

Summary Table of Survey Implementation and the Survey Population Situation Assessment of Palestinian Refugees in Syria, 2016

Survey implementation			
Sample frame	UNRWA Emergency Assistance Database	Questionnaires	Household
- Updated	September 2015		Women (age 15-49) Children under five
Interviewer training	December 2015	Fieldwork	February-March 2016
Survey sample ¹			
Households:		Children under five:	
- Sampled	2,880	- Eligible	1,306
- Occupied	2,880	- Mothers/caretakers interviewed	1,305
- Interviewed	2,880	- Response rate (percent)	99.9
- Response rate (percent)	100.0		
Women:			
- Eligible for interviews	3,512		
- Interviewed	3,480		
- Response rate (percent)	99.1		

Survey population			
Average household size	4.5	Percentage of survey population living in:	
Percentage of population under:		- Urban gatherings	26.8
- Age 5	10.0	- Rural gatherings	21.1
- Age 18	39.7	- Camps	52.0
Percentage of women age 15-49 years with at least one live birth in the last 2 years	15.3	- Damascus	25.0
		- Rural Damascus	53.5
		- Aleppo	7.6
		- Homs	6.3
		- Hama	2.8
		- Lattakia	3.5
		- Dar'a	1.4

¹ The random cluster sample consisted of 144 clusters (each including 20 households) in a total of 7 camps and 13 gatherings in 7 Governorates of Syria.

Summary Table of Findings

Situation Assessment of Palestinian Refugees in Syria, 2016

CHILD MORTALITY			
Early childhood mortality			
Indicator	Indicator	Description	Value
1.1	Infant mortality rate	Probability of dying between birth and the first birthday	27
1.2	Under-five mortality rate	Probability of dying between birth and the fifth birthday	32
Note: Indicator values are deaths per 1,000 live births			

NUTRITION			
Nutritional status			
Indicator	Indicator	Description	Value
2.1a	Underweight prevalence (a) Moderate and severe (b) Severe	Percentage of children age 6-59 months who fall below (a) minus two standard deviations (moderate and severe) (b) minus three standard deviations (severe) of the median weight for age of the WHO standard	5.7
2.1b			0.6
2.2a	Stunting prevalence (a) Moderate and severe (b) Severe	Percentage of children age 6-59 months who fall below (a) minus two standard deviations (moderate and severe) (b) minus three standard deviations (severe) of the median height for age of the WHO standard	17.4
2.2b			3.9
2.3a	Wasting prevalence (a) Moderate and severe (b) Severe	Percentage of children age 6-59 months who fall below (a) minus two standard deviations with/without bilateral oedema (moderate and severe) (b) minus three standard deviations with/without bilateral oedema (severe) of the median weight for height of the WHO standard	1.8
2.3b			0.4
2.4	Overweight prevalence	Percentage of children age 6-59 months who are above two standard deviations of the median weight for height of the WHO standard	5.6
Breastfeeding and infant feeding			
2.5	Children ever breastfed	Percentage of women with a live birth in the last 2 years who breastfed their last live-born child at any time	92.9
2.6	Early initiation of breastfeeding	Percentage of women with a live birth in the last 2 years who put their last newborn to the breast within one hour of birth	67.6
2.7	Exclusive breastfeeding under 6 months	Percentage of infants under 6 months of age who are exclusively breastfed	18.1
2.8	Predominant breastfeeding under 6 months	Percentage of infants under 6 months of age who received breast milk as the predominant source of nourishment during the previous day	44.9
2.9	Continued breastfeeding at 1 year	Percentage of children age 12-15 months who received breast milk during the previous day	61.8
2.10	Continued breastfeeding at 2 years	Percentage of children age 20-23 months who received breast milk during the previous day	11.6
2.11	Median duration of breastfeeding	The age in months when 50 percent of children age 0-35 months did not receive breast milk during the previous day	14.1
2.12	Age-appropriate breastfeeding	Percentage of children age 0-23 months appropriately fed during the previous day	15.3
2.13	Introduction of solid, semi-solid or soft foods	Percentage of infants age 6-8 months who received solid, semi-solid or soft foods during the previous day	78.9
2.14	Bottle feeding	Percentage of children age 0-23 months who were fed with a bottle during the previous day	42.2

2.15	Vitamin A supplements	Percentage of children age 6-59 months who received a high-dose vitamin A supplement in the last 6 months	74.9
Salt iodization			
2.16	Iodized salt consumption	Percentage of households with salt testing 15 parts per million or more of iodide	43.0
Low-birthweight			
2.17	Low-birthweight infants	Percentage of most recent live births in the last 2 years weighing below 2,500 grams at birth	21.6
2.18	Infants weighed at birth	Percentage of most recent live births in the last 2 years who were weighed at birth	96.0

CHILD HEALTH

Vaccinations

Indicator	Indicator	Description	Value
3.1	Tuberculosis immunization coverage	Percentage of children age 12-23 months who received BCG vaccine	98.4
3.2	Polio immunization coverage	Percentage of children age 12-23 months who received the third dose of OPV vaccine (OPV3)	96.8
3.3	Diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus (DPT) immunization coverage	Percentage of children age 12-23 months who received the third dose of DPT vaccine (DPT3)	94.8
3.4	Measles immunization coverage	Percentage of children age 12-23 months who received measles vaccine	96.0
3.5	Hepatitis B immunization coverage	Percentage of children age 12-23 months who received the third dose of Hepatitis B vaccine (HepB3)	79.8
3.6	Full immunization coverage	Percentage of children age 12-23 months who received all vaccinations recommended in the national immunization schedule	89.5

Tetanus toxoid

3.7	Neonatal tetanus protection	Percentage of women age 15-49 years with a live birth in the last 2 years who were given at least two doses of tetanus toxoid vaccine within the appropriate interval prior to the most recent birth	35.0
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Diarrhoea

3.8	Children with diarrhoea	Percentage of children under age 5 with diarrhoea in the last 2 weeks	17.4
3.9	Diarrhoea treatment with oral rehydration therapy (ORT) and continued feeding	Percentage of children under age 5 with diarrhoea in the last 2 weeks who received ORT (ORS packet, pre-packaged ORS fluid, recommended homemade fluid or increased fluids) and continued feeding during the episode of diarrhoea	42.9

Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI) symptoms

3.10	Children with ARI symptoms	Percentage of children under age 5 with ARI symptoms in the last 2 weeks	19.3
3.11	Care-seeking for children with ARI symptoms	Percentage of children under age 5 with ARI symptoms in the last 2 weeks for whom advice or treatment was sought from a health facility or provider	87.3
3.12	Antibiotic treatment for children with ARI symptoms	Percentage of children under age 5 with ARI symptoms in the last 2 weeks who received antibiotics	56.6

Solid fuel use

3.13	Use of solid fuels for cooking	Percentage of household members in households that use solid fuels as the primary source of domestic energy to cook	0.3
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WATER AND SANITATION

Indicator	Indicator	Description	Value
4.1	Use of improved drinking water sources	Percentage of household members using improved sources of drinking water	69.1
4.2	Water treatment	Percentage of household members in households using unimproved drinking water who use an appropriate treatment method	10.8
4.3	Use of improved sanitation	Percentage of household members using improved sanitation facilities which are not shared	83.1
4.4	Place for handwashing	Percentage of households with a specific place for hand washing where water and soap or other cleansing agent are present	96.8
4.5	Availability of soap or other cleansing agent	Percentage of households with soap or other cleansing agent	92.8

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

Contraception and unmet need

Indicator	Indicator	Description	Value*
-	Total fertility rate	Total fertility rate for women age 15-49 years	2.7
5.1	Adolescent birth rate	Age-specific fertility rate for women age 15-19 years	6.9
5.2	Early childbearing	Percentage of women age 20-24 years who had at least one live birth before age 18	6.2
5.3	Contraceptive prevalence rate	Percentage of women age 15-49 years currently married or in union who are using (or whose partner is using) a (modern or traditional) contraceptive method	52.1
5.4	Unmet need	Percentage of women age 15-49 years who are currently married or in union who are fecund and want to space their births or limit the number of children they have and who are not currently using contraception	22.4

* Notes:

The age-specific fertility rate is defined as the number of live births per 1,000 women in a specified age group during a specified period, divided by the average number of women in that age group during the same period. The age-specific fertility rate for women age 15-19 years is also termed the adolescent birth rate.

The total fertility rate (TFR) is calculated by summing the age-specific fertility rates calculated for each of the 5-year age groups of women, from age 15 through to age 49. The TFR denotes the average number of children to which a woman will have given birth by the end of her reproductive years (by age 50) if current fertility rates prevailed.

Maternal and newborn health

5.5a	Antenatal care coverage	Percentage of women age 15-49 years with a live birth in the last 2 years who were attended during their last pregnancy that led to a live birth	
5.5b		(a) at least once by skilled health personnel (b) at least four times by any provider	94.7 83.8
5.6	Content of antenatal care	Percentage of women age 15-49 years with a live birth in the last 2 years who had their blood pressure measured and gave urine and blood samples during the last pregnancy that led to a live birth	91.2
5.7	Skilled attendant at delivery	Percentage of women age 15-49 years with a live birth in the last 2 years who were attended by skilled health personnel during their most recent live birth	98.8
5.8	Institutional deliveries	Percentage of women age 15-49 years with a live birth in the last 2 years whose most recent live birth was delivered in a health facility	95.6
5.9	Caesarean section	Percentage of women age 15-49 years whose most recent live birth in the last 2 years was delivered by caesarean section	55.9

CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Indicator	Indicator	Description	Value
6.1	Attendance to early childhood education	Percentage of children age 36-59 months who are attending an early childhood education programme	14.7
6.2	Support for learning	Percentage of children age 36-59 months with whom an adult has engaged in four or more activities to promote learning and school readiness in the last 3 days	79.5
6.3	Father's support for learning	Percentage of children age 36-59 months whose biological father has engaged in one or more activities to promote learning and school readiness in the last 3 days	42.6
6.4	Availability of children's books	Percentage of children under age 5 who have three or more children's books	15.4
6.5	Availability of playthings	Percentage of children under age 5 who play with two or more types of playthings	53.3
6.6	Inadequate care	Percentage of children under age 5 left alone or in the care of another child younger than 10 years of age for more than one hour at least once in the last week	12.6
6.7	Early child development index	Percentage of children age 36-59 months who are developmentally on track in at least three of the following four domains: literacy-numeracy, physical, social-emotional, and learning	75.7

LITERACY AND EDUCATION

Indicator	Indicator	Description	Value
7.1	Literacy rate among young people	Percentage of young women age 15-24 years who are able to read a short simple statement about everyday life or who attended secondary or higher education	95.3
7.2	School readiness	Percentage of children in first grade of primary school who attended pre-school during the previous school year	57.3
7.3	Net intake rate in primary education	Percentage of children of school-entry age who enter the first grade of primary school	86.6
7.4	Primary school net attendance ratio (adjusted)	Percentage of children of primary school age currently attending primary or secondary school	96.3
7.5	Secondary school net attendance ratio (adjusted)	Percentage of children of secondary school age currently attending secondary school or higher	73.9
7.6	Children reaching last grade of primary	Percentage of children entering the first grade of primary school who eventually reach last grade	97.8
7.7	Primary completion rate	Number of children attending the last grade of primary school (excluding repeaters) divided by number of children of primary school completion age (age appropriate to final grade of primary school)	65.9
7.8	Transition rate to secondary school	Number of children attending the last grade of primary school during the previous school year who are in the first grade of secondary school during the current school year divided by number of children attending the last grade of primary school during the previous school year	96.8
7.9	Gender parity index (primary school)	Primary school net attendance ratio (adjusted) for girls divided by primary school net attendance ratio (adjusted) for boys	1.01
7.10	Gender parity index (secondary school)	Secondary school net attendance ratio (adjusted) for girls divided by secondary school net attendance ratio (adjusted) for boys	1.16

CHILD PROTECTION

Birth registration

Indicator	Indicator	Description	Value
8.1	Birth registration	Percentage of children under age 5 whose births are reported registered	99.5

Child labour

8.2	Child labour	Percentage of children age 5-14 years who are involved in child labour	11.3
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Child discipline

8.3	Violent discipline	Percentage of children age 2-14 years who experienced psychological aggression or physical punishment during the last one month	87.9
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Early marriage and polygyny

8.4	Marriage before age 15	Percentage of women age 15-49 years who were first married or in union before age 15	1.3
8.5	Marriage before age 18	Percentage of women age 20-49 years who were first married or in union before age 18	13.4
8.6	Young women age 15-19 years currently married or in union	Percentage of young women age 15-19 years who are married or in union	12.3
8.7	Polygyny	Percentage of women age 15-49 years who are in a polygynous union	3.8
8.8a	Spousal age difference	Percentage of young women who are married or in union and whose spouse is 10 or more years older, (a) among women age 15-19 years, (b) among women age 20-24 years	35.5
8.8b			20.3

Attitudes towards domestic violence

8.9	Attitudes towards domestic violence	Percentage of women age 15-49 years who state that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife in at least one of the following circumstances: (1) she goes out without telling him, (2) she neglects the children, (3) she argues with him, (4) she refuses sex with him, (5) she burns the food	22.4
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HIV/AIDS

HIV/AIDS knowledge and attitudes

Indicator	Indicator	Description	Value
-	Have heard of AIDS	Percentage of women age 15-49 years who have heard of AIDS	95.7
9.1	Knowledge about HIV prevention among young women	Percentage of young women age 15-24 years who correctly identify ways of preventing the sexual transmission of HIV, and who reject major misconceptions about HIV transmission	5.7
9.2	Knowledge of mother-to-child transmission of HIV	Percentage of women age 15-49 years who correctly identify all three means of mother-to-child transmission of HIV	90.2
9.3	Accepting attitudes towards people living with HIV	Percentage of women age 15-49 years expressing accepting attitudes on all four questions towards people living with HIV	8.2

HIV testing			
9.1	Women who know where to be tested for HIV	Percentage of women age 15-49 years who had a live birth in the last 2 years and state knowledge of a place to be tested for HIV	17.5
9.2	Sexually active young women who have been tested for HIV and know the results	Percentage of young women age 15-24 years who have had sex in the last 12 months, who have been tested for HIV in the last 12 months and who know their results	1.1
9.3	HIV counselling during antenatal care	Percentage of women age 15-49 years who had a live birth in the last 2 years and received antenatal care during the pregnancy of their most recent birth, reporting that they received counselling on HIV during antenatal care	5.0
9.4	HIV testing during antenatal care	Percentage of women age 15-49 years who had a live birth in the last 2 years and received antenatal care during the pregnancy of their most recent birth, reporting that they were offered and accepted an HIV test during antenatal care and received their results	2.5

ACCESS TO MASS MEDIA AND ICT			
Access to mass media			
Indicator	Indicator	Description	Value
10.1	Exposure to newspapers or magazines	Percentage of women age 15-49 years who, at least once a week, read a newspaper or magazine	26.2
10.2	Exposure to radio	Percentage of women age 15-49 years who, at least once a week, listen to the radio	49.2
10.3	Exposure to television	Percentage of women age 15-49 years who, at least once a week, watch television	91.1
Use of information/communication technology			
10.4	Use of computers	Percentage of young women age 15-24 years who used a computer during the last 12 months	33.9
10.5	Use of internet	Percentage of young women age 15-24 years who used the internet during the last 12 months	74.5

Executive Summary

Sample and Coverage

The 2016 Situation Assessment of Palestinian Refugees living in Syria was conducted in February-March 2016 as a joint initiative by the General Administration for Palestine Arab Refugees (GAPAR), the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics and Natural Resources (PCBS), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Agency for Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). The assessment was based on a random cluster sample of 2,880 households in Palestinian refugee camps and gatherings² in Damascus, Rural Damascus, Aleppo, Homs, Hama, Lattakia and Dar'a. The representative sample covered all the major locations where Palestinians currently live in Syria, while taking into account that no interviews could be conducted in certain inaccessible areas. This was the most comprehensive assessment since the 2006 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) in Palestinian refugee camps and gatherings in Syria.

For the survey three questionnaires were administered: a household questionnaire, a questionnaire for women age 15-49 years, and a questionnaire for children under five. The latter was administered to mothers or caregivers. The response rates were 100%, 99.1% and 99.9% respectively.

Key Characteristics of Households and Respondents

In terms of age groups children under 5 years constituted 10.0% of the total survey population, whereas 39.7% was under 18 years and 60.2% 18 years or above. Those between 15-64 years, most likely to be economically active, represented 61.3% of the total, while those considered in the dependency age groups of 0-14 years and 64 years or above represented 33.9% and 4.7% respectively.

The average household size in Palestinian camps and gatherings in Syria was found to be 4.5 individuals, with 81.9% male heads of households and 18.1% female. Overall, 60% of individuals aged 15 years or above were married, including 63% of men and 59% of women. Of those 15 years or above 2% was reportedly divorced, including 4% of women and 1% men, while 5% were widowed, namely 8% of women and 1% of men. Of all children (below 18 years), 81.5% lived with both parents, 11.8% lived only with their mother and 2.6% only with their father. In 6.2% of the cases one or both parents were deceased.

Child Mortality

The survey findings showed that infant mortality rate was 27 deaths per 1,000 live births, 26 for girls and 27 for boys. The under-five mortality rate was found to be 32 deaths per 1,000 live births, without a significant difference between girls and boys.

² Gatherings is the term commonly used for neighbourhoods with predominantly Palestinian refugees in either urban or rural areas.

Nutrition

Anthropometric measurements (height, weight, age) of children 6-59 months old were conducted as part of the data collection to assess children's nutritional status based on the WHO growth standards. The results showed that 5.7% of children 6-59 months old were moderately or severely underweight and 0.6% severely underweight. Weight-for-age (underweight) is a measure of both acute and chronic malnutrition. Overall, in terms of height-for-age 17.4% of children 6-59 months old suffered from moderate or severe stunting and 3.9% from severe stunting. Stunting is a reflection of chronic malnutrition as a result of failure to receive adequate nutrition over a long period and recurrent or chronic illness. Weight-for-height was measured to assess wasting and overweight status. Wasting, which indicates acute undernutrition as a result of recent conditions, was found to be moderate or severe among 1.8% of children 6-59 months old and severe among 0.4%. Findings indicated that 5.6% of children 6-59 months old in Palestinian camps and gatherings were overweight.

With regard to breastfeeding results showed that 92.9% of children born in the last 2 years were breastfed at any time. Only 67.6% were breastfed within the first hour of birth, whereas only 18.1% of infants under 6 months were exclusively breastfed, including 21.9% of girls and 14.9% of boys. The median duration of breastfeeding of children under 3 was 14.1 months. Findings also indicated that 42.2% of children under 2 who were fed with a bottle during the previous day. Furthermore, 74.8% of children between 6-59 months received a high-dose vitamin A supplement in the last 6 months.

Child Health

Almost all (94%) children under 5 had an immunization card at the time of the survey. Overall, 89.5% of children age 12-23 months had received all vaccinations as recommended in the national immunization schedule. The percentage of children age 12-23 months who had been vaccinated against tuberculosis (BCG), Polio (OPV3), DPT3 and MMR was 98.4%, 96.8%, 94.8% and 96.0% respectively. Among women age 15-49 years with a live birth in the last two years prior to the survey, 35% received at least two doses of tetanus toxoid vaccine within the appropriate interval prior to the most recent birth.

Diarrhoea is the second leading cause of death among children under 5 worldwide. Most diarrhoea related deaths in children are due to dehydration. According to the mothers/caregivers interviewed, 17.4% of children under 5 had diarrhoea in the last two weeks preceding the survey. In response, 39.8% treated the children with oral rehydration therapy (ORT)³ and 27.0% with recommended home-made fluids. Overall, 42.9% of mothers/caregivers treated the diarrhoea with ORT as well as continued feeding. The percentage of children with diarrhoea who did not receive any treatment was reportedly 16.8%.

Pneumonia is the leading cause of death in children and the use of antibiotics as treatment is a key intervention. Survey findings demonstrated that 19.3% of children

³ Oral Rehydration Salts or Recommended Home Fluids

under 5 were suspected to have had pneumonia during the two weeks preceding the survey. While 87.3% of these children were taken to an appropriate health service provider, 56.6% received antibiotic treatment. Two of the principal symptoms of pneumonia (rapid breathing and difficulty breathing) could be identified by only 11.3% of the mothers/caregivers. Such knowledge was higher in urban gatherings (24.4%) compared to 9.2% and 7.3% in rural gatherings and camps respectively. As 97% of Palestinian households use gas for cooking, the use of unhealthy solid fuels (0.3%) is very rare.

Water and Sanitation

Over two-third (69.1%) of the population in Palestinian refugee camps and gatherings are using an improved source of drinking water⁴. For 92.5% of households living in urban gatherings water was piped into their dwelling, while in camps it was only 37.8%. Among households that used an unimproved water source for drinking, only 10.8% applied an appropriate treatment method. As for sanitation, 98.6% of households used a toilet facility connected to a piped sewer system, whereas 83.1% used an improved sanitation facility not shared with others. In almost all households (96.8%) a specific place for handwashing, including water and soap, was observed.

Reproductive Health

The total fertility rate was found to be 2.7 live births per 1,000 women in the age group of 15-49 years. Among women age 15-19, 6.9% already gave birth once. For these young mothers a strong correlation can be observed with the level of education: 27.8% of those with basic education already had a child compared to only 0.3% for those with secondary or higher education. Just over half (52.1%) of currently married Palestinian women uses a contraceptive method, of which 39.1% a modern method and 13.1% a traditional method. Whereas 59.2% of women with secondary or higher education use a contraceptive method, this was 48.0% among those with only basic education. The unmet need for contraception was 22.4%.

In terms of antenatal care (ANC), 94.7% of women age 15-49 who gave birth during the two years preceding the survey received ANC from skilled health personnel, with 83.8% benefitted from antenatal care at least four times. Almost all women (98.8%) given birth in the last two year were attended to by skilled health personnel during the delivery, and 95.6% of deliveries took place in a health facility. Generally, a very high percentage of deliveries by caesarean section (55.9%) was noted.

Child Development

The percentage of Palestinian children between 3 and 5 years who were attending an organized form of early childhood education (ECE), e.g. pre-school or kindergarten, was found to be 14.7%. For most of the 3-5 year old children (79.5%) an adult household member engaged in four or more activities promoting learning and school readiness

⁴ An improved source of drinking water does not necessarily mean that it is always a safe source.

during the 3 days preceding the survey. This was primarily done by mothers/caregivers, but in 42.6% of the cases the fathers also engaged with their children. While 53.5% of children under 5 played with two or more type of toys, only 15.4% had 3 or more children's books. The higher the mother's education level, the higher the availability of books. Overall, based on a series of questions asked to mothers/caregivers, the majority (75.7%) of children age 3-5 were considered developmentally on track in at least three of the following four domains (literacy-numeracy, physical, social-emotional, and learning) as reflected in the Early Child Development Index (ECDI). However, only 37.1% were on track in the area of literacy and numeracy.

Leaving children alone or in the presence of other young children is known to increase the risk of injuries. Findings show that 12.6% of children under 5 were left alone or in the care of another child younger than 10 for more than one hour at least once in the week preceding the survey. Generally this was more likely to happen in rural (17%) and urban gatherings (22%) than in camps (8%).

Education

School readiness was assessed at 57.3%, reflecting the percentage of children enrolled in the first grade who attended pre-school education in the previous year. The primary school net attendance ratio was 96.3%, slightly higher for girls (96.6%) than for boys (96.0%). The secondary school net attendance ratio was found to be 73.9%, again higher for girls (79.5%) than for boys (68.6%). While for primary school attendance there was hardly any difference between camps and gatherings, net secondary school attendance was significantly higher in camps (90.5%) than in rural (74.3%) or urban (58.8%) gatherings.

The survival rate from the first to the last grade of primary school was 97.8% and the primary completion rate 93.7%. The transition rate to secondary school was 96.8%. The ratio of girls to boys attending primary and secondary education is known as the Gender Parity Index (GPI). Findings shows that the GPI for primary education is 1.01, indicating hardly any difference in attendance of girls and boys. However, the index is 1.16 for attending preparatory and secondary education, with more girls than boys. Based on the responses to the women's questionnaire, literacy among women age 15-24 was assessed at 95.3%.

Child Protection

A name, nationality and protection from deprivation of identity are every child's right. Birth registration is an essential means to secure this right. According to the survey 99.5% of children under five had their births registered. A series of questions were asked to assess the situation with regard to child labour, defined as follows: children in the age group 5-11 years who performed an economic activity for one hour or more, or domestic work for 28 hours or more during the week preceding the survey; children in the age group 12-14 years who performed an economic activity for 14 hours or more, or domestic work for 28 hours or more. The results showed that 11.3% of children age 5-14 were engaged in child labour, boys (13.4%) somewhat more so than girls (9.2%). In the age group 5-11

years, almost one in two boys (17.4%) were engaged in child labour, compared to 12.3% of girls. Among those 5-14 years old, 92.6% still attended school.

Heads of households were asked a number of questions on methods adults in the household use to discipline children age 2-14. Overall, 87.9% were reportedly subject to some form of psychological or physical punishment during the last month, with 72.8% disciplined by mild **physical** punishment and 22.3% by severe physical punishment. However, only 19.8% of respondents said they considered physical punishment necessary to raise or educate a child properly. About one in five (22.4%) women age 15-49 believed that it would be justified for a husband to beat his wife for a variety of reasons. Neglecting the children was mentioned as the major reason.

With regard to early marriage, 1.3% of Palestinian women age 15-49 years indicated they were married before the age of 15. Among women 20-49 years 13.4% got married before 18. Women with no or only basic education were significantly more likely to marry early than women with secondary or higher education. They were also much more likely to be in a polygynous union, which overall was the case for 3.8% of Palestinian women age 15-49. Survey findings highlighted significant spousal age differences in Palestinian camps and gatherings. Among currently married women age 20-24 one in five (20.3%) is married to a man who is older by ten years or more. For currently married women age 15-19 years the figure is even higher (35.5%); among uneducated women this was 50.0%.

Among currently married women aged 15-19 years, the spousal age differences for husbands older by 0-4 years, 5-9 years and 10 years or more, were 11.8%, 52.6% and 35.5%, respectively. For the age group 20-24 years, the respective percentages were 28.2%, 48.9% and 20.3%, pointing to a recent sharp increase in spousal age difference.

Functional Limitations

As part of the survey, Palestinian mothers/caregivers were asked to assess their 2-4 year old children in terms of functioning across several domains, and compare their level of development to other children of the same age group. The purpose was not to measure disability as such, but rather to obtain an overview of the number of children with certain functional limitations, and the degree of their limitation in order to better plan for tailor-made service provision.

Findings showed the following: 4.5% of children age 2-4 years reportedly had some difficulty seeing; 0.8% had some difficulty hearing; 1.8% experienced some difficulty walking; 0.9% some difficulty in picking up small objects with their hands, whereas 0.7% had great difficulty or could not do so at all; 5.8% of children had some difficulty with comprehension, whereas 0.4% had great difficulty or could not do so at all. Furthermore, 8.8% of 2-4 year old children were reported as having some difficulty expressing themselves, with 0.4% having great difficulty or could not do so at all; 8.9% experienced some difficulty learning, whereas 0.6% had great difficulty or could not do so at all; 4.9% had some difficulty playing, with 0.6% having great difficulty or could not do so at all.

Overall, 27.1% of children reportedly had some difficulty dealing appropriately with other children or adults (i.e. kicking, biting or hitting), whereas 17.7% even had great difficulty or was not able to deal with other children or adults at all.

Out of all households interviewed, 2.5% reported that at least one of the household members had a certificate of disability: 3.2% males and 1.8% females. In terms of age groups this applied to 1.1% of children under five, 1.9% of children age 5-17, 2.6% age 18-64 and 7.4% age 65 or above.

HIV/AIDS

While the general HIV prevalence is considered to be very low in Syria, the percentage of women age 15-49 who had heard of AIDS was very high with 95.7%, and 90.2% of those knew that HIV can be transmitted from mother to child. However, only 5.7% had comprehensive knowledge of HIV prevention in terms of correctly identifying ways of preventing HIV transmission and rejecting major misconceptions about HIV transmission. Even women with secondary or higher education had very limited knowledge about this. Furthermore, only 8.2% of all 15-49 year old women expressed an accepting attitude on all four questions towards people living with HIV.

Just 17.5% of women age 15-49 who had a live birth in the last 2 years knew a place for HIV testing. This knowledge was significantly better among older than among younger women. Only 1.1% of sexually active young women who were tested for HIV in the last year knew the results. Just 5.0% of those who had a live birth in the last 2 years and received antenatal care during the pregnancy of their most recent birth, reported they had received counselling on HIV during ANC.

Access to Mass Media and Use of Information & Communication Technology

Women age 15-49 were asked a series of questions to assess their exposure to various types of mass media as well as computers and internet. The results showed that 91.1% watched TV at least once a week, while 49.2% confirmed listening to the radio and 26.2% reading a newspaper or magazine at least once a week. The latter two were strongly correlated with the level of education, i.e. the higher the more exposure, but in terms of watching TV there was no significant difference. In general, only about one third (33.9%) of 15-49 year old women had used a computer during the last year, whereas three quarters (74.5%) had used the internet during the last year, presumably many through smart phones. Overall, those living in camps and those with no or only basic education were considerably less exposed to computers and internet.