The Importance of Data Production for Strengthening Social Cohesion

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Refugees and Host Communities: Lebanese and Syrians

- How is Lebanon and the Lebanese coping with more than 1 million of Syrian refugees? (Spectator UK, 2015)
- Are Syrian refugees becoming more vulnerable and Lebanese more increasingly wary of their presence?
- Lebanese reels under weight of Syrian refugee crisis (Al-Monitor, 2016)
- Syrian refugees between war and crackdown in Lebanon (Aljazeera, 2016)
- Syrian refugees overwhelm Lebanon to the breaking point (USA Today, 2015)
- Syrian refugees living in fear as Lebanon tightens its laws (BBC News, 2016)
- Syrian refugees squeezed out of livelihoods in Lebanon (The National, 2017)
- Deterioration in quality of air due to Syrian refugee crisis (Annahar 2017)
- Lebanon refugee policy based on set of “Nos” (The Legal Agenda, 2016)
- Lebanon near 'breaking point' over Syrian refugee crisis: PM Hariri Says (Reuters, 2017)
- Sectarianism and racism against Syrian refugees will only backfire (Baladi Blog, 2016)
- The impact of the Syrian refugee crisis on the Lebanese employment (Annahar, 2017)
- The impact of the Syrian refugee crisis on the Lebanese economy (Janoubia, 2016)
- On the Syrian refugees and Lebanese racism (AlAraby, 2016)
- Syrian refugees test Palestinian solidarity in Lebanon (The DailyStar, 2017)
Racist Lebanese Municipalities or National Lebanese Policy Against Syrians?

- Lebanon: At Least 45 Local Curfews Imposed on Syrian Refugees by Municipalities (HRW, October 2014)
What do perception surveys tell us?

- Lebanon: More than a quarter of Syrian refugees in Lebanon do not feel safe, and almost the same number reported that a member of their family had suffered some kind of assault since arriving in the country and 54 percent of Lebanese feel insecure (Source: Saint-Joseph University, poll of 1,200 Syrian refugees and 600 Lebanese in July 2015).

- Jordan: In contrast to the warm reception refugees received at the start of 2011, a recent poll conducted in September 2012 reports that 80% of residents in Mafraq now feel that the Syrians should be housed in refugee camps, segregated from the community. (Source: CSS. Perceptions in Public Opinion Toward the Syrian Crisis. Public Opinion Survey. Center for Strategic Studies, University of Jordan. September 2012.)
Going beyond a dichotomous narrative of Syrian insecurity/vulnerability and Lebanese/Jordanian racism
Defining Social Cohesion: A Functional Concept

- PSCAR adopts a definition of social cohesion that describes a state of affairs concerning both the vertical (state-society relationship) and the horizontal interactions among members of society (intergroup relations) as characterized by a set of attitudes and norms that include trust, a sense of belonging, and the willingness to participate and help.
UNDP-RBAS Social Cohesion Index: An analytical tool

• PSCAR proposes a SCI that assesses inter-group perceptions (horizontal dimension) and citizen state perceptions (vertical dimension)

• Conceptually driven approach to SCI is conceived as a multi-dimensional, multi-layered concept comprising of core, medial and peripheral indicators.

• A psychometric instrument that is based on a questionnaire designed for this exercise: to be modified and fine-tuned at the national (and sub-national) level(s) to better capture important socio-cultural contexts without jeopardizing its comparative nature at the regional level.

• Data to be collected through random population surveys (sample size varies) will provide analysis with an abundance of findings, both intuitive and counter-intuitive.
## UNDP-RBAS Social Cohesion Index: An analytical tool

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Peripheral Indicators</th>
<th>Medial Indicators</th>
<th>Core Indicators</th>
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</table>
| to allow for a contextual understanding of social cohesion and help model an index for the Arab region | • threat perceptions & human security  
• contact quantity and quality  
• justice perceptions  
• political participation and representation | • identity dynamics  
• positive/neutral/negative emotions  
• perceptions of trust: 1) to assess social trust and 2) to assess trust in government, parliament, judiciary, security, etc. |
| to determine the when and how of intergroup conflict and collective action, conceptualize emotions and assessing trust | | • horizontal and vertical attitudes  
• horizontal and vertical collective action |

To assess citizens' perceptions fo the different social group components they interact with (horizontal) and their perceptions of state and local authorities (vertical)
Importance of data production and analysis to strengthen social cohesion

• Analysis of host community – refugee tension: how and why tensions are appearing?
• Identify community mechanisms to resolving tensions
• Implications for humanitarian assistance and programming
• Diffuse tensions + meet needs
• Issues that standout as touchpoints for tension:
  - Housing and rental prices
  - Competition over limited jobs
  - Schools
  - Food prices
  - Social norms
  - Stretching municipal services to breaking points: water and electricity shortages, insufficient garbage collection, overstretched health centres
What data is relevant and for what?

- Development statistics on poverty, employment, housing, education, food/energy/water consumption, etc. disaggregated by district, sex, age, income group, ethnicity such as: households with poor and borderline food consumption, school attendance ratio, type of work by age and sex, etc.

- Data and information extracted from perception surveys, opinion polls and focus groups:
  - Collective action: How willing are you to peacefully defend (through protests, sit-ins...) the rights of [your group] against? To what extent do you support violent acts against the following groups to defend the rights of your group?
  - Contact quantity and quality
What data is relevant and for what?

- Threat perceptions: The following are statements about [your outgroup]. You might find yourself agreeing with some of them and disagreeing with others to various degrees. Please indicate your reaction to each of these statements by circling the number closest to your position:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>28. (ingroup) and (outgroup) have very different values</td>
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<tr>
<td>29. The way of life of (ingroup) differs strongly from the way of life of (outgroup)</td>
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<td>30. (Outgroup) don’t understand the way (my group) views life</td>
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<td>31. When (outgroup) make economic gains, (ingroup) lose out economically</td>
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<td>32. When job opportunities increase for (outgroup) job opportunities and salaries decrease for (ingroup)</td>
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<td>33. (Outgroup) want to advance their economic interest at the expense of the (ingroup)’s</td>
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<td>34. I’m afraid that (outgroup) would destroy my private property</td>
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<td>35. I’m afraid that (outgroup) would destroy public property</td>
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<td>36. I’m afraid that (outgroup) will harm my dignity and that of my family’s</td>
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<td>37. I’m afraid that (outgroup) will harm my social status</td>
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<td>38. The government is weak in its protection of citizens</td>
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<td>39. The government is arbitrary in its dealing with citizens</td>
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<td>40. Security forces present a threat to (ingroup)</td>
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Challenges of data collection in a refugee context

• Technical: displacement and mobility, sampling bias, baseline, trust, design of questionnaire, etc.
• Recurrent violent incidents or tensions that affect perceptions (volatile perceptions)
• Political sensitivity of host country
• More frequent data collection is expensive
• Misleading interpretation of data when published