

Key Findings of the 2018 Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon

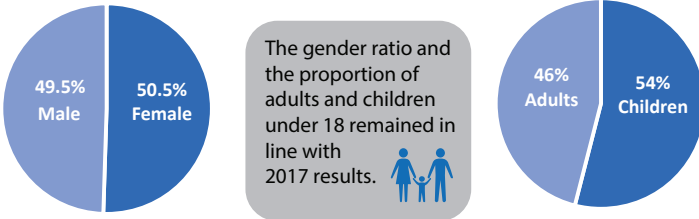


Inter-Agency
Coordination
Lebanon

The Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon (VASyR) 2018 was conducted jointly by WFP, UNHCR and UNICEF. Data was collected from a representative sample of 4,446 Syrian refugee households, randomly selected from 26 districts across Lebanon and visited during April and May 2018.

DEMOGRAPHICS

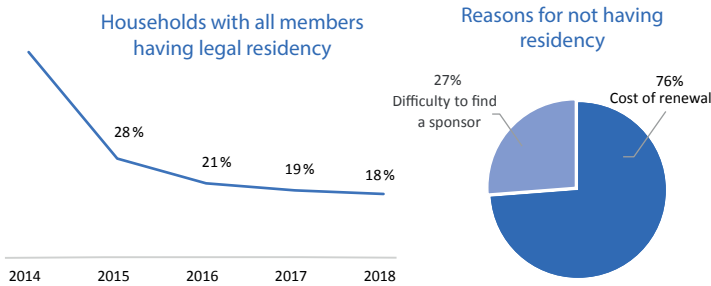
The mean household size has stabilized, averaging 4.9 members in 2018 (same as 2017). Over the years, the household size declined from 6.6 in 2014, to 5.3 in 2015 and 5.1 in 2016.



PROTECTION

Legal residency

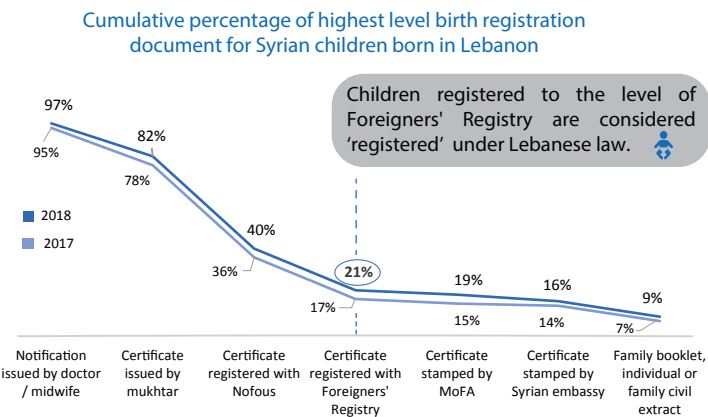
The number of households with all members having legal residency remained stable at 18% (2017:19%). 73% of those surveyed above the age of 15 do not have legal residency. Most respondents cited the cost of renewal as the main reason.



Note: In Feb/Mar 2017, the General Security Office (GSO) issued a waiver that exempted a portion of the population from fees for residency renewal and overstay. However, refugees still face difficulties submitting their applications to the GSO.

Birth registration

21% of Syrian children born in Lebanon since January 2011 are registered at the level of the Foreigners' Registry of the Personal Status Department (PSD). Not registering a birth with the relevant authorities increases the risk of statelessness for refugees.



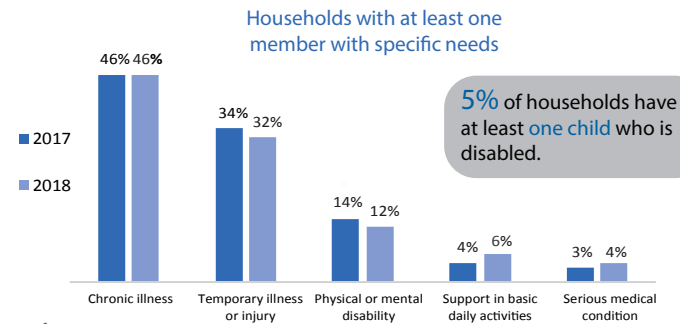
Note: In September 2017, the PSD announced the simplification of birth (and marriage) registration procedures indicating that valid legal residency of parents – reportedly the main challenge preventing birth registration with the Foreigners' Registry – would no longer be required for birth registration.

Child protection

73% of children under age 18 subjected to violent discipline (2017: 78%)
29% of girls aged 15-19 were married at the time of the survey (2017: 22%)

SPECIFIC NEEDS

64% of households had at least one member with specific needs.



SHELTER

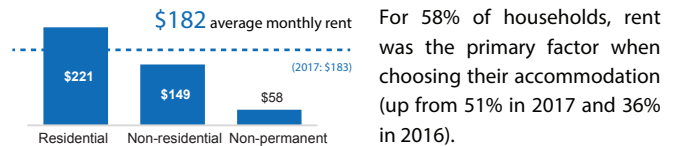
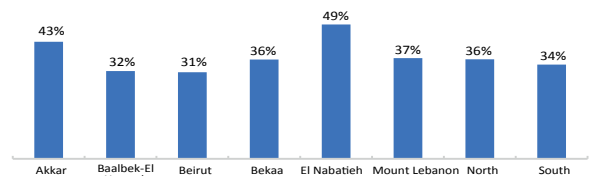
The majority of Syrian refugee households live in residential buildings (66%, mostly in Beirut and Mt. Lebanon, down from 73% in 2017), followed by non-permanent structures (19%, mostly in Bekaa, up from 17% in 2017) and non-residential buildings (15%, up from 9% in 2017).



Eviction is one of the main reasons forcing refugees out of their homes. 37% of households who changed accommodation in the last six months did so due to eviction by landlord or authorities - an estimated 11,300 households across Lebanon¹ (2017: an estimated 14,000 households).

¹Estimation based on the assumption of 1.5 million Syrian refugees living in Lebanon quoted in the 2017-2020 LCRP.

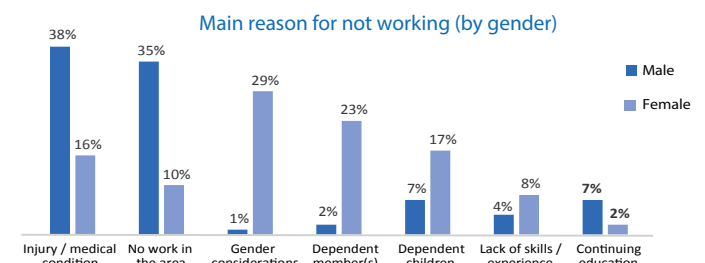
Percentage of households reporting eviction as the main reason for moving accommodation in last 6 months (out of 10% that moved)



LIVELIHOODS

Sources of household income remained unsustainable. 26% reported WFP assistance as their primary source of income, followed by informal credit/debt (16%), construction (16%), services (11%) and agriculture (9%).

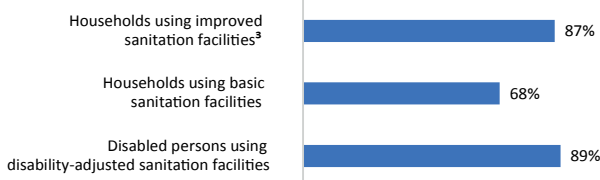
32% of households reported that no member worked in the past 30 days.



WATER AND SANITATION

- 91% of households have access to improved drinking water sources
- 85% of households use basic drinking water service²
- 43% of households rely on bottled mineral water
- 20% of households access water from the tap or water network

Households reporting available sanitation facilities

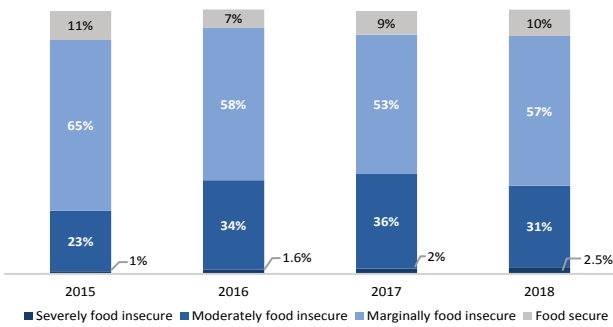


² Basic drinking water service means having access to an improved source that is either on premises or less than 30min away.

³ Improved sanitation facilities imply flush toilets followed by improved pit latrines.

FOOD SECURITY

Food insecurity remained stable but still critically high over the past year, with 90% of Syrian refugee households presenting some level of food insecurity.⁴ Food insecurity is mainly associated with high economic vulnerability and limited income earning opportunities.



Households reported using coping strategies that depleted their assets to cope with lack of food or money to buy it, including: buying food on credit (79%), reducing food expenses (75%), reducing expenses on health (51%) and education (22%), spending savings (30%), and selling household goods (22%).

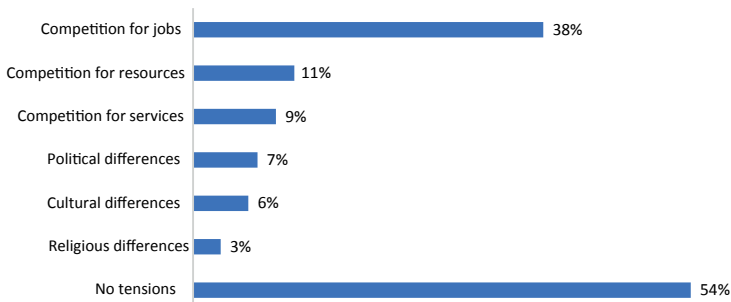
Only 44% of infants under 6 months were exclusively breastfed.

⁴ Food security is measured using three dimensions: current consumption (food consumption score), food as a share of total expenditure, and livelihood coping strategies.

SOCIAL STABILITY

The majority cited competition for jobs as the key issue driving community tensions in their area, while another 54% said there were no tensions.

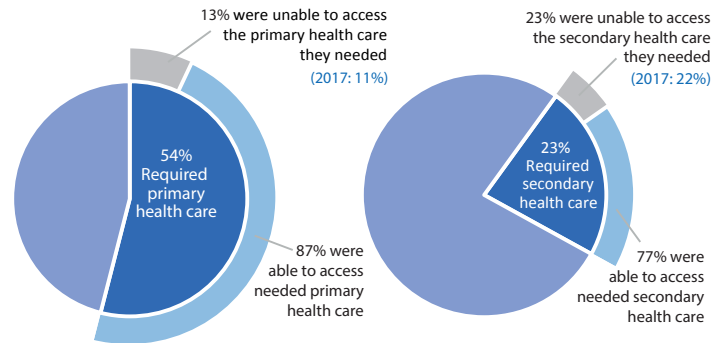
Perceived factors driving community tensions



14% of households reported having curfews imposed on them.

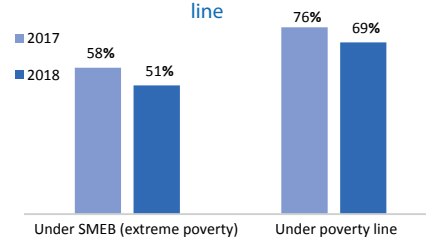
HEALTH

The most common reasons for not being able to access needed primary and secondary health care were: cost of treatment or medication, doctor's fees, transportation costs, and the inability to secure a deposit for hospitalization.



BASIC ASSISTANCE

Households living under poverty line

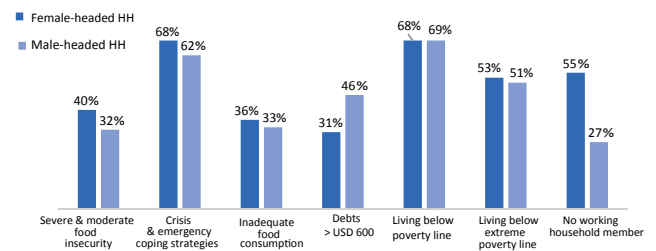


The share of households living below poverty line (< USD 3.84 / person / day) and under SMEB (< USD 2.8 / person / day) has decreased since 2017.

Average expenditure has increased by 13% to \$111 per person per month, 40% of which is spent on food. 82% of households borrowed money in the last 3 months.

Overall, female-headed households remained more vulnerable than their male-headed counterparts, despite significant improvements since 2017.

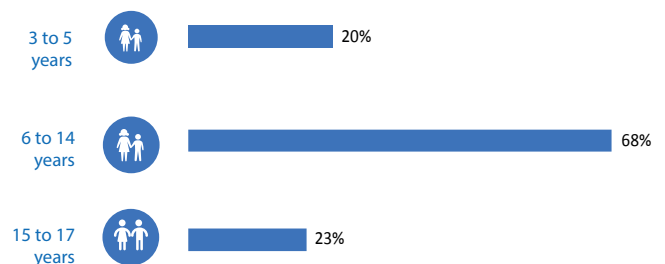
Vulnerability of female-headed vs. male-headed households



EDUCATION

51% of children aged 3-17 years are out of school. However, the share of children aged 3-5 enrolled in school increased, reaching 20% in 2018 (2017: 15%).

School enrolment by age group



67% of children aged 3-17 with disabilities are out of school.