Analysis Report of the Survey
On the Syrian Refugees Situation during Quarantine

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Objectives

This questionnaire was used to study the living and psychological conditions of Syrian refugees in various Lebanese territories during the period of general mobilization announced by the Lebanese government to confront the Corona virus.

General Information

This questionnaire covered 3,000 Syrian refugees in Lebanon in different governorates: the North, South, Beqaa, Arsal, Mount Lebanon, and Beirut.

As a result, the following challenges appeared:

- The epidemic has greatly affected the economic situation of Syrian families:
  - Many families have lost their jobs.
  - Failure or inability to pay housing rents, which has led many families to leave their homes and live with relatives in the same house.
- The distribution of aid was delivered as financial and in-kind, but it was insufficient.
- Difficulty to go to a medical center when needed due to financial and legal conditions (such as residence papers), but there are medical centers that provide medical care also in these cases.
- Cases of domestic violence increased during the general mobilization period.
- The children staying at home led to an increase in their demands with the inability of the parents to meet them, and also led to behavioral changes due to their permanent presence in the house within a limited space.
• Adherence to precautionary measures in the area of the housing is fairly good, but a notable percentage have not complied with procedures.

Description of the survey

The coronavirus outbreak constitutes a challenge for the Lebanese economy as well the livelihoods of refugees who are struggling on a daily basis and facing unsustainable life, which has a psychological impact and put pressure on families.

Questioning with sincere curiosity and openness and giving them the space to respond yes or no, in order to obtain accurate results. The questionnaire was distributed via social media, on Facebook pages related to the affairs of Syrian refugees and on WhatsApp, by sending it to the families living in the random and residential Syrian camps, they were motivated to fill and share the survey and send us feedback.

Part I: Living Conditions

Has the economic crisis in Lebanon had a clear negative impact on your daily life?

As is evident in the pie chart (1), and as is also expected, the percentage of the Syrian refugees being affected by the current economic conditions is very large, as 99.3% of the answers were yes, and this shows the extent of the suffering that Syrians are going through in Lebanon following the current economic crisis. As this crisis increased the living pressures significantly on them, and this is shown by the pie chart (2) where 99.6% of them answered yes to the question of the increase in the living pressure during this period.

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One of the direct consequences of this crisis on refugees is the loss of work through which the breadwinners earn a living. As shown in the pie chart (3), 96% of all responses were "no" to a question if the breadwinner was still working in the shadow of this crisis. This affected the psychological state of the children, as their financial demands increased due to the inability of the breadwinners to meet them.

The housing crisis and the inability to pay rents are one of the direct results of the current crisis. After 62.6% of respondents replied that they were paying a housing fee (rent or other), a large percentage of them reported that the owner of the housing does not tolerate the issue of delay in paying the monthly rent.

In order to understand better the housing situation, we asked some further questions to get answers that enable us to know the state which this crisis with the refugees reached.

- Was the residence left due to the inability to pay the rent?

- Are you hosting any relative in your home regarding his inability to pay the rent?
It is clear from these results that a significant percentage of responders lost their house due to their inability to pay the rent to the landlord, in the case of the landlord has not taken into account the general situation and their special status as refugees.

Then we come to a very important part, which is to provide in-kind or financial assistance to refugees by agencies, all of them non-governmental organizations working in the humanitarian field.

88.5% of respondents said that this aid is no longer available during the quarantine period, and among those for who it remains available, 79.9% said it is not sufficient.

*It is noteworthy that 51.6% of the aid provided to this group was financial, 32.8% in kind, and 15.7% received financial and in-kind assistance.

As for the question of whether the closing of the borders with Syria had a negative impact in terms of the inability to obtain food from relatives, 57.1% answered “yes”, and 42.9% answered “no”. So, the results were approximately equal.

**Part II: Psychological conditions**

The period of quarantine that accompanied the economic crisis, which had major negative effects on the living conditions of refugees, will lead to deteriorated psychological conditions due to the stress factors and related pressure and will also have an impact on children, in particular after staying at home and not being able to go to places of entertainment which were closed. Therefore, there were several questions to show the psychological state of the children and the family relationship in households within this period.

- Have you observed any behavioral changes on your children during the quarantine since they all had to stay at home?

As it is shown in the percentage, it’s clear that the lockdown and the stressful situation has negatively affected 95% of Syrian refugees in Lebanon. This outcome had been expected since most of the Syrian Refugees in Lebanon live in extremely small houses, taking the number of family members living under the same roof into consideration, which results in an assumption that most of the refugee children don’t have their own room or even enough space to play and release their energy. Moreover, they hear stressful and fearful news while being with adults all day long.
• What kind of behavioral changes have you noticed on your children?

The chart on the right shows the percentage of the different types of behaviors that have been noticed on the Syrian refugee children in Lebanon. As we can see, children have different ways to express their feelings, mainly being irritable, hyperactive, violent, calm, and other feelings like having high temper or by being angry at their own parents believing that it’s their parent who caused the difficult situation.

• Has quarantine at home had a negative effect in increasing cases of domestic violence? And if yes, against whom?

As both graphs show, the stressful situation experienced by the Syrian Refugees in Lebanon during the lockdown was translated into violence, and it’s clear that it was predominantly against wives and children. It also shows that husbands and children staying at home all day long, which is an unusual situation in most houses, is a major factor, since children need more space to play, and husbands can’t afford supporting all their needs. Financial problems lead most of the times to increased tensions in the household and are then expressed violently.
Part III: Health status

The need for health services has emerged in the recent period, especially with the outbreak of the epidemic, so it was necessary to investigate the availability of these services and the ability to reach them through a few questions.

**Question:** Is it easy to get medical help in the current situations?

![Pie chart showing 90.7% Yes and 9.3% No.]

**Question:** Are there considerations of economic conditions when visiting medical centers?

![Pie chart showing 86.4% Yes and 13.6% No.]

We can notice being in lockdown and not being able to bring money home is closely aligned to not being able to visit any medical center and ask for help in case any of the family members in need his applies to people who may possibly have some of the Covid-19 symptoms.

**Question:** Is the inability to renew residence papers in Lebanon related to not resorting to the government hospital when in need?

![Pie chart showing 48.8% Yes and 51.2% No.]

Also not having the legal papers renewed is to some extent a reason why some of the population have some fears concerning going to any governmental medical center to go through any medical checkup.
Conclusion

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted all communities; whether under strict quarantine in Italy or USA, or enforcing social distancing and self-quarantine in other parts of Europe and the rest of the world.

There are however, often forgotten communities that either no received official guidance, or are completely in the dark. One of these communities is the Syrian refugees in Lebanon.

We acknowledge that the refugee crisis itself is a problem for the hosting countries as well as refugees themselves including lack of job, family separation and mental health caused by living consequences due to the many pressures, this crisis came and made the situation worse.

Syrian refugees are resisting to live their lives the best they can but the measure of quarantining in refugees’ camps complicated their lives and we can observe that there is an apparent fear of something that is unknown and struggling for daily resistance.

More than ever, civil society and international cooperation will be needed to support these vulnerable people whom suffered a lot from being in exile as well as the luck of supporting them during this global epidemic.

We, at SB Overseas continue our support for refugees in particular during the COVID-19 pandemics,

- By providing an online program for children, youth, and women on education and empowerment, as an opportunity to study during the closure of schools and education centers, (for more information on our online program https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1rk704cDISU

-We distributed hygiene kits, including sanitization for residences. The refugee families in refugees’ camps suffer from a lack of medical and preventive supplies in addition to their lack of experience in dealing with viruses. For example, families do not have access to hand sanitizers or cleaning and antiseptic materials against viruses, therefore sterilization is not effective in this case.
Read more https://www.sboverseas.org/2020/03/30/emergency-covid-19-support-provided-to-families-in-arsal-camps

-Awareness campaign in Arsal
Read more https://www.sboverseas.org/2020/03/27/preparing-for-our-awareness-campaign-in-arsal

-Distribution foodstuffs to support basic and essential material needs and to alleviate the crisis.
because we believe that the first step to a successful future is to equip individuals with tools to be able to deal with life's challenges.

Read more international support:

http://sboverseas.org