VASyR 2019

Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon

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Inter-Agency Coordination Lebanon

VASyR 2019

Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon

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The VASyR team in Lebanon included: WFP (Catherine Said, Simon Renk, Maroun Dagher, Sirin Elzuhairi, Lina Badawi), UNHCR (Ruba Cheaib, Pablo Vizcaino), UNICEF (Jamil El Khoury, Georges Haddad), Hannah Mazkour (editorial consultant).
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Special thanks go to the refugee households who welcomed the survey team to answer questions and provide valuable information for this assessment.

UNICEF is a leading humanitarian and development agency working globally for the rights of every child.

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, is a global organisation dedicated to saving lives, protecting rights and building a better future for refugees, forcibly displaced communities and stateless people.

WFP is the world's largest humanitarian agency fighting hunger worldwide.

THE VASyR HUB

In our effort to make the VASyR more accessible, a website was launched in 2019. It includes a wide range of resources such as hundreds of data tabulations not published in this report, additional tools to support humanitarian actors to develop similar assessements and more.

http://ialebanon.unhcr.org/vasyr

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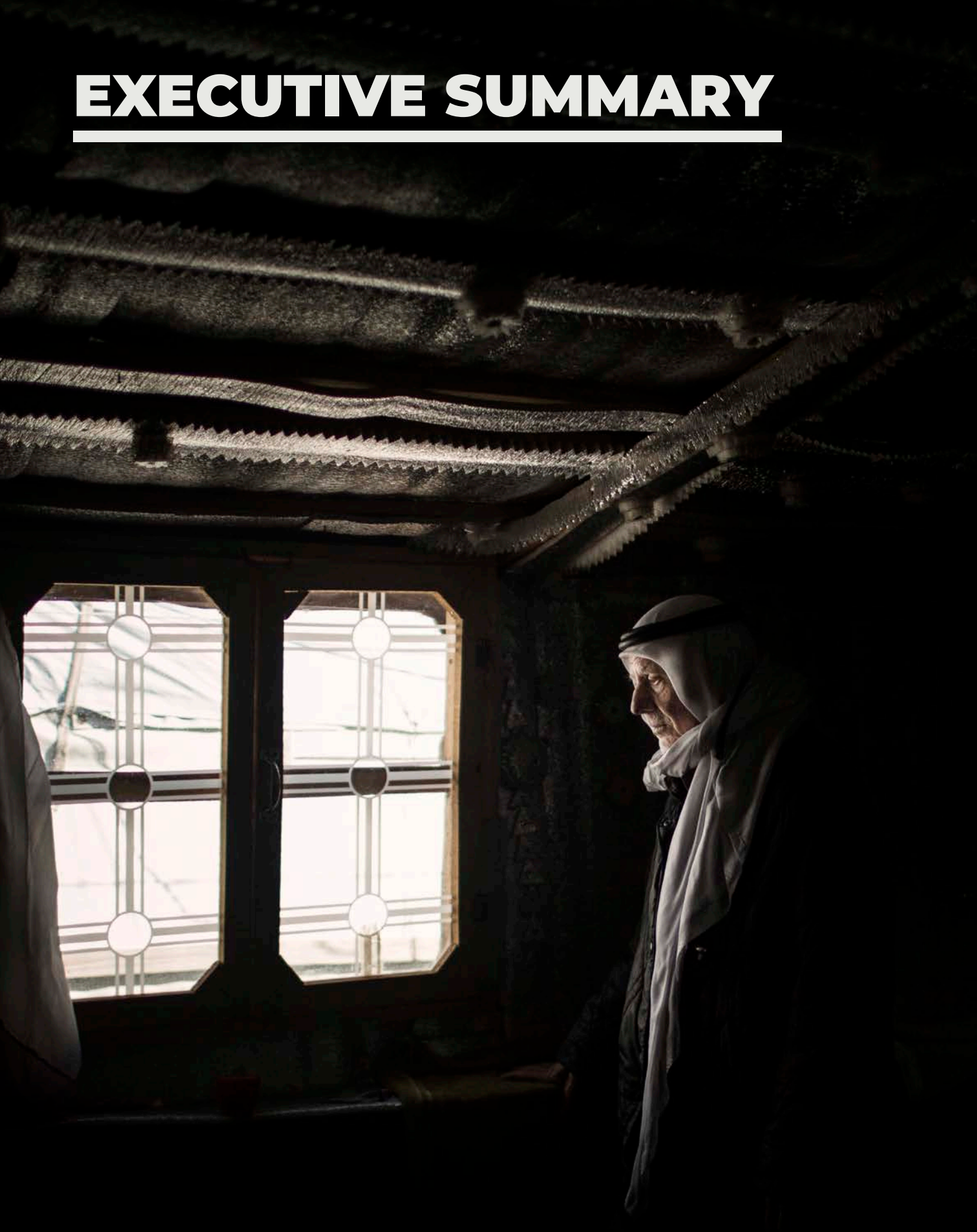
ACRONYMS

FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FCS	Food Consumption Score
GoL	Government of Lebanon
GSO	General Security Office
HDADD	Household Daily Average Diet Diversity
HH	Household
HWDD	Household Weekly Diet Diversity
ILO	International Labour Organization
IYCF	Infant and Young Child Feeding
ITS	Informal Tented Settlements
LCRP	Lebanon Crisis Response Plan
MEB	Minimum Expenditure Basket
MoEW	Ministry of Energy and Water
MoPH	Ministry of Public Health
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
ODK	Open Data Kit
PHC	Primary Health Care
RAIS	Refugee Assistance Information System
rCSI	reduced Coping Strategy Index
SMEB	Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket
UN	United Nations
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
VASyR	Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees
Vit A	Vitamin A
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



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The Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon (VASyR) analyses a representative sample of Syrian refugee families in Lebanon to provide a multi-sectoral update of the situation of this population. Conducted annually, 2019 marks the seventh year of this assessment. With more than one million Syrian refugees, Lebanon remains to have the largest concentration of refugees per capita, globally.

The contents of this report, jointly issued by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Food Programme (WFP), demonstrate that while some improvements in specific indicators are noted, Syrian refugees in Lebanon continue to show heightened vulnerabilities. While rates of birth registration have seen an increase since previous years, other legal documentation issues (e.g. legal residency) remains to be an on-going challenge. About half of households are living in extreme poverty, despite large scale assistance programs to families. Additionally, while rent prices were not noted to increase dramatically, many families continue to live in substandard and over-crowded conditions across the country.

Methodology

Between 8 April and 3 May 2019, survey teams visited 4,727 randomly selected Syrian refugee households, covering all districts across Lebanon.

The household questionnaire was designed based on the questionnaire of the previous year to ensure comparability and carried out through face-to-face interviews at refugee homes. The analysis plan was developed following the sectors' guidance and global indicators.

KEY FINDINGS

Civil and legal documentation remain a challenge

Syrian refugees continue to face serious difficulties in updating their documents for temporary stay in in Lebanon, which creates anxiety and stress among the refugee population. Lack of regularized stay has far reaching consequences on all aspects of their life in Lebanon, including challenges in securing housing, accessing livelihoods and facing risk of arrest and detention. The rate of legal residency among the Syrian refugee population in Lebanon has continued to decline in 2019. Only 22% of individuals (above 15 years old) reported having legal residency, compared to 27% in 2018. Rates among youth and women remain lower than middle-aged, men counterparts. Needing to obtain a Lebanese sponsor, even for those that are exempt, was the highest reported barrier to regularizing their stay.

Positive outcomes were noted for birth registration with rates of births registered with the Foreigners' Registry reaching 30% from 22% in 2018. Almost all births since 2011 had, at the minimum, a birth certificate from a hospital or midwife. In September 2017, the need for parents to have legal residency in order to complete birth registration was waived, and only one spouse is now required to have legal stay to register the marriage. Additionally, in March 2018, late birth registration procedures for Syrian children older than one year were simplified and made more accessible. These recent policy changes, in addition to increased awareness on the importance of birth registration, are the key contributing factors to this increase. Still, many births remained unregistered with the proper authorities and if left unregistered, can have serious negative effects such as limited access to key services.

Increases in restrictive measures

While few refugees rated their relations with the host community as negative (5%), a significant portion were neutral (41%). When examining reported issues that were perceived to drive tensions among refugees and the host community, competition for jobs and resources came up most frequently. Competition for jobs was cited by just over half of families, which is a

substantial increase from 38% in 2018. Curfews were the most commonly cited security concern among refugees and 14% of families stated that there was a curfew imposed for refugees in the area where they live. 2019 witnessed an increase in the enforcement of restrictions on refugees' ability to work, as well as security authorities raids on businesses run by- or employing Syrians. These measures were also accompanied by protests by Lebanese nationals against Syrian labour in Lebanon. Amidst heightening anxieties surrounding economic austerity, overstretched resources and high unemployment, Syrian refugees are increasingly being associated, in the public perception, with economic issues in Lebanon.

Access to health care for most, but not all

Overall access to primary and hospital care slightly improved and remains on an acceptable level. For both primary and hospital care, cost was the main barrier to accessing the needed care, rather than physical limitations. The costs incurred included treatment fees or doctor fees as well as transportation costs. In fact, the proportion of households citing cost as a barrier to health care increased substantially since 2018, suggesting that economic vulnerability is a notable common denominator for these households. Other findings indicate that area of residence and household composition also play a part, such as gender of the head of household.

Refugees continue to live in conditions below humanitarian standards

Shelter conditions have not improved from 2018 and over half (57%) of Syrian refugee families are living in overcrowded shelters, shelters below humanitarian standards and/or shelters in danger of collapse. Close to 40% of Syrian refugee households were living in shelters that were below humanitarian standards or in dangerous conditions. Over one-third of households continue to live in overcrowded conditions of less than 4.5m2/person. The distribution of Syrian refugee households across the main shelter types remained mostly stable with the majority (69%) living in residential structures, 20% in non-permanent shelters and 11% in non-residential structures.

Households spent more on food in 2019

Food security for Syrian refugees witnessed slight changes since the previous year, with a large proportion of households being marginally food secure in 2019 (63%), compared to 57% in 2018. Women-headed households are more food insecure than men-headed households (35% vs 28% respectively). This is a similar trend to 2018, where 40% of women-headed households were food insecure, as compared to 32% of men-headed households. Shelter type is corrolated with the overall food security status. Households living in non-residential shelters (36%) are more food insecure than those living in non-permanent (26%) or residential shelters (29%). Food insecurity is highest in the North (38%) and Mount Lebanon (33%). While food security has increased in two of its three pillars: food consumption and livelihood based coping strategies, the share of expenditure on food has increased in 2019, which indicates increased economic vulnerability.

The share of households with adequate diet continues to increase throughout the years (from 62% in 2017, 67% in 2018 to 75% in 2019). This is reflected in an increased dietary diversity with almost 75% of households consuming nine or more food groups per week in 2019, as opposed to 70% in 2018. However, a quarter of Syrian households still have poor or borderline food consumption. Men-headed households are consuming a more diverse diet per day than women-headed ones, where 35% of men-headed families consume 6.5 or more food groups per day (such as dairy products, meat, fish, eggs, and vegetables), compared to only 24% of those headed by women.

Syrian refugees are becoming more economically vulnerable

The proportion of Syrian refugees spending less than US$ 2.90 a day (< SMEB) has increased from 51% in 2018 to 55% in 2019. 73% are spending less than US$ 3.80 a day in 2019, compared to 68% in 2018. The VASyR data also shows that the average monthly per capita expenditure decreased from US$ 111 in 2018 to US$ 105 in 2019. The average level of debt per household has been increasing by nearly US$ 100 over the last few years (US$ 919 in 2017, US$ 1,015 in 2018, and reaching US$ 1,115 in 2019) showing that Syrian refugee households continue to lack enough resources to cover their essential

needs. 9 out of 10 households are in debt, an increase of 5% compared to last year.
Main reasons for borrowing remain the same over the last several years, where food (75%), rent (51%), and health care payment (34%) are at the forefront. More people are borrowing to buy medicine (33% in 2019 vs 23% in 2018) and repay debts (6% in 2019 vs 3% in 2018). More men-headed households are borrowing to buy food (76% vs 71% for women) and pay rent (52% vs 47% for women) while more women-headed households are borrowing in order to pay for health (39% vs 33% for men) and buy medicine (40% vs 31% for men). Friends in Lebanon are still the main source of borrowing in 2019 (84%), followed by borrowing from supermarkets (47%).

Only one-third of refugees have a regular job

The vulnerability assessment collected livelihood and income information at both individual and household levels. In 2019, the labour force participation rate is 38%; 66% among men and 11% among women. The highest percentage of labour force participation is in Beirut (42%), El Nabatieh, South Lebanon and Mount Lebanon (41% each). The unemployment rate among the labour force is 31% in 2019, with a higher percentage among women (37%) compared to men (30%). The highest unemployment rate is found in Bekaa (62%), followed by Baalbek-El Hermel (49%). 59% of households had members working in the past 7 days, with the lowest level of employment in Baalbek-El Hermel (30%) and Bekaa (36%). Only 47% of women-headed households had members working, compared to 61% of men-headed ones. The average monthly per capita income is US$ 66, with the lowest income in Baalbek-El Hermel (US$ 28) and Bekaa (US$ 30). The highest income is found in Beirut (US$ 127). Women-headed households have a much lower income (US$ 47) than men-headed ones (US$ 69). Main sectors of work remain construction (21%), agriculture (17%), and other services (13%). Agriculture work is mostly found in Akkar and the South (35% each). One-third of refugees have a regular job and 13% have more than one part time job. The two main sources of income for Syrian refugees are WFP assistance (24%), and informal debt from friends and shops (22%), indicating the challenges Syrian refugees continue to face in covering expenses through employment.

More households are resorting to crisis livelihood-related coping strategies

In 2019, Syrian refugees continue to adopt a wide range of strategies to cope with a lack of food and/or the means to buy it. Overall, more households are resorting to crisis livelihood-related coping strategies, especially through reducing expenditure on health, education and selling productive assets. Strategies to cope with the lack of food increasingly adopted in 2019 compared to 2018 include relying on less preferred/less expensive food, reducing the number of meals eaten per day, and restricting consumption by adults so children can eat. Geographically, households living in the North, El Nabatieh, and Mount Lebanon are adopting more food-related coping strategies in 2019, compared to 2018. Households in Beirut and Bekaa are adopting much less food-coping strategies in 2019, compared to 2018.

Child labour & child marriage remain in line with previous year

The percentage of children between 5 and 17 years old who are engaged in child labour remained very similar to last year's rate, at 2.6%. Boys are still at higher risk of child labour than girls, 4.4% and 0.6%, respectively. Of children who are engaged in labour, 27% are working in agriculture. It must be noted that child labour may frequently be underreported and peaks during agriculture season, which did not overlap with this year's data collection.
Twenty-seven percent of girls aged 15 to 19 were married at the time of the survey, very similar rate to 2018 results at 29%. The highest rate of child marriage was in the North governorate, 34%. Around 1 out of 2 children between 1 and 14 experienced some form of physical aggression and 6 out 10 experienced some form of psychological aggression.

Child nutrition improves slightly

There was an increase of 13 percentage points in children under 6 months of age who received only breastmilk the day prior to the survey, from 42% in 2018 to 56% in 2019. As for children between 12 and 15 months, there was a slight increase of 4%, from 50% to 54%. The Minimum Diet Diversity for children between 6 and 23 months of age remained the same as last year, at 17%. The Minimum Acceptable Frequency for children between 6 and 23 months of age increased from 64% in 2018 to 80% in 2019. The

percentage of children under 2 years of age who were sick in the two weeks prior to the survey kept increasing from 34% in 2017 to 41% in 2018 and reached 48% in 2019. The three highest reported sicknesses remained the same as last year, fever (83%), cough (73%), and diarrhea (46%). Twenty-four percent of children under 2 years of age who suffered from severe diarrhea required hospitalization or a doctor's consultation.

Households continue to rely on bottled drinking water

In terms of access to drinking water, 88% of household members have access to improved drinking water source, compared to 91% last year. Bottled mineral water (42%) remains the highest source that household rely on for drinking water. When asked if water is readily available on premise, 61% household members had the water source available on premise. The majority (94%) of household members have access to improved sanitation facilities, 7 percentage points increase from 2018. The rate goes up to 87% and 89% when the shelter type is non-permanent or non-residential, respectively. The use of basic sanitation service, i.e. an improved sanitation facility that is not shared, was found to be at 74%. This decreases to 61% for non-permanent shelters.

Gaps in school enrolment remain

Participation in organized learning, which is the percentage of children between 3 and 5 years of age who were attending an early education programme at the time of the survey, slightly decreased from 16% in 2018 to 13% in 2019. As for children between 6 and 14 years of age, enrolment remains stable at 69%. However, this rate drops to 44% when children have a disability. The percentage of children between 15 and 17 year of age in school remained at 22%. Similar to last year, the gender parity indices indicate that the proportion of girls enrolled in schools remained almost equal to that of boys. There was a small increase of 5 percentage points in the proportion of youth (15 to 24 years of age) who are not employed, not in education, and not attending any training, from 61% in 2018 to 66% in 2019.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Challenges with obtaining legal residency should be addressed through an expansion of the fee waiver in line with recommendations in the Brussels I and II Conference partnership papers. Expanding the fee waiver for legal residency to all categories of refugees would increase refugees' access to documentation, freedom of movement and overall protection.
- In light of the growing community tensions fueled by public and media discourse reporting the presence of refugees, as well as restrictive measures applied to refugees, it is critically important that the London and Brussels' commitments "to preserve dignified stay of refugees, while enforcing the application of national laws in a non-discriminatory manner" be applied broadly. Efforts should also be made to address socio-economic pressures and tensions, especially at the local level. These include livelihood and social stability initiatives that benefit both the Lebanese communities and the refugees, as well as advocacy around dignified work.
- Existing support mechanisms and health programmes should be kept available for refugees in need of health care in order to prevent deterioration in access levels. Further interventions targeting the households that presently do not have access to health care should be implemented, specifically mitigating the financial barriers of transport and treatment costs. In addition, further analysis is needed to explain the underlying causes of the lesser access to hospital care among women-headed households reached in the survey.
- Over 30% of Syrian refugees live in non-permanent and non-residential shelters, and are vulnerable to emergency events. Preparedness and response to emergencies, mainly addressing refugees living in non-permanent shelters, should be ensured to enhance lifesaving interventions.
- To decrease the current mobility rate of 20%, and to prevent eviction and eviction threats, an integrated and multi-sectoral response, with focus on shelter/WASH/protection/social stability assistance is required to meet the increasing needs of the refugee population.
- In food security, meeting the funding requirements is crucial in order to maintain

food security gains and ensure wider coverage for Syrian refugees in Lebanon. All partners should also continue to adopt the unified and improved targeting and vulnerability approach. This approach is essential in order to enable actors to better link assistance with their interventions, as well as to deepen linkages between the different sectors and external partners such as the government, academia, research institutes and most importantly Syrian refugees.

- The food security sector strategy must continue to coordinate actions that address stabilisation and economic vulnerability, with a special focus on women and youth, and ensure our actions are sustainable and integrated in the overall programmes of the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Social Affairs.
- Socio-economic vulnerability and debt rates have forced refugees to compromise shelter adequacy in order to sustain themselves and their families. Access of vulnerable refugees to affordable occupancy at minimum standards, mainly in residential shelters, should continue to be ensured through sustainable upgrades (rehabilitation) coupled with improved security of tenure.
- Poverty alleviation needs to remain at the centre of the refugee programme. Safety nets programmes and livelihoods opportunities are key to enabling families to meet their basic needs and increase the overall resilience of the population, especially in an environment which is becoming more economically challenging.
- New employment and training opportunities for young people should be developed with a gender lens, given that youth women were found to face significantly greater challenges in finding jobs and/or training opportunities vis-à-vis their men counterparts.
- Child labour and child marriage continue to require a tailored multi-sectoral, integrated response with a gender dimension. Long-term interventions on prevention and risk mitigation are still needed and should prioritise tackling social norms contributing to child marriage and child labour, especially on the side of caregivers. Similarly, violent discipline directed at children and adolescent girls and boys should be tackled through stronger innovative communication initiatives in order to encourage positive behaviour among caregivers and communities. Such campaigns should be run in collaboration with stakeholders, such as the Ministry of Social Affairs, civil society, and private sector (media).
- Enhanced emphasis on improving access to and availability of water supply and sanitation facilities is required to ensure access to safely managed services based on agreed standards, irrespective of shelter type.
- The education response should focus on the retention of students in schools and completion, through improving the quality of education, promoting a violence-free school environment, and providing transportation when needed. Pre-primary education presents another opportunity for improving children's long-term well-being. Lastly, education interventions should be systematically linked to child protection systems and livelihood opportunities for youth.
- A comprehensive approach to inclusive education needs to address all aspects, from outreach, to teacher training, and provision of support and special needs supplies. More evidence should be generated on the multiple deprivations of persons with disabilities and respond to their needs through mainstreaming and targeted programmes in protection, education, child protection and WASH.

INTRODUCTION

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BACKGROUND

Eight years into the Syria conflict, Lebanon remains at the forefront of one of the worst humanitarian crises of our time. The Government of Lebanon (GoL) estimates that the country hosts 1.5 million[1] of the 6.7 million[2] Syrians who have fled the conflict since 2011 (including 919,578 registered with UNHCR as of end of September 2019[3]). The Syrian refugee population in Lebanon remains the largest concentration of refugees per capita in the world.

The 2019 Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon (VASyR) is the seventh annual survey assessing the situation of Syrian refugees in Lebanon to identify changes and trends in vulnerability. The context is continually evolving, and the VASyR is the only assessment in Lebanon covering all sectors on a yearly basis.

PURPOSE

The VASyR is an essential tool for planning, decisions and needs-based programme design. Results of the VASyR are used by ten sectors under the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP) to understand the evolving situation in Lebanon year after year, to set targets for the coming year and to advocate for funding from donors. The VASyR has also been used to build targeting models, for instance to predict socio-economic vulnerability. Results of the VASyR are used to show geographical variance in vulnerabilities at governorate and district levels, which can feed into the situation analysis. Annual repetition of the assessment also provides a picture on trends.

Key objectives of the VASyR:

1. To provide a multisectoral overview/ update of the vulnerability situation of Syrian refugees in Lebanon through an annual household survey. This assessment offers an understanding of the economic situation, food security, shelter living conditions, coping strategies, access to services, the situation specifically for women and children, and more. The information feeds into the situational analysis of the LCRP, as well as informs the planning processes of local government agencies, donor countries and NGOs.

2. To enhance targeting for the provision of assistance. The VASyR is used to build or revise targeting models like the targeting formula to predict socio-economic vulnerability, which in turn is used for targeting for cash and food assistance. The VASyR collects data necessary to inform other targeting approaches, for instance on protection risks or shelter vulnerability, and to identify most vulnerable areas.

3. To contribute to the LCRP Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework. For instance, results from the VASyR are used to measure whether sector objectives (outcomes) have been achieved. The VASyR is also used in the formulas to calculate LCRP impact indicators (e.g. protection risks).

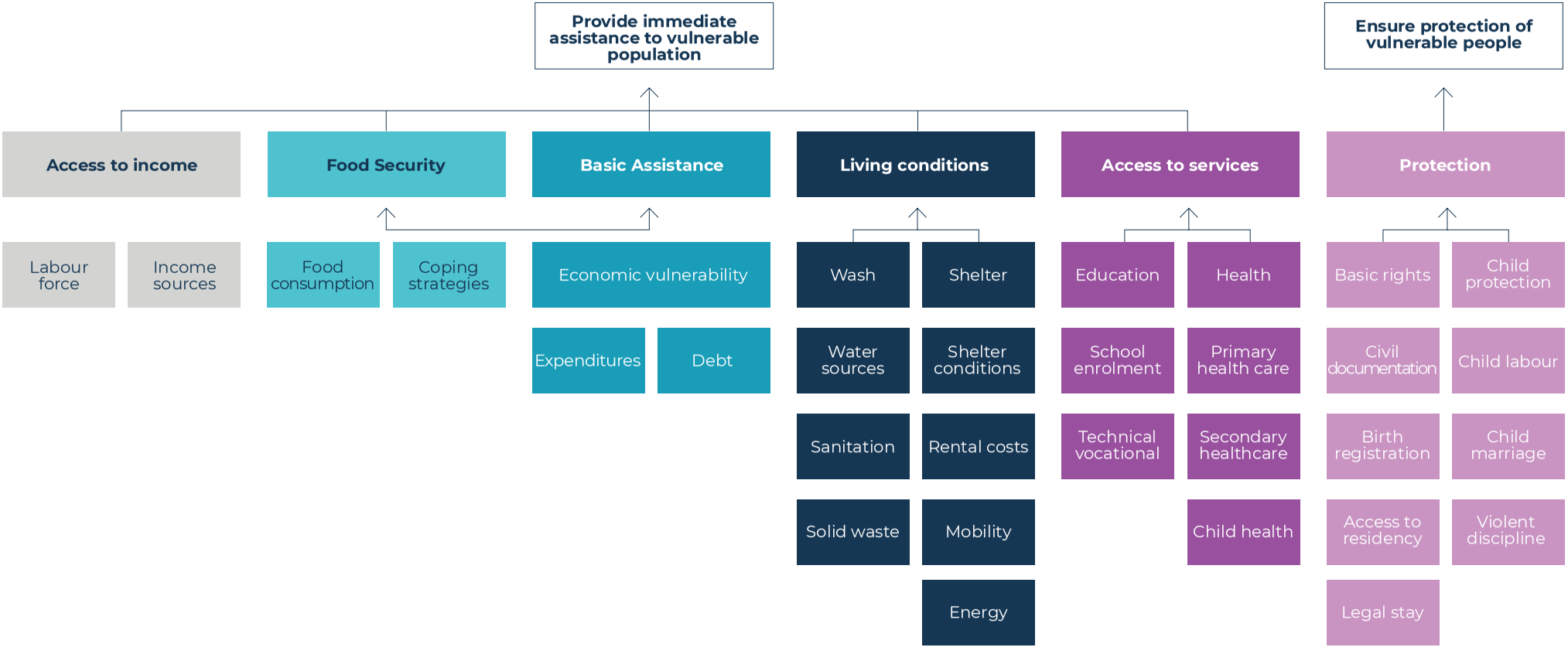
ASSESSMENT ORGANIZATION AND SCOPE

UNHCR, UNICEF and WFP are the VASyR technical leading agencies, forming the VASyR Technical Core Group. This group is supported by the Inter-Agency Coordination Unit, and is responsible for the implementation of the assessment, providing technical insights and ensuring quality control. The inter-agency unit coordinates the VASyR process, ensuring linkages between the VASyR and the LCRP, as well as communication and feedback from the different sectors.

Development of the analysis plan and questionnaire began in January 2019 through rounds of feedback with the Core Group and sector experts. Data was collected from April through early May, preliminary data analysis occurred from June through August, and full analysis and report writing took place from September through November.

The following figure reflects the scope and contents of the VASyR:

[1] LCRP 2017-2020 (2019 update).
[2] **http://www.unhcr.org/globaltrends2018**
[3] UNHCR registration data as of 30 September 2019.


Provide immediate assistance to vulnerable population
Ensure protection of vulnerable people
Access to income
Food Security
Basic Assistance
Living conditions
Access to services
Protection
Labour force
Income sources
Food consumption
Coping strategies
Economic vulnerability
Expenditures
Debt
Wash
Shelter
Water sources
Shelter conditions
Sanitation
Rental costs
Solid waste
Mobility
Energy
Education
Health
School enrolment
Primary health care
Technical vocational
Secondary healthcare
Child health
Basic rights
Child protection
Civil documentation
Child labour
Birth registration
Child marriage
Access to residency
Violent discipline
Legal stay

The analysis for this report was coordinated by three UN agencies. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is the lead for on demographics, protection, shelter, health and assistance, while the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) is the lead for WASH, youth, education, child protection, child health, child nutrition, and infant and young child feeding, and children with disabilities. Both agencies commissioned InfoPro[4] to generate the data tabulation based on an analysis plan. UNHCR and UNICEF used the data tabulation to conduct an in depth analysis and write the chapters internally. The World Food Programme (WFP) is the lead agency for economic vulnerability, livelihoods, food consumption, coping strategies and food security and conducted the data analysis internally. Coordinators from the three agencies oversaw the relevant chapters in the VASyR.

The input of the different sectors was channeled through existing working groups throughout the survey process, including through a series of workshops and consultations. For additional details on the implementation of the survey, see the Methodology chapter.

[4] **http://www.infopro.com.lb**

METHODOLOGY

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SAMPLING

Consistent with previous years, a two-stage cluster approach was used for the selection of the VASyR sample. The main sample frame used was the number of Syrian refugees known to UNHCR as of January 2019. Sampling was based on a "30 x 7" two-stage cluster scheme initially developed by the World Health Organization. This method outlines a sample size of 30 clusters per geographical area and seven households per cluster which provides a precision of +/- 10 percentage points.[1] Districts were considered as the geographical level within which 30 clusters were selected. There are 26 districts in Lebanon, where Beirut and Akkar each represent a district and a governorate. As such, to ensure representativeness of these two districts as governorates, an additional two cluster samples were considered for each. Additionally, one cluster sample was also added to Baalbek-El Hermel governorate which is composed of only two districts. Adding an additional cluster sample ensured all governorates have at least three cluster samples.

The primary sampling unit was defined as the village level (i.e. cluster) and UNHCR cases served as the secondary sampling unit. A case was defined as a group of people who are identified together as one unit (usually immediate family) under UNHCR databases. Villages were selected using probability proportionate to size where villages with a larger concentration of refugees were more likely to be selected and 30 clusters per village were selected[2] with four replacement clusters, per district.

In order to estimate the sample size needed to generate results that are representative on a district, governorate and national level, the following assumptions were used:

- 50% estimated prevalence
- 10% precision
- 1.5 design effect
- 5% margin of error

Using the above parameters, 165 cases per district was required, leading to a target of 4,950 cases nationally. Due to the known high level of mobility of the Syrian refugee population and based on experience in previous rounds of the VASyR and other household level surveys, a 40% non-response rate was considered, yielding 8,250 cases as the pool from which cases were targeted. Cases from the pool were selected by the following breakdown:

- 8, 250 cases distributed over 30 districts/ 34 clusters per district: 8 cases per cluster

Due to some clusters having less than eight cases, a total of 8,079 cases were used as the sample pool for the survey. Of these, 4,769 were visited.

TRAINING AND FIELD WORK

Separate enumerator trainings were carried out in each operational region (Bekaa, Mount Lebanon, North and South) covering the data collection tool, contextual background, methodology and ethical considerations. The trainings were administered by UNHCR, WFP and UNICEF staff over the course of seven days, including two field test days. Data was collected and entered on electronic tablets by the enumerators during the interviews using Open Data Kit (ODK) software. The data was then sent to UNHCR's Refugee Assistance Information System (RAIS) Platform.

Data collection took place between 8 April and 3 May 2019 through face-to-face interviews at refugee homes by four partners in each region, as shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Partners that conducted data collection

Akkar	**Caritas**
Baalbek-El Hermel	**World Vision International**
Beirut	**Makhzoumi Foundation**
Bekaa	**World Vision International**
Mount Lebanon	**Makhzoumi Foundation**
El Nabatieh	**SHEILD**
North	**Caritas**
South	**SHEILD**

[1] World Health Organization. Training for Mid-level Managers: The EPI Coverage Survey. Geneva: WHO Expanded Programme on Immunization, 1991. WHO/EPI/MLM/91.10

[2] Using the Emergency Nutrition Assessment (ENA) Software.

QUESTIONNAIRE

The 2019 VASyR questionnaire consisted of 486 questions that collected data at the household level and individual level. Questions included those on demographics, legal documentation, safety and security, shelter, WASH, health, food security, livelihoods, expenditures, food consumption, debt, coping strategies and assistance, as well as questions specifically relating to women, children and people with disabilities. The VASyR questionnaire is a household survey administered with either the head of the household or any other adult household member.

The full questionnaire can be downloaded via the following link:

https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/71337

DATA QUALITY ASSURANCE

The following steps were taken to monitor the quality of collected data:

1. Using a harmonized check list, each VASyR core agency conducted frequent spot checks on each of the data collection teams across Lebanon[3]. Feedback was provided directly after the interview was completed and reports were scanned and shared with the respective area coordinator and Core Group members. No interview was interrupted, unless crucial intervention was needed in events such as violation of the ethical regulations.

2. Agencies conducted follow up phone calls for a randomly selected 5% of the weekly target number of households each week to verify a few questions from the interview and get feedback on the enumerators' performance.

3. At the end of each week, a data collection summary report was shared with all agencies to check on the progress of data collection.

4. A WhatsApp group was created among the enumerators and general feedback was shared on weekly basis.

DATA PROCESSING

Weighting of the data was necessary to ensure that the geographical distribution of the population was reflected in the analysis and to compensate for the unequal probabilities of a household being included in the sample. The normalized weight was calculated for each district using the following formula:

$$w_n = \frac{(N_s/N)}{(n_s/n)}$$

Where w_n is the normalized weight, N_s is total sample frame of the district, N is the total national sample frame, n_s is the number of household visited in the district and n is the total visited households.

The data was cleaned for any significant outliers and consistency checks were applied to spot any data errors. Results were disaggregated by district, governorate, gender of the household head, shelter type, food security and economic vulnerability, were deemed necessary. Data was analysed using SPSS version 20.

LIMITATIONS

As with any survey, limitations are expected; several main limitations are discussed here:

1. The VASyR relies primarily on self-reported data which may be bias or untrue. To minimize the impact of this bias, enumerators were trained on providing a comprehensive informed consent to reassure confidentiality, purpose, risks and benefits.

2. Sample sizes for specific age groups may be small as the sampling strategy was not conducted for this purpose. Thus, results for such age groups are either not reported (e.g., cases below 25), not segregated by geography (e.g., IYCF) or reported but with caution.

3. The VASyR sampling frame excluded Syrian refugees who have never approached UNHCR (unless within a targeted household). This population is a consistent gap in data on Syrian refugees in Lebanon.

4. The VASyR questionnaire and respective indicators are subjected to adjustment and changes in order to ensure that the most accurate definition or calculation is being

[3] Refer to **http://ialebanon.unhcr.org/vasyr** for a detailed description of the spot checks procedure and tools used.

used. These changes may have caused some results not to be directly comparable with previous years.

5. The VASyR is a household survey and the interview is usually conducted with the head of household or any other adult household member. As such, there are no individual interviews carried out with each family member and obtaining accurate information on particularly sensitive topics is a challenge (i.e. child labour or harassment).

6. The VASyR methodology does not mitigate for gender bias in respondents' answers. Given that an interview is typically conducted with the head of household, and only 18% of households were female-headed, the voices and issues of females may not be accurately captured. As a result, the data is likely to be skewed towards male voices and perspectives.

7. Families that had recently moved to a different governorate and whose address was not updated with UNHCR were not captured through this assessment. This is because households are sampled according to their geographical area of residence (known to UNHCR) and linked to the predetermined clusters.

FIELD CONSULTATIONS

In 2019, field consultaions were held in all 4 field offices to validate the VASyR quantitative findings. The consultations complement the data analysis and are summarized in the *Voices from the field* boxes.

Participants included sector leads in the field and key actors implementing activities targeting Syrian refugees.

DEMOGRAPHICS

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In order to gain a better understanding of the Syrian refugee population in Lebanon, it is vital to examine the key demographic characteristics. These include household composition, profile of the head of household, dependency and prevalence of certain specific needs. Through the VASyR these indicators are tracked over time. For the purposes of this assessment, a household is defined as a group of people that live under the same roof, share the same expenses and eat from the same pot. The head of household is the main decision maker.

KEY FINDINGS

- **Household size has stabilized over the past few years** with, on average, **five individuals** in a typical Syrian refugee household in Lebanon.
- Similar to 2018 and 2017, **18% of households are headed by a woman** and **6% by individuals above the age of 59.**
- There are no major shifts noted in the overall population with an **even split between males and females. More than half of the population is under the age of 18.**
- The share of households that have **at least one member with a specific need** (disability, chronic disease, serious medical condition, temporary illness or unable to carry out daily activities without support) **increased to 64% in 2018 to 70% in 2019.**

POPULATION PROFILE

Similar trends are noticed throughout the past few years with an evident gender gap among 20 to 30 year olds. In this age group there is a larger share of women as compared to men. Overall, there is an even split between men and women in the population and over half (53%) are under 18 years old. Seventy-five percent of interviewed adults were married and 17% were single.

Figure 1: Age distribution by gender

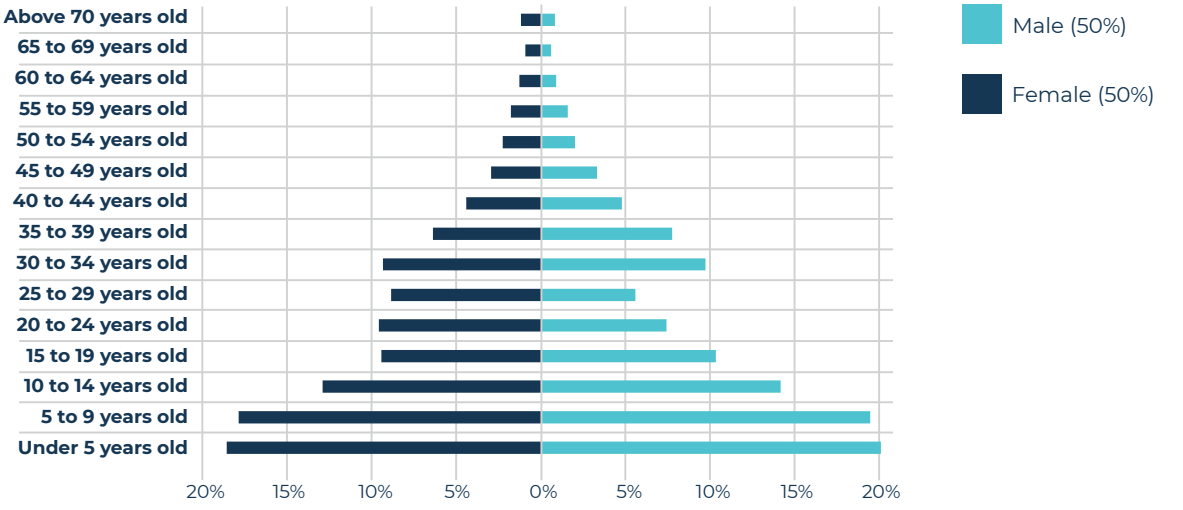
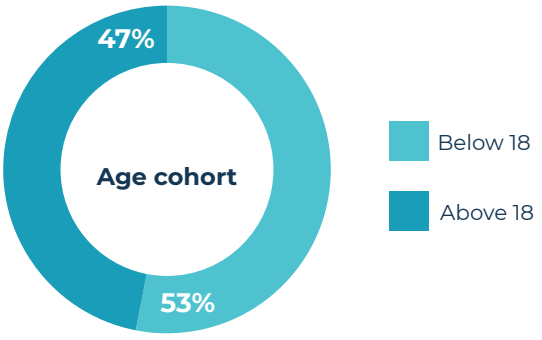


Figure 2: Distribution of population above and below 18 years old



REFUGEE HOUSEHOLDS

Average household size has remained stable at 5 individuals per household. On average, households are composed of 2 adults (18 to 65 years old), 1.6 children aged 6 to 17 years old, and 1 child aged 5 years or younger.

The majority of households (43%) have up to 4 household members, 33% have 5 to 6 members and 23% have 7 household members or more. Almost all households (85%) have at least one member under the age of 18 and 58% have at least one child aged 5 years or younger. Eleven percent of households have an elderly member aged 60 or above.

The share of households with a woman head remained stable at 18%. The highest share of woman headed households was in the Bekaa and the lowest was in Beirut. The share of households that are headed by an elderly (above 59 years) also remained stable at 6%.

Figure 3: Share of households by size (number of members per household)

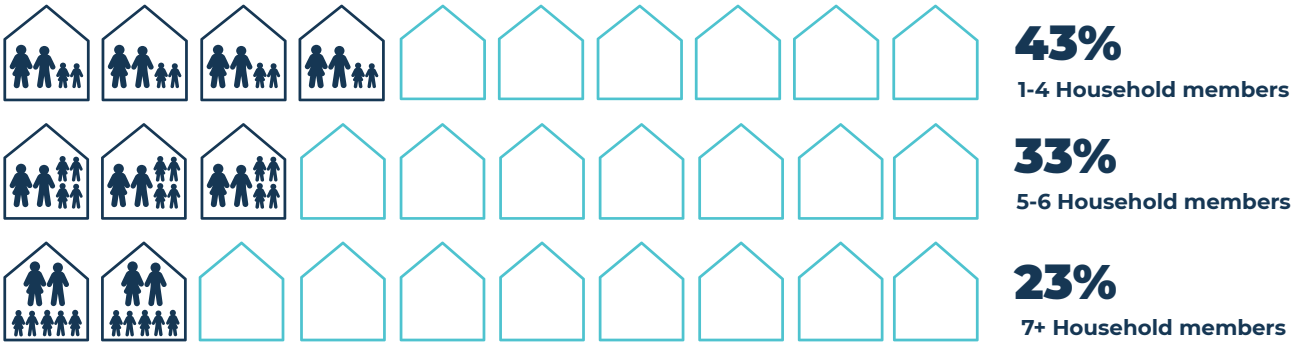
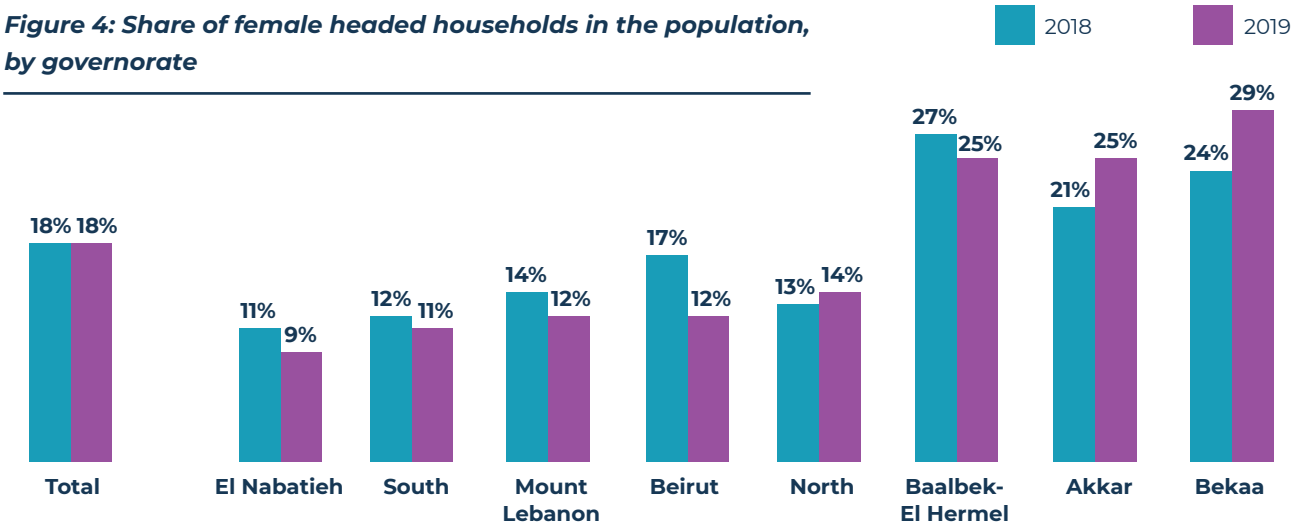


Figure 4: Share of female headed households in the population, by governorate



DEPENDENCY

Dependents: Household members aged 14 or younger or above 59 years old.

Dependency ratio: Number of dependents in the household divided by the number of non-dependents in the household.

Average dependency ratio is 1, the same as in 2018. This indicates an almost equal split between dependents and non-dependents within the household. Almost half had at least 3 dependents.

Figure 5: Number of dependents among refugee households

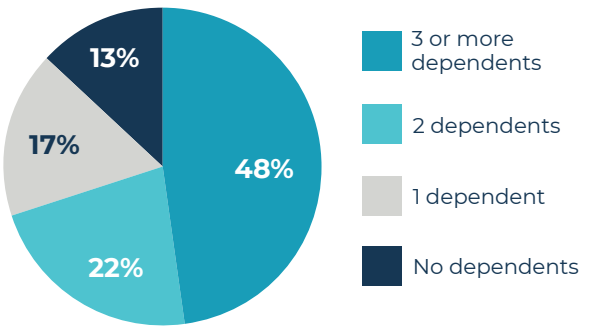


Figure 6: Number of dependents among refugee households, by governorate

	3 or more dependents	2 dependents	1 dependent	No dependents
Total	**48%**	**22%**	**17%**	**13%**
Akkar	45%	22%	18%	15%
Baalbek-El Hermel	**47%**	**26%**	**17%**	**10%**
Beirut	44%	18%	14%	24%
Bekaa	**48%**	**26%**	**17%**	**9%**
Mount Lebanon	61%	19%	13%	7%
El Nabatieh	**45%**	**21%**	**18%**	**17%**
North	51%	21%	16%	12%
South	**61%**	**15%**	**16%**	**8%**

SPECIFIC NEEDS

The term "specific need" refers to any of the following characteristics: Physical or mental disability, chronic illness, temporary illness or injury, serious medical condition or needing support in basic daily activities.

The share of households with at least one member with any specific need has increased to 73% in 2019 from 63% in 2018. This increase is likely due to the more detailed assessment of disability in the 2019 survey that may have led to an increased identification of persons with disabilities, rather than an increase in the number of persons with disabilities in the population.

Across the population, 6% of individuals had a disability (visual, hearing, physical, intellectual and/or speech impairment), 14% had a chronic illness and 15% had a temporary illness. There were 9% of individuals that reported needing support for their daily activities.

Figure 7: Share of households with at least one member reporting a specific need

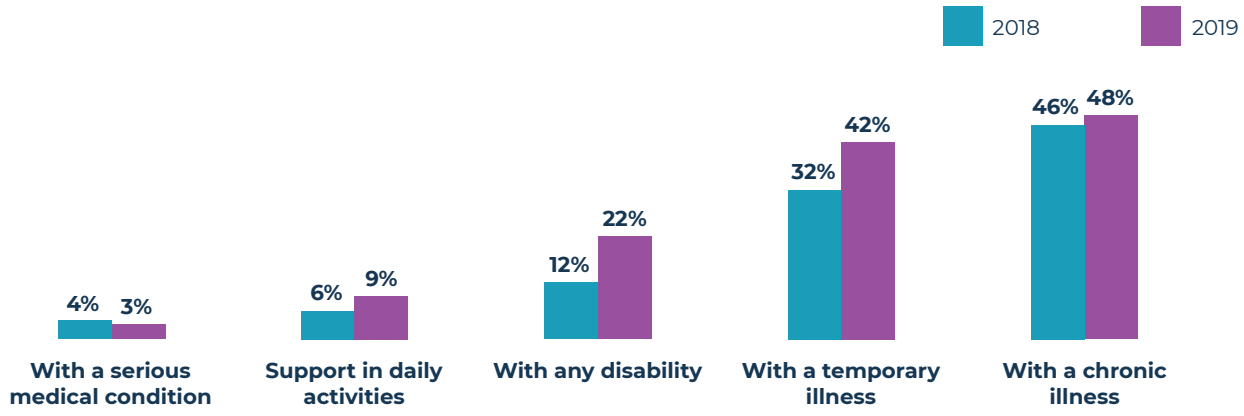
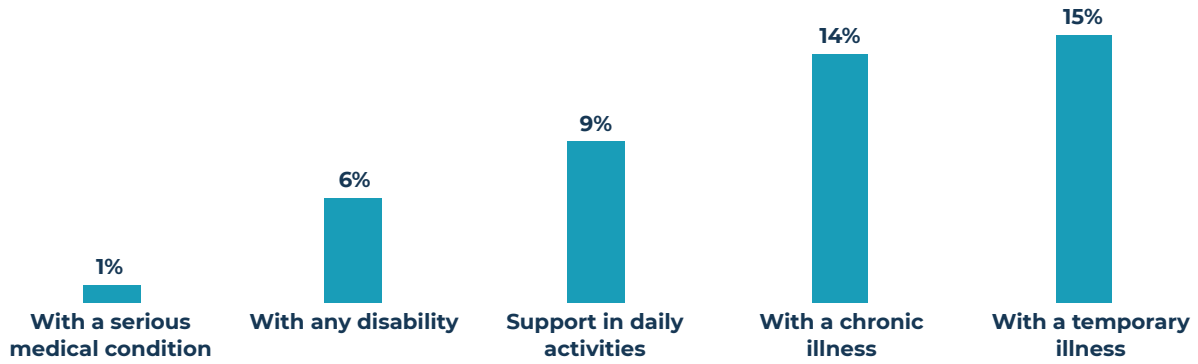


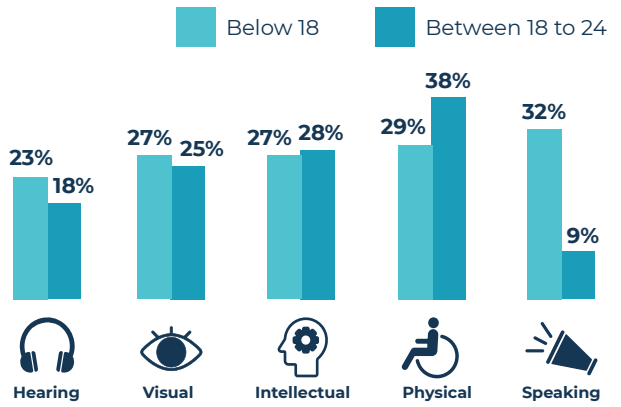
Figure 8: Share of individuals reporting a specific need



CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES

The share of Syrian refugee children below 18 years of age who have a disability was at 3.8% and for youth between 18 and 24 years of age, the share was at 4.4%. Furthermore, there was considerable difference between boys and girls. Among children below 18, 4.6% The below graph shows the different types of disability, among those who have children and per age group.

Figure 9: Different types of disabilities among children and youth with a disability



Annex 1: Gender and share of household members

	Gender		Gender of HH head		Share of households by number of members					
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Mean age of the head of household	Average household size	4 or less members	5-6 members	7 or more members	Average dependency ratio
Total	50%	50%	82%	18%	39	5	43%	33%	23%	1.02
Governorate										
Akkar	50%	50%	75%	25%	40	5	45%	32%	22%	1.00
Baalbek-El Hermel	47%	53%	75%	25%	41	5	46%	33%	21%	1.15
Beirut	53%	47%	88%	12%	38	5	45%	31%	24%	0.93
Bekaa	47%	53%	71%	29%	40	5	46%	31%	23%	1.00
El Nabatieh	50%	50%	91%	9%	38	6	28%	41%	31%	1.05
Mount Lebanon	52%	48%	88%	12%	37	5	47%	33%	20%	0.95
North	50%	50%	86%	14%	38	5	40%	36%	23%	1.01
South	49%	51%	89%	11%	38	6	30%	34%	36%	1.09
Gender of the head of household										
Female					47	4	65%	22%	13%	0.97
Male					38	5	39%	36%	25%	1.06
Shelter type										
Non-permanent shelter	50%	50%	84%	16%	38	5	44%	34%	22%	0.98
Non-residential	51%	49%	82%	18%	38	5	46%	35%	19%	1.13
Residential	48%	52%	74%	26%	40	5	41%	32%	28%	1.10

Annex 2: Dependency and specific needs at a household level

	Share of households by dependents				Share of households with at least one member reporting a specific need				
	No dependents	1 dependent	2 dependents	3 or more dependents	At least one member with chronic disease	At least one member with a serious medical condition	At least one member with a temporary medical condition	At least one member with a disability	At least one member needing support in daily
Total	13%	17%	22%	48%	47%	3%	42%	22%	9%
Governorate									
Akkar	15%	18%	22%	45%	42%	3%	24%	24%	10%
Baalbek-El Hermel	10%	17%	26%	47%	55%	1%	50%	19%	6%
Beirut	24%	14%	18%	44%	37%	5%	39%	27%	12%
Bekaa	9%	17%	26%	48%	63%	1%	61%	19%	7%
El Nabatieh	7%	13%	19%	61%	48%	3%	50%	16%	9%
Mount Lebanon	17%	18%	21%	45%	36%	5%	33%	23%	11%
North	12%	16%	21%	51%	50%	3%	31%	24%	8%
South	8%	16%	15%	61%	48%	2%	52%	21%	12%
Gender of the head of household									
Female	19%	24%	22%	35%	56%	2%	47%	21%	16%
Male	11%	15%	22%	51%	45%	3%	40%	25%	7%
Shelter type									
Non-permanent shelter	8%	15%	22%	54%	45%	3%	38%	22%	9%
Non-residential	15%	16%	22%	47%	42%	3%	41%	19%	10%
Residential	14%	17%	22%	47%	57%	2%	54%	22%	9%

Annex 3: Specific needs at individual level

	Share of individuals reporting a specific need					
	With any disability	With a temporary illness	With a chronic disease	With a serious medical condition	Needs support in daily activities	
Total	5.5%	15.2%	14.3%	0.6%	5.9%	
Governorate						
Akkar	6.1%	7.8%	11.6%	0.6%	7.6%	
Baalbek-El Hermel	4.9%	15.7%	17.7%	0.3%	3.4%	
Beirut	7.9%	12.2%	9.9%	1.1%	8.0%	
Bekaa	4.7%	26.2%	18.4%	0.1%	5.1%	
El Nabatieh	3.7%	14.4%	12.8%	0.6%	5.5%	
Mount Lebanon	6.2%	13.2%	11.3%	1.2%	7.4%	
North	6.0%	9.5%	15.6%	0.7%	4.7%	
South	4.4%	15.6%	13.6%	0.4%	7.5%	
Gender						
Female	4.1%	15.0%	14.8%	0.6%	4.7%	
Male	7.0%	15.5%	13.8%	0.7%	7.9%	
Shelter type						
Non-permanent shelter	5.3%	19.7%	15.9%	0.4%	6.4%	
Non-residential	5.0%	13.9%	13.0%	0.7%	6.9%	
Residential	5.6%	14.1%	14.0%	0.7%	5.6%	

PROTECTION

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The main indicators assessing the protection space of Syrian refugees in Lebanon through the VASyR are in relation to legal residency and to civil documentation. Legal residency, birth registration and marriage documentation are examined, with a focus on births and marriages that occurred in Lebanon. Protection indicators also include those related to safety and security, as well as community relations. Indicators specific to child protection assessed through the VASyR include child labour and child marriage.

KEY FINDINGS

- **The rate of legal residency among the Syrian refugee population continues to decline.** Only 22% of individuals aged 15 years and above have legal residency, compared to 27% in 2018. Rates reach up to 45% for men between the ages of 45 and 49. Across all age groups, **a higher proportion of men have legal residency, as compared to their female counterparts.**
- **Positive outcomes are noted in terms of birth registration for children born in Lebanon,** with improvements across all the steps in the process. Almost all (97%) have a doctor's or midwife certificate, and 30% are registered with the Foreigners' Registry (compared to 21% in 2018).
- **Curfews were the most commonly reported security issue** with 14% of families being affected, mainly in the Southern governorates.
- **Competition for jobs was cited by many (51%) as one of the main drivers of tension between the refugee and host communities,** an increase from 38% in 2018. Less than half (43%) cited no tension.

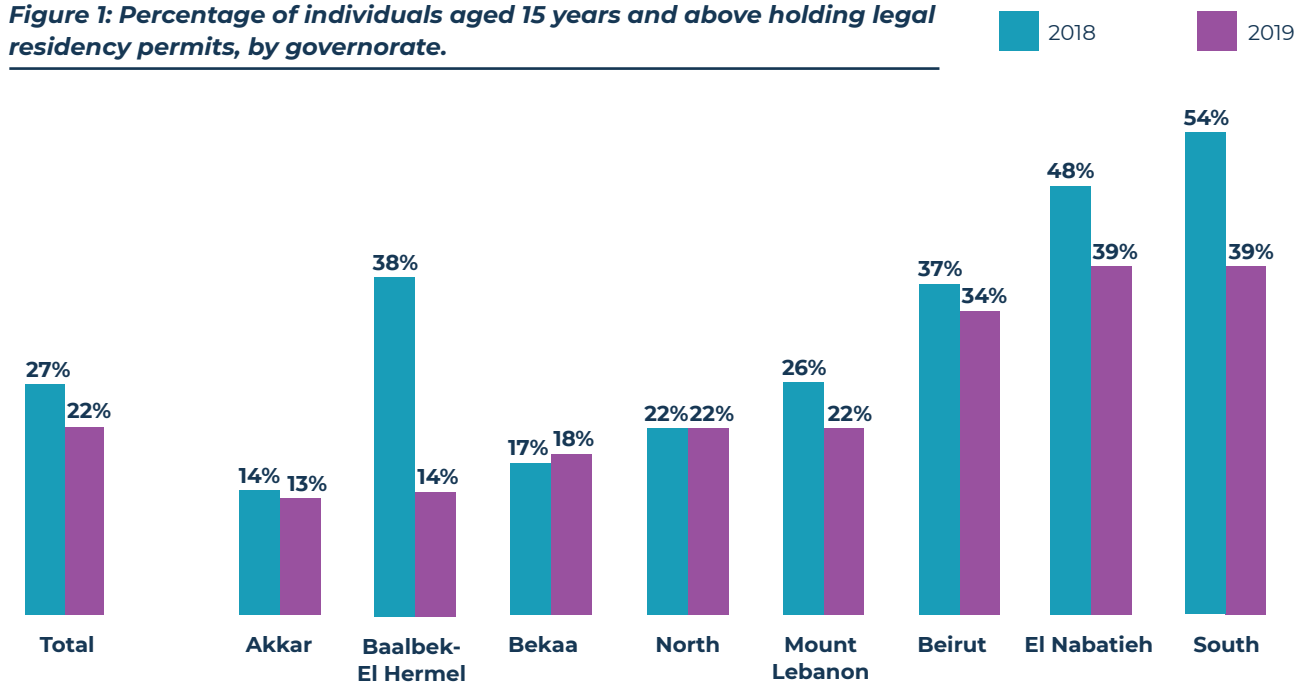
LEGAL RESIDENCY

Based on the current regulations, Syrian refugees can renew their residency permits either on the basis of registration with UNHCR, through a pledge of responsibility by a local sponsor, courtesy permit (if the mother or wife are Lebanese), or through other categories such as property ownership, tenancy, student visa, etc. Additionally, those who had entered legally to Lebanon as of 2015 had to do so based on one of the entry categories and could only renew their legal stay within the limitations set for this specific entry category (such as tourism, medical visit, transit etc.). Each category has its own requirements, fees and residency duration. In all cases, it is not possible to switch from a residency permit based on one of these categories to the residency permit based on UNHCR certificate.

In 2017, the residency fees were waived for Syrian refugees registered with UNHCR prior to 1 January 2015 and who did not previously renew their legal residency based on categories such as tourism, sponsorship, property ownership, or tenancy.

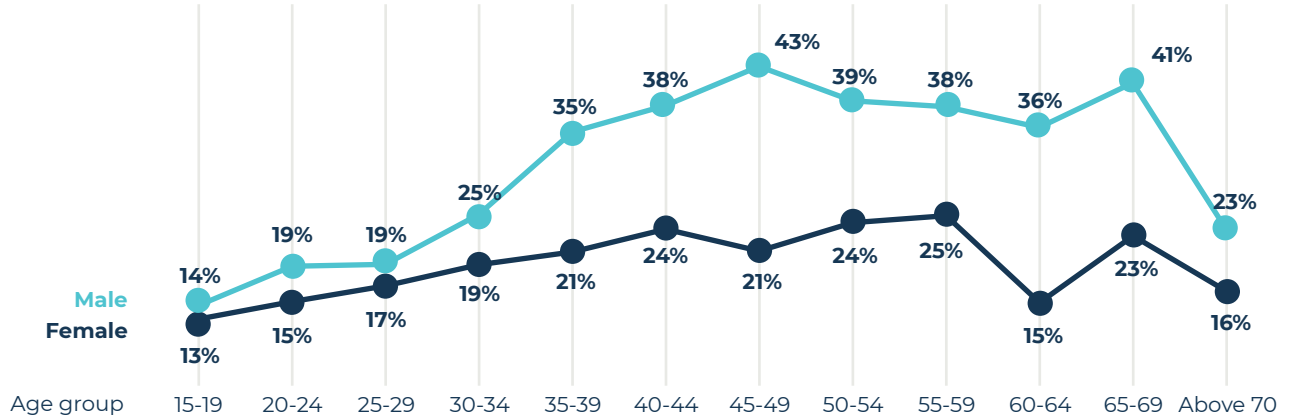
Results from 2019 show a decline in the percentage of individuals above the age of 15 years holding legal residency to 22%, from 27% in 2018. Regionally, Baalbek-El Hermel, El Nabatieh and the South exhibited the largest decrease, while rates in Akkar remain the lowest.

Figure 1: Percentage of individuals aged 15 years and above holding legal residency permits, by governorate.



Examining the rates of legal residency by age group, youth and younger adults (under the age of 25) have notably lower rates of legal residency than their older counterparts. In fact, rates reach up to 43% for men aged 45 to 49 years. Women across all age groups have lower rates of legal residency as compared to men. Poorer individuals and those living in non-permanent shelters were also less likely to hold legal residency permits. Among individuals with a disability, over three quarters (77%) did not have legal residency permits.

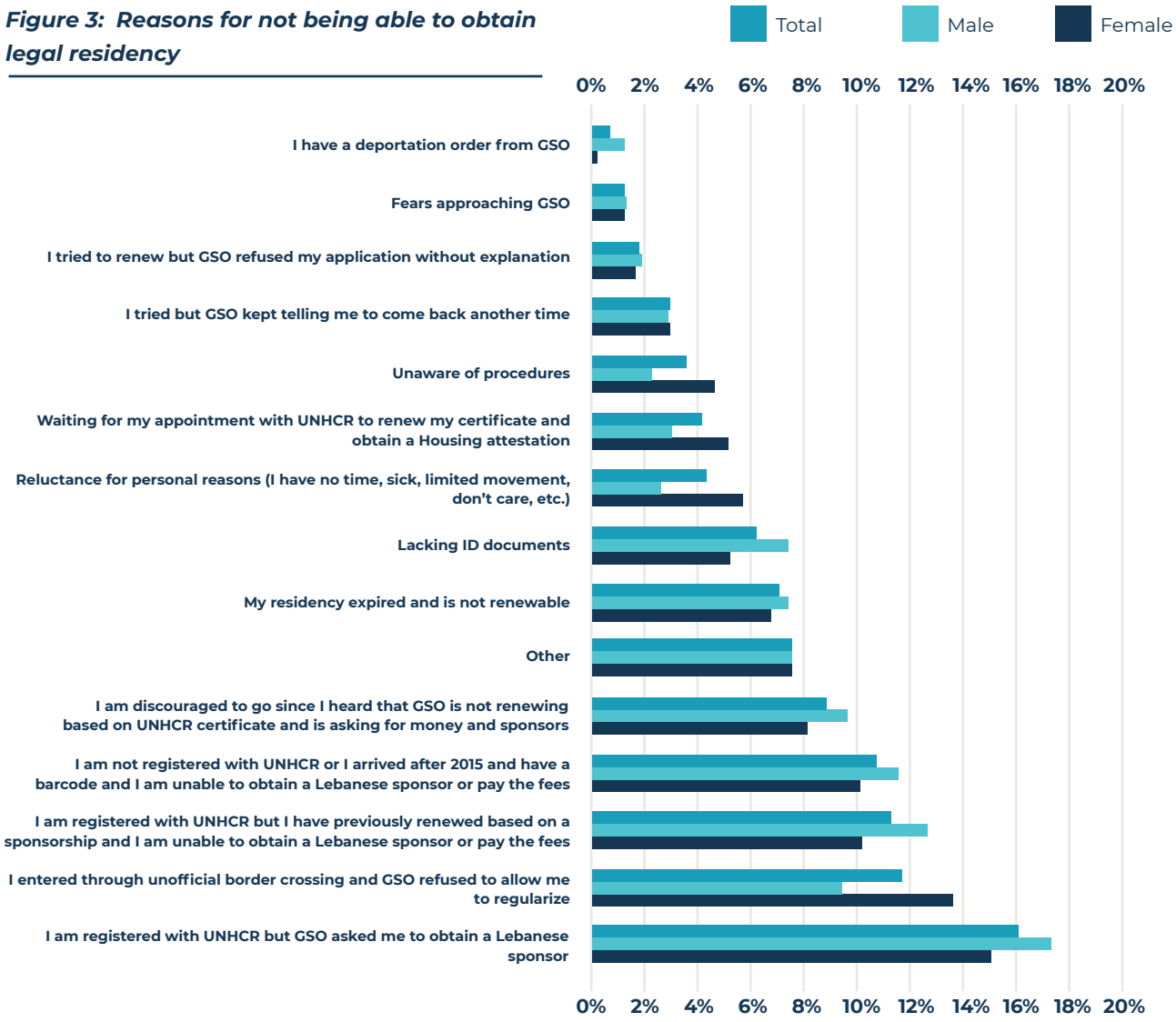
Figure 2: Percentage of individuals aged 15 years and above holding legal residency permits, by gender and age group



At a household level, there is a significant decrease in the legal residency rates, with only 10% of households having all members holding legal residency (18% in 2018) and 33% having at least one member with legal residency (39% in 2018).

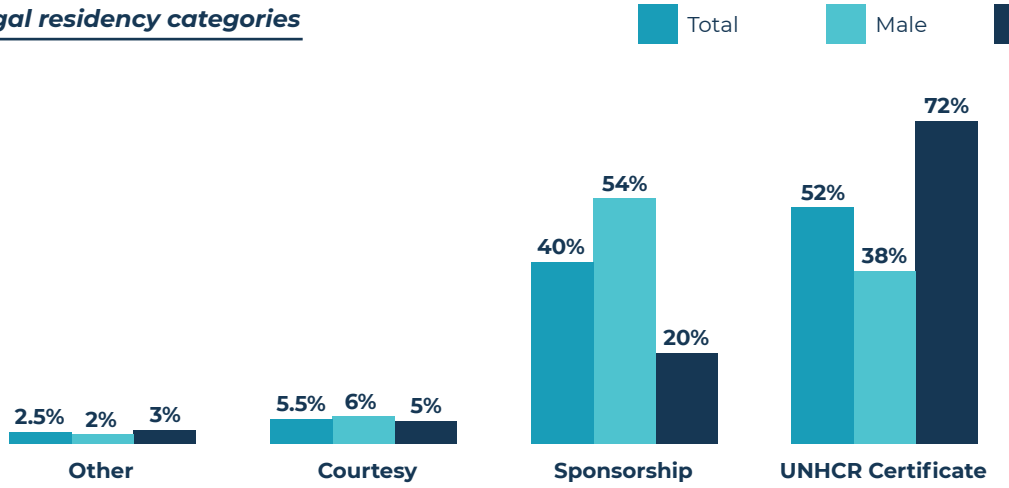
Being asked to obtain a Lebanese sponsor while registered with UNHCR was cited among the most common reason for not having legal residency. Another challenge was obtaining a Lebanese sponsor for those that needed one. Entering through unofficial borders was also commonly cited as a barrier to obtaining legal residency.

Figure 3: Reasons for not being able to obtain legal residency



For those with legal residency, the majority (52%) had legal residency through their UNHCR registration certificate. This legal residency was much more common among women than men, while men were more likely to have legal residency through sponsorship.

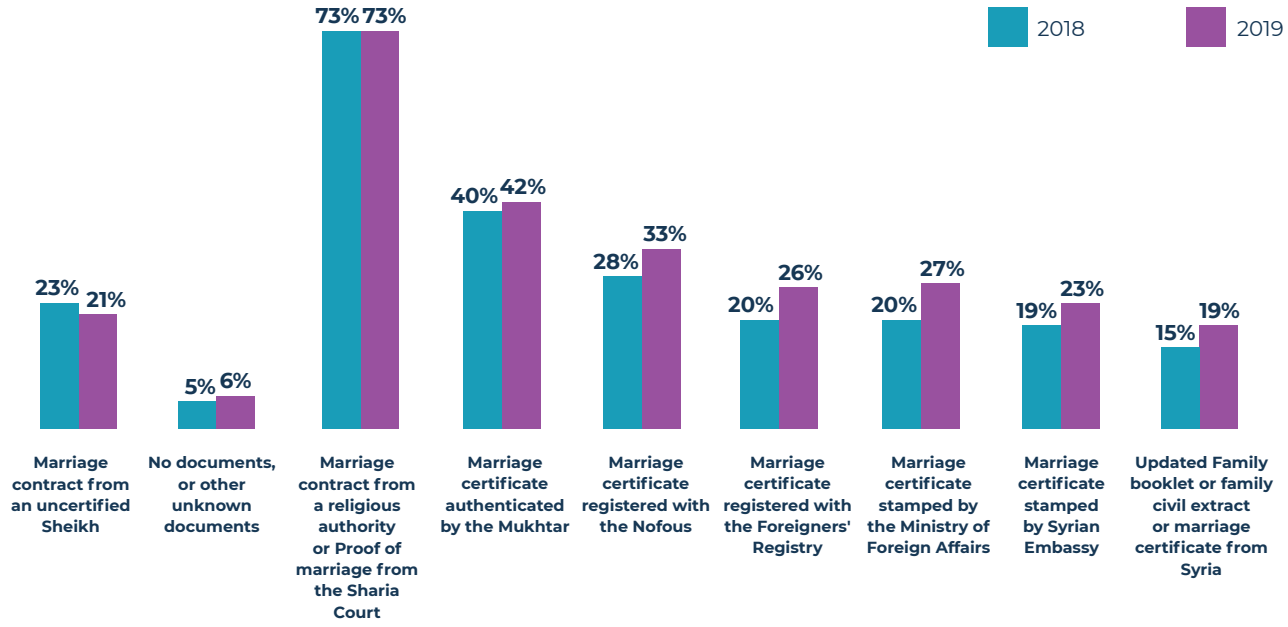
Figure 4: Legal residency categories



MARRIAGE REGISTRATION

There was a slight improvement in the rate of marriage registration for those who got married in Lebanon, with three quarters meeting the minimum needed documentation of either a marriage contract from a religious authority or proof of marriage from the Sharia Court. In 2019, 26% of those surveyed have registered their marriage with the Foreigners' Registry (compared to 20% in 2018). Still, 27% of marriages have no legal documentation (21% have a marriage contract from an uncertified Sheikh and 6% have no documentation).

Figure 5: Percentage of individuals having completed the various steps of marriage registration, for marriages taken place in Lebanon.



BIRTH REGISTRATION

Significant improvements were noted across all seven steps of the birth registration process for Syrian refugee children born in Lebanon. The rate of births registered with the Foreigners' Registry increased to 30% from 21% in 2018. The highest rate of birth registration with the Foreigners' Registry was among families living in Beirut while the lowest were among families living in Bekaa, Akkar or Baalbek El Hermel. No differences were noted in birth registration rates when comparing boys and girls.

Figure 6: Percentage of children born in Lebanon with births registered at the Foreigners' Registry

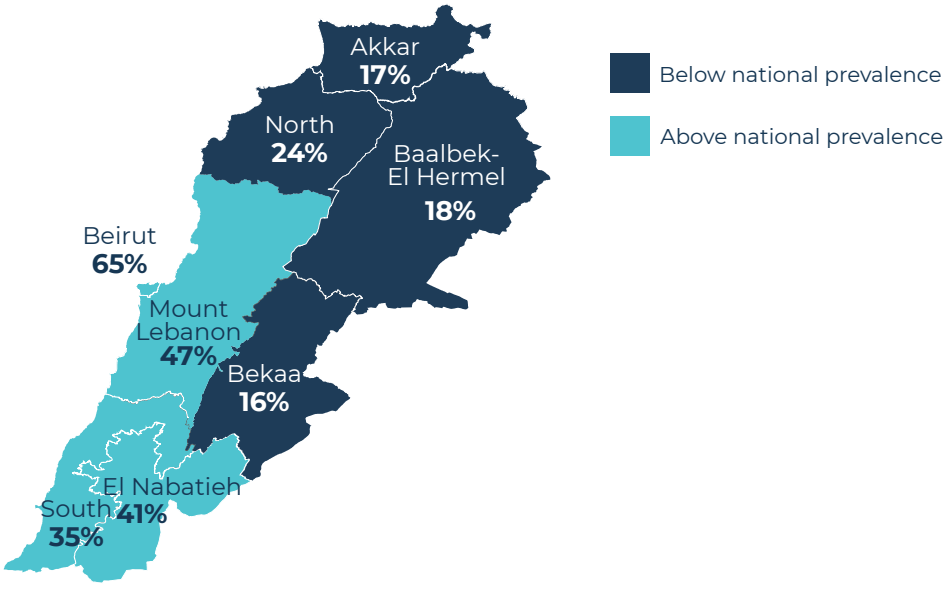


Figure 7: Percentage of individuals having completed the various steps of birth registration, for births that took place in Lebanon

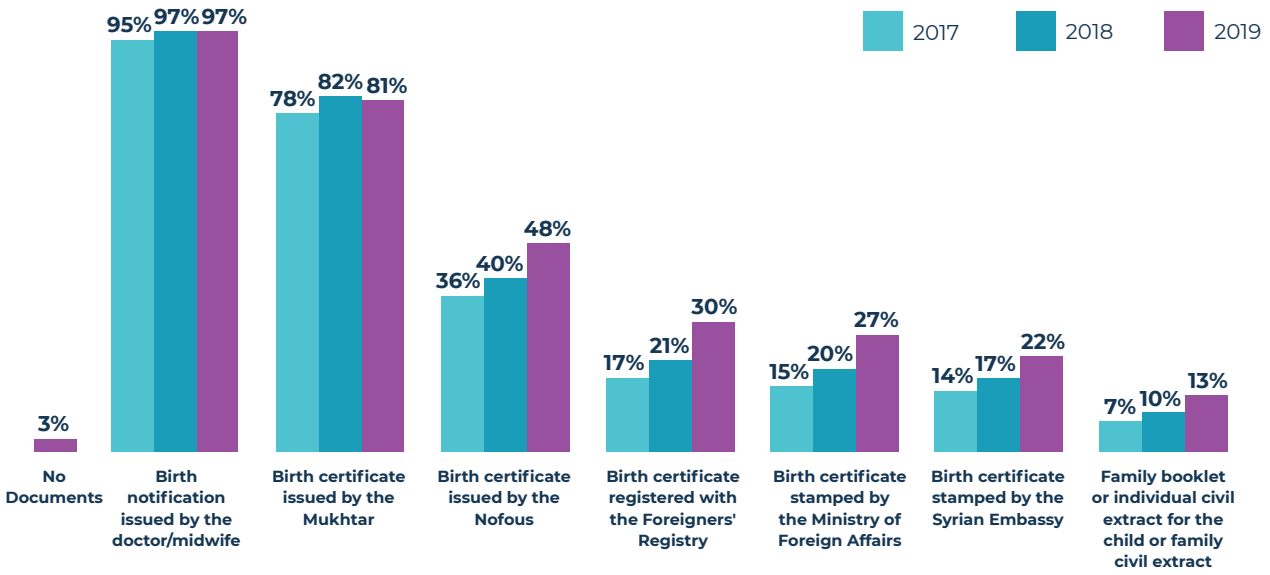
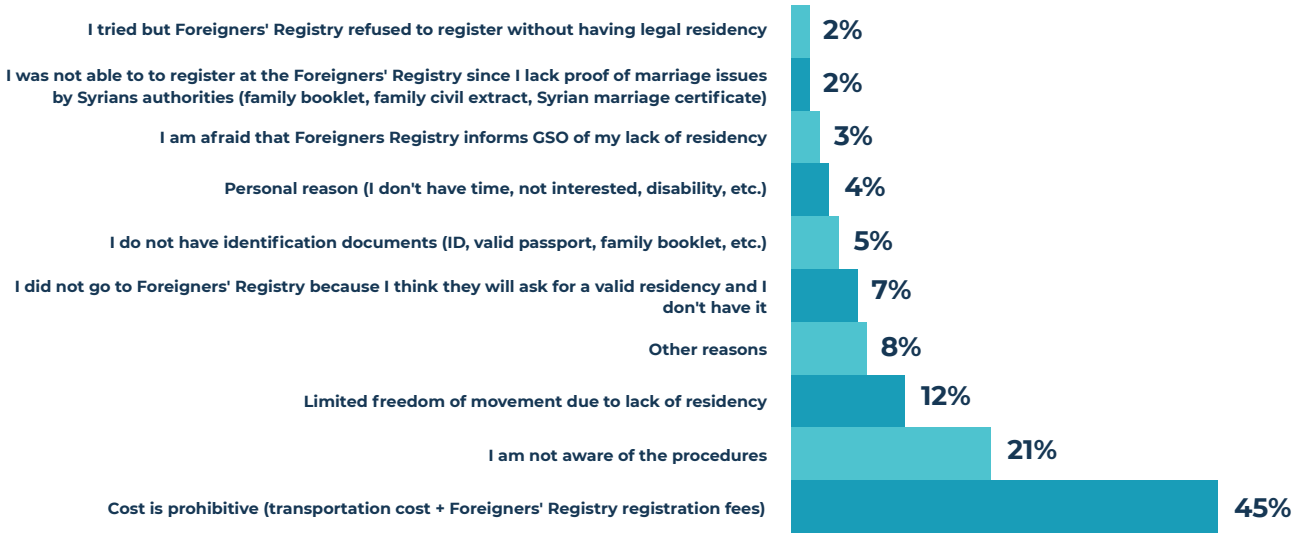


Figure 8: Reasons for not registering at the Foreigners' Registry, among those who reached the level of the Nofous



For those who were able to register the births at the Nofous, but not the Foreigners' Registry, cost was cited as the main barrier mainly in relation to transportation. A significant portion (21%) of those interviewed were unaware of the procedures related to registering after the Nofous level pointing to a need for increased sensitization.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

Fourteen percent of families reported that there were curfews imposed in the area where they lived, 12% cited this as a safety/security issue. Curfews were most common in the Southern governorates, with almost half of families in El Nabatieh (46%) and the South (43%) reporting curfews in the area where they live. Akkar and Beirut had minimum reporting of curfews among refugee residents.

Curfews were mainly being imposed by the municipality (94%), with a few reports of the local community (6%) and non-state actors (7%) imposing curfews.

It is important to keep in mind the interview for this assessment likely took place with the head of households or other adult members. Individual interviews with household members did not take place and, as such, incidents related to physical or sexual harassment are likely to be underreported.

Figure 9: Percentage of households who experienced any of the following safety/security incidents during the previous three months[1]

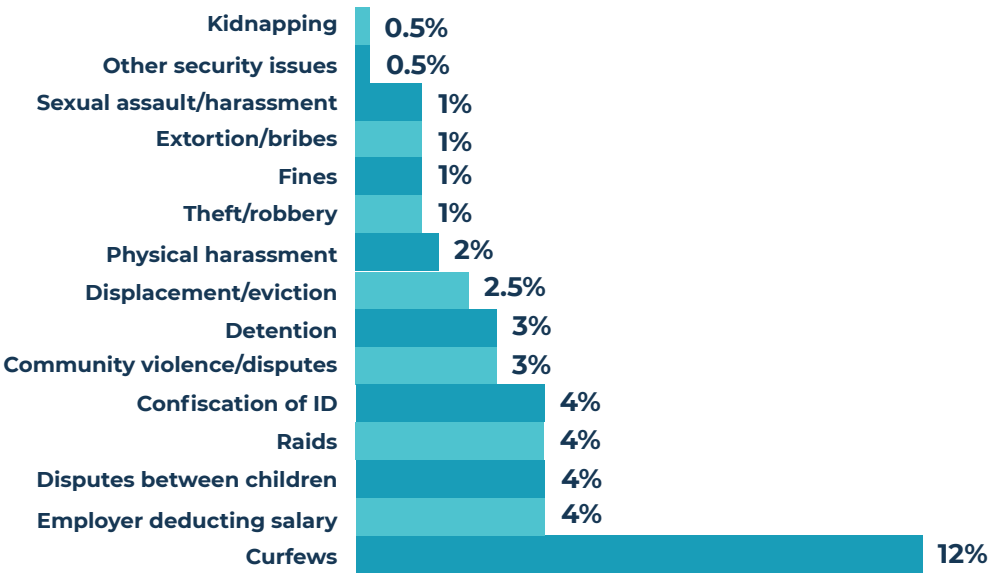


Figure 10: Percentage of households reporting a curfew being imposed on them in the area where they live, by governorate[2]

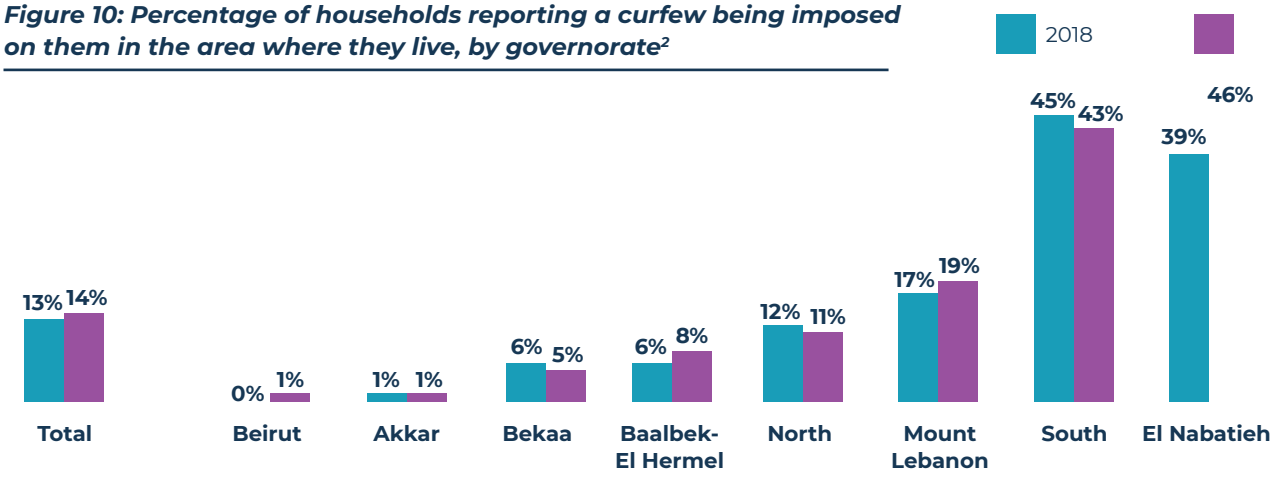
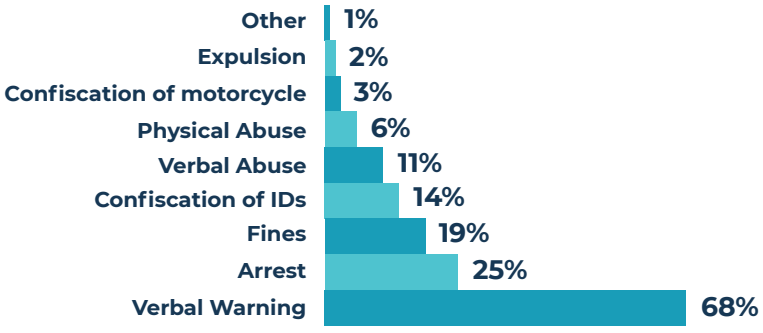


Figure 11: Reported sanctions in case of a breach in curfew, among families that reported curfews in the area where they live

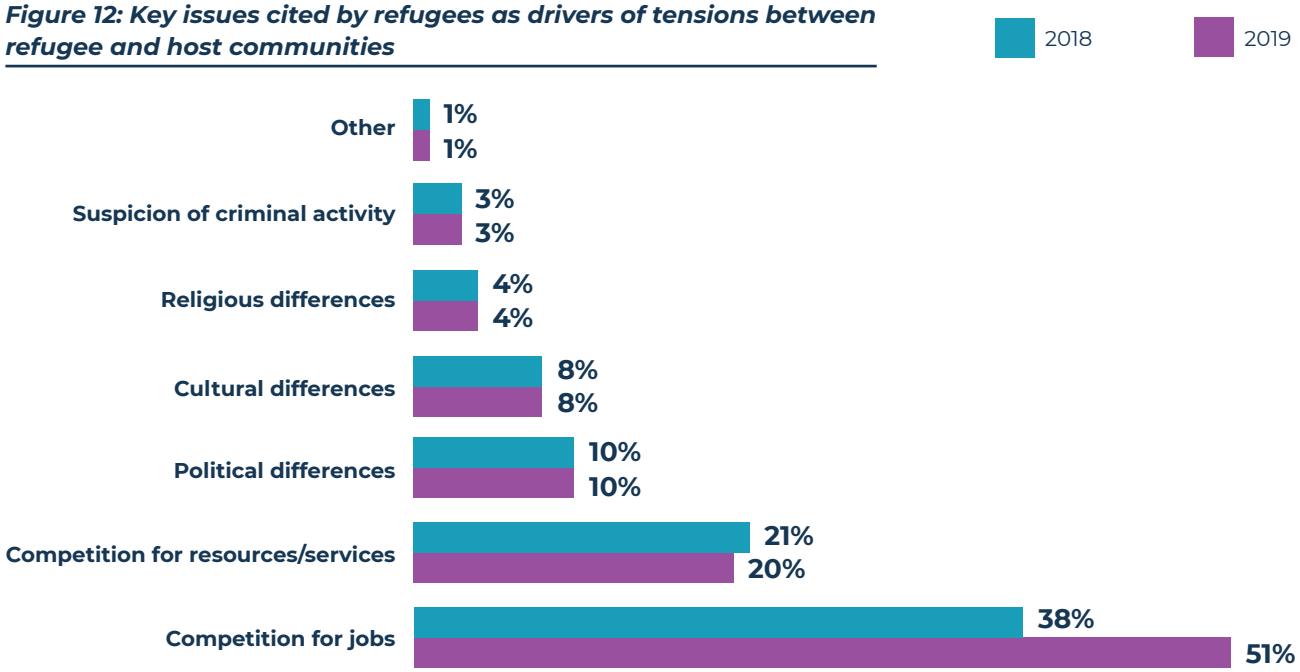


COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Most refugee families rated their relationship with the host community as positive (54%) or neutral (41%) with few rating it as negative (5%). As mentioned above, the nature of the assessment being at a household level may have led to underreporting of negative relationships. More than half of interviewed households did, however, cite possible reasons for community tensions, with 51% stating competition for jobs as one of the main drivers (compared to 38% in 2018). Other cited reasons remained at a similar prevalence from 2018, with the exception of job competition, which increased significantly over the last year.

[3,2] Figures 9 and 10 are based on two seperate questions resulting in the percentage of curfews being different,

Figure 12: Key issues cited by refugees as drivers of tensions between refugee and host communities



CHILD PROTECTION

This section explores child protection issues faced by Syrian refugee children, specifically child labour, child marriage, and violent discipline. The findings detailed below show that Syrian refugee children are at risk of being exposed to exploitation and abuse.

KEY FINDINGS

- The percentage of children between 5 and 17 years old who are engaged in child labour remain very similar to last year's rate at 2.6%. It must be noted that child labour may frequently be underreported and peaks during agriculture season, which did not overlap with this year's data collection.
- Boys are still at a higher risk of child labour than girls, 4.4% and 0.6%, respectively.
- Of children who are engaged in labour, 27% are working in agriculture.
- Twenty-seven percent of girls aged 15 to 19 were married at the time of the survey, very similar rate to 2018 results at 29%. The highest rate of child marriage was in the North governorate, 34%.
- Around 1 out of 2 children aged between 1 and 14 experienced some form of physical aggression and 6 out 10 experienced some form of psychological aggression.

CHILD LABOUR

Child labour is defined as a child having performed either economic activities or household chores during the last week for more than the age specific number of hours, or exposure to hazardous conditions during economic activity or household chores.

- Economic activities: aged 5-11: 1 hour or more; aged 12-14: 14 hours or more; aged 15-17: 43 hours or more
- Household chores: aged 5-14: 28 hours or more; aged 15-17: 43 hours or more.
- Hazardous conditions: any exposure to the following conditions during economic activity or household chores: carrying heavy loads, working with dangerous tools, exposed to dust, fumes, or gas, exposed to extreme cold, heat or humidity, exposed to loud noise or vibration, required to work at heights, required to work with chemicals, exposed to other things bad for his/her health.

The share of children aged 5-17 involved in child labour has remained relatively stable since 2018 (2.6% in 2019 compared to 2.1% in 2018). Of these children involved in child labour, a significantly higher proportion are involved in economic activities (6%) rather than household chores (0.4%). However, there is a clear gender difference, with boys having higher rates of child labour as compared to girls (4 % and 0.6%, respectively). Similarly, there are varying rates of child labour across governorates (see figure 13). Out of those in child labour, 23% were engaged in labour during school hours.

Figure 13: Child labour (5 to 17 years old) by governorate

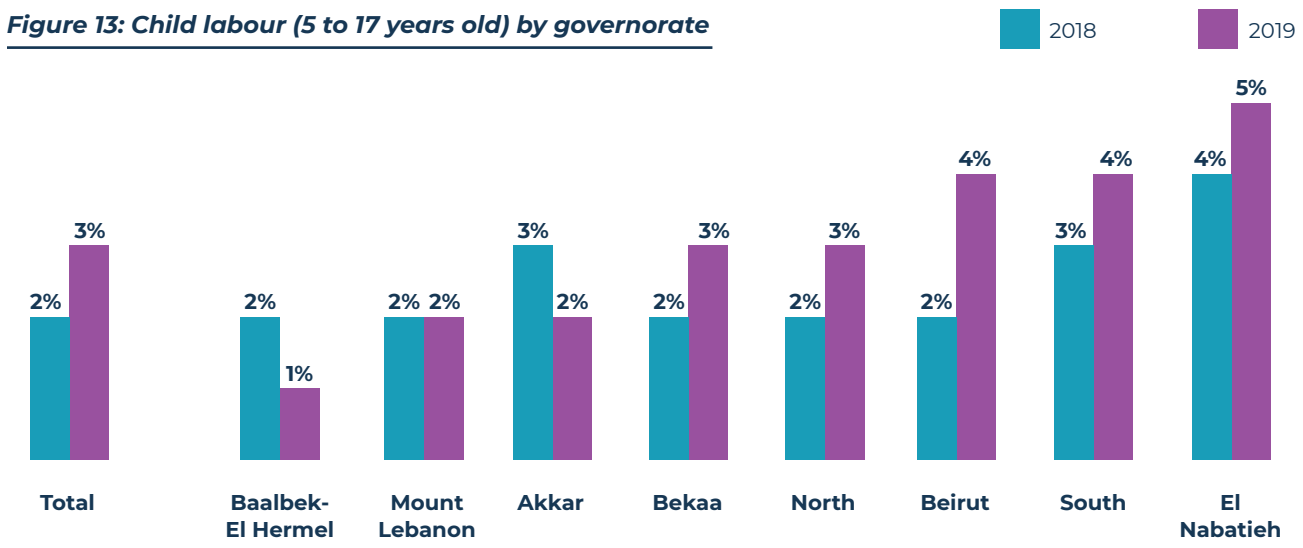
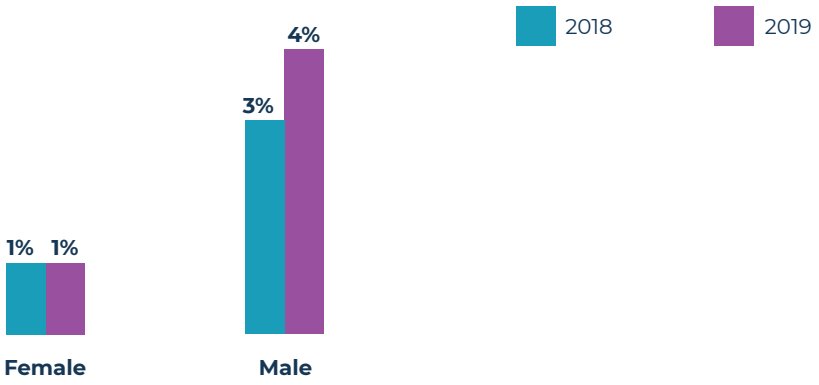


Figure 14: Child labour (5 to 17 years old) by gender



Children who are reportedly working spend an average of 46 hours in economic activities spanning a wide range of sectors (see figure 16), or 49 hours doing household chores. In addition, 23.3% work during school hours (25.7% for boys, and 9.7% for girls).

Figure 15: Child labour details

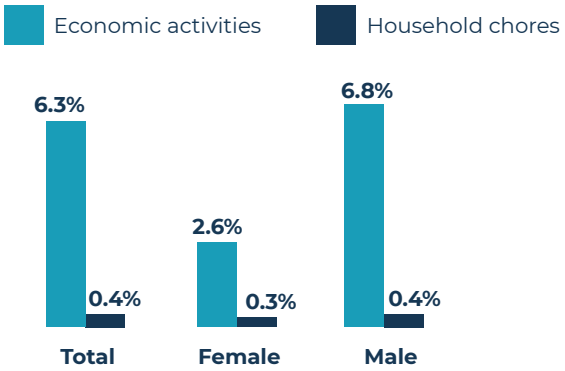


Figure 16: Child labour, per sector

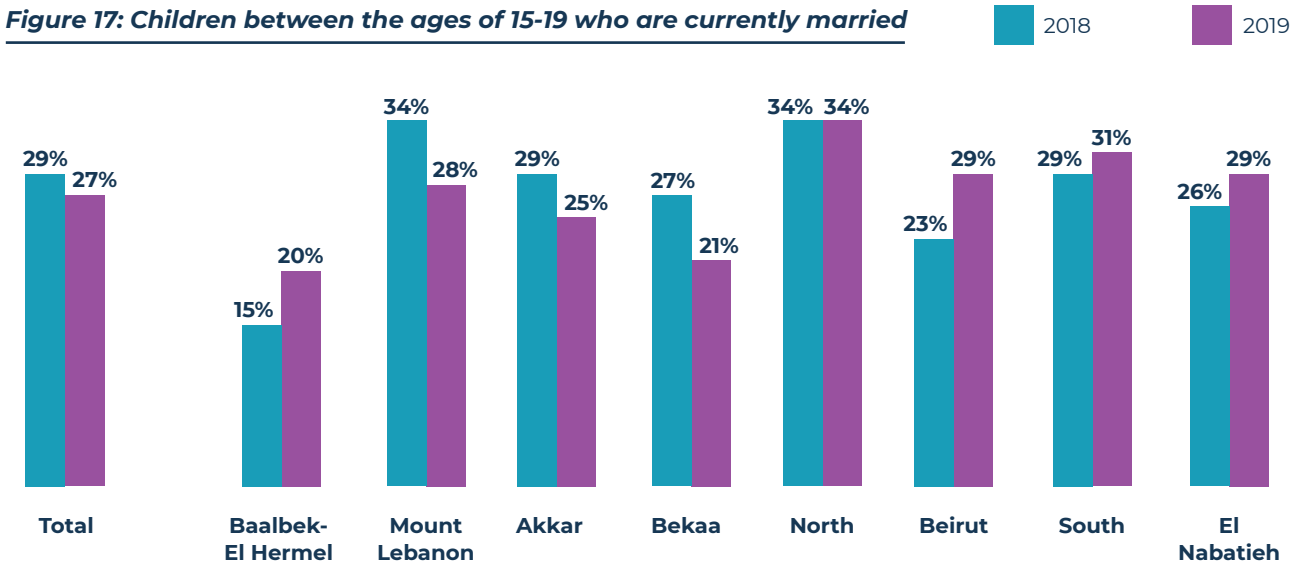
CHILD MARRIAGE

Child marriage was measured as children between the ages of 15-19 who were married at the time of the assessment.

Twenty seven percent of girls aged 15-19[1] were married at the time of the survey, almost the same as 2018 (29%). There was variability in rates of child marriage across governorates as can be seen in figure 17.

[3] For data on other age groups, refer to the VASyR Vault: **http://ialebanon.unhcr.org/vasyr**

Figure 17: Children between the ages of 15-19 who are currently married



VIOLENT DISCIPLINE

Violent discipline is any form of psychological, physical, or severe aggression.

Psychological aggression: if the child is shouted, yelled or screamed at; called an insulting name (dumb, lazy, etc.)

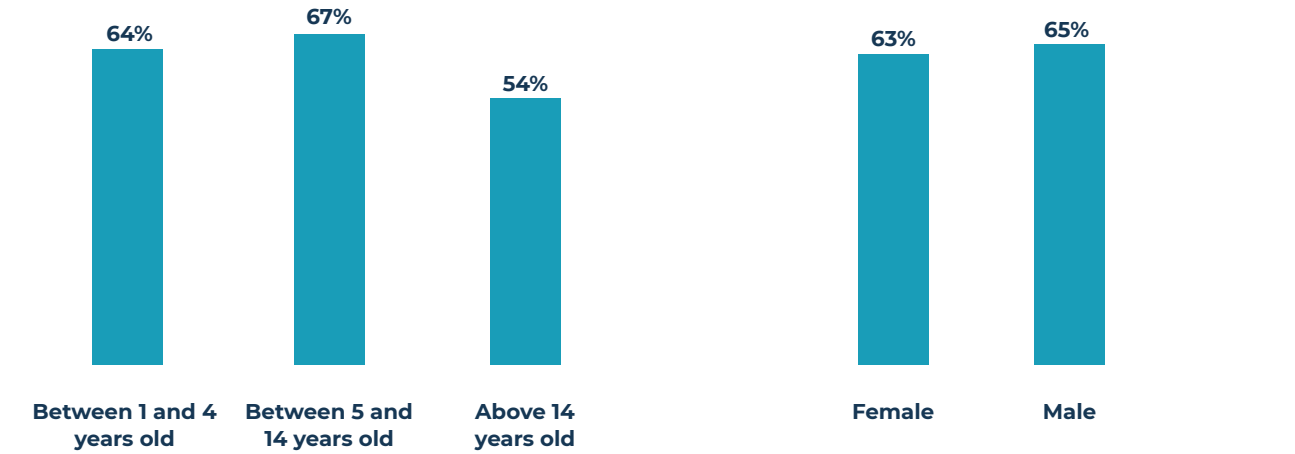
Any physical aggression: shook him/her; spanked, hit, or slapped; hit him/her on the bottom; hit or slapped on any part of the body.

Severe physical aggression: hit or slapped on the face

Non-violent discipline: took away privileges; explained behavior; gave something else to do.

While 77% of parents reported using positive parenting techniques, rates of the use of violent discipline methods were still high with 64% of households reporting that children from 1-18 had experienced any type of violent discipline in the last year. This percentage shows a considerable decrease in violent discipline from 2018 which had rates of 73%. The most common form of discipline reported, (58%) was the use of psychological aggression, followed by any physical aggression (49%); while a much lower proportion of parents used severe aggression (12%). Rates of violent discipline were lower for younger children (1-4 years old) in comparison to older children (5-14 years old), however these rates decreased for the oldest children (above 14 years), see figure 18.

Figure 18: Children under 18 years old that have experienced at least one form of violent discipline



Voices from the field

This box summarises discussions about the results of VASyR 2019 held in all field offices. It is based on the contextual knowledge of key actors in the field, as opposed to quantitative data.

Legal residency

Regarding varying rates of legal residency regionally, the VASyR workshop participants highlighted that refugees residing in the South are more inclined to obtain legal residency due to local governance pressures.

In Akkar, on the contrary, lower legal residency rates were attributed to difficulties in finding sponsors, restrictions on movement and the lack of needed documentation (i.e. IDs).

The discussions highlighted the possibility that many refugees are discouraged from approaching the General Security Office and initiating the process due to fear of arrest or lack of trust in the process.

From a gender perspective, the low rate of legal residency among women was highlighted as a concern in increasing their risk of exposure to sexual and gender-based violence. Legal residency was said to be prioritized more by men, who are more likely to be at risk at checkpoints when moving around for work, and therefore place a high importance on obtaining residency.

Birth registration

Among workshop participants, concerns were raised regarding the number of births that were left completely undocumented. For these families, economic challenges may have prevented them from obtaining legal birth certificates and they will continue to face challenges in trying to register the births.

Safety & security

Participants linked the high reported rates of curfews in Nabatieh and the South to high security restrictions. The higher rate of curfews in Mount Lebanon compared to Beirut was attributed to a higher density of refugees in this area and increased tensions due to competition for jobs. In the North of the country, low rates of curfews in Akkar were assumed to be the result of community cohesion in this area.

Child protection

Workshop participants noted that child labour was deployed as a coping mechanism particularly due to the fact that children are more mobile, as they are less likely to be subject to detention and ID controls at checkpoints. Children were said to be the only breadwinners for many families.

Child labour was said to be underreported due to its illegal nature and stigma attached, as well as due to the perceived normalization of child labour As observed by discussion participants, parents may be particularly reluctant to self-report child labour if the Shawish is the employer.

Workshop attendees pointed out that child labour follows distinct patterns around the country: while street work was more common in urban areas (North, Mount Lebanon), working in agriculture was more prevalent in Akkar and the Bekaa. The timing of VASyR 2019 (April/ May) was said to impact the reporting of seasonal child labour in the agriculture sector, where the bulk of work is typically carried out later during the year.

Annex 4: Legal residency and birth registration

	Legal residency				Birth registration
	Number of individuals (above 15 years old) with legal residency	Households with all members having legal residency	Households with at least one member having legal residency	Households with no members having legal residency	Births that are occuring in Lebanon and registered with the Foreigners' Registry
Total	22%	10%	33%	67%	30%
Governorate					
Akkar	13%	4%	21%	79%	17%
Baalbek-El Hermel	14%	6%	22%	78%	18%
Beirut	34%	17%	48%	52%	65%
Bekaa	18%	8%	27%	73%	16%
El Nabatieh	39%	23%	56%	44%	41%
Mount Lebanon	22%	11%	33%	67%	47%
North	22%	10%	32%	68%	24%
South	39%	21%	59%	41%	35%
Gender of the head of household					
Female	15%	8%	18%	82%	21%
Male	23%	11%	36%	64%	31%
Shelter type					
Non-permanent shelter	14%	5%	24%	76%	15%
Non-residential	21%	11%	31%	69%	25%
Residential	25%	12%	36%	64%	36%

Annex 5: Drivers and community tensions

	Reported key issues that drive community tensions						
	Competition for jobs	**Competition for resources/services**	**Political differences**	**Religious differences**	**Cultural differences**	**Suspicion of criminal activity**	**Sexual harassment of women**
Total	51%	20%	10%	4%	8%	3%	0%
Governorate							
Akkar	46%	21%	5%	2%	11%	1%	1%
Baalbek-El Hermel	46%	10%	1%	0%	5%	3%	0%
Beirut	56%	25%	23%	11%	11%	3%	0%
Bekaa	14%	4%	0%	0%	1%	2%	0%
El Nabatieh	59%	47%	19%	6%	12%	3%	1%
Mount Lebanon	69%	21%	18%	7%	10%	4%	0%
North	63%	30%	12%	6%	9%	2%	0%
South	62%	37%	12%	9%	24%	9%	1%
Gender of the head of household							
Female	37%	13%	5%	2%	6%	2%	0%
Male	54%	21%	11%	5%	9%	3%	0%
Shelter type							
Non-permanent shelter	32%	12%	4%	1%	5%	2%	0%
Non-residential	54%	24%	11%	6%	11%	6%	0%
Residential	56%	22%	12%	5%	9%	3%	0%

SHELTER

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In Lebanon, most of the Syrian refugee population live in cities and villages, as a result of the governmental policy prohibiting the establishment of formal refugee camps. The remaining fraction live in spontaneously set-up tented settlements throughout the country. Through the VASyR, the physical conditions of these shelters are assessed as well as the occupancy agreements and rental costs. Mobility of households between places of residence, including for reasons of eviction, is also examined.

KEY FINDINGS

- Since 2017, a shift was noted in the types of shelters where refugees were residing, with movement away from residential shelters. **In 2019, the distribution of Syrian refugee households across the main shelter types remained mostly stable** with the majority (69%) living in residential structures, 20% in non-permanent shelters and 11% in non-residential structures.
- **Rent costs in residential and non-residential shelters remained similar to last year** at US$ 213 and US$ 149, respectively. Rent in non-permanent structures increased to US$ 61.
- **Over half of Syrian refugee households were living in shelter conditions that were either overcrowded, below standards or in dangerous condition.**

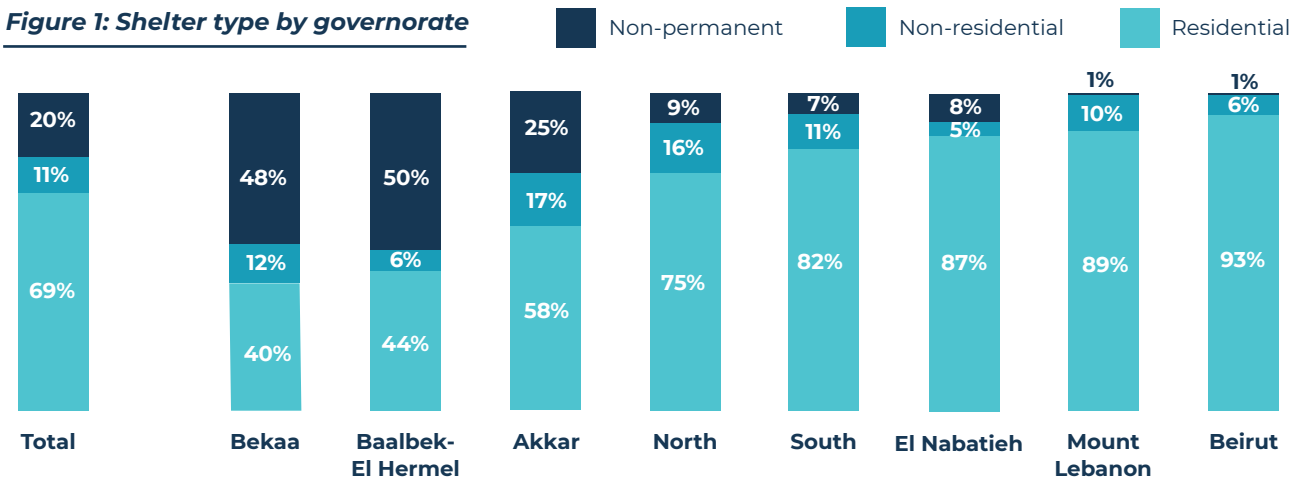
SHELTER TYPE, RENT AND OCCUPANCY AGREEMENTS

Shelters occupied by refugee households are classified in to three categories as per below:

Shelter type	
Residential	1. Apartment 2. Concierge room in residential building 3. Hotel room
Non-Residential	1. Factory 2. Workshop 3. Farm 4. Active construction site 5. Shop 6. Agricultural/engine/pump room 7. Warehouse 8. School
Non-Permanent structures	1. Tent 2. Prefab unit

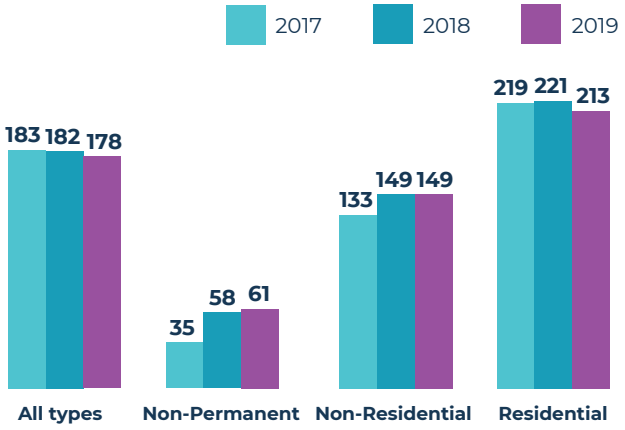
Most households (69%) continue to live in residential structures with 20% residing in non-permanent shelters. The latter are located primarily in Baalbek-El Hermel, Bekaa and Akkar. There was a slight decrease in the proportion of households living in non-residential shelters (11% compared to 15% in 2018).

Figure 1: Shelter type by governorate



Rent costs remained stable for residential and non-residential shelters at an average of US$ 213 and US$ 149, respectively. For non-permanent structures, however, rent had continued to increase from US$ 35 in 2017, US$ 58 in 2018 to US$ 61 in 2019.

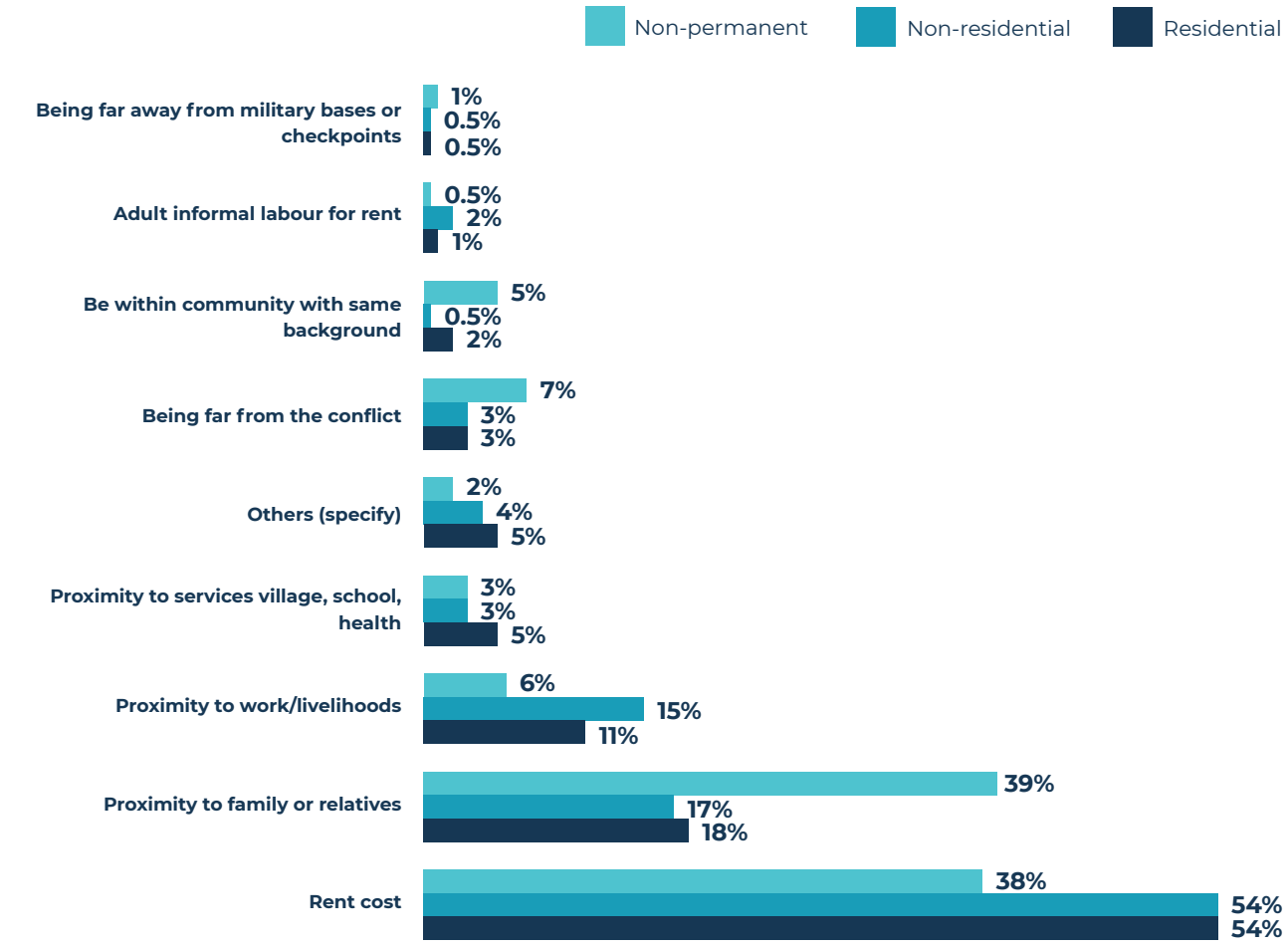
Figure 2: Average rental costs (US$) by shelter type



For over a half of families living in residential and non-residential structures, rental cost was cited as the main reason for choosing the current accommodation while others (17-18%) cited proximity to relatives. Another commonly cited reason for choosing the place of residence was proximity to work/ livelihood opportunities.

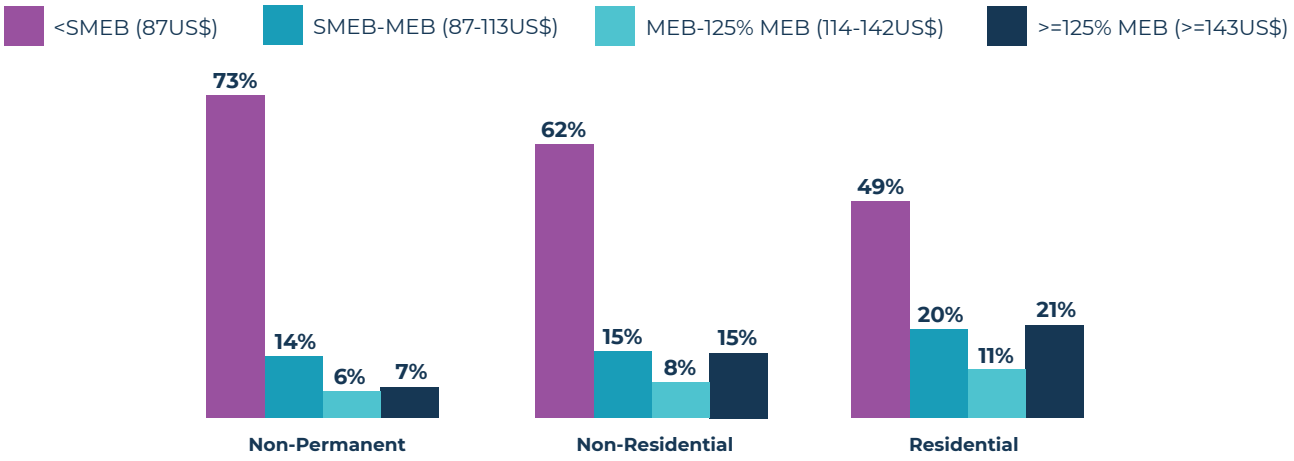
In non-permanent structures, proximity to relatives was much more commonly cited as the reason for choosing the current accommodation (39%), at a same degree as rental costs.

Figure 3: Most important reason for selecting the current shelter



There was a larger proportion of households with expenditures below the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB), living in non-permanent shelters, as compared to other shelter types. This is similar to trends noted in 2018, where households living in residential shelters were less poor than those in non-residential shelters, followed by non-permanent shelters.

Figure 4: Expenditure level by shelter type



The majority of households (81%) were paying direct rental fees to their landlord while a smaller number (6%) were working in exchange for accomodation and more commonly in non-residential shelters. Other occupancy types included being hosted for free or being assisted by an organization or charity.

Most households that were renting (97%) their accomodation had verbal agreements with their landlord as opposed to written lease agreements. Of the few that had written lease agreements, about half were registered with the municipality of their area and under a third (27%) reported paying municipal taxes. The proportion of households that had written lease agreements was slightly higher in residential shelters (4%) compared to non-residential (1%) and non-permanent (<1%).

SHELTER CONDITIONS

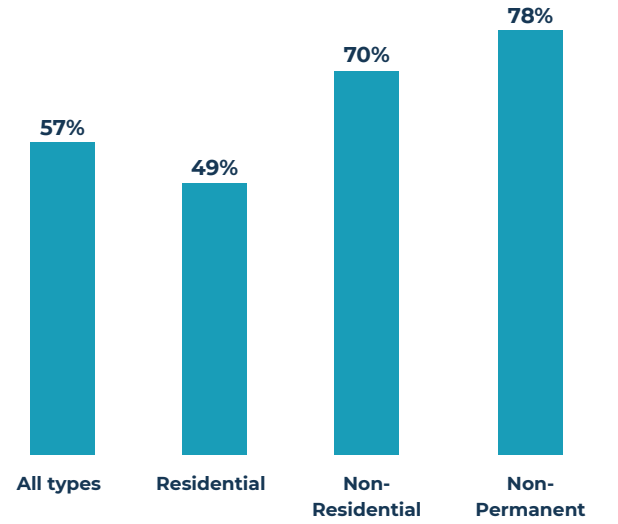
Over half (57%) of Syrian refugee households are living in shelters that are either overcrowded, have conditions below humanitarian standards and/or in danger of collapse.[2]

Overcrowding

One third of households (32%) continue to live in overcrowded shelters (comparable to 34% in 2018) defined as having less than 4.5m^2/ person. Overcrowding was more common in non-permanent (46%) and non-residential (42%) shelters, compared to residential shelters (26%). Four percent of households were using latrines that were shared by 15 people or more- this was namely in non-permanent shelters in informal tented settlements.

Overcrowded shelters were most prevalent in Baalbek-El Hermel (48%) and Beirut (44%) while Akkar and El Nabatieh had the lowest rate (20% and 19% respectively).

Figure 5: Proportion of households who are living in shelter conditions which are overcrowded, substandard and/or in dangerous condition



[1] For more information on the SMEB and data on actual expenditure, please refer to the *Economic vulnerability* chapter.

[2] For details on the definitions of *below humanitarian standards and dangerous conditions*, refer to Table 2.

Physical Conditions

40% of Syrian refugee households were living in either shelter conditions below humanitarian standards or in danger of collapse. Bekaa had the highest rates of households living in substandard conditions (40%), followed by Baalbek-El Hermel (34%) and Mount Lebanon (29%). Mount Lebanon and the Southern governorates however, had the highest rates of household living in dangerous conditions.

Figure 6: Percentage of households living in substandard conditions or dangerous conditions

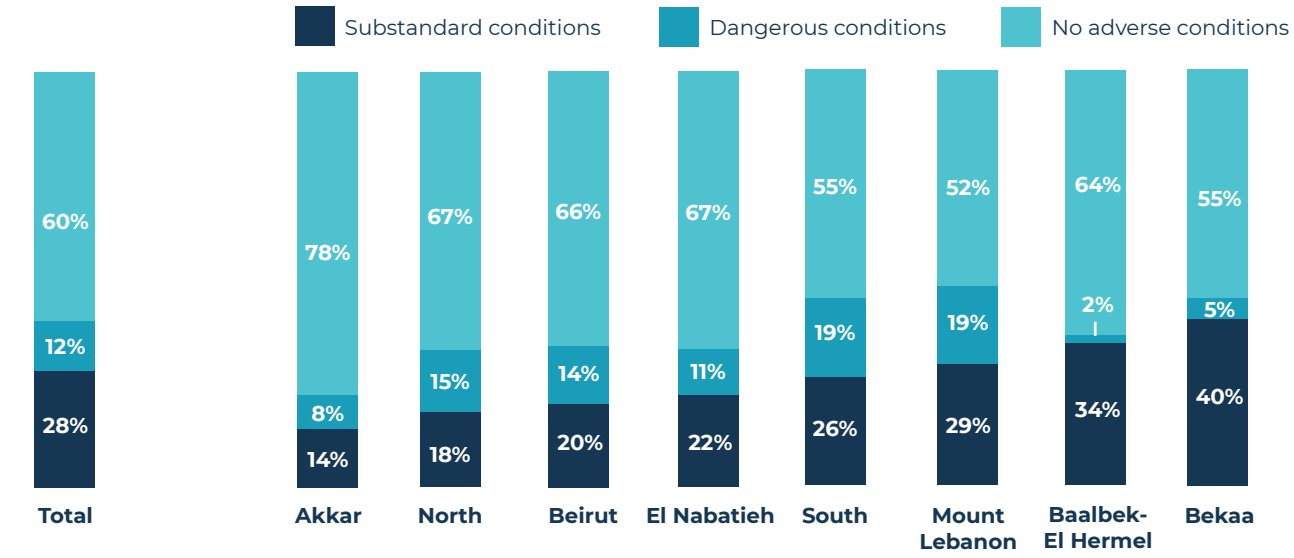
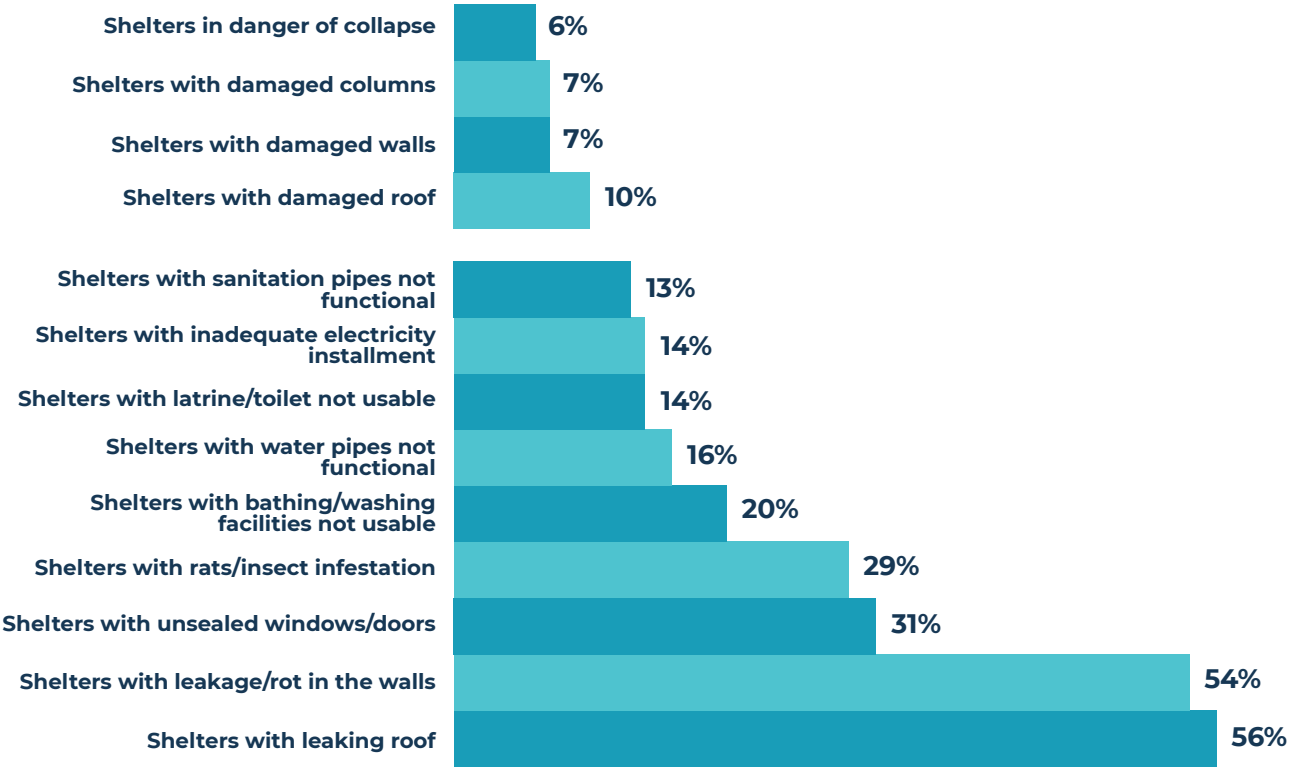


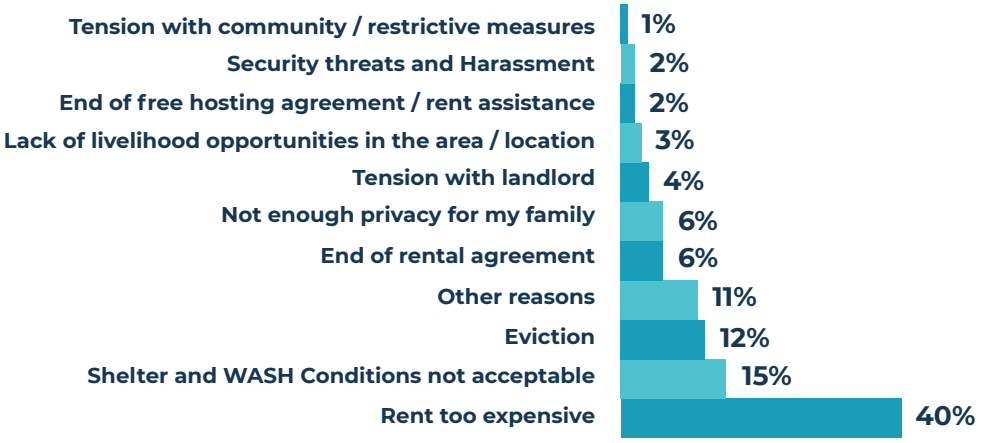
Figure 7: Prevalence of specific shelter conditions



MOBILITY AND EVICTIONS

Twenty percent of households reported changing their accommodation in the past 12 months, three quarters of which occurred in the previous 6 months, mainly due to rent being too expensive.

Figure 8: Reasons for changing accommodation in the past 12 months



Forty percent of households that moved in the past 12 months did so because rent was too expensive. Twelve percent moved because they were evicted. Among the evicted, the most commonly cited reason was inability to pay rent (67%), followed by a dispute with the landlord (18%).

A small proportion (4%) of households were planning to move within the coming 6 months, 18% of which were due to threat/fear of evictions.

At the time of interview, 4% of households were living under an eviction notice, the majority of which (63%) are expected to leave within the next month. For almost all living under an eviction notice, the notices were issued by the landlord.

Figure 9: Percentage of households living under an eviction threat

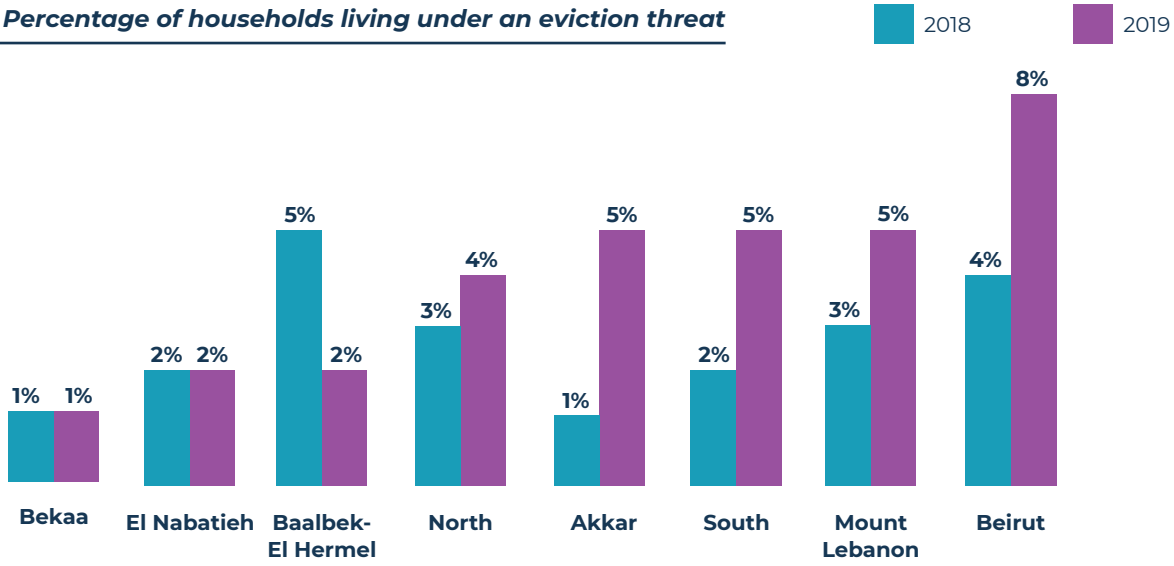


Figure 10: For households who have moved in the past 12 months, previous and current types of shelter

Among households that changed accommodation in the last 12 months, most continued to live in residential shelters (77%) . For families that were previously living in non-residential shelters, the majority moved and currently live in non-permanent structures. However, for households previously living in non-permanent structures, the majority moved to residential shelters, and a small portion to non-residential shelters.

Table 2: Shelter condition classification methodology

	Residential	Non-residential	Non-permanent
Section 1			
Windows/doors are not sealed to natural elements	2	2	2
Leaking roof	2	2	2
Leakage/rottenness in the walls/floors	1	1	1
Water pipes not functional	5	5	N/A
Sanitation pipes not functional	5	5	N/A
Latrine/toilet is not useable (damaged, full, no handwashing facilities, etc.)	5	5	N/A
Bathing/washing facilities are not useable (damaged, no privacy, etc.)	2	2	N/A
Electricity installation/connection are not adequately installed or not safe	2	2	5
Rats/insect infestation	1	1	1
Section 2			
Shelter structure in danger to collapse	5	5	5
Damaged roof	5	5	5
Damaged columns	5	5	5
Damaged walls	2	2	2

In the first section any household scoring >=5 is considered substandard.
In the second section any households scoring >=5 is in dangerous condition.

Annex 6: Type of housing and type of occupancy

	Type of housing			Type of occupancy						
	Residential	Non-residential	Non-permanent	Owned	Rented (direct rent payment)	Rented (in exchange of work)	Hosted for free	Assisted (by organizations, agencies, charity)	Squatting	Other
Total	69%	11%	20%	0%	81%	6%	9%	2%	0%	2%
Governorate										
Akkar	58%	17%	25%	0%	73%	5%	13%	8%	0%	1%
Baalbek-El Hermel	44%	6%	50%	0%	81%	3%	12%	1%	0%	3%
Beirut	93%	6%	1%	0%	73%	17%	8%	0%	0%	1%
Bekaa	40%	12%	48%	0%	82%	3%	8%	3%	0%	5%
El Nabatieh	87%	5%	8%	1%	85%	8%	4%	0%	1%	1%
Mount Lebanon	89%	10%	1%	0%	83%	6%	10%	0%	0%	1%
North	75%	16%	9%	0%	85%	7%	6%	1%	0%	0%
South	82%	11%	7%	1%	79%	9%	8%	2%	0%	1%
Gender of the head of household										
Female	60%	11%	29%	0%	72%	3%	20%	2%	0%	3%
Male	71%	11%	18%	0%	83%	7%	6%	2%	0%	2%
Shelter type										
Non-permanent shelter				.2%	77%	6%	9%	2%	1%	5%
Non-residential				.0%	74%	12%	9%	3%	1%	1%
Residential				.4%	84%	5%	9%	1%	0%	1%

Annex 7: Type of rental agreement, rental costs, overcrowding and shelter conditions

	Type of agreement		Rent cost (US$)	Overcrowding	Shelter conditions		
	Written agreement	Verbal agreement	Mean	HH living space <4.5m²	Below standards	Dangerous condition	
Total	3%	97%	178	32%	28%	12%	
Governorate							
Akkar	1%	99%	115	20%	13%	8%	
Baalbek-El Hermel	1%	99%	87	48%	34%	2%	
Beirut	6%	94%	326	44%	20%	14%	
Bekaa	2%	98%	110	40%	40%	5%	
El Nabatieh	2%	98%	175	19%	22%	12%	
Mount Lebanon	2%	98%	244	27%	29%	19%	
North	5%	95%	201	29%	18%	15%	
South	7%	93%	189	32%	26%	19%	
Gender of the head of household							
Female	1%	99%	138	32%	32%	12%	
Male	3%	97%	185	32%	27%	12%	
Shelter type							
Non-permanent shelter	0%	100%	61	46%	42%	11%	
Non-residential	1%	99%	149	42%	32%	18%	
Residential	3%	97%	213	26%	23%	11%	

WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE (WASH)

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This chapter examines the water, sanitation, and hygiene situation of Syrian refugee households in Lebanon.

KEY FINDINGS

- In terms of access to drinking water, **88% of household members have access to an improved drinking water source, compared to 91% from last year.** Bottled mineral water (42%) remains to be the highest drinking water source that households rely on.
- **Sixty one percent of household members have the water source available on premises.**
- **The majority (94%) of household members have access to an improved sanitation facility**, a 7% increase from 2018. While access to an improved sanitation facility goes down to 87% and 89% when the shelter type is non-permanent or non-residential, respectively. **The use of basic sanitation service, which is an improved sanitation facility which is not shared, was found to be at 74%**, which decreases to 61% for non-permanent shelters.

ACCESS TO DRINKING WATER

Improved drinking water sources
- Household water tap/water network
- Bottled mineral water
- Water tank/trucked water
- Protected borehole
- Piped water to yard/lot
- Protected spring
- Protected well

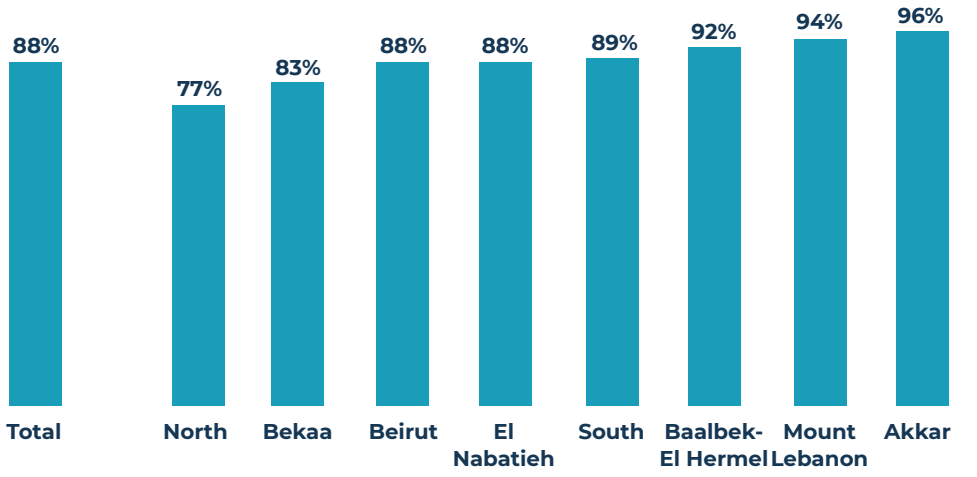
Unimproved drinking water sources
- Public/shared water stand/taps
- Unprotected borehole/well/spring
- Rainwater

Basic drinking water sources
- Water source in dwelling/yard/plot
- Water source within 30 minutes round trip collection time

Around 88% of Syrian refugee households have access to improved drinking water sources, a slight decrease from 2018 (91%). Use of improved drinking water showed a wide variability across governorates, ranging from 96% in Akkar to 88% in Beirut (see figure 1). The high number in Akkar can be due to the significant coverage of protected boreholes, and in Baalbek-El Hermel by the significant number of Syrians living in informal settlements supported by the humanitarian community.

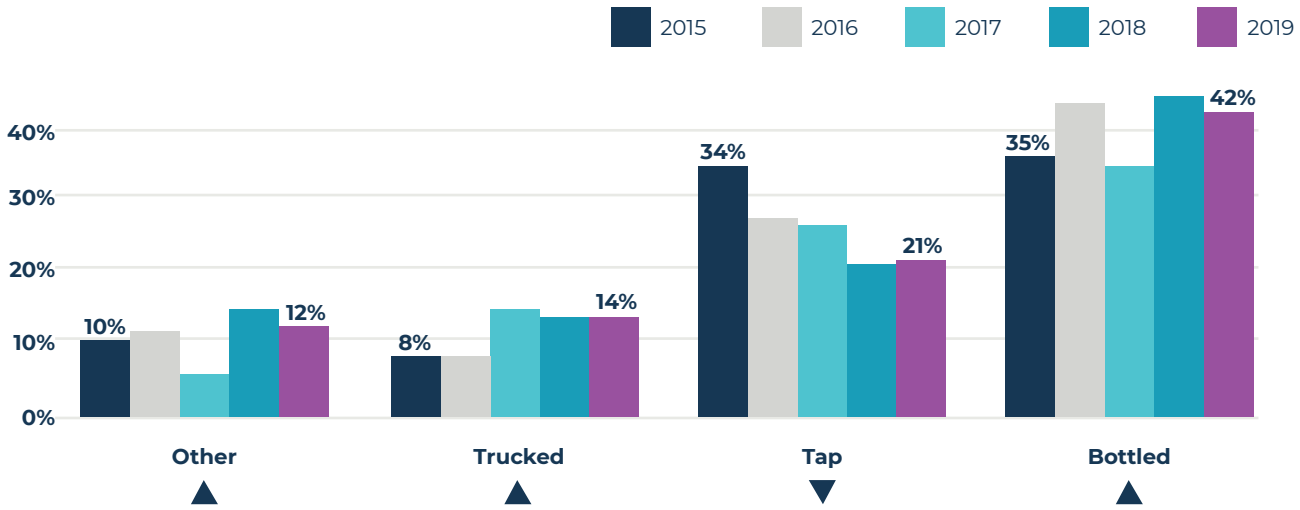
It should be noted that VASyR does not measure the quality of the water provided.

Figure 1: Use of improved drinking water sources



SOURCES OF DRINKING WATER

Figure 2: HH main source of drinking water from 2015 to 2019 (Improved Water Sources)



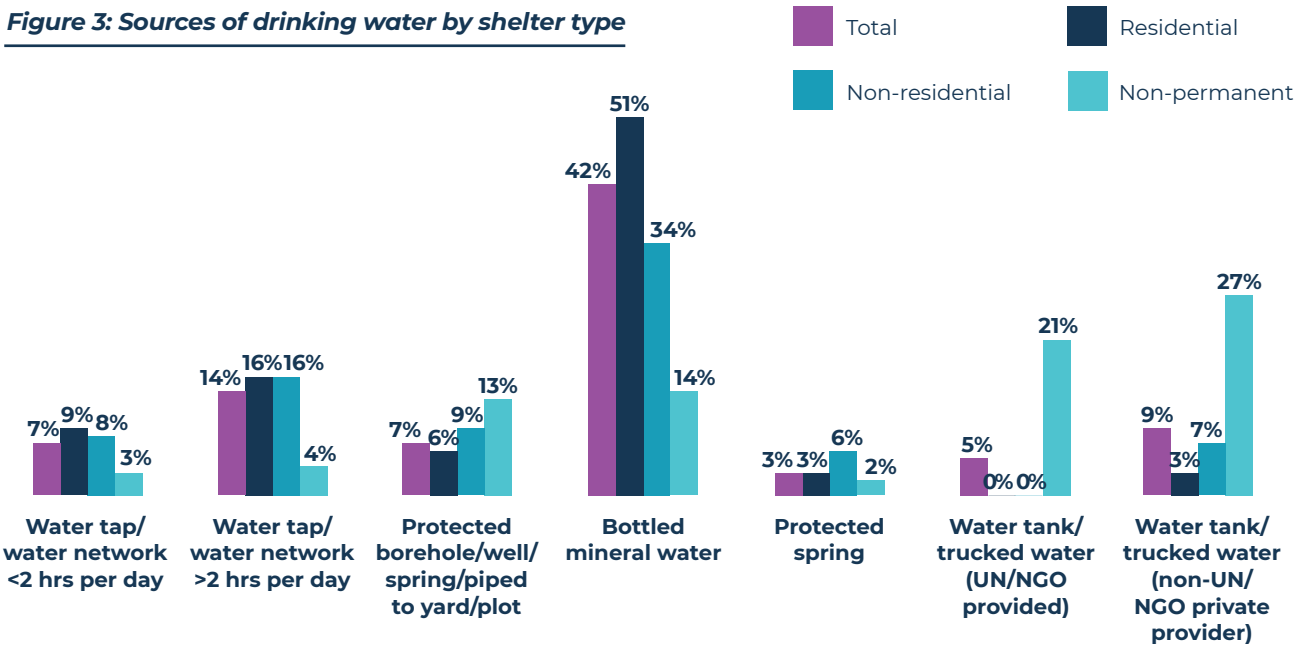
Similar to 2018, the main source of drinking water is bottled mineral water (42%), followed by tap water/water network (21%). Distribution of main source of drinking water can be seen in figure 2.

There is a notable decrease in the reliance of public tap water by Syrian refugee households according to the VASyR data over the last five years. Use of bottled water, trucked water and boreholes (majority of 'Other') as main sources of drinking water is increasing.

The distribution varies widely across governorates. For example, while Mount Lebanon, South, and El Nabatieh show the highest rates of use of bottled water (65%, 63%, and 56% respectively), the Bekaa and Baalbek-El Hermel governorates show relatively low use of bottled mineral water (18% and 15% respectively).

The main source of drinking water also varied considerably among different shelter types, as can be seen in figure 3.

Figure 3: Sources of drinking water by shelter type



Results confirm the trend from previous years that households in residential and non-residential shelters rely most on bottled mineral water, at 51% and 34% respectively. On the other hand, households in non-permanent shelters rely most often on water tank or trucked water, at 21% when provided by UN/NGO and at 27% if supplied by a private provider.

BASIC DRINKING WATER SERVICES

The use of basic drinking water services remained relatively stable at approximately 86% in 2019, as compared to 85% in 2018. The below graph shows the variation across governorates and shelter types.

Figure 4: Use of basic drinking water services, by governorate

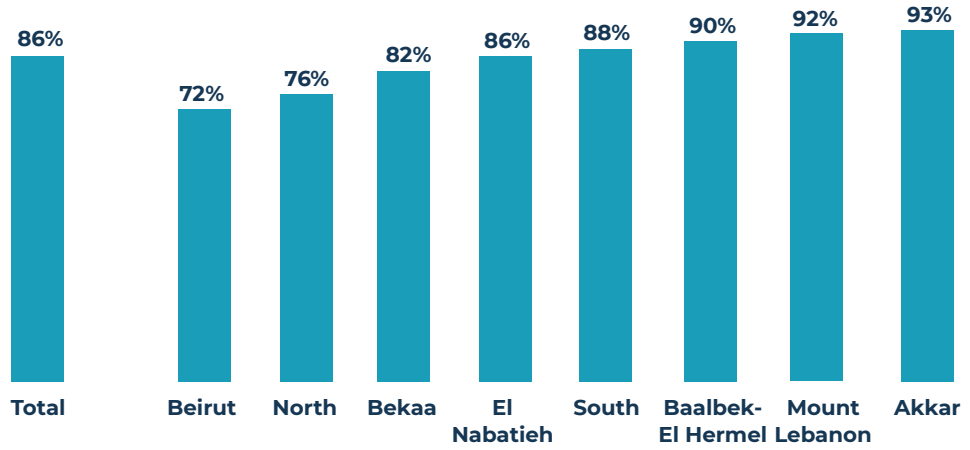
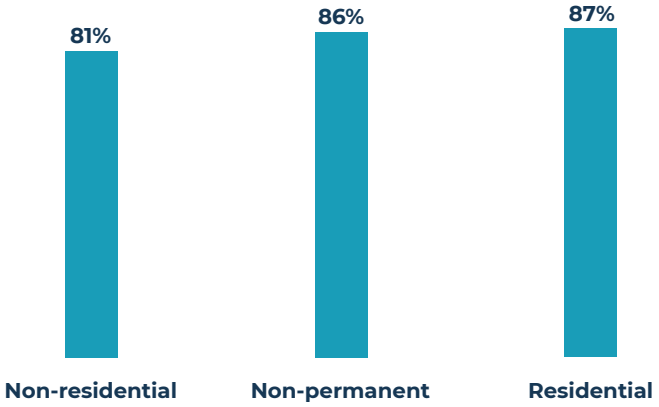


Figure 5: Use of basic drinking water services, by shelter type



SANITATION FACILITIES

Improved sanitation facilities
- Flush toilets
- Improved pit latrines with cement slabs

Unimproved sanitation facilities
- Traditional/pit latrine with no slab
- Bucket

Ninety-four percent of Syrian refugee households had access to improved sanitation facilities, a relatively large increase from the previous year (87%). Of these, the majority used flush toilets (63%), compared to 53% in 2018, while the rest used improved pit/latrine with cement slabs (31%). However, the percent of improved sanitation data does not consider the treatment of the wastewater collected in the sanitation facilities, which is considerably low (8% of the wastewater is treated according to the National Water Sector Strategy, 2010).

A variation of improved sanitation across governorates is noted (see figure 6), with the lowest percentage of improved sanitation still in Akkar (84%), even if it has been significantly improved compared to 2018 (76%). Baalbek-El Hermel and Bekaa show the highest improvement, from 80% to 95% and 78% to 96% respectively.

Figure 6: Types of sanitation facilities by governorate

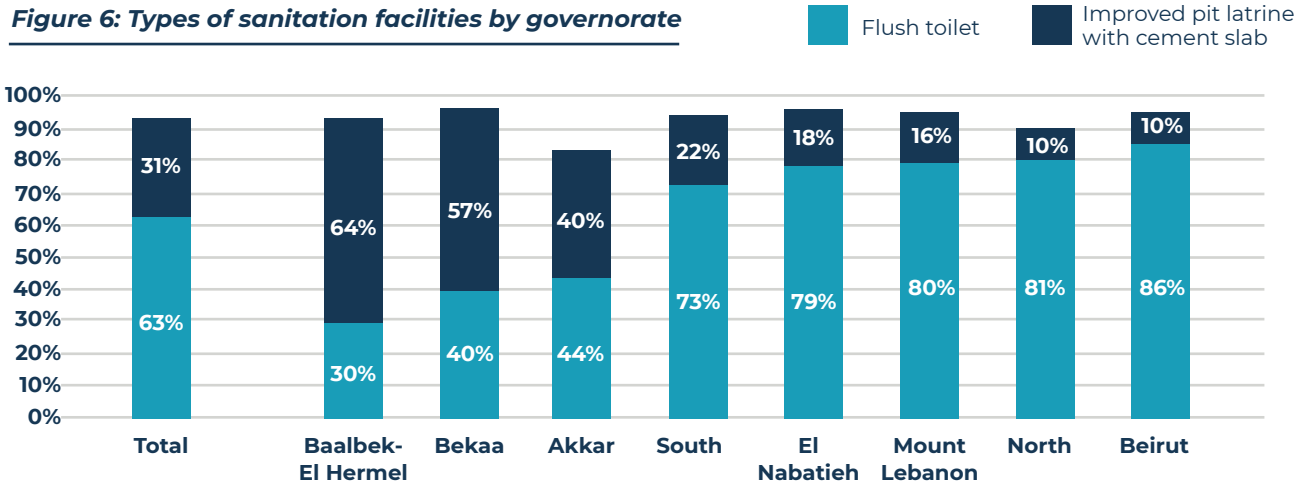
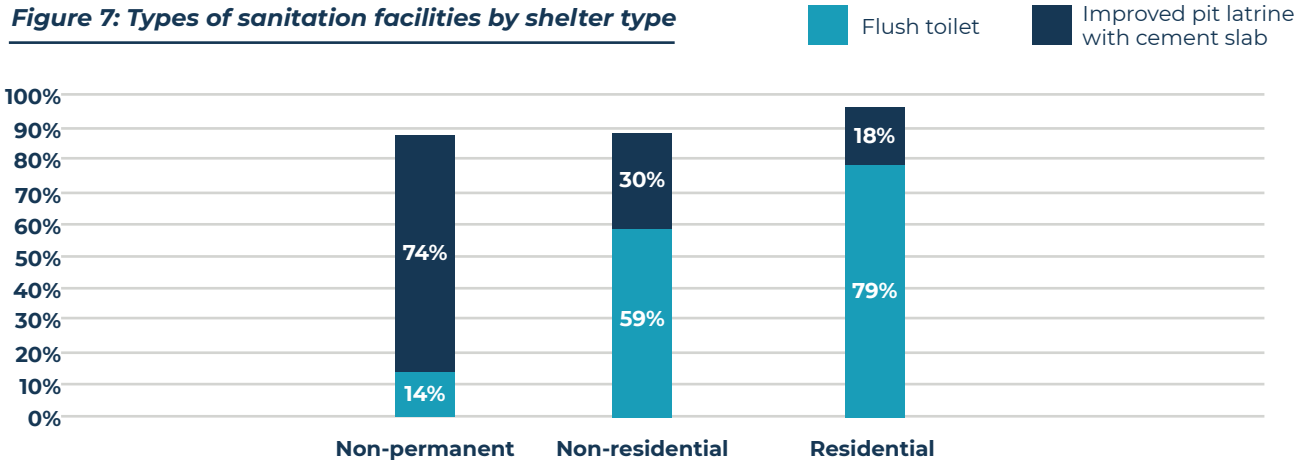


Figure 7: Types of sanitation facilities by shelter type



Improved sanitation facilities also varied by shelter type, with residential shelters showing 97% rate of use of improved sanitation facilities, while non-residential and non-permanent shelters having 89% and 87% compared to 79% and 70% respectively in 2018. The significant increase of coverage in non-permanent shelters could also explain the improved situation compared to 2018 in governorates with the higher percentage of refugees residing in informal settlements – Bekaa, Baalbek-El Hermel and Akkar. In addition, non-permanent shelters had the highest use of improved pit latrines (74%) as compared to non-residential (30%) and residential (18%). These findings are likely due to the significant support from the humanitarian community to provide improved latrines to Syrian refugees living in informal settlements.

UTILIZATION OF SANITATION FACILITIES BY PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Among the refugees with disabilities (5.5%), 94% had access to a sanitation facility adjusted for disabilities, an improvement from 2018 (89%). Similar to findings of all Syrian households, persons with disabilities living in residential and non-residential shelter had higher rates of accessing improved sanitation (96%) as compared to non-permanent shelter (86%).

Figure 8: Use of basic sanitation service by governorate

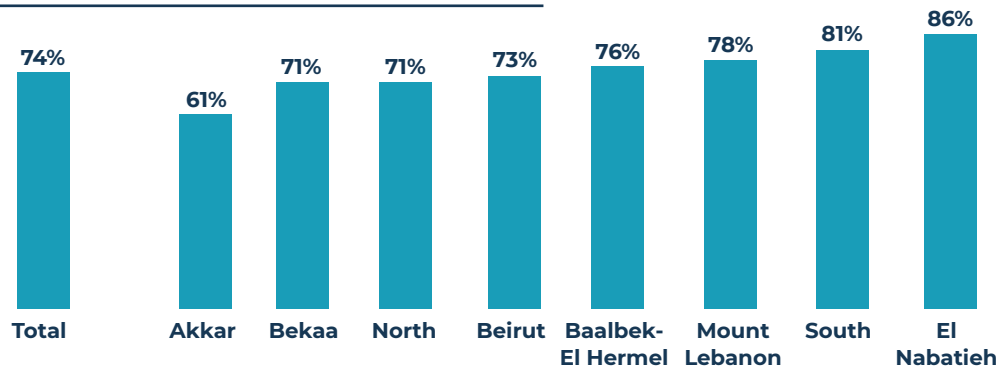


Figure 9: Use of basic sanitation service by shelter type

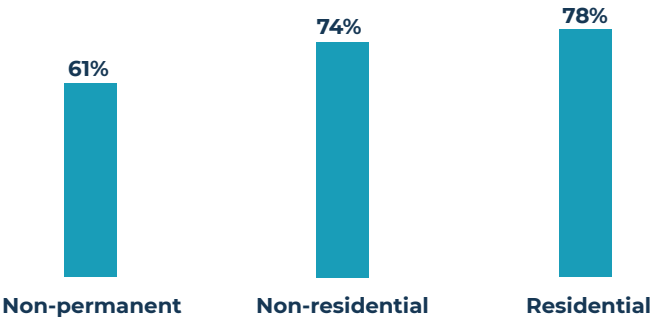


Figure 10: Financial impact of accessing safe water

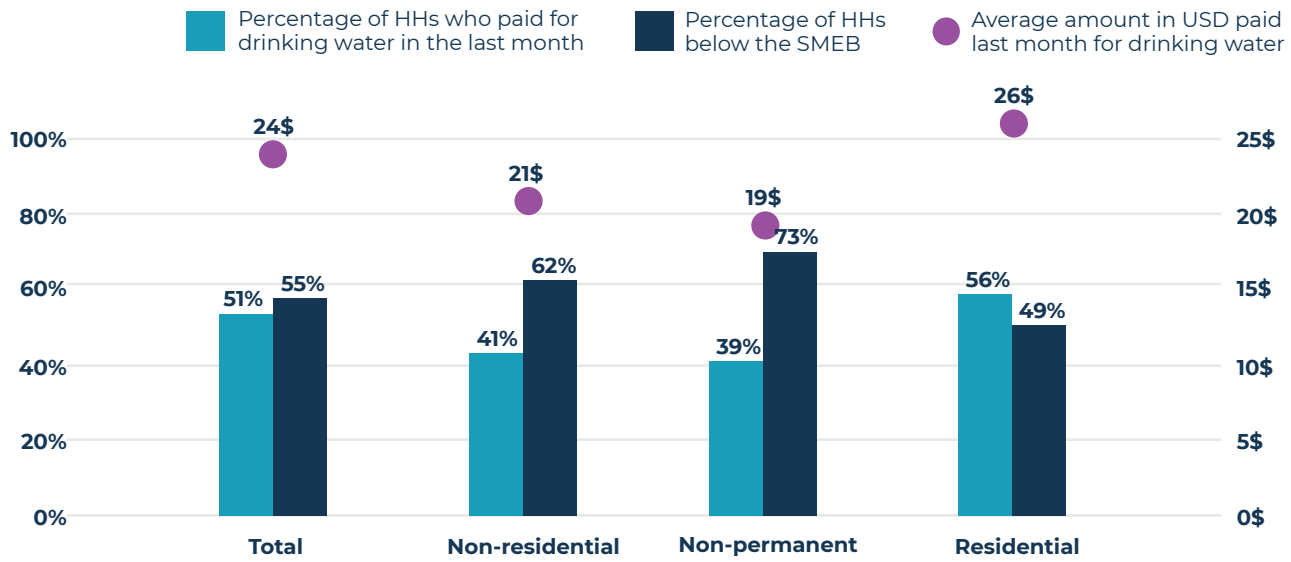
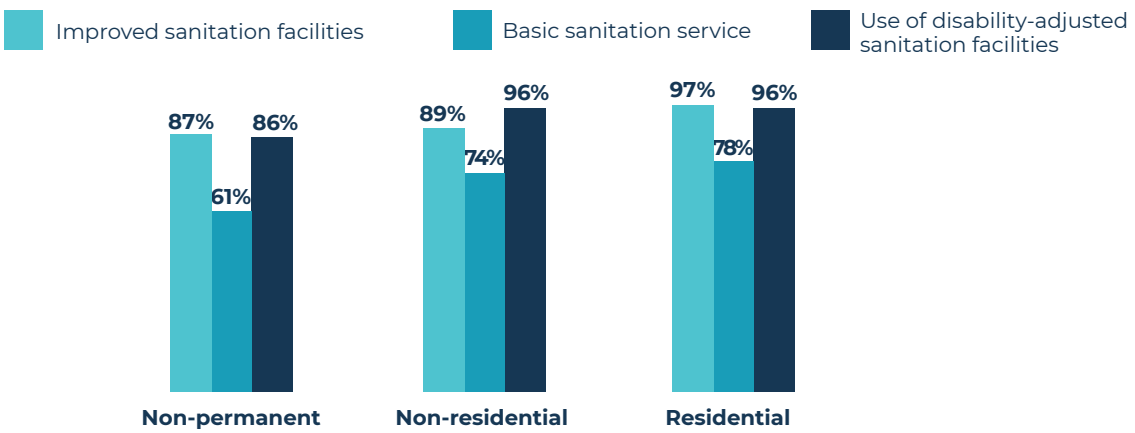


Figure 11: Sanitation indicators by shelter type



Voices from the field

This box summarises discussions about the results of VASyR 2019 held in all field offices. It is based on the contextual knowledge of key actors in the field, as opposed to quantitative data.

Discussions participants observed that the dilapidated water- and waste management infrastructure is a key barrier to accessing WASH facilities, as well as an important factor contributing to water pollution at source. The high reliance on bottled water was said to create a financial burden on refugees, as well as create an environmental pressure.

Annex 8: Types of improved water sources

	Types of improved water sources								
	Water tap/water network <2 hrs per day	Water tap/water network >2 hrs per day	Piped water to yard/plot	Protected well	Bottled mineral water	Protected borehole	Protected spring	Water tank/trucked water (UN/NGO provided)	Water tank/trucked water (non-UN/NGO private provider)
Total	7.40%	13.64%	0.33%	7.47%	41.51%	1.21%	3.04%	4.69%	8.85%
Governorate									
Akkar	2.72%	7.50%	0.34%	40.70%	21.65%	2.30%	6.41%	6.03%	8.04%
Baalbek-El Hermel	12.51%	16.21%	0.02%	17.75%	13.53%	2.58%	0.81%	17.18%	11.28%
Beirut	6.15%	8.01%	0.00%	0.00%	72.17%	0.18%	0.45%	0.23%	1.22%
Bekaa	8.26%	13.69%	0.14%	1.83%	17.70%	1.77%	1.83%	10.81%	26.90%
El Nabatieh	8.04%	15.47%	0.04%	2.82%	56.07%	0.26%	2.88%	0.06%	2.19%
Mount Lebanon	8.57%	8.95%	0.48%	0.44%	65.36%	0.54%	4.63%	0.31%	4.36%
North	3.65%	24.90%	0.83%	5.88%	37.06%	1.17%	2.89%	0.45%	0.23%
South	7.20%	13.95%	0.04%	3.22%	63.16%	0.23%	0.75%	0.00%	0.64%
Shelter type									
Non-permanent shelter	2.88%	4.36%	0.33%	12.95%	13.98%	2.82%	1.67%	21.17%	27.09%
Non-residential	7.72%	16.43%	0.69%	8.87%	33.84%	2.28%	6.06%	0.22%	6.90%
Residential	8.77%	16.12%	0.27%	5.53%	51.38%	0.54%	2.99%	0.22%	3.43%

Annex 9: Types of improved water sources and types of sanitation facilities

	Types of unimproved water sources							Types of sanitation facilities				
	Public/shared water stand/taps	Unprotected well	Unprotected borehole	Unprotected spring	Rainwater	Surface water	Other	Flush toilet	Improved pit latrine with cement slab	Traditional/Pit latrine with no slab	Bucket	Open air
Total	10.07%	0.34%	0.02%	0.36%	0.01%	0.03%	1.01%	63.1%	30.9%	5.5%	0.3%	0.1%
Governorate												
Akkar	3.02%	0.08%	0.00%	0.88%	0.00%	0.00%	0.34%	44.1%	39.6%	15.9%	0.4%	0.0%
Baalbek-El Hermel	6.46%	1.61%	0.00%	0.03%	0.00%	0.00%	0.04%	30.3%	64.2%	5.0%	0.0%	0.5%
Beirut	1.99%	0.00%	0.32%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	9.28%	86.0%	9.6%	3.9%	0.1%	0.4%
Bekaa	16.72%	0.00%	0.00%	0.35%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	40.0%	56.9%	3.0%	0.2%	0.0%
El Nabatieh	10.22%	0.25%	0.10%	0.80%	0.13%	0.21%	0.44%	79.1%	17.7%	3.0%	0.0%	0.2%
Mount Lebanon	4.64%	0.15%	0.03%	0.45%	0.00%	0.00%	1.09%	79.9%	15.8%	3.4%	0.8%	0.0%
North	21.01%	0.71%	0.00%	0.18%	0.00%	0.00%	1.04%	81.5%	9.9%	8.2%	0.1%	0.2%
South	7.90%	0.02%	0.00%	0.08%	0.04%	0.23%	2.55%	72.6%	22.2%	5.0%	0.0%	0.3%
Shelter type												
Non-permanent shelter	11.58%	1.06%	0.00%	0.05%	0.00%	0.00%	0.05%	13.6%	73.6%	12.1%	0.3%	0.4%
Non-residential	15.63%	0.09%	0.00%	0.78%	0.03%	0.00%	0.47%	59.0%	29.9%	10.2%	0.5%	0.4%
Residential	8.72%	0.15%	0.03%	0.39%	0.01%	0.04%	1.40%	79.3%	17.6%	2.7%	0.3%	0.0%

EDUCATION

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This chapter describes the school enrolment rates of Syrian refugee girls and boys, ranging from 3 to 24 years old. Furthermore, the chapter provides the reasons why children and youth were not enrolled in schools and the share of youth who were neither employed nor attending a training.

KEY FINDINGS

- **Participation in organized learning**, which is the percentage of children between 3 and 5 years of age who were attending an early education programme (e.g. nursery or KG) at the time of the survey, **slightly decreased from 16% in 2018 to 13% in 2019.**
- As for children of primary-school age, **between 6 and 14 years old, 69% were enrolled in schools at the time of the survey, similar to last year.** The percentage of children **between 15 and 17 years of age remained at 22%.**
- For those children between 3 and 5 years old, **'not in age for school'** was the main reason for not being in schools, while children between 6 and 14 years old, **cost-related barriers ranked the highest**; transportation (13%),and school materials (10%) along with school not allowing enrolment (8%) and work (6%). Fifteen to seventeen years old face similar **cost-related barriers** as the previous age group, in addition to being more likely out of school **because of work (10%) or marriage (7%).**
- Similar to last year, the gender parity index indicate that **the proportion of girls enrolled in schools remained almost equal to that of boys.**

Participation in organized learning: the share of children 3 to 5 years of age who are enrolled in an early childhood education programme, such as nursery, KG1, and KG2.

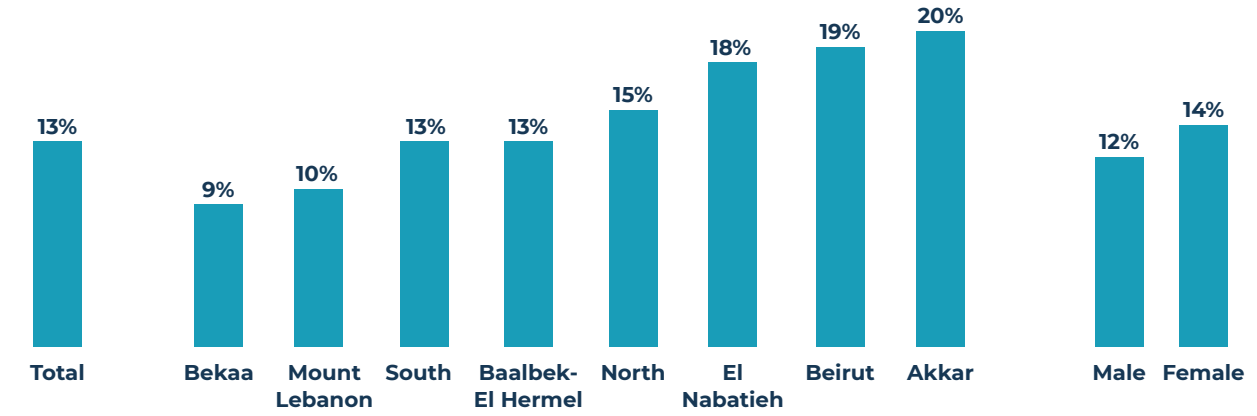
Gender Parity Index: the number of girls enrolled in school over the number of boys enrolled in school. If the gender parity index is over 1, it means that school enrollment is higher for girls than boys.

NEET: the share of youth (15 to 24 years of age) who are not employed, not in education or training.

PRE-PRIMARY SCHOOL

The percentage of **children between 3 and 5 years of age who were attending an early childhood education programme** slightly decreased from 16% in 2018 to 13% in 2019. In particular, Akkar, Beirut and El Nabatieh had the highest rates with results showing that 1 in 4 children (25%) in these 3 governorates were attending such programmes. On the other hand, Bekaa had the lowest rate of attendance with only 9%. Moreover, the share of boys enrolled in an early childhood education programme (11.8%) was slightly lower than that of girls (13.6%).

Figure 1: Participation in organized learning



Attendance in pre-school education (age 3-5) is important for the readiness of children to school. The share of children in the first grade of primary school who attended pre-school the previous year was at 66%, both for boys and girls. El Nabatieh and Mount Lebanon have the highest percentage, 80% and 77% respectively. The lowest percentage of school readiness was found in Akkar, Beirut and South Lebanon at 60%.

ENROLMENT IN PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Sixty nine percent of children of **primary school age (6 to 14 years old) were enrolled in school.** The highest ratios were found in South, Akkar and Beirut at 81%, 80%, 79% respectively. On the other hand, the lowest ratios were found in Baalbek-El Hermel and Bekaa at 57% and 55% respectively. More than half of primary school students (54%) were 2 or more years older than the standard age for their grade, similar to 2018 (53%).

Similarly, the rate of children between 15 to 17 years old enrolled in schools at the time of the survey was 22%, approximately the same as last year at 23%. However, there were noticeable geographical differences when examining enrolment, specifically a decrease in 5 percentage points in Mount Lebanon and an increase in around 10 percent in the North and South.

Figure 2: Primary school age enrolment (6 to 14 years of age)

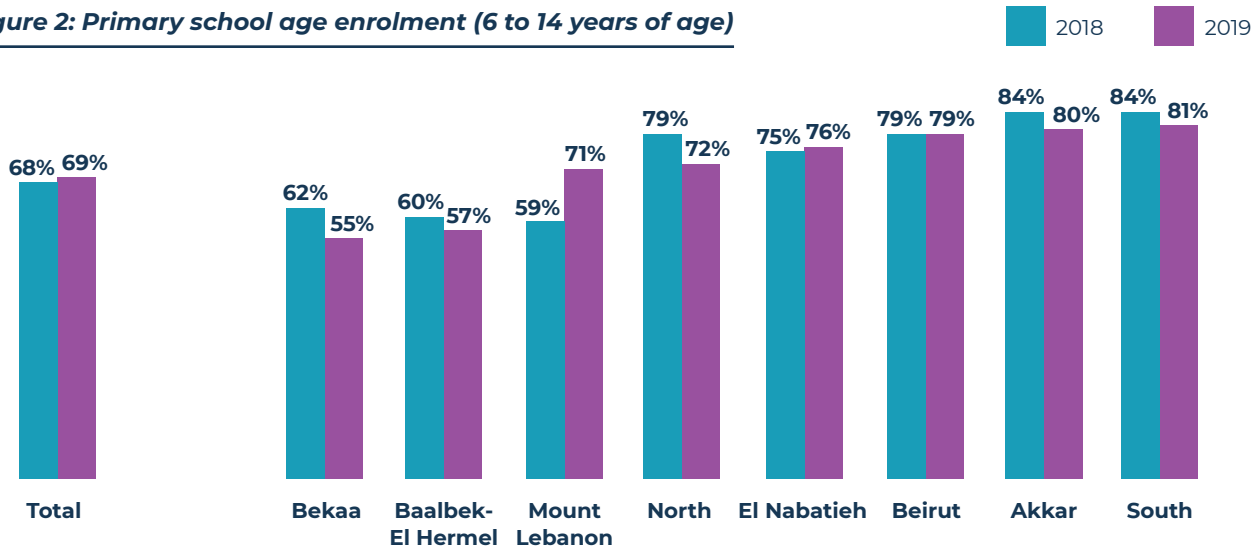
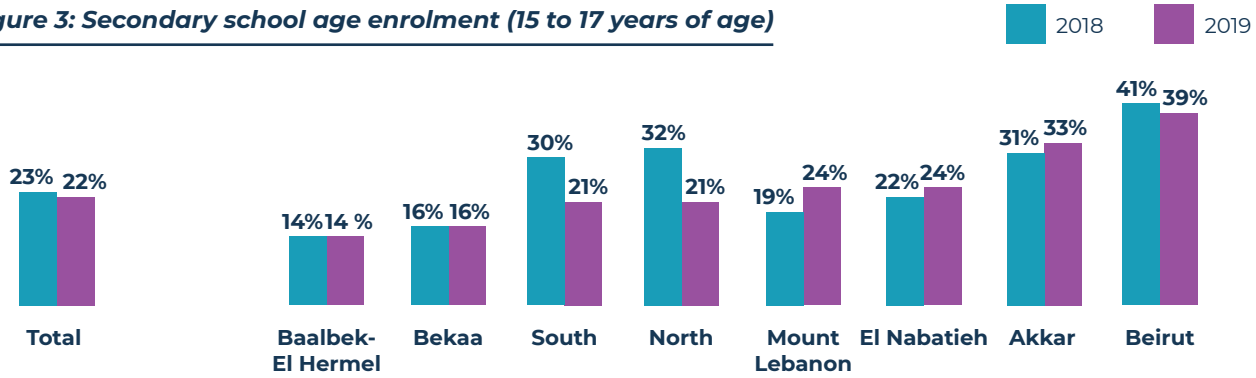


Figure 3: Secondary school age enrolment (15 to 17 years of age)

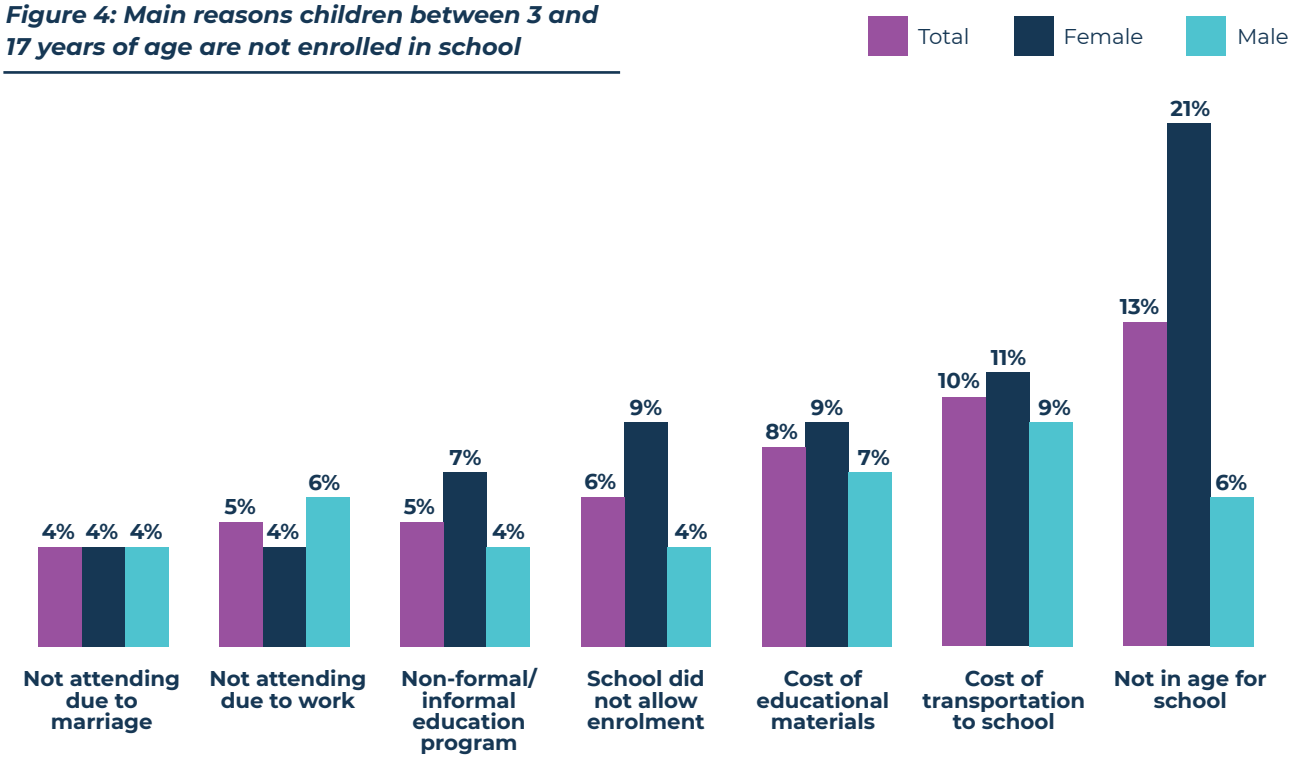


REASONS FOR NOT BEING ENROLLED IN SCHOOL

The most common reasons for not being enrolled in school, included the child not being in age for school (13%), inability to afford the cost of transportation to school (10%), and the inability to afford the cost of educational materials (8%). Additional reasons which were cited, albeit to a lower extent, were that school did not allow children to be enrolled or children did not attend due to work or marriage.

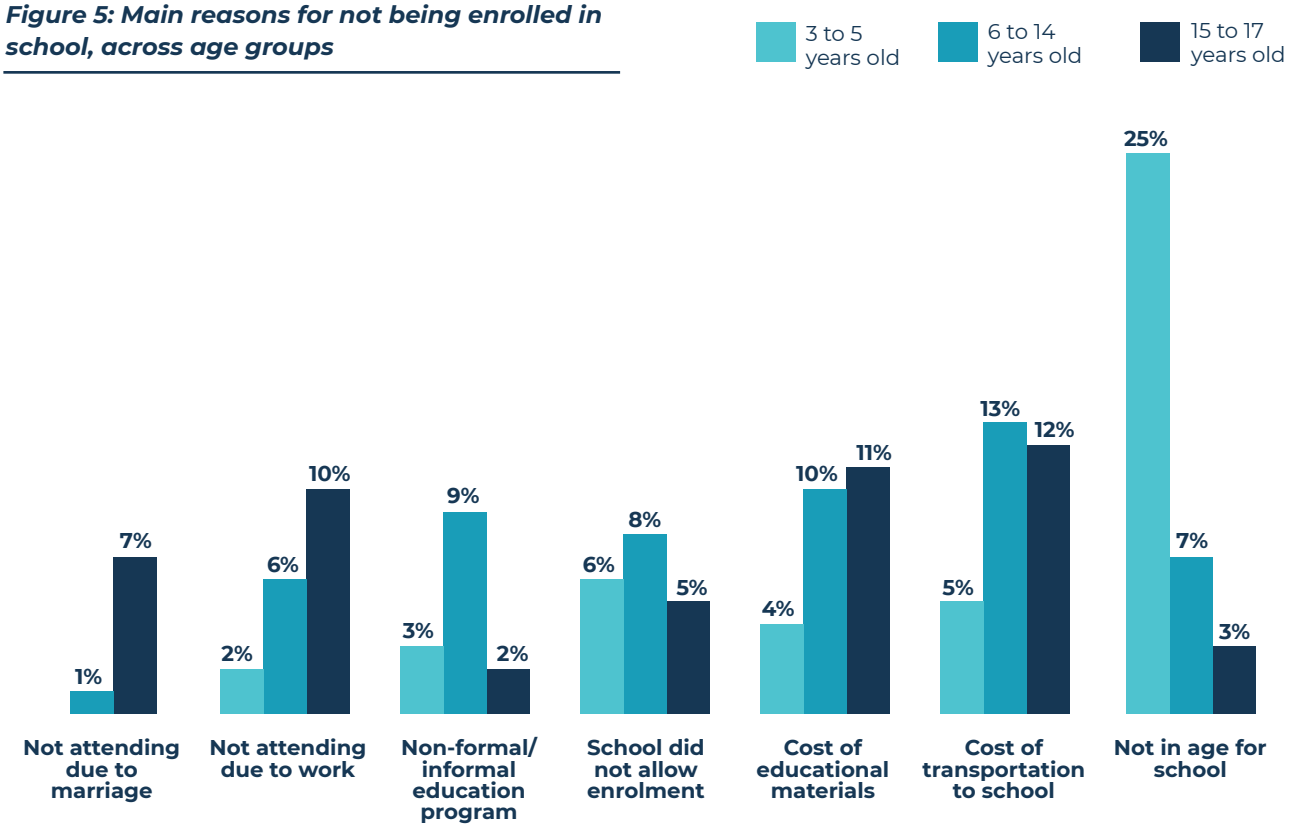
Some of the main reasons varied between boys and girls, as shown in figure 4.

Figure 4: Main reasons children between 3 and 17 years of age are not enrolled in school



The results vary significantly between the different age groups, as shown in figure 5.

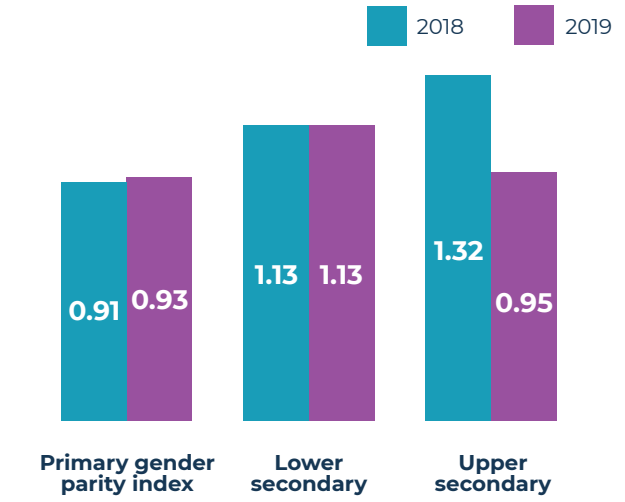
Figure 5: Main reasons for not being enrolled in school, across age groups



The gender parity index is the proportion of girls enrolled in school over the proportion of boys enrolled in school. If the gender parity index is over 1, it means that school enrolment is higher for girls than boys.

The number of girls in primary school remained almost equal to that of boys compared to 2018. For upper secondary school the number of girls is almost equal to that of boys, an improvement from last year.

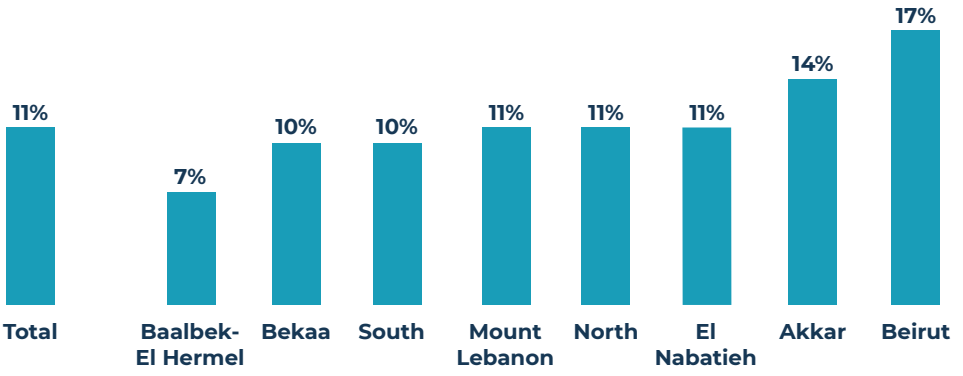
Figure 6: Gender parity index



SCHOOLING OF YOUTH AGED 15-24

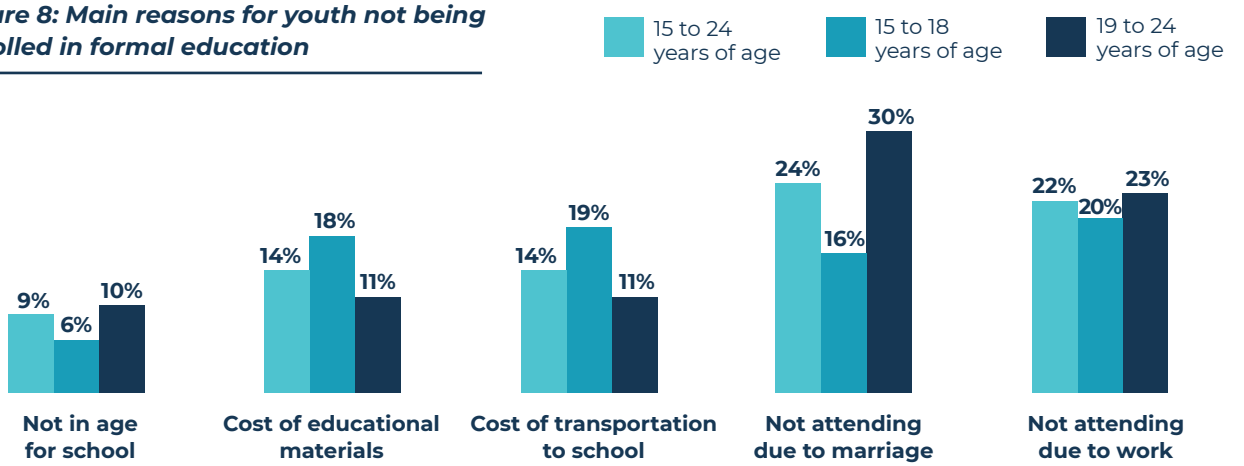
Only 11% of Syrian refugee youth were enrolled in formal education in 2019, which did not differ from 2018. There were no clear differences reported across gender, revealing approximately equal rates between girls and boys. However, the rates did differ to a large extent when looking at different age ranges, with ages below 19-24 (15-18 year-olds, specifically) having 19% enrolment rates, while those 19-24 only reaching 4%. Similarly, there was high variation of enrolment across governorates, with Beirut showing the highest rates of youth enrolment in formal education (17%), and Baalbek-Hermel having the lowest enrolment (7%) (see figure 7). Enrolment rates were similar between girls and boys.

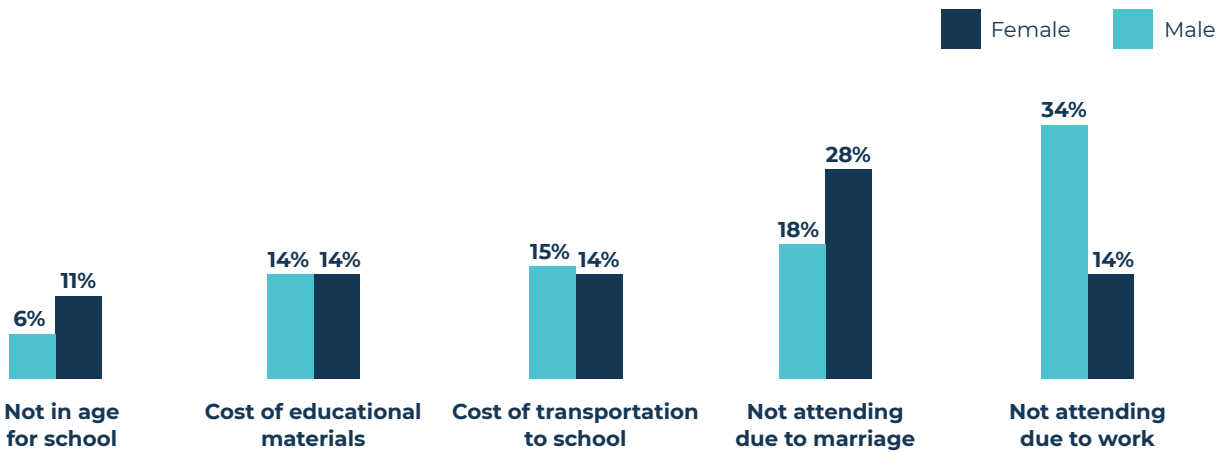
Figure 7: Percentage of youth (15 to 24 years of age enrolled in formal education)



The main reasons for school dropout among youth are detailed in figure 8, and show variations across age range and between girls and boys; these main dropout reasons remain similar to last year.

Figure 8: Main reasons for youth not being enrolled in formal education





NOT IN EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT, OR TRAINING (NEET)

NEET rates indicate very important indicators for youth who are neither enrolled in education nor participating in the labour market and who represent a pressing programmatic concern. NEET rates among Syrian refugees in Lebanon are very high at 66% with a slight increase from 2018 (61%). Girls are far more likely to fall into the category of those who are neither enrolled in education nor participating in the labour market (78%) than boys (52%). Moreover, older youth (19-24) have higher NEET rates than younger youth (15-18), 71% versus 59% respectively. Rates of NEET among Syrian refugee youth also vary widely across governorates.

Voices from the field

This box summarises discussions about the results of VASyR 2019 held in all field offices. It is based on the contextual knowledge of key actors in the field, as opposed to quantitative data.

In the North and Akkar, participants suggested that due to the difficulties in the enrolment of new students into second shift classes and concerns over few spots being available, enrolment in early childhood education might be seen as a possible entry point to the formal education system.

In the South and the Bekaa, according to discussion participants, child labour might be related to school drop outs.

In Beirut and Mount Lebanon, participants proposed that the higher-than-average school enrolment rates were a product of better education infrastructure and facilities, as well as higher school capacity and greater awareness of the importance of education in these areas.

Annex 10: School enrolment

	Over-age for grade (primary school)	School enrolment by age group and governorate					
		3 to 5		6 to 14		15 to 17	
		2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018
Total	54%	16%	20%	69%	68%	22%	23%
Governorate							
Akkar	53%	28%	34%	80%	84%	33%	31%
Baalbek-El Hermel	59%	16%	13%	57%	60%	14%	14%
Beirut	45%	23%	23%	79%	79%	39%	41%
Bekaa	58%	11%	16%	55%	62%	16%	16%
El Nabatieh	52%	21%	26%	76%	75%	24%	22%
Mount Lebanon	56%	13%	13%	71%	59%	24%	19%
North	49%	21%	24%	72%	79%	21%	32%
South	52%	16%	35%	81%	84%	21%	30%
Gender							
Female	52%						
Male	56%						

Annex 11: Reasons for not being enrolled in school

	Reasons for not attending school										
	Already graduated	Cost of education	Cost of transportation	Cultural reason	Difficulty with school curriculum	Due to disability	Due to health problems	Fear of violence in schools	Fear of violence on the way back to school	Due to learning difficulties	Child need to stay at home
Total	0.4%	8.1%	9.6%	0.9%	2.5%	0.8%	0.7%	1.0%	0.8%	0.8%	0.5%
Governorate											
Akkar	0.6%	8.1%	6.7%	2.0%	4.1%	1.7%	0.3%	0.3%	1.7%	1.2%	1.2%
Baalbek-El Hermel	0.3%	6.3%	12.7%	0.3%	2.6%	0.8%	0.8%	1.3%	1.0%	2.1%	0.6%
Beirut	0.9%	5.5%	2.8%	0.0%	0.9%	1.8%	0.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.9%	0.9%
Bekaa	0.0%	9.6%	10.6%	0.9%	4.2%	0.5%	0.6%	1.9%	1.0%	0.1%	0.1%
El Nabatieh	0.4%	7.0%	10.9%	1.7%	0.4%	1.3%	0.9%	0.0%	0.4%	0.4%	0.0%
Mount Lebanon	1.0%	6.4%	6.2%	0.5%	1.6%	0.8%	0.9%	1.0%	1.0%	0.5%	0.2%
North	0.0%	10.3%	12.5%	1.2%	1.8%	0.6%	0.6%	0.3%	0.0%	2.1%	1.2%
South	0.6%	9.1%	11.6%	1.7%	1.7%	0.6%	0.8%	0.8%	0.3%	0.3%	0.8%
Gender of the head of household											
Female	0.5%	9.1%	10.8%	1.2%	3.2%	0.8%	1.1%	1.7%	1.3%	0.9%	0.7%
Male	0.3%	7.2%	8.5%	0.6%	2.0%	0.7%	0.3%	0.4%	0.3%	0.8%	0.3%
Age group											
3 to 5 years old	0.3%	4.1%	5.1%	0.4%	0.9%	0.5%	0.4%	0.6%	0.4%	0.1%	0.6%
6 to 14 years old	0.5%	10.4%	12.9%	0.7%	2.9%	1.0%	0.8%	1.5%	1.1%	1.1%	0.4%
15 to 17 years old	0.6%	10.9%	11.5%	2.0%	4.8%	0.9%	0.8%	0.8%	0.9%	1.5%	0.5%

Percentages calculated out of the total number of children (3 to 17 years of age) not attending school

Annex 11: Reasons for not being enrolled in school

	Reasons for not attending school											
	Newly arrived	No school in the area	No school shifts	No space in schools	Non-formal/ informal education program	Due to marriage	Due to work	Child not in age for school	Others	Preference for non-formal/ informal education	School did not allow enrollment	School has finished
Total	0.3%	1.7%	0.5%	1.4%	5.4%	4.1%	5.0%	13.1%	2.5%	0.2%	6.4%	0.2%
Governorate												
Akkar	0.0%	0.0%	1.2%	0.9%	2.0%	4.4%	6.7%	14.5%	2.6%	1.2%	4.4%	0.0%
Baalbek-El Hermel	0.3%	6.3%	0.0%	0.6%	9.3%	5.5%	2.3%	11.0%	1.9%	0.0%	4.2%	0.0%
Beirut	0.0%	0.9%	0.0%	1.8%	0.0%	3.7%	8.3%	11.0%	6.4%	0.0%	8.3%	0.9%
Bekaa	0.1%	1.3%	0.6%	2.0%	13.0%	3.1%	4.5%	10.6%	0.9%	0.0%	5.1%	0.0%
El Nabatieh	0.0%	0.4%	0.0%	1.3%	0.9%	5.2%	8.2%	15.2%	3.5%	0.0%	6.9%	0.0%
Mount Lebanon	0.7%	1.2%	0.5%	1.9%	1.5%	3.4%	5.2%	16.2%	4.0%	0.3%	10.7%	0.9%
North	0.1%	1.0%	0.5%	0.6%	1.8%	4.6%	5.7%	12.2%	1.6%	0.0%	4.3%	0.0%
South	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%	1.1%	0.8%	5.5%	4.7%	13.5%	4.1%	0.0%	4.4%	0.0%
Gender of the head of household												
Female	0.4%	1.8%	0.3%	1.6%	7.0%	4.1%	4.2%	20.7%	2.6%	0.2%	9.1%	0.4%
Male	0.1%	1.5%	0.6%	1.2%	4.0%	4.1%	5.7%	6.1%	2.4%	0.2%	4.0%	0.1%
Age group												
3 to 5 years old	0.2%	1.1%	0.3%	1.1%	3.2%	5.0%	1.7%	24.7%	1.3%	0.1%	5.6%	0.1%
6 to 14 years old	0.5%	2.1%	0.8%	1.8%	9.1%	1.4%	5.6%	7.1%	2.8%	0.2%	8.2%	0.6%
15 to 17 years old	0.0%	1.7%	0.2%	1.2%	2.4%	7.4%	9.9%	3.4%	4.1%	0.1%	4.5%	0.0%

Percentages calculated out of the total number of children (3 to 17 years of age) not attending school

HEALTH

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Health services are available to refugees through primary health care outlets, hospitals and mobile medical units. Through the VASyR, the ability of households to access needed care is examined as well as the barriers to healthcare access. The VASyR does not reflect on the quality of the received care.

KEY FINDINGS

- **Demand for primary health care among Syrian refugee families increased by 9%** (from 54% in 2018 to 63% in 2019), while demand for hospital care remained stable at 22%.
- **Slight improvements in access to needed healthcare were noted** with 90% and 81% of households receiving the required primary and hospital care, respectively.
- Regional discrepancies remain with **households living in Mount Lebanon reporting the lowest access to healthcare services and households in Akkar and El Nabatieh reporting the highest.**
- For both primary and hospital care, **cost of treatment was, by far, the main barrier to accessing the needed care.** Proportion of households that reported not being able to access needed care due to costs has continued to increase since 2017.

PRIMARY HEALTHCARE

Primary health care (PHC) refers to health care that does not require hospital admission. This includes services such as: vaccination, medication for acute and chronic conditions, non-communicable diseases care, sexual and reproductive healthcare, malnutrition screening and management, mental healthcare, dental care, basic laboratory and diagnostics as well as health promotion.

Trends reflect an increase in the share of households who have required primary health care services. In 2019, 63% of households required PHC in the past six months, compared to 54% in 2018 and 46% in 2017. Data collection for the VASyR occurs during the same time each year and as such seasonal variations do not explain this noted trend. South Lebanon had the more prominent increase from 62% to 86% of households reporting needing primary health care. The ability to access PHC remained high with 90% of households reporting that they were able to access the needed PHC. Almost all the households reported accessing PHC in Lebanon, with only 1% reporting to have received PHC in Syria.

A larger proportion of families residing in non-permanent shelters required PHC, compared to those in residential or non-residential shelters. However, when accessing the needed care, a higher share of families in non-permanent shelters reported getting the care, as compared to those in residential shelters (94% compared to 88%). Additionally, families with higher levels of expenditure (above 125% of the minimum expenditure basket) were less likely to report needing PHC.

Figure 1: Households reporting requiring PHC services in the past six months by governorate

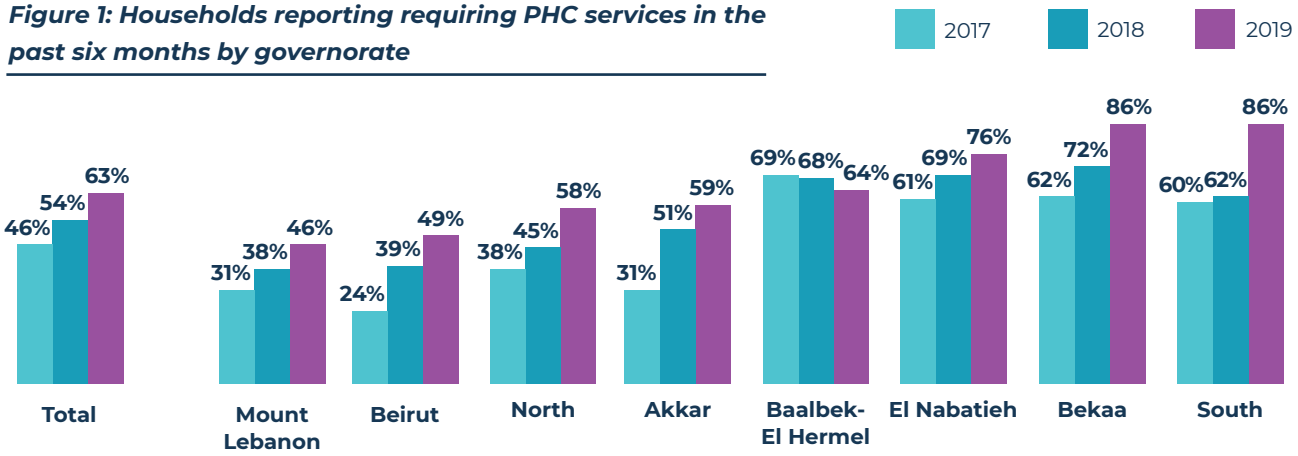


Figure 2: Among households that reported needing primary health care in the past six months, percentage that were able to receive it

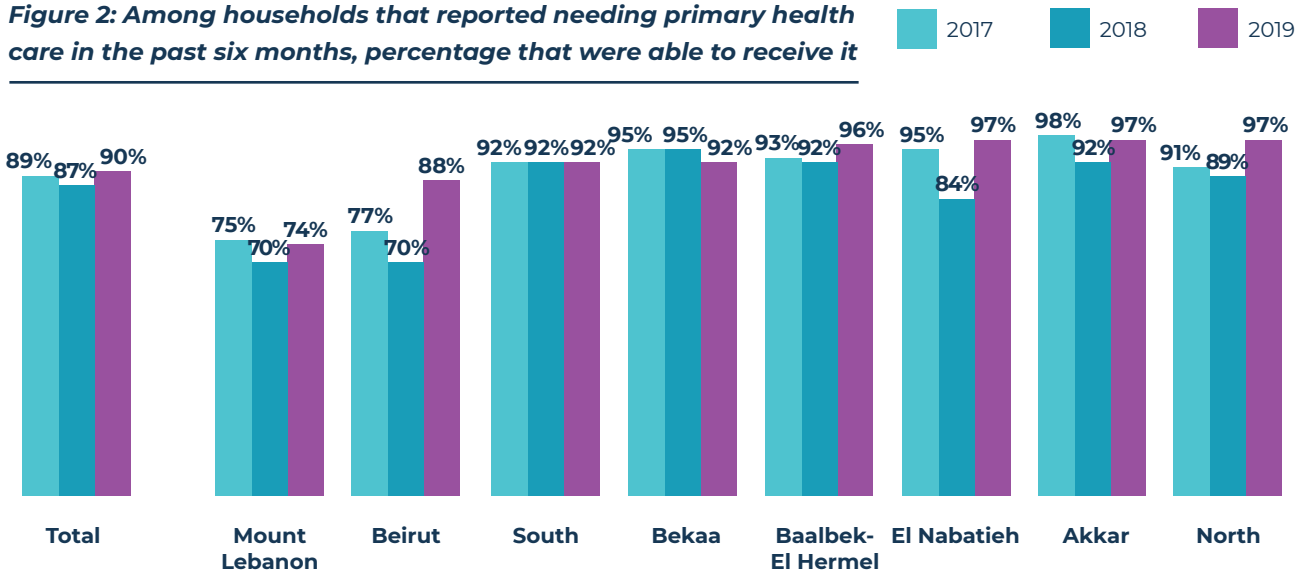


Figure 3: Percentage of households that reported needing primary health care in the past six month, and those that received it, by expenditure level

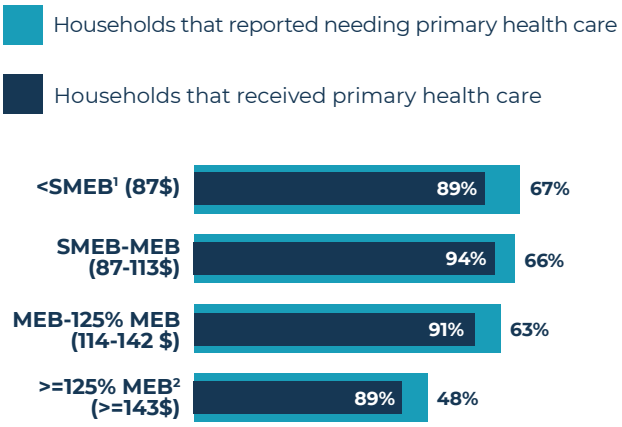


Figure 4: Percentage of households that reported needing primary health care in the past six month, and those that received it, by shelter type

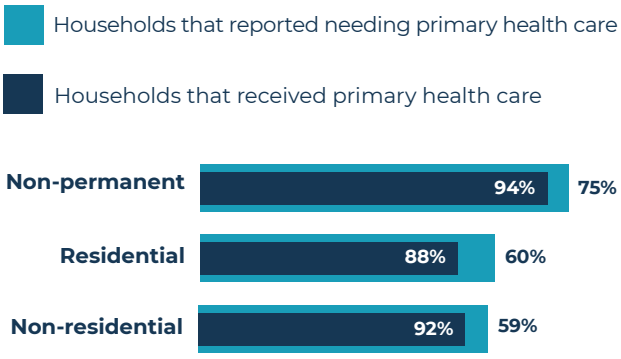
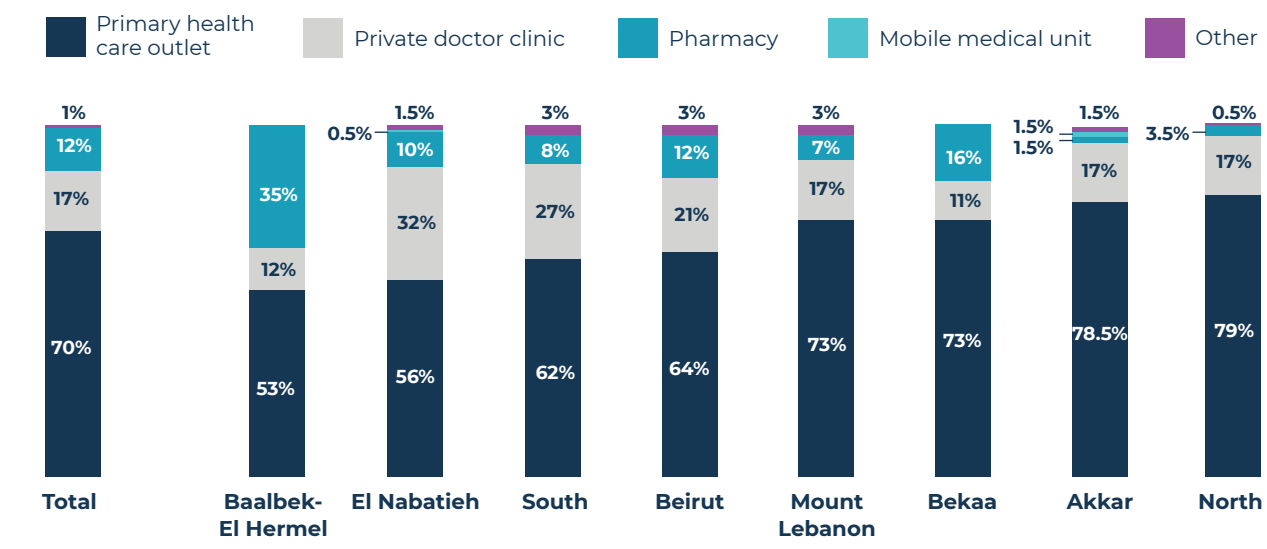


Figure 5: Means of accessing primary health care in the past six months

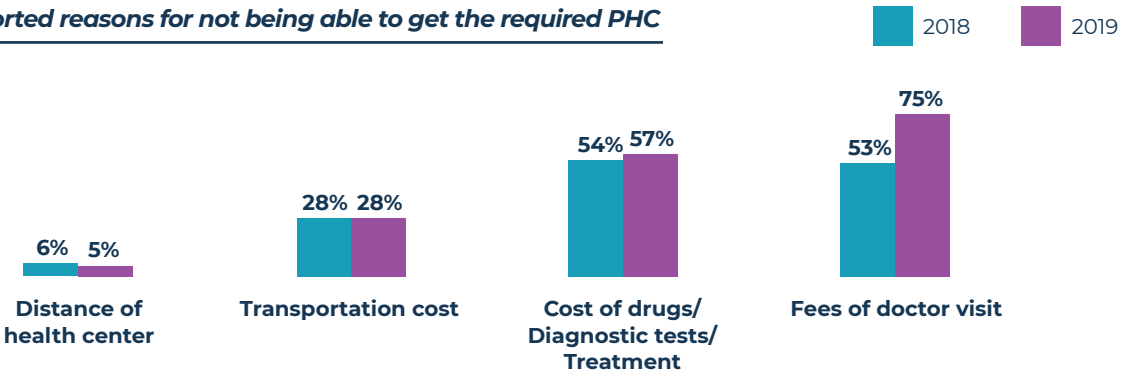


[1,2] The SMEB and MEB refer to the survival minimum expenditure basket and the minimum expenditure basket. The values are presented as US$ per capita per month. For more information on expenditure baskets refer to chapter entitled "Socioeconomic vulnerability".

Most households received primary health care through a primary health care outlet (including primary health care centers within the Ministry of Public Health network, Social Development Centers and Dispensaries), 17% through a private doctor and 12% sought care at a pharmacy. For those that went to a private doctors' clinic, trust in the physician was cited as the primary reason (60%), followed by distance to the clinic (22%).

Cost remains the largest barrier to receiving the needed primary health care. Cost is defined as doctors' fees, costs of treatments and transportation costs. Specifically, cost of doctors' fees has increased as a primary reason why families are unable to get the PHC they need (from 53% in 2018 to 75% in 2019),

Figure 6: Reported reasons for not being able to get the required PHC



HOSPITAL CARE

The reported need for hospital care remained stable with just under one quarter of households (22%) reporting to have needed hospital care in the past six months. Of those seeking secondary health care, 81% were able to receive the needed care. While nationally, rates of access to needed hospital care remained stable since 2018, changes in access rates are noticed across specific regions. In Beirut, a much higher proportion of households reported being able to get the hospital care they needed, as compared to 2018. As with primary health care, only 2% of the interviewed households reported that they accessed the hospital care in Syria. There was a larger proportion of women headed households that reported not accessing the needed hospital care as compared to their male counterparts (27% compared to 17%). This trend was not observed for primary health care. There were no noted differences in requiring or accessing hospital care by shelter types or expenditure levels.

Figure 7: Households that reported requiring hospital care in the previous six months by governorate

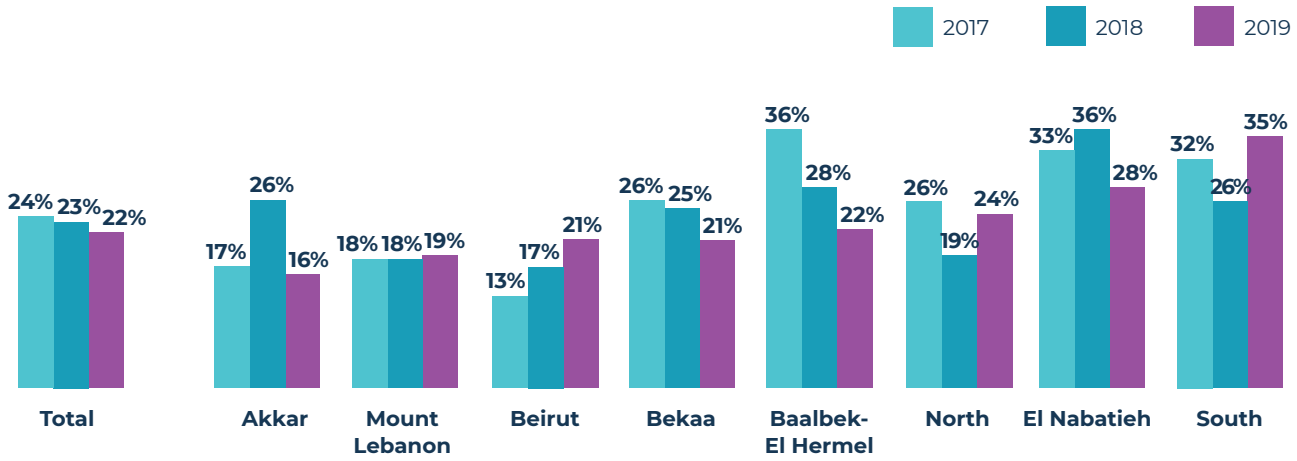
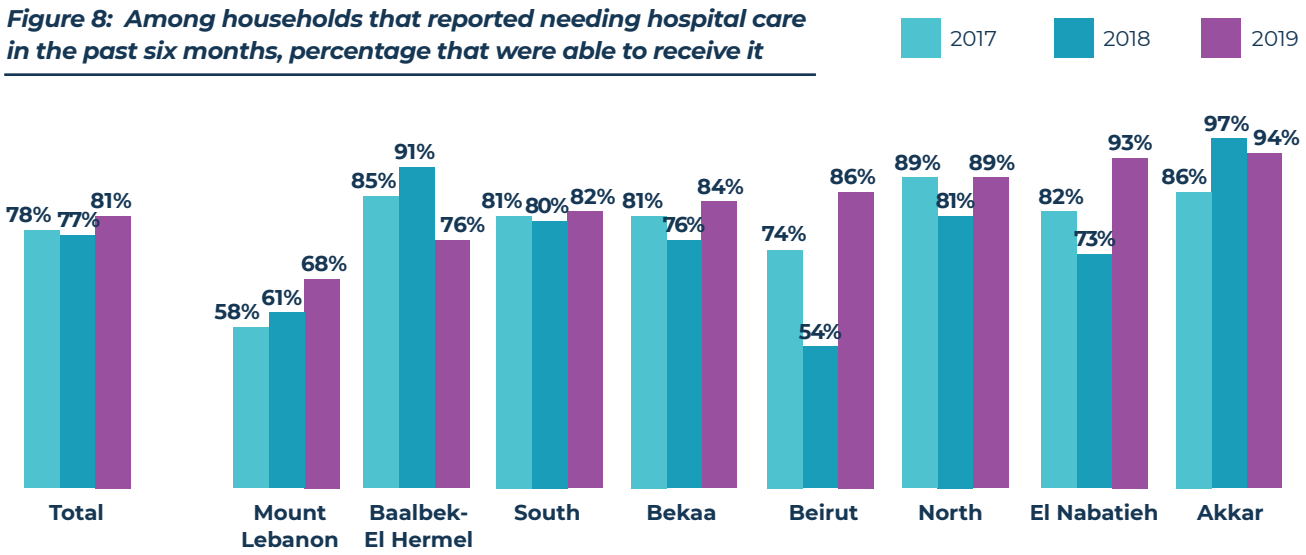
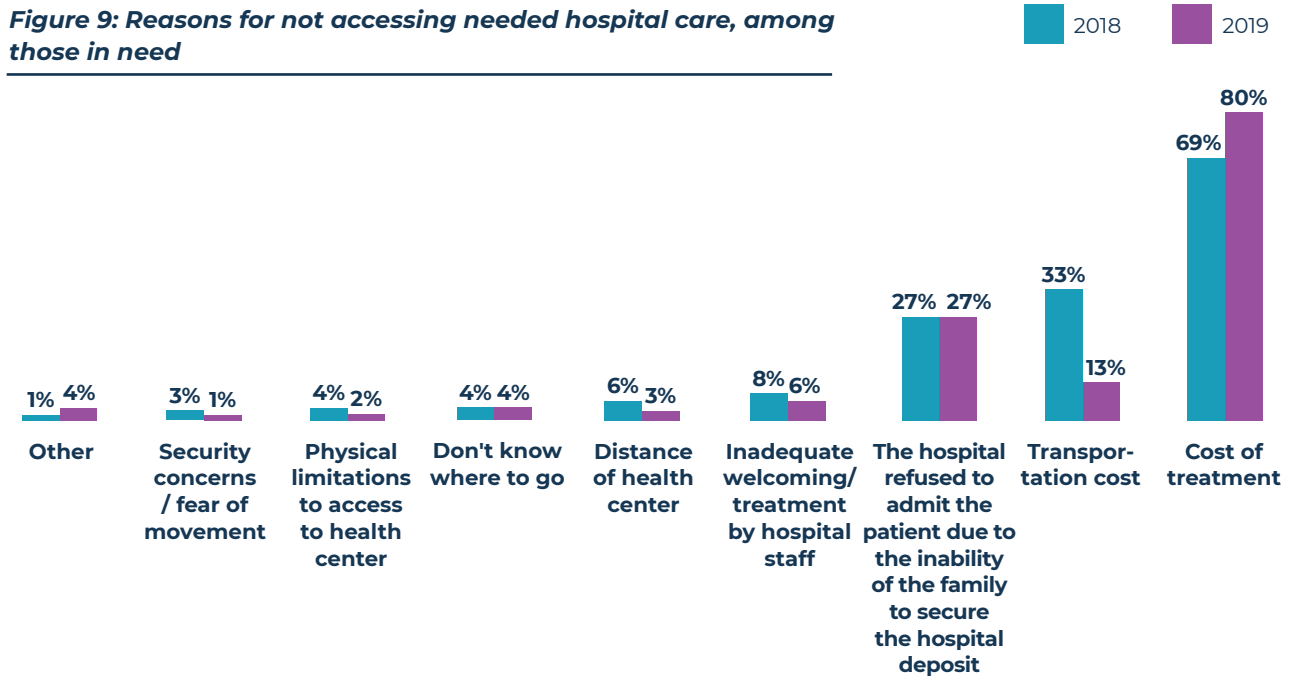


Figure 8: Among households that reported needing hospital care in the past six months, percentage that were able to receive it



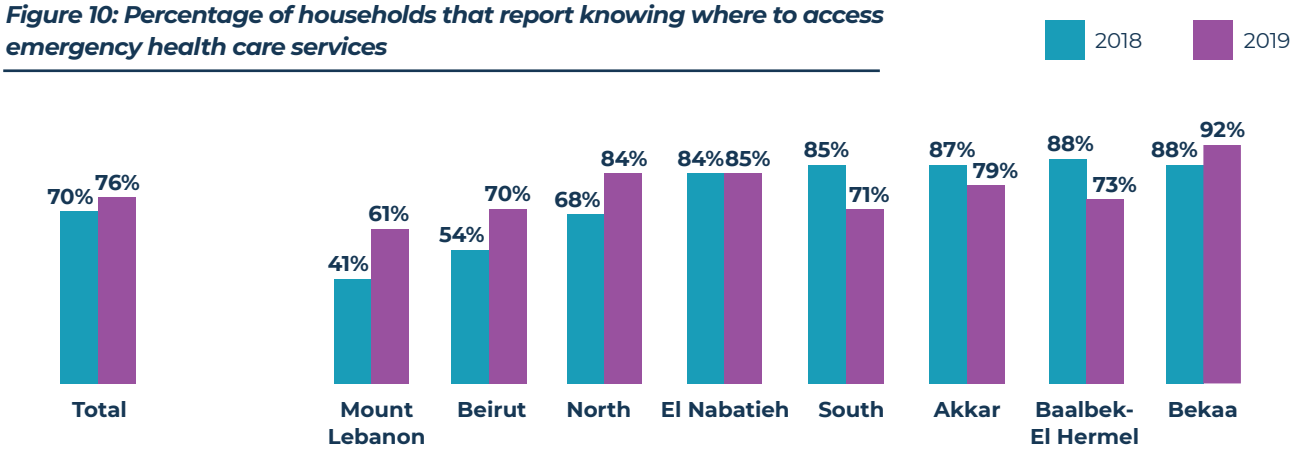
Again, cost comes up as the main barrier to accessing hospital care, much more so than physical barriers related to distance or ability to reach centers. Cost of treatment as a barrier was cited by 80% of families, compared to 69% in 2018.

Figure 9: Reasons for not accessing needed hospital care, among those in need



Three quarters (76%) of households reported knowing where to access emergency medical care or services. The lowest rates of this knowledge were in Beirut and Mount Lebanon, even though they have increased since 2018.

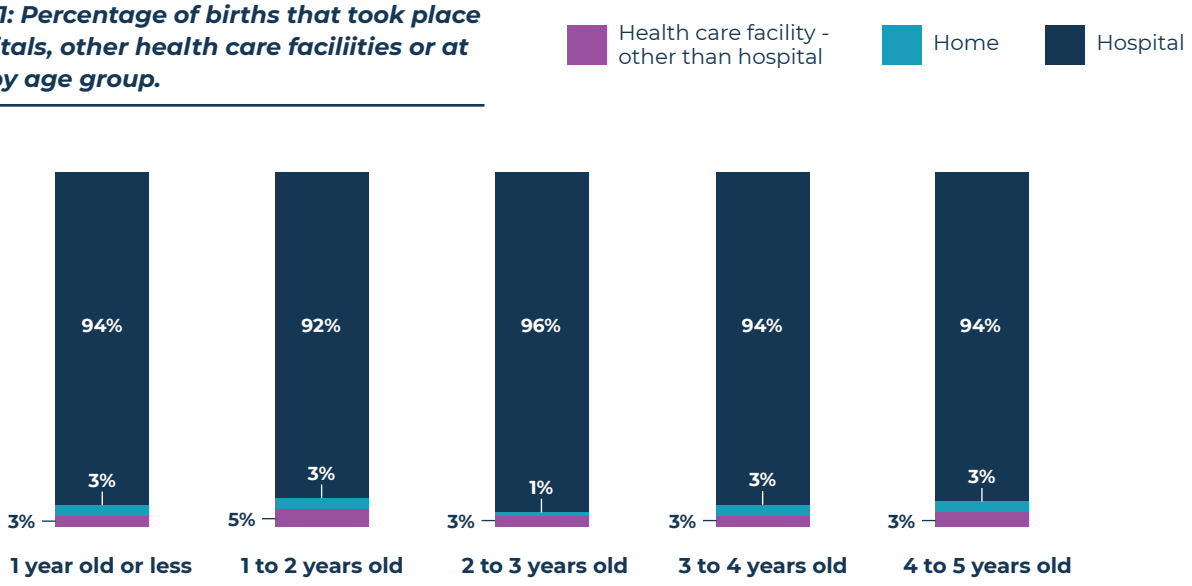
Figure 10: Percentage of households that report knowing where to access emergency health care services



CHILD BIRTH DETAILS

Of the children in the sample born after 2011, 58% were born in Lebanon. Almost all births (95%) took place in hospitals, with a small percentage reporting home delivery (4%) and less in other healthcare facilities (1%). Examining different years of birth, no significant difference is noted in terms of increases or changes in the proportion of children who are being delivered at home.

Figure 11: Percentage of births that took place in hospitals, other health care faciliities or at home, by age group.



CHILD HEALTH AND NUTRITION

CHILDREN'S HEALTH

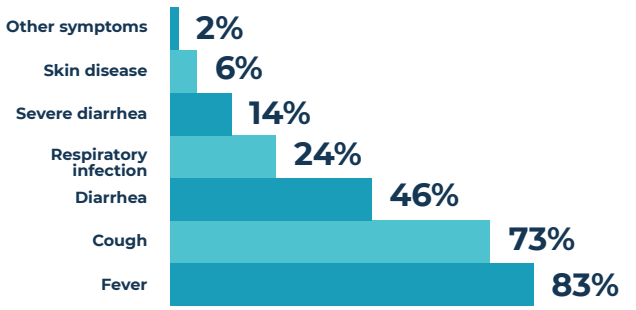
The assessment examined children under 2 years of age suffering from at least one disease and required hospitalization or a doctor consultation. Information was collected on 1481 children aged 0 to 23 months.

KEY FINDINGS

- The percentage of children under 2 years of age who have been sick in the two weeks prior to the survey keeps increasing **from 34% in 2017 to 41% in 2018 and reaching 48% in 2019.** The three highest reported sicknesses remain the same as last year, **fever (83%), cough (73%), and diarrhea (46%).**
- **Twenty-four percent of children under 2 years of age who suffered from severe diarrhea required hospitalization or a doctor's consultation.**

The share of refugee children under the age of 2 who suffered at least from one disease in the two weeks prior to the survey increased to 48%, from 41% in 2018. Out of those who were sick, the vast majority had fever at 83%, while 73% had a cough and 46% had diarrhea.

Figure 12: Types of sicknesses among children under 2 years old



Moreover, 24% of children under 2 years of age who suffered from diarrhea, suffered from severe diarrhea which required hospitalization or a doctor's consultation. Similarly, 28% of those who suffered from cough suffered from a respiratory infection which also required hospitalization or a doctor's consultation.

INFANT AND YOUNG CHILD FEEDING PRACTICES

The assessment examined Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) practices in Syrian refugee households. Information was collected on 877 children aged 6-23 months and 493 infants under 6 months old.

KEY FINDINGS

- **There was an increase of 13% in children under 6 months of age who received only breastmilk** the day prior to the survey, from 42% in 2018 to 56% in 2019. **As for children between 12 and 15 months, there was a slight increase of 4%,** from 50% in 2018 to 54% in 2019.
- **The Minimum Diet Diversity for children between 6 and 23 months remained the same as last year, at 17%.**
- **The Minimum Acceptable Meal Frequency for children between 6 and 23 months increased from 64% in 2018 to 80% in 2019.**

Breastfeeding

The proportion of infants under 6 months old who were exclusively breastfed was 56%[1], a notable increase of 13% from 2018. The proportion of children between 12 and 15 months, who were fed breast milk the previous day was 54%, an increase of 4% from 2018.

Complementary feeding

Complementary feeding includes solid, semi-solid, soft foods or other liquids received during the previous day. The percentage of children between 6 and 8 months old who received complementary feeding was 31%.

Minimum Diet Diversity

According to the WHO guidelines[2] (2008) for assessing infant and young child feeding practices, children 6-23 months old should consume a minimum of 4 food groups out of 7 to meet the minimum diet diversity target, independent of age and breastfeeding status. The food groups are:

1. Grains, roots, and tubers;
2. Pulses and nuts;
3. Dairy products (milk, yoghurt, cheese);
4. Meats (red meat, fish, poultry, and liver/organ meats);
5. Eggs;
6. Vitamin-A rich fruits and vegetables;
7. Other fruits and vegetables.

Similarly, to 2018, only 17% of children between the ages of 6 and 23 months were fed a diverse diet on the previous day, consisting of 4 or more food groups.

Comparing the minimum dietary diversity to the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) categories, results indicated that children belonging to households with higher minimum expenditure levels were more likely to receive a more diverse diet, and vice versa, whereas the households belonging to a lower MEB category receive a lower diverse diet.

For children aged 6-23 months, the share that received food from 4 or more food groups was lower amoung those living below the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) (US$ 87) compared to those with expenditures above 125 percent of the SMEB (15% versus 24%).

[1] No segregation by governorate was done
[2] Available at **:http://www.who.int/maternal_child_adolescent/documents/9789241596664/en/.**

Figure 13: Minimum dietary diversity for children between 6 and 23 months old

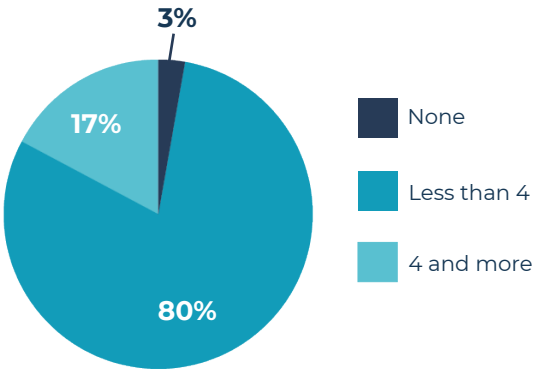
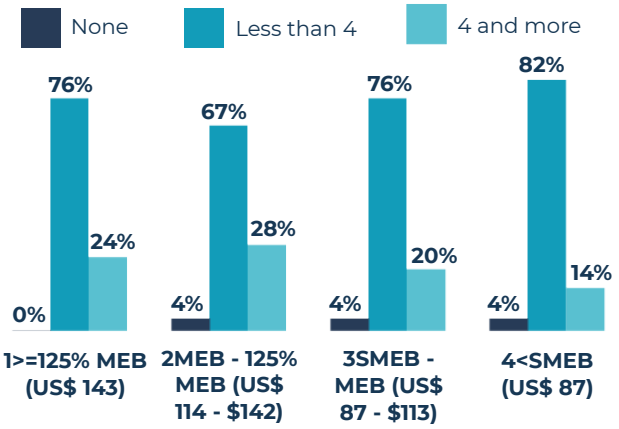


Figure 14: Minimum dietary diversity for children between 6 and 23 months old across Minimum Expenditure Basket categories

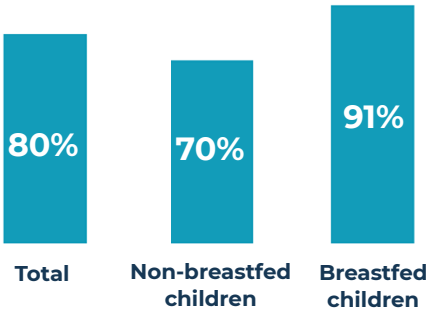


WHO defines the minimum acceptable meal frequency for young children as follows:

- 2 meals/day for breastfed infants (6 – 8 months old)
- 3 meals/day for breastfed children (9 – 23 months old)
- 4 meals/day for non-breastfed children (6 – 23 months old)

There was an increase from 64% to 80% in children between 6-23 months who have received the minimum acceptable number of meals every day. Among children who were breastfed, the minimum acceptable meal frequency was at 91%, as for those who were not-breastfed the figure goes down to 70%.

Figure 15: Minimum Acceptable Meal Frequency among children between 6 and 23 months



Voices from the field

This box summarises discussions about the results of VASyR 2019 held in all field offices. It is based on the contextual knowledge of key actors in the field, as opposed to quantitative data.

Workshop participants noted the low rates of access to primary and secondary health care in Mount Lebanon, which they attributed to the sparser distribution of primary health care facilities in the region, as well as to the limited number of beds and high deposits rates requested by hospitals. Accessing care may, hence, be more difficult for refugees residing in Mount Lebanon due to hindered financial and geographical accessibility, as well as limited availability.

The relatively good access to primary health care elsewhere in the country was deemed to be the result of sufficient medical infrastructure and availability of services.

Annex 12: Household access to primary and secondary health care

	Primary Health Care (PHC)				Hospitalization		Emergency care
	Households that required primary health care in the previous 6 months	Households that received the required primary health care in the previous 6 months	Accessing PHC (in the previous six months) through PHC outlet	Accessing PHC (in the previous six months) through a private clinic	Households that required hospitalization in the past 6 months	Households that received the required hospitalization in the past 6 months	Households who reported knowing where to access emergency health care
Total	63%	90%	70%	17%	22%	81%	76%
Governorate							
Akkar	59%	97%	78%	17%	16%	94%	79%
Baalbek-El Hermel	64%	96%	53%	12%	22%	76%	73%
Beirut	49%	88%	64%	21%	21%	86%	70%
Bekaa	86%	92%	73%	11%	21%	84%	92%
El Nabatieh	76%	97%	56%	32%	28%	93%	85%
Mount Lebanon	46%	74%	73%	17%	19%	68%	61%
North	58%	97%	79%	17%	24%	89%	84%
South	86%	92%	62%	27%	35%	82%	71%
Expenditure							
>=125% MEB (>=143$)	49%	89%	64%	22%	21%	85%	70%
MEB- 125% MEB (114 - 142$)	63%	90%	63%	25%	23%	83%	75%
SMEB-MEB (87-113$)	66%	94%	63%	22%	23%	87%	78%
< SMEB (87$)	67%	89%	74%	13%	21%	77%	78%
Gender of the head of household							
Female	63%	91%	73%	11%	17%	73%	79%
Male	63%	90%	69%	18%	23%	83%	75%
Shelter type							
Non-permanent shelter	75%	94%	69%	14%	22%	85%	84%
Non-residential	59%	92%	77%	15%	22%	89%	78%
Residential	60%	88%	69%	18%	21%	79%	73%

FOOD CONSUMPTION

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Food consumption is the cornerstone of food security analysis. The indicators in this chapter capture the dimensions related to food consumption which are the basis for classifying households according to their food security status. Quantity of food is measured by the number of meals consumed, while quality and diversity are captured through the Food Consumption Score (FCS) and Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS).[1]

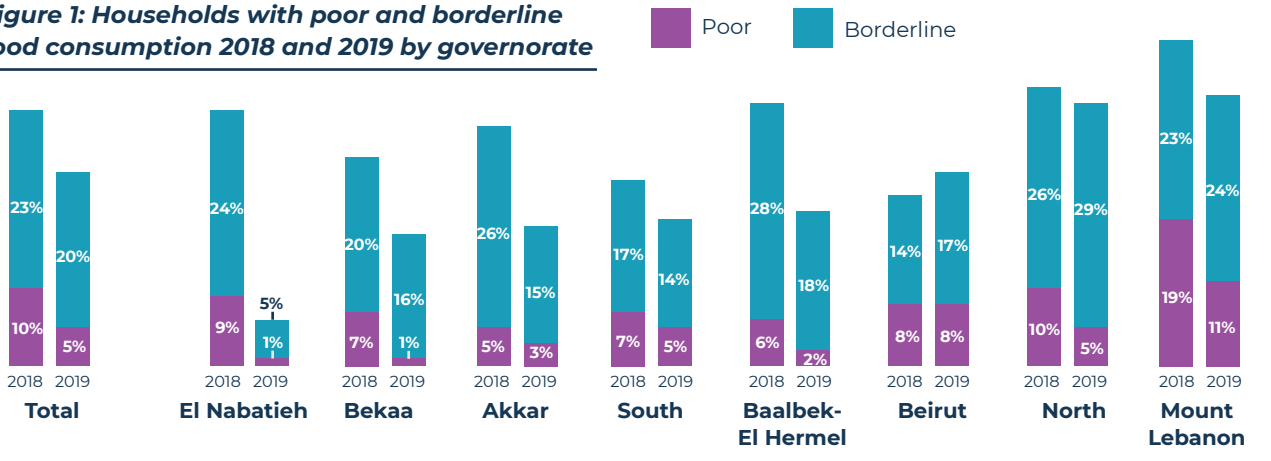
KEY FINDINGS

- Three out of four Syrian refugees have an acceptable food consumption. **The share of households with adequate diet continues to increase throughout the years (from 62% in 2017, 67% in 2018 to 75% in 2019).** However, a quarter of Syrian households still have a poor or borderline food consumption.
- **Dietary diversity increased, with almost 75% of households consuming 9 or more food groups per week in 2019, as opposed to 70% in 2018.** The same trend is also reflected in daily dietary diversity, showing that one out of three of households consume 6.5 or more food groups per day in 2019, compared to 29% in 2018. Additionally, there is a **more frequent consumption of vitamin A and protein**, yet almost half of the refugees **never consume heme iron, same as in previous years.**
- **Men-headed households are consuming a more diverse diet per day than women-headed households**, where 35% of men-headed families consume 6.5 or more food groups per day (such as dairy products, meat, fish, eggs, and vegetables), compared to only 24% of those headed by women.

Food consumption

- **Food consumption is poorest in Mount Lebanon (35% poor or borderline food consumption) and the North (34%).**
- **Beirut is the only governorate that witnessed an increase in borderline food consumption (25%) in 2019, compared to 22% in 2018.** The food consumption results are also accompanied by a high percentage of households with low dietary diversity of less than 4.5 food groups per day (14%) and the lowest number of meals consumed by adults in the country (2 meals per day).
- By district, **food consumption either increased or stabilized in all districts, except for El Hermel and Jbeil** (where 21-30% of households have poor or borderline food consumption in 2019, as opposed to only 11-20% in 2018).
- Number of meals consumed by adults is stable among Syrians refugees at a national level (2.2 meals per day) but varies by governorate. **The lowest number of meals was consumed in Mount Lebanon and Beirut (2 meals per day).**
- **The number of meals consumed by children decreased,** especially in Baalbek-El Hermel (2.9 in 2019 vs 3.6 in 2018) and the South (2.8 in 2019 vs 3.5 in 2018).

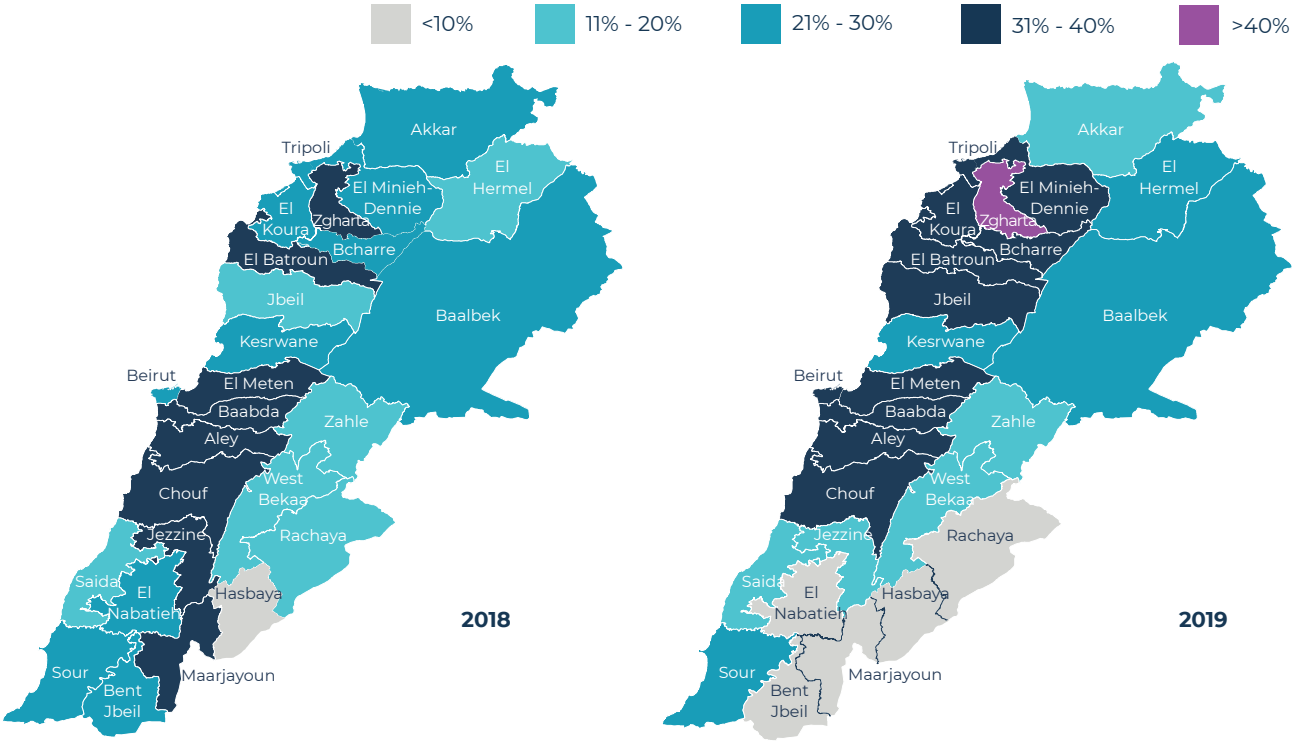
Figure 1: Households with poor and borderline food consumption 2018 and 2019 by governorate



[1] Check Annex 13 for calculation and definition of Food Consumption Score

Food consumption levels of Syrian refugee households in Lebanon have generally improved. In 2019, households with poor or borderline food consumption dropped to 25%, compared to 33% in 2018. A large percentage of assisted households have an acceptable food consumption. For example, 89% of households that received multi-purpose cash assistance of US$ 173 per month and 83% of households that received a WFP e-card have an acceptable food consumption. This clearly indicates the positive impact of WFP assistance on Syrian refugee households' food consumption levels. Poor and borderline food consumption decreased in all households in 2019 compared to 2018 except for Beirut, where poor and borderline food consumption increased from 22% in 2018 to 25% in 2019. In 24 out of the 26 districts in Lebanon, food consumption levels either increased or remained stable. The only exceptions are Jbeil and El Hermel, where the percentage of households with poor or borderline food consumption grew from 11-20% in 2018 to 21-30% in 2019.

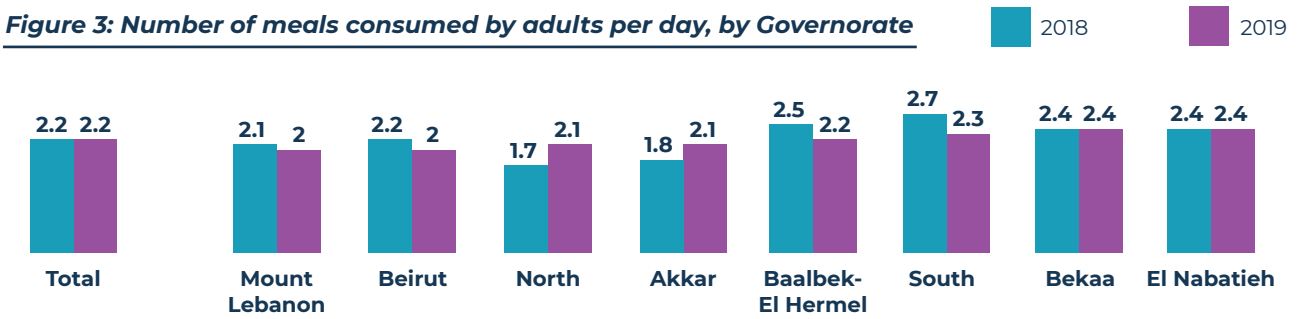
Figure 2: Percentage of households with poor and borderline food consumption



NUMBER OF MEALS

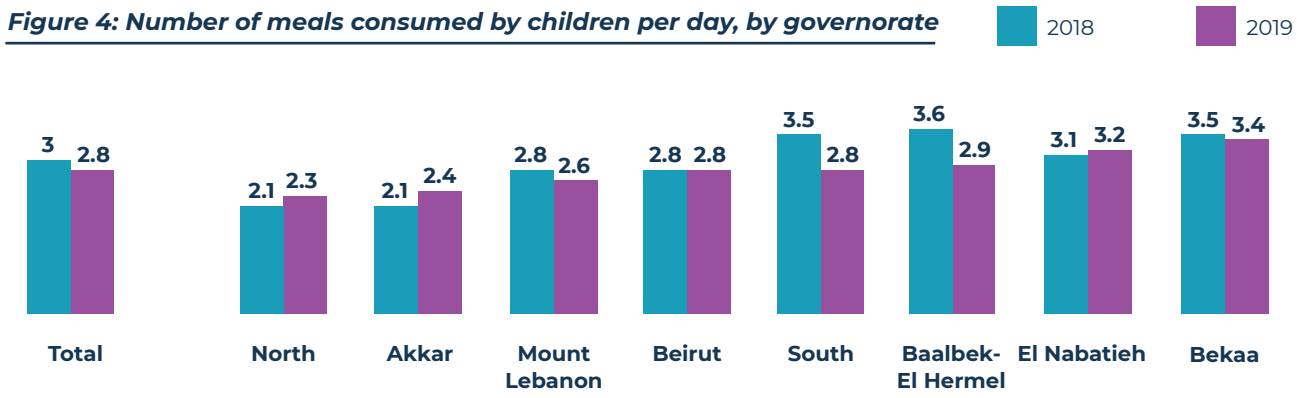
Number of meals consumed by adults remains at 2.2 meals per day in 2019, the same as 2018. However, this figure does not apply in all governorates. For example, households in the North and Akkar are consuming more meals in 2019, Bekaa and El Nabatieh are stable, and households in the South and Baalbek-El Hermel are consuming less meals per day in 2019. It is also worth noting that households living in non-permanent shelters are consuming more meals than those living in non-residential or residential shelters (2.1 meals each).

Figure 3: Number of meals consumed by adults per day, by Governorate



In 2019, children are consuming less meals per day with average 2.8 compared with 3 meals per day in 2018. This decline is strongly pronounced in Baalbek-El Hermel (2.9 in 2019 vs 3.6 in 2018) and the South (2.8 in 2019 vs 3.5 in 2018). Children living in non-permanent shelters are consuming 3.2 meals a day, a much higher number than that for children living in residential (2.7 meals) and non-residential shelters (2.5 meals).

Figure 4: Number of meals consumed by children per day, by governorate



DIETARY DIVERSITY[2]

Even though the number of meals mostly declined, dietary diversity increased in 2019. 33% of households consume 6.5 or more food groups daily, compared to only 29% in 2018. On a weekly basis, 74% consume 9 or more food groups, as opposed to 70% in 2018. Overall, households with poor dietary diversity both on a daily and weekly basis decreased nearly by half compared to 2018 (table 3). It is also worth noting that 35% of men-headed households have a good dietary diversity, consuming 6.5 or more food groups per day, compared to only 24% of women-headed households.

Households continue to consume more diversified food, and at the same time poor dietary intake decreased by 3% compared to the past 2 years (9.6 % in 2017, 6.5 in 2018 to 4% in 2019).

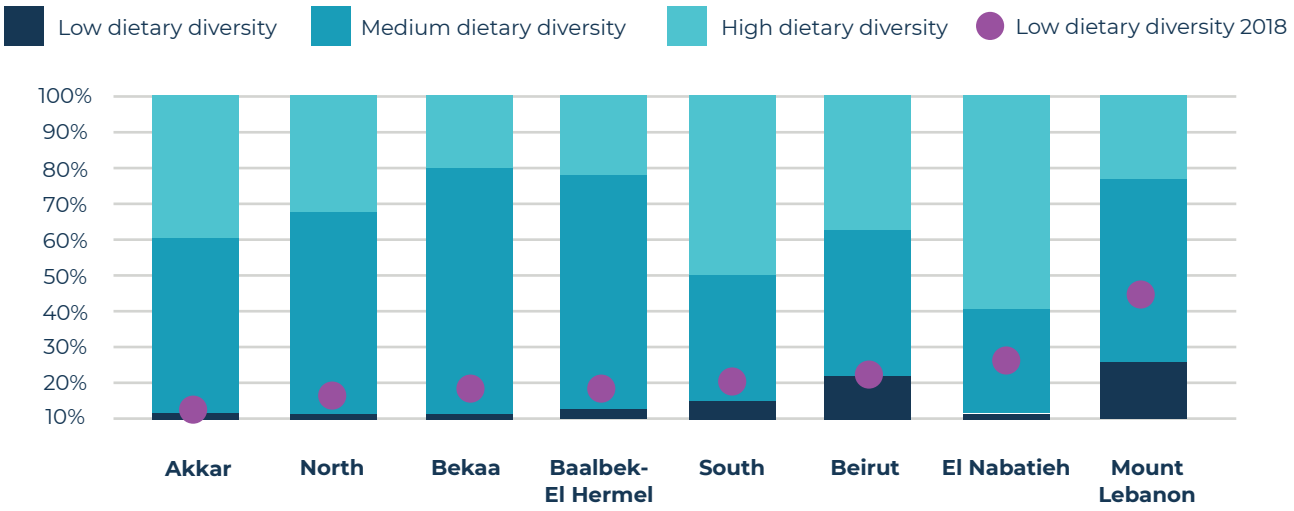
Table 3: HWDD and HDADD groups and mean in 2018 and 2019

	Household Daily Average Diet Diversity (HDADD)	HDADD Category			Household Weekly Diet Diversity (HWDD)	HWDD Category		
	Mean	<4.5 food groups	4.5-6.4 food groups	>=6.5 food groups	Mean	<=6 food groups	7-8 food groups	>=9 food groups
2018	**5.6**	**17%**	**55%**	**29%**	**9.2**	**7%**	**24%**	**70%**
2019	**6.1**	**8%**	**60%**	**33%**	**9.4**	**4%**	**21%**	**74%**

The percentage of households with low dietary diversity consuming less than 4.5 food groups per day in 2019 decreased in all governorates compared to 2018 (figure 5). Households with the highest percentage of low dietary diversity in 2019 are found in Mount Lebanon (19%) and Beirut (14%). The highest percentage of households with a high dietary diversity, i.e. consuming 6.5 or more food groups, is in El Nabatieh (66%) and the South (55%).

[2] Check Annex 14 for the definition and calculation of dietary diversity

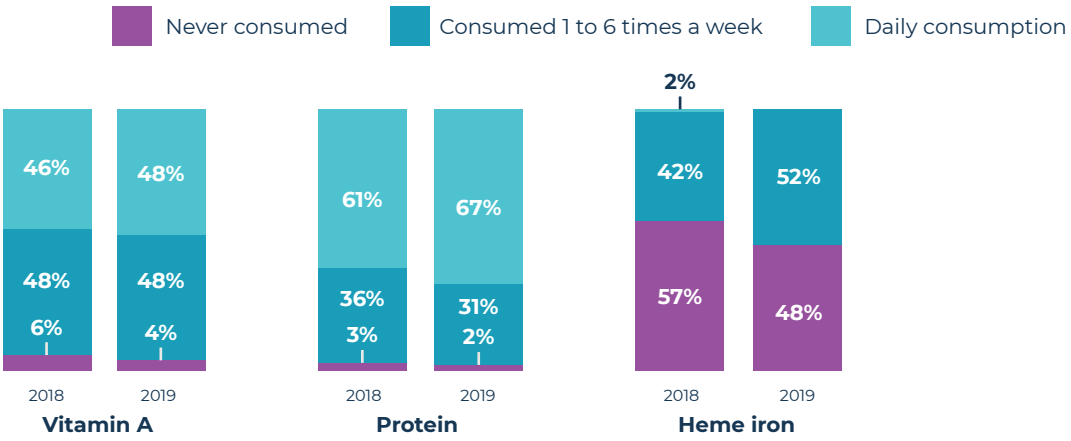
Figure 5: Household daily dietary diversity groups 2018 and 2019, by governorate



FOOD CONSUMPTION SCORE NUTRITION

In terms of key nutrients intake, there is a clear improvement on all fronts, noting that households are consuming vitamin A, protein, and heme iron more frequently in 2019 compared to 2018. For instance, households that consume protein daily increased from 61% in 2018 to 67% in 2019. Additionally, households that consume Vitamin A daily increased from 46% in 2018 to 48% in 2019. In terms of heme iron, daily consumption declined from 1% in 2018 to 0% in 2019, though the percentage of those consuming iron 1 to 6 times a week increased by 10%, from 42% in 2018 to 52% in 2019. The percentage of households that never consumed heme iron decreased from 57% in 2018 to 48% in 2019. This means that half of Syrian refugee households are still at risk of developing anaemia. The percentage of households that never consume any of the three key nutrients (vitamin A, protein, and heme iron) have declined. From the gender perspective, men-headed households consume more commonly vitamin A (51%) protein (69%) and heme iron (0.3%) compared to women-headed households (37%, 59%, and 0% respectively). Daily consumption of the three key nutrients is most commonly found in El Nabatieh (77% vitamin A, 90% protein, and 1.2% heme iron).

Figure 6: Food consumption nutrition score categories 2018-2019



Annex 13: Food consumption score

The food consumption score (FCS) is based on dietary diversity (number of food groups consumed by households during the seven days prior to the survey), food frequency (number of days on which each food group is consumed during the seven days prior to the survey) and the relative nutritional importance of each food group. A weight was attributed to each food group according to its nutrient density. The food consumption score is calculated by multiplying the frequency of consumption of each food group (maximum of seven if a food group was consumed every day) by each food group weight and then averaging these scores.

Food groups	Weight	Justification
Main staples	2	Energy dense/usually eaten in large quantities, protein content lower and poorer quality (lower protein energy ratio, or PER) than legumes, micronutrients (bounded by phytates).
Pulses and nuts	3	Energy dense, high amounts of protein but of lower quality (PER less) than meats, micronutrients (inhibited by phytates), low fat.
Vegetables	1	Low energy, low protein, no fat, micronutrients.
Fruits	1	Low energy, low protein, no fat, micronutrients.
Meat and fish	4	Highest quality protein, easily absorbable micronutrients (no phytates), energy dense, fat. Even when consumed in small quantities, improvement to the quality of diet are large.
Milk	4	Highest quality protein, micronutrients, vitamin A, energy. However, milk might be consumed only in very small amounts and in that case should be treated as a condiment, needing re-classification in such cases.
Sugar	0.5	Empty calories. Usually consumed in small quantities.
Oil	0.5	Energy dense but usually no other micronutrients. Usually consumed in small quantities.
Condiments	0	These foods are by definition eaten in very small quantities and not considered to have an important impact on overall diet.

The FCS can have a maximum value of 112, implying that each food was consumed every day for the last seven days. Households are then classified into three categories (poor, borderline and acceptable) on the basis of their FCS and standard thresholds. The cut-off points have been set at 28 and 42, as recommended by the WFP Emergency Food Security Assessment Handbook. This is to allow for the fact that oil and sugar are consumed extremely frequently among all households surveyed; the cut-off points have been heightened to avoid distorting the FCSs of those surveyed.

Food Consumption Score Nutrition (FCS-N)

The way in which the FCS is analysed does not explicitly provide information on the main macronutrient (carbohydrate, fat, protein) and micronutrient (vitamins and minerals) adequacy and consequent potential risks of deficiencies of these nutrients, but the data recorded in the FCS module provides enough information to shed light on the consumption of these nutrients.

WFP has developed an analytical method to utilize this data and provide information on specific nutrients – a tool called the FCS-N. While it does not identify individual nutrient intake, the 'food consumption score nutrition quality analysis' fills this gap at the household level, and attempts to improve the link between household food access/consumption and nutritional outcomes.

The analysis looks at how often a household consumed foods rich in a certain nutrient. The thesis of the FCS-N is that although the nutrient, for example Vitamin A, can be obtained from many foods, the number of times a household consumed food particularly rich in this nutrient can be used to assess likely adequacy of that nutrient. The FCS-N analysis is complementary to the standard FCS estimation.

The following two steps illustrate this analytical method using a hypothetical example.

Step 1. Aggregate the individual food groups into nutrient rich food groups. As the purpose of the analysis is to assess nutrient inadequacy by looking at the frequency of consumption of food groups rich in the nutrients of interest, we first need to create the nutrient-rich food groups. This is done by summing up the consumption frequency of the food sub-groups belonging to each nutrient-rich food group, following the FCS module table above:

- Vitamin A rich foods: dairy, organ meat, eggs, orange vegetables, green vegetables and orange fruits. 2. Protein rich foods: pulses, dairy, flesh meat, organ meat, fish and eggs. 3. Hem iron rich foods: flesh meat, organ meat and fish. The first three groups above (Vitamin A, Iron and Protein) are mandatory to be able to perform FCS-N.
- Categorize the Vitamin A rich groups (dairy, organ meat, orange vegetables, green vegetables, orange fruits) and sum up the frequencies of consumption of foods rich in Vitamin A.
- Categorize the protein rich groups (pulses/nuts, dairy, meat, organ meat, fish, eggs) and sum up the frequencies of consumption of foods rich in protein.
- Categorize the hem iron rich group (flesh meat, organ meat and fish) and sum up the of consumption of foods rich in hem iron.

Step 2. Build categories of frequency of food consumption groups. Based on the validation tests, frequency groups are classified according to the consumption frequency of:

- Never: 0 day
- Sometimes: 1-6 days
- At least daily: 7 (and/or more) days

For the purposes of analysis, the consumption frequencies of each nutrient rich food group are then recoded into three categories:

- 1 = 0 times (never consumed)
- 2 = 1-6 times (consumed sometimes)
- 3 = 7 times or more (consumed at least daily)

- 2.1 Build the category of frequency of the Vitamin A rich group
- 2.2 Build the category of frequency of the protein rich group
- 2.3 Build the category of frequency of the hem iron rich group

Reference:
https://resources.vam.wfp.org/node/87

Annex 14: Diet diversity annex

Household food access is defined as the ability to acquire a sufficient quality and quantity of food to meet all household members' nutritional requirements for productive lives. Household dietary diversity, defined as the number of unique foods consumed by household members over a given period, has been validated to be a useful proxy for measuring household food access, particularly when resources for undertaking such measurement are scarce.

The number of different foods or food groups eaten over a reference period are recorded (in the VASyR questions were asked about food groups consumed over the 7 days previous to the data collection), without regard to frequency of consumption.

Household weekly diet diversity is equal to the number of food groups consumed over the previous 7 days. Household daily average diet diversity equal to the number of food groups consumed over the previous 24 hours (for this assessment, the number of food groups consumed was divided by 7 to determine equivalency for one day).

For a better reflection of diet quality, the calculation is based on the number of different food groups consumed and not on the number of different foods consumed. The more food groups households consumed, the more diversified the diet is; for example, an average of four different food groups implies that their

diets offer some diversity in both macro- and micronutrients. This is a more meaningful indicator than knowing that households consume four different foods, which might all be cereals.

The following set of 12 food groups is used to calculate the household dietary diversity score (HDDS):[1]

1. Cereals
2. Roots and tubers
3. Vegetables
4. Fruits
5. Meat/poultry/organ meat
6. Eggs
7. Fish and seafood
8. Pulses/legumes/nuts
9. Milk and milk products
10. Oils/fats
11. Sugar/honey
12. Miscellaneous

Key concerns: The dietary diversity score does not take into account the nutrient value of food items eaten. The questionnaire should properly account for food items consumed in very small quantities. For instance, if a spoon of fish powder is added to the pot, this should be treated as a condiment rather than a day's consumption of fish. The same is true for a teaspoon of milk in tea.

Reporting: Mean dietary diversity score; compare mean between different groups.

Descriptive procedure: compare means; descriptive statistics.

Interpretation: Dietary diversity is positively linked with adequacy of food intake. Hence, a smaller value indicates poor quality of diet.

For a detailed discussion on the dietary diversity indicator, see the following websites:
- **http://www.fantaproject.org/downloads/pdfs/HDDS_v2_Sep06.pdf.**
- **http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/manual_guide_proced/wfp203208.pdf**

[1]This set of food groups is derived from the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization Food Composition Table for Africa. Rome, Italy, 1970. **[www.fao.org/docrep/003/X6877E/X6877E00.htm]** For a more thorough discussion of the differences between measures of dietary diversity from the socioeconomic compared with the nutritional perspective, see Ruel, Marie. Is Dietary Diversity an Indicator of Food Security or Dietary Quality? A Review of Measurement Issues and Research Needs. FCND Discussion Paper 140, International Food Policy Research Institute, Washington, DC. 2002. **[www.ifpri.org/divs/fcnd/dp/papers/fcndp140.pdf]**

Annex 15: Food consumption

	Number of meals consumed by adults	Number of meals consumed by children under 5	Food consumption score	Food consumption groups			Household Daily Average Diet Diversity (HDADD)	HDAAD Category			Household Weekly Diet Diversity (HWDD)	HDAAD Category		
	Mean	Mean	Mean	Poor	Borderline	Acceptable	Mean	<4.5 food groups	4.5-6.4 food groups	>=6.5 food groups	Mean	<= 6 food groups	7-8 food groups	>= 9 food groups
Total	2.2	2.8	54.9	5.2%	19.9%	74.9%	6.1	7.6%	59.5%	32.9%	9.4	4.4%	21.2%	74.4%
Governorate														
Akkar	2.1	2.4	58.8	3.3%	15.1%	81.6%	6.5	2.0%	55.0%	42.9%	6.5	4.1%	19.4%	76.5%
Baalbek-El Hermel	2.2	2.9	54.1	2.4%	17.7%	79.9%	6.0	2.9%	72.1%	24.9%	6.0	2.5%	15.7%	81.8%
Beirut	2.0	2.8	57.1	7.7%	17.3%	75.0%	6.1	14.4%	43.7%	41.9%	6.1	4.2%	12.3%	83.5%
Bekaa	2.4	3.4	55.9	.6%	16.4%	83.0%	6.0	1.0%	75.3%	23.7%	6.0	.6%	17.2%	82.3%
El Nabatieh	2.4	3.2	65.8	1.5%	5.0%	93.5%	7.0	2.5%	31.5%	65.9%	7.0	1.9%	7.1%	90.9%
Mount Lebanon	2.0	2.6	51.5	10.7%	24.2%	65.1%	5.7	18.7%	54.9%	26.4%	5.7	8.4%	28.0%	63.6%
North	2.1	2.3	51.5	4.9%	28.9%	66.2%	6.2	3.1%	61.3%	35.6%	6.2	4.2%	24.9%	70.9%
South	2.3	2.8	61.9	5.2%	13.7%	81.1%	6.5	7.1%	37.7%	55.2%	6.5	5.0%	19.6%	75.4%
Expenditure														
>=125% MEB (>=143$)	2.1	2.5	55.0	7.7%	20.7%	71.5%	6.1	10.8%	51.8%	37.4%	6.1	5.7%	21.6%	72.8%
MEB- 125% MEB (114 - 142$)	2.2	2.8	55.6	3.7%	19.8%	76.5%	6.1	7.4%	56.6%	36.0%	6.1	4.3%	19.3%	76.3%
SMEB-MEB (87-113$)	2.2	2.8	56.4	5.6%	15.7%	78.7%	6.2	7.4%	54.9%	37.7%	6.2	3.2%	17.2%	79.6%
< SMEB (87$)	2.2	2.8	54.5	4.2%	21.0%	74.7%	6.0	6.6%	63.7%	29.8%	6.0	4.2%	22.4%	73.4%
Food security classification														
Food secure	2.5	2.9	67.0	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	6.9	1.9%	37.8%	60.3%	6.9	.6%	9.6%	89.8%
Mildly food secure	2.2	2.9	59.8	0.0%	7.1%	92.9%	6.3	3.5%	57.3%	39.2%	6.3	1.2%	15.5%	83.3%
Moderately food secure	1.9	2.5	41.7	15.8%	53.3%	30.9%	5.3	16.9%	70.6%	12.4%	5.3	11.1%	36.4%	52.5%
Severely food secure	1.7	2.7	27.1	76.6%	23.4%	0.0%	4.7	47.5%	52.5%	0.0%	4.7	58.7%	35.6%	5.6%
Gender of the head of household														
Female	2.1	2.8	51.7	6.3%	20.8%	72.8%	5.9	8.2%	68.2%	23.6%	5.9	3.9%	22.6%	73.5%
Male	2.2	2.8	55.7	4.9%	19.7%	75.4%	6.1	7.4%	57.6%	35.0%	6.1	4.5%	20.9%	74.6%
Shelter type														
Non-permanent shelter	2.3	2.7	56.5	3.1%	15.8%	81.0%	6.1	2.9%	67.9%	29.2%	6.1	2.8%	17.0%	80.2%
Non-residential	2.1	2.5	52.6	7.9%	21.0%	71.0%	5.9	8.3%	63.4%	28.3%	5.9	6.4%	28.0%	65.6%
Residential	2.1	3.2	54.8	5.4%	21.0%	73.7%	6.1	8.9%	56.4%	34.7%	6.1	4.6%	21.4%	74.0%

Annex 15: Food consumption

	Vitamin A consumption			Protein consumption			Iron consumption		
	Never consumed	1 to 6 times a week	At least daily	Never consumed	1 to 6 times a week	At least daily	Never consumed	1 to 6 times a week	At least daily
Total	3.6%	48.3%	48.1%	1.6%	30.9%	67.5%	48.0%	51.8%	.4%
Governorate									
Akkar	3.1%	44.8%	52.1%	1.0%	26.0%	73.0%	53.0%	46.6%	.4%
Baalbek-El Hermel	1.1%	60.6%	38.3%	1.0%	31.2%	67.8%	42.7%	57.3%	0.0%
Beirut	1.4%	30.3%	68.3%	1.8%	22.9%	75.4%	35.2%	63.7%	1.1%
Bekaa	.6%	62.7%	36.7%	.3%	30.6%	69.2%	47.3%	52.7%	0.0%
El Nabatieh	.9%	21.9%	77.2%	.5%	9.9%	89.6%	30.9%	67.9%	1.2%
Mount Lebanon	5.0%	41.3%	53.7%	2.9%	31.6%	65.6%	50.0%	49.7%	.3%
North	8.0%	56.5%	35.5%	2.0%	44.3%	53.7%	51.6%	48.4%	0.0%
South	4.4%	25.4%	70.2%	1.6%	23.3%	75.0%	49.5%	50.2%	.2%
Expenditure									
>=125% MEB (>=143US$)	3.7%	44.1%	52.1%	2.6%	30.2%	67.2%	42.0%	57.7%	.4%
MEB- 125% MEB (114 - 142US$)	5.1%	42.5%	52.5%	2.1%	26.6%	71.2%	37.0%	62.6%	.4%
SMEB-MEB (87-113US$)	4.5%	45.7%	49.8%	1.1%	28.8%	70.1%	45.3%	54.2%	.5%
< SMEB (87US$)	2.9%	51.2%	45.9%	1.2%	32.4%	66.5%	51.9%	48.0%	.1%
Food security classification									
Food secure	.1%	23.7%	76.1%	0.0%	5.0%	95.0%	21.4%	77.9%	.8%
Mildly food insecure	.4%	42.3%	57.3%	0.0%	17.5%	82.5%	42.0%	57.7%	.3%
Moderately food insecure	10.4%	68.2%	21.4%	4.7%	66.4%	28.9%	67.2%	32.8%	0.0%
Severely food insecure	39.8%	54.6%	5.6%	28.9%	65.5%	5.6%	92.1%	7.9%	0.0%
Gender of the head of household									
Female	3.8%	58.9%	37.3%	1.5%	39.2%	59.3%	53.7%	46.2%	.0%
Male	3.5%	45.9%	50.5%	1.6%	29.1%	69.3%	46.7%	53.0%	.3%
Shelter type									
Non-permanent shelter	2.1%	55.3%	42.5%	.7%	28.5%	70.8%	48.6%	51.2%	.2%
Non-residential	4.7%	50.4%	44.8%	2.9%	33.6%	63.5%	54.7%	45.3%	0.0%
Residential	3.9%	45.8%	50.3%	1.6%	31.2%	67.1%	46.7%	53.0%	.3%

ECONOMIC VULNERABILITY

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The chapter describes the economic vulnerability of Syrian refugee households in Lebanon. For the purpose of this analysis, several dimensions are taken into account: composition and amount of expenditures, Survival and Minimum Expenditures Basket (S)MEB, and debt.

KEY FINDINGS

- **The average monthly per capita expenditure decreased from US$ 111 in 2018 to US$ 105 in 2019.** This is a 5% decline or an average decrease of $6 in monetary terms, which indicates a decline in Syrian refugees' access to resources. This decline is pronounced in the **share of expenditure in rent (15% in 2019 vs 20% in 2018).**
- **The percentage of Syrian refugees spending less than US$ 2.90 a day (< SMEB) has increased from 51% in 2018 to 55% in 2019.** 73% are spending less than US$ 3.80 a day in 2019, compared to 68% in 2018, which indicates that **Syrian refugees are becoming more economically vulnerable.**
- **The average level of debt per household has been increasing by nearly US$ 100 over the last few years** (US$ 919 in 2017, US$ 1,015 in 2018, and reaching US$ 1,115 in 2019) showing that Syrian refugee households continue to lack enough resources to cover their essential needs. **9 out 10 households are in debt**, an increase of 5% compared to last year.
- Main reasons for borrowing remain the same throughout the years where **food (75%), rent (51%), and health care payments (34%) are at the forefront of reasons.** More people are borrowing to buy medicine (33% in 2019 vs 23% in 2018) and repay debts (6% in 2019 vs 3% in 2018). More men-headed households are borrowing to buy food (76% vs 71% for women) and pay rent (52% vs 47% for women) while more women-headed households are borrowing to pay for health (33% vs 39% for women) and buy medicine (31% vs 40% for women). **Friends in Lebanon are still the main source of borrowing in 2019 (73%), followed by borrowing from supermarkets (48%).**

Employment: number of working-age individuals (15+ years old) who have worked during the past seven days for at least one hour.
Unemployment: number of working-age individuals (15+ years old) who were not employed during the past seven days for at least one hour, who are available to work, and who have sought work in the last 30 days[1].
Labour Force: Sum of employed and unemployed working-age individuals.

[1]The question on availability to work was asked with regard to the previous 30 days. It is, therefore, assumed that individuals available to work in the previous 30 days were available to work in the previous 7 days

Employment-to-Population Ratio (LPR): the proportion of a country's working-age population that is employed.
Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) = (employed population + unemployed population) / total population aged 15+.

- Age Disaggregation of individuals who worked in the seven days prior to the survey:
- Working-age Population: individuals aged 15+
- Working-age Adults: individuals aged 25+
- Working Youth: individuals aged 15-24
- Working Children: children aged 5-17

An increasing number of Syrian refugees is falling below the poverty and severe poverty line in 2019 (Figure 1). In 2019, 55% of refugees are living below the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) of US$ 87 per person per month, which means that these individuals are unable to meet their survival needs for food, health and shelter. In terms of the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB), representing the poverty line, 73% of Syrian refugee households remain below this line.

SURVIVAL AND MINIMUM EXPENDITURE BASKET

The Minimum Expenditures Basket (MEB) is an indicator of the cost of the food and non-food items needed by a Syrian refugee household of five members over a one-month period[1].

Figure 1: Households below S/MEB 2015-2019

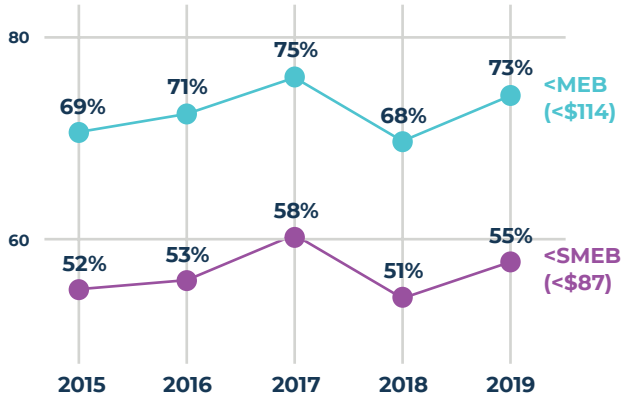


Figure 2: Percentage of households below SMEB by governorate

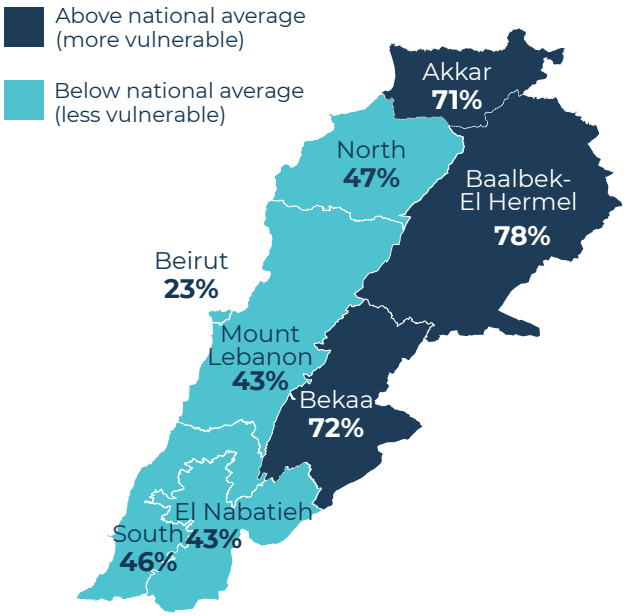
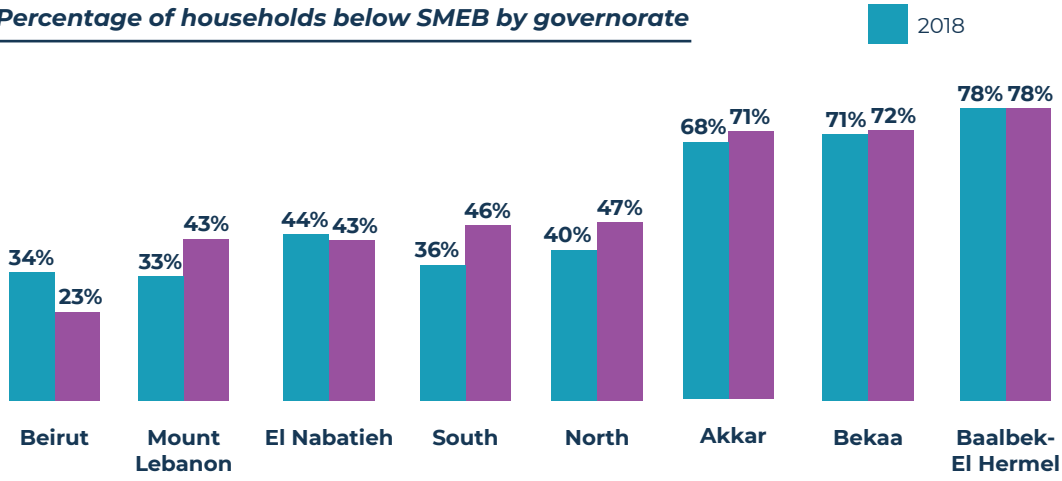


Figure 3: Percentage of households below SMEB by governorate



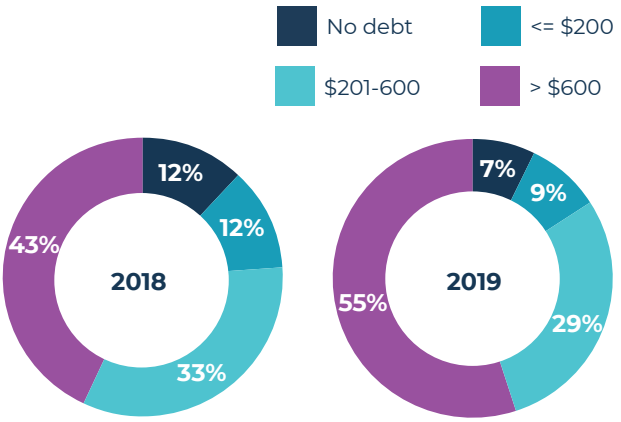
At the governorate level, the highest concentration of economically vulnerable Syrian refugee households is found in Baalbek-El Hermel (78%), followed by Bekaa (72%) and Akkar (71%). The percentage of households falling under SMEB increased in 2019, especially in the North (47% in 2019 vs 40% in 2018), followed by the South (46% in 2019 vs 36% in 2018), and Mount Lebanon (43% in 2019 vs 33% in 2018). Beirut is the only governorate where the share of households falling under SMEB is decreasing : only 23% are living below SMEB in 2019, compared to 34% in 2018. The percentage of households with working members is the highest in Beirut and has increased by 9% compared to 2018. The lowest percentage of households with working members is in Baalbek-El Hermel, with only 30%.

[1] Annex 16 describes the composition of the (S)MEB as well as the methodology used to determine it

DEBT AND BORROWING MONEY

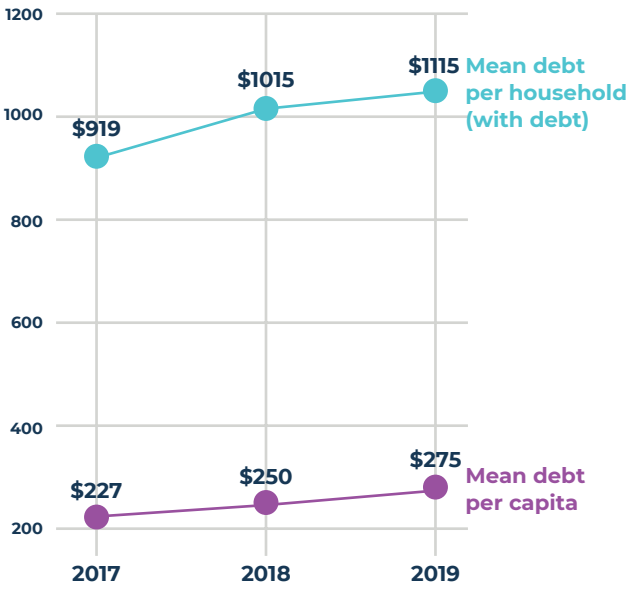
Debt: current amount of accumulated debt that households have from receiving credit or borrowing money.
Borrowing: households that borrowed money or received credit in the three months prior to the survey.

Figure 3: Debt category 2018-2019



Syrian refugee households are getting further in debt through the last several years with increasing amounts. The proportion of households that are in debt with over US$ 600 has increased dramatically, reaching 55% in 2019 compared to 43% in 2018. Overall, nearly 93% of households are in debt, an increase of 5% compared to last year.

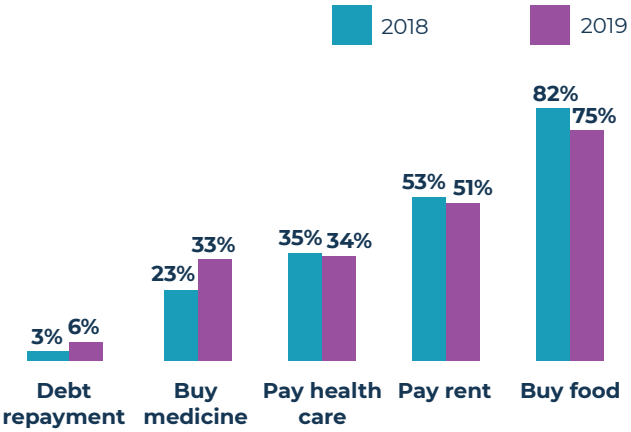
Figure 4: Mean debt per households and per capita 2017-2019



The average amount of debt per capita has been at a constant increase where it reached US$ 275 per capita, a 10% increase from last year. The highest average amount of debt per capita is found in Beirut (US$ 375) and Mount Lebanon (US$ 326), while the highest per household is found in El Nabatieh (US$ 1336) and Bekaa (US$ 1263).

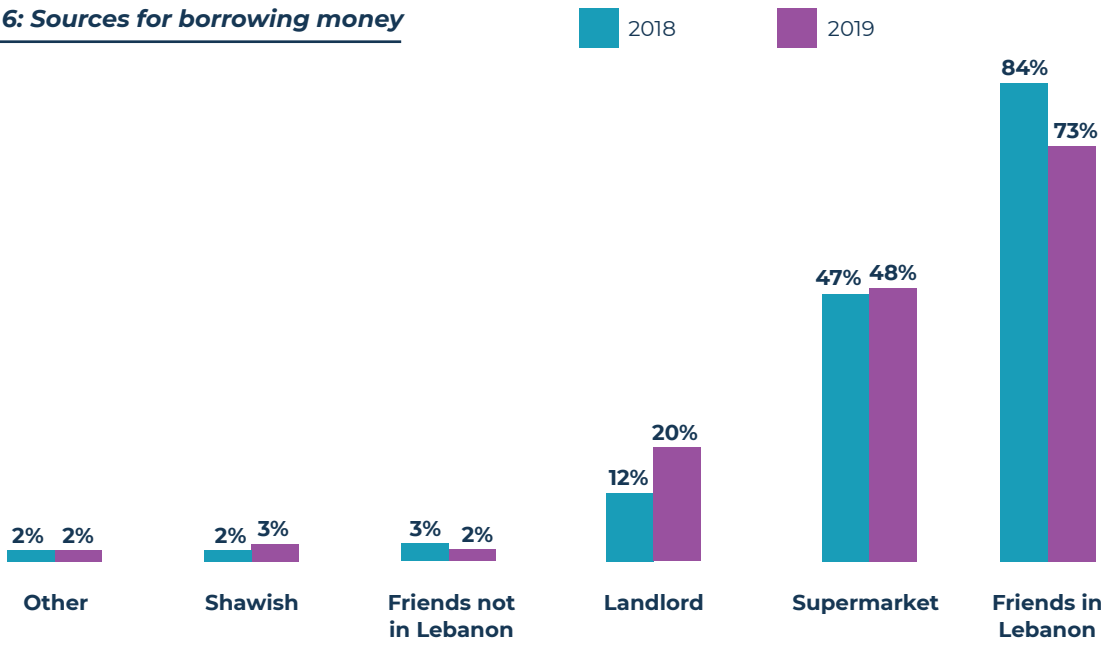
REASONS FOR BORROWING

Figure 5: Main reasons for borrowing money 2018-2019



There has been a decline in the percentage of households reporting the top reasons for borrowing money from 2018 to 2019: borrowing money for food (82% in 2018 vs 75% in 2019) and paying for rent (53% in 2018 vs 51% in 2019).These remain the top reasons, followed by healthcare (34%). It is worth noting that buying medicine (33%) has increased by an extra 10% in 2019, while debt repayment (6%) has doubled since 2018.

Figure 6: Sources for borrowing money

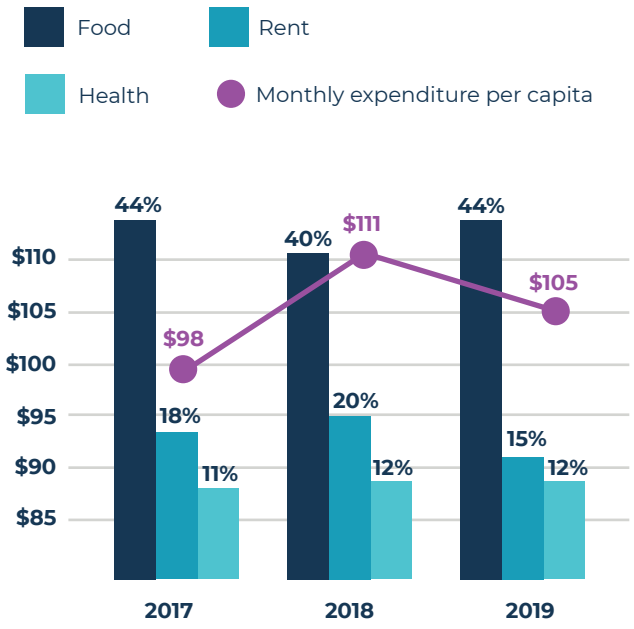


When asked about sources for borrowing money, the majority of households mentioned friends in Lebanon (73%) as the primary source. The second most prominent source mentioned is borrowing from a grocery store (48%), similar to the previous year.

EXPENDITURES

Even though expenditure patterns remain similar throughout the years, data shows that overall monthly per capita expenditure has declined in 2019 by an average of 5%, compared to 2018. Data also demonstrates a decline in rent expenditure per capita. This can be explained by the decline in average rental prices in 2019 in residential shelters (from US$ 221 in 2018 to US$ 213 in 2019). When it comes to food expenditure patterns, the most purchased items for Syrian refugees continue to be bread and pasta (24%) followed by fruits and vegetables (15%) and dairy products (10%).

Figure 7: Monthly expenditure per capita



CHARACTERISTICS OF ECONOMIC VULNERABILITY:

Expenditure profiles were analyzed in comparison with sector indicators to describe the characteristics of households, that are defined as the most socioeconomically vulnerable and also fall below the SMEB/MEB thresholds.

Debt: A higher percentage of households under the SMEB are in debt (96% vs 83% in 2018). Amounts borrowed also increased in 2019, compared to 2018 for all MEB/SMEB categories.

Reason for borrowing: Economically vulnerable households are mostly borrowing to purchase food (79%) and pay rent (51%).

Shelter: Similar to 2018, households under the SMEB are more likely to live in non-permanent residences.

Food security: Households under the SMEB are more likely to be moderately or severely food insecure.

Working members: The percentage of households with working members has decreased in 2019, compared to 2018. Only 54% of households under the SMEB, versus 61% in 2018 have working members. This trend also applies on all MEB/SMEB categories.

Coping strategies: Economically vulnerable households are more likely to adopt crisis and emergency coping strategies than non-vulnerable households.

Demographics: As in 2018, households under the SMEB are larger households, compared to other expenditure groups. They also have more dependents and are more likely to have disabled or chronically ill members. Women-headed households are more economically vulnerable than men-headed ones (63% vs 53%).

Voices from the field

This box summarises discussions about the results of VASyR 2019 held in all field offices. It is based on the contextual knowledge of key actors in the field, as opposed to quantitative data.

VASyR discussions participants emphasized that difficulties in finding jobs are linked to the increase in restrictive measures, including, but not limited to, the closure of shops run by- or employing Syrians. Low employment rates were also said to be influenced by challenges in obtaining legal residency, which also restrict the mobility of job seekers.

The slow-down of the construction sector, which is one of the sectors refugees are permitted to seek employment, was deemed to be another hindering factor for securing refugee livelihoods. The restrictions on access to jobs for Syrians were viewed as an important factor contributing to the increased vulnerability of refugees.

Increasing poverty levels were said to be linked to evictions and eviction threats, as these typically occur due to the inability to pay rent. Such trends highlight rising precariousness, as refugees often have few relocation options open to them upon being evicted.

Competition for jobs, as well as rising debt, were seen as key sources of community tensions.

Higher income rates in Beirut were being linked to greater availability of jobs, as well as a higher access to legal residency in this area. Nonetheless, higher earnings in Beirut must be viewed in relation to the higher cost of living, particularly rental costs, in this region. In Akkar, one of the most economically vulnerable regions, participants noted the stark increase in debt, not matched by a comparably high increase in economic vulnerability, which could imply an accumulation of debt due to the need to pay for expensive services, such as hospital care.

Table 4: Economic vulnerability groups by sectors indicators

	>=125% MEB (>=143 US$)	MEB - 125% MEB (114-142US$)	SMEB - MEB (87-113US$)	< SMEB (87US$)
Debt and borrowing				
Borrowed money	**85.3%**	**90.1%**	**93.1%**	**95.7%**
Debt per household (mean US$ for households with debt)	1294	1359	1123	1026
Debt group: US$ 600	48.9%	52%	56.3%	57.1%
Reason for borrowing:				
to buy food	63.9%	72.1%	75.8%	79.4%
to pay rent	49.4%	53.3%	52.5%	50.6%
to cover health expenses	25.1%	30.2%	38.3%	36.6%
to buy medicine	22.3%	27.9%	32.7%	37.2%
Shelter				
Non-permanent	**8.3%**	**11.3%**	**15.2%**	**26.6%**
Non-residential	9.5%	10.5%	9.5%	12.6%
Residential	**82.2%**	**78.2%**	**75.2%**	**60.8%**
Food security				
Food secure	**20%**	**12.7%**	**8.5%**	**3.6%**
Marginally food secure	57.4%	68.3%	71.1%	61.6%
Moderately food insecure	**22.3%**	**18.6%**	**19.9%**	**34%**
Severely food insecure	0.3%	0.4%	0.5%	0.9%
Working members				
Households with working members	**58.5%**	**56.1%**	**52.7%**	**54%**
Coping strategies				
Crisis and emergency coping	**51.6%**	**61.7%**	**65.9%**	**72.8%**
Demographics				
Household size (mean)	**3.11**	**4.57**	**5.16**	**5.65**
>70% of household members are dependent	4.2%	8%	11.1%	16.1%
Number of members with disability (mean)	**0.10**	**0.14**	**0.13**	**0.16**
Number of members with chronic illness (mean)	0.50	0.63	0.72	0.76
Gender of head of the household				
Women	11.4%	16.9%	15.1%	20.5%
Men	88.6%	83.1%	84.9%	79.5%

Annex 16: Minimum expenditure basket methodology

Methodology

The Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) is based on secondary data on expenditures collected by 17 agencies. The data was consolidated and analysed by Handicap International during the second quarter of 2014. MEB composition was discussed and endorsed by the Cash Working Group after consultation and inputs received from sector working groups.

The expenditures included in the MEB are:

- **Minimum Food Expenditure Basket (MFEB):** MFEB is based on WFP quantities containing 2,100 kcal per day and all required nutrients. In order to calculate it, prices collected by WFP in January 2014 from across Lebanon were analysed.
- **Non-Food Item (NFI):** the NFI package was decided by the NFI Working Group—monthly price monitoring was used to determine the average price for each item. Although only a few organizations are involved in the NFI price monitoring, prices were collected in all regions except Beirut.
- **Clothes:** no minimum requirement for clothes has been agreed upon by the sector lead, therefore this calculation is based on monthly expenditures collected through post-distribution monitoring (PDM).
- **Communication:** the price is based on the minimum requirement per month to keep a phone line active.
- **Rent:** the calculation is based on average rent regardless of the type of shelter in which refugees live, taking into consideration only those refugees actually paying rent. This was agreed upon by the Shelter Sector Working Group.
- **Water:** the calculation is based on the SPHERE standard of 35 liters of water per day per individual, then multiplied by the cost of trucked water service. This was agreed upon by the WASH Sector Group.
- **Transportation:** no minimum requirement for transportation was agreed, thus the calculation is based on monthly expenditures collected through PDM.
- **Health:** the calculation was determined by agreement in the Health Sector Working Group. Adults will make two medical visits per year in addition to drugs and diagnostic tests, at a cost of US$ 16 per year per person. Children under the age of five will make four medical visits per year at a cost of US$ 33 per year per child. It was assumed that a household was comprised of two adults, one child over five years of age and two children under five.
- **Education:** no feedback was received from the education sector, therefore the calculation is based on expenditures collected through PDM.

Extra expenditures:

There were additional expenditures that required special attention from the humanitarian agencies who are providing assistance to Syrian refugees, such as legalization of stay in Lebanon. All Syrian refugees who arrived in Lebanon in 2013 had to renew their visa every six months (renewable once for no fee); in order to do so every individual over 15 years old was required to pay US$ 200. An average of two people per household had to legalize their visa in 2014, thus every household required an additional US$ 400 in assistance.

Regarding winterization, it was agreed that petrol would be the only additional cost for the household as distribution of stoves and high-quality thermal blankets has occurred and newcomers will receive this assistance.

Limitations

- The data was collected in different timeframes, therefore the MEB is not perfectly accurate.
- Some expenditures could not be disaggregated which makes it difficult to understand what they are incorporating.
- There was no harmonized methodology for the collection or calculation of expenditures.

Survival Expenditure Basket

Based on the MEB, a survival expenditure basket was calculated which includes all the survival basic items needed by the households, which are:

- **Food:** based on the 2,100 kcal per day, same as the MEB, excluding the cost corresponding to 100% of the nutrients needed.
- **NFI:** the package remains the same as included in the MEB.
- **Clothes:** same package as MEB.
- **Communication:** same package as MEB.

- **Rent:** Average rent for refugees staying in informal tented settlements.
- **Water:** calculated based on 15 liters per day per person.
- **Transportation:** same package as MEB.
- **Loan refund:** based on average collected through field visit.

	Products	Quantity per capita	Quantity per HH	Cost in LBP	Cost in US$	Comments
	Ration per month in grams					
Food basket	Lemon	900		982	1	Minimum Food Expenditure Basket per HH with WFP ration to meet nutrient needs + 2100 kcal/month
	Lettuce	1,950		4,608	3	
	Egg	600		2,331	2	
	Bread	2,100		3,590	2	
	Milk powder	600		8,533	6	
	Egyptian rice	3,000		5,531	4	
	Spaghetti	1,500		3,664	2	
	Bulgur wheat	3,900		6,705	4	
	Canned meat	1,140		10,275	7	
	Vegetable oil	990		2,623	2	
	Sugar	1,500		1,993	1	
	Lentils	1,800		4,208	3	
	Iodized salt	150		76	0	
Total food expenditures per person				**55,120**	**37**	
Total food expenditures per household				**275,599**	**184**	
Non-food items (CWG)	**Prices collected by Cash Working Group (CWG) actors**					
	Toilet paper		4 rolls/packet	1,233	1	Quantities harmonized by the NFI Working Group. Minimum NFI required.
	Toothpaste		2 tubes/75ml	4,132	3	
	Laundry soap/ detergent		900gr	4,073	3	
	Liquid dish detergent		750ml	2,479	2	
	Sanitary napkins		3 packets of 20 pads per packet	8,052	5	
	Individual soap		5 pieces of 125g	2,462	2	
	Hypoallergenic soap		125g per bar	1,298	1	
	Disinfectant fluid		500ml	3,892	3	
	Shampoo		500ml	4,023	3	
	Diapers		90 per packet	14,599	10	
	Cooking gas		1kg	2,733	2	
Total NFI expenditures				**48,976**	**33**	

	Products	Quantity per capita	Quantity per HH	Cost in LBP	Cost in US$	Comments
	Based on household surveys					
Other NFI	Clothes		per month	37,050	25	Based on average expenditures collected through PDM.
	Communications cost		per month	34,095	23	Minimum needed per month to keep the phone active.
	Shelter – Rent		per month	290,075	193	Average rent regardless of shelter type. Weighted according to % of population residing in shelter.
	WASH –Water supply		per month	71,250	48	Monthly cost of water per HH in normal situation, 35 LL/ person/day according to normal standard.
	Services – Transportation		per month	40,375	27	Based on average expenditures collected through PDM.
	Services – Health		per month	14,250	10	According to health sector, adults will do 2 medical visits per year+ drugs and diagnostic tests which cost US$ 16 per year per adult. Children <5 will do 4 medical visits per year which cost US$ 33 per year/child. The assumption was made that a HH was comprised of 2 adults, 1 child > 5 years and 2 children <5 years. Calculation: (16X3+33X2)/12
	Services – Education		per month	45,4878	30	Based on average expenditures collected through PDM.
Total MEB				**857,158**	**571**	

Annex 17: (S)MEB breakdown, poverty line and debt

	Household MEB/SMEB categories				Poverty line per capita per day	Debt categories			
	>=125% MEB (>=143US$)	MEB- 125% MEB (114 - 142US$)	SMEB-MEB (87-113US$)	< SMEB (87US$)	Below poverty line <3.84US$	No debt	Debt group: <=200 US$	Debt group: 201-600 US$	Debt group: >600 US$
Total	17.2%	9.8%	18%	55%	73.5%	7.3%	8.7%	29.0%	55.0%
Governorate									
Akkar	7.9%	5.3%	15.9%	70.9%	87.0%	7.4%	14.5%	35.6%	42.5%
Baalbek-El Hermel	5.6%	5.9%	11.0%	77.5%	88.9%	1.7%	7.9%	36.4%	54.0%
Beirut	45.6%	14.3%	16.6%	23.5%	40.5%	22.1%	19.5%	24.7%	33.8%
Bekaa	6.5%	4.8%	17.1%	71.6%	88.9%	2.3%	3.3%	19.2%	75.2%
El Nabatieh	15.1%	14.0%	28.2%	42.6%	72.2%	4.8%	5.6%	26.9%	62.8%
Mount Lebanon	27.4%	12.7%	16.9%	42.9%	60.5%	11.7%	10.1%	31.2%	47.1%
North	18.6%	11.7%	22.4%	47.3%	70.3%	7.5%	6.9%	29.5%	56.0%
South	17.8%	13.2%	22.5%	46.4%	69.6%	6.1%	13.1%	29.9%	51.0%
Expenditure									
>=125% MEB (>=143US$)	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	14.7%	9.5%	26.9%	48.9%
MEB- 125% MEB (114 - 142US$)	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	5.2%	9.9%	7.9%	30.2%	52.0%
SMEB-MEB (87-113US$)	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	100.0%	6.9%	10.2%	26.6%	56.3%
< SMEB (87US$)	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%	4.3%	8.4%	30.2%	57.1%
Food security classification									
Food secure	40.8%	15.1%	18.6%	25.4%	45.4%	27.2%	11.0%	26.9%	34.9%
Mild food insecurity	14.8%	10.3%	19.6%	55.4%	75.7%	5.4%	8.0%	29.2%	57.4%
Moderate food insecurity	12.9%	6.3%	12.3%	68.5%	81.7%	5.0%	9.1%	29.2%	56.8%
Severe food insecurity	7.5%	5.3%	12.3%	74.9%	93.9%	11.1%	2.7%	26.5%	59.8%
Gender of the head of household									
Female	10.8%	9.9%	16.1%	63.2%	80.0%	9.4%	13.7%	35.8%	41.2%
Male	18.6%	9.8%	18.4%	53.3%	72.2%	6.8%	7.7%	27.5%	58.1%
Shelter type									
Non-permanent shelter	7.0%	5.6%	14.1%	73.2%	87.7%	1.6%	5.2%	24.9%	68.3%
Non-residential	14.5%	8.2%	15.0%	62.3%	77.4%	11.6%	10.2%	30.6%	47.6%
Residential	20.6%	11.2%	19.6%	48.6%	68.9%	8.3%	9.6%	29.9%	52.3%

Annex 18: Debt per household and per capita, and households borrowing money

	Debt per household and per capita (Mean)				Households that borrowed money in the past 3 months (%)
	Debt per household (all households)	Debt per capita (all households)	Debt per household (only households with debt)	Debt per capita (only households with debt)	Yes
Total	1034	255	1115	275	86.2%
Governorate					
Akkar	725	183	782	197	87.5%
Baalbek-El Hermel	868	204	883	207	81.1%
Beirut	905	292	1161	375	71.0%
Bekaa	1235	292	1263	299	93.5%
El Nabatieh	1272	251	1336	264	93.1%
Mount Lebanon	1021	288	1156	326	81.5%
North	1047	235	1132	254	88.5%
South	1057	212	1125	226	87.7%
Expenditure					
>=125% MEB (>=143US$)	1104	449	1294	526	79.2%
MEB- 125% MEB (114 - 142US$)	1224	314	1359	349	87.2%
SMEB-MEB (87-113US$)	1045	232	1123	250	86.8%
< SMEB (87US$)	981	194	1026	203	88.6%
Food security classification					
Food secure	715	193	970	270	69.0%
Mild food insecurity	1064	249	1125	265	89.0%
Moderate food insecurity	1066	280	1126	298	85.7%
Severe food insecurity	1078	301	1080	311	83.5%
Gender of the head of household					
Female	770	228	850	251	81.8%
Male	1092	261	1172	281	87.1%
Shelter type					
Non-permanent shelter	1101	241	1119	245	91.5%
Non-residential	1004	250	1136	283	79.7%
Residential	1019	260	1111	284	85.7%

Annex 19: Monthly expenditure per capita, food expenditure share and expenditure share (monthly average)

	Total expenditures per month per capita in US$	Food expenditure share category				Expenditure share - monthly average								
	Mean	<50%	>=50- 65%	>=65 -75%	>=75%	Food	Health	Education	Rent	Water	Alcohol	Soap and hygiene	Fuel	Transportation
Total	104.6	63.8%	22.5%	8.5%	5.1%	44.1%	11.9%	2.2%	15.4%	3.0%	2.5%	4.1%	1.6%	1.9%
Governorate														
Akkar	81.4	55.4%	26.0%	12.8%	5.7%	48.4%	13.5%	2.1%	9.7%	2.1%	3.2%	5.0%	0.5%	1.6%
Baalbek-El Hermel	72.8	62.6%	21.0%	8.2%	8.2%	45.7%	17.7%	1.2%	9.0%	1.6%	1.4%	2.8%	4.2%	2.2%
Beirut	179.5	80.3%	11.2%	5.4%	3.1%	36.1%	9.1%	2.2%	28.3%	4.3%	2.8%	3.4%	0.1%	1.3%
Bekaa	77.8	61.8%	25.2%	7.8%	5.3%	44.5%	16.5%	2.3%	8.7%	2.4%	1.0%	2.7%	4.3%	3.3%
El Nabatieh	105.8	63.9%	24.1%	9.3%	2.7%	44.3%	11.9%	3.2%	13.1%	2.8%	2.8%	5.6%	1.2%	1.5%
Mount Lebanon	129.3	67.9%	20.2%	8.0%	3.9%	42.0%	7.4%	1.9%	22.7%	4.3%	3.0%	4.4%	0.6%	0.8%
North	108.9	56.0%	26.5%	10.5%	7.0%	47.6%	11.4%	2.0%	15.0%	2.2%	3.3%	4.9%	0.3%	2.3%
South	104.7	73.6%	18.5%	4.4%	3.4%	40.0%	11.3%	3.9%	15.0%	3.2%	3.0%	5.1%	0.8%	2.3%
Expenditure														
>=125% MEB (>=143US$)	244.7	85.1%	9.3%	4.1%	1.6%	34.8%	13.4%	1.2%	25.2%	2.7%	2.7%	3.4%	1.2%	1.9%
MEB- 125% MEB (114 - 142US$)	126.7	82.8%	14.2%	1.5%	1.5%	36.8%	12.2%	2.2%	24.5%	2.7%	2.3%	3.6%	1.3%	1.6%
SMEB-MEB (87-113US$)	99.3	77.2%	16.4%	4.0%	2.4%	39.1%	13.2%	2.6%	19.8%	2.7%	2.3%	4.0%	1.4%	1.8%
< SMEB (87US$)	58.5	49.4%	30.2%	12.6%	7.8%	49.9%	11.0%	2.3%	9.2%	3.2%	2.5%	4.5%	1.9%	1.9%
Food security classification														
Food secure	164.0	96.2%	3.8%	0.0%	0.0%	33.9%	9.8%	2.9%	27.1%	2.2%	2.2%	3.8%	1.9%	1.9%
Mild food insecurity	103.3	70.2%	25.1%	3.6%	1.1%	39.8%	13.9%	2.4%	15.4%	3.1%	2.6%	4.1%	1.9%	2.3%
Moderate food insecurity	91.4	46.0%	20.0%	20.2%	13.8%	49.9%	12.3%	1.7%	10.6%	3.0%	2.3%	4.2%	1.4%	1.8%
Severe food insecurity	70.8	0.0%	4.8%	32.6%	62.6%	78.5%	3.2%	0.5%	0.0%	0.7%	3.2%	4.2%	0.0%	0.3%
Gender of the head of household														
Female	85.7	56.2%	25.3%	9.8%	8.8%	47.5%	13.3%	2.4%	11.7%	2.6%	1.2%	4.4%	2.0%	2.1%
Male	108.5	65.4%	22.0%	8.3%	4.4%	43.4%	11.7%	2.1%	16.1%	3.1%	2.8%	4.1%	1.6%	1.8%
Shelter type														
Non-permanent shelter	77.8	55.0%	30.2%	9.0%	5.7%	47.2%	18.0%	1.5%	4.5%	2.3%	1.8%	3.6%	3.0%	3.0%
Non-residential	99.8	61.9%	18.6%	12.3%	7.1%	46.3%	11.4%	2.4%	14.3%	2.5%	2.9%	3.8%	1.4%	2.0%
Residential	113.0	66.6%	21.0%	7.7%	4.6%	42.8%	10.3%	2.3%	18.6%	3.2%	2.6%	4.3%	1.3%	1.5%

Annex 20: Expenditure share (monthly average)

	Expenditure share - monthly average										
	Clothing	Telecom	Electricity: Electricité du Liban	Electricity: Private generators	Assets	Other	Shelter	Gas	Legal assistance	Entertainment	Debt repayment
Total	0.3%	3.9%	1.8%	3.8%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	2.9%	0.3%	0.0%	1.6%
Governorate											
Akkar	0.6%	3.4%	0.4%	3.9%	0.1%	0.0%	0.3%	3.3%	0.1%	0.0%	2.5%
Baalbek-El Hermel	0.3%	3.4%	1.4%	3.3%	0.0%	0.2%	0.0%	3.1%	0.4%	0.0%	3.7%
Beirut	0.5%	3.9%	2.1%	2.8%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	2.2%	1.4%	0.2%	1.9%
Bekaa	0.4%	3.6%	3.6%	4.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	2.9%	0.1%	0.0%	2.2%
El Nabatieh	0.4%	4.1%	1.6%	3.9%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	2.8%	0.7%	0.0%	0.9%
Mount Lebanon	0.3%	4.6%	1.7%	3.9%	0.0%	0.2%	0.1%	2.6%	0.2%	0.0%	0.9%
North	0.0%	3.7%	1.3%	3.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	3.2%	0.1%	0.0%	0.4%
South	0.6%	3.7%	1.4%	4.8%	0.1%	0.4%	0.3%	2.9%	0.8%	0.0%	1.4%
Expenditure											
>=125% MEB (>=143US$)	0.5%	3.8%	1.8%	3.4%	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%	2.0%	1.0%	0.1%	1.8%
MEB- 125% MEB (114 - 142US$)	0.4%	3.5%	1.8%	3.9%	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%	2.3%	0.3%	0.0%	1.9%
SMEB-MEB (87-113US$)	0.4%	3.5%	1.9%	3.7%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	2.6%	0.3%	0.0%	2.0%
< SMEB (87US$)	0.2%	4.2%	1.9%	4.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	3.4%	0.1%	0.0%	1.3%
Food security classification											
Food secure	0.9%	4.3%	3.7%	1.7%	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	2.4%	0.5%	0.1%	1.5%
Mild food insecurity	0.3%	3.9%	3.9%	2.0%	0.0%	0.2%	0.1%	2.9%	0.3%	0.0%	2.3%
Moderate food insecurity	0.2%	4.4%	3.7%	1.9%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	3.3%	0.1%	0.0%	0.8%
Severe food insecurity	0.0%	2.8%	6.2%	1.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Gender of the head of household											
Female	0.7%	3.5%	1.6%	3.3%	0.1%	0.0%	0.2%	3.4%	0.1%	0.0%	1.4%
Male	0.3%	4.0%	1.9%	3.9%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	2.8%	0.3%	0.0%	1.6%
Shelter type											
Non-permanent shelter	0.4%	3.3%	2.4%	4.1%	0.0%	0.1%	0.2%	3.4%	0.3%	0.0%	3.2%
Non-residential	0.2%	3.8%	1.7%	4.1%	0.1%	0.3%	0.1%	3.1%	0.2%	0.1%	1.5%
Residential	0.3%	4.1%	1.7%	3.7%	0.0%	0.2%	0.1%	2.7%	0.3%	0.0%	1.2%

COPING STRATEGIES

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This section looks at the range of strategies households adopt to cope with a lack of food and/or the means to buy it. The coping capacity of households is examined through two dimensions: (1) Coping Strategies related to food, which refer to the frequency and severity of adoption of food-related coping behaviours, and (2) Coping Strategies related to livelihood, which describe the adoption of coping mechanisms that affect households' capacity to procure food and/or earn a sustainable income in the medium to long term.

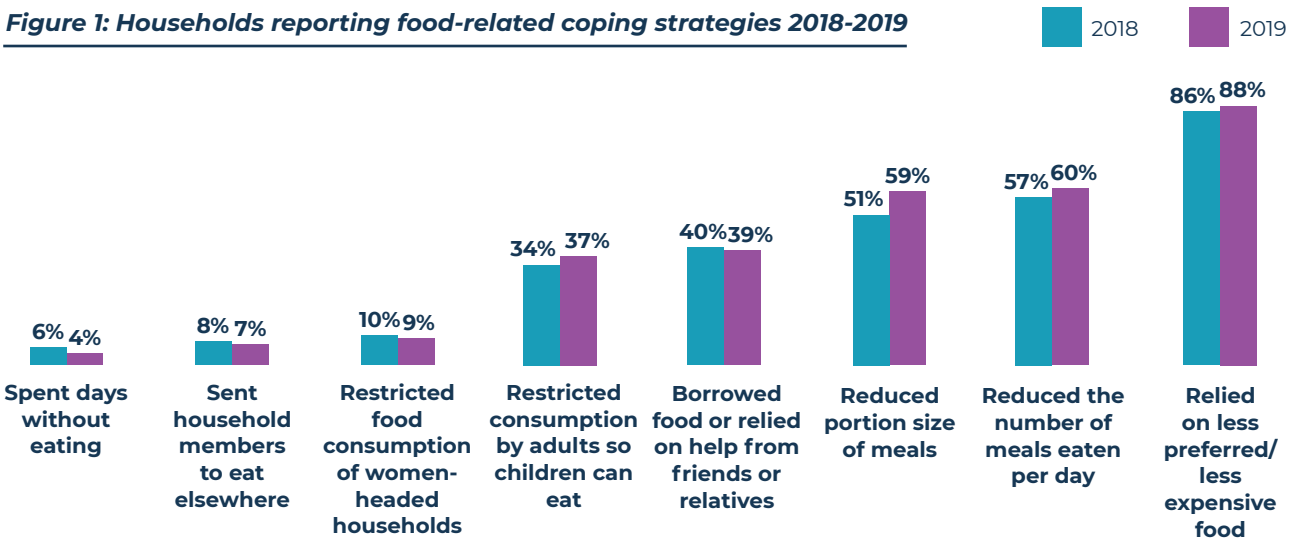
KEY FINDINGS

- Relying on **less preferred/less expensive food, reducing the number of meals eaten per day, reducing the portion size of meals, and restricting consumption by adults so children can eat,** are all food-related strategies that households are increasingly adopting in 2019, compared to 2018, to cope with a lack of food.
- **Households living in the North, El Nabatieh, and Mount Lebanon are adopting more food-related coping strategies in 2019,** compared to 2018. **Households in Beirut and Bekaa are adopting much less food-coping strategies in 2019,** compared to 2018.
- More households are resorting to crisis livelihood-related coping strategies in 2019, especially through **reducing expenditure on health and education and selling productive assets.**
- Level of adoption of crisis and emergency coping strategies **varies widely by district.**

FOOD-RELATED COPING STRATEGIES

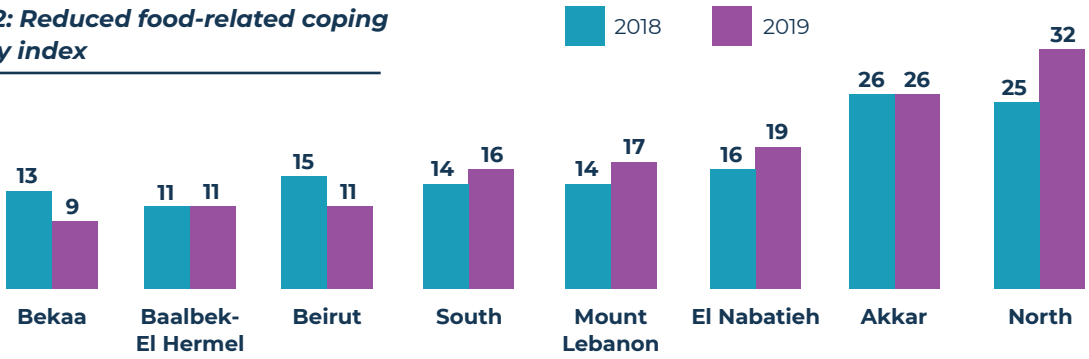
Households find different ways to cope with lack of food. Some of their strategies are food-related, and others are livelihood related. The food related strategies included in the analysis are (1) relying on less preferred or less expensive food, (2) borrowing food or relying on help from friends or relatives, (3) reducing number of meals eaten per day, (4) reducing portion size of meals, (5) restricting consumption by adults so children can eat, (6) restricting food consumption of female head of households, (7) spending days without eating, and (8) sending household members to eat elsewhere. Only the first five strategies are included in the calculation of the reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI).

Figure 1: Households reporting food-related coping strategies 2018-2019



A higher rCSI shows that households adopted more strategies to cope with a lack of food or access to food in the past week. A higher rCSI score also indicates adopting severe strategies more frequently. The most severe strategy is restricting consumption of adults so children can eat more, followed by borrowing food or relying on help from friends and family. There is a high increase in the reduced Coping Strategy Index in the North in 2019 compared to 2018. This increase is due to households in the North restricting consumption of adults so children can eat more frequently in 2019 (64%) versus 51% in 2018.

Figure 2: Reduced food-related coping strategy index

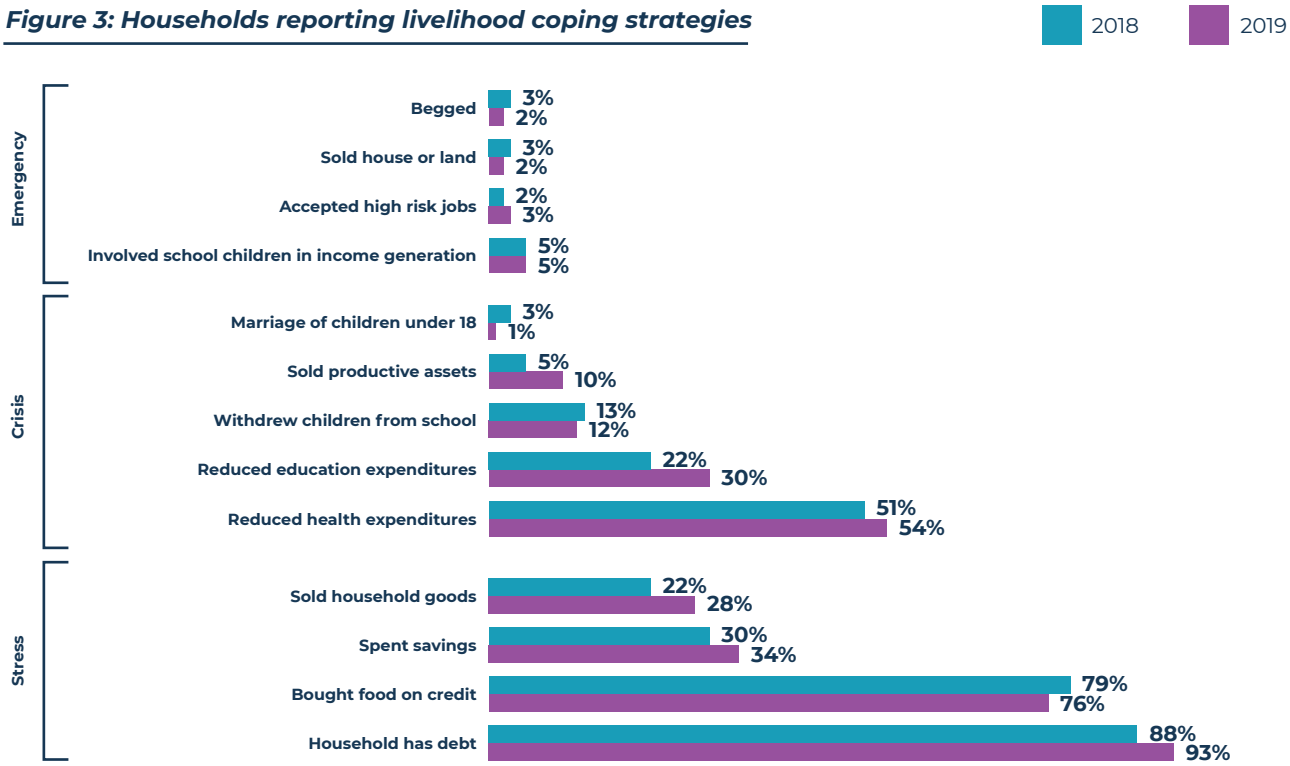


LIVELIHOOD COPING STRATEGIES

97% of households continue to resort to some type of livelihood coping strategy.

Another measure of household's coping capacity is livelihood-based coping strategies (asset depleting coping strategies). These strategies affect a household's longer-term coping capacity. For example, a household that sells a house or sends children to work will have a much lower coping capacity to future shocks than a household that only spent savings to get food. Data shows that households in 2019 have been adopting less emergency coping strategies and much more crisis[1] coping strategies. Specifically, households in 2019 have reduced their education and health expenditure more commonly than in 2018 (figure 3). Additionally, households that sold productive assets in 2019 have doubled since 2018, from 5% to 10%.

Figure 3: Households reporting livelihood coping strategies

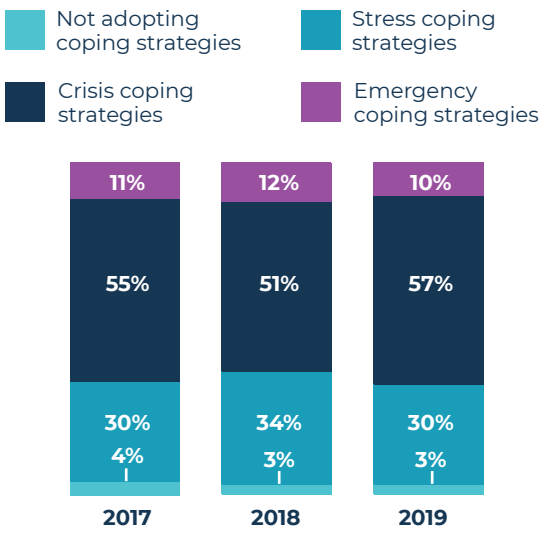


The majority of geographical districts throughout Lebanon have either maintained the same level of severity in terms of their asset depleting coping strategies or have increasingly adopted crisis or emergency coping strategies. The only districts where levels of adopting such extreme strategies have declined are Akkar (from 61-75% in 2018 to 41-60% in 2019), Baalbek (from over 75% in 2018 to 61-75% in 2019), and Jbeil (from 61-75% in 2018 to 41-60% in 2019). It is also worth noting that households living in non-permanent shelters (76%) are adopting more crisis and emergency coping strategies compared to non-residential (68%) and residential shelters (64%). Households spending

[1] Emergency coping strategies are begging, involving school children in income generation, accepting high risk jobs and sold house or land in Syria. Crisis coping strategies: withdrawing children from school, sold productive assets, marriage of children below 18 years, reduce expenditures on education and on health

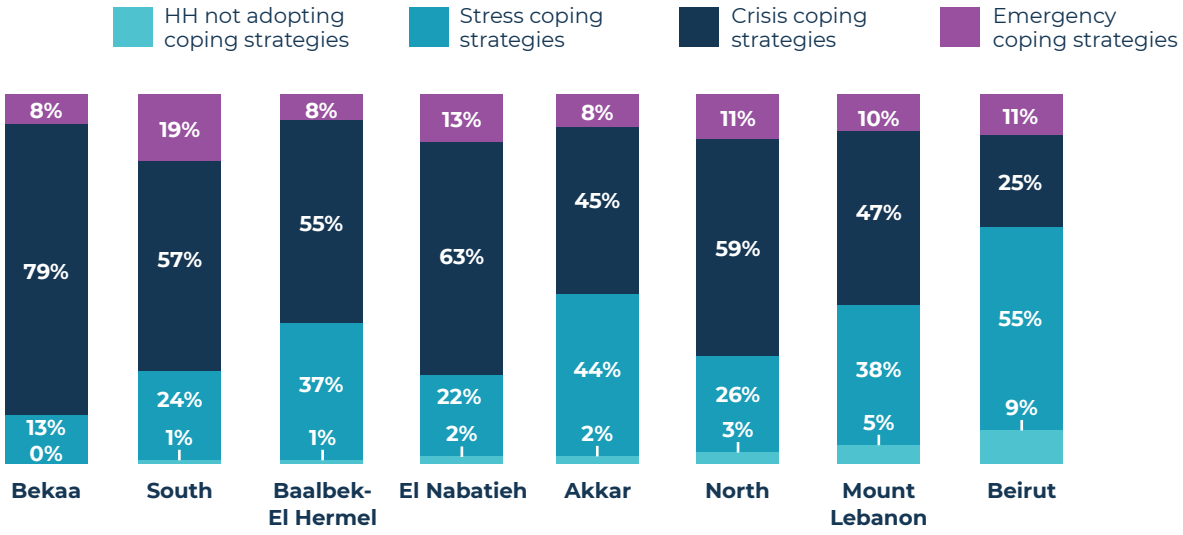
less than the SMEB (US $87 per month) are adopting more extreme coping strategies than less economically vulnerable households that are spending more than the SMEB. For example, 61% of households under SMEB are adopting crisis coping strategies, as opposed to 56% of households spending between SMEB and MEB (US $87 – US $113 per month).

Figure 4: Livelihood coping strategies 2017-2019



The highest percentage of households adopting emergency coping strategies is in the South (19%); including strategies such as accepting high risk, illegal, socially degrading activities (9%) and involving school age children in income generation (8%). The highest percentage of households adopting crisis strategies to cope with the lack of food or lack of money to buy food is in Bekaa (79%). These crisis strategies involve reducing health expenditures (78%), education expenditure (31%) and withdrawing children from school (18%). Additionally, the highest percentage of households adopting stress coping strategies are in Beirut (55%) through accumulating debt (78%), buying food on credit (57%), and

Figure 5: Livelihood based coping strategies by governorate



Voices from the field

This box summarises discussions about the results of VASyR 2019 held in all field offices. It is based on the contextual knowledge of key actors in the field, as opposed to quantitative data.

In Nabatieh, which has the highest rate of children involved in income generation, as well as the highest percentage of children involved in child labour, such coping mechanisms were linked to the deterioration of the economic situation of refugees, as well as plummeting legal residency rates and restrictions on the freedom of movement.

Annex 21: Food related coping strategies

	Food related coping strategies in the last 7 days							
	Restricted food consumption of female head of households	Relied on less preferred/less expensive food	Borrowed food or relied on help from friends or relatives	Reduced the number of meals eaten per day	Reduced portion size of meals	Spent days without eating	Restricted consumption by adults in order of children can eat	Sent household members to eat elsewhere
Total	9.4%	88.2%	38.6%	59.9%	58.6%	4.4%	37.0%	6.8%
Governorate								
Akkar	8.0%	96.7%	20.9%	78.9%	57.1%	2.7%	50.7%	3.3%
Baalbek-El Hermel	18.9%	95.4%	66.4%	61.7%	55.6%	1.4%	29.6%	19.4%
Beirut	5.2%	77.3%	27.9%	52.4%	56.1%	9.3%	24.5%	3.2%
Bekaa	18.8%	92.6%	49.9%	40.8%	49.6%	0.0%	27.8%	10.1%
El Nabatieh	2.1%	90.9%	65.2%	62.9%	71.9%	5.1%	27.3%	4.7%
Mount Lebanon	5.9%	79.5%	30.0%	56.3%	51.2%	7.4%	30.3%	4.3%
North	3.3%	93.7%	26.5%	84.8%	84.3%	3.4%	63.9%	1.6%
South	3.0%	82.2%	39.4%	51.8%	62.8%	11.0%	40.1%	7.7%
Expenditure								
>=125% MEB (>=143US$)	3.2%	78.9%	29.5%	51.5%	49.5%	6.1%	17.9%	3.7%
MEB- 125% MEB (114 - 142US$)	5.6%	82.7%	36.3%	61.2%	55.0%	6.7%	32.5%	4.7%
SMEB-MEB (87-113US$)	7.3%	88.8%	35.3%	57.3%	60.1%	3.1%	38.4%	5.3%
< SMEB (87US$)	12.7%	91.8%	42.1%	62.7%	61.1%	3.9%	43.2%	8.3%
Food security classification								
Food secure	2.0%	54.7%	9.3%	12.8%	12.8%	.6%	4.8%	.7%
Mild food insecurity	9.2%	91.4%	37.9%	59.2%	57.3%	2.4%	35.9%	5.4%
Moderate food insecurity	11.0%	92.2%	48.4%	74.2%	74.0%	7.7%	48.8%	11.4%
Severe food insecurity	16.0%	80.1%	56.7%	80.0%	83.7%	27.5%	39.7%	8.8%
Gender of the head of household								
Female	15.1%	91.4%	52.0%	62.0%	61.6%	4.4%	34.7%	12.5%
Male	8.1%	87.5%	35.7%	59.4%	57.9%	4.4%	37.5%	5.5%
Shelter type								
Non-permanent shelter	15.6%	93.7%	54.1%	55.1%	57.1%	1.7%	35.2%	11.4%
Non-residential	11.3%	89.0%	34.6%	61.2%	57.5%	6.9%	37.0%	7.0%
Residential	7.2%	86.5%	34.8%	61.1%	59.2%	4.8%	37.5%	5.4%

Annex 22: Average number of days food related copings were applied

	Average number of days food related copings were applied							
	Less expensive food	Borrowed food	Reduced meals	Reduced portions	Spent days without food	Restricted consumption by adults	Sent HH members to eat elsewhere	Other
Total	4.5	1.3	2.8	2.7	0.1	1.8	2	2
Governorate								
Akkar	6.4	.8	4.8	3.5	.1	3.3	.1	.4
Baalbek-El Hermel	3.0	1.6	1.5	1.1	.0	.9	.4	.4
Beirut	3.8	.7	1.5	1.8	.2	.9	.1	.1
Bekaa	3.2	1.1	1.0	1.1	0.0	.5	.2	.3
El Nabatieh	4.8	2.6	2.7	3.3	.1	1.1	.1	.1
Mount Lebanon	4.5	1.3	2.7	2.6	.1	1.5	.1	.2
North	6.4	1.0	5.5	5.6	.1	4.3	.1	.2
South	3.8	1.4	2.1	2.7	.2	1.5	.2	.1
Expenditure								
>=125% MEB (>=143US$)	4.3	1.1	2.4	2.4	.1	1.0	.1	.1
MEB- 125% MEB (114 - 142US$)	4.4	1.3	3.1	2.8	.1	1.7	.1	.2
SMEB-MEB (87-113US$)	4.7	1.1	2.8	2.8	.1	1.9	.1	.2
< SMEB (87US$)	4.5	1.3	2.8	2.6	.1	2.0	.2	.3
Food security classification								
Food secure	2.5	.3	.5	.5	.0	.2	.0	.1
Mild food insecurity	4.6	1.2	2.7	2.6	.0	1.7	.1	.3
Moderate food insecurity	5.0	1.7	3.6	3.6	.1	2.4	.3	.3
Severe food insecurity	5.3	2.4	4.3	4.8	.5	2.1	.1	.4
Gender of the head of household								
Female	4.4	1.7	2.7	2.6	.1	1.5	.2	.4
Male	4.5	1.2	2.8	2.7	.1	1.8	.1	.2
Shelter type								
Non-permanent shelter	3.8	1.4	1.9	.2 1.9	.0	1.3	.2	.3
Non-residential	4.6	1.3	2.9	2.8	.1	1.9	.2	.4
Residential	4.7	1.2	3.0	2.9	.1	1.9	.1	.2

Annex 23: Livelihood-related coping strategies in the last 30 days

	Livelihood-related coping strategies in the last 30 days													
	Sold household goods (radio, furniture, television, jewelry etc..)	Sold productive assets or means of transport (sewing machine, wheelbar-row, bicycle, car, livestock..)	Reduced essential non-food: education	Reduced essential non-food expendi-tures: health	Spent savings	Bought food on credit or borrowed money to purchase food	Sold house or land	Withdrew children from school	Begged	Marriage of children under 19	Accepted high risk, illegal, socially degrading activities	Had school children (6 -15 years old) involved in income genera-tion	Household has debt	Bought food on credit or borrowed money to purchase food
Total	27.8%	9.7%	30.1%	54.5%	33.8%	76.1%	2.1%	11.6%	2.1%	1.3%	2.6%	4.9%	92.7%	76.1%
Governorate														
Akkar	25.2%	7.0%	22.1%	35.6%	22.5%	65.4%	1.0%	11.2%	2.2%	1.2%	1.8%	3.7%	92.6%	65.4%
Baalbek-El Hermel	21.8%	16.7%	14.7%	35.9%	26.2%	88.8%	1.7%	14.5%	2.6%	.4%	.8%	2.5%	98.3%	88.8%
Beirut	15.8%	4.5%	11.7%	23.4%	50.9%	56.9%	2.6%	5.6%	5.8%	1.3%	3.0%	3.0%	77.9%	56.9%
Bekaa	40.2%	13.3%	30.8%	78.2%	50.3%	92.3%	2.1%	18.1%	.7%	.4%	1.4%	4.0%	97.7%	92.3%
El Nabatieh	24.0%	13.6%	30.4%	68.2%	33.2%	86.1%	1.5%	12.0%	.8%	1.6%	4.6%	8.1%	95.2%	86.1%
Mount Lebanon	24.8%	3.6%	31.4%	46.6%	31.1%	67.5%	1.6%	8.3%	2.8%	1.6%	2.7%	4.6%	88.3%	67.5%
North	29.4%	13.9%	47.7%	60.3%	27.4%	69.3%	3.7%	10.4%	2.2%	2.3%	2.5%	7.1%	92.5%	69.3%
South	22.0%	9.9%	27.5%	66.2%	30.1%	78.5%	2.3%	8.7%	1.4%	1.9%	8.9%	7.8%	93.9%	78.5%
Expenditure														
>=125% MEB (>=143US$)	23.4%	7.1%	20.9%	43.4%	34.5%	62.0%	2.8%	4.3%	1.8%	1.9%	2.0%	3.5%	85.3%	62.0%
MEB- 125% MEB (114 - 142US$)	26.1%	7.6%	33.1%	52.3%	36.8%	71.1%	1.8%	8.1%	1.8%	1.3%	3.5%	2.9%	90.1%	71.1%
SMEB-MEB (87-113US$)	26.4%	10.8%	30.4%	53.0%	35.0%	76.8%	1.3%	10.5%	1.3%	1.8%	3.1%	5.3%	93.1%	76.8%
< SMEB (87US$)	30.5%	10.4%	32.6%	59.1%	32.8%	81.6%	2.2%	14.8%	2.3%	1.0%	2.6%	5.5%	95.7%	81.6%
Food security classification														
Food secure	11.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	25.1%	37.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	72.8%	37.5%
Mild food insecurity	29.1%	10.0%	31.1%	55.6%	35.4%	79.9%	1.9%	12.1%	1.1%	1.5%	2.2%	4.1%	94.6%	79.9%
Moderate food insecurity	31.6%	12.5%	37.8%	69.2%	30.4%	80.8%	2.9%	14.6%	3.6%	.9%	4.2%	7.8%	95.0%	80.8%
Severe food insecurity	22.4%	9.4%	31.7%	64.9%	28.6%	75.2%	0.0%	16.9%	23.9%	0.0%	11.7%	11.9%	88.9%	75.2%
Gender of the head of household														
Female	29.3%	9.2%	29.8%	58.0%	29.1%	73.8%	1.7%	14.8%	3.1%	.7%	2.2%	6.7%	90.6%	73.8%
Male	27.5%	9.8%	30.2%	53.7%	34.8%	76.7%	2.1%	10.9%	1.9%	1.4%	2.7%	4.4%	93.2%	76.7%
Shelter type														
Non-permanent shelter	29.5%	9.8%	31.1%	60.3%	32.6%	88.8%	2.6%	20.0%	1.9%	.4%	1.2%	6.2%	98.4%	88.8%
Non-residential	20.1%	10.9%	31.2%	54.8%	31.9%	67.1%	1.9%	13.2%	3.0%	1.9%	3.4%	3.9%	88.4%	67.1%
Residential	28.6%	9.4%	29.6%	52.7%	34.4%	73.9%	1.9%	8.9%	2.0%	1.5%	3.0%	4.6%	91.7%	73.9%

Annex 24: Summary of asset depletion coping strategies

	Summary of asset depletion coping strategies				
	HH not adopting coping strategies	Stress coping strategies	Crisis coping strategies	Emergencies coping strategies	
Total	2.9%	30.3%	56.7%	10.1%	
Governorate					
Akkar	2.5%	44.2%	45.4%	8.0%	
Baalbek-El Hermel	.9%	36.9%	54.6%	7.6%	
Beirut	9.1%	54.8%	24.9%	11.3%	
Bekaa	.1%	12.6%	79.1%	8.2%	
El Nabatieh	1.6%	22.4%	62.9%	13.2%	
Mount Lebanon	5.4%	37.6%	47.1%	9.9%	
North	3.3%	26.5%	59.2%	11.0%	
South	.6%	24.2%	56.6%	18.6%	
Expenditure					
>=125% MEB (>=143US$)	8.2%	40.3%	43.5%	8.1%	
MEB- 125% MEB (114 - 142US$)	2.5%	35.8%	55.5%	6.2%	
SMEB-MEB (87-113US$)	2.5%	31.6%	56.2%	9.6%	
< SMEB (87US$)	1.2%	26.0%	61.4%	11.4%	
Food security classification					
Food secure	20.4%	79.6%	0.0%	0.0%	
Mild food insecurity	1.5%	30.0%	60.3%	8.1%	
Moderate food insecurity	.7%	16.2%	67.3%	15.8%	
Severe food insecurity	0.0%	13.3%	43.3%	43.4%	
Gender of the head of household					
Female	2.9%	26.9%	58.6%	11.7%	
Male	2.9%	31.1%	56.3%	9.7%	
Shelter type					
Non-permanent shelter	.3%	23.7%	64.3%	11.6%	
Non-residential	4.0%	28.4%	58.1%	9.4%	
Residential	3.4%	32.6%	54.2%	9.7%	

LIVELIHOODS AND INCOME

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The vulnerability assessment collected information at both individual and household levels, then measured income opportunities among Syrian refugees. The first part of this chapter analyses income-generating activities for individuals who have worked during the week prior to the survey. To better understand the income-generating activities, type of work, wages earned, employment and unemployment levels, and number of days worked, questions were asked at the individual level for each household member aged 15 years and above. At the household level, questions addressed both the main income sources and what households rely on as the primary income source for living expenses. Results were compared to 2018 where feasible[1].

KEY FINDINGS

- **The labour force participation rate is 38% in 2019;** 66% among men and 11% among women. The highest percentage of labour force participation is in Beirut (42%), El Nabatieh, South Lebanon and Mount Lebanon (41% each).
- **The unemployment rate among the labour force is 31% in 2019;** with a higher percentage among women (37%) compared to men (30%). The highest unemployment rate is found in Bekaa (62%), followed by Baalbek-El Hermel (49%).
- **59% of households had members working in the past 7 days,** with the lowest level of employment in Baalbek-El Hermel (30%) and Bekaa (36%). Only 47% of women-headed households had members working, compared to 61% of men-headed households.
- **The average weekly per capita income is US$ 70** with the lowest income in Baalbek-El Hermel (US$ 28) and Bekaa (US$ 30). The highest income is found in Beirut (US$ 109). Women-headed households have a much lower income (US$ 47) than men-headed households (US$ 69).
- **Main sectors of work remain construction (21%), agriculture (17%), and other services (13%)**. Agriculture work is mostly found in Akkar and the South (35% each).
- **One third of refugees have a regular job and 13% have more than one job.**
- The two main sources of income for Syrian refugees are **WFP assistance (24%), and informal debt from friends and shops (22%),** indicating the challenges Syrian refugees have faced in covering expenses through employment.

EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT AND THE LABOUR FORCE

For the purpose of this study, the following definitions were used:

Employment: number of working-age individuals (15+ years old) who have worked during the past seven days for at least one hour.

Unemployment: number of working-age individuals (15+ years old) who were not employed during the past seven days for at least one hour, who are available to work immediately and within two weeks and actively searching for work.

Outside labour Force: number of working-age individuals (15+ years old) who were not employed during the past seven days for at least one hour, who are not available to work immediately and within two weeks or not actively searching for work.

Labour Force: Sum of employed and unemployed working-age individuals.

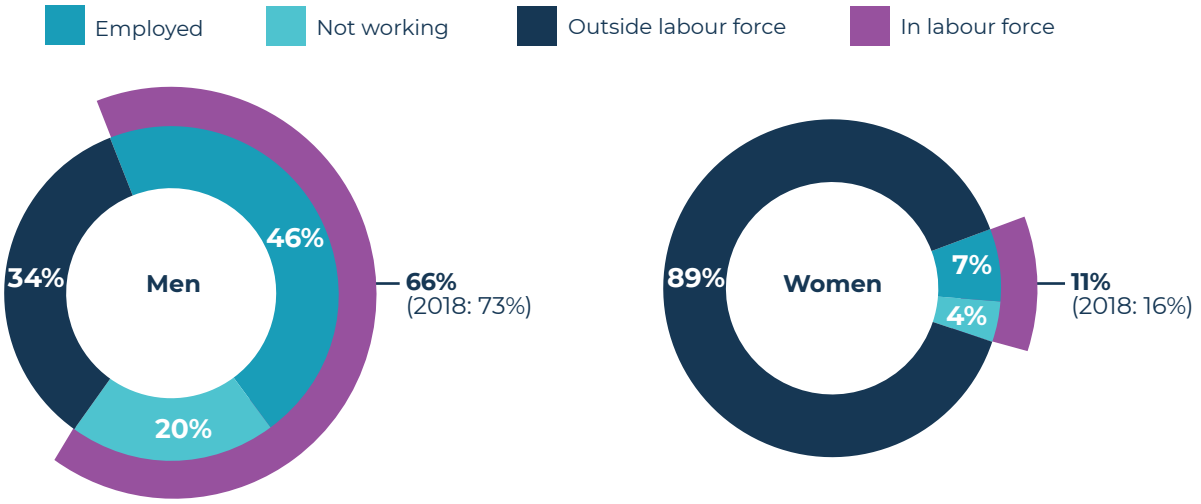
Employment-to-Population Ratio (LPR): the proportion of a country's working-age population that is employed.

Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) = (employed population + unemployed population) / total population aged 15+.

[1] The portions of analysis comparable with 2017 are: (i) prevalence of working members in the household, (ii) per capita income, (iii) number of working days per month, and (iv) household income sources.

The working age population represented 52% of all Syrian refugees in Lebanon, and it was composed of 52% women and 48% men. The labour force (individuals employed + not working) represented 66% of working age men and 11% of working age women. An estimated 46% of men, compared to only 7% of women were working in the last 7 days prior to survey data collection. 20% of men were unemployed and one third of men were out of the labour force. The majority of women (89%) were out of the labour force.

Figure 1: Employed, not working, and outside the labour force population



By governorate, labour force participation is highest in Beirut (42%) followed by El Nabatieh, South Lebanon and Mount Lebanon (41% each). The highest unemployment rate is found in Bekaa (62%) and Baalbek-El Hermel (49%).

Figure 2: Households with members working in the past 7 days, by gender

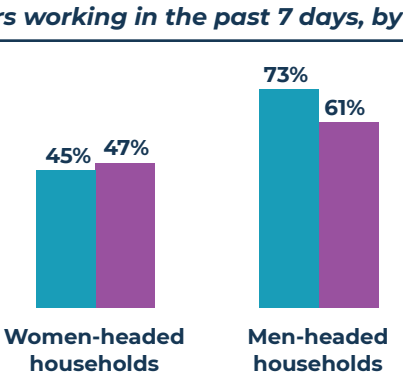
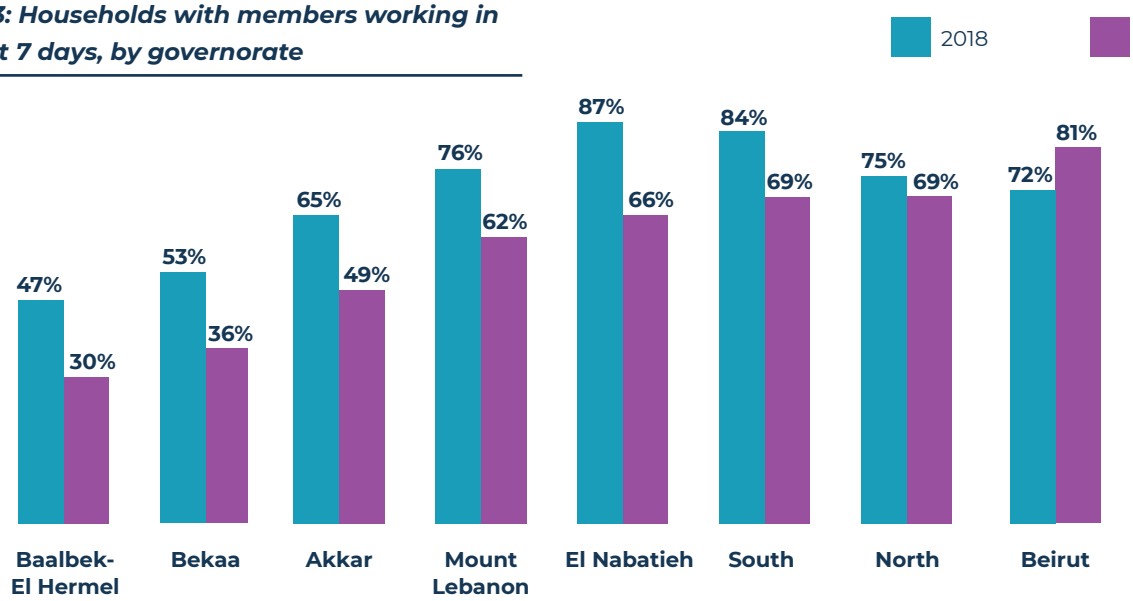


Figure 3: Households with members working in the past 7 days, by governorate

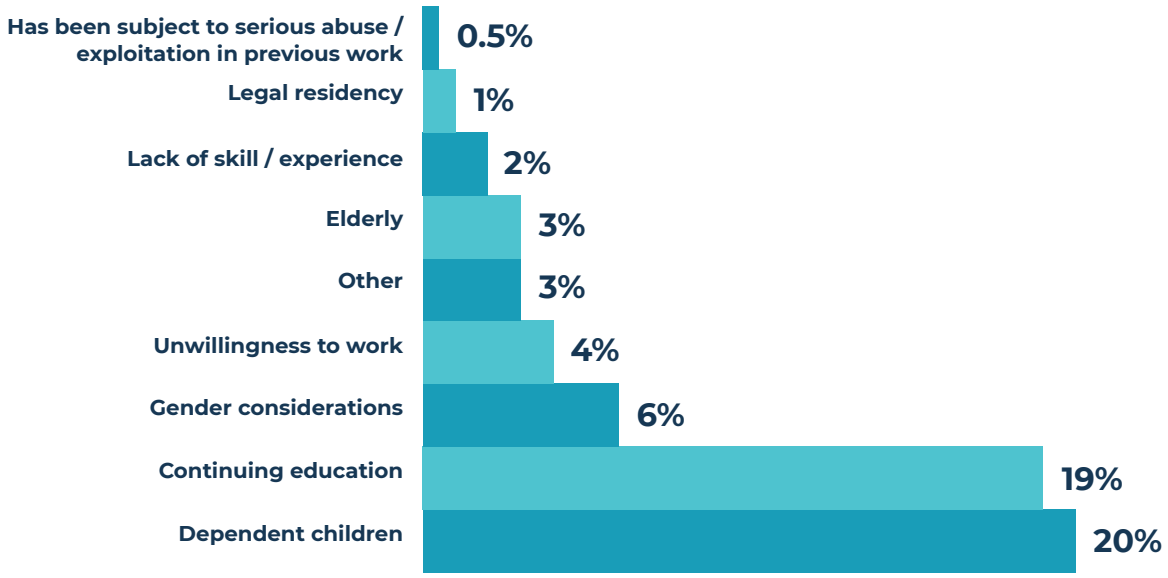


Unemployment is a major issue for Syrian refugees in Lebanon. Only 59% of households have members working in the past 7 days in 2019, compared to 68% in 2018. Percent of households with at least one working member has declined in all governorates, except for Beirut (81% in 2019 vs 72% in 2018). By governorate, the lowest percentage of households with working members is in Baalbek-El Hermel, (one third), followed by the Bekaa (36%). This means that two thirds of households in Bekaa and Baalbek-El Hermel have no working members. Men-headed households with at least one working member decreased from 73% in 2018 to 61% in 2019, while among women, there was an increase of 2 percent (45% in 2018 vs 47% in 2019).

In terms of regular employment, only one-third of refugees have a regular job, with the lowest percent in Baalbek-El Hermel (17%). Sixty one percent of refugees have a regular job in Beirut, the highest percent by governorate. Half of youth (aged 15-19) and half of seniors (aged 65+) have a regular job.

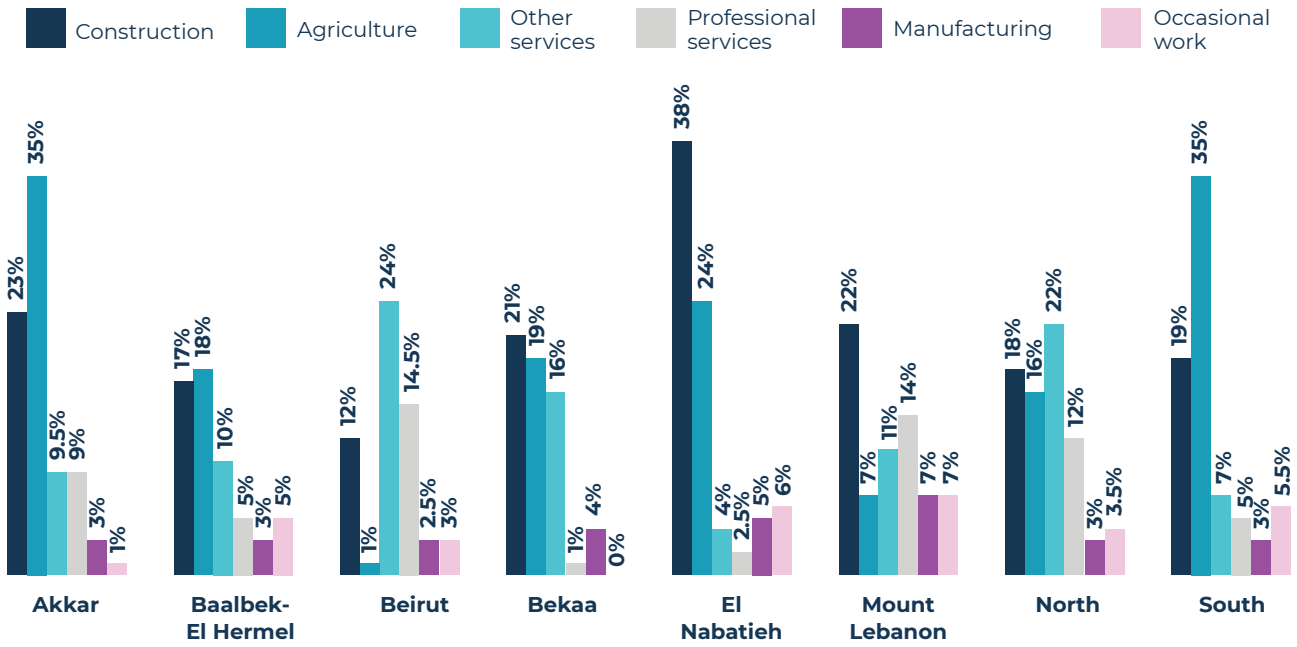
In Lebanon, only 13% of Syrian refugees have more than one job. Having more than one job most commonly takes place in Bekaa, and it's more commonly happening in men-headed households (14%) as opposed to the 6% among women-headed households.

Figure 4: Reasons for unemployment



When refugees were asked about reasons for unemployment, the main reasons mentioned were having dependent children (20%) and continuing education (19%). Those who mentioned dependent children are mostly in the age groups between 30 and 44 years. Continuing education was mainly mentioned by refugees aged either 15-19 years or 35-39 years.

Figure 5: Employment sectors by governorate

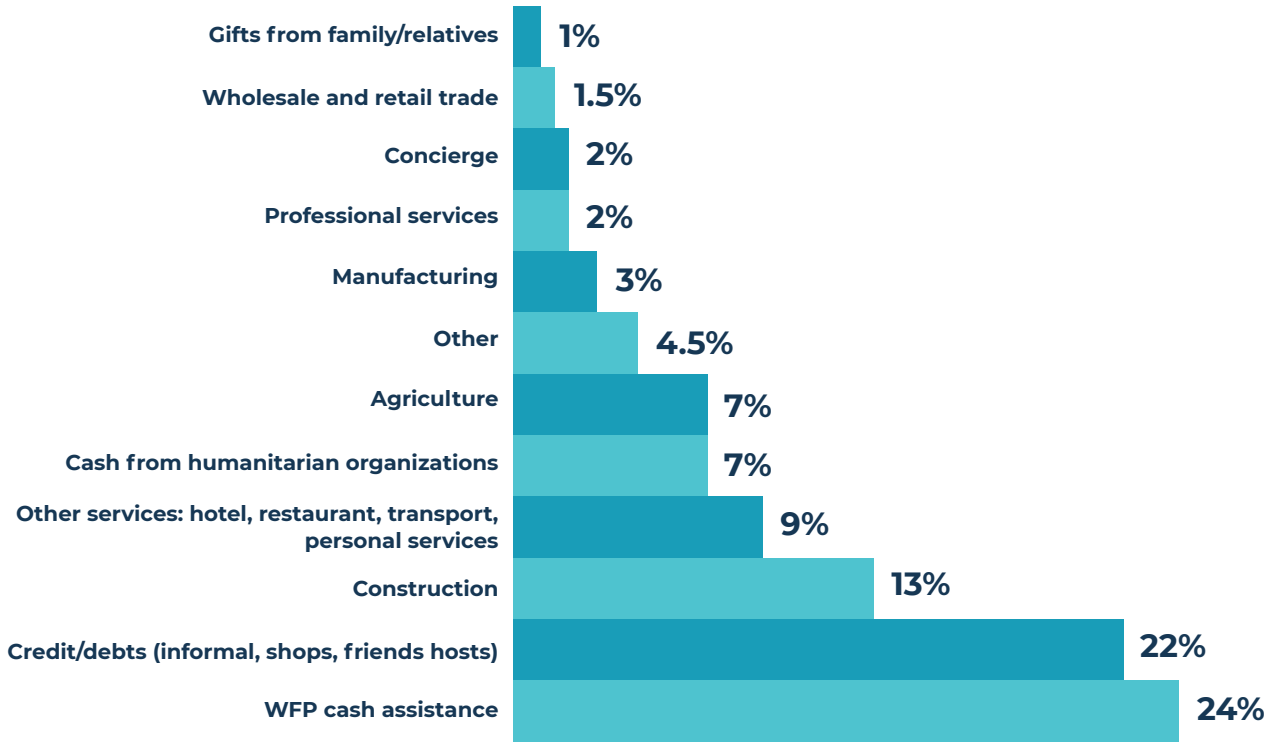


Syrian refugees are mainly engaged in construction (21%), agriculture (17%), and other services (13%). Agriculture is most commonly the main sector of work in Akkar and the South (35% each), while construction is primarily in El Nabatieh (38%). A quarter of all men-headed households is engaged in construction, while less than 1% of households headed by women is engaged in construction. A larger proportion of women-headed households (28%) is engaged in agriculture, as opposed to only 15% of men-headed households. In terms of age groups, people aged 60-64 are those more frequently involved in agriculture.

INCOME

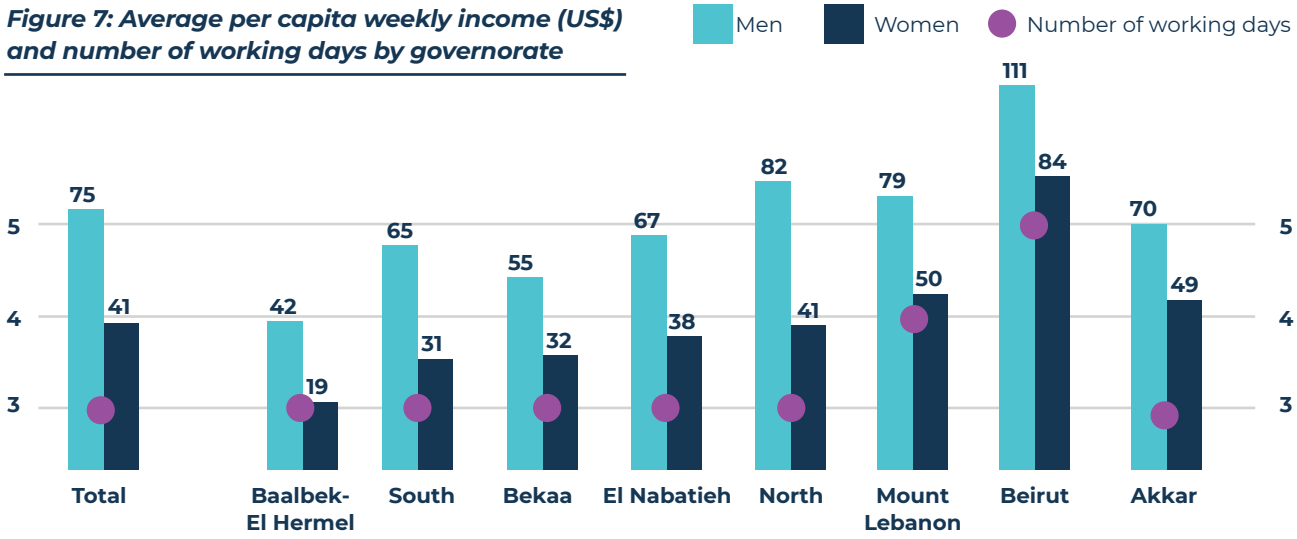
The main source of income for Syrian refugees in Lebanon is WFP assistance in the form of e-cards (24%). Informal credit became the second main income source in 2019 (22%) compared to being the third main source of income in 2018 (16%). Construction dropped to being the third source of income in 2019 (13%) from being the second main source of income in 2018 (16%). By governorate, e-cards were most frequently mentioned as the main source of income in the Bekaa (52%), Akkar (51%) and Baalbek-El Hermel (47%). E-cards were considered as the main source of income for women-headed households (37%) more frequently than for men-headed ones (21%), indicating the high reliance of women-headed households on WFP assistance. Households living in non-permanent shelters rely highly on WFP assistance (51%) as opposed to those living in non-residential (25%) and residential (16%) shelters. Following WFP assistance, informal debt from friends, shops or similar sources was also frequently mentioned with 22% of households listing it as the main source of income. Informal debts are most commonly reported as the main source of income in El Nabatieh (33%), Bekaa (30%), and the North (28%).

Figure 6: Main household source of income



This figure includes data on the top 1 source of income.
For a breakdown of the top 3 sources of income refer to tables on the VASyR website.

Figure 7: Average per capita weekly income (US$) and number of working days by governorate



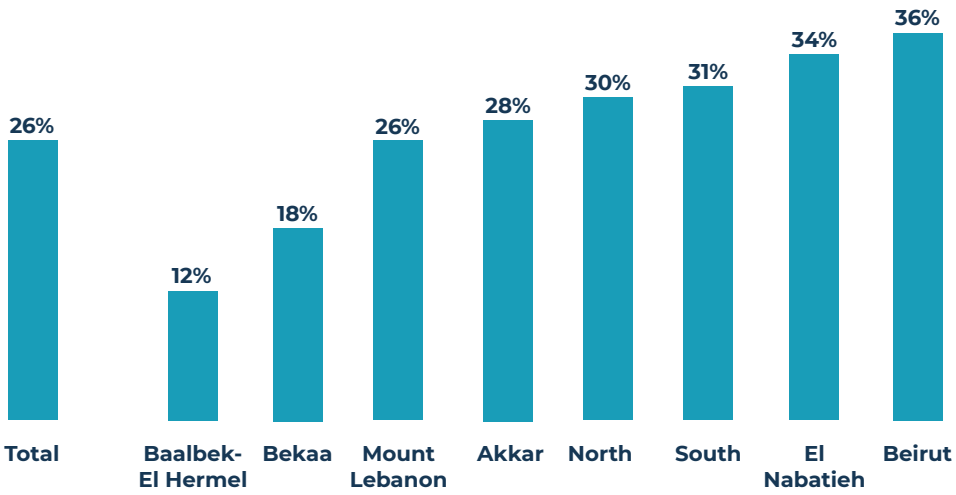
The average per capita weekly income of men is almost double that of women on the national level (US$ 75 for men vs US$ 41 for women). In all governorates, men's weekly income exceeds that of women. The largest difference in incomes is found in North Lebanon (US$ 82 for men vs US$ 41 for women) and South Lebanon (US$ 65 for men vs US$ 31 for women). The average number of working days per week is 3 days on the national level, with highest averages in Beirut (5 days) and Mount Lebanon (4 days).

In terms of working conditions, men-headed households spend 7 more hours a week working than women-headed households. The highest number of hours worked was reported in Beirut with an average of 41 hours a week, 5 days a week. Refugees in other governorates spend significantly less time working (figure 7).

ECONOMIC ACTIVITY OF YOUTH

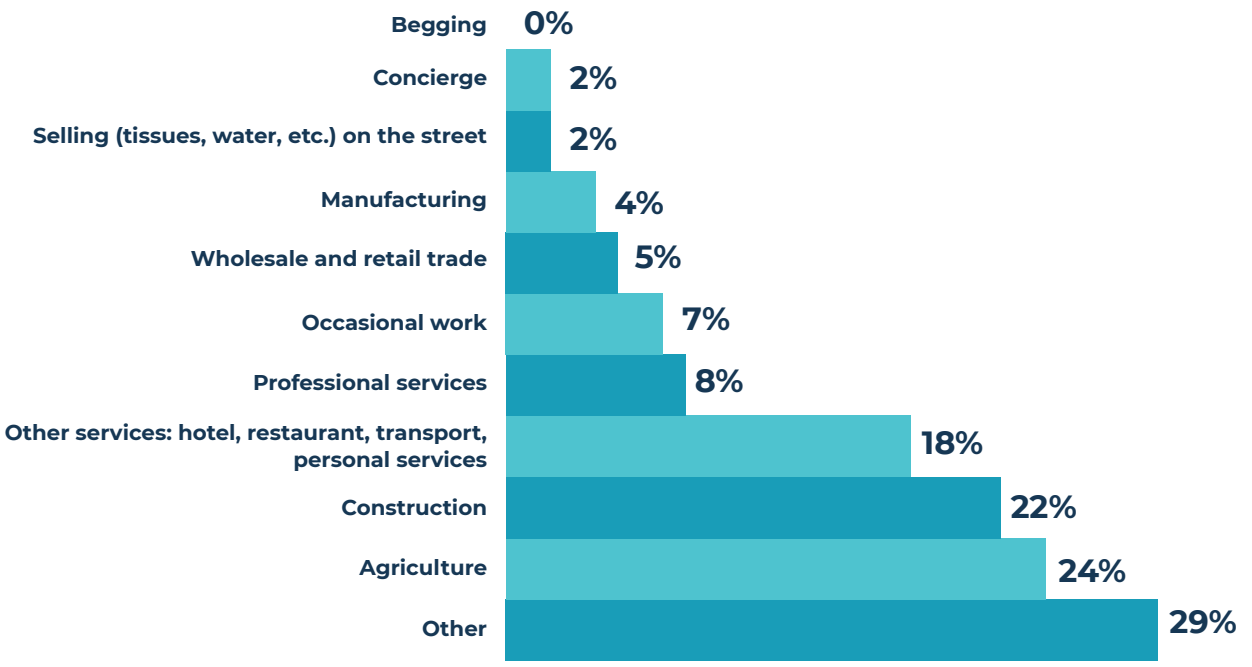
The share of youth aged between 15 to 24 who are economically active was found to be 26%. Economic activity increases with age: while 20% of youth between 15-18 were economically active, for those between 19-24, the economic activity was at 30%. Furthermore, there was a significant difference between boys and girls, 56% and 6% of whom were economically active, respectively. The below graph shows the economic activity rate across governorates.

Figure 8: Economic activity of Syrian youth (15 to 24 year old), by governorate



Among the youth who were economically active, the top three sectors where youth were working in included agriculture (24%), construction (22%), and other services such as hotels, restaurants, transport, and personal services (18%). The below graph shows the distribution of the different sectors.

Figure 9: Work sectors of economically active youth



Percentages calculated out of the total number of active youth 15-24 years old

Annex 25: Working household members, per capita income, and cash and income sources

	Households wit members working in the past 7 days	Per capita income (US$)	Cash and income sources reported by household (three main sources)								
		Mean	Agriculture	Begging	Cash from charitable humanitarian organizations	ATM cards/cash from humanitarian organizations	Concierge	Construction	Credit/ debts (formal banks)	Credit/debts (informal: shops, friends hosts)	E-cards WFP FOOD
Total	59.4%	70.45	12.3%	.4%	.5%	15.8%	2.5%	18.6%	.3%	64.0%	30.2%
Governorate											
Akkar	48.5%	65.28	24.5%	.4%	.2%	27.0%	.4%	17.0%	.4%	63.2%	60.5%
Baalbek-El Hermel	30.1%	39.45	4.7%	.4%	.7%	44.9%	.3%	4.4%	.4%	92.6%	65.6%
Beirut	80.6%	108.56	.9%	1.1%	.2%	1.3%	13.9%	13.6%	.2%	16.9%	1.7%
Bekaa	36.4%	48.89	5.1%	0.0%	0.0%	30.1%	.2%	6.3%	0.0%	92.1%	59.6%
El Nabatieh	65.9%	63.89	25.6%	.2%	.3%	12.0%	.7%	41.1%	2.3%	73.0%	19.3%
Mount Lebanon	61.6%	76.68	7.2%	.5%	.8%	2.0%	4.0%	27.2%	0.0%	38.2%	4.4%
North	68.8%	76.33	17.5%	.5%	.9%	3.7%	2.8%	20.9%	.2%	67.4%	13.6%
South	69.4%	59.28	36.4%	.2%	.8%	8.0%	3.8%	24.9%	1.3%	59.1%	14.1%
Expenditure											
>=125% MEB (>=143US$)	69.3%		9.7%	.2%	.8%	4.0%	3.5%	23.9%	.2%	47.9%	7.4%
MEB- 125% MEB (114 - 142US$)	68.5%		14.7%	.1%	1.5%	10.5%	1.8%	23.2%	.4%	54.2%	16.1%
SMEB-MEB (87-113US$)	67.0%		16.5%	.3%	.8%	16.9%	1.7%	22.6%	.4%	60.8%	26.7%
< SMEB (87US$)	54.0%		11.7%	.4%	.2%	20.2%	2.6%	15.3%	.3%	71.6%	41.4%
Food security classification											
Food secure	73.9%		11.5%	.0%	.9%	14.9%	3.5%	20.6%	0.0%	37.3%	21.9%
Mild food insecurity	59.9%		12.9%	.1%	.6%	19.3%	2.1%	20.3%	.4%	68.2%	35.3%
Moderate food insecurity	54.7%		12.0%	.5%	.3%	10.2%	2.7%	14.2%	.2%	68.4%	25.3%
Severe food insecurity	41.8%		7.4%	4.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	21.9%	.9%	63.7%	0.0%
Gender of the head of household											
Female	46.5%	41.47	8.4%	1.0%	1.4%	22.3%	.7%	5.3%	.3%	66.4%	44.3%
Male	61.3%	74.73	13.2%	.2%	.3%	14.3%	2.8%	21.6%	.3%	63.4%	27.1%
Shelter type											
Non-permanent shelter	45.3%		15.8%	.3%	.2%	36.2%	.2%	4.9%	.1%	85.0%	62.0%
Non-residential	58.6%		18.6%	.4%	.3%	18.1%	2.9%	19.9%	.5%	57.0%	30.9%
Residential	62.7%		10.3%	.4%	.7%	9.4%	3.1%	22.4%	.3%	58.9%	20.8%

Annex 25: Cash and income sources - continued

	Cash and income sources reported by household (three main sources)												
	Gifts from family/ relatives	Manufac-turing	Other	Other services: hotel, restaurant, transport, personal services	Other types of sales	Professional services	Remittances	Sale of assets (car, bicycle, refrigerator, TV, jewelry)	Sale of crops	Sale of livestock and animal produce	Sale of non-food assistance	Wholesale and retail trade	Sale of food aid (food vouchers or parcels)
Total	6.0%	3.5%	7.6%	13.9%	.5%	3.2%	1.1%	1.1%	.1%	.1%	.1%	1.8%	.1%
Governorate													
Akkar	9.6%	1.0%	4.1%	8.8%	0.0%	1.8%	.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	.8%	.2%
Baalbek-El Hermel	5.7%	1.1%	3.9%	2.6%	.0%	.8%	1.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	.1%	0.0%
Beirut	2.6%	2.2%	19.0%	28.8%	.6%	10.4%	1.3%	.2%	1.5%	0.0%	0.0%	3.5%	.2%
Bekaa	9.6%	1.5%	4.5%	7.5%	.4%	.7%	.0%	.0%	0.0%	.1%	.1%	.6%	0.0%
El Nabatieh	4.8%	5.5%	8.9%	8.9%	.1%	.4%	1.5%	.3%	.5%	.4%	.4%	.3%	.2%
Mount Lebanon	4.8%	6.2%	11.3%	14.8%	.7%	6.0%	1.6%	3.1%	0.0%	.1%	.1%	4.0%	0.0%
North	3.8%	3.2%	2.3%	31.8%	.7%	2.8%	1.8%	.3%	.2%	0.0%	0.0%	1.4%	.1%
South	2.9%	4.8%	16.8%	11.6%	.6%	3.9%	1.0%	1.3%	.2%	0.0%	0.0%	1.5%	.2%
Expenditure													
>=125% MEB (>=143US$)	5.8%	7.8%	9.8%	16.8%	.1%	6.3%	2.8%	1.4%	.1%	.3%	.3%	2.7%	.0%
MEB- 125% MEB (114 - 142US$)	3.2%	1.9%	9.2%	20.4%	1.3%	6.3%	.9%	2.1%	.0%	0.0%	0.0%	3.5%	.2%
SMEB-MEB (87-113US$)	5.0%	3.1%	8.2%	18.3%	1.2%	3.1%	1.1%	.6%	.0%	0.0%	0.0%	3.3%	.0%
< SMEB (87US$)	6.5%	2.7%	6.5%	10.8%	.2%	1.9%	.6%	1.0%	.2%	.1%	.1%	.9%	.1%
Food security classification													
Food secure	3.5%	7.7%	12.4%	21.0%	.5%	5.5%	1.7%	0.0%	0.0%	.1%	.1%	4.5%	0.0%
Mild food insecurity	5.9%	3.5%	6.6%	13.0%	.4%	2.9%	1.1%	1.5%	.1%	.1%	.1%	1.7%	.0%
Moderate food insecurity	7.3%	2.6%	7.3%	13.5%	.4%	3.0%	1.0%	.8%	.1%	0.0%	0.0%	1.4%	.1%
Severe food insecurity	7.4%	.2%	14.4%	12.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Gender of the head of household													
Female	15.9%	2.5%	7.0%	15.1%	.1%	1.6%	.5%	.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.8%	.1%
Male	3.8%	3.7%	7.8%	13.6%	.5%	3.6%	1.2%	1.3%	.1%	.1%	.1%	1.8%	.0%
Shelter type													
Non-permanent shelter	5.5%	1.6%	3.7%	3.4%	.0%	.4%	.4%	.2%	.0%	.1%	.1%	.2%	.1%
Non-residential	6.3%	2.7%	5.6%	14.4%	.2%	1.2%	.5%	.7%	.3%	0.0%	0.0%	2.1%	.2%
Residential	6.1%	4.2%	9.1%	16.9%	.6%	4.4%	1.4%	1.4%	.1%	.1%	.1%	2.3%	.0%

Annex 26: Employment and unemployment

	Employment and unemployment						
	Employment to population ratio (employed/total person 15+)	Labour force participation rate (employed + unemployed/total persons >15)	Unemployment rate (unemployed over labour force)	Average number of days a person worked during the last 7 days for all jobs (mean)	Average number of hours per week a person usually works for all jobs (mean)	Individuals with more than one job	Individuals with regular work
Total	25.8%	37.5%	31.3%	3.4	26.7	13.3%	35.4%
Governorate							
Akkar	20.9%	29.8%	30.0%	3.0	21.5	7.4%	36.2%
Baalbek-El Hermel	13.6%	26.9%	49.3%	3.0	21.5	12.8%	17.2%
Beirut	35.4%	42.3%	16.5%	4.5	41.1	11.3%	61.0%
Bekaa	14.34	37.6%	61.9%	2.8	20.4	17.2%	23.5%
El Nabatieh	28.5%	41.2%	30.7%	2.6	19.9	12.5%	32.9%
Mount Lebanon	27.9%	40.7%	31.4%	3.7	31.7	15.5%	41.9%
North	29.3%	36.3%	19.3%	3.4	26.7	10.9%	30.8%
South	29.3%	41.2%	28.9%	3.0	21.9	12.6%	32.0%
Gender of the head of household							
Female	6.7%	10.6%	37.3%	3.4	21.4	5.8%	38.9%
Male	45.8%	65.7%	30.3%	3.3	27.6	14.4%	34.8%
Age 15-24							
No	27.86	40.22	30.73	3.5	28.0	14.0%	34.4%
Yes	21.34	31.82	32.95	2.9	22.9	10.5%	39.1%
ILO age groups							
15-19	17.4%	27.6%	36.9%	1.6	12.8	7.0%	51.1%
20-24	26.0%	36.9%	29.5%	3.8	30.4	11.5%	35.7%
25-29	24.9%	36.5%	31.8%	3.5	29.1	13.9%	29.0%
30-34	35.0%	47.8%	26.8%	3.7	29.1	16.1%	30.5%
35-39	34.9%	50.0%	30.2%	3.7	28.3	13.8%	37.3%
40-44	31.3%	44.4%	29.6%	3.9	32.5	13.3%	38.0%
45-49	23.4%	38.0%	38.5%	3.8	30.8	10.4%	41.1%
50-54	17.7%	30.4%	42.0%	4.0	29.9	7.0%	41.9%
55-59	13.9%	21.8%	36.5%	4.2	32.3	11.0%	43.3%
60-64	8.4%	13.3%	36.7%	4.0	27.5	13.7%	32.3%
65+	2.9%	4.6%	37.5%	4.3	20.3	28.7%	54.4%

Annex 27: Sectors of work

	Sectors of work									
	Agriculture	Construction	Concierge	Manufacturing	Retail (shops)	Begging	Professional services	Occasional work	Other services	Selling in the street
Total	16.9%	21.2%	3.0%	4.6%	4.2%	0.1%	9.7%	4.5%	13.4%	0.7%
Governorate										
Akkar	35.3%	22.5%	0.7%	3.3%	2.2%	0.4%	9.5%	1.1%	8.7%	0.4%
Baalbek-El Hermel	18.4%	16.7%	1.3%	2.6%	3.6%	0.0%	4.7%	5.2%	10.0%	0.0%
Beirut	1.4%	12.0%	12.7%	2.5%	4.5%	0.5%	14.5%	3.4%	24.1%	1.1%
Bekaa	18.8%	21.5%	0.4%	3.8%	0.8%	0.0%	1.0%	0.0%	16.4%	1.1%
El Nabatieh	24.0%	37.7%	0.3%	4.7%	0.7%	0.0%	2.5%	5.9%	4.3%	0.1%
Mount Lebanon	6.8%	22.1%	4.2%	7.0%	7.5%	0.0%	14.4%	6.9%	11.1%	0.9%
North	16.3%	18.1%	2.5%	3.3%	4.1%	0.0%	11.7%	3.5%	22.1%	0.4%
South	35.4%	19.3%	2.4%	3.2%	1.9%	0.0%	4.8%	5.5%	6.6%	1.0%
Gender of the head of household										
Female	27.6%	0.7%	0.4%	2.8%	4.3%	0.3%	6.1%	3.1%	23.5%	1.0%
Male	15.2%	24.5%	3.4%	4.9%	4.2%	0.0%	10.3%	4.7%	11.8%	0.6%
Age 15-24										
No	17.7%	23.8%	3.7%	5.2%	4.5%	0.1%	9.9%	4.7%	13.3%	0.6%
Yes	14.5%	13.7%	0.9%	2.9%	3.4%	0.0%	9.2%	3.8%	13.8%	1.0%
ILO age groups										
15-19	7.6%	3.6%	0.0%	1.9%	2.6%	0.0%	7.2%	0.6%	7.6%	1.5%
20-24	19.5%	21.1%	1.5%	3.6%	4.0%	0.0%	10.6%	6.2%	18.3%	0.6%
25-29	19.2%	24.8%	1.7%	4.4%	3.4%	0.0%	12.4%	4.3%	17.8%	0.1%
30-34	19.1%	29.0%	3.9%	5.9%	6.3%	0.2%	10.0%	5.0%	11.5%	0.1%
35-39	16.2%	28.4%	3.6%	6.0%	4.2%	0.0%	10.8%	4.7%	13.3%	1.3%
40-44	21.7%	15.7%	5.0%	4.4%	4.7%	0.0%	9.8%	6.7%	14.5%	0.7%
45-49	16.6%	25.6%	4.6%	5.8%	2.1%	0.0%	11.5%	6.0%	12.1%	0.3%
50-54	17.9%	10.7%	10.3%	4.3%	5.6%	0.0%	9.6%	0.9%	23.6%	0.7%
55-59	23.0%	20.1%	5.7%	11.9%	2.9%	0.0%	1.6%	7.3%	15.2%	0.0%
60-64	32.6%	2.4%	2.4%	0.0%	2.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.7%	12.9%	8.8%
65+	2.6%	28.7%	1.8%	0.0%	21.7%	3.4%	0.0%	0.0%	17.7%	9.9%

FOOD SECURITY

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This chapter analyses the food security trends of the Syrian refugee households in Lebanon, including the characteristics of food insecure households and the differences in food security levels among districts and governorates.

KEY FINDINGS

- Food security witnessed slight changes in 2019, with a **large proportion of households being marginally food insecure in 2019 (63%), compared to 57% in 2018.**
- **Food insecurity is highest in the North (38%) and Mount Lebanon (33%).**
- **Women-headed households are more food insecure than men-headed households (35% vs 28% respectively).** This is a similar trend to 2018, where 40% of women-headed households were food insecure, compared to 32% of men-headed ones.
- **Households living in non-residential shelters (36%) are more food insecure than those living in non-permanent (26%) or residential shelters (29%).**
- Food security has increased in two of the three pillars of food security: **food consumption and livelihood based coping strategies.**
- The share of expenditure on food has increased in 2019, which indicates **increased economic vulnerability.**

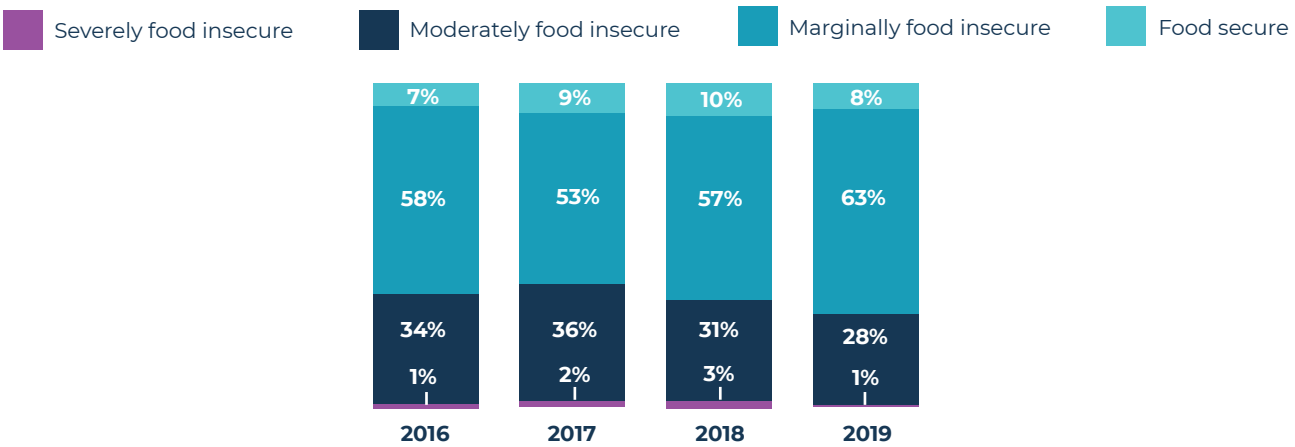
FOOD SECURITY METHODOLOGY

The food security status of Syrian refugees in Lebanon is measured using a composite indicator that combines three dimensions of food security:

- current consumption as determined by the **food consumption score**;
- food as a share of total expenditure reflecting **economic vulnerability**; and
- **asset depletion strategies (livelihood coping strategies)** which indicate the long-term coping capacity of livelihoods to shocks.

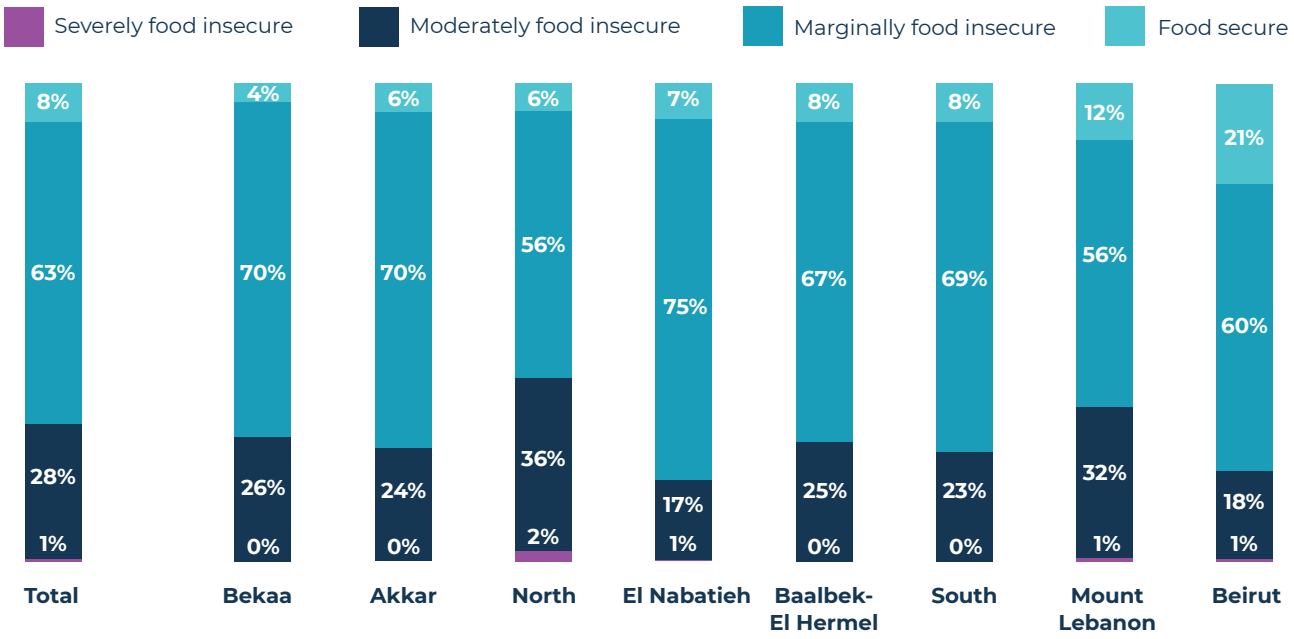
In order to compare this year's data with trends of the previous years, the methodology used to classify households was replicated as in previous VASyR assessments and is detailed in Annex 28. Based on this methodology, households are classified into four categories: food secure, marginally food insecure, moderately food insecure and severely food insecure. Table 5 describes the characteristics of the four categories.

Figure 1: Food insecurity trends 2016-2019



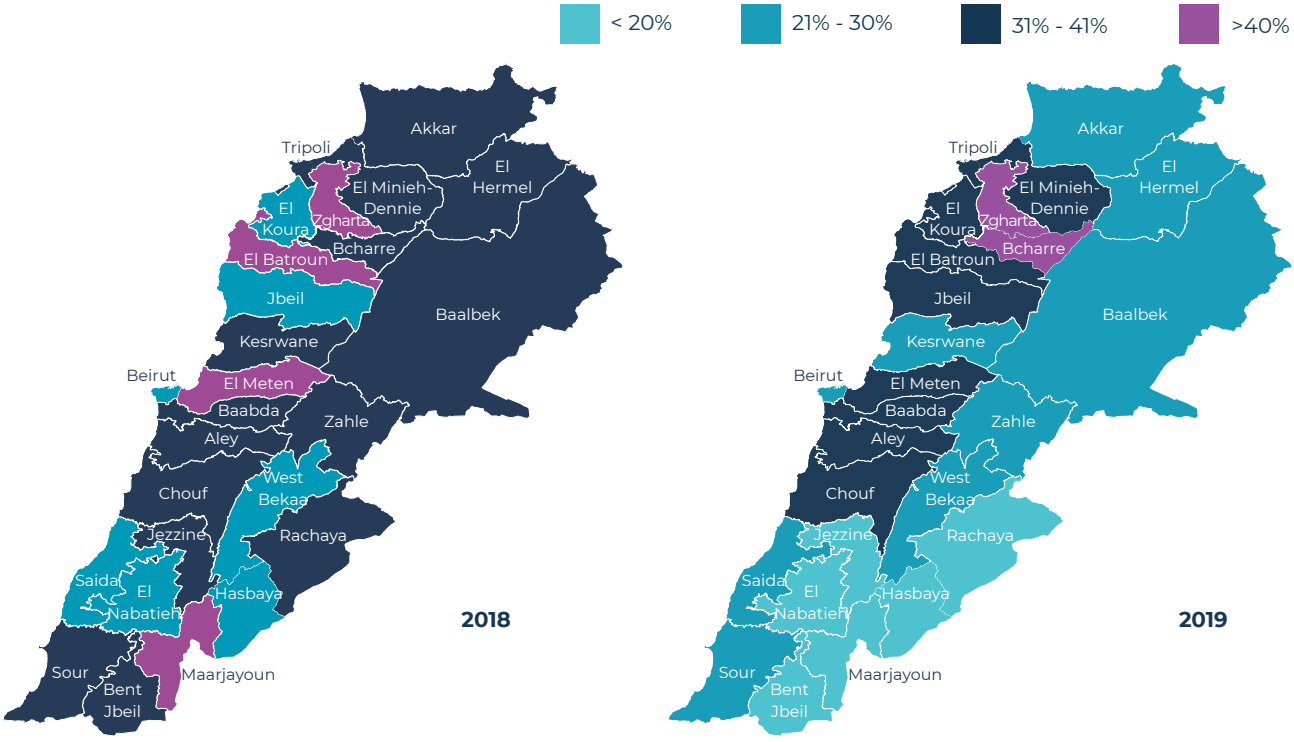
Food security of Syrian refugees in Lebanon has generally increased by 4% in 2019 compared to 2018. Additionally, only 1% of households are severely food insecure in 2019, compared to 3% in 2018. This decline is broadly a result of increased food consumption levels and adoption of less severe livelihood strategies to cope with lack of food or lack of money to buy food.

Figure 2: Food insecurity by governorate



By governorate, food insecurity is most prominent in the North (38%) and Mount Lebanon (33%). The lowest food insecurity levels are found in El Nabatieh (18%) and Beirut (19%) It is also worth noting that women-headed households are more food insecure than men-headed ones (35% vs 28% respectively). This is a similar trend to 2018, where a higher share of women-headed households were food insecure (40% compared to 32% of their men-headed counterparts). Additionally, households living in non-residential shelters are significantly more food insecure (36%) than those living in non-permanent (26%) or residential shelters (29%).

Figure 3: Percentage of households with moderate and severe food insecurity



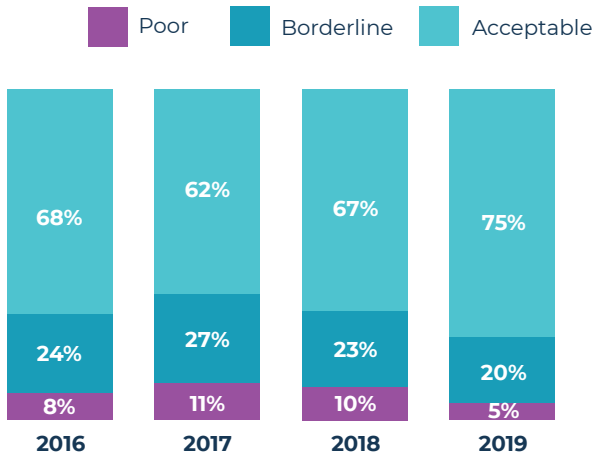
Food security has increased, particularly in the East and South of Lebanon. Districts in the North are mostly either stable or have less food security. For example, Zgharta is facing a chronic food insecurity level of over 40%. Food insecurity has increased in Bcharre from under 40% to over 40% of households and in El Koura and Jbeil from under 30% to above 30%.

COMPONENTS OF FOOD SECURITY

Food consumption

The first dimension of food security is food consumption. Over the last several years, food consumption of Syrian refugee households in Lebanon has increased considerably. Households with poor food consumption from 2018 fell by half in 2019. The level of acceptable food consumption has increased by 8 percent, from 67% in 2018 to 75% in 2019.

Figure 4: Food consumption trends 2016-2018

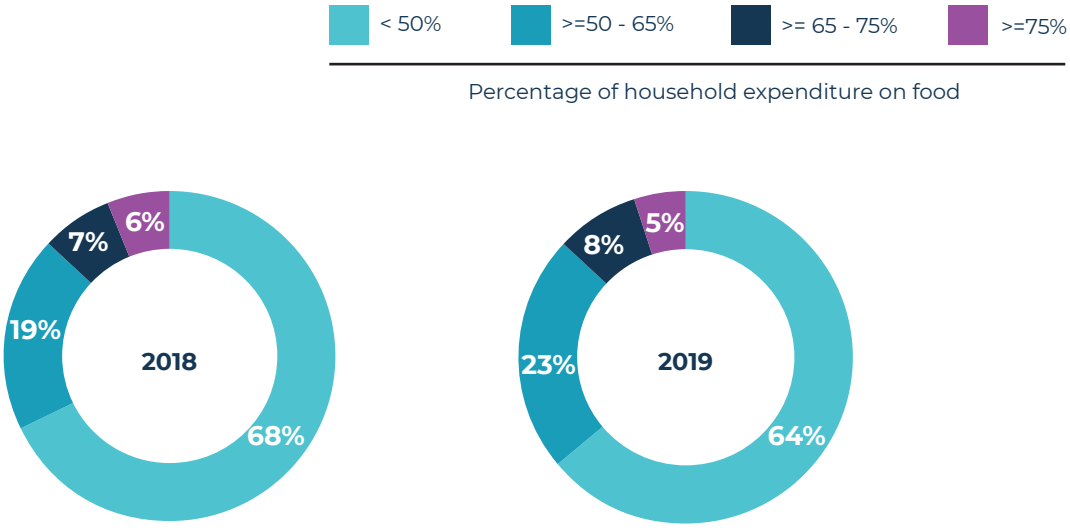


LIVELIHOOD COPING STRATEGIES TRENDS

Household coping capacity slightly improved in 2019 compared to 2018. Syrian refugee households are resorting less to emergency coping strategies[1] (10%) of begging or selling a house, However reliance on crisis strategies (57%), has increased, and includes reducing health and education expenditures, withdrawing children from school, or selling productive assets.

FOOD AS A SHARE OF HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURES

Figure 5: Food expenditure share trends 2018 - 2019



The final dimension of food security is food expenditure share. The more the household spent on food , the higher their economic vulnerability. In 2019, an additional 5% of households are spending over 50% of their expenditures on food only (36.2% in 2019 vs 31.9% in 2018). The food expenditure indicator showed a deterioration in the economic situations of the households.

[1] Emergency coping strategies include begging, involving school children in income generation, accepting high risk jobs and selling one's house or land in Syria.

Voices from the field

This box summarises discussions about the results of VASyR 2019 held in all field offices. It is based on the contextual knowledge of key actors in the field, as opposed to quantitative data.

Discussion participants pointed out the surprising fact that improvements in food security did not correspond to trends experienced in economic vulnerability, which has grown more acute. In-kind payments for work, particularly consisting of agricultural produce, were suggested as a possible explanation in regions such as South and Akkar.

In the north of the country, participants noted that while severe food security has decreased (Akkar) or stayed approximately the same (North), the percentage of families dedicating a high share of their expenditure on food was one of the highest in the country. This was seen as an important pointer to economic vulnerability, despite the improvements in food security.

Greater flexibility in spending cash assistance was said to be beneficial in terms of allowing refugees to shop around and find cheaper produce. The closure of Syrian-run shops was deemed to have a potentially negative impact on food security, as food sold there was cheaper. Food assistance overall was noted to have a favourable impact on food security rates, in line with VASyR's data.

Table 5 : Food security by sectors indicators

	Food Secure	Marginally food secure	Moderately food insecure	Food insecure
(S)MEB categories				
>=125% MEB (>=143$)	**40.8%**	**14.8%**	**12.9%**	**7.5%**
MEB-125% MEB (114-142$)	15.1%	10.3%	6.3%	5.3%
SMEB-MEB (87-113$)	**18.6%**	**19.6%**	**12.3%**	**12.3%**
<SMEB (87$)	25.4%	55.4%	68.5%	74.9%
Debt group: US$ 600	34.9%	53.3%	52.5%	50.6%
Reason for borrowing:				
to buy food	50%	78.1%	77.6%	71.7%
to pay rent	37.1%	51.2%	52.9%	57.7%
to pay health	20.7%	37.3%	33.7%	25.9%
to buy medicine	17.1%	36.4%	32.5%	13.5%
to repay debt	0.8%	6.2%	7.2%	1.8%
Total expenditure per capita	157	100	84	60
Main income source				
Credit/debt	**37.3%**	**68.2%**	**68.4%**	**63.7%**
E-cards WFP FOOD	21.9%	35.3%	25.3%	0%
Construction	**20.6%**	**20.3%**	**14.2%**	**21.9%**
Cash from humanitarian organizations	14.9%	19.3%	10.2%	0%
Services	**21%**	**13%**	**13.5%**	**12.2%**
Agriculture	11.5%	12.9%	12%	7.4%
Received assistance				
Households having a card from which they can retrieve cash from an ATM	24.3%	30.2%	19.4%	13.3%
Households currently receiving multi-purpose cash assistance (US$ 173/month)	**18.2%**	**20.9%**	**10.7%**	**3.8%**
Households having a card from which they can buy food	24.9%	34.4%	25.9%	9%
Working members				
Households with working members	**71%**	**51%**	**45%**	**41%**
Demographics				
Household size (mean)	4.67	5.25	4.62	3.8
Percentage of households with members with disability	7.9%	12.4%	13.1%	26.9%
Percentage of households with members with chronic illness	**36.1%**	**48.6%**	**48.9%**	**41.3%**
>70% of household members are dependent	9.2%	14.2%	10.7%	7.3%
Gender of head of the household				
Women	11.6%	17.2%	22.4%	24.9%
Men	88.4%	82.8%	77.6%	75.1%

CHARACTERISTICS OF FOOD INSECURITY

Food security levels were analyzed in comparison with sector indicators to describe the characteristics of households defined as the most food insecure.

(S)MEB: Three out of four food insecure households have expenditures that are below the SMEB of US $87. Additionally, the data indicates that households spending less than the SMEB are more prone to being food insecure.

Debt: Food insecure households are borrowing more than food secure ones, with amounts as large as US $600. The percentage of households borrowing US $600 or more is higher in 2019 among all food security groups compared to 2018. This indicates that households are becoming more indebted, regardless of how food insecure or economically vulnerable they are.
The reasons why food insecure households are borrowing are similar to vulnerable households and include buying food (72%) and paying for rent (58%).

Expenditure level: Food insecure households have the lowest expenditure levels among the different food security groups. This indicates that food insecure households are also economically vulnerable. Expenditure level among all food security categories is lower in 2019 than in 2018.

Income sources: Food insecure households rely heavily on credit/debt for income (64%).

Working members: The percentage of households with working members is the lowest among severely food insecure households (41%), and the lower the food insecurity level, the lower the percentage of households with working members. This means that food security is positively associated with employment. A lower percentage of households at all food security levels have a working member in 2019, compared to 2018.

Demographics: Food insecure households are smaller than food secure ones. Additionally, the highest percentage of households with a disabled member is among the severely food insecure households (27%). The highest percentage of women-headed households is among severely food insecure households, which indicates that the most food insecure households are those headed by women, smaller households, and those with a disabled member.

Annex 28: Food security classification

The Food security classification is based on the combination of three main indicators: food consumption score, livelihood coping strategies and expenditure share.

- The food consumption score measures the current food consumption. Households are grouped based on the variety and frequency of foods consumed as indicated in the FCS Annex. The FCS is grouped into three categories: acceptable, borderline and poor. Another group is created for the classification of food security combining those who have an acceptable food consumption and who applied any food related coping strategies.
- Share of food expenditures measures the economic vulnerability. Households are categorized based on the share of total expenditures directed to food. Households which allocate more of their expenditures on food are more likely to be food insecure.
- The livelihood coping strategies measures sustainability of livelihoods. Households are categorized based on severity of livelihood coping strategies. Households which didn't apply any coping strategies fall under the category of food security.

Food security classification include four categories: food secure, marginally food insecure, moderately food insecure and severely food insecure

	Food Secure	Marginally Food Insecure	Moderately Food Insecure	Severely Food Insecure
Food consumption	Acceptable	Acceptable with food-related coping strategies	Borderline	Poor
Food expenditure share	<50%	50-65%	65-75%	>75%
Coping strategies	Household not adopting coping strategies	Stress coping strategies		Emergency coping strategies

The table below describes the combination of components for the FS classification.

Food Security Categories	Description
Food Secure	Able to meet essential food and non-food needs without engaging in atypical coping strategies.
Marginally Food insecure	Has minimally adequate food consumption without engaging in irreversible coping strategies; unable to afford some essential non-food expenditures.
Moderately Food Insecure	Has significant food consumption gaps OR able to meet minimum food needs only with irreversible coping strategies.
Severely Food Insecure	Has extreme food consumption gaps OR has extreme loss of productive assets that will lead to food consumption gaps or worse.

The steps to compute food security categories are the following:

1. Convert the three food security indicators into four-point scale indices:
   - Coping strategy index
   - Food expenditure share index
   - Food consumption score index that was classified into four groups as follows:

FCS Groups	Score
Acceptable	**1**
Acceptable with food-related coping strategies	**2**
Borderline	**3**
Poor	**4**

2. Calculate the coping capacity indicator by computing a rounded mean for the coping strategies index and the food expenditures share index;

3. Calculate the 'Food security classification' by computing a rounded mean of the household's FCS score index and the Coping Capacities indicator. This variable will have a value from 1 to 4 and represents the household's overall food security outcome.

The FS methodology used in the VASyR slightly differs from the WFP CARI methodology. This choice was necessary in order to maintain consistency and comparativeness along the different VASyRs over the past six years while the CARI was developed and finalized only in 2015. The main difference in the two methods in 2019 consists in:

- The aggregation of food consumption and food related coping strategies in the second food consumption group as shown in the below table.

WFP advocates that the methodology should remain the same to ensure the comparability of results over the years.

As for the nomenclature for the food security categories as mentioned in the VASyR 2018 report; the VASyR 2019 is consistent with the WFP corporate definitions nomenclature by replacing mildly food insecure by marginally food insecure.

Please find below the link for more information about food security classification in CARI:

http://www.wfp.org/content/consolidated-approach-reporting-indicators-food-security-cari-guidelines

		Food Secure	Marginally Food Secure	Moderately Food Insecure	Severely Food Insecure
CARI	**Food consumption**	Acceptable		Borderline	Poor
VASyR		Acceptable	Acceptable with food-related coping strategies	Borderline	Poor

Annex 28: Food security classification

	Food security classification				
	Food secure	Marginally food insecure	Moderately food insecure	Severely food insecure	
Total	8%	63.2%	28.1%	.7%	
Governorate					
Akkar	6.5%	69.7%	23.8%	0.0%	
Baalbek-El Hermel	8.1%	66.7%	25.2%	0.0%	
Beirut	20.9%	60.1%	18.3%	.7%	
Bekaa	3.9%	69.9%	26.2%	.0%	
El Nabatieh	7.4%	75.3%	16.8%	.4%	
Mount Lebanon	11.8%	55.7%	31.7%	.8%	
North	5.8%	55.8%	36.1%	2.3%	
South	8.1%	68.8%	22.7%	.3%	
Expenditure					
>=125% MEB (>=143US$)	20.0%	57.4%	22.3%	.3%	
MEB- 125% MEB (114 - 142US$)	12.7%	68.3%	18.6%	.4%	
SMEB-MEB (87-113US$)	8.5%	71.1%	19.9%	.5%	
< SMEB (87US$)	3.6%	61.6%	34.0%	.9%	
Gender of the head of household					
Female	4.8%	60.6%	33.8%	.8%	
Male	8.7%	63.8%	26.9%	.6%	
Shelter type					
Non-permanent shelter	4.7%	69.7%	25.2%	.3%	
Non-residential	7.3%	56.8%	34.8%	1.0%	
Residential	9.1%	62.3%	27.9%	.7%	

ASSISTANCE AND HOUSEHOLD ASSETS

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Vulnerable Syrian refugees in Lebanon receive two main types of assistance aimed to cover their basic needs: cash assistance and in-kind support. Refugees can withdraw cash from any ATM and access goods through the local market. By receiving cash assistance, refugee families can prioritize their purchases according to their needs in a dignified manner. The most vulnerable refugee families continue to have access to in-kind assistance in the form of core relief item distribution, depending on their specific needs. The VASyR survey examines whether families are recipients of cash assistance and assesses their access to household assets.

KEY FINDINGS

- **Just under half of families reported that they were receiving some form of cash assistance** through an ATM card. In-kind assistance was less common with 6% reporting to have received food in-kind.
- **The percentage of households that have access to all basic assets has slightly increased over the years to 58% in 2019,** compared to 55% in 2018 and 52% in 2017. Very few (4%) households had access to all medium assets and no households had all extended assets.

ASSISTANCE PROVISION

Three main types of cash assistance were distributed to Syrian refugees throughout 2019.

1. Multi-purpose cash (MPC/MCAP) assistance. Recipients of multipurpose cash assistance receive a US$ 175 monthly cash transfer redeemable at ATMs across the country. Nationally, some 59,000 families were assisted with multi-purpose cash[1]. UNHCR and WFP continue meeting basic needs of 33,000 and 23,000 families respectively. Families that receive multi-purpose cash assistance also receive cash for food at the value of US$ 27/person.

2. WFP Cash for food assistance. Recipients of Cash for food assistance receive a US$ 27/person monthly cash transfer redeemable at any ATM and at any WFP contracted shop across the country. Approximately 33,360 families were assisted with this type of food assistance.

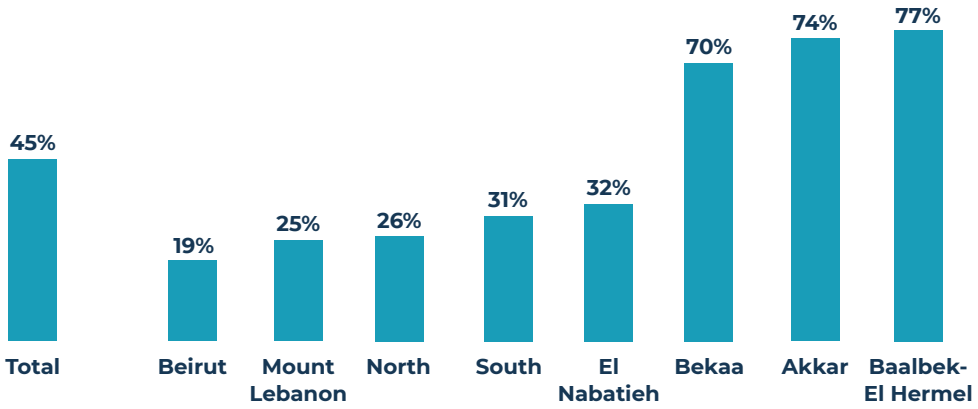
3. Cash for winter needs[2]. In the 2018/2019 winter season, Basic Assistance sector partners provided cash assistance to 175,000 families, which provided additional means to meet their needs brought about by winter. Almost 900,000 refugees received a one-off unrestricted cash lumpsum through ATM cards from UNHCR.

In addition to the above, other cash assistance programmes exist in Lebanon targeting groups of families with specific needs and protection risks. These include protection and emergency cash programmes.

Just under half (45%) of families reported they were in possession of an ATM card and were currently receiving some form of cash assistance. The highest proportions were in Baalbek- El Hermel, Akkar and Bekaa where about three quarters of families reported having cash cards. The lowest percentage of families holding ATM cards were in Beirut and Mount Lebanon. There was a slightly larger proportion of women-headed households that reported having a cash card (58% compared to 42% among men-headed households).

[1] Basic Assistance Sector 2019 Mid-year Update: **https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/71750**
[2] Includes direct cash transfers and fuel vouchers.

Figure 1: Proportion of families that reported having a card through which they currently receive cash assistance



Of the total population, one quarter reported having a card that could be used at an ATM for cash withdrawal while a slightly higher proportion (29%) reported being able to use their card at stores to buy food. A larger proportion of women-headed households reported receiving cash for food assistance, compared to men-headed households (41% versus 27%).

In-kind assistance was much less common with only 6% of families reporting that they had recently received in-kind food assistance. Receiving technical skills training and educational training were much less common with only 1% and 4% respectively.

HOUSEHOLD ASSETS

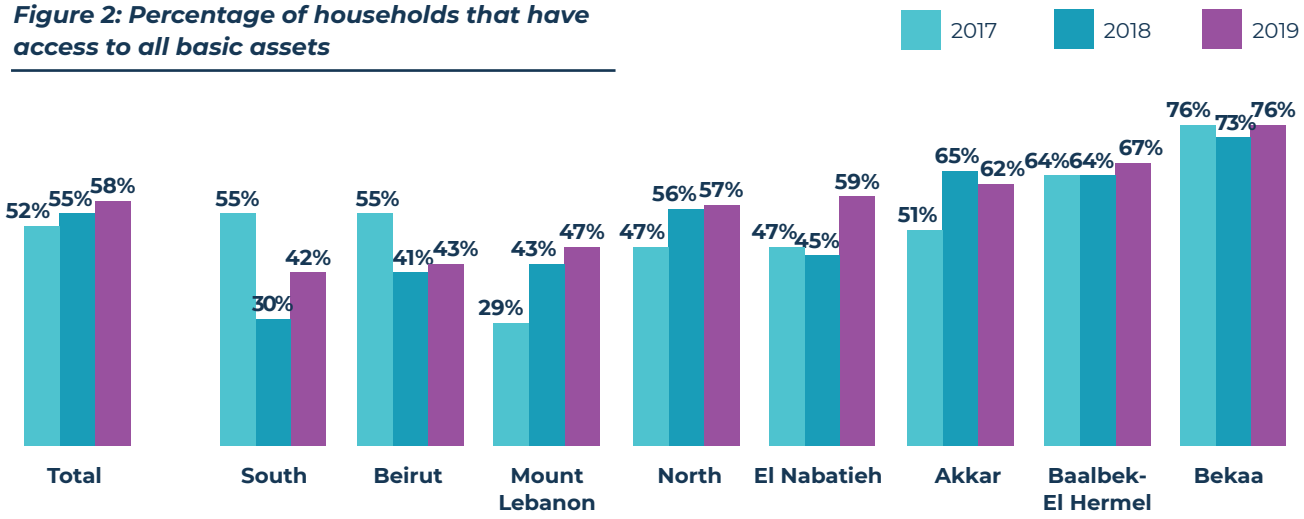
The VASyR assesses households' access to key household assets. Access refers to the ability of refugees to use the asset but does not necessarily imply that they are owned; the assets could be rented, borrowed or shared with another household. Assets that are present at the refugees' homes at the time of the interview are examined by enumerators to ensure that they are in working condition.

Household assets are classified into three categories: basic assets, medium assets, and extended assets as per the table below.

Basic assets	Mattresses, blankets, winter clothes, gas stoves, heaters
Medium assets	Water heaters, beds, tables, chairs, refrigerators, washing machines
Extended assets	Electric ovens, microwaves, dishwashers, central heating, air conditioning, sewing machines, DVD players, computers, mobile phones, internet, motorcycles, cars

The percentage of households that have access to all basic assets has slightly increased over the years to 58% in 2019, compared to 55% in 2018 and 52% in 2017. This increase is most pronounced in Mount Lebanon, but also in El Nabatieh, Akkar and North. Very few (4%) households had access to all medium assets and no households had all extended assets.

Figure 2: Percentage of households that have access to all basic assets



LEVEL OF OWNERSHIP

- **High ownership:** Asset owned by more than 75% of households
- **Medium ownership:** Asset owned by 45-74% of households
- **Low ownership:** Asset owned by 10-44% of households
- **Very low ownership:** Asset owned by less than 10% of households

As in previous years, basic assets all have high ownership levels with more than three quarters of families having access to these items. Heaters and winter clothes are also owned by over 75% of household. Ownership of larger appliances such as refrigerators, TVs, washing machines, water heaters and containers was less common. Fewer households reported having enough beds (11%) or tables and chairs (18%). Ownership of transportation vehicles was also very low with 5% owning motorcycles and only 1% owning a car, van or truck.

High ownership	
Mattresses	88%
Kitchen utensils & cutlery sets	88%
Blankets	87%
Mobile phones	84%
Small gas stoves for cooking	82%
Pots and pans	81%
Heaters	78%
Winter clothes	77%
Medium ownership	
TVs	72%
Refrigerators	68%
Washing machines	60%
Water containers	59%
Satellite dishes	51%
Internet	51%
Water heaters	43%
Low ownership	
Tables and chairs	18%
Beds	11%
Very low ownership	
Ovens	9%
Motorcycles	5%
Sewing machines	3%
Microwaves	2%
Vacuum cleaners	2%
DVD players	2%
Dryers	1%
Dish washers	1%
Separate freezers	1%
Air conditioning	1%
Computers	1%
Cars/vans/trucks	1%

ENERGY

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This chapter analyses the access to electricity by Syrian refugee households in Lebanon. It also assesses the hours of electricity supplied by the national grid versus private diesel generators.

KEY FINDINGS

- **96% of Syrian refugee households have some access to electricity,** mainly from the electricity grid and through diesel generators.
- **Electricity from the grid covers only 55% of the daily needs,** on average leaving 11 hours of power cuts nationally. As a result, 60% of households resort to accessing electricity through diesel generators, which bears an environmental as well as a financial cost.
- Over half of households pay for their electricity grid bill directly to the landlord or it is already included in their rent, while 33% pay directly to Electricité Du Liban, EDL. For 14% of households, no-one is collecting electricity bills.
- The use of renewable power, including solar panels and biomass/ biogas, remains negligible in all governorates.

ACCESS TO ELECTRICITY

Overall, 96% of households have some access to electricity, while 4% report having no access.

Access to any type of electricity is more challenging for those living in non-residential and non-permanent shelters. There are no major differences in access between women-headed and men-headed households.

Figure 1: Access to electricity

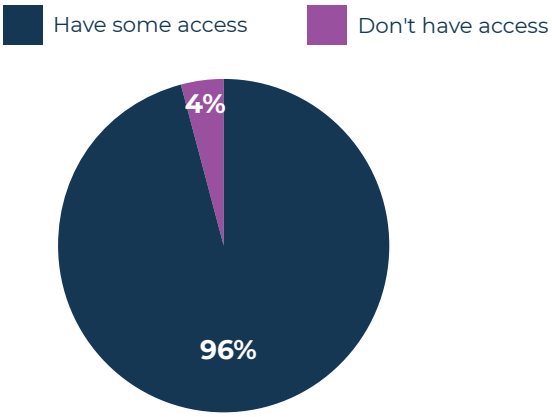
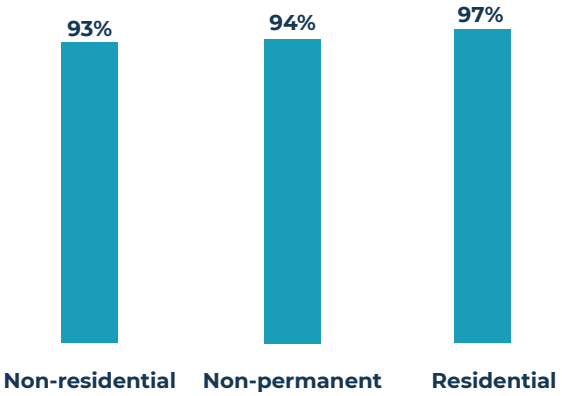
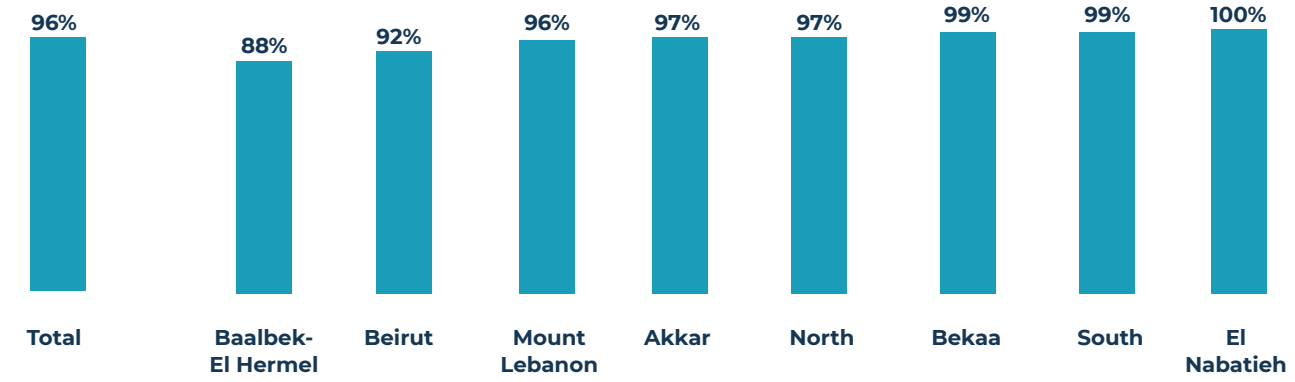


Figure 2: Access to electricity per shelter type



Looking at access to electricity per geographical area, Baalbek-El Hermel scored as the governorate with the lowest access at 88%.

Figure 3: Access to electricity per governorate

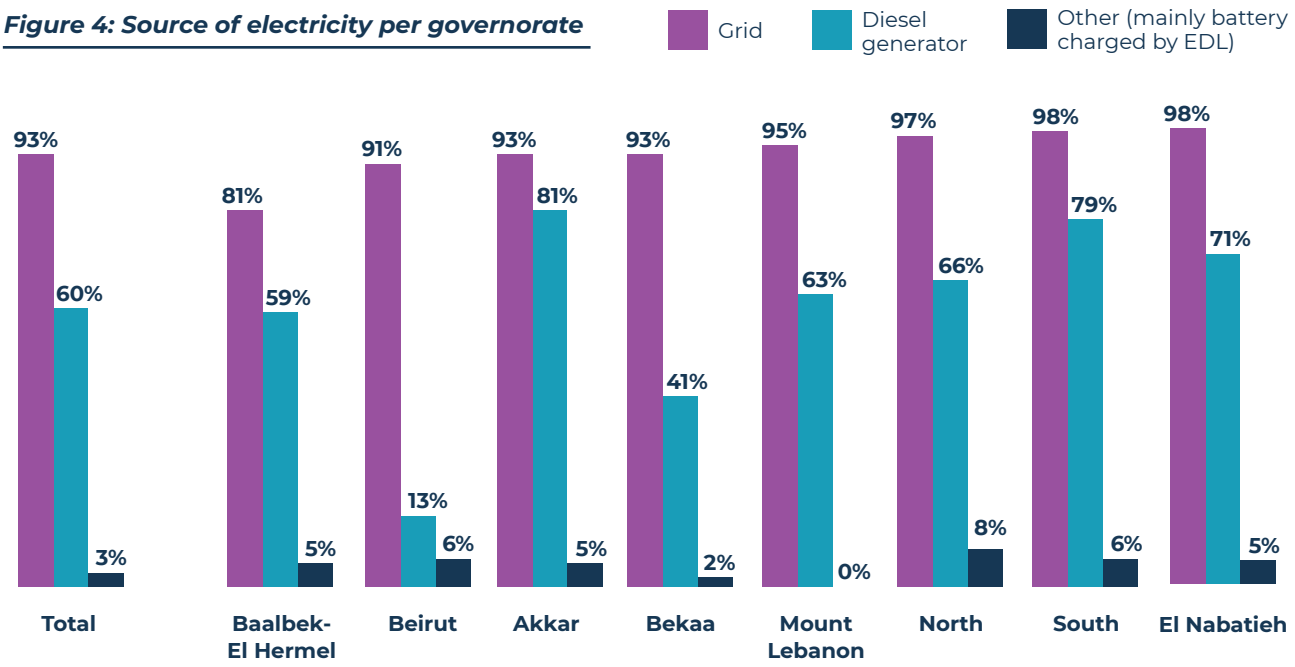


SOURCES OF ELECTRICITY

When considering the sources of electricity, 93% of households have access to the grid, with the lowest access reported by those living in non-permanent shelters (86%) as well as the most vulnerable households (92%). While access to diesel generators is lower at 60% on average and remains to be more challenging for those living in non-permanent shelters, only 48% of whom have access.

The 2019 results show that significant regional disparities relating to the source of energy should also be noted. While over 90% of households are able to access electricity from the grid in most governorates, in Baalbek-El Hermel accessibility is only 81%. Access to generators varies widely, ranging from 81% in Akkar to 13% in Beirut. The use of renewable power, including solar panels and biomass/biogas, remains negligible in all governorates.

Figure 4: Source of electricity per governorate

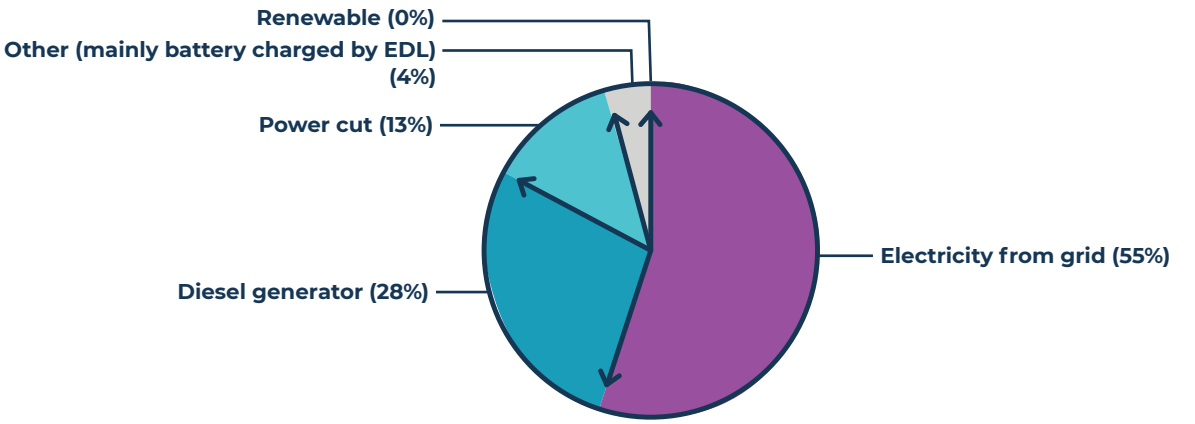


HOURS OF ELECTRICITY BY SOURCE

Out of a 24 hour window, refugees are able to access, on average, 13 hours and 12 minutes of electricity from the grid (55% of daily need), 6 hours and 42 minutes of electricity from diesel generators (28% of daily need) and 54 minutes of electricity from other sources (4%), while they experience a power cut during 13% of their day (3 hours and 9 minutes).

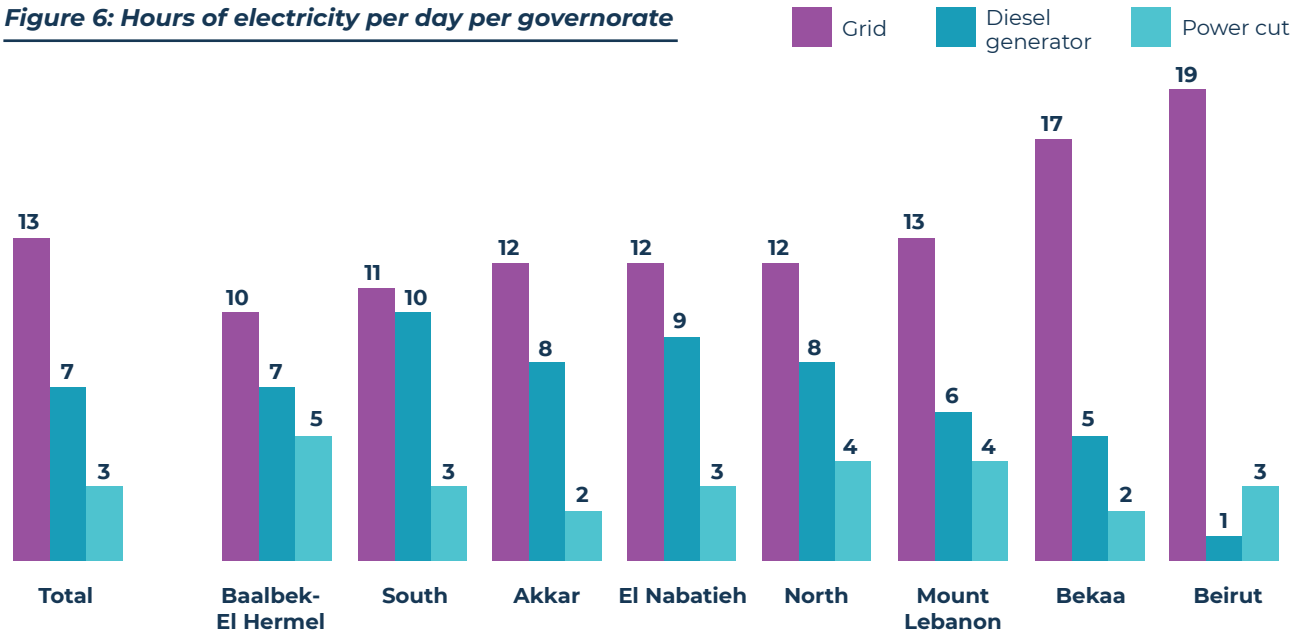
Power cuts, on average 3 hours and 9 minutes per day, are the highest in non-residential shelters (3 hours and 27 minutes per day) and among the most vulnerable households (3 hours and 30 minutes per day compared to 2 hours and 27 minutes per day for those least vulnerable).

Figure 5: Hours of electricity by source (out of a 24h window)



In Beirut and the Bekaa, the hours of electricity accessed from the grid are notably higher, corresponding to a lower number of hours of electricity sourced from generators. In contrast, the South experiences a much lower supply of electricity from the grid, which is supplemented by higher energy sourcing from generators.

Figure 6: Hours of electricity per day per governorate



ELECTRICITY BILL COLLECTION

For over half of refugee households (52%), bills for electricity from the grid are either collected by the landlord (29%) or are already included as part of the rent (22%). EDL collects bills directly from almost one third of households (33%). No bills are collected from 14% of households.
The highest rate of collection of bills by EDL was reported in Beirut (55%) and El Nabatiyeh (53%) while the lowest was in Akkar (11%) and North (26%).

Figure 7: Electricity bill collections

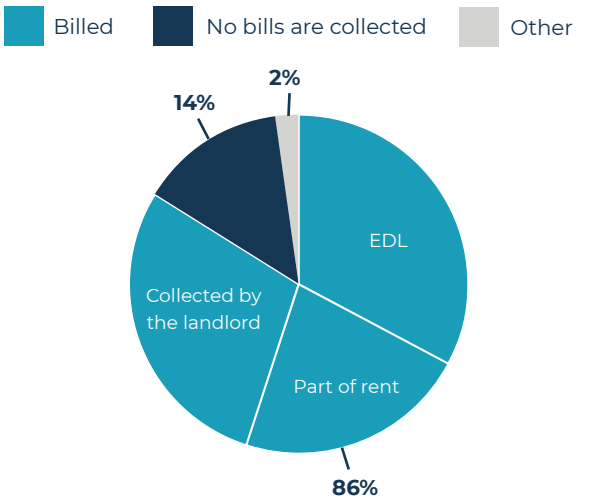
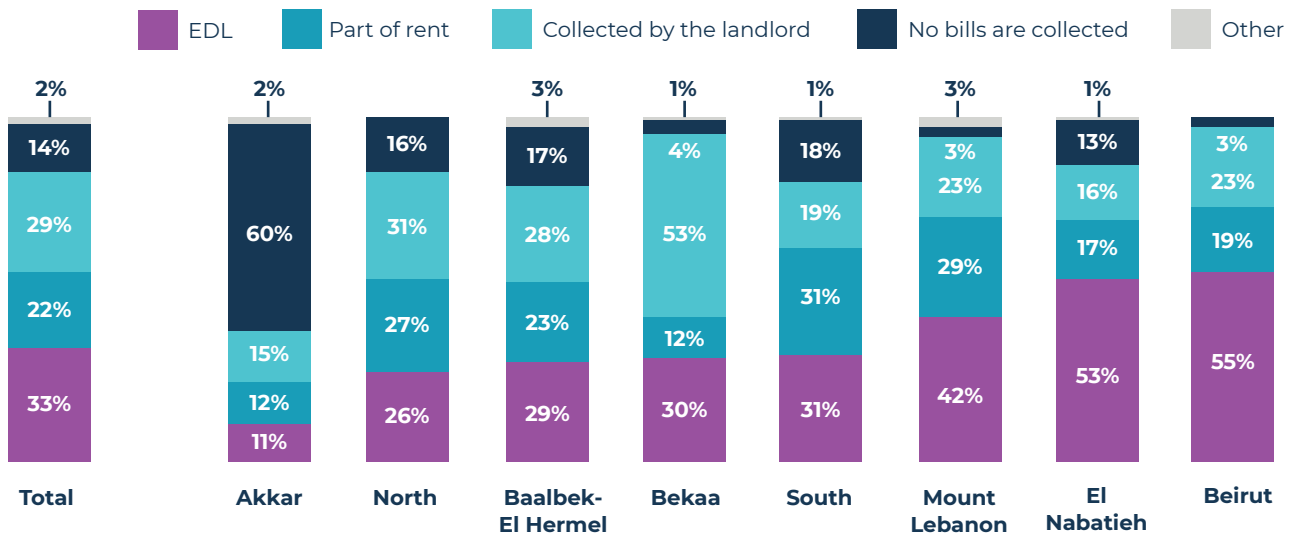
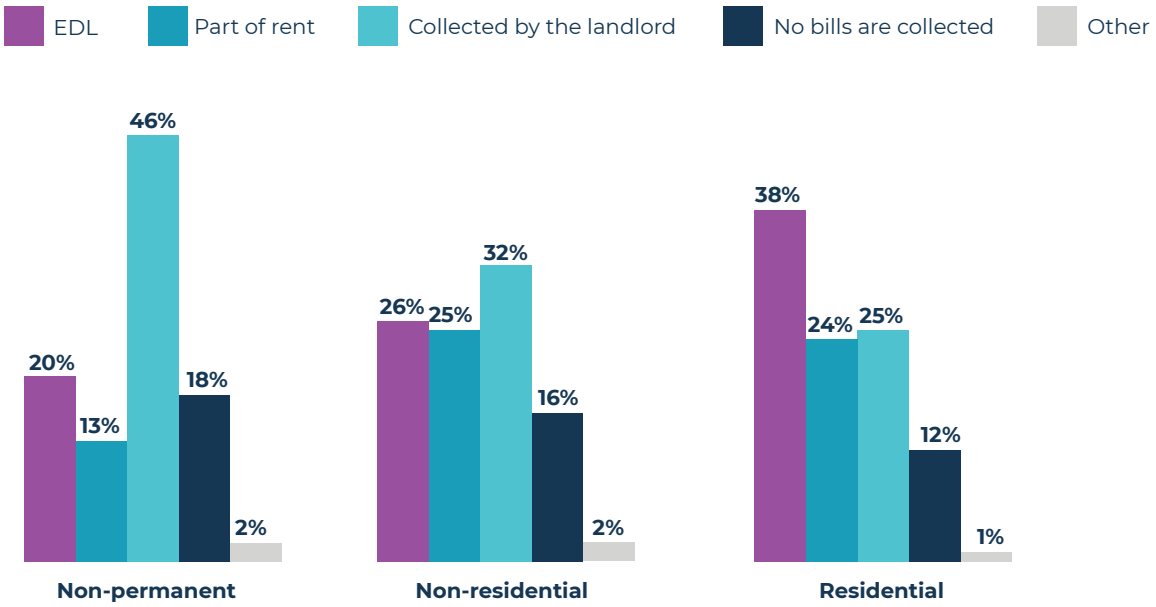


Figure 8: Bills collection by governorate



Two-thirds of refugees living in non-permanent shelters (informal settlements) are paying the EDL electricity bills to the landlord (directly or part of the rent) and only 20% are paying directly to EDL staff compared to 38% of those living in residential shelters.

Figure 9: EDL bill collection

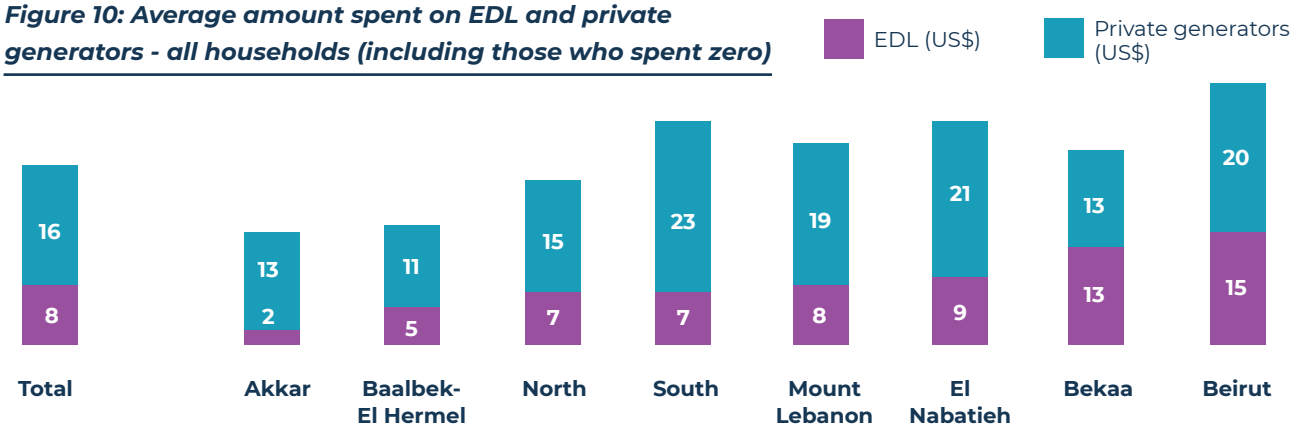


EXPENDITURE ON ELECTRICITY

Out of all households visited, 30% reported an expenditure on electricity from the grid (Electricité du Liban - EDL) in the last 30 days, whereas 38% had an expenditure on generators during the same time period.

The average amount spent on electricity from the grid is USD$ 8 per family monthly, whereas the average amount spent on generators is US$ 16 per family per month.

Figure 10: Average amount spent on EDL and private generators - all households (including those who spent zero)



FREQUENCY OF BILL COLLECTION

Of the 33% of households where EDL directly collects the bills, 59% pay monthly, whereas 40% pay every two months, with only 1% settling their bills every 6 months.

Refugee households more frequently tend to pay the landlords directly for the electricity grid, whereas 81% pay their bills every month.

Table 6: Electricity grid connection - frequency of payment

	Payment to EDL staff			Payment to landlord		
	Every month	Every 2 months	Every 6 months	Every month	Every 2 months	Every 6 months
Total	**59%**	**40%**	**1%**	**81%**	**16%**	**3%**
Akkar	**35%**	**65%**	**0%**	**80%**	**17%**	**3%**
Baalbek-El Hermel	**84%**	**13%**	**3%**	**78%**	**15%**	**6%**
Beirut	**40%**	**59%**	**1%**	**85%**	**14%**	**1%**
Bekaa	**90%**	**9%**	**1%**	**90%**	**6%**	**3%**
El Nabatieh	**37%**	**60%**	**3%**	**68%**	**29%**	**3%**
Mount Lebanon	**58%**	**41%**	**1%**	**76%**	**20%**	**3%**
North	**41%**	**59%**	**0%**	**78%**	**22%**	**0%**
South	**26%**	**69%**	**5%**	**58%**	**42%**	**0%**

In contrast to EDL electricity payments, almost all refugee households (99%) with access to diesel generators pay their bills monthly.

Table 7: Energy sources for cooking

		Gas	Oil (e.g. furnace oil)	Wood	Electric powered heater/cooker	No source is used
Governorate	**Total**	**98%**	**2%**	**2%**	**1%**	**0%**
	Akkar	**99%**	**0%**	**1%**	**0%**	**0%**
	Baalbek-El Hermel	**99%**	**4%**	**2%**	**0%**	**0%**
	Beirut	**94%**	**0%**	**0%**	**5%**	**1%**
	Bekaa	**100%**	**7%**	**7%**	**0%**	**0%**
	El Nabatieh	**99%**	**0%**	**2%**	**1%**	**0%**
	Mount Lebanon	**99%**	**0%**	**0%**	**1%**	**0%**
	North	**93%**	**1%**	**0%**	**5%**	**0%**
	South	**99%**	**2%**	**2%**	**1%**	**0%**
Shelter type	**Residential**	**98%**	**2%**	**1%**	**1%**	**0%**
	Non-residential	**97%**	**2%**	**2%**	**3%**	**1%**
	Non-Permanent	**99%**	**4%**	**8%**	**0%**	**0%**

Table 8: Energy sources for heating

		Gas	Oil (e.g. furnace oil)	Wood	Electric powered heater/cooker	None	Other
Governorate	Total	11%	40	12%	16%	20%	5%
	Akkar	8%	62%	13%	9%	12%	1%
	Baalbek-El Hermel	5%	82%	16%	1%	0%	1%
	Beirut	22%	0%	0%	27%	33%	18%
	Bekaa	3%	78%	22%	1%	1%	1%
	E Nabatieh	16%	41%	22%	8%	14%	5%
	Mount Lebanon	16%	11%	3%	26%	38%	9%
	North	15%	18%	12%	28%	25%	3%
	South	17%	23%	13%	22%	22%	15%
Shelter type	Residential	14%	33%	6%	20%	24%	7%
	Non-residential	9%	44%	16%	16%	14%	5%
	Non-Permanent	3%	63%	30%	1%	6%	1%

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