

Prisons in South Lebanon:
A comprehensive survey of inmates and their
families
and suggestions for solutions and reform
SHEILD—DROSOS program
2011—2013

SHEILD

Introduction

SHEILD association, in cooperation with DROSOS Swiss foundation, conducted a field study about the situation of prisons in South Lebanon. During the first four months of the study, SHEILD field teams interviewed all the 127 inmates. They used a particular form to ask the inmates about the possibility of cooperation, about their various needs and whether they approve of SHEILD communicating with their families.

Naturally, not all inmates responded positively to this desire of communication; however, a large percentage expressed their readiness. 28.6% of refused to cooperate while 71.2% expressed their will to cooperate (45 v/s 82).

The rights of inmates in Lebanon are still violated on a daily basis. Between 2010 and 2011, the country witnessed several protest movements organized by inmates themselves that killed some of them and from their families outside prison. The protests aimed at objecting to the mistreatment at times and to the penal procedures at other times knowing that many inmates have spent years in jail without trial.

In this context, SHEILD met with the inmates' families, this marginalized category forgotten by public and private entities and organizations in the Lebanese society. This study, which is the first of its kind, as it will be shown in the analytical report, aimed at learning about the social, economic, medical and educational situation of inmates' families in the south of Lebanon.

A small number of inmates' families remained out of the study sample. The reason for this may be, as we think, the fact that such study invades the privacy of inmates' social and family life.

Also, the kind of assistance suggested by SHEILD sometimes raises suspicion and fear of disclosure of the crime type. Hopefully, future interventions and studies about the same subject will be able to overcome these restraints after the inmates are sure about the goals of such studies related directly to their various interests¹.

Nevertheless, in all cases, 71.3 % is a significant sample in this regard especially that the level of cooperation exceeded the expected and families did not have reservations on any kind of questions. The field teams worried that families might refuse to answer questions about personal information that the female householder does not wish to reveal to a civil entity, especially that some crimes (such as sexual assault or rape) are considered shameful and embarrassing in the Lebanese community in general and in the southern Lebanese community in particular. Yet, the coordination between the inmate and his family that the field teams were

¹ The rehabilitation intervention done by INTERSOS helped in strengthening the mutual trust between the inmates and the field staff

keen on achieving helped in overcoming many obstacles. The teams used a primary questionnaire filled by the inmate himself emphasizing on a cooperation mechanism and on facilitating coordination between the two parties of the family.

It is logical to “justify” the refusal of the inmate to cooperate, and to provide his family with assistance of any kind, as well as the refusal to allow a visit to the family, but what cannot be justified is the rejection of cooperation even through reading the questionnaire. It seems that this refusal is a sort of rebel against the situation in general. This means that the lack of cooperation in this case, which can be considered as an “absolute noncooperation”, can no longer be attributed to the personal or familial aspect (which may raise restraints) but rather to more particular and direct psychological aspects.

The percentage of absolute noncooperation or partial cooperation (inmates who accepted to fill the primary questionnaire but refused the visit to their families)² can be interpreted by the following:

- Lack of care for what the civil entity is doing and offering for many reasons including the lack of trust or of knowledge...
- The concern of inmates that the collected data would or can be used for other purposes.
- Unwillingness to reveal information about the family or the criminal act committed by the inmate.

Three types of questionnaires were used; the first one targeted the inmate and was used inside the prison only. Its goal was to obtain the approval of the inmate to visit his family in addition to some basic data that pave the way for the visit to the family. The second one was addressed to the families on an exclusive basis and the third one targeted the income generating member or the person responsible for the family financially after the imprisonment of the family supporter.

The first questionnaire included a briefing about the project, it started with a question about whether the inmate approves to cooperate or not. It contained questions about the personal status of the inmate such as his date of birth and social status (single or married), number of children, job of the wife (if applicable), contacts of the family, and residence address. One can say that this questionnaire is significant for it breaks the ice and gets the approval of the inmate to visit his family and fill the second and main questionnaire which is the main pillar for the general database about the families.

² The inmates were classified in terms of cooperation into 3 categories: no cooperation, limited cooperation, and full cooperation.

As for the second questionnaire entitled “Getting to know the inmate’s family”, it was extensive and thorough to obtain as much information as possible to be used in the programs of social, medical, economical, and educational activities. It included questions about the economic situation of the family, about the level of expenditure on the education of children at school or college, and about the family supporter after the inmate was imprisoned. These questions aim at detecting the family’s financial stability level in a country like Lebanon suffering from a severe economic situation putting huge pressure on the majority of citizens.

Other questions in the questionnaire targeted the educational and professional status of the inmate or the family members supporting the family, like their major, the period separating the acquisition of this degree and the date of imprisonment, and the level of psychological and professional stability for the inmate and his family.

The second questionnaire covered almost everything a researcher may want to know about the family, thus paving the way for the third questionnaire which targeted exclusively the person with an income or with no income but responsible of supporting the family. This person is supposed to get a vocational training and financial training to start an income generating project or just financial education in case the supporter was ready to perform a certain kind of work based on previous knowledge or experience then qualify for special training courses (financial and managerial) to raise his/her income and consequently the family income.

It was also normal to try to detect the relation between the inmate and his direct family on one hand and the relatives on the other hand to know the nature of this relation and the extent of marginalization that this category is socially facing. The last questions were about the familial situation of the children, the school dropout they are subject to, their basic needs, their reaction to the father’s absence, etc. The answers revealed important aspects of the lives of inmates and their families and their medical, socio-economic and educational reality.

The questions dealing with career and work aspects represented the major part of the questionnaire because it is one of the main goals of the study. The questions were designed to seek data about the kind of work the female family supporter does best, how does she get income, how does she benefit from her experience in life and where and when did she get it, vocational trainings attended, loans taken, financial analysis, debts, properties, the reason for choosing a certain kind of project to launch, etc.

All these questions aimed at forming an idea about the expected benefit of such trainings on one hand and their level on the other hand. Other kinds of questions tried to draw a clear picture about the capabilities of the inmate and of his family and figure out the best path to support them socially and economically.

The limits and benefits of the study

This study targeted the prisons in South Lebanon within the provinces of Tyre (Tyre prison) and Nabatiye (Nabatiye and Tebnin prisons). Its human and material limits were wide as it included most of the inmates in the three prisons and their families- whether living in or outside the south (Beirut, Baalabek, and Zahle) and remaining Lebanese regions. The main target was to detect and acquire knowledge about the social, educational, medical and economic needs of these families, to follow them up, and shed light on them through a program on which all public and private community stakeholders can build on.

It is important to point out that this study is the first of its kind in the South. It revealed many overlapping loops and tangled variables, each affecting the other and affected by the other in light of a disconnected social situation the families are facing and of a public facility (the prison) that suffered many consecutive problems and crises. It seems that all these loops emerging from this facility- we mean here the prison with all its derivatives and outbuildings- are not isolated from other administrative, legal, social loops.

In this study, we will deal with the full needs of the inmate through his family, shedding light on all the basic daily life needs that could be of use to researchers as a pillar to their future research in this field.

The analysis of the database in this report came from different sources: the inmate himself, the prison and the Internal Security Forces (ISF), the families, and the ministry of social affairs. This report is also based on notes and direct observations of the field teams during visits to prisons. This study benefited as well from the opinions and personal experiences of a number of individuals and entities that were interviewed in preparation for this report.

The report tackles the issue of prisons from a socio-economic viewpoint since it falls under the project for raising the income of families through reintegrating them in society via the program funded by DROSOS international Swiss foundation. Therefore, this report does not include in a direct manner data related to the good administration of prisons, treatment of inmates, or other security issues like the escape of inmates, rights of inmates or their legal status... Nonetheless, the report managed to present some recommendations in this regard at the administrative and legislative levels.

Project Work team

Entity	Name	Position	Role
SHEILD	Samer Haydar	Project Manager	Coordination of the study, supervision over questionnaires, coordination of field teams, supervision of data organization
SHEILD	Ayman Alroz	Project Coordinator	Coordination of field teams and visits, classification and archiving of data, general review of the study
SHEILD	Ali Alakhdar	Data coordinator	Management and development of database
SHEILD	Mohamad Rida	Field staff	Collecting information and data
SHEILD	Ashraf Noureldine	Field staff	Collecting information and data
SHEILD	Amina Kabash	Field staff	Collecting information and data
SCSES	Rim El Youssef	Consultant and translator	Translation
SCSES	George Azar	Analytical statistics expert	Analysis of statistics, coordination and production of the analytical report.

Phases of the study:

1- Planning phase	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Writing the questionnaires• Coordinating meetings with relevant officials in MOSA & MOIM• Introducing some modifications• Discussing questionnaires with the studies center and field teams• Training the field teams• Verifying the names of the target group and its geographical locations
2- Implementation phase	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Putting the questionnaire/s into a testing period• Distributing the questionnaires and the workload• Collecting filled questionnaires and submitting them to the data coordinator and project manager• Verifying and entering data and establishing basic raw tables
3- Final phase	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Preparing the analytical report and editing it through the SCSES• Printing and copying the report for distribution• Making the study available for possible beneficiaries and interested entities• Launching the second phase of the project (vocational training and direct assistance) through obtained and analyzed data.

The analytical report

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- **Methodologies and techniques**

- ✓ The operational logistic methodology was used in the research and the study. It is according to this methodology that the study was planned, the team trained for one week and data collected through fifteen weeks. The data was analyzed and the report written in one month.
- ✓ The study is based on the form addressed to the inmate's family with simple and clear questions. The field staff used the method of field visits targeting the beneficiaries in their places of residence.
- ✓ The technique of making raw tables (without pre-coding) was used by entering data from the questionnaire as given by the targeted case without coding or modification.

I. Crime types and cooperation of inmates:

a. Crimes:

Prisons are a main loop among the loops of achievement of justice in society. It is the place where crime committers are punished through isolating them from society and restricting their freedom under safeguard. The goal is to prevent criminal acts by deterring the community and especially criminals from falling into repetition.

What was surprising in the questionnaires was the situation regarding crimes in the region.

The phenomenon of crime is linked to a variety of origins interacting in a certain environment and certain unlimited circumstances from which the criminal behavior is born.

The field teams visited the palaces of justice (courts) and prisons to learn about the kinds of crimes the region is suffering from, and consequently know the various environments that produced these crimes.

At first, it is essential to remind that prisons, in their wider meaning adopted in the report, include temporary detaining facilities in which, and according to judicial decisions, accused individuals are put into custody while still on trial or during investigation, and that is on an exceptional basis and within formal and subjective constraints set by article 107 of the code of criminal procedure³. This article stipulates for instance that the detention decision must be

³ Article 107 of the code of criminal procedure: "...after the judge interrogates the defendant and takes the opinion of the general prosecution, the judge can detain the defendant on a condition that the crime's penalty is more than one year imprisonment or that the defendant is an ex-convict or the he/she was imprisoned for more than 3 months without stopping implementation of the verdict. The detention decision must be justified and the investigative judge should clarify the reasons on the basis of which he/she issued the decision provided that detention is the only means to preserve evidence or crime scene materialistic features or to prevent pressures on witnesses or victims or to prevent the

sufficiently justified and that “detention is the only means to preserve evidence or crime scene materialistic features or to prevent pressures on witnesses or victims or to prevent the defendant from making any contact with his/her accomplices or instigators, or provided that the detention aims at protecting the defendant himself, limiting the effect of the crime, preventing repetition of the crime, forbidding the defendant from escaping or and sparing the public order any trouble resulting from the crime. “

Prison	Detained	Convicted
Tyre	0	63
Nabatiye	55	15
Tebnin	43	5
Jezzin		51
Total	98 (42%)	134 (58%)

Chart 1: Detainees and convicted (Lebanese and foreigners)⁴

The most significant problems from which prisons in the South are suffering are:

- Severe “suffocative” overcrowding which exceeds an average percentage of 300% of the normal capacity of all facilities⁵.
- Violation of fundamental rights in disparate rates from one prison to the other, especially ***mixing the inmates together without classifying them properly***. Mixing the detained and the convicted is a severe violation of human rights⁶. Chart 1 above shows that mixing in the prison of Nabatiye is the most serious. Moreover, mixing inmates who committed different kinds of criminal acts also exists where for example a person detained for using drugs might be put together with a convict for murder. The same also applies for sentences periods which is shown in the chart of crimes.

defendant from making any contact with his/her accomplices or instigators, or provided that the detention aims at protecting the defendant himself, limiting the effect of the crime, preventing repetition of the crime, forbidding the defendant from escaping or and sparing the public order any trouble resulting from the crime. “

⁴ This table was formed during March 2011. It is worth mentioning that Jezzin prison is not included in the work scope of the project- this percentage also includes the foreigners.

⁵ SHEILD, previously under the name of INTERSOS, rehabilitated the prisons in the South according to the minimum human standards

⁶ The severe overcrowding is mainly caused by the detained; 70% of the overall inmates are in fact detained for medium and long periods waiting for end of trial, which indicates a dysfunction in the work of courts in terms of slow prosecutions or of excessive, even sometimes, illegal use of temporary detention.

- An unsuitable environment for public and personal hygiene and health, the absence of educational, social, or economic activities in addition to the difficulties in arranging families visits.

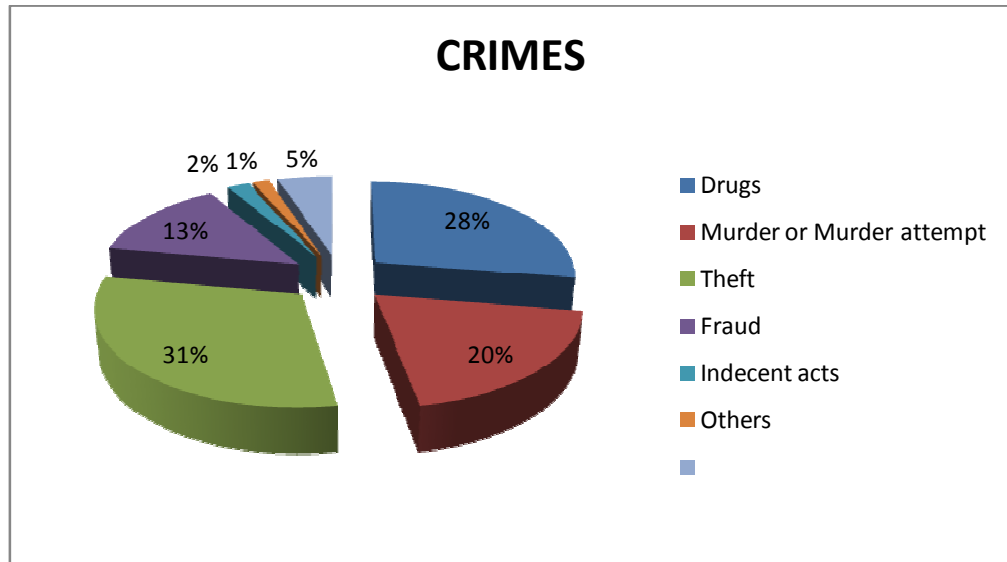


Chart 2: Rates of crimes for the prisons of Nabatiye, Tyre, and Tebnin (all inmates)⁷

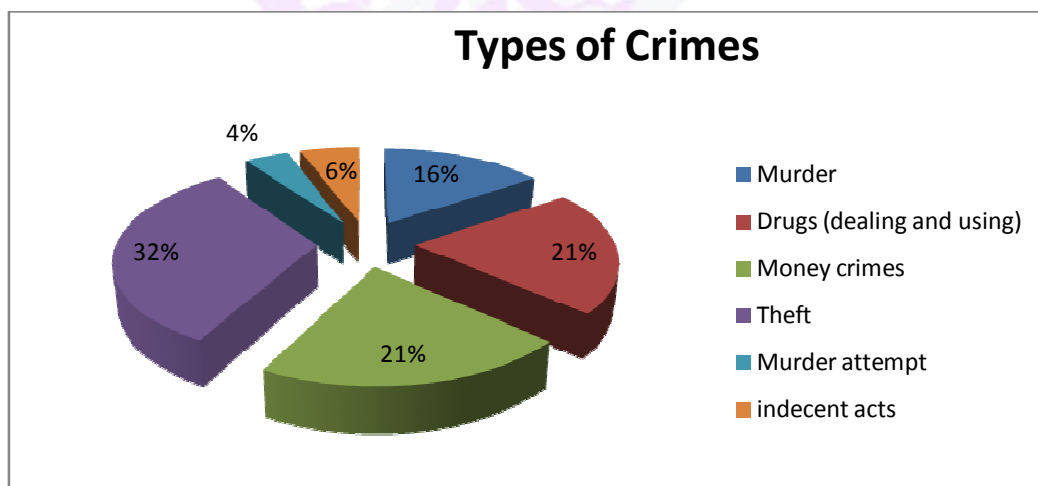


Chart 3: Rates of Crimes for Lebanese inmates⁸

Perhaps, it wasn't expected in the region where the study was conducted that the crimes include theft, drugs, murder, and fraud crimes. It is significant however, that drug crimes, which

⁷ For Lebanese and foreign inmates

⁸ For Lebanese inmates only

are second in ranking after theft, were committed in order to commit another kind of crimes such as theft, murder or attempt of murder.

The southern environment in Lebanon is supposed to be a conservative and religious environment. Therefore, drugs crimes -whether drug trafficking or drug use- are considered a shameful and disgraceful illegal act that subjects its committer to ostracism by his community and his family. This explains why some families did not have the desire to discuss the crimes committed by a family member and the lack of cooperation in some cases.

As for the crime of check with no deposit, it came in fourth as one of the forgery and fraud crimes that are still considered as a crime and not a misdemeanor in Lebanon. Back to the theft crime, some of these are strange even for some judicial or security authorities. It was indeed noticed that in some cases the person committing theft is totally ignorant of the consequences of this act as a crime⁹ as the value of some thefts is silly compared to the verdict. Nevertheless, the public's lack of legal knowledge and the absence of alternative punishments such as community service make the convict serve a period that might exceed three years in prison for a petty theft.

According to the chart 4 below, which illustrates the status of verdicts in the four prisons in South Lebanon, we can notice as previously explained, that the detainees constitute the largest portion of inmates. This is due to the lack in the number of judges and the terms of discretionary trials that allow detention and extension as well. The minister of justice launched the law 463/2002 and its application decree 16910/2006 stipulating the decrease of criminal punishment and their replacement with freedom constricting punishments within certain terms and conditions like good behavior, kind of crime and punishment. The decrease may reach half of the period, which helps in decreasing the number of inmates by 20%- 30%.

⁹ The Lebanese legislator dealt with theft crimes in articles 635 and 643.

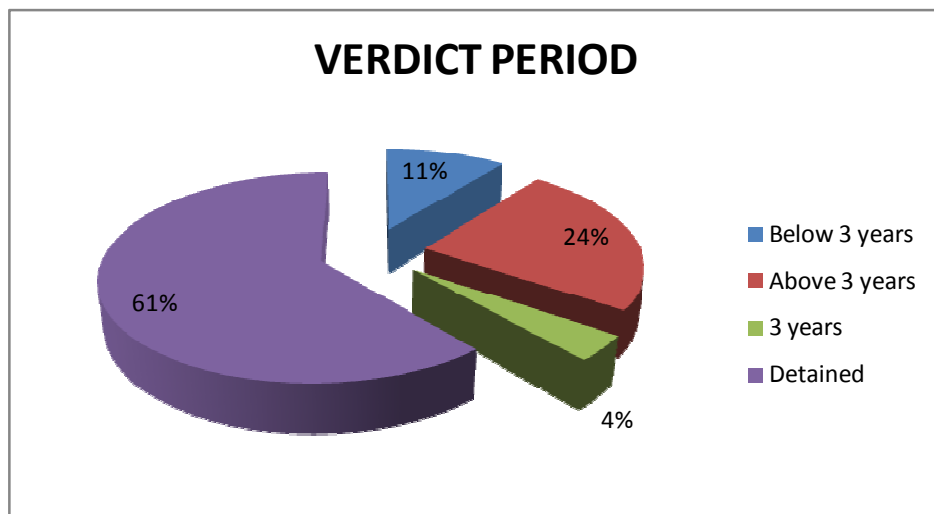


Chart 4: Verdict periods in the prisons of the South¹⁰

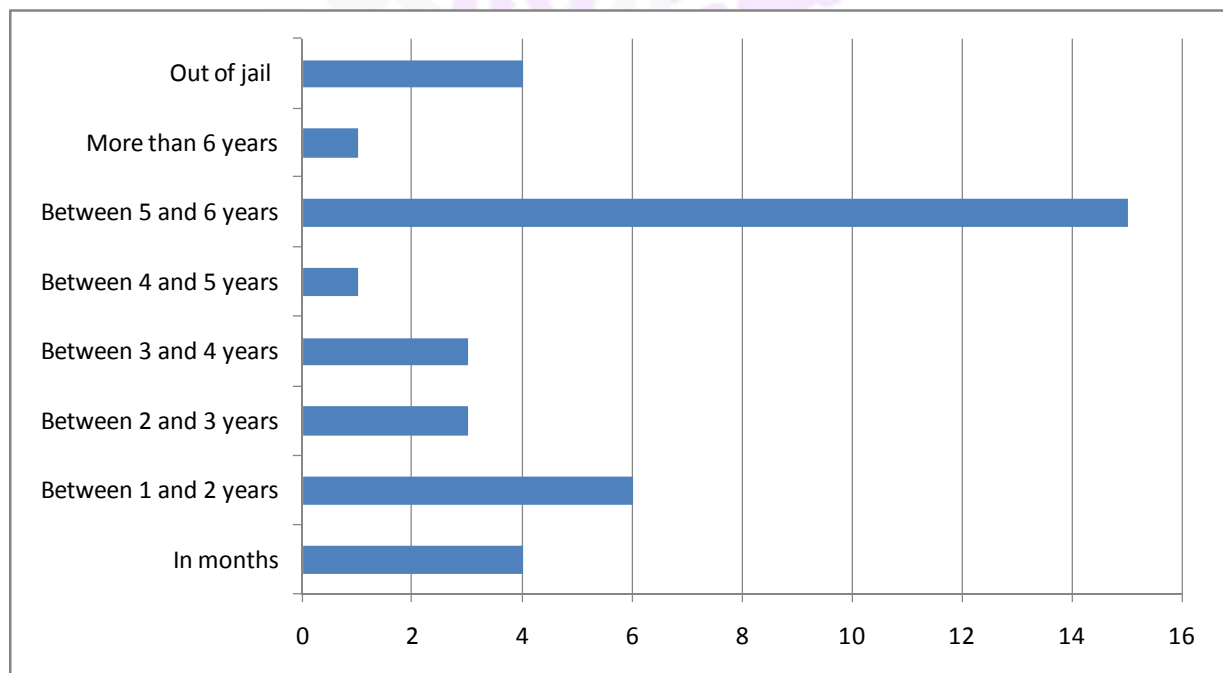


Chart 5: Number of years for convicts in the South¹¹

The percentage of detained remains the highest, followed by the crimes of murder, theft, and fraud where felonies are mixed with misdemeanors¹² through the sentences that vary from

¹⁰ Section Two—in the penal provisions from penal code, articles 27—40 divided felonies into ordinary and political according to 10 types, death penalty being the maximum punishment and deprivation from civil rights being the minimum. As for misdemeanors, they were divided into 6 penalties, criminal and political, the maximum being imprisonment with labor and the minimum payment of a fine.

¹¹ The number of convicted persons who were cooperative in the study is 37

¹² The period of imprisonment in misdemeanors varies between 10 days and three years unless the law included private text.

three to fifteen years. This is a high percentage if we add the 24% to the 4% which gives a total of 28% as the 4% falls under the category of felonies¹³.

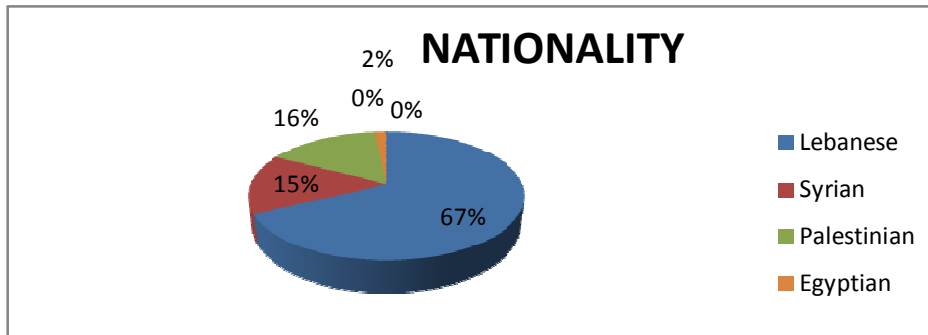


Chart 6: Nationalities

Excluding the foreign nationalities from the project was only to empower and facilitate the project in the beginning and launch it in an easy and effective approach. Also, it is a fact that most of the families of inmates with foreign nationalities do not live in the country. The Palestinian nationality (16%) represents the second highest percentage of inmates after the Lebanese, which is normal and expected in the South where there are many official Palestinian refugee camps and unofficial gatherings according to the classification of UNRWA. The Syrian nationality comes next with 15% making the total percentage 31% which is a large portion not included in the project¹⁴. It is worth mentioning that the field staff of SHEILD included in its questionnaires some of these foreign categories to prevent the idea of discrimination from occurring to some of the inmates. As for the crimes of the Palestinian and the Syrian inmates, they are not at all different from the types of crimes committed by the Lebanese inmates. 90% of the Palestinians were detained or prosecuted for theft and the same applies for the Syrians¹⁵. Theft comes first with 70%, drugs and murder come next in equal percentages.

¹³ If the law did not have a special text, the minimum verdict is temporary hard labor and temporary detention, relegation or house arrest or civil right deprivation for three years and maximum verdict is 15 years.

¹⁴ 13% of those detained in Lebanese prisons are foreigners who finished their sentence.

¹⁵ The Syrians represent one of the main labor forces in Lebanon especially after Taef agreement. The incidents of 2005 and the 2006 war affected their presence in Lebanon, and then their numbers increased rapidly after the opening of the Syrian embassy in Lebanon and establishment of normal diplomatic relations between Lebanon and Syria according to the Vienna convention.

Lebanon suffers from the problem of release foreign immigrants, refugees and detainees who violate the laws of travel and immigration and who stay in custody although their sentence ended¹⁶ which is the case in the prison of Jezzin- not included in the assessment.

b. Cooperation of inmates:

The inmates’ questionnaire is very significant because it asked questions that tackled the family situation and set the mechanism of cooperation. It facilitated communication and enhanced the level of trust between SHEILD and the inmate on one hand, and his family members on the other hand. This questionnaire formed a main pillar for the general data base about the families¹⁷. It is important to note that the numbers mentioned relate only to the inmates who cooperated fully or partially¹⁸.

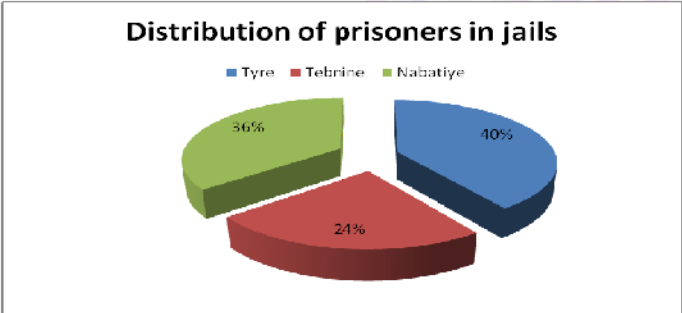


Chart 7

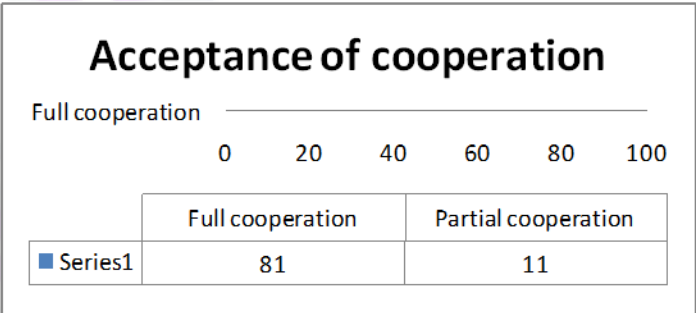


Chart 8: Distribution of inmates who accepted assistance

After excluding Jezzin prison from the project for the reasons previously mentioned, the distribution of inmates who accepted assistance is limited to the three prisons: 40% in Tyre prison, 36% in Nabatiye prison, and 24% in Tebnin prison. According to the numbers, the paradox is in Tyre prison which is the smallest among the three prisons and in which all the inmates accepted to cooperate fully. The percentage of full cooperation was equal in Nabatiye and Tebnin prisons. Perhaps the only common factor between Nabatiye and Tebnin prisons is the fact that they both include detainees, while Tyre prison includes only convicted inmates

¹⁶ The Lebanese courts consider keeping someone in prison after finishing his sentence is an illegal procedure if not based on any judicial or administrative orders. Even though release orders are issued, the general security forces do not apply them.

¹⁷ A data base and tables were created which helped in obtaining 18 graphs related to the inmate.

¹⁸ The targeted category of the Lebanese is 127. The number increased during the study because of new comers and transfers from other prisons.

where the inmate has lost hope in getting out which makes him adapt and cooperate and ask for basic needs for him and for his family.

The geographical distribution unit adopted by the staff in the project is the caza within the five provinces of Lebanon; the targeted group is distributed on 10 cazas and 50 villages¹⁹ according to chart 9 below:

Distribution of inmates who accepted full cooperation according to the cazas

22	Nabatiye caza
6	Baabda caza
1	Baalbek caza
6	Bentjail caza
7	Beirut caza
26	Tyre caza
4	Marjayon caza
7	Saida caza
1	Mount Lebanon caza
1	Zahle caza
81	Total

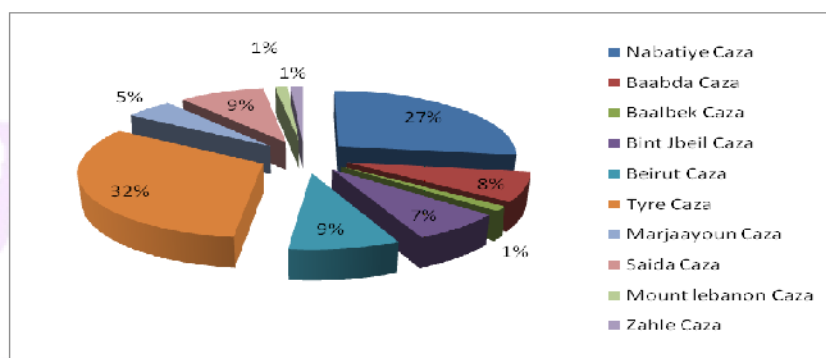


Chart 9: Inmates who approved to cooperate²⁰

c. Noncooperation of inmates:

It was significantly important to know the reason behind the refusal of some inmates to cooperate especially that partial cooperation cases (11 cases) were justified by the acceptable financial status of the family and the lack of need for such intervention.

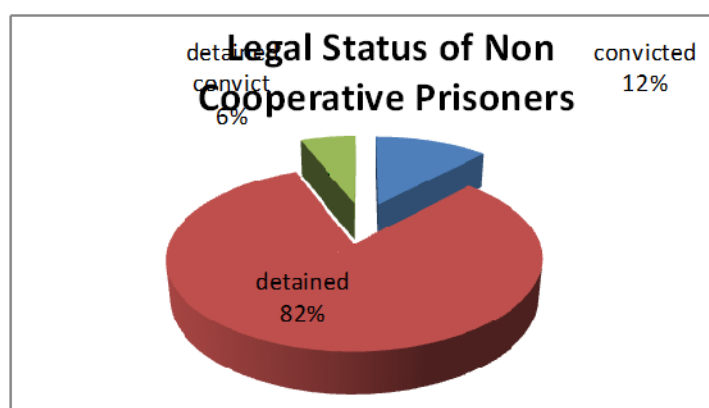


Chart 10

The judicial status of the detained—which is the largest percentage—may result in refusing any type of assistance, which explains the lack of desire to cooperate

¹⁹ The ranking of distribution in the first three cities and villages is as follows: Nabatiye 17 villages, Tyre 15 villages, Bentjail 7 villages.

²⁰ 11 inmates approved partial cooperation—i.e. limiting cooperation to him and within the prison, while 81 inmates approved the full cooperation mechanism as set in the project.

The field teams worked on getting in-depth details related to the non cooperative and partially cooperative category of inmates, hoping to find a certain connection through the graphs or through some direct answers from the inmates or their families. In some cases for example, the rejection came from the family and not from the inmate (especially wealthy families). The opposite is also true as some families accepted cooperation and training while the refusal came from the inmate.

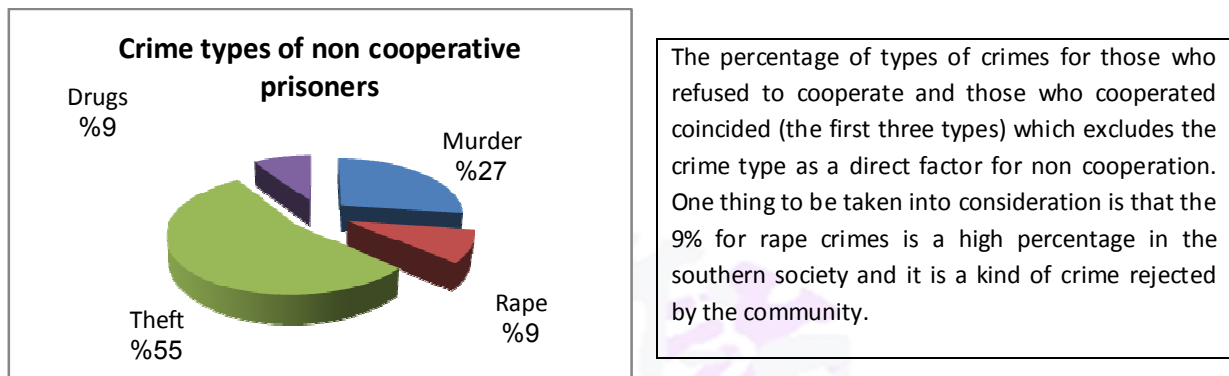


Chart 11: Rates of crimes for non cooperative inmates

Looking at the family status, the picture for noncooperation cases becomes clear. Single inmates represent 18% which does not put financial loads on the inmate and entails consequently a reason for non cooperation. As for the 46% for the “no data” category, it is a high percentage, but it represents those in the process of completing divorce procedures which often isolates the inmate from his family, not to forget the state of abandonment imposed by the wife who gets back to her parents’ house. Some wives start divorce procedures immediately after issuance of the verdict or after a long period of detention. In this case, they send the divorce papers to the inmate in prison. The relation ends and children are left in the wife’s custody. Their only shelter is the old or new place she selects which is often her parents’ place.

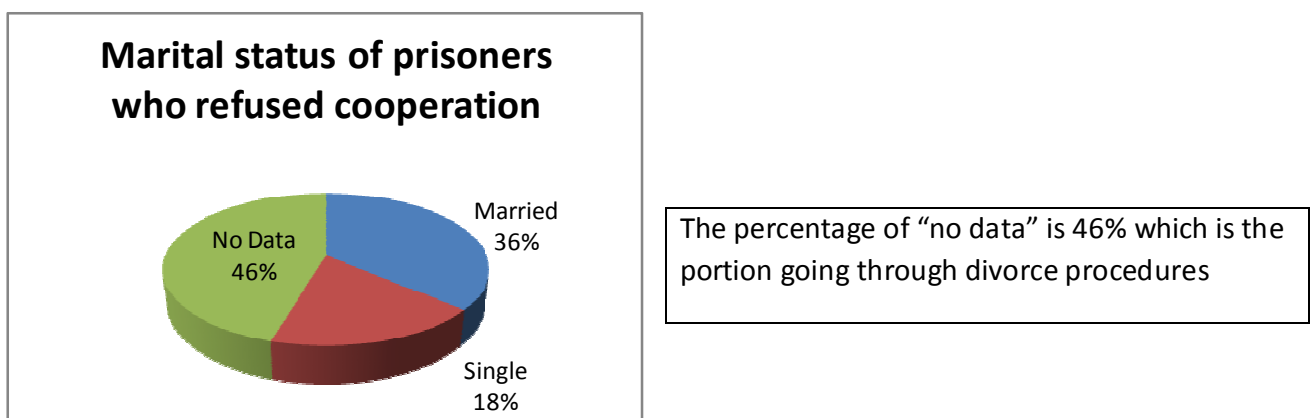


Chart 12

II. The inmate's family:

a- Divorce

The sufferance that the inmate undergoes, from the moment he is arrested until the verdict is returned, is not limited to a period of time that ends by his release, but it extends to after the end of detention or the sentence period is finished.

The wife suffers from a lot family pressures resulting from being a case of social rejection. The children suffer as well from social embarrassment leading in many cases to drop out from school. The lack of economic capacity can also lead to progressive obligatory dropout, which starts with occasional absence and then permanent absence.

These family problems exacerbate if the inmate himself is the supporter of his family. According to the study, it was revealed that putting the inmate in prison means isolating from his social environment behind the fences of a disciplinary facility, where he is only allowed to connect to this environment under the supervision of the authority that is executing the punishment. Consequently, it is expected that a group of negative social changes affect the family following the imprisonment of one of its members, leading to some disorders in the structure and functions of a family. Some of these disorders resulting from imprisonment are clear in the relation between the convict and his family members during imprisonment, or the relation among the family members during the absence of the inmate, and consequently in the general family life. These changes pertain to many factors including emotional ties between the married couple, the social roles of the inmate toward the family, as well as the cultural, economic and social levels of the family, and the extent of the wife's success in facing financial difficulties resulting from the husband's imprisonment.

It is also noticed that the type of crime committed may stir up hostile feelings towards the inmate from relatives and neighbors and neighborhood residents if the imprisonment was for an indecent act. It may also cause to feel pity and compassion towards the inmate if the crime was motivated by revenge or honor. These social changes resulting from imprisonment may have damaging effects on the family, such as delinquency of children or asking for divorce.

The divorce filed by the wife is one of the critical issues facing the inmate. It is evident, from the chart 13 below and the primary questionnaires which included the detailed answers, that the 8% divorce rate is a result of the imprisonment of the accused as a detainee or as a convict. This means that the 52% will turn from the red color to the blue color, while the percentage of the singles will stay as it is, especially that the prisons law in Lebanon does not allow mechanisms for marriage of inmates from inside the prison.

The householder

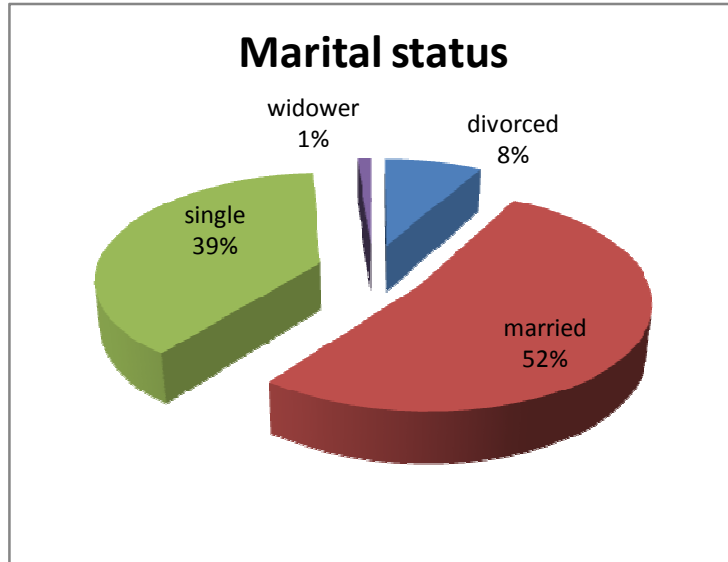


Chart 13: The inmate's marital status

Nobody	9
The father	17
The brother	8
The son	8
The wife	20
The inmate himself	8
The uncle	1
The sister	4
The mother	6
Total	81

Numbers related to the family provider after the imprisonment of one family member were opposite to the expectations of SHEILD staff. Assumptions were made that the wife would rank first with a large difference from other family members. Nonetheless, the results were different: the number of inmates' fathers playing the role of householder was very close to the number of wives playing that role. Came in third were the brother, the son, and the inmate himself who depends in the beginning of his imprisonment on some of his savings or on some assets respectively sold by his wife.

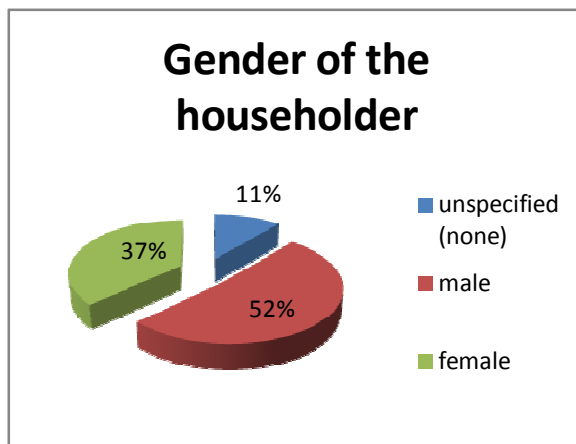


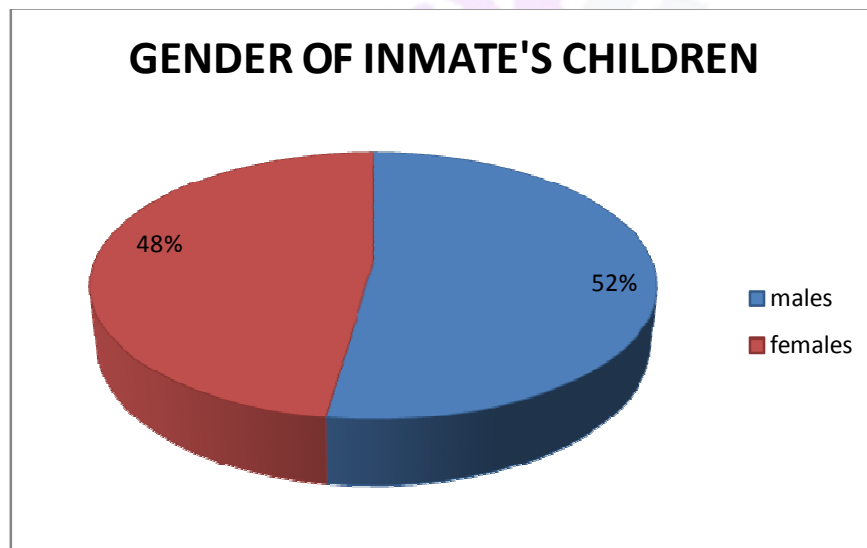
Chart 14

Unspecified	9
Male	42
Female	30
Total	81

- ✓ As for gender, the percentage of males is double that of the females. Yet, by using the answer “unspecified”, the inmate meant to limit the responsibility of his family to himself, which makes the percentage $52+11=63\%$, a normal percentage in the southern society. This is a normal reflection of the issue of financial support because the southern oriental community tries to reduce the obligations and pressures on the woman especially after divorce which disconnects the inmate from his wife socially.

b- Children

After losing their provider, children (under 18) suffer from the psychological problems to which the whole family in general is subjected as a result of the lack of self-esteem and frustration caused by the loss of the family supporter and the absence of affection and care.



Males	70
Females	64
Total	134

Chart 15: Gender percentage for inmates' children²¹

This number (134) is related to the percentage of married inmates (52%) in addition to the divorced inmates (8%) and widowers (1%). It is obvious from the chart 15 that the percentages of males and females are almost equal. 4% from the total of 134 suffer from different kinds of mental and physical disabilities. If the percentage of those suffering from disabilities is relatively normal²², the percentage of school dropout²³, which exceeds 18%, is a high percentage in the age category from 8 to 18 years.

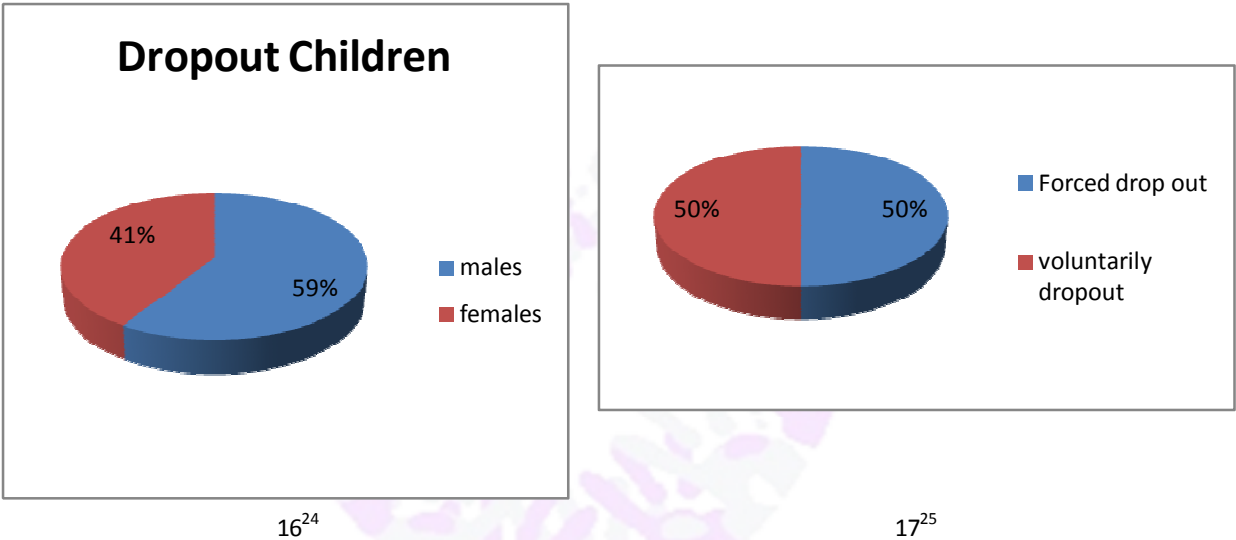
²¹ These numbers are limited to the families who fully cooperated which are 72 families.

²² The United Nations defined the disability percentage by 10% of world populations. This percentage increases in developing countries due to wars and conflicts and lack of primary medical care.

²³ UNICEF defined dropout in 1992 by the fact that children who are in schooling age do attend school or leave it without finishing the educational phase successfully either willingly or due to other factors. Dropout also includes those who are absent for one year or more.

The percentage of males reaches 59% while females reach 41% for those children who dropped out from school. As for the reasons, they vary from voluntary to compulsory drop out, whether it was interruption of studies or absence.

24 of the sons, males and females, do work, which is a 20% of the total number of sons. The jobs are various and include working as a mechanic, daily worker, and secretary especially for girls. The number of working children (under 18) is 9 out of 24.



According to results obtained from the questionnaires, SHEILD managed to detect the different reasons that could lead to school dropout. Some of these reasons are often overlapping. It is difficult to detect a main reason for the student to dropout without taking into consideration the other reasons that contributed to this dropout. Some answers result from a weak desire for education; however, this phenomenon is related to poverty and the sudden absence of the householder leading to a lack of control and monitoring. The wife or the mother is too busy finding a source of income and is confused about the new social situation.

Those who dropped out assured that the main reason is the lack of resources caused by the detention or imprisonment of the family provider, forcing the inmate and the wife as well to make the children work. Of course, one should take into account the behavior of neglect, carelessness, irresponsibility and unrealism of some children. This attitude is manifested through the behavior of some teenagers outside their homes and in the streets characterized

²⁴ The percentage of dropout among males and females

²⁵ It is important to note that many reasons and factors belong to both categories (compulsory or voluntary dropout)

by impulsiveness and carelessness (as mothers express it) and sometimes it aggravates to reach violation of public manners and conventional moral and social traditions and values.

Concerning health and medication, the study results proved that the families of inmates suffer from various health and medical problems because of low income and the lack of ability to get proper treatment for all family members. The part of the study related to this aspect showed that some individuals among one third of the study sample suffer from a bad health situation and spread of chronic disease. It also shows that this number doubled over time since the arrest of the family provider, increasing by 20%. There are 55 cases suffering from chronic diseases and need direct and rapid intervention, 55% of these cases are women (wife, sister, mother, and daughter), this is beside the deteriorating health situation of the inmates themselves during their stay in the prison. Skin diseases increase by 50% in addition to teeth problems, back pains, asthma, blood pressure, and osteoporosis.

The insurance from the ministry of health and social security in addition to some special insurance offered by political parties in the south which reaches 24% of the cases studied does not satisfy the actual need as such interventions stay in a low profile of assistance. Also, the largest portion (76%) does not know how to reach such kinds of insurance. 34% benefit from charity donations offered by civil society associations²⁶.

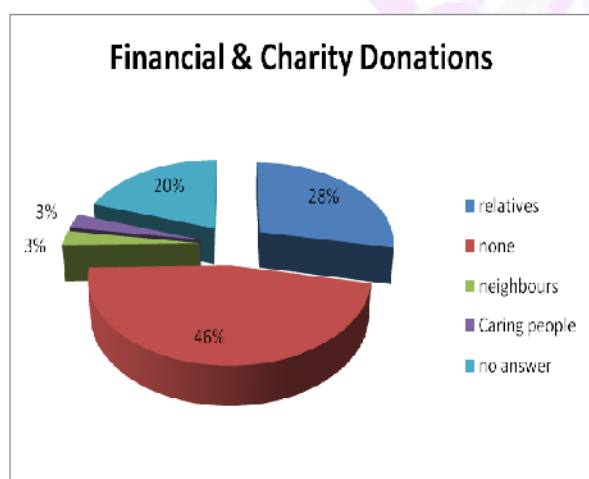


Chart 18: Distribution of charity donations on families

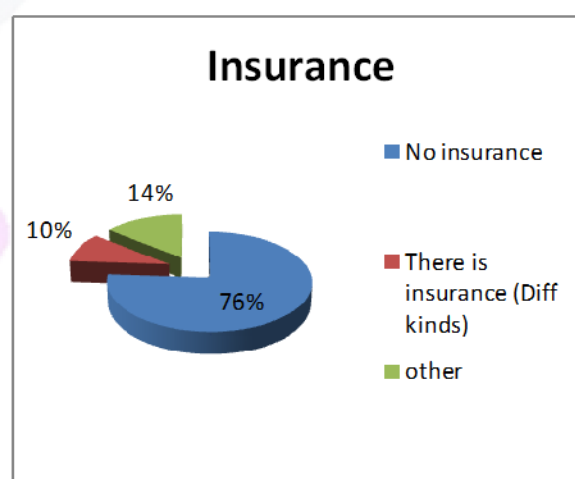


Chart 19: Insurance for the families

As for the 20% who gave “no answer”, they were reserved about the kinds of assistance they get; they did not say “nobody” like the 46%. This last percentage remains the largest and the most critical, this means that 46% are marginalized and suffer from difficulties in social

²⁶ Official entities and local authorities were not among the answers

integration and communication at all levels, which is the same portion included in the 76% deprived from all kinds of insurances.

c- Family surrounding

The study showed that there are many kinds of social problems faced by inmates' families, the most important of which are divorce, wife's abandonment of the house, low standard of living, ignorance of the inmate about the situation of his children, taking over heritage by relatives, lack of visits to the inmate by his wife and children, as well as the escape of some family members from the house and their exposure to drug abuse, and shelter problems since the family could be forced by the landlord or by the neighbors to leave the residence under psychological pressure due to imprisonment of the householder.

It was not surprising in a village community governed by social and family relationships to have wide and quick spread of social news, especially bad or negative news which form a controversial subject in many cases. Subsequently, we find that 87% of inmate's family neighbors know about the detention or imprisonment which also explains the 3% who get financial assistance from the neighbors. Chart 21 deduced from the question asked to the wife about the treatment of her neighbors after learning about her husband's imprisonment, shows that 76% were dealing in an acceptable manner with the wife and consequently with the rest of the family.

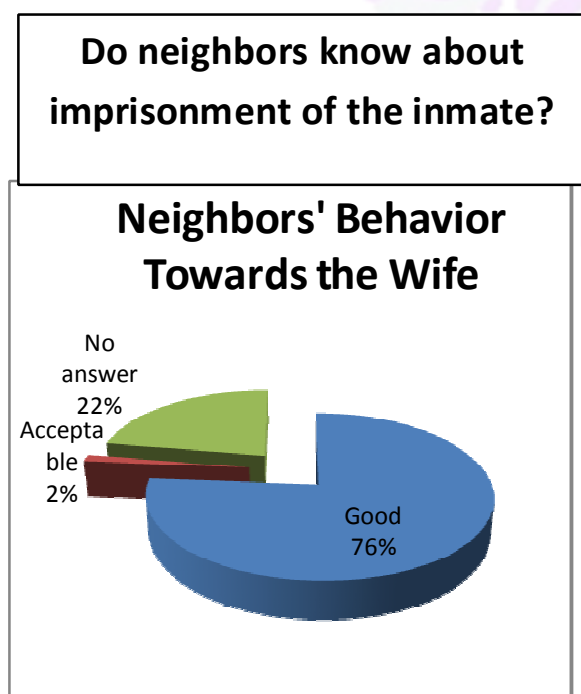
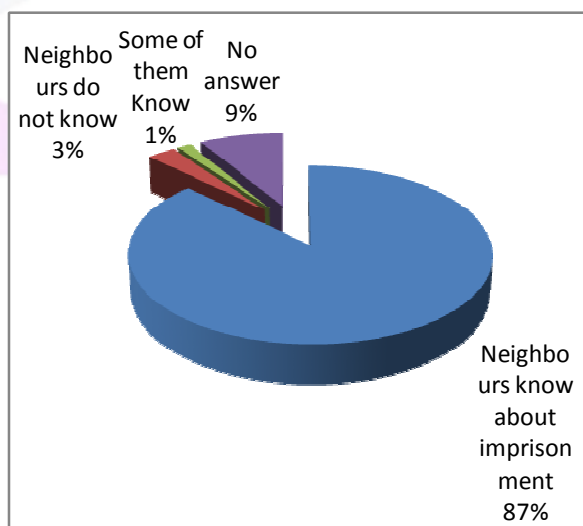
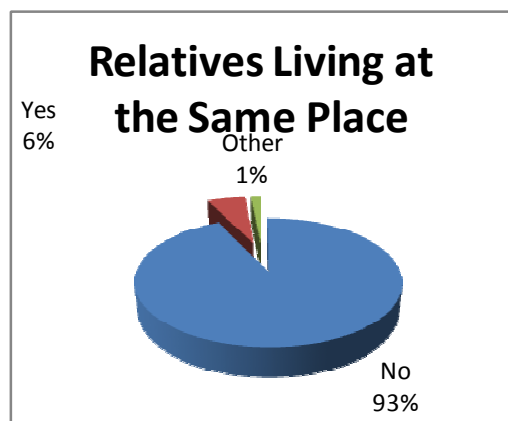


Chart 21: Neighbors' behavior towards the wife

Chart 20



6% of the families have other relatives living with them, which means their inevitable knowledge of the family's social situation. The presence of relatives living in the inmate's house directly affects economic situation of the family already suffering from economical problems at all levels.



The 6% is the percentage of relatives who lived in the inmate's house before and after his imprisonment.

Chart 22

The social problems from which inmates' families suffer, according to the observations of SHEILD field staff, are mainly disputes between sons and daughters who are so busy with their individual problems that they neglect the future of the family, in addition to the wife's inability to perform the role of the father in most cases which may affect the nature of relationships within the family. Furthermore, the types of jobs that the wife might perform after her husband's imprisonment may result to certain extent in the loss of control over the family. Some wives might ask for divorce (in some cases they actually did) which leads to a higher level of family disintegration. The relationship between the family and the community may take different shapes as a reaction to the crime committed by the father of the family. It can vary from interruption of communication with the family, to the unavailability of job opportunities to the family members, to constant talks about the inappropriate acts committed by the householder.

d- Income

The study proved that the inmate's family often suffers from severe financial problems when the inmate is actually the main source of income and the only provider. These problems exacerbate when the family members are in need for support.

The results will be the similar if one of the non-productive family members got arrested compelling the wife, the mother, or the father to double the load of work in order to raise the family income and thus afford a lawyer and other daily life expenses.

It was evident from the family questionnaire that a big percentage of inmates' wives are not qualified to work for many reasons including educational level, medical and health problems and social problems manifested when the inmate or the wife's family refuse to let her work.

This extremely bad financial situation of inmates' families forces them to reduce expenses or to depend on relatives' assistance or sell some properties in an attempt to overcome the shortage in income. The percentage of those inmates who were unemployed before imprisonment was 13% which is relatively high and indicates that the social and economic pressures underwent by some families exist before imprisonment.

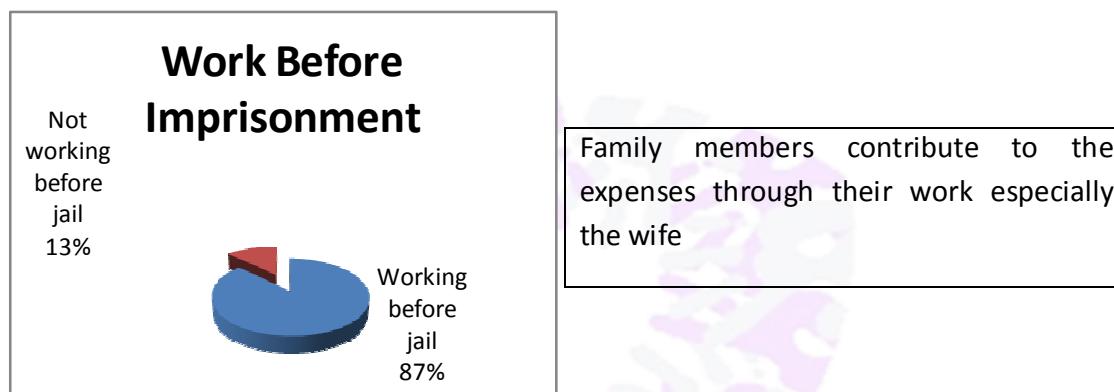
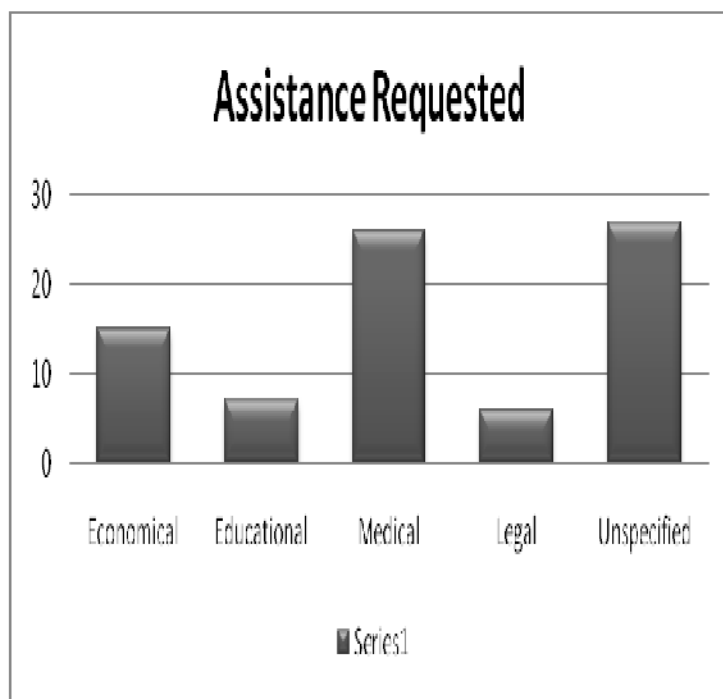


Chart 23

As previously shown, most family sustainers work in low-income jobs. It also was clear that 21% of inmates' wives suffer from diseases and that the families' situation in general is worsening over time.

The problem of diseases and illnesses is one of the issues affecting the individual seeking income to support the family. This is why medical assistance is considered a priority to the inmates and the family. The need for medical assistance exceeds 30%, it is followed by "Not Specified" with the same percentage. By "Not Specified", it is meant that it is up to SHEILD to decide the types of assistance it deems appropriate. As a matter of fact, in these cases, the need is more than just social and medical, and in some cases requests and demands gather and pile up making the inmate or the family householder say "everything" or "anything" to express the needs. The results came as follows.



Economic	15
Educational	7
Medical	26
Legal	6
Unspecified	27
Total	81

The legal situation is one of the problems related to the inmate and his family. Some of the inmates just need simple legal procedures and follow up like merging sentences and the like...

Chart 24

The economic requests²⁷ come in third followed by educational requests that concentrate on the educational situation of children whether in university or school. It became obvious through the study that many children are facing obstacles in getting their final grades. Traditionally, principals of schools and universities are used to hide the grades and final results from students who do not pay the fees without taking the circumstances the student is facing into consideration. It is also important in this regard to highlight the fact that some of these principals make efforts to deduct large portions of the fees for pure humanitarian reasons²⁸.

e- The family provider

The field teams in SHEILD, through the second and third questionnaires, communicated directly with the main financial supporter of the family²⁹ to detect the level of physical and educational ability of the new suggested supporter. Family providers can be divided into three categories:

- 1- Those who worked previously in a particular field—this category did not face changes

²⁷ We mean here by economical requests those that are exclusively intended to raise income

²⁸ Most school principals do not know about the family's social situation

²⁹ The supporter or provider here is the person directly responsible for generating income after the imprisonment of one family member.

2- Those who did work in any domain or field of work before

3- Those who were forced to increase the load of work or search for another job to raise income

It was expected that the responsibility of supporting the family would be transferred to the wife (for the married inmates), but the big percentage of single inmates (39%) in addition to the 8% divorced and the 1% widows, kept the wife percentage the highest (29%) although it is relatively low if compared with the father of the inmate (24%) who comes in second, followed by the inmate's mother (15%) then the inmate himself or one of his sons or daughters equally by 7%.

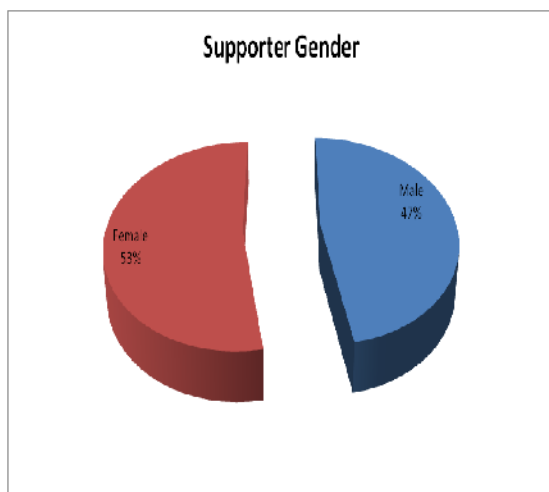


Chart 25

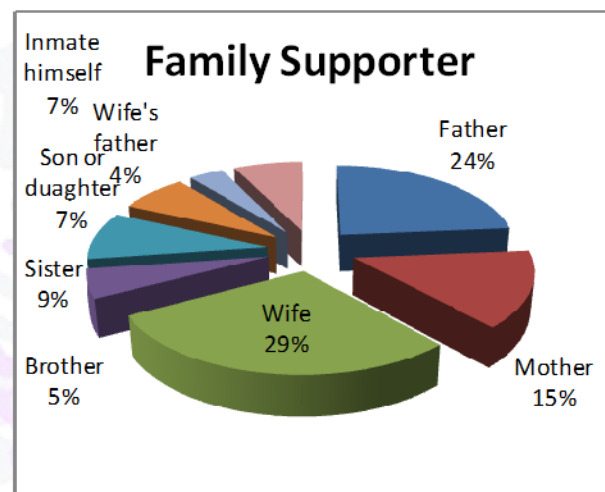


Chart 26

The presence of the mother and daughter in addition to the sister of the inmate as supporters, made the proportion of females larger (53% compared to 47% for males).

It is also noticed that the family does not abandon the woman after divorce, so we find family support in such cases with a percentage of 4%. This also applies to the father and the mother of the inmate as supporters who score high percentages due to the big proportion of single inmates in the study.

f- The medical status of the supporter

The medical problems from which the inmates suffer became something familiar in most similar studies. The inmate suffers diseases that get more serious due to lack of space and lack of basic humanitarian conditions for inmates in prisons.

The questionnaire related to the families and their socio-economic situation showed the poor medical and health situation from which the families are suffering due to the lack of social and medical insurance which should be provided for marginalized groups.

The financial factor remains the most negatively affecting factor on the health status of families. The low family income prevented the family from getting an essential medication in extremely bad conditions.

One of the unexpected results was the situation where the supporter is suffering from disease³⁰. According to statistics, it was evident that 21% of the supporting wives whose percentage is 29% suffer from diseases ranging from back pain, urinary system problems, eyes diseases, kidneys, calcium deficiency, glands diseases, blood pressure...etc. This also applies to the supporting mother (of the inmate) 37% of whom suffer chronic diseases like diabetes and different kinds of illnesses and tumors.

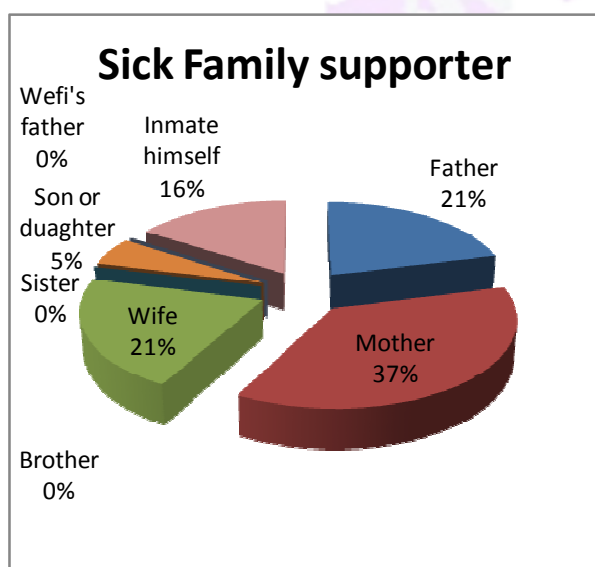


Chart 27

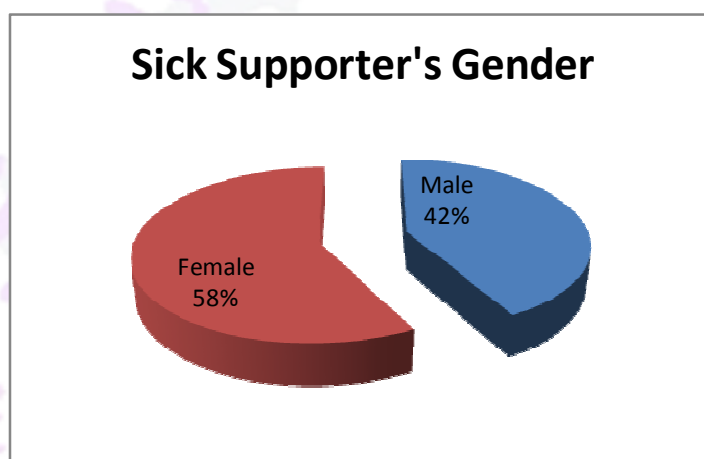


Chart 28

The father ranks third with 21%, which means that the majority of inmates' fathers have diseases³¹ especially that their age average is high, which applies also to the mothers of inmates. In the fourth place comes the inmate himself with 16%, as the supporting inmate is the same inmate who is suffering illness after imprisonment or even before. The inmate suffers

³⁰ We mean by supporter with diseases those who have illness affecting their daily life and productivity.

³¹ The supporting father's diseases varied from back pains, to blood pressure, heart diseases, and urinary system diseases.

from chronic medical problems upon release added to the difficulty he faces in finding work. His civil record is not clean which makes him as an outcast and deprives him from job opportunities in both public and private sectors. The sons or daughters who take the financial supporting responsibility come in last regarding diseases with 7%, which is logical and acceptable because the low age average making them less prone to illnesses.

III- Projects and Trainings:

The goal of the analytical stud based on the forms is to detect the economic capacity of the family provider or of whoever has the capacity to be the supporter and develop an income generating project. The SHEILD field teams could not predict in advance the nature of projects to suggest compared to similar programs previously implemented, such as projects for fighting poverty for mostly vulnerable groups or IGA programs for victims of mines and cluster bombs ... etc.

Attention since the beginning was given to the female householder or wife regardless of her social situation (still married, divorced, or in the process of being divorced).

Many factors verified by the study made the wife one of the targeted categories and not the only targeted category although it is the first in ranking. It is worth indicating though that the wife's low educational level has limited her capacity to integrate into the labor market.

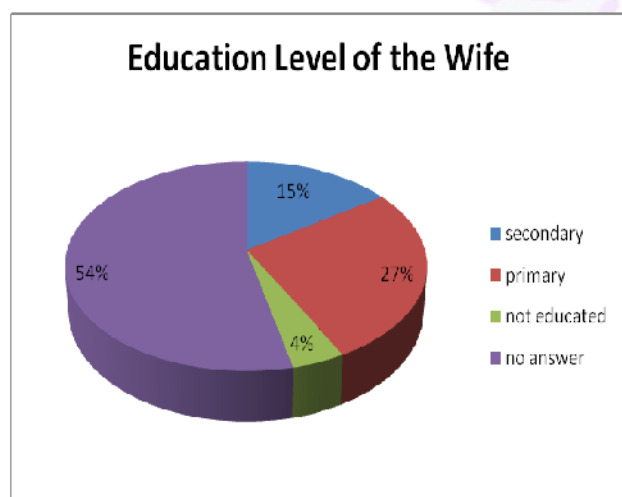


Chart 29

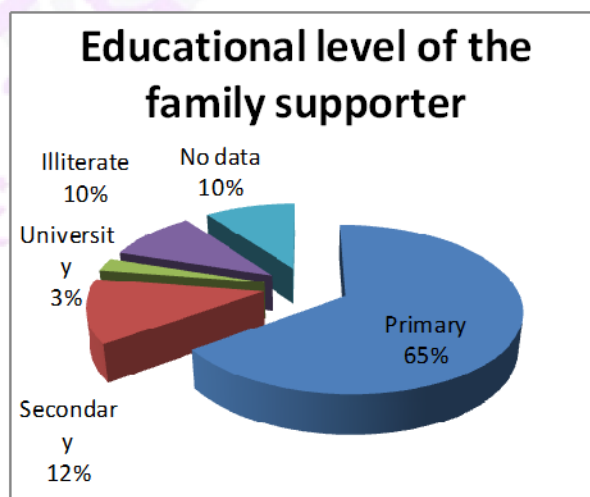


Chart 30

Chart 29 above³² showed the limited educational level of the wives; 15% of them reached the elementary level (without necessarily meaning passing this level) whereas 27% reached only

³² The educational graph for the responsible and supporting wife

primary level and 4% are uneducated³³. The highest percentage (54%) is that of “No answer”. The field staff remarked that this category can be added to the 4% (uneducated group). In fact, embarrassment from admitting illiteracy probably resulted in not answering this question.

This high percentage affected the general average of the supporter’s educational level making the percentage of illiteracy 10%, a high number. 12% and 3% of supporters attended high school and college respectively³⁴ while the largest percentage went for the basic education (intermediate and elementary) (65%). This shows the weak educational level of the supporter, whether male or female, father or wife, son or daughter, etc.

The complete cooperation of inmates in the prison of Tyre affected in raising the percentage of those interested in the economic program. In other words, the high level of cooperation in the primary questionnaire (with the inmates) was immediately manifested and reflected in the interest in the economic program. This means that the adopted mechanism helped in connecting issues and coordinating between the inmate and his family. Also it was obvious that the inmate has a direct influence on whoever takes over the supporting responsibility after imprisonment. 45% of the inmates in Tyre prison and their families showed interest in the economic projects, followed by a rate of 30 % in Nabatiye prison and 22% in Tebnin prison, in addition to 3% in Roumye³⁵.

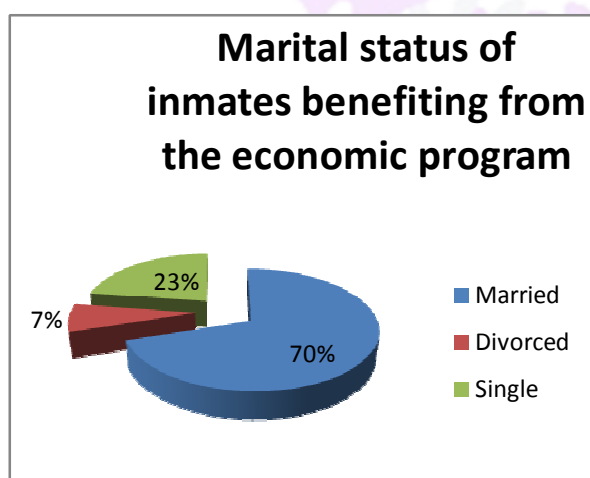


Chart31

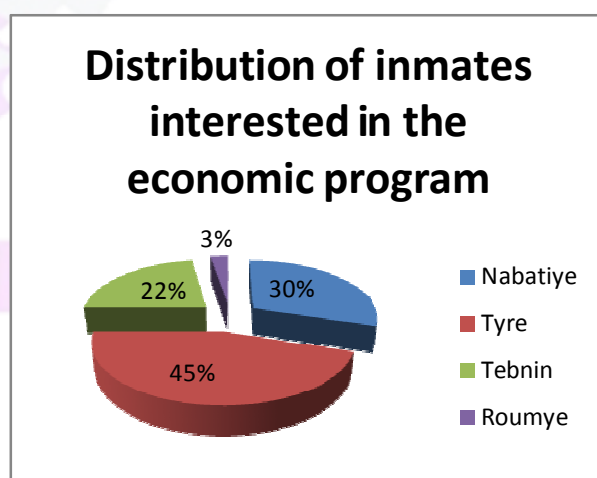


Chart 32

³³ Uneducated here means illiterate according to the study

³⁴ The wife, the father, and the mother of the inmate are excluded from the category of secondary and college education

³⁵ Some of the inmates are transferred from the south as a punishment and this has been happening since the start of the project.

The percentages in terms of ranking for the social situation for the inmate and his family interested in the economic projects coincided. If compared with the cooperation schedule we note the following:

Social situation	Cooperative cases	Interested in economic projects
Married	52%	70%
Single	39%	23%
Divorced	8%	7%
Widower	1%	-----

Chart 33

The married inmates' interest in the economic projects increased from 52% to 70% which is normal view the responsibility held by the inmate as a family supporter, so is the case of the supporter outside the prison.

As for single inmates, the percentage of interest decreased from 39% to 23% which reflects the reality. The interest of the family and the inmate in such projects is reduced because of the absence of a family. The rate of interest in the economic project by those divorced stayed the same, around 8%.

As for the gender, the difference between males and females the family supporters is wide, where females scored 53% compared to 47% for the males; however, the entrepreneurs were mostly males (72%) rather than females (25%).

The diseases from which most females suffer are the main reason for having more males than females in the economic process. Also, the enrollment of male sons in early work made the percentage increase more than 20%, knowing that those interested in the economic projects were not necessarily the original supporter or responsible and the initiative was taken by other family members or relatives.

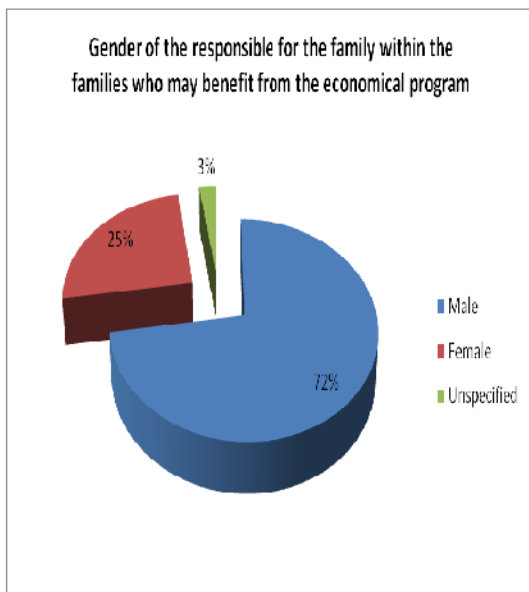


Chart 34

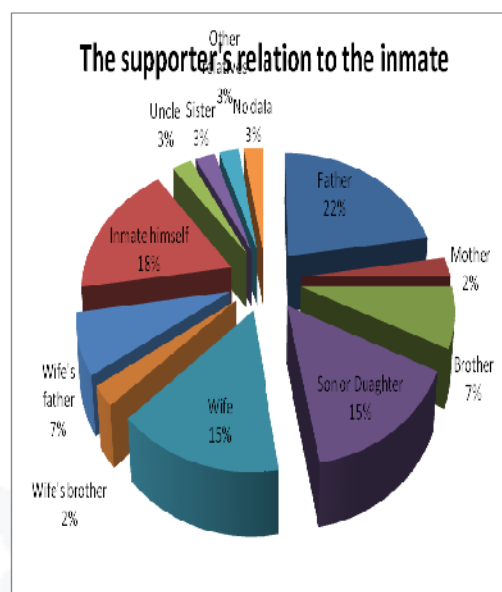


Chart 35

The kinship to the inmate according to the chart 35 above³⁶ came to confirm how the percentage of males exceeds that of females. In addition to the health factor that affected the females, 18% of the inmates who finished their sentence aspire to return to the labor market, which explains the presence of the inmate himself in the chart, followed by the inmate's father with 22%, children 15%, then the wife's father and brother with the same equal percentage of 7%.

a- Projects:

The economic assessment questionnaire included a variety of questions to form a clear idea about the economic situation of the family supporter. It was evident that the average family expenses per month is 300\$ regardless of the number of family members. It also included questions targeting the entrepreneur (the family supporter or possible supporter) who may need vocational training. This person may be male or female for obvious and simple reasons:

- It was noticed that the direct provider is not the same person who proposed the project, in other words, not everyone who proposed a project is the same current supporter.
- The family believed that it is possible to increase income through another person or individual who is able to participate in enhancing the economic status.

³⁶ For families that provided ideas for projects or vocational trainings.

- Most project ideas are purely commercial ideas and that is because the project proposer (entrepreneur), whether old or new possible supporter, performs jobs of commercial aspect and does not need any vocational training as shown in the chart 36 below.
- It is worth mentioning that the supporter, according to the second and third questionnaires, with a percentage of 68% is carrying the burden of supporting more than family while 27% does not have this over load.
- The diversity of professions makes it difficult to form adequate groups to attend vocational training sessions.



Chart 36: Need for vocational training³⁷

According to the economic assessment questionnaire, it was shown that 56% need vocational training according to the ideas suggested by the family supporter targeted by the program while 44% do not need training due to previous experience they have or type of project idea suggested. For instance, those who worked as seamen or owned a bakery do not need training. In this regard, we should emphasize that the 56% that needs training raises to 90% when it comes to business management and financial education trainings, because in some cases it was clear that those who had liberal professions suffer from financial managerial problems, such as managing the cash register, debit and credit accounts, etc.

³⁷ Need for training is for the family supporter either old or new supporter

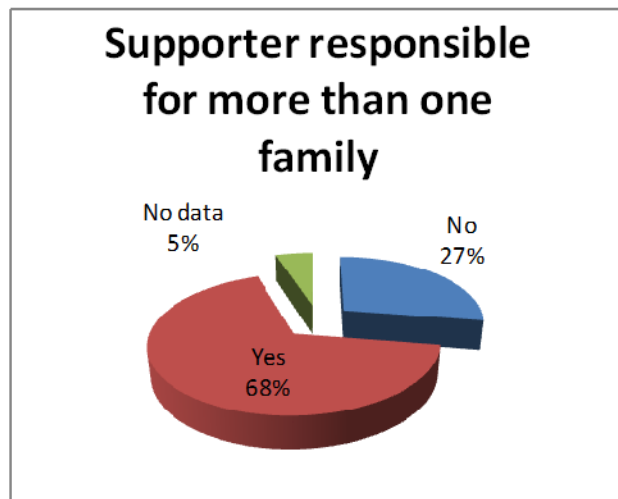


Chart 37

The reason for supporting more than one family is that the direct and indirect relatives in the inmate's family have responsibilities in their own families and additional financial constraints.

The proposed projects were also diverse but the sectors to which these projects belong have a service and commercial nature with an equal percentage of 47%, which is normal, because such projects generate quick income. As for the agriculture and manufacture, they came in third and fourth respectively³⁸.

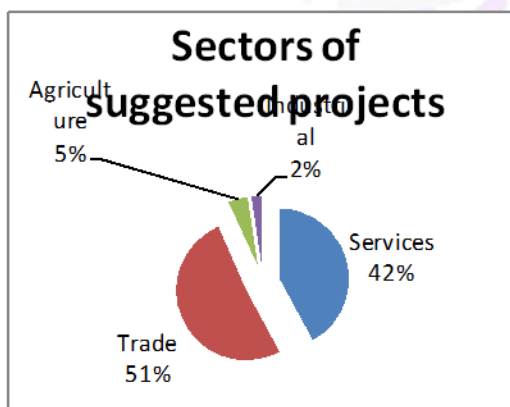


Chart 38

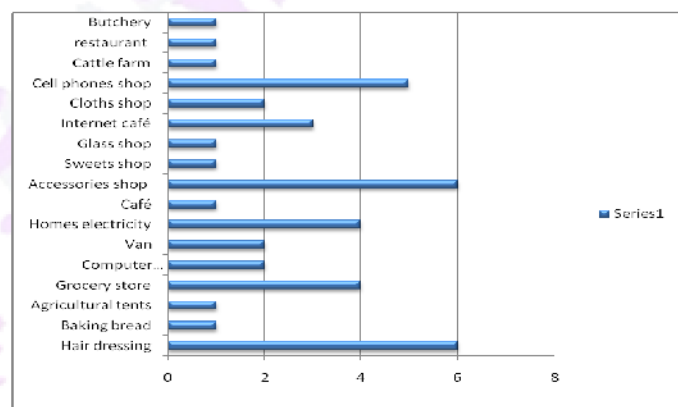


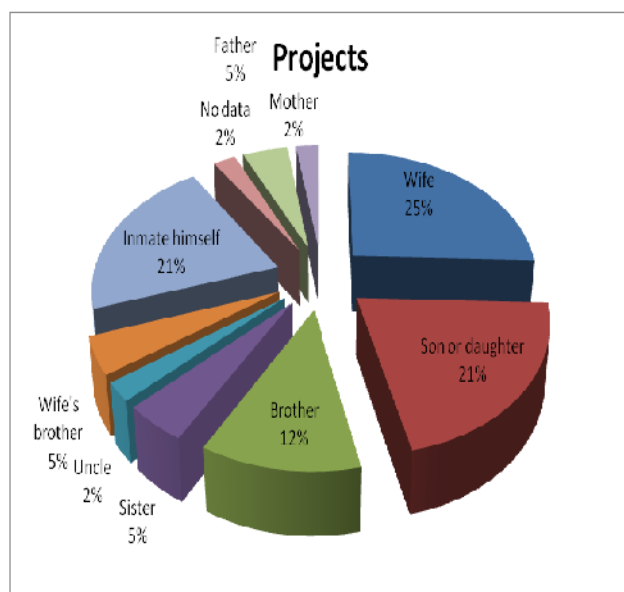
Chart 39

Family providers suggested 17 different jobs varying from topics that suit ladies and females in general to topics that are purely male-oriented³⁹. 25% of the wives suggested project ideas to increase income. This is a normal percentage according to the overall number and taking into consideration the health situation mentioned earlier and the other reasons we analyzed in the beginning of this section. The topics suggested by the ladies were diverse and focused at first on hair dressing and makeup needed in villages because of the long distance between some

³⁸ The adopted ranking is the normal ranking for the economic situation in Lebanon according to classification of sectors by the ministry of economy in 2010

³⁹ Classification of topics among males and females is made according to the public order of the society and Lebanese environment in general and southern in particular.

villages and cities. Also, low income families cannot afford the cost incurred to reach a beauty specialist⁴⁰. The inmate himself after release ranks second with 21%, which shows that the inmate has initiative, and the credibility of the project had a positive effect on the psychology of the inmates. Thus, they proposed ideas depending on their past work experience before imprisonment. Some of project ideas they suggested are grocery shops, accessories shops, in addition to computer and internet cafes.



The inmate imposed himself as a project proposer by 21%, a percentage equal to that of the sons and daughters and directly following the wife (25%) and preceding the brother (12%). As for the age categories of the inmates proposing projects, the highest percentage was scored by those in the 20s followed by 30s and 40s with 30%, 22%, and 20% respectively.

Chart 40

The ideas presented by the entrepreneurs (project proposers) were based, as expected, on previous experience that the entrepreneur might have acquired previously. Yet, this percentage was not high as expected by SHEILD staff. In fact, only 36% of those who proposed projects had previous experience while 64% did not have any past experience.

The logical analysis for this low percentage is that the vocational training topics targeted a new section, as explained before, other than those who are financially responsible for the family. This analysis emphasizes the low age average of project proposers, which does not exceed 30 years⁴¹. This becomes clearer when we take a look at the remaining answers on the question about the “reason for proposing the project”.

We note that the percentage of relation to past experience is 36% as aforementioned while the highest percentage which is 64% is distributed among five answers:

⁴⁰ In a joint meeting with SHEILD, the ministry of social affairs assured that the same topics are the most regular in the ministry's programs

⁴¹ This average does not include the age average of inmates who proposed projects after their release

- 16% said “I like this work”
- 15% wanted to fulfill an old desire
- 13% thought it does not need huge efforts
- 11% did not give any answer

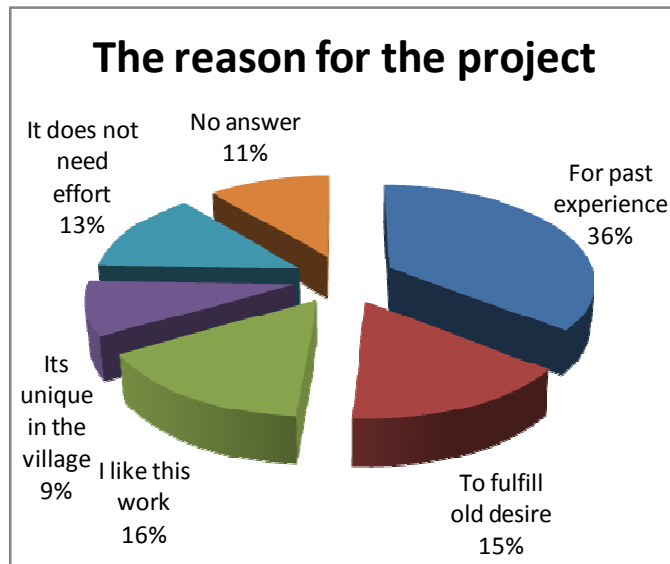


Chart 41

The age average for the project proposers from inmates' families is 30 years.

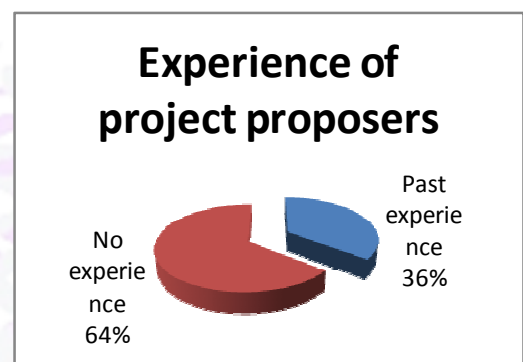


Chart 42

It should be pointed out that a large percentage of the targeted group was confused when discussing projects and careers or when asked to choose a certain career to work on. The reason for this is that some were not comfortable with the results of the jobs they are performing, and some started looking for a permanent job with a guaranteed salary without worrying about project costs and risks attached to liberal professions in the country. This is related to the supporter who already had a career and did some work, as for the new supporter, the issue was complicated because he/she does not have the experience for this kind of projects.

b- Training suggestions:

Females	Males
Hairdressing (young females)	Cellular phones maintenance (young males)
Homemade food and oriental sweets	Computer maintenance (young males)
Tailoring	Sculpture on wood

Drawing on glass and mirrors (young females)	Sculpture on stone
Chocolate making and decoration	Bee keeping
Cooking art	Dairy industry (cattle raiser)

Chart 43: Topics of vocational trainings done in the South lately⁴²

By observing the nature of vocational trainings currently held in most towns and villages and previously implemented, it was noticed that vocational trainings on handcrafts such as copper laundering or sculpture on stones and wood were very few⁴³. The trainings are now more oriented towards IT issues such as computers, cellular phones and other electronic devices which was adopted by a large percentage of males through the study.

IV- Recommendations:

According to the previous charts, and projects suggested by families of inmates or their supporters, as well as to the children's educational and psychological problems, the mothers' or wives' health problems and the economic difficulties families of inmates face, we can make recommendations at the following levels:

a. Associations:

- 1- Benefit from all the possible resources in the society to help inmates' families during imprisonment and even after release, since many institutions lack the numbers and facts while having the ability to assist.
- 2- Strengthen and widen voluntary efforts to help inmates' families and give them an organized institutional aspect because leaving it to individual efforts or voluntarily enthusiasm does not guarantee sustainability.
- 3- Set clear visions regarding crimes related to drugs, to treat drug addiction and ensure rehabilitation.
- 4- Strengthen the relation between the inmate and his family to preserve familial links through facilitating the visits in private rooms or places.

⁴² These topics were taken from some active associations specialized in this kind of activities.

⁴³ The trainings for handcrafts were limited to some villages still preserving some traditional habits or inherited crafts such as sculpture on wood and stone, cattle raising, and dairy making.

b. Public level:

- 5- Follow up the legal files for the inmates.
- 6- Raise the level of coordination between the ministry of social affairs and the ministry of interior.
- 7- Make serious efforts in order to make precautionary and ordinary medical and psychological services available for inmates and their families outside the prison.
- 8- Design works and activities that generate income for the inmates and for the prison's administration on a condition to make the workshops and facilities suitable and available.
- 9- Enhance the abilities, skills and efficiency of the staff managing the prisons through well-organized regular trainings especially on skills running prisons and dealing with the inmates and their families.
- 10- Enable the inmate to continue his education if he desires in all stages.

c. The Inmate:

- 11- Conduct activities inside the prison aiming at reducing inmates' stress and tension.
- 12- Enhance the level of legal information available to the detained.
- 13- Organize vocational trainings for the inmate – if the necessary space is available—or offer medical and psychological treatment and counseling.
- 14- Organize vocational trainings on skills useful in the labor market and assist inmates and their families to reintegrate in the community after release, and cooperate in this domain with relevant entities and professional organizations.

d. The Inmate's family:

- 15- Adopt educational and preventive interventions to follow up on cases of inmates' children dropping out school.
- 16- Plan effective social programs for house wives who are responsible for a family in order to reintegrate them into society.
- 17- Develop special educational literacy programs and ensure primary education for inmates and their wives who did not have the capacity of enrolling in primary or elementary schools.

These recommendations divided into many levels aim at protecting social security through precautionary, therapeutic and training activities, in order to alleviate the negative impact of prison on the inmate himself, on his family and on the society...



SHEILD