



Inter-Agency
Coordination
Lebanon



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency



World Food
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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

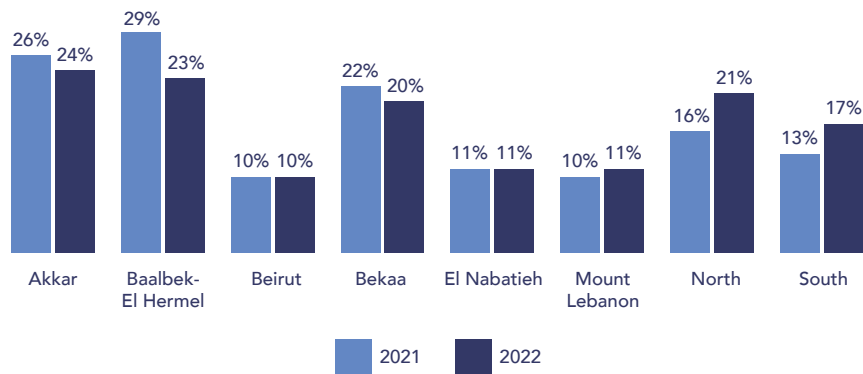
female, an additional 37 per cent were male and female household members answering together,³ and the remaining respondents (26 per cent) were male. It should be noted that in many cases, women are not considered as heads of households unless no adult male is living permanently in the household, as the 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

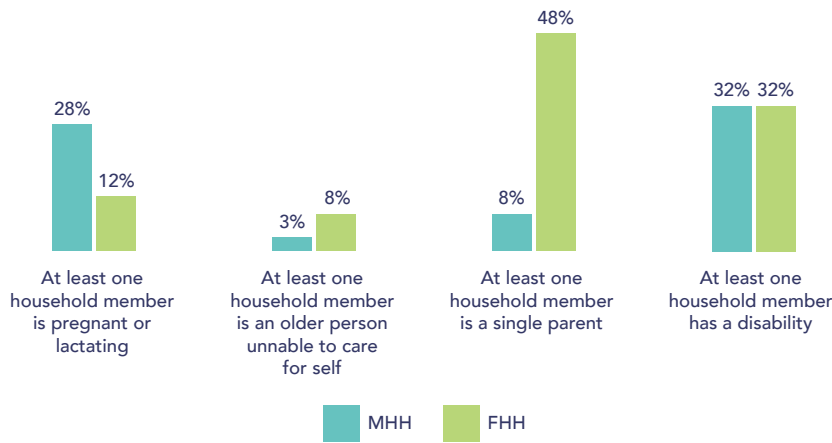


Household size and composition among male- and female-headed Syrian families have seen little change over the past four years. Since 2019, FHH have been smaller than MHH on average, and MHH have more frequently included young children. In 2022, MHH consisted of 5.2 people on average compared with FHH 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.

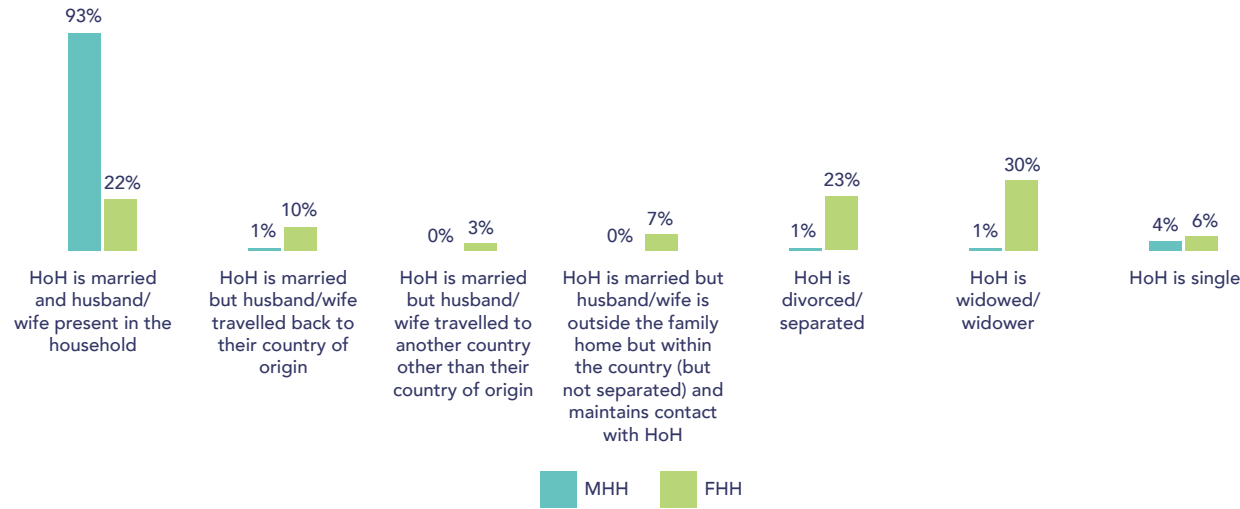
³ It is worth noting that even when men and women answer the questionnaire together, male bias may persist due to prevailing cultural norms.
⁴ World Bank, "Metadata glossary: Female headed households (% of households with a female head)" (no date). Available from <https://databank.worldbank.org/metadata/glossary/gender-statistics/series/SP.HOU.FEMA.ZS>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

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



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

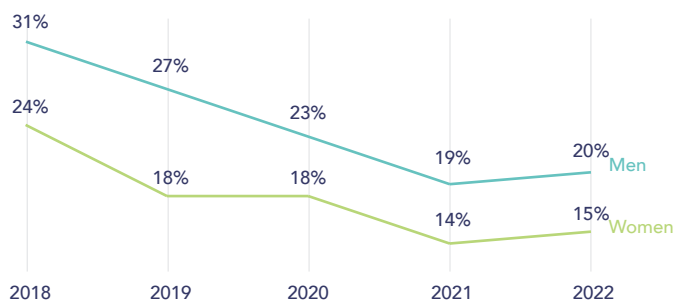


PROTECTION

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.

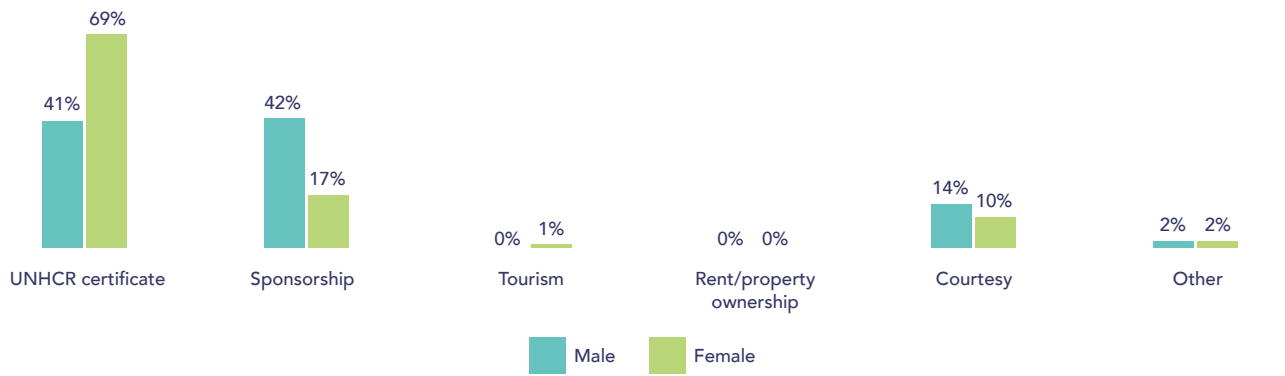
Figure 4: Rates of Syrian refugee men’s and women’s legal residency since 2018



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 labour⁶ 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.

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

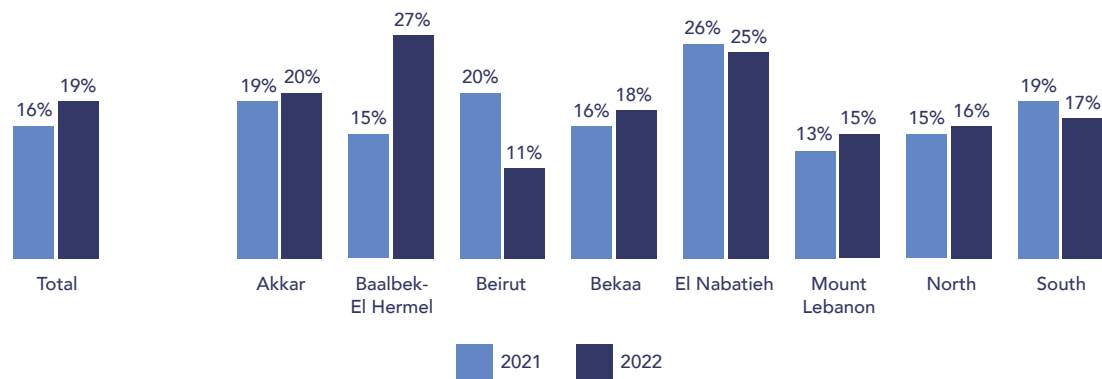
Similarly to 2021, findings show that Syrians were surviving the economic crisis by taking on debt, and MHH in particular owed very high amounts. Almost all (94 per cent) households owed at least some debt, with no gender difference. More than half (56 per cent) of households owed more than 5,000,000 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



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

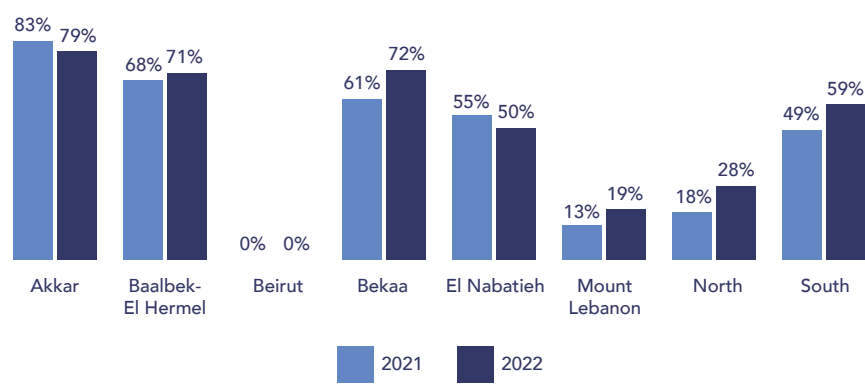
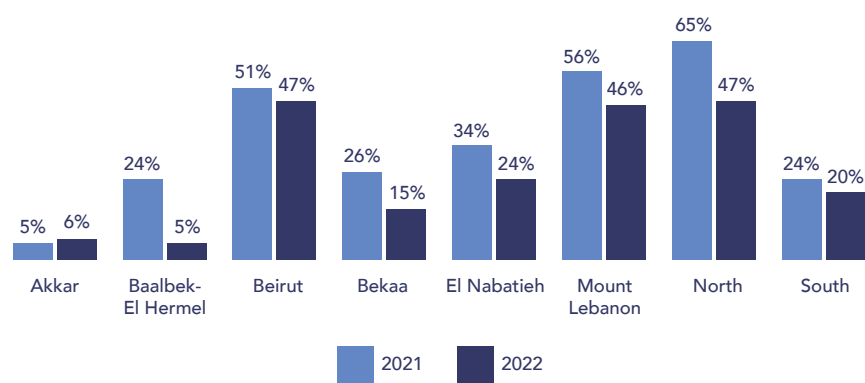


Figure 8: Syrian refugee women employed in services 2021–2022, by governorate



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.

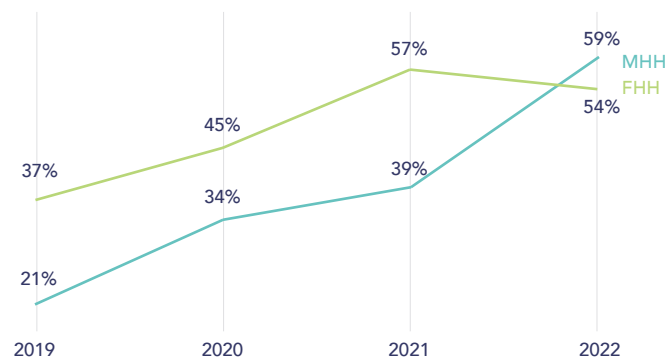
Table 2: Per capita monthly income for all Syrian refugee households, 2019–2022

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



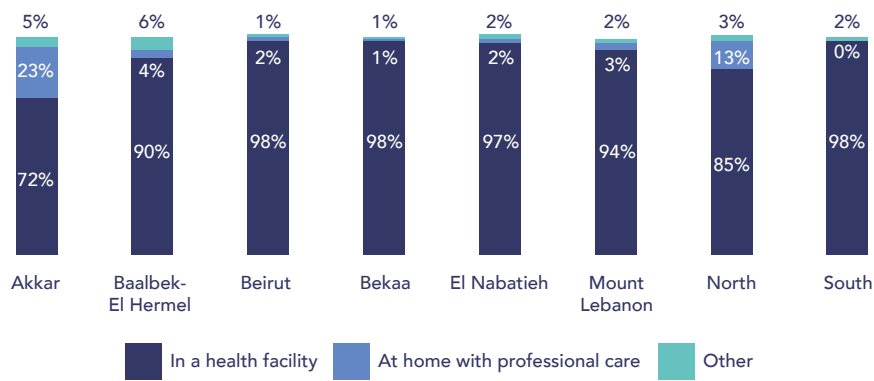
HEALTH

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

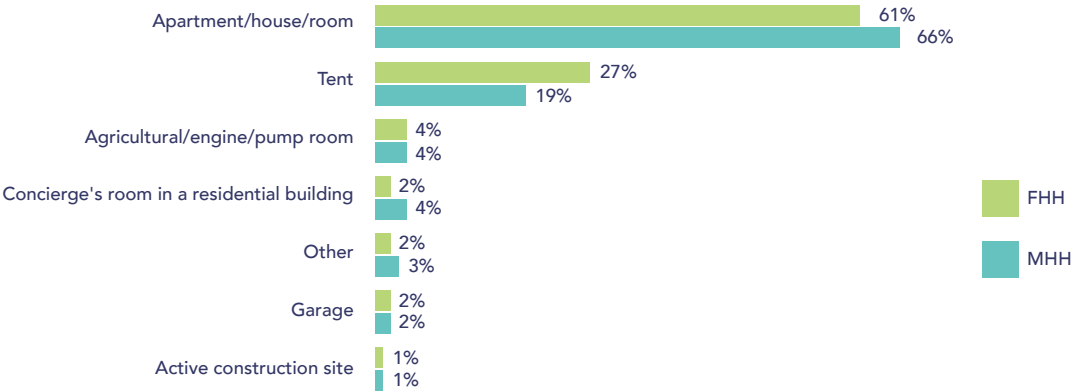
High concentrations of women and FHH remain in substandard, non-permanent informal settlements in Bekaa and Baalbek-El Hermel governorates. The number of FHH living in such shelter types increased between 2019 and 2021, but fell in 2022. This is possibly due to FHH being evicted or leaving their shelters, 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



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

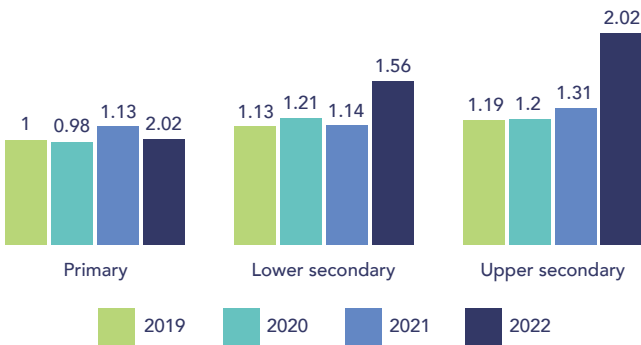
lower access to this source than MHH (35 per cent). However, fewer MHH (71 per cent) reported there was a water source available when they needed it than FHH (80 per cent). There were no major gender differences in use and main types of unimproved water sources, availability of drinking water, the sufficiency 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

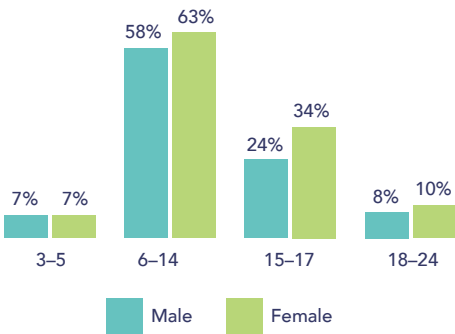
Consistent with findings in 2020 and 2021, about half (53 per cent) of Syrian children aged 6–17 were in school during the 2020/2021 school year, with no difference between children with and without disabilities. The gender parity index⁷ indicated an even ratio of girls and boys in primary school, while 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

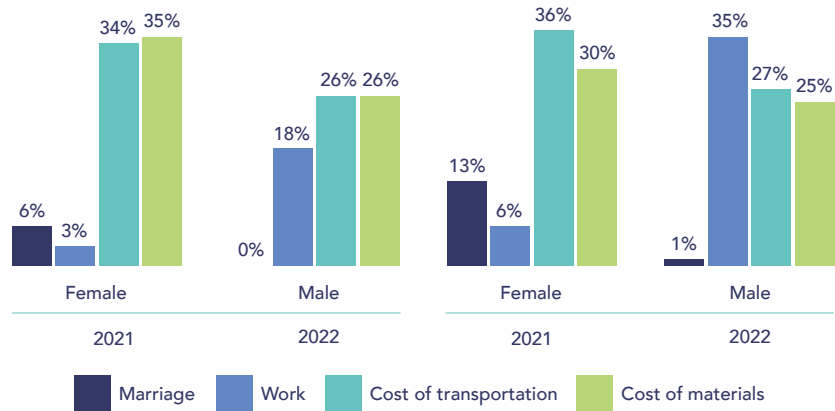


⁷ The gender parity index is the number of girls enrolled in school over the number of boys enrolled in school. If the gender parity index is over 1, it means that school enrollment is higher for girls than boys.

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

