

VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT

OF SYRIAN REFUGEES IN LEBANON
2016



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- UNICEF is a leading humanitarian and development agency working globally for the rights of every child.
- UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, is a global organisation dedicated to saving lives, protecting rights and building a better future for refugees, forcibly displaced communities and stateless people.
- WFP is the world’s largest humanitarian agency fighting hunger worldwide.

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CONTENTS

List of Figures	iii
List of Tables	v
List of Maps	vi
Acronyms	vii
Executive Summary	1
Introduction: Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon	5
Methodology	6
Demographics	9
Protection	15
Shelter	19
Water, Hygiene, Solid Waste, Energy	24
Education	27
Health	32
Food Consumption	35
Infant and Young Child Feeding Practices	43
Economic Vulnerability	46
Livelihoods And Income	54
Coping Strategies	62
Food Security	67
Assistance And Household Assets	75
Focus Group Discussions	80
Conclusions	82
Recommendations	84
Annexes	86

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1. Share of households by size (number of members per household)	9
Figure 2. Household composition, 2013-2016	10
Figure 3. Share of households with young children by governorate	10
Figure 4. Distribution of households with one member by governorate	10
Figure 5. Age distribution by gender	11
Figure 6. Education level of household head	11
Figure 7. Distribution of households with at least one member reporting a specific need (2015-2016)	12
Figure 8. Share of households with three or more members with a specific need	13
Figure 9. Distribution of households by arrival period	13
Figure 10. Share of households experiencing insecurities by type of insecurity and sex of the head of household	15
Figure 11. Distribution of households by factors driving community tensions	16
Figure 12. Share of households reporting competition for jobs as the driving factor behind community tensions in selected districts	16
Figure 13. Factors for considering moving to a third country other than Syria and Lebanon (percent of households)	16
Figure 14. Factors for considering return to Syria (percentage of households)	17
Figure 15. School attendance rates by age group and disability status	17
Figure 16. Distribution of households by preference of social media	18
Figure 17. Distribution of households by frequency of internet use	18
Figure 18. Share of households by type of shelter	19
Figure 19. Average rental cost per month by governorate (US\$)	21
Figure 20. Share of households by main source of drinking water	24
Figure 21. Distribution of households by main source of drinking water and shelter type	24
Figure 22. Comparison of access to hygiene items in selected districts	25
Figure 23. Share of households by energy source	26
Figure 24. Average daily electricity supply (combined public grid and generator) by governorate (hours)	26
Figure 25. Primary school attendance ratio	27
Figure 26. Secondary school attendance ratio	28
Figure 27. Percentage of children out of school	29
Figure 28. Distribution of children of primary school age who are out of school by governorate	30
Figure 29. Distribution of children of secondary school age who are out of school by governorate	30
Figure 30. Percentage of school age children out of school by age and sex	31
Figure 31. Reasons for children not receiving formal education by age group	31
Figure 32. Distribution of households that required primary health services but did not have access (selected districts)	32
Figure 33. Distribution of sick children 0-59 months old, by governorate	32
Figure 34. Prevalence of GAM by gender - 2016 vs 2013	33
Figure 35. Prevalence of stunting by gender - 2016 vs 2013	34
Figure 36. Number of meals consumed by adults per day by district	36
Figure 37. Number of meals consumed by children per day by district	36
Figure 38. Households with poor and borderline food consumption 2015 and 2016 by district	37
Figure 39. Household weekly dietary diversity by district	39
Figure 40. Household Daily Diet Diversity groups by district 2015-2016	40

Figure 41. Weekly frequency consumption of food groups by food consumption categories	41
Figure 42. Proportion of households by consumption frequency categories of main food groups	41
Figure 43. Number of days food groups were consumed	42
Figure 44. IYCF practices by food group and total 2015-2016	44
Figure 45. Proportion of children consuming different food groups the previous day by age group 2015-2016	44
Figure 46. Per capita monthly expenditures	46
Figure 47. Average composition of household expenditure	47
Figure 48. Average monthly main expenditure shares by category and district	47
Figure 49. Estimated per capita value of purchased and non-purchased food consumed in the past 30 days, by district	49
Figure 50. Percentage of households by Minimum and Survival Expenditure Basket categories by district	50
Figure 51. Household average debt and amounts owed by district	52
Figure 52. Share of households which borrowed money to pay for health expenses, by district	53
Figure 53. Percentage of individuals who worked in the 30 days prior to the survey by district	54
Figure 54. Percentage of men and women working in the 30 days prior to the survey by district	55
Figure 55. Average number of working days in the month prior to the survey by district	55
Figure 56. Type of work by age group and gender	56
Figure 57. Average earning in US\$ per month by male and female and average number of days worked	57
Figure 58. Number of dependents per working adult, share of households by district	58
Figure 59. Households with at least one working member and a member searching for work, by district	59
Figure 60. Household monthly per capita income (US\$) by district	60
Figure 61. Cash and income sources reported by households with working members	61
Figure 62. Households reporting food-related coping strategies	62
Figure 63. Households adopting food-related coping strategies by district	63
Figure 64. Households reporting asset depletion coping strategies	64
Figure 65. ADCS categories in 2015 and 2016	65
Figure 66. Food security trends 2013-2016	68
Figure 67. Food consumption trends 2013-2016	70
Figure 68. Trends in coping strategies 2013-2016	70
Figure 69. Economic vulnerability indicators by food security	72
Figure 70. Most common income sources by food security	72
Figure 71. Share of families by type of cash assistance and vulnerability status	76
Figure 72. Share of households that own all basic assets in selected districts	78
Figure 73. Share of households by asset owned and type of dwelling	79

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1. Operational areas by partner	7
Table 2. Cases in the surveyed sample	8
Table 3. Distribution of children under age 5 by age group and gender	12
Table 4. Distribution of members with specific needs by gender	12
Table 5. Share of households with specific needs by governorate	13
Table 6. Reason for moving by mobility status	23
Table 7. HWDD and HDADD groups in 2015 and 2016	39
Table 8. Asset depletion categories	65
Table 9. Food security classification (thresholds and point scale)	67
Table 10. Food security categories (descriptions)	67
Table 11. Key food security and economic vulnerability indicators by district	74
Table 12. Share of households receiving in-kind assistance (over the last year) by type and governorate	77
Table 13. Share of households by asset owned	78

LIST OF MAPS

Map 1. Percentage of households living in residential buildings	20
Map 2. Average rental cost (US) per district among households renting	22
Map 3. Households with poor and borderline food consumption	38
Map 4. Syrian refugee households allocating over 65% of their expenditures on food	48
Map 5. Percentage of household below poverty line	51
Map 6. Percentage of households reporting crisis and emergency coping strategies	66
Map 7. Percentage of moderate and severe food insecurity 2016	69

ACRONYMS

ADCS	Asset Depletion Coping Strategies
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FCS	Food Consumption Score
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FS	Food Security
HDADD	Household Daily Average Diet Diversity
HH	Household
HWDD	Household Weekly Diet Diversity
IYCF	Infant and Young Child Feeding
LCRP	Lebanon Crisis Response Plan
MEB	Minimum Expenditure Basket
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
ODK	Open Data Kit
RAIS	Refugee Assistance Information System
SMEB	Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
Vit A	Vitamin A
VASyR	Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees
WASH	Water Sanitation and Hygiene
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The crisis in Syria is well into its sixth year, and Lebanon continues to host over one million Syrian refugees. As of August 31, 2016, US\$ 980 million had been injected into the *Lebanon Crisis Response Plan 2016 (LCRP)* designed by the Government of Lebanon and partners, slowing a further slide into poverty for most refugees. This targeted humanitarian assistance has been critical to sustaining the refugee population and easing the strain on the host community. It is, however, less than half of the US\$ 2.48 billion requested to ensure the well-being of refugees. The situation of Syrian refugees in Lebanon remains highly precarious, as shown in this year's vulnerability assessment.

The 2016 Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees (VASyR) surveyed a representative sample of Syrian refugee households in Lebanon to identify changes and trends in their situation. The assessment continues to provide valuable insight into refugees' living conditions, from the size of their families to the shelter they live in, to their economic vulnerability and food insecurity. Throughout this report, refugees' own viewpoints offer a crucial glimpse into the strategies they deploy to survive and their own perceptions of their situation and the assistance they receive.

Since 2013, the VASyR has been an essential process and partnership for shaping planning decisions and programme design. It is the cornerstone for support and intervention in Lebanon. As in previous years, humanitarian agencies have already incorporated VASyR findings into their programming and recommendations, including the 2017 LCRP.

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 World Food Programme (WFP), demonstrate that economic vulnerability is, at best, as serious as last year. Over one third of refugees are moderately to severely food insecure, an increase of twelve percentage points compared to 2015. Families have exhausted their limited resources, and are having to adapt to survive on the bare minimum. Refugees continue to rely on harmful coping mechanisms to get by.

Methodology

Between May 23 and June 4, 2016, the survey team visited 4,596 Syrian refugee households randomly selected from 26 districts across Lebanon.

The population was stratified by district to allow district and governorate level analysis. The household questionnaire was designed based on the questionnaire of the previous year to ensure comparability. Qualitative information was gathered through focus group discussions conducted in each governorate.

Key Findings

Residency

Only one in five households reported that all members held legal residency permits, a continuing decline from 28% in 2015 and 58% in 2014. In addition, the share of households in which no member has a residency permit grew by half, to 29%. Renewal of residency permits emerged as a key concern during focus group discussions with Syrian refugees in Lebanon. Refugees expressed that they felt the lack of residency prevented them from moving freely in search of job opportunities, as male adults in particular fear arrest at check points. Some refugees also reported difficulties in registering their children for school without residency papers, although this is not a requirement from the Ministry of Education and Higher Education.

Education

Syrian children face challenges in formal education. Among the surveyed children of primary school age (6 to 14 years), 48% were found to be out of school, with the highest rate of out-of-school children found in the Bekaa (70% not attending) and the lowest in the South (32% not attending). These rates are significantly higher among children of secondary school age (15 to 17 years): 84% of children of this age group are out of school.

In general, the most reported demand-related barriers were the cost of education, child labour, child marriage, the need to stay at home, cultural reasons and transportation costs. Supply-side barriers reported included: the school did not allow enrolment, there was no school in the area, there was no space in the school, there was violence at school or there were language/curriculum difficulties.

Pervasive Poverty

The injection of much-needed assistance was able to halt the sharp decline into poverty that was observed between 2014 and 2015. The share of households living below the poverty line remains, however, at an alarming 71%. More than half of refugee households have a total per capita expenditure that falls below the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB), a measure of items deemed essential for a household's survival. While this figure stabilized at a national level, not all districts fared equally, and the share of households in the SMEB category increased by more than 50% in certain districts.

In addition, households are increasingly adopting coping strategies that deplete assets, negatively affect the households' livelihoods, and very often are irreversible, such as selling household goods, productive assets, or housing or land held in Syria. Households are increasingly incurring debt in order to buy food, cover health expenses and pay for rent. The share of households borrowing money or receiving credit climbed to 90%, households have an average debt of US\$ 857, and 44% of households reported holding debt of US\$ 600 or more.

Some households were also resorting to involving children in income-generating activities. While few households (3%) reported children under the age of 15 working, the picture was markedly different for adolescents aged 15-17, of whom 18% were reported to be working. In some districts, the share of working adolescents reached roughly one third.

"The economic plight of Syrian refugees did not deteriorate as severely as last year, but we know that this is due to the oxygen of external help. The situation would be even more dire without the aid received to date. Syrian refugees in Lebanon are still caught in a debt trap, while remaining highly reliant on humanitarian assistance."

– Mireille Girard, UNHCR Representative in Lebanon

Food Insecurity

Survey results show that 93% of the Syrian refugee population was estimated to have some degree of food insecurity, an increase of 4% compared to 2015. A closer look reveals that the share of refugee households that were moderately or severely food insecure jumped from 23% in 2015 to 36% in 2016. Almost three quarters of households employed coping strategies such as reducing essential expenditures on education

and health, selling productive assets, houses or land, taking children out of school, and sending children to work. These severe strategies often have a harmful effect on households, and can be irreversible.

Limited income sources remained one of the underlying causes of food insecurity. Thirty per cent of working-age men reported a lack of employment in the month prior to the survey, and for those who did work, underemployment was widespread. Restrictions on employment coupled with low wages are additional obstacles to earning sufficient income to meet basic needs without external assistance. Analysis of food insecure households revealed that they are more likely to depend on less-sustainable income sources such as informal credit and debt, and food vouchers.

Both adults and children were eating fewer meals per day, with adult consumption down to an average of 1.8 meals per adult per day. In addition, 32% of refugees were found to have unacceptable diets, meaning that they lack variety, quantity or both, of nutritious food. This is double the percentage of refugees with unacceptable diets in 2015. While households slightly increased the consumption of micronutrient rich foods such as vitamin A rich fruit and vegetables, meat and fish, the frequency of consumption of these foods remained insufficient for a healthy diet, and overall dietary diversity declined, posing health risks for both adults and children.

A reduction of WFP assistance throughout 2015 compounded food insecurity for Syrian refugees. Severe funding shortfalls in 2015 forced WFP to reduce its voucher value and limit the assistance amount per household. Generous donor contributions made in early 2016 provided a lifeline to Syrian refugees, but the study results show that the negative outcomes on food insecurity are yet to be fully reversed. While the WFP voucher value was fully reinstated in March 2016 and capping was lifted in May 2016, access to food remained a critical issue at the time of data collection, negatively impacting dietary diversity and food consumption outcomes, and exacerbating the harmful strategies utilized to cope with food shortages.

"The [2016] VASyR highlights that food security remains precarious... refugees are living on the edge and had suffered assistance cuts last year. However, thanks to generous contributions from governments this year, WFP is able to continue to provide food security, some stability and hope to up to 700,000 refugees with monthly food assistance."

– Dominik Heinrich, WFP Representative and Country Director in Lebanon

Persistent Vulnerability

Survey findings reveal that compared to the previous year, the situation of refugees has not deteriorated dramatically in terms of health, education, shelter, water, hygiene, solid waste and energy, thanks to the financial support of the international community and the careful programming of humanitarian operations. Unfortunately, refugees remained at a point where not all basic needs are met and households are susceptible to shocks. Forty-two per cent of households have dwellings that do not meet minimum humanitarian standards. Sixteen per cent of households reported not being able to access needed health care, with significant pockets of households without access in certain districts.

Children remain especially vulnerable. Nearly half of primary-school age children are out of school. A lack of dietary diversity puts children in particular at risk for life-threatening illnesses including infections, measles, and those causing diarrhoea. Feeding practices for infants and young children continue to be a special cause for concern. Common illnesses were widespread, with 41% of children sick in the two weeks preceding the survey.

Seventeen per cent of the Syrian refugee households sampled were headed by women, and for nearly every indicator of vulnerability, female-headed households fared worse than their male counterparts. Female-headed households were more food insecure than male-headed households, had a worse diet, adopted severe coping strategies more often, and allocated a higher share of their expenses to buy food. Households headed by females were also poorer than households headed by males, but less indebted.

Children and Youth with Disabilities

Approximately 2% of children under 18 years and 3% of youth between the ages of 18 and 24 were reported to have disabilities (physical, sensory, mental/intellectual). We can estimate that on average, approximately 7% of the households have a child or young person with disability. School attendance rates are consistently lower for children with disabilities across all age groups. The differences are most prominent among the age groups 9-11 and 12-14. For children aged 12 and older, 9 out of 10 children with disabilities do not attend school.

Community Relations

Focus group discussions revealed that community tensions and security have been mitigated, likely as a result of international support also for host communities and efforts by local and national political leaders to diffuse such tensions. Around 60% of households cited fair relations with the local community, and less than 10% reported poor community relations. Few households (3%) reported experiencing any insecurity in the previous three months.

Recommendations

Overall, maintenance of a robust response and tailored programming is required to keep Syrian refugees afloat. In particular, additional funding is required to halt any further deterioration of what is already a very precarious situation.

- Finding ways to address the financial barrier for refugees to renew their residency and to access employment will facilitate self-reliance for refugees. Policies, measures and programmes oriented towards allowing refugees to generate income while protecting the Lebanese labour market and mitigating potential tensions with the host community are recommended.
- Food insecurity in Lebanon remains a serious concern. Although generous donor contributions made in early 2016 allowed a return to the full voucher value provided by WFP, slowing the pace of deterioration, additional funding is required to ensure and maintain food security for all Syrian refugees in Lebanon.
- Significant variations in household profiles were found at the district level, and targeting accordingly is essential to ensuring the most efficient use of funding. Systems to identify and recognize these pockets will ensure an appropriate and fair level of assistance to vulnerable households, regardless of their location.
- The geographic distribution of households with specific needs revealed regional and district-level variances that could benefit from further probing to identify possible epidemiological or hygiene concerns.
- The extended and continued inadequacy of infant and young child feeding practices remains a concern requiring more refined programming to ensure effective behavioural change of this persistent problem.

- Improved communication to beneficiaries could address some of the fears expressed by refugees and negative coping mechanisms identified through the survey and focus groups. Some are logistical questions (e.g., why does assistance stop and when is it available?, who to contact/where to go for assistance?), while others may require larger campaigns that address behavioural change (why and how to register births, what are appropriate infant and young child feeding practices, why and how to enroll and maintain children in school).
- Inclusionary approaches at the community level should continue in order to keep community tensions at bay.

“The findings are a reminder to all of us that a significant share of Syrian households in Lebanon are doing all they can with limited means...For those who have lived through the violence in Syria and endure hardship in the host country, health care, food, emotional support and education are simply vital.”

– Tanya Chapuisat, UNICEF Representative in Lebanon



INTRODUCTION

VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT OF SYRIAN REFUGEES IN LEBANON

Background and Rationale

The Syrian conflict is now in its sixth year. As of October 2016, the Government of Lebanon (GoL) estimated that the country hosts 1.5 million Syrians who have fled the conflict in Syria, of which 1.017 million are registered with UNHCR. The first Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees (VASyR) was conducted in 2013 in order to develop a better understanding of the living conditions of Syrian refugees in Lebanon. The assessment has been conducted annually since then, looking at results at a national, governorate and district level.

The VASyR provides information widely used by the humanitarian community for planning purposes and programme design. Valuable data was collected on the demographics of the refugee population, as well as on assistance, coping strategies, education, economic vulnerability, livelihoods, food consumption and security, health, protection, shelter, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). This data was then carefully analyzed, creating an invaluable snapshot of the context in which Syrian refugees in Lebanon live and the challenges they face.

This detailed analysis enables the humanitarian community to provide assistance using vulnerability-based targeting, and to regularly refine programming to ensure that funds are channeled where they are most needed, in a way that is sustainable, and without causing additional harm to the affected populations.

The results of VASyR 2015 revealed a considerable deterioration in the vulnerability situation of refugees compared to 2014. The donor community has since ramped up their support of Syrian refugees in Lebanon, and VASyR 2016 aimed at evaluating whether this deterioration continued, or if the vulnerability of Syrian refugees had stabilized or improved.

While the number of Syrian refugees in Lebanon has stabilized, they are equivalent to 25% of the Lebanese population, constituting the world's highest concentration of refugees per inhabitant.¹ Refugee households are constrained in their ability to cover basic needs without engaging in coping strategies that, with time and the exhaustion of savings and assets, become more severe and even irreversible. With the conflict in Syria ongoing and families struggling to

meet basic needs, Syrian refugees in Lebanon remain in a highly precarious position.

In this context, updated information on the refugee situation in Lebanon is essential to confirm or adjust the planning cycle and programming of humanitarian operations. This data helps refine targeting, since it can inform the profile of households in need of assistance and contributes to the analysis of the performance of eligibility criteria for different sectors, as well as improves the understanding of geographical differences in households' needs and vulnerabilities.

Objectives

The main objective of VASyR 2016 was to provide an updated multisectoral overview of the situation of Syrian refugees in Lebanon as follows:

1. Assess the food security and general vulnerability situation of the Syrian refugees in Lebanon one year after the last survey.
2. Estimate degree and types of vulnerability at the governorate and district level.
3. Update the vulnerability profile of the Syrian refugee population, to support targeting of the population in need.
4. Gather refugees' feedback on their current vulnerability situation and the impact of the assistance provided.

The study identifies, analyses and discusses the main changes in the living conditions of Syrian refugees in Lebanon compared to the previous year as well as longer-term trends, along with the leading factors of these changes (if any). It also estimates the different levels or types of vulnerability at the governorate and district levels, providing useful information for programme interventions. Lastly, the study draws conclusions and recommends steps forward.

The analysis for this report was carried out by three UN agencies. The World Food Programme (WFP) contributed the sections on economic vulnerability, livelihoods, food consumption, coping strategies, food security, and infant and young child feeding. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) contributed the sections on demographics, protection, shelter, health and basic assistance; and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) the sections on WASH, education, and child health and nutrition.

¹ In addition, Lebanon is host to 450,000 Palestinian refugees, and over 22,000 refugees from other countries, primarily Iraq. (UNRWA/November 2016 and UNHCR/September 2016)

METHODOLOGY

Population and sampling

The assessment surveyed 4,596 Syrian refugee households.² The interviewed households were composed of 22,983 individuals, out of which 4,561 were children under the age of five.

The population was stratified by district and governorate in order to obtain representative information at both geographical levels. Sample size per district was determined assuming a two stage cluster sampling methodology and according to the following statistical parameters:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 50% estimated prevalence▪ ±10% precision▪ 1.5 design effect▪ 5% error	Total: 165 households/ District * 30 Districts = 4,950 HH
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To ensure geographical representativeness, 30 clusters were selected per district following a random methodology proportional to refugee population size. In each cluster, six randomly selected households were visited.

In order to have representative information at the governorate level, additional clusters were selected in Beirut and Akkar, which are the only districts that are also governorates. All other governorates had more than one district to sample.

<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Number of districts = 26▪ + 2 additional cluster samples in Beirut▪ + 2 additional cluster samples in Akkar	Total: 30 cluster groups in 26 districts
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------

To estimate the number of clusters as well as households per cluster, the following assumptions were made, following statistical and operational considerations:

- Minimum 30 clusters per cluster group.
- One team per household visit, each team composed of four people: two to collect the household data and two to collect anthropometric measures for children under five years of age.
- Each day every team collected data in five to six households per cluster.

Operations

In the first stage, 30 clusters³ and four replacement clusters were randomly selected per cluster group, proportional to refugee population size. The population size per location considered for the cluster selection was the total number of Syrian refugees by mid-2016.

A total of 899 refugees with no specific residence were not considered in the random selection of clusters. In addition, 11 locations with 55,834 refugees, most of them in Aarsal, were removed for the random selection due to security and access restrictions (see Annex 1).

² As of June 30, 2016, there were 247,736 Syrian refugee households registered with UNHCR in Lebanon, according to UNHCR Daily Statistics.

³ Locations: villages, towns, neighborhoods

At the second stage, five to six households were randomly selected within each cluster. Replacement households within each cluster were identified. If it was not possible to survey the refugee households in the cluster initially selected, the geographically closest cluster was identified until surveys were complete for that cluster. Due to time constraints, five households were visited in odd-numbered clusters and six in even-numbered clusters, ensuring the representativeness of the sample per cluster group.

Organization of the operations was based on the following:

- 165 (households / cluster group) / 30 cluster / cluster group = 5.5 households /cluster
- One team (4 enumerators) / cluster / day = 5-6 households / day
- 2 enumerators to complete the questionnaire plus 2 enumerators to collect anthropometric measurements for children under 5 years of age
- 5-6 (households / day / team) = 30 cluster / district * 5-6 households / cluster = 165 households / district
- 30 (cluster/cluster group) * 30 cluster group = 900 clusters
- Three teams (12 enumerators) / district = 85 teams = 170 enumerators
- One supervisor / 6 teams = 12 supervisors

Data collection

The data was collected between May 23 and June 4, 2016, by 170 enumerators and 12 supervisors. Each supervisor was responsible for six teams on average. Data collection was monitored centrally by the information management unit to ensure all clusters were visited and in accordance with the plan.

Field data collection was undertaken by 12 partners. Table 1 shows the operational areas of each partner:

Table 1. Operational areas by partner

Name of Organization	Operational Area
<i>ACTED (Agence d'Aide à la Coopération Technique et au Développement)</i>	<i>Aley, Beirut</i>
<i>Beyond</i>	<i>Beirut</i>
<i>CARE</i>	<i>Chouf</i>
<i>Caritas</i>	<i>Akkar, Batroun, Bcharre, Jezzine, Koura</i>
<i>Intersos</i>	<i>Rachaya, West Bekaa</i>
<i>IRC (International Rescue Committee)</i>	<i>Akkar, Hermel</i>
<i>Makhzoumi Foundation</i>	<i>Baabda</i>
<i>PU-AMI (Première Urgence – Aide Médicale Internationale)</i>	<i>Baabda, Meten, Jbeil, Kerswane, Saida</i>
<i>Save the Children</i>	<i>Akkar</i>
<i>SHIELD (Social, Humanitarian, Economical Intervention for Local Development)</i>	<i>Bent Jbeil, Nabatieh</i>
<i>Solidarités International</i>	<i>Minieh Dannieh, Tripoli</i>
<i>World Vision International</i>	<i>Baalbek, Hasbaya, Jezzine, Marjaayoun, Nabatieh, Tyre, West Bekaa, Zahle</i>

International Orthodox Christian Charities collected the anthropometric measures for children under five years of age across the country.

The data collected was registered by electronic devices using Open Data Kit (ODK) software and uploaded automatically on UNHCR’s Refugee Assistance Information System (RAIS) platform. The ODK form is available for download at <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/download.php?id=12425>.

Teams made appointments with the interviewees the day before the visit in order to reduce the risk of “preparation” by the household prior to the visit and therefore minimize bias.

Questionnaire

The questionnaire included information at the household level, for individuals and for children below five.

The questionnaire was based on the 2015 VASyR questionnaire to ensure comparability, and the 2015 food and cash targeting questionnaire. It was designed to take approximately one hour and covered multisectoral indicators. It included key information on household demographics, arrival profile, registration, protection, shelter, WASH, assets, health, education, security, livelihoods, expenditures, food consumption, coping strategies, debts, assistance and a module on child health, feeding practices and nutrition. A field test was conducted in advance of the survey roll-out to ensure its feasibility. The household questionnaire is available for download at <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/download.php?id=12424>.

Data analysis

Data was cleaned and weights were assigned to each cluster group according to the population of refugees in the region and in country.

Data analysis included the following:

- Calculation of indirect indicators such as the dependency ratio, crowding index, food consumption score, and coping strategies classification, among others.
- Descriptive statistics of direct and indirect indicators to provide a general characterization of the refugee population.
- Comparison of main indicators among districts.
- Statistical software used was SPSS 20.0.

Table 2. Cases in the surveyed sample

Households	Individuals	Children below <= 5	Children 6-17	Working age adults 18-65
4,596	22,983	4,561	7,904	10,320

Limitations

Although it varied by region and area, there was generally a higher rate of households which had been unreachable. Most cases were because: no one answered the phone after several attempts (29%); the family had moved to another area (21%); or the phone number was no longer valid (18%).

Out of the initial sampling list in total, 4,596 were visited. Four hundred and twenty-seven visited households (roughly 10%) were from the replacement lists. This replacement may have introduced a bias towards those households with less geographical movement and/or households who managed to keep their phone number.

In the district of Hasbaya, less than 20% of the assigned households were surveyed due to the lack of permission from authorities to conduct the questionnaire, limiting the representativeness of the survey. Data from Hasbaya was included in the analysis at the governorate level, but excluded from district-level analysis.⁴

The exclusion of 11 locations (55,834 refugees) for access difficulties may also have introduced a gap in the data, especially given that these locations can also be places where it is difficult for assistance to reach.

It continues to be a challenge to define a household in the Lebanon refugee context. Refugee family members constitute new household units in Lebanon that were often living independently in their country of origin. In other cases, family members may share roof and food, but function as separate household units, each with their own budget managed by different household heads.

Qualitative data

Qualitative data was also collected for the VASyR through focus group discussions (FGDs). Two clusters were randomly selected in each governorate for conducting FGDs, then two FGDs were conducted in each cluster: one with females and one with males. In total, 32 FGDs were conducted (16 with males and 16 with females).

⁴ While there are 26 districts in Lebanon, when the report refers to 25 districts it is because Hasbaya has been excluded.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Household Size and Composition

The average refugee household was comprised of 5.1 members: 2.2 adults (18-59), 1.5 children aged 6 to 17, 1.1 children aged five years and below, and 0.1 older people (60 and above). Household size decreased by 0.2 members since 2015, to 5.1. This confirmed an earlier trend that has continued over the past three years, with households moving ever closer to a nuclear composition. The female to male ratio was 1.05 with no significant geographical differences, a notable decrease from 1.3 in 2015.

Less than half of the households consisted of four members or less—in the majority of cases two parents and two children—while around one third of households included five to six members, and 23% of households consisted of seven members or more.

At the governorate level, the highest average household size was reported in Baalbek-Hermel and Nabatieh (5.36), and the lowest in Beirut (3.75).

The percentage of 25 to 34-year-old individuals varied significantly across governorates, indicating a probable movement toward regions with higher job opportunities. The share of 25 to 34-year-old individuals was highest in the central coastal districts of Beirut (21%), Jbeil (21%) and Kesrwan (20%), and lowest in the Bekaa districts of Baalbek (13%) and Zahle (14%).

There were significantly more single-member households reported in Beirut (34%) as compared to rural areas such as Baalbek-Hermel (3%). More than three-quarters (78%) of these single-member households consisted of males. This data seems to indicate that young men move to the central coastal districts to find work. Indeed, Beirut is the only governorate where the

share of males exceeded that of females: 52% males compared to the national average of 49%.

Seventeen per cent of households were headed by females, compared to 19% in 2015. The share of female-headed households was lowest in Mount Lebanon (10%) and highest in the Bekaa (27%). A significant share of female-headed households (20%) was also reported in Beirut. In the vast majority of female-headed households (85%), the head was married but without her spouse, while 3% were headed by a divorced/separated woman, and another 3% headed by a widow.

The average age of the head of household was 38, compared to 39 the previous year. Only 1% of the sampled households were headed by children 15 to 17 years of age. Meanwhile, 3% of households were headed by individuals 60 or older, with a higher prevalence in Akkar and the Bekaa (5%).

Around three-quarters (76%) of adults were married and 20% were single (the remainder either engaged or divorced). Two per cent of girls aged 13 to 14 were married, but the share of married minors quickly rose as girls get older: 6% of 15-year-olds, 17% of 16-year-olds and 30% of 17-year-olds were married. Only 1% of boys aged 13-17 were married.

Twenty-seven per cent of all households had children younger than two, and almost half had children between the ages of two and four. Twenty-six per cent of households had children aged 12-14 years, and 23% had children between the ages of 15 and 17. Finally, 12% of households reported having a member aged 60 or older. This share was higher in female-headed households: (14% versus 11% in male-headed households).



Figure 1. Share of households by size (number of members per household)

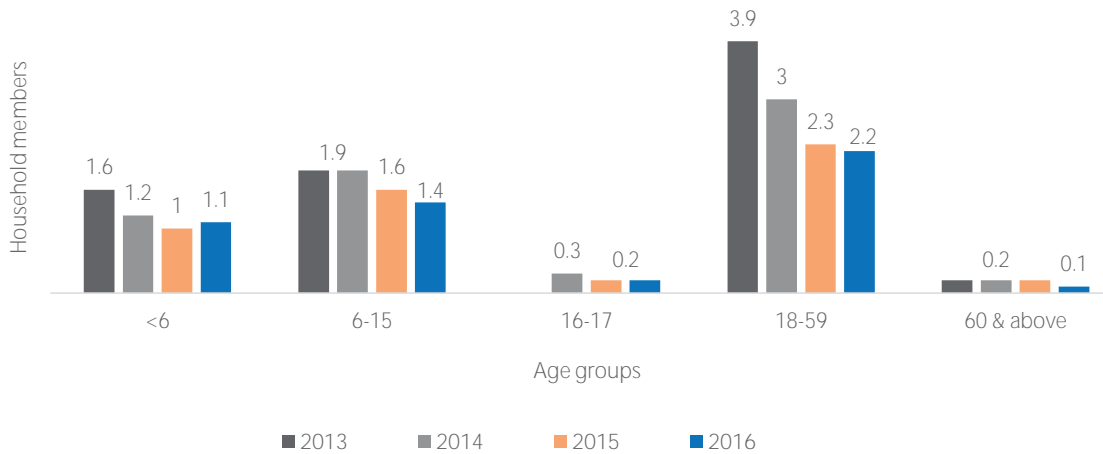


Figure 2. Household composition, 2013-2016

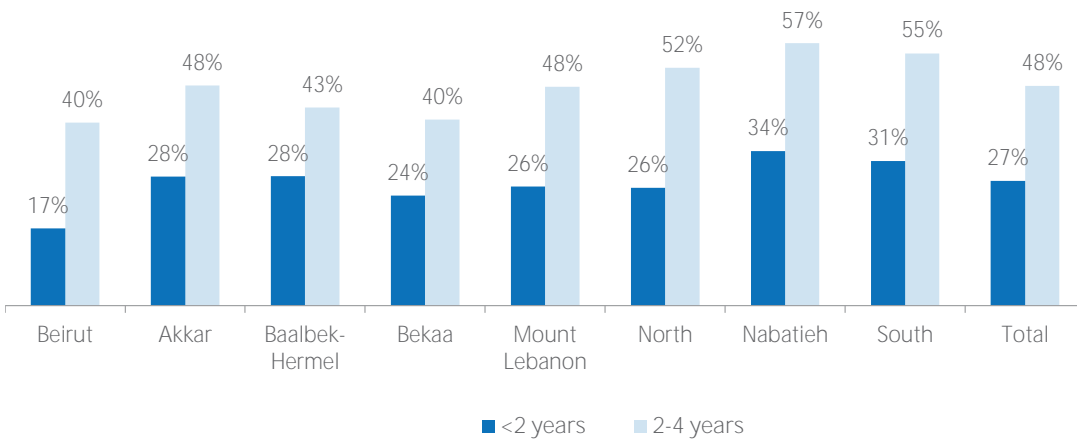


Figure 3. Share of households with young children by governorate

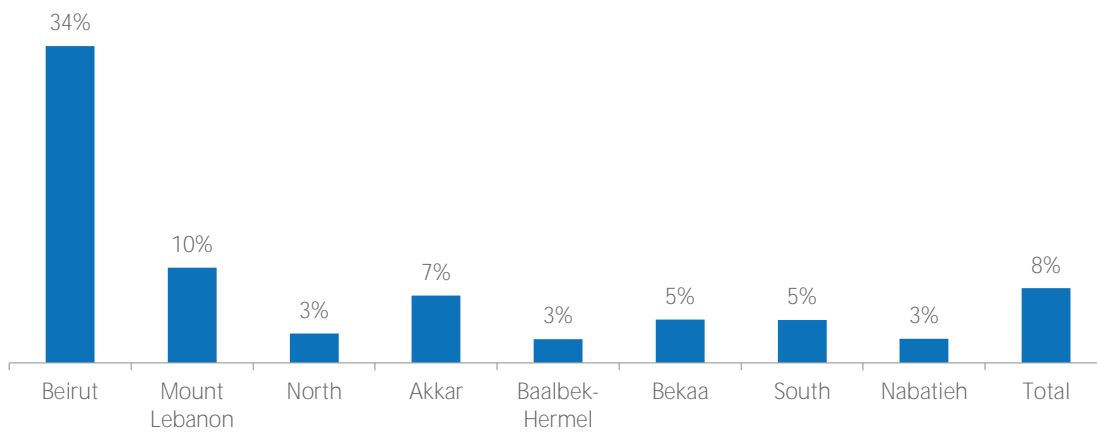


Figure 4. Distribution of households with one member by governorate

The age distribution of the sample revealed a significant gender gap in the 20-24 and 25-29 age categories, where the share of females was 66% and 61% respectively.

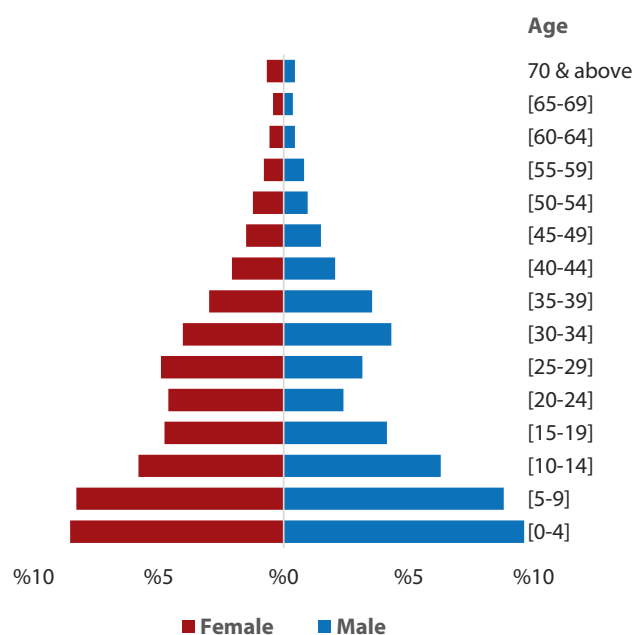


Figure 5. Age distribution by gender

Education levels of household heads

Around three quarters of the interviewed heads of households had not exceeded primary education, with female heads of households consistently less educated than their male counterparts. Indeed, the level of illiteracy among female heads of households was more than double that of male heads of household (28% and 12% respectively).

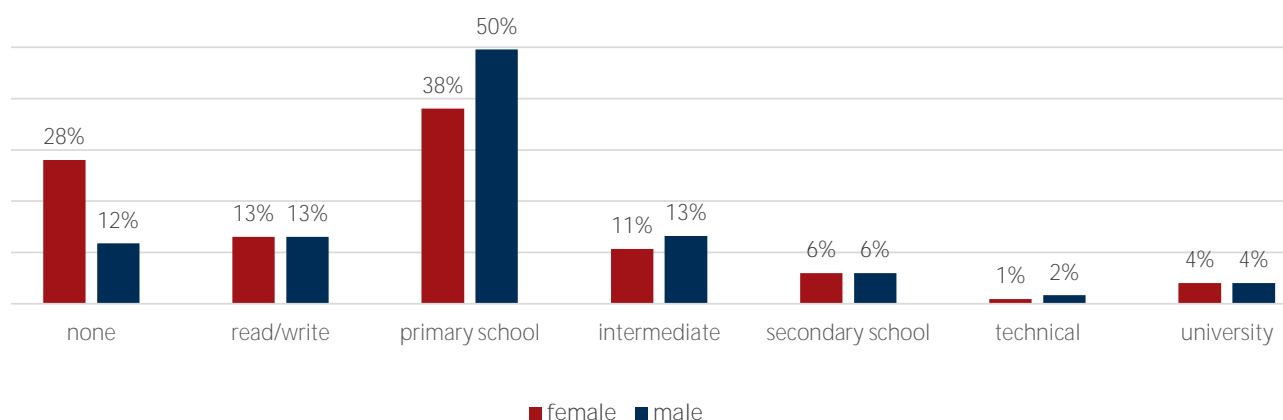


Figure 6. Education level of household head

Children

Around half of the sampled population (49%) was below 15 years of age, distributed between the age categories under six (45%) and 6-14 (55%).

Results show that the proportion of children was almost equal (4%) across the age groups 0-11 months, 12-23 months, 24-35 months, 36-47 months and 48-59 months, indicating a relatively stable fertility rate.

Specific Needs

For the purpose of this report, the term ‘specific needs’ refer to household members within any of the following categories: (i) physical or mental disability, (ii) chronic illness, (iii) temporary illness or injury, (iv) serious medical condition, and (v) people who need support in basic daily activities. The latter category refers to individuals aged 2+ with a specific need or aged 60+ who need assistance to use the toilet.

Almost two thirds (63%) of all households reported having at least one member with specific needs, with no differences between male-headed and female-headed households. The largest share of households reported having one or more members with chronic illnesses, while around one third of households include a member with a temporary illness. It is noteworthy that although the prevalence of most specific needs remained stable since 2015, the share of households with temporarily ill members almost tripled.

Table 3. Distribution of children under age 5 by age group and gender

	Female		Male		Total	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
0-5 months	233	47%	259	53%	492	100%
6-11 months	213	50%	216	50%	429	100%
12-23 months	432	48%	477	52%	909	100%
24-35 months	413	45%	515	55%	928	100%
36-47 months	403	46%	467	54%	870	100%
48-59 months	413	46%	480	54%	893	100%
Total <60 months	2107	100%	2414	100%	4521	100%

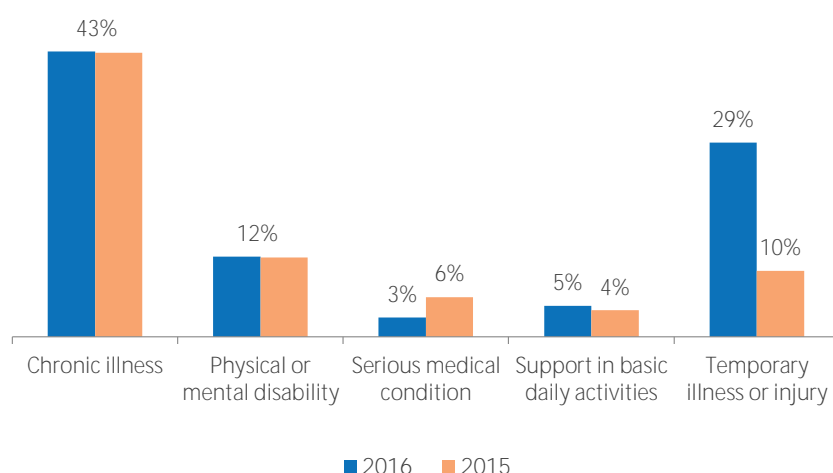


Figure 7. Distribution of households with at least one member reporting a specific need (2015-2016)

The various specific needs were almost equally prevalent among males and females.

The results revealed that 11% of households with three or more members had specific needs. These households are highly vulnerable because of a decreased ability to generate income and increased medical expenses, and they spend US\$ 27 less per person every month than families with fewer members with specific needs. As expenditure is a proxy indicator for economic vulnerability, households with more members with specific needs appear to be poorer.

Table 4. Distribution of members with specific needs by gender

	Disability	Chronic Illness	Temporary Illness	Serious Medical Condition	Needs Assistance
Female	2%	13%	8%	1%	2%
Male	3%	12%	9%	1%	4%

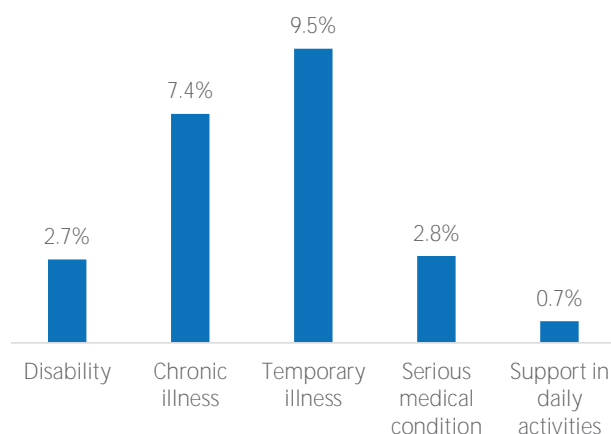


Figure 8. Share of households with three or more members with a specific need

The geographic distribution of households with specific needs showed a concentration of households with members suffering from serious medical conditions or needing support in daily activities in Beirut, which is likely explained by their need to remain close to specialized health services. In the North, almost half of the households reported having at least one member with a chronic medical condition (compared to the national average of 43%). The largest share of households with disabled individuals was found in Akkar. Finally, a significantly higher share of households reporting temporary illness was found in Akkar and Nabatieh.

Refugee Profile and Registration Status

UNHCR Registration

At the time of the survey, 92% of the sample population was registered with UNHCR. However, this does not reflect the registration prevalence of Syrian refugees in Lebanon, as the sample was drawn from a population of registered households. The exact number of unregistered refugees in Lebanon is unknown. In May 2015, the Government of Lebanon notified UNHCR that registration of Syrians should be suspended. Since then, Syrian refugees who approach UNHCR to be registered are counseled on the GoL decision regarding the suspension of registration and have their needs assessed in view of assisting the most vulnerable.

Of the sample population, around three-quarters of the households arrived together (73%), most of them (92%) entering the country between 2011 and 2014. Of the current refugee population, nearly two thirds registered in 2013 and 2014.

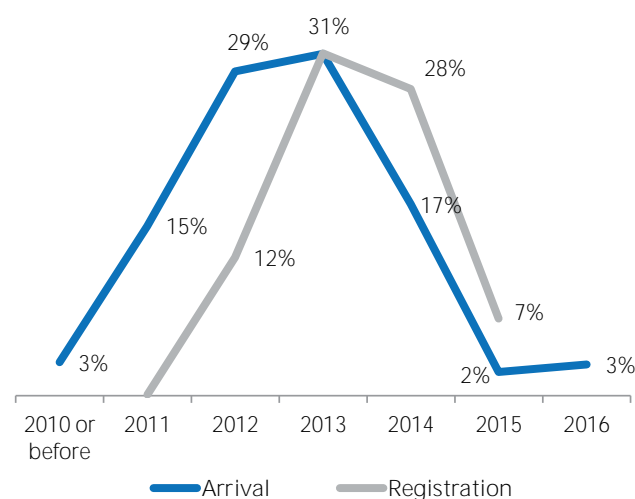


Figure 9. Distribution of households by arrival period

Table 5. Share of households with specific needs by governorate

Specific Need	Beirut	Mount-Lebanon	North	Akkar	Baalbek-Hermel	Bekaa	South	Nabatieh	Total
Disability	12%	10%	13%	18%	11%	8%	14%	12%	12%
Chronic illness	26%	44%	50%	47%	46%	43%	39%	42%	43%
Temporary illness	13%	31%	21%	42%	29%	26%	32%	46%	29%
Serious medical condition	7%	3%	3%	2%	1%	2%	3%	2%	3%
Support in daily activities	7%	4%	5%	6%	5%	4%	5%	3%	5%

Legal Residence

Only one in five households (21%) reported that all members had legal residency permits issued by the General Directorate of General Security, compared to 28% in 2015 and 58% in 2014. This percentage was even lower for female-headed households, for which 18% reported that all household members held legal residency. In addition, the share of households where none of the members had a residency permit increased considerably, from 20% in 2015 to 29% in 2016. On average, three members in each household lacked a residency permit. In most cases, the high administrative and financial cost of permits precluded households from applying for them. Indeed, financial cost was cited as an impediment by 97% of households that had members without legal residency permits.

UNHCR / A. McConnell



PROTECTION

Birth Registrations

All births must be registered with the appropriate authorities in the country both of birth and eventually of nationality. A birth certificate is an official document that establishes the existence of the child under the law and failing to register the birth may have long-lasting consequences on the life of the child.

The results on the level of birth registration for children under six years of age show that 97% of the parents with children born in Syria reported that they registered the birth of their children. In contrast, with respect to parents with children born in Lebanon, the results showed that only 17% reported having reached at least the level of birth registration with the Foreigners' Registry in Lebanon, or having registered the birth in Syria. In Lebanon, Syrian refugees, like all other foreigners, have to complete four different steps to register the birth of their baby born in Lebanon: with the competent civil registry office and the Foreigner's Registry, plus two additional steps are needed to register the birth in Syria, i.e. registration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Syrian Embassy. Since birth registration requires that parents have a valid residency, not all refugee families were able to reach this step, while others were not aware of the procedure.

Safety and Security

Around 3% of households reported experiencing insecurities during the last three months, compared to 6% in 2015. However, this share doubled in Akkar and tripled in the South. The share of female-headed households experiencing insecurities was lower than that of male-headed households (1.9% and 3.4% respectively).

The most commonly reported form of insecurity was harassment, with 57% of households that experienced insecurities reporting some form of harassment over the past three months. Harassment was slightly more common in male-headed (60%) than female-headed households (50%). While women reported fewer incidents of insecurity, they were more likely to have experienced physical abuse. Twenty-seven per cent of female-headed households that experienced insecurities reported incidents of physical abuse over the last three months, a significantly higher share than in male-headed households.⁵ On the other hand, 17%

of male-headed households reported having been arrested in the previous three months.

As for sources of insecurities, 66% cited neighbors and 21% cited the authorities. In the vast majority of cases (73%), the households—with no notable differences between male-headed and female-headed households—described these insecurities as curtailing their freedom of movement.

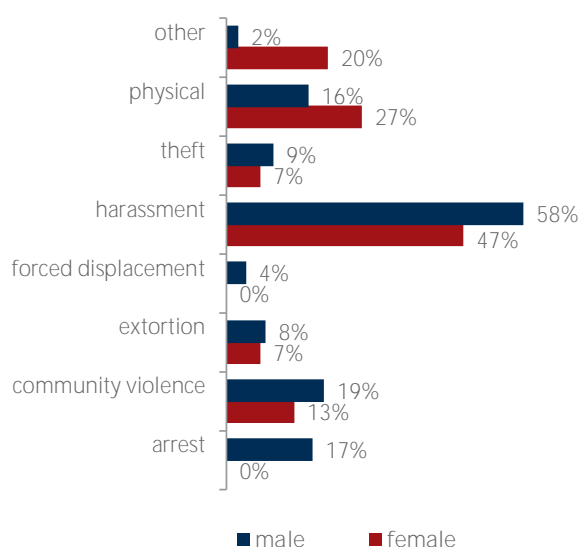


Figure 10. Share of households experiencing insecurities by type of insecurity and sex of the head of household

Households were asked to rate the relationship between the refugee and host communities in their areas of residence on a scale of hostile, poor, neutral/minimal interaction and fair. Around 60% of households cited fair relations, a share that increased to almost 80% in the North (Akkar, Minieh-Dannieh and Tripoli) and Baalbek. Less than 10% of households reported poor community relations. A higher share of poor ratings was found in in Zahleh (17%), Chouf (17%) and Baabda (15%).

According to the individuals interviewed, the most common factor driving community tensions was perceived competition for jobs, followed distantly by competition for resources and services. However, most households (55%) could not cite a specific factor. Indeed, 71% of those households could not do so because they perceived community relations to be fair, while 25% of them reported neutral or minimal interaction with the host community.

⁵ Due to the small number of female-headed households which reported insecurities (15 households), the shares of the various types of insecurities are to be interpreted with caution.

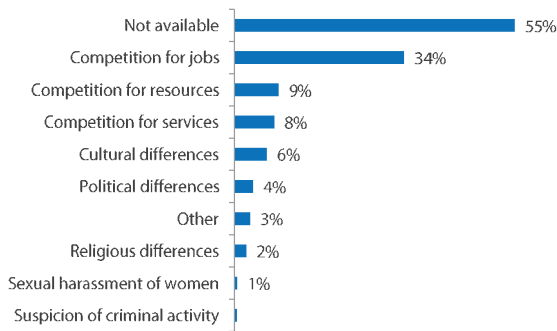


Figure 11. Distribution of households by factors driving community tensions

Dramatic geographic differences were noted in the share of households reporting job competition as a source of tension in the community. Few in Jbeil cited job competition as a source of tension, while in Bent Jbeil, 97% reported it. No households reported poor community relations and 68% described community relations as fair in Jbeil, compared to 13% and 32% respectively in Bent Jbeil.

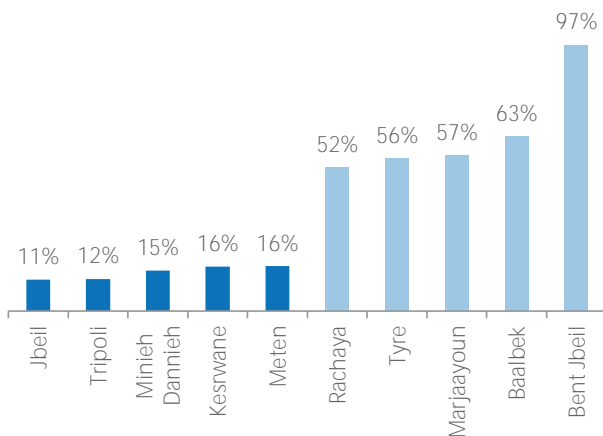


Figure 12. Share of households reporting competition for jobs as the driving factor behind community tensions in selected districts

Spontaneous Returns and Onward Movements

The overwhelming majority of refugee households (97%) did not report members returning to Syria or moving elsewhere. Indeed, only 2.4% of households reported one of their members returning to Syria or moving to a third country.

When asked about factors that may induce them to move to a country other than Syria, households cited the lack of safety and security in Lebanon (27%), followed by high cost of living in Lebanon (26%), and better education opportunities for children (24%).

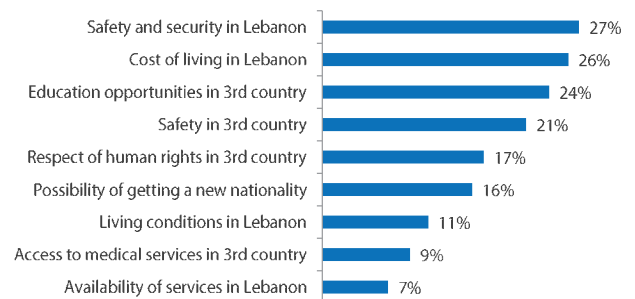


Figure 13. Factors for considering moving to a third country other than Syria and Lebanon (percent of households)

The vast majority of Syrian refugees have expressed the desire to return home, when conditions enable their return in safety and in dignity. Refugee households cited safety and security in Syria as the most important factor influencing their potential return (71%), followed by the high cost of living in Lebanon (21%).

Less than 10% of households reported poor community relations

Future Plans

"I hope to be in Syria in six months. All of us want to go back."

In the focus group discussions, many respondents voiced the desire to leave Lebanon: because of their dire living conditions in Lebanon, the perceived attitude towards them, the lack of work opportunities, the elevated cost of rent, and the cost of and obstacles to maintaining legal residence. Subject to the conditions in Syria that could permit their return in safety and dignity, the vast majority of refugees wanted to return home if possible. Otherwise, the majority of respondents indicated that they preferred to remain in Lebanon until the conflict in Syria ends, appreciative both of the proximity and the shared culture and language. A few mentioned their willingness to resettle to Germany, Sweden, Canada or Australia.

"I am used to Lebanon. I want to stay close to home. We are among Arabs here."

"We are just waiting for things to get better, for this region to be better."

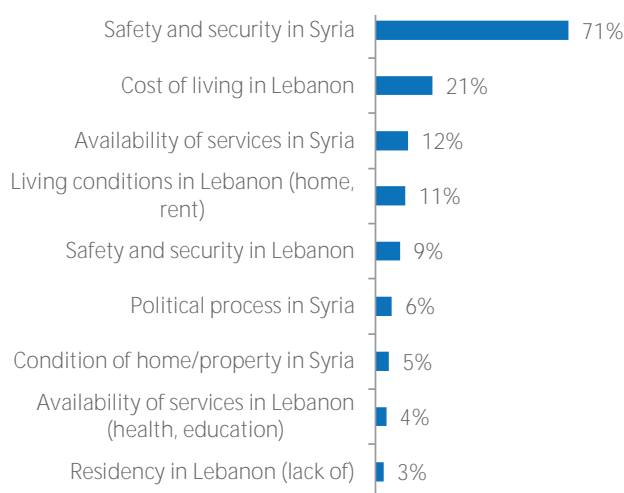


Figure 14. Factors for considering return to Syria (percentage of households)

Children and Youth with Disabilities

Approximately 2% of children under 18 years and 3% of youth between the ages of 18 and 24 were reported to have disabilities (physical, sensory, mental/intellectual). We can estimate that on average, approximately 7% of the households had a child or young person with disability. While rates of disability for children under 18 were roughly equal by sex, male youth (18-24) were reported three times as likely as female youth to live with a disability (6% among males versus 2% among females). Moreover, 5% of children and 7% of youth suffered from chronic illnesses (no notable gender differences).

Beirut had the highest prevalence of children with disabilities (3.5%), which could be related to the greater availability of specialized services in the capital. Akkar, on the other hand, had the highest rate of youth with disabilities (6%).

Children with disabilities were more likely to have received food vouchers than children without disabilities (69% versus 63%), as well as fuel subsidies (13% versus 9%). For winter assistance and cash assistance, there were no differences between children with and without disabilities.

School attendance rates were consistently lower for children with disabilities across all age groups. The differences were most prominent among age groups 9-11, and 12-14. Children with disabilities aged 12-14 were three times less likely to attend school than children without disabilities. This means that more than 85% of children with disabilities will not complete basic education (grades 1 to 9).

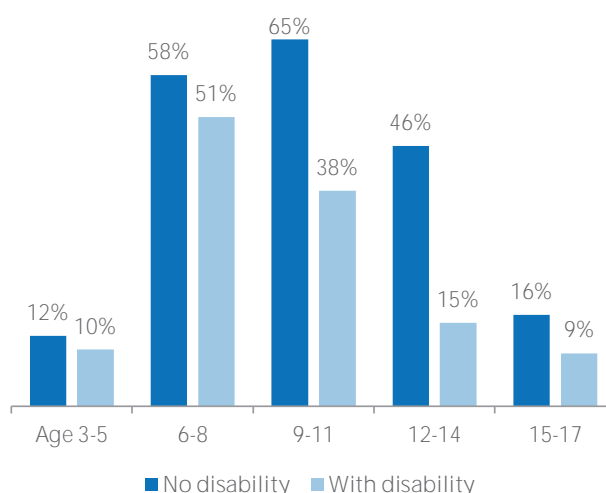


Figure 15. School attendance rates by age group and disability status

The difference between male and female school enrolment for children with disabilities is most prominent in the age group 12-14, where the enrolment rate of boys is 58% and girls is 23%.

Disabilities and School

During focus group discussions, parents of children with disabilities highlighted the extra challenges they face in obtaining education. Not all schools have the facilities or staff for students with special needs.

Communication and Technology

The vast majority of refugee households (91%) receive refugee-related information through text messaging (SMS), followed distantly by humanitarian hotlines (14%) and neighbors and relatives (6.5%). Refugees seem relatively active on social media, with 74% reporting using it in some form, including WhatsApp, which was used by 90% of the refugee households active on social media.



9.7%

Facebook



89.5%

Whatsapp



0.6%

Instagram

Figure 16. Distribution of households by preference of social media

Two thirds of the sampled households reported using the internet, with the vast majority of them using internet every day.

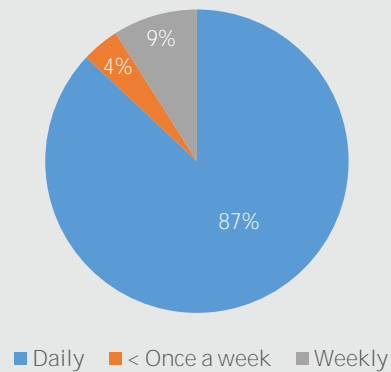


Figure 17. Distribution of households by frequency of internet use

SHELTER

The majority (71%) of refugee households were living in residential buildings: in regular apartments or houses (often sharing with other families), or in the micro-apartments designed for the building doorman/superintendent (*natour* in Arabic). Of the remainder, 12% were living in non-residential structures, such as worksites, garages and shops, and 17% were living in informal tented settlements. Refugees were living in similar types of shelter in 2015.⁶

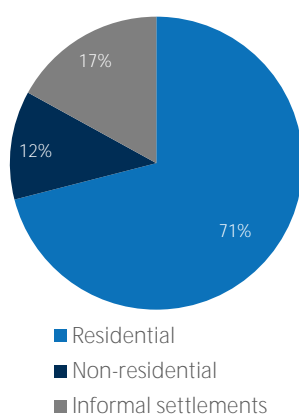


Figure 18. Share of households by type of shelter

Residential buildings were most common in Beirut and Mount Lebanon (88%), while informal settlements were most common (42%) in the Bekaa. Female-headed households were almost twice as likely as male-headed households to live in informal settlements (29% of female-headed versus 15% of male-headed), and were less likely to live in residential buildings (61% of female-headed versus 73% of male-headed).

Residential buildings:

Apartments, houses or doorman rooms

Non-residential buildings:

Worksites, garages, shops

Informal settlements:

Tents created from timber, plastic sheeting and other materials

Half of households lived in homes measuring less than 35 square meters. The average home was composed of two rooms (excluding bathrooms and toilets), with three people per room on average and 10 square meters per person.

Shelter Conditions

Forty-two per cent of households lived in dwellings that do not meet the minimum humanitarian standards, suffering from one or more of the below:

- Overcrowding
- Dangerous structural conditions or urgently needed repairs
- Lack of a toilet

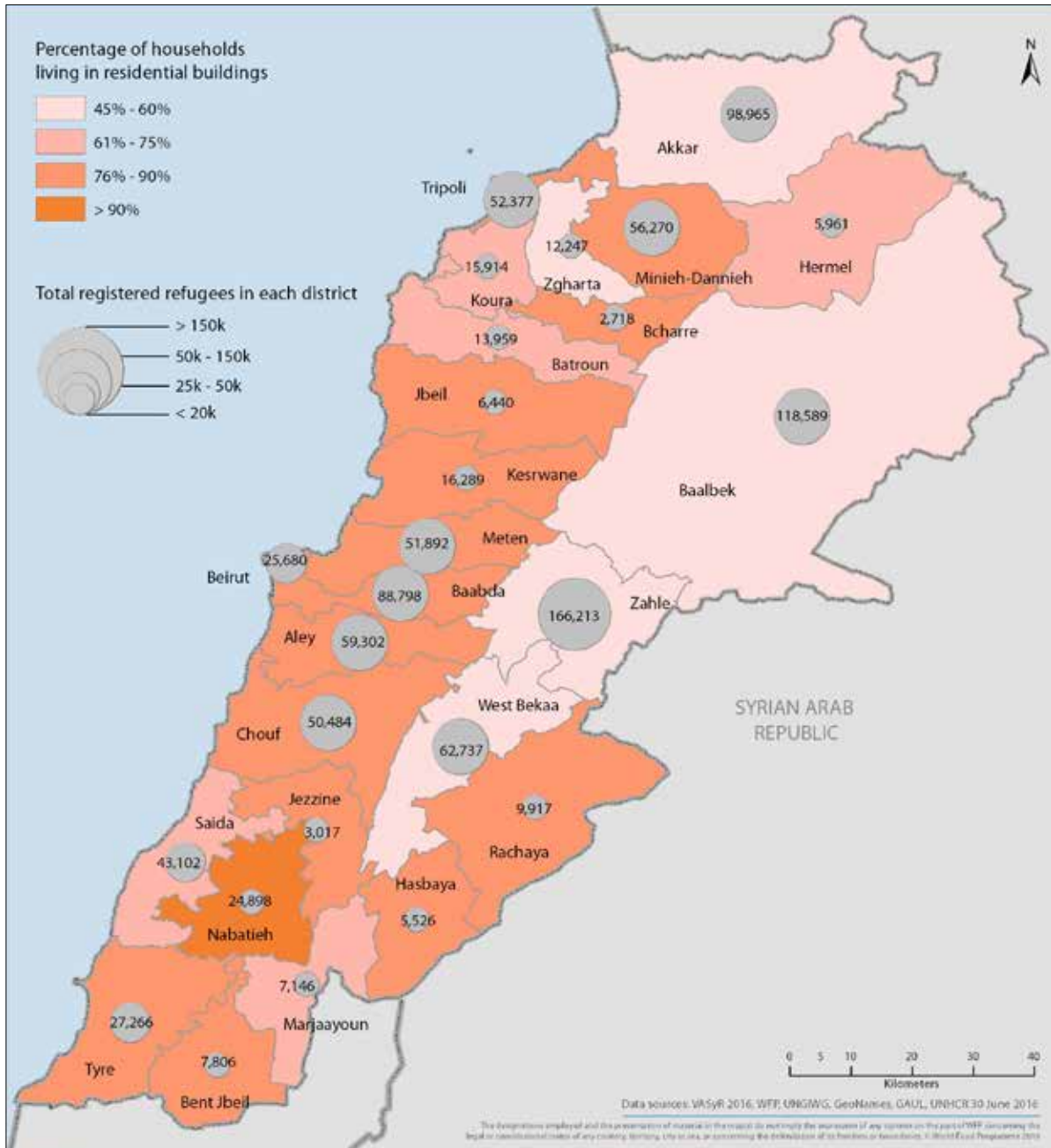
More than one quarter (27%) of homes were overcrowded, with less than 4.5 square meters per person, the minimum humanitarian standard. Overcrowding is much more common in tents and non-residential structures than in residential structures (38%, 40% and 23% respectively). Overcrowding was significantly more common in the Bekaa (34%), where tents are more prevalent.

Similarly, more than a quarter of shelters (26%) were in notably poor condition. Twelve per cent of shelters were in dangerous condition, severely damaged and/or at risk of collapse, while 14% had other urgent repair needs, such as unsealed windows, leaking roofs, or other significant issues (damaged plumbing, latrines, bathing facilities or electricity). The share of shelters in poor condition ranged from 23% in the South, to 30% in the Bekaa.

Less than 1% of households lacked a toilet, forcing household members to rely on buckets or open air defecation. Toilets and washrooms are discussed in further detail in the chapter on water, hygiene, solid waste and energy.

Inadequate shelter was most common in the Bekaa (49%) and least common in Nabatieh (31%). This was likely related to the higher prevalence of tents and non-residential structures in Akkar and the Bekaa. Indeed, non-residential structures and tents were almost twice as likely as residential dwelling to be inadequate (62% and 36% inadequate, respectively).

⁶ In the 2013–2015 VASyRs, respondents who were living in 'one room' structures were classified as living in substandard buildings. A 2016 follow-up phone survey of 'one room' households revealed that most (75%) of these households were living in residential buildings, often working as building *natours*.



Map 1. Percentage of households living in residential buildings

Risky Living Conditions

For the most vulnerable Syrian refugees, living conditions are often dire. These comments by focus group participants paint a vivid and distressing picture:

- “There are places that are being rented out for 200 dollars per month, but that should not be inhabited by humans. Sometimes storage spaces that were never meant for living are being turned into housing rented out to Syrians.”
- “Our camp and another one in proximity lack toilets. As a result, four families have to share one toilet.”
- “I am living in a room with no access to water. I get water from the neighbors and the landlord is always complaining about it.”
- “Our tents are in a dire state and our children are suffering because of that. We need insulation material such as nylon covering and wood. If we have those, we will be able to fix the tents ourselves.”
- “My home is full of cockroaches, mice and rats. My daughter is ill because of the filth.”

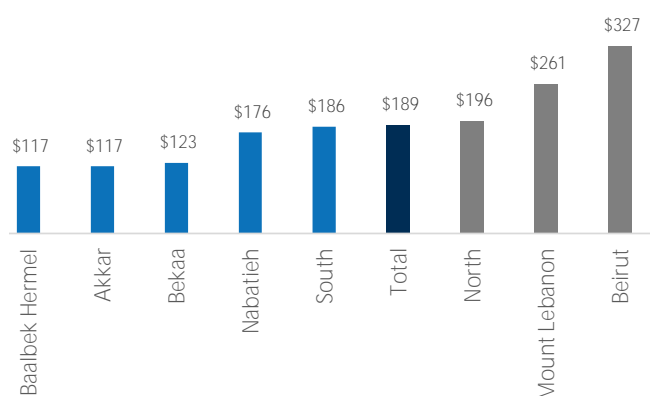
Rent Costs

Eight-five per cent of households reported paying rent, and this burden was cited among the top concerns for refugees who participated in the focus group discussions. The nominal rent costs ranged from an average of US\$ 53 for an informal settlement (tent) to an average of US\$ 248 for a non-shared apartment/house. Average monthly rent was US\$ 189, with the lowest rents found in Akkar or Baalbek-Hermel and the highest average in Beirut. Thirty-nine per cent of households stated that water supply was included, and 34% reported that electricity was included.

Rent cost was also the most important factor affecting the choice of dwelling (36% of the households), followed by the proximity of the dwelling to their families (24%) and proximity to livelihoods (16%).

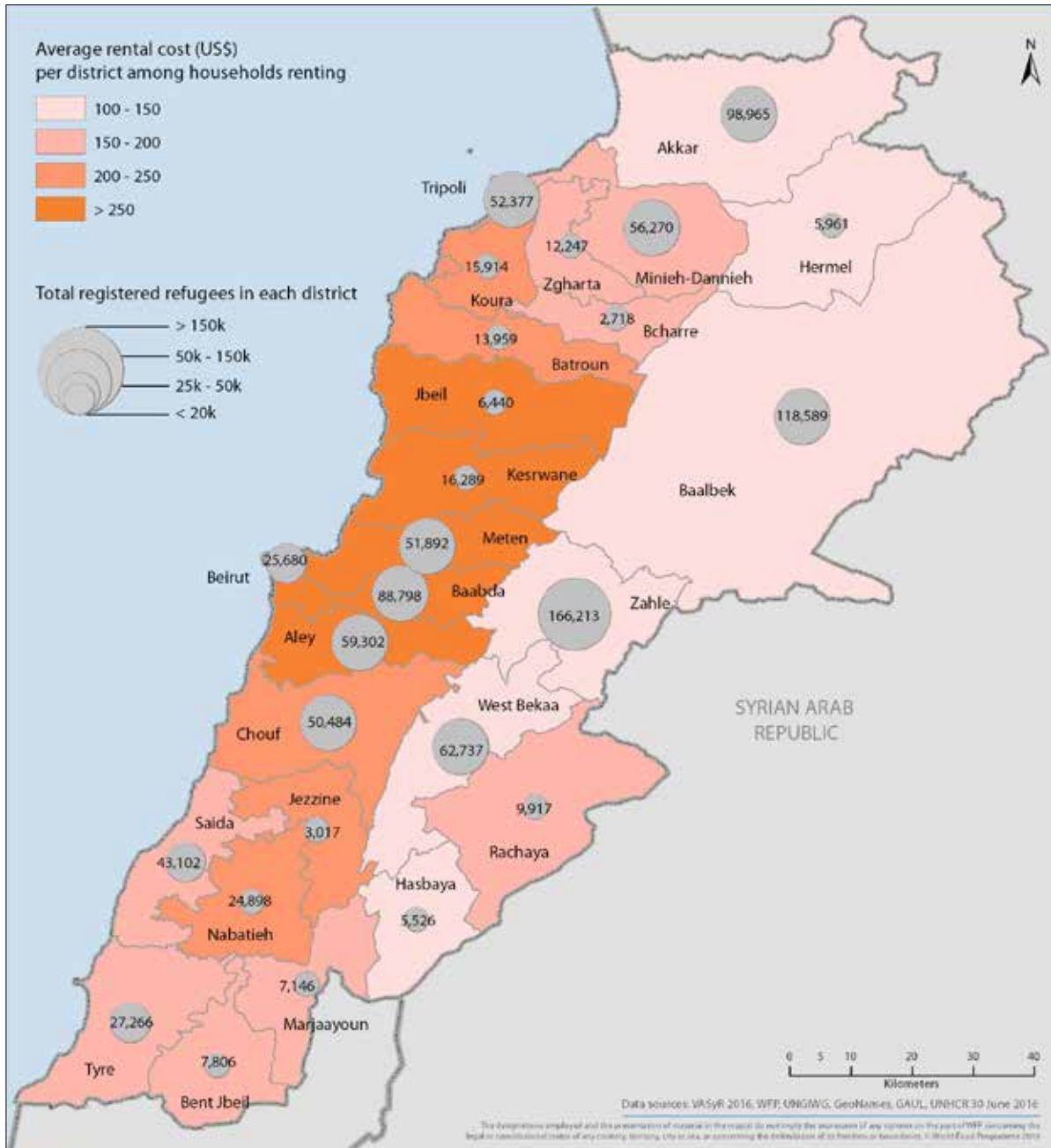
Mobility

According to the survey, 13% of total households acknowledged that they had moved or changed their accommodation during the last six months. Only 7% of households planned to move in the following six months, with a higher prevalence in Chouf (14%) and Aley (13%). The three main reasons cited by households for a recent or planned move were: rent expenses, threat of eviction (mainly due to inability to cover the rent costs), and unacceptable housing conditions. Threat of clashes or difficulties with host communities were mentioned by just 2% of households who had recently moved.



Average monthly rent was US\$ 189, with the lowest rents found in Akkar or Baalbek-Hermel and the highest average in Beirut

Figure 19. Average rental cost per month by governorate (US\$)



Map 2. Average rental cost (US) per district among households renting

Table 6. Reason for moving by mobility status

	Households that moved in the last six months	Households that expect to move in the next six months
Total (out of all households)	13%	7%
	Reasons for recently moving	Reasons households are planning to move
<i>Rent expense</i>	33%	28%
<i>Threat of eviction</i>	20%	25%
<i>Unacceptable housing conditions</i>	18%	12%
<i>Other</i>	8%	12%
<i>No work</i>	6%	4%
<i>No privacy</i>	5%	10%
<i>Seeking free rent</i>	3%	3%
<i>Tension with landlord</i>	3%	1%
<i>Tension with community</i>	2%	2%
<i>Security</i>	1%	3%
<i>End of rental period</i>	0%	1%
	100%	100%

The Burden of Rent

Focus group discussions revealed that rent was a primary concern for many refugees. "We can always secure food and drink, but not such a large amount [of money] for rent," said one. Many respondents were constantly worried about eviction. Another respondent stated, "The rents are high. I have eight children, which makes ten of us in the household. We live in a one-bedroom apartment, on the last floor. The rooftop is always leaking, and despite this, the rent is \$550."

Those living in tents are not immune—refugees pay monthly or annual fees in order to keep their tent on the land.

UNHCR/ S. Baldwin



WATER, HYGIENE, SOLID WASTE, ENERGY

Water Access

The two most common sources of drinking water were bottled mineral water (42%) and household tap water (27%). With regards to households with access to tap water, it is important to note that in only two out of three households did water arrive for more than two hours per day. The share of households with access to tap water decreased by 7% compared to 2015, which may explain the 7% increase in the share of households which now identify bottled water as their primary source of water.

Type of dwelling is an important factor in determining households' sources of drinking water. Households living in tents relied much less on bottled mineral water (16%), and much more on trucked water from non-NGO providers (19%), protected wells (18%), and trucked water from NGO providers (16%).⁷

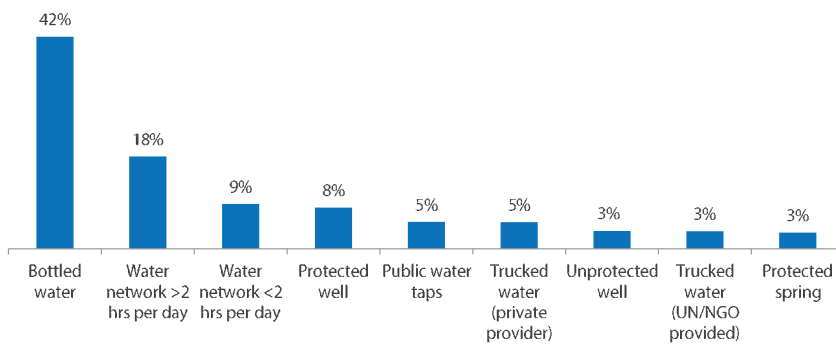


Figure 20. Share of households by main source of drinking water

There were notable discrepancies in the main source of drinking water between tents and other shelter types, as illustrated by Figure 21. Households residing in tents present the lowest reliance on bottled water and public water networks, and the highest reliance on trucked water and protected wells for drinking water.

Water Shortages

Focus group participants discussed how the lack of clean water was impacting their lives. Refugees living in the informal settlement in Dalhamiyeh [Zahle] stated that unhealthy water was being supplied to the camp, causing everyone to get sick. Another refugee from the same settlement said, "We are eleven people living in one tent. The water container is not large enough. No one is taking care of us."

Another participant in the Bekaa, living in Qasr [Herme], said, "I am living in a room with no access to water. I get water from the neighbors, and the landlord is always complaining about it."

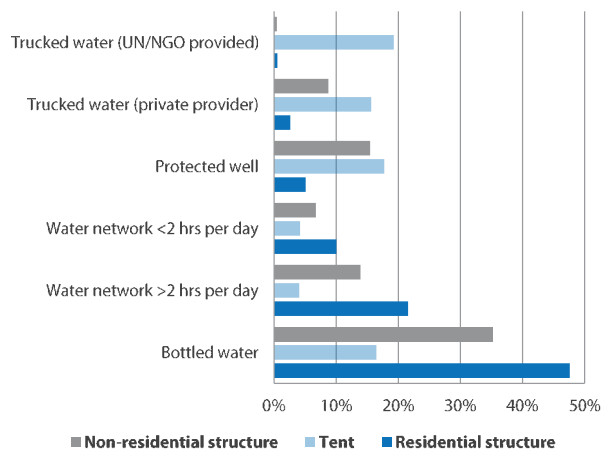


Figure 21. Distribution of households by main source of drinking water and shelter type

⁷ Note, the survey did not capture data on the quantity of water to which households had access, nor data on the quality of water.

Households that collected drinking water spent an average of nine minutes on the task (ranging from seven minutes in Beirut to sixteen minutes in Akkar). This is most likely related to the higher reliance on well water in Akkar (44% compared to 8% country-wide) and a higher reliance on more accessible (although more expensive) bottled water in Beirut (83% compared to a 42% national average).

Only 4% of households reported treating their drinking water, a share that rose to 20% among households whose main source is UN/NGO tank/trucked water. This may be due to awareness efforts on the part of water providers. The two most common methods of water treatment were water filters (39%) and boiling (36%).

Roughly half of refugee households (49%) do not pay for drinking water. Of those households, 78% do not pay for service water either, but those who do pay an average of US\$ 20 per month.

For households which must purchase drinking water, the average monthly expenditure is US\$ 23 per month. Households that relied on trucked water pay an average of US\$ 27 per month, compared to US\$ 15 per month for those who pay a public network subscription. Note that these expenses are not mutually exclusive.

Just over half of the interviewed households (55%) relied on the piped public network water for service water (non-potable water used for cooking, washing and other tasks). Households residing in tents presented the lowest reliance on piped public network water, and the highest reliance on trucked water and protected wells as main sources of service water, mirroring the results obtained for main sources of drinking water.

Bathrooms and Toilet Facilities

For the purposes of this report, bathroom refers to a room with a water source for washing (shower/bathtub), while toilet refers to the receptacle for urination and defecation. Around one quarter of the households (23%) reported having no access to bathrooms, compared to 10% in 2015. Moreover, 74% reported having access to only one bathroom for the entire household, and 4% of households share a bathroom with 15 people or more.

Less than one percent of households reported lacking access to any type of toilet facilities, resorting to open defecation or buckets. Fifty-five per cent had flush latrines, and 27% use improved pit latrines. Finally, 6.5% of the households share a toilet with 15 people or more.

“Our camp [Ghazi Salim Jaafar] and another one nearby lack toilets. As a result, four families have to share one toilet. They come often to register us for toilets, but nothing has actually been done.” – refugees in the informal settlement in Qasr [Hermel]

Hygiene

A large majority of households (90%) have access to cleaning items, 87% have access to personal hygiene items, 86% to female hygiene items, and 78% have access to baby care items. Beirut and Baabda stand out as the two districts with the least access to personal hygiene items.

Only 2% of households reported receiving hygiene kits in the previous three months and just 1.5% received hygiene training within the previous six months.

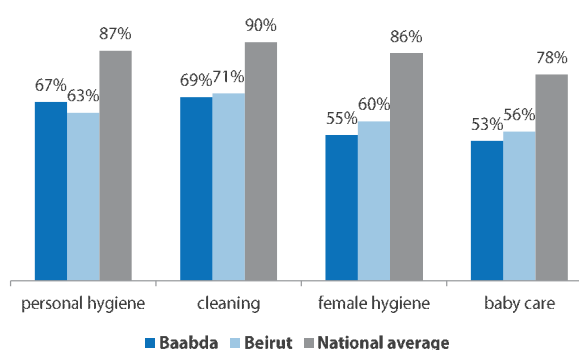


Figure 22. Comparison of access to hygiene items in selected districts

Solid Waste

Almost all households (94%) reported disposing of garbage in dumpsters, with no notable geographic differences. Burning was practiced by 3% of households, a share that increases to 13% among tent dwellers, and 1.5% of households practice open dumping. Moreover, only 3% practiced recycling and/or sorting of organic garbage. Finally, solid waste bins were received by 2% of the households and just 1.3% reported receiving solid waste collection services over the last three months.

Energy

Because of the irregularity of electricity supply, many households were connected to more than one source. More than 90% of households were legally connected to the public power grid, while only 41% benefit from private generator supply. Moreover, around 10% of households declared being illegally connected to the public power grid. The share of households with legal public grid connections dropped to 67% in Akkar, with households seemingly compensating through illegal connections (31% of households versus 10% nationwide). The rate of illegal connection was also relatively high in Chouf (26%).

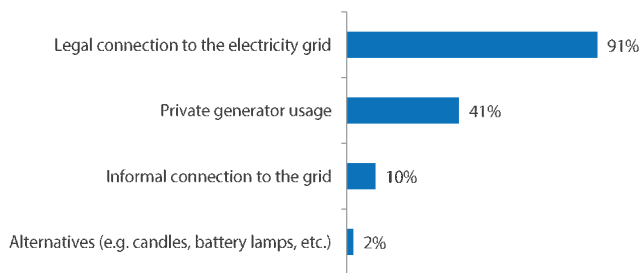


Figure 23. Share of households by energy source

Households connected to the public grid received an average of 12 hours of public power supply, with significant geographic variations between Beirut on one end of the spectrum (19.5 hours) and the cities of Baalbek (9 hours), Tyre (8.3 hours), and Nabatieh (7.4 hours) on the other. Households residing in districts with low public power supply were not necessarily able to compensate through private generator supply. For example, households in Baalbek received on average only 2.8 hours of generator supply per day. Similarly, Tyre and Nabatieh received only 4.5 hours and 5 hours of generator supply per day respectively. In effect, this situation left most households in all three of these districts with around 12 hours of complete blackout. The situation was considerably better in the Bekaa and Beirut, mainly due to the reduced blackout hours in both governorates.

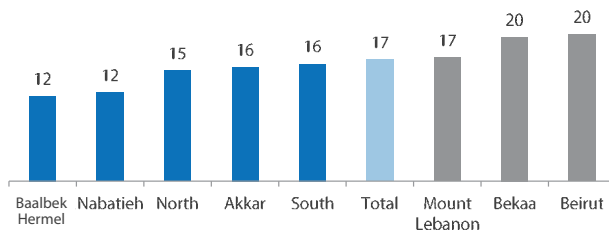


Figure 24. Average daily electricity supply (combined public grid and generator) by governorate (hours)

EDUCATION

Primary schooling

The primary attendance rate (the percentage of 6 to 14-year-olds who attend primary or secondary school) was 52% nationally, with the lowest attendance in the Bekaa (30%) and the highest rate in the South (68%). Overall, there seemed to be no substantial difference in attendance between sexes. The only statistically significant difference was in Akkar, where the attendance rate is 70% for boys and 62% for girls.⁸

48%
of Syrian refugee children aged
6-14 are out of school

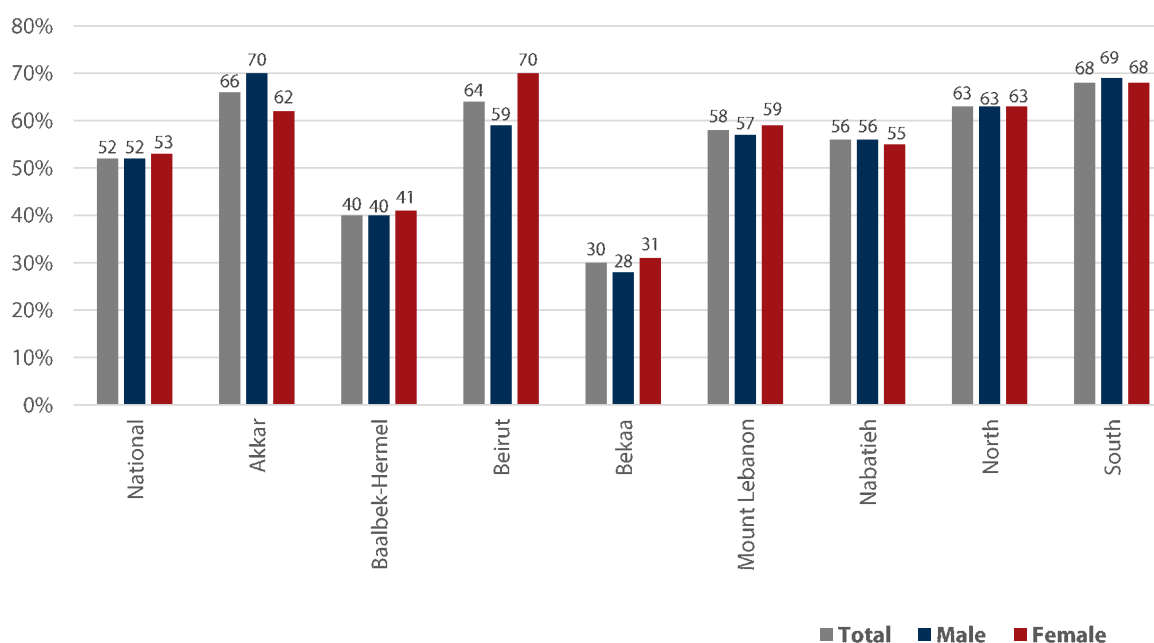


Figure 25. Primary school attendance ratio

⁸ Although there is an observed difference also in Beirut, statistical testing revealed that it is not significant.

Secondary schooling

Secondary attendance (percentage of children aged 15 to 17 attending secondary school or higher) was 16% nationally, with a minor difference between sexes.⁹ Attendance was reported at its lowest in the Bekaa (9%) and its highest in Beirut (33%).

84%
of Syrian refugee adolescents
aged 15-17 are out of school

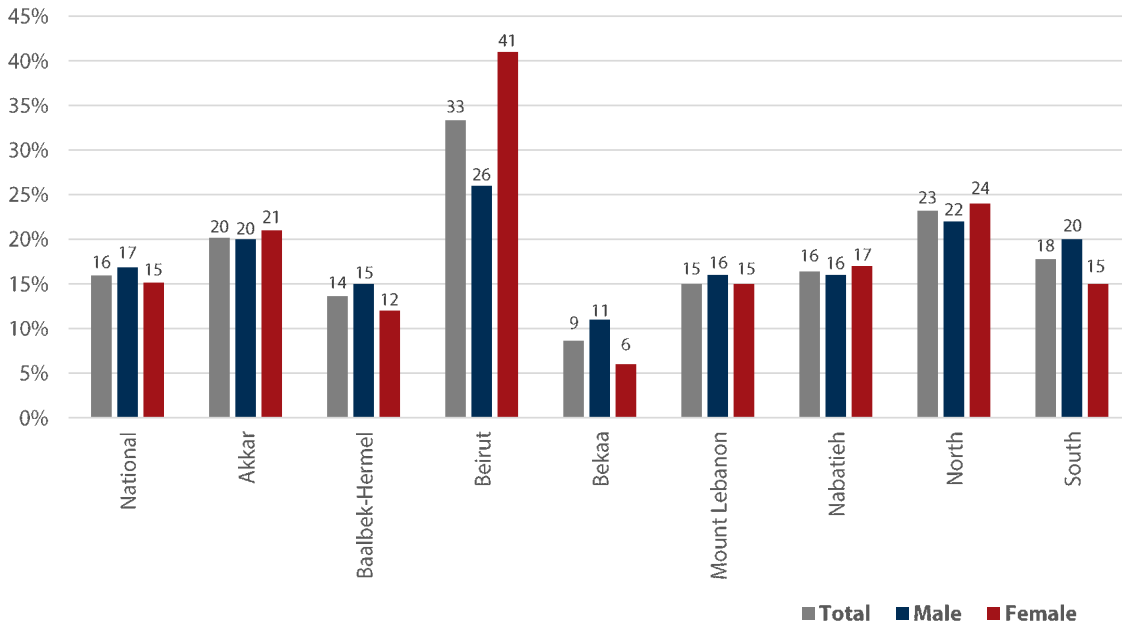


Figure 26. Secondary school attendance ratio



UNICEF Lebanon/ NadineKodsi2015

⁹ Observed differences in attendance between sexes are not statistically significant.

Children out of school

Among the surveyed children of primary school age (6 to 14 years), 48% were found to be out of school, with the highest rate of out-of-school children found in the Bekaa (70%) and the lowest in the South (32%). These rates were significantly higher among children of secondary school age (15 to 17 years): 84% of children of this age group were out of school.

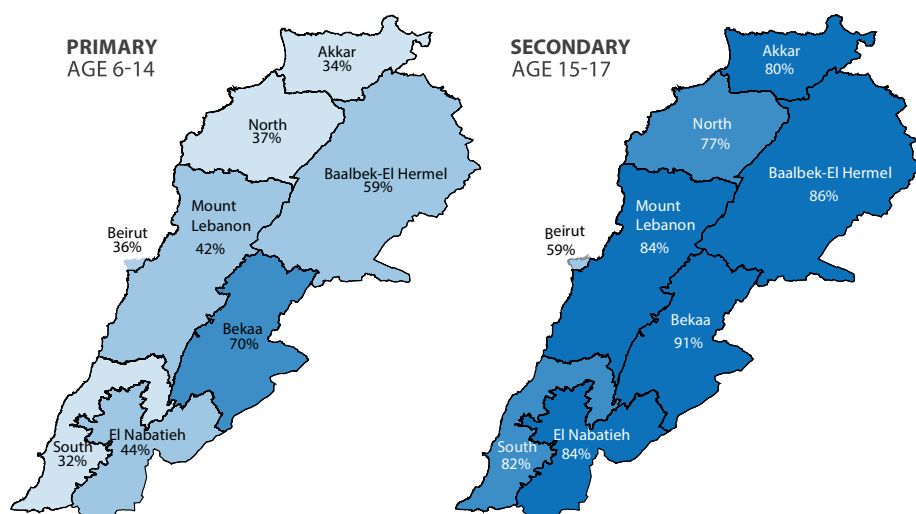


Figure 27. Percentage of children out of school

The percentage of out-of-school children was higher among children with disabilities – 66% primary and 91% secondary. For more details, please refer to the section “Children and youth with disabilities” in the Protection chapter.

The distribution of children of primary age who were out of school was concentrated in Mount Lebanon and the Bekaa (see Figure 27), where 27% and 34% of out-of-school children reside, respectively. This reflects the higher concentration of the Syrian refugee population in these governorates. Only 2% of all out-of-school primary-age children live in Beirut.

The distribution of children of secondary age who are out of school is again concentrated in Mount Lebanon and the Bekaa (see Figure 27), where 29% and 27% of out-of-school children reside, respectively. Only 2% of out-of-school secondary-age children are in Beirut.

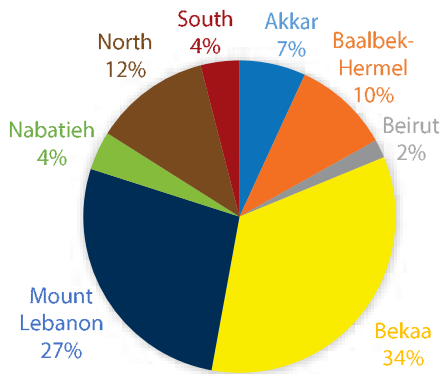


Figure 28. Distribution of children of primary school age who are out of school by governorate

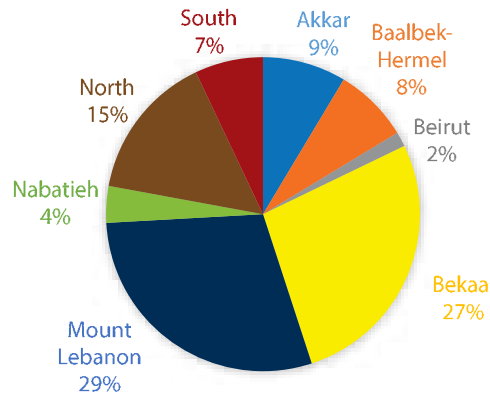


Figure 29. Distribution of children of secondary school age who are out of school by governorate

Looking at out of school rates by age and gender, there was a clear spike in children out of school at age 12 and 13, for both girls and boys. Children having to work comprised 7% of the justifications for children aged 12-14, while work was named as a reason among 13% of children aged 15-17 for not attending school. In addition, marriage was given as a reason to be out of school among 7% of the 15 to 17-year-olds not in school.

For all the age groups (except 3 to 5-year-olds), the main reason for not attending school was the cost. In general, the most reported demand-related barriers were the cost of education, child labour, child marriage, the need to stay at home, cultural reasons or transportation costs. The latter was the least reported reason among the above for children not attending school.

There were supply-side barriers too. For instance, the school did not allow enrolment, there was no school in the area, there was no space in the school, there was violence at school or there were language/curriculum difficulties.

Barriers to Education

Focus group participants named children's education among their top priorities, after residency permits, cash for food, assistance with rent and adequate medical care. Although the Government of Lebanon has committed, with the financial assistance of international donors, to providing all refugee children with a basic education, there are still many barriers.

The lack of residency was a barrier named by many families. "My daughter is not at school because of the absence of legal residencies. We have been illegal for two years. They do not even want to give her a statement of completion." Other obstacles included school fees, the lack of schools nearby, lack of places for the children at school, the need for children to help earn household income and transportation costs.

Most respondents asked for help with school expenses. "Help us with schools. We cannot send all of our children to school. I have eight children which means that the cost of sending them all to school is very high."

Families whose children were attending school complained that their children were discriminated against and bullied at school. Many also complained that it was difficult for the children to keep up, as many Lebanese schools utilize either English or French as the primary teaching language.

Many participants agreed that one of the leading reasons to attempt migration to Europe, Canada or Australia was to make sure that children received the appropriate education.

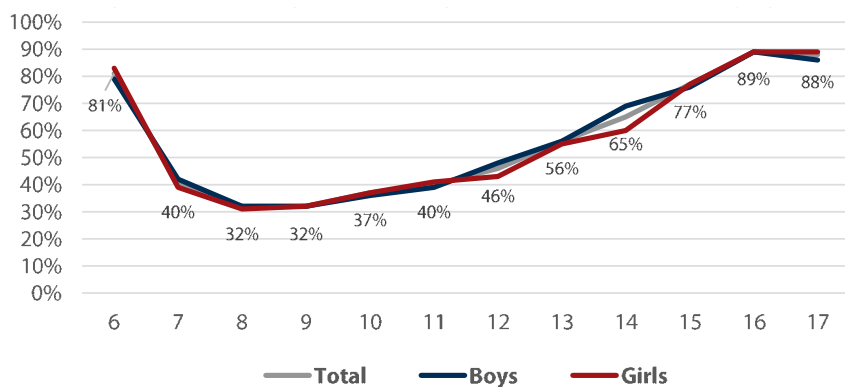


Figure 30. Percentage of school age children out of school by age and sex

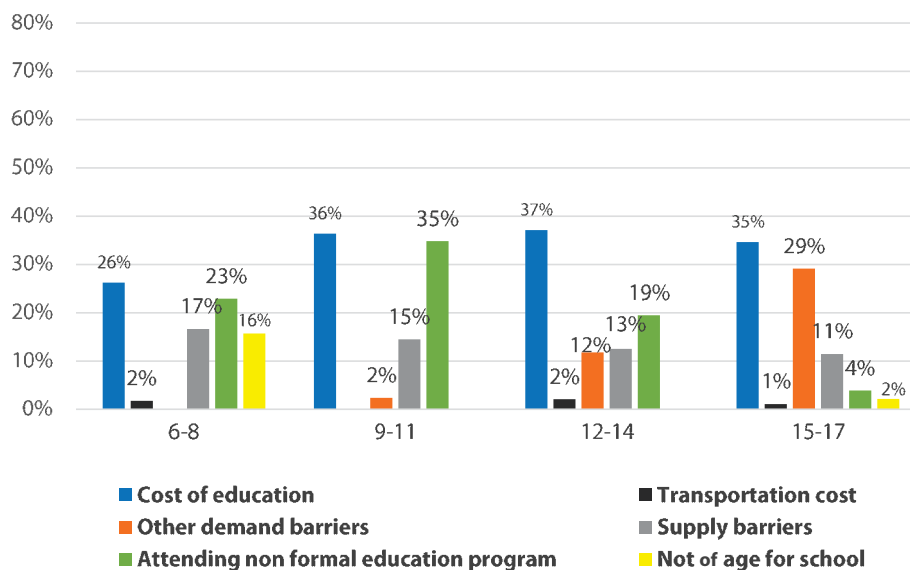


Figure 31. Reasons for children not receiving formal education by age group

HEALTH

Access to Health Services

Nearly half of the interviewed households required primary health care services in the last six months, and of those households, 84% received the needed care. Of the 16% that did not receive the required assistance, the primary reasons were fees (94%), rejection by the health care provider (17%) and transportation costs (14%).

Significant geographic differences were observed. More than 40% of households in Beirut and Aley lacked access to needed primary health care services, while less than 5% of refugee households in Zahle and Baalbek reported not having access.

Primary Health Care Services: the first level of preventive and curative health which includes childhood vaccination, reproductive health care (antenatal care, postnatal care and family planning), and curative consultations for common illnesses

Secondary Health Care Services: hospital-level care

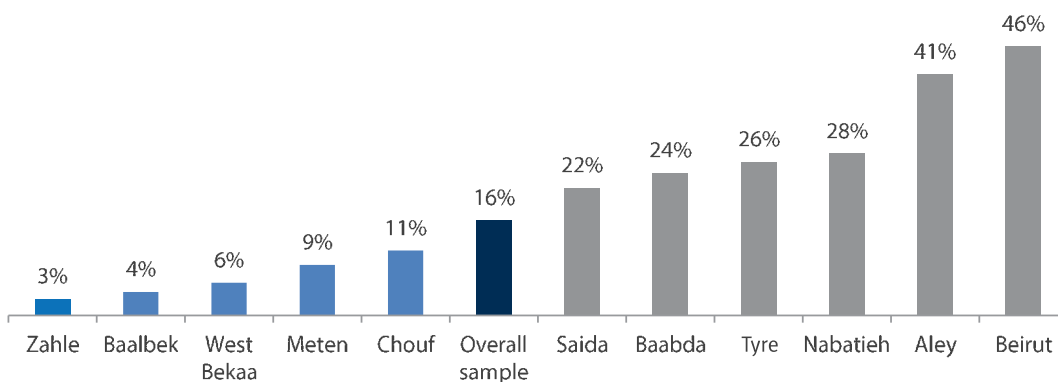


Figure 32. Distribution of households that required primary health services but did not have access (selected districts)

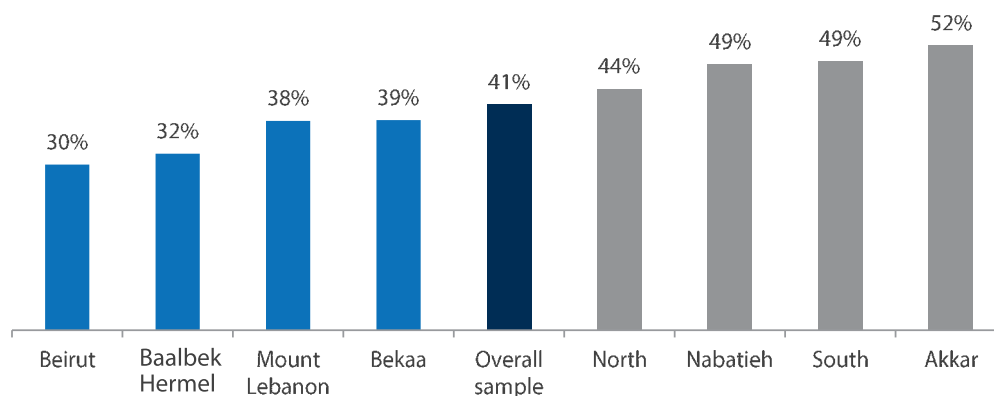


Figure 33. Distribution of sick children 0-59 months old, by governorate

Around one quarter (26%) of the surveyed households required secondary health care services in the last six months. However, 23% of those households did not obtain the required specialized care or hospitalization. The main obstacles to access were fees (71%), followed by transportation costs (13%) and rejection by health care provider (13%).

Child Health

Health status

An assessment of the health of refugee children under the age of five revealed that 41% of sampled children were sick in the two weeks preceding the survey. The most commonly reported ailment was fever (31%), followed by cough (25%) and diarrhoea (15%). Beirut registered the lowest percentage of children who were sick in the two weeks prior to the assessment (30%) and Akkar the highest (52%).

Anthropometric Nutrition Assessment Results

During the vulnerability assessment, anthropometric measurements of children 0 to 59 months old were collected from 3,290 children to evaluate the nutrition status of children under five. Results revealed that the Global Acute Malnutrition rate (GAM) was 2.3% while the severe acute malnutrition rate (SAM) was 0.8%.

Current acute malnutrition prevalence appeared to be stable when compared to 2013 survey findings. Stunting prevalence (low height for age) remained low at 14.8%, while underweight prevalence was 4.3%, which is within the normal thresholds.

Results did, however, reveal significant incidences of underlying causes of malnutrition, including a high disease burden and inappropriate child feeding practices.

GAM Summary

	All n = 3290	Boys n = 1826	Girls n = 1692
Prevalence of global malnutrition (<-2 z-score)	(76) 2.3 % (1.8 - 2.8 95% C.I.)	(49) 2.8 % (2.2 - 3.7 95% C.I.)	(24) 1.6 % (1.1 - 2.4 95% C.I.)
Prevalence of moderate malnutrition (<-2 z-score and ≥-3 z-score)	(50) 1.5 % (1.1 - 1.9 95% C.I.)	(30) 1.9 % (1.5 - 2.5 95% C.I.)	(14) .9 % (.3 - 1.5 95% C.I.)
Prevalence of severe malnutrition (<-3 z-score)	(26) 0.8 % (0.6 - 1.2 95% C.I.)	(16) 0.9 % (0.6 - 1.5 95% C.I.)	(11) 0.7 % (0.4 - 1.3 95% C.I.)

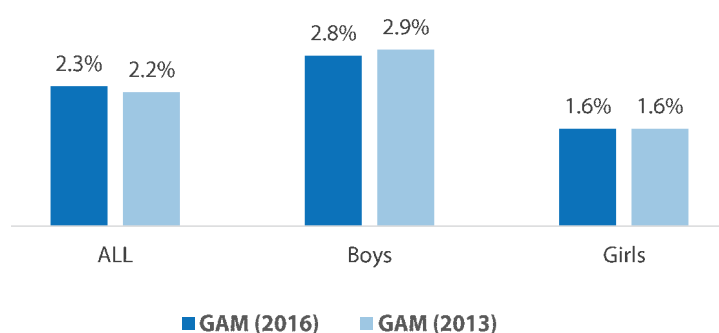


Figure 34. Prevalence of GAM by gender - 2016 vs 2013

Stunting Summary

	All n = 3291	Boys n = 1750	Girls n = 1541
Prevalence of stunting (<-2 z-score)	(487) 14.8 % (13.6 – 16.0 95% C.I.)	(263) 15.0 % (13.4 – 16.7 95% C.I.)	(223) 14.5 % (12.8 – 16.3 95% C.I.)
Prevalence of moderate stunting (<-2 z-score and ≥-3 z-score)	(319) 9.7 % (8.8 – 10.7 95% C.I.)	(170) 9.7 % (8.5 – 11.1 95% C.I.)	(146) 8.6 % (7.4 – 10.1 95% C.I.)
Prevalence of severe stunting (<-3 z-score)	(129) 5.1 % (4.4 – 5.9 95% C.I.)	(93) 5.3 % (4.3 – 6.4 95% C.I.)	(76) 4.9 % (3.9 – 6.1 95% C.I.)

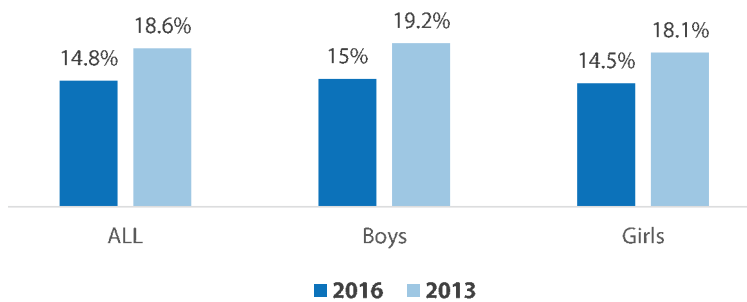


Figure 35. Prevalence of stunting by gender - 2016 vs 2013

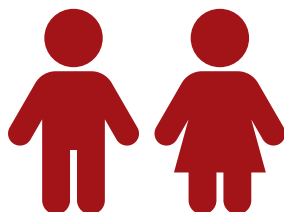
FOOD CONSUMPTION

Number of meals consumed

On average, the number of meals consumed by adults per day was lower than in 2015, with fewer than two meals consumed (1.8 meals per adult per day). Out of 25 districts, 14 showed a reduction in the number of meals consumed, as illustrated in Figure 36 (see Annex 7 for an analysis by governorate). Similarly, children under five consumed fewer meals per day compared to last year, consuming an average of 2.3 meals per day in 2016. The reduction in number of meals varied among districts, but for the majority, the decrease is observed for both adults and children. The fact that the number of meals consumed each day is falling for both adults and children since 2014 is a sign that food insecurity remains a burden among the Syrian refugee population.

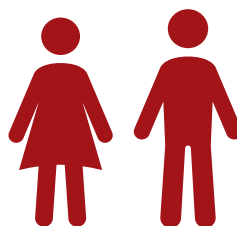
2.3

*number of meals
refugee children
eat per day*



1.8

*number of meals
refugee adults eat
per day*



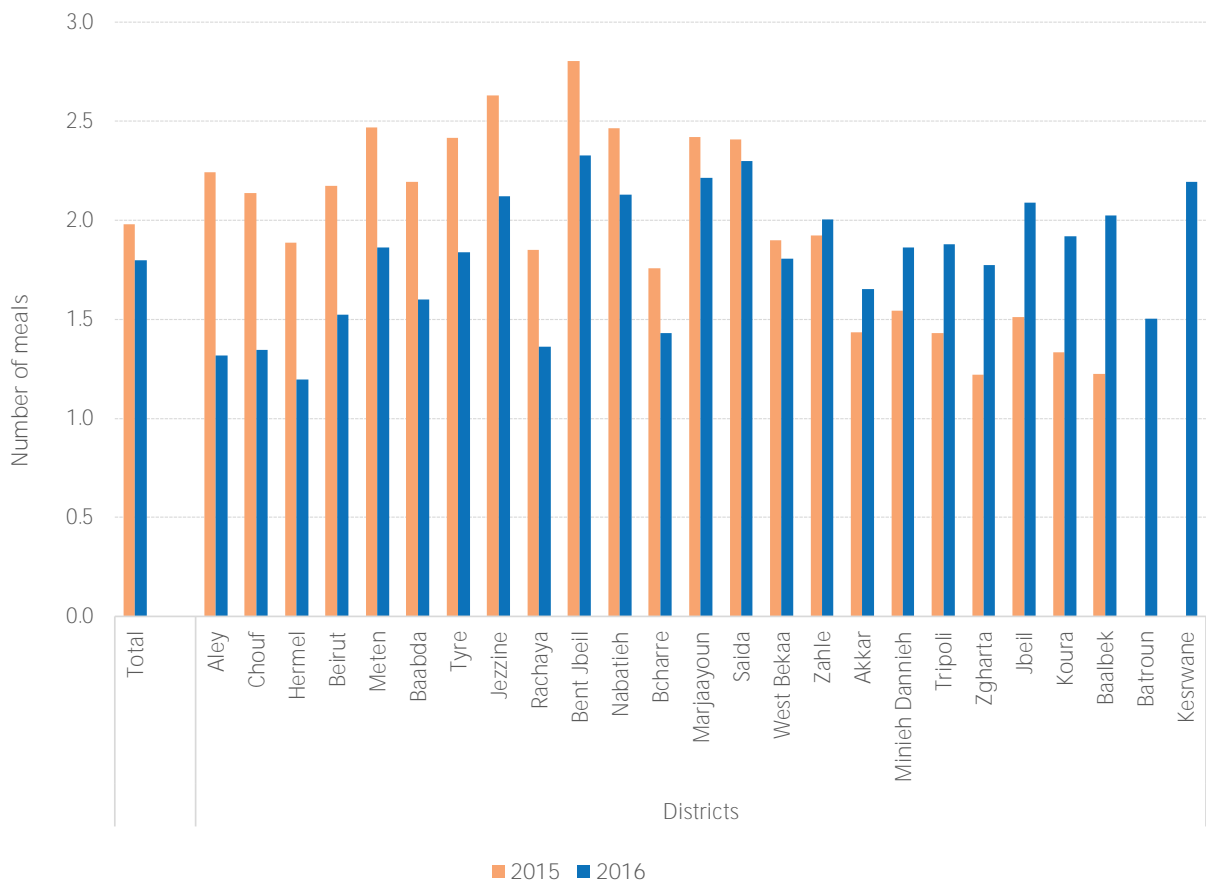


Figure 36. Number of meals consumed by adults per day by district

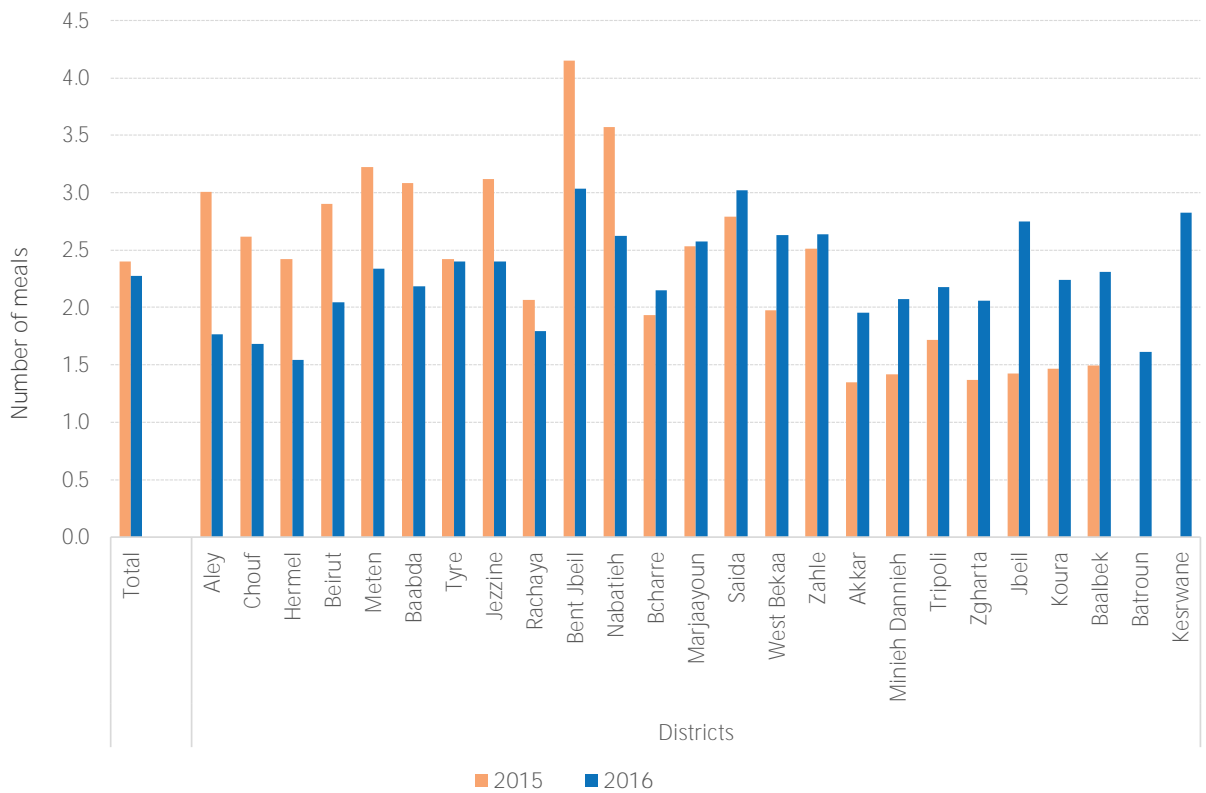


Figure 37. Number of meals consumed by children per day by district

In spite of the reduction in number of meals consumed, the percentage of households unable to cook food at least once a day decreased from 27% in 2015 to 24% in 2016. Over one third of the households unable to cook were found in just six districts: Aley, Hermel, Beirut, Marjaayoun, Akkar and Tripoli. The main reasons for not being able to cook were the same as last year: not having enough food (88%), followed by lack of cooking fuel (12%). In Kerswane and Rachaya, a lack of fuel remains a big constraint for many households, affecting 46% and 60% of the refugee population, respectively.

Food consumption score and groups

The Food Consumption Score¹⁰ (FCS) is a composite indicator that considers dietary diversity, frequency of consumption and nutrient value of the food groups consumed over a recall period of seven days. According to this score, households are classified into three categories: poor, borderline and acceptable food consumption.

The proportion of households with poor and borderline food consumption increased significantly in 2016. The share of households reporting poor food consumption increased from 2% in 2015 to 8% in 2016, and households with borderline consumption comprised 24% of the Syrian refugee population (10 percentage points more than in 2015). Figure 38 shows the percentage of households with poor and borderline consumption in 2016 (bars) and in 2015 (dots). Food consumption improved in 2016 in just four districts (Zgharta, Koura, Bent Jbeil and Chouf, dots higher than the bars). The right side of the graph shows the districts with the highest proportion of households whose food consumption does not meet minimum acceptable standards. Half of the households in Zahle and Marjaayoun have an unacceptable diet. Marjaayoun, Tyre, Baalbek and Baabda reported the largest increase in share of households with poor and borderline consumption since 2015. At the governorate level, more than 40% of refugee households in Akkar, Baalbek-Hermel and Bekaa do not have an acceptable diet.

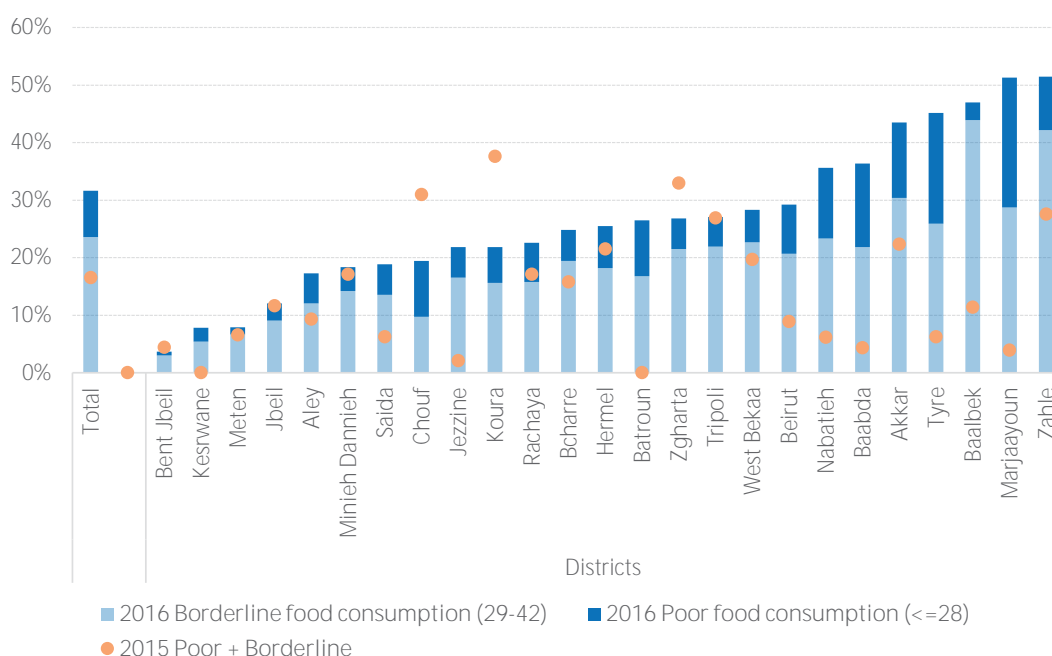
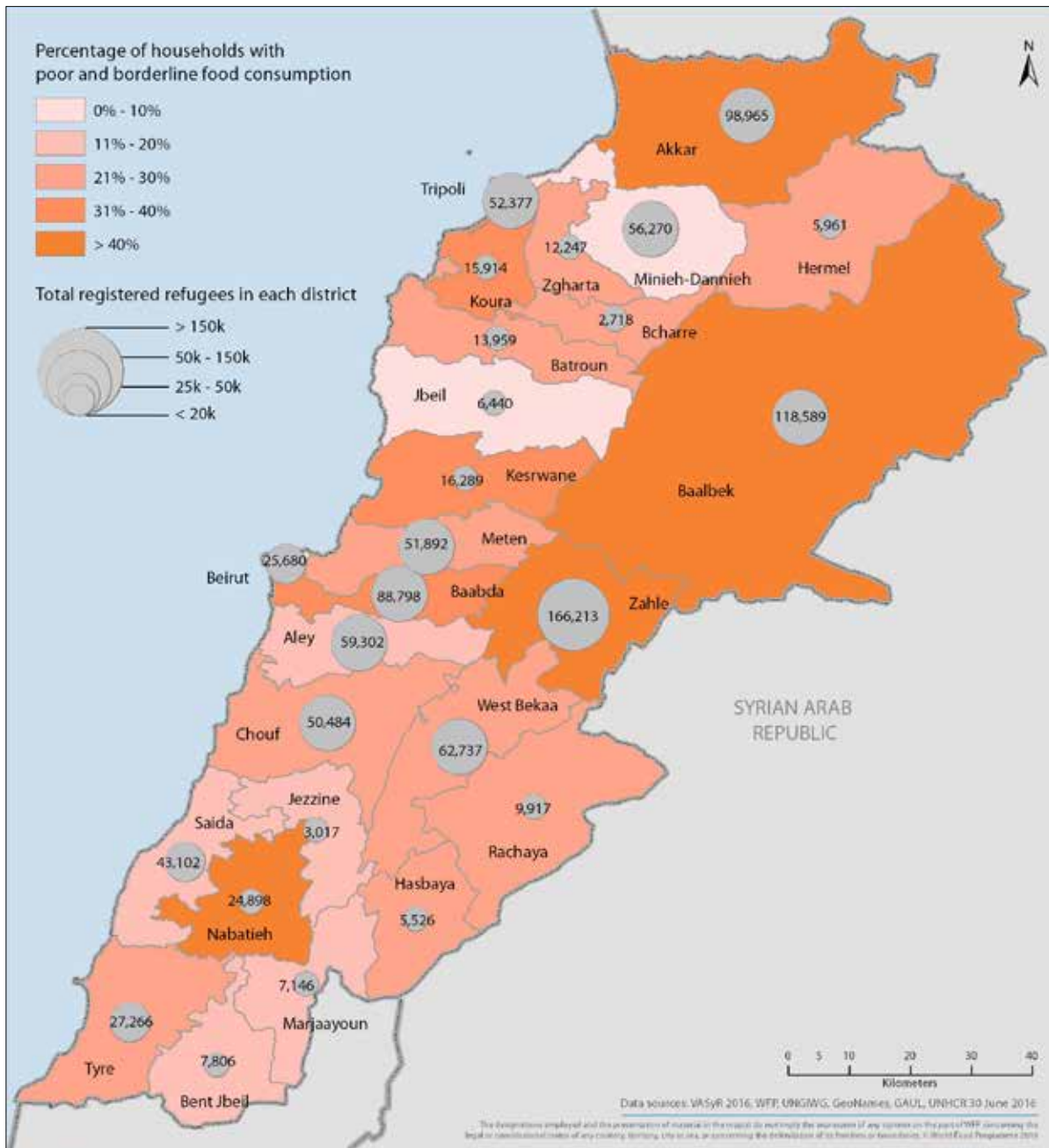


Figure 38. Households with poor and borderline food consumption 2015 and 2016 by district

10 A detailed explanation of FCS calculation and classification can be found in Annex 4.

Map 3 shows the percentage of households with poor and borderline consumption in 2016. Compared with the previous year, the districts with higher proportions of poor and borderline consumption moved, and now include Tyre and Marjaayoun in the south, Akkar in the north, and Baalbek and Zahle in the east.



Map 3. Households with poor and borderline food consumption

Dietary diversity

Two standard indicators are used to measure dietary diversity based on weekly and daily consumption: the Household Weekly Diet Diversity (HWDD) and the Household Daily Average Diet Diversity (HDADD).¹¹ Both these indicators fell in 2016, indicating that a reduction in dietary diversity is one of the main factors affecting food security in 2016. Households consume eight different food groups¹² per week on average (1.4 groups less than 2015), and six food groups on a daily basis (0.8 groups less than 2015).

Figure 39 shows that households in all districts reduced the number of different food groups consumed on a weekly basis compared with 2015.

Households have been divided into HDADD categories based on their daily food consumption:

- Low dietary diversity: <4.5 food groups
- Medium dietary diversity: 4.5-6.5 food groups
- High dietary diversity: >6.5 food groups

Table 7. HWDD and HDADD groups in 2015 and 2016

	Household Weekly Diet Diversity			Household Weekly Diet Diversity mean food groups	Household Daily Diet Diversity			Household Daily Diet Diversity mean food groups
	<=6 food groups	7 - 8 food groups	>=9 food groups		<4.5 food groups	4.5-6.5 food groups	> 6.5 food groups	
2015	2%	20%	78%	9.4	4%	51%	46%	6.4
2016	16%	43%	41%	8.0	14%	63%	23%	5.6

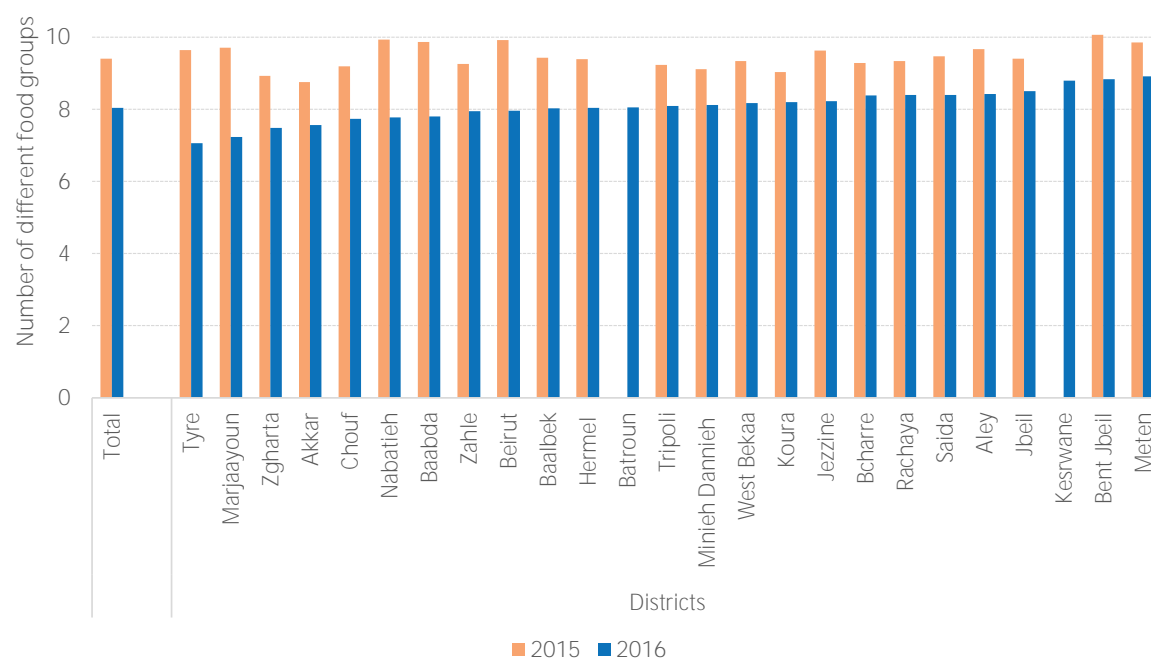


Figure 39. Household weekly dietary diversity by district

¹¹ Detailed methodology of these indicators is explained in Annex 5.

¹² There are 12 standard food groups measured in the Household Dietary Diversity Score (FAO 2010).

Figure 39 shows the proportion of the HDADD categories in 2016 and the proportion of households with low dietary diversity in 2015. On average, dietary diversity deteriorated, with 14% of the households reporting low dietary diversity (4% in 2015) and 63% reporting medium dietary diversity (51% in 2015). Prevalence of households with low dietary diversity is reported as purple dots for 2015 and red bars for 2016 in Figure 40. Districts on the right of Figure 40 have the highest prevalence of households with low dietary diversity, with a substantial deterioration from 2015 for the districts on the right of the graph.

Food consumption pattern

Diet composition is very similar to 2015, with less-nutritious food groups being the most consumed (i.e., bread and cereals, sugar, oil and fat, and condiments) and micronutrient rich food groups (i.e., organ meat, fish, and vitamin A rich fruit and vegetables) the least consumed. Households with acceptable food consumption have a more diversified diet and a higher intake of proteins and vitamins.

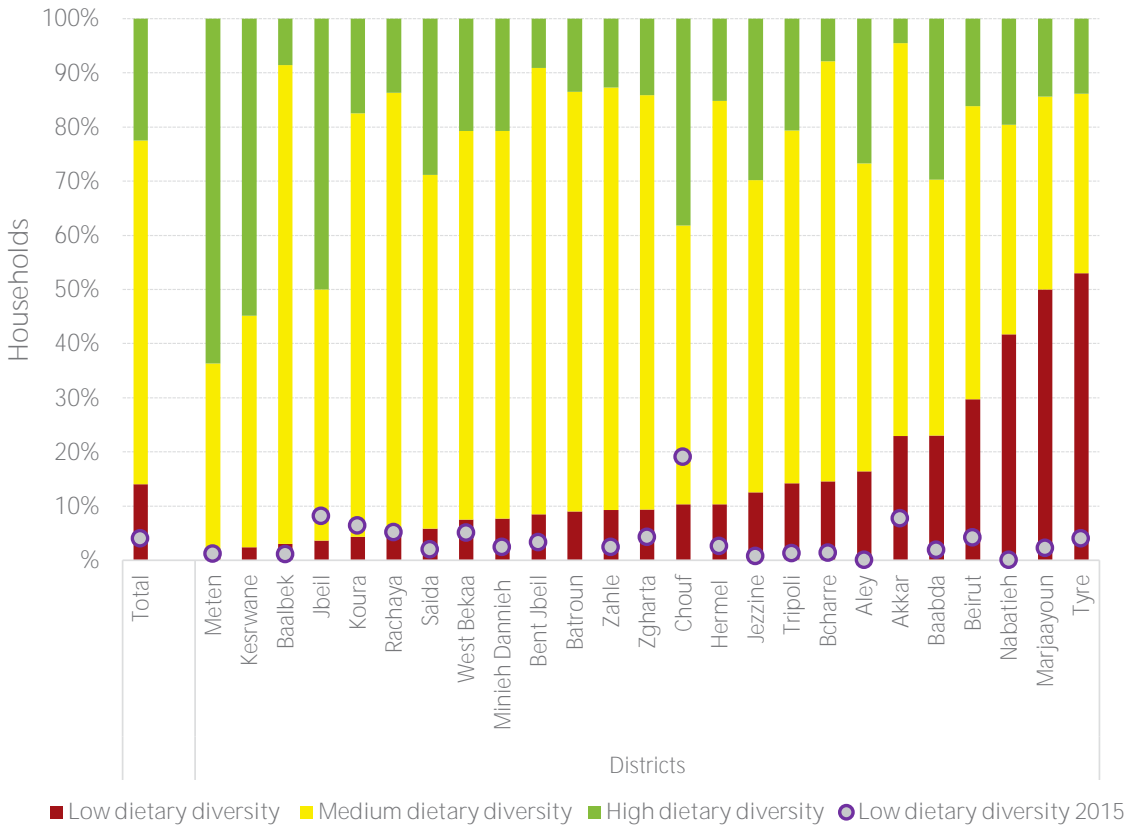


Figure 40. Household Daily Diet Diversity groups by district 2015-2016

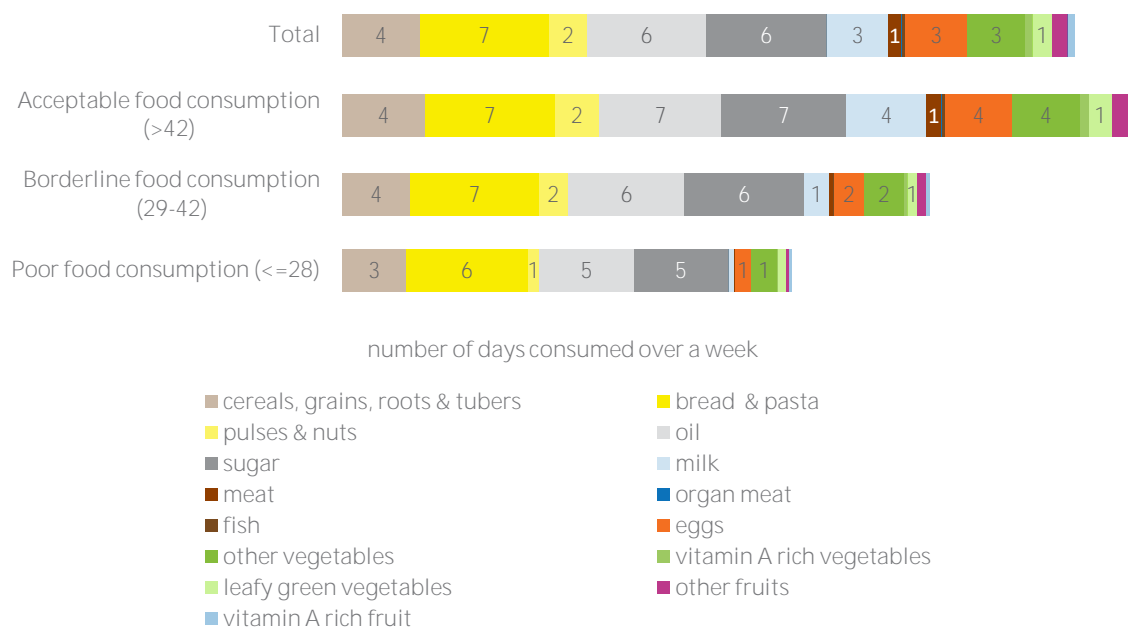


Figure 41. Weekly frequency consumption of food groups by food consumption categories

As shown in Figure 42, consumption of animal proteins and vitamin A rich fruit and vegetables is limited, with the majority (more than 70%) of households not including these foods in their weekly diet.

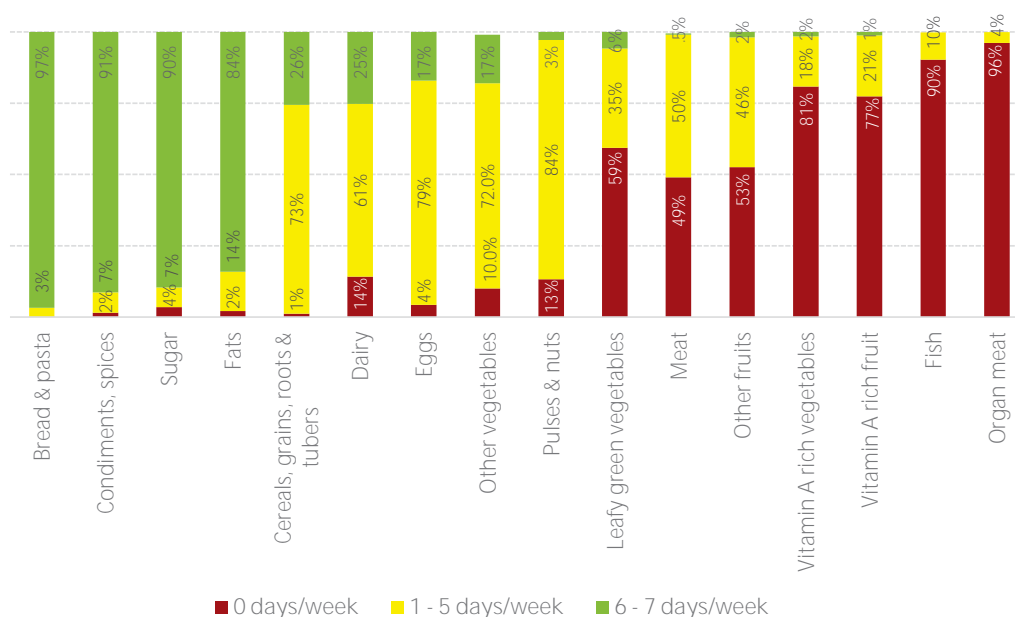


Figure 42. Proportion of households by consumption frequency categories of main food groups

Compared with 2015, households eat less cereals and tubers, sugar and fats, dairy products and vegetables, while households slightly increased the consumption of vitamin A rich fruit and vegetables, leafy green vegetables, eggs, legumes, meat and fish. However, the frequency of consumption of these foods remains insufficient for a healthy diet.

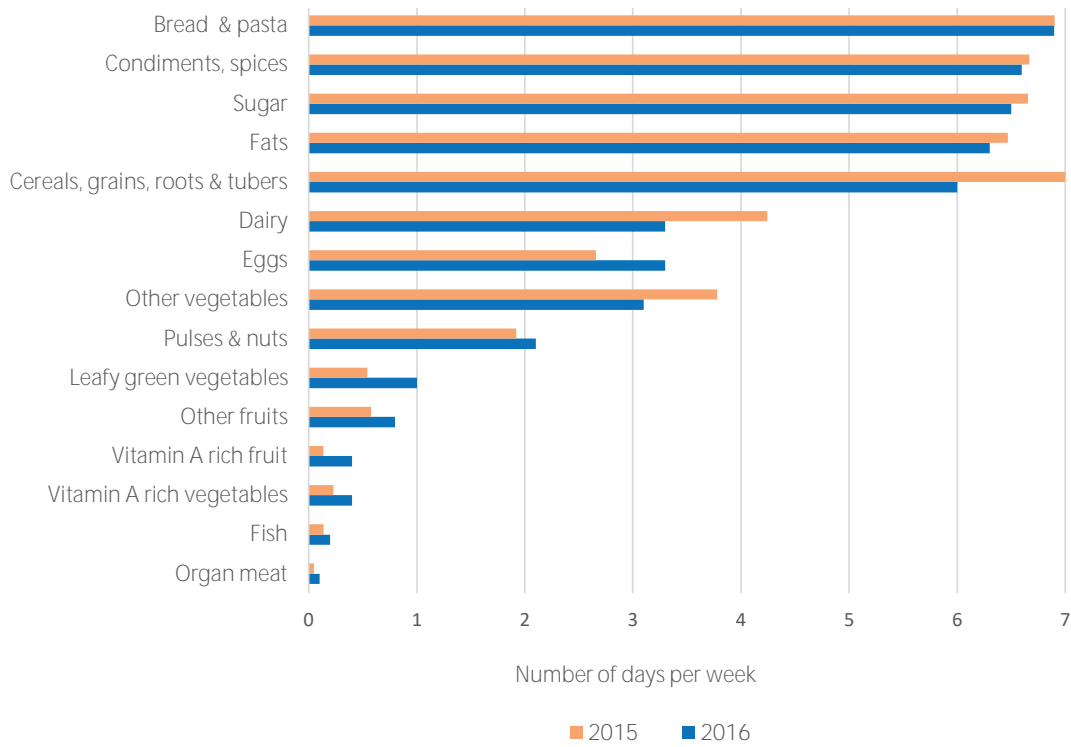


Figure 43. Number of days food groups were consumed



INFANT AND YOUNG CHILD FEEDING PRACTICES

Information on feeding practices was collected for 523 children under six months of age and 1,334 children aged 6-23 months.

The percentage of children under six months exclusively breastfed increased from 45% in 2015 to 58% in 2016. The remaining 42% of breastfed babies below six months of age consumed some solid or semi-solid food the previous day. Zgharta has the highest percentage of exclusively breastfed children (70%) and Hermel the lowest, with only 30% of the children below six months exclusively breastfed.

While exclusive breastfeeding increased for children below six months, breastfeeding decreased for children aged 6-17 months. In 2016, only 65% of children 6-11 months (71% in 2015) and 52% of children 12-17 months received breast milk (57% in 2015). This percentage decreased to 18% for children aged 18-23 months.

In 2016, only 62% of the children 6-23 months of age were consuming solid food. Complementary feeding (solid, semi-solid and other liquids excluding breast milk) significantly decreased since 2015 for children aged 6-17 months. Only 56% of children 6-11 months and 60% of children 12-17 months were receiving complementary feeding. Older children (18-23 months) receive supplementary feeding.

In 2008 the World Health Organization (WHO) established guidelines for assessing infant and young child feeding practices. This included a composite indicator for a 'minimum acceptable diet' that combines dietary diversity and feeding frequency by breastfeeding status. Findings in 2016 indicate only 3% of children age 6-23 months were provided with the minimum acceptable diet with no differences among the various age groups.

According to the WHO guidelines, children between 6 and 17 months should consume a minimum of four food groups out of seven¹³ to meet the minimum diet diversity target, independent of age and breastfeeding status. Only 15% of refugee children in the sample met the WHO recommended minimum diet diversity thresholds. Children 18-23 months old have a better diet diversity (27% reaching the minimum diet diversity) compared to younger children (14% for

children 12-17 months and only 4% for children 6-11 months). Geographical variations range from only 3% of young children consuming a diversified diet in Aley to 30% of young children in Nabatieh.

According to the WHO guidelines, the minimum acceptable meal frequency is two meals a day for breastfed babies 6-8 months old, three for breastfed children aged 9-23 months and four for non-breastfed children aged 6-23 months. Compared with 2015, children aged 6-11 and 12-17 months have a higher meal frequency. In 2016, only 18% of the children aged 6-23 months (and only 11% of children 18-23 months) met the WHO recommended acceptable meal frequency. The lowest value was observed in Aley, where none of the assessed children met the minimum acceptable meal frequency, followed by Beirut, with only 1%. The highest value was observed in Rachaya, where households reported that over 39% of the children met the recommended acceptable meal frequency.

Dietary diversity is different for each age group. Overall, diet diversity decreased compared to 2015, and children 6-23 months old are consuming less vitamin-rich foods and proteins.

For children aged 6-11 months, dairy products and formula are the most consumed food groups, both consumed by 37% of the children. The percentage of children consuming dairy products significantly decreased since 2015 (from 60% to 37%), while consumption of infant formula remained unchanged compared to last year's findings. Consumption of cereals and vitamin A rich fruit and vegetables increased from 2015 for children in this age group, but consumption of all other food groups declined.

¹³ The seven standard food groups are: 1. grains and tubers; 2. pulses and nuts; 3. dairy products; 4. meat and fish; 5. eggs; 6. vitamin A rich fruits and vegetables; and 7. other fruits and vegetables.

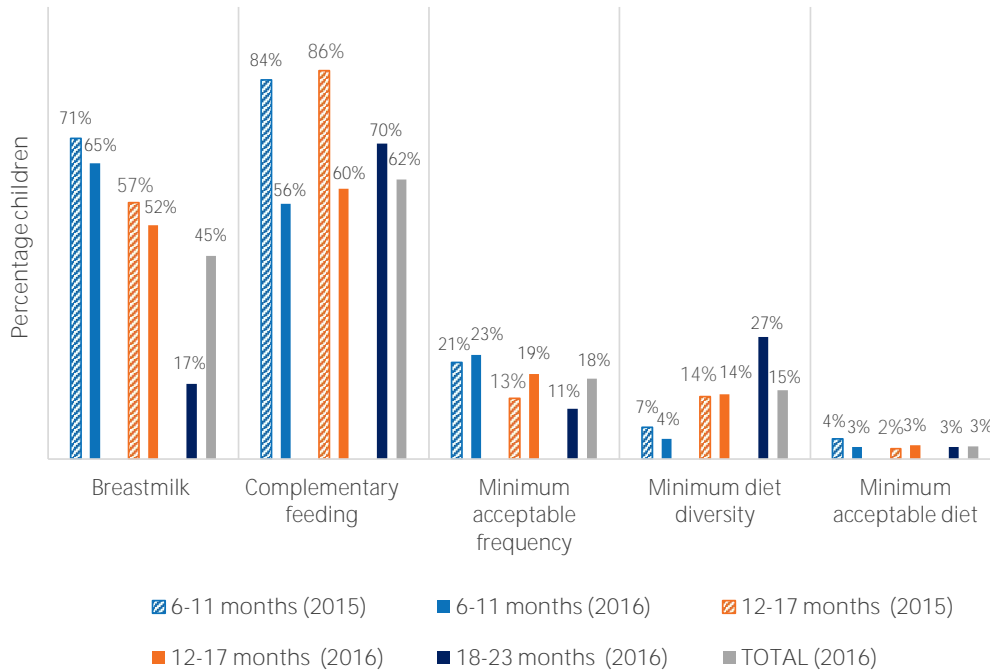


Figure 44. IYCF practices by food group and total 2015-2016

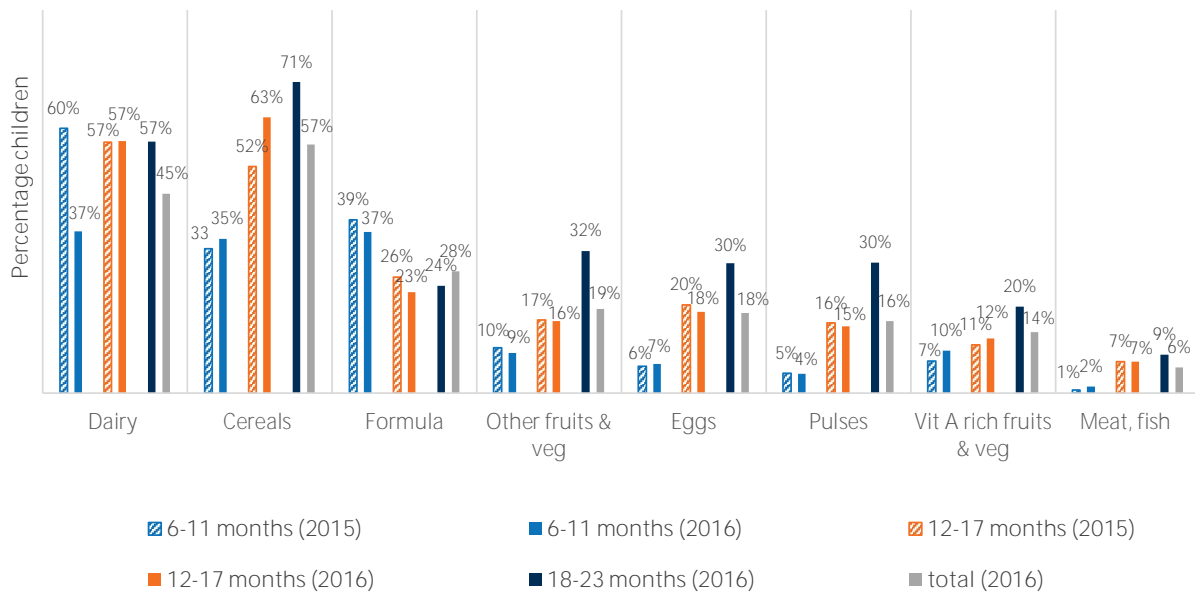


Figure 45. Proportion of children consuming different food groups the previous day by age group 2015-2016

Children aged 12-17 months consumed mainly cereals, dairy products, infant formula and eggs. Consumption of vegetables and fruit was still limited, with only 10% eating vitamin A fruits and vegetables. Protein was mainly provided by the consumption of eggs (18%) and pulses (15%), both of which decreased since 2015. Meat and fish were consumed only by 7% of children aged 12-17 months.

Older children, aged 18-23 months, consumed more cereals than any other food group. Protein intake was provided mainly by dairy (57% of children consumed this food group) then by eggs and pulses (30%), distantly followed by meat and fish (9%). Consumption of vitamin A rich foods was still limited: only 20% of children 18-23 months old consumed these food items, while 32% consumed other fruits and vegetables.

In infants and children, vitamin A is essential to strengthening the immune system and fighting off life-threatening illnesses including infections, measles, and those causing diarrhoea. For young Syrian refugee children, the consumption of vitamin A rich food was limited for all age groups. On average, 32% of children in Rachaya consumed vitamin A rich fruit and vegetables, while in Bent Jbeil and Koura, only 3% of children 6-23 months old consumed these foods.

Consumption of meat and fish was also very limited: on average, only 6% of children in these age groups consumed these type of proteins the day before the assessment. The highest prevalence was found in Kesrwane (17%) and the lowest in Baalbek, where no children had consumed meat or fish.

Only 15%
*of refugee children in the sample met the WHO recommended
minimum diet diversity thresholds*



ECONOMIC VULNERABILITY

Monthly per capita expenditures

Per capita expenditures were US\$ 104, a slight drop of US\$ 3 compared to 2015. A decrease in expenditure signifies that households have fewer resources. The change in expenditure varied from district to district. Districts with the highest per capita expenditure were Beirut, Meten, Jbeil and Kesrwane, while the lowest per capita expenditure was found in Hermel and Baalbek. Figure 46 shows the districts with higher per capita expenditures and the changes from 2015. Out of 25 districts, per capita expenditure increased in just nine (dark blue bars higher than light blue bars). In Bcharre, Baabda, Baalbek, Hermel, Bent Jbeil and Jbeil, the decrease in per capita expenditures since 2015 was more than 20%. See Annex 7 for analysis at the governorate level.

Food as a share of total expenditures

Similar to previous years, food accounted for 44% of monthly expenditures, a minor decrease from 2015. The second main household expenditure was rent (17%), followed by health (12%). While average rent expenditure decreased from 2015, health expenditure increased in most districts. Looking at the composition of food expenditures, bread and pasta accounted for the lion's share of food expenditure at 10%, followed by 6% spent on fresh fruit and vegetables, 5% on dairy products, 4% on fresh meat, cereals and oil/fats, and the remaining share on other foods such as pulses and nuts, sugar and canned food.

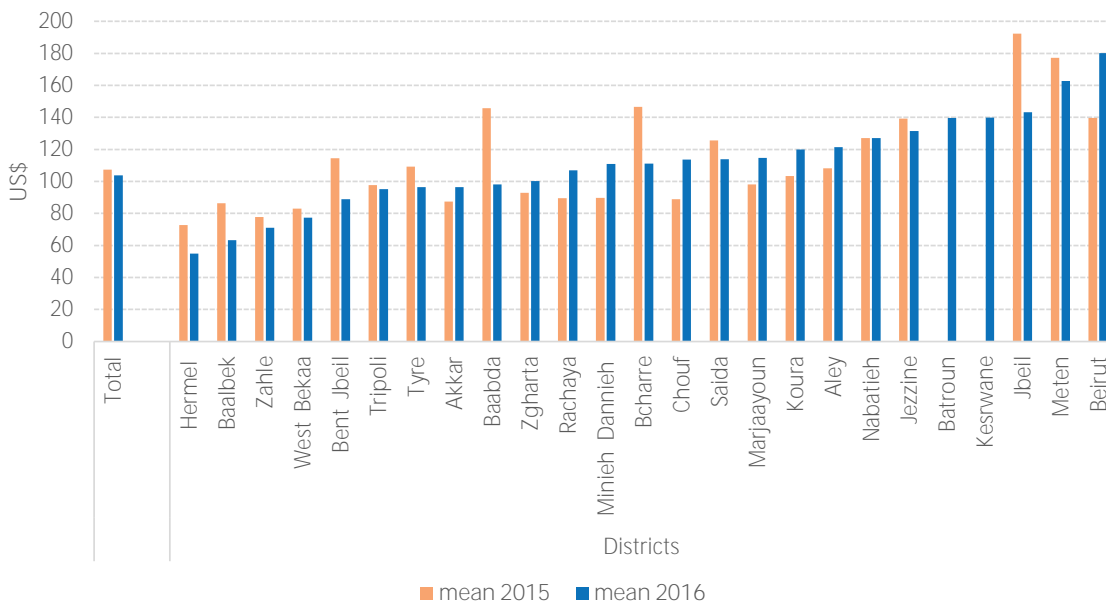


Figure 46. Per capita monthly expenditures

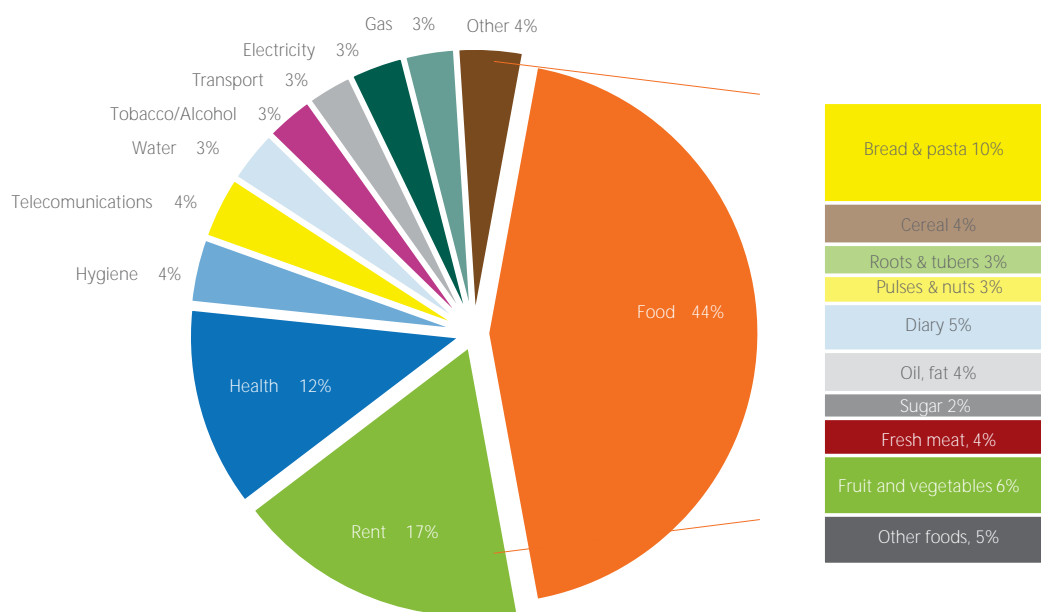


Figure 47. Average composition of household expenditure

In 2016, the districts with the highest share of food expenditure (above 50 percent) were: Hermel, followed by Baalbek, Marjaayoun and Jezzine. With the exception of Jezzine, these districts had the highest share of food expenditures also in 2015. The lowest shares of food expenditures were found in Jbeil,

Meten, Kesrwane and Beirut. Households in Akkar, Baalbek, Hermel and Marjaayoun spent proportionally more on health, while households in Beirut, Meten, Baabda, Tyre and Aley spent more on rent. See Annex 7 for analysis at the governorate level.

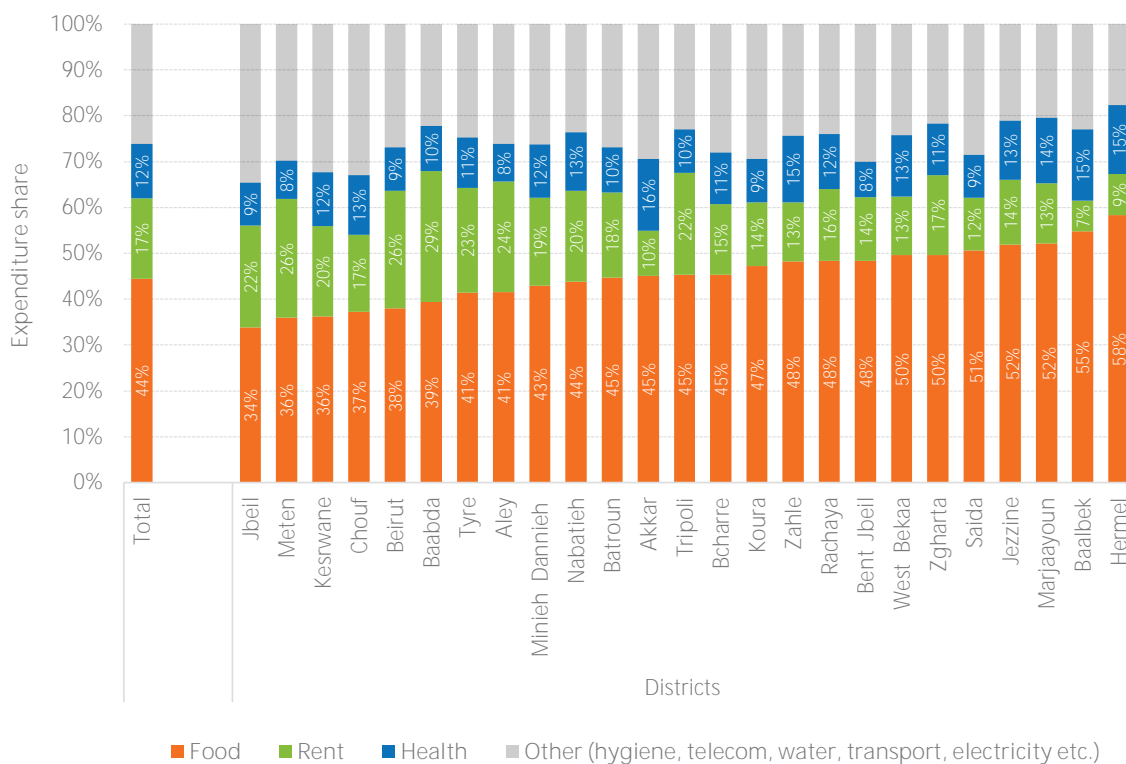
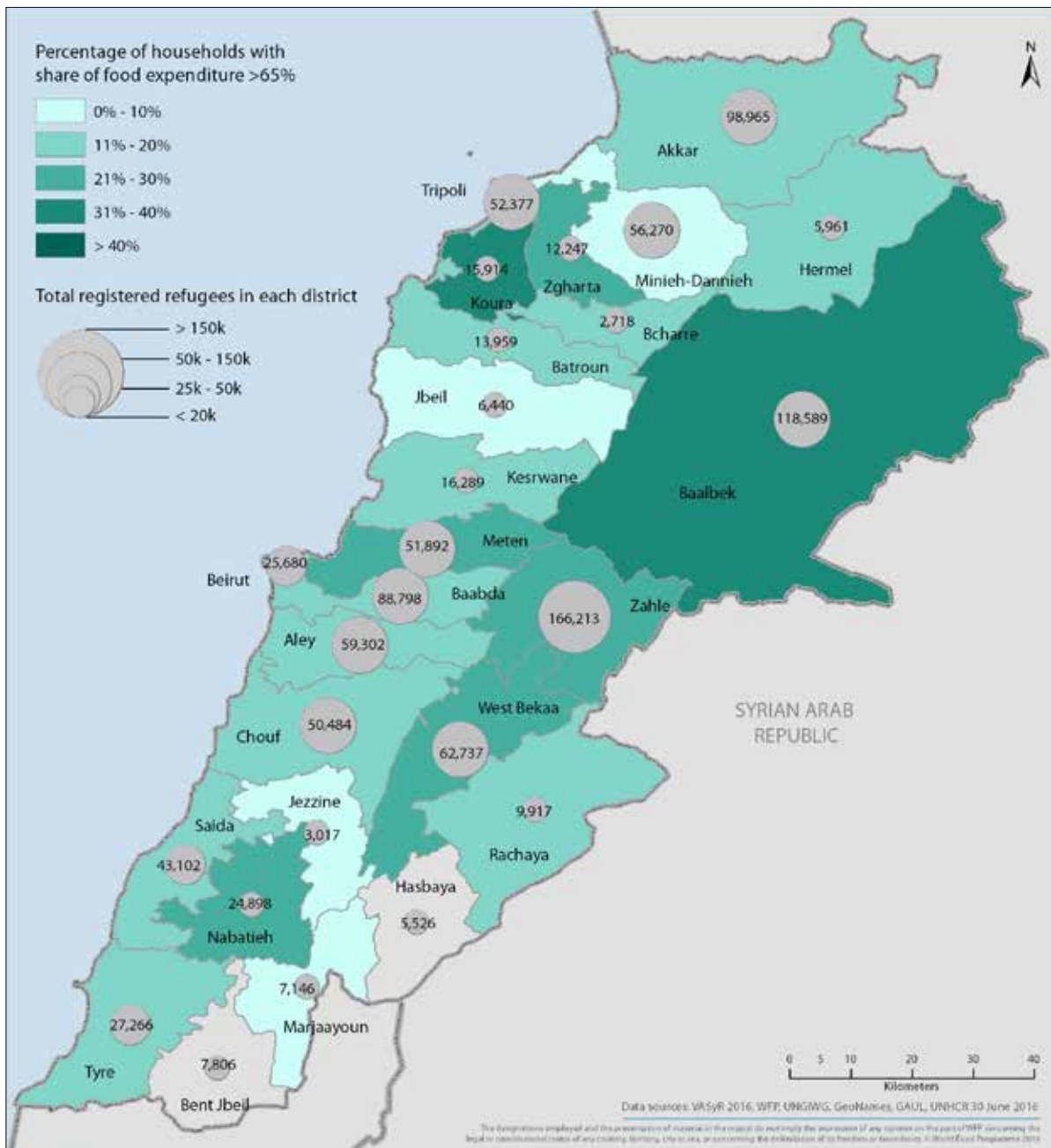


Figure 48. Average monthly main expenditure shares by category and district

Share of food expenditure is used as a proxy indicator of food security. Households with a high share of food expenditure often do not have enough resources to cover other important costs such as health and education. Food expenditure share is classified into four categories:

- Very high: > 75%
- High: 65-75%
- Medium: 50-65%
- Low <50%

At a national level, 17% of the households allocated more than 65% of their expenses to food. Map 4 shows the variation among districts. As in 2015, the worse-off districts (reporting high shares of food expenditures) were Hermel and Baalbek, while in Jezzine and Baabda households reported a higher share of food expenditure compared to 2015.



Map 4. Syrian refugee households allocating over 65% of their expenditures on food

The estimated value of food consumed but not purchased¹⁴ was calculated. On average, the estimation of per capita food consumed in the last 30 days was US\$ 47 in 2016, of which US\$ 10 (22%) was non-purchased food. Compared with 2015, the share of non-purchased food decreased. Districts with the highest value of non-purchased food were: Bent Jbeil, Marjaayoun, Nabatieh, Meten, Baalbek and Tyre. See Annex 7 for analysis at the governorate level.

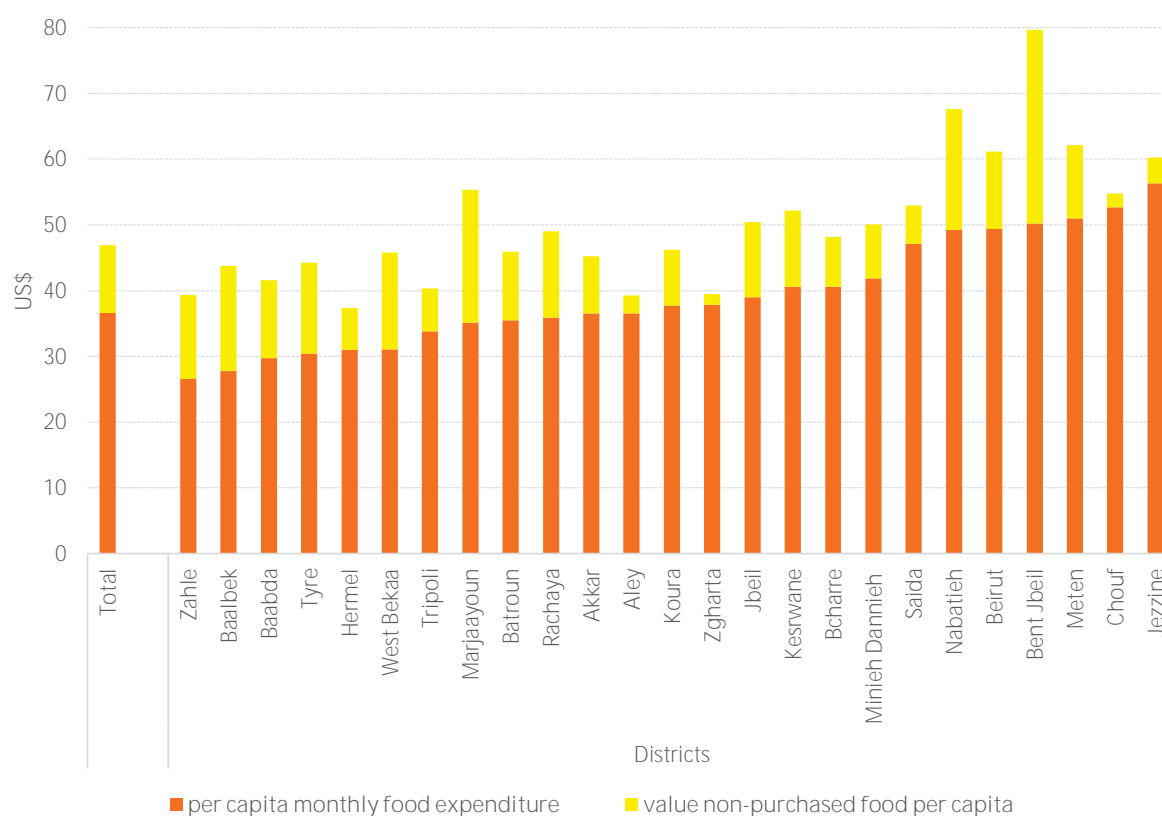


Figure 49. Estimated per capita value of purchased and non-purchased food consumed in the past 30 days, by district

¹⁴ Food consumed but not purchased comes from different sources: donations, in-kind food aid, credit, exchange, own production, gathering/hunting.

Survival minimum expenditure and minimum expenditure

The Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) is an indicator that includes all the basic items needed by the household per month.¹⁵ Households have been classified into four categories according to the proportion of the Minimum and Survival Expenditure Basket their total per capita expenditure represents.¹⁶

Expenditure thresholds	Per Capita Expenditure
< Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB)	< US\$ 87
SMEB- Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB)	US\$ 87 - US\$ 113
MEB – 125% of MEB	US\$ 114 - US\$ 142
>125% MEB	>US\$ 143

More than half of refugee households (53%) were below the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB), and 71% below the MEB. Compared with 2015, there was a slight increase in the share of households below the MEB (70% in 2015) at national level, but the variation for some districts is larger. Households in the SMEB category in Jbeil, Bent Jbeil, Baabda and Bcharre have increased by more than 50% since 2015.

Geographical differences were substantial, and the proportion of households falling below the SMEB ranges from 22% in Meten to 86% in Hermel. Zahle, Baalbek and Hermel had more than 70% of households below the SMEB, while in Meten and Jezzine the share was less than 30%. See Annex 7 for analysis at the governorate level.

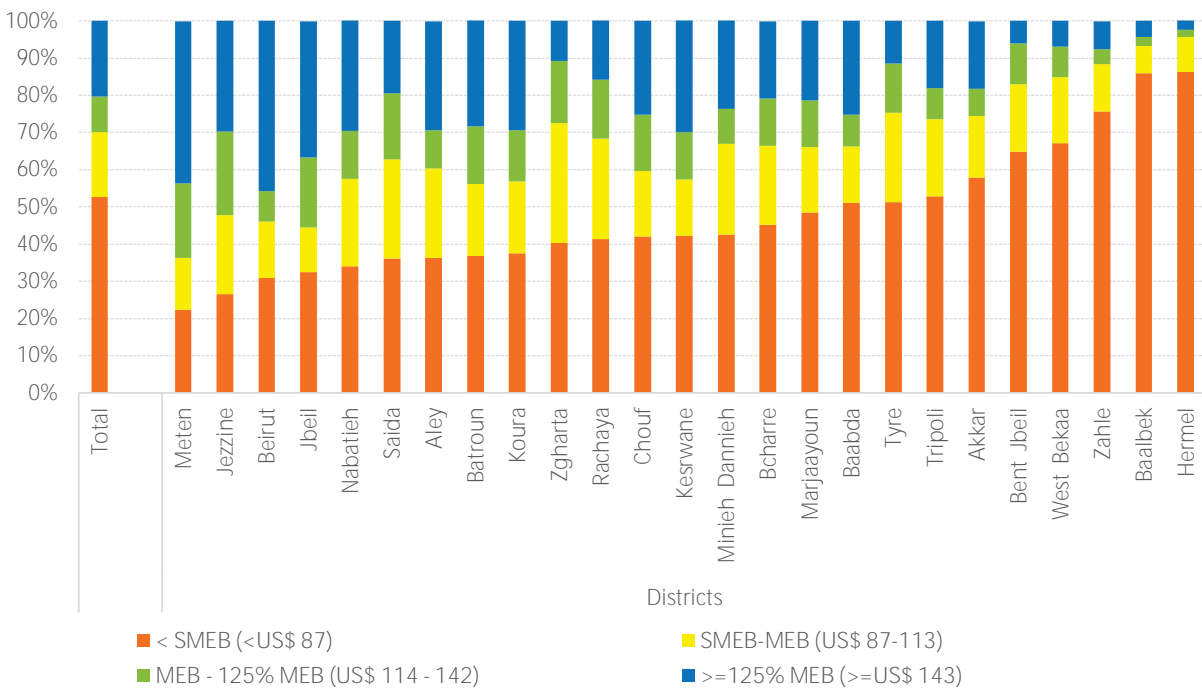


Figure 50. Percentage of households by Minimum and Survival Expenditure Basket categories by district

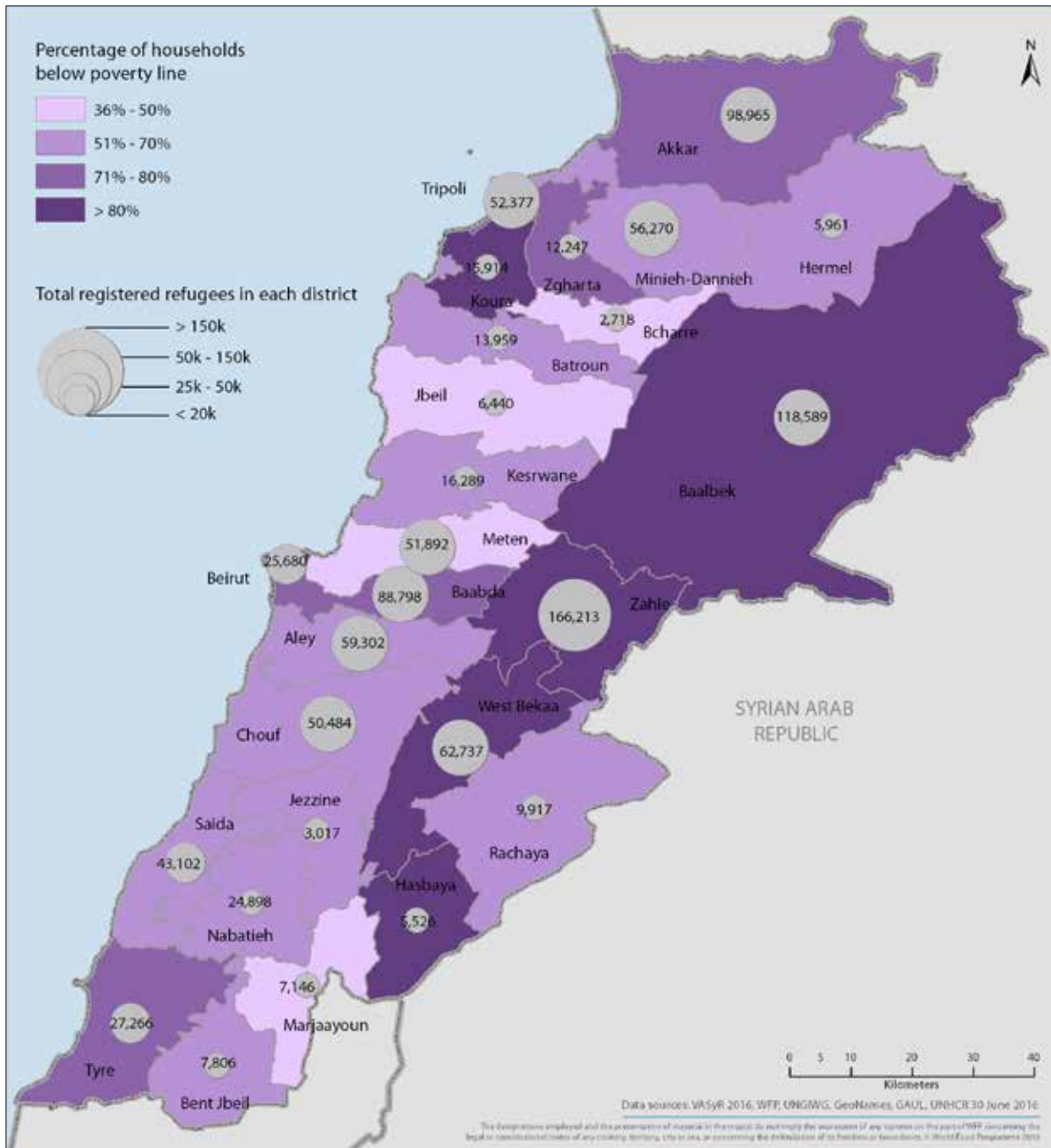
¹⁵ Annex 2 describes the composition of the MEB as well as the methodology used to determine it.

¹⁶ The comparison has been made using the expenditure per capita to control for household size.

Poverty line

Households have also been classified according to the poverty line proposed for Lebanon by the World Bank in 2013,¹⁷ established at US\$ 3.84 per person per day. The proportion of households living below the poverty line (71%) remained relatively stable in 2016, following a sharp increase from 49% to 70% between 2014 and 2015.

In six districts, more than 80% of the refugee population is living below the poverty line, and in four of them (Jbeil, Bent Jbeil, Baabda and Bcharre) this percentage significantly increased from 2015, as reflected in the SMEB changes.



Map 5. Percentage of household below poverty line

¹⁷ United Nations Development Programme and the Council for Development and Reconstruction (2014). *Lebanon Millennium Development Goals Report 2013-2014*.

Gap between income and expenditure

The difference between household monthly income and expenditure as reported by refugees (i.e., the income gap) has been calculated and classified into four categories:

1. Households with no expenditure/income gap (income \geq spending)
2. Households whose monthly expenditures are up to US\$ 200 above income
3. Households whose monthly expenditures are US\$ 200 to US\$ 400 above income
4. Households whose monthly expenditures are more than US\$ 400 above income.

Note that expenditure gaps and poverty are not always related, as households with low or no income do not necessarily have a high gap. In Jezzine, Koura, Chouf, Saida and Marjaayoun, more than 30% of the refugee population have monthly expenditures more than US\$ 400 in excess of their household income. However, the percentage of households with no income gap increased from 6% in 2015 to 12% in 2016. See Annex 7 for results sorted by the proportion of households with the widest gaps by district and governorate.

Debt

The vast majority (90%) of refugee households borrowed money in the previous three months, reflecting an increase over 2015 in nearly all the districts. The percentage of households currently in debt increased, reaching 90% of households. Following the same trend, the average amount of debt also increased in 2016: a mean of US\$ 857 and a median of US\$ 600 per household compared to US\$ 842 and US\$ 500 in 2015.

Across all Syrian refugee households, 78% have debts of US\$ 200 or more and 44% have debts of US\$ 600 or more. Figure 51 shows the distribution of debt categories among districts (see Annex 7 for analysis at the governorate level). More than 50% of refugee households in Bent Jbeil, Kesrwane, Zahle, Meten, West Bekaa, Jbeil, Baalbek and Batroun have a debt greater than US\$ 600. Households in Beirut, Minieh Dannieh and Jezzine have the lowest amount of debt, and in these districts, the percentage of households with debt actually decreased since 2015. Governorates with highest debts are Mount Lebanon and Nabatieh.

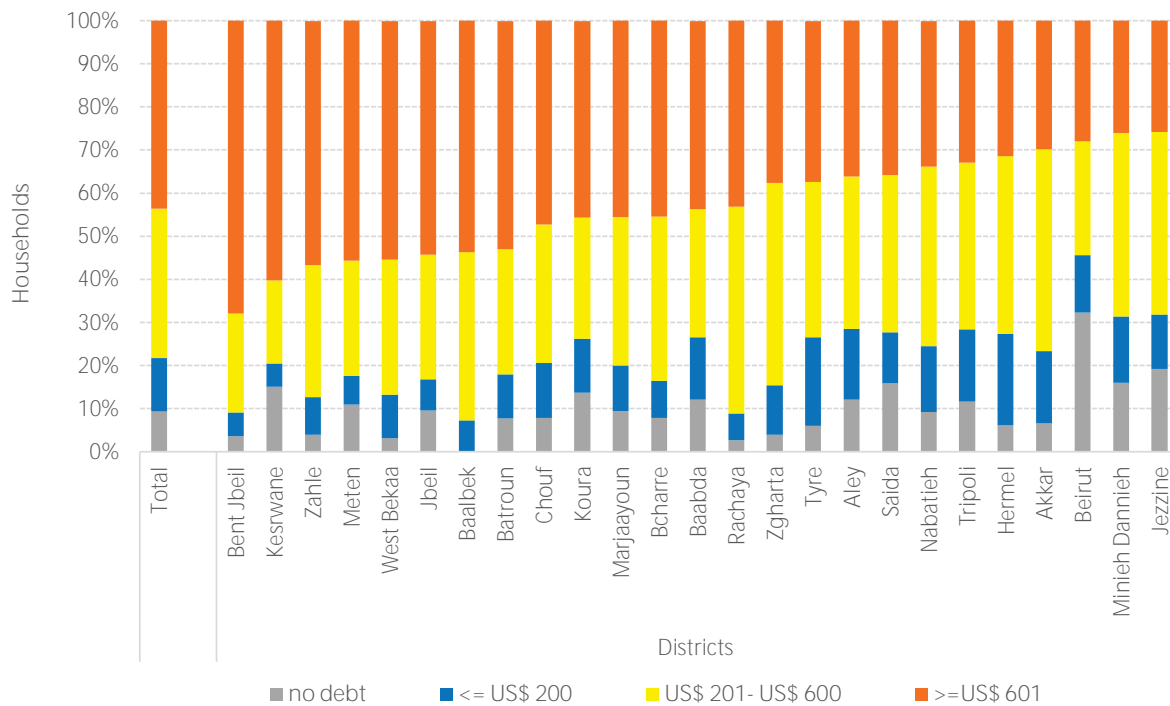


Figure 51. Household average debt and amounts owed by district

The main reasons for borrowing money have remained the same since 2014: to buy food (71%), cover health expenses (38%) and pay rent (35%). While borrowing money to cover health expenses increased in 2016, borrowing to buy food and pay rent decreased.

The reasons for incurring debt vary significantly by district and changed from 2015. For instance, as shown in Figure 52, borrowing money to pay for health expenses increased in Bent Jbeil, West Bekaa, Rachaya and Minieh Dannieh, and decreased in Jbeil, Aley, Nabatieh, Hermel and Beirut. On average, households which reported borrowing money to buy food and pay rent decreased from 2015 in most districts, especially in districts with lower overall debt (Akkar, Beirut, Minieh Dannieh and Jezzine).

The main sources of money borrowed remain friends and relatives living in Lebanon (70%) followed by supermarket/shops (38%) and landlords (8%).

The districts with more than 80% of households borrowing money from friends or relatives in Lebanon were Bent Jbeil, Jbeil, Kesrwane and Zgharta. Borrowing money from supermarkets/shops was more common in Baalbek, Bent Jbeil and Hermel, where more than 60% of households use this source of credit. In Tripoli, Saida, Hermel and Bcharre, asking for credit from the landlord occurred in more than 15% of the households. The other sources of credit, used by a small percentage of Syrian refugees, were friends or relatives outside Lebanon, local charities and money lenders.

90%
of refugee households borrowed money in the previous three months

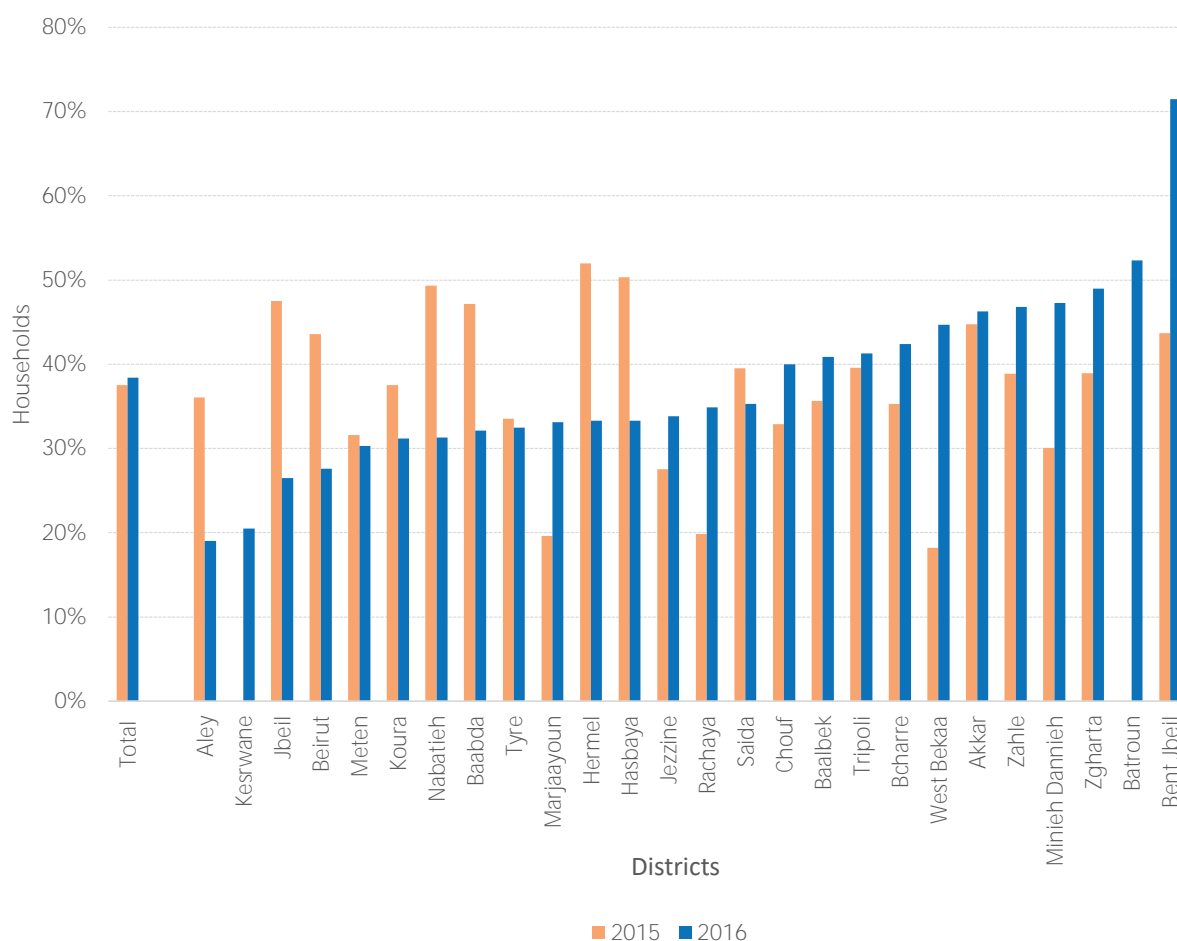


Figure 52. Share of households which borrowed money to pay for health expenses, by district

LIVELIHOODS AND INCOME

The survey assessed income opportunities among refugees, collecting information at the individual and household levels. This section first analyses the data on individual income activities for individuals who worked at least one day in the 30 days prior to the survey: type of work, number of days worked, and salary earned. The household section analyses the data about households who had at least one working member according to the type of income sources and the income per capita. When possible, results were compared with 2015.

Working individuals

The study asked individuals to report if they have worked at least one day in the 30 days prior to the survey, the type of work conducted, the number of days worked and the salary received. Analysis was done disaggregating the data by gender and age group (aged 5-17, 18-65 and above 65).

On average, only 36% of working-age adults worked in the month before the survey. This percentage is higher in Bent Jbeil (47%) and lower in Akkar (28%). In addition, 5% of children aged 5-17 years worked in the month prior the survey. Only 3% of children 5-14 are involved in income-generating activities, while 18% of adolescents aged 15-17 reported working. Bcharre and Hermel have the highest percentage of working adolescents (37% and 30% respectively). Only 2% of individuals over age 65 were working nationally; Bent Jbeil has the highest percentage (29%).

Definitions used in this chapter

- **Workers:** individuals who worked at least one day in the 30 days prior to the survey
- **Working-age adults:** individuals 18-65 years old
- **Working children:** children aged 5-14 who worked at least one day in the 30 days prior to the survey
- **Working adolescents:** individuals aged 15-17 who worked at least one day in the 30 days prior to the survey

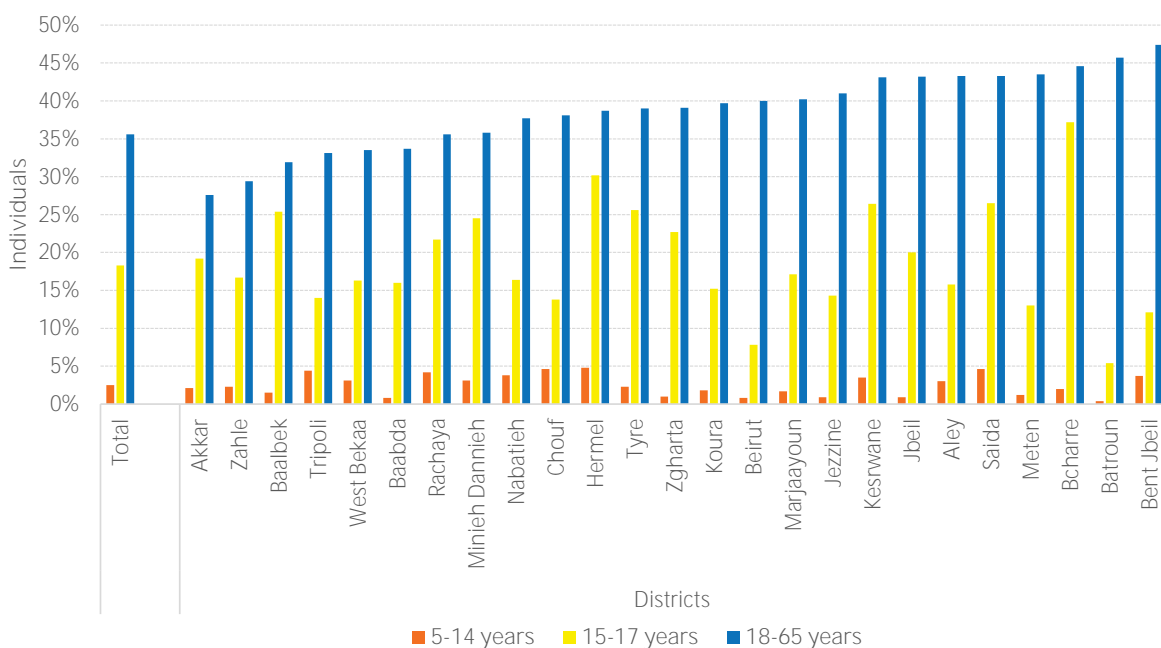


Figure 53. Percentage of individuals who worked in the 30 days prior to the survey by district

Among working-age individuals (18-65 years old), on average 70% of men worked in the month prior to the survey and 7% of women. Hermel reported the highest percentage of women who worked (18%), and Baabda the lowest (no women reported paid work in the 30 days prior to the survey).

70%
of working-age men were employed in the month prior to the survey, for an average of 14 days

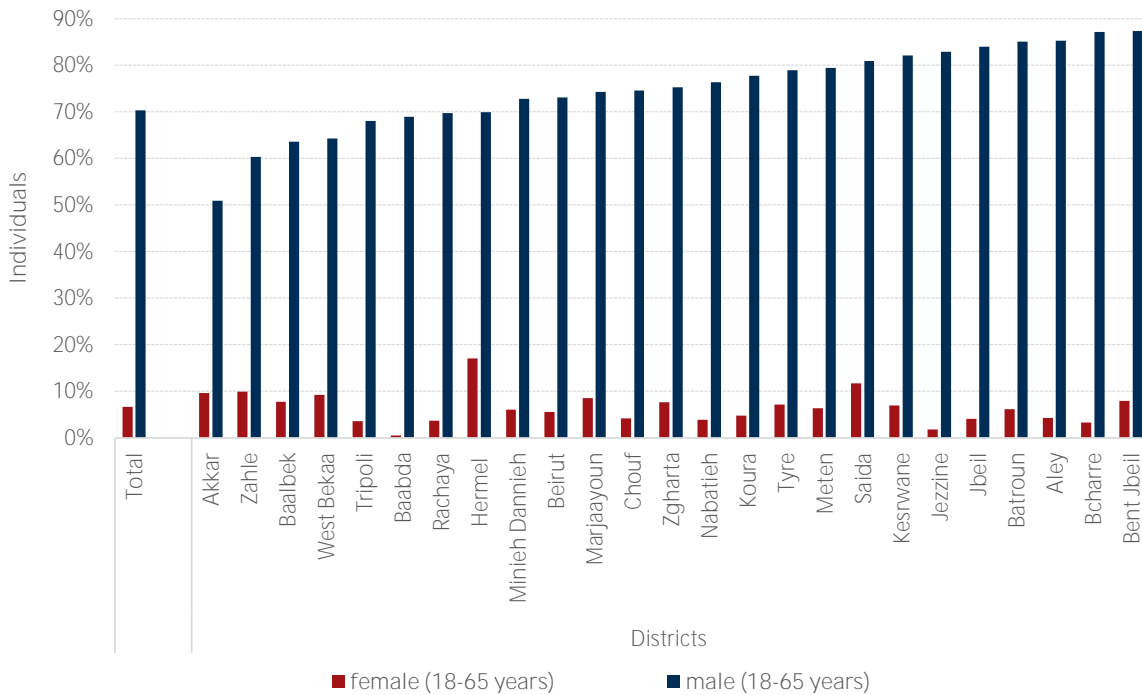


Figure 54. Percentage of men and women working in the 30 days prior to the survey by district

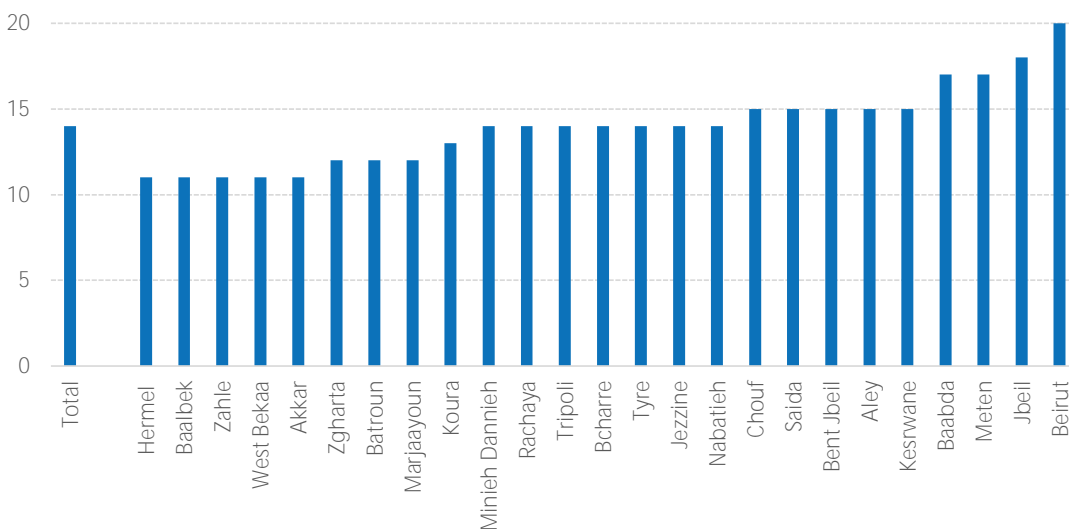


Figure 55. Average number of working days in the month prior to the survey by district

On average, individuals worked 14 days in the previous month, which suggests very high rates of underemployment. Almost 45% of individuals of working age worked less than 10 days, and only 19% worked more than 20 days. In Beirut, where more income opportunities are available, individuals worked an average of 20 days, and 50% of workers reported working for more than 20 days per month. Refugees in Akkar worked only 10 days a month on average, with 64% of the workers working less than 10 days. Working women reported fewer days of work than men (13 days compared to 14 for men), while working children reported an average of 16 days of work per month.

Working-age adults are mainly involved in construction (33%), agricultural activities (22%), services¹⁸ (26%), retail/shops (6%) and cleaning (6%). Agriculture, construction and the environment are the three sectors where Syrian refugees are legally permitted to work, reflecting the fact that Syrians were traditionally engaged in similar work, in particular agriculture and construction, before the crisis.

Bcharre has the highest proportion of workers involved in agriculture (59%) followed by Baalbek (50%). As expected, in Beirut no refugee is involved in agriculture, and other districts with low participation in agriculture activities include Baabda (4%), Meten (9%) and Jbeil (9%). In Beirut, the majority of workers are involved in service activities (55%) while Chouf has the highest percentage of households engaged in construction (58%). See Annex 7 for further details.

Figure 56 disaggregates the data by gender and age group. Women were more involved in agriculture (49%) and services (40%) while men were mostly involved in construction (37%). Working children were engaged in agricultural activities (25%), services (26%) and worked in shops (22%). Working adolescents are mostly involved in agriculture (35%) followed by services (27%) and construction (17%).

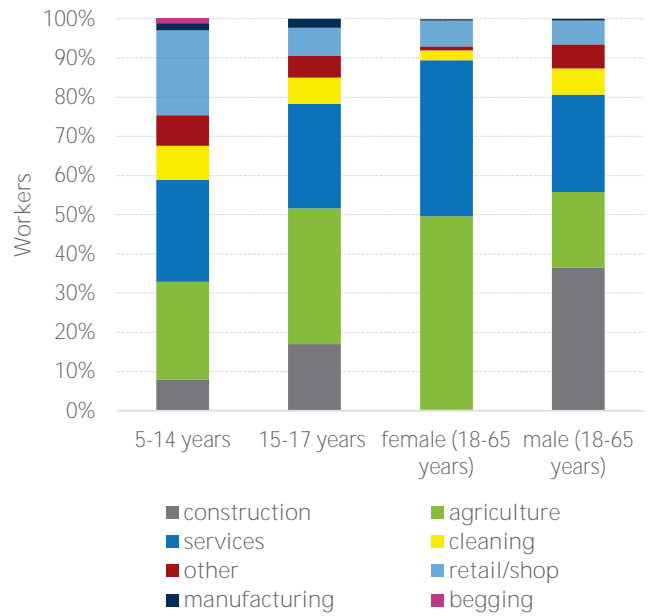


Figure 56. Type of work by age group and gender

During the month prior to the survey, working men earned an average of US\$ 215, while working women earned only US\$ 115, despite being employed for nearly the same number of days (average 14 days for men and 13 for women). Results vary greatly among districts, with Jbeil, Meten and Beirut as the districts where workers earned the most. In only three districts women were earning almost as much as men (Meten, Aley and Kesrwane), while in the others the amount earned by women is significantly lower.

¹⁸ Services include: working in hotels, restaurants, transportation, and personal services such as cleaning, hair care, cooking and child care.

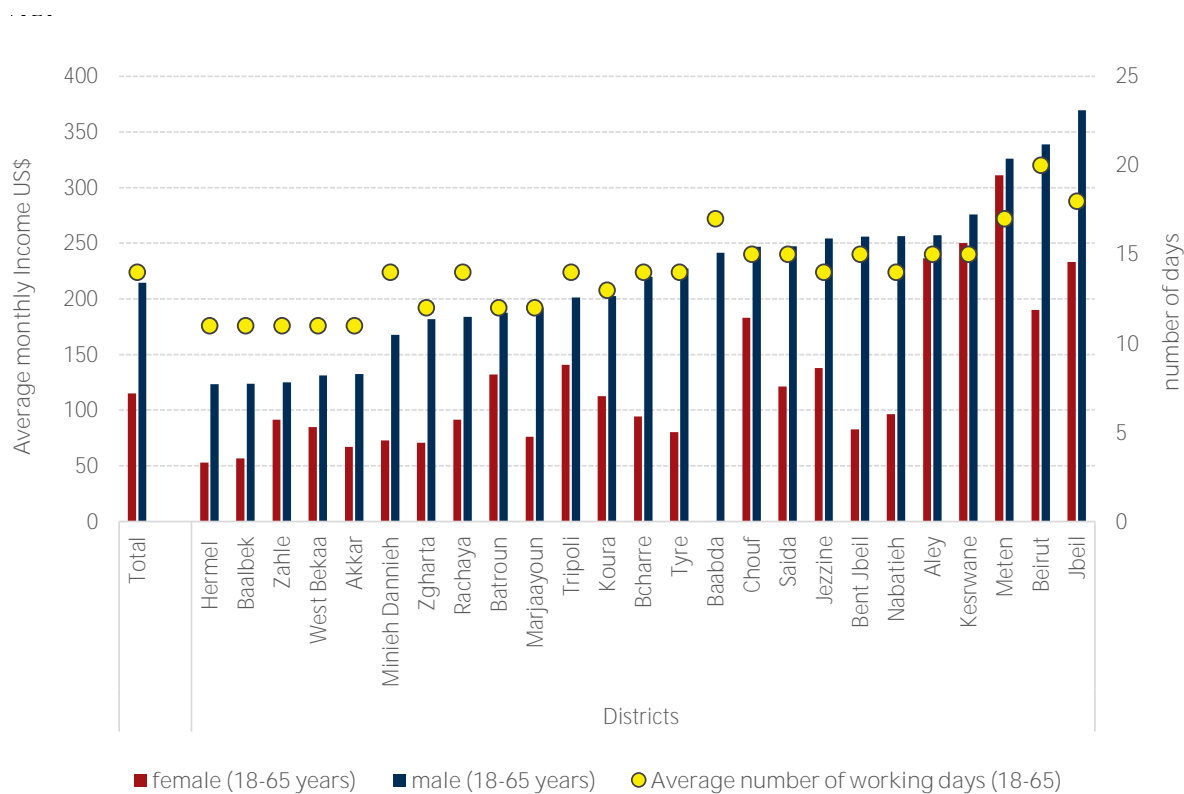


Figure 57. Average earning in US\$ per month by male and female and average number of days worked



Household income

Among Syrian refugee households, 27% reported not having a working age adult who had worked at least one day in the month prior to the interview.¹⁹ This figure reached 50% in Akkar, while Zahle, Jbeil, Aley and Meten have the lowest share of households (35%) without any working member. Compared with 2015, the share of households without working members aged 18-65 decreased by 19%. Looking at the gender disaggregation, 54% of female-headed households did not have any member working in the month prior the survey, while for male-headed households this percentage drops to 21%.

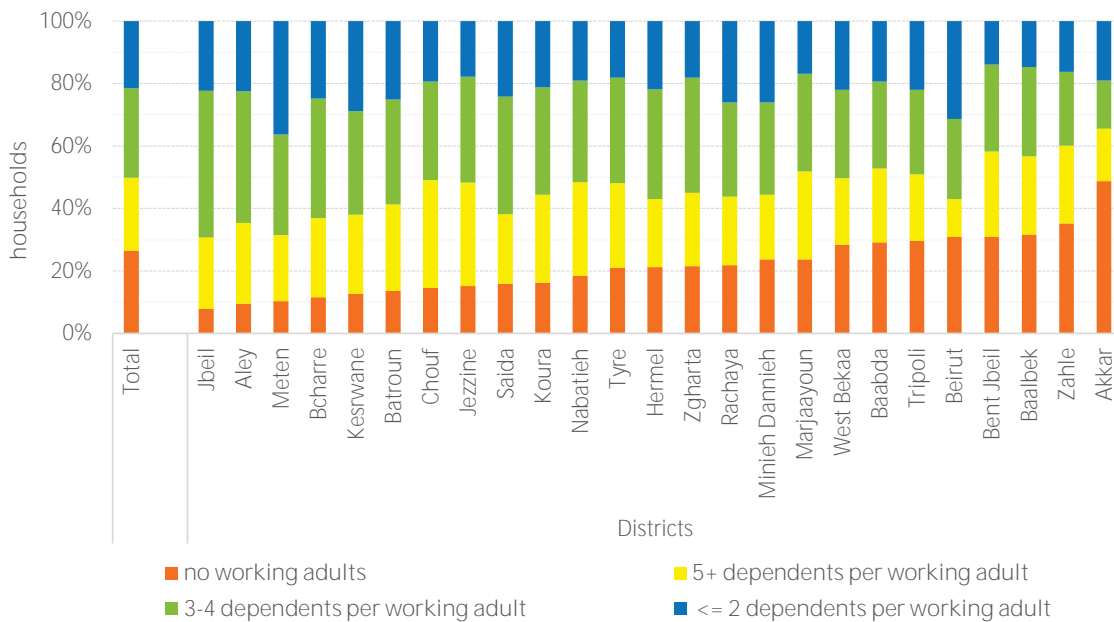


Figure 58. Number of dependents per working adult, share of households by district

¹⁹ Data for the livelihood section was not always comparable with 2015 because survey questions were different. The variables affected are: the type of work, monthly income and sources of income. For these variables, all data refers to households that reported at least one working member in the 30 days prior to the survey.

The majority of Syrian refugee households generate income predominantly from temporary sources (65%), while only 27% of households have income coming from permanent jobs, and a small percentage (8%) from seasonal activities. There is not much variation between households headed by women or men regarding temporary income sources, while female-headed households have higher seasonal income sources (12% of female-headed households have income from seasonal jobs, compared with 8% of male-headed households). Looking at the data by district, workers in Aley, Bent Jbeil, Zahle, Zgharta and Kesrwane have the highest share of income coming from temporary sources (above 70%).

Of the 73% of refugee households with at least one working adult member, 33% had at least one member searching for job. Thirty-five percent of male-headed households had at least one member looking for job, compared with 21% of female-headed households. More than 50% of households with a working member in Koura, Nabatieh, Batroun and Aley had a member looking for a job in the month prior the survey.

When disaggregated by gender, the share of female-headed households with no members aged 18-65 working reached 54%. In Akkar and Jezzine, this share exceeds 65%. Female-headed households have a lower share (21%) of members searching for job compared to male-headed households. In Hermel, Koura, Minieh Dannieh, Tripoli and Zgharta, the share of female-headed households with members searching for work exceeds 30%.

Monthly income

Data on income was collected only for households which reported at least one working member in the 30 days prior to the survey. Figure 60 reports the average and median per capita monthly income²⁰ by district. As expected, households in Beirut have the highest monthly per capita income, averaging US\$ 152. The lowest per capita income was reported in Baalbek (below US\$ 30), followed by Hermel, West Bekaa, Akkar and Zahle. These districts also reported the highest shares of households with no working members.

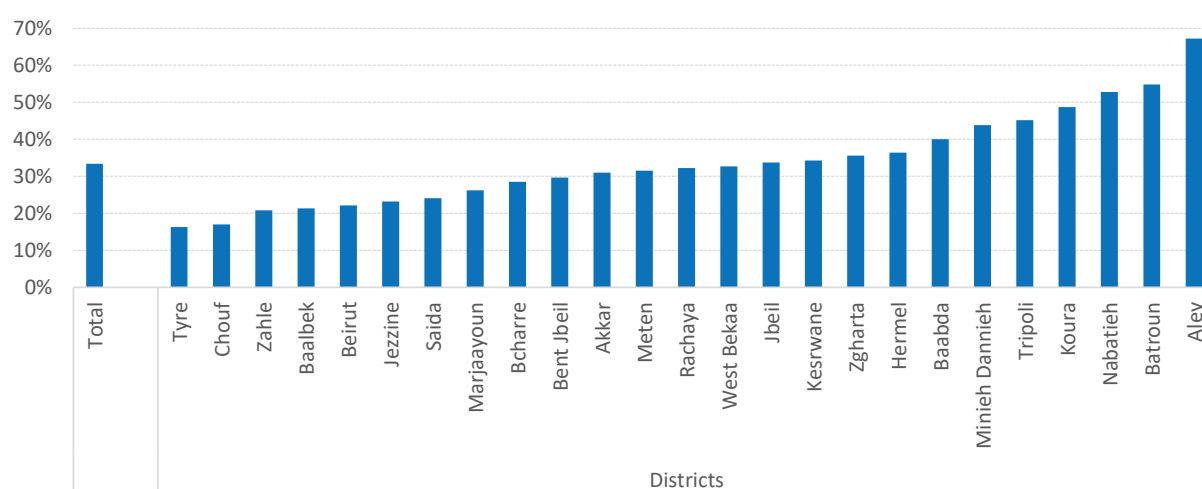


Figure 59. Households with at least one working member and a member searching for work, by district

²⁰ The analysis considered all working members in the households and the household size.

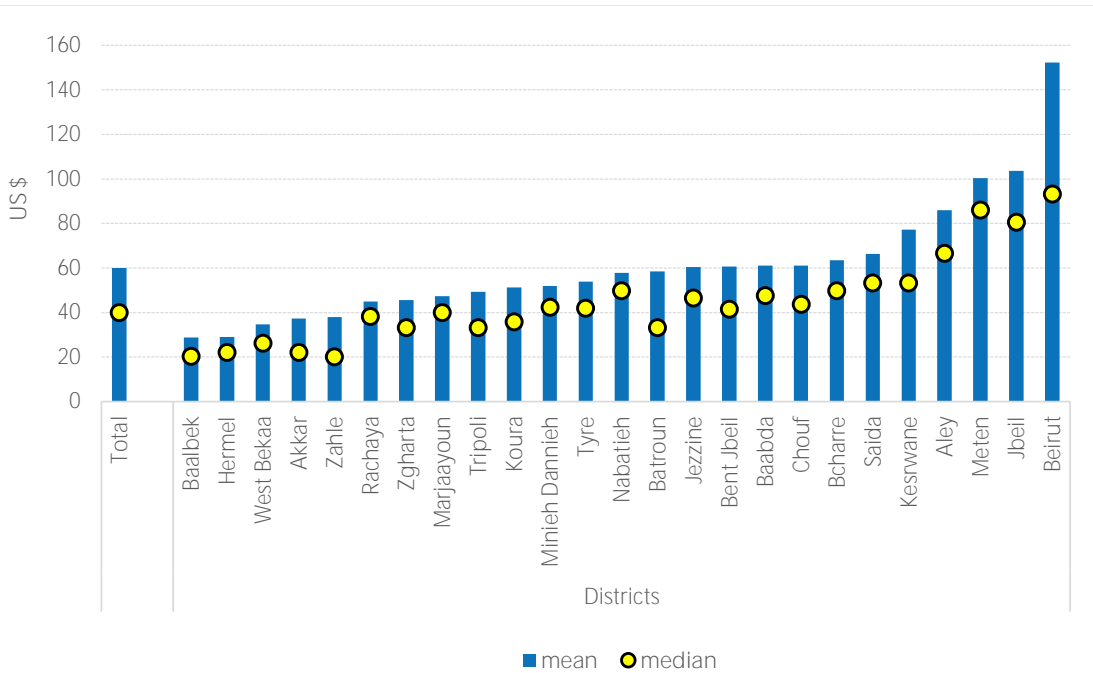


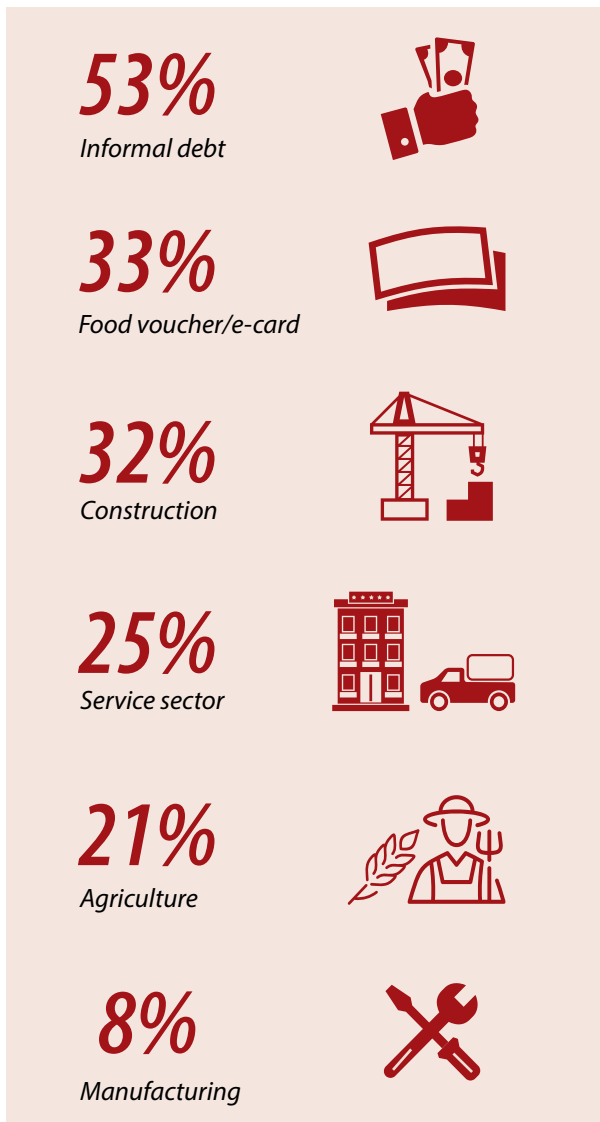
Figure 60. Household monthly per capita income (US\$) by district

Cash and Income sources

Income opportunities remain a big challenge for Syrian refugee households. Households reporting at least one working member were asked to report the three main income sources. Analysis reveals the percentage of households reporting each specific income source. Figure 61 indicates the cash and income sources reported by households with at least one working member. Even with at least one member of the household having worked at least one day of the previous thirty, the most common sources of cash are non-sustainable: informal credit from shops and friends/family (53%) and food vouchers (33%). The other most common income-generating activities are: temporary construction work (32%), services (25%), agriculture (21%) and manufacturing (8%). See Annex 7 for an analysis of cash and income sources by district.

The most common sources of cash and income vary widely among districts for households with working members:

- **Informal loans:** reported as a source of cash in more than 60% of households in Kesrwane, West Bekka, Zahle, Nabatieh, Saida, Hermel and Baalbek;
- **Food voucher/e-card:** above 50% of the households reported this source of cash in Hermel, Baalbek and Bent Jbeil;
- **Agriculture:** in Zgharta, Bcharre, Jezzine, Baalbek and Saida, more than 40% of households are involved in agriculture;
- **Construction:** reported as a source of income for more than 50% of households in Marjaayoun, Chouf and Aley;
- **Service sector:** 40% of households in Beirut, Tripoli and Meten are working in the service sector, including restaurants, hotels, transportation and personal services.



Even with at least one member of the household having worked at least one day of the previous thirty, the most common sources of cash are non-sustainable

Figure 61. Cash and income sources reported by households with working members

COPING STRATEGIES

Food-related coping strategies

Most Syrian refugees (88%) reported having experienced a lack of food or money to buy food during the 30 days prior to the survey. This was a very slight decrease from 2015 (89%).

Nearly all refugees (95%) adopted food-related coping strategies to deal with the lack of food or money to buy food (compared with 98% in 2015). The most common coping strategy related to food consumption continued to be relying on less preferred or cheaper food (92%), although fewer households adopted this strategy in the past year. The second most adopted strategy was the same as in 2015: reducing the number of meals per day (58%). The number of households borrowing food from friends or relatives was drastically reduced compared to 2015 (from 52% to 38%), while restricting adults' consumption was adopted more often by refugee households (33% in 2016 compared with 27% in 2015). Other coping strategies include reducing portion sizes, sending household members to eat elsewhere, and spending a day or more without eating.

There was significant variation among districts on the adoption of food-related coping strategies. Households in the districts on the right side of Figure 62 adopted more food coping strategies overall and, as the stacked columns illustrate, most households adopted a combination of different food coping strategies. Compared to 2015, households in Aley, Baadba, Bent Jbeil and Marjaayoun adopted more coping strategies, while households in Baalbek, Chouf, Jbeil and West Bekaa adopted fewer. See Annex 7 for analysis on the governorate level.

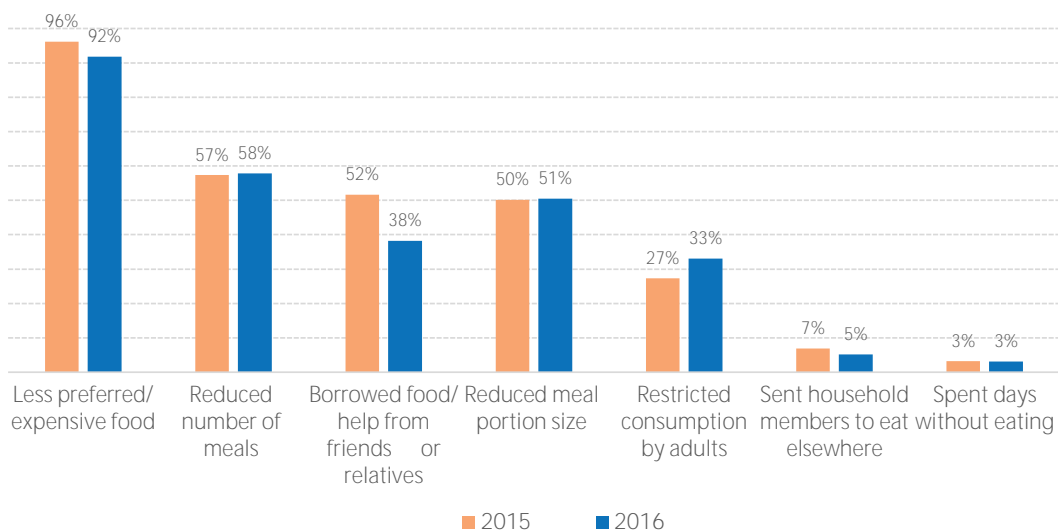


Figure 62. Households reporting food-related coping strategies

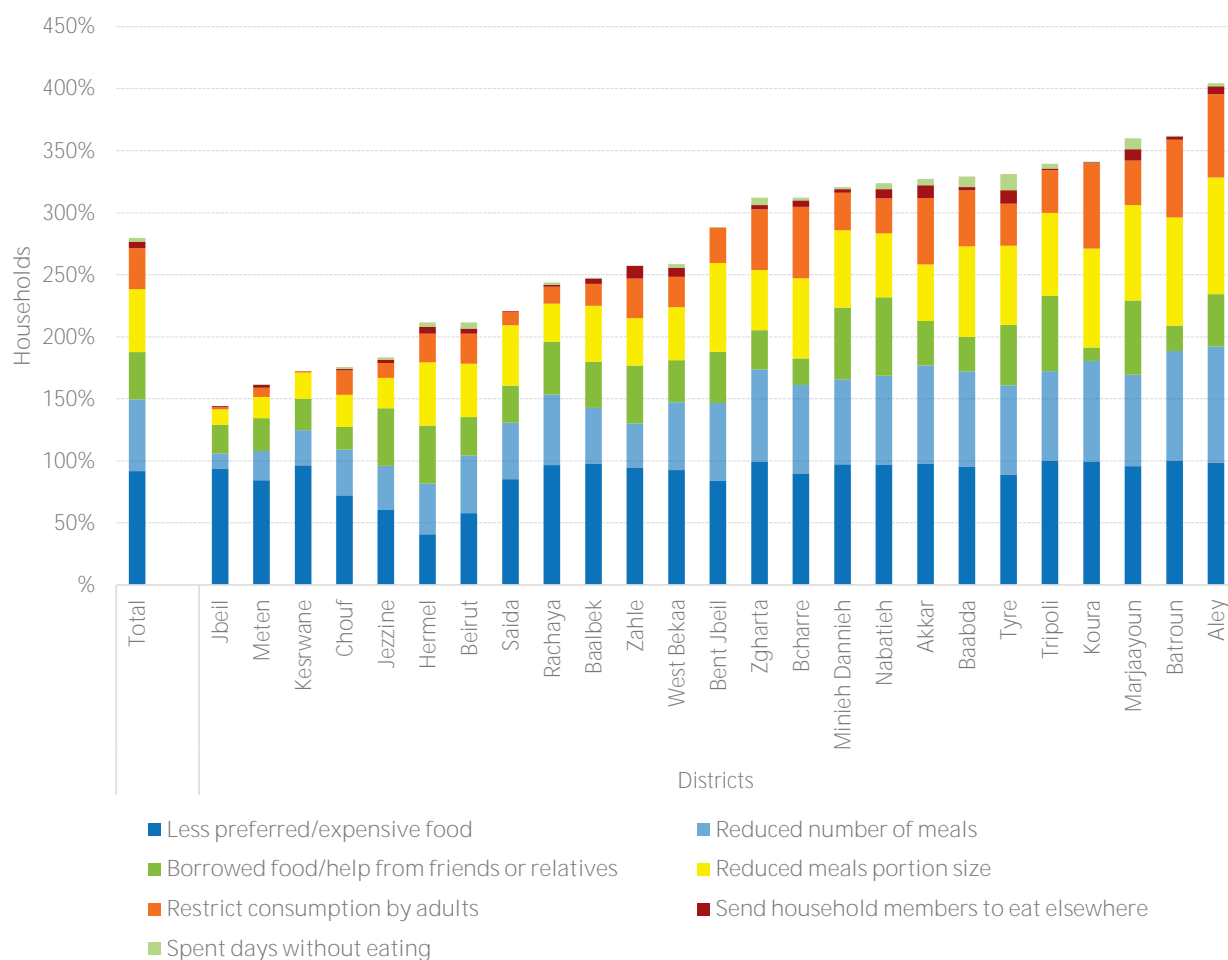


Figure 63. Households adopting food-related coping strategies by district

Asset depletion coping strategies

Asset depletion coping strategies (ADCS) undermine a household’s ability to access food because they erode the household’s fragile resources, pushing it deeper into poverty and affecting food security. Since 2013, refugees have increasingly adopted ADCS (see Figure 66 for a comparison between 2015 and 2016). This is one of the factors contributing to the deterioration of food security among Syrian refugees. As in 2015, the coping strategies most used in 2016 were: reduce food expenditures (85%), buy food on credit (77%) and reduce essential non-food expenditures (67%). In 2016, there was an increase in the use of strategies that directly affect the household’s livelihood and that very often are irreversible, such as selling household goods, productive assets, housing or land.

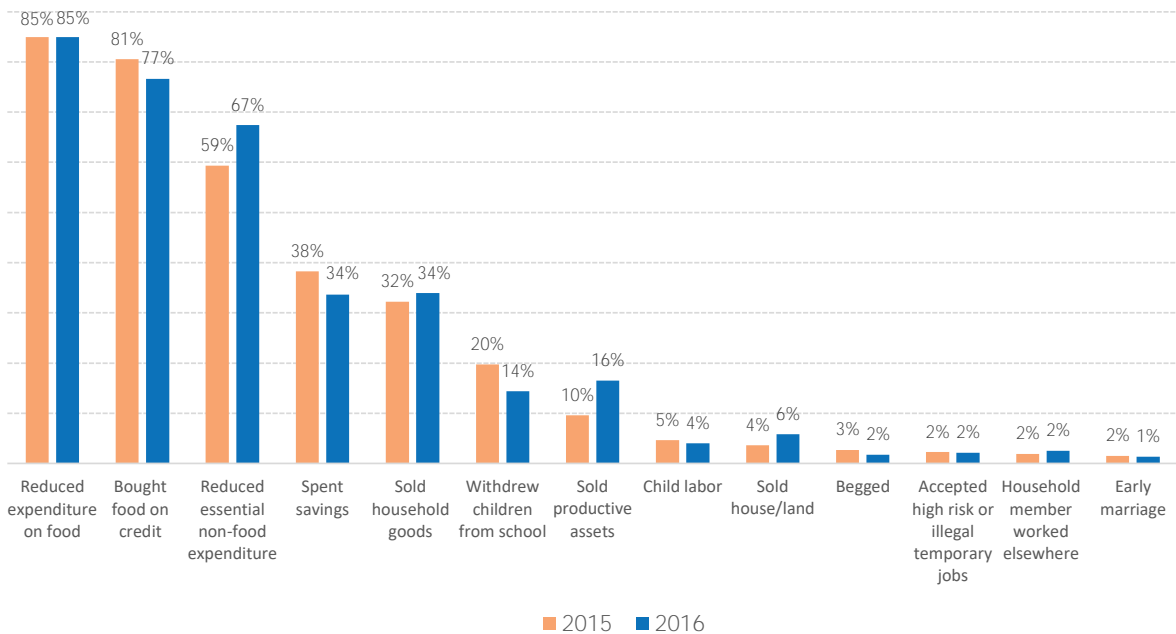


Figure 64. Households reporting asset depletion coping strategies

Households in Aley, Baalbek, Bent Jbeil, Marjaayoun and Zahle adopted more asset depletion coping strategies, while in Beirut and Zgharta the strategies were adopted less often.

As with food-related coping, the ADCS strategies were often adopted together. Reduced food and non-food expenditure, and buying on credit were employed by the majority of households in all districts. In Aley, Marjaayoun, Nabatieh, Tyre and Zahle, more than 45% of households spent their savings, while more than 40% of households sold household goods in Nabatieh, Tyre, West Bekaa and Zahle. More than 25% of households in Aley, Baalbek, Nabatieh and Zahle sold productive assets.

Looking at changes over time, households in Bent Jbeil, Nabatieh and Marjaayoun adopted more coping strategies, while in Beirut and Zgharta the strategies were adopted less often compared to 2015.

Categories of coping strategies

Asset depletion coping strategies are classified into three categories according to their severity: stress, crisis and emergency. Table 8 identifies which strategies are included in each category.

Table 8. Asset depletion categories

Stress	Crisis	Emergency
Spend savings	Sell productive assets	Involve school children in income activities
Sell household goods	Withdraw children from school	Beg
Buy on credit	Reduce non-food expenses	Accept high-risk jobs
Incur debt	Marriage of children under 18	Sell house or land

Results show that in 2016 households are adopting more severe coping strategies. The percentage of refugees adopting crisis and emergency coping strategies has increased since 2014, reaching 74% of the refugee population in 2016. This has contributed to the deterioration of food security and the increase of vulnerability among refugee households. Only 3% of refugees did not apply any coping strategy in 2016.

Compared with 2015, only four districts had a reduction in households adopting emergency and crisis coping strategies. In all other districts, use of these coping strategies increased, with Nabatieh, Bent Jbeil, Baalbek, Akkar and Marjaayoun showing the highest increases. Map 6 shows the districts with the highest percentage of households adopting crisis and emergency coping strategies.

97%
of refugees applied a negative coping strategy in 2016

The Burden of Coping

Many refugees in the focus groups felt they had no choice but to borrow in order to cover daily needs, medical care and rent. No one wanted to get in debt, and those who had were distressed by it.

“They [the shop owners] make us feel bad if we ask for bread, they make us feel poor because we are in debt,” said one female from Odeisseh (Marjaayoun). “Everything is getting more expensive while our income is still the same. We have more debt and loans,” said a female from Ras el Nabeh (Beirut).

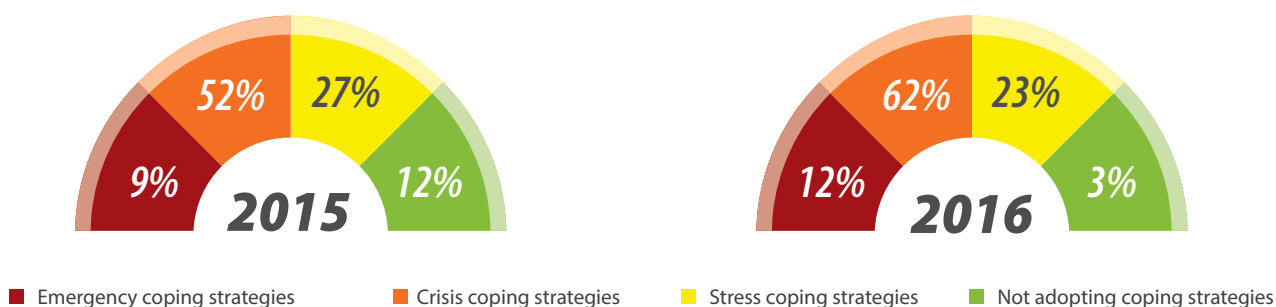
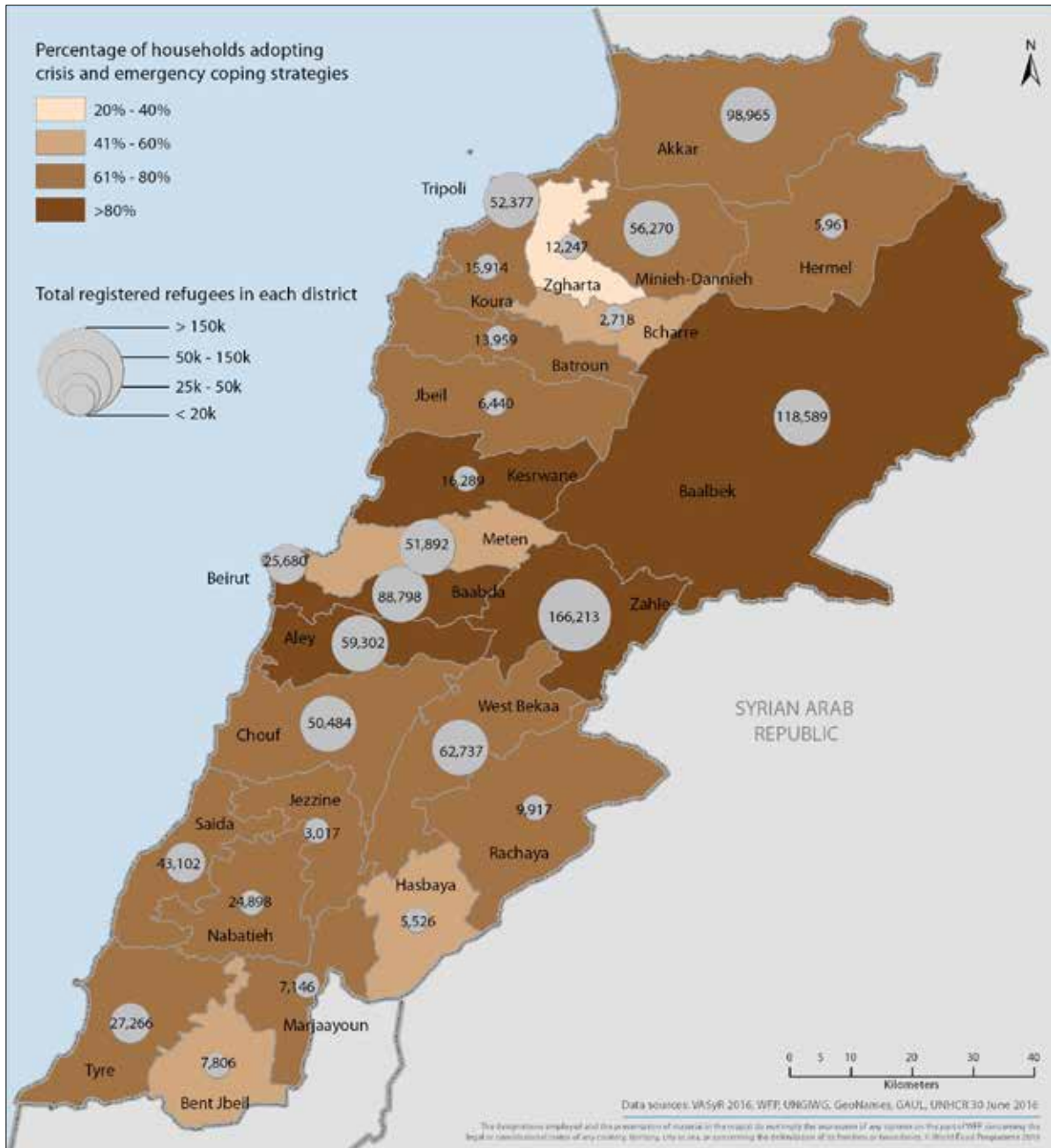


Figure 65. ADCS categories in 2015 and 2016



Map 6. Percentage of households reporting crisis and emergency coping strategies

FOOD SECURITY

Classification of households according to their food security situation is based on a composite indicator that takes into consideration food consumption, share of total expenditures on food, and coping strategies (Table 9). This method aims to reflect the two key dimensions of food security status: 1) the current (short-term) situation of households, measured by the Food Consumption Score (FCS) and food consumption-related coping

strategies; and 2) the estimated future food security status, determined by the food expenditure share and coping strategies. Based on this methodology, households are classified into four categories: food secure, mildly food insecure, moderately food insecure and severely food insecure. Table 10 describes the characteristics of the four groups.

Table 9. Food security classification (thresholds and point scale)

	Food Security	Mild Food Insecurity	Moderate Food Insecurity	Severe Food Insecurity
Food consumption	Acceptable	Acceptable with food-related coping strategies	Borderline	Poor
Food expenditure share	<50%	50-65%	65-75%	>75%
Coping strategies	Household not adopting coping strategies	Stress coping strategies	Crisis coping strategies	Emergency coping strategies

Table 10. Food security categories (descriptions)

Food Security Categories	Description
Food Secure	Able to meet essential food and non-food needs without engaging in atypical coping strategies
Mildly Food Insecure	Has minimal 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 just able to meet minimum food needs only with irreversible coping strategies
Severely Food Insecure	Has extreme food consumption gaps OR has extreme loss of productive assets that will lead to food consumption gaps or worse.

Food insecurity trends 2013- 2016

Results of the analysis show that 93% of the population was food insecure to some degree, a slight increase from 2015. While the percentage of mildly food insecure households decreased, the percentage of households with moderate and severe food insecurity increased in 2016 by 50%, with 36% of the households now falling in these two categories.

The geographical distribution of food security on Map 7 shows that the districts with the worst food security were Baalbek, Zahle, Marjaayoun, Nabatieh, Hermel, Akkar and Tyre. With the exception of Hermel, in all of these districts the percentage of households with severe and moderate food insecurity significantly increased in 2016.

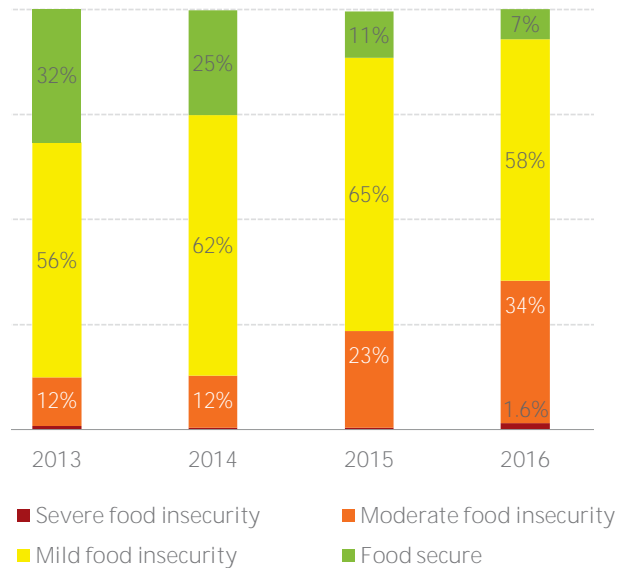


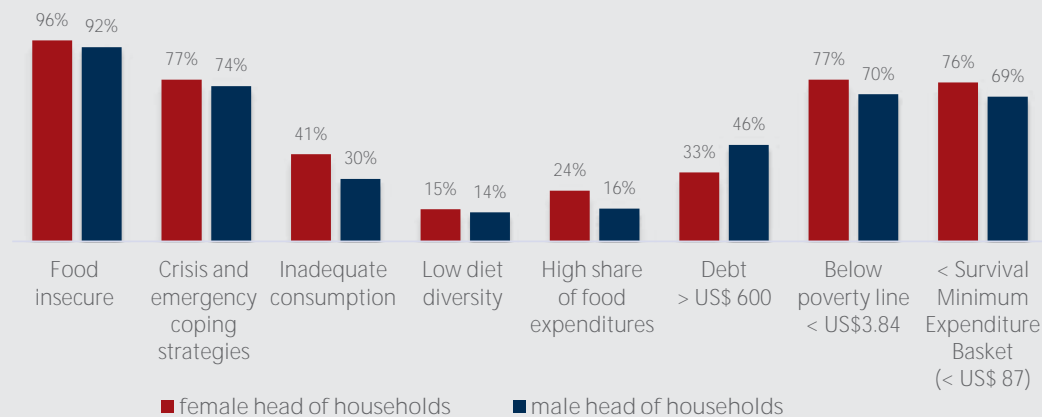
Figure 66. Food security trends 2013-2016

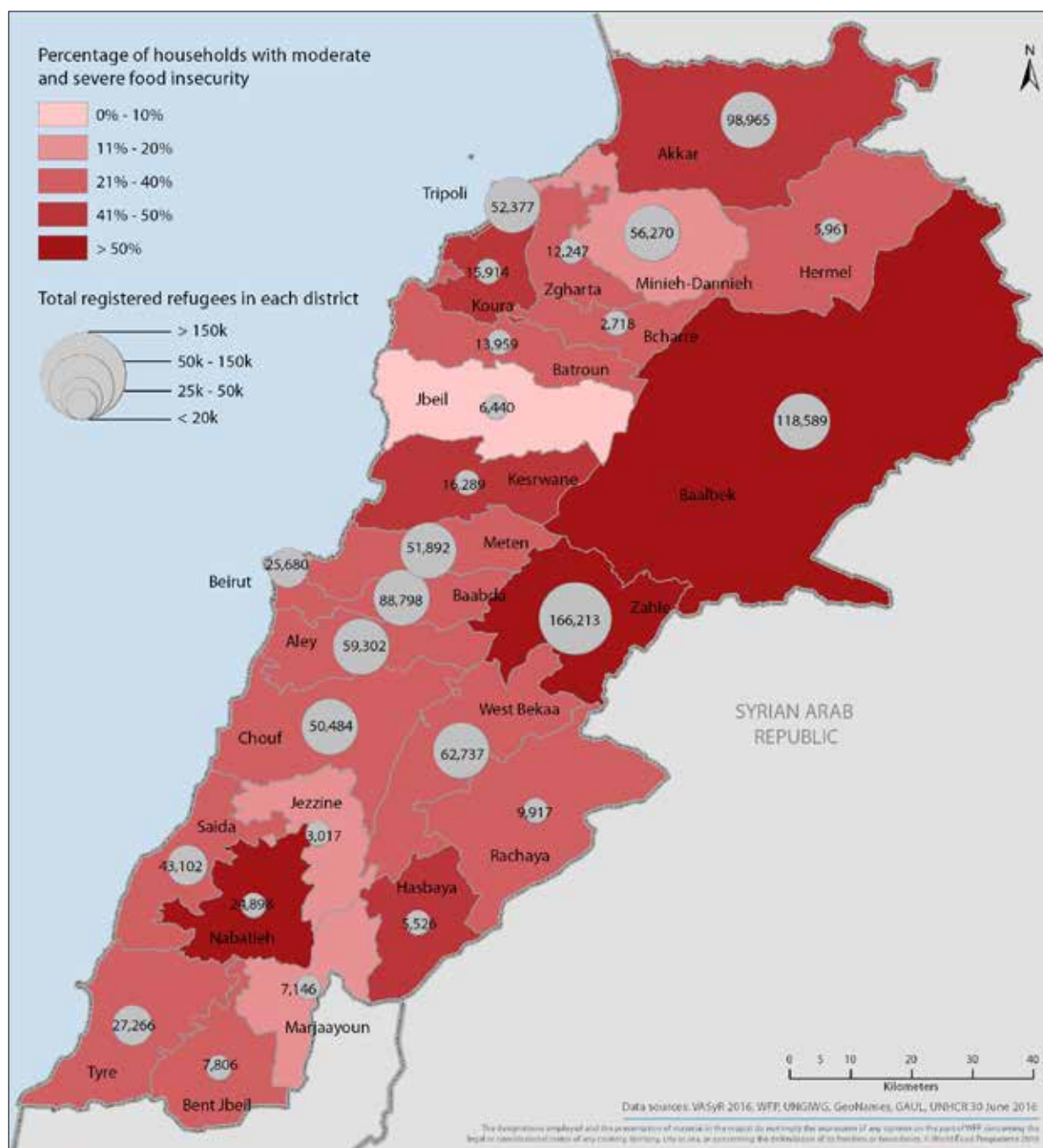
36%
of refugee households were moderately to severely food insecure

Female-headed households among the most vulnerable

Seventeen percent of the Syrian refugee households sampled were headed by women. Data analysis reveals the gender discrepancies.

For nearly every indicator of vulnerability, female-headed households fared worse than their male counterparts. Female-headed households were more food insecure than male-headed households (96% vs 92%). Households headed by females had a worse diet, with a higher share of households reporting inadequate overall consumption (41%) and low dietary diversity (15%). They were adopting severe coping strategies more often (74%), and allocated a higher share of their expenses to buy food (24%). Households headed by females were poorer than households headed by males. They were, however, less indebted.





Map 7. Percentage of moderate and severe food insecurity 2016

Components of food insecurity

As noted above, the components of food security are: food consumption, coping strategies and food expenditures share. The deterioration of food security in 2016 is driven by two factors: deterioration of food consumption with a significant reduction in dietary diversity, and increased use of more severe coping strategies.

Food consumption has continually deteriorated since 2013. In 2016, the share of households with poor and borderline food consumption reached 32% of the refugee population. The worsening of consumption is primarily due to a less diversified diet, with an increase in households with low and medium dietary diversity, and a reduction of meals consumed per day. This was more prevalent in the southern districts of Marjaayoun, Tyre and Nabatieh.

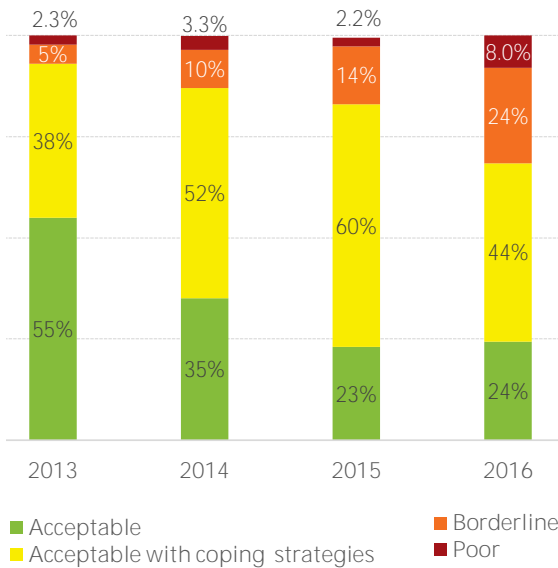


Figure 67. Food consumption trends 2013-2016

The second driver of food insecurity is the increased adoption of more severe coping strategies. Almost three quarters of households applied crisis and emergency coping strategies to address their lack of food or money to buy food. These strategies included reducing essential non-food expenditure such as education and health, selling productive assets, taking children out of school, sending children to work, and selling houses or land. The coping strategies have become irreversible as households' savings and assets were already exhausted.

Almost three quarters of households applied crisis and emergency coping strategies to address their lack of food or money to buy food

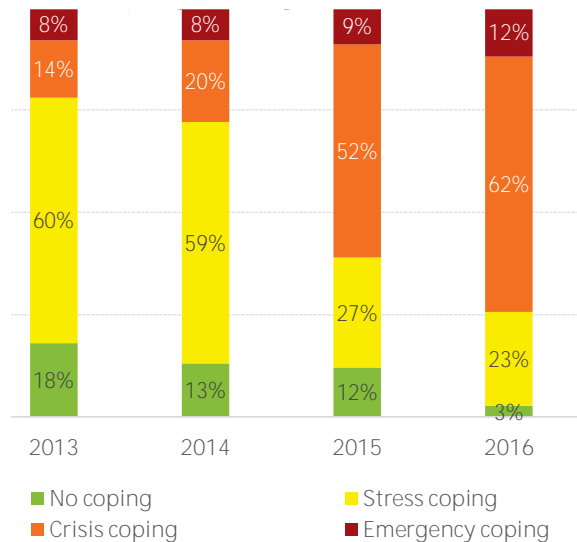


Figure 68. Trends in coping strategies 2013-2016

The share of food in total expenditure did not change significantly from 2015, and households with high food expenditures remain 17% of the population.

Underlying causes of food insecurity

Limited access to economic resources remained one of the main constraints on refugee households, limiting their access to food and the possibility of finding and sustaining livelihoods. Limitations on access to the labour market and the consequent lack of earning power have made it difficult for refugees to meet basic needs without external assistance. The indicators of economic vulnerability show that households remain below the poverty line and are increasing their debt. One of the most common sources of income was borrowing money from family, friends and shops.

Figure 69 shows the distribution of key economic indicators by food security group. The worst levels of food insecurity are associated with high economic vulnerability: households with severe or moderate food insecurity have greater debt, are more likely to fall below the survival minimum basket and below the poverty line, and allocate the majority of their expenditure on buying food.

Income opportunities were limited for all refugees. Households that reported at least one member having worked at least one day of the previous 30 were asked to detail their main sources of income. The food insecure had a higher percentage of households without income sources in the month prior to the survey. Over a third of moderately food insecure households did not have any member working. Food insecure households had a higher percentage of income coming from non-sustainable sources such as borrowing, and are more reliant on food vouchers (Figure 70). In contrast, food secure households had more members working in sectors such as hotels, restaurants and transportation—which, given the context, could be considered a more stable income source.

Enough to Eat?

Focus group participants complained about the high cost of food in Lebanon, especially when compared to Syria.

“Chicken gets more expensive during Ramadan. We are eight people in the household and a single chicken costs LL 40,000, which is a full day’s work for me. How can we afford it?”

“Life is very expensive here. Bread costs LL 1,500 a bag, and I need five bags a day.”

Some refugees have received food from NGOs, but the support is ad hoc. Many refugees have received food assistance from the UN through the WFP e-card, which provides money for food, to be purchased in WFP-designated shops. The value of the card has fluctuated in accordance with international donor support, from US\$ 13 to US\$ 30 per household member (current value US\$ 27), and only targeted refugees receive it. In addition, recipients lament not being able to use funds on the card towards items such as rent, medical care, cleaning products and diapers.

Those who have received the WFP card expressed gratitude for the support it provides.

“We have the UN assistance and we need it. Without it we would die of hunger.”

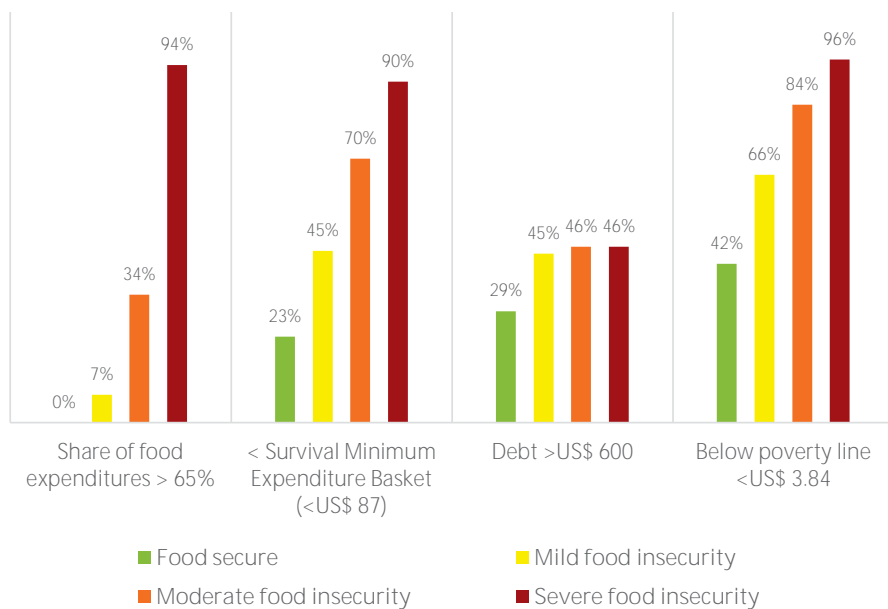


Figure 69. Economic vulnerability indicators by food security



Figure 70. Most common income sources²¹ by food security

²¹ Income sources refers to households who had at least one member who worked at least one day during the 30 days prior to the survey.

Changes in food security between 2015 and 2016 varied significantly between districts. In some districts, food security deteriorated significantly since 2015, while in other districts it improved. The causes of the worsening of the situation are revealed by examining the districts' distribution of key economic indicators, together with food security prevalence and indicators used to determine the food security profiles. In Table 11, values in red indicate greater food insecurity than the national average, while those in black have less than average. The first eight districts are the ones with the greatest prevalence of severe and moderate food insecurity, and the majority of them experienced a substantial increase in food insecure households.

- In **Marjaayoun** and **Nabatieh**, food insecurity was driven by a deterioration of food consumption (very low dietary diversity and high poor food consumption) combined with high use of severe coping strategies and very high food expenditure as a share of total expenditures;
- In **Hermel**, economic vulnerability was the driver of the deterioration in food security, with all economic indicators below the national average;
- In **Zahle** and **Baalbek**, along with poor and borderline consumption, worsening coping strategies and high food expenditure, economic indicators played an important role in determining food insecurity;
- In **Tyre**, food insecurity was determined by worsening food consumption and dietary diversity;
- In **Akkar**, poor food consumption and high economic vulnerability are the main causes of food insecurity.

Funding Fluctuations Affect Food Insecurity

A reduction of WFP assistance throughout 2015 compounded the issue of food security for Syrian refugees. Severe funding shortfalls in 2015 forced WFP to reduce its voucher value and limit the assistance amount per household. In January 2015, the voucher value was reduced to 70 percent (US\$ 19.5 per person) of the planned value and then further dropped to 50 percent (US\$ 13.5) in July. From October 2015 to February 2016 refugees received 80 percent (US\$ 21.5) of their entitlements. Furthermore, in September 2015, WFP began 'capping' assistance, meaning that eligible households with more than five members could only receive five amounts of individual entitlements.

This situation was mitigated in 2016 thanks to generous donor contributions made in early 2016, but VASyR results show that the negative outcomes on food insecurity are yet to be fully reversed. While WFP voucher value was fully reinstated in March 2016 and capping was lifted in May 2016, access to food remained a critical issue at the time of data collection, negatively impacting dietary diversity and food consumption outcomes, and exacerbating the harmful strategies utilized to cope with food shortages.

Table 11. Key food security and economic vulnerability indicators by district

	Food security		Diet quality		Components		Economic vulnerability			
	Severe and moderate food insecurity 2016	Percentage points change 2015 - 2016	Low dietary diversity (≤ 4 food groups)	Poor and borderline food consumption	High food expenditure ($> 65\%$ of total)	Crisis and emergency coping strategies	Households $<$ SMEB (US\$ 87)	Households below poverty line ($<$ US\$ 3.84)	Households borrowed money	Households with debt $>$ US\$ 600
Total	36%	13	14%	32%	17%	74%	53%	71%	90%	44%
Districts										
Marjaayoun	60%	46	50%	51%	28%	79%	48%	66%	90%	46%
Zahle	60%	33	9%	51%	24%	88%	76%	90%	95%	57%
Baalbek	56%	25	3%	47%	35%	85%	86%	93%	100%	54%
Tyre	45%	34	53%	45%	14%	63%	51%	75%	89%	37%
Akkar	44%	13	23%	43%	16%	70%	58%	75%	93%	30%
Hermel	42%	3	10%	25%	44%	56%	86%	96%	94%	32%
Nabatieh	40%	26	42%	36%	15%	85%	34%	58%	90%	34%
Batroun	31%	31	9%	26%	10%	69%	37%	57%	93%	53%
Jezzine	25%	20	13%	22%	25%	48%	27%	49%	81%	26%
West Bekaa	35%	3	8%	28%	27%	65%	67%	86%	96%	55%
Baabda	35%	27	23%	36%	14%	85%	51%	67%	89%	44%
Bcharre	34%	18	15%	25%	16%	64%	45%	68%	92%	46%
Tripoli	32%	3	14%	27%	17%	77%	53%	74%	88%	33%
Zgharta	28%	-14	9%	27%	20%	35%	40%	73%	96%	38%
Rachaya	27%	5	5%	23%	14%	63%	41%	70%	97%	43%
Aley	27%	10	16%	17%	10%	93%	36%	61%	91%	36%
Koura	26%	-10	4%	22%	12%	76%	38%	58%	87%	46%
Chouf	23%	-13	10%	19%	6%	60%	42%	60%	92%	47%
Beirut	22%	3	30%	29%	13%	44%	31%	46%	67%	28%
Saida	21%	7	6%	19%	20%	62%	36%	63%	82%	36%
Bent Jbeil	19%	8	8%	4%	12%	99%	65%	83%	96%	68%
Jbeil	13%	-5	4%	12%	8%	64%	33%	46%	90%	54%
Kesrwane	10%	10	2%	8%	7%	61%	42%	58%	86%	60%
Meten	9%	-3	2%	8%	8%	67%	22%	36%	88%	56%
Minieh Dannieh	19%	-14	8%	18%	7%	67%	43%	67%	85%	26%

ASSISTANCE AND HOUSEHOLD ASSETS

Assistance

Economically vulnerable Syrian refugees receive two main types of assistance: 1) cash assistance in the form of multi-purpose cash grants, seasonal cash assistance and food vouchers; and 2) non-cash assistance in the form of in-kind goods and services, including food, household items, education, subsidized healthcare and shelter assistance.

Cash Assistance

Food e-vouchers represent the bulk of cash assistance provided to vulnerable households. The World Food Programme (WFP) provides US\$ 27 per person per month to the most vulnerable Syrian refugees and Palestinian refugees from Syria, in the form of cash transfers through electronic cards.²² For Syrian refugees, purchases are restricted to food and other staples from WFP-approved shops. In June 2016, WFP assisted 697,765 refugees in Lebanon: 678,163 Syrians with e-vouchers and 19,602 Palestinians from Syria with cash.

Half of the sampled refugee households (51%) reported receiving food vouchers within the previous three months. There were notable regional differences, with 70% of households in Akkar reporting having received food vouchers, falling to roughly a third in Jbeil, Jezzine and Nabatieh. The average monthly amount of these e-cards was reported at US\$ 136 per family.²³

Disbursing cash assistance to economically vulnerable refugee households enables them to prioritize their spending needs. UNHCR currently disburses multi-purpose cash assistance to 17% of households. However, only 11% of sampled families reported receiving multi-purpose cash within the previous three months, a discrepancy which is being more closely examined to determine its cause. Still, this is an increase from the 7% of households which reported receiving cash assistance in 2015, and reflects the increase in the provision of cash assistance. Targeting for cash assistance is not determined by location of residence, but is specific to the economic vulnerability level of the household. Therefore, the geographic variance in the disbursement of cash

assistance reflects where larger pockets of poverty are found. According to the data collected, 2% of the respondents in Nabatieh and Marjaayoun reported receiving multi-purpose cash, compared to 20% in Zahle and 24% in Zgharta. Beneficiaries reported an average monthly assistance of US\$ 170 per family.

For the 2015/16 winter season, seasonal cash assistance was provided to all families who were also eligible for food assistance. Thirty-six per cent of families reported receiving winter assistance during the 2015/16 winter season, with notable geographic differences: just under 10% of refugee families in Nabatieh and Marjaayoun reported receiving winter cash assistance, compared to 63% and 53% in Baalbek and Bent Jbeil respectively. Beneficiaries reported an average amount of seasonal cash assistance of US\$ 395 over the five-month winter period.²⁴

As cash assistance is linked to the vulnerability of refugee families, the share of families receiving each type of cash assistance gradually drops as one moves from the most vulnerable to the least vulnerable end of the spectrum.

Assistance: Facing Limitations

Focus group participants identified limitations in assistance as a major daily concern. Refugees expressed frustration over fluctuations in assistance at a time when they felt that rents are high and the cost of living was going up. Refugees perceived that some forms of assistance were provided ad hoc and asked for more clarity on how agencies identify people for assistance and determine the amount. A few refugees were unaware of how to seek assistance. Several participants expressed gratitude:

"We are thankful for the assistance that we get."

²² World Food Programme Lebanon. 11 July 2016. "Situation Report #14". Accessed on September 22 2016. http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/WFP%20Lebanon%20Situation%20Report_June%202016.pdf

²³ In the vast majority of cases, a family corresponds to one household. However, in some cases, one household may include two or more families or one family along with unregistered household members.

²⁴ UNHCR provided seasonal cash support to 148,915 Syrian refugee households between November 2015 and March 2016 (approximately 60% of the refugee population). Families living above 500 meters received US\$ 147 per month, the equivalent of US\$ 735 for the five-month winter period, while families living below 500 meters received US\$ 100 per month or US\$ 500 total for the winter.

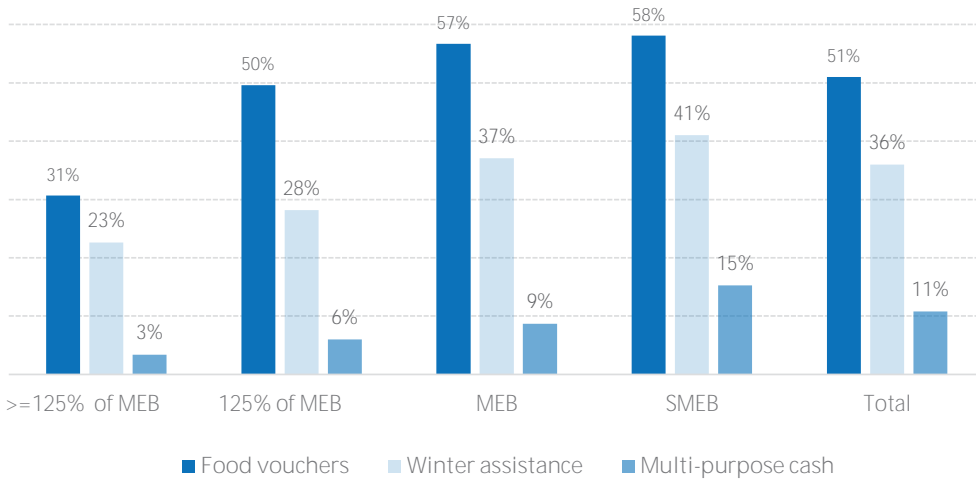


Figure 71. Share of families by type of cash assistance and vulnerability status



In-kind assistance

Cash assistance is more common than in-kind. Blankets are the most common form of in-kind assistance, received by 14% of families, while all other types of in-kind assistance are received by less than 6% of families. Coverage varies by geographical region, with Akkar registering a higher percentage of beneficiary families across all types of in-kind assistance.

Table 12. Share of households receiving in-kind assistance (over the last year) by type and governorate

	Beirut	Mount Lebanon	North	Akkar	Baalbek-Hermel	Bekaa	South	Nabatieh	Total
blankets	4%	8%	13%	23%	14%	19%	12%	21%	14%
stove	2%	2%	2%	9%	5%	4%	3%	16%	4%
non-food	2%	4%	3%	12%	2%	5%	6%	6%	5%
education	3%	3%	3%	18%	4%	4%	10%	6%	6%
shelter	2%	1%	4%	9%	4%	5%	5%	2%	4%
furniture	1%	2%	3%	9%	5%	9%	3%	3%	5%
water storage	1%	1%	3%	6%	4%	6%	4%	2%	3%
water connection	1%	2%	2%	6%	1%	1%	4%	2%	2%
latrines	2%	1%	3%	9%	2%	2%	7%	1%	3%
cooking	1%	1%	1%	6%	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%
legal assistance	1%	0%	1%	1%	0%	1%	0%	0%	1%

Assets

Household assets were classified into three categories: basic, medium and extended.

Overall, asset ownership is declining in refugee households. Households own an average of 3.19 out of 4 basic assets in 2016, down from 3.27 in 2015. Similarly, the average number of medium assets declined from 2.3 out of 6 in 2015 to 2.13 in 2016. In contrast, the average number of extended assets

owned by a household increased from 0.48 in 2015 to 0.79 in 2016.

Around 50% of households own all four basic assets, with notable geographic discrepancies. In Kesrwan and West Bekaa, around two thirds of households own all the basic assets, while in Aley and Tyre, only around one quarter own all the basics.

Basic	Mattress, blanket, winter clothes, gas stove
Medium	Water heater, bed, table, sofa, fridge, washing machine
Extended	Electric oven, microwave, dishwasher, central heating, air conditioning, sewing machine, DVD player, computer, motorcycle, car

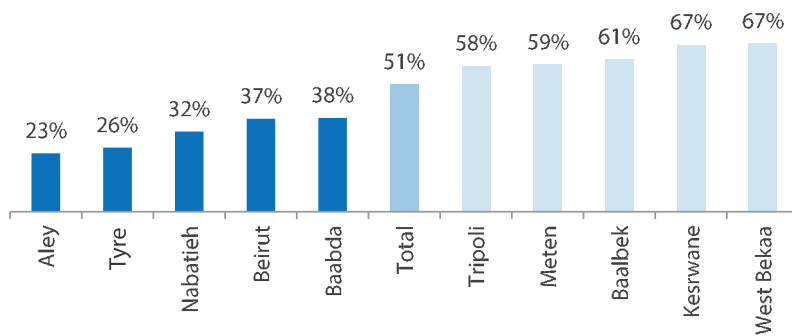


Figure 72. Share of households that own all basic assets in selected districts

Households own an average of 2.13 medium assets out of a possible 6, ranging from 1.34 and 1.47 in Baalbek and Zahle respectively to 2.82 and 3.18 in Chouf and Meten respectively. The number of extended assets owned by refugee households ranges from 0.38 and 0.44 in Aley and Baabda respectively to 1.19 and 1.47 in Meten and Akkar respectively.

Analysis of the ownership rate of specific assets sheds greater light on the priorities as determined by the households themselves, in addition to the realities imposed by financial means. Assets were classified into four categories based on the share of households that own these particular assets.

High ownership rate	Owned by more than 75% of the households
Medium ownership rate	Owned by 40% to 70% of the households
Low ownership rate	Owned by 10% to 25% of the households
Very low ownership rate	Owned by less than 5% of the households

The results show high ownership of three of the four basic assets with the fourth (winter clothes) falling just below the 75% cut off point. However, other assets, namely television sets and mobile phones, also rank high in the priorities of a clear majority of Syrian households. These two assets likely provide refugee households with a remedy to their social isolation.

Table 13. Share of households by asset owned

	ASSET	% HH
HIGH OWNERSHIP	Blankets	84.7
	Mobile phone	84.5
	Cutlery sets	84.2
	Pots/pans	84.0
	Mattresses	83.2
	Kitchen utensils	82.6
	Gas stove	81.3
	TV	77.2
MEDIUM OWNERSHIP	Winter clothing	69.5
	Refrigerator	66.3
	Water containers	65.1
	Washing machine	57.1
	Satellite dish	44.6
	Heater	42.3
	Water heater	40.4
	Sofa/chairs	24.5
LOW OWNERSHIP	Internet	23.6
	Tables and chairs	15.8
	Oven	13.0
	Beds	9.4
VERY LOW OWNERSHIP	Sewing machine/iron	4.6
	Motorcycle	4.3
	Dish washer/separate freezer/dryer	3.5
	DVD player	2.7
	Microwave/Vacuum	2.5
	Computer	2.4
	Air conditioning	2.2
	Car/van/truck	1.9

Medium and low ownership assets are related both to the financial means of the household and to the space available in the household for accommodating certain assets. The results clearly show a steady increase in ownership of these assets when households move from tents to non-residential structures, and from non-residential structures to residential ones.

One Card Fits All

Focus group participants suggested a single card for all cash assistance. Agencies are currently moving towards providing cash assistance on a single ATM card.

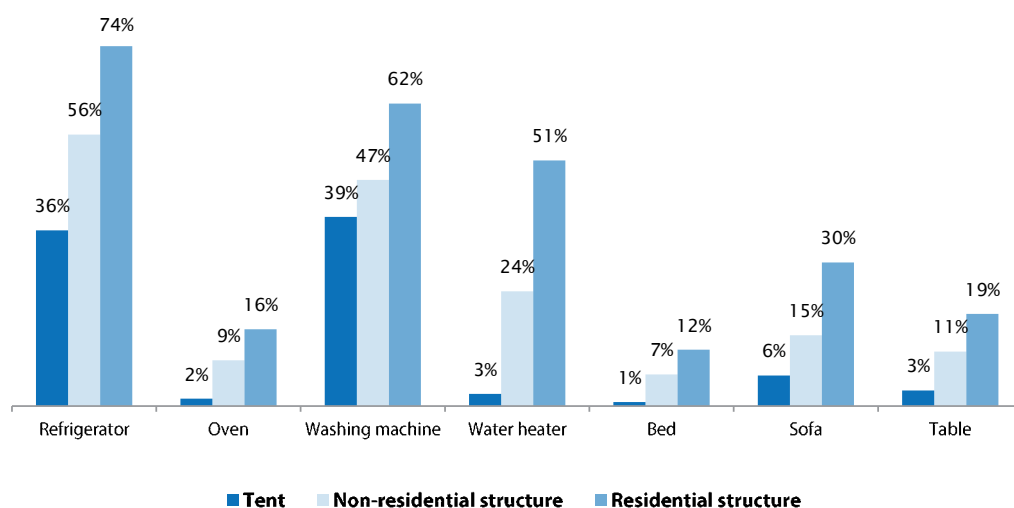


Figure 73. Share of households by asset owned and type of dwelling



FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS

In order to better understand the perceptions that Syrian refugees in Lebanon have about their situation, 32 focus groups were conducted with Syrian refugees. These focus groups were held in 10 different districts, 16 with women and 16 with men. The topics discussed included:

- Main problems that refugees currently face and coping mechanisms being utilized
- Type of assistance received and whether it was perceived as useful
- Sense of safety and security
- Future plans
- Issues with residency permits and civil documentation
- Key aspects of communication

It is important to note that concerns and comments by focus group participants varied by region, as well as by gender. The complete Focus Group Discussion report is available online at <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/download.php?id=12431>.

Main Concerns, Challenges and Coping Mechanisms

The respondents discussed extensively the problematic issues that they had to deal with on a daily basis. They stressed the fact that life in Lebanon had become a physical and psychological struggle for most of them. They mentioned that their children were also suffering significant consequences, including illness and depression.

The main concerns of Syrian respondents revolved around their lack of ability to renew their residency permits. This concern was followed by: the need for medical care; the need for assistance with rent, food and cash; and the desire for children's education. Priorities at times varied in accordance with each respondent's situation. For example, many participants said they had been recently dismissed from the UN assistance programs and therefore stopped receiving the food e-card, which for many was the only source of income and stability. This naturally made assistance an important priority. Medical care was also a significant priority for respondents who lacked proper clinics or hospitals nearby, and children's education was the leading priority for those who did not have access to a school.

Other problems mentioned by respondents were: securing cash for rent, the poor conditions of their housing, lack of money and the high cost of living.

Residency Permits

For the majority, and especially the males, the lack of residency was cited as a problem that pervaded all aspects of their lives. They felt that its absence meant that they could not send their children to school and could not move to seek work. According to participants, the inability to move in search of better job opportunities affected their income and created a vicious circle whereby they were unable to cover the cost of renewal of their residency permits. Moreover, the requirement for a sponsor exacerbated the situation, as respondents said that some Lebanese were either reluctant to sponsor Syrians or wanted to benefit financially from the situation and were charging refugees US\$ 700-1,000 for a sponsorship. Some reported that Lebanese employers exploited those without residency, not paying the full wages promised, and sometimes not paying at all.

Syrian refugees residing in informal settlements stated that they always had to be on the lookout as police forces sometimes raided the settlements and arrested Syrians who did not have proper paperwork.

Social Networks of Assistance

Most of the respondents indicated that they receive assistance only from the UN. They are mainly given the food e-voucher, while in the winter months some receive seasonal cash support in the form of an ATM card. Refugees said that the assistance, however, was not given on a continuous basis, and the reasons why some refugees were given assistance while others felt unclear.

Many respondents complained that they felt the UN did not distribute the assistance fairly, criticized the lack of a transparent screening process, and accused some of the staff responsible for the distribution process of being rude and dishonest. They also complained about the declining value of the assistance²⁵ and disruptions in the distribution of the food card. Another concern highlighted by refugees was the regional disparities in assistance, leading to some areas receiving more assistance than others.

²⁵ Focus groups were held two months after the full value of food vouchers were reinstated, and the same month that capping on the number of persons per household to receive the card was lifted.

What respondents received in terms of assistance from NGOs was dictated by whether there was an NGO presence in their area of residence. The focus groups revealed that some NGOs were active in certain areas more than others. Respondents residing in the settlements were exposed to more NGOs than others, and hence received more assistance. Overall, respondents felt that assistance from organizations other than the UN had declined over the years and that people were losing interest in the Syrian refugee cause.

Livelihoods

Most respondents felt that work opportunities in Lebanon were scarce and the vast majority were having a hard time finding employment. Moreover, many complained about employers who were taking advantage of the Syrians' situation by paying them lower fees or not paying them at all. Many of the men were labourers seeking any type of employment that they could find. According to the respondents, in most cases, the children also had to work in order to contribute to the household income. They worked at cafés and restaurants, at construction sites with their fathers, in farming, or even selling items on the streets. A few parents admitted that their children were begging. The majority of the women said they could not work because they had to take care of their children and because of cultural norms.

Safety

When asked if they were concerned about security, most of the respondents said that in terms of armed conflict or instability, they felt safe. They were far more concerned about personal attacks and assaults by the Lebanese, sometimes worried about non-state actors, and feared retaliation whenever there were explosions and terrorist attacks anywhere in Lebanon. Those who were most worried about these included respondents from Halba, Qasr, Hermel and Majdel Anjar, where assaults and attacks were more frequent.

Another safety concern mentioned by many respondents was the fear of arrest for lack of a residency permit.

Future Plans / Intentions

Most respondents expressed that they were unable to plan ahead and think of their future because of their dire situation. They hoped to be able to address the concerns mentioned in order to improve their living conditions. For some who felt hopeless about the situation, the optimal solution was resettlement in a third country.

A large number of respondents could foresee no improvement, were unable to plan ahead and lived their lives day by day, often with the single focus of being able to feed the entire household for one day at a time. Many of them longed to go back to their home country and, if given the choice, preferred that option to travelling anywhere else in the world. However, given the unlikelihood of returning to Syria in the short-term, some refugees were considering resettlement in countries like Germany, Sweden, Australia, Canada and Denmark.

Civil Documentation

Most refugees had not completed registration procedures for civil documentation, and only had birth and death certificates from hospitals, or a contract from a Sheikh in case of marriages. Refugees felt that these documents were sufficient and that getting the proper documentation was costly, complex and time consuming. Only a few respondents had followed the correct procedures and had the proper paperwork.

Refugees revealed that a number of Syrians had begun burning their dead since they were unable to travel back and forth to Syria. They indicated this was also costly, and most probably illegal, but it allowed them to bypass the burdensome red tape of registration and travel back to Syria.

Communication

Respondents requested more information about the assistance that was being provided by the UN, the registration of civil documentation, resettlement, and their rights in Lebanon. With regard to the assistance programs, refugees wanted to know why some had been removed from the food voucher program; who was receiving assistance and why; what made people eligible for assistance; and if they would receive anything in the future. They also wanted to know how to register newborns, marriages and deaths, and the process utilized in selecting refugees for resettlement.

They mainly gathered information from the UN – either through an SMS or by calling the UN hotline. They also relied on word of mouth and, to a lesser extent, the internet and television. The vast majority of refugees identified SMS as their preferred and safest communication channel for information from the UN. A large number also suggested the need for representative offices, face-to-face meetings like the focus group discussions, personal visits and telephone calls.

CONCLUSIONS

The robust humanitarian response coordinated through the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan has kept Syrian refugees afloat, but their situation remained highly precarious.

Legal residency continued to decline, with only one in five households reporting that all members held legal residency. In addition, the share of households in which no member has a residency permit increased considerably, to 29%. Renewal of temporary residency emerged during focus group discussions as the number one priority for Syrian refugees in Lebanon. Other civil documentation was also lacking, with birth registration a particular concern given the potential long-lasting consequences on the life of the child.

Few households (2.4%) reported one of their members returning to Syria or moving to a third country. The vast majority of Syrian refugees have expressed the desire to return home, when conditions enable their return in safety and in dignity. In the interim, refugees felt safer in Lebanon, where just 3% of households reported experiencing any insecurity in the previous three months, compared to 6% in 2015. Around 60% of households cited fair relations with the local community, and less than 10% reported poor community relations.

The assessment revealed that 11% of households with three or more members had specific needs. These households are highly vulnerable because of a decreased ability to generate income and increased medical expenses. They spend US\$ 27 less per person every month than families with fewer members with specific needs. As expenditure is a proxy indicator for economic vulnerability, households with more members with specific needs appear to be poorer.

Similar to 2015, the majority of refugee households were living in residential buildings, although nearly one third remained in non-residential structures and informal tented settlements. The conditions of many homes remained dire, with 42% of households in dwellings that do not meet the minimum humanitarian standards, suffering from overcrowding, dangerous structural conditions or urgent repair needs, and/or lack of a toilet. The cost of rent was identified as a significant burden by many focus group participants.

Access to utilities and waste disposal remained challenges for many Syrian refugees. Less than a third of households have access to tap water, and in only two out of three cases does tap water reach the

household for more than two hours per day. In turn, dependence on bottled water grew. While more than 90% of households are legally connected to the public power grid, electricity is cut for an average of 12 hours per day. Households compensate in varying degrees for the shortage in public supply with the use of private generators. Just over half of households had flush latrines, and a quarter use improved pit latrines. However, nearly 7% of households share a toilet with 15 people or more. Solid waste is primarily disposed of in dumpsters, but residents in informal settlements resort to burning in larger numbers (13%).

Nearly half of the surveyed children of primary school age (6 to 14 years) were found to be out of school. Out-of-school children are concentrated in Mount Lebanon (30%) and the Bekaa (32%), reflecting the higher concentration of the Syrian refugee population in these governorates. Just 16% of adolescents aged 15-17 were in school. The main reason for not attending school was the cost, but child labour and child marriage were also barriers. In addition, adolescents were much likelier to be involved in income-generating activities than their younger counterparts (18% of adolescents aged 15-17 were reported to be working, compared to 3% of children aged 5-14).

People were going to primary health care centers and those who were going were predominantly able to get care. For those who lacked access, cost was the primary barrier. Secondary health care services were found to be less accessible, again due to cost. Children under the age of five were vulnerable to illness, with 41% reporting ailments in the two weeks preceding the survey. Anthropometric measurements of children 6 to 59 months old showed stability in the rates of malnutrition and low prevalence of stunting and underweight children. Results did, however, reveal significant incidences of underlying causes of malnutrition, including a high disease burden and inappropriate child feeding practices.

Survey findings indicated that only 3% of children age 6-23 months were provided with the minimum acceptable diet. In particular, the survey found insufficient consumption of vitamin A-rich fruits and vegetables and protein-rich meat and fish. For children under the age of six months, exclusive breastfeeding increased from 45% in 2015 to 58% in 2016.

Food security remained a challenge in 2016, with 93% of the population food insecure to some degree. Of those households, the percentage with mild food insecurity was 58%, followed by moderate food insecurity (34%) and severe food insecurity (1.6%).

The two key dimensions of food insecurity are limited access to food and increasing adoption of negative coping strategies. Firstly, one third of Syrian refugees in Lebanon were found to have unacceptable diets, lacking a variety or quantity or both of nutritious food, 14% had low dietary diversity, and the number of meals consumed per day declined for both adults and children. Secondly, households adopted more severe strategies to cope with lack of food. Three-fourths of households used crisis and/or emergency coping strategies such as reducing essential non-food expenditures (including on education and health), selling productive assets, taking children out of school, sending children to work and selling houses or land.

The food insecure are economically vulnerable. These households were poorer, had more debt and allocated the majority of their expenses on food. The percentage of households living below the survival minimum basket was higher among the food insecure households. The main cause of this vulnerability was the lack of earning power. The restrictions on Syrian refugees' access to the labour market, which the Lebanese government instituted at the end of 2014, have reduced their livelihood opportunities, making it a challenge for refugees to cover their basic needs without assistance. VASyR 2016 data shows similar results to 2015, with the majority of Syrian refugee households generating income predominantly from temporary sources (65%). Only 27% of households earned income from permanent jobs compared to 65% from temporary occupations. Meanwhile, the most common income-generating activities as reported by households were: construction work (32%), services (25%), agriculture (21%) and manufacturing (8%). Additionally, over a quarter of households reported not having a working age adult who worked in the past month, and in those households where someone did work, there was significant underemployment. Even with refugee households who had at least one member of the household working, the most common sources of cash were not sustainable--informal credit from shops and friends/family (53%) and food vouchers (33%).

Disaggregated by gender, it was clear that households headed by women were worse off. They were slightly more food insecure, had less adequate diets, and were adopting severe coping strategies more often.

Persons with disabilities were among the most vulnerable groups of Syrian refugees. They faced multiple deprivations and had limited access to services. The survey revealed children and youth with

disabilities lagged considerably behind their peers in terms of school attendance.

In 2015, food insecurity for Syrian refugees was more concentrated in the northeast of Lebanon, but in 2016 it spread also to the south. The districts with the highest percentage of food insecure households were Akkar, Baalbek, Hermel, Marjaayoun, Nabatieh, Tyre and Zahle. Apart from Hermel, in all of these districts the percentage of households with severe and moderate food insecurity significantly increased in 2016. Refugees living in these districts not only had the highest prevalence of food insecurity, but they also had low diet quality, were engaged in more severe coping strategies, and were economically vulnerable.

Economically vulnerable households receive two main types of assistance: 1) cash assistance in the form of multi-purpose cash grants, seasonal cash assistance and food vouchers; and 2) non-cash assistance in the form of in-kind goods and services, including food, household items, education, subsidized healthcare and shelter assistance. The need for assistance was clearly demonstrated by the ongoing poverty within the refugee population, as 71% of the population remained poor. Coupled with asset depletion and the lack of household items, there is a demonstrable need for continued multipurpose cash assistance and seasonal cash support. Humanitarian organizations, taking into consideration feedback from refugees, are moving now towards a common card which will also improve efficiencies of delivery.

In sum, the severe restrictions on Syrian refugees accessing the labor market in Lebanon, the high cost of rent and the increasing depletion of assets and savings are leading them to struggle to meet their needs on daily basis. Refugees have to resort to adopting coping strategies including accumulating debts. Given the continuation of the crisis for the sixth year, Syrian refugees had to rely more on assistance to sustain their vulnerable situation. Nevertheless, the regularity of assistance provided has avoided a further sharp deterioration of the situation.

A statement by a focus group respondent from Aydamoun (Akkar) encompassed the general feeling among most of the Syrians:

"The leading priority is for things to get better in Syria so we can go back. But if we are compelled to stay here, we need to have legal and official documents, be able to send our children to school, and secure medical care for those in need. For those who do not have jobs, we need the adequate assistance that would help us deal with our expenses."

RECOMMENDATIONS

Sustained funding and careful programming, including opportunities for joint planning and implementation, are required to enhance coherence and to ensure and maintain the well-being of vulnerable Syrian refugees in Lebanon. Below are additional specific recommendations based on the needs and gaps that have been identified through VASyR 2016.

- Finding ways to address the financial barrier for refugees to renew their residency and to access employment will facilitate self-reliance for refugees. Policies, measures and programmes oriented towards allowing refugees to generate income while protecting the Lebanese labour market and mitigating potential tensions with the host community are recommended.
- In light of the significant numbers of households reporting having family members with specific needs, programming will need to be inclusive of and informed by the particular challenges these persons face, such as persons with disabilities. The correlations between specific needs and vulnerability are multifaceted, having implications on socio-economic status as well as the ability of households, including their most vulnerable members, to maintain legal residency and obtain documentation such as birth registration. The geographic distribution of households with specific needs revealed regional and district-level variances that could benefit from further probing to identify possible epidemiological or hygiene concerns.
- Immediate assistance is required to meet the acute needs of the refugee population living in degraded temporary shelters within informal settlements and non-residential buildings that cannot be upgraded to the minimum standards.
- Access of vulnerable refugees to affordable occupancy in residential shelters at adequate conditions should be facilitated through sustainable upgrades and security of tenure agreements.
- Focus on improving the low rates of access and availability of improved water supply and sanitation facilities by ensuring access to services is safely managed based on agreed standards, irrespective of shelter type.
- The education response in Lebanon henceforth, while maintaining a humanitarian dimension, must make a strategic shift towards longer term approaches that cater for the protracted nature of the crisis. This requires strengthening of the Lebanese public education system and promotion of relevant national policy frameworks that sustainably support the improved availability of quality education services with a strong focus on relevant learning outcomes for children. Education interventions also need to be more systematically linked to child protection systems and livelihood opportunities for youth.
- More evidence should be generated on the multiple deprivations of persons with disabilities to respond to their needs through mainstreaming and targeted programmes in protection, including child protection, education, child protection and WASH
- Focus group discussions showed that health is a key concern. The expenditure for health remained very high as do the medical needs, highlighting the need for ongoing continued support for primary health care and secondary health care referrals.
- The extended and continued inadequacy of infant and young child feeding practices remains a concern requiring an in-depth barrier analysis to ensure effective behavioural change of this persistent problem.
- Food insecurity in Lebanon remains a serious concern. Although generous donor contributions made in early 2016 allowed a return to the full voucher value provided by WFP, slowing the pace of deterioration, additional funding is required to ensure and maintain food security for all vulnerable Syrian refugees in Lebanon.
- Significant variations in household profiles were found at the district level, and targeting accordingly is essential to ensuring the most efficient use of funding. Systems to identify and recognize these pockets will ensure an appropriate and fair level of assistance to vulnerable households, regardless of their location.
- Child labour and child marriage remain two concerns to keep addressing.
- Invest in people by harnessing the knowledge, talents and skills of displaced Syrians and host communities. Invest in programmes that create access to informal and formal education for children; transfer skills between displaced populations and host communities; and provide vocational training for youth.

- Improved communication to beneficiaries could address some of the fears expressed by refugees and negative coping mechanisms identified through the survey and focus groups. Some are logistical questions (e.g., why does assistance stop and when is it available?, who to contact/where to go for assistance?), while others may require larger campaigns that address behavioural change (why and how to register births, what are appropriate infant and young child feeding practices, why and how to enroll and maintain children in school). UNHCR, WFP, UNICEF and the Lebanon Cash Consortium have now moved to a common card system, which will also involve the creation of a common call center that refugees can contact with their general inquiries, a step that will hopefully improve communication with the community of beneficiaries. Ultimately, the call center will be expanded to cover all sectors of assistance.
- Inclusionary approaches at the community level should continue in order to keep community tensions at bay.



ANNEXES

Annex I: Cluster Selection

The following clusters were removed from the sampling selection because of security reasons or lack of information on the specific location of residence:

Districts	Location	Refugee population size	Population size with no address
<i>Saida</i>	<i>Ain el Hilweh</i>	1,943	35
<i>Tyre</i>	<i>Rachidiye</i>	284	49
<i>Jezzine</i>			22
<i>Marjaayoun</i>	<i>Khiam</i>	1,801	5
<i>Nabatieh</i>			22
<i>Bent Jbeil</i>			17
<i>Akkar</i>			70
<i>Zgharta</i>			23
<i>Koura</i>			14
<i>Batroun</i>			36
<i>Tripoli</i>			39
<i>Minieh Dannieh</i>	<i>Beddawi</i>	4	53
<i>Zahle</i>			39
<i>Rachaya</i>			8
<i>Hermel</i>			7
	<i>Arsal</i>	40,271	15
	<i>El Qaa</i>	8,898	
	<i>Qaa Bou Aayoun</i>	1,077	
<i>Baalbek</i>	<i>Qaa Jouar Maqie</i>	8	
	<i>Qaa Ouadi el Khanzir</i>	8	
	<i>Younine</i>	1,507	
	<i>Khirbet Younine</i>	21	
	<i>Khirbet Daoud</i>	16	
<i>Jbeil</i>			28
<i>Kesrwane</i>			22
<i>Chouf</i>			69
<i>Baabda</i>			122
<i>Aley</i>			70
<i>Meten</i>			20
<i>Beirut</i>			110
<i>Total</i>	<i>56,733 individuals</i>		

Annex 2: Minimum Expenditure Basket Methodology

Methodology

The Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) is based on secondary data on expenditures collected by 17 agencies. The data was consolidated and analysed by Handicap International during the second quarter of 2014. MEB composition was discussed and endorsed by the Cash Working Group after consultation and inputs received from sector working groups.

The expenditures included in the MEB are:

- Minimum food expenditure basket (MFEB): MFEB is based on WFP quantities which contain 2,100 kcal per day plus all nutrients needed. In order to calculate it, prices collected by WFP in January 2014 from across Lebanon were analysed.
- Non Food Item (NFI): the NFI package was decided by the NFI Working Group— monthly price monitoring done by a few organizations was used to determine the average price for each item. Although only a few organizations are involved in the NFI price monitoring, prices were collected in all regions except Beirut.
- Clothes: no minimum requirement for clothes has been agreed upon by the sector lead, therefore this calculation is based on monthly expenditures collected through post-distribution monitoring (PDM).
- Communication: the price is based on the minimum requirement per month to keep a phone line active.
- Rent: the calculation is based on average rent regardless of the type of shelter that refugees are living in, taking into consideration only those refugees actually paying rent. This was agreed upon by the Shelter Sector Working Group.
- Water: the calculation is based on the Sphere standard of 35 liters of water per day per individual, then multiplied by the cost of water truck service. This was agreed upon by the WASH Sector Group.
- Transportation: no minimum requirement for transportation was agreed, thus the calculation is based on monthly expenditures collected through PDM.
- Health: the calculation was determined by agreement in the Health Sector Working Group. Adults will make 2 medical visits per year in addition to drugs and diagnostic test, at a cost of US\$ 16 per year per person. Children under the age of 5 will make 4 medical visits per year at a cost of US\$ 33 per year per child. It was assumed that a household was comprised of 2 adults, 1 child over 5 years of age and 2 children under 5.

- Education: no feedback was received from the education sector, therefore the calculation is based on expenditures collected through PDM.

Extra expenditures:

There were extra expenditures that required special attention from the humanitarian agencies who are providing assistance to Syrian refugees, such as legalization of stay in Lebanon. All Syrian refugees who arrived in Lebanon in 2013 had to renew their visa every six months (renewable once for no fees), in order to do so every individual over 15 years old had to pay US\$200. An average of two people per household had to legalize their visa in 2014, thus every household required an additional US\$ 400 in assistance.

Regarding winterization, it was agreed that only petrol will be an additional cost for the household as distribution of stoves and high-quality thermal blankets has occurred and newcomers will receive this assistance.

Limitations

- The data was collected in different timeframes, therefore the MEB is not perfectly accurate.
- Some expenditures could not be disaggregated which makes it difficult to understand what they are incorporating.
- There was no harmonized methodology for the collection or calculation of expenditures.

Survival Expenditure Basket

Based on the MEB, a survival expenditure basket was calculated which includes all the survival basic items needed by the households, which are:

- Food: based on the 2100 kcal per day, same as the MEB, excluding the cost corresponding to 100% of the nutrients needed.
- NFI: the package remains the same as included in the MEB.
- Clothes: same package as MEB.
- Communication: same package as MEB.
- Rent: Average rent for refugees staying in informal tented settlements.
- Water: calculated based on 15 liters per day per person.
- Transportation: same package as MEB.
- Loan refund: based on average collected through field visit.

	Products	Quantity per capita	Quantity per HH	Cost in LBP	Cost in US\$	Comments	
Food Basket	Ration per month in grams						
	Lemon	900		982	1		
	Lettuce	1,950		4,608	3		
	Egg	600		2,331	2		
	Bread	2,100		3,590	2		
	Milk powder	600		8,533	6		
	Egyptian rice	3,000		5,531	4	Minimum Food Expenditure Basket per HH with WFP ration to meet nutrient needs + 2100 kcal/month	
	Spaghetti	1,500		3,664	2		
	Bulgur wheat	3,900		6,705	4		
	Canned meat	1,140		10,275	7		
	Vegetable oil	990		2,623	2		
	Sugar	1,500		1,993	1		
	Lentils	1,800		4,208	3		
Iodized salt	150		76	0			
Total Food expenditures per person				55,120	37		
Total Food expenditures per HH				275,599	184		
Non Food Items (CWG)	Prices collected by Cash Working Group (CWG) actors						
	Toilet paper		4 rolls/packet	1,233	1		
	Toothpaste		2 tubes/75ml	4,132	3		
	Laundry soap/detergent		Bubbles 900gr	4,073	3		
	Liquid dish detergent		750ml	2,479	2		
	Sanitary napkins		3 packets of 20 pads per packet	8,052	5	Quantities harmonized by the NFI Working Group. Minimum NFI required.	
	Individual soap		5 pieces of 125g	2,462	2		
	Hypoallergenic soap		125g per bar	1,298	1		
	Disinfectant fluid		500ml	3,892	3		
	Shampoo		500ml	4,023	3		
	Diapers		90 per packet	14,599	10		
	Cooking gas	1kg		2,733	2		
Total NFI expenditures				48,976	33		
Other NFI	Based on HH surveys						
	Clothes		per month	37,050	25	Based on average expenditures collected through PDM	
	Communications cost		per month	34,095	23	Minimum needed per month to keep the phone active	
	Shelter – Rent		per month	290,075	193	Average rent regardless the type of shelter. Weighted according to % of population residing in shelter.	
	Wash –Water supply		per month	71,250	48	Monthly cost of water per HH in normal situation, 35 LL/person/day according to normal standard.	
	Services – Transportation		per month	40,375	27	Based on average expenditures collected through PDM.	
	Services – Health		per month	14,250	10	According to health sector, adults will do 2 medical visits per year+ drugs and diagnostic test which cost US\$ 16 per year per adult. Children <5 will do 4 medical visits per year which cost US\$ 33 per year/child. We made the assumption that a HH was comprised of 2 adults, 1 child>5 years and 2 children<5 years. Calculation: (16X3+33X2)/12	
Services – Education		per month	45 4878	30	Based on average expenditures collected through PDM.		
TOTAL MEB				857,158	571		

Annex 3: Coping Strategies Categories

The coping strategy indicator is classified into four categories: households that are not adopting coping strategies, stress, crisis and emergency coping strategies. Individual coping strategies relate to the categories as described in the table below.

Coping strategies by category		
<i>Stress</i>	<i>Crisis</i>	<i>Emergency</i>
<i>Spent savings</i>	<i>Sold productive assets</i>	<i>School-aged children involved in income</i>
<i>Sold goods</i>	<i>Withdrew children from school</i>	<i>Begged</i>
<i>Bought food on credit</i>	<i>Reduced non-food expenses</i>	<i>Accepted high risk jobs</i>
<i>Have debts</i>	<i>Marriage of children under 18</i>	<i>Sold house or land</i>

Each coping strategy is given a different weight and classified under the corresponding category.

Annex 4: Food Consumption Score

The food consumption score (FCS) is based on dietary diversity (number of food groups consumed by households during the seven days prior to the survey), food frequency (number of days on which each food group is consumed during the seven days prior to the survey) and the relative nutritional importance of each food group. A weight was attributed to each food group according to its nutrient density. The food consumption score is calculated by multiplying the frequency of consumption of each food group (maximum of seven if a food group was consumed every day) by each food group weight and then averaging these scores.

Food groups	Weight	Justification
Main staples	2	Energy dense/usually eaten in large quantities, protein content lower and poorer quality (lower protein energy ratio, or PER) than legumes, micro-nutrients (bounded by phytates)
Pulses	3	Energy dense, high amounts of protein but of lower quality (PER less) than meats, micro-nutrients (inhibited by phytates), low fat
Vegetables	1	Low energy, low protein, no fat, micro-nutrients
Fruits	1	Low energy, low protein, no fat, micro-nutrients
Meat and fish	4	Highest quality protein, easily absorbable micro-nutrients (no phytates), energy dense, fat. Even when consumed in small quantities, improvement to the quality of diet are large
Milk	4	Highest quality protein, micro-nutrients, vitamin A, energy. However, milk could be consumed only in very small amount and should then be treated as condiment and therefore re-classification in such cases is needed
Sugar	0.5	Empty calories. Usually consumed in small quantities
Oil	0.5	Energy dense but usually no other micro-nutrients. Usually consumed in small quantities
Condiments	0	These foods are by definition eaten in very small quantities and not considered to have an important impact on overall diet.

The FCS can have a maximum value of 112, implying that each food was consumed every day for the last seven days. Households are then classified on the basis of their FCS and standard thresholds into three categories: poor, borderline and acceptable. The cut off points have been set at 28 and 42 as recommended by the WFP Emergency Food Security Assessment Handbook. This is to allow for the fact that oil and sugar are consumed extremely frequently among all households surveyed and the cut off points have been heightened to avoid distorting the FCSs of those surveyed.

Annex 5: Diet Diversity Score

Household food access is defined as the ability to acquire a sufficient quality and quantity of food to meet all household members' nutritional requirements for productive lives. Household dietary diversity, defined as the number of unique foods consumed by household members over a given period, has been validated to be a useful proxy for measuring household food access, particularly when resources for undertaking such measurement are scarce.

The number of different foods or food groups eaten over a reference period are recorded (in the VASyR questions were asked about food group consumed over the 7 days prior to the data collection), without regard to frequency of consumption.

Household weekly diet diversity is equal to number of food groups consumed over the previous 7 days. Household daily average diet diversity is equal to the number of food groups consumed over the previous 24 hours (in the VASyR, the number of food groups consumed was divided by 7 to estimate it by one day).

Calculation. Regroup all the food items into specific food groups:

1. Cereals
2. Vegetables
3. Fruits
4. Meat, poultry, organ meat
5. Eggs
6. Fish and seafood
7. Pulses/legumes/nuts
8. Milk and milk products
9. Oils/fats
10. Sugar/honey

Miscellaneous key concerns: Dietary diversity score does not take into account the nutrient value of food items eaten. The questionnaire should properly account for food items consumed in very small quantities. For instance, if a spoon of fish powder is added to the pot, this should be treated as a condiment rather than a day's consumption of fish. The same is true for a teaspoon of milk in tea. Reporting: Mean dietary diversity score; compare mean between different groups. Descriptive procedure: compare means; descriptive statistics. Interpretation: Dietary diversity is positively linked with adequacy of food intake. Hence, a smaller value indicates poor quality of diet.

For a detailed discussion on the dietary diversity indicator, visit the following websites:

http://www.fantaproject.org/downloads/pdfs/HDDS_v2_Sep06.pdf.

http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/manual_guide_proced/wfp203208.pdf.

Annex 6: Food Security classification

The Food security classification is based on the combination of three main indicators: the food consumption score, the livelihood coping strategies and the expenditures share.

The food consumption score measures current food consumption. Households are grouped based on the variety and frequency of foods consumed as indicated in the FCS Annex. 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 acceptable food consumption and they 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.

The livelihood coping strategies measures sustainability of livelihoods. Households are categorized based on severity of livelihood coping strategies employed as indicated in Annex 3. Households who didn't apply any coping strategies fall under the category of food security.

Food security classification include four categories: food secure, mildly food insecure, moderately food insecure and severely food insecure

	Food Security	Mild Food Insecurity	Moderate Food Insecurity	Poor
Food consumption	Acceptable	Acceptable with food-related coping strategies	Borderline	Poor
Food expenditure share	<50%	50-65%	65-75%	>75%
Coping strategies	Household not adopting coping strategies	Stress coping strategies	Crisis coping strategies	Emergency coping strategies

The table below describes the combination of the components for the food security classification.

Food Security Categories	Description
Food Secure	Able to meet essential food and non-food needs without engaging in atypical coping strategies.
Mildly Food Insecure	Has minimal 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 just able to meet minimum food needs only with irreversible coping strategies.
Severely Food Insecure	Has extreme food consumption gaps OR has extreme loss of productive assets that will lead to food consumption gaps or worse.

The steps to compute food security categories are the following:

1. Convert the three food security indicators into 4-point scale indices:
 - Coping strategy index
 - Food expenditure share index
 - Food consumption score index that was classified into four groups as follows:

FCS Groups	Score
<i>Acceptable</i>	1
<i>Acceptable with food-related coping strategies</i>	2
<i>Borderline</i>	3
<i>Poor</i>	4

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

Please find below the link for more information about food security classification:

http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/manual_guide_proced/wfp203208.pdf

Annex 7: Statistics at Districts and Governorate Level

Livelihood Individuals

	percentage of individuals who worked in 30 days prior to the survey				male and women working in the 30 days prior to the survey		average number of working days in the 30 days prior to the survey	Type of work for adults 18-65 years								Amount earned in US\$ per month	
	5-14 years	15-17 years	18-65 years	> = 65 years	female (18-65 years)	male (18-65 years)		18-65 years	construction	agriculture	services	cleaning	other	retail/shop	manufacturing	begging	female (18-65 years)
Total	3%	18%	36%	2%	7%	70%	14	33%	22%	26%	6%	6%	6%	1%	0%	115	215
Governorate																	
Akkar	2%	19%	28%	0%	10%	51%	11	37%	41%	11%	7%	0%	4%	0%	0%	US\$67	US\$133
Baalbek-Hermel	2%	26%	32%	1%	9%	64%	11	26%	49%	17%	2%	5%	2%	0%	0%	US\$56	US\$124
Beirut	1%	8%	40%	5%	6%	73%	20	23%	0%	55%	4%	3%	12%	2%	0%	US\$339	US\$339
Bekaa	3%	17%	31%	3%	10%	62%	11	22%	32%	25%	5%	9%	6%	1%	0%	US\$190	US\$130
Nabatieh	4%	19%	38%	12%	5%	77%	14	43%	24%	10%	10%	10%	3%	1%	0%	US\$80	US\$240
Mount Lebanon	2%	17%	40%	3%	4%	78%	16	35%	7%	35%	7%	8%	7%	1%	0%	US\$261	US\$279
North Lebanon	3%	19%	36%	1%	5%	73%	13	34%	19%	31%	6%	2%	8%	0%	0%	US\$101	US\$188
South Lebanon	4%	26%	42%	5%	10%	80%	15	26%	39%	23%	6%	3%	4%	0%	0%	US\$109	US\$240
Districts																	
Akkar	2%	19%	28%	0%	6%	85%	11	37%	41%	11%	7%	0%	4%	0%	0%	US\$67	US\$133
Aley	3%	16%	43%	0%	17%	70%	15	51%	6%	35%	3%	3%	3%	0%	0%	US\$237	US\$257
Barabda	1%	16%	34%	7%	5%	78%	17	24%	4%	29%	7%	20%	15%	2%	0%	US\$-	US\$242
Baalbek	0%	25%	32%	0%	6%	80%	11	26%	50%	16%	2%	4%	2%	0%	0%	US\$57	US\$124
Batroun	2%	5%	46%	0%	6%	73%	12	37%	25%	27%	8%	1%	3%	0%	0%	US\$132	US\$187
Bcharre	2%	37%	45%	0%	4%	76%	14	24%	59%	11%	6%	1%	1%	0%	0%	US\$94	US\$220
Beirut	1%	8%	40%	5%	10%	51%	20	23%	0%	55%	4%	3%	12%	2%	0%	US\$190	US\$339
Bent-Jbeil	4%	12%	47%	29%	4%	85%	15	49%	18%	6%	6%	21%	1%	0%	0%	US\$83	US\$256
Chouf	5%	14%	38%	0%	1%	69%	15	58%	15%	7%	8%	6%	7%	0%	0%	US\$183	US\$247
Hasbaya	5%	38%	28%	25%	8%	64%	10	38%	25%	31%	6%	0%	6%	0%	0%	US\$32	US\$151
Hermel	5%	30%	39%	6%	3%	87%	11	20%	34%	21%	1%	16%	0%	0%	0%	US\$53	US\$123
Jbeil	1%	20%	43%	9%	6%	73%	18	44%	9%	29%	14%	1%	4%	0%	0%	US\$233	US\$369
Jezzine	1%	14%	41%	14%	8%	87%	14	30%	46%	14%	10%	0%	1%	0%	0%	US\$138	US\$254
Kesrwane	4%	26%	43%	0%	4%	75%	15	42%	13%	38%	4%	2%	2%	0%	0%	US\$250	US\$276
Koura	2%	15%	40%	0%	6%	64%	13	42%	24%	27%	5%	0%	2%	0%	0%	US\$113	US\$203
Marjayoun	2%	17%	40%	0%	4%	84%	12	48%	34%	6%	4%	7%	0%	0%	0%	US\$76	US\$192
Meten	1%	13%	44%	0%	2%	83%	17	31%	9%	41%	12%	2%	5%	0%	0%	US\$326	US\$326
Minieh Dinnieh	3%	25%	36%	0%	7%	82%	14	32%	23%	23%	6%	2%	14%	1%	0%	US\$73	US\$168
Nabatieh	4%	16%	38%	0%	9%	74%	14	41%	24%	8%	13%	8%	5%	1%	0%	US\$97	US\$256
Rachaya	4%	22%	36%	0%	4%	70%	14	37%	21%	27%	9%	1%	5%	0%	0%	US\$92	US\$184
Saida	5%	27%	43%	6%	12%	81%	15	25%	38%	27%	4%	2%	3%	0%	0%	US\$121	US\$247
Tripoli	4%	14%	33%	0%	4%	68%	14	35%	5%	47%	6%	3%	5%	0%	0%	US\$141	US\$201
Tyre	2%	26%	39%	0%	7%	79%	14	27%	39%	16%	8%	5%	6%	0%	0%	US\$80	US\$227
West Bekaa	3%	16%	34%	0%	9%	64%	11	17%	42%	24%	6%	6%	3%	2%	0%	US\$85	US\$131
Zahle	2%	17%	29%	4%	10%	60%	11	23%	28%	25%	5%	10%	8%	1%	0%	US\$92	US\$125
Zgharta	1%	23%	39%	9%	8%	75%	12	26%	40%	16%	8%	3%	8%	0%	0%	US\$71	US\$182

Livelihood Households

Cash and income sources reported by households with at least one member working in the 30 days prior to the survey

	Household member(s) worked in the past 30 days				household monthly per capita income		Households with at least one member and a member searching for work	Informal credit/debt	Food voucher/ e-card	Construction	Other services	Agriculture	Manufacturing	Cash from humanitarian organizations	Gifts from family/ relatives	Other	Wholesale and retail trade
	no working adults	5+ dependents per working adult	3-4 dependents per working adult	<=2 dependents per working adult	mean	median											
Total	27%	23%	29%	21%	US\$60	US\$40	33%	33%	32%	25%	21%	8%	4%	3%	11%	4%	
Governorates																	
Akkar	49%	17%	15%	19%	US\$37	US\$22	31%	44%	35%	9%	37%	8%	6%	1%	7%	2%	
Baalbek-Hermel	31%	25%	29%	15%	US\$29	US\$21	23%	55%	23%	17%	43%	3%	3%	1%	15%	0%	
Beirut	31%	12%	26%	31%	US\$152	US\$93	22%	13%	20%	48%	0%	4%	2%	1%	10%	6%	
Bekaa	33%	24%	25%	18%	US\$37	US\$22	24%	44%	19%	12%	23%	8%	7%	3%	26%	3%	
Nabatieh	24%	28%	31%	18%	US\$55	US\$48	43%	40%	44%	13%	31%	8%	0%	3%	15%	2%	
Mount Lebanon	17%	25%	33%	24%	US\$78	US\$60	39%	25%	37%	32%	9%	10%	3%	4%	8%	5%	
North Lebanon	24%	23%	30%	23%	US\$51	US\$36	45%	23%	38%	34%	22%	8%	4%	2%	4%	6%	
South Lebanon	18%	25%	36%	22%	US\$62	US\$50	21%	42%	29%	23%	42%	7%	3%	4%	5%	3%	
Districts																	
Akkar	49%	17%	15%	19%	US\$37	US\$22	31%	44%	35%	9%	37%	8%	6%	1%	7%	2%	
Aley	9%	26%	42%	22%	US\$86	US\$67	67%	40%	53%	40%	6%	7%	3%	5%	1%	1%	
Baabda	29%	24%	29%	19%	US\$61	US\$48	40%	20%	21%	31%	5%	6%	5%	8%	19%	9%	
Baalbek	32%	25%	29%	15%	US\$29	US\$20	21%	55%	23%	17%	44%	3%	3%	1%	13%	0%	
Baroun	14%	28%	34%	25%	US\$58	US\$33	55%	20%	43%	24%	26%	10%	2%	1%	1%	2%	
Beharre	12%	25%	38%	25%	US\$63	US\$50	29%	29%	28%	12%	61%	9%	1%	2%	1%	1%	
Beirut	31%	12%	26%	31%	US\$152	US\$93	22%	13%	20%	48%	0%	4%	2%	1%	10%	6%	
Bent Jbeil	31%	27%	28%	14%	US\$61	US\$42	30%	59%	40%	6%	36%	3%	0%	1%	40%	0%	
Chouf	15%	35%	32%	17%	US\$61	US\$44	17%	43%	50%	4%	16%	11%	1%	0%	11%	6%	
Hasbaya	37%	20%	27%	17%	US\$45	US\$40	33%	37%	32%	26%	16%	11%	0%	16%	11%	0%	
Hermel	21%	22%	35%	22%	US\$29	US\$22	36%	54%	24%	13%	30%	2%	9%	2%	35%	2%	
Jbeil	8%	23%	47%	22%	US\$104	US\$81	34%	9%	43%	29%	11%	15%	3%	1%	4%	3%	
Jejjine	15%	33%	34%	18%	US\$60	US\$47	23%	24%	41%	21%	47%	4%	0%	2%	0%	1%	
Keswane	13%	25%	33%	29%	US\$77	US\$53	34%	16%	44%	36%	19%	5%	3%	3%	3%	2%	
Koura	16%	28%	34%	21%	US\$51	US\$36	49%	40%	43%	24%	39%	9%	1%	1%	2%	4%	
Marjayoun	24%	28%	31%	17%	US\$47	US\$40	26%	37%	50%	7%	33%	4%	0%	2%	6%	0%	
Meten	10%	21%	32%	36%	US\$100	US\$86	32%	12%	28%	46%	8%	16%	3%	3%	3%	3%	
Minieh Damieh	24%	21%	30%	26%	US\$52	US\$42	44%	14%	36%	27%	23%	9%	6%	2%	6%	9%	
Nabatieh	18%	30%	33%	19%	US\$58	US\$50	53%	36%	45%	13%	32%	10%	0%	1%	11%	4%	
Rachaya	22%	22%	30%	26%	US\$45	US\$38	32%	23%	36%	29%	21%	8%	4%	0%	4%	5%	
Saida	16%	22%	38%	24%	US\$66	US\$53	24%	39%	26%	30%	42%	5%	5%	6%	4%	2%	
Tripoli	30%	21%	27%	22%	US\$49	US\$33	45%	23%	39%	52%	6%	6%	1%	3%	1%	5%	
Tyre	21%	27%	34%	18%	US\$54	US\$42	16%	47%	34%	12%	40%	10%	1%	2%	6%	5%	
West Bekaa	28%	21%	28%	22%	US\$35	US\$26	33%	32%	22%	18%	36%	6%	6%	1%	20%	2%	
Zahle	35%	25%	24%	16%	US\$38	US\$20	21%	50%	16%	8%	17%	8%	8%	4%	30%	4%	
Zgharta	21%	23%	37%	18%	US\$46	US\$33	36%	36%	29%	14%	45%	7%	13%	2%	10%	6%	

Food Security

	Food secure	Mild food insecurity	Moderate food insecurity	Severe food insecurity
Total	7%	58%	34%	2%
Governorates				
<i>Akkar</i>	3%	53%	42%	1%
<i>Baalbek-Hermel</i>	2%	43%	53%	2%
<i>Beirut</i>	20%	58%	22%	0%
<i>Bekaa</i>	4%	44%	50%	2%
<i>Nabatieh</i>	6%	54%	36%	4%
<i>Mount Lebanon</i>	10%	67%	21%	2%
<i>North Lebanon</i>	6%	68%	26%	1%
<i>South Lebanon</i>	12%	57%	28%	3%
Districts				
<i>Akkar</i>	3%	53%	42%	1%
<i>Aley</i>	1%	72%	26%	1%
<i>Baabda</i>	7%	59%	31%	4%
<i>Baalbek</i>	2%	43%	54%	1%
<i>Batroun</i>	6%	60%	33%	1%
<i>Bcharre</i>	20%	58%	22%	0%
<i>Beirut</i>	1%	80%	19%	0%
<i>Bent Jbeil</i>	16%	61%	21%	1%
<i>Chouf</i>	2%	67%	31%	0%
<i>Hasbaya</i>	7%	51%	38%	4%
<i>Hermel</i>	4%	71%	25%	1%
<i>Jbeil</i>	15%	77%	8%	1%
<i>Jezzine</i>	10%	71%	19%	0%
<i>Kesrwane</i>	5%	55%	36%	4%
<i>Koura</i>	20%	33%	47%	0%
<i>Marjaayoun</i>	20%	68%	13%	0%
<i>Meten</i>	21%	54%	22%	3%
<i>Minieh Dannieh</i>	21%	69%	10%	1%
<i>Nabatieh</i>	4%	36%	48%	13%
<i>Rachaya</i>	4%	69%	26%	1%
<i>Saida</i>	13%	66%	20%	2%
<i>Tripoli</i>	10%	45%	42%	4%
<i>Tyre</i>	3%	65%	30%	1%
<i>West Bekaa</i>	5%	60%	34%	1%
<i>Zahle</i>	4%	36%	58%	2%
<i>Zgharta</i>	5%	66%	28%	1%

Food Consumption

	Meals per day (mean)		Household Food Consumption				Household Weekly Diet Diversity groups				Household Daily Average Diet Diversity groups			Household Weekly Diet Diversity (mean)	Household Daily Average Diet Diversity (mean)
	adults	children <5	Poor (<=28 FCS)	Borderline (29-42 FCS)	Acceptable (>42 FCS)	<=6 food groups	7-8 food groups	>=9 food groups	<4.5 food groups	4.5-6.4 food groups	>=6.5 food groups	Household Daily Average Diet Diversity			
												(mean)	(mean)		
Total	1.8	2.3	8%	24%	68%	16%	43%	41%	14%	63%	23%			8.0	5.6
Governorates															
Akkar	1.7	2.0	13%	30%	57%	24%	47%	29%	23%	73%	4%			7.6	5.1
Aley	1.3	1.8	5%	12%	83%	5%	44%	51%	16%	57%	27%			8.4	5.7
Barabda	1.6	2.2	15%	22%	64%	24%	39%	37%	23%	47%	30%			7.8	5.5
Baalbek	2.0	2.3	3%	44%	53%	11%	52%	37%	3%	88%	9%			8.0	5.3
Barroun	1.5	1.6	10%	17%	74%	17%	39%	45%	9%	77%	14%			8.1	5.6
Bcharre	1.4	2.1	5%	19%	75%	10%	42%	48%	15%	78%	8%			8.4	5.4
Beirut	1.5	2.0	9%	21%	71%	19%	39%	42%	30%	54%	16%			8.0	5.1
Bent Jbeil	2.3	3.0	1%	3%	96%	1%	44%	55%	8%	82%	9%			8.8	5.6
Chouf	1.3	1.7	10%	10%	81%	22%	44%	34%	10%	52%	38%			7.7	6.1
Hasbaya	2.0	2.4	3%	37%	60%	7%	60%	33%	3%	87%	10%			8.1	5.6
Hermel	1.2	1.5	7%	18%	75%	20%	36%	44%	10%	75%	15%			8.0	5.7
Jbeil	2.1	2.8	3%	9%	88%	10%	32%	58%	4%	46%	50%			8.5	6.5
Jezzine	2.1	2.4	5%	17%	78%	11%	41%	48%	13%	58%	30%			8.2	5.7
Kesrwane	2.2	2.8	2%	5%	92%	5%	28%	67%	2%	43%	55%			8.8	6.6
Koura	1.9	2.2	6%	16%	78%	7%	52%	41%	4%	78%	17%			8.2	5.7
Majraayoun	2.2	2.6	22%	29%	49%	27%	49%	23%	50%	36%	14%			7.2	4.5
Meten	1.9	2.3	1%	7%	92%	4%	30%	66%	2%	35%	64%			8.9	6.8
Minieh Damieh	1.9	2.1	4%	14%	82%	13%	48%	39%	8%	72%	21%			8.1	5.8
Nabatieh	2.1	2.6	12%	23%	64%	21%	42%	37%	42%	39%	20%			7.8	4.7
Rachaya	1.4	1.8	7%	16%	77%	11%	40%	49%	5%	82%	14%			8.4	5.7
Saida	2.3	3.0	5%	14%	81%	10%	38%	52%	6%	65%	29%			8.4	6.0
Tripoli	1.9	2.2	5%	22%	73%	13%	48%	39%	14%	65%	21%			8.1	5.6
Tyre	1.8	2.4	19%	26%	55%	39%	33%	28%	53%	33%	14%			7.1	4.4
West Bekaa	1.8	2.6	6%	23%	72%	11%	48%	41%	8%	72%	21%			8.2	5.7
Zahle	2.0	2.6	9%	42%	49%	17%	47%	36%	9%	78%	13%			8.0	5.4
Zgharta	1.8	2.1	5%	21%	73%	34%	33%	34%	9%	77%	14%			7.5	5.5

Expenditure

Total per capita monthly expenditures	Food expenditure categories			Value non-purchased food per capita	Household expenditure shares											Expenditure/income gap						
	<50%	50-64%	>75%		mean	Food	Rent	Health	Hygiene	Telecommunications	Water	Tobacco/Alcohol	Transport	Electricity	Gas	Education	Legal	Other	no income gap	expenditure 200 or less above income	expenditure 400 above income	expenditure >US\$ 400 above income
	mean	mean	mean		US\$10	US\$37	US\$9	US\$15	US\$12	US\$13	US\$20	US\$45	US\$8	US\$7	US\$9	US\$10	US\$12	US\$16	US\$18	US\$20	US\$28	US\$33
Total	104	62%	21%	10%	7%	44%	17%	12%	4%	4%	3%	3%	3%	3%	1%	1%	2%	12%	37%	29%	21%	
Governorates																						
<i>Akkar</i>	97	57%	27%	9%	7%	38%	26%	9%	2%	4%	5%	2%	1%	2%	1%	4%	2%	7%	30%	37%	26%	
<i>Baalbek-Hermel</i>	63	39%	25%	19%	17%	38%	24%	10%	4%	4%	4%	3%	3%	2%	1%	1%	1%	7%	52%	33%	8%	
<i>Beirut</i>	180	74%	12%	8%	6%	45%	20%	10%	6%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	0%	0%	0%	27%	41%	16%	16%	
<i>Bekaa</i>	74	51%	24%	13%	11%	45%	10%	16%	5%	3%	4%	3%	5%	4%	0%	0%	1%	9%	42%	31%	18%	
<i>Nabatieh</i>	110	58%	23%	10%	9%	55%	7%	15%	3%	4%	2%	3%	2%	4%	0%	0%	1%	10%	38%	23%	29%	
<i>Mount Lebanon</i>	124	78%	12%	6%	4%	49%	13%	14%	2%	4%	2%	2%	3%	3%	0%	0%	2%	17%	35%	26%	22%	
<i>North Lebanon</i>	108	63%	24%	8%	5%	47%	16%	10%	4%	3%	3%	2%	4%	3%	1%	1%	1%	8%	34%	35%	23%	
<i>South Lebanon</i>	108	57%	25%	11%	7%	47%	17%	12%	3%	3%	4%	2%	3%	3%	1%	2%	1%	12%	33%	29%	27%	
Districts																						
<i>Akkar</i>	97	57%	27%	9%	7%	45%	10%	16%	5%	3%	4%	3%	5%	4%	0%	0%	2%	7%	30%	37%	26%	
<i>Aley</i>	121	75%	15%	9%	1%	41%	24%	8%	2%	3%	5%	2%	2%	2%	2%	1%	1%	15%	32%	34%	18%	
<i>Baabda</i>	98	78%	7%	4%	11%	39%	29%	10%	3%	3%	5%	3%	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%	21%	35%	20%	23%	
<i>Baalbek</i>	63	39%	26%	19%	16%	55%	7%	15%	2%	4%	2%	3%	2%	4%	0%	0%	2%	7%	51%	34%	8%	
<i>Batroun</i>	140	65%	25%	7%	3%	45%	18%	10%	6%	3%	3%	4%	2%	3%	0%	0%	3%	4%	23%	35%	38%	
<i>Bcharre</i>	111	61%	23%	12%	4%	45%	15%	11%	6%	4%	1%	4%	2%	3%	1%	0%	2%	18%	32%	32%	18%	
<i>Beirut</i>	180	74%	12%	8%	6%	38%	26%	9%	2%	4%	5%	2%	1%	2%	1%	4%	2%	27%	41%	16%	16%	
<i>Bent Jbeil</i>	89	48%	40%	10%	2%	48%	14%	8%	4%	5%	4%	1%	3%	3%	0%	0%	4%	4%	73%	22%	2%	
<i>Chouf</i>	114	75%	19%	5%	1%	37%	17%	13%	4%	4%	5%	3%	5%	2%	1%	2%	3%	16%	23%	27%	34%	
<i>Hasbaya</i>	60	57%	7%	17%	20%	52%	15%	11%	2%	4%	1%	3%	1%	4%	0%	0%	2%	11%	74%	16%	0%	
<i>Hermel</i>	55	36%	20%	19%	25%	58%	9%	15%	4%	3%	1%	1%	1%	4%	0%	0%	3%	7%	63%	24%	6%	
<i>Jbeil</i>	143	81%	11%	7%	2%	34%	22%	9%	5%	5%	3%	5%	4%	2%	2%	1%	4%	27%	30%	29%	14%	
<i>Jezzine</i>	131	53%	23%	13%	12%	52%	14%	13%	3%	3%	2%	3%	1%	3%	2%	1%	0%	11%	8%	20%	37%	
<i>Kesrwan</i>	140	78%	15%	4%	4%	36%	20%	12%	5%	2%	5%	3%	3%	2%	2%	1%	4%	15%	37%	23%	25%	
<i>Koura</i>	120	58%	30%	6%	6%	47%	14%	9%	6%	4%	3%	4%	4%	3%	0%	0%	2%	8%	20%	38%	34%	
<i>Marjayoun</i>	115	49%	23%	16%	13%	52%	13%	14%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	3%	1%	2%	1%	14%	26%	31%	29%	
<i>Meten</i>	163	81%	11%	6%	2%	36%	26%	8%	5%	4%	2%	5%	3%	2%	2%	2%	3%	14%	44%	23%	18%	
<i>Minieh-Dannieh</i>	127	66%	27%	5%	2%	43%	19%	12%	6%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	0%	1%	1%	8%	40%	31%	22%	
<i>Nabatieh</i>	127	63%	22%	7%	8%	44%	20%	13%	3%	2%	4%	2%	2%	3%	1%	3%	1%	11%	25%	23%	42%	
<i>Rachaya</i>	107	63%	23%	6%	8%	48%	16%	12%	3%	3%	4%	3%	1%	3%	1%	0%	3%	4%	32%	40%	23%	
<i>Saida</i>	114	50%	30%	12%	8%	51%	12%	9%	6%	4%	2%	4%	3%	3%	1%	2%	2%	7%	33%	31%	29%	
<i>Tripoli</i>	95	63%	19%	11%	6%	45%	22%	10%	7%	4%	2%	2%	2%	3%	0%	0%	1%	9%	37%	37%	17%	
<i>Tyre</i>	96	67%	18%	8%	6%	41%	23%	11%	2%	3%	5%	2%	1%	3%	2%	1%	2%	20%	33%	26%	21%	
<i>West Bekaa</i>	77	47%	27%	18%	8%	50%	13%	13%	3%	4%	1%	2%	4%	4%	1%	0%	3%	7%	40%	35%	18%	
<i>Zahle</i>	71	52%	24%	12%	13%	48%	13%	15%	2%	5%	2%	2%	4%	3%	0%	0%	3%	10%	43%	29%	18%	
<i>Zgharta</i>	100	55%	25%	13%	7%	50%	17%	11%	5%	3%	2%	4%	3%	3%	0%	0%	0%	6%	29%	39%	25%	

SMEB Poverty

	Minimum Expenditure basket categories				Households with Debt and categories			Reasons for borrowing 2016														
	SMEB-MEB (US\$ 87-113)		MEB-125% MEB (>=US\$ 114 - 142)		MEB >=125% MEB (>=US\$ 143)		Households below poverty line (US\$ 3.84)	Households with Debt and categories			Debt per household			Reasons for borrowing 2016								
	<US\$ 87	53%	17%	10%	8%	46%	71%	no debt	<= US\$ 200	US\$ 201- US\$ 600	>=US\$ 601	Median	Mean	Buy food	Pay rent	Pay health	Purchase water	Transport	Repay other, existing debts	Procure sponsorship	Documentation/ legal state fees	
Total								9%	12%	35%	43.6%	US\$600	US\$857	71%	45%	38%	1%	2%	4%	0%	2%	
Governorates																						
Akkar	31%	15%	8%	8%	46%	75%	7%	17%	47%	30%	30%	US\$467	US\$467	80%	36%	46%	1%	2%	3%	0%	1%	
Baalbek-Hermel	39%	17%	13%	13%	31%	93%	0%	8%	39%	52%	52%	US\$886	US\$667	83%	36%	40%	1%	1%	5%	1%	1%	
Beirut	45%	23%	11%	11%	22%	46%	32%	13%	26%	28%	28%	US\$500	US\$500	49%	34%	28%	1%	2%	10%	1%	4%	
Bekaa	58%	17%	7%	7%	18%	88%	4%	9%	32%	56%	56%	US\$567	US\$567	74%	42%	46%	0%	1%	4%	0%	0%	
Nabatieh	86%	8%	2%	2%	4%	68%	9%	14%	37%	40%	40%	US\$747	US\$533	76%	48%	39%	0%	1%	1%	1%	3%	
Mount Lebanon	72%	15%	6%	6%	8%	56%	11%	12%	30%	47%	47%	US\$667	US\$667	73%	50%	29%	1%	2%	3%	1%	2%	
North Lebanon	41%	26%	16%	16%	17%	68%	12%	15%	39%	34%	34%	US\$715	US\$533	60%	51%	44%	1%	2%	3%	0%	2%	
South Lebanon	49%	19%	11%	11%	21%	67%	12%	15%	37%	36%	36%	US\$753	US\$500	67%	39%	34%	0%	1%	2%	0%	3%	
Districts																						
Akkar	58%	17%	7%	7%	18%	75%	7%	17%	47%	30%	30%	US\$629	US\$467	80%	36%	46%	1%	2%	3%	0%	1%	
Aley	36%	24%	10%	10%	29%	61%	12%	16%	35%	36%	36%	US\$831	US\$525	79%	48%	19%	1%	1%	6%	0%	0%	
Baalba	51%	15%	9%	9%	25%	72%	12%	15%	30%	44%	44%	US\$789	US\$600	72%	50%	32%	2%	4%	1%	1%	2%	
Baalbak	86%	7%	2%	2%	4%	93%	0%	7%	39%	54%	54%	US\$909	US\$667	82%	36%	41%	1%	1%	5%	1%	1%	
Batroun	37%	19%	16%	16%	28%	57%	8%	10%	29%	53%	53%	US\$869	US\$600	67%	47%	52%	0%	0%	7%	0%	2%	
Bcharre	45%	21%	13%	13%	21%	69%	8%	9%	38%	46%	46%	US\$823	US\$500	66%	51%	42%	0%	1%	3%	1%	1%	
Beirut	31%	15%	8%	8%	46%	48%	32%	13%	26%	28%	28%	US\$925	US\$667	49%	34%	28%	1%	2%	10%	1%	4%	
Bent Jbeil	65%	18%	11%	11%	6%	83%	4%	6%	23%	68%	68%	US\$941	US\$662	91%	59%	72%	0%	3%	1%	1%	1%	
Chouf	18%	12%	15%	15%	25%	61%	8%	13%	32%	47%	47%	US\$733	US\$733	69%	34%	40%	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%	
Hasbaya	90%	0%	3%	3%	7%	90%	13%	23%	37%	27%	27%	US\$605	US\$467	63%	37%	33%	0%	0%	0%	0%	7%	
Hemel	86%	9%	2%	2%	3%	96%	6%	21%	41%	32%	32%	US\$916	US\$667	86%	32%	33%	0%	1%	2%	1%	1%	
Jbeil	33%	12%	19%	19%	37%	46%	10%	7%	29%	54%	54%	US\$1279	US\$833	78%	57%	27%	2%	1%	1%	0%	3%	
Jezzine	27%	21%	23%	23%	30%	49%	19%	13%	42%	26%	26%	US\$632	US\$483	60%	34%	34%	1%	0%	2%	0%	2%	
Keswane	42%	15%	13%	13%	30%	58%	15%	5%	19%	60%	60%	US\$725	US\$500	81%	66%	21%	0%	0%	1%	0%	2%	
Koura	38%	19%	14%	14%	29%	58%	14%	13%	28%	46%	46%	US\$520	US\$450	62%	47%	31%	0%	1%	4%	0%	4%	
Marsajoun	48%	18%	13%	13%	21%	66%	9%	11%	34%	46%	46%	US\$994	US\$733	81%	41%	33%	0%	0%	2%	1%	1%	
Meten	22%	14%	20%	20%	44%	36%	11%	7%	27%	56%	56%	US\$643	US\$500	70%	56%	30%	2%	2%	6%	2%	2%	
Minieh-Dannieh	43%	24%	10%	10%	24%	67%	16%	15%	43%	26%	26%	US\$1205	US\$1000	50%	54%	47%	1%	2%	1%	0%	2%	
Nabatieh	34%	24%	13%	13%	30%	58%	9%	15%	42%	34%	34%	US\$830	US\$667	73%	49%	31%	0%	1%	2%	0%	4%	
Rachaya	41%	27%	16%	16%	16%	70%	3%	6%	48%	43%	43%	US\$600	US\$600	75%	60%	35%	0%	0%	1%	0%	1%	
Saida	36%	27%	18%	18%	20%	63%	16%	12%	37%	36%	36%	US\$796	US\$533	65%	33%	35%	0%	1%	1%	0%	2%	
Tripoli	53%	21%	8%	8%	18%	74%	12%	17%	39%	33%	33%	US\$702	US\$500	64%	53%	41%	1%	3%	3%	0%	1%	
Tyre	51%	24%	13%	13%	11%	75%	6%	21%	36%	37%	37%	US\$674	US\$500	71%	48%	33%	0%	1%	4%	0%	4%	
WestBekaa	67%	18%	8%	8%	7%	86%	3%	10%	31%	55%	55%	US\$839	US\$667	78%	40%	45%	1%	2%	4%	0%	0%	
Zahle	76%	13%	4%	4%	8%	90%	4%	9%	31%	31%	31%	US\$1011	US\$667	73%	42%	47%	0%	1%	5%	1%	0%	
Zgharta	40%	32%	17%	17%	11%	73%	4%	11%	47%	38%	38%	US\$533	US\$647	75%	40%	49%	1%	3%	1%	0%	1%	

Coping

When households faced lack of food or money to buy it

	Food related coping strategies										Asset depletion coping strategies						Coping classification				
	Less preferred/expensive food	Reduced number of meals	Borrowed food/help from friends or relatives	Reduced portion size	Restrict consumption by adults	Sand household members to eat elsewhere	Spent days without eating	Reduced expenditure on food	Bought food on credit	Reduced essential non-food expenditure	Spent savings	Sold household goods	Withdrawn children from school	Sold productive assets	Child labor	Sold house/land	Other*	Emergency coping strategies	Crisis coping strategies	Stress coping strategies	HHI not adopting coping strategies
Total	92%	58%	38%	51%	33%	5%	3%	85%	77%	67%	34%	14%	16%	4%	6%	8%	12.0%	62.3%	23.0%	2.7%	
Governorates																					
Akkar	98%	79%	36%	45%	54%	10%	5%	76%	82%	64%	30%	18%	11%	4%	1%	6%	7.5%	62.1%	27.8%	2.6%	
Baalbek-Hermel	93%	45%	38%	46%	18%	4%	1%	87%	94%	77%	31%	14%	31%	2%	10%	5%	12.4%	70.6%	16.9%	0.0%	
Beirut	58%	47%	31%	43%	24%	4%	5%	56%	39%	28%	16%	9%	6%	2%	3%	12%	12.1%	32.1%	37.3%	18.5%	
Bekaa	94%	42%	43%	39%	29%	9%	1%	87%	87%	76%	40%	14%	26%	3%	13%	4%	16.4%	64.7%	17.6%	1.3%	
Nabatieh	92%	67%	56%	52%	27%	6%	5%	76%	69%	64%	44%	24%	25%	7%	4%	15%	12.8%	71.0%	13.5%	2.6%	
Mount Lebanon	90%	57%	29%	52%	33%	3%	4%	90%	73%	68%	35%	15%	14%	5%	5%	9%	13.2%	63.2%	21.4%	2.1%	
North Lebanon	99%	74%	48%	67%	40%	2%	3%	89%	72%	65%	21%	10%	7%	3%	2%	8%	7.7%	61.9%	28.1%	2.4%	
South Lebanon	85%	55%	38%	53%	19%	4%	5%	76%	65%	54%	25%	20%	14%	4%	1%	9%	8.8%	52.7%	33.2%	5.2%	
Districts																					
Akkar	98%	79%	36%	45%	54%	10%	5%	76%	82%	64%	30%	18%	11%	4%	1%	6%	7.5%	62.1%	27.8%	2.6%	
Aley	98%	94%	42%	94%	67%	6%	3%	95%	81%	91%	49%	22%	25%	7%	7%	11%	18.1%	75.0%	5.2%	1.7%	
Baalabda	95%	77%	28%	73%	45%	2%	1%	92%	81%	80%	24%	16%	7%	6%	5%	9%	14.5%	70.3%	13.9%	1.2%	
Baalbek	98%	45%	37%	45%	18%	4%	1%	87%	94%	80%	33%	13%	34%	1%	11%	4%	12.2%	73.2%	14.6%	0.0%	
Baroun	100%	88%	21%	87%	63%	3%	1%	92%	70%	67%	25%	3%	6%	1%	3%	2%	12.1%	52.1%	32.1%	3.6%	
Bcharre	90%	72%	21%	65%	58%	5%	2%	89%	61%	59%	27%	8%	11%	4%	5%	5%	12.1%	82.1%	37.3%	18.5%	
Beirut	58%	47%	31%	43%	24%	4%	5%	56%	45%	39%	28%	16%	9%	2%	3%	12%	10.9%	87.9%	.6%	.6%	
Bent Jbeil	84%	63%	41%	72%	28%	0%	1%	96%	98%	99%	28%	33%	9%	10%	1%	5%	17.6%	42.4%	35.8%	4.2%	
Chouf	72%	37%	18%	26%	19%	1%	2%	85%	78%	42%	35%	13%	24%	3%	4%	16%	6.5%	62.6%	30.3%	.6%	
Hasbaya	80%	47%	40%	40%	10%	3%	7%	73%	73%	43%	43%	7%	40%	7%	0%	3%	15.2%	41.2%	43.0%	.6%	
Hermel	41%	41%	47%	51%	23%	5%	4%	87%	95%	40%	6%	26%	2%	10%	2%	10%	4.4%	71.2%	22.5%	1.9%	
Jbeil	93%	13%	23%	13%	2%	0%	0%	95%	66%	57%	40%	34%	13%	4%	7%	10%	4.8%	62.4%	30.9%	1.8%	
Jezzine	60%	36%	46%	25%	12%	3%	2%	65%	60%	34%	26%	13%	8%	2%	3%	3%	8.3%	59.2%	28.4%	4.1%	
Keswane	96%	28%	25%	21%	30%	0%	0%	94%	65%	54%	41%	7%	12%	4%	6%	4%	11.7%	73.6%	12.3%	2.5%	
Koura	99%	81%	11%	80%	69%	1%	1%	97%	84%	72%	31%	6%	11%	2%	1%	10%	10.0%	53.3%	30.0%	6.7%	
Marjayoun	96%	74%	60%	77%	36%	9%	9%	73%	71%	72%	53%	24%	9%	9%	13%	21%	9.0%	54.8%	34.9%	1.2%	
Meiten	84%	24%	27%	17%	7%	2%	1%	87%	55%	39%	32%	10%	9%	2%	2%	5%	7.3%	40.4%	41.7%	10.6%	
Minieh Damieh	97%	69%	58%	62%	30%	3%	2%	81%	71%	62%	17%	10%	7%	3%	2%	12%	10.8%	50.0%	35.5%	3.6%	
Nabatieh	97%	72%	63%	52%	28%	7%	5%	71%	60%	56%	47%	26%	29%	7%	3%	19%	23.7%	55.6%	18.7%	1.9%	
Rachaya	97%	57%	42%	31%	14%	1%	2%	92%	89%	60%	11%	9%	9%	5%	1%	5%	6.8%	56.2%	35.6%	1.4%	
Saida	85%	45%	30%	49%	11%	1%	0%	89%	65%	56%	10%	16%	16%	4%	1%	6%	6.5%	55.3%	31.2%	7.1%	
Tripoli	100%	72%	61%	67%	34%	1%	4%	97%	70%	74%	18%	13%	7%	5%	6%	6%	12.7%	50.0%	35.5%	1.8%	
Tyre	89%	72%	49%	64%	34%	11%	13%	56%	64%	52%	49%	27%	13%	5%	2%	13%	7.7%	69.7%	21.3%	1.3%	
West Bekaa	92%	55%	34%	43%	25%	7%	3%	84%	86%	58%	42%	8%	19%	3%	6%	1%	9.4%	55.3%	35.2%	0.0%	
Zahle	94%	36%	47%	38%	32%	10%	0%	87%	88%	84%	47%	17%	29%	3%	17%	5%	19.7%	68.8%	9.8%	1.7%	
Zgharta	99%	74%	32%	48%	49%	3%	6%	79%	75%	25%	13%	3%	7%	1%	5%	8%	9.4%	25.5%	63.1%	2.0%	

* other includes: beggins, risk job, early marriage, household working elsewhere

Health

	Percentage of households that required primary health services but did not have access	Percentage of households that required hospitalization but did not receive the required specialized health care
Total	16%	23%
Governorates		
<i>Akkar</i>	13%	26%
<i>Baalbek-Hermel</i>	7%	16%
<i>Beirut</i>	7%	42%
<i>Bekaa</i>	18%	11%
<i>Nabatieh</i>	8%	15%
<i>Mount Lebanon</i>	9%	26%
<i>North Lebanon</i>	16%	31%
<i>South Lebanon</i>	9%	24%
Districts		
<i>Akkar</i>	13%	26%
<i>Aley</i>	16%	24%
<i>Baabda</i>	8%	38%
<i>Baalbek</i>	7%	14%
<i>Batroun</i>	6%	52%
<i>Bcharre</i>	22%	43%
<i>Beirut</i>	7%	42%
<i>Bent Jbeil</i>	8%	12%
<i>Chouf</i>	5%	22%
<i>Hasbaya</i>	5%	20%
<i>Hermel</i>	9%	28%
<i>Jbeil</i>	7%	11%
<i>Jezzine</i>	3%	14%
<i>Keswane</i>	5%	26%
<i>Koura</i>	4%	13%
<i>Marjaayoun</i>	12%	32%
<i>Meten</i>	18%	21%
<i>Minieh Dannieh</i>	5%	29%
<i>Nabatieh</i>	5%	24%
<i>Rachaya</i>	2%	4%
<i>Saida</i>	15%	22%
<i>Tripoli</i>	13%	37%
<i>Tyre</i>	12%	38%
<i>West Bekaa</i>	5%	13%
<i>Zahle</i>	23%	11%
<i>Zgharta</i>	31%	2%

Multipurpose Cash

Percentage of households receiving multi-purpose cash	
Total	11.0%
Governorates	
<i>Akkar</i>	10%
<i>Baalbek-Hermel</i>	15%
<i>Beirut</i>	5%
<i>Bekaa</i>	19%
<i>Nabatieh</i>	5%
<i>Mount Lebanon</i>	6%
<i>North Lebanon</i>	12%
<i>South Lebanon</i>	6%
Districts	
<i>Akkar</i>	9.6%
<i>Aley</i>	6.9%
<i>Baabda</i>	6.7%
<i>Baalbek</i>	15.2%
<i>Batroun</i>	5.2%
<i>Bcharre</i>	7.3%
<i>Beirut</i>	4.8%
<i>Bent Jbeil</i>	5.5%
<i>Chouf</i>	7.9%
<i>Hasbaya</i>	3.3%
<i>Hermel</i>	13.9%
<i>Jbeil</i>	4.8%
<i>Jezzine</i>	4.0%
<i>Kesrwane</i>	4.2%
<i>Koura</i>	5.0%
<i>Marjaayoun</i>	1.9%
<i>Meten</i>	4.9%
<i>Minieh Dannieh</i>	10.7%
<i>Nabatieh</i>	1.8%
<i>Rachaya</i>	15.8%
<i>Saida</i>	9.4%
<i>Tripoli</i>	12.9%
<i>Tyre</i>	4.2%
<i>West Bekaa</i>	16.4%
<i>Zahle</i>	20.2%
<i>Zgharta</i>	23.5%

Shelter

	Average rental cost (USD) per district among households renting	Percentage of households living in residential buildings
Total	197	71%
Governorates		
<i>Akkar</i>	125	51%
<i>Baalbek-Hermel</i>	118	55%
<i>Beirut</i>	353	88%
<i>Bekaa</i>	127	50%
<i>Nabatieh</i>	169	87%
<i>Mount Lebanon</i>	269	86%
<i>North Lebanon</i>	203	77%
<i>South Lebanon</i>	193	82%
Districts		
<i>Akkar</i>	125	51%
<i>Aley</i>	268	84%
<i>Baabda</i>	256	90%
<i>Baalbek</i>	118	54%
<i>Batroun</i>	209	69%
<i>Bcharre</i>	199	83%
<i>Beirut</i>	353	88%
<i>Bent Jbeil</i>	171	89%
<i>Chouf</i>	226	85%
<i>Hasbaya</i>	130	83%
<i>Hermel</i>	116	62%
<i>Jbeil</i>	285	84%
<i>Jezzine</i>	204	83%
<i>Kesrwane</i>	304	85%
<i>Koura</i>	205	69%
<i>Marjaayoun</i>	156	66%
<i>Meten</i>	315	89%
<i>Minieh Dannieh</i>	179	77%
<i>Nabatieh</i>	202	94%
<i>Rachaya</i>	158	86%
<i>Saida</i>	190	71%
<i>Tripoli</i>	233	84%
<i>Tyre</i>	182	89%
<i>West Bekaa</i>	129	54%
<i>Zahle</i>	124	46%
<i>Zgharta</i>	175	52%

