

# Our Team

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إن التضامن الاجتماعي والشراكة بين القطاعات، تحقيقاً لمبادئ الخير والحق والجمال وصوناً  
لسعادة ورفاه الإنسان، يحتم مساعدة الأضعف والأصغر.

إنه فعل المحبة وروح العمل التطوعي الذي يذكّر أن كل الحقوق، من سياسية ومدنية، وكل  
الواجبات المترتبة على ذلك، وأهمها الولاء للوطن، لا تقوم إذا لم يتأمن الحد الأدنى من  
الحقوق الاقتصادية والاجتماعية...

فالتنمية تعزز الشعور بالانتماء إلى الوطن، فالمواطنة والتنمية نصف الحياة الديمقراطية  
حيث تتفاعل مبادئ المساواة والحرية والعدالة والمشاركة...

إن عمل جمعية «**SHEILD**» هو عمل رائد وفريد ويشكّل أمثلة نجاح لا بد من أن تعمّ على  
كل الأراضي اللبنانية.

إن تميّز هذا العمل، من دراسة الحاجات الدقيقة إلى مداخل التطبيق التفصيلية، يضعه في  
مرتبة عالية من الجودة في حسن التدبير وسرعة الإنجاز.

وهذا ما يشكّل قدوةً في المبادرة الفردية  
التي تضع أولوية الإنسان وكرامته  
في صلب العملية الإبداعية  
لأفضل مردودية اجتماعية...

فلكي لا يتحوّل وطننا إلى سجن كبير،  
عملت «**SHEILD**» على تحرير السجن اجتماعياً،  
فيكون لبنان بحق وطن الرسالة والحق...

سليم الصايغ

في ١٠ حزيران ٢٠١٤

لأن كرامة الإنسان تبقى كاملة  
ومسؤولية المحافظة عليها هي شاملة،

ولأن المرتكب السجين يبقى إنساناً،  
بكليته وبجزئياته وبكامل مواصفاته،  
قبل الجرم أو الجناية وبعده،

ولأن احتجاز الإنسان لا يلغي مبدأ الحرية  
إنما يعلّق ممارسته،

ولأن تهميش السجين المحرّر يعاقبه مرتين،  
مرة بحكم القانون الجائر،  
ومرة بحكم الناس الجائر،

ولأن الظلم يسبّب في هذه الحالة ضررين،  
أولهما بتدمير الذات الإنسانية،  
وثانيهما بتدمير الأنا الجماعية،

ولأن للعدال وجهان، وجه القصاص، من عزلٍ للسجين والآفة،  
ورددع للآخرين، وأمثولة لهم،  
ووجه الإصلاح...

ولأن للإصلاح طرائقه، ومنها التمكين لإعطاء القدرة،  
والتوعية لتوفير الفرصة،  
والابتكار لتحفيز التخطي،  
فيسهّل انخراط السجين المحرّر في سوق العمل  
ويسرّع دمجها في حياة المجتمع  
ويجتث من فكره وقلبه استسهال العودة إلى آفات الماضي.

كان لا بد من مواجهة هذه المسألة الاجتماعية  
بجرأة وموضوعية بمقاربة حديثة وشاملة...

فجاءت مبادرة جمعية «**SHEILD**» مطبّقةً للميثاق الاجتماعي الذي وضعناه مع المجتمع  
المدني عام ٢٠١٠.

إن واجب تحقيق العدالة الاجتماعية يسمو على كل واجب آخر...  
أو ليس الإنسان المرتكب هو كذلك، على خطورة ارتكابه، ضحية تقصير المجتمع والدولة؟

As the human dignity remains complete  
And the responsibility of preserving it is global,

As the offender prisoner remains a human being  
In his wholeness, particles and all specifics,  
Before and after the crime or felony,

Because the detention of humans does not abolish the principle of freedom  
But rather suspends its exercise,

Because marginalizing released prisoners punishes them twice,  
Once by reason of the applicable law  
And once by the unfair judgment of people,

Because injustice causes in this case two prejudices,  
The first being the destruction of the human self  
And the second the destruction of the social ego,

Because justice has two facets, the facet of punishment by isolating the  
prisoners and deterring others from criminal acts,

And the facet of reform...  
Because reform has its ways,  
Such as empowerment to build capacities,  
Raising awareness to create opportunities,  
Innovating to stimulate progress,

Which facilitates the access of released prisoners to the labor market,  
Accelerates their integration into the community life,

And uproots from their minds and hearts the easiness of going back to  
their past evils.

This social matter has had to be faced with boldness and objectivity,  
through a modern and comprehensive approach...

From here, **SHEILD**'s initiative saw the light, implementing the social  
pact that we had developed with the civil society in 2010.

The duty of achieving social justice transcends all other duties...

Isn't the perpetrator, no matter how serious his crime, a victim of the community's and state's negligence?

To attain the principles of goodness, right and beauty and safeguard the happiness and well-being of humans, social solidarity and partnership among sectors require helping those who are weaker and smaller.

It is the true act of love and the spirit of volunteer work that reminds us that all political and civil rights, and all relevant duties, mainly allegiance to the country, can only be achieved when the minimum economic and social rights are ensured...

Development reinforces the feeling of belonging to the homeland. Citizenship and development represent half of the democratic life where the principles of equality, freedom, justice and participation interact...

The work of **SHEILD** association is pioneer and unique; it sets an example of success that should be taught throughout Lebanon.

This work is distinguished in that it encompasses accurate needs assessments and detailed implementation phases, thus putting it in a high rank of quality, good management and quick achievement.

This is what makes an ideal in individual initiatives that prioritize the humans and their dignity in any creative process, for the best social outcome...

So that our country does not turn into a large prison, **SHEILD** has worked on liberating the prisoners at the social level, Allowing Lebanon to be justly the country of message and right...

Selim El Sayegh  
June 10, 2014

لا يسعني الا أن أشكر كل من ساهم باضفاء لمسة  
انسانية صادقة لمن ضاقت بهم سبل العيش الكريم  
في موطنهم المعزول. فوقفوا في وجه اللاممكن، وردوا  
المستحيل عن أبوابهم، وأقفلوا نوافذهم في وجه الدهر  
المخبول، وتواطأوا مع ذاتهم المقهورة، متأبطين القلق  
كالوسادة، مستهزئين بالخوف دون هوادة.. الى أن أقنعوا  
الصبر أنهم الأصبر عليه وعلى من معه...

مدير البرامج في منظمة شيلد الانسانية  
سامر حيدر

I cannot but thank everyone who  
contributed in giving a sincere humanitarian  
touch to the people struggling to lead a  
decent life in their secluded home. They  
thus stood against the impossible, shut their  
doors in the face of the unfeasible, locked  
their windows to the insane time and plotted  
with their beaten self, carrying worry like a  
pillow and mocking fear without quarter...  
until they convinced patience that they  
have more patience and forbearance than  
patience itself.

**SHEILD** Program Manager  
**Samer Haydar**

# SHEILD

Social Humanitarian Economical  
Intervention for Local Development



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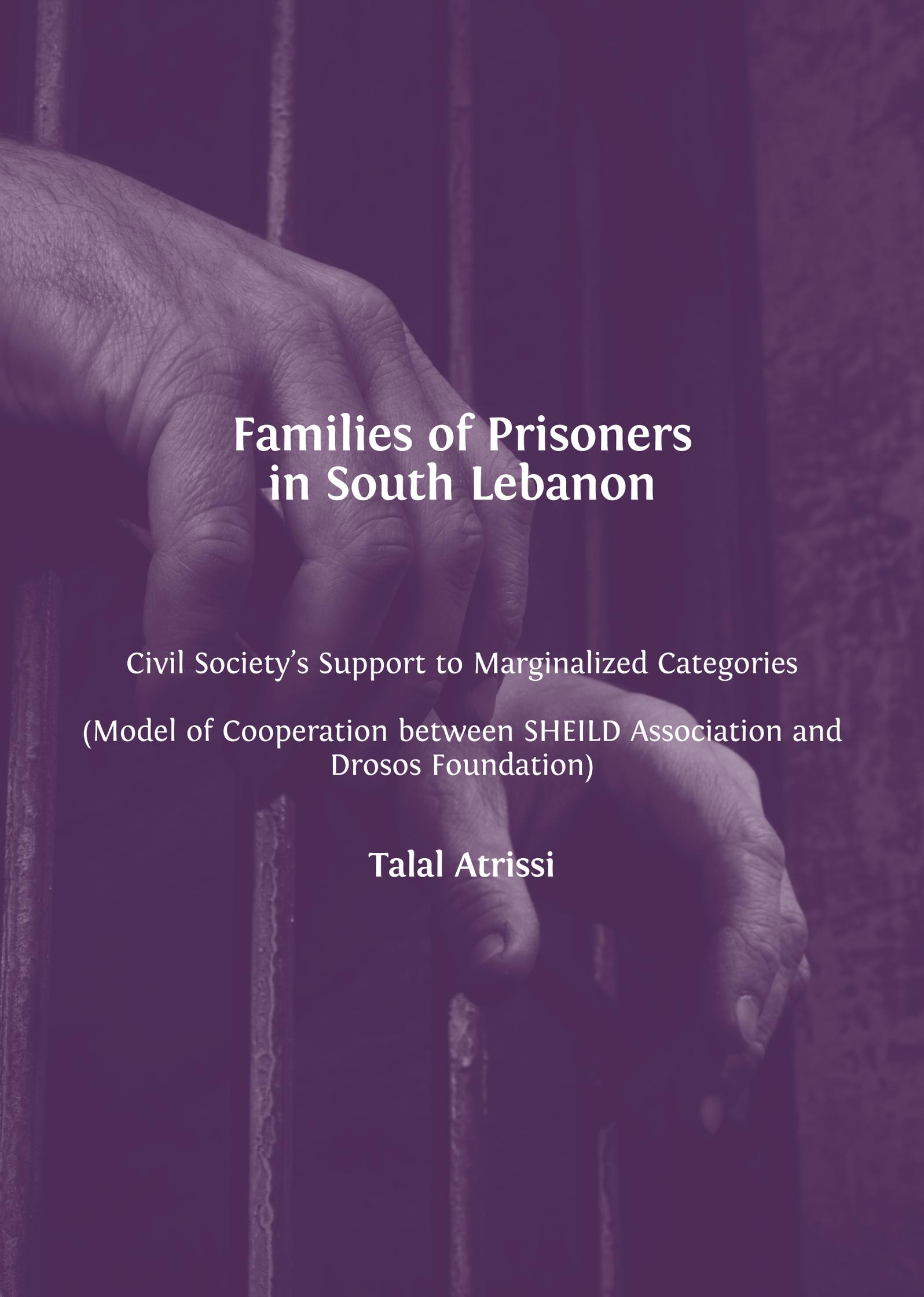
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# Families of Prisoners in South Lebanon

Civil Society's Support to Marginalized Categories

(Model of Cooperation between SHEILD Association and  
Drosos Foundation)

**Talal Atrissi**

**To Ashraf,**

Who left early in the prime of his  
life while at the peak of his giving  
for the service of the people...

# Foreword

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When someone commits a crime, the expected legal punishment is serving time in prison. This is an ordinary measure in most countries. The time served in prison varies according to the crime and its motive. Sentencing someone to prison does not only aim to implement the law but it also aims to punish convicted people in order to prevent them from repeating their wrongful acts in the future or to at least force them to think a lot before committing wrongful acts again. Punishment also aims to deter others and warn them that they would receive a similar punishment if they commit an offense.

Societies have witnessed offenses throughout history. Crimes of different levels crossed path with humans' development throughout different eras. All civilizations, regardless of the extent of their development or simplicity, were familiar with crimes. Thus, modern societies as well as previous ones from thousands of years ago witnessed crimes. The means or reasons may have differed but mankind has known offenses and violation of laws ever since it set foot on earth. Even all religious and man-made legislations included laws to deter crimes and punish those who commit them.

The way prisons look and their engineering and organization changed as architecture and means of surveillance and technological alarms developed. The way prisons look and how they are organized vary according to how dangerous the criminals locked inside are and according to experience of dealing with prison breaks or according to the number of prisoners and the type of their crimes. Points of view have varied regarding punishments and their compatibility with the nature of the crime and with the psychological and social circumstances that led to committing the crime. Due to international interest in human rights, prisons have become an issue of concern for governments and non-governmental organizations which have become more active in the past decades to the point where governments are challenging themselves in following up on some social problems and humanitarian cases. With time, prisons became a major part of the society's many

institutions to the extent where many demand enhancing the treatment of prisoners, improving the detention circumstances, expanding prisons and allowing prisoners to enjoy several rights they haven't been previously granted. Such calls aim to make prisons a proper place for rehabilitating prisoners and to push towards treating prisoners as humans who deserve to eventually return to society and not as criminals who don't enjoy the simplest of conditions for a dignified life.

The issue of prisons was brought up years ago as there were protests against the prisoners' humanitarian situation. The issue escalated to the point where some prisoners set fire to prisons to protest their ill condition and maltreatment. Prisoners' families also protested to demand improving detention circumstances and treatment and to demand speeding up trials as some people have been detained for years and no verdict on whether they are guilty or innocent have been issued yet. This issue has become an issue of concern for NGOs, civil society organizations and media, social and political institutions. But this interest mainly focused on the humanitarian situation of prisoners especially as the number of prisoners in some cells is way more than the number the cell can contain. The judicial aspect was also met with similar interest to the point where the Lebanese government was forced to prepare plans and suggest projects to expand jails or build new ones.

All the interest which the issue of prisons gained in Lebanon in the past few years focused on judicial and humanitarian aspects. This concern contributed to shedding light on all prison-related issues. This book tackles part of this wide concern in prisons. But what distinguishes this book is that it addressed those who are not in prison and that it examined - and perhaps for the first time - how the breadwinner's imprisonment affects his wife and children. We say this is a first because everything that's been said, all the activates performed and all moral, media and financial support of prisoners was limited to the condition of the latter's presence in jail. As for the prisoners' families and how they live and where they spend from are issues which most organizations, NGOs and governmental institutions, which made a lot of efforts regarding the issue of prisons and prisoners, did not address. The prisoner's family is most of the times a marginalized category that's subject to economic,

social and psychological pressure especially that he who goes to jail (i.e. he's committed some sort of offense) becomes an outcast.

“How does the family live when its breadwinner (who's most of the times the father) is in jail?” **is the question which was raised and which stands behind the project to support families of prisoners.** What does asking such a question mean?

Imprisonment in principle has two aims:

-The first one is to prevent the prisoner from committing an offense by restraining his liberty for the longest time possible according to the offense committed.

-The second one is to make the criminal stand as an example for others. Therefore, imprisonment as a form of punishment would act as a deterrent for anyone who thinks of committing an offense. “And there is for you in legal retribution [saving of life.]”

What's intended of these two aims is to work against providing circumstances or opportunities that help reproduce criminals or offenders. Imprisonment thus targets he who commits an offense and threatens he who considers committing one.

When viewing the prisoner's family from the perspective of these two aims, we notice that neglecting the prisoner's family totally contradicts with the aim of decreasing the number of possible criminals or offenders. The question we raised on who financially supports the prisoner's family and provides for it is totally linked to the aim of limiting crimes via imprisonment. If the family's breadwinner is absent, the chances of one or several of his family members deviating off the right path are higher. This deviation off the right path can either be moral or criminal. It's also possible that the prisoner's children will drop out of school and start to work early or beg in the streets. These are realistic possibilities that are likely to happen.

The connection between dropout and delinquency has become self-evident and most studies in this field have proven this. When the prisoner's family's chances of dropout, homelessness and poverty increase, it means we have taken a guilty person to prison and provided an opportunity for some of his family members to follow his footsteps. Imprisonment may act as a deterrent for many people in society but it may not serve this aim on the level of the prisoner's family. This is a painful and a dangerous paradox. Perhaps, it's due to this paradox that some theories go to supposing that a father who's a prisoner is a bad model whom the children look up to.

The project of supporting prisoners' families in South Lebanon is a humble proactive attempt that falls within the context of protecting these families from the imprisonment of more family members and from deviation off the right path. Dealing with the issue of prisons must not be limited to the prisoners' situation and rights and to the prisons' conditions and detention circumstances because concern in the prisoner's family is the third angle of this case. The case is incomplete if this angle is not addressed. Or rather, neglecting this angle of the prisoner's family may lead to the failure of all aims expected to be achieved by jailing an offender or a criminal.

The project of supporting prisoners' families was not based on giving away money or providing monthly aid as some may do or think. Although money can come in handy as it will help meet the families' demands, it would not lead to providing a constant income for the family in need and it would not push it towards depending on itself. Such support may also be affected by several factors such as its delay or halt.

### The idea of the project:

The idea of the project, which the **NGO SHEILD** presented and which the **Swiss based Drosos foundation** funded and supported, was based on the concept that the prisoner's family is the pillar which cannot be ignored when resolving the issue of prisoners.

It was also based on the idea that looking after the prisoner's family protects the latter from the threat of deviating off the right path and

having some family members end up in jail.

The idea thus turned into an executive project that aims to help the prisoner's family to make it depend on itself and make the money it depend on itself and make the money it needs to live - as the Chinese proverb says "Give a man a fish, and you feed him for a day; show him how to catch a fish, and you feed him for a lifetime."

And this is what happened. Following an accurate study based on forms and direct interviews, **SHEILD** trained some members of the prisoners' family on certain jobs like hairdressing (for women) and producing fake jewelry. **SHEILD** also provided direct financial support to help establish an independent profession (opening a butcher's shop, buying a power generator or tools for an electrician or buying a small kneader for making bread.) This training, and most likely the limited financial support, helped the trained members launch their independent businesses. For example, some opened a hair salon for women in their town and some bought the necessary equipment for this profession to work from home. This also helped some women open small convenience stores. It allowed those who would later get out of prison to achieve what they always aspired such as opening and owning a butcher's shop.

The most important aspect we noticed during three years of this experience - which we closely followed up on - lied on the sociological level as the prisoner's family gained some sort of dignity it always needed on the humanitarian level yet lacked because it needs others' help. The family also gained self-confidence as it started to work and to make money in a steady, independent manner. This is since one of its members learnt how to practice a specific job or he started to practice a job he already knew after being provided with reasonable financial support.

Following up on this project over the course of three years showed that the project achieved its goals. It also showed that fears which **SHEILD** had, like fears the training would fail or that the trained members would stop working or that they will stop working after being provided with financial support, were serious yet not real fears. All those who were trained or who received support continued to work and did not stop.

Their production greatly stabilized on a monthly basis, as we'll later see in the book via charts. It's well-known that the stability of the monthly financial income leads to psychological stability of the entire family and makes it more confident in itself as it would no longer wait for someone to come at the end of the month to give it donation or aid which most of the times is provided on an irregular basis and which makes the family feel bitter and socially and psychologically broken.

Implementing this project paved way towards learning about other problems which the prisoners' families suffer from. An example of these problems are children dropping out of school or children working at an early age, women's bad psychological conditions, other women's efforts to maintain the family's unity... These problems require other projects to help resolve them.

### How was the project implemented?

Even after knowing the names and addresses of prisoners' families, it was impossible for **SHEILD** to go to them and ask them about their social and economic situation. Such behavior is not accepted in the social environment where **SHEILD** operates and such behavior is even more difficult when it comes to the prisoners' families who don't usually trust someone they don't know or tell them about what's going on with them.

**SHEILD** thus took into consideration social norms when it communicated with the prisoner's family. This is an important issue which many international organizations that work in the field of aiding others don't take into consideration. **SHEILD** went to the prisoners themselves. It visited them in jail, met them and explained the project to them. It requested them to agree on visiting their families and to contact the latter to inform them of their approval. It's not possible or socially acceptable to visit these families without the husband's knowledge and approval. **SHEILD** attained this approval which was the starting point of the project. If it hadn't been for that approval, the project would have probably not seen the light, knowing that some prisoners refused the idea due to their extreme conservatism or because they don't need support.

The second step was collecting information about the prisoners and their families. This is a necessary and self-evident move to implement the project. SHEILD attained this information from several sources. The most important of these sources are:

1. The prisoner himself (information attained via a form in cooperation with the security forces)
2. Security forces inside prisons
3. Ministry of social affairs
4. Prisoners' families (via a special form drafted for this purpose and via direct field observation - visiting prisoners, visiting families.) Review forms in the introduction of the book's annex.

After learning about the detailed financial, social and even psychological situation of the prisoners' families, these forms helped discover the needs we indicated and which weren't part of the support project - needs like situation of women, children dropping out of school and prisoners' legal problems (which as we previously said require other specialized projects). The forms however were in fact the first step towards implementing the project according to these phases:

-**The first phase:** Collecting information and data about the prisoners and their families.

-**The second phase** is the phase of sorting this data and categorizing families' needs - especially needs linked to training or support.

-**The third phase** is that of training

-**The fourth one** is that of providing direct financial support to implement the project after training ends

In the third and fourth phases which are directly linked to the families' needs, SHEILD made sure to double check the following issues:

1. The first issue is that one of the family members has personally chosen the training he/she desires and needs and that SHEILD does not impose any training he/she doesn't want. This allows interaction with the training and makes the trainee more committed to the profession chosen and which he/she will later work in and attain support for. We think that this explains why 85% of those who underwent training chose professions they've previously practiced while 15% chose professions their families are familiar with. People willingly made their choices. We think this is one of the most important conditions for the project's success and at the same time, it's also the most important guarantee for its continuity, as it will later be shown.

2. The second issue is that the size of support which the trainee gets is enough in principle, even if it's a minimum, to provide the necessary equipment for performing the chosen task (hairdresser, producing fake jewelry, electrician..). If the financial support is not enough, the trainee may spend the money he got on purposes other than those of the chosen task.

3. The third issue is that SHEILD directly buys most of the equipment needed to avoid the possibility of spending money for purposes other than those assigned.

4. The fourth issue is detailed follow-up on implementing the project. (Periodic field trips for SHEILD's team). The follow up is on training, choosing a profession, opening the shop and starting to work. Then there's monthly follow up to make sure implementing the project is ongoing and that there's commitment to going on with the project.

5. SHEILD made sure to request the person benefiting to contribute as much as he/she can to implementing the project even if it's a symbolic amount of money. This small contribution makes the beneficiary care about the success and continuity of the project. The beneficiary does not want to lose what he/she contributed to. This was one of the important factors the project succeeded.

6. Holding an administrative and financial workshop for all of those implementing projects. This aims to prevent the project's failure due to

lack of administrative experience or due to lack of unwise expenditure.

7. Following up on the prisoners' situations after getting out of jail. The period of implementing the project was three years. During this period, some prisoners were released from jail. SHEILD followed up on these former prisoners' interaction with the projects which their families began while they were in prison. It also followed up on the former prisoner's social and psychological situation after he became capable of becoming an accepted member in society since he has a profession making him money and since his family members bear responsibility and since he doesn't need to ask for aid. The importance of this transformation is that the prisoner doesn't remain under suspicion and become an outcast. This is since when a prisoner gets out of jail and does not work, there are many suspicions surrounding him as people worry he may violate laws again to make money.

Concern to follow up on this aspect of supporting a prisoner and his family is very important because providing a profession does not mean protecting a family or only some of its members but also means protecting the prisoner who gets out of jail as he's being provided with a job opportunity that makes his return to prison a weak possibility (possibilities are high if he remains unemployed for a long period of time.) This is important especially as official and civil interest in the issues of prisoners after they leave jail is almost null. This project which we implemented shows us that this issue is vital and important and that it must be an issue of future interest for all those who made efforts (civil society organizations, NGOs and international organizations) for the sake of prisoners' rights and for the sake of improving the situation of prisons.

## Restoring dignity and confidence

At the very beginning, there were fears that the SHEILD project to support prisoners' families would fail and that the aims desired would not be achieved. One of these fears, for example, is that prisoners won't respond to the idea of communicating with their families in their absence. Another fear is that training would fail or that the trainee would spend the financial support he/she receives on purposes

other than the set goals or that the trainee would stop working after implementing the project. We've already indicated how **SHEILD** dealt with these fears and weakened their possibility.

But what was interesting is that despite these fears we've mentioned, there was an atmosphere of trust and appreciation and those in charge of each project voiced these emotions as they spoke about what they did, how they started work, how production improved, how they restored relations with their surroundings and what they lack to develop their project. A member of the prisoner's family has become a productive person. He/she is no longer a burden for any institution or organization especially that **SHEILD** has not asked him/her to make a commitment on any level. Fears were only linked to the success of the project and to the trainees' commitment to practice the job they chose. Therefore it was easy to notice the solid and mutual relation between the beneficiaries and the **SHEILD** team.

Owners of the project have become self-confident. They feel in control of their own fate now that they have a small business for themselves. For them, ownership in this case means restoring dignity instead of licking people's boots for help. Despite the relatively low incomes, these people confidently spoke of their desire and capability to expand their work and attract more customers - if they do expand. Visiting the sites of work - the butcher's or hairdresser's shops or small convenience stores or shops for selling fake jewelry- helped us observe how these businesses' owners confidently spoke about their work, problems and needs - although their financial situation has not yet developed. But what's more important for them is that they've started to think about their fate and how to work to raise their financial production. Results of charts on the development of these owners' incomes were greatly harmonious with their self-confidence and their desire to resume working and developing their work in the future.

An owner of a women's hair salon in Tyre said: "I (currently) feel psychologically satisfied and more self-confident. The percentage of customers has increased after improving the shop's appearance." Charts in the book will show how incomes gradually increased and remained relatively constant. Such an income development is what made

beneficiaries self-confident. This confidence will be one of the most important factors for this project's success.

## The productive efficiency of the project

If we draw a simple comparison among the incomes of the business owners at the beginning of their work and six months later and 12 months later, we'd notice two things. The first thing is the relative stability in some incomes. The second thing is the increase of this income for some. There are dozens of charts and graphs in this book that prove the project's stability through incomes' progress. In some cases, income was at its lowest rate before training then it gradually increased in later months after support was provided.

- We can also notice variation in monthly incomes among one business and another. This is due to the nature of the business itself and the size of competition as well (such as the presence of similar shops in the same area.) It also depends on the business owner and his/her personality and distinction at work. It's also due to other circumstances that cannot be controlled, like decrease of expenditure during certain seasons, such as the beginning of the academic year as many people's priority - particularly those whose income is low - would be to pay fees and buy books.

- No project of the 35 support projects failed. All projects lasted for the entire three years during which the project was on. No one at all stopped working. On the contrary, some voiced their desire to demand more support to expand their work. Let's take few examples on the efficiency of these projects:

### A Butcher's shop:

The shop's owner was a prisoner himself and his monthly income increased. The income at the beginning of the project and a year later increased from \$800 to \$1000, knowing that the profit varied during 12 months between \$800 and \$900 and reached \$1000. This indicates

the stability of work and the business owner's concern to resume work. While visiting him with the **SHEILD** team, the owner of the shop requested further support to get additional cooling systems.

#### A public transportation project:

The monthly profit of this project varied between \$400 and \$500. Regress in this profession does not indicate lack of experience or interest but it can be due to increase of fuel prices, security circumstances and strikes. This probably explains how the income decreased by around \$50 at the end of the 12th month, knowing that this regression is not huge and doesn't mean the project's failure.

#### Peddler:

The peddler's monthly profit stabilized between \$400 and \$500 for a whole year. This means that the percentage of selling and the peddler's concern remained stable for a whole year. This confirms the success of the bet over this project especially that there were many fears considering the peddler's history of instability. It's important to note that the rate of profit between \$400 and \$500 is a very acceptable amount of money considering the job and the area, Tyre.

#### Agricultural tent:

The woman who requested support for this project managed to make a steady monthly profit of \$400 for an entire year. Despite the threats such projects are exposed to, (like bad weather conditions, difficulty selling products or crop diseases), the lady succeeded thanks to her previous experience in the agricultural field. Experience was one of the major factors some projects succeeded.

#### Women's hairdresser:

Pure profit reached \$650 but this profit did not remain stable for 12 months. It greatly regressed in some months. This depends on social On another hand, this profession uses make-up and hair products which are mostly expensive, and the more they're available, the faster the work

pace is and the higher the clients' social statuses. But most of those who work in this field have relatively small shops and the owners don't charge high prices. The stability of the income and the enthusiasm of the business owner (via direct observation) confirm the project's efficiency and its future continuity.

#### Fake jewelry:

Profit in this project during an entire year varied among \$250, \$300 and \$320. In this field, it's well-known that the more the displayed products are, the more the sales. But a higher capital is needed to have various products. It's noticed that the rate of \$300 and \$400 is the percentage of mutual profit among many of the businesses' owners. This reflects the average rate of projects as they are not huge projects but just suitable ones that meet the minimum needs of the prisoners' family.

There are many other notes worth mentioning:

A- The percentage of women's participation is higher than men since the husband is the imprisoned family member. However, women bearing responsibility of the family while the husband is absent makes them more concerned over the project's success and continuity. This participation is not only a support for women but for the entire family.

B- The modest income of most families involved in this project must be viewed as per its relation to the number of family members. We've noticed that the biggest percentage of beneficiaries has a small family (since the husband is in jail), so they either have one child or none. The number of those beneficiaries is 15. The number of children of other beneficiaries varies between two and three children. The number of those beneficiaries is 9. The big family has six children and two families of the total number of beneficiaries has eight children. The percentage of income must be measured according to the number of family members as well and not just according to the amount of money the family makes off selling. The need to spend on five or six people is a lot more than the need to spend on only two people. This means that

any future support project must take into consideration the number of family members and the level of support the family can attain.

B- The beneficiary's contribution to the project, even if it's a small amount of money, makes the beneficiary feel concerned over the project's success and continuity. This was one of the factors that contributed to the project's success.

### Interaction with security forces in jails:

Repeated field visits to Nabatiyeh and Tyre prisons throughout the phases of the project were important to implement the support project. It was logical and necessary to directly meet the prisoners and learn about their reality. This also called for discussions with prisoners' officials. Discussions were on prison's ill situation and prisoners' ill conditions, judicial problems, psychological situation and relations among one another and with the prisons' officials. Discussions were also on the levels of violence inside prison and the effects of projects like SHEILD's on the prisoners' relations with their families and with the prison's officials. In the Nabatiyeh prison for example, it was noted that there's a problem that no support project can solve. The problem is the increase of the number of detainees and the decrease of the number of those convicted. In other words, most prisoners were detained upon a specific charge but months or years have passed by without a trial to either convict them or exonerate them and release them.

This issue is one of the major reasons behind mutiny in the Roumieh Prison as it led to families of detained Islamists to protest. There were also protests against the prisons' general situation and the increase of number of prisoners in each cell. An official at the Nabatiyeh prison said there's a man who's been detained for four years and hasn't been tried yet. This is huge injustice. So how would it be if we are to imagine this

situation's effect on the detainee's family?

Another problem in Nabatiyeh prison is that the prison's administration has around 5,000 notifications for individuals requested to testify in trials. It's upon this testimony that the detainee is either released or convicted. But the prison's administration does not even have one car to perform this task and to follow-up on 5,000 notifications. This practically means that the detainees' situation won't change since no trials are held. On the contrary, the number of detainees will continue to increase. This issue which the prison's administration and the prisoners seem to think there's no solution for in the horizon makes the relation between the two parties more difficult. Therefore, chief of the Nabatiyeh prison thinks that prisoners' first concern is judicial (scheduling a trial, bringing witnesses, finalizing the case) and that this aspect is more important than other services, like aid or donations. Therefore, SHEILD had to make exceptional efforts to build a relation with the prisoners and convince them to allow SHEILD to communicate with their families.

What can also be noted regarding security forces is the decrease of their prestige and influence over several towns in the past few years. This means that security forces are no longer the only reference to solve problems among citizens. They are no longer the only force intervening to resolve a dispute between two parties or to deter violations or attacks. This security forces' role regressed in most areas as there are individuals and groups that have the audacity to confront security forces or clash with them or prevent them from detaining a wanted person. This is why security forces hesitate a lot before, for example, intervening to detain a wanted person. This indirectly contributed to decreasing confidence in security forces' role inside prisons. It also affected their role on the level of informing witnesses to go to court. All of this negatively affected the prisoners' situation.

The situation is different in Tyre prison for example, as the number of detainees is less than the number of prisoners and relations with inmates are better. We've been able to directly note that via visiting this prison several times with the SHEILD team.

The dangerous problem which prisoners and security forces suffer from is the merger of detainees and convicts. Areas of prisons are small so someone who's for example accused of smuggling drugs would be in the same cell with someone accused of consuming drugs, (the latter's age may not exceed 20 years old) and someone accused of small robberies and someone accused of murder or rape.

It's well-known that placing all these people in one cell for a long time and sometimes for years - will negatively affect those detained over ordinary charges. One can thus say that priorities of any governmental or European project to support prisoners must be summarized in expanding prisons or building new prisons that take into consideration separating detainees from convicts (according to the gravity of offenses). This is in addition to other considering other conditions, such as health and educational ones.

Chief of Tyre's prison commented several times on this unhealthy situation of prisons and said: "Prisons are former military barricades. They were not built to be prisons. They lack health conditions and they are full of bugs and germs. Temperature is high inside them and they are also very humid." He added that Tyre's prison was a Serail which was built in 1650, adding that the detention facility is in the building's ground floor, and that two centuries ago, this floor was used to house horses. He confirms that: "Batroun, Rashya, Jbeil and other prisons are also part of military barricades. The current system of prisons dates back to 1949. (This system) lacks legislation and contradicts with legal and constitutional principles and international laws on human rights."

This difficult and unhealthy situation of Lebanese prisons in general gives a clear idea about the social and psychological difficulties which prisoners go through. During the project's phases, we noticed that what **SHEILD** did, from communicating with prisoners to implementing the project, positively affected the prisoners and their relation with the prison's chief.

When referring to what **SHEILD** did with the prisoners, chief of Tyre prison said: “It’s better to light a candle than curse the darkness.” He also provided several examples on the positive changes **SHEILD**’s project achieved. He’d say: “the maximum which the wife of a prisoner had aspired was to have a cart to sell lupine seeds or green beans to support the family while her husband is in prison. Another wife had aspired to perform any job to make some money for her children. **SHEILD** helped these women. For a prison chief (however), what was achieved is limited and not enough despite its importance. The major task must be performed by the government and its ministries which failed to take care of prisoners and their families.”

**SHEILD**’s project, through the relation with the prison’s officials and continuous communication with them, contributed to raising these officials’ awareness towards the relation with prisoners. For example, the chief of Tyre’s prison said: “What’s needed is more conferences, meetings and agreements. What’s requested is building prisons (that help turn) the prisoner into a partner in economic development by (making) him produce work at prison. This also helps the prisoner’s family as it would no longer need to ask for help.”

This link between the prisoner’s productive work and helping his family is the aim of **SHEILD**’s project because all previous ideas which called for having prisoners work had two aims: Either for the prisoner to practice a useful job that decreases his tough time in prison and decreases tension among prisoners or help him find a job after leaving prison. The family of the prisoner was not a subject of interest for organizations - even those which were interested in teaching prisoners a specific job. This is why when the prison’s official links between the prisoner’s productive work and helping the prisoner’s family, it’s a direct result for **SHEILD**’s project which one of its aims is to help prisoners’ families. In this context, we must add legal seminars and lectures held in prisons in the South on issues like: resorting to a lawyer, legal help in prison, legal detention, temporary detention, releasing a detainee, major human rights and international agreements against torture. Other seminars with prisons’ officials were on the type of drugs, their

components, their behavioral and psychological effects, drug-related laws (smuggling them, dealing them and taking them) and about addicts' treatment.

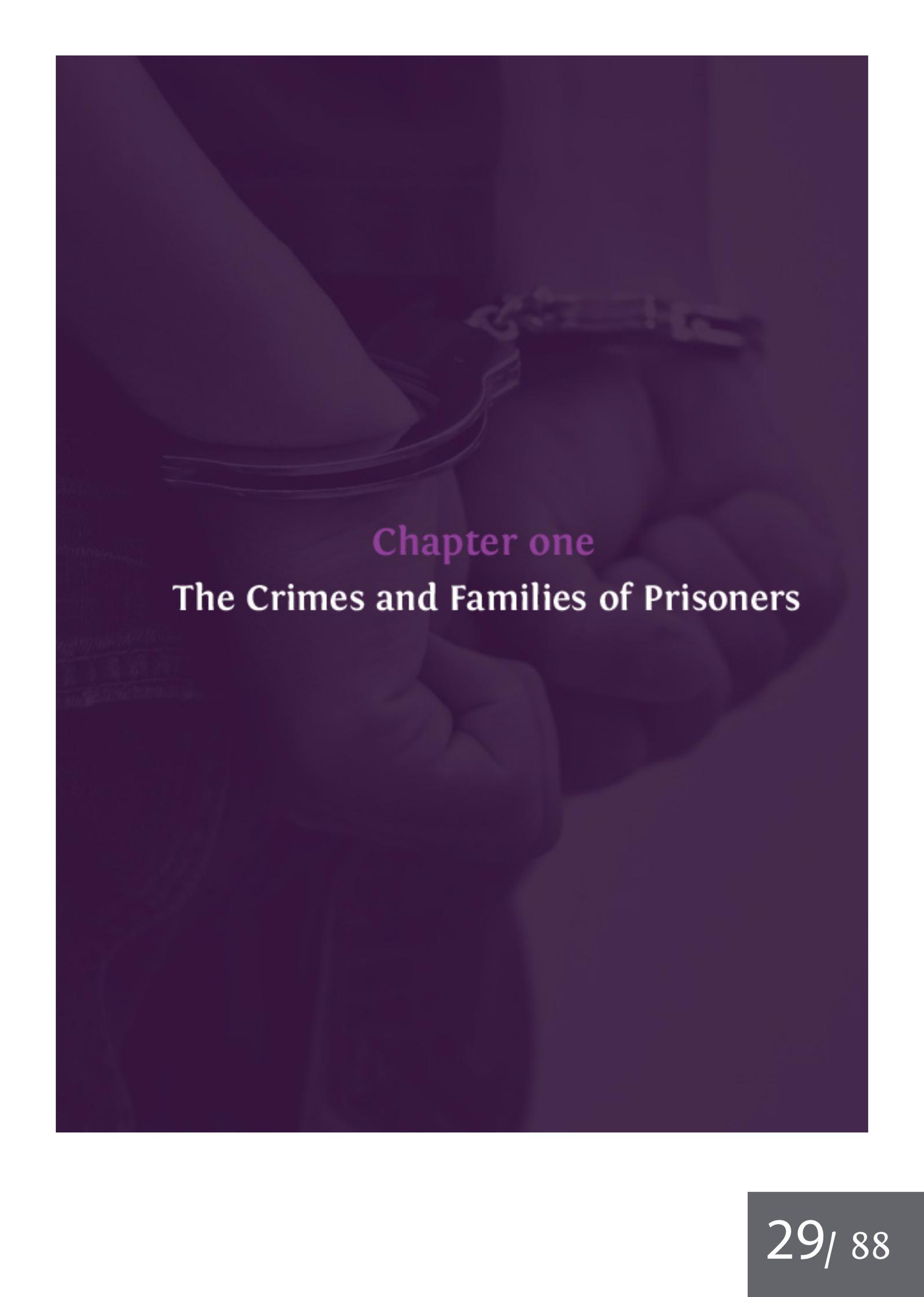
Seminars were also held on the prisoners' physical wellness and proper conditions for good health, from exercising to nutrition to quitting smoking. Seminars also addressed the prisoners' mental state and the depression they might suffer from and how to support them in jail and how to support them via communicating with their families. Prisons' officials noticed that after the project was launched, prisoners' psychological tension decreased as prisoners are somehow reassured about their families. These seminars' and lectures' influence was clearly positive via these observations:

1. A number of workshops was held between prisons' officials and prisoners. This participation made both parties feel there's one cause that requires cooperation. This feeling made the relation between the security forces in prison and the prisoners more humane.
2. Prisons' officials helped prepare the prison's judicial file - that is what the lawyer or the judge who is cooperating with **SHEILD** needs. Some prisoners were released thanks to this cooperation.
3. The direct cooperation between the prison's officials and **SHEILD** at looking over the prisoners' cases and providing council for each prisoner's needs, family situation and behavior inside prison in addition to how prepared each prisoner is to run a productive project for himself and his family. There's no doubt that this mutual awareness (between prisoners and prisons' officials) over judicial, health and psychological aspects of the prisoners in addition to aspects linked to laws on prisoners' situation is a very progressive issue on the level of Lebanon's prisons. Perhaps this is the first time such a mutual awareness is raised between prisoners and prisons' officials at the same time.

This participation makes relation between the two parties less aggressive especially when it comes to the prisons' official since he will feel that the prisoner is a person who enjoys rights and who have rights which must be met as per the law and that he's not a mere criminal who must be destroyed and eliminated on all levels. The prisoner would also feel that the prison's chief desires to help him resolve his problems. During discussions with the prison's officials, we noticed that members of security forces started to use judicial terms more - terms like the necessity to speed up the release of the detainees, the prisoner's psychological situation, the problems of prisoners' families and supporting the prisoner after he leaves prison. These terms express concern in the prisoner as a human. The prisoner's family's need for support has become part of the prison officials' management of prison and treatment of prisoners.

4. The project contributed to resolving legal problems of some prisoners. It increased the prison officials' awareness of the prisoner's several rights - even if it only slightly increased it. This project which provided families with the opportunity to run their own businesses which make them an acceptable wage will make these families not want to restore their previous social and economic statuses.

At the end of this introduction which summarizes the support project, we can say that **SHEILD** project greatly achieved its aims of supporting one of the marginalized social categories which in this case are the prisoners' families. But at the same time, it paved way for other support projects which other families - whom we don't know their faces but are always present among us - also need.

A close-up photograph of a person's hands in handcuffs, overlaid with a dark purple semi-transparent filter. The hands are positioned in the center of the frame, with the wrists and fingers visible. The background is a light, neutral color, possibly a wall or a door.

**Chapter one**  
**The Crimes and Families of Prisoners**

This study targeted the prisons in South Lebanon within the provinces of Tyre (Tyre prison) and Nabatiye (Nabatiye and Tebnin prisons). Its human and material limits were vast as it included most of the inmates in the three prisons and their families- whether living in or outside the South (Beirut, Baalabek, and Zahle) and the remaining Lebanese regions. The main goal was to identify the social, medical, educational and economic needs of these families, in the context of a project named **“Supporting the families of prisoners in South Lebanon”** launched at the initiative of SHEILD association in South Lebanon and funded by Drosos Foundation.

The project started with a field study on the situation of the families of prisoners in South Lebanon<sup>1</sup>. 100 families from ten Lebanese districts and the capital Beirut<sup>2</sup> were visited, with the collaboration of the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities by virtue of two Memorandums of Understanding that had been signed with each entity respectively<sup>3</sup>.

This study is the first of its kind in the South, since the project deals with the issue of prisons from a socio-economic viewpoint and aims to increase the income of families by reintegrating them in society. Therefore, the project does not include in a direct manner activities related to the good management of prisons, treatment of prisoners, or other security issues like the escape of prisoners, rights of prisoners or their legal status... Nonetheless, the project eventually managed to present some recommendations and suggestions in this regard on the administrative and legislative levels.

### **Study sample:**

During the first four months of the project, SHEILD's field teams interviewed all 127 prisoners. A particular form was used to ask the inmates about the possibility of cooperation, about their various needs and whether they approve of SHEILD communicating with their families.

Naturally, not all prisoners responded positively to this desire of

communication; however, a large and significant percentage expressed their readiness. 28.6% refused to cooperate while 71.2% expressed their will to cooperate (45 versus 82).

The rights of prisoners in Lebanon are still violated on a daily basis. Between 2010 and 2011, the country witnessed several protest movements organized by prisoners themselves that led to the death of some of them and members of their families outside prison. Prisoners were protesting against mistreatment at times and the penal procedures at other times knowing that many prisoners have spent years in jail without trial.

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<sup>1</sup> The study lasted for more than six months, because of the many changes that involved prisoners and prisons.

<sup>2</sup> Annex 1

<sup>3</sup> The MoUs were signed with the Minister of Social Affairs Selim El Sayegh and the Minister of Interior Marwan Charbel.

Concerned with the cause of prisoners and their rights, **SHEILD** met with the prisoners' families, this marginalized category forgotten by public and private entities and organizations in the Lebanese society, and conducted this study to identify the social, medical economic and educational situation of inmates' families in South Lebanon.

A small number of prisoners' families remained out of the study sample. The reason behind this may be, as we think, the fact that such study may be considered as invasive of the privacy of the prisoners' social and family life.

Also, the kind of assistance suggested by **SHEILD** may sometimes raise suspicion and fear of disclosure of the crime type. Hopefully, future interventions and studies about the same issue will be able to overcome these restraints after the inmates are sure about the goals of such

studies and the direct link to their various interests<sup>4</sup> .

Nevertheless, in all cases, 71.3 % is a significant sample in this regard especially that the level of cooperation exceeded what was expected and families did not have reservations on any kind of questions. The field teams worried that families might refuse to answer questions about personal information that the female householder does not wish to reveal to an “alien” civil entity, especially that some crimes (such as sexual assault or rape) are considered shameful and embarrassing in the Lebanese community in general and in the southern Lebanese community in particular. Yet, the coordination between inmates and their families that the field teams were keen on achieving helped in overcoming many obstacles. The teams used a primary questionnaire that were filled by the inmates themselves and emphasized on the cooperation mechanism and on facilitating coordination between the two sides of the family, inside and outside prison.

It is logical to “justify” the refusal of cooperation by some inmates and their refusal to receive assistance of any kind for their families and to allow visits to their families, but what cannot be justified is the rejection of cooperation even by just reading the questionnaire. It seems that this refusal is a sort of rebellion against the situation in general. This means that the lack of cooperation in this case, which can be considered as an “absolute noncooperation”, can no longer be attributed to a personal or familial aspect (which can be the cause of reservations) but rather to more particular and direct psychological aspects.

The percentage of absolute noncooperation or partial cooperation (inmates who accepted to fill the primary questionnaire but refused the visit to their families)<sup>5</sup> can be interpreted as follows:

- Lack of care for what the civil entity is doing and offering for many reasons including the lack of trust or of knowledge...
- Fear that the collected data would be used for other purposes.

- Unwillingness to reveal information about the family or the criminal act committed by the inmate.

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4The rehabilitation interventions done by INTERSOS helped in strengthening the mutual trust between the inmates and the field staff since some of staff members used to work for INTERSOS.

5The inmates were classified in terms of cooperation into 3 categories: no cooperation, limited cooperation, and full cooperation.

## The questionnaires:

**SHEILD** used three types of questionnaires; the first one was addressed to the inmate and was exclusively used inside the prison. Its goal was to obtain the inmate's approval to visit his family in addition to some basic data that pave the way for the visit to the family. The second one was addressed to the families on an exclusive basis and the third one targeted the income generating member or the person responsible for the family financially after the imprisonment of the family provider.

The first questionnaire included a summary of the project and started with a question about whether the prisoner approves to cooperate or not. It contained questions about the personal status of the inmate such as his date of birth and social status (single or married), number of children, job of the wife (if applicable), contacts of the family, and residence address. One can say that this questionnaire is significant for it breaks the ice and ensures the inmate's approval to visit his family and fill the second questionnaire which is the main pillar for the general database about the families.

As for the second questionnaire titled "Getting to know the prisoner's family", it was extensive so as to obtain as much information as possible to be used in the programs of social, medical, economical, and educational activities. It included questions about the economic situation of the family, the level of expenditure on the education of children at school or college, and the family supporter after the inmate was imprisoned. These questions aim at identifying the family's financial stability level in a country like Lebanon suffering from a severe economic situation putting huge pressure on the majority of citizens.

Other questions in the questionnaire targeted the educational and professional status of the inmate or the family members supporting the family, like their major, the period between the obtainment of degree and imprisonment, and the level of psychological and professional stability of the inmate and his family. This questionnaire covered almost everything a researcher may need to know about the family, thus paving the way for the third questionnaire which targeted exclusively the family provider who is supposed to get a vocational training and financial training to start an income generating project or just financial education in case the supporter was ready to perform a certain kind of work based on previously acquired knowledge or experience then qualify for special training courses (financial and managerial) to raise his/her income and consequently the family income.

It was also normal to ask questions about the relationship between the inmate and his direct family on one hand and the relatives on the other hand to know the nature of this relationship and the extent of marginalization that this category is socially facing.

The last questions were about the situation of the children, the school dropout they are subject to, their basic needs, their reaction to the father's absence, etc. The answers revealed important aspects of the lives of inmates and their families and their medical, socio-economic and educational reality.

The questions dealing with career and work aspects represented the major part of the third questionnaire because it is one of the main goals of the study. The questions were designed to seek data about the kind of work the female family provider does best, how she gets income, how she benefits from her practical experience, where and when she got her experience, vocational trainings attended, loans taken, financial analysis, debts, properties, the reason for choosing a certain kind of project to launch, etc.

All these questions aimed at forming an idea about the expected benefit of such trainings on one hand and their level on the other hand. Other

kinds of questions tried to draw a clear picture about the capacities of the inmate and of his family and figure out the best career path to ensure socio-economic support for them.

## Phases of the study:

|                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| <h3>1- Planning phase</h3>       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Writing the questionnaires</li> <li>-Coordinating meetings with relevant officials in MoSA &amp; Mol</li> <li>-Introducing some modifications</li> <li>-Discussing the questionnaires with the study center and field teams</li> <li>-Verifying the names of the target group and its geographical locations</li> </ul>        |
| <h3>2- Implementation phase</h3> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Teseing the questionnaire with some families</li> <li>-Distributing the questionnaires and the workload</li> <li>-Collecting the filled questionnaires and submitting them to the data coordinator and project manager</li> <li>-Verifying and entering data and developing basic raw tables</li> </ul>                        |
| <h3>3- Final phase</h3>          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Preparing the technical an analytical report and submitting it for review by the SCSES</li> <li>- Printing and copying the report for distribution</li> <li>- Making the study available for possible beneficiaries and interested entities</li> <li>- Verifying and entering data and developing basic raw tables</li> </ul> |

## I. Types of crimes and cooperation of prisoners:

### a. Crimes:

**SHEILD**'s field teams visited the palaces of justice (courts) and prisons to learn about the kinds of crimes spread in the South, and hence know the various environments that generated these crimes.

At first, it is essential to remind that prisons, in their wider meaning adopted here, include temporary detaining facilities in which, and according to judicial decisions, accused individuals are put into custody while still on trial or during investigation, and that is on an exceptional basis and within formal and subjective constraints set by article 107 of the code of criminal procedure<sup>6</sup>. This article stipulates for instance that the detention decision must be sufficiently justified and that "detention is the only means to preserve evidence or crime scene materialistic features or to prevent pressures on witnesses or victims or to prevent the defendant from making any contact with his/her accomplices or instigators, or provided that the detention aims at protecting the defendant himself, limiting the effect of the crime, preventing repetition of the crime, forbidding the defendant from escaping or and sparing the public order any trouble resulting from the crime."

| Prison   | Detained | Convicted |
|----------|----------|-----------|
| Tyre     | 0        | 63        |
| Nabatiye | 55       | 15        |
| Tebnin   | 43       | 5         |
| Jezzin   |          | 51        |
| Total    | 98 (42%) | 134 (58%) |

Chart 1: Detainees and convicted<sup>7</sup>

The most significant problems from which prisons in the South are suffering were found to be the following:

Article 107 of the Code of Criminal Procedure: “...after the judge interrogates the defendant and takes the opinion of the general prosecution, the judge can detain the defendant provided that the crime’s penalty is more than one year imprisonment or that the defendant is an ex-convict or the he/she was imprisoned for more than 3 months without stopping implementation of the verdict. The detention decision must be justified and the investigative judge should clarify the reasons on the basis of which he/she issued the decision provided that detention is the only means to preserve evidence or crime scene materialistic features or to prevent pressures on witnesses or victims or to prevent the defendant from making any contact with his/her accomplices or instigators, or provided that the detention aims at protecting the defendant himself, limiting the effect of the crime, preventing repetition of the crime, forbidding the defendant from escaping or and sparing the public order any trouble resulting from the crime.”

This table was created in March 2011. It is worth mentioning that Jezzin prison is not included in the work scope of the project- this percentage also includes the foreigners.

- Severe “suffocative” overcrowding which exceeds an average percentage of 300% of the normal capacity of all facilities<sup>8</sup>.
- Violation of fundamental rights in disparate rates in the different prisons, especially **mixing the inmates together without classifying them properly**. Mixing the detainees and the convicted is a severe violation of human rights<sup>9</sup>. Chart 1 above shows that mixing in the prison of Nabatiye is the most serious. Moreover, inmates who committed different kinds of criminal acts are also mixed where for example a person detained for using drugs might be put together with a convict for murder. The same also applies for sentences, which is shown in chart 2.
- An unsuitable environment for public and personal hygiene and health, the lack of educational, social, or economic activities in addition to the difficulties in arranging family visits.

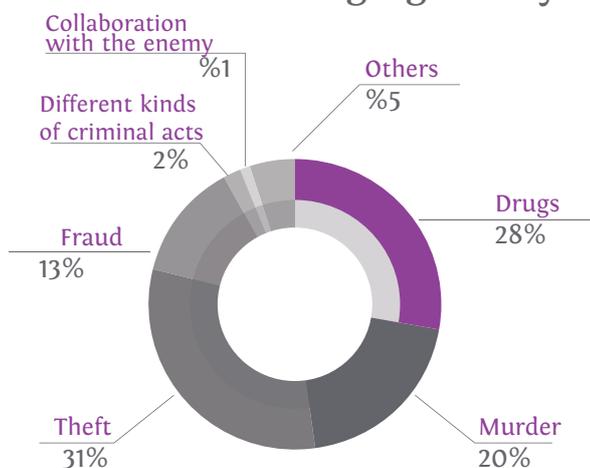


Chart 2: Rates of crimes for the prisons of Nabatiye, Tyre, and Tebnin (all inmates)<sup>10</sup>

8 SHEILD, previously under the name of INTERSOS, rehabilitated the prisons in the South according to the minimum human standards

9 The severe overcrowding is mainly caused by the detained; 70% of the overall inmates are in fact detained for medium and long periods waiting for end of trial, which indicates a dysfunction in the work of courts in terms of slow prosecutions or of excessive, even sometimes, illegal use of temporary detention.

10 For Lebanese and foreign inmates

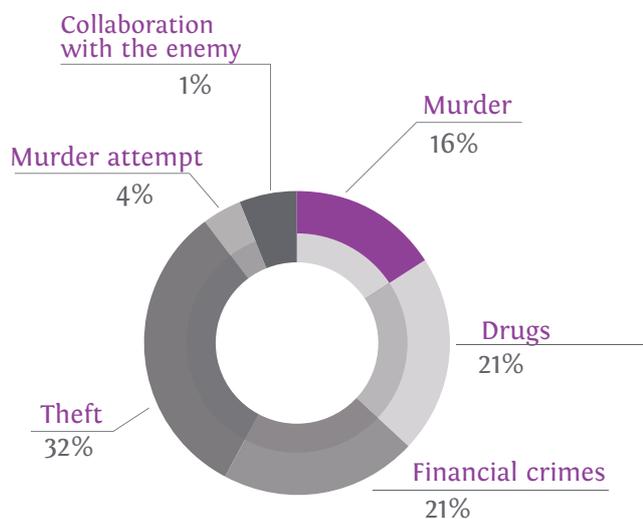


Chart 3: Rates of Crimes for Lebanese inmates<sup>11</sup>

Perhaps, it wasn't expected in the region where the study was conducted that the crimes include theft, drugs, murder, and fraud. It is significant however, that drug crimes, which are second in ranking after theft, were committed for the purpose of theft, murder or attempt of murder.

South Lebanon is supposed to be a conservative and religious environment. Therefore, drug crimes -whether drug trafficking or drug use- are considered a shameful and disgraceful crime that subjects its committer to ostracism by his community and his family. This explains why some families did not wish to discuss the crimes committed by a family member and the lack of cooperation in some cases.

As for the crime of check fraud, it came in fourth as one of the forgery and fraud crimes that are still considered as a crime and not a misdemeanor in Lebanon. Back to the theft crimes, some of these are strange even for some judicial or security authorities. It was indeed

noticed that in some instances the person committing theft is totally ignorant of the consequences of this act as a crime<sup>12</sup> as the value of some thefts is silly compared to the verdict. Nevertheless, the public's lack of legal knowledge and the absence of alternative punishments such as community service make the convict serve a period that might exceed three years in prison for a petty theft.

According to the chart 4 below, which illustrates the status of verdicts in the four prisons in South Lebanon, one can notice as previously explained, that the detainees constitute the largest section of prisoners. This is due to the lack in the number of judges and the articles on the procedures of discretionary trials that allow detention and extension as well. The Minister of Justice launched the law 463/2002 and its implementation decree 16910/2006 stipulating the reduction of sentences and their replacement with freedom constricting sanctions underspecific terms like good behavior, kind of crime and punishment. The reduction may reach half of the sentence, which helps in decreasing the number of inmates by 20%- 30%.

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<sup>11</sup> For Lebanese inmates only

<sup>12</sup>The Lebanese legislator dealt with theft crimes in articles 635 to 643.

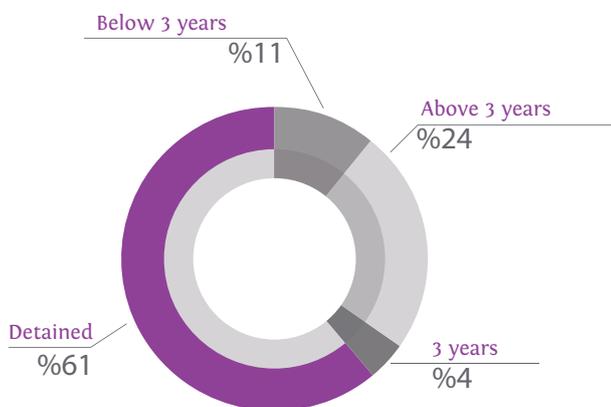


Chart 4: Sentence durations in the prisons of the South<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> Section Two - in the penal provisions of the penal code, articles 27-40, divided felonies into ordinary and political according to 10 types, death penalty being the maximum punishment and deprivation from civil rights being the minimum. As for misdemeanors, they were divided into 6 penalties, criminal and political, the maximum being imprisonment with hard labor and the minimum being payment of a fine.

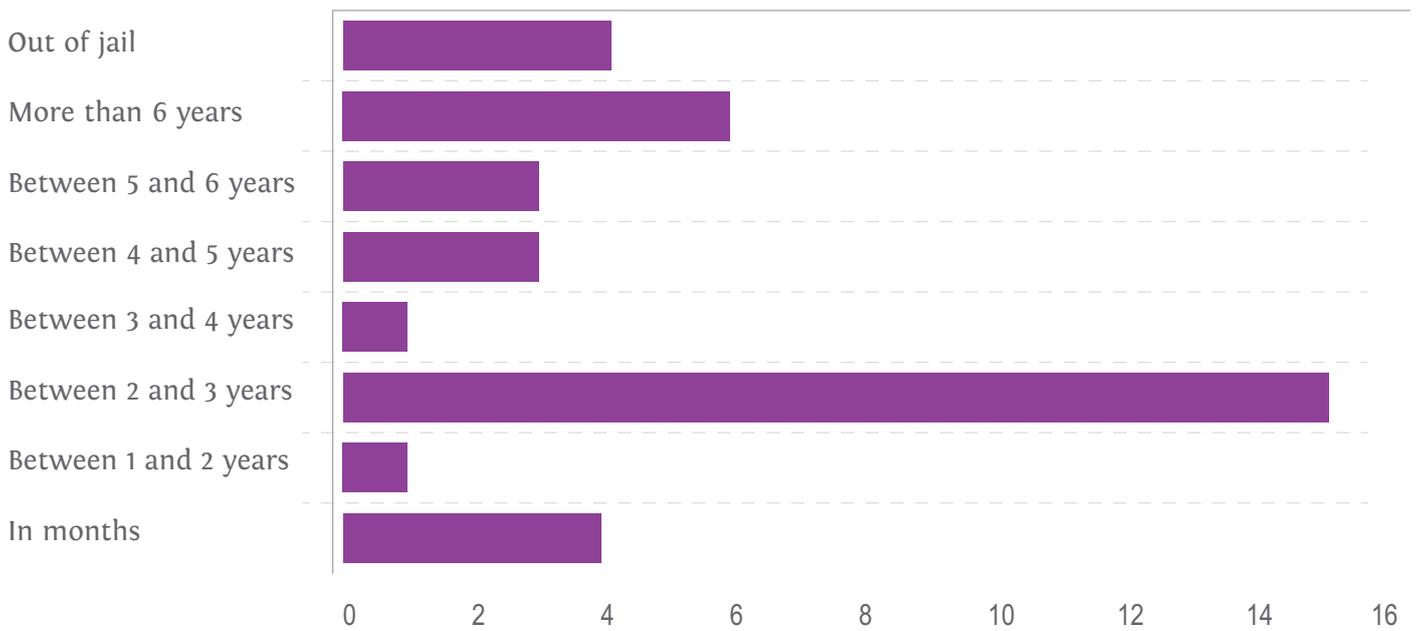


Chart 5: Sentence duration for convicts in the South<sup>14</sup>

The percentage of detainees remains the highest, followed by the crimes of murder, theft, and fraud where felonies are mixed with misdemeanors<sup>15</sup> through the sentences that range from three to fifteen years. This is a high percentage if we add the percentage of 24% to the 4% summing up to a total of 28%, because the percentage of 4% falls under the category of felonies<sup>16</sup>.

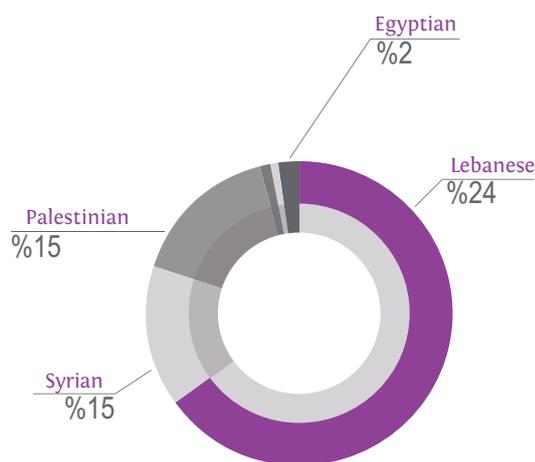


Chart 6: Nationalities

The exclusion of foreign nationalities from the project only aimed to empower and well-establish the project in the beginning and launch it in such a way as to facilitate its implementation. Also, it is a fact that most of the families of inmates with foreign nationalities do not

live in Lebanon. 16% of prisoners are Palestinians, which is the second highest percentage of prisoners after the Lebanese. This is normal and expected in the South where there are many formal Palestinian refugee camps as well as informal gatherings according to the classification of UNRWA. The Syrian nationality comes in next with 15%, making the total percentage 31% which is a large proportion not included in the project<sup>17</sup>. It is worth mentioning that SHEILD's field staff included in its questionnaires some of these foreign categories to prevent the idea of discrimination from occurring to some of the inmates. As for the crimes of the Palestinian and Syrian inmates, they are not at all different from the types of crimes committed by the Lebanese inmates. 90% of the Palestinians were detained or prosecuted for theft, and the same applies for the Syrians<sup>18</sup>. Theft comes in first rank with 70% while drugs and murder come next in equal percentages.

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<sup>14</sup> The number of convicted persons who were cooperative in the study is 37

<sup>15</sup> The period of imprisonment for misdemeanors ranges from 10 days to three years unless the law included private text.

<sup>16</sup> If the law did not include a special text, the minimum verdict is temporary hard labor, temporary detention, exile, house arrest or deprivation from civil rights for three years and maximum verdict is 15 years.

<sup>17</sup> 13% of those detained in Lebanese prisons are foreigners who finished their sentence.

<sup>18</sup> The Syrians represent one of the main labor forces in Lebanon especially after Taef agreement. The incidents of 2005 and the 2006 war affected their presence in Lebanon, and then their numbers increased rapidly after the opening of the Syrian embassy in Lebanon and establishment of normal diplomatic relations between Lebanon and Syria according to the Vienna convention.

Lebanon suffers from a problem related to the release of foreign immigrants, refugees and detainees who violate the laws of travel and immigration and who stay in custody although their sentence ended.<sup>19</sup> This is the case in the prison of Jezzine- not included in the assessment.

#### b. Cooperation of prisoners:

The inmates' questionnaire is very significant because it includes questions pertaining to the family situation and sets the mechanism of

cooperation. It has thus facilitated the communication and enhanced the level of trust between SHEILD and the inmate on one hand, and his family members on the other hand. This questionnaire was the main basis for the general database about the families<sup>20</sup>. It is important to note that the numbers mentioned were restricted to the inmates who cooperated fully or partially<sup>21</sup>.

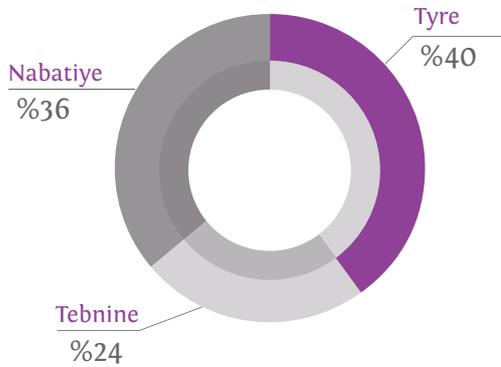


Chart 7

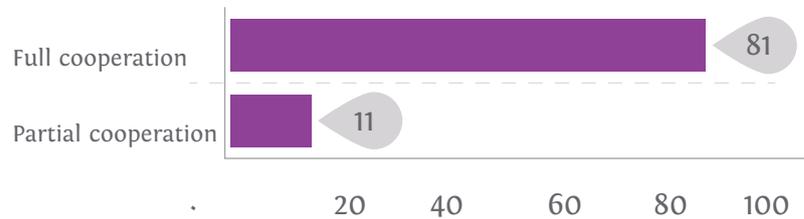


Chart 8: Distribution of prisoners who accepted assistance

After excluding the prison of Jezzine from the project for the aforementioned reasons, the distribution of inmates who accepted assistance is limited to three prisons: 40% in Tyre prison, 36% in Nabatiye prison, and 24% in Tebnine prison. The prison of Tyre is the smallest of all three prisons targeted by the project and all inmates there accepted to fully cooperate. Conversely, the percentages of full cooperation in the prisons of Nabatiye and Tebninewere equal. Perhaps the only common factor between Nabatiye and Tebnine prisons is the fact that they both accomodate detainees, while Tyre prison includes only convicted inmates who have lost hope in getting released and have been sentenced regardless of the appeal, which makes them adapt and cooperate and ask for basic needs for them and their family.

<sup>19</sup>The Lebanese courts consider keeping someone in prison after finishing his sentence is an illegal procedure if not based on any judicial or administrative orders. Even though release orders are issued, the general security forces do not apply them.

<sup>20</sup>A database and tables were created to help in obtaining 18 graphs related to the inmate.

<sup>21</sup>The targeted category of the Lebanese is 127. The number increased during the study because of new comers and transfers from other prisons.

The geographical distribution unit adopted in the project is the caza. The targeted group is distributed in 10 cazas and 50 villages<sup>22</sup> according to chart 9 below:

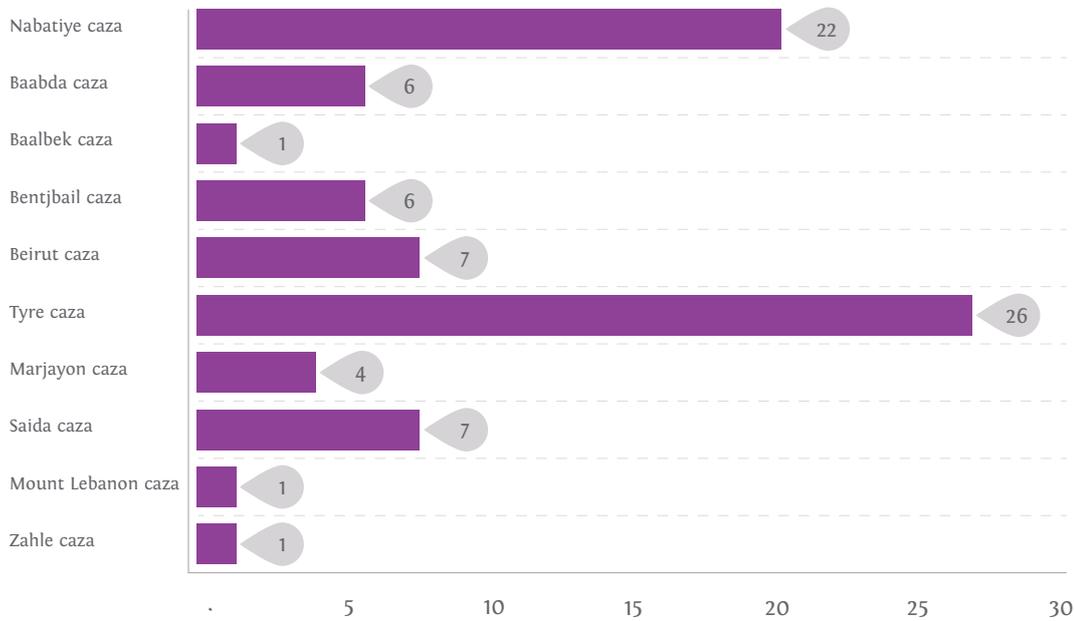


Chart 9: Inmates who approved to cooperate<sup>23</sup>

### c. Non cooperation of prisoners:

It was significantly important to know the reason behind some inmates' refusal to cooperate especially that the partial cooperation cases (11 cases) were justified based on the acceptable financial status of the family and the lack of need for such intervention.

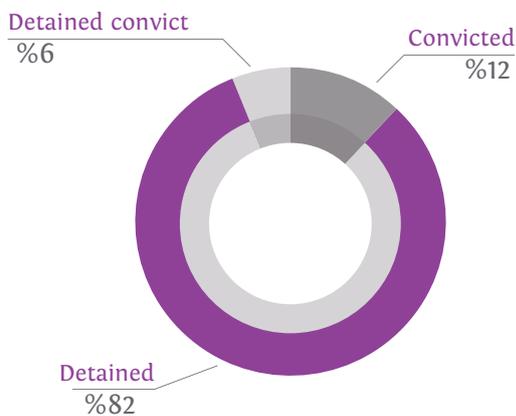


Chart 10

<sup>22</sup> The distribution in the first three cities and villages is as follows: Nabatiye: 17 villages, Tyre: 15 villages, Bentjbaail: 7 villages. <sup>23</sup> 11 inmates approved partial cooperation - i.e. limiting the cooperation to him and within the prison, while 81 inmates the full cooperation mechanism as set in the project.

The field teams sought to get in-depth details related to the non cooperative and partially cooperative category of inmates, hoping to find a common connection through the graphs or through some

direct answers provided by the inmates or their families. In some cases for instance, refusal came from the family and not from the inmate (especially well-off families). Vice versa, some families accepted to cooperate and attended trainings while the inmates refused.

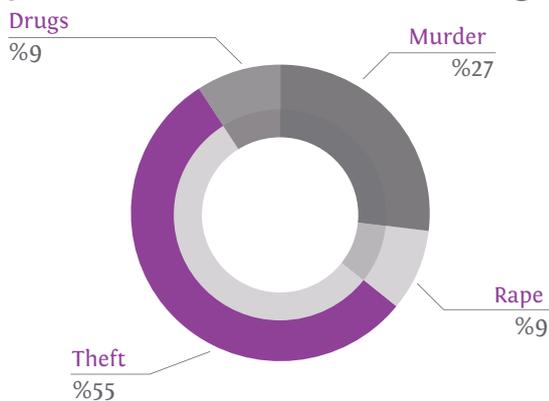


Chart 11: Rates of crimes committed by non cooperative prisoners

The cases of non cooperation seem to be more linked to the marital status. In fact, 18% of inmates who refused to cooperate are single, which can explain why they don't have financial loads and thus, refuse to cooperate. As for the percentage of 46% for the "no data" category, it is quite high, but it represents those in the process of completing divorce procedures which often isolates the inmate from his family, not to forget the abandonment imposed by the wife who gets back to her parents' house. Some wives start divorce procedures immediately after issuance of the verdict or after a long period of detention. In this case, they send the divorce papers to their spouses in prison. The relation ends on that note and the children are left in the wife's custody. Their only shelter is the old or new house she chooses, which is most often her parents' place.

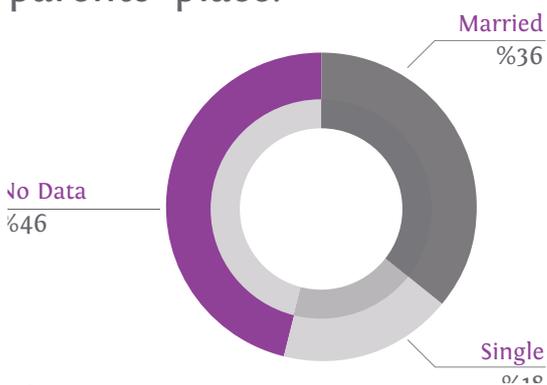


Chart 12

## II. The prisoner's family:

### a. Divorce:

The sufferance that inmates undergo, from the moment they are arrested until the verdict is issued, is not limited to a period of time that ends at their release, but extends beyond the end of detention or termination of the sentence period.

The wife experiences a lot of family pressures as a result of being socially rejected. The children suffer as well from social embarrassment leading in many cases to drop out from school. The lack of economic capacity can also lead to progressive obligatory dropout, which starts with occasional absence and then permanent absence.

These family problems exacerbate if the inmate himself is the family provider. The study revealed that imprisoning a criminal means completely isolating him from his social environment by putting him behind the bars of a disciplinary facility, where he is only allowed to connect to this environment under the supervision of the competent authority. Consequently, it is expected that a set of negative social changes affect the family following the imprisonment of one of its members, hence leading to some disorders in the family's structure and functions. Some of these changes resulting from imprisonment are clear in the relation between the convict and his family members during imprisonment, or the relation among the family members during the absence of the inmate, and consequently in the general family life. These changes pertain to many factors including emotional ties between the married couple, the social roles of the inmate toward the family, as well as the cultural, economic and social levels of the family, and the extent of the wife's success in facing financial difficulties resulting from the husband's imprisonment.

It is also noticed that the type of crime committed may stir up hostile feelings towards the inmate from relatives, neighbors and neighborhood residents if the imprisonment was for an indecent act or a crime that may generate feeling of pity and compassion towards the inmate if motivated by revenge or honor. These social changes resulting from imprisonment may have damaging effects on the family, such as delinquency of the children or a divorce request.

The wife's request for divorce is one of the critical issues facing an inmate. It is evident, based on chart 13 below and on the primary questionnaires that included the detailed answers, that the 8% divorce rate is a result of the accused's imprisonment as a detainee or as a convict. This means that the 52% will decrease, thus increasing the divorce rate, while the percentage of singles will remain the same, especially that the law on prisons in Lebanon does not allow mechanisms for the marriage of inmates from inside the prison.

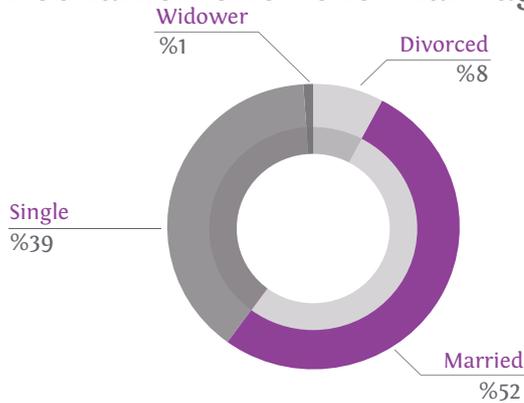


Chart 13: The marital status of prisoners

Numbers related to the family provider after the imprisonment of one family member were opposite to the expectations of SHEILD's field staff. Assumptions were made that the wife would rank first with a large difference from other family members. Nonetheless, results were different: the number of the fathers of prisoners playing the role of breadwinners was very close to the number of wives playing that role. In third, came the brother, the son and the prisoner himself who relies in the beginning of his imprisonment on some of his savings or on some assets respectively sold by his wife.



Chart 14

In terms of gender, the percentage of males is double that of the females. Yet, by giving the “unspecified” answer, the inmate meant to limit the responsibility to him, which makes the percentage: 52+11=63%, a normal percentage in the southern society. This is a normal reflection of the issue of financial support because the southern oriental community tries to relieve the women’s obligations and burdens especially after divorce, which eliminates the family bond between the inmate and his wife.

### b. Children:

After losing their provider, children, just like the entire family, suffer from many psychological problems, due to the lack of self-esteem and frustration caused by the loss of the breadwinner and the absence of affection and care.

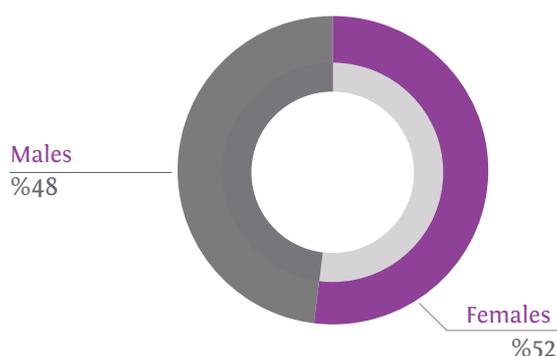


Chart 15: Gender of prisoners’ children<sup>24</sup>

This number 134 is related to the percentage of married inmates (52%) in addition to the divorced inmates (8%) and widowers (1%). It is obvious, based on chart 15, that the percentages of males and females are almost equal. 4% of the total 134 cases suffer from different kinds of mental and physical disabilities. The percentage of children suffering from disabilities is relatively normal<sup>25</sup>; however, the percentage of school dropout<sup>26</sup>, which exceeds 18%, is quite high, especially for the ages between 8 and 18.

<sup>24</sup>These numbers are limited to the families who fully cooperated which are 72 families.

<sup>25</sup>The United Nations states that the percentage of disability is 10% of the world population. This percentage is higher in developing countries due to wars and conflicts and lack of primary medical care.

<sup>26</sup>UNICEF defined dropout in 1992 as being the nonattendance of school by children who are in a schooling age or

them leaving school without finishing the educational phase they are in, either willingly or due to other factors. Dropout also includes children who stop attending for one year or more.

In terms of school dropout, the percentage of males reaches 59% while females represent 41%. As for the reasons, they vary from voluntary to compulsory drop out, from interruption of studies to absence. Furthermore, 24 of the children, males and females, do work, which represents 20% of the total number of children. The jobs they perform are various and include working as mechanics, daily workers, and secretaries especially for girls. The number of working children (under 18) is 9 out of 24.

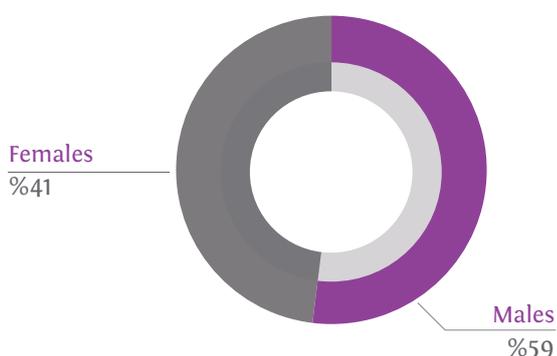


Chart 16<sup>27</sup>

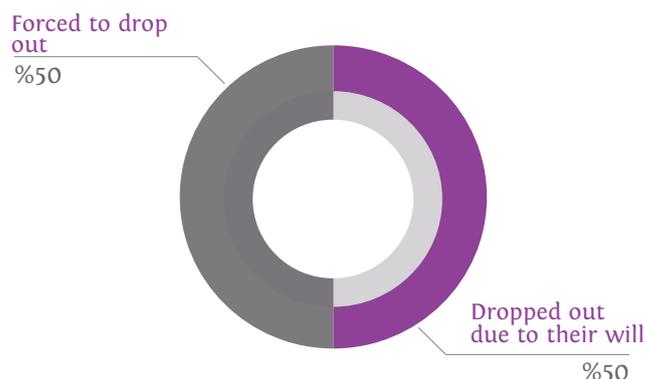


Chart 17<sup>28</sup>

Based on the results obtained from the questionnaires, SHEILD managed to identify many reasons that could have led to school dropout. Some of these reasons are often intertwined. It is difficult to identify one single reason that could lead the student to dropout without taking into consideration the other reasons or factors that contributed to this dropout. Some of the answers include a weak desire to learn; however, this phenomenon may be related to poverty and the sudden absence of the family provider, hence leading to a lack of control and follow up. The female householder is then too busy finding a source of income and is confused about the new social situation.

School dropouts have assured that the main reason is the lack of resources caused by the detention or imprisonment of the family provider, forcing the inmate and the wife as well to make the children work. Of course, one should take into account some children's carelessness about going to school and getting education, not to forget the behavior of some adolescents outside their homes, which

violates, as mothers express it, public morals and conventional ethical and social traditions and values.

In terms of health, the study results have proved that prisoners' families suffer from many health problems due to the low income and the inability to get proper healthcare for all family members. The part of the study related to this aspect showed that one third of the study sample suffers from a bad health condition and spread of chronic diseases. It also shows that this number increased by 20% over time since the arrest of the family provider. There are 55 cases suffering from chronic diseases and need direct and rapid intervention, 55% of which are women (wife, sister, mother, daughter), let alone the deteriorating health condition of the inmates themselves during their stay in prison. Skin diseases increase by 50% in addition to teeth problems, back pains, asthma, blood pressure, and osteoporosis.

<sup>27</sup>The percentage of dropout among males and females

<sup>28</sup>It is important to note that many reasons and factors are involved in both categories (compulsory or voluntary dropout)

Medical insurance, provided by the ministry of health and social security, as well as by some political parties in the south, to which 24% of the cases studied have access, does not effectively ease the burden of health problems, since such interventions remain rather limited. Also, the largest category (76%) does not know how to access such kinds of insurance. 34% benefit from charity donations offered by civil society associations<sup>29</sup>.

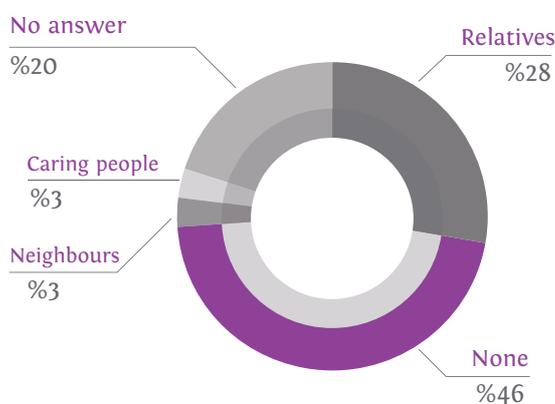


Chart 18: Distribution of charity donations on the families

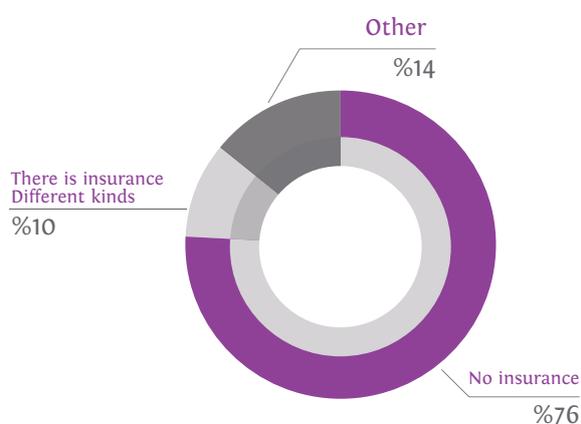


Chart 19: Insurance for the families

The 20% whose response was “no answer” were reserved about disclosing the kinds of assistance they get; they did not say “none” like 46% of the families did. This last percentage remains the largest and the most critical, as it means that 46% are marginalized and have difficulties in social integration and communication at all levels. This percentage is part of the 76% deprived from all kinds of insurance.

### c. Family surrounding

The study revealed that the families of inmates face several social problems, the most important of which are divorce, abandonment of the house by the wife, low standard of living, inmate’s ignorance about the situation of his children, seizure of heritage by relatives, lack of visits to the inmate by his wife and children, as well as the escape of some family members from the house and their exposure to drug abuse, and shelter problems since the family could be forced by the landlord or by the neighbors to leave the residence under psychological pressure due to imprisonment of the householder.

<sup>29</sup>Official entities and local authorities were not among the answers.

It was not unusual, in a village community governed by social and family relationships, to have a wide and quick spread of family news in its surrounding. Accordingly, it is found that 87% of the inmate’s family neighbors know about the detention or imprisonment, which also explains why 3% of families get financial assistance from their neighbors. Chart 21 below, obtained based on the wife’s answer about how her neighbors treat her after learning about her husband’s imprisonment, shows that 76% of neighbors treated the wife and consequently the rest of the family in an acceptable manner.

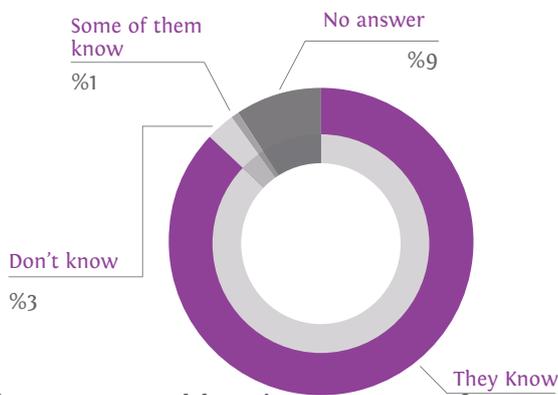


Chart 20: Neighbors’ awareness of the imprisonment

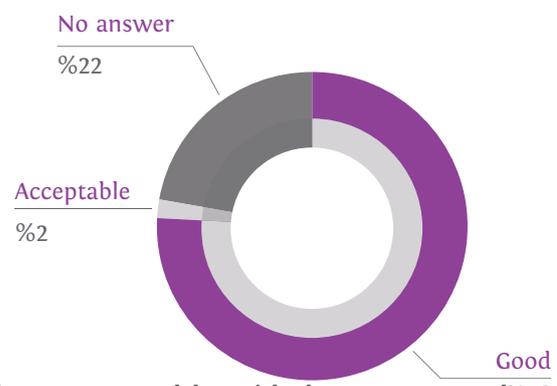


Chart 21: Neighbors’ behavior towards the wife

Furthermore, 6% of the families have other relatives living with them, thus entailing their inevitable awareness of the family's social situation. The presence of relatives living in the inmate's house has a direct impact on the economic situation of the family, which is already experiencing problems at all levels.

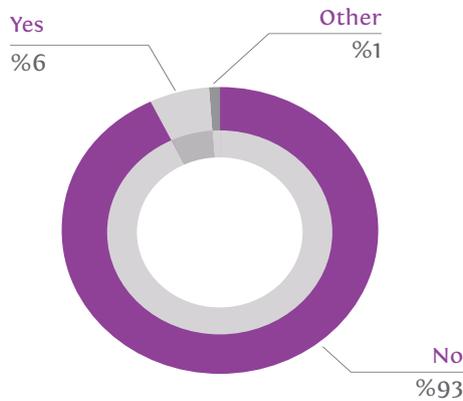


Chart 22

The social problems that prisoners' families suffer from, according to the observations of SHEILD's field staff, are mainly disputes among sons and daughters who are so busy with their individual problems that they neglect the future of the family, in addition to the wife's inability to perform the role of the father in most cases which may affect the nature of relationships within the family. Moreover, the types of jobs that the wife might perform after her husband's imprisonment may result to a certain extent in the loss of control over her children. Some wives might ask for a divorce (this has actually happened), which leads to a higher level of family disintegration. The relationship between the family and the community may worsen as a reaction to the crime committed by the householder, which could mean the unavailability of appropriate job opportunities to the family members.

#### d. Income:

The study proved that the prisoner's family often experiences severe financial problems when the prisoner is actually the main source of income and the only provider. These problems exacerbate when the family members are in a certain age that requires support.

The results are the same even if one of the non-productive family members got arrested, because the wife, the mother or the father are compelled to double their workload or enter the labor market, in order to raise the family income and thus afford a lawyer and other daily life expenses.

It was evident, based on the family questionnaire, that a high percentage of inmates' wives are not qualified to work for many reasons including their educational level, health problems and social problems. Also, the inmate or the wife's family refuses to let her work.

This deteriorating financial situation forces the prisoners' families to reduce their expenses, to depend on relatives' assistance or to sell properties owned by the husband or wife, in an attempt to overcome the shortage in income. The percentage of the inmates who were unemployed before imprisonment reached 13%, which is relatively high and indicates that the social and economic pressures underwent by some families existed before imprisonment.

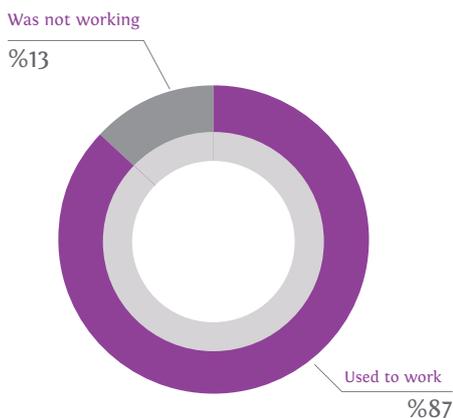


Chart 23

As previously shown, most family providers work in low-income jobs. It also was clear that 21% of inmates' wives suffer from diseases and that the families' situation in general was worsening over time.

Diseases and illnesses are one of the issues affecting any individual seeking income to support the family. This is why medical assistance is considered a priority to the inmates and their families. The need for medical assistance is about 30%, it is followed by other "unspecified" needs with the same percentage ("Unspecified" means

that it is up to SHEILD to decide the types of assistance it deems appropriate). This indicates that the need is more than just social and medical. In some cases, requests and demands are so great and diversified that the inmate or the family provider uses the words “everything” or “anything” as an answer to a question about their needs and priorities. The results came as follows:

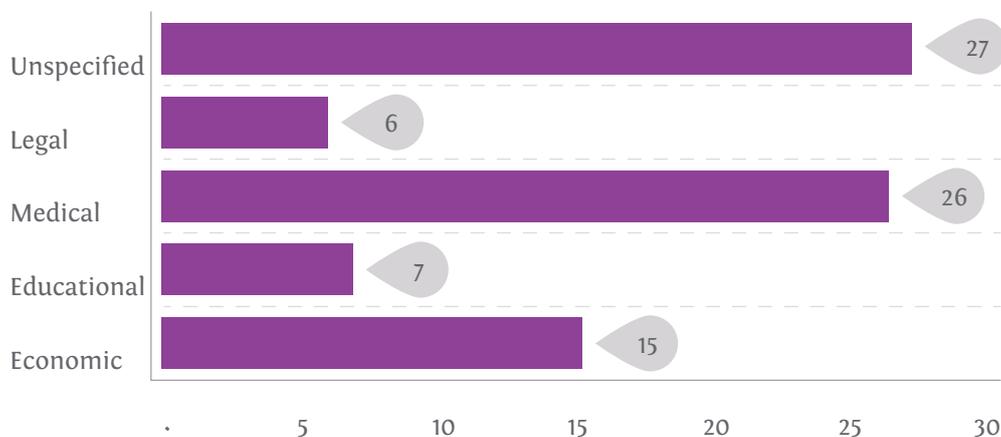


Chart 24

The legal situation is one of the problems that the inmate and his family suffer from. Some inmates just need simple legal procedures and follow up like merging sentences and the like...

Economic requests<sup>30</sup> come in third followed by educational requests mainly related to the educational situation of children whether in university or school. It became obvious through the study that many children are facing obstacles in getting their final grades. Traditionally, principals of schools and universities are used to hiding the grades and final results from students who do not pay the fees without taking into consideration the student’s socio-economic circumstances. It is also important in this regard to highlight that some principals seek to deduct large amounts of the fees for pure humanitarian reasons<sup>31</sup>.

<sup>30</sup>Economic requests mean those that are exclusively intended to raise income.

#### e. The family provider:

Through the second and third questionnaires, SHEILD’s field teams communicated with the main financial supporter of the family<sup>32</sup>, to identify the latter’s physical and educational ability. Family providers can be divided into three categories:

1-Those who worked previously in a particular field—this category did not feel any changes.

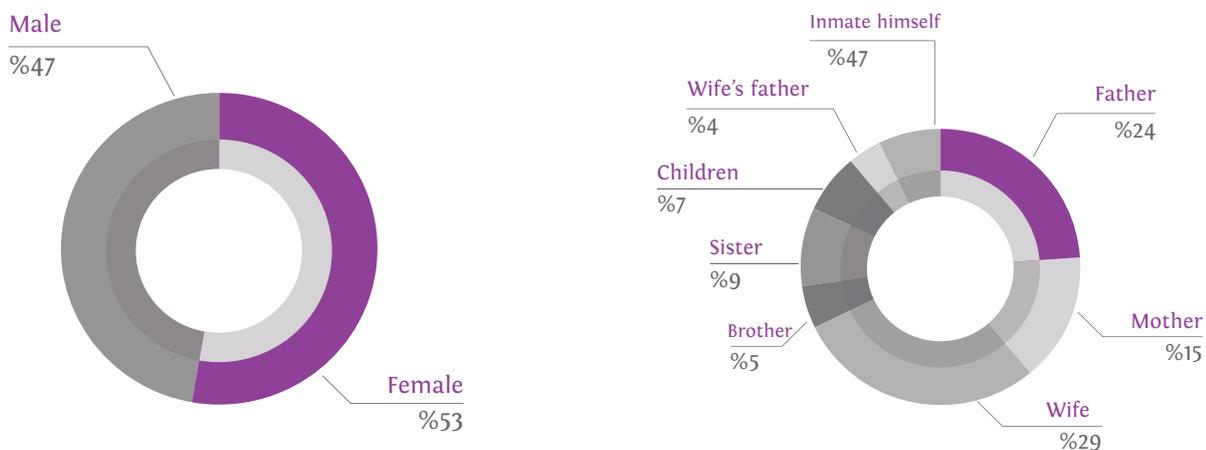
2-Those who did never worked in any field before.

3-Those who were forced to increase their working hours or look for another job to raise income.

It was expected that the responsibility of supporting the family would be transferred to the wife (for the married inmates), but the big percentage of single inmates (39%) in addition to the divorced 8% and the 1% widowers, kept the percentage of the wife as family provider the highest (29%) although it is relatively low if compared to the inmate's father (24%) who comes in second, followed by the inmate's mother (15%) then comes the inmate himself or one of his children who share an equal percentage of 7%.

31 Most school principals are not aware of the family's social situation.

32 The supporter or provider here is the person directly responsible for generating income after the imprisonment of one family member.



The fact that the mother, daughter and sister of the inmate are being the family providers made the percentages of females higher (53% compared to 47% for males).

It is also noticed that the family does not abandon the woman after divorce, so family support persists in such cases with a percentage of 4%. This also applies to the father and mother of the inmate as

supporters who score high percentages due to the high percentage of single inmates in the study.

f. health condition of the provider:

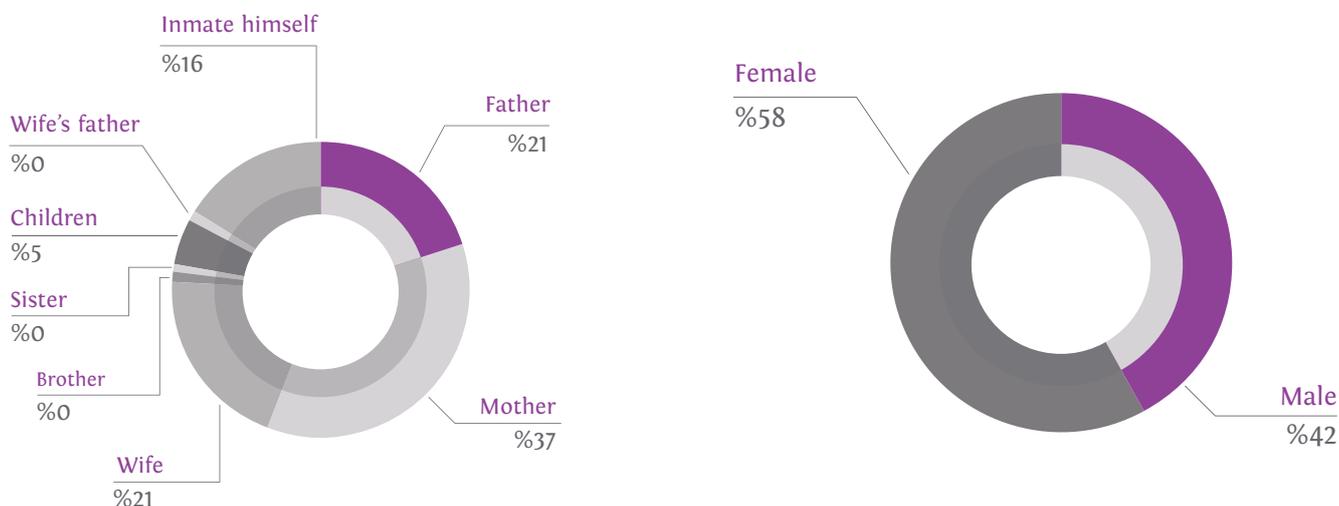
The medical problems that inmates suffer have become a familiar topic in most similar studies. In fact, inmates suffer diseases that aggravate due to lack of space and lack of basic humanitarian conditions in prisons.

The questionnaire related to the families and their socio-economic situation revealed the poor medical and health condition that families are going through, in view of the lack of social and medical insurance which should be provided for marginalized groups.

The financial factor remains the one that affects the most negatively the families' health situation. The low income prevents families from getting basic medication in extremely bad conditions.

Among the unexpected results was the case of the provider suffering from a disease. According to statistics, it was evident that 21% of the supporting wives, whose percentage is 29%, suffer from diseases ranging from back pain, urinary system problems, eye diseases, kidney diseases, calcium deficiency, thyroid problems, hypertension, etc. This also applies to the supporting mothers (of inmates), 37% of whom have chronic diseases like diabetes and different kinds of illnesses and tumors.

33||| family providers are those who have diseases that affect their daily life and productivity.



The father ranks in third place with 21%, which means that most inmates' fathers have diseases especially that their age average is high, this also applies to the mothers of inmates. In the fourth place, comes the inmate himself with 16%, since the supporting inmate is the same inmate who is suffering illness after imprisonment or even before. The inmate suffers from chronic medical problems upon his release, let alone the difficulty he faces in finding work. His civil record is not clean which makes him as an outcast and deprives him from job opportunities in both public and private sectors. The children breadwinners come in last in terms of diseases with 7%, which is logical and acceptable because the low age average make them less prone to illnesses.

### III. Projects and Trainings:

The goal of the analytical study is to identify the economic capacity of the family provider or of whoever has the capacity to be the supporter and develop an income generating project. SHEILD's field teams could not predict in advance the nature of the projects to suggest, based on their previous experience in projects aiming to combat poverty for most vulnerable groups or IGA programs for victims of mines and cluster bombs, etc.

Attention was given, since the beginning, to the female householder or wife regardless of her social situation (still married, divorced, or in the process of being divorced).

As clarified by the study, many factors made the wife one of the targeted categories without however being the only one. She remains the first in ranking in terms of being the family provider. It is worth indicating though that the wife's low educational level has restricted her capacity to integrate into the labor market.

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<sup>34</sup>The supporting father's diseases ranged from back pains, to hypertension, heart diseases, and urinary system diseases.

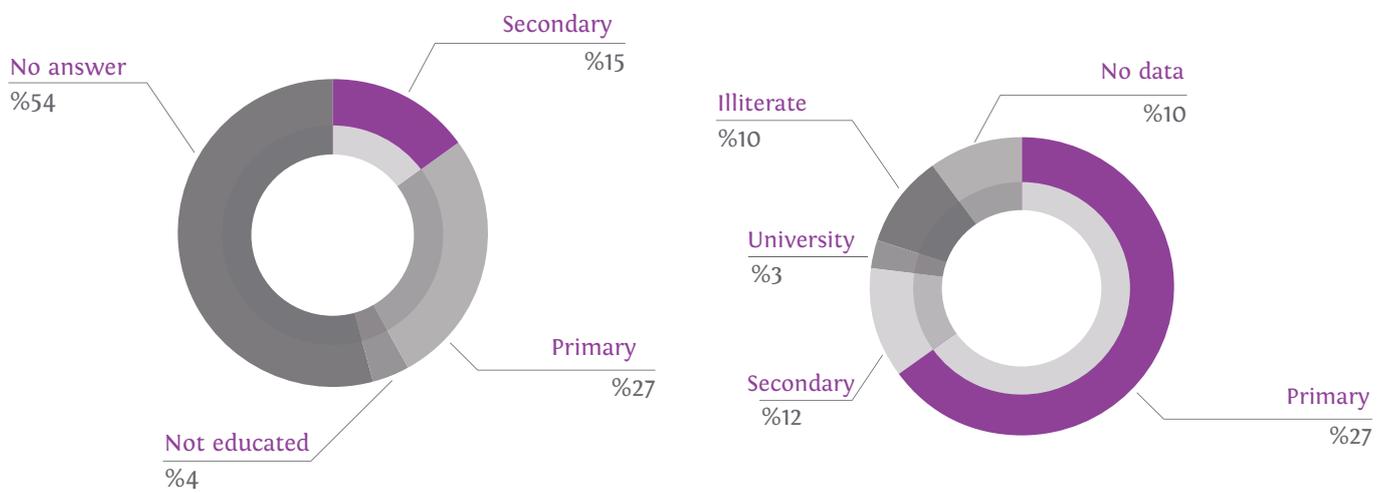


Chart 29 above illustrates the wives' limited educational level; 15% of them reached the elementary level (without necessarily meaning completing this cycle) whereas 27% reached only the primary level and 4% are not educated. The highest percentage (54%) is that of the "No answer". The field teams observed that this category can be added to the 4% (Not educated group) because embarrassment from admitting illiteracy probably resulted in not answering this question.

This high percentage affected the general average of the provider's educational level making the percentage of illiteracy a high number of 10%. 12% and 3% of the providers attended high school and university respectively, while the largest percentage completed the basic education (intermediate and elementary) (65%). This shows the weak educational level of the provider, whether male or female, father or wife, son or daughter, etc.

The full cooperation of inmates in the prison of Tyre increased the percentage of those interested in the economic program. In other words, the high level of cooperation, according to the primary questionnaire, was immediately translated into an interest in the economic program. This means that the used mechanism helped in connecting issues and coordinating between the inmate and his family. Also it was obvious that the inmate has a direct influence on whoever was taking over the responsibility of supporting the family after imprisonment.

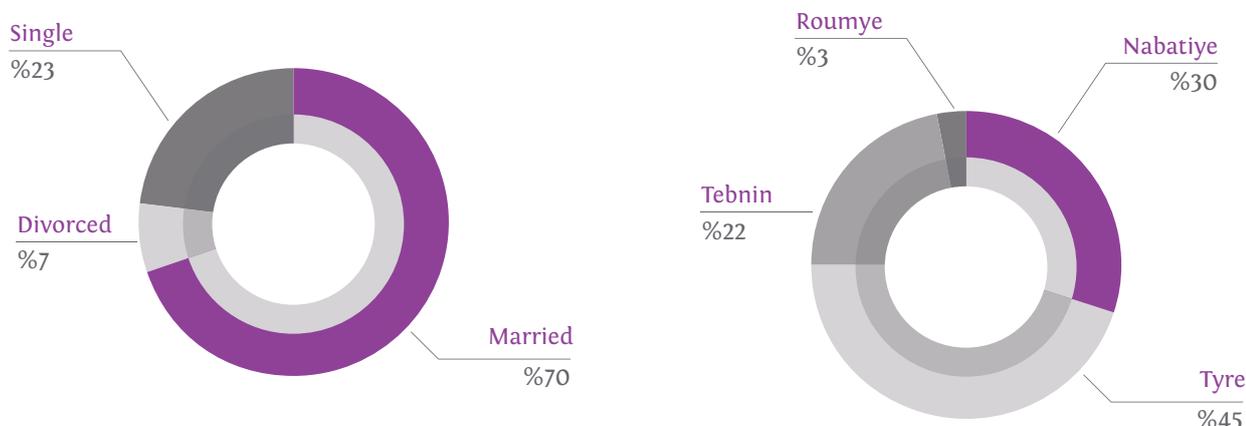
45% of the inmates in Tyre prison and their families expressed interest in the economic projects, followed by a rate of 30% in Nabatiye prison and 22% in Tebnin prison, in addition to 3% in Roumye.

35 The chart showing the educational level of the supporting wife

36 "Not educated" in the study is meant to indicate "illiterate"

37 The wife, the father, and the mother of the inmate are excluded from the category of secondary and college education

38 Some of the inmates are transferred from the south as a disciplinary measure, and this has been happening since the start of the project.



The percentages in terms of ranking regarding the marital status of the inmate and his family interested in the economic projects were consistent. If compared with the cooperation table, one can note the following:

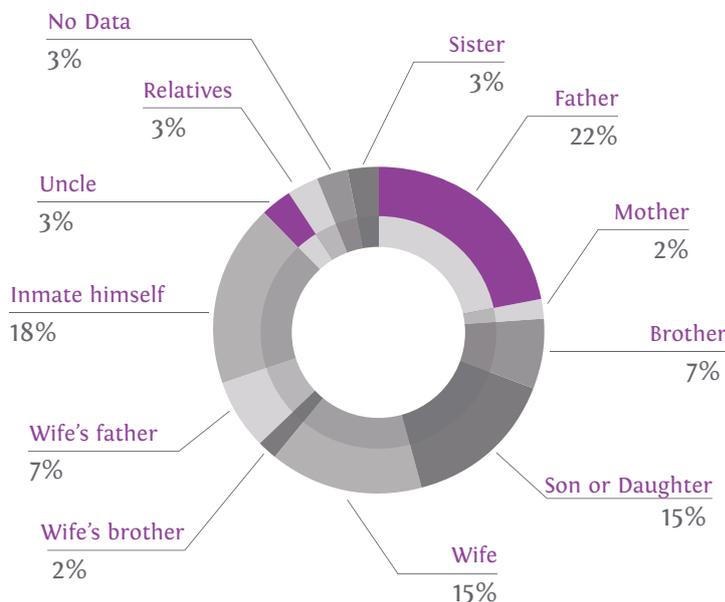
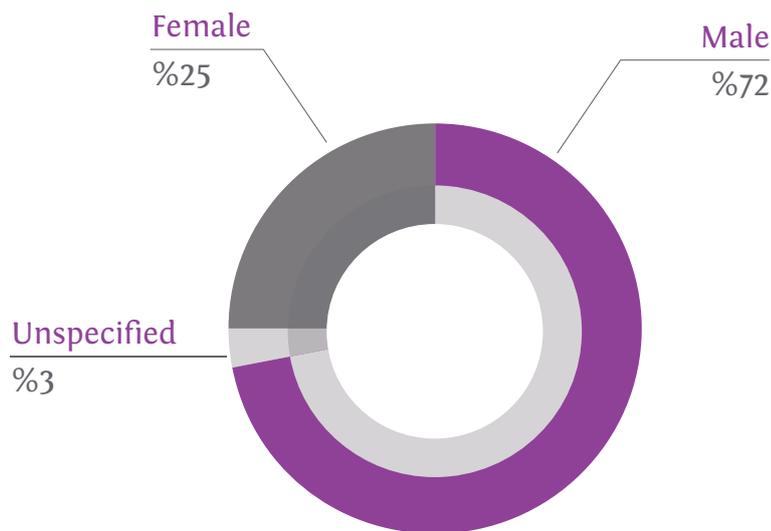
| Marital Status | Cooperative cases | Interested in economic projects |
|----------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| Married        | 52%               | 70%                             |
| Single         | 39%               | 23%                             |
| Divorced       | 8%                | 7%                              |
| Widower        | 1%                | ----                            |

The married inmates' interest in the economic projects increased from 52% to 70% which is normal in view of the responsibility that the inmate has as a family provider, as is the case of the provider outside prison.

As for single inmates, the percentage of interest decreased from 39% to 23%, because the interest of the family and the inmate in such projects is reduced considering that a single inmate would not care about getting assistance as he's not responsible for the family. The rate of interest by divorced inmates remained the same, around 8%.

In terms of the provider's gender, the difference between males and females is wide, as females scored 53% compared to 47% for the males; however, the entrepreneurs were mostly males (72%) rather than females (25%).

The diseases that most females have are the main reason why males are ahead of females. Also, the enrollment of sons in early work made the percentage increase by more than 20%, knowing that those interested in the economic projects were not necessarily the original provider and the initiative was taken by other family members or relatives.



The kinship to the inmate, according to chart 35 above , confirms how the percentage of males exceeds that of females. In fact, in addition to the health factor that affected the females, 18% of the inmates who finished their sentence aspire to return to the labor market, which explains why the inmate himself is represented in the chart, followed by the inmate's father with 22%, children with 15%, then the wife's father and brother with the same equal percentage of 7%.

#### a. Projects:

The economic assessment questionnaire included a variety of questions with the aim of apprehending the economic situation of the family provider. It became evident that the average family expenses per month were \$300, regardless of the number of family members. The questionnaire also included questions addressed to the entrepreneurs (business owners) who may need vocational training.

The latter expressed their need for vocational training for the following reasons:

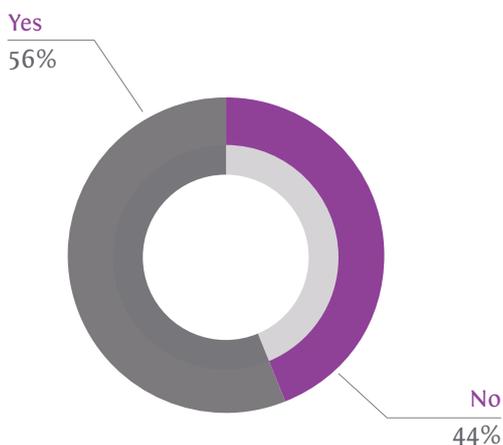
- It was found that the direct provider was not the same person who proposed the project. In other words, not everyone who proposed a project is the same current provider.
- The family believed that it was possible to increase income through another person or individual who is able to participate in enhancing the economic situation.
- Most project ideas are purely commercial ideas and that is because the project proposer (entrepreneur), whether a new or old provider, performs jobs of commercial aspect and does not need any vocational training as is shown in chart 36 below.
- It is worth mentioning that, according to the second and third questionnaires, 68% of the providers have the burden of supporting

more than one family while 27% do not have this overload.

- The diversity of professions makes it difficult to form adequate groups to attend vocational training sessions.

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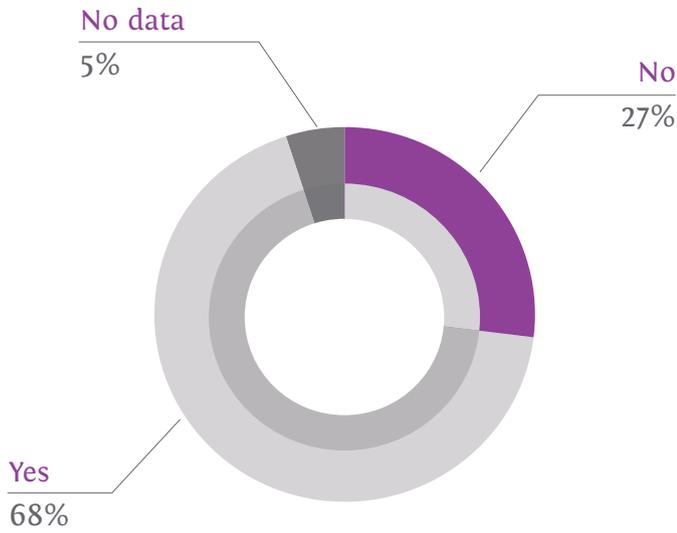
39 With regards to the families that provided ideas for projects or vocational trainings.



The economic assessment questionnaire revealed that 56% need vocational training based on the ideas suggested by the family provider, while 44% do not need training due to previous experience they have or to the type of project idea suggested. For instance, those who worked as sailors or owned a bakery do not need training. In this regard, we should emphasize that the 56% who need training become 90% when it comes to business management and financial education trainings, because in some cases it was clear that men and women who are self-employed had financial managerial problems, like managing the cash register, debit and credit accounts, etc.

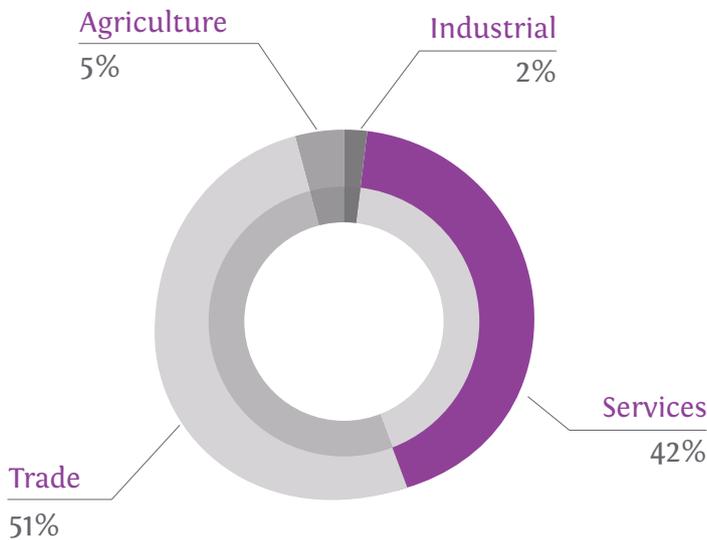
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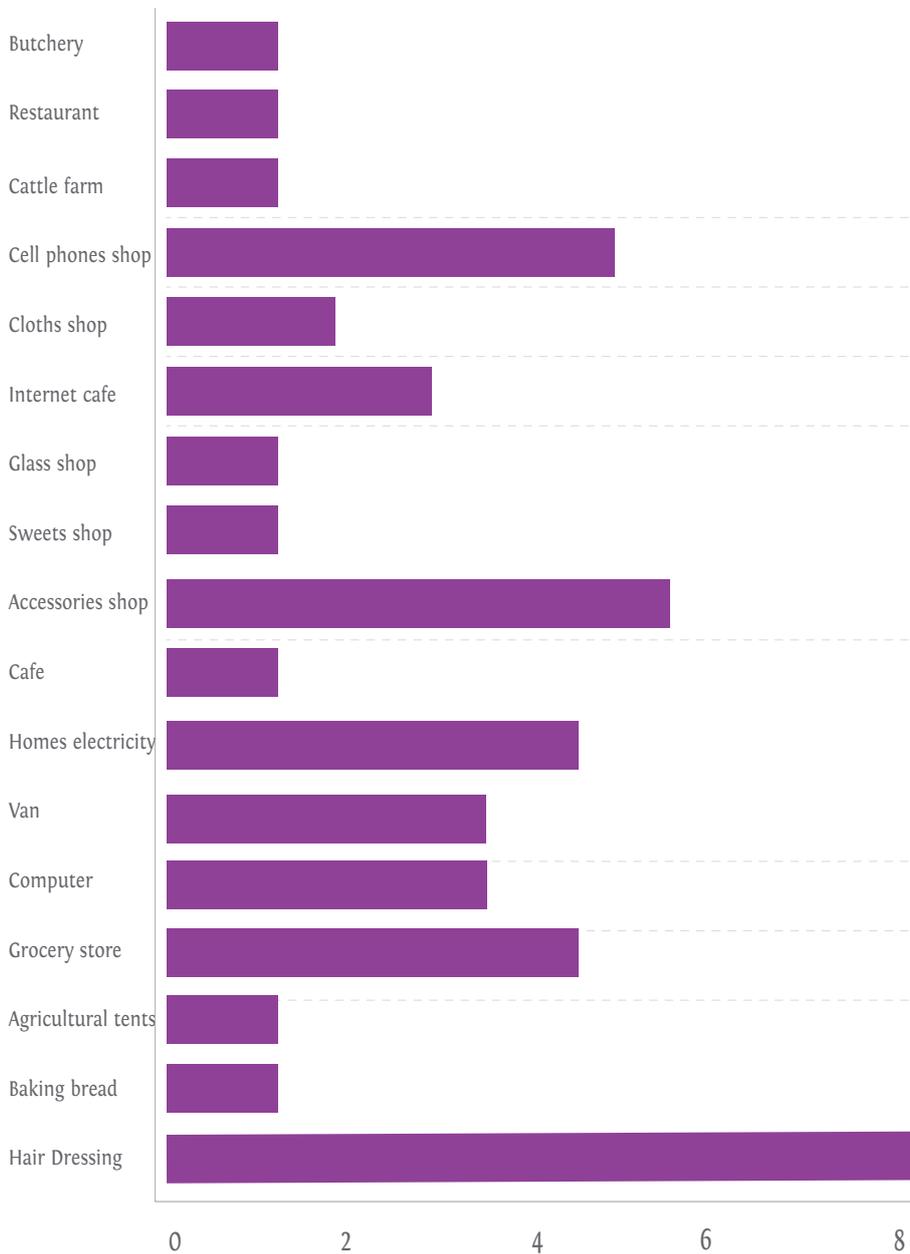
39 The need for training is for the family provider, whether old or new.



The proposed projects were diverse, but belonged to the service and trade sectors with an equal percentage of 47% each, which is normal, because such projects generate quick income.

As for the agricultural and industrial sectors, they came in third and fourth respectively .

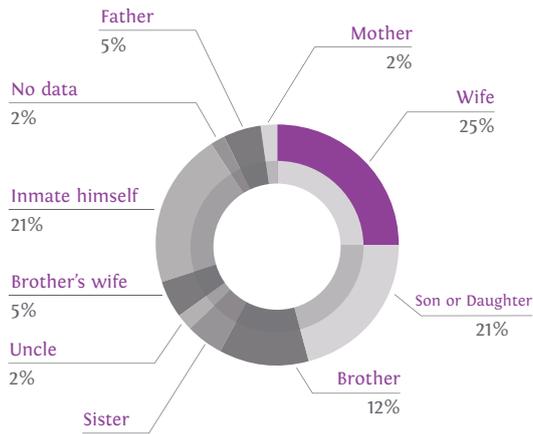




Family providers suggested 17 different jobs varying from businesses that suit ladies and females in general to business that are purely male-oriented . The wives represented 25% of the entrepreneurs and suggested project ideas to increase income. This is a normal percentage according to the overall number and taking into consideration the health condition mentioned earlier and the other reasons we analyzed in the beginning of this section. The businesses suggested by women were diverse and focused at first on hairdressing and makeup needed in villages because of the long distance between some villages and cities, and also because low income families cannot afford a beauty specialist . The inmate himself after release comes in second place with 21%, which shows that the inmate has initiative. The credibility of the project had a

direct positive effect on the morale of the inmates. Thus, they proposed ideas based on their past work experience before imprisonment. Some instances of project ideas they suggested are grocery shops, accessories shops, in addition to computer shops and internet cafes.

- 41The adopted ranking is the normal ranking for the economic situation in Lebanon, according to the classification of sectors made by the Ministry of Economy in 2010.
- 42The classification of businesses, as being male or female-oriented, is made based on the public order of the society and Lebanese environment in general and the southern environment in particular.
- 43In a joint meeting with SHEILD, the Ministry of Social Affairs assured that these businesses are also the most popular ones in the Ministry's programs.



Inmates, proposed business project ideas, with a percentage of 21%, equal to that of the children, slightly inferior to that of the wife (25%) and superior to the brother (12%).

As for the age groups of the inmates proposing projects, the highest percentage was scored by those in the 20s followed by 30s and 40s with 30%, 22%, and 20% respectively.

The ideas presented by the entrepreneurs (project proposers) were based, as expected, on their previous work experience. Yet, this percentage was not as high as expected by SHEILD's staff. In fact, only 36% of those who proposed projects had previous experience while 64% did not have any past experience.

The logical explanation for this relatively low percentage is that the vocational training topics targeted a new category, as indicated earlier, other than those who are financially responsible for the family. This analysis emphasizes the low age average of project proposers, which

does not exceed 30 years . This becomes clearer when looking at the remaining answers to the question about the “reason for choosing the project”.

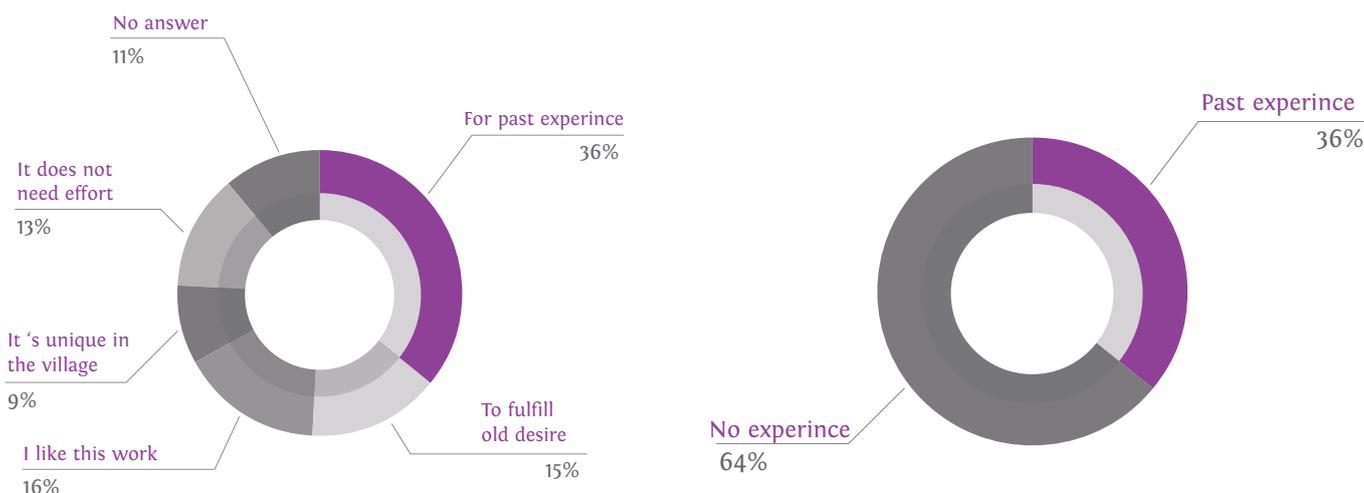
We note that the percentage of relation to past experience is 36% as aforementioned, while the highest percentage, which is 64%, pertains to four answers:

- 16% expressed their love of this kind of work
- 15% wanted to fulfill an old desire
- 13% thought it does not need huge efforts
- 11% did not give any answer

---

44 This average does not include the age average of inmates who proposed projects after their release.

The age average of inmates’ family members who proposed projects is 30 years.



It should be pointed out that a large percentage of the targeted group was confused when discussing projects and careers or when asked to choose a certain profession to work in. The reason for this is that some were not comfortable with the revenues of the jobs they are performing, and some started looking for a steady job with a guaranteed monthly salary, instead of worrying about project costs and risks entailed by self-employment in the country. This is the case of providers who already

had a career or was self-employed. As for the new family providers, the issue was complicated because they do not have the experience for this kind of business.

b. Training suggestions:

### Females

Hairdressing (young females)

Homemade food and oriental sweets

Sewing

Drawing on glass and mirrors (young females)

Chocolate making and decoration.

Cookery

### Males

Maintenance of Cellular phones (young males)

Computer maintenance (young males)

Wood carving

Stone carving

Apiculture.

Dairy industry (cattle raiser)

By observing the nature of vocational trainings currently held in most towns and villages and previously implemented, it was noticed that vocational trainings on handicrafts such as tinplating or wood and stone carving were very few . The trainings are now more oriented towards IT such as computers, cellular phones and other electronic devices, which was the trend adopted by a high percentage of males, as shown in the study.

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<sup>45</sup>These topics were taken from some active associations specialized in this kind of training activities.

<sup>46</sup>The trainings for handicrafts were restricted to some villages that still preserved some traditional habits or inherited crafts such as wood and stone carving, cattle raising, and dairy making.

**Chapter two**

**The families and  
training projects**

Then came the phase of direct intervention, which is the step that came after studying the comprehensive survey which complements the study. The study on a technical level paved way for quick impact projects. These latter projects aim to increase wages in a studied and an exponential growth manner. The form to evaluate families' economic situation was divided into seven columns which in turn divided into small detailed paragraphs .

The form was directed exclusively to the breadwinner in the prisoner's family and to the person who's supposed to receive vocational training to launch a productive project or who's supposed to receive financial training if he/she is willing to practice a job he/she is already experienced at. Then there would be training projects, financial and administrative ones and which aim to increase the person's wage and thus the family's income.

All questions which experts and trainers need in order to develop an idea on the expected result of the training projects were asked. The questions also aimed to develop a clear idea on the capabilities of the prisoner and his family. They also aimed to figure what's the best professional means to properly support the family's social and economic statuses.

For example, they tried to figure out what job can a supporting wife perform, how does she make money, how much has she benefitted from her experience, when did she attain this experience, has she undergone vocational workshops, has she taken any loans, is she in debt, does she have property, why did she choose the suggested support project, etc.

The basic study included prisons in South Lebanon within the South and Nabatiye governorates (Tyr's prison, Tebnin's prison and Nabatiye's prison). The study's manpower and financial limit were wide as it included most prisoners in all three prisons in addition to their families - whether they reside in the South or outside (like in Beirut, Zahle or Baalbeck) and other Lebanese areas.

Humanitarian circumstances via direct visits in various governorates made it inevitable to visit prisoners in prisons outside the South. This is because the project's positive influence on the prisoners' families imposed visiting these families who directly benefitted from the project. Analyzing the database was based on several resources, of which the most important are: the prisoner himself, the prison and the security forces, families and the ministry of social affairs.

47Annex 1

48A memorandum of understanding was signed with the ministry of social affairs via minister Salim al-Sayegh while that with the interior minister was signed via Marwan Charbel

49Annex 2

This chapter addresses the results of 35 cases of families who got direct help from the quick impact project which the breadwinner needs to increase the income. Help was provided to these families after around 60 people who represent 60 prisoners' families spread across ten districts were trained. The chapter also includes detailed information about the people who underwent vocational training.

Phases of quick impact projects implementation:

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>4- Planning phase</b></p>                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sorting economic forms</li> <li>- Establishing a database</li> <li>- Analyzing charts and graphs</li> <li>- Specifying the targeted category</li> <li>- Checking and investigating the names of the targeted category and checking their geographic location</li> <li>- Meeting members of the targeted families</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>20 days</b></p>   |
| <p><b>Implementation<br/>5 - vocational training phase</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Specifying headlines of the vocational training sessions</li> <li>Distributing forms and beginning with distributing work</li> <li>Checking information and documenting it and establishing major charts upon them</li> <li>Agreeing with the trainers over the sessions' headlines</li> <li>Communicating and coordinating with developmental services' centers and targeted families to follow up on their readiness</li> <li>Specifying dates of launching sessions</li> <li>Ending training and specifying a list of top trainees according to administrative and technical standards</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>150 days</b></p> |
| <p><b>Phase of<br/>6 implementing the project</b></p>          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Training participants on administrative and financial issues and preparing them for work and for getting involved in the market</li> <li>- Preparing the technical and analytical report of the submitted project - trainers and specialists are to prepare the report</li> <li>- Categorizing similar projects</li> <li>- Communicating with beneficiaries on several levels</li> <li>- Specifying periods of time for implementing the project</li> <li>- Signing pledge and approval agreements between the beneficiaries and SHEILD and registering the agreement at the notary</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>180 days</b></p>     |

## 1. Vocational trainings

The economic forms did not impose any of the vocational trainings' headlines on the beneficiaries in order not to force the targeted category to choose what it doesn't desire to do. Attending the training sessions will be followed by financing projects and the beneficiary may accept the courses in anyway whatsoever so he/she attains direct help for urgent needs.

At the very beginning, it was difficult for many families who voiced their desire of attending vocational training courses not to get their project. But the clear standards which trainers put and which the project noted in general were not subject to amending. An example of these standards is attending a certain percentage of training sessions, morals, etc.

The comprehensive survey included the required number of the project. That would be 100 families. After preparing files, it was a must to study the submitted projects for several considerations, including:

- Categorizing the 100 files according the family's seriousness and commitment
- Type of submitted projects
- Specifying the targeted category
- Establishing a schedule for visiting categorized families and informing them of details

The standard designed by the **SHEILD** team to know the extent of seriousness to work aimed to facilitate the process of choosing projects during the second phase. This is because moral commitment can influence funding the projects .

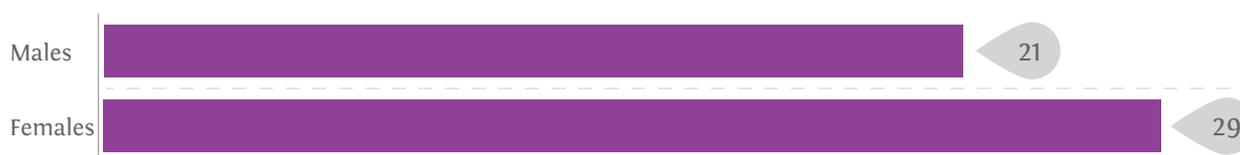
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<sup>50</sup>The basic study included headlines of the vocational training courses in the South and which are 12 headlines

<sup>51</sup>Moral commitment means: providing the right information about the prisoner and the family, committing to appointments, providing documents when requested, attending training sessions, etc.

After excluding those who are incapable of attending the vocational course, those who are self-employed and who don't need vocational training and those who belong to the affluent class, the team had 50 families left across seven districts in the South and Nabatiye governorates in addition to Beirut .

On the level of gender division, the percentage of females was 60% while that of males was 40%. This is ordinary as when considering the courses, three out of five are women-related jobs especially in areas in the countryside, and they are: hairdressing, making fake jewelry and sewing and embroidery . Chart 44 shows the right number of those who attended vocational training sessions. The number was limited to 50. We must also note the contribution of the ministry of social affairs via its offices as it coordinated most training sessions as some sessions were prepared and implemented in the centers themselves.



44: Gender of participants in vocational training courses

| Course                       | Duration in weeks | Duration in Days | Duration in Hours |
|------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Hairdressing and make-up     | 7 weeks           | 35 days          | 105 hours         |
| Accessories and fake jewelry | 5 weeks           | 18 days          | 55 hours          |
| Electricity                  | 5 weeks           | 18 days          | 55 hours          |
| Computer                     | 2 weeks           | 11 days          | 55 hours          |
| Sewing                       | 12 weeks          | 36 days          | 100 hours         |

Chart 45: Duration of vocational training courses

<sup>52</sup>The districts are: Sidon, Tyre, Zahrani, Jezzine, Marjayoun, Hasbaya, Bint Jbeil and Nabatiyeh.

<sup>53</sup> One of the beneficiaries of the sewing project was a male, and he's a prisoner's paternal uncle who has extensive experience in the sewing field

#### a. Trainings Schedule:

The vocational training courses were somehow intensive. The main reason was to have the opportunity to study the project proposed by those who succeeded the courses. Another reason was not to pressure participants on the level of time durations as 80% of women and men who underwent training are heads of households. Chart 45 shows how the sessions were divided as well as the time duration of each course .

What helped deliver the courses in time was the experience of the target group as 90% of this group - that would be 45 men and women - had experience which varied between professional and amateurs. Some of the women who took the sewing course have an experience up to 20 years. The average of ages was not high and it did not exceed 40. This made training easier. The health condition of the participants was generally acceptable. This facilitated communication with the trainer as it provided higher levels of tolerance.

The standards which trainers designed paved way towards the second phase of courses - that is the phase of implementing projects . The trainer took into consideration the project as a whole and he already knew the training will be followed by an actual implementation project. This is why the trainer's responsibility was double. The responsibility began with training and ended with choosing the group capable of launching a quick impact project aiming to increase income.

#### I. The Projects:

The general target group consisted of 70 families - of which 50 underwent training and 20 had projects that do not require training. The standards designed for the 50 families who took the courses may decrease the numbers to below half.

The limited number of those benefiting from the project is due to the critical standards put throughout the project in general. Percentages differed between those who got their project via training and those whose projects don't need training. The percentage was low to below half due to the complicated standards followed while the percentage of

those who didn't engage in vocational training courses clearly increased and exceeded 80%. Those attained approval for their projects due to the absence of some administrative standards designed by trainers - knowing that those also underwent a financial and administrative training later .

54The sewing course was still on at the social affairs center until this study was developed.

55Each trainer had a specific standard linked to his experience in addition to the general standards which SHEILD developed with him

56Annex 1 shows a model of the standards one of the trainers adopted

57Financial and administrative training lasted for five consecutive days

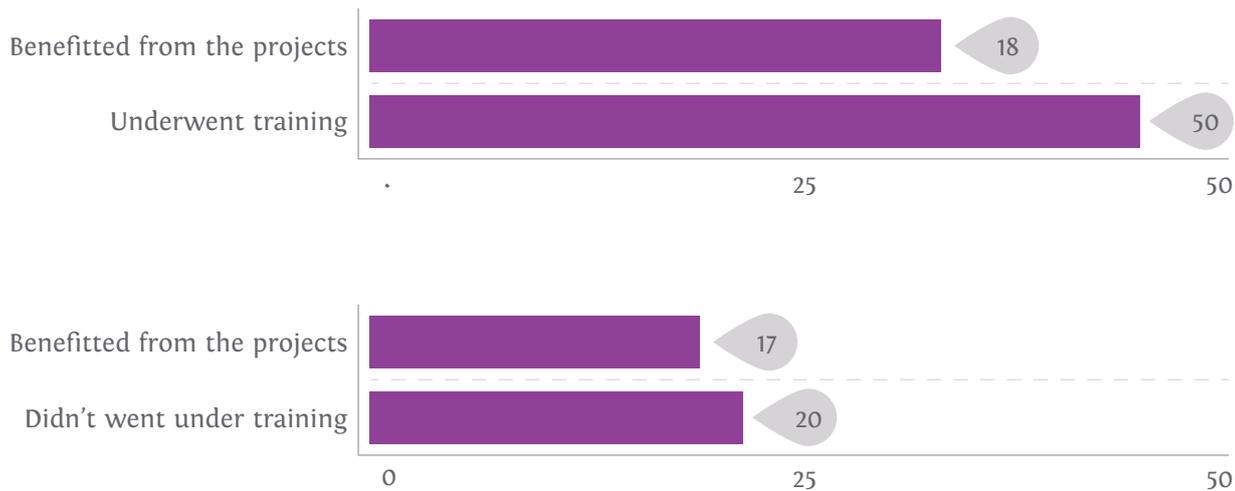


Chart 46: Comparison between categories which obtained approval for their projects

Although chart 46 shows significant variance between the two categories, the number of those who underwent training and benefitted from the projects came in slightly higher. This is because the total figure of the 35 beneficiaries had direct influence as chart 47 showed.

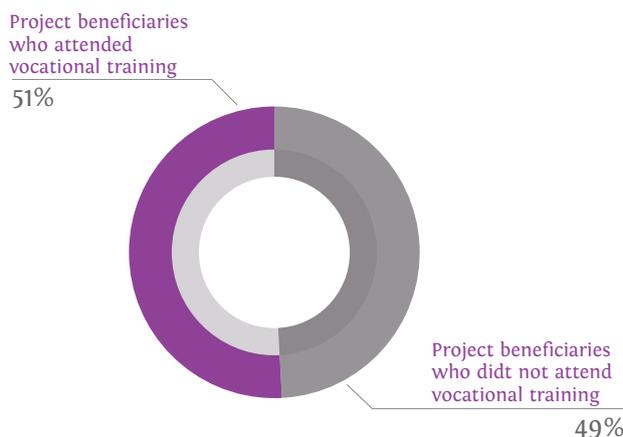


Chart 47: Percentage of beneficiaries from project ideas

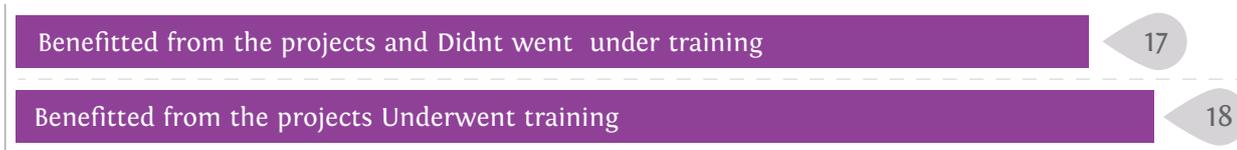
35 direct beneficiaries obtained approval of their project ideas through an Immediate evaluation conducted by the trainers. This number is in fact 1/3 of the cooperative families. It is the number defined when SHEILD

rehabilitated the prisons of South Lebanon in 2009.

### a. The 35 families

The project's ideas were subject to discussions and working to achieve them wasn't impossible. But the project chose the 35 most convincing and applicable ones. It also took into consideration the urgent need as displayed by the three forms.

Projects differed and so did ages and genders as females dominated over men. Families' contributions varied between case and in-kind contributions. This contribution was made according to the suggestion of the team in field. The contribution showed the beneficiaries' concern over their own project in particular and the entire project in general. It also showed clear commitment and solid partnership at the evaluation phase as field teams can be reassured that the beneficiaries will work hard to implement appropriate measures to increase the income without any hesitations.



The percentage of contribution between those who benefitted from vocational courses and those whose projects were ready varied (17 cases did not undergo vocational training). Chart 48 shows the total contributions .

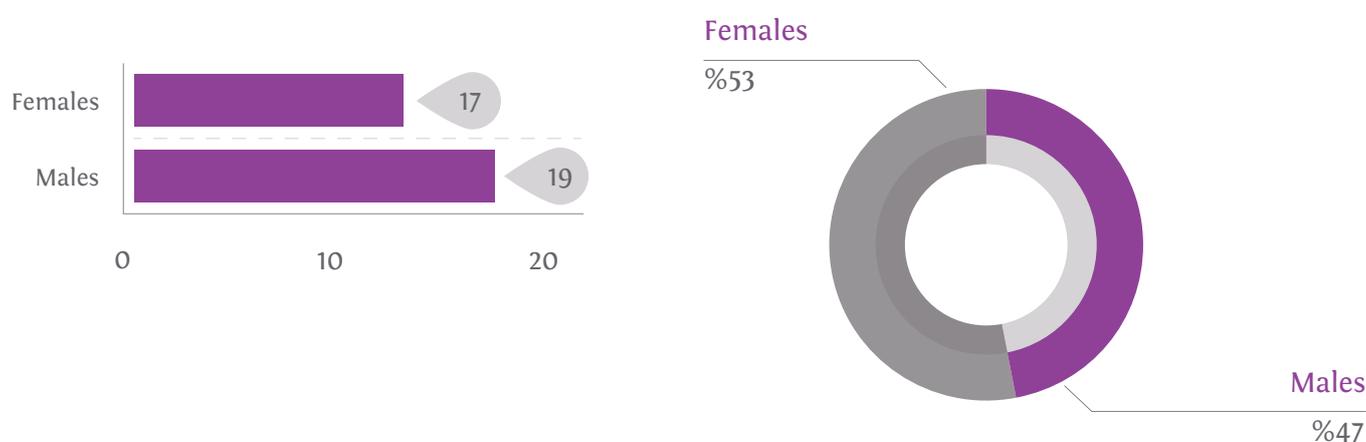
<sup>58</sup>Beneficiaries' financial contribution was not within the implementation strategy but the financial size of some projects imposed this contribution. Contributions varied between cash and in-kind contributions.



11 out of 35 beneficiaries made direct financial contributions as part of the entire project.

## Gender and situation of beneficiaries

It was expected that females would dominate over men considering the data and the reality of prisoners' families. And this is what actually happened. The percentage of women is 19% while that of men is 17% as chart 50 shows. Expectations however were that gender division will be in favor of women by more than 70% but several considerations - which we will note later - decreased this number and the percentage of women was thus 53 while that of men was 47 according to chart 51.



During their field visits, **SHEILD** teams noticed the possibility that a fine number of prisoners will be released during the first six months of the study. It was a must to deal with a new reality that imposes a new category as this was logical. **SHEILD** justified this by directly linking it to the general aim of the project - that is increasing the family's income after losing its main breadwinner and the increase of costs due to prison expenses .

Therefore, the release of a fine number of inmates a while before the project began and during the study phase, had direct influence on field work. It made communication with inmates a must. This

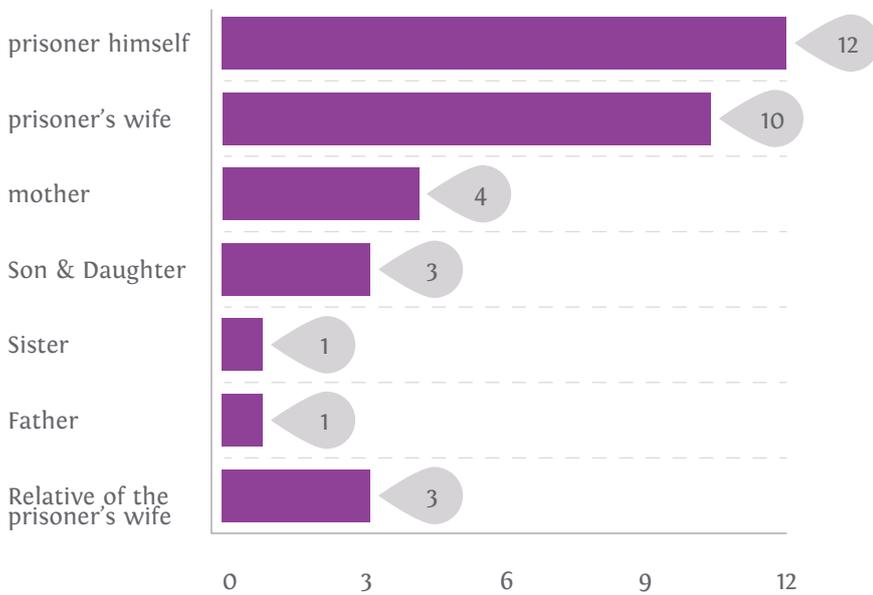
communication showed these inmates' capability to restore some of the jobs they practiced prior to their detention.



33% of the beneficiaries are prisoners who have spent a sentence of one to ten years in prison. 67% of the beneficiaries are prisoners' relatives. 21 of the cases involved immediate relatives, and 15 involved remote relatives.

<sup>59</sup>The maximum jail sentence in southern prisons is four years in the Tyre prison

<sup>60</sup> Legal costs, prisoner's daily expenses, etc.



### b. Cost and distribution of projects

Financial ceilings were specified for many considerations. The most important of them is to prevent a certain project from dominating at the expense of other projects. Few projects trespassed the ordinary ceiling, knowing that some ideas were applicable and had the probability of high success but their cost trespassed the allocated amounts. Such projects were ruled out in order to equally treat all beneficiaries. Charts 54 and 55 show the amounts which projects

benefitted from. Those that cost the most are 8% and the cost was between \$3000 and \$4000. The lowest were 39% percentage and cost between \$1000 and \$1500. Most projects cost between \$2000 and \$2500 and their percentage was 45%.



16 persons benefited from projects of a cost between \$2000 and \$2500, 14 persons from projects of a cost between \$1000 and \$1500, and 6 persons from projects of accost between \$2500 and \$4000.



Chapter three  
Implementing project  
and increasing incomes

**SHEILD** teams continued to visit prisoners and prisons. The number of forms directed to families exceeded 200 and they were distributed to families in ten Lebanese districts in addition to the capital, Beirut .

35 families were the target group of the quick impact project (35 projects). The projects were distributed among the members of the family, fathers, mothers, wives, sisters, brothers, sons and daughters , in addition to the prisoner himself as a direct beneficiary from the quick impact project. The interesting number according to the chart is the high percentage of prisoners, which reaches 40%. This made the project move in the path of integrating the prisoners in their social environment which they were ripped away from due to being in jail .

Quick impact projects were successful in general as they increased income of most projects in an exponential growth manner. **SHEILD**'s field teams did not even expect these increases particularly that projects were supported by amounts ranging between \$1000 and \$4000.

The 35 projects established a basis for a new concept that attempts to resolve problems of poverty and unemployment - particularly for the marginalized category - considering these projects as industries that complement big and middle projects and considering that they are being treated as independent projects providing commodity and services products.

Analyzing the database we will display, particularly those linked to income, came from the sources of the 35 jobs. This data changed from what came in the first chapter. It's based on numbers and comparisons among different professions and comparisons among people of the same profession.

On the level of gender , one can study how women dealt with this kind of work in general and how the prisoners' wives dealt with it in particular. The number of women owning projects was more than the number of men, as it was expected and particularly in the families whose breadwinner is the one in jail.

This chapter clarifies the results of 35 families who got direct help from quick impact projects which each breadwinner needed to increase their incomes. Help was provided after around 60 people representing 60 families distributed among seven districts were trained. The chapter also takes into consideration social segments' different treatment of prisoners' families as they perform their jobs.

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61Chart 1

62Amal Khalil, Employers in the South, Al-Akhbar daily, Wednesday August 15, 2012 <http://al-akhbar.com/node/111225>

63Chart 4

64Chart 4

65Chart 5 shows the percentage of the 35 beneficiaries and it shows that the biggest number as a category was that of prisoners as it was 14 cases followed by wives, 12.

66Chart 6

## I. Vocational training courses

### a. Sewing:

Seven women and one man took a sewing course. The ministry of social affairs contributed to coordinating the course via its offices where preparations and implementations were carried out. The man and five out of the seven women distributed in two districts in the South governorate - Zahrani and Tyr districts - passed the course. Chart 56 below explains how the beneficiaries are related to the prisoners.

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| Hairdressing | 5 |
| Fake jewelry | 2 |
| Computer     | 3 |
| Sewing       | 5 |
| Electricity  | 3 |

| Beneficiary Name and Title | Relations to Inmate | Project Cost | Beneficiary Contribution |
|----------------------------|---------------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| Mr. Hussein Haydar         | Step Father         | 1450\$       | ----                     |
| Mrs. Mariam Haydar         | Wife                | 1879\$       | ----                     |
| Mrs. Aliyeh Roumiyeh       | Wife                | 1579\$       | ----                     |
| Mrs. Iman Hajo             | Mother              | 1579\$       | ----                     |
| Nadine Chami               | Daughter            | 3012.5\$     | 200\$                    |

67The sewing training course was carried out at the ministry of social affairs center in Nabatiyeh

68Chart 8

69Tyre district is the biggest among southern districts and it has 63 villages

70The cost of sewing projects ranged between \$1450 and \$3012

Results of the sewing project came in as expected. The beneficiaries were those had a relatively acceptable experience and who practiced this job for a long time. Chart 9 shows the average of income during three stages.

Stage before going to jail, the average reached maximum \$590

Stage of going to jail, the average reached minimum of \$222

Stage of leaving jail and getting the new project as the average reached \$452

The difference between the minimum of the income at the beginning of the project and during the six months period reached \$100. The maximum of the income as an average reached \$382 in the sixth month. This is the maximum the beneficiary attained as a financial amount of money as the profit average in the sixth month reached \$272.

#### b. Hair dressing salons

10 women took vocational hairdressing trainings . SHEILD field teams were not surprised by this as areas targeted are usually attracted to such professions. This is because compared to cities, this kind of job is considered to have a relatively low cost in towns and most women need it on a daily basis. Such professions are considered to have solid ground in the targeted areas, according to the ministry of social affairs.

Five out of the 10 women came in first and thus attained a project of their own .

The five projects were distributed on districts within the South and Nabatiye governorates. Beneficiaries were mothers, sisters, daughters or wives but what's common among them is bearing the financial responsibility of the family which has lost its supporter.

Forms showed the average of families' incomes before the supporter went to jail was relatively high compared with sewing for example. But the average of the income greatly decreased after imprisonment.

The five projects were distributed on districts within the South and Nabatiye governorates. Beneficiaries were mothers, sisters, daughters or wives but what's common among them is bearing the financial responsibility of the family which has lost its supporter.

Forms showed the average of families' incomes before the supporter went to jail was relatively high compared with sewing for example. But the average of the income greatly decreased after imprisonment.

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<sup>71</sup>\$590 is higher than the minimum wage in the country and which is \$500

<sup>72</sup>Following meetings held by SHEILD employees with servives' centers, it turned out that the headlines of the coruses the project delivered are the most attractive in South Lebanon

<sup>73</sup>Wissam Hajjo is the only one who has extensive experience in the field of women's beauty

The maximum which the average of the income reached before going to jail reached \$660 then it dramatically decreased to \$140 and then it increased after implementing the project to \$610 - this is within a six months period .

### c. Electricity

10 people benefitted from this vocational course but only three attained the project:

Y. Aa. (former prisoner)

F. B. (former prisoner)

M. Sh. (former prisoner)

Income was at \$633 before going to jail and it went as up as \$983.

#### d. Fake jewelry

12 people took the fake jewelry training course. The course consisted of 55 hours throughout 18 days. Two people benefitted from the course. **SHEILD** team added former prisoner Aa. Kh. and prisoner's wife A. M. as they can be put in the same category due to similar businesses in addition to the projects' cost and the beneficiaries' contribution. We'll notice that the average before going to prison was \$600 and it decreased to \$253 after going to prison then it increased six months after implementing the project to \$560.

At this range, we can say the project achieved what was expected on the practical level as it restored the income lost after imprisonment.

#### e. Convenience store

Five beneficiaries of convenience stores were distributed on three districts - two from the Zahrani district, two from the Tyr district and one from the Nabatiye district. It's true that beneficiaries were distributed among three districts and what's common is that they were present in these districts' towns and not the city .

A former prisoner, three wives and a mother were the beneficiaries. As for technical success, one can say that convenience stores on the level of improving income was similar to the profession of electricity - knowing that the owners of the business did not go through a vocational training like the other five.

The average income was \$546 before going to jail then it decreased to \$176 to increase to \$970.

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<sup>74</sup>The period in which income decreased varied between a month and two at minimum and four and five months at maximum

<sup>75</sup>Benefiricaires were distributed on the following towns: Bourj Rahhal, Serifa, Adloun, Aba and Al-Ghassaniyeh

## f. Computer

Like other courses, 10 people took the computer course which lasted for 55 hours. Only three people benefitted from the project.

The three beneficiaries were distributed on three districts, Sidon, Tyr and Nabatiye. The family's income decreased within four months from \$600 to \$150. This number increased after six months to \$590.

## g. Production of pastries

There isn't a town in Lebanon that doesn't have a bakery. Producing pastries in Lebanon, particularly in towns, is a source of livelihood for many and it's also a source of nutrition for many reasons. This is due to many reasons including:

The humble price which poor people can afford

Capability to easily find equipment and produce pastries

Capability to sell products during different times of day (day and night)

Family nature of such jobs

Those who benefitted from this project were prisoner's mother S.H. and former prisoner Aa. M. The experience of S. and Aa is wide and their production is developed.

Aa's income before imprisonment was \$650, The income decreased after imprisonment to \$270. After leaving prison and within six months, income increased to \$3000 which is a high number or rather it's one of the most successful projects .

It's true that the cost of production is high particularly that of flour as raw material but the net profit of the project reached 50% which is a high number considering the bakery is located in a town and not a city.

## h. Construction winch

Construction in South Lebanon particularly after the July 2006 War increased workers' job opportunities at construction sites. H. K. and Aa. F. benefitted from construction winches which construction sites usually

rent and start working with immediately.

H.K.'s income before going to jail was \$650 which is a high amount of money. It decreased to \$330 when he entered prison then it increased to \$450 six months later. What can be noticed here is that H.K. was not able to restore the same amount of income six months later like his fellow beneficiaries did. Chart 56 shows the exponential growth of the income which was minimum \$350 and reached the maximum of \$450. The cost is about 30% of the income percentage and it's a relatively acceptable amount.

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76His wife helps him on a daily basis and works with him at the bakery

As for Aa. F., his income increased to \$500 after six months after it decreased to \$200 after going to jail. Aa. F. benefited from renting the winch. This helped him gain a constant income of \$500 and this also explains the constant cost which is \$400 monthly and confirms the authenticity of the information the beneficiary makes.

#### i. Butcher's shop

Two former prisoners benefitted from this project. One was charged with arms trafficking and another with attempted murder. S. R had experience at this job because he used to work with a relative of his. The butcher's shop was opened in an area suitable for this kind of job . S.R., thanks to a number of customers he knows, managed to increase his income through this project to \$1500 within six months. His net profit ranges between \$800 and \$900 monthly.

#### j. Tire repair

M.S. is the prisoner who benefitted from this job. The cost of this project was \$2460.5. This amount is considered a moderate amount of money.

According to forms, S.R.'s income before going to jail reached the maximum of \$350. It decreased to zero after he went to jail because unlike other families, none of his family members resumed working in it.

Income increased to \$700 a month thanks to the new equipment which SHEILD provided him with.

Chart 62 details S.R.'s project and it shows that the cost of S.R.'s work is \$300 and that his net profit reached \$400 which is an acceptable amount of money. The chart also shows the stability between the income and the cost .

### k.Public transport

H.K. is a prisoner's brother-in-law who decided to look after his sister's family after her husband went to jail. H.K. works hard despite the fact that he suffers from a handicap. He developed his performance and increased his working hours after attaining help from this project.

H.K.'s income before his brother-in-law went to jail did not exceed \$300. This amount of money decreased to \$130 after his brother-in-law was jailed. \$1000 was enough to develop the project. In a relatively short period of time, the income witnessed an exponential growth of \$2000. The high cost is due to the high prices of fuel in Lebanon.

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<sup>77</sup>The cost of a butcher's shop is the highest among the 35 projects.

<sup>78</sup>M.S. is one of the beneficiaries who requested his project be developed after a short period of time.

### l.Peddler

This is a job in which a specific means of transportation is depended on to sell goods, and many practice it in Lebanese towns.

Former prisoner R.M. who has a long experience in this field benefitted from developing a new means of transportation. The project cost \$2500 and he was capable of improving his work and increasing his production

### m.Agricultural tent

Aa.'s brother was imprisoned over robbery charges. Aa had to hire a lawyer which increased her costs especially that her brother used to financially support her .

Aa. who works in a mountainous area needed an agricultural tent to develop production. The cost of the production reached \$3600 and she contributed to part of the cost.

Aa.'s income before her brother went to jail reached \$330, and it decreased to \$130 after he went to jail. The income increased to \$600 after implementing the project.

#### n. Iron scaffold

Construction expanded in South Lebanon after the 2006 July War. M.H. is a construction worker and he needed an iron scaffold to develop his work. This scaffold is usually rented and this is how its owners increase their production.

M. got a scaffold for \$1500. He made \$650 before going to jail. This amount decreased to \$200.

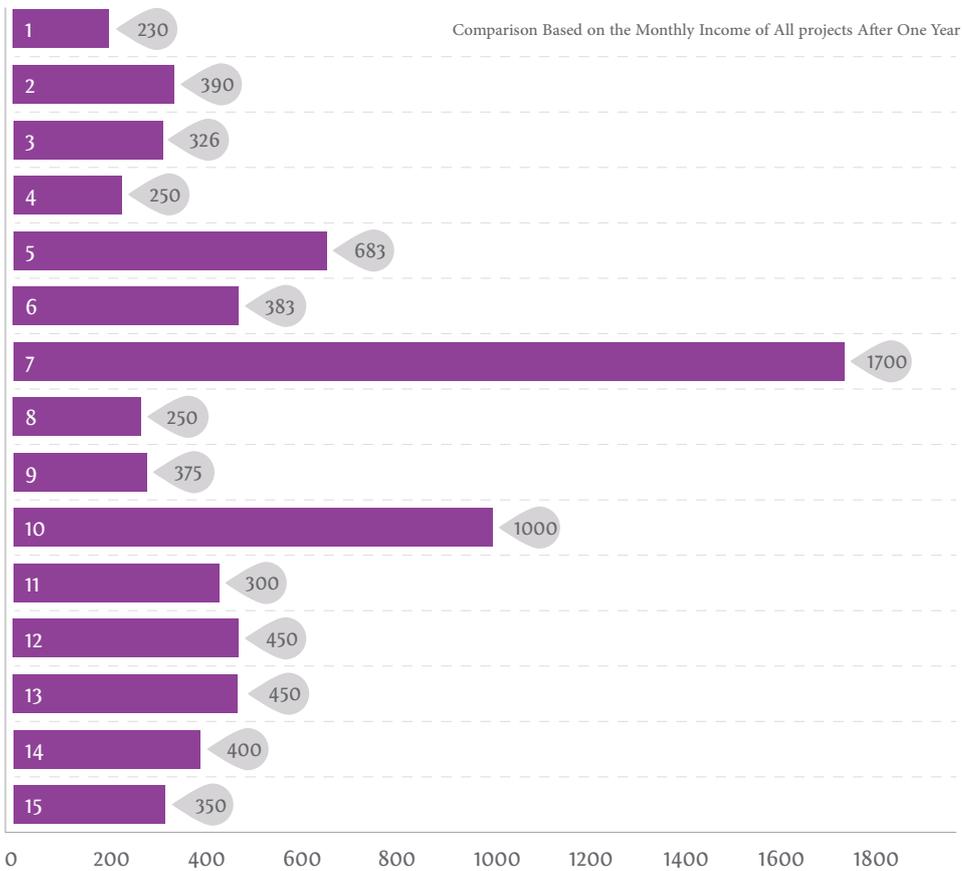
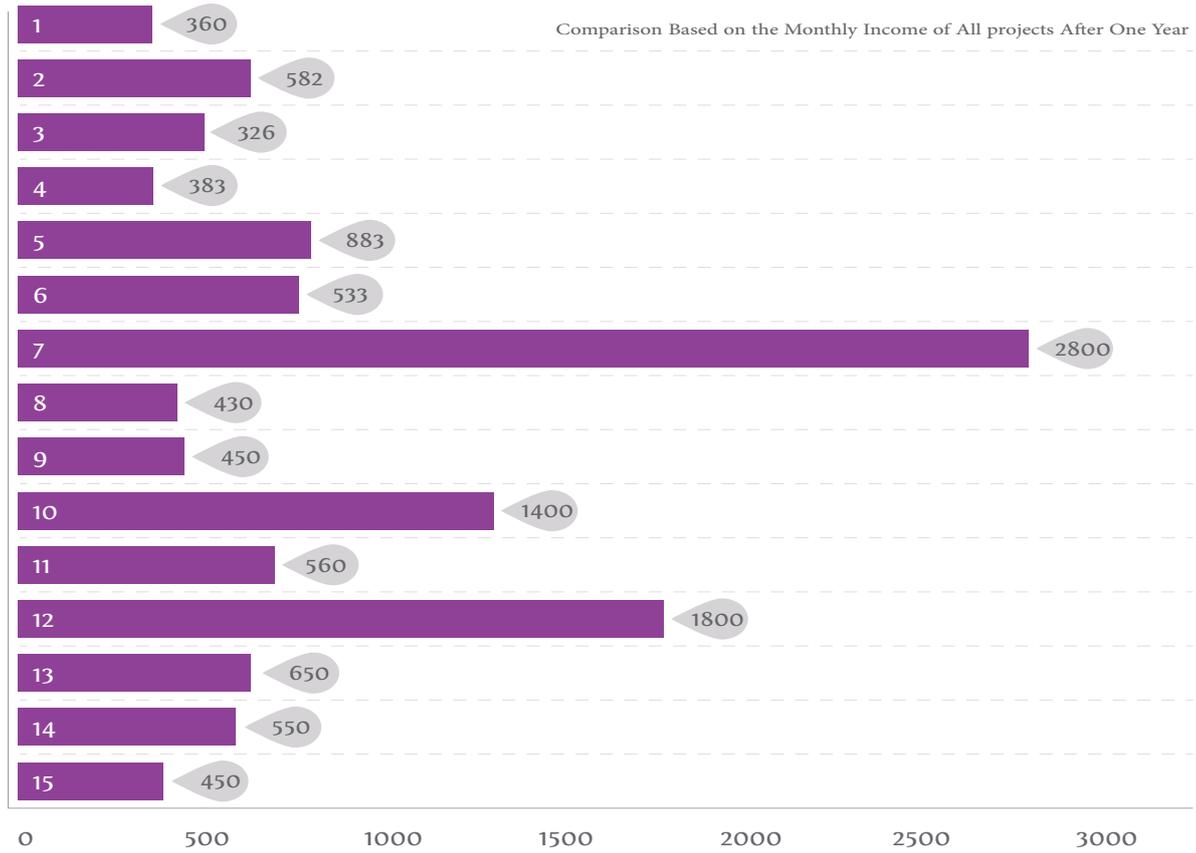
M. managed to raise his income to \$500 within six months.

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<sup>79</sup>R. has nine children, most of whom are girls.

<sup>80</sup>Aa's brother worked in polishing tiles before going to jail.

# Final Comparison



## Conclusion and Prospects

The project to support the families of prisoners in South Lebanon is a new project that has addressed one of the marginalized and long forgotten issues. Supporting the families of inmates means supporting the wives and the children and changing the family's entire social image. Overcoming various and difficult stages, this project has succeeded to achieve the desired goals, i.e. providing financial assistance to establish a business that the inmate's family can rely on for income instead of always asking for help.

Among the indicators underpinning the project's success at the level of direct financial assistance, one can cite the steady monthly income generated for the beneficiary followed by the increase of this income for some beneficiaries. The field visits made to business owners have revealed the latter's obvious desire to protect their businesses and ensure their sustainability.

The project also succeeded at another level, no less significant than the financial level, in creating a feeling of psychological compensation for the prisoner's family. Self-reliance, making efforts, planning to start up a business then working in the business and obtaining income has made the prisoner's family, his wife and children feel self-confidence instead of feeling ashamed because of the husband's/ provider's imprisonment on one hand and the need to ask for continuous assistance on another hand.

The social aspect was also present in the project's outcomes. Although the project did not particularly target this aspect, the prisoner's family, by establishing a certain business, receiving customers and making sell and buy transactions, has regained to a large extent its normal contact with other individuals in the community. This, in turn, has a significant role in social integration as it eliminates the feeling of isolation generated by the community's negative look towards the family whose householder got imprisoned.

It was possible, through this project, to know all family members, wife

and children and identify their social, psychological, educational and health situation. This was in fact vital to succeed in dealing with those individuals in the context of the project or of any future project aiming to support these forgotten categories.

Furthermore, this project has allowed us to become fully aware of the situation of prisons, the legal and daily life problems of prisoners and the injustice suffered by detainees who spend months or years in prison without any verdict being issued concerning their case.

**SHEILD** has worked, throughout this project, to raise the prisoner's awareness of their legal and human rights through lectures and seminars held in the prisons. The project also contributed to making security forces treat inmates in a more human manner with more consideration of their rights, within the applicable rules and laws, because security forces may often not be able to help prisoners judicially, even if they want to, either due to the laws or to the positions and opinions of other judicial or security apparatuses.

The project did not face any failure worth mentioning. The preliminary steps undertaken for the project implementation and the subsequent follow-up with the beneficiaries are the reasons why possible failures were avoided. It should be mentioned however that the outcomes of the businesses were disparate depending on beneficiaries. For big families, the business only brought limited support, whereas it was extremely helpful to families with one or two children.

The project was associated with many challenges and concerns like that of the possible interruption of the business by the beneficiary, i.e. that the beneficiary starts working for a few months then decides to stop for various reasons. Nonetheless, this did not happen thanks to the constant communication maintained with the prisoners and their families, which led to gaining their trust and identifying the families' needs and capacities and also thanks to the selection by one family member of the kind of training he/she needs. All these factors pushed away all the risks that could have threatened the project.

**SHEILD**'s team participated in all the stages of the business establishment. It purchased the equipment requested by the beneficiaries, which means that **SHEILD** did not directly give them money; it would have produced real concerns if it did. All those who obtained assistance (35 cases) established the businesses they requested, then their number increased to 50.

There remain future concerns regarding the continuation of businesses for the coming years. Such concerns totally make sense but no one can guarantee they don't come true in the future, for it depends on several economic, family, security and commercial factors. Such factors might impact any private business in general, not necessarily one of the quick impact projects.

This study has enabled us to observe other problems that may not be separate from the problem of inmates' families or from their projects. As an instance, one can aspire to the following:

**a.**At the level of associations:

- Benefit from all the possible resources in society to help the prisoners' families during imprisonment and even after release, because many institutions lack the numbers and facts although they have the ability to assist.
- Expand the voluntary efforts aiming to help the families of prisoners after giving them an organized institutional aspect because leaving it to individual efforts or voluntary enthusiasm does not guarantee sustainability.
- Strengthen the relationship between the inmate and his family to maintain familial links by facilitating the visits in private rooms.

**b.**At the official level:

- Follow up on the inmates' pending legal files.
- Raise the level of coordination between the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Ministry of Interior.

- Seek to make appropriate preventive and health medical and psychological services available for prisoners and their families outside prison.

- Devise actions and activities that would generate income for the inmates and for the prison's administration, provided that suitable workshops and facilities are made available.

- Enhance the abilities, skills and efficiency of the staff in charge of managing the prisons through regular trainings especially on skills related to running prisons and dealing with the inmates and their families.

- Enable inmates to continue their education if they wish to.

**c.** At the prisoner's level:

- Conduct various sports and cultural activities inside the prison, to reduce the inmates' stress and tension.

- Develop the detainees' knowledge of legal information.

- Organize vocational trainings for the inmates – if the necessary space is available – or offer medical and psychological treatment and counseling, as per the applicable laws.

- Organize trainings on skills useful in the labor market, assist prisoners and their families to reintegrate into the community after the release, and cooperate in this regard with competent entities and professional organizations.

**d.** At the level of the prisoner's family:

- Adopt educational and preventive interventions to follow up on cases of inmates' children dropping out school.

- Develop effective social programs for house wives who are responsible for a family in order to reintegrate them into society.
- Develop special educational literacy programs and ensure primary education for inmates and their wives who did not have the capacity to enroll in primary or elementary schools.

### Ideas for the Future

After implementing the project to support the families of prisoners in South Lebanon, it became evident that there is a dire need for other projects targeting marginalized categories at different levels. These projects and categories can be detailed as follows:

1. Vocational training for prisoners during imprisonment:  
Especially prisoners who are convicted for a short period of time, not exceeding a few years, because such project would enable these inmates to think of their future from a better perspective and to have a better behavior in prison.
2. Project to support the prisoners' wives at the health and psychological levels:

It appeared, through SHEILD's project, that the wives' health and psychological condition was not sound, because of the huge pressure they are subject to in the family and in community. Therefore, it is possible to devise a special project to provide assistance to the wives of inmates.

3. Project to support the children of prisoners:  
As revealed during the implementation of SHEILD's project, large numbers of children have educational difficulties and problems. SHEILD has provided assistance to about 50 students. This issue deserves a special project in view of its significance and seriousness. In fact, children's school problems or absence from school mean that they will turn into street kids or into working children. In both cases, there is a strong possibility that these children will become delinquent.

4. Project to support street children:

The number of these children is increasing day by day. Reasons for that are either the imprisonment of the father, school drop out or family economic problems.

5. Expanding the project to include families other than families of prisoners:

Like extremely poor families, provided that a family member is selected to receive support through a productive income-generating project.

6. Project to support women other than wives of prisoners:

Like divorced women who are experiencing difficult circumstances especially at the economic and psychosocial levels. Ensuring job opportunities for divorced women is vital even as a means of psychological and social compensation. An initial survey should be conducted to identify the needs of divorced women in South Lebanon or any other Lebanese region.

7. Project to support drug addicts:

Over the past years, this phenomenon has grown in most Lebanese regions. It is known that youngsters are the most prone to addiction. This may be related to the father's imprisonment. Therefore, focus in this project can be made on the youth group and on the role of different associations in supporting addicts.

8. Project to support Syrian children in South Lebanon:

The number of Syrian families that fled to South Lebanon has reached tens of thousands. These families undergo hard circumstances at all levels despite the international attention given to them.

It seems that these families will not be going back home in the near future; their children will face many educational problems. Consequently, a project can be devised to support these children in terms of school enrolment or direct educational assistance.

This set of suggestions and aspirations for future projects including

the continuation of the current project could not have been identified without the project to support the families of prisoners. Should these projects see the day, they could contribute in achieving the social security that everyone aspires to and the negative repercussions of which are feared by all concerned civil organizations and governmental institutions in Lebanon.

Annexes:

- 1- Who is **SHEILD**
- 2- Working Team
- 3- Symbols used for the projects
- 4- Implementation stages of quick impact projects
- 5- Study questionnaires

Symbols used for the projects

| Symbol & project  | Number of beneficiaries | Governorate                       | Village   |
|---|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
|  Hair dressing salon | 6                       | South Lebanon and Nabatiye        | Tyre Sarafand, Aadloun Nabtiye, Kham            |
|  Sewing              | 5                       | South Lebanon                     | Tair Debba, Maarake Borj Al Chemali Al Ghaziye  |
|  Convenience store   | 5                       | South Lebanon and Nabatiye        | Borj Rahhal, Aadloun Srafa Al Ghassaniyeh, Ebba |
|  Fake jewelry        | 3                       | South Lebanon Nabatiye and Beirut | Tyre Ebba, Beirut                               |
|  Computer & Internet | 3                       | South Lebanon                     | Saida, Ansar, Srafa                             |
|  Construction      | 3                       | South Lebanon                     | Tyre Maarake, Sarafand                          |
|  Electricity       | 3                       | South Lebanon and Nabatiye        | Jwaya, Nabatiye (2)                             |
|  Bakery            | 2                       | Nabatiye                          | Nabatiye, Chakra                                |
|  Transport         | 2                       | South Lebanon                     | Tair Debba, Deir Kanoun el Nahr                 |
|  Agriculture       | 1                       | Nabatiye                          | Baraachit                                       |
|  Tire repair       | 1                       | Nabatiye                          | Al Kosaybe                                      |