

The Impact of the Syrian Crisis & Migrants on Lebanon

The Syrian crisis and its tragic complications related to the forced Syrian migration carry tremendous consequences as well as social, economic and financial risks beyond the State's and the public treasury's capacity. This migration negatively impacts economic growth, public finance, and the investment environment. It also exerts pressure on public services such as health and education services and leads to an increase in demand on the flabby infrastructure incapable of meeting the requirements related to water, electricity and sewage. Moreover, it drastically increases the unemployment rate; it creates illegal competition as well as tensions between Lebanese people and Syrian migrants, and significantly increases poverty which raises concern.

Moreover, the Syrian crisis carries political, security and demographic consequences. From the political point of view, it decreases the government's efficiency and impedes the work of constitutional institutions as a result of internal political divergence concerning the Syrian crisis. From the security point of view, it threatens social stability due to the random scattering of armed Syrian migrants in most of the Lebanese regions, particularly in remote border areas away from the State's authority, inspection as well as security capacities. From the demographic point of view, it threatens the critical demographic balance in host regions due to their high worrisome numbers, since in some areas; the number of migrants exceeds the number of locals.

The World Bank's studies estimate that Syrian migrants cost Lebanon 4.5 billion dollars per year: 1 billion dollars as direct cost and 3.5 billion dollars as indirect cost. In 2014, this cost constituted 10% of the GDP. The total amount exceeded 15 billion dollars between 2011 and 2015.

The Effects of the Syrian Crisis on the Lebanese Economy

The Syrian crisis hinders economic growth and pressures the public finance, aggravates the deficit in the balance of trade and reduces direct foreign investment.

It also transforms the surplus in the balance of payment into a deficit, harms the tourism and real estate sectors and impedes trade exchange between Lebanon and regional countries.

1. Drop in economic growth: The Syrian crisis has led to economic repercussions since it directly affected the main key economic sectors such as tourism and real estate. It has also negatively impacted investment due to internal unrest and uncertainty, and it has pushed citizens to save money and consume less.

Therefore, we notice a drastic drop in the economic growth between 2010 and 2011 from 7 % to 2%, to become 1.5% in 2012, 0.9% in 2013, and 1.5% in 2014, while it fluctuates between 0 and 1% in 2015. This drastic decrease still occurred despite the increase of consumption demand from Syrian migrants and despite government expenditure and the growth incentives basket introduced by the Central Bank of Lebanon at the level of loans and interests as well.

The Syrian crisis caused a decrease in the rate of the real GDP growth from 2011 until 2014. The rate was 5% in 2011, 4.5% in 2012, 6.1% in 2013 and 5.5% in 2014 compared to the estimations of the World Bank. The latter has predicted, before the Syrian crisis, that Lebanon will achieve a 7% economic growth in 2011 compared to its economic growth in 2008 till 2010 where Lebanon has achieved an average economic growth of 8.5% with 8.5% in 2008, 9% in 2009 and 7% in 2010. The economic growth was expected to remain as significant from 2011 through 2014 with an average growth of 7% annually.

The estimate amount of cumulative losses from 2011 till 2014 is around 9.725 billion dollars equivalent to a loss of 2,400 dollars per capita in the GDP due to the Syrian crisis which started in March 2011 and has caused a drastic drop in GDP growth during this period. The estimate amount of losses by the end of 2015 is around 13.225 billion dollars.

The cumulative GDP between 2011 and 2014 is around 175.504 billion dollars after the crisis, instead of an estimated GDP of 185.228 billion dollars during the same period had it not been for the Syrian crisis.

Finally, it is important to note that the Lebanese economy needs an economic growth of 5% annually to maintain its economic and social stability.

Evaluation of Economic Repercussions: (in million dollars)

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Total
Estimated real GDP growth before the crisis (%)	7	7	7	7	7	
Real GDP growth after the crisis (%)	-	2	1.5	0.9	1.5	
Decrease in the real GDP	-	5	5.5	6.1	5.5	
GDP after the crisis	-	39039	41766	45179	49520	175504
Estimated GDP before the crisis	-	40990	44063	47935	52240	185228
Losses in GDP	-	1930	2300	2755	2720	9725

Source: The Ministry of Finance

According to the estimates of the World Bank, the cumulative losses in GDP between 2012 and 2014 as a result of the Syrian crisis are 7.5 billion dollars where the real GDP growth before the Syrian crisis is estimated to be 4.3% in 2012, 4.4% in 2013 and 4.4% in 2014; however, the decrease in real GDP growth is estimated to be around 2.9% annually during this period. This means that the GDP decreased by 1800 dollars per capita. According to the estimates of ESCWA experts, the GDP cumulative losses during this period are around 11 billion dollars while the GDP losses per capita are around 3000 dollars.

Evaluation of the Economic Repercussions by the World Bank (in million dollars)

	2012	2013	2014	Total
Real GDP growth before the crisis (%)	4.3	4.4	4.4	
Real GDP growth after the crisis (%)	1.4	1.5	1.5	
Decrease in the real GDP growth (%)	2.9	2.9	2.9	
Losses in the GDP (%)	1142	2459	3928	7530

2. Negative Impact on the Tourism Sector: the tourism sector is considered one of the most harmed sectors by the repercussions of the Syrian crisis, by internal political divergence, security instability, as well the prohibition of Gulf countries of their citizens to come to Lebanon. Therefore, we notice the following:

Tourism decreased significantly in 2011 by 24% from 2.168 million tourists in 2010 to 1.655 million tourist in 2011, which is equivalent to the loss of 513,000 tourists of which 315,000 were coming from Arab countries by land through the Syrian borders.

This recession continued in the next years, and tourism decreased in 2012 by 17.4% when Gulf countries decided to prohibit their citizens to visit Lebanon. Tourism decreased by 6.7% in 2013, then it slightly improved in 2014.

Lebanon lost between 2011 and 2013 around 818,000 tourists which constitute 37.7% from the total number of tourists, since the number of tourists dropped from 2.168 million by the end of 2010 to 1.350 million by the end of 2014.

Arab tourism was affected the most; it decreased from 41.2% of the total number of tourists to 36% in 2014. The decrease mainly occurred among Gulf tourists who decreased between 2010 and 2013 by 59% from 334,000 tourists by the end of 2010 to 135,000 tourist by the end of 2013.

At the same time, the indices showed a decrease during the last four years in the hotel business by more than 27%; it decreased from 68% in 2010 to less than 50% in 2014, whereas the percentage of hotel business in Abu Dhabi is more than 76% and

more than 80% in Dubai. Moreover, the prices of hotel rooms during this period dropped by more than 35%.

Finally, the contribution of the tourism and travel sector in the GDP has decreased from 29% in 2010 which is equivalent to 10.7 billion dollars to 19% of the GDP in 2014 which is equivalent to 8.6 billion dollars.

3. Deterioration of Public Finance: The Syrian crisis caused the deterioration of the public finance which resulted in the increase of its deficit between 2010 and 2013 which constitute 3.6% of the GDP, i.e. 1.7 billion dollars. The deficit increased from 5.9% of GDP in 2011 to 9.5% of GDP in 2013. The Syrian crisis also increased the primary deficit whose value was 1855 billion liras in 2010 which consist 3.3% of GDP to become 166 billion dollars and 366 billion dollars in 2012 and 2013 respectively, while a surplus was registered in 2014 of an amount of 1970 billion liras due to the increase of telecommunication revenues by 970 billion liras. The Syrian crisis has led to a drastic increase in the growth pace of the public debt from 52.6 billion dollars in 2010 to 66.57 billion dollars in 2014 with a percentage of 26.5%.

As for the deterioration of the public finance, it is due to the following reasons:

a) Pressure on the Public Expenditure: public expenditure has increased during the period of 2011-2014 by 6.28% from 17047 billion liras by the end of 2010 which constitutes 29.4% of GDP to 21032 billion liras in 2014 which constitutes 30.6% of GDP; in other words, the increase is of 3985 billion liras. This is the result of an increase in wages and salaries by around 1525 billion liras, Electricity of Lebanon transfers which are around 1446 billion liras, and public debt servicing which constitute around 220 billion liras, as well as the costs of the Syrian crisis migrants.

The Syrian crisis has led to a slight increase in social, health and education as well as social affairs expenditures in the period 2011-2013; expenditures has reach 0.5% of GDP which is equivalent to around 225 million dollars due to the increase of health expenditures which consist 0.4% of GDP equivalent to around 180 million dollars spent on hospitals and medication. Moreover, social affairs expenditures increased to constitute 0.1% of GDP equivalent to around 45 million dollars. As for the education sector, there was no significant increase in expenditures, and it reached 29 million dollars since education costs of Syrian migrants were covered by donor countries. These countries donated 20 million dollars to cover the expenses of about 40,000

Syrian children in 2012 and 35 million dollars to cover the expenses of 70,000 thousand Syrian children in 2013. In 2014, however, social, health and education expenditures increased significantly to constitute 0.8% of GDP equivalent to 380 million dollars due to the overflow of migrants.

Simultaneously, the Syrian crisis has led to an increase in the military and security allowances due to the events that occurred in the country and the clashes in the north that led the successive governments to recruit thousands of new military and security actors, and place thousands of other contractors in permanent positions, as well as pay the state of emergency compensations, as well as of the compensations of emergency alertness. The military and security allowances have reached about 77 million dollars in 2012 and about 39 million dollars in 2013; it is likely to significantly increase in the coming years where the government has decided to recruit 15,000 military agents, which will exceed their annual cost by 120 million dollars.

In addition to the social and security expenditures, migrants will also increase electricity consumption which has already reached 170 million dollars in 2013; they will also increase expenditures related to the maintenance of the damaged infrastructure which has reached around 0.4% of the GDP equivalent to about 180 million dollars.

According to the estimations of the World Bank, Syrian migrants cost the public finance during the period 2012-2014 around 1.1 billion dollars; the latter is a progressive cost that was estimated to be around 97 million dollars in 2012, and around 390.5 million dollars in 2013, then 614 million dollars in 2014. These amounts aim to cover the costs of the Syrian migration during the mentioned period in electricity (502 million dollars), education (194 million dollars), health (92 million dollars), solid wastes (71 million dollars), and public debt servicing.

Public finance will not be capable of handling the pressure of the random Syrian migration without external help, especially that the costs will increase in the coming years and might exceed the estimations of the World Bank due the overflow of migrants and the increase of security and social requirements.

b) Deadweight Loss of Taxation during the period 2011-2014: the tax burden has lost 3.3% of the GDP equivalent to 1.630 billion dollars. It has dropped from 17.2% of the GDP by the end of 2010 to 9.13 of the GDP in 2014 due to the loss of 0.84% of the tax burden in 2011, 1.04% in 2012, 1.2% in 2013 and 0.3% in 2014.

The main reasons of the deadweight loss of taxation are:

- Decrease of around 0.23% of the GDP in the income tax equivalent to 110 million dollars from 1.73% of the GDP in 2011 to 1.5% of the GDP in 2014.
- Decrease of around 0.85% of the GDP in the VAT equivalent to 420 million dollars from 5.7% of the GDP by the end of 2010 to 4.85% of the GDP by the end of 2014.
- Decrease of around 0.28% of the GDP in customs revenues equivalent to 135 million dollars from 1.45% of the GDP to an estimated 1.17% in 2014.
- Decrease of 0.35% of the GDP in real estate charges equivalent to 166 million dollars from 1.52% of the GDP to an estimated 1.2% in 2014.

It is noticeable that the decrease in taxes has mainly impacted the tourism sector whose revenues have deteriorated due to the decrease of around 27% in VAT, 9% in corporate taxes, as well as in the retail business sector that has shown a setback of around 10% in VAT revenues. Finally, this decrease has also impacted the real estate sector that has recorded a decrease of around 25% in the fiscal charges on authorized construction sites, and around 10% in the revenues of corporate taxes.

Furthermore, a significant decline of 85% and 68.6% respectively was recorded between 2010 and 2013 in the revenues of customs duties from 68.9 billion liras in 2010 to 10.4 billion liras in 2013 as well as VAT revenues on the Lebanese-Syrian borders from 141.7 billion liras in 2010 to 44.5 billion liras in 2013. The drastic decline occurred between 2012 and 2013 due to the enormous security risks on the roads.

Development of passageways revenues between Lebanon and Syria (in billion liras)

	2010	2011	2012	2013
Customs duties revenues	68.9	63.7	38.4	10.4
VAT revenues	141.7	139.9	113	44.5
Total	210.6	203.6	151.4	54.9

The deterioration pace of the public finance is expected to increase in the coming stages due to the scarcity of external assistance granted for migrants and due to the pressures of the public expenditures especially at the security, military and social levels, in addition to the weak growth in taxes revenues due to the continuous economic slowdown.

The World Bank foresees that the Syrian crisis will reduce the public revenues by around 1.5 billion dollars during the period 2012-2014 due to the loss of taxes revenues whose value is 1.047 billion dollars including the loss of 401 million dollars from income and corporate taxes as well as capital taxes, the loss of 402 million dollars from internal custom duties on goods and services, as well as the loss of non-tax revenues whose value is 487 million dollars. Moreover, the World Bank predicts an increase of 1.1 billion dollars in public expenditures during the same period which will lead to a deficit increase of 2.6 billion dollars in the public budget (6% of GDP).

Finally, the World Bank's report estimates a total required amount of around 2.5 billion dollars to redeem and stabilize the situation concerning public expenditures at the level of public services (1.4 billion dollars) and infrastructure (1.1 billion dollars).

4. A Decline in foreign investment: foreign investments recorded a drastic decline of 22.2% between 2010 and 2011 from 4.9 billion dollars to 3.8 billion dollars. Then, the former declined to 3 billion dollars in 2012, 2.83 billion dollars in 2013 and 2.8 billion dollars in 2014. This decline is the result of an uncertain and worrisome environment for investors due to the Syrian crisis. They particularly include investors from the Gulf who used to invest in both the tourism and real estate sectors – sectors that need political stability and security.

5. Deterioration in the Balance of Payments: the balance of payments recorded a major deterioration during 2010 and 2011 since it transitioned from a surplus balance of payments with a value of 3326 million dollars in 2010 to a deficit balance of payments with a value of 1995 million dollars in 2011. In other words, a loss of 5320 million dollars occurred due to the decline of an estimate amount of 2.4 billion dollars in financial flows from 16.3 billion dollars in 2010 to 13.9 billion dollars in 2011 as well as a 2.2 billion dollars' deficit increase in 2011.

6. A decline in the activity of the real estate sector: this activity witnessed a decline due to the uncertainty of the political and security situation and the increased risks.

Therefore, it recorded during the period of 2010-2014 a significant decline of 26.7% in authorized construction sites from 17.62 million square kilometer in 2010 to 13.55 million square kilometer in 2014. Real estate sales dropped by 26% from 94203 units in 2010 to 70721 units in 2014.

On the other hand, the overflow of Syrian migrants, particularly in Beirut and both regions of the North and Bekaa, led to a significant increase in rent prices of apartments and houses which infuriated the people in these regions, whereas the prices of apartments and plots have not increased due a limited buying activity which did not exceed 1300 unit in all Lebanese regions.

7. A decline in the trade sector: The Syrian crisis has caused a decline of more than 35% in the activities of this sector between 2011 and 2014, the closing of hundreds of businesses in Beirut and other areas, and the dismissal of hundreds of employees due to the unstable and uncertain atmosphere, while citizens became more saving-oriented, legal and illegal passageways were closed down between Lebanon and Syria, and tourism activities decreased. The Syrian crisis also led the government to lose revenues from the profits of institutions, customs and tax fees on the VAT and the income tax.

At the same time, the events in Syria significantly impacted trade exchange between Lebanon and Syria, and between Lebanon and regional countries since Syria constituted the trade corridors for these countries.

The impacts on trade exchange are revealed as follows:

a) Trade Exchange between Lebanon and Syria: Trade exchange between Lebanon and Syria was impacted by the events in Syria as well as the economic, financial and international sanctions imposed on it. It was also impacted by the decline of the smuggling activity between Lebanon and Syria and the dependence of the Syrian market on the Lebanese market to import for their internal needs.

The Lebanese exports to Syria increased by 78% especially between 2012 and 2013 from 294 million dollars in 2012 to 524 million dollars in 2013 since Lebanon imports petroleum derivatives for its internal needs.

On the other hand, imports in Syria recorded a 46.6% decline between 2010 and 2013 from 339 million dollars for 2010 to 181 million dollars for 2013. The Balance of

Trade in Lebanon recorded a surplus with a value of 28 million dollars in 2012, and a value of 343 million dollars in 2013, while the Balance of Trade in Syria has been recording a deficit.

Trade Exchange between Lebanon and Syria (in million dollars)

	2010	2011	2012	2013
Imports	339	310	266	181
Exports	221	215	294	524
Balance of Trade	(118)	(95)	28	343

b) Trade exchange between Lebanon and other regional countries through Syrian passageways (Masnaa - Abboudieh): Trade between Lebanon and regional countries was highly impacted. Transit transactions also declined to 383 million dollars in 2010, while re-exportation dropped to 153 million dollars due to the closing of passageways at the borders and the increase of security risks on Syrian roads. Impacts of the Syrian crisis are revealed as follows:

Trade exchange between Lebanon and regional countries (in million dollars)

	2010	2011	2012	2013
Imports	1219	1181	912	373
Exports	939	924	864	685
Total	2158	2105	1776	1058

- A significant decline of 69.5% in imports from 1219 million dollars in 2010 to 373 million dollars in 2013, as well as a decline of 27% from 939 million dollars in 2010 to 685 million dollars in 2013.

A significant decline was recorded between 2012 and 2013 consisting of a 59% of decline in imports and 20.7% in exports due to the closing down of the majority of passageways on the borders with Syria as well as the significant security developments in all Syrian areas.

- Lebanese exports declined from 22% of the total exports in 2010 to 17% in 2013. Also, imports to the area declined from 6.8% of the total imports to 1.75% in 2013.

- The number of transport trucks from Lebanon to regional countries declined from 145000 transportation transactions in 2010 to 45000 in 2013 due to the inflation of transportation prices and the increase of security risks on the roads.

c) Deficit increase in the total trade exchange: The Syrian crisis and the overflow of Syrian migrants to Lebanon led to a 26% deficit increase in the Balance of Trade from 33% of GDP in 2010 to 38.75 in 2013 equivalent to 13711 million dollars in 2010 to 17212 million dollars in 2013 due to the increase of import activities by the private sector, especially petroleum derivatives whose value increased by 60%, to cover the needs of both the Lebanese and Syrian markets. It is important to note that the price of an oil barrel increased during that period from 77 dollars to 100 dollars.

- Finally, it is worth mentioning that the trade and industrial sectors benefited from the Syrian crisis in the import and export transactions and migrant consumption.

Total Trade Exchange (in million dollars)

	2010	2011	2012	2013
Imports	17964	20158	21280	21228
Exports	4253	4265	4483	3936
Trade Deficit	13711	15893	16797	17292

d) A decline in transit activity: the number of trips conducted by transport trucks declined (transportation of transit goods from Lebanon to neighbouring countries) from 105,000 trips in 2010 to less than 30,000 trips in 2013. Also, the number of trips conducted by transport trucks declined (transportation of goods from neighbouring countries to Lebanon) from 114,000 trips in 2010 to 30,000 trips in 2013.

8. Lebanese banks: Lebanese banks have demonstrated a remarkable immunity and enduringness and have managed to contain the Syrian crisis and hinder its risks internally and externally. This is shown through:

- Internally, banks gathered reserves which almost reached 400 million dollars to cover bad loans, and requested guarantees in cash or in kind from their Syrian clients who were granted loans having a total value of less than 1 billion dollars which constitutes less than 2.2% from the total credits of the private sector. Moreover, the capital of Lebanese banks in Syria does not exceed 4% of their capital in Lebanon and is equivalent to about 267 million dollars. Even the deposits of Syrians in Lebanese banks does not constitute any threat even if they were withdrawn, since according to the Secretary General of Banks, it constitutes less than 3% of the total deposits which means less than 3.8 billion dollars.

The banking sector has achieved during the recent years a stable growth in its deposits ranging between 8% and 9%, as well as in its credits ranging between 9% and 11%. The former maintained acceptable levels of profit and has demonstrated a solid base of deposits and a high level of liquidity. The banking sector relies on financial flows sent by Lebanese immigrants abroad.

The banking sector abided by the American and international sanctions imposed on Syria at the level of banking and financial transactions, as well as the opening of accounts, and despite this, it did not witness any flights of funds and deposits.

- Externally, the 6 banks operating in Syria have adopted conservative and cautious policies through reducing the credits granted to Syrian clients and not competing to attract deposits. Therefore, there has been a decline in their total assets from 8 billion dollars in 2010 to 2.8 billion dollars in 2013. There has also been a decline in their private capitals from 545 million dollars to 273 million dollars of which 51% are Syrian contributions. Their credits declined by more than 65% from 3

billion dollars to less than 1 billion dollars. As for their deposit portfolios, they witnessed a decline from around 4 billion dollars to around 2.4 billion dollars, in addition to a decline in the net profit from 47 million dollars to around 23 million dollars.

9. Syrian Migrants Economic Benefits: 1.5 million migrants contribute in revitalizing the economic movement and reducing the frequency of economic slowdown through consumption and investment, reflected through the flow of international help that reached 800 million dollars in 2014; thus, an additional growth of 1.3% was recorded.

The affluent and wealthy category among Syrian migrants constitutes 10% and 15% of the total number of migrants. This category has enrolled their children in private schools and universities and has activated some economic and financial sectors. For instance, in the external trade sector, Lebanon has become the mediator between the Syrian market and international markets; therefore, trade transactions were reinforced between Lebanon and Syria as well as neighbouring countries. Import transactions to Syria and Gulf countries witnessed a growth. In the real estate sector, the mentioned category has bought a number of housing units (around 1300 unit) and rented thousands of apartments which constituted incomes and high rent allowances for owners. In the banking sector, the affluent people deposited money, took loans, made transfers and many other banking transactions. In the retail, tourism and industrial sectors, they made limited investments, but they contributed in the creation of hundreds of jobs for Lebanese people by opening shops, coffee shops and restaurants, hotels as well as transferring their plants from Syria to Lebanon. They contributed in the revitalization of industries that were long gone in Lebanon. Finally, in air traffic, Beirut International Airport became a link between Syrians and the outside world, while in maritime traffic, Beirut port witnessed a 10% increase in the number of containers in 2013 and a percentage of 40% compared to 2010.

In addition to all of the above, the cheap and qualified Syrian labour contributed in the agriculture sector due to the increase of demand from Syria and through land reclamation, harvest, and helping Lebanese agriculturists. In the construction sector, the cheap, capable and qualified Syrian labour compensated for the lack of sufficient internal labour.

On the other hand, Lebanon was not able to benefit from the capitals escaping the war estimated to be of billions of dollars by granting these capital investment

incentives, especially in the industrial sector similarly to what happened in other countries. Therefore, these capitals headed to Gulf countries, Turkey and Jordan.

Finally, the financial aids granted by the United Nations Organization as well as international and Arab agencies, estimated to be of hundreds of millions of dollars, contribute in the social and economic reanimation of some areas. They also contribute in reducing the burden on the public budget, particularly in the health and education sectors.

10. Inflation: Lebanon has managed to contain the inflation between 2010 and 2014 despite the increase of an intense consumer demand by Syrian migrants and despite the increase in prices of apartments for rent as well as the increase of food prices. Inflation rates ranged between 4.5% in 2010, 3.1% in 2011, 6.5% in 2012, 6.3% in 2013, and 3% in 2014 due to the increase in petroleum prices worldwide until the first half of 2014, due to apartment price were fixation, and to the increase of consumer demand of migrants, and the payment of a part of the series of ranks and salaries (high cost of living...).

Overflow of Syrian Migrants to Lebanon

The Syrian migrants' crisis is complicated, intense and hard to handle. It started as temporary for humanitarian purposes, and then it became a long-term political, economic, social and security crisis due to the internal political divisions related to it and the absence of a governmental policy to handle and organize it similarly to Jordan and Turkey. Even more, Lebanon witnessed an open borders policy which permitted the random, enormous and unprecedented overflow of migrants.

The number of Syrian migrants within Syria has reached in December 2015, according to the UNHCR, around 6.5 million migrants; whereas, the number of migrants to neighbouring countries has reached around 4.930 million migrants.

Lebanon has hosted a huge number of Syrian migrants outside Syria with respect to its population. In December 2015, their number has reached 1.070 million migrants constituting 24.3% of the total number of migrants. Turkey has hosted 1.9 million migrants consisting 43.2% of the total number of migrants, Jordan has hosted 20.4% equivalent to 813,000 migrants, and Iraq has hosted 7% equivalent to 213,000 migrants. Recently, around 400,000 Syrian refugees moved to Europe where they have caused a humanitarian, social and security crisis.

On the other hand, the Lebanese government estimates the number of migrants in Lebanon to be around 1.5 million Syrian migrants, while the World Bank predicts the number to reach 1.6 million migrants.

Syrian migrants registered in the UNHCR constitute 28.5% from the population in Lebanon, while they only constitute 5.49% in Turkey, 12.5% in Jordan, and less than 1% in Iraq and Egypt. In addition, we notice a disparity between the size of the Lebanese economy and its area from one hand, and between economies and areas of neighbouring countries from another hand. The size of the Turkish economy is 20 times larger than the Lebanese economy, the Turkish lands area is 80 times larger than the Lebanese lands area, and the Turkish population is 20 times more than the Lebanese population. In Jordan, the geographical area is 9 times larger than the geographical area in Lebanon and the Jordan population is 1.5 times more than the Lebanese population.

The number of Syrian migrants progressively increased in 2012 and 2013. It has increased from 18,000 migrants registered in April 2012 to 129,000 by the end of 2012, i.e. 10,000 more migrants each month. Then, the number drastically increased in 2013 where around 60,000 migrants entered monthly until the number reached 806,000 Syrian migrants by the end of 2013. In 2014, 337,000 more Syrian migrants migrated to Lebanon, i.e. an average of 28,000 Syrian refugees each month. In 2015, the government managed to stop the migration and the number became zero with a decline in the number of the ones registered in the UNHCR from 1.185 million migrants to 1.070 million migrants having a percentage of 9.70%.

Syrian migrants constitute a social and security threat in Lebanon since they threaten its existence due to their random and armed scattering in more than 1400 sites and in most of the Lebanese regions as well as due to the transformation of their sites into security spots outside the government's authority and supervision. Moreover, migrants constitute social threats due to their continuous clashes with Lebanese families, to their illegal competition for Lebanese people in the job market, and their concentration in remote and border areas historically poor and deprived. All of this aggravates the difficult living conditions in these areas. In addition, this creates a demographic imbalance and threatens the critical social balance in some host areas where the number of Syrian migrants has exceeded the number of Lebanese inhabitants.

The Syrian migration caused overpopulation in Lebanon; the population increased from 370 people per square kilometer to 520 people per square kilometer.

Syrian migrants are mainly distributed and in huge numbers in border areas that suffer from social and development problems, i.e. 24.5% of the number of migrants is established in North Lebanon equivalent to 287,000 migrants, and 35.5% in the Bekaa equivalent to 416,000 migrants. They are less present in Beirut and Mount Lebanon where they constitute 25.8% of the number of migrants equivalent to 133,000 migrants as well as in South Lebanon where they constitute 11.4% equivalent to 133,000 migrants.

Lebanon has also hosted, in addition to Syrian migrants, Palestinian migrants too. Most of them came from the Yarmouk camp in Syria; their number is estimated to be around 53,000 migrants added to 1.070 million migrants registered in the UNHCR and distributed in shelters supervised by UNWRA in Palestinian camps. The UNHCR has recently criticized the position of the Lebanese government; especially that UNWRA undertakes a portion of the Palestinian migration burden from Syria to Lebanon by offering nutritive and living aids and undertaking education and hospital costs.

Lebanese officials are worried that the Palestinian migration will cause an additional cause of tension which will increase the security instability due to the increase in the influence of extremist groups among migrants within camps.

Moreover, Lebanon has hosted a number of Lebanese migrants from Syria estimated to be around 50,000 migrants. They are distributed between Lebanese residing in Syrian villages near the Lebanese borders whose number is around 20,000 people and Lebanese having a double nationality, Syrian and Lebanese (more than 30,000 people).

From the total number of migrants, Syrian migrants are 48.2% male and 51.8% females, while 19.4% are children less than 4 years old.

33.8% of migrants are aged between 5 and 17 years old equivalent to 384,000 migrants at a studying age of which 90,000 have been enrolled in official educational schools and 65,000 participated in unofficial educational programs. The International Labour Organization estimates that 31% of the Syrian children are enrolled in schools;

the World Bank predicts that Syrian children will constitute 57% of the students in public schools and their number will range between 140,000 and 170,000 students in the academic year 2014-2015.

Syrian migrants are 53.2% children under the age of 18 who need healthcare, social care, protection, food and clothing; 21.4% of these Syrian children are between 5 and 11 of age.

Data show that the main migrating categories are the age groups between 18 and 59 years old; they constitute 44.1% of the total number of migrants. Data also show that number of female migrants exceed the number of male migrants, since men stayed behind in Syria to fight, protect their properties, livelihoods, and houses.

As for the Syrian labour, data show a 62% of Syrian migrants above 15 years old that constitute a main base capable of entering the job market in Lebanon, i.e. 733,000 Syrian migrants are registered from which around 47% are male equivalent to 344,000 male Syrian migrants. On the other hand, the government estimates the number of Syrian migrants above 15 years old capable of entering the job market equivalent to 930,000 migrants (62% from the number of migrants estimated to be around 1.5 million) of which 437,000 are males.

Reports indicate that the reasons behind the migration of about 60% are the clashes and the absence of security in their regions, while 32% migrated for political reasons.

Therefore, the return of Syrian migrants to Syria will not be anytime soon and is related to security and political events in Syria.

UNHCR reports indicate that most migrants live in difficult social conditions, since 40% live in tents and group shelters, unfinished buildings and garages of which 14% live in random camps outside the government's control and supervision which threatens the security in the Lebanese society, while 18% live in separated rooms.

The rest 60% live in housing sites of limited area (rooms or apartments) of which most lack for basic needs such as water, electricity, sewage and hygiene.

The UNHCR estimates the financial needs of migrants from the international family in 2015 to be around 1.760 billion dollars. Lebanon is expected to receive 57% of it equivalent to 749.4 million dollars. Also, UNHCR reports indicate that 70% of migrants live under the poverty line and that around 900,000 migrants received food

from the electronic card program. However, this program might be suspended by the UN agency responsible for food worldwide due to the refusal of donors to offer more financial support. This raises the concern of a tension increase within camps due to the decrease in the number of beneficiaries from the food while they drown in debt.

It is important to note that these aids are directly paid through international organizations working on the field and not through the Lebanese government, and that the European Commission has donated 485 million dollars. Additionally, we notice that UNHCR aids increased from 13.5 million dollars in 2010 to 370 million dollars in 2014.

On the other hand, the Lebanese government has set an international assistance plan for 2015 with an amount of 2.2 billion dollars distributed as follows: 37% for infrastructure, education and energy facilities and 63% for handling humanitarian matters whereas 45% equivalent to 1 billion dollars was invested in this domain. Also, a plan was set for 2016 with an estimate amount of 2.4 billion dollars.

The identity of Syrian migrants must be legally defined since Lebanon did not sign the 1951 UN Convention or the 1967 Protocol related to refugees. Nevertheless, all countries are obliged and shall respect the principle of “Non-Refoulement” (non-suppression) of any refugee accepted or registered at the UNHCR, especially if the “refoulement” (suppression) will threaten the freedom and life of the refugee. Moreover, the UNHCR is handling Syrians as refugees and not migrants.

The Syrian migrants’ portfolio requires a new approach at the development and hosting levels, as well as the level of presence, shelter and spreading of refugees. It also requires changing the open borders policy and stop welcoming more Syrian refugees. A policy to decrease the number of refugees and handle the situation of the illegally present refugees must be adopted as a prelude to return them to their homes.

The Effects of Syrian Migrants on public services and infrastructure

The overflow of Syrian migrants is causing high pressure on the public health and education services as well as on the social security network which is initially low and somehow religious. Moreover, the demand is also causing pressure on the flabby

infrastructure incapable of answering to their needs and consumption of water, electricity, and sewerage network. Repercussions appear as follows:

1. Public services repercussions caused by Syrian migrants: health, education and social security network.

The World Bank estimates the financial cost of the public services repercussions caused by Syrian migrants to range between 308 and 340 million dollars during the period 2012-2014. The estimated required resources to retrieve the quality of services like it was before the crisis is between 1.4 and 1.6 billion dollars.

a) Health Sector: the health sector is suffering from pressure, from an increase in demand on health services as well as an increase in health costs due to the overflow of Syrian migrants. Additionally, Lebanese people are facing difficulties in receiving proper healthcare and finding sufficient medicine, especially that a large number of migrants are in need of primary and secondary healthcare whose costs they cannot afford. They constitute 40% of the total number of primary healthcare cases (488,000 cases).

The health sector is suffering from an insufficient number of workers in the domain, the spread of illnesses and diseases (measles, tuberculosis, diseases transmitted in water...), as well as an increase in the cases of contagious diseases. This is due to the residence of Syrian migrants in insanitary places and the absence of sufficient immunity campaigns especially that more than 75% of Syrian migrants are women and children. Moreover, migrants are causing an increase in demand on hospitals and medications while the high cost of primary and secondary medical services constitute an obstacle.

Statistics conducted by the Ministry of Health indicate 1761 measles cases in Lebanon during 2013 compared to 9 cases in 2011, as well as 509 leishmaniasis cases among migrants in 2013 compared to 5 cases only in 2011.

Health expenses for Syrian migrants increased in the public budget during 2010-2013 by around 0.4% of GDP equivalent to 149 million dollars (223 billion liras) due to the increase in the medication bill from 128 billion liras in 2010 to 245 billion liras in 2013, as well as the public hospitals bill from 130 billion liras in 2010 to 286 billion liras in 2013. The drastic increases recorded in 2013 are 90% for medication and 15% for hospitalization.

The pharmaceutical sector in Lebanon, a small proportion of 3% from the public expenditures which ranged between 2010 and 2014 from 487 billion liras in 2010, constituted 2.5% of the public expenditures which are around 546 billion liras in 2014 which constituted 2.45% of the public expenditures. In other words, an increase of 12% took place. Public expenditures related to health are distributed as follows: 63% for hospitalization, 21% for medication, and 5% for primary care.

The World Bank estimates the financial cost of health services granted to Syrian migrants during 2010-2014 to be around 92 million dollars consisting of 6 million dollars in 2012, 38 million dollars in 2013, and ranging between 48 and 69 million dollars in 2014. Moreover, the estimated financial cost required to retrieve the quality of health services like it was before the Syrian crisis is of around 177 million dollars in 2013 and ranging between 216 and 306 million dollars in 2014, which makes a total of 383 and 483 million dollars.

Healthcare in Lebanon is considered expensive since 90% of it fall under the private sector, which aggravates the suffering and problems of Syrian migrants who find themselves obliged to legally register as migrants to be able to receive primary healthcare support from the UNHCR.

UNHCR data indicate that 53.2% of Syrian migrants are below 18 of age and are in need of social care and healthcare in 2015 equivalent to 157 million dollars. 19.4% of migrants are under 4 years old, 21.4% are between 5 and 11 years old, and 12.4% are between 12 and 17 years old.

b) Education Sector: this sector is facing many challenges due to the increase in the number of Syrian migrants in public schools from 1000 children enrolled in 2011 to 40,000 children enrolled in 2012 and 90,000 in 2013, of which 30,000 children are studying in unorganized classes supervised by NGOs. The World Bank estimates their number to reach in the academic year 2014-2015 between 140,000 and 170,000 children. Migrant students constitute 57% of the students enrolled in public schools in Lebanon.

On the other hand, data of public schools indicated that they can host 300,000 Lebanese students, while they were able to host 100,000 additional students before the Syrian crisis, i.e. 30% of the migrant students.

The education sector is facing several obstacles such as the incapacity of migrants to afford school tuitions and transportation fees (60% of families), no available places in schools (18%), and the absence of nearby schools (12%). It is also facing obstacles related to the social, educational, and language differences, as well as differences in the curricula, in addition to the increase in the failure rate among migrant students. Finally, it also facing challenges related to the pressure teachers are undergoing due to their incapability of handling special cases among migrants, as well as the flabby infrastructure of these schools (sewage, water piping, maintenance, space, etc.).

The government adopted measures which aimed to open new schools based on the rotation principle where 93 schools were rehabilitated to host two-third of the migrants in the first rotation, then another two-third in the second rotation. Most of these schools are located in remote and most deprived areas in Lebanon (the North and the Bekaa).

The enrollment percentage of Syrian migrant children of ages ranging between 5 and 17 years old around 35% from the total number of registered and unregistered Syrian children (31% in primary school and 2% in secondary school), i.e. 119,000 Syrian migrant students where the total number of Syrian migrant students is around 350,000 registered children and 35,000 unregistered by the end of 2013 with a total of 385,000 migrant students.

Statistics show that 65% of Syrian migrant students drop out of school, two-third are illiterate, 75% have a primary level of education and 3% have a university level equally for males and females. The number of registered and unregistered Syrian migrant students exceeded the number of Lebanese students in public schools during the academic 2014-2015 (around 275,000). The UNHCR raised its budget consecrated for migrants from 13.5 million dollars in 2010 to 196 million dollars in 2015.

The increase in the number of Syrian migrant children in the education sector led to a 0.6% increase in the public expenditure of the GDP during 2010-2013 equivalent to 330 million dollars. Moreover, UN agencies covered the additional expenses which reached around 160 million dollars.

The public education sector was able during the period 2011 till 2014 to contain the financial cost of Syrian migrant children thanks to the external assistance that

reached around 24 million dollars in 2012, and 52 million dollars in 2013. These aids were granted through the UN, while the public education sector was able to contain their numbers due to its extra capacity in public schools. However, the next stages raise concern if the numbers increased and the government's capacity will decrease which create a huge and dangerous crisis within the sector.

In this regard, the Ministry of Education has set a plan to respond to the crisis (Reaching All Children with Education in Lebanon – R.A.C.E.). During its first stage, it includes being able to host 100,000 Syrian migrant children in public schools funded by international donor institutions; the total cost is 200 million dollars, since the estimated cost per student is between 1500 and 2000 dollars annually according to the education stage. Then, the cost increases gradually to reach 600 million dollars during the three coming years with the increase in the number of Syrian migrant student receiving education to 400,000 students. Aid societies pay 160 dollars annually for each Syrian migrant student during the first rotation.

The World Bank estimates the financial cost of Syrian migrant children during the period 2012-2014 to be around 194 million dollars distributed as follows: 29 million dollars for 2012, 63 million dollars for 2013, and 102 million dollars for 2014. The estimated financial cost required to redeem the level of services of the Ministry of Education like they were before the crisis is around 97 million dollars in 2012, 183 million dollars in 2013, and between 348 and 434 million dollars in 2014, i.e. a total ranging between 531 and 617 million dollars.

The education sector expenditures represent 7.5% of the public expenditures, and they have increased during the period 2010-2014 from 1293 billion liras in 2010 with a percentage of 6.62% of public expenditures to 1651 billion liras in 2014 with a percentage of 7.53% of public expenditures, i.e. an increase of 358 billion liras with a percentage of 27.6%. This is due to the increase in the number of teachers as well as in their incomes to correspond to the expensive living cost.

c) Social Services: The effect of Syrian migrants also shows on the previously limited social expenditures, since these expenditures slightly increased during the period 2010-2013 constituting 0.1% of the GDP equivalent to 37 million dollars.

The World Bank estimates the financial costs of Syrian migrants related to social services to be 6 million dollars in 2012, 6 million dollars in 2013 and 9 million dollars in 2014, i.e. a total of 21 million dollars.

2. Infrastructure Repercussions caused by Syrian Migrants.

The infrastructure was already in a flabby state before the Syrian crisis due to overpopulation in some regions, as well as weak maintenance and rehabilitation; it is also technically and administratively unprepared and does not have the financial capacities to answer to the needs and demands of Syrian migrants and support their numbers.

The World Bank estimates that the Syrian crisis costs the Public finance regarding infrastructure during 2012-2014 around 589 million dollars; whereas, the required finances to redeem the stability of the sector is around 1.1 billion dollars.

The effect of Syrian migrants on infrastructure appears in the following sectors:

a) Water and Sanitation Sector: the overflow of Syrian migrants is causing an increase in demand on water supply as well as sanitation services; the demand reaches around 26.1 million cubic meter annually which constitute 7% of the total demand before the crisis.

According to the estimations of the World Bank, the financial cost of the water and sanitation sector is around 18 million dollars during 2012-2014, while the sector needs between 340 and 375 million dollars to maintain stability.

b) Solid Wastes: the overflow of Syrian migrants leads to an increase in the amount of additional solid wastes produced by Syrian migrants; this amount constitute around 324,000 tons annually equivalent to 15.7% of the wastes produced by Lebanese people before the beginning of migration (reports from the Ministry of Environment). This increase is causing pressure on the infrastructure for solid wastes management (waste sorting plants and dumpsites, etc.); it is increasing municipality expenditures by around 40% in 2012 and 2013, and polluting water resources as well as groundwater.

According to the estimations of the World Bank, the financial cost of waste expenditures is between 139 and 206 million dollars to maintain the level and quality of waste management like it were before the crisis.

c) Electricity: the electricity sector is suffering from huge problems due to its flabby infrastructure, weak production, and tremendous increase in financial losses that have reached 2 billion dollars annually. Syrian migrants are causing pressure on the electricity consumption and are increasing the demand on the production capacity by 20% which is around 300 megawatts.

The current production capacity of Electricity of Lebanon (EDL) is around 1200 megawatts and is continuously deteriorating 5% annually since years ago due to the flabby plants as well as technical losses. Moreover, the production capacity of the two Turkish steamboats is around 300 megawatts which makes a total of around 1500 megawatts. However, the total demand on energy is continuously increasing by 7% annually from 2600 megawatts in 2010 to more than 2900 megawatts in 2014 due to the population growth and the increase in economic activity.

According to the estimations of the World Bank, the additional demand on electricity by Syrian migrants is of 231 megawatts in 2013, and between 251 and 362 megawatts in 2014. The World Bank also estimates the financial cost to be around 16 million dollars in 2013, 170 million dollars in 2013, and between 314 and 394 million dollars in 2014, with a total ranging between 500 and 580 megawatts million dollars.

d) Road Transportation Sector: this sector witnessed an increase between 15% and 50% in road traffic according to the regions and the flow of migrants, in addition to a significant decrease in transport trucks transit services by more than 65% due to the economic slowdown.

According to the World Bank, the investment needs for this sector are between 246 and 525 million dollars between 2013 and 2014 to maintain the quality of roads, increase their capacities and find solutions for public transportation.

Estimates Development of Public Services and Infrastructure (in million dollars) by the World Bank

	2012	2013	2014	Total
Health	6	38	48	92
Education	29	63	102	194
Social Services	6	6	9	21
Water and Sanitation	5	5	8	18
Solid Wastes	-	33	39	72
***Electricity	16	170	314	500
Total	62	315	520	897

N.B.: The public services cost is witnessing a significant increase during the period 2012-2014 from 62 million dollars in 2012 to 520 million dollars in 2014, which 7.3 times more. It mainly affects the electricity sector, education sector, and health sector due to the increase of the worrisome number of migrants from 129,000 migrants in 2012 to around 1.5 million migrants in 2014.

**The financial needs to maintain stability of the public services and infrastructure
(in million dollars)**

	2012	2013	2014	Total
Health	38	177	216	431
Education	97	183	348	628
Job Market	-	-	166	166
Social Services	23	67	85	175
Electricity	39	214	57	310
Water and Sanitation	5	89	246	340
Solid Wastes Management	4	48	141	193
Transportation	-	43	203	246
Total	206	821	1462	2489

Source: World Bank

N.B.: Financial needs mainly show in the health and education sectors where they constitute respectively 17.3% and 25.23% from the total financial needs.

Effects of Syrian Migrants on the Job Market

The overflow of Syrian migrants leads to negative and deep repercussions in the job market, since it threatens its critical balance in supply and demand, as well as aggravates the already difficult circumstances. It also increases the problems of the market as well as the unemployment rate from 11% to 21% according to the World Bank, and 29% according to ESCWA. In other words, it increases the number of unemployed individuals from 220,000 to 324,000 by the end of 2014 due to the increase in the number of job seekers by 30% in 2013 and around 50% in 2014. Moreover, it mainly harms women and young workers with limited capacities. It also increases the unfair and illegal competition between Lebanese and Syrian workers. This contributes to the enlargement of an unorganized job market, decreases wages, and develops tension between Syrian migrants and host societies especially in poor areas.

Simultaneously, it is noticeable that the flow of Syrian migrants weakens governance in the job market and deteriorates work circumstances as well as decreases living standards in host areas.

Achieving stability in the job market and reducing the unemployment rate requires financial resources estimated by the World Bank to be around 166 to 242 million dollars.

In parallel, the ESCWA report indicates that the capita output ratio will record a 20% drop in case the Lebanese job market was not able to contain the Syrian labour and provide new economic sources; however, if the Lebanese market was able to contain the Syrian labour, it will witness a drop of 12.3%.

Characteristics of the Lebanese Job Market

The Lebanese economy suffers from structural problems which hinders it from creating sufficient job opportunities and from answering local employment needs. These problems aggravated during the last years due to the economic recession and the flow of Syrian migrants. Lebanon has never known a labour policy due to its liberal economic system, while unemployment is considered a conventional phenomenon in the job market.

The World Bank studies indicated that during the period 1997-2009, the Lebanese economy was less able to create job opportunities. The GDP increased by 3.7%; whereas, job opportunity creation increased by 1% only.

Jobs recently created by the economy were mainly in low-production sectors. This offered opportunities for labour of limited capacities (35%), and labour in general management (30%). Whereas, high-production sectors represented only 14% of the labour which reflects the fact that the job market in Lebanon attracts low professions. This is mainly shown in the trade sector followed by service sectors of low-production and the construction sector.

The situation of the Lebanese job market has driven many competent individuals and university graduates to immigrate and look for job opportunities abroad, especially that the 14% unemployment rate of university graduates is high. Whereas, unemployment rate among high school graduates is 15% compared to a 10% among workers who do not carry a diploma and 7% among those who went to primary school. This indicates that unemployment in Lebanese increases with the increase of the education level.

According to the World Bank, the Lebanese economy has to create 23,000 job opportunities annually during the next coming 10 years to contain newcomers, incentivize the economy, and face the increase in unemployment rate. This means that Lebanon has to create job opportunities 6 times more than the 3800 opportunity it is currently creating.

Studies of the Consultation & Research Institute conducted in 2011 indicate that the total annual number of job seekers is 61200 including 25900 workers and 13500 people who immigrated, which means that the annual gap between offer and demand is 21900. Statistics also show that 47.8% of the labour force is focused in substandard services (retail sale, transportation, etc.) and 9.8% in work of high-production (IT, banks, etc.).

Estimated number of Syrian migrants in the Job Market in Lebanon:

The job market in Lebanon is facing enormous challenges due to the flow of Syrian migrants and their entry to the job market. These challenges are hard to define due to the absence of clear, precise and comprehensive statistics about the number of Syrian migrant workers in Lebanon.

Data from the International Labour Organization indicate the ratio of active Syrian migrants in 47% among which 70% are male and 19% are female, compared to 44% active Lebanese among which 68% are male and 20% are female. They also indicate that

62% of Syrian migrants are above 15 years old, i.e. they are able to work; they constitute 930,000 persons out of 1.5 million migrants, which means that 450,000 Syrian migrants are active and represent 31% from the total number of Syrian migrants in Lebanon. Active Syrian migrants are distributed as follows: 31% working Syrian migrants equivalent to 315,000 workers, and 30% unemployed Syrian migrants equivalent to 135,000 Syrian. In this context, we notice that the unemployment rate is high among females and reaches 68% compared to 21% among males.

In addition to working Syrian migrants, the number of working children between 10 and 14-years-old is estimated to be around 20,000 with a percentage of around 15% out of 135,000 total number of Syrian migrant children, while most of them work in agriculture and selling goods on the roads...

In this context, it is important to note that 250,000 to 310,000 Syrian workers are permanent and seasonal workers in Lebanon, especially in the agriculture and construction sectors even before the Syrian crisis.

Challenges caused by Syrian migrants in the job market are shown as follows:

1. Increase in the unemployment rate: The Lebanese economy is suffering from an increase in the unemployment rate and from an imbalance between offer and demand and from a chronic crisis in the job market. The increase in the number of Syrian migrants and their intense demand for jobs leads to a significant increase in the unemployment rate from 11% to 21% according to the World Bank, and to 29% according to ESCWA. This means that number of unemployed people increased from 220,000 to 324,000 person, knowing that there isn't any precise scientific statistics in Lebanon related to the real unemployment rate. Official statistics estimate the unemployment rate to be around 11.9%, while ESCWA's statistics indicate 16%, and the Consultation & Research Institute estimations are between 10% and 15%.

Working Syrian migrants impact the job market, and they particularly affect young people, women, skilled workers and university degree holders. The unemployment rate among young people is considered high and is worrisome since it reaches 34%, while it reaches 18% among women. Also, working Syrian migrants impact most economic sectors, especially the trade sector followed by the industrial sector and the administrative sector, while the marketing services sector is the only sector benefitting from their presence.

Most of the Syrian refugees live in difficult economic and social conditions. Statistics indicate that 30% of migrants at the age of work are unemployed, and this rate increases among female working migrants to reach 68%. Statistics also show that more than 66% of migrants work in low-skilled jobs and compete with the Lebanese people on these jobs.

The International Labor Organization indicates that South Lebanon has witnessed the highest percentage of working Syrian migrants (61%), while Akkar has witnessed the lowest percentage (50%). Beirut and North Lebanon recorded the highest unemployment rates with 25% and 33% respectively, while the South and Northern Bekaa recorded the lowest unemployment rates. The Organization also states that more than 50% of unemployed people have a primary education level (36%) and an elementary education level (16%) and that a small number of unemployed people are above 55 years old.

The International Labor Organizations also says that 57% of working Syrian migrants are between 25 and 34 years old, while 54 percent are between 35 and 54 years old. It also indicates that the Syrian migrants labor is related to the level of education since it reaches 44% among illiterate Syrian migrants and 66% among Syrian migrants holding university degree and skilled workers.

2. Expansion of an unorganized labor in the job market: Unorganized Lebanese labor constitute more than half of the labor; it is unskilled and concentrated on construction, agriculture and the industrial sector, while 63% of labor in the agriculture sector is not declared, 55% in the industrial sector, 76% in construction, and 49% in high-value sectors. The Consultation & Research Institute estimates that 40% of labor in Lebanon are not registered in the National Social Security Fund.

The flow of Syrian migrant labor has led to the expansion of an unorganized scope of work due to the work of around 92% of Syrian migrants in low-skilled domains according to the International Labor Organization, i.e. without a regulating work contract and social protection, with a low income, for a seasonal or weekly job (56% of Syrian migrants), without the guarantee of receiving a stable monthly salary (23%), and without social benefits (86%).

The unorganized work of Syrian migrants is mainly based in the agriculture sector (24%), in local and personal services (27%), in construction (12%), and sales (8%). The concentration of unorganized labor mainly takes place in the North and the Bekaa.

According to ESCWA, Syrian migrant labor is impacting two categories in each sector: skilled workers and low-skilled workers. The flow of skilled Syrian migrants increases competition with skilled Lebanese workers. Moreover, it is no longer possible to recruit low-skilled Lebanese workers with the increase of low-skilled Syrian workers who accept to work with lower salaries and under more flexible conditions.

Finally, unorganized Syrian labor raises the level of unorganized labor in the Lebanese job market to more than 60%.

3. Reducing the salaries: The huge increase of offer in the job market due to Syrian migrants as well as their low salaries causes a drastic drop in the level of salaries. This mainly affects the lower middle class, which increases social and living problems as well as tension between Syrian migrants and Lebanese people in poor areas.

This drop impacts most of the economic sectors that require simple skills or that require experience and high skills in all Lebanese regions whether in the North, the Bekaa or the South.

Studies of the International Labor Organization show the low salary levels of working Syrian migrants compared to the salaries of Lebanese workers. The average monthly income for a Syrian migrant is 418,000 liras, 40% less than the minimum wage in Lebanon that is 675,000 liras due to the intensity of offers in the job market and their low-skills as well as education level. The studies show that the regions of Tripoli and Akkar have recorded the lowest level of salaries, while the highest levels are in the South, and that the average monthly income is very low and does not exceed 248,000 liras for female working Syrian migrants and 432,000 liras for males.

In this context, the ILO studies indicates that 57% of working Syrian migrants have a monthly income of less than 450,000 liras, 21% have a monthly income between 450,000 to 600,000 liras, 16% between 600,000 and 750,000 liras, and only 6% have monthly incomes above 750,000 liras. The studies also indicate that the incomes of females are 40% less than the incomes of males. Also, 50% of working Syrian migrants with low incomes depend on the UNHCR aids, while 22% depend on their savings.

ESCWA has declared that the residents of Lebanon will suffer from a drop of revenues equivalent to 10.5 billion dollars in case revenues decline by 50%.

4. Illegal and unfair competition on job opportunities: Competition on job opportunities is considered one of the most difficult challenges faced by host societies, where job opportunities decline and unemployment increases with the increase of the number of working Syrian migrants. Moreover, tensions and unrest increase between Syrian migrants and host societies.

Syrian workers accept to work in return for salaries lower than the salaries of Lebanese workers and without health or social insurance, for longer hours, and without registering in the National Social Security Fund.

Syrian workers were present before the crisis mainly in the seasonal agriculture sector, construction and local services. However, after the crisis, they are now present in all economic sectors (agriculture, construction, industry, individual services, tourism services, trade, etc.) and in all professions (handicraft professions, pharmacy, engineering, medicine, taxi drivers, etc.). Syrian migrants also began competing with Lebanese people in trade by establishing SMEs (commercial shops, restaurants) in several regions, especially regions close to the Syrian borders; they also started bringing Syrian goods in lower prices which threaten Lebanese products.

In the past, Syrian workers used to compete with Lebanese people on jobs that require simple skills. However, with the overflow of experiences and skilled Syrian migrants, competition now is impacting skilled Lebanese workers, especially that the Ministry of Labor has modified in 2013 the regulations related to foreign workers; now, Syrian workers can practice professions related to construction and electricity, as well as technical professions such as marketing and trade agents under specific conditions and regulations.

The overflow of Syrian migrants constituted a competition to the Lebanese labor especially in sectors that contributed in creating job opportunities in the recent years, such as the services sector, trade sector, self-employment, as well as low production services sector (retail trade, transportation, car repair, etc.)

Real, inequitable and illegal competition appears in low or medium-skilled professions; 40% of Lebanese labor having a primary education level work in these professions. However, 60% of Syrian labor having the same level of education are working in these professions. These professions are mainly located in the North and the Bekaa region.

When local people lose their jobs and get unfairly replaced, tensions and clashes are take place between Syrian migrants and host communities. This threatens the security and social stability as well as civil peace.

Syrian migrants have affected the job market, particularly the unorganized job market. The UNHCR report indicates that the only way to contain all this new labor in the short run is to implement infrastructure work projects in need of a huge number of labor; these projects can benefit host societies, create job opportunities, and improve infrastructure.

Finally, it is important to note that the cheap but skilled Syrian labor in Lebanon carry, on the other hand, economic and social advantages. It reduced productivity cost in production sectors such as the agriculture and industrial sectors, improves its competitiveness to export, expands expenditure in host areas, contributes in the growth, and reduces the price of several goods and services...

Effect of Syrian Migrants on Poverty

The flow of Syrian migrants aggravates poverty and increases the number of poor people. It also hardens social and living circumstances and pushes areas of poor inhabitants to become even more marginalized. It also eliminates equality, increases the dramatic geographic imbalance related to living standards, aggravates the lack of food safety, especially that Lebanon lacks a policy related to the combat of poverty or a social policy that hinders it.

The UN development report indicates that 36.6% of Lebanese people live under the line of poverty in 2008 among which 8% (equivalent to around 300,000 person) live under the lower poverty line, which means with less than 2.4 dollars per day, while 28.6% (around 1 million person) live under the higher poverty line, which means with less than 4 dollars per day for each person.

Poverty rates vary in Lebanon depending on the sector and the geography. At the sector level, it is mainly present in the agriculture and construction sectors as well as the unorganized sector. At the geography level, surveys show the proportional distribution of people suffering from poverty and extreme poverty from the total number of inhabitants in each Governorate. Poverty is concentrated in the North Governorate where the poverty rate reaches 52.5% while the extreme poverty rate reaches 17.75%, and in the Bekaa Governorate where poverty reaches 29.36% and extreme poverty reaches 10.81%. as for the South Governorate, the poverty and extreme poverty ratios are of 42.2% and 11.64% respectively; in Mount-Lebanon,

19.5% and 3.79% respectively; in the Nabatieh Governorate, 19% and 2.18%; and in Beirut, less than 6% and 1% respectively.

A study conducted by the World Bank indicates that poverty will spread wider and current poor people in Lebanon, amidst the migration of 1.6 million Syrian, will become poorer and their number will increase by 120,000 person constituting 3% of the population in Lebanon in 2013, by 50,000 more in 2014, i.e. a total of 170,000 additional poor people by the end of 2014.

Before the Syrian crisis, the World Bank estimated the required cost to improve services to the required level to be around 176 million dollars, among which a minimum of 50 million dollars to expand the range of the national program to support the poorest families. After the Syrian crisis, the World Bank estimates the cost required from the Ministry of Social Affairs to be of around 21.5 million dollars only during the period 2012-2014: 5.9 million dollars in 2012, 6.3 million dollars in 2013, and 9.3 million dollars in 2014.

Effect of Syrian Migrants on Poverty in Lebanon

1. The poverty crisis aggravated due to the spread of Syrian migrants in the poorest and most deprived areas in Lebanon. 64.1% of Syrians are distributed between the Bekaa (35.9%) and the North (28.2%) where the poverty rate is around 51% of the total number of poor people in Lebanon. 8.2% of Syrian migrants are located in the South where the poverty rate is 15.6% of the total number of poor people in Lebanon. Moreover, Syrian migrants are sharing the scarce resources with the Lebanese who are already living under the line of poverty.

Poor people in Lebanon are distributed as follows: 38% in the North, 13% in the Bekaa, 27.3% in Mount-Lebanon, 15.6% in the South, 4% in Nabatieh, and 2.1% in Beirut. While Syrian migrants are distributed in these governorates as follows: 35.9% in the Bekaa, 28.2% in the North, 25% in Mount-Lebanon, 8.2% in the South, 4.8% in Nabatieh, and 3% in Beirut.

In parallel, expenditures of the official social safety nets remained low and insufficient to cover the needs of the Lebanese people. Total social expenditures ranged annually between 22% and 24% from the total expenditures, while the government has allocated more than two-third of social expenditures for the wages of the public sector employees as well as end of services indemnity.

Before the crisis, the public expenditures on the social safety nets constituted only 1.3% of GDP. However, the flow of migrants as well as aids and donations from international organizations produced severe tension between migrants and host societies, especially in poor areas that felt aggrieved to be deprived from these aids.

The Lebanese government must ask international organizations and aid institutions to allocate around 20% of aids and donations for poor Lebanese families through a clear, transparent and accountable mechanism that delivers assistance to the targeted categories.

2. Food Inflation, Consumer Goods Inflation and Rents Inflation: Some studies have shown that prices rose by around 18% in the Bekaa and by around 12% in the North due to the increase of demand on food and consumer goods as well as the closing of official and unofficial passageways between Lebanon and Syria that used to allow smuggling and the arrival of cheap goods from Syria. Moreover, it is due to the increase in the transportation cost and the prices of petroleum derivatives worldwide, as well as rent prices that increased by 50% and 100% in some regions.

3. The unemployment rate has increased in poor areas and periphery areas due to the entrance of Syrian migrants to the job market and their illegal and unfair competition with the Lebanese labor. Before the Syrian crisis, 250,000 to 300,000 Syrian workers were working in the agriculture and construction sectors. However, after the beginning of the Syrian crisis, border and peripheral areas have witnessed the flow of thousands of Syrian workers looking for jobs with competitive and flexible conditions at the salary level, shifts, and social benefits, which caused a lot of Lebanese people to lose their jobs in these areas, thus an increase in the unemployment rate.

4. Decrease in income in poor areas: Surveys evaluating needs in some regions inhabited by the most vulnerable indicate that wages have dropped by 50% during the two recent years due to the deterioration of the security situation, due to competition, and the increase of migrant job seekers who accept lower salaries. Moreover, the drop in wages is due to an economic slowdown and the closing of borders which restrained trade and smuggling activities.

In this context, UN studies indicate that the flow of Syrian migrants to the poorest areas in Lebanon is leading to an increase in the household expenditure of poor families in host societies due to food inflation, as well as due to the increase of demand on basic services such as health services, water, electricity and education. These circumstances

aggravate the poverty situation in Lebanon and lead to a greater deprivation, i.e. the number of poor people in Lebanon will exceed 2 million.

Recommendations

After the first asylum crisis for Palestinians more than half a century ago, the Syrian crisis transformed from a temporary migration crisis of humanitarian characteristics in need of limited international assistance to an asylum crisis or a potential nationalization of Syrians crisis. It is a long-term, complicated and complex crisis carrying economic, social, and financial repercussions susceptible to aggravate in the coming stages due to the huge number of Syrian migrants constituting more than 38% of residents in Lebanon, the scarcity of external assistance which constitute less than 30% from the required assistance, the incapacities of the public treasury, the deficit in the public finance which exceed 10.5% of GDP, the increase of complications in the region, the increase of internal divergences towards the Syrian crisis, the confusion of the authorities and the lack of clear decisions related to migration.

These problems hinder the government from setting a comprehensive, national plan to face the migration crisis; it also hinders it from taking strategic measures to handle the crisis, especially that international aid procedures have become insufficient, and it has to be accompanied by developmental investment procedures or approach (create job opportunities, save energy, provide migrants with shelters, improve infrastructure, etc.) to contain this crisis.

The most important recommendations to contain the Syrian migrant crisis are:

1. Intensify the efforts of the Lebanese authorities to increase international assistance: The incapacity of the public treasury, the worrisome deficit of the public budget (10% of the size of the economy), as well as the increase in the number of Syrian migrants that reached 50,000 migrants every month among which 70% are marginalized, oblige the Lebanese government to seek a greater financial aid from the international community to ensure its economic and social stability, especially that the financial aid during the recent years was insufficient and did not exceed 200 million dollars in 2012, 800 million dollars in 2014, and 1 billion dollars in 2015. This financial aid was granted to Syrian migrants directly through international assistance and humanitarian aid agencies without passing through the government or the public treasury. This may encourage migrants to stay in Lebanon and encourage them to attract new migrants from their friends and families to Lebanon. In this context, the UNHCR contribution increased from 13.5 million dollars in 2010 to 370 million dollars in 2014.

After the transfer of around 400,000 Syrian refugees from the region, especially from Turkey to European countries causing a humanitarian, social, and security crisis in these countries, the Lebanese government can benefit from the decision taken by these countries to increase financial aid granted to countries hosting refugees.

2. The Lebanese authorities must coordinate with donor parties to allocate a part of the financial aid to developmental investment projects that stimulate the economy, create job opportunities, and promote social solidarity in areas where Syrian migrants are present. Lebanese authorities must also coordinate with the UN Agency to avoid the suspension of its food assistance to the UN World Food Program that reaches out to 1.1 million Syrian migrants and which causes, at the same time, tensions and unrest in camps since the migrant is incapable of providing food and clothing to themselves and their families.

The financial needs of Syrian migrants in Lebanon in 2015 are estimated to be around 1.760 billion dollars according to the UNHCR. Lebanon has received about 57% equivalent to around 1 billion dollars. Financial needs are distributed as follows:

- Humanitarian Protection (Ministry of Social Affairs): 261 million dollars
- Shelter (UNHCR): 115 million dollars
- Non-food Items: 135 million dollars
- Food Safety: 385 million dollars
- Education – Child Protection: 196 million dollars
- Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: 122 million dollars
- Public Health: 157 million dollars
- Social Cohesion (UNDP): 164 million dollars

International financial aid is not sufficient since international organizations are having difficulties defining the number of migrants and their needs due to the lack of migrant camps in Lebanon as is the case in Jordan and Turkey and due to the divergence of the different parties in the Lebanese government about how to handle the migrant portfolio, as well as due to the squandering, to the corruption, and to the lack of transparency in using these aids within some international organizations and Lebanese parties.

3. Defining the legal context of Syrians in Lebanon (migrant or refugee):

Lebanon did not sign the 1951 UN Refugee Convention and 1967 Protocol which

stipulates that when the authorities of a country grants the refugee status, they must respect their rights and obligations and are responsible for their protection, the preservation of their dignity, providing them with a safe shelter, appropriate living conditions (shelter, housing, health, food, etc.) as long as they are residing in this country, as well as answering to their needs and helping them restart a new life.

The Convention grants the refugee rights and prerogatives as the citizens of host countries and obliges the State with economic, social and humanitarian burdens.

In this context, international law distinguishes between two kinds of migrants: migrants who move from one region to another within their countries, and migrants who cross internationally recognized borders to another country (refugees). A refugee is a person that is persecuted in their country for ethnic, religious, political or social reasons, or because of a political performance which forced them to migrate to another country.

The Lebanese authorities are worried that if they sign this Convention, they will have to nationalize Syrian migrants in Lebanon or keep them for many years. They also worried that the Convention will define the rights and obligations of these migrants and will oblige the authorities to commit to these migrants and welcome them. Moreover, they are also afraid that donor States will be exempted from the Lebanese requests of financial support.

The Lebanese authorities managed to receive international recognition during the Berlin Convention that Lebanon is not a party of the 1951 Convention and 1967 Protocol, and that Lebanon is voluntarily implementing its items without any obligations based on the fact that the Lebanese Law does not mention refugees, and that the optimal and only solution is to return Syrian migrants to their homes.

Therefore, the government must set a clear and regulatory legislation to the asylum crisis to avoid ambiguities and jurisprudences. Especially that international organizations in Lebanon are handling Syrian comers as refugees and not as migrants.

4. Establishing camps for Syrian migrants in Lebanon: the policy of establishing camps has advantages as well as disadvantages.

The advantages of establishing camps for Syrian migrants are facilitating aid efforts, reducing the burden on host societies, gathering migrants in specific locations, controlling tensions and security problems, and observing their movements. However, there are some disadvantages for building camps since it creates fear among some that these camps might turn out to be permanent not just temporary as well as that camps will create disputes and security incidents among their inhabitants, and between these

inhabitants and host societies. Moreover, these camps might become armed security pockets outside the law and outside the State's authority and supervision.

Lebanese authorities must establish a management for the Syrian migrant camps affairs as is the case in Jordan. This management shall be affiliated to the Ministry of Interior and the Directorate General of the General Security. Its mission shall consist of defining camp sites, registering the number of migrants, defining in which site they have to stay as well as their movements conditions. Also, this management shall prepare a special services card in order to build a data base and avoid the transformation of these camps into armed security holes outside the law and outside the State's authority and supervision. Moreover, this management shall coordinate with international parties and organizations concerned with the matter.

The establishment of Syrian migrant camps requires coordination with the Lebanese Authority and regional countries, especially Syria. The government is faced with several options:

a) Establishment of Syrian migrant camps in Syria under the auspices of and funded by the United Nations. However, this option requires coordination between the Lebanese Authority and the Syrian Authority.

b) Establishment of Syrian migrant camps in buffer zones on the Lebanese-Syrian borders within the Lebanese territories. However, this option requires finding a huge land on the borders estimated to be of thousands of square meters, since according to international standards, each Syrian migrant needs 35 square meters, i.e. 30,000 Syrian migrants in a camp need a land of minimum 1 million square meters (in Lebanon, there are 1.5 million Syrian migrants). Also, the government must ensure protection and stability, as well as ensure the safety of Syrian migrants in border camps, and prevent their transformation into security holes outside the authority's control. These conditions are currently hard to achieve on the border lands of both countries. It is also impossible to impose security and military stability in these areas with the spread of armed people on both sides of the borders, and the lack of coordination between the Syrian and Lebanese Authorities.

c) Prevention of the establishment of new camps and keeping migrants in their current locations.

Finally, the government must enforce the prerogatives of security authorities, particularly the General Security in controlling the existing camps while waiting for the adequate conditions to establish new camps.

5. Reviewing the open borders policy and stopping the flow of new Syrian migrants: The number of Syrian migrants in Lebanon is enormous and is threatening its existence as well as the security, social and economic stability in Lebanon. Migrants now constitute 29.5% of the population according to the UNHCR and 38% of the population according to the Lebanese Authorities.

Lebanese Authorities must take severe measures to control the legal and illegal borders, reduce the number of migrants, as well as define their conditions of stay, work conditions and their locations. It is also important to establish internal fortification to protect the public interest, avoid social explosions between the Lebanese people and migrants, eliminate the increasing security risks resulting from the transfer of thousands of armed Syrians within Lebanese territories.

The Lebanese government has declared that it has stopped welcoming Syrian migrants except for urgent humanitarian cases (it is important to specify them), that it is refusing Syrian migration from regional areas such as Turkey, Jordan or Iraq, and that for a Syrian migrant to enter the Lebanese territories they must have clear papers.

The Lebanese government must also:

- Conduct statistics about the number of Syrian migrants
- Coordinate with the Syrian Authorities to gradually return Syrian migrants to safe Syrian areas
- Encourage Syrian migrants to gradually return to their country
- Drop the migrant status for whoever re-enters Syria and is willing to return to Lebanon; inspect the official migration papers of Syrian migrants present Lebanon
- Define humanitarian cases to allow the entry of women, children, seniors and the sick...
- Work on closing the illegal borders with Syria to stop the flow of Syrian migrants to Lebanon, control the illegal borders and ensure that each migrant is carrying official Syrian papers

6. Establishing the Repatriation Fund: it is funded by donor countries and its purpose is to encourage the voluntary return of migrants to their countries by granting them financial donations paid directly to them upon their arrival to their country.

These donations help Syrian migrants to rebuild, renovate and rehabilitate their demolished houses. UNHCR supervises this Fund in coordination with the Lebanese government.

7. Combating corruption: Corruption as well as administrative slowdown affect aid operations, since it discriminates among regions and among migrating categories, which causes severe problems and tensions among Syrian migrants and between Syrian migrants and host societies that feel aggrieved and experience inequality in the distribution of this aid.

8. Organization of Syrian labor in Lebanon: the crisis of Syrian migrants has impacted the job market since it has led to an increase in the unemployment rate, especially among young people and low-skilled workers. It also led to an increase in competition as well as an increase in the pressure on wages, a deterioration of work conditions, an increase in unorganized work, a decrease in income, and the increase in the number of working migrant children.

The Syrian labor in Lebanon can be contained in a context of development, investment and job creation by the following procedures:

- Organization of the Syrian labor in Lebanon by finding work mechanisms directed towards sectors not desired by the Lebanese labor (ILO).

The Labor Law issued in 1946 regulating foreign labor in Lebanon as well as bilateral conventions between Lebanon and Syria related to labor are no longer valid amidst the overflow of migrants, thus the necessity of the Lebanese Authority to look into them.

- Building the capacities of migrant host societies by supporting development projects that create job opportunities.

- Creating job opportunities by implementing projects that need a lot of labor (infrastructure projects: establish agriculture roads, rehabilitate infrastructure for schools, irrigation networks, etc.).

- Asking the international community (UN, donor countries) to offer flexible development assistance that fix Syrian migration impact on the job market.

- Combating child labor increase among Syrian refugees by reinforcing the role and prerogatives of inspectors in the Ministry of Economy and the Ministry of Labor to pursue violating institutions hiring children.

- Promoting the wages policy and organizing the work in the unorganized sector,

preserving the minimum wage, ensuring appropriate job opportunities, and promoting work safety.

- Improving the management of the Syrian migration to avoid their random entrance to the job market.

- Stopping the Syrian labor in Lebanon without a work permit issued by the Ministry of Labor that clearly specifies the professions and sectors in which they are allowed to work.

- Imposing a fine on every employer violating the law by using Syrian labor without a work permit, by not registering them in the National Social Security Fund, in order to reduce illegal labor which is unfair for the Lebanese worker.

- Sanctioning Syrian labor violating the law, i.e. working without a work permit, by banishing them from the Lebanese territories.

9. Local development projects to handle the Syrian migration: the huge number of Syrian migrants in poor areas as well as the scarcity of international assistance, the difficulty of defining the duration of the crisis, and the scarce humanitarian assistance, urge the Lebanese authorities to adopt a necessary local development approach to contain the migration crisis.

The bases of the approach are as follows:

- a) The government shall set a development, economic, medium-term, and comprehensive plan in life sectors that improve living standards, in economic sectors that create job opportunities, in collaboration with donor countries and NGOs, and in coordination with municipalities and donor parties.

- b) Create development investment projects in the areas where migrants are present that can contribute in moving the local economy, creating quick job opportunities, improving public services (health, education), and modernizing as well as developing infrastructure (water, sanitation, shelter, electricity, etc.). These projects appear in the following sectors:

- Health Sector: Establish or expand health centers in poor spread areas, intensify vaccination, build the capacities of an early disease warning system, and improve the quality of services.

- Education Sector: Build new schools or open new sections in public schools in spread areas to contain the increasing number of migrant students, apply some

modifications to the curricula to resemble the Syrian curricula to help migrant students to adapt, and generalize afternoon classes.

- Infrastructure Sector: develop the rehabilitation of water and sanitation networks, expand and modernize their absorptive capacity, take preventive measures to avoid groundwater pollution, support municipalities financially and technically to promote their capacities in the sanitation management and in ensuring the provision of safe water in spread areas. It is also important to implement development projects to increase the energy production capacity to cover the additional demand of Syrian migrants on electricity, as well as work with municipalities to provide shelters and rehabilitate unsafe buildings to shelter migrants.

c) The government shall ask UN aid agencies to offer humanitarian assistance for poor Lebanese families similarly to Syrian migrant families to avoid clashes between Syrians and host societies.

10. Establish a Development Fund in collaboration with the international and local community allocated to fund development projects in migrant spread areas, particularly in the poorest areas, as well as projects that activate the economic movement, support infrastructure and social services, and help resolve the problem of sheltering Syrian migrants.

11. The government must face the problems causing conflicts between migrants and host societies through:

- Containing the tensions between migrants and host societies:

- Launch an experience and competencies exchange program, find new job opportunities for a productive work, expand the framework of projects depending on a huge number of labor to face competition on resources, services and job opportunities.
- Empower municipalities, the civil society, and local leaderships to play the mediation role, come up with settlements and understandings to face political and cultural differences.
- Promote active participation in attracting civil organizations and workers (after training them) to undertake the task of providing services to support international and governmental efforts as well as launch an entrepreneurship and professions program to face the spread of religious and political movement and the lack of civil participation.

- Empower social actors and promote their capacities to handle problems to compensate for the lack of participation in aid efforts.
- Coordinating among authorities concerned with migrants and host societies:
 - Promote coordination mechanisms between international organizations, the government, civil society, and specialized agencies to establish a data base in order to reduce the dispersion of aid efforts, avoid the overlap of tasks, as well as the duplication of activities and waste of resources.
 - Gather the available staff in civil organizations and NGOs as well as among migrants to cover the shortage of resources and competencies in their organizational financial and technical aspects.
 - Use competencies and local resources as well as insist on competency and accountability standards to face corruption and the exploitation of the circumstances.