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Food security and livelihoods needs assessment

FSWG RRP6 Preparation Meeting , Amman, 18.09.2013



Food security and livelihoods needs assessment

1. Objectives of assessment and methodology used.



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FSLA needs assessment (May 2013)

Main objective

➤ Main objective:

The purpose of the assessment was to provide an overview of the food security situation in areas with high refugee concentration, as well as to assess current opportunities for livelihoods development to meet the income needs of vulnerable Syrian refugee and Jordanian host community populations.



FSLA needs assessment (May 2013)
Methodology

- Dates for data collection: two weeks between 19 May and 2 June 2013.
- Location: Mafraq, Irbid, Zarqa, Balqa, Ajloun and Jarash.
- Tools used: Data collected at household level using structured interviews with the household members. Key informants discussions were conducted to evaluate the market systems including factors affecting pricing, access and food availability, through key-informants interviews.



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Methodology

➤ Sample size:

- The sample size was calculated using sample size calculator with error margin of 6% and confidence level of 95%.
- A total of 80 households were interviewed in each governorate, out of which 50% were Syrian and 50% Jordanians.
- In total, 480 households were interviewed across all six governorates.

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2. Profile of respondents

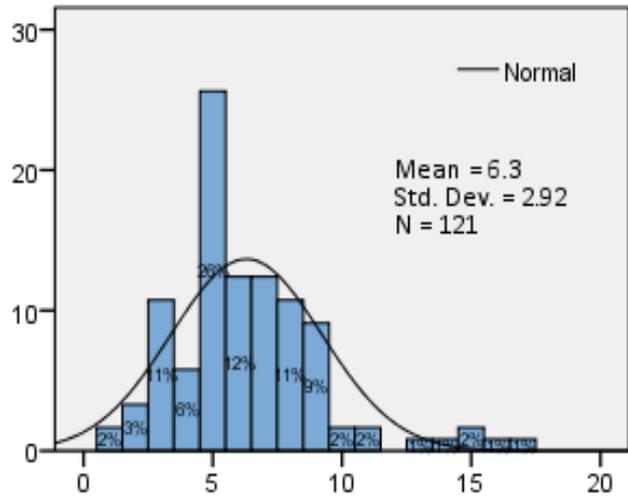




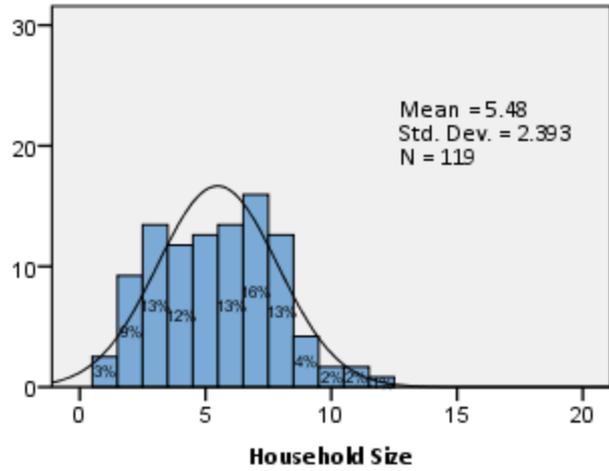
FSLA needs assessment (May 2013)
HH Profile

- Average Syrian household size was 6.30 persons whereas the average Jordanian household size was 5.48.
- Around 50% of Syrian population consisted of children below 15 years, pointing to a significant dependency ratio vis-a-vis economically active household members.
- 41% of the Jordanian population consisted of children below 15 years, pointing to a significant dependency ratio.

Household Size - Syrian



Household Size - Jordanian



Food security and livelihoods needs assessment
3. Key economic indicators



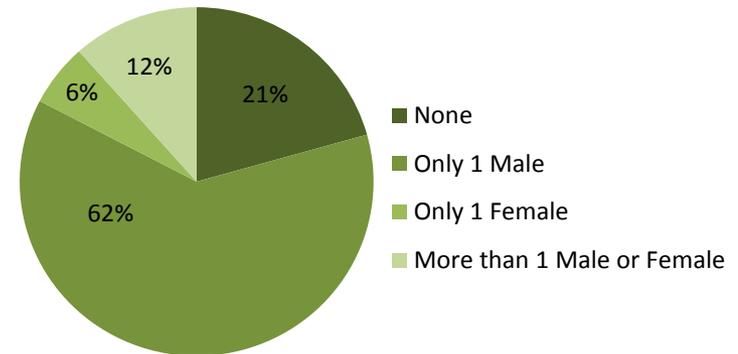


FSLA needs assessment (May 2013)

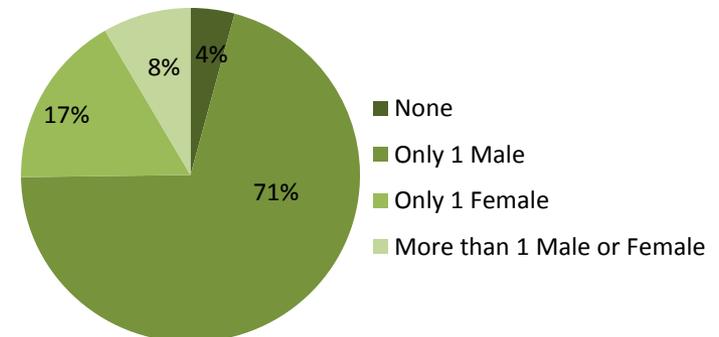
Income generation

- A considerable proportion (21%) of Syrian households did not have any member providing income to the household.

Number of Persons Involved in Income Generation at Household Level - Syrian



Number of Persons Involved in Income Generation at Household Level - Jordanian





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Income generation activities

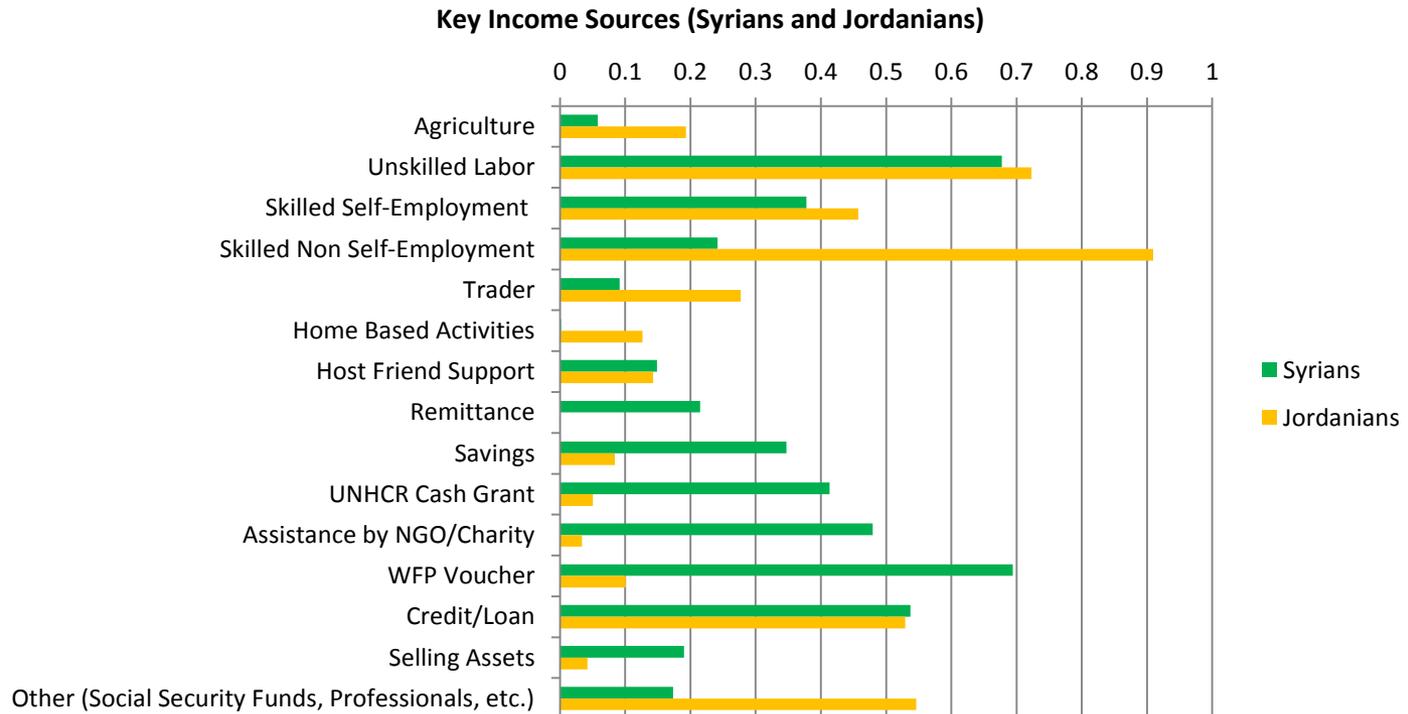
- Syrian communities were highly dependent on support received through aid actors, such as WFP vouchers, credit and loan, assistance by other NGOs or charity, UNHCR cash grants, etc.
- Also, a considerable proportion of Syrians were earning income through unskilled labour.
- Jordanians had more sustainable income sources.
- Skilled employment and social security funds were prevalent occupation types noted among Jordanian respondents.
- Unskilled labour remained the second most widespread income generation means for both Syrians and Jordanians.



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Income generation activities

- Interviews revealed that people increasingly resort to negative coping measures such as selling personal items and also buy food and essential items on credit. This seems to indicate that the debts of Syrian families are growing.





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Average Income

- Income for Jordanian household respondents was 123% that of Syrian households, with averages recorded as **193 JD** for Jordanians and **156 JD** per month respectively.
- Few Syrians had access to jobs with regular income, and those who did mainly received income through skilled labour jobs.
- The proportion of Jordanian households with regular salaries was significant, and they received it through skilled non self-employed jobs- government jobs, professional jobs and social security funds.



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Expenditures and Income Gap

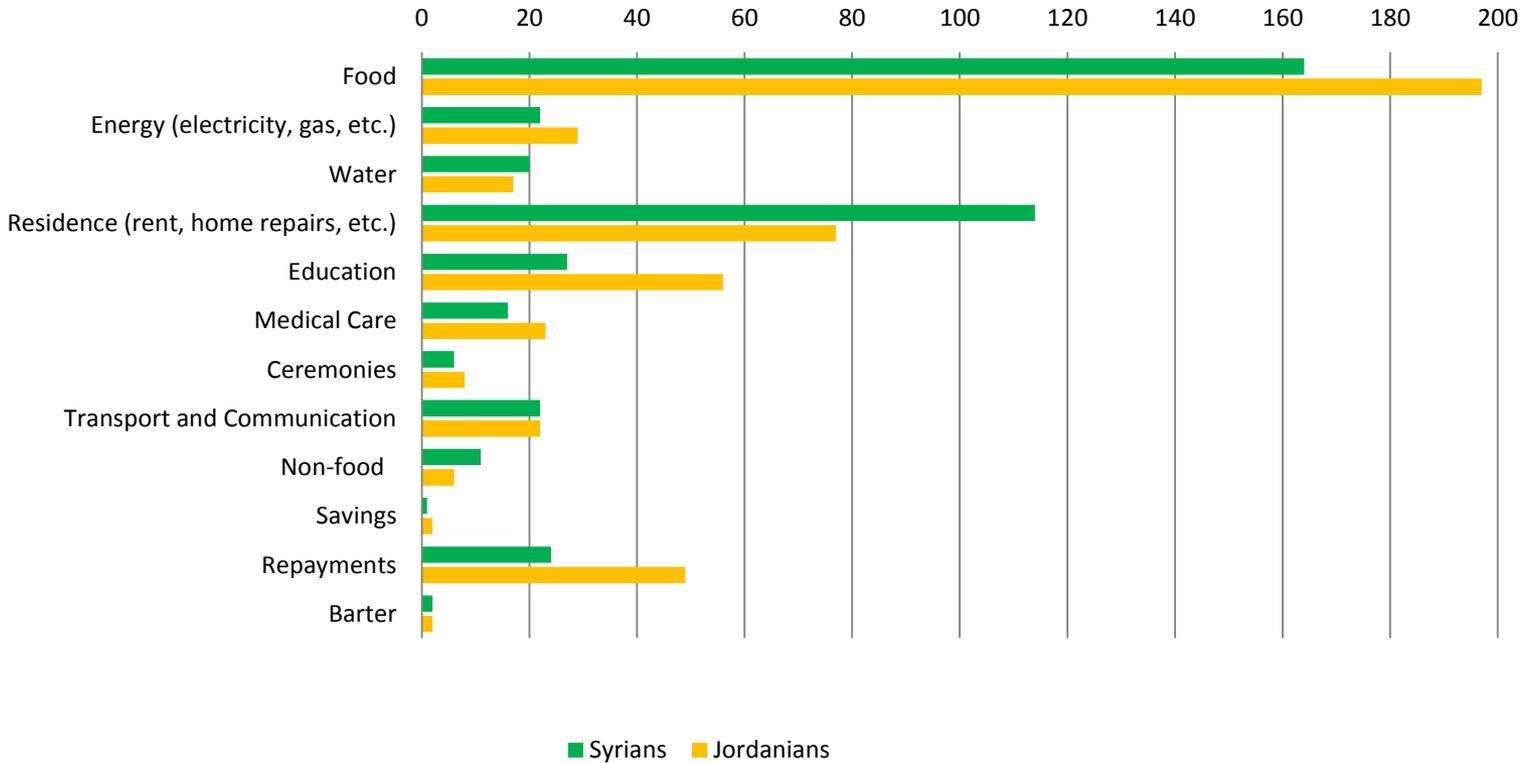
- Main monthly expenditures were **food (38%) and shelter (27%) for Syrian** families while for Jordanians – food (40%), shelter (16%), and education (11%) were reported.
- **A high proportion of Syrians (90%) spent a significantly higher amount on rent.**
- As a whole, there has been **deficiency of money to cover household expenses due to insufficient earnings** (i.e. expenses greater than income).
- The average monthly deficiency had been recorded as **JD 271 for Syrians and JD 294 for Jordanians.**
- The proportion of beneficiaries having a deficiency in earning was found to be the same (92%) for both groups.



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Average Expenditures

Average Monthly Household Expenditure



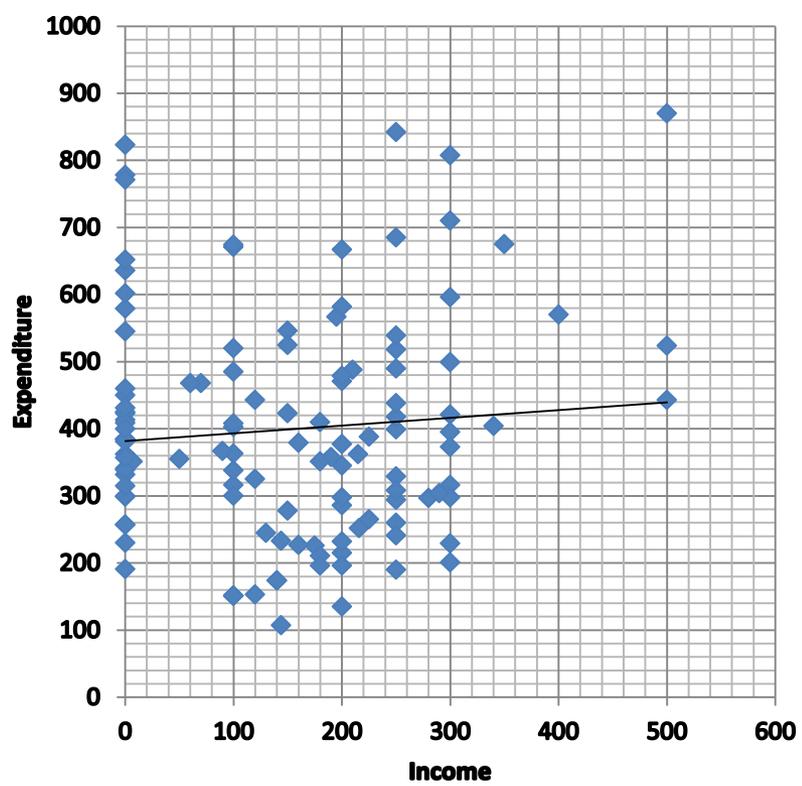


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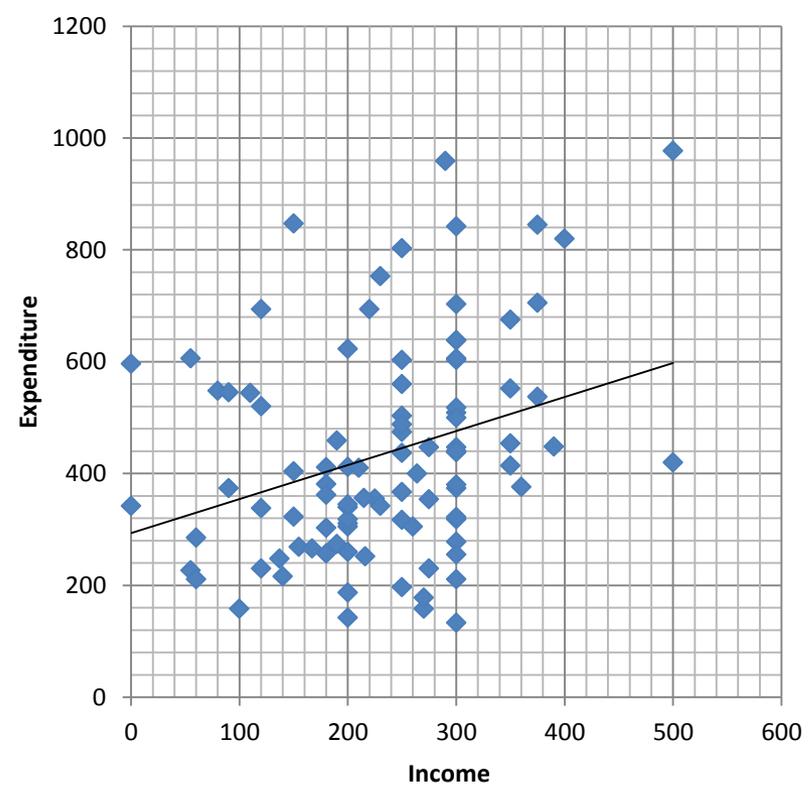
FSLA needs assessment (May 2013)

Income versus expenditures

**Income versus expenditures
Syrians**

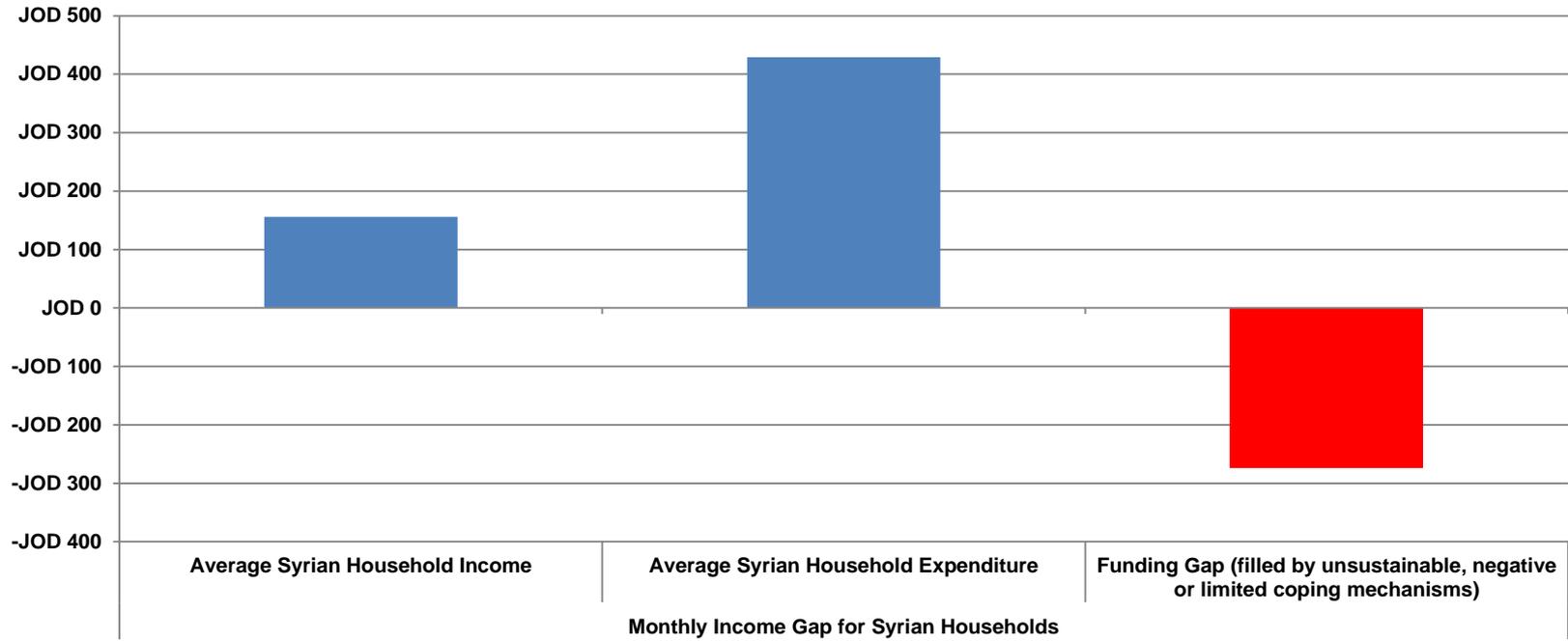


**Income versus expenditures
Jordanians**





FSLA needs assessment (May 2013)
Income versus expenditures, Syrians



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4. Food security and food consumption





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Market Access and Food availability

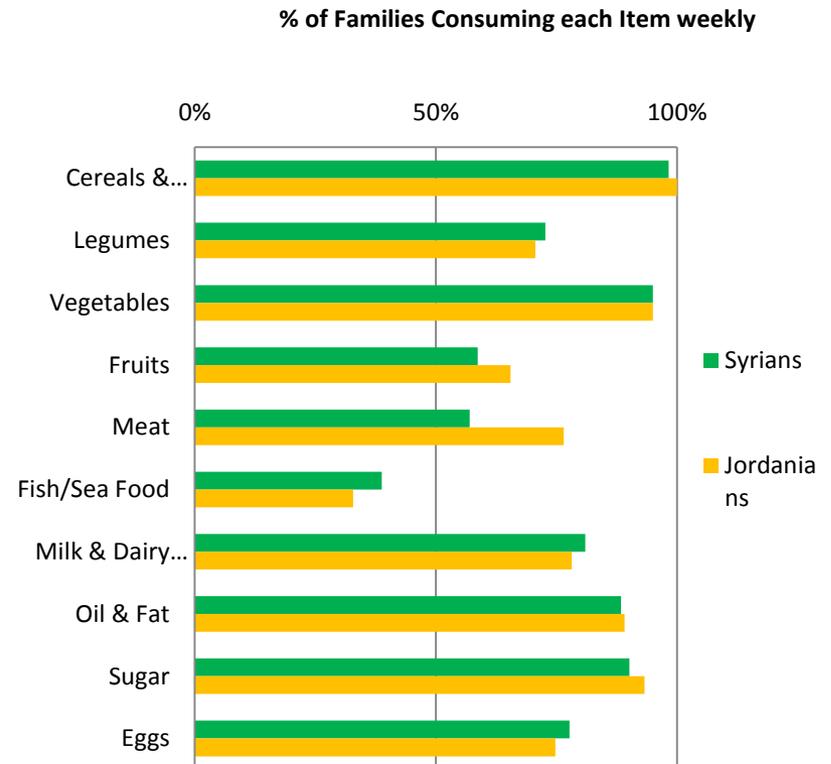
- Respondents indicated that all essential food items were readily available for purchasing in local market places.
- They usually rely on supermarkets (92%) and local food stores (8%) to buy almost all household food items.
- Key informants interviews revealed that there is a trend of steady price increases, however with no parallel trend in increased income to match.



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Food consumption patterns

- Both communities showed similar patterns overall, although a significant difference was observed in terms of proportion of households consuming **meat**.
- Overall, **meat, fish and fruit consumptions were poor**, though protein-rich food intake was somewhat managed by adding eggs and dairy to the diet – albeit to a variable degree.

Food Consumption Patterns of Households





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Food Consumption Score (FCS)

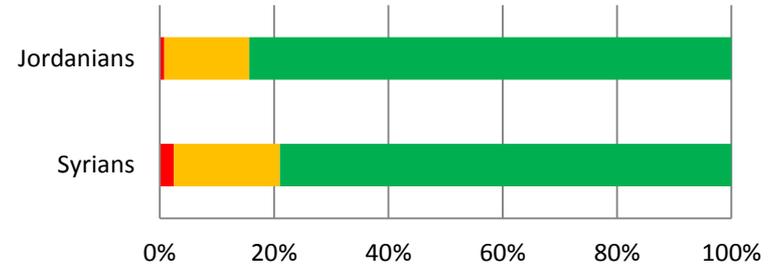
- **Food Consumption Score (FCS)** plays a vital role in measuring food security in terms of nutritional diversity.
- It is a composite score based on dietary diversity, food frequency, and relative nutritional importance of different food groups.
- It predicts the quantitative dimension of household food security, defined as having adequate food quantity or calorie consumption per capita.



FSLA needs assessment (May 2013)
Food Consumption Score (FCS)

- **1% Jordanians and 3% Syrian households were food insecure while 15% Jordanian and 18% Syrian households were at risk.**
- Prevailing food insecurity is somewhat attributable to geographical location –**Zarqa, Ajloun and Jerash** governorates were found to have higher food insecurity.
- There is a need to follow up with targeted support aiming at integrating food security with nutritional awareness among at risk and food insecure households.

Food Consumption Score - Overall

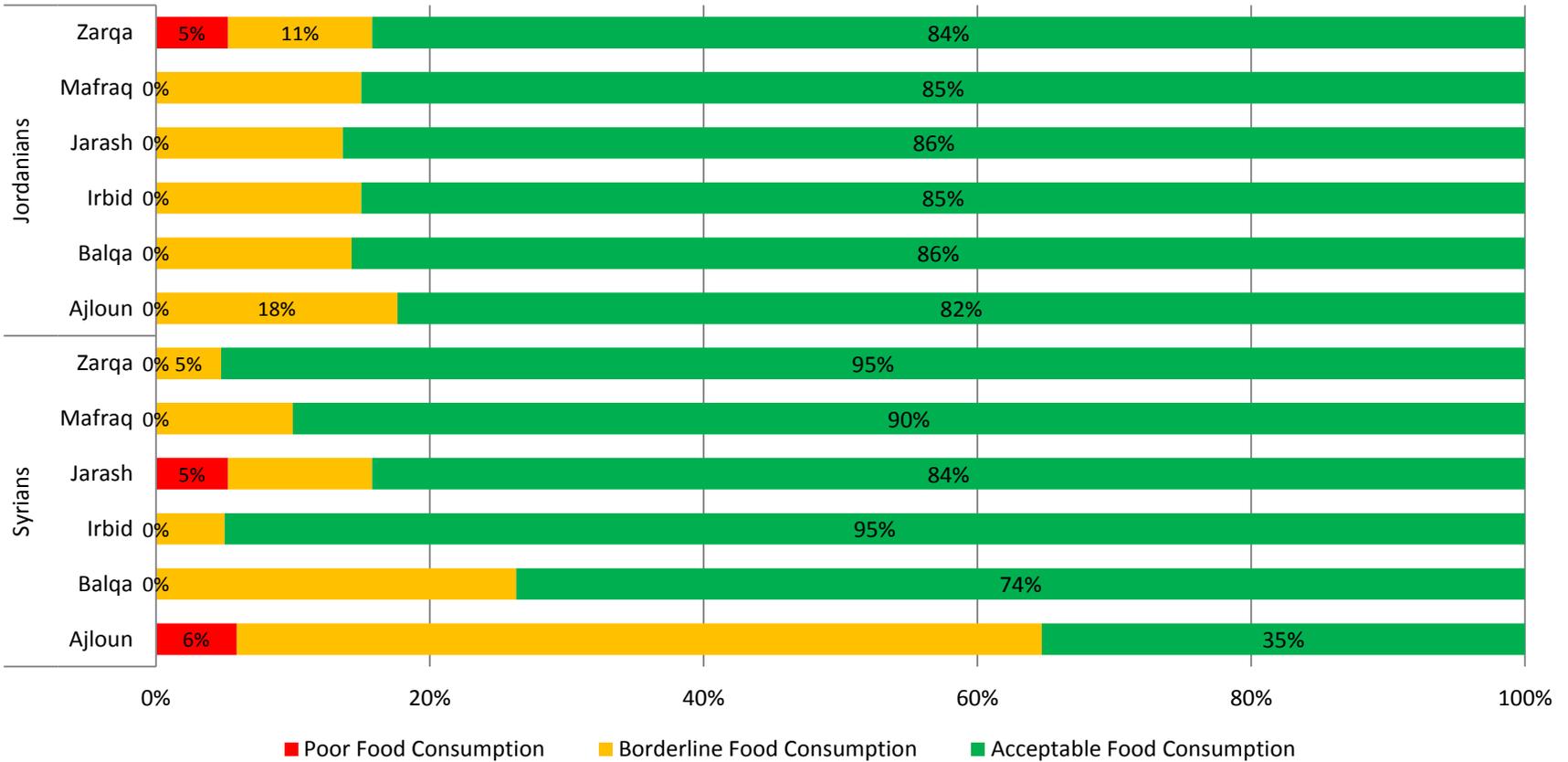


	Syrians	Jordanians
■ Poor Food Consumption	3%	1%
■ Borderline Food Consumption	18%	15%
■ Acceptable Food Consumption	79%	84%



FSLA needs assessment (May 2013) Food Consumption Score (FCS)

Food Consumption Score - Geographical





FSLA needs assessment (May 2013)
Food Consumption Score (FCS) correlations

- No significant relationship was observed between FCS of the target communities and their monthly household income .
- Even some of the households with comparatively higher income found to have poor or borderline food consumption, and vice-versa.
- FCS of the target communities positively correlates with the meat, fish and egg consumption and/or dairy consumption of the given communities.
- **Food consumption status of these communities was mostly affected by level of their animal protein consumption.**
- As such, they must be educated on the importance of adding animal proteins to their diets.



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Coping mechanisms

- In the most recent 7 days before data collection, **54% of Syrian and 38% of Jordanian households had experienced periods in which they had not enough food or money to buy food.**
- The households who had insufficient food for consumption also had various coping strategies to manage the situation.
- They were **relying on less preferred and less expensive food, buying food on credit, reducing consumption by adults in order for small children to eat, borrowing food, money to buy food, and limiting portion sizes at meals.**

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5.Livelihoods and employment access

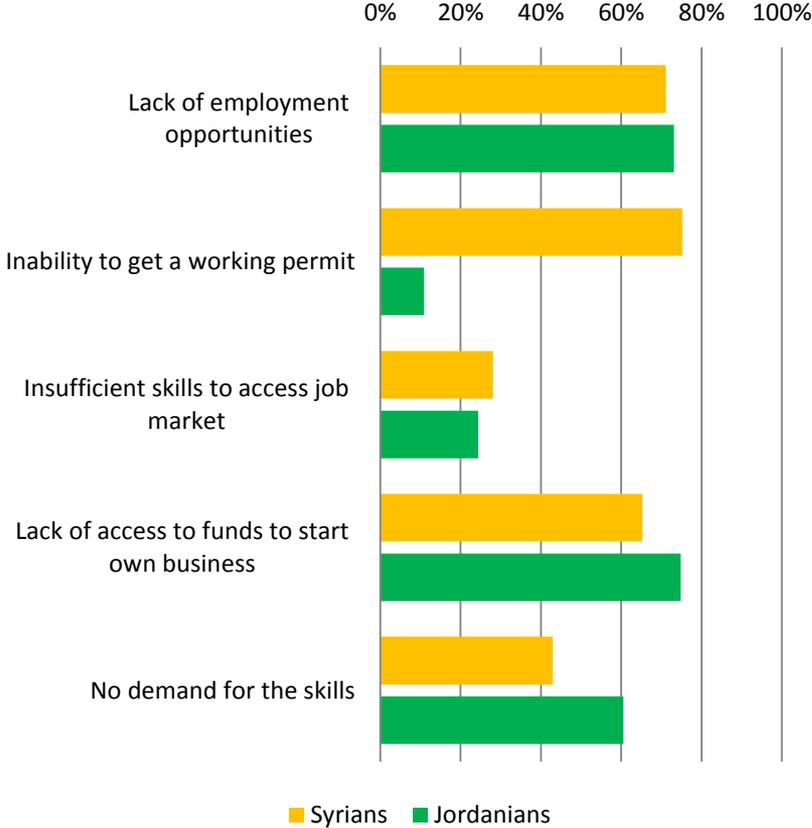




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Employment Access

Challenges in Accessing Jobs

- Both communities faced similar obstacles in accessing employment at the time of data collection such as lack of opportunities, insufficient skills, lack of access to funds, and no demand for specific skills.





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Key constraints and preference for assistance

- Syrians reported that **having insufficient or no capital was the key constraint to start livelihood activities**. Also, they had to have working permits in order to obtain formal jobs, which are not possible to formally obtain.
- They prefer receiving further information about obtaining work permits and employment opportunities, and also some capital to start up new income generation activities.
- For Jordanians, not having opportunities due to **high competition but less demand was the most challenging factor**.
- As such, they prefer receiving funds for establishing new or improving existing income generation opportunities such as small businesses through the necessary technical/skill trainings schemes.



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Women's access to employment

- Women were not involved in any income generation usually, with the exception of 15% for Syrian women and 26% of Jordanians.
- Teaching, handicrafts, embroidery, and food preparation.
- About 64% households of both communities were willing to let women participate in home-based income generation or related trainings.

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6. Recommendations





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Recommendations

- Household level intervention for **promoting food security targeting food insecure and at-risk populations is crucial.**
- **Awareness raising programs on nutrition and good practices**, also including importance and affordable ways of adding animal proteins to their diets.
- Providing cash assistance to pay for basic living costs including rent, food, clothes, and basic utilities is essential to prevent resort to negative coping mechanisms.
- Conditional cash assistance for Jordanians to establish small income generating activities that can generate a quick economic return would be worthwhile for future consideration.



Thank you!

