

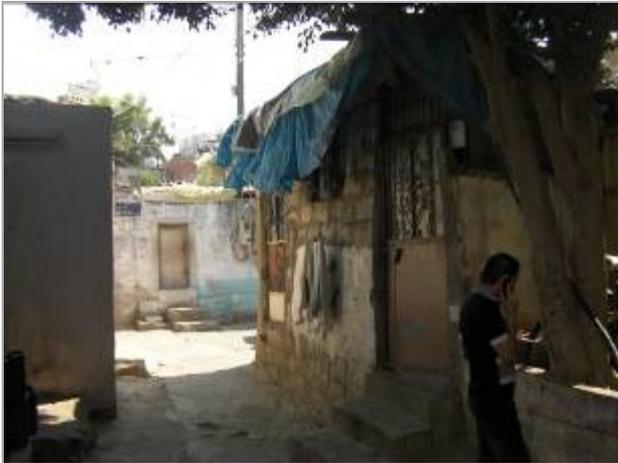


Municipality of Beirut
بلدية بيروت



SAFE AND FRIENDLY CITIES FOR ALL

Rapid Profiling of Seven Poor Neighborhoods in Beirut City



July 2012

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BACKGROUND RAPID PROFILING

SCOPE

The scope of this report falls under UNICEF, UN-HABITAT and UN Women global Joint Programme entitled “Safe and Friendly Cities for All”. The project seeks to increase safety, reduce violence and improve quality of life for women, youth and children in public settings.

This report presents the preliminary findings of the rapid field assessment conducted in seven marginalized neighborhoods in Beirut Area: 1) Bashoura/Basta Tahta, 2) Hay al Gharbeh, 3) Karantina/Moudawar, 4) Karm el Zeitoun, 5) Mousaitbeh Hay Elouja, 6) Tarik el Jdideh (Sabra/Tamliss), and 7) Wata Mousaitbeh. These seven neighborhoods have been selected according to the following:

- UN-Habitat and UNICEF knowledge about these neighborhoods.
- Suggestions collected from Beirut Municipal Council.
- Existing data and researches that have covered poverty aspects in these neighborhoods, including their formal/informal situation.
- Consultation with key NGOs present and active in more than one of these neighborhoods (such as Makassed Philanthropic Association).

PURPOSE

In close cooperation with Beirut Municipality, the joint project intends to work in one or two of selected “vulnerable” and poor urban neighborhoods in order to respond to the immediate needs of accessing services, promoting safety and addressing issues related to violence.

This rapid profiling covers seven poor communities, and seeks to validate findings of the desk review conducted on marginalized communities and informal settlements in Beirut. It aims at serving as the basis for guiding the final selection of the one or two neighborhoods according to pre-determined criteria.

METHOD

The main data for this report was collected, analyzed and compiled according to the following methodology:

- Reviewing available secondary resources and extracting relevant data and information;

- Carrying out field visits to the seven neighborhoods;
- Conducting interviews with local stakeholders and key community representatives. At least three interviews were conducted in each of the seven neighborhoods, with representatives from the public sector, the NGOs and the community (see annex 1: list of interviewed stakeholders);
- Meeting with the representative from the Ministry of Social Affairs through the “National Poverty Targeting Program” to collect available data covering the seven neighborhoods.
- Conducting night visits to examine the overall safety conditions of the neighborhoods.

LIMITATIONS

The limitations of the rapid profiling exercise were primarily related to time constraints, lack of accurate and updated data covering various aspects of the seven neighborhoods and unclear information concerning the geographical location of some neighborhoods (whether they fall under the jurisdiction of Beirut Municipality or other neighboring municipalities).

REPORT STRUCTURE

The report is divided into two main sections. While the first section provides thorough information on the seven pre-selected neighborhoods, including background information and an overall description of safety conditions, the second section concludes with key recommendations to guide the final selection of the two neighborhoods.

SECTION ONE: NEIGHBORHOODS' PROFILES





I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

LOCATION

Basta Tahta is located in Bashoura region. Bordered by Al Maemoun and Saleh Ben Yehya Streets, Salim Slam Street, Beshara el Khoury Square.

HISTORY

70 years ago, this neighborhood was primarily inhabited by Beirut families. It was renowned for the presence of a public bath (owned by the municipality), which was considered a main destination to numerous people living in that neighborhood. At that time, a mixture of people from various confessions used to live in Basta; they comprised Christians, Muslims, Armenians, and even a number of Jews who left in 1975. Almost 60% of the houses are old constructions.

INHABITANTS

The evolution of the neighborhood was accompanied by a change in the demographic structure of its

inhabitants. The original dwellers have been replaced with new comers, mainly rural migrant people and war-displaced families. Additionally, the neighborhood includes Kurdish ethnic groups with Lebanese citizenship and some foreign workers such as Syrians and Bangladeshis. The average size of the family varies from 5 to 8 members. Trading is the main source of family income. It is worth noting that Basta is famous for furniture manufacturing and selling antiques.

II. OVERALL SITUATION & SAFETY CONDITIONS

LAND & HOUSING OWNERSHIP

There are two types of housing property: ownership and rental. Original owners/dwellers have rented their houses to new comers who found in the neighborhood a strategic location within Beirut city for easier access to job opportunities.

HOUSING CONDITIONS

All of the houses have been constructed with



permanent materials, however, with time; the overall conditions have deteriorated and accordingly buildings are in dire need of maintenance. Basic furniture and appliances for daily use are commonly found including mattresses, refrigerator, oven, and even television.

ACCESS TO BASIC URBAN SERVICES

Basic services in general are available in Bashoura/Basta area. Daily use water is accessible through pipe lines connected to all houses. Additionally, purified drinkable water that was reported to be in a satisfactory condition, is also provided through pipe lines connected to the houses yet, some people are found to prefer buying bottled water. The overall sewerage network condition is satisfactory and is connected to the main sewerage lines of Beirut city. Electricity is available for all houses and follows Beirut administration cut-off schedule. Solid waste is collected by Sukleen, the private company that handles garbage collection and cleanliness of the area. The roads across the area are highly satisfactory.

ACCESS & AVAILABILITY OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Two dispensaries managed by two NGOs (Makassed Association and Al Hayea Alssohiah) provide health services to the local community. These dispensaries include physicians from various specialties offering medical checkups (dental care, gynecologists, urologist, pediatricians, ophthalmologist, vascular surgeons, psychiatrist, and others).

Public and private schools are also largely present and accessible to the local community. Child labor is limited except for few cases of Syrian families who, despite their young age, encourage their children to work for increased family income.

A public garden (Hawd el Wilaya) is located in the neighborhood and is primarily used by children for recreational and leisure activities. It is worth noting that the garden needs major rehabilitation and improvement.

Finally, from a security perspective, the neighborhood is served by a police station.

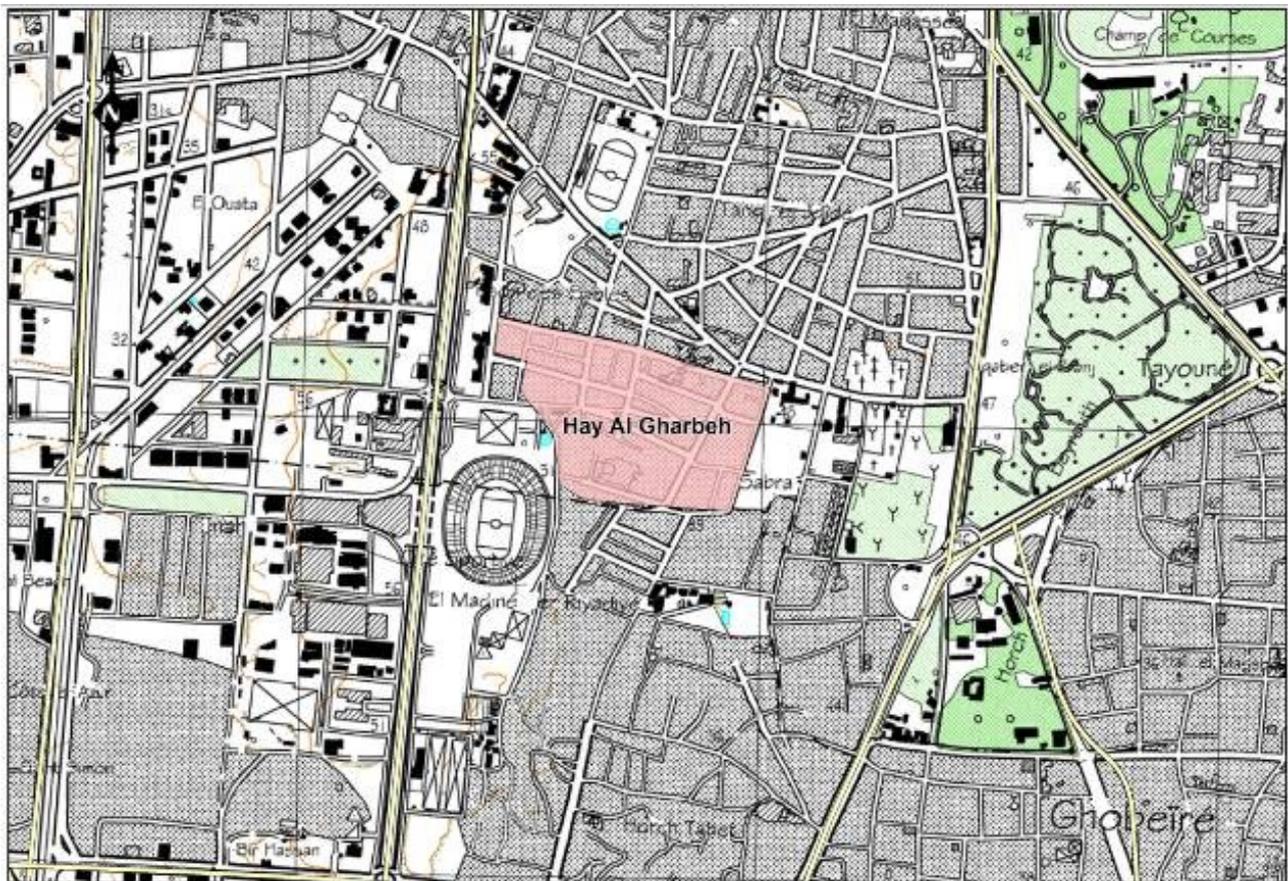
PAST & ON-GOING INITIATIVES

Supported by the Ministry of Health, the two NGOs administered dispensaries provide good health services to the residents of Bashoura/Basta neighborhood. Other social services are provided by the dispensaries, such as literacy courses offered by Makassed dispensary.

III. CHALLENGES & CONCLUDING REMARKS

Drug and alcohol use and addiction have been reported as main issue that concern young people starting the age of 15 years old. This represents one of the main factors causing insecurity to local residents in general and to women in specific. This challenge intensifies during night time, as reported by interviewed people.

As a conclusion, with the availability and easy access to various services, the Bashoura/Basta el Tahta neighborhood is considered a very dynamic area. Infrastructure services are available in good conditions and accessible to local dwellers. The overall housing conditions vary according to the age of constructions. Existing old structures are in dire need of maintenance and rehabilitation.



I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

LOCATION

Hay al Gharbeh is located between Camille Chamoun stadium and the main road of Sabra camp and the Shatila Palestinian refugee camp. It is adjacent to Daouk Camp, and informal gathering inhabited by Palestinian refugees. Geographically, Hay al Gharbeh falls under the jurisdiction of the Ghobeiry municipality in Beirut Southern Suburbs.

HISTORY

Owned by private land owners, Hay al Gharbeh developed in an informal neighborhood due to disputes over ownership and distribution the shares. As a result, the land was confiscated and with time it developed into an over-crowded informal settlement.

INHABITANTS

There are approximately 10,000 people living in Hay al Gharbeh. Such figures cannot be validated due to the continuous mobility of people moving out and

coming in this neighborhood. Hay al Gharbeh consists of mixed communities consisting of those who migrated from Southern Lebanon and Bekaa regions and others, mainly Dome communities and other foreign workers from Syrian Palestinians with Egyptians, Iraqis, and Sri Lankan nationalities.

In general, local inhabitants work in commercial activities, mainly in shops or restaurants. Others, work as daily workers in the construction sector or as drivers, or even in the nearby grocery souk located in Sabra. There are also few people who tend to work double jobs such as instrument players in wedding bands. On an average, the monthly family income vary from 300\$ to 700\$. Working women are rarely found as men represent the main family wage earner.

II. OVERALL SITUATION & SAFETY CONDITIONS

LAND & HOUSING OWNERSHIP

Local dwellers live in houses that have been built illegally on a disputed land. Inhabitants perceive themselves as owners of their houses and hence, they do transactions of buying and selling properties.



HOUSING CONDITIONS

Built illegally, most of the houses have been constructed with temporary materials. Metal shields or wooden sheets serve as roof covers and the floor surface is covered with a sandy layer.

Both the internal and external walls are in deteriorated conditions where they are mostly not painted and either built of wood or cement material. The external structure of the houses is in dire need of maintenance and renovation. Cracks are causing water leakage especially during rainy days. Basic furniture and house appliances do not exist in these houses. A limited number of families have main housing supplies such as a fridge and an oven. Televisions are however commonly found.

ACCESS TO BASIC URBAN SERVICES

Being informal, access to basic urban services is a key challenge to local dwellers. While houses are connected to water, however, pollution was reported to be a main issue. As such, local dwellers have bought and installed filters to purify it. Houses are not connected to a sewerage network, as an alternative, dwellers dig their own septic tanks that do not conform to any norms and standards. As such, the neighborhood is often flooded with wastewater reaching houses. Electricity power is also an issue in the neighborhood and people resort to private generators with high cost.

Roads are also in a bad condition; only few path ways of the region are paved specifically the upper end of Hay al Gharbeh. Roads cleanliness is another main issue, as they are often littered with broken glass rubble or garbage. Sukleen does not collect garbage from inside the neighborhood.

ACCESS & AVAILABILITY OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Health services and dispensaries are available in the neighboring region. An NGO managed dispensary (Jamaeyat el Tahadi) is located inside the neighborhood and provides a number of health services. Educational services are provided to local dwellers through two schools: one public and the other is managed by an NGO (Jamaeyat el Tahadi). While the public school is unsuitable and poorly equipped, the NGO managed school attracts a significant number of students living in the neighborhood. The low standard of educational services, coupled with poor socio-economic situation, is leading to high number of school dropouts. Accordingly, child labor is predominantly present in the neighborhood. Children of young ages work in car repair and as informal street vendors. Child and youth recreational services and activities are not provided; children tend to spend their time playing in the streets across the neighborhoods.

On the other hand, general protection on the whole region is not provided by concerned security. As an alternative, local dwellers have established their own self-protection ways to deal with security issues to their own community.

PAST & ON-GOING INITIATIVES

The Tahadi NGO is the sole organization present in the neighborhood and catering health and educational services to local dwellers. In the absence of other government and non-governmental organizations, residents often resort to self-help initiatives and pool in resources collectively to improve access to services, mainly electricity and water connection to houses.

III. CHALLENGES & CONCLUDING REMARKS

In addition to the previously mentioned challenges, it was reported that illiteracy is high especially among women who often experience domestic violence and abuse. Instead of encouraging their children to enroll schools, most Dom families prefer to send them to work. Girls are sent to work as dancers wedding ceremonies; as reported by the interviewees.

There are high levels of drug and alcohol abuse among local dwellers in addition to sexual harassment against women and children. The interviews with community representatives reported that there have been several rape cases especially occurring during night time where safety conditions are most precarious.

The deteriorated living conditions are not only adding strains on the well-being of the community but are also exposing their lives to danger. Children are amongst the most vulnerable segments of the society

who are directly concerned by this matter. As reported by interviewed individuals, children are exposed to danger when trying to informally hook on existing electricity network. Additionally, with the absence of public and secure playgrounds, children lives are threatened when playing in the narrow streets and several fatal accidents have been reported. Finally, children are exposed to sharp tools and broken glasses that are collected from garbage thrown haphazardly in the streets.

Hay al Gharbeh embodies the multi-faceted reality of poverty in Beirut suburbs. Local dwellers are highly deprived, marginalized and neglected. Issues related to property and land disputes are leading to further deteriorated living conditions. To survive, communities belonging to the same group rely on themselves to respond to their common daily needs.

Because of drug and alcohol abuse as well as high unemployment rates, violence, prostitution and other social problems are emerging among the youth communities.



I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

LOCATION

Hay el Lijah is located in Mousaitbeh area specifically across Mar el Elias Street. It is bordered by Independence Avenue, Mousaitbeh and Semaan streets.

HISTORY

While the neighborhood was renowned during the 30s of the past century of its great gardens and green space, it represents today an overcrowded neighborhood with massive constructions that have started taking place in the 1950s. This neighborhood, which was initially called the “District of Kings”, was mainly inhabited by Eastern Orthodox dwellers who primarily worked in the gold trading sector. With time, the neighborhood started to attract new comers originating from Jabal Kamel and Marjeoun regions and they bought houses from the original inhabitants.

INHABITANTS

The neighborhood witnessed during the past decades drastic changes in its demographic structure. With more than 60% of residents belonging to Shiite confession, 30% Sunni and the remaining varying between Christians and Druze, the neighborhood is characterized today by its multi-confessional structure. Originating from various Lebanese regions, the majority of local residents are not voters. The number of foreigners residing in the neighborhood is limited. Employment and trading (especially in vegetables and fruits) are the main sources of income of local families.

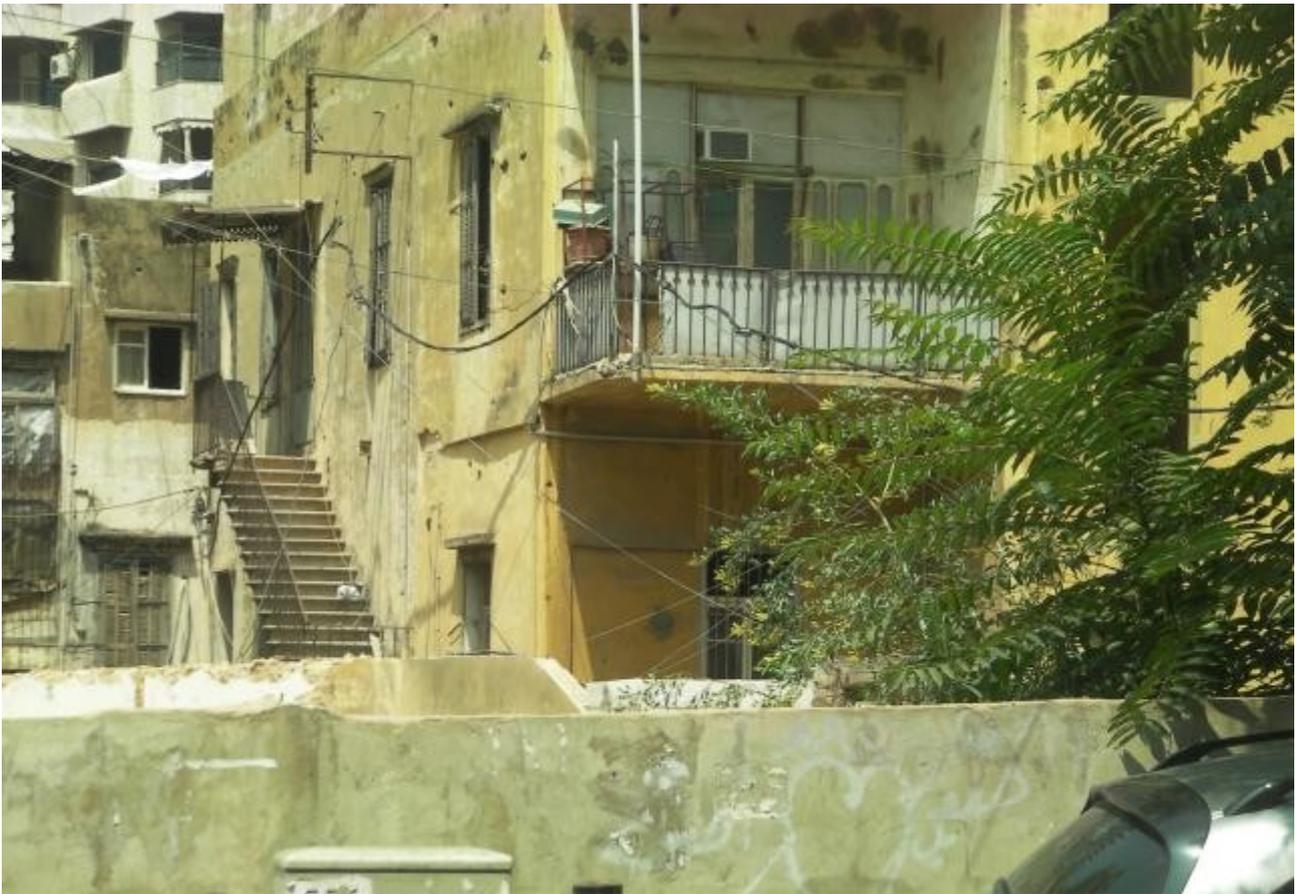
II. OVERALL SITUATION & SAFETY CONDITIONS

LAND & HOUSING OWNERSHIP

Land and housing ownership situation is legal in the neighborhood. There are two forms of housing property: ownership and rental.

HOUSING CONDITIONS

Being legal, buildings and houses are constructed with durable materials (cement and tiles). The overall



housing conditions are acceptable, however, due to poor maintenance, a number of old houses are threatened to collapse.

ACCESS TO BASIC URBAN SERVICES

Access to basic urban services in Hay el Lijah is relatively good. Water for daily use reaches all homes regularly in addition to drinkable water; though acceptable in terms of quality, some people prefer to buy bottled water. Sewerage network is available and in good conditions, especially after its recent rehabilitation. Although electricity is provided on regular basis, informal hooking represents an alternative to provide power during cut offs. The private company Sukleen Company collects on regular basis solid waste generated by local dwellers. Finally, roads are generally in a satisfactory condition however, they are congested mainly due to the haphazard parking of vendors that are constraining the smooth car circulation.

ACCESS & AVAILABILITY OF SOCIAL SERVICES

The neighborhood encompasses a number of health and educational services. Health services are provided through two medical dispensaries (one owned by Hezbollah party and the other by Amal Mouvement) that offer medical exams, checkup and medicines at affordable prices. Additionally, important educational institutions are present in the neighborhood serving

the poor communities (public schools) as well as communities who can afford the tuition fees of private schools. While child labor has not been reported as a major issue amongst Lebanese children, it was noted that it was a more common phenomenon amongst the limited number of Syrian communities living in the neighborhood. Public spaces and playgrounds are absent in the neighborhood. As an alternative, children use the streets for leisure purposes.

PAST & ON-GOING INITIATIVES

Health and social services are predominantly present in the neighborhood. They are primarily provided by NGOs and political parties. Recently, an NGO launched an initiative to protect and rehabilitate old historical houses.

III. CHALLENGES & CONCLUDING REMARKS

It was reported that drug and alcohol abuse is commonly found in the neighborhood, especially among the youth who gather during late night hours in the streets. People in general and women in specific are harassed verbally by this group of people when wandering in the streets. Although a police station exists in the neighborhood, it was reported that the overall safety conditions becomes precarious. This is mainly due to the absence of a lighting system in some street. There were no reported incidents of prostitution or child abuse in the neighborhood.



I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

LOCATION

Located on a hill, Karm el Zeitoun is situated in Ashrafieh area, between the northern high way, Elias Sarkis Boulevard, the western street of Sheikh El Ghaby, and the southern street of Patriarch Douaihy. It is surpassed by a bridge at the bottom of the hill to the east where Beirut River passes.

HISTORY

Karm el Zeitoun evolution has mainly started in 1920's and has witnessed since then continuous demographic changes. Firstly, the neighborhood was assigned as a location to settle influx of Armenian refugees who came to Lebanon. While part of the land price was covered by an Armenian organization, refugees were asked to share the cost and build their houses. Later, other Lebanese communities, mainly Christians, came and settled in Karm el Zeitoun. In the 1970's, the neighborhood has been dramatically affected by the 15 years of civil war and massive population displacement. By the end of the civil war, new groups arrived to Karm el Zeitoun, those were mainly rural migrants seeking employment in Beirut.

The low housing rental in the neighborhood has also attracted in recent years foreign migrant workers and their number has been increasing during the past few years.

INHABITANTS

The estimated 10,000 inhabitants of Karm el Zeitoun comprise a mixed community of Lebanese and non-Lebanese residents. In addition to Armenians (mostly elderly), the area includes Lebanese from various confessions as well as Sri Lankan, Filipina, and Ethiopian domestic workers (mostly female) and male laborers from Egypt and Syria. There are also few residents from Bangladesh and Sudan and a minority of Druze and Alawite. The size of the houses was reported to be small compared to the size of family members occupying the house. Most Lebanese families consisted of 10 to 12 persons living in a house with one large room, one bathroom, and one kitchen. In some other cases, the bathroom and the kitchen is be shared with neighboring houses. However migrant houses included 4 to 10 migrants often living together and sharing the rent. Family income depends largely on the community each group



belongs to. Some of the residents rely on rental income. While others, specifically older Armenians and Christian Lebanese, receive remittances from their family members abroad. Some own shops and small stores, mostly in the area. The foreign female migrants are domestic workers in houses or cleaners in offices. The male migrant workers, either coming from rural areas of Lebanon or even coming from other countries, work in construction, as electricians, plumbers, painters, or in garbage collection. Most of them are daily laborers. The monthly incomes vary between \$200 and \$300. Some families have multiple wage earners, while others are supported by only working adult.

II. OVERALL SITUATION & SAFETY CONDITIONS

LAND & HOUSING OWNERSHIP

Land disputes in Karm el Zeitoun go back to the civil war period where new comers built their houses illegally on privately-owned lands. This has resulted in court cases between the two parties. With the increasing demand for rental, a number of property owners divided the already existing houses into smaller rooms to accommodate more people.

HOUSING CONDITIONS

The majority of the houses are built with durable materials, except in few cases where some roofs are covered with Zinco. Due to the old structure of the houses and the absence of maintenance, water

leakage is considered a common problem. Although painted, the internal and external cement walls have cracks and need rehabilitations. In most of the houses, basic furniture as mattresses, small old refrigerators and ovens are commonly found.

ACCESS TO BASIC URBAN SERVICES

Local residents have access to basic urban services. Daily water use and drinkable water reaches all houses in Karm el Zeitoun, however, it is polluted as reported by interviewed people. With respect to sewerage, there are not much of obvious problems. Since Karm el Zeitoun is part of the Beirut administration, electricity is provided almost all day with three hours cut only. Solid waste is collected on regular basis by the Sukleen Company, which also handles cleaning the internal streets of the neighborhoods. The roads across the neighborhood are in satisfactory conditions; however there are a lot of stairs, joining two roads together for the pedestrians, which are highly unsafe with no secure handlers.

ACCESS & AVAILABILITY OF SOCIAL SERVICES

The neighborhood encompasses two health dispensaries managed by two NGOs: Hariri Foundation and Mrouj el Mahaba el Khayriya Association. Additionally, religious-based organizations (mainly nuns from the Sister of Charity Congregation) are providing some health services to the households. Karm el Zeitoun is served by a number of public schools and private schools (almost free of charge) that exist in the vicinity of the neighborhood. Child

labor occurs especially amongst foreigner communities. They mainly work in car garages or car wheel fixing stores. Streets are often used by children and youth to compensate for the absence of public recreational areas. Police stations are lacking in the neighborhood, yet, it was noted there are some NGOs working on community awareness-raising in relation to security topics.

PAST & ON-GOING INITIATIVES

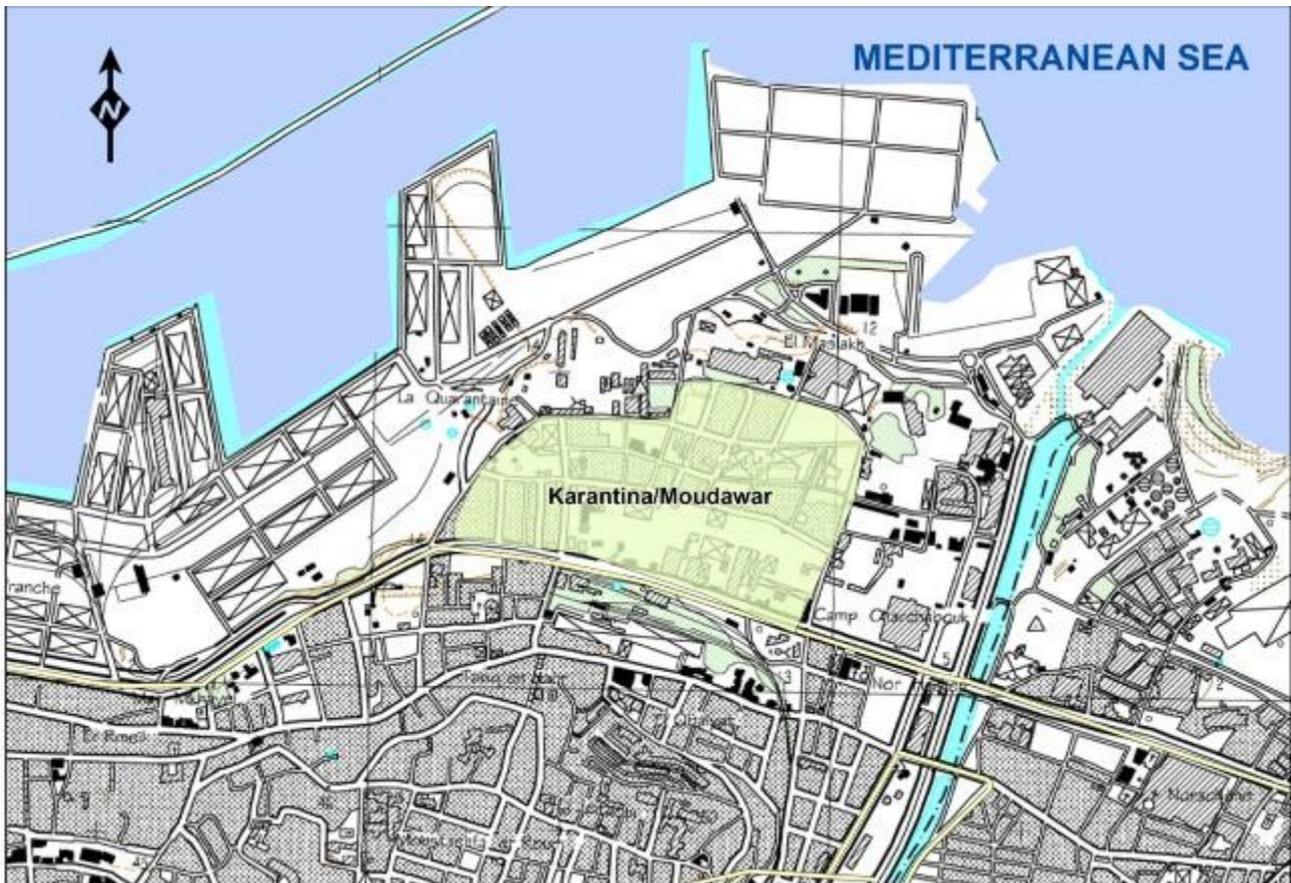
Considering that they represent a main threat to pedestrians, the rehabilitation of Karm el Zeitoun stairs have been considered a priority area of intervention for a number of actors. Additionally, the Armenian Club and the Mrouj el Mahaba el Khayria organization provide a number of social services to local residents.

III. CHALLENGES & CONCLUDING REMARKS

It was noted that there was high numbers of people with drug addiction problems in addition to alcoholics. Among those who have been interviewed, several people have reported that there are some acts of sexual abuse and harassments of young children and women. Mainly foreign migrant workers are the ones committing these acts. Incidents of domestic violence was also reported as an issue, which is the result of the low economic conditions, high unemployment rate and drug and alcohol addiction.

In general the neighborhood conditions are more seen to be satisfactory enough. Roads and the environmental conditions are in good conditions. Bright painted houses facades contribute to an improved living environment for local dwellers, however, a number of houses are in dire need of structural maintenance. Social safety nets are secured for members of each group/community, inter-community/group support is very rarely found.





I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

LOCATION

The Moudawar neighborhood lies east of the Port of Beirut, which also encircles it from the north, west of the Beirut River and north of the Charles Helou highway and the Achrafieh district of Beirut. Nour Hajeen neighborhood is located in Moudawar neighborhood between Beirut highway – Dawra and Rmeil region, Kheder Mosque and Pierre Gemayel highway.

HISTORY

In 1926, the land was offered to host influx of Armenian refugees escaping the genocide of Turkey. Later, refugees were offered more permanent solutions and were gradually relocated outside the Moudawar area, to the nearby areas of Bourj Hammoud and Antelias. The lands that were left were sold to some Lebanese groups of different religions (Christians and Muslims). Sunni Lebanese who settled in this area were known as the “Arab el Maslakh”.

INHABITANTS

Moudawar local residents belong to different religious and confessional groups, including Armenians, Arab el Maslakh (the Sunnis), Christians mainly Maronites and Catholics. There are also some Syrian and Iraqi families. Those people work mainly in existing neighboring facilities, mainly the Beirut port and the slaughterhouse. Unlike Moudawar, residents of Nour Hajeen neighborhood are mostly Armenians and few Lebanese, Syrians Sudanese and Egyptians nationalities.

II. OVERALL SITUATION & SAFETY CONDITIONS

LAND & HOUSING OWNERSHIP

There are two types of housing property in Moudawar: rental and ownership. The neighborhood also encompasses 5 military basis, located on lands belonging to monastic groups. In Nour Hajeen neighborhood, most of the properties are owned by Armenian families.



HOUSING CONDITIONS

Houses in both Moudawar and Nour Hajeen areas are of very old constructions and go back to the early 30s. All, floor, roof, internal and external walls need maintenance either through total rebuilding or massive fixing. Generally, these houses are well furnished and equipped with ovens, refrigerators, seating areas, and others.

ACCESS TO BASIC URBAN SERVICES

Daily use water comes in pipes reaching households. Even drinkable water comes almost regularly. In Moudawar region, sewerage and road infrastructures are also well provided but need maintenance. However, the sewerage network in Nour Hajeen is old and dilapidated. As such, especially during winter times, the neighborhood is commonly flooded with wastewater. Electricity service is satisfactory and it cuts off 3 hours daily. As all regions in Beirut, Sukleen Company carries out garbage collection and streets cleaning.

ACCESS & AVAILABILITY OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Health services are mostly provided by the Karantina Public Hospital and three main dispensaries: one is located in Nour Hajeen and the other two in Moudawar area. The majority of children are enrolled in schools that are located outside the neighborhood (mainly Bourj Hammoud). This is primarily due to the poor quality of educational services provided by existing schools located inside the neighborhood.

Some children are involved in labor work in metal factories or slaughterhouses. While playgrounds as well as a public garden are available in Moudawar for

child and youth recreational services, those are not available in Nour Hajeen.

PAST & ON-GOING INITIATIVES

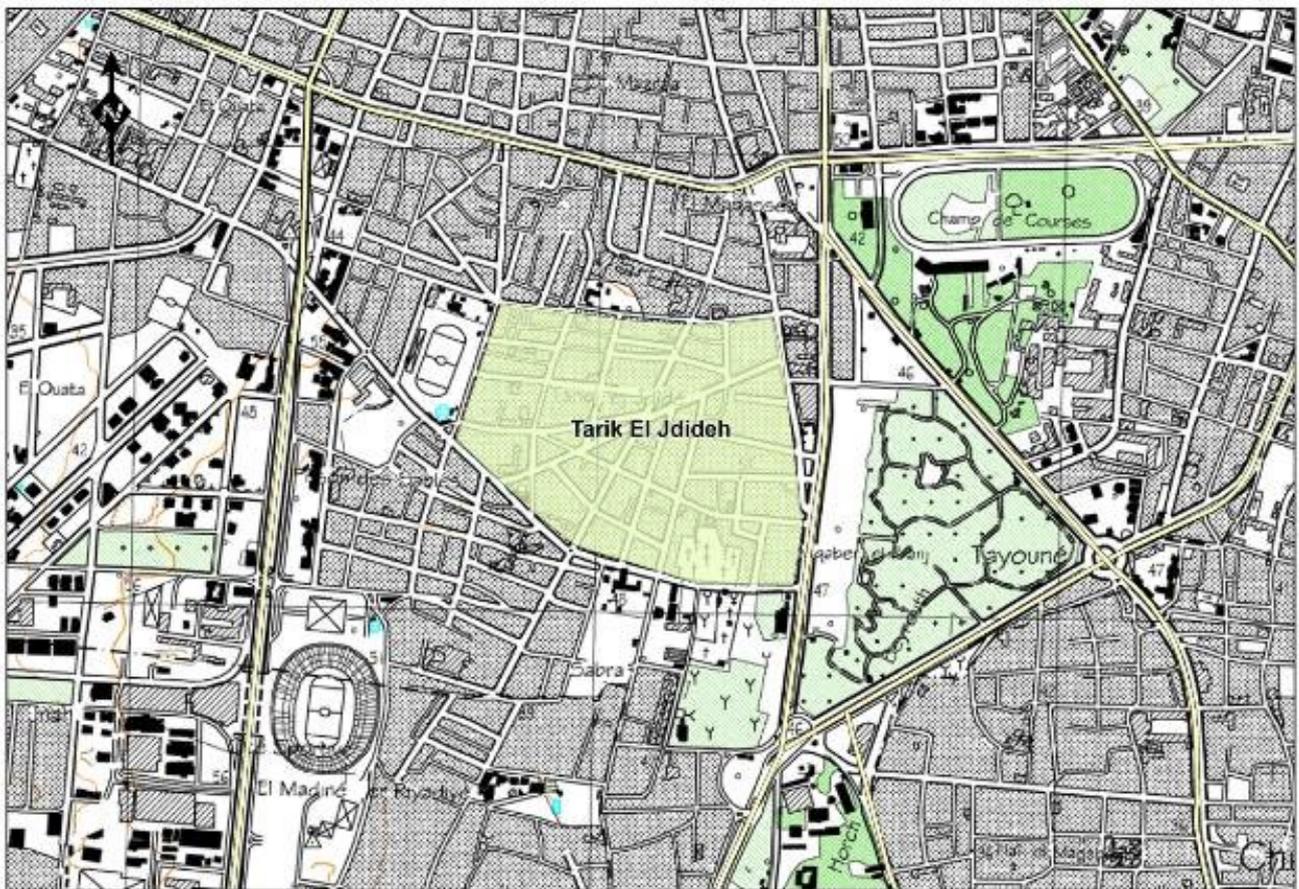
Two religious-based NGOs provide necessary social, health and educational services to communities living in the neighborhood. Mar Mansour Association provides social services such as recreational activities for children and elderly. The Mar Mkhayel NGO managed dispensary provides health examination and low cost medicines. In Nour Hajeen, the Armenian Charity Association for Education belonging to the Hanshak party manages a dispensary and a private free school in Remeil area. In addition, it provides various social, cultural and sports activities.

III. CHALLENGES & CONCLUDING REMARKS

The presence of military basis in Moudawar is preventing inter-communal conflicts. Cases of drug abuse among youth as well as domestic violence against women were reported. According to the reports of the dispensaries treating wounds, it was noted that violence is not only restricted to women but also children.

In general the Moudawar area is facing significant environmental pollution, mainly caused by the presence of Sukomi solid waste plant, the slaughterhouse and the Port. It has been reported that a plan is under study to remove the existing constructions to implement large-scale projects.

In Nour Hajeen, it was reported that Beirut Municipality intervention is very limited, especially in terms of rehabilitation the sewerage network.



I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

LOCATION

Tarik el Jdideh is bordered from the North by Cornish el Mazraa, from the South the Sport City, Cornish Camille Chamoun from the West and Beyhum Street from the East. Tarik el Jdideh is divided into three official districts; El Horsh, El Malaab (Stadium) and Tarik el Jdideh.

HISTORY

Originally, the name “Tarik el Jdideh” (New Street) goes back to early 20th century when a new road was constructed joining Mar Elias (UNESCO) region and the Military Beach Club. The first residents of this neighborhood were primarily “Al Arab” tribal families (such as Al Shahab, Al Zanhour, Zahran, and others) who came from Iraq and the Arabian Peninsula. Back then it was known as the “Arab Farms” because of the significant number of green areas and agricultural activities. The neighborhood started developing and people from various regions in Beirut (such as El Basta and Bashoura) came to settle in Tark el Jdideh. The area started losing its rural nature in the 1940s -1950 until it became one of the most crowded

neighborhoods in Beirut.

INHABITANTS

The number of residents is estimated at around 350,000 who are mostly Lebanese with a minority of Palestinians and Syrians. Most of the population belongs to the Sunni confession. The area has attracted influx of rural people who came to settle in Tarik el Jdideh for employment and income purposes. During the civil war (1975-1990), the area did not only witness heavy conflicts and destructions but was also affected by displaced people who came and settled in the neighborhood. The local population is predominantly young. Residents are mostly employed in various types of industrial and commercial activities.

II. OVERALL SITUATION & SAFETY CONDITIONS

LAND & HOUSING OWNERSHIP

There are two types of housing property: ownership or rental.



HOUSING CONDITIONS

Houses are generally in an acceptable condition. Floors are covered with tiles or cement. Additionally, cement is the only material used for the roof surface. External and internal walls are sometimes found to be painted yet; they need maintenance and renovation because of the cracks that cause water leakages during winter times.

ACCESS TO BASIC URBAN SERVICES

All houses in the neighborhood are connected to water, however, it was reported that due to regular cut off, people resort to buying water. Drinkable water was reported to be polluted. Sewerage network was recently rehabilitated. The neighborhood is supplied with electricity but the cable lines are being adjusted and joined together in a way to supply more power voltage on regular basis without cut offs. Solid waste is regularly collected by the Sukleen Company, yet; the commercial shops of the Sabra region produce large quantities of waste that are haphazardly piled up in the area. The roads in Sabra are not in a good condition even the sidewalks are squatted by the vendors selling their products in Sabra region.

ACCESS & AVAILABILITY OF SOCIAL SERVICES

The neighborhood includes a large number of health centers, dispensaries and hospitals catering for the needs of local residents. Educational services also exist in the neighborhood, including vocational and technical education schools, which are in general affiliated to NGOs. Nevertheless, the number of available schools is not sufficient compared to the size of the local residents. It was reported that child labor cases exist significantly. Children work in car repair and in commercial shops. For leisure and recreational activities, children use the streets to play. This is due to the fact that the neighborhood lacks adequate public space for children recreational activities. Empty lands

are often used by children as sports fields and are generally not very well equipped. NGOs affiliated scout organizations are present and attract a number of children, especially those whose families can afford to pay for the activities.

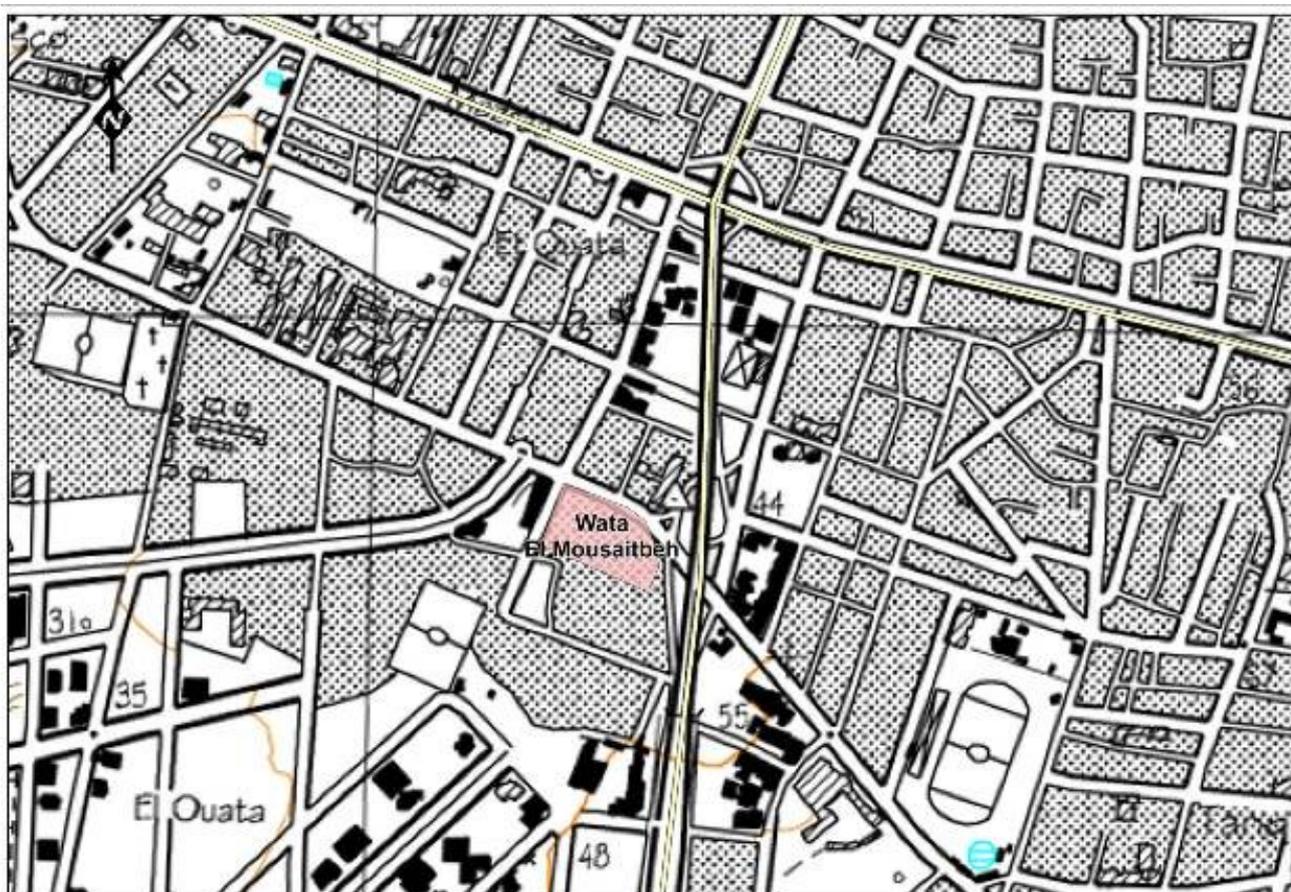
PAST & ON-GOING INITIATIVES

The presence of a large number of NGOs in the area allows local residents to benefit from the various educational, health, social and cultural activities they provide. Some of the most renowned NGOs are Hariri Foundation and Makassed Association that provide varied services to local residents. Additionally, Dar el Aytam Al Islamiyyah is located in Tarik el Jdideh providing services to orphan children. Finally, it is worth mentioning that Beirut Municipality undertakes a number of projects in the area, such as setting up playgrounds for children sport activities.

III. CHALLENGES & CONCLUDING REMARKS

Because of the limited or even the total absence of security and policing services, drug addiction is reported to be a main issue among the local community. Types of available drugs are varied and include also imported and affordable cough medicines. As a result, it was reported that violence and tension is increasing in the neighborhood. According to interviews, incidents of child abuse occur from foreign workers.

Tarik el Jdideh encompasses neighborhoods that have been reported as the most underprivileged in the area. Those include: Abou Sahel, Alfakahani, Zawarib Al tamlis branching from Cornich el Mazraa and Hemam el Sabra. Houses in these regions are inadequate. The Sabra region is a busy commercial center. Shops are informally located on both sides of sidewalks selling vegetables, shoes, clothes, meat products, and home appliances.



I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

LOCATION

Located in the South Western part of Beirut, Wata el Mousaitbeh is one of those urban slums that surrounds the prestigious capital. It is bordered by the offices of Order of Engineers and Architects and Cola area. Separated by a large road, the settlement is composed of an eastern part and a western part, with no possibility of extension on either side. The Eastern part of Mousaitbeh is where the study was conducted since it includes the informal settlement.

HISTORY

The development of Wata el Mousaitbeh started in the forties of the past century when it was decided to establish a camp for the "Druze" community" who originated from the Lebanese Mountains or the Syrian Jabal el Druze.

Today, the neighborhood and eastern part in specific is probably the poorest of all other neighborhoods in Beirut.

INHABITANTS

Accurate numbers of local inhabitants of all the settlement are not available. However, community representatives estimated the total number of inhabitants is 8,000, which is unlikely according to the surveyor. From an employment perspective, it was concluded that most of the inhabitants earn their living as daily workers. They are mainly informal street vendors (termos, kaeek, coffee or vegetables) in Cola area, as well as painters and plumbers and others. As for the females especially migrants, they mainly work as domestic workers in houses and offices.

II. OVERALL SITUATION & SAFETY CONDITIONS

LAND & HOUSING OWNERSHIP

Since the establishment of the settlement in 1940s, conflicts had emerged around land ownerships between the municipality, the Wakf and private individuals. This situation led to the haphazard development of this neighborhood into an informal settlement. While acknowledging that they are not the owners of the land on which their houses are



built, local residents perceive themselves as the owners of the structures.

A number of newcomers with support from political groups control a number of areas or constructions in the settlement (20-30 each). Migrant workers rent these structures from the so called “owners”. As reported by the residents, the leasers are considered “owners” since they own the structures, but not the land.

HOUSING CONDITIONS

The overall construction situation is precarious. Houses are built with non-permanent materials such as tin, wood, and plastic sheets, and consolidated with CMUs, tin roofs, wood panels, and other reused broken materials during the civil war, such as ruins of houses. Located below the street level, the eastern section suffers from poor drainage leading to flooding during heavy rainy days and threatening the lives of dwellers (it was reported that several people have drowned during heavy rain seasons).

ACCESS TO BASIC URBAN SERVICES

While interviewing some of the community representatives asking about the access to the basic urban services, it was noted that water and sanitation were a major problem. Water for daily use does not come in pipes to those areas, however there are certain areas where there are some water tanks used individually by the settlers to fill gallons that are then taken to the place of residence. Others might wait for the mobile water tanker and buy their water out of the water vehicles. As for drinkable water, some would filter the water they get through the tanks. Yet, there are also people who have established tanks filled with water and claim it is drinkable. These people sell

that water to individuals who also come to fill their gallons for household. Being highly polluted, neither house use water nor drinkable water are good for use. Concerning the sewerage, limited systems are available which makes most households dig their own septic tanks. Roads and path ways are covered with mud and gravel, which makes all the roads uneven, in bad conditions and littered with rubble and garbage. Solid waste is collected regularly by Sukleen, a private company, and electricity is available 21 hours per day.

ACCESS & AVAILABILITY OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Outside the region of Wata el Mousaitbeh three main dispensaries are located to provide medical consultations and medicines.

As for the educational services; there is only one public school. Yet education levels are very low high dropout rates have been reported. Students might have no interest in education since they don't see much hope in the environment they live in. Additionally, families who can't even afford educational expenses encourage their children to work and hence, increase the source of income. Children work in various sectors within the neighborhood and its vicinity, such as working in existing tiles and marble factories or in small clothes and other small shops. There are no police stations in the neighborhood. Residents resort to a local NGO (Secours Populaire) to submit a complaint and the NGO act accordingly.

During their stay in that area, children don't take part in any extra-curricular activities or recreational groups such as scouts or arts. This might be because similar activities are not provided in the neighborhood.

PAST & ON-GOING INITIATIVES

There are no past or ongoing initiatives that are carried out to improve the living conditions in this area.

III. CHALLENGES & CONCLUDING REMARKS

Among all visited neighborhoods, Wata el Mousaitbeh seems to be the smallest one. However, this neighborhood attracts migrant workers because of cheap rent and the proximity to an industrial and commercial area. All interviewed people talked about a large-scale development project that would start

once the eviction of the inhabitants is finalized. Because of the illegal settling and occupation of the lands, conflicts are ongoing between the inhabitants and the real new owners of the lands. There are also several on-going court cases between the illegal residents and the main land owners on issues related to eviction and compensation.

Other challenges related to increased tension between local residents, reported violent acts in general and gender-based violence as well as discrimination against women and child abuse. Additionally, drug and alcohol abuse was reported as a main challenge, creating more violence within families. Some interviewed people confirmed the presence of sex workers in this neighborhood.



SECTION TWO: CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

FINDINGS SYNTHESIS

The preliminary findings of the rapid field assessment in the seven neighborhoods allowed for the formation of a number of conclusions, summarized as follows:

GENERAL SITUATION

- Two out of the seven assessed neighborhoods are informal, mainly Wata el Mousaitbeh and Hay al Gharbeh.
- The majority of the assessed neighborhoods are overcrowded, encompassing a large number of foreign workers from various nationalities.
- Poverty and marginalization are evident especially in the two neighborhoods of Sabra and Hay al Gharbeh.
- Houses and inadequate infrastructure in dilapidated in the majority of the assessed neighborhoods.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC ASPECTS

- Infrastructure services are deteriorated, especially in Sabra, Wata Mousaitbeh and Hay al Gharbeh.
- High rate of unemployment among the majority of residents living in the seven neighborhoods.
- Absence of safe public spaces accessible for children and young people in all neighborhoods.
- High rates of school dropout and child labor, especially in Sabra, Wata el Mousaitbeh and Hay al Gharbeh.
- Though they are present in the majority of neighborhood, local NGOs have limited capacities to address the various challenges of local residents.

SECURITY ASPECTS

- Absence of police stations within the assessed neighborhoods (they are present in the vicinity of the neighborhoods). Accordingly, each group resorts to existing "locally recognized" security system, which is mostly found when mixed groups of people live within the same neighborhood.
- Some streets in all assessed neighborhoods are not provided with public lighting at night, which is putting more strain on the overall safety conditions of local dwellers.

- Insecurity of tenure, which is further affecting the overall living conditions of local dwellers.

Other challenges that were identified during the field assessment relate to the spread of drug and alcohol abuse in all seven surveyed neighborhoods. This problem concerns the community at large and especially children and young people. Additionally, cases related to women and child harassment as well as domestic violence have been reported during interviews. It was noted that the number of these cases increase in neighborhoods with the increasing number of residents who are mostly domestic workers. Finally, tension between local dwellers increases especially in neighborhoods where mixed communities live in.

In light of these findings, it is recommended that, in addition to the interventions that the three partner UN agencies shall implement in the 1-2 selected neighborhoods, Beirut Municipality to adopt an integrated strategic approach to address the various challenges in the seven assessed neighborhoods. This strategic approach is detailed in the following table.

WAY FORWARD

On July 18, 2012, the preliminary findings of this rapid assessment have been presented to the Social Committee members of Beirut Municipal Council. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss and validate the findings of the rapid assessment, identify potential areas of intervention, and select one or two neighborhoods in which the project will be implemented.

For the municipality to be able to efficiently extend its urban services to cover these marginalized neighborhoods, it is recommended that the social committee assist the municipality in prioritizing areas of interventions in each neighborhood. This can allow the municipality to take actions that will enhance violence prevention, increase safety and reduce vulnerability to violence. These initiatives shall provide an opportunity to improve living conditions of the communities residing in these neighborhoods. Based on the preliminary findings, a collaborative strategy of intervention will be proposed by the project team to support the municipality of Beirut to achieve its duties.

Following the final selection of the neighborhoods, Unicef, UN-Habitat and UN Women shall commission one or two NGOs to Conducting a Baseline Survey and Community Knowledge Gaps around Vulnerability to Safety, Lack of Basic Services and Violence.

NEIGHBOURHOOD	MAIN CHALLENGES	AXES OF PROPOSED INTERVENTIONS		POSSIBLE PARTNERS
		MUNICIPALITY	UNICEF, UN-HABITAT, UN WOMEN	
Bashoura / Basta Tahta	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deteriorated situation of the public garden Abuse of drug and alcohol Unsafe public space, lack of public lighting at night in some of the streets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rehabilitation of the public Garden and to ensure security Conducting of awareness raising campaigns and drugs and alcohol abuse prevention Supporting NGOs initiatives related to awareness. Securing lighting of main roads and internal streets. Cooperation with local security forces to maintain security. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishing contact and networking with relevant ministries, NGOs and private sector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Youth and Sports Ministry of Public Works Ministry of Social Affairs Police Station within the region Social Development Center affiliated to the Ministry of Social Affairs Political parties and civil society organizations working in the region (Makassed and Hayaa Sohia) National anti- drugs organizations (JCD JAD) Scout Associations Religious organizations Private sector
Karm El Zeitoun	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abuse of drug and alcohol Cases of domestic violence Harassment of women and children (especially by foreign workers) Poorly-maintained, deteriorated and unsafe stairs – need for rehabilitation and lighting for pedestrians protection. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conducting of awareness raising campaigns and drugs and alcohol abuse prevention Supporting NGOs initiatives related to awareness. Cooperating with local security forces to maintain security securing night guard especially around residents foreign workers Rehabilitating stairs and securing lighting and guarding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishing contact and networking with relevant ministries, NGOs and private sector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Youth and Sports Ministry of Public Works Ministry of Social Affairs Police Station within the region Social Development Center affiliated to the Ministry of Social Affairs Political parties and civil society organizations working in the region (Harir i& Mourouj elMahaba associations,Sisters of Charity) National anti- drugs organizations (JCD JAD) Scout & religious organizations Private sector
Moudawar / Nour Hajeen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deteriorated and old Infrastructure wastewater network, especially in Nour Hajeen Lack of green areas and recreational spaces, for children and youth in Nour Hajeen Cases of School drop and child labor in Moudawar area. Cases of domestic violence in Moudawar area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Installing a new wastewater network a new infrastructure installation especially sanitation in Nour Hajeen Tree plantation in Nour Hajeen streets Establishing recreational spaces for children and youth Supporting public schools in the region Supporting vocational training programs Ensuring sound working conditions of children Supporting NGOs initiatives related to awareness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishing contact and networking with relevant ministries, NGOs and private sector Coordination with ILO and other related partners concerning Child Labor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Youth and Sports Ministry of Public Works Ministry of Education Ministry of Labor Higher council of childhood Ministry of Social Affairs Police Station within the region Social Development Center affiliated to the Ministry of Social Affairs Political parties and civil society organizations working in the region (Mar Masour and Mar Mikhael associations, Armenians association for charity) Maronite General Council National anti- drugs organizations (JCD JAD) Scout & religious organizations Sukleen ILO

NEIGHBOURHOOD	MAIN CHALLENGES	AXES OF PROPOSED INTERVENTIONS		POSSIBLE PARTNERS
		MUNICIPALITY	UNICEF, UN-HABITAT, UN WOMEN	
Tarik El Jdideh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deteriorated Infrastructure services in Sabra area Lack of green areas and recreational spaces, for children and youth Cases of School drop and child labor High levels of drug addiction and alcohol abuse Deteriorated environmental situation, haphazard disposal of wastes produced by vendors on both sides of sidewalks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishing a new infrastructure network Creating recreational spaces for children and youth Supporting public schools in the region Supporting vocational training programs Ensuring sound working conditions of children Conducting awareness campaigns Organizing vendors' display of the goods, and creation of a new market 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishing contact and networking with relevant ministries, NGOs and private sector • Coordination with ILO and other related partners concerning Child Labor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Youth and Sports Ministry of Public Works Ministry of Education Ministry of Labor Higher council of childhood Ministry of Social Affairs Police Station within the region Social Development Center affiliated to the Ministry of Social Affairs Closest center of Mosa Political parties and civil society organizations working in the region (Makassed and Hariri associations) National anti- drugs organizations (JCD JAD) Scout & religious organizations ILO Private sector
Mousaitbeh / Hay El Lijah	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deteriorated Infrastructure services Lack of green areas and recreational spaces for children and youth High levels of drug addiction and alcohol abuse Unsafe public spaces, lack of public lighting at night in some of the streets Harassment of women and children Extent of vendors on the sidewalks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishing a new infrastructure network Creating recreational spaces for children and youth Supporting NGOs initiatives related to awareness Cooperating with local security forces to maintain security Securing lighting for roads and internal streets. Organizing vendors' display of the goods, and creation of a new market 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assisting in communication and networking with associations, relevant ministries and private sector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Youth and Sports Ministry of Public Works Ministry of Social Affairs Higher council of childhood Police Station within the region Social Development Center affiliated to the Ministry of Social Affairs Political parties and civil society organizations working in the region National anti-drug organizations (JCD, JAD) Scout & religious organizations Private sector ILO
Wata El Mousaitbeh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Infrastructure services deteriorated Lack of green areas and recreational spaces, for children and youth Cases of School drop and child labor Harassment of women and children Cases of domestic violence Unsafe public spaces, lack of public lighting at night in some of the streets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishing a new infrastructure network Creating recreational spaces for children and youth Supporting public schools in the region Supporting vocational training program Ensuring sound working conditions of children Conducting awareness campaigns Supporting NGOs initiatives related to awareness. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assisting in communication and networking with associations, relevant ministries and private sector • • Coordination with ILO and other related partners concerning Child Labor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Youth and Sports Ministry of Public Works Ministry of Social Affairs Ministry of Labor Police Station within the region Social Development Center affiliated to the Ministry of Social Affairs Higher council of childhood Political parties and civil society organizations working in the region (Alnajda Alshaabiya and Druze welfare association) National organization for drug (JCD, JAD) Scout & religious organizations Private sector ILO

ANNEX 1 FIELD QUICK ASSESSMENT

LOCATION	VISIT DATE	INTERVIEWEES	SECTOR/TITLE	PHONE	DESK REVIEW	REFERENCE	
1. Bashoura/ Basta	June 26	1-Ebtissam Abdallah	Makassed dispensary	01664368		Rim Rabah Makassed 03717087	
		2-Mousbah Eido	Moukhtar	01657730			
		3-Hassan Hamadi	Community	03616969			
2. Hay El Gharbeh	June 15	1-Nadia Khoury	Tahadi dispensary	71132325	Profiles of poverty Human face of poverty in Lebanon -World Vision 2011	Aline Rahbani WV 03464007	
		2-Catherine Mortada	Tahadi school	03528739			
		3-Fadia Turkmany	Dom Community				
3. Moudawar Nour Hajeen	June 19	1-Francois Jalkh	Mokhtar	03451639	الجامعة اللبنانية معهد الفنون الجميلة التنظيم المدني دراسة منطقة المدور 2011	Atef Meshaymesh UL 03861873	
		2-Mahmoud Mattar	Arab Masslakh Community	01574157			
		3-Marte Ashkar	Beirut Development Socio -Medical center	03807381			
		4- Aram Malian	Beirut M. Council Member	03666088			
4. Karm El Zeitoun	June 14	1-Elia Abi Ramia & Khalil Abi Haidar	Community	70674490	Profiles of poverty Human face of poverty in Lebanon -World Vision 2011	Lara Ghawi WV 03458881	
		2-Elias Jeryess	Mokhtar	01333323			
		3-Yoland Bakhoss	Mrouj Almahaba Association	03289229			
		4-F.Youhanna Boyajian	Armenian priest	01328474			
5. Mousaitbeh Hay Elouja	June 26	1-Habib Kobeissi	Moukhtar	03-788864	Rapport de Stage effectue dans le cadre d'Intervention Social Collective au Disp Makassed		
		2- Hannieh Melhem	Community				
		3-Ali Farhat	Community (Child)				
6. Tarik El Jdideh	June 20 26	1-Rim Rabah	Makassed Association	03717087	البحث الاجتماعي السريع بيروت وضواحيها CDR 2005	Rim Rabah Makassed 03717087	
		2-Dr Mohamad Kheir Elkadi	Dr. Ex Municipal Council Member	01646318			
		3- Ahmad Yamout	Community				
7. Wata Mousaitbeh	June 22	1-Mshala Aljamal	Syrian Community	03241288	Urban Slums Report-The Case of Beirut, Fawaz M., 2003		
		2-Hussein Hammoudi	Najda Shaabieh Director	01701944			
		3-Najwa Abou Zeki	Public School Director	01313460			