Monitoring of the Effects of the Economic Deterioration on Refugee Households

WAVE I – March 2020
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 VASyR 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

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:
(4.7 in UNHCR DB)

6
(VASyR 2019: 5)

(VASyR 2019)

Head of household

Female  Male

51%  49%

56%  44%

Below 18  18 & Above

Gender of household members

Sex of household members

50%  50%
1. Economic (cost, income, availability of basic items)
2. Access to services (health, assistance, mobility)
3. Protection environment (restrictions, tensions, children out of school)
4. Living environment (shelter)
SHELTER
SHELTER
SHELTER CATEGORIES

(phone wave I)

(VASyR 2019)
Households Renting Accommodation

90% (VASyR 2019: 81%)

For those paying in LBP or either
• Average rent: 270,000 LBP/month
• Average paid: 252,000 LBP/month

For those paying in USD (12 cases)
• Average rent: 245 USD/month
• Average paid: 243 USD/month
Households Reporting Changes in Rent since Oct 2019

- No Change: 82%
- Increase: 13%
  - Average increase: 77,000 LBP
- Decrease: 5%
  - Average decrease: 58,000 LBP
Those households have reported a significantly higher debt (955,000 LBP more than those not planning to move).

Planning to change shelter next three months

- Rent is too expensive: 49%
- Living conditions: 16%
- Eviction or tension with landlord: 15%
- Due to change in rental price: 6%
- Due to change in rental currency: 4%
- End of housing agreement: 3%
- Security & community tensions: 3%
- Other: 2%

Planning to move to third country: 13%

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

DEBT

91% Of households Are in debt (~ VASyR)

Increase in debt
12% 1,860,669

1,672,500

Newly incurred debt
Past three months
83%
1,066,610 LBP average

(VASyR 2019) (phone wave I)
LIVELIHOODS & DEBT

WORK

44% of households have no working members (above 15)

1.2 members working on average among HH with working members

11% reported engaging children in income generating activities since Oct 2019

41% of households had no members working in the past 7 days

3 persons above 15 on average per household

(VASyR 2019)
LIVELIHOODS & DEBT

LOSS/GAIN OF JOBS SINCE OCT 2019

34%
Reported at least one HH member (above 15) Loose a job

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

FOOD

- Relied on less expensive or less preferred food:
  - VASYR: 88%
  - Phone: 92%
  - Frequency: 5.0 days per week

- Borrowed food or relied on help on friends/relatives:
  - VASYR: 39%
  - Phone: 42%
  - Frequency: 1.3 days per week

- Reduced number of meals consumed per day:
  - VASYR: 60%
  - Phone: 74%
  - Frequency: 4.0 days per week

- Reduced portion size of consumed meals:
  - VASYR: 59%
  - Phone: 67%
  - Frequency: 3.5 days per week

- Restricted consumption of adults family members:
  - VASYR: 37%
  - Phone: 67%
  - Frequency: 2.3 days per week
COPING STRATEGIES

LIVELIHOOD

- 23% withdrew a child from school since Oct 2019
- 11% engaged children in income generating activities since Oct 2019

Reduced expenses on health related costs
Reduced expenditure on legal documentation
Sold assets
Withdrawed children from school
Engaged children in income generating activities
Household member left Lebanon
Marriage of under 18
HEALTH
**Health**

**Reasons for No Access**

**Primary Health Care**
- Cost of drugs/treatment/test: 22%
- Doctor fees: 6%
- Other: 72%

**Secondary Health Care**
- Cost of treatment: 12%
- Could not secure deposit: 12%
- Other: 76%