

Youth in Marginalized Settings in Lebanon – the Lebanese Case

Literature Review

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Synthesis

The literature review included 21 poverty-related references covering the period 1998-2017. These references can be grouped into three different categories (or types).

The first type of references is composed of documents that present the results of national poverty-oriented surveys. These documents were produced by official public authorities (Central Administration of Statistics, Ministry of Social Affairs) with the technical assistance of international organizations (UNDP, World Bank). The national surveys are covering large sample size targeting households. It is important to note that the raw data is not accessible to researchers. Only statistical descriptive tables (simple and cross-tabulations) are available and published. Hence, researchers cannot develop their own in-depth specific analysis. These references cannot also be divided into two sub-categories, according to the methodology that was adopted. Some national surveys adopted the UBN (Unsatisfied Basic Needs) method to measure and describe poverty, while others adopted an income/expenditure (using also calories consumed) methodology. In both cases, simple comparative analysis in time are available (although in some cases some technical problems had to be addressed). In addition, both methods produced a series of statistical tables describing the socio-economic situation of the poor and the non-poor households. The results are converging and the main characteristics were highlighted. It appears that the same explanatory variables were identified: education level of the head of the household, enrollment rates of children, health coverage, economic activity of the head of the household, regional disparities, dwelling characteristics, access to public services, etc. Three major gaps were identified: i) these methodologies do not allow to identify poverty pockets, since it is based on the household and not on the geographic statistical units; ii) the psychological, cultural and behavior aspects are rarely (or even never) included in the questionnaires. The instruments that were used covers only standard livelihood aspects; iii) youth are not studied as a specific segment. Analysis described the household as whole (and the

head of the household as individual) but the characteristics of youth segment is described.

The second type of references is composed of documents produced by research institutes and/or independent researchers. The references, instead of starting from a household point of view (as statistical unit), opted for a geographic. In other terms, instead of identifying poor households, they tried to identify poor regions, areas, villages, localities or neighborhoods. The Cadastre (CF) constituted the main statistical unit of such approaches. Moreover, the methodology implemented a mixed-approach, using qualitative (in-depth interviews, focus groups) and quantitative techniques (sampling). The identification of poverty pockets (or in some cases clusters, covering a larger area) were either made possible through in-depth interviews with key informants, or through a systematic approach (they gave a score to all CFs in Lebanon, i.e. around 1500 CF). In that case (systematic approach), a number of poverty related variables were identified and were included in a scoring system model. This non-standard (and creative) techniques generated extremely interesting results: poverty is not a unique and simple phenomenon, but there are several types of poverty. Each type has its own specific characteristics and hence will require different policies to address it. Four types of poverty were identified: urban poverty, rural poverty, poverty in deserted areas and poverty areas that appeared due to exogenous factors. A listing of poverty pockets was developed for each type. Characteristics are homogenous within each type and important differences appeared between these types (inter-heterogeneity vs. intra-homogeneity). This approach will be the main pillar for our study to select poverty pockets or clusters. The main limitation of this approach is the availability of data and its variability. Indeed, only few variables are available at the detailed disaggregated geographical level. Deeper analysis cannot be performed if more data is made available at the level of the CF.

The third type of references is composed of various ad-hoc and specific studies or papers. Researchers, in these references, addressed specific topics (e.g. youth emigration, reasons of poverty: fatalist or individualist). These references might be useful for the development of the instruments that will be used in the qualitative survey that will be conducted in the selected poverty pockets with youth. For example, topics such as: perception of respondents toward poor: why are they poor? The role and importance of the public services: infrastructure, water (potable and non-potable), transportation/roads, education, health...etc. The concept of public spaces in specific and the urban planning in general. The cultural background and cultural activities. The

impact of emigration opportunities on poverty and youth behavior. Environmental issues: conditions, perception of its importance, etc.

Finally, it is important to note that, as it has been discussed earlier, poverty is a multi-dimensional concept, complex because of its subjective and relative character, and is difficult to measure. Hence, various measurement methodologies were developed, each one has its own purpose and objectives. One additional dimension has been missing in this literature review: the local development approach. Indeed, many unions of municipalities were able to put in place a local development strategy. Once the poverty pockets are selected, local development strategies may be useful (if they cover these selected areas) and will necessarily enrich the descriptive analysis.

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Annex

Annotated Bibliography

NB:

- 1) The sources are presented according to chronological order
- 2) The *italic text* means that that the executive summary was extracted as such from the source.

Dibeh, G., Fakh, A. and Marrouch, W. (February 2018).
Decision to Emigrate amongst the Youth in Lebanon.
International Migration 56 (1), 18 p.

a. Executive Summary

The objective of this article is to explore empirically a number of socio-economic drivers behind the decision of youth to emigrate from Lebanon.

Based on a multiple regression model, various variables were identified as being “potential” drivers, such as: economic status of parents, gender, education (higher educated youth tend to migrate more), etc.

b. Methodology

This paper used a mixed approach: literature review (conceptual background on determinants of youth migration) and analysis of raw data generated by the SAHWA youth survey (2016) (refer to Executive summary #18).

The researchers generated a multiple regression model that explains the determinants of migration.

c. Comments

This paper is interesting because it identified and analyzed the emigration phenomena among youth population, however it does not help in identifying poverty pockets. However one concern raised: the number of variables used for this model are limited and some critical factors may have been missed.

a. Executive Summary

This policy paper investigates both structural and cyclical problems affecting labor market outcomes of poor and marginalized youth in Lebanon. The Lebanese economic system has been characterized by jobless economic growth most severely impacting women and youth in the post war era. At the moment, an average of 3,400 new jobs is created each year in Lebanon. This number needs to increase six folds to keep up with the youth entrants into the labor market over the next decade. Youth employability is generally attributed to demand side constraints that negatively impact the ability of the economy to create new jobs fast enough. These constraints increase the likelihood that more firms will move from the formal to informal sector, which increases youth unemployment. Moreover, youth from poor socio-economic backgrounds find it harder to acquire education and build social networks, making them the prime victims of jobless growth. We identify three important restrictions that dampen the creation of new jobs in Lebanon: i) rigid labor regulations, ii) skill mismatch, iii) and poor governance. On the supply side, youth employability is also inhibited by a number of constraints related to workers' characteristics. These characteristics relate to education, skills, personal characteristics, and knowledges and experiences. The set of workers' skills can be developed through formal education and training. This set is considered to be constrained when a labor mismatch occurs. Governments intervene in the labor market through active labor market policies (ALMPs) that aim to improve the employability of workers and reduce unemployment. In Lebanon, a number of ALMPs have been introduced with varying degrees of success. An overall assessment of ALMPs in Lebanon indicates that they are ad-hoc in nature. First, training programs are biased towards the supply side of labor with little regard to the actual needs of demand side of the private economy. Second, the provision of employment services is put into doubt by the limited role played by the National Employment Office as a job matching platform between employers and young job seekers. Another limitation is related to rigid labor laws that make it illegal for job hunting firms to operate in the country. Third, self-employment support programs are under-funded. Self-employment is one of the main engines of economic growth and employment, however, despite some

government efforts at micro and small enterprise financing, self-employed workers and employers remained at a disadvantage compared to other types of businesses. Policies that would create dynamic economies with diversified economic sectors and more formal employment would help in alleviating the demand-side constraints that produce poor job growth in Lebanon. There should be a comprehensive and consistent strategy in place in order to maximize labor market outcomes with policy-makers anticipating the effective level of skills needed in the labor market, which would reduce the skill mismatch problem between job requirements and youth skills.

b. Methodology

This paper analyzed the data produced by SHWA survey (a youth survey nationally representative composed of 2000 respondents and conducted by conducted by the department of economics at LAU)

c. Comments

This paper provides interesting results and confirms existing conclusions and outcomes from various previous papers, researches and surveys. However, as most of the literature, the results are generated at the national level only and hence cannot be used as a reference for the identification of poverty pockets.

Harb, M. (February 2016). *Assessing Youth Exclusion through Discourse and Policy Analysis: The Case of Lebanon*. Working Paper; No. 8, Power2youth. 30 p.

a. Executive Summary

To assess youth exclusion at the macro institutional level in Lebanon, this paper proposes a methodology that critically investigates discourse production on youth, as well as policy making targeting youth. Two types of discourse that dominate knowledge production on youth in Lebanon are identified and investigated: a policy-led discourse, and an academic discourse. Factors of youth exclusion are further explored through four policy sectors (employment, migration, family, spatial planning). Our findings demonstrate that Lebanese youth are constructed through fragmented lenses and policies that lack an interdisciplinary and integrated understanding of their complex, dynamic and highly differentiated livelihoods. Youth are actively excluded from politics, economics, society and the built environment, through policies that do not prioritize their needs and desires.

b. Methodology

This paper is a desk study.

c. Comments

This paper, although it not directly related to poverty pockets issues, it provides interesting sociological inputs that might be of great use for the preparation of the instruments that will be prepared for the qualitative survey (to be conducted in the selected poverty pockets). The following relevant topics were identified as being factors of youth exclusions:

- Employment and migration policies
- Family and personal status policies
- Spatial planning policies (special mobility, access to housing and basic services, access to public spaces, urban governance)

Kabalan, L. (2016). *Urban Inequalities and Poverty in Lebanon What Can Be Learned from the Social Market Economy?*. Conference Report. Beirut: Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs. 20 p.

a. Executive Summary

This paper addresses the specific issues of urban poverty in Lebanon. The paper presents (and summarizes) first existing poverty studies since the IRFED mission in the 60s. All these studies are included in this executive summary. Then, it tackles the issue of rural vs urban poverty. It also analyzed the data of the National Poverty Targeting Program (NPTP). This program, managed by the MoSA provides cash transfer for the poorest households in Lebanon. The NPTP database is composed of around 80'000 households. The literature review developed in this paper identified several neighborhoods in Beirut and its surrounding as being poverty pockets. All were identified through qualitative survey with tenants that were evicted or through UNHCR databases.

In addition, the paper presented the results of the poverty survey conducted in Tripoli (executive summary #14)

b. Methodology

This paper is a desk study presented in a conference. The adopted methodology introduced some “creative” features. It targeted evicted tenants which allowed the identification of poverty pockets, assuming that these tenants are poor.

c. Comments

The paper is useful for two reasons: i) it identified some poverty pockets using qualitative approach and ii) it adopted a “creative” methodology.

The identified poverty pockets are:

- Khandak al-Ghamik
- Tarik el-Jdideh
- Badawi(Armenian locality)
- Cheyah
- Roum
- Mousaytbeh
- Bourj Hammud

Lebanon, Central Administration of Statistics (CAS) and World Bank (2016). *Snapshot of Poverty and Labor Market Outcomes in Lebanon based on Household Budget Survey 2011/2012*. Washington, DC: World Bank. 6 p.

a. Executive Summary

This brief document presents the main results of the analyses performed on the 2011 household budget survey (HBS). It is related to the previous document (Executive Summary #16).

Despite the fact that several experts raised concerns about the level of significance and representativeness of this data, the main conclusions (and results) are listed below:

- The average level of consumption per person per year is 7.8 million LBP.
- 27% of the population is poor.
- Poverty line was estimated at 4.7 million LBP per year.
- Poverty rate is higher in households headed by a non-Lebanese
- Poverty rate is higher in agriculture and construction sectors and lower in public sector.
- Poverty is correlated to informality
- Only 28% of the poor have health coverage

b. Methodology

The CAS implemented in 2011 the HBS. The sample size was around 4800 households in Lebanon. However, due to a high non-response rate, it finally included on 2500 respondents. The results presented in this document were elaborated using a food-consumption methodology for measuring poverty.

c. Comments

There are two negatives issues related to this document: it covers only governorate (no smaller geographic unit) and the non-response rate was very high which might impact the representativeness of the data. Despite these negative factors, the analysis provided interesting correlations between poverty and other socio-economic variables which came in line with previous results.

Lebanon, Central Administration of Statistics (CAS) and World Bank (December 2015). *Measuring poverty in Lebanon using 2011 HBS*. Technical report. [s.l.]: World Bank. 35 p.

a. Executive Summary

The Household Budget Survey (HBS) was implemented in 2011 by the CAS (with technical assistance from the WB). This document is mainly a methodological document that discusses the robustness of the generated data and the process of defining poverty lines. Several methodological issues were raised and statistical analysis (e.g. multiple regressions) were applied.

b. Methodology

The CAS implemented in 2011 the HBS. The sample size was around 4800 households in Lebanon. The results are representative at the level of 9 regions. Unfortunately, the results of this study cannot be compared with the results of the survey conducted by CAS in 2004.

Poverty measurements were based on the food expenditure methodology. The document estimated the food poverty line and the non-food poverty line. It elaborated sensitivity analysis based on various assumptions in order to test the robustness of the data. It also tackled the issue of high rate of non-response.

c. Comments

The data generated by the 2011 HBS was questioned and the issue of its robustness was raised. This document is mainly a statistical and methodological (very technical) document. Its objective is to make adjustments and “corrections”

on the data in order to obtain an accurate and credible measurements of poverty lines. The geographic dimension is at the level of the governorate.

World Bank Group, Middle East and North Africa Region
(2015). *Lebanon: Promoting Poverty Reduction and Shared Prosperity*. [s. l.]: World Bank Group. 126 p.

a. Executive Summary

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

i. Lebanon's political development since independence has been influenced primarily by its evolving confessional system. However, this system, originally established to balance the competing interests of local religious communities, is increasingly seen as an impediment to more effective governance as it has resulted in a paralysis in decision-making and a general hollowing out of the state. Lebanon's confessional system has also proven extremely vulnerable to external influence, which has bred and exacerbated local conflict and violence.

ii. The Lebanese economy has grown at a moderate pace over the past decades, but growth has been uneven due to large, frequent and mostly "political" shocks, to which the economy has been resilient. Real GDP grew on average by an estimated 4.4 percent from 1992 to 2014 but this performance masks the impact of many shocks (domestic, international, political and/or confessional) that Lebanon faced over this period. The latest such shock is the ongoing conflict in neighboring Syria, which, given the strong linkages between the two countries, is generating large and negative spillover effects in Lebanon. The country's macroeconomic framework has, nonetheless, proven resilient to all the large shocks it has so far faced.

iii. With low growth quality, Lebanon has struggled to reduce widespread poverty and to generate inclusive growth as job creation has been weak and of low quality. Poverty incidence has been elevated and broadly unchanged for the past 25 years. Since the end of the civil war, extreme poverty has hovered at between 7.5 to 10 percent, while using the upper poverty line about 28 percent of the population was poor. The distribution of poverty has also been unequal with poverty levels being highest in the north and south of the country, and in small, dense pockets in the suburbs of large towns which reflect the unevenness of economic growth and development. A key factor underlying the lack of inclusive economic growth is low employment-growth elasticity. In Lebanon, job creation

has trailed the high growth in the labor force, and jobs have typically been of low quality. More recently, both poverty and jobs have likely been negatively impacted by the Syrian conflict and, in particular, by the large influx of refugees. Lack of quality jobs at home continues to push a large share of Lebanese abroad, especially the educated youth.

iv. In this context, the World Bank Group (WBG) has undertaken a Systematic Country Diagnostic (SCD) to identify the main constraints Lebanon faces to generate jobs (both in quantity and quality) which is recognized in the country as the pathway to reducing extreme poverty and promoting shared prosperity (i.e., WBG's Twin Goals). The SCD is based on a comprehensive analysis of available evidence (noting data deficiencies described herein) and has benefited from extensive consultations with Lebanese experts, private sector representatives, members of the NGO community, and the Government of Lebanon, among other stakeholders.

v. The SCD posits that, at the root of Lebanon's failure to generate inclusive growth and jobs, are the presence of two mutually reinforcing and pervasive (overarching) constraints. These are (1) Elite capture hidden behind the veil of confessionalism / confessional governance, and (2) Conflict and violence (stemming, in part, from the broader dynamics of conflict in the Middle East). The two overarching constraints impose a heavy burden on the economy, with the cost of confessional governance estimated at 9 percent of GDP annually. Illegal activities are not sanctioned by the state when involving politically/confessionally connected and/or wealthy actors, exacerbating elite capture and the pervasive patronage system. Influence of economic stakeholders and personal connections (known as "wasta") is more likely to influence policy execution and enforcement of the rule of law. Thus, elite capture and corruption is endemic and undermines the achievement of the Twin Goals in Lebanon. Similarly, the cost of the conflict and violence is large and recurrent. These include the 1975-1990 civil war that halved the country's economy, the 2006 conflict with Israel which resulted estimated direct damages of USD2.8 billion, and USD700 million in indirect damages, or more recently the Syrian conflict which is estimated to have cost the Lebanese economy USD7.5 billion in foregone output and widened the fiscal deficit by USD2.6 billion through 2014.

vi. The SCD posits that other (more traditional) constraints are nested within the two overarching constraints of elite capture institutionalized by the confessional system and fragility of the country and conflict-affected region at large. Nested constraints affecting Lebanon's potential to deliver sustained and high economic growth to its people include macroeconomic instability, weak

business environment, insufficient investment in infrastructure (especially in lagging regions), skills mismatch with labor market needs, and weak institutions and regulatory framework. The SCD posits that, absent the destabilizing impact of confessional governance and domestic and regional conflicts, these nested constraints would be significantly less binding than they currently are. Thus, constraints specific to the electricity sector or the educational system, for example, are “nested” within these overarching constraints which both makes reform at the sector level especially challenging and compounds sector constraints.

vii. To prioritize Lebanon’s development constraints, the SCD team designed a voting methodology that captured the complexity of Lebanon’s constraints, is transparent, and verifiably robust. *The prioritization process included the following steps: (1) Establishing a comprehensive list of specific constraints, based on the analytical work done in the SCD; (2) Requesting each World Bank Group expert that worked on the Lebanon SCD to score each of previous constraints from least to most binding based on five criteria (impact on goals; time horizon of impacts; preconditions; complementarities; and evidence strength); (3) Ranking of the above expert scores based on the average score of each individual constraint so that the resulting prioritization is conducted at the intensive margin—which enables reformers to directly tackle the country’s specific bottlenecks. As common themes and sectors emerged from the resulting list of constraints, a list of 11 ranked priority areas was established. This list includes the twin overarching constraints of confessional governance and conflict and violence, eight nested sectors, and one foundational constraint of data availability and quality. Finally (4) sensitivity analysis/robustness checks were performed. They found that, reassuringly, priorities identified were robust to all reasonable alternatives used.*

viii. While Lebanon’s twin overarching constraints are deep-rooted potential ways to mitigate them do exist. *These can be classified in two types of strategies: (1) directly aim to lessen the overarching constraints themselves; and (2) work on lessening the nested constraints by designing a reform program that is incentive-compatible with the existing overarching constraints. The first strategy carries the potential of a large development payoff but, given the deep-rooted and symbiotic nature of the two overarching constraints, this strategy will take time to bear fruits. The second strategy is more suited to deliver gains in the short-term, but given the weight of the overarching constraints, these gains are likely to be more limited in scope. Examples of the first strategy include implementing key outstanding elements of the Taef Accord such as the adoption of a decentralization law, the creation of a lower chamber of parliament that would*

be elected on a non-confessional basis, improving access to (statistical) information, promoting political stability, and institutional reform and development. Examples of the second strategy include: a political economy and conflict exposure analysis of nested sectors, a grand bargain package of reforms, an opportunistic approach (i.e., being ready to seize windows of opportunity when they arise), working around elite capture, 'horizontal' social engagement, and managing the Syrian refugee influx and turning it into an opportunity.

ix. Subject to the design of reforms that are incentive compatible with the twin overarching constraints the following opportunities could materially improve Lebanon's development prospects: a) reduce macro-fiscal vulnerabilities; (b) improve governance and effectiveness of public institutions; c) address energy gaps to increase productivity of the private sector and reduce the macro-fiscal burden; d) strengthen ICT so Lebanon is fully connected to the global economy and can develop jobs needed in the 21st century; e) modernize the education sector to ensure youth have skills relevant to employers; f) improve the business climate to ease the burden on firm creation and operation; g) increase investments in transportation so people and products can move efficiently; and h) address environmental issues to protect Lebanon's natural resources, including water. Reforms in these areas must be tackled with a sense of urgency if Lebanon is to generate the number and quality of jobs it needs for its citizens and achieve progress towards the Twin Goals, to avoid further deterioration in the well-being of citizens and, importantly, to manage the added pressures stemming from regional conflicts.

b. Methodology

The document is based on a desk and study. It analyzed existing data and information and focused mainly on macroeconomic, institutional and governance dimensions. It benefited from previous national survey that included poverty/vulnerability dimensions.

In addition, the study made use of the results of a survey that targeted enterprises.

c. Comments

This document identified the obstacles facing the Lebanese economy and concluded that its structure and its growth is not inclusive and do not generate jobs. There are two major obstacles: the confessional political system and the repeated conflict and violence (in Lebanon or in the region).

The main findings (relevant to our study) are:

- High inequality was already present in the pre-civil war period (IRFED mission, in the 60s, 50% of the population under the poverty line; Gini coefficients estimated at 51% and 55% in 1960 and 1974 respectively)
- Post-civil war poverty and inequality remained high.
- The majority of the poor are located in urban areas
- Inequality within regions is high
- Poverty is particularly acute in rural and agriculture areas
- Poverty is correlated with variables such as: level of education of the head of household, and labor force status
- Jobs created by the Lebanese economy are concentrated in low productivity sectors and demanding low skilled workers
- Emigration is a major source of access to employment
- Unemployment is high among youth population
- Informality remains a salient feature of the Lebanese economy and labour market
- Poverty is a multi-dimensional phenomena and includes: income, education, infrastructure services (e.g. access to water)

The document is extremely useful. It provides a comprehension picture of the socio-economic, macro-economic and institutional Lebanese context. In addition, based on a deep analytical process and the use of various references and data, the document provides an interesting list of constraints and recommendations.

أديب، نعمة (2014). دليل الحرمان الحضري-طرابلس: المنهجية، والنتائج،
الدراسة الميدانية في طرابلس. بيروت: الإسكوا. 210 ص.

a. Executive Summary

The report is in fact composed of three books. Book 1 presents the methodology and the results of the field survey, book 2 presents the policy recommendations and book 3 is an executive summary of the study.

The study presents the results of a field survey conducted in Tripoli only and targeted households. Poverty is analyzed using the unsatisfied basic needs at the level of the household. Hence, poverty characteristics were presented in terms of education, health, living conditions, economic activity, etc. One of the major value added of this study is that it was conducted at the level of one

city and hence it allowed (due to its large sample) to perform statistical comparisons between the different areas or neighborhoods within Tripoli.

b. Methodology

- A sample size of around 1200 households residing in Tripoli. The sample was distributed to 7 (seven) neighborhoods in the city.
- All the statistical analysis used a comparative approach among the seven areas.
- The questionnaire was structured according to the UBN approach: 4 pillars (education, dwelling, Health and economic activity) and in total 12 indicators (3 in each pillar) were measured.

c. Comments

As all UBN studies (refer to previous studies presented in this literature review), this UBN study provided interesting results in terms of poverty characteristics. This study allows in addition to perform comparative analysis at the level of the neighborhoods within Tripoli, which was inexistent.

Although the sampling methodology seems to be weak and questionable, some findings may be useful to be extracted and introduced on our own instruments (questionnaires, interview guideline). Findings are confirming those of the previous study (Executive Summary #12). This report cannot help in identifying poverty pockets in Lebanon.

ANERA (2014). Youth at Risk in Lebanon the Impact of the Syrian Refugee Crisis on Youth from Syria and Lebanese Host Communities. Beirut: ANERA. 21 p.

a. Executive Summary

The executive summary is presented here below as such:

The Syrian conflict, now in its fourth year, has taken a heavy toll on Lebanon's society. Among those most affected are young men and women in refugee camps and marginalized communities. Young people are increasingly confronting violence and discrimination. They are missing out on education and work opportunities. The rising number of unemployed and disenfranchised youth in Lebanon could become a security risk for both Lebanese and refugee communities.

A society's well-being relies on its youth, who can help revitalize the economy when education, health care and job opportunities are available to them. In March 2014, ANERA undertook an in-depth, qualitative youth assessment to better understand the impact of the Syrian conflict and subsequent displacement on both Syrian refugees and host communities in Lebanon. The study focused on youth, aged 15 to 25, in areas most affected by the spillover of Syria's conflict.

The study aimed at identifying the critical issues and needs of youth, their ambitions and desires and the gaps in services that are critical to their survival and well-being. There were 18 focus group discussions with Lebanese and Syrian youth and 21 interviews with local government representatives and youth organization leaders.

Key findings ANERA's study identified three key areas of concern:

- *Security is a priority for both Syrian and Lebanese youth. The highly unstable political situation and increased tensions between Syrian and Lebanese youth have fueled violence between these communities.*
- *The deteriorating economic situation translates into job anxiety that often overshadows youth development needs and prematurely forces youth to take on the burdens and responsibilities of adulthood.*
- *Both Syrian and Lebanese youth look at the future with anxiety as limited education opportunities jeopardize their development.*

b. Methodology

- This study has developed a qualitative approach using in-depth interviews and focus groups techniques.

c. Comments

The importance of this document is that it provided a baseline list of priorities for the youth in both communities, Lebanese and Syrians. Moreover, since it conducted the interviews in a limited number of locations, these locations were identified as being the most vulnerable locations as per UNHCR data. Hence, these localities may be suggested for our own study as poverty pockets. Below is the list of locations:

“The assessment was carried out in three governorates of Lebanon North Lebanon, Bekaa, and Nabatiyeh. These have been identified by UNHCR as most in need of urgent immediate interventions due to imminent threat to life, denial of access to services, shelter/evictions and restriction of movement.⁶ In the north, focus groups and in-depth interviews were convened in Aamayer, Kouachra, Machha, Kneisset, Akkar, Fnaydeq, Minieh, and Beddawi. In Bekaa, they were

convened in Qaa Baalbek, Aarsal, Ain Baalbek, Labweh, Baalbek, Bar Elias, and Majdel Aanjar. In Nabatiyeh, they were held in Nabatiyeh El-Tahta, Douair En-Nabatiyeh, Meiss El- Jabal, Safed Battikh, and Bint Jbeil.”

UNFPA [et al.] (2014). *Situation Analysis of Youth in Lebanon Affected by the Syrian Crisis*. [s. l.]: UNFPA. 98 p.

a. Executive Summary

The executive summary is presented here below as such:

This report summarizes findings from a multisectoral assessment of the situation of Syrian refugee youth in Lebanon in the age bracket 15-24 years and their relationship with Lebanese host communities. The assessment took place between August 2013 and January 2014 and covered youth all over Lebanon. Both quantitative and qualitative research methods were used, including a questionnaire covering a randomly-selected sample of 985 Syrian refugee youth, focus groups covering 218 Syrian and Lebanese youth, and 53 interviews with parents, service providers and key Lebanese and Syrian stakeholders.

In brief, the situation Syrian refugee youth are living in is impacting their personal lives and aspirations and could have long-term and profound negative impact on their future. They are entrapped by unemployment and limited opportunities to continue their education, and are vulnerable to exploitation and harassment. Almost 40 per cent of male youths are not in education and are looking for work; thus, they are exposed to risks associated with this idle situation, making them vulnerable to involvement in illegal, extremist and violent activities. Nearly one third of female youths are outside education, though they were studying in Syria. They have no other social or cultural avenues, and often are having restricted mobility. The refugee youth live in fear and insecurity, amidst tense relations with the Lebanese. At least half have never felt secure in Lebanon, and 41 per cent say they often or sometimes have contemplated suicide.

This large influx of Syrian refugees is a significant burden on the infrastructure and resources of the host country as the ratio constitutes approximately one refugee to every four Lebanese citizens⁷. Provision of support - whether in education, health, shelter or otherwise - for such a large refugee population with numbers increasing rapidly is no easy endeavour for the Lebanese authorities and the international community, and is made more difficult by internal political complexities and conflicts in Lebanon itself.

SHELTER

Surveyed Syrian families have been in Lebanon for an average of 16 months, and 86 per cent entered through border crossings. They have come to Lebanon because of the deteriorating security situation in general, or out of fear of direct violence against them or members of their family, and have chosen to live in areas with which they are familiar, or where they have relatives and/or acquaintances.

Families depend on both wages from work and aid; the former constituting over half the household income, and the latter 44 per cent. The biggest household expenditure is on rent, on average accounting for 31 per cent of the household budget - an expense that 85 per cent of families have the burden of paying.

Out of the total Syrian refugee youth population, the ratio of females is significantly larger than that of males, especially in the age group 19-24 years. Slightly under half, or 46 per cent of female refugee youths are, or have been married; compared to only 11 per cent of male refugee youth. Just over one out of five, or the equivalent of 22 per cent of the Syrian youth surveyed have children. Around one third, or 30 per cent live in makeshift accommodation. Most stay in crowded dwellings, with an average eight residents in each unit, and where basic facilities often are unavailable; including no bathroom (24 per cent), no kitchen (21 per cent) and no heating (72 per cent).

EDUCATION

A small minority of just 6 per cent of Syrian refugees aged 15-24 years are enrolled in education in Lebanon, constituting merely 16 per cent of the surveyed youth who used to study in Syria. The findings show that one third of those formerly studying in Syria have dropped out of education in Lebanon; the remainder, or just over 60 per cent had already done so in Syria. The age group 15-18 years is the most affected; 51 per cent among male and 44 per cent of young female refugee youths in that age bracket had been enrolled in formal education in Syria, but have dropped out since arriving in Lebanon.

A minority tried to enrol in schools in Lebanon, but have dropped out mainly due to cost of education and difficulty in meeting their own financial needs; and because of incompatibility of the school curriculum in Lebanon as compared to the syllabus used in Syria, as well as cost of transportation. Certification is another de-motivating hurdle. When asked for suggestions to facilitate reintegration into education, more than half of all surveyed refugee youth suggested adopting the Syrian curriculum in schools for refugees in Lebanon.

School enrolment rates were the highest in the North, where a number of local organizations and educational institutions have absorption capacity and are

targeting enrolment of Syrian youth. Still, most of those enrolled across Lebanon are studying in public schools, accounting for 40 per cent, and among them over 65 per cent reported facing education-related difficulties.

ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

Close to half the surveyed Syrian refugee youth are economically active, meaning they are either working or looking for work; yet, 50 per cent among them in fact are unemployed. The economically inactive constitute over half the sample youth population, with a female majority of as high as 86 per cent.

The vast majority of refugee youth in the workforce are either employees or casual labourers. Most youth workers have school education. The increased supply of Syrian refugees in the semi-skilled and unskilled labour market facilitates their exploitation.

Almost two thirds of those in employment are not satisfied with working conditions, primarily because of low wages. On average, workers get a monthly pay of around LBP 379,000, which is 44 per cent less than the minimum wage in Lebanon. The average monthly pay of females is 30 per cent lower than that of males. Often Syrian youth workers are willing to take on any work available due to their dire need.

Over 60 per cent of the unemployed are first-time job seekers. Due to high unemployment, 90 per cent of refugee youth searching for work are willing to take low-paid jobs. Unemployment among the Syrian refugee youth is affecting negatively their psychological status and their propensity to violence, as well as gender relations within households. The total pool of the unemployed consists of 72 per cent males and 28 per cent females. Over 80 per cent of the unemployed have school education, and 11 per cent have university education.

HEALTH

Though often inaccessible due to cost, health services are available within a 30-minute walking distance for 96 per cent of the surveyed refugee youth. This is true also of pregnancy- and childbirth-related services. Use of contraception is not accepted by 39 per cent of Syrian refugee youth, and both female and male youth exhibit little knowledge of reproductive-health issues. Only 45 per cent state that they know about contraceptive methods, although knowledge of sexually-transmitted infections and human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) is more widespread. In terms of attitudes, only a small percentage of youth approved or practised sexual relationships outside marriage. Childbearing is a valued and necessary

achievement, and 46 per cent of married youth intended to have children at the time of the survey, particularly among the younger age group.

PROTECTION

On the psychosocial level, Syrian refugee youth and their families are trapped in a self-perpetuating cycle of violence that is hard to break or escape from. Refugee youth are living in psychological distress, with 41 per cent often or sometimes having thought of ending their own life - a percentage that is even higher among female youth. Tension in the family has increased, as stated by 62 per cent of the youth surveyed, and over half reported feeling insecure in Lebanon (figure 1).

Early marriage is prevalent at rates higher than the averages in Syria before the humanitarian crisis erupted; with 18 per cent of surveyed female youth aged 15-18 years being married. It is an accepted practice by both young refugees and their families if appropriate marriage opportunities arise and used by both as a coping strategy to current conditions.

Sexual harassment is also prevalent, mostly by men who control resources which females depend on for their livelihood - be it aid or income from work. As a result, female refugee youth bear double the burden as restriction on their mobility, in the name of protection, increases.

The state of displacement also has a profound impact on the daily life of youth, with over 70 per cent reporting lowered standard of personal care and hygiene, fewer number of meals and poorer quality food consumed, and decreased communication with friends and fewer opportunities to socialize and go out.

SOCIAL COHESION

Historical, political, economic and demographic factors shape the relationship between Syrian refugee and Lebanese host. The dynamic repercussions of the Syrian humanitarian crisis on Lebanon - manifested in a massive and continuous refugee influx and an extended stay - have turned the willingness to help into resentment. Having a shared political affinity and/or religion has not changed much the attitude of Lebanese towards the Syrian refugee population.

Over half of Syrian refugee youth feel unsafe in Lebanon because of fear of harassment or indictment. Main drivers behind insecurity are the measures applied by local authorities, municipalities or political parties in restricting mobility and indicting some refugee youth. Under such conditions, they try to keep a low profile. Two thirds of refugee youth do not have Lebanese friends and, among those who do, such friendships often are based on superficial relations.

Syrian refugee youths believe that the attitude of the Lebanese towards them is both positive and negative. They regard the negative attitude as more prevalent and being due to deteriorating economic conditions in Lebanon, especially with regard to employment. In contrast, Lebanese youth express prejudice against their Syrian counterparts and harbour fear of them.

Beyond personal security, there is a type of collective fear related to the number and duration of stay of Syrian refugees. Nonetheless, despite an overall negative attitude, empathetic signs are also expressed.

YOUTH PRIORITIES

Syrian refugee youth exhibit limited participation in social and civic activities, as well as in awareness- raising and recreation opportunities. While over 30 per cent express interest in taking part, conditions are that such activities be close to their place of residence and free of charge.

When asked what they regard as priority interventions for implementation by aid organizations, the vast majority of surveyed youth prioritized the provision of free shelter, employment and schooling. These are proposals which stem from the current major concerns and priorities of Syrian refugee youth in Lebanon, all of which are related to basic livelihood issues, including securing employment and being able to sustain and protect their families.

b. Methodology

- This study applied a mix approach: qualitative and quantitative
- Sample of 985 Syrians refugees youth, 218 participants (Syrians and Lebanese) in Focus Groups, and 53 interviews with parents, stakeholders

c. Comments

Although the sampling methodology seems to be weak and questionable, some findings may be useful to be extracted and introduced on our own instruments (questionnaires, interview guideline). Findings are confirming those of the previous study (Executive Summary #12). This report cannot help in identifying poverty pockets in Lebanon.

UNICEF. (2013). *Education for Children and Adolescents in Lebanon: A Human Rights-Based, Equity Focused Analysis of the Situation*. Beirut: UNICEF Lebanon consultation and research institute; Ministry of Education and Higher Education. 124 p.

a. Executive Summary

The executive summary was extracted from the document and is presented as such here below:

Equity in education

Education is a key instrument for addressing social and economic inequalities. Traditionally, education reform policies - particularly in developing countries - have focused primarily on improving access to education. This was due to the high illiteracy rates and the need for civil servants to support the newly established states. However, the discourse of education reform has changed, including in Lebanon, where we see an increasing emphasis on the quality of education and human rights. Lebanon adopted human rights as the principals underpinning its education reform in 1997 and 2010. The new education strategy for Lebanon developed in 2010 by MEHE placed special emphasis on quality of education.

UNICEF is one of the key international partners supporting MEHE in implementing its 2010 strategy and in facing the challenge of providing access and quality education for hundreds of thousands of Syrian refugees. Against this background UNICEF commissioned this human rights-based and equity-focused situation analysis which seeks to identify the groups of children that suffer most from educational exclusion and explore the immediate, underlying and structural causes that prevent or hinder educational equity for children in Lebanon in relation to access, quality and respect. Findings from this study will support MEHE and UNICEF's efforts to improve education in Lebanon especially for the most disadvantaged groups.

Guidelines on conducting a human rights-based analysis of education highlight the need to focus on the right to education as well as rights within education. According to this approach, educational equity can be examined by looking at three complementary dimensions: access to, quality and respect in education. The methodology adopted in this study consisted of a desk review of policies, laws, statistics, budgets, assessments, studies, etc. which aimed to identify the main

disadvantaged group. This was followed by four case studies of four of the most disadvantaged groups in Lebanon. The case studies provided greater understanding into the causes of the inequalities. Finally three technical working groups were carried out whereby key national stakeholders were drawn together to collectively assess roles, responsibilities and capacity gaps in the education sector; to construct a causality analysis to illuminate challenges at various levels; and to identify key bottlenecks hindering progress in specific domains.

National context

Lebanon is a high middle-income country, with a per capita income estimated around USD 9,862 in 2011. Nevertheless, high poverty rates and income inequality are registered. The overall poverty rate stands at around 28%, while the extreme poverty rate is estimated at around 8%.¹ There are significant regional disparities in poverty, with the governorate of North Lebanon registering the highest poverty and extreme poverty rates (52% and 17% respectively) and the Beirut governorate exhibiting the lowest (between 5 % to 8 % overall poverty and less than 2% extreme poverty).

Fifteen years of civil war between 1975 and 1990 coupled with external strife have left their marks on society, with tremendous suffering and loss of life along with the destruction of infrastructure and social services. Sectarian tensions are still present today and exacerbated by the impact of the recent Syrian crisis. Lebanon is host to a significant and growing refugee population, with an estimated 677,700 Syrian refugees (of which 566,808 are registered) adding to the already more than 400,000 Palestinian refugees residing in the country.²

Overview of education in Lebanon

The education system is marked by a division between public and private institutions. Although public and private schools are almost equal in number the public sector accounts for only 43.8% of the teachers employed in 2009-2010 and for only 29.2% of students enrolled in the education system in 2011. The percentage of students enrolled in public schools in Lebanon continues to drop due to perceptions of the poorer quality of teaching and learning in these schools. Law No.686 of 1998 provides for free compulsory primary education but restricts

¹According to UNDP (2008) *Poverty, Growth and Income Distribution in Lebanon*, the poverty rate refers to individuals falling below the upper poverty line of USD 4 per person per day. Extreme poverty rate refers to people falling below the lower poverty line of USD 2.4 per person.

² UNHCR updates, 8 August 2013

this to students of Lebanese nationality, though public schools do admit non-Lebanese students.

Four main educational reforms have taken place since independence (in 1946, 1968-71, 1997, and 2010). The current educational system and curriculum still follow the 1997 reform, while implementation of the 2010 reform is just getting underway. A five-year Education Reform Strategy was adopted in 2012 by UNRWA aimed at enhancing the effectiveness, efficiency, and quality of education provision for the 500,000 Palestinian students.

The education sector is characterized by inadequate public spending and low returns in terms of quality. Public spending on education in Lebanon was 1.8% of GDP in 2009. While public spending on education witnessed a significant increase between 2000 and 2010, the share of the total budget remains stable with respectively 5.8% and 6.8%. Despite government financial support, a large share of educational cost is borne by households in terms of tuition and other expenses in public and private schools. In fact, the share of education in total household expenditures on education was 7% in 2005-2006.

Issues of access

The distribution of public and private schools in Lebanon is unequal, with public schools are concentrated in the poorest areas of the country (in North and South Lebanon) and the majority of private schools are located in wealthy areas such as Beirut and its suburbs.

At pre-school level, the majority of students are enrolled in private schools (66% in non-free private schools and 15% in free private schools compared to 19% in public schools). This reflects public underinvestment in the pre-school sector. At primary level, nearly half (47%) of students are enrolled in fee-paying private schools and 22% in subsidized private schools, which indicates a strong preference for private education. The share of students enrolled in public schools rises from 26% of the total at the primary level, to 34% at intermediate and 45% at secondary.

Net enrolment rates for Lebanese students in 2004 drop from 92.7% (primary) to 68.5% in intermediary, which could be explained by the low primary completion rates, high repetition and drop-outs along the way, as well as transfers into vocational and technical education (VTE) which are not always clearly tracked. The gross enrolment remains high, however, at 97.7%- indicating that high repetition rates might be the key factor.

In 2011-2012, UNRWA 69 schools, concentrated in South and North Lebanon (46% and 25% respectively), accommodated around 31,900 Palestinian refugee

students. The primary sector comprises 60% of students 28% in intermediate and only 11% at the secondary level. The recent Syrian crisis has created a second refugee situation in Lebanon, with around 55%, or 205,000, of the registered refugees below the age of 18 and in need of education

While there is a lack of data on the enrolment rate of children with disabilities, they appear to suffer significant obstacles to access. It is estimated that there are approximately 310,118 children who could benefit from special education in Lebanon; currently very few schools cater to their needs.

Issues of quality

While MEHE has invested considerably in increasing the number of public schools and in rehabilitating old buildings damaged during the civil war, the most recent survey of school infrastructure revealed a number of deficiencies. Physical infrastructure of the schools is sometimes poor, particularly in schools in the North, Bekaa, and Mt. Lebanon, and facilities are often lacking - over a third (37%) of schools, for example, have no science laboratory or specialized IT lab. Very few schools are physically equipped to provide access to children with disabilities.

Classrooms are generally not overcrowded. The ratio of students to teachers is generally low, with the lowest in the public sector (7.4:1), followed by the private sector (11.6:1) and highest in the free private schools (18.7:1) and UNRWA schools (20.7:1). However, 20% of classrooms in public and private schools are overcrowded with 26 to 35 students per class. It is expected that these ratios will rise even higher in areas where there is a high influx Syrian refugees such as Akkar in the North of Lebanon. UNRWA schools also face physical capacity issues, with an average of 30 students per classroom and over a quarter of UNRWA schools are operating on a double shift.

The new curriculum adopted in 1997 is characterised by an objective-led design, new subject matter areas and interactive methodologies. However findings indicate that didactic and rote learning approaches are omnipresent in schools, which affects the quality of teaching and learning. The 1997 curriculum did not develop any learning resources for students with special needs nor it provide any teacher training or guidelines.

The qualifications of teachers in the public sector are higher than those of the private sector. Over three quarters of public school teachers have either a university degree or an educational certificate compared to around 60% of private school teachers and just over 40% of free private school teachers. However, the number of contractual teachers in the public sector has risen from

21% (1993/4) to 27% (2004/5) of the total teaching body. This contributes to challenges faced in providing quality education. In UNRWA schools, only 41% of elementary teachers hold a bachelor's degree while 59% hold a secondary certificate.

Repetition and dropout rates denote challenges in the efficiency of the system and show significant disparities. Student performance is affected by several variables including the background of parents, social class and family income as well as the qualifications of teachers. In 2004-2005, repetition rates averaged 10% in elementary school and 13.5% in intermediate school. In the same year drop out in elementary school ranged between 0.5% and 3.4% at elementary level; 4.5% at intermediate level; and 27% in grade 9 (Brevet). UNRWA estimates that half of Palestinian teenagers leave school before their education is complete.

Learning achievements are also a critical issue. While pass rates on the Brevet (official example at grade 9) are rising, these vary by gender, region and sector; moreover, Lebanon is ranked just 25th out of 42 countries on the latest Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS 2011), with its results in science showing a significant decrease from the previous study in 2007.

Issues of respect

Respect is a crucial yet often an overlooked aspect of the right to education. Respect can be understood to include respect for children's identity, their right to express their views on all matters of concern to them, and their right to physical and personal integrity. The study revealed a paucity of research and data dealing with respect in education.

An analysis of civic textbooks identified several shortfalls including gender bias and role models, lack of practical applications and exercises and overemphasis on knowledge of the law and the political system at the expense of fostering critical thinking and participation amongst young people. Students in Lebanon have few opportunities to participate in school life. Student councils are absent from most schools and many students describe their school environment as authoritarian and undemocratic. School counselors are currently present in only 100 out of 619 public primary and middle schools in Lebanon.

b. Methodology

- This is a desk study that also used a qualitative approach (in-depth interview)

c. Comments

This study provide a comprehensive analysis of the education system in Lebanon, showing its major characteristics as well as its dysfunctions. However it cannot be considered of being relevant for the process of selecting poverty pockets in Lebanon. It provides interesting elements about education which may be included later on in the instruments of our study.

UN-Habitat (October 2011). *Lebanon Urban Profile: A Desk Review Report*. Beirut: UN-Habitat. 89 p.

This document is very important

a. Executive Summary

This document, although it is a desk study, it provided an extremely interesting information about urbanization process and characteristics in Lebanon. It focuses on the main characteristics of urban regions in Lebanon only. The report is composed of the following sections:

- Population and urbanization
- Growing economic roles of the cities
- Environmental urban challenges
- Urban governance
- Emerging urban issues

Many poverty pockets may be “deducted” from this report, although it is not based on a scientific, comprehensive and robust approach, but rather on illustrative/examples.

b. Methodology

- This is a desk study that collected and analyzed an important number of references.

c. Comments

This desk study do not provide, as such, a list of poverty urban pockets. However it contains an extremely rich number of graphs, statistics, infographics that may be of great use for the identification of the poverty pockets. It also highlight major issues (current and future) related to urban regions. These issues (problematics) may be addressed and included in the instruments of our study.

لبنان، وزارة الشؤون الاجتماعية وبرنامج الأمم المتحدة الإنمائي (2008). خارطة
الفقر البشري وأحوال المعيشة في لبنان 2004. بيروت: وزارة الشؤون الاجتماعية؛
برنامج الأمم المتحدة الإنمائي. 308 ص.

a. Executive Summary

Three studies adopted the UBN approach:

- The first one was published in 1998 and was based on raw data of a survey conducted in 1996; (Executive Summary #1).
- The second one was published in 2007 (Executive Summary #5 and #6) and was based on raw data derived from a national survey conducted in 2004. This document used the same UBN methodology that was elaborated in first study. The main purpose of this study was to analysis the poverty evolution between 1996 and 2004. Hence it is a comparative report.
- The third one (executive summary #7) was published in 2008 and used the raw data of 2004. However, it elaborated a new UBN methodology using 24 indicators instead of 11 in the previous ones.

b. Methodology

- The sample came essentially from the results of the Living Conditions Survey (MoSA, CAS, and the UNDP) which was carried out in 2004.
- The raw data was generated through a sample of around 15'000 households.
- A more sophisticated UBN methodology was applied. 5 fields (instead of 4) were adopted and 24 indicators instead of 11.

c. Comments

This new UBN increased the number of indicators but it also changed the thresholds that were adopted. As a result the poverty rates (or unsatisfied basic needs) seem to have increased, especially in peripheral areas.

لبنان، إدارة الإحصاء المركزي [وآخرون] (2008). *الدراسة الوطنية للأحوال المعيشية للأسر: تقرير الأوضاع المعيشية للأسر، 2007*. بيروت: [المؤلف].
334 ص.

a. Executive Summary

After the 2006 Israeli aggression, the UNDP and MOSA requested from the CAS to conduct a field survey aiming at measuring the impact of this war on the livelihoods on residents in Lebanon. The questionnaire did not include any income/expenditure data, but gathered information about the following topics Demographic data, dwelling conditions data, education data and economic activity.

The study presents a series of statistical tables and results (raw data is unfortunately not accessible) covering the above mentioned topics.

b. Methodology

- The sample of this field survey was drawn from the database generated through the census of buildings and establishments implemented by the CAS in 2004.
- This is a typical living conditions study, income is not mentioned.
- The geographic coverage and representativeness is at the level of the governorate

c. Comments

This survey may be used to update the data about the living conditions of the residents in Lebanon (Palestinian camps are excluded), and may provide interesting comparative results between 2004 and 2006 as well as results on the impact of the 2006-war. However, the geographic dimension is not sufficiently details to allow the identification of poverty pockets in Lebanon.

UNDP (2008). *Poverty, Growth and Income Distribution in Lebanon*. Beirut: UNPD. 156 p

a. Executive Summary

This is the first study in Lebanon that measure poverty (upper and lower poverty lines) based on household data: budget, income, consumption and calories. The study relies on the data generated by the National Survey on Household expenditures. It applied a money-metric model aiming at measuring poverty and providing its main characteristics in Lebanon.

The study generated the following main results:

- 8% of the Lebanese population lives below the low poverty line and 28% are considered to be poor (below upper poverty line)
- The average per capita annual nominal consumption in 2004=3'975'000 LBP
- Regional disparities are identified: North is the poorest region in Lebanon (extreme poverty respectively 17%in North and 8% at the national level; South and Bekaa both at around 12%).
- Some correlations were found between the money metric approach and the UBN approach
- Main characteristics of poverty (impact or determinants): unemployment, youth unemployment, low education level of head of households, low school enrolment of children, vulnerable head of households (e.g. widow)

b. Methodology

- The study elaborated a money-metric model to estimate poverty levels in Lebanon.
- It was based on the national household survey conducted by the CAS in 2004. The survey included a detailed budget-expenditure data.
- The study applied a standard international methodology (adapted to the Lebanese context): the entry point is the household expenditure on food and its equivalent value in calories.
- Results are significant at the national and governorate levels. It is not representative at the district level, however results were published by groups of districts.

c. Comments

Although this study constitutes a major improvement in better understanding poverty in Lebanon and may be used for benchmarking with other countries, it remains somehow irrelevant for our own objective. Indeed, the geographic dimension is not sufficiently detailed to allow the identification of poverty pockets in Lebanon.

لبنان، وزارة الشؤون الاجتماعية، وبرنامج الأمم المتحدة الإنمائي (2007). تطور
خارطة أحوال المعيشة في لبنان بين عامي 1995-2014 مقارنة مع نتائج
"خارطة أحوال المعيشة في لبنان، 1998". بيروت: وزارة الشؤون الاجتماعية؛
برنامج الأمم المتحدة الإنمائي. 117 ص.

a. Executive Summary

In 2004, the Central Administration of Statistics conducted a new national survey on the Living Conditions of the Households residing in Lebanon.

This raw data was used in this study as an input for the UBN exercise. The same methodology applied in the first UBN exercise (Executive Summary #1) was applied on this raw data and a new UBN was generated. Comparative analysis between the two UBN exercises was conducted (1995 vs. 2004)

The percentage of deprived households in Lebanon in 1995 was approximately 31%, of which about 7% had very low living conditions. Nine years later, the percentage of the deprived households decreased to about 25%, with 5% of this percentage living in very low living conditions.

In terms of absolute numbers, the total number of deprived households in Lebanon in 1995 was 199'180 households, and 207,775 households in 2004.

Interestingly, although the global UBN index has improved, the results shows that while the education, housing, water and sewerage indexes have improved, the income-related index has deteriorated. Peripheral regions has improved the least.

b. Methodology

- The sample came essentially from the results of the Living Conditions Survey (MoSA, CAS, and the UNDP) which was carried out in 2004.
- The raw data was generated through a sample of around 15'000 households.
- The same UBN methodology was applied to the raw data as the one developed in 1998, with 11 indicators.

c. Comments

The most interesting outcome of this study is the analysis of the evolution of poverty, per indicator (health, education, housing, etc.) and per district. But again, as it is the case in all UBN methodologies, the measurements remain subjective and at a large geographic level. Poverty pockets cannot be detected.

UNDP and Lebanon, Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA) (2007).
Development of Mapping of Living Conditions in Lebanon, 1995-2004: A Comparison with the Results of "Mapping of Living Conditions in Lebanon, 1998". Beirut: MOSA; UNDP.
101 p.

a. Executive Summary

Same as previous study (Executive Summary #5), but in English language.

The Consultation and Research Institute (CRI) and World Bank (WB) (2006). *Rapid Social Assessment*. Beirut: CRI. 103 pages.

This document is very important

a. Executive Summary

This study was conducted by CRI for the Council of Development and Reconstruction (CDR). The objective was to develop a methodology that will help in identifying poverty pockets (priority areas) which will benefit from World Bank funds through NGOs to finance developmental initiatives.

Based on the methodology developed below, the study concluded that poverty is not one single phenomena but its characteristics varies and hence 4 different types of poverty were identified, namely:

- Cluster 1: Lumpen urban areas (social issues constitute the major problem)
- Cluster 2: Deserted rural areas (demographic issues constitute the major problem)
- Cluster 3: Agricultural rural areas (infrastructural and partnership issues constitute the major problem)
- Cluster 4: Stop and Move areas (historical background constitute the major cause for the current situation)

The poverty characteristics of each profile are different and subsequently policies that address poverty problems should also be adapted (and should vary) according to cluster. In other terms, there no one poverty problem but several types of “poverties” which require several types of responses.

b. Methodology

- The study methodology was based on the ESFD methodology, but it used additional and updated variables.
- The study covered all CFs in Lebanon (Circonscriptions Foncières or Cadastres, the smallest geographic units available in Lebanon)
- The study identified 10 Regional Poverty areas and conducted field visits and in-depth interviews (in addition to desk review of existing studies or local development strategies).
- Qualitative and quantitative data were combined: factorial and cluster analysis were applied
- Poverty measurement was based on 35 indicators grouped in 6 different fields

c. Comments

This study is one of the rare studies that uses a geographic approach to detect poverty, not only at the governorate or district levels but at the smallest geographic unit available in Lebanon (i.e. the CF). Poverty pockets were well identified, described and different poverty clusters were found.

The combination of the poverty pockets lists that were found in this study and the ESFFD previous study may be of great help in our study. However it will need to be updated in order to take into account mainly the Syrian refugee's crisis. Moreover, the four types of poverty characteristics will provide interesting hints for the selection and distribution of the selected poverty pockets in our study.

Economic and Social Fund for Development (ESFD) (2004).
Poverty in Lebanon: Mapping and Profiles. Beirut: ESFD. 117
pp.

a. Executive Summary

This study presents a summary of the previous papers/studies conducted in Lebanon aiming at better understanding the poverty phenomena. Four studies were identified:

- IRFED mission (in 1960): the most comprehensive study ever conducted in Lebanon on Poverty and Development

- ESCWA (Antoine Haddad, 1995): first poverty study conducted after the end of the civil war. Qualitative approach
- Mapping of Living Conditions (UNDP, MoSA, 1998): UBN approach
- ESFD-Social and Municipal Development (Kamal Hamdan, 2002): qualitative approach

The study developed several indexes to measure poverty:

- Social Development Index: it includes various national indicators (child mortality, maternal mortality, primary enrollment, access to water, access to sanitation, income per capita). Results are at the national level and allow comparisons between countries.
- Poverty pockets were identified in a two separate methods:
 - Around 80 villages/areas were identified by key informants and stakeholders as being poverty pockets (based on the expertise and experience or based on literature review such as the UNDP-MoSA study that ranked the Cazas/districts). Field researchers gathered relevant data and developed a profile of these poverty pockets.
 - 78 villages were selected as being extremely vulnerable based on a series of criteria that were applied using GIS (distance to urban center, no schools, no infrastructure, etc.)

The study presented the main socio-economic characteristics of the poverty pockets as well as the problems and priorities.

b. Methodology

The study adopted a mixed approach:

- Literature review of major poverty studies
- Qualitative desk work approach to identify poverty pockets
- Qualitative field work approach to gather data within the poverty pockets and elaborate poverty profiles
- GIS
- Index (indicators and weights)

c. Comments

This document is very important. This is the first study that used a geographic approach lower than governorate or districts. A preliminary list of 80 poverty pockets is available and can be a starting point for our own research.

The list of proxy-variables that was identified to detect poverty can be assessed and updated. These variables are “highly efficient” as poverty detectors.

Poverty characteristics that were identified generated an interesting profiling system that clearly distinguish between rural and urban poverty areas.

Nasser, R. N., Abouchedid, K. and Khashan, H. (January 2002). Perceptions of the Causes of Poverty Comparing Three National Groups: Lebanon, Portugal, and South Africa. *Current Research in Social Psychology* 8 (7), 101-118.

a. Executive Summary

The starting point of this paper is the “Concepts” developed by Feagin (1972). He conceptualized three exploratory poverty indexes:

- Individualistic explanations, which place the responsibility for poverty primarily on the poor themselves;
- Structural explanations, which blame poverty on external social and economic forces; and
- Fatalistic explanations, which cite such factors as bad luck and illness.

The research questions are:

- Do psychometric fatalistic, individualistic, and structuralist factors appear among the three national groups?
- Are there cross-cultural differences among university students in the three national groups?
- Are there significant correlation between the socio-demographic factors of subjective educational status, income level, and occupational status with students' PCP?

The abstract of the study is extracted as such from the paper:

This study compared attitudes regarding poverty among South African, Lebanese, and Portuguese college students (n=563) as measured by the individualist, fatalist, and structuralist dimensions of the causes of poverty. The results showed that South African students were more individualist in their explanation of the causes of poverty than their Portuguese ($t(1,305)=4.62$, $p=0.00$) and Lebanese ($t(1,417)=-2.85$, $p=0.005$) counterparts. Perception of the causes of poverty was more structural than fatalistic or individualistic respectively for the three national groups. All combinatorial pairings failed to show significant differences among the three samples on the structuralist

dimension. Regression analysis results showed that the main predictor on the perception of poverty was the country on each of the three dimensions: fatalist, individualist, and structuralist dimensions. The study produced similar factor structure to those conceptualized by Feagin (1972).

b. Methodology

- The sample is composed of in three universities in the three countries
- The sample size is 563 students (251 Lebanese, 120 Portuguese, and 192 South Africans)
- Various statistical tools were applied: factorial analysis, comparative statistical analysis, regressions and correlations

c. Comments

This paper presented three “types” of poverty perception. These concepts are interesting and be developed an integrated in our study.

However, the results of their in-depth statistical analysis do not add something new or useful for our study.

UNDP and Lebanon, Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA) (1998).
Mapping of Living Conditions in Lebanon. Beirut: MOSA;
UNDP.

a. Executive Summary

The Mapping of Living Conditions in Lebanon study is a joint project between the Ministry of Social Affairs and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The project aims to provide information and analyses needed for the formulation of policies that contribute to the improvement of living conditions in Lebanon. To this end, the study seeks to measure the degree of satisfaction of basic needs in Lebanon for households and individuals and to deduce the regional demographic, economic and social characteristics of the population.

(...) It is not a study on poverty and the poor, but on living conditions. However, it implicitly includes a rough and indirect estimate of the poverty phenomenon in Lebanon as an element of a broader phenomenon, namely, that of deprivation from the satisfaction of basic needs.

(...) The timing of the study coincides with the mounting concern regarding the pattern of income distribution in Lebanon. The war brought about a reversal in the significant improvements which were realized during the 1960s and first half

of 1970s. As a result, the pattern of income distribution in the mid-1990s came to resemble that which prevailed at the beginning of the 1960s, with the share of low income category rising sharply at the expense of both intermediate and high income categories.

Most important results regarding the characteristics of the deprived households (relevant and significant for our own study):

- The household size is larger, it includes a larger number of children and old people, greater share of female head of households
- Deprived households is associated with low educational attainments
- Ownership of dwelling and living conditions are not correlated, however the number of rooms is significantly correlated to the low degree of satisfaction
- Problem of access to basic services: heating services, potable (and non-potable) water
- They do work but income is low, and self-employment is a way to face poverty (not entrepreneurship with high value added!); mainly in agriculture or low-skilled activities
- The deprived regions are: Akkar, Minnieh, Hermel, Marjeyoun, Bint-Jbeil, Baalbeck, Tyr (all peripheral, but some were still at that time under Israeli occupation)

Finally the study presented the following recommendations:

(...) Two broad types of interventions may be distinguished. The first type is directed mainly at dealing with the consequences of deprivation rather than its causes. This type of interventions targets socially weak and vulnerable categories, or it targets a specific and well-defined deprived region.

The second type of intervention is of the preventive kind and takes place at the level of formulating macro-economic and social policies.

b. Methodology

- The sample came essentially from the results of the Population and Housing Survey which was carried out by the Ministry of Social Affairs in cooperation with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), between 1994 and 1996.
- The raw data was generated through a sample of around 60'000 households. This is the larger sample ever studied in Lebanon since the civil war.

- The UBN methodology was applied to the raw data of the above mentioned survey. In the absence of income and expenditure data, and on health indicators, a set of 11 indicators was selected, grouped into four fields:
 - Housing and related indicators
 - Water and sewerage
 - Education and related indicators
 - Income-related indicators
- As a results of the application of the UBN methodology, each household obtains 11 scores, corresponding to the 11 individual indicators. The household also obtains 4 scores corresponding to the 4 field indices. Finally, it obtains a composite index which is used to classify households into 3 categories on the scale of basic needs (low, intermediate and high).

c. Comments

The analysis of the raw data generated by a “huge” field survey conducted in 1994 provided interesting results on Poverty and Vulnerability. This is the first study that address these topics since the civil war. Although some important variables are missing (e.g. income), the researchers were able to extract some significant variables from the questionnaire to be used as proxy-variables for measuring poverty (or vulnerability).

The strength:

- 1) Generate a “poverty” classification at the level of the Caza (district). The highly vulnerable districts were identified.
- 2) Identify characteristics of “poor” households in terms of: housing, education, services, etc.
- 3) Elaborate two types of policies (targeting and global)

The weaknesses:

- 1) Income and expenditure variables are missing
- 2) The UBN approach, in its design, is subjective and hence can be criticized (especially the thresholds system)
- 3) The results are only available at the Mohafazat (governorate) and district levels, results at smaller geographic units are not published