

## **Syrian Refugee Youth in Lebanon 2008-2018 Desk Review**

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### **Synthesis**

#### **1.1. What does the literature cover, or not?**

Unfortunately, there is very little research done that specifically focuses on Syrian youth in Lebanon.

- **On Google Scholar** - no major scholarly publications showed up through the first 10 pages of search results
- **On ReliefWeb** - We looked through every search result for Lebanon + refugee youth and Lebanon + Syrian youth, from 2008-2018, for a total of about 180 sources. Almost all are for UNHCR or INGO programmatic reports or are irrelevant and not addressing Syrian youth in Lebanon.
- **On Issam Fares Institute of the American University of Beirut** - all relevant reports from IFI's program on Education and Youth Policy and their discontinued Youth in the Arab World program are covered in the desk review above.
- **On Lebanese Center for Policy Studies** - only one external link to an article on Syrian youth in Lebanon, otherwise no reports on youth at all, Syrian or Lebanese.
- The majority of all research and reports is about education.
- Amongst the reports and researches on education, the majority cover children education, and very few actually focus on youth as a category.
- There is close to nothing on the transition of youth between education and the labor force, and what are their adaptive mechanisms with regards to livelihoods.
- Studies exist on youth community mobilizing, leadership, and activism but only concerning Lebanese or Palestinian youth and not Syrian youth.
- There are studies about Arab youth in general, and what they need to realize their full potential, but none of that is in relation to Syrian youth in particular.
- Scientific and rigorous research, as opposed to reports by organisations or examples of programmatic projects, is scarce. Most, if they exist, are from the years 2013 and 2014, and address the plight of women and children, women

youth, protection, men, and psychosocial support but not particularly in relation to youth alone.

- Most of the reports and short articles are written about the work of organisations, and examples of success stories when it comes to programmes relating to youth.
- There are some articles about psychosocial support for refugees in general, but not on tailored approaches to psychosocial support relating to youth.
- There is not enough work done on youth and peacebuilding, livelihoods, vocational training, transitional justice, or social cohesion.
- Many more studies on children (and some youth!) than on youth as a category on its own.
- Even when it comes to humanitarian services, service provision or the relationship with the host community, it is in general work relating to the Syrian refugee community at large, rather than youth.
- There are no studies separating youth living in refugee camps versus houses, and looking at how this affected their protection and integration.

## 1.2. What are the main findings and themes?

*Overview of context specific to Syrian youth in Lebanon:* Syrian refugee youth (ages 15-24) are among the most marginalised populations in Lebanon in terms of:

1. Social inequality (education, work) and social capital (daily life interactions, social networks, civic engagement)
2. Equity (as is apparent in Lebanese public policy, and programmes of INGOs and LNGOs)

UNHCR estimates about 101,982 young Syrians aged 18-24 in Lebanon, of whom only 3% are enrolled in secondary level, and 2.7% at higher educational levels, studying the Lebanese curriculum. Lebanon's overall **youth unemployment** rate is **three to four times** higher than the overall unemployment rate, and for refugee youth, it is considerably higher (UNHCR, 2018, *Lebanon Crisis*).

*General overview of Syrian displacement context in Lebanon:*

An estimated 1-1.5 million displaced Syrians are in Lebanon (UNHCR, 2018, *Lebanon Crisis*). There are an estimated 5,180 informal settlements throughout Lebanon (45,650 tents), while most refugees live in urban or peri-urban areas (Ibid). In terms of the economic context, 76 percent of displaced Syrians are **living below poverty line** (\$3.84/day). 58 percent are living in **extreme poverty**. 91 percent of Syrian households are **food insecure**, with 75 percent

borrowing money to buy food. 90 percent of Syrian households have no one only one working member (Ibid).

When it comes to education and training, 290,000 school-aged children in Lebanon are out of school (UNHCR, 2018, *Lebanon Crisis*). Just **3%** of non-Lebanese youth **enrolled in public secondary schools** in 2016-2017 (Ibid). 58 percent of Syrian children and youth ages 3-18 are out of school (Ibid).

The legal context reflects considerable challenges for Syrian refugees in Lebanon. As of the end of 2017, **74 percent** of Syrian refugees **lacked valid legal residency** (Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) [et al.], 2018). Only 17 percent of **birth certificates** of displaced Syrian **children born in Lebanon are registered** with Foreigners' Registry (cumulative) (Ibid). **51%** of children **under five years old** were **not listed in the family booklet; 13%** of **children under five years old** had **no proof of any kind of their birth.**" (UNHCR, 2018). **In 2017**, eviction orders were issued for over **10,000** people living in **259 informal tented settlements in the Bekaa Valley** (Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) [et al.], 2018).

### **1.3. Programmatic findings: Services Provided for Youth & Remaining Gaps**

This section outlines services provided for Syrian refugee youth in Lebanon, as well as remaining gaps, organized around the following four thematic areas: Education, Legal Services, PSS & Health Services, and Gender-related Programming.

#### **1. Education & Training**

There are an estimated **376,228 registered school-age Syrian refugee children** (ages 5-17), out of an estimated 554,000 total children. **180,000** children are estimated to be engaging in **child labor** in Lebanon, including its worst forms (Carlier, 2018).

More focus on providing education for youth is needed, since many have not been able to access such opportunities (UNHCR, 2018, *Lebanon Crisis*). Of all adolescents age 17-19, just 12% reported having completed grade 9 (WFP, UNHCR and UNICEF, 2017). With regard to **upper secondary school** indicators (grades 10-12), only 4.1% of adolescents aged 15-18 were currently attending, and the completion rate (number of youth aged 21-23 who had completed grade 12) was 11%. Only 2.3% of youth aged 15 to 24 who were out

of school attended education, **literacy or skills training programmes** within the previous 12 months, and a mere 1.6% youth of post-primary school age (15-24) were attending **Technical Vocational Education** (WFP, UNHCR and UNICEF, 2017). Youth workers were mostly involved in agriculture (28%), construction (23%), services (19%) and manufacturing (8%) (Ibid). Increasing the engagement of Syrian refugee youth, particularly in the most vulnerable communities, is critical to averting longer-term risks. This includes increasing school enrolment for youth aged 15-17, increasing participation in alternative education and vocational skills-training programmes for youth aged 15-24, and improving employment opportunities for youth aged 15-24.

[Formal] **second-shift classes** only open if there is demand from at least 20 to 25 students, which is especially an issue at higher grade levels as many children drop out due to child labour. In these cases, Syrian students who wish to enroll have no option but to repeat lower grades, which leads to demotivation and drop-out. In other places second-shift school are overcrowded and the quality of teaching is very poor. **Pathways to formal and non-formal education**, developed by the government of Lebanon, are **rigid** and increase the risk of children not being able to access any form of education (Carlier, 2018).

Adolescents have been dramatically affected by the conflict in Syria, and the resulting forced displacement. The **loss of educational opportunities is perhaps the most significant effect**, with long-term devastating outcomes (DeJong [et al.], 2017). Programming is needed to ensure sustained education access for all adolescents, and to educate very young adolescents and their parents on managing their own health and well-being, given the multiple strains. More effort is needed to encourage positive interaction between adolescent Lebanese and adolescent Syrian refugees.

## 2. Legal Aid

One reason behind movement restrictions was to prevent or reduce the risk of certain types of violence and safety issues that target women more than men. The most dangerous include abductions and sexual violence. **Lack of civil documentation** is also a structural concern that some women reported as a barrier to movement, which might affect women differently than man especially with regards to marriage contracts and registration of children. Another safety concern that affects women and girls is the lack of safe transportation (UNFPA, 2017).

For the children of Syrian refugees and asylum seekers born in Lebanon, **access to legal identity** remains a challenge. An increasingly significant problem is

that refugee children need to obtain their **own legal residency** in Lebanon when they turn **15 years old**, but they do not have accepted identity documents, which are only issued in Syria when a child turns 15. NRC estimates that each year, **more than 30,000 Syrian children turn 15** in Lebanon and thereafter do not have access to legal residency (Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) [et al.], 2018).

In Lebanon, the **lack of residency permits is a major legal barrier** for Syrian refugees, as it restricts their options to relocate in order to access opportunities in the labour market. More broadly, the **fear of arrest, costs involved in obtaining permits** and lack of incentives drive refugees to engage in **informal or irregular employment** and places refugees at risk of inhumane work conditions. Refugees, particularly males, are frequently pushed toward finding an employment sponsor in order to obtain legal residency, and this is frequently a conduit to exploitation and abuse. As **children are more likely to find employment in the informal sector**, and children are currently less likely to face punishment if caught without legal residency, refugee families often **send their children to work as a way to cope with their lack of income** (Ibid).

*Overall legal framework:* The legal framework that exists for the protection of refugees in **Lebanon** is troublesome at best. The nation is neither party to the **1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees**, nor does it have **any domestic legislation** that addresses refugee status protections. Syrian asylum seekers, thus, are afforded no specific status of protection once inside Lebanese borders. Furthermore, the Lebanese government characterizes such migrants as “displaced persons,” not as “refugees” (Schultz, May 2018).

New births, marriages, divorces and deaths are often not entered into official records, leaving refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) without documents to prove these events took place. The **family booklet** is the primary civil record in Syria, and the basis for obtaining all other civil documents. Around **40% of IDPs surveyed stated that they no longer have their family booklet** with them. Those IDPs who do have their family booklet have not been able to add children’s names to it if the children were born during the conflict in non-government controlled areas (Clutterbuck [et al.], February 2018). **Children** become eligible for **national identity cards in Syria when they are 14**, at which time their guardian is obliged to obtain an identity card for them. However, a quarter of IDPs aged 14 or over who were interviewed in north-west Syria do not have this document (Ibid).

### 3. PSS & Health Services

*LCRP Targets:* Community-based child protection prevention and support activities will benefit **more than 91,000 children and approximately 30,000 caregivers, including vulnerable Lebanese, persons displaced from Syria, and Palestinians**. Interventions will target the most vulnerable children in the most vulnerable localities throughout Lebanon. In addition, 8,000 high-risk children, such as those at risk of or engaged in the worst forms of child labour and those living and working on the streets, will benefit from individual case management support and referral to relevant specialized services. Focused psychosocial support will be available to **16,000 children at risk** as part of a package of support that includes group-based and peer support interventions (UNHCR, 2018, *Lebanon Crisis*)

Child protection actors have been supporting the psychosocial well-being of children affected by conflict through psychosocial support (PSS) for both children and caregivers (including parenting support programmes), and by detecting and responding to children at risk through the management of cases by partners providing specialized services, including structured PSS for high-risk children. There continues to be a **lack of preventive and response measures** for children that are timely, adequate and equitable, including strengthened coverage of best interest determination processes for displaced children (Ibid).

#### **4. Gender dimension: Structural barriers, early marriage & SGBV support**

Many girls report that they have had to **drop out of school** due to movement restrictions imposed by their parents. Both boys and girls reported being forced to drop out of school for economic and safety reasons, though the higher value placed on boys' education over girls' meant that this often disproportionately affects girls. Fear of sexual harassment moving to and from school is a barrier to girls' education, and **child marriage** was also cited as both a cause and effect of girls' dropping out of school (WFP, UNHCR and UNICEF, 2017). One in five Syrian girls aged 15 to 19 were married, and of those, 18% were married/in union with spouses ten or more years older than them (Ibid).

The number of girls and boys not enrolling in school, or dropping out, is similar, however it is triggered by different reasons. An alarming, and growing, number of girls are exposed to **early marriage**. Adolescent girls in particular face **gender-based violence**. On the other hand, some of the most **vulnerable boys and youth** are being recruited as **workers** (UNHCR, 2018, *Lebanon Crisis*).

The way in which the **language of mainstreaming is co-opted** has an effect exactly opposite to the intended one of achieving equality and instead renders women and girls invisible. Sexual and gender-based violence is both a cause and an effect of the vulnerable situations in which refugee women are placed. The **lack of engagement of men at all levels**, from refugees to UNHCR staff, in the promotion of gender equality, and a blindness to its importance, is an outcome of the negative discourse. This is compounded by the lack of **gender disaggregated data** and the reluctance sometimes to acknowledge the extent of sexual and gender-based violence (Pittaway and Bartolomei, 2018). Additionally, the futures of Syrian girls are deeply affected by new protection concerns, particularly as they are exposed to an unfamiliar and more liberal society in Lebanon. **Child marriage and limitations in their mobility** – particularly for girls - are presented by families as coping strategies to these risks (DeJong [et al.], 2017).

#### 1.4. Promising future programs

**Participatory Action Research (PAR)** project is a partnership with young researchers (14-24 years old) in Jordan, Lebanon and Syria, including refugee youth. This systematic adolescent and youth engagement project aims to generate evidence with and for young people, empower young people to lead community-based research and support them in becoming change-makers/advocates on issues of concern to them (UNHCR, 2018, *3RP*).

Social innovation projects and enterprises for young people will not be successful if they are launched without a strong support network that youth can tap into to define, develop, and scale their solution. Based on this, **3RP Partners in Jordan** are creating a **network of venture capitalists, sectoral experts and entrepreneurship mentors** that youth can tap into at any stage of their enterprise development process. 3RP Partners are working to facilitate partnership opportunities between youth and large established organizations like telecommunications provider Zain, so the youth can gain access to their support network, internship opportunities, and special procurement rates. In **Lebanon 3RP Partners** are running **Innovation Lab trainings** for marginalized Lebanese, Syrian and Palestinian youth. This programme provides youth with the skills needed to develop innovative income-generating solutions to problems in their communities. The most viable enterprise ideas advance to incubation where they receive one-on-one coaching and seed-funding to pilot their initiatives. Four further labs were launched in the first week of November 2017, and an additional eight labs are under construction or design for inauguration in December (UNHCR, 2018, *3RP*).

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## Annex

The below is a desk review of the most important academic references: books, reports, journal articles, and theses about Syrian refugees, and youth

populations amongst Syrian refugees in Lebanon between 2008 and 2018. For each reference, a subject focus, group focus, author, date of publication, source, title and abstract or summary are prepared. The references are ordered from the oldest to the most recent.

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*Beyond Reform & Development (BRD) (2017). Skills Gap Analysis for Improved Livelihood Sustainability in Lebanon: Competency Needs and Skills Gap Analysis of the Private Sector in Mount Lebanon, Tripoli and the Bekaa.* European Union's Regional Trust Fund (Madad); RDPP. 117 p.  
Retrieved from: <https://reliefweb.int/report/lebanon/skills-gap-analysis-improved-livelihood-sustainability-lebanon-january-2017>

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**Abstract (copied):** Leaders Consortium, composed of the Danish Refugee Council, Oxfam, ACTED, CARE and Save the Children are working together with the support of Madad Trust Fund on a programme that aims to contribute to the economic self-reliance, resilience and social stability of displacement-affected populations in Jordan and Lebanon, as prioritized by the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP). The programme will work on enhancing the economic stability of all displaced and displacement-affected populations. The intervention targets 250,000 individuals in Jordan and Lebanon, as described in the terms of reference (ToR) of this project, including: Economically vulnerable individuals and households (with particular focus on women and youth); Existing and scalable private sector enterprises (MSMEs), and private sector associations; Marginalized Syrian refugees; Municipalities/Cadastrés in the most displacement-affected areas, most often those that are hosting refugees. The specific objectives of the programme include: Improved access to sustainable livelihood opportunities that benefit vulnerable households and individuals, particularly youth and women; Improving the economic environment to enable opportunities and service delivery in communities hosting refugees. In Lebanon, the intervention is also supported by Danida/Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, in the framework of the Regional Development and Protection Programme – RDPP. Leaders Consortium commissioned Beyond Reform and Development (BRD) in Lebanon to conduct a skills gap analysis in Mount Lebanon (Jdaidet El-Matn, Baouchriyeh, Dekouaneh, Bourj Hammoud), Tripoli (both the city and district) and the Bekaa (Zahle and Baalbeck). The research serves as a baseline for the future programmatic interventions on economic resilience through job creation and job matching opportunities, as well as vocational training curriculum development efforts by partners of the Leaders Consortium.

**Additional comments:** Good contribution to understanding of refugee livelihoods, with some limited focus on needs of youth.

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Dawlaty (2017). *Transitional Justice from the Perspective of Syrian Youth.*  
Retrieved from: <https://dawlaty.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Dawlaty->

[English-Report-TJ.pdf](#), and <https://dawlatty.org/ar/publications/transitional-justice-from-the-perspective-of-syrian-youth-ar/>

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**Abstract (copied):** This report is based on two phases that were undertaken by Dawlaty to consult young people on their perspectives on transitional justice in their country. As a first phase, we explored the violations that young people experience and how they deal with them, in addition to understanding young people's views of various concepts and mechanisms related to transitional justice. In the second phase, we tried to delve deeper and look at the intersection of these mechanisms as well as how young people regard these mechanisms. We focused our attention on four themes: the concept of transitional justice, the experience of young people as a victim/survivor of a past violation, the violations that young people experience, and the mechanisms of engaging young people in the processes of transitional justice. The study offered a preliminary view on the opportunities available for young people to engage in civic activism in general and, to an extent, their attitudes towards the mechanisms and concepts of transitional justice. Young people sampled in this study presented previous engagement and interest in participation in local initiatives in their communities, yet they also identified various obstacles for their participation or maintenance of this engagement; arms, displacement, resources, livelihood needs and responsibilities to their families, etc.

**Additional comments:** Very important study by a local NGO on Syrian refugee youth and the challenges and violations they have experienced, both in Syria and in displacement in Lebanon, and how they see transitional justice. Good recommendations for both programming and research.

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DeJong, J. [et al.] (2017). Young Lives Disrupted: Gender and Well-Being among Adolescent Syrian Refugees in Lebanon. *Conflict and Health* 11 (1), 25–65. Retrieved from: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5688457/>

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**Abstract (copied):** The conflict in Syria that began in 2011 has resulted in the exodus of over 5 million Syrian refugees to neighbouring countries, with more than one million refugees currently registered by UNHCR in Lebanon. While some are living in tented settlements, the majority are living in strained conditions in rented accommodation or collective shelters in the Bekaa Valley next to Syria. Adolescents are particularly vulnerable in any crisis. In 2013–4, the American University in Beirut in collaboration with the Women's Refugee Commission, Johns Hopkins and Save the Children, sought to understand the specific experiences of very young adolescents, those 10–14 years of age, in this protracted crisis context.

**Methods:** The study was conducted in 2014 in Barelias and Qabelias – two urban areas located close to each other in the Beka'a valley that has a large concentration of Syrian refugees. Focus group discussions (FGDs), including community mapping and photo elicitation, were conducted with 10–12 and 13–14 year old Syrian refugee

adolescents, in order to obtain information about their experiences and perspectives. FGDs were also implemented with 15–16 year old Syrian refugees and separately also with adult refugees, to consider their perspectives on the needs and risks of these adolescents. A total of 16 FGD (8 for each sex, with 6–9 participants in each) were conducted in Arabic across the two sites, with 59 female participants and 59 male participants.

**Conclusions:** Families and adolescents have been dramatically affected by the conflict in Syria, and the resulting forced displacement. The loss of educational opportunities is perhaps the most significant effect, with long-term devastating outcomes. Additionally, the futures of Syrian girls are deeply affected by new protection concerns, particularly as they are exposed to an unfamiliar and more liberal society in Lebanon. Child marriage and limitations in their mobility – particularly for girls - are presented by families as coping strategies to these risks. Programming is needed to ensure sustained education access for all adolescents, and to educate very young adolescents and their parents on managing their own health and well-being, given the multiple strains. More effort is needed to encourage positive interaction between adolescent Lebanese and adolescent Syrian refugees.

**Additional comments:** Study conducted in Bar Elias and Qab Elias, so very relevant sample, adolescents 10-12, 13-14, and 15-16, research done in 2014. Dated but still raises valid issues around protection risks and vulnerabilities, esp. around 1) education, 2) transportation barriers/safety (esp for girls), 3) social tensions, 4) early marriage. Included host community adolescents, but not much data or comparison on differences/similarities, and nothing to compare to pre-crisis.

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El-Ghali, H., Berjaoui, R. and DeKnight, J. (2017). *Higher Education and Syrian Refugee Students: The Case of Lebanon: Policies, Practices, and Perspectives* (Research Report). Beirut: Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs. 43 p. Retrieved from: [https://website.aub.edu.lb/ifi/publications/Documents/research\\_reports/20170702\\_refugee\\_education.pdf](https://website.aub.edu.lb/ifi/publications/Documents/research_reports/20170702_refugee_education.pdf)

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**Abstract (copied):** This report presents issues within tertiary education for young Syrian refugees in Lebanon. It is part of a broader regional study commissioned by UNESCO. The project aims to assess the impact of the conflict in Syria and the results of the crisis on tertiary education in host countries, including Lebanon, Iraq, Jordan, Egypt and Turkey. This report presents the findings of an investigation that aims to identify major lines of action in tertiary education in emergencies, namely, legal frameworks and policies implemented by key stakeholders within the sector, whilst offering insights into the current status of tertiary education for Syrian refugees in Lebanon. The report employs a qualitative approach that intends to explore and understand the challenges and opportunities of Syrian refugee students in accessing tertiary education. Research demonstrates that due to financial strains on the Lebanese economy, the government's attempts to revise clear and appropriate policies to deal with the rising number of Syrian students in the tertiary education

sector are restricted. The Lebanese government incurs higher costs than their budget, and as a result, resources and effort towards the tertiary education sector with regards to Syrian students are limited. Moreover, the lack of coordination among key actors in the sector ultimately results in the misallocation of resources and effective policy planning in Lebanon. The study findings show that the large number of refugees, who have significantly altered the national demographics within the country, present a challenge for the state and local communities in meeting the needs of both the refugees and the host communities. The challenges specific to the education sector are: (1) legal issues and restrictive host country policies and procedures, including residence restrictions, (2) experiences in university application procedures or lack of academic and career guidance, which present potential pathways to the labor market or further education, and (3) financial shortcomings. This case study offers policy and program recommendations to decision- and policy-makers for the national and international communities, with the overall goal to improve and guide further practice and research in supporting protracted refugee situations to access tertiary education, and its long-term benefits.

**Additional comments:** Very topical and relevant study on Syrian refugee youth and higher education in Lebanon. Provides decent context for overall education policy environment, as well as good recommendations to policymakers to better support refugee youth's access to education.

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Fakhoury, T. (November 2017). Governance Strategies and Refugee Response: Lebanon in the Face of Syrian Displacement. *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 49 (4), 681-700. Retrieved from: <https://www.cambridge.org/core/services/aop-cambridge-core/content/view/8D3CE6391426B3B84FE3B009176481DC/S0020743817000654a.pdf/div-class-title-governance-strategies-and-refugee-response-lebanon-in-the-face-of-syrian-displacement-div.pdf>

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**Abstract (copied):** This article discusses how the Lebanese state has responded to displacement from Syria (2011– 17), and how the resulting policy formulation processes and discourses have constructed the relationship between the hosting state and the refugee. It focuses especially on how this small state has negotiated its politics of reception and choice of policy tools amid dysfunctional institutions and political disputes. To this end, it uses the lens of Lebanon's model of sectarian power sharing to understand the polity's response to mass displacement. This process has been structured by the defining dynamics of the country's politics of sectarianism: slack governance, an elite fractured model, and a politics of dependence on external and domestic non-state actors. The Lebanese model offers broader insights into types of coping mechanisms that emerge in the context of forced migration, notably when a formal refugee regime is absent. The article contends that states lacking a legal asylum framework and grappling with various governance hurdles are likely to draw on the repertoire of their political regime to deal with displacement.

**Additional comments:** Good background on Lebanese governance, sectarian politics, in order to better understand the fragmented and often informal policy landscape with regard to the Syrian displacement crisis in Lebanon; no direct focus on youth, however.

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Mercy Corps (2017). *From Tension to Violence: Understanding and Preventing Violence between Refugees and Host Communities in Lebanon*.

Beirut: Mercy Corps. 19 p. Retrieved from:

[https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/MercyCorps-EC.GCAPBaselinereport\\_Final.pdf](https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/MercyCorps-EC.GCAPBaselinereport_Final.pdf)

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**Summary (copied):** This assessment investigates how tensions correlate with disputes and violence, to understand whether access to different types of services or opportunities has any impact on an individual's propensity to use violence. In order to understand this dynamic in more detail, Mercy Corps carried out a survey of 2,437 households in eight municipalities in North of Lebanon. This survey sought to identify when physical violence occurs – understanding that not all tensions manifest as disputes, and not all disputes escalate into violence – in order to better test the assumption that increased tensions over social service provision will lead to violence. As a result of this survey, Mercy Corps recommends that social cohesion programmes should deploy a mixture of social services, livelihoods, and social interactions, rather than maintaining the status quo of overwhelming (in terms of allocation of programmatic resources) focus on social service provision. In particular, Mercy Corps recommends increasing investment in employment as the most effective way to promote stability in Lebanon, in communities with high numbers of refugees. The data shows that Lebanese households with no or limited livelihood options and those with poor economic outlooks for the future correlate with being more prone to use violence, while there was no such correlation between social service access and violence. Crucially, findings show that it is not only social interactions, but also economic interactions, if facilitated in a mutually financially beneficial and socially positive manner, that can contribute to building social cohesion, an important finding for livelihoods programmes with a stability goal.

**Additional comments:** Investigating different modes of conflict resolution and mediation; drivers of social tension; relationship between economic activity, social services, and tensions.

**Interesting quotes from the article:** “Mobilize youth mediators: An intergenerational divide exists regarding perspectives on the use of violence, with older generations being less prone. It is therefore vital that mediators – whether they are a formal part of the municipality or more informal ‘Community Representatives’ – include youth. Otherwise, if mediators are all older individuals, there is a risk that this intergenerational divide is exacerbated with youth perceiving that their elders’ attitudes of non-violence are unrepresentative, which will subsequently alienate them. Therefore, youth mediators can help to bridge this divide by demonstrating the effectiveness of mediation to their peers.”



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UNFPA (2017). *New Study Finds Child Marriage Rising among Most Vulnerable Syrian Refugees*. Retrieved from: <https://www.unfpa.org/news/new-study-finds-child-marriage-rising-among-most-vulnerable-syrian-refugees>

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**Abstract (copied):** An alarming rise in child marriages has been seen among the most vulnerable Syrian refugee populations in Lebanon, according to a newly completed survey conducted by UNFPA, the American University of Beirut and Sawa for Development and Aid. The survey covered some 2,400 refugee women and girls living in Western Bekaa, and found that more than a third of those surveyed between the ages of 20 and 24 had been married before reaching age 18.

**Additional comments:** Very important, scientific and timely. Addresses only women.

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UNHCR (2017). *3RP Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan 2016-2017, in Response to the Syria Crisis: Regional Strategic Overview*. 51 p. Retrieved from: <http://www.3rpsyriacrisis.org/>

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**Abstract (copied):** The 2016-2017 3RP brings together more than 200 partners in a coordinated region-wide response to the Syria crisis. In 2016, the 3RP appeal is USD 5.78 billion for the total programmatic response of Governments, United Nations agencies, inter-governmental organizations (IGOs), and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). This represents an overall increase of 10 percent in the appeal compared to the corresponding 2015 figure, reflecting a rise in the number of refugees in the region, their increased vulnerabilities, an increase in host Government requirements, and a greater focus on service delivery through local and municipal systems to reduce duplication and build resilience. Within the USD 5.78 billion programmatic requirements of the national plans, United Nations agencies, IGOs and NGO partners are appealing for up to USD 4.55 billion to support those national plans, an increase of 5 per cent compared to the revised 2015 appeal. This small increase reflects continued efforts to make the response more effective, targeted and efficient, including through cash-based interventions to provide assistance for food and other basic needs such as rent and household items. Agencies are undertaking improved targeting of resources and assistance to the most vulnerable. After large investments in establishing camp infrastructure in Jordan and Iraq in recent years, the Shelter Sector is appealing for a reduced amount in 2016 as it moves towards a maintenance phase in camps.

**Additional comments:** Overall planning document, with useful indicators and targets; limited insight into youth-specific gaps and needs, however.

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UNICEF (2017). *Preparing for the Future of Children and Youth in Syria and the Region through Education: London One Year On* (Brussels Conference Education Report). London: UNICEF. 32 p. Retrieved from: [http://wos-education.org/uploads/reports/170331\\_Brussels\\_paper.pdf](http://wos-education.org/uploads/reports/170331_Brussels_paper.pdf)

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**Abstract (copied):** During the February 2016 London ‘Supporting Syria and the Region’ Conference, the No Lost Generation partners recognized that efforts to support the education of Syrian children and youth were not sufficient, and they set ambitious goals: All out-of-school children and youth inside Syria and all Syrian refugee children and youth in the five host countries (Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, and Egypt), together with affected host community children and youth, were to be provided with education through a total ask of US\$1.4 billion per year. One year after London, progress in education is measurable. The London education strategic shifts concretely translated into a more effective education response architecture inside Syria, and strengthened public education systems in the five host countries with nationally mainstreamed refugee response plans, policy frameworks and data collection instruments. Access strategies validated pathways from non-formal to formal education and enhanced community engagement together with social protection programmes and child protection support mechanisms. Despite such progress, substantial challenges remain. Around 2.3 million Syrian children and youth are still out of school and a large number are at risk of dropping out. Vulnerable families draw upon negative coping mechanisms which impact on girls’ education. Low access rates to post-basic education, including technical, vocational education and training and tertiary education, are a grave concern. Syrian youth aged 15 to 24 years lack perspectives of meaningful livelihoods. The provision of quality education with a focus on attendance, learning outcomes, life skills acquisition and social cohesion, together with safety and security, remains timid and scattered. Multi-sectoral approaches to education need more attention. Funding to education continues to be far from the London US\$1.4 billion ask and needs to be further sustained, predictable and timely.

**Additional comments:** Progress on funding and international aid and donor status, rather than a study per se on youth.

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El-Ghali, H. A., Ghalayini, N. and Ismail, G. (March 2016). *Responding to the Crisis: Syrian Refugee Education in Lebanon* (Policy Brief 7). Beirut: AUB, Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs. 4 p. Retrieved from: [http://website.aub.edu.lb/ifi/publications/Documents/policy\\_memos/2015-2016/20160406\\_responding\\_to\\_crisis.pdf](http://website.aub.edu.lb/ifi/publications/Documents/policy_memos/2015-2016/20160406_responding_to_crisis.pdf)

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**Abstract (copied):** As the Syrian crisis continues unabated, the number of Syrian refugees seeking asylum in neighboring countries such as Jordan, Turkey and Lebanon is

growing. According to the UNHCR, and as of November 2015, the number of registered refugees in Lebanon had reached 1,070,189. Around 35% of these registered refugees are children aged between 5 and 17 who are entitled to an education. The Lebanese public schools are not ready to handle the increasing influx of school aged refugees; in fact, the public sector, which attracts less than 30% of the Lebanese student population, has been in need of reform even prior to the Syrian crisis. Recently, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) prepared a national strategy, Reach All Children with Education (RACE), which aims to deliver education to all children in Lebanon, including refugees and vulnerable Lebanese children. It may be argued that despite the fact that the MEHE has moved forward in increasing the number of children attending public schools and in achieving the RACE, this strategy has nonetheless failed to reach its target for several reasons among which is insufficient funding, weak coordination among government agencies and limited collaboration with non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

**Additional comments:** Provides good recommendations for Syrian education stakeholders in Lebanon.

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International Rescue Committee (IRC) (2016). *Vulnerability of Syrian Refugee Men in Lebanon*. New York: IRC. 20 p. Retrieved from: <https://www.rescue.org/sites/default/files/document/464/irclebanonrefugeemensvulnerabilityassessment.pdf>

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**Abstract (copied):** This assessment aims to fill a gap in available data about protection vulnerabilities faced by Syrian refugee men in Lebanon. This gap is significant, as the lack of clear evidence regarding vulnerabilities of Syrian refugee men reinforces a misperception that they face no or minimal vulnerabilities compared with other demographic cohorts. This, in turn, is problematic: both giving unwarranted force to generalizations about the vulnerability of women and children, which can undermine genuine efforts to support and empower those groups, while also leaving the very real vulnerabilities faced by refugee men (as well as other underserved groups) unrecognized and, therefore, not addressed.

**Methods:** The assessment relies on data collected through community level assessments, typically conducted with groups of men and women of varying ages drawn from either the refugee or host communities, as well as tailored individual surveys and focus group discussions conducted with single refugee men. A total of 10,113 people participated in community level assessments, while 468 refugee men responded to individual surveys and a further 100 contributed to focus group discussions. Data was collected on five areas of specific focus: (1) threats to personal safety; (2) exposure to abuse and exploitation; (3) access to services and assistance; (4) access to informal networks; and, (5) agency and self-perception. Key findings included the disproportionate, and sometimes aggressive, targeting of refugee men by both government authorities and host community members. This assessment concludes that refugee men, a category not prioritized by the humanitarian system for support, are often not able to access support that they need and, even more often, feel themselves to be excluded from it. In addition, refugee

men's engagement in informal work creates specific vulnerabilities to abuse and exploitation for which effective and consistent responses have not been formulated. These are exacerbated by refugee men's lack of confidence reporting work-related and other rights violations to authorities, which contributes to an atmosphere of impunity that enables those perpetuating the abuses.

**Recommendations:** the humanitarian community more readily recognizes that single and working refugee men have specific protection needs, and strengthen efforts to ensure their inclusion in holistic assessments of the protection environment.

**Additional comments:** Great report, but it does not particularly focus on youth. The recommendations on men can be very helpful to also look at young men and what needs to be done especially in terms of protection concerns.

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Lebanon, Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) (2016). *Reaching All Children with Education: RACE II (2017-2021)*. Beirut: MEHE. 32 p. Retrieved from: [http://www.mehe.gov.lb/uploads/file/2016/Oct/RACE%20II\\_FINAL%20Narrative\\_29AUG2016.pdf](http://www.mehe.gov.lb/uploads/file/2016/Oct/RACE%20II_FINAL%20Narrative_29AUG2016.pdf)

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**Executive summary (copied):** The RACE II Strategy (2017-2021) is being developed at a key transitional moment for Lebanon. The Syrian Crisis shows little sign of abating and the impact of this inter-generational Crisis continues to echo around the region. The MEHE and Education Partners acknowledge that existing systemic resource and capacity gaps will continue to widen; thereby impacting access to, and the quality of, social and protective services for vulnerable children, youth, and their families. Substantial investments into the Lebanese education sector via RACE I has had noteworthy outcomes for children, both vulnerable Lebanese and non-Lebanese alike. Two significant successes stand out; first, that enrolment rates of Lebanese children into public school returned to pre-Crisis levels. Secondly, over 42% of (compulsory school-age) refugee children received a certified education despite significant documentation barriers. RACE II seeks to build on RACE I, envisaging now a more strategic approach to the education sector response, on the premise of a stabilization and development agenda through key strategic shifts. With an overarching vision for children and youth therefore, RACE II aims to contribute to furthering the equitable right to a quality and relevant education for all children and youth between 03-18 years of age in Lebanon, by addressing policy, systems, quality service-delivery and demand bottlenecks at the national, subnational and community levels. Based on mutual trust and respect, a financing and delivery compact will greatly increase the delivery of quality education services for children, and a transparent accounting of monies invested towards their future.

**Additional comments:** Ambitious but largely unimplemented policy, followed up with RACE II (see source below). Useful to situate research on education and refugee youth within the larger policy context in Lebanon.

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UNHCR (2016). *Missing Out: Refugee Education in Crisis* (Report). Beirut: UNHCR. 48 p. Retrieved from: [http://uis.unesco.org/sites/default/files/documents/missing-out-refugee-education-in-crisis\\_unhcr\\_2016-en.pdf](http://uis.unesco.org/sites/default/files/documents/missing-out-refugee-education-in-crisis_unhcr_2016-en.pdf)

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**Abstract (copied):** This report tells the stories of some of the world's six million refugee children and adolescents under UNHCR's mandate who are of primary and secondary school-going age between 5 and 17. In addition, it looks at the educational aspirations of refugee youth eager to continue learning after secondary education. Education data on refugee enrolments and population numbers is drawn from UNHCR's population database, reporting tools and education surveys. The data refers to the 2015-16 school year. The report also references global enrolment data from the UNESCO Institute for Statistics referring to 2014.

**Additional comments:** Good report looking at impact of education on youth.

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The Role of Host Communities Assisting Syrian Refugees in North Lebanon (2015). *Refugee Survey Quarterly*. Retrieved from: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/grx1evqet5uz0if/AAB2bMr7TKvmmGOAfAhpSQgva/Syrians/No%20Au.%20%282015%29.%20THE%20ROLE%20OF%20HOST%20COMMUNITIES%20ASSISTING%20SYRIAN%20REFUGEES%20IN%20NORTH%20LEBANON..pdf?dl=0>

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**Abstract (copied):** Lebanese host community support forms a substantial proportion of the assistance given to Syrian refugee populations in North Lebanon, alongside assistance from the UNHCR and other IOs, INGOs and NGOs. While the UNHCR has increasingly addressed the vulnerability of host communities as the crisis has evolved, the tensions within and between different levels of interaction, from the international, the national and the local, have impeded host community assistance being fully understood or built upon. This article will analyse how individual host community assistance towards Syrian refugee populations manifests itself in Akkar region in North Lebanon, describing how this displays tensions between short and long term policies towards refugees, using research conducted between January and June 2014. It will trace how attitudes towards the host communities have evolved as the Syrian refugee crisis has become more protracted, but nevertheless suggest that the new focus on 'resilience building' of host communities is underdeveloped. A more nuanced understanding of the role of host communities, which takes into consideration the benefits of refugee influx to local capacity building as well as increasing vulnerability, should be built upon

**Additional comments:** Useful analysis of host community-refugee community relations in Akkar, with recommendations to take into account when designing programmatic interventions and research, but not specifically focused on refugee youth.

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Sirin, S. R. and Rogers-sirin, L. (2015). *The Educational and Mental Health Needs of Syrian Refugee Children*. Washington, DC: Migration Policy Institute. 32 p. Retrieved from:  
<https://www.migrationpolicy.org/sites/default/files/publications/FCD-Sirin-Rogers-FINAL.pdf>.

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**Abstract (copied):** Syrian refugee children will likely need ongoing, targeted support to bridge the gaps in their education, attain fluency in their host country language, and deal with trauma and other mental health symptoms. Policymakers can take a number of steps to ensure these children access quality, tailored education and mental health services. These steps include: (1) providing culturally appropriate treatments (in consultation with Syrian professionals where possible) in a variety of settings like schools and health centers, (2) providing training to those working with Syrian refugee children to recognize and treat symptoms of trauma, and (3) helping children to embrace their new home and learn the host-country language without losing their ties to Syrian culture.

**Additional comments:** Study on children from birth to age 10 in refugee families, across a range of disciplines, including child development, psychology, sociology, health, education, and public policy. Discussion of best practices from other contexts ex. US NGO program with Somali refugees, for supporting refugee children. Programmatic recommendations. Gaps: focuses only on children, not youth; focus on resettlement trauma care, rather than protracted displacement; overall very general findings about the need for mental health and education services for children to prevent cycles of conflict and poverty.

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UN Habitat and AUB, Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs (IFI) (2015). *No Place to Stay? Reflections on the Syrian refugee Shelter Policy in Lebanon*. Beirut: UN Habitat; AUB. 86 p.  
Retrieved from:  
<https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/20150907-noplacetostay.pdf>

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**Abstract (copied):** In Lebanon, the question of hosting and ensuring protection for Syrian refugees in light of the government stance against the erection of camps has created many deliberations concerning different proposed and implemented shelter options and solutions. Among these solutions, the proposition of creating refugee camps has been subject to clearly opposing views. ii. The shelter issue becomes more compounded given the protracted nature of the refugee crisis and the repercussions

on Lebanon, which would necessitate long-term, feasible and contextualized solutions. iii. As such, UN-Habitat, in partnership with the American University of Beirut's (AUB) Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs (IFI), initiated a research study in July 2014 to address solutions for hosting and ensuring protection for refugees specifically on the subject of erecting camps to address the Syrian crisis. The study looked at the issue given the context of complex historic, political, socio-economic and governance conditions that are specific to Lebanon. The results of this research study are published in this report, which comes four years after the crisis, and benefits from the ability to reflect on the emergency response during the "stabilization" phase, which Lebanon has entered in the beginning of 2015. iv. This report supports and is designed to serve the collective aims of the Lebanese Crisis Response Plan (LCRP), to effectually approach the needs of the Syrian refugee community, one of the most vulnerable populations in Lebanon. The LCRP, formulated by the Lebanese government in partnership with United Nations (UN) agencies and various international organizations (IOs) and international and local non-governmental organizations (NGOs), aims to strengthen the implementation of the refugee response, building on lessons learned over the last few years. This report reflects the emerging challenges to shelter options in Lebanon, while highlighting the complex realities on the ground with respect to the shelter response and all of the respective parties involved. vi. The report aims to provide concerned actors (governmental institutions, IOs, local authorities and NGOs) with some tools to make informed decisions and enact effective policies that apply in Lebanon. Furthermore, this report contributes to the academic literature pertaining to the case of establishing camps for Syrian refugees in Lebanon and response to the need for research and analysis on the subject. More importantly, and based on the evidence collected from extensive fieldwork, interviews and focus group discussions conducted for this study, the report provides recommendations for viable and realistic shelter responses.

**Additional comments:** Important contribution to understanding of protection and security for refugee communities in Lebanon, but not specifically focused on refugee youth.

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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. Retrieved from: [https://www.daleel-madani.org/sites/default/files/Resources/ANERA\\_Youth%20at%20Risk%20in%20Lebanon-Final.pdf](https://www.daleel-madani.org/sites/default/files/Resources/ANERA_Youth%20at%20Risk%20in%20Lebanon-Final.pdf)

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**Abstract (copied):** 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.

**Additional comments:** Good study that is based on qualitative work, so not representative.

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Lebanon, Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) (2014). *Reaching all Children with Education in Lebanon R.A.C.E.* Beirut: MEHE. 63 p. Retrieved from: <http://www.mehe.gov.lb/uploads/file/2015/Feb2015/Projects/RACEfinalEnglish2.pdf>

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**Abstract (copied):** In 2013 UN agencies and development partners, with the support of the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) and led by the Government of Lebanon (GoL), specifically the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE), committed to doing more to meet the acute and immediate education needs of Syrian refugee and Lebanese vulnerable children. They agreed to develop an expanded and well-coordinated three-year Programme for response, building on existing initiatives and providing a framework for bringing the immediate emergency and longer term development efforts together, while strengthening the Lebanese public sector to address the crisis and improve and sustain its provision of quality education for vulnerable children. Increased funding, with greater predictability, will open up opportunities for strengthening implementation capacity and reaching significantly larger numbers of children, and will enable the GoL and development partners to engage in a more strategic education approach to the Syria crisis with a focus on building the overall resilience of the system. The overall objective is to ensure that vulnerable school-aged children (3-18 years), affected by the Syria crisis, are able to access quality formal and non-formal learning opportunities in safe and protective environments. More specifically, the Programme aims at ensuring equitable access to educational opportunities, improving the quality of teaching and learning, and strengthening national education systems, policies and monitoring. The Programme is costed at US\$634 million. Non Formal learning is meant to be transitional in order to allow for Syrian students to enter the formal education system.

**Additional comments:** Ambitious but largely unimplemented policy, followed up with RACE II (see source below). Useful to situate research on education and refugee youth within the larger policy context in Lebanon.



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Mercy Corps (June 2014). *Advancing Adolescence: Getting Syrian Refugees and Host-Community Adolescents Back on Track* (Report).

Oregon: Mercy Corps. 23 p. Retrieved from:

[https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/MercyCorps\\_AdvancingAdolescenceAssessment\\_March2014.pdf](https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/MercyCorps_AdvancingAdolescenceAssessment_March2014.pdf).

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**Abstract (copied):** Mercy Corps believes that in addition to children, adolescents aged 12-18 represent a critical cohort who warrants particular attention and investment. In order to move societies out of extreme poverty – an estimated 170,000 local people have been pushed into poverty in Lebanon as a result of the Syrian conflict – we must marshal the full potential of societies, including adolescents and youth.<sup>5</sup> Out of 1.1 million Syrian refugee children under age 18 living outside of Syria, nearly one in every three are between the ages of 12 and 18.<sup>6</sup> Adolescents are largely missing out on psychosocial support, education and skills building programs as they are increasingly either forced to stay indoors for their safety — the case for many adolescent girls - or to work to help provide income for the family — the case for many adolescent boys. Adolescents will also be first among the generation of children affected by the Syrian conflict to be called upon to help mend torn social fabric and rebuild broken economies. In an effort to fill gaps in action-oriented research on Syrian adolescents and their host-community peers, Mercy Corps conducted 16 focus group discussions in Jordan and Lebanon with over 150 adolescents in January and February 2014. Based on those discussions, this report details findings and presents recommendations that should guide investments in future-oriented strategies to facilitate and improve adolescent well-being and critical development skills for adolescents.

**Additional Comments:** This is a good report highlighting the challenges and opportunities facing adolescents in host countries; recommendations for programming, approaches, and further community engagement.

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UNHCR (2014). *Syrian Refugee Situation Analysis of Youth in Lebanon*

(Report). Beirut: UNHCR. 9 p. Retrieved from:

<https://data2.unhcr.org/ar/documents/download/41752>

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**Abstract (copied):** The impact of the humanitarian situation in Lebanon is affecting both the refugee and host population but mostly youth aged 15-24 years. It has imposed on youth the role of adults at an early age. The Situation Analysis of Youth in Lebanon Affected by the Syrian Crisis 2014 was initiated and led by UNFPA with the support of partner agencies. It is the product of collaboration between the research team, international and civil society organizations, as well as Syria refugees and Lebanese host communities between September and December 2013. The analysis provided: A holistic understanding of the situation and vulnerabilities of Syrian refugee youth in Lebanon; An analysis of the relationships between Syrian refugees youth and

Lebanese in host communities; Refugee youth concerns and perspectives; Gaps that can be addressed by specific stakeholders as well as precise recommendations as basis for the way forward.

**Additional comments:** A good study that can be built on, but needs updating as it is out of date as a lot of additional migration flows happened since 2014. This study shows the results from a survey questionnaire covering a random sample of 985 Syrian refugee youths; Focus group discussions with 135 Syrian refugee youths and 83 Lebanese youths; Interviews with 53 key Lebanese and Syrian stakeholders.

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Watenpaugh, K. D., Fricke, A. L. and King, J. R. (2014). *The War Follows them: Syrian University Students and Scholars in Lebanon* (Report). New York: Institute of International Education. 40 p. Retrieved from: <http://www.scholarrescuefund.org/sites/default/files/pdf-articles/the-war-follows-them-syrian-university-students-scholars-in-lebanon.pdf>

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**Abstract (copied):** In this report, the Institute of International Education (IIE) and its Syria Consortium for Higher Education in Crisis explore the conditions and educational needs of Syrian university students and scholars in Lebanon. According to the report, the overwhelming majority of Syrian university-age students in Lebanon, especially Syrian young women, are not continuing any form of higher education or advanced training; in addition, many are facing continued security concerns, as well as popular and official discrimination.

**Additional comments:** Interesting study as a baseline but it would be good to see how this evolved until 2018, and explore more in detail as to what other outlets are Syrian youth using if not higher education.

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Charles, L and Denman, K. (December 2013). Syrian and Palestinian Syrian Refugees in Lebanon: the Plight of Women and Children. *Journal of International Women's Studies* 14(5), 95-111. Retrieved from: <https://vc.bridgew.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?referer=https://scholar.google.com/&httpsredir=1&article=1729&context=jiws>

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**Abstract (copied):** This paper exposes and discusses children's access to education in Lebanon and the short and long-term effects of children forgoing education, both as economic setbacks, the lack of educated people to rebuild Syria and how education is linked to a reduction in violence against women. It will further discuss the shift in the violence that women and children are exposed to, highlighting the increase in violence that they are experiencing. The main forms of violence are manifesting in Intimate Partner Violence, early marriage, survival sex, and the threat and fear of violence from the local community.

**Relevant Quote:** “The future reconstruction of Syria rests in the hands of its youth and without education, development will be hindered.” (p. 100)

**Additional comments:** Highlights the importance of empowering youth with education and skills not only from rights-based approaches but also for their role as the human capital in the future of their country. Can be used as a background study to devise policy and to better design programming. Slightly outdated as it was in 2013.

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*The Psychosocial Conditions of Syrian Refugee And Vulnerable Lebanese Children Amid A Precarious Future* (n. d.). Retrieved from: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/grx1evqet5uz0if/AABVsoPtE2u1qaph3vW0ITvha/Syrians/No%20Au%20%28No%20date%29.%20The%20Psychosocial%20Condition%20Of%20Syrian%20Refugee%20And%20Vulnerable%20Lebanese%20Children%20Amid%20A%20Precarious%20Future..docx?dl=0>

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**Abstract (copied):** This study investigates the psychosocial conditions of Syrian refugee and vulnerable Lebanese children in public schools in Lebanon, and the sources of stressors experienced by refugees. The Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) was conducted with Syrian and Lebanese children and their parents. Interviews with teachers, school counsellors and principals were carried out. The study found that both poverty and war played an equal role in affecting children’s emotional wellbeing as Syrian and Lebanese children manifested similar levels of anxiety and hyperactivity. Moreover, three types of stressors were identified amongst refugees: past, present and future. The paper critiques the emphasis of psycho-social intervention paradigms on past and present trauma while overlooking future stressors. It argues that the psychosocial conditions of refugees are interpreted in isolation of refugees’ subordinated social status and the local injustices in Lebanon predating to Syrian war which heavily affects their emotional wellbeing.

**Additional comments:** Overview of psychological trauma and impact for both Syrian and Lebanese children; no direct focus on youth, but it does provide important framing for psychosocial challenges that youth are also facing or have faced.