

CONFERENCE REPORT

SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FAMILY RESEARCH AND POLICY 2016



WAR CONFLICTS AND THEIR IMPACTS ON ARAB FAMILIES



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Conference Overview

On October 17th and 18th, 2016, the Doha International Family Institute convened its second annual conference on family research and policy on the topic of "The Impact of Wars and Conflicts on Arab Families." More than sixty scholars and practitioners from across the globe convened in the two-day conference to discuss critical issues facing Arab families in the current and chronic situation of war and conflict. The two-day agenda included plenary sessions on the broader topics of Impact of Wars and Conflicts on Families, and The Roles and Experiences of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). Special panels were convened around the topics of Post Wars and Conflicts: Repatriation, Local Integration, and Resettlement; Research in Wars and Conflict Zones: Methods, Ethics, and Lessons; and a special panel from Al Jazeera correspondents, Witness to the Human Story. Aside from these plenary and panel sessions, researchers from across the globe presented their research in a series of parallel sessions on critical topics related to the impacts of wars and conflict on Arab families.

Day One

Plenary Session 1: Impact of Wars and Conflicts on Families

The first plenary session titled "Impact of Wars and Conflicts on Families" was moderated by Dr. Amal Mohammad Al Malki, Ph.D., Founding Dean, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Hamad bin Khalifa University. The panelists included: Sheikha Hessa bint Khalifa Al Thani, Special Envoy of the Arab League Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs; Dr. Luay Shabana, Ph.D., Regional Director of Arab States, UN-FPA; Rami Khouri, Senior Fellow, Issam Fares Institute, American University of Beirut; and Nahla Haidar, Member of CEDAW Committee. In this session, the moderator led the panelists through a discussion on the impact of conflicts on the social and cultural foundations of societies and how they contribute to altering a country's demographic structure through their impact on fertility, mortality, and migration. The panelists also examined how wars and conflicts minimize the power of social norms and values, undermine established patterns of family formation, and hasten family breakdown.

Dr. Luay Shabana initiated the discussion by highlighting that a critical issue in studying families in conflict is that there is a lack of evidence from a quantitative perspective of the true impact of wars and conflict. It is understood that families undergo changes in structure due to internal displacement, migration, and death of individuals. Families have little access to basic services and short-term solutions such as early marriage in the end create a long-term negative impact, thus recycling the conflict. With little quantitative research on these impacts of wars and conflicts, the question remains how can institutions assist these families in developing strategies that do not have a negative long-term impact, perpetuating the conflict. ***Yet, Mrs. Haidar made the important point that each type of family lives the impact of war and conflict differently and encouraged researchers to look at different categories of families across the socioeconomic spectrum in the region instead of placing these under the general label of "family".*** Drawing upon her professional experience working for the UN, she separated countries that face conflicts into two types: (1) countries that find lasting solutions to crises by engaging all sectors of society in the resolution process and (2) those countries that do not fully engage their societies in the resolution process, thereby contributing to temporary solutions that lead instead to a chronic crisis mode. Unfortunately, countries in the region due to their inability to maintain the rule of law and establish true institutions fall into the latter category, which means that there are devastating effects on the foundational sectors of education and law at the first sign of any conflict or crisis. Another regional issue requiring further research is the need to perform the difficult task of testing policies before full scale implementation. She also spoke about her personal experience and the impact that the Lebanese civil war had in changing her own career path. In her concluding remarks, she stressed the importance of not merely focusing on the victimization of women during times of conflict but also exploring the empowering effect that these experiences may have on women, their autonomy, and self-reliance. ***Mr. Khouri added to this by emphasizing that there does not seem to be a serious policy element to address families as families, with the exception of DIFI in Qatar. Family is mostly studied in its individual components – youth, women, maternity, elderly, family relationships – but what is needed is a serious continuous and deep commitment at the state and government levels that address these issues as families. The research DIFI is conducting is part of the missing link. The question remains how can this knowledge be transferred to the hands of those who can address these issues.***

Mr. Khouri asserted that family in the Arab world is one of the strongest units of Arab society. It is incredible that the family has not suffered more than it has. There is something unique about the family that makes it so resilient in the face of serious struggle throughout history. Family is a repository of all the strengths and weaknesses of the contemporary Arab world. The Arab family may be the best single barometer available to understand the broad regional trends that are also global trends – commercialization, militarization, globalization, digitization, privatization, polarization, marginalization, sectarianization – working together with all these have devastating impacts in some countries. There is a need to better understand the relationship between these broad trends in society that impact family, while also focusing on the strengths within the family that allow families to weather these crises as well as they do.

After the panelists spoke, the audience was given the opportunity to ask questions. In this discussion with the audience, the idea was put forth that perhaps families play a role in causing conflict as well as being reactors to conflict. Families are main host of a person's first years, in which a person develops a sense of security and peace. Culture and education occurs within the family, but it also in the family that a person might first experience violence. Families also play an indirect role in reducing the level of conflict. Families don't act as families; it is individuals within families who make decisions. We know what individuals within a family may desire, but the family doesn't behave collectively as an actor in society. We need to listen more to what the members of families want collectively. The family is a powerful force. Scholarship to date has focused in the primacy of the state in the context of action and sentiment in societies. However, the three largest mass movements in the past century have transcended the state – tribalism, Arabism, and Islamism. The state is an important player, but it has become overwhelmed by transnational sentiments that are now very active. As states become weaker and eventually disappear, family will go on as a key unit of society.

Keynote Presentation

In the keynote address, Dr. Suad Joseph (University of California, Davis) spoke to many of the points brought forth in the first plenary session summarized above. Despite gender research and studies of Arab families, scholars have much more work to do to understand families and the relationship between families and the state. Because states are at risk, we need to understand Arab families in their plurality. Scholarly work on families in the Arab world is very limited. This could be due to the assumption that the family is so important and we already know what it is. However, this is a naïve assumption. Families and states are the two most important forms of social reality, and both are particularly important in the Arab world. Just as families aren't the same unit of analysis over time, neither are states. Families and states are not bounded social units, there are competing needs at both the family and state levels. States are not coherent homogenous wholes, nor are families, but the two are so intertwined it is impossible to study one apart from the other, Joseph asserts.

It can be argued that families are in many ways a product of the state, that family is an invention of the state. Families must rely on the state for legal, market, and physical protection, and families also compete with states for loyalty and labor for families. The state tries to regulate fertility, marriage, inheritance, child custody, wages, conditions of work of children and youth, housing, socialization through education and other demographic characteristics within families for its own purpose. In this way families and states are mutually exclusive, and mutually competitive entities. State violence, war, use of force by states has an impact on families as states can force males into the armed forces, denying that labor from a family. There is a need to understand and document how the concept of Arab family emerged. ***There are many terms in Arabic to describe family. The western term inadequately describes the reality of family in the Arab world, which seduces scholars into errors of judgements, theoretically applying social constructs with western contexts to Arab families. This leads to bad judgements on family in the Arab world.***

Panel Discussion 1: Al Jazeera Correspondents: Witness to the Human Story

The first panel discussion of the conference, titled "Al Jazeera Correspondents: Witness to the Human Story," was moderated by Qatari journalist, Dr. Elham AlBader, Ph.D. In this session, the moderator led the panelists through a discussion of their experiences covering stories of their coverage across the region, portraying human tragedy, challenges, and the life of continuous instability. Through heart-rending visual images, the audience took a look through the prism of families touched by regional conflicts and war and their current struggle to survive.

Mr. Hamdi Al-Bokari, Senior Producer, Al Jazeera Channel, began by sharing his experiences as a field correspondent in conflict zones and particularly his coverage of the war in Yemen (2014-2015), noting the challenge that journalists face in conveying these stories of immense tragedy and human suffering to viewers. He mentioned a number of observations regarding displaced families including their constant search for a safe haven often found with other families, their lack of access to basic necessities such as food and water, and the importance of solidarity and the work of local charities in conflict zones that are not serviced by

international organizations. He also shared his experience of being separated from his own family for almost a year during a siege, noting that this is a common scenario shared by hundreds of Yemini families in the cities of Taiz and Aden. Describing his experiences in Taiz, he spoke of how the normal function of family has been dramatically altered in conflict zones where the role of each family member revolves around a daily struggle to fulfill three basic needs: access to water, food, and medicine.

Mr. Mohammed AlNajjar, Head of Social Media, Al Jazeera Channel, shared stories of his experience in Syria and described a similar situation among Syrian families repeatedly displaced amid the fighting. He also provided narratives of displaced families living in refugee camps on the Turkish-Syrian border and in Jordan (Azaz and Zaatari), noting their lack of protection from extreme weather conditions that has resulted in families digging caves for protection. He reminded the audience that these families were at one time like any other family with a home and daily routine until the ravages of war caused their displacement. Through the stories of Umm Ali from Dara and Amaal of Douma, he illustrated the extreme trauma from which displaced families suffer that causes lifelong psychological scars in addition to the uncertainty faced by families who were separated during the chaos of war, and live in constant worry about the whereabouts and fates of their closest relatives. While he stressed that women and children suffer the most during times of war, he also highlighted the resilience and optimism of displaced families, their love for one another, and the creativity and innovation that they display in establishing small businesses within the stifling confinement of refugee camps. He also discussed the long-term negative effects that a lack of schools within refugee camps will have on this generation of Syrian children.

Mr. Amer Lafi, Correspondent, Al Jazeera Channel, retold his experiences by first mentioning the human side of the conflict and the obligation of journalists to shed light on the suffering and tragedy experienced by those living in conflict zones. Sharing tragic stories of loss witnessed during his coverage, he described the emotional toll that these events have on families and how they may be too overcome with grief to narrate their experiences for correspondents. Also, journalists themselves can be temporarily paralyzed by the trauma and gravity of witnessing these events and momentarily be unable to document such cases. However, *he also mentions the optimism of displaced families in refugee camps, their plans to return home, and their ability to adapt and acclimate to new surroundings. However, this does little to make life in refugee camps bearable where deplorable conditions, shared quarters and facilities are the norm. Hence, he noted that families prefer to rent private quarters outside even if it requires that all family members must work, including the children who are unable to attend school due to economic necessity.* He concluded by raising an important question for the international community to consider, "How can an uneducated generation rebuild a country whose infrastructure has been demolished by war?"

Symposium (Parallel Sessions)

Parallel Session I: Family Formation and Breakdown during War and Conflict

This session was moderated by Ms. Elizabeth Wanucha (Center for International and Regional Studies, Georgetown University in Qatar) and looked at the fundamental effects on the social and cultural foundations of societies and how they contribute to altering a country's demographic structure through their impact on fertility, mortality, and migration. In this session, the papers presented also discussed how wars and conflicts minimize the power of social norms and values, undermine patterns of family formation, and hasten family breakdown.

Dr. Laura Ferrero (University of Turin) presented her paper on "Zawjat al-abtal: Palestinian Women Building Families by Themselves." The paper was based on fieldwork she conducted, examining in particular the phenomenon of wives of Palestinian prisoners bearing children with the aid of in-vitro fertilization and their husband's smuggled sperm. Dr. Ferrero visited several hospitals, including Razan Hospital, where many of these women undergo artificial insemination. Many of these women receive health benefits from the Israeli government since their husbands are imprisoned there. These acts have come to be seen as a form of resistance and the fulfilment of a social and cultural norm – to have children.

The high number of Palestinian men in Israeli prisons, in addition to the large number of men abroad, and those who marry foreign women, can contribute to the delay of marriage for women. In 2015, Dr. Ferrero conducted twelve interviews with women who gave birth to children thanks to artificial insemination with sperm previously smuggled out from Israeli prisons. In August 2012, Dalal Zaban gave birth to the first Palestinian child born thanks to this practice, using sperm smuggled out of an Israeli jail where the father is currently serving a life sentence. Her baby is now known as safir al hurreya (ambassador of freedom): following Dalal's example many other wives of prisoners have gotten pregnant and since then forty-seven children have been conceived through in vitro fertilization treatment after their father smuggled sperm out of the Israeli jails. Those forty-seven cases made the smuggling of sperm and the consequent pregnancies a transversal phenomenon that interested women from cities, villages and refugee camps as well as educated, uneducated, working and unemployed women with husbands involved both in secular or religious parties.

Through the course of these interviews, she also discovered a new phenomenon – women are interested in undergoing engagements or marriage by proxy, meaning they get engaged and married while the husband is already in prison. They can then have children with their husband by way of smuggled sperm and artificial insemination. The practice of giving birth can be conceived as a threat to Israel, as a political act and as an embodied form of resistance, but the most common aspect that take relevance in the women's narrative is their desire of motherhood and the satisfaction of a cultural societal imperative that sees in the marriage and in the procreation the natural consequence of the marriage. In this context, marriage by proxy allows even couples that were not living together to start considering themselves as a family.

Dr. Fatin Shabbar (University of South Australia) presented her paper on "The Impact of Political Conflict on Family Formation: Lessons from Iraq." Dr. Shabbar discussed the impact of political conflicts on the formation of the family, noting that wars destroyed many Arab countries and that regional political conflicts affected the social fabric and undermined many institutions, most notably the institution of family.

Dr. Shabbar stressed that the family is considered to be the first safety network and the social ground where influence, power, masculinity and, gender roles first emerged. Men and elders exert a strong influence on family members and the success or failure of individuals is often attributed to the family.

In her presentation, Dr. Shabbar focused on the political situation in Iraq, a country which has been suffering from political oppression and instability for four decades. In the 1960s and the 1970s, Iraq was a rich and powerful nation enjoying prosperity and progress. The typical Iraqi family enjoyed the social capital available at that time, ensured social security to its members, sought to pass on morals and ethical values to younger generations, and so on and so forth.

Gender relations, as Dr. Shabbar reported, were based on male dominance at a time when women had limited employment opportunities, but enjoyed a distinguished status in their own family households. Traditional marriage patterns prevailed at that time in Iraq, where men used to find spouses hailing from their own social classes.

Yet this state of welfare did not last long. During the eight-year-long Iran-Iraq War, many families were left without men, and thus women had to bear the responsibility of feeding, educating, and taking care of their household members. In the 1980s, it was difficult for women to find husbands and, in the 1990s, families were mainly concerned about the safety and well-being of their children, especially during the invasion of Kuwait, the Gulf War, and all the crises involving the Kurds, the Sunnis and the Shiites. As a result, the extended family structure was lost and the poverty rate reached fifty percent of the population. During the following decade, noted Dr. Shabbar, violence became gender-based, and the rates of crimes, kidnappings, rapes, and killings increased, which brought further crises.

With the increasing violence and attacks, the public space and the public life have both become a threat to the status of women. Girls were then pushed to marry at an early age, in a move that was thought to be a quick remedy to this phenomenon. Their ambitions were limited to having children and achieving motherhood, unlike the ordinary girls who used to live in bygone prosperous eras. The different political phases in the history of Iraq led to the disintegration of the family and produced several forms of discrimination

against citizens due to the occurrence of a series of incidents, such as killings, displacement, and armed battles.

Poverty and economic pressure jeopardize the existence of families. In times of crisis, families lose their role and the state exerts an influence on certain values based on discipline, while the political conflict affects the state and leads to religious extremism, among others. Such extremism targets women by imposing forced early marriages and polygamy. Women suffer more than any other members of the society in similar situations. According to Dr. Shabbar, the family is caught, at the present juncture, between extremism and liberalism.

Dr. Hassan Musa Yousif (National Population Council, Sudan) presented his paper on "Comparative Policy Analyses of the Family in the Conflict Regions of the Sudan." Dr. Hassan Musa Youssef analyzed comparatively the family-related policies put in place in Sudan's conflict zones, showing how the country's internal strife affected the families and their role, as well as the provision of public services.

The family, according to Dr. Youssef, fulfills several development-related functions covering social and health issues, which ultimately form its own infrastructure, as well as the infrastructure of society in general. Historically, the family has evolved from being an extended social structure to a nuclear social structure, composed of a father, a mother, and children, who can enjoy quality education and lifestyles.

As far as relations between the family and the state are concerned, the welfare of the family depends on its own structure and the various public services provided, such as education and healthcare. Such relations are important, as they determine the implementation of public policies affecting the whole country, as well as families.

During conflicts, the family could be first affected, then destroyed, as Dr. Youssef noted. The confrontation between rebels and the government army, for example, can lead to a situation of precariousness affecting the family, as was the case in Sudan.

Historically, the Sudanese family shifted from a nomadic to a sedentary lifestyle. The conflict between the country's north and south affected the implementation of public policies, as well as the cohesion of families. According to Dr. Youssef, the state and the family remain the most prominent factors that are taken into account when the issue of the Sudanese conflict is raised.

Parallel Session II: The Social and Economic Consequences of Wars and Conflicts

This session was moderated by Dr. Abdullah Baabood (Director of the Gulf Studies Center, Qatar University) and looked at the ways that wars and conflict weaken social bonds, hinder economic growth, destroy infrastructure and disrupt educational processes, social services and social networks. In this session, the papers presented also discussed the significant and long-lasting, direct and indirect social and economic consequences of wars and conflict.

Dr. Anis Ben Brik (DIFI) presented his paper on "The Social and Economic Impact of Wars and Conflicts on Arab Families: A Systematic Literature Review." His study assessed the economic, social and health consequences of wars and conflicts on Arab families including Arab war refugees; identified factors associated with these socio-economic and health consequences; and identified pre-migration and post-migration factors associated with the prevalence of these consequences. Literature searches were conducted consistent with Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) standards. Several databases were searched for all peer-reviewed publications from 1990 to 2016 that pertain to socio-economic and health consequences of wars affecting Arab families. Qualitative and quantitative studies were included for review.

He recommended the strengthening of the evidence base on the consequences of wars on Arab families as few studies were identified through this rigorous research. This points to considerable gaps in the knowledge on this subject. Overall, the peer-reviewed literature focused largely on psychosocial or health consequences of wars on Arab families. The result of this study can serve as a foundation for motivating a

shift in attention and for positioning Arab families squarely at the heart of global humanitarian and conflict agendas.

Dr. Al Basheer Alhadi Mohammad Al Qarqouti (University of Tripoli) presented his paper on "The Economic, Social and Psychological Effects of Wars and Armed Conflicts: A Field Study in Libyan Society." His study looked at the economic, social and psychological effects of conflicts in Libya by conducting a survey among 200 families living in the city of Tripoli. He concluded that conflicts have devastating effects on the families both socially and economically, recommending an increase in oil production to fulfill community needs, restoration of different elements of daily life, responsible media coverage, establishment of family counseling centers, and the engagement of community institutions.

Dr. Ahmed Khalaf Hassan Al Dakheel (University of Takreet) presented his paper on "The Financial Implications of Wars and Conflicts on the Iraqi Family." He noted that instability in Iraq due to conflicts since July 1958 has had negative financial impacts on the Iraqi family. With the decrease in oil prices, public incentives have been decreased while construction works have been halted due to political instability. As Iraq is fully dependent on oil, the state has begun to explore alternative sources of revenue including taxes, which would further impact the family. He recommended the adoption of both short-term and long-term reforms that take into consideration issues related to the family including the need for increased subsidies and more health facilities, more effort to improve diplomatic relations with other countries for support, the promotion of religious tourism to increase employment and revenue, a review of laws and regulations, and budgetary reforms that would benefit Iraqi families.

Dr. Maia Sieverding, (American University of Beirut), Dr. Jenny Liu (University of California, San Francisco) and Dr. Sepideh Modrek (Stanford University) presented their paper on "The Effect of Political Unrest on Youth Outcomes in Egypt." Their study looked at the rarely explored topic of how less extreme events, such as political protests, that similarly involve exposure to ecological stressors can alter social trust and investment trajectories, thereby affecting the long-term well-being of youth. Following life course theory and the Transactional Model of Stress and Coping, in times of turmoil, youth may cope with proximal circumstances in different ways, altering their progression through key life transitions. During times of political unrest, economic investments may be particularly at risk; as confidence in institutions erodes, youth may invest less in established routes of success (e.g. schooling), become despondent about their future, and invest less in their long-term welfare and/or adopt risky behaviors. Short-term decisions during the critical transition to adulthood will likely have implications for future productivity and health. The occurrence of political protests in young people's areas of residence affect their affective, investment, and well-being outcomes, and that these effects are larger for youth who were exposed directly to violence, or were exposed to more intense violence in their areas. The findings are expected to have wide applicability for the Middle East and North Africa region, as well as other low- and middle-income countries with a substantial youth population, and which have experienced or are at risk of significant political violence.

Session III: Gender Dimensions of Wars and Conflicts

This session was moderated by Dr. Jad (Islah) Hosnieh (Qatar University) and looked at how wars and conflict affect gender relations and force men and women to abandon some social roles and/or assume new social roles and acquire new skills while shouldering new responsibilities. This session discussed the influence of gender on the experience and vulnerability of men, women, boys and girls both during and in the aftermath of wars and conflicts.

Ms. Fairouz Omar Mohammad (Educational Consultant, UNICEF Egypt) presented her paper on the "Behavior of Syrian Women: A Field Study of Refugee Camps on the Borders of Turkey." This study focuses on the potential positive side of the situation of Syrian women living in refugee camps and found that women still were mindful of maintaining the beautiful aspects of life despite war and conflict. She conducted a survey of three groups of twenty women (20-40 years old) and five personal interviews. Discourse analysis revealed four main themes: (1) each woman's morals, (2) her behavior in regards to beautify life, (3) her relationships with others, and (4) the level of positivity of her attitude. She found that women have been shown to be entrepreneurial after war, taking upon community based projects and emerging from their restricted

roles at home. She highlighted the need to carry out further research to gain insight into the wants and needs of women in this position in order for them to live better lives. Also, she noted the needs for more work that acknowledges the resilience of such women.

Anthony Keedi (Manager, Engaging Men Program), Rola Al-Masri (ABAAD-Resource Center for Gender Equality), and Dr. Shereen El Feki (Promundo International) presented their paper on "Man O' War: How Conflict Shapes Men, Masculinities and Gender Roles among Lebanese Nationals and Syrian Refugees." In their study, focus groups were conducted with Muslim and Christian men all around Lebanon, including Palestinian and Syrian refugees and explored the effects of the dynamics of war on the socialization of men, their roles, and the effects of factors that may diminish their ability to fulfill these roles such as financial instability or life as a refugee.

Men feel less than men when they can't play that role, even when it's not their fault, and, as men, they aren't expected to talk about their feelings. They resort to substance abuse, alcohol, drugs, becoming isolated and depressed. Some men resort to taking out that aggression at home to combat the loss of control.

They found that in order to fight in wars and conflicts, men reported that they must shut down their own emotions. Also, men felt that it is essential to have a position of power either in a social group or within the family, and violence was a viable means of maintaining that power where protecting the family was concerned. The researchers called for the practical application of this research and highlighted a number of social campaigns that have been enacted nationwide to end domestic violence, either through television commercials, or encouraging religious communities in Lebanon to publicly denounce violence against women as a sin.

Dr. Hani Khamis Ahmed Abdo (University of Alexandria) presented his paper on "Violence Against Women During Armed Conflicts and the Violation of Human Rights: A Sociological Analysis of Aspects and Effects." His study focused on the loss of women's rights in times of conflict by looking at human rights law, national laws, and previous research in order to highlight the violence faced by such women. Women who experience violence often do so in secret, and patterns of violence carry over from times of peace into wartime. In times of war the brunt of violence is focused on women and they are the most victimized demographic.

Studies have confirmed that the laws in place to limit violence against women are not generally practiced in times of war. This is derived from statistics taken from a number of states including Yemen and Syria, not just in the domestic sphere, but also in regards to armed forces and even purported peacekeeping forces, such as the police. Women in general experience higher levels of violence in war than they do in peacetime. Forced disappearances amongst women is also a noted phenomenon, as is incarceration.

Dr. Suhad Daher-Nashif (Al-Qasemi Academic College of Education in Palestine) presented her paper on "Women's Corpses' Time-Space within Conflict Zones: The Case of Frozen Palestinian Women's Corpses." This study focuses on the procedures behind returning the corpses of Palestinian women from Israeli custody to the custody of their families and how this affects families. Based on twenty-seven interviews, she found that families are in stasis when waiting to be called to receive the body of a loved one and can only return to their regular lives once their female relative has been buried. There is also parental-based stasis, as it is the father who is tasked with identifying the corpse. If he fails to do so, the process cannot be initiated in full. Fathers who try to enact their authority over the bodies of their daughters tend to impede the procedure. Palestinian families tend to be very averse to the notion of having their daughters' bodies refrigerated, especially in the case of young girls. Families also have a hard time identifying the body due to the emotional toll.

While bodies are protected by Israeli law that dictates its treatment with respect according to the principles of the religion of the deceased, the deceased's right to burial, and the right to an explanation of cause of death even in the case of those deemed terrorists, there is no international law that deals with this issue. Families tend to avoid identifying the cause of death for females largely due to cultural norms, which in turns puts the law in stasis and robs the body of its rights. She briefly highlighted how this showcases the problem of deriving one's rights from the Israeli state.

Day Two

Plenary Session II: The Roles and Experiences of Non-Governmental Organizations

In the second plenary session titled "The Roles and Experiences of Non-Governmental Organizations," practitioners in the field discussed how non-state institutions provide humanitarian relief and support for people and communities affected by wars and conflicts. Moderated by Ghada Oueiss, Principle Presenter at Al Jazeera, the panel explored how the changing nature of both conflict and humanitarian relief has altered NGOs' roles, from the traditional role of mitigating the effects of conflict into performing new roles including conflict prevention and peace building.

Panelist Samar Muhareb, Director of the Arab Renaissance for Democracy and Development (ARDD) Legal Aid NGO, described the legal ramifications Syrian refugee families in Jordan face due to not having proper official documentation. Her organization provides assistance with legal paperwork for divorce, marriage, birth certificates, etc. in the refugee camps of Jordan. The Jordanian government is mainly concerned with the movement of refugees in and out of camps, so they have set up official branches of ministerial and court offices within the camps to make it easier for refugees to secure the proper documentation for daily life events that occur while in the camps. This presence has facilitated many issues that might lead to the break-up of refugee families. However, marriages, divorce, and even birth registrations are a very slow process because the Jordanian government is very strict and charges fees for such processes. NGOs have been lobbying to reduce or remove the fees because many refugees cannot afford to pay, and therefore choose to remain unregistered, which is a great risk. For example, there are over 20,000 unregistered, and therefore uneducated, children in Jordan. The UN has recently decided to intervene and call for lower fees as a result. NGOs are acting in a liaison capacity, working closely with the government, corporations, and other stakeholders for funds and logistical support, Muhareb reports.

Kamel Mohanna's agency, Amel Association International, focuses on the refugee family population in Lebanon. Amel raised \$1.5 million in services and has been nominated for the Nobel Prize for its activities. Mohanna posits that the main way conflicts have changed the role of NGOs in the Middle East is by changing the way they interact with both the people concerned and the stakeholders both locally and internationally. A major issue facing NGOs in the region is that while at international conferences like the World Humanitarian Summit and the Geneva Convention where the EU and other nations make promises to help deal with the refugee crisis, the EU has now mostly closed its doors and support has not come. Lebanon is growing increasingly unstable politically while being one of the largest hosts to Syrian refugees in the world. It's a challenge to mitigate the impacts of refugees on Lebanese families when only a small percentage of funding reaches the concerned stakeholders.

Dr. Khaled Diab, Head of Disaster Management at Qatar Red Crescent Society added to Mohanna's points on funding - a large percentage of funding goes to administration costs, a phenomenon that started with the initiation of civil society. Diab argues further that humanitarian funding is largely being sent to northern organizations, and local organizations are only receiving a small percentage. ***The Red Cross and Red Crescent societies have attempted to take a bottom-up approach to promote social integration and a culture of non-violence and peace in the communities in which they operate. By taking a bottom-up approach, and partnering with local organizations that do not make the news, you understand more about the stakeholder community. That understanding is lost when taking a top-down approach, resulting in a waste of effort and funds.***

Tom Krift, Regional Director of Save the Children, Middle East and Eurasia regions, added to Diab and Mohanna's points. Of the nineteen countries that Krift covers, too many are in conflict at the current time. As a large international NGO, the current crises have required that they work even more with national and local partners to ensure access and security. Local partners have stronger community knowledge, structure, and coping mechanisms. When local partners are accepted by the community, security is increased and Save the Children is able to conduct its work. As partners, international NGOs benefit from local NGOs, and vice versa. Local NGOs tend to be development focused and some have just formed to respond to the current

crisis. Partnering with an international NGO like Save the Children allows the local NGO to gain knowledge from decades of experience. INGOs also have a history with donors, and they can reach donors globally that the local organizations couldn't have otherwise. With access to funding, and capacity building with the local partners, they are comfortable in making an impact.

Another way INGOs can be of benefit to local NGOs is by sharing the stories of the population it is serving. An organization needs to be present in the location to tell those stories, and the INGO can give the local NGO the international platform to present their stories directly to the UN Security Council or other international bodies. The strong social media presence of INGOs also helps, they can share stories online and get a lot of views.

Panel Discussion II: Post-Wars and Conflicts: Repatriation, Local Integration, and Resettlement

In the second panel discussion titled "Post-Wars and Conflicts: Repatriation, Local Integration, and Resettlement," the conversation shifted focus to what happens to families after conflict has ended or subsided. Refugees endure hardship, witness destruction, and experience trauma and stressful events not only during wars and conflicts, but also as they voluntarily return to their countries of origin, integrate in host countries, or resettle into new countries. This panel organized by the Center for International and Regional Studies (CIRS) at Georgetown University in Qatar focused on the conditions, obstacles, and challenges for successful implementation of these three complementary, durable solutions for refugee crisis.

Professor Mehran Kamrava (CIRS, Georgetown University in Qatar) opened the discussion with Sophia Pandya, Professor at California State University, Long Beach. Pandya has conducted interviews with Yemenis impacted by the ongoing conflicts in their country. In her work she explores how the social fabric of Yemen has been destroyed by inherited violence from the past and current crises. Women had taken a strong role in overthrowing the President, yet many of the political and symbolic gains women earned have been reversed in recent years due to what Pandya describes as a persistent re-ordering of society post-conflict. The Yemenis with resources have left a population severely disabled by food insecurity. Nearly half of the deaths of children are due to the lack of water. In the aftermath of political violence, the observed trend is that men seek to restore the patriarchal order. During conflict or revolution there is a liminal period of gender-inversion wherein women who usually aren't able to participate in politics gain a voice. After the conflict, men seek to restore order, often manifested in further violence towards women and children in particular, in the form of domestic violence.

Once conflict ends, women and children continue to be at risk for violence. These groups are abused at higher rates post-conflict than during war. Long-lasting impacts include depression, anxiety, and stress, and there is no health system to support them. These impacts last long after the conflict is over and there must be an effort to address them.

Professor Tom DeGeorges (Duke University) opened a discussion on one of the key issues related to refugees – repatriation. Though in the end, it is every refugee's right to return to their home, what if they can't go back right away? Will they be resettled elsewhere? For how long? In reality, in the short to medium term, it will not be possible for Middle Eastern refugees to return home due to the geopolitics of the region since the 2003 war in Iraq. There is now a more multi-polar environment where foreign interests have competing interests. Infrastructure and property has been destroyed, and state institutions have no legitimacy. The conditions for return are very dangerous, especially in Syria and Iraq where a change in national narratives has heightened sectarian divisions.

We can consider the case of Afghanistan as an example of what can happen when refugees are repatriated too soon – after the declared war on terror, the return of refugees was accompanied by severe social dislocation and secondary internal displacement. If Syrian and Iraqi refugees attempt to return in the short- to medium-term, their fates would likely be the same.

Another route is resettlement, though there are economic and political issues coming from this strategy. There is a high fiscal burden on hosting states, especially in the legacy of the 2007-2008 global financial crisis, and most countries have a limited ability to provide funding to support refugees long-term.

As refugees resettle or attempt to sustain themselves wherever they end up, there have been economic transformations in recent years due to the digital and technological revolutions that challenge refugees trained in a skill meant to be used in stable, nine to five job that includes benefits, etc. What is a growing trend in the job economy is "gig" work, temporary work offered in the service, manufacturing, and transportation (i.e. Uber) sectors where the worker must piece together a steady stream of income for themselves?

Resettling refugees also face hostility from the indigenous population that feels disconnected and dislocated in their own environment due to the influx of refugees in their communities. This has led to a rise in populist movements in North America and Europe with disturbing xenophobic elements. Technology available today has the tendency to deepen and entrench divisions in society. Social media allows users to be more and more connected with a less diverse group of people, making it easy to reinforce views that might not be as widespread as the user is led to believe by the closed group of connections the user is exposed to. DeGeorges offered some possible solutions: repatriation may be possible in five to ten years based on the stabilization of the home country. The process of transitional justice needs to be established, so returning refugees can feel safe about the present and future decisions they make. Governments hosting refugees have the duty to not indulge in luddite fantasies, for example, the return of manufacturing to the US from the 1950s.

Dr. Sultan Barakat (Doha Institute for Graduate Studies) continued the discussion on the right of refugees to return to their homeland. He stated that return is, in fact, a right of the refugee, and he should have the option to exercise that right, or to give it up. Yet at the same time, for Barakat no serious reconstruction can take place without the return of the population. In reality, the displaced population is considered in the reconstruction only as an afterthought, reconstruction is primarily driven by political motivations. Barakat suggests that there are four aspects of return that must be considered:

First, what are the drivers for displacement? Addressing the cause is no longer sufficient, we need a detailed understanding of the situation in the present day to first fix the root of the issue, i.e. the water supply or other issue.

Second, what is the experience of the displaced population itself? What has the community been through? The additional burden of the internally displaced person (IDP) is that they have been living at the mercy of their own government, there is no international agency to put pressure on a host country to provide for the population. There is also an individual and family effect of displacement. Families try to cope with the circumstances, allowing them to break up so one member can go back to check on things. There is the phenomenon of early marriage that families may take as a strategy to ease the burden of displacement.

The experience of the displaced population is also different from those living in refugee camps. Life in the camp disengages the mind from a normal life and the ability to produce. Many men feel humiliation from not being able to work in all the free time they have in the camps. For example, those refugees in Jordan before the establishment of the camps engaged in the social and cultural world of society. With the insistence by the UN that refugees must be registered and protected, their ability to engage in the society in a more normal way was limited.

Third, we must also consider the nature of the political settlement of the conflict itself. Although the displaced are the first to suffer, they are excluded from the conflict resolution process. Once a resolution is reached, refugees return to a new environment they weren't expecting and did not have a part in creating.

Lastly, the displaced population is not considered as part of an economic power to be part of the reconstruction scheme. ***Without an engagement with the displaced population, there is no understanding of how the population may have changed in terms of employable skills. Refugees may have lost skills, or may have gained new skills to contribute to the reconstructing economy.***

Professor Jennifer Olmsted (Drew University) continued the thread of economics by depicting a state's economy as a multi-layered cake. The bottom layer of an economy is the environment and natural assets. The second layer is the family, workers, and social aspects, including invisible unpaid labor done largely by women. The third layer is the government's infrastructure, and the top layer is the corporate sector that provides jobs for the population. In times of conflict, all layers are destroyed in some way.

During conflict, the private sector is distorted due to a rise in informal and criminal activity. There is a loss of infrastructure that limits access to mobility, education, and healthcare. Families need infrastructure to rebuild, especially in the area of mental health. *Individuals in families can't be full economic actors or parents if they struggle with mental health issues as a result of the conflict, manifesting in PTSD or violence as a response. Psychological support in repatriation or resettlement is critical for the economy and for the family. Families also struggle economically as they rely on their savings and liquidation of assets to survive. There is a gendered aspect to this as well, men sell land, and women liquidate their gold assets to survive. How can families reclaim their assets? The criminal class and combatants must also be dealt with to develop a stable environment that families can feel secure in.*

Professor Kamrava opened a general discussion with the panelists by asking what has been learned from the Palestinian refugee problem. Barakat responded that the Jordanian government has learned learned the mass expulsion of Palestinians from their homeland). What prospects do they have for their future, with no land to return to? DeGeorges considers their situation to be grim, with no prospect of improving with each new crisis and continued crises dragging on. However, a positive aspect to focus on, as mentioned by Barakat, is that the Palestinians are an example of resilience, especially those in Jordan who have contributed to the economic success and cultural dynamism of Jordan as a whole. At the same time, return is a right of the refugee, and resilience is not an answer.

Another audience member asked the panel about European efforts to resettle Afghans in Europe compared to the Turkish response. There seem to be three approaches, all with political dimensions: management, flood gates, and rejection. Barakat recommended that the international community must revisit the law on refugees. It was created for a specific problem post-World War II with a specific goal and dealing with a specific group of people and culture. The drivers of displacement are very different today, and the countries who made the law aren't the ones who are the main hosts. Those who are the main hosts aren't even signatories to the law, so this needs to be revisited.

The last question from the audience asked about what mechanisms can help us include the principles of transitional justice on local laws. DeGeorges responded by describing the more successful cases in which there was a local basis and culturally relevant basis for support of transitional justice measures. In Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia, the transitional justice process involved setting up committees for people to bring grievances under the previous period, with the caveat that they could not proceed with legal action against those who caused harm. This approach was met with varied success across these three countries. Morocco is perhaps the best model, Tunisia is still ongoing, and Algeria is deficient in many ways with no distinction between the previous and post- period of authoritarian regime.

Symposium (Parallel Sessions)

Session IV: Refugees and Internally Displaced Families

The session was moderated by Dr. Ibrahim Fraihat (Doha Institute's Center for Conflict and Humanitarian Studies) and looked at how wars and conflicts force people to leave their homes and their countries searching for peace, dignity, and a life free of fear, violence and reprisal. This session highlighted how refugees and internally displaced families suffer from loss of loved ones, lack adequate protection and assistance, and are vulnerable to human rights violations.

Dr. Mohammed Baobaid (Muslim Resource Centre for Social Support and Integration), Dr. Lynda M. Ashbourne (University of Guelph), Dr. Dora M.Y. Tam (University of Calgary) and Dr. Abdallah Badahdah (DIFI)

presented their paper on "Pre- and Post-Migration Stressors and Marital Relations Among Arab Refugee Families in Canada." Their study explored the impact of pre- and post-migration stressors and challenges on the dynamics, stability and structure of Arab refugee families in Canada. Moreover, the study investigated the factors that shape gender roles, the parent-child relationship, adjustment and integration in Canadian society. They provided insights from the service providers' perspectives on the facilitators and obstacles that influence the integration and adjustment of Arab refugee families in Canada.

Dr. Omar Abdelraheem Rababa'a (Al Balqaa Applied University) presented his paper on "Syrian Refugees in Jordan and the Settlement Strategies Within a Social and Economic Reality." This study identified the most important strategies for social and economic adaptation of Syrian refugees in Jordan by following a descriptive, analytical approach and conducting interviews. He mentioned that the inability of refugees in Jordan to fend for their families is considered the most common reason cited for leaving the country. Also, as the opportunities to make a living are very limited, many refugees who cannot work to earn a living are struggling. Refugees in Lebanon, Egypt and Jordan have mentioned a lack of opportunities to earn a living or to access the formal labor market. The scarcity of legal work opportunities for the refugees who are struggling desperately to fend for themselves pushes these refugees to resort to informal jobs, which make them face the risk of being exploited, working in unsafe conditions or not receiving pay for their work due their unjust employers. Meanwhile, some of these refugees face penalties if found to be working illegally, which could result in their return to their camp as is the case in Jordan. At the same time, refugee programs and the host communities in the region are facing a decline in aid and a shortage of funding. He concluded that the decision-makers and politicians need to further study and review their resettlement strategies in order to help refugees overcome such challenges.

Dr. Kaouache Raouf (University of Mohammad Al Sadeeq bin Yahya) and Dr. Boughrza Reda (University of Mohammad Al Sadeeq bin Yahya) presented their paper on "The Adaptation of Syrian Immigrant Families Affected by Wars and Conflicts: A Comparative Study of a Group of Families in the State of Gaigal in Algeria." Their study was conducted on a targeted sample composed of 120 Syrian and Malian migrants in the province of Jijel, Algeria. A form specially developed for the purpose of this study was distributed in addition to conducting some semi-formal interviews. The results of the study showed that the Syrian families were more adaptable and more integrated than the Malian families. Many demonstrate a high level of integration unlike Malian families who, due to several factors, often resort to returning to their country of origin. The study also showed that Syrian families possess academic qualifications and job skills that help in their economic and social adjustment as opposed to their Malian counterparts. Also, Syrian families were easily accepted in Algerian society due to similar social characteristics and the assistance provided by the Algerian government for Syrian families. Therefore, the residence period of Syrian families in Algeria and the likelihood of their continued presence is greater than that of Malian families.

Dr. Narjes Mehdizadeh (GRAMNet University of Glasgow) presented her paper on "Migrant Families from War-Torn Arab Countries: Experiences of Care in Britain." Her study focused on the childcare experiences of migrant families in Britain who have been displaced by conflicts in Iraq, Syria and Yemen. The qualitative data used was generated from twenty in-depth interviews with women and children from Iraq, Syria and Yemen currently living in Britain. The women had varied employment histories and different social backgrounds in terms of education and income. The findings revealed that in the absence of the social network available to them in their country of origin, in particular the extended family, these families utilized state-provided strategies for care as well as a support network of friends both from their own communities and from Britain. The findings indicated the need for greater state provision of more flexible, affordable and accessible care.

Ms. Zahraa Beydoun (American University of Beirut) and Ms. Sawsan Abdulrahim (American University of Beirut) presented their paper on "Do Family Characteristics Protect Children from School Non-Enrollment in Displacement: Palestinian Refugee Children from Syria in Lebanon." This study examined two sets of predictors of school non-enrollment among Palestinian Refugee children from Syria in Lebanon: characteristics of the head of the family, and characteristics of the setting of displacement. The researchers tested whether favorable characteristics of the head of the family protect against school non-enrollment in a context of disadvantage post-displacement. As expected, the main reasons provided for non-enrollment are

war and emigration conditions (56.5%), followed by school failure, poverty, and inaccessibility to schools. Findings further revealed that characteristics of the head of the family and the context of displacement are both strongly associated with child school non-enrollment. Owning fewer assets and living in smaller houses significantly increased the odds of non-enrollment and children living in families headed by a woman were 1.26 times more likely to be not enrolled in schools compared to those living in households headed by men. Moreover, children living in a household headed by an illiterate person were 2.74 times more likely to be non-enrolled compared to those who live in households headed by someone holding a secondary degree or higher. Finally, results of the comprehensive multivariate model showed that the risk of non-enrollment for children in a disadvantaged context of displacement are slightly buffered by living in a family headed by a person between the age of thirty to thirty-nine, with secondary education or higher, and a man, but remain relatively high. The risks were shown to significantly drop for assets ownership after controlling for head of household characteristics. As the context of displacement presents with insurmountable challenges to school enrollment for refugee children, special attention should be given to understanding which family characteristics can provide some protection and to target children who live in families headed by a female or someone with less than secondary education in order to reduce school non-enrollment. In addition, incentives should be given to households headed by females or families where the parent has less than secondary education to keep their children in school.

Session V: The Impact of Wars and Conflicts on Women, Men and Children

The session was moderated by Dr. Elie Mekhael (Lebanese University) and looked at the profound impact of wars and conflicts on civilian populations, especially women and children. This session highlighted their vulnerability to various forms of abuse and humiliation including forced abduction, child labor, physical assault, trafficking, forced marriage, and sexual violence. It also discussed how men, although not recognized as a vulnerable group, also face various forms of abuse such as abduction, imprisonment, torture and death.

Dr. Azza Abdelmoneium (DIFI) presented her paper on "Ways to Survive: Child Labor Among Internally Displaced Children in Khartoum-Sudan." Her study presented different case studies of displaced children in Khartoum, Sudan who are under eighteen years old and their experiences in labor and the problems they encounter at work, the impact of labor on their health, and the challenges they face in producing income to support themselves and their families. A sample of 129 children from the four main camps was selected. Empirical data was collected through a consecutive period from 2005- 2013. Recent data was collected from secondary sources of reports and research done on displaced families and children in Sudan. The study concluded that income and job insecurity is a major problem for the displaced families and, as a result, children, women and men seek income-generating activities which violate their rights and endanger or risk their life. In particular, children seek to generate income through different ways that may pose a dangerous and hazardous risk to their lives and violate to their rights.

Dr. Ashraf Jalal Hassan Bayoumi (Qatar University) presented his paper on "The Effect of Media Images of Wars and Conflicts in the Arab Region on the Understanding of Personal and Social Security of Arab Women and Children: A Comparative Field Study on Syrian, Iraqi, Yemeni and Palestinian Families." The study sought to monitor the psychological and social effects of the publication of photographs of war and conflict on Arab children and women. In Iraq, for example, women are exposed to various types of violence on a daily basis because of the political situation and the ongoing violence. The study was based on a survey of a sample that included 600 randomly selected individuals; 300 of whom were children and 300 were women present in four different geographical, social, and political environments in Syria, Yemen, Iraq and Palestine and included a questionnaire. He provided a vision on media standards to be followed when broadcasting news of wars and conflicts either by adhering to the rules of media publishing in regard to the broadcasting of news of armed conflicts, or the governing frameworks for broadcasting news and the activation of the international mechanisms for the protection of women and their children.

Dr. Khaled bin Saleem Al Harabi (University of Hael) and Dr. Asmaa Al Attiyah (Qatar University) presented their paper on "The Impact of Wars and Conflicts on the Arab Family: The Case of Child and Woman. The study looked at the reality faced by women and children in Arab families during times of war and conflict

and its social, psychological, and economic effects by examining the cases of Palestine, Syria, Iraq, and Sudan. Through a thorough literature review, the study found a complex system of economic, social, psychological, and health risks and crises faced by women and children in times of war and conflict. Many are killed and most are exposed to the worst types of human rights violations and crimes such as rape and human trafficking. Prior to this, they are exposed to family and social disintegration and a transformation of social roles in families where women and children are no longer provided for but now must provide for themselves and others. The study also highlighted a lack of interest on the global scale regarding the plight of Arab families during times of war and conflict. The study revealed a need for concerted efforts on the international and regional level (e.g., United Nations and the Arab League) that would support and protect Arab families during wars and conflicts in addition to the Arab League's establishment of specialized teams of Arab physicians, psychologists and sociologists to support the rehabilitation of women and children who were victims of conflicts in the Arab world.

Dr. Al Sayed Mustafa Ahmed Abu Al Khair (Omar bin Mukhtar University) presented his paper on the "Legal Protection of the Family During Wars within the International Humanitarian Laws." His paper explored international and non-international legal protection of civilians during war and specifically the legal protections for women and children in international humanitarian law and The Hague or Geneva Acts and Protocols. Also, the study documented international agreements for the legal protection of the family and the international mechanisms for prosecuting the perpetrators of violations against family members in international courts of all types and levels, and provided various recommendations.

Dr. Mohammad Ahmed Mohammad Diab (University of Hael) and Dr. Walaa Rabee' Mustafa (University of Hael) presented their paper on "The Effectiveness of a Psychological Program Aiming to Decrease the Levels of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) on a Sample of Syrian Refugee Children in Egypt." Their study identified the symptoms of post-traumatic stress among the studied sample of ten Syrian refugee children in Egypt and looked at the effectiveness of a psychological counseling program intended to alleviate their symptoms of post-traumatic stress. The study identified the most common symptoms of PTSD among the sample as sleep disorders, aggressive behavior, fear, and loss of self-confidence. The study also evaluated the effectiveness of the psychological counseling program.

Session VI: The Health Consequences of Wars and Conflicts

The session was moderated by Dr. Samer Jabbour (MD, MPH, American University of Beirut) and looked at the physical, psychological and emotional damage caused by wars and conflicts that can last for years. Conflict and war refugees suffer from higher rates of mental disorders compared to the general population. This session highlighted the impact of wars and conflicts on healthcare systems, access to healthcare and social services and the risks of increased transmission of communicable diseases.

Dr. Jocelyn DeJong (American University of Beirut), Dr. Hala Ghattas (American University of Beirut), and Dr. Hyam Bashour (Damascus University) presented their paper on the "Effects of Conflict on Reproductive, Maternal, Neonatal, and Child Health (RMNCH)-A Case Study on Syria." They presented findings from the review of published and grey literature on the Syrian conflict and the health status and coverage of key RMNCH interventions among the concerned populations of women and children. This segment of the population accounts for a disproportionate morbidity burden among conflict-affected populations (Sami, Williams and Krause 2014), yet have not been, until now, included in global frameworks for accountability for the health of women and children (WHO 2012). This paper highlighted the potential insights that can be gained by using existing internationally endorsed monitoring frameworks to analyze systematically how conflict affects measures of health status and coverage of evidence-based interventions addressing women's, adolescents' and children's health. The study aimed at drawing lessons of relevance to the challenges of addressing these critical public health concerns and increasing coverage of key RMNCH interventions in this and other conflict situations, particularly as the UN's Sustainable Development Goals to 2030 begin to be implemented.

Dr. Mustafa Abdelatheem Al Tabeeb (University of Tripoli) presented his paper on "The Impact of the Libyan Conflict on Children's Emotional Development: A Case Study of the Children of Benghazi." His study

looked at the effects of conflicts on the emotional state of the children who were displaced from the city of Benghazi and researched the most common psychological problems faced by these children. It also looked into any significant statistically proven differences between the average emotional configuration grades of both male and female students due to the impact of the conflict and according to variable levels of parental education. The study provided findings on the impact of the Libyan conflict on the emotional configuration of the children displaced from the Libyan city of Benghazi. The study sampled 100 students who were displaced from Benghazi and enrolled in the primary education schools in Tripoli. Statistical analysis found that the conflict in Libya in general and Benghazi in particular has a negative psychological and emotional impact on children, especially girls, and that there are statistically significant differences between the average emotional configuration scores of male and female children in favor of girls. However, there were no significant statistical differences between the averages of children's emotional configuration grades according to variable levels of education among parents. Also, the study identified anxiety as that the most common psychological problem.

Dr. Walaa Rabee' Mustafa (University of Hael) and Dr. Mohammad Ahmed Diab (University of Hael) presented their paper on "Some Psychological and Psychosomatic Disorders Common in a Sample of Syrian Refugees, in Light of Some Demographical Changes." The study looked at the differences between males and females and developmental age groups in regards to the types of psychological and psychosomatic disorders resulting from wars. It also identified the relationship between educational level and the quality of mental and psychosomatic disorders in addition to the relationship between economic status and awareness of domestic violence and its dimensions. A main sample of 146 Syrian refugees in Egypt were selected and are divided into three groups: children, teenagers/youth, and adults.

The most common psychological disorders among members of the sample of Syrian refugees were anxiety and depression and the most common psychosomatic disorders were headaches, indigestion disorders and sleep disorders. Males were found to be less vulnerable to psychological and psychosomatic disorders than females while uneducated refugees were found to be more resilient and less vulnerable to pressures/stress than educated refugees. However, those effects on those of high income was more favorable in comparison to those of low income.

Dr. Noura Mustafa Jubran (Institute for Family Development) presented her paper on "The Psychological and Social Impact of Civil Wars in Syria on the Syrian Refugees in Jordan." Her study looked at the psychological and social effects of the civil war on the Syrian refugees in Jordan. It was based on in-depth interviews with a sample of thirty Syrian families divided equally between those residing in Jordanian cities and those in refugee camps. A number of variables were investigated including place of residence (cities or camps), gender of parent (male or female), time spent as a refugee, and death/loss of a member of the family as a result of war.

Dr. Rania Mansour (Lebanese American University) presented her paper on "The Psychological and Social Impact of the Syrian Crisis on Refugee Children in Lebanon: A Field Study." Her study was based on psychosocial support sessions with ninety children from the ages of eleven to eighteen in different areas of Lebanon with the majority living in refugee camps in poor conditions. This study presented the experience of professional intervention for refugee children in Lebanon in order to reduce their experiences of PTSD, and focuses on the importance of intervening with families to prevent practices such as early marriage, repeated pregnancy (lack of family planning), and the exposing of children to risks associated with agricultural work, panhandling or peddling, illegal travel, or prostitution. The study also provided the most effective programs prepared by a multidisciplinary team of professionals to address the psychological and social impacts of the Syrian crisis on refugee children in Lebanon.

Panel Discussion III: Research in Wars and Conflict Zones: Methods, Ethics, and Lessons

In the closing panel discussion on "Research in Wars and Conflict Zones: Methods, Ethics, and Lessons," moderator Suad Joseph (University of California, Davis) and Abdallah Badahdah (DIFI) led a conversation about the multiple ethical and methodological challenges researchers face when conducting research in conflict zones and humanitarian emergencies. Researchers shared their experience in conducting research

with refugees, focusing on ethical issues, methodological approaches, and tools they employed in conflict and post-conflict settings.

Joseph opened the discussion by highlighting key points about refugees that researchers should bear in mind when conducting field work. It is important to consider how can we as researchers support them? How are they living and behaving? Often regional universities serve as an asset to researchers in the region. Human subject research protocol must be introduced at these regional universities and enforced. In many cases, the topic under study can be sensitive, so the researcher must be careful in approaching the subject. Research with refugee populations could put them or the researcher at risk, so the researcher must take into account the impact of publishing their research on their subjects and the larger society. The best research should aim to inform, reform and provide power to the community. Badahdah added to Joseph's points, stating that it is especially important for researchers to share their experiences with other researchers.

The audience contributed to the discussion of a number of additional factors that are important when conducting research in conflict areas, noting the following observations and recommendations: (1) often qualitative research is the best fit in these situations; (2) researchers find difficulty navigating the constraints that religious, political, and social taboos in the region place on studies; (3) researchers may face difficulty obtaining government permission to conduct research on refugees or displaced families in conflict zones due to security concerns or political agendas; (4) also refugees may be hesitant to participate in studies due to fear and lack of trust; (5) researchers must review their methodology and objectives to ensure that no harm is done to at-risk or marginalized populations at any time during or after the study; (6) institutions and researchers should explore ways to eliminate research waste and oversampling of certain populations, particularly those identified as at-risk; (7) there is a need to ensure the academic freedom of regional researchers in order to produce innovative research; (8) researchers should carefully consider the best way to communicate their findings to policy makers; (9) there is a need for a mechanism such as a regional social research repository that would ensure regional universities do not continue to duplicate research projects and that would support the accumulation of shared data; (10) regional researchers suffer from the lack of funding options at their institutions which may influence them to participate in well-funded research projects developed and conceptualized solely by Western universities; (11) researchers must be aware of the trauma that effects affects persons who have experienced wars or lived in conflict zones and conduct their research appropriately; (12) it is imperative that only experienced researchers undertake the tasks of data collection among at-risk and marginalized populations; (13) researchers must build a relationship of trust with participants and maintain transparency in data collection and use; (14) as women and children represent a significant portion of refugees and displaced peoples, gender-sensitive methods should be utilized when conducting such research; (15) oral history methodology may prove useful for research in war and conflict zones; (16) gaining physical access to conflict zones is another difficulty faced by researchers in addition to access to certain populations, such as women; (17) personal safety is another issue faced by researchers in conflict zones; (18) the problem of studying groups and ensuring that all members are aware of their inclusion in the study was mentioned, particularly in regards to research on protests; (19) social therapeutic methods may prove useful for studies that focus on gender or social status; (20) the issue of financial compensation for participants is a particularly challenging issue when conducting research among refugees and should be carefully navigated to not have a negative impact on the objectivity of the results; (21) researchers have an obligation to share their findings with the public so that they, as the source of such data, may benefit from the findings; and (22) researchers must develop unique methods that are sensitive to the vulnerability of at-risk populations.