

Control Baseline Brief

Najahna Impact Evaluation Study

Background

This brief outlines the main preliminary insights from the data collected in the control sites in the Najahna evaluation study at baseline. The data and insights focus on the four flagship indicators of the program.

How the control baseline was conducted

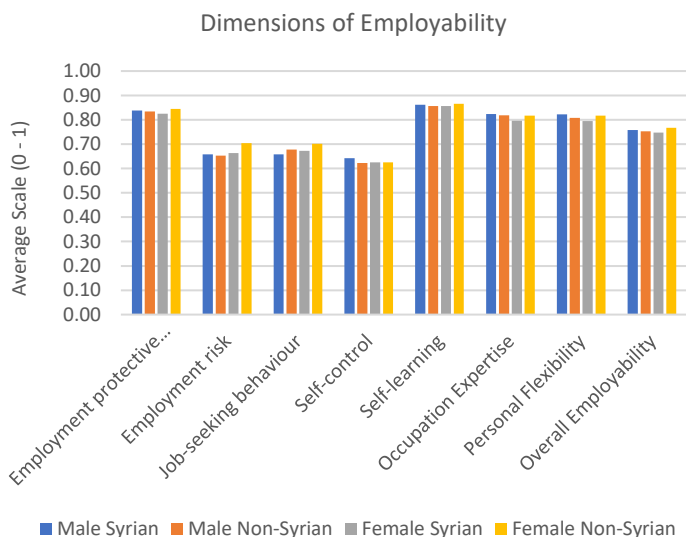
Household surveys and personal interviews were conducted to collect data in host communities in Amman, Irbid, Zarqa, and Mafrq, and in the Azraq and Zaatri Syrian refugee camps. HH surveys were carried out in-person with 1816 heads of HHs (993 in host communities, 409 in Azraq camp, and 414 in Zaatari camps). A total of 1366 randomly selected young people (ages 15-25) from the surveyed HHs were interviewed (725 in host communities, 323 in Azraq camp, and 318 in Zaatari camp).

Key Findings: Indicator 1.3.c on Employability

Only young people were asked the employability questionnaire. The results indicated a baseline of 0.76 for non-Syrians and 0.75 for Syrians. No significant differences were detected between camps and host communities, between governorates, between men and women, or between age groups.

Overall, respondents scored highest on aspects related to “Self-Learning” and “Employment Protective Behaviors,” followed by items on “Occupational Expertise” and “Personal Flexibility.” Respondents scored lowest on “Self-control,” “Job-Seeking Behavior” and “Employment Risk.” There were no major differences between Syrians and non-Syrians.

Among Non-Syrians, average scores of female respondents were slightly higher on “Employment Risk” and “Job-Seeking Behavior.”

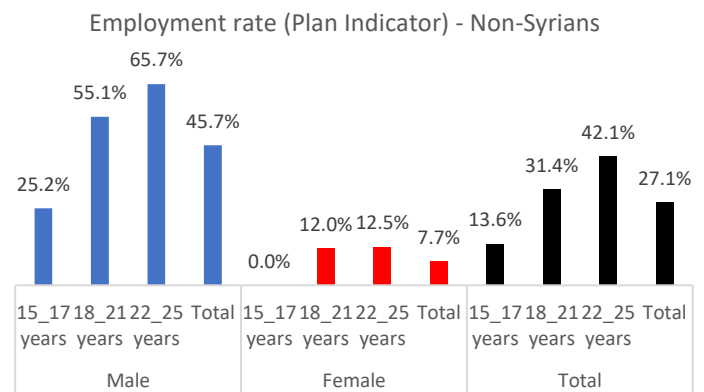
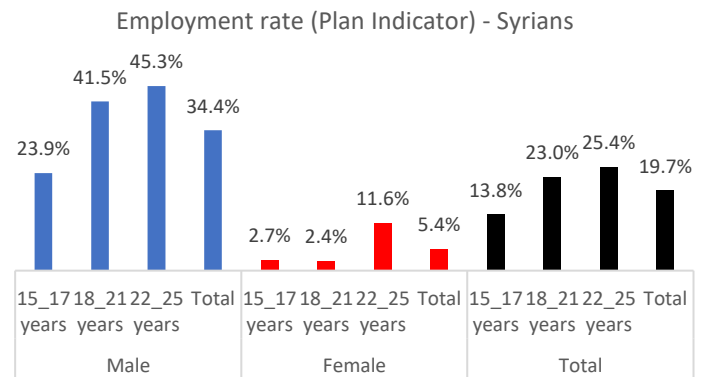


Key Findings: Indicator 3.3.d on Employment

Plan’s Method

When measuring employment according to Plan’s method (within the last 6 months and calculating the denominator as the entire population including active and inactive individuals (e.g., students, individuals not wanting to work, etc)), the employment rate was higher among non-Syrians than Syrians (27.1% and 19.7% respectively). It was considerably higher among males (46% among non-Syrians and 34% among Syrians) than females (8% among non-Syrians and 5% among Syrians).

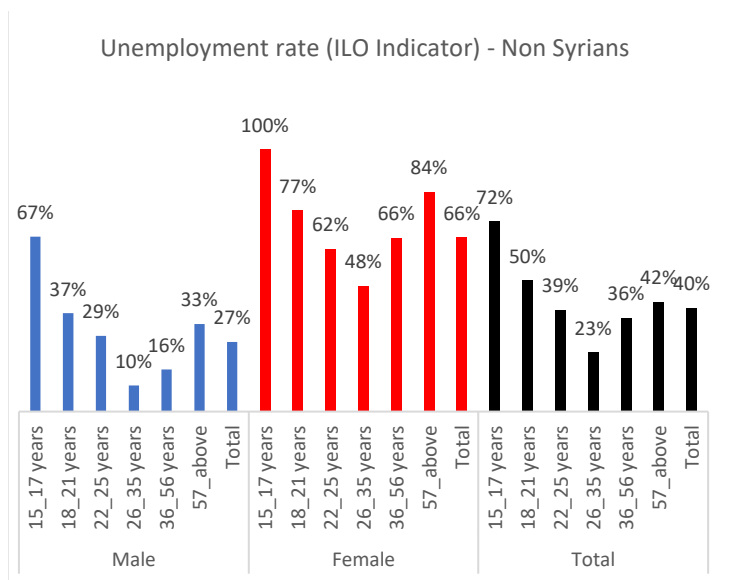
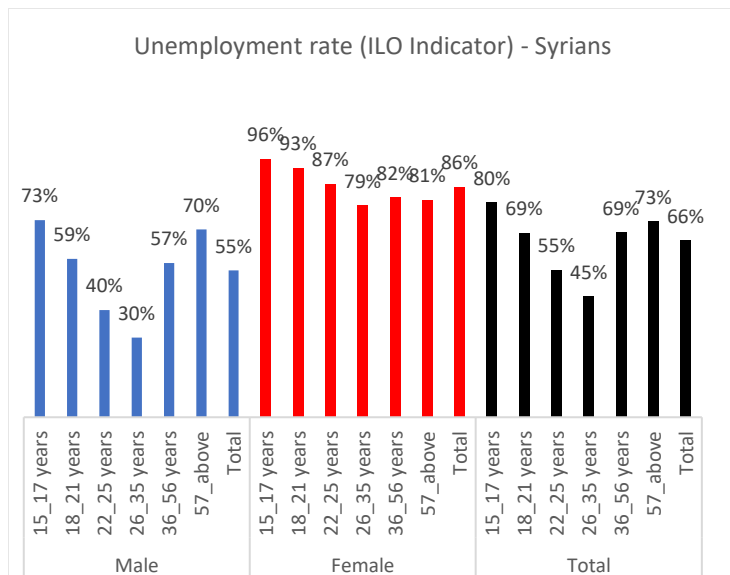
The employment rate among non-Syrian males in the age group of 22-25 years was higher by over 20% compared to the Syrian males in the same age group. Among Syrian males, the employment rate was statistically significantly higher in host communities than in camps (43% and 30%).



International Labor Organization’s Method

Measuring unemployment according to the ILO’s method (within the last 7 days and a denominator of only the active population), it was 66% among Syrians and 40% among non-Syrians. Among the age group (15-25 year olds), it was 67% among Syrians and 48% among non-Syrians.

Unemployment rates were considerably high among women – particularly among Syrians (86%) who also have a higher activity rate than Non-Syrians – compared to men.



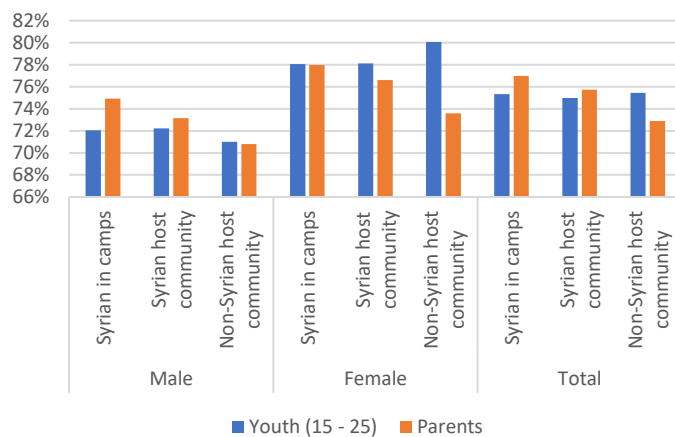
Key Findings: Indicator 1.4.b on Attitudes towards Gender Roles

Among young people, more traditional attitudes were reported by male respondents than female respondents, among Syrian women than non-Syrian women, and in the camps compared to the host communities.

Among parents, Syrian parents had more traditional attitudes than Non-Syrian parents. Similar to young people, parents' views were less traditional among women than men, and in the host communities compared to the camps.

Comparing young people's attitudes to their parents' attitudes yielded interesting results. Young women had less traditional views than mothers, particularly Non-Syrians or Syrians in host communities. In contrast, male parents had slightly less traditional views than young men, particularly among Syrians in the camps.

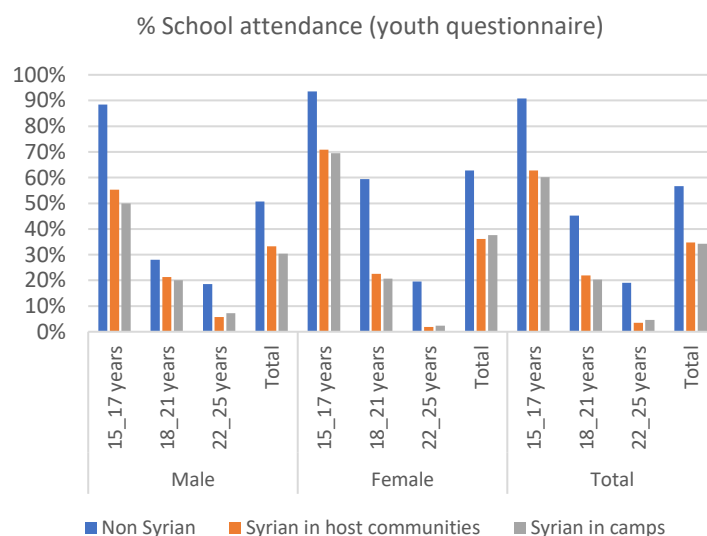
Attitudes towards gender roles



Key Findings: Indicator 1.5.a on School Attendance

Among young people who were directly surveyed in individual interviews, school attendance was highest among respondents aged 15-17 at 71%, considerably lower among those aged 18-21 at 30%, followed by 8% among 22-25 year olds. It was considerably higher among non-Syrians across all age groups.

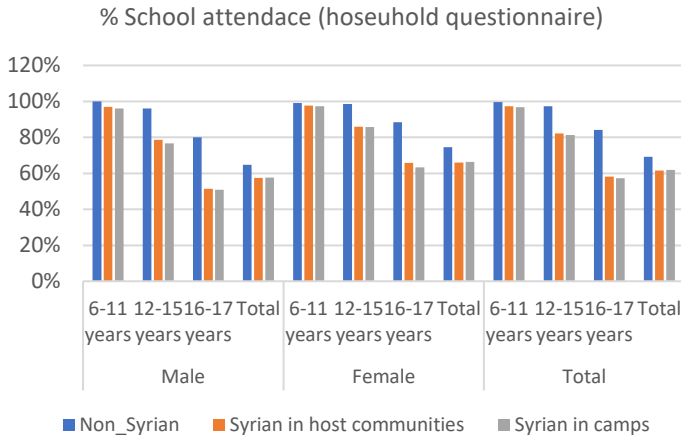
Differences between Syrians living in host communities and camps were very small.



Among young people who were indirectly surveyed through HH surveys, overall, school attendance was very high for children of primary schooling age, and considerably lower for children of secondary schooling age (87% for 12 to 15, and 67% for 16 to 17).

Drop out starts to become frequent for children age 12 to 15; about 20% of Syrian children from this age group are not attending school, which creates a gap with Non-Syrians who mostly remain attending school (96%). Drop out is only slightly more common for boys than girls at this age group.

Overall, 61% of children 16 -17, those at secondary school age, attend school. There are considerable differences by gender and nationality. Drop out among Syrian children is higher than 40%, with no significant differences between host communities and camps. Drop out among non-Syrians is less than 20%. The gender gap is considerable, nearly 50% of Syrian boys in this age group do not attend school, compared to less than 40% among girls.



Implications

While employability is relatively high among both Syrians and non-Syrians, unemployment is also high, indicating a clear gap between employable young people and employers/employment opportunities. Unemployment is higher among Syrians than non-Syrians, similar to school dropout and lack of attendance, which might indicate a relationship between the two.

Unemployment is higher among women overall than men, although employability is similar among both categories. Syrian women especially have the highest unemployment rate despite having similar school attendance rates to their male counterparts. However, parents and young men in their households hold traditional views on gender roles which potentially affects their ability to continue to attend school as well as find “appropriate” employment.

While non-Syrian young women have the highest rates of school attendance, their parents and young men in their households and communities hold more traditional views of gender roles than any other category in the population. It is plausible that such views are affecting non-Syrian women’s ability to participate in the labor force despite being relatively employable.

These preliminary results provide the Najahna Consortium with excellent insights into where and how our efforts need to be channeled and concentrated with each group.