DEMOGRAPHICS

In order to gain a better understanding of the Syrian refugee population in Lebanon, it is vital to examine the key demographic characteristics. These include household composition, profile of the head of household, dependency and prevalence of certain specific needs. Through the VASyR these indicators are tracked over time. For the purposes of this assessment, a household is defined as a group of people that live under the same roof, share the same expenses and eat from the same pot. The head of household is the main decision maker.

KEY FINDINGS

- **Household size has stabilized over the past few years** with, on average, **five individuals** in a typical Syrian refugee household in Lebanon.
- Similar to 2018 and 2017, **18% of households are headed by a woman** and **6% by individuals above the age of 59.**
- There are no major shifts noted in the overall population with an **even split between males and females. More than half of the population is under the age of 18.**
- The share of households that have **at least one member with a specific need** (disability, chronic disease, serious medical condition, temporary illness or unable to carry out daily activities without support) **increased to 64% in 2018 to 70% in 2019.**

POPULATION PROFILE

Similar trends are noticed throughout the past few years with an evident gender gap among 20 to 30 year olds. In this age group there is a larger share of women as compared to men. Overall, there is an even split between men and women in the population and over half (53%) are under 18 years old. Seventy-five percent of interviewed adults were married and 17% were single.
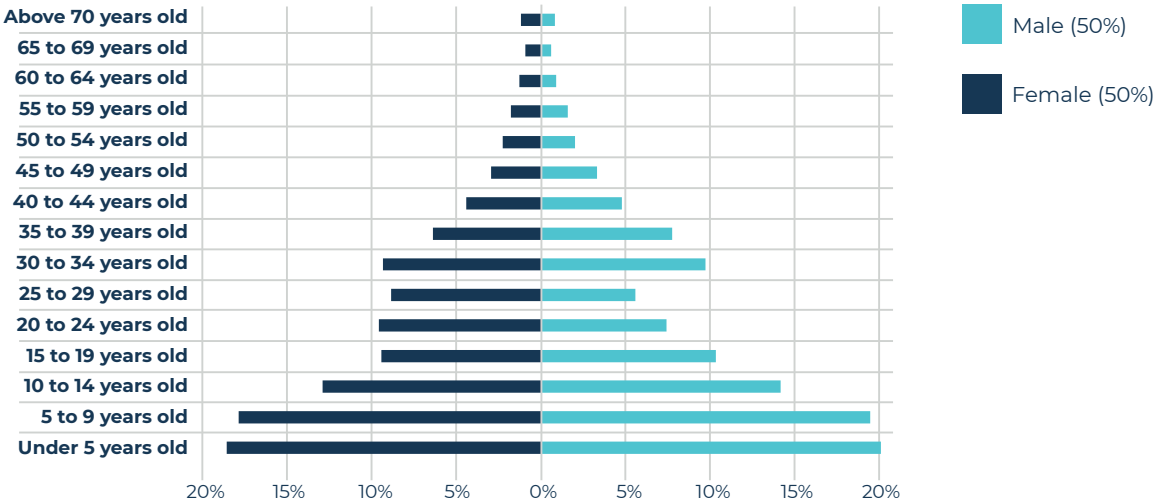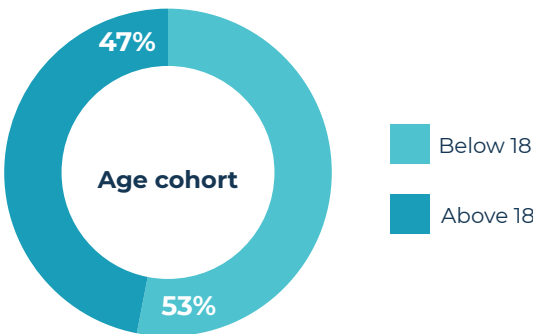
Figure 1: Age distribution by gender

Figure 2: Distribution of population above and below 18 years old

REFUGEE HOUSEHOLDS

Average household size has remained stable at 5 individuals per household. On average, households are composed of 2 adults (18 to 65 years old), 1.6 children aged 6 to 17 years old, and 1 child aged 5 years or younger.

The majority of households (43%) have up to 4 household members, 33% have 5 to 6 members and 23% have 7 household members or more. Almost all households (85%) have at least one member under the age of 18 and 58% have at least one child aged 5 years or younger. Eleven percent of households have an elderly member aged 60 or above.

The share of households with a woman head remained stable at 18%. The highest share of woman headed households was in the Bekaa and the lowest was in Beirut. The share of households that are headed by an elderly (above 59 years) also remained stable at 6%.

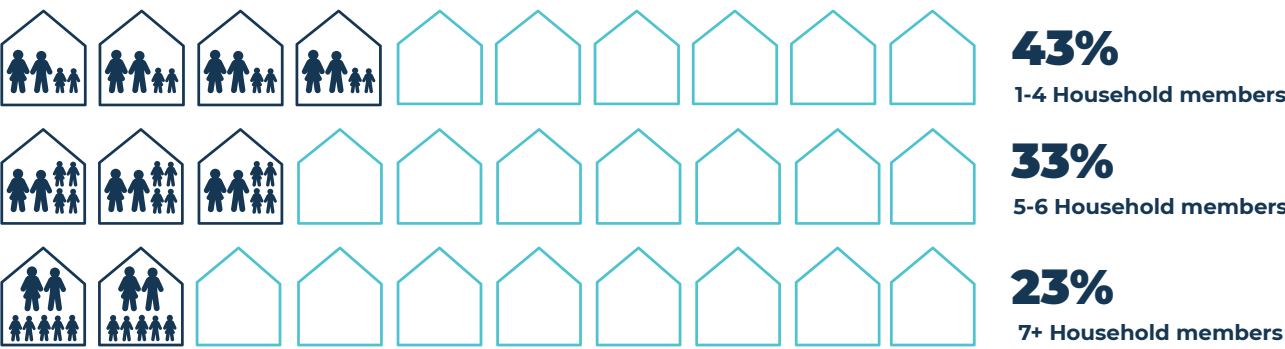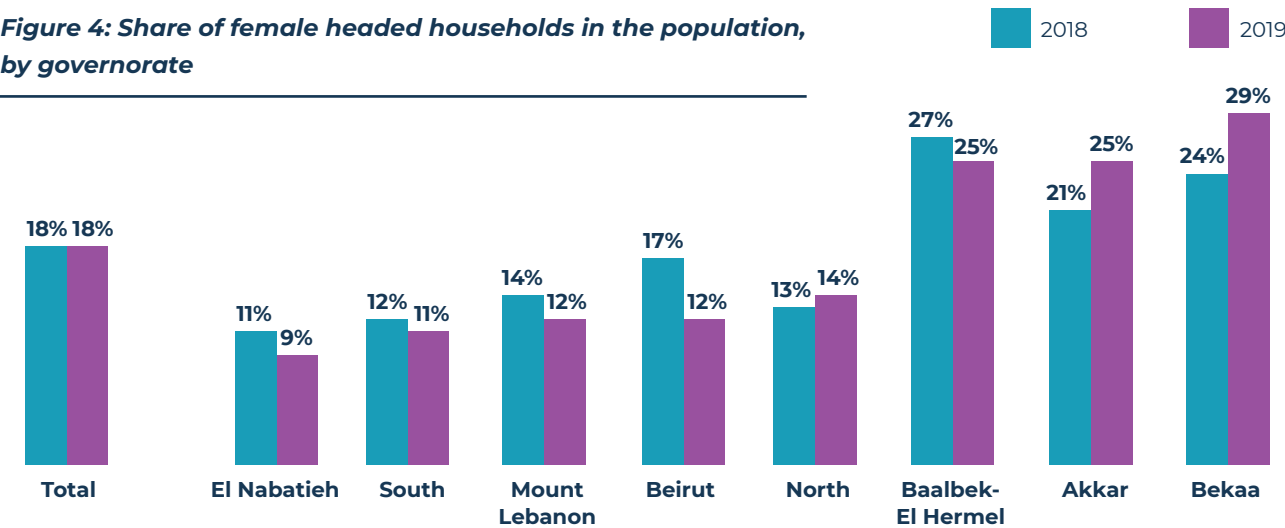*Figure 3: Share of households by size (number of members per household)*

43%
1-4 Household members

33%
5-6 Household members

23%
7+ Household members

Figure 4: Share of female headed households in the population, by governorate

DEPENDENCY

Dependents: Household members aged 14 or younger or above 59 years old.

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

Average dependency ratio is 1, the same as in 2018. This indicates an almost equal split between dependents and non-dependents within the household. Almost half had at least 3 dependents.

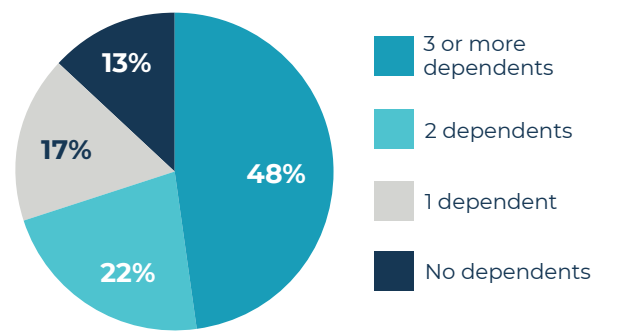*Figure 5: Number of dependents among refugee households*

3 or more dependents
2 dependents
1 dependent
No dependents

Figure 6: Number of dependents among refugee households, by governorate

	3 or more dependents	2 dependents	1 dependent	No dependents
Total	**48%**	**22%**	**17%**	**13%**
Akkar	45%	22%	18%	15%
Baalbek-El Hermel	**47%**	**26%**	**17%**	**10%**
Beirut	44%	18%	14%	24%
Bekaa	**48%**	**26%**	**17%**	**9%**
Mount Lebanon	61%	19%	13%	7%
El Nabatieh	**45%**	**21%**	**18%**	**17%**
North	*51%*	21%	16%	12%
South	**61%**	**15%**	**16%**	**8%**

SPECIFIC NEEDS

The term "specific need" refers to any of the following characteristics: Physical or mental disability, chronic illness, temporary illness or injury, serious medical condition or needing support in basic daily activities.

The share of households with at least one member with any specific need has increased to 73% in 2019 from 63% in 2018. This increase is likely due to the more detailed assessment of disability in the 2019 survey that may have led to an increased identification of persons with disabilities, rather than an increase in the number of persons with disabilities in the population.

Across the population, 6% of individuals had a disability (visual, hearing, physical, intellectual and/or speech impairment), 14% had a chronic illness and 15% had a temporary illness. There were 9% of individuals that reported needing support for their daily activities.

Figure 7: Share of households with at least one member reporting a specific need
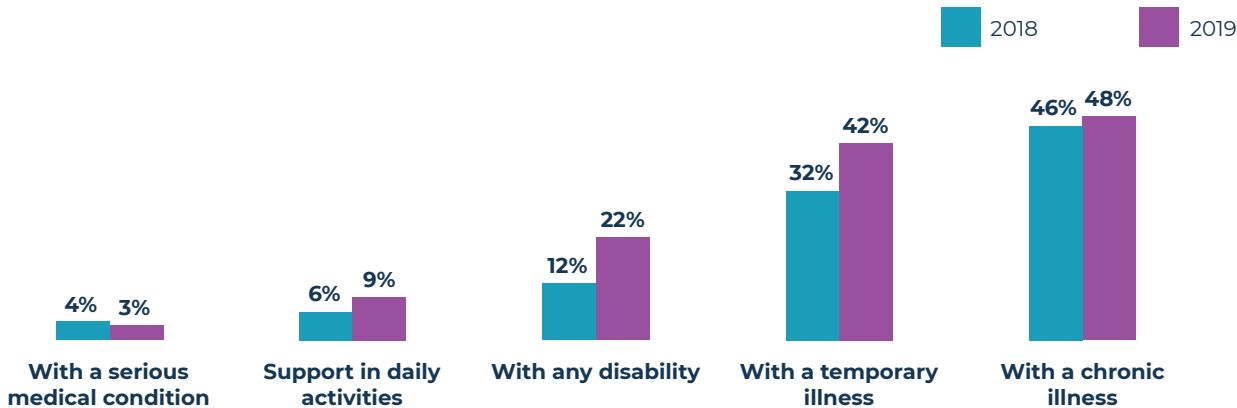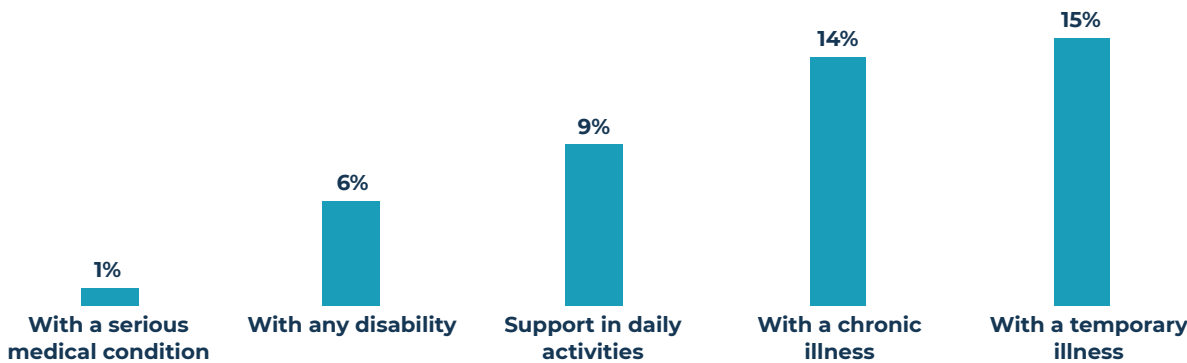

Figure 8: Share of individuals reporting a specific need

CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES

The share of Syrian refugee children below 18 years of age who have a disability was at 3.8% and for youth between 18 and 24 years of age, the share was at 4.4%. Furthermore, there was considerable difference between boys and girls. Among children below 18, 4.6% The below graph shows the different types of disability, among those who have children and per age group.

Figure 9: Different types of disabilities among children and youth with a disability

Legend: Below 18 — Between 18 to 24

Type	Below 18	Between 18 to 24
Hearing	23%	18%
Visual	27%	25%
Intellectual	27%	28%
Physical	29%	38%
Speaking	32%	9%
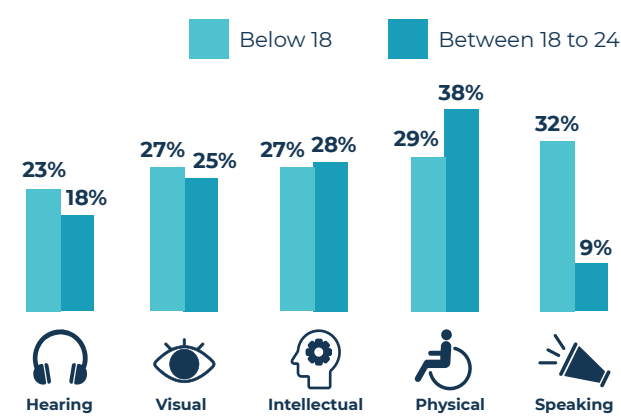
Annex 1: Gender and share of household members

	Gender		Gender of HH head		Mean age of the head of household	Average household size	Share of households by number of members			Average dependency ratio
	Male	Female	Male	Female			4 or less members	5-6 members	7 or more members	
Total	50%	50%	82%	18%	39	5	43%	33%	23%	1.02
Governorate										
Akkar	50%	50%	75%	25%	40	5	45%	32%	22%	1.00
Baalbek-El Hermel	47%	53%	75%	25%	41	5	46%	33%	21%	1.15
Beirut	53%	47%	88%	12%	38	5	45%	31%	24%	0.93
Bekaa	47%	53%	71%	29%	40	5	46%	31%	23%	1.00
El Nabatieh	50%	50%	91%	9%	38	6	28%	41%	31%	1.05
Mount Lebanon	52%	48%	88%	12%	37	5	47%	33%	20%	0.95
North	50%	50%	86%	14%	38	5	40%	36%	23%	1.01
South	49%	51%	89%	11%	38	6	30%	34%	36%	1.09
Gender of the head of household										
Female					47	4	65%	22%	13%	0.97
Male					38	5	39%	36%	25%	1.06
Shelter type										
Non-permanent shelter	50%	50%	84%	16%	38	5	44%	34%	22%	0.98
Non-residential	51%	49%	82%	18%	38	5	46%	35%	19%	1.13
Residential	48%	52%	74%	26%	40	5	41%	32%	28%	1.10

Annex 2: Dependency and specific needs at a household level

	Share of households by dependents				Share of households with at least one member reporting a specific need				
	No dependents	1 dependent	2 dependents	3 or more dependents	At least one member with chronic disease	At least one member with a serious medical condition	At least one member with a temporary medical condition	At least one member with a disability	At least one member needing support in daily
Total	13%	17%	22%	48%	47%	3%	42%	22%	9%
Governorate									
Akkar	15%	18%	22%	45%	42%	3%	24%	24%	10%
Baalbek-El Hermel	10%	17%	26%	47%	55%	1%	50%	19%	6%
Beirut	24%	14%	18%	44%	37%	5%	39%	27%	12%
Bekaa	9%	17%	26%	48%	63%	1%	61%	19%	7%
El Nabatieh	7%	13%	19%	61%	48%	3%	50%	16%	9%
Mount Lebanon	17%	18%	21%	45%	36%	5%	33%	23%	11%
North	12%	16%	21%	51%	50%	3%	31%	24%	8%
South	8%	16%	15%	61%	48%	2%	52%	21%	12%
Gender of the head of household									
Female	19%	24%	22%	35%	56%	2%	47%	21%	16%
Male	11%	15%	22%	51%	45%	3%	40%	25%	7%
Shelter type									
Non-permanent shelter	8%	15%	22%	54%	45%	3%	38%	22%	9%
Non-residential	15%	16%	22%	47%	42%	3%	41%	19%	10%
Residential	14%	17%	22%	47%	57%	2%	54%	22%	9%

Annex 3: Specific needs at individual level

		Share of individuals reporting a specific need			
	With any disability	With a temporary illness	With a chronic disease	With a serious medical condition	Needs support in daily activities
Total	5.5%	15.2%	14.3%	0.6%	5.9%
Governorate					
Akkar	6.1%	7.8%	11.6%	0.6%	7.6%
Baalbek-El Hermel	4.9%	15.7%	17.7%	0.3%	3.4%
Beirut	7.9%	12.2%	9.9%	1.1%	8.0%
Bekaa	4.7%	26.2%	18.4%	0.1%	5.1%
El Nabatieh	3.7%	14.4%	12.8%	0.6%	5.5%
Mount Lebanon	6.2%	13.2%	11.3%	1.2%	7.4%
North	6.0%	9.5%	15.6%	0.7%	4.7%
South	4.4%	15.6%	13.6%	0.4%	7.5%
Gender					
Female	4.1%	15.0%	14.8%	0.6%	4.7%
Male	7.0%	15.5%	13.8%	0.7%	7.9%
Shelter type					
Non-permanent shelter	5.3%	19.7%	15.9%	0.4%	6.4%
Non-residential	5.0%	13.9%	13.0%	0.7%	6.9%
Residential	5.6%	14.1%	14.0%	0.7%	5.6%