



Inter-Agency
Coordination
Lebanon



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency



World Food
Programme



for every child

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

