

User guide

Perceived Community Cohesion Questionnaire (P-CCQ)

Iraq - version

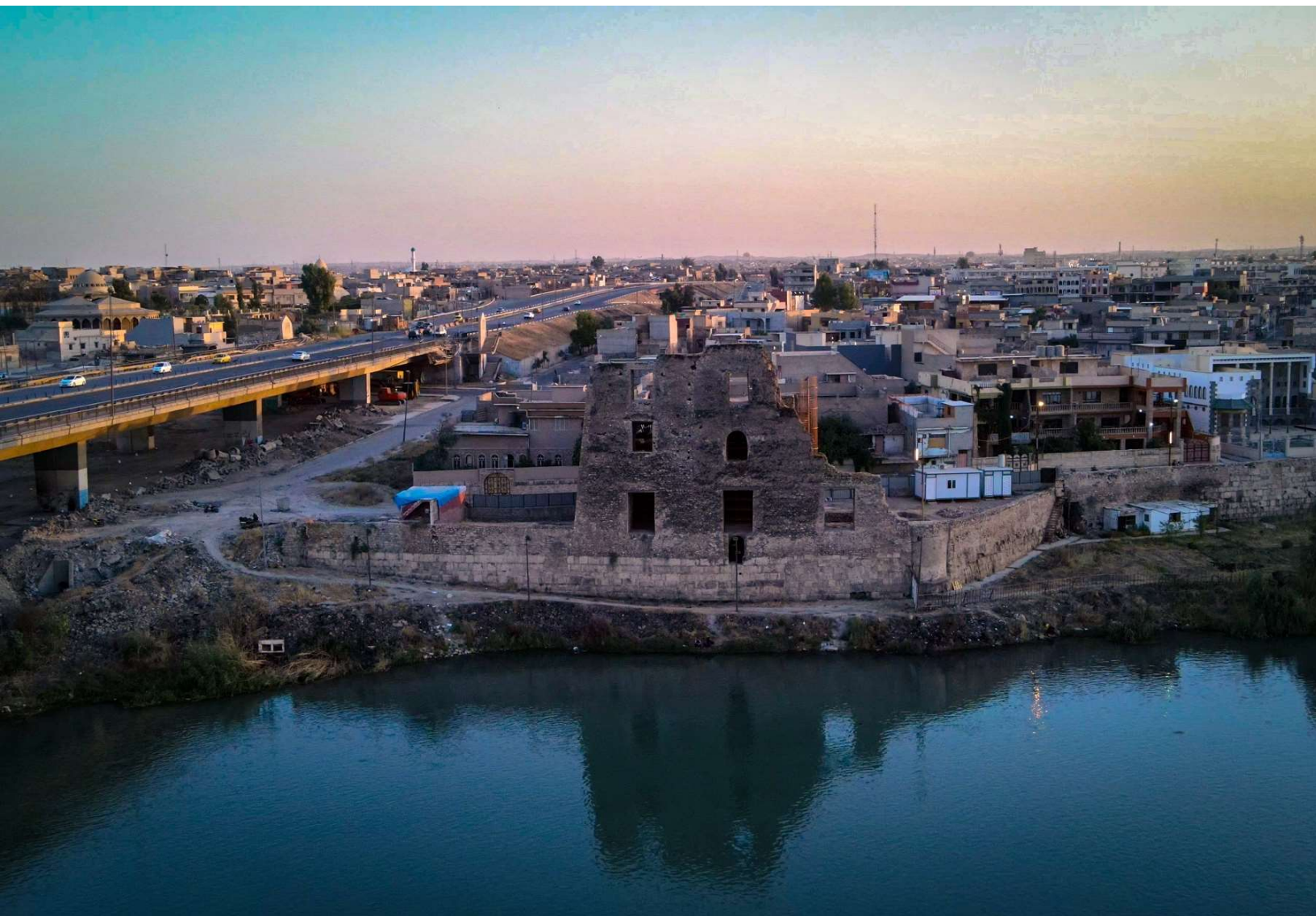


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ZOA Iraq is pleased to share this material with other organizations and individuals free of charge. When adaptations are made to the Perceived Community Cohesion Questionnaire (P-CCQ) – Iraq version, either in print or electronic form, this has to be noted when publishing. ZOA can be contacted for more information about the P-CCQ : info@zoa.ngo . For Iraq specific questions you may contact Sarah R. Al-Heyalley at Kanaf organization: kanaf.organization@gmail.com

1. Background of the questionnaire

The Perceived Community Cohesion Questionnaire (P-CCQ) – Iraq version, is an instrument that derived from the Perceived Neighborhood Social Cohesion Questionnaire (P-NSCQ), as developed by Dupuis et al. (2014), which aims to measure the extent to which individuals perceive their local community as cohesive and interconnected. The P-NSCQ has 16-items and is a shortened version of the Neighborhood Social Cohesion Questionnaire (NSCQ) that was developed by Stafford et al. (2003, 2004).

ZOA Iraq aimed at developing a culturally and contextually appropriate tool to measure social cohesion at community level. The P-NSCQ was used as a starting point, but additional items for the questionnaire were added, based on qualitative data gathered from Focus Group Discussions (FDSs) with Iraqi community members. These FGDs led to the identification of new “bottom-up indicators” which measure social cohesion at community level according to the respondents in the FGD’s. The bottom-up indicators led to 29 additional items for the questionnaire, making it a 45-item questionnaire.

The questionnaire was administered in Arabic among 312 respondents in Iraq, and thereafter psychometric analysis was conducted to test the validity and reliability. Based on the results of these analysis, a questionnaire with 22-items was developed, of which 7 items remained from the original scale as developed by Dupuis et al. and 15 items were based on the bottom-up indicators. This led to the Perceived Community Cohesion Questionnaire (P-CCQ) for the Iraqi context. The primarily focus of the questionnaire is on the relationships and bonds within localized communities in Iraq.

2. Purpose of the questionnaire

The primary objective of the developed questionnaire is to assess and measure community cohesion within the specific cultural context of Iraq. By incorporating bottom-up indicators defined by Iraqi community members, the questionnaire aims to provide a nuanced understanding of social cohesion at community level, focusing on aspects such as community connectedness, attachment to neighborhood, respect and tolerance. The P-CCQ defines community cohesion as the strength of

social bonds, cooperation and solidarity among individuals within a certain geographical community. It encompasses the extent to which community members share common values, norms, collaborate and are open to diversity in the community. Community cohesion involves fostering positive relationships, trust and mutual respect among diverse groups within the community regardless of social factors like age, religion, ethnicity, or socioeconomic status.

Measuring community cohesion in the context of Iraq accurately is fundamental to understanding the social dynamics in the community and to be able to assess whether an intervention that aims at fostering social cohesion at community level is being effective. It could also help in identifying vulnerable or marginalized groups within the community who may be at risk of exclusion or facing social tensions. Lastly, by identifying gaps in community cohesion through the questionnaires, organizations and policy makers can inform their programming to specifically target these identified gaps and enhance community cohesion.

3. When to use the questionnaire

The P-CCQ is particularly valuable when there is a need to evaluate and understand the level of social cohesion in Iraqi communities. It becomes instrumental in contexts where policies or interventions aim to reinforce and strengthen community cohesion, fostering peaceful homes and minimizing disparities. It can therefore be used in a variety of contexts and situations where understanding the dynamics of social relationships is important. This includes communities that are affected by conflict and/or disaster, and where there is a need of rebuilding trust and fostering reconciliation. The P-CCQ is also an appropriate tool in diverse and multicultural communities, where people have diverse demographic backgrounds, because it can assess levels of social integration, intergroup relations and perceptions on in- and exclusion. Next to that, the questionnaire can be used to conduct evaluations of interventions that aim at improving community cohesion or the overall well-being of community-members. Policy makers and government agencies can use the data from the P-CCQ to inform the development of policies and strategies that promote social cohesion and inclusion at community level. At an academic level, the tool can be used by researchers to study topics related to social cohesion, community development or conflict resolution in the Iraqi context,

and gather data for empirical studies, contributing to the scholarly understanding of community cohesion in Iraq.

The P-CCQ can be used in combination with other questionnaires that for example measure the level of mental health, socio-economic well-being or social capital. Results from multiple questionnaires can indicate whether there is a correlation between community cohesion and one of these areas, which can inform the development of integrated and more holistic programming.

4. How to use the questionnaire

To effectively utilize the questionnaire, researchers and practitioners should follow a systematic data-collection approach, to ensure its effective administration and interpretation. This approach follows the following steps:

1. Preparation

- Train the enumerators about the P-CCQ, interview techniques and research ethics. Together with the enumerators the P-CCQ can be reviewed to understand well its structure, items and answering categories.
- As the Arabic version of the P-CCQ has been psychometrically tested, items of the P-CCQ cannot be adapted content-wise except for some wording to make it contextually valid. However, items can be added to the demographic questions, and additional tools may be added as well to the questionnaire.
- Set-up the questionnaire in a digital data-collection tool into the appropriate software (e.g. Kobo Toolbox, Monkey Survey etc.). Ensure that all items of the P-CCQ are set as mandatory.

2. Questionnaire administration

- Select the appropriate method for administering the questionnaire, such as in-person interviews, online distribution or hard-copy distribution for respondents to fill in the P-CCQ themselves.
- In case respondents fill in the questionnaires themselves, clear instructions should be provided, and confidentiality measures should be explained.

3. Data-collection

- Monitor the data-collection process to address any issues or challenges that may arise, such as confusion among participants or enumerators.
- In case the P-CCQ is used in a baseline- and end line study, it is important that respondents receive codes that are linked to their identification details (in a separate file, to ensure confidentiality), so the same respondents can be traced back for the end line study and paired t-tests can be done to measure whether there is any significant change.

4. Data-analysis

- Once data-collection is complete, the responses will be inside the larger dataset for analysis.
- Data-cleaning should be conducted before starting the analysis.
- Use appropriate statistical techniques to analyse the dataset. As the P-CCQ uses items that are all scored on a numeric Likert scale (1-7), the summation of scores across all items can be done to calculate the score for each respondent.
- Cross-analysis can be conducted using demographic data like gender, age, religion, etc.
- Paired t-test compares paired data from the baseline and end line dataset, to assess the effectiveness of interventions. With a paired t-test a statistical significance can be measured.

5. Interpretation

- Interpret the results of the questionnaire analysis in the context of the research objectives and the specific characteristics of the target community.
- Identify patterns or trends in the data that may indicate strengths or gaps in community cohesion.
- Potentially conduct a sub-analysis per dimension (community connectedness, attachment to neighborhood and tolerance and respect).

The 22-item P-CCQ can be administered in geographically defined communities to measure community cohesion. In case there is a wish to administer it in communities that are defined by characteristics that are non-geographical (e.g. religious community or school community), the wording of the items may be adapted without losing the content of the item.

5. How to interpret the results of the P-CCQ

The P-CCQ has 22 items with answers according to the following Likert scale:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Strongly disagree	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Neutral	Somewhat agree	Agree	Strongly Agree

The total Perceived Community Cohesion Score = Sum of Q1 - Q22, the score can be minimum of 22 points and a maximum of 154 points. The following scores determine the level of Perceived Community Cohesion:

Total Scores	Mean Scores	Level of P-CC
22-66	1-3	Low level of P-CC
67-110	3-5	Moderate level of P-CC
111-154	5-7	High level of P-CC

Sub-scales:

1. Community connectedness = Q1 + Q2 + Q3 + Q4 + Q5 + Q6
2. Attachment to neighborhood = Q7 + Q8 + Q9 + Q10 + Q11 + Q12 + Q13 + Q14 + Q15
3. Respect and Tolerance = Q16 + Q17 + Q18 + Q19 + Q20 + Q21 + Q22

The three dimensions can also be analyzed separately, considering the questions above for each subscale.

Total Scores	Mean Scores	Level of P-CC
Community Connectedness		
6-18	1-3	Low level of Community Connectedness

19-30	>3 - 5	Moderate level of Community Connectedness
31-42	>5 - 7	High level of Community Connectedness
Attachment to neighbourhood		
9-27	1-3	Low level of Neighbourhood Attachment
28-45	>3 - 5	Moderate level of Neighborhood Attachment
46-63	>5 - 7	High level of Neighborhood Attachment
Respect and Tolerance		
7 - 21	1-3	Low level of Respect and Tolerance
22 – 35	>3 - 5	Moderate level of Respect and Tolerance
36 - 49	>5 - 7	High level of Respect and Tolerance

6. Reading resources

For a comprehensive understanding of the development of the questionnaire and its psychometric properties, researchers and practitioners are encouraged to refer to the research report by the Institute for Community Based Socioterapy (ICBS) and ZOA.

Additionally, the original work by Dupuis et al. (2016, 2017) can provide insights on the underpinning theories and development of the Perceived Neighborhood Social Cohesion Questionnaire, and Stafford et al. (2003, 2004) on the original Neighborhood Social Cohesion Scale.

Dupuis, M., Studer, J., Henchoz, Y., Deline, S., Baggio, S., N'Goran, A., Mohler-Kuo, M., & Gmel, G. (2016). Validation of French and German versions of a Perceived Neighborhood Social Cohesion

Questionnaire among young Swiss males, and its relationship with substance use. *Journal of Health Psychology*, 21(2), 171–182. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1359105314524010>

Dupuis, M., Baggio, S., & Gmel, G. (2017). Validation of a brief form of the Perceived Neighborhood Social Cohesion questionnaire. *Journal of Health Psychology*, 22(2), 218–227. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1359105315600234>

Stafford M, Bartley M, Marmot M, et al. (2004) Neighborhood social cohesion and health: Investigating associations and possible mechanisms. IN: Morgan A. and Swann C (eds) *Social Capital for Health: Issues of Definition, Measurement and Links to Health*. London: Health development Agency, pp. 111-131.

Stafford M, Bartley M, Sacker A, et al. (2003) Measuring the social environment: Social cohesion and material deprivation in English and Scottish neighborhoods. *Environment and Planning A* 35: 1459-1475

7. Perceived Community Cohesion Questionnaire



Perceived Community Cohesion Questionnaire – Iraq version

Demographics		
1.	Gender of the respondent جنس المجيب	1. Male 2. Female 1. ذكر 2. أنثى
2.	Age of the respondent عمر المجيب	
3.	Educational level المستوى التعليمي	1. None 2. Primary School 3. High School 4. University BA 5. University MA 6. Ph.D. 7. Other, specify: لا شيء 1. المدرسة الابتدائية 2. المدرسة الثانوية 3. البكالوريوس الجامعي 4. ماجستير جامعي 5. دكتوراه 6. اخرى، حدد: 7.
4.	Religion الديانة	
6.	Area/city المدينة/المنطقة	
7.	Nationality القومية	
8.	What is your job? ما هو عملك؟	
9.	Marital status الحالة الاجتماعية	1. Married 2. Single 3. Widow(er) 4. Divorced 5. Separated

			1. متزوج 2. اعزب 3. أرمل 4. مطلق 5. منفصل
10.	Number of children عدد الاطفال		
Community Connectedness subscale			
11.	Most people in this area can be trusted. حيث اعيش يمكن الوثوق بمعظم الناس	1: Strongly Disagree 2: Disagree 3: somewhat disagree 4: Neutral 5: Somewhat agree 6: Agree 7: Strongly agree	أرفض بشدة: 1 لا أوافق: 2 لا أوافق إلى حد ما: 3 محايد: 4 موافق إلى حد ما: 5 أوافق: 6 أوافق بشدة: 7
12.	People in this area would do something if a house was being broken into. الناس حيث اعيش سيفعلون شيئاً ما إذا تم اقتحام منزل	1: Strongly Disagree 2: Disagree 3: somewhat disagree 4: Neutral 5: Somewhat agree 6: Agree 7: Strongly agree	أرفض بشدة: 1 لا أوافق: 2 لا أوافق إلى حد ما: 3 محايد: 4 موافق إلى حد ما: 5 أوافق: 6 أوافق بشدة: 7
13.	Residents of this region reflect a good image of the region when they travel abroad. يعكس سكان هذا المجتمع صورة جيدة لمجتمعنا عندما يسافرون إلى الخارج؟	1: Strongly Disagree 2: Disagree 3: somewhat disagree 4: Neutral 5: Somewhat agree 6: Agree 7: Strongly agree	أرفض بشدة: 1 لا أوافق: 2 لا أوافق إلى حد ما: 3 محايد: 4 موافق إلى حد ما: 5 أوافق: 6 أوافق بشدة: 7
14.	In this area, there is tolerance between people of different age groups. حيث اعيش ، هناك تسامح بين الناس من مختلف الفئات العمرية.	1: Strongly Disagree 2: Disagree 3: somewhat disagree 4: Neutral 5: Somewhat agree 6: Agree 7: Strongly agree	أرفض بشدة: 1 لا أوافق: 2 لا أوافق إلى حد ما: 3 محايد: 4 موافق إلى حد ما: 5 أوافق: 6 أوافق بشدة: 7
15.	People in this region care for the opinions of people with a lower social and economic standard of living than them.	1: Strongly Disagree 2: Disagree 3: somewhat disagree 4: Neutral	أرفض بشدة: 1 لا أوافق: 2 لا أوافق إلى حد ما: 3 محايد: 4 موافق إلى حد ما: 5

	يهتم الناس حيث اعيش إلى سماع آراء الأشخاص ذوي المستوى المعيشي الاجتماعي والاقتصادي	5: Somewhat agree 6: Agree 7: Strongly agree	أوافق: 6 أوافق بشدة: 7
16.	People in this region acknowledge what people of different backgrounds went through. يقدر الناس حيث اعيش ما عاناه الأشخاص ذوي الخلفيات المختلفة.	1: Strongly Disagree 2: Disagree 3: somewhat disagree 4: Neutral 5: Somewhat agree 6: Agree 7: Strongly agree	أرفض بشدة: 1 لا أوافق: 2 لا أوافق إلى حد ما: 3 محايد: 4 موافق إلى حد ما: 5 أوافق: 6 أوافق بشدة: 7
Attachment to neighborhood			
17.	I really feel part of this area أشعر حقًا بأنني جزء من هذه المنطقة	1: Strongly Disagree 2: Disagree 3: somewhat disagree 4: Neutral 5: Somewhat agree 6: Agree 7: Strongly agree	أرفض بشدة: 1 لا أوافق: 2 لا أوافق إلى حد ما: 3 محايد: 4 موافق إلى حد ما: 5 أوافق: 6 أوافق بشدة: 7
18.	People in this area have lots of community spirit الناس حيث اعيش لديهم الكثير من روح الجماعة	1: Strongly Disagree 2: Disagree 3: somewhat disagree 4: Neutral 5: Somewhat agree 6: Agree 7: Strongly agree	أرفض بشدة: 1 لا أوافق: 2 لا أوافق إلى حد ما: 3 محايد: 4 موافق إلى حد ما: 5 أوافق: 6 أوافق بشدة: 7
19.	People in this area do things to help the community الناس حيث اعيش يفعلون أشياء لمساعدة المجتمع	1: Strongly Disagree 2: Disagree 3: somewhat disagree 4: Neutral 5: Somewhat agree 6: Agree 7: Strongly agree	أرفض بشدة: 1 لا أوافق: 2 لا أوافق إلى حد ما: 3 محايد: 4 موافق إلى حد ما: 5 أوافق: 6 أوافق بشدة: 7
20.	People in this neighborhood check on someone if a person has not been seen in the neighborhood for a week. يقوم الأشخاص حيث اعيش بتفقد شخص ما إذا لم يتم رؤيته في الحي لمدة أسبوع.	1: Strongly Disagree 2: Disagree 3: somewhat disagree 4: Neutral 5: Somewhat agree 6: Agree 7: Strongly agree	أرفض بشدة: 1 لا أوافق: 2 لا أوافق إلى حد ما: 3 محايد: 4 موافق إلى حد ما: 5 أوافق: 6 أوافق بشدة: 7

21.	<p>People in this region have a strong desire to stay in this region for the rest of their lives.</p> <p>لدى الناس حيث اعيش رغبة قوية في البقاء في هذه المنطقة لبقية حياتهم.</p>	<p>1: Strongly Disagree 2: Disagree 3: somewhat disagree 4: Neutral 5: Somewhat agree 6: Agree 7: Strongly agree</p>	<p>أرفض بشدة: 1 لا أوافق: 2 لا أوافق إلى حد ما: 3 محايد: 4 موافق إلى حد ما: 5 أوافق: 6 أوافق بشدة: 7</p>
22.	<p>In this area, there is a high level of cooperation.</p> <p>حيث اعيش، هناك مستوى عال من التعاون.</p>	<p>1: Strongly Disagree 2: Disagree 3: somewhat disagree 4: Neutral 5: Somewhat agree 6: Agree 7: Strongly agree</p>	<p>أرفض بشدة: 1 لا أوافق: 2 لا أوافق إلى حد ما: 3 محايد: 4 موافق إلى حد ما: 5 أوافق: 6 أوافق بشدة: 7</p>
23.	<p>In this region, there are not many people who live in social isolation.</p> <p>حيث اعيش لا يوجد الكثير من الناس الذين يعيشون في عزلة اجتماعية.</p>	<p>1: Strongly Disagree 2: Disagree 3: somewhat disagree 4: Neutral 5: Somewhat agree 6: Agree 7: Strongly agree</p>	<p>أرفض بشدة: 1 لا أوافق: 2 لا أوافق إلى حد ما: 3 محايد: 4 موافق إلى حد ما: 5 أوافق: 6 أوافق بشدة: 7</p>
24.	<p>Where I live people organize group activities together for a common purpose, for example cleaning campaigns.</p> <p>حيث أعيش، ينظم الناس أنشطة جماعية معًا، على سبيل المثال حملات التنظيف.</p>	<p>1: Strongly Disagree 2: Disagree 3: somewhat disagree 4: Neutral 5: Somewhat agree 6: Agree 7: Strongly agree</p>	<p>أرفض بشدة: 1 لا أوافق: 2 لا أوافق إلى حد ما: 3 محايد: 4 موافق إلى حد ما: 5 أوافق: 6 أوافق بشدة: 7</p>
25.	<p>I often participate occasions or celebrations organized in the community.</p> <p>كثيرًا ما أشارك في المناسبات التي يتم تنظيمها في المجتمع.</p>	<p>1: Strongly Disagree 2: Disagree 3: somewhat disagree 4: Neutral 5: Somewhat agree 6: Agree 7: Strongly agree</p>	<p>أرفض بشدة: 1 لا أوافق: 2 لا أوافق إلى حد ما: 3 محايد: 4 موافق إلى حد ما: 5 أوافق: 6 أوافق بشدة: 7</p>
Tolerance and Respect			
26.	<p>People in this area treat each other with respect</p> <p>الناس في هذه المنطقة يعاملون بعضهم البعض باحترام</p>	<p>1: Strongly Disagree 2: Disagree 3: somewhat disagree 4: Neutral</p>	<p>أرفض بشدة: 1 لا أوافق: 2 لا أوافق إلى حد ما: 3 محايد: 4</p>

		5: Somewhat agree 6: Agree 7: Strongly agree	موافق إلى حد ما: 5 أوافق: 6 أوافق بشدة: 7
27.	People in this area are tolerant of others who are not like them الناس في هذه المنطقة متسامحون مع الآخرين الذين ليسوا مثلهم	1: Strongly Disagree 2: Disagree 3: somewhat disagree 4: Neutral 5: Somewhat agree 6: Agree 7: Strongly agree	أرفض بشدة: 1 لا أوافق: 2 لا أوافق إلى حد ما: 3 محايد: 4 موافق إلى حد ما: 5 أوافق: 6 أوافق بشدة: 7
28.	In this area, people respect each other's opinion. في هذا المجال، يحترم الناس رأي بعضهم البعض	1: Strongly Disagree 2: Disagree 3: somewhat disagree 4: Neutral 5: Somewhat agree 6: Agree 7: Strongly agree	أرفض بشدة: 1 لا أوافق: 2 لا أوافق إلى حد ما: 3 محايد: 4 موافق إلى حد ما: 5 أوافق: 6 أوافق بشدة: 7
29.	People in this region coexist peacefully. يتعايش الناس حيث اعيش بسلام	1: Strongly Disagree 2: Disagree 3: somewhat disagree 4: Neutral 5: Somewhat agree 6: Agree 7: Strongly agree	أرفض بشدة: 1 لا أوافق: 2 لا أوافق إلى حد ما: 3 محايد: 4 موافق إلى حد ما: 5 أوافق: 6 أوافق بشدة: 7
30.	People in this area live together without any problem. يعيش الناس حيث اعيش معًا دون أي مشكلة	1: Strongly Disagree 2: Disagree 3: somewhat disagree 4: Neutral 5: Somewhat agree 6: Agree 7: Strongly agree	أرفض بشدة: 1 لا أوافق: 2 لا أوافق إلى حد ما: 3 محايد: 4 موافق إلى حد ما: 5 أوافق: 6 أوافق بشدة: 7
31.	In this area, people can overlook mistakes made by others. حيث اعيش، يكون الناس قادرين على التغاضي عن الأخطاء التي يرتكبها الآخرون	1: Strongly Disagree 2: Disagree 3: somewhat disagree 4: Neutral 5: Somewhat agree 6: Agree 7: Strongly agree	أرفض بشدة: 1 لا أوافق: 2 لا أوافق إلى حد ما: 3 محايد: 4 موافق إلى حد ما: 5 أوافق: 6 أوافق بشدة: 7

32.	<p>People in this region feel free to practice their religion.</p> <p>يشعر الناس حيث اعيش بالحرية في ممارسة شعائرهم الدينية.</p>	<p>1: Strongly Disagree 2: Disagree 3: somewhat disagree 4: Neutral 5: Somewhat agree 6: Agree 7: Strongly agree</p>	<p>أرفض بشدة :1 لا أوافق :2 لا أوافق إلى حد ما :3 محايد :4 موافق إلى حد ما :5 أوافق :6 أوافق بشدة :7</p>
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