Monitoring of the Effects of the Economic Deterioration on Refugee Households

WAVE II – May 2020

Supported by:

UNHCR  |  WFP  |  Inter-Agency Coordination
The UN Refugee Agency
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
- **COVID-19**: Access to services, levels of awareness and access to the PPEs and hygiene items

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.

Identify socio-economic areas most impacted that could be further investigated through VASyR 2020 or other assessments.
Summary of the methodology

• 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. Additional outreach through UNHCR partners to increase response rate primarily using Whatsapp.

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

• WAVE 2 data collection took place between 4 and 15 May

• For Syrians 60% response rate leading to 598 completed interviews.
DEMOGRAPHICS
DEMOGRAPHICS

HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION

AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SIZE:
(4.7 in UNHCR DB)

6
(wave 1: 6)
(VASyR 2019: 5)

Wave I

Wave II

Female Male

Head of household

86% 14%

Head of household

84% 16%
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 CATEGORIES

(VASyR 2019)

Wave I

Wave II

Residential Non-residential Non-permanent

Residential Non-residential Non-permanent

Residential Non-residential Non-permanent

69% 11% 20%

69% 7% 24%

68% 9% 23%
Households Renting Accommodation

90%
(wave I: 90%)

Method of Payment

- 97%
- 2%
- 11% were paying in USD prior to three months ago
- 27% were paying in LBP prior to three months ago

For those paying in LBP
- Average rent: 273,000 LBP/month
- Average paid: 287,000 LBP/month

Average rent vs Amount paid (per month, LBP)

- VASRY 2019
  - Rent: 265,000
  - Paid: 180,000

- Wave I
  - Rent: 270,000
  - Paid: 252,000

- Wave II
  - Rent: 273,000
  - Paid: 287,000

- ASYR 2019
  - Rent: 265,000
  - Paid: 180,000
**SHELTER**

**CHANGES IN RENT**

---

**Wave I**
Share of families reporting a change in rental cost since Oct 2019

- 82% No change
- 8% Increased
- 4% Decreased

---

**Wave II**
Share of families reporting a change in rental cost during the previous 3 months

- 87% No change
- 9% Increased
- 4% Decreased

Average increase: 185,000 LBP
Average decrease: 82,500 LBP
**SHELTER MOBILITY**

Planning to move to third country:
- **6%**
  - (Wave I: 13%)

Planning to return to Syria:
- **1%**
  - (Wave I: 2%)

**Main reasons for moving:**
- Eviction due to inability to pay rent (29%)
- Rent is too expensive (26%)
- Eviction for other reasons (16%)

**Main reasons for planning to move:**
- Rent is too expensive (48%)
- Eviction due to inability to pay rent (23%)

**Changed accommodation:**
- Wave I: Changed accommodation between Oct 2019-Feb 2020
- Wave II: Changed accommodation between Mar 2019-May 2020

**Planning to change accommodation in the coming 3 months:**
- Wave I: 18%
- Wave II: 14%
**DEBT**

Share of households in debt

- Wave I: 91%
- Wave II: 97%

Share of households with newly incurred debt

- Wave I: 83%
  - 1,066,610 LBP
- Wave II: 92%
  - 1,036,885 LBP

Increase in total debt

- VASyR 2019: LBP 1,672,500
- Wave I: LBP 1,066,610
- Wave II: LBP 2,012,470
  - Increase: LBP 945,860

- LBP 1,860,669
70% of households have no working members (above 15) (Wave I: 44%)

41% of households had no members working in the past 7 days (VASyR 2019)

11% reported engaging children in income generating activities since Oct 2019 (Wave I: 11%)

1.3 members working on average among HH with working members (Wave I: 1.2)

3 persons above 15 on average per household (Wave I: 3)
LIVELIHOODS & DEBT

LOSS/GAIN OF JOBS in the past three months

51% Reported at least one HH member (above 15) lost a job
Wave I: 34%

8% Reported at least one HH member (above 15) gain a job
Wave I: 8%
COPING STRATEGIES

FOOD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategy</th>
<th>Wave I</th>
<th>Wave II</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Relied on less expensive or less preferred food per day</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Borrowed food or relied on help from friends/relatives per day</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduced number of meals consumed per day</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduced portion size of consumed meals</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restricted consumption of adults family members per day</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Reduced expenses on health related costs in the past month (72%)  
Reduced expenditure on legal documentation in the past month (54%)  
Sold assets in the past month (26%)  
Sold productive assets in the past month (39%)  
Withdraw children from school in the past three months (23%)  
Engaged children in income generating activities in the past three months (11%)  
Withdrew children from school in the past three months (18%)  
Engaged children in income generating activities in the past three months (11%)

COPING STRATEGIES
LIVELIHOOD

Wave I
Wave II

Reduced
expenses on
health related
costs in the
past month
Reduced
expenditure on
legal
documentation in the past month
Sold
assets in the
past month
Sold
productive
assets in the past month
Withdraw
children from
school in the
past three months
Engaged
children in
income
generating
activities in the past three months
Bought food on credit or debt in the past month
Household member left Lebanon in the past three months
Marriage of under 18 in the past three months
HEALTH

PRIMARY HEALTH CARE

% HH Requiring Primary health care

VASyR 2019  Wave I  Wave II
% Able to Access (from those requiring)

Vasyr 2019  Wave I  Wave II

SECONDARY HEALTH CARE

% HH Requiring Secondary health care

VASyR 2019  Wave I  Wave II
% Able to Access (from those requiring)

Vasyr 2019  Wave I  Wave II
HEALTH

REASONS FOR NO ACCESS

PRIMARY HEALTH CARE

68% 25%

7% Cost of drugs/treatment/test
25% Doctor fees
68% Other

SECONDARY HEALTH CARE

86%

6% Cost of treatment
6% Could not secure deposit
86% Other
92% Reported knowing the symptoms of COVID19

55% Reported that their family has gloves and/or masks

13% Received a hygiene kit

93% Found the contents to be relevant to their needs

Almost all (99%) Did not have any concerns with reaching out the MoPh hotline