



Funded by
the European Union



Community Perceptions Report

01 March – 31 May 2024

we'am
Working for
Engagement,
Acceptance
and Mediation



RIGHT TO PLAY
PROTECT. EDUCATE. EMPOWER.



act for human rights



OXFAM
أوكسفام

Disclaimer

This report was produced by ALEF – act for human rights in partnership with Oxfam, SHiFT, and Right to Play under the WE'AM project (Working for Engagement, Acceptance and Mediation) funded by the European Union. Its content is the sole responsibility of ALEF – act for human rights, Oxfam, SHiFT, and Right to Play, and does not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.

Table of Contents

1.Executive Summary	7
Community-led Recommendations	7
2.Background	9
Project	9
Community Perceptions Tracker (CPT)	10
Context	10
3.Detailed Data	13
Sources of Perception	13
Trends Identified	14
Concerns with Syrian Refugee Presence	14
Safety Concerns	16
Economic Struggles	17
Pollution	18
Perceptions in relation to Civil Society Organizations	18

1. Executive Summary

The perceptions collected during this quarter reflect the nationwide sense of insecurity and instability. There is prominent division of public opinion regarding Syrian refugees, but the majority perceives their presence in Lebanon as a threat to social, economic, and political stability. The widening of the scope of Israel's targets on South Lebanon and the Beqaa, and the general sense of lack of security in Lebanon has heightened safety concerns. Most notably, Syrian refugees are also feeling anxious and afraid of deportation as the government has imposed additional severe restrictions on them and conducted multiple raids which resulted in the deportation of many refugees. Gender Based Violence was an additional security concern for women,. Economic hardships facing Lebanese further exacerbate the situation as individuals struggle to secure their basic needs including food, and shelter. Consequently, children of all nationalities are being forced into labor to financially assist their parents. Additionally, Lebanese people stressed the need for law enforcement to feel secure and safe.

Community-led Recommendations

To Civil Society and UN agencies:

- Share regularly detailed reports and updates on aid distribution, showing how resources are allocated to both Syrian refugees and the host community. Use clear and accessible language to explain the criteria for aid reception, and the processes to increase transparency.
- Launch educational campaigns that provide accurate information about the contributions of Syrian refugees in Lebanon, dispel myths, and promote positive communication between the host community and Syrian refugees.

To Local Authorities:

- Collaborate with CSOs and GoL to create an effective mechanism at the national-level for the renewal or creation of legal documentation at the local level for Syrian refugees.
- Immediately halt unfair forced and evictions and deportations without due process.

- Understand the negative repercussions arbitrary acts against Syrian refugees have on the government and the breaching of international laws, including damages to the country's reputation in the international arena.

To GoL:

- Focus on strengthening security across various Lebanese cities to impose law and order in all areas in response to the increasing theft and violence rates, while maintaining a strong commitment to protection measures, the respect of human rights, international law, and non-refoulement.

To EU and other Programs:

- Prioritize funding for initiatives that encourage positive and violence-free dialogue between Syrians and Lebanese communities.
- Focus on youth led initiatives that address communal issues and allow youngsters to contribute to their communities. Promote vocational activities that will steer them away from drug abuse and criminal behavior.
- Fund parental and children awareness programs on the dangers of child labor, and the importance of education.
- Allocate resources to CSOs to organize workshops for both parents and children that focus on digital literacy, responsible social media use, and strategies to deal with cyberbullying.

2. Background

Project

ALEF – act for human rights is implementing the WE'AM project (Working for Engagement, Acceptance and Mediation), funded by the EU and led by OXFAM, and which aim is to contribute to a people-centered recovery of Lebanon, in line with 3RF and particularly its Pillar 3 that supports a socially cohesive environment. Considering the multi-layered crisis and societal divisions in the country, the project aims at focusing on three key dimensions: drivers of tensions at the community level; conflict prevention processes and awareness raising; mainstreaming of community level social cohesion into programming, with particular focus on the EU. The project multi-stakeholder participatory approach helps build consensus among civil society, community groups, religious leaders, political, media, and private sector actors, and donor community and the wider audience, and produces recommendations to mainstream social cohesion into EU community-based development programs.

As part of the project, the Working Group for People Affected by the Syrian Crisis (WG PASC), a network of 32 local CSOs facilitated by ALEF, has been collecting timely community perceptions on social tensions, and on the reform processes Lebanon is expected to undertake to address the crisis, using Oxfam's Community Perception Tracker (CPT) approach to capture, analyze, and understand the perceptions of communities in the 6 areas prioritized by the consortium (Beirut, Tripoli, Akkar, Baalbek, Saida and Barja). PASC's usage of the CPT has focused on monitoring social tensions and sentiments of people around the reform processes and its application, through the network's regular day-to-day engagement and programming. This has been allowing for the tracking of the perceptions of not only crisis-affected communities, but also local service providers, local authorities, wider civil society and UN agencies' staff, and other community groups, on an ongoing basis. PASC members have been collecting perceptions during their day-to-day activities, which in some instances might affect the data collected. For example, a number of PASC organizations work on countering GBV and others work with Syrian refugees. The context of their activities is thus bound to influence perceptions whether directly or indirectly.

To further understand drivers and triggers of social tensions at the national level and the impact of the reform process and its connection to social cohesion, ALEF has been analyzing on quarterly basis the perceptions (qualitative data) collected by PASC using the CPT against incidents, news reports, and other secondary sources to produce quarterly perception reports around social tensions and the reform process. ALEF has been conducting monthly meetings

with PASC members using the CPT, in order to discuss any observations, recurrent trends, and potential improvements to the process. Additionally, the findings and recommendations of this report have been validated with PASC and project partners, in order to ensure that the findings are in accordance with observations from the field.

This community perceptions report is the third of the series and covers the period between 01 March and 31 May 2024.

Community Perceptions Tracker (CPT)

The CPT utilizes a mobile tool to gather community perceptions during crises, aiding organizations in understanding the beliefs and perceptions of affected communities. Its goal is to give crisis-affected communities the opportunity to shape programs and policies that could potentially impact their lives and contribute to bottom-up change.

Context

The period spanning March 2024 through May 2024 witnessed a severe widening of the scope and intensity of the attacks further affecting community livelihoods in the south, destabilizing the political situation, and hindering municipal elections. This is articulated in key events:

During this period, **Israel's targeting of civilians and civilian infrastructure intensified instilling fear in the local community, and caused regular obstructions in accessing basic services.** As of May 28, the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) recorded 375 deaths, of which 88 are civilians.¹ In fact, on March 3, Israeli strikes targeted a medical center in Odaisseh which killed 3 medical works,² and, on March 27, it targeted the Islamic Medical Association center in Hebbariyeh resulting in the death of 7 paramedics.³ As of April 18, 72 schools – public and private – in Southern Lebanon were partially or fully closed impacting around 20,000 children.⁴ Additionally, the southern districts of Marjayoun, Bent Jbeil, Tyre and Hasbaya persistently experience significant deficiencies in the provision of essential services, notably in healthcare, education, electricity, and the availability of fuel due to intense attacks on these areas. **The scope of the targets further widened and became more repetitive, especially in Baalbek and its neighboring cities.** March 11 marked the second targeting of Baalbek since October 8 with Israel conducting multiple raids on the city.⁵ This became more frequent in April and May; Israel was repetitively hitting cities such as Boudai, and Sariin on the outskirts of Baalbek.⁶

1 Relief Web (2024, May 29). Lebanon Flash Update #19: Escalation of Hostilities in South Lebanon, as of 29 May. Retrieved from: <https://reliefweb.int/report/lebanon/lebanon-flash-update-19-escalation-hostilities-south-lebanon-29-may-2024>

2 Ibid.

3 Al Shareq al Awsat (2024, March 27). 7 killed in Israeli Strike on Southern Lebanon, Hezbollah retaliates. Retrieved from: <https://english.aawsat.com/arab-world/4934721-7-killed-israeli-strike-southern-lebanon-hezbollah-retaliates>

4 Relief Web (2024, April 23). Lebanon: Flash Update #16 - Escalation of hostilities in south Lebanon, 18 April 2024. Retrieved from: <https://reliefweb.int/report/lebanon/lebanon-flash-update-16-escalation-hostilities-south-lebanon-18-april-2024>

5 The National News (2024, March 12). Two killed in Lebanon in less than 24 hours as Israeli airstrikes on Baalbek intensify. Retrieved from: <https://www.thenationalnews.com/mena/lebanon/2024/03/12/hezbollah-fires-more-than-100-rockets-into-israel-in-response-to-air-raids-on-baalbek/>

6 NaharNet (2024, April 14). Israel strikes Baalbek district, Iqlim al-Tuffah after Hezbollah attacks Golan twice. Retrieved from: <https://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/304551-israel-strikes-baalbek-district-iqlim-al-tuffah-after-hezbollah-attacks-golan-twice>

The regional tension escalated and spread fear among Lebanese as the prospect of war became increasingly tangible. This was heightened by Iran's attack on Israel on April 14, leading to the closure of airports and halting of air traffic.⁷ Lebanese across various cities reported seeing missiles and hearing bombings, heightening their fear.⁸ In retaliation, Israel's intensified its strikes in South Lebanon as several missiles were fired on Iqlim al Touffah and al Khiyam injuring several civilians.⁹

In an attempt to increase security and safety in the Beirut Southern Suburb, Ashrafieh and Baabda, the ISF implemented the first stage of their security plan from May 15 until May 27.¹⁰ **The goal was to impose order, prevent crimes, and catch wanted individuals to protect citizens.**¹¹ This is because statistics showed that illegal vehicles are most likely being used to commit crimes. Therefore, the ISF started implementing this plan after Lebanese individuals asked for it.¹²

On another front, **the discourse advocating for the return of Syrian refugees increased with local authorities taking drastic measures to expedite this return.** The kidnapping and killing of Pascale Suleiman, whose body was found in Syria on April 9,¹³ exacerbated the calls for the refugees' return, especially since 2 Syrian suspects were involved. Suleiman was the Lebanese Forces coordinator in the Jbeil district. Between May 13 and 16, the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) conducted numerous raids on Syrian refugees in Beqaa and Zahle and this resulted in the arrest of 6 Syrian refugees, and the deportation of over a 100.¹⁴ Additionally and following the North governor's announcement,¹⁵ a campaign to remove 'illegal Syrian presence' from Koura and its region started which led to forced evictions and dismantling of camps and collective shelters including Al Waha camp in Deddah housing 1500 Syrian refugees who were evicted and forced to seek shelter elsewhere.¹⁶ In addition, local authorities closed several Syrian-led businesses across Lebanon.¹⁷ Nevertheless, this backlash was not limited to local authorities as **Lebanese citizens' contempt of Syrians increased and was articulated in intense violence against refugees.** In fact, on April 11 a Syrian individual was severely beaten by two Lebanese

7 Naharnet (2024, April 14). Lebanese report seeing missiles in the sky from Iran's attack on Israel. Retrieved from: <https://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/304550-lebanese-report-seeing-missiles-in-the-sky-from-iran-s-attack-on-israel>

8 Ibid.

9 Al Nahar (2024, April 14). Escalation of clashes in the South amidst the regional attack on Israel...Violent strikes on Iqlim al Toufah and Hezbollah attacks al Joulan. Retrieved from: Al nahar

10 This Is Lebanon (2024, June 1). The security plan was successful...Crime Rate reduced, and arrests rate increased. Retrieved from: <https://www.thisislebanon.com/lebanon/334073/>

11 Ibid.

12 L'Orient Today (2024, 22 May). New ISF security plan ignites controversy in Beirut. Retrieved from: <https://today.lorientlejour.com/article/1414413/new-isf-security-plan-ignites-controversy-in-beirut.html>

13 NaharNet (2024, April 8). Army says LF official killed during an attempt to steal his car. Body taken to Syria. Retrieved from: <https://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/304462-army-says-lf-official-killed-during-attempt-to-steal-his-car-body-taken-to-syria>

14 Access Center For Human Rights (2024, May 20). Refugees' Weekly News. Retrieved from: https://www.instagram.com/p/C7MIY5XKKoh/?hl=en&img_index=6

15 Elnashra News Website (2024, May 8). Governor of North Lebanon: We ask the Syrian violators to leave when asked, because we will deport them by force if necessary. Retrieved from: <https://www.elnashra.com/news/show/1667636/محافظة-لبنان-الشمالي-تطلب-المخالفين-السوريين-يغادرو>

16 Elnashra News Website (2024, May 23). Al-Masih on the decision to evacuate Al-Waha camp for displaced people in Deddah: The State decisions are stronger than UNHCR's directives. Retrieved from: <https://www.elnashra.com/news/show/1669781/عبد-المسيح-إخلاء-مخيم-الواحة-للمنازحين-دده-قرارات-ا>

17 961 website (2024, May 14). 500+ Syrian Businesses Illegally Operating In Lebanon Were Just Shut Down. Retrieved from: <https://www.the961.com/500-syrian-businesses-illegally-operating/>

men;¹⁸ on May 23, a Syrian individual, in Tripoli, was assaulted, struck on the head with a gun, shot in the leg, and subsequently robbed.¹⁹ Moreover, in Bourj Hammoud, Lebanese individuals threatened Syrians to evacuate their homes and shops within a specific period, and many have been violently beating Syrians.²⁰

Further destabilizing the situation is the **ongoing presidential vacancy, and the inability of MPs to elect a president that all political groups could agree upon**. Discourse among political parties is creating tensions as the Lebanese Forces leader, Samir Geagea, accused Hezbollah of using dialogue to block elections.²¹ Additionally and even though Bassam Mawlawi, the minister of Interior and Municipalities, assured that the municipal elections were going to take place between May 12 and 26,²² they were subsequently postponed for the third time due to the war in the South.²³

18 Al Arabiya (2024, April 11). "Leave the country, you've been warned" A video of Lebanese people attacking a Syrian individual. Retrieved from: <https://www.alarabiya.net/social-media/2024/04/11/ذنبه-أنه-سوري-عاد-لمنزله-بهدايا-العيد-فأشبعه-لبنانيون-ضربا>

19 ThisisLebanon (2024 May 23). In Tripoli. He was beaten and robbed in front of his two daughters. Retrieved from: Here is Lebanon in Tripoli. He was beaten and robbed in front of his two daughters (thisislebanon.com)

20 Arabic RT (2024, April 19). A major clash between Lebanese and Syrians...the Lebanese Army intervenes. Retrieved from: <https://arabic.rt.com/world/1557897-إشكال-كبير-بين-لبنانيين-وسوريين-في-بيروت-والجيش-اللبناني-يتدخل-فيديو>

21 L'Orient Today (2024, March 21). Geagea accuses Hezbollah of using dialogue to block elections. Retrieved from: <https://today.lorientlejour.com/article/1372187/geagea-accuses-hezbollah-of-using-dialogue-to-block-elections.html>

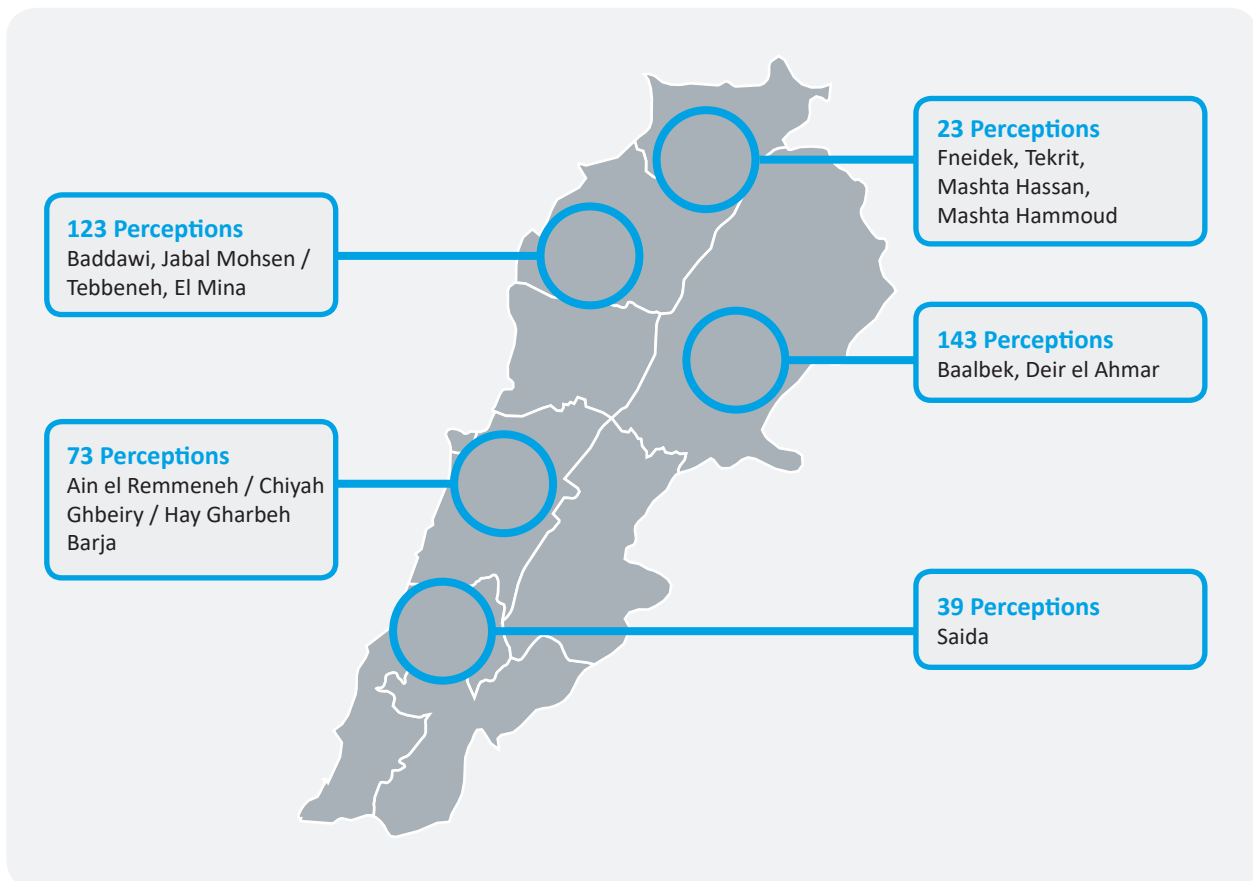
22 L'Orient Today (2024, March 6). Mawlawi: Municipal elections to be held between May 12 and 26. Retrieved from: <https://today.lorientlejour.com/article/1370552/mawlawi-municipal-elections-to-be-held-between-may-12-and-26.html>

23 NaharNet (2024, April 25). Parliament postpones local elections again as violence rocks south. Retrieved from: <https://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/304817-parliament-postpones-local-elections-again-as-violence-rocks-south>

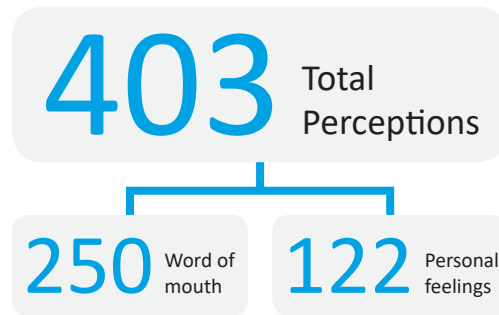
3. Detailed Data

Sources of Perception

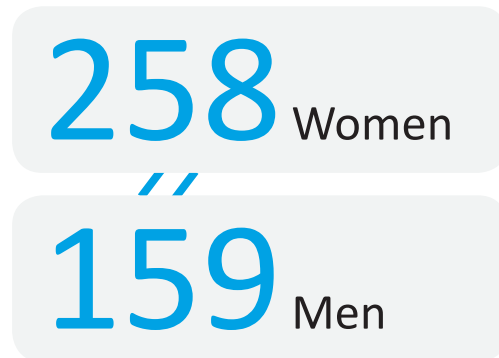
The CPT covers six key regions in Lebanon – Tripoli, Akkar, Beirut, South, Mount Lebanon, and Baalbek-El Hermel – each of which has specific areas of focus. In Tripoli, the project’s attention centers on Baddawi, Jabal Mohsen/Tebbeneh, and El Mina. Akkar’s focus includes Fneidek, Tekrit, Mashta Hassan/Mashta Hammoud. The project’s focus in Beirut lies in Ain el Remmeneh/Chiyah, and Hay el Gharbeh/Ghbeiry. Saida is the central focus in the South, Barja in Mount Lebanon, and Baalbek City and Deir El Ahmar in Baalbek-el Hermel.



In the fourth quarter of the project, spanning March through May 2024, a total of 403 perceptions were collected. The primary sources of information that influenced or shaped the perceptions collected were word of mouth, based on what the community around is saying (250), and personal feelings, based on one's own beliefs (122).



The majority of perceptions, amounting to 258, collected came from women, while 159 perceptions were collected from men. Notably, 36 participants identified facing difficulties in areas such as hearing, seeing, mobility, remembering/concentrating, communication, and self-care, while the majority reported no disabilities. Geographically, 143 perceptions were from Baalback-el Hermel, 123 from the North, 23 from Akkar, 57 from Mount Lebanon, 39 from the South, and 16 from Beirut.



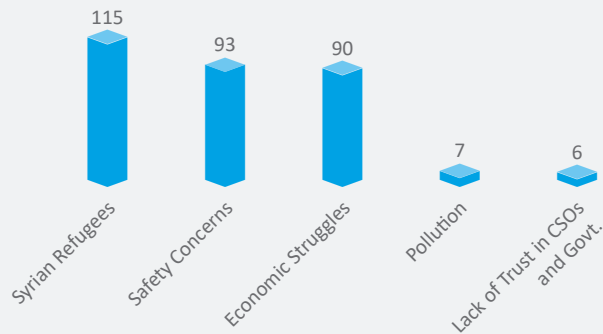
Trends Identified

An important observation from this quarter's findings is the substantial influence of the local context and community discourse on individuals' attitudes, views, and perceptions towards drivers of tensions. This is evident by the fact that 250 perceptions stem from word of mouth.

Concerns with Syrian Refugee Presence

In the context of increased focus on Syrian refugees, their presence and its impact on Lebanon, perceptions towards Syrian refugees emerged as the most frequently cited trends expressed in 115 perceptions out of the 403. These perceptions were predominantly negative, driven by several key concerns. Twelve perceptions articulate the concern associated with the big number of Syrian refugees present in Lebanon, which many believe now surpasses the Lebanese population. This perception of a demographic shift fuels fear of becoming a minority in one's own country, exacerbated by the perception that Syrians have higher birth rates and. Safety is another source of concern, as perceptions often associate Syrians with criminal activities and behaviors that destabilize the already fragile social fabric. These perceptions contribute to widespread stigmatization and hate speech against Syrian refugees. Many Lebanese harbor feelings of animosity, blaming the refugees for every crisis that Lebanon is currently going through: economic breakdown, unstable social environment, and lack of security are all attributed to the presence of Syrian refugees, shown in 69 perceptions. There is a prevalent narrative that life in Lebanon was significantly better before the arrival of Syrians in 2011. This shows how Lebanese individuals tend to externalize conflict and constantly shift the blame to an outside source. This indeed reflects the multilayered nature of conflicts within the Lebanese community and thus requires a complex understanding of the context in programs focused on social cohesion, conflict management, and peacebuilding.

TRENDS



“Before the war in Syria we were all coexisting peacefully, Christians and Muslims, Sunni and Shiaa” (Woman, adult, Baalbek).

“Syrians have become a majority, wherever you go you find them” (Man, adult, Ghbeiry/Hay Gharbeh).

Additionally, the CPT shows that Lebanese citizens believe that Syrians are taking job opportunities away from them, which has forced many Lebanese youth to emigrate in search of employment, shown in 3 perceptions. This economic strain is further exacerbated by the 2 perceptions claiming that Syrian refugees receive disproportionate aid, in comparison to that received by Lebanese, from Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), despite not being in genuine need.

“Lebanese people are the only ones with more expatriates than the local population, and this is all because of unemployment caused by the presence of Syrian refugees” (Woman, adult, Baalbek).

Significantly, amid these predominantly negative sentiments, 13 perceptions show the positive sentiments Lebanese have towards Syrian refugees, noting that they have Syrian friends who are kind and loyal. They also recognize that refugees contribute to the economy by taking jobs that Lebanese citizens are unwilling to do, which helps sustain certain sectors of the labor market. All perceptions in relation to Syrian refugees witnessed an increase from 26 perceptions in March to 51 perceptions in April, which followed the death of Pascale Suleimani and the multiple campaigns against Syrian refugees. The perceptions show that the increased security concern in relation to the presence of Syrians has trumped concerns on resources and livelihoods during this quarter.

“As a manufactory owner, Syrian refugees form 70% of our employees and this has increased profit. There are benefits for the both of us” (Man, adult, Ain el Remmeneh/Chiyah).

Safety Concerns

Safety concerns are the second most cited trend during this quarter expressed in 93 perceptions. Gender Based Violence (GBV) is a significant concern, as articulated in 25 perceptions, with many women experiencing both physical and mental abuse, and being forced into early marriages. The majority of these perceptions originated from Lebanese individuals, totaling 14 perceptions. This was followed by Syrian individuals with 9 perceptions, and finally 2 perceptions came from Palestinians. Alarming, 3 perceptions related to GBV show a widespread misconception stemming from women who believe they deserve this abuse. This highlights the multilayered GBV that women face in patriarchal communities. Additionally, 11 perceptions express concerns regarding a full-scale war outbreak, particularly with the intensification of the South Lebanon situation. This combined with the lack of gun control exacerbates the sense of insecurity and unsafety in the streets due to the irresponsible usage of firearms and stray bullets hitting and injuring individuals – showcased in 4 perceptions. The CPT also shows in 11 perceptions that increased theft further heightens this sense of insecurity and hinders individuals' willingness to go out. Drug use, especially among young individuals, is another safety concern, articulated in 2 perceptions, and is often linked to the use of social media and the absence of youth initiatives or activities to occupy their time. Social media is also another contributor to issues of cyberbullying and cyber-violence, expressed in 5 perceptions, affecting young individuals and leaving parents feeling helpless to protect their children.

“Us girls if we experienced any sort of abuse, and we told our mothers, they would tell us to shut up and never tell anyone” (Woman, young, Jabal Mohsen/Tebbeh).

“There is no security, the possibility of war has increased which makes us really anxious. We barely have any basic services provided for us, and we can't sleep peacefully anymore” (Woman, adult, Ain el Remmeneh/Chiyah).

“My nephew came from work and parked his motorcycle in the building's parking lot. He came down and did not find it, they stole it. He suspects that it's someone from his neighborhood, and he swears if they ever catch him, he will shoot him in his legs to teach him a lesson” (Man, adult, Jabal Mohsen/Tebbeh).

The perceived lack of governmental presence, law, and order compound these safety concerns, as 8 perceptions highlight the inability of the government or local authorities to fulfill their duties and protect their citizens. In fact, this lack of order has led one participant in the CPT to urge the Internal Security Forces (ISF) to extend their security plan beyond the Beirut Southern Suburb, as people need to feel secure – which they are doing through any means possible including the possession of illegal arms.

“We ask of the ISF to do what they implemented in Dahye. Let them do checkpoints here, and confiscate motorcycle and impose the law” (Man, young, Jabal Mohsen/Tebbeh).

“In the absence of government, and the current lack of security, people's safety is their own responsibility” (Man, adult, Barja).

Moreover, Syrian refugees have expressed significant concerns related to their safety in 33 perceptions, amidst the widespread hate speech and threats of deportation. In fact, these concerns increased from 10 in April to reach 23 in May after local authorities implemented their regulations. These refugees face numerous restrictions and challenges in renewing their legal statuses, leaving many without proper documentation, portrayed in 6 perceptions. In addition, they are being forcefully evicted from their homes in certain areas, and are forcefully displaced to other areas, especially in Tripoli. This internal displacement, mentioned in 2 perceptions, is instilling concerns among inhabitants who do not believe their areas can welcome a bigger number of refugees. Furthermore, 2 perceptions in the CPT show that this increased scrutiny is also impacting Palestinian refugees, who experience similar stigmatization and regulatory challenges.

“We are being bullied, Lebanese individuals are following us and hitting our children. They are kicking us out of here” (Syrian Woman, adult, Fneidek).

“I have been trying to renew my legal residency for the past 4 months, but I am not being able to, it’s impossible to meet the requirements they put. They do not want us to have legal papers” (Syrian Man, young, Baddawi).

Economic Struggles

Economic struggles were the third prominent trend in the CPT, as participants expressed their inability to sustain themselves amidst these challenging times shown in 90 perceptions out of 403. Forty-five perceptions showcase the incapacity of individuals to meet basic needs such as food, utilities, services, and school enrollment. This was particularly pronounced during the month of Ramadan: participants in the CPT said they struggle to provide food each night and cannot afford new clothes for their children for Eid, a celebration typically focused on children’s joy. These difficulties are exacerbated by the high cost of living and low incomes, expressed in 7 perceptions, leading to increased unemployment and further reducing individuals’ ability to sustain themselves. Due to this pervasive poverty, 3 perceptions show the rise in child labor, with many children forgoing education to help support their families financially. Thus, they are being denied their rights as children, and most prominently their right to education. These strains also impose significant psychological pressures on individuals as they grapple with the challenges of making ends meet with the ongoing safety concerns. Notably, there are 2 perceptions that highlight the hypocrisy in the communities as people always complain about the economic situation and yet restaurants are always full.

“We are not being able to have food for Ramadan. We live on soups, and what the neighbors give us” (Woman, adult, Saida).

“We are forcing our children to work instead of putting them in schools to assist us financially” (Woman, adult, Saida).

Pollution

Eminent pollution is an additional significant concern in the community, as shown in 7 perceptions, primarily driven by inadequate waste management and poor sewage systems. The improper disposal of waste, expressed in 2 perceptions, has led to the spread of viruses and proliferation of unusual insects, posing health risks. The combination of poor waste and sewage management has impacted agricultural lands, especially in Baalbek – el Hermel area.

“There is trash everywhere on the streets, and this is causing diseases we cannot afford to treat” (Woman, adult, Saida).

Perceptions in Relation to Civil Society Organizations

On the other hand, 6 perceptions articulate the imminent lack of trust in Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) among the CPT participants. This is attributed to the fact that the population is not feeling the impact of CSOs’ work, and they do not see the money funded being used to the benefit of the locals. Additionally, Lebanese individuals perceive CSOs to prioritize Syrian refugees over the host community, in which case the latter is not gaining any financial benefits. However, 2 perceptions indicate that individuals are feeling the negative repercussions of recent budget cuts imposed on these organizations, as the aid they are receiving is much less than before. This exacerbates their sense of skepticism towards CSOs effectiveness in such dire circumstances.

“Our situation is very difficult, and no one is giving us aid because we are Christian. They only distribute aid to Syrians and Palestinians, but we are in need to!” (Woman, adult, Saida).

“CSOs view us as numbers, they do not care about our opinions and true needs” (Woman, adult, Baalbek).



Funded by
the European Union



Community Perceptions Report

01 March – 31 May 2024



RIGHT TO PLAY
PROTECT. EDUCATE. EMPower.



act for human rights



OXFAM
أوكسفام