

منظمة العدالة من أجل الحياة
Justice For Life Organization



Deir Ezzor and Peace

A Preliminary Reading of Conflicts Nature
and Ways towards Resolution

October 2019

 Contact@JFL.ngo

[/JFLngo](https://www.facebook.com/JFLngo)

 [@JFLngo](https://twitter.com/JFLngo)

 JFL.ngo

Deir Ezzor and Peace

A paper issued by Justice for Life organization with other partner organizations about local community attitudes in Deir Ezzor regarding selecting their representatives to achieve community peace and identifying the most prominent conflicts in the province

October 2019

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary	5
Introduction	7
Deir Ezzor Province	7
Methodology	9
Survey Design	9
Why the Survey?	10
First Part: “Who does represent you?”	10
Second part: “The Most Prominent Conflict?”	10
Selecting the Researchers	11
Work Methodology	11
The Role of the Civil Society	12
The First Part: Who Does Represent You”	13
The Academic Background of the Surveyed Subjects:	13
The First Part Analysis Results	14
First: Surveyed Subjects Numbers	14
Second: Reasons Raised by Surveyed Subjects behind the Selection of their Representatives:	15
Third: Surveyed Subjects Selections	17
The Second Part: “The Most Prominent Conflicts”	22
The Second Part Analysis Results:	22
The Academic Background for the Respondents	22
Survey Results:	22
First: About the conflicts and their nature:	22
Second: Parties to Conflict	24
Third: Reasons behind the Conflicts	25
Fourth: Resolution Efforts and Actors	27
Fifth: The Best Effective Ways to Solve Conflicts along with Preferred Parties:	29
Major Challenges:	34
Conclusion	35

Recommendations	36
Glossary	38
Annexes	39

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the light of growing questions regarding the way to achieve peace in Syria on both local and national levels following years of war that ravaged and cracked the Syrian society on ethnic, geographic, and sectarian bases, seeking for answers and developing methodologies by which sustainable peace strategies could be set forth, are two important issues that are considered the important and complicated at present.

On the national level, the continuous negotiations, which have been started for years, have not yielded reasonable solutions for the Syrians to end the war, secure a safe return for the refugees, and reach a transition from the totalitarian authority to a democratic and pluralistic rule.

On the community/local level, civic groups and initiatives are engaged in broad-based and complicated discussions on the manner of dealing with the local conflicts and solving what can be solved away from waiting for the denouement at the national level, where no signs indicate a close reach to achieve peace.

Justice in Syria is a must in order to reach a just and lasting peace, providing that justice is not limited to accountability, which many international and local parties are working on. Yet, working on reaching possible justice for the conflict victims contributes to reaching some sort of local stability and saving the local powers from being consumed in endless conflicts.

Many conflicts could be solved as their drivers are not existing anymore. Moreover, the populations' desire to reach peaceful solutions would considerably help in finding solutions.

On the basis of the role of the Syrian civil society in the devastating war, and being one of the closest party to the population that has the ability to hear their voices, engaging them in dialogues and decision making processes and assessing their needs, Justice for Life, in collaboration with partner organizations, is implementing a project to establish local peace committees in Deir Ezzor.

A survey, composed of two parts, was conducted in Deir Ezzor. The first part of the survey, entitled "Who does represent you?", is about the persons who should be selected by the local community to be representative to achieve community peace. The second part of the survey, entitled "The most prominent conflicts" is about identifying the most prominent conflicts occurring in the province along with identifying conflict parties, conflict reasons, and best solutions to solve them.

The subjects surveyed that were reached by JFL researchers totaled 2478 within 11 communities, where many challenges were faced by the team such as; the difficulty of movement in some sub-districts at night, weak internet connection in some areas, and vast areas of other sub-districts, which resulted in some delay in completing the survey.

The survey included the participation of 609 women, which count for about 25% of the total respondents. The most prominent results of the survey were; giving trust to the notables, active figures, and intellectuals as persons who are able to represent their communities. In parallel, members of civil councils and military leaders were not granted this trust. The majority of the respondents stated that they prefer a peaceful solution rather than a military one, and a desire to see initiatives based on local hands and tools to get rid of conflicts and their consequences. The paper presents multiple recommendations such as; the continuation of marginalizing local communities by authorities in place may create a space for extremist groups to market their narrative regarding the failure of replacing powers in imposing security and solving the basic problems. This might create a new entrance for such groups to win the local public opinion. Therefore, there is a need to support the local efforts for peace with executive mechanisms by the local authorities in a manner that ensures the application of agreements, and the need of dealing with the local conflicts in an organized way with means that are accepted locally. Accordingly, working with new means for solving the conflicts requires a broad-based discussion with the local community.

INTRODUCTION

Justice for Life organization works in partnership with local organizations to establish a number of peace committees inside Deir Ezzor province in order to identify conflicts and work jointly to solve them. The committees will be formed following the analysis of the questionnaire. The questionnaire is composed of two parts: one that focuses on gaining an understanding of profiles of subjects to be selected to represent their communities within the local peace committees and a second part that focuses on understanding the most prominent conflicts and the parties that should be involved in putting an end to those conflicts.

The decisions and activities of those committees will be made by its members. An interactive map will be designed to illustrate the most prominent conflicts as identified within the survey. Following these steps, community discussions will be held among the peace committees, then with the local community to discuss and validate findings.

This paper shows the results of the two surveys that were conducted in Deir Ezzor.

Deir Ezzor Province

It is located in eastern Syria with a current population of 722,752¹, including 403,537² in the Syria Democratic Forces held areas.

Aftermath years of war and succession of controlling powers, the province was divided into two parts; the first one is located in the south of Euphrates River and includes the main three cities in the province that are Deir Ezzor, Al Mayadin, and Al Boukmal, and this part is controlled by the Syrian government. The second part, which is controlled by SDF, is located in the north of the river. During and before the war, multiple local conflicts took place where many killed and injured civilians were victimized.

The reasons behind such conflicts varied between the desire to expand control on wells and resources of oil, personal disputes, and others related to materialistic nature. Moreover, there are conflicts that have roots for more than twenty years, and others that are newly fed and were triggered as a result of the war. This what a finding from the survey.

Despite the countless conflicts and clashes in some of these areas, SDF and the supporting powers do not exert the required efforts to work on de-escalate and then solve these conflicts. The controlling power still depends on the so-called "Conflict Case Management" and refuses

¹ According to a UN affiliated agency, until April 2019

² Ibid, except the IDPs based in this areas as no final statistics are available.

to intervene directly, even in cases of using weapons and having victims. This task is assigned to the community figures without any given support to the solutions they come up with in some conflicts.

METHODOLOGY

Survey Design

The project team learned about similar surveys in different areas. Community figures and sociologists were consulted to investigate about the best manner to select and ask questions in order to reach the desired purpose. A specialist was contracted to design the questions of the survey.

Both parts of the survey were conducted in SDF held areas of Deir Ezzor province. The project team intended to include as much as possible of the province sub-districts. The team completed 2300 questionnaires for 11 sub-districts. The field researchers achieved more than the initial target as they interviewed more people through the field visits they made. The final number of conducted questionnaires is 2475. The processes of designing, implementation, analysis, and reporting took three months starting from June 2019 until August 2019.

The targeted areas were the sub-districts of Al Kasra, Al Suwar, Al Busaira, Theeban, Khsham, and Hajeen along with the IDPs who came from Al Mayadin, Al Tibni, Deir Ezzor city and the countryside, and Mouhassan.



Control Areas in Deir Ezzor Province

Why the Survey?

First Part: “Who does represent you?”

The local powers and its supporting parties along with some of the international organizations working in Deir Ezzor are still adopting manners that lack methodology in dealing with the local conflicts. Random processing by depending on what was applied in other areas cannot be a base to take clear steps towards dealing with increasing conflicts and problems. Furthermore, the opinions of the local community are not taken into account in regards to what it wants and how it sees the proper way to counter the countless and complicated problems, which are festering increasingly.

The first part aimed at questioning random subjects from the local community about the most prominent figures that might enjoy a community buy-in for demanding rights in regards to local peace and the reasons behind choosing them.

Based on the names selected by the respondents, local peace groups were formed to achieve the main tasks; selecting the required tools, setting forth an actionable strategy to deal with local conflicts, solving what could be solved, and contain what could not be solved. The first part included two open-ended questions; the first one about the name of the person, and the other about the reason behind choosing him/her. Needless to say that the survey included questions about age, sex, academic background, sub-district, community, tribe, and sub-tribe of the surveyed person.

Second part: “The Most Prominent Conflicts?”

Conflicts affect the security of local communities, stability opportunities, and development. They also weaken local powers and lead, in case they were not addressed, to having new conflicts.

Conflicts have been of interest to different local and international parties acting in Deir Ezzor. Identifying them and understanding their nature are of the most important tracks that parties are working on.

Assessing the current situation, finding out all types, reasons, and motives of conflicts require significant and joint efforts by those who are interested in this concern. Here, and for the sake of having a realistic assessment to come up with real answers, it is a must to work directly with the local community and giving it the opportunity to share answers and suggestions for the best manner of dealing with local conflicts.

The second part of the survey raised nine close-ended questions regarding conflicts in the province in terms of nature, parties, reasons, preferred way of solving them, and the qualified parties to solve. Additionally, the survey included personal questions in order to explore more in the tendencies of some community categories such as youth and women, or according to the geographic domain and academic background.

Selecting the Researchers

A researcher was selected for each target sub-district. The partner organizations intended to have a researcher from the same area in order to facilitate the communication and building trust between the researcher and the surveyed subjects. The main terms of assigning the researchers were that they must not have previously participated in any military efforts. They must have previous experience in conducting field surveys.

The project manager, project assistant, and human resources manager selected the researchers following consultations with the local partner organizations staff in Deir Ezzor.

Work Methodology

As per the work plan, the researchers should select subjects randomly as they meet them in public places or house visits. The researchers paid morning visits to the surveyed subjects, whereas they uploaded all collected data through a “Kobo” link. A database was designed to gather all uploaded and collected data from the field.

Daily follow-up was made by the project assistant to supervise remotely the field visits and making sure that all data were fully uploaded.

On a weekly basis, every Wednesday, the data entry process was validated by the database manager and shared with the project manager. Every Thursday, a meeting was held by the project management team to discuss the work progress and correct any errors as needed.

Urgent meetings were held to correct errors that cannot wait until the weekly meeting.

Based on JFL experience, and due to the time limitation, JFL planned to reach a target of surveying 25% of female subjects. The reached percentage was slightly below the planned one.

In order to engage youth and other community categories alongside tribal notables, who usually are assigned to solve the conflicts, criteria of age to be below 50-years-old was set for subjects to be surveyed so that youth get an opportunity to move, interact with activities, and attend meetings.

THE ROLE OF THE CIVIL SOCIETY

The civil society plays a major role in finding out verifiable means as they reflect the local community needs and they have access and competency to communicate and organize discussion sessions. The civil society seeks to turn the rivals into cooperants throughout its activities in order to reach the desired peaceful solution. The civil society would make the joint solutions applicable, and avoid the one-sided violent ones.

THE FIRST PART: WHO DOES REPRESENT YOU”

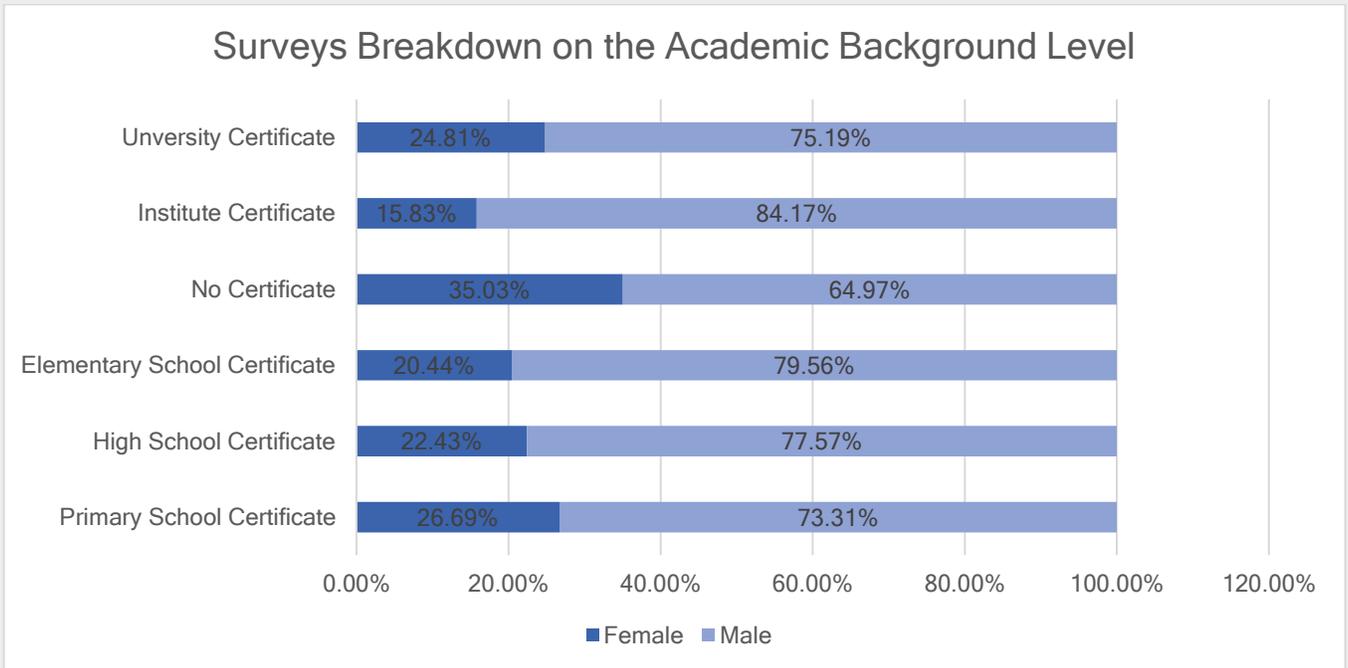
The Academic Background of the Surveyed Subjects:

Despite the fact that the surveyed subjects were randomly selected, the subjects who have high school certificate were about 15.65%, and the percent of the university degree holders was 10.25%, whereas the primary school certificate holders were about 23.52%.

The percentage of the subjects who have elementary school degree was 17.88%, high school degree holders 21.62%, and institute degree holders was 11.04%.

The results of the survey in terms of the academic background of the surveyed subjects were as follows;

Academic Background	Number of certificate holders	Males	Females
Primary School	296	73.31%	26.69%
Elementary School	225	79.56%	20.44%
High School	272	77.57%	22.43%
Two-year College	139	84.17%	15.83%
University Degree	129	75.19%	24.81%
Uneducated	197	64.97%	35.03%



The First Part Analysis Results

First: Surveyed Subjects Numbers

Figure 1: The total number of the surveyed subjects is 1258, including 309 females: 75.44% males, 24.56% females.

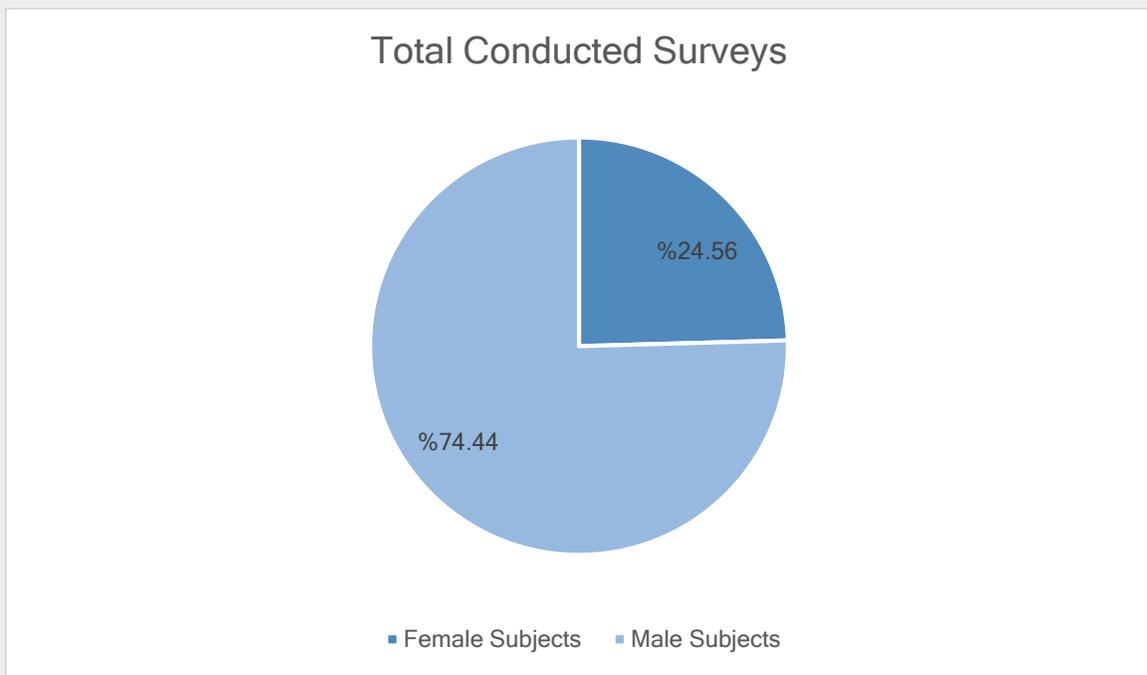
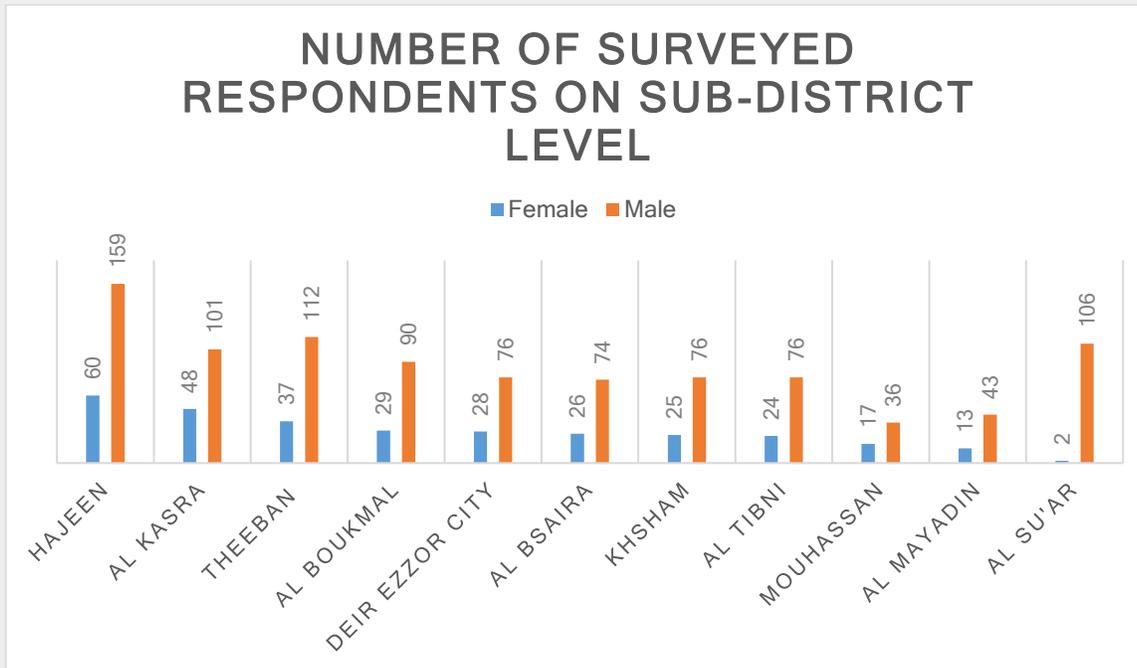


Figure 2



Result: JFL was not able to reach the percentage of the female subjects planned that was set at 25%. The number of areas where female participation was low was limited as indicated by the results, such as in Al Su'ar sub-district for instance. The highest female participation rate in the survey was noticed in Hajeen sub-district. (Figure 2).

Conclusion: The unavailability of female researchers might be the reason behind such low participation. Additionally, the time limitation decreased the opportunity to compensate for the low participation percentage in some areas, so in other areas, the number was compensated where the participation percentage was considered reasonable.

Second: Reasons Raised by Surveyed Subjects behind the Selection of their Representatives:

The reasons behind the selection of representatives and their ability to represent community members included a large number of diverse criteria which included: the ability to solve conflict, reputation, generosity, and well-known family membership.

At the end of the survey, dozens of selection reasons were counted, each group of reasons was classified and coded in order to ease the analysis. The following table includes the codes and explanations;

Civil Council Member	Cleric	Intellectuals	Military Leader	Active Figure	Notable
Head of civil/local council	Has a religious science	Holds a university degree	Within SDF leaderships	A young man who is prominent in his community	Tribal Leaders, or his son
A representative for his community before the controlling authority	Imam	Has the ability to convince		Has a strong character and voice	Notable of the sub-tribe
		Lawyer or Doctor		Highly placed among tribes	Descended from a famous family
		Out of the education people of the community/ area		Has experience in solving disputes	Out of the tribe notables (a character who has its own tribal voice, but he is not a leader), or his son.
		Educated and open to culture		New face	Mukhtar or his son
		Schoolteacher or educator		Has the ability to develop a dialogue	Has a social weigh in his community. (one of the influential persons)
				Has a vast social influence	A prominent person within his sub-tribe
				Has the ability to talk effectively	
				Popular and influential	

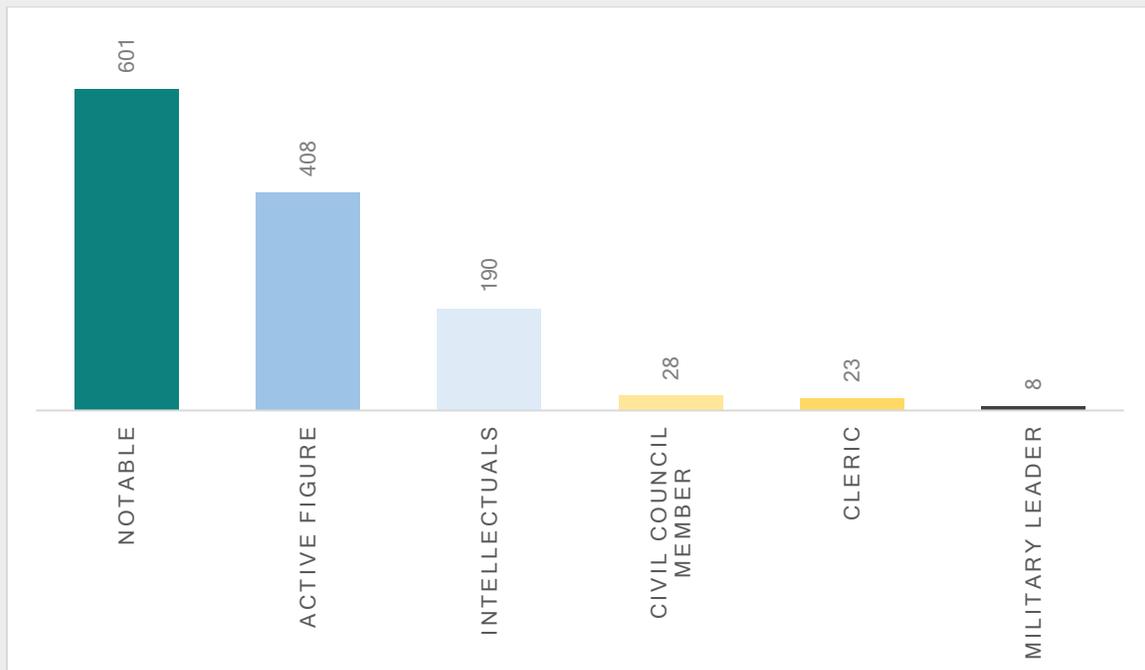
				Has knowledge of the community problems	
				Decent, modest, and generous	
				Has history in reconciliation and good deeds.	
				Has a decent position among the tribe or the community.	

Third: Surveyed Subjects Selections

The reasons behind the surveyed subjects' selection came as follows;

Reason for selection	Percentage
Notable	47.8%
Active Figure	32.45%
Intellectuals	15.11%
Civil Council Member	2.22%
Cleric	1.82%
Military Leader	0.63%

Figure 3



Result 1: It was indicated that there is high trust in notables who gained about half of the total percentage, whereas the surveyed subjects did not give their trust to the members of the civil council nor to the military leaders.

Result 2: Despite the fact that the area is conservative, yet the clerics could not gain the trust of the surveyed subjects. The active figures and intellectuals gained high trust as their total percentages reached approximately the percentage of trust given to the notables. (Figure 3).

Conclusion: Members of the civil councils that were formed by SDF, and the affiliated military leaders do not form an option to solve conflicts according to the local community. The local authorities along with their most prominent institutions were not able to present themselves as a party that is able to maintain security and make peace and stability. They did not prove their ability to deal with fundamental files related to the populations' daily life and their personal security. This led to protests in Deir Ezzor that carry demands to these parties.

In the details of the choices, the following table indicates;

Sub-district	Reason	Number	Male	Female
Hajeen	Notable Figure	125	91 (41.5%)	34 (15.5%)
	Active Figure	82	60 (27.3%)	22 (10.04 %)
	Military Leader	0	0	0
	Intellectuals	12	8 (3.65 %)	4 (1.82 %)
	Cleric	0	0	0
	Civil Council Member	0	0	0
Al Kasra	Notable Figure	90	66 (44.2%)	24 (16.1 %)
	Active Figure	8	7 (4.69 %)	1 (0.67 %)
	Military Leader	0	0	0
	Intellectuals	18	10 (6.71 %)	8 (5.36 %)
	Cleric	5	3 (2.01 %)	2 (1.34 %)
	Civil Council Member	28	15 (10.06 %)	13 (8.72 %)
Al Busaira	Notable Figure	43	28 (28%)	15 (15%)
	Active Figure	40	32 (32%)	8 (8%)
	Military Leader	0	0	0
	Intellectuals	17	14 (14%)	3 (3%)
	Cleric	0	0	0
	Civil Council Member	0	0	0
Al Suar	Notable Figure	71	70 (64.81%)	1 (0.92%)
	Active Figure	29	28 (25.92%)	1 (0.92%)
	Military Leader	8	8 (7.40%)	0
	Intellectuals	0	0	0
	Cleric	0	0	0
	Civil Council Member	0	0	0
Theeban	Notable Figure	91	70 (46.97%)	21 (19.44%)
	Active Figure	63	27 (18.12%)	9 (6.04%)
	Military Leader	0	0	0
	Intellectuals	22	15 (10.06%)	7 (4.69%)
	Cleric	0	0	0

	Civil Council Member	0	0	0
Khsham	Notable Figure	15	11 (11%)	4 (4%)
	Active Figure	67	52 (52%)	15 (15%)
	Military Leader	0	0	0
	Intellectuals	1	1 (1%)	0
	Cleric	18	12 (12%)	6 (6%)
	Civil Council Member	0	0	0
Deir Ezzor city and countryside	Notable Figure	21	12 (11.53%)	9 (8.65%)
	Active Figure	62	49 (47.11%)	13 (12.5%)
	Military Leader	0	0	0
	Intellectuals	21	15 (14.42%)	6 (5.76%)
	Cleric	0	0	0
	Civil Council Member	0	0	0
Al Mayadin	Notable Figure	3	3 (5.35%)	0
	Active Figure	38	29 (51.78%)	9 (16.07%)
	Military Leader	0	0	0
	Intellectuals	15	11 (19.64%)	4 (7.14%)
	Cleric	0	0	0
	Civil Council Member	0	0	0
Al Boukmal and Al Jalaa	Notable Figure	99	76 (63.86%)	23 (19.32%)
	Active Figure	17	11 (9.24%)	6 (5.04%)
	Military Leader	0	0	0
	Intellectuals	3	3 (2.52%)	0
	Cleric	0	0	0
	Civil Council Member	0	0	0
Al Tibni	Notable Figure	43	35 (35%)	8 (8%)
	Active Figure	25	17 (17%)	7 (7%)
	Military Leader	0	0	0
	Intellectuals	33	24 (24%)	9 (9%)
	Cleric	0	0	0

	Civil Council Member	0	0	0
Mouhasan	Notable Figure	0	0	0
	Active Figure	5	3 (5.35%)	2 (3.77%)
	Military Leader	0	0	0
	Intellectuals	48	33 (62.26%)	15 (28.30%)
	Cleric	0	0	0
	Civil Council Member	0	0	0

THE SECOND PART: “THE MOST PROMINENT CONFLICTS”

The Second Part Analysis Results:

The number of planned surveys was 1150, the conducted ones were 1220; 920 male subjects and 300 female ones.

The Academic Background for the Respondents:

Certificate	Number of holders	Male	Female
Primary School	284	74.64%	25.35%
Elementary School	237	76.79%	23.20%
High School	274	77.37%	22.625
University	118	75.42%	24.57%
Institute	146	83.56%	16.43%
No certificate	161	63.97%	36.02%

Survey Results:

First: About the conflicts and their nature:

The question aimed at exploring the types of conflict, in case there is one, which was faced/being faced by respondents in their areas. The following choices were proposed as answers: Armed conflict (using guns), unarmed conflict (without using guns), and disputes without a fight (it means that parties are disputing but they did not engage or fight by using any type of weapons).

Figure 4

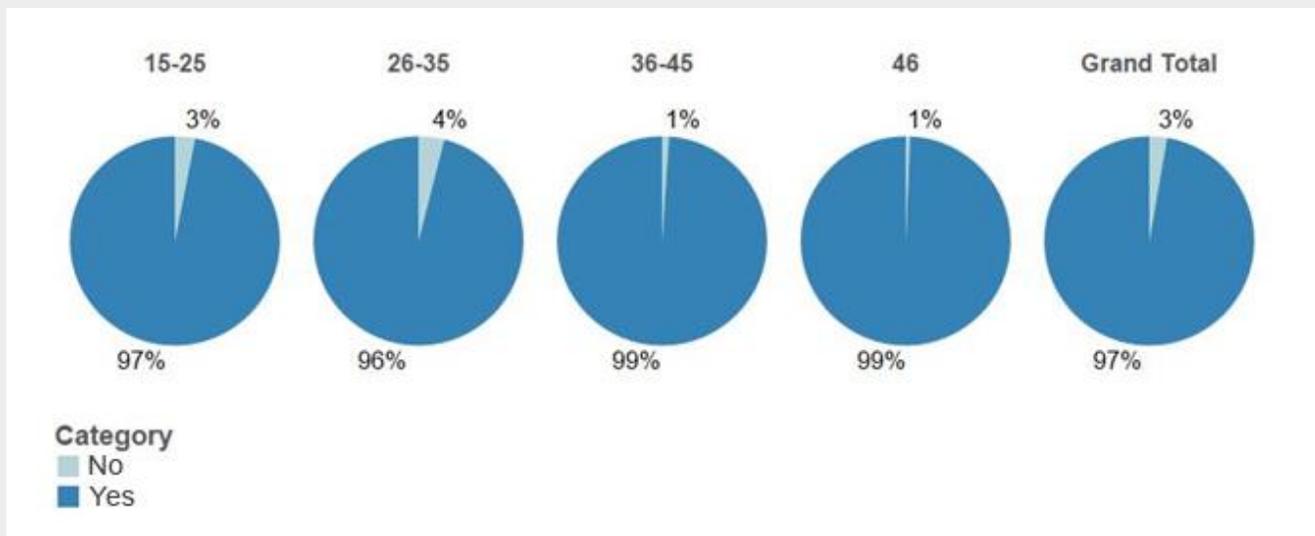
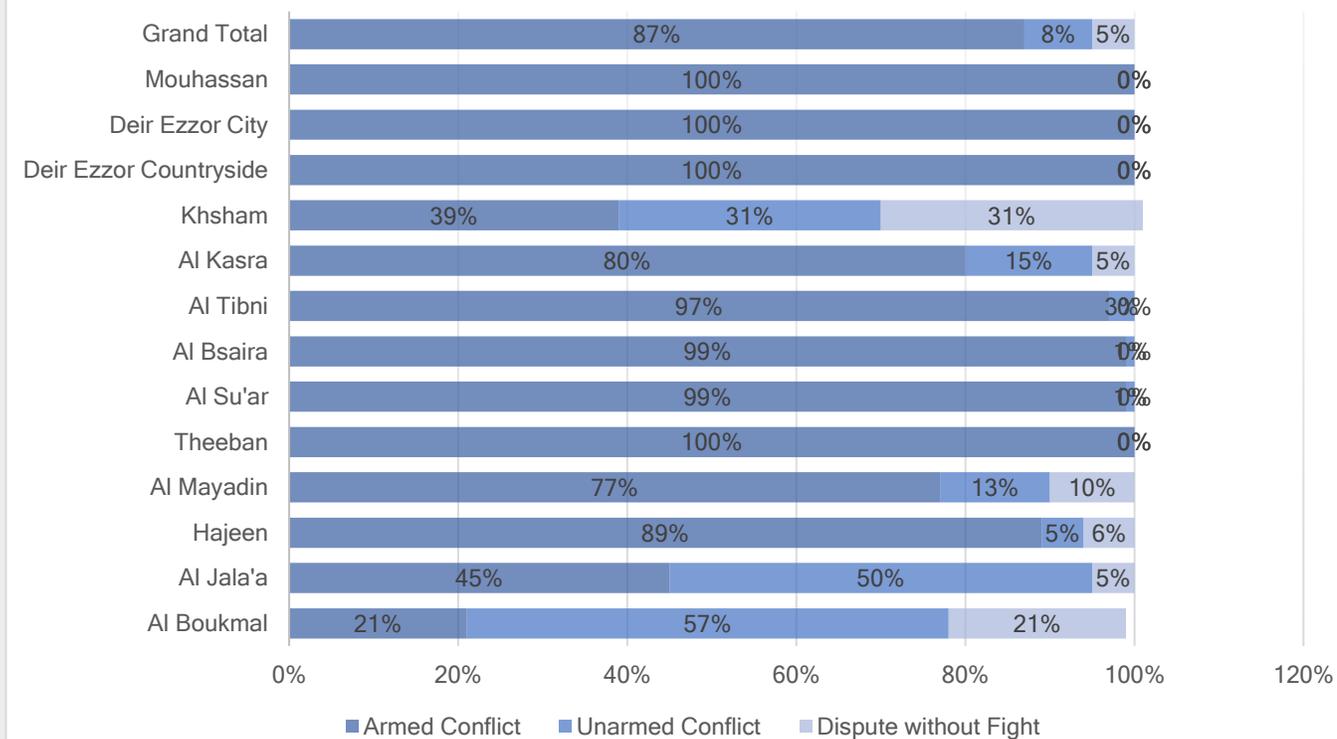


FIGURE 5



Result 1: Answers were analyzed based on age as the majority of the respondents confirmed that there are conflicts, except for some age categories that stated that there are no conflicts in their areas. (Figure 4).

Result 2: Regarding the nature of conflicts, the answers were analyzed on the basis of geographic location; most conflicts that were mentioned by the respondents are armed ones on most of the areas, with unarmed conflict in Al Boukmal sub-district (Al Boukmal and Al Jala'a). (Figure 5).

Conclusion 1: Such a result may show that the young ages, whose consciousness was formed during the conflict, see that the conflict is of normal and continuous status, and there is no extraordinary conflict.

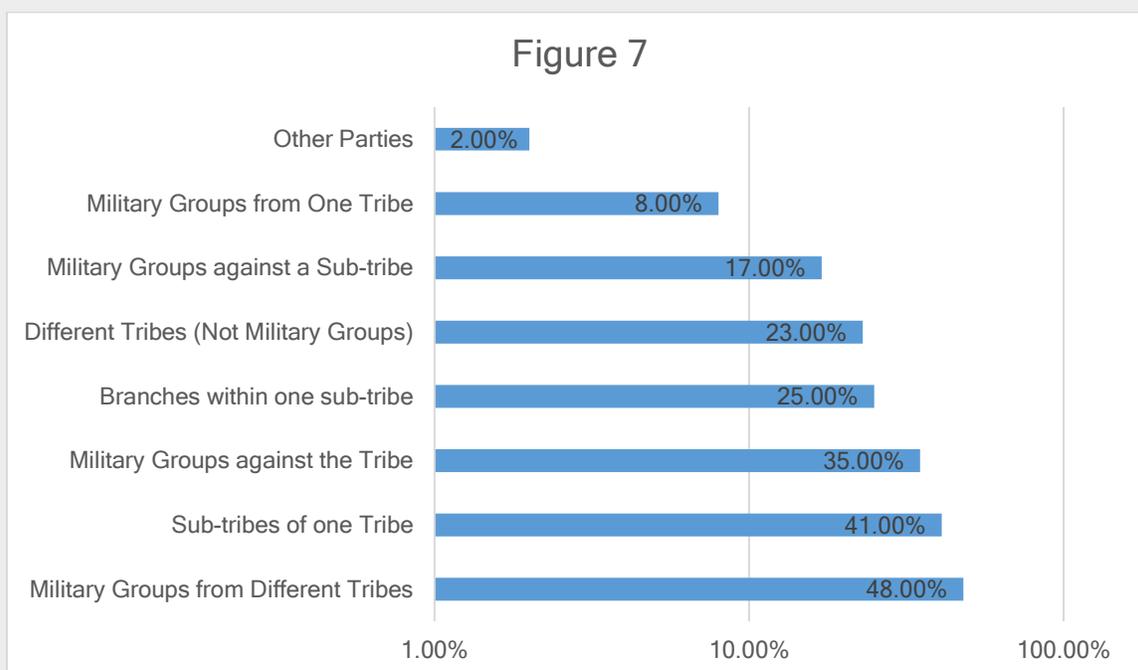
Conclusion 2: As most conflicts are armed ones, it could be possible to have initial steps to limit using weapons such as reducing the prevalence of weapons, which will help in avoiding the deepening of the current conflicts, or triggering new conflicts.

Second: Parties to Conflict

The question aimed at identifying the parties to the conflict in the province. It was indicated that some conflicts have multiple parties. The question gave a set of different answers; different tribes, different sub-tribes of one tribe, families of one sub-tribe, military groups with the tribe, military groups from the tribe, military groups with a sub-tribe, military groups from different tribes/other parties.

Figure 6

	Military Groups of Different Tribes	Sub-tribes of One Tribe	Military Groups with Tribe	Sub-tribes of one Tribe	Different Tribes (No Military Groups)	Military Groups with a Sub-tribe	Military Groups with a Tribe	Other Parties
Al Boukmal	0%	45%	0%	41%	14%	0%	0%	0%
Al Jala'a	0%	48%	0%	17%	35%	0%	0%	0%
Hajeen	6%	24%	34%	15%	3%	7%	8%	3%
Al Mayadin	14%	42%	7%	20%	14%	2%	1%	0%
Thebaan	20%	20%	5%	17%	20%	14%	3%	1%
Al Bsaira	12%	32%	43%	0%	7%	4%	2%	0%
Al Tibni	45%	6%	33%	2%	6%	5%	2%	1%
Al Su'ar	22%	11%	33%	2%	25%	5%	3%	0%
Al Kasra	36%	31%	8%	10%	5%	8%	2%	0%
Khsham	0%	27%	11%	49%	5%	6%	2%	0%
Deir Ezzor countryside	58%	0%	12%	0%	0%	15%	15%	0%
Deir Ezzor city	75%	0%	6%	0%	0%	11%	6%	2%
Mouhassan	82%	0%	0%	0%	3%	4%	1%	10%

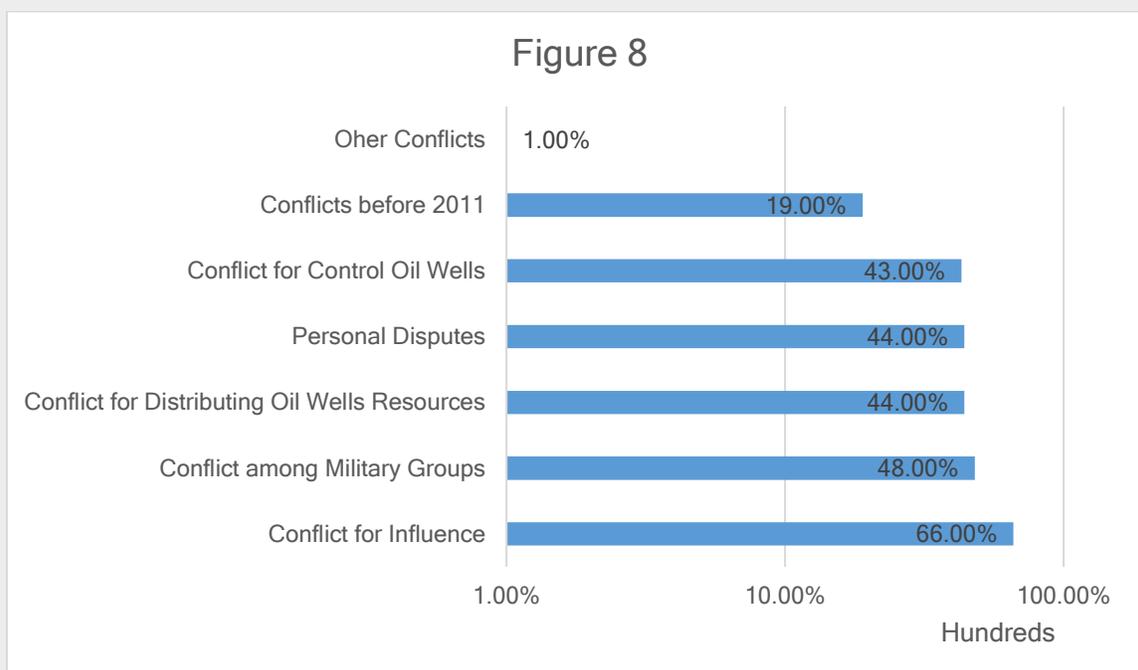


Result: the analysis was conducted based on the geographic area in order to know the parties to the conflict on the level of each area. The respondents did not choose parties outside the suggested options, unless for a minor percentage, where the tribal indicator was the most prominent one in identifying the parties to the conflict. (Figure 6 & 7).

Conclusion: In spite of the plurality of parties to the conflict by the beginning of the Syrian war that resulted in the appearance of many armed groups under different names, yet many groups came with a tribal nature. This confirms the need for a vital role of the local community in solving the conflicts.

Third: Reasons behind the Conflicts

The question of reasons behind the conflicts was accompanied with a group of answers; Conflicts before 2011, Conflict for the Control Oil Wells, Conflict for Distributing Oil Wells Resources, Conflict for Influence, Conflict among Military Groups, Personal Disputes, and Other Conflicts

**Figure 9**

	Conflict for Influence	Conflict among Military Groups	Conflict for Distributing Oil Wells Resources	Personal Disputes	Conflict for Control Oil Wells	Conflicts before 2011	Oher Conflicts
Al Boukmal	18%	0%	0%	50%	0%	29%	4%
Al Jala'a	31%	4%	0%	27%	0%	38%	0%
Hajeen	29%	8%	17%	25%	18%	2%	1%
Al Mayadin	20%	16%	2%	35%	1%	26%	0%
Thebaan	17%	17%	17%	17%	17%	13%	1%
Al Bsaira	38%	0%	13%	11%	37%	1%	0%
Al Tibni	29%	27%	15%	2%	25%	2%	0%
Al Su'ar	29%	18%	25%	2%	25%	0%	0%
Al Kasra	13%	29%	15%	22%	7%	14%	0%
Khsham	8%	0%	25%	57%	9%	1%	0%
Deir Ezzor countryside	34%	32%	21%	10%	3%	0%	0%
Deir Ezzor city	55%	43%	0%	3%	0%	0%	0%
Mouhassan	31%	24%	30%	1%	10%	0%	4%

Result: Analysis was conducted based on the geographic location, it was indicated that there are conflicts dating back to before 2011 at high percentage, as indicated by the results. It also indicated that conflict in regards to the control of oil wells, the distribution oil resources, and

the consequences of fights among military groups were the most prominent reasons for conflict after 2011. (Figure 9).

Conclusion 1: There is an opportunity to work on dismantling and solving this kind of conflict as one party should control the oil wells and has the authority to distribute the resources since there is no more control for the armed opposition groups, bearing in mind that the controlling powers must not use the oil resources to strengthen their influence, must not discriminate in distributing resources, and must be transparent.

Conclusion 2: Addressing the conflicts that were initiated by the military groups, which are no longer existing in Deir Ezzor, maybe a positive point as the reasons for conflict are no existing anymore.

Fourth: Resolution Efforts and Actors

The question aimed at identifying possible current actors towards resolution of conflicts as follows; Tribal and community notables, tribal peace committees, community/civil peace committees, joint peace committees, judicial committees, and other actors.

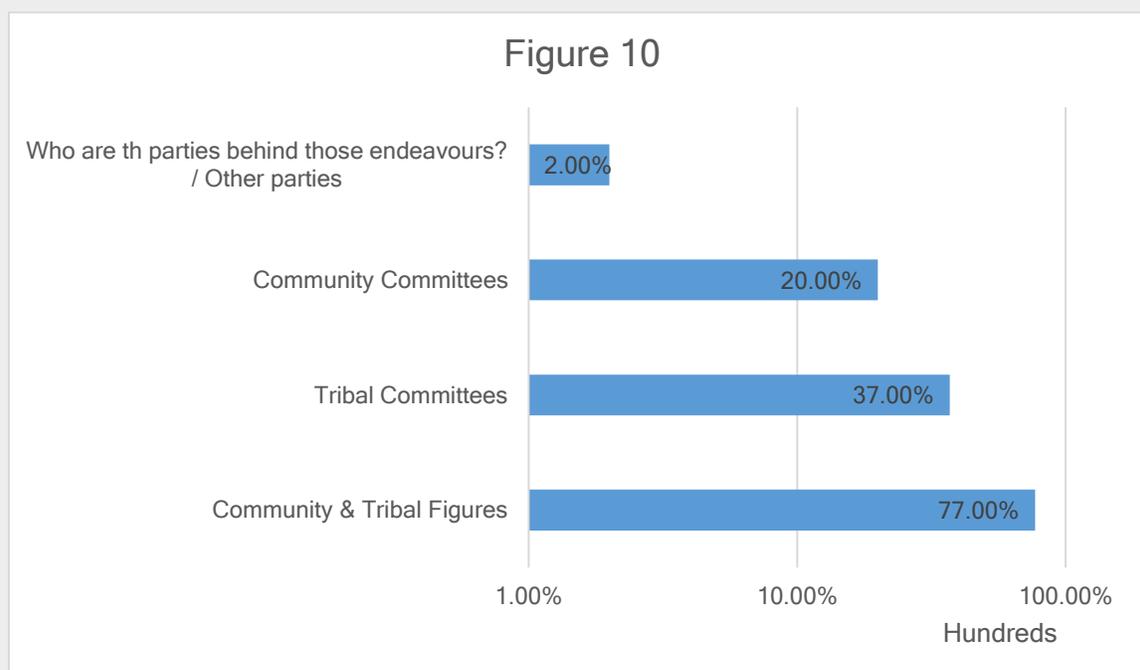


Figure 11

	Tribal Notables	Tribal Peace Committees	Community Peace Committees	Other Parties
Al Bsaira	100%	0%	0%	0%
Al Boukmal	74%	0%	26%	0%
Al Tibni	69%	13%	18%	0%
Al Jala'a	91%	9%	0%	0%
Al Su'ar	53%	41%	5%	0%
Al Kasra	69%	27%	4%	0%
Al Mayadin	41%	59%	0%	0%
Khsham	78%	21%	0%	1%
Thebaan	46%	42%	8%	4%
Deir Ezzor countryside	29%	14%	52%	5%
Deir Ezzor city	18%	29%	53%	0%
Mouhassan	22%	31%	47%	0%
Hajeen	60%	13%	24%	2%

Result: The answers were analyzed on a geographic basis in order to identify the actors that are engaged in solving the conflicts, and if there is any difference from one area to the other. According to the respondents' answers, most of the resolution efforts are made by tribal notables and active figures. Difference were noticed between the answers in Deir Ezzor city and its countryside, such as Mouhassan, where the respondents confirmed that there are community civil groups that are working on conflict resolution. (Figure 11)

Conclusion 1: The survey results show high trust in tribal notables and active figures along with influential characters. The local community still counts on specific persons who enjoy its confidence. There is a limited influence on effective and organized groups that work on solving conflict, whether they are civil or tribal ones. Organizing such efforts might push them towards more positive results.

Conclusion 2: According to the daily events observed by JFL, the efforts of local conflict resolution do not enjoy the required support from local authorities, which often do not respond to demands for intervening to support the conflict resolution as an authority that has the ability to impose respect towards community agreements. The local authorities often stay away,

even in the case of possible armed conflicts, and generally delegate the issue to tribal notables, who practice only soft power.

Fifth: The Best Effective Ways to Solve Conflicts along with Preferred Parties:

The question included two options; Peaceful solution and military one. Out of the respondents, only 22 ones answered that they want a military solution. The majority expressed that they want a peaceful solution. As for the parties preferred to participate in the solution. Options to choose from were; tribal committees, community/civil peace committees, judicial committees, joint civil/tribal committees, other parties.

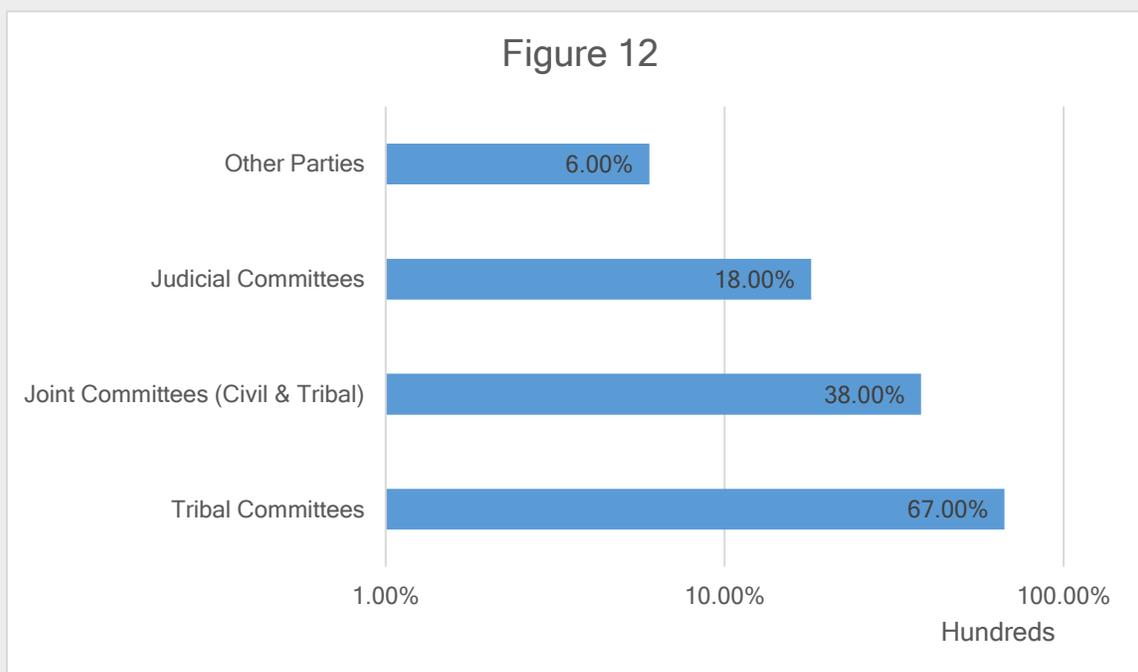


Figure 13

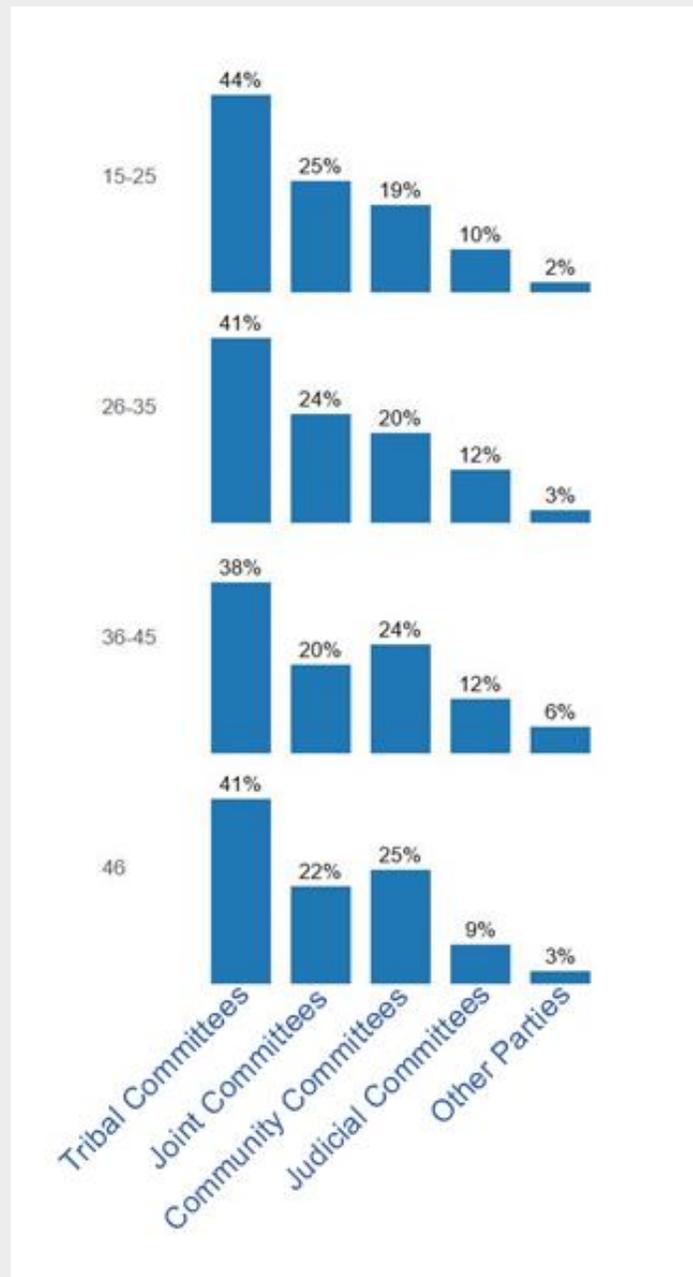


Figure 14

	Female	Male
Tribal Committees	41%	41%
Joint Committees	19%	24%
Community Committees	22%	21%
Judicial Committees	16%	10%
Other Parties	2%	4%

Figure 15

	No Certificate	Primary School Certificate	Elementary School Certificate	High School Certificate	Institute Certificate	University Certificate
Tribal Committees	52%	43%	39%	45%	32%	34%
Joint Committees	26%	22%	25%	20%	25%	21%
Community Committees	12%	22%	23%	23%	23%	23%
Judicial Committees	9%	9%	13%	7%	15%	18%
Other Parties	1%	4%	1%	5%	5%	5%

Figure 16

	Tribal Notables	Tribal Peace Committees	Community Peace Committees	Other Parties
Al Bsaira	100%	0%	0%	0%
Al Boukmal	74%	0%	26%	0%
Al Tibni	69%	13%	18%	0%
Al Jala'a	91%	9%	0%	0%
Al Su'ar	53%	41%	5%	0%
Al Kasra	69%	27%	4%	0%
Al Mayadin	41%	59%	0%	0%
Khsham	78%	21%	0%	1%
Thebaan	46%	42%	8%	4%
Deir Ezzor countryside	29%	14%	52%	5%
Deir Ezzor city	18%	29%	53%	0%
Mouhassan	22%	31%	47%	0%
Hajeen	60%	13%	24%	2%

Result 1:

The inputs were analyzed according to age; gender; academic background and geographic location; the committees composed of tribal elders, received the highest level of the participant' responses, committees composed of civil society and tribal representatives were supported by participants; meanwhile committees that were composed only of civil society representatives received a close level of support.

Result 2:

In regards to age, it was noticed that; the idea of composing a civil society committee to work within the reconciliation process along with tribal efforts was trusted specifically ages that ranked between 15 and 35.

Result 3:

In regards to gender, the responses were very close regarding the trust in tribal committees composed of women and men.

Result 4:

On the academic level, it was noticed that all groups from different academic backgrounds preferred all types of committees over tribal committees. The questionnaire shows the preference for civil work among groups by those who have either a university or intermediate degrees; since they have given their trust to the civil society and judiciary committees along with the tribal ones. (Figure 15)

Result 5:

As for the geographic location, tribal committees gained the trust from most of the participants; then joint committees come as a second choice followed by the civil society committees. However, in Al Busaira district, it was noticed that participants preferred civil society. In Al Mayadin, it was noticed that participants preferred judiciary committees, which form a notable different preference from the rest of the areas. The variance is the purpose of the study.

Conclusion: Judicial committees did not obtain the confidence of the participants in this questionnaire. This may be due to the migration of legal expertise from the governorate and the presence of many judges in the areas of control of the Syrian authorities to practice their

work in the courts of the Syrian state. In addition to the lack of trust in the judicial institution established by the Syrian Democratic Forces, which is known as the Justice Authority.

MAJOR CHALLENGES:

1. It has not been easy to target the target percentage of women set initially in some areas for social reasons; therefore, more women have been targeted in other areas to balance the gap. Out of respect for the traditions women will be invited to attend sessions that are planned to discuss the results of the survey; where they can present their point of views about the local conflicts and how they deal with those conflicts; and furthermore, how they can play a role in achieving community consolation in accordance with local traditions and customs. The sessions will be either only female or joint sessions together with men which will be decided upon according to their preference.
2. Several community members insisted on naming certain figures (Sheikh or Mukhtar), despite being asked to name people under 50 years old. They considered the Sheikh or Mukhtar to be the most capable of representing the community, while others insisted on naming young people as their representatives. Mechanisms will be put in place by the representatives selected in the questionnaire to engage different groups of the society in the peacebuilding process. The results of the questionnaire show that the participation of intellectuals and social actors is essential at least as much as that of elders, and this requires peace groups with the capacity to accommodate these different categories.
3. The wide area of some districts delayed the conduction of the survey since the districts of Al Kasra and Al Su'ar include many villages.
4. It was challenging to nominate a representative under the age of 50 for among the IDPs. it is not necessary to have a person with the qualities of representation who is under the age of 50, this will be discussed with all candidates who are under the age of 50 to nominate people who meet the required standards, and if not, the organization will exclude the age requirement for IDPs.
5. The difficulty of movement in some areas after the evening and weak internet connection in some areas.

CONCLUSION

The most important finding of the research is related to learning about how to deal with the local community, including difficulties met as many point views, opinions and moods are face. In return it will surely facilitate the work of JFL in terms of finding different solutions and methods of work and will help in obtaining a deeper understanding of the specificities of this community and highlight many other aspects and ideas that are currently not included in the project.

This type of project is still new to the province of Deir Ezzor. The project was welcomed, however there are still doubts about the role, responsibilities and purpose of the local peace committees; It will requires full transparency with the local community in terms of clarifying the supporting role of these committees towards local efforts and instead of forming a new body that ignores previous efforts.

Balancing and influencing the work of local peace committees requires the participation of selected community representatives in developing a flexible mechanism to achieve this goal and engaging in inclusive and comprehensive debates to identify community priorities and develop suitable intervention mechanisms.

Motivating women to participate in the debate on various local affairs, including local conflicts, requires an active role of women in the project and making sure that sessions gathering specifically women are organized to enable them to express their views.

The task of resolving conflicts is traditionally carried out by tribal elders and actors in the province. This has led many young people to emphasize that their role comes as a supporter of these efforts; therefore, it is very important to motivate them to gain their efficient and organized participation in local peacebuilding process.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. In spite of the importance of the role played by social representatives highlighted by the survey, taking into account all views and opinions requires the inclusion of other groups such as community figures and intellectuals who collectively received a high percentage of support in the survey.
2. The necessity to support local efforts and initiatives to address local conflicts using local mechanisms that are accepted socially, which will have more efficient impact
3. Creating new methods for conflict resolution requires a comprehensive and inclusive discussion with the local community.
4. The importance of dealing with different types of conflicts; no matter how small, to prevent them from escalating and thus forming new conflicts that eventually may become an out of control conflict.
5. The importance of engaging in continuous local dialogue in order to become familiar with the dialogue culture and acceptance of the other, as well as a culture of accepting divergent views that may exist among different age, culture or geographical groups
6. The continued neglect of local authorities to actually support local efforts is a motivation for extremist groups to market their version of the failure of the forces that replaced them in ensuring security and solving the fundamental problems of the community. This is a new entry point for these groups to win the local public opinion, and therefore we have a duty to support local reconciliation efforts through an executive mechanism conducted by local authorities to ensure the implementation of agreements.
7. The independence of civil councils enables them to gain trust and this requires that the councils should be relieved of any political or security affiliation and that their work is based on neutrality principles towards the entire population to provide services and thus gain their trust.
8. Continue to support the role of civil society as a body which is capable of dealing with different parties and identifying their needs and can find reasonable solutions by local means.
9. Due to the nature and culture of the community in Deir Ezzor, it is a necessity to strengthen the role of women and support them to ensure their involvement and representation within the community.

10. Identify the needs of young people to enhance their role in peacebuilding and work with them to be an influential group.
11. Supporting international organizations that work to include a variety of categories in their projects and not rely on previews to conserve the work with the same groups.
12. Working on peacebuilding programs requires reasonable time frames determined by security, social conditions, accessibility, and therefore supporters are required to take time as a key factor in building programs that are influential and sustainable.

GLOSSARY

- Notables: Persons who belong to traditional families and have a leading role in the community and tribal levels.
- Active Figures: Influential community persons who have an active role, yet they do not belong to traditional families.
- Sub-tribe: A major branch of a tribe.
- Civil Councils: Service-based councils were formed by SDF in Deir Ezzor held areas.
- Armed Conflict: A conflict where arms are used.
- Unarmed Conflict: A conflict that no weapons or guns are used within.
- Dispute without a fight: Disputing parties, yet no confrontation nor engagement took place in an armed or unarmed manner.
- Different Tribes (Not military groups): a conflict or disputes among different tribes i.e. not within the same tribe.
- Sub-tribes of one tribe: a conflict or dispute among sub-tribes of one tribe.
- Branches of one sub-tribe: a conflict or dispute inside a sub-tribe of a specific tribe.
- Military Groups with the Tribe: a conflict or dispute between military groups and specific tribe (These groups do not belong to the disputing tribe).
- Military Groups of one tribe: a conflict or dispute between military groups who belong to the same tribe.
- Military Groups with a Sub-tribe: a conflict or dispute between military groups and one sub-tribe (These groups do not belong to the sub-tribe, nor to its tribe).
- Military groups of different tribes: a conflict or disputes among different military groups, each one belongs to a specific tribe.
- Tribal committees: This means that the respondents desire to have a committee formed by notables in order to solve the problems.
- Community/civil peace committees: This means that the respondents desire to have a committee formed by experts and activists in order to solve the problems.
- Judicial Committees: This means that the respondents desire to have a committee formed by legal experts and specialists in order to solve the problems.
- Joint Committees: This means that the respondents desire to have a committee formed by Notables and Civil Experts in order to solve the problems.

ANNEXES

First Part: "Who does represent you?"

Who does represent you to resolve conflicts

Date of Questionnaire

Click or tap to enter a date.

Name

Click or tap here to enter text.

Age

15-25

26-35

36-45

+46

Sex

Male

Female

Residency Location

Not an IDP means one of the indigenous of the surveyed community

IDP

Not an IDP

Educational Achievement

No Education Certificate

Primary School Certificate

Elementary School Certificate

High School Certificate

Intermediate College Certificate

University Certificate

Province

Before being displaced

Click or tap here to enter text.

District

Original residency location before the first displacement

Click or tap here to enter text.

Sub-district

Before the first displacement, in case of being an IDP

Click or tap here to enter text.

Village

Before the first displacement, in case of being an IDP

Click or tap here to enter text.

Tribe

Click or tap here to enter text.

Sub-tribe

Click or tap here to enter text.

If there is/are person(s) who is/are under 50, and can represent your demands and rights in term of local peace, who is/are it/they?

Click or tap here to enter text.

Why do you think that this/these person(s) can represent your demands?

Click or tap here to enter text.

Second Part: "Most Prominent Conflicts"

Most Prominent Conflicts

Date of Questionnaire

Click or tap to enter a date.

Name

Click or tap here to enter text.

Age

15-25

26-35

36-45

+46

Sex

Male

Female

Residency Location

Not an IDP means one of the indigenous of the surveyed community

IDP

Not an IDP

Educational Achievement

No Education Certificate

Primary School Certificate

Elementary School Certificate

High School Certificate

Intermediate College Certificate

University Certificate

Province

Before being displaced

Click or tap here to enter text.

District

Original residency location before the first displacement

Click or tap here to enter text.

Sub-district

Before the first displacement, in case of being an IDP

Click or tap here to enter text.

Village

Before the first displacement, in case of being an IDP

Click or tap here to enter text.

Tribe

Click or tap here to enter text.

Sub-tribe

Click or tap here to enter text.

Did your area faced a conflict?

Yes

No

What is the nature of this conflict?

Armed Fighting

Unarmed Fighting

Dispute without Fighting

Who are the parties to this conflict?

- Different tribes (except for military factions)
- Sub-tribes of a one tribe
- Multiple branches of one sub-tribe
- Military factions against the tribe
- Military factions against one of the sub-tribes
- Military factions of different tribes
- Other parties

Other Parties to conflict

Click or tap here to enter text.

What are the reasons behind the conflict/fighting?

- Disputes before 2011
- Disputes over control on resources and oil wells
- Disputes over distributing resources of oil wells
- Conflict over control of the area
- Conflict among military factions
- Personal disputes
- Other dispute

Reasons behind the dispute

When did the conflict start?

Click or tap to enter a date.

Are there efforts for resolution?

- Yes
- No

Who are the parties that are expending that efforts?

- Community /tribal notables
- Community peace committees
- Peace community/civil committees
- Other parties

Other parties that are seeking for resolution

Click or tap here to enter text.

How do you prefer these conflicts to be resolved?

- Through peaceful ways
- Through military ways

What are the parties that you prefer to be the mediator for the resolution?

- Tribal committees
- Community peace / civil committees
- Judiciary committees
- Civil/tribal joint committees
- Other parties

Who are the other parties to be mediators?

Click or tap here to enter text.



منظمة العدالة من أجل الحياة
Justice for Life Organization



JFL.ngo

 @JFLngo