Migration & urban growth: consequences & responses.
The case of Lebanon

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Points to cover

• The state of Lebanese cities
• The impact on Lebanon of forced displacement of people from Syria
• The response
• What more might be done?
Summary of presentation

• The Syrian refugee influx has made pre-existing problems in Lebanon’s fast-growing cities worse
• The government aims to use incoming aid not only for humanitarian but also for development purposes
• A barrier to improving cities is the longstanding lack of data and maps on the urban situation (population, housing, services)
• UN-Habitat is responding by producing urban profiles designed to help municipalities formulate evidence-led, context-sensitive urban development approaches capable of informing both humanitarian and development programming.
The state of Lebanese cities
19th most densely populated country in world
Six largest cities
88.4% population is urban at 2017 (World Bank, 2018)
Cities before the 2011 Syrian Refugee Crisis

• Rapid, uncontrolled urban growth

• High socio-economic disparities; entrenched poverty

• Severe stresses on economy, housing, basic urban services, social services
  
  • Half of urban population living in ‘slums’: 50% (UN-Habitat, 2010)
  • Housing affordability crisis
  • Discontinuous power supply
  • 50% of water supply lost in network
  • Poor solid waste management
  • Almost no public transport

Cities before the 2011 Syrian Refugee Crisis

- Under-resourced municipalities

- Weak central and local planning policy framework; no functioning national spatial development framework; no housing policy

- Only 14% of the land masterplanned

- Limited transparency in decision-making for spatial development

- Poor statistical, spatial evidence base on basic urban features; no population census since 1932; weak Central Administration for Statistics
Following the 2011 Syrian Refugee Crisis

Massive **demographic shock**

- Influx of 1.5m displaced Syrians, 28,800 Palestine refugees from Syria, others.
- 1 in 4 in Lebanon is a displaced Syrian (highest refugee per capita density in world)

Syrian refugees registered by UNHCR by cadaster 2012-2014 (UNHCR, 2014)
Lebanon De Facto Population

Onset of 2011 Syrian Crisis

World Bank Data (2018)
Dramatic increase in pressure on already stressed urban systems

- Displaced Syrians are ‘guests’; local integration out of question; access to job categories curtailed

- ‘No-camp’ government policy >> displaced mainly locate in already vulnerable n’hoods of cities alongside poor Lebanese

Following the 2011 Syrian Refugee Crisis

Where are displaced Syrians located?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of housing/shelter</th>
<th>Displaced Syrians</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Informal Settlement</td>
<td>285,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-residential buildings</td>
<td>225,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residential buildings</td>
<td>990,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1,500,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Lebanon Crisis Response Plan – Shelter Sector Extract (GoL & UN, 2019)
% of population urban for MENA and Lebanon

Onset of 2011 Syrian Crisis
Following the 2011 Syrian Refugee Crisis

Social stability threat

• Competition for access to resources, services jobs, health, education, basic urban services

• Tensions further caused by mismanagement of additional solid waste & wastewater burden

• Host community perceptions of ‘aid bias’ towards Syrians

• Host/refugee tensions increasing

https://borgenproject.org/category/lebanon/
State response to Syrian Refugee Crisis

- Refugees are officially ‘guests’
  - **Local integration ruled out;** options are return to country of origin or third country
- Open border policy with Syria from 2011 to the end of 2014, with restrictive measures emerging from 2013.
- Dec 2014 – annual **residency permit** began to be charged at $200.
  - Increase in number of illegals without documentation
- May 2015 – Government requested UNHCR to stop registering new displaced Syrians
- Non-encampment policy from outset
- Access to job categories restricted (construction, agriculture, cleaning)

*Middle East Eye, 2017*
Lebanese fear that the presence of a large, mainly Sunni, Syrian population might undermine the delicate sectarian balance in the country and eventually transform it politically. The fact that the Palestinian refugee crisis was never resolved has only heightened (...) Lebanese anxieties.

Priorities for managing the Syrian displacement into Lebanon:

• Reduce number of individuals registered in Lebanon with UNHCR as refugees from Syria.

• Addressing growing security concerns in the country.

• Sharing the economic burden by expanding the humanitarian response to include a more structured developmental and institutional approach benefiting Lebanese institutions, communities, infrastructure.
Lebanon Crisis Response Plan 2017-2020

• Joint Government-UN plan

• Sets out how government & partners will work together to reinforce stability while also protecting Lebanon’s vulnerable inhabitants (displaced Syrians, Lebanese, others in need)

• Coordinates an agreed approach to delivering humanitarian assistance to those in need whilst also supporting Lebanese services, economies and institutions
Lebanon Crisis Response Plan 2017-2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Appeal</th>
<th>Received</th>
<th>% funded</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>1.87</td>
<td>1.17</td>
<td>62.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>2.48</td>
<td>1.12</td>
<td>45.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>2.75</td>
<td>1.24</td>
<td>45.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>2.68</td>
<td>1.08</td>
<td>40.3</td>
</tr>
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</table>

US$ Billion
Urban Crisis Response at the Humanitarian-Development Nexus

• The Lebanon refugee crisis is an urban crisis

• This urban crisis in Lebanon pre-dates the Syrian refugee influx

• The vulnerabilities of refugees and impoverished Lebanese are similar

• The government recognizes the need to address longer-term development challenges at the same time as responding to immediate humanitarian needs of all vulnerable groups

• Q. Despite government constraints on refugees, what can be done to support ‘inclusive urban governance’ in this forced migration context?
Supporting inclusive urban governance through urban profiling

• Lebanon lacks data, statistics, maps of the sort needed to plan for sustainable urban development.
• Managing urban change effectively requires a spatialized, multisectoral evidence base.
• Why?
Supporting inclusive urban governance through urban profiling

• Lebanon lacks data, statistics, maps of the sort needed to plan for sustainable urban development.

• Managing urban change effectively requires a spatialized, multisectoral evidence base.

• Why?
  • Helps build consensus around baseline conditions [participative data gathering / selection an advantage for this purpose] and to come up with shared objectives
  • Highlights linkages [gaps, opportunities] between systems (eg housing, infrastructure, jobs, different population groups)
  • Suggests how different spatial scales relate to each other
  • Facilitates context-sensitive [and conflict-sensitive] programming ['do no harm']
  • Offers a transparent rationale for decision-making about resource allocation
  • Can give baseline/endline metrics for measuring impacts of interventions
  • Offers a basis for geographical coordination of actors [efficiency gains]
  • Provides facts to strengthen advocacy messaging (to donors; from local to central govt)
What is urban profiling?

Area-based approach to understanding urban vulnerabilities

- Geographic
- Multi-sectoral
- Participative

Of particular value where the data environment is poor
<table>
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<th>City Profiles</th>
<th>Neighbourhood Profiles</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Purpose</strong></td>
<td>Assesses urban capacity to respond to demographic stresses, both pre-existing and post-refugee crisis</td>
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<td><strong>Level of detail</strong></td>
<td>Strategic</td>
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<td><strong>Boundary</strong></td>
<td>Comprehensive</td>
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<td><em>continuously built up area determined by satellite imagery</em></td>
<td><em>locally participatively defined understanding of the neighbourhood</em></td>
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- **Purpose**: Assesses urban capacity to respond to demographic stresses, both pre-existing and post-refugee crisis
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- **Boundary**: Continuously built up area determined by satellite imagery
- **Boundary**: Locally participatively defined understanding of the neighbourhood
Neighbourhood Profiles

Video: UN-Habitat–UNICEF Neighbourhood Profiles in Lebanon 2019
City Profiles
Identifying city boundaries

Beirut 111km²

Tripoli 25km²

Saida 17km²

Tyre 17km²

Zahle 12km²

Baalbeck 21km²
Identifying city boundaries eg Saida
229,750 (2016 Leb/SR/PR/ based on SW)


212,893 (2011 Leb/ WB growth rate)

144,320 Leb. NPMPLT (2005) [1997 data]

Estimating population counts eg Saida
Identifying land uses e.g. Tripoli
How are host and refugee communities distributed across the city?
Notes:
- Lebanese population 2014 was estimated using World Bank annual growth rate for Lebanon.
- PRS data by UNRWA 2015
- PRL data by UNRWA, AUB 2011 - UNDP UN-Habit 2014
- Syrian refugees are presented by their registration locations UNHCR as of 31.05.2015.
Sour Population Distribution

Est. Lebanese population 2014
- 3016 - 7800
- 7801 - 17500
- 17501 - 32400
- 32401 - 68966

Palestinian refugees in Lebanon (PRL) pre 2011
- 0 - 2000
- 2001 - 4000
- 4001 - 6000
- 6001 - 8000
- 8001 - 10000
- 10001 - 12000

Notes:
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What is the quality of the built stock? eg Saida
What is the quality of the built stock? eg Tripoli
What is the geography and quality of infrastructure networks?
WASH | Wastewater

- Major defects-connected: 49%
- Missing-not connected: 13%
- Residents: 55%
- Buildings: 11%

- The stormwater and wastewater networks are connected heightening the flooding on streets.
- 55% of the residents live in buildings with seriously defected sewage network connections and 11% have no access to a wastewater network.
eg Wastewater network in Tabbaneh neighbourhood
What is the economic composition of urban areas?
Type & age of businesses in Tabbaneh neighbourhood

**LOCAL ECONOMY**

- Long-term established businesses, making up 62% of enterprises in Tabbaneh, play a significant role in the economy by employing the highest percentage of people, the highest percentage of Syrian nationals, and the highest portion of female employees.

- 98% of the enterprises are exclusively operated by Lebanese nationals, as for the employees, around 65% are Lebanese, 34% Syrians and 1% Palestinian.

- 97% of the business holders are male
  98% of employees are male

- Shops are generally distributed evenly across Tabbaneh, with concentrations in the center, and workshops are located centrally and along the northern edge.

- Business holders have cited war and social conflict, poor security, a declining customer base, competition with Syrians and imported goods, congestion, and a poor provision of basic facilities as reasons for the weak economy.
What is the spatiality of inter-community tensions?
SAFETY AND SECURITY

- The war in Syria inflicted undeniable repercussions in Tripoli - mainly in Tabbaneh and Jabal Mohsen.

- The Lebanese Army settled in strategic landmarks and streets in the area along the boundary between Jabal Mohsen and Tabbaneh in later 2014.

- Safety and security concerns were particularly prevalent among youth, children, female and male adults.

- Unsafety mainly stems from issues such as: drug and alcohol abuse, pervasiveness of theft, perverted males and troublemakers and actuality of conflicts in neighbouring areas.

- The Abu Ali roundabout, souk al khodra and Syria street mentioned as the most insecure.

- Almost all FGDs suggested providing job opportunities as a means of handling safety in the neighbourhood.
How much and what types of open space are there?
Open space in Saida City

48% Urban/Built-up areas
25% Green areas
0.8% Public open spaces
2% Water Front Corniche
11% Roads
13.2% Empty / Unused Lands
Open space in Tabbaneh Neighbourhood
How does these dimensions relate to each other in space? What are the gaps and opportunities?
How are urban profiles being used to enhance urban governance?

• Aid and municipal actors are using profiles to
  • Identify and implement multi-sectoral projects (water, open space, shelter, mobility improvements)
  • **Coordinate** their efforts geographically and sectorally, avoiding duplications and inefficiencies

• **Capacity-building of municipalities** is underway through training them in the use of evidence in urban management

• Discussions ongoing with government on how to institutionalise the ownership and maintenance of the data. Possible national urban observatory.

• Data is being used to support **advocacy** messaging (to donors; to central government)
Wrap-up
Thank you.

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