Use of SenseMaker® to Conduct Research Among Syrian Refugees in Lebanon

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Background

- **Syrian crisis** resulted in over 1.2 million Syrians displaced into Lebanon

- **Child marriage** reportedly increased and the age of marriage decreased

- **Limited evidence** is available on the use of SenseMaker® in humanitarian settings
Child Marriage

- Affects girls more often
- Violation of rights
- Form of gender-based violence
- Profound and long-term consequences
SenseMaker®

- Developed by Cognitive Edge
- Mixed-methods approach
- Based on story-telling
- Tell a story in response to an open-ended prompt
- Participants interpret their own story
**Story Prompt**

Tell a story about a situation that you heard about or experienced that illustrates the best or worse thing about the life of a Syrian girl (under the age of 18) in Lebanon.

**Dyad**

From your perspective, the Syrian girl(s) in your story is/are

- Protected too much
- Not protected enough

**Triad**

The shared story relates mostly to:

- Education (formal and informal)
- Safety and Security
- Financial Situation
Study Methods

- Lebanon July–Aug 2016
- Variety of participant groups
- Audio recorded stories
- iPad Mini 4
Interview Team

• 12 *purposively* selected interviewers
• 4 days of *training*

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**Beirut**
- 2 Male
- 2 Syrian
- 2 Females
- 1 Syrian
- 1 Lebanese

**Tripoli**
- 2 Male
- 2 Syrian
- 2 Females
- 1 Syrian
- 1 Lebanese

**Beqaa**
- 2 Male
- 2 Syrian
- 2 Females
- 1 Syrian
- 1 Lebanese
Results & Conclusions
Data Collection

- 1,422 narratives from 1,346 unique participants in 7 weeks
- Variety of participant subgroups
- Data summaries accessed weekly
- Allowed close monitoring
- Generally well accepted by participants
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Beirut</th>
<th>Beqaa Valley</th>
<th>Tripoli</th>
<th>Subgroup total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Married Syrian girls</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>197</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unmarried Syrian girls</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syrian mothers</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>245</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syrian fathers</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>198</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unmarried men</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>268</td>
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<tr>
<td>Married men</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>228</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community leaders</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Strengths of SenseMaker®

• Efficient data collection
• Audio recording of stories is quick
• Reduces researcher bias
• Avoids direct questioning
• Close quality assurance
Limitations of SenseMaker®

- Stories sometimes lacked depth and richness
- Small, fixed font on iPad
- Not well adapted for Arabic
- Cannot perform skip logic
- Qualitative data lacked depth
Conclusions

- SenseMaker® was an efficient mixed-methods data collection tool
- It can be used in a humanitarian settings and among refugee communities
Research Team

- Nour Bakhache – Queen’s University
- Saja Micheal – ABAAD Resource Center for Gender Equality
- Sophie Roupetz - University of Leipzig
- Stephanie Garbern - Beth Israel Deaconess Milton Hospital
- Harveen Berquist – Harvard Medical School
- Colleen Davison – Queen’s University
- Susan Bartels – Queen’s University
Special thank you...

- All the participants who shared their stories
- Staff members of the ABAAD Resource Center for Gender Equality
- Team of 12 interviewers
- Ms. Laurie Webster (QED Insight)

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THANK YOU!

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