Monitoring of the Effects of the Economic Deterioration on Refugee Households

WAVE III—October 2020
Syrian Population

Preliminary Results

Supported by:

UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

WFP

Inter-Agency Coordination
Lebanon
OBJECTIVES

• 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 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 areas where households are most severely impacted by the economic crisis.

• This assessment is conducted on a quarterly basis and wave 3 covers July, August and September.
A nationally representative sample was extracted from the UNHCR database in Lebanon using a simple random sampling approach.

Two nationally representative samples were extracted: (1) Syrian refugees, and (2) Non-Syrian refugees.

Data collected through the call center via Phone survey.

To account for non-response rate, 1,000 Syrian and 1,000 non-Syrian cases were sampled.

NB: Please note that while comparison is usually made to VARON/VASYR, methodologies completely differ and as such comparisons should be approached with caution and not interpreted to the dot.

**RESULT:**

- 60% response rate for Syrians.
- 588 interviews completed.
DEMOGRAPHICS
Average household size
(4.7 in UNHCR DB)
6.3
(Wave I: 6, Wave II: 6)
# Demographics

## Main Problems Faced Reported by Families

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Problem</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Increased prices</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not enough money to cover needs</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment/loss of jobs</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not enough money to cover food needs</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unable to cover health costs</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of assistance</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased prices for food items</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased rent</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children out of school</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bad shelter conditions</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shortage of medicine</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food unavailability</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not enough money to cover other non-food needs</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community violence or disputes</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restricted freedom of movement due to lack of legal residency</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased prices for other non-food items</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of access to drinking water</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased transportation costs</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Harassment</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shortage of fuel</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrestand/or detentions</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Economic (cost, income, availability of basic items)**
- **Access to services (health, assistance, mobility)**
- **Protection environment (restrictions, tensions)**
- **Living environment (shelter)**
SHELTER
SHELTER
SHELTER CATEGORIES

Wave I
- Residential: 24%
- Non-Residential: 7%
- Non-permanent: 69%

Wave II
- Residential: 23%
- Non-Residential: 9%
- Non-permanent: 68%

Wave III
- Residential: 23%
- Non-Residential: 7%
- Non-permanent: 70%
### Average rent vs Amount paid

(per month, LBP)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupancy type</th>
<th>Wave I</th>
<th>Wave II</th>
<th>Wave III</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rental</td>
<td>270,000</td>
<td>273,000</td>
<td>310,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work for rent</td>
<td>180,000</td>
<td>252,000</td>
<td>309,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hosted for free</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Occupancy Type:**
- Rental: 92%
- Work for rent: 5%
- Hosted for free: 3%
21% of HH reported change in rent (out of those renting)

Average increase in rent: 123,000 LBP (Wave 2: 185,000 LBP)
Average decrease in rent: 83,000 LBP (Wave 2: 82,500 LBP)

Change in rent direction (out of those renting):
- No change: Wave I 82%, Wave II 87%, Wave III 79%
- Increased: 8%, 9%, 16%
- Decreased: 4%, 4%, 5%
Planning to leave Lebanon

5%

Changed accommodation in the past three months

13%  11%  6%

- Wave I (between Oct 2019 and Feb 2020)
- Wave II (between March 2019 and May 2020)
- Wave III (between June and Sept 2020)

Main reasons for moving

26%

Eviction due to inability to pay rent
(Wave 2: 29%)

23%

Rent is too expensive
(Wave 2: 26%)

18%

Return to country of origin

82%

Leave to third country
LIVELIHOODS & DEBT

DEBT

Share of households in debt

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wave I</th>
<th>Wave II</th>
<th>Wave III</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>91%</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Share of households with newly incurred debt

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wave I</th>
<th>Wave II</th>
<th>Wave III</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>83%</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Increase in total debt (in LBP)

- Wave I: 1,672,500 LBP
- Wave II: 1,860,669 LBP
- Wave III: 1,962,129 LBP

Increase in total debt:
- Wave I: 1,672,500 LBP
- Wave II: 1,860,669 LBP
- Wave III: 2,329,129 LBP
**LIVELIHOODS & DEBT**

**LIVELIHOODS**

Households who have no working members (above 15)

- Wave I: 46%
- Wave II: 70%
- Wave III: 44%

Persons above 15 on average per household

- Wave I: 3
- Wave II: 3
- Wave III: 3

Members working on average among HH with working members

- Wave I: 21%
- Wave II: 11%
- Wave III: 11%

Children under 15 who are working

- Wave I: 1.3
- Wave II: 1.3
- Wave III: 1.2
LIVELIHOODS & DEBT

LOSS/GAIN OF JOBS in the past three months

Reported at least one HH member (above 15) lost a job

Reported at least one HH member (above 15) gain a job

Wave I Wave II Wave III

34% 34% 51%
8% 8% 12%
COPING STRATEGIES

FOOD & LIVELIHOODS
COPING STRATEGIES

FOOD

- Relied on less expensive or less preferred food (Wave 3: 5.4 days per week): 92% Wave I, 93% Wave II, 93% Wave III
- Borrowed food or relied on help of friends/relatives (Wave 3: 1.4 days per week): 42% Wave I, 47% Wave II, 42% Wave III
- Reduced number of meals consumed per day (Wave 3: 4.3 days per week): 74% Wave I, 80% Wave II, 81% Wave III
- Reduced portion size of consumed meals (Wave 3: 4.5 days per week): 67% Wave I, 76% Wave II, 80% Wave III
- Restricted consumption of adults family members (Wave 3: 3.3 days per week): 67% Wave I, 52% Wave II, 68% Wave III
COPING STRATEGIES

LIVELIHOOD

18% engaged children in income generating activities in the past three months

- Reduced expenses on health related costs in the past month: 72% (Wave I), 62% (Wave II), 76% (Wave III)
- Reduced expenditure on legal documentation in the past month: 45% (Wave I), 26% (Wave II), 44% (Wave III)
- Sold asset in the past month: 39% (Wave I), 35% (Wave II), 43% (Wave III)
- Sold productive assets in the past month: 5% (Wave I), 7% (Wave II), 7% (Wave III)
- Withdrew children from school in the past three months: 23% (Wave I), 19% (Wave II), 23% (Wave III)
- Engaged children in income generating activities in the past three months: 11% (Wave I), 11% (Wave II), 18% (Wave III)
- Bought food on credit or debt in the past month: 90% (Wave I), 88% (Wave II)
- Household member left Lebanon in the past three months: 2% (Wave I), 2% (Wave II), 2% (Wave III)
- Marriage of under 18 in the past three months: 1% (Wave I), 1% (Wave II), 2% (Wave III)
HEALTH
HEALTH

Primary Heath Care

% HH Requiring Primary health care

Wave I: 74%
Wave 2: 61%
Wave 3: 70%

% Able to Access (from those requiring)

Wave I: 46%
Wave 2: 49%
Wave 3: 43%

Secondary Heath Care

% HH Requiring Secondary health care

Wave I: 32%
Wave 2: 21%
Wave 3: 32%

% Able to Access (from those requiring)

Wave I: 54%
Wave 2: 55%
Wave 3: 51%
HEALTH

REASONS FOR NO ACCESS

Primary Health Care

- Cost of drugs/treatments/test:
  - Wave I: 72%
  - Wave II: 68%
  - Wave III: 69%

- Doctor fees:
  - Wave I: 22%
  - Wave II: 25%
  - Wave III: 25%

- Other:
  - Wave I: 6%
  - Wave II: 7%
  - Wave III: 6%

Secondary Health Care

- Cost of treatment:
  - Wave I: 76%
  - Wave II: 86%
  - Wave III: 83%

- Could not secure deposit:
  - Wave I: 12%
  - Wave II: 6%
  - Wave III: 6%

- Other:
  - Wave I: 12%
  - Wave II: 6%
  - Wave III: 11%
COVID-19
COVID-19

45% Reported that their family has enough gloves and/or masks

19% Received a hygiene kit from a charity or organization

90% Found the contents to be relevant to their needs