TRACKING ADHERENCE OF OLDER REFUGEES TO COVID-19 PREVENTIVE MEASURES IN RESPONSE TO CHANGING VULNERABILITIES: A MULTI-LEVEL, PANEL STUDY TO INFORM HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE IN LEBANON
Study objectives

1) Assess how barriers, enablers, and underlying vulnerabilities are associated with adherence to COVID-19 preventive/control measures.

2) Examine how adherence to COVID-19 preventive/control measures varies over time in response to change in underlying and emergent vulnerabilities.

3) Inform humanitarian programming in response to COVID-19 in older Syrian refugees
Wave 1 (n=3,838)
Panel 1 | Panel 2 | Panel 3

17,384 households contacted (22% RR)

Wave 2 (n=3,322)
Panel 1 | Panel 2 | Panel 3

3,810 individuals contacted (87% RR)

Wave 3 (n=3,174)
Panel 1 | Panel 2 | Panel 3

3,548 individuals contacted (89% RR)

Wave 4 (n=2,990)
Panel 1 | Panel 2 | Panel 3

3,168 individuals contacted (94% RR)

Wave 5 (n=3,370)
Panel 1 | Panel 2 | Panel 3

3,802 individuals contacted (89% RR)
## Survey Modules

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wave 1</th>
<th>Sept 22 - Dec 21, 2020</th>
<th>Demographic Data</th>
<th>COVID-19</th>
<th>Health</th>
<th>Shelter &amp; WASH (Changes)</th>
<th>Safety &amp; Security</th>
<th>Livelihoods</th>
<th>Food Security</th>
<th>- - -</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wave 2</td>
<td>Oct 23 – Jan 23, 2021</td>
<td>Demographic Data (Changes)</td>
<td>COVID-19</td>
<td>Health</td>
<td>Shelter &amp; WASH (Changes)</td>
<td>Safety &amp; Security</td>
<td>Livelihoods</td>
<td>Food Security</td>
<td>Social &amp; Legal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wave 3</td>
<td>Jan 21 – Apr 23, 2021</td>
<td>Demographic Data (Changes)</td>
<td>COVID-19</td>
<td>Health</td>
<td>Shelter &amp; WASH (Changes)</td>
<td>Safety &amp; Security</td>
<td>Livelihoods</td>
<td>Food Security</td>
<td>COVID-19 Intention to Vaccinate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wave 4</td>
<td>Feb 23 - May 26 2021</td>
<td>Demographic Data (Changes)</td>
<td>COVID-19</td>
<td>Health</td>
<td>Shelter &amp; WASH (Changes)</td>
<td>Safety &amp; Security</td>
<td>Livelihoods</td>
<td>Food Security</td>
<td>COVID-19 Vaccine Registration &amp; Legal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wave 5</td>
<td>Jan 14-Mar 8 2022</td>
<td>Demographic Data (Changes)</td>
<td>COVID-19</td>
<td>Health</td>
<td>Shelter &amp; WASH (Changes)</td>
<td>Safety and Security</td>
<td>Livelihoods</td>
<td>Food Security</td>
<td>COVID-19 Vaccination &amp; Legal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Demographics (Wave 1)

**Gender**
- Male: 48%
- Female: 52%

**Location**
- Akkar: 17.2
- Baalbek-Hermel: 10.7
- Beirut or Mount Lebanon: 1.5
- Beqaa: 35
- Nabatieh: 4.8
- North: 18.1
- South: 12.6

**Age**
- Median: 57 Years
- IQR = 53-63
- Range: 50-96

**Household size**
- Median: 7 Years
- IQR = 5-10
- Range: 1-50
Demographics (Wave 1)

- Live in an ITS: Yes 38.4%, No 61.6%
- Head of HH: Yes 79.4%, No 20.6%
- Can read and write: Yes 89.3%, No 10.4%
- Worked for pay in last 7 days: Yes 88%, No 12%
- Looked for work in past 7 days: Yes 87%, No 13%
Of the 12% who work (n=448) the majority state this work is “irregular”
Of the 88% (n=3,390) who don’t work, this is mainly due to disability or illness.
## Expenditure, Income, & Debt

### Table: Expenditure, Income, & Debt

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Median*</th>
<th>IQR*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HH expenditure per capita per month</td>
<td>2,768</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>183.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income per capita per month</td>
<td>3,046</td>
<td>66.7</td>
<td>141.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debt per capita</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>450.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Per 1000 L.L.

USD amounts were converted into LBP according to the rate reported by the participant (1500, bank rate (3850) or actual market rate (8500)).

n = 3161 (95.2%) reported that the family have debt
Source of income

Primary source of income

- Assistance from humanitarian organization: 60.4
- Credits / Debt / Loans: 27.3
- Employment: 6.2
- Gifts/ donats from friends / relatives: 5.4
- Others: 0.4
- Remittances: 0.3

Secondary source of income

- Credits / Debt / Loans: 25.2
- Employment: 14.4
- Assistance from humanitarian organization: 12.8
- Gifts/ donats from friends / relatives: 12.4
- None: 3.1
- Others: 3.1
- Remittances: 2.1
Cash assistance

Receiving cash assistance

**Wave 1**
- Sept 22 - Dec 21, 2020
- Last 6 months

69.2%

**Wave 3**
- Jan 21 – Apr 23, 2021
- Last 6 months

90.8%

**Wave 4**
- Feb 23 - May 26 2021
- Last month

78.3%

**Wave 5**
- Jan 14-Mar 8 2022
- Last month

92.2%

Type of cash assistance – Top 3

- Multi-purpose cash assistance per month
- Cash for food per month
- UNHCR winter program
Since March 2020, are you experiencing any of the following due to COVID-19?

- **Job loss**: 95.2% No, 14.6% Yes in Wave 2; 92.5% No, 7.4% Yes in Wave 5.
- **Significant reduction in income**: 95.2% No, 14.6% Yes in Wave 2; 92.5% No, 7.4% Yes in Wave 5.
- **Debt increased**: 11% No, 89% Yes in Wave 2; 13% No, 97% Yes in Wave 5.
Primary Health Care Access / Hospitalization

% requiring health care and not receiving it

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wave 2</th>
<th>Wave 4</th>
<th>Wave 5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary health care</td>
<td>34.6</td>
<td>35.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospitalization</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>34.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Primary reason

Doctors visit fees/ Cost of drugs/Diagnostic tests / Treatment
Eviction / relocation

Relocation ranges (over waves)  
8 - 16%

Eviction ranges (over waves)  
25 - 30%

Reasons for relocation

- **Rent too expensive/ economic reason**
  - Wave 5: 50
  - Wave 2: 30.2
  - Wave 1: 31.6

- **Other**
  - Wave 5: 6.2

- **Not enough privacy for my family**
  - Wave 5: 2.1

- **Tension with the community/ Security threats/ Harassment**
  - Wave 5: 5.9

- **Shelter and WASH Conditions not acceptable**
  - Wave 5: 11.5

Reasons for eviction notice

- **Inability to pay rent**
  - Wave 5: 92.9
  - Wave 4: 89.3
  - Wave 2: 87.1
  - Wave 1: 68.6

- **Discrimination/stigma**
  - Wave 5: 1.3

- **Disputes with Landlord/neighbor**
  - Wave 5: 8.6

- **Eviction by owner/ authorities**
  - Wave 5: 36.5

End of rent agreement
- Wave 5: 20
- Wave 2: 10
- Wave 1: 10

End of assistance / Hosting
- Wave 5: 10
- Wave 2: 10
- Wave 1: 10

Tension with the community/ Security threats/ Harassment
- Wave 5: 10
- Wave 2: 10
- Wave 1: 10

Shelter and WASH Conditions not acceptable
- Wave 5: 10
- Wave 2: 10
- Wave 1: 10

Rent too expensive/ economic reason
- Wave 5: 10
- Wave 2: 10
- Wave 1: 10

Other
- Wave 5: 10
- Wave 2: 10
- Wave 1: 10

Not enough privacy for my family
- Wave 5: 10
- Wave 2: 10
- Wave 1: 10

Inability to pay rent
- Wave 5: 10
- Wave 4: 10
- Wave 2: 10
- Wave 1: 10

Discrimination/stigma
- Wave 5: 10
- Wave 4: 10
- Wave 2: 10
- Wave 1: 10

Disputes with Landlord/neighbor
- Wave 5: 10
- Wave 4: 10
- Wave 2: 10
- Wave 1: 10

Eviction by owner/ authorities
- Wave 5: 10
- Wave 4: 10
- Wave 2: 10
- Wave 1: 10

End of rent agreement
- Wave 5: 10
- Wave 4: 10
- Wave 2: 10
- Wave 1: 10

Tension with the community/ Security threats/ Harassment
- Wave 5: 10
- Wave 4: 10
- Wave 2: 10
- Wave 1: 10

Shelter and WASH Conditions not acceptable
- Wave 5: 10
- Wave 4: 10
- Wave 2: 10
- Wave 1: 10

Rent too expensive/ economic reason
- Wave 5: 10
- Wave 4: 10
- Wave 2: 10
- Wave 1: 10

Other
- Wave 5: 10
- Wave 4: 10
- Wave 2: 10
- Wave 1: 10

Not enough privacy for my family
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- Wave 2: 10
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Inability to pay rent
- Wave 5: 10
- Wave 4: 10
- Wave 2: 10
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Discrimination/stigma
- Wave 5: 10
- Wave 4: 10
- Wave 2: 10
- Wave 1: 10

Disputes with Landlord/neighbor
- Wave 5: 10
- Wave 4: 10
- Wave 2: 10
- Wave 1: 10

Eviction by owner/ authorities
- Wave 5: 10
- Wave 4: 10
- Wave 2: 10
- Wave 1: 10

End of rent agreement
- Wave 5: 10
- Wave 4: 10
- Wave 2: 10
- Wave 1: 10

Tension with the community/ Security threats/ Harassment
- Wave 5: 10
- Wave 4: 10
- Wave 2: 10
- Wave 1: 10

Shelter and WASH Conditions not acceptable
- Wave 5: 10
- Wave 4: 10
- Wave 2: 10
- Wave 1: 10

Rent too expensive/ economic reason
- Wave 5: 10
- Wave 4: 10
- Wave 2: 10
- Wave 1: 10

Other
- Wave 5: 10
- Wave 4: 10
- Wave 2: 10
- Wave 1: 10

Not enough privacy for my family
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- Wave 2: 10
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Inability to pay rent
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Discrimination/stigma
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- Wave 4: 10
- Wave 2: 10
- Wave 1: 10

Disputes with Landlord/neighbor
- Wave 5: 10
- Wave 4: 10
- Wave 2: 10
- Wave 1: 10

Eviction by owner/ authorities
- Wave 5: 10
- Wave 4: 10
- Wave 2: 10
- Wave 1: 10
Water Insecurity

**Household Water Insecurity Access Scale**

Items elicited frequency of experiences within the prior 4 weeks: ‘never’ (0 times), ‘rarely’ (1–2 times), ‘sometimes’ (3–10 times), ‘often’ (11–20 times), ‘always’ (more than 20 times)

1. Worry of not having enough water for all of your household needs

2. Change schedules or plans due to problems with your water situation (e.g. doing household chores, agricultural work, etc.)

3. Go without washing hands after dirty activities (e.g., defecating or changing diapers, cleaning animal dung) because of problems with water

4. Not have as much water to drink as you would like for you or anyone in your household

**HH Water Insecurity Experiences Scale (HWISE4)**

- No household water insecurity
- Household water insecurity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wave</th>
<th>No Household Water Insecurity</th>
<th>Household Water Insecurity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wave 1</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wave 2</td>
<td>74.6</td>
<td>25.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wave 3</td>
<td>75.1</td>
<td>24.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wave 4</td>
<td>70.7</td>
<td>29.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wave 5</td>
<td>61.6</td>
<td>38.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Food insecurity experience scale (FIES)

## Questions / Items

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Order</th>
<th>Questions</th>
<th>Items</th>
<th>Possible answers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Q1    | During the last month of quarantine, was there a time when, because of lack of money or other resources, you were worried you would not have enough food to eat? | WORRIED   | 1= Yes  
2= No  
3= Don’t Know  
4= Prefer not to answer |
| Q2    | During the last month of quarantine, was there a time when, because of lack of money or other resources, you could not eat healthy and nutritious food? For example: meat, fish, fruits, or vegetables. | HEALTHY   | 1= Yes  
2= No  
3= Don’t Know  
4= Prefer not to answer |
| Q3    | During the last month of quarantine, was there a time when, because of lack of money or other resources, you had to eat only a few kinds of foods? | FEWFOODS  | 1= Yes  
2= No  
3= Don’t Know  
4= Prefer not to answer |
| Q4    | During the last month of quarantine, was there a time when, because of lack of money or other resources, you had to reduce the number of meals per day because you did not have enough food? For example, skip breakfast, lunch, or dinner? | SKIPPED   | 1= Yes  
2= No  
3= Don’t Know  
4= Prefer not to answer |
| Q5    | During the last month of quarantine, was there a time when, because of lack of money or other resources, you had to eat less than you thought you should eat? | ATELESS   | 1= Yes  
2= No  
3= Don’t Know  
4= Prefer not to answer |
| Q6    | During the last month of quarantine, was there a time when, because of lack of money or other resources, your food ran out in your household? | RANOUT    | 1= Yes  
2= No  
3= Don’t Know  
4= Prefer not to answer |
| Q7    | During the last month of quarantine, was there a time when, because of lack of money or other resources, you went to sleep hungry because there was not enough food? | HUNGRY    | 1= Yes  
2= No  
3= Don’t Know  
4= Prefer not to answer |
| Q8    | During the last month of quarantine, was there a time when, because of lack of money or other resources, you went without eating for a whole day? | WILHDAY   | 1= Yes  
2= No  
3= Don’t Know  
4= Prefer not to answer |

## FIES categorization

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Category</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-3</td>
<td>Food security</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-6</td>
<td>Mild to moderate food insecurity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-8</td>
<td>Severe food insecurity</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FIES score over time (repeated cross section)

95% confidence intervals
FIES categorical HH food insecurity (%)

- **Food Security**
- **Mild to Moderate Insecurity**
- **Severe Insecurity**

Wave 1:
- Food Security: 9
- Mild to Moderate Insecurity: 46
- Severe Insecurity: 32

Wave 2:
- Food Security: 10
- Mild to Moderate Insecurity: 58
- Severe Insecurity: 32

Wave 3:
- Food Security: 5
- Mild to Moderate Insecurity: 59
- Severe Insecurity: 36

Wave 4:
- Food Security: 5
- Mild to Moderate Insecurity: 55
- Severe Insecurity: 40

Wave 5:
- Food Security: 3.2
- Mild to Moderate Insecurity: 58.5
- Severe Insecurity: 38.3

* *Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)*
Coping strategies

Coping Strategies

None | Stress coping | Crisis coping | Emergency coping

Wave 1 | Wave 2 | Wave 3 | Wave 4 | Wave 5

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>None</th>
<th>Stress coping</th>
<th>Crisis coping</th>
<th>Emergency coping</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>30.1</td>
<td>42.6</td>
<td>24.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>30.1</td>
<td>42.7</td>
<td>24.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>34.9</td>
<td>45.6</td>
<td>18.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>25.1</td>
<td>56.8</td>
<td>16.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>7.7</td>
<td>70.8</td>
<td>18.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Keys messages

- First large panel study focusing specifically on older Syrian refugees (50y+) – tracks them over time during COVID

- A large majority do not work, and rely on humanitarian assistance and loans

- Despite over 50% receiving MPC and over 75% receiving cash for food, older Syrian refugees still report:
  - Primary reason for not accessing needed health care is cost
  - Primary reason for relocation and evictions is inability to afford rent
  - Water insecurity is on the increase
  - A large majority are food insecure and crisis coping strategies have increased in Jan-March 2022

- Next steps: using the panel structure of the data to understand the who experiences worsening of FI and other vulnerabilities over time