WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE (WASH)

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

KEY FINDINGS

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

ACCESS TO DRINKING WATER

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

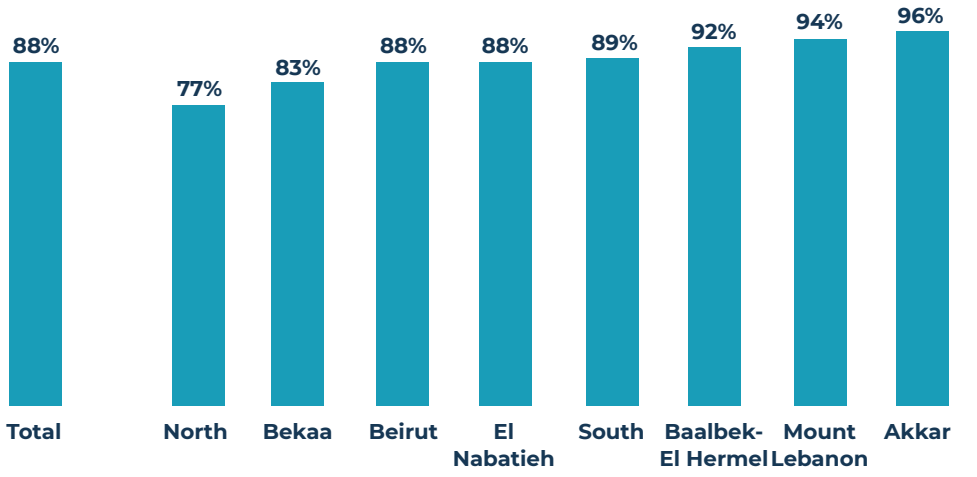
Unimproved drinking water sources
- Public/shared water stand/taps
- Unprotected borehole/well/spring
- Rainwater

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

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

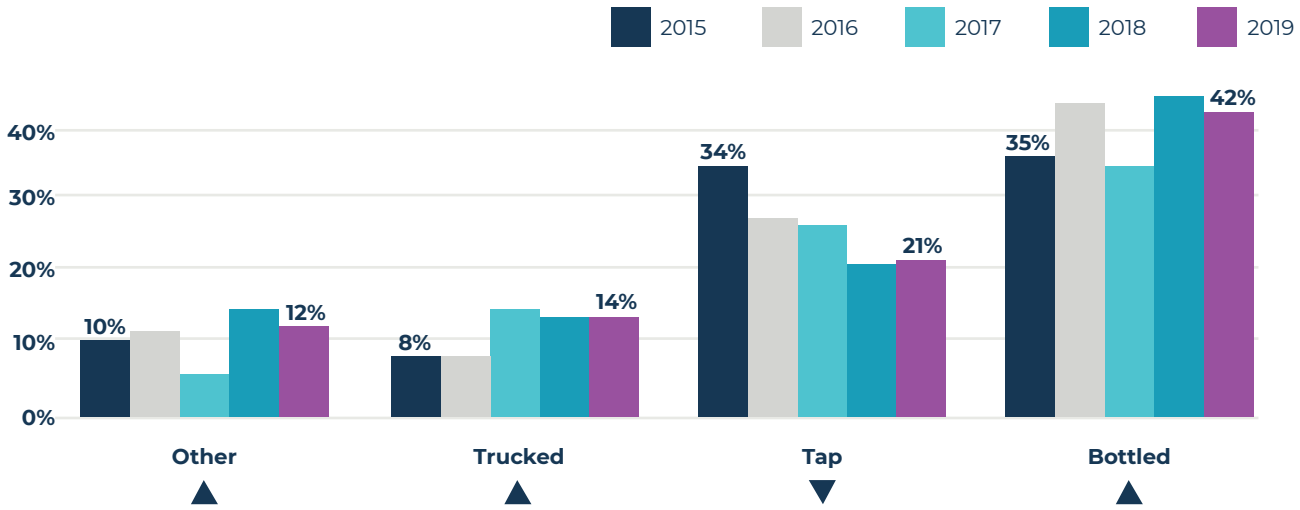
It should be noted that VASyR does not measure the quality of the water provided.

Figure 1: Use of improved drinking water sources



SOURCES OF DRINKING WATER

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



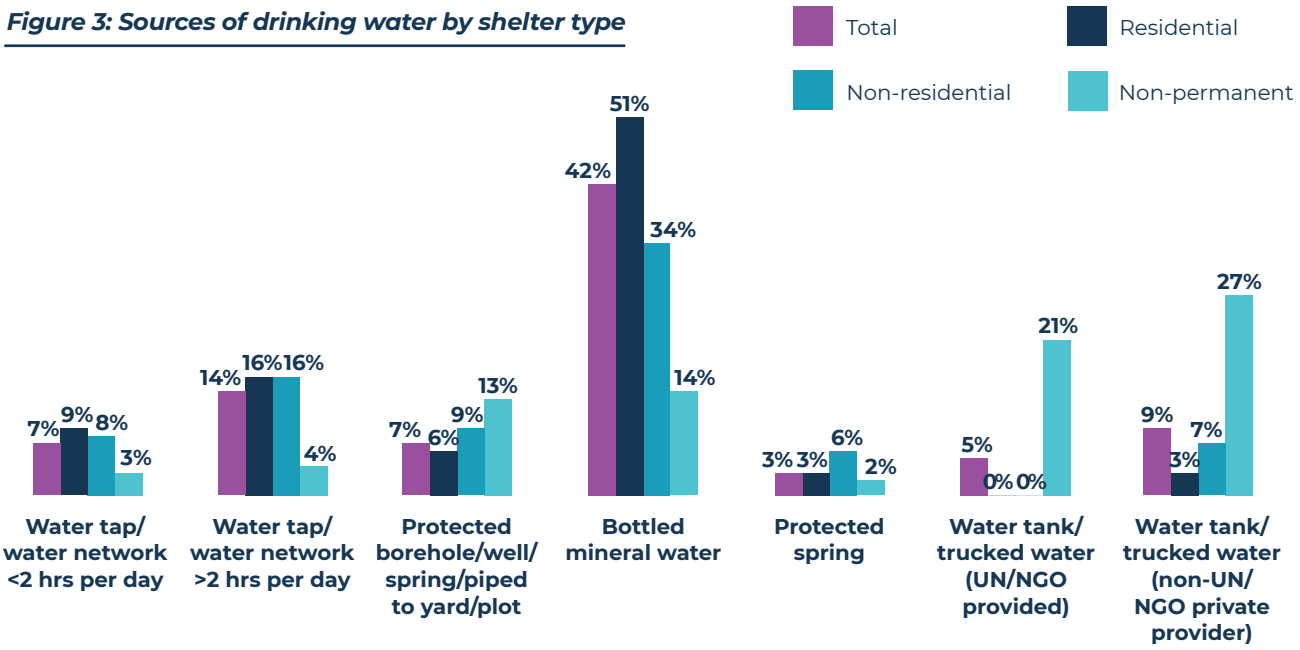
Similar to 2018, the main source of drinking water is bottled mineral water (42%), followed by tap water/water network (21%). Distribution of main source of drinking water can be seen in figure 2.

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

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

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

Figure 3: Sources of drinking water by shelter type



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

BASIC DRINKING WATER SERVICES

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

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

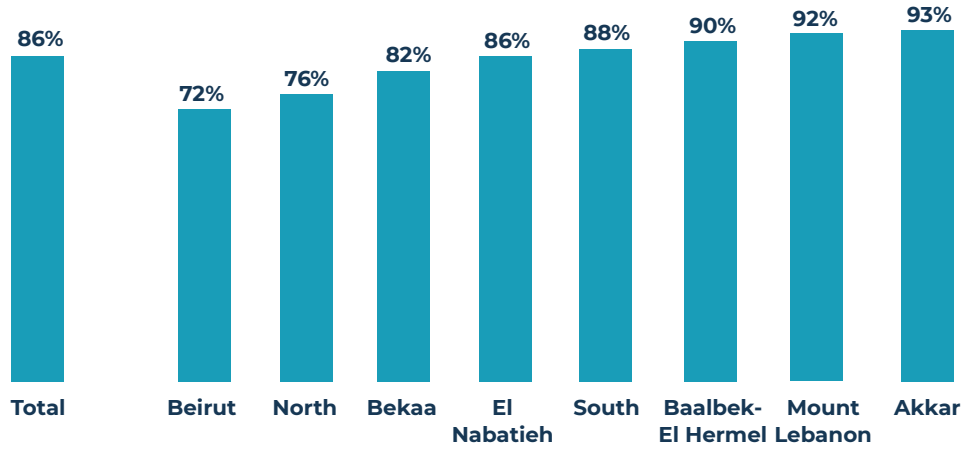
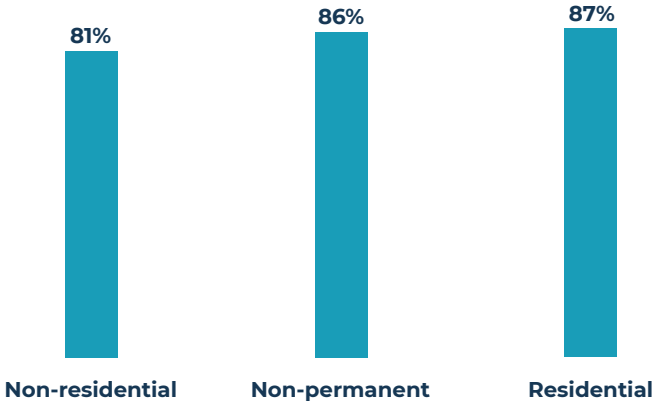


Figure 5: Use of basic drinking water services, by shelter type



SANITATION FACILITIES

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

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

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

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

Figure 6: Types of sanitation facilities by governorate

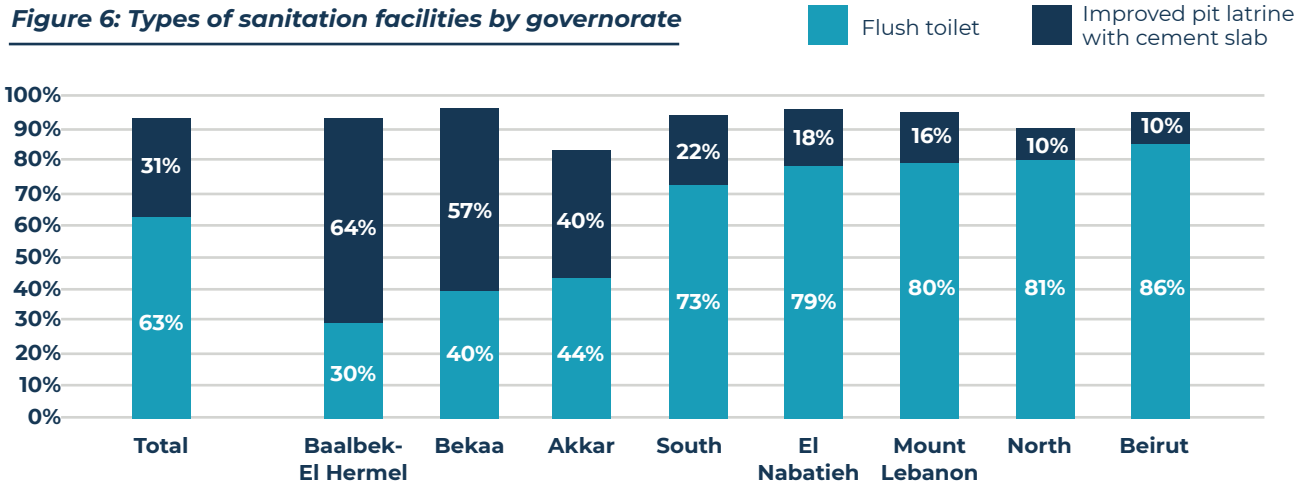
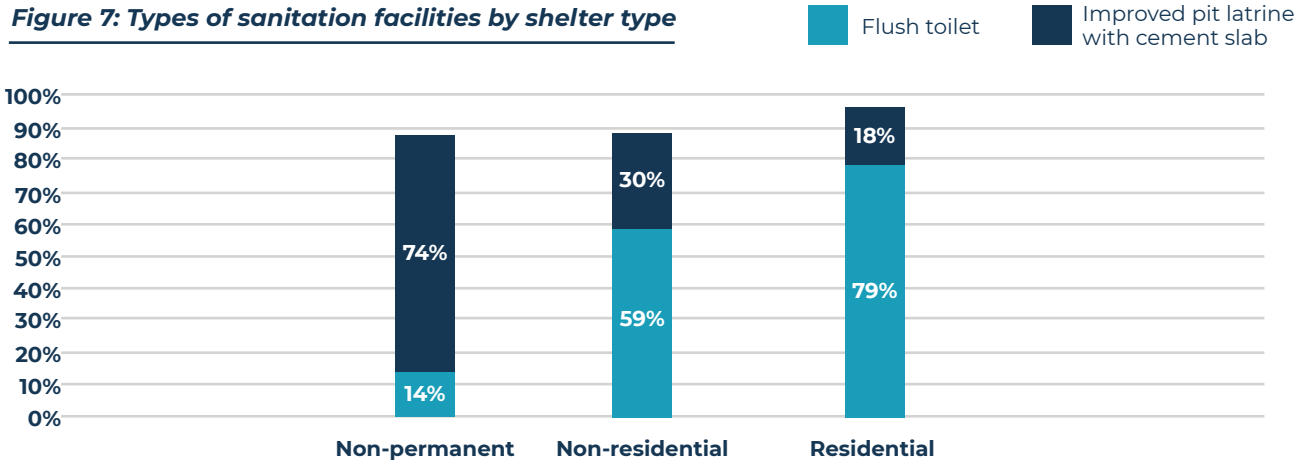


Figure 7: Types of sanitation facilities by shelter type



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

UTILIZATION OF SANITATION FACILITIES BY PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

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

Figure 8: Use of basic sanitation service by governorate

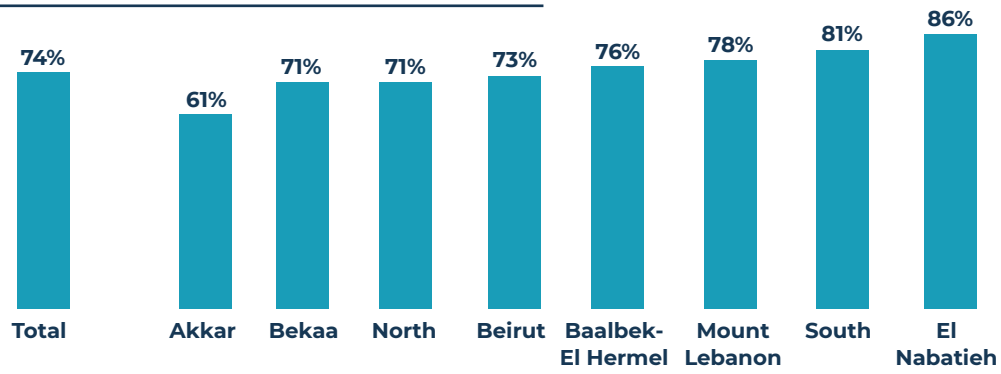


Figure 9: Use of basic sanitation service by shelter type

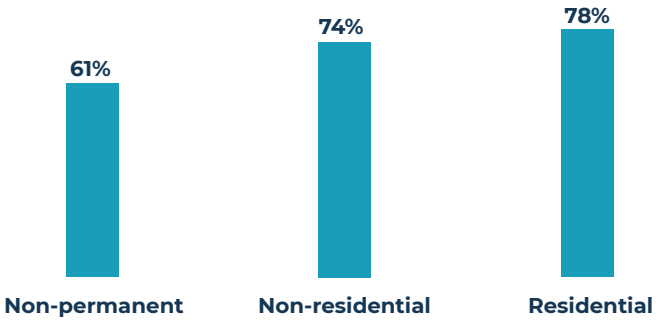


Figure 10: Financial impact of accessing safe water

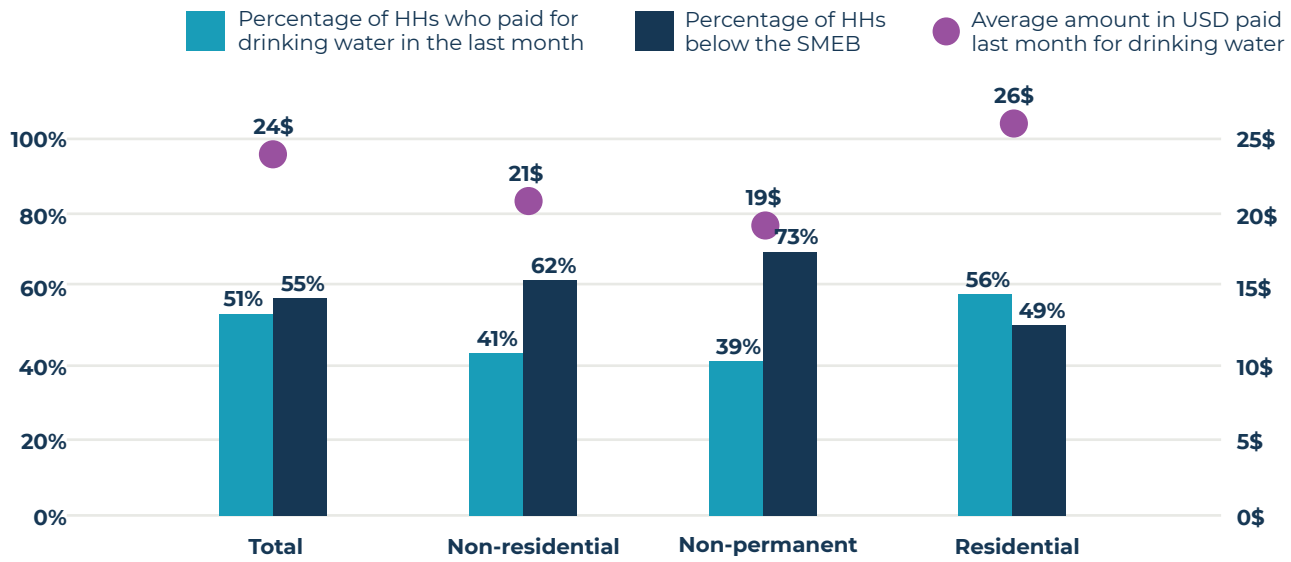
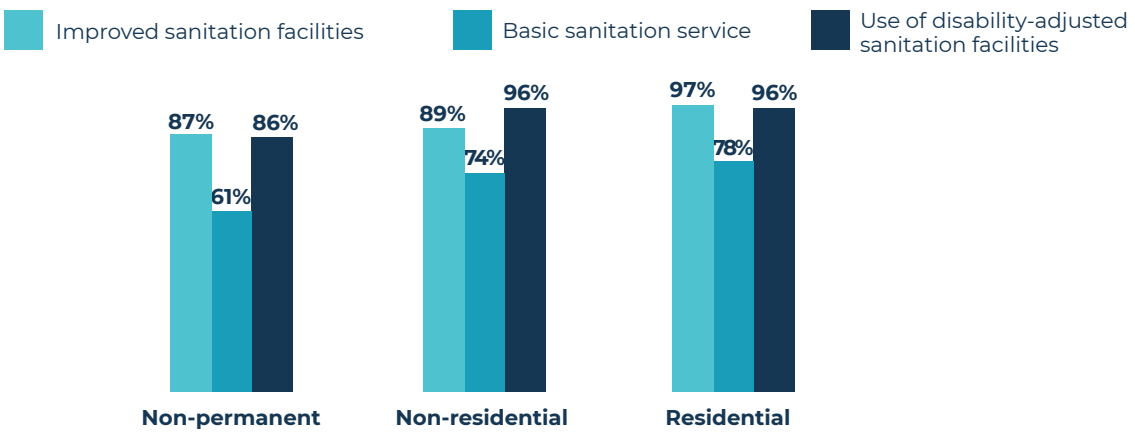


Figure 11: Sanitation indicators by shelter type



Voices from the field

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

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

Annex 8: Types of improved water sources

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

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

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