IOM EMERGENCY NEEDS ASSESSMENTS

Rapid Needs Assessment Among Lebanese Returnees Families who Fled Syria for Safe Haven
Current Situation and Future Planning Needs

INTRODUCTION

Since March 2012, several towns and villages in the North, the Bekaa and the South started receiving Lebanese families who fled Syria, against the backdrop of sectarian conflicts. Most of those families left their hometown decades ago and got Syrian citizenship. Municipalities and political parties embraced this flow and started providing ad hoc support.

This population was considered in "refugee-like" situation, thus their needs were not placed on priority lists for emergency responders since they are generally subject to the legislation applicable to nationals, diminishing the likelihood that their basic rights are upheld by humanitarian actors.

In response to the increased numbers of Lebanese families fleeing Syria into Lebanon, IOM started investigating this phenomenon in more detail, which allowed including this population in the SRRP (Syrian Refugee Response Plan, June 2012).

In April 2012, IOM profiled an initial sample of **five hundred thirty six (536)** Lebanese families who used to live in Syria and fled into Lebanon, settling in areas where Syrian refugees were concentrated.

In May-June 2012, IOM carried out a Rapid Assessment in order to identify areas where targeted interventions and policy changes may have the greatest impact.
The assessment was developed through an active participatory approach from the household and village level, both in terms of participatory assessments and a wide involvement of all sectors of the society in formulating, implementing and monitoring assistance projects.

In August 2012, **One hundred sixty four (164)** additional families were referred to IOM by other agencies. Moreover, through community outreach, IOM documented **two hundred ninety (290)** families, raising up the number to **nine hundred ninety (990)** families (totalling 4,775 individuals)

RAP HIGHLIGHTS

Bekaa
Numbers:
162 families (977 individuals)
478 males and 499 females
212 children below 5

Priorities
Winterization, Relief Core Items, Shelter Sealing

North
Numbers :
337 families (1915 individuals)
857 males and 1058 females
515 children below 5

Priorities
Winterization, Relief Core Items, Shelter Sealing

IOM Emergency Distribution Assistance: In July-Aug 2012, IOM distributed 150 hygiene kits, 100 diapers bags and 138 household shelter support kits in the North.

Mount Lebanon
Numbers :
37 families (142 individuals)
69 males and 73 females
25 children below 5
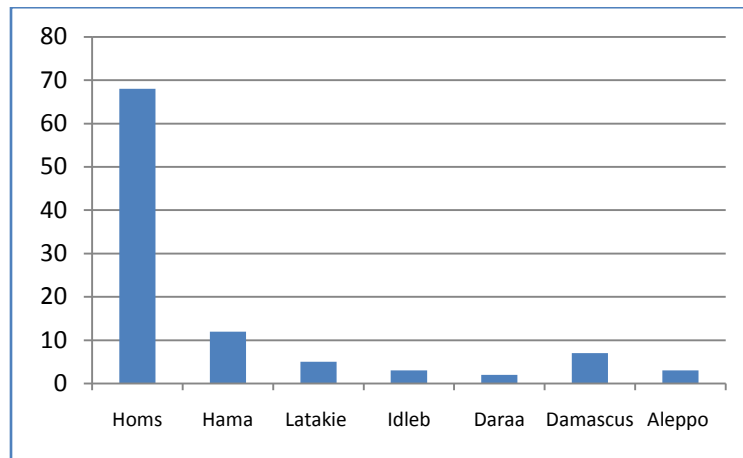
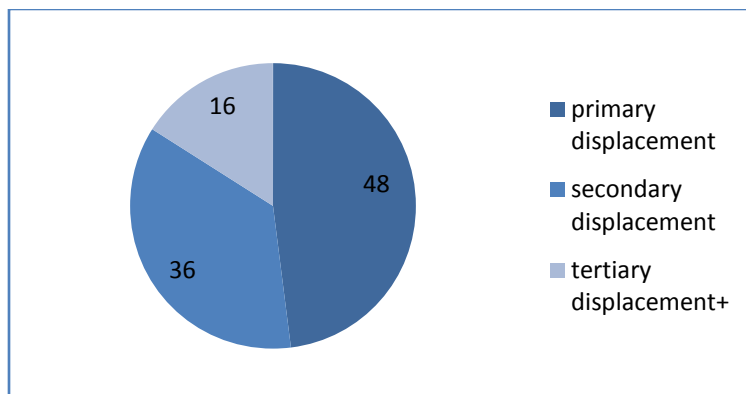**Priorities**
Food, Core Relief items

Country-wide Statistics

1. **Places of Origin**

2. **Migration Route**
   - Al Masnaa BCP (East of the country, Bekaa Valley): 32%
   - Qsayr (North-East of the country, Bekaa Valley): 35%
   - Aarida, Aboudieh and Bokayaa (North of Lebanon): less than 5%
   - Irregular crossing: 27%

3. **Migration Pattern**

Sixty five percent have been living in Syria 'for 10-15 years'

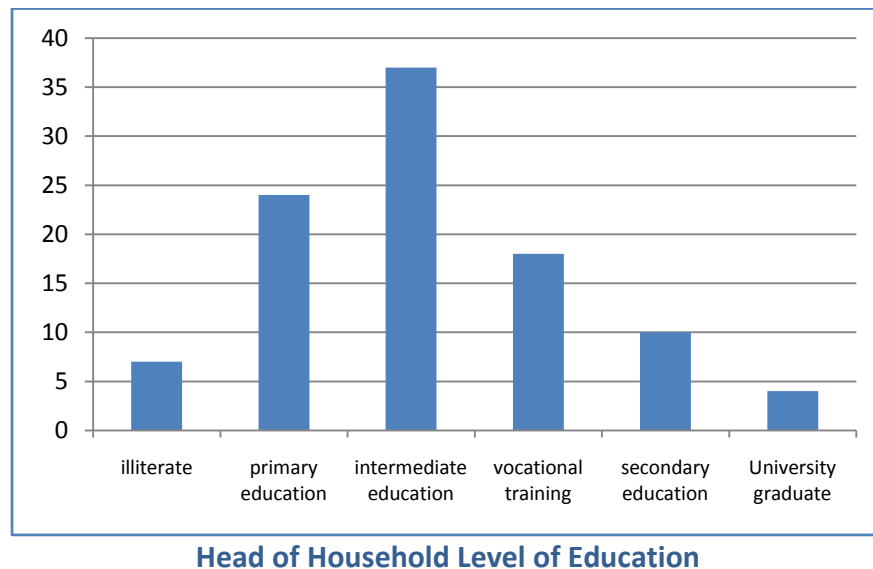**6% reported abuse incidents during displacement**

4. **Intentions**
   - 12% willing to travel to a third country (preferably the US or EU), to ensure basic rights for their children, seeking respect of migrants' rights.
   - 76% willing to return home, the main reason was the peculiar situation of most of the refugees hosted in Lebanon and the poor chance of being accepted for resettlement.
   - 12% willing to integrate in Lebanon, mainly because the spouse is Lebanese national, and the family has established a network in their vital environment.

5. **Living Arrangements**
   - More than 76% live with friends and family, 11% rented houses, 8% in tents/metallic containers near house of hosting familiy and 5% in public buildings/unfinished or abandonned buildings.
   - 85% reported having 4 out of 8 of the list (stove, fridge, beds, tables and chairs, long-lasting furniture, heater, electricity in the house, water pipes)
   - Sanitary infrastructure and water pipes inside the house reported for 67%.
   - For more than 75% no safe place for their children to play.
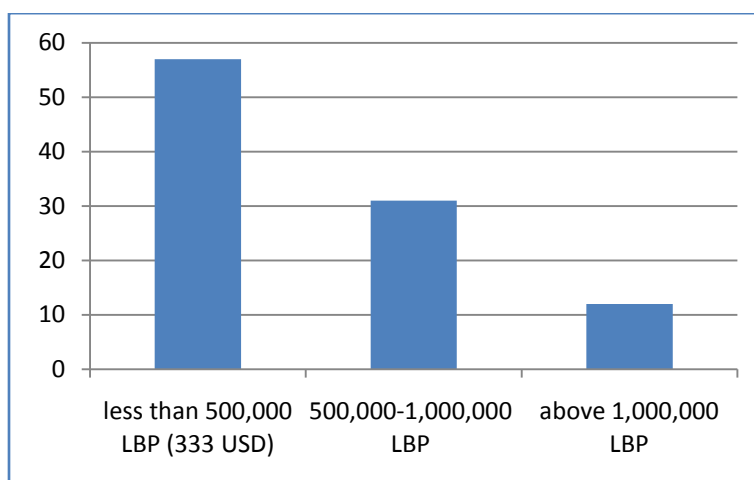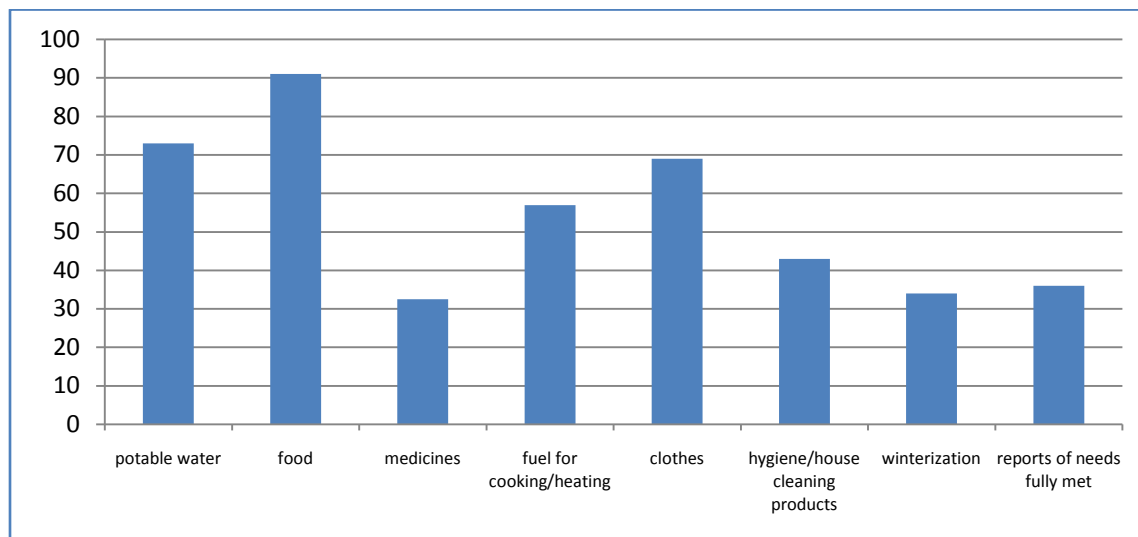
6. **Socio-demographic characteristics**
   - Female headed households 16%
   - Number of children per household ranged between 1 and 16 (average 6)

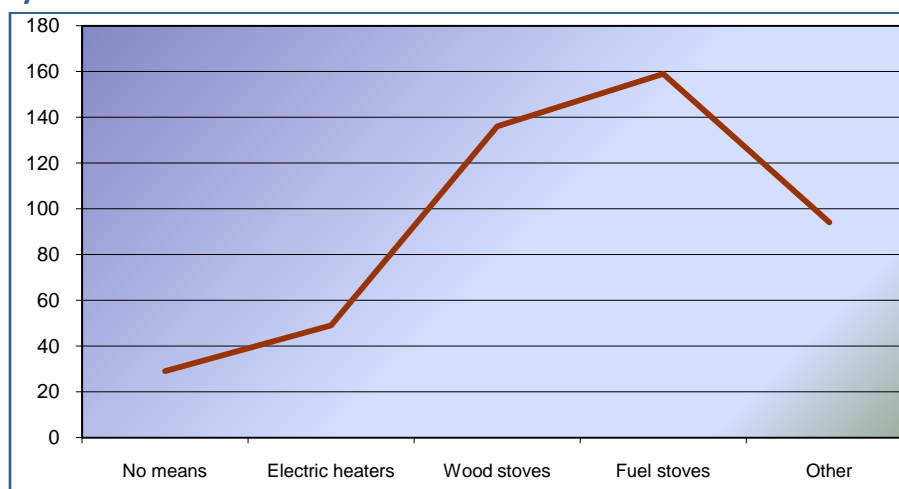**Head of Household Level of Education**

7. **Perception of Economic Status**
   - 73.9% do not have any source of income and 77.8% looking for jobs to survive. More than 45% work in popular jobs.
   - Income level (Before): 61% more than 5000 SL per month. Income level (After): 79.8% less than 5000 SL per month. More than 70% reported 'debts' and 'parents and friends support'.
   - Up to 89% reported need for coordinated humanitarian response (most of them irregular ad hoc assistance provided by Islamic Charities).
   - 50.4% reported losses (capital). The war was the main reason. Compensation is considered as an incentive for return for 14% of the families.

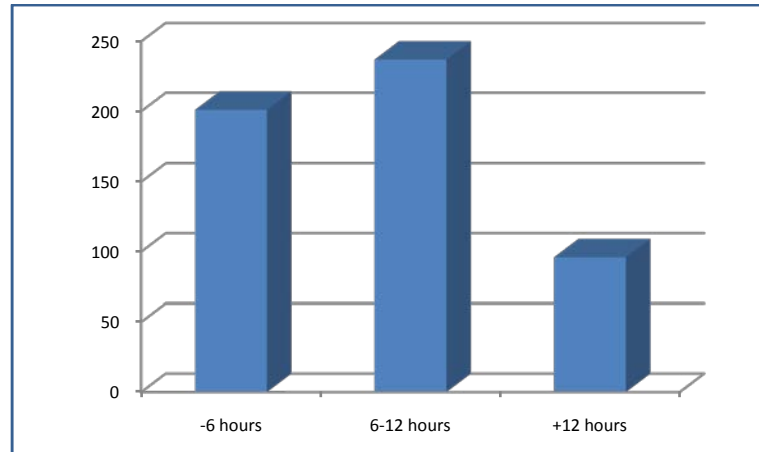## 8. Availability of priority needs and monthly cost
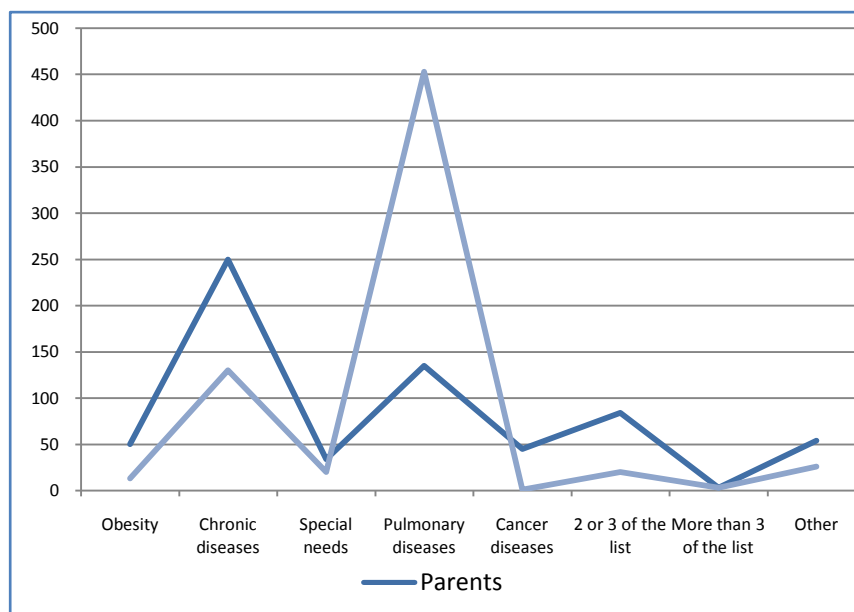

9. Availability of Winterization Items

The "other" category includes winter blankets and charcoal

10. Availability/Access to Electricity Power Supply over 24 ours

11. Availability of Socio-Medical Assistance
- 35% of the surveyed households reported that they were receiving socio-medical assistance at the time of the assessment

12. Sectoral Issues
The assessment identified four major sectors: livelihoods, shelter, food and NFIs.

13. Steps Forward
- Information sharing meetings with the donor community to further demonstrate how an existential repsonse could benefit long-term objectives
- Actions plans to be as synergetic as possible by enhancing strategic linkages between sectors and trans-sectoral conditions in order to optimise the use of scarce resources and maximising the interventions impact.

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