

VASyR 2021

Vulnerability Assessment of
Syrian Refugees in Lebanon



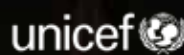
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- UNICEF is a leading humanitarian and development agency working globally for the rights of every child.
- UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, is a global organization dedicated to saving lives, protecting rights, and building a better future for refugees, forcibly displaced communities, and stateless people.
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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 assessments, and more.



<http://ialebanon.unhcr.org/vasyr>



VASyR microdata is published on the UNHCR microdata library.



<http://microdata.unhcr.org/>

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Acronyms

CFM	Child-Functioning Module
EDL	Electricité du Liban
ENA	Emergency Nutrition Assessment
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FCS	Food Consumption Score
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
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
M&E	Monitoring & Evaluation
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) analyzes a representative sample of Syrian refugee households in Lebanon to provide a multi-sectoral update of the situation of this population. Conducted annually, 2021 marks the ninth year of this assessment. 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 United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), show that the situation of Syrian refugees continues to worsen as Lebanon faces a compounded socio-economic and health crisis. With the currency depreciation, price spikes, and subsidy removals, nine out of 10 Syrian refugee households were not able to afford essential goods and services that ensure minimum living standards, despite increasing humanitarian support. Households continued to resort to negative coping strategies to survive, such as begging, borrowing money, not sending their children to school, reducing health expenses, or not paying rent. This survey indicates that, in 2021, more family members took poorly paid jobs, high-risk jobs, or extra shifts to make the same income that households made in 2020 while remaining heavily dependent on assistance. These coping strategies negatively affect resilience and the capacity to generate income in the future, making refugee families more vulnerable to food insecurity and more dependent on assistance.

Methodology

Between June 7 and July 7, 2021, survey teams visited 5,035 randomly selected Syrian refugee households, covering all districts across Lebanon. The household questionnaire was designed based on that of the previous year to ensure comparability, and face-to-face interviews took between 45 and 60 minutes to complete. The analysis plan was developed with inputs from the sector working groups and with reference to global indicators.

Key findings

Protection

A continuous decline in the rate of refugees with legal residency

A continuous decline in the rate of Syrian refugees with legal residency was noted, with only 16% of individuals aged 15 years and above holding legal residency. Even though most Syrian children born in Lebanon have the minimum level of birth documentation issued by doctor's or midwife's certificate (98%), only 31% have the birth registered at the Foreigner's Registry.

Violence against children

Protecting Syrian refugee children from all forms of violence was still a concern in 2021. More than half (56%) of children between 1 and 14 years of age had experienced at least one form of physical or psychological aggression. Furthermore, since 2019, the phenomena of children between the ages of 5 and 17 who are engaged in child labor doubled, reaching 5% in 2021, with boys being at risk four times higher than girls. Additionally, the highest rate of child labor was among adolescents between the ages of 15 and 17. Violence against adolescents spans to girls getting married off at an early age. In 2021, one in five adolescent girls between the ages of 15 and 19 were married at the time of the survey.

Shelter

Refugees continue to live in conditions below humanitarian standards

with over half (57%) of Syrian refugee families living in overcrowded shelters, shelters below humanitarian standards, and/or shelters in danger of collapse. The distribution of Syrian refugee households across the main shelter types remained mostly stable with the majority (69%) living in residential structures, 22% in non-permanent shelters, and 9% in non-residential structures. Thirty-three percent of female-headed households were living in informal settlements, an increase of 5 percentage points compared to 2020. Monthly rent costs for all shelter types combined increased by 18%, reaching an average of LBP 312,798 nationally, up from LBP 264,000 in 2020. Rent costs in non-permanent (LBP 133,304), residential (LBP 368,103), and non-residential (LBP 272,092) shelters increased by 43%, 17%, and 6% respectively compared to 2020.

Economic vulnerability

Lebanon's compounded socio-economic crisis has pushed almost the entire Syrian refugee population into a situation of severe economic vulnerability.

Despite the increase in assistance, 88% of Syrian refugee households were still below the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB), the absolute minimum amount required to cover lifesaving needs, similar to 2020 (89%) but significantly higher than the 2019 level (55%). On average, the monthly expenditures per capita were two thirds the SMEB (down from 120% in 2019), implying that Syrian refugee households were not meeting the minimum living standards. With a 404% and 372% increase in food and non-food prices since October 2019, inflation has significantly impacted their capacity to afford essential needs. The levels of debt increased by 1.8 times compared to last year, indicating that Syrian refugee households are increasingly in need of more resources to cover their basic needs. Buying food was the main reason for borrowing money, followed by rent, essential non-food items, and medicines.

Livelihoods

Assistance remained the main source of income for Syrian refugees,

enabling households to meet their basic needs that could not be covered through employment alone. Even with more Syrian refugees working (33% in 2021 vs. 26% in 2020) and with the unemployment rate decreasing from 39% in 2020 to 30% in 2021, the income that households were able to gain from employment in 2021 was still one-fifth of the SMEB compared to one-third of the SMEB value in 2019 before the onset of the economic crisis, indicating that Syrian refugees are engaging in poorly paid and high-risk jobs. Syrian refugees were mostly employed in low skilled jobs in agriculture, construction, and other services (restaurants, hotels, etc.). The participation in the labor force was 47%, and 53% of the population was inactive. Fifty-nine percent of men were employed compared to only 9% of women.

Coping strategies

In 2021, 94% of the Syrian refugee households faced challenges when accessing food and had to employ coping strategies to manage their food shortages. Forty percent of households had an rCSI (reduced Coping Strategy Index) category above 19, denoting significant constraints in

accessing food. Reliance on coping strategies increased across the country, suggesting further pressure on household food budgets. Overall, the rCSI increased by two points (from 16 in 2020 to 18 in 2021), with the most significant increases registered in Beirut and the North, indicating that households adopted more strategies to deal with the lack of access to food in the previous week and adopted severe strategies more frequently. The use of livelihood-based coping strategies, that negatively affect resilience and the capacity to generate income in the future, was also widespread among the Syrian refugee population. The most applied livelihood-based coping strategies were taking on new debts (92%), purchasing food on credit (75%), and reducing health (54%) and education expenditures (29%). Households that sold off goods and spent savings were at 25%, and those who reported they had to withdraw children from school or send children to work were at 7% each.

Food security

Similar to 2020, around half of Syrian refugee households were food insecure, (46% moderately food insecure, 3% severely food insecure) in 2021. More than 90% of the food insecure (moderate and severe) households were living below the SMEB. Nearly half (46%) had inadequate diets, down by 4 percentage points compared to 2020. Syrian refugee households continued to consume less variety of food. The share of households with poor daily dietary diversity (<4.5 food groups per day) almost tripled from 8% in 2019 to 21% in 2020 and 22% in 2021. Only one fifth (21%) of households had a rich daily diet diversity (consuming 6.5 or more food groups per day), similar to 2020 (23%), and down by 12 percentage points compared to 2019 (33%). There was a significant decrease in iron consumption with 82% of households never consuming iron, up by 19 percentage points compared to 2020.

Health

The proportion of respondents that reported having access to primary health care was the same in 2021 compared to 2020 despite a slight increase of those who reported needing primary health care. Access to hospital care decreased, despite the need reported being similar to 2020, with more than 80% reporting to access the hospital care they needed. For both primary health care and hospital care, the greatest obstacle to accessing care remained financial, and households in the lowest expenditure quintile reported having the least access to care. There were also significant differences in reported access between governorates, and particularly residents in Mount Lebanon and Beirut reported having less access to care. A quarter of children under the age of 2 suffered from at least one disease, with the majority (60%) suffering from diarrhea, and an increase from 2020 of 23 percentage points in children who suffered from a cough (56%). Access to medication was a challenge, with less than half of the respondents reporting to be able to access all their needed medication. There was a marked increase in knowledge of how to access health care for COVID-19 compared to the previous year. There was no increase in the proportion of women reporting having delivered at home.

Children not in education

In the past two years, the field of education has witnessed a shock that did not exist before. The COVID-19 pandemic forced school closures, resulting in thousands of children and youths staying home and learning at distance, leading to the education status deteriorating since 2020. There was a 14-percentage points drop in primary school attendance, reaching 53% for the scholastic year 2020-2021. Similarly, the share of pre-primary attendance (children between 3 and 5 years) dropped by 5 percentage points, with only 11% attending early childhood education. About half (47%) of school-aged children (6 to 17 years) attended any school 2020/2021, with the majority (47%) attending school both physically and remotely, 30% only remotely, and 23% only physically. The costs of education material and transportation remained the most prominent reasons for why refugee children did not attend the school year 2020-2021, with an increase in 10 and 14 percentage points respectively.

Youth and adolescents

As in 2020, the percentage of youth (15 to 24 years of age) who were attending school or university was only 13%. Yet, there was a considerable disparity between age groups, with those aged between 15 and 19 attending at a higher rate than the 20 to 24 years group, at 24% and 4% respectively. Among the youth, costs were still reported as a prominent reason for not attending school, however, the two main reasons were either due to marriage or due to work. Moreover, seven out of 10 youth were not in education, employment, or training (NEET), with boys (78%) reporting a higher rate than girls (54%). Similar to education attendance, the NEET increased with age. The NEET share among youth aged 15 to 18 years was 57% compared to 75% for those aged between 19 to 24 years.

Safe and clean environment

The water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) situation among Syrian refugees in Lebanon was marked by a scarcity of water for drinking and household use and improper sanitation, with conditions varying depending on the type of shelter. Household members with access to an improved drinking water source (89%) was similar to last year. Bottled mineral water remained the main source of drinking water at 38%. The reliance on bottled mineral water varied across regions and was highest in the South (74%) and lowest in Baalbek-El Hermel (8%). Additionally, 48% of households reported paying for drinking water, spending an average of LBP 63,505 per month. The majority (85%) had access to an improved drinking water source within their dwelling or a 30-minute roundtrip.

The share of household members with access to an improved sanitation facility remained similar to previous years at 91%, with flush toilet (69%) as the main source, though with a 14 percentage points difference in access to flush toilets between male-headed households (71%) and female-headed households (57%). Regional differences were also notable, with the ratio of access to an improved sanitation facility decreasing

from 89% in 2020 to 74% 2021 in Bekaa. Household members with access to a basic sanitation facility was 76%, similar to 2020, but decreased to 52% for non-permanent shelters. Access to improved sanitation in non-permanent shelters also dropped significantly from 79% in 2020 to 67% in 2021.

For both access to an improved water source and improved sanitation facility, households in non-permanent shelters were found to be the most vulnerable. Trucked water provided by the UN or NGOs was the most prominent drinking water source at 28%, while bottled mineral water was at 11%. Moreover, only 12% of individuals living in non-permanent shelters had access to a flush toilet with the majority (55%) using an improved pit latrine with cement slab.

Recommendations

Protection

- **Targeting on legal residency:** Targeting should not necessarily be directed to locations with low legal residency rates, but where the impact of lack of legal residency is greatest, i.e., high(er) legal residency rates in the South may indicate increased need for refugees to have legal residency based on the security situation. Similarly, there should be tailored outreach for women and persons with disabilities in relation to legal residency, but this should not divert resources from outreach to young men and adolescent boys who, according to the community, face greater risk of arrest and detention.

- **Impact of legal residency:** There is limited information on the differentiated impact of legal status on the lives of refugees by location. While all refugees need legal residency, the impact of lack of legal residency varies according to employment type, shelter, and location. More in-depth information is needed as to the differential impact of legal status on refugees' lives to understand in which locations, situations, and for which services it is most required. This will help to target outreach.

- Challenges with obtaining legal residency should be addressed through an expansion of the fee waiver in line with the recommendations in the Brussels I and II Conference partnership papers. Expanding the fee waiver for legal residency to all categories of refugees is critical for refugee protections, especially in light of the exceptional situation prevailing in the country which makes it impossible for most refugees to afford residency renewal. This would in particular allow the increase of refugees' freedom of movement and access to documentation as well as to critical services and to justice. Such a measure would also provide the national authorities, through the General Security Office (GSO), with comprehensive updated information on the refugee population.

- **Birth registration:** Long-term efforts to promote birth registration demonstrate impact. Birth registration must be mainstreamed into the work of all sectors in order to improve registration levels. Birth registration procedures for Syrian children should be further simplified and made more accessible.

- **Protection mainstreaming:** Results from the VASyR show there are growing needs in the community, growing aid perception bias, and growing barriers people face when accessing and participating in humanitarian interventions. Protection mainstreaming and conflict sensitivity must be two key priorities in the response in 2022. A critical step to achieving this is to improve the availability of analysis on protection risks in relation to assistance. The VASyR 2022 should integrate additional questions to collect feedback on meaningful access, safety and dignity, participation and accountability of people in relation to the provision of humanitarian services.

- **Safety & Security:** Perceptions collected in relation to safety and security need to be directly sought from the different age, gender, disability, and diversity groups interviewed in order to provide more accurate results and tailored responses. Feedback from all communities in terms of how their physical safety can be improved is important.

- **Protection from violence.** The VASyR results show how boys and girls are deprived of their right to being protected from forms of violence, namely child labor, violent discipline, and early marriage, in line with results from various other sources. With the current situation of mass poverty, unemployment at its tipping point, and schools still at risk of closure due to COVID-19, children are the ones who will be impacted the most. This calls for optimizing and expanding integration between sectors and programs, while ensuring a gender targeted approach. Each vulnerable child should be benefiting from protection services, such as psychosocial sessions, parenting, or case management, linked with other complementary services, such as social assistance, education (formal and non-formal), and skills learning. This integrated approach can prevent violence against children by addressing the different determinants of protection violation in a holistic manner. The violation of children's rights warrants prioritization given how the phenomena might escalate quickly in light of the absence of any national policy (e.g., minimum age for marriage), increase in unemployment rates, school closures, and deterioration of the socio-economic situation.

Health

- The relatively stable figures in overall access to care are remarkable considering the increasingly difficult situation in the country. It would be of value to make further inquiries into the groups reporting decreasing access such as the ones with the lowest incomes and residents in certain areas of the country. It would also be important to find out more about the quality of care provided and possible changes in outcomes such as mortality in various groups.

- As previously, there is a need for targeted support to the households with the lowest incomes to address the financial barriers to health care.

- The overall poor access to medications needs to be addressed through increased support to the mechanism for central acquisition and distribution of essential drugs to primary health care facilities, and through strengthened supply chain management at health facility level.

- Children's health should remain a priority for all actors. With the increase in medical and food prices and limited access to quality health care services, the health of children remains a concern to be monitored, especially with the high level of diarrhea and cough among those below 2 years of age.

Education

- Costs of education, specifically transportation to and from school and of education materials, remain the main reasons for children not attending school. This calls for the need for focusing on the financial burden by providing transportation and ensuring that every child in school owns the materials needed.

- The prolonged COVID-19 pandemic is still affecting children and their learning. Children and their caregivers are facing challenges with remote learning, which is observed in the decrease in attendance rates. At the minimum, children require devices, such as a computer or tablet, and internet connection. Additionally, caregivers need parental guidance on home schooling to support their children while they are studying remotely.

- Additional evidence that explores in depth the barriers and promoters of distance learning is needed to have a more in-depth understanding of home learning, while considering the caregivers, the children, and the environment.

- Across all education outcomes, the underlying common factor among them all is having the child inside school and learning. The response should be comprehensive enough not to only get the child to school or provide material, but also ensure quality learning and retention of students until graduation.

- The majority of youth and adolescents were not in education, training, or employment (NEET). The international community should have a tailored and targeted approach for adolescents to provide them with access to learning or employment. Cost of education was found to be one of the reasons adolescents are not in school, but also girls were being married off and boys sent to work. Thus, the response should be holistic including education or training services coupled with protection and social assistance to address the needs from all sides.

WASH

- The increase in market prices caused by the socio-economic situation in Lebanon makes safe water at risk of being either unavailable or unaffordable. The response needs to provide continuous sustainable support regarding the access to safe, clean, and affordable drinking and non-drinking water.

- Despite the high access to an improved drinking water source, mainly bottled water, the quality and safety of the water from all improved sources were not assessed. This calls for an update on the water quality using global and standardized tools, such as the Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS).

- Similarly, the access to improved sanitation facilities should be maintained by the continuous support of humanitarian agencies. The overall WASH response should be tailored according to regional differences and prioritizing those living in non-permanent shelters.

Food security and basic needs

- Continue to expand the provision of cash-based assistance, and to adjust the value of transfers to ensure they adequately meet increasing food, nutrition, and other essential needs (e.g. education, health, shelter) in a context of currency depreciation, price spikes, subsidy removals, and reduced livelihood opportunities.

- Continue to conduct regular monitoring of food security and vulnerability indicators at the national and subnational levels to inform food security interventions and strategies, including updating indicators as relevant or needed to capture a rapidly evolving and deteriorating socio-economic context.

- Strengthen the linkages between the provision of cash and in-kind support with income-generating and livelihood opportunities to ensure longer-term outcomes for vulnerable individuals and households and to boost their resilience to future shocks.

- Strengthen the inclusion of women in income-generating and livelihood opportunities, particularly in the agriculture sector - one of only three sectors where Syrian refugees are allowed to work. This requires collecting disaggregated data, tailoring assessments to capture women's specific food security and livelihood needs, and strengthening linkages with other sectors to better inform program design.

- Although more household members are employed compared to 2020, the household income level is still one fifth of the SMEB, which means that Syrian refugees are taking poorly paid and high-risk jobs. It is recommended to increase and diversify livelihoods projects in the various areas to include more vulnerable individuals, and to engage them in longer term opportunities ensuring decent work conditions.

- The food security, basic assistance and livelihood sectors should continue to coordinate closely with other sectors to strengthen the referrals system that can offer ad hoc support through different modalities to Syrian refugee households. As agriculture remains Syrian refugees' main sector of employment, despite a 5 percentage points decrease compared to last year, more opportunities to maximize income and build skills in this sector should be explored.

- When designing food and basic needs assistance programs, conflict sensitivity should continue to be a main focus for all types of assistance. Given the continuing socio-economic crisis and depreciation of the Lira, and its impact on the vulnerable population, advocacy with the donor community should persist in order to increase funding and resources for food assistance in Lebanon.



INTRODUCTION

Background

Ten years into the Syria conflict, Lebanon remains at the forefront of one of the worst humanitarian crises. The Government of Lebanon (GoL) estimates that the country hosts 1.5 million¹ of the 6.6 million² Syrians who have fled the conflict since 2011 (including 855,172 registered with UNHCR as of end of March 2021³). The Syrian refugee population in Lebanon remains one of the largest concentrations of refugees per capita in the world.

Adding to the humanitarian context, Lebanon is undergoing a series of overlapping crises on the political, economic, and social front, compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to this, the capital Beirut and the country are still recovering from the effects of the devastating blast in the port of Beirut on August 4, 2020.

On the macroeconomic front, from 2018 to 2020, the GDP (Gross Domestic Product) per capita has decreased by 37%, while real GDP is projected to contract by 11% in 2021, following a contraction of 21% in 2020. This constitutes one of the deepest crises globally.⁴ The Lebanese lira has continued to lose value in 2021, averaging 15,274 per US\$ (United States Dollars) in the informal market during the month of data collection (compared to 5,600 in 2020), equivalent to a loss of value of around 90% compared to the official rate of LBP (Lebanese Pounds) 1,500 per US\$. The country depends heavily on imports, paid for in US\$, and is going through a removal of subsidies, particularly of fuel, which are creating inflationary pressures. Lebanon's hyperinflation is among the highest globally, averaging 134% for all goods and services and 300% for food and non-alcoholic beverages (January-September 2021). The high inflation is negatively affecting the purchasing power and welfare of families.

Lebanon was also strongly affected by COVID-19, with around 560,000 (10% of the population) confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 7,906 deaths by end-July 2021.⁵

Taking all the aspects jointly, the political situation, economic downturn, steep inflation, Beirut blast, and COVID-19 have pushed vulnerable communities in Lebanon - including Syrian refugees - to an even more precarious standard of living.

The 2021 Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon (VASyR) was the ninth annual representative survey assessing the situation of Syrian refugees in Lebanon to identify changes and trends in their vulnerabilities. Similar to 2020, given the COVID-19 pandemic in Lebanon, most assessments and other activities requiring in-person visits were either cancelled or postponed. Considering the prolonged socio-economic status in Lebanon and COVID-19, it was crucial to provide needs-based estimates on Syrian refugees in the country. Thus, the VASyR 2021 was one of the few assessments that were conducted face-to-face; the implementation was accompanied by a comprehensive COVID-19 measures protocol to ensure the safety of families and field workers (see Methodology for more details). The criticality of conducting the VASyR 2021 was to provide insights about Syrian refugees impacted by the overlapping crises affecting Lebanon.

Purpose

The VASyR is an essential tool for planning, decision-making, and needs-based program design. Results of the VASyR are used by the ten sectors under the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP) to understand the evolving situation in Lebanon and to advocate for funding from donors. The VASyR has also been used to build targeting models, for instance to predict the socio-economic vulnerability and allocate assistance accordingly. Results of the VASyR are used to show the geographical differences in vulnerabilities at governorate and district levels, which feed into the situation analysis.

The key objectives of the VASyR are:

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, coping strategies, shelter living conditions, access to services, the situation of women and children, and more. The information feeds into the situational analysis of the LCRP and 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 are used for targeting for cash and food assistance. The results of the VASyR also inform other targeting approaches, for instance on protection risks or shelter vulnerability, and identify the most vulnerable areas.

3. To contribute to the LCRP Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework. The VASyR results 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).

4. Provide an overview of the additional needs of Syrian refugees impacted by the ongoing crisis. VASyR 2021 aims to provide insights on how Syrian refugees have been impacted by the overlapping crises affecting Lebanon.

¹ LCRP 2017-2020 (2020 update)

² <https://www.unhcr.org/globaltrends2019/>

³ UNHCR registration data as of March 31, 2021

⁴ World Bank (2021). Lebanon's Economic Update — October 2021.

⁵ WHO (2021). Lebanon: WHO Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Dashboard. Consulted on November 12, 2021.

Assessment organization and scope

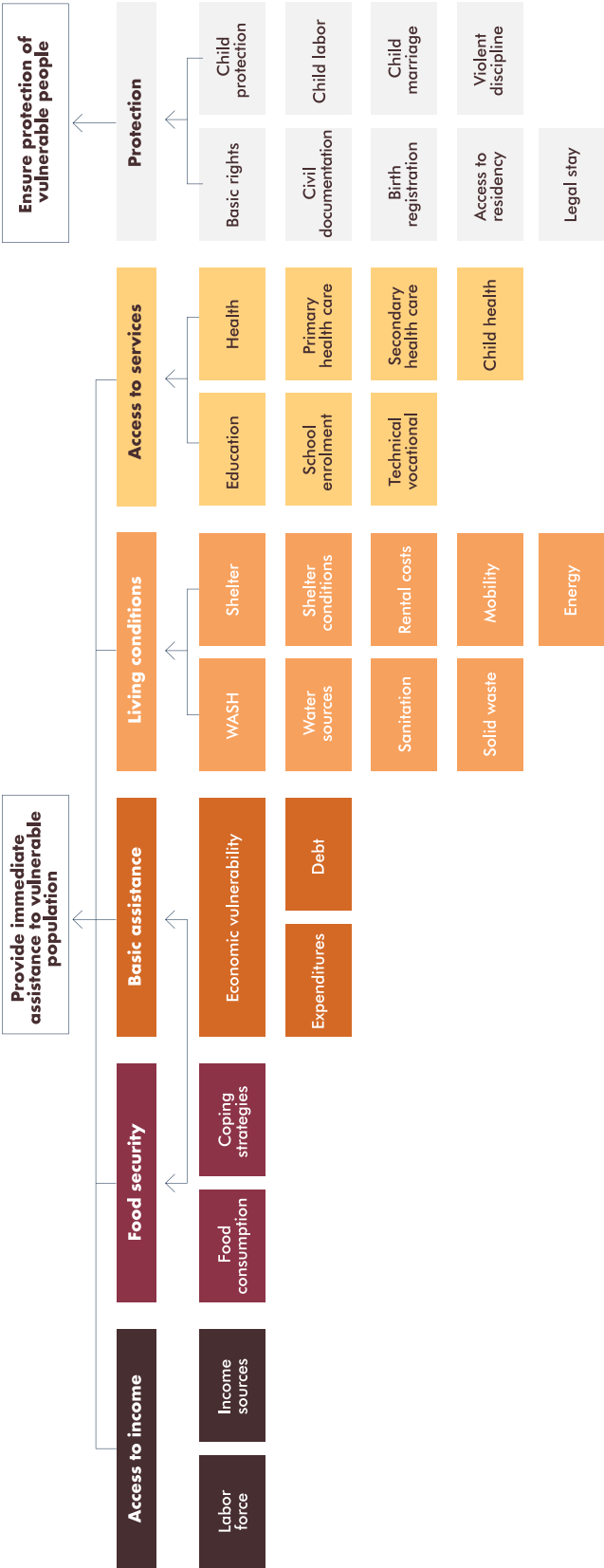
The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), and the World Food Programme (WFP) are the VASyR technical leading agencies and form the VASyR steering committee together with the Inter-Agency Coordination unit. The VASyR Core Group agencies members were responsible for implementing the assessment, providing technical insights, and ensuring quality control. The Inter-Agency unit coordinates the VASyR process among the core group members, ensuring linkages between the VASyR and the LCRP, as well as communication and feedback from the different sectors.

The development of the analysis plan and questionnaire began in February 2021 through rounds of feedback with the Core Group and sector experts. Data collection took place from June 7 to July 7, 2021. Preliminary data analysis occurred from August through November 2021, and full analysis and report writing took place from September through December 2021.

The figure below reflects the scope and contents of the VASyR.

The analysis for this report was conducted by the three above-mentioned UN agencies with the support and coordination of the Inter-Agency unit. UNHCR is the lead for demographics, protection, shelter, health, energy, and assistance, while UNICEF is the lead for WASH, youth, education, child protection, child health, child nutrition, and children with disabilities. WFP is the lead agency for economic vulnerability, livelihoods, food consumption, coping strategies, and food security. WFP also supported with the analysis of child nutrition data. All agencies conducted the data analysis and wrote up the chapters internally based on the breakdown of responsibilities. UN Women conducted gender specific analysis and result write-up based on data analysis by the lead agencies. Humanity and Inclusion conducted the disabilities analysis. Coordinators from the three agencies provided the requested analysis and oversaw the relevant chapters in the VASyR.

For additional details on the implementation of the survey, see the Methodology chapter.



WETHOPOLOGY

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Sampling

Sampling for the VASyR followed a two-stage cluster approach, keeping with the methodology of previous years. The UNHCR database of known Syrian refugees as of May 2021 served as the sample frame. Cases with missing addresses were excluded. 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 similar representativeness with other governorates, an additional two strata samples were considered for each, yielding 90 cluster selections for each. The governorate of Baalbek-El Hermel is made up of only two districts, and thus to ensure an adequate sample in that governorate, one additional cluster sample was considered.

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/household) under UNHCR databases. Using the Emergency Nutrition Assessment (ENA) software, villages were selected with a probability proportionate to size where villages with a larger concentration of refugees were more likely to be selected and 30 clusters/villages were selected with four replacement clusters per district.

In order to determine the sample size needed to generate results representative at 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/cluster selection were required, leading to a target of 5,115 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. In the final sample, 8,662 cases were targeted across all districts of which 5,035 households were visited.

Training and field work

Like the previous year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, enumerator training took place remotely. Separate enumerator trainings were carried out online for each operational region (Bekaa, Mount Lebanon, the North,

and the South) covering the data collection tool, contextual background, methodology, and ethical considerations. Additionally, enumerators were required to attend a 2 hr online COVID-19 training, provided by the Lebanese Red Cross, which covered key information about the virus, transmission, and precautionary methods. The bulk of the training was administered by UNHCR, WFP, and UNICEF staff. Training on the Washington Group Question Set of Functioning was provided by Humanity and Inclusion.

Data was collected and entered on electronic tablets by the enumerators during the interviews using KoBo toolbox software. The data was then sent to the UNHCR Refugee Assistance Information System (RAIS) platform.

Data collection took place between June 7 and July 7 2021 through face-to-face interviews at refugee homes by four partners in each region, as shown in the table below.

Table 1: Partners that conducted interviews for the VASyR

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

COVID-19 safety measures during data collection

With the support of the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan Health Working Group and WHO, the detailed guidelines, put in place in 2020, were updated to ensure the safety of enumerators and refugee families during the face-to-face data collection. Firstly, prior to the visit, households were screened over the phone to ensure that no member was exhibiting COVID-19 related symptoms and to inform respondents of the measures to be taken during the interview. UNHCR field offices and partners liaised closely with local authorities to inform them of the exercise and the measures taken to ensure access to specific areas. During the data collection activity, enumerators were provided with personal protective equipment such as masks and sanitizing equipment, which were also provided to refugees participating in the interviews. Enumerators were equipped with digital thermometers to measure body temperature of respondents prior to beginning the interview. Interviews took place with one household member at a safe social distance and in an outdoor or a well-ventilated area. If these conditions were not met or if any household member was showing COVID-19 related symptoms, the interview was called off.

¹ Using the Emergency Nutrition Assessment (ENA) Software.

Questionnaire

The 2021 VASyR questionnaire consisted of around 513 questions that collected data at the household and individual level including demographics, legal documentation, safety and security, shelter, WASH, energy, 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/88944>

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.² Feedback was provided to enumerators directly after the interview was completed, and reports were drafted 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. Important feedback was shared with all enumerators through field coordinators via WhatsApp groups.

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

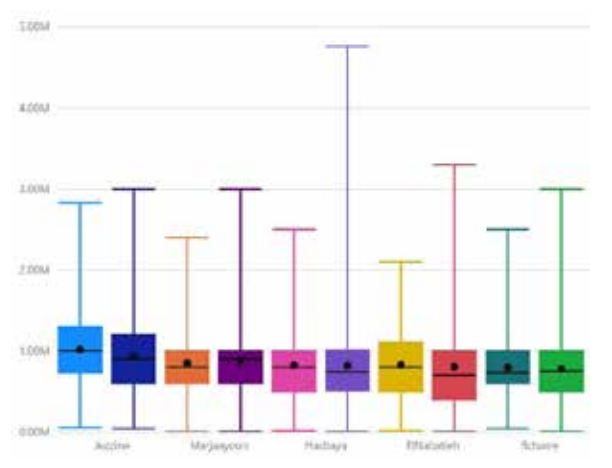
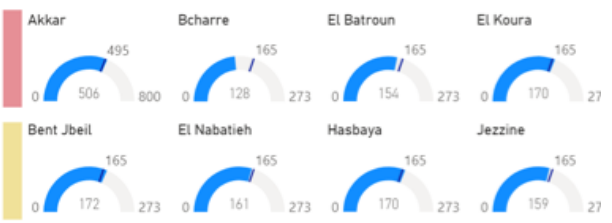
3. At the end of each week, a data collection summary report was shared with all agencies to check on the progress of data collection.

4. A WhatsApp group was created among the enumerators and general feedback was shared daily.

5. A dynamic dashboard was created to monitor the progress of data collection in real-time. The dashboard included tools to monitor accuracy of data collected and to identify outliers during data collection.

METHODOLOGY

Sample charts from the dashboard to monitor progress and identify outliers in real time



Data processing

Data weighting 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 the total sample frame of the district, N is the total national sample frame, n_s is the number of households visited in the district, and n is the total visited households.

The data was cleaned from 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 when deemed necessary. Data was analyzed using the IBM SPSS Statistics 20 software.

² Refer to <http://ialebanon.unhcr.org/vasyr> for a detailed description of the spot checks procedure and tools used.

Limitations and constraints

As in any survey, limitations were expected. Key limitations of the VASyR were as follows:

1. In 2021, the data collection was in June-July as opposed to August-September in 2020 and May-June of previous years (2019 and before). The changes in timeline were due to the COVID-19 outbreak and finding the right time to conduct the survey. This may have had implications on indicators that concern behaviors with eventual seasonal variations.

2. The VASyR relies primarily on self-reported data which may give rise to bias. To minimize the impact of this bias, enumerators were trained in providing comprehensive informed consent to reassure confidentiality, purpose, risks, and benefits.

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

4. The VASyR questionnaire and respective indicators were subjected to adjustments and changes in order to ensure that the most accurate definition or calculation was being used. This 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, individual interviews are not carried out with each family member and obtaining accurate information on particularly sensitive topics is a challenge (i.e. child labor or harassment).

DEMOGRAPHICS

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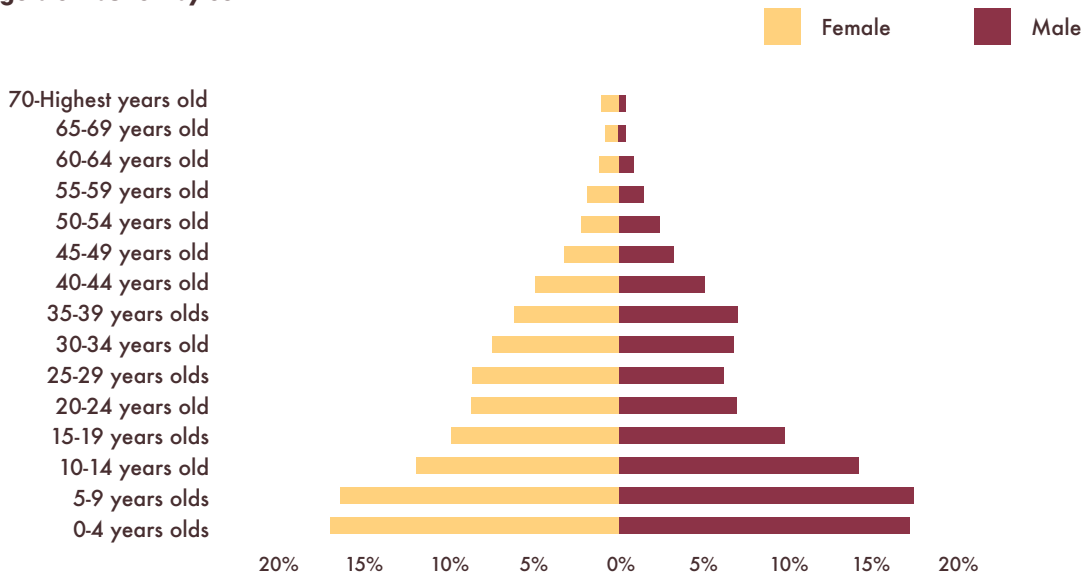
The VASyR tracks key demographic indicators over time to better understand the population of Syrian refugees in Lebanon. This includes household composition, profile of the head of household, dependency, prevalence of disabilities, and other specific needs. A household is defined as a group of people 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 remained stable with, on average, five individuals in a typical Syrian refugee household in Lebanon.
- The share of female-headed households was 17.5%.
- There were no major shifts noted in the overall population composition, with an even split between male and female. More than half of the population was under the age of 18.
- Among the population, 9% of individuals were found to have a disability. At the household level, 30% had at least one member with a disability.

Population profile

Figure 1: Age distribution by sex



Examining the distribution of the population by age and sex, there was an overall even split between male and female. The exceptions were in the age group between 10-14 years, with more boys than girls, and in the age group of 25-29 years where there was a notably smaller proportion of men than women. Over half (51%) of the Syrian refugee population in Lebanon was below the age of 18 years.

Refugee households

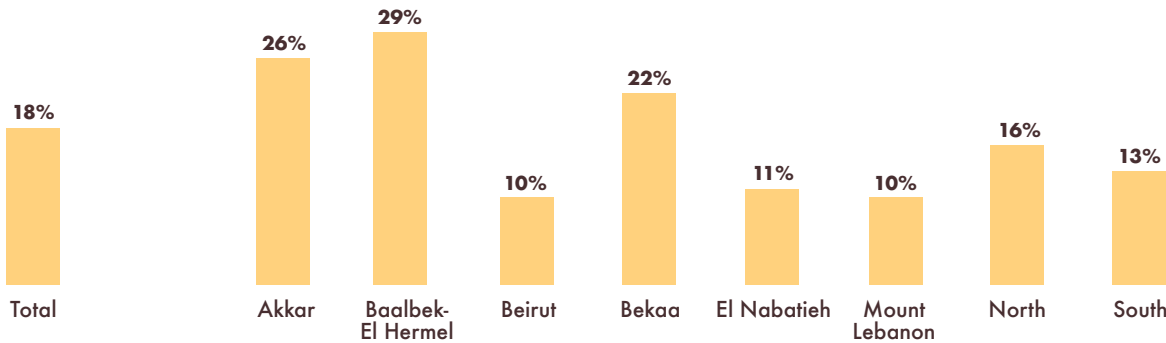
The average Syrian refugee household size remained stable at five individuals per household. On average, households were composed of 2.3 adults (18-59 years), 1.5 children aged between 6 and 17 years, and 1 child aged 5 years or younger.

Most commonly, households had between one and four members (41%), 35% had five or six members, and 24% had seven household members or more. Eighty-seven percent of households had at least one member under the age of 18, and 61% had at least one child under the age of

5. Ten percent of households had a member aged 60 years or above.

The share of female-headed households has remained stable over the years and was recorded at 17% in 2021 compared to 19% in 2020. Beirut and Mount Lebanon had the lowest share at 10%, while Baalbek-El Hermel and Akkar had the highest rate with one quarter of households in these governorates being headed by a woman.

Figure 2: Share of female-headed households, by governorate

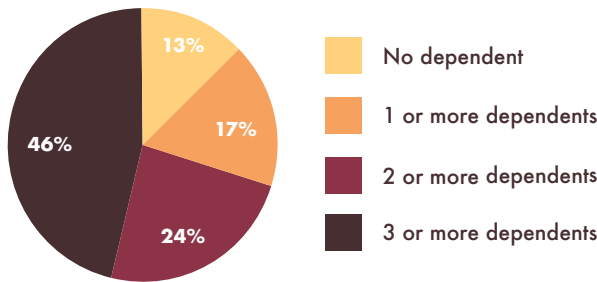


Dependency

Dependents: Household members aged 14 or younger, or 60 years or above.

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

Figure 3: Average number of dependents within households



The average dependency ratio in Syrian refugee households remained stable at 0.96 in 2021, compared to 1 in 2020 and 1.2 in 2019, indicating an almost even distribution of dependents and non-dependents. Forty-six percent of households had at least three dependents, 24% had two, 17% had one, and 13 % had no dependents at all.

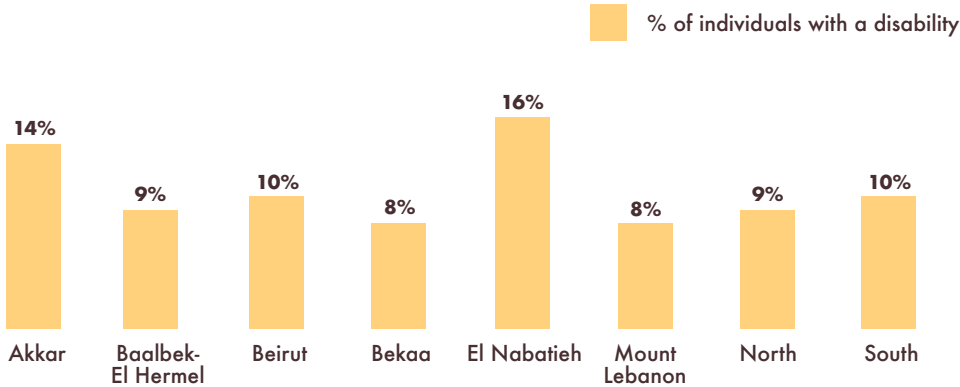
Disability

Disability was measured using an adapted version of the “Washington Group Short Set of Questions (WGQ) on Functioning – Enhanced”¹ for adults and children aged 5 and above, and the Washington Group/UNICEF “Child-Functioning Module (CFM)”² for children aged 2 to 4 years. The WGQ set of questions focused on measuring 10 domains and the CFM seven domains by looking into difficulties in functional limitations to determine the presence of a disability. Nine percent of the Syrian refugee population

were found to have such difficulties, i.e. a disability. At the household level, 30% had at least one member with a disability. The percentage of people with a disability was higher among male (10%) than female (8.5%) respondents.

The prevalence of disability varied from one Lebanese governorate to another. El Nabatieh governorate ranked first with the highest disability prevalence of 16%, while Mount Lebanon ranked last with the lowest prevalence of 7.5%

Figure 4: Disability prevalence per governorate

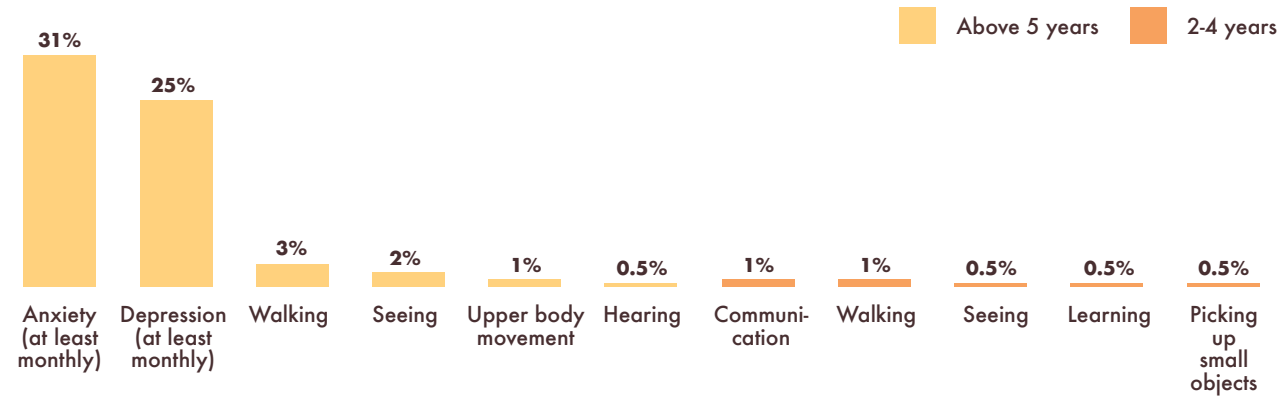


Examining specific domains of difficulty among individuals above the age of 5, 2% reported some level of difficulty seeing, 0.5% reported some difficulty hearing, and 3% reported that they had a lot of difficulty walking or climbing stairs, or were unable to do so at all.

Among those aged 5 or above, 30% reported feeling worried, anxious, or nervous, and 24% reported feeling depressed on an at least monthly basis. Respectively, 17% and 11% reported these on a daily basis.

¹ Washington Group Short Set of Questions on Functioning (WGQ) - Enhanced measures 10 domains namely: vision, hearing, mobility, communication, remembering, self-care, upper-body, fine-motricity, anxiety, and depression.
² Child-Functioning Module measures seven domains namely: vision, hearing, mobility, understanding, cognition, learning, and upper-body fine-motricity.

Figure 4: Proportion of individuals reporting difficulties in different domains, as per Washington Group Short Set of Questions on Functioning - Enhanced



Looking at people living with a disability (aged 2 and above) and expressed difficulties doing basic universal activities, 21% reported difficulty seeing, 10% reported difficulty hearing, 34% reported difficulty walking/climbing stairs, 2% reported difficulty understanding, and 9% reported difficulty using hands and fingers.

Of people living with a disability (aged 5 years and above) and expressed difficulties doing basic universal activities, 9% reported difficulty speaking, 10% reported difficulty remembering or concentrating, 12% reported difficulty to care for self, and 14% reported difficulty raising 2kg of weight.

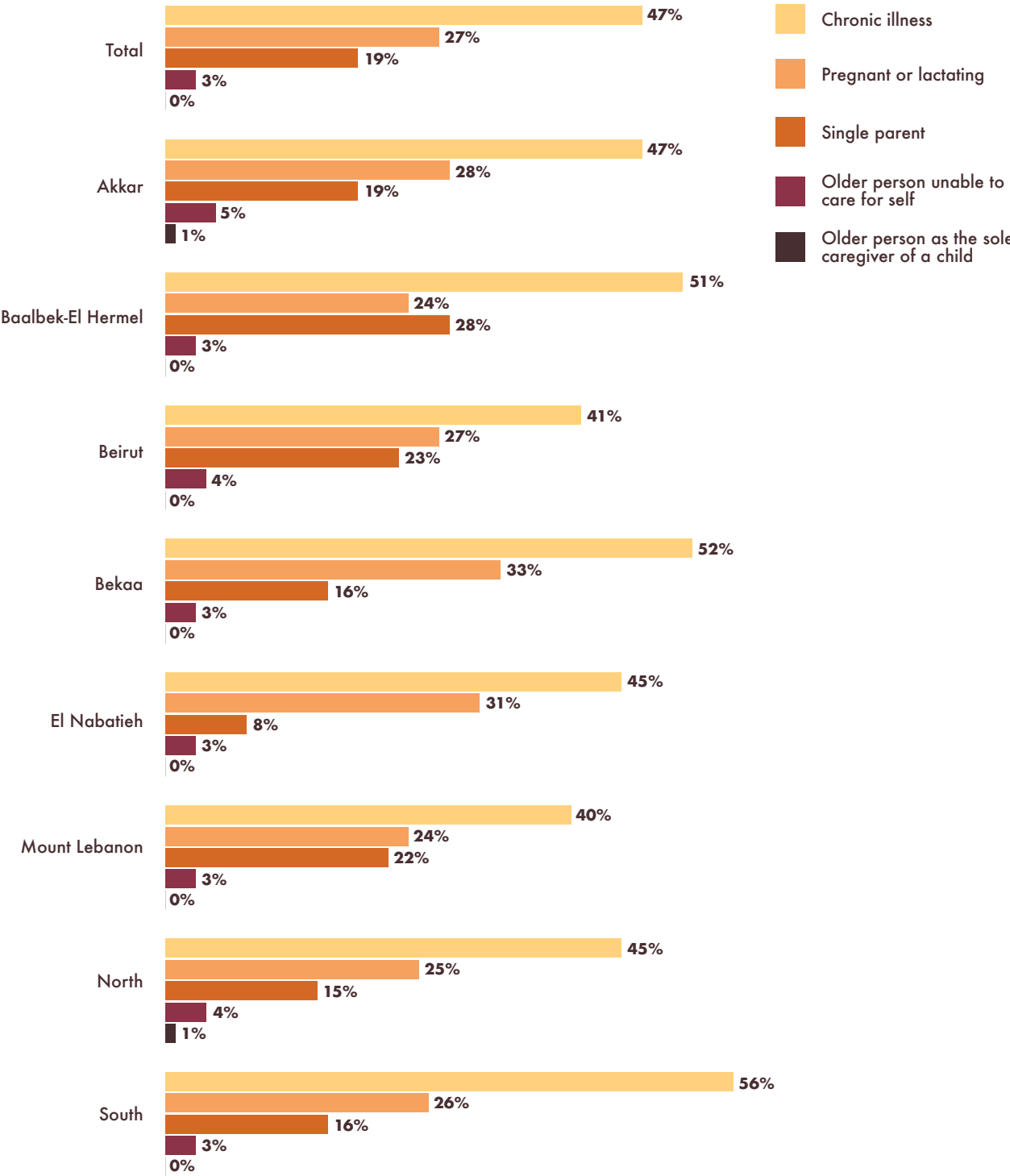
Of persons (5 years and above) living with a disability, 34% reported feeling worried, anxious, or nervous, and 20% reported feeling depressed on a daily basis.

Specific needs

Looking at other specific needs within households, just less than half (47%) reported that at least one household member had a chronic illness, 27% had at least one member pregnant or lactating, 19% had at least one single parent, 3% had at least one older person unable to care for him/herself, and 0.5% had at least one member aged

60 years or above as the sole caregiver for children. At the governorate level, the South had the highest rate of households with at least one member with a chronic illness (56%) and Baalbek-El Hermel had the highest proportion of families with at least one single parent (28%).

Figure 5: Proportion of households with at least one household member with a specific need, by governorate



Annex 1: Gender and Share of household members

	Gender		Gender of Head of Household		Share of household by number of members				Number of dependents in the household			
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Average household size	4 or less members	5-6 members	7 or more members	No dependent	1 or more dependent	2 or more dependents	3 or more dependents
Total	50%	50%	82%	18%	5.1	41.53%	34.89%	23.57%	13%	17%	24%	46%
Governorate												
Akkar	49%	51%	74%	26%	5.2	40%	34%	26%	12%	17%	24%	47%
Baalbek-El Hermel	47%	53%	71%	29%	5.1	41%	32%	26%	11%	19%	21%	49%
Beirut	52%	48%	90%	10%	4.7	48%	33%	19%	20%	16%	23%	40%
Bekaa	49%	51%	78%	22%	5.1	39%	36%	25%	14%	17%	21%	48%
El Nabatieh	52%	48%	89%	11%	5.7	31%	39%	30%	7%	12%	23%	59%
Mount Lebanon	51%	49%	90%	10%	4.9	44%	37%	19%	15%	15%	25%	45%
North	50%	50%	84%	16%	4.9	47%	33%	21%	13%	18%	26%	43%
South	50%	50%	87%	13%	5.6	34%	33%	33%	10%	17%	25%	48%
Gender of the head of household												
Women					4.2	57%	27%	16%	21%	24%	20%	35%
Men					5.2	38%	37%	25%	11%	15%	25%	49%
Shelter type												
Residential	51%	49%	85%	15%	5.0	43%	35%	22%	13%	17%	25%	44%
Non-residential	50%	50%	83%	17%	4.8	45%	34%	21%	18%	16%	20%	45%
Non-permanent	48%	52%	73%	27%	5.4	36%	35%	29%	10%	15%	21%	54%

PROTECTION

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The deepening of Lebanon's ongoing crises has meant that high numbers of refugees, who were already struggling to meet their basic needs, have become even more vulnerable. UNHCR's Protection Monitoring findings for April-June 2021 saw protection risks reported at new highs. Record rates of families turned to harmful coping strategies and are becoming increasingly vulnerable to exploitation. The deteriorating situation has negative impacts across almost all key indicators, including access to health, food, and education.

Indicators assessing the protection space of Syrian refugees in Lebanon through the VASyR are in relation to legal residency, civil documentation, and community safety. These indicators include residency status, birth registration, and marriage documentation, with a focus on births and marriages that occurred in Lebanon as well as inter- and intra-Syrian and Lebanese community relations. Indicators specific to child protection assessed through the VASyR include child labor, child marriage, and violent discipline.

Key findings

- A continuous decline in the rate of Syrian refugees with legal residency was noted, with only 16% of individuals aged 15 years and above holding legal residency (compared to 20% in 2020, 22% in 2019, and 27% in 2018). Similar to previous years, younger individuals (aged 25 years and below) had lower rates of legal residency as compared to their older counterparts. Across all age groups, a higher proportion of male respondents had legal residency compared to female respondents, with the exception of 15 to 19 years old where rates were almost the same (13% for female and 12% for male). A significantly higher proportion of male refugees reported obtaining their legal residency through sponsorship (42%) compared to female refugees (17%).
- Only 31% of births were registered at the Foreigners' Registry (28% in 2020 and 30% in 2019). The proportion of families that had the minimum level of documentation (doctor's or midwife's certificate) remained stable at 98%.
- The proportion of households that reported the discriminatory imposition of curfews only imposed on Syrians was 5%, with the highest rate of curfews reported in El Nabatieh (38%) followed by the South (10%).
- Almost one third of households (31%) reported perceived or real discrimination in the provision of aid as a key source of tensions between refugees and the host community. Competition for jobs was cited as the most common cause of tensions and increased slightly since 2020 (from 57% to 62%). Other factors cited included political differences (27%), cultural differences (25%), and scapegoating for the economic situation (22%).
- The percentage of children between 5 and 17 years old who were engaged in child labor in 2021 was 5.5%, an increase from 2020 (4.5%) and 2019 (2.5%).
- Similar to previous years, there was a large difference in the rates of child labor between boys (8%) and girls (2%).
- Twenty percent of girls aged 15 to 19 were married at the time of the survey. This shows a slight decrease from 2020 at 24% and 2019 at 27%. The South governorate reported the highest rate at 34%, compared to being the lowest governorate on early marriage in 2020.
- More than half (56%) the children aged between 1 and 14 were subjected to at least one form of violent discipline, an increase of 6 percentage points from last year. The rate of violent discipline did not differ between child and head of household's sex, child's age, and head of household's education levels. However, there was variation across regions and a 5 percentage points difference between children without a disability and children with a disability, at 56% and 61%, respectively.

Legal residency

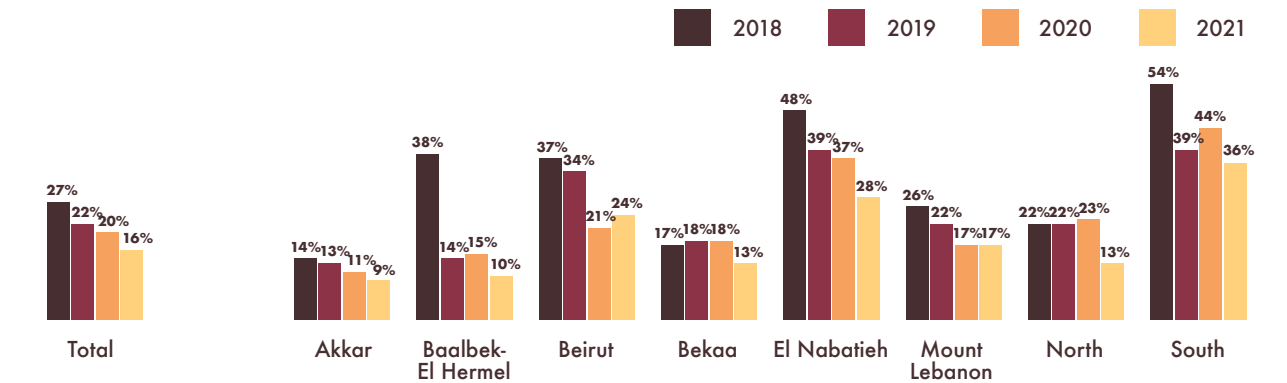
Based on the current regulations, Syrian refugees can renew their residency permits either on the basis of registration with UNHCR, through a pledge of responsibility by a local sponsor, courtesy permit (if the mother or wife is Lebanese), or through other categories such as a property ownership, tenancy, student visa, etc. Additionally, those who entered Lebanon legally as of 2015 had to do so based on one of the entry categories (such as tourism, medical visit, transit etc.) and could only renew their legal stay within the limitations set for the specific entry category. Each category has its own requirements, fees, and residency duration. In 2017, the residency fees were waived for Syrian refugees who registered with UNHCR prior to January 1, 2015 and who did not previously renew their legal residency based on categories such as tourism, sponsorship, property ownership, or tenancy. However, it is not possible to switch from a residency permit based on one of these categories to the UNHCR certificate residency permit.

An annual decline in the rate of legal residency continued to be noted. In 2021, only 16% of Syrian refugees above the age of 15 held legal residency permits (compared

to 20% in 2020, 22% in 2019, and 27% in 2018). Most notable, rates in the North declined from 23% in 2020 to 13% in 2021. Akkar continued to have the lowest rate with only 9% of individuals aged 15 years and above with legal residency, followed by Baalbek-El Hermel (10%) and Bekaa (13%). The highest rates of legal residency were found in the South (36%) and El Nabatieh (28%).

Three quarters of those without legal residency at the time of the survey also reported not having had a past residency based on sponsorship, tourism, lease agreement, property owner, or courtesy. It is important to note that 53% of surveyed refugees above 15 years old are eligible to benefit from legal residency based on the UNHCR certificate according to existing regulations. Of those who registered with UNHCR prior to 2015, around 72% are eligible to benefit from legal residency based on UNHCR registration. Among those without legal residency, 58% reported that they have never approached the General Security Office (GSO) to renew, 32% reported that they had approached the GSO prior to 2019, 5% in 2019, 4% in 2020, and only 1% in 2021.

Figure 1: Percentage of Syrian refugees aged 15 years or above holding legal residency permits, by governorate



Trends of legal residency by sex and age group were similar to previous years where the highest rates of legal residency were found among the 35 to 54 years old. Female refugees across all age groups (except between 15 and 19 years old) had lower rates of legal residency than male refugees. At the governorate level, in Beirut, the proportion of male refugees with legal residency was notably higher than that of female refugees (30% compared to 17%), which was also the case in the Bekaa (16% compared to 9%).

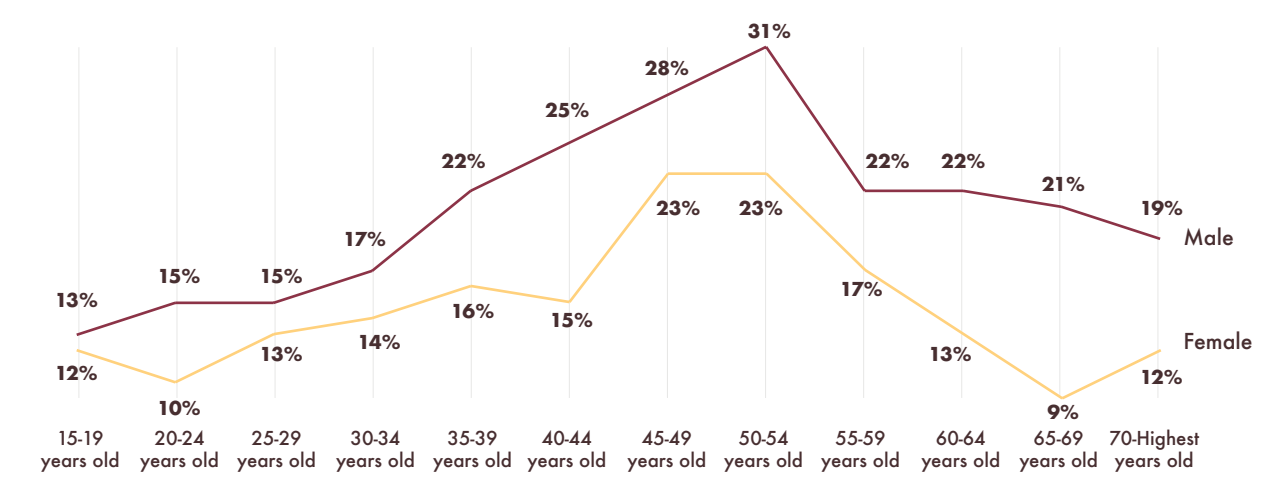
Households in non-permanent shelters had lower shares of legal residency (10% compared to 18% in residential and 16% in non-residential shelters). This is in line with the rates of legal residency in specific regions where living in non-permanent shelters is more common (Baalbek El-Hermel, Akkar, and Bekaa). Examining residency categories by shelter type, it is notable that among those living in residential shelters, the rates of having a courtesy residency was higher than in other shelter types (14% in residential shelters compared to 3% and 10% in non-residential and

non-permanent shelters respectively). Rates of sponsorship-based residency were similar across shelter types.

Examining rates by expenditure, individuals whose households had a higher monthly expenditure, also had slightly higher rates of legal residency (18% among households in the top expenditure quintile compared to 13% among those in the bottom quintile). Rates of sponsorship-based residency decreased in line with decreasing expenditure: Among households in the bottom expenditure quintile, 24% of individuals with residency had sponsorship permits compared to 35% in the top expenditure quintile. Conversely, having a residency based on UNHCR certification was higher in the bottom quintile compared to those in the top quintile (65% compared to 51%).

Among the unemployed, the proportion of individuals that did not have legal residency was slightly higher than those that were employed (84% among the employed compared to 79% among the unemployed).

Figure 2: Percentage of Syrian refugees aged 15 or above holding legal residency permits, by sex and age group



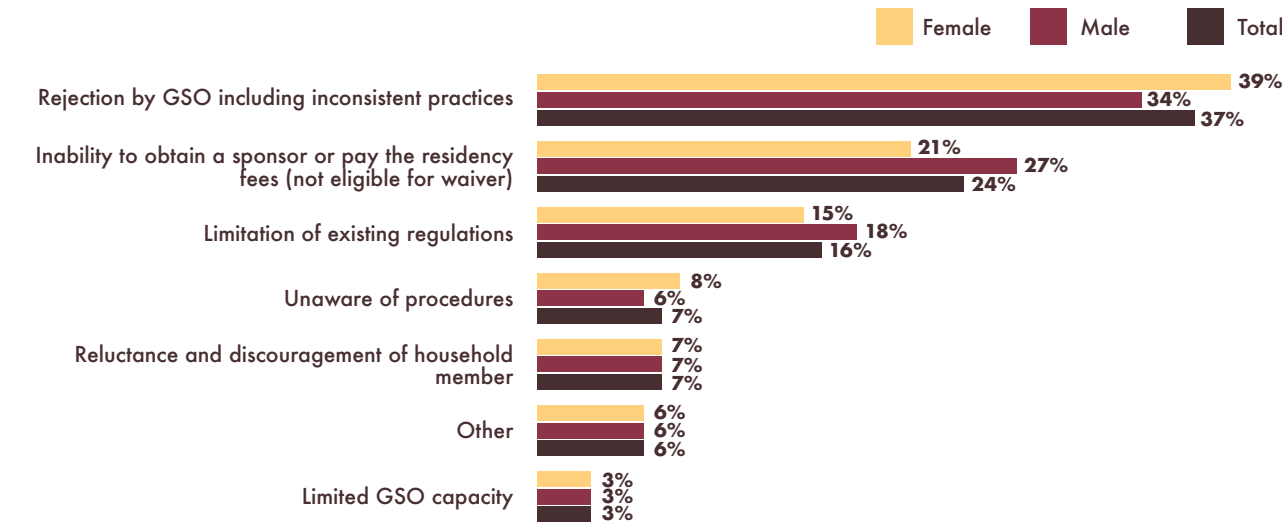
At household level, rates of legal residency also declined with only 8% of households reporting that all members held legal residency (11% in 2020, 10% in 2019, 17% in 2018, and 19% in 2017) and only 24% had at least one member with legal residency (30% in 2020, 33% in 2019, 38% in 2018, and 45% in 2017). Similar to trends noted at the individual level, a higher proportion of households in non-permanent shelters or with lower monthly expenditures had no members with legal residency. Among individuals 15 years and older with legal residency, 33% were enrolled in school. For those without legal residency, 17% were enrolled.

Similar to 2020, rejection by GSO, including inconsistent practices across GSO branches or per regulations, were the most commonly cited reasons (37%) for not having legal residency. Nearly a quarter (24%) of individuals cited the inability to obtain a sponsor or pay residency fees – the latter being slightly more commonly cited by male refugees than by female refugees (27% compared to 21%). Limitations of the

existing regulations, which included having an unrenewable and expired residency (11%) or lacking ID documents (5%), was cited by 16% of individuals as the reason for not having legal residency (up from 12% in 2020). Seven percent of individuals stated personal reluctance (lack of time, being sick) and discouragement (fearful of GSO, or rumors GSO did not renew permits) as the reason they did not apply for legal residency. Among individuals with a disability, 26% cited not being able to obtain a sponsor or pay the fees, 36% said due to GSO rejection and inconsistent practices, 10% were reluctant or discouraged to approach the GSO, and 10% cited having had a non-renewable and expired residency.

At the governorate level, being unaware of correct procedures to renew legal residency was significantly higher in Akkar (27%) than any other region, followed by Bekaa and El Nabatieh at 11% and 12% respectively. Individual reluctance was cited most commonly in Bekaa at 12%, followed by Akkar (8%) and Mount Lebanon (8%).

Figure 3: Reasons for not holding legal residency permits, by sex



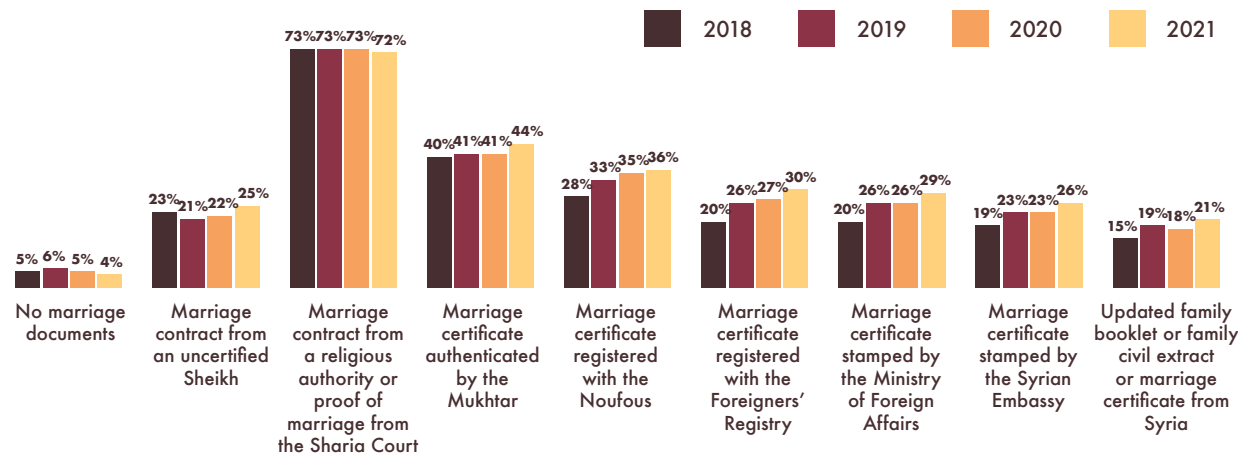
Similar to previous years, more than half of legal residencies (54%) were through UNHCR registration certificates, followed by sponsorship (31%) and courtesy (12%). UNHCR registration certificate permits were significantly more common among female refugees (69%) than male refugees (41%), with the opposite true for sponsorship (42% for male and 17% for female). The highest rates of courtesy permits were in the North (23%), Bekaa (21%), and Akkar (18%), while sponsorship permits were markedly higher in Beirut (81%) than in the rest of Lebanon.

Marriage and birth registration

Recognizing the challenges faced by Syrian refugees in registering the birth of their children, the Government of Lebanon in past years adopted key policies and measures to address these difficulties. The policies include exemption from the procedure of late birth registration for children born between January 1, 2011 and February 9, 2019; a waiver of the requirement of legal stay to register the birth of Syrian children, and those of Palestinian refugees from Syria; a partial waiver (only one spouse) of legal stay to register marriages among Syrian nationals and

Palestinian refugees from Syria; and the facilitation of proof of marriage to register births by allowing Syrian parents married in Lebanon to present a marriage certificate executed in Lebanon instead of the family booklet or marriage certificate issued from Syria as previously required. Accordingly, Syrians married in Lebanon need to finalize the registration of their marriage in Lebanon to register the birth of their children. Syrians married outside of Lebanon need to present an official proof of marriage issued in Syria to register the birth of their children born in Lebanon.

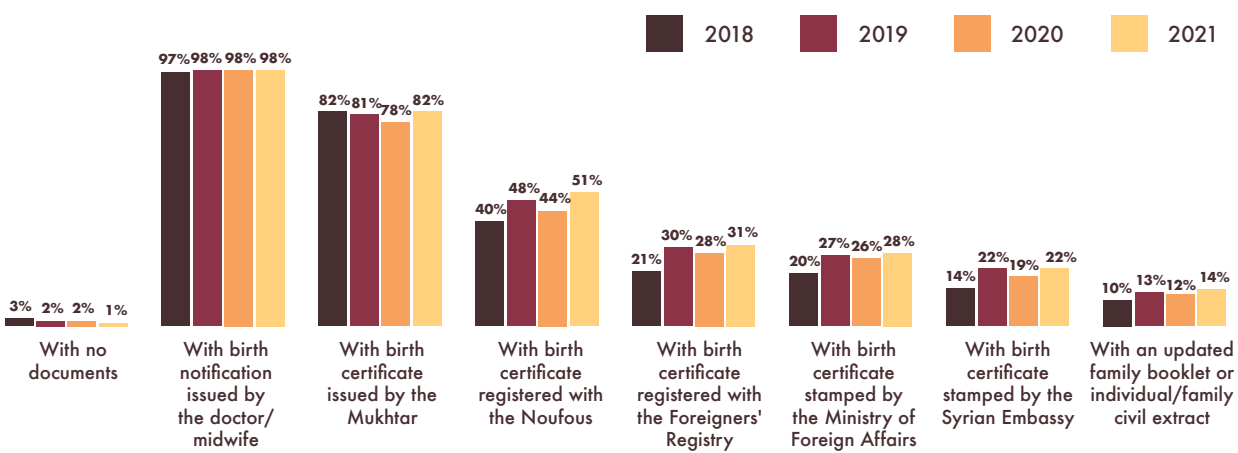
Figure 4: Percentage of Syrian refugees having completed the required steps of marriage registration, for marriages in Lebanon



Twenty-nine percent of the married respondents were married in Lebanon. The proportion of marriages with no legal documentation, including those without any documentation (4%) and those with documentation only from an uncertified Sheikh (25%), remained similar to 2020 at 29% (27% in 2019). Akkar had the highest proportion of undocumented marriages with 51% reporting

to have a certificate from an uncertified Sheikh and 4% having no documentation. Almost three quarters (72%) met the minimum requirement for documentation of either a marriage contract from a religious authority or proof of marriage from the Sharia Court. The proportion of marriages registered at the Foreigners' Registry increased slightly to 30% (27% in 2020 and 26% in 2019).

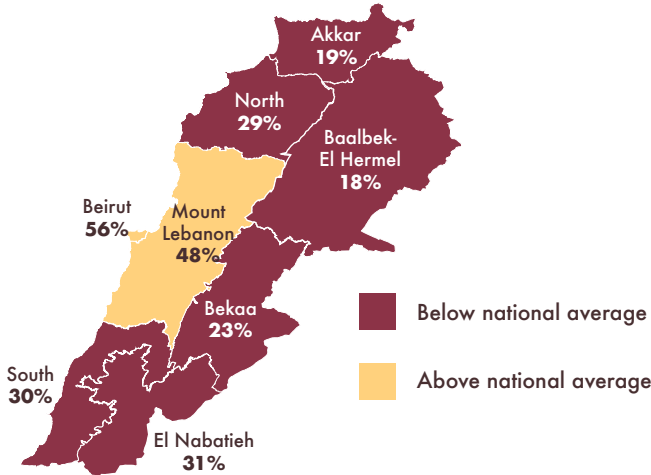
Figure 5: Cumulative percentage of highest-level birth registration document for Syrian children born in Lebanon. Children registered at the level of the Foreigners' Registry are considered as 'registered' under Lebanese law



Birth registration rates in 2021 returned to rates similar to 2019 after a slight drop in 2020 was noted. In 2021, 31% of births were registered at the Foreigners' Registry, compared to 28% in 2020 and 30% in 2019. Only 2% of births had no documentation with almost all births having the first step of the birth registration process completed (notification from a doctor or midwife). Nearly all (93%) births in Lebanon took place in the hospital, slightly down from 95% in 2020, with 4% taking place in another type of health care facility (1% in 2020) and 3% took place at home (5% in 2020).

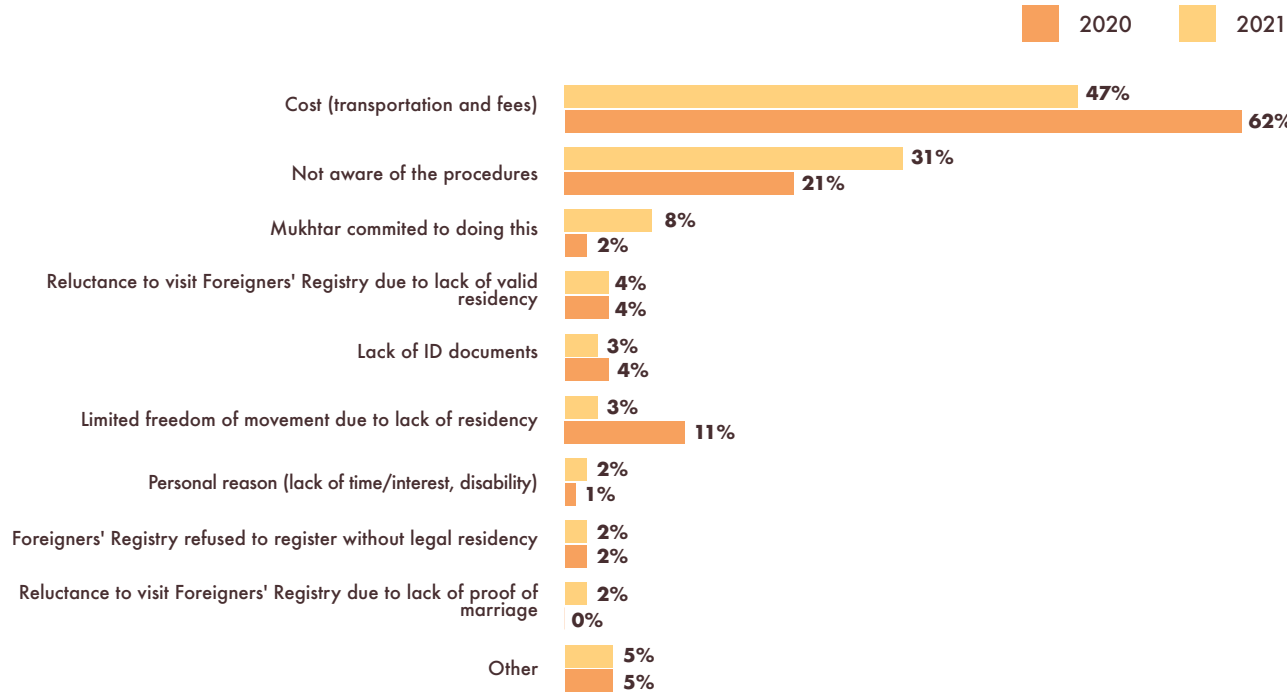
The highest rate of birth registration with the Foreigners' Registry was among families living in Beirut (56%). While Akkar continued to be the governorate with the lowest rate of birth registration at the Foreigners' Registry (19%), a significant improvement was noted since 2020 (8%). No marked difference was noted in birth registration rates when comparing boys and girls (32% vs. 30%). Similar to trends recorded in previous years, birth registration rates differed by shelter types. The lowest rate was found in non-permanent shelters (17%), followed by non-residential (19%) and residential shelters (39%).

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



With regards to barriers to birth registration, the proportion of respondents that cited not being aware of procedures to register their child with the Foreigners' Registry (among those registered with the *Noufous*) increased to 31% from 21% in 2020, while those citing cost decreased significantly (47% vs. 62% in 2020). Citing that the *Mukhtar* would complete this step increased from 2% in 2020 to 8% in 2021 and citing limited movement due to illegal residency decreased (3% in 2021 vs. 11% in 2020).

Figure 7: Reasons for not registering at the Foreigners' Registry among those who registered at the level of the *Noufous* but not beyond



Safety and security

At the time of data collection, no COVID-19 lockdown measures were in place to restrict movement. Five percent of households reported that discriminatory curfews were enforced specifically where Syrians live and 4% cited curfews as a safety and security concern (a decrease from 11% in 2020). El Nabatieh had by far the largest proportion of

households reporting curfews at 38% followed by the South at 10%. Curfews were mainly imposed by the municipality (94%) followed by the local community (15%). The most common sanction imposed for breaching curfews was cited to be a verbal warning (86%), while 14% reported fines or verbal abuse.

Figure 8: Level of safety reported while walking around the area of residence, by sex of head of household

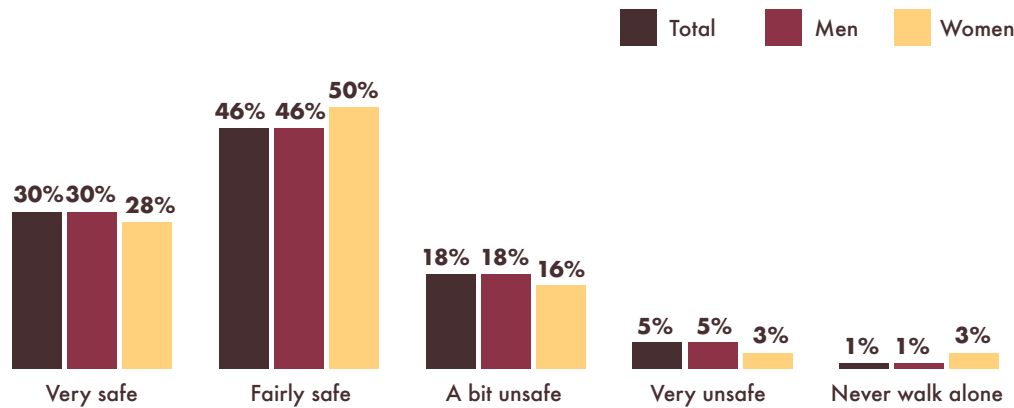
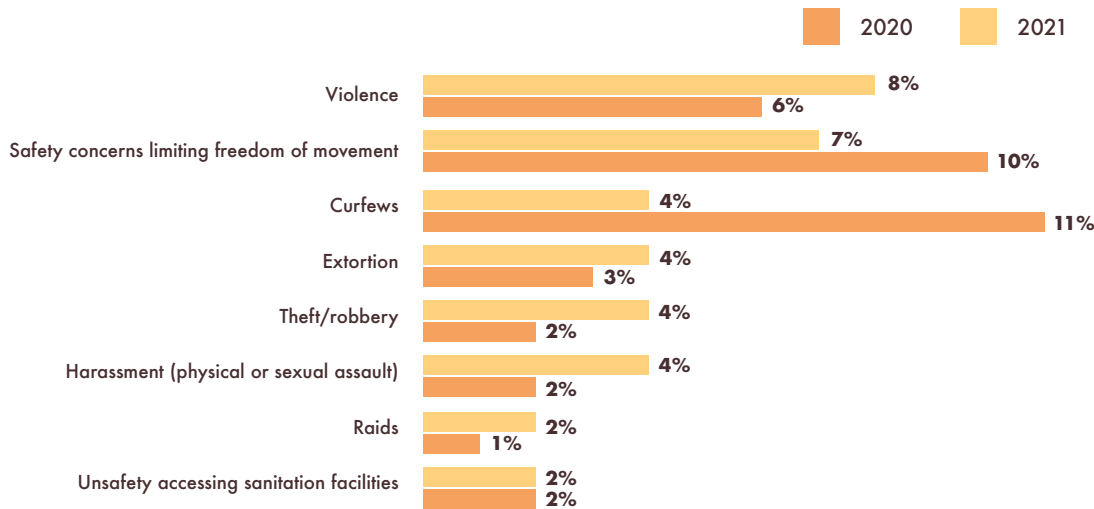


Figure 9: Percentage of households who experienced any of the following safety/security incidents during the previous 3 months



Between 2-4% of households reported that they worried about a household member being sexually exploited while accessing services such as housing, food, health services, legal services, and employment, which was similar to 2020. However, less than 1% reported having heard of actual incidents of sexual exploitation in the 3 months preceding the interview.

It is important to mention that the interviews for this survey were mostly conducted with the heads of families or other adult members. Confidential interviews with individual household members were not conducted, making incidents related to physical and sexual harassment or exploitation likely to be underreported.

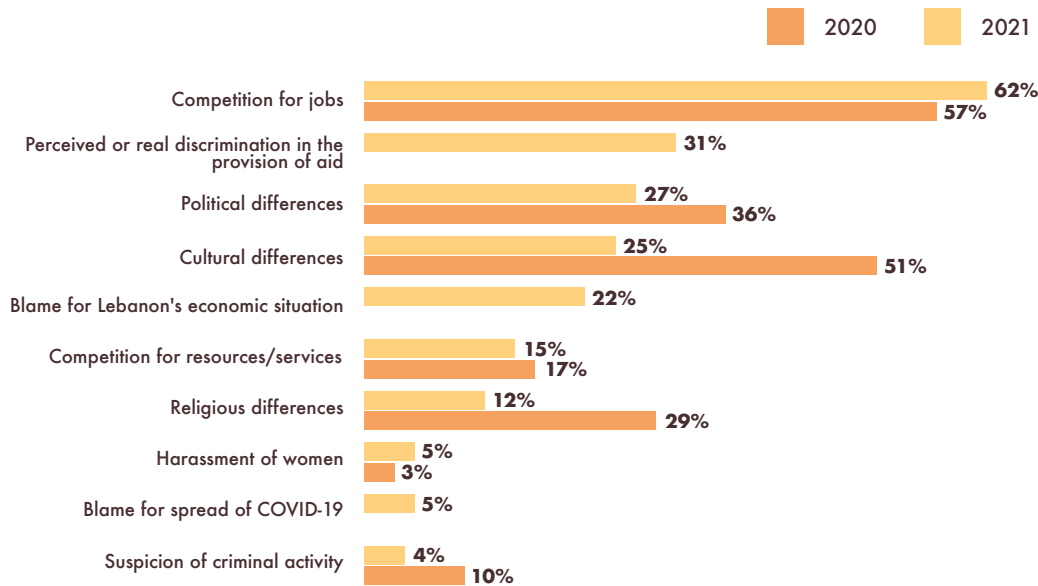
Community relations

Most refugee households rated the relationship between refugees and host communities as positive (42%) or neutral (41%), 13% rated the relationship as very positive and only 4% rated it as negative or very negative.

The proportion of households citing competition for jobs as the most common source of community tensions (62%) was

up from 57% in 2020. Almost one third (31%) of households reported the perceived or real discrimination in the provision of aid as a key source of tension. Political and cultural differences were also commonly cited (27% and 25% respectively). Other common sources included blaming refugees for Lebanon’s dire economic situation (22%), competition for resources (15%), and religious differences (15%).

Figure 10: Key issues cited by refugees as drivers of tensions between refugee and host communities



Communication

Most refugees (88%) relied on SMS as their primary source to receive information related to refugee services while 8% reported primarily relying on hotlines and 2% on word of mouth from friends, neighbors, or relatives.

Most households (92%) reported having a mobile phone and 85% reported having a smartphone, of which 75% had an active data plan (compared to 66% in 2020). A significant increase was noted in the percentage of households with internet access at home (62% compared to 41% in 2020).

The majority of households (89%) reported using some form of social media (83% in 2020). The most common type was WhatsApp (89%) followed by Facebook (33%). Only 2% reported using Instagram.

Child protection

Child labor

Child labor 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 hr or more; aged 12-14: 14 hrs or more; aged 15-17: 43 hrs or more
- **Household chores:** aged 5-14: 28 hrs or more; aged 15-17: 43 hrs 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

Since 2019, the share of children aged 5-17 engaged in child labor witnessed an increase from 3% to 4.5% in 2020 and 5.5% in 2021. Additionally, and similar to previous years, child labor was persistently higher among boys (8%) than girls (2%).

On a regional level, El Nabatieh had the highest rate of child labor with 9%. Despite Baalbek-El Hermel having the lowest rate (4%), the region witnessed a great increase from 1% in 2019. Additionally, child labor was reported at a higher rate among female-headed households (8%) compared to male-headed ones (4%). There were no notable differences across expenditure quintiles.

Figure 11: Child labor (5 to 17 years old), by governorate

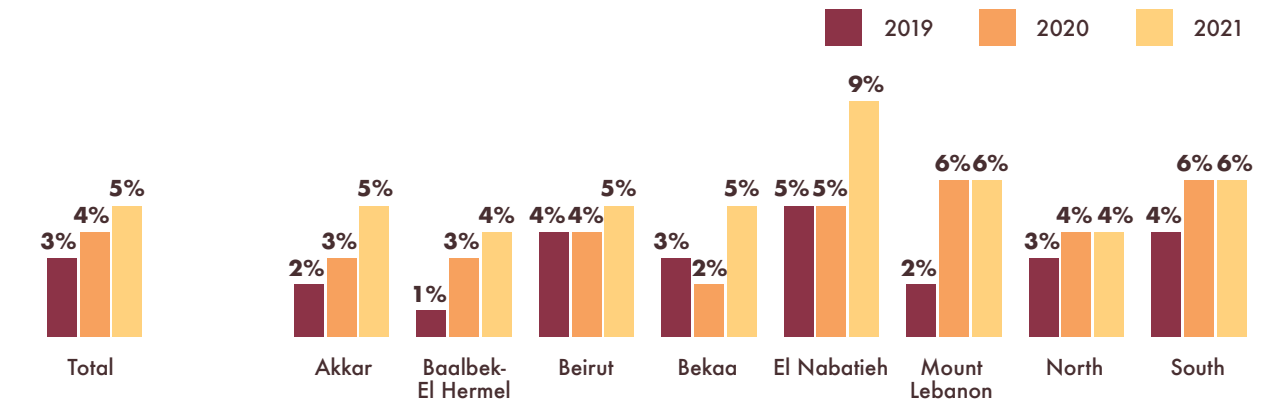
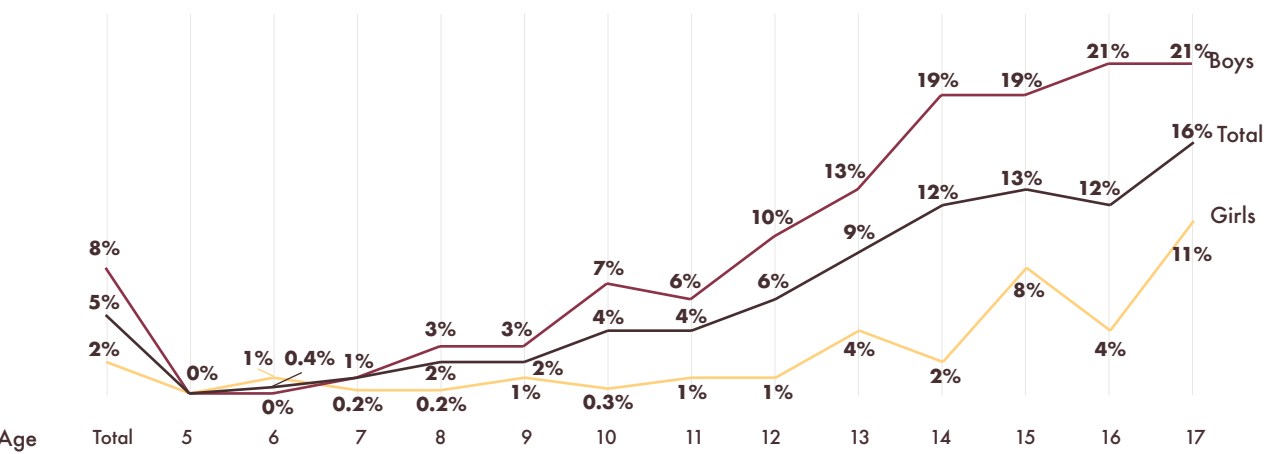


Figure 12 below shows that child labor increased drastically with age, as did the gap between boys and girls. The rate reached 16% among children aged 17 years, with boys engaged in child labor twice as much as girls, 21% and 11% respectively. Notably, only 4% of girls aged 16 were reported to be engaged in child labor compared to 21% of boys.

Figure 12: Child labor by age (5 to 17 years old)



Field insights: child labor

Field insights are based on the contextual knowledge of key actors in the field, as opposed to quantitative data. Insights were collected during analysis discussions around the results of the 2021 VASyR.

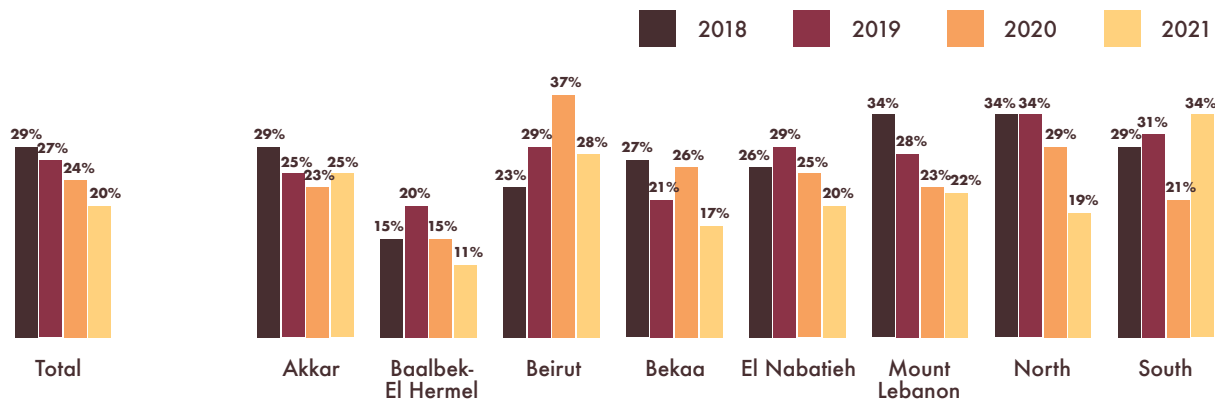
- Multiple factors explain the increase in children engaged in labor, such as high unemployment, increase in street-connected children, poverty, and poor shelter. Additionally, there were challenges in accessing schools and online education, and the deteriorating economic situation further increased the likelihood of a child engaging in labor.
- Child labor is consistently under-reported compared to observations on the field. This might be due to fear of losing assistance.
- Regional variations in child labor are linked to seasonal work in agriculture, where child labor is the highest, for example in the South.

Child marriage

Child marriage was measured as children between the ages of 15-19 who are currently married.

One in five girls aged 15 to 19 were married at the time of the survey, a decrease of 4 percentage points from 2020 (24%). The highest rate of child marriage was found in the South at 34%, with an increase in 10 percentage points from 2020, while the lowest rate was in Baalbek-El Hermel at 11%.

Figure 13: Children aged 15-19 who are married



Field insights: child marriage

Field insights are based on the contextual knowledge of key actors in the field, as opposed to quantitative data. Insights were collected during analysis discussions around the results of the 2021 VASyR.

- The decrease in child marriage could be, at least partially, explained by the fact that the Sunni court raised the minimum age of marriage to 18 in April 2021.
- Child marriage is generally understood as a negative coping strategy that families resort to in times of financial hardship. This could explain the significant regional differences, with some governorates feeling the effect of the economic crisis more than others, such as the South.

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: shaking him/her; spanking, hitting, or slapping him/her on any part of the body.

Severe physical aggression: hitting or slapping in the face.

Non-violent disciplinary practices include: taking away privileges; explaining why a behavior is wrong; giving him/her something else to do.

Although 63% of parents reported utilizing positive and non-violent parenting methods, more than half of children (56%) aged between 1 and 14 had experienced at least one form of violent discipline, approximately the same as 2020 (57%). The same estimate increased 5 percentage points among children with disabilities.

Almost half the parents (47%) reported resorting to physical aggression and 41% to psychological aggression, while severe violence was reported at 4%. Both indicators showed no difference with regards to the sex of the child or the head of household, the age of the child, or the head of household’s highest level of education reached.

The prevalence of children experiencing violent disciplinary methods varied between regions. The highest was reported in the Bekaa governorate (78%) and the lowest in Mount Lebanon (33%). There was no significant difference between girls (56%) and boys (57%).

Figure 14: Children aged 1 to14 that have experienced at least one form of violent discipline

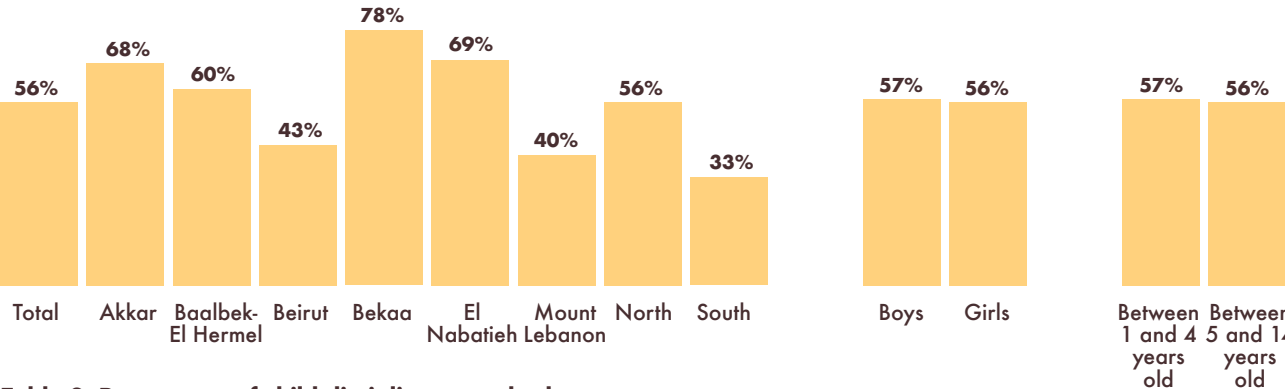


Table 2: Percentage of child disciplinary method

		Psychological aggression	Any physical aggression	Severe aggression	Only non-violent	Any violent disciplinary method
Total		47%	41%	4%	63%	56%
Governorate	Akkar	55%	53%	7%	78%	68%
	Baalbek-El Hermel	44%	44%	1%	80%	60%
	Beirut	30%	35%	3%	49%	43%
	Bekaa	70%	53%	8%	82%	78%
	El Nabatieh	62%	58%	8%	81%	69%
	Mount Lebanon	33%	27%	2%	35%	40%
	North	44%	43%	3%	60%	56%
	South	24%	24%	1%	65%	33%
Gender of the child	Boy	48%	42%	4%	63%	57%
	Girl	46%	40%	4%	63%	56%
Age groups	Between 1 and 4 years old	46%	42%	4%	63%	57%
	Between 5 and 14 years old	47%	41%	4%	63%	56%
Disability status	No	47%	41%	4%	63%	56%
	Yes	53%	47%	6%	67%	61%
Gender of the head of household	Man	47%	41%	4%	63%	56%
	Woman	47%	42%	6%	62%	58%

With regards to the social norms around using violent disciplinary methods, only 9% of caregivers reported community expectations to use such methods to teach children behaviors. This finding varied greatly across regions, being highest in the North (21%) and lowest in Baalbek-El Hermel (2%). As for being judged for using violent methods on their children, 8 out of 10 caregivers believed that they would not be judged by their community for disciplining their child using violent measures.

	Percentage of parents who felt community expectations to teach children behaviors through violent disciplinary methods.	Percentage of parents who did not believe they would be judged by their community for disciplining their child using violent measures.
Total	9%	78%
Akkar	13%	77%
Baalbek-El Hermel	2%	69%
Beirut	3%	81%
Bekaa	7%	89%
El Nabatieh	16%	68%
Mount Lebanon	2%	78%
North	21%	76%
South	17%	68%

Annex 2: Legal residency and birth registration

	Legal residency			Birth registration	Reported key issues that drive community tensions							
	Proportion 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 occurred in Lebanon and registered with the Foreigners' Registry	Competition for jobs	Competition for resources/ services	Political differences	Religious differences	Cultural differences	Perceived or real discrimination in the provision of Aid	Escape-goat-ing for economic situation
Total	16%	8%	24%	76%	31%	62%	15%	27%	12%	25%	31%	22%
Governorate												
Akkar	9%	4%	16%	84%	19%	24%	47%	6%	6%	12%	18%	6%
Baalbek-El Hermel	10%	5%	17%	83%	18%	64%	0%	36%	4%	4%	4%	64%
Beirut	24%	14%	34%	66%	56%	79%	8%	8%	0%	33%	29%	17%
Bekaa	13%	4%	21%	79%	23%	31%	3%	2%	0%	3%	22%	78%
El Nabatieh	28%	17%	42%	58%	31%	88%	10%	14%	17%	7%	16%	3%
Mount Lebanon	17%	10%	22%	78%	48%	72%	16%	35%	10%	27%	35%	18%
North	13%	7%	22%	78%	29%	52%	21%	22%	8%	32%	40%	4%
South	36%	21%	50%	50%	30%	40%	0%	46%	48%	58%	44%	31%
Gender		Gender of the head of household	Gender of the head of household	Gender of the head of household	Gender	Gender of the head of household	Gender of the head of household	Gender of the head of household	Gender of the head of household	Gender of the head of household	Gender of the head of household	Gender of the head of household
Women	14%	8%	16%	84%	30%	61%	0%	5%	15%	32%	36%	16%
Men	19%	8%	25%	75%	32%	62%	18%	31%	12%	24%	30%	22%
Shelter type												
Residential	18%	10%	26%	74%	39%	64%	15%	31%	12%	24%	30%	21%
Non-residential	16%	9%	24%	76%	19%	71%	14%	17%	22%	40%	50%	7%
Non-permanent	10%	4%	17%	83%	17%	31%	21%	2%	7%	15%	13%	47%

SHELTER

In Lebanon, most of the Syrian refugee population live in cities and villages in the context of the governmental policy prohibiting the establishment of formal refugee camps. The remaining fraction live in spontaneously set-up tented settlements throughout the country. Refugees face harsh winters with sub-zero temperatures and flooding that affect mainly those living in non-permanent and non-residential shelters. Throughout the years, the shelter sector under the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP) has been massively underfunded, leaving a large proportion of Syrian refugees in inadequate shelter at a time of a deepening economic crisis and steep increases in rental costs.

Through the VASyR, the physical conditions of these shelters were assessed as well as the occupancy agreements and rental costs. Mobility of households between places of residence, including for reasons of eviction, has also been examined.

Key findings

- The distribution of Syrian refugee households across the main shelter types remained mostly stable with the majority (69%) living in residential structures, 22% in non-permanent shelters, and 9% in non-residential structures.
- The highest percentage of households living in non-permanent shelters (informal settlements) was in Baalbek-El Hermel (53%) followed by Bekaa (45%).
- Thirty-three percent of female-headed households were living in informal settlements, an increase of 5 percentage points compared to 2020.
- Monthly rental costs for all shelter types combined increased significantly by 18%, reaching an average of LBP 312,798 nationally, up from LBP 264,000 in 2020.
- Rental costs in non-permanent (LBP 133,304), residential (LBP 368,103), and non-residential (LBP 272,092) shelters increased by 43%, 17%, and 6% respectively compared to 2020.
- Geographical trends remained similar to previous years with the highest rental costs reported in Beirut (LBP 540,235) and the lowest in Baalbek-El Hermel (LBP 168,621).
- Like last year, over half (57%) of Syrian refugee households were living in shelters that were either overcrowded, had conditions below humanitarian standards, and/or were in danger of collapse.
- Close to 35% of Syrian refugee households were living in shelters that were below humanitarian standards and an additional 10% were living in dangerous conditions.
- Almost a quarter of households (23%) were living in overcrowded conditions of less than 4.5m²/person, a drop from 29% in 2020.
- Twenty-one percent of households that moved in the previous 12 months did so because they were evicted (3% of all households). Inability to pay rent remained the most cited reason for those evicted (72%) followed by dispute with landlord (9%).

¹ The average market rate during the time of data collection registered at LBP 16,060 to the US\$. Source: www.lirarate.org

Shelter type, rent, and occupancy agreements

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

Shelter type	
Residential	1 - Apartment/house 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	1 - Tent 2 - Prefab unit

Most households (69%) continued to live in residential structures with 22% residing in non-permanent shelters. The latter were located primarily in Baalbek-El Hermel, Bekaa, and Akkar.

Figure 1: Percentage of households by shelter type

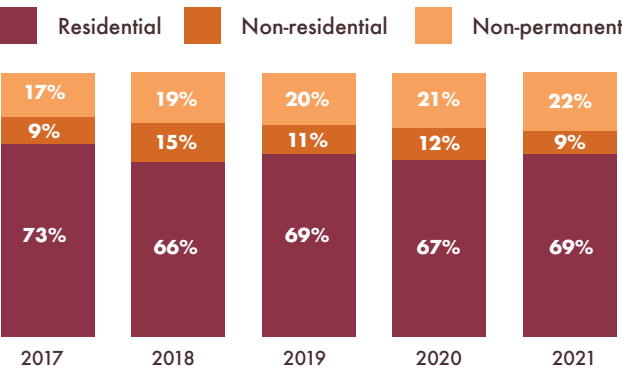
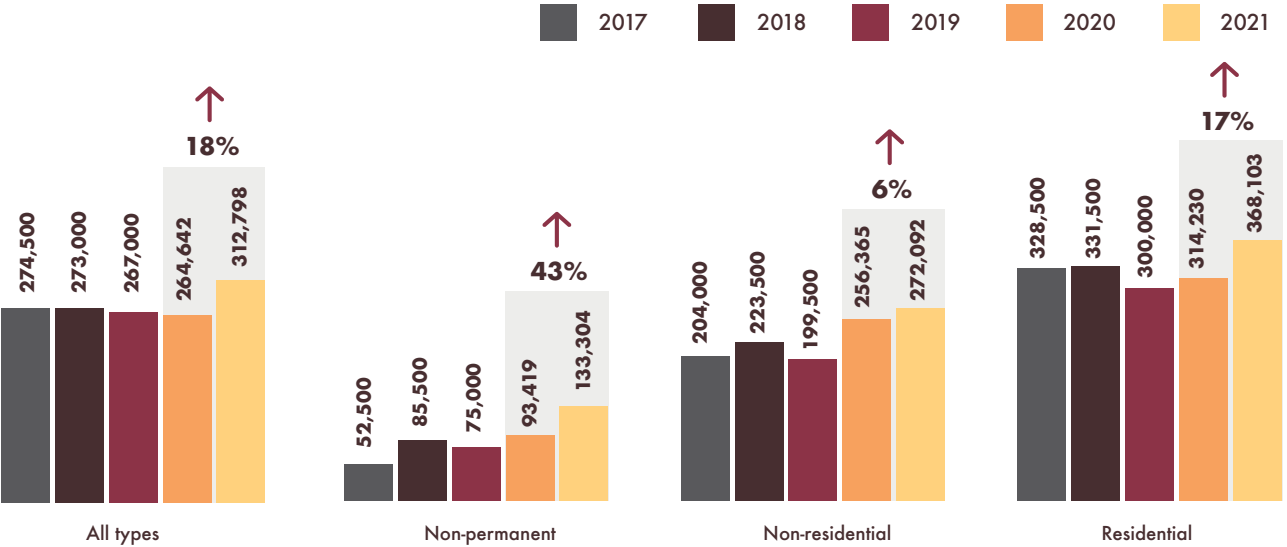


Table 3: Breakdown by governorate and shelter type

	Residential		Non-residential		Non-permanent	
	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021
Total	66%	69%	12%	9%	21%	22%
Akkar	59%	56%	12%	10%	30%	35%
Baalbek-El Hermel	39%	39%	6%	8%	55%	53%
Beirut	93%	96%	6%	4%	1%	1%
Bekaa	44%	46%	12%	9%	45%	45%
El Nabatieh	86%	84%	6%	8%	9%	8%
Mount Lebanon	86%	91%	12%	7%	2%	2%
North	72%	76%	18%	16%	10%	8%
South	71%	80%	20%	15%	9%	5%

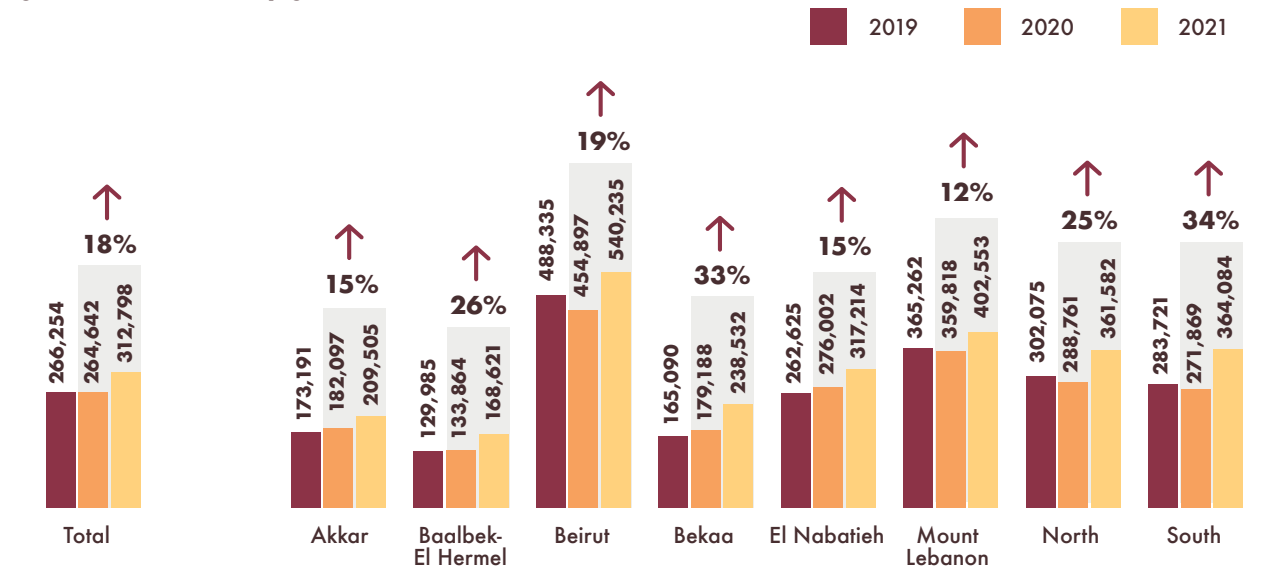
Average monthly rental costs increased by 18% nationally reaching LBP 312,798, up from LBP 264,642 in 2020. Rental costs in non-permanent (LBP 133,304), residential (LBP 368,103), and non-residential (LBP 272,092) shelters increased by 43%, 17%, and 6% respectively compared to 2020.

Figure 2: Monthly average rent in LBP



Similar to previous years, the highest rental rates were reported in Beirut (LBP 540,235) and the lowest in Baalbek-El Hermel (LBP 168,621).

Figure 3: Rental rates by governorate in LBP



Rental rates went up in all governorates but the highest increase was reported in the South (34%). Like 2020, the majority of households (91%) paid their rent monthly, whereas 40% of households in non-permanent shelters paid their rent yearly.

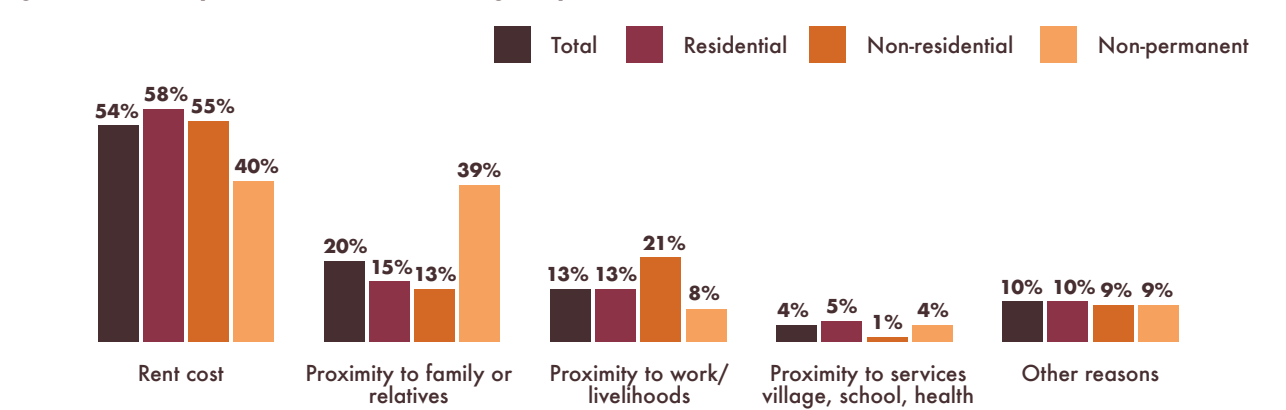
When it comes to the type of occupancy, most households (85%) paid rent directly to their landlord while a smaller number (5%) worked in exchange for rent, more commonly in non-residential shelters (16.5%). Families being hosted for free (8%) was more common among female-headed households (13%).

Most households that were renting had verbal agreements with their landlord (99%) as opposed to written lease

agreements. Of the few that had written lease agreements, only 40% registered with their municipality and just 19% reported paying municipal taxes.

Similar to last year, over half of households in residential and non-residential structures mentioned rental cost as the main reason for choosing their current accomodation. In non-permanent structures, proximity to relatives was as important and was reported by 39% of households compared to only 15% in residential and 13% in non-residential. Similar to 2020, for female-headed households, rental cost was also the most cited reason for choosing a shelter (43%) followed by being close to relatives (34%); a significantly higher reason than for male-headed households where only 17% reported being close to relatives as the most important factor.

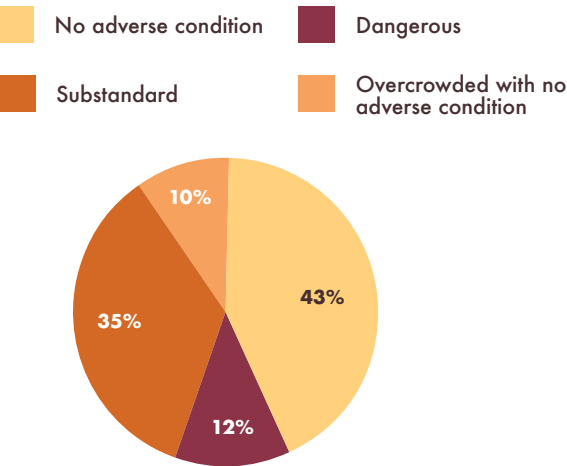
Figure 4: Most important factor for selecting the place of residence



Shelter conditions

Like last year, over half (57%) of Syrian refugee households were living in shelters that were either overcrowded, had conditions below humanitarian standards, and/or were in danger of collapse.

Figure 5: Shelter conditions



Overcrowding

Almost a quarter of households (23%) were living in overcrowded conditions, defined as less than 4.5m2/ person, a drop from 29% in 2020. Similar to last year, overcrowding was more common in non-permanent (31%) and non-residential (30%) shelters compared to residential shelters (20%).

Nineteen percent of surveyed households shared latrines with other families. Sharing of latrines in non-permanent structures was significantly higher (27%) compared to residential and non-residential (16%). Similar to last year, 3% of households were sharing latrines with 15 or more people.

Physical conditions

	Shelter is considered below humanitarian standards depending on the number of issues per shelter type as follows:		
Shelter conditions	Residential structures	Non-residential structures	Non-permanent structures
Inadequate physical conditions 1 - Windows/doors not sealed to natural elements 2 - Leaking roof, leakage/rotting in walls/floors 3 - Water pipes not functional or not available 4 - Sanitation pipes not functional or not available 5 - Latrine/toilet not usable (damaged, full, no handwashing facilities, etc.) or not available 6 - Bathing/washing facilities not usable (damaged, no privacy etc.) or not available 7 - Electricity installation/connection not adequately installed/not safe 8 - Damaged walls	Three conditions and above	One condition and above	All refugees living in non-permanent structures (informal settlements) are considered to be living in physical substandard conditions and are at higher risk of being affected by extreme weather, fires etc..

Dangerous conditions:

- 1- Shelter structure in danger of collapse
- 2- Damaged roof
- 3- Damaged columns

Nearly half (47%) of Syrian refugee households were living in either shelter conditions that were below humanitarian standards or in danger of collapse (44% in 2020). Refugees living in non-residential shelters were more likely to be in shelters in danger of collapse (23%) compared to residential (11%) and non-permanent (11%).

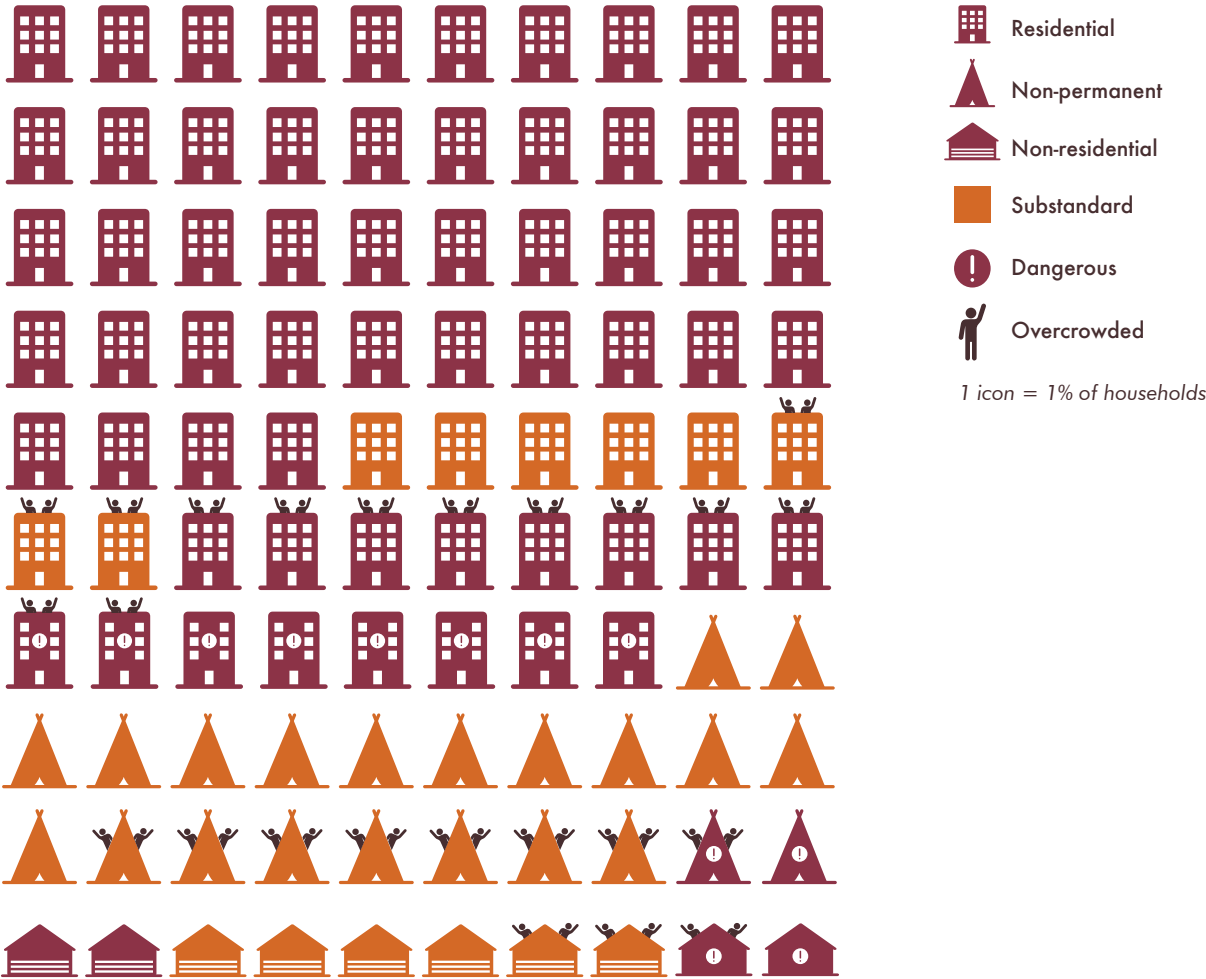
Figure 6: Shelter conditions by type of shelter

Residential: Out of refugee individuals who live in residential shelters, **43% live in inadequate shelter conditions.**

Non-residential: Out of refugee individuals who live in non-residential shelters, **84% live in inadequate shelter conditions.**

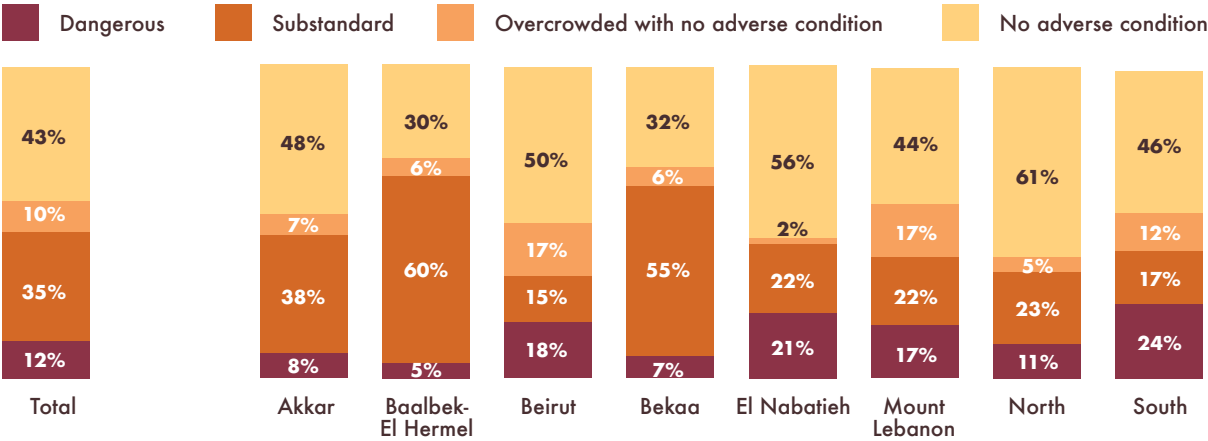
Non-permanent: **All refugees** who live in non-permanent shelters **are considered to be living in inadequate shelter.**

57% of households were living in shelters that were either overcrowded, had conditions below humanitarian standards, and/or were in danger of collapse.



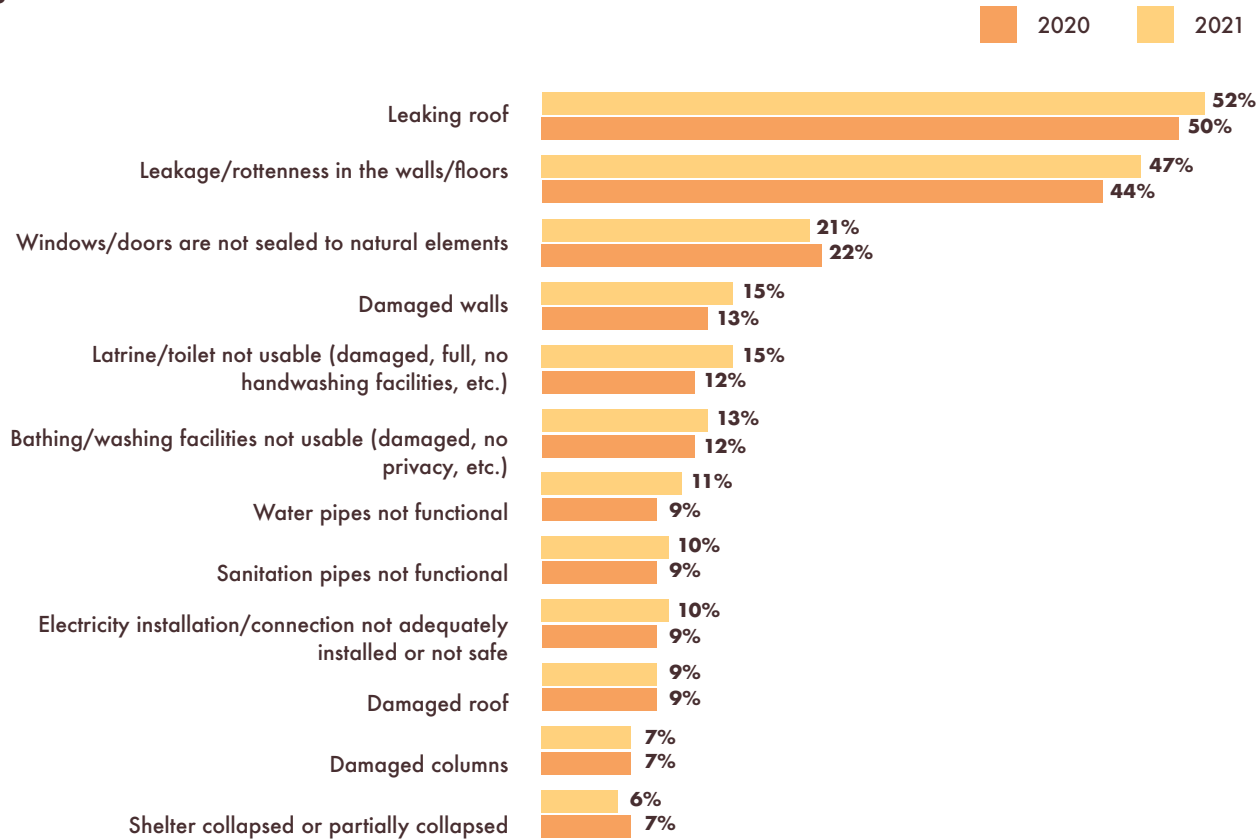
Baalbek-El Hermel and Bekaa continued to have the highest rates of households living in substandard or dangerous conditions (65% and 62% respectively).

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



The South had the highest percentage of households living in dangerous conditions (24%).

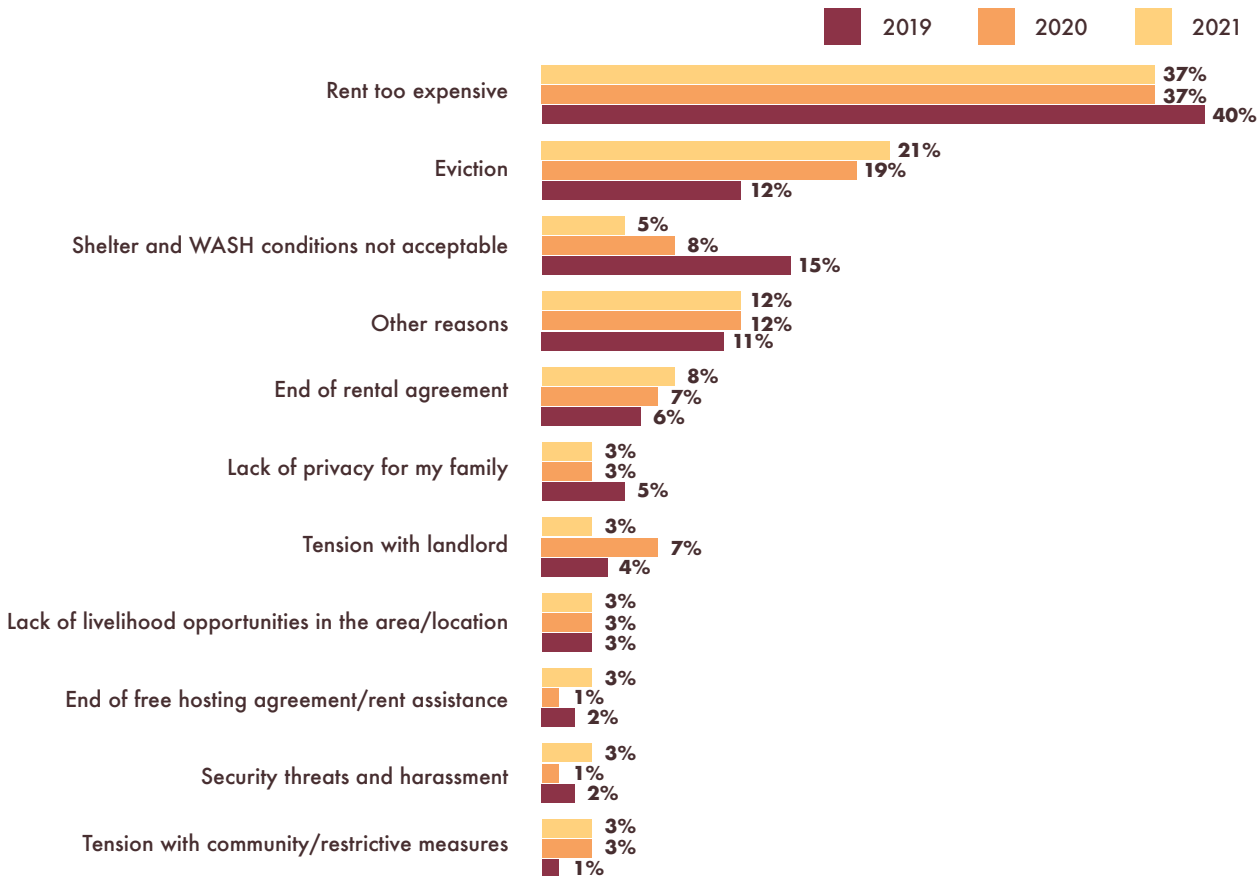
Figure 7: Prevalence of shelter conditions



Mobility and movement

Like in 2020, 15% of households reported changing their accommodation in the previous 12 months, 78% of which occurred in the previous 6 months, mainly due to rent being too expensive.

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



Twenty-one percent of households that moved in the previous 12 months did so because they were evicted. This rate was higher for households who had a disabled member (27%). Inability to pay rent was the most cited reason for those evicted (72%), followed by dispute with landlord (9%) or an alternative use of the shelter by the landlord (8%). Almost all (94%) of those who were evicted received the eviction notice from the landlord and 3% from the municipality/mayor.

Households who changed accommodation in the previous 12 months mostly (80%) moved to a similar type of shelter. Eleven percent moved from a residential structure to a non-residential or non-permanent shelter, while 8% moved from a non-permanent and non-residential shelter to a residential one.

Figure 9: For households who have moved in the past 12 months, previous and current types of shelter



Five percent of households were planning to move within the coming 6 months, with over a third of these mentioning the rent being too expensive as the reason for the planned move.

At the time of the survey, 5% of households were living under an eviction notice, the majority of which (75%) were expected to leave within the coming month. For almost all under eviction notice, the notices were issued by the landlord. Households with at least one member with a disability were more likely to be living under an eviction threat (7%) compared to households with no disabled members (5%).

Figure 9: Eviction threats

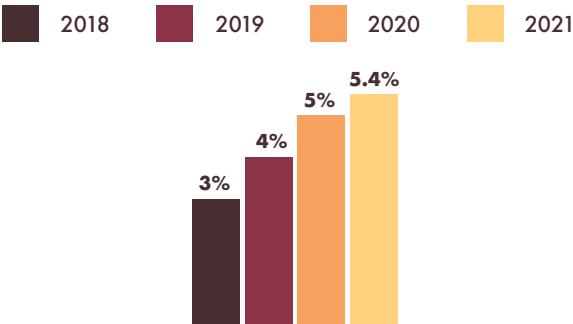
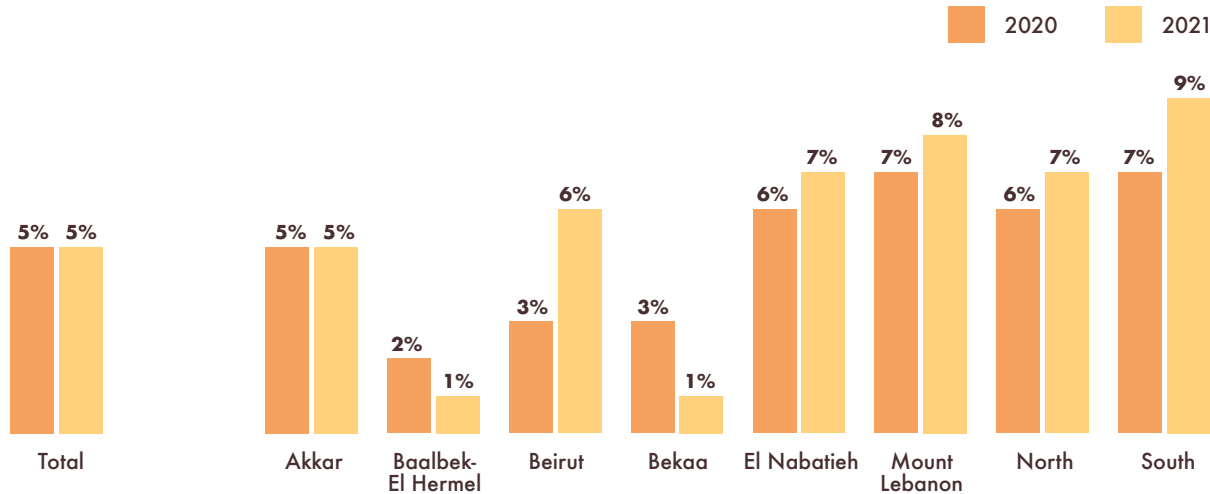


Figure 10: Percentage of households living under an eviction threat



Annex 3: Type of housing and type of occupancy

	Type of housing			Type of occupancy						
	Residential	Non-residential	Non-permanent	Owned	Rented	Combination of assistance/rent or work/rent	Hosted (in exchange for work)	Hosted for free	Assisted (by organizations, agencies, charity)	Other
Total	69%	10%	22%	0.1%	85%	0.5%	5%	8%	1%	0%
Governorate										
Akkar	56%	10%	35%	0%	81%	1%	4%	12%	2%	0%
Baalbek-El Hermel	39%	8%	53%	0%	81%	1%	3%	12%	3%	1%
Beirut	96%	4%	1%	0%	68%	1%	22%	9%	0%	0%
Bekaa	46%	9%	45%	0%	87%	0%	3%	9%	0%	0%
El Nabatieh	84%	8%	8%	0%	87%	1%	6%	6%	0%	1%
Mount Lebanon	91%	7%	2%	0%	87%	1%	5%	6%	0%	1%
North	76%	16%	8%	0%	86%	1%	5%	9%	0%	0%
South	80%	15%	5%	0%	80%	1%	12%	6%	0%	0%
Gender of the head of household										
Women	57%	10%	33%	0%	81%	0%	3%	13%	1%	1%
Men	71%	10%	19%	0%	85%	1%	6%	7%	0%	0%
Shelter type										
Residential				0%	88%	0%	4%	7%	0%	1%
Non-residential				0%	72%	1%	17%	10%	0%	1%
Non-permanent				0%	80%	1%	5%	13%	2%	0%

Annex 4: Type of rental agreement, rental costs, overcrowding and shelter conditions

	Type of rental agreement		Rent costs (LBP)		Overcrowding		Shelter conditions	
	Written agreement	Verbal agreement	Mean		HH living space <4.5m2		Below standards	Dangerous condition
Total	1%	99%	312,798		23%		35%	12%
Governorate								
Akkar	1%	99%	209,505		20%		38%	8%
Baalbek-El Hermel	1%	99%	168,621		25%		60%	5%
Beirut	4%	96%	540,235		27%		15%	18%
Bekaa	1%	99%	238,532		22%		55%	7%
El Nabatieh	3%	97%	317,214		7%		22%	21%
Mount Lebanon	1%	99%	402,553		32%		22%	17%
North	2%	98%	361,582		12%		23%	11%
South	2%	98%	364,084		25%		17%	24%
Gender of the head of household								
Women	1%	99%	254,829		20%		46%	8%
Men	2%	98%	334,066		24%		32%	13%
Shelter type								
Residential	2%	98%	368,103		20%		15%	11%
Non-residential	1%	99%	272,092		30%		55%	23%
Non-permanent	0%	100%	133,304		31%		89%	11%

WASH



Throughout Lebanon's history, the issue of water supply and quality has been a constant challenge. The influx of Syrian refugees, and the associated rise in demand for clean and safe water and wastewater services, has increased the burden on an already overwhelmed resource management system. Families living in non-residential and non-permanent structures, without access to appropriate water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services, are among the most vulnerable populations in Lebanon.

This chapter examines the WASH situation of Syrian refugee households in Lebanon, including the variations in WASH indicators across shelter types and governorates.

Key findings

- In terms of access to drinking water, 89% of household members had access to an improved drinking water source, similar rates to 2020 (87%). Bottled mineral water (38%) remained the main drinking water source that households rely on.
- Seventy-three percent of household members had the water source available on their premises, a 4 percentage points improvement from last year.
- The majority (89%) of household members had access to an improved sanitation facility, a slight decrease from 2020 (91%). Access to an improved sanitation facility decreased significantly to 67% for non-permanent shelters and was slightly lower (84%) for non-residential shelters. The use of basic sanitation service, which is an improved sanitation facility that is not shared, was found to be at 76%, which decreased to 52% 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

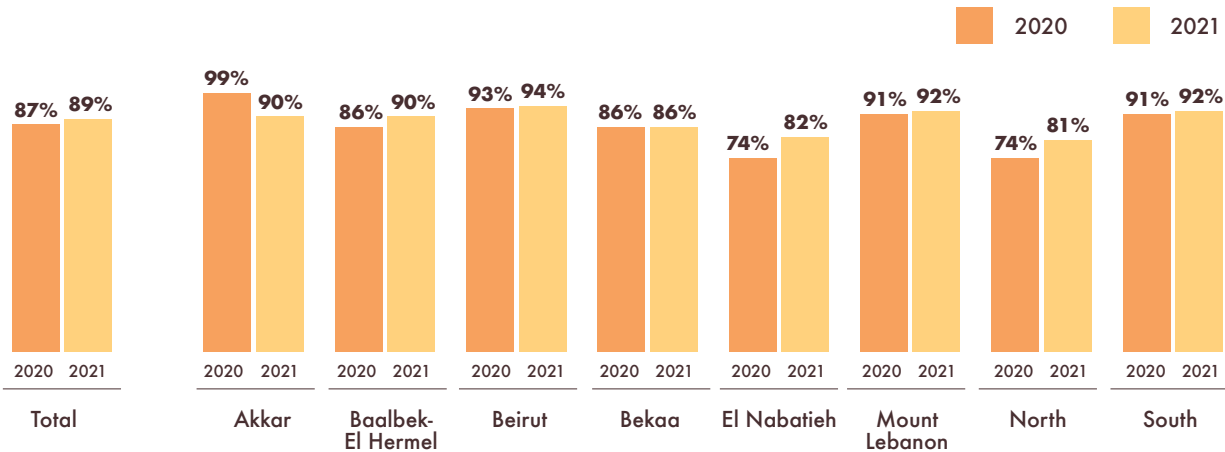
Basic drinking water sources

- Water source in dwelling/yard/plot
- Water source within 30 minutes round trip collection time

The majority (89%) of Syrian refugee households had access to improved drinking water sources, a similar result to last year (87%). At a governorate level, El Nabatieh improved 8 percentage points in 2021 (82%) after a consistent decrease in the previous years. Similarly, the North showed an increase from 2020 by 7% percentage points, whereas households in Akkar saw a decrease in access to improved drinking water sources from 99% in 2020 to 90%.

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

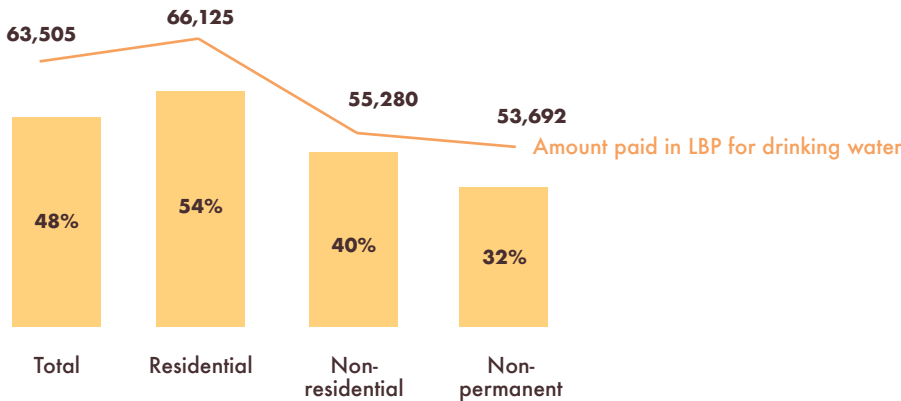
Figure 1: Access to improved drinking water sources, by governorate



Financial burden of access to safe water

The economic crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic have pushed almost the entire (88%) Syrian refugee population to below the SMEB, a huge increase from 55% in 2019. Almost half (48%) of households pay for drinking water, with the majority (54%) living in residential shelters.

Figure 2: Percentage of households who paid for drinking water last month

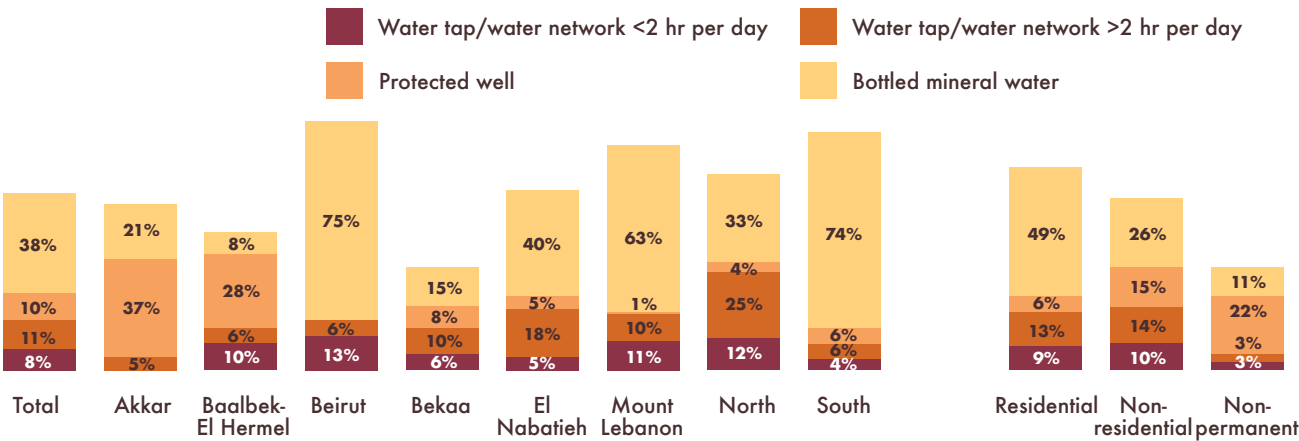


Sources of drinking water

Similar to 2020, the main source of drinking water was bottled mineral water (38%), followed by tap water/water network (19%).

The distribution varied widely across governorates. For example, while the South and Beirut showed the highest rates of use of bottled water (74% and 75% respectively), Baalbek-El Hermel households reported a relatively low use of bottled mineral water (8%), down from 14% in 2020.

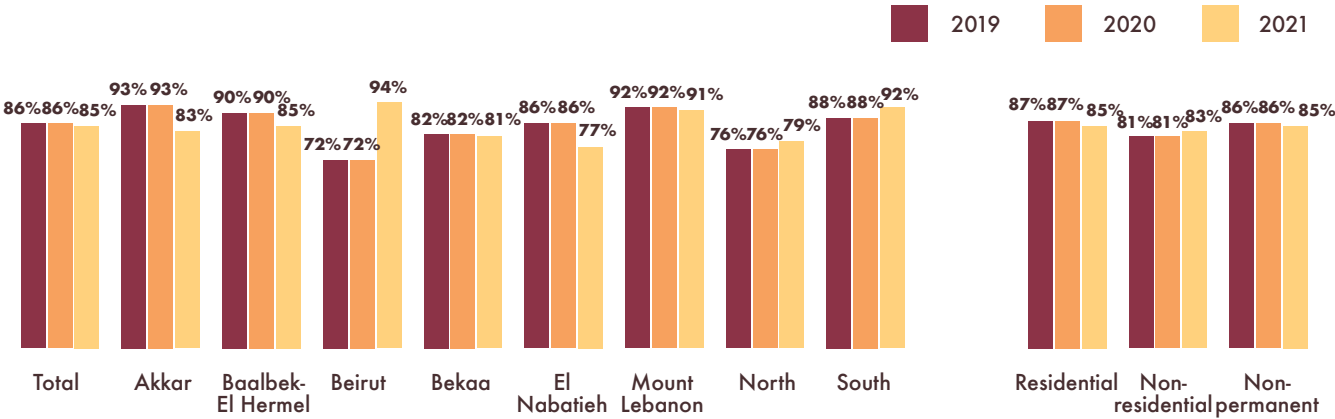
Figure 3: Sources of drinking water, by governorate and shelter type



The main source of drinking water also varied considerably among different shelter types. Nearly half (49%) of households in residential shelters relied on bottled mineral water, whereas the same proportion (49%) of households in non-permanent shelters got their drinking water from tanks or trucks through UN/NGO or private providers.

The use of basic drinking water sources remained stable at 85% in 2021 compared to 86% in 2019 and 2020. Notably, the 10 percentage points decrease in Akkar corresponds to the recorded decrease in access to improved drinking water sources noted above, whereas Beirut households recorded a steep increase in use of basic drinking water sources from 72% in 2019 and 2020 to 94% in 2021.

Figure 4: Use of basic drinking water sources, by governorate and 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

Eighty-nine percent of Syrian refugee households had access to improved sanitation facilities, a relatively small decrease from the previous year (91%). Of these, the majority used flush toilets (69%), compared to 66% in 2020, while 20% used improved pit/latrine with cement slabs. However, the percent of improved sanitation data does not consider the treatment of the wastewater collected in the sanitation facilities, which is considerably low.¹

A variation of improved sanitation across governorates was noted, with the lowest percentage of improved sanitation in Bekaa (74%), dropping significantly from 89% in 2020. The South recorded the highest improvement from 89% in 2020 to 98% in 2021.

Figure 5: Improved sanitation facilities, by governorate

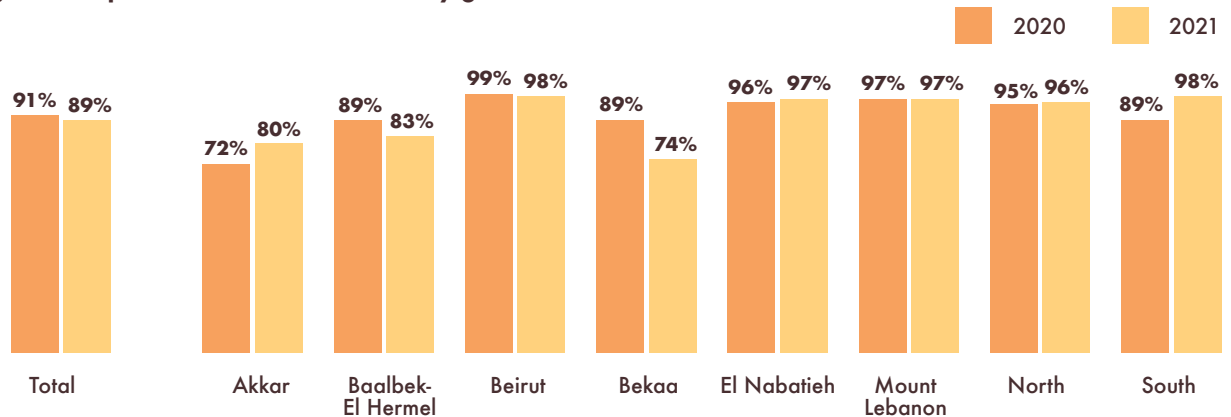
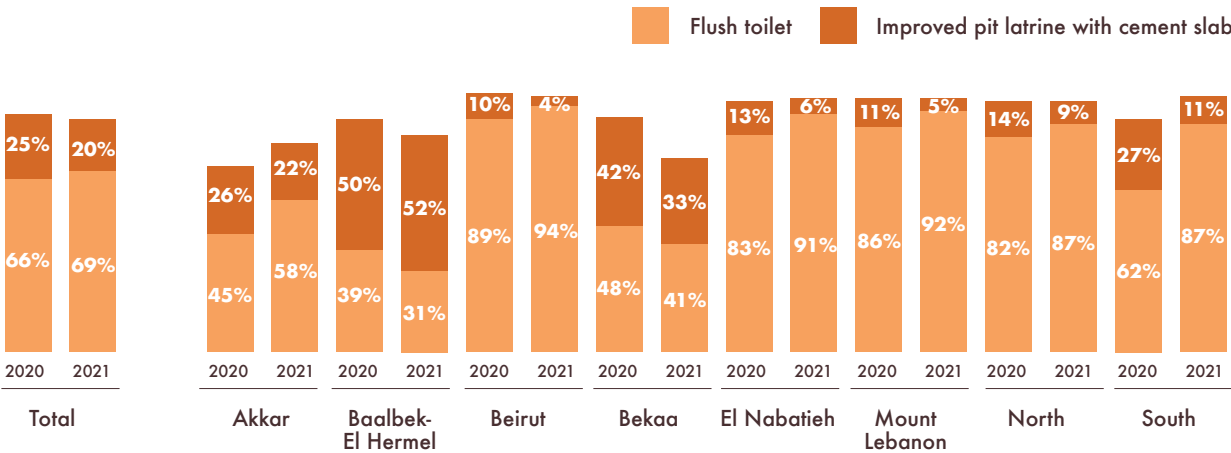


Figure 6: Types of sanitation facilities, by governorate



¹ 8% of wastewater is treated according to the National Water Sector Strategy, 2010

Table 4: Types of sanitation facilities

	Flush toilet	Improved pit latrine with cement slab	Traditional/pit latrine with no slab	Bucket	Open air
Total	69%	19%	11%	0%	0%
Akkar	58%	22%	20%	0%	1%
Baalbek El-Hermel	31%	52%	14%	0%	2%
Beirut	94%	4%	2%	0%	0%
Bekaa	41%	33%	26%	0%	0%
El Nabatieh	91%	6%	3%	0%	0%
Mount Lebanon	92%	5%	2%	0%	0%
North	87%	9%	3%	0%	0%
South	87%	11%	2%	0%	0%
Gender of the head of household					
Men	71%	18%	10%	0%	0%
Women	57%	27%	16%	0%	1%
Shelter Type					
Residential	89%	7%	3%	0%	0%
Non-residential	62%	22%	15%	0%	1%
Non-permanent	12%	55%	31%	0%	1%

Improved sanitation facilities also varied by shelter type, with residential shelters showing a 96% rate of use of improved sanitation facilities, while non-residential stayed the same at 84% in 2020 and 2021. Meanwhile, non-permanent shelters dropped significantly from 79% in 2020 to 67% in 2021.

In addition, non-permanent shelters had the highest use of improved pit latrines (55%) as compared to non-residential (22%) and residential (7%). 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 individuals with a disability

Among the household members with a disability, 85% had access to a sanitation facility adjusted for disabilities, a decrease from 2020 (90%). Similar to findings of all Syrian refugee households, household members with a disability

living in residential and non-residential shelters had notably higher rates of accessing improved sanitation (95% and 90% respectively) compared to non-permanent shelter (50%).

Figure 7: Household members with a disability with access to improved sanitation facilities, by governorate and shelter type

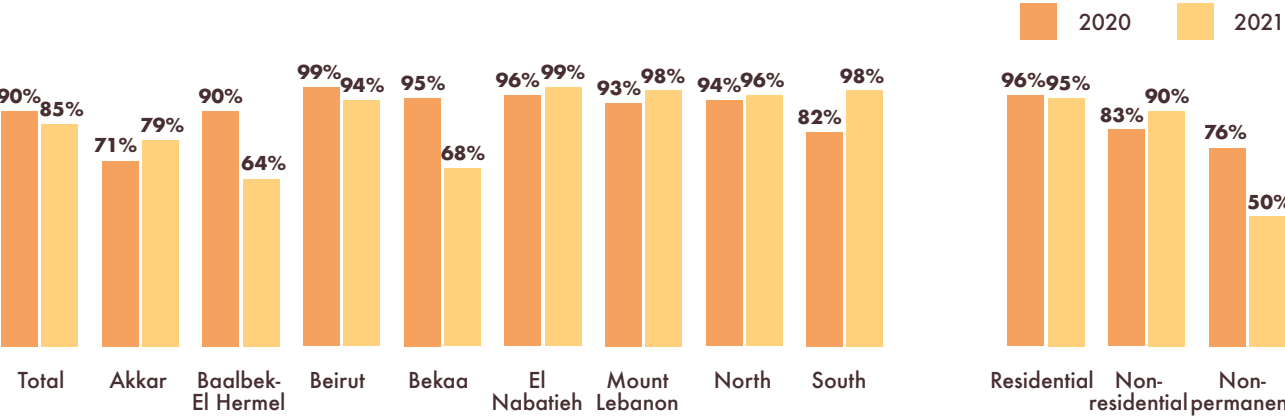
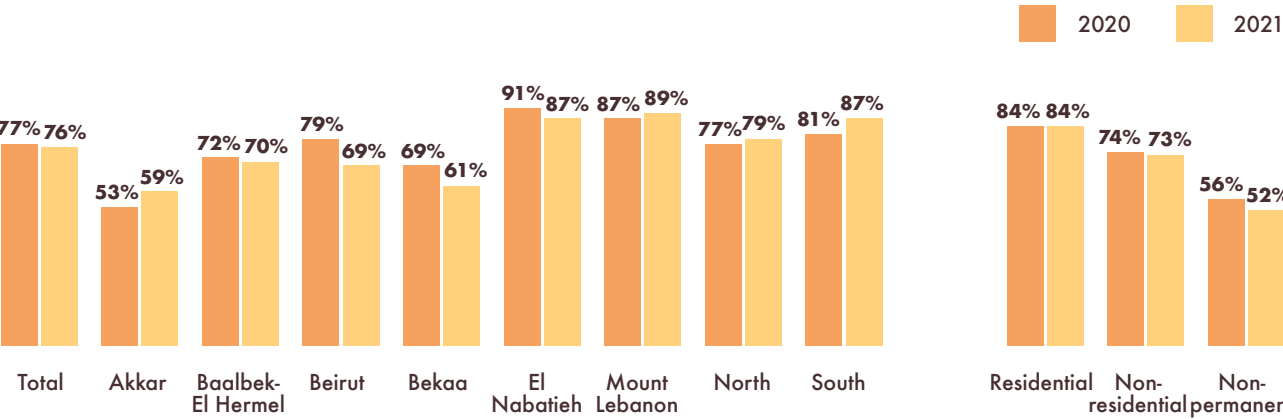


Figure 8: Access to basic sanitation facilities, by governorate and shelter type



	Use of improved drinking water sources	Use of basic drinking water service	Did you have sufficient water for washing and domestic purposes in the last month?		
	% Individuals with access to improved drinking water sources	% individuals who have access to improved drinking water sources either in their dwelling/yard/plot or within 30 minutes round trip collection time	Yes, we had sufficient water	It was barely sufficient	No, it was not sufficient
Total	89%	85%	68%	28%	4%
Governorate					
Akkar	90%	83%	88%	12%	1%
Baalbek-El Hermel	90%	85%	69%	29%	2%
Beirut	94%	94%	70%	21%	9%
Bekaa	86%	81%	77%	21%	2%
El Nabatieh	82%	77%	61%	27%	12%
Mount Lebanon	92%	91%	59%	36%	5%
North	81%	79%	62%	36%	3%
South	92%	91%	60%	29%	10%
Gender of the head of household					
Women	87%	82%	70%	25%	5%
Men	89%	86%	67%	29%	4%
Shelter type					
Residential	88%	85%	67%	28%	5%
Non-residential	86%	83%	67%	29%	4%
Non-permanent	92%	85%	69%	28%	3%

Annex 6: Sanitation - use of improved and basic sanitation services

	Use of Improved sanitation facilities	Use of basic sanitation service
Total	89%	76%
Governorate		
Akkar	80%	59%
Baalbek-El Hermel	83%	70%
Beirut	98%	69%
Bekaa	74%	61%
El Nabatieh	97%	87%
Mount Lebanon	97%	89%
North	96%	79%
South	98%	87%
Gender of the head of household		
Women	84%	64%
Men	90%	77%
Shelter type		
Residential	97%	84%
Non-residential	84%	73%
Non-permanent	67%	52%

Percentages calculated out of the number of individuals

Annex 7: Solid waste

	Do you have sufficient bins for disposing solid waste in your area?		Is the municipality collecting the solid waste on a regular basis?		
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Don't know
Total	82%	18%	88%	11%	1%
Governorate					
Akkar	71%	29%	84%	15%	0%
Baalbek-El Hermel	77%	23%	82%	18%	0%
Beirut	80%	20%	93%	6%	0%
Bekaa	95%	5%	96%	4%	0%
El Nabatieh	85%	15%	85%	15%	0%
Mount Lebanon	76%	24%	88%	10%	2%
North	79%	21%	84%	16%	1%
South	88%	12%	90%	9%	1%
Gender of the head of household					
Women	80%	20%	87%	13%	0%
Men	82%	18%	89%	11%	1%
Shelter type					
Residential	84%	16%	92%	8%	1%
Non-residential	81%	19%	87%	12%	1%
Non-permanent	76%	24%	78%	21%	1%

EDUCATION

In an attempt to accommodate hundreds of thousands of Syrian refugee school aged children, the Government of Lebanon, with the support of the international community, runs a two-shift school system that has non-Lebanese children attending in the afternoon. As a result of the economic crisis, a high number of children previously enrolled in private schools are now moving to state schools, increasing the burden on the public system.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the deteriorating economic crisis impacted thousands of children, adolescents, and youths' access to learning. This assessment shows how school closures have influenced school attendance rates and added a burden with distance learning. Additionally, costs of transport and education materials persisted as the main reasons behind children not attending school. This chapter describes the school attendance 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 attending schools and the share of youth not employed or in training.

Key findings

- Seventy percent of school-aged children (3 to 17 years)¹ have attended any formal school or early childhood education program at least once. Similarly, 75% of the same cohort reported being able to read and write.
- Contrary to previous years, the 2021 rate of participation in organized learning for children 3 to 5 years of age and the primary school attendance rate for children aged 6 to 14 decreased by 5 and 14 percentage points respectively. The secondary school attendance rate (27%) was similar to last year (29%).
- Almost half (47%) of school-aged children (6 to 17 years) attended the 2020-2021 school year. Of these, 47% attended school both physically and remotely (online), 30% attended only remotely, and the remaining 23% attended only physically.
- The most reported reasons for not attending school for children aged 3 to 17 were the cost of educational materials (30%) and cost of transportation (29%) with an increase of 10 and 14 percentage points respectively compared to 2020. For older children (15 to 18), work was the number one reason for boys (33%) and marriage was reported by 22% of girls as the main reason for not attending school.
- The gender parity indices show that the proportion of girls enrolled in schools was slightly higher compared to boys at the primary level (1.13) and lower secondary level (1.14), with a larger proportion for higher secondary level (1.30).

¹ There are around 600,000 school-aged children in Lebanon. (LCRP 217-2021)

Participation in organized learning: the share of children aged 3 to 5 who are attending an early childhood education program, such as nursery and kindergarten (KG1 and KG2).

Gender parity index: the number of girls attending school over the number of boys attending school. If the gender parity index is over 1, it means that school attendance is higher for girls than boys.

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

COVID-19 distance learning measures

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, formal and informal education shifted to online, distance learning in early 2020. In 2021, almost half (47%) of school-aged children registered in school were attending a combination of distance and in-person education, while 30% attended online only and 23% attended only in-person learning.

Of those who attended a combination or online only, 20% faced difficulties in distance learning, with the main reason reported as lack of, or insufficient, internet access (63%), followed by shortage of laptop/smartphones/tablet (46%). A quarter (24%) indicated they had lost interest in learning because of online lessons or found it difficult to pay attention.

Education status

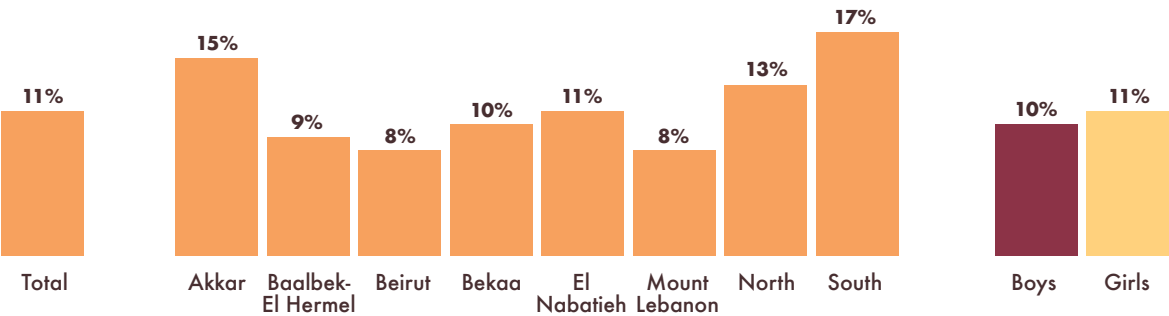
Among school-aged children (3 to 17 years),² 70% have attended formal school or an early childhood education program. The rate decreased across older age groups, at 54% among individuals between the ages of 40 and 60, with the largest difference between women and men (44% and 62% respectively). With regards to literacy rates, three-quarters of school-aged children reportedly knew how to read and write. For the youth age group (15 to 24 years), the percentage increased to 91%, similar to the remaining older age groups.

Pre-primary school

Among children aged 3 to 5, 11% were attending an early childhood education program, namely kindergarten or nursery. The rate decreased by 5 percentage points compared to 2020, and the rates for girls and boys were

similar. The highest rates of participation in organized learning for children aged 3 to 5 were reported in the governorates of the South (17%) and Akkar (15%), and the lowest in Beirut and Mount Lebanon at 8% each.

Figure 1: Participation rate in organized learning



² There are around 600,000 school-aged children in Lebanon. (LCRP 217-2021)

Primary and secondary school attendance³

Only 53% of school-aged children (6 to 14 years) were attending school in the year 2020-2021, which represents a 14 percentage points reduction from 67% in 2020. The rate differed slightly between boys (49%) and girls (56%).

The highest attendance rate was reported in Beirut (69%) and the lowest in Mount Lebanon (45%). There was an overall decrease in the primary school attendance rate as

compared to 2020, with the largest drops in Baalbek-El Hermel, Akkar, and Mount Lebanon (20%, 19%, and 19% percentage points respectively). The national attendance rate for secondary school remained relatively stable from 2020, however, there were large disparities in some governorates. A large drop in attendance was seen in Mount Lebanon, while there was an increase in Bekaa.

Figure 2: Primary school attendance (6 to 14 years)

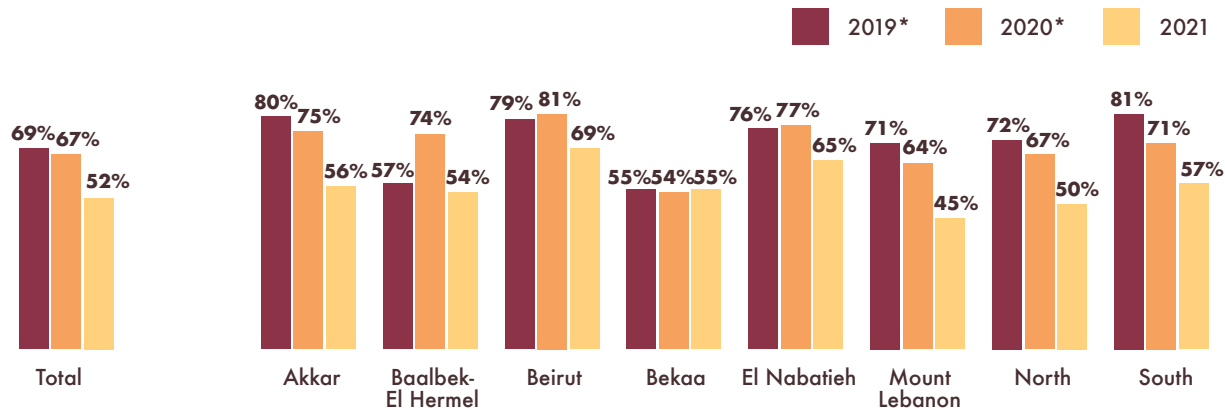
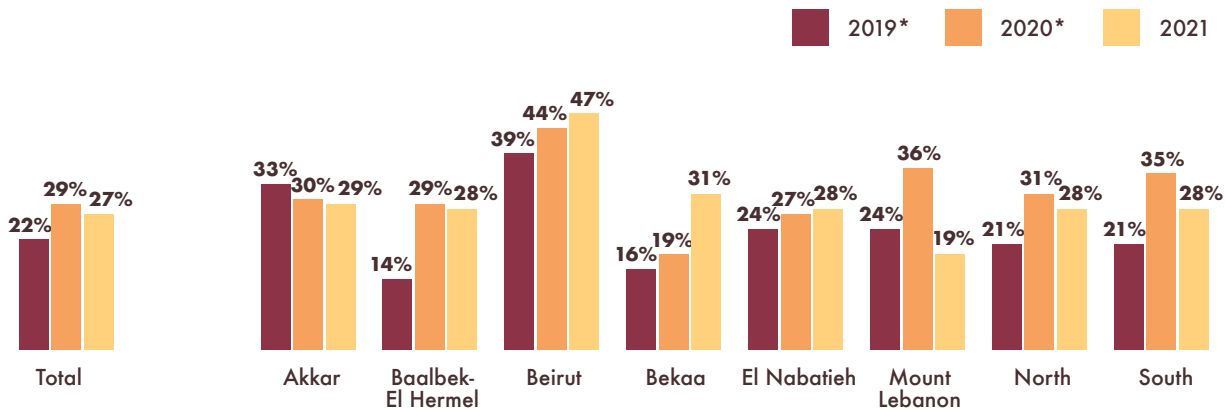


Figure 3: Secondary school attendance (15 to 17 years)



³In previous VASyRs, the question was asked on school enrollment. For VASyR 2021, the question was changed to school attendance in order to capture whether the child was attending or not.

Reasons for not attending school

For children aged 3 to 17, among the reasons given for not attending school, costs became more prominent compared to last year, and with a notable difference between girls (35%) and boys (26%). Specifically, the two most commonly reported reasons were cost of educational materials (30%) and cost of transportation (29%) with an increase of 10 and 14 percentage points respectively compared to 2020.

The third most commonly reported reason for not attending school was fear of contracting COVID-19 at 22%. There was a 5 percentage points increase in children not attending

school due to work from 6% in 2020 to 11% in 2021, with a significant difference in boys (18%) and girls (3%). Other reasons mentioned were related to schools not allowing children to be enrolled (8%) or no space in the school (7%).

Looking at the findings across age groups, the two main reasons reported for not attending school remained costs. However, for the older age group (15 to 17 years), not attending due to work increased significantly to 21% compared to 0% and 6% for the two younger age groups.

³ In previous VASyRs, the question was asked on school enrollment. For VASyR 2021, the question was changed to school attendance in order to capture whether the child was attending or not.

Figure 4: Reasons for not attending school, by year

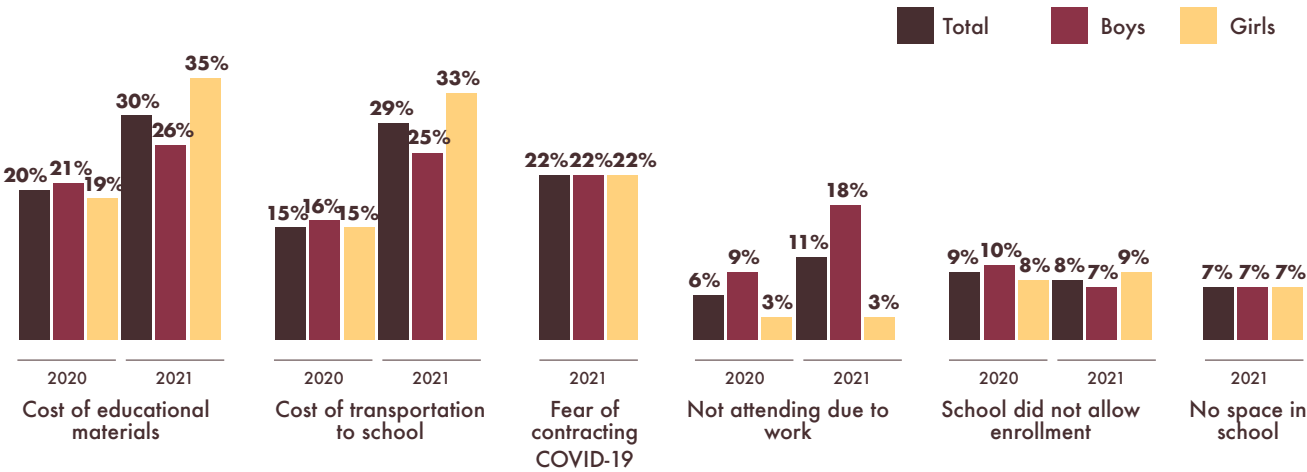
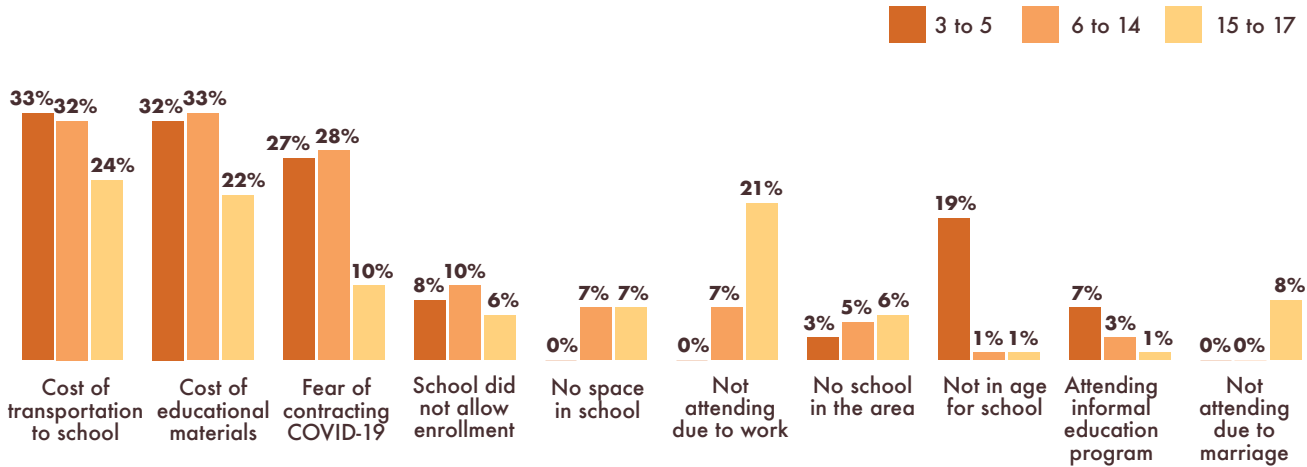


Figure 5: Reasons for not attending school, by age group

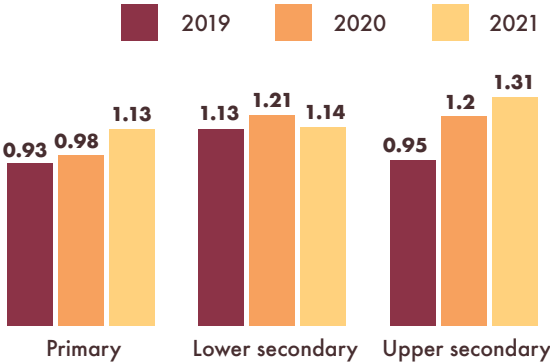


Gender parity index

The gender parity index presented here is the ratio of girls’ attendance to boys’ attendance. As an indication, we can consider that a gender parity index below 0.97 indicates a disparity in favor of boys and an index above 1.03 indicates a disparity in favor of girls.⁴

In 2021, the share of girls attending primary school was higher than for boys, while in the previous two years it was closer to parity. For lower secondary, and particularly for upper secondary, girls attended in larger shares than boys. For upper secondary, the share of girls attending compared to boys (1.13) was slightly higher than in 2020 and 2019 at 1.20 and 1.19 respectively.

Figure 6: Gender parity index



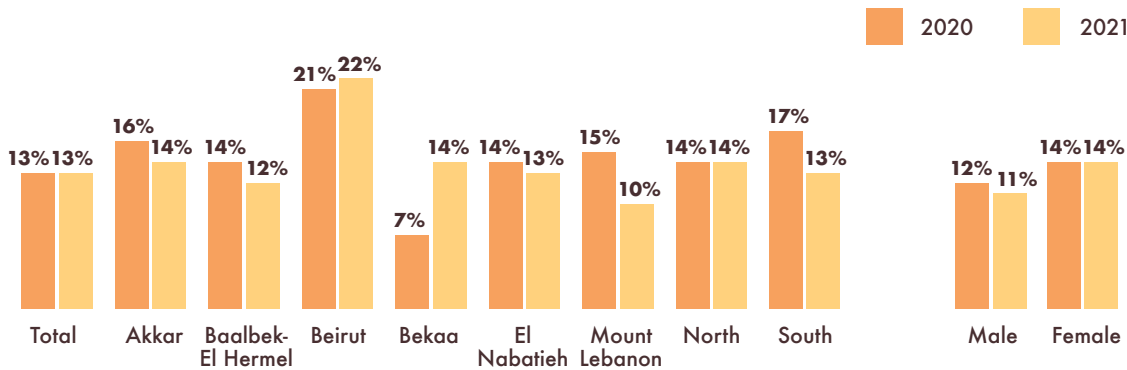
⁴ UNESCO's International Institute for Educational Planning. IIEP Learning portal. Accessed on November 2021. <https://learningportal.iiep.unesco.org/en/glossary/gender-parity-index-gpi>

Youth schooling and education

Only 13% of adolescents and youth (aged 15 to 24) were attending school in 2021, with Beirut recording the highest attendance rate (22%) and Mount Lebanon the lowest (10%). Notably, the rate of youth attending school in Bekaa doubled from 7% in 2020 to 14% in 2021. There was a considerable difference between the age groups of 15 to 18 years (24%) and 19 to 24 years (4%), and girls had higher attendance rates than boys with 3 percentage points

for 15 to 24 years and 6 percentage points for 15 to 18 years. Notably, 35% of youth had never attended school. With regards to the modality of learning, among the 18 to 24 age group who attended school, 44% attended via a hybrid approach (both physical and online), 41% attended only online, and 15% attended only physically. Of those who attended only online, the majority (96%) were able to follow remote learning.

Figure 7: Percentage of youth (15 to 24 years) attending formal education



The main reasons for not attending formal education among the 15 to 24 age group were marriage (28%), work (26%), cost of educational materials (14%), and cost of transportation to school/university (12%). Not attending due

to marriage was significantly higher among girls (46%) than boys (9%), and not attending due to work was almost exactly reversed (boys 47% vs. girls 6%).

Figure 8: Reasons for not attending formal education, by age group

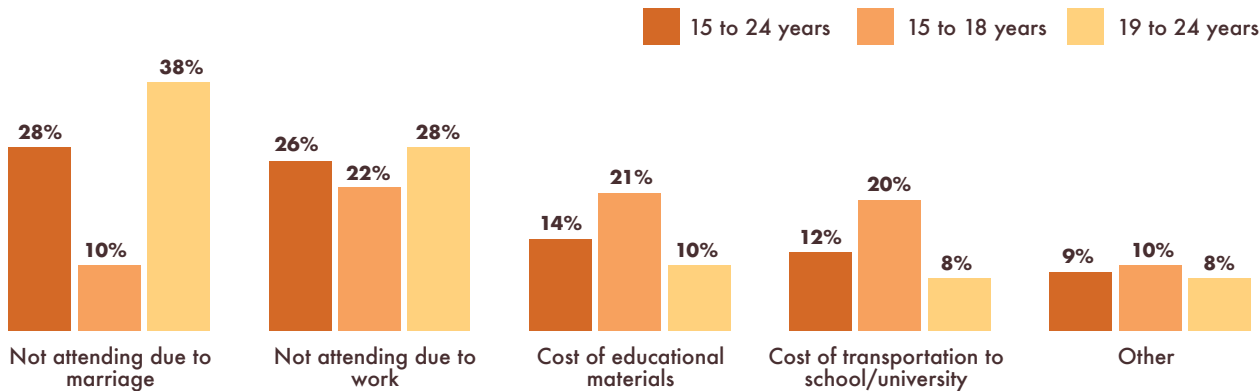
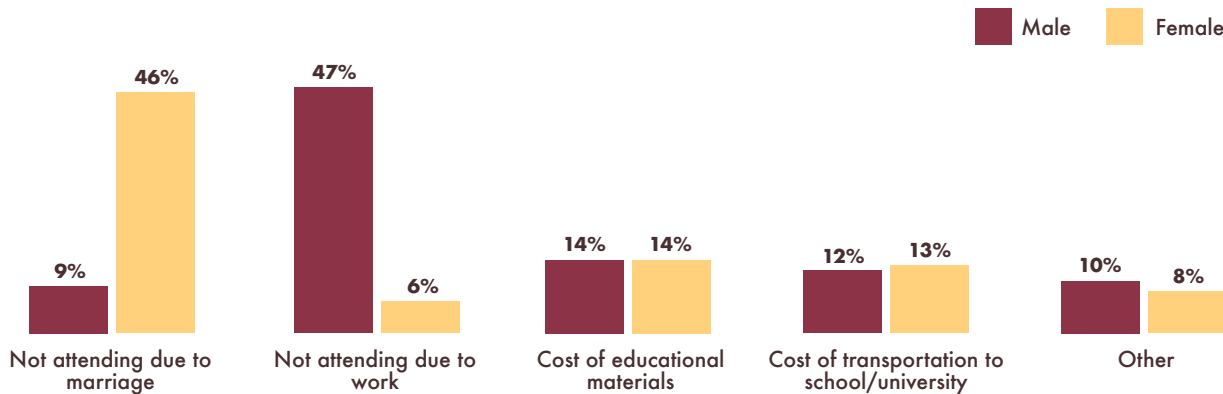


Figure 9: Reasons for not attending formal education, by gender



Not in employment, education, or training

The share of young people who fall under the not in education, employment, or training (NEET) definition tend to be at higher risk of social exclusion, with little to no income and lacking skills to improve their economic situation.⁵ Thus, reducing the NEET is a result of effective school-to-work transition, improved access to decent work conditions, and income generating opportunities.

Similar to last year, the NEET rate among Syrian refugee youths in Lebanon was 67%, with the highest rate in Baalbek-El Hermel (77%) and the lowest in Beirut and the South (56%). Consistently throughout the years, the share of girls in NEET has been significantly higher than for boys (79% and 52% respectively). Furthermore, from 2020 to 2021, there was a significant increase of 12 percentage points in the NEET rate among 15 to 18 and a decrease of 9 percentage points among the older group 19 to 24.

Figure 10: Not in employment, education, or training (NEET) (2020)

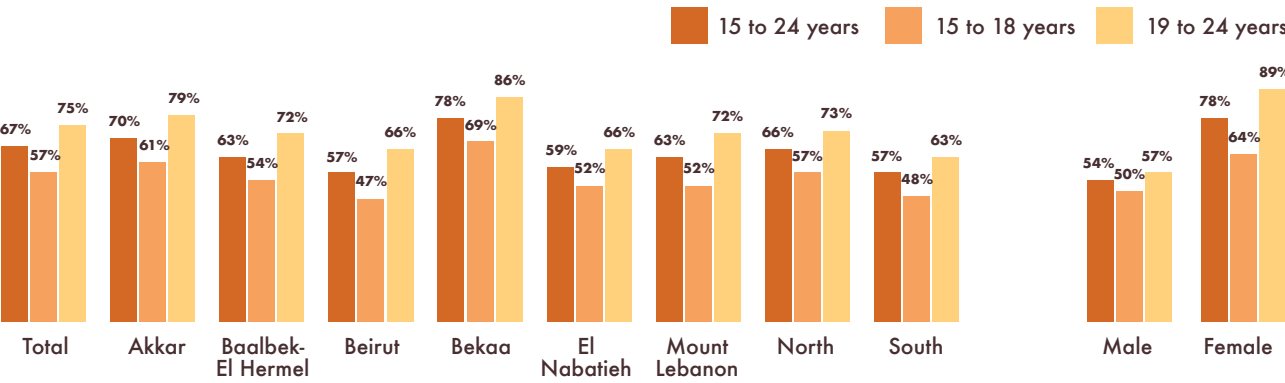
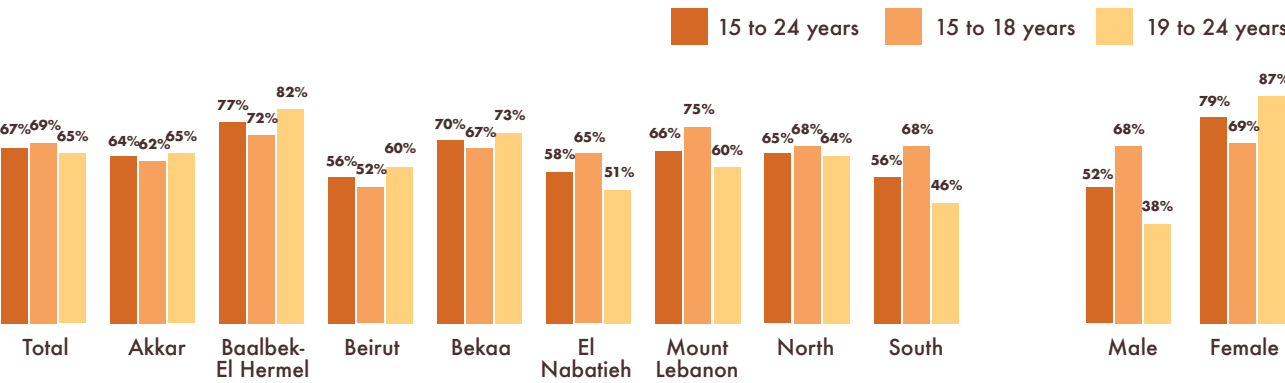


Figure 11: Not in employment, education, or training (NEET) (2021)



⁵ OECD (2021), Youth not in employment, education or training (NEET) (indicator). doi: 10.1787/72d1033a-en (Accessed on 03 November 2021)

Annex 8: Education (1/4)

	Ever attended formal school or any early childhood education programme						Able to read and write						Attendance (school year 2020-2021)											
	6 to 17	6 to 14	15 to 24	25 to 60	24 to 40	40 to 60	6 to 17	6 to 14	15 to 24	25 to 60	24 to 40	40 to 60	6 to 17	3 to 5	6 to 14	15 to 17	18 to 24	6 to 11	12 to 14	15 to 24	15 to 18	19 to 24		
Total	70%	70%	65%	60%	63%	54%	74%	71%	91%	92%	92%	91%	47%	11%	52%	27%	5%	54%	49%	13%	24%	4%		
Sex of child																								
Female	71%	73%	65%	56%	61%	44%	77%	73%	94%	92%	92%	90%	51%	10%	56%	30%	6%	57%	53%	14%	27%	5%		
Male	68%	69%	65%	65%	65%	62%	73%	70%	88%	92%	92%	92%	44%	11%	49%	23%	4%	51%	46%	11%	21%	3%		
Disability status																								
No disability	70%	71%	66%	61%	64%	54%	75%	72%	91%	92%	93%	92%	48%	11%	53%	26%	5%	54%	49%	13%	24%	4%		
Has a disability	64%	65%	58%	55%	59%	51%	69%	66%	89%	87%	85%	90%	47%	14%	50%	36%	4%	50%	50%	11%	25%	4%		
Governorate																								
Akkar	65%	68%	43%	26%	29%	22%	74%	71%	87%	82%	83%	82%	51%	15%	56%	29%	6%	58%	52%	14%	27%	3%		
Baalbek-El Hermel	69%	72%	50%	45%	47%	42%	80%	77%	92%	96%	98%	92%	49%	9%	54%	28%	2%	55%	52%	12%	22%	1%		
Beirut	84%	84%	87%	79%	83%	72%	81%	78%	95%	93%	93%	93%	65%	8%	69%	47%	12%	70%	68%	22%	41%	9%		
Bekaa	69%	70%	68%	61%	63%	55%	67%	62%	91%	94%	95%	93%	50%	10%	55%	31%	5%	55%	54%	14%	27%	3%		
El Nabatieh	82%	81%	84%	77%	81%	68%	56%	52%	86%	88%	87%	89%	59%	11%	65%	28%	4%	68%	58%	13%	23%	3%		
Mount Lebanon	67%	67%	73%	71%	74%	64%	77%	75%	92%	91%	91%	91%	40%	8%	45%	19%	6%	47%	40%	10%	18%	5%		
North	71%	70%	75%	71%	73%	69%	80%	76%	92%	91%	92%	90%	46%	13%	50%	28%	7%	51%	48%	14%	24%	6%		
South	71%	74%	51%	43%	46%	35%	79%	77%	89%	93%	93%	93%	50%	17%	57%	28%	6%	59%	52%	13%	24%	5%		
Gender of the head of household																								
Women	64%	66%	59%	46%	49%	42%	73%	69%	91%	91%	93%	88%	41%	10%	48%	22%	4%	49%	45%	11%	19%	3%		
Men	71%	71%	66%	62%	65%	56%	75%	72%	91%	92%	92%	92%	49%	11%	53%	28%	5%	55%	50%	13%	25%	4%		
Poverty Line																								
Below SMEB	79%	80%	82%	71%	75%	61%	76%	71%	94%	94%	95%	90%	49%	8%	56%	31%	5%	57%	54%	10%	27%	3%		
Above SMEB	70%	70%	64%	59%	62%	53%	74%	71%	91%	91%	91%	91%	48%	11%	52%	27%	5%	54%	49%	13%	24%	4%		
Expenditure quintiles																								
Q1 (lowest)	58%	61%	46%	48%	50%	40%	70%	68%	86%	91%	92%	89%	41%	10%	46%	14%	2%	47%	44%	5%	13%	1%		
Q2	64%	64%	60%	54%	58%	45%	78%	75%	93%	91%	92%	89%	48%	8%	51%	32%	4%	51%	53%	12%	27%	3%		
Q3	72%	73%	69%	65%	68%	57%	70%	67%	89%	91%	90%	90%	50%	12%	55%	31%	6%	57%	51%	15%	29%	3%		
Q4	74%	75%	69%	63%	66%	57%	76%	73%	92%	95%	94%	95%	48%	11%	53%	24%	7%	55%	49%	14%	22%	6%		
Q5 (highest)	71%	71%	70%	65%	68%	61%	76%	72%	92%	91%	92%	90%	47%	13%	53%	27%	5%	55%	47%	14%	24%	4%		
Shelter type																								
Residential	74%	75%	71%	65%	68%	60%	77%	74%	93%	92%	92%	92%	52%	12%	56%	32%	7%	57%	54%	15%	29%	5%		
Non-residential	60%	60%	58%	54%	59%	43%	74%	70%	90%	91%	93%	87%	41%	10%	46%	17%	3%	48%	43%	8%	16%	2%		
Non-permanent	59%	61%	50%	44%	49%	36%	64%	61%	85%	92%	91%	92%	39%	9%	45%	16%	1%	47%	39%	7%	13%	0%		

Annex 8: Education (2/4)

	Learning modality: physical										Learning modality: online									
	6 to 17	3 to 5	6 to 14	15 to 17	18 to 24	6 to 11	12 to 14	15 to 24	19 to 24	6 to 17	3 to 5	6 to 14	15 to 17	18 to 24	6 to 11	12 to 14	15 to 24	19 to 24	6 to 17	3 to 5
Total	22%	25%	22%	24%	15%	23%	20%	22%	12%	30%	44%	31%	25%	41%	32%	29%	29%	26%	47%	
Sex of child																				
Female	23%	24%	22%	26%	14%	23%	19%	23%	14%	31%	43%	31%	28%	40%	30%	32%	32%	29%	45%	
Male	22%	26%	22%	22%	18%	22%	21%	21%	7%	30%	45%	31%	21%	42%	33%	25%	26%	22%	50%	
Disability status																				
No disability	22%	26%	22%	23%	15%	22%	20%	21%	13%	30%	44%	31%	25%	43%	32%	29%	30%	26%	50%	
Has a disability	33%	0%	31%	46%	0%	36%	22%	36%	0%	26%	0%	28%	19%	0%	28%	27%	17%	18%	0%	
Governorate																				
Akkar	37%	32%	38%	30%	0%	40%	32%	29%	0%	6%	21%	6%	9%	0%	6%	6%	12%	8%	0%	
Baalbek-El Hermel	13%	0%	12%	21%	0%	12%	12%	25%	0%	33%	0%	34%	23%	0%	36%	29%	21%	22%	0%	
Beirut	25%	0%	26%	19%	13%	28%	21%	16%	0%	31%	0%	32%	26%	19%	31%	33%	23%	25%	0%	
Bekaa	19%	32%	18%	26%	0%	19%	15%	21%	0%	26%	54%	29%	9%	0%	31%	24%	16%	13%	0%	
El Nabatieh	12%	10%	13%	2%	0%	14%	8%	3%	0%	28%	47%	27%	33%	0%	26%	29%	32%	32%	0%	
Mount Lebanon	25%	15%	24%	36%	6%	23%	26%	25%	0%	46%	70%	47%	37%	69%	49%	42%	49%	38%	0%	
North	33%	45%	34%	26%	31%	36%	29%	27%	0%	20%	21%	19%	27%	35%	19%	22%	30%	30%	0%	
South	12%	9%	12%	10%	0%	13%	10%	10%	0%	39%	39%	36%	62%	0%	34%	42%	52%	59%	0%	
Gender of the head of household																				
Women	25%	24%	25%	26%	0%	27%	22%	26%	0%	30%	50%	31%	21%	0%	33%	26%	23%	19%	0%	
Men	22%	25%	22%	24%	13%	22%	19%	21%	9%	30%	43%	31%	26%	42%	32%	29%	30%	27%	46%	
Poverty Line																				
Below SMEB	30%	0%	25%	0%	0%	23%	32%	37%	0%	35%	0%	34%	0%	0%	34%	35%	53%	0%	0%	
Above SMEB	22%	24%	22%	23%	16%	23%	19%	21%	14%	30%	45%	31%	24%	35%	32%	28%	27%	24%	41%	
Expenditure quintiles																				
Q1 (lowest)	18%	0%	17%	0%	0%	18%	16%	34%	0%	37%	0%	39%	0%	0%	41%	31%	11%	13%	0%	
Q2	23%	26%	24%	18%	0%	24%	22%	19%	0%	28%	33%	30%	15%	0%	32%	27%	20%	16%	0%	
Q3	27%	26%	25%	41%	13%	25%	25%	34%	0%	27%	50%	29%	12%	34%	29%	27%	18%	13%	0%	
Q4	20%	28%	20%	17%	11%	22%	15%	15%	0%	31%	47%	31%	32%	47%	34%	25%	37%	34%	0%	
Q5 (highest)	21%	16%	21%	21%	17%	22%	19%	20%	13%	31%	44%	30%	37%	40%	29%	32%	38%	37%	37%	
Shelter type																				
Residential	23%	25%	23%	25%	15%	23%	22%	22%	9%	31%	42%	32%	28%	44%	33%	29%	33%	29%	49%	
Non-residential	24%	18%	24%	30%	0%	26%	16%	33%	0%	30%	65%	31%	14%	0%	31%	33%	11%	12%	0%	
Non-permanent	19%	25%	19%	21%	0%	21%	13%	19%	0%	26%	43%	27%	15%	0%	28%	25%	14%	14%	0%	

Annex 8: Education (3/4)

Learning modality: hybrid												Able to follow remote learning (of those that received remote learning)											
	6 to 17	3 to 5	6 to 14	15 to 17	18 to 24	6 to 11	12 to 14	15 to 24	15 to 18	19 to 24		6 to 17	3 to 5	6 to 14	15 to 17	18 to 24	6 to 11	12 to 14	15 to 24	15 to 18	19 to 24		
Total	47%	31%	47%	51%	44%	45%	52%	49%	50%	41%		80%	74%	79%	92%	96%	77%	82%	93%	92%	99%		
Sex of child																							
Female	47%	33%	47%	45%	46%	46%	49%	46%	47%	40%		82%	75%	81%	94%	96%	79%	86%	94%	93%	100%		
Male	48%	29%	47%	57%	41%	44%	54%	53%	55%	43%		77%	73%	76%	91%	96%	75%	78%	92%	91%	97%		
Disability status																							
No disability	48%	30%	47%	52%	42%	46%	52%	49%	51%	37%		81%	73%	79%	93%	95%	78%	83%	94%	93%	99%		
Has a disability	40%	0%	41%	35%	0%	37%	51%	47%	36%	0%		62%	0%	61%	0%	0%	62%	60%	81%	0%	0%		
Governorate																							
Akkar	57%	47%	56%	62%	0%	54%	62%	59%	61%	0%		93%	100%	92%	100%	0%	92%	93%	96%	95%	0%		
Baalbek-El Hermel	54%	0%	54%	56%	0%	52%	59%	54%	56%	0%		84%	0%	83%	93%	0%	82%	87%	93%	93%	0%		
Beirut	44%	0%	43%	56%	69%	41%	46%	60%	57%	0%		86%	0%	84%	95%	93%	82%	89%	94%	94%	0%		
Bekaa	55%	15%	53%	65%	0%	50%	61%	63%	64%	0%		80%	0%	78%	96%	0%	76%	81%	97%	97%	0%		
El Nabatieh	61%	43%	60%	65%	0%	60%	62%	65%	66%	0%		51%	60%	49%	63%	0%	48%	53%	67%	66%	0%		
Mount Lebanon	29%	14%	29%	27%	25%	28%	33%	26%	29%	0%		80%	96%	79%	89%	100%	79%	81%	94%	91%	0%		
North	47%	34%	47%	47%	34%	46%	49%	43%	42%	0%		74%	55%	72%	88%	0%	69%	77%	88%	84%	0%		
South	49%	53%	52%	28%	0%	53%	48%	38%	28%	0%		91%	83%	89%	100%	0%	89%	90%	100%	100%	0%		
Gender of the head of household																							
Women	45%	25%	44%	53%	0%	40%	52%	50%	55%	0%		76%	0%	74%	89%	0%	71%	80%	92%	91%	0%		
Men	48%	32%	48%	50%	45%	46%	51%	49%	49%	45%		81%	73%	79%	93%	95%	78%	82%	94%	92%	99%		
Poverty Line																							
Below SMEB	35%	0%	40%	0%	0%	43%	33%	9%	0%	0%		80%	0%	77%	0%	0%	74%	90%	0%	0%	0%		
Above SMEB	48%	31%	47%	53%	49%	45%	53%	52%	53%	46%		80%	75%	79%	92%	97%	78%	82%	93%	92%	98%		
Expenditure quintiles																							
Q1 (lowest)	45%	0%	44%	0%	0%	42%	53%	56%	64%	0%		84%	0%	84%	0%	0%	84%	85%	0%	0%	0%		
Q2	49%	41%	46%	67%	0%	44%	51%	61%	65%	0%		81%	55%	79%	92%	0%	75%	90%	92%	91%	0%		
Q3	47%	24%	46%	47%	53%	46%	48%	49%	50%	0%		79%	94%	77%	94%	97%	77%	78%	95%	94%	0%		
Q4	49%	25%	49%	51%	43%	44%	60%	48%	48%	0%		81%	58%	79%	95%	100%	78%	82%	97%	96%	0%		
Q5 (highest)	48%	39%	49%	42%	44%	49%	49%	42%	41%	50%		80%	72%	78%	91%	90%	78%	80%	91%	90%	95%		
Shelter type																							
Residential	46%	33%	45%	47%	41%	44%	49%	46%	46%	42%		80%	79%	79%	91%	96%	78%	81%	93%	91%	99%		
Non-residential	46%	17%	45%	56%	0%	43%	51%	56%	60%	0%		80%	0%	79%	96%	0%	80%	75%	92%	92%	0%		
Non-permanent	55%	32%	54%	64%	0%	51%	62%	67%	67%	0%		80%	53%	78%	99%	0%	75%	85%	99%	99%	0%		

Annex 8: Education (4/4)

	Attendance last year (school year 2019-2020)															Planning to be enrolled in school in the coming school year 2021-2022 or when the schools open													NEET	
	6 to 17	3 to 5	6 to 14	15 to 17	18 to 24	6 to 11	12 to 14	15 to 24	15 to 18	19 to 24	6 to 17	3 to 5	6 to 14	15 to 17	18 to 24	6 to 11	12 to 14	15 to 24	15 to 18	19 to 24	6 to 17	3 to 5	6 to 14	15 to 17	18 to 24	6 to 11	12 to 14	15 to 24	15 to 18	19 to 24
Total	52%	6%	58%	31%	6%	58%	57%	15%	27%	4%	67%	53%	74%	37%	8%	77%	66%	18%	34%	6%								67%	69%	65%
Sex of child																														
Female	55%	6%	60%	33%	7%	60%	61%	15%	29%	5%	69%	51%	76%	42%	9%	78%	69%	20%	37%	6%								79%	69%	87%
Male	50%	6%	55%	29%	5%	56%	53%	14%	26%	3%	65%	55%	72%	33%	7%	76%	63%	17%	30%	5%								52%	68%	38%
Disability status																														
No disability	53%	6%	58%	31%	6%	58%	57%	15%	27%	4%	67%	54%	75%	37%	8%	78%	66%	19%	33%	6%								66%	69%	64%
Has a disability	50%	7%	53%	37%	5%	50%	58%	13%	28%	5%	60%	45%	63%	45%	7%	64%	62%	16%	36%	5%								75%	72%	76%
Governorate																														
Akkar	53%	8%	58%	31%	7%	57%	60%	15%	29%	4%	65%	49%	71%	40%	7%	74%	66%	18%	36%	4%								64%	62%	65%
Baalbek-El Hermel	55%	3%	61%	32%	3%	61%	60%	14%	26%	1%	68%	63%	77%	33%	7%	81%	67%	17%	28%	5%								77%	72%	82%
Beirut	69%	6%	72%	53%	16%	70%	77%	27%	48%	13%	78%	63%	83%	53%	13%	84%	81%	25%	46%	11%								56%	52%	60%
Bekaa	51%	2%	56%	32%	6%	55%	57%	15%	29%	3%	68%	49%	76%	38%	6%	80%	67%	17%	33%	3%								70%	67%	73%
El Nabatieh	62%	8%	67%	33%	6%	68%	66%	16%	29%	4%	71%	64%	78%	32%	6%	82%	68%	16%	28%	4%								58%	65%	51%
Mount Lebanon	48%	7%	53%	25%	6%	54%	50%	12%	23%	5%	65%	50%	71%	40%	11%	74%	63%	20%	38%	8%								66%	75%	60%
North	52%	9%	56%	35%	6%	56%	56%	16%	31%	5%	64%	53%	70%	38%	10%	72%	64%	20%	34%	9%								65%	68%	64%
South	58%	14%	66%	32%	6%	68%	62%	15%	27%	5%	68%	65%	78%	32%	6%	83%	66%	15%	27%	6%								56%	68%	46%
Gender of the head of household																														
Women	47%	6%	53%	27%	6%	56%	49%	14%	24%	3%	58%	47%	65%	36%	10%	69%	56%	20%	33%	6%								64%	72%	55%
Men	54%	6%	58%	32%	6%	58%	58%	15%	28%	5%	69%	54%	76%	38%	8%	79%	68%	18%	34%	6%								67%	68%	66%
Poverty Line																														
Below SMEB	58%	7%	68%	34%	4%	66%	74%	10%	27%	3%	67%	53%	79%	36%	8%	80%	76%	13%	30%	6%								60%	68%	56%
Above SMEB	53%	6%	57%	32%	6%	58%	56%	15%	28%	4%	67%	53%	74%	38%	8%	77%	65%	19%	34%	6%								67%	68%	66%
Expenditure quintiles																														
Q1 (lowest)	46%	6%	51%	16%	2%	52%	49%	5%	15%	1%	56%	42%	63%	22%	3%	65%	58%	7%	20%	2%								76%	83%	72%
Q2	53%	5%	57%	37%	6%	56%	60%	15%	33%	3%	68%	50%	73%	46%	7%	75%	66%	18%	40%	4%								69%	66%	71%
Q3	54%	5%	59%	33%	6%	59%	60%	16%	31%	3%	69%	55%	76%	40%	10%	79%	69%	21%	39%	6%								67%	66%	68%
Q4	53%	7%	59%	30%	9%	59%	57%	17%	27%	7%	69%	56%	77%	34%	10%	81%	67%	19%	30%	10%								65%	69%	61%
Q5 (highest)	52%	9%	58%	32%	5%	60%	53%	16%	27%	4%	65%	57%	73%	38%	8%	78%	63%	20%	33%	6%								62%	68%	56%
Shelter type																														
Residential	58%	8%	62%	37%	8%	62%	62%	18%	33%	6%	70%	56%	76%	44%	11%	79%	69%	22%	40%	8%								63%	63%	63%
Non-residential	43%	2%	48%	25%	4%	49%	44%	12%	24%	1%	59%	45%	66%	30%	6%	69%	58%	15%	28%	3%								68%	79%	59%
Non-permanent	41%	3%	48%	17%	1%	49%	46%	7%	14%	0%	60%	50%	70%	24%	2%	75%	57%	10%	19%	1%								75%	78%	72%

HEALTH

Lebanon's unprecedented political and economic crisis, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and last August's port explosion, has had a devastating effect on the country's health situation, which was described as "very dire" by the World Health Organization in September 2021. Electricity outages and fuel shortages have left hospitals functioning at 50% capacity, and shortages of basic and essential medicines have become increasingly severe throughout 2021.¹ Just a few years ago, Lebanon was a leader in medical care in the region, but, in the first half of 2021 alone, an estimated 2,500 doctors and nurses have left the country.² This, as another surge in COVID-19 cases is once again threatening to overwhelm the health care system.

Health services are available to refugees through primary health care (PHC) facilities³ and hospitals. The VASyR examined the ability of households to access the required care, as well as the barriers to health care access. The VASyR did not reflect on the quality of the received care. Reported access included all types of care accessed by refugees. In addition to access to services, some further factors related to refugee health and health seeking behavior were examined: incidence of childhood diseases, incidence of home deliveries, need for and access to medication, and knowledge about COVID-19 related services.

Key findings

- The demand for PHC (60%) and hospital care (17%) was similar to 2020.
- Access to PHC remained stable at 91%, while access to hospital care decreased slightly to 81% from 87% in 2020.
- For both primary and hospital care, cost was, by far, the main barrier to accessing the needed care, rather than physical limitations. This included direct costs, such as treatment or doctor's fees, and indirect costs, such as transportation.
- The share of refugee children under the age of 2 who suffered from at least one disease in the 2 weeks prior to the survey was 24%, which was similar to 2020 and half the 48% recorded in 2019.

¹ <https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/09/1100172>

² <https://apnews.com/article/middle-east-business-health-lebanon-coronavirus-pandemic-4efbac49a458d76cc2b13879c91d3511>

³ Primary health care facilities include centers within the Ministry of Public Health network and dispensaries outside of the network.

Primary health care

Primary health care refers to health care that does not require hospital admission. This includes services such as: vaccination, medications for acute and chronic conditions, non-communicable diseases care, sexual and reproductive health care, malnutrition screening and management, mental health care, dental care, basic laboratory and diagnostics, as well as health promotion. Fixed PHC outlets are either primary health care centers (PHCCs) that are part of the Ministry of Public Health’s network, or dispensaries outside the network. Other types of fixed PHC outlets include private clinics and pharmacies. Mobile PHC outlets are referred to as mobile medical units.

It is worth noting that the need for care is often dependent on seasonal fluctuations, and data collection for the 2020 and 2021 VASyRs took place at different times in the year (fall of 2020 and summer of 2021).

Demand for and access to primary health care

Demand for PHC services increased slightly since 2020, with 60% of households reporting that at least one member required PHC in the past 6 months, compared to 57% in 2020, 63% in 2019, 54% in 2018, and 46% in 2017. The increased demand could be explained by seasonal variations of incidence of certain diseases and the fact that

the 2021 VASyR was conducted during a different time-period compared to 2020. The COVID-19 situation and restrictive preventive measures implemented at various levels might also have impacted health seeking behavior and the perceived need for health care. Beirut, Mount Lebanon, and El Nabatieh showed increases in demand for PHC since 2020 of 9, 8, and 9 percentage points respectively. While the ability to access PHC at the national level remained high, with only 9% of households reporting that they were unable to access the needed PHC, geographical differences were noted. In the South, the share of households without access to needed care decreased significantly from 26% in 2020 to 10% in 2021. In Beirut, this trend was inversed with 27% of households reporting that they were unable to access the needed PHC, compared to 16% in 2021. The percentage of households not able to access the required PHC was highest in households in the bottom expenditure quintile, with a value of 20% compared to 8% or less in the other expenditure quintiles.

Similar to trends noted in previous years, a larger proportion of households in non-permanent shelters reported requiring PHC (69%) compared to those in residential (59%) or non-residential (53%) shelters.

About 67% of the households with at least one member with a disability reported to require PHC assistance. Around 15% of these households did not receive the required services.

Figure 1: Share of households requiring primary health care services in the past 6 months, by governorate

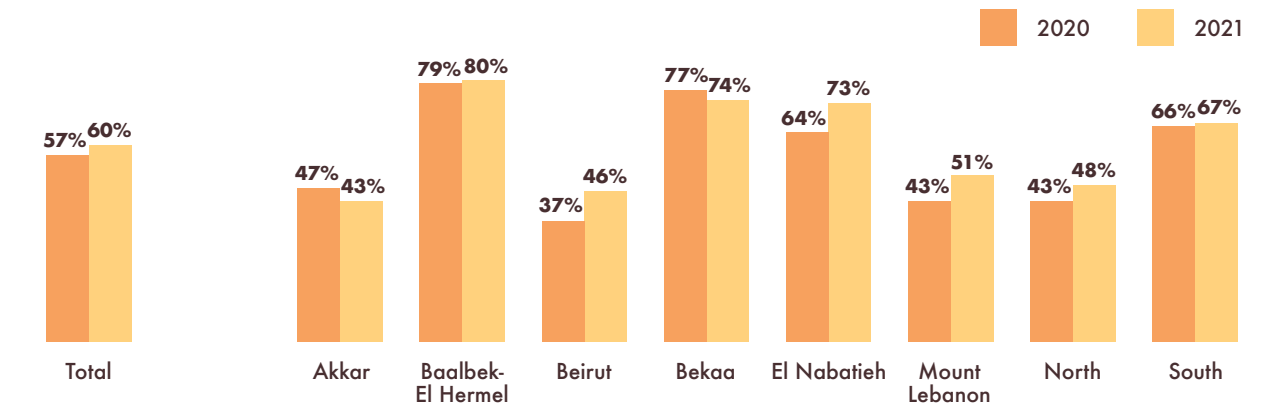
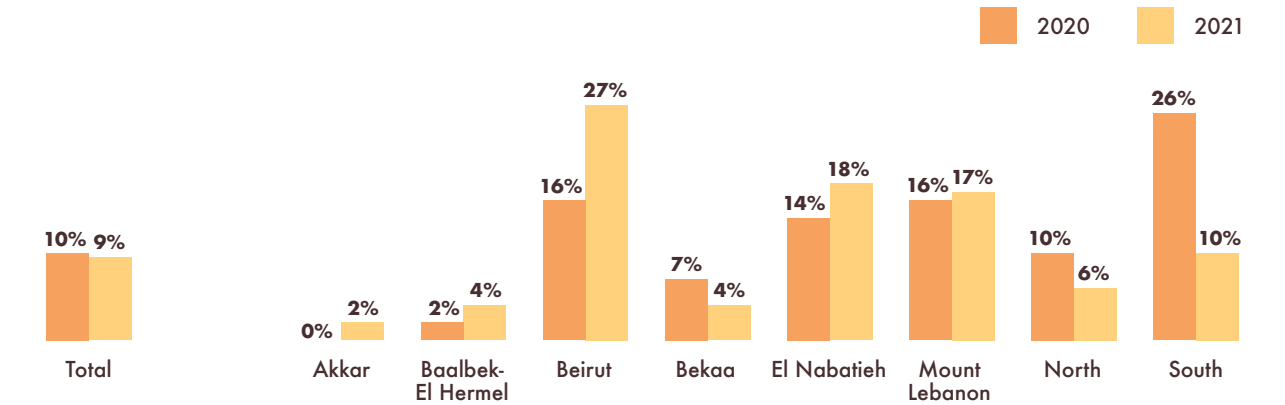


Figure 2: Share of households that required primary health care in the past 6 months but did not receive it, by governorate



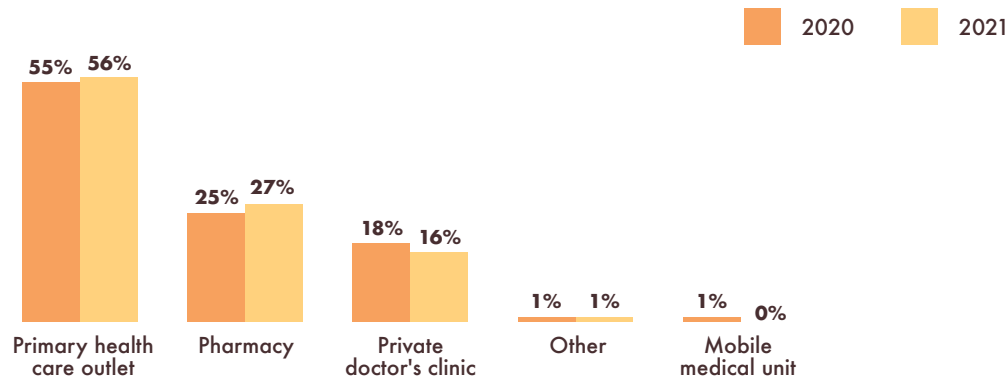
Type of primary health care provider

Almost all households reported accessing PHC in Lebanon, with only 1% reporting to have received PHC in Syria. Most households received services through a PHC outlet (56%). The share of households that reported receiving PHC at a pharmacy reached 27% compared to 25% in 2020 and 12% in 2019, while those who accessed services through private doctor’s clinics decreased slightly to 16% from 18% in 2020. For those who accessed services at a private doctor’s clinic, the majority (69%) cited trust in the physician as the main

reason compared to 51% in 2020 and 60% in 2019. In 2021, proximity to the doctor’s clinic was cited by 30% of families as the reason for using this service compared to 45% in 2020 and 22% in 2019.

The majority of households reported paying for the PHC services in full (58%) while 37% reported paying a discounted price. Only 5% received the service for free.

Figure 3: Places where primay health care services were accessed in Lebanon



Health care services not accessed

The most commonly PHC service cited as not accessed was consultations (88%), followed by medications (71%). For 2021, the largest barrier to receiving the needed PHC was the cost of drugs, diagnostics, and tests (73%), followed by doctor’s fees (67%) and transportation costs (40%).

Figure 4: Primary health care services that were not accessed

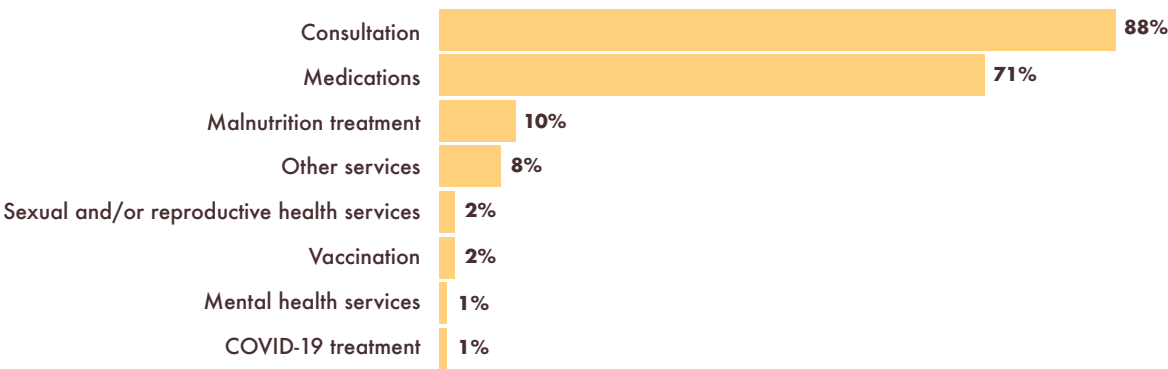
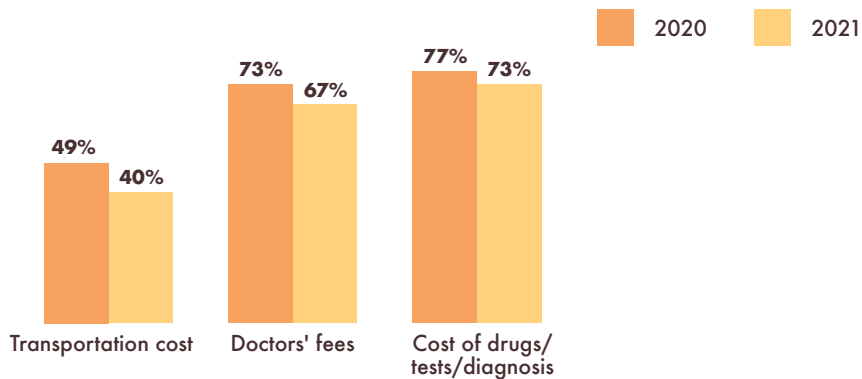


Figure 5: Barriers to accessing primary health care services



Hospital care

Similar to PHC, 17% of households reported to have needed hospital care in the past 6 months compared to 16% in 2020 and 22% in 2019. A significant decrease in demand was noted in the South with 17% of households indicating to require hospital care compared to 28% in 2020, while an increase in demand was noticed in Beirut and Mount Lebanon to 18% from 12% in 2020.

At the governorate level, the percentage of households requiring hospital care and not accessing it doubled in Beirut, Mount Lebanon, and El Nabatieh since 2020. However, access to hospital care improved in the North and the South where the percentage of households requiring health care and not accessing it decreased by half since

2020. The percentage of households not able to access the required hospital care was by far the highest among those in the bottom expenditure quintile with a value of 53% compared to 17% or less in the other expenditure quintiles.

About 20% of the households with at least one member with a disability reported to require hospital care. Seventeen percent did not receive the required hospital care.

The majority of the interviewed households reported that they accessed the hospital care in Lebanon. For those who had accessed hospital care, 51% reported paying for the service in full while 41% paid a discounted price and 8% received free care.

Figure 6: Share of households requiring hospital care in the previous 6 months, by governorate

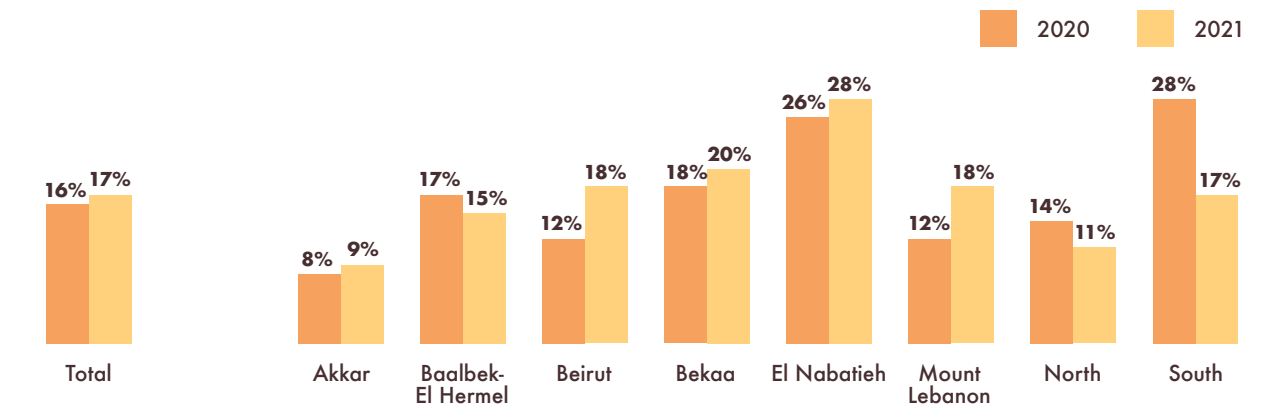


Figure 7: Share of households that required hospital care in the past 6 months but did not receive it, by governorate

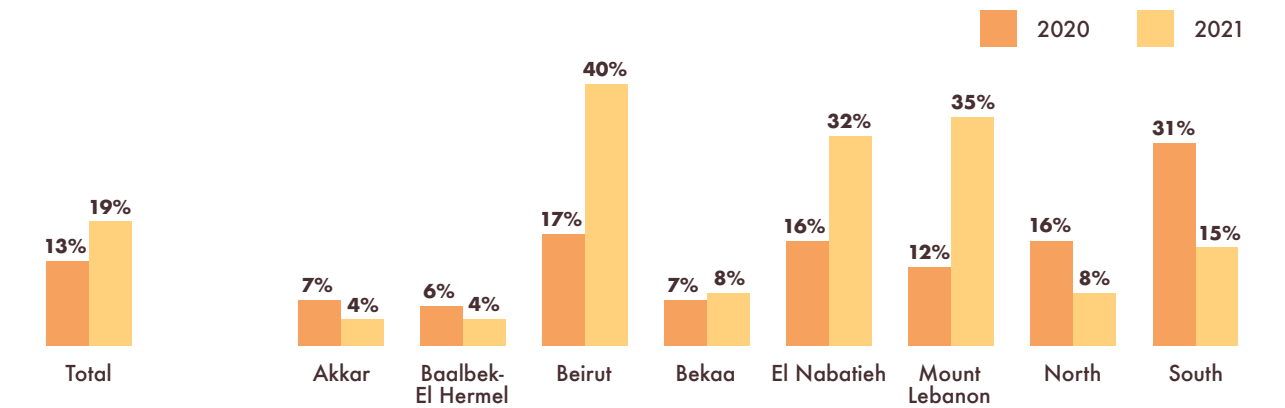
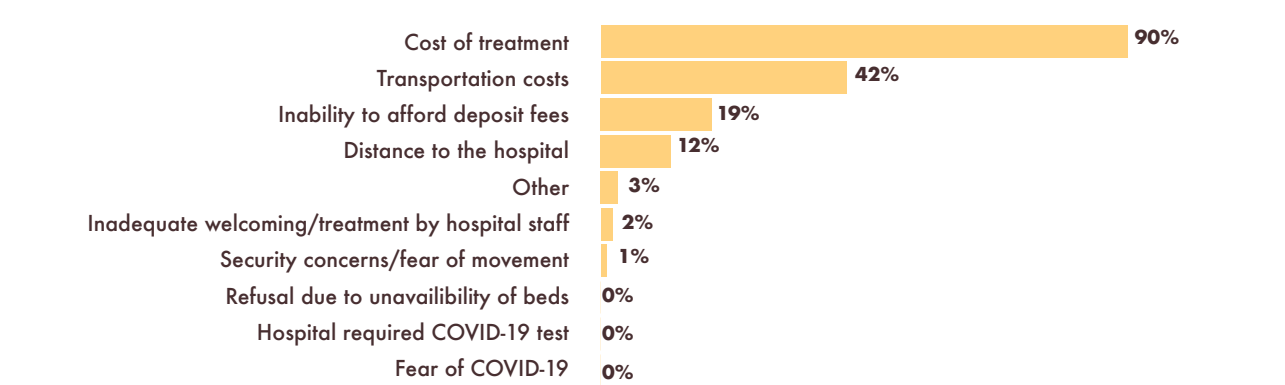


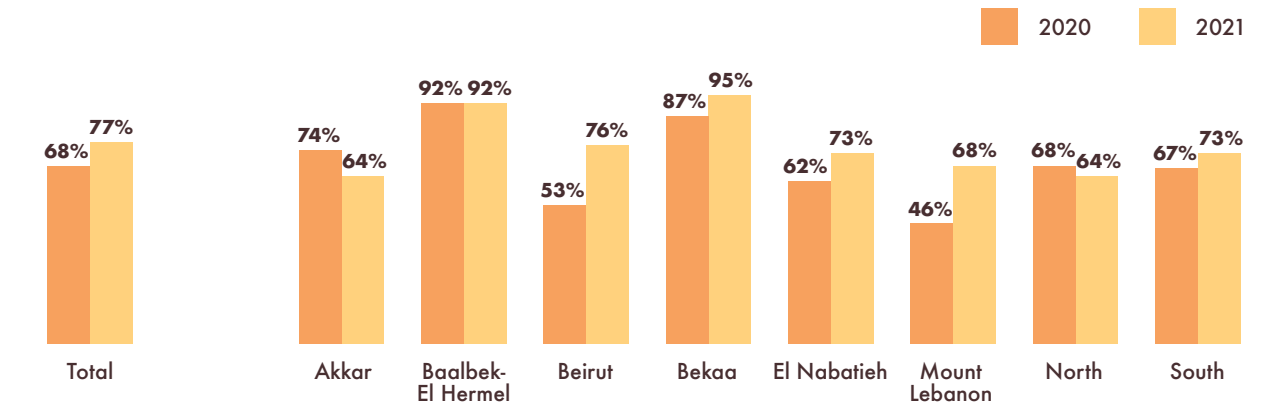
Figure 8: Barriers to accessing hospital care



As with PHC, costs came up as the main barriers to accessing hospital care, much more so than physical barriers related to distance or accessibility to centers. The main cost barrier was cost of treatment followed by transportation costs. Nineteen percent of households who did not receive the required hospital care cited that they were refused services due to their inability to secure a deposit compared to 8% in 2020.

The share of households that reported knowing where to access emergency medical care or services increased to 77% from 68% in 2020 and 76% in 2019. The lowest rates were in Akkar and the North (64%).

Figure 9: Share of households knowing where to access emergency health care services



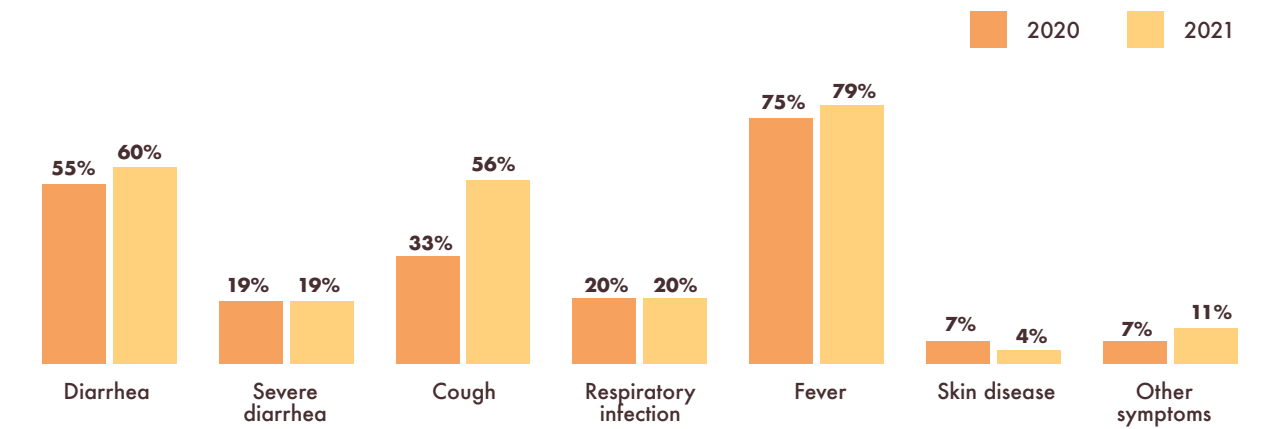
Childbirths

The vast majority of newborns (93%) were delivered in a hospital. Four percent of families reported having newborns delivered in health care facilities (not hospitals). About 2.5% of families reported home deliveries, whereas deliveries in other places was less than 0.5%. The percentage of births in hospital was the lowest in Baalbek-El Hermel (79%) and Akkar (86%).

Child health

The share of refugee children under the age of 2 who suffered from at least one disease in the 2 weeks prior to the survey (24%) was almost the same as in 2020 (23%), but half that of 2019 (48%). Of those who were sick, 60% suffered from diarrhea and 19% from severe diarrhea. The proportion of children who suffered from respiratory infection remained the same at 20%.⁴

Figure 10: Types of sickness experienced by children aged 0-23 months who suffered from disease in the past two weeks



⁴ Results on illness may be affected by COVID-19 related precautions taken during data collection where enumerators were instructed not to conduct interviews with households if any family member was exhibiting COVID-19 related symptoms. It might also be affected by the fact that the survey was done during a different time of the year in 2021 compared to 2020.

Knowledge and access to COVID-19 related services

The majority of households (73%) reported knowing how to access medical assistance if a family member was suspected to have contracted COVID-19, up significantly from 51% in 2020. The percentage was the highest in Beirut (79%) and the lowest in the North (63%), and was higher among male-headed households (74%) than female-headed ones (69%) and among households residing in residential shelters (75%) versus non-residential shelters (69%). The percentage of households not knowing how to access the required health assistance in case of COVID-19 infection was highest among those in the bottom expenditure quintile with a value of 35% compared to 28% or less in the other expenditure quintiles.

Access to medications

The percentage of households requiring medicines in the last 3 months was the highest in Baalbek-El Hermel (80%) and the lowest in Akkar (33%), and 59% at national level. The percentage of households not accessing any of their required medications was 9% at the national level, with the highest share in Beirut and Mount Lebanon (14%) and the lowest in Akkar (3%). The percentage of households not able to access the required medication was highest among those in the bottom expenditure quintile with a value of 21% compared to 8% or less in the other expenditure quintiles. Overall, the percentage of households acquiring only some of their required medication was 48%, while 40% of households were able to require all/majority of their medications.

Figure 11: Households that required medications in the last 3 months

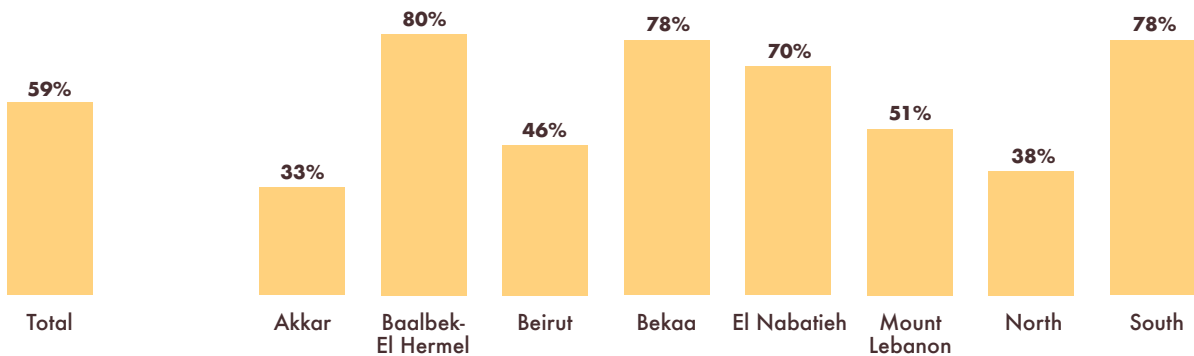
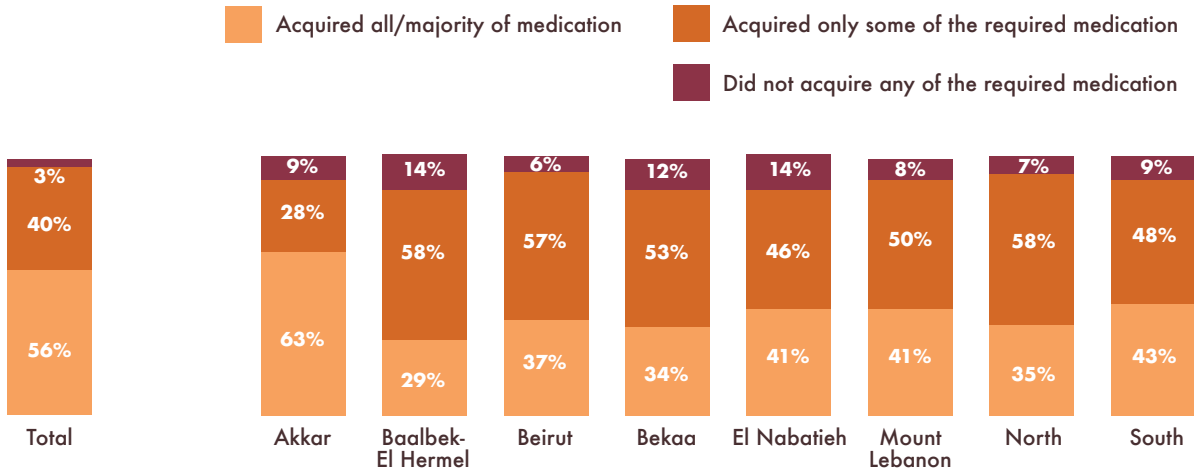


Figure 12: Households receiving the required drugs



CHILD NUTRITION



Infant and Young Child Feeding practices

Optimal Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) practices is pivotal to reducing malnutrition, morbidity, and mortality. According to UNICEF and WHO, infants should be put to breast within 1 hr of birth, exclusively breastfed the first 6 months of life and up to 2 years of age and beyond. When the infant is above 6 months, solid, semi-solid, and soft foods are introduced along with breastmilk. This transition is known as complementary feeding that is crucial for

the child’s development. With the current situation in Lebanon, infants’ and young children’s survival, growth, and development is at high risk.

This assessment examined IYCF practices in Syrian refugee households. The information was collected on 373 infants under 6 months old and 1,309 children aged 6-23 months.

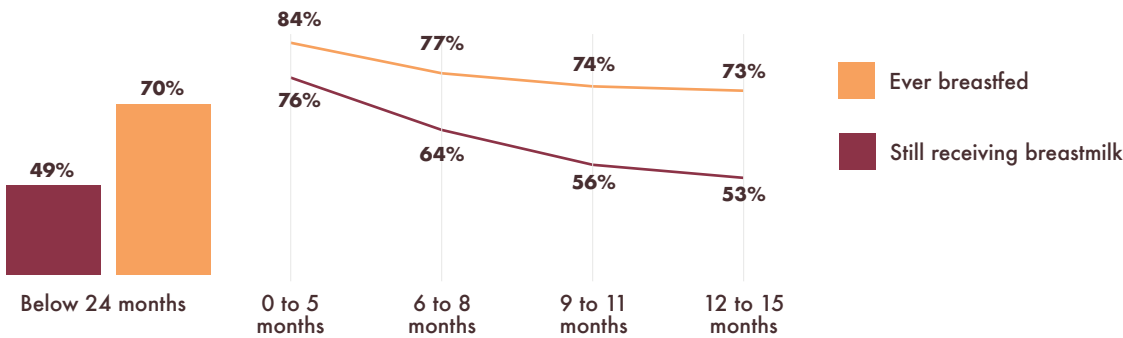
Key findings

- There was a slight decrease of 4 percentage points in children between 12 and 15 months of age who were fed breastmilk the day prior to the survey, from 57% in 2020 to 53% in 2021.
- Complementary feeding for children between 6 and 8 months increased notably in comparison to last year’s rate, from 35% to 49%.
- The percentage of children between 6 and 23 months who met the minimum diet diversity in 2021 was 19%, a 7 percentage points increase from last year’s 12%.
- The minimum acceptable meal frequency for children between 6 and 23 months of age continued to decrease drastically this year from 80% in 2019 to 51% in 2020 to 36% in 2021.

Breastfeeding practices⁵

Out of all infants below 24 months, 70% were ever breastfed and almost half of them were still being breastfed. Being ever breastfed and still receiving breastmilk were both found to be decreasing with age. Among children below 6 months, 8 out of 10 were ever breastfed. This decreased to 73% among the 12 to 15 months old and saw a drop to 56% among those between 16 and 23 months.

Figure 13: Breastfeeding practices



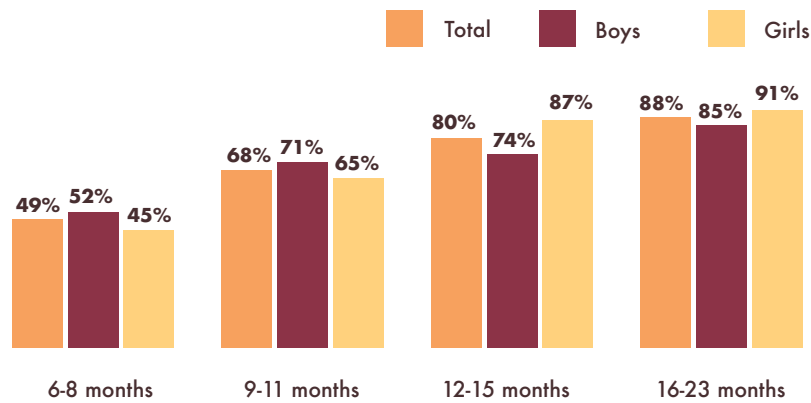
Complementary feeding

Complementary feeding is a critical period in growth where the child transitions from exclusive breastfeeding to family food that includes solid, semi-solid, soft foods, or other liquids. The percentage of children between 6 and 8 months of age who received complementary feeding the previous day increased this year to 49% in comparison to 2020 (35%).

Additionally, the rates of complementary feeding increased with age, reaching 88% for children between 16-23 months of age. There was a notable difference between boys and girls according to age. The ratio for boys between 6 and 11 months was higher than that of girls. Inversely, the rate was higher among girls aged between 12 and 23 months.

⁵ Exclusive breastfeeding for infants under 6 months was not generated due to the solid, semi-solids, and fluids questions being asked for infants between 6 and 23 months.

Figure 14: Percentage of infants who received solid, semi-solid or soft foods during the previous day



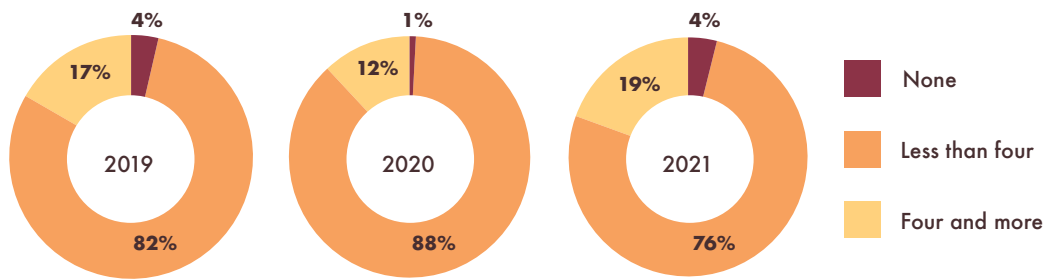
Minimum dietary diversity

According to the WHO guidelines (2008)⁶ for assessing assessing IYCF practices, children 6-23 months old should consume a minimum of four food groups out of seven 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, yogurt, 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

In 2019, only 17% of children between the ages of 6 and 23 months were fed a diverse diet on the previous day, consisting of four or more food groups. In 2020 that figure dropped to 12% and increased by 7 percentage points in 2021 to 19%.

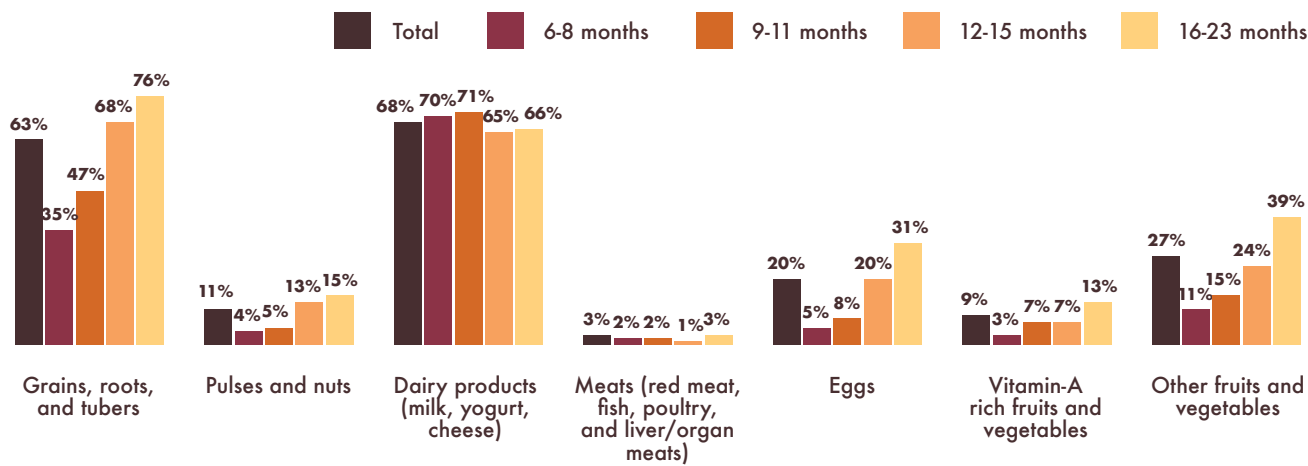
Figure 15: Proportion of children 6-23 months old who receive foods from four or more food groups/categories



Taking a closer look at each food group/category, notably there was a very low proportion of children aged 6 – 23 months who were eating pulses and nuts, meats, and Vitamin A rich fruits and vegetables. The highest consumption was for grains, roots, and tubers (63%), as well as dairy products (68%).

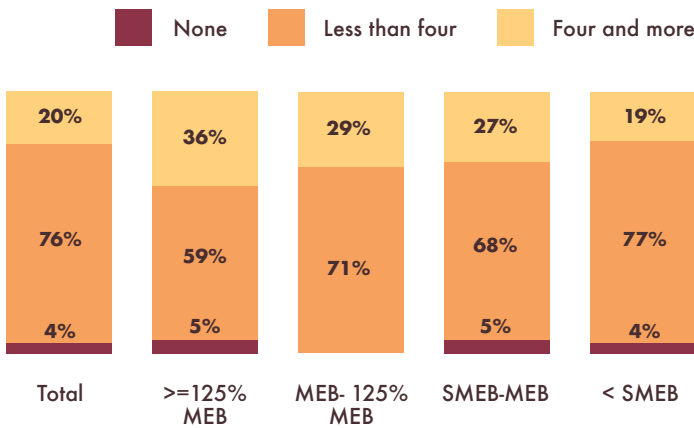
⁶ <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240018389>

Figure 16: Proportion of children 6-23 months old who receive foods from each food groups/categories



For children aged 6-23 months, the share that received food from four or more food groups was lower among those living below the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) (490,000 LBP) compared to those with expenditures above 125% of the SMEB (19% versus 36%).

Figure 17: Children 6-23 month old who received foods from four or more food groups by SMEB category



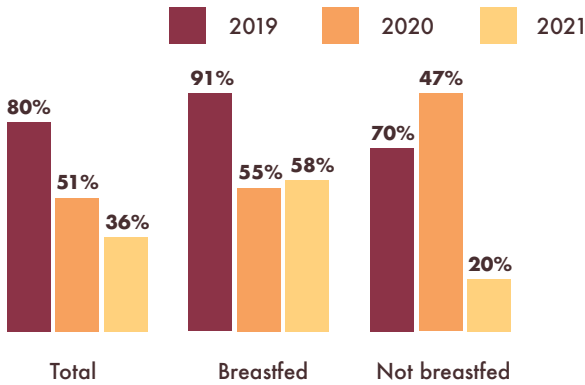
Minimum acceptable meal frequency

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 a notable decrease from 51% to 36% in children between 6-23 months who received the minimum acceptable number of meals every day. Among children who were breastfed, the minimum acceptable meal frequency was at 58%. For those who were not breastfed the figure decreased to 20%, compared to 55% and 47% respectively in 2020.

Figure 18: Minimum meal frequency for children 6-23 months



Annex 9: Households access to primary and secondary health care

	Primary Health Care (PHC)		Hospital Care		Medication			
	Share of families that needed PHC	Share of families that received the needed PHC	Share of families that needed hospital care	Share of families that received the needed hospital care	Households with members requiring drugs in the last 3 months	Households which accessed all or most of the required drugs	Share of households that know were to access services if someone is suspected to have COVID 19	Share of households that know that were to access emergency care
Total	43%	91%	17%	81%	59%	43%	73%	77%
Governorate								
Akkar	43%	98%	9%	96%	33%	56%	70%	64%
Baalbek-El Hermel	80%	96%	15%	96%	80%	63%	77%	92%
Beirut	46%	73%	18%	60%	46%	29%	78%	76%
Bekaa	74%	96%	20%	92%	78%	37%	77%	95%
El Nabatieh	73%	82%	28%	68%	70%	34%	73%	73%
Mount Lebanon	51%	83%	18%	65%	51%	41%	75%	68%
North	48%	94%	11%	92%	38%	41%	63%	64%
South	67%	90%	17%	85%	78%	35%	73%	73%
Gender of the head of household								
Women	66%	92%	12%	75%	62%	44%	69%	78%
Men	59%	91%	18%	82%	58%	43%	74%	76%
Shelter type								
Residential	59%	90%	16%	79%	56%	42%	75%	74%
Non-residential	53%	89%	16%	73%	55%	43%	69%	75%
Non-permanent	69%	94%	17%	90%	68%	45%	71%	84%

FOOD CONSUMPTION

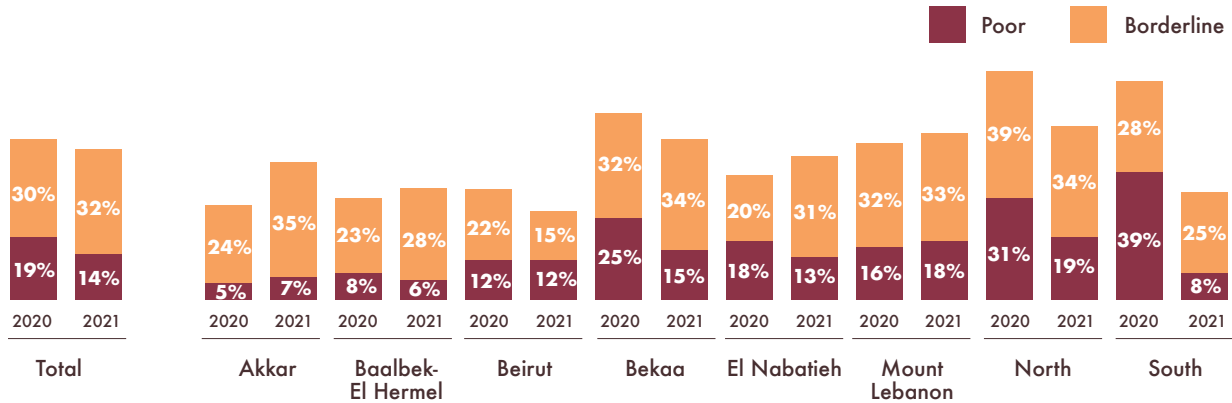
Food consumption is the cornerstone of food security analysis. The indicators in this chapter capture the dimensions related to food consumption which were the basis for classifying households according to their food security status. Quantity of food was measured by the number of meals consumed, while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

Key findings

- Nearly half of Syrian refugee households (46%) had inadequate diets, down by 4 percentage points compared to 2020.
- The highest inadequate food consumption levels were reported in the North (53%), Mount Lebanon (51%), and Bekaa (49%). Akkar witnessed the highest increase in inadequate food consumption level compared to the previous year (42% in 2021 vs. 29% in 2020).
- Syrian refugee households continued to consume less variety of food. Only 21% of households consumed 6.5 or more food groups per day, similar to 2020 (23%). Nevertheless, there was a significant decrease in iron consumption with 82% of households never consuming iron, up by 19 percentage points compared to 2020.
- Male-headed households consumed 6.5 or more food groups per day at 21%, slightly higher than that of female-headed households at 17%. Daily Vitamin A consumption was higher in male-headed households (37%) than in female-headed ones (30%) and similarly for daily protein consumption (45% vs. 40%).
- The number of meals consumed by adults and children under 5 remained similar to 2020 (2 meals in 2021 vs. 1.9 meals in 2020, and 2.6 in 2021 vs. 2.5 in 2020 respectively).

¹ See Annex 6 for calculation and definition of Food Consumption Score

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



In 2021, based on the FCS, 46% of Syrian refugee households had inadequate diets (poor and borderline food consumption).

The food consumption levels of Syrian refugees improved in some governorates and drastically deteriorated in others. In 2021, households with poor consumption level decreased slightly to 14% from 19% in 2020 but up from 5% in 2019. However, the households with borderline food consumption level increased slightly to 32% in 2021, up from 30% in 2020 and 20% in 2019.

Poor and borderline food consumption increased in households in some governorates in 2021 compared to 2020, with the highest inadequate diet reported in the North, Mount Lebanon, and Bekaa at 53%, 51%, and 49% respectively. The increase in poor and borderline food consumption was significant in Akkar, reaching 42% in 2021 compared to 29% in 2020. El Nabatieh witnessed a 7 percentage points increase in inadequate food consumption, reaching 44% in 2021. On the other hand, a

noticeable decline in the level of poor and borderline food consumption was found in the South, where the prevalence was halved in 2021 (from 67% in 2020 to 33% in 2021), and in the North from 70% in 2020 to 53% in 2021.

Forty-eight percent of female-headed households had inadequate food consumption, slightly higher than that of male-headed households (45%). Households in non-residential shelters had the highest share of poor food consumption (17%), compared to non-permanent (11%) and residential (14%) shelters. Households in the bottom expenditure quintile had the highest inadequate food consumption at 63% (poor: 23%, borderline: 40%). In fact, as the expenditures decreased, the inadequate food consumption increased accordingly (top quintile: 33%, fourth quintile: 37%, third quintile: 46%, second quintile: 52%, bottom quintile: 63%). This indicates that the most economically vulnerable households had to compromise on the quality and diversity of food eaten, making them more prone to malnutrition and to experience hunger.

Number of meals

Number of meals consumed by adults slightly increased from 1.9 meals per day in 2020 to 2 meals per day in 2021. This figure, however, varied across governorates. In fact, households across all governorates reported consuming slightly more meals in 2021 with the largest increase of 0.2 meals per day in Baalbek-El Hermel, El Nabatieh, Mount Lebanon, and the South. Similar to 2019, households living in non-permanent shelters were consuming more meals (2.3 meals/day) than those living in non-residential or residential shelters (1.9 and 2 meals/day respectively).

Figure 2: Number of meals consumed by adults and children per day

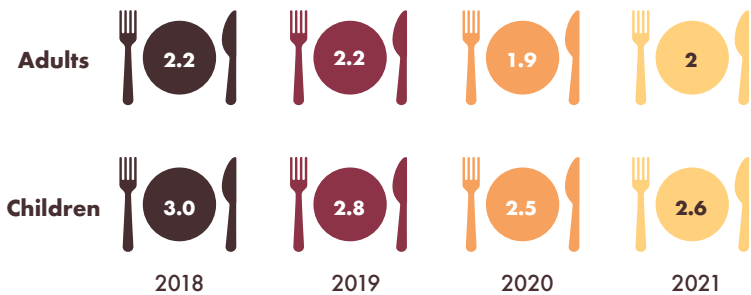
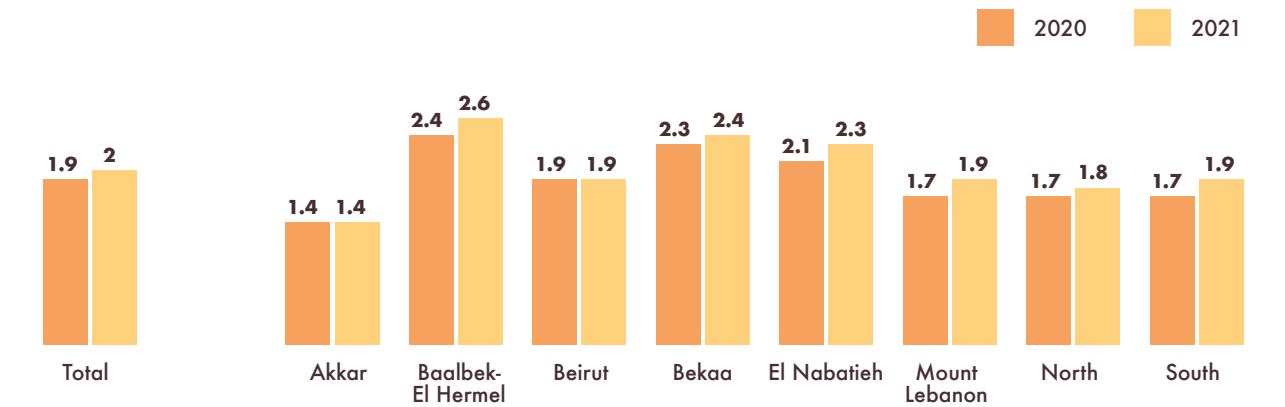


Figure 3: Number of meals consumed by adults per day, by governorate

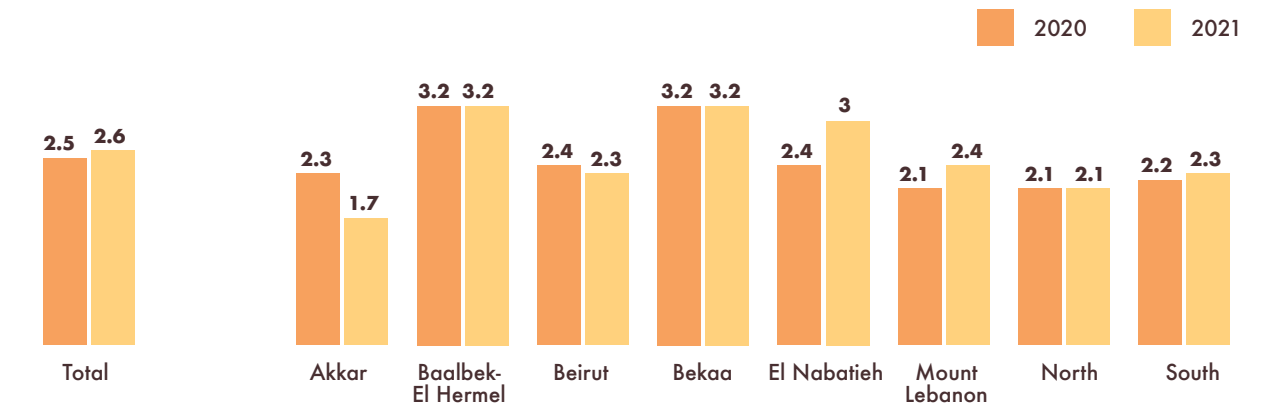


The number of meals consumed by children slightly increased from 2.5 in 2020 to 2.6 in 2021. Households across all governorates witnessed an increase in the number of meals consumed by children per day, except in Akkar (decrease of 0.6) and Beirut (slight decrease of 0.1). The largest increase was reported in El Nabatieh (2.4 in 2020 vs. 3.0 in 2021). Overall, the governorate with the least number of meals consumed by children per day in 2021 was Akkar at 1.7 meals. Similar to 2020, children living in non-permanent shelters were consuming 2.9 meals per day, higher than those

living in non-residential (2.3 meals) and residential shelters (2.5 meals).

Households in the bottom expenditure quintile reported the lowest number of meals consumed by both adults (1.9) and children (2.2) compared to 2.1 and 2.7 respectively for households in the top quintile. This again indicates that economic vulnerability reflects negatively on the frequency of food consumed by both adults and children.

Figure 4: Number of meals consumed by children under 5 per day, by governorate



Dietary diversity

The dietary diversity continued to decrease in 2021 from 2019 and 2020. The percentage of households consuming 6.5 or more food groups on a daily basis witnessed a 2 percentage points decrease in 2021 further to the 10 percentage points decrease in 2020 from 2019 (21% in 2021, 23% in 2020, and 33% in 2019). The share of households with poor daily dietary diversity (<4.5 food groups per day) almost tripled from 8% in 2019 to 21% in 2020 and 22% in 2021.

The share of households with poor daily dietary diversity in 2021 increased in several governorates compared to 2020, with the largest increase reported in El Nabatieh. Households with the highest percentage were found in Mount Lebanon (35%), the North (32%), and El Nabatieh (29%). It is worth noting that poor dietary diversity dropped significantly in the South, from 53% in 2020 to 16% in 2021. The highest

percentages of households with a high dietary diversity were in El Nabatieh (38%), the South (37%), and Beirut (36%).

A quarter (25%) of female-headed households had a poor daily dietary diversity in comparison to 21% of male-headed households.

In terms of expenditures quintiles, households in the bottom quintile had the highest share of poor daily dietary diversity at 31%, compared to 18% of households in the top quintile. Similarly, 33% of households in the top quintile consumed more than 6.5 food groups per day, nearly four times the share of households in the bottom expenditure quintile (9%).

On a weekly basis, the percentage of households consuming 9 or more food groups slightly increased in 2021 compared to 2020 (48% vs. 44%), but still a substantial drop from 74%

in 2019. Although poor weekly dietary diversity in 2021 decreased to 11% from 16% in 2020, it is still almost triple the prevalence in 2019 (4%).

The share of households in the bottom quintile who consumed less than 6 food groups per week was three times that of households in the top expenditure quintile (19% vs. 6%).

Table 5: HDADD and HWDD groups and mean (2019-2021)

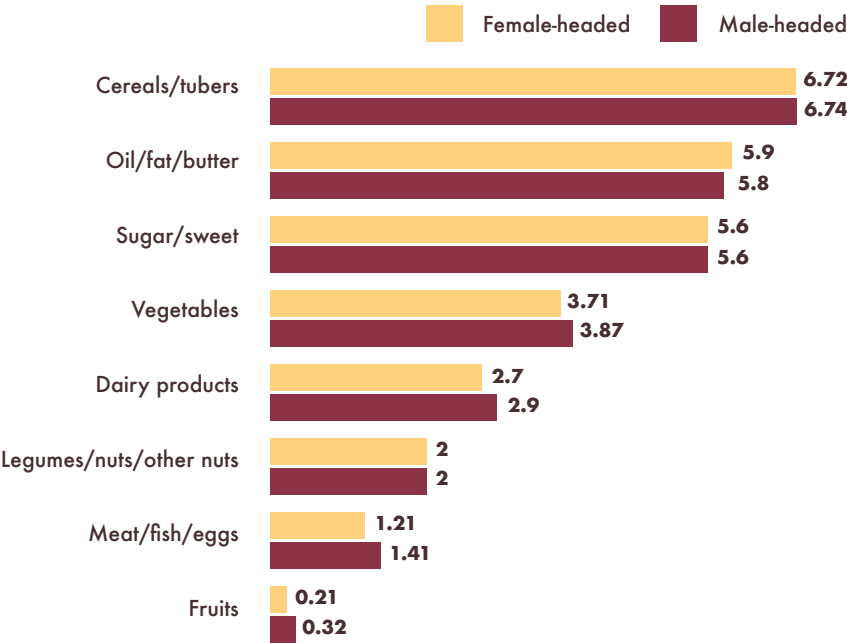
	Household Daily Average Diet Diversity (HDADD)	HDADD Category			Household Weekly Diet Diversity (HWDD)	HWDD Category		
	Mean	<4.5 food groups	4.5-6.4 food groups	>=6.5 food groups	Mean	<= 6 food groups	7-8 food groups	>= 9 food groups
2019	6	8%	60%	33%	9	4%	21%	74%
2020	5	21%	56%	23%	8	16%	40%	44%
2021	5	22%	57%	21%	8	11%	41%	48%

Similar to 2020, the food group most consumed by households on a weekly basis was cereals/tubers (6.73) followed by oil/fat/butter (5.8) and sugar/sweets (5.6). The least consumed food groups were meat/fish/eggs (1.3) and fruits (0.3). Akkar and the North witnessed the lowest consumption of meat/fish/eggs (0.95 and 0.96 respectively). Male-headed households consumed more dairy products (2.9), including fresh/sour milk/yogurt/Lebneh/cheese, than female-headed households (2.7). Similarly, for meat/fish/eggs and vegetable

(1.4 and 3.9 for male-headed vs. 1.2 and 3.7 for female-headed respectively), indicating a lower dietary diversity in female-headed households.

Households below the Survival Minimum Food Basket (SMEB) had the lowest consumption of meat/fish/eggs (1.35) compared to other S/MEB categories.² Households in the bottom expenditure quintile consumed the least food items compared to other expenditure quintiles.

Figure 5: Mean of the food groups, by gender of the head of household



² S/MEB categories are the following:
1. >= 125% MEB (>=LBP 692,191)
2. MEB - 125% MEB (LBP 553,753 – LBP 692,191)
3. SMEB - MEB (LBP 490,028 – LBP 553,753)
4. < SMEB (LBP 490,028)

Food consumption score nutrition

In terms of key nutrients intake, there was a substantial decline in heme iron consumption, with the share of households that never consumed heme iron increasing from 63% in 2020 to 82% in 2021. Moreover, the number of households that consumed heme iron 1 to 6 times per week was halved in 2021 (18%) compared to 2020 (36%). This implies that around eight out of ten Syrian refugee households are at risk of developing iron-deficiency anemia. On the other hand, consumption of Vitamin A and protein slightly increased from 2020 to 2021, with the proportion of households that never consumed Vitamin A and protein declining from 15% and 10% in 2020 to 12% and 4% in 2021 respectively. Moreover, daily consumption of Vitamin A and protein slightly increased from 32% and 42% in 2020 to 36% and 44% in 2021 respectively. Male-headed households consumed a more diverse diet per day than female-headed ones, with daily intake of Vitamin A at 37% and protein at 45%, compared to 30% and 40% respectively. Female-headed households that never consumed iron was at 85%, slightly higher than male-headed households (81%). The North and Baalbek-El Hermel recorded the lowest daily consumption of Vitamin A (29%) while Bekaa had the lowest daily consumption of protein (36%). The majority of

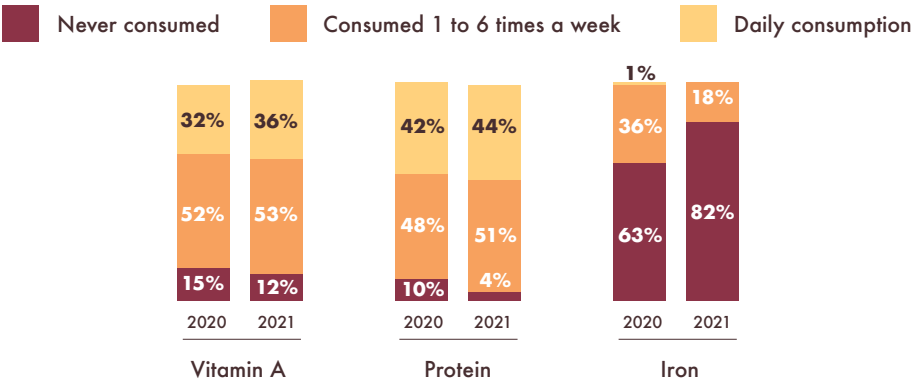
governorates (Akkar, Baalbek-El Hermel, Bekaa, Mount Lebanon, the North, and the South) had no households consuming iron on a daily basis.

Households in residential shelters consumed Vitamin A and protein on a daily basis at 37% and 46% respectively, slightly higher than those in non-residential (31% and 40%) and non-permanent shelters (31% and 41%).

Households below the SMEB never consumed Vitamin A and iron at 13% and 82% respectively, higher than the levels reported for other SMEB categories. Households below the SMEB reported to consume protein on a daily basis the least at 44%.

In terms of expenditures quintiles, households in the bottom expenditure quintile that never consumed Vitamin A, protein, and iron were at 21%, 8%, and 90% respectively, compared to the top quintile (6%, 2%, and 73% respectively). Similarly, households in the top quintile consumed Vitamin A and protein on a daily basis twice as much than those in the bottom quintile (49% vs. 21% and 59% vs. 28% respectively).

Figure 6: Food consumption score nutrition (FCS-N), by category



Annex 10: Food consumption score

The food consumption score (FCS) is based on dietary diversity (number of food groups consumed by households during the 7 days prior to the survey), food frequency (number of days on which each food group is consumed during the 7 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 FCS 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 7 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 analyzed does not explicitly provide information on the main macronutrient (carbohydrate, fat, and 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 Food Consumption Score Nutrition (FCS-N). While it does not identify individual nutrient intake, the ‘FCS-N 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 consumes 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 consumes 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:

1. 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 11: 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 measurements 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 prior to 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 hr (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 consume, the more diversified the diet is. For example, an average of four different food groups implies that their diet offers 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):³

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/wf_p203208.pdf

³ This set of food groups is derived from the UN 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.if pri.org/divs/fcnd/dp/papers/fcndp140.pdf]

Annex 12: Food consumption (1/3)

	Number of meals consumed by adults		Number of meals consumed by children under 5		Food consumption score	Food consumption groups			
	Mean		Mean			Poor	Borderline	Acceptable	
					Mean	ROW N %	ROW N %	ROW N %	
Total	2.0		2.6		46.15	14%	32%	54%	
Governorate									
Akkar	1.4		1.7		46.78	7%	35%	58%	
Baalbek-El Hermel	2.6		3.2		49.61	6%	28%	66%	
Beirut	1.9		2.3		54.94	12%	15%	73%	
Bekaa	2.4		3.2		46.93	15%	34%	51%	
El Nabatieh	2.3		3.0		52.88	13%	31%	56%	
Mount Lebanon	1.9		2.4		42.99	18%	33%	49%	
North	1.8		2.1		41.30	19%	34%	47%	
South	1.9		2.3		52.09	8%	25%	67%	
MEB/SMEB categories									
>=125% MEB (>= LBP 692,191)	1.9		2.6		46.54	14%	32%	54%	
MEB - 125 % MEB (LBP 553,753- 692,191)	2.0		2.7		49.06	12%	30%	58%	
SMEB - MEB (LBP 490,028- 553,753)	2.0		2.4		48.19	13%	26%	61%	
< SMEB (LBP 490,028)	2.0		2.6		45.92	14%	32%	54%	
Expenditure quintiles									
First quintile - Lowest expenditure (< LBP 800,000)	1.9		2.2		39.52	23%	40%	37%	
Second quintile (LBP 800,000 - LBP 1,174,137)	2.0		2.4		43.15	17%	35%	48%	
Third quintile (LBP 1,174,137 - LBP 1,500,000)	2.0		2.6		45.77	13%	33%	54%	
Fourth quintile (LBP 1,500,000 - LBP 1,900,000)	2.1		2.7		49.88	10%	27%	63%	
Fifth quintile - Highest expenditure (LBP 1,900,000 - LBP 4,425,000)	2.1		2.7		51.96	8%	25%	67%	
Gender of the head of household									
Women	2.1		2.7		44.72	16%	33%	52%	
Men	2.0		2.5		46.45	14%	32%	55%	
Shelter type									
Residential	2.0		2.5		46.08	14%	31%	54%	
Non-residential	1.9		2.3		44.31	17%	31%	52%	
Non-permanent	2.3		2.9		47.17	11%	34%	54%	

Annex 12: Food consumption (2/3)

	Household Daily Average Diet Diversity (HDADD)	HDADD category				Household Weekly Diet Diversity (HWDD)	HWDD category		
		<4.5 food groups	4.5-6.4 food groups	>=6.5 food groups	<= 6 food groups		7-8 food groups	>= 9 food groups	
		ROW N %	ROW N %	ROW N %	ROW N %		ROW N %	ROW N %	
Total	Mean	5.38	22%	57%	21%	8.33	11%	41%	48%
Governorate									
Akkar	5.75	11%	69%	20%	7.90	12%	56%	32%	
Baalbek-El Hermel	5.67	10%	67%	23%	8.92	4%	27%	69%	
Beirut	5.60	25%	39%	36%	9.46	10%	19%	71%	
Bekaa	5.79	9%	63%	29%	8.36	11%	43%	46%	
El Nabatieh	5.74	29%	33%	38%	8.87	9%	34%	58%	
Mount Lebanon	4.81	35%	54%	10%	8.26	11%	43%	46%	
North	4.95	32%	56%	12%	7.73	22%	42%	36%	
South	5.93	16%	48%	37%	8.65	4%	38%	58%	
MEB/SMEB categories									
>=125% MEB (>= LBP 692,191)	5.23	27%	52%	21%	8.37	11%	43%	46%	
MEB - 125 % MEB (LBP 553,753- 692,191)	5.57	22%	50%	29%	8.54	9%	42%	49%	
SMEB - MEB (LBP 490,028- 553,753)	5.31	28%	48%	24%	8.35	14%	38%	48%	
< SMEB (LBP 490,028)	5.39	21%	59%	20%	8.32	11%	41%	48%	
Expenditure quintiles									
First quintile - Lowest expenditure (< LBP 800,000)	4.87	31%	60%	9%	7.76	19%	44%	37%	
Second quintile (LBP 800,000 - LBP 1,174,137)	5.20	25%	59%	15%	8.04	15%	46%	39%	
Third quintile (LBP 1,174,137 - LBP 1,500,000)	5.38	20%	62%	18%	8.36	8%	45%	47%	
Fourth quintile (LBP 1,500,000 - LBP 1,900,000)	5.64	16%	55%	28%	8.67	7%	36%	57%	
Fifth quintile - Highest expenditure (LBP 1,900,000 - LBP 4,425,000)	5.76	18%	50%	33%	8.81	6%	34%	59%	
Gender of the head of household									
Women	5.26	25%	58%	17%	8.19	12%	41%	46%	
Men	5.40	21%	57%	21%	8.36	11%	41%	48%	
Shelter type									
Residential	5.32	24%	55%	21%	8.38	10%	41%	48%	
Non-residential	5.28	23%	58%	19%	8.09	17%	38%	45%	
Non-permanent	5.62	14%	65%	21%	8.31	11%	42%	47%	

Annex 12: Food consumption (3/3)

	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
	ROW N %	ROW N %	ROW N %	ROW N %	ROW N %	ROW N %	ROW N %	ROW N %	ROW N %
Total	12%	53%	36%	4%	51%	44%	82%	18%	2%
Governorate									
Akkar	17%	50%	33%	4%	51%	45%	97%	3%	0%
Baalbek-El Hermel	6%	65%	29%	2%	45%	53%	74%	26%	0%
Beirut	5%	21%	74%	6%	24%	71%	55%	41%	3%
Bekaa	17%	52%	31%	4%	60%	36%	79%	21%	0%
El Nabatieh	13%	38%	50%	3%	44%	53%	68%	32%	1%
Mount Lebanon	10%	54%	37%	5%	52%	42%	80%	20%	0%
North	14%	57%	29%	7%	54%	39%	91%	9%	0%
South	6%	46%	48%	1%	41%	58%	85%	15%	0%
MEB/SMEB categories									
>=125% MEB (>= LBP 692,191)	7%	55%	38%	2%	51%	46%	77%	22%	1%
MEB - 125 % MEB (LBP 553,753- 692,191)	6%	52%	42%	4%	50%	47%	78%	22%	0%
SMEB - MEB (LBP 490,028- 553,753)	9%	50%	41%	5%	42%	53%	79%	21%	0%
< SMEB (LBP 490,028)	13%	53%	35%	5%	52%	44%	82%	18%	0%
Expenditure quintiles									
First quintile - Lowest expenditure (< LBP 800,000)	21%	58%	21%	8%	64%	28%	90%	10%	0%
Second quintile (LBP 800,000 - LBP 1,174,137)	17%	52%	31%	7%	53%	39%	85%	14%	0%
Third quintile (LBP 1,174,137 - LBP 1,500,000)	10%	57%	33%	4%	55%	41%	83%	17%	0%
Fourth quintile (LBP 1,500,000 - LBP 1,900,000)	6%	52%	43%	2%	46%	52%	76%	23%	1%
Fifth quintile - Highest expenditure (LBP 1,900,000 - LBP 4,425,000)	6%	45%	49%	2%	39%	59%	73%	27%	0%
Gender of the head of household									
Women	13%	57%	30%	4%	56%	40%	85%	15%	1%
Men	12%	52%	37%	5%	50%	45%	81%	19%	3%
Shelter type									
Residential	11%	52%	37%	4%	50%	46%	80%	19%	0%
Non-residential	15%	54%	31%	6%	53%	40%	85%	15%	0%
Non-permanent	13%	56%	31%	5%	53%	41%	83%	17%	0%

In order to assess the economic vulnerability of Syrian refugee households in Lebanon, several variables were taken into consideration. These included the Survival and Minimum Expenditure Baskets (S/MEB), debt, and the structure and volume of expenditures.

Key findings

- Lebanon's compounded socio-economic crisis has pushed almost the entire Syrian refugee population to below the S/MEB, whose value per capita reached LBP 490,028¹ in June 2021. In 2021, nine out of ten households were living in extreme poverty, similar to 2020.
- In 2021, the average monthly per capita expenditure was LBP 316,129, up significantly from LBP 198,981 in 2020. This reflects inflationary trends which significantly impacted food and non-food prices with an increase of 404% and 372%, respectively, since October 2019.
- Nine out of ten households continued to be in debt. However, in 2021, the levels of debt increased by 1.8 times compared to last year (LBP 3.4 million in 2021 vs. LBP 1.8 million in 2020). This indicates that Syrian refugee households were in need of more resources to cover their basic needs.
- The average debt of male-headed households (LBP 3.6 million) was 1.5 times that of female-headed households (LBP 2.4 million).
- Buying food was the main reason reported by respondents for borrowing money at 93%, followed by rent (49%), essential non-food items (34%), and medicines (31%). Friends in Lebanon remained the main source of borrowing (80%), followed by supermarket owners (50%) and landlords (17%).
- Female-headed households borrowed money to buy medicines and essential non-food items more than their men counterparts (40% vs. 32%, and 35% vs. 30% respectively).

¹ The average market rate during the time of data collection (June 7 – July 7) registered at LBP 16,060 to the US\$. Source: www.lirarate.org

Review of the Survival and Minimum Expenditure Baskets

The S/MEB serve as a reference to estimate what a Syrian refugee family in Lebanon would need to survive (SMEB) or live in dignity (MEB), through assessing the components and volume of purchasing conducted by Syrian refugee households. They also help categorize Syrian refugees into different socio-economic vulnerability groups to identify those who are in dire need of humanitarian assistance. The S/MEB inform decisions regarding cash transfer values

for food assistance and multi-purpose cash assistance for basic needs, in order to have meaningful assistance reflecting actual consumption patterns of Syrian refugee households.² Since August 2020, the SMEB basket gets updated on a regular basis to reflect the continuous inflation of commodities and services, and depreciation of the Lebanese Lira.

Table 6: SMEB and MEB values per household (in LBP) - June 2021

	SMEB per HH (LBP)	MEB per HH (LBP)
Food	LBP 1,341,290	LBP 1,385,345
Non-food	LBP 1,108,852	LBP 1,383,420
Total	LBP 2,450,142	LBP 2,768,765

As of June 2021, the total cost of the SMEB basket with both its food and non-food components was updated to be LBP 2,450,142 per household, while the reviewed MEB basket was LBP 2,768,765 per household.

Market updates in Lebanon

There has been a 27% decrease in food imports through the Port of Beirut when comparing June 2021 figures to those of June 2020. This was mainly due to the decreases in the import of edible vegetables (41% decrease), sugar and confectionary (26% decrease), cereals (20% decrease), and live animals (17% decrease). By the end of June 2021, only 12% of WFP contracted shops reported having items from the subsidized food basket (at the rate of LBP 3,900), down from 79% at the beginning of March 2021.³ Fifty-seven percent of the shops also reported scarcity of certain products.⁴ The depreciation of the Lebanese Lira accelerated in June, with an average of LBP 15,158 registering 51% depreciation compared to August 2020 when the VASyR 2020 data collection took place. This correlates to the revised food SMEB price which recorded a 127% increase between August 2020 and June 2021. When compared to October 2019, the food SMEB recorded an increase of 404%. As traders revise their prices more frequently, the revised food

SMEB weekly price recorded a 28% increase between the first and the last week of June 2021. It is also worth noting that the depreciation of the Lebanese Lira breached the LBP 23,000 mark by mid July 2021.⁵

Starting May 2021, combustible fuel (gasoline, diesel, and cooking gas) became more scarce, with shortage lines forming at petrol stations. Lines extended for several hours, with people waiting for full days to access a limited amount of gasoline. Shortages were mainly due to the rationing strategy by the central bank in opening new lines of credit for the import of fuel, as they rationed the remaining foreign currency reserves. In a bid to limit shortages, a decision was taken to raise the subsidization rate of combustible fuel from the official price of US\$/LBP 1,507.5 to US\$/LBP 3,900 by end of June 2021. This decision led to a direct price increase of more than 60% for the different fuel commodities. By end of September 2021, all fuel subsidies had been removed.

Survival and Minimum Expenditure Basket

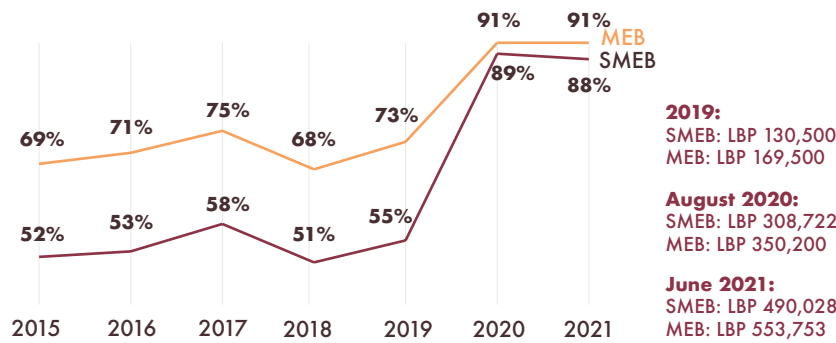
The compounded socio-economic crisis that Lebanon is witnessing pushed almost the entire refugee population into extreme poverty. Nine out of ten households were not able to afford essential goods and services that ensure minimum living standards, as defined by the SMEB. Continuously rising prices made essential food and services increasingly unaffordable for Syrian refugees. In fact, 92% of Syrian refugee households were below the food-SMEB (LBP

268,258 per capita), indicating that they were unable to afford essential food items necessary to survive.

Similar to 2020, 91% of Syrian refugee households lived below the MEB of LBP 553,753 per capita as of June 2021. Additionally, 92% of households were below the food-MEB (LBP 277,069 per capita).

² ‘Review of the Survival and Minimum Expenditure Baskets in Lebanon’ report (November 2020)
³ WFP Lebanon RAM Unit Food Security and Markets Situation Analysis – FSSWG Meeting July 2021
⁴ Ibid.
⁵ WFP Lebanon RAM Unit Food Security and Markets Situation Analysis – FSSWG Meeting August 2021

Figure 1: Households below SMEB 2015-2021



Overall, the percentage of households below the SMEB level maintained the same high level as in 2020, and significantly higher than 2019 levels. Akkar, Bekaa, and Baalbek-El Hermel reported the highest share of households below the SMEB at 94%, indicating that these regions host the highest proportions of socio-economically vulnerable households. The North reported an 8 percentage points decrease compared to 2020; it is worth noting that the share of surveyed households in the North that were receiving cash for food and basic needs assistance⁶ only at the time of data collection was 81%, three times the figure in 2020 (27%).⁷

Ninety-five percent of households in non-permanent shelters were below the SMEB, more than those in residential (86%) and non-residential (87%) shelters. Female and male-headed households were equally vulnerable (88% below SMEB). Nine out of ten severely and moderately food insecure households were below the SMEB, compared to 75% of food secure households and 84% of marginally food insecure ones.

Figure 2: Percentage of households below SMEB, by governorate

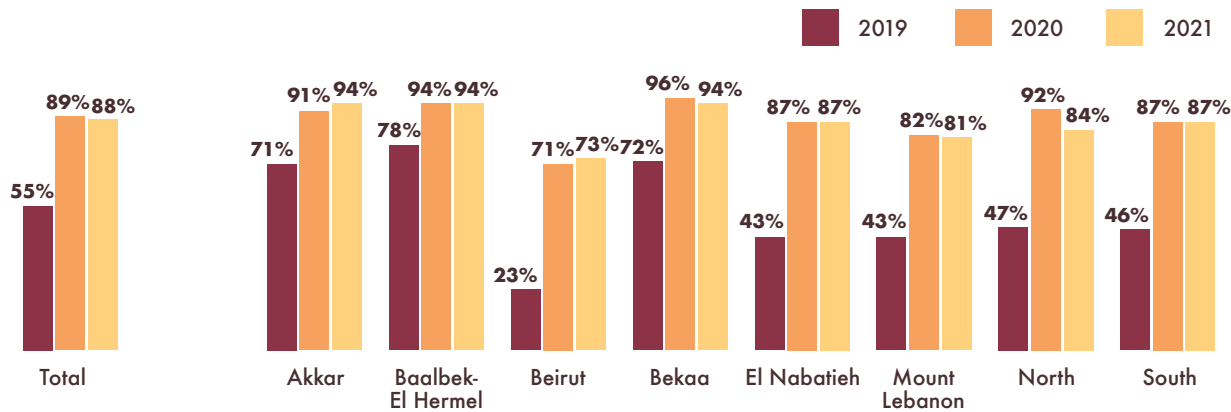
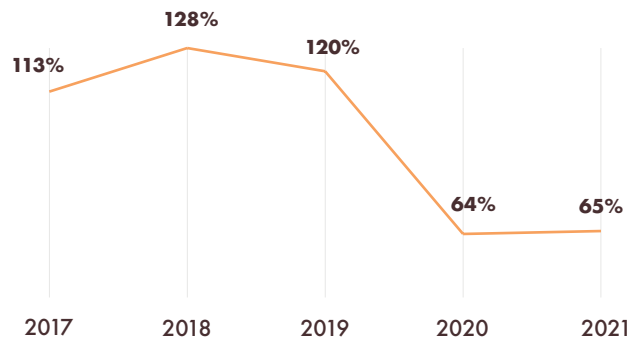


Figure 3: Ratio of monthly expenditures per capita to SMEB per capita 2017 - 2021



On average, the monthly expenditures per capita for Syrian refugee households were two thirds the SMEB (down from 120% in 2019), implying that Syrian refugee households were not meeting the minimum living standards.

⁶ Cash for food and basic needs includes multipurpose cash assistance (MCAP), cash for food, food voucher, WFP food payment – ATM, and WFP food payment - POS

⁷ For additional details, please refer to Table 8 and Table 9 in the Assistance box at the end of this chapter

Debt and borrowing money

Debt: current amount of accumulated debt that households have from receiving credit or borrowing money.

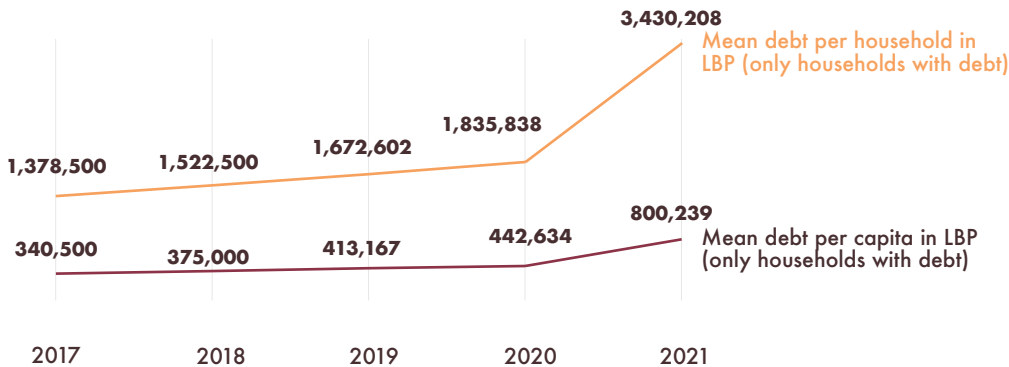
Ninety-two percent of Syrian refugee households continued to incur debt to survive, mostly to buy food (93%), pay rent (49%), essential non-food items (NFI) (34%), and medicines (34%). The mean debt per household increased by 1.8 times compared to last year (from LBP 1,835,838 in 2020 to LBP 3,430,208 in 2021), adding to the burden and vulnerability of Syrian refugee households. On a governorate level, Beirut reported a substantial amount of mean debt per household at LBP 7,097,329 (107% more than the national average), followed by El Nabatieh (LBP 4,336,950) and the South (LBP 3,555,098).

Similarly, the average debt per capita tremendously increased by 1.8 times between 2020 (LBP 442,634) and 2021 (LBP 800,239). Beirut reported the highest debt per

capita (LBP 2,147,788) followed by Bekaa (LBP 881,619), El Nabatieh (LBP 847,842), and Mount Lebanon (LBP 838,850).

The debt amount accumulated by male-headed households was 1.5 times that of female-headed households (LBP 3,633,578 vs. LBP 2,451,948). Marginally food insecure households accumulated debt the most at LBP 3,699,700, followed by moderately food insecure (LBP 3,137,500) and severely food insecure (LBP 2,768,857) households. Households in residential shelters accumulated debt the most (LBP 3,649,086), followed by non-permanent (LBP 3,074,818) and non-residential shelters (LBP 2,726,867). Households in the top expenditure quintile had the highest debt (LBP 4,783,356), and households in the bottom expenditure quintile accumulated the lowest amount of debt (LBP 2,359,788).

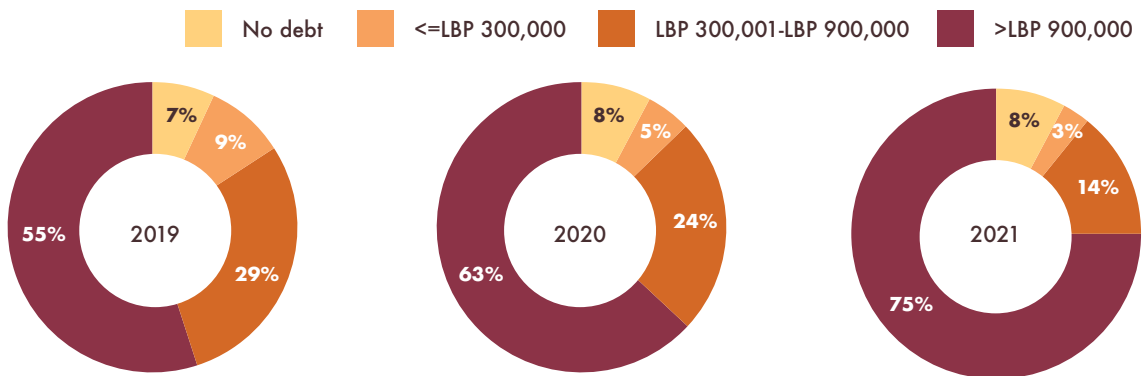
Figure 4: Mean debt per household and per capita 2017-2021



Three out of four households accumulated a considerable amount of debt (greater than LBP 900,000), up from 63% in 2020 and from 55% in 2019, indicating that Syrian refugee households are increasingly relying on debt. Bekaa and Baalbek-El Hermel reported the highest share of households who accumulated more than LBP 900,000 in debt, at 83% and 82% respectively.

Eighty-three percent of households in non-permanent shelters accumulated debt greater than LBP 900,000, more than those in residential (73%) and non-residential (70%) shelters. Seventy-six percent of male-headed households accumulated debt more than LBP 900,000, more than female-headed ones (67%). Households in the top expenditure quintiles accumulated debt greater than LBP 900,000, at 86%, more than those in the bottom expenditure quintile (61%).

Figure 5: Debt categories 2019-2021



Reasons for borrowing

Borrowing: households that borrowed money or received credit in the 3 months prior to the survey.

Buying food remained the top reason for borrowing at 93%, similar to 2020, and up from 75% in 2019. In Baalbek-El Hermel, all respondents (100%) said they had borrowed money to buy food, followed by Bekaa (95%). Ninety-six percent of households in non-permanent shelters borrowed money to buy food, slightly more than those in residential shelters (92%).

Forty-nine percent of households borrowed money to pay rent, similar to last year (48%). Mount Lebanon reported the highest share of households borrowing money to pay rent at 65%, followed by the North (51%), and Bekaa and Beirut (48% each). Fifty-one percent of male-headed households borrowed money to pay rent, more than female-headed ones (42%).

Buying essential NFI was the third top reason for borrowing money at 34%, followed by buying medicine at 31%. Bekaa reported the highest share of households borrowing money to buy NFI (59%) and to buy medicine (50%). Forty-six

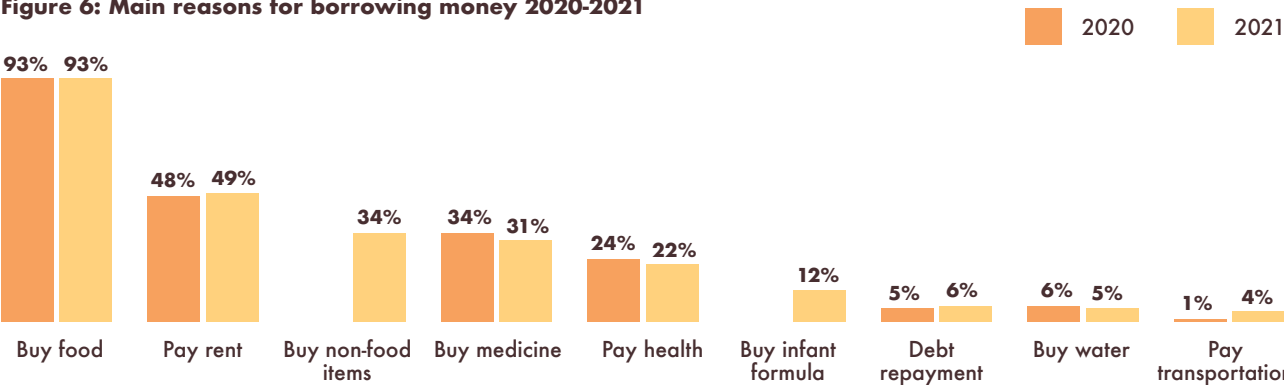
percent of households in non-permanent shelters borrowed money to buy NFI, more than those in residential (31%) and non-residential (32%) shelters.

Borrowing money to pay for health expenses approximately stayed the same compared to last year (22% in 2021 vs. 24% in 2020). Bekaa and Baalbek-El Hermel reported the highest levels of borrowing money to pay for healthcare at 33% and 30% respectively. Households in non-permanent shelters borrowed money to pay for healthcare the most (27%) compared to non-residential (21%) and residential (20%) shelters.

Twelve percent of households borrowed money to buy infant formula, with the highest level reported in the North (18%), and mostly among food insecure households (18%) compared to food secure ones (3%).

Borrowing money to repay debt approximately maintained the same level (6% in 2021 vs. 5% in 2020). Borrowing money to buy water in Beirut (18%) was significantly higher than the overall figure (5%).

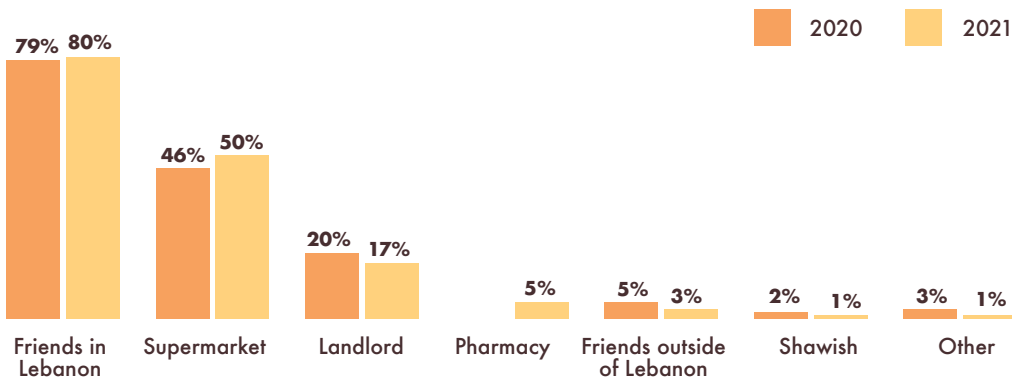
Figure 6: Main reasons for borrowing money 2020-2021



Similar to previous years, friends in Lebanon were the main source of borrowing (80% in 2021 vs. 79% in 2020), followed by supermarkets (50% in 2021 vs. 46% in 2020) and landlords (17% in 2021 vs. 20% in 2020). Severely food insecure households reported the lowest level of borrowing money from friends in Lebanon (63%) but had the highest levels of borrowing money from supermarkets (62%) and landlords (36%) when compared to other food security

classifications. Households below the SMEB reported the highest level of borrowing money from supermarkets (53%) when compared to other S/MEB categories. Female-headed households reported a significantly higher level of borrowing money from supermarkets (62%) compared to their men counterparts (47%), and a lower level of borrowing money from friends in Lebanon (69% vs. 82%).

Figure 7: Sources for borrowing money



Expenditures

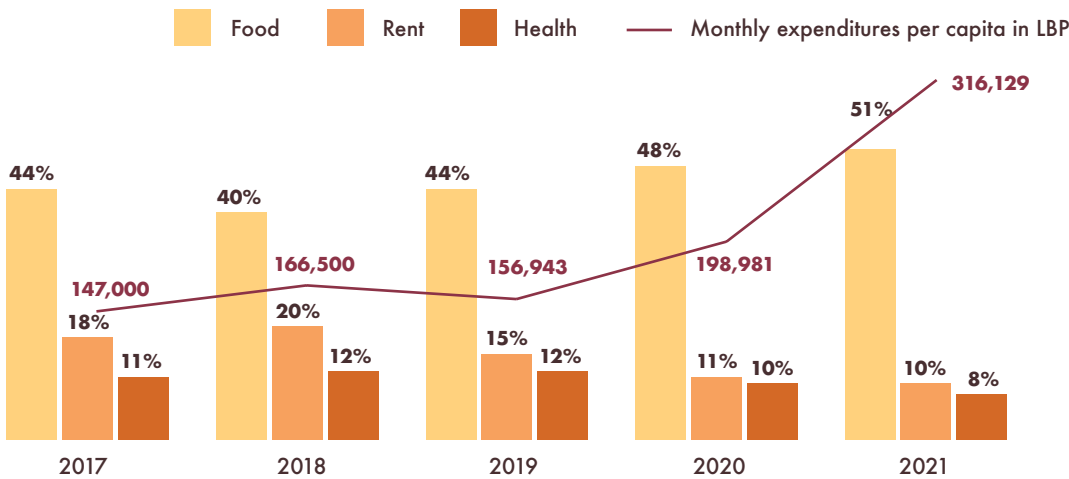
The monthly expenditures per capita substantially increased, by 59%, between 2020 and 2021 (LBP 198,981 in 2020 vs. LBP 316,129 in 2021), reflecting the steep inflation in prices of commodities. Between August 2020 and June 2021, the Consumer Price Index increased by 74%,⁸ while the cost of the food SMEB increased by 127%.⁹ Beirut reported the highest monthly expenditure per capita (LBP 444,882), and El Nabatieh reported the lowest (LBP 323,723). Male-headed households reported a slightly higher monthly expenditure per capita compared to female-headed ones (LBP 320,688 vs. LBP 295,023). Households in non-permanent shelters reported the lowest monthly expenditure per capita (LBP 249,084), compared to those in non-residential (LBP 326,125) and residential (LBP 335,990) shelters. Although severely food insecure households per definition have a very high food expenditure share, they spent half of what food secure households spent per capita (LBP 229,742 vs LBP 482,862).

The share of expenditures among food, rent, and health followed the same trend as previous years. The monthly expenditure share for food increased to 51% in 2021, up from 48% in 2020 and 44% in 2019. The share of rent and health slightly decreased reaching 10% and 8% in 2021, down from 11% and 10% in 2020, and 15% and 12% respectively in 2019. The highest share of rent was reported in Beirut (16%) and Mount Lebanon (15%), and among households in residential shelters (13%) more than those in non-residential (8%) and non-permanent shelters (4%). The essential NFI expenditure share was 10%, similar to 2020 (11%).

Percentage of households with medium to very high food expenditure share increased to 51% in 2021, up from 45% in 2020 and 36% in 2019, indicating an increase in vulnerability. Baalbek-El Hermel and Akkar reported the highest levels of households with medium to very high food expenditure share at 72% and 65%. Households in non-permanent shelters reported the highest level of medium to very high food expenditure share at 61% compared to residential (47%) and non-residential (59%) shelters. Households below the SMEB had a considerable level of medium to very high food expenditure shares (54%) compared to other S/MEB categories (around 30%).

In terms of individual food items, bread and pasta continued to be the most purchased food items at 19%, down from 25% in 2020. It is worth mentioning that bread registered a 50% price increase between August 2020 and June 2021, while pasta registered a 251% price increase during the same period.¹⁰ Fruits and vegetables were the second most purchased items at 16% (similar to 2020), followed by oil (13% in 2021 vs. 10% in 2020) and cereals (12% in 2021 vs. 11% in 2020). Bekaa reported the lowest level of purchasing bread and pasta at 15%. Baalbek-El Hermel reported the lowest level of purchasing fresh fruits and vegetables at 12%. Akkar reported the lowest level of purchasing fresh meat/chicken/eggs/fish at 3% and dairy products at 6% compared to the other governorates (overall average being 5% and 8% respectively). Severely food insecure households purchased dairy products (4%) and meat/chicken/eggs/fish (2%) the least compared to other food security classifications (10% and 8% respectively for food secure households).

Figure 8: Monthly expenditures per capita 2017-2021



⁸ Central Administration for Statistics (CAS)

⁹ WFP Lebanon RAM Unit Food Security and Markets Situation Analysis – FSSWG Meeting July 2021

¹⁰ WFP Lebanon Prices Monitoring

Characteristics of economic vulnerability

The details below demonstrate the profiling of the most economically vulnerable households and those falling below S/MEB thresholds.

Debt: Ninety-two percent of households under the SMEB were in debt, more than households above 125% MEB (84%). Three out of four households below the SMEB accumulated debt greater than LBP 900,000, higher than the level reported in 2020 (63%). Compared to 2020, the share of households who borrowed more than LBP 900,000 increased across all S/MEB categories.

Reason for borrowing: Borrowing money to buy food approximately stayed at the same level for households below the SMEB compared to 2020 (94% vs. 93% respectively), and up from 79% in 2019. Borrowing money to pay rent stayed at the same level for households below the SMEB and increased for all the other S/MEB categories, compared to 2020.

Shelter: Twenty-three percent of households below the SMEB were in non-permanent shelters and 10% in non-residential shelters.

Food security: Half of households living below the SMEB (52%) were food insecure, similar to 2020 (51%), and up by 16 percentage points compared to 2019. Forty-six percent of households below the SMEB were marginally food insecure.

Working members: Sixty-five percent of households below the SMEB had a working member, up from 52% in 2020. However, the per capita income earned for households below the SMEB was still one fifth of the SMEB, similar to 2020 (LBP 95,184 out of LBP 490,028 in 2021 vs. LBP 48,018 out of LBP 308,722 in 2020).

Coping strategies: Sixty-six percent of households below the SMEB adopted crisis and emergency coping strategies, up from 59% in 2020. This share (66%) was also the highest compared to other S/MEB categories applying crisis and emergency coping strategies in 2021.

Demographics: The average size of households above 125% MEB was two members, smaller than that of households below the SMEB (five members). One third of households below the SMEB had at least one member with a disability. One fifth of households below the SMEB were female-headed, similar to last year.

Table 7: Economic vulnerability groups, by sector indicators

	>=125% MEB (>= LBP 692,191)	MEB - 125 % MEB (LBP 553,753- 692,191)	SMEB - MEB (LBP 490,028- 553,753)	< SMEB (LBP 490,028)
Debt and borrowing				
Borrowed money	84%	88%	92%	92%
Debt per household in LBP (mean for households with debt)	LBP 3,289,575	LBP 3,847,038	LBP 4,784,204	LBP 3,290,829
Debt group: >LBP 900,000	65%	78%	78%	76%
Reason for borrowing:				
To buy food	86%	90%	89%	94%
To pay rent	54%	60%	62%	48%
To buy medicine	23%	35%	32%	32%
To cover health expenses	28%	28%	22%	21%
Shelter				
Non-permanent	6%	14%	8%	24%
Non-residential	12%	10%	9%	10%
Residential	82%	76%	83%	67%
Food security				
Food secure	7%	3%	8%	3%
Mild food insecurity	57%	61%	61%	46%
Moderate food insecurity	35%	35%	27%	48%
Severe food insecurity	1%	0.3%	5%	4%
Working members				
Households with working members	73%	74%	77%	65%
Coping strategies				
Crisis and emergency coping strategies	55%	60%	49%	66%
Demographics				
Household size (mean)	1.9	3.1	3.6	5.4
At least one household member has disability	22%	26%	31%	30%
Gender of the head of the household				
Women	18%	19%	15%	18%
Men	82%	81%	86%	82%

ASSISTANCE

Assistance provision

Vulnerable Syrian refugees in Lebanon receive two main kinds of assistance aimed to cover basic needs: cash assistance and in-kind support. Most cash assistance was provided through ATM cards whereby refugees could withdraw cash from any ATM or use cards to purchase goods in the local market, where possible. Cash assistance allowed refugee households to meet their basic needs in a dignified manner by allowing them to prioritize their purchases according to their needs.

The three largest cash programs for Syrian refugees were as follows:

1. Multipurpose cash assistance (MCAP).

Recipients of multipurpose cash assistance received a monthly cash transfer via an ATM card. At the time of the survey (June 2021), eligible households were receiving LBP 400,000 per month. Nationally, some 160,000 households were assisted with multipurpose cash in June 2021. This was almost a 70% increase from January 2021.

2. Cash for food assistance and food e-card.

Beneficiaries of the cash for food assistance could withdraw cash from ATMs and redeem the card in the WFP contracted shops or any store equipped with a POS terminal, while recipients of the food e-card could only redeem the card in WFP contracted shops. In terms of the current targeting, 40% of the WFP caseload was within the food e-card modality and 60% with cash for food and multipurpose cash. In the month of June 2021 (data collection period for the VASyR 2021 survey), 40,319 households received cash for food assistance, which overlapped with the recipients of the UNHCR multipurpose cash assistance, and 61,455 households received food e-card assistance. Eligible households received food components amounting to LBP 100,000 per household member per month from WFP for both modalities.

3. **Cash for winter needs.** In the 2020/2021 winter season, UNHCR assisted close to 200,000 Syrian households with winter cash assistance to support them meet their additional needs brought about by the winter. Cash assistance was provided via ATM cards to economically vulnerable households.

In order to determine the proportion of assisted households out of total surveyed households, registration numbers collected in the VASyR survey were matched with UNHCR's RAIS (Refugee Assistance Information System). It was checked whether the corresponding households had received any kind of assistance during the month of data collection in both 2020 and 2021, as well as one month prior to the data collection period. Types of assistance were grouped into three categories including:

1. **Cash for food and basic needs** includes multipurpose cash assistance, or cash for food, food voucher, WFP food payment – ATM, and WFP food payment – POS

2. **Other type of assistance** includes ATM financial assistance credited (UNICEF - ICWBP), booked for cash (shelter), cash for education, conditional CFE assistance, CRI - blankets, CRI - jerry can - water, CRI - kitchen kit, CRI-large menstrual hygiene management kit, CRI - mattresses, CRI - medium menstrual hygiene management kit, CRI - sleeping mat, CRI - solar lanterns, CRI - winterization/clothing, education internet bundle, emergency financial assistance, hygiene kit, medium repair kit, PCAP (family), PCAP (individual), PCAP 3 (family), protection cash assistance, shelter - cash for rent, shelter - insulation kit in IS, shelter - rehabilitation rent freeze, shelter - weatherproofing heavy/ NAK in IS, shelter - weatherproofing light/medium in IS, social work (counselling).

3. **Both cash for food and basic needs and other types of assistance** include the above two categories.

Three out of four surveyed households in June 2021 received cash for food and basic needs,¹ up from 47% in August 2020. The share of unassisted households decreased by half, from 47% in 2020 to 23% in 2021. At a governorate level, more than 90% of households in Baalbek-El Hermel (95%, up from 81% in 2020), Bekaa (95%, up from 71% in 2020), and Akkar (93%, up from 76% in 2020) received cash for food and basic needs in 2021. The North recorded the largest increase (54 percentage points) in the level of households receiving cash for food and basic needs, from 34% in 2020 to 88% in 2021.

Eighty-six percent of female-headed households received cash for food and basic needs (up from 54% in 2020), compared to 74% of male-headed households (up from 45% in 2020).

¹ Cash for food and basic needs includes multipurpose cash assistance (MCAP), cash for food, food voucher, WFP food payment – ATM, and WFP food payment - POS

Figure 9: Share of households receiving cash for food and basic needs, in several governorates

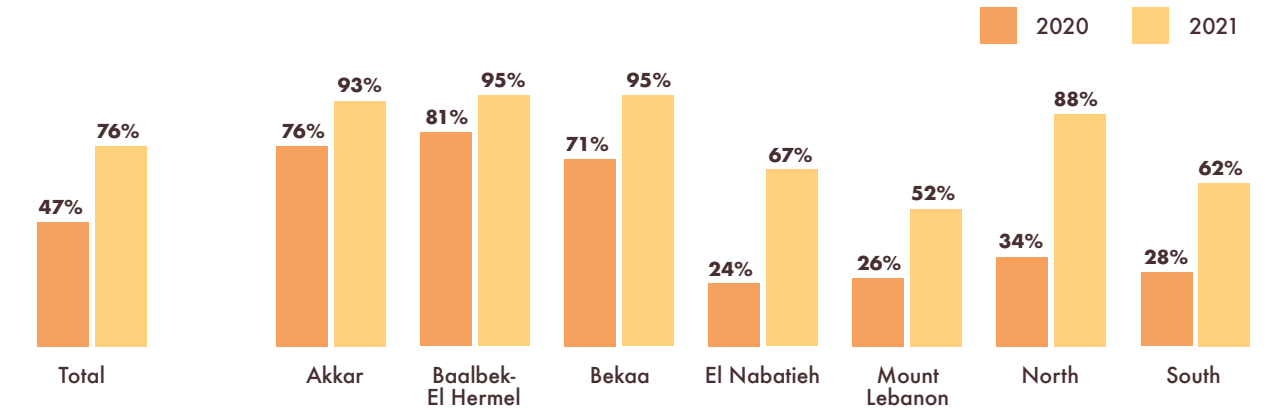


Table 8: Assistance status of surveyed households - VASyR 2021

	2021			
	Assistance status of surveyed households			
	Not assisted	Receiving other type of assistance	Receiving cash for food and basic needs	Receiving both cash for food and basic needs and other types of assistance
Total	23%	71%	1%	5%
Governorate				
Akkar	7%	85%	0%	8%
Baalbek-El Hermel	5%	91%	0%	4%
Beirut	73%	20%	4%	2%
Bekaa	5%	89%	0%	6%
El Nabatieh	29%	64%	4%	3%
Mount Lebanon	46%	49%	2%	2%
North	12%	81%	1%	7%
South	36%	58%	2%	4%
Gender of the head of household				
Men	25%	70%	1%	4%
Women	13%	79%	2%	7%

Table 9: Assistance status of surveyed households - VASyR 2020

	2020			
	Assistance status of surveyed households			
	Not assisted	Receiving other type of assistance	Receiving cash for food and basic needs	Receiving both cash for food and basic needs and other types of assistance
Total	47%	40%	6%	7%
Governorate				
Akkar	21%	68%	3%	8%
Baalbek-El Hermel	13%	66%	6%	15%
Beirut	91%	5%	4%	1%
Bekaa	22%	63%	6%	8%
El Nabatieh	68%	21%	8%	4%
Mount Lebanon	70%	23%	4%	3%
North	57%	27%	9%	7%
South	64%	23%	8%	5%
Gender of the head of household				
Men	50%	39%	5%	6%
Women	37%	48%	8%	7%

Annex 13: (S)MEB breakdown and poverty line

	Household MEB/SMEB categories			
	>=125% MEB (>=LBP 692,191)	MEB- 125% MEB (LBP 553,753 - LBP 692,191)	SMEB-MEB (LBP 490,028 - LBP 553,753)	< SMEB (LBP 490,028)
	ROW N %	ROW N %	ROW N %	ROW N %
Total	5%	3%	4%	88%
Governorate				
Akkar	2%	3%	2%	94%
Baalbek-El Hermel	2%	1%	3%	94%
Beirut	15%	6%	6%	73%
Bekaa	2%	3%	2%	94%
El Nabatieh	4%	4%	5%	87%
Mount Lebanon	9%	4%	6%	81%
North	7%	4%	4%	84%
South	5%	4%	3%	87%
Food security classification				
Food secure	12%	4%	9%	75%
Mild food insecurity	6%	4%	5%	84%
Moderate food insecurity	4%	3%	2%	91%
Severe food insecurity	2%	0.3%	5%	93%
Expenditure quintiles				
First quintile - Lowest expenditure (< LBP 800,000)	2%	2%	2%	94%
Second quintile (LBP 800,000 - LBP 1,174,137)	6%	1%	2%	91%
Third quintile (LBP 1,174,137 - LBP 1,500,000)	4%	2%	1%	93%
Fourth quintile (LBP 1,500,000 - LBP 1,900,000)	4%	4%	3%	89%
Fifth quintile - Highest expenditure (LBP 1,900,000 - LBP 4,425,000)	10%	7%	11%	72%
Gender of the head of household				
Women	5%	4%	3%	88%
Men	5%	3%	4%	88%
Shelter type				
Residential	6%	4%	4%	86%
Non-residential	6%	4%	3%	87%
Non-permanent	2%	2%	1%	95%

Annex 14: Debt categories and debt per household and per capita

	Debt categories				Debt per Household & per capita					
	No debt	Debt group: <=LBP 300,000	Debt group: LBP 300,001- LBP 900,000	Debt group: >900000	Debt per household (all households)	Debt per capita (all households)	Debt per household (only households with debt)	Debt per capita (only households with debt)	Mean	Mean
	ROW N %	ROW N %	ROW N %	ROW N %	Mean	Mean	Mean	Mean		
Total	8%	3%	14%	75%	3,147,883	734,374	3,430,208	800,239		
Governorate										
Akkar	7%	4%	20%	70%	2,348,487	517,342	2,512,111	553,386		
Baalbek-El Hermel	4%	1%	13%	82%	2,575,661	577,376	2,692,943	603,667		
Beirut	13%	2%	10%	74%	6,147,059	1,860,218	7,097,329	2,147,788		
Bekaa	6%	2%	9%	83%	3,310,074	830,214	3,515,026	881,619		
El Nabatieh	9%	4%	15%	72%	3,934,097	769,087	4,336,950	847,842		
Mount Lebanon	11%	3%	15%	71%	3,239,504	747,048	3,637,599	838,850		
North	11%	5%	16%	68%	2,808,486	642,911	3,144,194	719,760		
South	6%	6%	13%	75%	3,347,158	661,883	3,555,098	703,002		
MEB/SMEB categories										
>= 125% MEB (>= LBP 692,191)	16%	5%	14%	65.0%	2,765,839	1,707,597	3,289,575	2,030,945		
MEB - 125 % MEB (LBP 553,753- 692,191)	12%	3%	7%	78.1%	3,399,089	1,147,781	3,847,037	1,299,041		
SMEB - MEB (LBP 490,028- 553,753)	8%	5%	9%	78.3%	4,418,675	1,330,823	4,784,204	1,440,913		
< SMEB (LBP 490,028)	8%	3%	14%	75.5%	3,040,936	615,309	3,290,829	665,873		
Food security classification										
Food secure	23%	3%	18%	56%	1,482,899	455,998	1,921,950	591,008		
Mild food insecurity	9%	2%	13%	76%	3,363,063	748,154	3,699,700	823,042		
Moderate food insecurity	6%	3%	15%	76%	2,943,114	681,212	3,137,500	726,204		
Severe food insecurity	9%	4%	17%	70%	2,522,058	626,173	2,768,857	687,448		
Expenditure quintiles										
First quintile - Lowest expenditure (< LBP 800,000)	11%	5%	23%	61%	2,101,176	763,675	2,359,788	857,668		
Second quintile (LBP 800,000 - LBP 1,174,137)	8%	3%	17%	72%	2,413,906	673,387	2,624,964	732,264		
Third quintile (LBP 1,174,137 - LBP 1,500,000)	8%	3%	13%	76%	3,256,071	678,417	3,542,111	738,015		
Fourth quintile (LBP 1,500,000 - LBP 1,900,000)	8%	2%	12%	79%	3,124,925	651,517	3,382,622	705,244		
Fifth quintile - Highest expenditure (LBP 1,900,000 - LBP 4,425,000)	7%	2%	6%	86%	4,446,774	813,167	4,783,356	874,717		
Gender of the head of household										
Women	10%	5%	19%	67%	2,213,831	621,301	2,451,948	688,128		
Men	8%	3%	13%	76%	3,345,922	758,348	3,633,578	823,545		
Shelter type										
Residential	9%	3%	14%	73%	3,304,888	782,161	3,649,086	863,621		
Non-residential	7%	4%	19%	70%	2,540,651	658,556	2,726,867	706,825		
Non-permanent	5%	2%	11%	83%	2,919,932	616,372	3,074,818	649,067		

Annex 15: Monthly expenditure per capita, food expenditure share and expenditure share (monthly average) (1/3)

	Total expenditures per month per capita in LBP	Food expenditure share category				Expenditure share - monthly average			
		<50 %	>=50- 65%	>=65 -75%	>=75%	Food	Rent	NFI	Health
	Mean	Row N°	Row N°	Row N°	Row N°	Mean	Mean	Mean	Mean
Total	LBP 316,129	49%	32%	12%	8%	51	10	10	8
Governorate									
Akkar	LBP 255,291	35%	35%	17%	14%	56	5	12	9
Baalbek-El Hermel	LBP 259,611	28%	43%	17%	13%	58	5	8	11
Beirut	LBP 444,882	63%	25%	8%	4%	47	16	10	6
Bekaa	LBP 272,860	50%	30%	11%	9%	51	10	8	9
El Nabatieh	LBP 323,723	54%	30%	11%	6%	48	9	10	8
Mount Lebanon	LBP 359,427	59%	27%	10%	4%	48	15	12	6
North	LBP 343,943	47%	32%	14%	7%	52	11	11	8
South	LBP 342,331	52%	37%	7%	4%	48	7	11	10
MEB/SMEB categories									
>=125% MEB (>= LBP 692,191)	LBP 1,044,956	70%	20%	6%	4%	42	15	7	15
MEB - 125 % MEB (LBP 553,753- 692,191)	LBP 612,607	71%	24%	2%	3%	43	15	9	11
SMEB - MEB (LBP 490,028- 553,753)	LBP 518,354	68%	24%	5%	3%	44	14	10	11
< SMEB (LBP 490,028)	LBP 257,234	46%	33%	13%	8%	52	10	11	8
Food security classification									
Food secure	LBP 482,862	94%	6%	0%	0%	39	17	11	8
Mild food insecurity	LBP 349,779	58%	35%	6%	1%	47	12	11	9
Moderate food insecurity	LBP 292,631	39%	31%	18%	12%	55	9	10	8
Severe food insecurity	LBP 229,742	0%	15%	30%	55%	75	3	7	3
Expenditure quintiles									
First quintile - Lowest expenditure (< LBP 800,000)	LBP 194,318	34%	28%	18%	21%	59	6	10	7
Second quintile (LBP 800,000 - LBP 1,174,137)	LBP 276,185	44%	34%	13%	9%	52	10	11	7
Third quintile (LBP 1,174,137 - LBP 1,500,000)	LBP 312,154	49%	34%	13%	5%	51	11	11	7
Fourth quintile (LBP 1,500,000 - LBP 1,900,000)	LBP 351,160	52%	34%	11%	3%	49	12	10	8
Fifth quintile - Highest expenditure (LBP 1,900,000 - LBP 4,425,000)	LBP 447,207	62%	30%	5%	3%	46	12	10	12
Gender of the head of household									
Women	LBP 295,023	47%	30%	11%	12%	54	10	10	9
Men	LBP 320,688	49%	32%	12%	7%	51	11	11	8
Shelter type									
Residential	LBP 335,990	53%	31%	10%	5%	49	13	11	7
Non-residential	LBP 326,125	41%	33%	16%	10%	54	8	10	8
Non-permanent	LBP 249,084	39%	34%	14%	13%	56	4	10	11

Annex 15: Expenditure share (monthly average) (2/3)

	Expenditure share - monthly average								
	Electricity: private generators	Tobacco	Communication	Water	Gas	Transportation	Debt Repayment	Electricity: Electricite du Liban (EDL)	
	Mean	Mean	Mean	Mean	Mean	Mean	Mean	Mean	
Total	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	1
Governorate									
Akkar	3	4	2	2	2	2	2	2	0
Baalbek-El Hermel	2	1	2	1	3	2	3	3	1
Beirut	2	4	4	5	2	1	1	1	1
Bekaa	2	3	3	2	2	3	4	4	3
El Nabatieh	5	6	3	3	2	2	1	1	1
Mount Lebanon	4	3	3	4	2	2	0.4	2	1
North	3	3	3	2	3	1	1	1	1
South	6	4	3	3	2	2	1	1	1
MEB/SMEB categories									
>=125% MEB (>= LBP 692,191)	3	4	3	2	2	2	2	2	1
MEB - 125 % MEB (LBP 553,753- 692,191)	4	4	3	3	2	3	1	1	1
SMEB - MEB (LBP 490,028- 553,753)	4	4	3	2	2	3	2	2	1
< SMEB (LBP 490,028)	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	1
Food security classification									
Food secure	4	4	3	2	2	2	3	2	2
Mild food insecurity	4	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	1
Moderate food insecurity	3	2	3	3	3	2	2	2	1
Severe food insecurity	2	1	3	2	2	1	0	0	1
Expenditure quintiles									
First quintile - Lowest expenditure (< LBP 800,000)	3	2	3	3	3	1	1	1	1
Second quintile (LBP 800,000 - LBP 1,174,137)	3	2	3	3	3	2	2	2	2
Third quintile (LBP 1,174,137 - LBP 1,500,000)	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	1
Fourth quintile (LBP 1,500,000 - LBP 1,900,000)	4	4	3	3	2	2	2	2	1
Fifth quintile - Highest expenditure (LBP 1,900,000 - LBP 4,425,000)	4	4	2	2	2	2	2	2	1
Gender of the head of household									
Women	3	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	2
Men	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	1
Shelter type									
Residential	4	3	3	3	2	2	1	1	1
Non-residential	3	4	3	2	2	2	2	2	1
Non-permanent	2	3	2	2	3	3	3	3	2

Annex 15: Expenditure share (monthly average) (3/3)

	Expenditure share - monthly average									
	Clothing	Household	Entertainment	Fuel	Registration	Other expenditures	Education	Shelter		
	Mean	Mean	Mean	Mean	Mean	Mean	Mean	Mean	Mean	Mean
Total	0.2	0.05	0.01	0.06	0.03	0.08	0.19	0.13		
Governorate										
Akkar	0.2	0.04	0	0.05	0	0.11	0.15	0		
Baalbek-El Hermel	0.7	0.03	0	0.07	0.03	0.04	0.38	0.02		
Beirut	0.2	0.03	0.08	0.02	0.03	0.28	0.31	0.21		
Bekaa	0.1	0.04	0	0.00	0	0.02	0.24	0.24		
El Nabatieh	0.3	0.08	0.02	0.02	0.24	0.11	0.12	0.31		
Mount Lebanon	0.1	0.07	0	0.04	0	0.12	0.05	0.14		
North	0.1	0.02	0.01	0.20	0	0.02	0.20	0.02		
South	0.3	0.07	0.05	0.11	0.27	0.12	0.24	0.15		
MEB/SMEB categories										
>=125% MEB (>= LBP 692,191)	0.4	0.08	0.06	0.12	0.05	0.63	0.17	0.16		
MEB - 125 % MEB (LBP 553,753- 692,191)	0.1	0.00	0.02	0.04	0	0.13	0.29	0.05		
SMEB - MEB (LBP 490,028- 553,753)	0.5	0.04	0	0.08	0.11	0	0.19	0.02		
< SMEB (LBP 490,028)	0.2	0.05	0.01	0.06	0.03	0.04	0.18	0.13		
Food security classification										
Food secure	0.4	0.34	0	0.12	0	0.96	0.28	0.19		
Mild food insecurity	0.3	0.06	0.02	0.08	0.03	0.07	0.21	0.22		
Moderate food insecurity	0.1	0.02	0	0.04	0.04	0.03	0.17	0.03		
Severe food insecurity	0	0	0	0.04	0	0.06	0.01	0.05		
Expenditure quintiles										
First quintile - Lowest expenditure (< LBP 800,000)	0.2	0.01	0	0.06	0	0.05	0.02	0.02		
Second quintile (LBP 800,000 - LBP 1,174,137)	0.1	0.03	0.01	0.08	0.02	0.00	0.22	0.03		
Third quintile (LBP 1,174,137 - LBP 1,500,000)	0.2	0.01	0	0.06	0.02	0.02	0.18	0.21		
Fourth quintile (LBP 1,500,000 - LBP 1,900,000)	0.2	0.14	0	0.03	0.09	0.18	0.29	0.15		
Fifth quintile - Highest expenditure (LBP 1,900,000 - LBP 4,425,000)	0.3	0.06	0.03	0.08	0.05	0.13	0.19	0.20		
Gender of the head of household										
Women	0.4	0.07	0	0.06	0.03	0.01	0.25	0.02		
Men	0.2	0.04	0.01	0.06	0.04	0.09	0.17	0.15		
Shelter type										
Residential	0.1	0.02	0.01	0.07	0.04	0.09	0.17	0.15		
Non-residential	0.2	0.22	0	0.09	0.02	0.01	0.09	0.06		
Non-permanent	0.4	0.06	0.01	0.04	0.02	0.08	0.28	0.09		

LIVELIHOODS AND INCOME

This chapter addresses the employment, income, and work sectors at the individual and household levels. At the individual level, income-generating activities, employment, and unemployment levels were probed one week prior to the survey and covered household members aged 18 years and above. At the household level, the survey investigated the households' main income sources they relied on to cover living expenses and the monthly income from employment for households and per capita.

Key findings

- The main sources of income that Syrian refugee households relied on to survive for were e-cards used in WFP food shops (21%) and ATM cards used in ATM machines from UN or humanitarian organizations (21%), followed by informal debt from shops and friends (13%), and agriculture and construction (8% each). This suggests a high dependency on assistance and its importance in enabling Syrian refugee households to meet their basic needs, which they cannot cover through employment alone.

- Even with more Syrian refugees working (33% in 2021 vs. 26% in 2020), the amount of income that households gained from employment in 2021 was still one-fifth of the SMEB¹ value when compared to 2020, indicating that household members may be engaging in poorly paid and high-risk jobs. The amount of income was one-third the SMEB value in 2019, before the onset of the economic crisis. The 2019 monthly income in US\$ value (US\$ 151) was four times that of 2020 (US\$ 35) and 2021 (US\$ 34), indicating a much lower purchasing power for Syrian refugee households. In 2021, households below the SMEB had the lowest income per capita in comparison to the categories above the SMEB (LBP 95,184 vs. average of LBP 315,189).²

- The highest per capita monthly income was reported in Beirut (similar to 2020) and the lowest in Baalbek-El Hermel, whereas the lowest reported income in 2020 was in Bekaa.

- Fifty-nine percent of men were employed compared to only 9% of women. The unemployment rate decreased from 39% in 2020 to 30% in 2021, with the highest levels reported in Baalbek-El Hermel (49%) and Bekaa (46%). The unemployment rate among women was 1.6 times that of men (42% vs. 27% respectively).

- On average, 66% of households had at least one working member in the past 7 days, up from 52% in 2020. Seventy percent of male-headed households had a working member compared to 47% among female-headed households.

- The main work sectors were agriculture at 27% (down from 32% in 2020) and construction at 19% (down from 24% in 2020) while other services including hotel, restaurant, transport, personal services were at 16%, up from 9% in 2020, possibly because of the lifting of COVID lockdown measures in 2021.

¹ S/MEB categories are the following:

1. $\geq 125\%$ MEB (\geq LBP 692,191)
2. MEB - 125% MEB (LBP 553,753 – LBP 692,191)
3. SMEB - MEB (LBP 490,028 – LBP 553,753)
4. $<$ SMEB (LBP 490,028)

² The average market rate during the time of data collection (June 7 – July 7) registered at LBP 16,060 to the US\$. Source: www.lirate.org

Employment, unemployment, and the labor force

The definitions below are based on the core ILO Labor Force Survey (LFS) questions following the 19th International Conference of Labor Statisticians (ICLS) resolution. Those are comparable with the CAS/ILO’s Labor Force and Household Living Conditions Survey (LFHLCS) 2018-19. The analysis included people aged 18 years and above, which allowed for a comparison between the 2020 and 2021 figures for the individual employment subsection.

Employment: number of working-age individuals (18+ years old) who have worked during the past week for someone else in return of pay as an employee, laborer, or apprentice or have worked in any other kind of business activity. It also includes working-age individuals who worked in the past week in own/family farming or fishing given that the farming or animal products were only or mainly for sale. Additionally, it includes working-age individuals who, during the last week, either performed any other activity to generate an income even for 1 hr (such as casual work, making things to sell, providing service for pay, among others), or have a paid job or business activity but were temporarily absent, or contributed without pay in a family business.

Unemployment: number of working-age individuals (18+ years old) who were not employed during the past week (as per the definition above), who looked for a paid job or tried to start a business in the past 4 weeks, and who are available to start working within the next 2 weeks if ever a job or business opportunity becomes available.

Outside labor force: number of working-age individuals (18+ years old) who were not employed during the past week, and who either cannot start working within the next 2 weeks if a job or business opportunity becomes available, or did not look for a paid job or did not try to start a business in the past 4 weeks.

Labor force: sum of employed and unemployed working-age individuals (18+ years old).

Employment-to-population ratio (LPR): the proportion of a country’s working-age (18+ years old) population that is employed.

Labor force participation rate (LFPR) = (employed population + unemployed population) / total population aged 18+.

Potential labor force: number of working-age individuals (18+ years old) who were not employed during the past week, and who are available to start working within the next 2 weeks if a job or business opportunity arises but did not actively search for a job/try to start a business in the past 4 weeks. Potential labor force also includes working-age individuals who were not employed during the past week, and who are actively searching for a job/ trying to start a business in the past 4 weeks, but who are unavailable to start working within the next 2 weeks if a job or business opportunity arises.

The employment to population ratio in 2021 was 33%, up from 26% in 2020, and the unemployment rate was 30%, down from 39% in 2020. The labor force participation was 47%, slightly higher than in 2020 (43%).

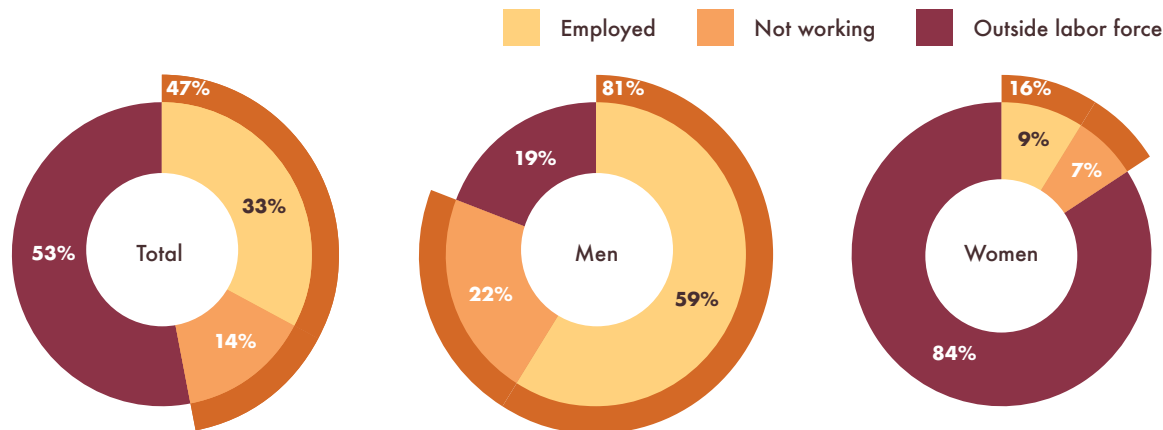
In comparison to 2020, the employment to population ratio and unemployment rates remained the same for women but improved for men, widening the gender gap even more. The labor force participation of men (81%) was 5 times that of women (16%), similar to 2020.

The employment to population ratio of men was 59% (up from 46% in 2020), a significant 7 times higher than that of women (9%, and 8% in 2020).

One in five men were unemployed in 2021 compared to two in five in 2020. Two in five women were unemployed in 2021, similar to 2020 (42% in 2021 vs. 45% in 2020).

At governorate level, Baalbek-El Hermel, Bekaa, and Akkar reported the highest unemployment rates at 49%, 46%, and 35% respectively. The highest employment to population ratios were reported in the South (47%) and El Nabatieh and Beirut (44% each), followed by Mount Lebanon (40%). Baalbek-El Hermel and Akkar reported the lowest levels of labor participation rate at 37% and 39% respectively.

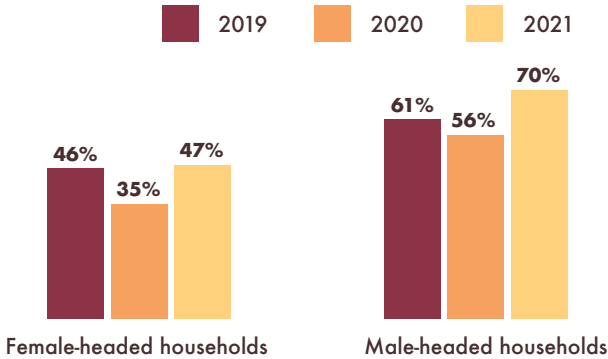
Figure 1: Employed, not working, and outside the labor force population, by population and gender



At household level, the share of households with members working in the past 7 days increased by 14 percentage points, from 52% in 2020 to 66% in 2021. From a gender lens, there was an increase of 12 percentage points in female-headed households reporting a member working in the past

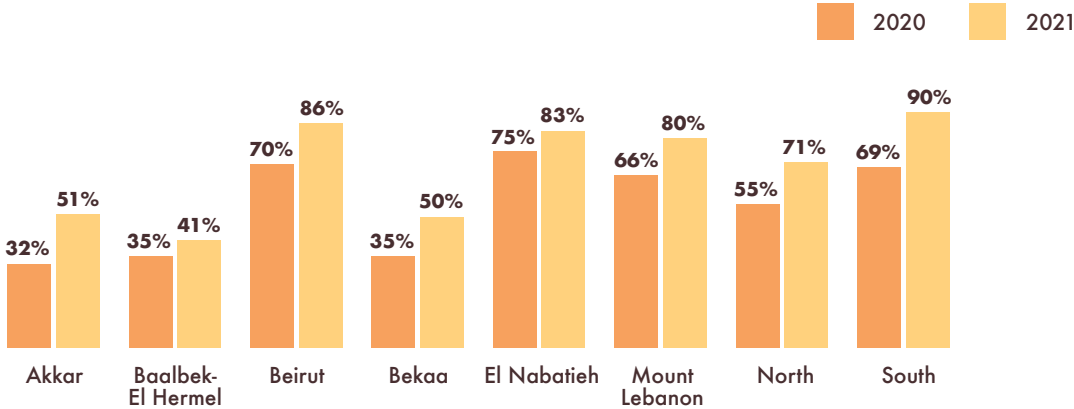
7 days (from 35% in 2020 to 47% in 2021). Significantly more male-headed households reported having a working member in the past 7 days in 2021 (70%), a level that exceeds both 2020 and 2019 (56% and 61% respectively).

Figure 2: Households with a member working in the past 7 days, by gender of the head of household



All governorates witnessed an increase in the share of households with a member working in the last 7 days. The largest increase was witnessed in the South (69% in 2020 vs. 90% in 2021) and Akkar (32% in 2020 vs. 51% in 2021). The governorates with the highest shares of households with a working member in the last 7 days were the South (90%), Beirut (86%), El Nabatieh (83%), and Mount Lebanon (80%).

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

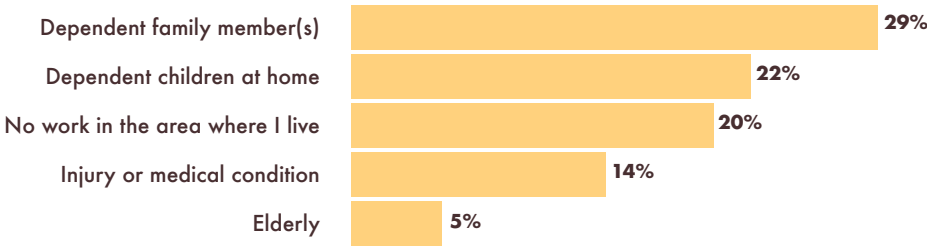


Forty-five percent of households in non-permanent shelters had at least one working member in the last 7 days, much lower than the level reported for non-residential (68%) and residential households (72%). Around two-thirds of households below the SMEB (65%) had at least one working member in the previous 7 days, the lowest level compared to the categories above SMEB (75%). Just over half of severely food insecure households (56%) had at least one working member in the previous 7 days, the lowest level compared to the other food security classifications (moderately: 63%, marginally: 71%, food secure: 79%).

As the expenditures decreased, the share of households with at least one working member decreased. The share of households in the bottom expenditure quintile with at least one working member was almost half (46%) that of households in the top expenditure quintile at 80% (second quintile: 58%, third quintile: 70%, fourth quintile: 74%).

One third of unemployed Syrian refugees (29%) said that the reason for unemployment was dependent family members, up from 22% in 2020. One in five unemployed refugees said that the reason was dependent children at home (22%), similar to 2020. One in five unemployed refugees said that the reason for unemployment was unavailability of jobs in the area they lived in (down by 5 percentage points in 2020). The fourth most reported reason was injury or medical condition at 14%, similar to 2020. Those who said that the reason was dependent family members were mostly women (41% of women vs. 2% of men) and were mostly located in Mount Lebanon (52%). Those who reported dependent children at home were mainly women (31% of women vs. 1% of men). Those who mentioned unavailability of jobs in their area were mainly located in Bekaa (29%, similar to 2020) and Baalbek El-Hermel (25%) and were mostly men (51% of men vs. 7% of women).

Figure 4: Reasons for unemployment



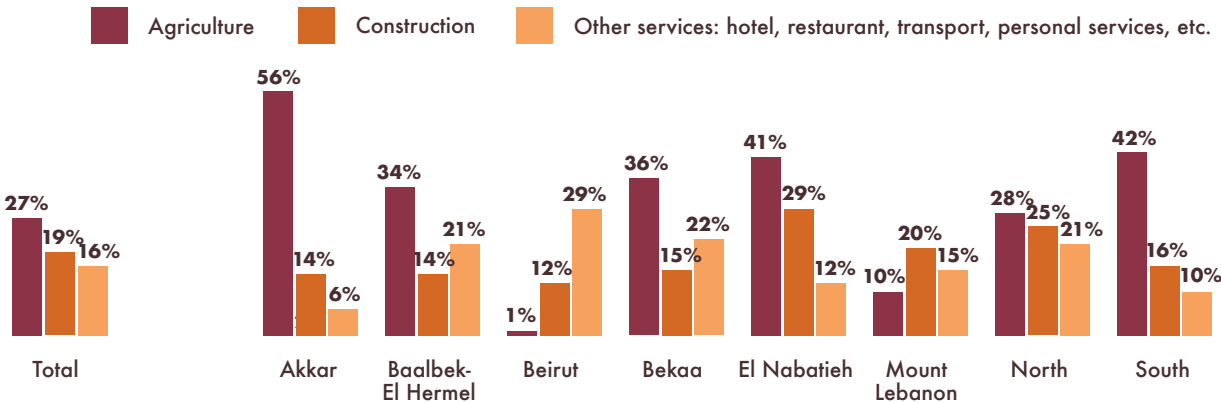
The level of engagement in the agriculture sector declined from 32% in 2020 to 27% in 2021. Construction was the second employment sector that Syrian refugees were engaged in (19%) down from 24% in 2020. The third sector was other services including hotel, restaurant, transport, and personal services such as cleaning, hair care, cooking, and childcare at 16%.

At governorate level, agriculture was the main sector in Akkar (56% in 2021 vs. 48% in 2020) and the South (42% in 2021 vs. 43% in 2020). Construction was the most common sector in El Nabatieh (29% in 2021 vs. 33% in 2020) and in the North (25% in 2021 vs. 24% in 2020). In Beirut,

Baalbek-El Hermel, and Bekaa, other services was the most common sector (29%, 21%, and 22% respectively) followed by construction (12%, 14%, and 15% respectively).

Around one quarter of men were engaged in agriculture (down from 30% in 2020), less than the level of engagement for women at 47% (similar to 2020 at 46%). One in five men (22%) were engaged in construction (down from 28% in 2020) compared to almost no women (similar to 2020). Thirty-four percent of women were engaged in other services (up from 24% in 2020), more than the level of engagement of men at 13% (up from 7% in 2020).

Figure 5: Employment sectors, by governorate³



Income

WFP e-cards and ATM cards from UN or humanitarian organizations were the main household sources of income for Syrian refugees in 2021 at 21% each, followed by informal credit and debts at 13%, down by 4 percentage points from 2020. The reliance on ATM cards increased by 6 percentage points compared to 2020.

Construction remained the fourth main source of income (8% in 2021 vs. 10% in 2020), and agriculture was also at 8% (similar to 2020 at 8%).

At governorate level, WFP e-cards were mostly mentioned in Akkar (52%) and Baalbek-El Hermel (47%). ATM cards from UN or humanitarian organizations were more commonly reported as the main source of income in Bekaa (57%)

and Baalbek-El Hermel (39%). Informal debt was mostly mentioned in Bekaa and Mount Lebanon at 15% each. Construction was more commonly mentioned in El Nabatieh (26%) and Mount Lebanon (17%), while agriculture was mostly reported in El Nabatieh (28%) and the South (26%).

WFP e-cards and ATM cards from UN or humanitarian organizations were more commonly reported as the main source of income among households in non-permanent shelters (33% and 40% respectively), than for non-residential (24% and 20% respectively) and residential shelters (17% and 16% respectively). They were also more commonly reported among female-headed households (30% and 27% respectively) than in male-headed ones (19% and 20% respectively).

³ The sectors listed in the VASyR 2021 report are: Agriculture, construction, concierge, cleaning, retail shop, begging, selling tissues, office work, occasional work, forestry, quarries, waste collection, craft work, and other.

Households below the SMEB relied the most on WFP e-cards and ATM cards from UN or humanitarian organizations (23% each) in comparison to categories above the SMEB (8% and 10% respectively). They relied the least on informal debt at 11%, compared to households above 125% of MEB at 17%.

Severely food insecure households also relied the most on WFP e-cards assistance (35%) followed by informal debt (17%). Moderately food insecure households relied the most

on WFP e-cards and ATM cards from UN or humanitarian organizations (22% and 23% respectively) followed by informal debt (14%).

Finally, when asked about the top three sources of income combined, similar to 2020, informal debt ranked first at 74% in 2021 followed by ATM cards from UN or humanitarian organizations (42%), WFP e-cards (31%), agriculture (18%), and construction and other services (13% each).

Figure 6: Main sources of household income⁴

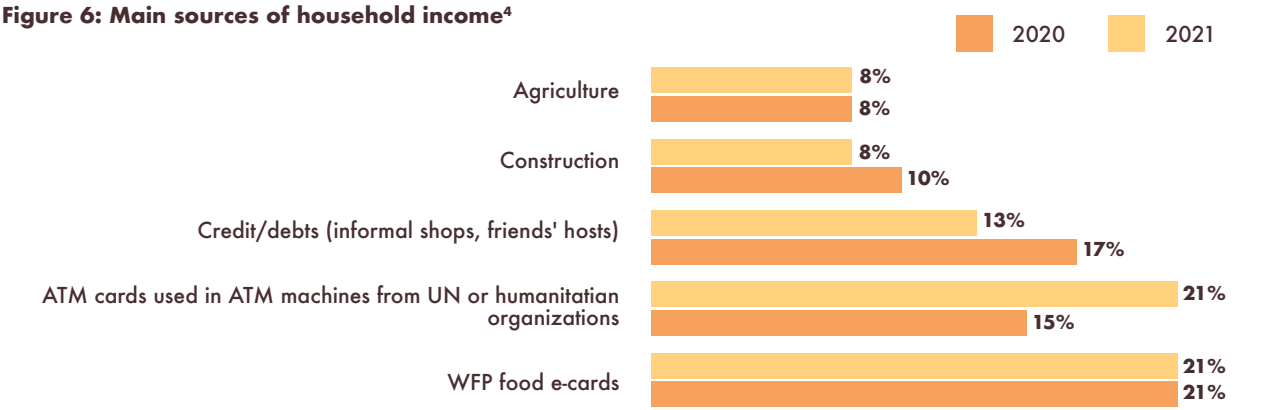


Table 10: Monthly income (from employment) for all households 2019 - 2021

Period	SMEB	Monthly income (from employment) for all households	Ratio of income to SMEB value	Exchange rate (1US\$ to LBP)	Monthly income (from employment) for all households in US\$	Employment ratio ⁵
May 2019	LBP 652,694	LBP 226,392	35%	LBP 1,500	US\$ 151	26%
August 2020	LBP 1,543,613	LBP 262,333	17%	LBP 7,420	US\$ 35	26%
June 2021	LBP 2,450,142	LBP 517,564	21%	LBP 15,158	US\$ 34	33%

Even with more Syrian refugees working (33% in 2021 vs. 26% in 2020), the amount of income that households gained from employment was still one-fifth of the SMEB value, while it was one-third of the SMEB value in 2019,

before the onset of the economic crisis. The 2019 monthly income in US\$ value was four times the one in 2020 and 2021, indicating a much lower purchasing power.

Table 11: Monthly per capita income (from employment) for all households 2019 - 2021

Period	SMEB per capita	Monthly per capita income (from employment) for all households	Ratio of per capita income to SMEB per capita	Exchange rate (1US\$ to LBP)	Monthly per capita income (from employment) for all households in US\$
May 2019	LBP 130,500	LBP 57,298	44%	LBP 1,500	US\$ 38.2
August 2020	LBP 308,722	LBP 62,792	20%	LBP 7,420	US\$ 8.5
June 2021	LBP 490,028	LBP 124,174	25%	LBP 15,158	US\$ 8.2

⁴ This figure includes data on the top 1 source of income. For a breakdown of the top 3 sources of income, refer to the tables on the VASyR website.

⁵ People aged between 15 and 18 years were included in the employed, unemployed and labor force in 2019, while they were excluded in 2020 and 2021.

Looking at the ratio of the monthly per capita income to the SMEB per capita (Table 11) shows a similar trend to the figures in Table 10. The monthly per capita income was two-fifths of the SMEB per capita in 2019, and this ratio dropped to around half in 2020 and 2021 (20% and 25% respectively). In US\$ value, the 2019 per capita monthly income was 4.6 times the value in 2020 and 2021.

At governorate level, the average per capita monthly income was the highest in Beirut (LBP 253,712) and the lowest in Baalbek-El Hermel (LBP 44,694), Bekaa (LBP 62,226), and Akkar (LBP 64,970).

Households below the SMEB had the lowest income per capita in comparison to the categories above the SMEB

(LBP 95,184 vs. average of LBP 315,189). Severely food insecure households had a much lower income per capita in comparison to food secure ones (LBP 90,927 vs. LBP 261,493). Households in non-permanent shelters had the lowest income per capita (LBP 46,456) compared to non-residential (LBP 123,208) and residential shelters (LBP 148,753). Male-headed households had an average per capita monthly income 1.7 times than that of female-headed households (LBP 133,398 vs. LBP 80,782).

The per capita monthly income of households in the top expenditure quintile (LBP 162,671) was around two times that of households in the bottom expenditure quintile (LBP 68,307), indicating that the most economically vulnerable households earn the least amount of income.

Figure 7: Per capita monthly income (from employment) for all households (LBP), by S/MEB category

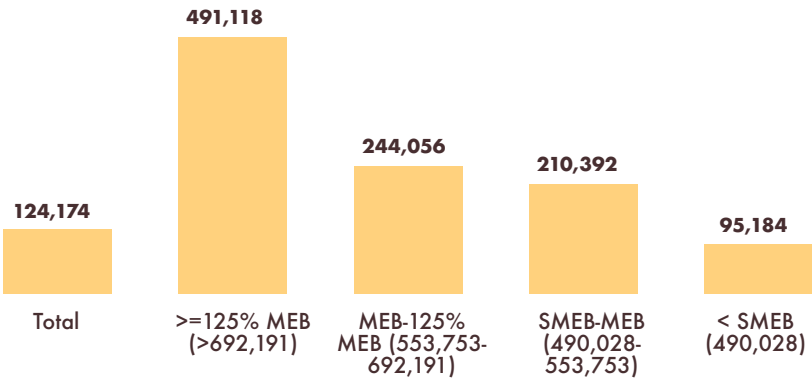
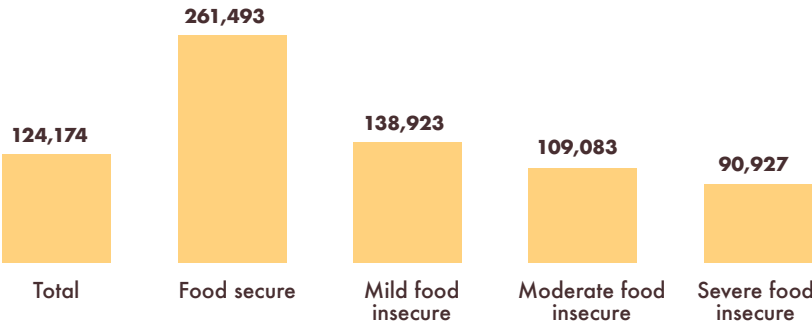


Figure 8: Per capita monthly income (from employment) for all households (LBP), by food security category



Youth employment

The employment ratio among the youth (between 18 and 24 years old) was 30%, slightly lower than the average employment (33%). The unemployment rate among youth was 34%, higher than the average unemployment by 4 percentage points (30%), while the labor force participation rate among youth was 45%, slightly lower than the total average at 47%.

The unemployment rate for young women was 51%, higher than the overall average of women by 9 percentage points (42%). The unemployment rate among young men was 30%, slightly higher than the overall average for men (27%).

The employment rate among young women (8%) and young men (57%) was similar to the overall average of women and men (9% and 59% respectively).

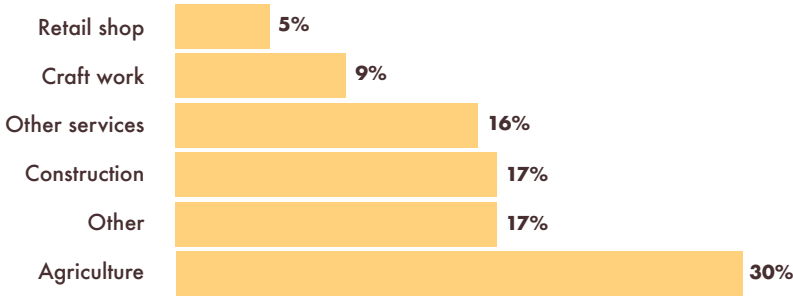
At governorate level, the employment rate among youth was lower than the overall average in Mount Lebanon (33% vs. 40%), while it varied slightly in the other governorates. The unemployment rate among youth was higher than the overall average in Baalbek-El Hermel (55% vs. 49%), Mount Lebanon (29% vs. 22%), and the North (30% vs. 24%), but lower than the overall average in Akkar (30% vs. 35%).

Table 12: Youth employment ratio, unemployment rate, and labour force participation *

		Employment ratio	Labor force participation	Unemployment rate
Total	Total	30%	45%	34%
Gender	Male	57%	81%	30%
	Female	8%	16%	51%
Governorate	Akkar	31%	44%	30%
	Baalbek-El Hermel	17%	38%	55%
	Beirut	30%	50%	40%
	Bekaa	24%	45%	47%
	El Nabatieh	44%	56%	22%
	Mount Lebanon	33%	46%	29%
	North	31%	44%	30%
	South	46%	51%	10%

*Percentages calculated out of the total number of youth between 18 and 24 years old

Figure 6: Employment sectors for youth



Percentages calculated out of the total number of youth between 18 and 24 years old

Annex 16: Working household members, per capita income, and cash and main source of income (1/3)

	Households with at least one working member	Per capita income for households who reported having an income (excluding zeros)	Per capita income for all households	Monthly income (from employment) of all households	Monthly income for households who reported having an income (excluding zeros)	Main source of income			
		Mean (LBP)	Mean (LBP)	Mean (LBP)	Mean (LBP)	E-cards used in WFP food shops	ATM cards from UN or humanitarian organizations	Credit/debts (informal) shops, friends hosts)	Agriculture
Total	66%	167,723	124,174	517,564	699,078	21%	21%	13%	8%
Governorate									
Akkar	51%	99,165	64,970	333,739	509,392	52%	11%	10%	15%
Baalbek-El Hermel	41%	91,793	44,694	172,302	353,875	47%	39%	9%	1%
Beirut	86%	292,414	253,712	892,693	1,028,867	1%	1%	10%	2%
Bekaa	50%	110,120	62,226	271,058	479,684	24%	57%	15%	0%
El Nabatieh	83%	167,561	155,987	792,624	851,434	10%	2%	3%	28%
Mount Lebanon	80%	210,511	181,984	707,544	818,455	3%	3%	15%	7%
North	71%	183,603	156,145	630,356	741,205	23%	15%	13%	13%
South	90%	171,949	159,776	793,414	853,864	11%	4%	10%	26%
MEB/SMEB categories									
>=125% MEB (>= LBP 692,191)	73%	630,613	491,118	785,958	1,009,198	9%	7%	17%	7%
MEB - 125 % MEB (LBP 553,753- 692,191)	74%	306,600	244,056	714,640	897,780	8%	13%	14%	10%
SMEB - MEB (LBP 490,028- 553,753)	77%	243,117	210,392	750,433	867,160	8%	9%	15%	8%
< SMEB (LBP 490,028)	65%	128,861	95,184	487,315	659,730	23%	23%	11%	9%
Food security classification									
Food secure	79%	312,478	261,493	788,361	942,075	18%	16%	6%	6%
Mild food insecurity	71%	176,889	138,923	607,709	773,793	20%	22%	11%	9%
Moderate food insecurity	63%	149,585	109,083	447,068	613,060	22%	23%	14%	8%
Severe food insecurity	56%	138,269	90,927	347,907	529,045	35%	11%	17%	8%
Gender of the head of household									
Women	47%	141,236	80,782	309,362	540,875	30%	27%	12%	6%
Men	70%	171,873	133,398	561,820	723,860	19%	20%	13%	9%
Shelter type									
Residential	72%	185,008	148,753	613,187	762,638	17%	16%	13%	7%
Non-residential	68%	165,297	123,208	474,731	636,902	24%	20%	10%	18%
Non-permanent	45%	86,732	46,456	232,632	434,319	33%	40%	13%	8%

Annex 16: Main source of income (2/3)

	Construction	Other	Craft work (blacksmith, plumber, mechanic, etc.)	Manufacturing	Concierge	Wholesale and retail trade	Gifts from family/ relatives	Home based work/ skill	Office work (finance, admin, secretary)	Adult begging	Child begging/ selling items on the street
Total	8%	8%	4%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	0.3%	0.1%	0.2%
Governorate											
Akkar	2%	2%	1%	1%	0%	0%	2%	0%	0.2%	0%	0.2%
Baalbek-El Hermel	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0.3%	0%	0%
Beirut	9%	22%	6%	0%	17%	3%	2%	0%	1.7%	0.4%	0.4%
Bekaa	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	1%	0%	0.2%	0%
El Nabatieh	26%	10%	8%	2%	2%	1%	1%	0%	0.4%	0%	0.4%
Mount Lebanon	17%	18%	7%	2%	2%	2%	1%	3%	0.5%	0.2%	0.6%
North	7%	5%	3%	2%	1%	2%	2%	1%	0.6%	0%	0.2%
South	14%	10%	6%	5%	2%	2%	1%	1%	0.2%	0%	0%
MEB/SMEB categories											
>=125% MEB (>= LBP 692,191)	9%	12%	7%	1%	2%	2%	2%	1%	1.2%	0%	0%
MEB - 125 % MEB (LBP 553,753- 692,191)	18%	7%	9%	1%	1%	3%	2%	1%	0.9%	0.2%	0%
SMEB - MEB (LBP 490,028- 553,753)	16%	12%	5%	3%	3%	1%	1%	2%	0.6%	0%	0%
< SMEB (LBP 490,028)	8%	8%	3%	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	0.3%	0.1%	0.3%
Food security classification											
Food secure	13%	16%	6%	0%	2%	1%	1%	1%	1.6%	0%	0%
Mild food insecurity	9%	9%	5%	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%	0.4%	0%	0.2%
Moderate food insecurity	7%	6%	3%	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%
Severe food insecurity	9%	4%	0%	0%	1%	0%	1%	4%	0%	0%	%
Gender of the head of household											
Women	2%	4%	1%	1%	0%	2%	3%	1%	0.1%	0.4%	0.1%
Men	10%	9%	4%	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%	0.4%	0.1%	0.3%
Shelter type											
Residential	11%	10%	5%	2%	2%	2%	1%	2%	0.5%	0.2%	0.3%
Non-residential	7%	6%	3%	1%	2%	1%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Non-permanent	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0.1%

Annex 16: Main source of income (3/3)

	Cash from charitable organizations	Remittances	Savings	Credit/debts (formal banks)	Sale of assets (car, bicycle, refrigerator, TV, jewellery)	Sale of food aid (food vouchers or parcels)	Sale of non-food assistance	Sale of crops	Sale of livestock and animal produce	Other types of sales	Not applicable
Total	0.3%	0.4%	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%	0%	0%	0.2%	0.2%	1%
Governorate											
Akkar	0%	0.2%	0%	0.2%	0%	0%	0.2%	0%	0%	0%	3%
Baalbek-El Hermel	0.3%	0%	0%	0.3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Beirut	0%	0.8%	0%	0.2%	0.2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0.6%	1%
Bekaa	0%	0.2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
El Nabatieh	0.4%	0.6%	0.1%	0.3%	0%	0.3%	0%	0%	0.4%	0.4%	0%
Mount Lebanon	0.3%	0.5%	0.1%	0.1%	0.5%	0%	0%	0%	0.7%	0.3%	0%
North	1%	1%	0.1%	0.4%	0%	0.6%	0.1%	0%	0.1%	0.5%	2%
South	0%	0.3%	0.2%	0%	0%	0.2%	0%	0%	0.1%	0.6%	0%
MEB/SMEB categories											
>=125% MEB (>= LBP 692,191)	0.9%	1.6%	0.9%	0%	0.1%	0%	0%	0%	1.3%	0.9%	2%
MEB - 125 % MEB (LBP 553,753- 692,191)	0.6%	1.2%	0%	0%	0%	0.5%	0%	0%	0.1%	0.2%	1%
SMEB - MEB (LBP 490,028- 553,753)	1.5%	1.3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1.1%	1%
< SMEB (LBP 490,028)	0.2%	0.3%	0%	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%	0%	0%	0.2%	0.1%	1%
Food security classification											
Food secure	1.1%	0.5%	1.3%	0%	0%	0%	0.3%	0%	0.3%	0%	0%
Mild food insecurity	0.2%	0.7%	0.1%	0.2%	0.1%	0%	0%	0%	0.2%	0.2%	1%
Moderate food insecurity	0.3%	0.2%	0%	0.1%	0.2%	0.1%	0%	0%	0.2%	0.3%	1%
Severe food insecurity	0%	0%	0%	0%	0.8%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Gender of the head of household											
Women	0.7%	0.9%	0.2%	0.2%	0%	0.2%	0.1%	0%	0.4%	0%	1%
Men	0.2%	0.3%	0%	0.1%	0.2%	0.1%	0%	0%	0.2%	0.3%	1%
Shelter type											
Residential	0.3%	0.6%	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%	0%	0%	0.3%	0.3%	1%
Non-residential	0.2%	0%	0%	0.4%	0%	0.1%	0%	0%	0%	0.3%	1%
Non-permanent	0.2%	0.1%	0%	0.1%	0%	0%	0.1%	0%	0%	0%	1%

Annex 17: Employment, unemployment, and sectors of work

	Employment ratio	Labor force participation	Unemployment Rate
Total	33%	47%	30%
Governorate			
Akkar	26%	39%	35%
Baalbek-El Hermel	19%	37%	49%
Beirut	44%	56%	22%
Bekaa	26%	48%	46%
El Nabatieh	44%	56%	21%
Mount Lebanon	40%	51%	22%
North	35%	46%	24%
South	47%	52%	10%
Gender			
Women	9%	16%	42%
Men	59%	81%	27%

Annex 18: Sectors of employment

	Agriculture	Construction	Other services	Other	Craft work	Retail shop	Concierge	Cleaning	Office work	Selling tissues	Occasional work	Waste collection	Forestry	Quarries	Begging
Total	27%	19%	16%	19%	9%	4%	3%	2%	1%	1%	0.5%	0.5%	0.3%	0.1%	0%
Governorate															
Akkar	56%	14%	6%	11%	3%	2%	2%	2%	1%	1%	1.6%	1.2%	0.9%	0%	0%
Baalbek-El Hermel	34%	14%	21%	12%	7%	3%	5%	3%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Beirut	1%	12%	29%	21%	9%	4%	19%	1%	2%	2%	0.2%	0.7%	0.2%	0%	0%
Bekaa	36%	15%	22%	7%	7%	7%	1%	1%	5%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
El Nabatieh	41%	29%	12%	6%	8%	1%	2%	3%	1%	0.3%	2.1%	0.4%	3.5%	1.3%	0.3%
Mount Lebanon	10%	20%	15%	34%	14%	2%	2%	2%	0.5%	1%	0.2%	0.5%	0%	0.1%	0%
North	28%	25%	21%	12%	4%	6%	1%	3%	0.5%	2%	0.8%	0.4%	0.2%	0%	0%
South	42%	16%	10%	16%	9%	2%	2%	2%	1%	0.2%	0%	1.6%	0%	0%	0%
Gender															
Women	47%	0%	34%	9%	1%	4%	1%	1%	2%	1%	0.1%	0.5%	0.2%	0%	0%
Men	24%	22%	13%	20%	10%	4%	3%	2%	1%	1%	0.5%	0.5%	0.3%	0.1%	0%

COPING STRATEGIES

When households do not have enough food, or lack resources to buy food, they may have to adopt strategies and behaviors to manage food shortages. This chapter discusses food-based and livelihood-based coping strategies. Food-based coping strategies include the immediate change of food consumption patterns, such as relying on less expensive foods or reducing the number of meals or portion sizes at meals. Livelihood-based coping strategies include selling household goods or productive assets, spending savings, and reducing health or education spending, which can affect household productivity and capacity to generate income in the future.

Key findings

- Ninety-three percent of Syrian refugee households relied on less preferred and less expensive food (up from 88% in 2020), 71% had to reduce portion sizes at meals (up from 65% in 2020), and 67% reduced the number of meals per day (up from 65% in 2020).
- Forty-one percent of households had to borrow food or relied on help from family or friends. Households reporting to resort to the most severe mechanisms included: restricting consumption for female household members (9%), sending household members to eat elsewhere (7%), or spending a day without eating (6%).
- Ninety-two percent of households took on debts, while 75% purchased food on credit. Nearly a third (29%) of households reduced spending on education, and more than half (54%) reduced health expenditures. Seven percent of households reported they had to send their children to work, and 7% reported having to withdraw them from school.
- Syrian refugee families who fall below the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) were more likely to employ severe food-based coping mechanisms such as restricting food consumption of female household members (9%), sending household members to eat somewhere else (8%), and restricting consumption of adults to feed children (30%). Households below the SMEB also resorted more to several livelihood-based coping strategies compared to other S/MEB categories, such as reducing education expenditures (30%), buying food on credit (77%), withdrawing children from school (8%), or sending them to work (8%).
- More than half (54%) of female-headed households borrowed food or relied on help from friends or relatives, significantly higher than for male-headed households (38%). Households in non-permanent shelters borrowed food or relied on help from friends or relatives at 53%, compared to those in non-residential (43%) and residential (37%) shelters.

Food-based coping strategies

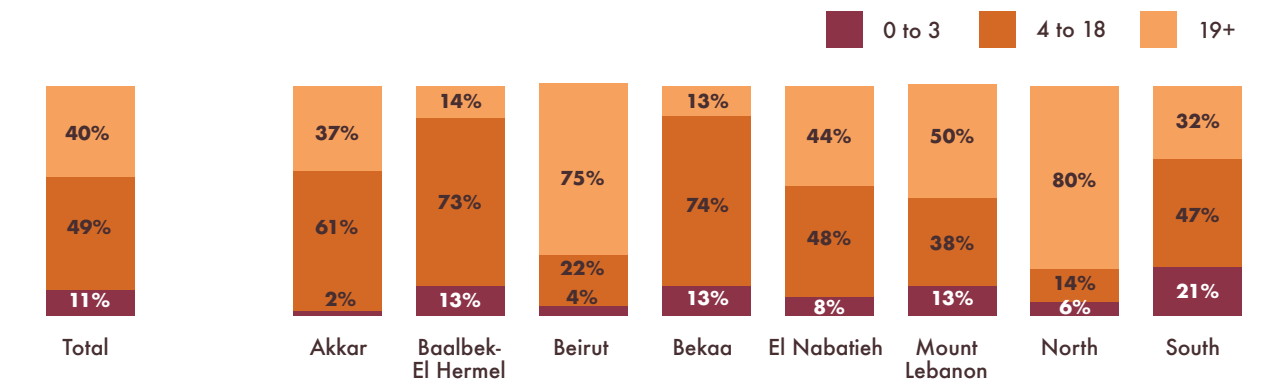
Food-based coping strategies included in the analysis were: i) relying on less preferred or less expensive food; ii) reducing the portion size of meals; iii) reducing the number of meals eaten per day; iv) borrowing food or relying on help from friends or relatives; v) restricting food consumption by adults for children to eat; vi) restricting consumption of female household members; vii) spending an entire day without eating; viii) sending household members to eat elsewhere. The percentage of households reporting on specific food-based coping strategies helps to understand how households manage food shortages.

Coping strategies from i) to v) were used to calculate the reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI). The rCSI helps understanding in a combined score both the frequency and the severity of the coping strategies used by the household. The rCSI uses a standard set of five coping behaviors and allows for comparison across different contexts and can be used in a continuous form (as a scale or index) or as a categorical indicator (for estimating prevalence). A higher rCSI indicates that households adopt more strategies to deal with the lack of access to food in the previous week and also

implies that households have adopted severe strategies more frequently. When used as a categorical indicator, an rCSI value above 19 indicates that households are facing serious challenges to access enough food, while a score between 4 and 18 suggests limited ability to access food. A score below 4 indicates good ability to access food.

In 2021, 94% of the Syrian refugee households faced challenges when accessing food and had to employ coping mechanisms to manage their food shortages. Forty percent of households had an rCSI above the value of 19 denoting significant constraints in accessing food. This was an increase of 3 percentage points from the 37% registered in 2020. Nearly half of households (49%) had an rCSI between 4 and 18, suggesting limited ability to access food, but were employing less severe and/or less frequent coping mechanisms (in line with the 48% registered in 2020). Only 11% of households had an rCSI below the value of 3, down by 4 percentage points from 2020 (15%). This latter group did not or only seldomly resorted to coping mechanisms and denoted an adequate capacity to access food.

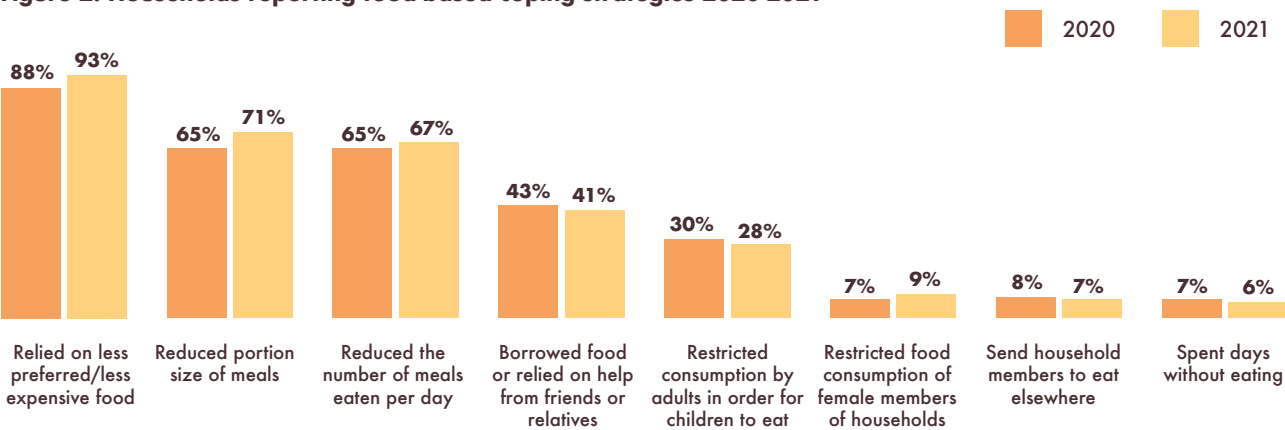
Figure 1: Households by low, medium, and high reduced food-based coping strategy (rCSI) index (2021)



The most commonly used coping strategy was to rely on less preferred or less expensive foods, adopted by 93% of Syrian refugee households. Seventy-one percent of households reduced portion sizes at meals (up from 65% in 2020) and two thirds (67%) reduced the number of meals eaten per day (slightly up from 65% in 2020). Households that had to borrow food or relied on help from family or friends were recorded

at 41% (similar to 2020 at 43%). Those that had to restrict consumption by adults for children to eat were 28% (similar to 2020 at 30%). Households that reported resorting to the most severe mechanisms included: restricting consumption by women (9% in 2021 vs 7% in 2020), sending household members to eat elsewhere (7% in 2021 and 2020), or spend a day without eating (6% in 2021 vs 7% in 2020).

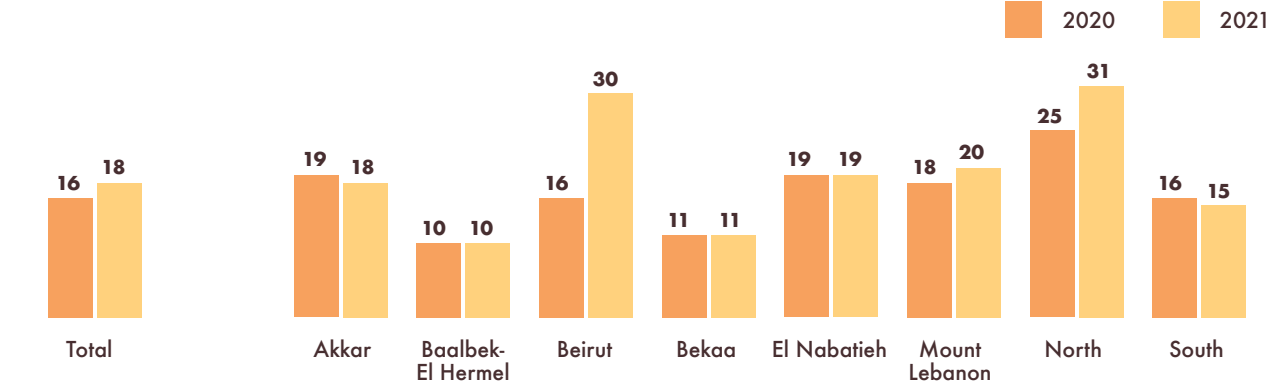
Figure 2: Households reporting food-based coping strategies 2020-2021



Reliance on coping mechanisms increased across the country suggesting further pressure on household food budgets. Overall, the rCSI increased by two points (from 16 in 2020 to 18 in 2021), with the most significant increases registered in Beirut and the North. In Beirut, the rCSI nearly doubled from 16 in 2020 to 30 in 2021, and in the North, it increased from 25 in 2020 to 31 in 2021. Beirut and the North were also the governorates where food access constraints were the

most severe for the Syrian refugee population with nearly 80% of households having an rCSI score above the value of 19. The reliance on food-based coping strategies diverged significantly in each governorate. In Baalbek-El Hermel, Bekaa, and the South, the rCSI scores were below the overall average ranging between 10 and 14, while in Akkar, El Nabatieh, and Mount Lebanon, the rCSI score was in line with the overall average of 18.

Figure 3: Reduced food-based coping strategy index (rCSI), by governorate



Disability

Forty-eight percent of households with at least one member with a disability had an rCSI above the value of 19 compared to 36% of households without, and an rCSI of 20 compared to 17 in those without. The food-based coping strategies used in households with at least one member with a disability compared to those without included: restricting consumption by adults for children to eat (35% vs. 25%), reducing the number of meals eaten per day (70% vs. 65%), spending days without eating (8% vs. 4%), sending household members to eat elsewhere (10% vs. 6%), and restricting consumption of female household members (11% vs. 8%).

Sources of income

In terms of sources of income, households who mostly relied on ATM cards from UN or humanitarian agencies had an rCSI of 13, whereas households whose main source of income was e-cards for WFP food shops had an rCSI of 18. Households who mostly relied on informal debt had an rCSI of 21, and those relying on construction and agriculture jobs had an rCSI of 19 and 20 respectively.

Households whose main source of income was ATM cards from UN or humanitarian agencies relied less on several coping strategies compared to the overall average, such as reducing the number of meals eaten per day (50% vs. 67%), reducing the portion size of meals (62% vs. 71%), and restricting consumption by adults for children to eat (23% vs. 28%).

Compared to the overall average, households whose main source of income was e-cards for WFP food shops relied less on reducing the portion size of meals (71% vs. 64%) and spending days without eating (6% vs. 3%) and relied more on less preferred and less expensive food (93% vs. 99%).

Households whose main source of income was informal debt relied more on reducing the number of meals eaten per day at 76% and reducing the portion size of meals at 80% compared to the overall average at 67% and 71% respectively.

Compared to the overall average, households whose main source of income was agriculture relied more on reducing the portion size of meals (71% vs. 78%), restricting consumption by adults for children to eat (28% vs. 35%), reducing the number of meals eaten per day (67% vs. 72%), and restricting consumption by female household members (9% vs. 13%). Households whose main source of income was construction jobs relied less on borrowing food or on help from friends or relatives (31% vs. overall average 41%), but more on reducing the number of meals eaten per day (77% vs. overall average 67%).

Households below the SMEB

Households falling below the SMEB¹ level were more likely to adopt more severe coping mechanisms, compared to categories above the SMEB, such as restricting food consumption by female household members (9% vs. 4%), sending household members to eat somewhere else (8% vs. 3%), and restricting consumption by adults for children to eat (30% vs 19%). Households below the SMEB were also more likely to have borrowed food or to have relied on help from friends or relatives (42% vs. 34%).

¹ S/MEB categories are the following:
1. >=125% MEB (>=LBP 692,191)
2. MEB - 125% MEB (LBP 553,753 – LBP 692,191)
3. SMEB - MEB (LBP 490,028 – LBP 553,753)
4. < SMEB (LBP 490,028)

Expenditure quintiles

Households in the bottom expenditure quintile (threshold being 33% of the SMEB value) adopted the most severe behaviors to tackle food insecurity, resorting to numerous daily coping mechanisms to handle food shortfalls: They borrowed food and relied on help from friends and relatives 2.4 days/week against 1.2 days/week for the other quintiles, and reduced the number of meals eaten per day at 3.6 days/week against 2.9 days/week for families in the top quintile. Relying on less preferred and less expensive food was employed by households in the bottom quintile 5.4 days/week against 4.9 days/week for families in the top quintile. The most common behaviors among households in the bottom expenditure quintile were borrowing food (61%), reducing the number of daily meals (74%), sending household members to eat somewhere else (14%), and restricting consumption by female household members (11%).

Employment

Households with no working members resorted more to food-based coping strategies compared to those with at least one working member, such as borrowing food or relying on help from friends or relatives (49% vs. 37%), sending household members to eat elsewhere (11% vs. 5%), and restricting consumption by female household members (12% vs. 7%).

Gender

Female-headed households borrowed food or relied on help from friends and relatives significantly more than male-headed ones (54% vs. 38%).

Shelter

Households in non-permanent shelters reported the highest need for borrowing food or relying on help from friends or relatives (53%) compared to those in non-residential (43%) and residential shelters (37%).

Dependency ratio

Households with a high dependency ratio (between 75% and 100%) adopted several food-based coping strategies more than those with low dependency ratio (between 0-24%), such as borrowing food or relying on help from friends or family (53% vs. 44%), reducing the portion size of meals (75% vs. 69%), restricting consumption by adults for children to eat (35% vs. 14%), and restricting consumption by female household members (16% vs. 7%). Households with a high dependency ratio reported an rCSI of 21 compared to 16 in those with low dependency ratio.

Other demographics

An rCSI value above 19 was more common among households with members above 59 years old (44%), and in households headed by people above 60 years old (45%).

Borrowing food or relying on help from friends or family was more common among households headed by people above the age of 60 compared to those who are not (51% vs. 41%).

Households with at least one person above the age of 60 who is unable to care for him/herself had a higher rCSI compared to those without (21 vs. 18), and resorted more commonly to food-based coping strategies compared to those without, such as borrowing food or relying on help from friends or family (48% vs. 41%), reducing the number of meals eaten per day (74% vs. 67%), and reducing the portion size of meals (77% vs. 71%).

Households with at least one member with a chronic illness resorted to several food-based coping strategies more than households without, including borrowing food or relying on help from friends or family (44% vs. 38%), reducing the number of meals eaten per day (70% vs. 64%), reducing the portion sizes of meals (75% vs. 67%), restricting consumption by adults for children to eat (31% vs. 26%), and restricting consumption by female household members (12% vs. 6%).

Reducing the portion size of meals was more common among households with children aged below 15 years compared to those without (72% vs. 66%).

Livelihood-based coping strategies

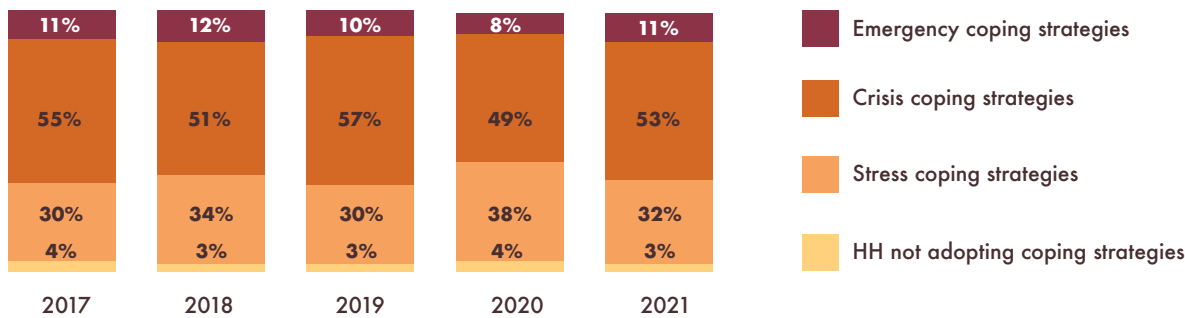
Livelihood-based coping strategies are behaviors that cause changes in income earning activities or involve responses to food insecurity that affect household resilience, including selling productive and non-productive assets or means of transport; reducing health or education expenditures; withdrawing children from school; taking high risks jobs; borrowing money; and spending savings.

Livelihood-based coping strategies are categorized into stress, crisis, or emergency strategies. While stress strategies (such as selling furniture or spending savings) indicate a reduced ability to deal with future shocks, crisis and emergency strategies (such as selling household productive assets or withdrawing children from school) directly reduce future productivity, including development of human capital, thus hindering resilience. Emergency strategies, such as selling land or dwelling or migrating elsewhere, are more difficult to reverse and more extreme in nature. For example, a household whose members are forced to beg or accept high-risk, illegal, and socially degrading jobs will have less resilience to future shocks than a household that applies stress coping strategies, such as buying food on credit.

The use of livelihood-based strategies was widespread among the Syrian refugee population well before the beginning of the economic crisis in October 2019. In 2021, in line with previous years, only 3% of households did not adopt livelihood-based coping strategies the month prior to the survey. However, in 2021, households resorted to more severe coping strategies compared to 2020 (65% in 2021 vs. 58% in 2020). Still, the rate of crisis and emergency strategies was in line with 2017-2019 levels despite a considerably higher number of households receiving assistance in 2021(see Assistance subsection in Economic Vulnerability chapter).

The use of crisis strategies increased from 49% in 2020 to 53% in 2021, while the use of emergency strategies went from 8% in 2020 to 11% in 2021. With respect to last year, the number of households that reduced education expenditures increased from 20% in 2020 to 29% in 2021 and those reducing health expenditures increased from 49% in 2020 to 54% in 2021. Households that reported having to send their children to work increased by 2 percentage points between 2020 and 2021 from 5% to 7%.

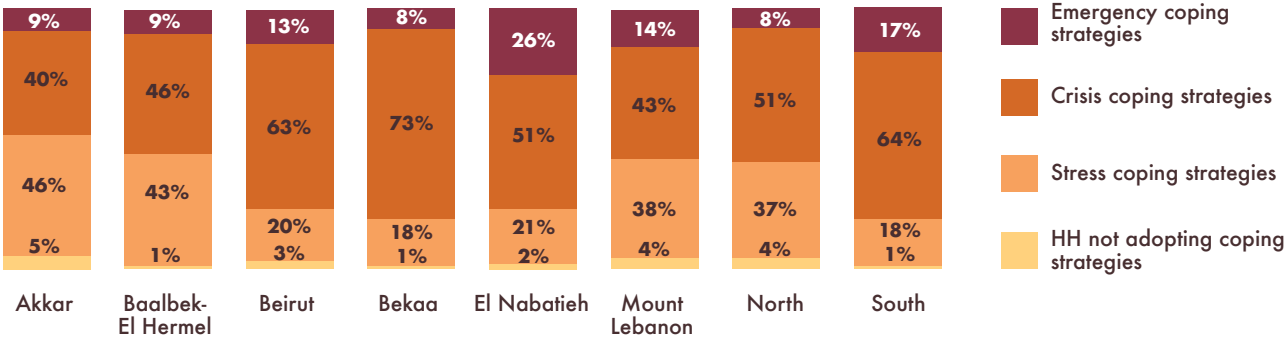
Figure 3: Livelihood-based coping strategies 2017-2021



By governorate, the use of emergency livelihood-based coping strategies ranged from 8% in Bekaa and the North to 17% and 26% in the South and El Nabatieh respectively. The percentage of households adopting crisis coping strategies

exceeded 40% in every governorate and was the highest in Bekaa (73%, up from 71% in 2020) followed by the South (64%, up from 58% in 2020) and Beirut (63%, more than double the level reported in 2020 at 29%).

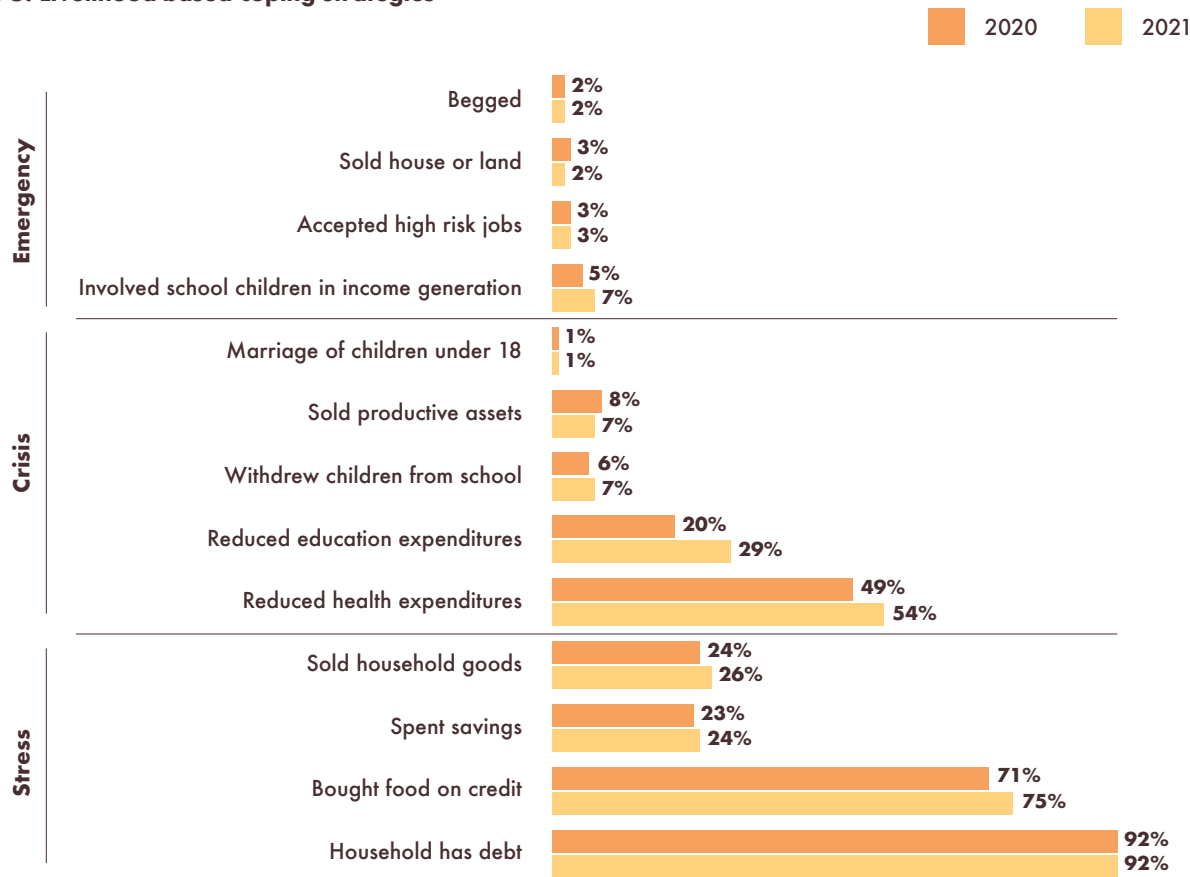
Figure 4: Livelihood-based coping strategies, by governorate



The most commonly applied livelihood-based coping strategies were taking on new debts and purchasing food on credit at 92% (similar to 2020) and 75% (up from 71% in 2020) respectively. These were followed by reducing health and education expenditures at 54% and 29% respectively.

Households that sold off goods and spent savings were at 26% and 24% respectively, and those who reported to withdraw children from school or send children to work were at 7% each. Households who reported having to sell productive assets or taking high-risk jobs were 7% and 5% respectively.

Figure 5: Livelihood-based coping strategies



Livelihood-based coping strategies differed across governorates. The highest share of households withdrawing children from school was in the South (16%) and El Nabatieh (19%). El Nabatieh also had the highest share of households that reported having to send children to work (15%), beg (8%), accept illegal and high-risk jobs (7%), sell dwelling or land (5%), and move to a cheaper rental place or living on the street (34%, almost triple the overall average of 11%). It is worth noting that moving to a cheaper rental place or living on the street was the second highest in the South and Beirut

at 23% and 22% respectively. Bekaa and the South had the highest rates of households reducing health expenditures at 77% and 73% respectively. Ninety-eight percent of households in Bekaa and 97% of households in Baalbek-El Hermel reduced food expenditures. Beirut had the highest share of households reducing education expenditures at 45% and spending savings at 37%. Baalbek-El Hermel had the highest share of families selling productive assets at 14%, followed by El Nabatieh (12%).

Table 13: Livelihood-based coping strategies 2017 – 2021

Coping strategy		2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Stress	Household has debt	92%	92%	93%	88%	87%
	Bought food on credit	75%	71%	76%	79%	77%
	Spent savings	24%	23%	34%	30%	35%
	Sold household goods	26%	24%	28%	22%	25%
Crisis	Reduced health expenditures	54%	49%	54%	51%	53%
	Reduced education expenditures	29%	20%	30%	22%	31%
	Withdrew children from school	7%	6%	12%	13%	11%
	Sold productive assets	7%	8%	10%	5%	8%
	Marriage of children under 18	1%	1%	1%	3%	2%
Emergency	Involved school children in income generation	7%	5%	5%	5%	5%
	Accepted high risk jobs	3%	3%	3%	2%	3%
	Sold house or land	2%	3%	2%	3%	3%
	Begged	2%	2%	2%	3%	2%

Disability

Households with at least one member with a disability adopted crisis and emergency coping strategies slightly more than those with no members with a disability at 56% vs. 52% (crisis) and 13% vs. 11% (emergency). These strategies included reducing health expenditures (59% vs. 52%), reducing education expenditures (33% vs. 28%), and selling productive assets (9% vs. 6%).

Sources of income

Syrian refugee households whose main sources of income are agriculture, construction, e-cards for WFP food shops, ATM cards from UN or humanitarian organizations, or informal debt relied more on severe coping strategies compared to the overall average, as shown in the table below.

Table 14: Households with main sources of income resorting to livelihood-based coping strategies

		Summary of livelihood-based coping strategies				
		HH not adopting coping strategies	Stress coping strategies	Crisis coping strategies	Emergency coping strategies	Crisis and emergency coping strategies
	Total	3%	32%	53%	11%	65%
Main sources of income	ATM cards from UN or humanitarian organizations	2%	29%	59%	9%	69%
	E-cards used in WFP food shops	1%	31%	59%	9%	68%
	Credit/debts (informal shops, friends, hosts)	0%	28%	64%	8%	72%
	Construction	3%	31%	49%	17%	66%
	Agriculture	4%	36%	46%	14%	60%

Households below the SMEB

Households falling below the SMEB (LBP 490,028² per capita) were adopting more crisis and emergency coping strategies than households living above the SMEB: 66% (54% crisis and 12% emergency) compared to 49% of households spending between SMEB and MEB (LBP 490,028-553,753); 60% for those spending between MEB and 125% MEB (LBP 553,753-692,191), and 55% for those spending above 125% MEB (LBP 692,191). Households below the SMEB also resorted to several livelihood-based coping strategies at a higher rate compared to the other categories above the SMEB, such as reducing education expenditures at 30% (compared to 22%), buying food on credit at 77% (compared to 68%), withdrawing children from school at 8% (compared to 3%), involving children in income generation at 8% (compared to 3%), and reducing expenses on food at 85% (compared to 79%). This diminishes the capacity of the most vulnerable households to generate income in the future and puts them at risk when facing future shocks.

Expenditure quintiles

Households in the bottom expenditure quintile had the highest rates of selling productive assets (11%), reducing health expenditures (63%), and moving to a cheaper rental place or living on the street (17%). This indicates that lack of resources forced the most economically vulnerable households to deplete their assets the most in order to cover their basic food needs.

Employment

Households with no working members resorted to more severe coping strategies compared to those with at least one working member at 59% vs. 50% (crisis). Households with no working members reduced health expenditures more than those with at least one working member (58% vs. 52%) and resorted more to buying food on credit or borrowing money to purchase food (80% vs. 73%).

² The average market rate during the time of data collection (June 7 – July 7) registered at LBP 16,060 to the US\$. Source: www.lirarate.org

Shelter

Households in non-permanent shelters adopted more crisis and emergency coping strategies (71%) compared to those in non-residential (64%) and residential shelters (63%). Households in non-permanent shelters resorted to several livelihood-based coping strategies more than those in non-residential and residential shelters, including reducing health expenditures (62% vs. 56% and 51% respectively), buying food on credit (84% vs. 74% and 73%), involving children in income generation (10% vs. 6% and 6%), and reducing expenses on food (91% vs 83% and 82%).

Dependency ratio

Households with a dependency ratio between 50% and 74% bought food on credit or borrowed money to purchase food at 77% compared to households with a dependency ratio between 0 and 24% at 69%.

Only 2% of households with three or more dependents did not resort to any livelihood-based coping strategy compared to 7% of households with no dependents. Similarly, 13% of households with three or more dependents resorted to emergency coping strategies compared to 7% for households with no dependents. Households with three or more dependents resorted to several livelihood-based coping strategies more than households with no dependents, such as reducing expenses on food (86% vs. 80%), reducing education expenditures (34% vs. 20%), and buying food on credit or borrowing money to purchase food (78% vs. 66%).

Households with dependents, regardless the number of dependents, resorted to emergency coping strategies more than those with no dependents (12% vs. 7%), as well as reducing health and education expenditures (60% vs. 52%), buying food on credit or borrowing money to purchase food (77% vs. 66%), selling household goods (27% vs. 20%), and reducing food expenses (85% vs. 80%).

Other demographics

Households with children under 15 years resorted more to selling household goods compared to those without (27% vs. 18%), as well as reducing education expenditures (31% vs. 18%), borrowing food on credit or borrowing money to buy food (77% vs. 68%), reducing essential health and education expenditures (60% vs. 54%), and resorted more to emergency coping strategies (13% vs. 6%).

Households with children under 5 years old resorted more to crisis coping strategies (55%) compared to households without (50%).

Households with at least one member with a chronic illness resorted to severe coping strategies more than those with no members with a chronic illness at 56% vs. 50% (crisis) and 14% vs. 9% (emergency), including reducing education and health expenditures (65% vs. 54%), buying food on credit or borrowing money to buy food (80% vs. 71%), reducing food expenses (88% vs. 81%), and selling household goods (29% vs. 23%).

Annex 19: Food-based coping strategies in the last 7 days

	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 for children to eat	Sent household members to eat elsewhere	Restricted consumption of female household members
Total	93%	41%	67%	71%	6%	28%	7%	9%
Governorate								
Akkar	99%	41%	67%	57%	8%	17%	8%	9%
Baalbek-El Hermel	98%	53%	42%	52%	1%	18%	13%	16%
Beirut	96%	70%	88%	90%	14%	45%	15%	24%
Bekaa	92%	47%	53%	62%	2%	16%	10%	7%
El Nabatieh	96%	35%	66%	67%	9%	34%	5%	5%
Mount Lebanon	89%	36%	76%	81%	8%	28%	5%	4%
North	93%	27%	84%	88%	3%	59%	2%	7%
South	88%	47%	68%	68%	10%	27%	6%	20%
MEB/SMEB categories								
>=125% MEB (>= LBP 692,191)	85%	35%	68%	65%	3%	10%	4%	4%
MEB - 125 % MEB (LBP 553,753- 692,191)	94%	39%	65%	70%	5%	21%	3%	4%
SMEB - MEB (LBP 490,028- 553,753)	84%	27%	62%	65%	4%	24%	3%	4%
< SMEB (LBP 490,028)	94%	42%	66%	71%	5%	30%	8%	9%
Expenditure quintiles								
First quintile - Lowest expenditure (< LBP 800,000)	96%	61%	74%	72%	9%	32%	14%	11%
Second quintile (LBP 800,000 - LBP 1,174,137)	94%	42%	66%	71%	6%	28%	8%	8%
Third quintile (LBP 1,174,137 - LBP 1,500,000)	93%	37%	66%	72%	4%	31%	6%	9%
Fourth quintile (LBP 1,500,000 - LBP 1,900,000)	91%	36%	63%	67%	3%	25%	5%	8%
Fifth quintile - Highest expenditure (LBP 1,900,000 - LBP 4,425,000)	90%	32%	65%	70%	5%	25%	3%	7%
Gender of the head of household								
Women	93%	54%	64%	67%	5%	26%	9%	10%
Men	92%	38%	67%	72%	6%	29%	7%	8%
Shelter type								
Residential	92%	37%	70%	72%	6%	30%	6%	8%
Non-residential	95%	43%	66%	72%	6%	31%	9%	10%
Non-permanent	95%	53%	57%	65%	4%	22%	10%	11%

Annex 20: Average number of days food-based coping strategies were applied

	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 for children to eat	Sent household members to eat elsewhere	Restricted consumption of female household members
Total	5.1	1.4	3.2	3.3	.2	1.2	.2	.3
Governorate								
Akkar	6.4	1.6	3.4	2.8	.4	.8	.4	.4
Baalbek-El Hermel	4.5	1.2	1.1	1.3	.0	.4	.2	.3
Beirut	5.7	3.5	5.0	5.2	.3	2.3	.5	1.1
Bekaa	4.3	1.2	1.7	1.8	.0	.4	.2	.1
El Nabatieh	5.7	1.2	3.0	3.1	.2	1.5	.1	.2
Mount Lebanon	5.2	1.5	4.0	4.2	.2	1.1	.1	.2
North	6.1	1.0	5.4	5.7	.1	3.9	.1	.4
South	3.9	1.8	2.6	2.6	.1	.6	.1	.4
MEB/SMEB categories								
>=125% MEB (>= LBP 692,191)	4.9	1.5	3.4	3.5	.1	.6	.1	.1
MEB - 125 % MEB (LBP 553,753- 692,191)	5.3	1.6	3.3	3.6	.1	1.2	.1	.2
SMEB - MEB (LBP 490,028- 553,753)	4.7	1.0	3.1	3.3	.1	1.0	.1	.2
< SMEB (LBP 490,028)	5.1	1.4	3.1	3.2	.1	1.3	.2	.3
Expenditure quintiles								
First quintile - Lowest expenditure (< LBP 800,000)	5.4	2.4	3.6	3.4	.3	1.5	.4	.4
Second quintile (LBP 800,000 - LBP 1,174,137)	5.2	1.3	3.1	3.2	.2	1.2	.2	.3
Third quintile (LBP 1,174,137 - LBP 1,500,000)	5.1	1.1	3.2	3.3	.1	1.3	.1	.3
Fourth quintile (LBP 1,500,000 - LBP 1,900,000)	5.0	1.1	3.0	3.1	.1	1.1	.1	.2
Fifth quintile - Highest expenditure (LBP 1,900,000 - LBP 4,425,000)	4.9	1.2	2.9	3.2	.1	1.1	.1	.2
Gender of the head of household								
Women	5.1	1.8	2.8	2.9	.2	1.1	.2	.3
Men	5.1	1.3	3.2	3.4	.1	1.3	.2	.3
Shelter type								
Residential	5.2	1.4	3.5	3.6	.2	1.4	.2	.3
Non-residential	5.4	1.4	3.2	3.3	.2	1.4	.3	.3
Non-permanent	4.8	1.5	2.1	2.2	.1	.7	.2	.3

Annex 21: Livelihood-based coping strategies in the last 30 days (1/3)

	Sold household goods (radio, furniture, television, jewelry etc)	Sold productive assets or means of transport (sewing machine, wheelbarrow, bicycle, car, livestock)	Reduced essential non-food expenditures on education	Reduced essential non-food expenditures on health	Spent savings	Bought food on credit or borrowed money to purchase food	Sold house or land	Withdrawn children from school
Total	26%	7%	29%	54%	24%	75%	2%	7%
Governorate								
Akkar	22%	7%	21%	40%	17%	56%	3%	5%
Baalbek-El Hermel	39%	14%	15%	39%	26%	89%	2%	5%
Beirut	18%	5%	45%	67%	37%	78%	3%	9%
Bekaa	25%	3%	22%	77%	33%	91%	1%	6%
El Nabatieh	39%	12%	32%	68%	32%	80%	5%	19%
Mount Lebanon	21%	6%	37%	42%	16%	70%	3%	8%
North	27%	8%	35%	49%	25%	59%	2%	4%
South	23%	7%	38%	73%	26%	82%	1%	16%
MEB/SMEB categories								
>=125% MEB (>= LBP 692,191)	22%	5%	22%	48%	26%	61%	2%	1%
MEB - 125 % MEB (LBP 553,753- 692,191)	29%	9%	23%	53%	32%	72%	1%	4%
SMEB - MEB (LBP 490,028- 553,753)	27%	5%	21%	42%	18%	69%	3%	5%
< SMEB (LBP 490,028)	26%	7%	30%	55%	24%	77%	2%	8%
Expenditure quintiles								
First quintile - Lowest expenditure (< LBP 800,000)	29%	11%	31%	63%	24%	74%	3%	7%
Second quintile (LBP 800,000 - LBP 1,174,137)	25%	4%	27%	51%	25%	77%	2%	6%
Third quintile (LBP 1,174,137 - LBP 1,500,000)	26%	5%	26%	54%	22%	76%	1%	6%
Fourth quintile (LBP 1,500,000 - LBP 1,900,000)	25%	7%	31%	52%	25%	74%	2%	9%
Fifth quintile - Highest expenditure (LBP 1,900,000 - LBP 4,425,000)	25%	8%	30%	50%	26%	75%	2%	9%
Gender of the head of household								
Women	23%	6%	24%	53%	24%	74%	2%	7%
Men	26%	7%	30%	54%	24%	76%	2%	7%
Shelter type								
Residential	25%	7%	31%	51%	24%	73%	2%	8%
Non-residential	22%	6%	33%	56%	21%	74%	1%	8%
Non-permanent	28%	7%	24%	62%	25%	84%	2%	6%

Annex 21: Livelihood-based coping strategies in the last 30 days (2/3)

	Begged	Marriage of children under 18	Accepted high risk, illegal, socially degrading or exploitative activities	Had school children (6 -15 years old) involved in income generation	Reduced expenses on food	Moved to a cheaper rental place/ live on the street	HH member 18 years and above accepted high risk, dangerous, or exploitive work
Total	2%	1%	3%	7%	84%	11%	2%
Governorate							
Akkar	2%	2%	4%	6%	60%	7%	2%
Baalbek-El Hermel	0%	0%	0%	7%	97%	3%	0%
Beirut	5%	3%	4%	5%	90%	22%	3%
Bekaa	0%	0%	0%	7%	98%	12%	0%
El Nabatieh	8%	2%	7%	15%	81%	34%	5%
Mount Lebanon	2%	2%	6%	7%	81%	12%	4%
North	3%	0%	2%	4%	75%	5%	1%
South	2%	3%	4%	13%	85%	23%	2%
MEB/SMEB categories							
>=125% MEB (>= LBP 692,191)	1%	1%	3%	2%	79%	8%	3%
MEB - 125 % MEB (LBP 553,753- 692,191)	2%	1%	3%	3%	82%	11%	2%
SMEB - MEB (LBP 490,028- 553,753)	3%	1%	3%	4%	74%	11%	3%
< SMEB (LBP 490,028)	2%	1%		8%	85%	11%	2%
Expenditure quintiles							
First quintile - Lowest expenditure (< LBP 800,000)	2%	1%	2%		85%	17%	1%
Second quintile (LBP 800,000 - LBP 1,174,137)	2%	1%	4%	5%	84%	9%	3%
Third quintile (LBP 1,174,137 - LBP 1,500,000)	1%	1%	3%	7%	85%	11%	2%
Fourth quintile (LBP 1,500,000 - LBP 1,900,000)	2%	2%	4%	7%	84%	11%	2%
Fifth quintile - Highest expenditure (LBP 1,900,000 - LBP 4,425,000)	2%	2%	2%	11%	82%	9%	2%
Gender of the head of household							
Women	1%	1%	4%	11%	84%	9%	2%
Men	2%	1%		6%	84%	12%	2%
Shelter type							
Residential	2%	1%	4%	6%	82%	12%	3%
Non-residential	1%	1%	2%	6%	83%	14%	1%
Non-permanent	1%	1%	1%	10%	91%	8%	1%

Annex 21: Livelihood-related coping strategies in the last 30 days (3/3)

	HH member under the age of 18 accepted high risk, dangerous, or exploitive work	Adult work elsewhere	Child work elsewhere	Other forms of exploitation	Sent household members to seek work elsewhere (not including usual seasonal migration)
Total	2%	1%	1%	1%	2%
Governorate					
Akkar	3%	4%	2%	2%	4%
Baalbek-El Hermel	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Beirut	2%	3%	3%	1%	5%
Bekaa	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
El Nabatieh	3%	4%	3%	10%	5%
Mount Lebanon	3%	1%	1%	1%	1%
North	1%	1%	1%	0%	2%
South	3%	3%	3%	3%	5%
MEB/SMEB categories					
>=125% MEB (>= LBP 692,191)	1%	1%	0%	0%	1%
MEB - 125 % MEB (LBP 553,753- 692,191)	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%
SMEB - MEB (LBP 490,028- 553,753)	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%
< SMEB (LBP 490,028)	2%	1%	1%	1%	2%
Expenditure quintiles					
First quintile - Lowest expenditure (< LBP 800,000)	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%
Second quintile (LBP 800,000 - LBP 1,174,137)	2%	1%	1%	2%	2%
Third quintile (LBP 1,174,137 - LBP 1,500,000)	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%
Fourth quintile (LBP 1,500,000 - LBP 1,900,000)	2%	2%	1%	1%	2%
Fifth quintile - Highest expenditure (LBP 1,900,000 - LBP 4,425,000)	3%	2%	2%	1%	2%
Gender of the head of household					
Women	1%	2%	1%	1%	2%
Men	2%	1%	1%	1%	2%
Shelter type					
Residential	2%	1%	1%	1%	2%
Non-residential	2%	2%	1%	2%	2%
Non-permanent	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%

Annex 22: Summary of asset depletion coping strategies

	Households not adopting coping strategies	Stress coping strategies	Crisis coping strategies	Emergencies coping strategies
Total	3%	32%	53%	11%
Governorate				
Akkar	5%	46%	40%	9%
Baalbek-El Hermel	1%	43%	46%	9%
Beirut	3%	20%	63%	13%
Bekaa	1%	18%	73%	8%
El Nabatieh	2%	21%	51%	26%
Mount Lebanon	4%	38%	43%	14%
North	4%	37%	51%	8%
South	1%	18%	64%	17%
MEB/SMEB categories				
>=125% MEB (>= LBP 692,191)	8%	37%	48%	7%
MEB - 125 % MEB (LBP 553,753- 692,191)	5%	35%	54%	6%
SMEB - MEB (LBP 490,028- 553,753)	4%	47%	39%	10%
< SMEB (LBP 490,028)	2%	32%	54%	12%
Expenditure quintiles				
First quintile - Lowest expenditure (< LBP 800,000)	4%	26%	60%	10%
Second quintile (LBP 800,000 - LBP 1,174,137)	3%	37%	52%	9%
Third quintile (LBP 1,174,137 - LBP 1,500,000)	3%	32%	54%	10%
Fourth quintile (LBP 1,500,000 - LBP 1,900,000)	2%	32%	54%	12%
Fifth quintile - Highest expenditure (LBP 1,900,000 - LBP 4,425,000)	2%	36%	46%	16%
Gender of the head of household				
Women	4%	33%	48%	14%
Men	3%	32%	54%	11%
Shelter type				
Residential	4%	34%	51%	12%
Non-residential	3%	33%	55%	9%
Non-permanent	1%	28%	59%	12%

FOOD SECURITY

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By June 2021, the Lebanese pound had lost 90% of its value since the onset of the economic crisis.¹ Inflation impacted food prices significantly. Between October 2019 and June 2021, the cost of food increased by 404%, resulting in worrisome food insecurity levels among Syrian refugee families.

Food security implies that individuals have physical and economic access to enough quantities of safe and nutritious food at all times.² This chapter assesses the food security and the extent of food insecurity of Syrian refugee households, disaggregating the results by governorate and district.

Key findings

- Food insecurity for Syrian refugees was still at worrisome levels (49%) in 2021, similar to 2020. The share of households who were moderately food insecure was 46% and those who were severely food insecure was 3%. The highest level of food insecurity was reported in the North at 56%.
- Food insecurity increased by 16 percentage points in Akkar, by 10 percentage points in both El Nabatieh and Mount Lebanon, and by 8 percentage points in Baalbek-El Hermel.
- More than 90% of the food insecure (moderate and severe) households were living below the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB).
- Fifty-one percent of households had medium to very high food expenditure share (more than 50% of their expenditures were on food), up from 45% in 2020.
- Female-headed households were slightly more food insecure (53%) than male-headed ones (49%), similar to 2020. Households in non-permanent shelters were more food insecure (53%) than those in non-residential (51%) and residential (48%) shelters.

¹ <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/lebanon-currency-drops-new-low-financial-meltdown-deepens-2021-06-13/>

² World Food Summit 1996

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:

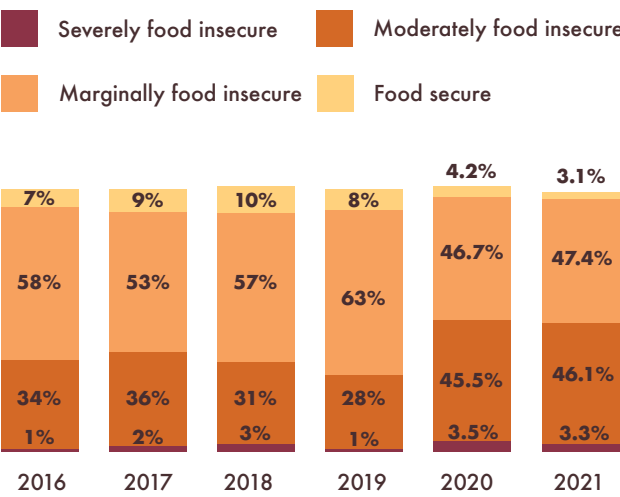
- current consumption as determined by the food consumption score
- food as a share of total expenditure reflecting economic vulnerability
- asset depletion strategies (livelihood-based coping strategies) which indicate the long-term coping capacity of households to shocks

In order to compare the 2021 data with trends of previous years, the methodology used to classify households was replicated as in previous VASyR assessments and detailed in Annex 23. Based on this methodology, households were classified into four categories: food secure, marginally food insecure, moderately food insecure, and severely food insecure. Second table in Annex 23 describes the characteristics of the four categories.

Overall, food insecurity among Syrian refugee households remained at the level of 2020, which was a significant increase by 1.7 times compared to 2019. An increase of 18 percentage points in moderately food insecure households was recorded and a 2 percentage points increase in severely food insecure ones when compared to 2019. These reported levels were the highest in comparison to previous years. Only 3% of households were food secure, the lowest level of food security reported over the past six years. The share of marginally food insecure households remained similar to 2020 levels (47%).

Food insecurity increased in all governorates except for the South, the North, and Bekaa. The highest increases in food insecurity (16 percentage points) were witnessed in Akkar from 33% in 2020 to 49% in 2021, El Nabatieh from 40% in 2020 to 50% in 2021, and Mount Lebanon from 40% in 2020 to 49% in 2021. On the other hand, food insecurity levels declined in the South by 26 percentage points (from 67% in 2020 to 41% in 2021), the North from 70% in 2020 to 56% in 2021, and Bekaa from 62% in 2020 to 53% in 2021. Similar to 2018, 2019, and 2020, female-headed households were more food insecure than male-

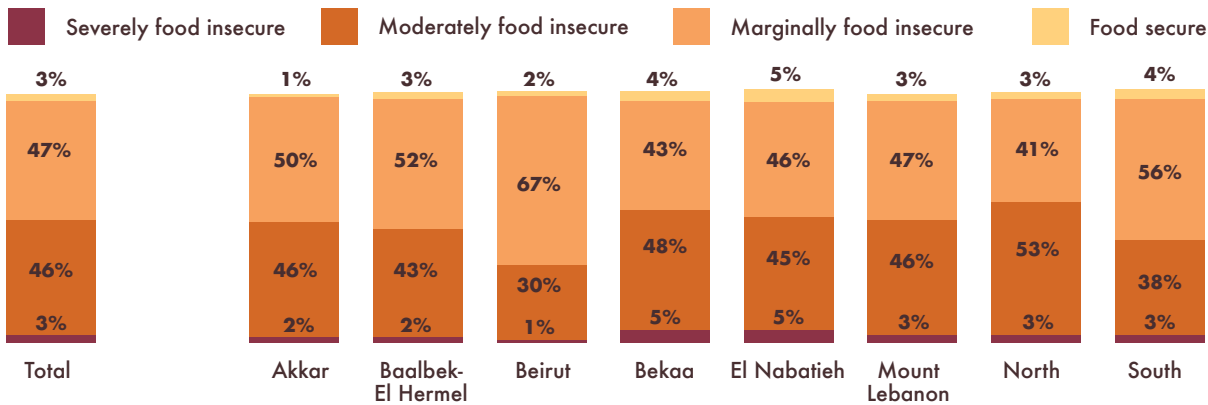
Figure 1: Food insecurity trends 2016-2021



headed ones (53% vs. 49%). Households in non-permanent shelters were more food insecure (54%) than those in non-residential (51%) and residential (48%) shelters. Households living below the SMEB were the most food insecure (52%) compared to other S/MEB categories.³ Households in the bottom expenditure quintile were twice as food insecure as those in the top expenditure quintile (69% vs. 33%).

Forty-nine percent of households with at least one member with a disability were moderately food insecure, compared to 45% for households with no members with a disability.

Figure 2: Food insecurity, by governorate



³ S/MEB categories are the following:
1. >=125% MEB (>=LBP 692,191)
2. MEB -125% MEB (LBP 553,753 – LBP 692,191)
3. SMEB - MEB (LBP 490,028 – LBP 553,753)
4. < SMEB (LBP 490,028)

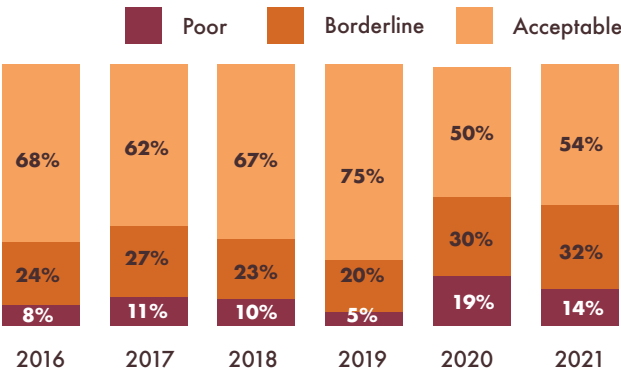
Components of food security

The three determinants of food security include: food consumption score, livelihood coping strategies, and food expenditure share.

Food consumption

As shown in the below figure, the level of poor and borderline food consumption declined slightly from 49% in 2020 to 46% in 2021, a level that is still considerably higher than before 2020. This implies that the multi-pronged crisis that Lebanon has witnessed in the last couple of years has continued to impact the food consumption levels of Syrian refugees.

Figure 3: Food consumption trends 2016-2021



Livelihood-based coping strategies trends

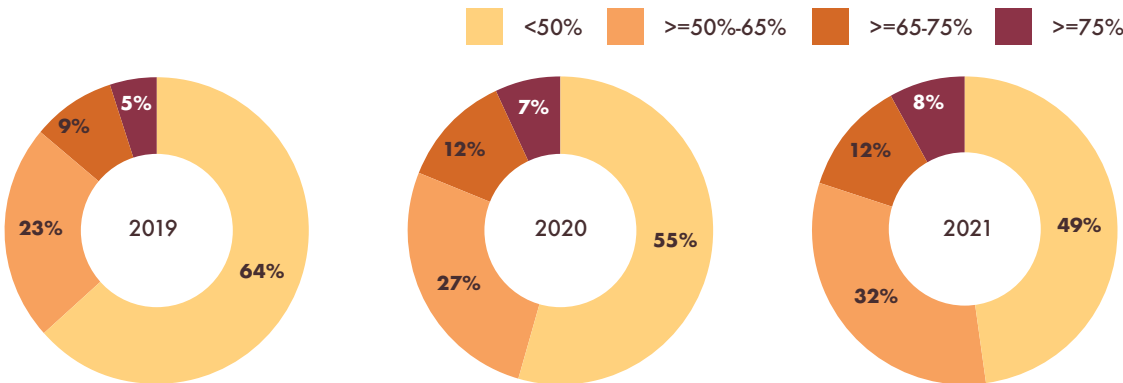
The share of households applying emergency and crisis coping strategies increased by seven percentage points between 2020 and 2021. Emergency coping strategies include begging, selling of house or land in Syria, accepting high-risk, illegal, or socially degrading jobs, as well as involving school children in income generation. Crisis coping strategies include withdrawing children from school, selling productive assets, marriage of children under 18, and reducing non-food (education and health) essential expenses.

The share of households only applying stress coping strategies slightly declined from 38% in 2020 to 32% in 2021. This implies that Syrian refugee households are shifting from stress coping strategies to crisis and emergency coping strategies, indicating an increase in vulnerability. Syrian refugee households might exhaust all coping strategies in the near future leaving them with no options or capacities left when faced with any upcoming crisis, suggesting a possible increase in food insecurity in the future. Stress coping strategies include selling household goods, spending savings, buying food on credit, and borrowing money.

Food as a share of household expenditures

Fifty-one percent of Syrian refugee households were allocating more than half of their expenditure to food, up by 6 percentage points compared to 2020, and by 15 percentage points compared to 2019, indicating that households' food security levels are deteriorating over time, leaving them increasingly vulnerable.

Figure 4: Percentage of household expenditure on food



Characteristics of food insecurity

The following section presents the characteristics of the food insecure households, especially in terms of sector indicators.

S/MEB: Ninety-three percent of severely food insecure households were below the SMEB level, down by 6 percentage points compared to 2020. Moreover, 91% of moderately food insecure households were below the SMEB level, similar to 2020.

Debt: Seventy percent of severely food insecure households had debt greater than LBP 900,000,⁴ while 76% of moderately food insecure households were borrowing more than LBP 900,000. The majority of severely and moderately food insecure households were borrowing money to buy food, at 89% and 92% respectively. The second most reported reason for borrowing money was to pay rent.

Expenditure level: The level of expenditure per capita among severely food insecure households was one of the lowest in comparison to the other groups, at LBP 229,742. The expenditure levels for all food security groups were overall higher than in 2020, reflecting the high inflation in

2021. Moreover, severely food insecure households were the most economically vulnerable households among all groups.

Income sources: Severely food insecure households were relying the most on informal credit/debt (17%) in comparison to other food security groups and was also the group to rely the most on WFP food e-cards (35%).

Working members: Food secure households had the highest level of working members at 79%, while severely and moderately food insecure households had the lowest levels of working members (56% and 63% respectively).

Demographics: Twenty-two percent of severely food insecure households were female-headed, up by 7 percentage points compared to 2020 (15%). Eighteen percent of moderately food insecure households were female-headed, down by 4 percentage points from 2020. Twenty-five percent and 31% of severely and moderately food insecure households respectively had at least one member with a disability, higher than those who were food secure (17%).

Table 15: Food security by sectors indicators

	Food secure	Marginally food insecure	Moderately food insecure	Severely food insecure
(S)MEB categories				
>=125% MEB (>= LBP 692,191)	12%	6%	4%	2%
MEB - 125 % MEB (LBP 553,753- 692,191)	4%	4%	3%	0.3%
SMEB - MEB (LBP 490,028- 553,753)	9%	5 %	2%	5%
< SMEB (LBP 490,028)	75%	84%	91%	93%
Debt and borrowing				
Debt group: > LBP 900,000	56%	76%	76%	70%
Reason for borrowing:				
Buy food	92%	95%	92%	89%
Pay rent	56%	49%	49%	55%
Buy medicine	34%	33%	31%	22%
Cover health expenses	16%	19%	24%	21%
Repay debt	9%	4%	8%	8%
Total expenditure per capita (LBP)	482,862	349,779	292,631	229,742
Main income source				
Credit/debt	6%	11%	14%	17%
WFP food e-cards	18%	20%	22%	35%
Construction work	13%	9%	7%	9%
ATM cards from UN or humanitarian organizations	16%	22%	23%	11%
Other service work: hotel, restaurant, transport, personal services	7%	6%	8%	9%
Agriculture work	6%	9%	8%	8%
Working members				
Households with working members	79%	71%	63%	56%
Demographics				
Gender of the head of household				
Women	21%	16%	18%	22%
Men	79%	84%	82%	78%
Households with members with a disability				
Households with at least one member with a disability	17%	30%	31%	25%

⁴ The average market rate during the time of data collection (June 7 – July 7) registered at LBP LBP 16,060 to the US\$. source: www.lirarate.org

Annex 23: 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 Food Consumption Score (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 apply any food-based coping strategies.

- The livelihood-based coping strategies measure the sustainability of livelihoods. Households are categorized based on severity of livelihood-based coping strategies. Households that do not 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-based coping strategies	Borderline	Poor
Food expenditure share	<50%	50-65%	65-75%	>=75%
Livelihood-based coping strategies	Household not adopting livelihood-based coping strategies	Stress coping strategies	Crisis coping strategies	Emergency coping strategies

- Share of food expenditures measures the economic vulnerability. Households are categorized based on the share of total expenditures directed to food. Households that allocate more of their expenditures on food are more likely to be food insecure.

The table below describes the combination of components for the food security 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 marginally able to meet minimum food needs only with irreversible coping strategies.
Severely food insecure	Has extreme food consumption gaps OR has extreme loss of livelihood 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-based 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 food security methodology used in the VASyR slightly differs from the WFP CARI⁵ methodology. This choice was necessary in order to maintain consistency and comparativeness across the VASyRs over the past 6 years while the CARI was developed and finalized only in 2015. The main difference in the two methods in 2021 consists in:

- The aggregation of food consumption and food-based 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 previous VASyR reports, the VASyR 2021 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-approachreporting-indicators-food-security-cari-guidelines>

⁵ Consolidated Approach to Reporting Indicators of Food Security

		Food secure	Marginally food insecure	Moderately food insecure	Severely food insecure
CARI	Food consumption	Acceptable		Borderline	Poor
VASyR		Acceptable	Acceptable with food-related coping strategies	Borderline	Poor

Annex 24: Food security classification table

	Food secure	Marginally food insecure	Moderately food insecure	Severely food insecure
Total	3%	47%	46%	3%
Governorate				
Akkar	1%	50%	46%	2%
Baalbek-El Hermel	3%	52%	43%	2%
Beirut	2%	67%	30%	1%
Bekaa	4%	43%	48%	5%
El Nabatieh	5%	46%	45%	5%
Mount Lebanon	3%	47%	46%	3%
North	3%	41%	53%	3%
South	4%	56%	38%	3%
MEB/SMEB categories				
>=125% MEB (>= LBP 692,191)	7%	57%	35%	1%
MEB - 125 % MEB (LBP 553,753- 692,191)	3%	61%	35%	0%
SMEB - MEB (LBP 490,028- 553,753)	8%	61%	26%	5%
< SMEB (LBP 490,028)	3%	46%	48%	4%
Expenditure quintiles				
First quintile - Lowest expenditure (< LBP 800,000)	2%	29%	60%	9%
Second quintile (LBP 800,000 - LBP 1,174,137)	2%	41%	53%	3%
Third quintile (LBP 1,174,137 - LBP 1,500,000)	4%	47%	47%	3%
Fourth quintile (LBP 1,500,000 - LBP 1,900,000)	3%	55%	40%	2%
Fifth quintile - Highest expenditure (LBP 1,900,000 - LBP 4,425,000)	4%	62%	32%	1%
Gender of the head of household				
Women	4%	43%	49%	4%
Men	3%	48%	45%	3%
Shelter type				
Residential	4%	48%	46%	2%
Non-residential	4%	46%	44%	6%
Non-permanent	2%	45%	48%	5%

ENERGY

Lebanon's electricity sector has suffered chronic power supply shortage for decades, which has been partially met by private diesel generators. In addition to their negative impact on the environment and health, diesel generators rely on increasingly costly and sparse fuel supplies. The reliance on private diesel generators has exacerbated since the start of the economic crisis in October 2019. While the national utility network covers most of Lebanon, the electricity sector faced numerous challenges prior to the current crisis, including high technical and non-technical network losses, inadequate tariffs, and insufficient generating capacity (due to underinvestment in supply). In fact, between 40-45% of Lebanon's national debt is due to subsidies that the Government of Lebanon (GoL) has transferred to Electricité du Liban (EDL) to cover the cost of fuel since the 1990s (equal to \$1-US\$2.3 billion in transfers per year).¹

This chapter analyzes 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. The data on hours of supply is as reported by the households and not based on data from EDL or providers of electricity from private generators.

Key findings

- Like 2020, the majority of households (97%) had electricity connection either to the grid or to private generators. The lowest rate was in Baalbek-El Hermel at 91%.
- Nearly all (95%) households were connected to the national grid and 65% to private generators. Connection to private generators increased by 5 percentage points compared to 2020.
- Households with connection to the national grid had on average 7 hr of supply daily, down from 11 hr in 2020 and 13 hr in 2019.
- Households with connection to a private diesel generator relied on it on average for 15 hr 20 min daily (12 hr 48 min in 2020 and 7 hr in 2019).
- Continued increase in hours of electricity outage was reported. In 2021, households had on average 7 hr of power-cuts (up from 5 hr in 2020 and 3 hr in 2019). Beirut had the highest daily power-cuts with almost 13 hr of outage. Nationally, 25% of households reported over 12 hr of power-cuts daily.
- Private generators average expenditure increased from LBP 64,612 in 2020 to LBP 103,463 in 2021. The highest expenditures were recorded in Beirut (LBP 139,190) and the South (LBP 135,125).²
- The use of renewable power, including solar panels and biomass/biogas, remained negligible in all governorates.

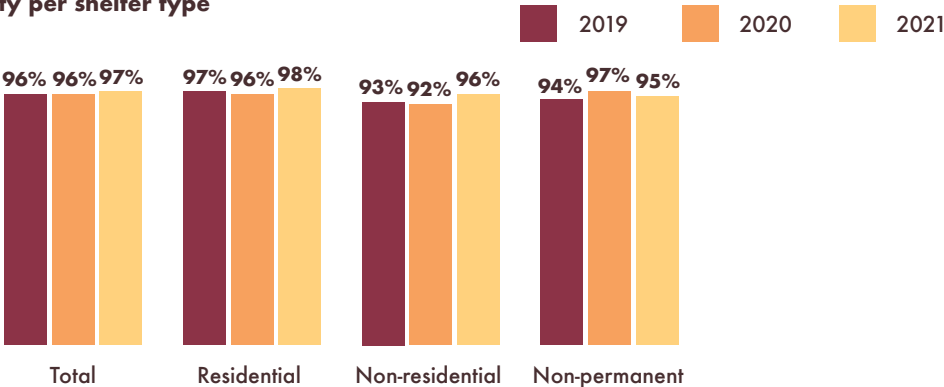
¹ IMF 2016: <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/CR/Issues/2017/01/24/Lebanon-2016-Article-IV-Consultation-Press-Release-Staff-Report-and-Statement-by-the-44572>

² The average market rate during the time of data collection registered at LBP 16,060 to the US\$. source: www.lirarate.org

Access to electricity

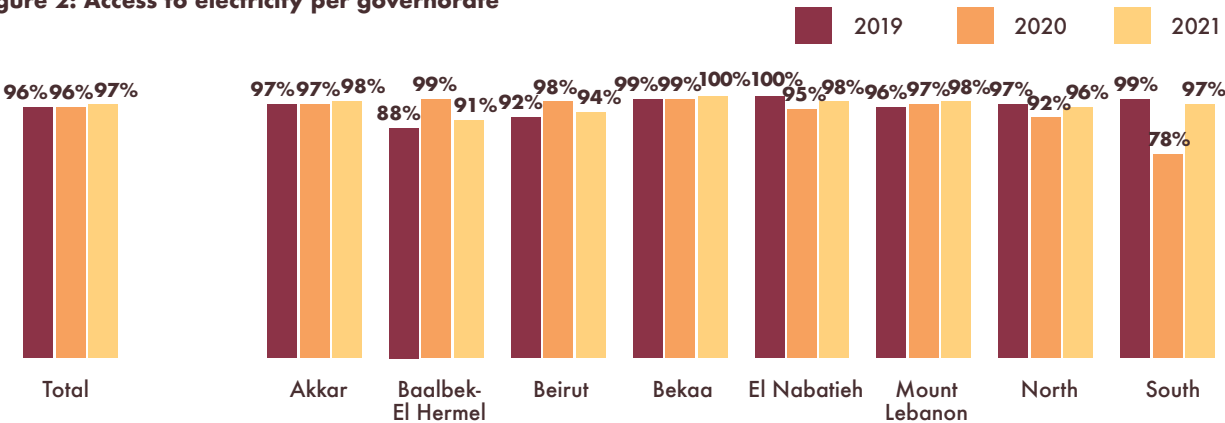
Overall, 97% of households had connection³ to either the electricity grid or to private generators. Only 3% reported no connection to any electricity source.

Figure1: Access to electricity per shelter type



Looking at access to electricity by geographical area, Baalbek-El Hermel scored as the governorate with the lowest rate at 91%.

Figure 2: Access to electricity per governorate

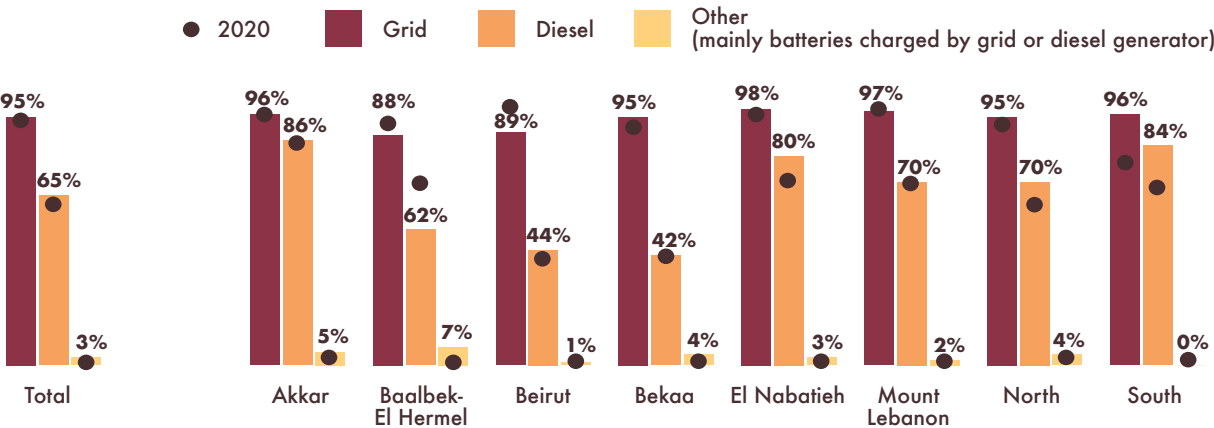


Sources of electricity

When considering the sources of electricity, 95% of households had access to the grid. Those living in non-residential and non-permanent shelters reported lower connection rates (92% and 90% respectively). Baalbek-El Hermel had the lowest access to the national grid with 88%.

Access to diesel generators was at 65%, an increase from 61% in 2020. Connection to diesel generators varied significantly per governorate, ranging from 86% in Akkar to 42% in Beirut. The use of renewable power, including solar panels and biomass/biogas, remained negligible in all governorates.

Figure 3: Source of electricity per governorate

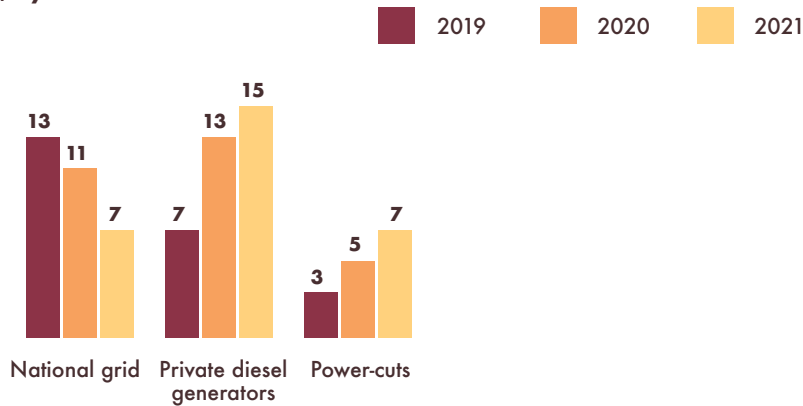


³ Connection to the energy source is not related to the hours of supply.

Hours of electricity by source

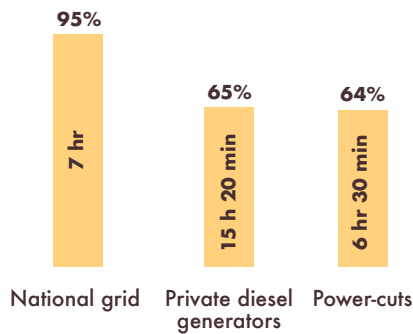
The hours of electricity supply by the national grid continued to decline in 2021. On average, the grid supplied only 7 hr⁴ of electricity per day, down from 11 hr in 2020 and 13 hr in 2019. This led to more reliance on private diesel generators which supplied 15 hr 20 min⁵ on average daily, up from 12 hr 48 min in 2020 and 7 hr in 2019.

Figure 4: Hours of electricity per day, by source



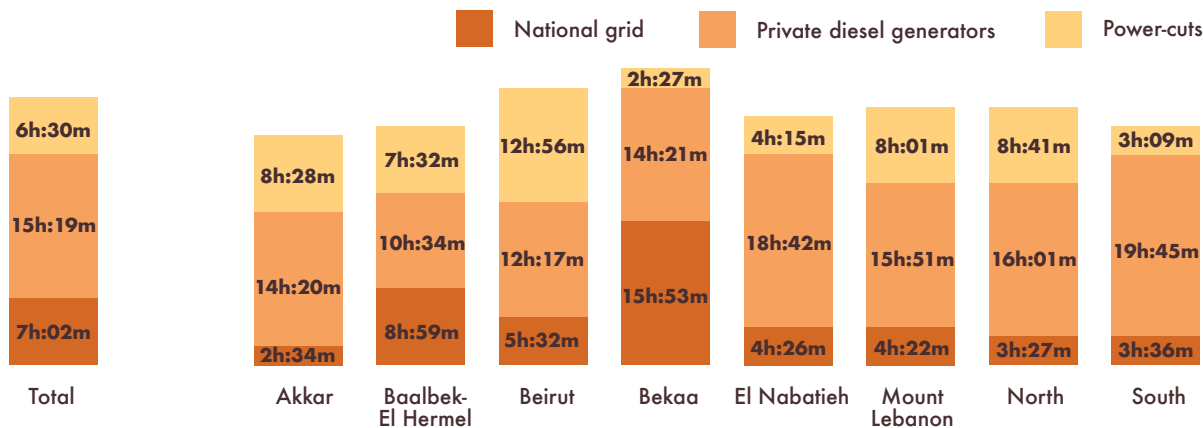
Power cuts, reported by 64% of households, were on average 6 hr 30 min per day, up from 5 hr 24 min in 2020. A quarter of households reported over 12 hr of outage a day, this was highest in Beirut where 57% reported power-cuts of over 12 hr.

Figure 5: Daily hours of electricity supply by source



All governorates, except for Bekaa, had less than 9 hr of supply from the national grid; the lowest were reported in Akkar (2 hr 35 min) and the North (3 hr 28 min). Due to reduced hours of supply by the grid, refugee families increased their reliance on diesel generators, especially in governorates where the hours of supply from the grid were low.

Figure 6: Hours of electricity by source, per day and by governorate



⁴ Average is based on the 95% of households who have access to electricity from the national grid.
⁵ Average is based on the 65% of households who have access to private diesel generators. The average hours of supply also varied regionally.

Electricity bill collection

Collection of bills by EDL remained similar to 2020 with 40% of households reporting that EDL staff collected the bill, and 41% had bills either collected by the landlord (24%) or they were already included as part of the rent (17%). No bills were collected from 15% of households.

Like previous years, the highest rates of EDL collection were reported in El Nabatiyeh (56%), Beirut (54%), and Mount Lebanon (50%) while the lowest were in Baalbek-El Hermel (16%) and Akkar (22%). Collection of bills by EDL in Baalbek-El Hermel dropped significantly from 44% in 2020 to only 16% this year.

Figure 7: Electricity bill collections

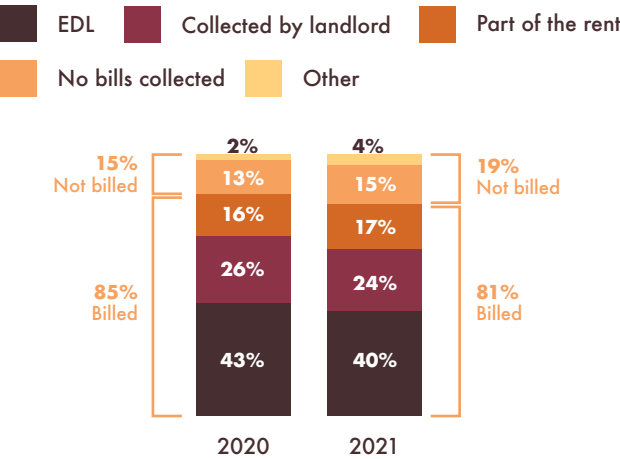
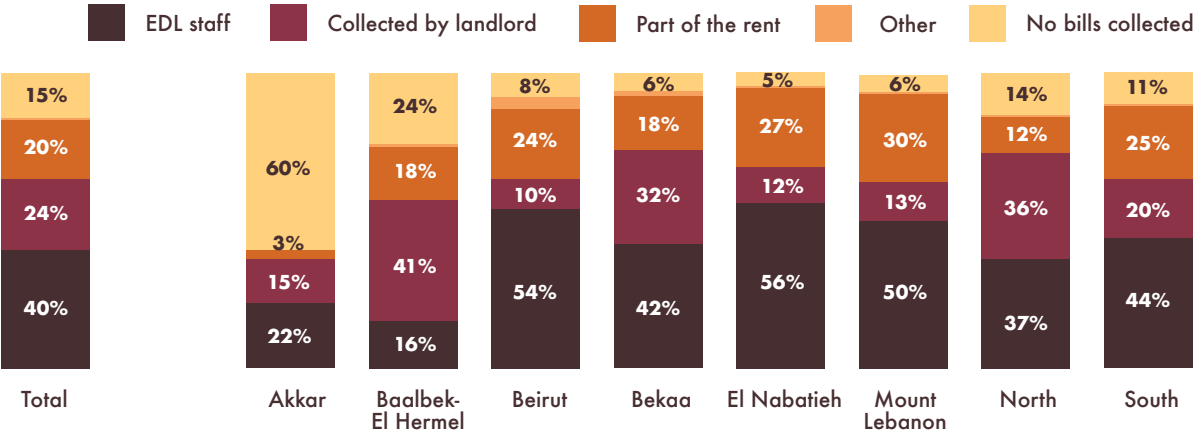
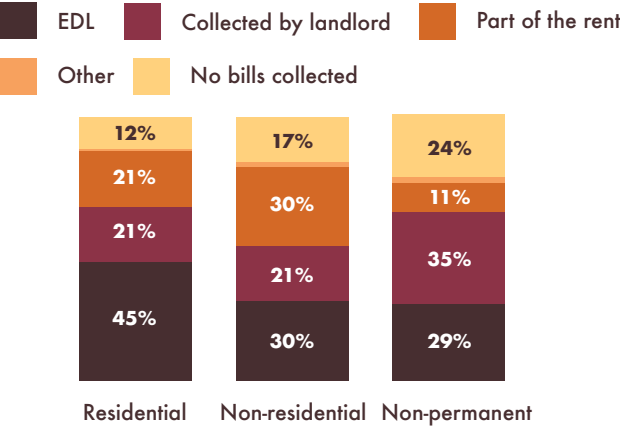


Figure 8: Bills collection by governorate



Households living in residential structures were more likely to pay their bills to an EDL staff (45%) compared to those in informal settlements (29%) and non-residential (30%). Households in informal settlements were more likely to pay their EDL bills to their landlord (35%) compared to 21% of those living in residential and non-residential structures.

Figure 9: Bills collection by shelter type



Sixty-six percent of households who paid their electricity bill (to EDL staff or landlord) paid it monthly; this was highest among those in non-permanent structures where 87% paid monthly.

Table 16: Electricity grid connection - frequency of payments

	Once per month or more often	Once per every two months	Once per every six months or year
Total	66%	31%	3%
Shelter type			
Residential	60%	37%	3%
Non-residential	61%	34%	5%
Non-permanent	87%	7%	5%
Governorate			
Akkar	65%	9%	26%
Baalbek-El Hermel	82%	16%	2%
Beirut	49%	50%	1%
Bekaa	93%	5%	2%
El Nabatieh	38%	57%	5%
Mount Lebanon	48%	50%	2%
North	59%	40%	1%
South	55%	40%	5%

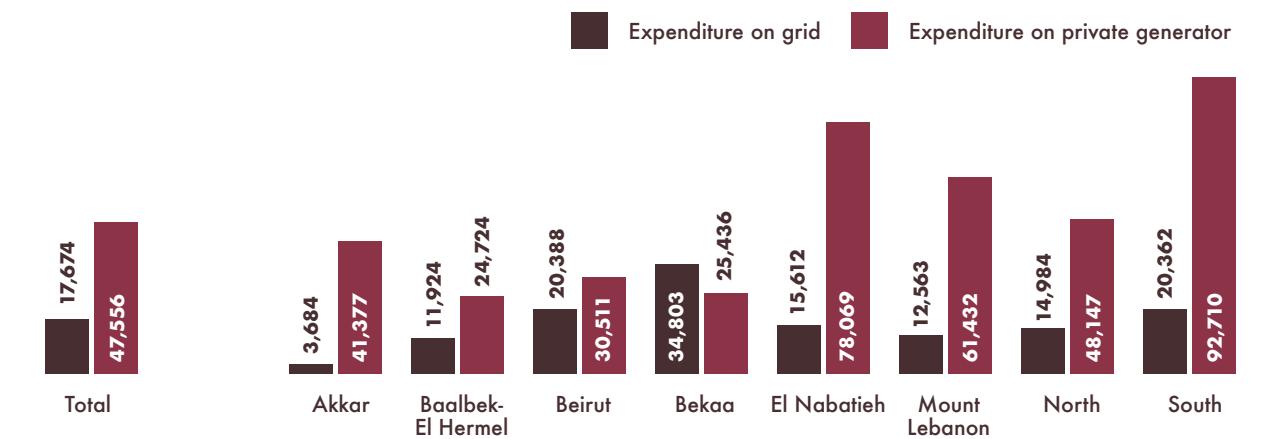
Percentage calculated out of those with access to EDL electricity and bills collected by EDL or landlord.

Expenditure on electricity

Like 2020, out of all households surveyed, 31% reported an expenditure on electricity from the grid in the previous 30 days, whereas 46% had an expenditure on generators (up from 40% in 2020).

Taking into consideration all households, including those without expenditure, the average monthly amount spent on electricity from the grid was LBP 17,674 (LBP 13,737 in 2020) per family, whereas the average monthly amount spent on generators was LBP 47,566 per family (LBP 42,270 in 2020).

Figure 10: Average monthly expenditure on grid and private generators - all households, including those without expenditure (in LBP)



Looking only at households with expenditure on the grid (31%), the average monthly amount was LBP 56,125 (up from LBP 42,440 in 2020) compared to LBP 103,463 (LBP 64,612 in 2020) for households who had expenditure on private generators (46%).

Table 17: Average monthly amount spent on the grid and private generators and percentage of households who reported expenditure on each

	Grid	% households with expenditure on the grid	Private generators	% households with expenditure on private generators
Total	56,125	31%	103,463	46%
Akkar	45,786	8%	75,786	55%
Baalbek-El Hermel	33,483	36%	51,593	48%
Beirut	71,285	29%	139,190	22%
Bekaa	66,919	52%	80,735	32%
El Nabatieh	50,922	31%	123,191	63%
Mount Lebanon	51,802	24%	127,902	48%
North	54,032	28%	107,996	45%
South	61,517	33%	135,125	69%

Energy sources for cooking

The main energy source used for cooking remained gas, as reported by 98% of households.

Table 18: Energy sources for cooking by shelter type and governorate

	Gas	Wood	Oil	Other	No source used
2019	98%	2%	2%	1%	0%
2020	98%	2%	1%	0%	0%
2021	99%	3%	0%	0%	0%
Akkar	99%	2%	2%	0%	0%
Baalbek-El Hermel	96%	12%	0%	1%	0%
Beirut	99%	0%	0%	1%	0%
Bekaa	100%	2%	0%	0%	0%
El Nabatieh	98%	8%	0%	0%	0%
Mount Lebanon	99%	0%	0%	1%	1%
North	99%	1%	0%	0%	0%
South	99%	1%	0%	0%	0%
Residential	99%	1%	0%	1%	0%
Non-residential	97%	4%	0%	0%	2%
Non-permanent	97%	8%	0%	0%	0%

Wood was reportedly used for cooking by 12% of households in Baalbek-El Hermel and 8% of families in El Nabatieh. Use of wood for cooking was more common for households living in non-permanent shelters (8%).

Energy sources for heating⁶

Oil (e.g. diesel oil) remained the main source of heating as reported by 41% of refugee households, and was used mostly in informal settlements where it was reported by 67%. The use of wood for heating was mostly used by households living in informal settlements (37%).

⁶ VASyR data collection was conducted during summer (June/July), with households reporting their energy sources used for heating during the previous winter.

Table 19: Energy sources for heating by shelter type and governorate

	Oil (e.g. diesel oil)	Wood	Electric heater/cooker	Gas	None	Other
2019	40%	12%	16%	11%	20%	5%
2020	39%	17%	13%	10%	24%	3%
Total 2021	41%	16%	14%	18%	17%	3%
Residential	32%	8%	19%	23%	20%	3%
Non-residential	43%	24%	9%	14%	19%	2%
Non-permanent	67%	37%	1%	6%	4%	2%
Akkar	58%	19%	3%	8%	14%	2%
Baalbek-El Hermel	77%	30%	2%	6%	0%	2%
Beirut	0%	0%	32%	33%	29%	6%
Bekaa	83%	26%	0%	1%	1%	4%
El Nabatieh	50%	29%	11%	13%	9%	2%
Mount Lebanon	9%	4%	26%	37%	27%	1%
North	17%	13%	25%	20%	29%	1%
South	15%	12%	15%	25%	27%	9%

The use of energy sources for heating varied significantly between governorates. For example, 80% of households in Bekaa and Baalbek-El Hermel reported using oil/diesel for heating compared to only 9% in Mount Lebanon and 0% in Beirut. Almost one third of households in the governorates of Beirut, Mount Lebanon, the North, and the South did not use any source of energy for heating.

GENDER ANALYSIS

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In collaboration with

WOMEN

Summary/Key points

- **After having risen dramatically between 2019 and 2020, in 2021 the proportion of households under the SMEB¹ (88%) remained the same as in 2020 with no difference between male-headed households (MHH) and female-headed households (FHH).** The gap in economic insecurity between the two, which was starker prior to 2019, appears to have remained closed as MHH became more vulnerable during Lebanon's economic crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Livelihoods and income

- **More members of FHH than before were working, likely in response to economic necessity and the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions.** The rate of FHH with at least one member who had worked in the past 7 days also increased since 2020. About half (47%) of FHH had at least one member who was working, an increase from 35% in 2020. This remains far lower than MHH where 70% had at least one member who had worked in the previous 7 days.

- **It appears the household gender gap in average monthly per capita income returned in 2021 after having closed in 2020, with FHH earning 39% less than MHH on average.** The average per capita monthly income for FHH rose from LBP 52,258² in 2020 to LBP 80,782 in 2021 and from LBP 65,240 to LBP 133,398 for MHH. This increase, however, is only nominal given that the monthly income from employment of all households was still only one-fifth of the SMEB value in both 2020 and 2021.

- **Similar to 2020, the small number of women in the labor force were mostly employed in the agriculture (47%) and service sectors (34%).** It is also worth mentioning that women were almost twice as likely to be unemployed than men: 27% of men were unemployed compared with 42% of women, representing a large decrease for men from 38% in 2020 and a slight decrease from 45% in 2020 for women.

- **Young women remained largely inactive in employment, education, and training.** Consistent with previous years, 80% of young women aged 15-24 were not in education, employment, or training (NEET) compared to 52% of young men.

- **Almost all households were borrowing money to buy food, but FHH were more dependent on borrowing to survive.** FHH (54%) were more likely than MHH (38%) to say they borrowed food or relied on help

from friends or relatives because of a lack of food, which can create potential for exploitation.

Education

- **Consistent with previous findings, older boys and girls were not being sent to school for different reasons.** One third (33%) of boys aged 15-18 were not attending school due to work compared to 9% of girls in the same age range, and this rose significantly to 57% of young men aged 19-24 not attending due to work compared to 5% of young women. On the other hand, around half (46%) of young women were not attending school because they were married.

Child protection

- **Consistent with previous years, approximately one fifth (20%) of females aged 15-19 were married at the time of the survey.** This was true for less than 1% of males in the same age category.

- **Child labor among boys has increased steadily since 2019.** In 2021 approximately 5% of children aged 5-17 were engaged in child labor, an increase from 4% in 2020 and 3% in 2019. A higher proportion of boys (8%) than girls (2%) were engaged in labor.

Protection

- **Rates of legal residency continued declining for both Syrian men and women in 2021 and, as in previous years, rates of legal residency for women were 4 percentage points lower than for men.** This year's findings showed women with legal residency declined from 18% in 2020 to 14% in 2021 and that men with legal residency declined from 23% to 19%.

Shelter

- **There was a slight increase in FHH living in informal settlements.³** High concentrations of FHH remained in non-permanent informal settlements in Baalbek-El Hermel and Bekaa, where more than half (57% and 51% respectively) lived in informal settlements, and the number of FHH living in such accommodations has increased slightly since 2020. Nationally, the share of FHH living in tents increased slightly from 27% in 2020 to 32% in 2021 compared with 19% of MHH in both 2020 and 2021.

¹ S/MEB categories are the following:

1. $\geq 125\%$ MEB (\geq LBP 692,191)
2. MEB - 125% MEB (LBP 553,753 – LBP 692,191)
3. SMEB - MEB (LBP 490,028 – LBP 553,753)
4. $<$ SMEB (LBP 490,028)

² The average market rate during the time of data collection registered at LBP 16,060 to the US\$. Source: www.lirarate.org

³ Overwhelming majority of people in informal settlements live in tents made mostly of timber and plastic sheets.

Gender analysis overview

This chapter was developed based on the sex-disaggregated results of each indicator included in the VASyR assessment.⁴ The VASyR is designed so that some survey questions are posed at the household level (i.e. the head of household was asked a question regarding the entire household) while others are posed at the individual level per each household member. This means full gender disaggregation is available for some findings while disaggregation only by the gender

of the head of household is available for others. Wherever possible, disaggregated findings at the individual level are reported throughout this chapter.

Each sector chapter discusses age, gender, disability, and diversity analysis where relevant. This chapter summarizes main gender findings across sectors for ease of reference.

Table 20: Categories of indicators gathered at the individual and household level

Individual level	Household level	Household level
Demographics	Health	Coping strategies (food and non-food)
Civil status	Income/debt	Safety and security/sexual exploitation
Specific needs/disability	Shelter	Community relations/social stability
Other protection indicators	Eviction and mobility	Child discipline
Child protection	Energy	Communication
Child health/child nutrition	WASH	
Education	Expenditure	
Employment/work sectors	Food consumption	

A note on female-headed households

An FHH is a household in which an adult female is the sole or main decision-maker, whereas an MHH is led by an adult male. In the VASYR, the head of household is self-identified, where enumerators ask the first person they encounter upon visiting the household to designate the main decision-maker of the household. If the head of the household is not available, information about this person is gathered and enumerators interview another adult in the family capable of conducting the interview. Hence in some cases, the sex of the head of household and that of the respondent is different. Similar to 2020, in 2021 , 68% of respondents were male and 32% female suggesting a male bias in the survey results.

It should be noted that in many cases, women are not considered as heads of households unless no adult man is living permanently in the household, as the patriarchal assumption is often that the head of a household is always an adult man, even if a woman’s economic contribution to the household’s maintenance and/or decision-making power is the same or greater.⁵

Demographics

Since the VASyR began in 2013, there has been an even split between Syrian men and women in the Syrian population. Although, overall, there is an even split between men and women in all age groups, there is some regional variation in the gender ratio. It is notably lower in Baalbek (.88) and Akkar (.94) and higher in Beirut (1.08) and El Nabatieh (1.07). Hermel district in Baalbek has the lowest gender ratio of all at .84.

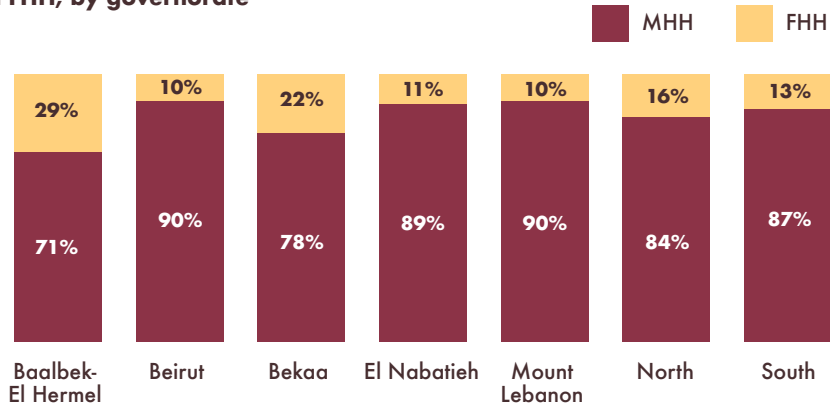
Over the past few years, between 16% and 19% of households have self-identified as FHH. In 2021, FHH constituted 18% of households. The VASyR has also consistently captured regional variation in the gender of the heads of household. In 2021, FHH remained most common in Baalbek-El Hermel

(29%), Akkar (26%), and Bekaa (22%) and least common in Beirut (10%), Mount Lebanon (10%), and El Nabatieh (11%). Notably, twice as many FHH (11%) were headed by women over the age of 59 than MHH (5%) and these were mostly concentrated in Bekaa and Baalbek-El Hermel.

⁴ Gender Analysis was conducted by UN Women, in partnership with UNHCR, UNICEF, and WFP

⁵ <https://databank.worldbank.org/metadataglossary/gender-statistics/series/SP.HOU.FEMA.ZS>

Figure 1: MHH and FHH, by governorate

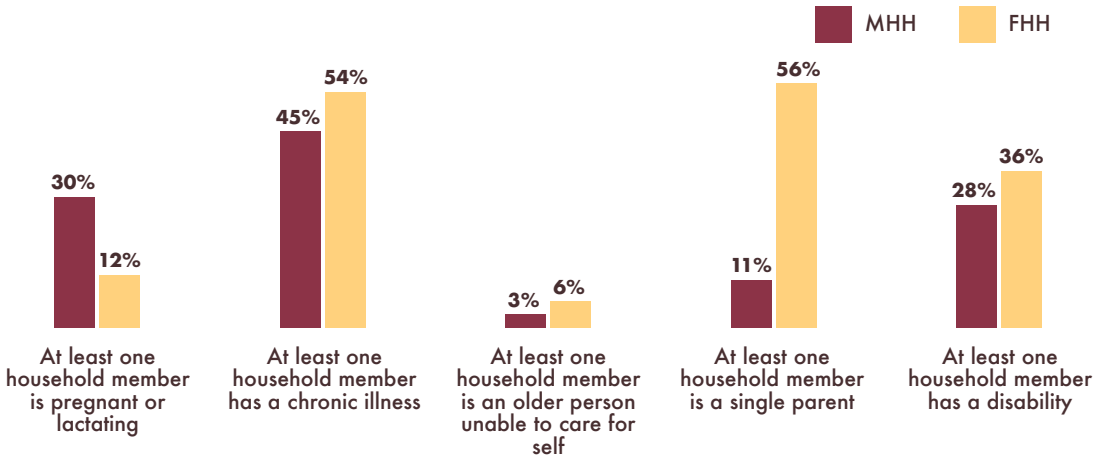


Household size and composition among male and female-headed Syrian families have seen little change over the past 3 years. Since 2019, FHH have been smaller than MHH on average, and MHH more frequently included young children. In 2021, MHH consisted of 5.2 people on average compared with FHH at 4.2 people on average, and 66% of MHH had young children (under 5 years old) compared to 40% of FHH. The fact that MHH had more children meant they had a higher dependency ratio (.98) than FHH (.86). Almost twice as many FHH (45%) had no dependents or only one dependent compared with MHH (26%), and MHH reported having more dependents overall. Consistent with findings from 2020, these demographic differences are potentially related to a smaller proportion of FHH with women who are bearing children. This is borne out by the fact that 27% of households had pregnant or lactating women, with MHH (30%) far more frequently than FHH (12%).

On the other hand, and also consistent with previous years, FHH more commonly had members over 59 years of age and members with disabilities. Overall, 10% of households had members over 59 years, with more FHH (17%) including older members than MHH (9%). Likely because FHH are more commonly headed by older people and/or include older people, FHH (54%) more often had members with chronic illnesses than MHH (45%). Although there was no major difference between the proportion of men and women with disabilities in the overall population (9%), FHH (36%) more commonly had members with disabilities than MHH (29%).

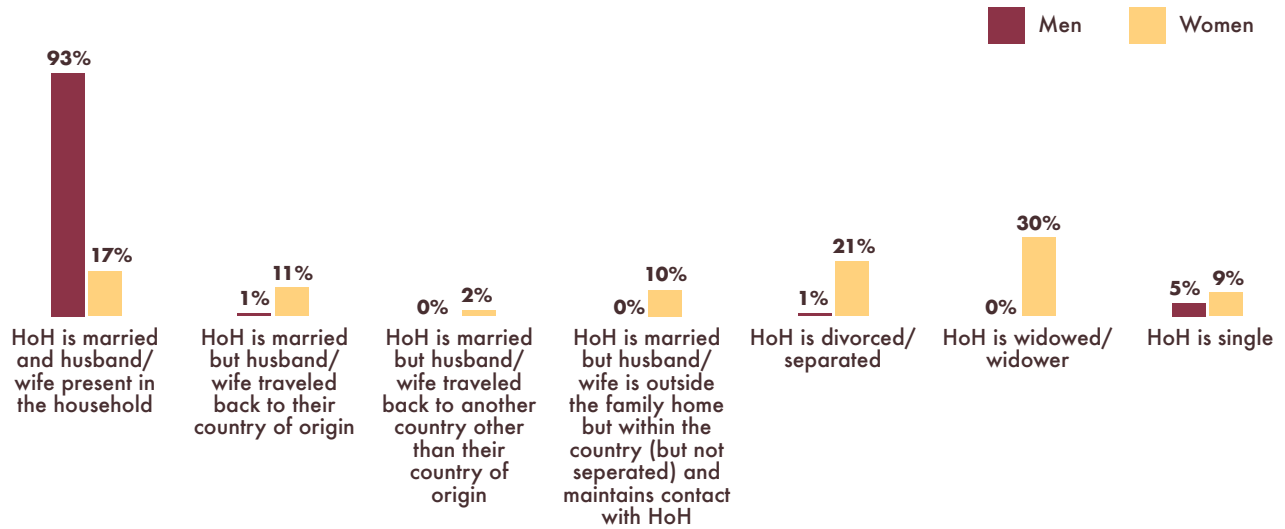
FHH were also far more likely to include single parents than MHH. Overall, 19% of households had at least one household member who was a single parent, and FHH (56%) were five times more likely to have single parents in their households than MHH (11%). These findings are all consistent with VASyR data since 2019.

Figure 2: FHH and MHH with specific needs



Nearly one sixth (15%) of women (aged 18+) were widowed, divorced, or separated compared to just 1% of men. On the other hand, men (23%) were more often single than women (14%). The vast majority of FHH (83%) were either single, divorced, or widowed or had no partner present with them in the household, compared to just 7% of MHH in the same categories.

Figure 3: Head of household (HoH) marital status, by gender

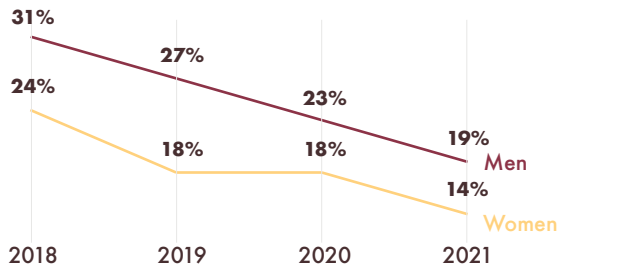


Protection

Rates of legal residency continued to decline for both Syrian men and women in 2021 and, as in previous years, rates of legal residency for women were lower than for men. This year’s findings showed the rate of women with legal residency declining from 18% in 2020 to 14% in 2021, and for men from 23% to 19%. Fewer FHH (16%) had at least one member with legal residency than MHH (25%). While there was little difference between men and women in terms of the main reasons for not having legal residency, it is worth

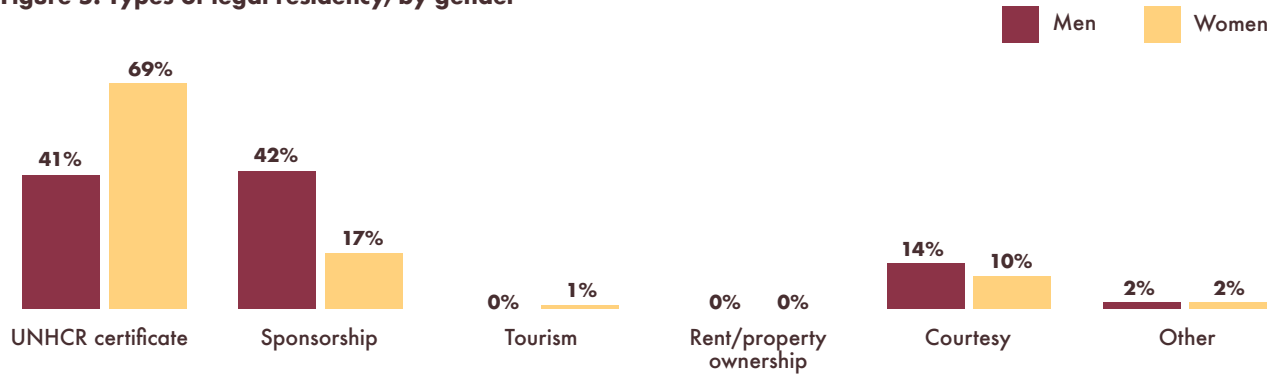
noting that women (20%) and members of FHH (28%) more often reported they had entered through an unofficial border and the General Security Office (GSO) had not allowed them to regularize for this reason. Men being prioritized for legal residency in Syrian refugee households is likely that they are seen as far more likely to work and perceptions that men are more likely to be arrested or detained without legal documentation compared with women.

Figure 4: Rates of legal residency since 2018, by gender



Types of legal residency differed between men and women. Women with legal residency most commonly had UNHCR certification (69%) compared with 41% of men. On the other hand, men (42%) more often had legal residency in the form of sponsorship than women (17%), which is likely because they participate in the paid workforce at higher rates. Most women (64%) reported to have never even attempted obtaining legal residency at the GSO compared to 50% of men, similar to 2020.

Figure 5: Types of legal residency, by gender



Declining rates of legal residency continues exposing both women and men to risks such as arrest, detention, deportation, or extortion. Women who lack residency are also less likely to approach police or justice mechanisms to report incidents of harassment or violence. This means a lack of legal recourse and justice for gender-based violence against Syrian women, which is highly prevalent. Without valid residency permits, refugees are also unable to complete important administrative processes to obtain civil documentation such as registering marriages or births of children. In fact, children born in Lebanon since 2011 into FHH are less likely to have completed the birth registration process (13%) than children in MHH (33%).⁶ Similarly, members of FHH who had been married in Lebanon fell behind MHH in all stages in the process for registering

marriages. The main reason FHH respondents provided for not completing the birth registration process was not being aware of how to go about the process (48%) compared with 33% of MHH reporting the same. The second most prevalent reason for both FHH (37%) and MHH (48%) was due to the prohibitive cost.

Response rates for safety and security questions were low overall,⁷ yet members of MHH (9%) were slightly more likely than members of FHH (5%) to report having been victims of community violence/disputes. There were few differences between men and women in terms of the frequency, quality, and nature of community interactions, except FHH (36%) were slightly more likely than MHH (30%) to report perceived or real discrimination in the provision of aid.

Child protection

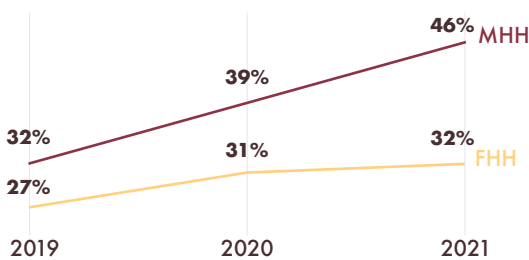
The VASyR consistently reports child labor⁸ as the main protection risk faced by boys, and child marriage as the main protection risk for girls. In 2021, approximately 5% of children aged 5-17 were engaged in child labor, an increase from 4% in 2020 and 2% in 2019. A higher proportion of boys (8%) than girls (2%) were engaged in child labor, and older boys (14-17) were more often working long hours. On the other hand, high proportions of girls and young women were exposed to child marriage. Approximately one fifth (20%) of females aged 15-19 were married at the time of the survey. This was true for less than 1% of males in the same age category.

Shelter

High concentrations of women and FHH remain in substandard, non-permanent settlements in Bekaa and Baalbek-El Hermel governorates, and the number of FHH living in such shelter types has continuously increased since 2019. FHH continue to be overrepresented in these areas: they constitute 22% of households in Bekaa and 29% of households in Baalbek-El Hermel compared with the national

average of 18%. Similar to 2020, FHH (33%) were almost twice as likely as MHH (19%) to be living in non-permanent shelter and almost all FHH in non-permanent shelters were in tents. The share of FHH living in tents increased slightly from 27% in 2020 to 32% in 2021. Relatedly, the proportion of FHH in substandard housing also increased from 39% to 46%, a concerning trend.

Figure 6: MHH and FHH in substandard housing



Findings also suggest that many of those living in informal tented settlements, particularly FHH, are comprised of specific families and social networks. Half (50%) of FHH in informal settlements and 35% of MHH had chosen their place of residence to be close to family and relatives. The share of FHH in tents reporting proximity to friends and family as their main consideration when selecting a shelter was more than double the total of 24% who reported this as their main consideration across all shelter types.

⁶ This process involves notifications issued by a doctor, obtaining a birth certificate from a mukhtar, obtaining a certificate registered with the Noufous, registering the birth with the Foreigners' Registry, getting the Ministry of Foreign Affairs stamp on the birth certificate as well as a stamp from the Syrian Embassy.

⁷ Results from the safety and security questions were not included in this analysis due to limitations around the data collection methods. In efforts to improve response rates, the method and approach for these questions are under reconsideration for next year's survey.

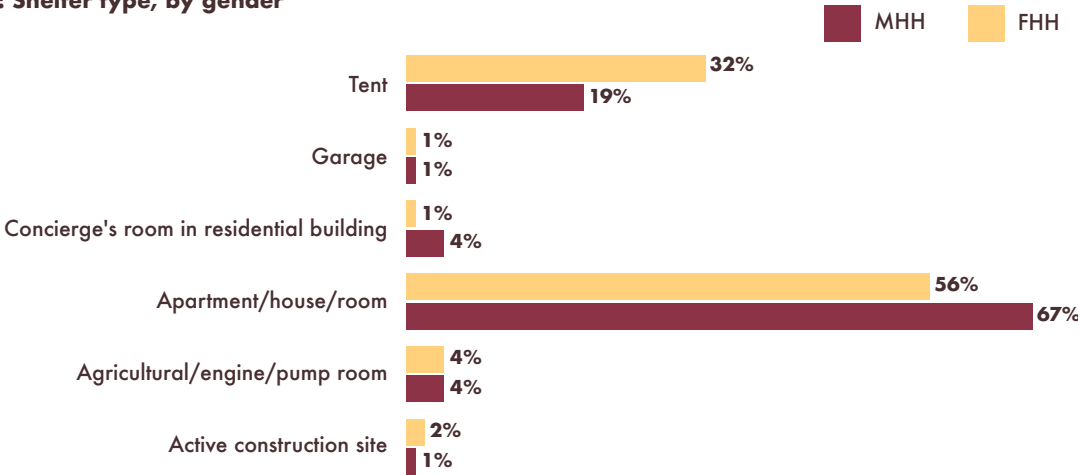
⁸ Child labor is defined by UNICEF and the ILO as a child having performed either economic activities or household chores during the last week for more than the age specific number of hours. Economic activities: aged 5-11: 1 hour or more; aged 12-14: 14 hours or more; aged 15-17: 43 hours or more. Household chores: aged 5-14: 28 hours or more; aged 15-17: 43 hours or more.

Living in substandard, non-permanent shelter is associated with a number of vulnerabilities, such as increased poverty, health, and protection risks. Almost all (95%) of households in non-permanent shelters were below the MEB compared to 87% in other shelter types. They also more often shared toilets which can pose protection risks, especially for women. Overall, 19% of households shared toilets, with those in non-permanent shelters (27%) more represented than other forms of shelter. In addition, FHH (17%) were slightly more likely than MHH (11%) to be hosted in tents for free.

MHH were more commonly residing in residential settings where they paid more than FHH for accommodation and higher numbers had seen their rent increase since 2020. Rental accommodation was the most common shelter type

overall (65%), but MHH (67%) were more commonly living in rented apartments, houses, and rooms than FHH (56%). The monthly median rent for MHH was LBP 300,000 and LBP 250,000 for FHH. Rent had increased for everyone since 2020 but more so for MHH. Fifteen percent of households reported their rent had increased since 2020, with little gender difference. However, for those reporting increased rent, MHH reported an average annual increase of LBP 167,082 compared to LBP 110,802 for FHH. In addition, the proportion of MHH paying above LBP 375,000 increased by 14% since 2020 while it only increased by 5% for FHH, suggesting FHH have been more able than MHH to retain their inexpensive or free accommodations during Lebanon’s economic crisis.

Figure 7: Shelter type, by gender



Possibly because they usually have larger families, MHH tend to live in more crowded accommodations than FHH, but it appears accommodations have become less crowded since 2020. Overall, 23% of respondents were living in overcrowded conditions with slightly more MHH (24%) than FHH (19%) represented, compared to 30% and 25% respectively in 2020.

More MHH moved or were evicted in 2020-2021 due to being unable to pay rent. Sixteen percent of MHH and 10% of FHH had moved accommodation in the past 12 months, with MHH (39%) far more likely than FHH (24%) to report moving because the rent was too expensive. Of those who had changed accommodation, 21% had been evicted with

little gender difference. Inability to pay rent was the most common reason for being evicted overall, but MHH (75%) were more likely than FHH (53%) to report inability to pay rent as the reason for changing accommodation. Similar to 2020, 5% of households were under threat of eviction by their landlords at the time of the survey with no notable gender difference.

There were no important gender differences in terms of the types of rental agreements (verbal vs. written), whether lease agreements were registered with the municipality, payment of municipal taxes, periods of rental agreements, reported damages to shelters, or households that were planning to move in the coming 6 months.

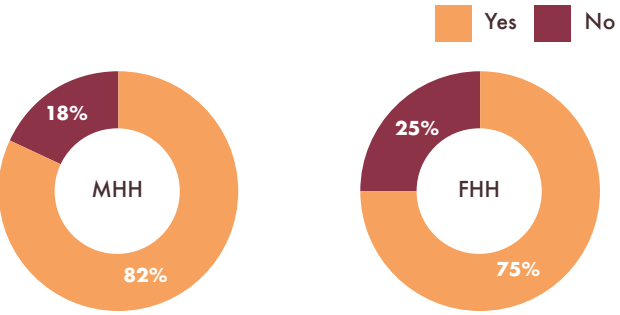
Health

Like in 2020, members of FHH (66%) were slightly more likely than members of MHH (59%) to have required primary health care (PHC) in the last 6 months. Of those who required PHC, almost all (91%) were able to access it, with little difference between MHH and FHH. For those who were unable to access PHC, most (88%) quoted consultations as the service they could not access.

Seventeen percent of respondents required hospital care in the 6 months prior to the survey, with members of MHH (18%) needing hospital care at slightly higher rates than members of FHH (12%). Of households with at least one member who required hospital care, 18% of MHH did not receive it compared to 25% of FHH, up from 13% and 16% in 2020 respectively. The main barrier to receiving hospital care

was the cost of treatment (90%) with no gender difference. Concerningly, 31% of households had members who needed malnutrition treatment, with no gender difference. There was also little difference between MHH and FHH in how respondents paid for hospital treatment and in their knowledge of where to seek emergency services.

Figure 8: MHH and FHH that received the hospital care they needed



Fifty-nine percent of households had required medications the 3 months prior to the survey with little gender difference. Of those who needed medications, 48% had acquired some of the needed medication but not all, 42% had acquired all or most of the needed medication, and 9% had not acquired any of the necessary medication with no notable difference between MHH and FHH.

The majority (73%) of respondents knew how to access medical services in case a household member is suspected to have COVID-19. However, FHH (69%) were slightly less likely to know how to access assistance in case a household member contracts COVID-19 than MHH (74%).

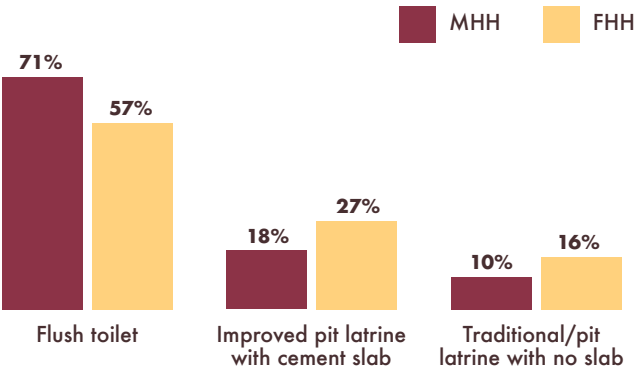
Eight percent of households had children under 2 years old who had gotten sick in the previous 2 weeks with no difference between FHH and MHH. Girl infants (79%) were slightly more likely to suffer from at least one disease than boy infants (74%), and less likely to suffer from respiratory infections (15% and 25% respectively), which often requires hospitalization or a doctor’s consultation. For births that occurred in Lebanon, 93% of the children were born in a hospital with no difference between MHH and FHH.

WASH

Similar to 2020, more FHH reported limited access to basic sanitation facilities, namely flush toilets and bottled water. Three quarters (76%) of respondents overall had access to basic sanitation services, with FHH access at 64% compared to 77% of MHH. Similarly, FHH (84%) had less access to improved sanitation facilities than MHH (90%). FHH (57%) less commonly had flush toilets than MHH (71%) and more

often used pit latrines. Of the small number of households (10%) that used protected wells for their improved water, FHH (16%) were more represented than MHH (9%). Seventeen percent of FHH and 11% of MHH also got their water for cooking from a protected well. These differences are likely due to the types of WASH systems available in the informal settlements where FHH are over-represented.

Figure 9: Access to basic sanitation, by gender



There were no major gender differences in main types of unimproved water sources used, in access to improved sources, and availability of drinking water, nor in the sufficiency of water for washing and domestic purposes. However, FHH (82%) had slightly less access than MHH (87%) to improved drinking water sources either in their dwelling, yard, or plot or within 30 minutes round trip collection time. Overall, the most common type of improved water source was bottled water (38%). However, FHH (29%) reported to have less access to this source than MHH (40%). More MHH (50%) reported paying for drinking water than FHH (40%), and MHH spent more on their drinking water. On average, MHH spent LBP 65,730 for drinking water in the month prior to the survey compared with LBP 50,245 for

FHH, possibly because MHH have larger families on average and higher per capita monthly incomes. The majority (85%) of households with members with disabilities reported they had disability-adjusted facilities, but FHH (79%) had less access than MHH (87%).

There were no major differences between FHH and MHH in household access to all types of hygiene items. It is worth noting that one in ten households reported that members did not have access to female hygienic items, almost one quarter (23%) of households that needed baby care items did not have access to them, and that there were no major gender differences in COVID-19 prevention measures used.

Energy access

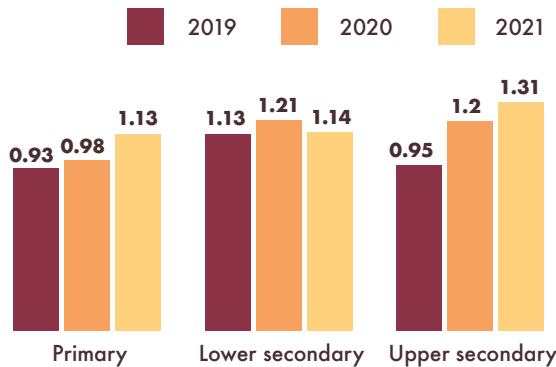
There were few notable gender differences around energy access. However, MHH (72%) more often reported having less than 6 hours of electricity per day than FHH (63%). Potential reasons for this are yet unclear. There were a few differences between FHH and MHH in usage of energy for heating. Overall, 41% of households used furnace oil for cooking and heating, with 49% of FHH using this energy

compared to 39% of MHH, and 21% of FHH used wood compared to 15% of MHH. More MHH (15%) had access to an electric powered heater than FHH (10%). There were no notable differences between MHH and FHH in average expenditure by household on state-generated electricity, but the average amount MHH (LBP 50,903) spent on private generators was far more than FHH (LBP 31,785).

Education

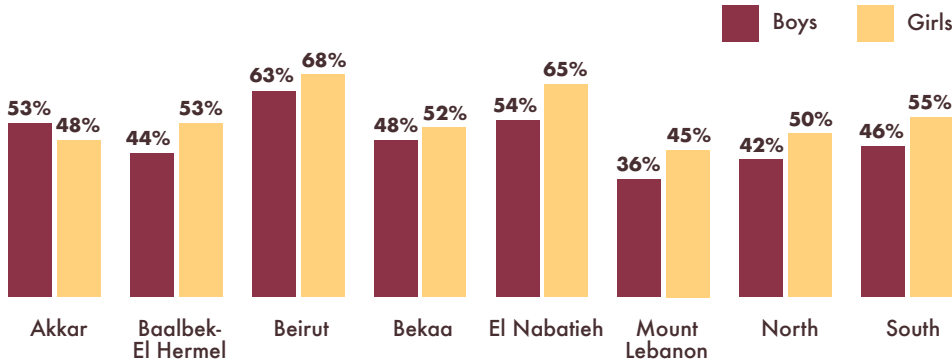
Consistent with findings in 2020, about half (48%) of Syrian children of school age were in school during the 2020-2021 school year. The gender parity index⁹ indicates that the proportion of girls in school increased since 2020 compared to boys' attendance at the primary level. The share of girls was reported to be slightly higher than that of boys at the lower secondary (1.14) and upper secondary (1.31) levels.

Figure 10: Gender parity index since 2019



There were significant variations across governorates in terms of boys' and girls' attendance. Overall, school attendance was highest in Beirut (70%) and lowest in Mount Lebanon (47%). In most governorates, there was a clear gap between boys and girls in school, where girls were more often attending than boys. In all governorates, except Beirut and Bekaa, there was an 8-9 percentage points difference between the enrolment of girls and boys. Akkar was the only governorate where boys (53%) were attending at a higher rate than girls (48%). Syrian girls were also far more likely to attend upper secondary school in some governorates. For example, in El Nabatiyeh, twice as many girls aged 15-17 (39%) were attending school as boys (19%) and in the South, 41% of girls 15-17 were attending school compared to 17% of boys.

Figure 11: School attendance of children 6-17, by gender and governorate

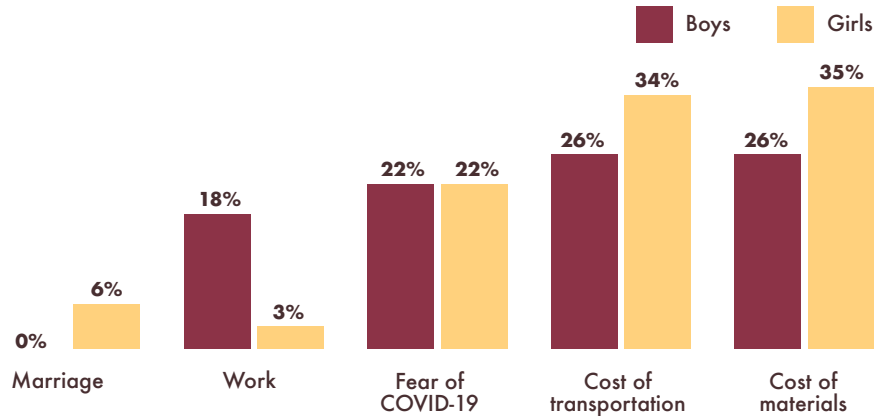


Younger children, especially girls, were not being sent to school due to costs. Overall, the most common reason for not sending children aged 3-17 to school was the cost of educational materials (30%) followed closely by the cost of transportation (29%). More girls were not attending for both reasons than boys: 35% of girls aged 3-17 who were not

in school were not attending due to the cost of educational materials compared to 25% of boys, and 34% and 26% respectively due to transportation costs. About one in five (22%) respondents said they did not enroll their children due to fear of COVID-19, with no gender difference.

⁹ The gender parity index is 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.

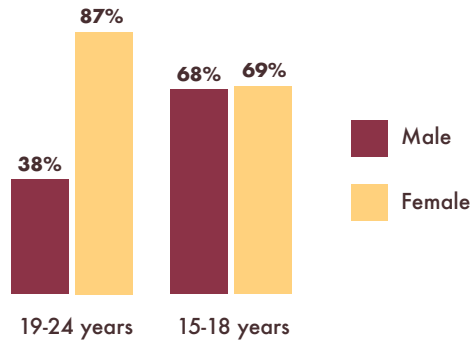
Figure 12: Main reasons for not sending children aged 3-17 to school, by gender



Consistent with previous findings, older boys and girls were not being sent to school for different reasons. Boys aged 15-18 were not attending school due to work (33%) compared to 9% of girls in the same age range, and this rose significantly to 57% of young men aged 19-24 not attending due to work compared to 5% of young women. On the other hand, of the reasons for girls 15-18 not attending school marriage was 22% compared to 0.1% for boys. This was even higher for young women aged 19-24, where 58% were not attending due to marriage compared

with 14% of young men. Women in this age category were generally neither enrolled in education nor participating in the labor market. Eighty percent of young women aged 15-24 were not in education, employment, or training (NEET) compared to 52% of young men. It is worth noting that the NEET gap rose dramatically after age 18: 69% of both girls and boys aged 15-18 were NEET, but for the 19-24 age group, the share of young women who were NEET rose to 87% and dropped to 38% for young men.

Figure 13: NEET rate, by age group

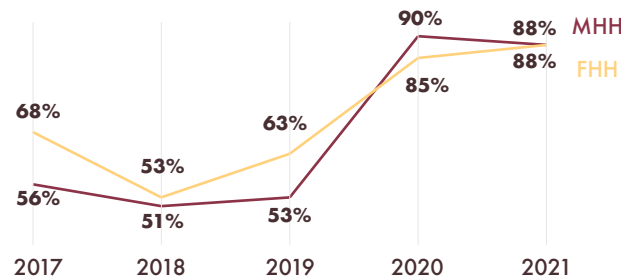


The NEET gender gap for the 19-24 years age group was very high in all governorates, but particularly striking in the South and Mount Lebanon with a 61 percentage points gap between young men and women, in the North (56%), and in Beirut (55%). The NEET gender difference was smaller in Akkar, Baalbek-El Hermel, and Bekaa because the NEET rate for boys was also very high. Baalbek-El Hermel and Mount Lebanon had the highest NEET rates in the country at 91% and 90% respectively.

Food security and economic vulnerability

Having risen dramatically between 2019 and 2020, the proportion of households under the SMEB (88%) remained the same in 2021 with no difference between MHH and FHH. The gap between extremely poor FHH and MHH, which was starker prior to 2019, remained closed as MHH became more vulnerable during Lebanon’s economic crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic. There were no major differences between MHH and FHH in how households reported spending money, except FHH (12%) were slightly more likely than MHH (7%) to be spending more than 75% of their expenditures on food.

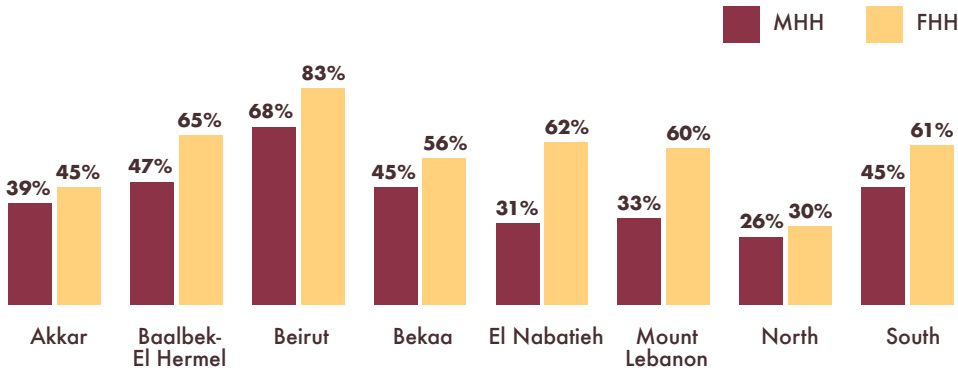
Figure 14: MHH and FHH under the SMEB since 2017



Due the dire economic conditions prevailing in Lebanon, households have been forced to resort to coping strategies in order to survive, with some differences between FHH and MHH. FHH (54%) were more likely than MHH (38%) to borrow food or rely on help from friends or relatives because of a lack of food, which is concerning because it could create potential for exploitation. Rates of FHH that relied on help from friends or relatives were high across all governorates, but in Beirut they reached 83% for FHH

compared with 68% of MHH. The rates of FHH that relied on food from others in Mount Lebanon and El Nabatieh were almost double the rate of MHH. FHH in non-permanent shelters (65%) were more often relying on this coping strategy than those in residential (49%) and non-residential (53%) shelters. In addition, FHH (11%) were slightly more likely than MHH (6%) to have school-aged children involved in income generation, particularly in El Nabatieh (31%) and the South (24%).

Figure 15: MHH and FHH reliance on borrowed food, by governorate



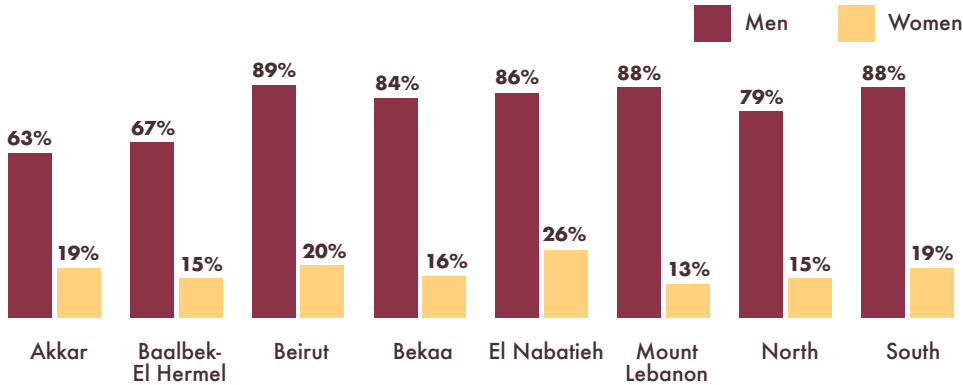
On the other hand, more MHH (72%) reported reducing the portion of meal sizes than FHH (67%) and doing so more often. This was particularly common in Beirut where 91% of MHH reported they were reducing the portions of meals. MHH (30%) reported reducing education expenditures to cope with the lack of food or resources to buy food more often than FHH (24%). There were no other major differences between MHH and FHH in the other coping strategies assessed. MHH and FHH were adopting stress, crisis, and emergency coping strategies at similar rates. Likewise, there were no important gender differences in food consumption categorization, number of meals per day, number of meals consumed by children under 5, household weekly diet diversity, and types of food consumed on a weekly basis.

Findings suggest that Syrians are surviving the economic crisis by taking on debt, and MHH in particular owed very high amounts. Almost all (92%) households had borrowed money in the past 3 months, with no gender difference. Three quarters (75%) of households reported having debt of more than LBP 900,000, and more MHH (77%) owed this amount or above than FHH (67%). MHH were in more debt than FHH, owing an average of LBP 823,545 per capita compared with LBP 688,128 for FHH. Almost all (93%) households reported taking on debt to purchase food, with little gender difference. Likely because MHH more often lived in rented accommodations, MHH (51%) more commonly took on debt to pay for their rent than FHH (43%). While friends or family in Lebanon were the main sources of debt for all households, FHH were also borrowing from supermarkets at very high rates. Almost two-thirds (62%) of FHH owed money to supermarkets compared to 47% of MHH.

Livelihoods and income

Women’s labor force participation increased slightly from 14% in 2020 to 16% in 2021, but remained at one fifth of the rate for men (81%). Women’s labor force participation was lowest in Mount Lebanon (13%), and highest in El Nabatieh (26%) and Beirut (20%). There was no difference in labor force participation of women with disabilities compared with the general population of Syrian refugee women, whereas a significant difference was noted among men with disabilities. Eighty-six percent of men were participating in the labor force overall compared to 54% of men with disabilities.

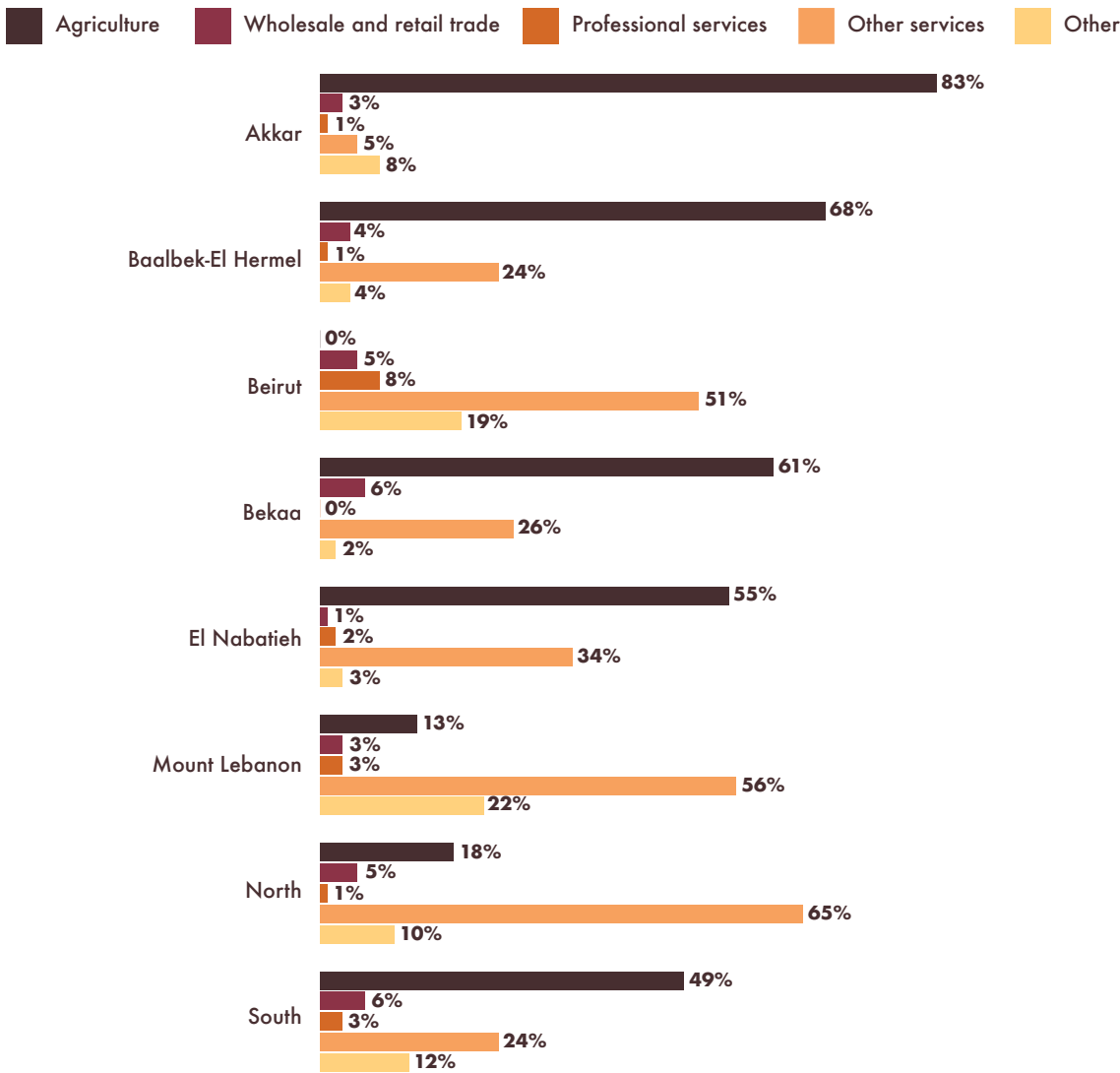
Figure 16: Labor force participation, by gender and governorate



Unemployment rates remained nearly double for women (42%) than for men (27%), and particularly high in Beirut and El Nabatieh governorates. Almost three-quarters (72%) of unemployed women said they were not working due to needing to care for dependent family members or children. Syrian women’s low economic participation can underpin wider inequality in living standards and rights.

Similar to in 2020, the small number of employed women were mostly working in agriculture (47%) and in the service sector (34%). There was notable variation among governorates in main types of jobs women were in: In Akkar (83%), Baalbek-El Hermel (68%), Bekaa (61%), El Nabatieh (55%), and the South (49%), most working women were in agriculture. However, in the North (65%), Mount Lebanon (56%), and Beirut (51%) women were mostly employed in the hotel, restaurant, transport, and personal services industries.

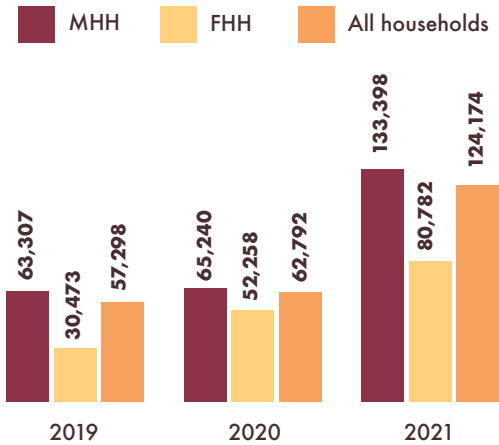
Figure 17: Main sectors of employment for women, by governorate



The rate of FHH with at least one member who had worked in the past 7 days increased from 35% in 2020 to 47% but remained far lower than the rate for MHH at 70% in 2021. It appears that the gender gap in average monthly per capita income returned in 2021 after having closed in 2020, likely due to the effect of COVID-19 and the economic crisis. The

average per capita income for FHH increased from LBP 52,258 in 2020 to LBP 80,782 in 2021, while it rose from LBP 65,240 to LBP 133,398 for MHH. However, this increase is only nominal, as the high rate of inflation means that the monthly income from employment of all households was still one-fifth of the SMEB value in both 2020 and 2021.

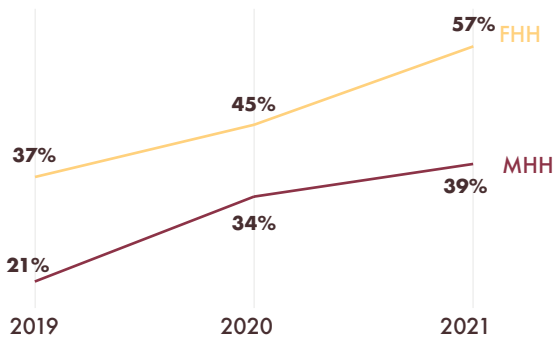
Figure 18: Per capita monthly income for all households



The trend of FHH dependency on WFP e-cards and ATM cards from UN or humanitarian agencies for their main source of income continued to increase in 2021. In 2021, 57% of FHH reported that their main source of income was either WFP

e-cards or ATM cards from humanitarian organizations, an increase from 45% in 2020, and far higher than for MHH (39%). FHH in Baalbek-El Hermel (81%) and Bekaa (89%) were particularly dependent on cash assistance.

Figure 19: Dependency on e-cards and ATM cards for main source of income since 2019, by gender



As in all previous VASyR studies, gender inequality remains a defining factor in all realms of life for Syrian refugees and is only becoming more pronounced during Lebanon’s economic crisis.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Lebanon Country Office

S&K Building, Nicolas Ibrahim Sursock Street, Jnah Beirut,
Lebanon

Tel: +961 1 849 201

Email: lebbe@unhcr.org

Facebook: UNHCRLebanon

Twitter: @UNHCRLebanon

www.unhcr.org/lb

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Lebanon Country Office

Ashrafieh, Sodeco Area, Sama Beirut Beirut, Lebanon

Tel: +961 1 607 400

Email: beirut@unicef.org

Facebook: UNICEFLebanon

Twitter: @UNICEFLebanon www.unicef.org/lebanon

World Food Programme (WFP)

Lebanon Country Office

Azarieh Building, Block 6, 3rd floor, Azarieh Street, Downtown
Beirut, Lebanon

Tel: +961 1 964 615

Email: wfp.lebanon@wfp.org

www.wfp.org/countries/lebanon