



ORPHANS CARE
FEDERATION

The Status Of Syrian Women Refugees in Turkey

Job Opportunities & Challenges

Field Research



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Field Research

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Who are we?

Orphans Care Federation

A humanitarian non-governmental organization to support the humanitarian action work to provide better care for orphans and their families, OCF is a tool to connect organizations. OCF is registered in England and Turkey; its members are spread across Europe, the Middle East and North Africa.

Our scope of work

Training and Capacity-Building

Training and capacity building of employees is a strategic choice in the development of humanitarian charitable organisations, which includes e-learning that we seek to establish in the near future and make it available worldwide.

Research and Studies

Prepare researches and studies and foresee opinions for the benefit of orphans and caregivers by partnering with scientific and research bodies.

Advocacy

Raise the voice of humanitarian action in all international forums and platforms through extensive meetings with officials and decision-makers.

Networking and Partnerships

OCF is a platform for networking and partnership among NGOs.

Publications and Organisational Development

OCF has published training guides in accordance with international standards. These guides adopt best practices to contribute to raising the level and quality of performance in humanitarian charitable organisations working in this field adopting the perspective of development and community empowerment.

The Situation Of Syrian Refugee Women In Turkey: Employment Opportunities And Challenges

Field Research

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Introduction

This report aims to highlight the potential widowed women have, and to stimulate opportunities to hone their skills and enable them to build and develop the society. Investing in human beings, and a way to raise the orphan child in the best way, and improve the life of the family and develop its capacities, and this is in line with the most important objectives of the Orphan Care Federation, which seeks to achieve it as a humanitarian charity.

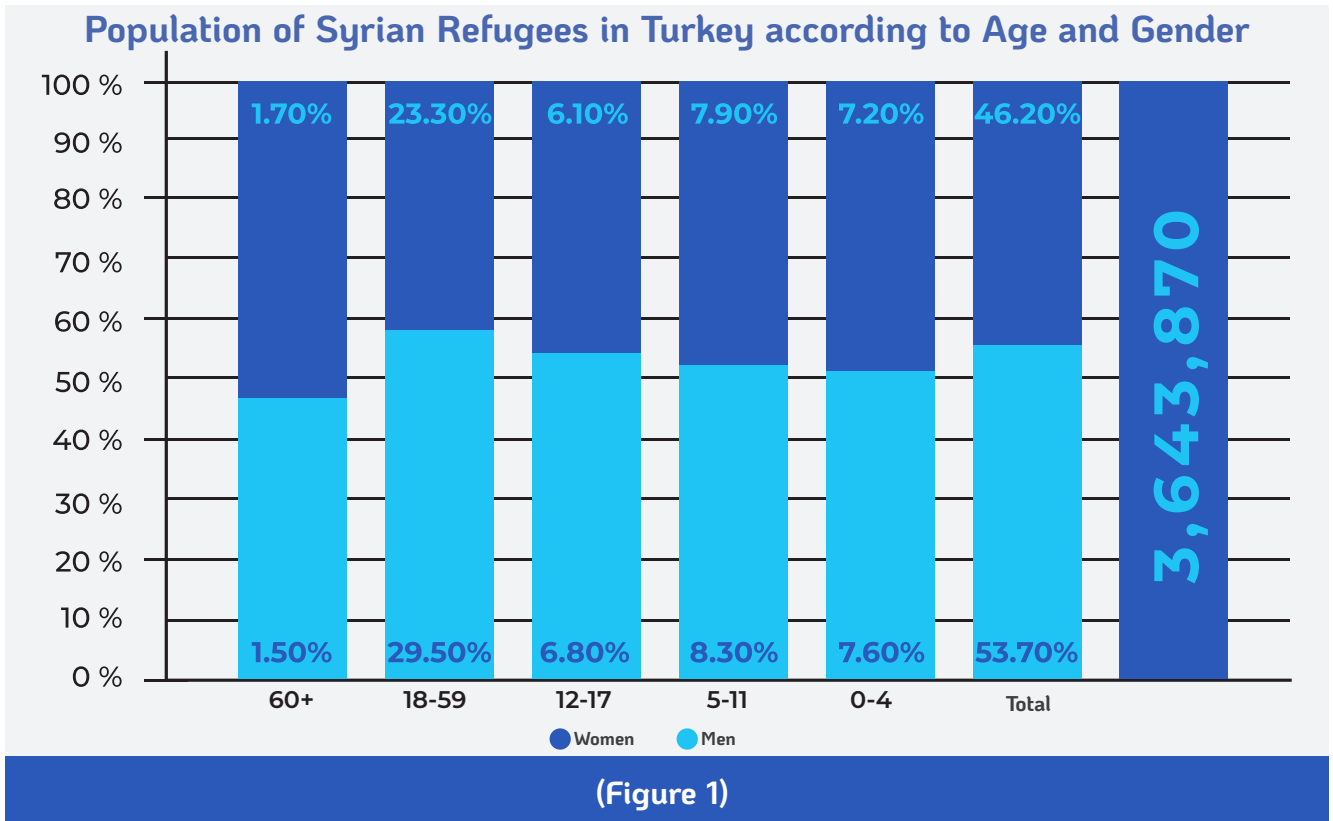
The Orphan Care Federation has conducted several training courses in the fields of pioneering empowerment and technical rehabilitation for refugees widows in six cities across Turkey: Istanbul, Sanliurfa, Gaziantep, Antioch, Reyhanli and Kirkhan. The series of training courses contained a package of knowledge and skills needed by widows. The first was aimed at training women in the craft of crochet and includes some workshops of management and psychosocial support, and the second training aimed to provide psychosocial support and try to help the women change their negative perception of their reality to a positive vision through which they can lead themselves in the first place and then lead their families towards stability and security, both psychological and economic, and the questionnaire was directed to these groups in an attempt to evaluate the previous courses based on the reaction of the participants. In addition to trying to identify the most important requirements of widowed refugee women in the coming stages.

According to official estimate issued by the Turkish authorities, the number of Syrian refugees across Turkey has reached 3,643,870, representing 46.2% of women of all ages, which means that women — who are among the most vulnerable in society — their population are more than 1.5 million, and the majority of them are between the ages of 18 – 59, with more than 20% not yet having reached the age of 18. Turkey holds many refugees from different countries; however, this study was aimed at Syrian women refugees only. Out of the⁽¹⁾ 142,000 Iraqi refugees in Turkey⁽²⁾, 26% are female.

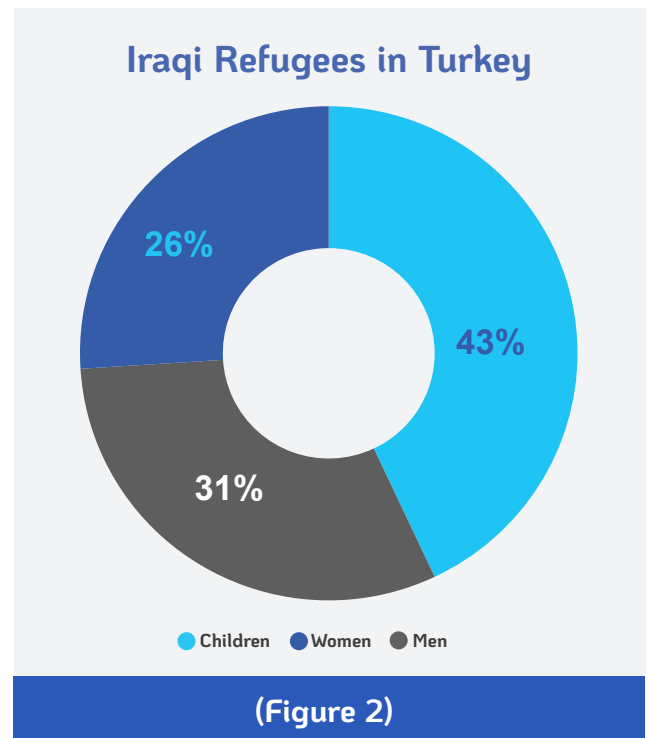


(1) UNHCR, "Syria Regional Refugee Response", last updated 31 July 2019. Available at: <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/syria/location/113#ga=2.46826916.264972223.1566200498-428896149.1566200498> (accessed on 20 August 2019).

(2) UNHCR, "Turkey: Key Facts and Figures", April 2019. Available at: <https://www.unhcr.org/tr/en/unhcr-turkey-stats> (accessed on 25 August 2019).



Most theories support the need to provide more for refugees⁽³⁾⁽⁴⁾⁽⁵⁾ as they consider that the advancement of women means the advancement of society, and by emphasizing the role of women in society and in economic and political development, especially in cases of war, forced asylum, exposure to scenes of violence, various psychological and mental traumas, and the responsibilities that they entail commensurate with their means of spreading peace.



(3) Allen, Mary. "Violence and voice: Using a feminist constructivist grounded theory to explore women's resistance to abuse." *Qualitative Research* 11, no. 1 (2011): 23-45.
 (4) Hall, C. Margaret. *Women and empowerment: Strategies for increasing autonomy*. Routledge, 2013.
 (5) Grant, Judith. *Fundamental feminism: Contesting the core concepts of feminist theory*. Routledge, 2013.

The Research Problem and Report Significance

The main problem relates to assessing the impact of previous courses on Syrian refugees women in Turkey, in terms of the extent of benefit and feasibility of both technical and psychosocial courses, and in terms of the importance of providing education and training to women instead of various direct material aid, such as food baskets, shelter projects for orphan families, seasonal clothing projects, in addition to the distribution of Qurbanı (meat distribution during Eid-ul-Adha), school bags, etc.

Providing women with the skills and knowledge needed to empower them will empower the whole family, transform the social role of refugee women from vulnerable marginalised groups into strong and productive groups, while the continued flow of material aid like food and clothing will further weaken women instead of strengthening them, by raising dependency and relying on aid.

The provision of knowledge and skills must also be framed in systematic scientific studies and research, by obtaining informed answers from beneficiaries about their needs and risks, so that programmes and projects can be prepared in ways that ensure their success and effectiveness, and as a result, providing aid and achieving the goals of humanitarian and development work.

Importance and Goals

The purpose of this survey is to reach three outcomes related to the overall status of refugee women in Turkey, through a simple and limited survey of their views, where questions were asked about the psychological, technical and entrepreneurial status of women participating, and the questions were designed to indicate the extent to which they benefited from previous courses; on the other hand, about the extent of their future needs and necessary interests.

Involving beneficiaries in identifying their needs, and planning on how to meet them is key to ensuring the success of future projects and programmes, and by obtaining feedback, we can indicate weaknesses and mistakes experienced by refugee women during their involvement in previous training programmes, across all humanitarian and development organisations operating in Turkey.

Methodology

The research team selected a deliberate sample of participants in the two training programmes held from October 2018 until March 2019, and the forms were distributed to them and were allocated enough time to fill their answers, facilitators were there to answer queries but not to enforce their opinions through. Participants were informed orally, about the research objectives and their rights to accepting or decline joining the survey, as well as participants were made assured on the confidentiality of their data and the preservation of their privacy in dealing with information. The filled questionnaire distributed by the organization was safely saved and data was analysed using — SPSS — by researchers.

The main source of information was through the distribution of two questionnaires, which were done in several sessions on different samples, the participants answered questions about personal variables such as the location of the population, the supporting organizations and the number of children, most of which took an open pattern, and other personal variables. The subjective opinions of the respondents, such as strengths and weaknesses, the quality of positive and negative thoughts, self-criticism and criticism of others, which took a monotonous pattern, while the questions of the cognitive and skill aspect differed in each questionnaire and were distributed in their patterns.

Most of the variables were nominal or

monotonous, except for the relatively variable age of children, and the measurement tools were relied upon, where distribution ratios and frequency of answers were tested to reach the study results of the research. The variables in both questionnaires related to personal differences, the second package was looking at variables in the social aspect, and the third category was in the first questionnaire about the technical capabilities of the respondents, and about the skills and the leading information for the second questionnaire.

473 women participated in answering all questions related to individual personal variables, while other questions related to cognitive and skill aspects, 322 participants and 151 participants from the same sample were divided into two categories in the following paragraphs, and the sample did not experience extreme values or generally abnormal, the response rate for all questions was high, with the values in each question between 3 and 6.

Following the results, the research team sought to develop a set of indicators to reach conclusions from the participants' responses, drawing on the observation associated with scientific and practical experience, as well as a review of the relevant literature and reports where the answer to each question was followed by a paragraph containing analysis and criticism associated with the answer.

Questionnaire Variables

The survey questionnaires were distributed as

First and Second category: Personal and Social Variables



Category 1: Personal Variables

- Place of residence (City)
- The presence of humanitarian organisations
- The number of children



Category 2: Social and Psychological Variables

- The ability to solve problems
- Type of thinking and the quality of ideas
- Strengths and weaknesses
- The extent to which criticism is accepted
- Commitment to perform tasks
- Self-criticism and others
- Commitment to daily task schedules
- Self-reliance

Note: These questionnaires were circulated to all the participants, 473 women participated.

Third category: Variables of the Cognitive Aspects and Skills – Group 1



Category 1: Cognitive Variables and Skills

- Have a job
- Type of job
- Handicraft skilled
- The type of handicraft
- Arabic language level
- Knowledge in other languages
- Other skills
- Type of skills required
- Educated
- Type of education
- Level of academic education

- Participation in previous training courses
- Course type
- Skills obtained from training courses
- Type of training
- Ability to learn new skill
- The will to learn new handicraft
- Will to work
- Self-sufficiency from humanitarian organizations
- Preference to learn new skills
- The ability to teach others

Note: 322 participated in this group of questions.

Third Category: Cognitive Variables and Skills – Group 2



- Academic education
- Agreeing on woman>s work
- Reasons for accepting or rejecting women>s work
- Having special needs
- Impact of special needs
- Source of income
- Variables of entrepreneurial qualification
- Skills and abilities
- Type of new skills
- Reason for not learning new skills
- Learn new skills
- Preferences for intellectual or Handicraft skills
- Difficulties and challenges
- The existence of humanitarian aid
- Alternative sources of income
- Accepting a new education or training
- Skills to learn
- Common type of work in the region
- Previous courses in women>s empowerment

Note: 151 participated in this group of questions.



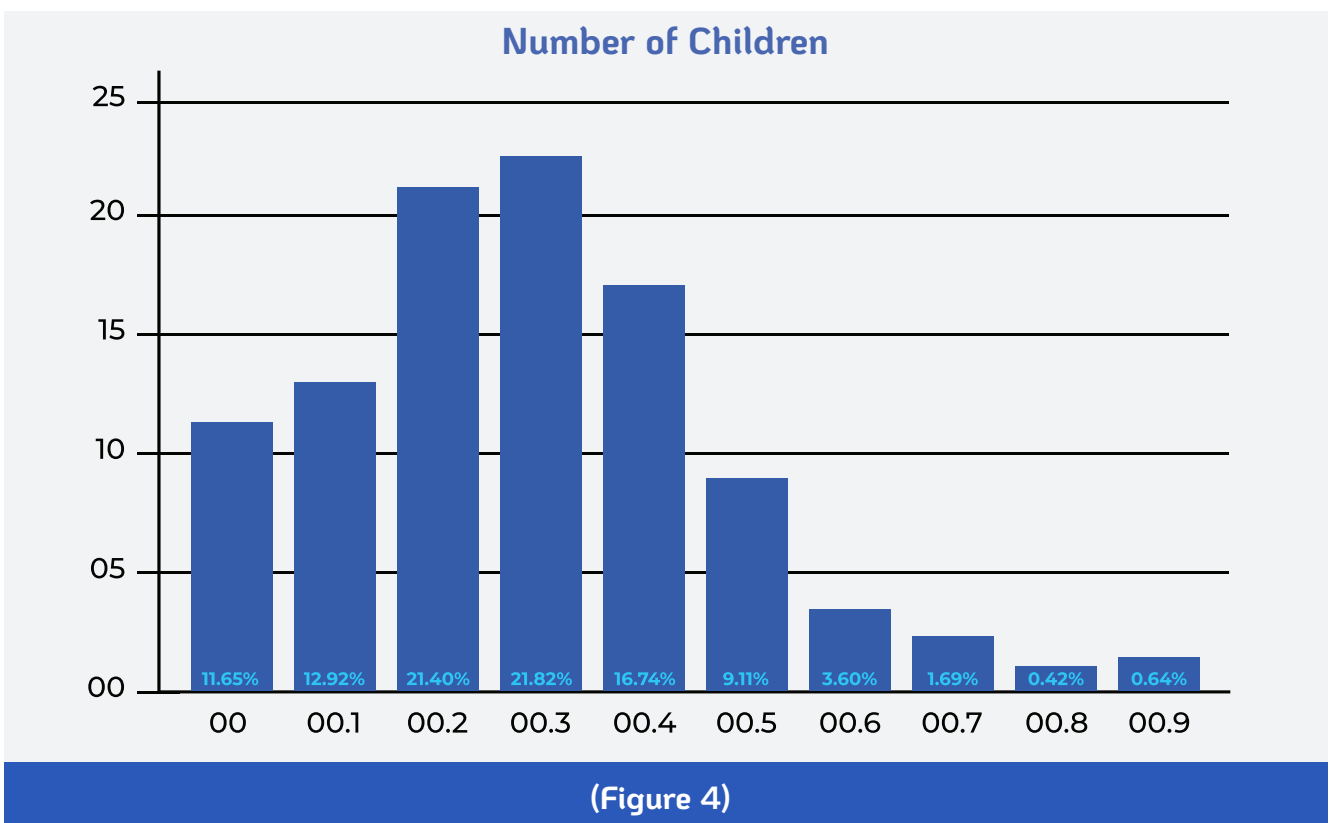
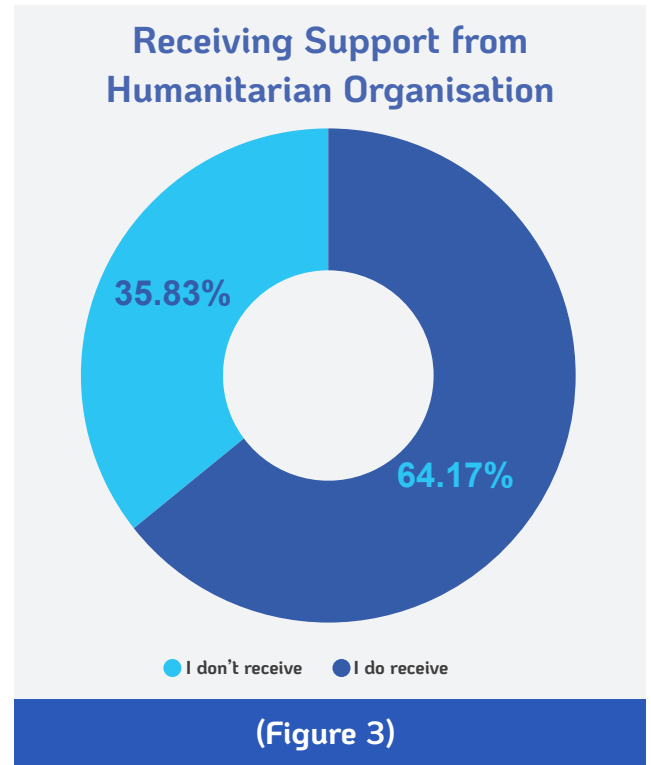
Answers and Results



First Category: Personal Variables

The sample is distributed in similar proportions to Turkey’s main cities, which contain refugee women. Most participants live in Istanbul, Reyhanli, Antioch, Sanliurfa, Gaziantep and Kirkhan. Most participants 64.17% acknowledged that they receive support from around 20 humanitarian organisation in similar proportions.

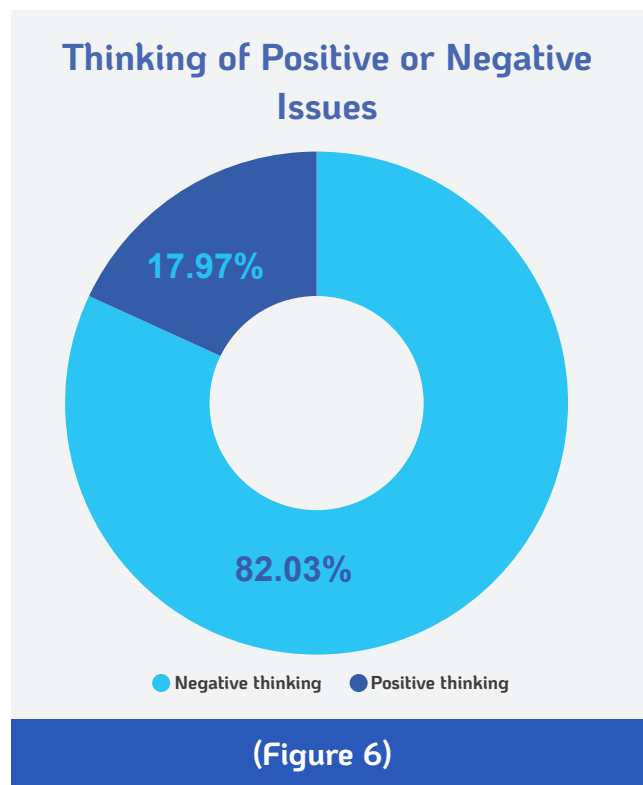
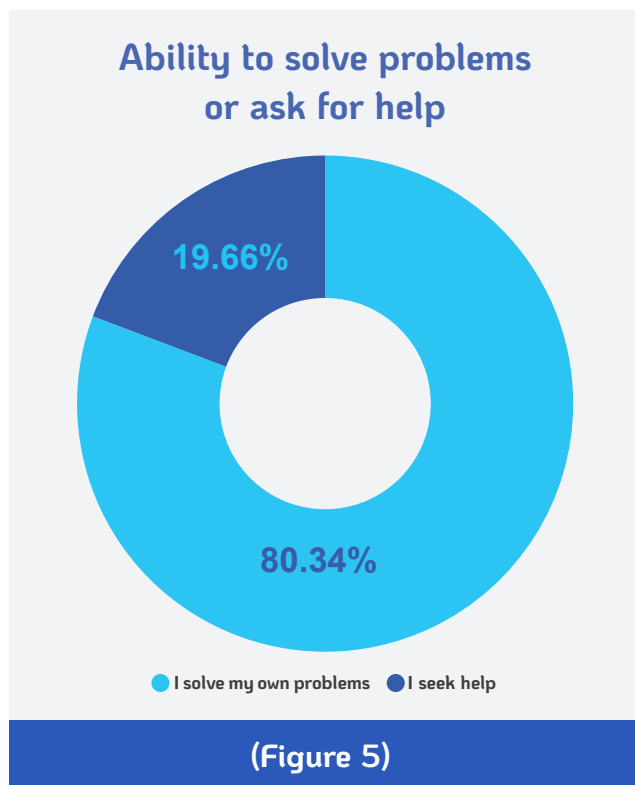
On the other hand, the total number of children of the women participating in the study reached 1,304, an average of 2.76 children per participant, while the number of children under the age of 9 at 0.93%. Each woman has an average of three children, which means that empowering a participant will directly support three or more children.



Second Category: Social and Psychological Variables

When asking participating women about their ability to solve their problems or preferring to seek help from others, 80.34% responded by being able to solve their problems without seeking help, referring to previous experiences and in communication and self-investment capabilities, helped the participants to face challenges.⁽⁶⁾

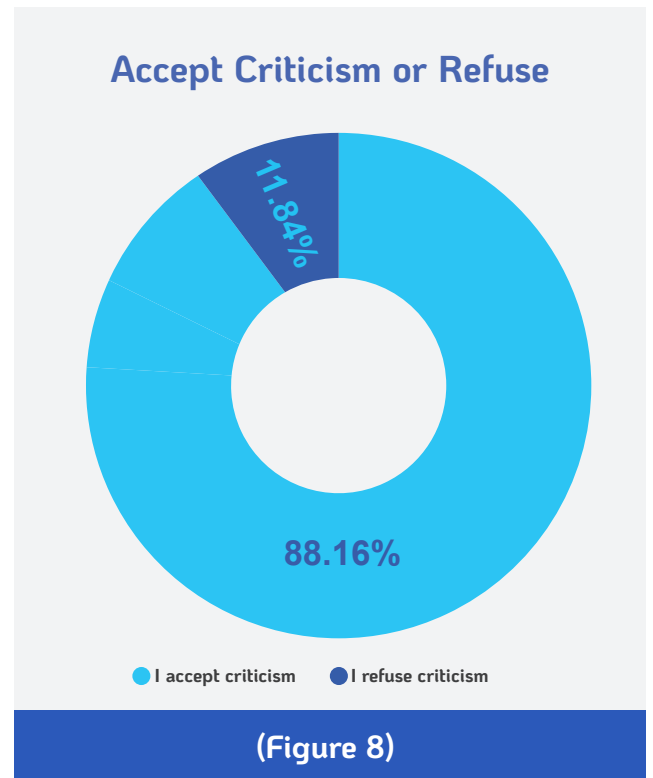
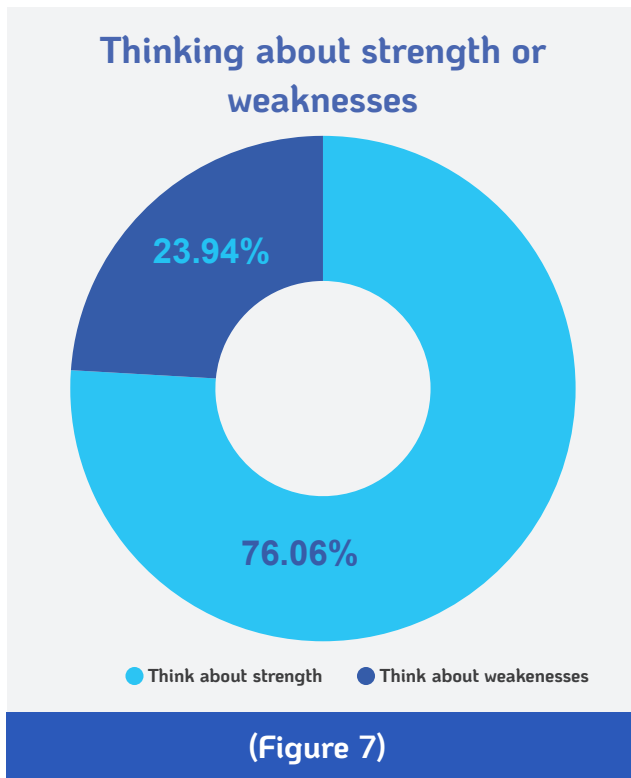
The percentage of positive thoughts in the thinking pattern and the quality of ideas was 82.03% or higher, indicating positive thinking on the ability and willingness to adapt and learn, overcoming the problems and obstacles that refugee women can face.



(6) Arostegui, Julie. "Gender, conflict, and peace-building: how conflict can catalyze positive change for women". Gender & Development 21, no. 3 (2013): 533-549.

76.06% of respondents think about their strengths, compared to 23.94% who think about their weaknesses, and this reflects an opportunity for participants to develop their strengths, overcome and deal with their weaknesses.

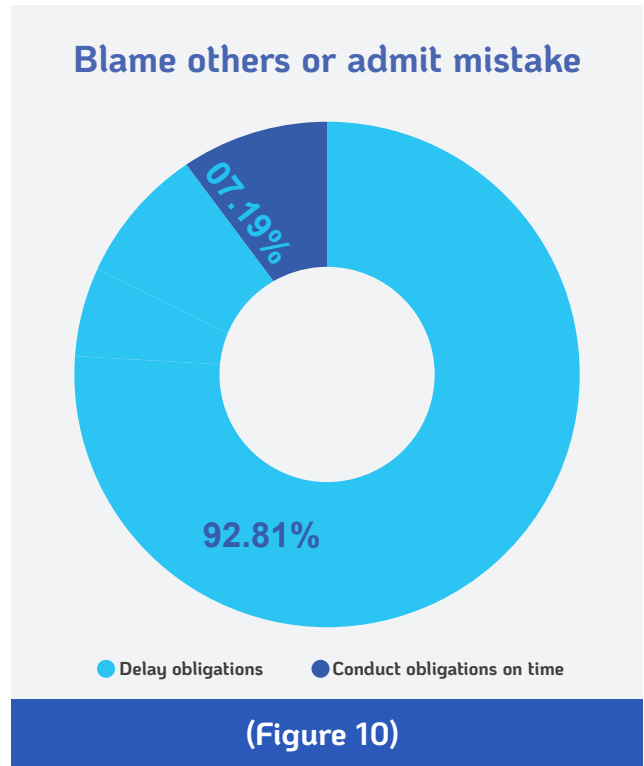
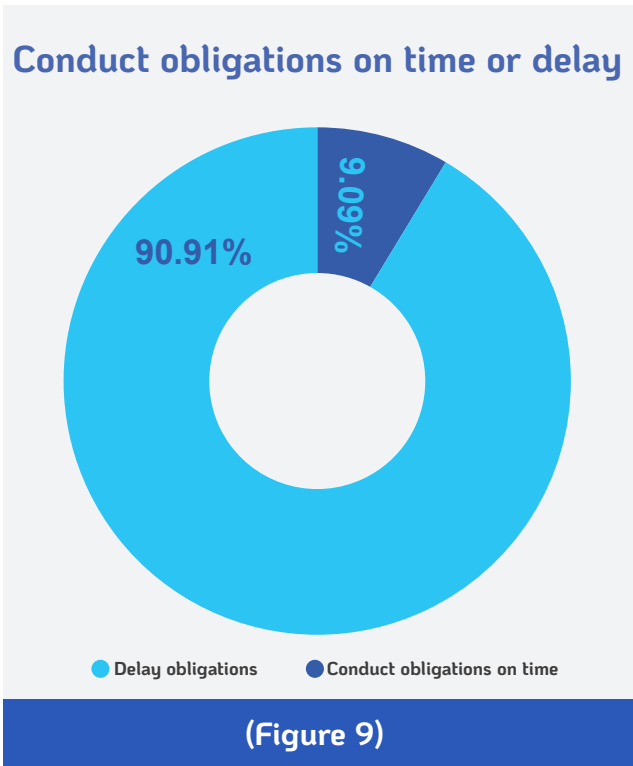
88.16% of respondents reported accepting criticism, indicating acceptance of difference and openness to others, and in other terms a desire for development.⁽⁷⁾



(7) Kabeer, Naila. "Gender equality and women's empowerment: A critical analysis of the third millennium development goal 1". Gender & Development 13, no. 1 (2005): 13-24.

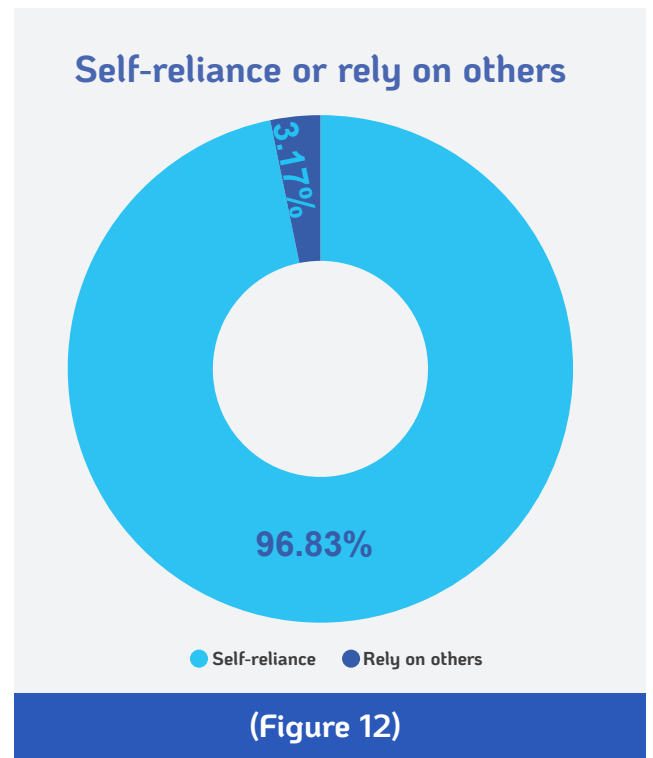
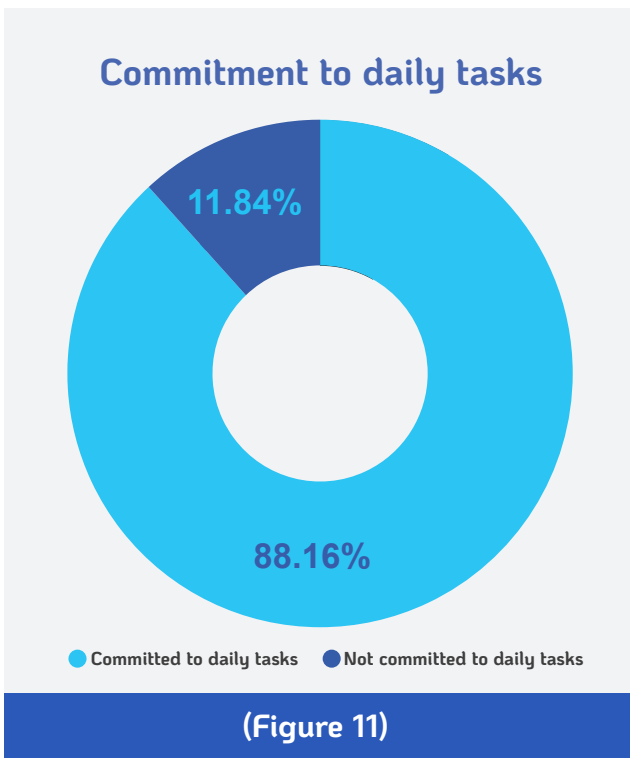
Regarding the commitment to carry out the tasks, 90.91% of participants said that they were fulfilling their obligations on time, which reflected the responsibility of the participants, as well as the ability and willingness to engage in the labour market.

Also, 92.81% of the women participating have a high degree of flexibility in acknowledging mistakes and conscious self-criticism, away from blaming others and holding them accountable for mistakes, which reinforces the fact that participating women have a high degree of responsibility, and refers to the ability to work within a team and think for next steps.



88.16% of participating women are committed to reminding themselves of their daily tasks, schedules and doing them, which reinforces the high degree of responsibility, the ability to manage time, plan and adhere to appointments, and to express activity and energy.

The participants also accounted for 96.83% of their self-reliance and lack of dependency.⁽⁸⁾



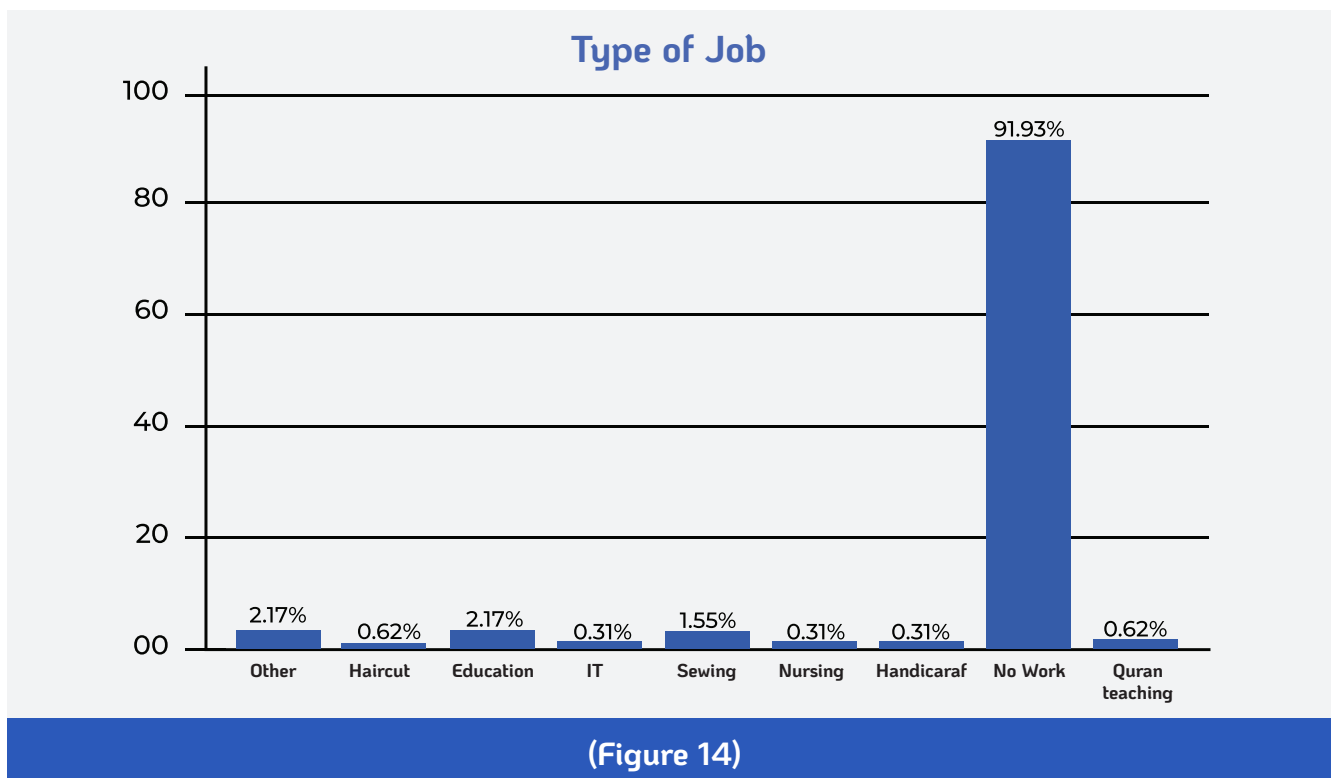
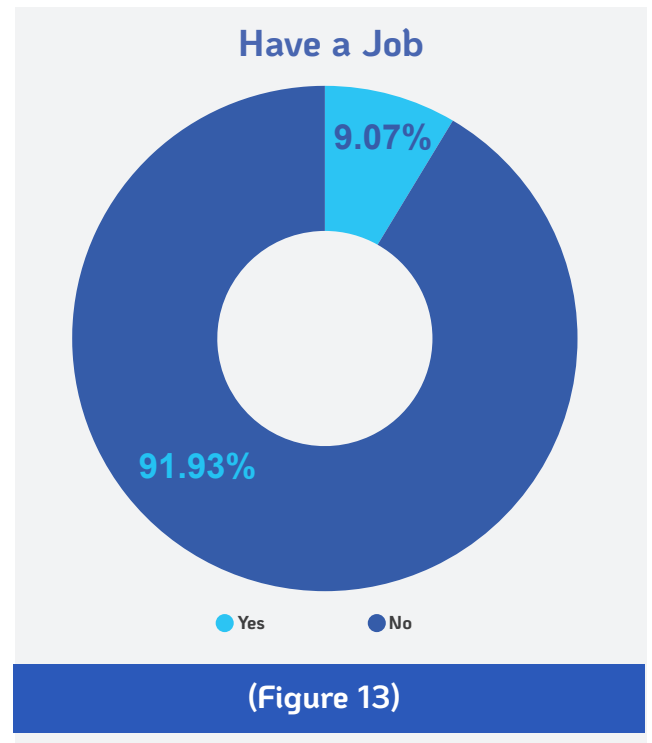
(8) Gaba, Ashok Kumar. "Women empowerment through professional and technical programs". *Distances et Savoirs* 9, No. 1 (2011): 41-52.



Third category: Variables of the Cognitive Aspects and Skills – Group 1

Have a job: The vast majority of women participated reported not having a job at 91.93%, which is very high on the basis that this group of women are the breadwinner. Participants are not classified as productive and working forces, despite women's high potential and the importance of their role in work and production, so the world is now moving towards women as key factors in economic empowerment in achieving SDG of the United Nations 2030 target.⁽⁹⁾

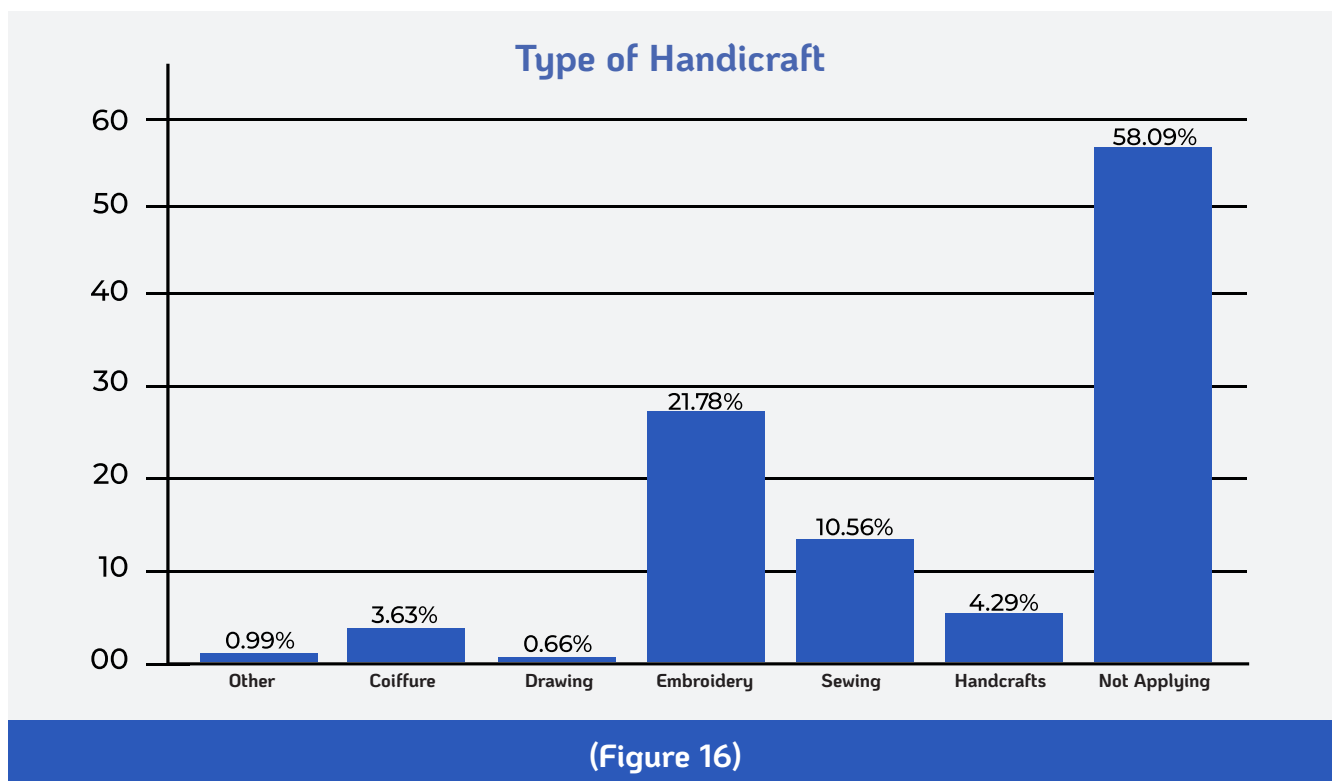
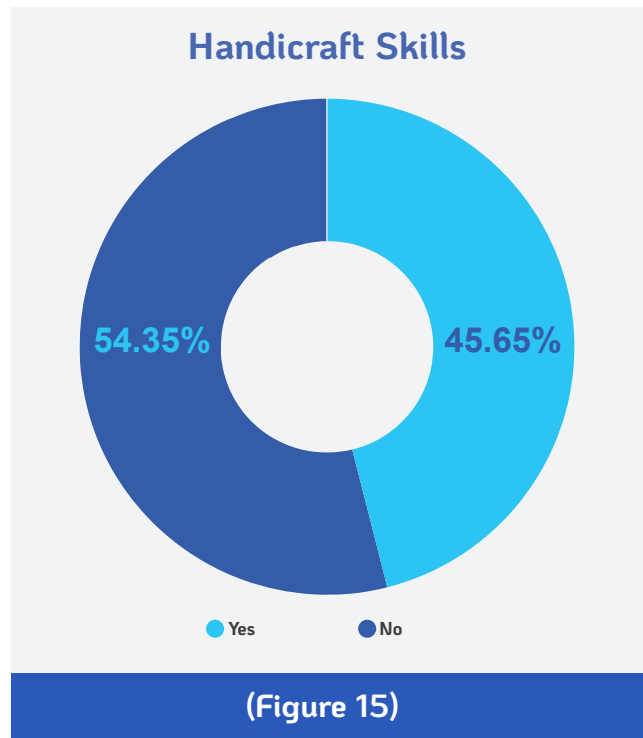
Type of work: Since most of the participants have stated that they do not have a job, the rest are divided between education, sewing, nursing and other jobs in varying proportions, reflecting the distribution of the jobs of female workers to large sectors, which assumes that there is no inflation in the demand for certain occupations, respondents are not identified in a given space.



(9) United Nations. "Leave No One Behind: A Call to Action for Gender Equality and Women's Economic Empowerment". (2016).

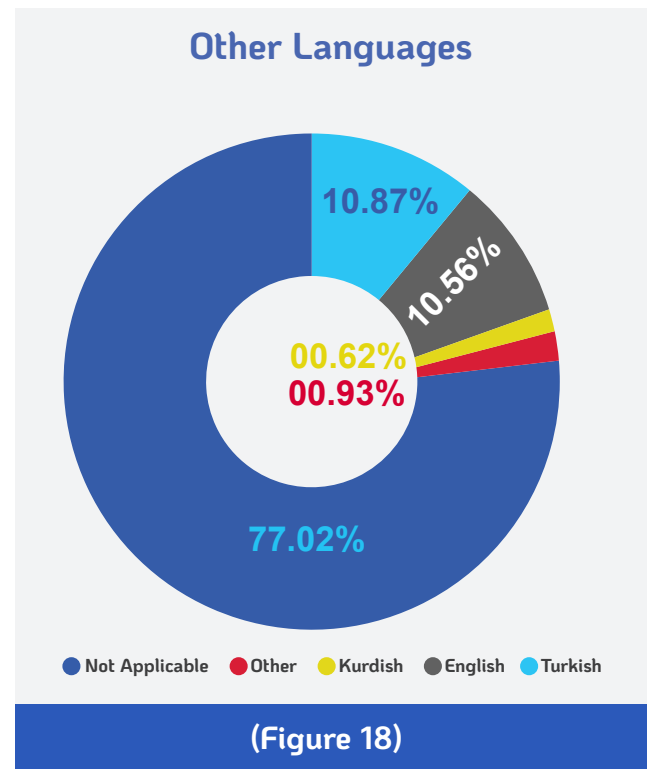
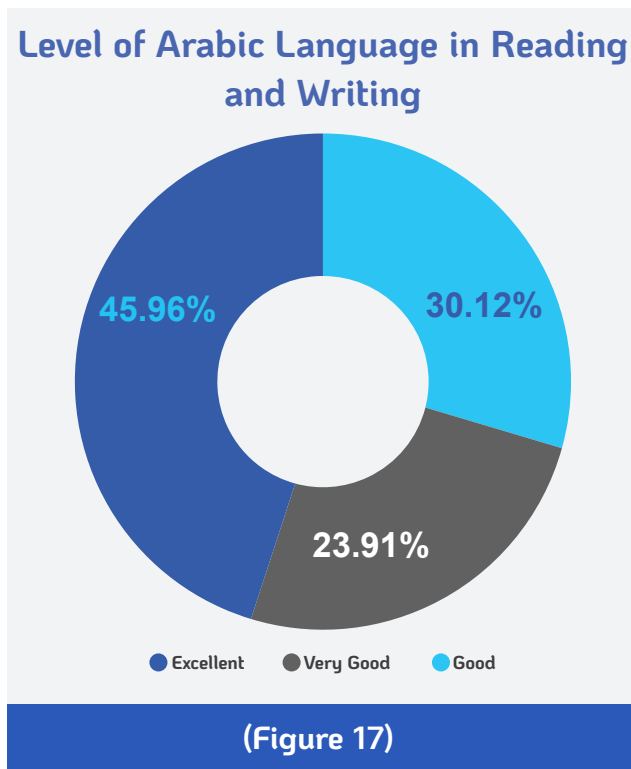
Handicraft skills: 45.65% of participants reported having a handicraft skill, which is lower compared to 54.35% of the women participating do not have a handicraft and skills, although the majority of participants do not work, which means a waste of those skills and the lack of employment in the appropriate manner. To keep large numbers of women in the role of recipient of aid rather than production.

Type of handicraft: Most of those who claimed that they know a handicraft were embroidery at 21.78%, followed by sewing, hair cutting and other crafts, and since embroidery and sewing were the highest skills, this may mean the ability to develop an entire sector in this area occupied by women. It is worth mentioning that Turkey is a world-class producer and exporter of clothing.



Arabic language level in reading and writing: Most of the participants reported having an excellent level of Arabic language by more than 45%, and a good percentage of over 30% replied that their level of reading and writing is good, perhaps because of the geographical range in which they are located, indicating that the Arabic language is not an obstacle for participants, and perhaps there is also a need for a simple focus to develop their language skills, but this is not a high priority.

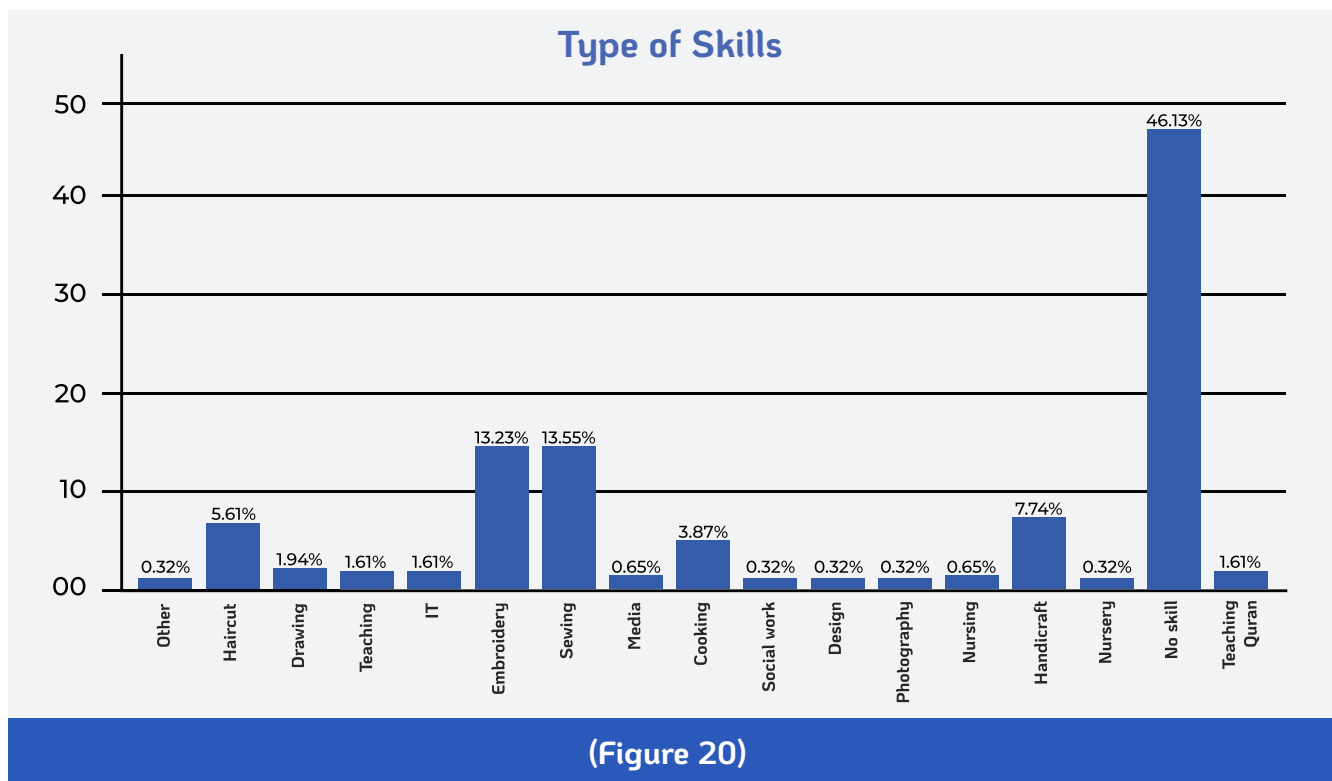
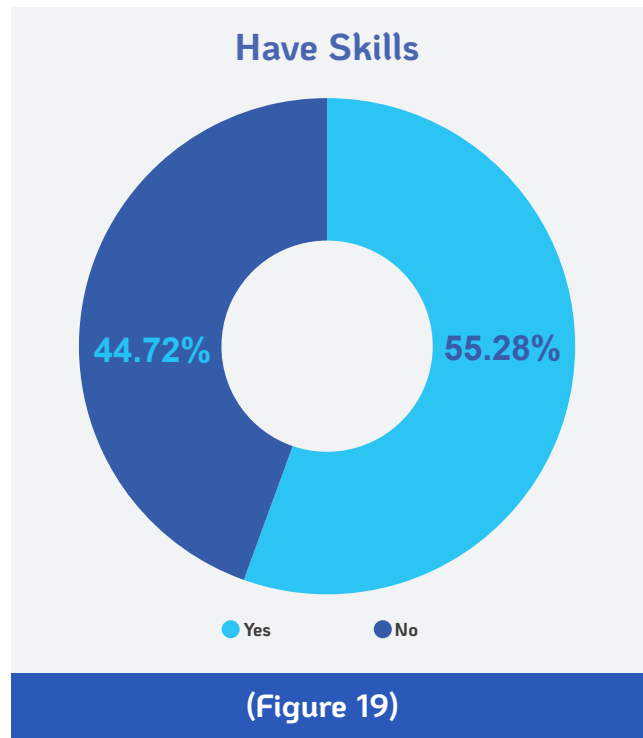
Knowledge of other languages: 77.02% of women participating do not know any language other than Arabic, and the remaining percentages are distributed between Turkish and English at about 10% respectively, nevertheless, Turkish language is an essentials; to be able to integrate in the community and able to access services. ⁽¹⁰⁾



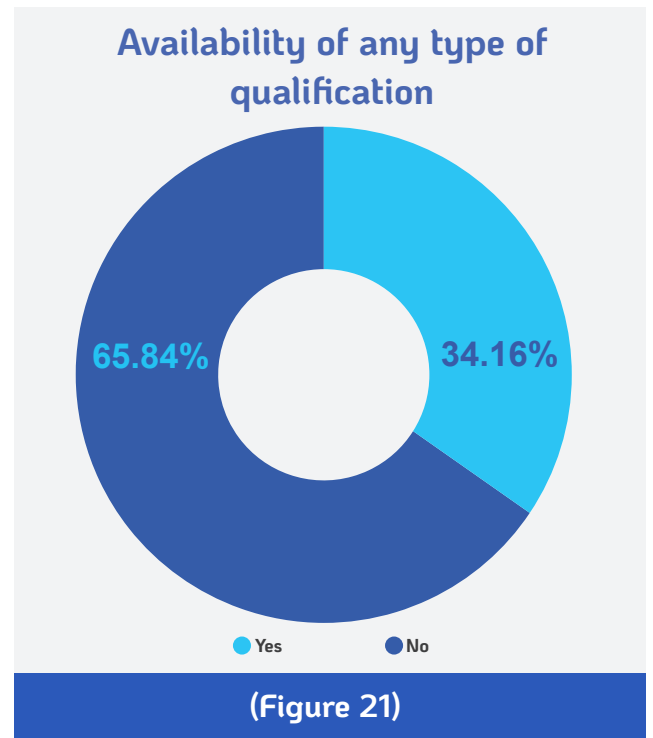
(10) Women, U. N. "Needs Assessment of Syrian Women and Girls under Temporary Protection Status in Turkey". Available here: <http://eca.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2018/08/needs-assessment-of-syrian-women-and-girls-under-temporary-protection-status-in-turkey> (2018).

Skills: 55.28% of participants have technical skills.

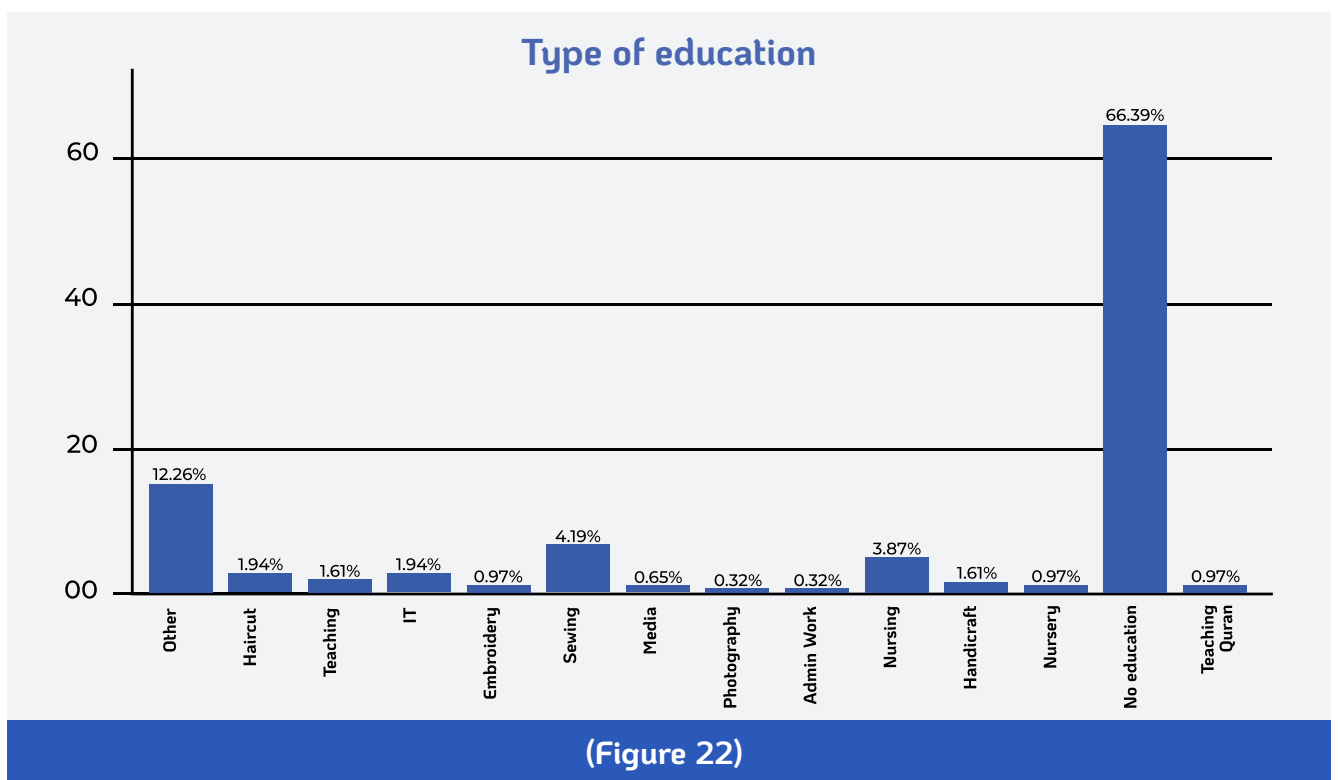
Type of skills required: The majority of respondents said they needed to learn the skill of sewing by 13.55% indicating that sewing and embroidery are the demand of the beneficiaries but caution must be taken without rushing into it, where research and study of the market is needed and demand may help make training courses more available. It is also useful to consider other products for markets that beneficiaries are able to produce.



Education: 65.84% of respondents do not have scientific or vocational qualifications, indicating the need to start a career, as women’s participation in educational and vocational training courses will increase their opportunities.

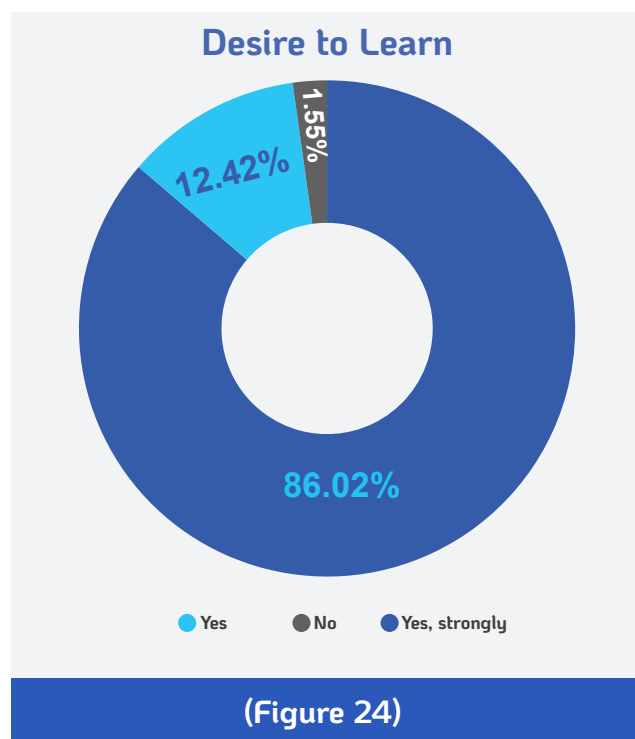
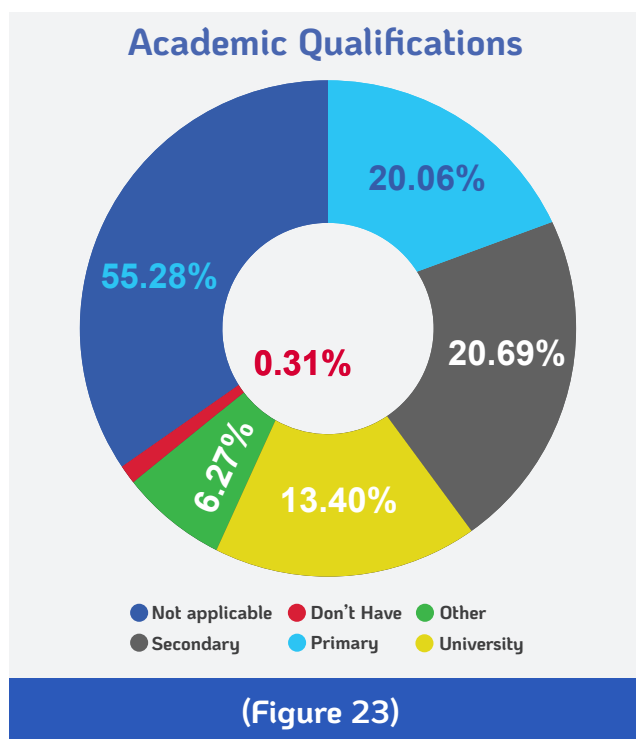


Type of education: Respondents reported having certificates of different disciplines, and the diversity of qualifications gives more space to interact with other groups of Turkish society.



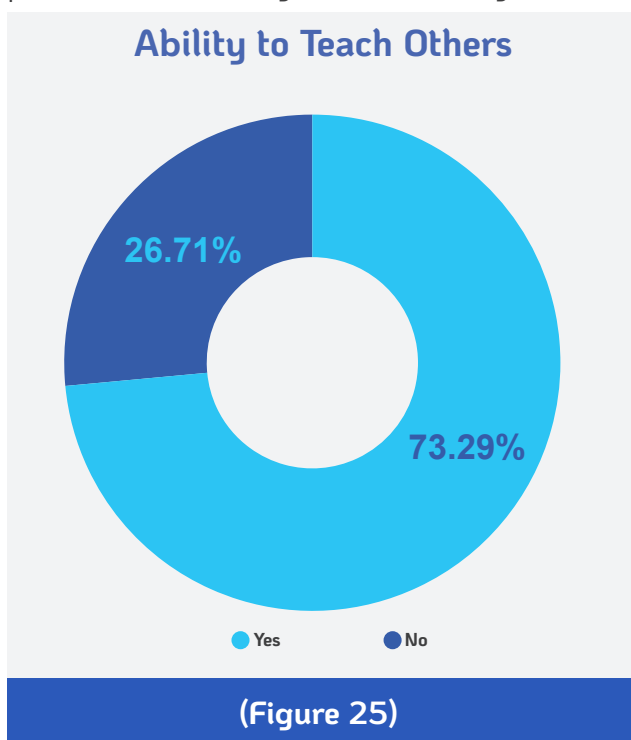
The level of academic education: the higher rates for the level of education were basic and secondary education at about 20%, and the absence of university degrees does not mean that there is no access to them.

Desire to learn: More than 86% of participating women have expressed a strong desire to complete their education, and only a few 1.5% are unwilling, education is always the ideal gateway and solution for empowerment and rehabilitation.⁽¹¹⁾



(11) UNHCR. *The Educational External Update: Turkey, 2017*. Available at: <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/57330> (accessed on 25 August 2019).

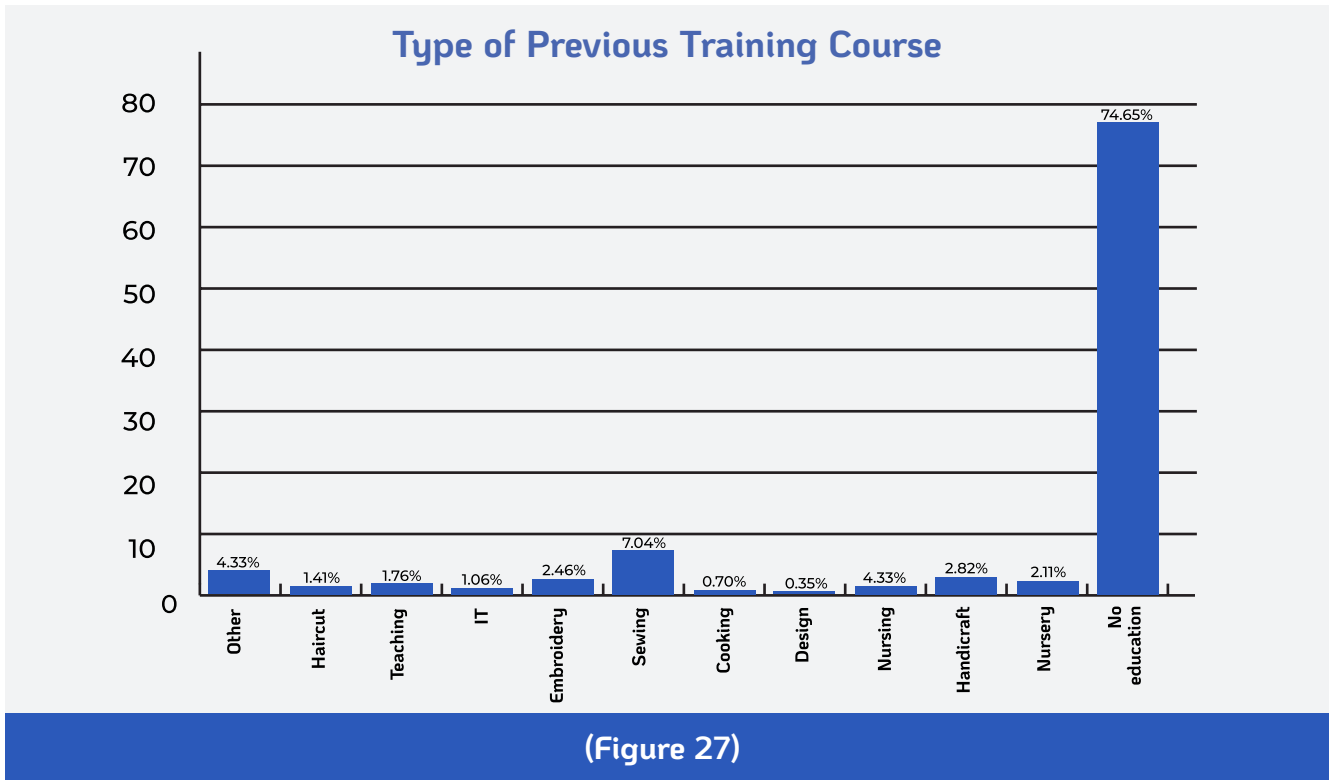
Ability to teach others: 73.29% of participants indicated of their ability to teach others, which may be linked to a certain cultural pattern about women’s key role in education in general in the Middle East, and that ability or desire can be employed by women participating in education through their qualification. In doing so, they later can pass this knowledge to other segments.



Participation in previous training courses: 63.35% of participants said they had taken previous training courses, with a large percentage not having previous training courses.



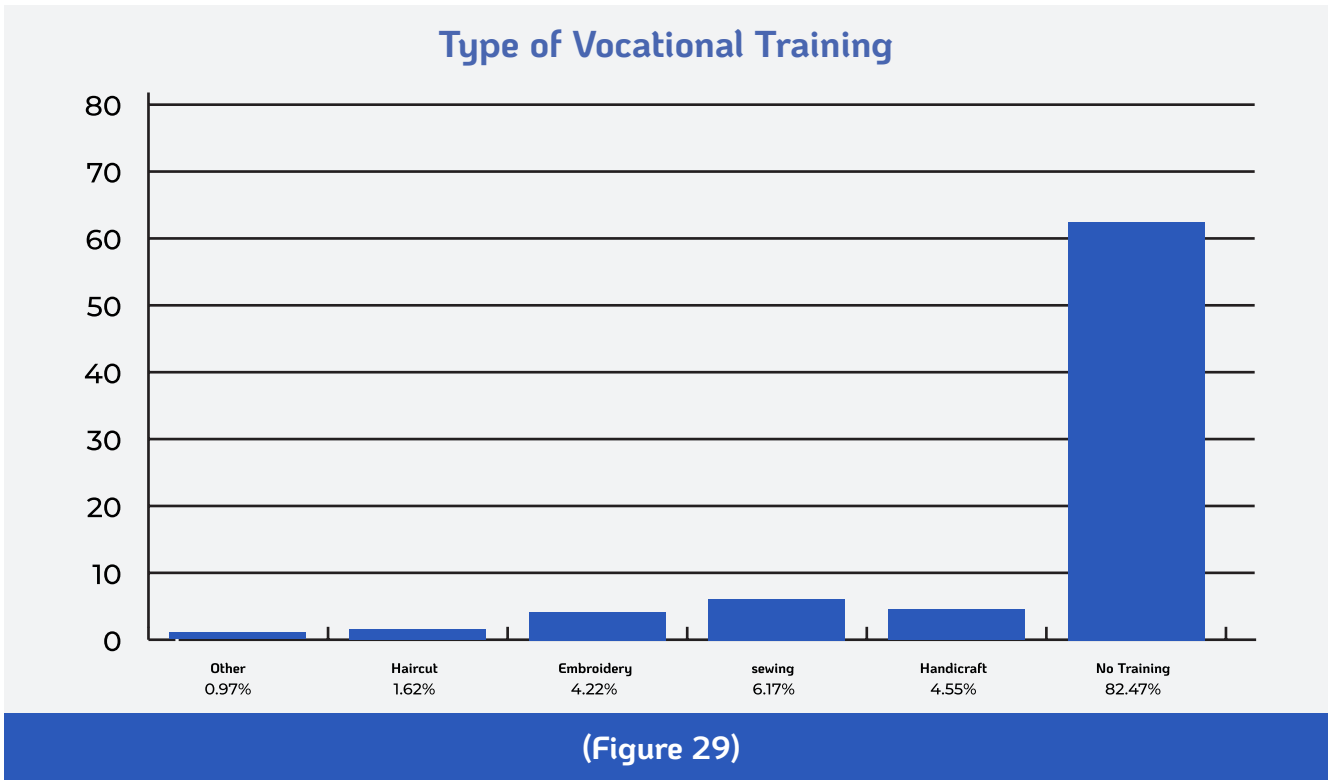
Course Type: Participation rates in previous training courses and skills have been distributed in different proportions, which is good in distributing them to more than one sector and not limited but sewing has the highest percentages of courses that women have been trained on.



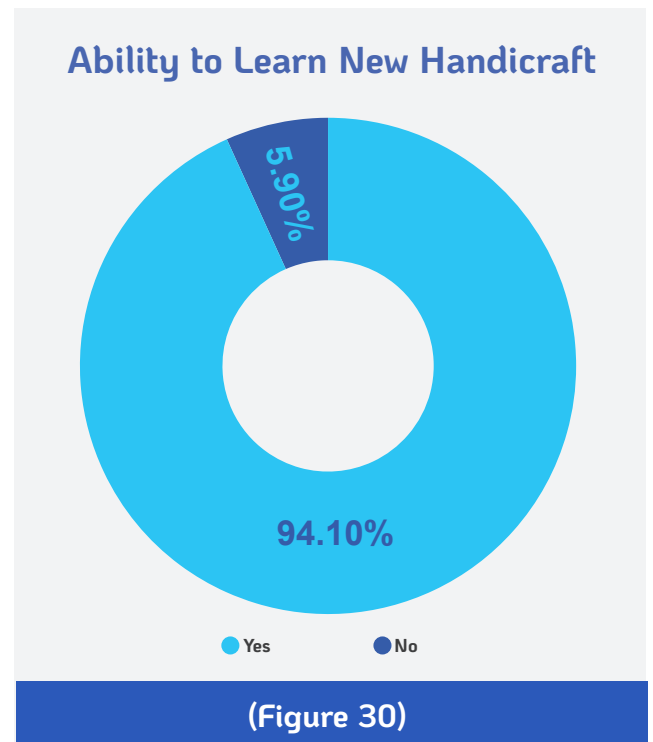
Skills obtained from training courses: 79.19% said that they had participated in a training in a profession or handicrafts, handicrafts have a high acceptance among participants, but vocational training must be linked to scientific knowledge to be fruitful.



Type of vocational training: The types of training were distributed to different professional crafts in similar proportions, but sewing, embroidery and weaving were of the highest proportions.



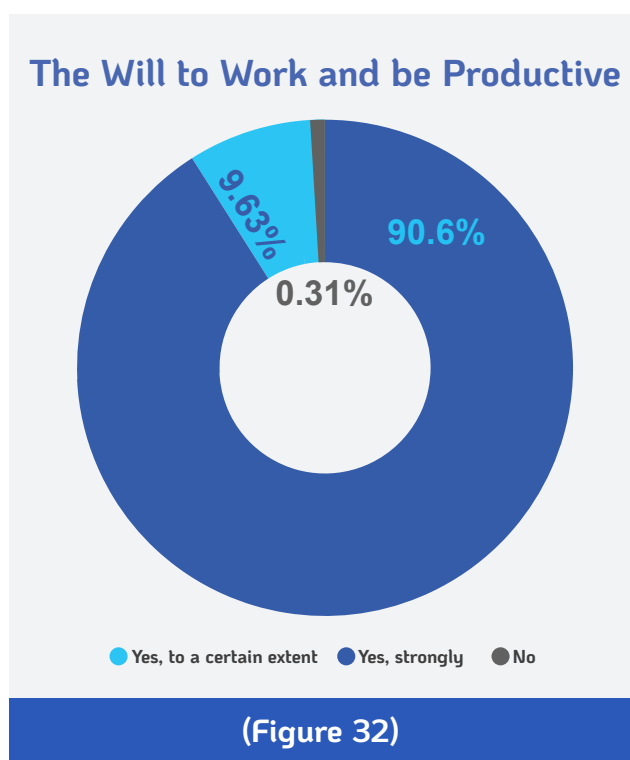
Ability to learn new skill: 94.10% of respondents prefer to learn handicrafts, nevertheless, handicraft skills can be useful for swift production, and can manage her daily household obligations e.g., childcare, cooking and her work in handicrafts.



The will to learn new handicraft: 88.51% are willing to learn handicraft, and less than one percent against it, as large groups of participants have benefited from having skills and abilities, the priority is to enhance those skills and try to make it workable.

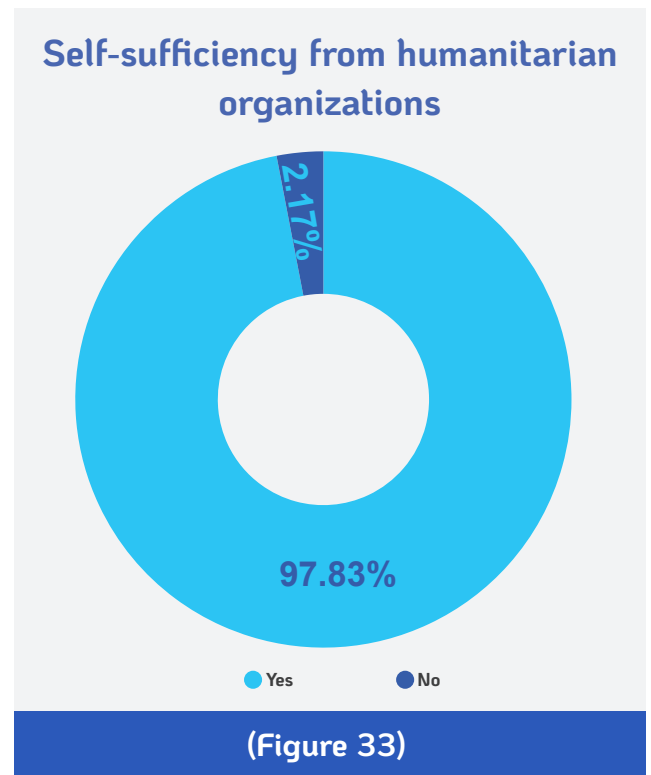


Is there a will to work: 90.06% of the participants have a strong will to work, so continuing without work will waste opportunities and increase needs, hence the need for specific training and professional initiatives that enhance the capacity of refugee women to self-reliance and qualification to enter the labour market, where it enhances education - especially vocational and technical education – enable women’s economic independence by providing them with the skills needed to look for paid employment opportunities.⁽¹²⁾



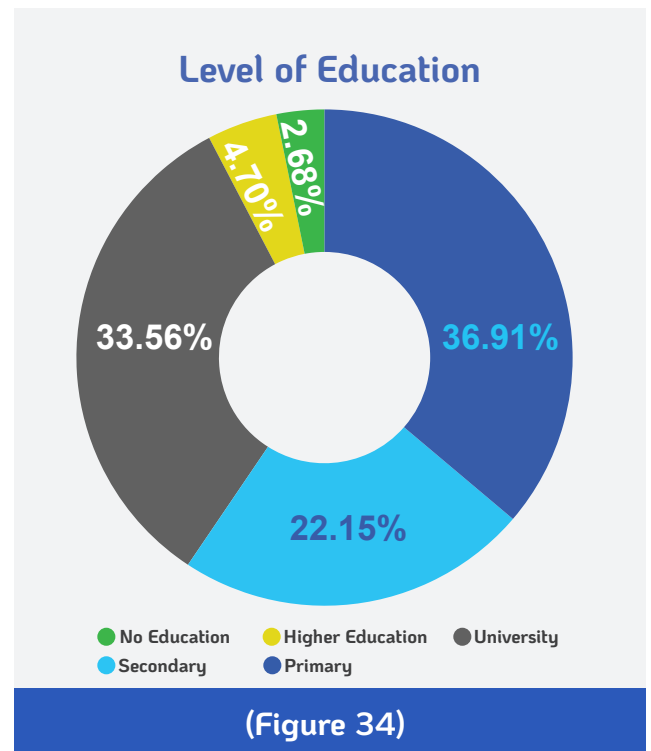
(12) Gaba, Ashok Kumar. "Women Empowerment Through Professional and Technical Programmes". Distances et savoirs 9, no. 1 (2011): 41-52.

Self-sufficiency from humanitarian organizations: 97.83% of participants stated that they are willing to rely on themselves and stopped receiving aid from humanitarian organizations, indicating that humanitarian organizations need to consider moving away from relief and introduce ideas of empowerment and rehabilitation, and in one way or another they are doing harm by continuing to distribute relief assistance such as food and clothing at the expense of development services.⁽¹³⁾



Third Category: Cognitive variables and skills – Group 2

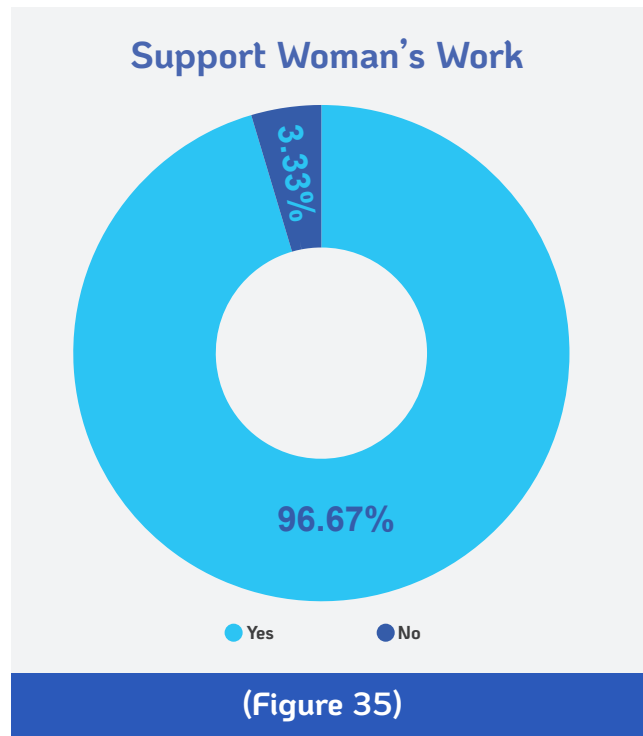
Academic education: Approximately 37% of the participating women have completed their basic education, in addition to 2.68% of the participating women have not completed their basic education, this group needs to be educated as much as possible, access to education is the most appropriate opportunity for refugees for self-reliance and to have a sustainable source of income, as they will become more economically productive, as well as motivated to engage positively in community affairs.⁽¹⁴⁾ Helping to enable them scientifically will also enable them to help their children.



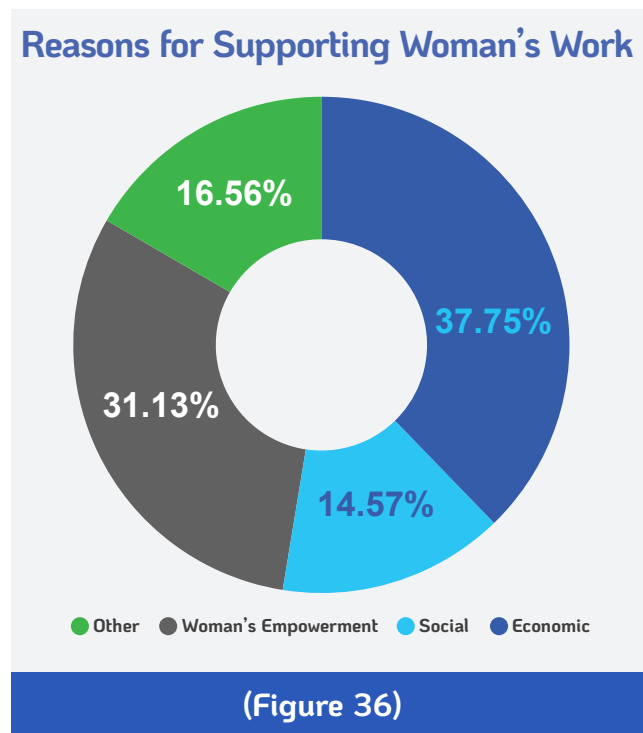
(13) Buscher, Dale. "Women, work, and war." In *Women, Migration, and Conflict*, pp. 87-106. Springer, Dordrecht, 2009.

(14) Geannopoulos, Mathilde. "Education: Developing Self Reliance for Female Syrian Refugees in Host Communities." (2018).

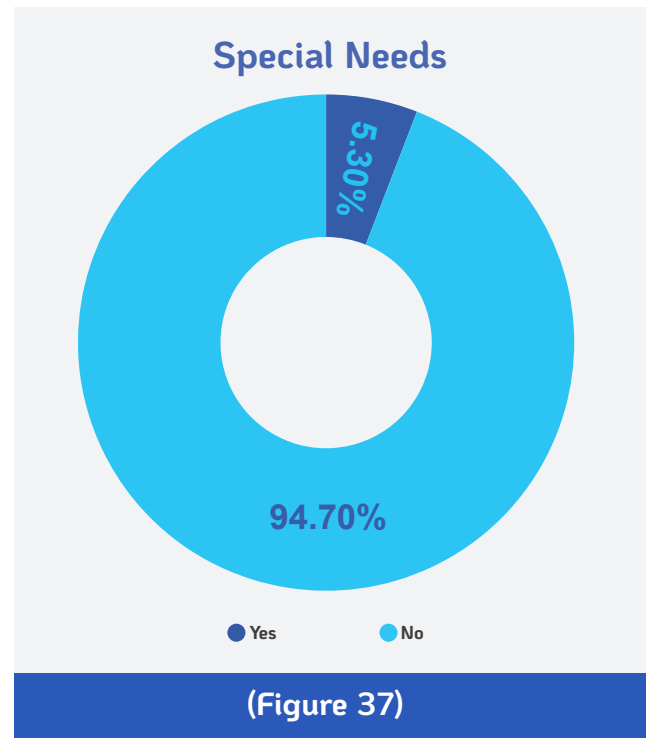
Support for women’s work: 96.67% of participants support women’s work, this reflects different need and desire for work and production and a refusal to receive relief and humanitarian assistance without finding sustainable solutions.



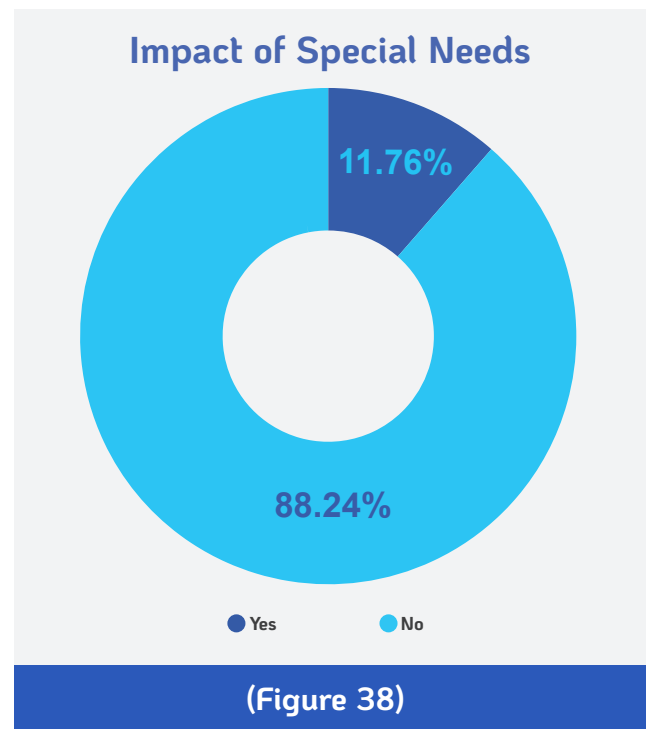
Reasons for supporting women’s work: Economic, social and empowering are the reasons, percentages have been shared in similar proportions as motives for supporting women’s work, and in most cases women’s work reflects individual and societal needs.



Special Needs: Only 5.30% of respondents have special need, which is a good indicator of physical health. Also, special needs here not necessarily to be physical, as the findings indicated that some of them are in need of psychosocial support after the trauma they have faced because of the war and losing their partners.

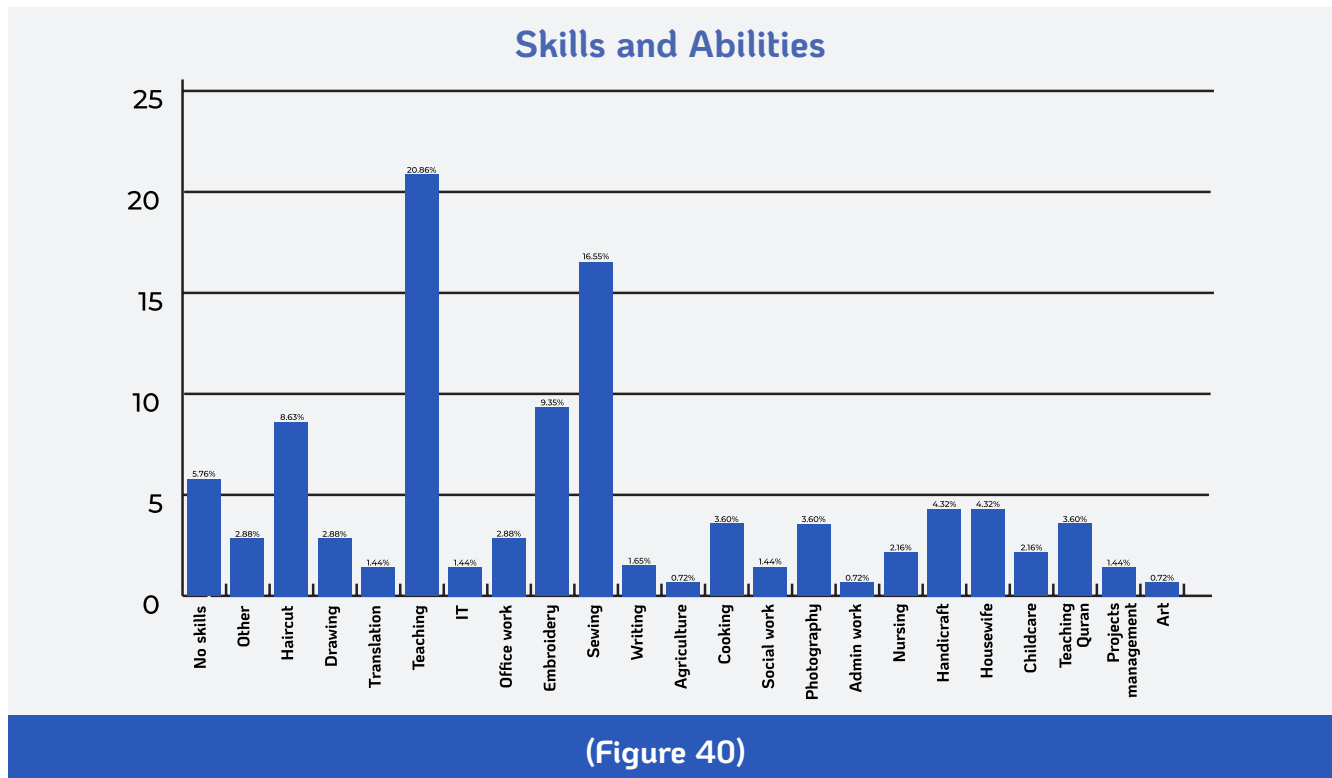
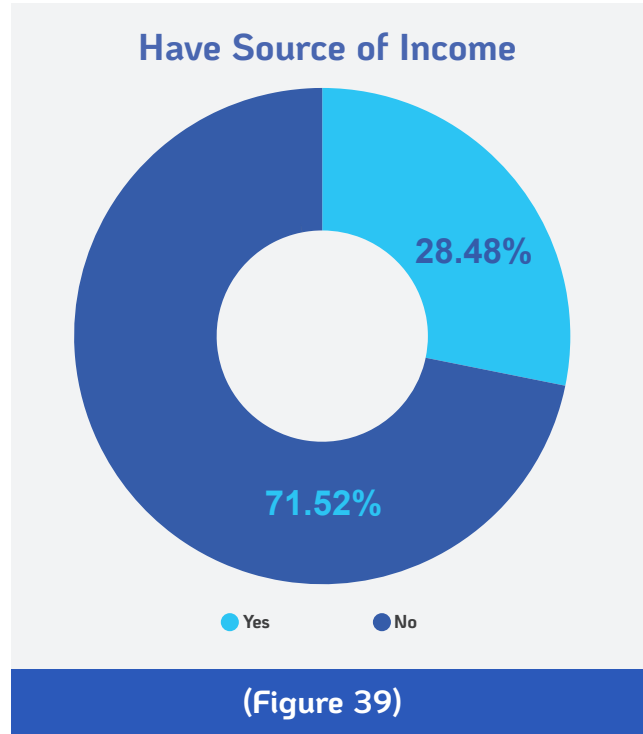


Impact of special needs: 88.24% of women with special needs are not affected by their special status, and if there is no special need impact according to a medical opinion, this is an indication that there is no need to allocate programmes and projects for people with special needs from responders.



Source of income availability: The main difficulties faced by Syrian widowed refugees are low income⁽¹⁵⁾ (the results of the survey indicated that 71.52% of participants do not have a source of income, reflecting the need to empower the qualification of female responders to provide a source of self-income.

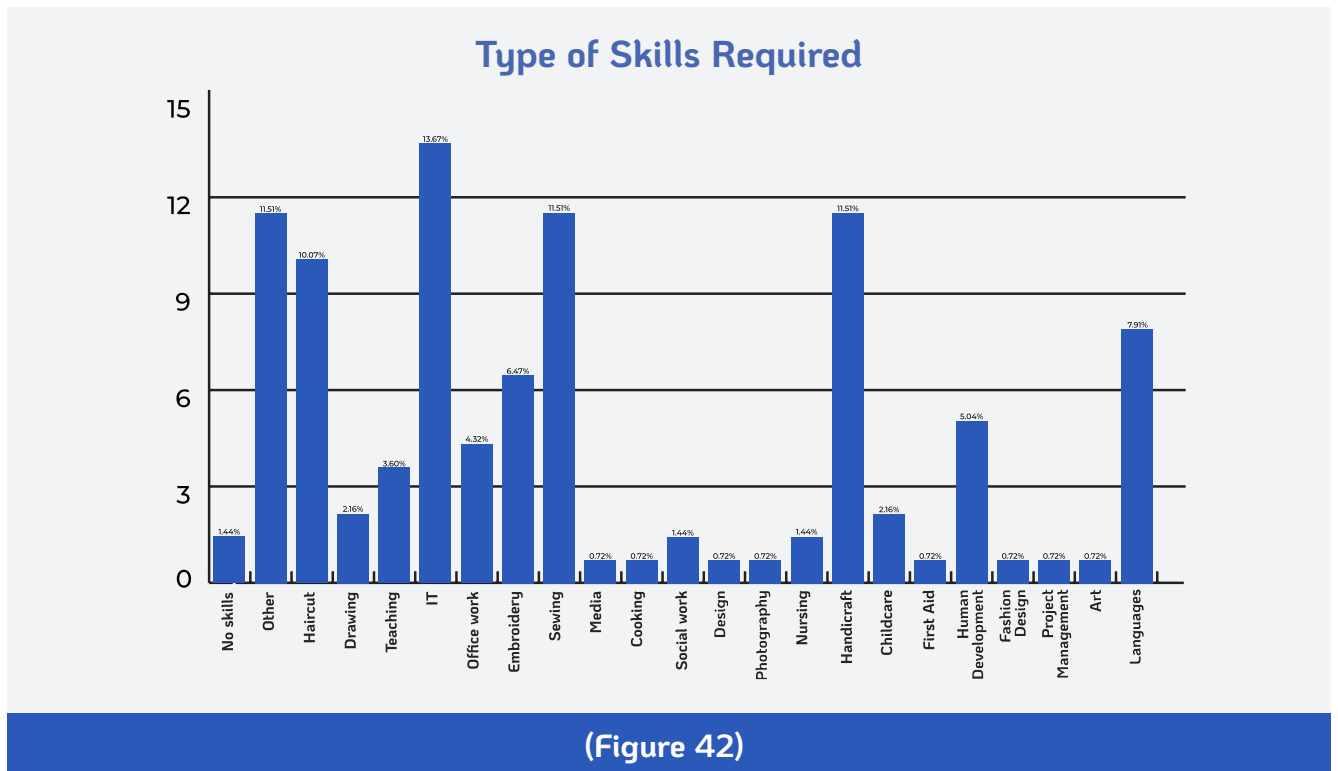
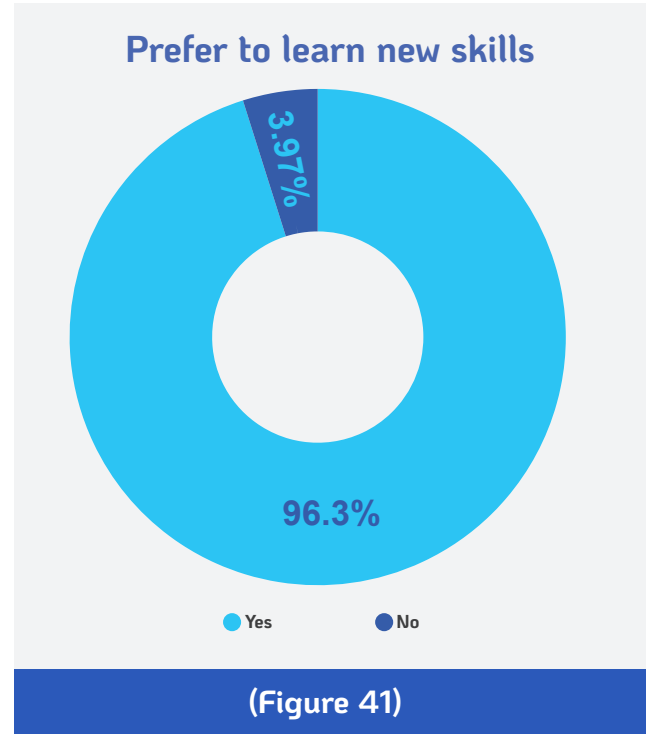
Have skills: The highest proportion of available skill was 20.86% for teaching, and the remaining percentages were distributed among other skills, there is a marked concentration around the teaching and sewing professions that may lead to them being framed within a sector or stereotyped within a limited area.



(15) UNHCR. "Woman alone: The Fight for Survival by Syria's Refugee Women." (2014).

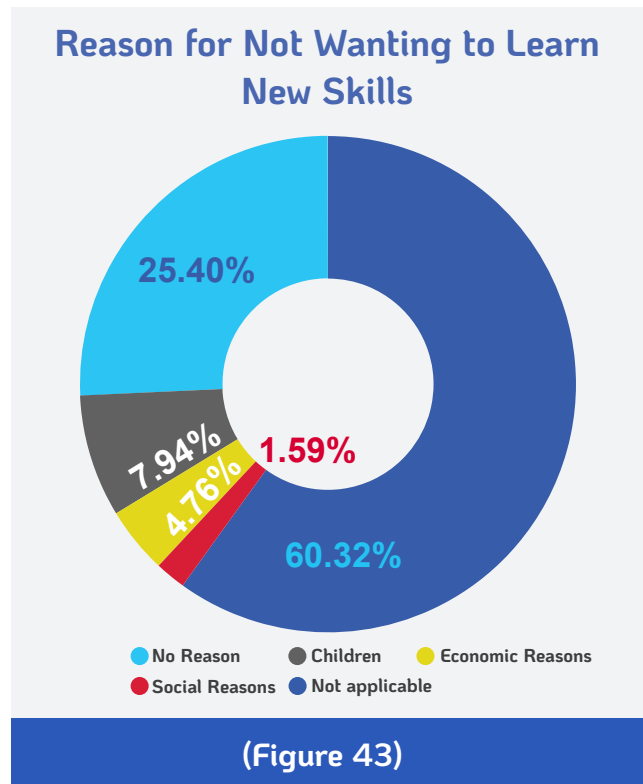
Learning new skills: 96.03% of respondents want to learn new skills, the will to learn must be linked to a will in practice.

The new skills required: the technological field has the highest percentage of new skills required to be learnt at 13.67%, and the rest of the skills ratios are included as in figure 42, and there appears that they are keen to learn new language and using modern technologies, as deemed necessary for their daily life and the labour market.⁽¹⁶⁾

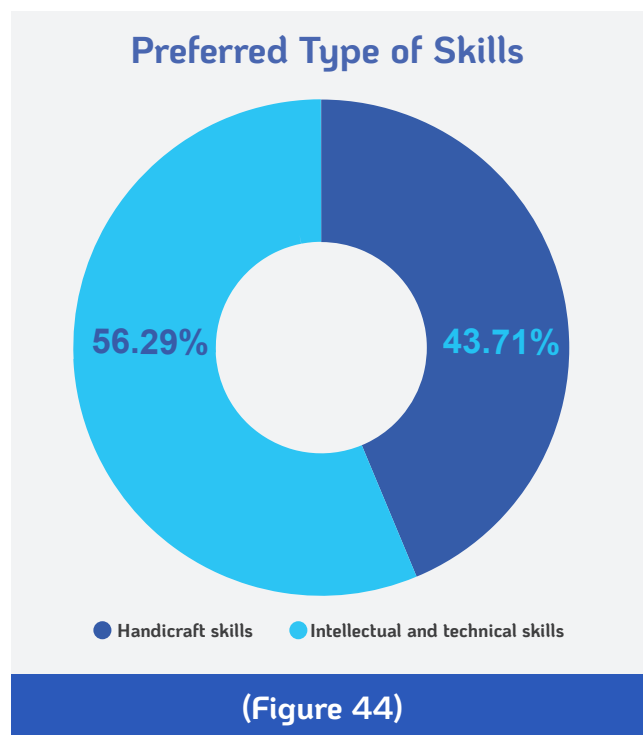


(16) Ozturk, Lamiha, Zehra Vildan Serin, and Hamdiye Altındız. "Challenges and Obstacles for Syrian Refugee Women in the Turkish Labor Market." Societies 9, no. 3 (2019): 49.

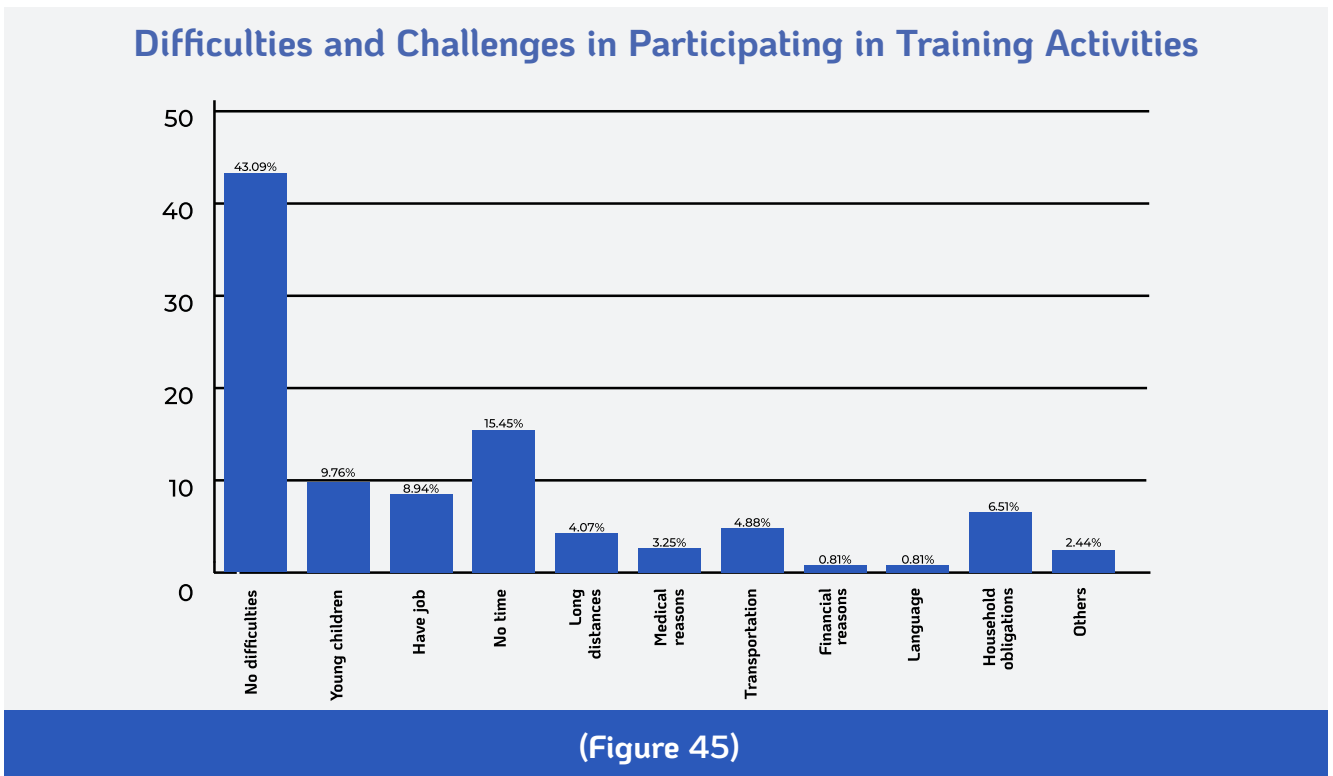
Reason for not wanting to learn new skills: 25.0% of respondents have no reason not to learn new skills, and the remaining percentages are divided between economic and social reasons or the presence of children, the unwillingness to learn new skills may indicate the existence of skills that essentially needs to be developed, or may indicate that a need for development or awareness for women who reject the principle, whether due to health or psychological problems, patterns of thinking or other burdens.



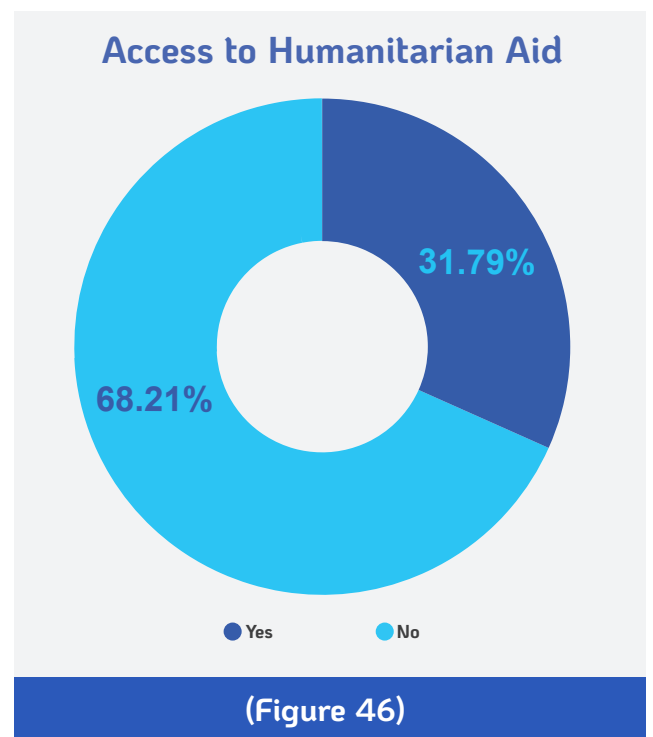
Preferred skill type: 56.29% of respondents said they wanted to learn intellectual and technical skills, indicating problems in accessing education as many handcraft occupations do not need education.



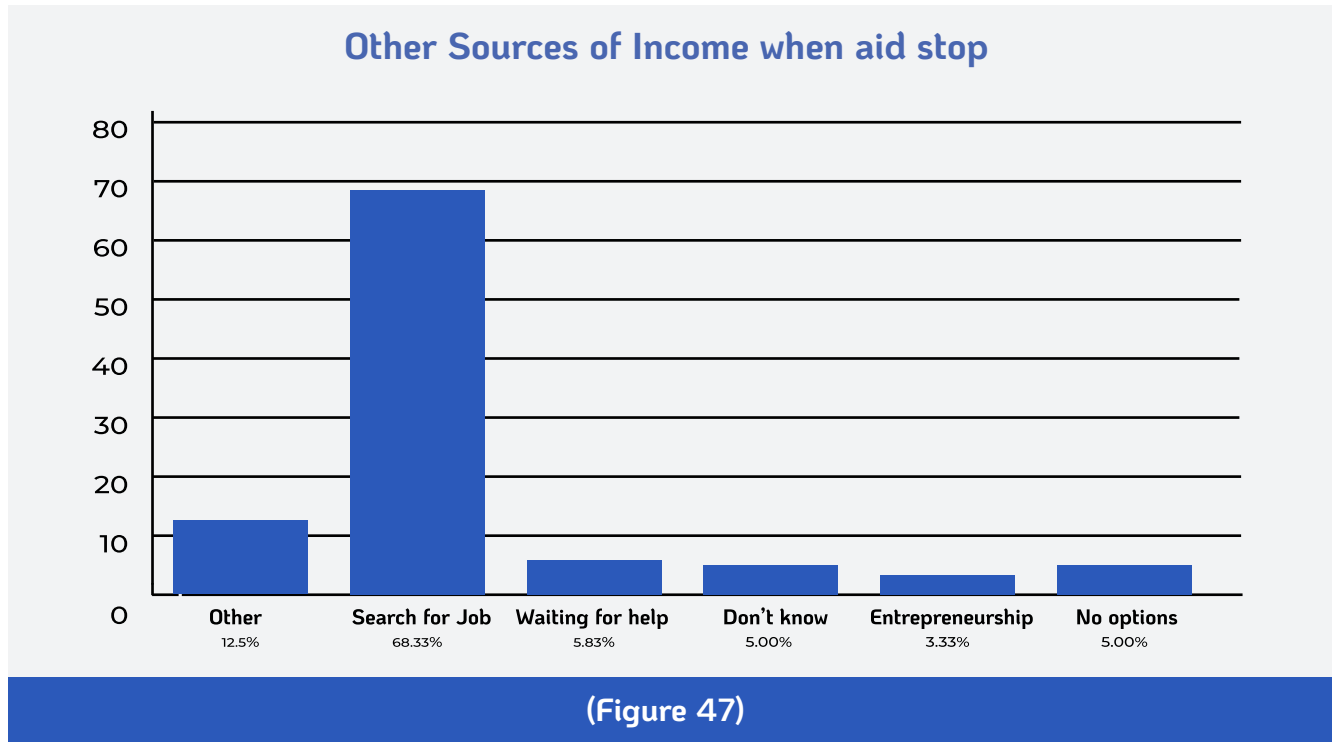
Difficulties and challenges: 43.09% of women participated do not have difficulties or challenges, and the biggest challenge was lack of time by 15.45%, so different challenges can be addressed by involving beneficiaries in timeframe, places for training and trying to stimulate their schedule as much as possible taking into account their household obligations.



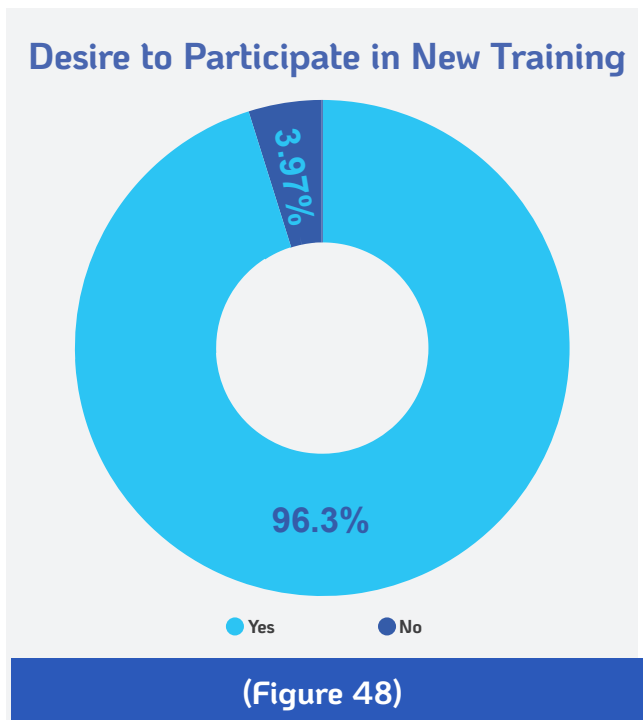
Access to humanitarian assistance: 68.21% of participants do not receive humanitarian aid, a good indicator of lack of reliability on humanitarian institutions.



Other sources of income: Job search was the highest among participants' options for access to alternative sources of income, indicating the need to provide empowerment and useful qualification in expanding women's economic dependence opportunities, by helping them to obtain a job or special work such as microfinance projects.⁽¹⁷⁾

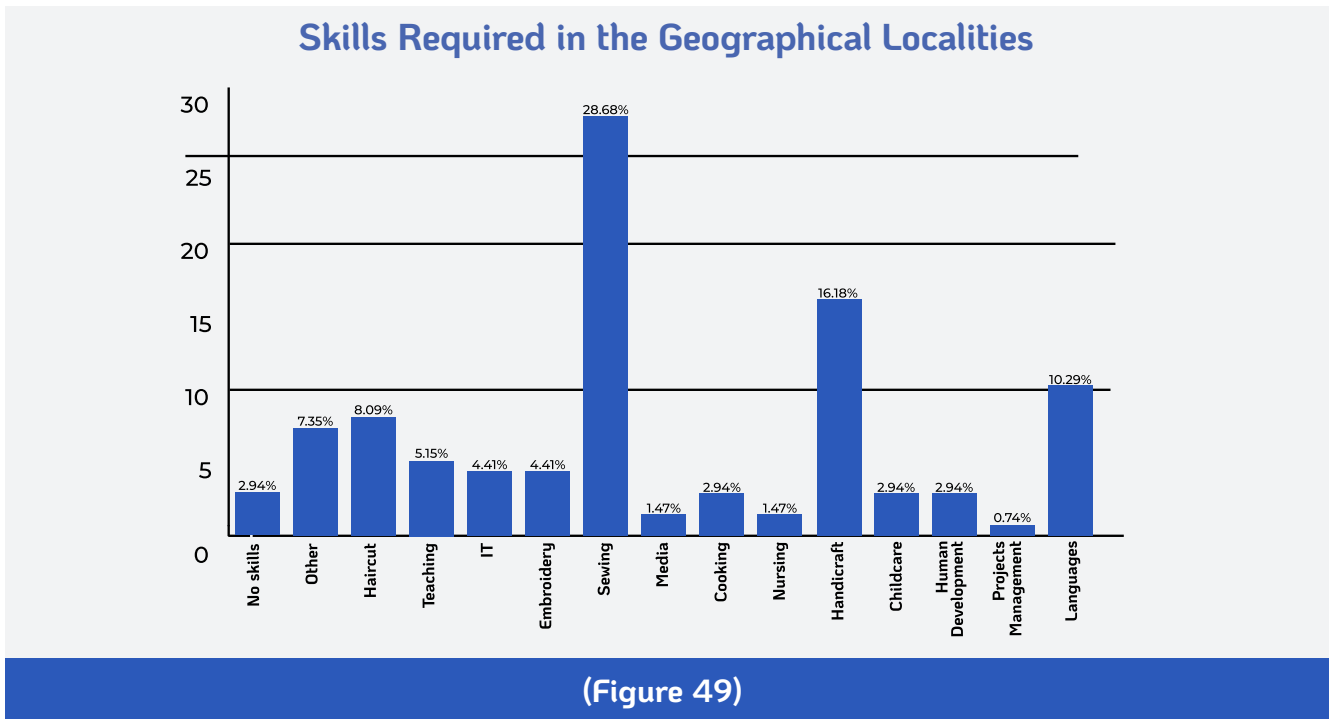


The desire for education or training: 96.03% of participants want to participate in new training or education but may not indicate a systematic and targeted goal among beneficiaries or institutions about the feasibility, effectiveness and appropriateness of training and educational programs.

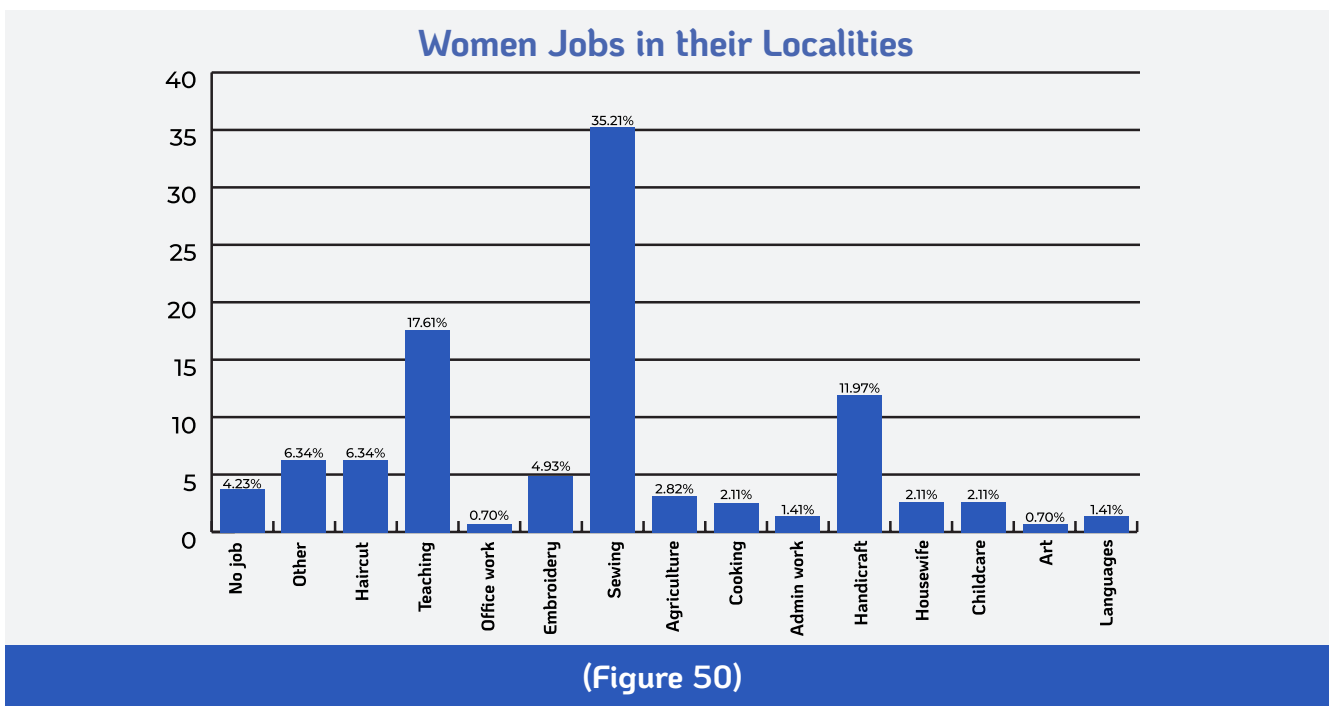


(17) Cheston, Susy, and Lisa Kuhn. "Empowering Women Through Microfinance." *Draft, Opportunity International* 64 (2002).

Skills required in the geographical localities: Most participants consider sewing to be the most sought-after craft in their localities, and therefore 16.18% of handicrafts show that sewing and handicrafts are treasures that can be invested and developed sustainably.

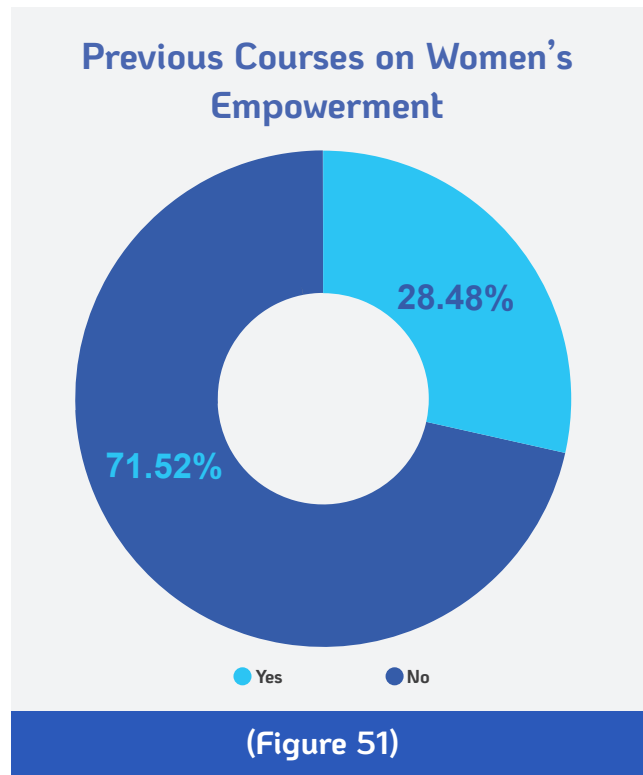


Common jobs in their localities: Sewing was also the most common job in the areas of respondents by 35.21%, indicating a potential.



Previous courses on women’s empowerment:

Although women’s empowerment is an integral part of UN projects and programmes in Turkey, the results of the survey,⁽¹⁸⁾ showed that 71.52% of respondents did not receive empowerment courses, this indicates that there are many numbers that need to be made aware on aspects of empowerment.



(18) Look at: <https://www.undp.org/content/dam/turkey/docs/8martnotedesignEN.pdf>

Refugees' women in Turkey, Sufficiency or Need for More

It seems that women refugees in Turkey in different areas of residence have undergone many courses and programs randomly, without regard to their needs and without paying attention to the effectiveness, feasibility and appropriateness of what has been offered to them. Most of the training has been targeted at refugees at the expense of some aspects that

have been neglected, though necessary. In the following paragraphs, the discussions will cover participants and differences in personal variables between the questionnaires, and then determine what women refugees in Turkey need based on their answers, in the technical, entrepreneurial and social fields.



First: Individual and Personal Minor Differences

The geographical distribution of women participated in the study was mainly in six cities Istanbul and five in Southern Turkey (Sanliurfa, Reyhanli, Antioch, Gaziantep and Kirkhan), the number of children participating on average was between two to three children. The majority of women do not work, and majority wants to work.

Of the important proportions was that half of the women refugees did have handicrafts skills and most of them were not working, while the most important profession they owned was sewing, weaving and embroidery, which calls into question two main elements that must be integrated into women's support programmes and projects to ensure their sustainability:

1. Provide the necessary production capabilities support following training of refugee women in a particular handicraft or skill.
2. Provide access to market.

The reasons for supporting women's work are divided in similar proportions between economic, social and feminist motives. On the other hand, most women reported that they did not have special needs, and most of those who had a special need were not affected, which in theory meant that refugee women could be able to work and be productive, however, most do not have a stable source of income.

Second: Focus on Skills and Knowledge

The answers carried almost identical proportions in terms of personal and psychological variables, all of which were positive indicators of the situation of most refugees' women, in terms of the ability to solve problems, Think Positively, Focus on Strengths, Accept Criticism, and Commit to Time and Tasks, Take Responsibility and The Desire for Self-Reliance. These overwhelming proportions may be due to previous cycles taken in those areas, or to the experiences of personal participation, but more importantly, it indicates that support by focusing on social and psychosocial aspects has entered a space of sufficiency, where the shift towards working directly with individuals, particularly, given the small numbers of women refugees with negative indicators if measured on the number of women participated in the survey.



Third: «Empowering Pioneer Woman» and Technical trainings

In the variables of the cognitive and skill aspects were focused on questions related to existing skills or lost skills, and linked this with the wishes and abilities of the participants in the questionnaire, and the skill of teaching and training had the greatest proportion among those who answered that they already have a skill, and what is interesting here is that 5% of respondents do not have certain skills or abilities, and perhaps the same percentage of them have negative social indicators as we have mentioned earlier, and perhaps only those who need direct financial support, food and medicine.

Most participants have basic skills and in need to learn new skills; primarily they need to develop such skills, and invest it to support and empower other women, those skills are distributed among more than twenty different ones, and it seems to be feasible to invest in providing programmes, and training courses for the women to develop those skills. More handicraft and skill courses will lead to repetition - perhaps this is happening - especially if the participants want to learn more. This means employing that desire appropriately, to keep the sponsors of the programmes and training courses motivated.

The industries requested by the participants focused on technology, sewing, embroidery, haircuts and other handicrafts, but some did not want to learn new skills, maybe because they already have skills but needed to be developed, and they are the majority, on the obstacles such as economic and social obligations or raising

children did not show any indication as an obstacle to large proportions of participants.

On the other hand, the division is evident in the desires of participants between learning intellectual and technical skills on the one hand, and learning handicraft and professional skills on the other, but most of them do not suffer from challenges or difficulties, with limited exceptions during which the factors were family, time, job and transportation difficulties are limited to access training.

Nearly two-thirds of the respondents reported that they did not receive support or humanitarian aid, for those receiving aid, did indicate that they would look for paid jobs in the event of lack of support from charitable organisations; while the rest were living on hopes that aid will come from the sky, or they would seek funding through private projects, in addition to a limited percentage which has no other choices, certainly they are those who would stay in need for food and clothing.

Two-thirds of the respondents reads Arabic perfectly, more than two-thirds do not speak any language other than Arabic, the most important proportions of other languages were distributed between Turkish and English, the respondents also stated that they have skills, and the majority of them reported the desire to learn new skills; majority showed interested again to learn sewing, embroidery and handicrafts, although most of them do not have educational qualifications, less than a quarter of the sample may have graduated from university, and more than half of them did not take previous training.

courses, especially in handicrafts, although it is a being sought. Those who received training were in sewing and embroidery, which appear to be a favorite profession of the participants, and may also indicate the need to meet the wishes and needs of the beneficiaries and provide more support for the skill of sewing, but should be careful and not rush into it, a field survey is needed to see if there is more needs for such profession in their localities.

Three-quarters of the respondent are able to teach others, which may mean turning them into development and humanitarian support activists also can train other widowed women, the ability and the will to learn new skills are clear in their own vision, participants showed a strong desire for action, a strong will to be self-sufficient and to stop receiving support from charitable organisations.



Summary

Conclusions

- Although the personal circumstances of the participants in the questionnaires differed, most of the responses to the common questions were similar, especially in the responses to the participant's psychological and mental state questions.
- Women Refugees have good indications of self-confidence and a desire to be empowered.
- Receiving relief aid is not a priority for the needs of Syrian refugees participated in the survey.
- Pioneering qualification courses have been effective, but large proportions of respondents wanted to learn handicraft and technical skills.
- Large percentages of participants do not have handicraft skills and have not undergone previous training or formal educational courses.
- Large proportions of women participants expressed their desire for an opportunity to develop the social role, interaction and transition to production.
- Listen to opinions of women refugees who seek to develop their abilities and support their families, and the need to take them into consideration when planning, implementing and monitoring programmes.
- Empowering and preparing Syrian women refugees to enter the labour market, as well as raising companies and institutions awareness about employing them.
- Organisations should move away from the provision of providing services in a general context, and to specialise in their programmes and projects to targeted groups in order to develop their skills and not to burden them with educational curriculum and training programmes that are not structured and has no clear objectives.

Recommendations

- Organisations need to work to transform projects and supporting programmes towards development rather than relief, and to open doors to apply of what is being taught and trained to ensure its sustainability.
- Reducing the provision of psychosocial support, as the provision of skills and knowledge is a priority according to the opinions of respondents.



No more in-kind aid



Towards greater empowerment and rehabilitation





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