UCL Institute for Global Prosperity

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CATALYTIC ACTION

PROSPERITY REPORT

El Mina, Tripoli

June 2022

TO BE CITED AS

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FOREWARD

The *Prosperity Report - El Mina, Tripoli* is the third major report led by the Institute for Global Prosperity, presenting key findings on prosperity in urban research sites across Lebanon. Its publication follows the recently published work on prosperity and vulnerability in two sites in Beirut: the neighbourhood of Hamra, which is diverse and relatively affluent, but highly unequal (RELIEF Centre and UN Habitat 2020); and the neighbourhood of Mar Mikhael, which was heavily impacted by the Beirut Port explosion that took place on August 4, 2020 (Pietrostefani et al. 2022). The *Prosperity Report – El Mina, Tripoli* is the result of a collaborative effort between the IGP-led RELIEF Centre, the charity CatalyticAction, and locally-based citizen scientist researchers who are committed to making a positive difference in El Mina and beyond. The report presents data on prosperity and quality of life for a site whose residents are diverse in terms of socioeconomic status, religious identity, and housing tenure whereby both informal settlement housing and privately owned and rented accommodation are present in the area. The report is also a rare study presenting detailed quantitative data for a research site in Lebanon that is outside of Beirut – something that is much-needed in a Lebanese research landscape that is disproportionately focused on the country's capital at the expense of other cities and towns.

The *Prosperity Report - El Mina* is about prosperity in two significant ways: in terms of content and in terms of practice. With regard to content, the report's chapters and the findings they present are organised in accordance with the IGP's five-domain prosperity model. This is a model that is intended to represent a holistic and context-specific vision of the things that make up good quality of life for people, places, and environments in an inclusive and sustainable fashion. In terms of practice, the report is only one milestone in a much bigger programme of collaborative research and action over many years. Prosperity, as we conceptualise it at the IGP, is a collaborative process in which stakeholders with different kinds of knowledge and expertise come together in order to identify local problems, build collective resources within the community, and envision and create solutions that contribute to meeting needs and alleviating pressing challenges. The present report is one part of a bigger chain of events that begins with collaborative research, data analysis, and writing and publication of findings, and then moves on to co-developing solutions at multiple levels, including policy change and urban interventions. The authorship of the report, like the research that is presented in it, is the result of collaborative work between full-time academic researchers, NGO researchers, and citizen scientist researchers whose careers and professional trajectories go beyond the narrow remit of the university. This is in line with the IGP's vision of prosperity as an 'assemblage' of multiple actors with different capabilities and knowledges (Moore & Mintchev 2021). Our aspiration is that the set of partnerships that we have assembled for the research presented here will continue in the long run and lead to meaningful social change for communities in El Mina and Tripoli, as well as in other cities and towns across Lebanon.

Prof Henrietta L. Moore,
Founder and Director of the UCL Institute for Global Prosperity,
Director of the RELIEF Centre

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are particularly grateful for the extensive research carried out by citizen scientists who played a key role in all the phases of this project. We would like to thank all the residents of El Mina who participated in the project activities. A special thanks to the Municipality of El Mina for their continuous support. We would also like to thank various partners and local stakeholders including but not limited to UN-Habitat Lebanon, Union of Al Fayhaa municipalities, Tripoli Entrepreneurs Club (TEC), International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC), SEED NGO, Leb Relief NGO, Forum of the Handicapped (FOH) NGO, Lebanese Association for Scientific Research (LASeR), Orthodox Christian Association elderly home NGO, We Love Tripoli, *mokhtars*, local dispensaries, clinics, religious and educational institutions. Thanks to Principal Investigator Professor Henrietta Moore for her support throughout the project. We are grateful to all the above for their important contributions. The research for this report was funded by the UK's Economic and Social Research Council via the RELIEF Centre (Grant ES/P008003/1), and by the British Academy, via the project "Developing Infrastructural Solutions for Lebanon's Challenges of Mass Displacement" (Grant UWB190164).

CORE TEAM

The research was carried out as a partnership between the Institute for Global Prosperity (IGP)-led RELIEF Centre and CatalyticAction (CA) charity. The team was led by Dr. Elisabetta Pietrostefani (IGP) and Joana Dabaj (CA). The research team included Mayssa Jallad (Relief Centre), Sara Maassarani (CA), Dr. Nikolay Mintchev (IGP), Yara Sleiman (Relief Centre), Diala Makki (Relief Centre), Dr. Sima El Cheikh (CA), Ramona Abdallah (CA), and Mariam Daher (Relief Centre). The team involved El Mina residents in the activities and worked together with 18 citizen scientists: Abdel Karim Janki, Alaa El Merehby, Amina Saad, Aya Ashram, Bassem Zawdeh, Ghassan El Bakri, Heba El Haji, Hiba Chaarani, Houda Kabbara, Mahmoud Sleiman, Maya Chalabi, Mohammad Kanoun, Mohammad Said Khalaf, Sageda Moubarak, Sara Badawiyeh, Sara Coptan, Taha Mersalli, and Ziad El Hayek.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

CA	CatalyticAction
CSs	Citizen Scientists
FGD	Focus Groups Discussion
HH	Household
IGP	Institute for Global Prosperity
IRC	International Rescue Committee
MoPH	Ministry of Public Health
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisations
NSSF	National Social Security Fund
OXFAM	Oxford Committee for Famine Relief
PHC	Primary Health care Centre
PI	Prosperity Index
PI HH	Prosperity Index Household (survey)
PRS	Palestine Refugees from Syria
PSI	Participatory Spatial Intervention
RELIEF	Research, Education, Learning, Information Technology, and Entrepreneurship for the Future
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UCL	University College London
UN	United Nations
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Emergency Fund
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The research presented in this report is part of a programme addressing challenges to prosperity by building partnerships between diverse groups of actors collaborating to track emergent problems and develop innovative solutions adapted to the specific needs of people, places, and contexts.

This report presents some of the key findings of the research conducted on prosperity in El Mina, Tripoli, North Lebanon, between January 2020 and January 2021. The study included building and household surveys, as well as interviews and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) in 22 neighbourhoods in El Mina in both Mina 3 and Mina Jardins cadastres.

A diverse group of Citizen Scientists (CSs) (community researchers) were an integral part of the research process. They provided consultation to prepare surveys, played an active role in conducting the data collection, and contributed to the development of the Participatory Spatial Intervention (PSI) presented at the end of this report and other intervention ideas. The research approach taken in this study is based on three fundamental principles: a context-specific measure of prosperity, commitment to collaboration and co-design, and a focus on fine-grained data. These principles reflect the view that the role of citizen scientists is key for addressing local community needs and creating positive change in neighbourhoods.

This study is divided into eight overarching chapters: an introduction to the research, followed by the population profile of El Mina; a section on each of the five prosperity domains developed by the Institute for Global Prosperity (Moore & Woodcraft 2019); and a chapter on the El Mina PSI that resulted from the research. The diversity of the El Mina population is highlighted throughout the report with figures that compare populations of different neighbourhoods, nationalities, and socioeconomic backgrounds.

The **Foundations of Prosperity chapter** highlights the rising unemployment and livelihood insecurities of El Mina following Lebanon's political and financial crises. The chapter also illustrates how El Mina's infrastructure suffers from poor maintenance and public service disruption and emphasises how residents face housing insecurities such as evictions and increasing housing costs. The **Opportunities and Aspirations chapter** focuses on status inequalities across gender and nationality, disparities in educational attainment, and affordability. The **Power, Voice and Influence chapter** highlights El Mina residents' mistrust of all governing bodies. It also explores the barriers to residents' ability to express dissent and assert their political voice. The **Health and Healthy environment chapter** presents El Mina's challenges, exacerbated by the spread of covid-19 and the economic crisis, mainly linked to the shortage of hospitals, mental health services and spaces for physical activity in the area. The **Belonging, Identity and Culture chapter** reports on El Mina's rich and diverse maritime and architectural heritage. It also presents findings on El Mina residents' limited participation in local activities and highlights the area's pride in the diversity of its community.

The final section of the report presents a tailored intervention developed and implemented between July 2021 and April 2022 to address some of the challenges to prosperity in the city of El Mina. "Mauj" (waves in Arabic) is a participatory spatial intervention developed by CatalyticAction and El Mina citizen scientists, which harnesses the potential of the corniche as a public space for everyone based on research findings and local community needs and aspirations. The RELIEF Centre and CatalyticAction hope to create opportunities, including a Townhall meeting in El Mina in June 2022, to discuss this report's findings with local communities and key stakeholders and gather suggestions for future interventions to foster a sense of ownership of the findings.

INTRODUCTION

Photo credit : Houda Kabbara

PROSPERITY IN EL MINA

Figure 1 North governorate within Lebanon

Figure 3 El Mina cadastres

Figure 2 El Mina within north governorate

El Mina is a coastal city located in the North Governorate of Lebanon. It is part of Tripoli's urban area, which includes the municipalities of Tripoli, El Mina, Qalamoun and Beddaoui, and constitutes the built-up area's harbour district (**Figures 1 and 2**) (UN-Habitat 2017). Historically, El Mina was known as "Al Iskila", meaning "the harbour", recalling its historic function dating back to the Phoenician period (ESFD 2006). Located 85km by road from the capital, it became the largest functional seaport in Lebanon following the Beirut port explosion on August 4, 2020.

Greater Tripoli, which includes El Mina, is the second-largest city in Lebanon after Beirut, with an approximate population of 518,565 residents. El Mina counts approximately 82,084 residents (UN-Habitat 2017). It has an area of 3.8 km² and is divided into four main cadastres (Fares 2002): Mina Jardins (2.72 km²), Mina 1 (0.25 km²), Mina 2 (0.4 km²), Mina 3 (0.45 km²), (**Figure 3**). The city of El Mina has its independent municipal board – initially formed in 1883 (Nahas 2001).

This report is part of a programme addressing challenges to prosperity by building partnerships between diverse groups of actors collaborating to track


Photo credit : CatalyticAction

emergent problems and develop innovative solutions adapted to the specific needs of people, places, and contexts. The process requires engagement with actors with different goals, values, and capacities to identify problems and shape interventions, sharing a commitment to generate positive change as communities of practice (Moore & Mintchev 2021).

This research is conducted as Lebanon goes through multiple crises: a political and liquidity problem that started in August 2019, the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the Beirut port explosion of August 2020. These pressures are the latest episodes of a long history of economic, social, and political frictions. They are linked to income inequality (Kukrety & Al Jamal 2016), poor governance of infrastructural funds (Verdeil 2018), political instability (Kukrety & Al Jamal 2016; Verdeil 2018), neo-liberal housing development practices (Fawaz et al. 2018; Khechen 2018), and large-scale displacement due to the conflict in neighbouring Syria (Kukrety & Al Jamal 2016; Verdeil 2018; Fawaz et al. 2018; Khechen 2018). Such challenges are national in scope, affecting the entire country. However, they also bear directly on how people experience their quality of life at the local level in terms of livelihoods, access to good quality services, trust in governance, housing, and education. As a result, mitigation and recovery in the present and future must be multi-scalar, addressing both national and locally specific needs. Focus on centralised large-scale economic and structural solutions alone is necessary but not sufficient to address the concrete daily challenges of communities. This research is locally constructed in terms of its aims. It follows a model that encourages local collaboration and action for driving positive change.

This report was completed as part of the RELIEF Centre's research on "Prosperity Gains and Inclusive Growth" in Lebanon. The programme explores what prosperity means for people and how it can be achieved inclusively in a large-scale displacement context to benefit all residents. The research adopts innovative tools and frameworks, which residents can use to monitor their community's prosperity and quality of life. We adopt a participatory approach. Data is collected by citizen scientists and used to develop urban interventions that address their own community's needs and create positive change in the neighbourhoods. Our approach to developing a Prosperity Index is based on three fundamental principles: a context-specific measure of prosperity, commitment to collaboration and co-design, and a focus on fine-grained data.

The RELIEF Prosperity Team leads scientific research on the quality of life and its challenges in local neighbourhoods. This research is part of the Prosperity Index work that the IGP-led RELIEF Centre has conducted in Lebanon over the past five years (Relief Centre & UN-Habitat Lebanon 2020; Moore & Collins 2020; Jallad et al. 2021). El Mina was selected as the second case study after Hamra, Beirut. It also expands on the Participatory Spatial Intervention developed as part of the research project "Public services and vulnerabilities in the Lebanese context of large-scale displacement" funded by the British Academy's cities and infrastructure programme (Dabaj et al. 2020). This research contributes to humanitarian agencies' tracking of vulnerabilities and well-being in the Lebanese context (UNHCR 2020) and the literature on citizen science and sustainable development goals (Fraisl et al. 2020). In addition, the report contributes to an understudied area in Lebanon. It ensures that representative geospatial and quantitative data can lead to a more robust understanding of local challenges, improved governance, and other types of impact activities.

As part of developing a Prosperity Index for different locations, the RELIEF Prosperity Team maps social & urban conditions at the neighbourhood level. It aims to capture evidence about the multiple issues relating to the quality of life in local communities countrywide. The RELIEF Centre will make relevant data accessible to allow knowledge exchanges between academics, public institutions, and the broader community. The Prosperity Index is part of a comprehensive effort by the RELIEF Centre to rethink what prosperity means and develop new measures for governance, policymaking, and interventions.

MIXED METHODS APPROACH

The Prosperity Index research uses a mixed-methods approach both in its research design and the analysis of results. Data was gathered and analysed through various methods: field surveys, household surveys, key informant interviews, acquaintances interviews, and FGDs. The benefit of mixing multiple research techniques allows for the triangulation of results in the analysis phase of the research.

The research started with a literature review on relevant social and economic issues that developed an initial understanding of the context of El Mina, supported by the mapping of key stakeholders. Please see **Appendix 4** for a complete list of documents overviewed during the literature review. The review was followed by a site selection exercise where socioeconomic and population variables were overviewed for all cadastres of El Mina. Mina 3 and Mina Jardins cadastres were selected as the areas with the most diverse populations both in terms of nationality and socioeconomic characteristics to explore intra-community inequalities. The spatial divisions between neighbourhoods within these two cadastres were defined through a mapping exercise conducted as detailed in the **El Mina Neighbourhood Mapping** Section below. Citizen Scientists (CSs) were recruited from El Minaand Tripoli and trained to become co-researchers within the project and to assist in collecting data. For more on the role of CSs, see **The Role of Citizen Scientists Section** below.

We first conducted a series of consultations to identify and categorise the essential factors for a prosperous life in El Mina and to formulate a local theoretical Prosperity Model for the area. Creating a theoretical Prosperity Model involves preparing city-specific indicators belonging to each of the five prosperity domains developed by the IGP (Moore & Woodcraft 2019). These indicators are then used to amend and adjust the IGP prosperity survey that speaks to local needs and issues. Consultations included workshops with key stakeholders from El Mina on January 31, 2020, and a brainstorming session with El Mina citizen scientists about the five domains of prosperity and the positive and negative aspects of the city. In addition, a series of 20 randomised interviews from different neighbourhoods were also conducted in February 2020. Interviewees were asked semi-structured questions about the meaning of a good life and whether they think they can have a good life in their neighbourhoods.

The overlapping crises that continue to hit Lebanon have exacerbated people's vulnerability. They also impacted the way we envision prosperity and the pathways that can lead to it. Moore and Woodcraft (2019) commented that it is not straightforward to map "the relationship between material, social, and symbolic domains—rather, people describe complex interdependencies and relationalities between them." We thus adapted the IGP Prosperity consultation approach conducted in London (Moore & Woodcraft 2019) and Hamra, Beirut (Relief Centre & UN-Habitat Lebanon 2020) to the local context in El Mina.

The consultations and literature review were analysed and compared with prosperity work previously conducted in Hamra (Relief Centre & UN-Habitat Lebanon 2020) to formulate indicators and build a comprehensive theoretical Prosperity Model of El Mina that speaks to local needs and issues. Figure 4 presents this theoretical mapping. The central domains are located inside the circles, the subdomains inside the “petals”, and the indicators on the design's edges. Many indicators in El Mina matched those previously found in Hamra; other indicators were new. The latter included “Good Quality Housing and Infrastructure” in Foundations of Prosperity and “Access to open spaces and leisure facilities in Health and Healthy Environments” (**Figure 4**).


Photo credit : CatalyticAction

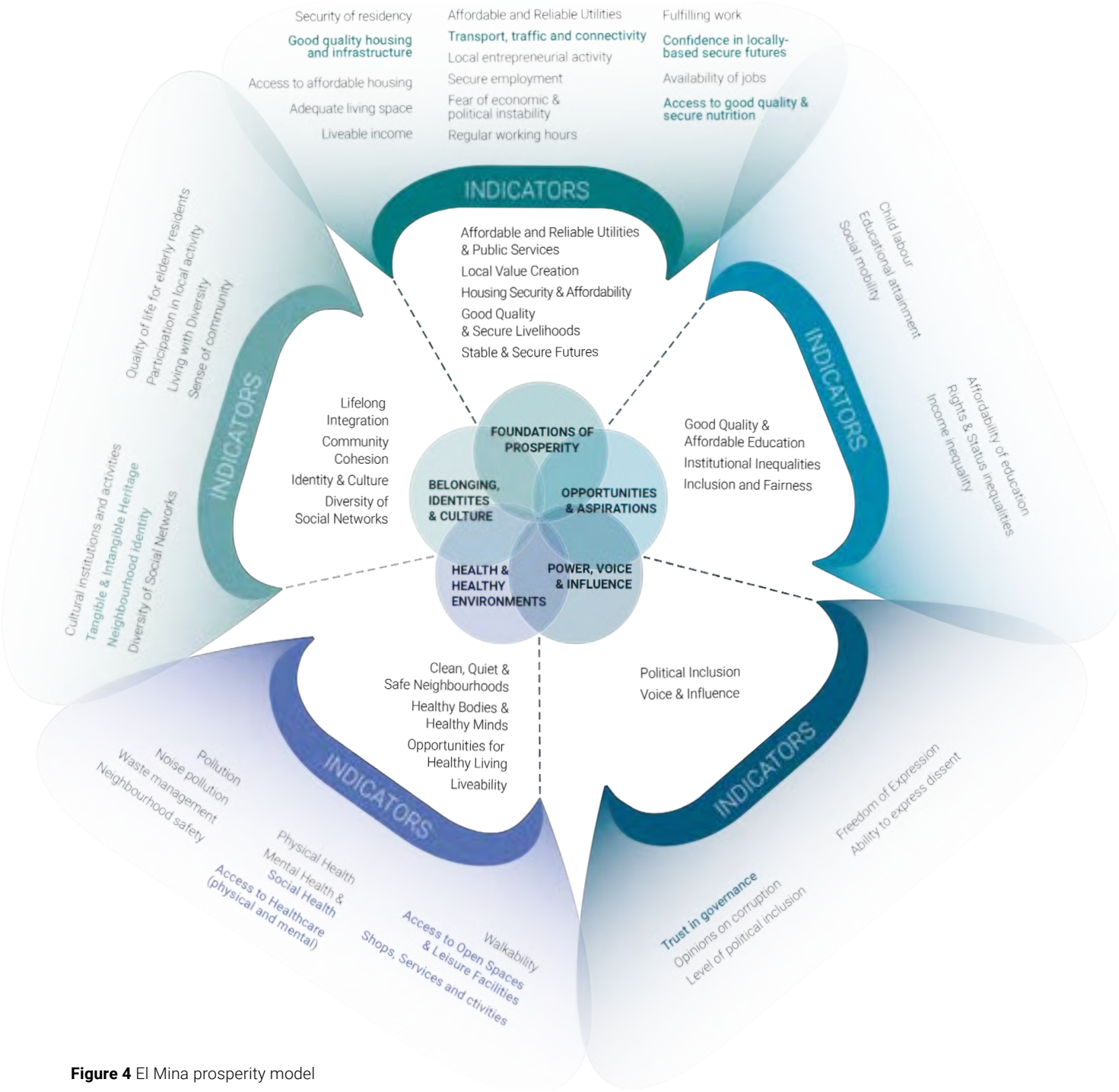


Figure 4 El Mina prosperity model

Building on the El Mina theoretical Prosperity Model, the data collection phase included an infrastructure survey, a building condition survey, household surveys, qualitative interviews, and FGDs. Citizen scientists also worked in close collaboration with RELIEF centre and CatalyticAction throughout the research to discuss central issues in the different neighbourhoods and design possible interventions that tackle inequalities and respond to residents' needs.

FIELD SURVEYS

Field surveys assessed building condi-tions and essential urban services (water and sanitation, solid waste management, electricity, and mobility). They also identified nationalities living in sampled buildings. Based on visual inspection guided by structured questionnaires, field surveys for El Mina took place between July 11 and September 21, 2020. There are approximately 2641 buildings in Mina 3 and Mina Jardins (943 in Mina 3 and 1698 in Mina Jardins). Within our building survey, we sampled over 500 buildings in these two cadastres, 226 in Mina 3 and 317 in Mina Jardins. In addition, street sections of the surveyed buildings were sampled to

carry out local infrastructure surveys. Questions within the field surveys were based on the UN-Habitat–UNICEF Neighbourhood Profile methodology, but were heavily modified or refined by the RELIEF-CatalyticAction team in consultation with Citizen Scientists to reflect El Mina's buildings and infrastructure (Relief Centre & UN-Habitat Lebanon 2020).

HOUSEHOLD SURVEYS

The Prosperity Index Household (PI HH) survey, conducted following the field surveys between October 5 and December 15, 2020, was carried out in Arabic with heads of households. The El Mina PI HH survey sampled 1,023 households reprensenting 4,259 residents. The survey recorded an overview of household members. It also included questions on educational attainment, livelihoods, housing and land property, displacement, child health, labour and discipline, water and sanitation practices, and accessibility to subsidised education and health services. The PI HH survey questionnaire is a RELIEF-designed survey covering questions about the five domains of the IGPs Prosperity Model: Foundations of Prosperity; Opportunities and Aspirations; Power, Voice, and Influence; Health and Healthy Environments; and Belonging, Identities and Culture (see Moore & Mintchev 2021). It was developed following the qualitative consultation phase, which preceded household and field survey data collection. The PI HH survey also includes questions from the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) used in the UNICEF Lebanon baseline survey (UNICEF 2016).

INTERVIEWS & FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Interviews and FGDs were conducted to triangulate and build on the Field surveys and PI HH survey findings. Data collection was carried out between July 13 2020, and January 6,2021. It included semi-structured interviews with a health care facility manager, a headmaster of an education institution, NGO representatives, municipal officials, two Mokhtars, and religious and political figures. A total of 10 interviews were carried out. Each participant was asked to discuss topics related to some of the prosperity indicators defined in the theoretical Prosperity Model of El Mina. These included but were not limited to: housing security and affordability; livelihoods; belonging, identities, and culture; health and healthy environments; and opportunities and aspirations. In addition, FGDs were conducted with Lebanese and non-Lebanese, female and male, and youth and adult participants (**Appendix 3**).

THE ROLE OF CITIZEN SCIENTISTS

Citizen social science (or simply citizen science) is a methodology based on the commitment to collaborative research. It involves recruiting and training residents who live in or around the sites of inquiry to become research-team members, making key decisions and becoming involved in all phases of the research process. The IGP's approach to citizen science is based on a commitment to sustained long-term collaboration beyond data collection. It includes research design, writing and data analysis, publishing and presenting findings, and developing pathways to impact following the research process. Its fundamental principle is that the knowledge, skills, and datasets developed by citizen scientists throughout the research process should be embedded in the community with a vision leading to long-term impacts (Jallad and Mintchev 2019, Jallad et al. 2021). To design and carry out the research presented here, the RELIEF Centre and CatalyticAction recruited a team of 18 citizen scientists from El Mina and Tripoli through an open call disseminated amongst key local stakeholders. The team was diverse in terms of gender (consisting of eight men and ten women) and nationality, with four Syrian, two Palestinian, and twelve Lebanese team members. In addition, citizen scientists were recruited from various academic and professional backgrounds (architecture, engineering, graphic design, law, management, interior design, teaching, development sector, and advertising).

The team possessed a diverse set of skills and knowledge to approach the academic research for this project. Once recruited, the citizen scientist team received training throughout the different phases of the project, covering the following:

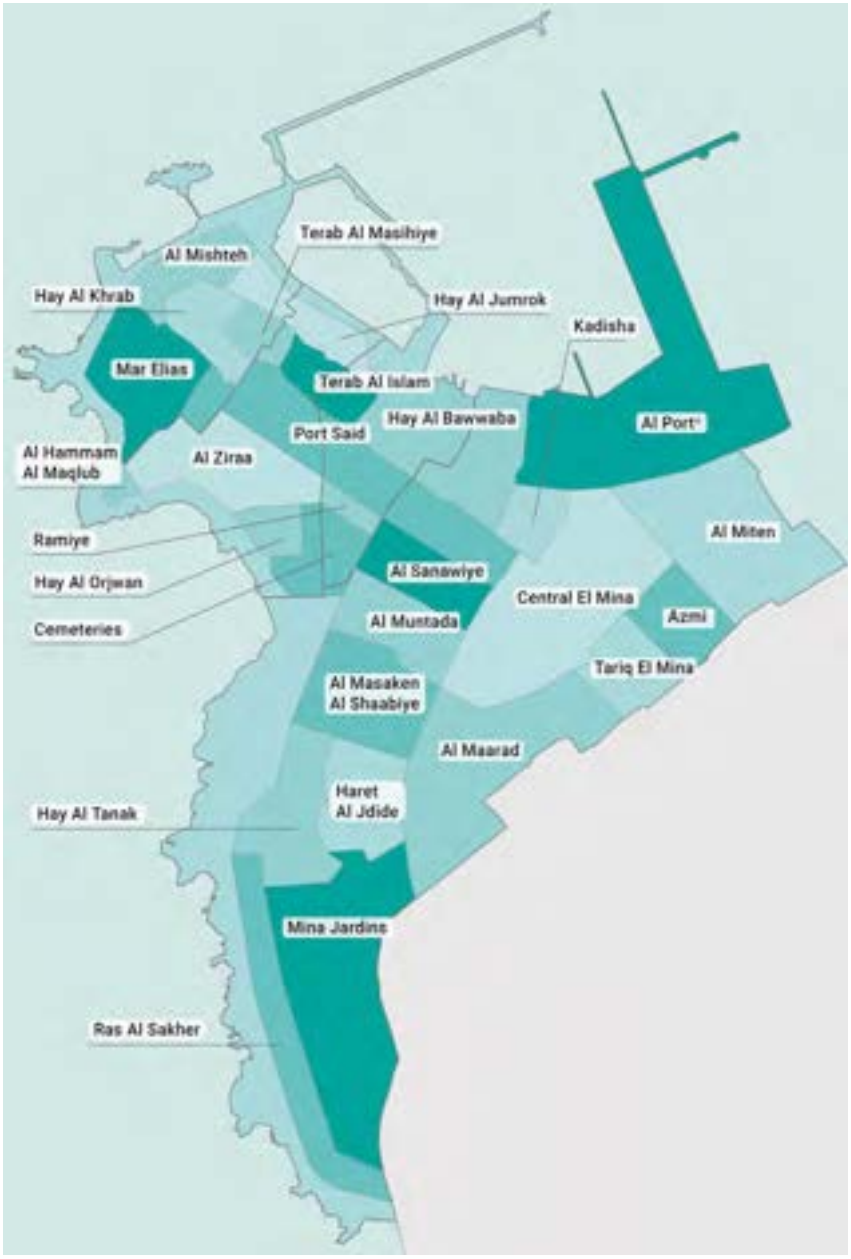
- Citizen Social Science: Definition, process, role of the citizen scientist, giving and receiving feedback.
- Research methods: Qualitative and quantitative, interview types, mental mapping, reading maps, building surveys, infrastructure surveys, household surveys.
- Research ethics: Informed consent, individual privacy and confidentiality, interviewee rights, data management, fieldwork ethics.
- Key definitions: Prosperity, prosperity index (domains, sub domains, indicators), prosperity index adaptation, sampling.
- Infrastructure assessment: Definition, process, components (stormwater, wastewater, lighting, road condition).
- Building condition assessment: Definition, process, components (exterior building condition, communal spaces, connection to infrastructure).
- Public engagement: Consultations to develop the prosperity index based on local knowledge, managing focus group discussions, interviews with stakeholders, public exhibition.


Photo credit : CatalyticAction

EL MINA NEIGHBOURHOOD MAPPING

At the time of writing, no source we are aware of defines all of El Mina's neighbourhoods or illustrates their geographical boundaries. Therefore, identifying neighbourhood boundaries and neighbourhoods' socioeconomic and demographic characteristics was of fundamental importance for developing a representative sampling strategy to formulate the El Mina Prosperity Index. For this reason, our team conducted a mapping exercise to develop operational boundaries of El Mina's neighbourhoods from various sources. This process drew upon five primary sources. The first consulted sources were UN-Habitat's Tripoli City Profile which includes a mapping section (2017, p.102), and the El Mina Municipality's (2021 neighbourhood list. These sources identified the neighbourhoods but did not define spatial divisions. Our exercise complemented them by conducting various additional mapping consultations: a stakeholders' consultation workshop with former and current municipal members, a mokhtar, and representatives of local and international NGOs working in the city; street interviews with 16 residents; and a consultation workshop with the 18 citizenscientists in the El Mina prosperity research team.

The consultations were adopted to confirm and triangulate the neighbourhoods' boundaries. Following the consultations, nine maps were produced to reflect the neighbourhoods' representations. To suggest a clear division of neighbourhoods that could accommodate the most known and familiar conceptions of neighbourhood boundaries, we overlapped all sources using the same colour for each neighbourhood. It allowed us to visualise the different boundaries of each neighbourhood from different



Note: There are no residential buildings in Al Port neighbourhood.

Figure 5 Operational map of El Mina neighbourhoods

Photo credit : Aya Ashram

perspectives to assume the most accurate boundary. Some neighbourhoods were only mentioned a few times, suggesting they were not commonly considered singular and consolidated; others were mentioned more than five times with approximately the same delimitations. Some new neighbourhoods were named after street names or landmarks (schools or hospitals, for example). Other unoccupied or empty areas were not mentioned or not named because of their lack of built-up areas or residents. The exercise resulted in **Figure 5**, which shows the delimitations of neighbourhoods in all of El Mina's cadastres. This neighbourhood division is used throughout this report; however, it results from the mapping exercise explained above and is not recognised by any local or national authority.

Table 1 Sampling for El Mina Prosperity field and household surveys

	LEBANESE		NON-LEBANESE		BUILDINGS		INFRA
	Households	Sample	Households	Sample	Buildings	Sample	Sample
Total	**8,432**	**631**	**1,029**	**423**	**2,635**	**536**	**285**
MINA 3	3,214	303	655	209	939	214	123
MINA JARDINS	5,217	328	375	214	1,696	322	162

Source: UN-Habitat (2017) and UNHCR (2018). Households were calculated using an average household size of 4.4 for Lebanese residents (CAS & ILO, 2019) and 4.9 for non-Lebanese residents (UNHCR et al., 2017). Buildings were counted using GIS, building footprints were obtained from Open Street Map and updated using satellite imagery. Infrastructure sections were drawn using GIS following building and parcel footprints.

SAMPLING

The IGP PI sampling strategy involves collecting representative household samples for the smallest geographical area where summary statistics are available in a given context to draw inferences about its population of interest. In Lebanon, cadastres are the smallest geographical area where population estimates are available. They usually comprise between 10 and 245,000 inhabitants. Mina 3 and Mina Jardins cadastres were chosen as study areas. They allowed us to investigate areas where both low and middle-high income populations reside and better understand the diversity of people in El Mina.

Mina 3 and Mina Jardins cadastres cover 22 out of 29 identified neighbourhoods in El Mina, distributed as follows (**Figure 5**):

- 6 in Mina 3 (Al Mishteh, Hay Al Jumrok, Hay Al Khrab, Mar Elias, Port Said, Terab Al Masihiye).

- 16 in Mina Jardins (Al Maarad, Al Masaken Al Shaabiye, Al Miten, Al Muntada, Al Port, Al Sanawiye, Azmi, Central El Mina,Haret Al Jdide, Hay Al Bawwaba, Hay Al Tanak, Kadisha, Mina Jardins, Port Said, Ras Al Sakher, Tariq El Mina).

PI HH surveys were conducted for representative samples of the household counts of Mina 3 and Mina Jardins, proportionally stratified by nationality (Lebanese and non-Lebanese). The sampling design consists of a two-stage random sample. Different sampling frameswere calculated for Lebanese and non-Lebanese.

The sample size for non-Lebanese was calculated using the same formula but by applying a finite population correction factor that accounted for the smaller population size of non-Lebanese within the area. **Table 1** presents the sampling strategy for El Mina Prosperity Index field and household surveys, with their target number of households, with a +/- 5% margin of error for indicators based on a proportion of respondents at a 95% confidence level. Al Maarad, Al Port, Central El Mina, and Ras Al Sakhr were not sampled as they are mainly areas with few residents.

Sampling is guided by the requirements outlined in the survey specification and followings these fundamental principles:

- Samples must be representative of all persons aged 18 and over (no upper age limit) living within private and non-private households for six months or more in a given country, regardless of their nationality, citizenship, or language.
- Samples must be representative of the smallest geographical area where summary statistics are available. In the case of Lebanon, samples must be representative of cadastres.[1]
- Individuals are selected by random probability methods across areas within selected geographical areas. Enumerators spin a pen as a starting point, given the absence of an accurate line listing of all households, which can be subject to biases. However, the sampled area is relatively small; this helps limit discrepancies. Moreover, citizen scientists follow a strict protocol when approaching selected buildings to further reduce bias.

[1] Post-stratification adjustments will be made for samples to be representative at Caza level to allow for comparison with disaggregated Arab Barometer data.

POPULATION PROFILE

Photo credit : CatalyticAction

In 2016, El Mina had an estimated population of 82,000 inhabitants, the majority of whom were Lebanese (87.9 percent) and lived predominantly in Mina Jardins (31.8 percent) and Mina 2 (27.9 percent) (UN-Habitat 2017). According to 2017 figures, Syrian residents (16.2 percent of El Mina's population) were more heavily concentrated in Mina 3 (60.8 percent) and Mina Jardins (34.8 percent) (UNHCR 2018). On the other hand, Palestinians (3.4 percent) resided entirely in Mina 3 (50.0 percent) and Mina Jardins (50.0 percent) (**Table 2**) (UN-Habitat 2017).

The four cadastres in El Mina have a population density of 21,488 persons/km²; Mina 2 is the most densely populated, with 80,456 persons/km². While population density is not necessarily a positive or negative attribute of an area, a high figure is indicative of pressure on essential social and urban services. For the studied cadastral area of 3.16 km² (Mina 3 and Mina Jardins), we found a relatively low combined density figure of 14,775 persons km². This estimate is lower than the caza figure of 18,995 persons/km²) (UN-Habitat 2017).[2]


Photo credit : Houda Kabbara

Table 2 El Mina population counts, cadastral areas (km²), and densities (persons/km²)

	LEB	SYR	PRL & PRS	ALL POPULATIONS	CADASTRAL AREA (km²)	DENSITY (PERSON/km²)
Total	**72,133**	**4,741**	**5,210**	**82,084**	**3,82**	**21,488**
MINA 1	14,927	205	0	15,135	0,4	37,830
MINA 2	20,107	7	0	20,114	0,25	80,456
MINA 3	14,143	2,881	2,605	19,629	0,45	43,620
MINA JARDINS	72,133	1,648	2,605	27,209	2,72	10,003

Source: UN-Habitat (2017) and UNHCR (2018)

[2] Using a population estimate of 518,565 inhabitants and area of 27.3km².

As seen in **Figure 6**, which illustrates the socioeconomic background and building conditions of El Mina, various socioeconomic groups exist in the city. Lower-income households are clustered in the old city, located in the northern part of Mina 1 and Mina 2, and the informal settlements in Hay Al Tanak and Haret Al Jdide in Mina Jardins. Most of Mina 1, Mina 2, and Mina 3 consist of middle-income households, while the northern part of Mina Jardins consists mainly of upper-income households.

The PI HH survey was conducted for a representative sample, proportionally stratified by nationality, following the comprehensive population count. It used an average household size of 4.4 for Lebanese residents (CAS & ILO 2019) and 4.9 for non-Lebanese residents (UNHCR & UNICEF & WFP 2017).The survey data includes a household count of 1,023 and a resident count of 4,259 the majority of whom were Lebanese (65.0 percent). A higher share of non-Lebanese residents was found in Mina Jardins (64.4 percent) than in Mina 3 (53.2 percent). In 7 out of seventeen surveyed neighbourhoods,[3] the proportion of non-Lebanese in our sample exceeded the total share of 35.0 percent, as displayed in **Figure 7**. For example, in the neighbourhood of Kadisha, the shares of non-Lebanese and Lebanese were at parity; in Mina Jardins, we found the largest share of non-Lebanese residents in our

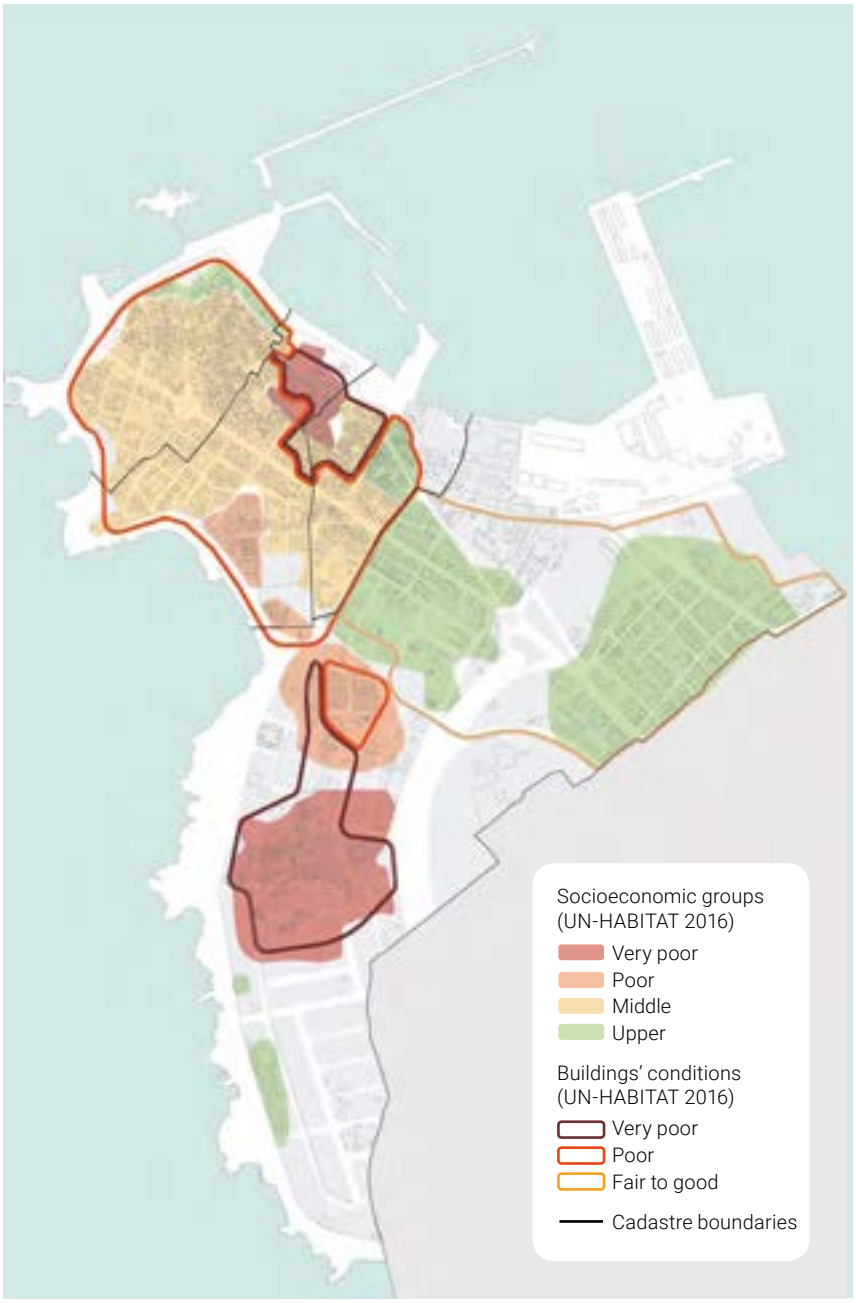


Figure 6 El Mina socioeconomic groups and building conditions

[3] Port Said is one neighbourhood that stretches along Mina 3 and Mina Jardins.

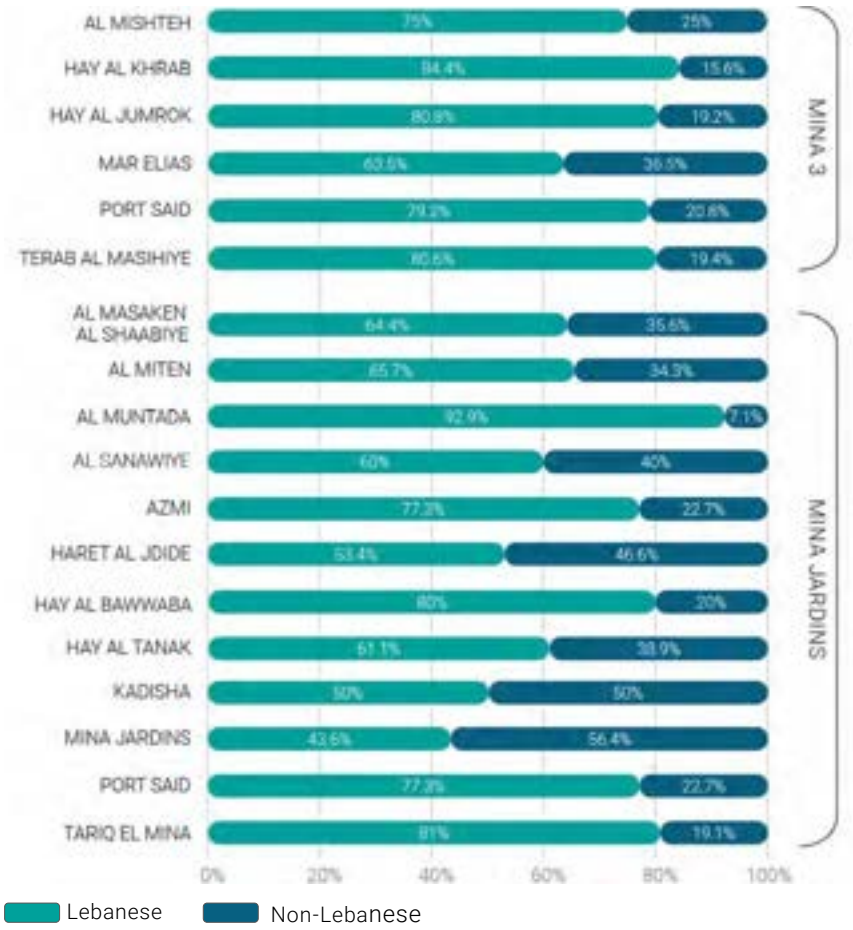


Figure 7 Sampled residents by neighbourhood and nationality

sampled neighbourhoods (56.4 percent).[4] Among non-Lebanese, 78.1 percent reported arriving in or after 2011, suggesting that the area's current demographic profile is shaped mainly by the recent influx of refugees following the Syrian conflict. These cohorts were evenly split between males (50.8 percent and 48.4 percent) and females (49.2 percent and 51.6 percent) for non-Lebanese and Lebanese, respectively.

Regarding age distribution, the largest share of residents in El Mina was found in the age group of 25-64 years (45.1 percent). It was followed by children (0-14 years), who comprised 29.6 percent of the area's all-cohort population – slightly higher than the national share of 24.0 percent (CAS & ILO 2019). The youth (15-24 years) accounted for 17.2 percent of total residents, and the elderly cohort (65 & above) formed a minority of 8.1 percent. It can be seen from the population pyramids graphed

[4] Samples per neighbourhood may not be perfectly indicative of resident nationality shares given the absence of population estimates by neighbourhood. Population estimates by neighbourhood were estimated using an approximated number of residential units per neighbourhood. The data collection process was further impacted by possible population changes in the area, limiting the attainment of the target sample size for non-Lebanese households. These can unfortunately not be confirmed in light of the lack of national statistics.

in **Figure 8** that age distribution diverges between sampled cohorts. Figure 8 shows the 4,259 surveyed men and women in El Mina by different age cohorts. The Lebanese pyramid displays a majority population in the 20–29-year age group. In contrast, the non-Lebanese pyramid is distinctly more youthful (i.e., pyramid-shaped). It indicates a majority population in the 0-9-year age group, suggesting relatively higher birth rates and lower life expectancy among these communities. As a result, the age dependency ratio[5] among non-Lebanese (80.0 percent) exceeds the ratio among Lebanese (51.8 percent) and the corresponding ratio at the national level (61.8 percent) (CAS & ILO 2019).

More than half (59.8 percent) of El Mina residents aged 15 and above reported being married during the survey, and 29.8 percent reported never having been married. In total, 80.2 percent of married residents were in the 25-64 age group, while 11.7 percent were elderly (65 years and above), 7.8 percent were youth (15-24 years), and the rest (0.3 percent) were children (less than 15 years old). Among the youth, 16.3 percent of married residents were between 15 and 18 years old – 12.8 percent of sampled girls

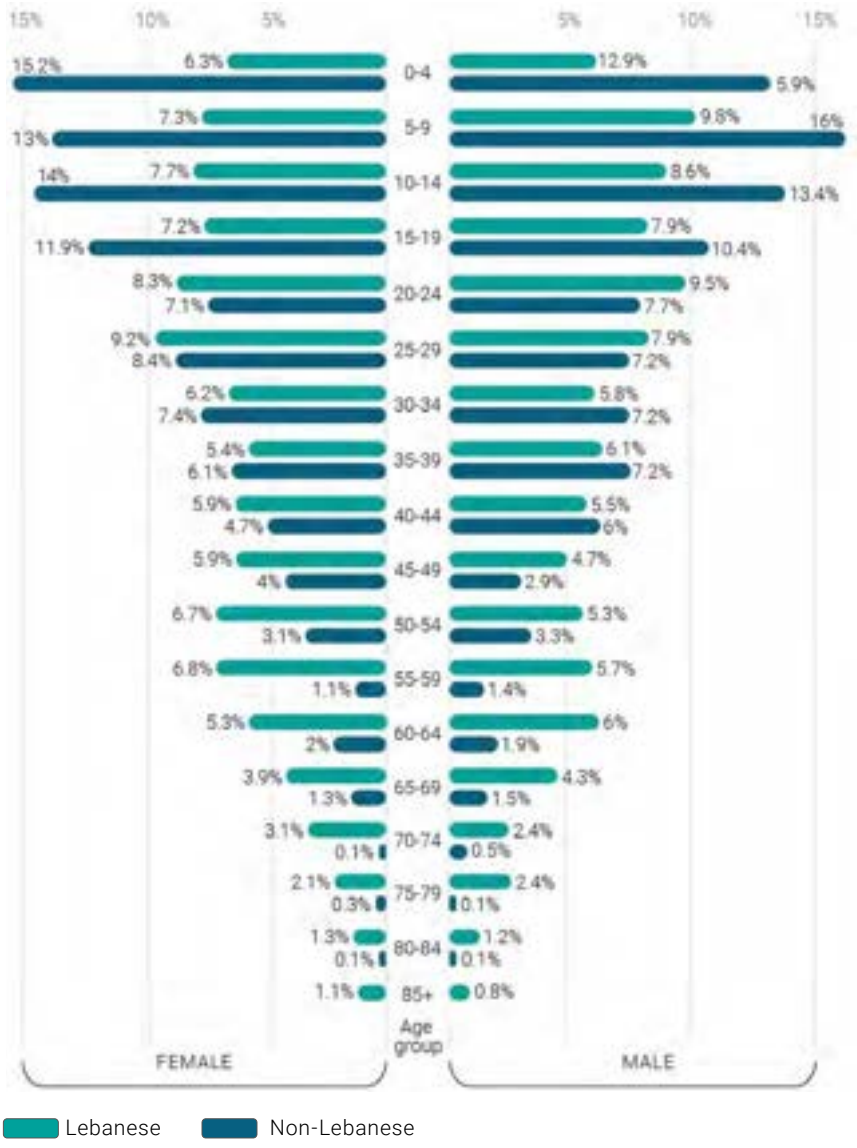


Figure 8 Lebanese and non-Lebanese male and female residents by age

[5] The age dependency ratio is expressed as the total number of dependents in a population – i.e., children (0-14 years) and elderly (65 and above) – to the total number of people in the working-age group (15-64 years).

and 2.1 percent of sampled boys – compared to respective rates of 7.0 percent and 0.4 percent at the national level (CAS & ILO 2019). The share of married adult men (61.6 percent) slightly exceeded the corresponding share of women (58.3 percent). On the other hand, the share of widows and divorcees was higher among women (9.8 percent and 3.8 percent, respectively) than among men (0.9 percent and 1.5 percent, respectively). Only 2.2 percent of total residents gave their status as divorced or separated.

Across neighbourhoods in El Mina, the most common household structure was a family (87.8 percent). Mina Jardins displayed the highest share of households with multiple families living together (10.3 percent), while the share of families with domestic workers was highest in Tariq El Mina (23.8 percent). On the other hand, the proportion of households with students or professionals living together was close to zero (0.1 percent and 0.9 percent, respectively), and the highest shares were observed in Azmi (4.6 percent) for students and Hay el Jumrock (3.9 percent) for professionals.

Households in El Mina were most commonly composed of five individuals (19.8 percent), followed by four (19.4 percent) and three (15.2 percent) individuals. On average, household size stood at 4.2, with non-Lebanese households being bigger on average at 4.9 members, compared to 3.9 members for Lebanese. Both figures surpassed national levels (4.6 for non-Lebanese and 3.7 for Lebanese) (CAS & ILO 2019). Azmi had the smallest average household size among sampled neighbourhoods with 2.4 individuals, while Al Sanawiye had the largest with 5.3 individuals. It was estimated that, overall, 79.0 percent of households were headed by men, while 21.0 percent were female-headed. Males predominated as heads of households across all age groups, but the proportion of female household heads increased with age.

FOUNDATIONS OF PROSPERITY

Photo credit: Maysaa Jallad

CONCEPTUAL OVERVIEW

The following three chapters present some key findings on the "foundational" elements of prosperity in El Mina. They provide insights on livelihoods, infrastructure, and housing. "Foundations of Prosperity" is one of the five domains of IGP's prosperity model. It represents the provisions and conditions that make the lived experience of prosperity possible. The notion of lived experience is crucial here. As Moore and Woodcraft (2019, p.9) point out, in the context of London, there are **"conceptual distinctions people make between the foundations of prosperity (the conditions that support the possibility of a good life) and the actions, practices, and aspirations that constitute the lived experience of prosperity."** This formulation resonates with the notion that prosperity must include a "'foundational economy' of goods and services that improves the collective welfare of local residents," as well as a subjective element of hope and optimism for the future to come (Mintchev et al., 2019, p.111).

The "foundations of prosperity" include the things needed to make the lived experience of prosperity a viable prospect for one's community. However, the weaker the foundations are, the further out of reach prosperity appears to be. In Lebanon, the compounded effects of the liquidity crisis, insufficient infrastructure, the 2020 Beirut port explosion, and COVID-19-related mobility restrictions have all made the notion of prosperity seem removed and disconnected from the lived realities of people across the country. **How can one talk of prosperity when the state of the economy has deprived so many of the opportunity of a decent livelihood? How can one talk about prosperity when so many people cannot access basic services and utilities like clean water or affordable electricity?**

These problems have made it difficult to even talk about prosperity as if there are **no foundations on which it could be imagined and discussed as something within reach**. Recovery efforts in the years to come will need to consider this issue. As Lebanon's recent history has shown, high-end investments for high-income investors may appear as prosperity for some. However, they do not improve the quality of life for most of the country's residents (IMF, 2014). **Jobs, housing, and basic services (energy, water, and waste management, among others), on the other hand, are the foundations on which imagining prosperity as tangible becomes possible**.

Photo credit : CatalyticAction

FOUNDATIONS OF PROSPERITY
LIVELIHOODS

LABOUR FORCE & LOCAL ECONOMY

To illustrate the labour market structure in El Mina, an overview of working-age residents – i.e. the economically active and inactive individuals – is required. The following section covers key labour indicators, providing a comparative assessment of subgroups within the labour market in El Mina. The sample included 2,589 persons in the working-age group (15-64 years),[6] accounting for 60.8 percent of the total sample.[7] Among the working-age group, 72.0 percent are in the labour force as employed (56.8 percent and unemployed (43.2 percent) (**Table 3**). The recorded rate of unemployment exceeds the national rate by 31.8 percentage points and the Tripoli rate by 31.6 percentage points (CAS & ILO, 2019). This situation reflects the rise in unemployment observed throughout the country following the political and financial crisis, which unfolded in August 2019 (FAO, 2020). The remainder of the working-age population, estimated at 28.0 percent, is outside the labour force and mainly consists of residents looking after family or home (85.67 percent), students or trainees (8.33 percent).

The data displays no radical differences in unemployment among Lebanese and non-Lebanese residents. However, the Lebanese are slightly more likely to be active in the labour market (75.02 percent Lebanese vs. 69.22 percent for non-Lebanese) (**Table 3**). Non-Lebanese household heads are mainly in low-skill work (46.4 percent of non-Lebanese workers), including elementary occupations in agriculture and construction. On the other hand, Lebanese household heads are roughly equally distributed across elementary occupations – i.e., low-skill work (19.4 percent), service work (12.7 percent), and professional occupations (11.3 percent). Overall, 23.6 percent and 35.5 percent of Lebanese household heads are employed in high-skilled and medium-skilled occupations, respectively, compared to 10.8 percent and 22.0 percent among non-Lebanese household heads. Given the complementarity of the occupational skill sets, the data shows that the influx of non-Lebanese workers in the El Mina labour market does not significantly threaten the livelihoods of Lebanese residents in the area. The lack of conflict over livelihood opportunities between Syrians and Lebanese could be explained by the fact that the population increase (Syrian and PRS) after the Syrian crisis (2011) was only 8.43% in El Mina compared to 12.95% in Tripoli and 29.48% in Beddaoui (UN-Habitat, 2017).

Table 3 Main labour force indicators by nationality and gender

	Employment rate	Unemployment rate	Activity rate
Total (%)	**56.8**	**43.2**	**72.0**
LEBANESE	**57.7**	**42.2**	**74.9**
Male (%)	**66.4**	**33.6**	**94.2**
Female (%)	**42.0**	**58.0**	**57.4**
Youth (%)	**27.0**	**73.0**	**84.1**
Adult (%)	**67.9**	**32.1**	**71.9**
NON-LEBANESE	**56.5**	**43.5**	**69.2**
Male (%)	**79.8**	**29.2**	**96.5**
Female (%)	**26.4**	**73.6**	**41.3**
Youth (%)	**37.3**	**62.7**	**74.5**
Adult (%)	**69.0**	**30.9**	**66.6**

Note: The employment rate is the proportion of the labour force in employment. The activity rate, or labour force participation rate, is the proportion of the working-age population that is in the labour force/economically-active.

[6] As per the ILO Convention No. 138, the general minimum age for admission to employment is 15. Although the Lebanese labour code sets the minimum working age at 14 years (law 536 of 1996), we adhere to ILO standards for national and regional comparability.

[7] The data in this report covers representative samples of cadastres Mina 3 and Mina Jardins as the two most diverse cadastres in El Mina. Our total sample covers 4,259 residents in 1,023 households. Data was collected between October and December 2020.

As for gender differences, significant disparities exist within all nationality subgroups. The male labour force participation rate exceeds the female rate across both Lebanese (57.44 percent for women vs. 94.24 percent for men) and non-Lebanese (41.3 percent for women vs. 96.47 percent for men) subsamples (**Table 3**). Likewise, Lebanese women are almost twice as likely to be unemployed as their male counterparts. In contrast, non-Lebanese women, who suffer from the highest unemployment rate, are about three times more likely to be unemployed than non-Lebanese men.

The survey results also point to a considerably high unemployment rate among the youth population of 15 to 24 years compared to those over 24 years of age in the working-age group. For Lebanese and non-Lebanese residents, the youth unemployment rate is more than double the adult rate, with the share of jobless youth among Lebanese (72.97 percent) exceeding the share among non-Lebanese (62.69 percent). Although these figures are commonly observed – as the youth experience more significant disadvantages entering the labour market for the first time, youth unemployment in El Mina (69.5 percent) is significantly higher than the national rate (23.3 percent) (CAS & ILO, 2019).

For the employed population in El Mina, differences across sampled subgroups have also been observed in working hours. Overall, an average of 40.8 working hours per week is reported. Every week, men work an average of 8.6 hours more than women, and non-Lebanese work 4.1 more hours on average than Lebanese. An assessment of the distribution of workers by working hours[8] shows that 28.4 percent of workers in El Mina work long hours – more than 48 hours per week. This share is demonstrably higher among men (33.3 percent) than among women (13.3 percent) and non-Lebanese (34.9 percent) than Lebanese (26.0 percent). In this respect, it should be noted that excessive working time is characterised as an "unacceptable" form of work by the ILO's framework of Decent Work and is often indicative of inadequate hourly earnings (ILO, 2008). To capture spatial variations in labour force indicators, we assess employment and activity rates across sampled neighbourhoods (**Figure 9**). The results show no considerable geographic spread in the labour force participation rate relative to the unemployment rate. For example, Al Mundata records the highest activity rate (97.4 percent) – double that of Al Miten (51.9 percent), the neighbourhood with the lowest activity rate. On the other hand, the difference between the lowest unemployment rate (21.4 percent in Al Miten) and the highest (68.4 percent in Al Muntada) is more than three-fold. A closer assessment of the unemployment graphic shows seven neighbourhoods with unemployment

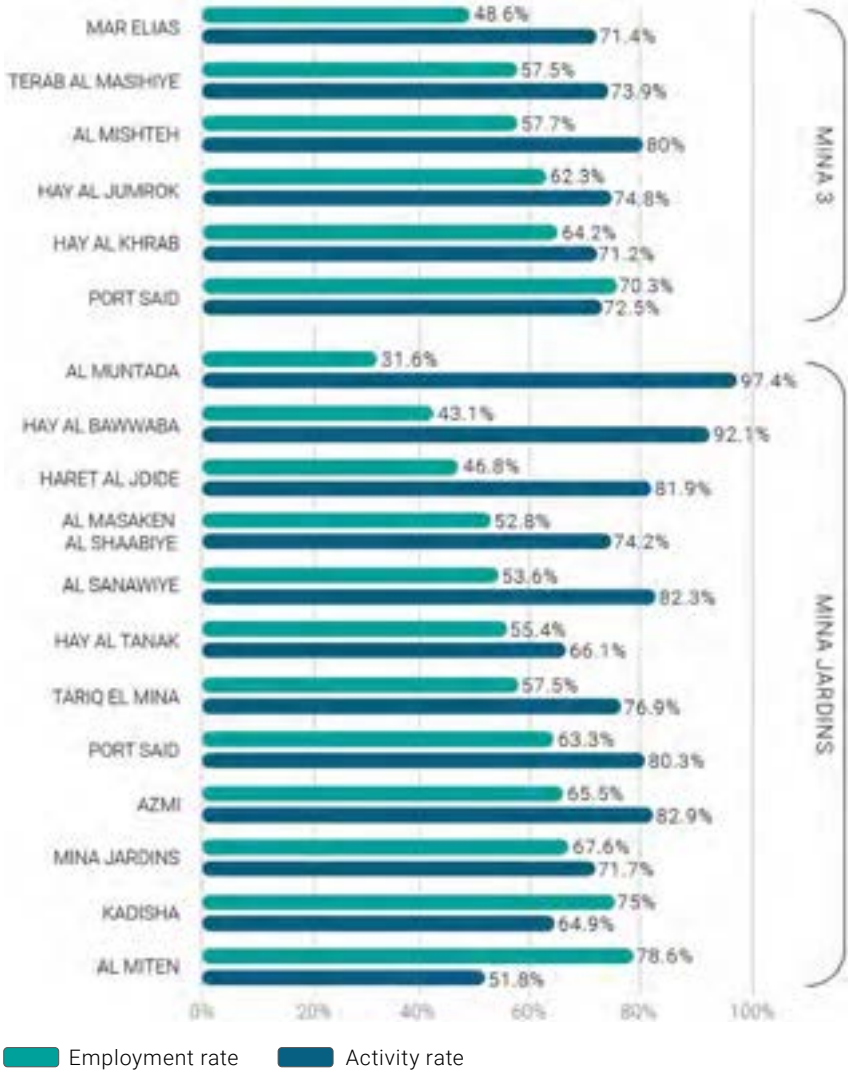


Figure 9 Employment and activity rates by neighbourhoods

[8] As per Article 31 of the Lebanese Labour Code, employers may demand a maximum of 48 weekly working hours from employees, irrespective of age and gender. This applies to all sectors with the exception of agriculture.

rates above the average rate in El Mina (43.2 percent). Five of those form two main geographical clusters, in the south-west of Mina Jardins: Hay Al Tanak and Haret Al Jdide, and in the north-west of Mina Jardins: Al Muntada, Hay Al Bawwaba, and Al Sanawiye.

To assess the local economy in El Mina, we evaluate commercial activities at the building level across sampled neighbourhoods. Commercial activities consist of shops and workshops dispersed across the neighbourhoods but are mainly concentrated in Port Said and Mar Elias. Most of the workers and business owners tend to be inhabitants of the neighbourhood. The enterprises mainly serve locals and cater to customers residing in neighbouring areas such as Tripoli and Jabal Mohsen. At the time of the building surveys, El Mina had a relatively high rate of active businesses compared to the rapid rate of business closures caused by the financial crisis, the COVID-19 pandemic, and blocking streets during anti-government protests (Francis & Dahan, 2021). Shops and workshops in operation make up 32.2 percent of all surveyed ground floor uses. However, the distribution of the neighbourhoods' local economy highlights a consumption-dominated rather than a production-oriented nature. For instance, buildings with shops on the ground floor constitute 27.3 percent of the studied neighbourhoods' ground floor uses, while those with workshops only comprise 4.8 percent. In total, shops at the ground-floor level exceed the number of workshops by more than sevenfold.


Photo credit : Aya Ashram

The most common types of shops are food and grocery stores (36.1 percent). They are followed by restaurants and cafés (20.4 percent), furniture shops (12.9 percent), beauty salons, mobile phone and electronics shops, tool shops (such as construction materials and hardware), boutiques, bakeries, electrical household appliances, offices, butcher shops, storage shops, pharmacies, banks, carpet shops, financial services stores, gyms, gaming shops, jewellery shops, bookstores, and laundrettes. Carpentries (46.2 percent) represent the highest percentage of workshops, followed by mechanics (30.8 percent) and metal works (19.2 percent). The data shows a clear spatial distribution pattern of both shops and workshops. Almost all workshops are concentrated in Kadisha, Hay Al Bawwaba, Port Said, and Mar Elias, except for one mechanic located in Hay Al Tanak. As for shops, most furniture stores are located in Port Said, whereas food and grocery stores, restaurants and cafés, and bakeries are mainly in Mar Elias. Fisheries are also an essential part of El Mina's enterprises, most notably the fish markets on the Corniche and next to Khan El Tamathili. However, these fell outside our sampling areas and were not recorded in our sample.

FULFILLING WORK & SECURE EMPLOYMENT

Any exploration of fulfilling work in El Mina must be set in the context of the severe unemployment rates experienced during the prolonged economic crisis that Lebanon has been going through since August 2019. Theoretically, the notion of fulfilling work or job satisfaction was used to gauge occupational wellbeing. However, it evolved to accommodate a multi-dimensional construct with different variables that enable the establishment of a flexible and highly qualified workforce (Fasang et al., 2007). According to basic economic theory, income and working hours are key factors in determining job satisfaction that rise with the former and decline with the latter. Research also demonstrated that a high degree of job satisfaction is more correlated with non-monetary benefits than financial rewards. These benefits fall into roughly three categories. They are "satisfaction with objective work arrangements" (comprising satisfaction with salary, contract, and hours worked), "satisfaction with the quality of position" (comprising satisfaction with training opportunities, career prospects, and job content), and "satisfaction with combining work and private life" (including satisfaction with commuting time, colleagues, and work-life balance) (Fasang et al., 2007).

Our findings suggest that the labour market in El Mina has weakened markedly due to the strain caused by the liquidity crisis, which has prevented many fulfilling work. Based on the household survey, 66 percent of Lebanese and 76.2 percent of the non-Lebanese working-age population reported dissatisfaction with their salaries and benefits of their current primary job (**Table 4**). The general economic situation in Lebanon exerted significant downward pressure on salaries, increasing the strain on household budgets. In addition, Females have a higher dissatisfaction rate from income and work benefits (72.6 percent) than their male counterparts (64.4 percent). Another integral aspect of fulfilling work is access to professional development and promotion. 73.7 percent of Lebanese and 79.3 percent of non-Lebanese employees believe that their current job does not offer good opportunities for career progression. This rate is higher amongst females (85.2 percent for non-Lebanese and 76.4 percent for Lebanese) than males (73 percent for non-Lebanese and 69.7 percent for Lebanese) and among Lebanese adults (25-63) (75.2 percent) than Lebanese youth under 24 years old (62.1 percent).

As noted in the FGDs, being over-qualified and not working in one's field of study adds more stress on those whose skills do not match their current roles. Most FGD participants failed to find jobs due to limited labour market opportunities in their chosen field of study. Many of those expressed their desire to work independently and start their own businesses.

Both Lebanese and non-Lebanese FGD participants referred to informal methods to find jobs, such as having family connections in the workplace, linked to nepotism and favouritism (Kherfi et al., 2018). Most participants reported that they rarely fill in job applications and send CVs online. They also mentioned that bribes and connections are essential to obtain a suitable job. Daleel Madani was the most common internet platform for recruitment among participants who applied for jobs online.

In the FGDs, 17 out of 31 participants reported being offered the opportunity to participate in workshops and training. They are offered mainly by NGOs, and only a few are at the workplace. Training is conducted on different topics ranging from software to cell phone maintenance to humanitarian and social affairs, embroidery and art, dental assistance, elderly care, and English literacy. Participants seek to receive practical training to help improve the way they work, find a job in their field of interest, or obtain support in opening their own business. Flexibility in work arrange-ment was the final factor raised during FGDs and was thought to impact job quality and work satisfaction significantly.

Table 4 Dissatisfaction of employees with salary and opportunities for professional development by nationality and gender

	Salary and benefits of current primary job	Opportunities for professional development/ promotion
LEBANESE	**66.0**	**73.7**
Male (%)	**61.2**	**69.7**
Female (%)	**69.3**	**76.4**
Youth (%)	**67.4**	**62.1**
Adult (%)	**67.4**	**75.2**
NON-LEBANESE	**76.2**	**79.3**
Male (%)	**70.8**	**73.0**
Female (%)	**81.2**	**85.2**
Youth (%)	**75.0**	**79.2**
Adult (%)	**76.1**	**79.7**

However, 10 out of 31 participants in the FGDs did not have flexible work arrangements such as flexible working hours, mode of work (remote or in-office), and workdays. They were mainly Lebanese and non-Lebanese men who have a hard time managing work and non-work responsibilities. Lack of flexibility was detrimental to work pressure, mental health, and productivity due to the inability to balance work and personal needs.

INCOME & FINANCIAL WELLBEING

In El Mina, the estimated average monthly income[9] stands at 1,905,921 LBP, with significant discrepancies between Lebanese (2,296,560 LBP) and non-Lebanese households (1,006,168 LBP) **Figure 10**). Given an average household size of 4 members, an average monthly income of 1,905,921 LBP corresponds to about 16,000 LBP per household member per day. At the survey time, with a black-market rate of 8,000 LBP/USD, this was equivalent to less than 2 USD daily, barely sufficient to meet food needs (Lira Rate, 2021).

Overall, the proportion of households earning below the set minimum wage of 675,000 LBP stands at 41.2 percent. The share of non-Lebanese earning below the minimum wage (59.4 percent) was almost double that among Lebanese (33.3 percent). Household income is skewed towards lower-income brackets among non-Lebanese households and is left-skewed among Lebanese households. The lowest two income brackets make up 33.1 percent of Lebanese and 59.0 percent of non-Lebanese incomes. At the other end of the distribution, the two highest brackets account for 49.3 percent of total Lebanese incomes and 18.4 percent of non-Lebanese incomes (**Figure 10**).

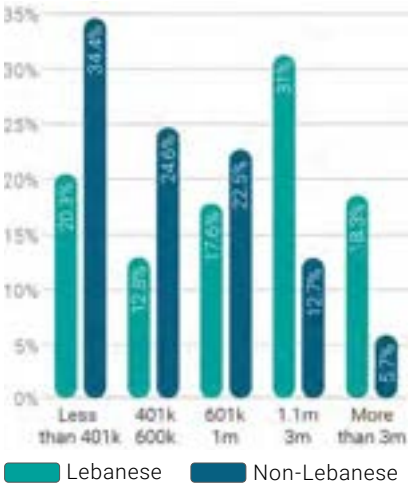


Figure 10 Income distribution by nationality

The primary sources of income for most households are waged labour (44.9 percent), self-employment (36.6 percent), and remittances (15.9 percent). Remittances are highest among households in the top income quintiles, making up 23.9 percent of their earnings. A few households (8.7 percent) – all of which fall below the median income – also benefit from assistance/aid from humanitarian organisations. Due to their residency status, Lebanese nationals tend to have more stable income sources than non-Lebanese residents. For instance, Lebanese are almost twice as likely to cite remittances as a primary income source. They are also less likely to depend on debt (5.5 percent for Lebanese and 11.7 percent for non-Lebanese) and considerably less likely to rely on assistance from humanitarian organisations (4.2 percent for Lebanese and 19.1 percent for non-Lebanese).

Given such income differentials, it is reasonable to expect that current economic challenges have disproportionately affected subpopulations in El Mina. To capture these discrepancies, we assess reported changes in income since October 2019 across different subgroups (household head

[9] Most households receive their income in Lebanese pounds (96.9 percent), and the remaining (3.1 percent) have dollar-denominated earnings.

nationality, gender, age group, contract type, and monthly income) (**Table 5**). For this question, respondents were asked to indicate changes in income since October 2019 on a Likert scale ranging from 1 (decreased a lot) to 5 (increased a lot). The data shows that the vast majority of respondents (83.8 percent) report reductions in household income compared to the period before October 2019. The reduction was unanimously reported by Lebanese and non-Lebanese households and male and female-headed households. Lebanese and male-headed households fared slightly better than their counterparts. Respondents were also better off in households headed by older residents and where the household head was employed with written (72.1 percent) and oral agreements (56.1 percent) rather than no agreements (87.6 percent). Similarly, while most respondents across the income distribution have reported relative reductions in income level, those in the highest quintile are slightly better off.

Table 5 Reported changes in income since October 2019

	DECREASED A LOT (%)	REMAINED THE SAME (%)	INCREASED (%)	SAMPLE SIZE
Total	**83.8**	**14.2**	**2.1**	**1,018**
NATIONALITY				
Lebanese	**83.4**	**15.1**	**1.5**	**710**
Non-lebanese	**84.7**	**12.0**	**3.2**	**308**
HOUSEHOLD HEAD GENDER				
Male	**83.0**	**14.8**	**2.1**	**796**
Female	**86.3**	**12.3**	**1.4**	**212**
HOUSEHOLD HEAD AGE GROUP				
25-35	**87.3**	**7.8**	**4.8**	**166**
35-44	**87.8**	**10.9**	**1.3**	**229**
45-54	**85.9**	**12.5**	**1.6**	**192**
55-64	**82.3**	**16.0**	**1.7**	**181**
64+	**79.0**	**19.9**	**1.1**	**181**
HOUSEHOLD HEAD CONTRACT TYPE				
Written agreement	**72.1**	**22.5**	**5.4**	**129**
Oral agreement	**56.1**	**36.8**	**7.0**	**825**
None	**87.6**	**11.2**	**1.2**	**57**
HOUSEHOLD HEAD MONTHLY INCOME (LBP)				
Less than 401k	**92.4**	**6.6**	**1.0**	**198**
401k-600k	**84.8**	**12.9**	**2.3**	**132**
601k-1m	**88.3**	**11.0**	**0.6**	**154**
1.1m-3m	**78.5**	**20.0**	**1.5**	**205**
More than 3m	**58.3**	**32.2**	**9.6**	**115**

Note: Respondents were asked to indicate changes in income since October 2019 on a Likert scale ranging from 1 (decreased a lot) to 5 (increased a lot). Question options were recoded to a 3-point scale as reported in the table.

As such, the current economic situation has impacted the financial well-being of households at every income level, albeit more so for lower-income households, and residents are increasingly struggling to cover costs as a result. **Figure 9** shows the percentage of households reporting difficulty covering expenses by income group and nationality. Overall, 47.4 percent of households, representing all income levels, report such difficulties. These problems are more highly concentrated among lower-income households earning up to 600,000 LBP monthly but are nonetheless pronounced among top-income quintiles, as displayed in **Figure 11**. Even households whose income has reportedly remained stable after October 2019 are struggling, as 61.1 percent of respondents face difficulties coverin costs. Such struggles are more widespread among non-Lebanese residents, reflecting the higher prevalence of low-income households among these communities.

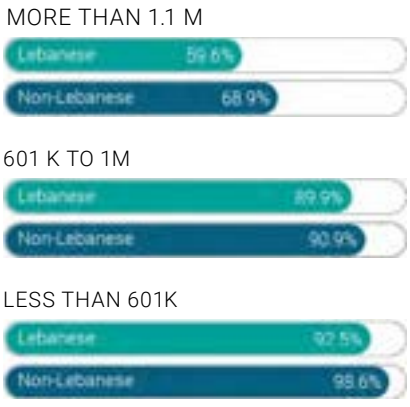


Figure 11 Difficulty covering expenses by income group and nationality

To cope with financial difficulties, households across the entire income spectrum have deployed financial coping strategies such as borrowing money. In total, 44.7 percent of respondents in El Mina have borrowed money in the past year. However, a higher proportion of non-Lebanese (63.4 percent) than Lebanese (36.7 percent) have reported borrowing. Although the share of Lebanese taking on debt is relatively low compared to the national rate (42.0 percent), the percentage among non-Lebanese, precisely

Syrian households, is found to be more severe (67.4 percent) compared to the national rate (61.0 percent) (WFP, 2020).[10]

With escalating food prices and reductions in purchasing power, most households resort to borrowing to cover food expenses (68.5 percent). The shrinking access to food is also reflected in households' insufficient nutritional intake, reportedly occurring "often" by 21.7 percent of Lebanese and 46.6 percent of non-Lebanese households. Rising prices, diminished livelihood opportunities, and food insecurities have led to harmful financial coping mechanisms.

In addition to debt, children were involved in income generation as an adopted strategy. In El Mina, there are 942 sampled children[11] between 5 and 17. Among them, 4.7 percent are working – 31.7 percent are Lebanese, and 68.3 percent are non-Lebanese. For those in the 5-14 age group, 32 children (3.8 percent of total) – 9 Lebanese (2.1 percent) and 23 non-Lebanese (5.8 percent) – are engaged in income-generating activities, with 46.9 percent in total below the age of 12. Within this age group (5-14), 23.6 percent do not attend school and are therefore at risk of working. Among those, 14.1 percent withdrew to attempt to enter the labour market. For children between 15 and 17, the rate of child labour stands at 12.3 percent – 8.5 percent among Lebanese and 19.2 percent among non-Lebanese. The majority (67.0 percent) of residents in this age group also reported looking for work at the survey time, and 54.7 percent did not attend school.

LEGAL LEGISLATION & REGISTRATION

The legislative framework determines the formal or informal integration of Lebanese and non-Lebanese workers in the labour market. Contributing to social security is a crucial informality indicator for both Lebanese and non-Lebanese employees. Unfortunately, poor enforcement has led many employers to deny their eligible workers the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) registration, the only manner of informing the government of the work relationship between employers and employees in Lebanon. Foreign workers registered with NSSF can only benefit from its services if their country of origin applies the principle of "reciprocity" with Lebanese workers.[12]
Officially, only four countries meet this criterion: France, Belgium, the UK, and Italy (Tabar et al., 2020). Even if they obtain registration at NSSF, Syrians do not benefit from its services, and Palestinians from Lebanon only benefit from end of service benefits (Saghieh & Nammour, 2017).


Photo credit : Aya Ashram

[10] While the WFP (2020) asked about debt in the last 30 days, the PI HH survey asked about debt in the last 12 months.

[11] The ILO Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182), and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child define a child as an individual who has not yet completed his or her 18th year of age. The ILO Convention No. 138 calls on Member States to set a minimum age for employment, on condition that it does not fall behind the age of compulsory schooling and is not set below the age of 15. Only countries with insufficiently developed economies and school facilities may set the minimum working-age at 14. Lebanon ratified the Convention No. 138 in 2003, and the law 536 (1996) sets the minimum working age at 14, up from 8, in the labour code of 1946 in compliance with Convention No. 138. For comparative purposes, we present the findings above using the standard ILO age groups (5 to 11, 12 to 14, and 15 to 17 years). The appendix provides further estimates for age groups 5 to 11, 12 to 13, and 14 to 17 years given a set minimum age for work of 14 years in Lebanon.

[12] Article 5 of the Enrolment and Registration System of the NSSF.

Survey results show that among those who are employed in El Mina, only 27.9 percent are provided with social protection, 23.87 percent have social security through their employers, and 4.06 percent obtain social security through a family member. Non-Lebanese workers are overwhelmingly more likely to work informally, with only 1 percent reporting social security coverage through employers, compared to 33.5 percent among Lebanese. Gender differences show that men are more likely to be informally employed, as more than one-third (34.6 percent) of women receive social protection compared to 20.3 percent of men.

Holding a right to work is another indicator of non-Lebanese workers' ability to access the formal labour market. Foreign workers wishing to work in Lebanon formally must obtain prior approval from the Ministry of Labour and a work permit issued by the General Security renewable yearly (Saghieh & Nammour, 2017). Work permits come at a cost for all foreign workers except for Palestinian refugees living in Lebanon. However, even at no cost, obliging them to obtain work permits augments the authorities' ability to obstruct or deny them formal work. Palestinian refugees who are denied renewal of their previous work permits lose their right to receive end of service benefits. Despite liberating Palestinian workers from the reciprocity condition, legislation has still deprived them of benefits attributed to Lebanese workers.

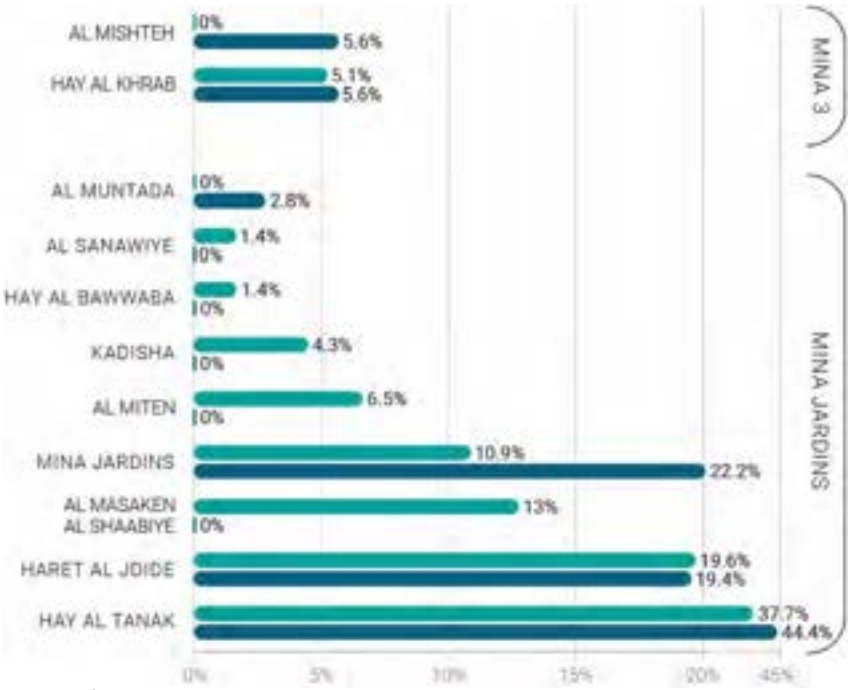
Non-Lebanese male and youth FGD respondents frequently pointed out the difficulty of obtaining work permits. The Ministry of Labour has grown stricter with time in granting Syrian refugees work permits to make it harder for them to stay in Lebanon (Abi Khalil & Valentina, 2015). The situation has forced many Syrians to work informally and exposed them to workplace abuse. It also forced them into hiding or moving out of sight when regulators check places of work and exposed them to arbitrary termination of employment, being disrespected by employers, and being unpaid for overtime work. One participant from the non-Lebanese male FGDs stated that he continuously tried to get a work permit to open his own business. However, he failed due to the hefty price, which remains a hindrance. He said:

"They told me at the general security that aside from having a kafil (sponsor) I must own a property and have more than $70,000 in my bank account so that I am considered an investor. This is impossible. No one has that amount of money…".

FOUNDATIONS OF PROSPERITY
INFRASTRUCTURE

DOMESTIC WATER

El Mina is supplied with running and potable water by the North Lebanon Water Establishment, which provides good quality treated water to most urban areas in Tripoli (CISP & UNHCR, 2014). Lebanese and non-Lebanese male FGDs with residents of El Mina revealed, however, the discontent of residents over the deteriorating quality of publicly supplied water. The decline in quality can be attributed to contaminated reservoirs where water gets stored after transmission from the main source (CISP & UNHCR, 2014). Contaminated water forces residents to depend on other alternatives, such as purchasing bottled water which is of good quality but often over-priced. Building survey findings show that the state supply of drinkable water at street level reaches only 74.3 percent of sampled buildings. In Mina 3 and Mina Jardins, the unavailability of running and drinkable water is concentrated in Haret Al Jdide (19.4 and 19.6 percent respectively) and the informal settlement of Hay el Tanak (44.4 and 37.7 percent respectively) (**Figure 12**). While only 16.9 percent of sampled households drink salty and untreated water piped into their dwellings, 12.9 percent use the public tap, and 63.8 percent purchase bottled drinking water. Among those who do not purchase bottled water, the majority (63.2 percent) do not adopt any water treatment methods. Only 13.7 percent add bleach/chlorine, 7.3 percent boil the water, and 6.8 percent report using water filters for purification.



Note: The following neighbourhoods are not represented as they don't have potable and running water supply availability issues: Azmi, Hay Al Jumrok, Mar Elias, Port Said, Terab Al Masihiye and Tariq El Mina.

Potable water supply unavailable
Running water supply unavailable

Figure 12 Availability of potable and running water supply

Photo credit: Aya Ashram

Like potable water, the domestic water supply system is imbalanced and faces several problems. Although most buildings are connected to the public water network (93.3 percent), publicly supplied domestic water in El Mina is intermittent. Residents depend on a myriad of alternative sources to overcome water shortage.

Some residents acquire water cisterns; others have dug underground wells as an alternative water source and mainly pay for the operation and maintenance of their water pump. These numbers are exceptionally high in Mina Jardins (100.0 percent), Tariq El Mina (93.3 percent), Kadisha (87.5 percent), and Al Masaken Al Shaabiye (83.3 percent) (**Figure 13**). In addition to the management of water resources, water availability is linked to the bad condition of water pipes connected to the buildings, as 13.2 and 12.8 percent of buildings have minor and major defects in their connection, respectively. A significant number of buildings, amounting to 11.9 percent, require immediate replacement of pipes, mainly in Hay El Tanak (75.5 percent). Household survey data also indicates a correlation between the condition of water network connection and the age of buildings on the one hand and the structural building condition on the other. Buildings with highly precarious or potentially life-threatening structural or architectural elements need major repair (49.3 percent) or emergency intervention (86.1 percent) for their water connection.

Only half of sampled respondents (50.2 percent) were subscribed to the Water Establishment. Among those, 7.1 percent did not pay their yearly costs the year before this research was conducted. Some FGDs participants mentioned that they refuse to register with the North Water Establishment due to the high one-time registration costs and the yearly bill. At the time of the household survey, most sampled residents (70.6 percent) paid between LBP 100,000 and LBP 500,999[13] for public (both domestic and piped potable) and private (from private water tankers) water.

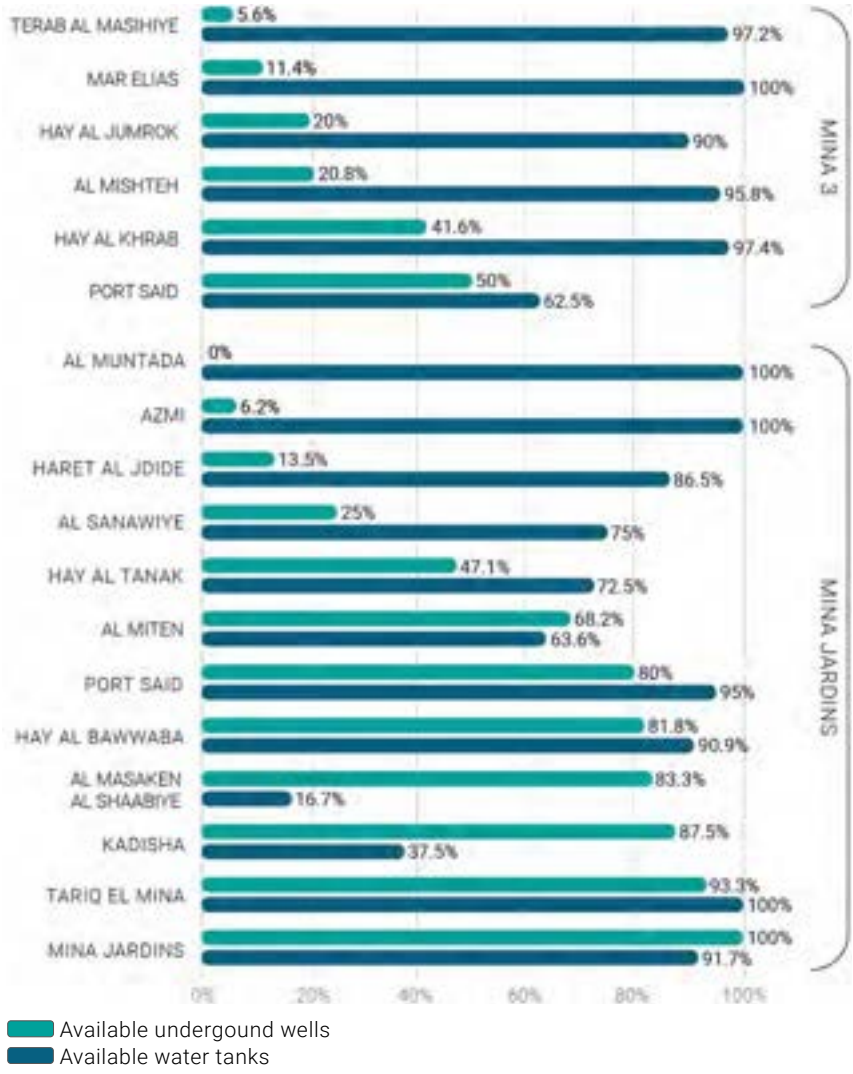


Figure 13 Available water tanks and underground wells in El Mina neighbourhoods

WASTEWATER

Similar to Tripoli, the existing wastewater collection system in El Mina does not cover the entire city, and sewer pipes are inadequate despite several improvement interventions (UN-Habitat, 2017). Although completed in 2009, Tripoli's wastewater treatment plant is not yet operational due to the weak incoming connections that make it difficult to pump wastewater to the plant (UN-Habitat, 2017). In addition, this wastewater treatment plant only had about 10,000 connected inhabitants in 2018 in the city of Tripoli (EIB, 2018; Naja & Volesky, 2013; Salloum, 2017), leaving untreated wastewater to be discharged directly into the sea of El Mina, damaging the environment and the local fishing industry.

[13] The LBP to dollar rate was around 8,000 Lebanese Pounds at the time of data collection (July and August 2020) (Lira Rate, 2021).

Findings show that 72.0 percent of households in El Mina are connected to the wastewater network. An assessment of the connections to the wastewater network suggests that 56.9 percent of buildings require routine maintenance, 12.6 percent have minor defects in their connections, 13.2 percent have significant defects, and 10.0 percent need emergency replacement and attention. The highest percentage of buildings needing major repair or emergency intervention to their wastewater networks are concentrated in Hay Al Tanak neighbourhood (40.8 percent and 72.2 percent, respectively) (**Figure 14**). At street level, an assessment of the wastewater network condition shows that 45.0 percent of the sewage network is malfunctioning, contributing to sewerflood-prone areas. The highest percentage of malfunctioning sewage networks was recorded in Hay Al Tanak (22.1 percent), confirming the dire living conditions of the neighbourhood's residents (**Figure 15**).

Informal wastewater systems in El Mina develop the same way as the water distribution systems. Areas that are not connected to the sewage network or lack wastewater collection or sewage treatment use informal wastewater solutions, such as illegal connections to the formal sewage system. The most common informal wastewater solution in El Mina is septic tanks that need to be regularly emptied by dislodging tankers; 15.9 percent of households resort to this method. Other households (12.1 percent) have sanitary pits installed, posing a significant threat to underground water quality due to improper discharge of wastewater. Other findings show that 26.6 percent of buildings connected to sanitary pits require routine maintenance, 5.4 percent have minor defects, 9.5 percent have major defects, and 10.0 percent need emergency replacement and attention. Buildings needing major repair or emergency intervention for their sanitary pits are mainly concentrated in Hay Al Tanak (68.6 percent and 79.6 percent, respectively) (**Figure 16**). The situation exposes the community of this informal settlement to waterborne diseases.

STORMWATER

As commonly found in Lebanon, stormwater and wastewater networks are combined in El Mina, flooding streets with sewage-contaminated water during heavy rainfall. The problem is present in Mina 3 and Mina Jardins but particularly significant in Hay Al Tanak (**Figure 17**). The neighbourhood has a poor stormwater network that is drained through channels and sanitary pits dug by the residents, which has been observed to cause significant negative impacts on buildings and road structures, mainly due to accumulated garbage in the channels in summer. In addition, a high percentage of buildings in Hay El Tanak (74.7 percent) have malfunctioning connections to the stormwater network, causing localised flooding (**Figure 17**).

On the other hand, most of the buildings in Mar Elias and Hay Al Khrab (16.0 percent and 20.2 percent) have functional connections to the network. In Mina 3, these buildings are dispersed across the cadastre and concentrated in the neighbourhoods of Port Said, Al Sanawiye, Al Muntada, Azmi, and Tariq El Mina in Mina Jardins (**Figure 17**).

Moreover, streets with functional stormwater drains are mainly con-centrated in Hay Al Khrab (21.7 percent) and Terab Al Masihiye (23.3 percent) (**Figure 18**). However, most streets lack stormwater drains based on visual inspection and asking El Mina residents. Few means of drainage are present in Hay Al Tanak (22.4 percent) and Hay Al Khrab (11.5 percent), causing stormwater overflow in these neighbourhoods (**Figure 18**). In addition, some channels or rainwater gutters are clogged across the cadastres, especially downstream, due to litter accumulation.


Photo credit : CatalyticAction

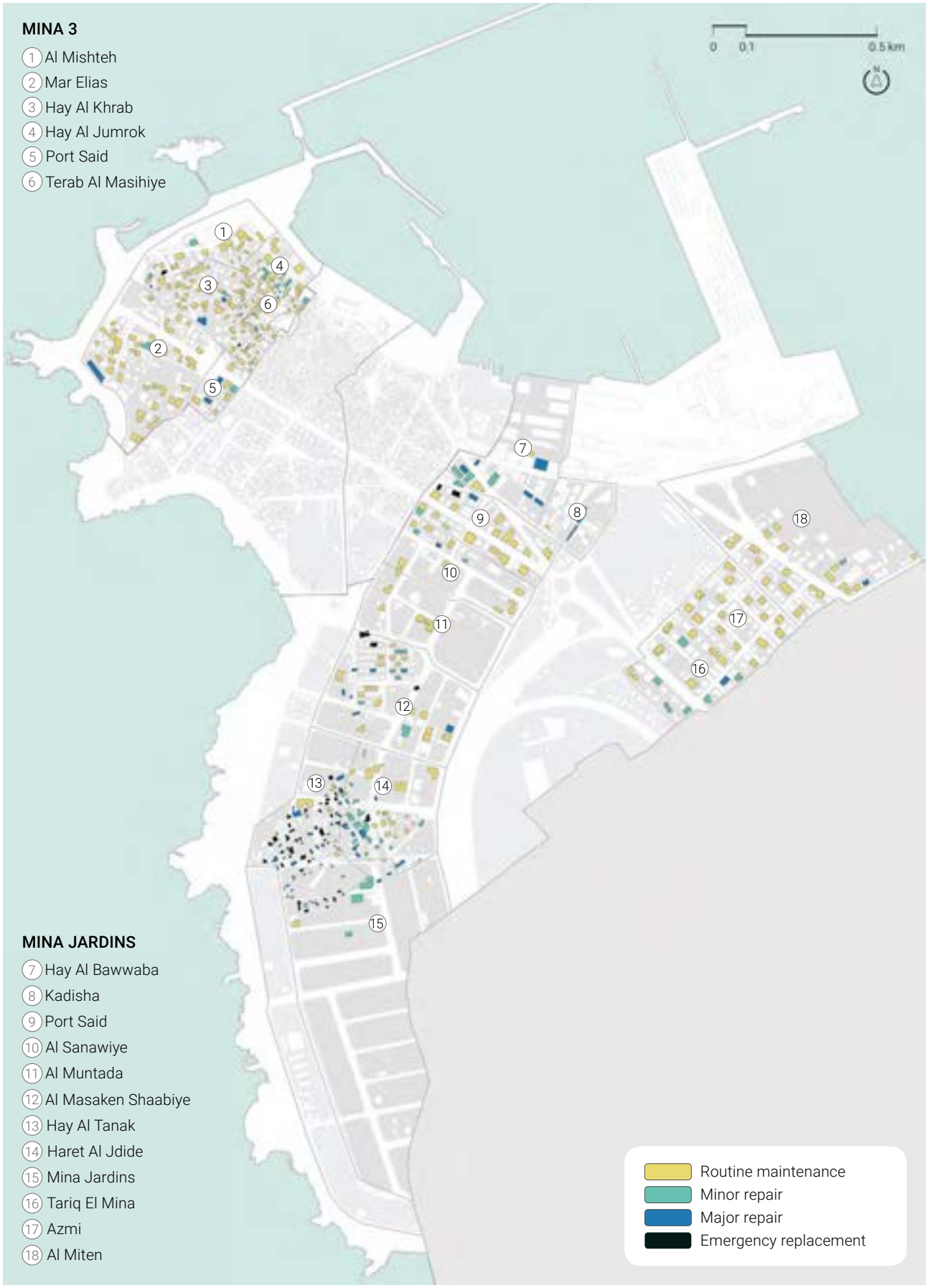


Figure 14 Condition of buildings' connection to wastewater networks

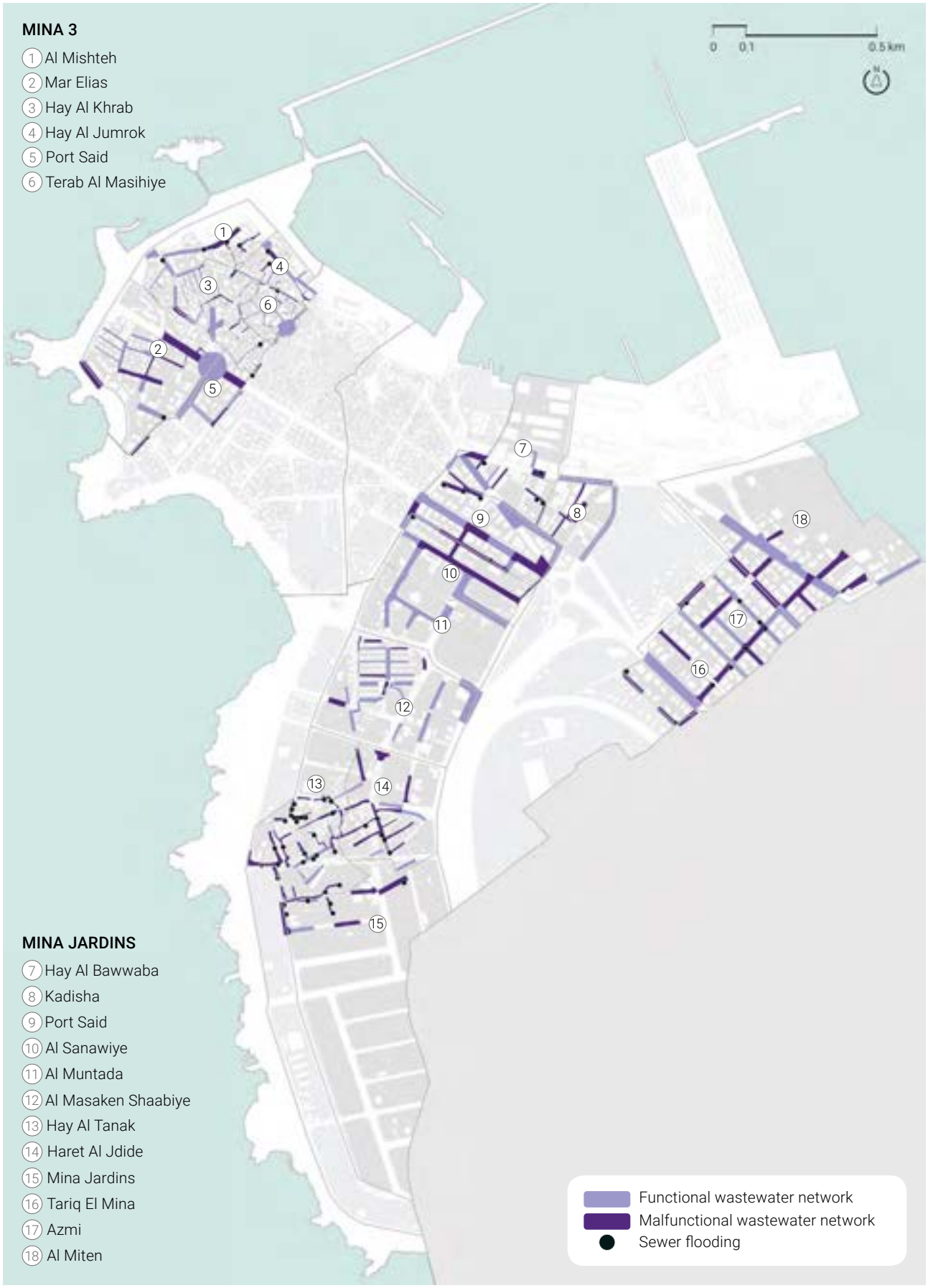


Figure 15 Street mapping of wastewater network

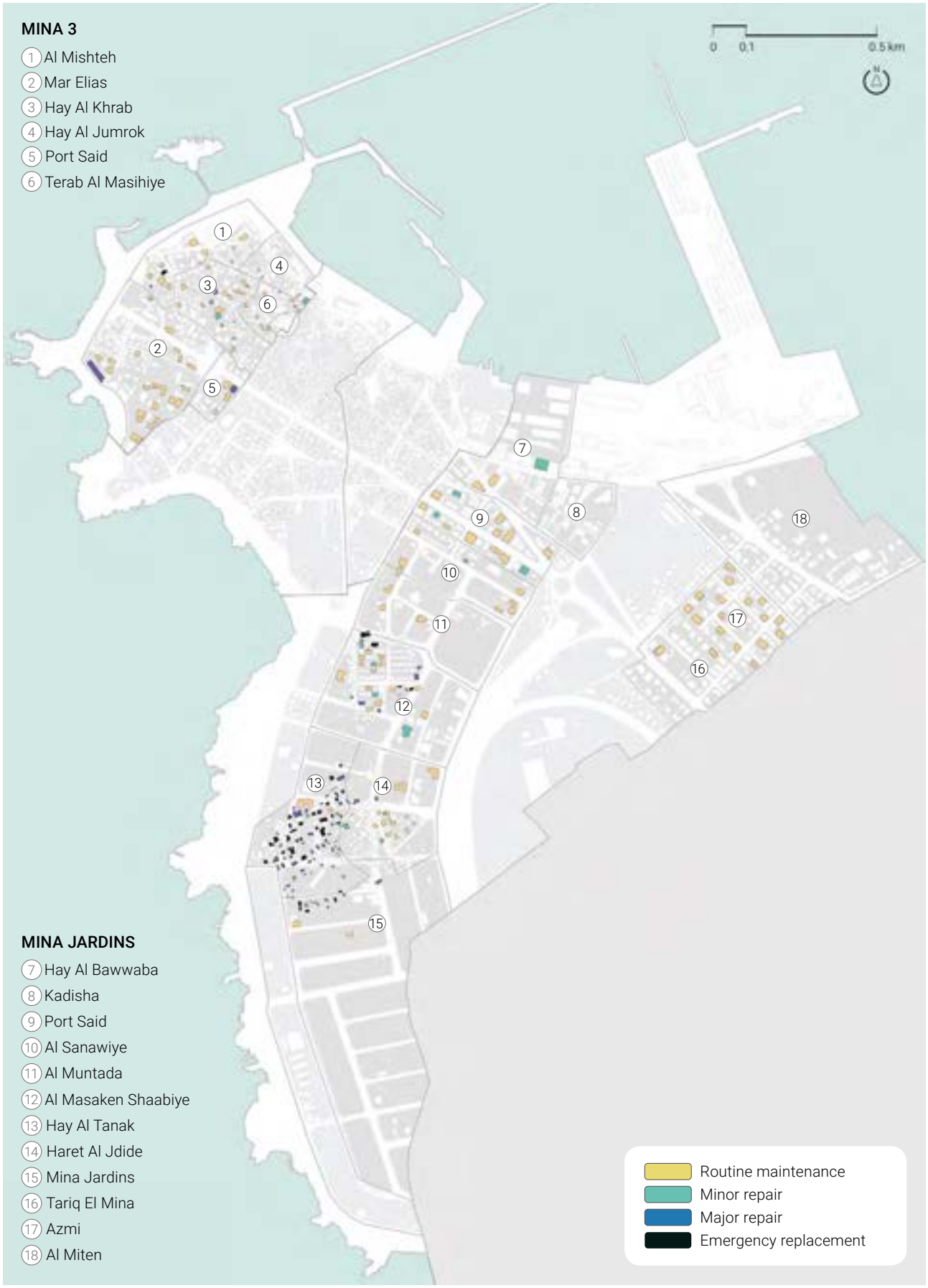


Figure 16 Condition of buildings' connection to sanitary pits

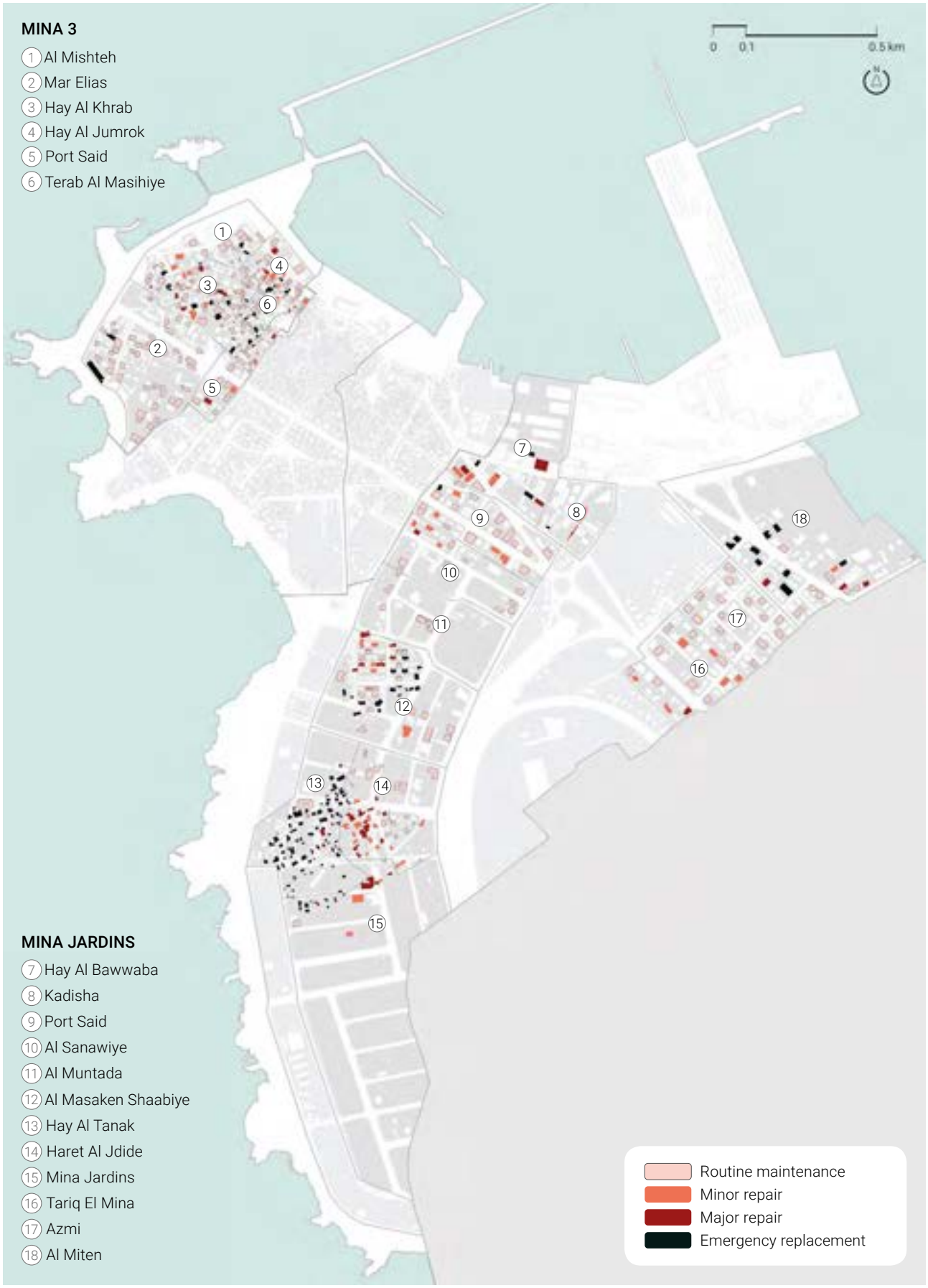


Figure 17 Condition of buildings' connection to stormwater

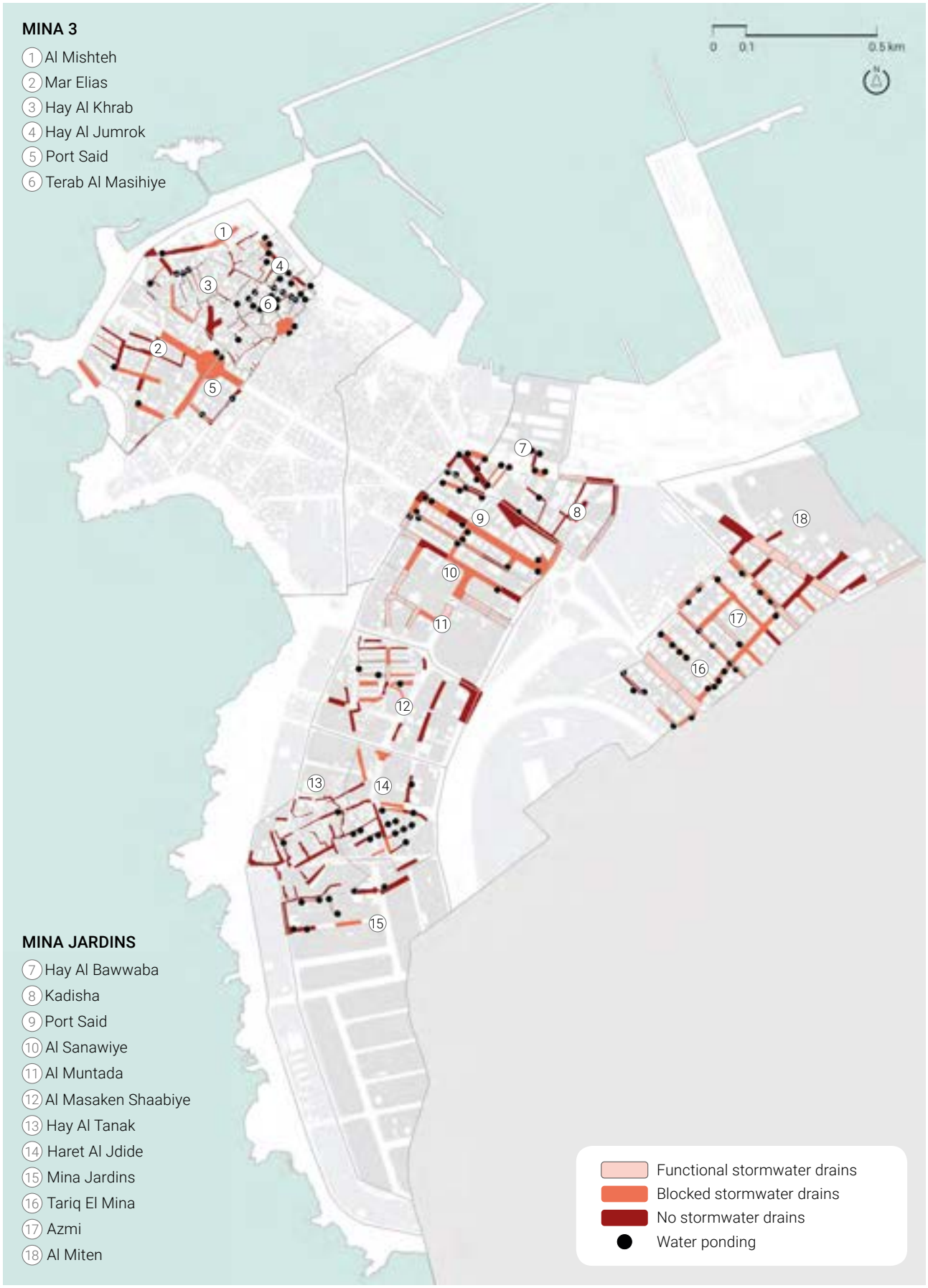


Figure 18 Street mapping of stormwater network

SOLID WASTE

A private company collects El Mina's solid waste under the municipality's management. This company is only responsible for collecting and dumping solid waste in a landfill on the city's outskirts (Maassarani et al., 2020). Solid waste in El Mina and Tripoli mainly constitutes domestic waste, with around 90.0 percent of the collected waste from households. The remaining waste accumulates in the streets, including industrial and agricultural waste and leftovers from poultry and slaughterhouses (UN-Habitat, 2017). Thus, a post-sorting system, currently missing in the city, is necessary to tackle the waste crisis.

Most of the streets in El Mina (52.8 percent) have a limited garbage collection system, especially in the neighbourhoods of Hay Al Khrab and Hay Al Jumrok, where streets are too narrow for a garbage collection truck to pass. Hence, residents throw their garbage in the dumpsters on their outskirts (**Figure 19**). Similarly, many streets in Haret Al Jdide, Hay Al Tanak, and Mina Jardins neighbourhood (21.2 percent) have no garbage collection (**Figure 19**). The situation is observed chiefly in Haret Al Jdideh, where 50.0 percent of the streets have no garbage collection system, and only 15 percent get their solid waste collected daily (**Figure 19**). Across the different cadastres, solid waste is collected once a day (25.8 percent) at the most.

Overall, 12.0 percent of households in El Mina reported recycling their solid waste. The highest share of recycling was observed in Hay Al Khrab (22.1 percent), Al Masaken Al Shaabiya (13.1 percent), and Hay Al Jumrok (10.7 percent). Similarly, in Hay Al Tanak, recycling practices at the household level and sorting waste facilities are entirely missing. In terms of solid waste recycling habits between nationalities, the data reveals a low rate of recycling habits among Lebanese and non-Lebanese equally (13.5 percent of Lebanese recycle compared to 8.4 percent of non-Lebanese).

Lebanese male adult and youth FGD participants and non-Lebanese female adult participants reported that they do not recycle at home despite understanding its importance. Residents are hesitant to commit, citing the lack of training and awareness sessions at the municipality, despite the latter's several attempts to encourage the community to recycle by distributing coloured wastebaskets for sorting plastics, papers, and glass. In addition, residents have observed recycling bins being emptied into landfills rather than being taken to recycling centres. As a result, the local community was galvanised to create several initiatives involving residents for a sustainable management plan. One of the initiatives is a recycling and waste management start-up called "Green Ways" that provides sorting services in several municipalities in North Lebanon to encourage people to recycle (Maassarani et al., 2020). According to the start-up's programme manager, failure in recycling in certain municipalities results from the community's poor awareness (Maassarani et al., 2020). Another more recent initiative, "Al Fayhaa Tafroz," provided large, coloured metal garbage sorting dumpsters at specific points in El Mina where residents can take their recyclables. This initiative gained importance following the peak of the garbage crisis in 2019.

Garbage receptacles in El Mina do not prevent the prevailing smell of uncollected waste disposed of in dumpsites in some streets in Terab Al Masihiye, Hay Al Bawwaba, Al Sanawiye, Al Masaken Al Shaabiya, Hay Al Tanak, or the Northside of Mina Jardins neighbourhood. Our street-level assessment of solid waste management in the area found the distribution of official garbage receptacles (bins, dumpsters) across Mina 3 and Mina Jardins uneven (**Figure 20**). Despite the presence of bins and dumpsters, our field survey also found street littering in various neighbourhoods, including Hay Al Tanak (21.2 percent), Al Masaken Al Shaabiya (13.2 percent), and Haret Al Jdide (11.9 percent). Uncontrolled garbage disposal on empty lands was also observed in Hay Al Bawwaba and Kadisha and along other streets where receptacles are missing, such as the informal settlement of Hay Al Tanak (**Figure 20**). This accumulation of on-street garbage is likely to be contributing to stormwater channel blockages and flooding, as well as causing hygiene and health risks.

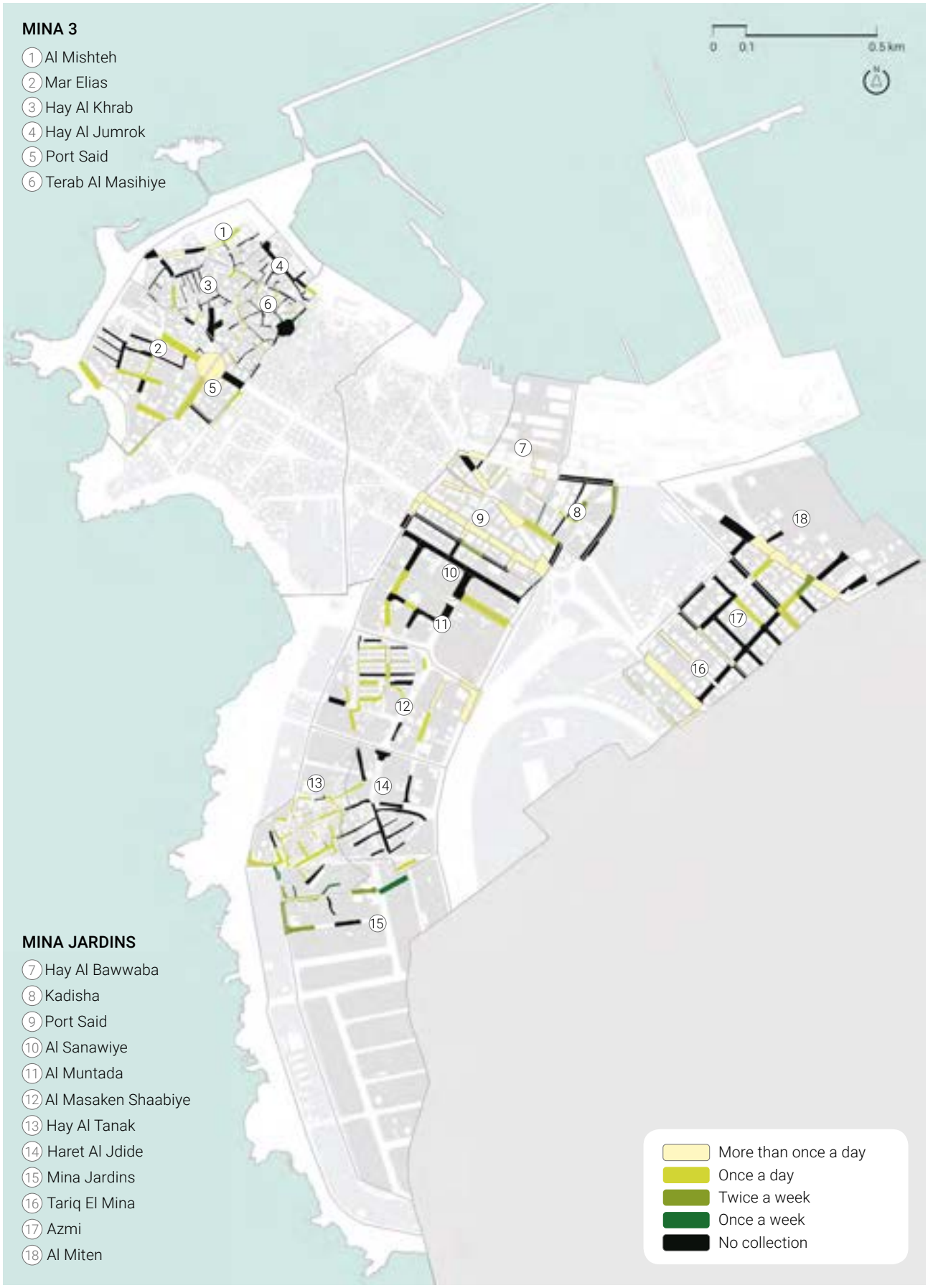


Figure 19 Street mapping of the solid waste collection system and frequency

Figure 20 Street mapping of the solid waste network

ELECTRICITY

Infrastructure breakdown and public service disruption in Lebanon are primarily detectable in the electricity sector. Lack of distribution exemplifies the persistence of infrastructural dysfunction more than twenty years post-civil war reconstruction (Verdeil, 2018). As commonly observed at the national level, the electricity crisis in El Mina is mainly that of shortage rather than access to the grid (Verdeil, 2018). However, some buildings in the city, especially in the informal settlement of Hay Al Tanak, remain unconnected.

Survey results indicate that 98.1 percent of households are connected to the public electrical grid. However, the rising power cuts in Lebanon, particularly Tripoli (Cheeseman, 2021), drive residents to rely on privately owned generators to bridge the gaps in supply (**Figure 21**). As a result,

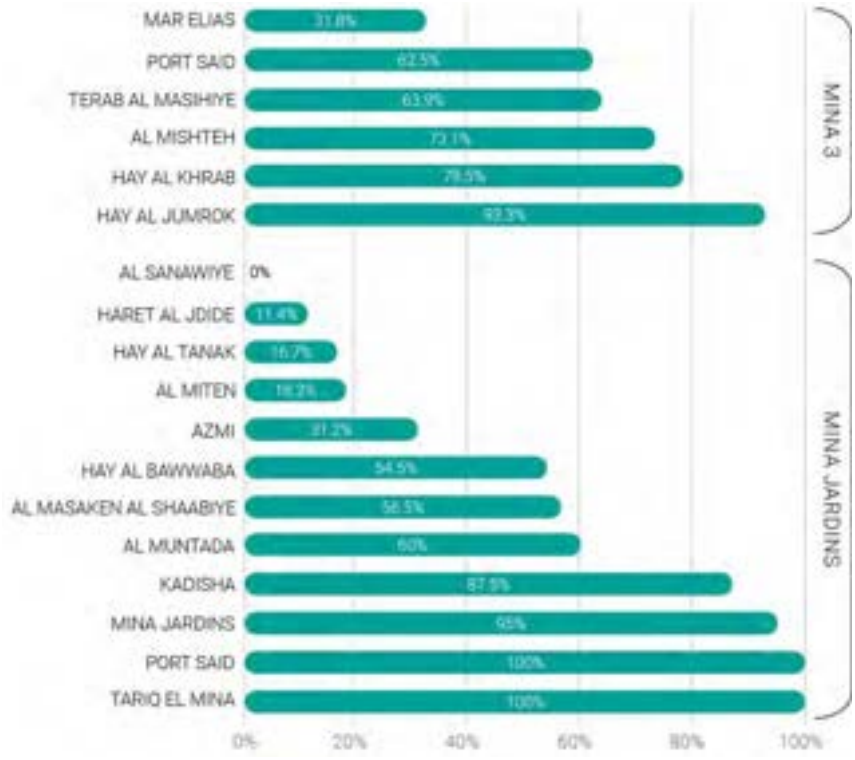
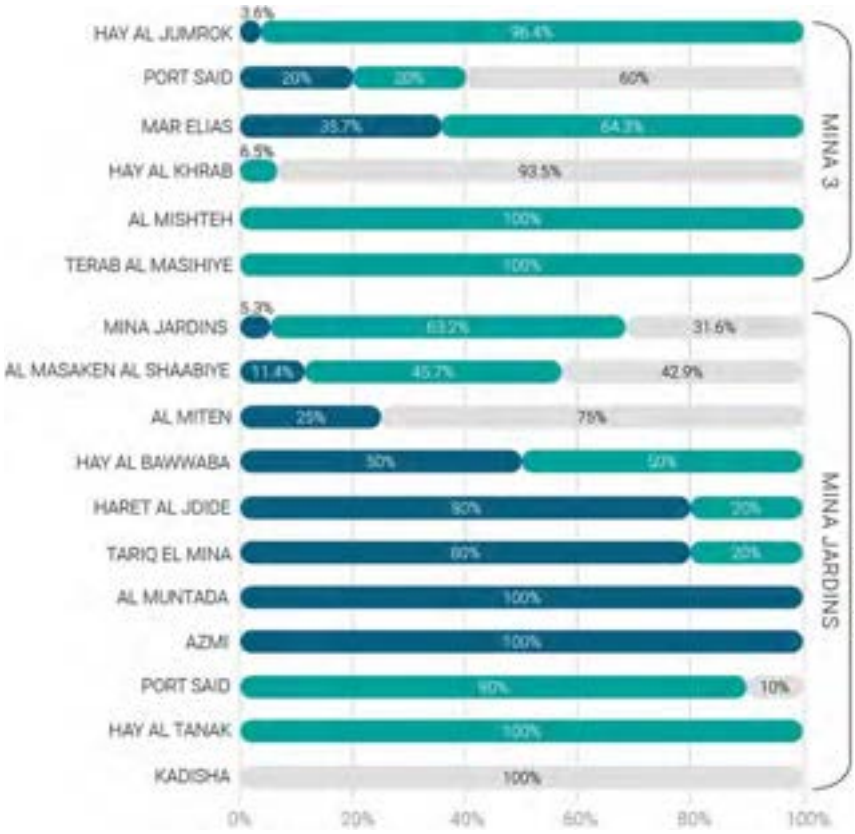


Figure 21 Access to private generators by neighbourhood

and in the pervasive reality of power cuts, privately owned small-scale generators have built new infrastructural, social and political dynamics and reproduced the uneven geography of cities in Lebanon (Verdeil, 2016). In El Mina, 36.6 percent and 61.7 percent of buildings connected to generators located in neighbouring buildings and open spaces are in Hay Al Jumrok, Hay Al Khrab, and Hay Al Tanak (**Figure 22**). As for buildings with private electrical supply from generators located in the same building, most (30.0 percent) are located in Tariq Al Mina. Hay Al Tanak, Haret Al Jdide, Mar Elias, and Al Masaken Al Shaabiye have the highest number of buildings with no private electrical supply (30.7 percent, 14.9 percent, 11.5 percent and 7.7 percent, respectively). In Hay Al-Tanak, all buildings (100.0 percent) with private electricity are connected to private generators located in neighbouring buildings in Haret El Jdideh (**Figure 22**).



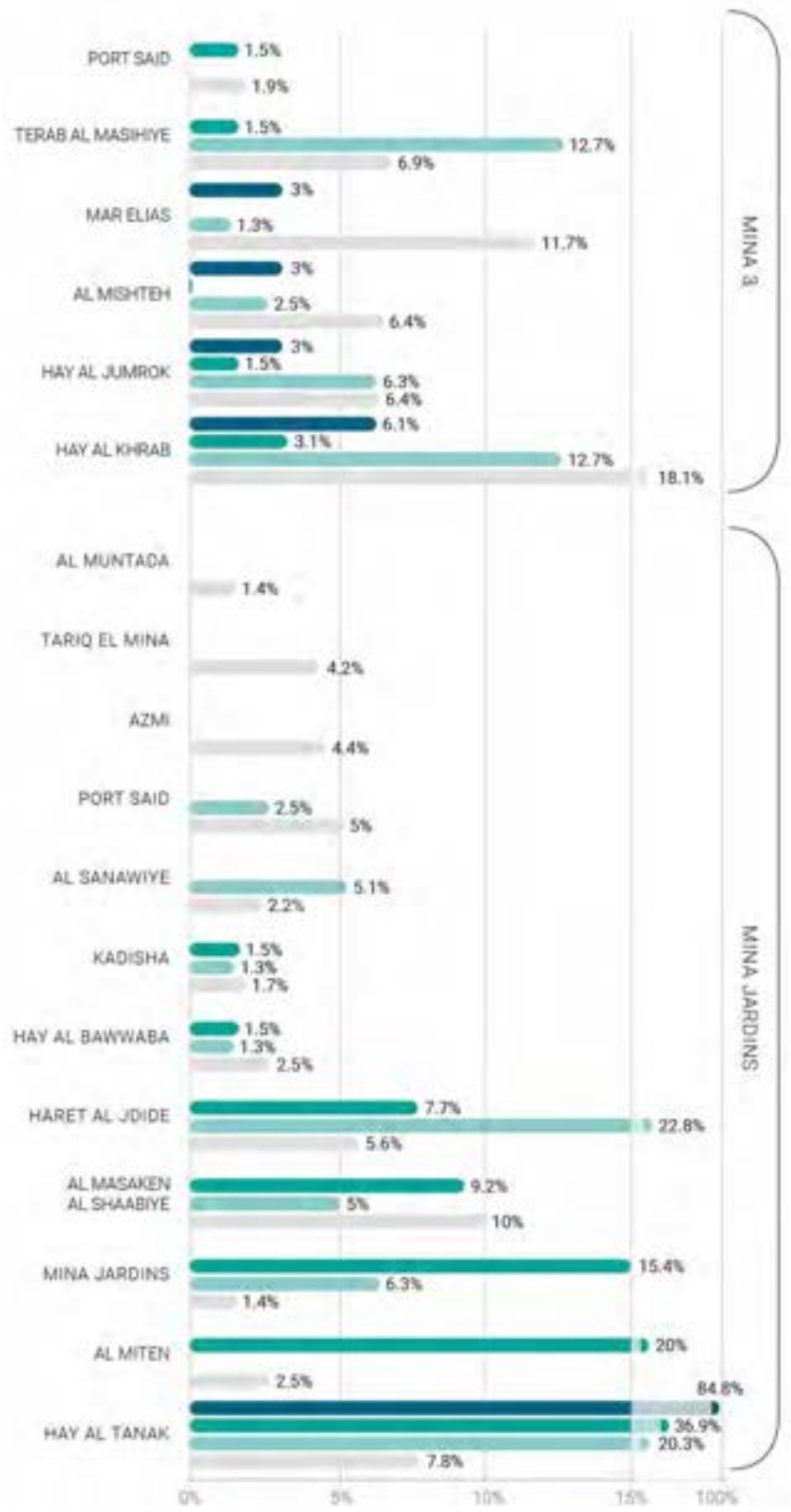
Note: Al Sanawiye is missing data for this

Figure 22 Generators distribution per neighbourhood

The data also shows that connectivity to generators increases with household income level. Overall, 22.8 percent of households in the bottom income quintiles (i.e., earning less than LBP 600,000 per month) are not connected to a private generator. In contrast, almost all high-income households (94.0 percent) (i.e., earning more than LBP 1,100,000) are connected. At the neighbourhood level, Hay Al Khrab records the highest connection rate (20.9 percent) – 16 times more than Kadisha (1.3 percent), the neighbourhood with the lowest connection rate to both electricity and generators.

In Hay Al Khrab, most residents (76.3 percent) pay more than LBP 100,000 a month for a generator subscription, compared to 84.6 percent in Hay Al Bawwaba. The monthly charge varies from LBP 50,000 to LBP 150,000 for 5 amperes (25.1 percent of residents pay between LBP 50,000-100,000, and 59.3 percent of residents pay more than LBP 100,000).[14] Residents who pay less than LBP 100,000 a month for private generators are mostly individuals residing in Hay Al Tanak (15.7 percent) and Al Masaken Al Shaabiya (15.4 percent) and mainly consist of low-income households (55.8 percent) (households making less than LBP 600,000 a month). Those paying more than 100,000 a month are concentrated in Hay Al Khrab (26.5 percent) and are predominantly high-income households (60.8 percent) (households making more than 1.1 million LBP a month). Power generators are not regulated, contributing significantly to air and noise pollution.

[14] The LBP to dollar rate reached a high of 9,800 Lebanese Pounds and a low of 6,200 Lebanese Pounds at the time of data collection (July and August 2020).



Note: Bars with 0 value were removed for readability purposes

- Emergency replacement & attention
- Major repair
- Major repair
- Routine maintenance

Figure 23 Condition of buildings' connection to electrical network

While the vast majority of El Mina 3 (51.4 percent) buildings benefit from properly installed electrical wiring, with 18.1 percent alone concentrated in Hay Al Khrab, 84.8 percent in Hay Al Tanak are connected with critical defects to the main electrical grid (**Figure 23**). The data also indicates a correlation between the electrical network's condition and building's age on one hand and the structural building condition on the other (**Figure 24**). Most of the buildings with major (67.7 percent) or critical (42.4 percent) defects of connection date between 1976 and 2000. Buildings with highly precarious and/or potentially life-threatening structural elements, amounting to 57.6 percent in El Mina, need major repair or emergency intervention for their electric connection (**Figure 24**).

Unequal electric supply is also observed at street level across Mina 3 and Mina Jardins. In particular, it is common in Hay Al Tanak to observe tangled overhead wires and other electrical hazards that cause safety and fire risks. For example, 47.0 percent of poles in Haret Al Jdide, Hay Al Tanak, and Mina Jardins neighbourhood constitute a fire hazard; 59.5 percent of these poles are in Hay Al-Tanak (**Figures 25 and 26**). Functioning street light coverage is unfairly distributed throughout the different neighbourhoods. Only 50.3 percent of the streets in the selected neighbourhoods have functional street lighting (21.6 percent in Hay Al Khrab, 9.9 percent in Terab Al Masihiye, and 7.4 percent in Al Sanawiye). Kadisha and Mina Jardins neighbourhoods have limited functional street light coverage (8.3 percent and 11.1 percent, respectively). In Hay Al-Tanak, only 2.7 percent of

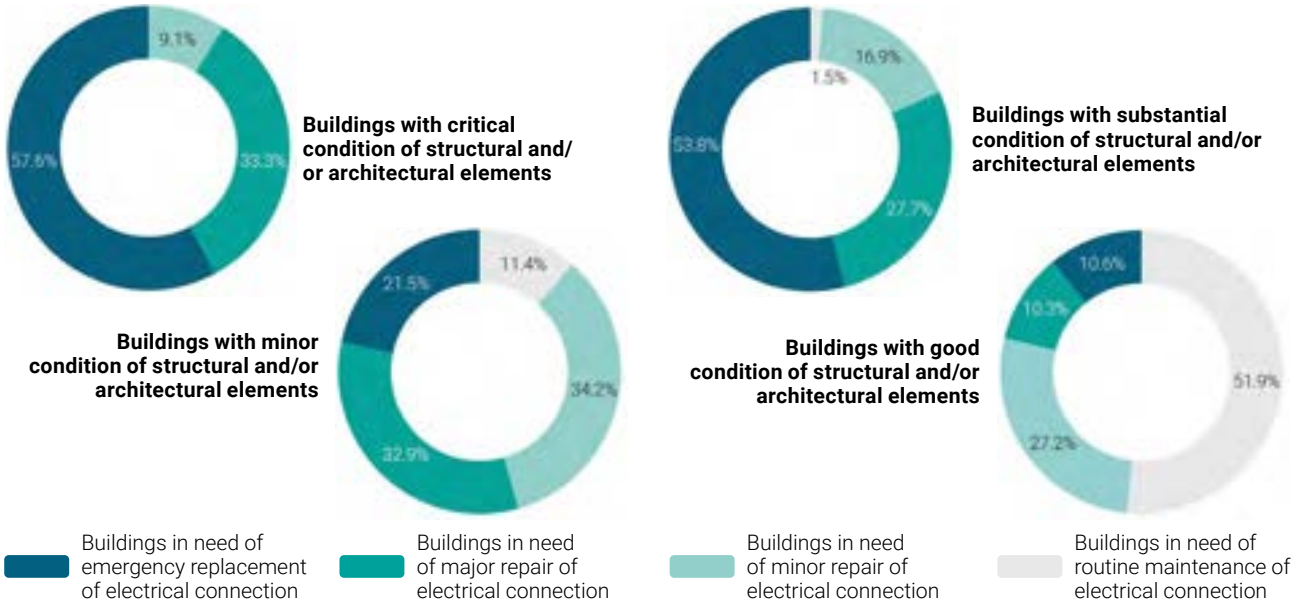


Figure 24 Building's connection to electricity vs structural condition of the building

the streets have functional street lighting. Street lights are not functional when public electricity is down. The exception is five streets in Hay Al Khrab, Al Sanawiye, Al Muntada, and Azmi, which benefit from functional solar lighting.

Our building condition assessment included a visual inspection of telecoms and found that connection to telecoms is not available in most buildings in Hay Al Tanak and Haret Al Jdideh. The household survey expanded these findings, showing that 37.0 percent of El Mina residents do not have access to the internet at home. They are mainly concentrated in Hay Al Tanak (26.9 percent). In this area, 68.8 percent have a mobile or a smartphone with internet access, compensating for the lack of Wi-Fi access at home. Not being connected to the telecom network, either through Wi-Fi at home or 3G, may have detrimental effects on students' literacy and distance learning modalities, particularly given the hybrid learning forms adopted since the COVID-19 pandemic (Save the Children, 2021).

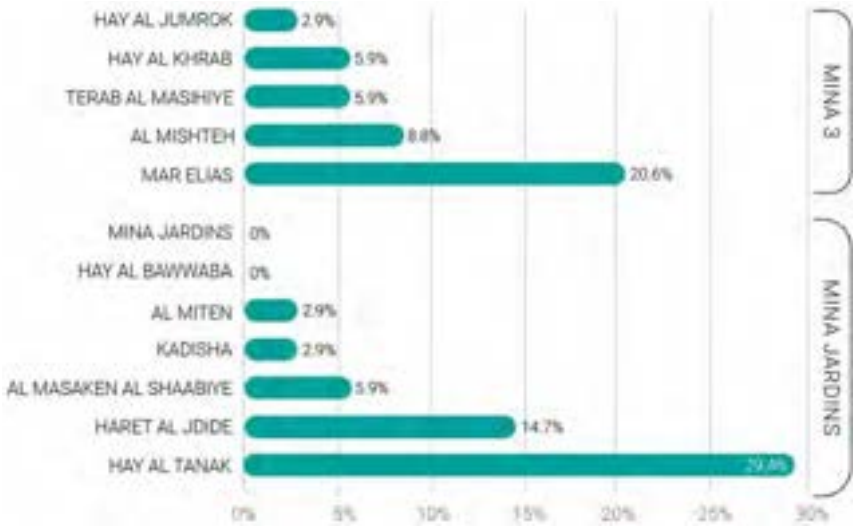


Figure 25 Tangled overhead wires by neighbourhood

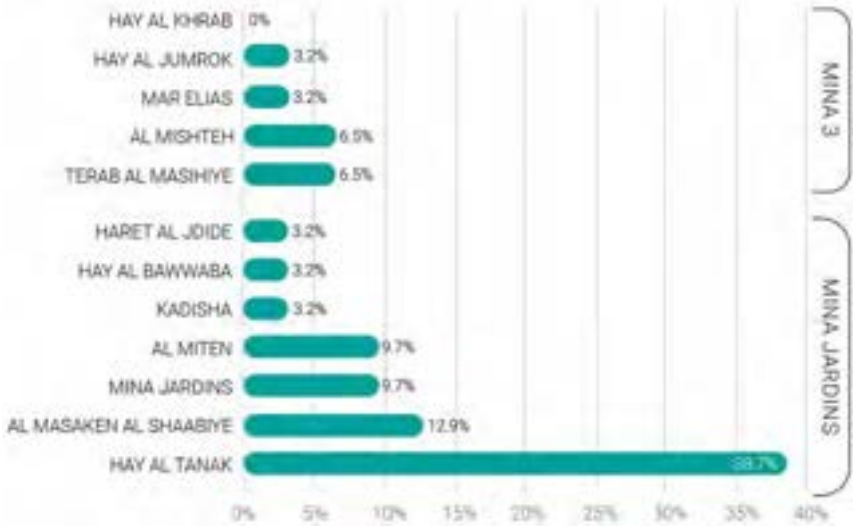


Figure 26 Electrical hazard by neighbourhood

OPEN SPACES

PUBLIC SPACES & STREETS

Over the past two decades, urban planners and designers have argued that streets and sidewalks are the most vital organs of a city's public spaces due to their social and economic attributes (Jacobs, 1992; Project for Public Spaces, 2015). Streets and sidewalks are no longer perceived as static but rather as dynamic spaces that people experience at their individual pace (Bloomberg et al., 2013). The personal relationship connecting city-dwellers to the spaces they inhabit includes streets and sidewalks. They became spaces of personal engagement and interaction, places of economic trade, platforms for gatherings, public speaking, and debate. To this end, the quantity and quality of streets and sidewalks are essential to improve people's relations to the spaces they inhabit, the built environment, and public health (Bloomberg et al., 2013).

An assessment of El Mina's road conditions reveals that most are vehicular (270 streets compared to 51 pedestrian roads). Among those, 17.1 percent show significant signs of deterioration. Most deteriorating roads (54.5 percent) are in Haret Al Jdide and Hay Al Tanak; 73.0 percent are concentrated in the latter (**Figure 27**). Neither of the two neighbourhoods has a functional sidewalk, compared to 1.6 percent in Mina Jardins cadastre (**Figure 28**). The vast majority of roads in Hay Al Khrab, Terab Al Masihiye, and Hay Al Tanak (85.0 percent, 80.0 percent, and 100.0 percent, respectively) either do not have sidewalks or have sidewalks with obstructions (such as street furniture, parked vehicles, shop goods, and utility structures), hindering the movement and affecting the safety of pedestrians in the area.

As defined by UNESCO (2017), a public space refers to an area or place that is open and accessible to all people, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, age or socioeconomic level. In El Mina, many types of spaces fall under this definition, including public gardens, playgrounds, sidewalks, the alleys of the old city, the Corniche, and even roundabouts. Our assessment of the public spaces in El Mina shows that the majority of the public parks are fenced and not actively managed or properly equipped, such as the ones in Al Zira'a and Hay Al-Ramleh. The only maintenance budgeted by the municipality for these parks is limited to caring for the green spaces and plants. Some parks have been recently rehabilitated by NGOs. For example, the municipality re-opened the El-Mina model garden in 2019 after being rehabilitated by UN-Habitat and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation to accommodate persons with special needs (UN-Habitat, 2019). It includes accessible toilets and guiding elements for the visually impaired. Unfortunately, the park remained closed initially because of the limited maintenance budget and later because of the COVID-19 lockdown. On the other hand, the municipal football field is open as long as players register their schedule at the municipality. Many participants in the FGDs preferred that parks be kept closed as the only way to preserve these spaces in light of many people's lack of respect for public spaces.


Photo credit : CatalyticAction

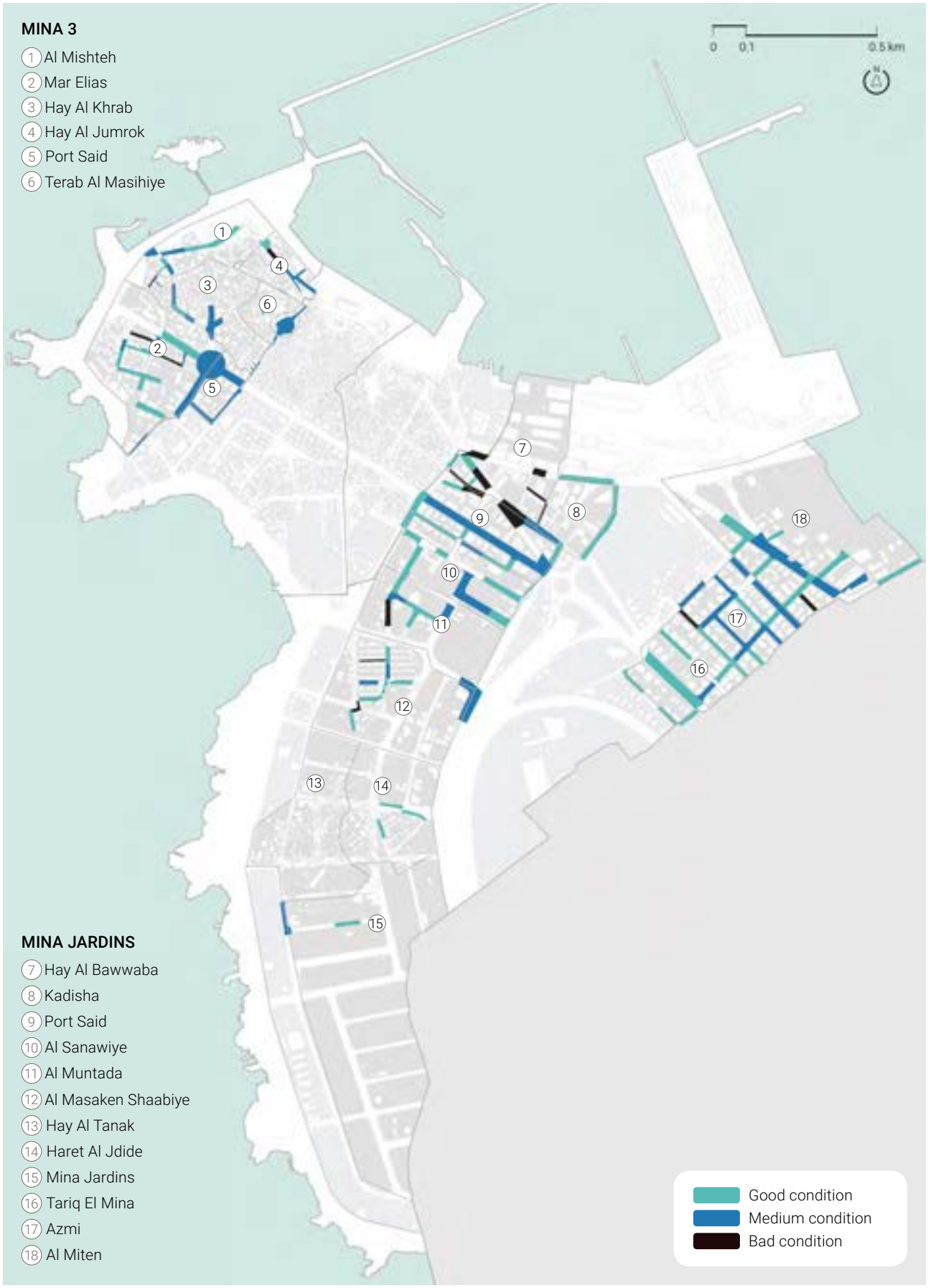


Figure 27 Street mapping of roads' condition

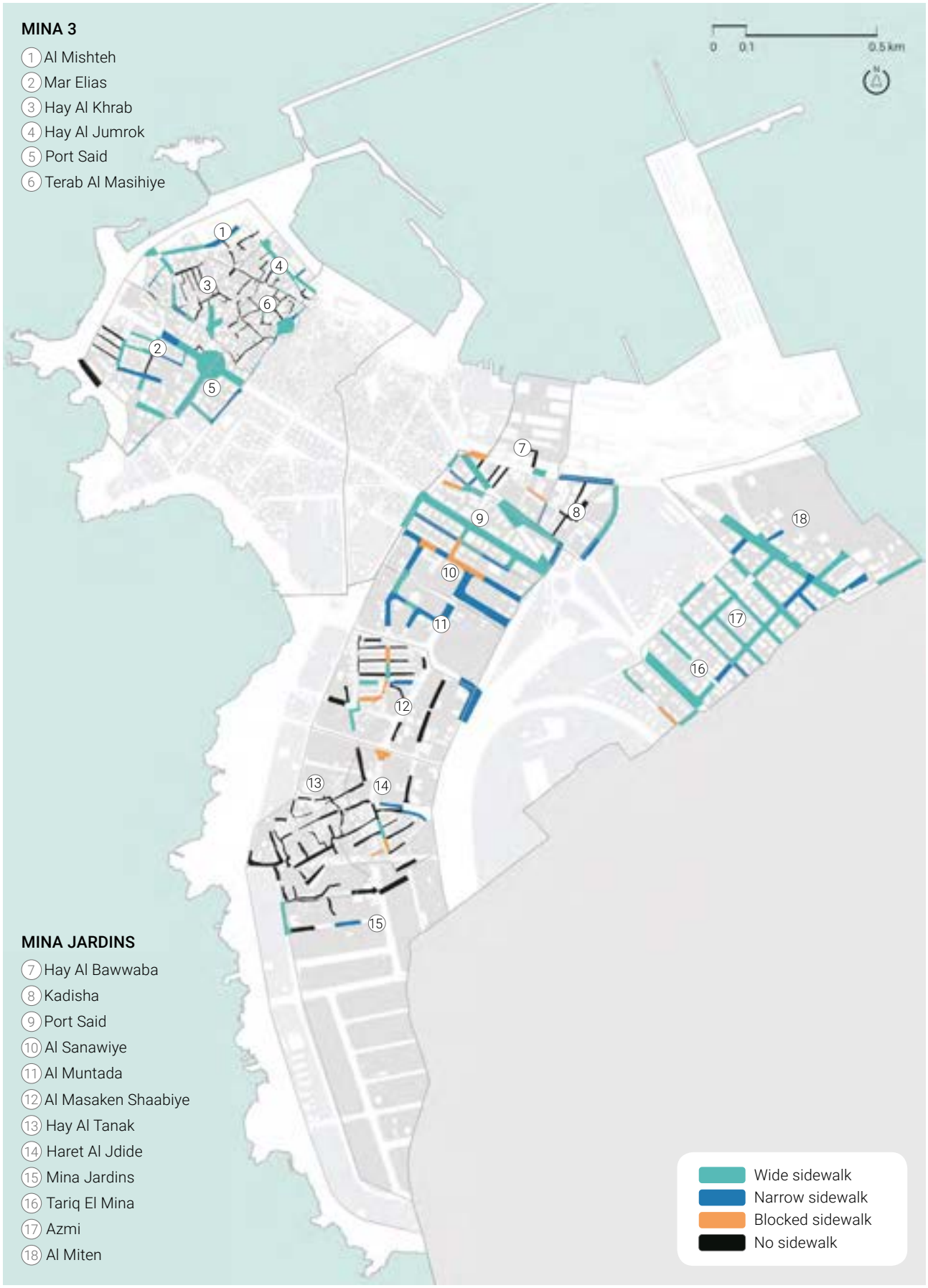


Figure 28 Street mapping of sidewalks' condition

Islands off the coast of El Mina.
Islands from North to South: Ramkeen, Palm Island Nature Reserve, Sanani, Tourous, Tawileh, Rmayleh, Mdawara, Bellane

Public spaces

Fair
1. Rashid Karami International Fair (Al Maarad)

Gardens
2. Abdelwahab island public park
3. Coffee shops (temporary solution)
4. El Balha Park
5. El Mina model public park
6. El Ziraa public park
7. Fishermen Port public park
8. Fondokiyeh park
9. Forum of the Handicapped garden (Muntada Al Mouaqin)
11. Husseini public park
10. Future plan for a public park
12. Mina Municipality public park

Island
13. Abdel Wahab island

Roundabouts
14. Al Saa' (the clock)
15. Al Shiraa
16. El Safadi
17. Groupie
18. Rafic Al Hariri (El Mina)

Sports facilities
19. Forum of the Handicapped sports facility (Muntada Al Mouaqin)
20. Municipal football field
21. Saint Francis Convent football field
22. Sports Hall (Al Qa'a)

Squares
23. Al Madeaa
24. El Terab
25. Labban

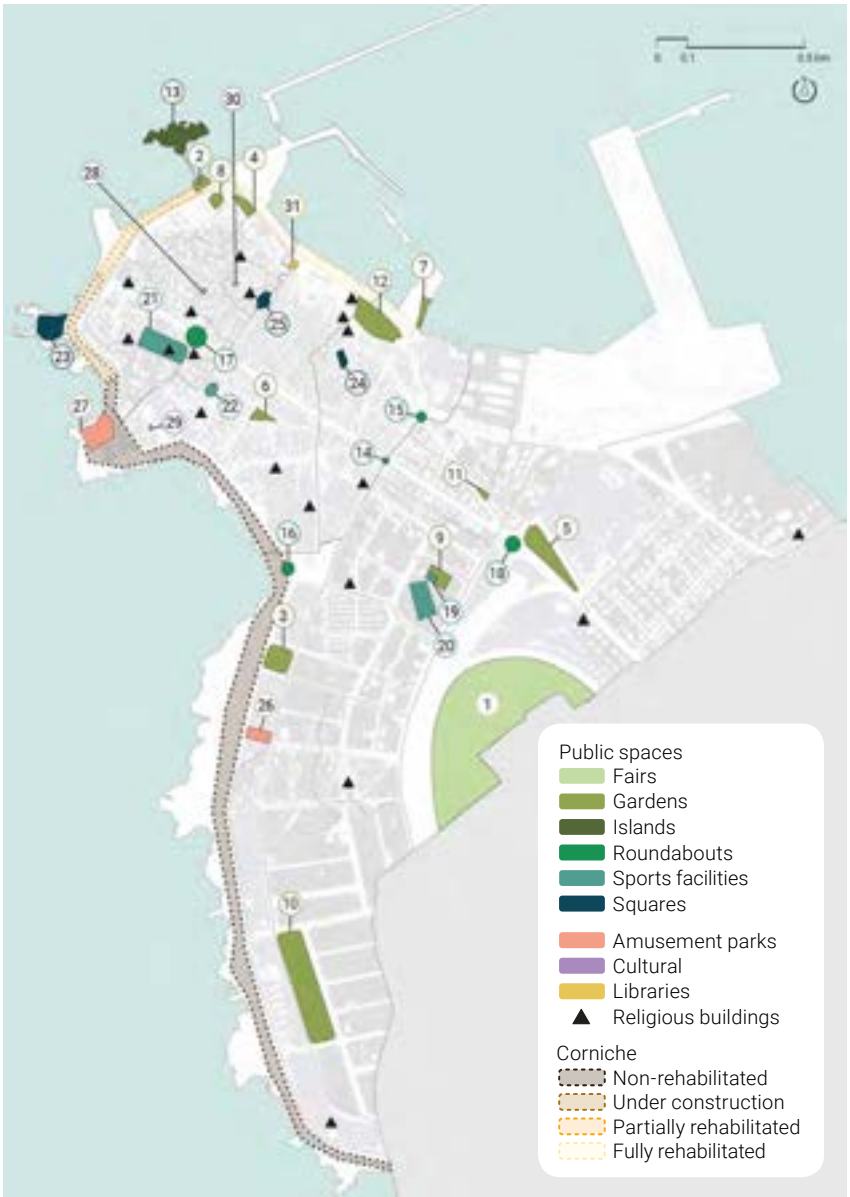
Amusement parks
26. City Land
27. Dado Land

Cultural
28. Beit Al Fann
29. Centre of Al Kashaf Al Muslim (scouts)
30. Centre of the Mouvement de la Jeunesse Orthodoxe (Beit Harakat al Shabibe El Orthodox)

Libraries
31. Mina municipality library

El Mina also benefits from nine coastal islands (**Figure 29**). The closest, Abdel Wahab island, is accessible by a bridge to El Mina Corniche. The island underwent major rehabilitation works in 2015 adding green spaces, a playground, and benches. Efforts were also made to conserve migratory bird and deer habitats (Ghanem, 2015). The Lebanese Ministry of Social Affairs funded the rehabilitation in cooperation with the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. The other islands are accessible by boat from the Corniche. FGDs participants mentioned that they visit Abdel Wahab Island regularly. Since its rehabilitation, however, the island did not undergo any maintenance. One Lebanese male FGD participant noted that some play equipment is now in poor condition and not safe for children anymore.

The main public open space in El Mina is the Corniche which connects the city to the region of El Bahsas in Tripoli (**Figure 29**). The Corniche stretches over 7.5 km along the coast



Note: Field surveys for El Mina took place between 11th of July and 21st of September 2020 when parts of the Corniche were still under rehabilitation. Today, the 'partially rehabilitated' and 'under construction' areas are fully rehabilitated.

Figure 29 Public spaces, cultural and religious institutions in El Mina

(Ghamrawi, 2019). In 2017, the municipality of El Mina launched a rehabilitation project of the Corniche that was still ongoing in early 2022 (El-Dhaibi, 2017). The Corniche is now divided into four sections. The newly rehabilitated section stretches from Burj al-Sheikh Affan to Abdel Wahab Island (the new Corniche). The second section is partially rehabilitated (from Abdel Wahab Island to the point across Mar Elias Street). The third section is under construction as part of the rehabilitation plan (from across Mar Elias Street until the theme park). The final section stretches until the Olympic stadium is still untouched in 2022. The project was launched in 2017 as part of the program for employment and infrastructure in Lebanon[15] to create a social and tourist attraction point. The rehabilitated part of the Corniche is indeed widely used by local residents who benefit from the enlarged pedestrian section, the cycle lane, new benches, and the additional greenery, signage, and lighting (Al Bayan newspaper, 2019).

The other sections of the Corniche are poorly serviced and in need of much improvement. During the field survey, residents reported the Corniche to be secure and in good condition. They mentioned that all inhabitants—irrespective of age, gender, nationality or social class — gather on the Corniche. However, some facilities are still lacking, such as toilets. FGD participants also reported garbage often being dumped in the area. In the **Participatory Spatial Intervention chapter** of this report, the role and uses of the Corniche are further analysed. As a vital public space, El Mina Corniche was selected for further analysis, moving toward a spatial built intervention to enhance its uses and address some of the needs of the most vulnerable residents of El Mina.

FGD participants also reported that public social gatherings happen in coffee shops apart from the Corniche and the islands. They highlighted that coffee shops and kiosks use up most open spaces, such as small gardens and landscaped areas on side streets. For example, the municipality uses the coffee shops cluster across the Corniche as a temporary solution to relocate street vendors that were illegally spreading along the Corniche. In addition, most appropriated open spaces are unlit or insufficiently lit at night, making them unsafe spaces for pedestrians.

TRANSPORT, TRAFFIC & CONNECTIVITY

El Mina is heavily reliant on private transportation. Data shows that the most common commute for residents earning more than 1.1 million LBP per month[16] is private cars and shared taxis (carpooling) (14.6 percent and 8.4 percent, respectively), while 32.0 percent of those making less than 1 million LBP per month walk to work. Regardless of people's income in El Mina, the most common mode of transport remains walking, as 44.1 percent of sampled residents walk to work. Those relying on private cars are mainly individuals of upper-middle-income residents living in Mar Elias and Hay Al Khrab (36.5 and 46.1 percent, respectively). They prefer not to engage in public transportation and instead use private vehicles due to safety and maintenance standards (Farajalla et al., 2017). Formal buses and taxis are limited in El Mina, and shared taxis (carpooling) represent 19.5 percent of passengers' mode of transport. Informal taxi services are mainly used in Hay El Tanak, as formal taxi coverage is limited in this area and residents cannot afford to own private cars.

Most HH surveyed residents (53.3 percent) expressed satisfaction with the public transportation system due to its efficient operational system. Informal taxi services tend to be a more affordable and flexible alternative to private taxis. Drop-offs are quicker, and drivers stop anywhere, making stops almost door-to-door (Samaha & Mohtar, 2016). Most surveyed residents (45.0 percent) reported that it takes less than 10 minutes to get to their central workplace on a typical day, using private or public transportation or simply walking. Most of the residents (21.4 percent) pay between LBP 16,000 and 30,000 a month on public transportation.[17]

[15] A collaboration between the UNDP, the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Ministry of Labour and El-Mina municipality. El Mina maritime Corniche rehabilitation is funded by the Government of Germany and the KfW development bank (El-Dhaibi, 2017).

[16] The LBP to dollar rate reached a high of 9,800 Lebanese Pounds and a low of 6,200 Lebanese Pounds at the time of data collection (July and August 2020).

[17] During data collection (between July 2020 and January 2021) the price of 95 Octane ranged between 23,500LL and 26,400LL for 20 Liters and the price of Diesel ranged from 14,600LL and 18,700LL for 20 Liters.

FOUNDATIONS OF PROSPERITY
HOUSING

Historically, housing in Lebanon has been hijacked by real-estate profit discourses, growing neo-liberal urbanism, free-market tendencies, and rising competition for living space. The country's housing market is scarred by structural challenges that respond to profit being more lucrative. In examining El Mina's housing conditions, we found a mismatch between the supply and demand of the housing market. As a result, many residents face housing insecurity where households are confronted with evictions and increasing housing costs. Housing security is typically defined along multiple dimensions: housing type, recent housing history, current tenure, and subjective assessments of housing satisfaction and stability (Frederick et al. 2014). We consider these dimensions in this section.

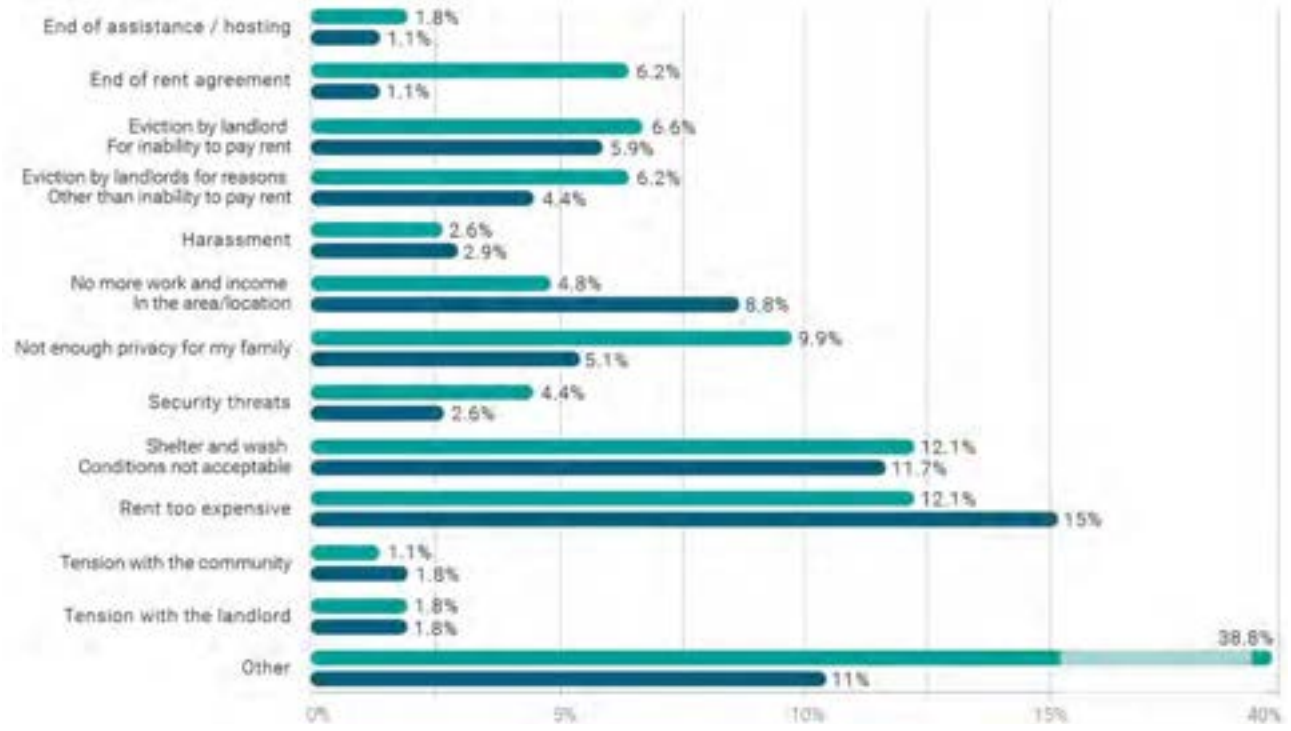
HOUSING HISTORIES

Our findings suggest that displacement trends were more prevalent amongst non-Lebanese than Lebanese residents in El Mina. Among survey respondents, 57.6 percent of non-Lebanese had relocated, while 61.3 percent of Lebanese had never changed their residence. FGDs revealed that non-Lebanese residents often had to relocate because their previous shelters were not suitable. They reported living in inadequate housing conditions, poor weather insulation, and unclean common spaces. Others reported landlords increasing rent or asking them to pay in dollars since the start of the Lebanese liquidity crisis.

"Only tourists can afford to pay in dollars. It's cheap for them but expensive for El Mina residents."

Photo credit: CatalyticAction

One participant from the non-Lebanese youth FGD reported changing dwellings because her parents returned to Syria, leading her to live in a shared house. Household survey respondents revealed that displacement in El Mina is due to fragile tenure security where landlords were enticed to demand exorbitant rents following the crumbling Lebanese Lira (15.0 percent non-Lebanese compared to 12.1 percent Lebanese). Unacceptable shelter and WASH conditions also triggered people to change residences (12.1 Lebanese and 11.7 non-Lebanese). Other reasons for relocation highlighted by the Lebanese population include lack of privacy due to crowdedness and/or living with other families (9.9 percent) and security threats that affected their safety (4.3 percent). The high number of recorded "other" reasons for relocating, as shown in **Figure 30**, were mainly related to marriages or divorce.



Note: 0% refused to answer, 0% evicted by authorities and 1.1% don't know

Lebanese Non-Lebanese

Figure 30 Reasons for relocation per nationality

ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The main reason behind the shortfall in adequate housing in Lebanon is the absence of public-housing policy-making that advocates the right to housing (Fawaz & Mneimneh 2020). The Public Housing Corporation, established in 1996, has limited its interventions in the housing sector to the subsidized housing loan scheme introduced in 1997. This policy has been criticised as being counterproductive to affordability as it targets middle-class families while allowing private actors to capitalise on land. The Public Housing Corporation also does not target rental regulations following the full liberalisation of rent after 1992, which maintained a small segment of the society protected by old rent control and further allowed rental prices to be set by the market (Fawaz & Mneimneh 2020). These arrangements, in turn, have triggered eviction trends and displacement that mainly affected the most vulnerable social groups.

Overall, the proportion of households owning houses in El Mina stands at 46.5 percent (**Figure 31**). Although the recorded rate of residents owning houses in El Mina falls short of the national rate (69.5 percent), the percentage of people renting exceeds the national rate (46.0 percent vs. 24.3percent). This reflects Lebanon's increasing move towards rent following the economic crisis. The neighbourhoods in which ownership is highest are Azmi (63.6 percent), Port Said (62.5 percent), and Tariq Al Mina (61.9 percent) (**Figure 31**). These neighbourhoods also have some of the highest rates of residences provided by employers in exchange for work (62.5 percent of Azmi residents, 33 percent of Port Said/Mina 3 residents, and 75 percent of Tariq el Mina residents). Many of their buildings have "natours" (concierges or building attendants) hired to guard and perform daily chores such as garbage collection and cleaning common areas. They often live in apartments on the ground floor, and many spend their days sitting at the entrance of buildings and therefore contribute to a feeling of safety for residents. The majority of buildings with concierges

are located in Tariq el Mina (100.0 percent), Al Miten (85.7 percent), Al Muntada (71.4 percent), Azmi (68.2 percent), and Port Said (54.2 percent). In contrast, no concierges were reported in any of the sampled buildings located in Kadisha, Haret Al Jdide, and Terab El Masihiye.

Inclusionary housing options are one of Lebanon's most endemic urban problems (Fawaz et al. 2017). As observed nationwide, only a few affordable housing projects exist in Tripoli, one of which is located in Al Masaken Al Shaabiyeh neighbourhood in Mina 3. This social housing project was built by the government and the Council for Development and Reconstruction in the 1960s. According to UN-Habitat, the project contributed to efforts to suburbanize development pressure from the old city (UN-Habitat 2017).

Most El Mina renters have a new rental contract post-1992 (54.4 percent of inhabitants). As per **Figure 32**, all Hay al Bawaba and Azmi rental contracts are new. The neighbourhoods with the highest percentages of old rental contracts are Corniche Al Mina in Mina 3 (64.0 percent) and Hay Al Bawwaba in Mina Jardins (60.0 percent). Of those renting, 22.9 percent had oral and unwritten contracts, most of whom are non-Lebanese (74.0 percent) living mainly in the neighbourhoods of Al Masaken El Shaabiye (81.5 percent) and Haret El Jdide (66.1 percent). Such an enormous percentage indicates that informality dominates rental agreements in these areas where vulnerable migrants and refugees live without being able to protect themselves from the threat of eviction.

Displacement and eviction of tenants take many forms. The prevalent threat of eviction may be driven by the economic crisis, which has exacerbated the need for landlords to make more profit off their properties, motivating them to rent to new tenants who pay

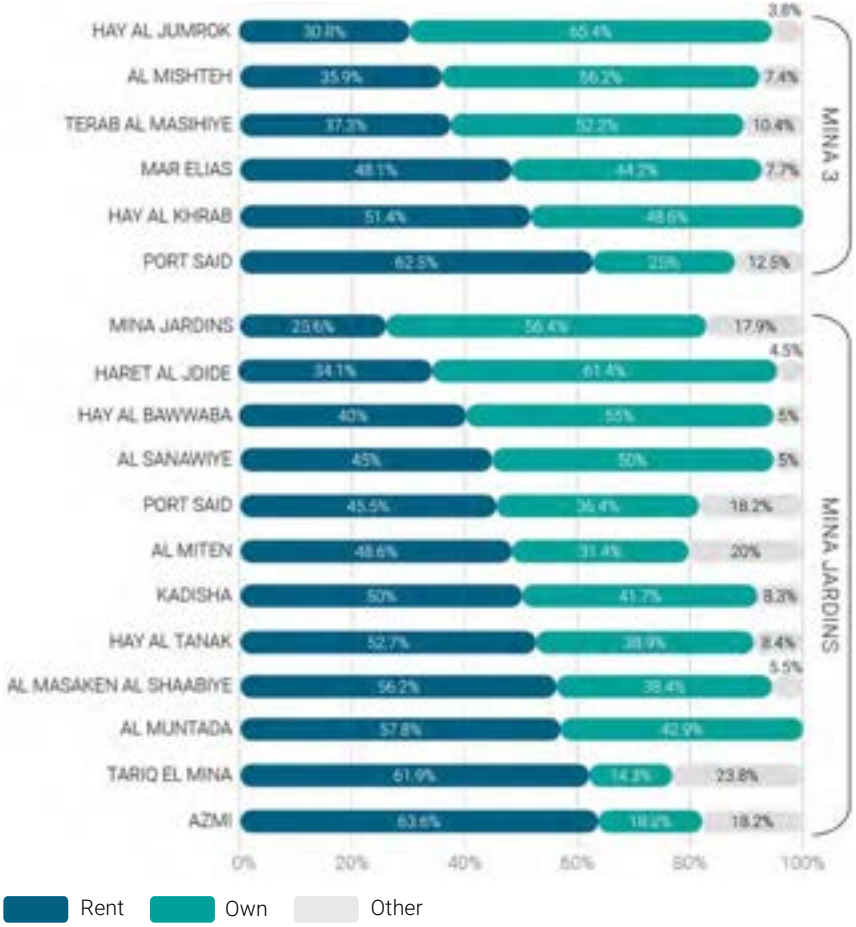


Figure 31 Housing tenure in El Mina per neighbourhood

"new rent". As in other areas in Lebanon, many landlords are also opting to demolish buildings for real estate development (Fawaz et al. 2017). However, eviction is not the only aspect creating housing insecurity. Rent cost is also crucial in determining why El Mina residents stay or leave their housing, with 36.1 percent choosing their current accommodation because of "rent cost". However, the future of rentals is uncertain for some residents, as 10.4 percent of people anticipate moving in the next 6 months because "rent is too expensive" and 7.6 percent because they had eviction threats by their landlord for their inability to pay rent. Most residents at risk of eviction were found in Mar Elias (25.0 percent) and Hay el Khrab (25.0 percent). Threats of eviction were also most present for households paying old rents in Mina 3 (40.8 percent). Additionally, 35.0 percent of all "old renters" were found in Hay El Khrab, 17.5 percent in Corniche Al Mina-Al Mishteh, and 12.5 percent in Hay El Jumrok.

At the time of the PI HH survey, most sampled residents (26.8 percent and 25.9 percent) paid between LBP 201,000-300,000 and less than LBP 200,000 a month respectively on rent, while 19.4 percent paid more than LBP 500,000. Residents who pay less than LBP 200,000 a month on rent are primarily individuals residing in Hay Al Khrab in Mina 3 (24.3 percent) and consist mainly of Lebanese groups (70.4 percent). Those paying between LBP 201,000- 300,000 a month are concentrated in Hay Al Tanak in Mina Jardins and are predominantly non-Lebanese groups (69.7 percent). On the other hand, residents paying more than LBP 500,000 a month are mostly Lebanese (73.3 percent) residing in Hay Al Khrab (26.7 percent),

indicating that the housing market is very diverse in Hay Al Khrab, where real estate costs are both high and low.

Overall, 38.7 percent of El Mina residents spend more than 50.0 percent of their income on rent. Most Lebanese (37.7 percent) spend less than 15 percent of their income on rent, while most non-Lebanese (33.1 percent) dedicate 37.6 to 75.0 percent of their income to rent (**Figure 33**). Those spending more than 75.0 percent of their income on housing borrow money for food (67.57 percent) and use assistance as an income source (31.9 percent). Indeed, El Mina was recorded as one of the most expensive areas to rent in Tripoli, with an average rent of LBP 2,000,000 per month (ACTED 2016).[18]

Not only are rent prices linked to income, nationality, and location, they are also disproportionate to the satisfaction level of occupants toward housing conditions in some instances. Our findings show that 24.4 percent of households that pay above 500 thousand LBP a month for rent are "very dissatisfied" and "dissatisfied" by the quality of their housing. They mostly live in Hay el Jumrok (66.7 percent) and Port Said (66.7 percent), as well as Hay el Tanak and Al Masaken Al Shaabiyeh (50.0 percent each respectively). The above is supported by an UN-Habitat study (2017) that mentions:

> *"There appears to be a mismatch between supply and demand in the housing market, not least in terms of diversity of supply. It could be that occupation costs are disproportionately high relative to building quality, a view supported by the fact that average rents in this most impoverished city are exceeded only marginally by those in Beirut."*

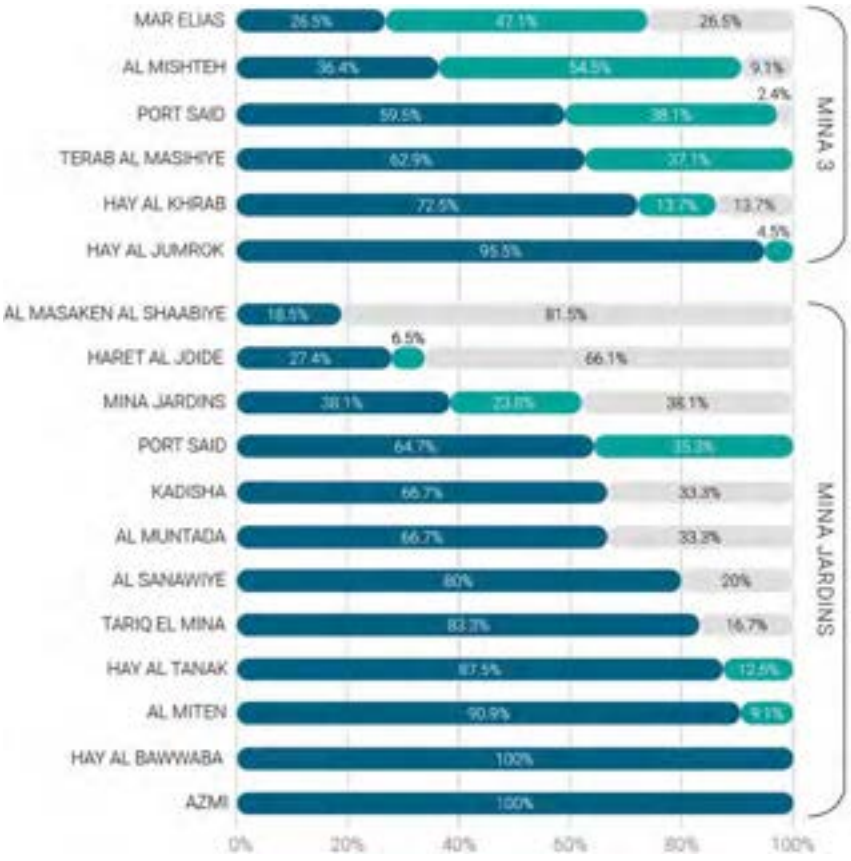


Figure 32 Type of rental contracts in Mina 3 and Mina Jardins per neighbourhoods

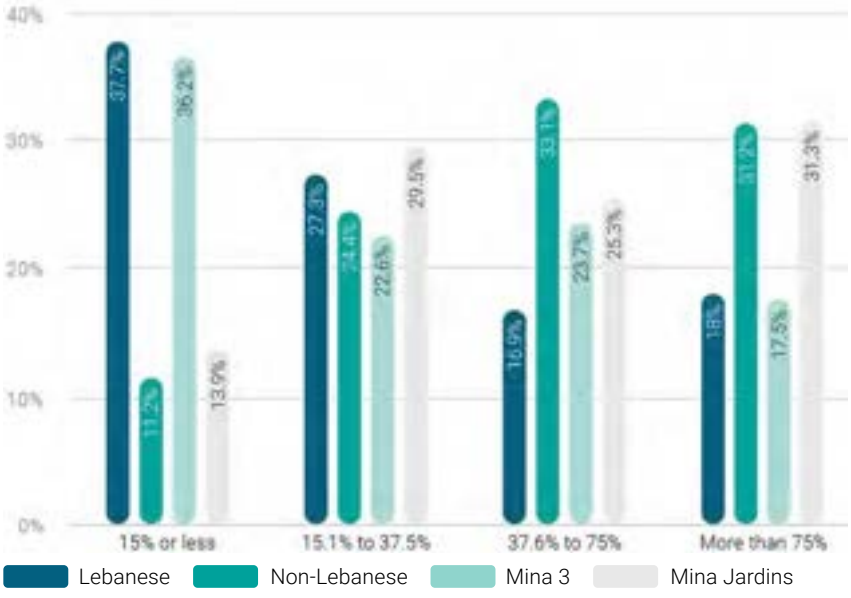


Figure 33 Percentage of income spent on rent in Mina 3 and Mina Jardins and per nationality

[18] LBP 2,000,000 at the average market exchange rate of 8,000 LBP/USD prevailing over the three months before data collection. Note that in 2016, average rent prices were set at LBP 375,000 per month.

BUILDING CONDITIONS & ADEQUATE LIVING SPACE

The informal neighbourhoods of Hay El Tanak and Haret El Jdide have been built in discordance with plot divisions. In Hay El Tanak, most buildings are one-floor structures with cement-block walls and corrugated-sheet metal roofs. Other buildings, considered more high-end in the neighbourhood, are on two floors. Constructions in Hay El Tanak combine several forms of illegality, such as violations of building and construction codes and property rights. Many owners live in "unfinished" buildings to avoid being reported to the Municipality (Allaw 2019), which underlines the precarious future of the neighbourhood and explains the poor housing conditions (**Figure 34**). Per the UN-Habitat Tripoli 2016 report (2017), new investments are to take place along the west coast of Mina Jardins west of the fair, expecting to accommodate high-income residents. This has the potential to displace old-time residents, especially those living in the informal settlements of Hay El Tanak.

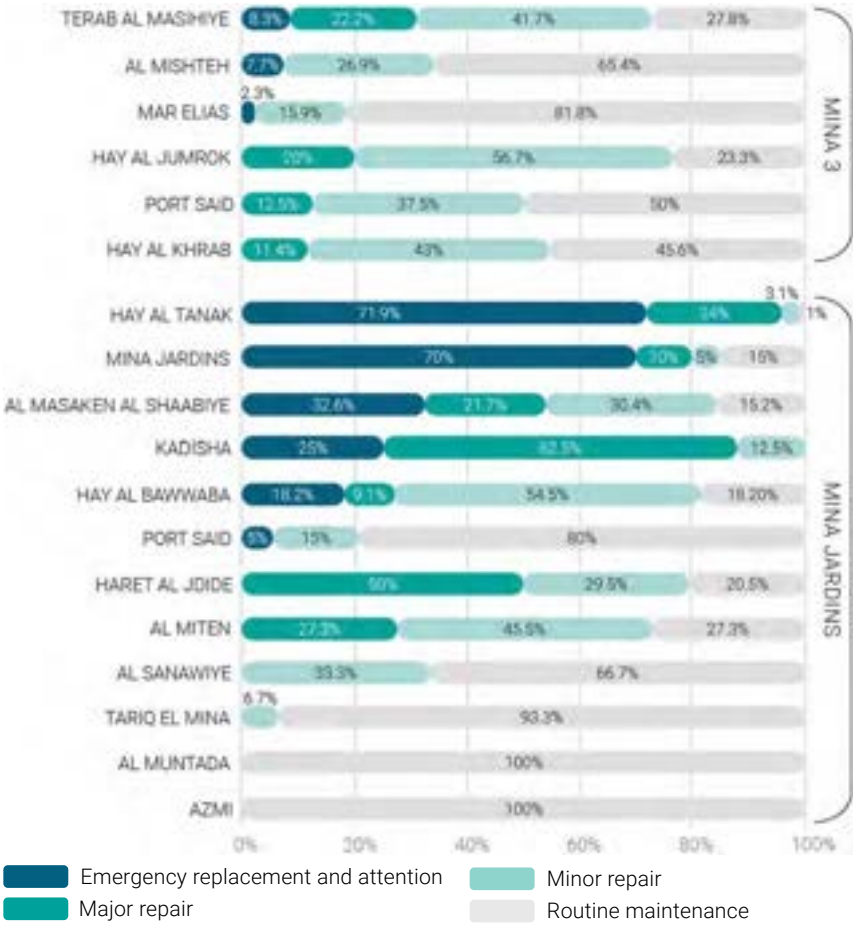


Figure 34 External building conditions

The evaluation of building exteriors within the building survey found that 37.6 percent of Mina 3 and Mina Jardins buildings require emergency attention and significant repairs, signifying an aging building stock (**Figure 34**).[19] Most buildings in Hay el Tanak (71.9 percent) and Mina Jardins neighbour-hood (70.0 percent) need emergency attention given the informal status of the buildings. The buildings that only require routine maintenance are in Azmi, Al Muntada, and Tariq Al Mina (respectively 100.0, 100.0, and 93.3 percent) (**Figure 34**). Those most satisfied with the quality of housing in El Mina are in Azmi (45.5 percent of residents) and Tariq El Mina (38.1 percent). Those least satisfied with housing are in Kadisha (50.0 percent of residents) and Mina Jardins neighbourhood (35.9 percent), and Hay el Tanak (34.7 percent). These numbers coincide with the building conditions of these neighbourhoods. Furthermore, half of El Mina residents (53.3 percent) mainly residing in Hay Al Tanak[20] (30.9 percent) in buildings that need major repair or emergency intervention for their condition cannot keep their houses warm enough in winter. The building stock of El Mina is also affected by its proximity to the sea. As observed by citizen scientists, many sea-facing apartments are affected by rust due to the sea air and require annual maintenance. Most Lebanese in Mina 3 and Mina Jardins live in two-bedroom apartments with a living room and a kitchen (33.1 percent), while most non-Lebanese live in one-room spaces with no kitchen (27.2 percent). Our findings suggest that the highest ratio of overcrowded apartments in El Mina is in Hay el Tanak (73.5 percent) (**Figure 35**),

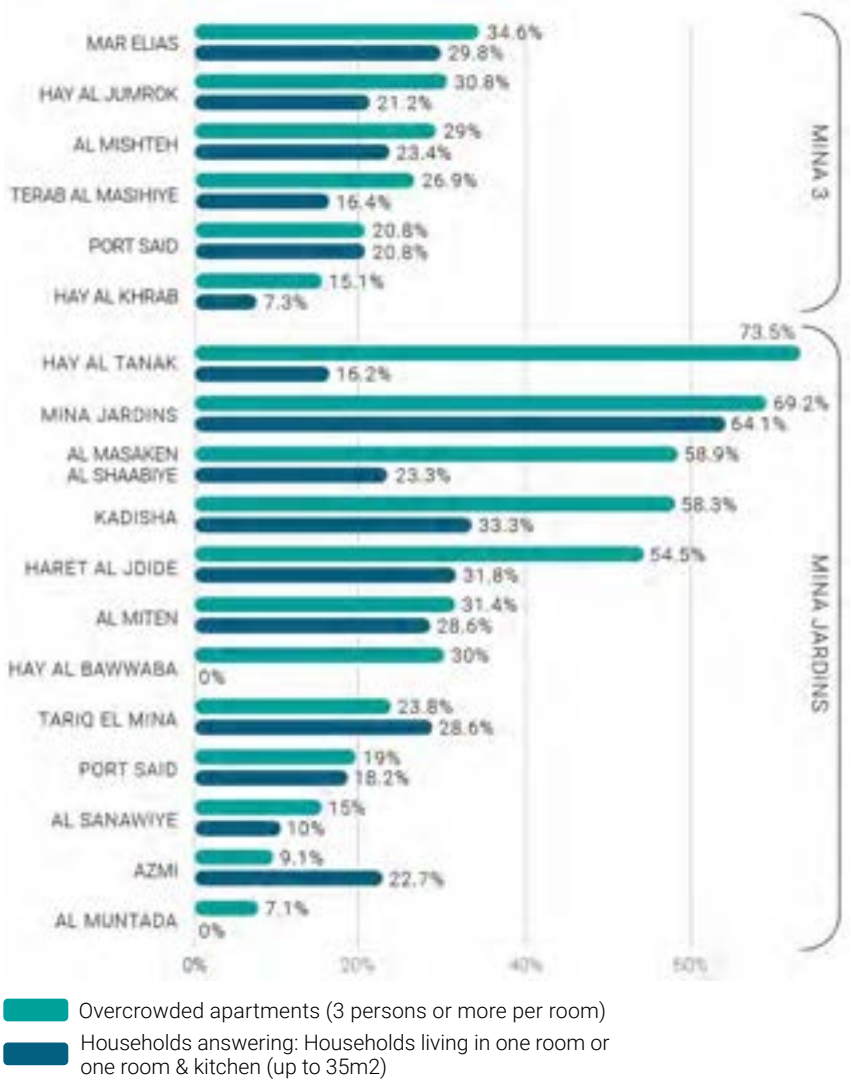


Figure 35 Percentage of overcrowded apartments (more than 3 people per room) and percentage of households living in one room per neighbourhood

where most dwellings (58.7 percent) are between 35 to 60 sqm (1 bedroom, living room, and kitchen). Mina Jardins is the neighbourhood with the most "one-room" houses (64.1 percent). In general, overcrowding is present in 69.2 percent of neighbourhoods. House-hold survey data indicate a correlation between overcrowdedness and nation-ality, as 71.2 percent of non-Lebanese live in overcrowded houses. Over-crowded housing is also linked to income. Overcrowdedness is highest among households in the bottom and below-median income quantiles (37.1 percent earning less than LBP 401,000, 27.2 percent earn-ing between LBP 401,000 and LBP 600,000, and 20.1 percent between LBP 601,000 and 1 million LBP per month). Only a few households (2.6 percent) falling above the highest income quantiles (i.e., more than 3 million LBP) – reported experiencing some overcrowding.

[19] Buildings were evaluated according to foundations, roof, walls, balconies, windows and doors.

[20] All the buildings that are not matched between the household and building surveys are dropped, keeping the analysis to 677 households in which both a household survey and a building survey were conducted.

OPPORTUNITIES AND ASPIRATIONS

Photo credit : Houda Kabbara

CONCEPTUAL OVERVIEW

Theories of subjective wellbeing often emphasize the importance of a sense of purpose – a sense that our lives are going well in pursuing a meaningful goal (Dolan 2014). **Prosperity, however, is a much broader concept than wellbeing**. It considers the "subjective" dimension of our lives and the "objective" or external provisions and conditions that enable wellbeing. **For a sense of purpose to exist, we need to have the conditions that offer us the opportunities to pursue our life goals and aspirations**. These conditions are multiple and diverse; they are irreducible to any single formula that can improve opportunities for people or remove barriers to pursuing a better life.

In the context of Lebanon, our research has identified several factors that make up people's experience of opportunities and aspirations. The first is low confidence in locally-based secure futures. **There is a persistent sense of geopolitical and economic volatility resulting from the country's history of conflict and economic crisis**. When future stability is not guaranteed, imagining the pursuit of one's aspirations becomes more difficult locally. As a result, people in Lebanon often **speak of immigration to pursue a better life** – one that is free of the uncertainties that have characterized the past half a century and continue to persist in the present.

Another factor is **inequalities in rights and status**. Migrants and refugees such as Syrians and Palestinians, in most cases, do not have the same rights as Lebanese nationals, and legal status is not guaranteed even if they are long-term residents or were born in Lebanon. **This inequality of opportunities was identified as a fundamental and longstanding challenge for people in Lebanon**. A third factor is educational opportunities, including the availability and affordability of education and the ability for young people to acquire the skills and qualifications they need to pursue the careers they want. In El Mina, education was frequently mentioned as a matter of concern by both Lebanese and non-Lebanese residents. As the data shows, there are several challenges with access to education in El Mina that impact not only individual lives but also the future of the city as a whole.

Photo credit: Mayssa Jallad

CONFIDENCE IN LOCALLY-BASED SECURE FUTURES & THE FEAR OF ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL INSTABILITY

As the livelihoods chapter in this report demonstrates, Lebanon's deep economic crisis has meant that households across the entire income distribution are now reporting difficulties covering expenses and reductions in household earnings. The loss of purchasing power prevents the majority of the population from securing decent living standards. As a result, many seek to emigrate in search of better economic opportunities and labour market conditions. PI HH survey responses show that 43.6 percent of Lebanese and 52.4 percent of non-Lebanese respondents considered emigrating at the time of the survey. This rate was particularly high among youth (15-24 years old) in El Mina, where 59.8 percent considered emigration, compared to 49.3 percent among residents aged 25 to 64 years and 20.9 percent among the elderly (65 years and older).

The share of households reporting the out-migration of at least one family member stood at 15.7 percent – 9.7 percent among non-Lebanese and 18.2 percent among Lebanese. More family members emigrated in Mina 3 (22.7 percent) than Mina Jardins (9.2 percent). These rates may have increased over the past year (in 2021) with the continuous devaluation of the Lebanese currency – followed by a severe shortage in fuel, medicine, and other basic needs. Reported reasons for leaving Lebanon were primarily economic (54.0 percent of Lebanese and 45.9 percent of non-Lebanese), educational and political for Lebanese (respectively 21.4 and 8.2 percent), and linked to security and political reasons for non-Lebanese (respectively18.9 and 16.2 percent).

During the FGDs, all youth participants stated that they were thinking of leaving the country. Participants from different educational and social backgrounds and nationalities all agreed on the necessity to escape the country to secure their future. One of the Lebanese participants declared that he recently tried to leave Lebanon illegally through a smuggler's boat to Cyprus, hoping to continue to Germany or other countries in mainland Europe. Unfortunately, the trip did not reach its destination. The overloaded boat had become stranded in the middle of the sea for three days before the marine forces found it. They rescued the passengers and brought them back to Lebanon. "We saw death," he explained when he described the experience. Surprisingly, despite all the suffering during the trip, he said he was ready to repeat it if he had the chance, indicating just how disillusioned people are with the economic situation and lack of opportunity in El Mina and Lebanon more broadly.


Photo credit: Catalyst Action

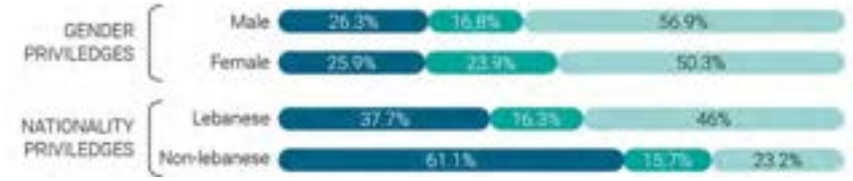
When non-Lebanese participants spoke about secure futures, their responses were especially cynical. As one participant explained, "Lebanon cannot provide a secure future for its own citizens, let alone for the refugees who live there." His explanation demonstrated how the crises in the country are exacerbated for non-Lebanese who do not have the same rights as Lebanese and who, as non-citizens, are in an economically, socially, and politically marginal position.

RIGHTS & STATUS INEQUALITIES

CITIZENSHIP INEQUALITY

The inequality in legal rights between Lebanese and non-Lebanese citizens plays a significant role in defining people's opportunities in creating a decent quality of life. According to UNHCR, Lebanon has the highest proportion per capita of refugees globally. Approximately 1 in 8 inhabitants is a refugee (UNHCR 2021). According to the Lebanese government, the country hosts 1.5 million displaced Syrians who fled to Lebanon after the eruption of the Syrian civil war in 2011 and more than 200,000 Palestinian refugees (UNHCR 2020). The rights of refugees in Lebanon are subject to constant debates.

The Lebanese government does not comply with the 1951 Geneva Refugee Convention and consequently refuses to grant official asylum or refugee status to displaced Syrians living in the country. Displaced Syrians are not allowed to own property and are denied access to the Lebanese public health care system.



Note: Answers to the question "To what extent do you agree with the following statement?: Being male/female grants me privileges in society at large; my nationality grants me privileges in society at large."

Figure 36 Perception of priviledges by gender and nationality

Moreover, work restrictions on refugees in Lebanon make it difficult for them to obtain formal work, often leading to their informal and precarious inclusion in the labour market (Yahya 2018; LEADERS 2019).

According to our household survey data, 61.1 percent of Syrians and Palestinians in El Mina believe that their nationalities do not grant them privileges in society, compared to 37.8 percent of the Lebanese (**Figure 36**). One Syrian participant said during an FGD:

> *"We are an oppressed nation. We are not treated as humans in this country. The residency policy for Syrians in Lebanon is harsh and uncivil."*

Another participant explained how his nationality prevented him from performing jobs that matched his skills:

> *"I hope that I can work legally, but the laws prevent me from working in specific professions."*

Institutional inequalities affect not only recently displaced people but also descendants of Palestinians and Syrians who were born in Lebanon. One Palestinian participant stated that he considers himself Lebanese because his grandparents came to Lebanon more than 70 years ago when they were still children. His grandparents grew up in Lebanon, his parents were born in Lebanon, and he had never been to Palestine. He explained, however, that he is not a Lebanese citizen and is deprived of many basic rights, making him feel that his nationality is a barrier to a decent future in the country. During the FGD, he explained his desire to migrate to a country that would grant him such rights.

GENDER INEQUALITY

In El Mina, male respondents are considerably more likely to enjoy gender-based privileges than their female counterparts (**Figure 36**) due to structural and legal barriers to gender equality. First of all, Lebanon does not have a civil personal status law. Instead, there are 15 different religion-based personal status laws. However, the common pattern across these laws is that women have fewer rights than men in decisions related to their own life, such as divorce, marriage, inheritance, and custody of children (Human Rights Watch 2015). Another barrier to gender equality is that women in Lebanon are deprived of the right to pass the Lebanese nationality to their children if they choose to marry a non-Lebanese citizen. Moreover, the representation of women in politics and decision-making positions is very low: "In the 2018 parliamentary elections, 113 women ran for office and 86 percent of them made it to the candidate list, which is an unprecedented number [...]. However, despite the efforts exerted by several NGOs to support female candidates, only six women were elected" (Madaniyat & UNDP 2021).

During the FGDs, participants declared that although there are few women in the local authorities in El-Mina, the city still performs better than the surrounding areas regarding women's involvement in decision-making. Moreover, participants agreed that the involvement of women in household decision-making varies according to family. For instance, one Syrian particIpant stated that she believes that decision-making is always dominated by men for Syrian families in general. In contrast, the decision in Lebanese families is usually mutual. In this regard, survey results reveal that Lebanese women are considerably more likely than non-Lebanese women to enjoy gender-based privileges (60.2 percent vs. 48.6 percent, respectively). Similarly, female-headed households are more prevalent among Lebanese (23.7 percent) than non-Lebanese (14.9 percent) households.

Photo credit : Mayssa Jellad

EDUCATION

Private

1. Orthodox National College
2. Antonine International School
3. House of Children
4. Beirut Arab University
5. Rawdat Al Fayhaa Secondary School
6. AUL University
7. Mar Elias Techincal Institute
8. College des Saints Coeurs
9. Al Risala Islamic Secondary School

Schools owned by a private entity
(NGO or other)

10. Al Chabbate Al Moslimat Preschool

Public

11. Andree Nahas Public Secondary School for Girls
12. Al Nahda Public School for Boys
13. Al Hayat Public School for Girls
14. Al Salam Public School for Boys
15. The Third Mina Preschool
16. Al Tahzibya Public School for Girls
17. Al Nahda Public School for Girls
18. Al Nasr Public School for Boys
19. Saba Zreik Public Secondary School for Boys
20. Al Nour Mixed Public School
21. The First Public School for Girls
22. Al Tahzibya Public School for Boys
23. The Second Public School for Girls
24. The First Mina Preschool
25. The Second Mina Preschool
26. Industrial Technical Institute Preschool
27. Hospitality Institute
28. Al Nahda Public Mixed School
29. Rawdat El Mina Public Mxed School
30. MoSA Preschool

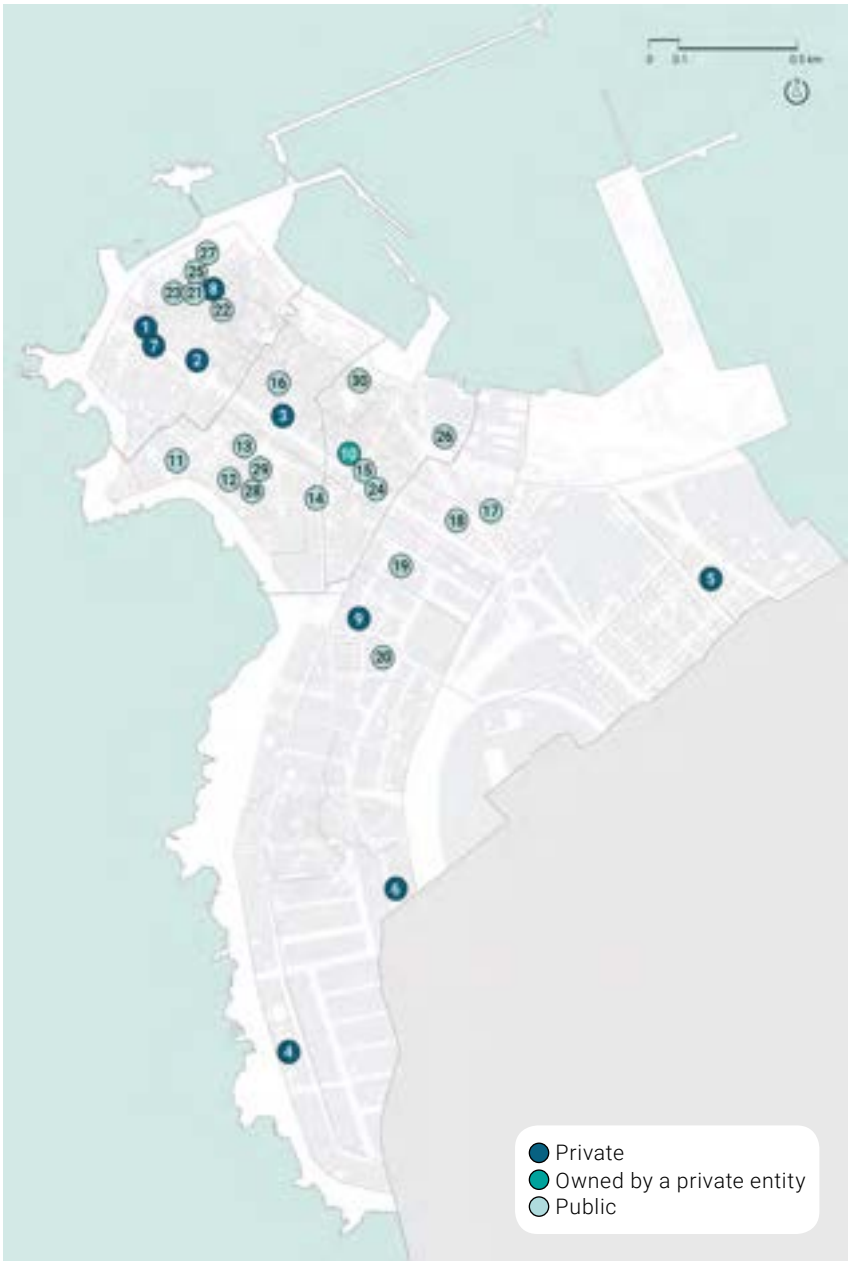


Figure 37 Education facilities in El Mina

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Household survey results indicate that 56.2 percent of respondents in El Mina aged 3-24 years old were enrolled in an educational institution at the time of the survey. Over half (56.1 percent) of children aged 3 to 14 have attended primary school, and 22.4 percent have attended intermediate school (**Figure 38**). The results also indicate that among the youth in El Mina (aged 15-24), 2 percent had reached primary school as their highest level of education, while 42.8 percent reported that they had attended university. Regarding the heads of household, only 13.2 percent reported having completed higher education, while 38.7 percent reported leaving school at an early phase (preschool or primary school). In general, the percentages of males and females in the different stages of education were relatively close, which indicates no apparent gender disparity in educational attainment in El Mina.

Among those of primary-school-age (6 to 11 years), the rate of school enrolment among Lebanese residents (89.5 percent) exceeds that of non-Lebanese residents (72.9 percent) by 16.5 percentage points. While the Lebanese primary school attendance

in El Mina is slightly lower than the North Governorate (93.1 percent), non-Lebanese primary school attendance exceeds the district by more than 10 percentage points (64.9 percent). This gap between nationalities increases for those of secondary-school age (12 to 18 years), where the highest gap is observed among higher-secondary-school age residents (15 to 18 years) (**Figure 38**). Regarding gender, we observe a narrow gap in enrolment rates at the primary-school-age (6 to 11 years) for both nationalities. This gap increases gradually with age and peaks at the higher-secondary-school level (15 to 18 years) with higher enrolment rates among Lebanese and non-Lebanese women (81.8 percent and 30.8 percent) than Lebanese and non-Lebanese men (61.8 percent and 14.3 percent).

Syrian respondents reported financial constraints, language barriers, and lack of legal documentation as the main issues that prevent Syrian refugees from accessing education.

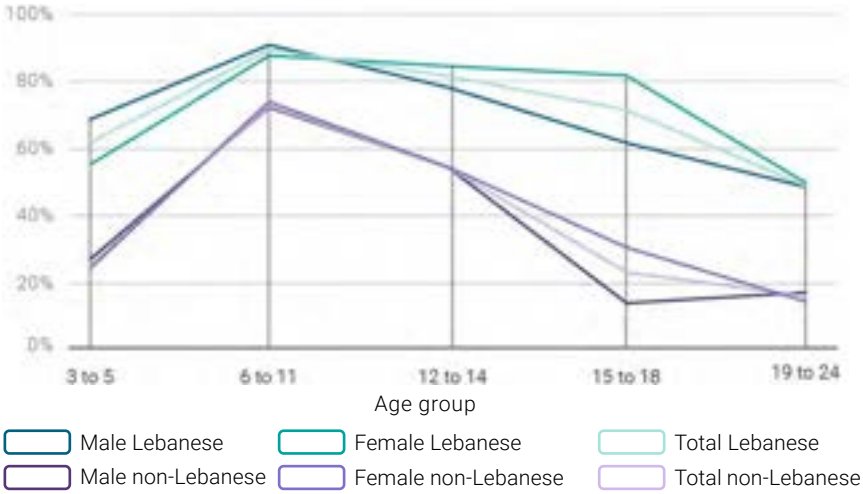


Figure 38 School enrolment rates by nationality and gender

As previously described, these reasons result in relatively lower school enrolment rates among non-Lebanese children. In addition, the limited capacity of Lebanese public schools and their struggles in accommodating new students means that priority is given to Lebanese students. The current economic crisis has deepened this trend. The shortage of resources to pay for school fees has forced more students to move from private to public schools.

Photo credit : CatalyticAction

Furthermore, a small percentage of Syrian refugee students can attend regular morning school shifts, while most Syrian refugees study in specifically designed afternoon shifts. The latter shifts are widely perceived as offering a poorer quality of education than regular shifts, which likely contributes to the gap in educational attainment between Lebanese and non-Lebanese students.

AFFORDABILITY OF EDUCATION

El Mina has 20 public schools, 8 private schools, and 2 private universities (**Figure 37**). Our findings show that 76.8 percent of students in El Mina are enrolled in public schools, 19.1 percent in private schools, 2.6 percent in private free schools, and 1.6 percent in UNRWA schools. The data reveals several evident discrepancies in enrolment based on income, nationality, and neighbourhood of residence. For example, children from households within the highest income quintile have a school enrolment of 87.2 percent, significantly higher than the enrolment rates of children from less well-off backgrounds.

As expected, household income is also a strong determinant of whether children are enrolled in public or private schools (**Figure 39**). Findings reveal how big the gap in private school enrolment is between children from

the top quintile and children in all other income groups. While 74.2 percent of children in the top income bracket are enrolled in private schools, this number falls to 16.1 percent for the second quintile and progressively declines with household income. Attending a private school is highly unlikely for children whose household income is less than 3 million L.L., and it is virtually impossible for children from households who earn less than 400,000 L.L. In addition to household income, the data suggests that nationality is also a strong determinant of the type of school in which children are enrolled. Non-Lebanese students are considerably less likely to be enrolled in private schools overall (6.2 percent vs. 31.4 percent for Lebanese) (**Figure 40**).

These inequalities in access to educational provision have clear spatial dimensions. Children in deprived neighbourhoods are significantly less likely to be enrolled in school than children in middle-income neighbourhoods. For example, in the heavily deprived neighbourhoods of Hay Al Tanak and Hay Al Jumrok, school enrolment is just below 55 percent, while in more affluent neighbourhoods such as Al Sanawiye, Hay Al Bawwaba, and Corniche Al Mina, enrolment rates are well above 80 percent.

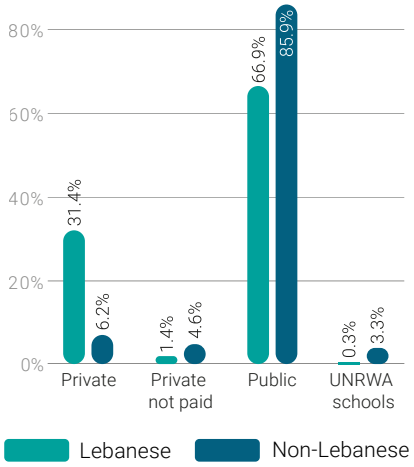


Figure 40 Enrolment by school type and nationality (3 to 14 years old)

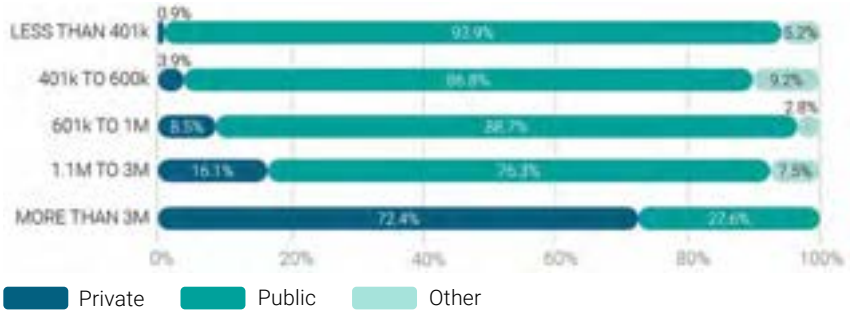


Figure 39 Enrolment by school type and income quintile (3 to 18 years old)

According to FGD participants, schools in El Mina displayed positive aspects, but they also faced some challenges. There are two excellent public high schools in El Mina, Saba Zreik and Andreh Nahhas, and many students from outside of El Mina are enrolled here. Most of the teachers in El Mina are qualified and dedicated, and the students' academic results in official exams are satisfactory. Moreover, most household survey respondents (70.1 percent) reported that the education delivered at their children's schools addresses their needs. At the same time, FGD participants raised several concerns about public schools: lack of good hygiene with toilets in poor condition and lack of clean running water; poor quality education in the afternoon programs designated for Syrian refugees; an old curriculum that needs to be updated; and neglect of students' mental health, the importance of which is often unacknowledged. A teacher we interviewed also expressed concerns about frequent fights in public schools, sometimes resulting in serious injury.

Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, lockdown measures and the transition to online learning have increased inequalities in access to good quality education. In addition, the ongoing economic crisis and the collapse of the local currency have made it more difficult for parents to afford the cost of education, including the cost of transportation, stationery, and equipment needed for remote learning such as laptops and the internet. In fact, 56.7 percent of surveyed households declared that schools are not affordable in El Mina. This percentage was higher among non-Lebanese (61.8 percent) than Lebanese respondents (52.8 percent).

This educational exclusion increases the risk that some children, particularly the most vulnerable, might discontinue their education permanently when lockdowns occur. Within our sample, 32.8 percent of children aged between 3 and 18 were out of school. Financial constraints appear to be the primary reason for dropouts. Specifically, the high cost of supplies/tuition (27.4 percent) and the need for child-generated income (18.0 percent) were the most frequently reported reasons for children being out of school. They were cited at roughly equal rates by both Lebanese and non-Lebanese households. In addition, transportation costs and lack of legal documents were claimed to impede school enrolment predominantly among non-Lebanese households (**Figure 41**).

One of the main problems that most of the participants in the FGDs agreed on was the increase in the dropout rate in El Mina during the past two years due to the pandemic and the economic crisis (2020-2021). The participants suggested several measures to help children in El Mina stay in schools and pursue their education. They include providing financial support to vulnerable families; paying more attention to the level of hygiene in public schools; having better and more frequent communication from schools to parents to keep parents engaged; raising awareness among parents about the importance of education for their children, and improving the curriculum by adding more interactive course materials.

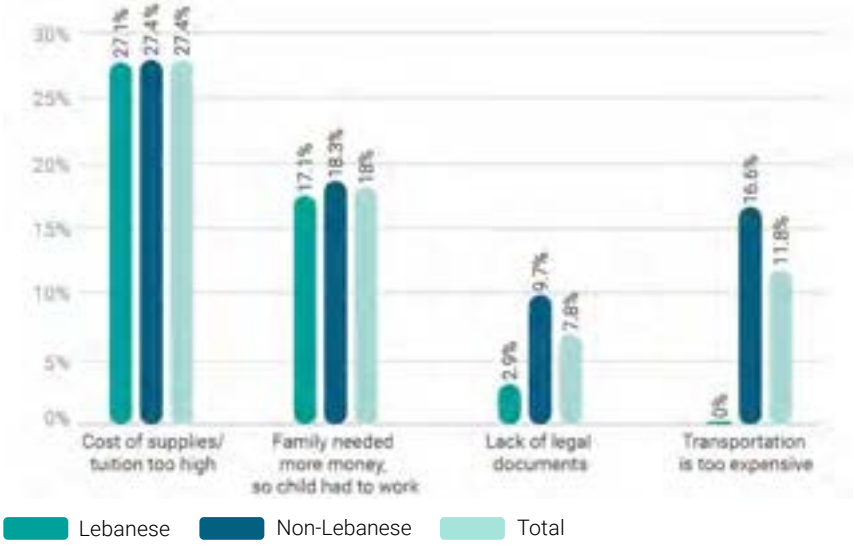


Figure 41 Highest reported reasons for out-of-school children (3 to 18 years old)

POWER, VOICE & INFLUENCE

Photo credit : Maryssa Jallad

CONCEPTUAL OVERVIEW

People's relationship to politics and governance institutions matters for their quality of life (Debnath & Shankar, 2014, Ott, 2011). Well-performing institutions – from local governments to NGOs – are essential for quality of life, not only because they are responsible for managing economies, public services, and terms of civic dialogue, but also because the way they govern impacts people's sense of self and agency. **People's relationship to institutions defines whether they feel valued as members of their community and whether they can engage in meaningful civic participation** (Leung et al. 2011).

The three categories that make up this domain of prosperity – power, voice and influence – are all subject to long-standing academic debates. They can be theorised in different ways, and they mean different things in different cultural contexts. **In the case of Lebanon, there is a long history of tensions between different political parties and their respective supporters, which have translated into complex experiences of trust towards institutions**. The political protests that began in October 2019 revealed how widespread and deeply entrenched public disillusionment had become in Lebanon. It has been further exacerbated by the subsequent economic crisis and the Beirut port blast, both of which were widely blamed on the country's political elites and governing institutions.

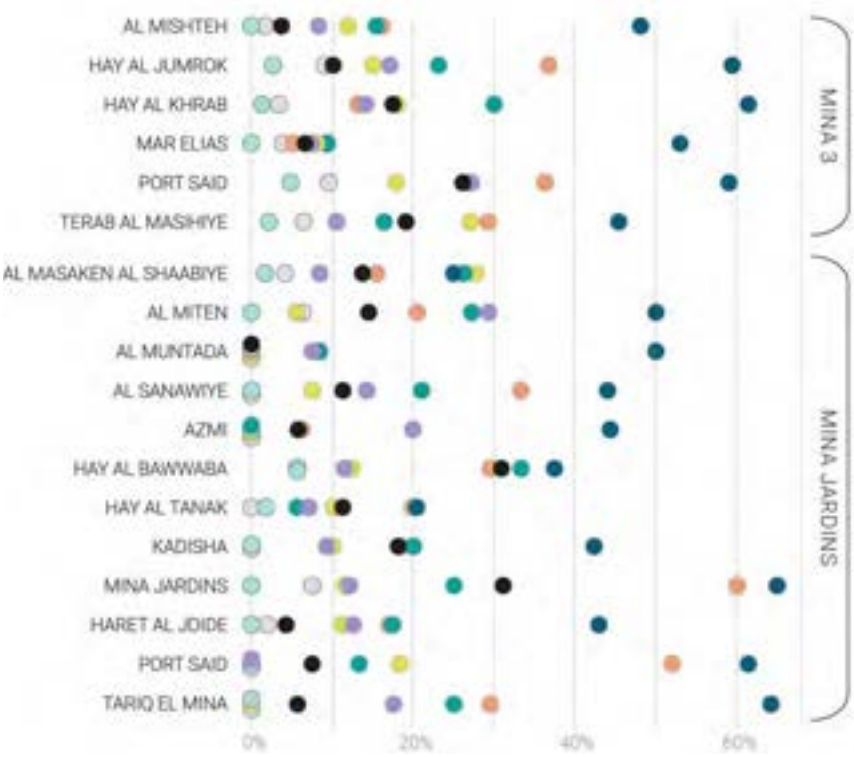
Our findings from El Mina – collected prior to the Beirut blast – reveal a deep mistrust of governing institutions and people in power. As one of El Mina residents put it concerning governing bodies, "no one is helping us. We help and care for each other." Feeling abandoned by those who govern leads to a sense of curtailed power, voice and influence. It makes people feel that governance stakeholders do not listen to their needs and demands. It is left up to individuals and communities to mobilise their limited resources to deal with the challenges.

Photo credit : Mayssa Jallad

INSTITUTIONAL TRUST & GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE

Institutional trust is a fundamental element of social capital. It acts as a key contributor to sustaining well-being outcomes and ensures the effective functioning of a democracy and the operation of courts. Since trust is an essential precondition for a democratic rule, its absence poses a threat to representative democracy (Bornstein & Tomkins, 2015). However, in light of the recent political and liquidity crisis and the long-standing patronage-based political system, Lebanon presents a case where public trust is shallow (Arab Barometer, 2019).

Household survey respondents in El Mina were asked to indicate the extent to which they trusted each of the following institutions: *Mokhtars*, Police, Media, Municipality, Religious Bodies, Political Parties, and Parliament.



Note: Measured in response to the question "I am going to name a number of organisations. For each one, could you tell me how much confidence you have in them: is it a great deal of confidence, quite a lot of confidence, not very much confidence or none at all?" Figure 42 indicates the percentage of respondents in each neighbourhood who have "a great deal of confidence" and "quite a lot of confidence" for each institution.

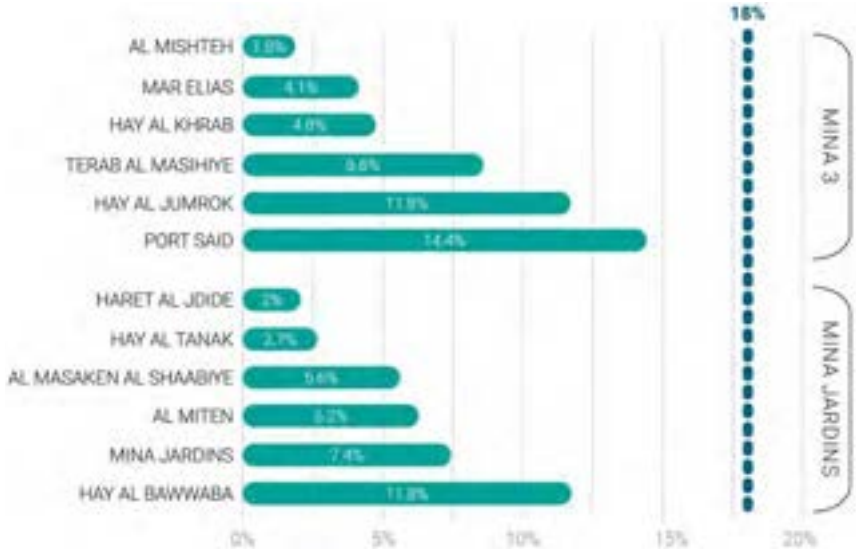
Media · *Mokhtar* · Municipality · NGOs
Parliament · Police · Religious bodies · Political parties

Figure 42 Trust in institutions by neighbourhood

Findings showed that local *mokhtars* were by far the most trusted actors (**Figure 42**) in all the neighbourhoods. El Mina has 12 ***mokhtars***, whose offices are distributed around the city. A *mokhtar* is a "representative of the smallest state body at the local level in Lebanon. […] As an administrative officer, the *mokhtar* is responsible for some of the official functions established among the people of their community, such as registration for national registers, births, deaths and marriages" (RELIEF Centre & UN Habitat, 2020: 4). One possible explanation that people trust *mokhtars* more than other stakeholders is that they are easily accessible to the community and readily available to offer support at the local level. They have a presence that is not attainable by most high-level officials in Parliament or political parties. However, it must be noted that *mokhtars* were not highly trusted everywhere in Mina. They enjoyed the least trust in Hay el Tanak (20.9 percent) and Al Masaken Al Shaabiye (25.0 percent).

In contrast to the relatively high levels of people's confidence in local *mokhtars*, political trust, measured by the trust in Parliament and political parties, is the lowest across all neighbourhoods (**Figure 42**). Many neighbourhoods registered zero percent confidence in Parliament and political parties. Even in the neighbourhoods that registered the most confidence in political institutions - Port Said (14.4 percent) and Hay El Jumrok (11.8 percent) – political trust still falls behind the North Governorate level (18.0 percent) (**Figure 43**). Given the dire situation at the time of the survey with the COVID-19 outbreak, the financial collapse, and the political crisis, it is unsurprising that political trust is low. In effect, the data points to a clear divergence in trust attitudes toward city servants and the greater national authority. This comes as no surprise in Lebanon, where sectarian identity shapes much of social and political life. Respondents are more likely to exhibit positive perceptions toward local authorities who share their identity than those in national government divided across sects. In this regard, some level of decentralisation has been a recurring suggestion for political reform in Lebanon (Baroud, 2021). Trust attitudes in El Mina suggest that empowering local governments with greater decision-making authority might yield benefits in the eyes of residents.

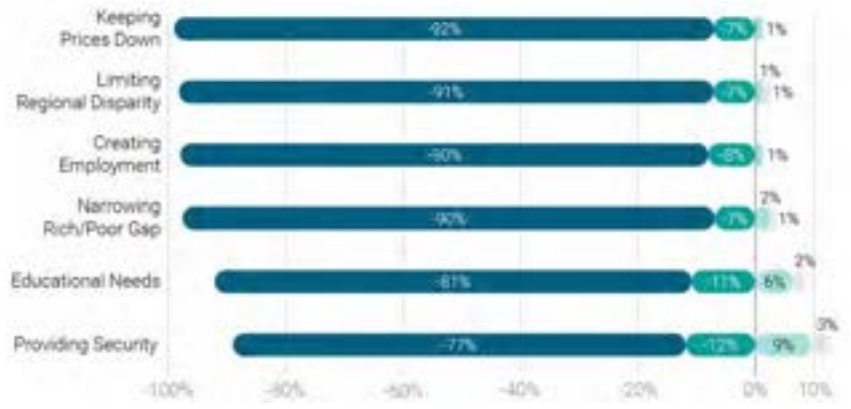
Low levels of trust are clear reflections of evaluative orientations toward governance. Overall, respondents in El Mina are predomInantly dissatisfied with government performance regarding economic, education, and security needs (**Figure 44**). Citizens were most likely to positively evaluate the security and educational needs provisions, with 12.0 and 8.0 percent indicating a "good" or "very good" performance. Assessing evaluative tendencies by nationality shows that Lebanese residents were



Note:
a. Figure 43 indicates the percentage of respondents in each neighbourhood who have "quite a lot of confidence" and "a great deal of confidence" in political parties and parliament.
b. Confidence values for Al Muntada, Al Sanawiye, Azmi, Kadisha, Port Said (Mina Jardins) and Tariq El Mina are suppressed because they are equal to zero.
c. The North Governorate Benchmark is sourced from Wave 7 of the World Values Survey (Haerpfer, C. et al., 2020).

Political trust (parliament and political parties)
Governorate benchmark

Figure 43 Confidence in political parties and parliament

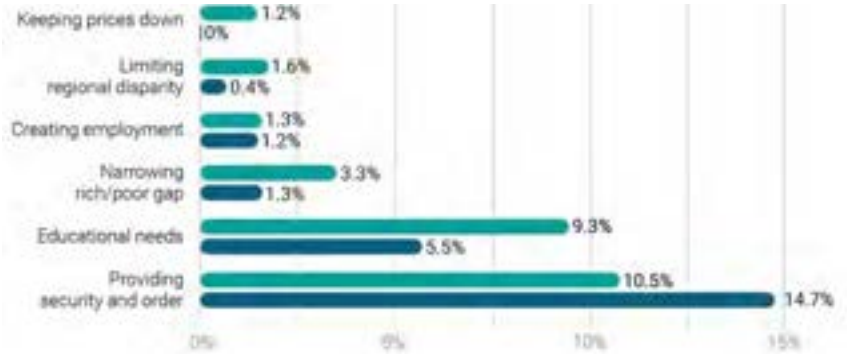


Note: Measured in response to the question, "I am going to ask a number of questions related to the current government's performance in specific areas. For each area, could you tell me if you rate it: very bad, bad, good or very good?"

Very bad
Bad
Good
Very good

Figure 44 Evaluation of government performance

more likely to evaluate government performance positively than their counterparts on all issues except for security and order (**Figure 45**). One reason for this is that non-Lebanese face higher barriers to accessing state services, given the government's fragmented approach to welfare. Non-Lebanese residents also tend to be in a more economically precarious situation and are consequently less likely to have experiences of good governance overall.



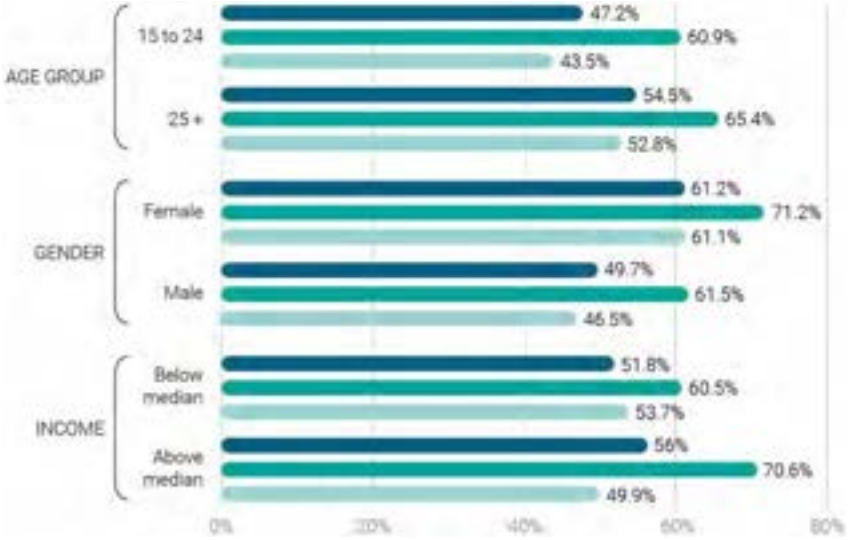
Note: Measured in response to the question, "I am going to ask a number of questions related to the current government's performance in specific areas. For each area, could you tell me if you rate it: very bad, bad, good or very good?"

Lebanese Non-Lebanese

Figure 45 Evaluation of government performance by nationality

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION & POLITICAL INCLUSION

Lebanon is often considered one of the leading Arab countries regarding freedom of expression. According to a 2019 Arab Barometer study, for example, 49 percent of youth in Lebanon report that they have "the freedom to protest peacefully" to a "great or medium extent." Although this is a low number, indicating that only a minority of Lebanon's population see themselves as possessing full political freedoms, it is nevertheless the highest percentage (also shared with Tunisia) of any country in the Middle East and North Africa region (Raz, 2019: 13).



Note: Figure 46 indicates the percentage of respondents who report that the corresponding freedom is "guaranteed to a limited extent" or "guaranteed to a great extent".

Protest Join organisations Express opinions

Figure 46 Perceptions of political freedom by age, gender and income

Consistent with this finding, PI HH survey data reveals that the majority of residents in El Mina believe their freedom to protest (53.8 percent), join organisations (64.9 percent), and express opinions (51.7 percent) is guaranteed to a great or limited extent. Nonetheless, these experiences vary across specific demographic subgroups. For instance, women are less likely than men to claim that political freedoms are guaranteed in El Mina, with the widest gap observed in freedom to express an opinion (15.0 percent). Variations are also observed by age, with the youth slightly less optimistic about all political freedoms than older generations. A mixed picture is presented concerning income. Households with above-median income are 10 percent more likely to report guaranteed rights to join organisations, 4 percent more likely to report guaranteed rights to protest, but 3.8 percent less likely to report guaranteed rights to express opinions (**Figure 46**). In brief, these findings indicate that residents in El Mina predominantly believe that their fundamental freedoms are not constrained but that male, older, and higher-income respondents are more likely to report positively perceived freedoms. Citizens' political inclusion in all forms of democratic activism (e.g., voting, engaging in public demonstrations, buying or boycotting products for political or ethical reasons, contacting a politician, local or non-local government official and signing petitions) is derived from such freedoms to speak out, associate and demonstrate. In El Mina, 48.2 percent of residents reported voting in the last elections in 2018. Non-institutional forms of engagement were reported at lower rates. Only 8.9 percent participated in a demonstration in the reference year, 3.7 percent boycotted or bought products for political or ethical reasons, 2.4 percent contacted a politician or NGO, and 2 percent signed petitions. We observe a lower level of engagement among women than among men. For instance, women were approximately

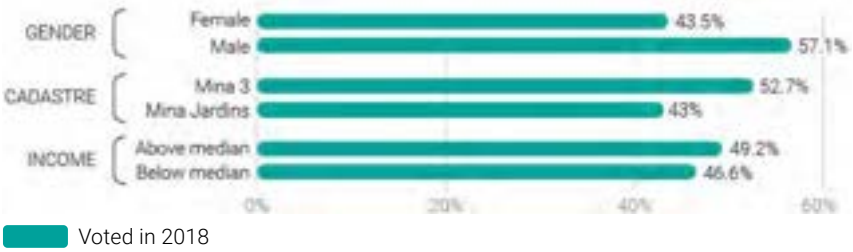


Figure 47 Percentage of Mina residents who voted in the last election by gender, cadastre and income

14.0 percent less likely than men to have voted in the most recent election (2018). They were also less likely to have demonstrated (4.5 percent gap) and boycotted or bought products for political reasons (3 percent gap). However, gender gaps in these forms of activism are relatively small. Differences by age cohorts are also observed, albeit with mixed findings. The youth are more likely to have engaged in protests and demonstrations than those aged 25 years and above (17.9 percent vs 7.8 percent, respectively). They are also slightly more likely to have bought or boycotted products for political reasons (5.4 percent vs 3.5 percent, respectively). Besides this, almost no respondent in the youth cohort reported making political contact or signing petitions, and a small percentage of their counterparts (age > 24) reported engaging in these activities (2.5 percent and 2.2 percent, respectively). In terms of income, the data points unanimously to higher engagement among those from above-median income households. In particular, we observe gaps favouring above-median income households in demonstrating (11 percent gap), boycotting products (4.2 percent gap), signing petitions (4.1 percent gap), voting (2.6 percent gap), and making political contact (2 percent gap) (**Figure 47**).

To conclude, the main concerns raised at this stage are the following. Firstly, large parts of the Mina population feel politically excluded and disempowered. Secondly, huge inequalities exist in the extent to which Mina residents feel free to exercise their voice and influence and take the initiative to participate politically. Finally, both issues point to political cultures and governance structures that require more serious efforts to build public trust and work for all residents in a way that inspires confidence in the guarantees of freedom across the El Mina population.

HEALTH & HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS

Photo credit : CatalyticAction

CONCEPTUAL OVERVIEW

The World Health Organisation (WHO) (1948) defines health as "**a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity**." Departing from traditional medical models, we follow this definition, conceptualizing health as a right linked to well-being as a whole (The World Health Organization (WHO) 1948; (Sartorius 2006)).

We consider measures of temporary ill health, chronic illness and disabilities in addressing local health (Lina Martino 2017). We also account for the broadening health definitions of health by accounting for the ability of accommodating a useful life both economically and socially (Dye et al. 2013). We integrate mental health in our analysis, as an integral part of public health while i mproving the understanding of mental health dimensions (Lina Martino 2017). **Furthermore, living in good health depends on several individual and environmental factors**.

This chapter presents findings on the elements that residents of El Mina associate with living a healthy life. In addition to physical and mental health outcomes, the chapter also overviews findings on access to health care, green spaces, and the extent to which people feel safe and secure in their neighbourhoods, which are considered vital assets for supporting health and well-being (Public Health England 2020). The inclusion of these 'natural capitals' is integral, as they can help address local issues such as improving health and well-being, reducing health inequalities, and improving social cohesion. **Evidence shows that tackling "natural capital" such as green spaces can positively impact people's lives. Exposure to green spaces, for instance, can help manage poor health and recovery from illness (Public Health England 2020)**. Greener environments and secured neighbourhoods are also associated with better mental health and well-being. Greener and safer areas can enhance the quality of life and reduce depression, anxiety, and fatigue.

Photo credit : Mayss Jalled

PHYSICAL HEALTH

When asked to describe their current health status, nearly a quarter (22.3 percent) of El Mina residents considered they are in poor health. Approximately a third (33.5 percent) considered they are in good health, while 31.9 percent described their health status as fair. Only 2.1 percent of Lebanese and 1.5 percent of non-Lebanese surveyed respondents in El Mina reported severe or life-threatening health conditions.

Photo credit : Aya Ashram

According to PI HH survey respondents, chronic illness is the most reported health condition in El Mina among inhabitants, affecting 22.5 percent of Lebanese households and 13.9 percent of non-Lebanese. Temporary illness comes in second place, affecting 4.7 percent of the Lebanese residents and 8.1 percent of the non-Lebanese residents. According to a local health specialist (**Appendix 3**), non-communicable chronic diseases, such as diabetes and hypertension, are the leading health care problems among adults who visit the El Iman Dispensary. These chronic diseases seem to be most prominent. They are "silent diseases," where the absence of early detection and follow-up and the expensive cost of screening leads patients to address them only at an advanced stage. Lack of health care awareness is another factor, especially when people believe they do not need treatment if they have no pain. El Iman Dispensary is a Primary Health Centre (PHC). It offers yearly evaluations for chronic diseases to visitors over forty, refers them to specialized doctors for testing, then refers their cases to other entities which provide free medicine (**Figure 48**).

Our findings suggest low disability rates, with 2.1 percent of Lebanese and 2.4 percent of non-Lebanese reporting disabilities in our sample, in contrast with 4.9 and 3.7 percent recorded in North Lebanon Governorate (CAS & ILO 2019). Just over a third (34.8 percent) of surveyed disabled residents reported having walking difficulties, and nearly a fifth (19.6 percent) declared having difficulties with self-care. The proportions of El Mina disabled inhabitants facing speaking, learning, seeing, and interacting difficulties were close, recording 11.6 percent, 10.7 percent, 9.8 percent, and 8.9 percent, respectively. A smaller number of surveyed disabled residents declared a hearing disability (4.5 percent). The NGO Forum of the Handicapped (FOH) takes care of the needs of persons with disabilities in North Lebanon. It is located in the Mina Jardins cadastre (Forum of the Handicapped North Lebanon 2020).[21] The needs of residents with disabilities are also considered by some local health facilities. The Al Iman Dispensary renovated their centre to accommodate special needs, adding an access ramp and building an accessible toilet. Home visits to patients with disabilities were also offered, but this service stopped with the COVID-19 pandemic. Additional services are provided at the PHC for patients with disabilities such as exemptions from all costs of visits, free equipment through the International Medical Corps (IMC), and training sessions for equipment and physical therapy.

COVID-19 has had a nation-wide impact on the health sector in Lebanon, reaching its peak in Tripoli of 9,621 active cases in January 2021 (MOPH 2021). The Al Fayhaa Union of Municipalities has raised awareness about safety measures such as social distancing and sanitising neighbourhoods and public places. However, there are limits, principally, the economic and resource limitations of the Union of municipalities – Tripoli, El Mina, Beddawi, and Qalamoun – which are among the poorest in the Mediterranean (UN-Habitat 2020). In August 2020, the local health specialist confirmed that COVID-19 was not taken seriously by many inhabitants, despite the efforts made, which increases the risk of asymptomatic patients spreading the disease (**Appendix 3**).

[21] The Forum of the Handicapped's mandate is to work for the provision of a better life of persons with disabilities. Its main objectives are the defense of the rights of persons with disability and the work for their inclusion in society (Forum of the Handicapped North Lebanon 2020).

Hospital

1 Ahmad Medical Center (under renovation)

Dispensary

2 Red Cross Dispensary
3 Al Najda Al Shaabiya Dispensary
4 Al Iman Dispensary
5 Al Karame Dispensary
6 Dr. Habib Falah Dispensary
7 El Mina Charitable Dispensary
8 Al Azmi Social Health Dispensary
9 Sama El Ekhwa Dispensary
10 Urgence Institution Dispensary
11 Makarem El Mina Dispensary
12 Al Irchad Charitable Dispensary
13 MoPH Quarantine
14 Orthodox Social Health Center
15 Social Health Center

Pharmacy

16 Al Biaa Pharmacy
17 Neimeh Pharmacy
18 Mahaba Pharmacy
19 Fayhaa El Mina Pharmacy
20 Al Rayan Pharmacy
21 Al Wafaa Pharmacy
22 Port Said Pharmacy
23 Marwan Pharmacy
24 Al Falah Pharmacy
25 El Mina Pharmacy
26 Al Nassi Pharmacy
27 Al Shami Pharmacy
28 Corniche Pharmacy
29 Al Nazer Pharmacy
30 Al Sabagh Pharmacy
31 El Mina Pharmacy
32 Khalidi Pharamacy
33 Al Rawda Pharmacy
34 Al Condor Pharmacy
35 Judy Pharmacy
36 Al Sehha Al Hadisa
37 Quality Pharmacy
38 Hazem Pharmacy

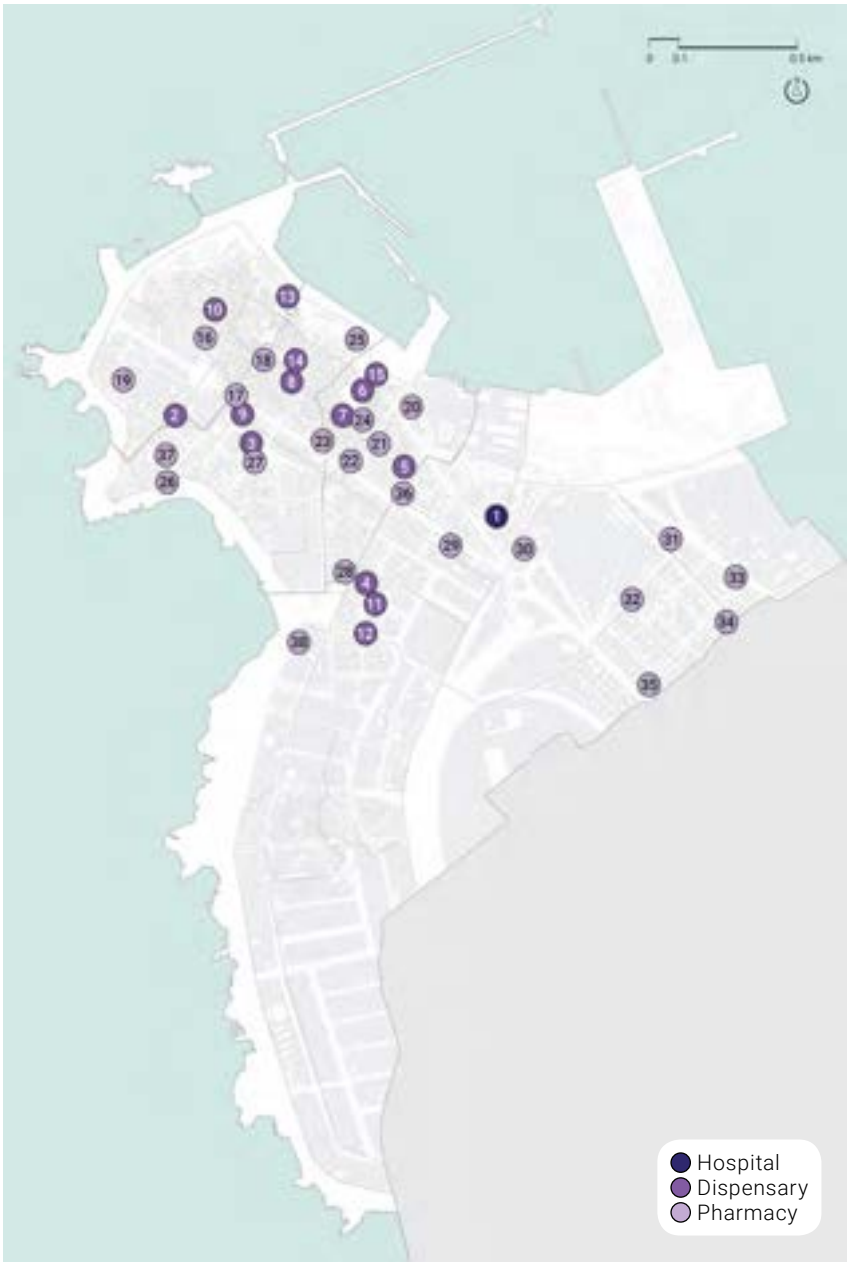


Figure 48 Health facilities in El Mina

Nevertheless, there is no lack of information about the coronavirus in Tripoli. In a recent report, 92 percent of the city's residents (including El Mina) declared they had received enough information about the pandemic, and 98 percent were not looking for additional information.[22] However, there remain challenges in applying measures, such as social distancing, regular hand-washing, and confinement at home (SEED & People in Need Slovakia 2020). In addition, nation-wide lockdown measures impacted people's livelihoods, and repeated lockdowns have cost many their jobs and prevented others from earning their daily living without government income support. Many also felt the need to forgo lockdown measures to provide for their families, putting their lives at risk (Bulos 2021).[23] For more on livelihoods, see the **Foundations of Prosperity, Livelihoods chapter.**

[22] Abu Samra, Tripoli-Nejmeh and Al Tal, El Mina, Azmi, Hadid, Maarad, Tabbeneh, Zahriyeh and Bedawi (SEED & People in Need Slovakia 2020).
[23] "Almost all respondents reported challenges, among their households' members, to follow risk reduction practices; especially for social distancing, regular handwashing, and confinement at home (respectively 92%, 50% and 52% of respondents)."

ACCESS TO HEALTH INSURANCE & HEALTHCARE

The Lebanese health care system is fragmented between public and private institutions regulated by government entities (Tabar et al. 2020). Despite different efforts, a comprehensive health project that unifies the many non-private financing agencies and introduces a non-contributory health care protection scheme for all Lebanese citizens is yet to be implemented. Failing to achieve a comprehensive health project means that a considerable portion of the population in Lebanon is left without medical coverage as they are unable to afford private insurance services. Instead, they resort to the national social insurance system, the National Social Security Fund (NSSF), established in 1964 by the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), which offers Lebanese citizens health and maternity insurance and end-of-service coverage for retirees. Beneficiary employees are permanent workers in agriculture, public institutions not subject to civil service, public school teachers, taxi drivers, newspaper sellers, and university students. In 2003, NSSF was extended to physicians and their dependents (Kronfol 2006). Foreign employee rights to benefit from NSSF services, on the other hand, are based on the principle of reciprocity that gives access to foreigners to the NSSF services if their country of origin offers similar treatment to Lebanese workers. Only four countries meet this criterion officially: France, Belgium, the UK, and Italy. Palestinians in Lebanon are classified as a special category of foreigners in the Lebanese labour market. They are only offered end-of-service benefits but pay full social security contributions (Saghieh & Nammour 2017; Tabar et al. 2020). Moreover, Syrians must pay NSSF contributions in full but cannot benefit from its services.

Photo credit : Marissa Jallad

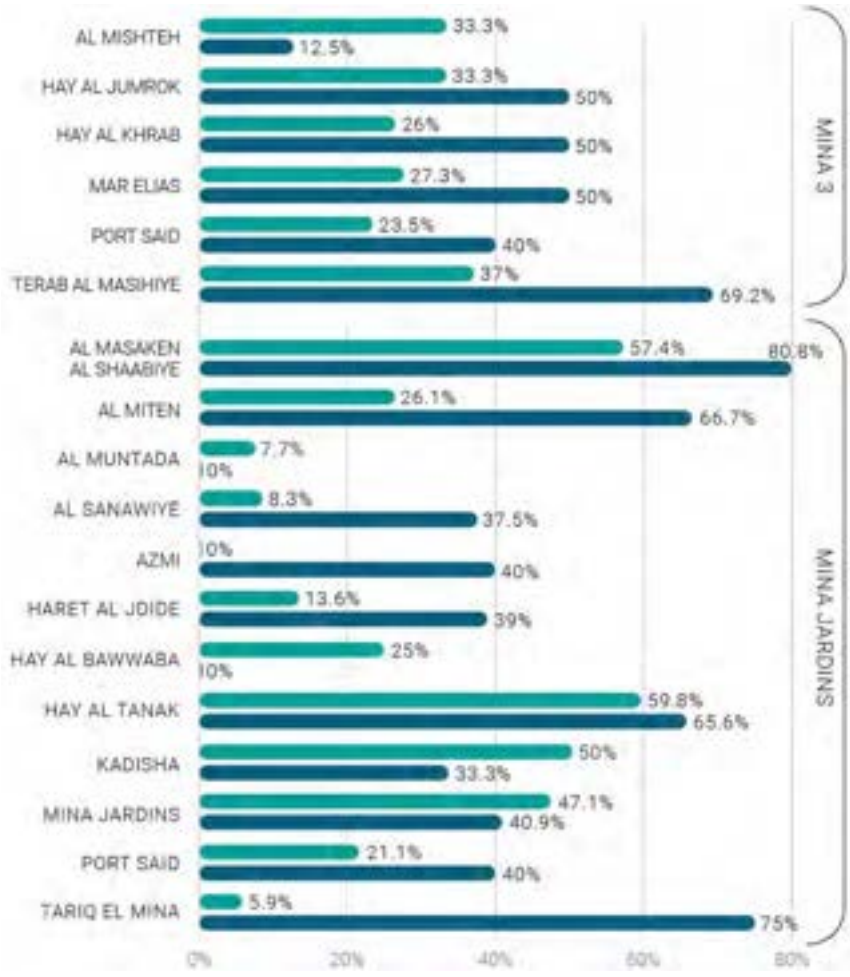


Figure 49 Residents who needed medical care but did not get it (in the last 12 months)

El Mina household survey revealed that only 13.0 percent and 32.9 percent of sample residents in Mina Jardins and Mina 3, respectively, are covered by the NSSF. The area with the highest count of NSSF coverage is Hay El Khrab (46.3 percent). The lowest count is in the Mina Jardins neighbourhood (6.3 percent), Al Masaken Al Shaabiyeh (6.4 percent), and Hay El Tanak (6.9 percent). Out of those residents not covered by NSSF in Mina 3 and Mina Jardins, 43.7 percent are non-Lebanese, and 56.3 percent are Lebanese. Nearly all the residents of Al Masaken Al Shaabiye (99.1 percent) and Hay Al Tanak (97.8 percent) are not covered with either private or public health insurance (**Figure 50**). These neighbourhoods have the highest percentages of people from various income brackets in need of medical health care and unable to access any medical treatments (65.8 percent for Al Masaken Al Shaabiye and 62.0 percent for Hay Al Tanak) (**Figure 51**). Of the Lebanese population who needed medical care and couldn't get it in the last 12 months, 57.4 percent reside in Al Masaken Al Shaabiye and 59.4 percent in Hay El Tanak, compared to 80.8 percent and 65.6 percent of non-Lebanese (**Figure 49**).

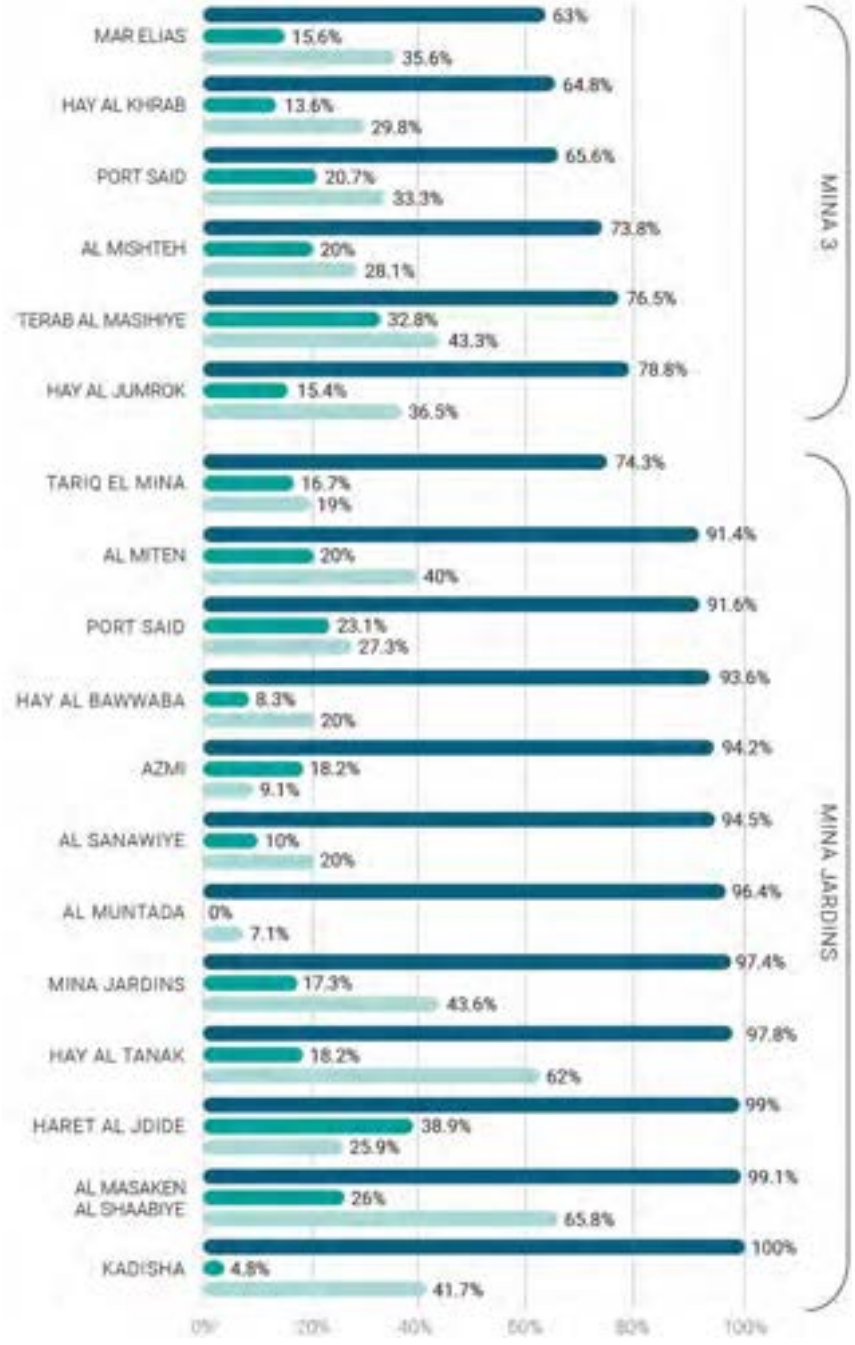


Figure 50 Medical insurance and access to health care by neighbourhood

The highest rate of health coverage – including both private insurance and social security - is recorded in Mina 3 (86.2 percent), with the highest proportion in Mar Elias (22.8 percent) and Hay Al Khrab (34.8 percent). Of those with public and private health insurance, 77.7 percent are Lebanese (78.3 percent are male and 77.1 percent are female) compared to 22.3 percent non-Lebanese (21.7 percent male and 22.9 percent female). The majority of those who have health insurance are in the 1.1 million to 3 million income bracket (33.7 percent). Those who do not have insurance are equally distributed among all income brackets but are in the minority (10.1 percent) with those who earn more than 3 million LL. Of those who needed care and could not get it in the last 12 months, 40.9 percent are non-Lebanese, and 59.1 percent are Lebanese. The majority (37.6%) are in the bottom income bracket/quintile, with a household income at or below 400,000 LL (**Figure 51**). Respondents were almost equally likely to have gone without the needed medical care across the income distribution, except those earning more than 3 million Lebanese Pounds (2.8 percent).

Amid political unrest, an ongoing pandemic, and a staggering economic decline that led to poverty and mass exodus, Lebanon's private health care has become unaffordable for many, increasing the strain on the public health sector that has deteriorated since 2019 (McCaffrey & Todman 2021). The health expenditure shows that more than a third of El Mina inhabitants (35.5 percent) borrowed money to pay for health care over the last year (since March 2019), suggesting that more than a third of El Mina residents did not afford health care services. Malnutrition directly affects the physical health of households. More than a half (55.0 percent) of El Mina residents have, at some point, gone without enough food to eat in the 12 months before the PI HH survey was conducted. Over three-quarters (76.0 percent) of the non-Lebanese population and more than two-fifths (45.9 percent) of the Lebanese people in El Mina suffer from malnutrition, and 68.5 percent of Mina residents borrow money to buy food.

More than half (53.2 percent) of surveyed households are dissatisfied and very dissatisfied with their access to health services. The only neighbourhoods that registered an above-average percentage of people who are satisfied and very satisfied are Al Sanawiye (85.0 percent), Al Muntada (78.6 percent), Hay Al Tanak (67.1 percent), Port Said/ Mina Jardins (59 percent) and Haret Al Jdide (55.7 percent). Hay Al Tanak and Haret Al Jdide residents mostly visit the Al-Iman dispensary near Al Masaken Al Shaabiyeh. Dabaj et al. (2020) show that interviewed participants were satisfied with the service because they were offered free medicine. However, a few complaints were recorded. They were mainly related to the crowdedness of Al-Iman dispensary (Dabaj et al., 2020). Al Sanawiye, Al Muntada, and Port Said (Mina Jardins) are inhabited by middle-class

Photo credit : Aya Ashram

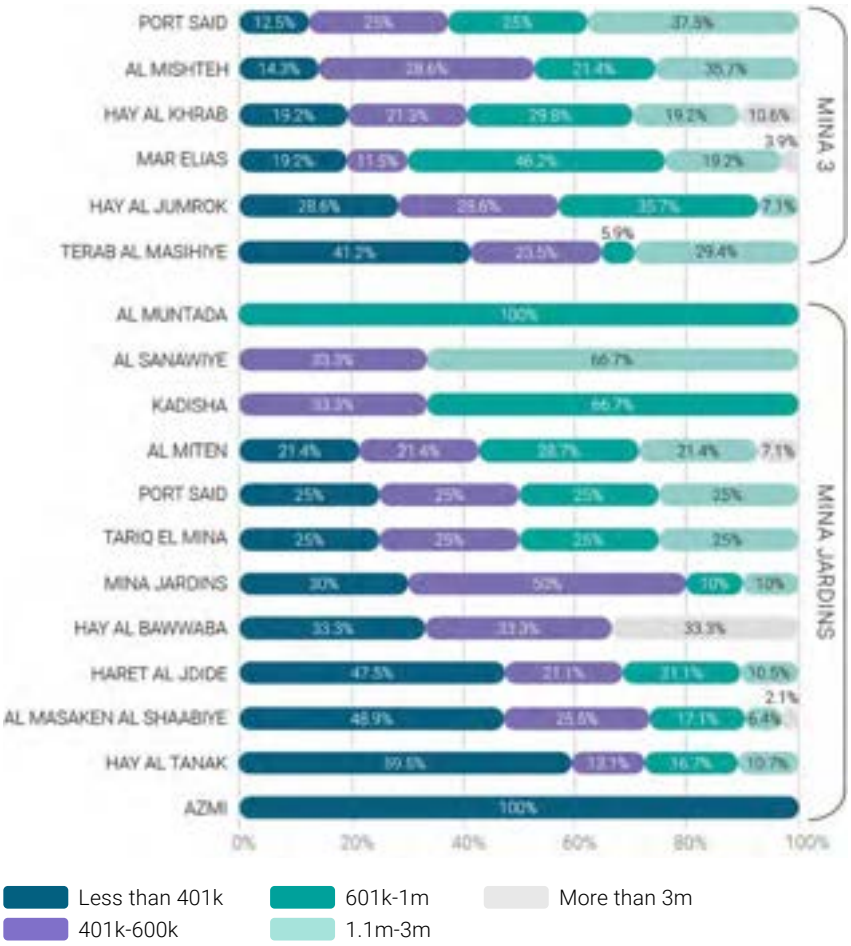


Figure 51 Income brackets of people who needed medical care but couldn't access it per neighbourhood

households who can pay for health care services (with average incomes of 2,797,000 LBP, 2,889,000 LBP, and 4,725,000 LBP, respectively). They have the choice not to rely on dispensaries, so it may be that they are satisfied with the private health care they receive because they can afford it.

Indeed, **Figure 52** plots the relationship between income and satisfaction with health care. Respondents who were satisfied with health care services have an average income of 4,9 million LBP. The high majority are in good health (57.1 percent), have a doctor to refer to (98.3 percent), and know that there is a Primary Health care Centre in El Mina (98.7 percent). Those very dissatisfied with health care have varying levels of health, with a mean income of 1,7 million LBP; 22 percent of them don't have a doctor to refer to, and 39 percent don't know that there is a PHC in El Mina.

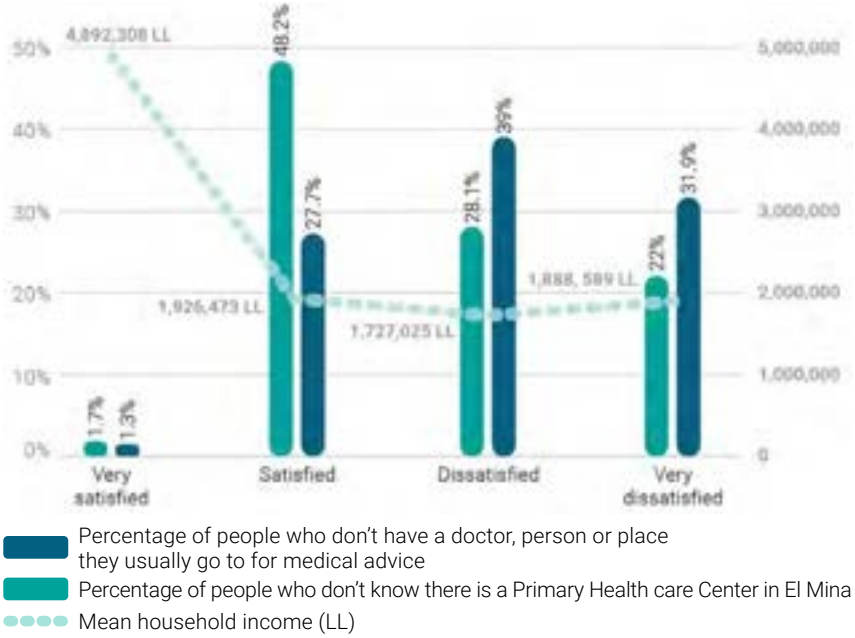


Figure 52 Satisfaction with health care services versus average income and access to usual doctor or place

MENTAL HEALTH

There has been increasing global recognition of the importance of mental health in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (WHO 2022). However, Lebanon lags with no mental health policy or plan to cover mental health treatments. Patients with private insurance are not covered, while those insured through the NSSF are only theoretically covered for psychiatric admissions. In addition, the MoPH provides limited coverage to hospitals providing inpatient psychiatric care and has refrained from agreeing with the MoPH for financial reasons (Chahine & Chemali 2009). Chahine and Chemali (2009) argue that addressing and improving the mental health system in Lebanon requires targeting several components, including more funding, human resources, and available medication.

Sampled residents were asked questions about their mental health, focusing on stress, depression, happiness, and life satisfaction.[24] A total of 73.1 percent of surveyed respondents declared feeling stressed, 59.7 percent "most of the time" and 13.4 percent "often"

(72.7 percent of Lebanese and 73.7 percent of non-Lebanese). These estimates are much higher than those recorded Nationally in 2019 (Arab Barometer 2019), where only 30.3 percent of the population declared feeling stressed. A total of 63.6 percent of respondents declared feeling depressed (50.4 percent "most of the time" and 13.2 percent "often," with Lebanese recording 63.2 percent and non-Lebanese 63.8 percent). These estimates are significantly higher than national averages, where 30.4 percent of the population declared depression (Arab Barometer 2019). More than a third of the Lebanese (36.5 percent) and non-Lebanese participants (35.9 percent) declared rarely feeling depressed (19.7 percent of non-Lebanese and 22.6 percent of Lebanese "sometimes" and 16.2 percent

[24] In the past six months, how often did you feel so stressed that everything seemed to be a hassle? In the past six months, how often did you feel so depressed that nothing would lift up your mood? Taking all things together, would you say you are [happy]? All things considered, from 1 to 10, how satisfied are you with your life as a whole these days? From 1 to 10.

non-Lebanese and 13.9 percent Lebanese "never").

The pandemic and economic crisis are major causes of stress and depression. Recent reports have confirmed the effects of Lebanon's multiple crises on vulnerable populations in Tripoli, including El Mina, with 80 percent of adults experiencing increased stress, anxiety, fear, sadness, loneliness, and hopelessness, and 84 percent of children perceived to feel increases in similar negative feelings (SEED & People in Need Slovakia 2020). As per **Figures 53 and 54**, most people are stressed and depressed most of the time, regardless of their income quartile. The highest ratio of people who are never stressed or depressed is in the highest income quartile.

Indeed, 71.5 percent of people earning more than 3 million LBP a month reported being happy (15.5 percent 'very happy' and 56.0 percent 'rather happy') compared to 69.2 percent, 56.1 percent, and 56.2 percent of those in the lower and middle-income quartile (earning less than 401,000 LBP a month and between 400,000 and 1 million LBP a month) (**Figure 55**). Of those who reported being rather happy, 70.2 percent are adults between 25 and 63 years old and making more than 1 million LBP a month (50.3 percent between 1.1-3 million LBP/month and 61.0 percent making more than 3 million LBP a month). The highest percentage of unhappy people was found among the same age group (adults between 25 and 63 years old), recording 80.8 percent and making less than 1 million LBP a month (38.2 percent less than 401,000 LBP/month, 25.3 percent 401-600K/month, and 21.8 percent 601K-1m LBP/month) (**Figure 55**).

Figure 53 Stress per income quartile

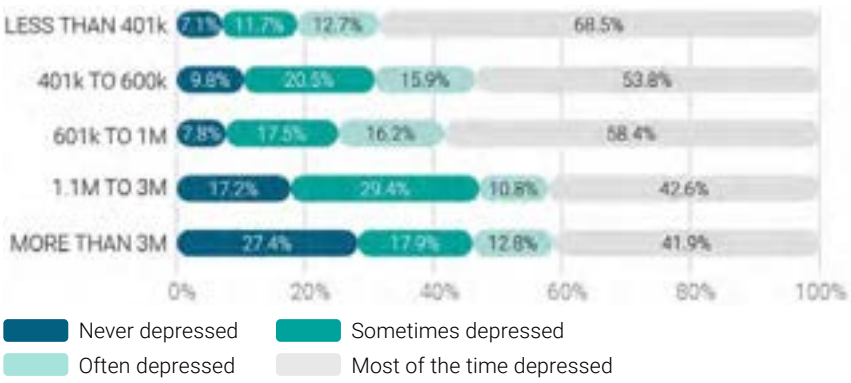


Figure 54 Depression per income quartile

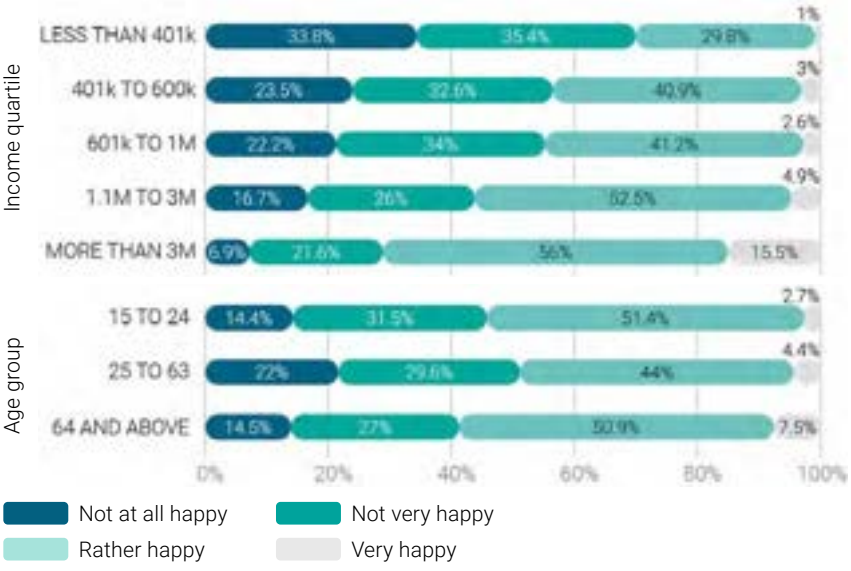


Figure 55 Happiness per income quartile and age group

When asking adult Lebanese male FGD participants how they evaluate their mental health, one participant said that everyone feels down and that it is affecting his physical health: "We have reached a stage of despair and helplessness. Everything in front of you feels 'closed.'"

After asking if they would like to visit a specialist when they feel stressed or depressed, some participants agreed: "In order not to think about becoming a criminal or committing suicide." One participant said he would be glad to consult a mental specialist, just like any other doctor. "I don't have a problem seeking professional help, and I'd do it openly. I don't care." These answers by FGDs participants defy the traditional stigma of seeking mental health care.

ELDERLY HEALTH

Although most of the elderly (60 percent) know a public PHC in their area, almost half of those in El Mina (47.1 percent) do not have a doctor, person, or a place to go when they are sick or need health advice. Furthermore, over a quarter (27.8 percent) of elderly survey respondents stated they had needed medical care in the 12 months before the survey and could not get it. These figures explain the high percentage of dissatisfaction with access to health services, with 60.7 percent of the elderly declaring they were not happy with accessing the health services in El Mina. As mentioned earlier, El Mina lacks hospitals. Its medical services are limited to clinics, dispensaries, and pharmacies that do not provide medicine needed mainly by the elderly and for chronic conditions. However, it should be mentioned that religious institutions, elderly care homes, and NGOs provide medicine to the elderly (see **Belonging, Identities and Culture chapter** for more details).

In addition to access to health care, policies regarding the health of the elderly population focus on various determinants, including housing and the built environment, which encompasses buildings and spaces (Garin et al. 2014). The physical and social supportive environments are key determinants of healthy living for the elderly. WHO studies show that lack of social support and poor living conditions contribute to the weak health status of the elderly (WHO 1998).

Providing a safe and accessible living space is a fundamental requirement for a healthy environment for the elderly. The issue was underlined by elderly FGD participants who related a healthy environment to safe and satisfactory living conditions. Adult female Lebanese FGD participants agreed that El Mina is a friendly city for the elderly, as many live on ground levels and receive the help of neighbours (**Appendix 3**). As for adequate living space and satisfaction, most older people in El Mina (73.2 percent) can keep their homes warm. Nearly two-thirds (63.4 percent) are satisfied and very satisfied with the conditions of their living places (see the **Housing chapter in Foundations of Prosperity** for more details).

While a good physical environment is necessary for healthy living for the elderly, a supportive social environment and access to social and health resources are equally important. Unfortunately, nearly half of the elderly population in El Mina (42.5 percent) feel that their own personal and their family's safety and security are not ensured (29.4 percent not ensured, and 13.1 percent not ensured at all). They also feel that financial security is integral to having a good life, though it is under threat, as highlighted by one elderly male CS acquaintance:

"Citizens dream about having social security, and the government threatens to take our social security savings from us by ending social security and Old Age Security (daman shaykhoukha)."

Photo credit : CatalyticAction

HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS

Living in a healthy urban environment with clean and safe neighbourhoods, walkable streets, and open public spaces helps improve physical and mental health. According to the WHO (2022a), one-quarter of the global disease burden is due to modifiable environmental factors, which could be prevented by having healthier built environments and cities and a preserved nature. This fact was reinforced by the influence of hygiene and the density of cities following the spread of COVID-19.

El Mina's residents have varying views on the health-supportive quality of their neighbourhoods. Overall, personal and community experiences shaped how participants understood healthy environments and healthy life. For example, an adult Lebanese male FGD participant linked living in a healthy environment to new built-up areas that are relatively lightly populated and filled with green spaces (**Appendix 3**):

> *"I think the area I live in [next to Harat Al Jdide junction] is like that. There are new buildings there. The area is very calm, planted with greenery and bushes. Therefore, there is no pollution and no crowding."*

Another Lebanese male complained about the humidity from the sea and the smells from the dumping site on the northern coast of El Mina. The Tripoli landfill began in 1980 and today covers 60,000 square meters. The landfill constitutes an environmental hazard as it contributes to various health and safety risks, such as disease vectors, fires, and odours (Amkieh 2021).

On the subject of waste collection and littering, one participant from the Lebanese female adult FGD mentioned she appreciated the recent renovation of the corniche (that happened in 2017 and continued in 2021), but that littering is still occurring (**Appendix 3**). Another participant expressed dissatisfaction with the dirty streets, especially near garbage bins, as solid and liquid waste prevents people from walking and entering dirty streets. She also criticised the way people do not care about recycling and how the municipality is not encouraging it, although NGOs asked residents to share their phone numbers to set up a recycling service. One participant from the Lebanese youth FGD blamed the lack of information on NGOs and suggested they should simplify instructions in awareness campaigns to encourage the residents to recycle. Participants also highlighted that people are discouraged because even if they recycle, waste collectors throw all the trash in the same place, underlying a more significant, systemic issue of waste management and the "pretense" of recycling at the governmental level. Our household data shows that only a minority (11.9 percent) of the surveyed people in El Mina recycle their solid waste. Those who recycle, including some FGD participants, do it to protect their environment. One adult Lebanese female recycles because of the visible effects on marine life in El Mina: "The islands are full of garbage." One non-Lebanese female adult said she reuses plastic containers. Participants reuse glass jars for preserving pickles, beans, and jam for food storage and supplies 'mooneh'. For more detail about waste collection in El Mina, see the **Infrastructure chapter in Foundations of Prosperity**.

Photo credit : Aya Ashram

The relationship between the characteristics of the physical environment, especially sidewalks, and the health of the environment is among the most crucial health environment quality indicators, according to FGD participants. Our data reveals that the most common means of transport in El Mina is walking, as 41.7 percent of people walk to their jobs. However, 23.7 percent of El Mina residents don't walk at all or spend less than 10 minutes walking at a time, while 37.9 percent walk daily.

Most medium-skill and low-skill workers travel by foot (45.5 percent), while most high-skilled workers use private cars for commuting (41.7 percent). One adult Lebanese male participant complained about the parking of cars in the middle of the sidewalk, which hinders the movement of pedestrians. In the same FGD, another participant talked about space evaluation in the presence of special social groups, including the physically disabled. He added that cars block the ramps for wheelchair users and are rarely fined. It is common to see people on bicycles in the streets of El Mina, whether for exercising or commuting. However, only 16.7 percent of El Mina residents own bicycles.[25]

Living in a healthy physical environment is intertwined with the safety and security of vulnerable road users and city dwellers. Many participants in FGDs confirmed that sidewalk conditions are inconsistent (see **Infrastructure chapter in Foundations of Prosperity** for more details) and that robberies and harassment threaten the healthy environment and safety of the area. One Syrian female youth FGD participant mentioned using her bicycle to avoid verbal harassment. Non-Lebanese male and female youth underlined that young girls and women still face harassment. Adult Lebanese male and Female FGD participants also mentioned car burglaries near their residences. Opinions are divided on whether personal and family safety is ensured in El Mina, with almost the same ratio of people feeling it is not ensured (35.4 percent) and ensured (35.8 percent). More males than females feel that their safety is fully ensured (15.5 percent of males versus 7.7 percent of females), while more females feel their safety is not ensured (37.9 percent) and not at all insured (19 percent).

[25] It is important to note that the surveys were conducted during the lockdown, which modified peoples' transportation and movement habits.

BELONGING, IDENTITY & CULTURE

Photo credit : Mayssa Jallad

CONCEPTUAL OVERVIEW

"Out of all spaces within nations, the city is conceived as 'locus of cosmopolitan conviviality produced by everyday encounters'" (Antonsich, 2018). A good life is impossible without good relationships, especially within the dynamic nature of cities. **Many studies on happiness, wellbeing, and prosperity have claimed that a strong sense of community is essential for the way we understand and measure the quality of our lives** (for a review of some key studies, see Mintchev & Moore, 2017: 563-566). However, this explanation raises the crucial question of what it means to have a strong sense of community and how the latter can be measured. **A sense of community builds on the notion of 'social capital,' which is theorised and measured as trust in others and civic engagement**. Our community lives would be richer and more satisfying if we feel that the people around us can be trusted and we actively participate in shared activities in the public realm.

Although accurate, this understanding of community is also relatively narrow. It fails to account for the different ways people on the ground understand and use the concept of community. In response to this critique, our approach is to theorise community life in both conceptually broader and empirically more specific terms. **First, we theorise community as the intersecting experience of belonging, identity, and culture, all closely intertwined. People's sense of belonging is inseparable from their sense of identity**. Both are supported by the ability to engage with various forms of culture (e.g., culture as the arts, culture as an expression of religious or national identity, culture as the activities that create shared meaning).

Beyond this starting point, however, we claim that the things that make up this domain of prosperity depend on local experiences. While our research in El Mina confirmed the importance of trust in others and civic engagement, it also revealed other ways residents experience the quality of their community. **Respondents mentioned pride in their neighbourhood, ensuring that elderly residents are taken care of throughout their lives, maintaining religious and national diversity in a respectful and convivial fashion, and the neighbourhoods' history and heritage as influential factors**. These themes described people's relationships with others in the city and the places where they lived. They described what it means to live in a prosperous community where people can belong to a collective and flourish as individuals.

NEIGHBOURHOOD CHARACTER

Our research surveyed seventeen different neighbourhoods in El Mina,[26] each with its particular character, as showcased in **Table 6**.[27]

Table 6 Neighbourhood identity

	Location in reference to the sea side road and main roundabouts	Public spaces	Nationality of respondents	Road characteristics	Usage/Activities	Building height and construction period	CHARACTER
AL MASAKEN AL SHAABIYE	Inner neighbourhood not directly connected to the sea side road.	None	**64.4%** Lebanese **35.6%** Non-Lebanese	38.5% roads with sidewalk 80.8% vehicular 19.2% pedestrian	**46 Buildings**: 84.8% residential, 15.2% mixed use (residential & commercial).	86.9% 0-2 floors. 73.9% of the buildings are built between 1975 and 2000	Includes the only social housing project in El Mina, is considered a "poor-quality" built up area surrounded by informal construction.
AL MISHTEH	Directly connected to the sea side road	Fondokiyeh park, El Balha Park	**75%** Lebanese , **25%** Non-Lebanese	68.8% roads with sidewalks, 93.8% vehicular, 6.3% pedestrian	**28 Buildings**: 57.1% residential, 32.1% mixed use (residential & commercial), 7.1% unoccupied, 3.6% mixed use (residential & commercial & social service).	50% 0-2 floors. 57.7% of the buildings are built between 1944 and 1976. 23.1% of the buildings are built between 1920 and 1944.	Characterised by its historical features in the centre and modern features on the periphery.
AL MITEN	Inner neighbourhood not directly connected to the sea side road.	None	**65.7%** Lebanese **34.3%** Non-Lebanese	100% roads with sidewalk 100% vehicular	**22 Buildings**: 22.7% residential, 72.7% mixed use (residential & commercial), 4.5% commercial.	56.2% 9-12 floors. 75% of the buildings are built between 1975 and 2000.	Dates from 1912, characterised by modern buildings and Al Rawda's High School and Mosque.
AL MUNTADA	Inner neighbourhood not directly connected to the sea side road.	Municipality football playground	**92.9%** Lebanese **7.1%** Non-Lebanese	100% roads with sidewalk 100% vehicular	**5 Buildings**: 100% residential	60% 6-8 floors. 80% of the buildings are built between 2001 and 2010.	A developing residential area around Al Muntada.
AL SANAWIYE	Inner neighbourhood not directly connected to the sea side road.	None	**60%** Lebanese **40%** Non-Lebanese	100% roads with sidewalk 100% vehicular	**12 Buildings**: 41.7% residential, 58.3% mixed use (residential & commercial)	41.6% 9-12 floors. 91.7% of the buildings are built between 1975 and 2000	Extension of Port Said area, includes mechanic shops, hardware stores and furniture workshops.
AZMI	Inner neighbourhood not directly connected to the sea side road.	None	**77.3%** Lebanese **22.7%** Non-Lebanese	100% roads with sidewalk 100% vehicular	**16 Buildings**: 18.8% residential, 75% mixed use (residential & commercial), 6.2% mixed use (residential & commercial & social service).	54.5% 9-12 floors. 54.5% of the buildings are built between 1975 and 2000. 45.5% of the buildings are built between 2001 and 2010.	Partly in El Mina, dates from 1910, characterised by large subsidiary streets, high and luxurious buildings.

[26] The Mina 3 cadaster includes Al Mishteh, Mar Elias, Hay Al Khrab, Hay Al Jumrok, Port Said and Terab Al Masihiye. The Mina Jardins cadaster includes Port Said, Hay Al Bawwaba, Kadisha, Al Sanawiye, Al Muntada, Miten, Azmi, Tariq El Mina, Al Masaken Al Shaabiye, Haret Al Jdide, Hay Al Tanak and Mina Jardins neighbourhood.

[27] Port Said is one neighbourhood that stretches along Mina 3 and Mina Jardins.

HARET AL JDIDE

Location in reference to the sea side road and main roundabouts	Public spaces	Nationality of respondents
Inner neighbourhood not directly connected to the sea side road.	None	**53.4%** Lebanese **46.6%** Non-Lebanese

Road characteristics	Usage/Activities	Building height and construction period
30% roads with sidewalk 85% vehicular 15% pedestrian	**46 Buildings**: 78.3% residential, 10.9% mixed use (residential & commercial), 4.3% commercial, 4.3% unoccupied, 2.2% mixed use (residential & social service)	74.9% 0-2 floors. 72.7% of the buildings are built between 1975 and 2000

CHARACTER

Characterised by narrow streets and traditional houses. Contains various paving workshops and car mechanics.

HAY AL BAWWABA

Location in reference to the sea side road and main roundabouts	Public spaces	Nationality of respondents
Inner neighbourhood not directly connected to the sea side road.	Shiraa roundabout	**80%** Lebanese **20%** Non-Lebanese

Road characteristics	Usage/Activities	Building height and construction period
66.7% roads with sidewalk 100% vehicular	**11 Buildings**: 18.2% residential, 81.8% mixed use (residential & commercial)	36.4% 3-5 floors. 81.8% of the buildings are built between 1944 and 1976.

CHARACTER

Industrial quarter distinguished by mechanical workshops for boat and yacht construction. Wood, aluminium and furniture workshops also present.

HAY AL JUMROK

Location in reference to the sea side road and main roundabouts	Public spaces	Nationality of respondents
Directly connected to the sea side road	None	**80.8%** Lebanese **19.2%** Non-Lebanese

Road characteristics	Usage/Activities	Building height and construction period
68.8% roads with sidewalks 93.8% vehicular 6.3% pedestrian	**28 Buildings**: 57.1% residential, 32.1% mixed use (residential & commercial), 7.1% unoccupied, 3.6% mixed use (residential, commercial & social service).	83.3% 0-2 floors, 44.8% of the buildings are built between 1920 and 1944, 24.1% of the buildings are built between 1944 and 1976.

CHARACTER

Characterised by the presence of marine and trading companies, in addition to port customs, the presidency of El Mina port and the area's fish markets.

HAY AL KHRAB

Location in reference to the sea side road and main roundabouts	Public spaces	Nationality of respondents
Inner neighbourhood not directly connected to the sea side road.	None	**84.4%** Lebanese **15.6%** Non-Lebanese

Road characteristics	Usage/Activities	Building height and construction period
15% roads with sidewalks 50% vehicular 50% pedestrian	**79 Buildings**: 81% residential, 13.9% mixed use (residential & commercial), 2.5% mixed use (residential & social service), 1.3% mixed use (residential & commercial & touristic), 1.3% commercial.	72.2% 0-2 floors, 33.3% of the buildings are built before 1921, 24.4% of the buildings are built between 1944 and 1976, 21.8% of the buildings are built between 1920 and 1944.

CHARACTER

A historical quarter, characterised by narrow and winding streets, vaulted houses and historical churches.

HAY AL TANAK

Location in reference to the sea side road and main roundabouts	Public spaces	Nationality of respondents
Directly connected to the sea side road.	None	**61.1%** Lebanese **38.9%** Non-Lebanese

Road characteristics	Usage/Activities	Building height and construction period
0% roads with sidewalk 100% vehicular.	**96 Buildings**: 94.8% residential, 5.2% mixed use (residential & commercial).	97.9% 0-2 floors. 69.8% of the buildings are built between 1975 and 2000.

CHARACTER

Informal settlement named after its houses that have corrugated sheet tin roofs.

KADISHA

Location in reference to the sea side road and main roundabouts	Public spaces	Nationality of respondents
Inner neighbourhood not directly connected to the sea side road.	None	**50%** Lebanese **50%** Non-Lebanese

Road characteristics	Usage/Activities	Building height and construction period
66.7% roads with sidewalk 100% vehicular	**8 Buildings**: 37.5% residential, 62.5% mixed use (residential & commercial)	75% 0-2 floors. 100% of the buildings are built between 1975 and 2000

CHARACTER

Extension of the industrial zone. It includes few public schools and the only hospital in El Mina (under renovation).

MAR ELIAS

Location in reference to the sea side road and main roundabouts	Public spaces	Nationality of respondents
Directly connected to the sea side road. Between Groupie roundabout and the sea side road	None	**63.5%** Lebanese **36.5%** Non-Lebanese

Road characteristics	Usage/Activities	Building height and construction period
71.4% roads with sidewalks 95.2% vehicular 4.8% pedestrian	**44 Buildings**: 54.4% mixed use (residential & commercial), 36.4% residential, 4.5% mixed use (residential & social service), 2.3% mixed use (residential & commercial & social service), 2.3% social service.	27.3% 3-5 floors, 40.9% of the buildings are built between 1944 and 1976, 34.1% of the buildings are built between 1975 and 2000.

CHARACTER

Characterised by old buildings and deluxe edifices, private schools, sports clubs and Mar Elias church and school.

MINA JARDINS NEIGHBOURHOOD

Location in reference to the sea side road and main roundabouts	Public spaces	Nationality of respondents
Directly connected to the sea side road.	None	**43.6%** Lebanese **56.4%** Non-Lebanese

Road characteristics	Usage/Activities	Building height and construction period
44.4% roads with sidewalk 100% vehicular	**20 Buildings**: 90% residential, 5% mixed use (residential & commercial).	85% 0-2 floors. 65% of the buildings are built between 1975 and 2000.

CHARACTER

Mostly characterised by empty land and Beirut Arab University.
Hay Al Tanak is expanding towards this area. A few high-end buildings have also been constructed.

PORT SAID

Location in reference to the sea side road and main roundabouts	Public spaces	Nationality of respondents
Inner neighbourhood not directly connected to the sea side road.	Husseini park Groupi Roundabout	**78.3%** Lebanese **21.7%** Non-Lebanese

Road characteristics	Usage/Activities	Building height and construction period
95% roads with sidewalk **100%** vehicular	**28 Buildings**: 96.4% mixed use (residential & commercial), 3.6% mixed use (residential & commercial & touristic).	Mostly 6-10 floors, 60.7% of the buildings are built between 1944 and 1976, 21.4% of the buildings are built between 1975 and 2000.

CHARACTER

Dates from 1947, hosts the main commercial street in El Mina, comprises many commercial stores, schools and coffee shops.

TARIQ AL MINA

Location in reference to the sea side road and main roundabouts	Public spaces	Nationality of respondents
Inner neighbourhood not directly connected to the sea side road.	None	**81%** Lebanese **19%** Non-Lebanese

Road characteristics	Usage/Activities	Building height and construction period
100% roads with sidewalk 100% vehicular	**15 Buildings**: 33.3% residential, 66.7% mixed use (residential & commercial).	80% 9-12 floors. 60% of the buildings are built between 1975 and 2000.

CHARACTER

Partly in El Mina, dates from 1879 and is one of the most luxurious residential areas in El Mina.
Includes El Mina "Centrale" and El Salam Mosque.

TERAB AL MASIHIYE

Location in reference to the sea side road and main roundabouts	Public spaces	Nationality of respondents
Inner neighbourhood not directly connected to the sea side road.	Sahat Labban	**78.3%** Lebanese **21.7%** Non-Lebanese

Road characteristics	Usage/Activities	Building height and construction period
20% roads with sidewalk 56.7% vehicular 43.3% pedestrian	**37 Buildings**: 81.1% residential, 16.2% mixed use (residential & commercial), 2.7% unoccupied.	Mostly 0-2 floors. 33.3% of the buildings are built between 1975 and 2000. 30.6% of the buildings are built between 1944 and 1976. 19.4% of the buildings are built before 1921.

CHARACTER

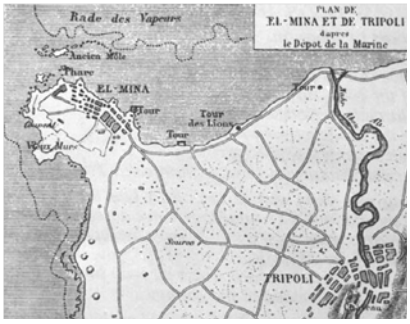
A historical quarter characterised by narrow and winding streets, a historical church, and Sahat Labban square.

Photo credit: Aya Ashram

BUILT HERITAGE

The historic core of Tripoli dates to medieval times. In 1289, the Mamelukes destroyed its ancient port city, which is now called El Mina. They then ordered to rebuild the city of Tripoli inland near the hill of the Crusader castle of 'Raymond de Saint-Gilles,' where it is now located (Al-Harithy, 2005; Kabbara, 2021). The historical centre of the city of El Mina, similarly to the historic core of Tripoli, features several cultural sites that showcase the religious, military, political, and economic powers throughout the city's history, including Khan Al Tamathili and Lion's tower (Steinberg 1996). However, conservation initiatives in El Mina have been overshadowed by more considerable interest in Tripoli's heritage sites. Less attention is paid to El Mina's cultural heritage, which presents an opportunity for strategic future heritage planning based on experience in nearby locations (Dabaj 2013).

The historical character of El Mina is felt through the diversity of its tangible architectural heritage. Overall, nearly half of the surveyed buildings in El Mina (45.9 percent) were built between 1975 and 2000. There are buildings of this era in every neighbourhood, especially in Kadisha (100 percent) and Al Sanawiyye (91.7 percent) (**Figure 56**). Nearly a quarter (23.0 percent) are modern (between 1944-1976). The most modern is Hay Al Bawwaba (81.8 percent). A few (12.6 percent) were built between 2001 and 2010, the highest ratio being in Al Miten (45.5 percent). On the other hand,



Tripoli and El Mina in 1873, by "Le Dépot de la Marine".

Mina 3 includes nearly all the pre-1921 buildings, with the highest ratio being in Hay Al Khrab (33.3 percent), one of the oldest remaining neighbourhoods in the area. Buildings dating from 1921 to 1944 also represent the highest percentage in Mina 3 at 84.6 percent of surveyed buildings, with Hay El Jumrok having the highest ratio (44.8 percent).

El Mina's abundance of modernist buildings is explained by its numerous masterplans throughout history. The Swiss planner Ernest Egli drew up the first master plan in 1947. However, it was criticised for proposing the destruction of many heritage buildings and heavy infrastructure work, which required considerable funding (Harmandayan 2001). In 1953, UNESCO conducted a study on Tripoli's old city, but its recommendations were criticised for the same reasons.

In 1962, renowned Brazilian architect Oscar Niemeyer designed the Rachid Karami International Fair as a permanent fairground and exhibition centre in Tripoli. Its area falls partially under El Mina's municipal boundary. Unfortunately, the construction of this project was never completed due to the Lebanese civil war. Although unfinished, the International Fair is considered one of the most iconic architectural projects of the modern period in Lebanon. It was added to the UNESCO's World Heritage Tentative List in 2019 (UNESCO 2019).

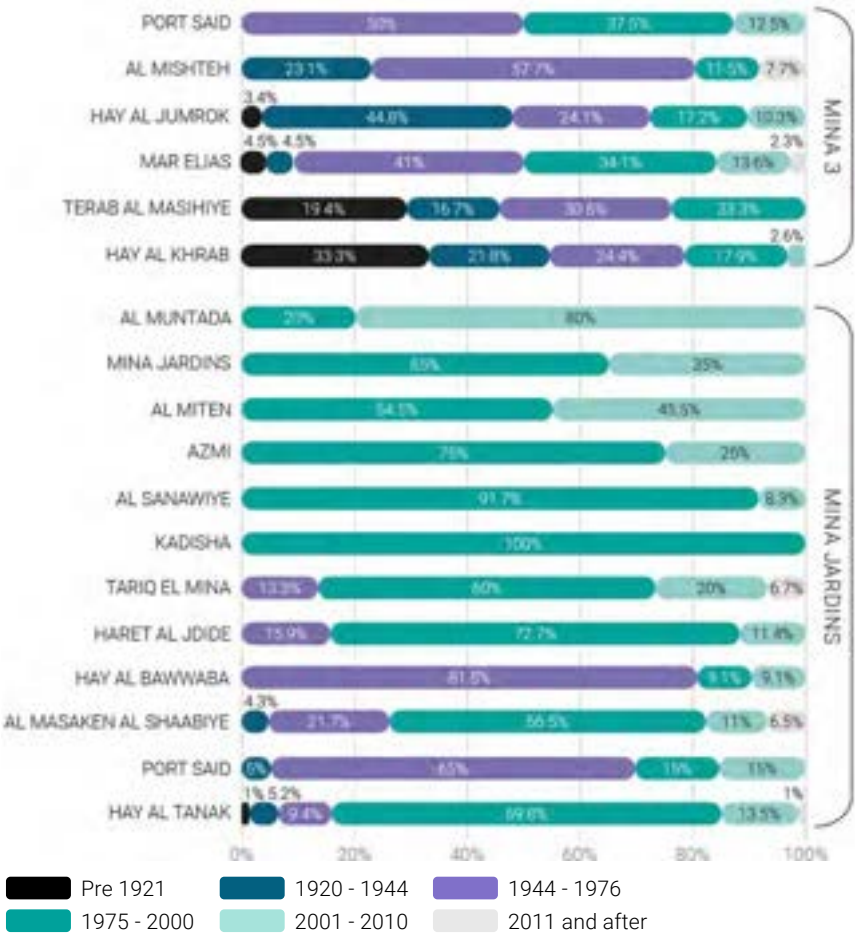


Figure 56 Period of construction per neighbourhood

Around the same period, in 1964, the Council for Development and Reconstruction (CDR) commissioned Henry Edde and Georges Doumani to develop the master plan for Tripoli and El Mina (Nahas 2001). The Masterplan was implemented (with modifications) in 1971 in 6 zones: residential zones B2, C1, C2, C3, touristic and agricultural zone E1, and industrial zone F. A specific decree allocated zone E1 for tourism, with a medium to high Floor Area Ratio (FAR) for new buildings (Harmandayan 2001). After the war, the zoning master plan of El Mina developed in 2006 divided the city into the old historical city centre, residential area zones, touristic and trade areas, artisanal industries zones, the Corniche, the industrial Port, the Tripoli international fair, public garden zones, and the site of the old train station.

Furthermore, El Mina and its geographical characteristics have attracted many private developers. In 2011, developers wanted to exploit part of El Mina's coast to develop 750,000 to 2,000,000 square metres of new real estate following the Dubai Jumeirah model (Al-Samad 2012). Influential politicians and wealthy business people backed the project even though the investment constituted a threat to marine life and would segregate residents (Al-Samad 2012). However, it was never implemented, and discussions about it faded away.


Photo credit : Aya Ashram

Most household survey respondents (91.3 percent) considered that buildings from the 1950s and 1960s should be part of the city's future and be preserved. During the FGDs, an adult Lebanese man said there was nothing more beautiful than these buildings and that he often walked by to lift his mood. All the participants who wanted to preserve these buildings talked about restoration and rehabilitation. "The Ministry of Tourism in Lebanon should work on [enhancing preservation]," one non-Lebanese youth said during another FGD. However, a small fraction of the El Mina population (8.7 percent) preferred replacing "buildings from the 50s and 60s" with new buildings and even towers because the old ones are in bad condition and hard to maintain. During an FGD, a Lebanese youth commented that if a building is in danger of collapsing and restoration is not possible, the best choice would be to remove it.

CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS & ACTIVITIES

El Mina contains many religious buildings, sports and cultural centres, and tourist sites. In the Infrastructure Section of the **Foundations of Prosperity** chapter, **Figure 29** provides an overview of public spaces, cultural and religious institutions. **Figure 29** and **Figure 57** identify the location of most of the existing institutions in the area.

El Mina is considered a touristic city by its inhabitants. All FGD participants agreed that it offered many attractions and activities, such as the islands, the old city centre, traditional industries, the Corniche and the seaside, the hotels, and archaeological sites. In addition, the city has various football, tennis, bodybuilding, and martial arts clubs.

Churches

1. Lady Béchera Church (Catholics)
2. Lady of Al-Najat Church (Maronites)
3. Mar Elias Church
4. St. Ephraim Church (Syriac Orthodox)
5. St. Francis of Assise Church
6. St. Georges (Jorjios) Histotical Cathedral
7. St. Jacob Church
8. St. John Sanctuary

Mosques

9. Al-Ali Mosque
10. Al Shokor Mosque
11. Bilal Ben Rabah Mosque
12. Ghazi (Hamidi) Mosque
13. El Imam Ali Mosque
14. El Rawda Mosque
15. El Salam Mosque
16. Issa Son of Mary Mosque
17. Omar Ben Al-Khattab Mosque
18. Othman Bin Affan Mosque
19. Salah Al-Din Mosque (known as Hara Jdideh Mosque)

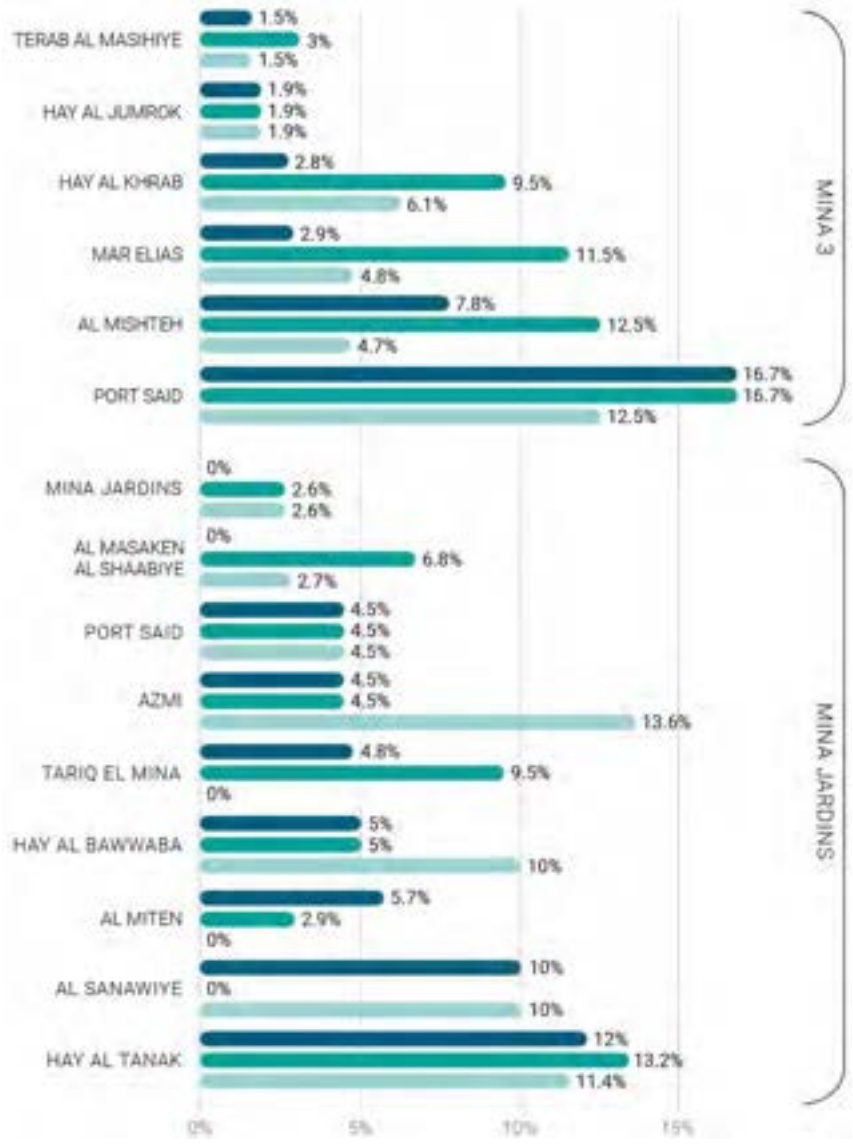
Figure 57 Religious institutions in El Mina

One interviewee, a Lebanese man in El Mina, confirmed that the many sports institutions contribute to his family's wellbeing, but entry fees are expensive.

> *"We have a recently renovated sports stadium. Sports are essential to kids. Unfortunately, people have to pay to play sports here in Lebanon [unlike in Syria and other Arab countries]."*

El Mina features libraries such as El Mina Municipal Library, located inside the El Mina municipality (**Figure 29**). The city also includes halls and conference rooms for musical performances, such as the Al Fayhaa Choir and Beit El Fan, and in hotels such as Via Mina. Institutions for the elderly include the elderly home of the Orthodox Christian Association elderly home NGO "Beit Al-Shaykhoukha,". As for disabled persons, they can seek the services of the Forum of the Handicapped ("Muntada Al-Mouaakin").

In addition, El Mina contains 19 religious buildings, namely 11 mosques and 8 churches (**Figure 57**). Other institutions, such as "Al-Kashaf Al-Muslim" (Islamic Scouts) and "Harakat Al-Shabab Al-Orthodoxy" (Orthodox Youth Movement), do not directly teach religion. However, their names often indicate their affiliation to certain religious sects and institutions.



Note: Al Muntada, Haret Al Jdide and Kadisha were all 0%

Inactive/active member of arts, music or educational organization
Inactive/active member of religious organization
Inactive/active member of sports or recreational organization

Figure 58 Members of organizations per neighbourhood

PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL ACTIVITY

Most household survey respondents living in El Mina (88.5 percent) are not engaged in any religious, sports, or educational organisations. None of the respondents in Haret El Jdide, Kadisha, and Al Muntada (**Figure 58**) were involved. Those engaged in such activities are a minority. 8.4 percent are members of one type of organisation, and a small fraction (3.1 percent) are highly engaged in at least 2 organisations. When asked why so many respondents are not engaged in any organisation, a citizen scientist said it was perhaps due to religious or sectarian affiliations. On the other hand, Lebanese respondents are more engaged than non-Lebanese. Men are more engaged than women, and youth (15-24) are the most engaged. Mina 3 residents predominantly engage in more than one activity, while Mina Jardins residents in engage in more than two.

As for those who are part of local organisations, 43 percent of the respondents are engaged in religious organisations, 31 percent in recreational organisations, and 27 percent in educational organisations. The highest level of engagement in one activity is in Al Sanawiye

(20 percent, in arts and sports) and, in two activities, in Port Said-Mina 3 (12.5 percent in arts, religious organisations, and sports), perhaps because most of the institutions and organisations are close to these neighbourhoods per **Figure 60**. It is interesting to note that 59.4 percent of the highly engaged respondents live in Hay Al Tanak. They are mainly involved in sports and religious organisations. A minority is engaged in the arts. According to a citizen scientist who lives and works in Mina 3, this might be due to organisational affiliation. On the other hand, participation in local activities could help residents procure free food, funds, and aid.

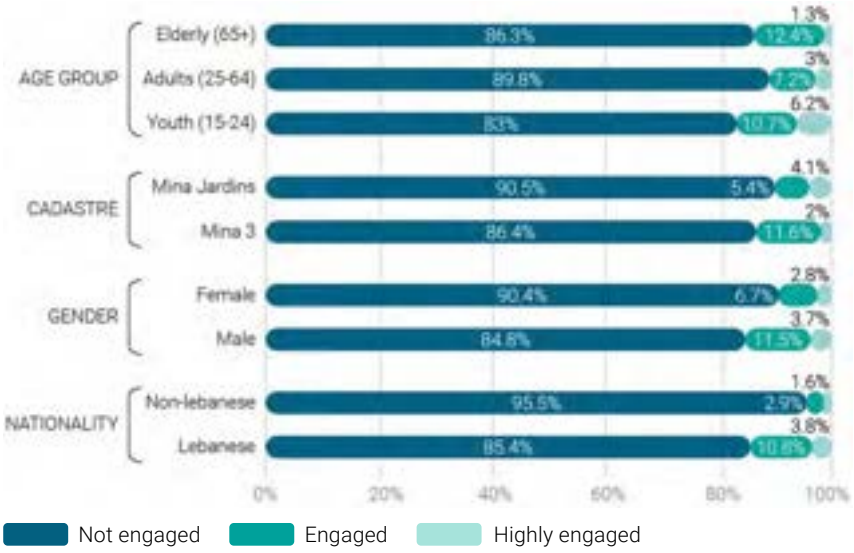


Figure 59 Engagement in local organizations

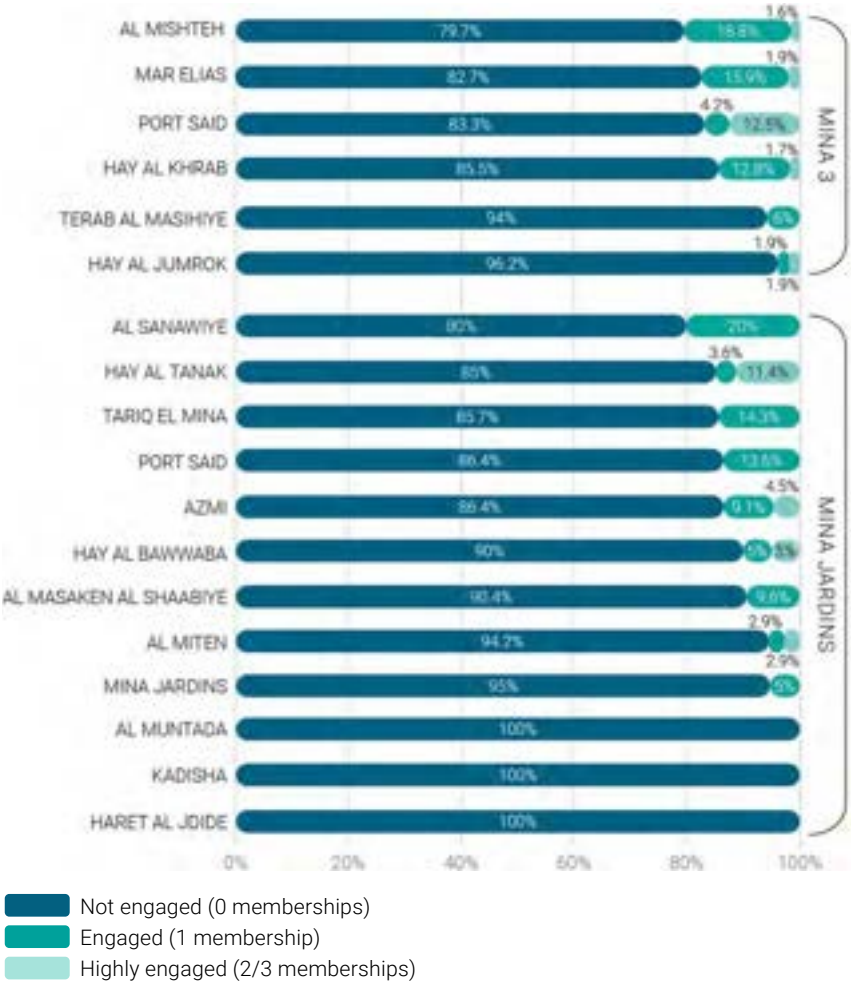


Figure 60 Participation in local activity by neighbourhood

INTANGIBLE HERITAGE

Over the years, El Mina residents have developed strong links with the sea surrounding their city. El Mina's heritage cannot be detached from its maritime culture, prime to its identity and existence. The name of the city 'El Mina' means seaport in Arabic, recalling its historic function dating back to the Phoenician period (ESFD 2006). Some of its residents continue to maintain their livelihoods through the fishery sector (for example, fishing, boat building, net maintenance, and fish selling) (See **Livelihoods chapter in Foundations of Prosperity**).

El Mina is renowned for both its religious and secular traditions. Its markets are the most vibrant during Christian and Muslim holidays, especially during Christmas and Ramadan. The Zambo carnival is a unique cultural manifestation in Lebanon, common to both Christian and Muslim communities in El Mina. Its origins are still unclear. Some say it was originally a Greek Orthodox ritual celebrated just before the start of Easter Lent.

Another story tells of Senegalese soldiers at the time of the French Mandate who wore traditional African costumes to celebrate Shrove Tuesday and which El Mina residents emulated. Since then, the inhabitants of El Mina have carried on the tradition, attracting large crowds. The carnival involves a parade with people dressing up with masks, colourful wigs, and feathers, chanting and banging drums. Adults and youth paint their bodies black, gold, and silver (Samaha 2019). They walk around the city centre amid the shouts of participants before heading out to the sea to wash the paint off their bodies.

Another celebration is "Wadaa' Ramadan" (Ramadan's Farewell). During the second half of the holy month, a small group of people roams the streets of El Mina. They knock on doors in the evening after Iftar, carrying drums and lamps known as the Fanoos, collecting donations.

Traditional crafts are still in practice in El Mina. As a coastal city, it was famous for its boat-making industry, some of which's workshops are still functional today. El Mina is also known for its pottery shops. Pottery was classified as one of the leading traditional industries in the city. "Abou Georges"'s pottery workshop was mentioned several during FGDs by both Lebanese and non-Lebanese adults and youth.

As per **Figure 61**, most respondents (71.0 percent) consider Christmas and Ramadan Markets a tradition they would like to see preserved in El Mina. They are followed by pottery (60.4 percent) and boat making (56.5 percent). Although beloved traditions have a religious character, evidence shows that all sects enjoy each others' traditions, which is a testament to the coexistence and appreciation of religious diversity that characterises El Mina.

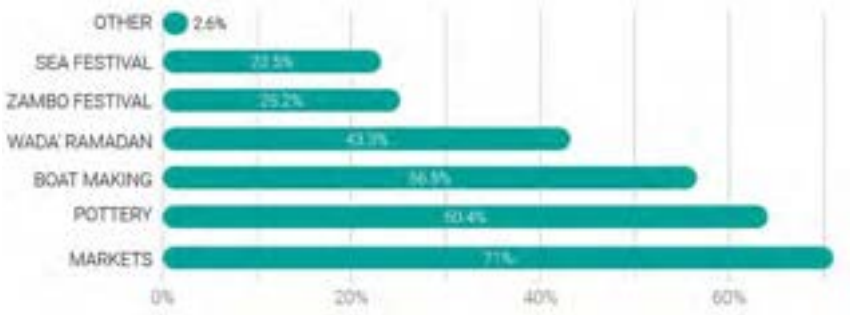


Figure 61 What traditions would El Mina residents like to see preserved?

LIVING WITH DIVERSITY

El Mina is known for its religious diversity. **Figure 57** maps the distribution of Mosques and Churches across the city. El Mina's Christian population goes back as far as Apostle Peter's visit to its port, and the Franciscans have been in Tripoli for close to 1500 years (Antar, 2019). The Rashidun Caliphate's early Muslim conquests saw Sufyan bin Mujib Al Azadi conquering El Mina in 638. The Crusades followed and stayed for 180 years. Finally, in 1289, it was raised to the ground by Sultan Qalaoun and rebuilt by the Mamelukes in the 14th Century (Kabbara 2021).

In light of its rich history, El Mina's inhabitants are known for their openness to diversity and acceptance of others, exemplified by respondents' tolerance of different types of neighbours. Survey results reveal a high degree of acceptance of people from different ethnic groups, religions, sects, and nationalities. As displayed in **Figure 62**, at least half the respondents said they would welcome having diverse neighbours. In general, Lebanese residents prefer diversity more than non-Lebanese, who are more indifferent. A significant proportion of respondents were indifferent regarding their neighbours' religion, race, ethnicity, or nationality. A tiny minority said they dislike or strongly dislike having neighbours who are different.

As for religious tolerance, 58.0 percent of respondents reported they would like to have people of a different religion as neighbours (65.5 percent of Lebanese and 47.7 of non-Lebanese). In terms of sects, 56.0 percent of

respondents would like to have people of a different sect as neighbours. They are more tolerant of Christian sects (77.4 percent for Lebanese and 60 percent for non-Lebanese) than of Muslim sects (58.3 percent for Lebanese and 48.4 for non-Lebanese) (**Figure 62**). When asked about how people in El Mina care for each other, a Lebanese man answered:

> *"Muslims and Christians live next to each other. We help each other and care for each other. We live together. We don't have sectarianism. We live and eat with each other. We see ourselves as Lebanese people only. This is how we live in El Mina. We've been living like this since I was born."*

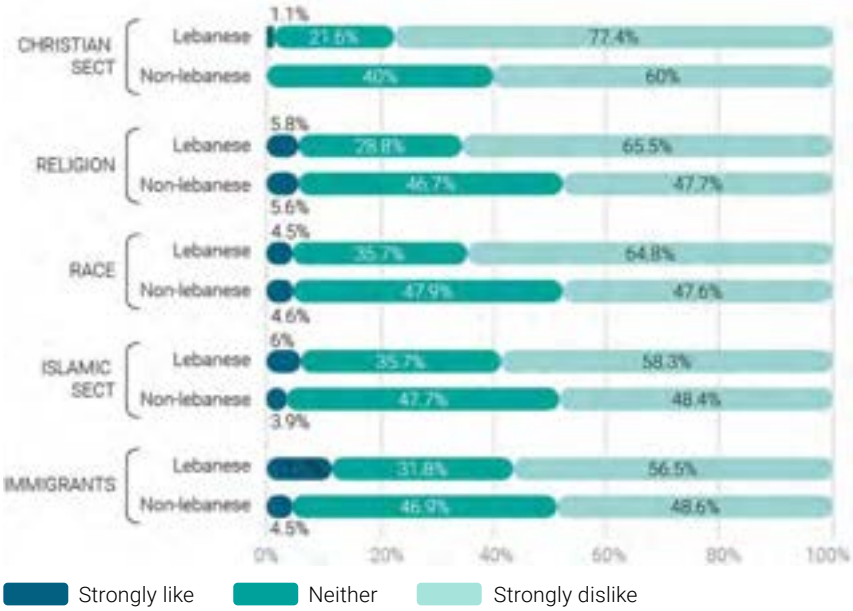


Figure 62 Acceptance of neighbours with different religion, race, sect, denomination or nationality

These words are reflected in El Mina's political representation. *Mokhtars* are voted for regardless of the sect, as relayed by stakeholder interviewees (**Appendix 3**). When interviewing a Christian religious figure about their relationship to other sects, he elaborated:

> *"Since the church is located within a diverse community, the priests and parishioners have a good relationship with people from other sects of this city. They participate in happy and sad events in the community, given the coexistence in this city throughout time".*

However, the inter-religious harmony depicted in these interviews has not been constant throughout El Mina's history. However, according to the interviewed Christian religious figure, Christians faced difficult situations in the 1980s under the fanatical Islamic Unification Movement (Tawheed). Following the end of the Lebanese civil war, the sectarian political system has also challenged the unity of El Mina residents. The current economic decline and the absence of the state in providing primary livelihood, health, and education services also force religious institutions to aid their own communities alone, resulting in divisions. According to the interviewed Muslim religious figure, his mosque provides economic aid to Muslim and Christian families alike. Another religious institution that cares for individuals regardless of sect is the elderly home of the Orthodox Christian Association elderly home NGO "Beit Al-Shaykhoukha." It hosts and provides care for Christian and Muslim elderly residents. On the other hand, "Fakker bi Ghayrak" NGO (Think of Others) offers various services. Their main project is "Ma'idat El Mahabba," offering daily meals for anyone who comes by without discrimination. Father Robert Ayoub, the founder of this NGO, explains that their financial support comes from city residents. Their services are offered to everyone without asking about their religious beliefs or identity (Karimeh 2019).

Our findings also reflect tolerance towards immigrants. For example, 52.0 percent (56.5 percent of Lebanese and 48.6 percent of non-Lebanese) would not mind having immigrants as neighbours. Moreover, 57.0 percent of interviewed residents would like to have people of a different race as neighbours (64.8 percent of Lebanese and 47.6 percent of non-Lebanese). However, more Lebanese in El Mina strongly dislike having immigrants as neighbours than non-Lebanese (11.7 percent versus 4.5 percent), as illustrated by a *mokhtar* comment (**Appendix 3**) reminiscing on the city's history:

> *"People were closer to each other because El Mina is a small city. Even Christians and Muslims were close. But now, many outsiders live and visit El Mina. […] Some come from refugee camps like the Baddawi Camp."*

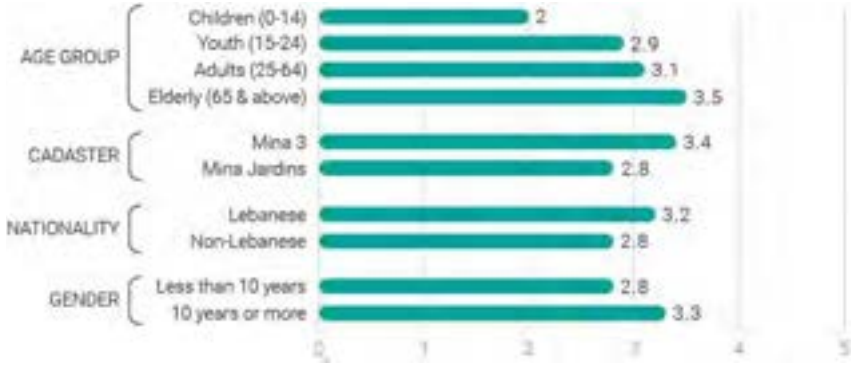


Figure 63 Neighbourhood belonging score by demographic subsample

SENSE OF COMMUNITY

A neighbourhood's sense of community can be measured by assessing an individual's familiarity, sense of belonging, and mutual trust. Household survey respondents were presented with questions on the different forms of ties and interactions in their neighbourhood. For example, they were asked to indicate their level of agreement with statements such as 'I feel like I belong to this neighbourhood' to reflect how strongly connected they feel to their immediate environment.[28] To examine neighbourhoods belonging in El Mina, we have focused on the average score of these variables, hereafter referred to as the 'neighbourhood belonging score.'[29] Comparing the neighbourhood belonging score by different subgroups of the household sample reveals that 58.6 percent of household survey respondents felt they belong to their neighbourhood. In addition, just over a quarter (28.5 percent) did not feel like they belonged. Per **Figure 63**, those who have lived in El Mina for more than 10 years, the Lebanese, the elderly (65 years and older), and respondents living in Mina 3 felt more sense of belonging than their counterparts.

[28] Respondents were presented with a total of 8 statements where they were asked to respond to what extent they agreed or disagreed on a 5-point Likert scale. The statements were the following: I feel like I belong to this neighbourhood; The friendships and associations I have with other people in my neighbourhood mean a lot to me; If I needed advice about something I could go to someone in my neighbourhood; I borrow things and exchange favours with my neighbours; I plan to remain a resident of this neighbourhood for a number of years; I regularly stop and talk with people in my neighbourhood; People around here are willing to help their neighbour and People in this neighbourhood can be trusted.

[29] Takeaways from each of the 8 statements: 57.4 percent agreed that their local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together. More than half (54.0 percent) of the respondents stop regularly and talk with people in their neighbourhood. Also, just over a half (53.6 percent) of them are planning to remain residents of the neighbourhoods they are living in for a number of years. Nearly a half (47.9 percent) of respondents consider friendships and associations they have with other people in their neighbourhood mean a lot to them. Also, nearly a half (47.2 percent) of respondents see their neighbourhood as a place where people with different identities and belief systems can flourish. 45.2 percent of respondents agreed that people around here are willing to help their neighbour and 45.9 percent borrow things from their neighbours.

QUALITY OF LIFE OF ELDERLY RESIDENTS

Elderly residents contribute to the culture and identity of a place, as their experiences and stories bridge a city's often radically different past with its present. Furthermore, elderly engagement in social activities encourages respect for cultural diversity and social identities (Bernardo & Carvalho, 2020). A quarter of the elderly in El Mina lives in Hay Al Khrab, one of the oldest neighbourhoods in the city, its name referencing the city's destruction in 1289 (Kabbara 2021). Elderly residents living in Hay Al Khrab benefit from the pedestrian-friendly narrow alleyways and the closeness of houses, which allows them to socialise and seek support (companionship, personal requests). The proximity of needed services (pharmacy, doctor, minimarket) and familiarity with the neighbourhood are also important factors. On the other hand, the houses in Hay El Khrab are old, and most residents cannot afford to maintain them.

Many elderly residents (39.7 percent) feel that they belong to their neighbourhoods. However, one elderly interviewee remarked that although his neighbourhood has not changed, most of its longstanding residents have moved:


Photo credit : Mahmoud Sleiman

"Some people left the area, and other people came. Some left, and some were kicked out of their houses. They were replaced by other tenants."

As per **Figure 58**, engagement in local activities is low for the elderly, with only 12.4 percent engaging in one local activity and 1.3 percent engaged in two: 2.6 percent are part of arts organisations, 11.1 percent are part of religious and 2.6 percent are part of sports organisations. One Lebanese female adult FGD participant wished to engage her elderly mother in "women empowerment" workshops to increase the older generation's awareness of women's rights.

As for visiting the natural environment, 44.7 percent said they visited it a week before the survey, and 29.6 percent said never or less frequently. The Covid-19 lockdown measures in Lebanon greatly limited elderly social activities and outings, as they are most vulnerable during the pandemic. Interviewed elderly residents all expressed struggling with livelihood and health securities in their retirement years. However, when asked to assess their satisfaction with life as a whole, more than half (55.8 percent) of elderly respondents answered they were satisfied with their lives, while 44.2 percent replied they were not.

EL MINA PARTICIPATORY SPATIAL INTERVENTION

Photo credit : CatalyticAction

As noted in the introduction, this report is part of a programme addressing challenges to prosperity by building partnerships between diverse groups of actors, working together to track emergent problems, and developing innovative solutions adapted to the specific needs of people, places, and contexts. This section presents the El Mina Participatory Spatial Intervention (PSI), a tailored intervention developed to address some of the challenges to prosperity in the city of El Mina. The PSI is a co-produced capacity-building exercise where knowledge is generated through an experimental process aiming to impact the sustainable prosperity of a locality. A Physical spatial intervention is embedded in a participatory action-research process and becomes a catalyst for generating questions and activating local social processes (Dabaj, Rigon, et al. 2020). The El Mina PSI process started in July 2021 and the spatial intervention was inaugurated on April 9, 2022.

El Mina PSI builds on the El Mina Prosperity research presented in this report and the "Design and Implementation Guide for Young Children and Caregivers in Deprived Urban Areas" research conducted in El Mina with ARUP and Bernard Van Leer Foundation (Dabaj, Conti, et al. 2020). Additionally, El Mina PSI learns from the Bar Elias PSI implemented in Bar Elias in the Bekaa in 2018-2019 (Dabaj, Rigon, et al. 2020) and the Karantina PSI implemented in Karantina, Beirut in 2020-2021 (CatalyticAction 2021). CatalyticAction leads the work on El Mina Participatory Spatial Intervention in partnership with the RELIEF centre. The project was funded with the support of Otto per Mille of the Waldensian Church of Italy.

The El Mina PSI serves three key objectives:

- Researching forms of vulnerability regarding the use of public spaces in general and the Corniche in specific and how they affect different groups of residents.
- Understanding and realizing how residents of El Mina and regular users of public spaces can participate in the design and co-production of more inclusive and resilient public spaces that address their vulnerabilities.
- Demonstrating that research and the local community can contribute to developing innovative responses to these challenges and implementing changes.

In addressing these objectives, CatalyticAction employs participatory research and participatory design methods in collaboration with a group of local citizen scientists. Indeed, citizen scientist engagement has been an integral part of the intervention phase and the analysis process. For this intervention, we worked with a group of 7 citizen scientists who were part of the broader Prosperity team of El Mina: Alaa El Merehby, Bassem Zawdeh, Ghassan El Bakri, Heba El Haji, Houda Kabbara, Mahmoud Sleiman, and Taha Mersalli. The selected citizen scientists have a background in architecture and design and therefore were able to contribute further to the design decisions and construction supervision.

The intervention site was selected due to its importance as a crucial public space to El Mina's residents following the analysis of interviews and HH surveys. The findings show that one of the most prominent public spaces in El Mina is the Corniche (for more on public spaces, see **Foundations of Prosperity, Infrastructure chapter**). Residents and visitors—irrespective of age, gender, nationality, or social class — regularly visit the Corniche for a variety of activities. Thus, it is one of El Mina's main attraction points. The Corniche of El Mina was thus selected for further analysis and development of El Mina PSI to enhance its uses and address some of the needs of its most vulnerable residents.

The methodology employed in El Mina PSI is showcased throughout the different phases of the project, presented in the following sections in more detail. The process is underpinned by its participatory nature that cuts across all the phases. It starts by identifying the intervention site, leading to the implementation and use of the spatial intervention. The methodology adopted stemmed from citizen science, participatory action research and co-design approaches.

IDENTIFYING THE INTERVENTION SITE

Reflecting on the research outcomes, we identified the Corniche of El Mina as one of the few public spaces in the city accessible and used by diverse groups and communities, especially the most vulnerable. The long stretch of the Corniche makes it accessible to many of El Mina's residents, especially to those living in its most vulnerable neighbourhoods, such as Hay El Marjan, El Masaken, and Hay El Tanak.

The Corniche is adjacent to the main road with a variety of building uses on the opposite side, namely a public park, a mosque, the municipality, one school (Mar Elias), a university, and several coffee shops and other commercial establishments occupying the ground floors of residential buildings. The spatial properties and the conditions change along the four sections of the Corniche (see the **Foundations of Prosperity, Infrastructure chapter**). There is a wide tiled sidewalk with bicycle lanes, greenery, lighting, and benches in the first two sections. In the first fully rehabilitated section, street vendors have set up their movable tables and chairs that people can use for a fee. Other vendors have bicycles and electric toys for children to rent. The density of street vendors decreases in section 2 as we move from section 1 towards Abdel Wahab island. This section lacks some infrastructure, such as lights, seats, and greenery. The third section is currently being rehabilitated following the same design as sections 1 and 2. However, section 4 remains untouched, as there are no plans to rehabilitate it when this report went to print. This section starts with a wide asphalt sidewalk that narrows down when reaching the section across the El Masaken neighbourhood. Before 2016, this wide sidewalk was illegally occupied by vendors who set up their chairs and tables. Each vendor took a specific zone. Only their customers were allowed to approach the area where they set up their businesses. Other street vendors had their carts or vans permanently parked next to the sidewalk. The municipality issued a decision to relocate all the street vendors in 2017, aiming to regulate their illegal activity and gain back the sea view as a right for everyone (CatalyticAction & ARUP 2020). As a mitigation strategy, the municipality set up a collective of kiosks on the opposite side as a temporary solution to keep the street vendors in the business. Many vendors relocated to those kiosks, and others rented shops on the opposite side.

Unlike El Mina's public parks, the Corniche is not fenced and does not have limited opening hours. People are free to access the space at any time. Middle-aged interview participants shared fond childhood memories of free access to public parks, regretting that they are closed to the public now. However, the Corniche remains accessible and a preferred destination for El Mina residents and users from other nearby areas.

We identified the fourth unrehabilitated section of the Corniche for intervention due to its great potential for improvement and the lack of specific plans by the municipality in the near future to work on that section. It is also the section closest to the most vulnerable neighbourhoods in El Mina. Furthermore, it is used by diverse groups of people irrespective of nationality, gender, age groups, social class, ability, race, ethnicity, and citizenship status.


Photo credit : Mahmoud Sleiman

UNDERSTANDING THE SITE

A set of key activities was organized to reach a deeper understanding of the intervention site. They included a two-day citizen scientists (CSs) training with fieldwork. In the induction training, CSs were introduced to the project, the project partners, participatory design, and spatial interventions through discussions of examples of PSIs done by CatalyticAction in Lebanon. The examples showed how each intervention addressed the specific needs of the context and people and their impact on the locality. The CSs then discussed the vulnerabilities related to using the Corniche by utilizing problem trees that explored the root causes and effects of the problems and their impact on different individuals and user groups. The CSs then discussed the potential solutions to address the problems on the Corniche. In preparation for the fieldwork, they further learned different research methods - space use observation and semi-structured interviews, testing the templates to help them carry out their task.

The CSs carried out an observation exercise of the practices of space to better understand the uses of the Corniche by following a planned observation schedule. Each CS was assigned a template to fill out during the observation session. The templates were adapted from Gehl institute's public life tools (Gehl Institute 2017). Each template focused on measuring a specific aspect from people's count, movement, and activities during weekdays, weekends, and at different times. Two groups of CSs observed two defined locations within the intervention site, the first across the El Masaken neighbourhood and the second across the Hay El Tanak neighbourhood. To compare these 2 locations under observation to the rest of the Corniche, one CS did a set of observations simultaneously in various areas of the Corniche, where he mapped areas of interest following people's movement and activity patterns. The times specified for the observations were 1-hour sessions throughout the day in the morning, afternoon, and night on a weekday, a weekend, and a holiday (Eid El Adha).

The CSs used five observation templates:

- People moving count: numbers and profiles of people moving.
- Means of movement used on the Corniche.
- Stationery activity mapping: mapping different types of activities happening on the Corniche and specifying the preferable locations for each activity.
- Intercept surveys: interview questions for users to understand their needs and perception of the Corniche.
- Getting to the site: to understand the traffic along the Corniche and how it affects pedestrian movement.

Photo credit : CatalyticAction

The outcome of the observations was organized and analysed. It was then discussed with the CSs during the second training to understand the studied locations, which will inform the design brief. The discussion of the outcome of the observations with CSs can be summarized in the following:

• Numbers of users: The highest number of users of the Corniche is during holidays. There are more users on the intervention site than on the rest of the Corniche on weekdays. The people's count showed a higher number of users in the afternoon than in the morning. The CSs explained that people come after they finish work to sit in a quiet place and wind down. However, it is always expected to see people in the afternoon on weekdays. CSs also mentioned that in winter, caregivers are more likely to come with their children to enjoy the warm sun when it is not raining.

• Categories of users: The Corniche is a welcoming place to various user groups from different nationalities, genders, social classes, and age groups. Visitors equally come from El Mina and nearby areas. CSs interviewed people living in various neighbourhoods in El Mina, like El Masaken, Hay El Kharab, Haret El Jdide, Terab El Islam, and Port Said. More men were present on the Corniche, but men and women alike were doing the activities they wanted without restrictions. Women were present at night as well. However, children did not have an inviting or safe space to play, but they were there and playing anyway. Some groups of children (ages 14 to 17) were even present without adult supervision. People used the Corniche mostly in pairs and groups of 3 or more, and 34% of the observed people came alone. The profiles of people observed were primarily adults, youth, and children (4+).


Photo credit : Mahmoud Sleiman

Elderly, toddlers, and babies with their caregivers were the age groups least present during the various times of the day.

• Means of movement: Most users of different age groups walk independently along the Corniche. Some had limited mobility or were supported by a caregiver or a helper. Only 1.6% were rolling (using a bike, scooter, or roller skates).

• Traffic: The traffic near the intervention site is light to medium throughout the day. The car park is adjacent to the Corniche, and there were no particularly preferred parking spots. Motorcycles present a threat to pedestrians, especially at night, as they use the sidewalk. In addition, there are no safe crossing areas near the intervention site. Several mothers with their children have been observed dangerously crossing the wide street to get to the Corniche.

• Activities: The most common activities are walking, running, sitting, resting, observing the sea and fishers, playing, talking, taking photos, fishing, swimming, playing with the sand, eating food/drinks bought from nearby kiosks, using electronics, street vendors, and in one case horseback riding.

• Characteristics of the site: The site of intervention on the Corniche has different characteristics than the newly renovated sections of the Corniche. The sidewalk is narrower, and the space is less crowded. The asphalt sidewalk is separated from the sea with natural rocks, sand, pebbles, and seashells, sometimes with a difference in levels between the road and the sea. Some users mentioned that they visit the site of intervention on the Corniche to have more privacy, while others wondered why it is not widened and equipped with benches like the other part. Another notable feature of the intervention site is the broader sea view. Users can sit at any part and enjoy the sunset. In contrast, the newly rehabilitated corniche stretch is now packed with items such as tables, benches, and inflatable games that cover the view for visitors. Users appreciate these characteristics and enjoy watching the sunset and quiet away from the crowds.

• Pollution: Garbage and littering are a common sight on the Corniche, both on the sidewalk and by the beach. Users expressed how they ruined their experience of the site's natural characteristics and pointed to hazards, especially the broken glass on the ground. On the other hand, the water near the intervention site is polluted by nearby sewage discharge, yet people still swim in it due to the low water level. The sewage discharge near the intervention site was supposed to pass through an already-built treatment plant. However, the plant's location was not suitable for sewage flow to pass through due to a design flaw. As a result, the plant remained out of function. As a result, the sewage kept discharging into the sea without treatment causing water contamination and foul odours at various locations of the Corniche. One part of the intervention site is more exposed to the sewage's odours since it is directly next to the discharge. The odour decreases when moving away from the discharge location. However, its intensity varies from time to time according to the wind.

• Site neglect: The intervention site is neglected by local authorities and nearby residents. When people were asked what they would add to make it better, many mentioned they wanted a cleaner site, especially on the sandy beach, with more bins along the sidewalk, more benches and shade, an area for family gatherings with tables and chairs, accessibility features, colours, and play features within zones for children and greenery. Users wanted increased security by adding lights, security cameras, or police patrols to curb harassment and improper uses of the space.


Photo credit : CatalyticAction

• Street vendors: When asked about how the space changed in recent years, the removal of the street vendors was the most reported reason that affected the use of the Corniche, noting it was a positive action that brought back the flexible use of the space. Since the municipality removed most of the kiosks in 2017, few street vendors have ventured to return and are scattered along the side of the Corniche. They sell light snacks and coffee on moveable carts. They use light-material kiosks made of wood and textiles to mark their zones. Vendors who have their carts do not take them home when they finish selling at night. Instead, they leave them on a side street facing the intervention site next to the amusement park. The vendors also provide rental services of tables, chairs, umbrellas for shade, bicycles, and electric cars for children. Users of the Corniche stay near the street vendors at night to benefit from the light they have installed ontheir carts. The interviews pointed to a controversy between people who wanted the street vendors to remain on the Corniche organized within specific zones and kiosks and those who wanted the vendors removed altogether since the rental services they provide should be available for free for all public space users.

• Threats**:** When users suggested improvements to the Corniche that included adding new items, they always shared a general concern or threat from the thugs in the area who might take over the place and operate it as their own. Localizing the whole intervention in one specific zone will raise the risk of it being occupied illegally by someone.

TRANSLATING IDEAS INTO DESIGN

DESIGN BRIEF

During a design charrette workshop with the CSs, the team agreed on a shared vision that helped develop the design brief of the intervention. As a result, the design brief can be presented as the following:

1. Users

- Residents from El Mina and visitors from outside the city are the primary users of the Corniche. They represent different age groups, nationalities, genders, and social classes.
- Family caregivers with babies and toddlers are key users who face additional challenges in public spaces. Therefore, the design of the intervention should give special attention to this category of users.
- People with special needs and the elderly are user groups who face challenges in accessibility and mobility. Therefore, the design should accommodate their needs.
- Fishers and swimmers are the main categories using this area.


Photo credit : CatalyticAction

2. Design strategy & key characteristics

- Rehabilitate the site via a series of interventions that scatter along the Corniche.
- Preserve the quiet and less crowded quality of this section of the Corniche.
- Create different seating options for users to sit alone or in groups while keeping their privacy, or they can park their cars and stay inside while enjoying the view.
- Preserve this quality to keep the variety of activities in the area.
- Allow users to observe the sunset while standing up, sitting, or from their car.
- Consider the needs of swimmers and fishers in using the intervention.


Photo credit : Tana Mersali

3. Design solutions

CSs discussed the activities they observed on the Corniche and brainstormed design solutions that would enhance these uses. While CSs listed many possible solutions as there is a need for significant improvements on many levels, they agreed to start with the following solutions:

- Scattered seating furniture: The whole section of the Corniche looked favourable to sitting and enjoying the view.
- Shading: Using material from around the site to create shade (like cane sticks and palm branches) could help the local community manage the maintenance without imposing an extra cost.
- Lighting: Night users currently stay close to street vendors' carts, being the only light source in the area. Some users park their cars and keep the lights on while using the pavement or the sandy part.
- Pavement material: The pavement material should be suitable for walking and biking and more playful for children (coloured pavement tiles, for example).
- Floor games: The pavement or the sandy part can be good locations for floor games for children.
- Create a defined open space with levelled flooring: The levelled flooring and pavement materials should be suitable for toddlers to run and play simple games and for users who exercise to do all sorts of workouts, such as push-ups and the plank.
- Steel bar elements: Steel bar elements that children can use for games and for adults to exercise can be added.
- Colours: Colours can be used for the seating furniture, on the ground to mark different activities, or on the concrete edge.
- Pedestrian crossing: A safe crossing should be added to reach the site.
- Access ramps: Create access ramps to the sidewalk on the Corniche for wheelchairs and strollers.
- Cleanliness: Adding bins to the area while finding a solution for the bins to be regularly cleaned and emptied to be efficient.
- Greenery: Adding greenery that can survive by the sea and avoid any greenery that can block the view for users. For example, choose trees that can provide shade without blocking the view.
- Parking for cars: Currently, cars park on the side of the pavement, it is good to keep this option.
- Water taps for swimmers and fishermen: A clean water tap can be provided for swimmers to wash when they get off the sand.
- Pathways for swimmers and fishers: Currently, swimmers and fishers are scattered in many places, but they use some existing paths to access different zones on the beach. These paths can be enhanced for better accessibility.

Photo credit : CatalyticAction

DESIGN CONSULTATIONS AND FINAL DESIGN

The design brief, donor criteria, and budget were the basis of the preliminary design devised by CatalyticAction. They were presented in a series of design consultations with CSs and the municipality and in a public design consultation on the intervention site. The municipality was involved in the consultations to ensure a smooth process in the permit and allow full cooperation in preparation for the implementation phase. The design ideas were appreciated and guided to serve the needs of all residents in El Mina based on previous experiences in public areas.


Photo credit : Ghassan El Bakri

During these design consultations, the proposed spatial intervention was represented digitally with 3D views and satellite images, explaining the key findings on the intervention site and the process behind the project. The feedback collected during the design consultations was then incorporated into the final design. This final design consists of three different stations spread across the Corniche to enhance existing uses of the space, creating a leisure infrastructure for all, a child-friendly space, and a safe and accessible space for all. The three stations are scattered along the Corniche to preserve the public space quality that is free and accessible. Reflecting the name of the project Mauj (waves in Arabic), the design for these spaces is influenced by the sea. Each station is bordered by a long, multi-level bench which can be used to sit and play, meeting the needs of caregivers and their children.


Photo credit : CatalyticAction

The bench is made of concrete dyed in shades of blue to enhance the feeling of proximity to the sea. The floor of these spaces is interspersed with blue cement flooring, representing water. There are several different 'rocks' on which children can play in the water. There are many play opportunities for children on these rocks, built around the idea that they can climb up the rocks and jump off to the 'water'. To this end, steel components create ladders to climb with and poles to slide down. One of the stations also has speaking pipes that look like periscopes extending from the water. Children can use these to communicate with one another across the play spaces. Access ramps were added in front of each station to increase accessibility. Fish silhouettes were painted on the sidewalk to connect the three stations in a fun promenade, encouraging the use of these spaces. A windmill attracts passers-by from a far distance, inviting them to come and enjoy the space and the beautiful sea view.

CONSTRUCTION AND USE OF THE INTERVENTION


Photo credit : CatalyticAction

Using local materials and hiring local skilled labourers boosts the local economy, develops local skills, and increases the feeling of ownership and positive impact of the intervention. With the help of CSs, we were able to identify local skilled workers and local materials, which allowed the community to be actively engaged in the construction. For example, the windmill element was entirely designed and built by a local blacksmith, and the wooden elements used for footprints were prepared by one of the CSs in his wood workshop.

CSs were also involved in the construction phase, supporting site supervision, and conducting construction phase observations. Building on their experience as architects, some CSs participated in site supervision by directly going on site to check that the construction details adhered to drawings and monitor the progress and quality of work. During the construction phase observations, they spent time monitoring the interaction of Corniche users with the intervention site. They explained the intervention to people passing by and asked them for their feedback. The users were generally curious about the project and eager to see the results because that section of the Corniche was still unrehabilitated. Some people began using the benches before completion, and others took pictures of the colourful features. Children were interacting with the intervention before the final finishing touches. A 50-year-old Lebanese male stated that:

"It's a simple intervention, but for us, it means that we can spend more time here; the Corniche just became more welcoming".

The construction phase observations provided CSs with first-hand experience on the intervention's impact and how the design elements directly address people's needs. For example, several people commented that they enjoyed sitting on the benches after swimming or resting after exercising. A 68-year-old Lebanese male stated:

"For me, this intervention means I no longer have to carry chairs from my house to spend some time here. I can just sit on these colourful benches".

The work in progress was a sign of hope for some people a 32-year-old Lebanese female interviewee commented:

"I am happy to see someone still cares about El Mina and its people by dedicating the time and money to enhance an important space for us."


Photo credit : CatalyticAction


Photo credit : CatalyticAction

Likewise, a 20-year-old Syrian male interviewee said that:

"The quality of work and attention to detail will encourage the municipality and other NGOs to work on more interventions along the Corniche".

People's interaction during the construction process revealed that their perception of the Corniche was changing because of the intervention. They now feel safer coming with their friends and family and bringing their children to enjoy the safe space. For example, a 38-year-old Lebanese male said:

"Usually, I come here alone, but now I am thinking I can bring my son to play here safely while I sit and enjoy the scenery, and most importantly, it will be for free! I hope people will care for the space and keep it clean so we can keep using it".

A 40-year-old Lebanese father visiting with his family said :

"My family and I have been coming here regularly to sit on these benches since we spotted them. We can all sit together, and it doesn't feel crowded. I believe you will soon see more people, especially in Ramadan, because with the power cuts, people don't want to stay at home, and they cannot afford to sit someplace else."

The positive impact of the El Mina PSI on the community also influenced the experience of the citizen scientists. Throughout the research phases, many of the CSs experienced disappointment when they faced rejection from respondents who did not want to be part of the household surveys because there were no tangible outcomes. During the intervention phase, the experience of the CSs was different because they faced less rejection when they spoke about a physical intervention that people could see. The CSs felt more motivated to continue their work and interaction with the community. One of the CSs described his experience during the construction phase observations:

"People are very excited about the project. I have been standing here since morning talking to people, and it warms my heart to see all the excitement. I didn't want to leave by the end of my observation session. I wanted to hear more and engage more with the people to hear their excitement. I personally love the construction phase of the intervention because we actually got the people to see a positive physical change happening, and this got their hopes up, and I am enjoying being part of this".

During the construction phase, many of the interviews showed concerns about caring for the space after implementation. They hoped that the municipality or any other entity would be willing to manage the space to maintain it in good shape. To plan for sustainable management that involves the community and the municipality, the CSs prepared a schedule of community activities to activate the space once the construction is completed. The community will be engaged in clean-ups and co-design activities such as painting and building. The activities aim to promote a sense of ownership and devise ways in which the community can lead in maintaining the quality of the rehabilitated public space while having the support of the municipality. These activities are planned to begin following the inauguration date of the intervention, which took place on April 9, 2022. The CSs will also do post-implementation monitoring which will allow the assessment of the impact of the intervention in more detail.


Photo credit : CatalyticAction

The RELIEF-CatalyticAction team in consultation with citizen scientists have reflected and discussed many other intervention ideas throughout the research process and the data analysis. Intervention ideas have been considered around each of the five Prosperity domains this report is based upon and we hope to be able to develop some of these following further local consultations. Interventions typically involve collaborations with local key stakeholders such as entrepreneurs, NGOs or governmental entities who are interested in implementing impactful projects for the community. Please reach out to the RELIEF-CatalyticAction team if interested in collaborating on local interventions in El Mina.

Moreover, if you would like to access some of our data you can reach out to the El Mina Prosperity Team through www.relief-centre.org/data-request.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: PROSPERITY INDICATORS AT NEIGHBOURHOOD, GOVERNORATE AND NATIONAL LEVEL

Demographic indicators at the national and governorate level are derived from the Labour Force and Household Living Conditions Survey (LFHLCS 2018-2019) (CAS & ILO, 2019). The LFHLCS 2018-2019 is designed to yield estimates at the governorate and district level for Lebanese and non-Lebanese citizens. Indicators pertaining to subjective wellbeing, self-perceptions, political participation and institutional confidence are derived from Wave 7 of the World Values Survey for a sample of 1,200 Lebanese citizens including 240 respondents from the North Governorate (Haerpfer, C. et al., 2020).

Indicator	Indicator description	MINA			NORTH GOV			LEBANON			Source
		Total	Leb	Non-Leb	Total	Leb	Non-Leb	Total	Leb	Non-Leb	
LIVELIHOOD											
Financial distress	Percentage of households with at least one member who borrowed money in the past year	44.8%	36.7%	63.4%	4.7%	-	-	-	-	-	WVS
Financial security	Percentage of households who report being able to save	3.1%	4.1%	1.0%	10.0%	-	-	21.5%	-	-	WVS
Satisfaction with work - Salary and benefits	Percentage of workers satisfied/very satisfied: Salary and benefits of current primary job	31.0%	34.0%	23.8%	71.7%	-	-	66.1%	-	-	WVS
Satisfaction with work - Opportunities and promotion	Percentage of workers satisfied/very satisfied: Opportunities for professional development/promotion in current primary job	24.6%	26.3%	20.7%	63.5%	-	-	61.9%	-	-	WVS
Average household monthly income (LBP)[30]	Average household monthly income (LBP)[31]	1,633	1,950	875	1,157	1,224	619	1,306	1,426	711	LFHLCS
Income sources	Average number of income sources per household	1.4	1.3	1.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Remittances	Percentage of households that received any type of remittance in the last 3 months	16.8%	20.0%	9.4%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Employment	Percentage of working-age respondents (15-64 years old) in employment	56.8%	56.5%	57.8%	86.0%	85.7%	88.0%	88.6%	87.9%	91.3%	LFHLCS
Working hours	Percentage of workers with regular working hours (40 hours a week)	10.6%	12.0%	7.2%	7.7%	7.7%	7.9%	8.1%	8.7%	5.4%	LFHLCS
Secure employment - Contracts	Percentage of workers with contractual employment agreements	18.5%	20.3%	14.3%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Secure employment - Temporary employment	Percentage of workers in temporary employment agreements	31.3%	29.3%	62.5%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Access to financial services	Percentage of households with at least one member having a bank account	22.8%	31.3%	3.3%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

[30] In thousand of LBP

[31] Household income reported in fresh USD was converted to LBP using the average market rate of exchange 8,000 LBP/USD prevailing over the three months before data collection.

Indicator	Indicator description	MINA			NORTH GOV			LEBANON			Source
		Total	Leb	Non-Leb	Total	Leb	Non-Leb	Total	Leb	Non-Leb	
Overall poverty	Percentage of households in the lowest wealth index quintile (UNICEF)	24.9%	17.4%	42.6%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
HOUSING											
Housing tenure - Ownership	Percentage in owned housing	46.4%	61.1%	12.6%	69.1%	78.5%	15.40%	67.7%	80.6%	16.7%	LFHLCS
Housing tenure - Rent	Percentage in rented housing	46.0%	35.0%	71.5%	26.0%	17.7%	73.3%	26.7%	15.7%	70.0%	LFHLCS
Warm accommodation	Percentage of households able to keep their accommodation warm enough during winter	55.7%	63.1%	38.5%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding	Percentage of households with three or more persons per occupied room, excluding kitchen and bathroom	39.2%	25.4%	71.2%	16.0%	10.3%	49%	16.5%	8.7%	47.2%	LFHLCS
Satisfaction with housing	Percentage of households satisfied/ very satisfied: Quality of housing	57.9%	62.4%	47.6%	39.2%	-	-	58.5%	-	-	WVS
Affordability	Percentage of income spent on housing on average	29.1%	20.0%	65.9%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
RIGHTS & STATUS INEQUALITIES											
Freedom of expression	Percentage of respondents reporting guaranteed freedom	52.1%	48.4%	60.6%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Freedom to participate in peaceful protests and demonstrations	Percentage of respondents reporting guaranteed freedom	53.9%	51.4%	59.8%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Freedom to join civil associations and organizations	Percentage of respondents reporting guaranteed freedom	65.8%	63.2%	72.1%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Freedom to marry	Percentage of respondents who agree/ strongly agree: I have the freedom to marry whomever I want	71.9%	74.8%	66.5%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Freedom to Study	Percentage of respondents who agree/ strongly agree: I have the freedom to decide where and what to study	74.8%	79.6%	65.7%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gender privileges	Percentage of respondents who agree/ strongly agree: Being male/female, grants me privileges in society at large	54.1%	56.5%	49.3%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nationality privileges	Percentage of respondents who agree/ strongly agree: My nationality, grants me privileges in society at large	38.4%	46.2%	23.5%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Indicator	Indicator description	MINA			NORTH GOV			LEBANON			Source
		Total	Leb	Non-Leb	Total	Leb	Non-Leb	Total	Leb	Non-Leb	
EDUCATION											
Primary school net attendance ratio	Percentage of children of primary school age (6-11), currently attending primary school level or above	68.8%	80.1%	58.8%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Secondary school net attendance ratio	Percentage of children of secondary school age (12-17), currently attending secondary school or higher	41.7%	62.5%	15.6%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gender parity index (primary school)	Ratio of the number of female students enrolled at the primary level of education to the number of male students	1.01	0.97	1.08	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gender parity index (secondary school)	Ratio of the number of female students enrolled at the secondary level of education to the number of male students	1.16	1.14	1.17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Out-of-school children (primary school age)	Percentage of children of primary school age (6-11) who are currently out of school	18.4%	10.6%	27.1%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Out-of-school children (lower secondary school age)	Percentage of children of lower secondary school age (12–14) who are currently out of school	30.9%	18.4%	45.4%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Out-of-school children (higher secondary school age)	Percentage of children of higher secondary school age (15–18) who are currently out of school	48.3%	28.4%	76.6%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Primary level of education of heads of households	Percentage of household heads with primary level of education	32.8%	29.4%	40.4%	30.9%	30.0%	38.1%	25.5%	24.4%	31.7%	LFHLCS
Secondary or equivalent level of education of heads of households	Percentage of household heads with secondary level of education or equivalent	46.3%	48.3%	41.7%	36.2%	35.8%	39.6%	39.4%	39.1%	41.2%	LFHLCS
Higher level of education of heads of households	Percentage of household heads with higher level of education	13.6%	16.6%	6.6%	17.5%	18.6%	8.7%	20.3%	22.1%	10.3%	LFHLCS
Satisfaction with education services	Percentage of respondents satisfied/ completely satisfied: The educational system in the area	58.1%	56.5%	62.5%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enrolment in public schools	Percentage of children enrolled in public schools	76.8%	68.6%	86.9%	53.1%	48.2%	86.9%	46.5%	40.7%	76.3%	LFHLCS
Enrolment in private schools	Percentage of children enrolled in private schools	21.7%	31.1%	10.0%	46.9%	51.8%	13.1%	53.5%	59.3%	23.7%	LFHLCS
Homework support for children	Percentage of children receiving homework support	10.2%	11.8%	7.8%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Homework support for youth	Percentage of youth receiving homework support	10.1%	13.3%	3.6%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Indicator	Indicator description	MINA			NORTH GOV			LEBANON			Source
		Total	Leb	Non-Leb	Total	Leb	Non-Leb	Total	Leb	Non-Leb	
GOVERNANCE											
Voting in election	Percentage of respondents who voted in the last elections	48.5%	48.5%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Contact a politician, local or non-local government official	Percentage of respondents who have contacted a politician, local or non-local government official in the last 12 months	2.4%	2.9%	1.0%	1.7%	-	-	6.2%	-	-	WVS
Volunteering	Percentage of respondents who have volunteered in an organization, association, NGO, or informal group in the last 12 months	3.2%	4.1%	1.3%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Petition	Percentage of respondents who have signed a petition in the last 12 months	2.0%	2.7%	0.3%	17.6%	-	-	10.8%	-	-	WVS
Protest	Percentage of respondents who have taken part in a public demonstration in the 12 months	8.9%	11.5%	2.9%	4.3%	-	-	10.3%	-	-	WVS
Trust in local government	Percentage of respondents reporting quite a lot/a great deal of confidence	12.1%	11.7%	13.9%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trust in political parties	Percentage of respondents reporting quite a lot/a great deal of confidence	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%	8.8%	-	-	13.1%	-	-	WVS
Trust in parliament	Percentage of respondents reporting quite a lot/a great deal of confidence	1.1%	0.8%	2.8%	8.8%	-	-	13.8%	-	-	WVS
Trust in religious leaders	Percentage of respondents reporting quite a lot/a great deal of confidence	14.4%	12.1%	23.5%	26.40	-	-	47.3%	-	-	WVS
Trust in media	Percentage of respondents reporting quite a lot/a great deal of confidence	13.9%	12.1%	20.3%	13.3%	-	-	20.4%	-	-	WVS
Trust in civil society institutions	Percentage of respondents reporting quite a lot/a great deal of confidence	18.6%	18.1%	20.2%	20.4%	-	-	28.4%	-	-	WVS
Trust in the police	Percentage of respondents reporting quite a lot/a great deal of confidence	20.1%	16.9%	31.9%	31.7%	-	-	55.5%	-	-	WVS
SOCIAL CAPITAL											
Church or religious organization participation	Percentage of active/ inactive members	7.6%	9.2%	3.9%	2.1%	-	-	10.1%	-	-	WVS
Sport or recreational organization participation	Percentage of active/ inactive members	5.3%	6.9%	1.6%	2.5%	-	-	6.1%	-	-	WVS
Art, music, education participation	Percentage of active/ inactive members	4.6%	5.6%	2.3%	1.7%	-	-	5.6%	-	-	WVS
Heritage site preservation	Percentage of respondents who wish to preserve pre-1975 buildings	91.3%	92.6%	87.3%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Indicator	Indicator description	MINA			NORTH GOV			LEBANON			Source
		Total	Leb	Non-Leb	Total	Leb	Non-Leb	Total	Leb	Non-Leb	
Pride in location	Percentage of respondents who consider the neighbourhood one that local residents take pride in	70.6%	74.8%	58.9%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Community belonging	Percentage of respondents who agree/strongly agree: I see myself as part of my local community	22.7%	28.4%	9.5%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Social network diversity	Percentage of respondents who agree/strongly agree: This local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together	57.4%	63.5%	43.4%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Neighbourhood - Belonging	Percentage of respondents who agree/strongly agree: I feel like I belong to this neighbourhood	58.6%	65.0%	43.7%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Neighbourhood - Associations	Percentage of respondents who agree/strongly agree: The friendships and associations I have with other people in my neighbourhood mean a lot to me	47.9%	52.1%	38.2%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Neighbourhood - Advice	Percentage of respondents who agree/strongly agree: If I needed advice about something I could go to someone in my neighbourhood	33.8%	35.0%	31.1%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Neighbourhood - Exchange	Percentage of respondents who agree/strongly agree: I borrow things and exchange favours with my neighbours	30.8%	30.8%	30.7%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Neighbourhood - Remain resident	Percentage of respondents who agree/strongly agree: I plan to remain a resident of this neighbourhood for a number of years	53.6%	62.2%	33.70%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Neighbourhood - Interactions	Percentage of respondents who agree/strongly agree: I regularly stop and talk with people in my neighbourhood	54.0%	58.3%	44.0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Neighbourhood - Help	Percentage of respondents who agree/strongly agree: People around here are willing to help their neighbour	45.2%	51.5%	30.4%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Neighbourhood - Trust	Percentage of respondents who agree/strongly agree: People in this neighbourhood can be trusted	40.2%	45.7%	27.5%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Indicator	Indicator description	MINA			NORTH GOV			LEBANON			Source
		Total	Leb	Non-Leb	Total	Leb	Non-Leb	Total	Leb	Non-Leb	
HEALTH											
Access to social security or other health care	Percentage of respondents with access to private insurance/social security coverage	15.2%	18.1%	9.8%	47.1%	48.8%	36.1%	55.6%	59.7%	37.7%	LFHLCS
Satisfaction with health care	Percentage of respondents satisfied/ very satisfied: Access to health services	46.7%	45.2%	50.2%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Health problems - Disability	Percentage of respondents with disability	2.2%	2.1%	2.4%	4.7%	4.9%	3.7%	4.1%	4.4%	2.5%	LFHLCS
Health problems - Chronic illness	Percentage of respondents with chronic illness	19.5%	22.4%	13.9%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Health problems - Serious/Life threatening medical condition	Percentage of respondents with serious/life threatening medical condition	2.0%	2.2%	1.5%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wellbeing - Stressed	Percentage of respondents stressed often/most of the time	73.1%	72.8%	73.8%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wellbeing - Depressed	Percentage of respondents depressed often/most of the time	63.6%	63.4%	64.0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wellbeing - Happy	Percentage of respondents happy/very happy	50.6%	55.1%	40.3%	90.8%	90.8%	-	86.1%	-	-	WVS
Wellbeing - Life satisfaction	Average life satisfaction score on a 10-point scale	4.9	5.3	4	6.6	-	-	6.7	-	-	WVS
WASH											
Use of improved drinking water sources	Percentage of households using improved sources of drinking water	99.9%	99.9%	100.0%	98.6%	98.7%	98.1%	99.2%	99.2%	99.4%	LFHLCS
Use of improved sanitation	Percentage of households using improved sanitation facilities	87.9%	90.9%	80.8%	97.6%	97.8%	96.1%	98.1%	98.1%	98.2%	LFHLCS
Solid waste recycling	Percentage of households recycling any solid waste	11.9%	13.5%	8.4%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
LIVEABILITY											
Walkability	Average frequency of walking trips (days per week)	3.8	4	3.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Perception of safety in local area	Percentage of respondents reporting ensured/fully ensured	46.1%	45.5%	47.6%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Use of natural environment	Percentage of respondents visiting the natural environment in the last week/last month	44.4%	41.2%	52.0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

APPENDIX 2: POPULATION DISTRIBUTION

No. of observations per unit		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	Total
MINA 3	Lebanese	No. of residential units	50	87	69	72	54	30	8	3	2	2	1	1	1	0	380
		%	13.2%	22.9%	18.2%	18.9%	14.2%	7.9%	2.1%	0.8%	0.5%	0.5%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.0%	100.0
		No. of residents	50	174	207	288	270	180	56	24	18	20	11	12	13	0	1,323
		%	3.8%	13.2%	15.6%	21.8%	20.4%	13.6%	4.2%	1.8%	1.4%	1.5%	0.8%	0.9%	1.0%	0.0%	100.0
	Non-Lebanese	No. of residential units	12	12	11	23	25	17	6	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	110
		%	10.9%	10.9%	10.0%	20.9%	22.7%	15.5%	5.5%	2.7%	0.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0
		No. of residents	12	24	33	92	125	102	42	24	9	0	0	0	0	0	463
		%	2.6%	5.2%	7.1%	19.9%	27.0%	22.0%	9.1%	5.2%	1.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0
MINA JARDINS	Lebanese	No. of residential units	16	38	55	72	72	46	19	9	4	2	1	0	0	0	334
		%	4.8%	11.4%	16.5%	21.6%	21.6%	13.8%	5.7%	2.7%	1.2%	0.6%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0
		No. of residents	16	76	165	288	360	276	133	72	36	20	11	0	0	0	1,453
		%	1.1%	5.2%	11.4%	19.8%	24.8%	19.0%	9.2%	5.0%	2.5%	1.4%	0.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0
	Non-Lebanese	No. of residential units	6	11	20	31	52	34	26	9	3	3	2	0	1	1	199
		%	3.0%	5.5%	10.1%	15.6%	26.1%	17.1%	13.1%	4.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.0%	0.0%	0.5%	0.5%	100.0
		No. of residents	6	22	60	124	260	204	182	72	27	30	22	0	13	14	1,036
		%	0.6%	2.1%	5.8%	12.0%	25.1%	19.7%	17.6%	6.9%	2.6%	2.9%	2.1%	0.0%	1.3%	1.4%	100.0
TOTAL	Lebanese	No. of residential units	66	125	124	144	126	76	27	12	6	4	2	1	1	0	714
		%	9.2%	17.5%	17.4%	20.2%	17.6%	10.6%	3.8%	1.7%	0.8%	0.6%	0.3%	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0
		No. of residents	66	250	372	576	630	456	189	96	54	40	22	12	13	0	2,776
		%	2.4%	9.0%	13.4%	20.7%	22.7%	16.4%	6.8%	3.5%	1.9%	1.4%	0.8%	0.4%	0.5%	0.0%	0.0
	Non-Lebanese	No. of residential units	18	23	31	54	77	51	32	12	4	3	2	0	1	1	309
		%	5.8%	7.4%	10.0%	17.5%	24.9%	16.5%	10.4%	3.9%	1.3%	1.0%	0.6%	0.0%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3
		No. of residents	18	46	93	216	385	306	224	96	36	30	22	0	13	14	1,499
		%	1.2%	3.1%	6.2%	14.4%	25.7%	20.4%	14.9%	6.4%	2.4%	2.0%	1.5%	0.0%	0.9%	0.9%	100

APPENDIX 3: LIST OF INTERVIEWS AND FOCUS GROUPS DISCUSSIONS

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS

REFERENCE	LOCATION	JOB	DATE
FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION 1 - ADULT LEBANESE FEMALE			
Respondent 1	El Mina (Tripoli Entrepreneurs Club)	Employer	15 October 2020
Respondent 2		Unemployed	
Respondent 3		Self-employed	
Respondent 4		Employee	
Respondent 5		Unemployed	
FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION 2 - ADULT LEBANESE MALE			
Respondent 6	El Mina (Tripoli Entrepreneurs Club)	Director	14 October 2020
Respondent 7		Worker in a wood company	
FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION 3 - ADULT NON-LEBANESE FEMALE			
Respondent 8	El Mina (Tripoli Entrepreneurs Club)	Unemployed	14 October 2020
Respondent 9		Unemployed	
FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION 4 - ADULT NON-LEBANESE MALE			
Respondent 10	El Mina (Tripoli Entrepreneurs Club)	*Mokhtar*'s assistant	17 October 2020
Respondent 11		Greengrocer	
Respondent 12		Worker in a printing shop	
FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION 5 - YOUTH LEBANESE			
Respondent 13	El Mina (Tripoli Entrepreneurs Club)	Student	16 October 2020
Respondent 14		Freelancer	
Respondent 15		Teacher	
Respondent 16		Unemployed	
FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION 6 - YOUTH NON-LEBANESE			
Respondent 17	El Mina (Tripoli Entrepreneurs Club)	Social Worker	15 October 2020
Respondent 18		Logistic Officer	
Respondent 19		Unemployed	
Respondent 20		Waiter	
FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION 7 - ADULT LEBANESE FEMALE			
Respondent 21	Hamra (Centre for Lebanese Studies)	Unemployed	18 October 2020
Respondent 22		School Director	
Respondent 23		Self-employed/Fashion Designer	
Respondent 24		Unemployed	
Respondent 25		Unemployed	
FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION 8 - ADULT LEBANESE MALE			
Respondent 26	Hamra (Centre for Lebanese Studies)	Plumber	25 September 2020
Respondent 27		Research and development	
Respondent 28		Physical Plant Manager	
Respondent 29		Graphic Designer	

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION 9 - ADULT NON-LEBANESE FEMALE

Respondent 30	Hamra (Centre for Lebanese Studies)	Freelance Architect	17 September 2020
Respondent 31		English Instructor at a university in Beirut	
Respondent 32		Unemployed	
Respondent 33		Janitor	
Respondent 34		Freelance real estate agent	

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION 10 - ADULT NON-LEBANESE MALE

Respondent 35	Hamra (Centre for Lebanese Studies)	Nightclub Security	21 September 2020
Respondent 36		Researcher	
Respondent 37		Mechanical Engineer	
Respondent 38		Janitor	
Respondent 39		Janitor	

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION 11 - YOUTH LEBANESE

Respondent 40	Hamra (Centre for Lebanese Studies)	Unemployed	25 September 2020
Respondent 41		Medical Researcher	
Respondent 42		Security guard	

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION 12 - YOUTH NON-LEBANESE

Respondent 43	Hamra (Centre for Lebanese Studies)	Hotel Housekeeping	24 September 2020
Respondent 44		Hotel Housekeeping and Maintenance	

ADDITIONAL INTERVIEWS - ADULT LEBANESE FEMALE

Respondent 45	Whatsapp Call	Salesperson	11 December 2020
Respondent 46		Instagram clothing shop owner	5 January 2021
Respondent 47		Chemistry teacher in a public school in Al Minyeh	5 January 2021

ADDITIONAL INTERVIEWS - ADULT LEBANESE MALE

Respondent 48	Whatsapp Call	Police in the Internal Security Forces	4 January 2021
Respondent 49		Carrier in a wood & glass company	

ADDITIONAL INTERVIEWS - ADULT NON-LEBANESE FEMALE

Respondent 50	Whatsapp Call	Freelance translator for a publishing house in the Gulf	6 January 2021
Respondent 51		Janitor	6 January 2021
Respondent 52		Garlic Peeler	11 December 2020
Respondent 53		Housekeeping	6 January 2021

ADDITIONAL INTERVIEWS - ADULT NON-LEBANESE FEMALE

Respondent 54	Whatsapp Call	Owner of a family business	5 January 2021
Respondent 55		A private generator supplier	
Respondent 56		IT engineer	

ADDITIONAL INTERVIEWS - YOUTH LEBANESE

Respondent 57	Whatsapp Call	Radiologist in a hospital in Tripoli	5 January 2021
Respondent 58		Restaurant owner	

EXPERT INTERVIEWS

REFERENCE	JOB	DATE
Healthcare facility	Manager	21 September 2020
Education institution	Headmaster	27 July 2020
NGO 1	University Professor, Activist	30 September 2020
NGO 2	Doctor, director of the NGO	18 September 2018
Municipal engineer	Municipal Engineer	29 July 2020
Mokhtar 1	*Mokhtar*	7 September 2020
Mokhtar 2	*Mokhtar*	25 September 2020
Religious figure 1	University Lecturer, Imam	13 July 2020
Religious figure 2	Priest	3 September 2020
Political Figure	Consultant	30 September 2020

APPENDIX 4: BIBLIOGRAPHY OF LITERATURE REVIEW (PI MODEL)

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