

OLD SAIDA NEIGHBOURHOOD PROFILE

Saida, South Lebanon

December 2019

UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

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FOREWORD

In the eighth year of the Syrian refugee crisis, Lebanon hosts 1.5 million Syrian refugees (Government of Lebanon and the United Nations, 2019), many of whom are located alongside poor Lebanese in urban settings that were already stressed before the 2011 crisis onset. In a long-standing national context of scarce data, combined with ever-growing pressure to maximize efficiencies in intervention funding, there is an urgent need for reliable spatialized information on which to base holistic, multisectoral, multi-actor mitigation approaches that support municipalities and other state entities. Neighbourhood profiles offer such a springboard for moving towards sustainable development, shedding light on how relatively fixed built environments and relatively mobile social dimensions interface with each other in specific contexts.

Adopting an area-based approach to data gathering and synthesis, where a defined territorial unit is the point of entry rather than a particular sector or beneficiary cohort, profiles can inform integrated programming for neighbourhoods in ways that benefit all residents in the long term. This has the potential for mitigating cross-cohort vulnerability and for reducing host-refugee community tensions, which are reported to be on the rise year-on-year.

Organizationally, profiles can serve as a framework for area-based coordinated actions between partners to the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP), United Nations Strategic Framework (UNSF), and local authorities to improve the response in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly in complex urban settings.

Profiles contribute to building a national database of comparable data that can be used for better understanding and monitoring of dynamics in the most vulnerable urban pockets that cadastral, municipal and district averages can be blind to, and how these relate to their wider urban contexts.

This neighbourhood profile is one of a series conducted jointly by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). Both agencies recognize that the value of profiles lies only in their use by partners, including local authorities, for evidence-based coordination and programming. We welcome constructive conversations about how this may best be achieved going forward.

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MUNICIPALITY FOREWORD

Saida Municipality welcomes this neighbourhood profile for Old Saida. As a local authority, we are pleased to highlight the needs and opportunities in our area in an evidence-based way. Like many other Lebanese municipalities, Saida faces major technical and administrative challenges that have escalated with the demographic pressure linked to the displacement of Syrians. Housing, basic urban services, social services

governance and social stability are all areas that require coordinated efforts delivered in strategic and efficient ways, avoiding overlaps and duplication. We look forward to using the *Old Saida Neighbourhood Profile* to improve collaboration internally and with our partners in addressing identified challenges and mitigating the needs of the neighbourhood's vulnerable residents.

Mohamad Saoudi
Mayor of Saida



CREDITS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Old Saida is a predominantly residential neighbourhood located on the Mediterranean shore in the western part of Saida City (Sidon). It falls within the jurisdiction of Saida Municipality, in Lebanon's South Governorate. The neighbourhood as defined participatively in the field spans 0.18 km².

The neighbourhood accommodates 5,203 residents, less than half (47.4 percent) of whom are Lebanese. Most of the non-Lebanese residents are Palestine refugees in Lebanon (PRL) (40.6 percent of the total population). A household survey shows that around two thirds of the non-Lebanese (excluding PRL) households arrived in Lebanon between 2011 (the year of the Syrian refugee crisis outbreak) and 2017, suggesting the extent to which the crisis has contributed to demographic changes in the neighbourhood.

The area holds 364 clusters of buildings.¹ The average number of occupants per residential unit is higher among PRL and Syrians (4.1 and 5.2 per unit, respectively) than among Lebanese (3.9 per unit). The majority of residential units are rented; 54 percent of Lebanese and a much higher 80.1 percent of non-Lebanese households rent their units.

Old Saida constitutes the historical core of Saida City, one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world. The neighbourhood has several historic and religious sites, most of which function as touristic destinations. The neighbourhood's physical fabric dates mainly to the 400 years of Ottoman rule (1516–1918). Starting from the end of the French Mandate for Syria and Lebanon (1923–1946), various factors and events affected the security situation, economic activity, and demography in Old Saida and the city in general. These included the gradual relocation of the bourgeoisie and of important facilities away from the historic core partly related to the construction of new boulevards outside the Old City, the influx of large numbers of Palestine refugees following the 1948 Arab-Israeli War, the destruction of hundreds of buildings in Old Saida and the relocation of some of its inhabitants outside the neighbourhood following the 1956 earthquake, the settlement of poor Lebanese and Palestinian households from the 1960s onward and especially during and after the 1982–1985 Israeli invasion, the damage caused to Old Saida during that invasion, and more recently the arrival of displaced Syrians and Palestine refugees from Syria (PRS) after the outbreak of the war in Syria.

Today, Old Saida is a low-income, vulnerable neighbourhood, exhibiting a relative weakness in terms of the provision of public basic urban services and social services, as well as limited livelihood opportunities. Augmenting servicing by Saida Municipality, which is resource-constrained, many local and international non-governmental organizations are also involved in service provision and project implementation across different sectors, aimed at improving conditions for the neighbourhood's residents.

A number of public and private facilities, located within or just outside Old Saida, provide a range of healthcare and education services to the neighbourhood's residents—often irrespective of nationality, age or gender. However, they face various

challenges, including limited financial and human resources, shortage of equipment or personnel for specialized services, lack of awareness among residents about the existence of certain services, and a lack of will among some residents to access certain services.

Children and youth are particularly vulnerable groups, experiencing various socioeconomic and other challenges, including child labour, child marriage, scarcity of specialized education services for children with disabilities, various safety and security concerns, and lack of vocational training opportunities or satisfying and stable work for youth.

Most of the functioning enterprises in Old Saida comprise food and grocery stores and boutiques (among shops), as well as carpentry and tailoring workshops. Wide discrepancies exist in employment and business ownership across gender lines, with females being minorities. Despite the presence of important landmarks and trip-attracting destinations, as well as the neighbourhood's proximity to main commercial streets and highways connecting it to the rest of Saida City, Old Saida faces various economic challenges. Average monthly income for both Lebanese and non-Lebanese households is lower in Old Saida compared to some other profiled disadvantaged neighbourhoods in Tripoli City, in Lebanon's North Governorate. In addition, around half of both Lebanese and non-Lebanese working-age (15–64) residents are reportedly unemployed. Of the surveyed enterprises (both shops and workshops), 21 percent are vacant.

The condition of building clusters in the neighbourhood is mainly good or fair. However, the clusters (by area) with structural elements, exterior conditions, and communal spaces requiring major repair or emergency intervention comprise 28 percent, 41 percent and 45 percent, respectively. The inadequate access to basic urban services in the neighbourhood is one factor contributing to poor living conditions, including where this arises from blocked and overflowing wastewater and stormwater networks. The neighbourhood also faces some public water quality issues. While the number of open spaces in Old Saida is higher compared to some other vulnerable neighbourhoods previously profiled, the biggest ones are located in the peripheral areas of the neighbourhood, with the denser central and north-eastern parts lacking well-maintained areas for social interaction.

This report maps—and suggests the relative criticality across space of—interlinked social, economic and built-environment challenges in Old Saida in the context of a poor, conflict-affected neighbourhood. It offers a new area-based knowledge springboard that can be used for coordination and programming. This may be both for alleviating immediate needs and, taking into account the neighbourhood's embeddedness in the wider city, for longer-term sustainable urban development planning. UN-Habitat and UNICEF recognize that the profile's value lies only in its uptake and use for these purposes by the municipality and other relevant partners, and look forward to facilitating productive discussions to this end.

¹ Individual building footprints were not possible to draw in Old Saida because many buildings are joined together. Thus, an assessment of clusters of buildings was undertaken.



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Figure i South Governorate within Lebanon

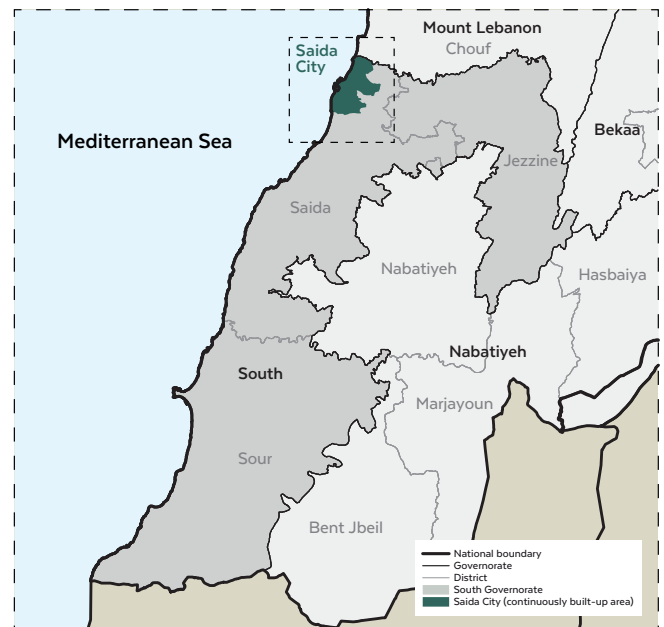


Figure ii Saida City within the South Governorate



Figure iii Old Saida neighbourhood within Saida City

OLD SAIDA

 SAIDA, LEBANON

 **5,203** INHABITANTS

 **0.18** km²

 **364** BUILDING CLUSTERS

 **435** AVERAGE MONTHLY HOUSEHOLD INCOME

 **463** ENTERPRISES

POPULATION

47.4% Leb
52.5% Non-Leb
Unreported nationality: 0.1%

OCCUPANCY PER RESIDENTIAL UNIT

3.9 Leb **4.1** PRL **5.2** Syr

26.4% Syr/PRS households that arrived in Lebanon before 2011

TOTAL NUMBER OF RESIDENTS BY AGE GROUP

1,121 CHILDREN (0-14)

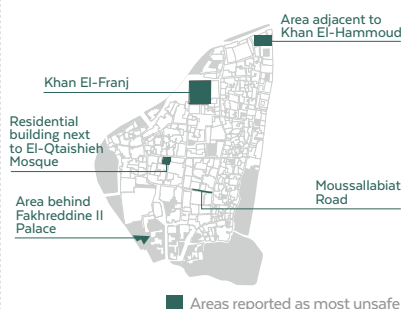
1,128 YOUTH (15-24)

2,524 ADULTS (25-63)

423 ELDERLY (64 and above)

Unreported age group: 7

SAFETY & SECURITY



HEALTH

CHRONICALLY ILL POPULATION

13.0% of all Leb **13.7%** of all Non-Leb

Most needed subsidized PHC services reported by surveyed households

37.2% General medicine

30.4% Cardiology

24.6% Neurology

22.0% Allergy/Immunology

EDUCATION

89.8% PRIMARY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

60.1% Secondary school attendance

6.7% Children (6-14) who never attended school

CHILD PROTECTION

CHILD (0-14) POPULATION

26.1% of all Leb **29.4%** of all Non-Leb

12.4% Children (5-17) involved in economic activities

15.5% of all male children **8.3%** of all female children

18.6% Child marriage rate among girls (15-19)

15.4% of all Leb girls **20.7%** of all non-Leb girls

YOUTH

YOUTH (15-24) POPULATION

15.4% of all Leb **19.4%** of all Non-Leb

72.4% UNEMPLOYED YOUTH POPULATION

73.9% of all Leb youth **71.4%** of all non-Leb youth

LOCAL ECONOMY

316 SHOPS

48 WORKSHOPS

63% Long-established enterprises (operational for more than 10 years)

82% Rented enterprises

22% Female employees

LIVELIHOODS

3,652 WORKING-AGE (15-63) POPULATION

Reported unemployment rate (15-64 age group)

45.1% of all Leb (15-64)

44.2% of all non-Leb (15-64)

20% POPULATION POVERTY RATE

19.1% of all Leb households **20.8%** of all non-Leb households

BUILDINGS

81% RESIDENTIAL/RESIDENTIAL MIXED-USE BUILDING CLUSTERS

80% Building clusters (by area) constructed before 1920

28% Building clusters (by area) in need of major structural repair/emergency intervention

31.0% Owned housing (by number of households)

67.5% Rented housing (by number of households)

OVERCROWDING

Three or more persons sleeping within the same room

9.6% of all Leb households

11.7% of all non-Leb households

WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE (WASH)

19% Building clusters (by area) with major defects in their domestic water network connection

5% Residents in building clusters with blocked or no connection to the wastewater network

24% Streets (by length) with no stormwater drains

2.8% Households that recycle any solid waste

ELECTRICITY

7% Building clusters (by area) connected with critical defects to the public electrical grid

ACCESS & OPEN SPACES

41% Roads (by area) showing major/minor signs of deterioration

28.9% Neighbourhood area comprising open spaces

58.3% Open spaces (by count) that are publicly used

22.9% Open spaces (by count) that are unused lots



Some of the above percentages have been rounded. For a detailed list of indicators, see Appendix 1.

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UN-Habitat-UNICEF Lebanon neighbourhood profiles (four of which are in print format while others are part of an online portal) are available at: <https://lebanonportal.unhabitat.org/>.



UN-Habitat Lebanon city profilesⁱⁱ are available at: <http://www.unhabitat.org/lebanon/>



Websites: <http://www.unhabitat.org/lebanon/> and <https://www.unicef.org/lebanon/>.



For further information including data, contact: unhabitat-lebanon@un.org.

Related publication:

UN-Habitat Lebanon (forthcoming) *Saida City Profile*, Beirut: UN-Habitat Lebanon.

ⁱⁱ The city profile is a geographical, statistical and multisectoral description and analysis of an urban area, where the boundary is defined by the continuously built-up area. Its purpose is to inform the urban crisis response, generate a national urban database, lead to a city strategy, and inform strategic project identification.

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预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_17960

