

Site and Shelter Sector Gender Analysis

4 July 2013

According to custom in Syria, married or single women should not rent or own houses as it is improper and considered unsafe to do so (irrespective of means).¹ Discussions with Syrian refugees living in Amman confirmed that landlords are reluctant to rent to unaccompanied women because they are perceived as unlikely to be able to pay rent and as 'socially problematic'.²

Outside of camps, refugees advised that almost a third of women leave the house daily (26.9%), 31.5% leave the house a few times a week, 23.7% rarely leave and 17.5% do not leave the house. In other words, just over half of the women (58.4%) leave the house regularly. Conversely, 41.2% women frequently do not leave the home (one in five never leave).³

Overcrowded accommodation can be problematic. Women residing in the Bashabsha facility were forced to sleep in the same building (different floors) and in some cases use the same toilet facilities as single men.⁴

The invisibility of female-led families was also demonstrated in other urban areas. Although 18% of CARE's sample of Syrian refugees in Jordanian urban centres were female-led households, a significant number of households were hosting additional female-led families. Including these women effectively brought the number of female-led families (both de-facto and de jure) to 31% of the surveyed population⁵.

Women and girls consider their tent homes in Za'atri camp unsafe: they are unable to lock themselves inside when alone; they lack privacy (due to living in close proximity with others (especially males) and causes difficulties when changing clothes).⁶

¹ Sanja Kelly & Julia Brelin (ed.s) (2010) *Women's Rights in the Middle East and North Africa*, Freedom House, Plymouth

² CARE Jordan (October 2012) *Baseline Assessment of Community Identified Vulnerabilities among Syrian Refugees Living in Amman*

³ UN Women (July 2013) *Interagency Assessment of Gender-Based Violence and Child Protection among urban Syrian refugees in Jordan, with a focus on early marriage*

⁴ J. Gorham (July 2012) *Final Report, Jordan Mission of the Inter-agency GBV Advisor, Rapid Response Team*

⁵ CARE Jordan (April 2013) *Syrian Refugees in Urban Jordan: Baseline assessment of community-identified vulnerabilities among Syrian refugees living in Irbid, Madaba, Mufraq and Zarqa Rapid Participatory Community Assessment*

⁶ CP&GBV SWG Jordan (Jan 2013) *Findings from the Interagency Child Protection and Gender-Based Violence Assessment in the Za'atri Refugee Camp*