



Inter-Agency  
Coordination  
Lebanon



**UNHCR**  
The UN Refugee Agency



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# WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

Lebanon has struggled with having adequate clean and safe water and sanitation services. This, in turn, continues to put families at risk, especially infants and young children who are vulnerable to water- and sanitation-related diseases, one of the leading causes of death for children under the age of 5. This chapter provides data on the access to water for drinking, washing and other domestic uses, and on the types of sanitation facilities used by Syrian refugee families across different shelter types and regions.

## KEY FINDINGS

- In terms of access to drinking water, 92 per cent of household members had access to an improved drinking water source, a similar rate to 89 per cent in 2021. Bottled mineral water (34 per cent) still remains the main drinking water source that households rely on, with a slight decrease of 4 percentage points from 2021.
- A total of 72 per cent of household members had a water source available on their premises, similarly to previous years (73 per cent in 2021). There was a considerable difference of 10 percentage points between male- and female-headed households, with 71 per cent and 80 per cent respectively.
- The majority (92 per cent) of household members had access to an improved sanitation facility, a slight increase from 2021 (89 per cent). The use of an improved sanitation facility that is not shared increased by 16 percentage points, to 60 per cent.



# ACCESS TO DRINKING WATER

### Improved drinking water sources

- Household water tap/water network
- Piped water to neighbours
- Bottled mineral water
- Water tank/trucked water (United Nations/NGO provided)
- Protected borehole
- Piped water to yard/lot
- Protected spring
- Protected well
- Public tap/standpipe
- Water kiosk/shop

### Unimproved drinking water sources

- Water tank/trucked water (non-United Nations/NGO private provider)
- Unprotected borehole/well/spring
- Rainwater
- Surface water

### Basic drinking water sources

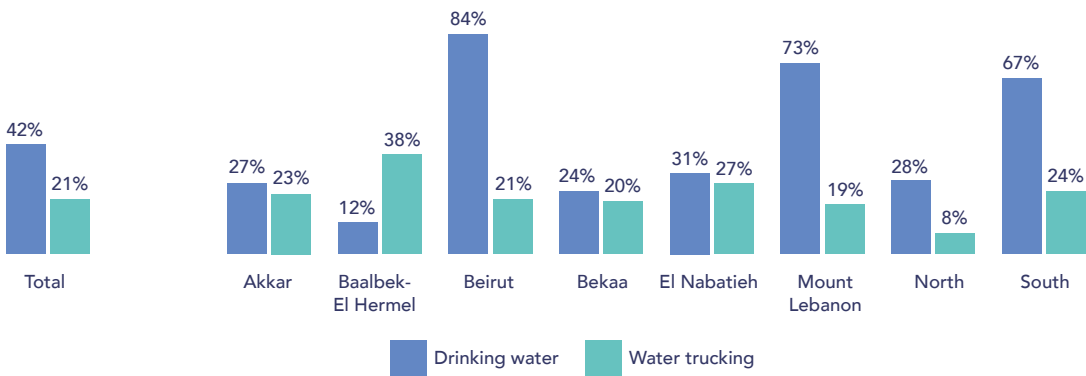
- Water source in dwelling/yard/plot
- Water source within 30-minute round trip collection time

The majority (92 per cent) of Syrian refugee households had access to improved drinking water sources, a slightly improved result compared to last year (89 per cent).<sup>1</sup> At a governorate level, the highest rate was in El Nabatieh at 96 per cent and the lowest rate was in Bekaa at 83 per cent.

# WATER EXPENDITURE

The ratio of Syrian refugees who reported paying for their drinking water was 42 per cent, with Beirut reporting the highest rate (84 per cent) and Baalbek-El Hermel the lowest (12 per cent). Similarly, 21 per cent reported paying for water trucking, with Baalbek-El Hermel reporting the highest rate (38 per cent) and North Lebanon the lowest (8 per cent).

Figure 1: Percentage of households that paid for drinking water or water trucking, by governorate



<sup>1</sup> VASyR does not measure the quality of the water provided.

# SOURCES OF DRINKING WATER

Across the years, the main source of drinking water remained bottled mineral water (34 per cent). The distribution varied widely across governorates. Beirut and Mount Lebanon showed the highest rates of use of bottled water (81 per cent and 69 per cent respectively), while Baalbek-El Hermel households reported the lowest use of bottled water (5 per cent).

Relying on bottled water as the main source of drinking water differed across shelter types, with 44 per cent of households living in residential shelters, and 26 per cent among households living in non-residential shelters. Households living in non-permanent shelters mostly relied on United Nations/NGO-provided water tank trucks (39 per cent), a decrease by 10 percentage points from 2021. The use of basic drinking water sources showed a slight increase in 2022 (89 per cent) compared to 85 per cent in 2021 and 86 per cent in 2019 and 2020.

# TREATMENT OF WASTEWATER IN SANITATION FACILITIES

### Improved sanitation facilities

- Flush toilets
- Improved pit latrines with cement slabs

### Unimproved sanitation facilities

- Traditional/pit latrine with no slab
- Bucket

The majority (92 per cent) of Syrian refugee households had access to improved sanitation facilities. Of those, most (74 per cent) used flush toilets, and 18 per cent used improved pits/latrines with cement slabs. The lowest percentage of improved sanitation was in Bekaa (81 per cent), whereas South Lebanon, Mount Lebanon and El Nabatieh were the highest at 97 per cent each. Improved

sanitation facilities also varied by shelter type, with residential shelters showing a 97 per cent rate of use of improved sanitation facilities, and non-permanent shelters showing a 78 per cent rate. Additionally, non-permanent shelters had the highest use of improved pit latrines (48 per cent) as compared to non-residential (18 per cent) and residential (9 per cent).

# UTILIZATION OF SANITATION FACILITIES BY INDIVIDUALS WITH A DISABILITY

Among households with a member with a disability, 94 per cent had access to a sanitation facility adjusted for disabilities, an increase of 9 percentage points from 85 per cent in 2021. Similarly to the findings among all Syrian refugee households, households with a member with a disability living in residential and non-residential shelters had notably higher rates of accessing improved sanitation (80 per cent and 72 per cent respectively) compared to those in non-permanent shelters (64 per cent).