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INTERSOS

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MONTHLY PROTECTION MONITORING

REPORT LEBANON

OCTOBER 2025

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SPEAC Protection Monitoring is funded by ECHO and conducted by DRC, INTERSOS, and IRC. It provides an analysis of the protection concerns affecting refugee, host, and displaced communities. This report aims to inform policy, guide humanitarian response, and serve as an advocacy tool to address critical protection challenges in Lebanon.

KEY TRENDS IN OCTOBER

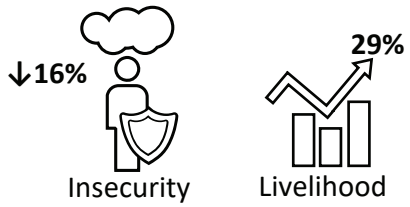
- **New arrivals to Lebanon and reports of return remain low:** 4% of HHs reported they recently arrived in Lebanon, citing insecurity most predominately, while 5% reported permanent returns within their household, with the highest driver of return being fear of persecution and targeted threats within Lebanon. Syrian women at higher percentages reported temporarily wanting to return for short visits, mostly being motivated to access services.
- In El Nabatieh, reports on internal population movements indicated increased perceived or actual threats of conflict escalation, whereas the remaining of parts of the country were primarily related to economic related drivers including evictions and unaffordable rent.
- Movement restrictions, limited access to services, fear of deportation, and isolation continued to be reported as the primary impacts of lack of legal residency for Syrians and Palestinians of Syrian origin (PRS). Notably, **debt reliance surged** (26% → **45%** in October) as a coping strategy, while informal work and aid reliance remained elevated.
- **Economic pressures continued to shape eviction dynamics and coping mechanisms:** 13% reported eviction threats, while **actual evictions rose** (32% → **44%** in October), 55% being Lebanese and 45% Syrian reports. Borrowing and debt reliance increased.
- **Reported risks doubled across households:** Safety and security incidents faced rose (10% → **22%** in October), remaining concentrated particularly in El Nabatieh, amid continued Israeli attacks on civilian areas and infrastructure. UXO and stray bullets were reported by 29% of KIIs, with El Nabatieh flagged as the Governorate with the highest UXO risk. Households reported emotional distress, restricted movement, and fear of accessing services as key impacts.
- **Community tensions reported doubled compared to September:** 6% → **13%** in October. Tensions were most frequently reported within nationality groups, particularly between longstanding refugees and post-December 2024 arrivals, and were linked to resource scarcity, shifting support networks, and strained community rela tions.

POPULATION MOVEMENT

Forced Displacement

During October, only 4% of households indicated that they had arrived in Lebanon within the past month, similar to the 5% reported in September. According to household survey data, 24% of those arriving came from Aleppo and 18% from Raqqa. In contrast, 44% of KIIs reported new arrivals in their communities. KIs reported that most arrivals from Syria crossed irregularly. Alawite families often ended up in tents because locals feared repercussions for hosting them and/or could not host them, while non-Alawites were mainly young men seeking work. A KI in Akkar noted displaced PRS families returned to Lebanon after financial hardship and finding their homes destroyed in Syria. Key concerns for these groups included exploitation, residency challenges, emotional distress and fear, and unemployment. Similarly, among households reporting new arrivals, 67% cited insecurity in Syria as their reason for leaving, 40% mentioned a lack of livelihood opportunities, and 20% referred to both unaffordable living expenses and limited access to basic services.

Change in Drivers of Displacement from Syria to Lebanon, September to October



Irregular Movement

Three percent of households reported irregular travel from Lebanon to Syria, while 2% reported irregular movement from Syria to Lebanon. All reported cases of irregular movement reports in October involved Syrian households. The proportion of KIIs reporting irregular movement (21%) was notably higher than reports by households, likely because KIs are more comfortable discussing community level movements whereas households may find it difficult to share personal experiences. Ten households reported experiencing challenges when crossing the Lebanon-Syria border. Among these, five reported verbal abuse, three reported arrest or detention of adults, and three reported incidents of extortion.

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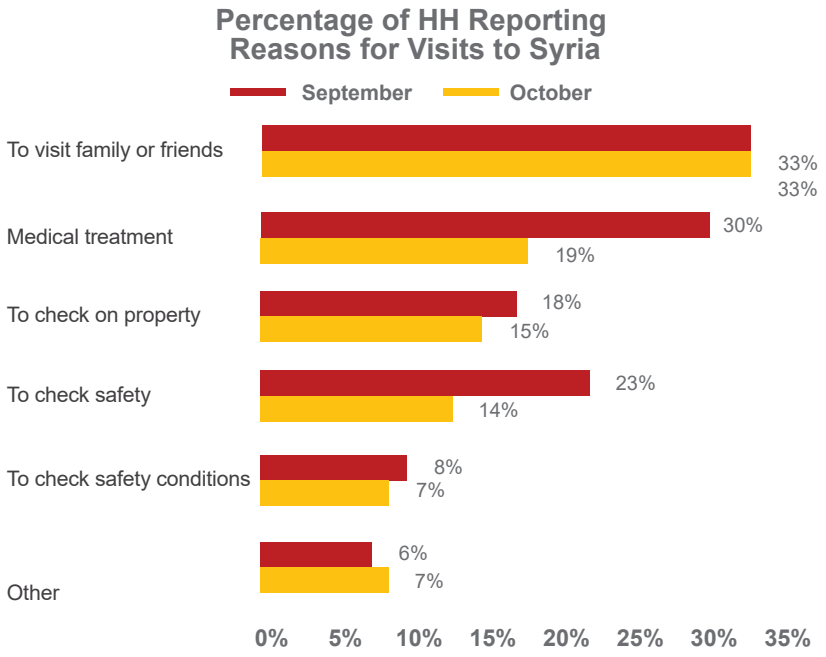
Movements to Syria

Movements to Syria have been consistently low from August through to September. Only 5% of households reported permanent returns in October, a 1% increase from last month. Much like September, persecution or targeted threats in Lebanon was the most common push factor to Syria (42%). Syrian FGD participants in BML noted harassment and discrimination from landlords, host community members, and local authorities while five FGDs in the South and the North pointed to tensions and discrimination between post December 2024 arrivals and longstanding refugees. Likewise, KIIs also identified insecurity as the main driver of movement to Syria, with 8 KIIs reporting such cases. Households also noted issues with municipalities or local authorities (35%) as contributing factors.



Household data further indicates that temporary returns to Syria were more common (16% of Syrian respondents), Although this represents a 2% decrease compared to September, temporary visits to Syria for medical treatment increased from 12% in September to 19% in October. This may be due to the high costs of healthcare in Lebanon as well as the funding cuts to aid services.

Households reported various challenges upon permanent returns or during visits to Syria, noting that 95% of Syrian respondents mentioned they do not intend to return to Syria permanently and only 2% intend to return within the next 3 months. Moreover, of those who reported at least 1 family member returning to Syria permanently, 40% were women. Notably in contrast, more women (63%) than men reported temporarily returning to Syria for a short visit, with the most reported issue being limited or disrupted access to services (45%). This was closely followed by reports of damaged infrastructure (43%) and lack of water or electricity (41%). A lack of food and limited market operationality (31%) was also identified as a critical concern. Overall, these findings indicate that core systems essential for a dignified standard of living remain severely constrained in Syria.

Internal Movements

In October, 9% of households reported experiencing internal displacement primarily in Hasbaya District (El Nabatieh Governorate), a 5% decrease from September. Of those reporting internal displacement, 58% were Lebanese and 42% were Syrian. Moreover, 64% of households reported having been displaced more than once. The most cited reasons for displacement were insecurity (55%) and conflict with Israel (46%), with respondents from El Nabatieh comprising 93% of those who reported insecurity and 97% of those who reported conflict with Israel. Also, the majority of those citing conflict with Israel were also respondents from El Nabatieh (97%). Despite a ceasefire being in effect, on-going Israeli threats and attacks on civilians and civilian objects, destruction of property, and restrictions on freedom of movement continue to drive displacement, predominately affected Southern Lebanon.

LEGAL IDENTITY AND STATUS

Impediments and restrictions to access legal identity and civil documentation

In October 2025, among the 538 non-Lebanese households (97% Syrians and 3% PRS/PRL), fewer than 18% possessed valid legal residency, remaining consistent with the VaSYR and last month's data.[1] The highest proportion of respondents lacking legal residency were in Baalbek El Hermel (34%) followed by North and Akkar (30% combined). As in September, around 62% of respondents lacking valid residency were females. Based on field observations, there has been a significant increase in requests for civil documentation services by Syrians who have returned or intend to return, as these documents are essential to access.

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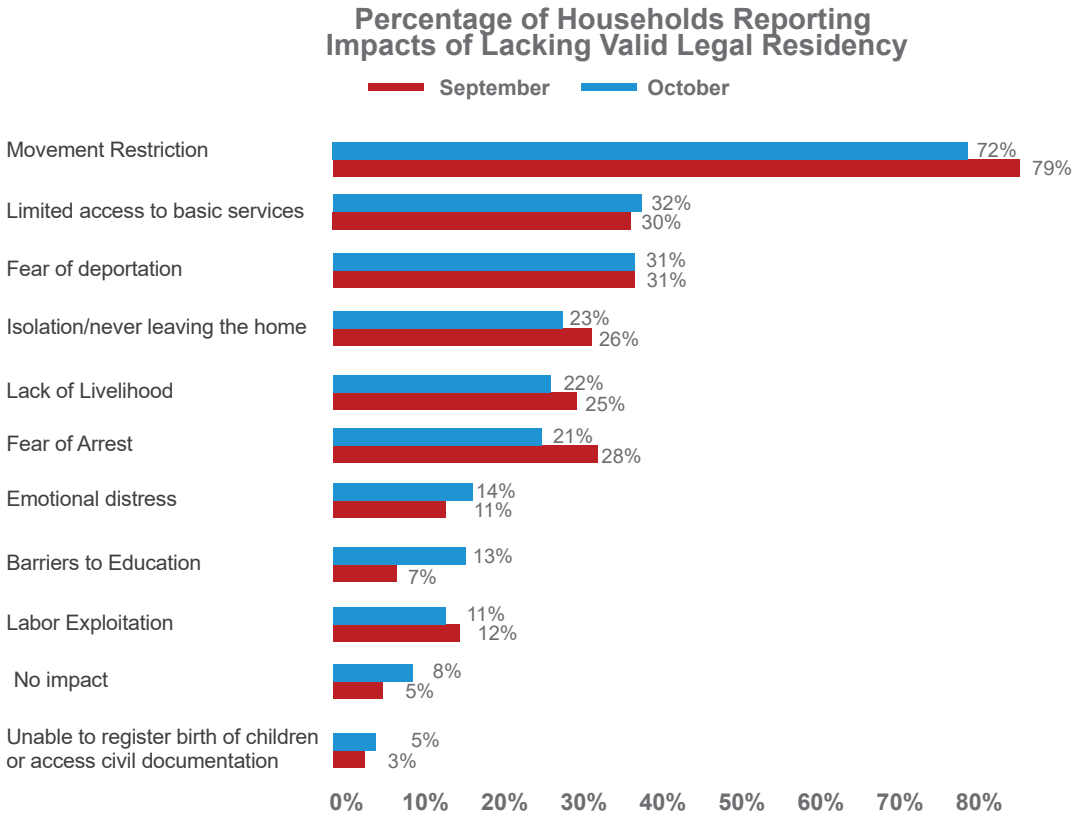

To cope with the lack of legal residency, 55% of households reported relying on irregular or informal work to cope with economic constraints - an increase of around 5% from September. Reliance on humanitarian assistance remained high at 40%, similar to the previous month. Notably, the proportion of households taking on debt increased sharply from 26% in September to 45% in October, making it the second most reported coping mechanism this month. Relying on community-based support was reported by 13% of households. Additionally, 12% of households reported considering movement to a third country and 11% avoided using services such as hospitals. These findings indicate a growing dependence on debt and sustained reliance on informal work as households struggle to meet basic needs amid worsening economic and protection conditions.

Based on KIIs conducted in October, barriers to accessing justice or legal remedies remained largely consistent with the previous month, mainly linked to systemic and financial constraints. The most commonly reported challenges included financial costs (39%), discrimination or exclusion (39%), and corruption or lack of accountability (38%). A notable portion of respondents also cited fear or lack of trust (23%) and limited awareness of legal rights (23%), both of which continue to undermine confidence in formal justice mechanisms. Other barriers included distance and accessibility restrictions (13%), lack of documentation (15%), and ineffective legal remedies (14%).

FGDs in October revealed that legal-related challenges were primarily associated with lack of legal residency, documentation barriers, and unequal access to services based on legal status. In several FGDs, particularly in Bekaa and among post-December 2024 arrivals, participants mentioned fear of raids and detention due to expired or missing civil documentation, which also restricted their freedom of movement and access to healthcare and education. In BML, stateless and Palestinian participants emphasized exclusion from many formal services and aid mechanisms because of their legal status. In the North, participants highlighted that those with valid documents felt safer during security incidents, while those without legal residency continued to rely on debt and informal networks to compensate for their limited access to services.

Forced Evictions

Consistent with the previous month, 13% of surveyed households in October reported receiving an eviction threat within the past month (60% of these Syrian, 36% Lebanese and the rest PRL/PRS). Of these 44% resulted in actual eviction, marking a 12% increase from September (32%). Of these evictions, 45% were Syrian and a significant 55% of those evicted were Lebanese. Economic factors remained the dominant drivers behind evictions. A newly emerging factor in October, inability to pay after rent increases, was reported by 36% of households, reflecting growing strain as landlords adjust rents upward amid inflation. Field observations indicated that reports of evictions and eviction threats are linked to the discontinuations in UNHCR/WFP assistance, which were primarily being used to support rent costs.

Evictions under the guise of safety and security rose notably to 21%, doubling from 10% in September, making it one of the more frequently reported non-economic triggers. Conflicts with property owners or community members also increased from 9% to 18%. Meanwhile, property owners reclaiming property for higher rent was reported by 15%. Overall, the fear of eviction due to unpaid rent was a recurring concern, especially among Syrian newcomers and low-income households.

[1] UNHCR, VASyR – Vulnerability Assessment for Syrian Refugees, UNHCR Lebanon, accessed November 25, 2025,

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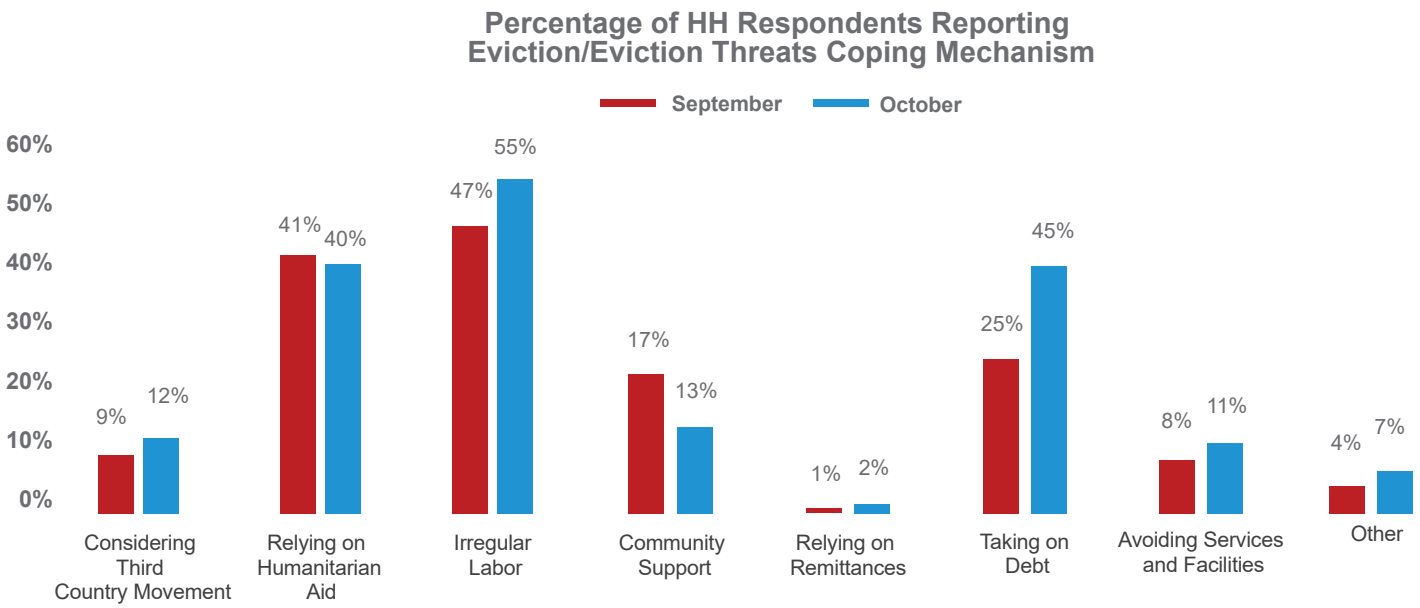
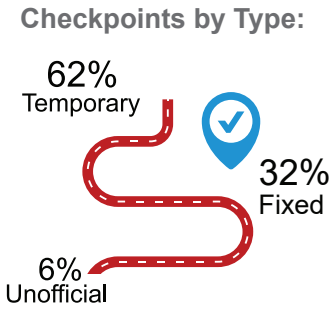


In response to evictions and eviction threats, households continued to rely on negative coping mechanisms consistent with the previous month. Borrowing money or taking on debt remains the most common strategy (69%). Reducing essential expenditures was reported by 33%, a notable decrease from 53% in September, while accepting exploitative work declined to 21% from 43%. Sending children to work was reported by 21% of households, whereas moving to cheaper accommodation increased to 23% (from 12% in September). Overall, October data indicates that while borrowing remains the primary coping mechanism, an increasing number of households are resorting to relocation to identify cheaper accommodation, as financial pressures persist.

INTIMIDATION, THREATS, AND DISCRIMINATORY PRACTICES

Curfews and Checkpoints

While the percentage of households reporting curfews in the past three months rose to 28% in October, a 5% increase from September, the overall trends remained consistent. The governorates with the highest reported curfews continued to be Baalbek-El Hermel (33%) and El Nabatieh (26%). Patterns in reported impacts also remained stable, with verbal warnings (35%) and no impact (28%) being the most common. Coping mechanisms likewise showed little change, with households most frequently reporting movement restrictions (33%) and isolation or rarely leaving the home (8%). All FGDs in the North and Akkar, including 10 FGDs conducted with post-December 2024 arrivals inside and outside collective sites, noted movement restrictions and collective fear due to curfews and checkpoints.



Around 46% of households reported encountering checkpoints in October, the same as September. Among them, half were Syrian, 45% Lebanese, and 5% Palestinian. El Nabatieh recorded the highest checkpoint reports at 25%, followed by Baalbak-El Hermel (21%) and Akkar (17%). As in the previous month, most reports of unofficial checkpoints came from Lebanese participants and residents of Baalbek-El Hermel. Lebanese households continued to view curfews and checkpoints primarily as measures that enhance safety, with 86% and 75% respectively, reporting increased feelings of security.

> *"Fear of checkpoints forces those without valid legal residency to live under psychological and physical instability... They use unsafe backroads to escape checkpoints and even avoid hospitals when sick"*
>
> *Lebanese KI (CSO staff) in Baalbak-El Hermel District*

Discrimination, Stigmatization and Denial of Access to Services

In October, only 4% of assessed households reported being denied access to services; however, 18% reported that they needed services but could not reach or access them. These figures portray minor improvements when compared to rates observed in September (8% and 20%, respectively). Of the households reporting denial in access to services, 67% were Syrian, 30% were Lebanese and 3% were PRL. Similarly, Syrians represented the majority (61%) of those that could not

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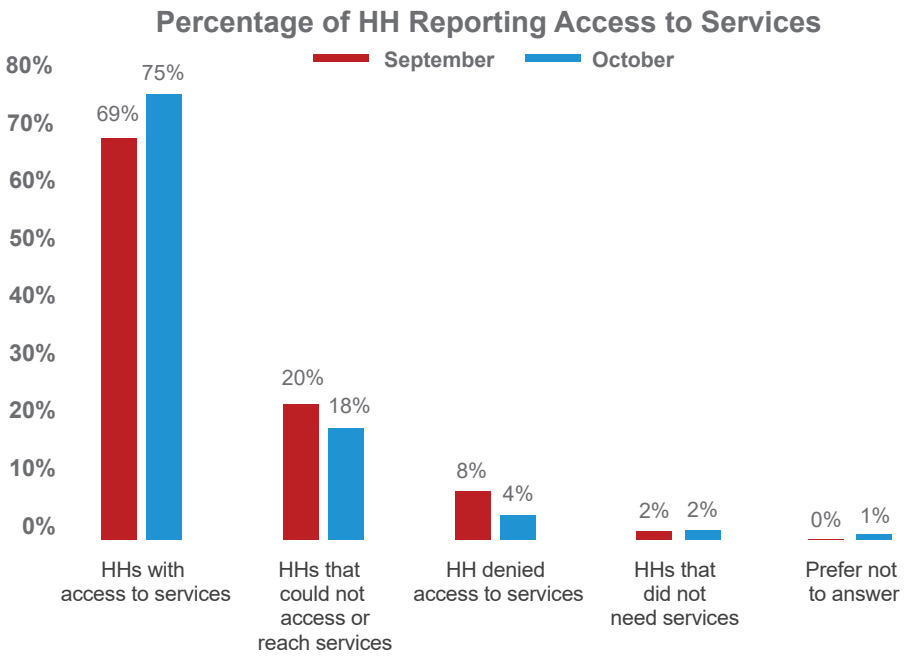
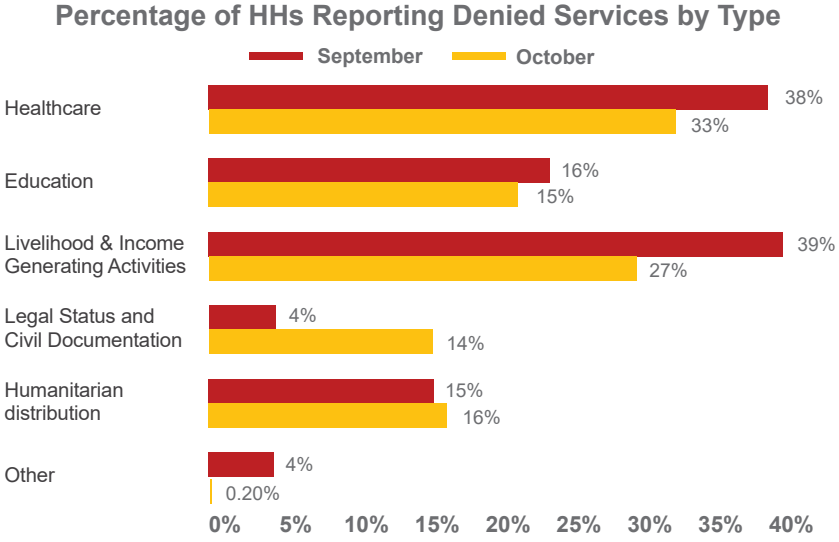
reach or access services, while 34% were Lebanese and 5% were Palestinian. KII data suggests that more people may have faced barriers to accessing services than household data indicates. 35% of KIIs reported that people were denied access to services, 34% of whom spoke on behalf of Syrian communities. Moreover, 56% of KIIs reported that people had limited or no access to services.

Reasons for service denial varied, with 22% of households reporting nationality as a reason for denial, 85% of whom were Syrian. The second most common reason was religion (17%), reported by Syrians (65%) and Lebanese (35%) households. Around 15% of KIIs also noted that people were denied access to services due to discrimination, bias, or exclusion.



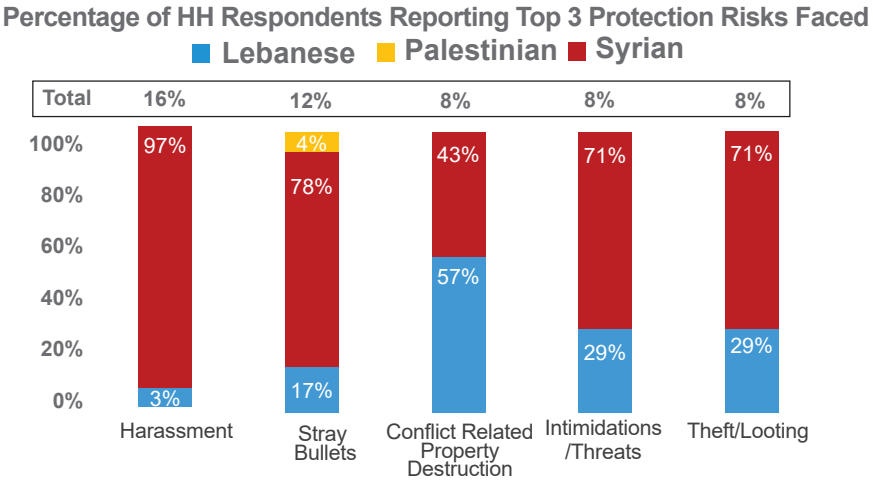
On the other hand, the most prominent barrier in access to services was the inability to afford service costs (52%). Although this figure decreased from 73% in September, financial barriers remain the primary challenge to service access. This finding is corroborated by FGDs across the country, where participants indicated that financial hardships play the main role in limiting their access to services. Distance (33%) was the second most reported reason, also mentioned by FGD participants. 28% cited that services were not available in their areas of residence. Safety and security concerns (26%) were also mentioned as major factors, 68% of whom were in El Nabatieh district.



The majority of households (71%) reported facing no challenges when trying to access services. The most reported challenge faced was verbal harassment (16%). Of these, 77% were Syrian households while 33% were Lebanese. The second most reported challenge was discrimination or bias (6%), with 74% of reports coming from Syrian households. Although the number of households reporting discrimination or bias as a challenge was low, FGD findings indicate that these challenges are prevalent across the country.

Safety/Security Risks Reported by HH Respondents

Twenty-two percent of surveyed households reported experiencing safety or security incidents affecting themselves or their family members. Among the top three risks listed above, El Nabatieh Governorate accounted for the highest share of all risks, except harassment, which was predominantly reported in BML (83%). The most frequently cited impacts of these incidents were emotional distress (31%), restricted freedom of movement (26%), and fear of accessing services (13%).



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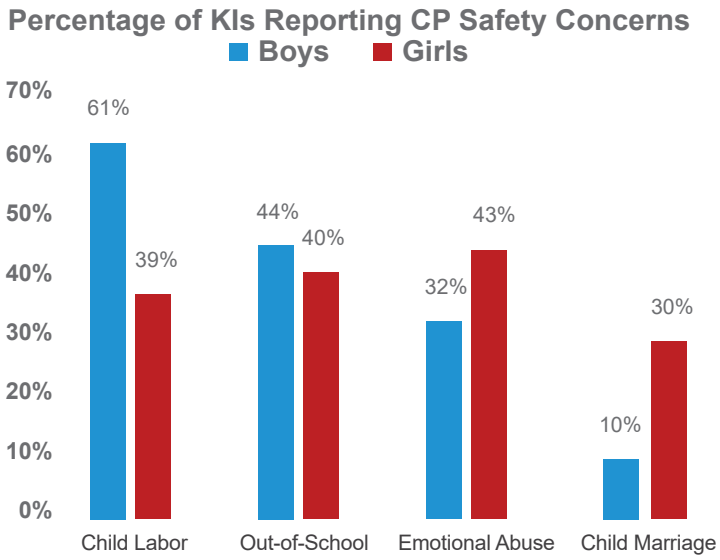
Conflict-related property destruction (8%) remained one of the most frequently reported risks. Although it increased by only 1% from the previous month, this trend reflects intensified Israeli attacks targeting civilians and civilian infrastructure in southern governorates. According to INSO, 348 security incidents were documented in Lebanon, of which 133 involved Israeli violations in southern areas. Analysis of secondary sources further indicated that attacks on critical infrastructure included strikes on the national electricity transmission network, leaving unexploded ordnance and rendering stations in Tyre, Wadi Jilo, Sultaniyeh, and Taybeh inoperative.[2] During a separate incursion into Lebanese territory, Israeli forces damaged fuel storage depots used for water infrastructure.[3] Ground incursions have also increased, resulting in further territorial occupation in Jal al-Deir[4], the establishment of roadblocks restricting movement in Aitaroun[5] and Markaba[6], and the killing of a municipal staff in Blida.[7]

Thirteen percent of households reported experiencing community tensions in the past three months, doubling from last month. Households reported tensions primarily with individuals of the same nationality or legal status, as supported by qualitative data. An FGD with male Lebanese in Hasbaya District noted resentment from longstanding refugees towards those arriving post-December 2024, due to alleged favoritism from community leaders. Similarly, field staff observed growing friction between longstanding Syrian refugees and post-December 2024 arrivals from Syria in several Akkar villages. Post-December 2024 arrivals from Syria reported instances of physical abuse by longer-term refugees, following support they received from Alawite members of the host community, such as reduced rent and other forms of assistance. Additionally, intra-communal tensions persisted, leading to continued clashes in the Beddaoui Palestinian camp in the North[8] and to family disputes[9]. These tensions led to deteriorating physical and mental health (30%) and restricted freedom of movement (24%). Among household respondents reporting tensions, Lebanese reported worsened physical and mental health (62% of reports), while Syrian were impacted through movement restrictions (52%). Both populations (61%) indicated that they took no action as a coping mechanism.

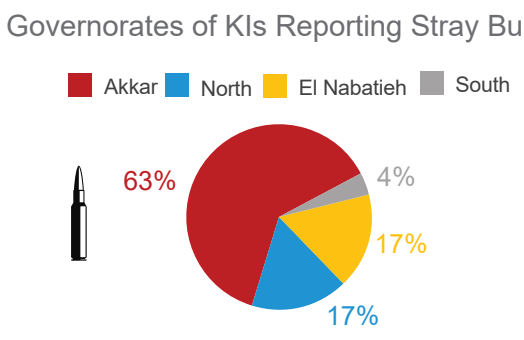
Child Protection Concerns

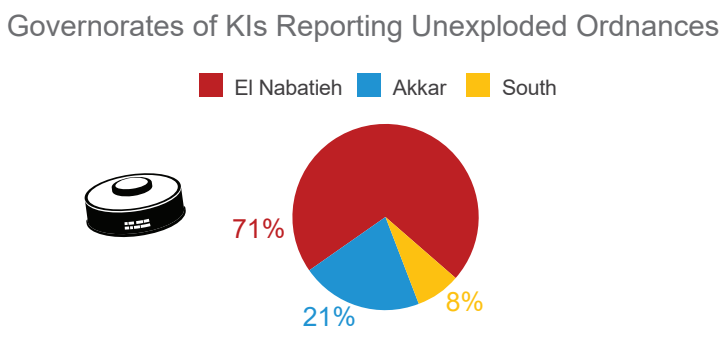


Among CP concerns, child labor was the most frequently cited issue overall, particularly among Syrians (64%), with cases concentrated in Baalbek-El Hermel (25%), Akkar (23%), and El Nabatieh (20%). Among Syrians, other common concerns included out-of-school children (52%) and neglect (31%). For Lebanese, emotional abuse, out-of-school children, and neglect were each reported by 40% of KIs. Meanwhile, KIs speaking on behalf of Palestinians highlighted child labor, emotional abuse, and neglect as primary concerns.

When facing these risks, KIs highlighted the communities they represent usually report the incident (76%) or take no actions or coping mechanisms (69%). To address these issues, participants in four FGDs in Baalbak- El Hermel suggested emotional support, accompanying children, and advocating for reduced school fees and transportation costs.

Unexploded Ordnance and Stray Bullets as CP Concerns Each Reported by 29% of KIs





[2] Electricité du Liban. "Damage to the Transmission Network Resulting from Israeli Attacks at Dawn Today." Electricité du Liban, October 11, 2025. Accessed November 6, 2025.

[3] Lebanese Center for Human Rights (CLDH). "Human Rights Brief: 13 October-19 October 2025." Accessed November 6, 2025.

[4] Ibid.

[5] The New Arab Staff. "Lebanon Army Removes Roadblocks Placed by Israeli Forces Near Southern Village." The New Arab, October 21, 2025. Accessed November 5, 2025

[6] Lebanese Army. "The Army Removes an Earthen Barrier Erected by the Israeli Enemy on the Outskirts of Markaba–Marjayoun." Lebanese Army, accessed November 6, 2025.

[7] Mantash, Ahmad, and Abby Sewell. "Israeli Raid in Southern Lebanon Kills Municipal Employee, Sparking Protests." Associated Press, October 30 2025. Accessed November 6 2025.

[8] Clash in Baddawi Camp and Arrest of the Instigator." National News Agency (Lebanon), October 29, 2025. Accessed November 6, 2025.

[9] "Two Injured in Family Clash in Zrarieh." National News Agency (Lebanon), October 31, 2025. Accessed November 6, 2025.

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Older Persons, People with Disabilities and those needing specialized medical attention

Health access deprivation emerged as the most dominantconcernmentioned in 76% of qualitative KI responses. Specific issues included medicine shortages (72%), unaffordable costs for medicine and treatment (56%), reduced humanitarian support (42%), and physical inaccessibility or long travel distances to health facilities (27%). Economic insecurity was also significant (62%), with reported challenges such as lack of livelihood opportunities, pensions, or specialized support (60%), loss or reduction of humanitarian aid (58%), debt accumulation (48%), and absence of social security or insurance (41%). Other recurring themes were institutional neglect (60%) and social isolation coupled with emotional distress (58%).

> *"There are no institutions or organizations that care for them, no entities or factions that take responsibility for their treatment, wellbeing, and protection from exploitation and poverty. This either leads to accumulating debts or deterioration of their health because they stop treatment."*
>
> *PRL KI (Communinity Volunteer), Akkar District*

While reports of protection risks are low (33%), they are severe and especially considering accompanying health, economic, and other vulnerabilities. Protection risks included exploitation and financial abuse (43%), bullying and harassment (including disability-based, 36%), as well asabandonment and expulsion (21%).

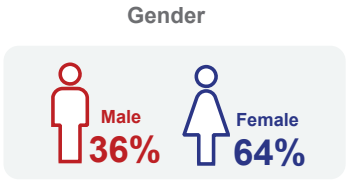
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RESPONSE

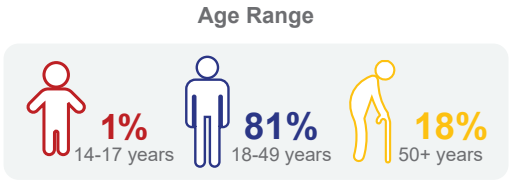
- Expand mobile legal aid and documentation support in Baalbek-El Hermel, North, and Akkar (areas with highest irregular status), in coordination with national and sub-national legal actors.
- Continue to advocate jointly as Protection Working Group (PWG), Legal Actors Group (LAG) members, UNHCR Protection with GSO to apply due process, in addition to simplified, lower-cost renewal procedures and temporary protection mechanisms to mitigate deportation risks.
- Engage with LHiF, UNHCR and HCT to develop unified engagement strategy with MoI and MoSA to idenify safe and appropriate process or system to record post-December 2024 arrivals.
- Engage with Housing Land and Property (HLP), PWG, Shelter and Liveilihoods actors to develop a joint analysis and action plan to address increase in evictions contributing to increases in taking out debt between October and September.
- Engage with social stability actors to discuss strategies for integrated community-level protection and social cohesion activities to address intra-communal tensions (especially among post-December new arrivals and long-term Syrian refugees).

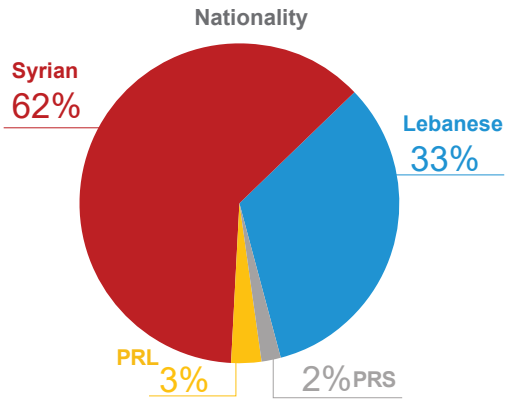
Data should be treated as indicative rather than statistically representative, given purposive sampling and mixed methods across tools and locations. Variation between household reports, direct experience, and key informant interviews (KIIs) or community-level views, introduce interpretation gaps, e.g. differing levels of new arrivals and returns, so trends are triangulated rather than inferred from a single source. Sensitive issues are likely under-reported in household surveys due to stigma, while KIIs/FGDs surface higher concern levels, suggesting conservative incident counts. Some incidents remain under verification, and secondary sources are used to corroborate emerging signals. Finally, governorate coverage and sample composition, despite nationwide reach, can bias results towards areas with higher access and reporting density, warranting cautious generalization beyond the sampled populations.

METHODOLOGY

Consortium protection monitoring data collection utilized a mixed-method approach, including household surveys, key informant interviews (KII), incident reports, field observations, focus group discussions (FGD) and field staff debriefs. The primary data collection is supplemented with secondary data and insights from coordination meetings at local, regional, and national levels.







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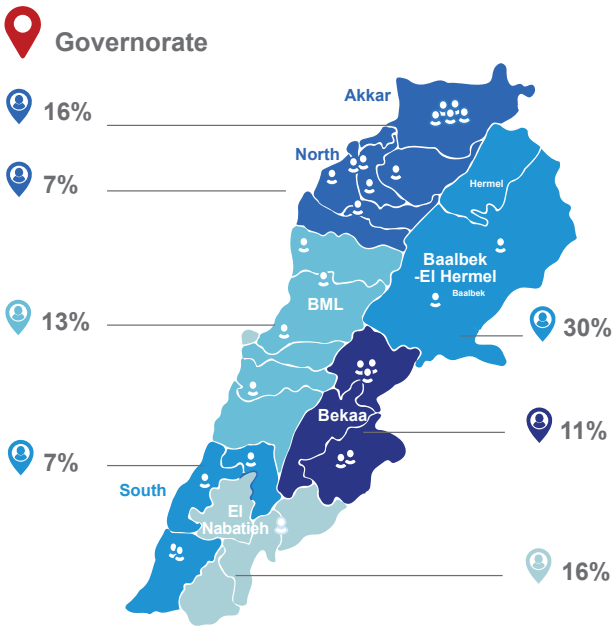
Household surveys (HH): 845 individuals, representing 2,522 household members were reached across all Lebanese Governorates. Utilizing the Washington Group Question Short-Set (WGQ-SS), 12% of individuals interviewed reported having one or more disabilities related to vision, hearing, communication, cognition, mobility, and/or self-care.

Key Informant Interviews (KIIs): 84 KIIs were conducted across Lebanon, including 46% males and 54% females, with 40% representing Lebanese, 55% Syrians, and 5% for Palestinians. KIIs comprised primarily of community mobilizers/volunteers (26%) and local authority & municipality (15%). CSO/CBO staff, community leaders, and medical staff each constituted 11%. Finally, other profiles represented included neighborhood representatives (9%), education staff and site managers (7% each), as well as NGO staff and religious/customary leaders (2%).



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Qualitative Data Collection: Focus Group Discussions (FGD): 35 FGDs were conducted across Lebanon with 326 participants. Of these, 71% were female and 29% male, consisting of 75% Syrian (including 115 post-December 2024 arrivals from Syria), 21% Lebanese, and 3% Palestinian, including both PRS and PRL.

Staff Debriefs and Direct Observations: data collection was also conducted through structured field observation tools and structured staff debriefings to capture observations and insights of trends and incidents. This tool was used in the North (2) as well as Baalbek-El Hermel, Bekaa, El Nabatieh, and South (1 each).

In addition, emerging protection concerns, and evolving challenges are monitored through secondary sources, including UNHCR reports, VaSYR, media monitoring, and other relevant data sources.

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