Gender in the 2017 Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon

The Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon (VASyR) is an annual survey assessing the situation of Syrian refugee households in Lebanon, to identify situational changes and trends. It was conducted for the fifth time in 2017, jointly by the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP). This dashboard provides disaggregated statistics relating to women and men in key areas assessed in the 2017 VASyR.

OVERALL VULNERABILITY

Female-headed households are still among the most vulnerable. They fared worse than male-headed households on nearly every indicator of vulnerability.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vulnerability of female-headed vs. male-headed families</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Severe and moderate food insecurity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crisis and emergency coping strategies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inadequate consumption</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High share expenditure for food (&gt;50%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Living below MEB (poverty)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Living below SMEB (extreme poverty)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No working household members</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Their greater vulnerability could be partly explained by the fact that 56% of female-headed households had no working members, compared to just 32% of male-headed households.

LEGAL RESIDENCY

Members of female-headed families were less likely to have legal residency.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Households with no members with legal residency, by gender of household head</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female Headed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CHILD LABOUR

5% of Syrian refugee children aged 5-17 years reported to be working (same as 2016 data). There was a higher percentage of child labour** among boys aged 5-17 years than among girls (7% vs. 2%).

**Working at least one day in the previous 30 days.

CHILD MARRIAGE

Girls were disproportionally affected by child marriage, defined as formal marriage or informal union before the age of 18 years. Some 22% of girls aged 15-19 were married, with 18% of them having spouses who are 10 or more years older than them.

DISABILITY

Men and boys are more likely than women and girls to have a disability.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disability by age and gender</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age 0-17 yrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SAFETY & SECURITY

The share of female-headed households experiencing insecurities (in the three-month period before the survey) was lower than that of male-headed households (2% vs. 4%).

POVERTY

The proportion of families living below the poverty line continues to increase. Poverty among female-headed households increased to 82%, and remains higher than for male-headed households (75%).

However, female-headed households were less indebted (32%) in 2017 than those headed by males (46%).

SCHOOL ENROLMENT

The proportion of boys to girls enrolled in school decreases as they get older. Boys are more likely to leave school early to start work.

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Prepared by the Inter-Agency Coordination Unit - UNHCR

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**YOUTH EDUCATION**

Youth aged 15-24 years who are out-of-school can attend education, literacy or skills training programmes. Of the 2% of youth aged 15-24 attending technical vocational education and training, the percentage of female youth was also higher than of males.

**HOUSEHOLD HEAD EDUCATION**

Female heads of household were consistently less well-educated than male heads of household.

**SHELTER**

Female-headed households are almost twice as likely as male-headed households to live in informal settlements (26% vs. 15%), and are less likely to live in residential buildings (62% vs. 76%).

**LIVELIHOODS**

More than half (56%) of female-headed households did not have any working members, compared to 32% of male-headed households. The vast majority (88%) of working men were considered the primary breadwinner of the household, compared to 57% of working women. Few women are working afternoon and night shifts.

**Working age men and women (15-64 years) employed or seeking employment**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seeking employment</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>12.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employed</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>53.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not active in labour force</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>7.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reasons for not working, by gender

- Have dependent children: 25% (Male), 21% (Female)
- Have dependent family members: 19% (Male), 19% (Female)
- Absence of employment opportunities: 17% (Male), 17% (Female)
- Lack of skills and/or experience: 15% (Male), 7% (Female)
- Medical condition or injury: 7% (Male), 7% (Female)
- Cultural reasons: 29% (Male), 24% (Female)

For both men and women, having dependent family members or children was a primary reason for not working. Women were much more likely to not work for cultural reasons, while men were twice as likely to not work due to medical condition or injury. The absence of employment opportunities also affected men much more than women.

**Days worked and pay for working adults, by gender**

- Average days worked per month: Female - 13 days, Male - 14 days
- Average monthly income: Female - $158, Male - $206

Women and men are involved in different economic activities:

**Areas of work for females (15-64 yrs)**

- Construction: 55%
- Services: 5%
- Professional activities: 3%
- Wholesale and retail sale: 3%
- Other: 19%

**Areas of work for males (15-64 yrs)**

- Construction: 33%
- Agriculture: 16%
- Manufacturing: 19%
- Professional activities: 7%
- Other: 16%