. After the spread of the virus, some hospitals do not provide service unless there is an emergency. Besides, a plenty of people cannot access or continue their treatment because of the curfew imposed for people over 65 and under 20, and the risk of infection in the hospital. As a matter of fact, it was found out from the families interviewed, 51 of 57 of them, who goes under regular medical treatment could not receive the treatment after the outbreak. 79% of the interviewed stated that they could not access basic hygiene products. The underlying reasons put forward were living in rural areas, not being able to go out due to their age, and financial insufficiency. While the most important obstacle for the Syrian people living in 13 Mart, Latifiye, Yalım, Yenişehir, Cumhuriyet, Gölcük, Ortaçarşı and Yunus Emre Neighborhoods to access their hygiene kits was financial insufficiency, most of them specified that they go to shopping and public places without using gloves and masks. They stated that it might affect. Additionally, food, follow-up milk and diapers are identified as needs for the households with infants in the field studies conducted by LWA, which cannot be obtained due to loss of caregiver's job. In addition, 7% of the people interviewed shared the information that there were people caught COVID-19 in their social circle, so their access to hygiene materials is crucial for them.

4-) Government and I/NGO capacity and Response

As it is known, in addition to Welthungerhilfe in Mardin province, RET International and AAR Japan have offices as INGOs. The projects of RET International continue only focus on livelihoods, while AAR Japan and Welthungerhilfe act in protection sector. Besides, STL, TRC and LWA operate in the region as NGOs. In this context, the refugees living in the region were asked about the kind

of support they need and the support they receive from the NGOs. 23 out of 28 refugees living in Artuklu, 25 of 31 refugees in Midyat, 30 of 33 refugees in Kızıltepe and 7 of 8 refugees in Nusaybin stated that they haven't received any aid from NGOs. Most of the interviewed refugees stated that they need jobs, access to education and PSS support, on which they expect support from both public institutions and NGOs. Indeed, what the mukhtars and CSGs members say also confirm the claim. While 9 CSG representatives stated that they could not get any NGO support in their neighborhood, only the representative of the Yenisehir district stated that a hygiene kits were distributed in the neighborhoods. Also, 5 of the interviewed mukhtars stated that after the outbreak, there hasn't been any support from either NGOs or public institutions in their neighborhoods, and that only the mukhtar of Sanayi neighborhood specified distribution of aid by the municipality in their neighborhood.

RESPONSE ANALYSIS

According to the interviews with the refugees, observation reports, and the information obtained from the *mukhtars* and CSG members, it was observed that many children were unable to access education even though they are in schoolage. Researches show that the main reasons for the children not having access to education are child labor, peer bullying and lack of resources. This information shows how important awareness-raising activities and PSS activities to be carried out for children and their families. Due to the closure of schools after the Coronavirus outbreak, it has become imperative for children to have their classes online or on TV. While some families stated that children could not follow the lessons due to the lack of TV and the Internet connection at home, a plenty of families do not know how to access the lessons online and over TV. At this point, WHH's guidance on how to access to these channels has an utmost importance. While some of the Syrians and Iraqis living in the region are employed in irregular daily jobs, some work as labor in farming, construction, furniture and restaurants. Only a few of the refugees work as owners of their own businesses. It is known that refugees are underpaid and work under heavy conditions. This also affects the psycho-social status of individuals and their families, so many people expressed their need in PSS support provided by WHH. Moreover, almost all employees do not have a work permit. At this point, awareness-raising activities to be conducted for both the employee and the employer are very important. Changes in working conditions after COVID-19

also affected refugees. Since these people are called to work day-to-day in line with the intensity of the daily work even in the normal period, many of them have lost their jobs and income during this stagnant period.

People who lost their jobs also expressed, stress and anxiety problems come along by spending time at home and therefore they want to get support from the WHH PSS team. At this point, the individual sessions and protection-based activities to be carried out by the PSS team are notable in terms of supporting these people to cope with the stress and anxiety they go through. Majority of the interviewed refugees stated that they could not go to the hospital continuously due to their distance from the city center and difficulties in transportation. This negatively affects many people who have to go under a regular medical treatment and who need to go to the hospital in sudden health incidents.

Besides, according to the information received from the interviewees and *mukhtars*, that most of the refugees encounter a language barrier in the hospital. At this point, it is seen that the translation services to be provided by WHH is significant for breaking the barrier of these people. The need for access to healthcare has increased in the region after COVID-19. 79% of the families interviewed stated that they cannot provide hygiene safety since they cannot access hygiene products. Additionally, the information received from a *mukhtar* and CSG members is in this direction. A major part of the Syrians living in the Mardin region live in rural areas, and therefore it is not always possible for these people to visit the city center to shop. At the same time, many people are at direct risk due to their age group or disease, so people cannot go out and buy hygiene products. *Mukhtars* and CSG members complain that many people are not aware of the basic rules of how to protect themselves to avoid the virus. Considering all these provided, it is obvious that the refugees living in the region should have access to hygiene products and access to basic information on the basic hygiene rules and the ways to protect them from the virus. Finally, most of the interviewed refugees stated that they need jobs, access to education and PSS, but they expect support from both public institutions and NGOs. Considering the needs in question, WHH's activities are very important in terms of meeting the needs of refugees living in the region, preventing the possible risks and empowering people.