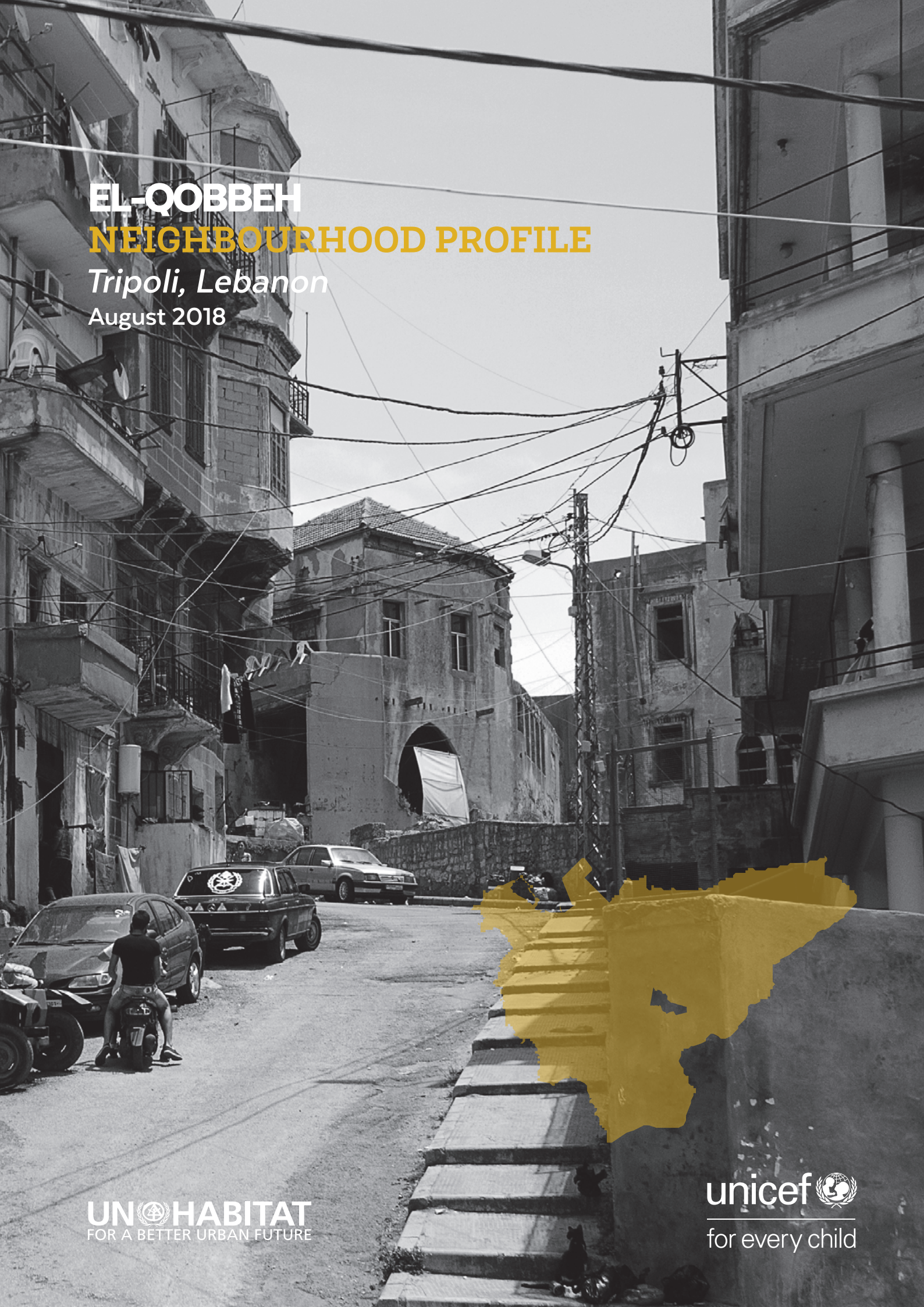




EL-QOBBEH NEIGHBOURHOOD PROFILE

Tripoli, Lebanon
August 2018

FOREWORD

In the eighth year of the Syrian refugee crisis, Lebanon hosts 1.5 million Syrian refugees, 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 work towards durable solutions. 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 United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and 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.

Tarek Osseiran
Country Programme Manager
UN-Habitat Lebanon



Tanya Chapuisat
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MUNICIPALITY FOREWORD

Tripoli Municipality welcomes this neighbourhood profile for El-Qobbeh. 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, Tripoli 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 *El-Qobbeh Neighbourhood Profile* to improve collaboration internally and with our partners in addressing identified challenges and mitigating the needs of the neighbourhood's vulnerable residents.

Ahmad Kamar Eddine
Mayor of Tripoli



CREDITS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

El-Qobbeh is a predominantly residential neighbourhood located in eastern Tripoli. It falls within the jurisdiction of Tripoli Municipality, in Lebanon's North Governorate. El-Qobbeh neighbourhood as defined participatively in the field spans 1.78 km². This profile however covers one part only of the neighbourhood: that is a 0.16 km² pocket that remains when other parts of the neighbourhood are excluded for reasons of relatively low vulnerability, non-residential uses, or access constraints. The profiled pocket, located to the north-west of El-Qobbeh, constitutes the most vulnerable core of the neighbourhood.

The profiled area, hereafter referred to as “the neighbourhood” or “El-Qobbeh”, accommodates 6,385 residents, the vast majority (84.4 percent) of whom are Lebanese. Most of the non-Lebanese residents are Syrian (14.5 percent of the total population). A household survey sample shows that of the non-Lebanese households, more than three quarters arrived in Lebanon from 2011 to 2017, suggesting the extent to which the Syrian refugee crisis, which started in 2011, has contributed to recent demographic changes.

The area holds 552 buildings, mostly of one to three storeys, which contain more occupants per residential unit among Syrians (5.4 per unit) than among Lebanese (4.3 per unit). The majority of units are rented; 64.4 percent of Lebanese households rent compared to a much higher 94.4 percent of non-Lebanese ones.

El-Qobbeh includes a historic quarter along the eastern side of Abu Ali River, with some houses dating back to the Mamluk era. Rural-urban migration in the 1950s led to the replacement of many of the original residents in the historic core by rural migrants from nearby regions. Subsequently, sectarian tensions during the 1975-1990 Lebanese Civil War resulted in the progressive loss of the neighbourhood's religious and cultural diversity. In the post-war period (until the establishment of relative calm after 2014), a series of armed politico-sectarian clashes between the adjacent neighbourhoods of El-Qobbeh and Tabbaneh on the one hand and Jabal Mohsen on the other negatively affected the area, exacerbating the sense of insecurity, dampening economic activity and intensifying poverty in the area.

Today, El-Qobbeh is a low-income, vulnerable neighbourhood, exhibiting a relative weakness in terms of public basic urban services and social services provision, as well as limited livelihood opportunities. Augmenting servicing by Tripoli Municipality, which is resource-constrained, some 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 the studied area, provide a wide range of healthcare and education services to the neighbourhood's residents—often irrespective of nationality, age and 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, low user satisfaction with services accessed, and lack of will among residents to access services.

Children and youth are particularly vulnerable groups, experiencing various socioeconomic and other challenges,

including child labour, child marriage, low attendance rates at secondary school and higher levels, scarcity of specialized healthcare and especially 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 El-Qobbeh comprise food and grocery stores, and—to a lesser extent—carpentry and mechanics workshops. Despite the presence of important landmarks and trip-attracting destinations, such as the Lebanese University, as well as the neighbourhood's proximity to the old market of Tripoli, El-Qobbeh suffers from entrenched economic stagnation. In general, the livelihood situation for non-Lebanese residents appears to show more disadvantage than for Lebanese.

The condition of buildings in the area is mainly fair. However, major signs of stress are evident in the sloped historic quarter. The inadequate access to basic urban services in the neighbourhood is one factor contributing to substandard living conditions, including where this emerges from blocked and overflowing wastewater and stormwater networks. Water supply is costly, low quality and not always guaranteed; thus, residents have to buy water from external sources. While there are some notable instances of managed and safe open spaces in the neighbourhood, they are limited in number.

This report maps—and suggests the relative criticality across space of—interlinked social, economic and physical challenges in El-Qobbeh in the context of a poor, conflict-affected neighbourhood that has experienced a demographic pressure hike resulting from the Syrian refugee crisis. It offers a new area-based knowledge springboard that can be used to formulate evidence-led project proposals and longer-term plans for action.

The multisectoral, context-sensitive scope of this profile is intended to inform both immediate vulnerability mitigation measures and, taking into account the neighbourhood's embeddedness in the wider city, 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.



EL-QOBBEH



TRIPOLI, LEBANON



6,385 INHABITANTS



0.16 km²



552 BUILDINGS



509 AVERAGE MONTHLY INCOME



262 ENTERPRISES



POPULATION

84.4% Leb

15.6% Non-Leb

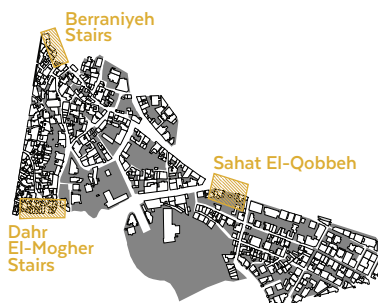
OCCUPANCY PER RESIDENTIAL UNIT

4.3 Leb 5.4 Syr

73.3% Non-Leb households that arrived in Lebanon between 2011 and 2014



SAFETY & SECURITY



Areas reported as most unsafe



HEALTH

15.5% CHRONICALLY ILL POPULATION

14.6% of all Leb 16.7% of all Non-Leb

Most needed subsidized primary healthcare services, according to the residents:

35.6% General medicine

30.9% Physiotherapy

30.1% Cardiology

28% Allergy/Immunology



EDUCATION

56.3% PRIMARY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

41.3% Secondary school attendance

16.9% Children (6-14) who never attended school



CHILD PROTECTION

33.4% CHILD (0-14) POPULATION

28% of all Leb 40.1% of all Non-Leb

6.2% Children involved in economic activities

9.5% of all male children 1.8% of all female children

15.9% Child marriage rate among girls (15-18)

9.4% of all Leb girls 30.9% of all non-Leb girls



YOUTH

18.5% YOUTH (15-24) POPULATION

18.9% of all Leb 18% of all Non-Leb

67.7% UNEMPLOYED YOUTH POPULATION

66.3% of all Leb youth 71.5% of all non-Leb youth



LOCAL ECONOMY

166 SHOPS

49 WORKSHOPS

53% Long-established enterprises

77% Rented enterprises

8% Female employees



LIVELIHOODS

REPORTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (15-64 AGE GROUP)

54.8% of all Leb (15-64)

62.4% of all non-Leb (15-64)

13% POPULATION POVERTY RATE

11.2% of all Leb 18.6% of all Non-Leb



BUILDINGS

81% RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS

42% Buildings built between 1944 and 1975

27% Buildings in need of major structural repair/emergency intervention

24.7% Owned housing

71.8% Rented housing

OVERCROWDING

19.2% of all Leb households

45.1% of all non-Leb households



WASH

8% Buildings not connected to the domestic water network

4% Residents with no access to the wastewater network

39% Streets with no gullies

12% Households that recycle any solid waste



ELECTRICITY

11% Buildings not connected to the electrical grid



ACCESS & OPEN SPACES

59% Roads showing major signs of deterioration

4% Neighbourhood area comprising open spaces

26% Open spaces that are publicly used



Publicly used open spaces

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

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UN-Habitat Lebanon city profilesⁱ are available at: <http://www.unhabitat.org/lebanon/> or <http://www.data.unhcr.org/lebanon/>.

UN-Habitat-UNICEF Lebanon neighbourhood profiles are available at:
<http://www.unhabitat.org/lebanon/>, <https://www.unicef.org/lebanon/> or <http://www.data.unhcr.org/lebanon/>.



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

Related Publications:

UN-Habitat Lebanon (2017) *Tripoli City Profile 2016*, Second Edition, Beirut: UN-Habitat Lebanon.

UN-Habitat and UNICEF Lebanon (2018) *Tabbaneh Neighbourhood Profile 2018*, Beirut: UN-Habitat Lebanon.

UN-Habitat and UNICEF Lebanon (2018) *Jabal Mohsen Neighbourhood Profile 2018*, Beirut: UN-Habitat Lebanon.

ⁱ A city profile is a continually updated statistical and multisectoral description and analysis of an urban centre, where the geographical boundary is defined according to the continuously built-up area. Its purpose is to inform the immediate urban crisis response and to enhance capacity for long-term development planning. City profiles offer a spatial framework for evidence-based, efficient programming and coordination.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS & ACRONYMS

BP	Brevet Professionnel	MRR	Maps of Risks and Resources
BT	Baccalauréat Technique [Technical Baccalaureate]	No.	Number
CDR	Council for Development and Reconstruction [in Lebanon]	Non-Leb	Non-Lebanese
F	Female(s)	OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
FGD	Focus group discussion	PHC	Primary healthcare
GIS	Geographic information system	PHCC	Primary Healthcare Centre
GPI	Gender Parity Index	PRL	Palestine refugees in Lebanon
HH	Household	PRS	Palestine refugees from Syria
IM	Information management	SDC	Social Development Centre
IMAM	Integrated management of acute malnutrition	SGBV	Sexual and gender-based violence
(I)NGO	(International) Non-governmental organization	Syr	Syrian(s)
ISF	[Lebanese] Internal Security Forces	TS	[Diplôme de] Technicien Supérieur [Higher Technician Certificate]
IYCF	Infant and young child feeding	UNDP	United Nations Development
KII	Key informant interview		

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https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_18271

