Utilizing Research to Build Preventive Programming

World Vision in Lebanon
The education figures for the refugee populations in Lebanon are more concerning, as more than 50 percent of Syrian refugee children were reported as not enrolled in formal education.

Recent data available for the refugee population highlighted that the number of children aged between 5 to 17 years who are engaged in child labour almost doubled since 2019, reaching 4.4% in 2020.

*The US Department of Labour, UNICEF*
Research aim and objectives

The aim of this study is to explore figures around child activity options (school enrolment and child labour including household chores) and their determinants for children aged 3 to 18 years old in Lebanon, with a focus on the most vulnerable.

Additionally, the study sought to determine the perceptions of child education and labour among parents of school-children.
Methodology
Study design & population

- **Study Design:** The study was a cross-sectional observational survey of parents (both Syrian and Lebanese) of school-aged children in Lebanon.

- **Study Population and Setting:** The target population for the study included caregivers of school-aged children (3 to 18 years old) among the most vulnerable residing in different areas in Lebanon.

  - The total required sample size was 769
  - Respondents targeted were equally split between males and females.
Mentimeter

Question: What do you think are the determinants or drivers of child labour on a household level? (open ended question)
The economic situation: the prime motive behind withdrawals from school
Reasons for withdrawing children from school

75% Unable to pay school fees and expenses

The risks

- Falling into child labour
- No form of meaningful activity
- No skills to build a future
Findings
Inferential: Child Labour

5.4% of households with children 3 to 11 years old reported having at least one child involved in child labour.

In these households where at least one child works, almost half (45.6%) of the children are involved in child labour.
12.7% of households with children 12 to 18 years old reported having at least one child involved in child labour.

In these households where at least one child works, 68.8% of the children are involved in child labour.
Findings

Inferential: Child Labour

2% of the Lebanese households reported having at least one child 12 to 18 years old involved in child labour.

While 19% of the Syrian households reported having at least one child 12 to 18 years old involved in child labour.
5% of the Syrian households reported having at least one child 3 to 11 years old working while none was reported in the Lebanese sub-population.
Parents’ Perceptions

44% think involving children in a paid job enhances their life skills.

46% think peer pressure increases the numbers of children involved in child labor.
Children’s labor is an accepted and common form of practice.

14.5% think it is acceptable to work if the child is above 14 years old.

35.1% think it is acceptable to work if the child is above 14 years old.

Parents’ Perceptions
37% think cultural beliefs increase the numbers of children involved in child labor.

34.8% think a working child makes a responsible adult.
Takeaway Findings

• Education and CL outcomes were non-binary: The study revealed that 19.9% of the households had idle children.

• Perceptions surrounding school enrolment and child labour were more prominent predictors for the outcomes and play a bigger part among the Syrian refugee population.

Programmatic Recommendations

Need for a multi-sectoral approach to address Child Labor and school dropout as this problem reflects a grave concern for children’s health, protection and development.

Need for Research: More in-depth studies exploring the behavioral determinants of child activity decision making.

Engagement donors to fund multi-sectoral and multi-year projects to respond to the current child labour and education needs.
What’s Next?

WVL is conducting a barrier analysis study to identify doers and non-doers of the behavior “preventing children from being involved in child labour and retaining them in education” to map behavioral pathways.
Thank You