

Advocating for the rights and protection of Syrian refugees

RPW conducts research and advocacy on protection issues facing Syrian refugees in Lebanon, as well as on the conditions for safe, voluntary, informed and dignified return to Syria.

The Study

A conversation with 571 Syrian and Lebanese people in March 2021 showed the deteriorating situation in Lebanon for both communities. A follow-up conversation in July 2021 revealed that the situation had worsened further.

The conversation by RPW was with:

258 Syrians

&

232 Lebanese

571 people living in Lebanon

The conversation covered:

- 1 / Basic needs
- 2 / Syrians' prospects for resettlement and the role of UNHCR

The Partners



Access to Aid

70%

reported **not** to have received any form of aid (formal or informal) since January 2020.

74%

could **not** access medical aid in case of a COVID-19 infection.

*The results were the same between Syrians and Lebanese. The current situation is affecting displaced and host communities equally.

COVID & Vaccines

July 2021

79% of Syrians were unvaccinated

as compared to **71%** of entire group

→ **31%** refuse to be vaccinated

→ **17%** registered but have not yet been contacted

→ **16%** believe they cannot afford it

69%

of the entire group believe that they **don't have enough information** on the vaccination and the COVID-19 situation.

Access to Information

July 2021



of Syrians stated they **have access to information** about the **situation** in their areas in Syria.

of them **got this information** through **family and friends** (not official channels like UNHCR nor NGOs).

Relocating



78%

want to relocate either inside Lebanon, to Syria, or a third country.

3.3%

Despite the increasing pressure to relocate, only 4 people consider going back.*

* None of these 4 people report they have the necessary documents, nor the information to return safely, voluntarily and in dignity.

THE MAIN REASONS FOR PEOPLE TO RELOCATE WERE



*A previous conversation with the panel, during the Brussels V conference in March 2021, already showed that the deteriorating situation is leading to an increased pressure to return to Syria. The situation remained unchanged in July 2021:



of Syrians think that there is an **increasing pressure** for them to leave Lebanon.



of Syrians believe that there is an **increase in social tension** between communities such as violence and burglary.

Resettlement with UNHCR

82% are registered with UNHCR

→ **31%** applied for resettlement through UNHCR already, but have been **rejected**

→ **55%** have **not applied** for resettlement (yet)

→ **1%** 2 people have been **accepted** and are waiting for departure

Re-return to Lebanon

As resettlement is often not a viable option for many Syrians, some decide to risk returning to Syria. However, our conversation with Syrians in Lebanon indicates that this return is often not sustainable.

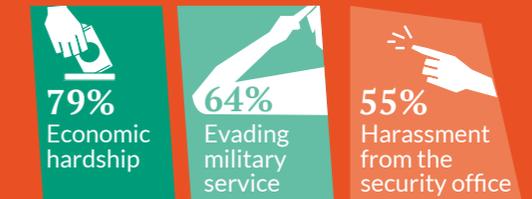
45%

know someone who has returned to Lebanon after returning to Syria.

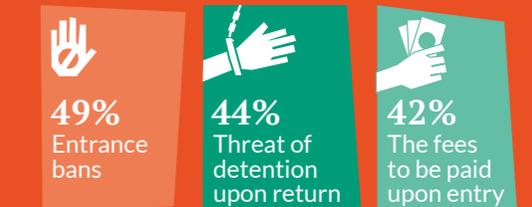
75%

report that those who returned, were **smuggled in over the Syrian border**.

REASONS FOR THIS RE-RETURN



CHALLENGES PEOPLE FACED



*As a result, the vast majority of people returning to Lebanon are unregistered, which may result in a further lack of help and protection.

SYRIANS ARE TRAPPED IN A VICIOUS CYCLE BETWEEN SYRIA AND LEBANON