



Researching WASH Needs of Syrian Women, in Lebanon and Syria, through a Faith-Based Perspective

Keywords: *Water, Sanitation, Hygiene, Gender Equality, Faith*

Summary: Global One conducted an analysis on the WASH needs of Syrian women in Lebanon and Syria. Utilising three local partners; SAWA, URDA and Syria Relief Network, Global One gained data from 836 women in refugee and internally displaced persons camps. Alongside the research, Global One provided each participant with a female hygiene kit, containing products for one month's menstrual hygiene. The provision of these kits aimed to create a trusting relationship between Global One and the participants.

Research Background: Syrian refugees have fled from Syria due to conflict, often bringing with them nothing more than the clothes on their backs. Women are one of the most vulnerable groups amongst this population. They lack many provisions specifically those related to their hygiene. Women and girls need specific products so that they can live comfortably. Without access to culturally appropriate clothing and hygiene items, the mobility of women and girls is restricted, and their health is compromised. Preserving dignity is essential to self-esteem and confidence, and critical to protection. Therefore, with help from Penny Appeal, Global One developed Dignity Kits to address these urgent needs. In an effort to help & restore some of the lost dignity and assist in the maintenance of their basic life, Global One worked with URDA to provide dignity kits to vulnerable adolescent girls and women in Bar Elias in targeted locations, to improve their quality of life in this time of humanitarian crises.

Key Questions:

- 1) What are the effects of statelessness on Syrian women's water, sanitation and hygiene needs?
- 2) How does faith intersect the needs of water, sanitation and hygiene amongst Syrian women?
- 3) What are the current gaps in government, NGO and humanitarian assistance programmes, in refugee and internally displaced person camps?
- 4) How can sustainable development intersect current humanitarian approaches to refugee women's needs?

Methodology:

We conducted two separate surveys in Lebanon and Syria, with a total of 836 women being surveyed overall. Lebanon was chosen as it currently hosts the largest number of Syrian refugees in relation to its population size. Syria was chosen in order to compare the current needs of IDPs, in relation to their counterparts in refugee camps.

In Lebanon, 400 women were chosen via probability sampling, from 10 camps in the Bar Elias region. This provided an accurate sampling of the differing situations Syrian refugee women currently experience in Lebanon. The data was collected through one-on-one interviews with the women, and took place over the space of five days.

In Syria, 436 women were conducted in 13 IDP camps in the North of Syria. The survey used a random sampling technique, to select sampling sizes which were reflective of the total number of women in each of the camps. The data was collected through in person focus groups, consisting of face-to-face interviews. There were 12 women per focus group, and utilised PEER research methods to gather information.

The data collection process in both locations utilised the KoBo data system, via the use of mobile technology. During the interviews, data was inputted directly into the digital KoBo server, where it was stored securely and downloaded daily to a virtual server. The data was then analysed by the Global One team in London, who utilised the Stata analysis tool to gain precise data comparison and detailing.

Major Observations:

- 1) Humanitarian assistance is failing to meet the specific needs of women in refugee and IDP camps
- 2) There is a lack of cultural and religious understanding amongst INGOs and governments
- 3) Current government strategies, could be adjusted, to improve the lives of refugees and host communities

Research Limitations:

- Data was only collected in two countries, in comparison to the five countries which currently host refugees.
- The research is limited to analysis of WASH conditions, whilst there are various other issues affecting refugee women.
- Translation from Arabic to English may limit the validity and meaning of some answers
- The sample size, although reflective of population and camp sizes, is limited to a small number

Value:

Practical Value: Syrian women's needs are currently not being met by various actors in the region. If learning objectives can be better positioned to focus their limited resources, the daily lives of Syrian women could improve significantly.

Research Value: The research is designed primarily for practical implementation and recommendations, but the findings are supportive to current gendered research approaches to refugees and IDPs.

Practical Implementations:

Global One hopes to promote its findings amongst larger NGOs and local governments to improve the current situation of Syrian refugee women. The report will detail recommendations alongside the findings, to highlight current gaps in strategies towards female refugees and IDPs; and the ways in which international actors can work towards rectifying these.

Global One hopes that the report will provide funding to itself, and local partners. This funding will be used to implement the recommendations outlined in the report, and enact legislative advocacy for the improvement of strategies towards refugee and IDP women.

Contact Information:

Global One

4 Gateway Mews,

Bounds Green,

London,

N11 2UT