

HOUSEHOLD SURVEY ON VIOLENCE CONDUCTED IN THE SOCIETY AND AT HOMES IN THE PALESTINIAN CAMPS IN LEBANON, APRIL 2010

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

According to UNRWA records, there are currently around 406,324 Palestinians in Lebanon registered with UNRWA. Around half of them live in 12 UNRWA mandated refugee camps and many gatherings. Therefore the findings of this survey do not represent the entire registered Palestinian refugee population in Lebanon but rather the population living inside refugee camps and gatherings.

Objectives of the study:

- To assess the magnitude of the problem of violence at home, in schools, in institutions and in the neighborhood of camp environment.
- To explore violence perpetrated in the domestic sphere which targets women and children and exists as a powerful tool of oppression.
- To profile attitudes and practices of violence among target population.
- To explore relationship between violence and a set of socioeconomic and demographic correlates.

Population Profile derived from the study and UNRWA records:

Registered Palestinian population in Lebanon according to UNRWA records	406,324
Total registered camp population in Lebanon	223,956
Growth rate of UNRWA registered refugees based on registration statistics	1.4
Percentage of population registered as hardship case families in Lebanon	12%
Approximate number of unregistered population	50,000
Percentage of children population under 15 years of age	34.7%
Percentage of dependency (younger than 15 years and older than 65 years)	63.1%
Average family size	5.2
Sex ratio	94.4%
Rate of divorce	1.4%

Data sources were derived from respondents of a regionally stratified random sample of 4000 households which included 17838 persons out of them 12,164 responded (5798 aged 10-24 years, 3117 women, and 3249 children aged 2-9 years). Data were collected from households by means of person to person interviews. Trained interviewers conducted the interviews. The interviews covered 12 UNRWA mandated camps and five major gatherings chosen from the five areas: North, Beirut, Saida and Sour.

A statistical analysis was conducted examining the variations of responses by age, gender, socioeconomic and educational status and geographic distribution. In addition data were collected from Palestinian health institutions and clinics, and UNRWA schools.

Major results derived from findings of this study:

- Illiteracy among 10 years and older reaches 10.1%
- 43.2% of 15 years and older are within the labor force
- Average home area is 76.7 square meters
- Over-crowdedness reaches 1.8 persons per room
- 56% of heads of household face conflicts with family members and/or neighbors
- Three fourth of 10-24 years old children & youth indulge in conflicts as a result of economical problems, over-crowdedness, and maltreatment by parents
- One fourth of children & youth were exposed to physical abuse during the year prior to the undertaking of the study (13.3% by father, 9.5% by mother while 8.8% in school)
- One fourth of those were subjected to threats and 28% were subjected to insults in public while 21.7% were forbidden from getting out of the home as a form of punishment
- 21.4% of abused children & youth suffer physiological and psychological problems
- 7% of children aged 2-9 years suffer psychological problems while 36.7% suffer physiological problems
- 8.8% of children aged 2-9 years faced extreme physiological violence
- 10.6% of women were subjected to physical violence and battered by their husbands
- 17.7% of women were subjected to insults in the presence of others
- 14.7% of women were subjected to threats
- 2% of women were abused sexually
- 20% of women who were exposed to violence suffer either physical or psychological problems
- 47.5% of them suffered psychologically and 26% suffered physiologically

It is worth noting that although most responding children stated that violence is harmful and it leaves detrimental effects on families and individuals alike, yet 17% of them accept the physical violence against women in case women leave the home without the permission of the husband or if the women spend the household money without husband's prior knowledge and approval.

Gender-based domestic violence is universal differing only in the scope from one society to the other. In the Palestinian society where the paternal culture requires that women and all the household should be controlled by the man it is expected to continue to find domestic violence as a sign of masculinity and a tool for oppression of women deeply ingrained in culture and thus practiced and justified accordingly.

The Palestinian refugee population in the camps in Lebanon lives in an environment characterized by marginalization and poverty. Psychological strain of refugee life aggravates aggressive behavior towards children/youth and women within the family and towards the neighborhood and the camp environment.