



Statistics on the quality of the Syrians who benefited from the resettlement program at the UNHCR in Lebanon

This report presents statistical data on type of Syrians who are beneficiaries of the resettlement program implemented by the Syrian Refugee Commission in Lebanon.

Introduction

Due to the pressing need to effectively manage the resettlement process in collaboration with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in the Lebanese Republic, particularly in light of the Lebanese authorities' persistent calls for the return of Syrian refugees from Lebanon to Syria, which poses a significant threat to the safety of those sought by the regime in Lebanon, as they face limited alternative options and potential surrender to the Assad regime, endangering their lives. In response to this situation, the Scientific Office of the Syrian Future Movement in the Department of Research and Studies has undertaken a specific survey. The aim of this survey is to assess the characteristics of Syrians enrolled in the resettlement program and determine whether individuals sought by the regime have benefited from this program. The questionnaire was designed based on the following key indicators:

1. The questionnaire encompassed a sample size of approximately fifty-one hundred families who had been resettled from Lebanon to a third country.
2. Due to various factors, including economic and political considerations, the research team, which has been working on this questionnaire since 2018, obtained personal information through direct face-to-face interviews. However, permission was not granted to publish some of the questionnaires under the name of the Scientific Office of the Syrian Prospective Movement. Consequently, the scientific secretariat mandates the inclusion of fifty cases for which the questionnaire was developed, and the research team, upon careful examination, has agreed to publish these cases under an independent agreement. Subsequently, through a comprehensive extrapolation, it has been determined that these fifty cases are

representative and yield results that closely approximate those that would have been obtained had the remaining cases been published.

3. The questionnaire was conducted by Syrian university students residing in Lebanon.
4. The questionnaire employed a specific methodology known as a "codified questionnaire - closed." This format consisted of predetermined questions with fixed response options, such as agree, disagree, yes, or no. This approach was chosen for its precision and ease of response for participants, while ensuring compliance with the established scope, facilitating statistical analysis, and accommodating cases where expressing opinions may be difficult due to scientific or political considerations.
5. The primary objective of the questionnaire was to ascertain the status of individuals resettled in a third country and determine whether those sought by the Syrian regime had benefited from the resettlement program.
6. The Scientific Office in the Department of Research and Studies of the Syrian Prospective Movement formulated an initial hypothesis to examine the possibility of providing an opportunity for individuals sought by the regime to resettle. These individuals face threats to their lives while residing in Lebanon, particularly when faced with any call for the deportation of Syrians from the country.
7. The questionnaire exclusively focused on cases of individuals who were neither single, divorced, nor widowed.
8. The core topics covered in the questionnaire included identifying eligible resettlement cases and confirming whether they had subsequently traveled to a third country. These topics encompassed:
 - Their security situation concerning the Syrian regime and the risks associated with returning to Syria in the absence of a resolution to the Syrian crisis.
 - The presence of defected soldiers who declined to engage in armed activities or participate in the Syrian war.
 - The presence of activists opposing the Syrian regime.
 - Reasons for refusing to return to Syria.
9. The research team verified the travel of all interviewed cases on the ground.
10. It is noteworthy that all interviewed cases adhered to the Islamic religion and followed the Sunni doctrine.
11. The questionnaires authorized for publication under the name of the Scientific Office of the Syrian Prospective Movement included individuals from two ethnic groups: Arab/Kurdish. Among these, seventeen cases were of Kurdish ethnicity, while thirty-three cases were of Arab ethnicity. The interviews were conducted in various locations, including Beirut, Matn, Keserwan, Bekaa, and Tripoli. The distribution of cases across different Syrian governorates is as follows:

- Aleppo governorate: 13 cases
- Idlib governorate: 9 cases
- Hama governorate: 4 cases
- Homs governorate: 11 cases
- Damascus governorate: 3 cases
- Daraa governorate: 2 cases
- Deir Ezzor governorate: 1 case
- Al-Hasakah governorate: 4 cases
- Raqqa governorate: 1 case
- Latakia governorate: 2 cases

Thus, the specific questionnaire was conducted with a total of 50 cases, for which information sharing and publication were authorized on behalf of the Scientific Office, Research and Studies Department of the Syrian Prospective Movement.

Questionnaire

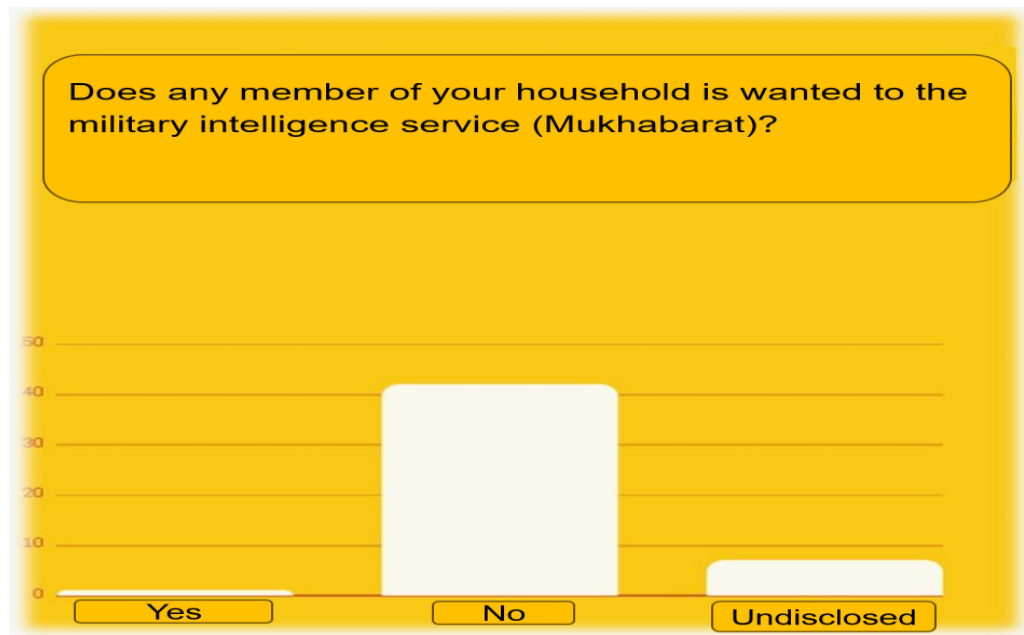
Within our Questionnaire, we utilized a set of questions consolidated into a single section, accompanied by a visual representation, as outlined below:

1. Does any member of your household is wanted to the military intelligence service (Mukhabarat) due to their involvement in the revolution or other reasons?

a) Yes: 1

b) No: 43

c) Prefer not to answer/Undisclosed: 7

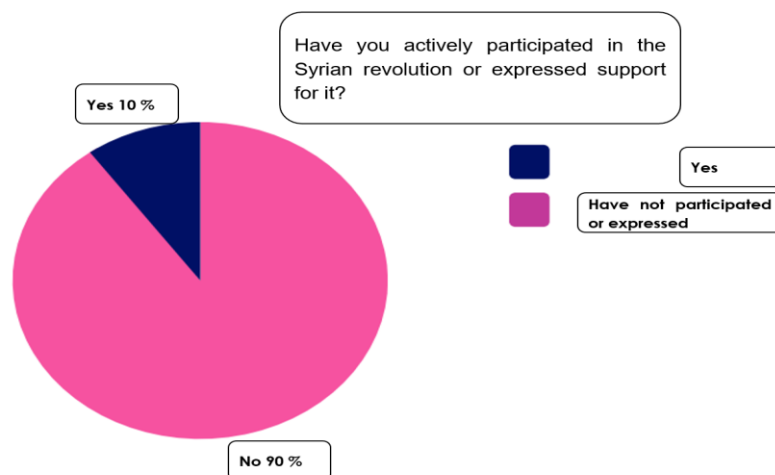


2. Has any member of your family actively participated in the Syrian revolution or expressed support for it, either through civilian or military means?

Responses:

No: 45 cases.

Yes: 5 cases.



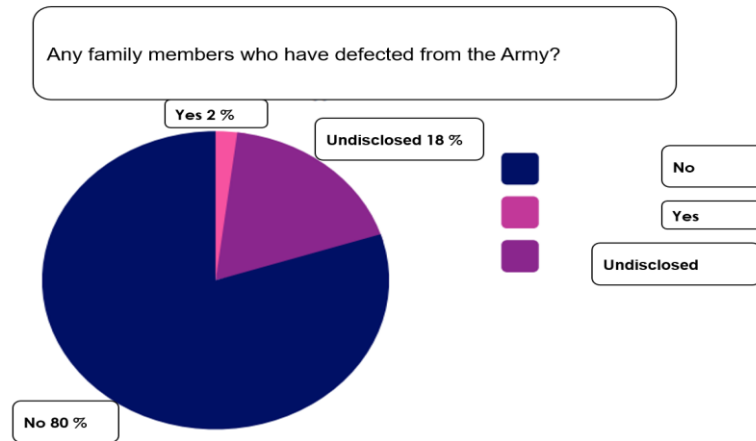
3. Do you have any family members who have defected from the Syrian Army?

Responses:

No: 40 cases.

Yes: 1 case.

Undisclosed: 9 cases.



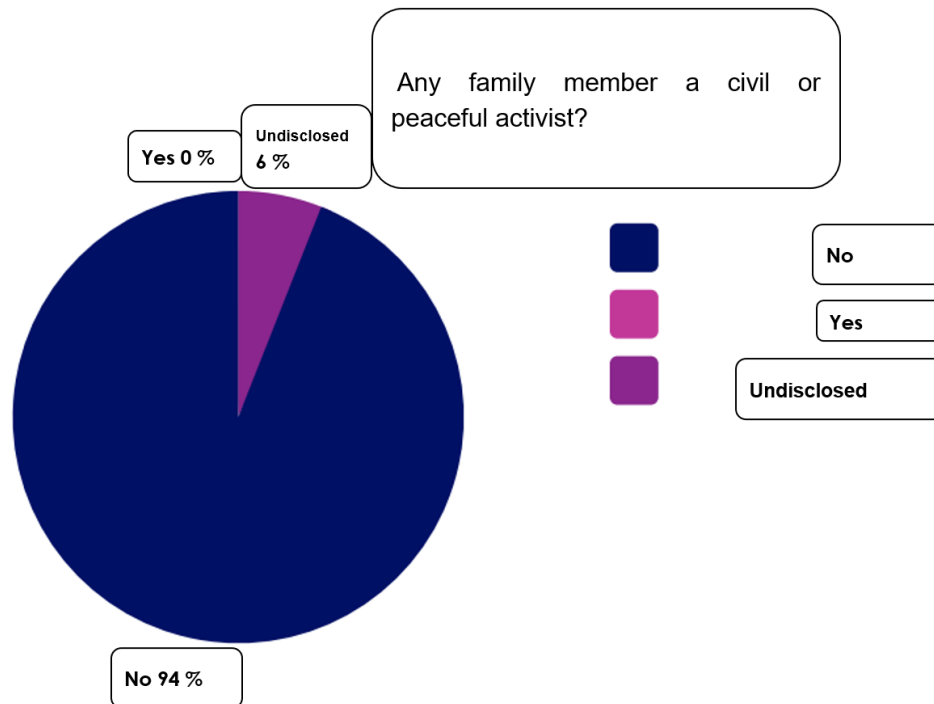
4. Has any member of the family engaged in peaceful civil activities, whether overt or covert?

Responses:

No: 47 cases.

Yes: 0 cases.

Prefer not to answer/Undisclosed: 3 cases.



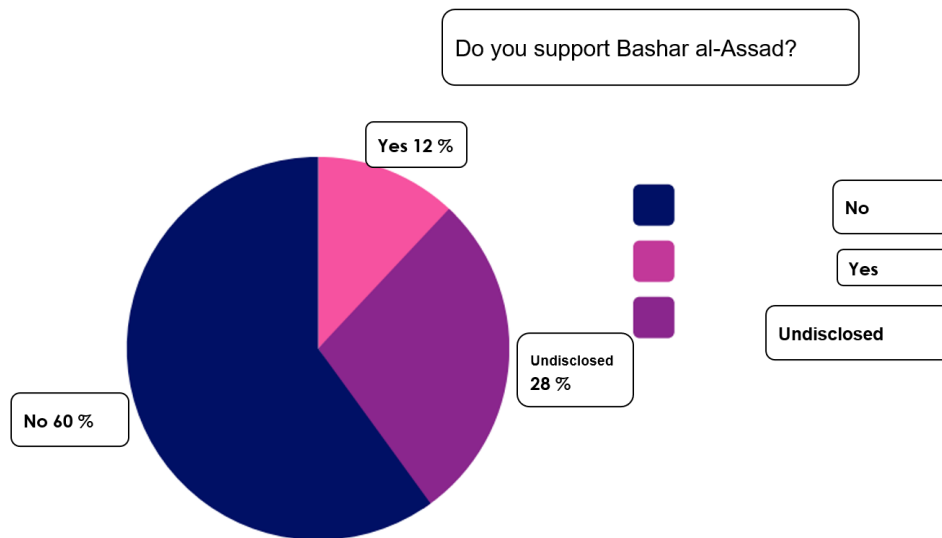
5. Does your family support the authority of Bashar al-Assad?

Responses:

No: 30 cases.

Yes: 6 cases.

Prefer not to answer/Undisclosed: 14 cases.

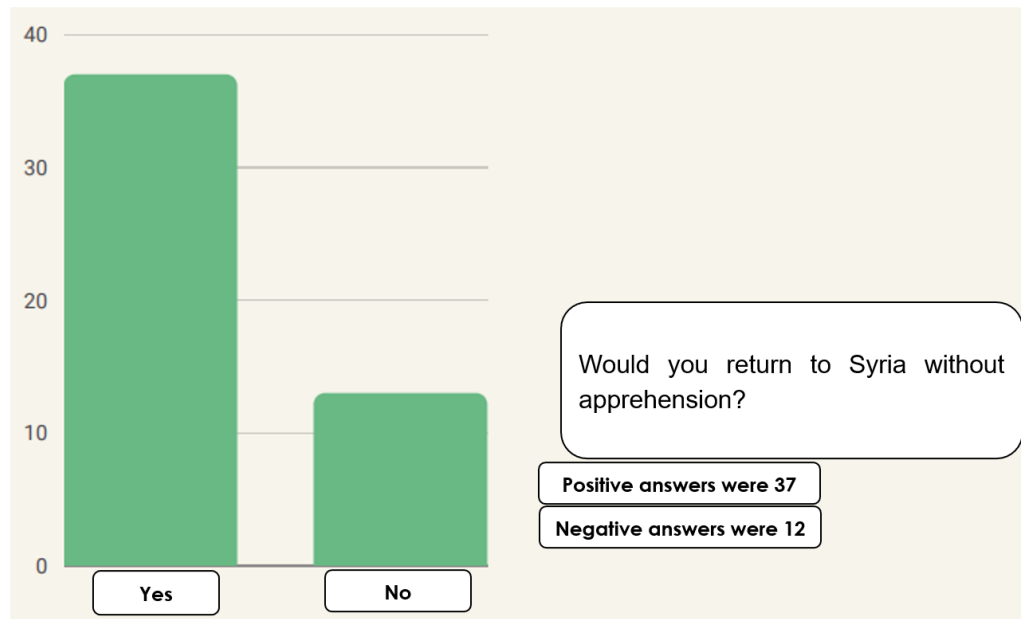


6. In the event of a compelled return to Syria, considering situations where there is a direct threat to your lives or the lives of your family members, would you be able to return to Syria without apprehension?

Responses:

Yes: 37 cases.

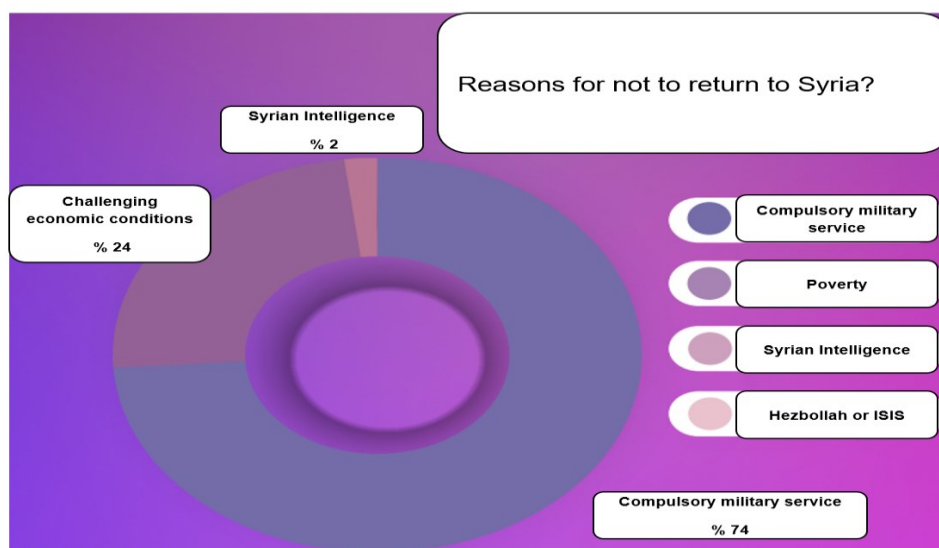
No: 13 cases.



7. What were the reasons for your decision not to return to Syria?

Responses:

- Compulsory military service: **37** cases.
- Challenging economic conditions and fear of poverty: **12** cases.
- Concerns about being apprehended by Syrian intelligence: **1** case.
- Apprehensions regarding various factions, regardless of their affiliations (such as Hezbollah or ISIS): **0** cases.

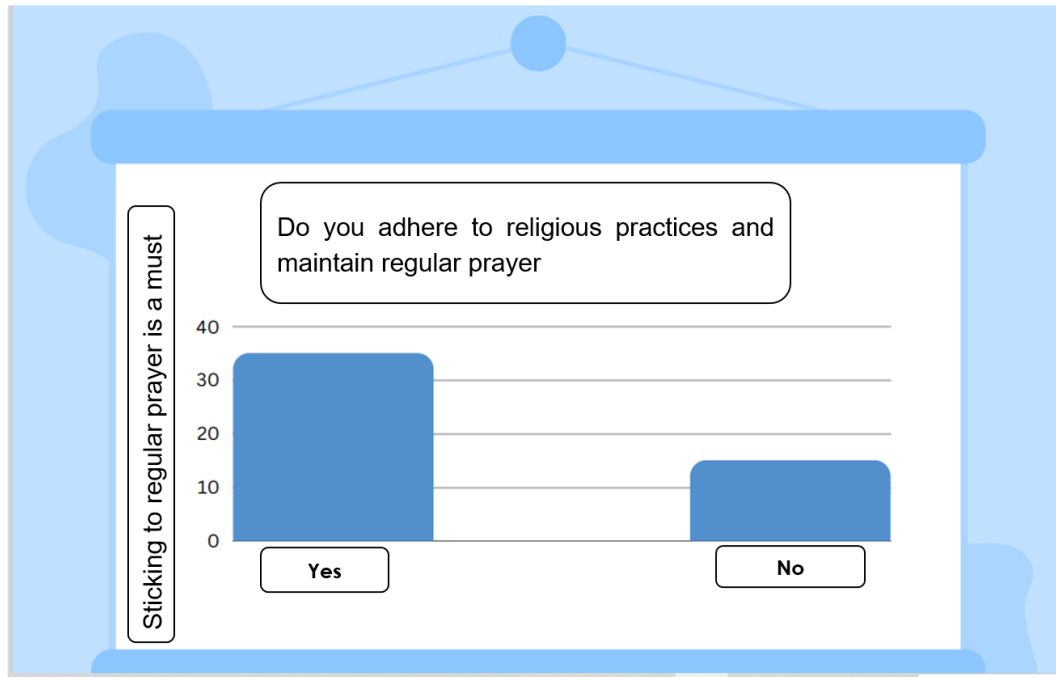


8. Does the family adhere to religious practices and maintain regular prayer?

Responses:

Yes: 35 cases.

No: 15 cases.

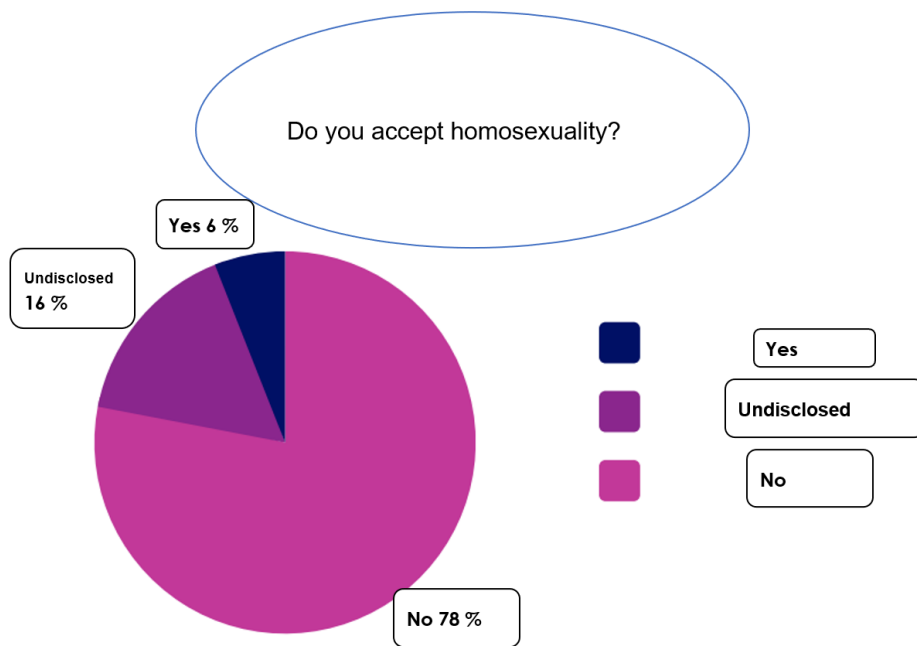


9. Are you accepting of homosexuality and willing to educate your children about it?

Responses:

Yes: 3 cases.

No: 47 cases.



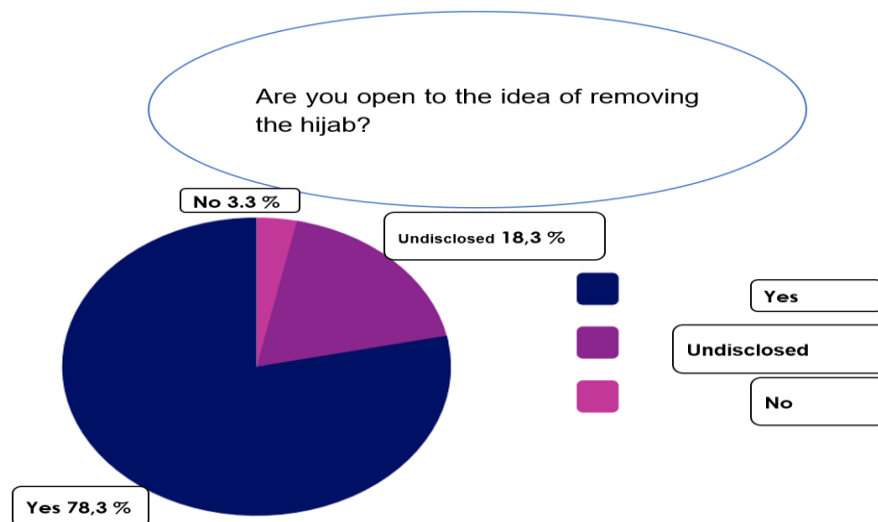
10.Are you open to the idea of removing the hijab in Western society, both as individual women and as a family?

Responses:

Yes: 39 cases.

No: 2 cases.

Undisclosed: 9 cases.

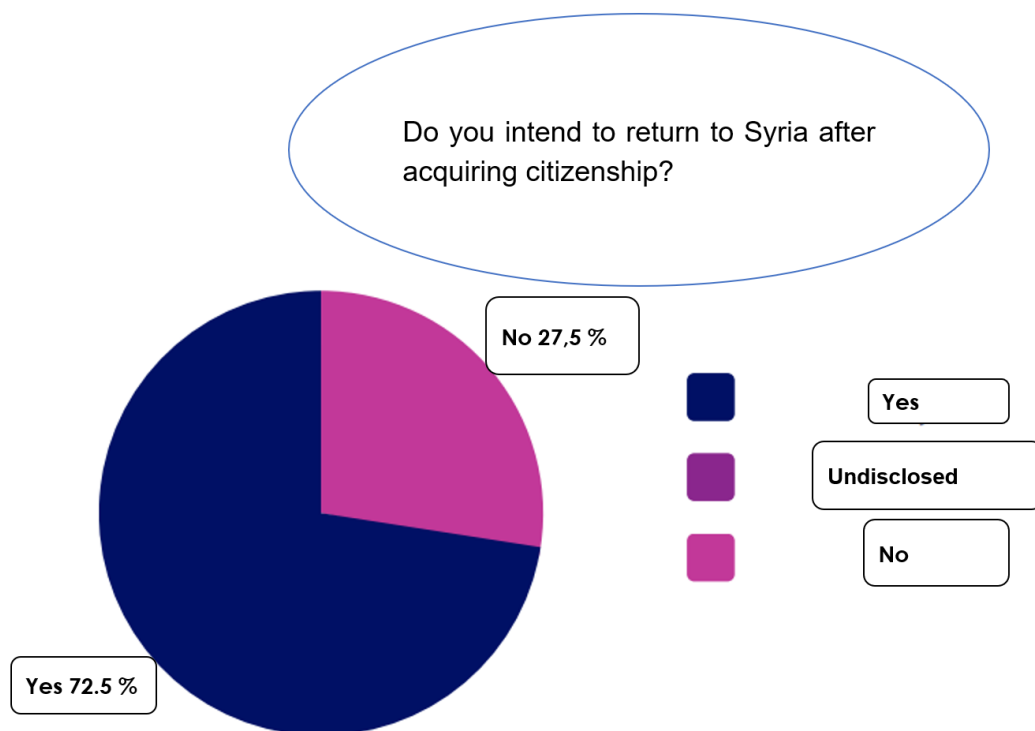


11. Do you plan to return to Syria and permanently settle there as your irreplaceable homeland after the conclusion of the war?

Responses:

Yes: 36 cases.

No: 14 cases.



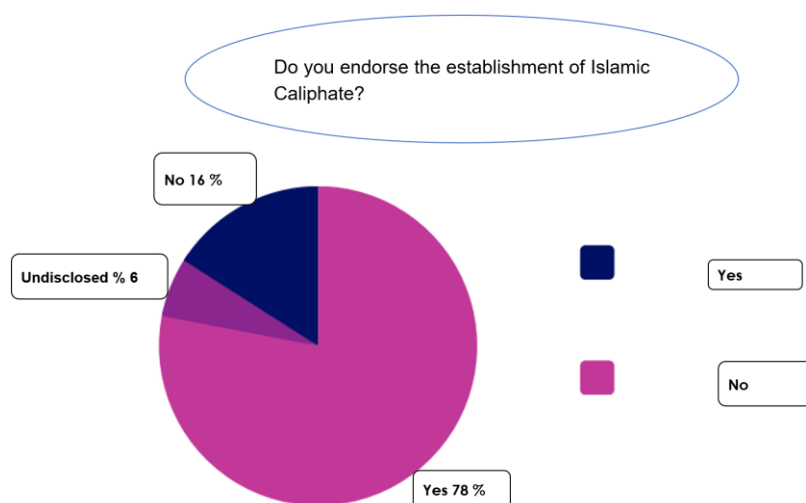
12. Do you endorse the establishment of a new Islamic caliphate, whether in the Salafi tradition or through alternatives?

Responses:

Yes: 39 cases.

No: 8 cases.

Prefer to adhere to conservative principles: 3 cases.

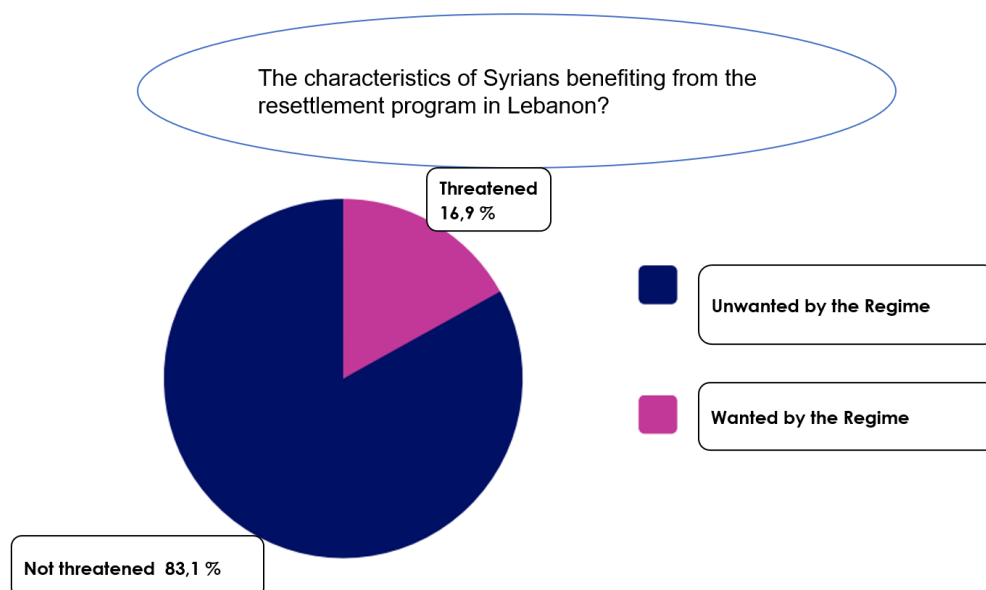


Conclusion

This questionnaire provides insights into the political and security profiles of Syrians who have benefited from the resettlement program. The majority of beneficiaries are individuals who are not sought after by the regime and do not face life-threatening situations if returned to the regime. The primary objective of conducting this questionnaire was to assess the characteristics of Syrians benefiting from the resettlement program, specifically their status regarding the regime's pursuit and threat. The Scientific Office within the Research and Studies Department developed this questionnaire with the intention of utilizing its findings deductively for research or media purposes, provided that proper attribution is given.

It is important to note that not all individuals with a wanted status disclose their security situation to UNHCR.

Based on UNHCR's knowledge of the accepted resettlement cases and considering the information available, it can be inferred that the percentage of Syrians threatened and wanted by the Syrian regime among the beneficiaries of the resettlement program in Lebanon does not exceed 17%. In light of UNHCR's knowledge of the situations of the wanted individuals who have been accepted for resettlement, The remaining beneficiaries can be categorized as supporters, uncertain individuals, or those not opposed, wanted, or persecuted by the Syrian regime.



Therefore, the Syrian Prospective Movement advises the Syrian, Lebanese, and international stakeholders to collaborate in reevaluating the resettlement program's criteria. It suggests prioritizing individuals who are wanted, persecuted, and fleeing from the Syrian regime, provided they can present sufficient evidence to support their claims. This is crucial for safeguarding their lives and addressing recent Lebanese policies that emphasize the necessity of repatriating Syrians from Lebanon.

The Syrian Prospective Movement holds the Syrian refugee commission in Lebanon accountable for excluding the cases of Syrians wanted by the Assad regime from the resettlement program. It argues that the Lebanese context is unsuitable for providing political and security asylum.

Additionally, the Syrian Prospective Movement places full responsibility on the UNHCR in Lebanon for failing to remove the cases of individuals wanted by the resettlement program. Should any Syrian citizen be extradited from Lebanon to the Syrian regime, whose life is endangered and is sought after by the regime, the UNHCR will bear the consequences.

A group of independent Syrian researchers in Lebanon

Scientific office

Syrian Future Movement (SFM)

