VASyR 2022

Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon

Inter-Agency Coordination Lebanon

UNHCR — The UN Refugee Agency

WFP — World Food Programme

unicef — for every child

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Syrian Refugees in Lebanon

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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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

The VASyR Hub

CHAPTERS
Here is where you can download individual VASyR thematic chapters in pdf.

MAPS
The Dynamic Maps are an interactive tool to help you visualize VASyR data. You will find maps here visualizing VASyR data from the past three years, allowing for geographical comparison.

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The VAULT is where you can find data tabulations for each chapter and theme, with information disaggregated per governorate, district, gender and other aspects. The VAULT can be of particular help for those wanting to have a more detailed look at VASyR data.

TOOLS
If you are an NGO designing an assessment, you can find a variety of resources in the Tools section, including the VASyR questionnaire, quality assurance & monitoring documents and enumerator training materials.

REQUEST
If you would like to access the full- or part of the VASyR dataset, please submit your request here. This section is particularly relevant for researchers or anyone willing to develop their own analysis using VASyR data.

VASyR microdata is published on the UNHCR microdata library.

http://microdata.unhcr.org/

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ACRONYMS

AAP	Accountability to affected populations
A-NAR	Adjusted net attendance rate
CARI	Consolidated approach for reporting indicators
CPI	Consumer price index
EDL	Electricité du Liban
FCS	Food consumption score
FHH	Female-headed households
GBV	Gender-based violence
GSO	General Security Office
HDADD	Household daily average diet diversity
HoH	Head of household
HWDD	Household weekly diet diversity
IYCF	Infant and young child feeding
ITS	Informal tented settlement
LBP	Lebanese pound
MEB	Minimum expenditure basket
MHH	Male-headed households
MoPH	Ministry of Public Health
NEET	Not in education, employment or training
NGO	Non-governmental organization
PHC	Primary health care
rCSI	Reduced Coping Strategy Index
SHC	Secondary health care
SMEB	Survival minimum expenditure basket
UN	United Nations
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees
VASyR	Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees
WASH	Water, sanitation and hygiene
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon (VASyR) analyses a representative sample of Syrian refugee households in Lebanon to provide a multisectoral update of the situation of this population. Conducted annually, 2022 marks the tenth 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), shows a continuous deterioration in the living situation of Syrians in Lebanon amid the deepening economic and financial crisis. With the exponential rise in prices of essential goods and services, 90 per cent of families need support to meet their basic needs. Reliance on negative coping mechanisms remained high, with further deterioration in the food security situation of families, and the majority of families continuing to live in substandard shelter conditions.

METHODOLOGY

In June and July 2022, survey teams visited over 5,000 randomly selected Syrian refugee households, covering all districts across Lebanon. The household questionnaire was based on that of the previous year to ensure comparability, and face-to-face interviews took 45–60 minutes to complete. The analysis plan was developed with inputs from the sector working groups and with reference to global indicators.

KEY FINDINGS

Protection

Legal residency rates were at an all-time low, with 17 per cent of Syrian refugees holding legal residency. Rates among women were lower than among men. Positively, birth registration rates increased, reaching 36 per cent. For those who have not completed the registration process, the main barriers included unaffordability (fees and transport) and lack of awareness of the procedures. Concerns about kidnapping were reported significantly higher in 2022 compared to 2021 and 2020 across all age and gender groups. The proportion of households where someone had personally witnessed a physical confrontation involving at least one Syrian refugee increased by 3 percentage points. That said, there was a positive increase in reported intra-community relations, with 61 per cent of Syrian households rating interactions with the Lebanese host communities as positive or very positive. Of those who reported tensions, the primary driver was competition for jobs.

Child Protection: Child labour, early marriage, and violent discipline

The percentage of children between 5 and 17 years old who were engaged in child labour in 2022 is 4 per cent. There was a significant difference in the gender parity of child labour, with boys (7%) and girls (2%). Among adolescent boys and girls aged 15–17, 17 per cent had worked for at least one hour i in return for pay, with boys at a triple rate compared to girls, at 28 per cent and 9 per cent respectively.

Twenty two percent of girls aged 15 to 19 were married at the time of the survey. Among married girls, 68 per cent did not attend school on any day during the scholastic year 2021/2022 and the previous year 2020/2021. The highest rate of child early marriage was found in Beirut at 36 per cent, with the lowest being in Akkar at 16 per cent.

More than half children between 1 to 14 (58%) experienced forms of violent discipline, namely physical punishment and/or psychological aggression an increase of 6 percentage points from last year. The highest was in more remote areas such as El Nabatieh (77 per cent) and Baalbek-El Hermel (76 per cent) governorates, with the lowest in Mount Lebanon (47 per cent) and Beirut(51 per cent) and South Lebanon (51 per cent).

Economic vulnerability

Given the inflation of prices and the depreciation of the Lebanese lira, Syrian refugees in Lebanon have become economically highly vulnerable. Over two thirds of Syrian refugees did not have the economic capacity to afford the minimum essential items needed to survive. If the value of assistance and credit had to be deducted from the household budget, then nearly 90 percent of the Syrian refugee households would not have the economic capacity to meet survival needs. Total expenditure has almost quadrupled in 2022 compared to 2021 (LBP 1,575,613 in 2022 versus LBP 316,129 in 2021), and the prices of food items have increased by 332 per cent since June 2021. Almost all refugee households (94 per cent) were taking on debt to cover their essential food and non-food needs, with an average accumulated debt of LBP 11,610,661 per household and LBP 2,764,159 per capita. Food needs continue to be the main reason for borrowing, as reported by 93 per cent of households, followed by rent (46 per cent) and medication costs (35 per cent). This indicates that refugees' purchasing power has decreased and they are unable to meet their essential needs without taking on debt, which further exacerbates their vulnerability.

Food security

In 2022, based on the consolidated approach for reporting indicators (CARI), the rate of food insecurity among Syrian refugees witnessed a sharp increase to reach 67 per cent (61 per cent were moderately food insecure and 6 per cent were severely food insecure), compared to 49 per cent in 2021. The highest increases in rates of food insecurity were reported in the governorates of Akkar and Baalbek-El Hermel (31 percentage-point increases each). a higher proportion of female headed households were food insecure, compared to male headed households and seven out of ten households living below the SMEB were food insecure. The percentage of households with inadequate food consumption also increased in 2022 (57 per cent in 2022 versus 46 per cent in 2021). The governorates with the highest rates of inadequate food intake were North Lebanon (72 per cent), Baalbek-El Hermel (62 per cent), Bekaa (62 per cent) and Akkar (59 per cent). Daily dietary diversity decreased in 2022, as 14 per cent of refugees had rich diversity and consumed over 6.5 food groups per day, compared to 21 per cent of refugees in 2021. Daily consumption of vitamin A-rich foods (24 per cent in 2022 versus 36 per cent in 2021) and protein rich foods (34 per cent versus 44 per cent) also significantly decreased.

Livelihoods

The percentage of working refugees remained stable in 2022 compared to 2021 (both 33 per cent); however, this is an increase since 2020 (26 per cent). Seven out of ten households had at least one working member, and the monthly income from employment for all households in dollars has almost doubled this year, $34 (LBP 517,564) in 2022 versus $60 in 2021 (LBP 1,708,258). Even with this increase, their income only covered 21 per cent of the cost of the SMEB, similar to 2021. This further proves that refugees were unable to cover the costs of their food and non-food essential needs from their employment. Female labour-force participation remained much lower than male labour-force participation (18 per cent and 73 per cent respectively). Most refugees reported humanitarian aid as their main source of income, which indicates the importance of this aid given that refugees were highly dependent on it to survive.

Coping strategies

The overwhelming majority of refugees, 97 per cent, had resorted to coping strategies to meet their food needs. They were consuming less preferred/less expensive foods, reducing meal portion sizes and reducing the number of meals eaten per day. In 2022, 44 per cent of refugees had reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI) values of 19+ points, indicating that they faced high difficulties in accessing food. The highest increases in rCSI value were reported in South Lebanon (25 points in 2022 versus 15 points in 2021) and El Nabatieh (23 points in 2022 versus 19 points in 2021). A total of 69 per cent of the Syrian refugee population were adapting crisis and emergency livelihood coping strategies that affected their medium- and long-term ability to cope with future shocks. Some of the most implemented strategies among refugees were reducing expenditure on food (89 per cent), buying food on credit (81 per cent), and reducing expenditure on health (60 per cent) and education (30 per cent). Additionally, one out of ten refugee households reported withdrawing their children from school to reduce expenditures.

Nutrition

A Significant per cent of children in Lebanon are not getting the diets they need to reach their potential growth and development. Children are not fed enough of the right foods at the right time. Currently, 54 per cent of children aged 6–8 months are not fed solid foods. Among children aged 6–23 months, 89 per cent are not fed with the minimum meal frequency, and 81 per cent do not have minimally diverse diets. The low consumption of nutritious foods is especially worrying among over 70 and 90 per cent of children who are missing the lifelong benefits of the most nutrient-rich foods, such as fruits and vegetables and protein group such as eggs, fish and meat respectively. Children's diets have seen little or no improvement since last two years due to prolongation of the socio-economic crisis, the above deprivations are already showing impact on the nutritional outcomes among the most vulnerable children and lastly, children's diets are constrained by gender barriers, girl bearing higher risks to poor diets.

Health

About 18 per cent of individuals had a health problem that required access to health care in the last three months, and 73 per cent of these individuals were able to access the needed health care. Among individuals in need of health care, 90 per cent needed primary health care (PHC) and 10 per cent needed secondary health care (SHC). The percentage of households in need who were able to access PHC (75 per cent) was higher than the percentage of households who were able to access SHC services (59 per cent). Cost was, by far, the main barrier to accessing the needed care. This included direct costs, such as treatment or consultation fees, and indirect costs, such as transportation.

Regarding children, the percentage of refugee children under the age of 2 who suffered from at least one disease in the two weeks prior to the survey was 24 per cent, which was similar to 2021 and 2020.

Regarding women's delivery, 23 per cent of women aged 15–49 had delivered a baby in the past two years, of which 54 per cent received at least four antenatal care visits and 92 per cent delivered in health-care facilities.

Shelter

Monthly rental costs have almost tripled compared to 2021, reaching an average of over LBP 800,000 nationally, with the highest rates in Beirut. More than half of households are behind on their rent payments, and almost a third of those are three months behind or more. The distribution of Syrian refugee households across the main shelter types remained stable, with 69 per cent living in residential structures, 21 per cent in non-permanent shelters and 10 per cent in non-residential structures. Like last year, over half (58 per cent) of households were living in shelters that were either overcrowded, had conditions below humanitarian standards, and/or were in danger of collapse. A total of 7 per cent of households were currently living under an eviction notice.

Energy

In 2022 access to electricity declined significantly, with 12 per cent of households not having any connection to an electricity source (3 per cent in 2021). Almost all households were experiencing power outages, at an average of 15 hours per day, more than double the figure for 2021. The national grid was only supplying an average of three hours of electricity per day, and households were increasingly relying on private generators. Reliance on wood for cooking and heating increased significantly since 2021, and almost a third of households reported not having an energy source for heating during the previous winter season.

WASH

In 2022, a significant portion of Syrian households reported not having enough water to meet various needs. Drinking water sources were not available when needed for 28 per cent of households, while 56 per cent reported insufficient or barely sufficient water for washing and domestic purposes, a devastating increase of 23 percentage points from 2021. Water insufficiency was higher in residential shelters, which indicates a worse level of accessing services than in non-permanent locations heavily supported with humanitarian assistance.

The proportion of households that share their toilet with other households has doubled since 2021 and reached 36 per cent. This may have potential negative protection and GBV-related implications and is particularly concerning in non-permanent locations where half of the households reported sharing the toilet with other households. This significant increase of 23 percentage points from 2021 for non-permanent locations may be associated with economic hardship and selling toilet materials to cover other household needs.

Education

The numbers of children who are accessing education remains low, and with the situation being worse than pre-COVID rates. Out of all school-aged children, between the ages of 3 and 17 years of age, just half (53%) reported attending school for the year 2021-2022. The results show significant fluctuations between ages, with 14 percent among pre-primary children (ages 3 to 5), 59% of children ages 6 to 14, and 27% among adolescents ages 15 to 17. Gender disparity is a major issue at the secondary levels, with twice as many girls accessing education by the time they reach upper secondary levels; boys lack of access is reported as due to work as the main reason. Economic barriers remain the greatest issue facing children who were not attending school, with transportation (32%), cost of education materials (27%), and work (22%), cited as the most common reasons. The youth ages 15-24 remain vulnerable, with 59% without any education, employment or training. Thirty-five percent of all youth ages 15-24 have never attended school.

Recommendations

• **Legal residency:** The VASyR findings demonstrate the need for targeted outreach for legal residency. Targeting should be guided by several factors. In addition to focusing on locations with low legal residency rates, partners should consider locations where impact of not having legal residency is more severe on individuals. For example, in South Lebanon, legal residency rates have historically been high(er) compared to other governorates. This is understood to be an indication of the increased need to prioritize legal residency for easier movement and safety due to the specific security situation. Similarly, in 2022, restrictive measures have been more prominent in informal tented settlements (ITSs), particularly in Bekaa, and ITSs have significantly lower legal residency rates compared to other shelter types, making this important for the prioritization of outreach. Furthermore, there should be tailored outreach for women and youth given their low rates of legal residency, without diverting resources from outreach to young men and adolescent boys who, according to the community, face greater risk of arrest and detention as a result of lack of legal residency.

• **Challenges with obtaining legal residency:** Challenges should be addressed through an expansion of the fee waiver in line with the recommendations of the Brussels Conference partnership papers. Expanding the fee waiver for legal residency to all categories of refugees, not just those with UNHCR registration, while ensuring consistent implementation of the 2017 fee waiver across the country, is critical for refugee protection. Furthermore, permitting all Syrian refugees registered with UNHCR – even if they previously renewed their residency based on a sponsorship – to renew their residency based on their UNHCR certificate, and allowing Syrian youth who have turned 15 years old while in Lebanon to obtain residency using their Syrian Individual Civil Extract even after they become adults and without a specific validity, would significantly facilitate access to legal residency. Furthermore, specific considerations should also be taken of concerns raised by refugees about approaching General Security Offices (GSOs), pointing to the need to expand accompaniment practices of refugees to GSOs given the promising results from this practice. These measures are especially important in light of yearly increases to legal residency barriers reported by refugees. They will allow for the increase of refugees' freedom of movement and access to documentation, as well as to critical services, justice and safety. They would also provide the national authorities with comprehensive updated information on the refugee population.

• **Birth registration:** Long-term efforts to promote birth and marriage registration demonstrate a gradual impact, but to maintain results, efforts must be mainstreamed through other sectors. To effect large-scale improvement in birth registration rates, continued significant policy changes will need to be made at the level of ministries. This emphasizes the need to extend the waiver to Syrian children born after 8 February 2022, also including children of other nationalities, including Lebanese.

• **Protection and conflict-sensitivity mainstreaming:** Results from the VASyR show there are growing challenges to accessing services in the community, aid perception bias, and barriers people face when accessing and participating in humanitarian interventions. Protection mainstreaming and conflict sensitivity must be key priorities in the response in 2023. A critical step to achieving this is to improve the availability of analysis on protection risks in relation to humanitarian assistance.

• **Safety and security:** Perceptions collected in relation to safety and security incidents demonstrate the need for perspectives to be directly sought from the different age, gender, disability and diversity groups in order to provide more accurate results and tailor responses. Feedback from the community in terms of how their physical safety can be improved is important. Increases in reported safety and security concerns demonstrates a need to scale up case management services and ensure case workers are equipped to adequately respond especially to legal and physical protection cases. Furthermore, a better understanding of the drivers leading to households with at least one member with a disability reporting high(er) safety and security concerns is required, as well as the mainstreaming of these households into other sector services and social assistance programmes.

• **Gender-based violence (GBV):** Results on women and girls' safety and security concerns were limited due to the survey methodology. However, results on sexual harassment do point to the need to increase targeted programming for sexual harassment, especially in southern Lebanon, as well as a need to reach out to households with persons with a disability. Strengthening the protection of girls who are forced into child labour is extremely important in order to prevent sexual exploitation. Moreover, interventions should enhance intersectoral collaboration among education, child protection and GBV partners to improve safety in schools. This could include GBV training for teachers and students, and safe referrals to specialized services. Lastly, noting the limitations of quantitative household surveys to safely collect data on GBV vulnerability, assessments should be complemented with qualitative studies to identify main GBV risks for refugees and host communities.

• **Protection of children from violence:** The VASyR results show how children are deprived of their right to protection from different forms of violence, namely child labour, violent discipline and child marriage, in line with results from various other sources. With the current situation of mass poverty, unemployment at a tipping point, cumulative debts on families, and schools still at risk of closure, children are the ones who will be impacted the most. This calls for optimizing and expanding integration between sectors and programmes, while ensuring a gender- and age-sensitive approach. Each vulnerable child should benefit from protection services such as mental health and 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, including social and behaviour change initiatives, 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 that the phenomena might escalate quickly in light of the absence of any national policy (e.g. a minimum age for marriage), increase in unemployment and poverty rates, school closures, and deterioration of the socioeconomic situation.

• **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 and other essential needs (e.g. education, health, shelter) in a context of currency depreciation, price spikes, subsidy removals and reduced livelihood opportunities.

There should be regular and timely monitoring of prices and the value of the SMEB/MEB, and the adjustment of transfer values accordingly to ensure that refugees can meet their essential food and non-food needs without resorting to negative coping strategies.

There is a need for the expansion of cash-based assistance and ensuring that transfer values are informed by the gap analysis to make certain that severely vulnerable Syrian refugees, those unable to cover the cost of the SMEB, receive required assistance.

Likewise, food security and vulnerability indicators need to be continuously monitored throughout the year, at both national and governorate levels. Given the results of this monitoring process, the indicators need to be updated to capture the dynamic socioeconomic situation in Lebanon.

There is a need for tailored programmes that reflect gender-, disability- and protection-related vulnerabilities. For example, the proportion of women within the labour force remains low (18 per cent), hence it is recommended to plan programmes that encourage women to enter the labour force. It is also recommended to tailor assessments and programmes to specifically capture the food security and livelihood needs of vulnerable refugees. Future programmes should be designed accordingly.

The monthly income of most Syrian refugees was enough to cover only 21 per cent of the SMEB. This indicates that they were being poorly paid, even though they were taking on high-risk jobs (6 per cent of Syrian refugees were found to be engaged in high-risks jobs). Given that Syrian refugees are only able to work in two sectors, agriculture and construction, there is a need to diversify agricultural and livelihoods projects for which refugees will be adequately paid for their work, decreasing the rate of refugees taking on high-risk jobs. Collaboration among humanitarian agencies, NGOs and the Government is needed in order to develop income opportunities for Syrian refugees.

Given the worsening socioeconomic crisis, the depreciation of the Lebanese lira and the impact of these on all residents in Lebanon, it is recommended to focus on conflict sensitivity in all programmes pertaining to food and basic needs assistance among refugees. There is a need for greater advocacy with donors to increase funding for food assistance to ensure adequate transfer values, updated on a regular basis based on needs and gap

analysis, to avoid prioritizing reach over assistance value. Funding for agricultural livelihoods interventions is also key, to enhance people's access to food and reduce their reliance on imports.

• **Nutrition:** The VASyR has shown that Syrian children in Lebanon face an increased risk to meeting dietary requirements. Poor-quality diets impose majors risks to survival, growth, early childhood development. These risks are highest in the first two years of life, when insufficient dietary intake of nutrients can permanently harm a child's rapid growth and development. In such context, there must be an explicit focus on addressing all forms of malnutrition and the associated growth and developmental deprivations. Deprived growth and early childhood development are a violation of children's right and has lifelong impacts on wellbeing of the population throughout the life course. Specific focus during maternal and child nutrition during the first 1,000 days coupled with a nurturing care framework and Early Childhood Development investment– must be a core to the response to ensure all children reach their potential growth and development. In such context, the government must take the lead in fulfilling every child's right to nutrition. Together with humanitarian and development partners as well as the private sector, governments must mobilize all delivery systems; including nutrition, food, health and social protection systems to deliver nutritious, adequate and affordable diets, essential nutrition and child development services and promote healthy nutrition and child development practices to every child, their caregivers and women.

• **Access to health care:**
Considering the increasingly difficult socioeconomic situation in the country and its impact on the health system, it is crucial to maintain and expand all current support provided by health sector partners to increase equitable access to quality health-care services. In general, the public health system needs to be supported and strengthened to ensure provision of universal access to health care. It is becoming crucial to address the financial barriers to accessing PHC and SHC. This includes direct costs, such as treatment and consultation fees, and indirect costs, such as transportation. The poor access to medications highlights the need to increase support to the mechanism for central acquisition and distribution of essential drugs to PHC facilities, as well as to strengthen supply chain management at the health facilities level. The overall situation requires efforts to further increase integrated health education, awareness and care-seeking behaviours, especially for preventive services such as vaccination and antenatal care.

• **Shelter and eviction:**
Preparedness and response to emergencies, mainly addressing refugees living in non-permanent shelters, should be ensured to enhance lifesaving interventions. The current yearly mobility rate of 11 per cent, and increase in eviction and eviction threats from 5 to 7 per cent, are results of increased socioeconomic vulnerability and civil unrest. This should be addressed through short-term emergency response (e.g. cash for rent). An integrated and multisectoral response for the longer term, focusing on shelter, water, sanitation and hygiene, protection, and social stability, is also required to meet the increasing needs of the Syrian refugee population in Lebanon.

• **WaSH:** The only viable, at-scale solution to mitigate elevated public health risks in Lebanon, including the prevention of recurring cholera outbreaks, is through the immediate systemic-level support to the operational and managerial capacity of public water and sanitation service providers. This will not only prevent the total collapse of utilities, which are the most cost-efficient way of water and sanitation service provision to the population but in the longer-term contribute to the implementation of the national water sector strategy and reforms, and increase the subscription rate.

Given that the main bottleneck for the WaSH sector remains energy, a key priority is to continue supporting humanitarian and development actors' efforts to reduce water supply and sanitation systems' reliance on fossil fuel and electricity from the public grid.

The most viable alternative in Lebanon is the solarization of feasible systems and/or the increase the gravity-fed water supply solutions. The humanitarian support for a basic WaSH services provision to 300,000 displaced Syrians residing in non-permanent locations needs to continue. Resources to cover the capital cost of investments for the water and sanitation action plans and high-level advocacy for durable solutions are urgently required to enable the transition to more sustainable and cost-efficient ways of securing access to WaSH services, that should benefit both hosting and displaced communities.

• **Education**
To reduce present and future vulnerabilities, education must continue to be a priority for the crisis response. There is a clear need to increase outreach to out-of-school children and youth, expanding opportunities for supporting their enrollment in primary school, as well as providing recognized alternatives for older children and youth to acquire foundational skills and training. With economic barriers remaining the greatest challenge to education access, education costs, including transportation and education materials, should be considered in all interventions that respond to economic vulnerabilities, and cash for education should be expanded. Greater cross-sectoral collaboration child protection will be needed to respond to the gender disparities in education related to child work, particularly for children ages 12-18. Similarly, cross-sectoral collaboration with livelihoods could support rates of education access for youth. With very low rates of pre-primary education access and given its importance in achieving higher education completion rates and improved learning outcomes, investment in awareness and expansions of services for children ages 3-5 is needed. Finally, it would be useful to research more about the factors within the education settings that influence drop-out overall and transition between lower secondary and upper-secondary levels.

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INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND

Eleven years into the Syrian conflict, Lebanon ranks the highest in per capita population of refugees in the world, with over 1.5 million displaced Syrians within its borders. Specifically, the Syrian refugee population in Lebanon remains one of the largest concentrations of refugees per capita in the world. A series of overlapping political, economic and social crises in Lebanon has underpinned the vastly growing level of need across populations in the country.

On the macroeconomic front, at the beginning of July 2022 the World Bank downgraded Lebanon to a lower-middle-income country for the first time in 27 years, after Lebanon's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) had decreased from $55 billion in 2018 to $20.5 billion in 2021.[1] The Lebanese lira has continued to lose value in 2022, reaching exchange rates close to LBP 43,000 to the United States dollar in the informal market in December 2022. The country depends heavily on imports, paid for in dollars; fluctuations in exchange rates thus have significant impacts on the prices of goods and services in the country. Inflation is still on the rise: between October 2019 and the time of data collection in June 2022 the Consumer Price Index, which measures the average change of prices over time, rose by 1,066 per cent.

In addition to these factors, the COVID-19 and more recent Cholera outbreaks have stretched the country's health sector and resources to breaking point. As a result, Lebanon's financial and humanitarian situation ranks among the most severe crises in the world today.

[1] World Bank Group, "Lebanon economic monitor: Lebanon sinking (to the top 3)" (2021). Washington, D.C. https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/lebanon/publication/lebanon-economic-monitor-spring-2021-lebanon-sinking-to-the-top-3.

PURPOSE

The 2022 Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon (VASyR) is the tenth annual representative survey assessing the situation of Syrian refugees in Lebanon, with the aim to identify changes and trends in their vulnerabilities.

Since its first round of data collection and assessment in 2013, the VASyR has become an essential tool for planning, shaping decision-making and the design of needs-based programmes. The results of the VASyR are used by the 10 sectors in partnership under the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP), in order to understand the situational changes in Lebanon and advocate for funding. The VASyR has also been used to build targeting models, for instance to predict socioeconomic vulnerability and allocate assistance accordingly. Furthermore, the results of the VASyR reveal the geographical differences in vulnerabilities at governorate and district levels, which then 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 conditions, energy access, access to services, the situation of women and children, accountability to affected people (AAP), and more. The information feeds into the situational analysis of the LCRP and informs the planning processes of local government agencies, donor countries and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

2. To enhance targeting for the provision of assistance. The VASyR is used to build or revise targeting models, like the formula to predict socioeconomic 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 help identify the most vulnerable areas.

3. To contribute to the LCRP monitoring and evaluation framework. The VASyR results are used to measure whether sector objectives and outcomes have been achieved. The VASyR is also used in the formulas to calculate LCRP impact indicators such as protection risks.

4. Provide an overview of the additional needs of Syrian refugees impacted by the ongoing crisis. The VASyR 2022 aims

ASSESSMENT ORGANIZATION AND SCOPE

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Food Programme (WFP) are the VASyR leading technical agencies and together form the VASyR steering committee, along with the inter-agency coordination unit. The members of the VASyR core group were responsible for implementing the assessment, providing technical insights and ensuring quality control. The inter-agency coordination 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 early 2022, with rounds of feedback with the core group and sector experts. Data collection took place from 7 June to 7 July 2022.

The analysis for this report was conducted by the three above-mentioned United Nations agencies, with support and coordination from the inter-agency unit. UNHCR was the lead for demographics, protection, shelter, health, energy, assistance and AAP; UNICEF was the lead for water, sanitation and hygiene, energy, youth, education, child protection, child health, child nutrition, and children with disabilities; and WFP was the lead for economic vulnerability, livelihoods, food consumption, coping strategies and food security. UN Women conducted a gender-specific results write-up based on data analysis by the lead agencies. Humanity and Inclusion trained enumerators on the questions on disability in the Washington Group Short Set on Functioning. Coordinators from the three agencies provided the requested analysis and oversaw the relevant chapters in the VASyR.

The figure below reflects the scope and contents of the VASyR. For additional details on the implementation of the survey, see the methodology chapter.

Figure 1: The scope and contents of VASyR

Provide immediate assistance to vulnerable population

Ensure protection of vulnerable people

Access to income
- Child labour
- Sources of income

Food security
- Food consumption
- Coping strategies

Basic assistance
- Economic vulnerability
  - Expenditures
  - Debt

Living conditions
- WASH
  - Water sources
  - Sanitation
  - Solid waste
- Shelter
  - Shelter conditions
  - Rental costs
  - Mobility
  - Energy

Access to services
- Education
  - School enrolment
  - Technical and vocational
- Health
  - Primary health care
  - Secondary health care
  - Child health

Protection
- Basic rights
  - Civil documentation
  - Birth registration
  - Access to residency
  - Legal status
- Child protection
  - Child labour
  - Child marriage
  - Violent discipline

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METHODOLOGY

SAMPLING

Sampling for the VASyR followed a two-stage cluster approach, in keeping with the methodology of previous years. The UNHCR database of known Syrian refugees as of April 2022 served as the sample frame. Households with missing addresses were excluded. Sampling was based on a "30 x 7" two-stage cluster scheme initially developed by the World Health Organization (WHO). This method outlines a sample size of 30 clusters per geographical area, and 7 households per cluster, which provides a precision of +/- 10 percentage points. Districts were considered as the geographical level within which 30 clusters were selected. There are 26 districts in Lebanon, including Beirut and Akkar which each represent both a district and a governorate. As such, to ensure similar representativeness with other governorates, an additional two strata samples were considered for each of these, yielding 90 cluster selections apiece. 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 software, villages were selected with a probability proportionate to size, meaning villages with a larger concentration of refugees were more likely to be selected; 30 clusters/villages were selected with four replacement clusters per district.

In order to determine the sample size needed to generate results representative at district, governorate and national levels, the following assumptions were used:
- 50 per cent estimated prevalence
- 10 per cent precision
- 1.5 design effect
- 5 per cent margin of error

Using these 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 per cent non-response rate was considered. In the final sample, 8,337 cases were targeted across all districts, of which 5,090 households were visited.

TRAINING AND FIELDWORK

Enumerator training was carried out in person from 19 to 26 May 2022. Separate enumerator trainings were carried out in person for each operational region (Bekaa, Mount Lebanon, North Lebanon and South Lebanon) covering the data-collection tool, contextual background, methodology and ethical considerations. The bulk of the training was administered by UNHCR, WFP and UNICEF staff. Training on the questions on disability in the Washington Group Short Set on Functioning was provided by Humanity and Inclusion. Data were collected and entered on electronic tablets by the enumerators during the interviews using KoBo toolbox software. The data were then sent to the UNHCR Refugee Assistance Information System (RAIS) platform.

Data collection took place between 7 June and 7 July 2022 through face-to-face interviews at refugee homes in each region by one of four partners, 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	SHEILD
Mount Lebanon	Makhzoumi Foundation
North	Caritas
South	SHEILD

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. Interviews took place with one household member at a safe social distance, and in an outdoor or a well-ventilated area. If these conditions could not be met, or if any household member was showing COVID-19-related symptoms, the interview was called off.

QUESTIONNAIRE

The 2022 VASyR questionnaire consisted of around 690 conditional and unconditional questions that collected data at the household and individual levels, including on demographics, legal documentation, safety and security, shelter, water, sanitation and hygiene, 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, and AAP.

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://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/96732

DATA QUALITY ASSURANCE

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

1. Using a harmonized checklist, each VASyR core agency conducted frequent spot checks on each of the data-collection teams across Lebanon.[1] 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 interviews were 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 the accuracy of data collected, and to identify outliers during data collection.

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 wn is the normalized weight, Ns is the total sample frame of the district, N is the total national sample frame, ns is the number of households visited in the district, and n is the total visited households.

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

LIMITATIONS AND CONSTRAINTS

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

1. 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 survey participants with a comprehensive explanation of the purpose, risks and benefits of participating in the VASyR survey, and reassuring them of the confidentiality of their answers, so that their comprehensive informed consent could be given.

2. The VASyR sampling frame excluded Syrian refugees who had never approached UNHCR (unless they were within a targeted

household). It is worth noting that this population is a consistent gap in data on Syrian refugees in Lebanon.

3. The VASyR questionnaire and respective indicators were subjected to adjustments and changes in order to ensure that the most accurate definitions or calculations were being used. This caused some results not to be directly comparable with previous years.

4. The VASyR is a household survey, and the interview was usually conducted with the head of household or any other adult household member. As such, individual interviews were not carried out with each family member, and obtaining accurate information on particularly sensitive topics such as child labour or harassment may be a challenge.

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[1] *For a detailed description of the spot checks procedure and tools used, see http://ialebanon.unhcr.org/vasyr.*

DEMOGRAPHICS

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 in household affairs.

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 18 per cent, in line with last year.
- 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, 14 per cent of individuals were found to have a disability. At the household level, 32 per cent had at least one member with a disability.

POPULATION PROFILE

Figure 1: Age distribution of Syrian refugees, by sex

Examining the distribution of the population by age and sex, there was an overall even division between male and female, across all age groups. Over half (51.2 per cent) of the Syrian refugee population in Lebanon was below the age of 18.

REFUGEE HOUSEHOLDS

The average Syrian refugee household size remained stable at five individuals per household. On average, households were composed of 2.27 adults (18–59 years), 1.49 children aged 6–17, and 0.9 children aged 5 or younger. The average household size was higher among male-headed households (5.2 individuals) compared to female-headed households (4.1 individuals).[1]

Most commonly, households had between one and four members (43 per cent), 36 per cent had five or six members, and 21 per cent had seven household members or more. A total of 86 per cent of households had at least one member under the age of 18 years

old, and 59 per cent had at least one child under the age of 5. A total of 10 per cent of households had an elderly member aged 60 or above.

The share of female-headed households has remained stable over the years, and was recorded at 18 per cent in 2022, which is similar to 2021. Beirut had the lowest share at 10 per cent, while Akkar and Baalbek-El Hermel had the highest rates, with 24 and 23 per cent of households in these governorates being headed by a woman, respectively.

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

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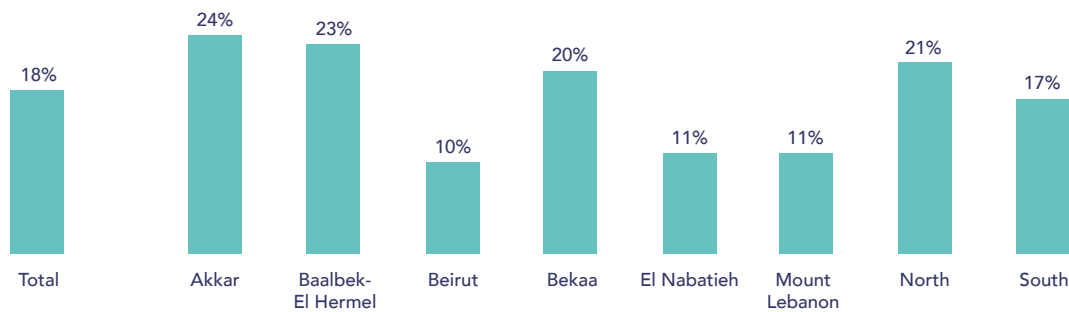
[1] Female-headed households are households where a woman is the main decision maker.

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.

The average dependency ratio in Syrian refugee households was 0.94 in 2022, compared to 0.96 in 2021 and 1 in 2020, indicating an almost even distribution of dependents and non-dependents within a household. The dependency ratio was lower among female-headed household (0.84) than male-headed households (0.95), which reflects a higher proportion of dependents among male-headed households.

Figure 3: Dependency ratio by governorate

Total	Akkar	Baalbek-El Hermel	Beirut	Bekaa	El Nabatieh	Mount Lebanon	North	South
0.94	0.96	1.02	0.90	0.95	1.03	0.87	0.90	0.92
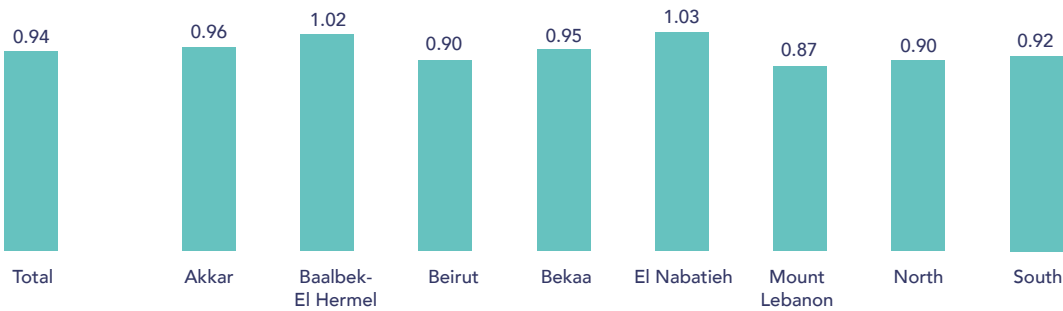
A total of 45 per cent of households had at least three dependents, 22 per cent had two, 18 per cent had one and 15 per cent had no dependents at all.

Figure 4: Average number of dependents within households

- 15% No dependents
- 18% One dependent
- 22% Two dependents
- 45% Three or more dependents
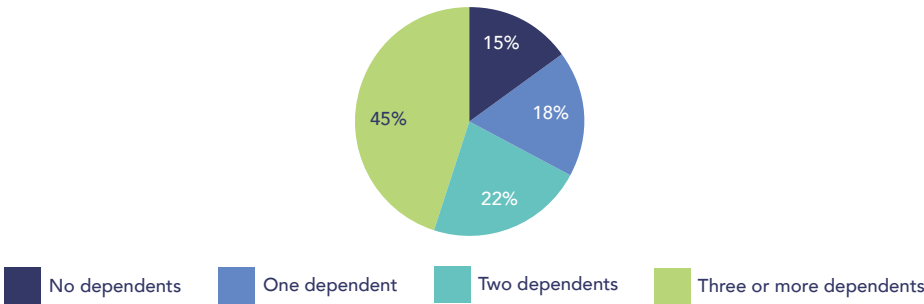
DISABILITY

WHO defines disability as the interaction between individuals with a health condition (e.g. cerebral palsy, Down's syndrome or depression) and personal and environmental factors (e.g. negative attitudes, inaccessible transportation and public buildings, and limited social support).[2] Disability was measured using an adapted version of the Washington Group Short Set on Functioning – Enhanced for adults and children aged 5 and above,[3] and the Washington Group/UNICEF Child-Functioning Module for children aged 2–4. The Washington Group Short Set focuses on measuring 10 domains (vision, hearing, mobility, communication, remembering, self-care, upper body function, fine motricity, anxiety and depression) and the Child-Functioning Module seven domains (vision, hearing, mobility, understanding, cognition, learning and upper body fine motricity) by looking into difficulties in functional limitations to determine the presence of a disability.

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[2] WHO, "Disability" (2022). Available from www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/disability-and-health.
[3] Available from www.washingtongroup-disability.com/question-sets/wg-short-set-on-functioning-enhanced-wg-ss-enhanced/.

Disability among individuals

Around 14 per cent of the Syrian refugee population were found to have difficulties which indicate a disability. The percentage of people with a disability was higher among male individuals (15 per cent) than female individuals (12 per cent). The disability prevalence was the lowest among individuals aged 2–4 (5 per cent) and the highest among individuals aged 60 and above (56 per cent).

The prevalence of disability varied from one Lebanese governorate to another. Baalbek-El Hermel had the highest disability prevalence of 18 per cent, while Beirut had the lowest prevalence of 10 per cent.

Figure 5: Disability prevalence per governorate
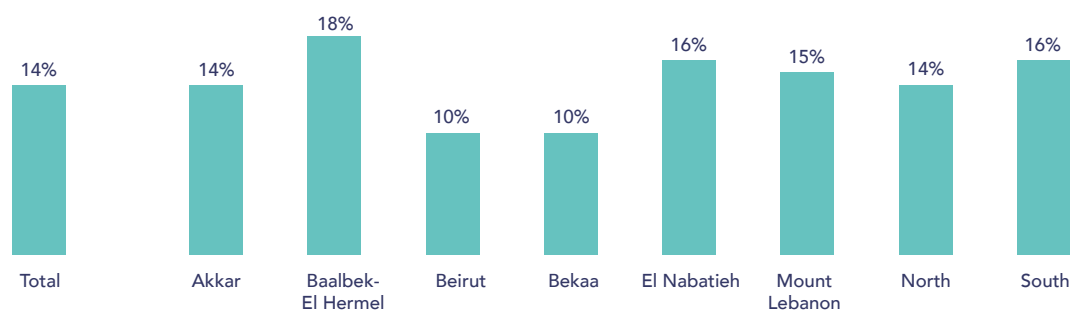
Examining specific domains of difficulty among individuals aged 5 and above, the most commonly reported disability types are the following: 5.1 per cent reported that they had significant difficulty walking or climbing stairs, or were unable to do so at all; 3 per cent reported inability or a high level of difficulty in seeing; and 1 per cent reported inability or a high level of difficulty in hearing.

Among those aged 5 and above, 6 per cent reported having high anxiety levels on a daily basis, while 4 per cent reported being highly depressed on a daily basis. About 1 per cent reported inability or a high level of difficulty or in communicating; 2 per cent reported inability or a high level of difficulty in concentrating; and 2 per cent reported inability or a high level of difficulty in caring for themselves.

Figure 6: Proportion of individuals reporting disabilities in different domains, as per the Washington Group Short Set on Functioning – Enhanced
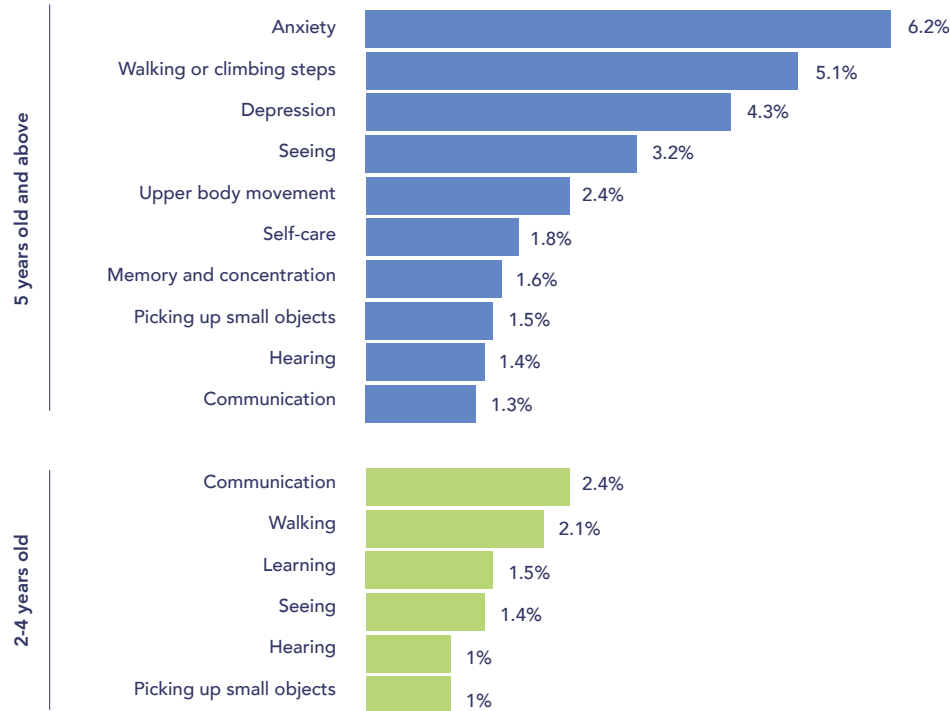
Disability within households

As per the heads of household, 21 per cent had disabilities themselves. The proportion of female heads of households with disabilities (26 per cent) was higher than among the male heads of households (20 per cent).

Around 32 per cent of households had at least one member with a disability. The average household size for families including members with a disability (5.4 individuals) was higher than for families without members having a disability (4.7).

ADDITIONAL SPECIFIC NEEDS

About 36 per cent of elderly individuals reported being unable to take care of themselves (of which 80 per cent had a disability), and 4 per cent of households had at least one older person unable to care for themselves.

Meanwhile, 27 per cent of women of menstruating age reported being pregnant or lactating in the last two years. A total of 26 per cent of households had at least one member who was currently pregnant or lactating, with the highest proportion of households (33 per cent) in El Nabatieh.

A total of 15 per cent of households had at least one single parent,[4] and 0.5 per cent had at least one member aged 60 years or above as the sole caregiver for children. At the governorate level, Akkar has the highest percentage of households with at least one member being a single caregiver (30 per cent).[5]

Figure 7: Proportion of households with at least one member with an identified specific need, by governorate

Legend:
- Pregnant or lactating
- Single parent
- Older person unable to care for self
- Older person as the sole caregiver of a child
- Single caregiver

Total: 26%, 15%, 4%, 0.5%, 21%

Akkar: 24%, 11%, 5%, 1%, 30%

Baalbek-El Hermel: 28%, 18%, 5%, 0%, 19%

Beirut: 29%, 10%, 4%, 1%, 19%

Bekaa: 26%, 14%, 4%, 0.4%, 20%

El Nabatieh: 33%, 12%, 5%, 0.4%, 14%

Mount Lebanon: 26%, 18%, 3%, 0.7%, 29%

North: 22%, 13%, 3%, 0.6%, 14%

South: 25%, 13%, 4%, 0.7%, 8%

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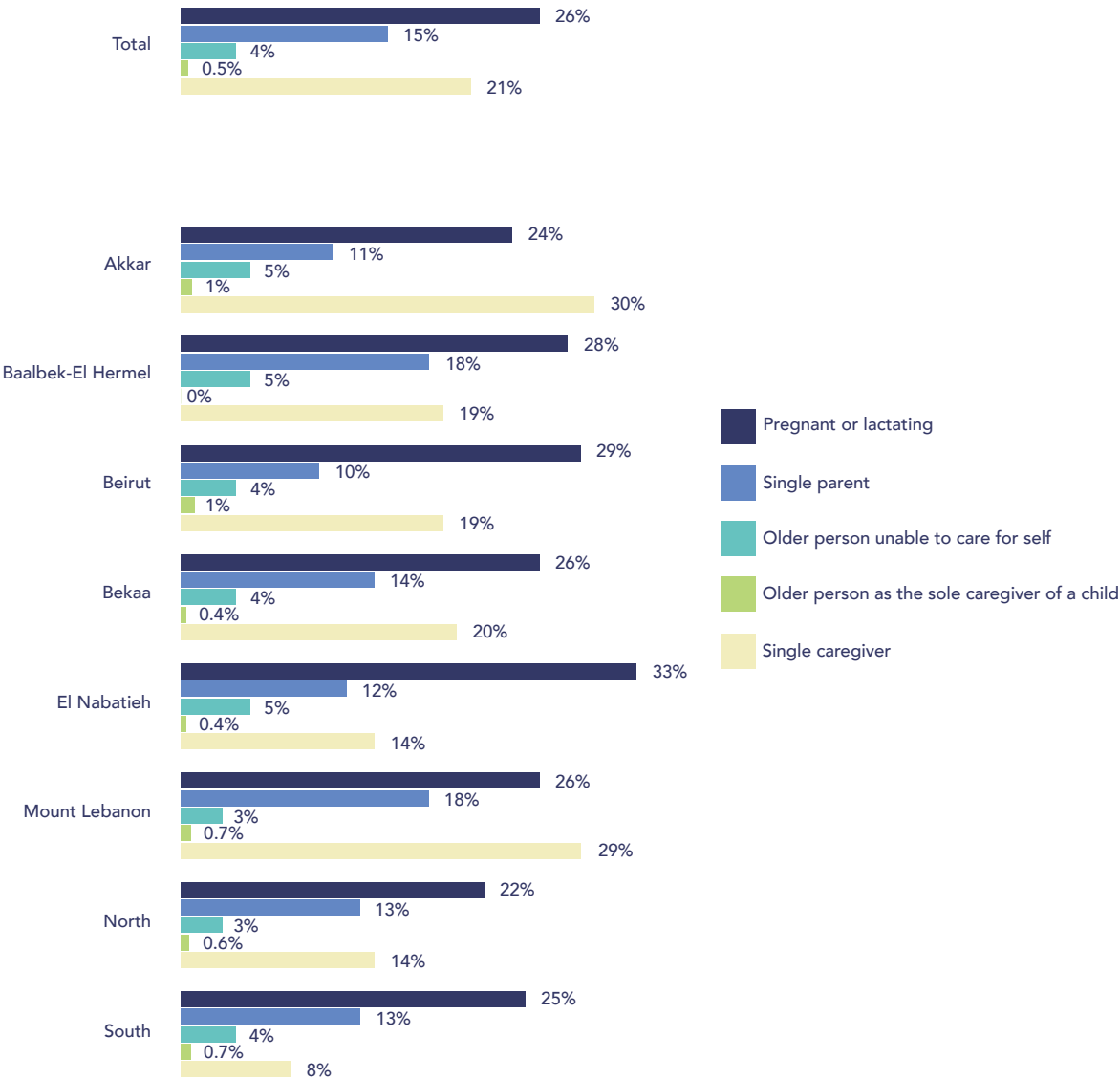
[4] *Single parent (male or female) household, with one or more child(ren) all under the age of 18. The single parent is the biological and/or legal caregiver of the child(ren).*
[5] *Single caregiver (male or female) household, with one or more dependents other than biological children. These could be non-biological children, siblings, or older parents requiring protection and care.*

Annex 1: Gender and share of household members

	Gender		Gender of head of household		Share of household by number of members				Other			
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Average household size	4 or less members	5-6 members	7 or more members	No dependent	One dependent	Two dependents	3 or more dependents
Total	50%	50%	83%	17%	5.0	43%	36%	21%	15%	18%	22%	45%
Governorate												
Akkar	48%	52%	76%	24%	5.0	42%	35%	23%	14%	18%	23%	46%
Baalbek-El Hermel	49%	51%	77%	23%	5.2	36%	40%	24%	11%	19%	22%	48%
Beirut	52%	48%	90%	10%	4.6	49%	34%	18%	20%	18%	22%	40%
Bekaa	50%	50%	80%	20%	5.1	38%	40%	22%	11%	19%	21%	49%
El Nabatieh	50%	50%	89%	11%	5.7	31%	38%	30%	8%	12%	22%	57%
Mount Lebanon	50%	50%	89%	11%	4.9	48%	34%	19%	18%	17%	25%	41%
North	50%	50%	79%	21%	4.7	47%	35%	18%	19%	17%	21%	42%
South	51%	49%	83%	17%	5.1	43%	34%	23%	12%	21%	19%	47%
Gender of the head of household												
Male					5.2	39%	38%	23%	13%	16%	23%	48%
Female					4.1	61%	28%	11%	23%	25%	21%	31%
Shelter type												
Residential	50%	50%	84%	16%	4.9	45%	35%	20%	15%	18%	24%	42%
Non-residential	50%	50%	84%	16%	4.9	42%	38%	20%	16%	16%	19%	49%
Non-permanent	49%	51%	77%	23%	5.4	34%	38%	28%	12%	18%	17%	52%

PROTECTION

In 2022, Lebanon saw the socioeconomic situation worsen, with resources at a community level becoming increasingly strained, public institutions struggling to function, and growing barriers to basic services and assistance due to crippling inflation, fuel and telecommunication price hikes, and electricity shortages. A combination of these factors continues to exacerbate existing vulnerabilities to protection risks and shocks for the most vulnerable cohorts such as the elderly, female-headed households and persons living with a disability. Record rates of Syrian refugees reported relying on negative coping strategies to get by, and families said they were not able to provide the same level of support to vulnerable family members. Those living in the lowest expenditure classes and in non-permanent shelters are worse off across the board.

Financial and non-financial constraints are compounding sources of stress and causing families to make tough decisions regarding their use of resources, including in relation to their access to education, shelter, health care and food. Although COVID-19-related mobility restrictions have abated, the newly emerging cholera health crisis poses a real threat to refugees who may lack the financial means to implement adequate prevention measures or seek treatment, and have limited access to health care due to their low rates of legal residency or not being in possession of documents.

Indicators assessing the protection space of Syrian refugees in Lebanon through the VASyR are in relation to legal residency, civil documentation, safety and security concerns, community relations, and evictions. Confidential interviews with individual household members were not conducted, limiting the ability to gather gender-based violence (GBV) findings through this assessment.

KEY FINDINGS

Legal:
• Legal residency rates remain at an all-time low, with only 17 per cent of Syrian refugees holding legal residency, similarly to the 2021 rate (compared to 20 per cent in 2020, 22 per cent in 2019 and 27 per cent in 2018). The most notable declines in legal residency rates were observed in El Nabatieh and South Lebanon governorates.
• From 2020 to 2022, the legal residency gender gap has continued to grow across all age groups, with men being prioritized in their households for legal residency due to their perceived greater need as a result of protection threats.
• The top three barriers hindering access to legal residency are rejection by a General Security Office (GSO) due to inconsistent practices (37 per cent), limitations in existing regulations (23 per cent) and "other" including affordability of transportation to carry through the application process (14 per cent). As compared to 2021, there was a 7 percentage-point increase in reporting "limitation of existing regulations" (which includes unrenewable expired residency and lack of ID) as a reason for not having legal residency.

Birth:
• Positively, issuance of birth certificates at the Foreigners' Registry has gradually increased by 15 percentage-points from 2018 (21 per cent) to 2022 (36 per cent). Despite this, 64 per cent of Syrian refugee newborns remain without what is considered full birth registration in Lebanon.
• Top barriers reported were unaffordability (fees and transport) (44 per cent), lack of awareness of the procedures (31 per cent), limited free movement due to lack of legal residency (9 per cent) and lack of identification documents (6 per cent).

Marriage:
Marriage registration at the Foreigners' Registry increased by 3 per cent to 33 per cent in 2022. Of those married in Lebanon, 3 per cent have no marriage documents (4 per cent in 2021); positively, the proportion of those with a marriage contract from an uncertified sheikh decreased 4 percentage-points to 21 per cent (25 per cent in 2021).

Safety and security, including mobility restrictions:
• A total of 4 per cent of households reported that there were discriminatory curfews enforced specifically for Syrians in the area where they lived, and some cited curfews as a safety or security concern (3 per cent in 2021, 11 per cent in 2020). In 2022, curfews were mainly being imposed by the municipality (90 per cent), followed by the local community (26 per cent).
• Concerns about kidnapping were reported significantly higher in 2022 compared to 2021 and 2020 across all age and gender groups. The concerns are highest in Baalbek-El Hermel, with rates double the national average reported by boys (27 per cent) and girls (24 per cent).

Community relations:
The proportion of households where someone has personally witnessed a physical confrontation involving at least one Syrian refugee increased from 5 per cent in 2021 to 8 per cent in 2022. That said, there was a positive increase in reported intra-community relations, with 61 per cent of Syrian refugee households rating interactions with Lebanese host communities as very positive or positive (56 per cent in 2021), and 5 per cent citing negative or very negative interactions (4 per cent in 2021). Of the 39 per cent who reported tensions, the primary driver was competition for jobs at 28 per cent.

Child protection:
Three main areas of focus for child protection are captured in the VASyR: child labour, early marriage and violent discipline. In 2022, the share of children (5 to 17 years of age) who were engaged in labour above the age-specific number of hours was reported at 4.3 per cent, with boys engaged more visibly in child labour at a rate three times higher than girls. One out of five adolescent girls between 15 and 19 were married at the time of the survey. The majority (58 per cent) of children aged between 1 and 14 experienced at least one form of violent disciplinary methods from their caregivers.

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, a courtesy permit (if the mother or wife is Lebanese), or through other categories such as property ownership, tenancy, a 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 visits and transit), 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 2022, the Government of Lebanon changed its conditions for entry to Lebanon from Syria, excluding entry on the basis of tourism, pledge of responsibility (sponsorship) and humanitarian grounds. In 2017, the residency fees were waived for Syrian refugees who had registered with UNHCR prior to 1 January 2015, and who did not previously renew their legal residency based on categories such as tourism, sponsorship, property ownership or tenancy. However, it is not possible to switch from a residency permit based on one of these categories to the UNHCR certificate residency permit. In 2022, the Government introduced two circulars in July and September related to the regularization of legal status for specific categories who entered Lebanon regularly and overstayed (except those who are subject to judicial measures) and according to specific scenarios (July) and regularization for irregular entry for those who entered Lebanese irregularly before 24 April 2019, except those who are subject to judicial measures (September).

Legal residency is critical to securing one's access to basic services, access to justice, and ensuring one's protection from restrictive measures and arbitrary arrest, detention and risk of deportation. Legal residency rates for Syrians remain at an all-time low for a second year in a row at 17 per cent in 2022 (16 per cent in 2021, 20 per cent in 2020, 22 per cent in 2019, 27 per cent in 2018). The proportion of households where all members have legal residency is lowest in Akkar and Baalbek-El Hermel at 3 per cent, and highest in Mount Lebanon at 17 per cent. The most notable decline in legal residency for individuals above 15 years old occurred in South Lebanon (39 per cent to 23 per cent). Interestingly, Beirut and Mount Lebanon governorates, which had declined from 2019 to 2020, have both experienced increases from 2020 to 2022.

Figure 1: Legal residency of Syrian individuals above 15 years old, by governorate

Legend: 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022

- Akkar: 13%, 11%, 9%, 9%
- Baalbek-El Hermel: 13%, 15%, 10%, 12%
- Beirut: 34%, 21%, 24%, 25%
- Bekaa: 18%, 18%, 13%, 13%
- El Nabatieh: 39%, 37%, 28%, 27%
- Mount Lebanon: 22%, 17%, 17%, 25%
- North: 22%, 23%, 13%, 12%
- South: 39%, 44%, 36%, 23%
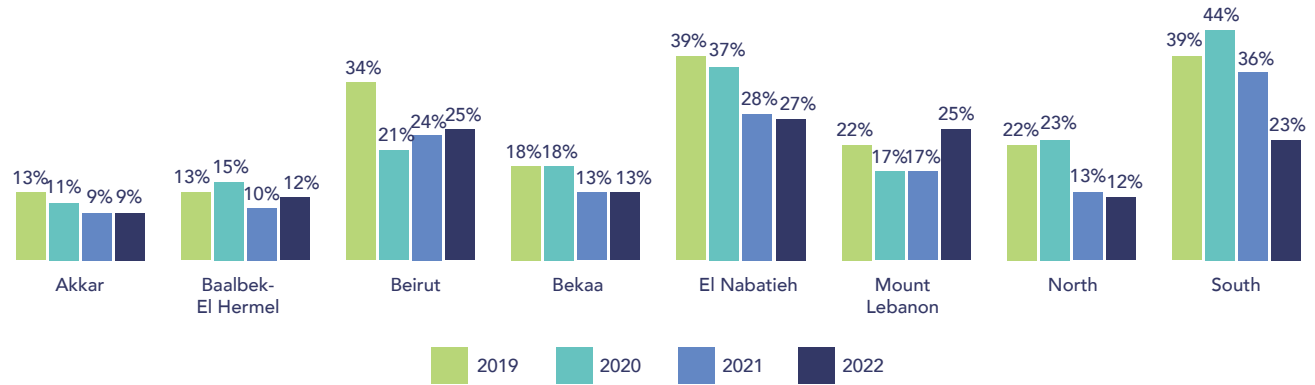
Figure 2: Legal residency of Syrian individuals above 15 years old, by gender and governorate

Legend: Female, Male

- Akkar 2021: 7%, 12%; 2022: 8%, 11%
- Baalbek El-Hermel 2021: 11%, 10%; 2022: 10%, 14%
- Beirut 2021: 17%, 30%; 2022: 19%, 30%
- Bekaa 2021: 10%, 16%; 2022: 11%, 16%
- El Nabatieh 2021: 28%, 29%; 2022: 22%, 32%
- Mount Lebanon 2021: 15%, 19%; 2022: 22%, 28%
- North 2021: 11%, 16%; 2022: 10%, 14%
- South 2021: 34%, 38%; 2022: 19%, 26%
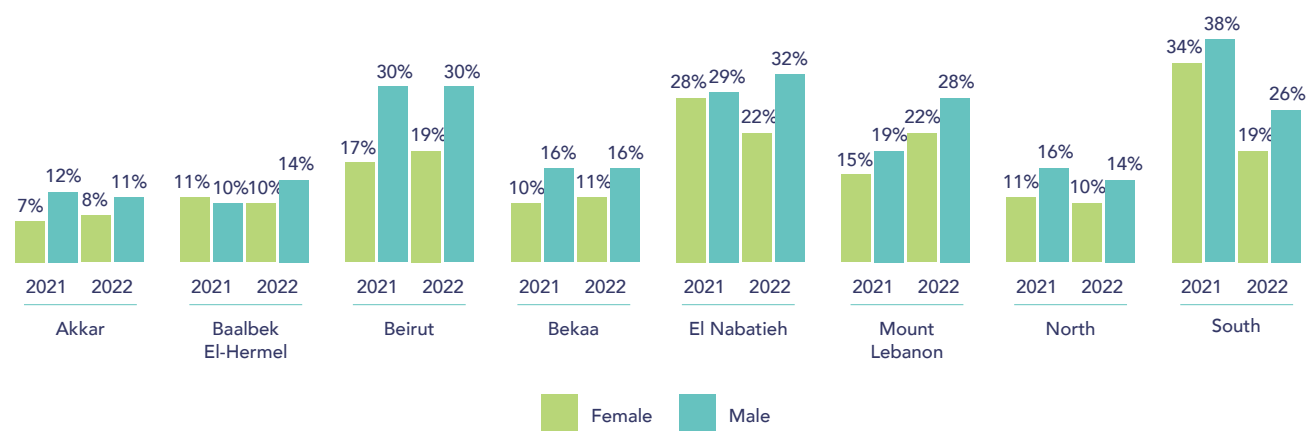
In previous years, El Nabatieh had equal legal residency rates across men and women (28 per cent). In 2022, this has significantly changed, with a widening gender gap above 10 per cent, the most pronounced gender disparity along with Beirut governorate where men continue to have higher legal residency rates. Furthermore, people aged under 35 are less likely to hold legal residency than those aged 35–60, with the 60s age bracket demonstrating the greatest gender disparity in legal residency rates.

Like in previous years, more than half of legal residencies (53 per cent in 2022, 54 per cent in 2021) were obtained via UNHCR registration certificates, followed by sponsorship (31 per cent in 2022 and 31 per cent in 2021) and courtesy (14 per cent in 2022 and 12 per cent in 2021). Legal residency through UNHCR registration certificates is highest in Akkar, Baalbek-El Hermel, Mount Lebanon and South Lebanon, and is significantly more common among female refugees (65 per cent) than male refugees (44 per cent), with the opposite being true for sponsorship (41 per cent for male and 16 per cent for female). The highest rates of courtesy permits were in North Lebanon (25 per cent), Akkar (24 per cent) and Bekaa (21 per cent), while sponsorship permits were markedly higher in Beirut (66 per cent in 2022, and 81 per cent in 2021) than in the rest of Lebanon.

Fewer individuals living in non-permanent and non-residential shelters had legal residency at 14 per cent, 19 per cent in residential shelters. This trend is in line with previous years. In 2022, Syrians living in non-permanent shelters experienced an almost 3 percentage-points increase in legal residency compared to in 2021. The legal residency rate for those living in non-residential shelters has dropped, leaving only a 1 per cent difference between those holding legal residency living in non-residential and non-permanent shelter types, while the difference was around 8 per cent in 2020 and 2019.

In 2022, households in the wealthiest expenditure quintile experienced a marked increase in legal residency rates for all household members, while rates of no household members having legal residency in this expenditure class did not change much from 2021 to 2022. The proportion of Syrian households reporting no members having legal residency is above 70 per cent for all expenditure classes in both 2021 and 2022, but these rates have decreased since 2021, and the proportion increases with decreasing household expenditure.

Figure 3: Legal residency, by expenditure class
All households members above 15 have legal residency

9% 6% First quintile - lowest per capita expenditure
9% 8% Second quintile
7% 8% Third quintile
9% 11% Fourth quintile
9% 13% Fifth quintile - highest per capita expenditure

No household members above 15 have legal residency

82% 79% First quintile - lowest per capita expenditure
80% 77% Second quintile
76% 74% Third quintile
73% 70% Fourth quintile
70% 70% Fifth quintile - highest per capita expenditure

2021 2022
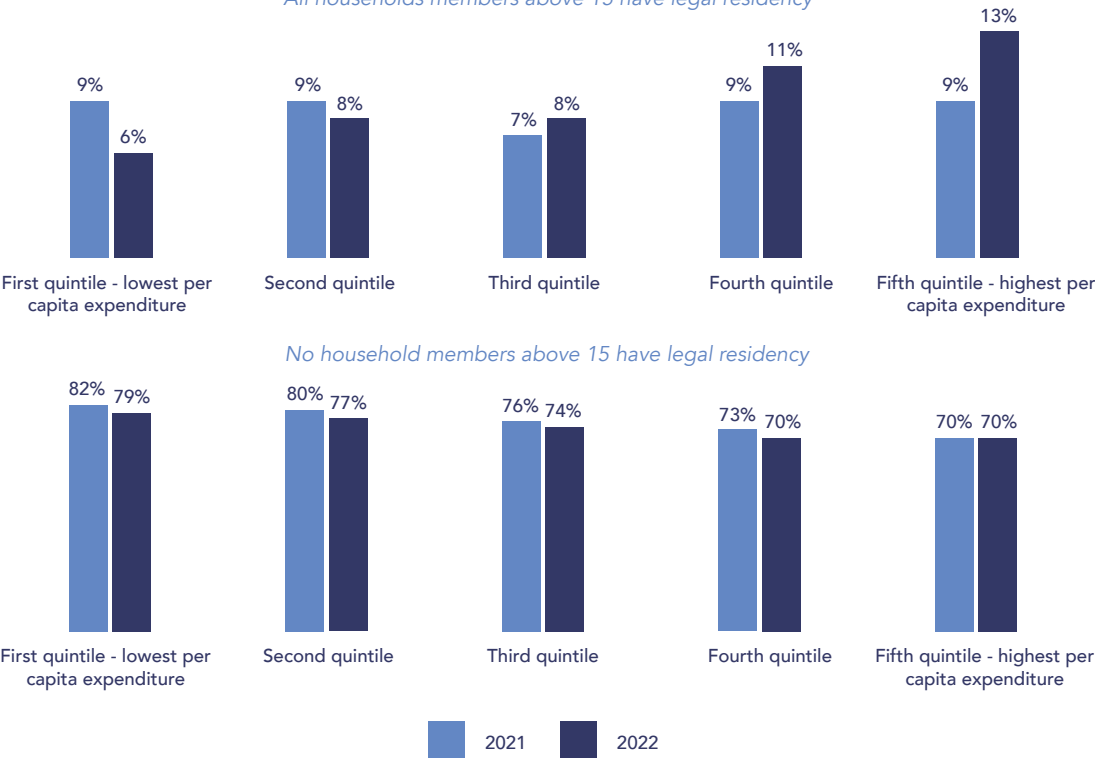
Rejection by a GSO, including as a result of inconsistent practices (37 per cent nationally, highest in Beirut and lowest in Bekaa and Baalbek-El Hermel), is the most commonly reported barrier to accessing legal residency, followed by limitation of the existing regulations (23 per cent), "other" (14 per cent) and inability to obtain a sponsor or pay the residency fees (ineligible for the waiver) (14 per cent). A majority of the barriers to legal residency are increasing steadily. Rejection by a GSO, including inconsistent practices, has increased yearly, from 30 per cent in 2019 to 38per cent in 2022. Reporting of limitation of existing regulations was 14 per cent in 2019, increasing to 23 per cent in 2022; this reason has the largest gender disparity, with men reporting this reason at a rate of 20 per cent and women reporting at a rate of 17 per cent. Lack of awareness of legal residency procedures was 4 per cent in 2019 and increased to 7 per cent in 2022. Lack of awareness of procedures was a reported reason for lacking legal residency by 18 per cent of Syrians in Akkar (a decrease from 27 per cent in 2021), which is a notable difference compared to the national average and other governorates such as Baalbek-El Hermel (2 per cent).

Figure 4: Reasons for not having legal residency

Rejection by GSO, including inconsistent practices: 38% / 33%
Limitation of the existing regulations: 23% / 16%
Other: 14% / 6%
Inability to obtain a sponsor or pay the residency fees (ineligible for the waiver): 14% / 24%
Reluctance and discouragement of a household member: 8% / 7%
Lack of awareness of procedures: 7% / 7%
Limited GSO capacity: 3% / 4%

2022 2021
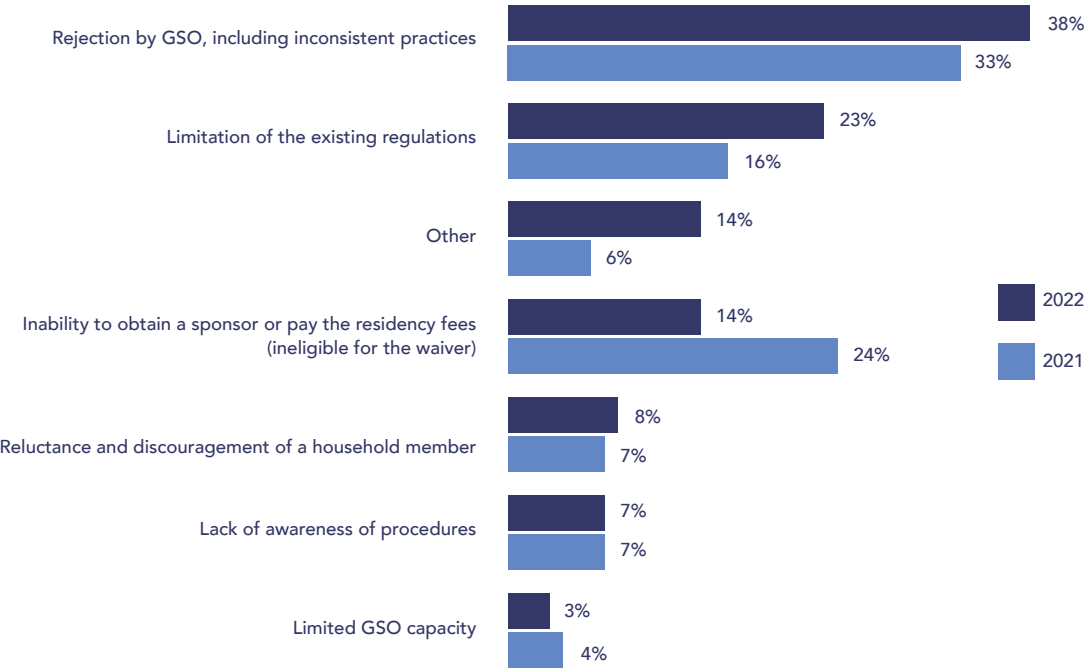
MARRIAGE AND BIRTH REGISTRATION

The Government of Lebanon in 2022 and in past years has employed various measures to address the difficulties faced by Syrian refugees in registering the birth of their children. The policies include exemption from the procedure of late birth registration for children born between 1 January 2011 and 8 February 2022; 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 (for 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 issued in Lebanon instead of the family booklet or marriage certificate issued from Syria as previously required. In 2022, a decree was issued to standardize the fees collected by mukhtars (LBP 25,000) and the head of the Supreme Sunnite Court issued a circular addressed to judges to facilitate proof of marriage requests by refraining from conducting new marriage contracts. Accordingly, Syrians married in Lebanon need to finalize the registration of their marriage in Lebanon to register the birth of their children. Syrians who married outside Lebanon need to present an official proof of marriage issued in Syria to register the birth of their children born in Lebanon.

Marriage registration with the Foreigners' Registry has increased yearly, from 20 per cent in 2018 to 33 per cent in 2022. Positively, marriage contracts from uncertified sheikhs decreased slightly, from 24 per cent in 2021 to 21 per cent. Akkar governorate still has the highest rate of marriages by uncertified sheikhs at 34 per cent, although this is still a notable decrease, from 51 per cent in the previous year. A higher proportion of individuals with higher education had their marriage registered with the Foreigners Registry, and a lower proportion had marriage certificates from an uncertified sheikh, as compared to the national average. Out of 32 per cent of Syrian refugee households who were married in Lebanon, 3 per cent said they have no marriage documents. The highest rate was 5 per cent in Akkar, followed by 4 per cent in Beirut.

Figure 5: Marriage documentation of Syrian refugees
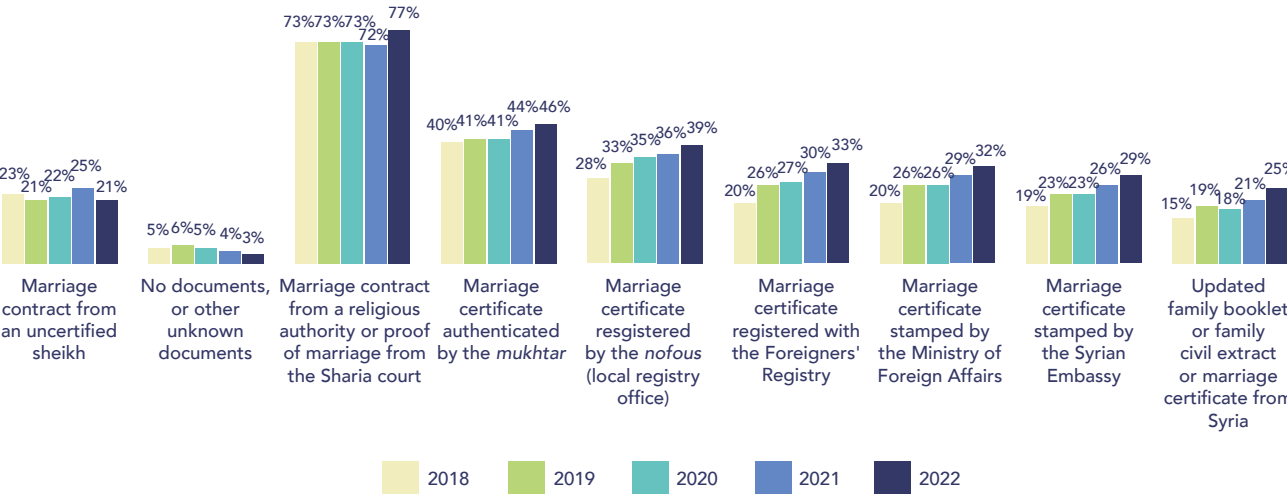
Birth certificate issuance rates for Syrian refugees at the Foreigners' Registry have risen to 36 per cent in 2022, up 5 per cent from 2021. While this is positive, it still means that 64 per cent of Syrian refugee births remain not fully registered, and 2 per cent have no documentation at all. Children born in Lebanon that have completed the birth registration process to the level of the Foreigners' Registry increased in both South Lebanon and El Nabatieh by around 20 percentage-points , and in Mount Lebanon by 14 percentage-points, from 2021 to 2022. Rates of birth registration are the highest in Beirut and Mount Lebanon governorates (64.7 per cent and 62 per cent), and lowest in Bekaa and Baalbek-El Hermel (17.4 per cent and 14.4 per cent).

Figure 6: Cumulative percentage of the highest level of documentation for birth registration
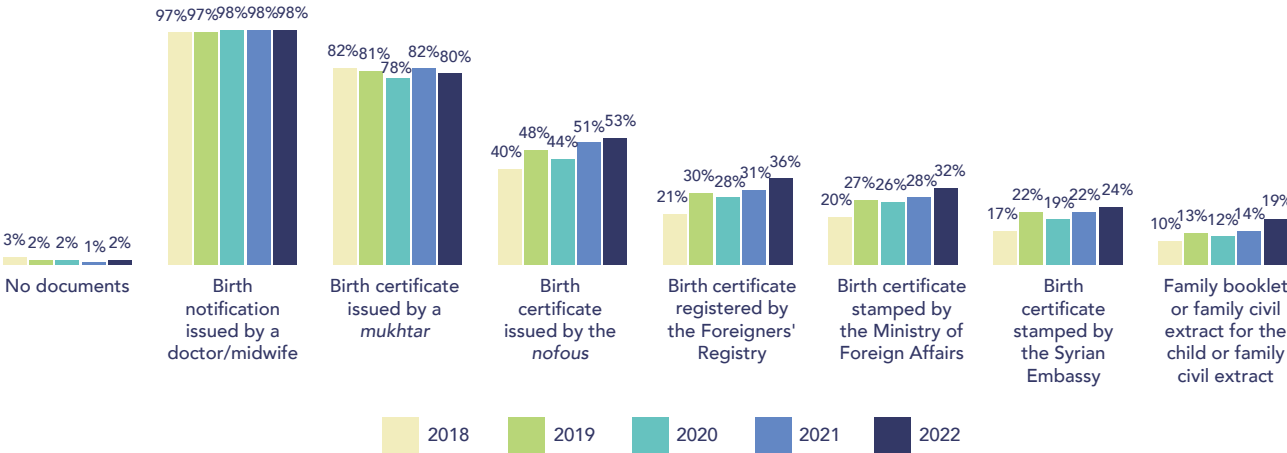
Figure 7: Syrian refugees with birth certificates registered with the Foreigners' Registry

Akkar: 17% (2019), 8% (2020), 19% (2021), 24% (2022)
Baalbek-El Hermel: 18% (2019), 10% (2020), 18% (2021), 14% (2022)
Beirut: 65% (2019), 49% (2020), 56% (2021), 65% (2022)
Bekaa: 17% (2019), 20% (2020), 23% (2021), 17% (2022)
El Nabatieh: 41% (2019), 39% (2020), 31% (2021), 55% (2022)
Mount Lebanon: 47% (2019), 44% (2020), 48% (2021), 62% (2022)
North: 24% (2019), 32% (2020), 29% (2021), 34% (2022)
South: 35% (2019), 26% (2020), 30% (2021), 49% (2022)

Legend: 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022
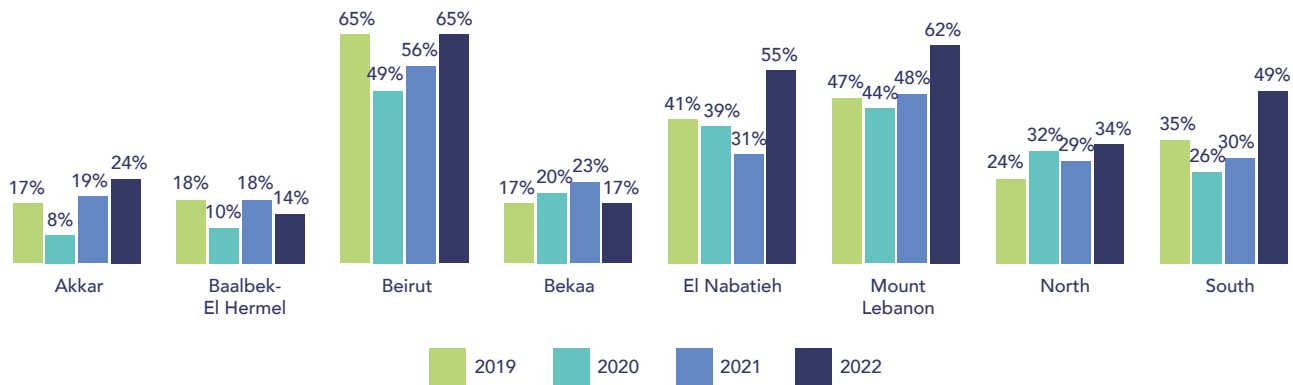
The three most common barriers hindering birth registration beyond the *nofous* level are cost (fees and transportation) at 44 per cent, lack of awareness of the procedures at 31 per cent, limited free movement due to lack of legal residency at 9 per cent, and lack of identification documents at 6 per cent. Concerningly, "limited freedom of movement due to lack of residency" was a reason increasingly reported, from 3 per cent in 2021 to 9 per cent in 2022. The first three barriers are also the most common for not moving beyond the level of a *mukhtar*.

Figure 8: Lack of awareness of procedures as a reason for children reaching only the level of birth registration with a *mukhtar*, 2019–2022

2019: 24% (Female), 17% (Male)
2020: 24% (Female), 19% (Male)
2021: 36% (Female), 34% (Male)
2022: 39% (Female), 33% (Male)

Legend: Female, Male
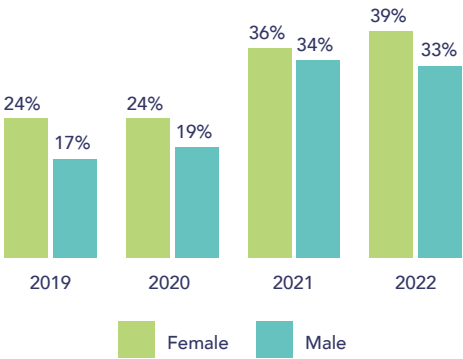
Syrian children with disabilities living in Lebanon have higher rates of birth registration across all levels of the process. However, they still face barriers accessing birth registration beyond the level of a *mukhtar*. Limited freedom of movement due to lack of legal residency, being told by a *mukhtar* that they would register them on their behalf, and lack of awareness about procedures were all reasons that were reported more often for persons living with a disability.

Figure 9: Levels of birth registration for people with disabilities

- With birth notification issued by a doctor/midwife
- Birth certificate issued by a *mukhtar*
- Birth certificate issued by the *nofous*
- Birth certificate issued by the Foreigners' Registry
- Birth certificate stamped by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Birth certificate stamped by the Syrian Embassy
- With an updated family booklet or individual civil extract for the child
- With no documents

Legend: People with disabilities, People without disabilities

Those living in non-permanent shelter types completed the birth registration process at the Foreigners' Registry at a rate of 13 per cent, with non-residential at 34 per cent and residential at 46 per cent. The rates of birth registration with the *nofous* are 61 per cent for those living in residential shelters, 49 per cent for those in non-residential and 33 per cent for those in non-permanent shelters, and with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 40 per cent for residential, 31 per cent for non-residential and 12 per cent for non-permanent shelters. These are quite significant differences. Rates of birth registration for the population residing in residential and non-residential shelters are experiencing increases over time, but this is not the case for those in non-permanent shelters.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

Discriminatory curfews imposed upon Syrian refugees have significantly decreased since 2019, following a spike in 2020. The most common sanctions reported as a result of breaching curfews in 2022 were verbal abuse (44 per cent), fines (38 per cent) and physical abuse (22 per cent). The governorate with the highest reporting of limited mobility, including curfews, roadblocks and lockdowns, as a reason for not having legal residency was Baalbek-El Hermel at 5 per cent. Reporting of curfews was highest in El Nabatieh (21 per cent), which has been the case since 2019; the highest year was 2020, when 68 per cent of respondents in this governorate reported having curfews imposed on them. In 2022, El Nabatieh also had the highest rates of households reporting having experienced inability to enter stores or buy food because of nationality in the past month (10 per cent).

Figure 10: Refugees' experience of curfews, by governorate, 2019–2022
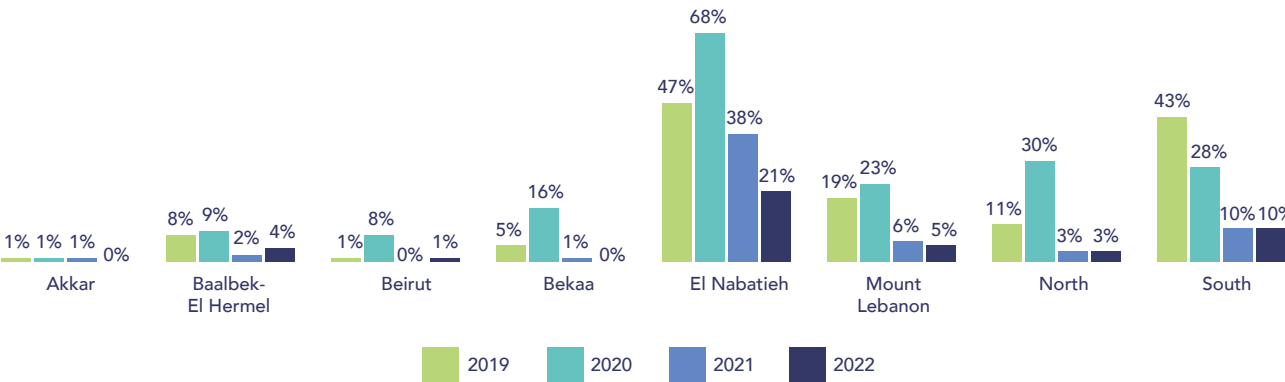
About 24 per cent of Syrian households reported a family member feeling unsafe when accessing sanitation facilities in El Nabatieh and South Lebanon governorates, which is high compared to the national average of 5 per cent. These two governorates also have higher concerns than other governorates when it comes to accessing services like housing (El Nabatieh at 8 per cent and South Lebanon at 9 per cent) and food (8 per cent for both governorates).

Concerns about kidnapping were reported by significant numbers of Syrian women (6.1 per cent), girls 9 per cent) and boys (11 per cent) in 2022, but were only reported as an issue by 1 per cent of respondents in 2021 and 2020. Concerns are highest in Baalbek-El Hermel, with rates over double the national average reported by boys (27 per cent) and girls (24 per cent). Women in Baalbek-El Hermel reported concerns about being robbed at a rate of 29 per cent, which is more than double the rate reported by women in other governorates. A total of 19 per cent of women in non-permanent shelters reported robbery as a safety concern, compared to only 10 per cent of women in residential shelters.

Households with at least one member with a disability reported higher rates of girls and women of feeling very unsafe walking alone at night (8 per cent and 4 per cent for girls/women, 7 per cent and 4 per cent for boys/men), and women and girls in these households also reported higher levels of safety concerns around sexual harassment. In general, a little under half of households reported that women and girls felt very safe walking alone at night, 5 per cent reported feeling very unsafe, and 4 per cent reported never walking alone at night. Markets (58 per cent) and streets/neighbourhoods (67 per cent) are the places most avoided by women and girls due to lack of safety in Lebanon. Women and girl respondents in the highest per capita expenditure (fifth) quintile avoid markets due to lack of safety more than those in the first quartile (lowest expenditure) with a 25 percentage-point difference. Sixteen per cent of households felt that the school their children attend was unsafe, with the highest rate in Akkar governorate (30 per cent).

Figure 11: Refugees reporting feeling very unsafe walking alone at night, by gender and disability
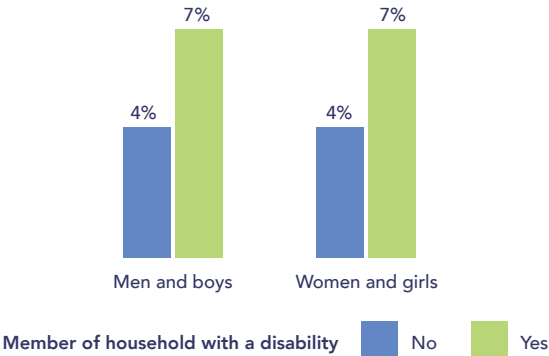
The reporting of safety concerns about sexual harassment are relatively high for women, girls and boys in South Lebanon governorate. Around 3 per cent of households reported hearing of sexual exploitation of a person accessing housing or jobs in Beirut governorate in the three months prior to the survey.

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[1] This is not related to sexual exploitation and abuse in the context of humanitarian staff.

Figure 12: Refugees reporting sexual harassment as a safety concern, by gender and governorate
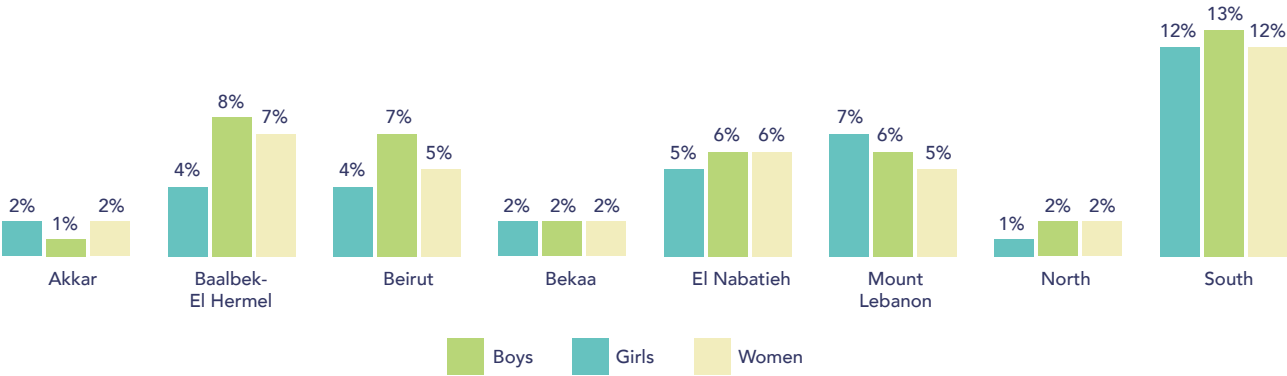
It is important to mention that the interviews for this survey were mostly conducted with the heads of households or other adult members. Confidential interviews with individual household members were not conducted, making incidents related to physical and sexual harassment or exploitation likely to be underreported.

COMMUNITY TENSIONS

The proportion of households where someone has personally witnessed a physical confrontation involving at least one Syrian refugee increased from 5 per cent in 2021 to 8 per cent in 2022. The majority (82 per cent) of these incidents were intercommunal confrontations between Syrian refugees and members of the Lebanese community. The highest reports of witnessing physical confrontations was in Baalbek-El Hermel (15.8 per cent). Households without a person living with a disability reported witnessing physical confrontations at a rate of 5 per cent, whereas the rate was 13 per cent in households with at least one person with a disability.

The primary driver for community tensions reported by Syrians was job competition (28 per cent). Of Syrian households who selected humanitarian assistance as a driver of community tensions (only 2 per cent of the total households), most stated that cash assistance in dollars was the type of assistance leading to tensions, and in-kind food distribution was the second most reported.

Community relations among Syrian refugees in Lebanon were found to be more positive (66 per cent) than negative (3 per cent). Negative perceptions were five times higher in South Lebanon governorate (16 per cent) than the national average. Reporting of "positive narrative in social media/media" as a factor that would improve community relations increased to 5 per cent in 2022 from 2 per cent in 2021; assistance received from humanitarian organizations was reported at 28 per cent in 2022, up from 22 per cent in 2021.

CHILD PROTECTION

Child labour

Child labour is defined as a child having performed either economic activities or household chores during the previous week for over the age-specific number of hours, or exposure to hazardous conditions during economic activity or household chores.
- Economic activities: children aged 5–11, 1 hour or more; 12–14, 14 hours or more; 15–17, 43 hours or more
- Household chores: children aged 5–14, 21 hours or more; 15–17, 43 hours or more
- Hazardous conditions: any exposure to the following conditions during economic activity or household chores: carrying heavy loads; working with dangerous tools; exposure to dust, fumes or gas; exposure to extreme cold, heat or humidity; exposure to loud noise or vibration; required to work at heights; required to work with chemicals; exposed to other things injurious to health

In 2022, the share of children (5–17 years of age) engaged in child labour remained similar to previous years, with 4 per cent in 2020, 5 per cent in 2021, and 4 per cent in 2022.[2] It is likely that child labour rates continue to be underreported by individuals. Further, similarly to previous years, child labour was higher among boys (7 per cent) than girls (2 per cent), although it is important to note that girls are often engaged in less visible forms of child labour. In 2022, 17 per cent of adolescent boys and girls aged 15–17 had worked for at least one year in return for pay, with the rate among boys triple that of girls, at 28 per cent and 9 per cent respectively.

[2] *It is likely that child labour, child marriage and severe violent discipline are underreported. The definition of child labour is taken from UNICEF, "How sensitive are estimates of child labour to definitions?" MICS Methodological Paper No. 1 (New York, 2012). Available from* https://data.unicef.org/resources/how-sensitive-are-estimates-of-working-children-and-child-labour-to-definitions-a-comparative-analysis/.

Figure 13: Child labour (children aged 15–17) by governorate, 2020–2022

Legend: 2020 | 2021 | 2022
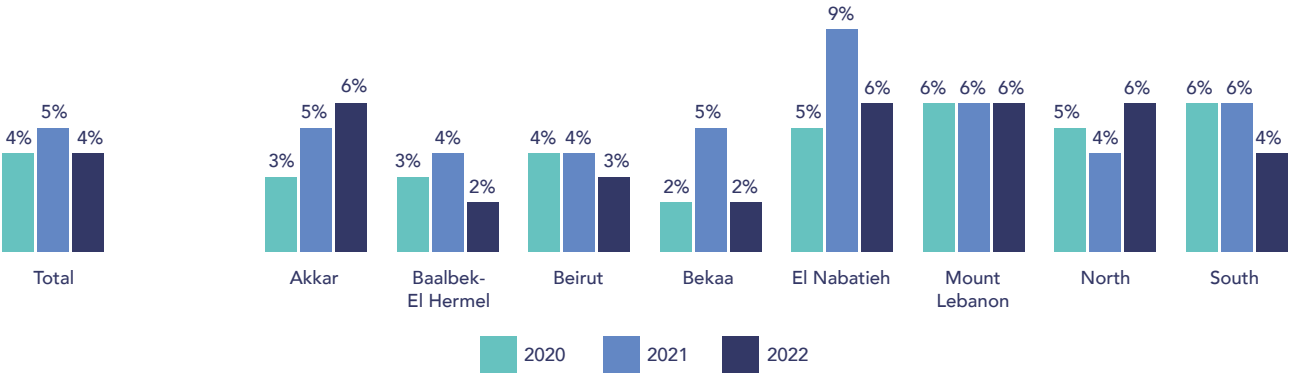
On a regional level,Akkar, North Lebanon, Mount Lebanon and El Nabatieh have the highest rates of child labour (6 per cent), while Baalbek-El Hermel and Bekaa have the lowest rate (2 per cent). Notably, the rate of child labour in El Nabatieh was 6 per cent, similarly to 2020 (5 per cent); it has continued to be above the average national rate for child labour. The results show a 1 percentage point difference in rates of child labour among female-headed households (5 per cent) compared to male-headed households (4 per cent).

Figure 14: Child labour by age (5–17) and gender

Figure 15: Percent of children aged 5 to 17 engaged in child labour under hazardous conditions

Exposed to extreme heat, cold or humidity	48%
Required to carry heavy loads	44%
Exposed to dust, fumes or gas	41%
Required to work with dangerous tools such as knives and similar, or operating heavy machinery	27%
Required to work on the streets	25%
Exposed to loud noise or vibrations	24%
Exposed to other things, processes or conditions injurious to health or safety	24%
Required to work with chemicals, such as chemicals, pesticides, glues and explosives	20%
Required to work at heights	16%

Early marriage

Early marriage was measured as adolescent girls aged 15–19 who were married at the time of the survey.

Similarly to previous years, one in five adolescent girls aged 15–19 were married at the time of the survey (22 per cent, compared to 2 per cent of boys). Among married girls, 68 per cent did not attend school on any day during the scholastic year 2021/2022 and the previous year 2020/2021. The highest rate of child marriage was found in Beirut at 36 per cent, with the lowest being in Akkar at 16 per cent. A higher proportion of adolescent girls living in male-headed households were married, as compared to those living in female-headed households (23 per cent and 10 per cent, respectively).

Figure 16: Adolescent girls (aged 15–19) married at the time of the survey by governorate, 2020–2022

	2020	2021	2022
Total	24%	20%	22%
Akkar	23%	25%	16%
Baalbek-El Hermel	15%	11%	23%
Beirut	37%	27%	36%
Bekaa	26%	17%	17%
El Nabatieh	25%	20%	23%
Mount Lebanon	23%	22%	27%
North	29%	19%	24%
South	21%	34%	21%
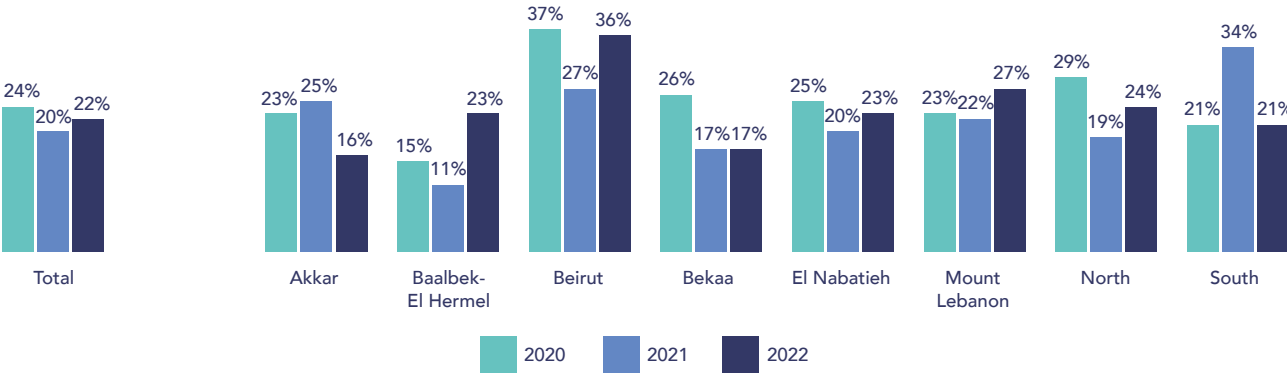
Violent discipline

Violent discipline is measured among children aged 1–14 and includes any form of psychological, physical or severe aggression.
Psychological aggression: If the child is shouted, yelled or screamed at, or called an insulting name (stupid, lazy, etc.).
Physical aggression: Shaking the child, or spanking, hitting or slapping them on any part of the body.
Severe physical aggression: Hitting the child with force or slapping them in the face.
Non-violent disciplinary practices: Taking away privileges; explaining why a behaviour is wrong; giving the child a task to do.

The share of children aged 1–14 who experienced any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers during one month preceding the survey was at 58 per cent, compared to 25 per cent who experienced only non-violent disciplinary methods. Almost half of parents, 47 per cent, reported resorting to physical aggression, and 47 per cent to psychological aggression, while severe violence was reported at 7 per cent. A higher proportion of children living in male-headed households experienced violent methods compared to those living in female-headed households, 59 per cent and 52 per cent respectively.

Figure 17: Percentage of children aged 1–14 receiving disciplinary methods from their caregivers

Only non-violent discipline	25%
Any violent discipline	58%
Severe physical punishment	7%
Any physical punishment	47%
Psychological aggression	47%
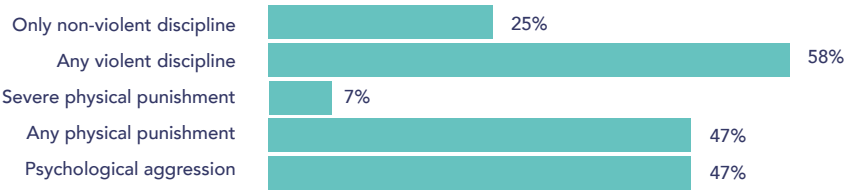
Figure 18: Percentage of children aged 1–14 who experienced at least one form of violent discipline, by gender, 2020–2022

	2020	2021	2022
Total	57%	56%	58%
Boys	58%	57%	59%
Girls	57%	56%	57%
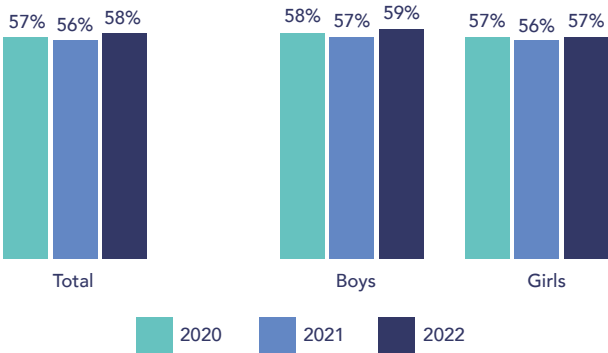
The prevalence of children experiencing violent disciplinary methods varied between regions. The highest was in more remote areas such as El Nabatieh (77 per cent) and Baalbek-El Hermel (76 per cent) governorates, with the lowest in Mount Lebanon (47 per cent) and Beirut (51 per cent) and South Lebanon (51 per cent).

Figure 19: Violent discipline by governorate, 2020–2022

Governorate	2020	2021	2022
Total	57%	56%	58%
Akkar	73%	68%	66%
Baalbek-El Hermel	53%	60%	76%
Beirut	52%	43%	51%
Bekaa	80%	78%	57%
El Nabatieh	77%	69%	77%
Mount Lebanon	38%	40%	47%
North	50%	56%	57%
South	55%	33%	51%

Legend: 2020, 2021, 2022
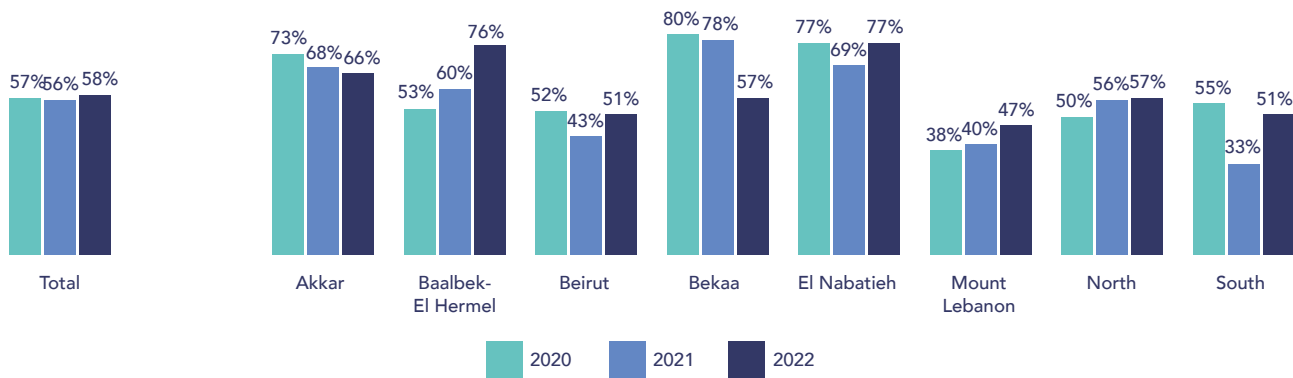
Annex 1: Legal residency and birth registration

	Legal residency			Birth registration
	Number of individuals (above 15 years old) with legal residency	**Households with all members having legal residency**	**Households with at least one member having legal residency**	**Births that occurred in Lebanon and registered with the Foreigners' Registry**
Total	17%	9%	26%	36%
Governorate				
Akkar	9%	3%	16%	24%
Baalbek-El Hermel	12%	3%	22%	14%
Beirut	25%	14%	33%	65%
Bekaa	13%	4%	21%	17%
El Nabatieh	27%	13%	40%	55%
Mount Lebanon	25%	17%	32%	62%
North	12%	5%	20%	33%
South	23%	10%	34%	49%
Gender of the head of household/individual				
Female	15%	7%	17%	36%
Male	20%	9%	27%	37%
Shelter type				
Residential	19%	10%	27%	45%
Non-residential	14%	9%	20%	34%
Non-permanent	13%	4%	22%	13%

Annex 2: Reported key issues that drive community tensions

	Competition for jobs	Competition for resources/services	Political differences	Religious differences	Cultural differences	Suspision of criminal activity	Sexual harrasment of women	None
Total	28%	1%	3%	0%	3%	1%	0%	62%
Governorate								
Akkar	11%	0%	0%	0%	2%	2%	0%	83%
Baalbek-El Hermel	37%	4%	0%	0%	3%	0%	0%	51%
Beirut	34%	1%	4%	2%	1%	0%	0%	56%
Bekaa	29%	0%	2%	0%	1%	1%	0%	66%
El Nabatieh	29%	2%	1%	0%	3%	0%	1%	58%
Mount Lebanon	31%	0%	4%	0%	4%	1%	1%	56%
North	27%	0%	1%	0%	2%	1%	0%	68%
South	19%	2%	11%	1%	4%	0%	0%	56%
Gender of the head of household/individual								
Female	23%	1%	2%	0%	3%	1%	0%	66%
Male	29%	1%	3%	0%	2%	1%	0%	61%
Shelter type								
Residential	27%	1%	4%	0%	3%	1%	0%	62%
Non-residential	32%	0%	2%	1%	4%	1%	0%	58%
Non-permanent	30%	2%	1%	0%	1%	1%	0%	63%

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ECONOMIC VULNERABILITY

In order to assess the economic vulnerability of Syrian refugee households in Lebanon, several variables were taken into consideration. These included the SMEB and minimum expenditure basket (MEB), debt, and the structure and volume of expenditures.

KEY FINDINGS

- A total of 67% of Syrian refugees residing in Lebanon were living below the SMEB in 2022. However, if the value of assistance and credit was removed, 90% of Syrian refugee households were living below the SMEB. The SMEB value for June 2022 was LBP 8,156,858 per household and 1,631,372 per capita. These numbers are three times the SMEB values for 2021 (LBP 2,450,140 per household and LBP 490,028 per capita); this increase is due to the inflation of prices and the depreciation of the Lebanese lira ($1 = LBP 16,060 in June 2021 versus LBP 28,608 in June 2022).[1] In 2022, the total monthly expenditure per capita for Syrian refugees increased by around four times compared to 2021 figures (LBP 1,575,613 in 2022 versus LBP 316,129 in 2021). This was driven by the increase in prices between October 2019 and June 2022 (1,066 per cent) as well as the increase in food prices specifically (3,900 per cent).

- A total of 94 per cent (a 4 per cent increase since 2021) of refugee households were taking on debt to meet their essential meets, with a mean average of LBP 11,610,661 per household and LBP 2,764,159 per capita. This marked an increase in average debt by over three times compared to 2021.Refugees in Beirut reported the highest amount of accumulated debt, around LBP 18.7 million per household.

- Male-headed households (LBP 12,555,123) accumulated more debt than female-headed households (LBP 7,159,588).

- The main reasons for borrowing money were to cover food expenses (93 per cent), rent expenses (46 per cent), and buy medicine (35 per cent). The main sources for borrowing money were friends in Lebanon (85 per cent), supermarket owners (52 per cent) and landlords (16 per cent).

- Female-headed households had higher rates of borrowing to pay for health (41 per cent) compared to male-headed households (33 per cent).

[1] These are the exchange rates on the informal market, much higher than the official exchange rate. The informal market value accurately reflects the purchasing power and the weakness of the Lebanese lira.

REVIEW OF THE SMEB AND MEB

Essential needs are defined as resources, goods, services and utilities that a household requires to survive and lead a decent life without resorting to any negative coping strategies. The MEB is a monetary value that denotes what a household requires to meet its essential needs. The MEB covers the cost of one month, and is regularly updated according to seasonality and financial developments. Households below the MEB value are considered to be unable to meet their essential needs without resorting to negative coping strategies. The SMEB includes the absolute minimum resources, goods, services and utilities a household needs to survive; hence its value is lower than that of the MEB. Both MEB and SMEB include food and essential non-food items.[2] The MEB serves as a monetary threshold that can be used to assess a household's economic capacity to meet its needs.

Table 1: SMEB and MEB values per household per month in LBP, June 2022

	SMEB per household (LBP)	MEB per household (LBP)
Food	4,215,318	5,494,128
Non-food	3,941,540	4,120,419
Total	8,156,858	9,614,547

Figure 1: Food and non-food SMEB and MEB values per household in LBP, June 2021–June 2022
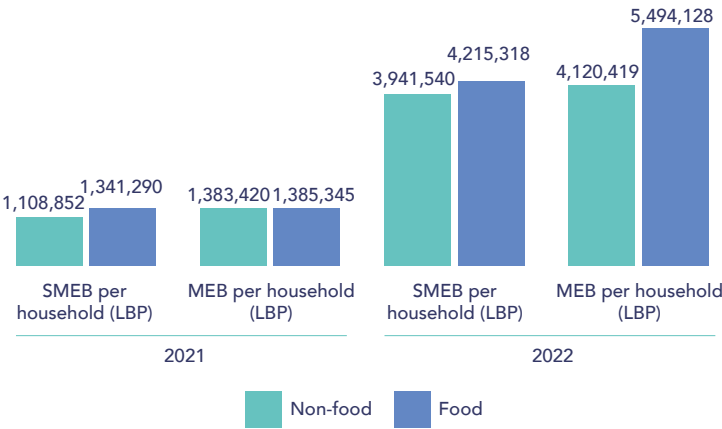
The total value of the SMEB for 2022 was LBP 8,156,858 per household per month, of which LBP 4,215,318 was for food and the rest was for non-food items. The cost of the MEB per household per month for June 2022 was LBP 9,614,547 (LBP 5,494,128 for food and 4,120,419 LBP for non-food). These numbers denote a threefold increase in SMEB and MEB values compared to 2021 values. These updated SMEB/MEB values will be used to make informed decisions on future assistance and transfer values for cash assistance for Syrian refugee households in Lebanon.

The economic capacity to meet essential needs (ECMEN) is the indicator identifying the percentage of households whose expenditures exceed the SMEB/MEB. The essential needs assessment includes three standard expenditure modules: monthly expenditures on food items, monthly expenditure on non-food items, and six-month expenditure on other non-food items. Individuals are asked about their total expenditure as well as what they received through in-kind assistance or through their own production (food items). The monthly expenditure on non-food items includes, but is not restricted to, expenditure on hygiene, transportation, water, electricity, energy, communications and tobacco. The six-month non-food expenditure includes expenditures on health services, medications, clothing, education, rent, savings, debt repayment and insurance. For the year 2022, two methods were used to calculate ECMEN. The first (ECMEN-1) assessed households' total expenditures, including the value of assistance and credit, the second (ECMEN-2) excluding the value of assistance and credit. The percentages of households living below and above the SMEB were then reported for both methods, depending on the household's total expenditure.

In 2022, upon including the value of assistance and credit, 67 per cent of refugee households were living below the SMEB. However, when excluding the value of assistance and credit, the percentage of households living below the SMEB increased by 23 percentage points (90 per cent). This indicates that a total of 23 per cent of Syrian refugee households were dependant on either assistance or credit, or both, to afford the minimum essential items needed to survive. Upon excluding assistance and credit, almost all refugees in Lebanon are extremely poor, due to the increased prices of essential food and non-food items and services, as well as the devaluation of the Lebanese lira.

[2] WFP, "Technical guidance for WFP: Consolidated approach for reporting indicators of food security (CARI)", third edition (2021). Rome. https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000134704/download/. https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/96204

Figure 2: Percentage of households living above/below the SMEB for both ECMEN indicators

ECMEN-1 (including value of assistance and credit): Above MEB 24%, SMEB-MEB 10%, Below SMEB 67%

ECMEN-2 (excluding value of assistance and credit): Above MEB 7%, SMEB-MEB 3%, Below SMEB 90%

ECMEN-1 (including value of assistance and credit)   ECMEN-2 (excluding value of assistance and credit)

■ Below SMEB   ■ SMEB-MEB   ■ Above MEB
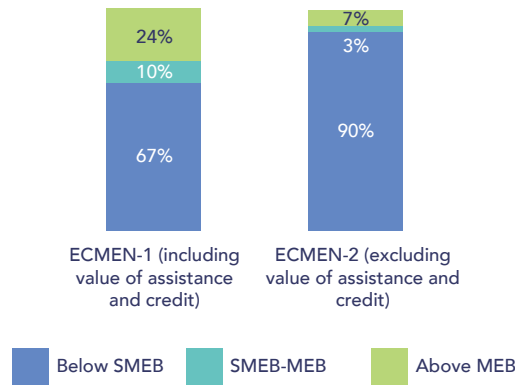
Upon including the value of assistance and credit, refugees in the governorate of Akkar had the highest rates of socioeconomic vulnerability: 84 per cent were below the SMEB and unable to afford the bare minimum to survive. By contrast, South Lebanon hosted the lowest percentage of refugees below the SMEB (49 per cent), followed by Beirut (56 per cent).

Upon excluding the value of assistance and credit, a higher proportion of female-headed households were below the SMEB (93 per cent) compared to male-headed households (89 per cent). However, when assistance and credit were included in the total expenditures, the share of male-headed households below

the SMEB (68 per cent) was higher than that of female-headed households (62 per cent).

Similarly, upon including the value of assistance and credit, refugees living in non-permanent shelters had the highest rate of households below the SMEB (73 per cent), compared to those living in non-residential (70 per cent) and residential (65 per cent) shelters. The percentage of assisted households increased from 77 per cent in 2021 to 86 per cent in 2022. A total of 69 per cent of households with at least one member with a disability were below the SMEB, compared to 66 per cent among households with no members with a disability.

Figure 3: Percentage of households below the SMEB (including the value of credit and assistance), by governorate

Total	Akkar	Baalbek-El Hermel	Beirut	Bekaa	El Nabatieh	Mount Lebanon	North	South
67%	84%	72%	56%	69%	59%	64%	70%	49%
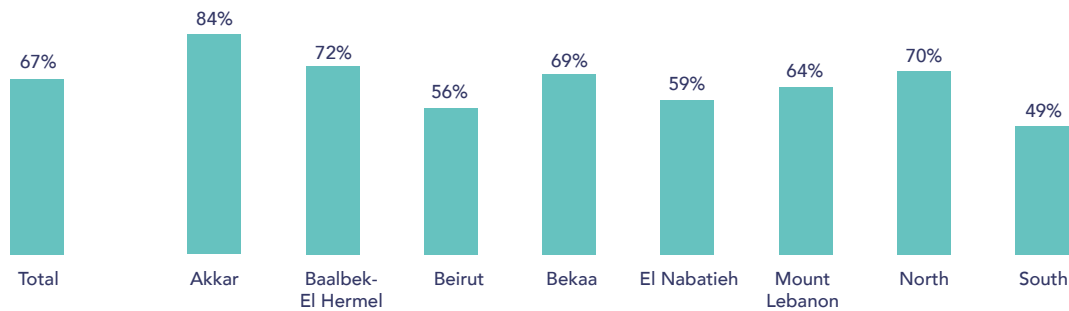
MARKET UPDATES IN LEBANON

During the first half of 2022, food imports into Lebanon had decreased by 21 per cent compared to 2021, and by 34 per cent compared to 2020 figures. The main falls were in animal livestock, oils and cereals. By the end of the first half of 2022, disruptions of food availability remained minimal and within normal levels, compared to the situation at the start of the Ukrainian conflict. However, 43 per cent of WFP-contracted shops still reported electricity outages from Electricité du Liban (EDL), and 97 per cent of them were taking measures to access electricity through private generators or an uninterruptible power supply. There were also issues with the decreased availability of bread and wheat, specifically in June 2022.

The Lebanese lira continued losing its value in 2022; the exchange rate for June 2022 was $1 = LBP 28,608 (the June 2021 rate was $1 = LBP 15,158). Additionally, foreign currency reserves in the Central Bank decreased by $2.5 billion since January 2022. The cost of the food part of the SMEB increased by 1,484 per cent since October 2019, reaching LBP 843,064 per capita. Sunflower oil recorded the highest price increase since the beginning of the crisis in 2019 (4,050 per cent). Similarly, bread prices have increased have also increased by 412 per cent since June 2021, mainly due to the Ukrainian crisis and the increase in international prices of wheat and in the energy used to produce bread. Fuel prices drastically increased in 2022, with the prices of gasoline and diesel increasing by 2,242 per cent and 3,503 per cent respectively. Similarly, the price of cooking gas increased from LBP 22,200 in 2021 to LBP 317,800 in June 2022.[3]

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[3] *WFP Lebanon Research, Assessment and Monitoring Unit, "Regional FSSWG – Food security and markets situation analysis: FSSWG meeting 19 July 2022" (2022). https://fscluster.org/sites/default/files/documents/20220719_fsswg_national_working_group_presentation_v1.pdf.*

EXPENDITURES

The total monthly expenditure for Syrian refugees in Lebanon in 2022 was LBP 1,575,613 per capita. This number shows a fourfold increase in total expenditure per capita since 2021 (LBP 316,129). This increase is mainly due to the depreciation of the Lebanese lira ($1 = LBP 16,060 in June 2021, versus $1 = LBP 28,608 in June 2022) and to inflation in prices for food and non-food commodities. The local currency lost nearly 95 per cent of its value, and the Consumer Price Index (showing the average change of prices) rose by 1,066 per cent between October 2019 and June 2022. Moreover, the Food Price Index also rose 3,900 per cent, all of which led to an increase in the value of the SMEB. The governorate of Akkar had the lowest reported expenditures per month per capita (LBP 1,207,833), while refugees in Beirut (LBP 1,938,010) and South Lebanon (LBP 1,847,418) had the highest expenditures.

Households above the SMEB had more than double the monthly expenditures per capita (LBP 3,397,880) compared to households below the SMEB (LBP 1,369,560). Refugees in residential shelters (LBP 1,621,844) had slightly higher expenditures that refugees in non-residential (LBP 1,544,430) and non-permanent (LBP 1,436,100) shelters. Similarly, total expenditure did not vastly differ between households headed by men (LBP 1,554,616) and women (LBP 1,674,873). Households receiving assistance (LBP 1,473,927) were spending much less than households not receiving assistance (LBP 2,208,322). Food secure households (LBP 2,928,698) were spending more than double the amount that severely food insecure households were spending per month (LBP 1,130,311).

In 2022, food remained the main reason for expenditure. On average, refugees spent 58 per cent of their total monthly expenditure on food. This represents a 7 per cent increase in food expenditure share from 2021 (51 per cent) and a 10 per cent increase from 2020 (48 per cent). Refugees in Akkar had the highest food expenditure share (66 per cent), while refugees in Mount Lebanon had the lowest (52 per cent). Expenditure share on rent was lower in 2022 (6 per cent) compared to 2021 (10 per cent) and 2020 (11 per cent). Beirut recorded the highest rent expenditure share among Syrian refugees (10 per cent), compared to 2 per cent in Akkar and Baalbek-El Hermel. Refugees residing in Baalbek-El Hermel and South Lebanon had the highest health expenditure shares (9 per cent) while those in Mount Lebanon had the lowest (6 per cent). Refugees spent additional amounts on other commodities and services: for example, 5 per cent of their monthly expenditures was for private generator bills, 6 per cent was for gas bills, and 6 per cent was for hygiene and non-food items.

Figure 4: Monthly expenditures per capita, 2018–2022
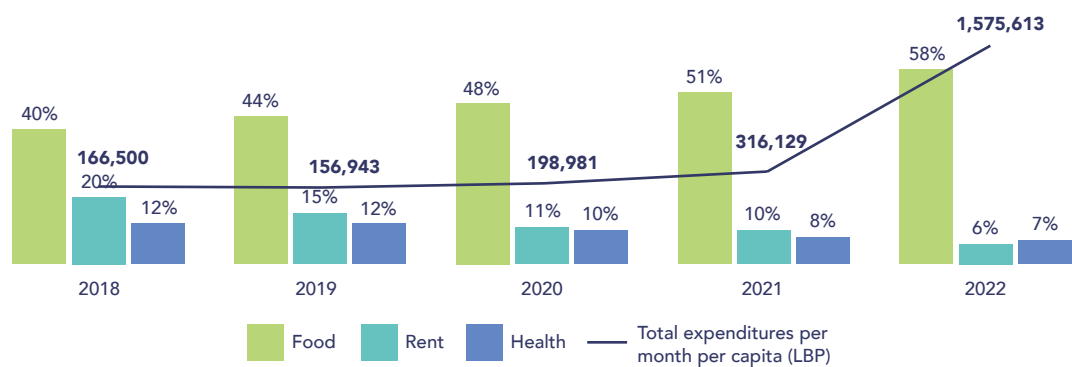
The percentage of refugees spending less than half of their total monthly expenditure on food was 27 per cent, down from 49 per cent in 2021. Since 2019, there has been an increasing trend in the number of refugees spending >50 per cent of their total expenditure on food. A total of 12 per cent of refugee households had a very high food expenditure share (≥75 per cent of total monthly expenditure). Refugees in the governorates of Akkar and Baalbek-El Hermel had the highest share of households with medium to very high food expenditure shares. On the other hand, Mount Lebanon and Beirut recorded the lowest percentage of households spending more than 50 per cent of their expenditure on food. Refugees living below the SMEB had a higher shares of households with high/very high food expenditure shares, 35 per cent, compared to those living above the SMEB, 10 per cent. Non-permanent shelters hosted the lowest percentage of households spending less than 50 per cent of their total expenditure on food (13 per cent) compared to residential (32 per cent) and non-residential (23 per cent) shelters. Interestingly, food expenditure shares did not differ across male- and female-headed households.

Figure 5: Food expenditure share, 2019–2022
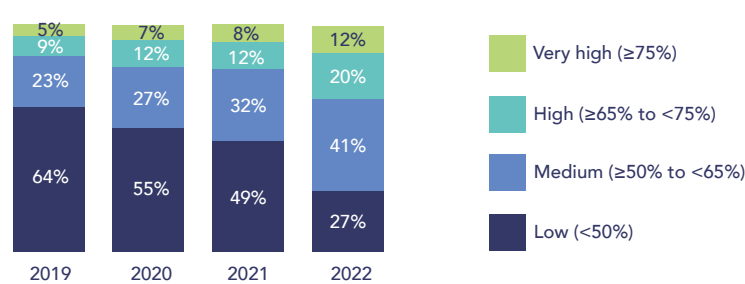
Figure 6: Food expenditure share, by governorate

	Total	Akkar	Baalbek-El Hermel	Beirut	Bekaa	El Nabatieh	Mount Lebanon	North	South
Very high (≥75%)	12%	25%	11%	7%	17%	11%	5%	17%	6%
High (≥65% to <75%)	20%	32%	28%	15%	20%	21%	12%	23%	15%
Medium (≥50% to <65%)	41%	30%	46%	38%	40%	46%	41%	41%	43%
Low (<50%)	27%	12%	15%	40%	23%	23%	42%	20%	37%

Low (<50%)   Medium (≥50% to <65%)   High (≥65% to <75%)   Very high (≥75%)
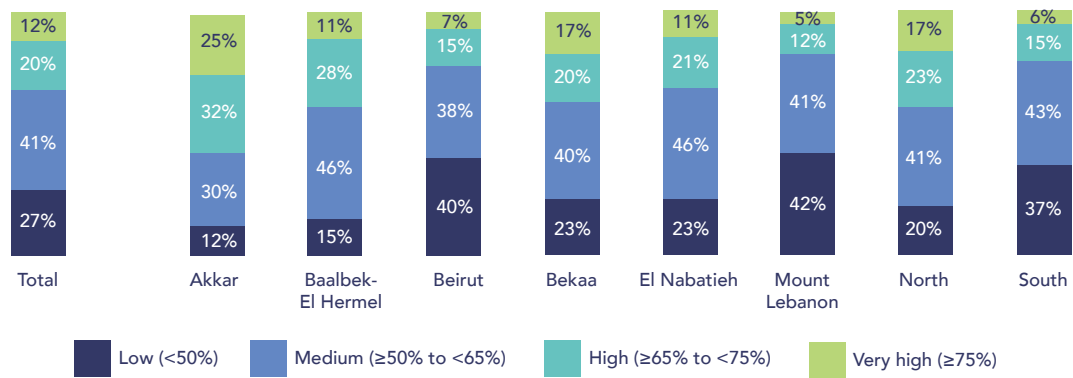
The highest monthly expenditure among single food items was for fresh vegetables. Refugees reported spending on average 26 per cent of their total expenditure on vegetables, compared to 16 per cent in 2021. This may not reflect higher amounts of vegetables being purchased, but rather an increase in the prices of fresh vegetables. Expenditure on breads and pasta was 11 per cent this year, compared to 19 per cent in 2021 and 25 per cent in 2020. It is important to note that the prices of bread and pasta have increased by 412 per cent and 574 per cent respectively since June 2021. Refugees in non-permanent shelters only spend 2 per cent of their expenditures on bread and pasta, compared to 15 per cent and 11 per cent in residential and non-residential shelters respectively. Refugees in non-permanent shelters also had the lowest expenditures on cereals, tubers, oil and fish, compared to

refugees living in other types of shelters. Expenditure on cereals remained constant (13 per cent) compared to 2021 (12 per cent), and refugees in Akkar reported the highest expenditure share (33 per cent). Expenditure on dairy products remained stable at 8 per cent this year; households in Bekaa reported the highest expenditure on dairy products and eggs, 20 per cent and 18 per cent respectively. Expenditure on other food items was less; for example, expenditure on fresh meat/chicken accounted for 5 per cent of total expenditure, and expenditure on fish was 1 per cent. Sugar expenditure witnessed a sharp decrease in 2022 compared to 2021, down to 2 per cent from 7 per cent. One factor could be the increase in prices of sugar from June 2021 to June 2022 (182 per cent).

DEBT AND BORROWING MONEY

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

In 2022, only 6 per cent of Syrian refugee households were debt-free, while 94 per cent of refugees were taking on debt to meet their essential needs. The median debt for households with debt was LBP 6,000,000 per household and LBP 1,400,000 per capita. However, the mean debt for households with debt was LBP 11,610,661 per household and LBP 2,764,159 per capita. These means are more than three times higher than the average means per household (LBP 3,430,208) and per capita (LBP 800,239) in 2021. This is mainly due to the increases in prices of food and non-food items, as well as the depreciation of the Lebanese lira.

The mean debt per household in the governorate of Beirut was around LBP 18.7 million, the highest average debt nationwide, followed by Mount Lebanon (LBP 15,167,174). On the other hand, Akkar had the lowest debt value at LBP 5,545,433 per household followed by North Lebanon (LBP 8,050,150) and South Lebanon (LBP 9,569,191). Beirut also had the highest share of households having debt of more than LBP 20 million, whereas Akkar had the lowest percentage of households with more than LBP 20 million in debt. Beirut hosted the highest percentage of refugees that had no debt, 13 per cent, followed by 10 per cent in Mount Lebanon and 9 per cent in El Nabatieh. On the other hand, only 2 per cent of refugee households in Baalbek-El Hermel had no debt, followed by Bekaa (3 per cent).

Figure 7: Mean debt per household and per capita in LBP, 2018–2022

Mean debt per household in LBP (only households with debt)

2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
1,522,500	1,672,602	1,835,838	3,430,208	11,610,661

Mean debt per capita in LBP (only households with debt)

2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
375,000	413,167	442,634	800,239	2,764,159
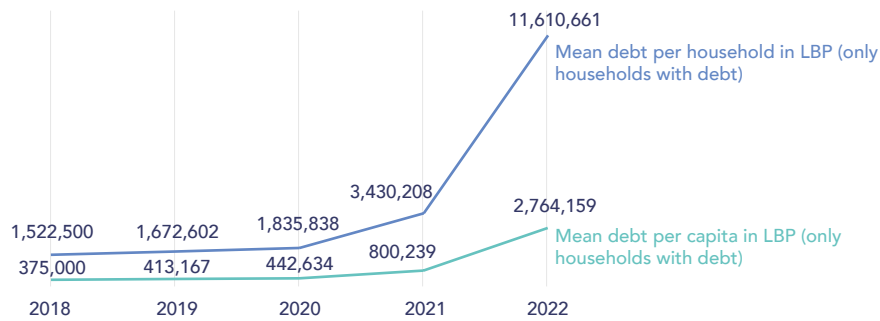
Figure 8: Mean debt per household in LBP, by governorate

11,610,661	5,545,433	11,683,969	18,688,167	12,017,608	11,880,040	15,167,174	8,050,150	9,569,191
Total	Akkar	Baalbek-El Hermel	Beirut	Bekaa	El Nabatieh	Mount Lebanon	North	South
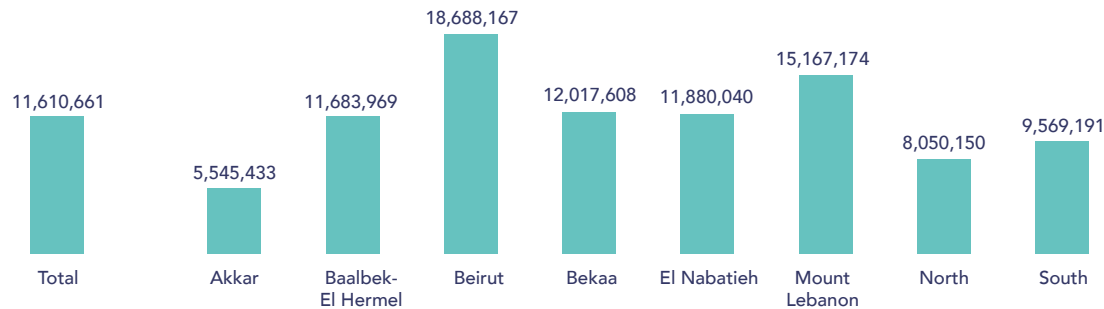
Figure 9: Mean categorical debt per household, by governorate

	Total	Akkar	Baalbek-El Hermel	Beirut	Bekaa	El Nabatieh	Mount Lebanon	North	South
> LBP 20 million	10%	4%	10%	18%	12%	11%	13%	7%	6%
LBP 10–20 million	12%	4%	14%	13%	17%	12%	12%	8%	13%
LBP 5–10 million	33%	27%	45%	22%	44%	30%	27%	27%	33%
<LBP 5 million	38%	62%	29%	34%	25%	38%	38%	50%	42%
No debt	6%	4%	2%	13%	3%	9%	10%	7%	7%

Legend: No debt | <LBP 5 million | LBP 5–10 million | LBP 10–20 million | > LBP 20 million
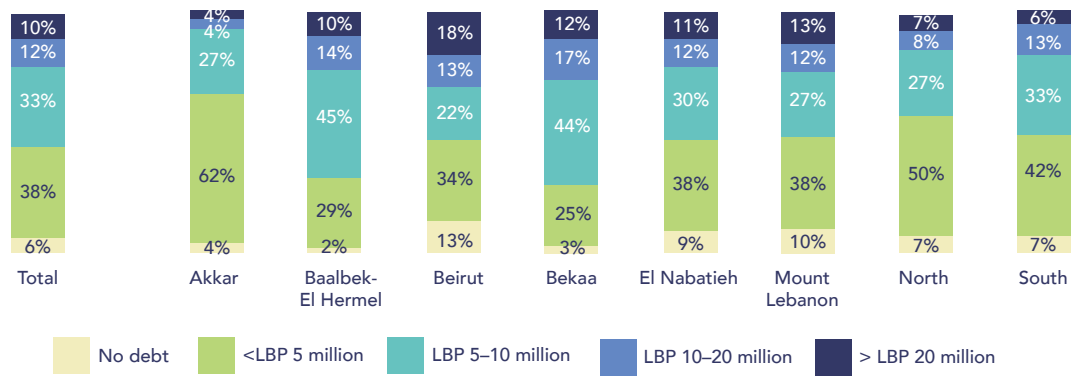
Refugees above the SMEB had more than double the rates of households that had no debt (14 per cent) compared to those below the SMEB (6 per cent). Similarly, households above the SMEB had higher mean debt per household (LBP 14,861,906) and per capita (LBP 5,964,477) compared to households below the SMEB (mean debt of LBP 11,279,133 per household and LBP 2,437,824 per capita). Non-residential shelters hosted the lowest percentage of households with debt of more than LBP 20 million (8 per cent) compared to residential and non-permanent shelters (10 per cent). The rates of households with no debt did not differ across households headed by men or women; A higher proportion of male-headed households had debt of more than LBP 20 million (11 per cent) compared to female-headed households (6 per cent). Households with at least one member with a disability had higher rates of debt of more than LBP 20 million (12 per cent) compared to households with no members with a disability (9 per cent). Moreover, mean debt per household was higher among households with at least one member with a disability (LBP 13,043,110) compared to households with no members with a disability (LBP 10,931,451). Food secure refugees had the highest share of households that had no accumulated debt (31 per cent) compared to those who were marginally food secure (8 per cent), moderately food insecure (5 per cent) and severely food insecure (6 per cent). Marginally food secure households had the highest share of having debt of more than LBP 20 million (11 per cent) compared to 2 per cent in food secure, 10 per cent in moderately food insecure and 7 per cent in severely food insecure households.

REASONS FOR BORROWING

Borrowing refers to households that borrowed money or received credit in the three months prior to the survey.

Similarly to 2021, in 2022 Syrian refugee households reported buying food and paying rent as the main reasons for borrowing money, 93 per cent and 46 per cent respectively. However, the percentage of households borrowing money to pay rent decreased from 49 per cent in 2021 to 46 per cent in 2022. It is worth mentioning that rent value has not yet been dollarized, and most refugees are paying their rent in Lebanese pounds. The percentage of households taking on debt to buy medicine has increased from 31 per cent in 2021 to 35 per cent in 2022, and remained the third main reason for borrowing money. Borrowing money to repay debt (9 per cent in 2022 versus 6 per cent in 2021) and pay for transportation (6 per cent in 2022 versus 4 per cent in 2021) have also increased among the refugee population.

Figure 10: Main reasons for borrowing money, 2021–2022

Reason	2021	2022
Buying food	93%	93%
Paying rent	49%	46%
Buying medicine	31%	35%
Buying essential non-food items	34%	35%
Paying for health care	22%	24%
Buying infant formula	12%	12%
Repaying debt	6%	9%
Buying water	5%	6%
Paying for transportation	4%	6%
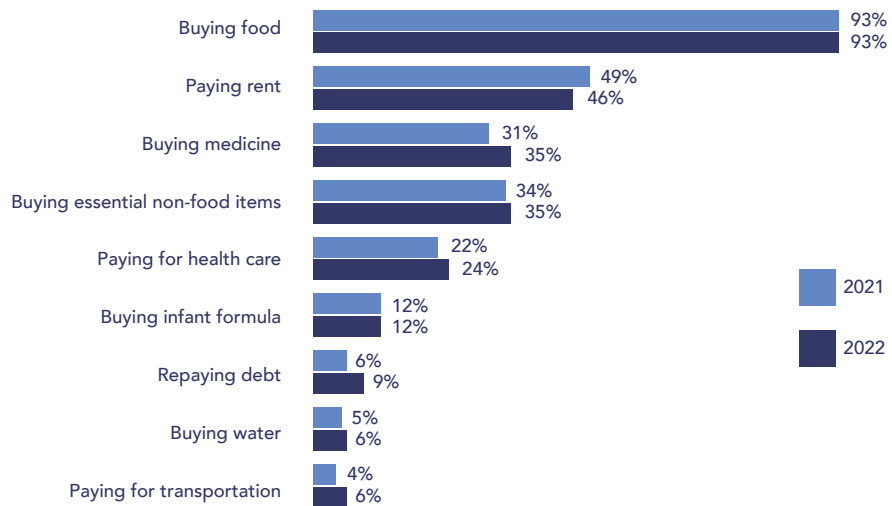
Households in the governorate of Bekaa had the highest borrowing rates in order to meet their food needs, 97 per cent, followed by those in Baalbek-El Hermel. Akkar on the other hand had the lowest percentage of households borrowing to buy food, 86 per cent. Baalbek-El Hermel also had the highest proportion of households borrowing to buy medicine (58 per cent). The need to borrow money to buy infant formula was highest in Beirut (17 per cent) and Bekaa (16 per cent). Households in Bekaa (52 per cent) and Mount Lebanon (49 per cent) had the greatest need to borrow money or receive credit to pay for rent. Households below the SMEB had almost double the percentage of households borrowing to buy infant formula (13 per cent) compared to households above the SMEB (7 per cent). Likewise, refugees in non-permanent shelters had an increased need to borrow to pay for health and medicine, 31 per cent and 50 per cent respectively. Interestingly, female-headed households also seemed to borrow more to pay for health (41 per cent) compared to male-headed households (33 per cent), whereas male-headed households borrowed more to buy infant formula (13 per cent) compared to female-headed households (7 per cent). While 40 per cent of households with at least one member with a disability were borrowing to buy medicine, the rate was 32 per cent among households with no members with a disability.

SOURCES OF BORROWING

Friends in Lebanon remained the main source of borrowing among Syrian refugees, with a slight increase in percentage compared to 2021 (85 per cent in 2022 versus 80 per cent in 2021). The second most stated source was supermarkets, with 52 per cent of refugees reported having borrowed or received goods on credit from supermarkets, a 2 per cent increase from the previous year. Rates of borrowing from pharmacies, friends in Lebanon, *Shawish* and landlords remained similar in 2022.

Households in the governorate of Mount Lebanon had the highest reported rates of borrowing from friends in Lebanon, 92 per cent. Eight out of ten refugees in Baalbek-El Hermel borrowed from the supermarket, whereas Mount Lebanon had the lowest rates of borrowing from the supermarket (28 per cent). Households in Bekaa had the highest share of refugees borrowing from landlords (29 per cent). A higher proportion of households above the SMEB were borrowing money from friends not in Lebanon (6 per cent) versus those below the SMEB (3 per cent). On the other hand, households below the SMEB resorted to borrowing from the supermarket (54 per cent) almost twice as much as households above the SMEB (26 per cent). Residential households reported higher rates of borrowing from friends not in Lebanon (4 per cent) and landlords (18 per cent) compared to those in non-residential or non-permanent shelters. Non-permanent shelters had the highest share of households resorting to borrowing from the supermarket (68 per cent). Male-headed households reported higher rates of borrowing from landlords (17 per cent) compared to female-headed households (14 per cent), while female-headed households reported higher rates of borrowing from pharmacies (7 per cent versus 4 per cent). Interestingly, food secure households had the highest rates of borrowing from supermarkets at 70 per cent, compared to 56 per cent among severely food insecure households. Households with no working members also resorted more to borrowing from the supermarket (59 per cent) compared to households with no working members (48 per cent).

Figure 11: Sources of borrowing money

Source	2021	2022
Friends in Lebanon	80%	85%
Supermarket	50%	52%
Landlord	17%	16%
Pharmacy	5%	5%
Friends not in Lebanon	3%	3%
Shawish	1%	1%
Other	1%	1%
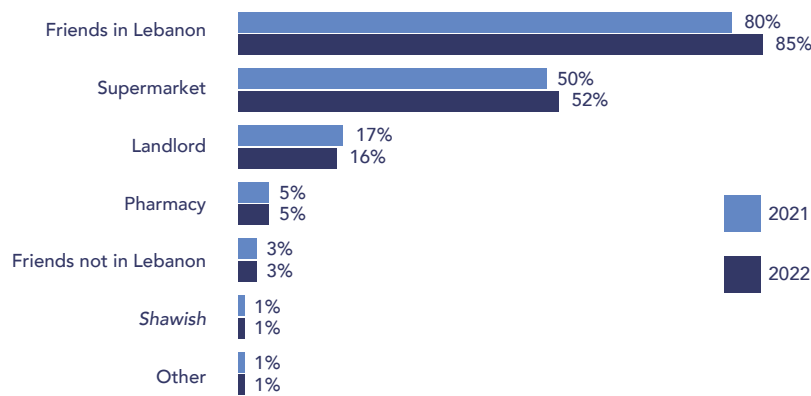
CHARACTERISTICS OF ECONOMIC VULNERABILITY

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

Debt: A total of 94 per cent of Syrian refugee households in Lebanon reported being in debt in 2022, a 2 percentage-point increase since 2021. Households living between the SMEB and MEB and households living ≥125 per cent of the MEB reported a higher percentage of refugees that had no accumulated debt, 17 per cent and 14 per cent respectively. However, the category households that were living ≥125 per cent of the MEB also had the highest proportion of those having an accumulated debt of more than LBP 20 million (16 per cent), followed by those living between the SMEB and MEB (11 per cent). The rates of refugee households taking on debt and the total debt amount increased in 2022 compared to 2021 and 2020.

Reason for borrowing: A total of 93 per cent of households borrowing to meet their food needs were living below the SMEB, compared to 81 per cent in households living ≥125 per cent of the MEB. Likewise, refugees living below the SMEB had higher rates of borrowing to cover rent expenses compared to those living ≥125 per cent of the MEB. Similarly, refugees in households below the SMEB had higher rates of borrowing to pay for health care and medications.

Shelter: A total of 96 per cent of households in non-permanent shelters were below the SMEB, compared to 87 per cent of households residing in residential areas, and 94 per cent of households in non-residential shelters.

Food security: Almost all (98 per cent) households that were severely food insecure were living below the SMEB, whereas 23 per cent of food secure households were living ≥125 per cent the MEB. Likewise, 93 per cent of moderately food insecure households were living below the SMEB. This indicated that those living below the SMEB are more likely to be food insecure compared to those across other SMEB and MEB categories.

Working members: A total of 94 per cent of households with no working members were below the SMEB, as opposed to 88 per cent among households with at least one working member. Households with at least one working member had higher rates of living ≥125 per cent of the MEB (6 per cent) compared to households with no working members (3 per cent). Households below the SMEB reported a total monthly income of LBP 1,581,078, which is LBP 6,575,780 less than the SMEB value per household (LBP 8,156,858).

Coping strategies: A total of 92 per cent of households resorting to crisis coping strategies and 90 per cent of households resorting to emergency coping strategies were below the SMEB. This indicates that households below the SMEB have higher rates of adopting coping strategies that will make them more vulnerable in the long term.

Demographics: The average household size was five members for households below the SMEB, four members for households between the SMEB and MEB, three members for households between the MEB and <125 per cent of the MEB, and two members for households ≥125 per cent of the MEB. A total of 91 per cent of households with at least one member with a disability were living below the SMEB, compared to 89 per cent of households with no disability. Similarly, rates of households below the SMEB were higher among female-headed households (93 per cent) compared to male-headed households (89 per cent).

ASSISTANCE FOR BASIC NEEDS

Assistance and support provided to vulnerable Syrian refugees to support them to meet their basic needs are provided either through in-kind distribution or through cash-based interventions. Cash assistance allows refugee households to meet their basic needs in a dignified manner by allowing them to prioritize their purchases according to their needs.

Currently, the largest cash programmes for Syrian refugees are as follows:

Multipurpose cash assistance: Recipients of multipurpose cash assistance receive a monthly cash transfer (transferred through ATM cards or over the counter through money transfer agents). At the time of the survey (June–July 2022), most eligible households were receiving LBP 1,000,000 per month. Nationally, around 180,000 Syrian refugee households were assisted with multipurpose cash in July 2022.

Cash for food assistance and food e-card: Food assistance is provided to families through two modalities. Some families can redeem unrestricted cash assistance, while others receive restricted cash through an e-card that can be redeemed at specific shops across the country to buy food items. At the time

of the assessment, the food assistance transfer value (for both modalities) was LBP 500,000 per person (up to a maximum of six people). Nationally, around 242,800 Syrian households received food assistance July 2022.

Child-focused social assistance: These cash programmes target vulnerable children with a cash grant, as well as the provision of other services. Cash is unrestricted and redeemed though money transfer agents across the country. Nationally, around 70,000 Syrian children were supported through child-focused grants in July 2022.

Cash for winter needs: During the winter season, vulnerable households face challenges in securing additional needs (including the costs of heating). Thus, through the Basic Assistance Sector, seasonal cash assistance is rolled out. All families living in poverty are eligible for receiving winter assistance, and transfer values are based on the winter expenditure basket and are disbursed from November to March.

Other types of cash assistance that Syrian refugees can benefit from include sector-specific cash such as cash for rent, protection, emergency cash, cash for work, among others.

Table 2: Economic vulnerability groups, by sector indicators

	<SMEB (LBP 1,631,372)	SMEB-MEB (1,631,372-1,922,908)	MEB-125% MEB (1,922,909-2,403,636.24)	≥125% MEB (≥LBP 2,403,636.25)
Governorate				
Total	90%	3%	2%	5%
Akkar	96%	1%	1%	2%
Baalbek-El Hermel	94%	3%	1%	2%
Beirut	78%	5%	7%	10%
Bekaa	96%	1%	0%	2%
El Nabatieh	88%	3%	3%	6%
Mount Lebanon	84%	5%	3%	9%
North	90%	3%	3%	4%
South	81%	6%	6%	7%
Food security status				
Food secure	68%	6%	3%	23%
Marginally food secure	84%	5%	3%	7%
Moderately food insecure	93%	2%	2%	4%
Severely food insecure	98%	1%	1%	1%
Shelter category				
Residential	87%	4%	3%	6%
Non-residential	94%	2%	1%	4%
Non-permanent	96%	1%	1%	2%
Gender of the head of household				
Male	89%	3%	2%	5%
Female	93%	3%	2%	3%
Education of head of household				
Higher education	89%	3%	2%	6%
Illiterate	91%	4%	2%	3%
Literate, never attended school	72%	11%	3%	13%
Primary	93%	2%	2%	2%
Secondary/technical and vocational education	91%	2%	1%	6%
Household has at least one member with disability				
Yes	93%	2%	2%	3%
No	87%	3%	3%	7%

Annex 1: Debt categories and debt per household and per capita

	Debt categories					Debt per household and per capita			
	No debt	Debt group ≤LBP 5,000,000	Debt group 5,000,001–10,000,000	Debt group 10,000,001–19,999,999	Debt group >20,000,000	Debt per household (all households)	Debt per capita (all households)	Debt per household (only households within debt)	Debt per capita (only households within debt)
Total	6%	38%	33%	12%	10%	10,864,266	2,586,464	11,610,661	2,764,159
Governorate									
Akkar	4%	62%	27%	4%	4%	5,315,245	1,203,510	5,545,433	1,255,630
Baalbek-El Hermel	2%	29%	45%	14%	10%	11,474,515	2,540,885	11,683,969	2,587,266
Beirut	13%	34%	22%	13%	19%	16,276,790	4,753,049	18,688,167	5,457,204
Bekaa	3%	25%	44%	17%	12%	11,690,820	2,556,503	12,017,608	2,627,964
El Nabatieh	9%	38%	30%	12%	11%	10,787,019	2,061,763	11,880,040	2,270,676
Mount Lebanon	10%	38%	27%	12%	13%	13,589,538	3,466,974	15,167,174	3,869,462
North	7%	50%	27%	8%	7%	7,447,499	1,948,981	8,050,150	2,106,692
South	7%	42%	33%	13%	6%	8,937,723	1,908,490	9,569,191	2,043,328
Food security status									
Food secure	31%	33%	19%	15%	2%	5,488,521	1,448,666	7,956,889	2,100,179
Marginally food secure	8%	35%	31%	14%	11%	11,691,389	2,903,973	12,737,676	3,163,856
Moderately food insecure	5%	39%	35%	11%	10%	10,455,038	2,432,020	11,020,452	2,563,545
Severely food insecure	6%	47%	31%	9%	7%	11,376,422	2,599,493	12,099,039	2,764,610
SMEB									
Below SMEB	6%	38%	35%	12%	10%	10,654,682	2,302,858	11,279,133	2,437,824
Above SMEB	14%	38%	20%	13%	14%	12,727,618	5,107,931	14,861,906	5,964,477
Shelter type									
Residential	8%	39%	31%	12%	10%	11,037,175	2,673,872	11,992,115	2,905,216
Non-residential	6%	42%	31%	12%	8%	10,691,372	2,614,206	11,427,266	2,794,143
Non-permanent	1%	32%	42%	14%	10%	10,369,334	2,283,471	10,508,817	2,314,187
Gender of the head of household									
Male	6%	36%	33%	14%	11%	11,745,907	2,674,813	12,555,123	2,859,090
Female	6%	49%	34%	5%	6%	6,704,996	2,169,666		2,316,767
At least one member of the household has disability									
No	7%	39%	34%	11%	9%	10,183,115	2,536,425	10,931,451	2,722,822
Yes	6%	36%	32%	15%	12%	12,320,999	2,693,479	13,043,110	2,851,339

Annex 2: Source of borrowing

	Friends in Lebanon	Friends not in Lebanon	Money lender	Local charity	Landlord	Supermarket	*Shawish*	Pharmacy	Other
Total	85%	3%	0%	0%	16%	52%	1%	5%	1%
Governorate									
Akkar	64%	5%	1%	0%	17%	62%	1%	6%	0%
Baalbek-El Hermel	87%	2%	0%	0%	18%	80%	2%	10%	1%
Beirut	89%	5%	0%	0%	8%	28%	0%	0%	0%
Bekaa	87%	1%	0%	0%	29%	67%	4%	7%	2%
El Nabatieh	77%	8%	0%	0%	11%	56%	0%	8%	2%
Mount Lebanon	92%	3%	0%	0%	8%	28%	0%	1%	0%
North	82%	6%	1%	0%	12%	47%	0%	3%	0%
South	89%	3%	0%	0%	15%	44%	0%	8%	4%
Food security status									
Food secure	60%	1%	0%	0%	25%	70%	0%	1%	1%
Marginally food secure	87%	4%	0%	0%	14%	49%	0%	4%	1%
Moderately food insecure	85%	3%	0%	0%	17%	52%	2%	5%	1%
Severely food insecure	81%	3%	0%	0%	26%	56%	1%	3%	2%
SMEB									
Below SMEB	85%	3%	0%	0%	17%	54%	1%	5%	1%
Above SMEB	88%	6%	0%	0%	13%	26%	0%	3%	1%
Shelter type									
Residential	86%	4%	0%	0%	18%	46%	0%	5%	1%
Non-residential	83%	1%	0%	0%	14%	51%	0%	4%	1%
Non-permanent	84%	3%	0%	0%	13%	68%	6%	6%	2%
Gender of the head of household									
Male	86%	3%	0%	0%	17%	52%	1%	4%	1%
Female	83%	2%	0%	0%	14%	52%	1%	7%	1%
At least one member of the household has disability									
No	85%	3%	0%	0%	16%	52%	1%	5%	1%
Yes	87%	3%	0%	0%	17%	52%	2%	5%	1%

Annex 3: Reasons for borrowing (1/2)

	Buy food	Buy essential non-food	Buy infant formula	Pay rent	Buy shelter material	Buy house	Pay health	Buy medicine
Total	93%	35%	12%	46%	2%	0%	24%	35%
Governorate								
Akkar	86%	26%	12%	43%	2%	0%	19%	26%
Baalbek-El Hermel	96%	57%	13%	44%	5%	0%	44%	58%
Beirut	90%	36%	17%	37%	1%	0%	27%	25%
Bekaa	97%	46%	16%	52%	1%	1%	24%	53%
El Nabatieh	87%	23%	14%	34%	5%	0%	24%	25%
Mount Lebanon	92%	24%	10%	49%	2%	0%	19%	22%
North	90%	28%	9%	46%	2%	1%	20%	18%
South	88%	29%	10%	34%	3%	0%	20%	31%
Food security status								
Food secure	98%	52%	3%	57%	4%	0%	1%	23%
Marginally food secure	91%	38%	10%	45%	2%	0%	23%	36%
Moderately food insecure	94%	33%	13%	46%	2%	0%	24%	35%
Severely food insecure	90%	30%	12%	53%	1%	0%	24%	24%
SMEB								
Below SMEB	93%	36%	13%	46%	2%	0%	24%	35%
Above SMEB	84%	25%	7%	45%	3%	0%	23%	32%
Shelter type								
Residential	92%	32%	11%	51%	2%	0%	21%	30%
Non-residential	92%	32%	9%	42%	2%	0%	24%	31%
Non-permanent	96%	44%	17%	35%	3%	1%	31%	50%
Gender of the head of household								
Male	93%	36%	13%	47%	2%	0%	24%	33%
Female	93%	31%	7%	42%	2%	0%	23%	41%
At least one member of the household has disability								
No	93%	35%	14%	46%	2%	0%	23%	32%
Yes	92%	34%	9%	46%	2%	0%	26%	40%

Annex 3: Reasons for borrowing (2/2)

	Buy water	Pay transportation	Repay debt	Procure sponsorship	Develop business	Procure assets	Pay documentation	Other reasons
Total	6%	6%	9%	0%	0%	0%	0%	5%
Governorate								
Akkar	4%	2%	5%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%
Baalbek-El Hermel	5%	20%	17%	0%	0%	0%	0%	6%
Beirut	8%	3%	4%	0%	0%	0%	0%	5%
Bekaa	7%	4%	12%	0%	0%	0%	0%	12%
El Nabatieh	2%	3%	6%	0%	0%	1%	1%	3%
Mount Lebanon	8%	6%	7%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%
North	1%	1%	5%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%
South	10%	2%	6%	0%	0%	0%	0%	4%
Food security status								
Food secure	18%	6%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%
Marginally food secure	8%	5%	6%	0%	0%	0%	0%	8%
Moderately food insecure	5%	6%	10%	0%	0%	0%	0%	4%
Severely food insecure	3%	6%	11%	0%	0%	1%	1%	5%
SMEB								
Below SMEB	6%	6%	9%	0%	0%	0%	0%	5%
Above SMEB	5%	3%	8%	0%	0%	1%	1%	6%
Shelter type								
Residential	7%	5%	8%	0%	0%	0%	0%	5%
Non-residential	4%	5%	9%	0%	0%	1%	1%	5%
Non-permanent	4%	9%	11%	0%	0%	0%	0%	7%
Gender of the head of household								
Male	6%	6%	9%	0%	0%	0%	0%	5%
Female	5%	5%	9%	0%	0%	0%	0%	5%
At least one member of the household has disability								
No	6%	6%	8%	0%	0%	0%	0%	4%
Yes	7%	5%	10%	0%	0%	0%	0%	8%

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FOOD SECURITY

This chapter assesses the food security status and vulnerability of Syrian refugee households residing in Lebanon. Food security implies that individuals always have physical and economic access to sufficient quantities of safe and nutritious food. In 2022, Lebanon's consumer price index (documenting the average change of prices) has increased by 1,066 per cent; food prices specifically have increased by 3,900 per cent since October 2019. Additionally, the Lebanese lira has continued to further devaluate in 2022 and has lost more than 90 per cent of its value.

KEY FINDINGS

- More Syrian refugee households are falling into food insecurity in 2022, reaching 67 per cent, a drastic increase of 18 percentage points compared to food insecurity rates in 2021. Likewise, rates of severe food insecurity have doubled (from 3 per cent in 2021 to 6 per cent in 2022). The highest rates of moderately food insecure households were in Akkar (70 per cent), while North Lebanon hosted the highest proportion of severely food insecure households (10 per cent).
- All governorates reported an increase in food insecurity rates. Akkar and Baalbek-El Hermel witnessed the highest increases, both at 31 percentage points.
- A higher proportion of female-headed households (75 per cent) were food insecure compared to male-headed households (64 per cent).
- Similarly, food insecurity was highest among households in non-permanent shelters (82 per cent), followed by households in non-residential shelters (74 per cent). Households with no working members had a higher share of being food insecure (75 per cent) compared to households with at least one working member (62 per cent).
- A total of 69 per cent of households below the SMEB were food insecure, compared to 46 per cent among households above the SMEB.

FOOD SECURITY

The food security status of Syrian refugees in Lebanon is measured using a composite indicator that combines three dimensions of food security:
- FCS: reflecting current dietary consumption
- Food as a share of total expenditure: reflecting economic vulnerability
- Livelihood-based coping strategies: reflecting asset depletion strategies which indicate the long-term coping capacity of households to shocks

In order to compare the 2022 data with trends of previous years, the methodology used to classify households was replicated as in previous VaSyR assessments and detailed below. Based on this methodology, households were classified into four categories:
- food secure
- marginally food secure
- moderately food insecure
- severely food insecure

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

The FCS measures the current food consumption. Households are grouped based on the variety and frequency of foods consumed as indicated in the FCS index. The FCS is grouped into three categories: acceptable, borderline and poor. Another group is created for the classification of food security combining those who have an acceptable food consumption and who applied any food related coping strategies.

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

Livelihood coping strategies measure the sustainability of livelihoods. Households are categorized based on severity of livelihood coping strategies.

Households which did 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.

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

	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

The table below describes the combination of components for 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 the food security categories are the following:

1. Convert the three food security indicators into the following indices:
- Coping Strategy Index
- food expenditure share index
- FCS index, classified into four groups as follows:

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 index and the coping capacity indicator. This variable will have a value from 1 to 4 and represents the household's overall food security outcome.

FCS groups	Score
Acceptable	1
Acceptable with food-based coping strategies	2
Borderline	3
Poor	4

The food security methodology used in the VaSyR slightly differs from the WFP Consolidated Approach for Reporting Indicators of Food Security (CARI) methodology. This choice was necessary in order to maintain consistency and comparativeness throughout the successive VASyRs over the past nine years, while CARI was developed and finalized only in 2015. The main difference between two methods since 2019 consists in: the aggregation of food consumption and food related coping strategies in the second food consumption group as shown in the below table.

		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

WFP recommends that the VASyR methodology should remain the same to ensure the comparability of results over the years. As for the nomenclature of the food security categories as mentioned in the previous edition of VASyR, the 2022 edition of VASyR is consistent with the WFP corporate definitions nomenclature, replacing "mildly food insecure" with "marginally food insecure".

More information about food security classification in CARI is available from the following link:

https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000134704/ download/

In 2022, only 34 per cent of Syrian refugee households were considered food secure. A total of 67 per cent were either moderately or severely food insecure, equating to the highest food insecurity rates since the beginning of the Syrian crisis. Although rates of food insecurity were somewhat stable in 2020–2021, the rates sharply increased in 2022. This phenomenon reflected the changes in rates of food insecurity observed in 2019–2020. Compared to 2021, rates of severe food insecurity have doubled among the refugee population (6 per cent in 2022 versus 3 per cent in 2021). Likewise, rates of moderately food insecure households recorded an increase of 15 percentage points (61 per cent in 2022 versus 46 per cent in 2021).

Figure 1: Trends in food insecurity, 2017–2022
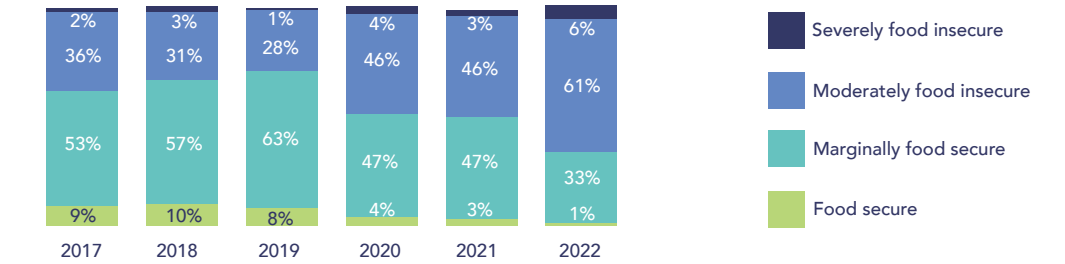
Figure 2: Food insecurity, by governorate
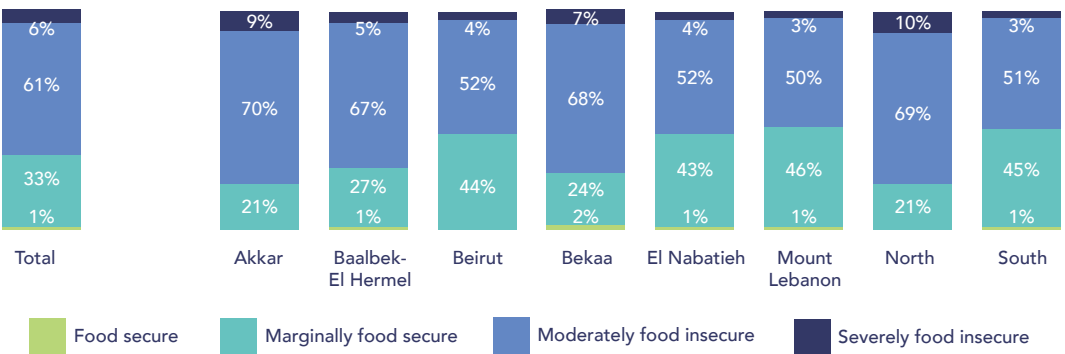
North Lebanon had the highest rates of severely food insecure households at 10 per cent, followed by Akkar at 9 per cent. Akkar also hosted the highest percentage of moderately food insecure households (70 per cent), followed by North Lebanon (69 per cent), Bekaa (68 per cent) and Baalbek-El Hermel (67 per cent). Increased rates of food insecurity compared to 2021 were observed in all governorates; Akkar (31 percentage-point increase) and Baalbek-El Hermel (28 percentage-point increase) witnessed the highest increases. Lesser increases were reported in El Nabatieh (6 percentage-point increase) and Mount Lebanon (3 percentage-point increase). The main increases in rates of severe food insecurity were observed in Akkar and North Lebanon (7 percentage-point increases).

Female-headed households had higher rates of moderate food insecurity (68 per cent versus 59 per cent) and severe food insecurity (7 per cent versus 5 per cent) than male-headed households.

The rates of food insecurity in residential shelters were slightly lower than the overall total rates (61 per cent in residential shelters versus 67 per cent overall). However, food insecurity was much higher in non-residential shelters (74 per cent) and non-permanent shelters (82 per cent). There were no observable differences in food insecurity rates among households receiving assistance versus those not receiving assistance (66 per cent). Households with no members with a disability, compared to households with at least

one member with a disability, had a 1 percentage-point higher rate of being food insecure (67 per cent versus 66 per cent). A higher proportion of households with no working member were found to be food insecure compared to households with at least one working member (75 per cent versus 62 per cent).

A total of 45 per cent of refugee households above the SMEB were food insecure, while the food insecurity rate among households below the SMEB was 69 per cent.

COMPONENTS OF FOOD SECURITY

Food consumption

Similar to food insecurity rates, the rate of inadequate food consumption (57 per cent) reported in 2022 is the highest in the past 6 years. Although Syrian refugees in Lebanon witnessed improved FCS from 2018 to 2019, food consumption among refugees has been deteriorating since then. FCSs in 2022, compared to 2021, show a 4 percentage-point increase in the rate of poor food consumption, and a 7 percentage-point increase in borderline food consumption, accompanied by an 11 percentage-point decrease in the rate of acceptable food consumption.

Figure 3: Trends in food consumption, 2017–2022
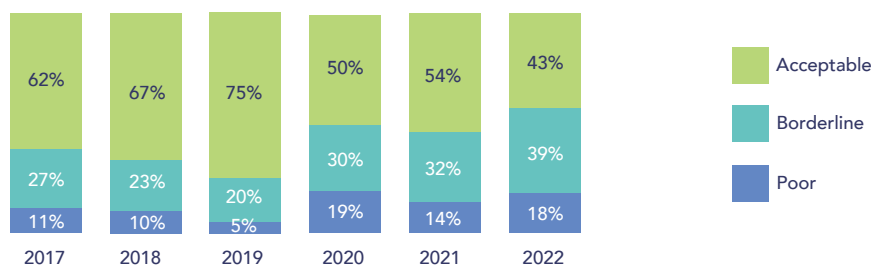
Trends in livelihood-based coping strategies

A household's coping capacity is measured by livelihood-based coping strategies, considered a food security determinant. Individuals and households keep on taking on more severe coping strategies to afford their essential needs until they have exhausted all their strategies. Coping strategies are directly linked to food insecurity, which is increased when individuals resort to more coping strategies.

In 2022, only 2 per cent of refugee households did not adopt any livelihood coping strategies, and 29 per cent applied stress coping strategies; these numbers are the lowest since 2018. However, 56 per cent of households adopted more severe crisis coping strategies and 13 per cent applied emergency coping strategies. These numbers indicate that refugees are shifting from stress coping strategies to more severe forms of crisis and emergency coping strategies.

Food as a share of household expenditure

Food expenditure share is an indicator of economic vulnerability and food insecurity. The more a household spends on food compared to its overall expenditure, the more vulnerable it is considered. Food expenditure share is therefore directly proportional to food insecurity. Households that spend less than 50 per cent of their total expenditure on food are considered more food secure than those which spend more than 50 per cent of their expenditure on food.

In 2022, only 27 per cent of refugee households were spending less than 50 per cent of their expenditure on food. However, 20

per cent of households were spending 65–75 per cent of their expenditure on food, and 12 per cent were spending 75 per cent or more of their total expenditure on food. The increase in the percentage of households with a food expenditure share of 75 per cent and more has been increasing since 2019; however, the greatest increase was recorded this year (a 4 percentage-point increase from 2021 to 2022). These numbers indicate that more Syrian refugee households are becoming food insecure, given their food expenditure shares.

Figure 4: Percentage of household expenditure on food, 2017–2022

2019: 64%, 23%, 9%, 5%
2020: 55%, 27%, 12%, 7%
2021: 49%, 32%, 12%, 8%
2022: 27%, 41%, 20%, 12%

Legend: <50% ≥50%–<65% ≥65%–<75% ≥75%
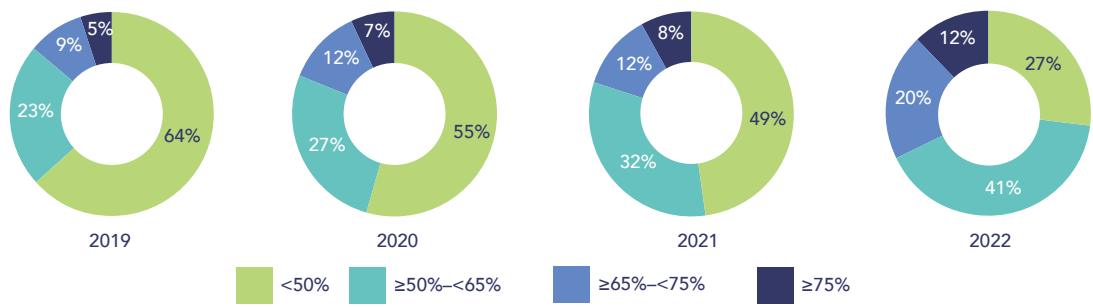
CHARACTERISTICS OF FOOD INSECURITY

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

SMEB/MEB: A total of 69 per cent of households below the SMEB were considered moderately and severely food insecure, compared to 46 per cent of households above the SMEB. Households above the SMEB had three times the rate of food security compared to those below the SMEB (3 per cent for households above the SMEB versus 1 per cent for households below the SMEB). Similarly, 68 per cent of households below the MEB were food insecure, compared to 47 per cent of households above the MEB.

Debt: The mean average debt among food secure households was LBP 5,488,521; among moderately food insecure households it was LBP 10,455,038; and among severely food insecure households, it was LBP 11,376,422. A total of 31 per cent of food secure households were debt free, compared to 5 per cent of moderately food secure households and 6 per cent of severely food insecure households. Marginally food secure households had the highest rate of having debt over LBP 20,000,000, at 11 per cent (versus 2 per cent in food secure households). Additionally, 93 per cent of households reported "buying food" as their main reason for taking on debt, followed by "paying rent" at 46 per cent.

Expenditure level: Food secure households had the highest mean total expenditures per household and per capita, LBP 10,211,396 and LBP 2,928,698 respectively. Severely food insecure households spent less than half the amount spent by food secure households (mean total expenditures per household and per capita of LBP 5,159,180 and LBP 1,130,311 respectively). In 2021, severely food insecure households had an average expenditure per capita of LBP 229,742; this vast difference between 2021 and 2022 was mainly due to inflation and the deterioration of the LBP exchange rate.

Income sources: Severely food insecure households had the highest share of households relying on informal credit/debt at 12 per cent, and on E-cards used in WFP food shops as their main source of income at 34 per cent. Moderately food insecure households reported similar shares, 11 per cent of households relying on informal credit/debt, and 33 per cent of households relying on E-cards used in WFP food shops as their main source of income.

Working members: A total of 75 per cent of households with no working members were food insecure, and 62 per cent of households with at least one working member were food insecure. A total of 8 per cent of households with no working members were severely food insecure; this rate was halved (4 per cent) among households with at least one working member. This indicates that having a working member within the household may decrease the likelihood of food insecurity.

Demographics: Rates of food insecurity were higher among female-headed households compared to male-headed households. A total of 75 per cent of female-headed households were food insecure, compared to 64 per cent of male-headed households. Likewise, 7 per cent of female-headed households were severely food insecure, versus 5 per cent of male-headed households. Non-residential shelters had the highest share of households that are severely food insecure at 9 per cent, versus 7 per cent in non-permanent and 5 per cent in residential shelters respectively. However, non-permanent shelters had the highest share of refugees who were moderately food insecure at 75 per cent, versus 65 per cent in non-residential and 56 per cent in residential shelters respectively.

Annex 1: Food security classification table

	CARI_FES_updates				SMEB	
	Food secure	**Marginally food secure**	**Moderately food insecure**	**Severely food insecure**	**Below SMEB**	**Above SMEB**
Total	1%	33%	61%	6%	90%	10%
Governorate						
Akkar	0%	21%	70%	9%	96%	4%
Baalbek-El Hermel	1%	27%	67%	5%	94%	6%
Beirut	0%	44%	52%	4%	78%	22%
Bekaa	2%	24%	68%	7%	96%	4%
El Nabatieh	1%	43%	52%	4%	88%	12%
Mount Lebanon	1%	46%	50%	3%	84%	16%
North	0%	21%	69%	10%	90%	10%
South	1%	45%	51%	3%	81%	19%
Gender of the head of household						
Male	1%	35%	59%	5%	89%	11%
Female	1%	24%	68%	7%	93%	7%
Shelter type						
Residential	1%	38%	56%	5%	87%	13%
Non-residential	0%	26%	65%	9%	94%	6%
Non-permanent	0%	18%	75%	7%	96%	4%
HH receiving assistance						
No	2%	32%	60%	6%	66%	34%
Yes	1%	33%	61%	5%	94%	6%
At least one member with disability						
No	1%	32%	61%	6%	89%	11%
Yes	1%	33%	60%	5%	91%	9%
At least one working member				8%		
No	1%	24%	67%	4%	94%	6%
Yes	1%	37%	58%		88%	12%

LIVELIHOOD AND INCOME

This chapter presents the livelihoods and income sources of Syrian refugees in Lebanon on the individual and household levels. Some individual level parameters included employment/unemployment rates, employment sectors, reasons for unemployment, and monthly income per capita. On a household level, focus was on main sources of income and monthly income per households.

KEY FINDINGS (1/2)

- A total of 33 per cent of Syrian refugees within the working-age group were employed in 2022 with no change since 2021, but a 7 percentage-point increase from 2020. The governorates of El Nabatieh (44 per cent), South Lebanon (40 per cent) and Beirut (40 per cent) hosted the highest proportion of refugees that were employed.
- The percentage of households with at least one working member in the previous 7 days slightly increased from 66 per cent in 2021 to 69 per cent in 2022.
- Monthly income in USD from employment for all households almost doubled in 2022, from $34 (LBP 517,564) in 2021 to $60[1] (LBP 1,708,258) in 2022.[1] Yet even with this increase in income, households were only making 21 per cent of the monthly value of the SMEB (LBP 8,156,858 per household) from employment.
- Refugees were making on average $8.2 per capita per month from employment in 2021, whereas in 2022 they were making $14.3 per month (25 per cent of the SMEB). This indicates that refugees are unable to cover the costs of their food and non-food essential needs from their employment.
- Refugees in Beirut reported the highest monthly income per capita, LBP 709,122, whereas refugees in Baalbek-El Hermel had the lowest monthly income per capita, 146,709 LBP.
- Male participation in the labour force (75 per cent) is still much higher than female participation (19 per cent).

[1] Using the exchange rate of June 2022 ($1 = LBP 28,602). This is the exchange rate on the informal market, much higher than the official exchange rate. The informal market value accurately reflects the purchasing power and the weakness of the Lebanese lira.

KEY FINDINGS (2/2)

- The employment rate among the youth population aged 15–24 years was 26 per cent, 7 percentage points lower than the overall employment rate among refugees, 33 per cent. The unemployment rate among the youth population (14 per cent) was almost the same as the overall unemployment rates among refugees (13 per cent).
- Households living above the SMEB had a higher proportion of households with at least one working member (81 per cent) compared to households living below the SMEB (67 per cent). Similarly, households with no members with a disability had a higher proportion of households with at least one working member (70 per cent) compared to households with at least one member with disability (66 per cent).
- E-cards used in WFP food shops remained the main source of income for refugees in 2022 (29 per cent), followed by ATM cards used in ATM machines from United Nations or humanitarian organizations (22 per cent), and informal credit/debt (10 per cent). This indicates the importance of assistance provided to refugees, given that they are highly dependent on it to survive and meet their essential needs.
- Akkar (49 per cent), Baalbek-El Hermel (49 per cent) and Bekaa (42 per cent) had the highest percentage of refugees relying on E-cards used in WFP food shops. Refugee households in El Nabatieh (30 per cent) and North Lebanon (29 per cent) relied more on ATM cards used in ATM machines from United Nations or humanitarian organizations.

EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT AND THE LABOUR FORCE

The below definitions are aligned with the latest statistical standards established by the International Conference of Labour Statisticians at its nineteenth and twentieth sessions. The analysis included people aged 15–64 years.

Working-age population: Persons aged 15–64 years, regardless of their gender or geographical location.

Employment: All working-age refugees that were engaged in work for pay or profit in the previous 7 days. Employment is of two types. The first includes refugees that worked for at least 1 hour in the past 7 days as a labourer, an employee, or an apprentice for someone. The second includes refugees that have a job but were temporarily absent from work in the past 7 days and were expected to get back to their work. Employment also includes individuals that worked in their own or their family's business (such as fishing or farming), given that the business is for selling products or making profit.

Unemployment: All working-age refugees who were not employed but were actively seeking employment (finding a job or starting their own business) during the previous month. These individuals also need to be available to take up job opportunities given to them within 2 weeks.

Outside the labour force: All working-age refugees that were neither employed nor unemployed in the past 7 days. This category also includes individuals not seeking a job or not available to start working within 2 weeks.

Labour-force participation ratio: The number of refugees within the labour force divided by the number of refugees within the working-age population. This is a measure of labour supply among refugees.

Unemployment ratio: The number of unemployed refugees divided by the number of refugees within the labour force.

Employment ratio: The number of employed refugees divided by the number of refugees within the labour force.

EMPLOYMENT

The rate of employment in 2022 did not differ from that in the previous year, at 33 per cent; however, this is 7 percentage points higher than the employment rate in 2020 (26 per cent). Similarly, no significant differences were observed in the rates of unemployment (13 per cent versus 14 per cent in 2021) and labour-force participation (45 per cent versus 47 per cent in 2021). A total of 55 per cent of refugees within the working-age group remain outside the labour force, a 2 per cent increase from 2021.

Employment and unemployment rates differed vastly between men and women, with male refugees having higher labour participation rates. The rates of men within the labour force decreased from 81 per cent in 2021 to 75 per cent in 2022. On the other hand, women's labour-force participation increased slightly from 16 per cent in 2021 to 19 per cent.

Figure 1: Employed, unemployed and outside the labour-force populations, by total population and gender
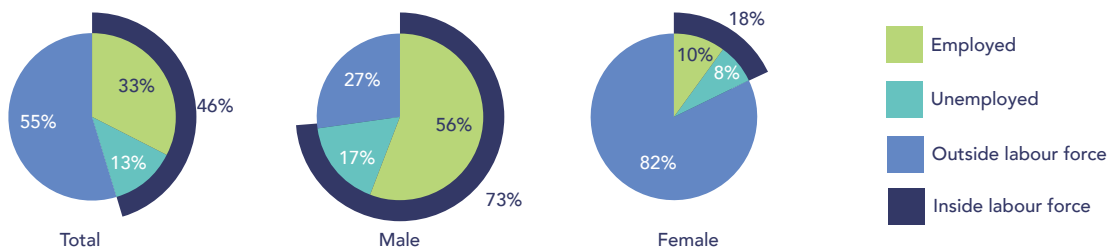
Figure 2: Employed, unemployed and outside the labour-force populations, by governorate

	Employed	Unemployed	Outside labour force
Total	55%	13%	33%
Akkar	62%	12%	25%
Baalbek-El Hermel	50%	23%	27%
Beirut	52%	8%	40%
Bekaa	55%	17%	28%
El Nabatieh	50%	7%	44%
Mount Lebanon	54%	9%	37%
North	57%	10%	34%
South	53%	7%	40%
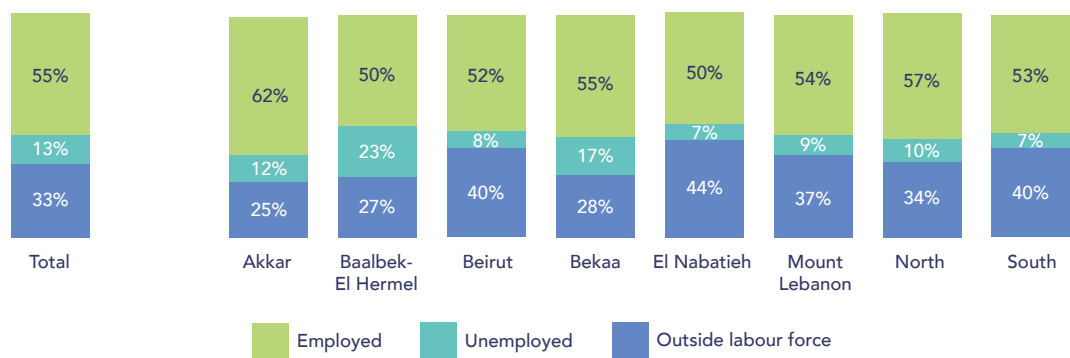
Considering the trends of employment from 2021 to 2022, the highest increase was reported in Baalbek-El Hermel, with a 12 percentage points increase (from 41 per cent in 2021 to 53 per cent in 2022), followed by Bekaa, with a 9 percentage-point increase (from 50 per cent in 2021 to 59 per cent in 2022).

The highest ratios of rates of employment to population among Syrian refugees were in the governorates of El Nabatieh (44 per cent), South Lebanon (40 per cent) and Beirut (40 per cent). Refugees in Baalbek-El Hermel and Bekaa had the highest unemployment rates, 23 per cent and 17 per cent respectively. Akkar hosted the highest percentage of refugees outside the labour force (62 per cent) and the lowest percentage of employed refugees (25 per cent).

As for the working sectors among employed refugees, agricultural work still ranked first (28 per cent in 2022 and 27 per cent in 2021), followed by construction work (18 per cent in 2022 and 19 per cent in 2021), and other services such as hotel, restaurant, transport and personal services (15 per cent in 2022 and 16 per cent in 2021). Refugees in Akkar had the highest dependency on agricultural work (53 per cent in 2022 versus 56 per cent in 2021), followed by refugees in Bekaa (44 per cent versus 36 per cent) and in Baalbek-El Hermel (43 per cent versus 34 per cent). Refugees in El Nabatieh commonly reported working in construction (37 per cent in 2022 versus 29 per cent in 2021), whereas construction work was least reported among refugees in Baalbek-El Hermel (8 per cent versus 14 per cent). Beirut hosted the highest percentage of refugees working in other services such as hotel, restaurant, transport and

personal services (24 per cent in 2022 versus 29 per cent in 2021), followed by North Lebanon (22 per cent versus 21 per cent).

The percentages of women working in the agricultural sector (52 per cent), and other services such as hotel, restaurant, transport and personal services (25 per cent), were almost double the percentages of men (24 per cent in agriculture and 13 per cent in other services). Alternatively, no women were working in the construction sector, and only 2 per cent of them were doing craft work. Non-permanent shelters hosted the highest percentage of refugees in the agricultural sector (66 per cent) compared to residential (17 per cent) and non-residential shelters (40 per cent).

The main reported reason for unemployment was that there was no work available where the refugees live (61 per cent, compared to 20 per cent in 2021). The second most common reason was having an injury/medical condition/disability (8 per cent, down from 14 per cent in 2021). Other commonly reported reasons included having dependent children (7 per cent) and family members (6 per cent), and lack of skill or experience (5 per cent). Refugees in Baalbek-El Hermel had the highest rates of refugees that reported no work availability where they lived (72 per cent), followed by Bekaa and North Lebanon (61 per cent each). A total of 15 per cent of refugees in Akkar who had not worked in the past 7 days due to the unavailability of seasonal work. The governorates of South Lebanon and El Nabatieh had the highest percentage of refugees not working because they had dependent children (20 per cent and 13 per cent respectively). It is important to note that all refugees (nationwide) who mentioned they were not working because they had dependent children were women.

Figure 3: Reasons for unemployment

No work in area where I live	61%
Injury/medical condition/disability	8%
Dependent children	7%
Dependent family members	6%
Lack of skill/experience	5%
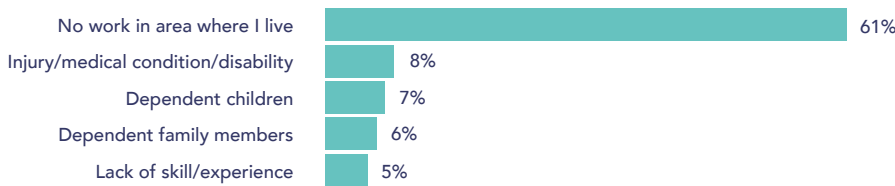
Figure 4: Employment sectors, by governorate

	Agriculture	Construction	Other services (hotel, restaurant, transport, personal services)
Total	28%	18%	15%
Akkar	53%	17%	6%
Baalbek-El Hermel	43%	8%	7%
Beirut	1%	12%	24%
Bekaa	44%	12%	12%
El Nabatieh	30%	37%	13%
Mount Lebanon	10%	20%	18%
North	25%	21%	22%
South	38%	21%	10%
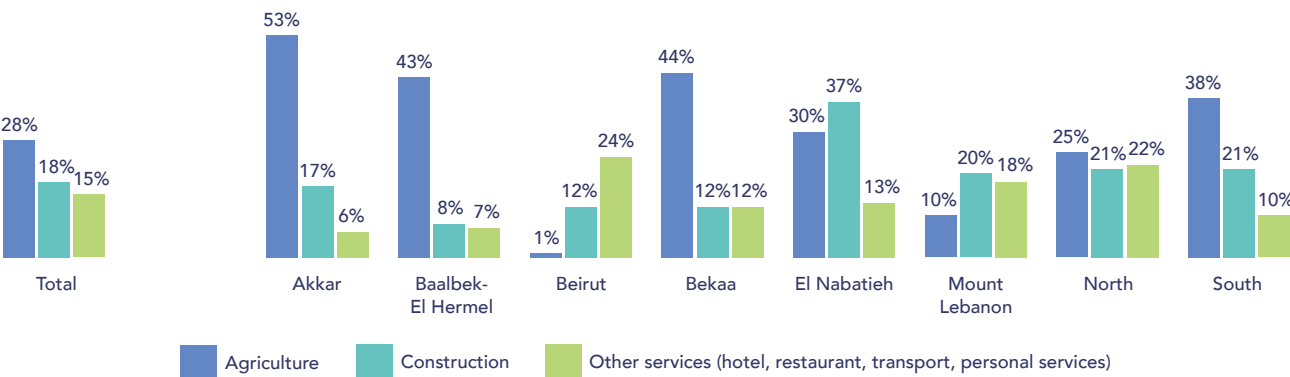
YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

A total of 16 per cent of refugees were aged 15–24 years and were considered youth. The employment rate among the youth population was 26 per cent, 7 percentage points lower than the overall employment rate among refugees, 33 per cent. However, unemployment rate among the youth population (14 per cent) was almost the same as the overall unemployment rates among refugees (13 per cent). Labour-force participation among youth was 40 per cent, 5 percentage points lower than the overall rate (45 per cent).

The highest rates of youth employment were reported among refugees in El Nabatieh (37 per cent), followed by South Lebanon (30 per cent). Baalbek-El Hermel the highest rates of youth unemployment (27 per cent), almost twice the national youth rate (14 per cent). The employment rate among male youth (41 per cent) was almost four times the employment rate reported among female youth (10 per cent). Similarly, labour-force participation among male youth (62 per cent) was three times the rate among female youth (19 per cent).

Table 1: Youth employment ratio, unemployment rate and labour-force participation

	Employed rate	Unemployed rate	Labour-force participation
Total	26%	14%	40%
Akkar	24%	12%	36%
Baalbek-El Hermel	22%	27%	50%
Beirut	27%	8%	35%
Bekaa	25%	19%	44%
El Nabatieh	37%	7%	44%
Mount Lebanon	23%	10%	33%
North Lebanon	28%	12%	40%
South Lebanon	30%	9%	39%
Male	41%	21%	62%
Female	10%	8%	19%

Percentages calculated out of the total number of youth aged 15–24 years

Figure 5: Employment sectors for youth

Agriculture	36%
Other services: hotel, restaurant, transport, personal services	18%
Construction	13%
Other	12%
Craft work (blacksmith, plumber, mechanic, etc.)	9%
Wholesale and retail trade	4%
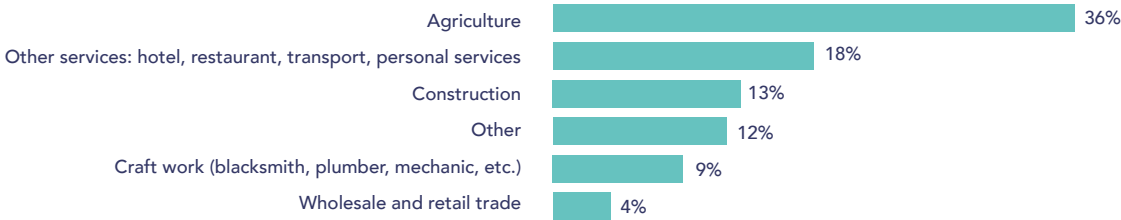
Percentages calculated out of the total number of youth aged 15–24 years

The share of households with at least one working member increased by 3 percentage points, from 66 per cent in 2021 to 69 per cent in 2022. On the other hand, South Lebanon had the highest decrease (11 percentage points) in the percentage of households with at least one working member (79 per cent in 2022 versus 90 per cent in 2021). Akkar and Baalbek-El Hermel had the lowest percentage of households with at least one working member, 52 per cent and 53 per cent respectively.

El Nabatieh (86 per cent), Beirut (82 per cent) and Mount Lebanon (82 per cent) had the highest share of households with at least one working member. While both male- and female-headed households witnessed a vast increase in the share of households with at least one working member from 2020 to 2021, the trend did not continue in 2022. This year, male-headed Syrian refugee households reported a 3 per cent increase in the proportion of households with at least one working member, while a 2 per cent decrease was reported among female-headed households.

Figure 6: Households with at least one working member in the previous 7 days, by gender of the head of household

Male: 56% (2020), 70% (2021), 73% (2022)
Female: 35% (2020), 47% (2021), 45% (2022)

■ 2020 ■ 2021 ■ 2022
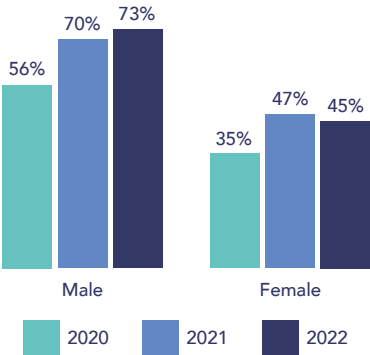
Figure 7: Households with at least one working member in the previous 7 days, by governorate

	Total	Akkar	Baalbek-El Hermel	Beirut	Bekaa	El Nabatieh	Mount Lebanon	North	South
2021	66%	51%	41%	86%	50%	83%	80%	71%	90%
2022	69%	52%	53%	82%	59%	86%	82%	67%	79%

2021   2022
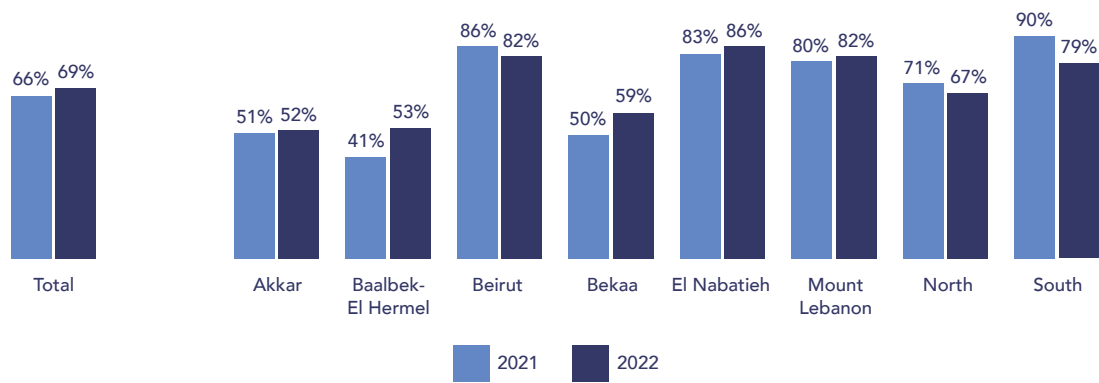
Refugees in non-permanent shelters had the lowest rate of households with at least one working member at 54 per cent, compared to 70 per cent in non-residential and 73 per cent in residential shelters. Similarly, almost half (54 per cent) of severely food insecure households had at least one working member, followed by 59 per cent among food secure households. However, the highest rate of households with at least one working member was among marginally food secure households (77 per cent). Households living below the SMEB had relatively lower rates of households with at least one working member (67 per cent) compared to those living above the SMEB (81 per cent). Households with at least one member with a disability had a slightly lower share of households with at least one working member (66 per cent) compared to households with no members with a disability (70 per cent).

SOURCES OF INCOME

E-cards used in WFP food shops remained the main source of income for refugees in 2022. The percentage of refugees reporting this as their main source of income increased from 21 per cent in 2021 to 29 per cent this year. ATM cards used in ATM machines from United Nations or humanitarian organizations came second as refugees' main source of income (22 per cent in 2022 and 21 per cent in 2021). This indicates that the multisectoral crisis in Lebanon has pushed more refugees to rely on humanitarian aid as their main source of income, thus making them more vulnerable.

The two governorates that hosted the highest percentage of refugees relying on E-cards used in WFP food shops were Akkar and Baalbek-El Hermel (49 per cent), followed by Bekaa (42 per cent). Alternatively, refugees in El Nabatieh and North Lebanon relied more on ATM cards used in ATM machines from United Nations or humanitarian organizations (30 per cent and 29 per cent respectively). Beirut and Mount Lebanon had the lowest share of refugees relying on humanitarian aid (27 per cent on E-cards used in WFP food shops and 22 per cent on ATM cards used in ATM machines from United Nations or humanitarian organizations).

Around one third of refugees living in food insecure households relied on E-cards used in WFP food shops as their main source of income; similarly, 22 per cent of them reported ATM cards used in ATM machines from United Nations or humanitarian organizations as their main source of income. Compared to households living above the SMEB (9 per cent), those living below the SMEB had three times the percentage of refugees that reported E-cards used in WFP food shops as their main source of income (32 per cent). However, the difference gap was narrower among refugees relying on ATM cards used in ATM machines from United Nations or humanitarian organizations (23 per cent of households below the SMEB versus 14 per cent of households above the SMEB). Non-residential shelters hosted the highest percentage of refugees relying on E-cards used in WFP food shops (40 per cent) and ATM cards used in ATM machines from United Nations or humanitarian organizations (27 per cent). Similarly, households with at least one member with a disability had a higher proportion of refugees reporting E-cards used in WFP food shops (31 per cent) and ATM cards used in ATM machines from United Nations or humanitarian organizations (25 per cent) as their main source of income, compared to households with no members with a disability.

Informal credit/debt, specifically from shops, friends and hosts, ranked third as refugees' main source of income, at 10 per cent. This number has decreased from 13 per cent in 2021, indicating that fewer refugees are relying on informal debt, or perhaps that they have already exhausted this strategy. Reliance on informal credit/debt was highest in Bekaa (23 per cent) and Baalbek-El Hermel (21 per cent), over double the national average (10 per cent). Female-headed households seemed to rely more on informal credit/debt as their main source of income (16 per cent), compared to male-headed households (10 per cent).

Reliance on construction (9 per cent) and agriculture (7 per cent) were almost the same in 2022 compared to 2021 (construction 8 per cent and agriculture 8 per cent). Construction work was highly reported in El Nabatieh (20 per cent) and Mount Lebanon (18 per cent). El Nabatieh (18 per cent), Akkar (14 per cent) and South Lebanon (13 per cent) had the highest proportion of refugees that reported agricultural work as their main source of income. Beirut (13 per cent) and Mount Lebanon (10 per cent) hosted the highest proportion of refugees that reported craft work as their main source of income.

Upon combining the three main sources of income, informal credit/debt ranked first at 61 per cent, with a 13 percentage-point decrease from 74 per cent in 2021. ATM cards used in ATM machines from United Nations or humanitarian organizations ranked second at 53 per cent, with a 11 percentage-point increase from 42 per cent in 2021; E-cards used in WFP food shops ranked third at 48 per cent, with a 17 percentage-point increase from 31 per cent in 2021. Agriculture ranked fourth at 18 per cent, followed by construction work at 15 per cent.

Figure 8: Main sources of household income, 2021–2022

	2022	2021
E-cards used in WFP food shops	29%	21%
ATM-cards used in ATM machines from UN or humanitarian organizations	22%	21%
Credit/debt (informal) from shops, friends, hosts	10%	13%
Construction	9%	8%
Agriculture	7%	8%
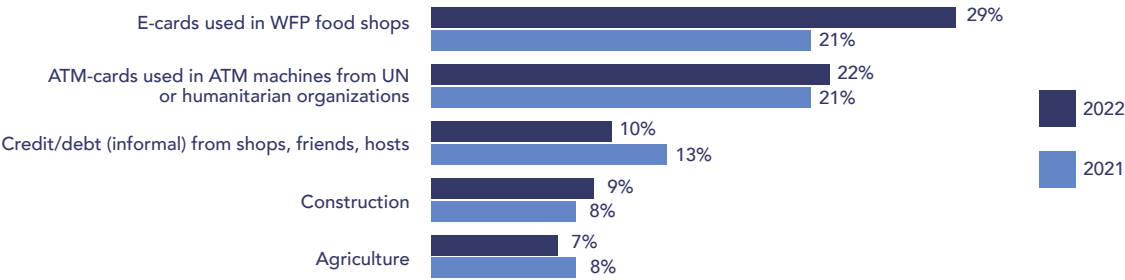
INCOME FROM EMPLOYMENT

Table 2: Monthly income (from employment) for all households, 2020–2022

Period	SMEB (LBP)	Monthly income (from employment) for all households (LBP)	Ratio of income to SMEB value	Exchange rate (1US$ to LBP) (LBP)	Monthly income (from employment) for all households (USD)	Employment ratio
August 2020	1,543,613	262,333	17%	7,420	$35	26%
June 2021	2,450,142	517,564	21%	15,158	$34	33%
June 2022	8,156,858	1,708,258	21%	28,602	$60	33%

Around one third of refugees were employed in 2022, as in 2021; however, the monthly income from employment for all households in USD has almost doubled, from $34 in 2021 to $60 in 2022. Yet even with this increase in income, households were only making 21 per cent of the monthly SMEB value (LBP 8,156,858 per household) from employment. This indicates that Syrian refugees have a low purchasing power and are still unable to meet their essential food and non-food needs on their own. The total monthly income from employment for households with at least one working member was LBP 2,286,917 ($80).

Table 3: Monthly per capita income (from employment) for all households, 2020–2022

Period	SMEB per capita (LBP)	Monthly income (from employment) for all households (LBP)	Ratio of income to SMEB value	Exchange rate ($1 to LBP) (LBP)	Monthly income (from employment) for all households (USD)
August 2020	308,723	62,792	20%	7,420	$8.5
June 2021	490,028	124,174	25%	15,158	$8.2
June 2022	1,631,372	410,495	25%	28,602	$14.3

Similarly to monthly income per household, the monthly income per capita among Syrian refugees only covered 25 per cent of the monthly per capita SMEB value (LBP 1,631,372). Refugees were making on average $8.2 per month from employment in 2021, whereas in 2022 they were making $14.3 per month. However, this increase did not translate into an increased ability to cover food and non-food costs included in the SMEB because of the inflation in prices and the removal of subsidies. The total monthly income from employment per capita for households with at least one working member was LBP 545,682 ($19).

Refugees in Beirut reported the highest monthly income per capita from employment at LBP 709,122, followed by refugees in Mount Lebanon (LBP 690,103) and El Nabatieh (LBP 671,947). On the other hand, Baalbek-El Hermel and Bekaa had the lowest monthly income per capita, LBP 146,709 and LBP 172,270 respectively.

Male-headed households had a higher income per capita from employment (LBP 440,941) as opposed to female-headed households (LBP 266,569). Similarly, households not receiving assistance had a monthly per capita income of LBP 795,081, whereas the value in households receiving assistance was LBP 348,686. Monthly income per capita from employment for households living above the SMEB (LBP 1,233,092) was more than three times the income of households living below the SMEB (LBP 317,480). Refugees residing in non-permanent shelters had the lowest monthly income per capita (LBP 163,803) compared to those living in non-residential (LBP 400,945) and residential (LBP 485,944) shelters. Food secure households had the highest monthly income per capita (LBP 854,130) compared to moderately food insecure households (LBP 344,521) and severely food insecure households (LBP 251,647). Households with at least one member with a disability had a slightly lower income per capita (LBP 332,244) compared to households with no members with a disability (LBP 447,153).

Figure 9: Per capita monthly income from employment for all households, by SMEB/MEB category (LBP)

Category	Value
≥125% MEB (≥2,152,588)	1,505,251
MEB–125% MEB (1,722,070–2,152,587)	869,456
SMEB–MEB (1,631,372–1,722,070)	731,537
<SMEB (1,631,372)	317,480
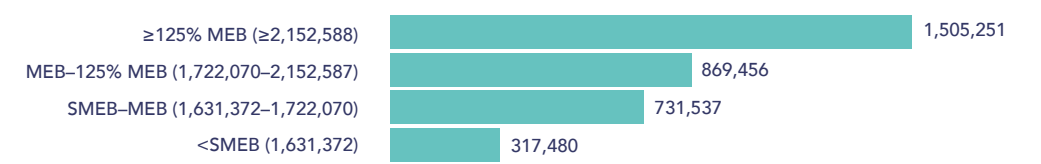
Figure 10: Per capita monthly income from employment for all households, by food security category (LBP)

Category	Value
Food secure	854,130
Marginally food secure	547,499
Moderately food secure	344,521
Severely food secure	251,647
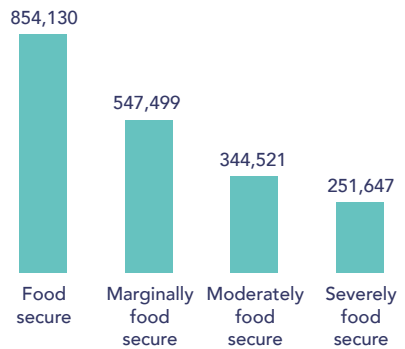
Annex 1: Employment and unemployment

	Employment status			Employment ratio	Unemployment ratio	Labour force participation rate
	Employed	Unemployed	Outside labour force			
Total	33%	13%	55%	77%	23%	47%
Governorate						
Akkar	25%	12%	62%	67%	33%	38%
Baalbek-El Hermel	27%	23%	50%	56%	44%	51%
Beirut	40%	8%	52%	83%	17%	48%
Bekaa	28%	17%	55%	63%	37%	45%
El Nabatieh	44%	7%	50%	85%	15%	53%
Mount Lebanon	37%	9%	54%	82%	18%	48%
North	34%	10%	57%	82%	18%	46%
South	40%	7%	53%	86%	14%	46%
Food security status						
Food secure	35%	16%	50%	77%	23%	54%
Marginally food secure	36%	12%	53%	81%	19%	49%
Moderately food insecure	32%	13%	55%	76%	24%	46%
Severely food insecure	27%	17%	56%	70%	30%	45%
SMEB						
Below SMEB	32%	13%	55%	76%	24%	46%
Above SMEB	45%	9%	45%	87%	13%	56%
Shelter type						
Residential	34%	11%	55%	79%	21%	47%
Non-residential	36%	11%	53%	81%	19%	48%
Non-permanent	28%	19%	53%	67%	33%	47%
Gender of the head of household						
Male	34%	13%	54%	78%	22%	47%
Female	28%	13%	59%	74%	26%	43%
At least one member of the household has disability						
No	35%	11%	54%	79%	21%	48%
Yes	29%	15%	56%	68%	32%	43%
Gender						
Male	56%	17%	27%	82%	18%	75%
Female	10%	8%	82%	60%	40%	19%

Annex 2: Main sources of cash/income (1/2)

	Agriculture	Not applicable	Construction	Manufacturing	Concierge	Other services (hotel, restaurant, transport, personal services)	Office work (finance, admin, secretary)	Wholesale and retail trade	Adult begging
Total	7%	1%	9%	1%	2%	5%	0%	2%	0%
Governorate									
Akkar	14%	2%	5%	3%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%
Baalbek-El Hermel	1%	0%	1%	1%	0%	1%	0%	1%	0%
Beirut	0%	0%	10%	1%	11%	12%	1%	3%	1%
Bekaa	1%	0%	2%	0%	0%	2%	0%	0%	0%
El Nabatieh	18%	0%	20%	0%	1%	4%	0%	0%	0%
Mount Lebanon	8%	1%	18%	1%	3%	10%	1%	4%	0%
North	8%	4%	11%	3%	1%	4%	0%	2%	0%
South	13%	1%	10%	1%	2%	1%	0%	0%	0%
Food security status									
Food secure	5%	0%	5%	0%	0%	18%	0%	1%	0%
Marginally food secure	7%	1%	11%	1%	2%	6%	1%	2%	0%
Moderately food insecure	7%	1%	9%	1%	1%	3%	0%	1%	0%
Severely food insecure	7%	2%	6%	1%	0%	7%	0%	2%	0%
SMEB									
Below SMEB	7%	1%	9%	1%	2%	4%	0%	2%	0%
Above SMEB	5%	2%	17%	2%	2%	12%	2%	1%	0%
Shelter type									
Residential	7%	1%	11%	1%	2%	5%	0%	2%	0%
Non-residential	5%	2%	3%	0%	0%	5%	1%	1%	0%
Non-permanent	7%	1%	12%	3%	3%	6%	2%	2%	0%
Gender of the head of household									
Male	7%	1%	8%	1%	1%	3%	0%	1%	0%
Female	6%	1%	5%	1%	1%	3%	1%	1%	0%
At least one member of the household has disability									
No	8%	1%	11%	1%	2%	5%	0%	2%	0%
Yes	4%	1%	7%	1%	2%	4%	0%	1%	0%

Annex 2: Main sources of cash/income (2/2)

	Child begging/ selling items on the street	E-cards used in WFP food shops	ATM cards used in ATM machines from UN or humanitarian organizations	Cash from charitable organizations	Remittances	Savings	Credit/debt (informal, from shops, friends, hosts)	Craft work (blacksmith, plumber, mechanic, etc.)	Other
Total	0%	29%	22%	0%	0%	0%	10%	4%	6%
Governorate									
Akkar	0%	49%	19%	0%	0%	0%	4%	0%	1%
Baalbek-El Hermel	0%	49%	23%	0%	0%	0%	21%	1%	0%
Beirut	1%	8%	19%	1%	1%	0%	4%	13%	14%
Bekaa	0%	42%	25%	0%	0%	0%	23%	0%	2%
El Nabatieh	0%	15%	30%	0%	0%	0%	3%	5%	2%
Mount Lebanon	0%	8%	14%	0%	0%	0%	5%	10%	16%
North	0%	29%	29%	0%	0%	0%	3%	2%	3%
South	0%	30%	24%	0%	1%	0%	4%	6%	7%
Food security status									
Food secure	0%	2%	35%	0%	12%	0%	10%	8%	4%
Marginally food secure	0%	21%	21%	0%	0%	0%	9%	7%	10%
Moderately food insecure	0%	33%	22%	0%	0%	0%	11%	3%	5%
Severely food insecure	0%	34%	22%	0%	0%	0%	12%	2%	3%
SMEB									
Below SMEB	0%	32%	23%	0%	0%	0%	10%	4%	6%
Above SMEB	0%	9%	14%	0%	1%	0%	10%	9%	11%
Shelter type									
Residential	0%	27%	21%	0%	0%	0%	10%	5%	7%
Non-residential	0%	40%	27%	0%	1%	0%	10%	0%	3%
Non-permanent	0%	20%	16%	0%	2%	0%	13%	4%	8%
Gender of the head of household									
Male	0%	38%	21%	0%	0%	0%	10%	2%	6%
Female	0%	39%	14%	0%	1%	0%	16%	1%	7%
At least one member of the household has disability									
No	0%	28%	20%	0%	0%	0%	9%	5%	6%
Yes	0%	31%	25%	0%	1%	0%	12%	3%	7%

Annex 3: Income sources reported by households (1/2)

	Agriculture	Construction	Manufacturing	Concierge	Other services (hotel, restaurant, transport, personal services)	Office work (finance, admin, secretary)	Wholesale and retail trade	Adult begging
Total	18%	15%	2%	3%	10%	0%	3%	0%
Governorate								
Akkar	32%	14%	4%	1%	2%	0%	2%	0%
Baalbek-El Hermel	17%	5%	2%	0%	7%	1%	2%	0%
Beirut	0%	13%	2%	12%	19%	2%	5%	1%
Bekaa	21%	8%	2%	1%	9%	0%	1%	0%
El Nabatieh	27%	41%	1%	3%	9%	1%	1%	0%
Mount Lebanon	8%	21%	1%	4%	15%	1%	4%	1%
North	16%	16%	5%	2%	12%	0%	4%	0%
South	30%	19%	2%	3%	6%	0%	2%	0%
Food security status								
Food secure	24%	5%	0%	0%	19%	0%	2%	0%
Marginally food secure	15%	17%	2%	3%	13%	1%	4%	0%
Moderately food insecure	19%	15%	3%	2%	9%	0%	2%	0%
Severely food insecure	15%	10%	2%	1%	11%	0%	2%	2%
SMEB								
Below SMEB	18%	15%	2%	2%	10%	0%	3%	0%
Above SMEB	11%	22%	3%	3%	17%	3%	2%	0%
Shelter type								
Residential	13%	18%	3%	3%	13%	1%	3%	0%
Non-residential	24%	13%	1%	3%	10%	0%	2%	0%
Non-permanent	30%	7%	1%	1%	3%	0%	1%	0%
Gender of the head of household								
Male	19%	17%	2%	3%	10%	0%	3%	0%
Female	12%	6%	2%	1%	11%	1%	2%	0%
At least one member of the household has disability								
No	20%	17%	3%	3%	10%	0%	3%	0%
Yes	13%	11%	2%	2%	11%	1%	2%	0%

Annex 3: Income sources reported by households (2/2)

	Child begging	E-cards used in WFP food shops	ATM- cards used in ATM machines from UN or humanitarian organizations	Cash from charitable organizations	Remittances	Credit/debt (informal, from shops, friends, hosts)	Credit/debt (formal, from banks)
Total	1%	48%	53%	0%	1%	61%	1%
Governorate							
Akkar	0%	67%	46%	0%	0%	47%	2%
Baalbek-El Hermel	0%	62%	32%	0%	1%	79%	0%
Beirut	1%	28%	60%	1%	1%	59%	1%
Bekaa	0%	54%	47%	0%	0%	83%	2%
El Nabatieh	0%	37%	74%	0%	1%	19%	0%
Mount Lebanon	0%	38%	60%	0%	1%	63%	0%
North	2%	42%	61%	1%	1%	47%	1%
South	1%	50%	65%	0%	2%	33%	1%
Food security status							
Food secure	0%	16%	62%	0%	14%	60%	0%
Marginally food secure	1%	42%	59%	0%	1%	61%	1%
Moderately food insecure	0%	52%	51%	0%	0%	62%	1%
Severely food insecure	1%	48%	48%	1%	0%	60%	0%
SMEB							
Below SMEB	1%	51%	55%	0%	1%	62%	1%
Above SMEB	0%	24%	36%	1%	3%	54%	1%
Shelter type							
Residential	1%	46%	54%	0%	1%	59%	1%
Non-residential	1%	45%	53%	1%	0%	58%	1%
Non-permanent	0%	58%	50%	0%	0%	70%	3%
Gender of the head of household							
Male	1%	47%	54%	0%	1%	62%	1%
Female	1%	56%	51%	0%	2%	61%	1%
At least one member of the household has disability							
No	0%	46%	51%	0%	1%	62%	1%
Yes	1%	53%	59%	0%	1%	59%	1%

COPING STRATEGIES

This chapter describes the various food-based and livelihood-based coping strategies employed by Syrian households to meet their essential food and non-food needs. Households usually resort to these coping strategies when they face food shortages and/or lack the resources to buy food. Food-based coping strategies include eating less-preferred foods because they are more affordable, reducing the number or portion sizes of meals, borrowing food, and restricting the consumption of adults in order to feed the children in the household. Livelihood-based coping strategies usually affect a household's medium- and long-term ability to cope with future shocks. Taking on debt, spending savings, selling household and productive assets, and reducing expenditures on health and education, are examples of livelihood-based coping strategies.

KEY FINDINGS

- The percentage of refugees resorting to food-based coping strategies increased to 97 per cent in 2022 (a percentage-point increase from 2021). In 2022, refugees in almost all governates seemed to adopt more coping strategies compared to in 2021. Beirut had the highest share of refugees resorting to high coping strategies (reduced Coping Strategies Index [rCSI] = 19+ points), at 66 per cent.
- A total of 96 per cent of refugees relied on less preferred/less expensive foods (up 3 per cent from 2021), 74 per cent were reducing portion sizes (up 3 per cent), and 69 per cent were reducing the numbers of meals eaten per day (up 2 per cent).
- The proportion of refugee households adopting crisis coping strategies (56 per cent in 2022 versus 53 per cent in 2021) and emergency coping strategies (13 per cent versus 11 per cent) also increased in 2022. Almost all Syrian refugee households, 98 per cent, implemented asset depletion coping strategies.
- Refugees most commonly resorted to reducing expenditure on food (89 per cent), buying food on credit (81 per cent), and reducing expenditure on health (60 per cent) and education (30 per cent) to cope with their essential needs. Additionally, 29 per cent reported selling their household goods, and 12 per cent reported withdrawing children from school.
- Female-headed households resorted more frequently to buying food on credit (83 per cent), reducing expenditure on health (62 per cent), and withdrawing children from school (13 per cent). Households in non-permanent shelters often resorted to reducing their expenditure on food (94 per cent) and health (63 per cent) and buying food on credit (91 per cent). However, households in non-residential shelters were more likely to reduce their expenditure on education (33 per cent) and spend their savings (33 per cent).
- The highest share of households that adopted crisis coping strategies were reported among those relying on cash from charitable organizations (72 per cent), E-cards used in WFP food shops (63 per cent) and ATM cards used in ATM machines from United Nations or humanitarian organizations (60 per cent) as their main source of income.

FOOD-BASED COPING STRATEGIES

In 2022, 97 per cent (a 3 perentage-point increase from 2021) of Syrian refugees reported facing hardship due to food shortages and were adopting coping strategies as a result. Only 7 per cent had not employed any coping strategy or rarely engaged in coping strategies. A total of 44 per cent of refugees had 19+ points in the rCSI, experienced a high difficulty in accessing food, and were engaging in coping strategies, compared to 40 per cent in 2021. Another 50 per cent of refugees, the same percentage as 2021 figures, were engaging in coping strategies to a lesser degree to mitigate their food shortages (rCSI 4–18). The mean rCSI score for Syrian refugees in Lebanon 2022 was 19 points, a 1-point increase from 2021.

Figure 1: Household rCSI points, 2021–2022
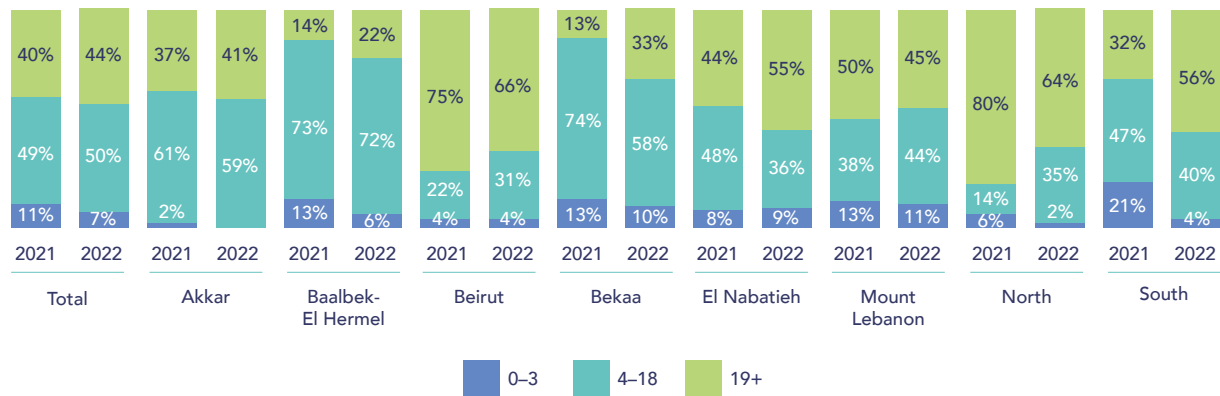
Most refugees adopted the coping strategies of reliance on less preferred/less expensive foods (96 per cent of total refugee households) and reduction of portion size of meals (74 per cent). Other less employed coping strategies were reduction of number of meals (69 per cent) and borrowing food (50 per cent). The coping strategy with the highest increase in 2022 was the restriction of adult consumption in order for children to eat: in 2022, 41 per cent of refugees adopted this strategy, compared to 28 per cent in 2021.

Figure 2: Households reporting food-based coping strategies, 2021–2022
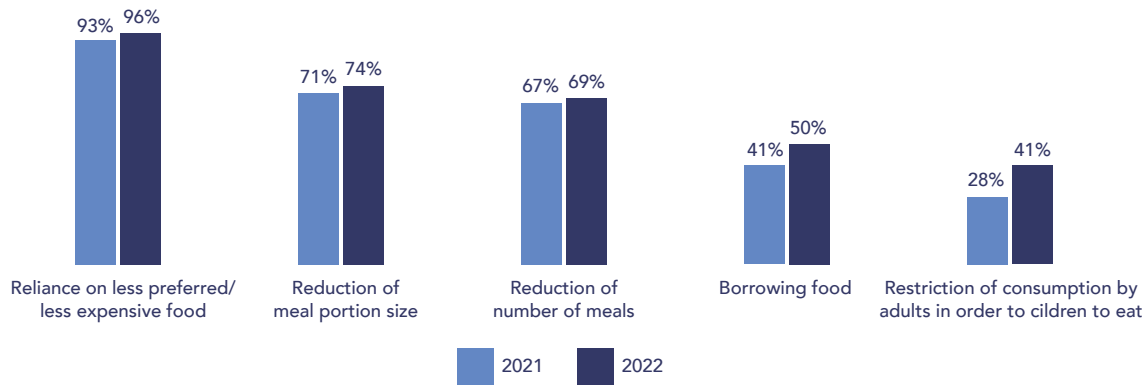
Food-based coping strategies by governorate

Beirut was the governorate with the highest percentage of refugees with rCSI scores over 19 at 66 per cent, followed by North Lebanon at 64 per cent. Akkar hosted refugees with the highest rates of rCSI over 4 at almost 100 per cent, followed by North Lebanon at 98 per cent. On the contrary, Syrian refugees in Mount Lebanon (11 per cent), Bekaa (10 per cent) and El Nabatieh (9 per cent) had the highest rates of rCSI scores below 4 points, indicating that they were engaging in fewer coping strategies due to food shortages.

Refugees in almost all governates seemed to adopt more coping strategies in 2022 than they did in 2021. The highest increase was in South Lebanon where a 10-point increase was reported in rCSI value, from 15 points in 2021 to 25 points in 2022. The lowest increase was reported in Akkar, from 18 points in 2021 to 19 points in 2022. Meanwhile, other governates reported a decrease in rCSI scores. North Lebanon recorded a 6-point decrease from 31 points in 2021 to 25 points in 2022, and Beirut recorded a 5-point decrease from 30 points in 2021 to 25 points in 2022.

Figure 3: Food-based rCSI values by governorate, 2021–2022
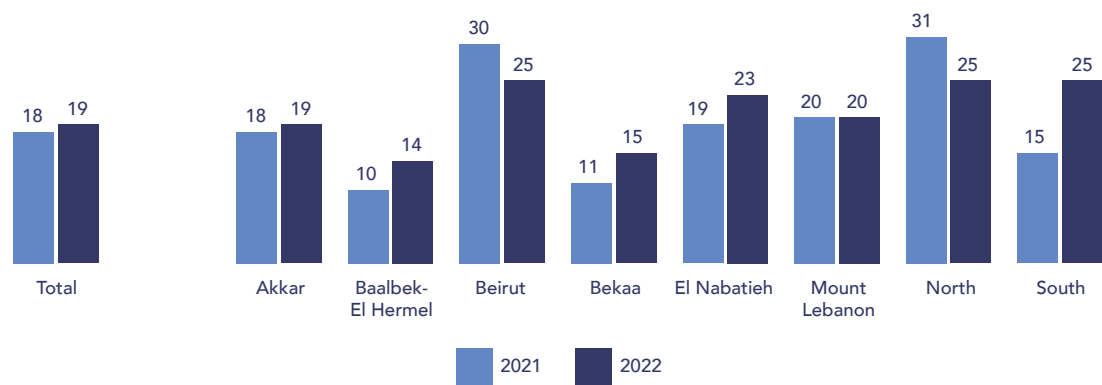
Households below the SMEB

A total of 94 per cent of refugees below the SMEB had rCSI scores of 4+, compared to 87 per cent of refugees above SMEB. Refugees above the SMEB had a 2-point deficit on their average rCSI score compared to those below, indicating that they were engaging in fewer coping strategies to address their food shortage. Households above the SMEB had lower rates of adopting all five food-related coping strategies.

Gender

Male-headed households had lower rCSI scores, indicating that they were engaged in fewer coping strategies compared to female-headed households. A total of 93 per cent of male-headed households had rCSI scores of 4+, compared to 96 per cent of female-headed households. The greatest difference was reported in the coping strategy of borrowing food: 60 per cent of female-headed households resorted to this strategy, compared to 48 per cent in male-headed households.

Employment

Households with no working members employed more coping strategies to deal with food shortages, compared to households with at least one working member. A total of 97 per cent of households with no working members relied on less preferred/less expensive foods (95 per cent in households with working members), 59 per cent borrowed food (46 per cent in households with working members), and 74 per cent reported reducing meal portion sizes (73 per cent in households with working members). It is, however, worth noting that households with at least one working member were more likely to reduce the consumption of adults for children to eat at 41 per cent, versus 39 per cent of households with no working members.

Disability

Households with no members with a disability were more likely to adopt medium-level coping strategies to address food needs. Of these households, 51 per cent of them had rCSI scores between 4 and 18, compared to 45 per cent of households with at least one member with a disability. On the other hand, 48 per cent of households with at least one member with a disability had rCSI scores of 19+ points, compared to 42 per cent among households with no members with disability. Households with at least one member with a disability had higher rates of adopting all types of coping strategies except for borrowing food, which was more common among households with no members with a disability.

Assistance

The share of households with rCSI scores of 19+ points was higher among those not receiving assistance (46 per cent) compared to those receiving assistance (43 per cent). Households receiving assistance were more likely to have rCSI scores between 4 and 18 (50 per cent), compared to households not receiving any assistance (46 per cent). A total of 42 per cent of households receiving assistance reduced the consumption of adults in order for children to eat, compared to 33 per cent of households not receiving assistance.

Shelter

Refugees residing in non-permanent shelters had the highest rates of rCSI scores of 4 to 18 points, at 59 per cent compared to 47 per cent and 44 per cent in residential and non-residential shelters respectively. However, refugees in non-residential shelters had the highest rates of rCSI 19+ points, 50 per cent, compared to 45 per cent and 37 per cent in residential and non-permanent shelters respectively. Lastly, households residing in non-permanent shelters had the lowest rCSI scores, 17 points, compared to 20 points each for refugees in residential and non-residential shelters.

Sources of income

Households that relied on begging (rCSI = 29), cash from charitable organizations (rCSI = 28), selling food aid (rCSI = 28) and wholesale/retail trade (rCSI = 25) had the highest rCSI scores among refuges. Households that depended on ATM cards used in ATM machines from United Nations or humanitarian organizations had an rCSI score of 20 points, and those that depended on E-cards used in WFP food shops had a score of 19 points. Households that relied on office work and those who used their savings had the lowest rCSI scores, 7 points, followed by refugees who relied on remittances (10 points) or selling crops (11 points).

The most common food-related coping strategy among refugees relying on E-cards used in WFP food shops was reducing the number of meals consumed per day, 73 per cent compared to 69 per cent among the overall sample. Refugees relying on ATM cards used in ATM machines from United Nations or humanitarian organizations seemed to resort less frequently to reducing their number of meals, at 65 per cent. Reducing the number of meals consumed (78 per cent versus 65 per cent in overall sample) and reducing portion sizes (80 per cent versus 74 per cent) were more common among refugees working in the agricultural sector. Households that relied on construction work had lower rates of adopting any of the five measured food-based coping strategies compared to the overall sample. The lowest rates of employing any coping strategy were among households that relied on office work: 56 per cent relied on less/expensive less preferred food, 33 per cent reduced number of meals, 14 per cent reduced portion sizes, 9 per cent restricted the consumption of adults in order for children to eat, and 7 per cent borrowed food.

LIVELIHOOD-BASED COPING STRATEGIES

The Livelihood-based coping strategies is used to assess a household's medium- and long-term capacity to cope with shocks. It is divided into three types of strategies depending on severity: stress coping strategies, crisis coping strategies and emergency coping strategies. Stress coping strategies include selling household goods, spending savings, buying food on credit and taking on debt. Crisis coping strategies include selling productive assets, the marriage of minors, withdrawing children from school, and reducing expenditure on health and education. Begging, selling a house/land, accepting high-risk jobs and child labour are considered among the most severe emergency coping strategies. A total of 98 per cent of Syrian refugee households implemented medium- and longer-term asset depletion coping strategies to meet their essential needs. The percentage of refugee households not using any coping strategies decreased from 3 per cent in 2021 to 2 per cent in 2022. While 53 per cent of households were implementing crisis coping strategies in 2021, the percentage increased to 56 per cent in 2022. Similarly, the percentage of households implementing more severe emergency coping strategies increased from 11 per cent last year to 13 per cent this year.

Figure 4: Livelihood-based coping strategies, 2018–2022

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Emergency coping strategies	12%	10%	8%	11%	13%
Crisis coping strategies	51%	57%	49%	53%	56%
Stress coping strategies	34%	30%	38%	32%	29%
Households not adopting coping strategies	3%	3%	4%	3%	2%
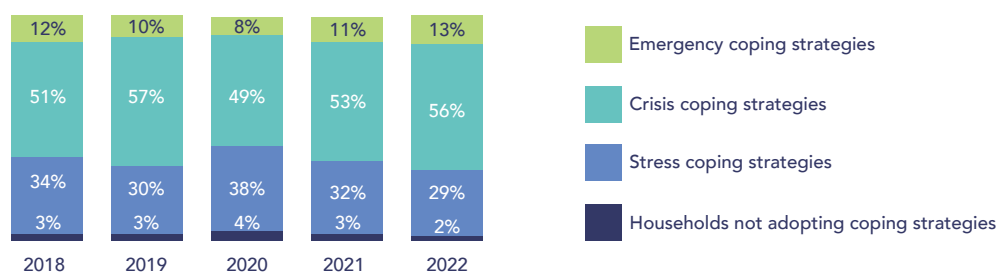
The most utilized livelihood-based coping strategies were reducing expenditure on food, (89 per cent of total refugee households), and buying food on credit (81 per cent). Additionally, 60 per cent of households reported reducing their expenditure on health, and 30 per cent reported reducing their expenditure on education, as a means to cope with their essential needs. Similarly, 29 per cent of refugee households reported spending their savings and selling their household goods. Other, less frequently reported coping strategies included withdrawing children from school (12 per cent), moving to cheaper shelter (11 per cent), selling productive assets (10 per cent) and resorting to child labour (8 per cent). The least reported coping strategies were adults taking on high-risk work (4 per cent), sending adults to work elsewhere in Lebanon (3 per cent), begging (2 per cent), selling a house or land (2 per cent), children taking on high-risk work (2 per cent), child marriage (1 per cent), and sending children to work elsewhere (1 per cent).

Figure 5: Most adopted livelihood-based coping strategies, 2021–2022

	2021	2022
Reduced expenditure on food	N/A	89%
Bought food on credit	75%	81%
Reduced expenditure on health	54%	60%
Reduced expenditure on education	29%	30%
Spent savings	24%	29%
Sold household goods	26%	29%
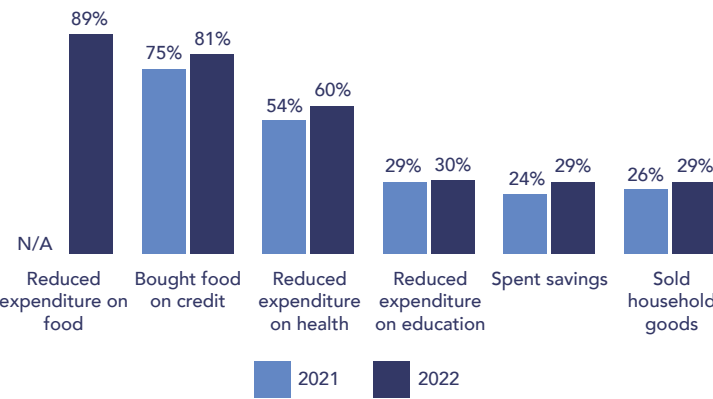
Figure 6: Livelihood-based coping strategies by governorate

	Total	Akkar	Baalbek-El Hermel	Beirut	Bekaa	El Nabatieh	Mount Lebanon	North	South
Emergency coping strategies	13%	17%	10%	16%	6%	18%	17%	13%	16%
Crisis coping strategies	56%	52%	56%	61%	73%	55%	43%	54%	65%
Stress coping strategies	29%	29%	33%	20%	21%	24%	37%	32%	17%
Households not adopting coping strategies	2%	2%	1%	2%		3%	3%	2%	2%

Legend: ■ Households not adopting coping strategies ■ Stress coping strategies ■ Crisis coping strategies ■ Emergency coping strategies
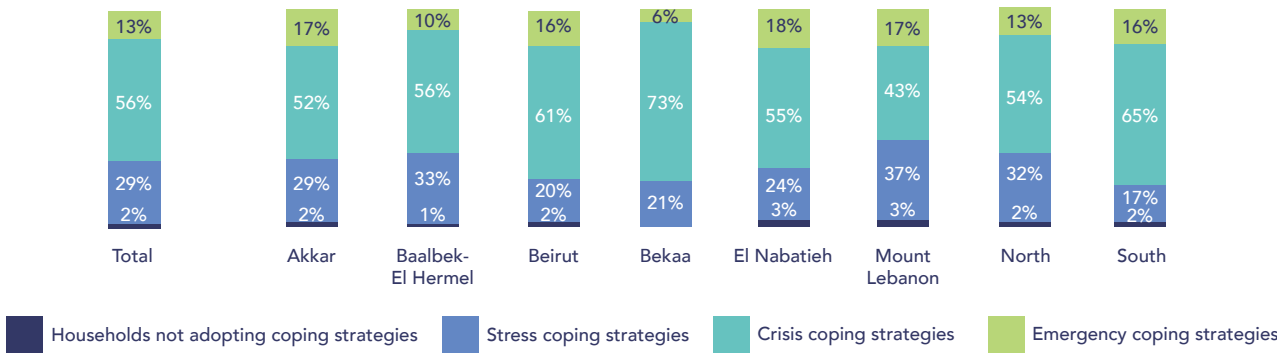
Livelihood-based coping strategies by governorate

Refugees in Bekaa had the highest prevalence of crisis coping strategies at 73 per cent, followed by 65 per cent in South Lebanon and 61 per cent in Beirut. El Nabatieh governorate displayed the highest rates of emergency coping strategies (18 per cent), followed by Mount Lebanon (17 per cent) and Akkar (17 per cent). Households in Mount Lebanon reported the lowest rates of crisis coping strategies (43 per cent) and those in Bekaa reported the lowest rates of emergency coping strategies (6 per cent). All governorates reported a decrease in households not implementing any asset depletion coping strategy compared to 2021, except for El Nabatieh and South Lebanon (a 1 per cent increase in 2022). Akkar witnessed the largest decrease in households not implementing any coping strategies (from 5 per cent in 2021 to 2 per cent in 2022), and the highest increase in households implementing crisis coping strategies (from 40 per cent to 52 per cent) and emergency coping strategies (from 9 per cent to 17 per cent). The highest prevalence of selling household goods, assets, means of transportation, and a house or land was in El Nabatieh governorate. The percentages of refugee households in South Lebanon were the highest nationwide in terms of reducing expenditure on health, withdrawing children from school, and sending children to work either elsewhere or in dangerous working conditions. Begging was most prevalent among refugees living in Akkar (9 per cent) and childhood marriage was most prevalent in Mount Lebanon (2.5 per cent).

Households below the SMEB

Refugees above the SMEB, compared to those above the SMEB, had a higher prevalence of crisis coping strategies (57 per cent versus 43 per cent); however, no difference was observed in the prevalence of emergency coping strategies across the two groups. Refugees within households below the SMEB often resorted to reducing expenditure on food (90 per cent), health (61 per cent) and education (31 per cent) and buying food on credit (82 per cent) as livelihood-based coping strategies. Similarly, the rates of withdrawing children from school, child labour, and begging in households below the SMEB were double the rates reported among households above the SMEB. This indicates that households below the SMEB are less equipped to deal with future crises, and thus are more vulnerable than refugee households above the SMEB.

Gender

Female-headed households seemed to employ more crisis coping strategies (59 per cent versus 55 per cent) and fewer emergency coping strategies (11 per cent versus 14 per cent) than male-headed households. Compared to female-headed households, male-headed households reported higher rates of selling household assets (29 per cent versus 25 per cent of female-headed households), selling productive assets and means of transportation (11 per cent versus 8 per cent), reducing expenditure on food

(89 per cent versus 85 per cent), spending savings (30 per cent versus 24 per cent) and moving to a cheaper shelter (12 per cent versus 8 per cent). On the other hand, rates of buying food on credit (83 per cent versus 81 per cent in male-headed households), reducing expenditure on health (62 per cent versus 59 per cent), and withdrawing children from school (13 per cent versus 11 per cent) were higher among female-headed households.

Employment

The prevalence of emergency livelihood-based coping strategies among households with no working members was lower than the prevalence among refugee households with at least one working member (15 per cent versus 10 per cent). However, the rate of crisis coping strategies was higher among households with no working members at 60 per cent, compared to 54 per cent among households with at least one working member. Households with no

working members often resorted to reducing expenditure on food (92 per cent) and buying food on credit (85 per cent). Households with at least one working member had higher rates of selling household goods (30 per cent), spending savings (31 per cent), moving to cheaper shelter (12 per cent), withdrawing children from school (12 per cent) and child labour (9 per cent) compared to households with no working members.

Disability

A higher proportion of households with at least one member with a disability were adopting emergency coping strategies, compared to households with no members with a disability (17 per cent versus 12 per cent). Households with at least one member with a disability reported resorting more frequently to selling household goods (35 per cent versus 26 per cent among households with no disability) and productive assets or means of transport (13 per cent versus

9 per cent), reducing expenditure on food (92 per cent versus 87 per cent) and health (64 per cent versus 58 per cent), buying food on credit (85 per cent versus 79 per cent), and moving to cheaper shelter (13 per cent versus 11 per cent). Interestingly, the rates of sending children to work were double among households with at least one member with a disability compared to households with no member with a disability (11 per cent versus 6 per cent).

Assistance

The percentage of refugee households receiving assistance and resorting to emergency coping strategies was double that reported among households not receiving assistance (14 per cent among those receiving assistance versus 7 per cent among those not receiving assistance). Households not receiving any assistance

had a higher share in adopting stress coping strategies at 37 per cent, compared to 27 per cent in households receiving assistance. Households receiving assistance were more likely to reduce expenditure on food, health and education, buy food on credit, withdraw children from school, and engage in child labour.

Shelter

A higher proportion of households in non-permanent shelters were adopting crisis coping strategies (63 per cent), compared to 57 per cent among refugees living in non-residential shelters and 54 per cent among refugees living in residential shelters. Interestingly, households in residential shelters had the highest prevalence of emergency livelihood-based coping strategies at 14 per cent, compared to 12 per cent in non-residential shelters and 11 per

cent in non-permanent shelters. Refugees in non-permanent shelters were more likely to reduce their expenditure on food (94 per cent) and health (63 per cent) and to buy food on credit (91 per cent) compared to those living in residential and non-residential shelters. Refugees living in non-residential shelters were more likely to reduce their expenditure on education (33 per cent) and to spend their savings (33 per cent).

Sources of income

The rates of resorting to coping strategies differed across households with different sources of income. For example, 60 per cent of refugees that relied on formal credit and debt, and 48 per cent of refugees that relied on the sale of livestock and animal produce, resorted to emergency coping strategies. Other income sources that had a high prevalence of emergency coping strategies were home-based skill work (28 per cent), concierge work (22 per cent) and construction (21 per cent). The highest rates of crisis coping strategies were reported among households relying on cash from charitable organizations (72 per cent), E-cards used in WFP food shops (63 per cent) and ATM cards used in ATM machines from United Nations or humanitarian organizations (60 per cent).

Food security

The highest rates of crisis coping strategies were among households considered moderately food insecure at 63 per cent, compared to 48 per cent in severely food insecure households and 47 per cent in marginally food secure households. On the other hand, severely food insecure households had the highest share of refugees implementing emergency coping strategies at 34 per cent, compared to 14 per cent in moderately food insecure households and 8 per cent in marginally food secure households. Alternatively, only 23 per cent of food secure households did not adopt any coping strategy, and 77 per cent of them adopted stress coping strategies. Households that were severely food insecure more frequently resorted to the following coping strategies: reducing expenditure on education (42 per cent), withdrawing children from school (18 per cent), child labour (18 per cent), moving to a cheaper shelter (16 per cent), begging (8 per cent), selling a house or land (5 per cent), and accepting high-risk jobs for both adults (6 per cent) and children (4 per cent).

Annex 1: Food-based coping strategies in the last 7 days (1/2)

	rCSI categories				rCSI	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	Restricted consumption by adults in order for children to eat
	.00	1–3.9	4–18.9	≥ 19						
Total	3%	4%	50%	44%	19.43	96%	50%	69%	74%	41%
Governorate										
Akkar	0%	0%	59%	41%	19.28	98%	62%	77%	79%	27%
Baalbek-El Hermel	2%	4%	72%	22%	13.82	98%	48%	54%	60%	36%
Beirut	3%	1%	31%	66%	25.02	97%	50%	82%	87%	45%
Bekaa	0%	9%	58%	33%	14.78	99%	59%	63%	71%	40%
El Nabatieh	7%	2%	36%	55%	23.27	91%	40%	75%	75%	53%
Mount Lebanon	8%	3%	44%	45%	19.94	91%	39%	62%	68%	39%
North	1%	1%	35%	64%	25.04	99%	44%	83%	85%	43%
South	3%	1%	40%	56%	25.49	97%	67%	88%	91%	65%
Food security status										
Food secure	60%	40%	0%	0%	0.83	39%	0%	1%	1%	0%
Marginally food secure	5%	6%	53%	35%	17.08	94%	39%	59%	65%	33%
Moderately food insecure	1%	2%	49%	48%	20.58	98%	55%	73%	78%	44%
Severely food insecure	0%	2%	42%	57%	23.76	99%	61%	90%	93%	54%
SMEB										
Below SMEB	3%	4%	50%	44%	19.69	97%	51%	69%	74%	42%
Above SMEB	8%	6%	48%	39%	17.05	90%	41%	63%	66%	27%
Shelter type										
Residential	4%	4%	47%	45%	20.06	95%	47%	69%	74%	41%
Non-residential	4%	2%	44%	50%	20.19	95%	46%	77%	80%	39%
Non-permanent	1%	3%	59%	37%	16.96	99%	61%	64%	69%	41%
Gender of the head of household										
Male	3%	4%	49%	44%	19.28	96%	48%	69%	74%	41%
Female	3%	2%	52%	44%	20.11	97%	60%	69%	70%	39%
At least one member of the household has disability										
No	4%	3%	51%	42%	18.76	96%	50%	67%	72%	38%
Yes	2%	5%	45%	48%	20.85	97%	48%	73%	77%	47%

Annex 1: Food-based coping strategies in the last 7 days (2/2)

	Relied on less expensive/ less preferred food (number of days in the past 7 days)	Borrowed food and/ or relied on help from friends/relatives (number of days in the past 7 days)	Reduced the number of meals eaten per day (number of days in the past 7 days)	Reduced portion size of meals (number of days in the past 7 days)	Restricted consumption of adults/mothers in order for young children to eat (number of days in the past 7 days)
Total	5.5	1.6	3	3.2	1.5
Governorate					
Akkar	5.7	1.8	3.3	3.4	1.1
Baalbek-El Hermel	5.4	1.1	1.7	1.9	0.9
Beirut	5.8	2.2	4.4	4.7	2
Bekaa	5.5	1.4	1.8	2	0.9
El Nabatieh	5.4	1.5	3.6	3.7	2.6
Mount Lebanon	5.4	1.6	3.1	3.3	1.6
North	6.1	1.5	4.6	4.8	2.2
South	5.3	2.2	3.8	4	2.7
Food security status					
Food secure	0.8	0	0	0	0
Marginally food secure	5.1	1.3	2.7	2.9	1.3
Moderately food insecure	5.8	1.7	3.1	3.3	1.7
Severely food insecure	6.1	2	3.7	3.9	2
SMEB					
Below SMEB	5.6	1.6	3.0	3.2	1.6
Above SMEB	5.1	1.5	2.9	2.9	1.0
Shelter type					
Residential	5.5	1.6	3.1	3.3	1.7
Non-residential	5.7	1.6	3.4	3.7	1.4
Non-permanent	5.7	1.5	2.3	2.5	1.2
Gender of the head of household					
Male	5.5	1.5	3	3.2	1.5
Female	5.6	1.9	3.1	3.1	1.5
At least one member of the household has disability					
No	5.5	1.6	2.8	3	1.4
Yes	5.6	1.5	3.3	3.5	1.8

Annex 2: Livelihood coping strategies (1/4)

	Summary of asset depletion coping strategies			
	Not adopting coping strategies	**Stress coping strategies**	**Crisis coping strategies**	**Emergencies coping strategies**
Total	2%	29%	56%	13%
Governorate				
Akkar	2%	29%	52%	17%
Baalbek-El Hermel	1%	33%	56%	10%
Beirut	2%	20%	61%	16%
Bekaa	0%	21%	73%	6%
El Nabatieh	3%	24%	55%	18%
Mount Lebanon	3%	37%	43%	17%
North	2%	32%	54%	13%
South	2%	17%	65%	16%
Food security status				
Food secure	26%	74%	0%	0%
Marginally food secure	3%	43%	47%	7%
Moderately food insecure	1%	22%	61%	16%
Severely food insecure	0%	11%	60%	30%
SMEB				
Below SMEB	1%	28%	57%	13%
Above SMEB	5%	39%	43%	13%
Shelter type				
Residential	2%	30%	54%	14%
Non-residential	1%	30%	57%	12%
Non-permanent	0%	25%	63%	11%
Gender of the head of household				
Male	2%	29%	55%	14%
Female	3%	28%	59%	11%
At least one member of the household has disability				
No	2%	31%	56%	12%
Yes	2%	25%	56%	17%

Annex 2: Livelihood coping strategies (2/4)

	Selling household goods (radio, furniture, television, jewelry, etc.)	Sell productive assets or means of transport (sewing machine, wheelbarrow, bicycle, car, livestock)	Reduce expenditure on food	Reduce essential non-food expenditures on health etc.	Reduce essential non-food expenditures on education etc.	Spent savings
Total	29%	10%	89%	60%	30%	29%
Governorate						
Akkar	22%	6%	91%	60%	34%	25%
Baalbek-El Hermel	31%	4%	98%	58%	16%	16%
Beirut	30%	8%	92%	71%	37%	24%
Bekaa	34%	17%	92%	66%	31%	54%
El Nabatieh	45%	32%	84%	64%	27%	33%
Mount Lebanon	19%	4%	82%	51%	27%	19%
North	30%	9%	91%	58%	38%	27%
South	43%	22%	82%	71%	37%	29%
Food security status						
Food secure	13%	0%	40%	0%	0%	27%
Marginally food secure	26%	7%	86%	47%	22%	27%
Moderately food insecure	30%	12%	91%	66%	33%	31%
Severely food insecure	30%	13%	89%	73%	44%	30%
SMEB						
Below SMEB	29%	11%	90%	61%	31%	29%
Above SMEB	29%	9%	79%	47%	20%	28%
Shelter type						
Residential	29%	10%	87%	59%	30%	29%
Non-residential	27%	11%	90%	58%	33%	33%
Non-permanent	29%	11%	94%	63%	27%	30%
Gender of the head of household						
Male	29%	11%	89%	59%	30%	30%
Female	25%	8%	85%	62%	31%	24%
At least one member of the household has disability						
No	26%	9%	87%	58%	29%	29%
Yes	35%	13%	92%	64%	32%	31%

Annex 2: Livelihood coping strategies (3/4)

	Bought food on credit or borrowed money to purchase food	Sold house or land	Moved to a cheaper rental place/live on the street	Withdrew children from school	Have school children (6-15 years old) involved in income generation	Begging	Household members 18 years and over accepting high risk, dangerous, or exploitative work
Total	81%	2%	11%	12%	8%	2%	4%
Governorate							
Akkar	72%	2%	9%	15%	10%	9%	2%
Baalbek-El Hermel	96%	2%	6%	8%	6%	1%	2%
Beirut	77%	2%	19%	14%	8%	2%	9%
Bekaa	93%	2%	7%	9%	4%	0%	0%
El Nabatieh	67%	5%	27%	13%	12%	2%	3%
Mount Lebanon	75%	1%	15%	13%	9%	1%	8%
North	76%	2%	8%	13%	9%	1%	1%
South	76%	2%	16%	15%	10%	5%	4%
Food security status							
Food secure	56%	0%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Marginally food secure	75%	1%	11%	9%	4%	1%	3%
Moderately food insecure	84%	2%	11%	13%	9%	2%	4%
Severely food insecure	84%	3%	14%	19%	19%	8%	4%
SMEB							
Below SMEB	82%	2%	11%	12%	8%	2%	3%
Above SMEB	68%	4%	14%	6%	4%	1%	6%
Shelter type							
Residential	78%	2%	13%	12%	8%	2%	5%
Non-residential	80%	2%	12%	12%	8%	2%	3%
Non-permanent	91%	1%	7%	12%	8%	2%	1%
Gender of the head of household							
Male	81%	2%	12%	11%	8%	2%	4%
Female	83%	1%	8%	13%	8%	3%	2%
At least one member of the household has disability							
No	79%	2%	11%	12%	6%	2%	3%
Yes	85%	2%	13%	12%	11%	2%	5%

Annex 2: Livelihood coping strategies (4/4)

	Household members under the age of 18 accepting high risk, dangerous, or exploitative work	Adult work elsewhere	Child work elsewhere	Marriage of children under 18
Total	2%	3%	1%	1%
Governorate				
Akkar	2%	2%	2%	0%
Baalbek-El Hermel	1%	1%	0%	1%
Beirut	3%	3%	1%	2%
Bekaa	0%	0%	0%	0%
El Nabatieh	3%	2%	2%	2%
Mount Lebanon	2%	6%	1%	2%
North	1%	1%	1%	1%
South	4%	3%	2%	1%
Food security status				
Food secure	0%	1%	0%	0%
Marginally food secure	1%	2%	1%	1%
Moderately food insecure	2%	3%	1%	1%
Severely food insecure	3%	2%	3%	1%
SMEB				
Below SMEB	2%	2%	1%	1%
Above SMEB	1%	4%	1%	1%
Shelter type				
Residential	2%	3%	1%	2%
Non-residential	3%	1%	1%	1%
Non-permanent	1%	1%	1%	1%
Gender of the head of household				
Male	1%	3%	1%	1%
Female	2%	1%	1%	1%
At least one member of the household has disability				
No	1%	2%	1%	1%
Yes	2%	3%	1%	2%

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FOOD CONSUMPTION

This chapter considers the patterns of food consumption among Syrian refugee households. Various parameters of food consumption have been analysed, including food consumption score (FCS), number of meals per day (adults and children), dietary diversity scores (daily and weekly), and the nutrition FCS. Food consumption is the main pillar of food security, and is used to classify households' food security level.

KEY FINDINGS

- Six out of ten Syrian refugee households (57 per cent) had poor or borderline food consumption, an increase of 11 percentage points compared to 2021.
- FCSs indicated that refugees in North Lebanon (72 per cent), Baalbek El-Hermel (62 per cent), Bekaa (62 per cent) and Akkar (59 per cent) had the highest rates of inadequate food intake. El Nabatieh (60 per cent), South Lebanon (56 per cent) and Mount Lebanon (52 per cent) governorates had the highest rates of adequate food intake. Non-residential shelters had the highest percentage of refugees with poor FCSs (25 per cent).
- Households below the survival minimum expenditure basket (SMEB) had a 9-point percentage increase for inadequate food consumption compared to households living above the SMEB. Similarly, female-headed households had a 10-point increased percentage of inadequate food consumption.
- Adult and child Syrian refugees were on average consuming 2.1 and 2.7 meals per day respectively, denoting a slight increase since 2021. The lowest number of meals consumed per day was recorded in South Lebanon (1.5 for adults and 2.1 for children).
- Only 14 per cent of refugee households had high daily dietary diversity scores and were consuming more than 6.5 food groups per day, as opposed to 21 per cent in 2021. Similarly, weekly dietary diversity scores also slightly decreased in 2022: 46 per cent were consuming ≥ 9 food groups per week, compared to 48 per cent.
- Households in non-residential shelters, households receiving assistance, households with at least one working member and male-headed households had the highest rates of daily and weekly dietary diversity.
- In 2022, 24 per cent of refugee households were consuming vitamin A-rich food on a daily basis, 12 percentage point lower than 2021 figures (36 per cent). Likewise, daily intake of protein-rich foods decreased 10 percentage points in 2022 (34 per cent versus 44 per cent in 2021).

FOOD CONSUMPTION

FCSs showed that 57 per cent of Syrian refugees have inadequate food intake. A total of 18 per cent and 39 per cent respectively had poor and borderline food consumption scores. In 2021, the percentage of refugees with inadequate food intake was 46 per cent as opposed to 57 per cent this year, an increase of 11 percentage-points

Governorates with the highest prevalence of poor and borderline food consumption were North Lebanon (72 per cent), Baalbek-El

Hermel (62 per cent), Bekaa (62 per cent) and Akkar (59 per cent). El Nabatieh, South Lebanon and Mount Lebanon governorates had the lowest rates of inadequate food intake. In Akkar and Baalbek-El Hermel, the rates of refugees with poor FCSs more than doubled from 2021 to 2022. Likewise, all governorates, except for El Nabatieh and Mount Lebanon, experienced a 10-point plus increase in rates of inadequate dietary intake. El Nabatieh and Mount Lebanon had a slight decrease in the percentage of refugees with poor/borderline FCSs.

Figure 1: Households with poor, borderline and acceptable food consumption scores, by governorate
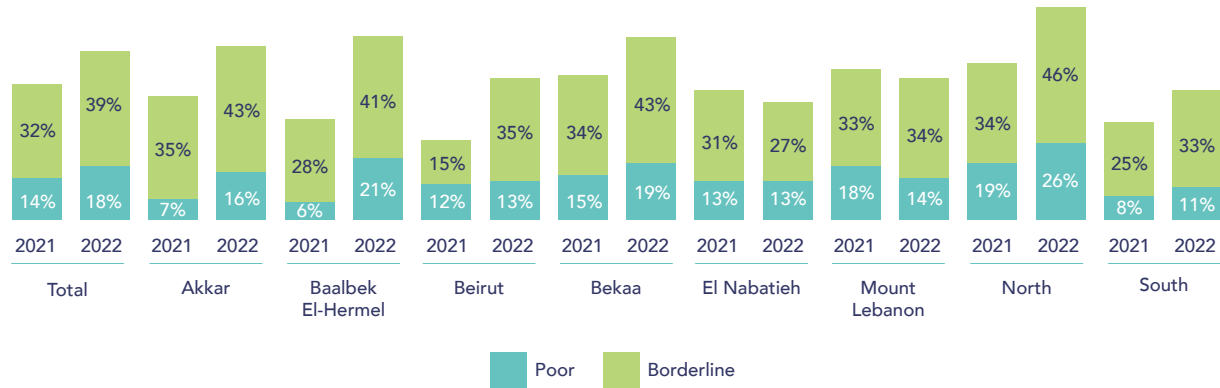
Non-residential shelters had the highest percentage of refugees with poor FCSs at 25 per cent, compared to 20 per cent in non-permanent shelters and 16 per cent in residential shelters. A total of 18 per cent of households below the SMEB had poor FCSs, compared to 11 per cent of households above the SMEB. The prevalence of inadequate food intake among female-headed households was 65 per cent, compared to 55 per cent of male-headed households.

NUMBER OF MEALS PER DAY

Adults

In 2022, Syrian refugee adults consumed on average 2.1 meals per day. This number denotes a slight increase in number of meals per day compared to 2021 figures. Akkar showed the highest increase, from 1.4 meals in 2021 to 2.2 meals in 2022. Refugees in Baalbek-El Hermel, El Nabatieh, South Lebanon and Bekaa reported consuming 0.1–0.4 fewer meals per day compared to 2021. Refugees in South Lebanon consumed the lowest number of

meals per day, 1.5, while refugees in Baalbek-El Hermel and Bekaa had the highest number, 2.3. Refugees living in non-permanent shelters reported consuming more meals per day (2.3) than those living in residential and non-residential shelters (2.1). Similarly, male-headed households also consumed a slightly higher numbers of meals per day (2.1) than female-headed households (2).

Children

Compared to 2021, Syrian refugee children under 5 consumed almost the same number of meals per day in 2022 (2.6 meals per day in 2021 versus 2.7 meals/day in 2021). The highest increase in number of meals consumed among children was in Akkar (0.7 increase) followed by North Lebanon (0.5 increase). Households in the Bekaa, El Nabatieh and South Lebanon regions all reported a 0.2 decrease in the number of meals consumed per day compared to 2021 figures. Children in Baalbek-El Hermel and Bekaa consumed

the highest number of meals per day, 3.2 and 3 respectively. Even with the increase from 2021, Akkar still reported the second lowest number of meals per day (2.4), only preceded by South Lebanon (2.1). Children living in non-permanent shelters consumed more meals per day, 3, than those living in residential and non-residential shelters, 2.6 and 2.7 meals per day respectively. Children in female-headed households reported a 0.3 deficit in number of meals consumed compared to those in male-headed households.

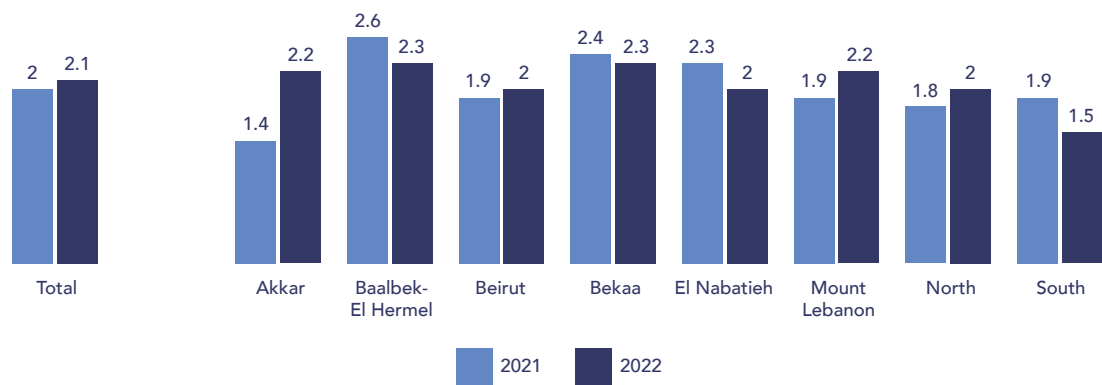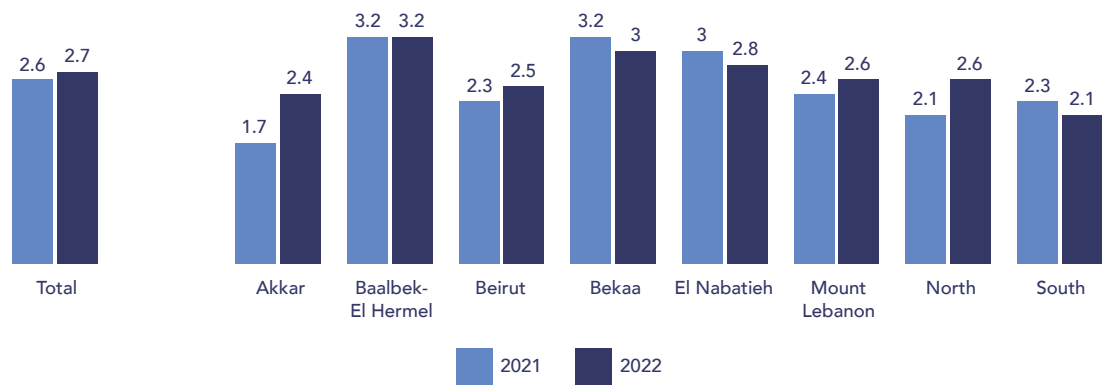**Figure 2: Number of meals consumed by adults per day**

	Total	Akkar	Baalbek-El Hermel	Beirut	Bekaa	El Nabatieh	Mount Lebanon	North	South
2021	2	1.4	2.6	1.9	2.4	2.3	1.9	1.8	1.9
2022	2.1	2.2	2.3	2	2.3	2	2.2	2	1.5

Figure 3: Number of meals consumed by children under 5 per day

	Total	Akkar	Baalbek-El Hermel	Beirut	Bekaa	El Nabatieh	Mount Lebanon	North	South
2021	2.6	1.7	3.2	2.3	3.2	3	2.4	2.1	2.3
2022	2.7	2.4	3.2	2.5	3	2.8	2.6	2.6	2.1

DIETARY DIVERSITY

The average daily and weekly dietary diversity scores for households were the same in 2021 and 2022; refugees were consuming 5 food groups daily and 8 food groups weekly. However, the percentage of Syrian refugees consuming a high dietary diversity has decreased. Only 14 per cent of refugee households were consuming more than 6.5 food groups per day. However, weekly dietary diversity scores were better, with 46 per cent of households consuming 9 or more food groups per week. Beirut was the governorate with the highest percentage of refugees consuming less than 4.5 food groups per day at 32 per cent, whereas South Lebanon governorate had the lowest percentage at 8 per cent. As for the weekly dietary diversity score, North Lebanon, Baalbek-El Hermel and Bekaa hosted the highest percentage of refugees consuming 6 or fewer food groups per week (17 per cent, 14 per cent and 13 per cent respectively).

Households receiving assistance had higher daily and weekly dietary diversity scores. A total of 15 per cent of households receiving assistance consumed ≥ 6.5 food groups per day, compared to 12 per cent of refugees not receiving assistance. Similarly, 47 per cent of refugees receiving assistance consumed ≥ 9 food groups per week, compared to 41 per cent of refugees not receiving assistance.

Refugees living in non-residential and non-permanent shelters had the lowest rates of high weekly dietary diversity, 37 per cent each; whereas, refugees in residential shelters had the highest rates of high weekly dietary diversity, 50 per cent.

A total of 24 per cent of refugees above the SMEB had high daily dietary diversity scores (versus 13 per cent of refugees below the SMEB), and 61 per cent had high weekly diversity scores (versus 45 per cent of refugees below the SMEB).

Households with at least one member with a disability had higher daily dietary diversity scores compared to households with no members with a disability (16 per cent versus 13 per cent); however, no differences between the two groups were observed in terms of weekly dietary diversity.

Both daily and weekly dietary diversity scores were higher among households with at least one working member versus households with no working members. The rate of high daily dietary diversity was 16 per cent of households with at least one working member, compared to 10 per cent in households with no working members. The difference was even higher in terms of weekly dietary diversity: 50 per cent of households with working members had high scores, versus 38 per cent in households with no working members.

Similarly, male-headed households had higher dietary diversity scores. Only 8 per cent of female-headed households were consuming more than 6.5 food groups per day, compared to 15 per cent for male-headed households. This difference is even higher in terms of weekly dietary diversity: 48 per cent of male-headed households had high dietary diversity compared to 36 per cent of female-headed households.

Table 1: HDADD and HWDD groups and mean, 2020–2022

	Household daily diet diversity (HDADD)	HDADD categories			Household weekly diet diversity (HWDD)	HWDD categories		
		< 4.5 food groups	4.5–6.4 food groups	≥ 6.5 food groups		≤ 6 food groups	7–8 food groups	≥ 9 food groups
2020	5	21%	56%	23%	8	16%	40%	44%
2021	5	22%	57%	21%	8	11%	41%	48%
2022	5	20%	66%	14%	8	12%	42%	46%

On a weekly basis, the most consumed food groups among Syrian refugees were tubers and cereals (daily), oil/fat/butter (6 days per week), sugar/sweets (6 days per week) and vegetables (4 days per week). On the other hand, fruits and meat/fish/eggs were the least consumed food groups, less than once a week and once a week respectively. Compared to 2021, these figures remain unchanged. Akkar was the governorate with the lowest consumption of four food groups: tubers/cereals, meat/fish/eggs, fruits and vegetables. Refugees in Baalbek-El Hermel had the lowest consumption of legumes/nuts, refugees in Beirut had the lowest consumption of sugar/sweets, refugees in Mount Lebanon had the lowest consumption of oil/fat/butter, and refugees in North Lebanon had the lowest consumption of milk/dairy products. While male- and female-headed households consumed tubers and cereals at the same frequency (daily), male-headed households consumed all other food groups at a higher frequency. The greatest difference was observed in the meat/fish/eggs food group; male-headed Syrian refugee households consumed it 1.3 days per week, whereas female-headed households consumed it 0.8 days per week. Refugees living in non-permanent shelters consumed the least amounts of legumes/nuts, milk/dairy, meat/fish/eggs and fruits, and the highest amounts of sugar/sweets and oil/fat/butter. Those living in non-residential shelters consumed the least amounts of vegetables.

Figure 4: Household mean of weekly consumption of food groups, by gender of the head of household
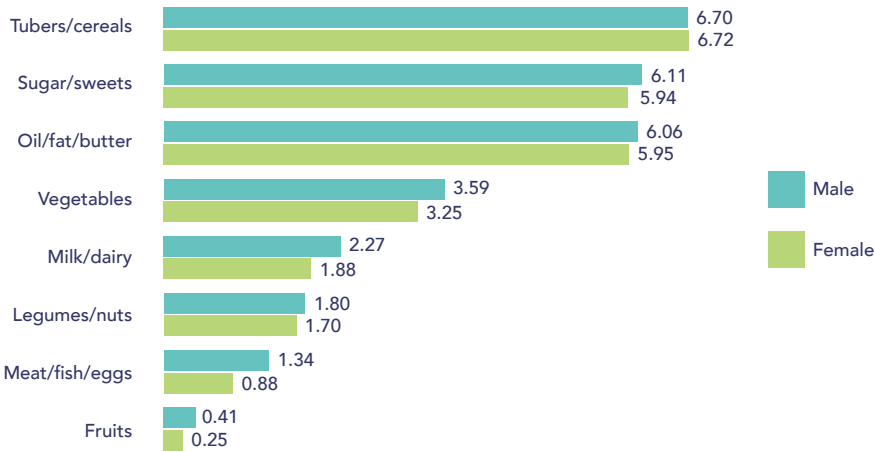
FOOD CONSUMPTION SCORE: NUTRITION

In terms of nutritional FCSs three key elements were measured: the consumption of vitamin A, of protein and of iron. Although 24 per cent and 34 per cent of Syrian refugees respectively were consuming vitamin A- and protein-rich foods on a daily basis, only 0.2 per cent of refugees were consuming iron-rich foods daily. A total of 72 per cent of Syrian refugees reported having "never consumed" iron-rich foods, mainly meat/organ meat/fish, in the previous week. The percentage of refugees consuming vitamin A-rich foods decreased from 36 per cent in 2021 to 24 per cent in 2022. Similarly, the percentage of refugees consuming protein-rich foods daily also decreased by 10 percentage points, from 44 per cent to 34 per cent.

Figure 5: Food consumption score (nutrition), by category
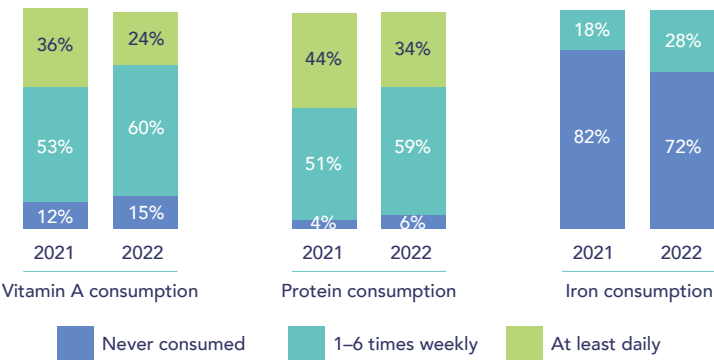
The governorates of Akkar and North Lebanon hosted the highest rates of refugees reporting having never consumed iron-rich foods within the previous week, 86 per cent and 83 per cent respectively. On the other hand, refugees in El Nabatieh and Mount Lebanon had the highest rates of moderate intake of iron-rich foods (1–6 times per week) at 39 per cent. South Lebanon had the highest rates of consumption of vitamin A-rich foods: 46 per cent of refugee households consuming vitamin A-rich foods daily. North Lebanon had the lowest rates of households consuming vitamin A-rich foods daily, 12 per cent, followed by Bekaa, 13 per cent. El Nabatieh and South Lebanon had the highest shares of refugees consuming protein-rich foods daily at 50 per cent, compared to only 24 per cent and 23 per cent of refugees in Baalbek-El Hermel and Bekaa respectively.

A total of 16 per cent households below the SMEB reported having never consumed vitamin A-rich foods during the previous week, compared to 8 per cent in households above the SMEB. Similarly, households below the SMEB had a higher percentage of refugees who have never consumed protein-rich foods during the previous week (7 per cent versus 4 per cent in households above the SMEB). Households below the SMEB also reported a higher frequency of never consuming iron-rich foods during the previous week (73 per cent versus 58 per cent in households above the SMEB). This indicates the refugees below the SMEB are more vulnerable to nutritional deficiencies, because they were consuming fewer foods rich in vitamin A, protein and iron compared to those above the SMEB.

Non-residential shelters had the highest share of refugees who had never consumed vitamin A-rich foods during the previous week at 23 per cent, compared to 19 per cent and 13 per cent in non-permanent and residential shelters respectively. In residential shelters, 28 per cent of refugees consumed vitamin A-rich foods daily. Households in non-residential shelters also had the highest rates of refugees who had never consumed protein-rich foods during the previous week, at 10 per cent versus 8 per cent and 5 per cent in non-permanent and residential shelters. Non-permanent shelters hosted the highest percentage of refugees to have never consumed iron-rich foods at 81 per cent, followed by 75 per cent of refugees residing in non-residential shelters.

A total of 27 per cent of male-headed households consumed vitamin A-rich foods daily compared to 14 per cent of female-headed households. Likewise, male-headed households reported higher consumption of protein-rich foods: 36 per cent consumed protein-rich foods daily, compared to 25 per cent of female-headed households. While 70 per cent of male-headed households reported low iron consumption, 77 per cent of female-headed headed households reported having never consumed iron-rich foods during the previous week.

A total of 32 per cent of refugees not receiving assistance consumed protein-rich foods daily, whereas 35 per cent of refugees receiving assistance consumed protein-rich foods daily. Similarly, 75 per cent of refugees not receiving assistance reported having never consumed iron-rich sources during the previous week, compared to 71 per cent of refugees receiving assistance.

Annex 1: Food consumption (1/4)

	FCS	Food consumption groups			Number of meals – adults	Number of meals – children	HDADD
		Poor	Borderline	Acceptable			
Total	42.6	18%	39%	43%	2.1	2.7	5.3
Governorate							
Akkar	41.3	16%	43%	41%	2.2	2.4	5.4
Baalbek-El Hermel	40.7	21%	41%	38%	2.3	3.2	5.4
Beirut	46.6	13%	35%	52%	2.0	2.5	5.2
Bekaa	39.7	19%	43%	38%	2.3	3.0	5.1
El Nabatieh	50.1	13%	27%	60%	2.0	2.8	6.0
Mount Lebanon	46.2	14%	34%	52%	2.2	2.6	5.2
North	37.2	26%	46%	28%	2.0	2.6	5.2
South	46.8	11%	33%	56%	1.5	2.1	5.6
Food security status							
Food secure	61.9	0%	0%	100%	2.2	2.5	6.5
Marginally food secure	55.3	0%	9%	91%	2.2	2.8	6.0
Moderately food insecure	37.1	21%	58%	21%	2.1	2.7	5.0
Severely food insecure	24.8	91%	9%	0%	1.9	2.5	4.2
SMEB							
Below SMEB	41.9	18%	39%	4230%	2.1	2.7	5.2
Above SMEB	48.3	11%	37%	52%	2.1	2.7	5.6
Shelter type							
Residential	44.0	16%	38%	47%	2.1	2.6	5.3
Non-residential	40.4	25%	36%	39%	2.1	2.7	5.2
Non-permanent	39.0	20%	46%	34%	2.3	3.0	5.2
Gender of the head of household							
Male	43.3	16%	39%	45%	2.1	2.7	5.3
Female	39.0	24%	41%	35%	2.0	2.4	5.0
At least one member of the household has disability							
No	42.7	18%	39%	43%	2.1	2.7	5.3
Yes	42.3	18%	38%	44%	2.1	2.7	5.3

Annex 1: Food consumption (2/4)

	HDADD categories			HWDD	HWDD categories		
	<4.5 food groups	4.5-6.4 food groups	≥6.5 food groups		≤ 6 food groups	7-8 food groups	≥ 9 food groups
Total	20%	66%	14%	8.4	12%	42%	46%
Governorate							
Akkar	19%	70%	11%	8.0	8%	61%	31%
Baalbek-El Hermel	13%	73%	14%	8.2	14%	42%	44%
Beirut	32%	47%	21%	8.7	10%	35%	55%
Bekaa	17%	76%	7%	8.3	13%	43%	44%
El Nabatieh	11%	54%	35%	8.7	11%	37%	52%
Mount Lebanon	28%	53%	19%	8.6	11%	33%	56%
North	22%	68%	11%	7.8	17%	52%	31%
South	8%	79%	13%	8.9	5%	35%	60%
Food security status							
Food secure	1%	44%	55%	10.0	0%	18%	82%
Marginally food secure	7%	64%	29%	9.4	2%	24%	74%
Moderately food insecure	24%	69%	7%	7.9	14%	51%	34%
Severely food insecure	55%	45%	0%	6.6	44%	52%	4%
SMEB							
Below SMEB	20%	67%	13%	8.3	12%	43%	45%
Above SMEB	19%	57%	24%	8.9	8%	31%	61%
Shelter type							
Residential	22%	63%	16%	8.5	11%	39%	50%
Non-residential	21%	70%	10%	8.0	19%	45%	37%
Non-permanent	15%	75%	10%	8.1	14%	50%	37%
Gender of the head of household							
Male	19%	66%	15%	8.4	11%	41%	48%
Female	27%	65%	8%	8.0	16%	48%	36%
At least one member of the household has disability							
No	20%	67%	14%	8.4	12%	41%	47%
Yes	20%	64%	16%	8.3	11%	43%	46%

Annex 1: Food consumption (3/4)

	Weekly consumption							
	Tubers and cereals	**Legumes and nuts**	**Milk and other dairy products**	**Meat, fish and eggs**	**Fruits**	**Vegetables and leaves**	**Oil/fat/butter**	**Sugar or sweets**
Total	6.7	1.8	2.2	1.3	0.4	3.5	6.0	6.1
Governorate								
Akkar	6.4	2.4	2.2	0.7	0.1	3.1	6.5	6.5
Baalbek-El Hermel	7.0	1.4	1.9	1.0	0.3	3.8	6.6	6.8
Beirut	6.6	1.7	2.9	1.7	0.6	4.0	5.5	5.2
Bekaa	6.7	1.6	1.7	1.2	0.4	3.3	6.3	6.2
El Nabatieh	6.8	2.5	2.4	1.9	0.8	4.4	6.4	6.5
Mount Lebanon	6.8	1.7	2.7	1.8	0.5	3.6	5.3	5.4
North	6.6	1.8	1.5	0.7	0.2	3.5	5.9	6.1
South	6.7	2.1	3.1	1.1	0.5	3.2	6.7	6.8
Food security status								
Food secure	6.8	2.7	4.3	2.5	1.5	5.2	6.5	6.6
Marginally food secure	6.9	2.2	3.8	2.1	0.7	4.4	6.2	6.2
Moderately food insecure	6.7	1.6	1.5	0.9	0.2	3.2	6.0	6.0
Severely food insecure	6.0	0.8	0.4	0.1	0.1	2.4	5.7	5.7
SMEB								
Below SMEB	6.7	1.8	2.1	1.2	0.3	3.5	6.1	6.1
Above SMEB	6.7	1.8	2.9	1.9	0.8	4.0	5.9	5.9
Shelter type								
Residential	6.7	1.8	2.4	1.4	0.4	3.6	5.9	5.9
Non-residential	6.7	1.7	2.0	1.0	0.3	3.3	6.0	6.1
Non-permanent	6.7	1.7	1.8	0.8	0.2	3.5	6.4	6.5
Gender of the head of household								
Male	6.7	1.8	2.3	1.3	0.4	3.6	6.1	6.1
Female	6.7	1.7	1.9	0.9	0.2	3.2	5.9	5.9
At least one member of the household has disability								
No	6.7	1.8	2.2	1.2	0.4	3.5	6.1	6.1
Yes	6.8	1.7	2.1	1.3	0.4	3.6	6.0	6.1

Annex 1: Food consumption (4/4)

	Vitamin A consumption			Protein consumption			Iron consumption		
	Never consumed	1-6 times a week	At least daily	Never consumed	1-6 times a week	At least daily	Never consumed	1-6 times a week	At least daily
Total	15%	60%	24%	6%	59%	34%	72%	28%	0%
Governorate									
Akkar	17%	67%	16%	3%	65%	32%	86%	14%	0%
Baalbek-El Hermel	20%	64%	16%	11%	64%	24%	79%	21%	0%
Beirut	7%	53%	40%	4%	49%	47%	64%	36%	0%
Bekaa	15%	72%	13%	7%	70%	23%	74%	26%	0%
El Nabatieh	17%	43%	39%	5%	45%	50%	61%	39%	0%
Mount Lebanon	10%	53%	37%	5%	48%	48%	61%	39%	0%
North	27%	61%	12%	10%	70%	20%	83%	17%	0%
South	7%	48%	46%	3%	47%	50%	65%	35%	0%
Food security status									
Food secure	0%	42%	58%	0%	21%	79%	28%	71%	1%
Marginally food secure	1%	48%	51%	0%	28%	72%	50%	49%	0%
Moderately food insecure	20%	68%	12%	7%	76%	16%	82%	18%	0%
Severely food insecure	53%	46%	0%	33%	67%	0%	96%	4%	0%
SMEB									
Below SMEB	16%	61%	23%	7%	61%	33%	73%	26%	0%
Above SMEB	8%	53%	39%	4%	49%	47%	58%	41%	1%
Shelter type									
Residential	13%	59%	28%	5%	56%	39%	69%	31%	0%
Non-residential	23%	55%	22%	10%	59%	31%	75%	24%	0%
Non-permanent	19%	68%	13%	8%	71%	21%	81%	19%	0%
Gender of the head of household									
Male	15%	59%	27%	6%	58%	36%	71%	29%	0%
Female	19%	67%	14%	7%	68%	25%	78%	22%	0%
At least one member of the household has disability									
No	15%	61%	25%	7%	58%	35%	71%	29%	0%
Yes	17%	59%	24%	6%	61%	33%	74%	26%	0%

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INFANT AND YOUNG CHILD FEEDING PRACTICES

Optimal infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices are pivotal to reducing malnutrition, morbidity and mortality. According to UNICEF and WHO, infants should be put to breast within one hour of birth and exclusively breastfed for the first six months of life, with breastfeeding continuing up to 2 years of age and beyond. When the infant is above six months, solid, semi-solid and soft foods are introduced along with breast milk. This transition, known as complementary feeding, is crucial for the child's development.

With the current situation in Lebanon, infants' and young children's survival, growth and development has been and remains at high risk, particularly among the Syrian refugee population. This assessment examined IYCF practices in Syrian refugee households. The information was collected on 343 infants under six months old, and 1,270 children aged 6–23 months.

KEY FINDINGS

- Breastfeeding practices remain largely similar to previous year, with 70 per cent of infants below 24 months having ever been breastfed, and 49 per cent still receiving breast milk.
- Complementary feeding also remained fairly similar to previous year, with key highlight showing that boys generally showed higher rates of complementary feeding across the age categories than girls.
- Similarly to last year, 19 per cent of children aged 6–23 months met the minimum diet diversity in 2022. However, the minimum acceptable meal frequency for children aged 6–23 months continued to decrease drastically this year, from 51 per cent in 2020, to 36 per cent in 2021, to 11 per cent in 2022.

BREASTFEEDING PRACTICES

The situation of breastfeeding practices remains largely similar to last year. Out of all infants below 24 months, around 70 per cent had ever been breastfed, and around 49 per cent were still receiving breast milk. Also, having ever been breastfed and still receiving breast milk were both found to be decreasing with age (see figure 1).

Out of all infants under 6 months of age, 84 per cent had ever been breastfed, and almost half of them (47 per cent) were receiving only breast milk.

Figure 1: Breastfeeding status of infants under 24 months
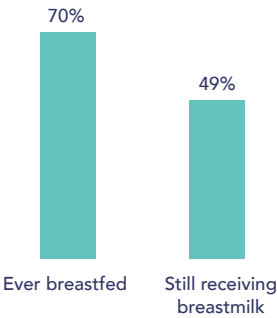
Figure 2: Breastfeeding practices for infants under 24 months
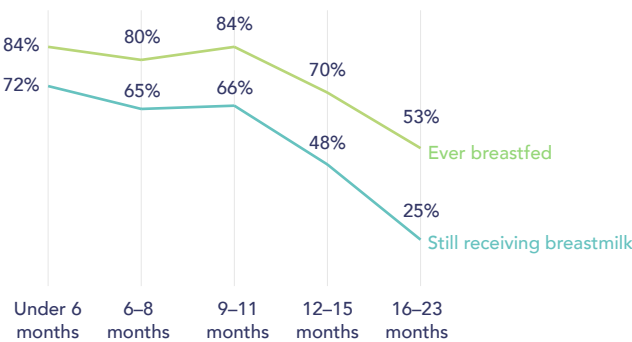
COMPLEMENTARY FEEDING

Complementary feeding is a critical period in growth where the child transitions from exclusive breastfeeding to partaking in food that includes solid, semi-solid and soft foods, and other liquids. The percentage of children aged 6–8 months who received complementary feeding the previous day was at a similar rate to the previous year (46 per cent in 2022, in comparison with 49 per cent in 2021).

Additionally, the rates of complementary feeding increased with age, reaching 83 per cent for children between aged 16–23 months. There was a notable difference between boys and girls according to age, with the rates of boys being higher than girls.

**Figure 3: Percentage of infants who received solid, semi-solid or soft foods the previous day**
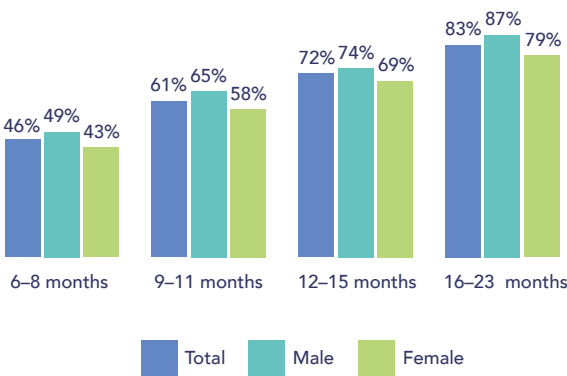
MINIMUM DIETARY DIVERSITY

According to 2008 WHO guidelines for assessing IYCF practices, children aged 6–23 months should consume a minimum of four out of seven food groups to meet the minimum dietary diversity target, independently of age and breastfeeding status. The food groups are:
- grains, roots and tubers
- pulses and nuts
- dairy products (e.g. milk, yogurt, cheese)
- meats (e.g. red meat, fish, poultry, liver/organ meats)
- eggs
- vitamin A-rich fruits and vegetables
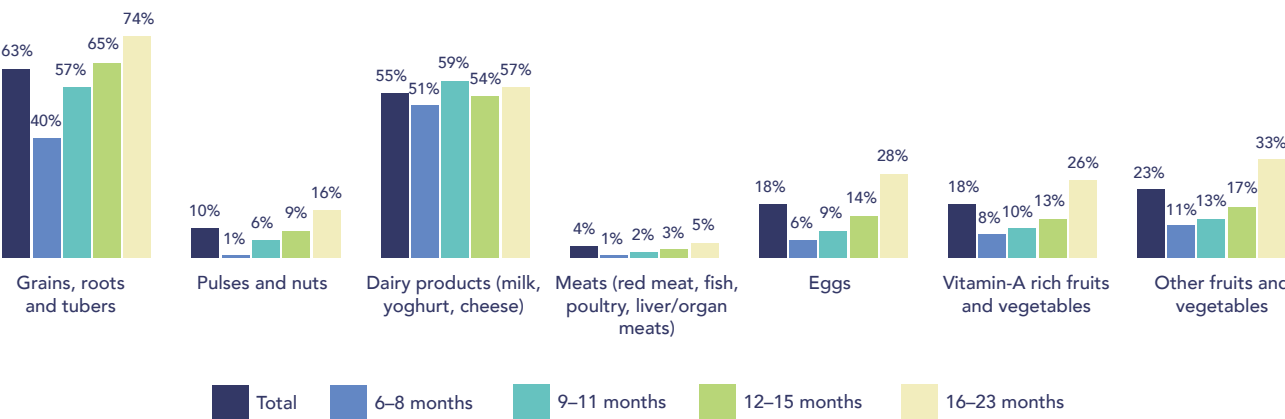- other fruits and vegetables

In 2022, and similarly to the previous year, only 19 per cent of children aged 6–23 months were fed a diverse diet on the previous day, consisting of four or more food groups. As for the remaining infants, 76 per cent received a diet consisting of three or fewer food groups, and 5 per cent did not receive any of the diverse food groups.

Figure 4: Proportion of children aged 6–23 months who receive food from four or more food groups/categories

2020 — 1%, 12%, 88%
2021 — 4%, 76%
2022 — 5%, 19%, 76%

None   Less than four   Four and more
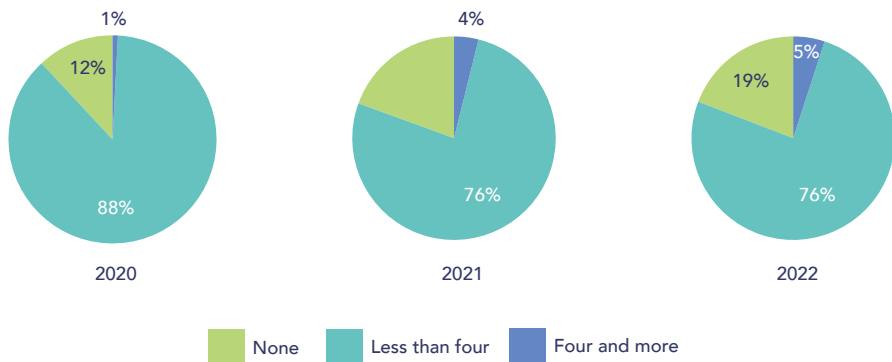
Taking a closer look at the different food groups/categories, as in previous years, there was a very low proportion of children eating meats, pulses and nuts, and Vitamin A-rich fruits and vegetables. The highest proportions were for grains, roots and tubers, and dairy products.

Figure 5: Proportion of children 6–23 months old who receive foods from each food group/category

Grains, roots and tubers: 63%, 40%, 57%, 65%, 74%
Pulses and nuts: 10%, 1%, 6%, 9%, 16%
Dairy products (milk, yoghurt, cheese): 55%, 51%, 59%, 54%, 57%
Meats (red meat, fish, poultry, liver/organ meats): 4%, 1%, 2%, 3%, 5%
Eggs: 18%, 6%, 9%, 14%, 28%
Vitamin-A rich fruits and vegetables: 18%, 8%, 10%, 13%, 26%
Other fruits and vegetables: 23%, 11%, 13%, 17%, 33%

Total   6–8 months   9–11 months   12–15 months   16–23 months

MINIMUM ACCEPTABLE MEAL FREQUENCY

WHO defines the minimum acceptable meal frequency for young children as follows:
- two meals/day for breastfed infants (6–8 months)
- three meals/day for breastfed children (9–23 months)
- four meals/day for non-breastfed children (6–23 months)

The share of children between 6 and 23 months who meet minimum acceptable number of meals every day continued to decrease from 51 per cent in 2020, to 36 per cent in 2021, and 11 per cent in 2022. Among children who were breastfed and who were non-breastfed, 10 per cent and 13 per cent met the meal frequency respectively.

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HEALTH

Health services are available to the refugee population in Lebanon through a network of primary health-care (PHC) centres, dispensaries and hospitals. VASyR 2022 examined the access of refugee population to the required care, barriers to health-care access, and related coping mechanisms. VASyR does not reflect on the quality of the received care; in 2022, it measured refugees' health access and barriers at both individual and household levels. At the individual level, VASyR measured the need and access to health care, places where health care was accessed, payment methods, and barriers to accessing health care, as well as COVID-19 vaccination. In addition, additional factors related to refugee health and health-seeking behaviour were examined, such as incidence of childhood diseases and incidence of home deliveries. At the household level, VASyR measured the barriers to accessing health care including medications, coping mechanisms and knowledge on health emergency services. Some VASyR findings for health are not comparable with those of previous years, since the formulation of questions has changed in 2022 in alignment with Multi-Sector Needs Assessment to allow comparison between populations of different nationalities.

KEY FINDINGS

- Eighteen per cent of individuals had a health problem that required access to health care in the last three months, and 73 per cent of these individuals were able to access the needed health care.
- Among individuals requiring health care, 90 per cent needed PHC and 10 per cent needed secondary health care (SHC). The percentage of households in need who were able to access PHC (75 per cent) was higher than the percentage of households who were able to access SHC services (59 per cent).
- Cost was, by far, the main barrier to accessing the needed care. This included direct costs such as treatment or consultation fees, and indirect costs such as transportation.
- The percentage of refugee children under the age of 2 who suffered from at least one disease in the two weeks prior to the survey was 24 per cent, which was similar to 2021 and 2020.
- Twenty-four per cent of women aged 15–49 had delivered a baby in the last two years, of which 54 per cent received at least four antenatal care visits, and 92 per cent delivered in health-care facilities.

TYPES OF HEALTH CARE

PHC refers to health care that does not require hospital admission. This includes services such as vaccination, medications for acute and chronic conditions, care for non-communicable diseases, sexual and reproductive health care, malnutrition screening and management, mental health care, dental care, and basic laboratory services and diagnostics, as well as health promotion. Fixed PHC outlets are either PHC centres 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.

SHC refers to services that require hospital admissions, such as elective or life-saving surgeries, delivery services, cancer treatments such as chemotherapy or radiotherapy, hospital-based laboratory or diagnostic procedures, newborn illnesses, inpatient malnutrition treatment, and other specialized services provided at hospital level.

INDIVIDUAL HEALTH

Demand for and access to health care

About 18 per cent of individuals had a health problem that had required access to health care in the last three months, and 73 per cent of these individuals were able to access the needed health care. Baalbek-El Hermel governorate had the highest percentage of refugees in need of health care (29 per cent), while Akkar and North governorates had the lowest percentage (13 per cent).

Figure 1: Share of individuals reporting health problems requiring access to health care in the previous three months, by governorate
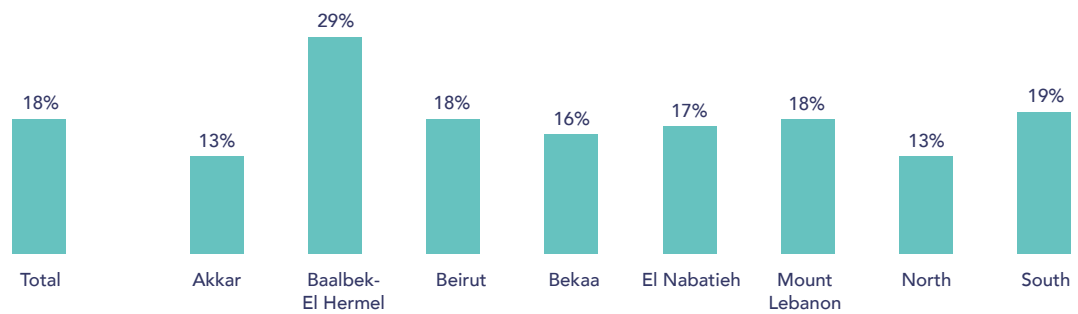
A larger proportion of individuals with a disability (42 per cent) reported their need for health care compared to 14 per cent of those that did not have a disability. However, individuals with a disability reported a lower percentage of access to the required health services (64 per cent) than individuals without a disability (77 per cent).

Among individuals in need of health care, 90 per cent needed PHC and 10 per cent needed SHC. The highest need in PHC was in Baalbek-El Hermel governorate (95 per cent) while the highest need in SHC was in Mount Lebanon (17 per cent).

Figure 2: Type of health care needed by Syrian refugees in the previous three months, by governorate[1]
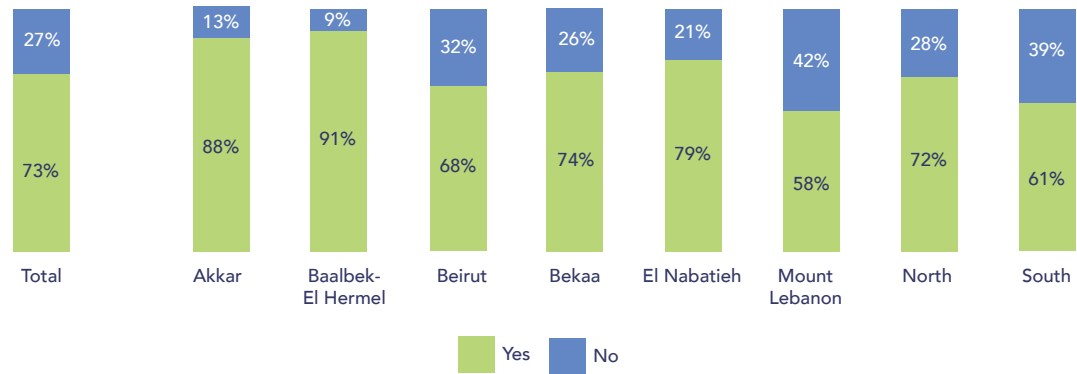

PHC   SHC
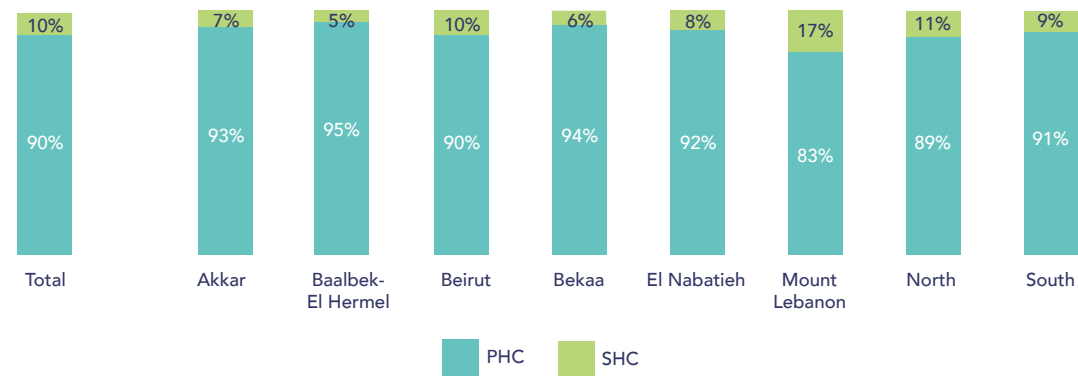
[1] *Percentages out of the individuals who reported requiring health care in the past three months.*

At the national level, 73 per cent of individuals in need of health care were able to access it. Mount Lebanon showed the lowest percentage of individuals being able to access the needed health care at 58 per cent, and Baalbek-El Hermel showed the highest at 91 per cent.

The percentage of individuals in need who were able to access PHC (75 per cent) was higher than the percentage of individuals who were able to access SHC services (59 per cent).
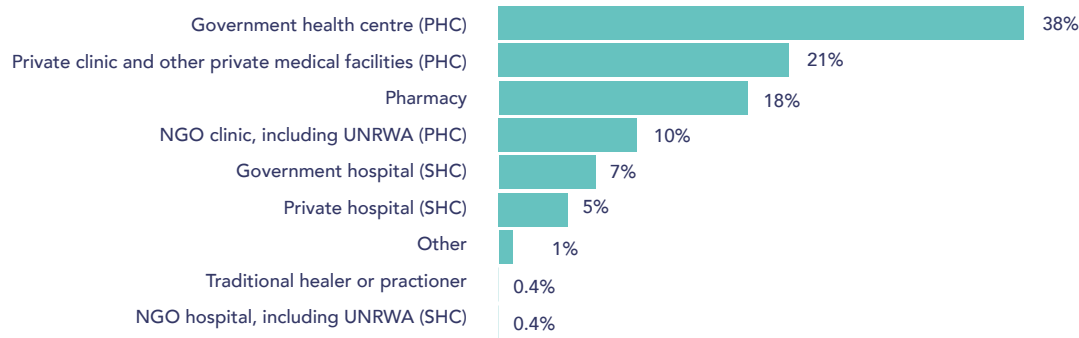
Figure 3: Share of individuals with health problems able to access the required health care in the previous three months, by governorate

	Total	Akkar	Baalbek-El Hermel	Beirut	Bekaa	El Nabatieh	Mount Lebanon	North	South
No	27%	13%	9%	32%	26%	21%	42%	28%	39%
Yes	73%	88%	91%	68%	74%	79%	58%	72%	61%

Yes   No

Type of health-care providers

About 38 per cent of individuals received health services through a government PHC centre which was part of the Ministry of Public Health network, 21 per cent received health care through private clinics or medical facilities, 18 per cent through pharmacies, 10 per cent through clinics of non-governmental organizations including United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA) clinics, 7 per cent through government hospitals, and 5 per cent through private hospitals.
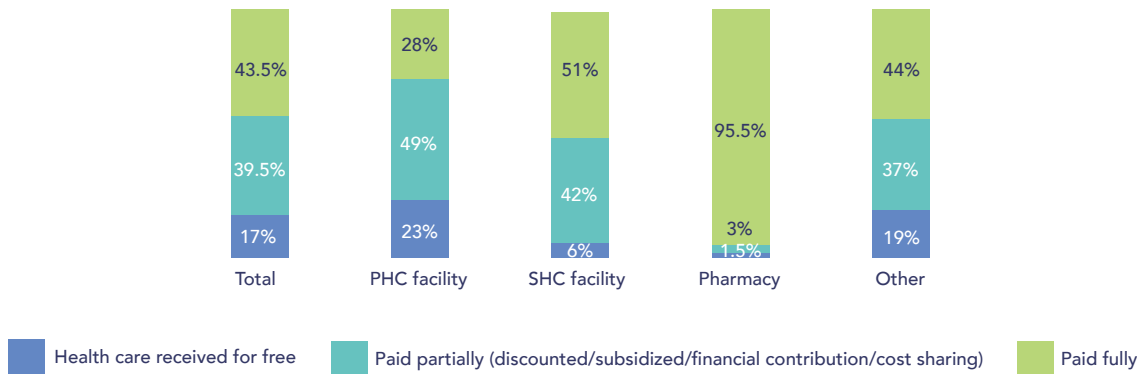
Figure 4: Places where primary health-care services were accessed

Government health centre (PHC)	38%
Private clinic and other private medical facilities (PHC)	21%
Pharmacy	18%
NGO clinic, including UNRWA (PHC)	10%
Government hospital (SHC)	7%
Private hospital (SHC)	5%
Other	1%
Traditional healer or practioner	0.4%
NGO hospital, including UNRWA (SHC)	0.4%

Payment for health-care services

Forty-four per cent of individuals who access health care paid the health-care cost fully, 40 per cent paid partially, while only 17 per cent received their health care for free. The vast majority (96 per cent) of those acquiring medication paid the medication cost fully. About 23 per cent of those receiving PHC received it for free, 49 per cent paid partially, and 28 per cent paid the full treatment cost. Regarding SHC, only 6 per cent of those receiving it did so for free, 42 per cent paid partially, while 51 per cent paid the treatment cost fully.
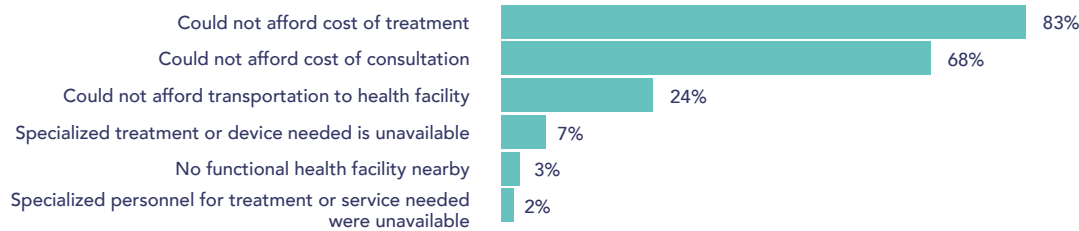
Figure 5: Payment for health care received

	Total	PHC facility	SHC facility	Pharmacy	Other
Paid fully	43.5%	28%	51%	95.5%	44%
Paid partially	39.5%	49%	42%	3%	37%
Health care received for free	17%	23%	6%	1.5%	19%

Health care received for free   Paid partially (discounted/subsidized/financial contribution/cost sharing)   Paid fully

Barriers to accessing health care

Similarly to previous years, the main barrier to accessing health care was cost. About 83 per cent of individuals who were not able to access health mentioned that they could not afford the cost of the treatment, 68 per cent indicated they could not afford the consultation cost, 24 per cent were not able to afford transportation costs, 7 per cent mentioned that the specialized treatment or device needed were not available, and 3 per cent did not have a functional health facility nearby.

Figure 6: Barriers to accessing health care among individuals not able to access the required health care

Could not afford cost of treatment	83%
Could not afford cost of consultation	68%
Could not afford transportation to health facility	24%
Specialized treatment or device needed is unavailable	7%
No functional health facility nearby	3%
Specialized personnel for treatment or service needed were unavailable	2%

COVID-19 vaccination

A total of 66 per cent of Syrian individuals aged 12 and above did not receive any COVID-19 vaccination dose, 11 per cent received one dose, 22 per cent received two doses, and only 1 per cent received three doses. As shown in figure 7, the percentage of individuals who received at least one dose was the highest in Beirut (46 per cent) and the lowest in Baalbek-El Hermel (24 per cent).

Figure 7: Number of COVID-19 vaccination doses acquired by Syrian refugees

	Total	Akkar	Baalbek-El Hermel	Beirut	Bekaa	El Nabatieh	Mount Lebanon	North	South
3 doses	1%	1%	1%	4%	2%	2%	2%	1%	1%
2 doses	22%	19%	16%	33%	21%	29%	24%	20%	25%
1 dose	11%	10%	8%	9%	16%	12%	9%	8%	10%
0 doses	66%	70%	76%	54%	61%	57%	65%	71%	64%

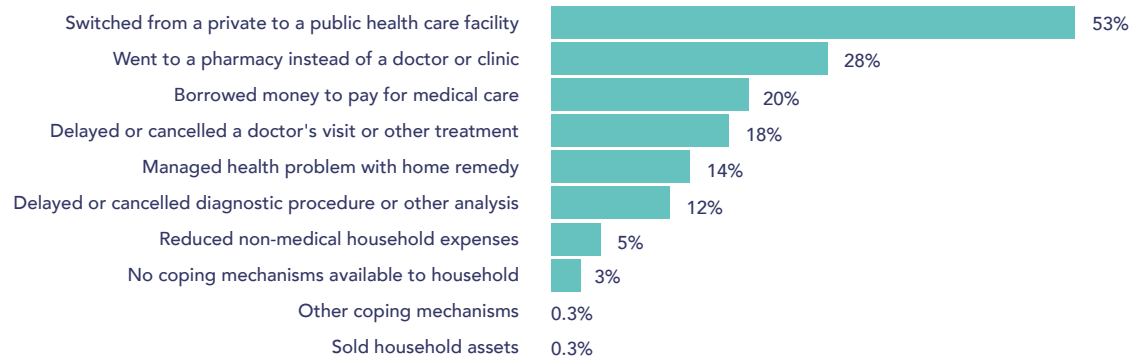Legend: ■ 0 doses ■ 1 dose ■ 2 doses ■ 3 doses
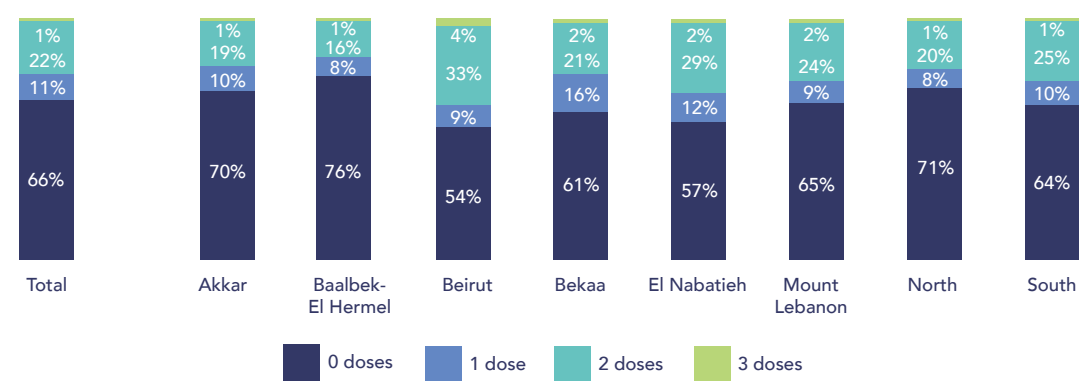
HOUSEHOLD HEALTH

Forty-eight per cent of households had at least one member in the last three months who needed access to health care, and 79 of these per cent had at least one member accessing the required health care. Yet only 66 per cent had all their members in need of health care able to access it. About 52 per cent of households had at least one member receiving at least one COVID-19 dose. A total of 86 per c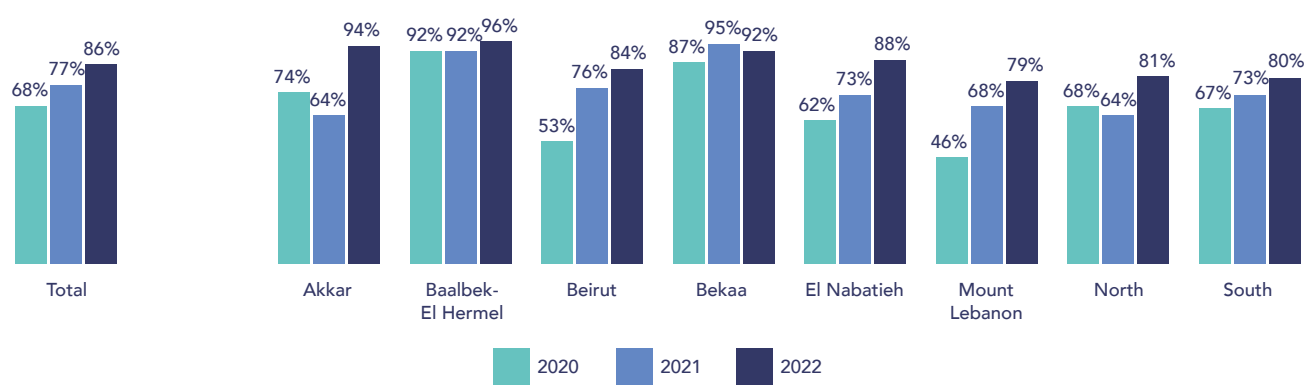ent of households resorted to at least one coping mechanism in the previous three months. The main coping mechanisms related to health access which were mentioned were switching from a private to a public health-care facility (53 per cent), going to a pharmacy instead of a doctor or clinic (28 per cent), borrowing money to pay for medical care (20 per cent), delaying or cancelling a doctors' visit or other treatment (18 per cent), and using home remedies (14 per cent).

Figure 8: Coping mechanisms related to health access used by Syrian refugee households

Switched from a private to a public health care facility	53%
Went to a pharmacy instead of a doctor or clinic	28%
Borrowed money to pay for medical care	20%
Delayed or cancelled a doctor's visit or other treatment	18%
Managed health problem with home remedy	14%
Delayed or cancelled diagnostic procedure or other analysis	12%
Reduced non-medical household expenses	5%
No coping mechanisms available to household	3%
Other coping mechanisms	0.3%
Sold household assets	0.3%

The share of households that reported knowing where to access emergency medical care or services increased to 86 per cent from 77 per cent in 2021 and 68 per cent in 2020. The highest rate was in Baalbek-El Hermel (96 per cent), while the lowest was in Mount Lebanon (79 per cent).
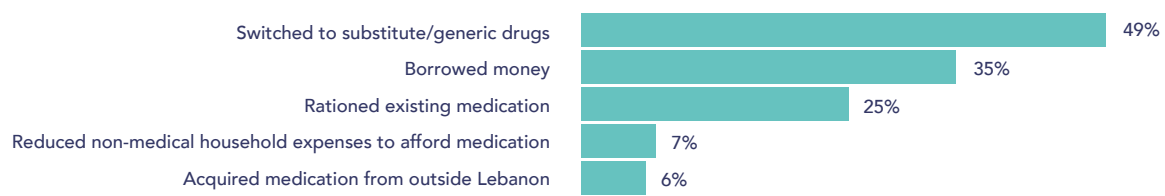
Figure 9: Share of households reporting knowing where to access emergency health-care services, by governorate

Total: 68% (2020), 77% (2021), 86% (2022)
Akkar: 74%, 64%, 94%
Baalbek-El Hermel: 92%, 92%, 96%
Beirut: 53%, 76%, 84%
Bekaa: 87%, 95%, 92%
El Nabatieh: 62%, 73%, 88%
Mount Lebanon: 46%, 68%, 79%
North: 68%, 64%, 81%
South: 67%, 73%, 80%

2020   2021   2022

Medication barriers and coping mechanisms

About 74 per cent of Syrian households resorted to using at least one coping mechanism related to access to medication in the previous three months. The main coping mechanisms used were switching to substitute/generic drugs (49 per cent), borrowing money (35 per cent) and rationing existing medications (25 per cent).

Figure 10: Coping mechanisms related to access to medication used by households

Switched to substitute/generic drugs — 49%
Borrowed money — 35%
Rationed existing medication — 25%
Reduced non-medical household expenses to afford medication — 7%
Acquired medication from outside Lebanon — 6%

About 27 per cent of those in need of health care in the last three months were not able to access it. A total of 12 per cent of these households did not face any barriers accessing medications, or did not need any medication. The main barriers to accessing medication, were medication cost (63 per cent), cost of doctors visit for a prescription (36 per cent), and availability of medications in health-care facilities (33 per cent) or pharmacies (22 per cent).

Figure 11: Barriers to accessing medications in Syrian refugee households

Could not afford cost of medication — 63%
Could not afford doctor's visit to obtain prescription — 36%
Medication unavailable in health facility — 33%
Medication unavailable in private pharmacy — 22%
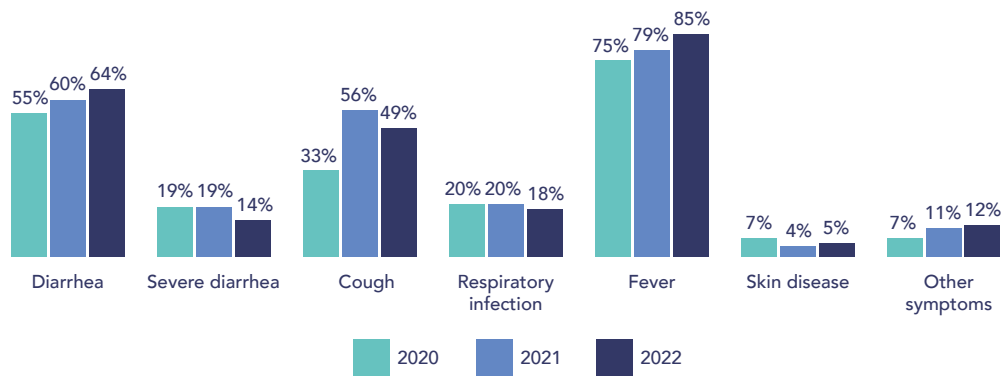
WOMEN AND CHILD HEALTH

Childbirths

The vast majority of women (92 per cent) delivered their babies in a health-care facility (a fall from 97 per cent in 2021), and 5 per cent delivered at home under the supervision of professional health-care personnel. About 2 per cent of women reported home deliveries with non-professional care (a traditional midwife) and 0.3 per cent reported that they delivered at home unattended. Moreover, 54 per cent of women who had delivered in the past two years had at least four antenatal care visits during their pregnancy.

Child health

The share of refugee children under the age of 2 who suffered from at least one disease in the two weeks prior to the survey (24 per cent) is similar to 2021. Of those who were sick, 64 per cent suffered from diarrhoea, and 14 per cent from severe diarrhoea. The proportion of children who suffered from respiratory infection slightly decreased from 20 per cent in 2021 to 18 per cent in 2022.

Figure 12: Types of sickness experienced by children aged 0–23 months who suffered from disease in the previous two weeks, 2021–2022

Annex 1: Households' access to health care

	Access to health care		Coping mechanisms		Other	
	Share of indviduals that needed health care	Share of individuals that received health care	Households with at least one coping strategy to address health care barriers	Households with at least one coping strategy to address medication access barriers	Households with at least one member having one dose of COVID-19 vaccine	Households that have knowledge on how to access emergency medical services
Total	18%	73%	86%	74%	52%	86%
Governorate						
Akkar	13%	88%	86%	70%	46%	94%
Baalbek-El Hermel	29%	91%	93%	86%	43%	96%
Beirut	18%	68%	87%	72%	67%	84%
Bekaa	16%	74%	91%	86%	61%	92%
El Nabatieh	17%	79%	90%	60%	62%	88%
Mount Lebanon	18%	58%	73%	66%	53%	79%
North	13%	72%	93%	66%	44%	81%
South	19%	61%	92%	77%	57%	80%
Gender of the head of household						
Male			86%	74%	54%	87%
Female			85%	75%	43%	83%
Shelter type						
Residential	17%	68%	83%	71%	52%	84%
Non-residential	18%	74%	90%	73%	51%	84%
Non-permanent	19%	87%	93%	86%	53%	94%

SHELTER

In the context of the governmental policy prohibiting the establishment of formal refugee camps, most of the Syrian refugee population in Lebanon live in cities and villages. The remaining fraction lives in spontaneous informal tented settlements throughout the country. Refugees face harsh winters with sub-zero temperatures and flooding, particularly affecting those living in non-permanent and non-residential shelters. Throughout the years, the shelter sector under the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan 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 VASyR, the physical conditions of these shelters were assessed, as were the occupancy agreements, rental costs and ability of families to pay rent. The mobility of households between places of residence, including for reasons of eviction, was also examined.

KEY FINDINGS

- The distribution of Syrian refugee households across the main shelter types remained stable, with the majority (69 per cent) living in residential structures, 21 per cent in non-permanent shelters and 10 per cent in non-residential structures.
- Monthly rental costs have almost tripled since 2021, reaching an average of over LBP 800,000 nationally, up from LBP 312,000 in 2021.
- Geographical trends remained similar to previous years, with the highest rental costs reported in Beirut and the lowest in Baalbek-El Hermel.
- As in 2021, over half (58 per cent) of Syrian refugee households were living in shelters that were overcrowded, had conditions below humanitarian standards, and/or were in danger of collapse.
- A total of 13 per cent of households were living in shelters that were in danger of collapse, and another 36 per cent were living in shelters with substandard conditions.
- Almost a quarter of households (23 per cent) were living in overcrowded conditions of less than 4.5 m²/person, similarly to 2021.
- A total of 7 per cent of households were currently living under an eviction notice, and the majority were expected to leave within 1 month.
- More than half of households were behind on their rent payments. Of those families that were behind on rent payments, 28 per cent were 3 months behind or more.
- The percentage of households that had moved in the previous 12 months decreased from 15 per cent in 2021 to 11 per cent in 2022.

SHELTER TYPE, RENT, AND OCCUPANCY AGREEMENTS

The types of shelters occupied by refugee households are classified into three categories, as per the table below.

Table 1: Types of shelters occupied by refugee households

Shelter type	
Residential	Apartment/house Concierge room in residential building Hotel room
Non-residential	Factory Workshop Farm Active construction site Shop Agricultural/engine/pump room Warehouse School
Non-permanent	Tent Prefab unit

As with previous years, most households (69 per cent) continued to live in residential structures, with 21 per cent residing in non-permanent shelters and 10 per cent in non-residential shelters. The largest proportions of households in non-permanent shelters were in Baalbek El-Hermel, Bekaa and Akkar.

Figure 1: Types of shelters occupied by refugee households, 2017–2022
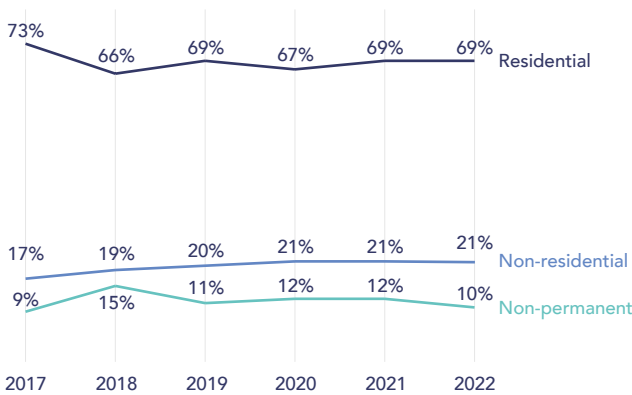
Table 2: Shelter types occupied by refugee households, by governorate

	Residential		Non-residential		Non-permanent	
	2021	**2022**	**2021**	**2022**	**2021**	**2022**
Total	69%	70%	9%	10%	22%	21%
Akkar	56%	62%	10%	12%	35%	27%
Baalbek-El Hermel	39%	38%	8%	6%	53%	57%
Beirut	96%	93%	4%	6%	1%	0.4%
Bekaa	46%	50%	9%	10%	45%	40%
El Nabatieh	84%	82%	8%	10%	8%	7%
Mount Lebanon	91%	91%	7%	8%	2%	2%
North	76%	75%	16%	14%	8%	11%
South	80%	81%	15%	11%	5%	8%

Average monthly rental costs increased by 176 per cent nationally, reaching just over LBP 860,000, up from around LBP 312,000 in 2021. Rental costs in residential (LBP 1,021,232), non-residential (LBP 758,535) and non-permanent (LBP 324,013) shelters increased by 178 per cent, 179 per cent, and 143 per cent respectively compared to 2021.

Figure 2: Average monthly rental costs, by shelter type, 2017–2022 (LBP)

Total: 274,500 (2017), 273,000 (2018), 267,000 (2019), 264,642 (2020), 312,798 (2021), 863,155 (2022)

Residential: 328,500, 331,500, 300,000, 314,230, 368,103, 1,021,232

Non-residential: 204,000, 223,500, 199,500, 256,365, 272,092, 758,535

Non-permanent: 52,500, 85,500, 75,000, 93,419, 133,304, 324,013

Legend: 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022
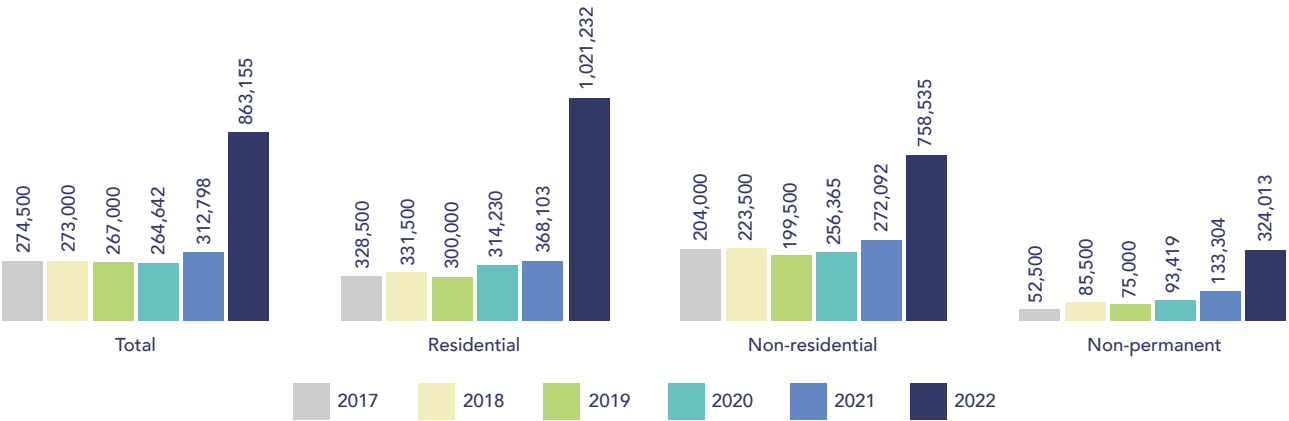
Similarly to previous years, the highest rental rates were reported in Beirut (LBP 1,567,871) and Mount Lebanon (LBP1,156,322) governorates, and the lowest in Baalbek-El Hermel(LBP 412,934) and Akkar (LBP 516,661). Most households reported paying rent in Lebanese pounds, with 4 per cent stating that they had to pay rent in dollars. Reported rental costs were lower among female-headed households at LBP 713,684, compared to LBP 892,595 among male-headed households.

Table 3: Average monthly rental costs, by governorate

	National	Akkar	Baalbek-El Hermel	Beirut	Bekaa	El Nabatieh	Mount Lebanon	North	South
Rent 2021 (LBP)	312,798	209,505	168,621	540,235	238,532	317,214	402,553	361,582	364,084
Rent 2022 (LBP)	863,155	516,661	412,934	1,567,871	690,786	932,836	1,156,322	938,422	1,004,695
% change 2021–2022	176%	147%	145%	190%	190%	194%	187%	160%	176%
% of households that reported having to pay rent in dollars	4%	1%	4%	8%	5%	3%	5%	3%	<1%

On average, households were 3.2 months late in paying rent, and had around LBP 2,500,000 in unpaid rental debts. Over half (52 per cent) of households stated that they were late in paying their rent, with the majority being at least two months late. When asked about their last rental payment, households had paid, on average, only half of the requested value. Households in Akkar and Baalbek El-Hermel reported paying the least of their rental costs in the past payment, with households having paid 29 per cent and 37 per cent of their rental cost respectively. Only 5 per cent of households had written proof of rental payment.

Figure 3: Number of months households were late in paying rent

Not late: 48%, 1 month late: 9%, 2 months late: 16%, 3 months late: 12%, 4-6 months late: 12%, More than 6 months late: 4%
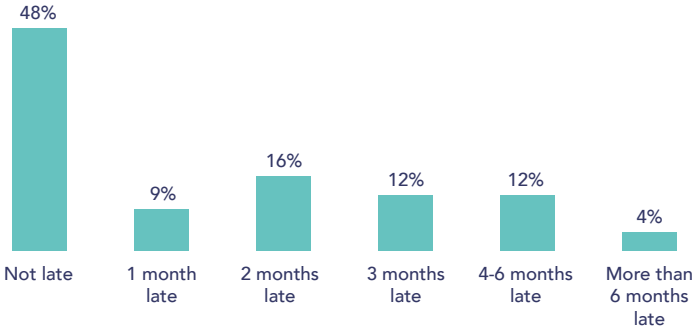
Figure 4: Average amount of rental payment paid in the previous 30 days, by governorate

Total: 53%, Akkar: 29%, Baalbek-El Hermel: 37%, Beirut: 67%, Bekaa: 50%, El Nabatieh: 60%, Mount Lebanon: 62%, North: 43%, South: 55%
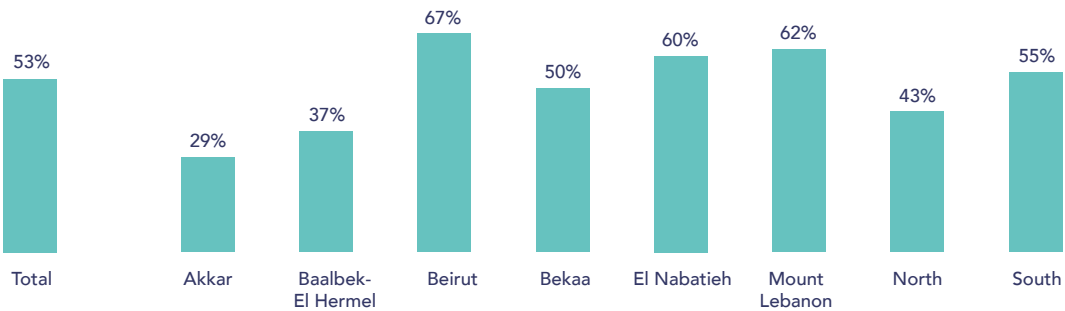
Regarding the type of occupancy, most households (84 per cent) paid rent directly to their landlord, while 6 per cent worked in exchange for their residency. A higher proportion of households (12 per cent) living in non-residential shelters were being hosted in exchange for work. A higher proportion of female-headed households were being hosted for free, compared to male-headed households (15 per cent versus 6 per cent). The vast majority of households that were renting had verbal agreements with their landlords (98 per cent) as opposed to written lease agreements. This lack of written documentation remains a major house, land and property issue, inducing a precarious form of displacement.

Similarly to 2021, half the population in residential and non-residential shelters cited rental costs as a primary determinant for their choice of accomodation, at a much higher rate than other reasons. Households residing in non-permanent structures mentioned the proximity of family members and friends (42 per cent), followed by the rental cost (33 per cent). In keeping with trends in previous years, a higher proportion of female-headed households cited being close to relatives as a primary factor in choosing accomodation compared to male-headed households (37 per cent versus 18 per cent).

Figure 5: Primary reasons for choosing current accommodation, by shelter type
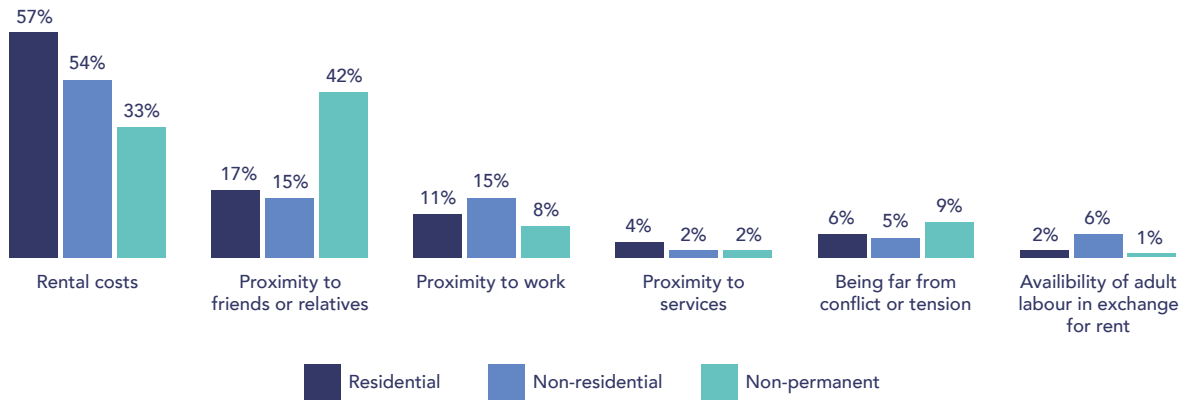
SHELTER CONDITIONS

Similarly to previous years, over half (58 per cent) of Syrian refugee households were living in shelters that were overcrowded, had conditions below humanitarian standards, and/or were in danger of collapse.

Figure 6: Shelter conditions, by shelter type
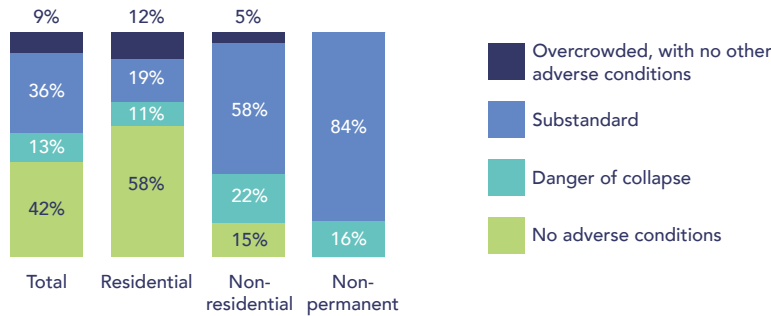
Overcrowding

Almost a quarter of households (23 per cent) were living in overcrowded conditions, defined as less than 4.5 m²/person. A higher proportion of households in non-permanent (32 per cent) and non-residential shelters (30 per cent) were living in overcrowded conditions, compared to households in residential shelters (19 per cent). The highest rates of overcrowding were found in Beirut (35 per cent) and Bekaa (30 per cent).

Physical conditions

Shelter is considered to be below humanitarian standards depending on the number of issues per shelter type, as shown in the table below.

Table 4: Classification of shelter conditions by shelter type

Shelter conditions	Residential structures	Non-residential structures	Non-permanent structures
Inadequate physical conditions: • Windows/doors not sealed to natural elements • Leaking roof, leakage/rot in walls/floors • Water pipes not functional or not available • Sanitation pipes not functional or not available • Latrine/toilet not usable (damaged, full, no handwashing facilities etc.) or not available • Bathing/washing facilities not usable (damaged, no privacy etc.) or not available • Electricity installation/connection not adequately installed/not safe • 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: • Shelter structure in danger of collapse • Damaged roof • Damaged columns			

A total of 13 per cent of households were living in shelters that were in danger of collapse, with the highest rates in South Lebanon (25 per cent) and Mount Lebanon (19 per cent). Baalbek El-Hermel continued to have the highest rates of households living in substandard or dangerous conditions (66 per cent), followed by Bekaa (51 per cent). The vast majority of non-permanent shelters were in substandard conditions (84 per cent), a much higher rate than those of other shelter types. The highest proportion of shelters with no adverse conditions was among residential shelters (58 per cent), compared to 15 per cent in non-residential shelters.

Figure 7: Shelter conditions, by governorate
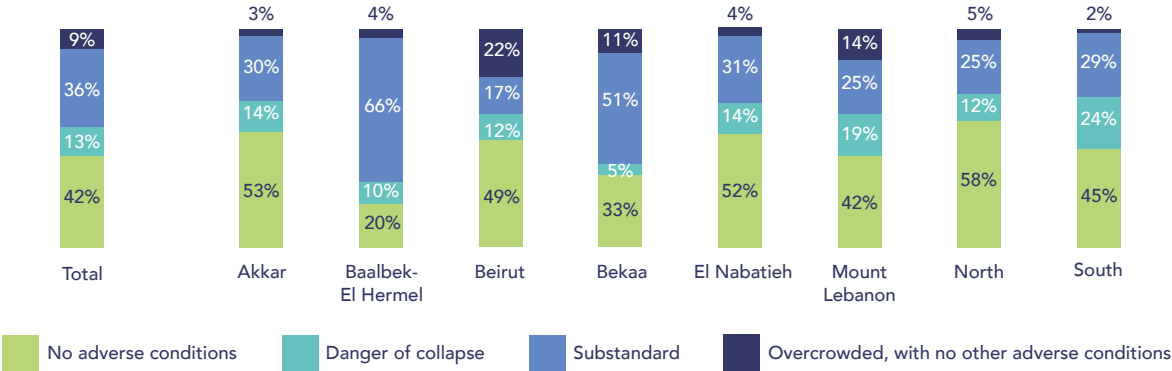
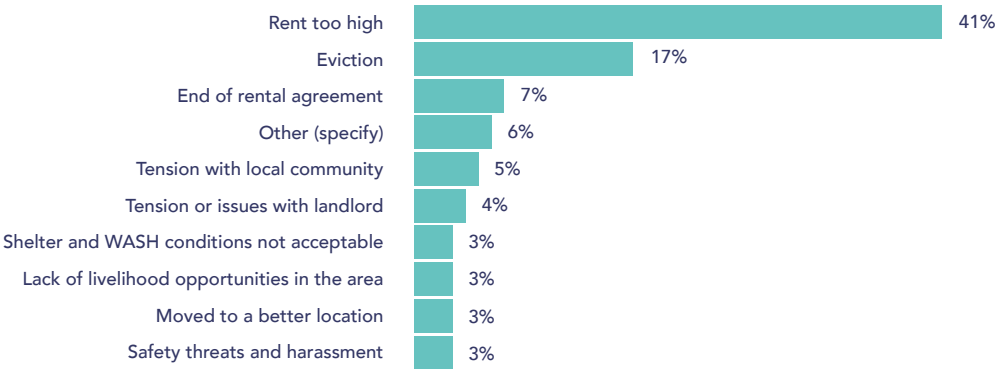**Figure 8: Shelter conditions, by household expenditure**
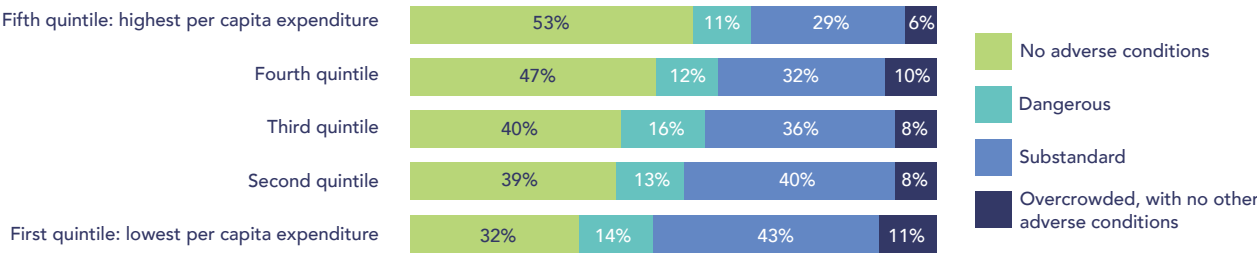
Regarding shelter type by household expenditure, a higher proportion of households with higher per capita expenditure live in shelters with better conditions, compared to those with lower expenditures. Over half (53 per cent) of households in the highest per capita expenditure quintile are living in shelters with no adverse conditions, compared to 32 per cent among households in the lowest expenditure quintile.

Mobility and movement

A total of 11 per cent of households reported changing their accommodation in the previous 12 months (compared to 15 per cent in 2021), with higher rates for households currently living in residential (12 per cent) or non-residential (16 per cent) shelters, as compared to those in non-permanent shelters (6 per cent). Of these, three quarters changed accommodation once, with 12 per cent, 8 per cent and 3 per cent changing shelters two, three or more than three times in the previous year respectively.

Figure 9: Reasons for changing accommodation in the previous 12 months

Reason	%
Rent too high	41%
Eviction	17%
End of rental agreement	7%
Other (specify)	6%
Tension with local community	5%
Tension or issues with landlord	4%
Shelter and WASH conditions not acceptable	3%
Lack of livelihood opportunities in the area	3%
Moved to a better location	3%
Safety threats and harassment	3%

The most commonly cited reason for changing accommodation was rent being too high (41 per cent). A total of 18 per cent of households that moved in the previous 12 months did so because they were evicted. This rate was higher for households currently living in residential or non-residential shelters (18 per cent) compared to those in non-permanent shelter (11 per cent).[1] Of those, inability to pay rent was the most cited reason for evictions (68 per cent), followed by alternative use of the shelter by the landlord (13 per cent) and disputes with landlords (10 per cent).

The majority of families previously living in residential shelters moved to other residential shelters, with a small number moving to non-residential (8 per cent) and non-permanent shelters (5 per cent). Of families previously living in non-residential shelters, 56 per cent moved to residential shelters, 39 per cent to non-residential and 5 per cent to non-permanent shelters. Similarly, 55 per cent of families that had been in non-permanent shelters moved to other non-permanent shelters, while 27 per cent moved to residential and 18 per cent moved to non-residential shelters.

Figure 10: Previous and current shelter types, among those who moved in the previous 12 months

Previous shelter — Current shelter

Residential: 8%, 5%, 87%
Non-residential: 39%, 5%, 56%
Non-permanent: 18%, 55%, 27%

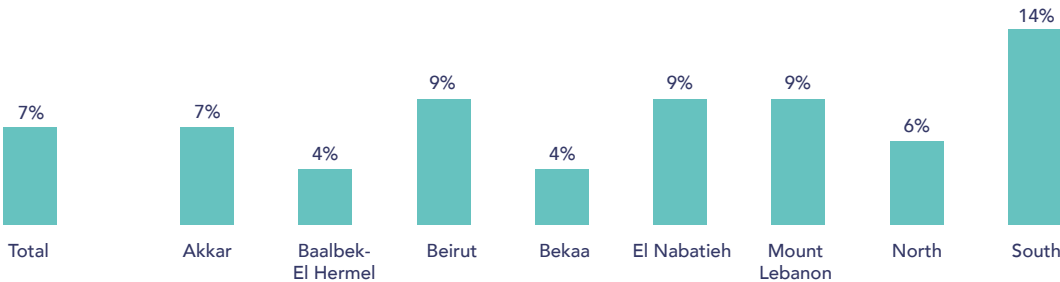Current shelter: Non-residential, Non-permanent, Residential
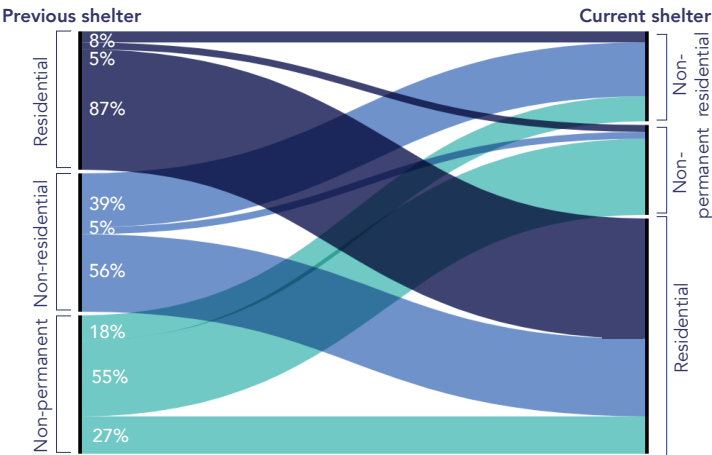
A total of 6 per cent of households were planning to move within the coming 6 months, with over a third of these mentioning the rent being too high as the reason for the planned move.

At the time of the survey, 7 per cent of households were living under an eviction notice (compared to 5 per cent in 2021), two thirds of which were expected to leave within the coming month. For almost all under eviction notices, the notices were issued by the landlord. A smaller proportion of households living in non-permanent shelters (4 per cent) were living under eviction notices compared to those in residential (8 per cent) and non-residential (7 per cent) shelters.

Figure 11: Percentage of households living under an eviction threat, by governorate

Governorate	%
Total	7%
Akkar	7%
Baalbek-El Hermel	4%
Beirut	9%
Bekaa	4%
El Nabatieh	9%
Mount Lebanon	9%
North	6%
South	14%

[1] *Percentages out of the households that reported changing accommodation in the previous 12 months*

Annex 1: Type of housing and type of occupancy

	Type of housing			Occupancy type				Average rent
	Residential	Non-residential	Non-permanent	Owned	Rented	Hosted in exchange for work	Hosted for free	
Total	70%	10%	21%	1%	84%	6%	7%	LBP 863,155
Governorate								
Akkar	62%	11%	27%	1%	83%	3%	12%	LBP 516,661
Baalbek-El Hermel	37%	6%	57%	1%	83%	4%	9%	LBP 412,934
Beirut	93%	6%	0%	1%	73%	15%	9%	LBP 1,567,871
Bekaa	50%	10%	40%	0%	85%	4%	8%	LBP 690,786
El Nabatieh	82%	10%	7%	0%	82%	10%	7%	LBP 932,836
Mount Lebanon	91%	8%	2%	1%	86%	8%	4%	LBP 1,156,322
North	75%	14%	11%	1%	84%	6%	8%	LBP 938,422
South	81%	11%	8%	0%	81%	10%	8%	LBP 1,004,695
Gender of the head of household								
Female	63%	9%	28%	1%	79%	2%	15%	LBP 713,684
Male	71%	10%	19%	0%	85%	7%	6%	LBP 852,071
Shelter type								
Residential				1%	87%	5%	6%	LBP 1,021,232
Non-residential				0%	71%	14%	10%	LBP 758,535
Non-permanent				0%	79%	7%	11%	LBP 324,013

Annex 2: Shelter conditions

	Shelter conditions			
	No adverse conditions	**Dangerous conditions**	**Substandard**	**Overcrowded with no adverse conditons**
Total	42%	13%	36%	9%
Governorate				
Akkar	53%	14%	30%	3%
Baalbek-El Hermel	20%	10%	66%	4%
Beirut	49%	12%	17%	22%
Bekaa	33%	5%	51%	11%
El Nabatieh	52%	14%	31%	3%
Mount Lebanon	42%	19%	25%	14%
North	58%	12%	25%	5%
South	45%	24%	29%	2%
Gender of the head of household				
Female	37%	16%	37%	10%
Male	43%	13%	36%	8%
Shelter type				
Residential	58%	11%	19%	12%
Non-residential	15%	22%	58%	5%
Non-permanent	0%	16%	84%	0%

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ENERGY

Lebanon's electricity sector has suffered chronic power supply shortages for decades, which have been partially met by private diesel generators. In addition to their negative impact on the environment and health, diesel generators rely on increasingly sparse and costly 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, 40–45 per cent of Lebanon's national debt is due to subsidies that the Government of Lebanon has transferred to EDL to cover the cost of fuel since the 1990s, equal to $1–2.3 billion in transfers per year.[1]

[1] International Monetary Fund, "2016 article IV consultation—press release; staff report; and statement by the Executive Director for Lebanon", IMF country report no. 17/19 (2017). Washington, D.C. www.imf.org/en/Publications/CR/Issues/2017/01/24/Lebanon-2016-Article-IV-Consultation-Press-Release-Staff-Report-and-Statement-by-the-44572.

This chapter analyses access to electricity by Syrian refugee households in Lebanon. It also assesses the hours of electricity supplied by different sources, including the grid and private 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

– Access to electricity declined significantly 2022, with 12 per cent of households reporting having no connection to any electricity source, compared to 3 per cent in 2021. This was highest in Bekaa, at 21 per cent.
– Access to the national grid and private generators both declined in 2022, with 13 per cent of households relying on other sources of electricity (non-existent in 2021).
– Hours of electricity deteriorated in 2022, with almost all households (97 per cent) experiencing some power outage. On average, 15 hours of power outage per day were reported, compared to 6.5 hours in 2021.
– The national grid supplied only 3 hours of electricity per day, and private generators supplied an average of 9 hours per day.
– Expenditures on electricity increased drastically from 2021, with national spending averaging over LBP 400,000 per family per month, reaching over LBP 500,00 per month in some regions.
– Almost all households reported having access to a source of energy for cooking, mainly gas (95 per cent).
– Reliance on wood as both a cooking and heating source increased significantly since 2021, with almost 40 per cent of households relying on wood for heating in 2022 compared to 12 per cent in 2021.
– Almost one third of households did not have any heating source during the last winter (2021/2022), compared to 20 per cent in 2020/2021 season.

ACCESS TO ELECTRICITY

Overall, 88 per cent of households had a connection to an electricity source,[2] down from 97 per cent in 2021. This leaves 12 per cent of households with no electricity connection in their shelter. The highest proportion of households with no connection to an electricity source was in Bekaa (21 per cent in 2022 compared to 10 per cent in 2021), followed by Baalbek-El Hermel (15 per cent). By shelter type, a larger proportion of households in non-permanent shelters (18 per cent) reported not having an electricity connection, compared to those in residential (10 per cent) and non-residential (10 per cent) shelters.

Figure 1: Households with connection to an electricity source, by shelter type
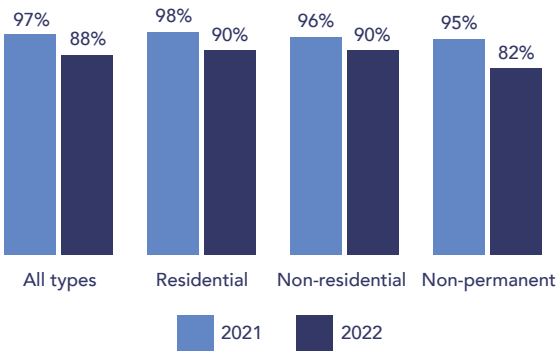
Figure 2: Households with connection to an electricity source, by governorate
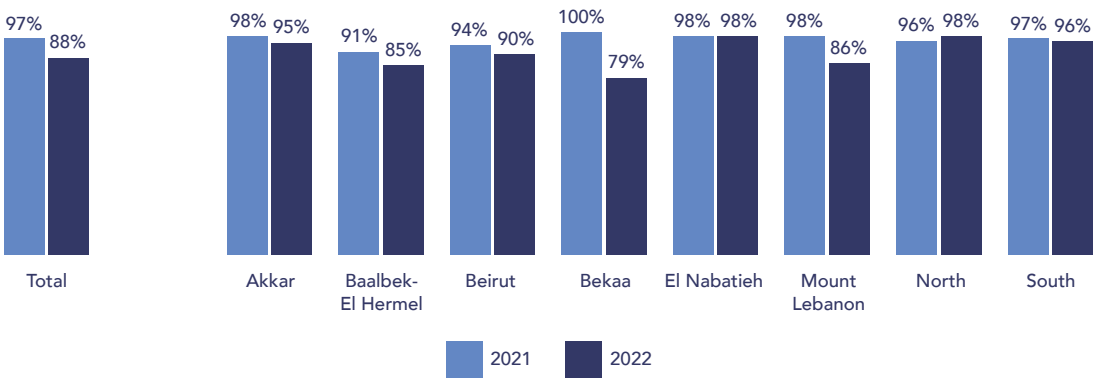
SOURCES OF ELECTRICITY

A total of 84 per cent of households had access to the grid. Households living in non-permanent shelters reported lower connection rates to the grid (73 per cent) compared to the other shelter types. Regionally, Baalbek-El Hermel had the lowest access to the national grid, with 71 per cent.

Access to diesel generators dropped significantly, from 65 per cent in 2021 to 47 per cent in 2022. Connection to diesel generators varied significantly per governorate, ranging from 67 per cent in South Lebanon to only 28 per cent in Baalbek El-Hermel. Other power sources were negligible in previous years; however, in 2022, 14 per cent of households reported sourcing electricity from sources other than the national grid and private generators, including solar panels or batteries. In Baalbek El-Hermel, 8 per cent of households reported reliance on solar panels, a much higher percentage than in any other area.

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[2] *Connection to the energy source is not related to hours of supply.*

Figure 3: Sources of electricity, by governorate

National grid ■ Private generators ■ Solar panels ■ Other sources
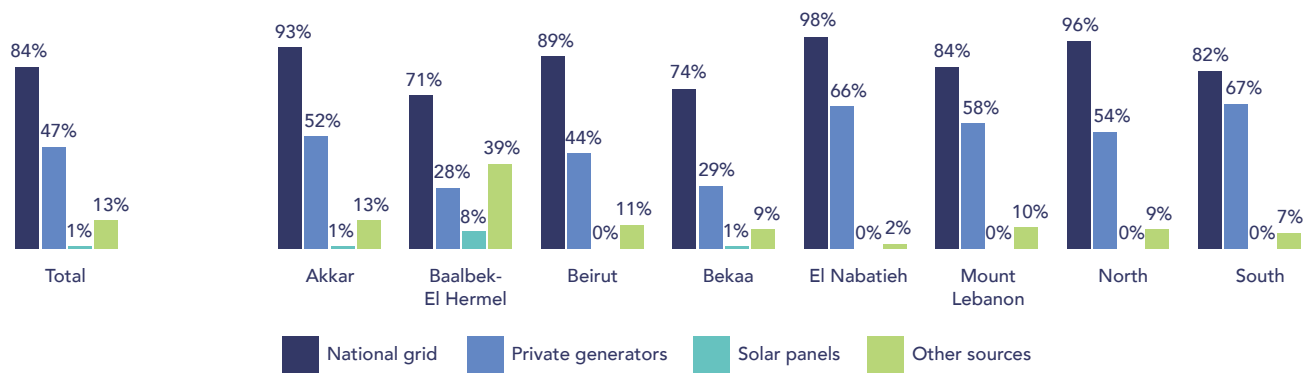
HOURS OF ELECTRICITY, BY SOURCE

In line with trends discussed above, hours of electricity supply deteriorated in 2022, with almost all households (97 per cent) experiencing some power outage. On average, 15 hours of power outage per day were reported (compared to 6.5 hours in 2021). The number of hours supplied by the national grid and private generators both decreased since 2021. On average, the grid supplied only 3 hours of electricity per day,[3] down from 7 hours in 2021 and 11 hours in 2020. Private generators supplied on average 9 hours of electricity per day,[4] down from 15 hours in 2021. Power outages were longest in Akkar at almost 19 hours a day, followed by Baalbek-El Hermel, Beirut and North Lebanon. Other sources of energy supplied households with an average of 12 hours per day (among the 13 per cent of households that reported access).

Table 1: Average number of hours of electricity per day, by electricity source

	Per cent of households	Average hours (per day)
National grid	84%	3 hours 16 minutes
Private generators	48%	8 hours 56 minutes
Power outage	97%	15 hours 11 minutes

Figure 4: Average number of hours of electricity, by power source and governorate

National grid ■ Power outage ■ Private generators ■ Other sources
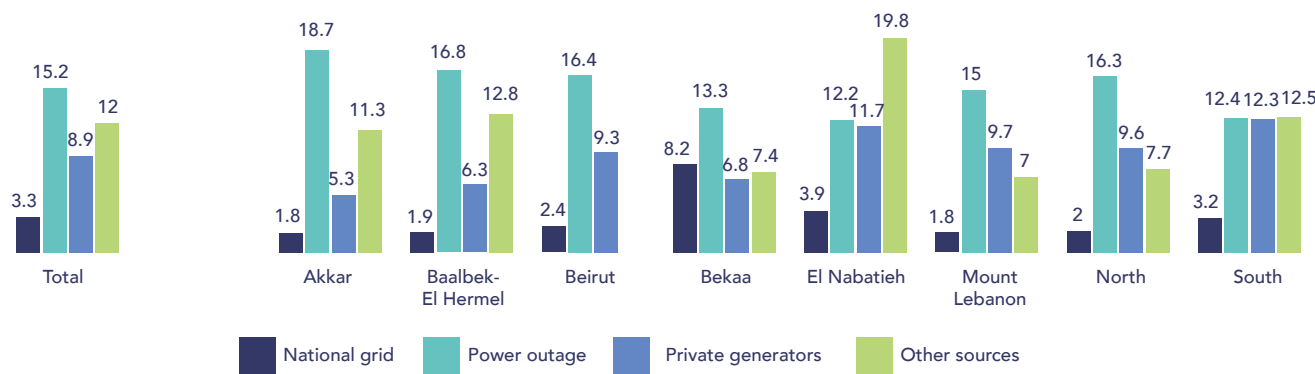
ELECTRICITY BILL COLLECTION

Collection of bills by EDL decreased slightly since 2021, with 33 per cent of households reporting that EDL staff collected the bill (40 per cent in 2021), and 35 per cent reporting that bills were either collected by the landlord (14 per cent) or included as part of the rental payment (21 per cent). Almost one third of households reported that no one was collecting bills for the national grid, up from 15 per cent in 2021.

[3] *The average is based on the 84 per cent of households which have access to electricity from the national grid.*
[4] *The average is based on the 47 per cent of households which have access to private diesel generators.*

Figure 5: Entity collecting electricity bills, by governorate

Total	Akkar	Baalbek-El Hermel	Beirut	Bekaa	El Nabatieh	Mount Lebanon	North	South

Legend: Electricité du Liban (EDL) | Collected by landlord | Payed as part of rent | None | Other
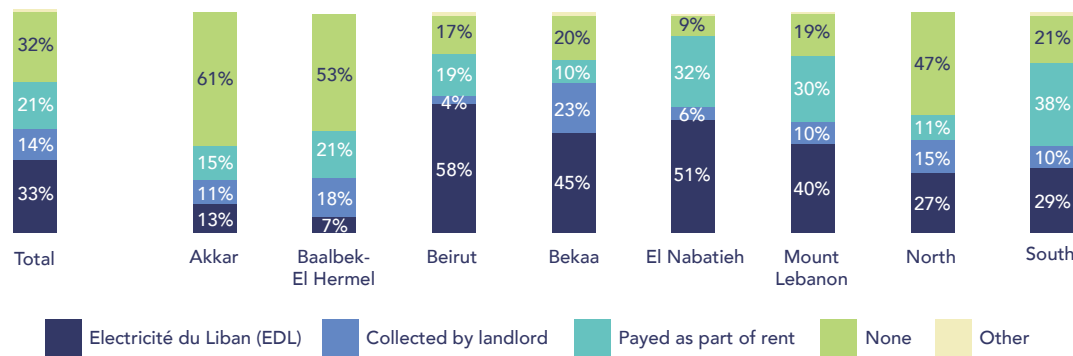
A higher proportion of households in residential shelters were paying their bills to an EDL employee (38 per cent), compared to those in non-permanent (16 per cent) and non-residential (29 per cent) shelters. A larger proportion of households in non-permanent shelters reported that no one was collecting bills (46 per cent).

Almost half (48 per cent) of households who paid their electricity bill (to EDL staff or a landlord) paid it at least monthly; this was highest among those in non-permanent structures, where 81 per cent paid monthly.

Table 2: Frequency of payments to EDL, among households that reported EDL collecting bills

	Once a month or more	Once every 2 months	Once every 6 months to a year
Total	**48%**	**46%**	**6%**
Shelter type			
Residential	41%	52%	7%
Non-residential	49%	48%	3%
Non-permanent	81%	15%	4%
Governorate			
Akkar	50%	42%	9%
Baalbek-El Hermel	57%	38%	5%
Beirut	32%	54%	15%
Bekaa	84%	13%	3%
El Nabatieh	23%	68%	9%
Mount Lebanon	32%	61%	7%
North	33%	59%	8%
South	28%	72%	0.1%

EXPENDITURE ON ELECTRICITY

Average expenditure on electricity increased substantially in 2022. In 2021, the average monthly amount spent on electricity from the grid was LBP 17,674 per family, and LBP 47,566 per family on generators. In 2022, households were spending an average of LBP 406,810 per month on electricity (across all sources).[5] Highest expenditures were reported in Mount Lebanon and South Lebanon, reaching over LBP 500,000.

[5] This includes spending through cash and credit, an informal debt source.

Figure 6: Expenditure on electricity, by governorate

LBP 406,811	LBP 245,701	LBP 174,576	LBP 310,781	LBP 3377,849	LBP 466,884	LBP 544,921	LBP 392,960	LBP 590,258
Total	Akkar	Baalbek-El Hermel	Beirut	Bekaa	El Nabatieh	Mount Lebanon	North	South
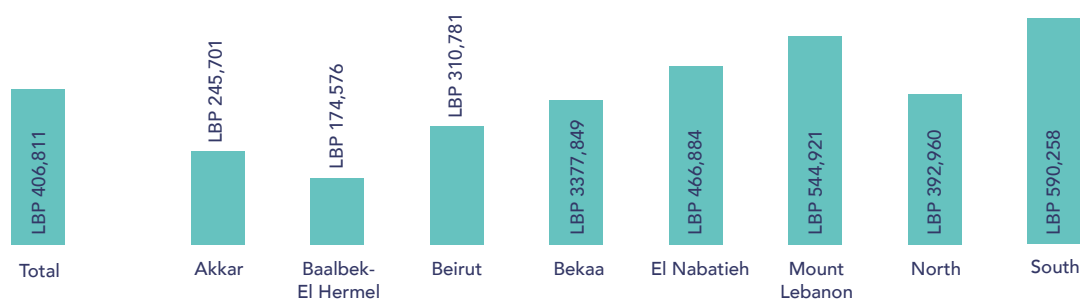
ENERGY SOURCES FOR COOKING

Almost all households (99.7 per cent) reported having access to a source of energy for cooking. The main energy source used for cooking remained gas, as reported by 95 per cent of households. A total of 17 per cent of households reported relying on wood to cook, a significant increase from only 2 per cent in 2021. Reliance on wood in Akkar reached 41 per cent of households, compared to 2 per cent in 2021. Akkar also had the lowest proportion of families relying on gas for cooking (83 per cent). A higher proportion of households in non-permanent shelters relied on wood (37 per cent) compared to non-residential and residential shelters.[6]

Table 3: Energy sources for cooking, by shelter type and governorate

	Gas	Wood	Other
Total			
2021	99%	2%	0%
2022	95%	17%	2%
Shelter type			
Residential	97%	10%	1%
Non-residential	89%	24%	3%
Non-permanent	90%	37%	4%
Governorate			
Akkar	82%	40%	1%
Baalbek-El Hermel	97%	28%	3%
Beirut	98%	0%	2%
Bekaa	96%	18%	3%
El Nabatieh	92%	20%	1%
Mount Lebanon	97%	4%	1%
North	94%	17%	1%
South	94%	17%	2%

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[6] *Respondents could select multiple answers, as households can have more than one source of energy for cooking.*

ENERGY SOURCES FOR HEATING

Only 15 per cent of households reported that they had a sufficient supply of energy for heating during the last winter season, 40 per cent stated it was sufficient only on some days, and 46 per cent stated it was mostly not sufficient.

When asked about the last winter season, 32 per cent of households stated that they did not have any source of heating. This was highest in Beirut (49 per cent) and South Lebanon (47 per cent). A higher proportion of families in residential shelters reported not having any heating source (39 per cent) compared to those in non-residential (29 per cent) and non-permanent shelters (8 per cent).

Nationally, wood was the most commonly cited heating source at 38 per cent, a shift from 2021 when diesel was mostly used. In 2022, only 22 per cent of households reported relying on diesel for heating, down from 40 per cent in 2021. Almost three quarters of households in non-permanent shelters reported relying on wood, up from 37 per cent in 2021. A total of 5 per cent of households reported having to burn trash to stay warm during the last winter, with 17 per cent of households in Baalbek-El Hermel resorting to this.

Table 4: Energy sources for heating, by shelter type and governorate

	No heating source	Wood	Diesel	Gas	Electrical heater	Burning trash	Other
Total							
2021	20%	12%	40%	11%	15%	n/a	
2022	32%	38%	22%	8%	6%	5%	6%
Shelter type							
Residential	39%	26%	19%	10%	8%	3%	6%
Non-residential	29%	44%	20%	8%	4%	4%	5%
Non-permanent	8%	73%	32%	2%	1%	12%	6%
Governorate							
Akkar	27%	55%	14%	6%	1%	0.2%	1%
Baalbek-El Hermel	1%	68%	44%	1%	0.3%	17%	12%
Beirut	49%	1%	0%	14%	16%	0%	19%
Bekaa	2%	62%	51%	5%	2%	11%	5%
El Nabatieh	31%	49%	22%	5%	3%	2%	1%
Mount Lebanon	58%	12%	5%	8%	10%	0.7%	8%
North	43%	27%	9%	18%	6%	0.6%	1%
South	47%	21%	3%	12%	15%	0.5%	5%

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 tab/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).[1] 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 refuges 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

	Total	Akkar	Baalbek-El Hermel	Beirut	Bekaa	El Nabatieh	Mount Lebanon	North	South
Drinking water	42%	27%	12%	84%	24%	31%	73%	28%	67%
Water trucking	21%	23%	38%	21%	20%	27%	19%	8%	24%

■ Drinking water   ■ Water trucking

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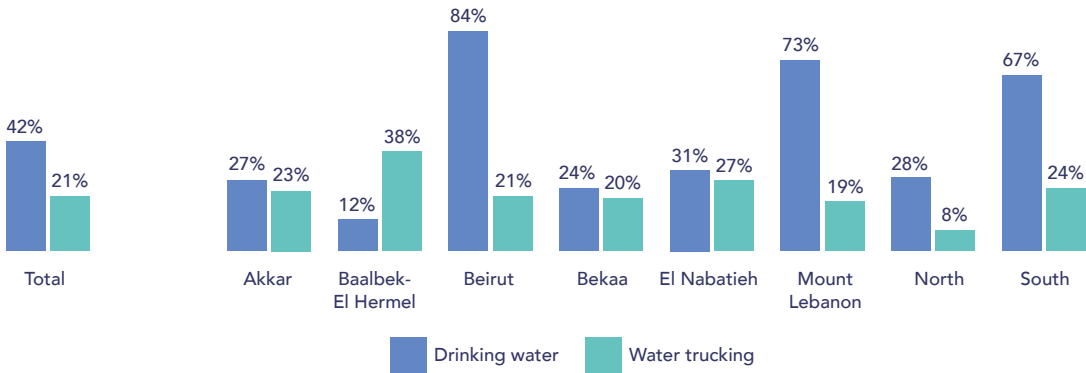
[1] *VASyR does not measure the quality of the water provided.*

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).

EDUCATION

Every child has the right to education as stipulated in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. With over 10 years having passed since the outbreak of the Syrian war, two years of COVID-19-related school closures, and prolonged socioeconomic crisis in Lebanon, Syrian refugee children, adolescents, and youth are at continuous risk of becoming a lost generation. However, the Government of Lebanon and the international community have joined their efforts to ensure every child in Lebanon has access to quality and inclusive education.

This chapter describes the school attendance rates of Syrian refugee girls and boys aged from 3 to 24 years old. Furthermore, the chapter provides the reasons why children and youth were not attending schools or were absent during the school year, and the share of youth not in education, employment or training (NEET). The results are based on 2,887 pre-primary schoolchildren (3–5 years), 6,517 primary school children (6–14 years of age) and 1,570 secondary schoolchildren (15– 17 years).

KEY FINDINGS

- More than half (53 per cent) of school-aged children (6–17 years) attended the 2021–2022 school year. Of those, 91 per cent attended only physically, 7 per cent attended school via a hybrid approach (both physically and online), and the remaining 2 per cent attended only online. Across the years, the gender parity for primary school attendance was at equilibrium for children (1.01) and favoured girls at lower secondary (1.56) and upper secondary (2.02) levels.
- The most reported reasons for not attending school for children aged 3–17 were the cost of transportation to schools (cited by 34 per cent, with an increase of 5 percentage points from 2021) and the cost of educational materials (cited by 29 per cent, with an increase of 14 percentage points from 2021).
- Youth aged 15–24 who were not attending any formal education, not attending any vocational training programme and not working (i.e. NEET) was at 59 per cent, with a decrease of 8 percentage points compared to 2021 and 2020. This decrease is mainly among the adolescent age group (aged 15–18).

Participation in organized learning: The share of children aged 3 to 5 who are attending an early childhood education programme, such as nursery and kindergarten.

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 (15–24 years) who are not in employment, education or training.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Participation of children aged 3–5 in organized learning or an early childhood education programme, namely kindergarten or nursery, was at 14 per cent in 2022. The rates varied across shelter types, the highest among children in households living in residential units at 16 per cent and lowest among children in households living in non-permanent shelters at 9 per cent. The rate of participation did not differ between boys and girls.

ACCESS TO SCHOOL

Among all children aged 6–14, 60 per cent attended school at any time during the scholastic year 2021–2022. The distribution of geographical estimates remained as in the previous year: the highest attendance rate was reported in Beirut governorate (70 per cent) and El Nabatieh (68 per cent), while the lowest was in Bekaa (50 per cent). Results disaggregated by gender show a higher attendance rate among girls with a 62 per cent attendance rate, 5 percentage points higher than boys.

The attendance rate was higher among children aged 6–11 than children aged 12–14, 62 per cent and 55 per cent respectively. The difference between girls and boys was prominent among the older group of 12–14 years, with a difference of 13 percentage points in favour of girls with a 61 per cent attendance rate, compared to boys with a 48 per cent attendance rate. Shelter type also played a role, with rates significantly decreasing from residential units with the highest rates, to non-residential units, and non-permanent units being the worst off.

Figure 1: School enrolment (2018–2020) and attendance (2021–2022) of Syrian refugee children, by age group
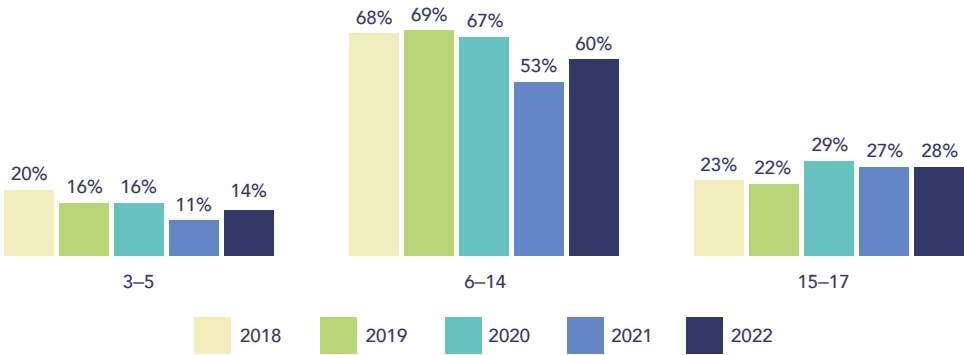
NET ATTENDANCE RATES

The adjusted net attendance rate (A-NAR) is the percentage of children of a given age who are attending an education level compatible with their age or a higher education level (adjusted). In 2022, the A-NAR for primary school with children aged 6–11 was at 51 per cent, dropping to 17 per cent at lower secondary school for adolescents aged 12–14, and further decreasing to 6 per cent at upper secondary school.

Gender parity index

Similarly to 2021, the gender parity for primary school attendance has been in equilibrium between girls and boy, with a rate of 1.01. However, as children grow and progress to the next grade, the parity witnesses an increase, with a gender parity index (GPI) of 1.56 at lower secondary and 2.02 at upper secondary level.

Figure 2: Attendance during school year 2021–2022, by governorate
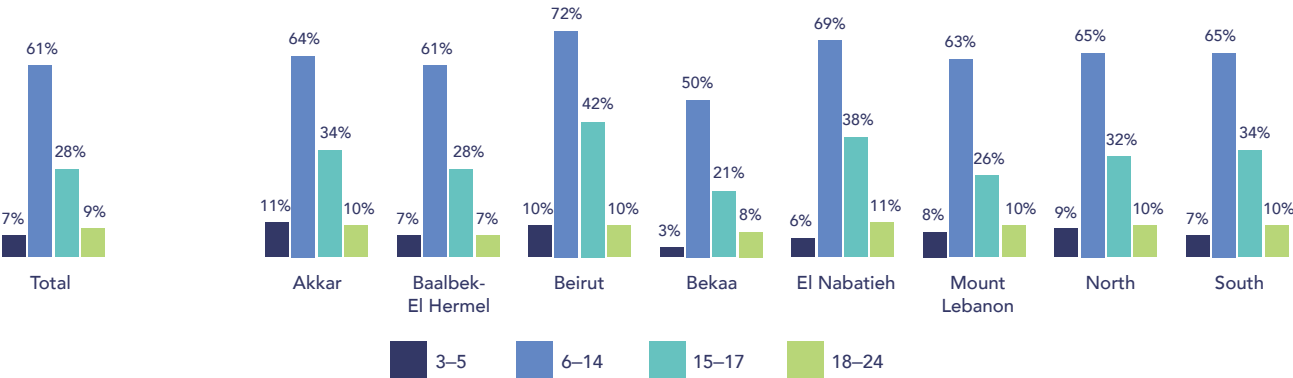
Reasons for not attending school

The costs of education remain the prominent reason for children aged between 3 and 17 not attending school. Specifically, 32 per cent cited the cost of transportation to school, and 27 per cent cited the cost of education materials. Third in place is not attending due to work at 22 per cent, with an increase of 3 percentage points since last year, and a significant difference between boys at 35 per cent and girls at 6 per cent. Other reasons mentioned included schools not allowing children to be enrolled (7 per cent), difficulties at school with the curriculum or language of instruction (7 per cent), and marriage (6 per cent).

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Planning to enrol in the coming school year

For children aged 3 to 5, 70 per cent of their caregivers plan to enrol them in school in the coming school year 2022/2023, with North Lebanon recording the highest rate (79 per cent). The rate of girls' caregivers planning to enrol their children is lower (59 per cent) than that of boys' caregivers (72 per cent). As for the 6 to 14 age group, 77 per cent plan to be enrolled in the coming school year, with South Lebanon recording the highest rate (85 per cent). The rate of girls for this age group is slightly higher than the rate of boys (80 per cent) and (74 per cent) respectively. A significant drop can be noticed with regards to the age group of 15 to 17, where 32 per cent plan to enrol in the coming school year, with Beirut reporting the highest rate (51 per cent). The rate of girls is also higher than that of boys in this age group (38 per cent) and (28 per cent) respectively. Similarly, with regards to the 18 to 24 age group, only 12 per cent plan to enrol in the coming school year, with Mount Lebanon reporting the highest rate (15 per cent). The rate of girls is slightly higher than that of boys (12 per cent) and (11 per cent) respectively.

Providing bags, stationery and allowances

The majority of caregivers of school children (92 per cent), reported providing children aged 6–17 with stationery and bags. Almost half (48 per cent) of the households with schoolchildren aged 6–17 reported providing their child with allowance for the school year 2021/2022, with South Lebanon reporting the highest rate (70 per cent) and Beirut the lowest (35 per cent). The rates of girls and boys are similar, 49 per cent and 48 per cent respectively.

As for the different age groups, bag and stationery ownership were at optimal levels; however, 46 per cent of households with children aged 3–5 provided allowances to their children for this school year. Similarly, 48 per cent of households with children aged 6–14, 51 per cent of households with children aged 15–17, and 71 per cent of households with youths aged 18–24 reported providing allowances to their children.

YOUTH SCHOOLING AND EDUCATION

Only 16 per cent of adolescents and youth aged 15–24 were attending school in 2022, an minor increase of 3 percentage points since 2021, with Beirut recording the highest attendance rate (21 per cent) and Bekaa and Baalbek-El Hermel the lowest (14 per cent). Girls had higher attendance rates than boys, 18 per cent and 14 per cent respectively. The rate of attendance differed drastically between adolescents and youth aged 15–18 (27 per cent), versus 19–24 (7 per cent). Notably, 35 per cent of youth had never attended school. With regards to the modality of learning, among those of the 15–18 age group who attended school, 87 per cent attended in-person only, 10 per cent attended via a hybrid approach (both physically and online), and only 3 per cent attended only online. As for the 19–24 age group, 78 per cent attended in-person only, 12 per cent attended via a hybrid approach, and 12 per cent attended online only.

NOT IN EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT OR TRAINING (NEET)

The share of young people who fall under the NEET definition tend to be at higher risk of social exclusion, with little to no income and lacking skills to improve their economic situation. Thus, reducing the NEET number is a result of effective school-to-work transition, improved access to decent work conditions, and income-generating opportunities.

Among all youth aged 15–24, 59 per cent were NEET, with female youth at 69 per cent and male youth at 43 per cent. The NEET proportion decreased by 8 percentage points compared to the two previous years, when it stood at 67 per cent. Noteworthily, the NEET proportion dropped the most among adolescents (15–18 years), with 16 percentage points compared to 41 per cent in 2022, compared to a decrease of 5 per cent among young adults (19–24 years).

Table 1: Syrian refugee youths not in education, employment or training

Total	15–24	59%
Age	15–18	41%
	19–24	70%
Gender	Male	43%
	Female	69%
Governorate	Akkar	64%
	Baalbek-El Hermel	52%
	Beirut	59%
	Bekaa	49%
	El Nabatieh	62%
	Mount Lebanon	64%
	North Lebanon	62%
	South Lebanon	62%
Gender of head of household	Male	61%
	Female	50%
Head of household's educational level	Illiterate	64%
	Literate, never attended school	48%
	Primary	64%
	Secondary/technical and vocational training	54%
	Higher education	66%
Has a disability	No	58%
	Yes	71%

ACCOUNTABILITY TO AFFECTED POPULATIONS

The Accountability to Affected Populations module in VASyR, introduced in 2022, sought to gather information on households' satisfaction with aid workers and humanitarian aid, as well as assess knowledge and satisfaction with available complaints and feedback mechanisms. Households' preferred methods of providing feedback on aid and household priority needs were also explored. Indicators were gathered at the household level.

SATISFACTION WITH RECEIVED AID

Half (49 per cent) of the surveyed households reported that they had received humanitarian aid in the past 12 months, with significant regional variation. The highest proportions were noted in Akkar (61 per cent) and Baalbek-El Hermel (71 per cent), and the lowest in South Lebanon (24 per cent). There were no significant differences based on the gender of the head of household, or whether at least one household member had a disability.

Figure 1: Percentage of households that reported having received humanitarian aid in the past 12 months
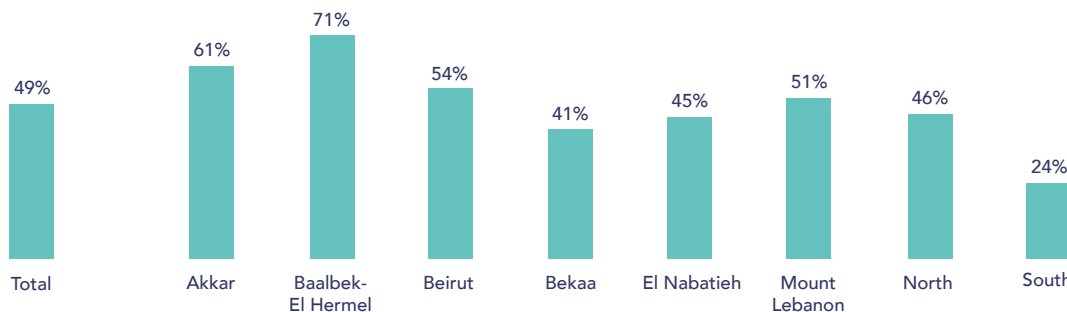
Of those that reported receiving aid, 62 per cent reported that they were satisfied with the received aid. A higher proportion of female-headed households reported being satisfied as compared to male-headed households (67 per cent compared to 60 per cent). However, the proportion of satisfied families is around 20 percentage points lower among households with at least one member with a disability, compared to those that do not have a member with a disability (49 per cent compared to 68 per cent).
For those who were not satisfied, the most commonly cited reason was that the assistance was not adequate to meet the needs of the household (80 per cent) or that the quantity was not enough (52 per cent).

The majority of all households (87 per cent) stated that they were generally satisfied with the way aid workers behaved in their area. For the 7 per cent that were dissatisfied, most stated that no actions were taken after they provided feedback or filed a complaint (50

per cent), or that humanitarian staff did not listen to the community (24 per cent).

Of those who reported having received aid, 32 per cent stated that they did not try to access assistance, and 60 did not face barriers accessing assistance, leaving 8 per cent who reported facing barriers. These included not understanding how to apply (3 per cent), not understanding procedures (3 per cent), or stating that there were no providers in the area where they live (2 per cent). Among those that reported not having received aid, half (50 per cent) of households stated that they had not tried to access assistance, and 47 per cent stated that they did not face any barriers. Among this group, 6 per cent stated they did not know how to apply, 4 per cent that they did not know about procedures, 2 per cent that there were no providers in their areas, and 2 per cent that they lived in inaccessible areas.

COMPLAINTS AND FEEDBACK

Three quarters (74 per cent) of households reported that they knew how to file a complaint or provide feedback on a staff member or a humanitarian programme, and 27 per cent of those reported that they had used a complaint and feedback mechanism for this purpose in the past six months. The rates of knowledge were lowest in El Nabatieh (63 per cent) and highest in Akkar and Beirut (82 per cent).

Figure 2: Proportion of households that know how to file a complaint against a staff member or give feedback on a humanitarian programme, by governorate
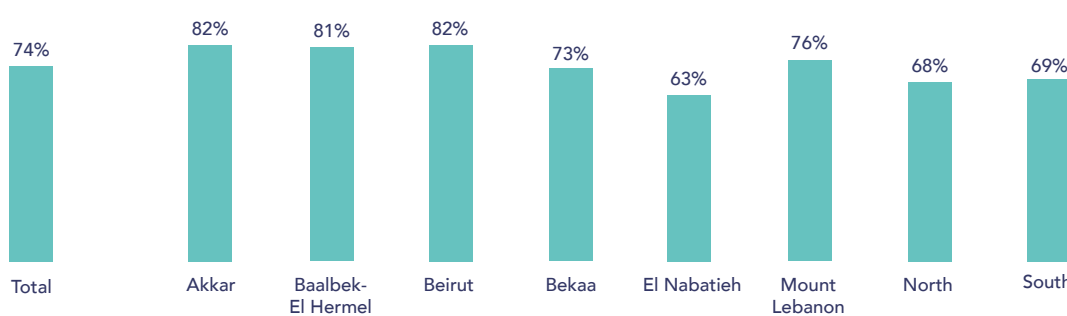
Positively, 86 per cent of households which received assistance reported that the agency explained how to provide feedback when they received the assistance. Knowledge of complaints and feedback mechanisms did not differ based on gender of the head of household, disability presence in the household, or shelter type. A total of 84 per cent did not face any challenges accessing a complaint and feedback channel, while 12 per cent stated that they did not know how or where to provide a complaint or feedback.

Other challenges faced included not being able to reach the relevant channel due to transportation costs (3 per cent) and a lack of trust that there would be an adequate response (3 per cent). The majority of households (65 per cent) preferred to provide feedback to organizations face-to-face, whether at their homes (41 per cent) or at the agency offices or other venues (24 per cent). A large proportion (63 per cent) also preferred to do so through a phone call.[1]

Figure 3: Preferred means to provide complaints and feedback
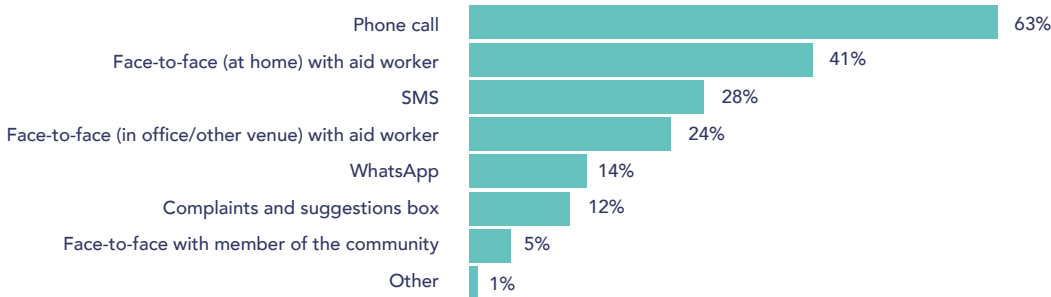
When asked about how they would prefer to receive information, the most cited channels were by phone calls or hotlines (80 per cent) and SMS (86 per cent). A smaller proportion (28 per cent) cited WhatsApp. No notable difference was found based on gender of the head of household or disability status of household members.

COMMUNICATION

A total of 90 per cent of households reported that a member of the household had a smartphone. However, this was much lower for female-headed households compared to their male counterparts (78 per cent versus 92 per cent among male-headed households). Of households that had a smartphone, most (89 per cent) also had an active data plan. Rates of having an active data plan among smartphone holders were similar across genders. Around three quarters (73 per cent) of households had access to Internet at home (i.e. Wi-Fi), lower among female-headed households at 62 per cent compared to 76 per cent among male-headed households.

Almost all households (93 per cent) were active on WhatsApp, a little less than a third (29 per cent) were on Facebook, and small proportions on TikTok (4 per cent) and Instagram (2 per cent). There were differences here based on the gender of the head of household, with a higher proportion of female-headed households (18 per cent) reporting not using any social media platforms, compared to male-headed households (4 per cent).

Figure 4: Proportion of households that use social media, by gender of the head of household
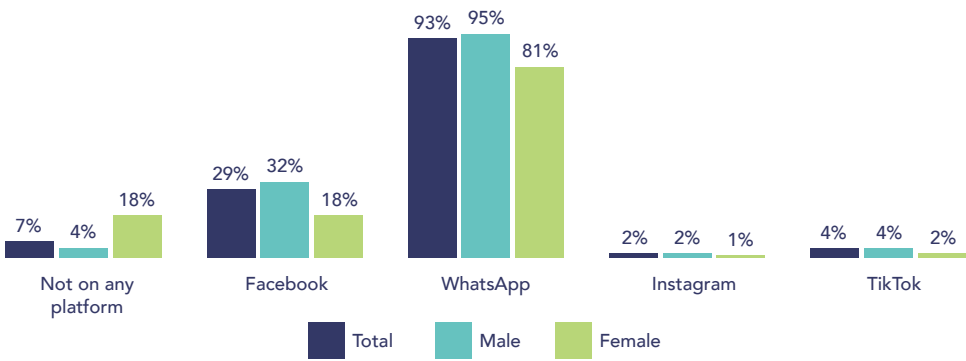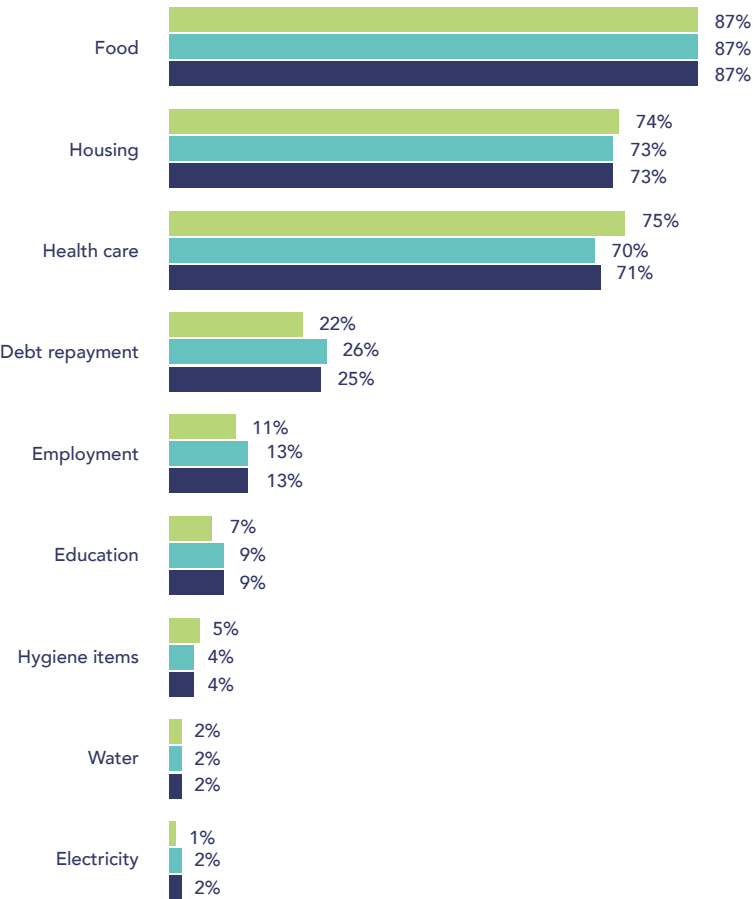

The most commonly cited topics that households reported that they would like to receive information about included livelihoods (49 per cent), housing (46 per cent), and safety and security (41 per cent). When asked about their priority needs, households most commonly reported food (87 per cent), housing (73 per cent) and

health care (71 per cent). A higher proportion of households that had a disabled member cited health care as a priority need at 76 per cent, versus 68 per cent among households without a member with a disability.

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[1] Households could cite more than one preferred method.

Figure 5: Top information needs reported by households, by gender of the head of household

Category		
Food	87% / 87% / 87%	
Housing	74% / 73% / 73%	
Health care	75% / 70% / 71%	
Debt repayment	22% / 26% / 25%	
Employment	11% / 13% / 13%	
Education	7% / 9% / 9%	
Hygiene items	5% / 4% / 4%	
Water	2% / 2% / 2%	
Electricity	1% / 2% / 2%	

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GENDER

KEY FINDINGS

Demographics

- **Almost one in five households (18 per cent) were female-headed households (FHH).** Five times more FHH included single parents than did male-headed households (MHH). They also more often included at least one older person unable to care for themselves, and were more commonly over 59 years of age. Across all households, 7 per cent of women (aged over 18) were widowed, divorced or separated, compared to just 1 per cent of men.

Protection

- **Rates of legal residency remained low for both men and women in 2022 and, as in previous years, rates of legal residency for women were 5 percentage points lower than for men.** In 2022, 15 per cent of women had legal residency compared to 20 per cent of men.

- **One in five households (18 per cent) believed it was unsafe for women and girls to walk alone in the area at night.** Households in the South (27 per cent), Mount Lebanon (25 per cent) and Baalbek-El Hermel (25 per cent) reported it was unsafe for women in the area at higher rates than the national average. In addition, at least one in ten households reported that female household members avoided certain areas because they were considered unsafe.

- **Consistent with previous years, approximately one fifth (22 per cent) of girls and women aged 15–19 were married at the time of the survey.** This was true for less than 1 per cent of boys and men in the same age category.

- **Child labour among boys has increased steadily since 2019 and remains a key issue.** In 2022, approximately 4 per cent of children aged 5–17 were engaged in child labour. More boys (7 per cent) than girls (2 per cent) were engaged in labour.

Food security and economic vulnerability

- FHH were more food insecure and dependent on assistance and/or support from friends or relatives for their food security, while MHH were highly dependent on debt. Across all food consumption indicators, A higher proportion of FHH were found to be food insecure (75 per cent) compared to MHH (64 per cent) and they depend heavily on assistance for their food security: FHH under the SMEB rose from 61 to 84 per cent when assistance was removed from the calculation. On the other hand, MHH reported owing three times the amount of debt owed by FHH per household and twice as much debt per capita, the majority of which they had taken on to purchase food.

Livelihoods and income

- Women's labour-force participation has slowly increased over time, from 11 per cent in 2019 to 19 per cent in 2022, though it remains one quarter the participation rate of men (75 per cent). Women's labour-force participation increased substantially in Baalbek-El Hermel, from 15 per cent in 2021 to 27 per cent in 2022.

- Women appeared to have left their jobs in the service sector since 2021, and more women started working in agriculture. Women's exit from the service sector was most apparent in Baalbek-El Hermel (19 percentage-point drop since 2021), Bekaa (11 per cent drop), Mount Lebanon (10 percentage-point drop) and the North (8 per cent drop).

- The majority of FHH continued to be dependent on WFP e-cards and ATM cards from United Nations or humanitarian agencies as their main sources of income in 2022, and MHH reported a significant increase in reliance on cash assistance for their main source of income. In 2021, 57 per cent of FHH reported that their main source of income was either WFP e-cards or ATM cards from humanitarian organizations, compared to 54 per cent in 2022. In 2021, 39 per cent of MHH reported humanitarian cash assistance as a main source of income, compared to 59 per cent in 2022.

- The household gender gap in average monthly per capita income continued to increase in 2022, with FHH earning 41 per cent less than MHH on average per capita. The average per capita income for FHH increased from LBP 80,782 in 2021 to LBP 256,569 in 2022, while it rose from LBP 133,398 to LBP 440,941 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 well below the SMEB value.

Health

- A smaller percentage of women received the COVID 19 vaccine Overall, 34 per cent of individuals had received the COVID-19 vaccine, with men (38 per cent) more likely to have received one or more shots than women (30 per cent).

- One quarter (25 per cent) of households reported that members did not have access to female hygiene items, mostly due to prohibitive cost.

Shelter

- There appeared to have been a small but significant movement of FHH out of non-permanent shelters in Baalbek-El Hermel, as well as an increase in FHH living in rented houses, apartments or rooms. The overall percentage of FHH in Baalbek-El Hermel, where non-permanent shelters are common, dropped from 29 per cent of households in 2021 to 23 per cent in 2022. Meanwhile, the national total of FHH living in tents decreased slightly from 32 per cent in 2021 to 27 per cent in 2022, while FHH in apartments, houses and rooms rose from 56 to 61 per cent.

Education and youth employment

- Only half (49 per cent) of children were in school during the 2020/2021 school year, with girls enrolled at higher rates in lower and upper secondary school. The rate of girls not attending school due to marriage rose from 6 per cent in 2021 to 13 per cent in 2022, and the rate of boys not attending due to work doubled, rising from 18 per cent to 35 per cent.

- All youth increased their enrolment in education, employment and training from 2021 to 2022, although there remained a significant gender gap in the rate of youth who were not in education, employment or trainings (NEET). In 2021, 80 per cent of girls and young women aged 15–24 were NEET compared with 69 per cent in 2022, while 52 per cent of boys and young men were NEET compared with 43 per cent in 2022.

GENDER ANALYSIS OVERVIEW

This chapter was developed based on the sex-disaggregated results of each indicator included in the VASyR assessment.[1] The VASyR was designed so that some survey questions were posed at the household level (i.e. the head of household or any adult household member were asked questions regarding the entire household), while others were posed at the individual level per each household member. This means full gender disaggregation was available for some findings, while disaggregation only by the gender of the head of household was available for others. Wherever possible, disaggregated findings at the individual level were reported throughout this chapter.

Table 1: Categories of indicators gathered at the individual level and at the household level

Individual level	Household level
Demographics	Income/debt
Civil status	Shelter
Specific needs/disability	Eviction and mobility
Other protection indicators	Energy
Child protection	Water, sanitation and hygiene
Child health/child nutrition	Expenditure
Education	Food consumption
Employment/work sectors	Coping strategies (food and non-food)
Health[2]	Safety and security/sexual exploitation
	Community relations/social stability
	Child discipline
	Communication

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

[1] *Gender analysis of the VASyR was conducted by UN Women, in partnership with UNHCR, UNICEF and WFP.*
[2] *In 2022, additional individual-level questions on health were added to the VASyR, greatly improving available gender data on health care.*

A note on female-headed households

A FHH is a household in which an adult female is the sole or main decision maker, whereas a MHH is led by an adult male. In the VASyR, the head of household is self-identified, as enumerators ask the first person they encounter upon visiting a 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. In some cases, therefore, the sex of the head of household and that of the respondent is different. A little over one third (37 per cent) of respondents were female, an additional 37 per cent were male and female household members answering together,[3] and the remaining respondents (26 per cent) were male.

It should be noted that in many cases, women are not considered as heads of households unless no adult male 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.[4]

DEMOGRAPHICS

Since the VASyR began in 2013, there has been an even split between Syrian men and women in the Syrian population. Though there is an overall 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-El Hermel (0.94) and Akkar (0.94) and higher in Beirut (1.06). El Hermel district in Baalbek-El Hermel has the lowest gender ratio of all at 0.87.

Over the past four years, between 16 and 19 per cent of households have self-identified as FHH. In 2022, FHH constituted 18 per cent of households. The VASyR has also consistently captured regional variation in the gender of the heads of households. In 2022, FHH were most common in Akkar (24 per cent) Baalbek-El Hermel (23 per cent) and the North (21 per cent), and least common in Beirut (10 per cent), Mount Lebanon (11 per cent) and El Nabatieh (11 per cent). It is worth noting that the percentage of FHH in Baalbek-El Hermel dropped from 29 per cent of households in 2021 to 23 per cent in 2022. In the North and South, the proportion of FHH increased by 4 and 5 percentage points respectively from 2021 to 2022.

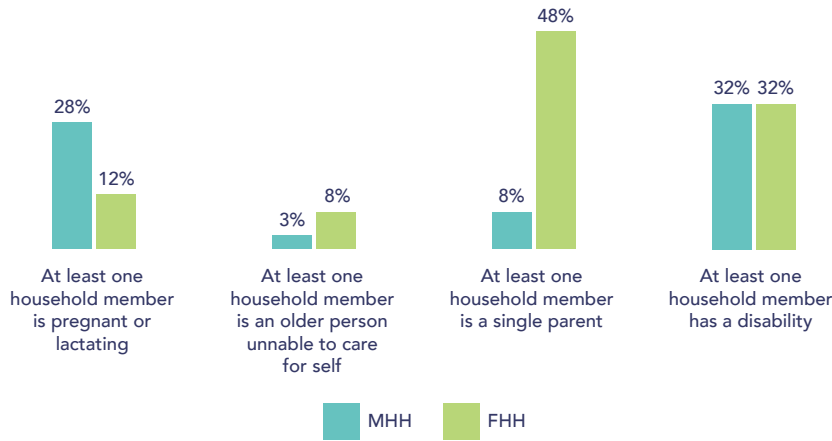**Figure 1: Female-headed households by governorate, 2021–2022**
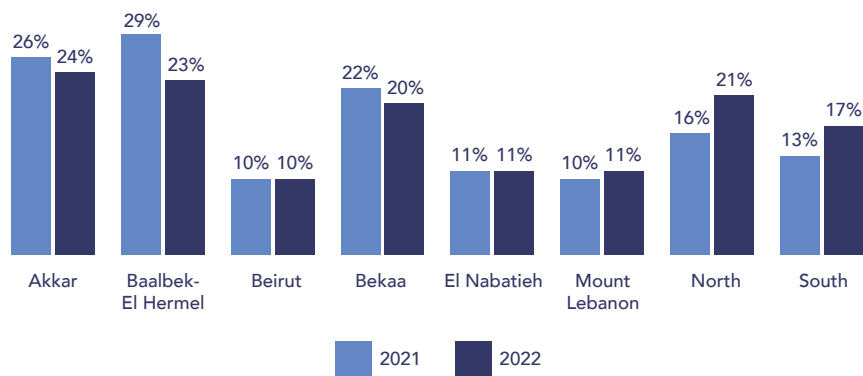
Household size and composition among male- and female-headed Syrian families have seen little change over the past four years. Since 2019, FHH have been smaller than MHH on average, and MHH have more frequently included young children. In 2022, MHH consisted of 5.2 people on average compared with FHH at 4.1 people on average, and 64 per cent of MHH had young children aged under 5 compared to 36 per cent of FHH. The fact that MHH had more children meant they had a higher dependency ratio (0.95) than FHH (0.84). More FHH (22 per cent) had no dependents compared with MHH (13 per cent), and MHH reported having more dependents overall. Consistent with findings from 2020, these demographic differences were potentially related to a smaller proportion of FHH with women who were bearing children. This is borne out by the fact that 26 per cent of households had pregnant or lactating women, with MHH (29 per cent) reporting this far more frequently than FHH (13 per cent).

On the other hand, and also consistently with previous years, female heads of households were more commonly over 59 years of age. Overall, 5 per cent of heads of households reported were older, and more female heads of household (9 per cent) reported this than male heads of household (4 per cent). There was no major difference between the proportion of men and women with disabilities in the overall population (13 per cent). FHH also far more often included single parents than did MHH. Overall, 15 per cent of households had at least one household member who was a single parent, and five times as many FHH (48 per cent) had single parents in their households than MHH (8 per cent). These findings were all consistent with VASyR data since 2019.

[3] It is worth noting that even when men and women answer the questionnaire together, male bias may persist due to prevailing cultural norms.
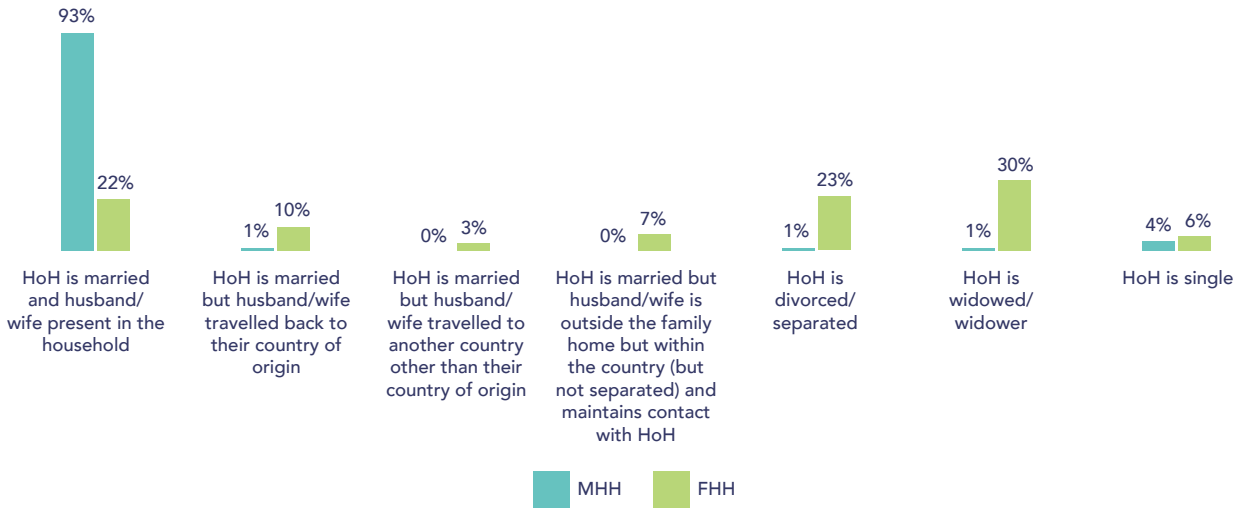[4] World Bank, "Metadata glossary: Female headed households (% of households with a female head)" (no date). Available from
https://databank.worldbank.org/metadataglossary/gender-statistics/series/SP.HOU.FEMA.ZS (accessed 20 January 2023).

Figure 2: Female- and male-headed households with specific needs

	At least one household member is pregnant or lactating	At least one household member is an older person unable to care for self	At least one household member is a single parent	At least one household member has a disability
MHH	28%	3%	8%	32%
FHH	12%	8%	48%	32%

Almost one in ten (7 per cent) of women (aged over 18) were widowed, divorced or separated, compared to just 1 per cent of men. The vast majority of heads of FHH (79 per cent) were either single, divorced, widowed or had no partner present with them in the household, compared to just 7 per cent of heads of MHH in the same categories.

Figure 3: Marital status of heads of female- and male-headed households

	HoH is married and husband/wife present in the household	HoH is married but husband/wife travelled back to their country of origin	HoH is married but husband/wife travelled to another country other than their country of origin	HoH is married but husband/wife is outside the family home but within the country (but not separated) and maintains contact with HoH	HoH is divorced/ separated	HoH is widowed/ widower	HoH is single
MHH	93%	1%	0%	0%	1%	1%	4%
FHH	22%	10%	3%	7%	23%	30%	6%

PROTECTION

Rates of legal residency remained stable or increased slightly for both Syrian men and women in 2022. 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 (14 per cent) remained lower than the rate for men (20 per cent). Fewer FHH (17 per cent) had at least one member with legal residency than did MHH (27 per cent). 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 (18 per cent) and members of FHH (23 per cent) more often reported they had entered through an unofficial border and that the GSO had not allowed them to regularize for this reason. Men being prioritized for legal residency in Syrian refugee households is likely because more men work, and due to perceptions that men are more likely to be arrested or detained without legal documentation compared with women.

Figure 4: Rates of Syrian refugee men's and women's legal residency since 2018

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Men	31%	27%	23%	19%	20%
Women	24%	18%	18%	14%	15%
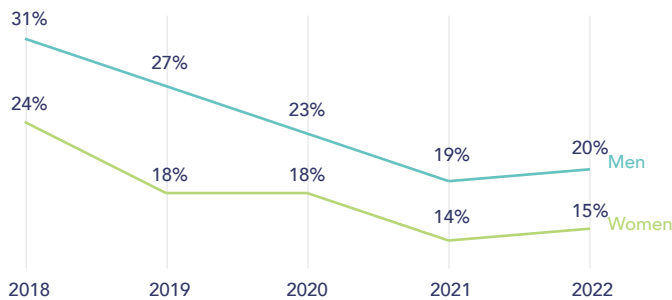
Types of legal residency differed between men and women. Women with legal residency most often had legal residency based on their registration with UNHCR at 65 per cent, compared with 41 per cent of men with legal residency. On the other hand, a higher proportion of men (41 per cent) had legal residency in the form of

sponsorship than women (16 per cent), which is likely because they participated in the paid workforce at higher rates. More women reported to have never even attempted obtaining legal residency at the GSO at 65 per cent, compared to 54 per cent of men, similarly to 2020.

Figure 5: Types of legal residency, by gender
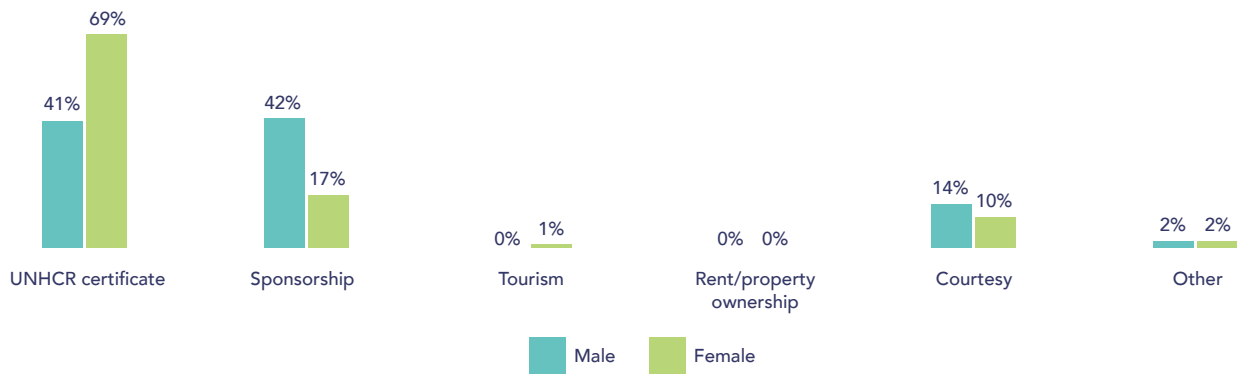
A declining rate of legal residency continues to expose both women and men to risks such as arrest, detention, deportation or extortion. Women who lack residency may be less likely to approach police or justice mechanisms to report incidents of harassment or violence. This means a lack of legal recourse and justice for GBV against Syrian women, which is highly prevalent.

Refugees were also unable to complete important administrative processes to obtain civil documentation such as registering marriages or births of children. In fact, for children born in Lebanon since 2011 into FHH, the birth registration process had less often been completed (28 per cent) than for children in MHH (37 per cent).[5] Similarly, members of FHH who had been married in Lebanon fell behind members of 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 at 52 per cent, compared with 33 per cent of respondents in MHH reporting the same. The second most prevalent reason for both FHH (35 per

cent) and MHH (49 per cent) was the prohibitive cost.

One in five households (18 per cent) believed it was unsafe for women and girls to walk alone in the area at night, with no difference between MHH and FHH. Notably, households in the South (27 per cent), Mount Lebanon (25 per cent) and Baalbek-El Hermel (25 per cent) reported it was unsafe for women in these areas at higher rates than the national average. One in ten (9 per cent) households reported women and girls avoided some places because they felt unsafe in these locations, again with no difference between MHH and FHH. Most often, women and girls avoided streets, markets and public transportation. About one third of households reported at least one safety concern for women (32 per cent), girls (34 per cent) and boys (35 per cent), and there were few differences in reported security concerns for men, women, boys and girls. By far the main security concern for all populations was being robbed, while smaller proportions of households also reported kidnapping, being threatened with violence and verbal harassment as concerns.

CHILD PROTECTION

The VASyR consistently reports child labour[6] as the main protection risk faced by boys, and child marriage as the main protection risk for girls. In 2022, approximately 4 per cent of children aged 5–17 were engaged in child labour. A higher proportion of boys (7 per cent) than girls (2 per cent) were working, and older boys (14–17) were more often working long hours. On the other hand, VASyR

has consistently shown that high proportions of girls and young women are exposed to early marriage. Approximately one fifth (22 per cent) of girls and women aged 15–19 were married at the time of the survey, compared with less than 1 per cent of boys and men in the same age category.

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[5] 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, and getting stamps on the birth certificate from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Syrian Embassy.
[6] Child labour is defined by UNICEF and the International Labour Organization as a child having performed either economic activities or household chores during the previous week for more than the age-specific number of hours as follows: for economic activities, ages 5–11 1 hour or more, ages 12–14 14 hours or more, ages 15–17 43 hours or more; for household chores, ages 5–14 28 hours or more, ages 15–17 43 hours or more.

FOOD SECURITY AND ECONOMIC VULNERABILITY

FHH were more food insecure in general and dependent on assistance and/or support from friends or relatives for their food security than were MHH. Across all food consumption indicators, more FHH were food insecure compared with MHH. A significantly higher proportion of FHH (75 per cent) were either moderately or severely food insecure compared to MHH (64 per cent). While the majority of MHH and FHH consumed 4.5–6.4 food groups per day at a similar rate (66 per cent), the share of households with poor daily dietary diversity was higher among FHH (27 per cent) compared to MHH (19 per cent).

Without income from assistance factored into the calculation, 93 per cent of FHH and 89 per cent of MHH had expenditures that were under the SMEB. However, when assistance is factored into the calculation, 61 per cent of FHH and 68 per cent of MHH were under the SMEB. This shows that FHH were more dependent on assistance for their survival, and that assistants accounts for a significant part of their expenditures. The overarching trend is that the proportion of households under the SMEB rose dramatically between 2019 and 2020 before levelling off in 2021, and the gap between extremely poor FHH and MHH closed as MHH became more vulnerable during Lebanon's economic crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic.

However, FHH appeared to be spending more on food per capita. Compared to 2021, the average per capita expenditure multiplied five times from LBP 316,129 to LBP 1,674,873 in 2022, reflecting the steep inflation in prices over the past year. While in previous years MHH reported a slightly higher monthly expenditure per capita compared to FHH (LBP 320,688 versus LBP 295,023), in 2022 the trend was reversed, with FHH reporting higher per capita expenditure (LBP 1,674,873) compared to MHH (1,554,616). FHH reported a higher per capita expenditure on food compared to MHH (LBP 1,001,032 versus LBP 900,801).

Due the dire economic conditions prevailing in Lebanon, households continued to use potentially harmful coping strategies to survive. FHH and MHH mostly relied on similar strategies of buying less preferred and less expensive food at similar, reducing portion sizes of meals, and restricting adult consumption to feed children. However, one critical difference emerged in that FHH more often borrowed food or relied on help from friends and relatives than did MHH; the number of households doing this had increased since 2021. The rate of FHH borrowing food rose from 54 per cent in 2021 to 60 per cent in 2022, and the rate of MHH borrowing food rose from 38 to 48 per cent. While this is a concerning trend for both groups, FHH needing to borrow food could be particularly concerning because of the potential for exploitation. 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
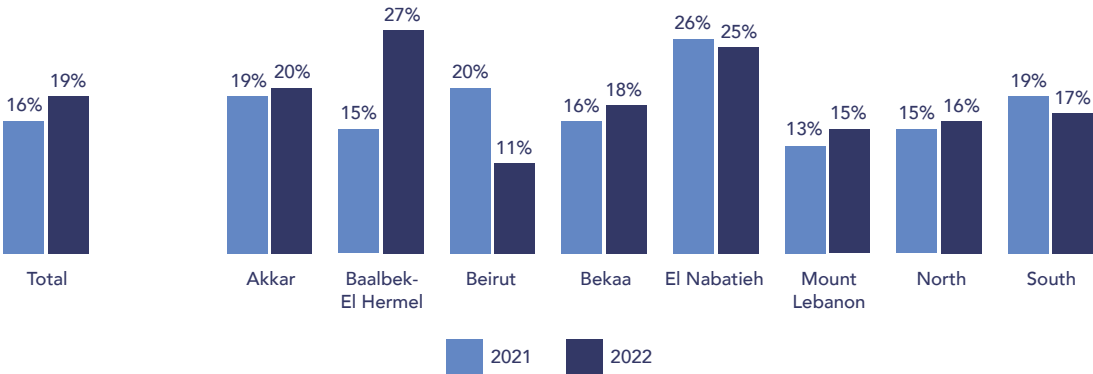
Similarly to 2021, findings show that Syrians were surviving the economic crisis by taking on debt, and MHH in particular owed very high amounts. Almost all (94 per cent) households owed at least some debt, with no gender difference. More than half (56 per cent) of households owed more than 5,000,000 LBP and more MHH (58 per cent) owed this amount than FHH (44 per cent). MHH were in far more debt than FHH, owing an average of LBP 12,555,123 per household compared with LBP 7,159,588 for FHH, and MHH owed twice as much as FHH per capita. Almost all (93 per cent) households reported taking on debt to purchase food, with no gender difference. Likely because MHH more often lived in rented accommodations, MHH (47 per cent) more commonly took on debt to pay for their rent than FHH (42 per cent) and were also more likely to take debt to purchase essential non-food items and baby items. In 2021 FHH were borrowing from supermarkets at higher rates than MHH, but in 2022 this gap closed: FHH borrowing from supermarkets decreased from 62 per cent in 2021 to 52 per cent in 2022, while for MHH it increased from 47 to 52 per cent.

LIVELIHOODS AND INCOME

Women's labour-force participation has slowly increased over time, from 11 per cent in 2019 to 19 per cent in 2022, though it remains one quarter the participation rate of men (75 per cent). Women's labour-force participation increased substantially in Baalbek-El Hermel, from 15 per cent in 2021 to 27 per cent in 2022. It also remained high in El Nabatieh (25 per cent). However, it decreased in Beirut from 20 per cent in 2021 to 11 per cent in 2022. There was no difference in the labour-force participation of women with disabilities compared with the general population of Syrian refugee women, whereas a difference was noted among men with disabilities: 66 per cent of men with disabilities participate in the labour force, compared with 78 per cent of men with no disability.

Figure 6: Changes in women's labour-force participation 2021–2022, by governorate

Legend: 2021, 2022

Governorate	2021	2022
Total	16%	19%
Akkar	19%	20%
Baalbek-El Hermel	15%	27%
Beirut	20%	11%
Bekaa	16%	18%
El Nabatieh	26%	25%
Mount Lebanon	13%	15%
North	15%	16%
South	19%	17%

Unemployment rates remained nearly double for women (40 per cent) than for men (18 per cent), and particularly high in Bekaa (53 per cent) and Baalbek-El Hermel (50 per cent) governorates.

Women appeared to have left their jobs in the service sector since 2021, and more women started working in agriculture. In 2021, 34 per cent of employed women were in the service sector, compared with 26 per cent in 2022. Women's exit from the service sector was most apparent in Baalbek-El Hermel (19 per cent drop since 2021), Bekaa (11 per cent drop), Mount Lebanon (10 per cent drop) and the North (8 per cent drop). These women may have taken up jobs in agriculture, since all of these governorates saw corresponding increases in women employed in agriculture.

Figure 7: Syrian refugee women employed in agriculture 2021–2022, by governorate
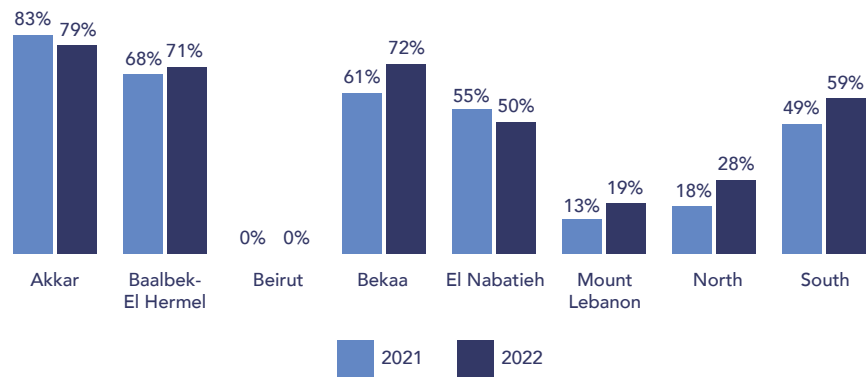
Figure 8: Syrian refugee women employed in services 2021–2022, by governorate
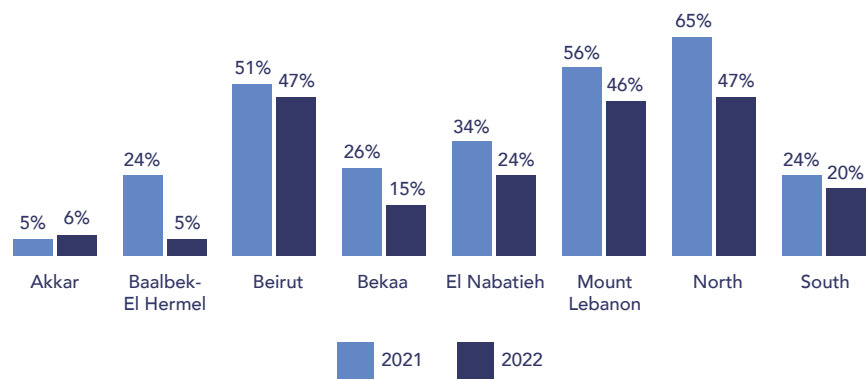
Similarly to 2021, the rate of FHH with at least one member who had worked in the past 7 days (50 per cent) remained far lower than the rate for MHH (77 per cent). However, the rate of MHH with at least one member working rose by 7 percentage points since 2021. It appears that the gender gap in average monthly per capita income returned in 2021 and 2022 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 80,782 in 2021 to LBP 266,569 in 2022, while it rose from LBP 133,398 to LBP 440,941 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 well below the SMEB value. Still, FHH earn 41 per cent less than MHH on average per capita.

Table 2: Per capita monthly income for all Syrian refugee households, 2019–2022

Year	MHH	FHH	All households
2019	63,307	30,473	57,298
2020	65,240	52,258	62,792
2021	133,398	80,782	124,174
2022	440,941	256,569	410,495

The majority of FHH reported dependency on WFP e-cards and ATM cards from the United Nations or humanitarian agencies for their main source of income in 2022. MHH also reported a significant increase in relying on cash assistance for their main source of income. In 2021, 57 per cent of FHH reported that their main source of income was either WFP e-cards or ATM cards from humanitarian organizations, and 54 per cent in 2022. In 2021, 39 per cent of MHH reported humanitarian cash assistance as a main source of income, compared with 59 per cent in 2022.

Figure 9: Percentage of male- and female-headed households dependent on e-cards and ATM cards as main source of income, 2019–2022
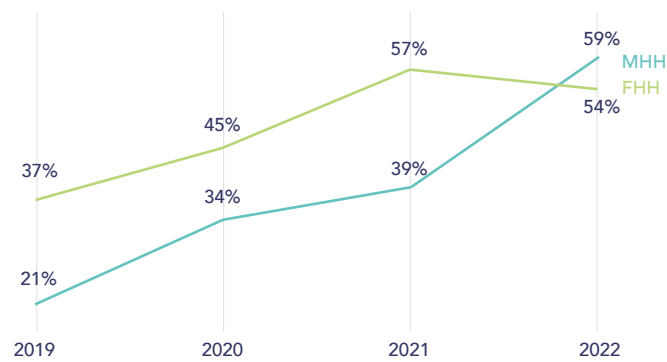

HEALTH

One in five of individuals (18 per cent) had required health care in the three months prior to the survey, though this rate leaped to 42 per cent for people with disabilities. Most (79 per cent) respondents had needed primary health consultations, with men (82 per cent) having needed this slightly more than women (77 per cent). People with disabilities needed consultations at a similar rate (77 per cent) to the general population. At the household level, more members of FHH (57 per cent) required PHC in the last 6 months than MHH (52 per cent), which is consistent with findings from 2021. There were few gender differences in the 20 per cent of individuals who had a health issue that required services other than primary care in the three months prior to the assessment. The main barriers to receiving care were overwhelmingly the cost of treatment (83 per cent), the cost of consultation (68 per cent) and transportation to the health facility (24 per cent), with no gender difference. There were also few differences between women and men in places where health care was accessed, health insurance, access to medication, and knowledge of where to seek emergency services. A higher proportion of women (42 per cent) than men (37 per cent) reported they had paid at a discounted rate for the care they had required, possibly due to antenatal services being subsidized by UNHCR.

Most (92 per cent) of women had given birth in a health facility, but there was governorate variation. In Akkar, 23 per cent of births took place at home with professional care, and an additional 5 per cent took place at home without professional care. Compared to the national average, A higher proportion of women in the North and Baalbek-El Hermel had given birth outside a health facility. In addition, only half (54 per cent) of women who had given birth had had more than four antenatal care visits.

Figure 10: Locations where women gave birth, by governorate
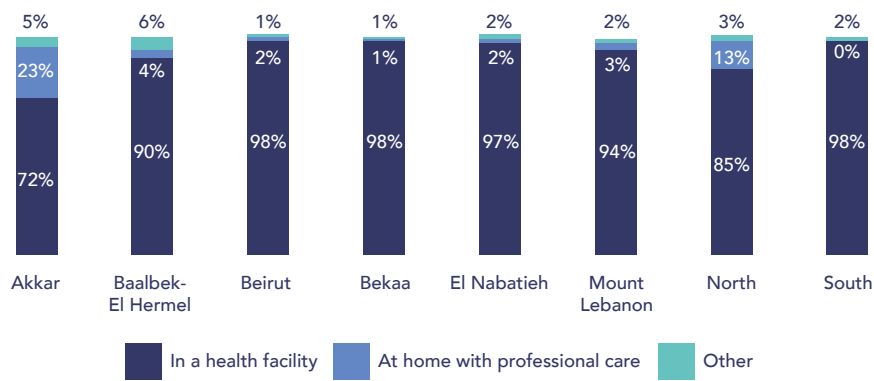
Women were less likely than men to have received the COVID-19 vaccine. Overall, 34 per cent of individuals had received the COVID-19 vaccine, with more men (38 per cent) having received one or more shots than women (30 per cent). However, a higher proportion of FHH members (57 per cent) had received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine compared with MHH members (46 per cent), suggesting men may have been prioritized within the household for the vaccine. There were few gender differences identified in access to other types of vaccines.

There were a few notable gender differences in health conditions for the infants assessed. One quarter (26 per cent) of infant boys had suffered from diseases compared to 22 per cent of infant girls, and A higher proportion of infant boys had had severe diarrhoea, coughs, fevers and respiratory infections compared with infant girls. They were more often hospitalized for such conditions as well. Infants in MHH (29 per cent) were more often sick than infants in FHH (23 per cent).
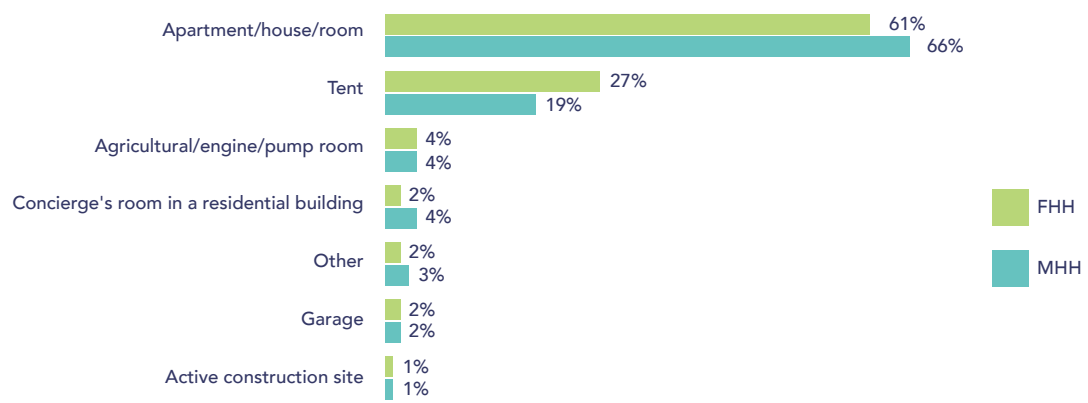
SHELTER

High concentrations of women and FHH remain in substandard, non-permanent informal settlements in Bekaa and Baalbek-El Hermel governorates. The number of FHH living in such shelter types increased between 2019 and 2021, but fell in 2022. This is possibly due to FHH being evicted or leaving their shelters, especially in Baalbek-El Hermel where FHH in non-permanent shelters were common. Similarly to 2021, far more FHH (28 per cent) than MHH (19 per cent) were living in non-permanent shelters, and almost all FHH in non-permanent shelters were in tents. The percentage of FHH living in tents decreased slightly from 32 per cent in 2021 to 27 per cent in 2022, while the proportion of FHH in apartments, houses and rooms rose from 56 per cent in 2021 to 61 per cent in 2022, perhaps suggesting a small but significant contingency of FHH moved out of tents in Baalbek-El Hermel and into houses, apartments or rooms in other areas. Around half of FHH and MHH continue to live in substandard or dangerous housing (53% of FHH and 49% of MHH).

Living in substandard, non-permanent shelter is associated with several vulnerabilities, such as increased poverty and health and protection risks. Individuals more often use shared toilets which can pose protection risks, especially for women. Overall, 36 per cent of households shared toilets with another household, with those in

non-permanent shelters (50 per cent) far more represented than other forms of shelter, and FHH (52 per cent) sharing toilets more often than MHH (33 per cent). In addition, FHH (15 per cent) were more often hosted for free than MHH (6 per cent). This could be a result of landlords being more sympathetic to the needs of FHH, where the culture asks communities to "protect" women; worse, free shelter could be indicative of more exploitative conditions whereby women are subjected to work for rent or other favours for rent.

MHH were more commonly residing in residential settings where they paid higher rents than did FHH for accommodation. More MHH had seen their rent increase between 2020 and 2022. Apartments, houses and rooms were the most common shelter types overall (65 per cent), but MHH (66 per cent) were more commonly living in rented apartments, houses and rooms than FHH (61 per cent). Most FHH (60 per cent) were paying LBP 699,999 or less for rent compared with MHH (41 per cent). Overall, 42 per cent of households had been informed of an upcoming rental increase, with MHH (43 per cent) reporting upcoming increases more than FHH (37 per cent). MHH reported an average increase of LBP 426,157 compared to LBP 363,360 for FHH.

Figure 11: Main shelter types for female- and male-headed households

Shelter type	FHH	MHH
Apartment/house/room	61%	66%
Tent	27%	19%
Agricultural/engine/pump room	4%	4%
Concierge's room in a residential building	2%	4%
Other	2%	3%
Garage	2%	2%
Active construction site	1%	1%

Overall 11 per cent of households had changed accommodation in the past 12 months, with little difference between MHH and FHH. Of those who had changed accommodation, more MHH reported they had changed because of rent increases (43 per cent) compared to FHH (30 per cent). An additional 18 per cent of households that changed accommodation had been evicted, with

no difference between MHH and FHH. There were no important gender differences in terms of the types of rental agreements (verbal versus 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 six months.

ENERGY

The electricity grid and private generators were the two main sources of electricity for Syrian refugees' households. While a similar percentage of FHH and MHH had access to the electricity grid (84 per cent and 83 per cent respectively), more MHH (48 per cent) had access to electricity from a private generator compared to FHH (43 per cent). On average, households experience only 9 hours of electricity per day with no notable differences between MHH and FHH. Overall, 12 per cent of households reported having no access to any source of electricity, with no difference between MHH and FHH.

There were no notable differences between MHH and FHH in average expenditure by household on state-generated electricity, but the average amount MHH (LBP 381,455) spent on private generators was higher than that spent by FHH (LBP 301,110). Expenditure on private generators has substantially increased from 2021, when on average FHH spent LBP 31,785 and MHH spent LBP 50,903.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

Similarly to 2021, more FHH reported limited access to basic sanitation facilities, namely flush toilets and bottled water. Overall, 60 per cent of respondents had access to basic sanitation services, with FHH access at 45 per cent compared to 63 per cent of MHH. However, FHH and MHH were equally likely to have access to improved sanitation facilities (92 per cent). FHH (69 per cent) less commonly had flush toilets than MHH (75 per cent) and more often used pit latrines, because higher rates of FHH live in informal settlements where pit latrines are common. It should also be noted that FHH (52 per cent) more often reported sharing a toilet with another household than MHH (33 per cent), which could possibly raise protection concerns.

Overall, the most common type of improved water source was bottled water (34 per cent), with FHH (29 per cent) reporting slightly lower access to this source than MHH (35 per cent). However, fewer MHH (71 per cent) reported there was a water source available when they needed it than FHH (80 per cent). There were no major gender differences in use and main types of unimproved water sources, availability of drinking water, the sufficiency of water for washing and domestic purposes, and treating water to make it safer to drink.

There were no major differences between FHH and MHH in household access to personal hygiene items. However, it is worth noting that 25 per cent of households reported that members did not have access to female hygiene items for various reasons, with FHH (26 per cent) more often reporting they were too expensive than MHH (19 per cent).

EDUCATION

Consistent with findings in 2020 and 2021, about half (53 per cent) of Syrian children aged 6–17 were in school during the 2020/2021 school year, with no difference between children with and without disabilities. The gender parity index[7] indicated an even ratio of girls and boys in primary school, while more girls than boys were in lower and upper secondary school. The high ratio of girls to boys in secondary school markedly increased between 2021 and 2022, from 1.14 to 1.56 in lower secondary school, and from 1.31 to 2.02 at upper secondary school. In other words, twice as many girls were attending upper secondary school than boys.

Figure 12: Gender ratio of children attending school, 2019–2022
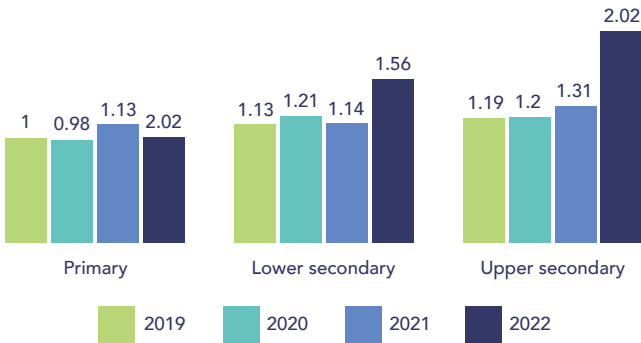
This dynamic also played out in the findings on boys' and girls' attendance across age groups for the 2021/2022 school year. For children aged 3–5, a similar proportion of boys and girls (7 per cent) reported attending school. However, for the 6–14, 15–17 and 18–24 age groups, a higher percentage of girls reported attending school compared to boys.

Figure 13: Female and male school attendance of Syrian refugees, by age group


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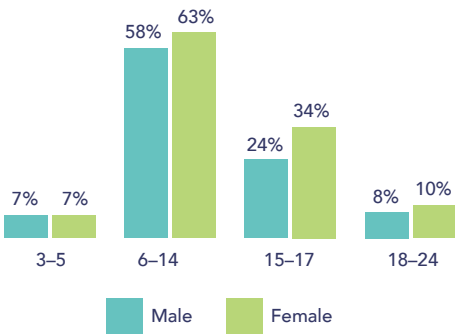
[7] *The gender parity index is the number of girls enrolled in school over the number of boys enrolled in school. If the gender parity index is over 1, it means that school enrollment is higher for girls than boys.*

Findings on school non-attendance for boys and girls were telling indications of the impact of economic strain on children, as the rates of girls not attending due to marriage and boys not attending due to work doubled from 2021 to 2022. The rate of girls not attending school due to marriage rose from 6 per cent in 2021 to 13 per cent in 2022, and the rate of boys not attending due to work also doubled from 18 to 35 per cent. Only 1 per cent of boys were not attending due to marriage, while 5 per cent of girls reported not going to school due to work. Costs of transportation and materials were also key reasons for both boys and girls not attending school, though they were more often stated as reasons for girls' non-attendance.

Figure 14: Main reasons for not attending school in 2021 and 2022, by gender
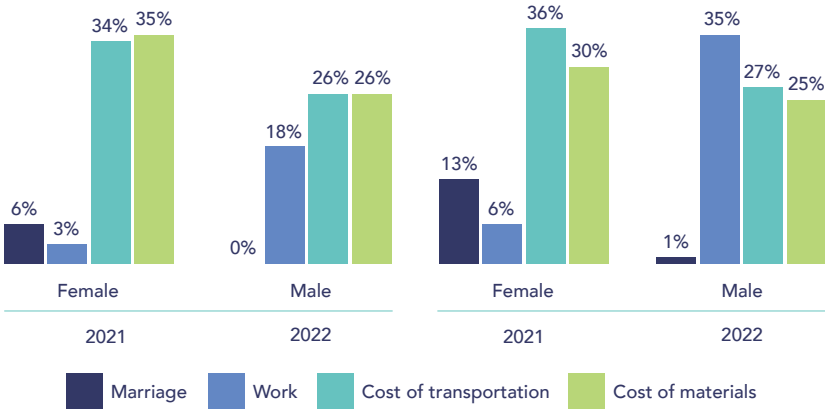
The proportion of youth who were NEET dropped by 8 percentage points between 2021 and 2022, though more young women continued to fall into this category than young men. In 2021, 80 per cent of girls and young women aged 15–24 were NEET, compared with 69 per cent in 2022. The NEET rate dropped by more for boys and young men. In 2021, 52 per cent of boys and young men were NEET, compared with 43 per cent in 2022. Notably, the NEET rate dropped the most among adolescents aged 15–18 years old, with a 16 percentage-point drop from 2021 compared to a 5 percentage-point drop among adults aged 19–24. The decrease in the NEET rate among adolescents is likely a reflection of the fact that more boys aged 15–18 were working and more girls in this age range were in school, both of which were found to be true as per the other findings on school attendance.

Figure 15: NEET rate for Syrian refugees aged 15–24 in 2021 and 2022, by gender