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Community Perceptions Report

01 September – 30 November 2025

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Working for
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1. Executive Summary

The eleventh quarter of the project, covering the period between September to November 2025, took place amid continued persistence of fragile, socially tense, and economically strained conditions across Lebanon. CPT participants in all six regions covered by the project continued to face significant challenges, including economic hardship and safety concerns, while still coping with the impacts of Israeli attacks. These challenges collectively disrupt livelihoods, strain public services, threaten safety and health, and increase social and economic vulnerabilities among the population.

Economic struggles remained the most frequently cited concern during this quarter, with participants reporting difficulties affording basic necessities and essential services. Rising prices, low wages, limited employment opportunities, and inadequate or uneven aid distribution, including instances of nepotism and favouritism in both aid allocation and employment opportunities based on personal relationships, have intensified these struggles. Retired individuals and vulnerable groups, particularly Persons with Disabilities (PwDs), face heightened hardship due to limited access to pensions, employment and essential services. In some areas, water shortages have reduced agricultural production, negatively affecting livelihood. Participants also reported difficulties affording tuition and school-related costs, alongside concerns over public school quality. Some children shifted to public schools, while others dropped out of schools and resorted to child labour. Seasonal factors, including extreme heat and winter preparedness, further heightened financial and psychological stress.

Safety concern was the second most frequently cited trend this quarter, driven by multiple factors that affect participants' daily lives, including gun control and widespread drug use. Of particular concern was drug use among children, especially within school premises. Participants also highlighted preventable tragedies, such as road accidents, attributed to insufficient government oversight and broader public safety deficiencies. Gender-based violence (GBV) emerged as a significant concern, increasing women's sense of vulnerability. Reported cases of kidnapping and disappearances also restricted girls' mobility. In refugee camps, tensions exacerbated these challenges, contributing to widespread feelings of insecurity, helplessness, and psychological distress.

Indeed, challenges faced by Syrian refugees continued to be a prominent trend throughout this quarter. Syrian participants highlighted discriminatory measures imposed by the Lebanese government, particularly regarding the renewal of legal documents, school enrolment,

and heightened scrutiny at checkpoints. UNHCR budget cuts, and the closure of its northern office, were reported to increase refugees' vulnerability and contributed to perceptions of unequal aid distribution. Concerns over returning to Syria, due to insecurity and disrupted livelihood in the country, to continue to discourage return, leading some to view resettlement to a third country as the only viable option.

The ongoing impact of the 2024 war remains pronounced. CPT participants expressed fears of renewed and expanding hostilities, prompting precautionary measures. Continued attacks in certain cities heightened feelings of vulnerability and reinforced sectarian tensions, weakening social cohesion and trust. This persistent threat has affected psychological well-being, fostered anxiety and paranoia, and further impeded quality of life.

CPT participants also expressed concerns regarding government and municipal performance, highlighting the persistent presence of the same political figures, unfulfilled promises, and limited concrete action. Perceptions that meaningful change is unlikely were prominent, driven by the exclusion of youth from decision-making and the inadequate provision of essential services.

Finally, pollution concerns were raised, emphasizing their impact on both public health and the environment. Participants highlighted ongoing waste burning and poor waste management, threatening public health. Water pollution was identified as a major issue, contaminating drinking water.

Community-led Recommendations

To Civil Society Organizations and UN agencies

- Improve accountability and communication mechanisms with communities to address concerns regarding aid allocation, reduce perceptions of aid bias and inequities, and response delays, to maintain trust with local communities, ensuring alignment with long-term national strategies.

To Local Authorities

- Strengthen local water management and distribution systems by coordinating equitable and affordable water allocation, particularly in agricultural-dependent areas.
- Coordinate with schools and the ISF to prevent drug distribution within and around school premises.
- Promote youth-led initiatives that contribute to local development and foster youth participation and enhances trust between young people and local authorities.

To GoL

- Integrate seasonal preparedness planning into national response frameworks to address water shortages and mitigate extreme heat conditions.
- Prioritize the development of a national integrated solid waste and water management strategy with clear roles for municipalities, unions of municipalities, and relevant ministries.

To EU and other Donors

- Provide targeted funding and technical support to local authorities to strengthen waste management systems and reduce pollution in residential areas impacted by improper landfill practices and waste burning.
- Fund school-based prevention initiatives focusing on drug awareness, early detection, and psychosocial support, in coordination with school staff and administrations, and parents.
- Invest in youth civic engagement and leadership programs that enable youth participation in decision making processes and governance.
- Fund digital programming initiatives that promote social cohesion and counter polarization, focusing on media literacy campaigns, conflict-sensitive communication strategies, and advocacy campaigns across social media platforms aimed at reducing misinformation, hate speech, and divisive narratives.

2. Background

Project

ALEF – act for human rights is an implementing partner in 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 in 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; and mainstreaming of community level social cohesion into programming, with particular focus on the EU. The project's multi-stakeholder participatory approach helps build consensus among civil society, community groups, religious leaders, political, media, private sector actors, donor community, and the wider audience, to produce 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. WG PASC has been 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 focuses on monitoring social tensions and sentiments of people around the reform processes and its application, through the network's regular day-to-day engagement with their beneficiaries and programming. PASC's strong presence on the ground allows 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 in a timely manner. PASC members have been collecting perceptions during their day-to-day activities. As such, the nature of every organization's programming might, in some instances, affect the themes of the data collected. For example, a number of PASC organizations work on countering GBV and others work with Syrian refugees. Thus, the local community's engagement with these members and the scope of their activities might be a reason behind why these relevant issues are discussed and then noted down using the CPT, thus influencing the perceptions collected 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 ninth of the series and covers the period between 01 September and 30 November 2025.

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

Between September and November 2025, Lebanon remained entrenched in a fragile and complex landscape, where drivers of instability interacted to intensify social, political, and security tensions. **Rising cross-border military activity, internal insecurity, humanitarian pressures, and societal strains underscored the ongoing vulnerability of the country's social fabric.**

During this period, **Israeli attacks grew in both frequency and intensity.**¹ A particularly significant event occurred on November 23 when a strike in the southern suburb of Beirut killed a senior Hezbollah official. The incident sparked public debate and **deepened societal anxieties nationwide.**² These escalations not only heightened perceptions of insecurity but also **reinforced concerns about a renewed war, underscoring the fragility of Lebanon's current stability.**³ According to the UN Human Rights Office, by November 24, **nearly a year after the ceasefire, Israeli attacks had killed at least 127 civilians in Lebanon since the ceasefire agreement.**⁴ The repeated targeting of civilian-populated areas have fueled grievances that erode public trust in state protection mechanisms.⁵

1 Anadolu Ajnasi. (2025, November 21). Israeli strike kills 1 in southern Lebanon amid ceasefire violations. Retrieved from: <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/israeli-strike-kills-1-in-southern-lebanon-amid-ceasefire-violations/3750536>

2 Reuters. (2025, November 24). Crowds in Beirut suburbs mourn Hezbollah commander slain by Israel. Retrieved from: <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/crowds-beirut-suburbs-mourn-hezbollah-commander-slain-by-israel-2025-11-24>

3 Al-Jazeera. (2025, November 25). Nawaf Salam: Lebanon is experiencing an open-ended war of attrition and we are preparing for an Israeli escalation. Retrieved from: <https://www.aljazeera.net/news/2025/11/25/سalam-لبنان-تعيش-حرب-استنزاف-ونستعد>

4 Reuters. (2025, November 25). Israeli strikes have killed at least 127 civilians in Lebanon since ceasefire, UN says. Retrieved from: <https://www.reutersconnect.com/item/israeli-strikes-have-killed-at-least-127-civilians-in-lebanon-since-ceasefire-un-says/dGFnOnJldXRlcnMuY29tLDlwMjU6bmV3c21sX1ZBNdgxMTI1MTEyMDI1UIAx>

5 NRC. (2025, November 27). Lebanon: Israel's attacks continue one year into "ceasefire". Retrieved from: <https://www.nrc.no/news/2025/november/lebanon-israels-attacks-continue-one-year-into-ceasefire>

Alongside these external pressures, Lebanon's internal security remained highly fragile. On September 5, **the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) put forward a plan to confiscate weapons from armed groups⁶ sparking intense political debate.⁷** Some political actors warned that the polarized discourse surround the plan might escalate tensions and trigger a "civil war,"⁸ showcasing the persistent sensitivities between state authority, armed groups, and public trust.^{9,10,11}

State efforts to confiscate weapons within refugee camps, including Shatila and Burj al-Barajneh, has been severely criticized,¹² especially after a Lebanese citizen was killed at a checkpoint operated by the Palestinian National Security Forces (PNSF) on October 26, highlighting persistent gaps in the enforcement of camp disarmament.^{13,14,15} **This reignited public and political calls for expedited disarmament.¹⁶** In response, Prime Minister Nawaf Salam reaffirmed the government's commitment to full disarmament, emphasizing the need for stronger state intervention and oversight in camp governance.¹⁷

Furthermore, around early September, Lebanese media prompted public fears regarding alleged kidnappings to Syria.¹⁸ Although the **Internal Security Forces denied the existence of organized kidnapping gangs in October,¹⁹ the issue continued to provoke uncertainty and fear among the population.** Combined with pre-existing anti-refugee rhetoric,²⁰ this risks fueling resentment toward Syrian nationals.

6 <https://www.gisreportsonline.com/r/hezbollah-disarmament-lebanon>

7 Reuters. (2025, September 5). Lebanon cabinet welcomes army plan to disarm Hezbollah, no timeline given. Retrieved from: <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/lebanon-cabinet-welcomes-army-plan-disarm-hezbollah-no-timeline-given-2025-09-05>

8 GIS Reports. (2025, October 31). Hezbollah's refusal to disarm risks Lebanon's stability. Retrieved from: <https://www.gisreportsonline.com/r/hezbollah-disarmament-lebanon>

9 Anise News. (2025, September 5). Lebanon's Cabinet Backs Army Plan To Disarm Hezbollah. Retrieved from: <https://www.arise.tv/lebanons-cabinet-backs-army-plan-to-disarm-hezbollah>

10 Now Lebanon. (2025, August 22). Two Sides of Different Coins. Retrieved from: <https://nowlebanon.com/two-sides-of-different-coins>

11 Ibid.

12 Al-Araby. (2025, September 4). Lebanon: Violent clashes inside Burj al-Barajneh camp increase criticism of the weapons handover plan. Retrieved from: <https://www.alaraby.co.uk/politics/لبنان-اشتباكات-عنفية-بمخيم-برج-البراجنة-تزيد-انتقادات-تسليم-السلح>

13 LBCI News. (2025, October 29). Army takes custody of 6 Palestinian security members over killing of Elio Abou Hanna, 5 others detained in separate murder case inside Shatila camp. Retrieved from: <https://www.lbcgroup.tv/news/lebanon-news/887193/army-takes-custody-of-6-palestinian-security-members-over-killing-of-e/en>

14 The Lebanese Army. (2025, October 29). The army received 6 members from the Palestinian National Security Forces in connection with the shooting at Citizen Elio Abou Hanna and his murder, and 5 individuals in connection with the crime of murdering a girl in the camp. Retrieved from: <https://www.lebarmy.gov.lb/en/content/army-received-6-members-palestinian-national-security-forces-connection-shooting-citizen>

15 L'Orient Today. (2025, October 27). Outrage after Lebanese man killed in Shatila: Palestinian official calls it 'tragic mistake'. Retrieved from: <https://today.lorientlejour.com/article/1482711/uproar-after-lebanese-persons-murder-in-shatila-palestinian-official-admits-tragic-mistake.html>

16 Ibid.

17 LBCI News. (2025, October 29). PM Salam calls for full disarmament of Palestinian camps after killing of Elio Ernesto Abou Hanna. Retrieved from: <https://www.lbcgroup.tv/news/lebanon-news/887180/pm-salam-calls-for-full-disarmament-of-palestinian-camps-after-killing>

18 Sawt Al Farah. (2025, September 1). What is the story behind the "disappearance of girls" in Lebanon?. Retrieved from: <https://www.sawtalfarah.com/?p=358121>

19 ISF. (2025, October 25). Security forces confirm that there was no kidnapping and torture of a girl, and reiterate that "there are no kidnapping gangs from Lebanon to Syria." Retrieved from: <https://isf.gov.lb/ar/news/فئاة-خطف-لا-وجود-لعملية-خطف-فئاة>

20 Arab Reform Initiative. (2025, July 4). Excluding the Excluded: Displacement, Political Discourse, and the New Leadership Paradigm in Syria and Lebanon. Retrieved from: <https://www.arab-reform.net/publication/displacement-political-discourse-and-the-new-leadership-paradigm-in-syria-and-lebanon/>

Economic pressures continued constraining households and intensifying social inequalities. **Inflation accelerated to approximately 16.4 percent**, the highest recorded level to date,²¹ driven by rising costs in education, culture, and recreation, while seasonal and drought-related factors kept food prices elevated.²² The start of the school year in September brought **tuition increases of up to 120 percent compared with previous years**,^{23,24,25} severely straining family budgets, as households further struggle to meet their basics needs.

These economic hardships intersected with ongoing humanitarian challenges, particularly for Syrian refugees.²⁶ **Administrative measures, including the closure of UNHCR offices in Bekaa and North Lebanon due to significant funding shortfalls, and continued LAF camp raids, reduced essential support and heightened insecurity.** These pressures occurred alongside growing public and political calls for refugee return,²⁹ contributing to a more hostile environment. On 21 September, **a Syrian refugee family reported that their children were denied entry to Sioufi Park in Ashrafieh, with guards citing a municipal directive barring Syrians.**³⁰ This incident highlights growing social exclusion for Syrian refugees.

21 Trading Economics. (2025, November 24). Lebanon Inflation Rate at 10-Month High of 16.4%. Retrieved from: <https://tradingeconomics.com/lebanon/inflation-cpi/news/504275>

22 Fews Net. (2025, November). Water scarcity from conflict and drought drive food insecurity in Lebanon. Retrieved from: <https://fews.net/middle-east-and-asia/lebanon/key-message-update/november-2025>

23 MTV News. (2025, September 20). School fees soar to \$7,000!. Retrieved from: <https://www.mtv.com.lb/news/1613259>

24 This is Beirut. (2025, August 28). Schools and Universities: The Steep Price of Education. Retrieved from: <https://thisisbeirut.com.lb/articles/1323999/schools-and-universities-the-steep-price-of-education#>

25 Al-Akhbar. (2025, June 6). Tuition Hike Looms, Lebanon's Teacher Compensation Law Still in Limbo. Retrieved from: <https://en.al-akhbar.com/news/tuition-hike-looms--lebanon-s-teacher-compensation-law-still>

26 UN Lebanon. (2025, July 29). UNHCR and IOM Launch Organized Voluntary Return Programme for Syrian Refugees in Lebanon. Retrieved from: <https://lebanon.un.org/en/298880-unhcr-and-iom-launch-organized-voluntary-return-programme-syrian-refugees-lebanon>

27 ACHR. (2025, September 8). Syrian refugees angered by closure of UNHCR offices in Bekaa and North Lebanon. Retrieved from: https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=797134989531997&id=100077065102269&mibextid=wwXlfr&rdid=MlinYt0sjqALGZ8d

28 Ibid.

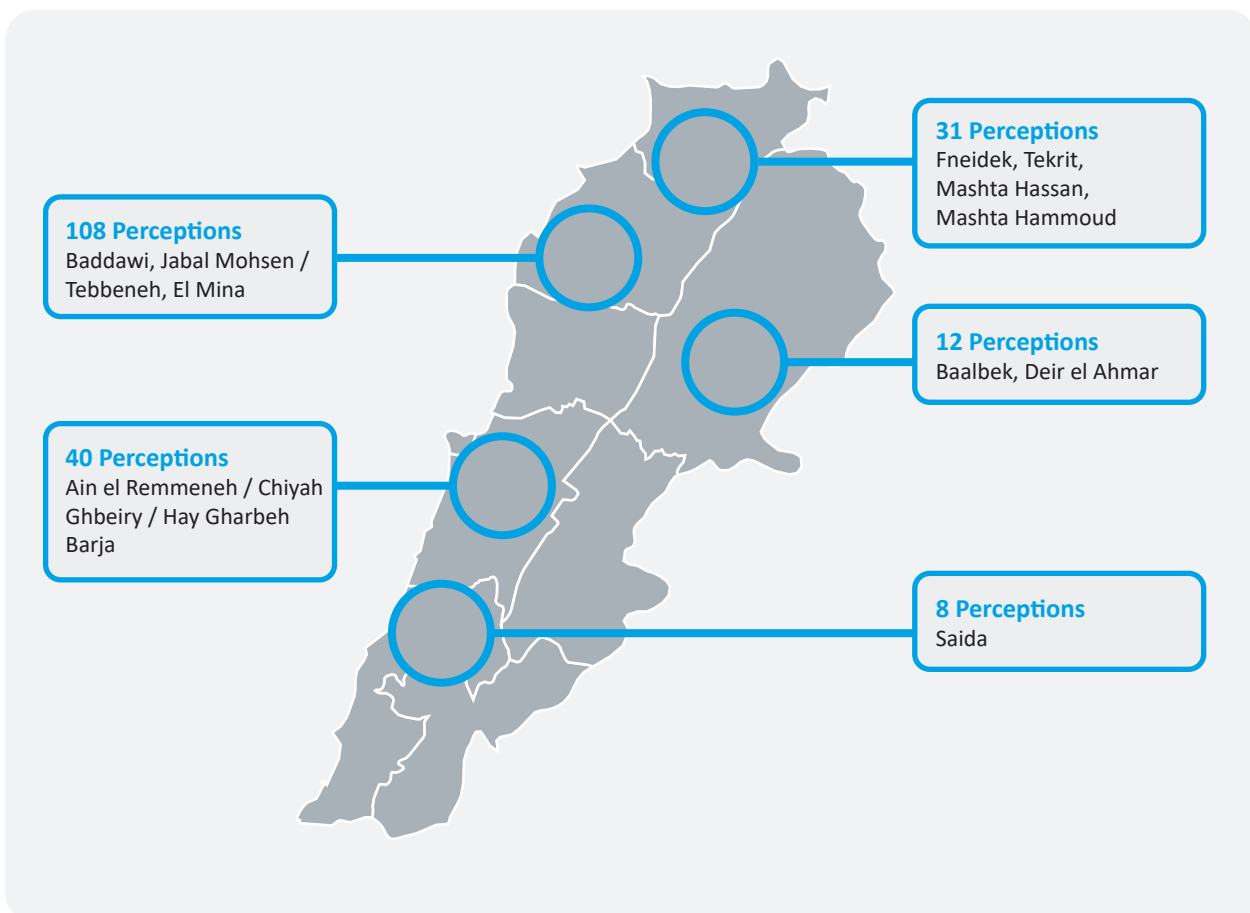
29 Rudaw Arabia. (2025, November 4). Lebanese MP calls for Syrians to return to their country. Retrieved from: <https://www.rudawarabia.net/arabic/middleeast/041120251>

30 ACHR. (2025, September 27). Syrian refugee arrested after returning under the voluntary return program. Retrieved from: https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=811598378085658&id=100077065102269&mibextid=wwXlfr&rdid=7Mz0kniwURwVVu6l#

3. Detailed Data

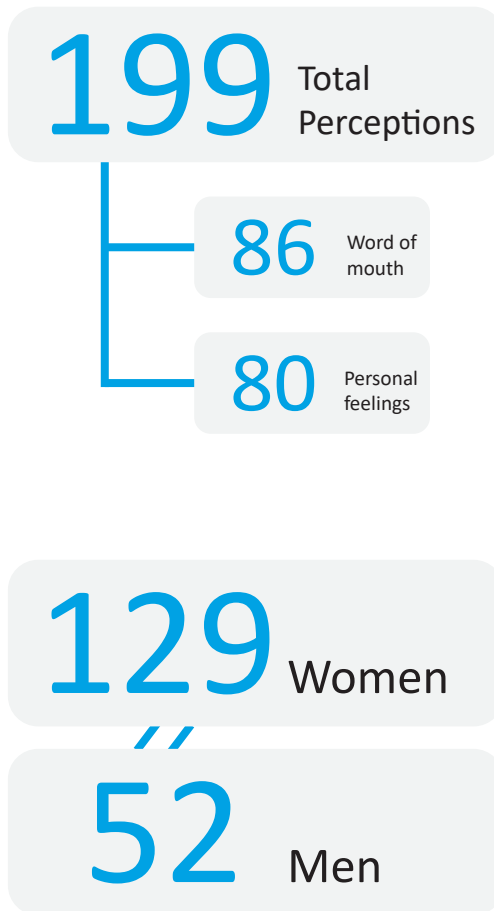
Sources of Perception

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 11th quarter of the project, spanning September through November 2025, a total of 199 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 (86), and personal feelings, based on one's own beliefs (80).

129 perceptions were collected from women, while 52 perceptions were collected from men. Notably, 16 participants identified facing difficulties in areas such as hearing, seeing, mobility, remembering/concentrating, communication, and self-care, while the majority reported no disabilities. It's important to note that the sum of perceptions disaggregated by gender or disability does not necessarily equal the total number of perceptions collected because perceptions were gathered from both individuals and groups. Geographically, 108 perceptions were from the North, 40 perceptions were from Mount Lebanon and Beirut, 31 perceptions were from Akkar, 12 perceptions were from Baalbeck-Hermel, and 8 perceptions were from South Lebanon.

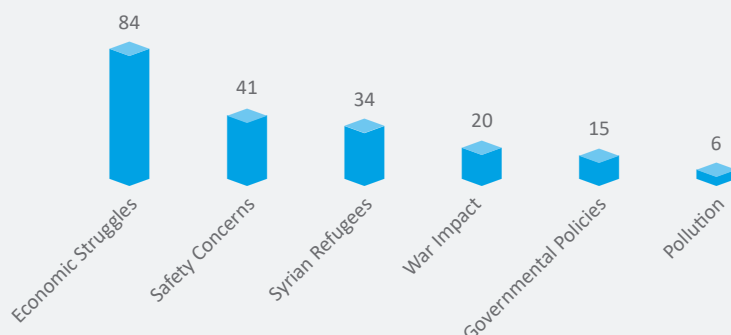


It is important to note that variations in the number of perceptions collected across areas are influenced by the nature of PASC data collectors' activities. These activities are dynamic and may vary by locality and period, which can affect the number of perceptions gathered. In some areas affected by Israeli attacks, certain PASC organizations have also shifted the focus of their activities to prioritize direct community support, resulting in fewer sessions where perceptions are collected.

Trends Identified

An important observation from this quarter's findings, captured by the CPT, 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 151 out of 209 perceptions stem from word of mouth.

TRENDS



Economic Struggles

Economic struggles were the most cited trend in this quarter's CPT, reflected in **84 of the 199 perceptions**. Participants reported a growing **inability to afford basic necessities and essential services**, including rent, electricity, water, and food – an issue raised in 43 perceptions – reflecting the continued deterioration of their economic conditions.

“The basic necessities of life have become very expensive and costly, and as a family, we can't make ends meet. Rent, water, and electricity bills all pile up, it is just a struggle to survive”
(Woman, adult, Ain el Remmeneh/Chiyah).

Medical expenses, particularly the cost of treatments and medication, also constituted a substantial burden, as indicated in 9 perceptions.

“I am six months pregnant and I am not going to the doctor. Medical consultations cost money, and transportation also costs money”
(Woman, adult, el Mina).

CPT participants attributed these financial challenges to the **rising prices of goods and services**, as noted in 5 perceptions, alongside persistently **high unemployment rates, limited access to employment opportunities, and low wages** - also highlighted in 5 perceptions.

“My biggest concern is finding work. Even daily labor jobs have become difficult to get. I am a young man and I want to work, but exploitation is unbearable...I just need the reassurance that if something happens to me, I can afford medical treatment”
(Man, young, Jabal Mohsen/Tebbeneh).

These challenges were additionally linked to inadequate and insufficient aid distribution, with some families not receiving any assistance. This has restricted their ability to meet basic needs. Two perceptions specifically pointed to nepotism in aid distribution and hiring processes, which places many individuals at a significant disadvantage.

“Everyone knows that the government provides medication for cancer patients, but we have to beg and struggle to receive our doses and secure our treatment because of nepotism and bureaucratic delays”

(Woman, adult, Jabal Mohsen/Tebbeneh).

Furthermore, 2 perceptions indicated that retired individuals are **not receiving enough or any pension benefits**, leaving their future uncertain and lacking stability and security.

“After 40 years of work, I retired and no one cares about me. My pension is not even enough to cover my medication”

(Man, elder, Saida).

The CPT further indicates, in 1 perception, that individuals’ livelihood has been negatively affected due to the **water shortages**, particularly in Baalbek-el Hermel, which have led to reduced agricultural production.

“This is one of the strangest years in Baalbek due to the severe water shortage. Most farmers were unable to plant and had to stop their work, which is further worsening the economic situation in the area”

(Woman, elder, Baalbeck-Hermel).

Furthermore, 16 perceptions show that participants are unable to afford tuition fees due to surging prices and additional costs of stationery, books, and transport. Parents also reported, in 2 perceptions, being unable to enroll their children in private institutions, compelling them to **shift to public schools**, which they perceive as a decline in quality of education. In some cases, this has contributed to **school dropouts and a rise in child labor**, as highlighted in 3 perceptions.

“I withdrew my daughter from the private school she used to attend. The public school’s conditions are poor... but we did not have any other choice, our economic situation is very difficult”

(Woman, adult, Jabal Mohsen/Tebbeneh).

Additionally, the CPT revealed in 2 perceptions the **disproportionate impact of these challenges on Persons With Disabilities (PWDs)**, particularly in relation to access to essential medication and treatments. PWD participants also reported facing significant barriers to securing employment opportunities, further compounding their economic and social vulnerability.

“My husband has a disability, and even though we have a disability card, we don’t receive anything from it and it hasn’t helped us at all. He works as a car painter, he barely earns anything, but it is better than nothing. On top of that, his disability sometime causes him pain, but what can he do?”

(Woman, adult, el Mina).

In September, participants in 3 perceptions reported **extreme heat conditions**, compounded by the lack of electricity to operate air conditioning, further straining already poor living conditions. As seasons changed, concerns shifted toward **winter preparedness**. From late October through November, participants in 2 perceptions expressed fears about their inability to adequately prepare for winter, citing the unaffordability of heating equipment. One perception also

expressed concern over the inability of schools to install heaters, leaving children in dire weather conditions, especially in Northern areas. These perceptions reflect how inadequate access to basic services is exacerbating existing economic and living conditions.

“We cannot sleep because of the heat, and there is no electricity to even turn on a fan”

(Woman, adult, el Mina).

“We realized how difficult our situation is with the first winter rain. The roof is leaking, and we have nothing to keep us warm”

(Woman, adult, Jabal Mohsen/Tebbeneh).

These ongoing economic challenges have placed psychological pressure on individuals, as reflected in 4 perceptions, with participants reporting heightened financial stress amid prolonged uncertainty.

“The hardest thing is when your children ask you for something and you cannot provide it. That feeling kills you inside and completely breaks you”

(Woman, adult, Hay el Gharbeh/Ghbeiry).

Safety Concerns

Safety concerns emerged as the second most cited trend during this quarter, expressed in 41 out of the 199 recorded perceptions. CPT participants reported a general lack of security in their areas, as evident in 9 perceptions, with individuals explicitly expressing feelings of instability in 4 perceptions. This perceived insecurity was attributed in the CPT to a variety of factors, notably the prevalence of drug use, reflected in 3 perceptions. Specifically, drug use among youth emerged as a significant concern, appearing in 4 perceptions. This issue was particularly evident in schools, where participants in 2 perceptions reported that drugs have become widespread and are being sold within school premises.

“In our streets, all you hear about is theft, assaults, and gunfire. There is no sense of safety. When will they finally relieve us from this?”

(Woman, adult, el Mina).

“I am very afraid for my son. Sometimes I even think about not sending him to school because drugs are spreading everywhere. They are deceiving both children and adults, and I am hearing from neighbors that kids now distributing drugs to other kids their age”

(Woman, adult, Jabal Mohsen/Tebbeneh).

Preventable tragedies further compounded these safety concerns, especially car accidents, as revealed in 2 perceptions. CPT participants linked these risks to inadequate government oversight, criticizing its failure to regulate speed limits and enforce traffic penalties, which they viewed as posing a direct threat to public safety.

“The number of accidents happening in the country is terrifying. When will the state finally find a solution? Every day, a mother loses her son, her husband, or her daughter. Yes, the blame also falls on the citizens, but the state needs to take strict and decisive measures”
(Woman, young, Jabal Mohsen/Tebbeneh).

GBV, particularly domestic abuse, was also identified as another major concern in the CPT, appearing in 8 perceptions. Women reported often feeling unable to escape situations that worsened their sense of insecurity and vulnerability, with 2 perceptions submitted anonymously, indicating fear and reluctance to report such incidents openly. Furthermore, 2 perceptions referred to ongoing cases of kidnapping and the disappearance of girls, which have heightened parental fears and resulted in greater restrictions on girls’ mobility due to safety concerns.

“I am only telling you this because you said it remains anonymous. My husband is arrested because he shot his ex-wife. He does not trust me and forces me to stay at home with my mother. He video calls from prison. I feel like I am also living in a prison. I am trying to divorce him but I am scared for my daughters and me”
(Woman, adult, el Mina).

“What is the story of these girls who are disappearing? Do you really think I could let my daughter go out alone? I swear I cannot. No one is explaining what’s happening to these girls. All I hear are rumours that they’re being sold in Syria to the regime”
(Woman, adult, el Mina).

Participants in the CPT reported, in 3 perceptions, that tensions within refugee camps have generated heightened security concerns, leading to an increased presence of checkpoints, placing additional pressure on camp residents, and further intensifying feelings of insecurity.

“The presence of the army at checkpoints in camps is both reassuring and frightening. It offers some sense of safety because it helps reduce tensions and problems, but it is also intimidating for those without legal residency or for anyone who fears being deported”
(Man, adult, Baddawi).

The cumulative effect of insecurity and instability has contributed to increased psychological stress, apparent in 5 perceptions. CPT participants expressed persistent feelings of helplessness, pessimism and psychological distress.

“May God protect us from what is to come. The fear we are living in is unbearable. We are worn out, and tired, life has offered us so many hardships, much more than we can handle”
(Woman, adult, Hay el Gharbeh/Ghbeiry).

Challenges faced by Syrian Refugees

The third most prominent trend during this quarter relates to challenges faced by Syrians, reflected in 34 perceptions.

Syrian participants in the CPT described, in 11 perceptions, the regulations imposed by the Lebanese government on Syrians, particularly related to renewal of legal documents, enrolment in schools, and heightened scrutiny at checkpoints as severe discriminatory measures.

“The school told me that this is the last year for Syrian students, and I don’t know what to do. If my children lose access to education, they lose their future. This worries me the most”

(Syrian Woman, adult, Baddawi).

Additionally, budget cuts affecting UNHCR and the resulting reduction in assistance have increased refugees’ vulnerability and contributed to perceptions of unequal aid distribution, as noted in 2 perceptions. One perception further indicated that access to in-person UNHCR services has become more difficult following the closure of the organization’s office in the North, forcing refugees to travel to Beirut. This challenge is compounded by the difficulties refugees encounter at checkpoints, which threatens their safety and puts them at risks of deportation. Delays in responses from UNHCR and humanitarian organizations were also highlighted in 2 perceptions, with Syrians expressing frustration over the slow provision of support. This has contributed to the perception that organizations are benefiting at the refugees’ expense, while aid remains scarce and unevenly distributed, reinforcing feelings of neglect and mistrust. Moreover, 2 perceptions highlighted that refugees are unable to complete the online application form for aid due to limited knowledge on internet usage, preventing them from receiving much-needed assistance.

“There is increased scrutiny at the checkpoints, and they are asking for our UN documents. And renewing the UN files has become very difficult because there is no UN office in Tripoli, so we have to go to Beirut. This is very costly, and is limiting our movement”

(Syrian Woman, adult, Jabal Mohsen, Tebbeneh).

“We applied to the UN a long time ago, saying that we want to return to our country, but no one responds to us. They are basically forcing us to flee illegally”

(Syrian Man, adult, Baddawi).

“I missed out on all the aid because I did not know how to fill the online form. They should come and check in person”

(Syrian woman, elder, Jabal Mohsen/Tebbeneh).

Simultaneously, Syrians continue to hold different positions on return. In 7 perceptions, participants indicated a preference to remain in Lebanon, having already established life and social networks here, and deeming Syria too unsafe and unstable to return to. One perception even noted that refugees who attempted to return to Syria often re-enter Lebanon illegally due to their inability to secure safety and security in Syria. This was seen as risky and persuaded some to consider resettlement in a third country as the only viable option, as reflected in 1 perception.

*“The decision to return is very difficult. Everyone I hear from in Syria says there is no work, and our homes are destroyed. I cannot go back to nothing, and I cannot leave my family without a livelihood. Right now, returning is not a reasonable option at all”
(Syrian man, adult, Baddawi).*

*“Some Syrians return to Syria to check on their homes and see if they still have property, then come back to Lebanon. Some return temporarily to obtain school documents for their children so they can register them in Lebanon. Others return to sell their property because they have no intention of ever going back to Syria”
(Woman, adult, Jabal Mohsen/Tebbeneh).*

War Impact

The fourth trend in this quarter was related to the ongoing impact of the war and its consequences and was mentioned in 20 perceptions. Fears of renewed or expanding hostilities remain widespread among participants in the CPT. Twelve perceptions reflected deep anxiety over the possibility of another widespread armed conflict with Israel. One perception noted that some individuals are already renting accommodations in areas considered safe as a precaution. Continued attacks in certain cities have further heightened feelings of vulnerability and reinforced fear of renewed conflict, as apparent in 2 perceptions. The lasting impact of the Israeli war continues to contribute to instability and security concerns, as shown in 2 perceptions.

*“The news about the war returning and starting again is causing a lot of anxiety and fear. I don’t know what to do or where to go”
(Woman, adult, Hay el Gharbeh/Ghbeiry).*

*“We lost our home and our livelihoods during the war, and that still breaks my heart. Everything I worked for my entire life disappeared before my eyes just like that, and I have nothing to do with any political party or group”
(Woman, adult, Baalbeck).*

*“Every month, my siblings and I have been saving money to rent an apartment in Zahle, so that if anything happens we can leave immediately”
(Woman, adult, Baalbeck).*

Notably, 1 perception highlighted how the 2024 war escalation and the ongoing attacks are reinforcing sectarian divides and tensions, weakening social cohesion and trust between communities.

*“Discrimination and tensions are starting to reappear between Christians and Muslims in the region because of the war, and its aftermath. This is upsetting. Political parties play with the people, and people still did not understand that we only have each other and no one else”
(Woman, adult, Ain el Remmeneh/Chiyah).*

This looming threat has impacted individuals' psychological wellbeing and fostered a sense of paranoia that impedes individuals' ability to function normally, as reflected in 13 perceptions.

"We are living in fear, anxious about the looming war. Will the war really affect all of Lebanon? Why is there so much tension? The news is not reassuring us at all, it's reinforcing our anxiety"
(Woman, adult, Jabal Mohsen/Tebbeneh).

Perceptions related to the Government and Municipalities

The fifth trend, reflected in 15 perceptions, relates to views on government performance and governance. In 2 perceptions, CPT participants expressed hopelessness, noting that the same political figures continue to occupy government positions, making repeated promises with little concrete action. One perception further highlighted that government officials are largely absent from public life, only reappearing during election periods. These observations suggest a perceived detachment and lack of accountability among political leaders, reinforcing the view that meaningful change is unlikely and that the future will remain uncertain. Additionally, 2 perceptions highlighted the persistent marginalization of youth, described as being excluded from decision-making processes and left unheard, with direct implications on their lives. Three perceptions further emphasize that the government has a responsibility to help citizens meet basic needs, including the provision of healthcare services, water, and electricity, in order to ensure decent living standards and equitable access to essential services.

"Politicians are always absent in the area, and we only see them when elections approach"
(Man, adult, Mashta Hassan/Mashta Hammoud).

"Youth are constantly marginalized, our voices are not heard, and politics is monopolized by traditional figures"
(Woman, young, Saida).

Nevertheless, the CPT indicates, in 4 perceptions, that local governments and municipalities are effectively fulfilling their mandates and have had a positive impact on their cities and communities.

"In Mina, the municipality is rehabilitating the area and carrying out works, and it really looks much nicer now! I wish all of Tripoli could receive the same attention. Change is beautiful, and it made s feel a little bit hopeful"
(Man, adult, el Mina).

Pollution

Pollution and environmental concerns emerged as the sixth trend this quarter, reported in 8 perceptions, highlighting their impact on both environment and public health. Participants noted, in 4 perceptions, ongoing practices of waste burning and poor waste management, which have raised concerns about the spread of diseases and harmful bacteria.

*“The roads are full of garbage, and the solution the local residents came up with is to burn it. That’s why we hear about the increasing rates of cancer”
(Woman, adult, Baddawi).*

Water pollution was also identified, in 2 perceptions, as a major issue, as inadequate sewage system management often results in the contamination of drinking water, posing particular health risks for children.

*“The water source we drink from is frequently getting mixed with sewage water, and my children are getting sick. I can’t even take them to the doctor because I barely can afford rent as it is”
(Woman, adult, Baddawi).*



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