

# ASSISTANCE AND HOUSEHOLD ASSETS

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Vulnerable Syrian refugees in Lebanon receive two main types of assistance aimed to cover their basic needs: cash assistance and in-kind support. Refugees can withdraw cash from any ATM and access goods through the local market. By receiving cash assistance, refugee families can prioritize their purchases according to their needs in a dignified manner. The most vulnerable refugee families continue to have access to in-kind assistance in the form of core relief item distribution, depending on their specific needs. The VASyR survey examines whether families are recipients of cash assistance and assesses their access to household assets.

- **Just under half of families reported that they were receiving some form of cash assistance** through an ATM card. In-kind assistance was less common with 6% reporting to have received food in-kind.
- **The percentage of households that have access to all basic assets has slightly increased over the years to 58% in 2019**, compared to 55% in 2018 and 52% in 2017. Very few (4%) households had access to all medium assets and no households had all extended assets.

## ASSISTANCE PROVISION

Three main types of cash assistance were distributed to Syrian refugees throughout 2019.

**1. Multi-purpose cash (MPC/MCAP) assistance.** Recipients of multipurpose cash assistance receive a US\$ 175 monthly cash transfer redeemable at ATMs across the country. Nationally, some 59,000 families were assisted with multi-purpose cash<sup>1</sup>. UNHCR and WFP continue meeting basic needs of 33,000 and 23,000 families respectively. Families that receive multi-purpose cash assistance also receive cash for food at the value of US\$ 27/person.

**2. WFP Cash for food assistance.** Recipients of Cash for food assistance receive a US\$ 27/person monthly cash transfer redeemable at any ATM and at any WFP contracted shop across the country. Approximately 33,360 families were assisted with this type of food assistance.

**3. Cash for winter needs<sup>2</sup>.** In the 2018/2019 winter season, Basic Assistance sector partners provided cash assistance to 175,000 families, which provided additional means to meet their needs brought about by winter. Almost 900,000 refugees received a one-off unrestricted cash lumpsum through ATM cards from UNHCR.

In addition to the above, other cash assistance programmes exist in Lebanon targeting groups of families with specific needs and protection risks. These include protection and emergency cash programmes.

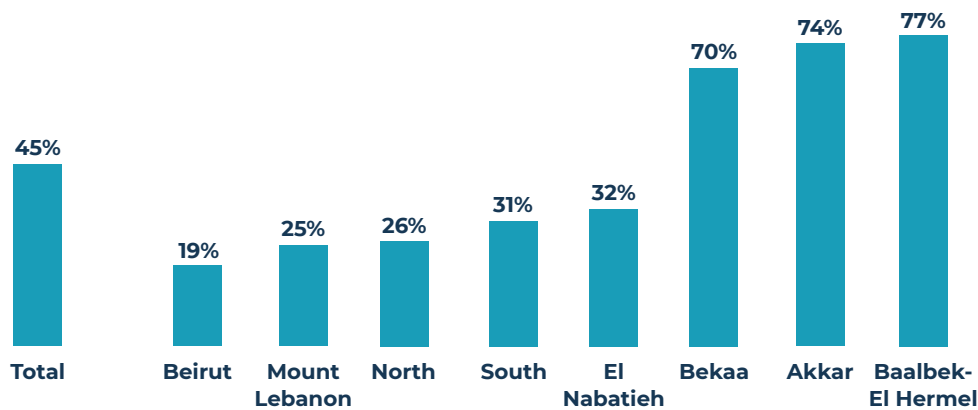
Just under half (45%) of families reported they were in possession of an ATM card and were currently receiving some form of cash assistance. The highest proportions were in Baalbek- El Hermel, Akkar and Bekaa where about three quarters of families reported having cash cards. The lowest percentage of families holding ATM cards were in Beirut and Mount Lebanon. There was a slightly larger proportion of women-headed households that reported having a cash card (58% compared to 42% among men-headed households).

<sup>1</sup> Basic Assistance Sector 2019 Mid-year Update:

<https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/71750>

<sup>2</sup> Includes direct cash transfers and fuel vouchers.

Figure 1: Proportion of families that reported having a card through which they currently receive cash assistance



Of the total population, one quarter reported having a card that could be used at an ATM for cash withdrawal while a slightly higher proportion (29%) reported being able to use their card at stores to buy food. A larger proportion of women-headed households reported receiving cash for food assistance, compared to men-headed households (41% versus 27%).

In-kind assistance was much less common with only 6% of families reporting that they had recently received in-kind food assistance. Receiving technical skills training and educational training were much less common with only 1% and 4% respectively.

HOUSEHOLD ASSETS

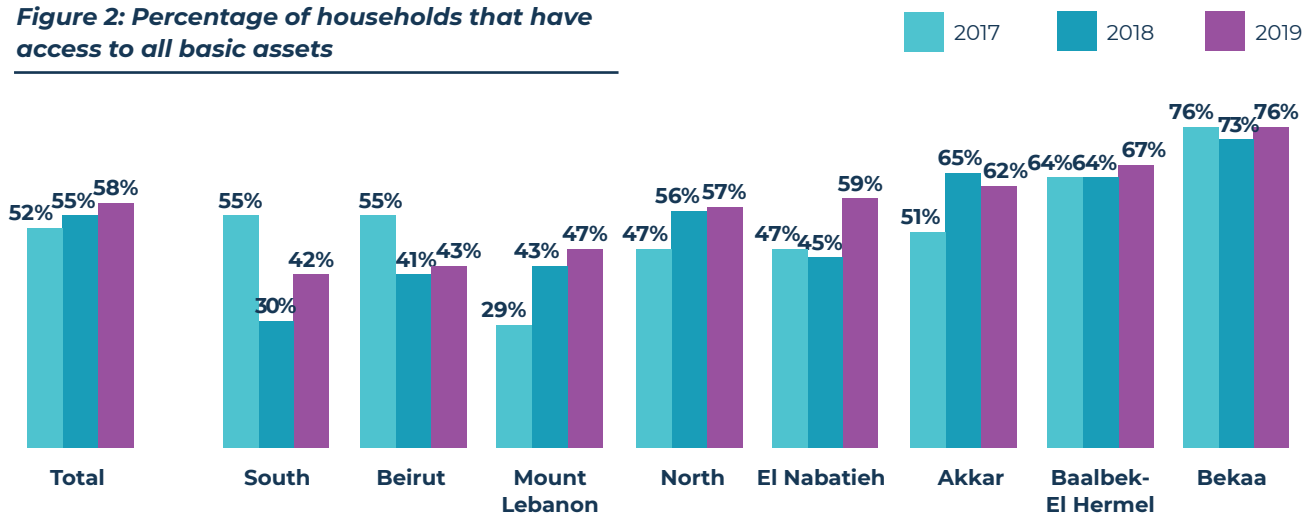
The VASyR assesses households' access to key household assets. Access refers to the ability of refugees to use the asset but does not necessarily imply that they are owned; the assets could be rented, borrowed or shared with another household. Assets that are present at the refugees' homes at the time of the interview are examined by enumerators to ensure that they are in working condition.

Household assets are classified into three categories: basic assets, medium assets, and extended assets as per the table below.

Basic assets	Mattresses, blankets, winter clothes, gas stoves, heaters
Medium assets	Water heaters, beds, tables, chairs, refrigerators, washing machines
Extended assets	Electric ovens, microwaves, dishwashers, central heating, air conditioning, sewing machines, DVD players, computers, mobile phones, internet, motorcycles, cars

The percentage of households that have access to all basic assets has slightly increased over the years to 58% in 2019, compared to 55% in 2018 and 52% in 2017. This increase is most pronounced in Mount Lebanon, but also in El Nabatieh, Akkar and North. Very few (4%) households had access to all medium assets and no households had all extended assets.

Figure 2: Percentage of households that have access to all basic assets



LEVEL OF OWNERSHIP

- **High ownership:** Asset owned by more than 75% of households
- **Medium ownership:** Asset owned by 45-74% of households
- **Low ownership:** Asset owned by 10-44% of households
- **Very low ownership:** Asset owned by less than 10% of households

As in previous years, basic assets all have high ownership levels with more than three quarters of families having access to these items. Heaters and winter clothes are also owned by over 75% of household. Ownership of larger appliances such as refrigerators, TVs, washing machines, water heaters and containers was less common. Fewer households reported having enough beds (11%) or tables and chairs (18%). Ownership of transportation vehicles was also very low with 5% owning motorcycles and only 1% owning a car, van or truck.

High ownership	
Mattresses	88%
Kitchen utensils & cutlery sets	88%
Blankets	87%
Mobile phones	84%
Small gas stoves for cooking	82%
Pots and pans	81%
Heaters	78%
Winter clothes	77%
Medium ownership	
TVs	72%
Refrigerators	68%
Washing machines	60%
Water containers	59%
Satellite dishes	51%
Internet	51%
Water heaters	43%
Low ownership	
Tables and chairs	18%
Beds	11%
Very low ownership	
Ovens	9%
Motorcycles	5%
Sewing machines	3%
Microwaves	2%
Vacuum cleaners	2%
DVD players	2%
Dryers	1%
Dish washers	1%
Separate freezers	1%
Air conditioning	1%
Computers	1%
Cars/vans/trucks	1%