



# Lebanon

## Post-Distribution Monitoring Report September 2013 to January 2014

### Highlights

- \* 578,722 individuals were assisted through the E-Card programme during the reporting period.
- \* During the reporting period, WFP transitioned from paper voucher to E-Card assistance. Results shows that beneficiaries seem to take more time to redeem their full balance and seem to be exchanging less their assistance against cash.
- \* 30% of households reported hosting an unregistered or excluded Syrian refugee. This implies that an individual WFP e-voucher is on average shared by 1.3 people.
- \* 72% of households had acceptable food consumption scores. Results showed that food consumption scores seem to be improving with people's length of stay in Lebanon.
- \* Food consumption patterns showed that households are eating limited fruit and pulses.
- \* The food consumption-based coping strategies deteriorated with an increase in the number of households resorting to buy lower quality food, limiting portion sizes and reducing the number of meals in a day.
- \* 72% of households reported buying food on credit and close to 50% of households indicated that they were reducing other essential expenditure such as rent or health expenditure to cover their food needs. However, the number of households that reported sending their children to beg has decreased by 13%.
- \* 25% of households reported working (20% casual labor, 5% waged labor), yet 31% of households indicated that they did not have three distinct sources of cash/income. More than half of the households stated credit/loan as their second or third main source of income.
- \* Results showed that an equal proportion of men and women were in charge of the e-Card at the household level.
- \* A comparison between the pre-assistance baseline group of households and post-distribution monitoring group monitored suggested that food security situation of those already benefitting from the WFP food e-card programme was better.

## I. INTRODUCTION

### a. Background and objective

Since the outbreak of the violence in Syria, the Lebanese government has maintained an open-border policy, welcoming an increasing number of refugees. Upon the invitation of the Government of Lebanon (GoL), WFP has responded to the current influx of Syrian refugees in Lebanon since 2012, targeting all regions: North Lebanon, Beirut, Mount Lebanon and South Lebanon and the Bekaa Valley. WFP is implementing its voucher operations through six partners: the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Action Contre la Faim (ACF), Premiere Urgence (PU), World Vision (WV), InterSOS and Save the Children International. WFP and its partners gradually scaled up their operations, reaching 578,622 people by the end of 2013.

In January 2014, WFP increased the value of its voucher from US\$ 27 to US\$30 in order to ensure that beneficiaries can meet daily minimum nutritional requirements despite the increase in prices observed since the beginning of the refugee crisis. The impact of the increase in the voucher value will be analysed at the next quarter.

Every month, WFP conducts household's visits to gain feedback from beneficiaries on the effectiveness of the programme and track the evolution of the food security status of refugees to ensure that needs of beneficiaries are adequately met. During these visits, staff gathers information on refugees' socio-economic status, demographics, food security status, the use of the food assistance, the use of coping mechanisms, the process of distribution and redemption of e-cards.

### b. Methodology

In July 2013, WFP adopted a two-stage cluster random sampling approach, using the UNHCR ProGRES cluster classification. 80 households were visited every month in each sub-office, ensuring a level of confidence of 80% on a monthly basis at the regional level and bringing it up to 90% at the national level across a quarter (see Annex 1). As resources became increasingly limited, it alleviated the monitoring burden on WFP staff while ensuring statistically valid results at both the regional and national levels.

Additionally in January 2014, WFP resumed data collection of its pre-assistance baseline monitoring (PAB). The methodology for data collection is identical to the post-distribution monitoring (PDM) one for comparison purposes (see Annex 1). The aim is to compare households which have not yet received the WFP e-card to those who are currently benefiting from the programme in order to gauge the impact of the food assistance programme on the refugee population in Lebanon.

### c. Achievements

From September to December 2013, 442 households were visited for post-distribution monitoring interviews. Due to the simultaneous transition from paper vouchers to e-cards and the implementation of targeted assistance, targets for the last quarter of 2013 were lowered for each sub-office, ensuring that an 85% confidence level was kept at the national level during the end of the year. Accounting for these constraints, it was therefore requested that each WFP sub-office perform 135 interviews until the end of 2013. In January 2014, the usual sampling approach resumed and 246 households were visited by WFP's field teams.

PDM Targets		Cycle of distribution				
		September- December 2013		January 2014		% Reached
		Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
WFP Sub-Office	Beirut, Mount Lebanon, and South Lebanon	135	135	80	80	100%
	North Lebanon	135	138	80	87	105%
	Bekaa Valley	135	169	80	79	87%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>442</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>94%</b>

Table 1. Post-distribution monitoring achievement in July and August 2013

In January 2014, Data collection for PABs took place in Beirut, Mount Lebanon and South Lebanon, and the Bekaa Valley where 160 household visits were conducted.

#### d. Monitoring Challenges

In the Bekaa Valley, the influx of refugees into Aarsal (northern Bekaa Valley) placed capacity constraints on the WFP field teams. The overall deteriorating security situation in northern Bekaa Valley, particularly in areas neighboring the border with Syria, such as northern Baalbeck, limited access to conduct M&E activities throughout the reporting cycle. Furthermore, the worsening weather conditions restricted movements in the Bekaa Valley throughout December. Additionally, locating targeted households for PDM and PAB visits became increasingly difficult as a result of secondary displacements and inaccuracies in the UNHCR ProGres database. Finally, households' security and financial concerns seemed to affect the reliability of the information collected through PDMs.

In Beirut, Mount Lebanon and South Lebanon, security concerns prevented field teams to reach some locations such as Borj Barajne and Haret Hreik (southern suburbs of Beirut). One of the challenges was the limited number of households in the selected sampling clusters that forced the sub-office to replace households in other clusters located in neighboring areas.

A general constraint for WFP's various field locations remained adequate staffing resources to conduct an increasing number of half-value paper vouchers distributions as well as monitoring a growing number of shops. The parallel transition to targeted assistance and e-card assistance delayed some of the monitoring activities as the operation focused on providing better assist refugees under the new modality and for those that remained included in the assistance.

## II. RESULTS

### a. Food Consumption Levels

During the reporting period, it appeared that the food consumption situation improved with length of stay in Lebanon as shown by Figure 1a and 1b. 77% of households that had been in the country for more than 12 months, have acceptable food consumption scores versus 68% of those that had been in the country for less than 6 months. However, there seemed to be no difference in the average daily diet diversity score where on average 5.6 food groups were consumed by the households.

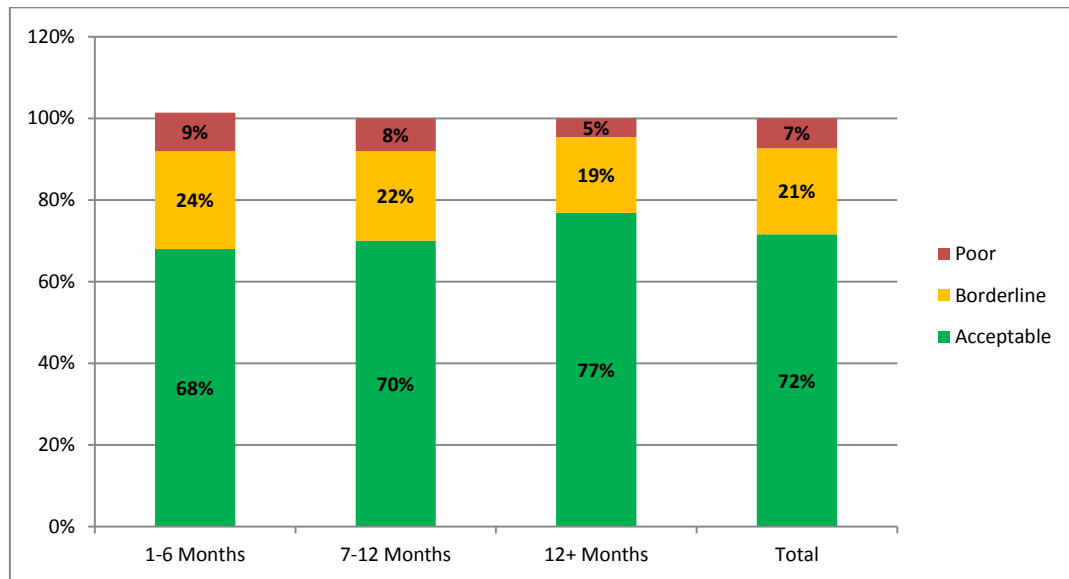


Figure 1a. Food Consumption Levels according to time of arrival in Lebanon

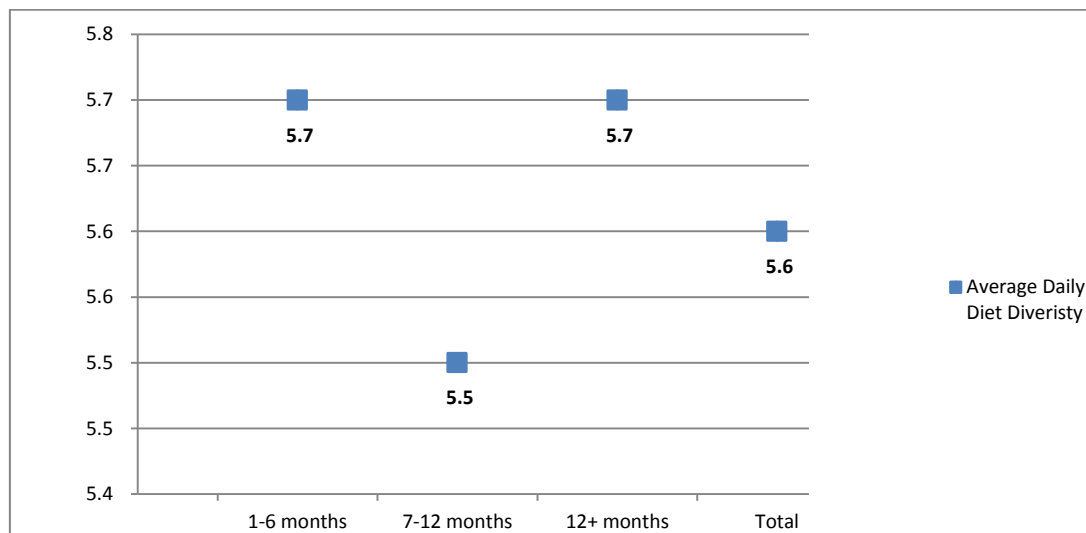


Figure 1b. Food Consumption Levels and diet diversity scores according to time of arrival in Lebanon

As can be seen in Figure 2, food consumption scores appeared to vary according depending on the type of housing. Households exhibiting poor and borderline consumption scores seemed to be concentrated in collective shelters (39%), unfinished shelters (38%) and tents (29%). However, the diet diversity scores remained stable across accommodation types.

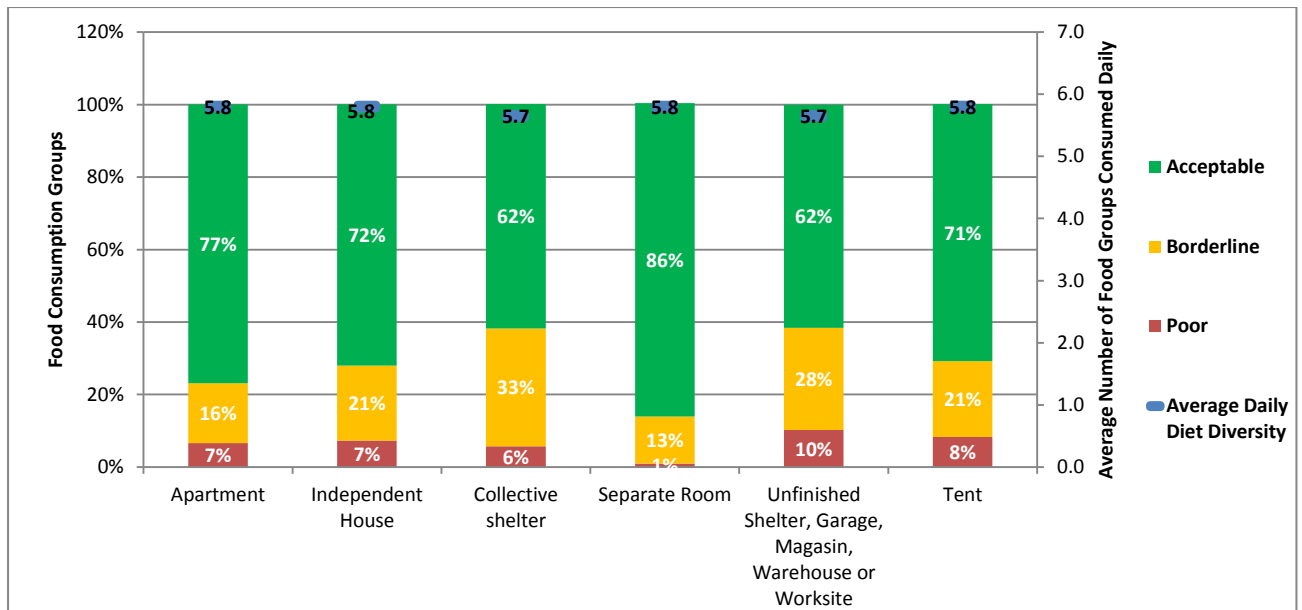


Figure 2. Food Consumption Groups and Average daily diet diversity per type of housing

There were regional differences in the food consumption groups as shown in Figure 3. The number of households with poor and borderline food consumption scores was much higher in North Lebanon (40%) and the Bekaa Valley (27%) than in Beirut, Mount Lebanon and South Lebanon (17%). This is particularly due to the high level of interviewed households that have been in the country for less than 6 months.

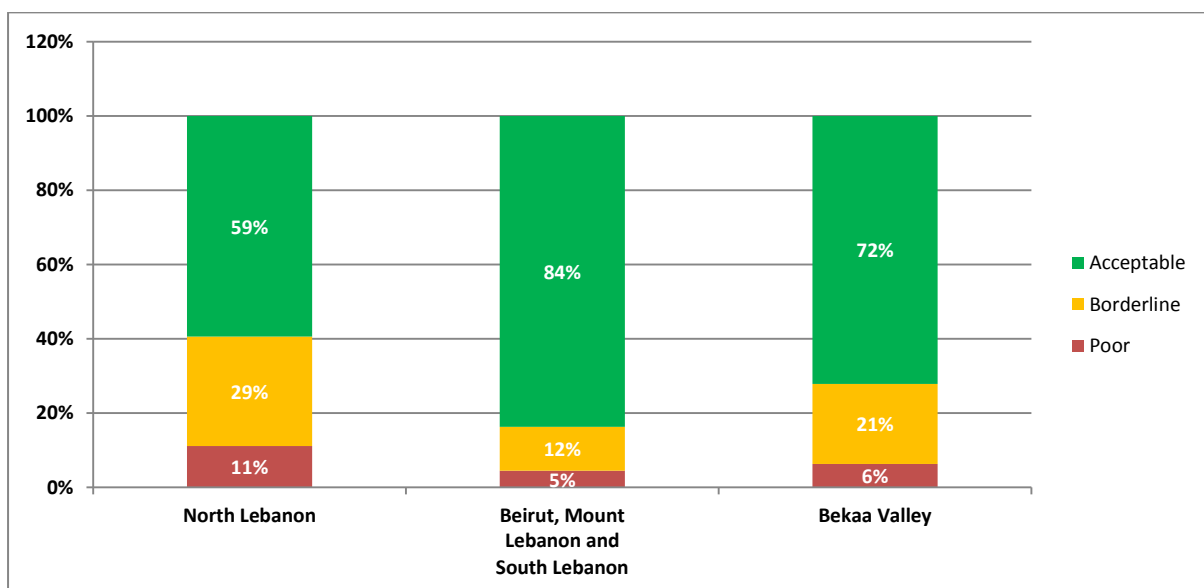


Figure 3. Food consumption groups per sub-office

In addition, Figure 4 showcased that interviewed households ate cereals on average 7 days a week, probably due to the high consumption of bread and sugar and oil, which were eaten 6.6 days a week. However, the average consumption of fruit (less than 1 day a week) and pulses (2 days a week) were very low.

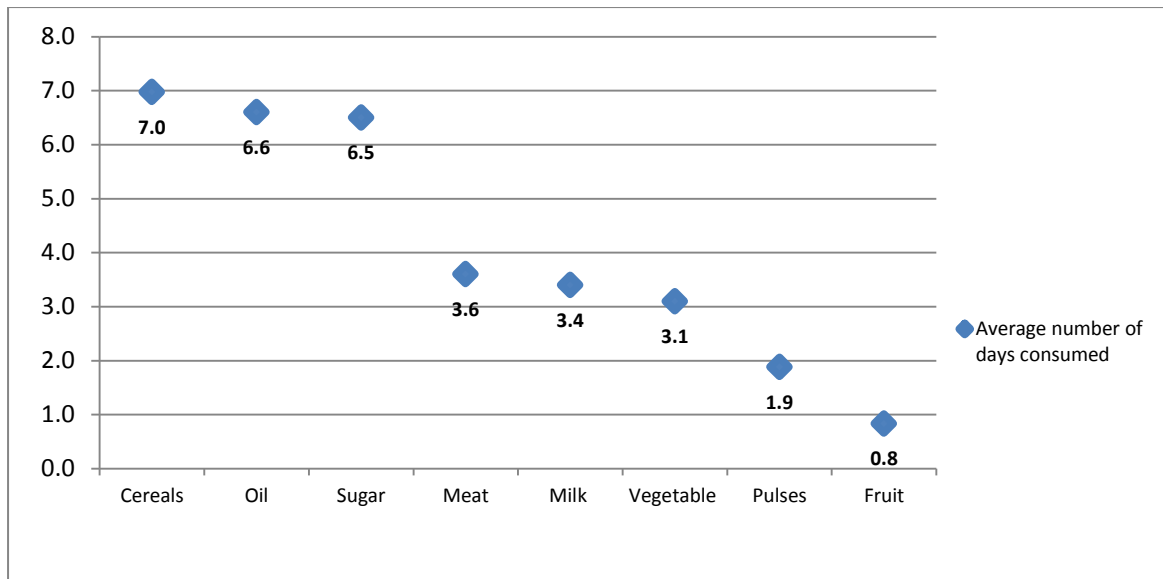


Figure 4. Average number of days each food group is consumed per week

There were slight regional differences with the consumption of vegetables, milk and meat as can be seen in Figure 5, which was higher in Beirut, Mount Lebanon and South Lebanon than in North Lebanon and the Bekaa Valley. These could explain the better results in food consumption groups observed in Figure 3 above.

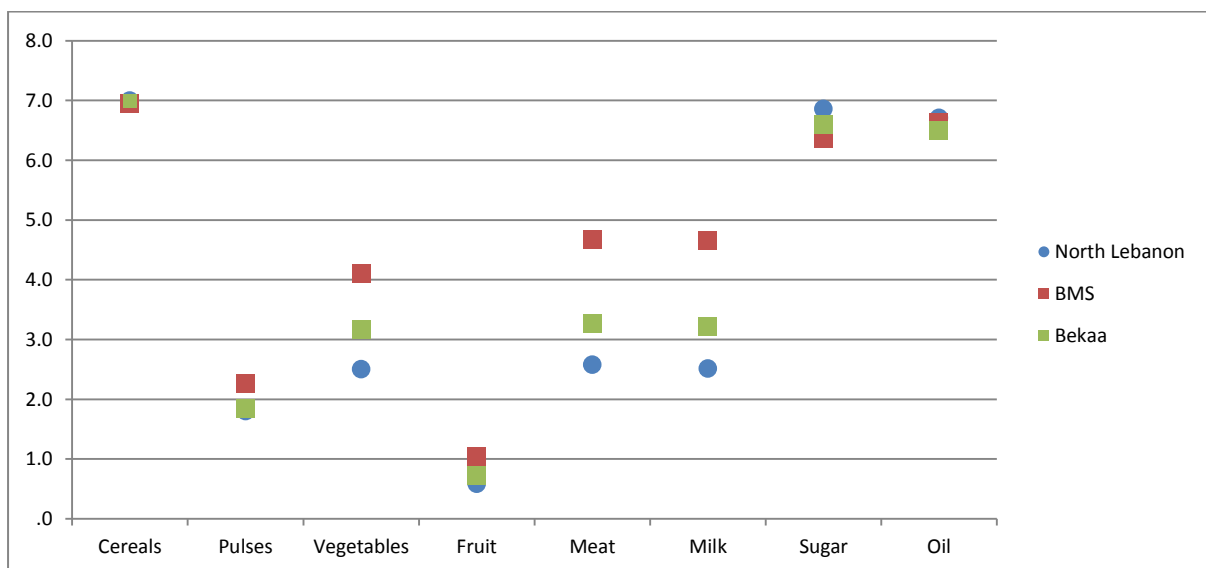


Figure 5. Average number of days each food group is consumed per week and per SO

**Food Sources:** Cereals (83%), pulses nuts and seeds (68%), milk and dairy products (58%), oil and fats (92%) and sugar (89%) were mainly purchased with the WFP food e-card, while bread and pasta (52%), white tubers and roots (50%) and vegetables (52%) were purchased with cash. 59% of households reported not eating fruit in the last 7 days, 44% reported not eating meat and 70% reported not eating fish.

### b. Coping Strategies

The food consumption coping strategies deteriorated during the reporting period with an increase in the number of households reporting buying lower quality and less preferred food by 63% and an increase by 33% in households reporting reducing the number of meals eaten in a day and an

increase by 30% of households reporting limiting portion size. Results are shown in Figure 6. Note that 20% of households reported restricting the consumption of female members in order to cope with the lack of food.

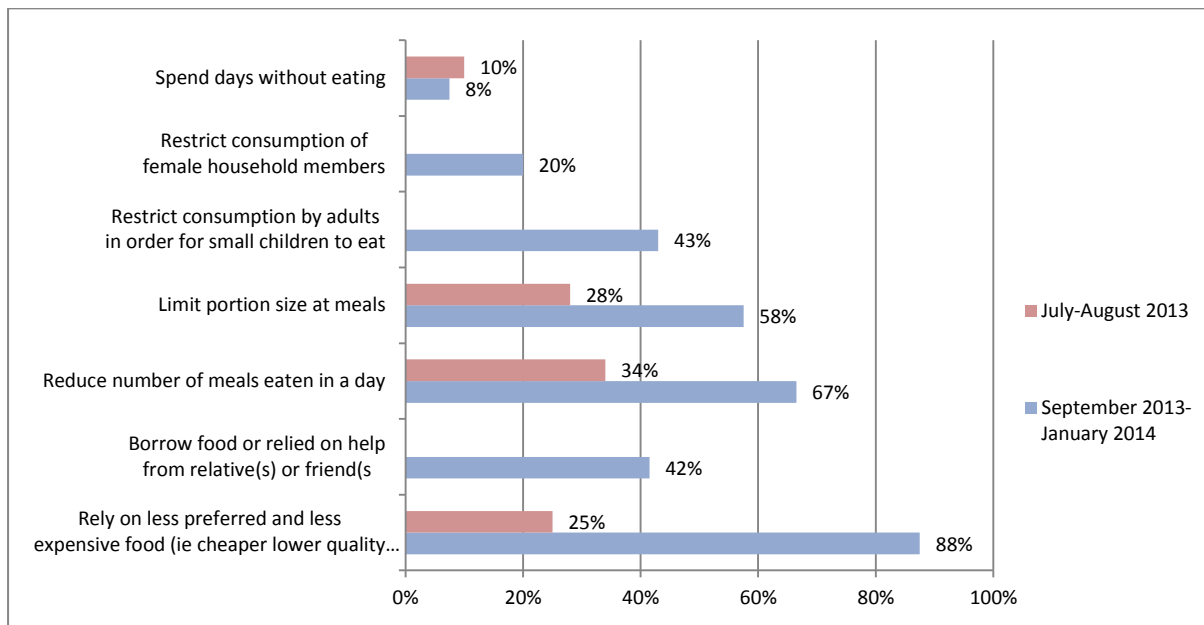


Figure 6. Food Consumption Based Coping Strategies comparison between July-August 2013 with September 2013 to January 2014<sup>1</sup>

Interestingly, households that had been in the country for less than 6 months applied less consumption-based coping strategies than those that had been in the country for a longer time period as shown in Figure 7.

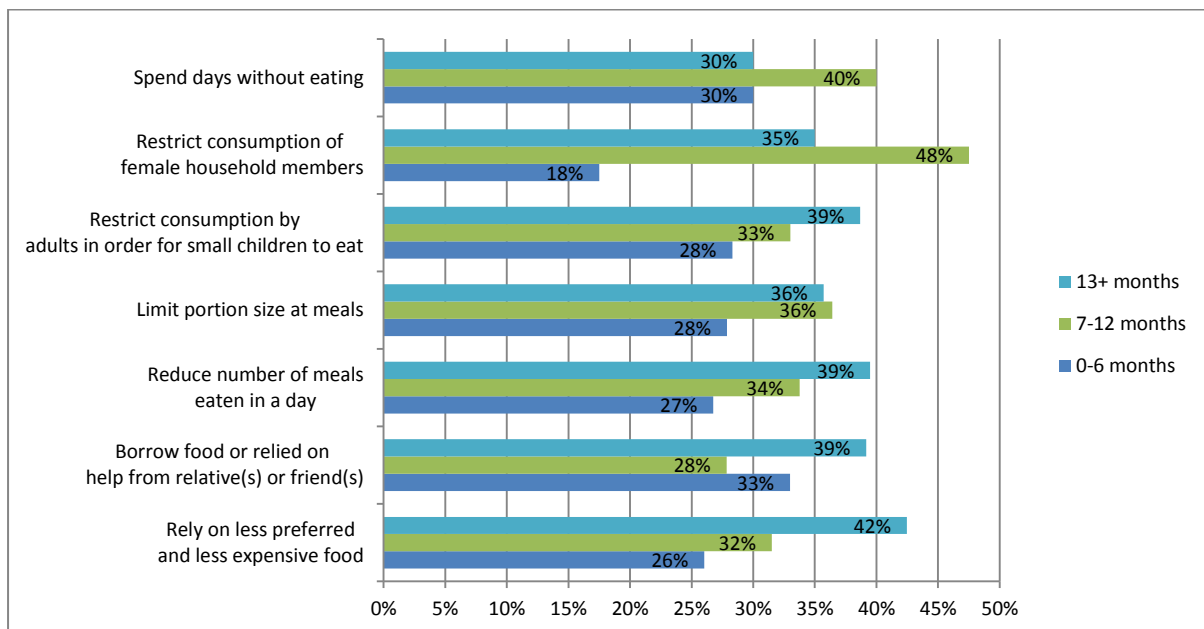


Figure 7. Consumption-based coping strategies per arrival date into Lebanon

Additionally, Figure 8 shows that there is a clear link between the food consumption group and the consumption-based coping strategies applied by households. In particular, households with poor

<sup>1</sup> Additional options were added in the coping strategies section of the PDM in September 2013. Therefore comparison for all indicators between the current and previous reporting period is not possible.

consumption scores seem to be restricting the consumption of female members (38%), limit portion size at meals (80%) and borrow food from relative or friends (78%) more than the other groups.

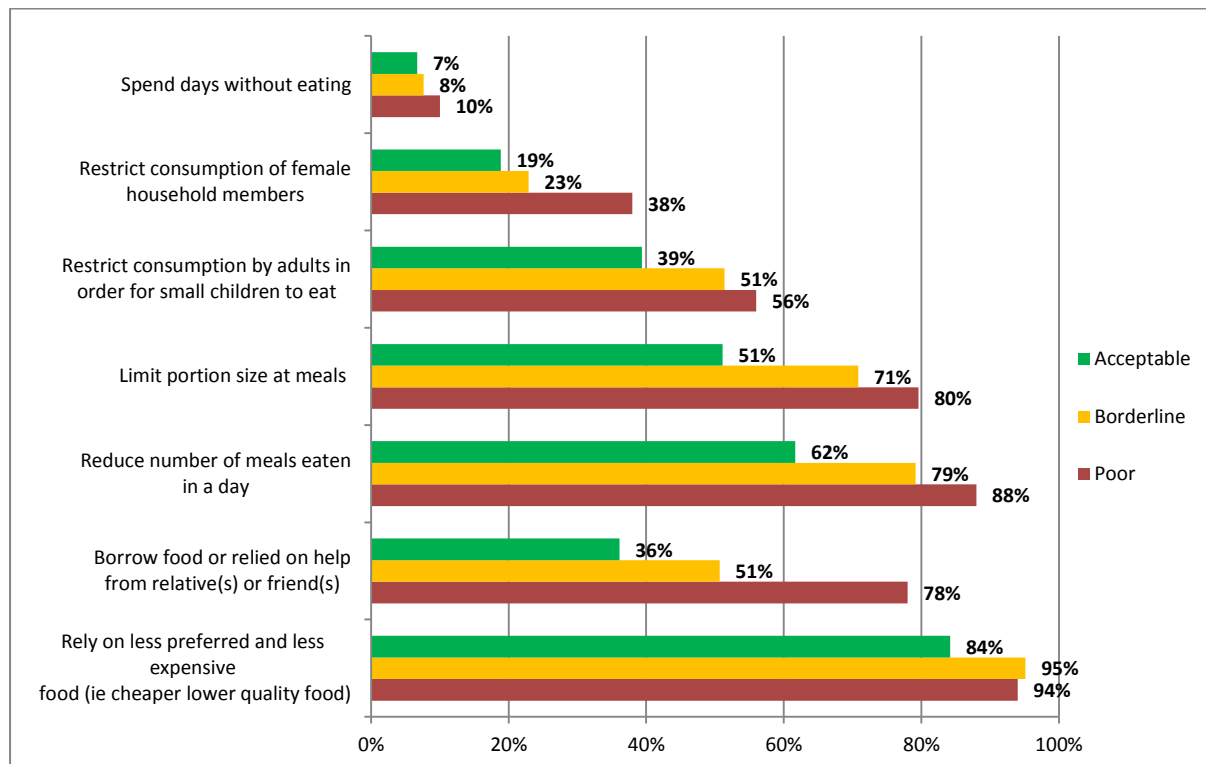
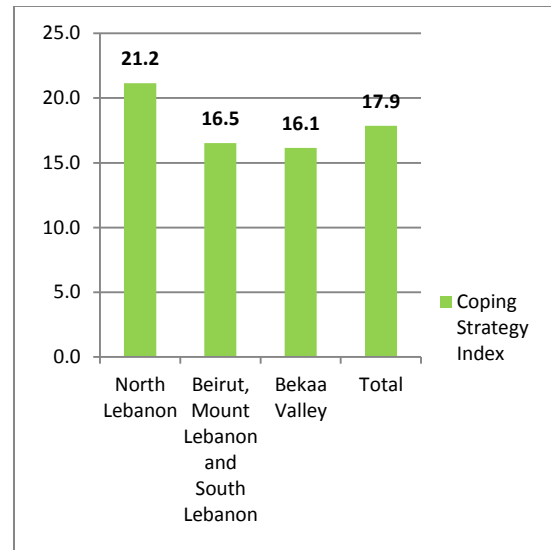


Figure 8. Consumption-based coping strategies per arrival food consumption groups

Overall, the coping strategy index during the reporting period was 17.9, with sizeable regional variations as displayed in Figure 9: while the index was 16.5 in Beirut, Mount Lebanon and South Lebanon and 16.3 in the Bekaa Valley, it was particularly high in North Lebanon at 21.2. When cross-checking the coping strategy index against the type of housing, the coping strategy index was found to be the highest for households living in unfinished shelter (20.6). Results also showed the index seemed to be higher with length of stay in Lebanon.

Figure 9. Coping Strategy Index per SO



Results in Figure 10 showed high levels of debts among the Syrian refugee population with 72% of households reporting buying food on credit or borrowing money to purchase food. Results also showed that close to 50% of households needed to reduce other essential expenditure such as health or education expenditure to buy food. 6% of households reported sending their children to beg compared to 19% during the previous reporting period. 19% of households reported selling households assets to cope with the lack of food, which was the same as in the previous reporting period.



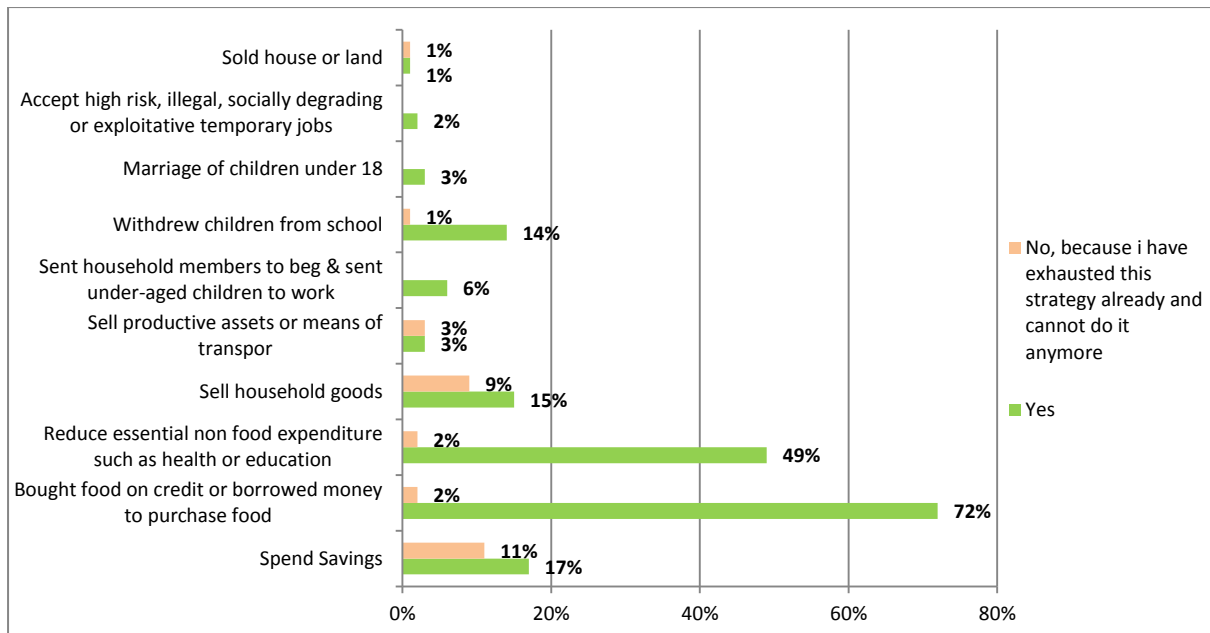
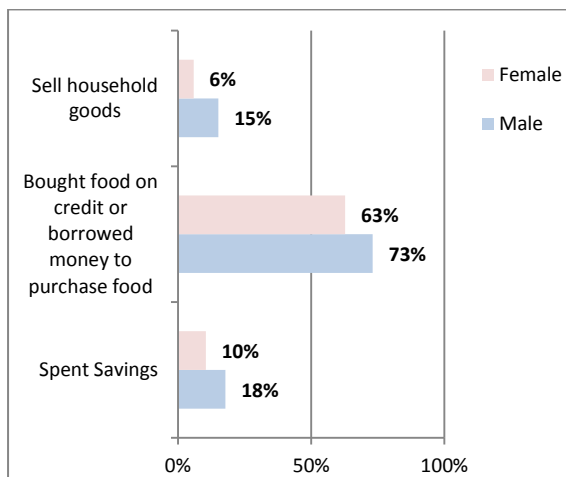


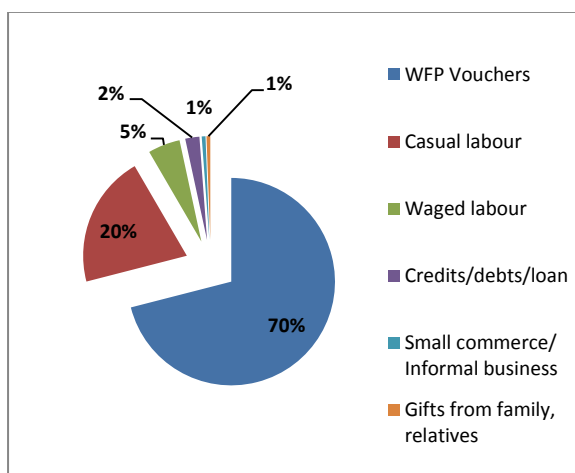
Figure 10. Asset Depletion Coping Strategies from September 2013 to January 2014



There were significant differences between male and female respondents - with men reporting relying more on asset depletion coping strategies whilst women indicating the sale of household goods to cover food needs, the purchase of food on credit or the use of savings as can be seen in Figure 11.

Figure 11. Main difference between male and female headed households from September 2013 to January 2014

### C. Source of Cash/Income



During the reporting period, the main source of cash/income was the WFP food e-card for 70% of the interviewed population. 25% of the respondents reported "labour" (casual or waged) as their main source of income. The breakdown is shown in Figure 12. This marked a change from the previous reporting period where 74% reported relying on labour. However, this was closer to the rates observed at the beginning of 2013.

Figure 12. First main source of cash/income from September 2013 to January 2014

It is also interesting to note that 31% of respondents stated that they did not have three distinct sources of cash/income, with this rate reaching 52% in the Bekaa Valley as shown in Figure 13.

Additionally the number of households relying on credit or loan as the main source of cash/income increased in the last six months from 34% to 50% in North Lebanon, from 20% to 28% in the Bekaa Valley, and from 20% to 32% in Beirut, Mount Lebanon and South Lebanon, signalling high levels of economical vulnerability.

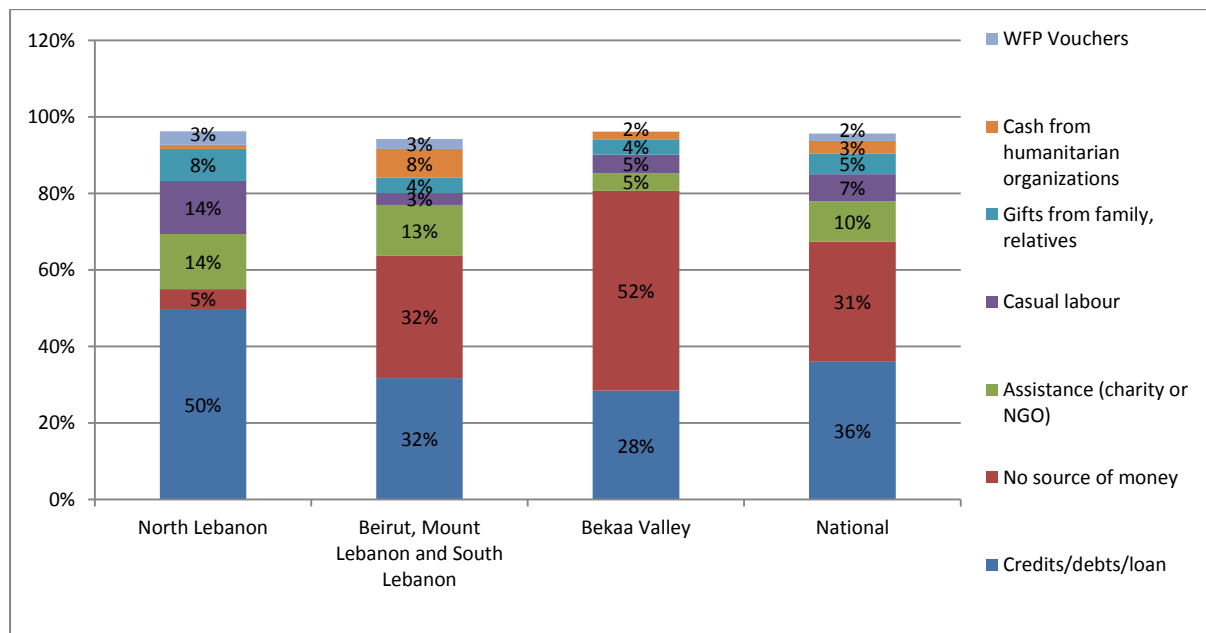


Figure 13. Third main source of cash/income per sub-office from September 2013 to January 2014

While there is no significant difference in the first source of income/cash between food consumption groups, Figure 14 shows that households with acceptable food consumption score are relying more on debt and credit (38%) as third source of income as well as assistance from charity or NGO (13%) while most households with poor consumption scores report not having a third source of income/cash (40%) and relying more on casual labour (18%) than the other groups.

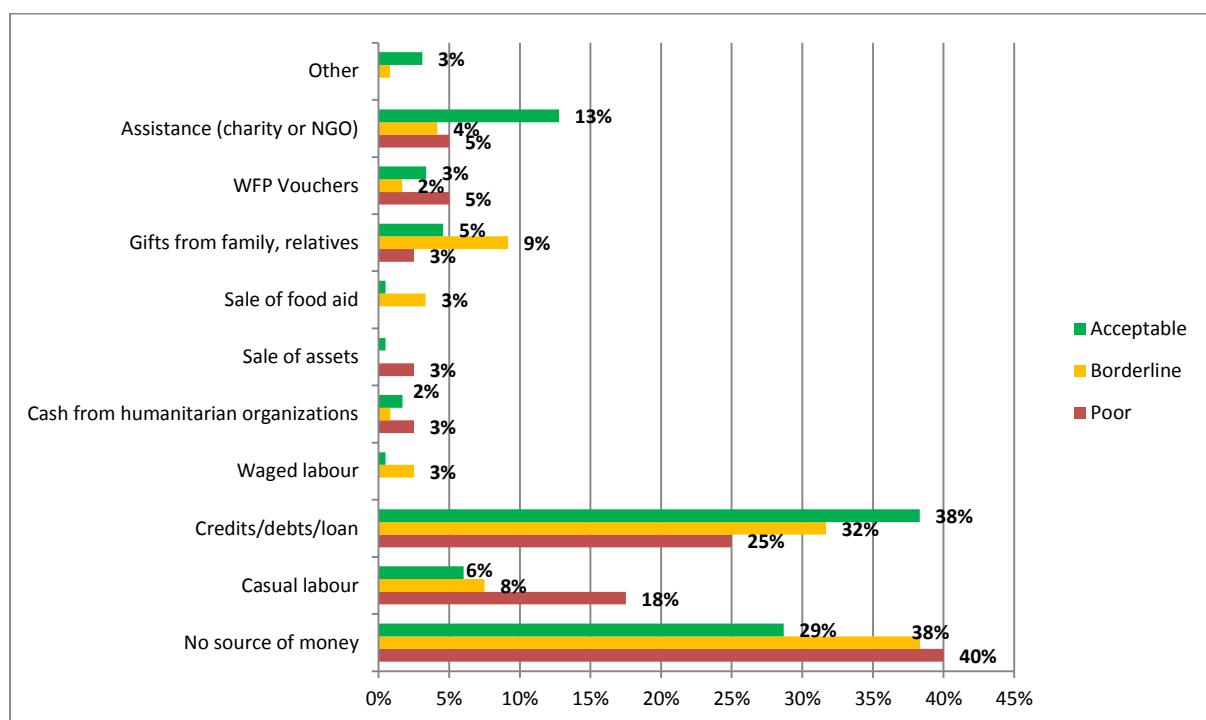


Figure 14. Third main source of cash/income per food consumption group

#### d. Main needs

Support for rent remained the main need reported by 42% of interviewed households as shown in Figure 15. This was however an improvement from the previous reporting period with a decrease of 22%. The reporting period also witnessed an increase in the number of households reporting a need in support for food (+4%) and winterization items (+8%), as well as the need for employment (+4%). One explanation could be the introduction of additional options within the questionnaire (winterization items, cash). There was a slight increase in the number of households reporting needing more food or better food by 4% at the end of 2013 as compared to the summer of 2013. The demand in support for rent was particularly high in North Lebanon (57%) while the demand for medicines was highest in Beirut, Mount Lebanon and South Lebanon (16%).

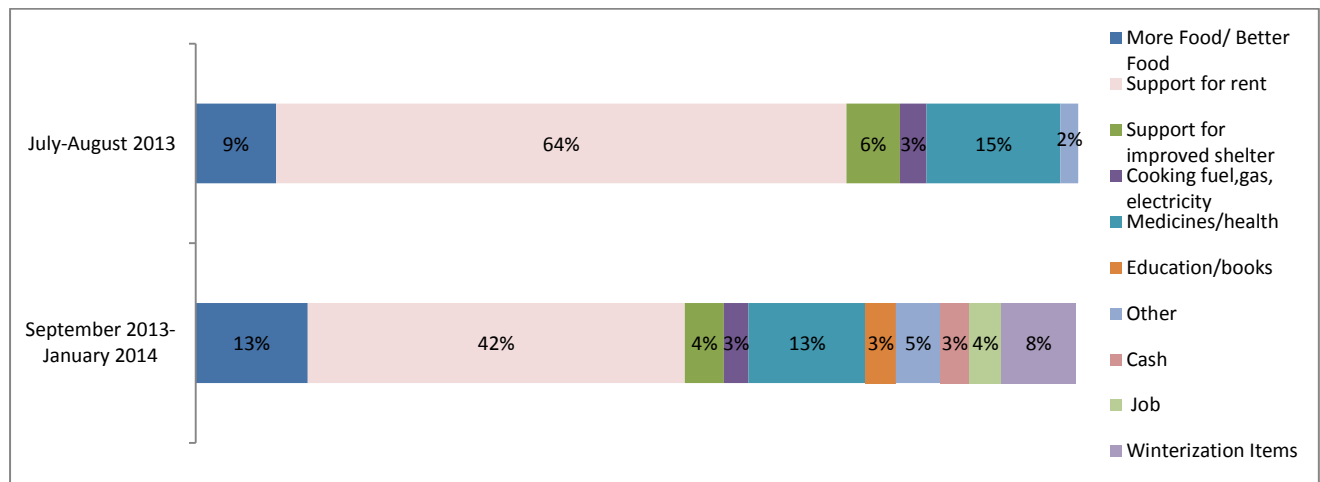


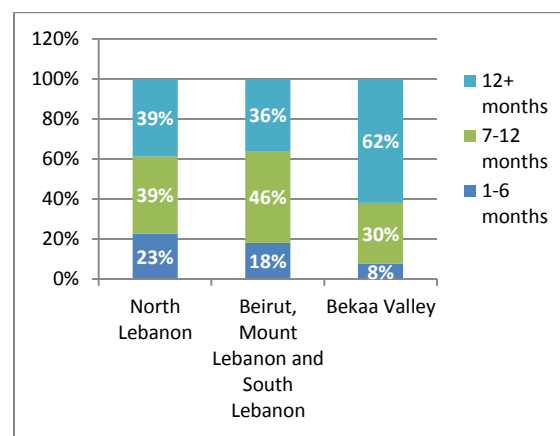
Figure 15. Main reported needs- comparison between summer 2013 and winter 2013

#### e. Socio-demographic data

**Household size and composition.** During the reporting period, 24% of interviewed households indicated a difference between the registered household size and the actual household size as compared to 48% at the previous reporting period. Feedback from household visits showed that many households shared the WFP e-card with non-targeted household members. One average **one WFP food e-card was shared by 1.3 people**.

**Arrival Date.** Just as with the previous reporting period, most newly arrived households were concentrated in the North, as shown by Figure 16.

Figure 16. Number of arrival per time strata in September 2013 to January 2014.



The main reasons indicated by households for moving was improved shelter (38%) or cheaper shelter (23%) and in North Lebanon, eviction (17%), signalling increasing levels of instability in the households' situation. Figure 17 highlights the different reasons for secondary displacement in Lebanon.

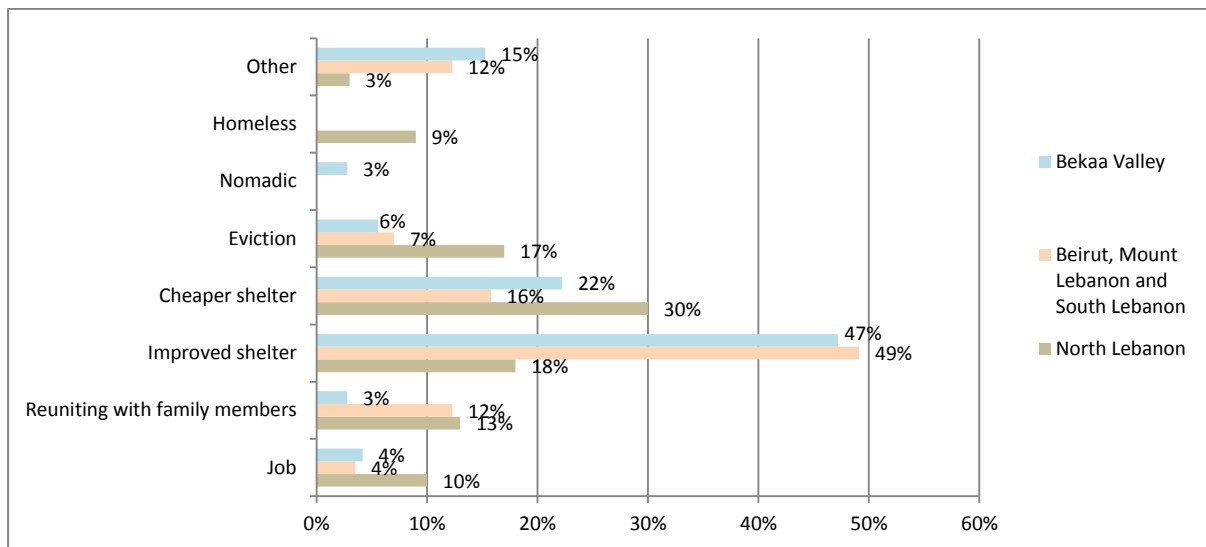


Figure 17. Reasons for secondary displacement in Lebanon from September 2013 to January 2014

Additionally, results showed that people with poor food consumption scores moved on average twice while people with borderline and acceptable food consumption scores moved on average only once. Figure 18 shows that people in North Lebanon seemed to have been displaced in Lebanon more than in the other areas of the country.

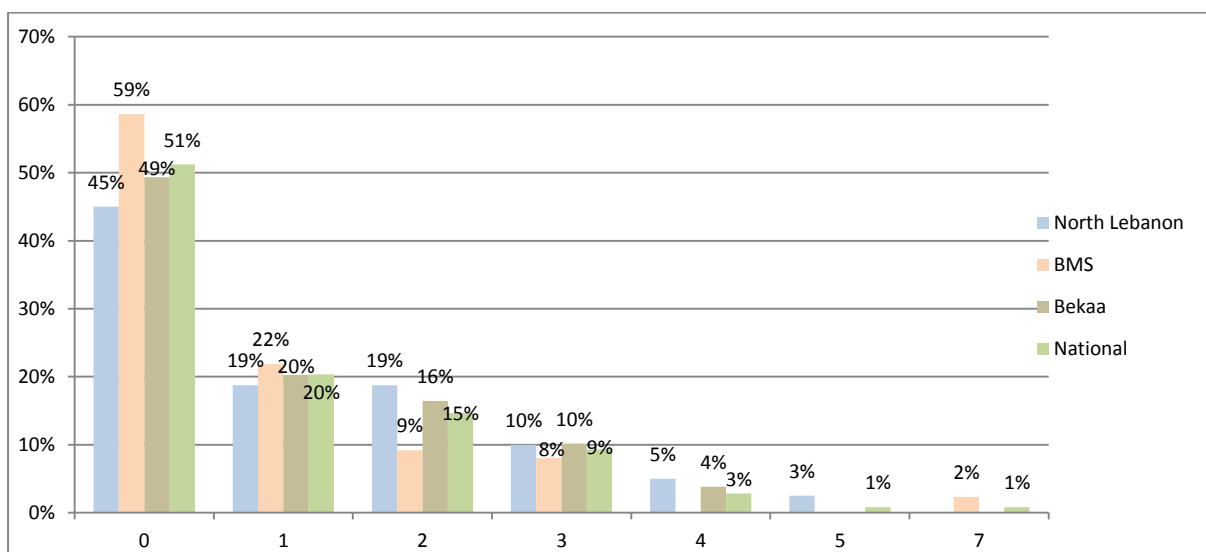
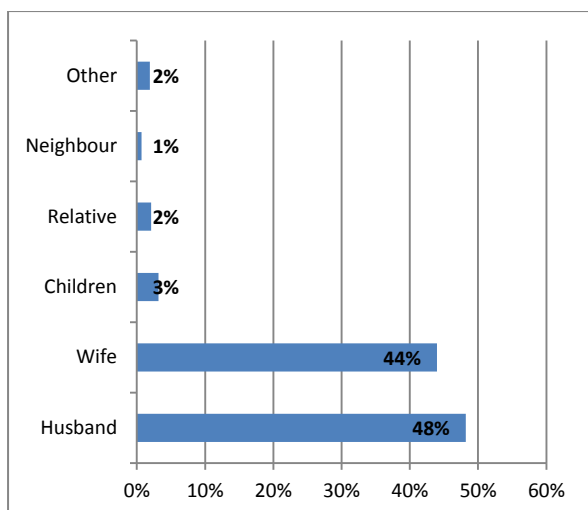


Figure 18. Secondary displacement since entering Lebanon from September 2013 to January 2014

#### f. WFP Food Voucher/E-card Use

**Redemption:** During the reporting period, the WFP food vouchers/e-cards were redeemed within an average of 5.5 days after receiving them. However, there is a clear difference between September to December 2013 with an average of 4.8 days and January 2014 with an average of 6.8 days. This can be linked to the impact of the E-Card that allows households to redeem their balances in several times.



**-E-Card Management.** At the end of 2013, a question was added to the post-distribution monitoring to inquire which household member redeemed the WFP food e-card. It would appear that men and women had equal control over the use of the e-card as shown in Figure 19.

Figure 19. Person who usually redeems the E-Card as reported through household interviews in September 2013 to January 2014.

**Cash.** A proportion of respondents (close to 20%) of respondents reported exchanging part of their WFP food voucher or cashing part of their e-card balance for cash to cover more urgent needs such as rent or medical expenses. This was lower than in the past reporting period- this can be linked to the modality of the E-Card that allows beneficiaries to spend in several times but also makes it more difficult for them to cash their assistance. Figure 20 showed that 55% of households were cashing their e-card balance/selling their vouchers to cover rent and 14% to cover food needs, either to buy fresh items or buy from a preferred retail shop.

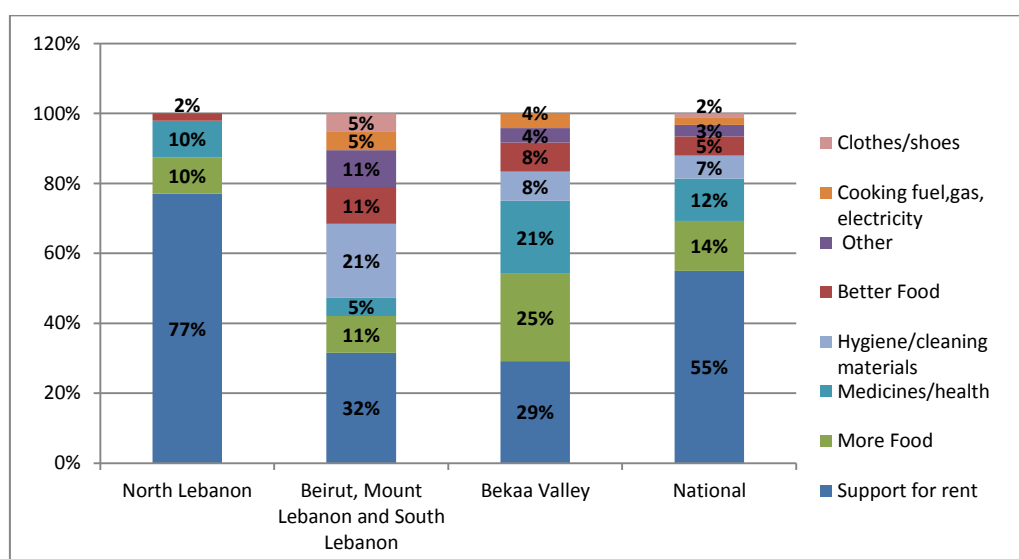


Figure 20. Reasons for selling the WFP voucher/ cashing the E-Card balance from September 2013 to January 2014

Interestingly, Figure 21 shows that those with poor and borderline FCS are selling their vouchers much more than those with acceptable FCS showing high levels of economic vulnerability among households with poor and borderline food consumption.

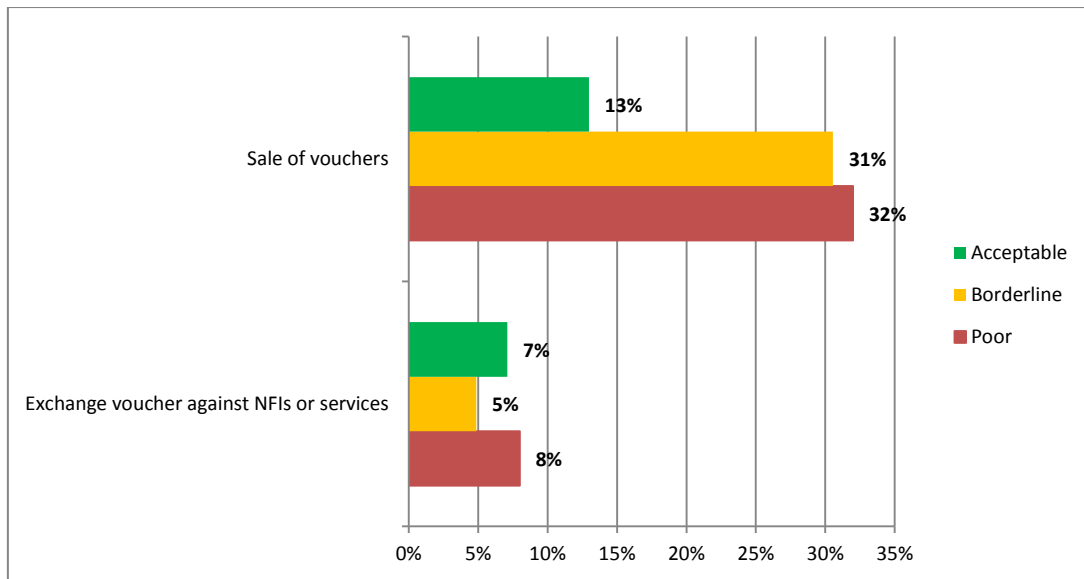


Figure 21. Sale of vouchers and exchange of voucher for NFI or services per food consumption group

**Food use:** 41% of households reported not being able to cook at least once a day, with that rate reaching 70% in North Lebanon, 19% in Beirut, Mount Lebanon and South Lebanon and 38% in the Bekaa Valley. 33% of respondents indicated that the reason was the lack of food to cook while 27% stated the lack of fuel for cooking as the reason for not cooking as shown in Figure 22. Interestingly, 23% of households in Beirut, Mount Lebanon and South Lebanon reported not having access to a kitchen as a main reason for not cooking.

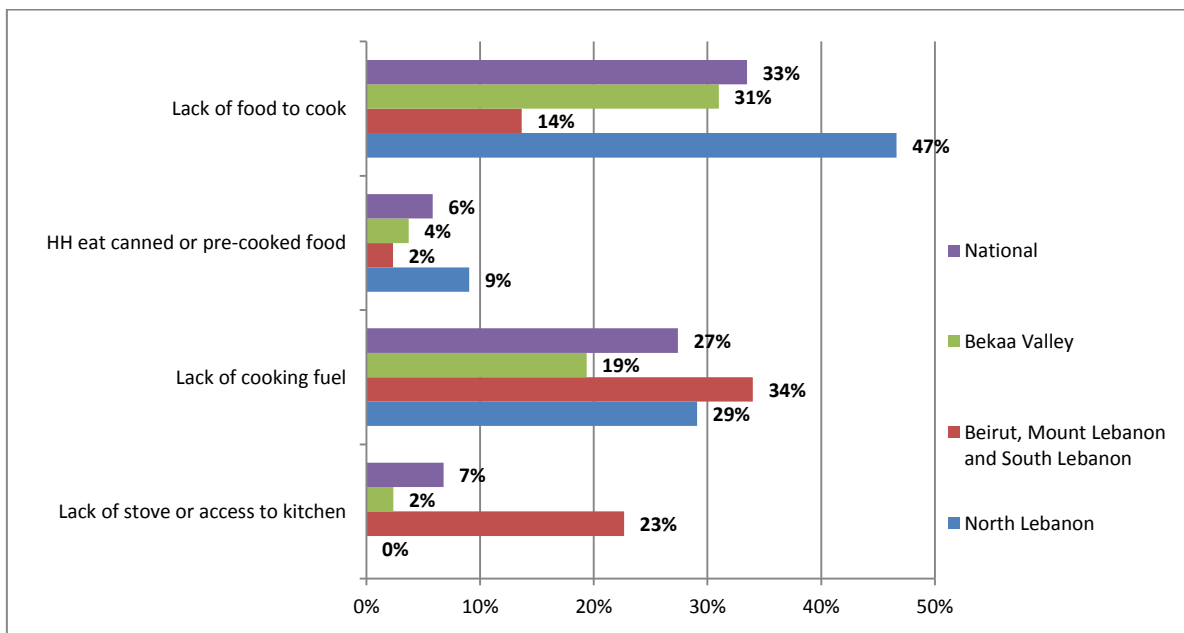


Figure 22. Main reasons for not cooking at least once a day from September 2013 to January 2014

### g. WFP Food E-Card Beneficiary Feedback

From September 2013 to January 2014, 15% of households indicated that shop owners were not providing them with a copy of their receipts, while 11% of households reported that shop owners did not check their registration documents. Also, 12% of households criticized the long queue at the shops according to Figure 23.

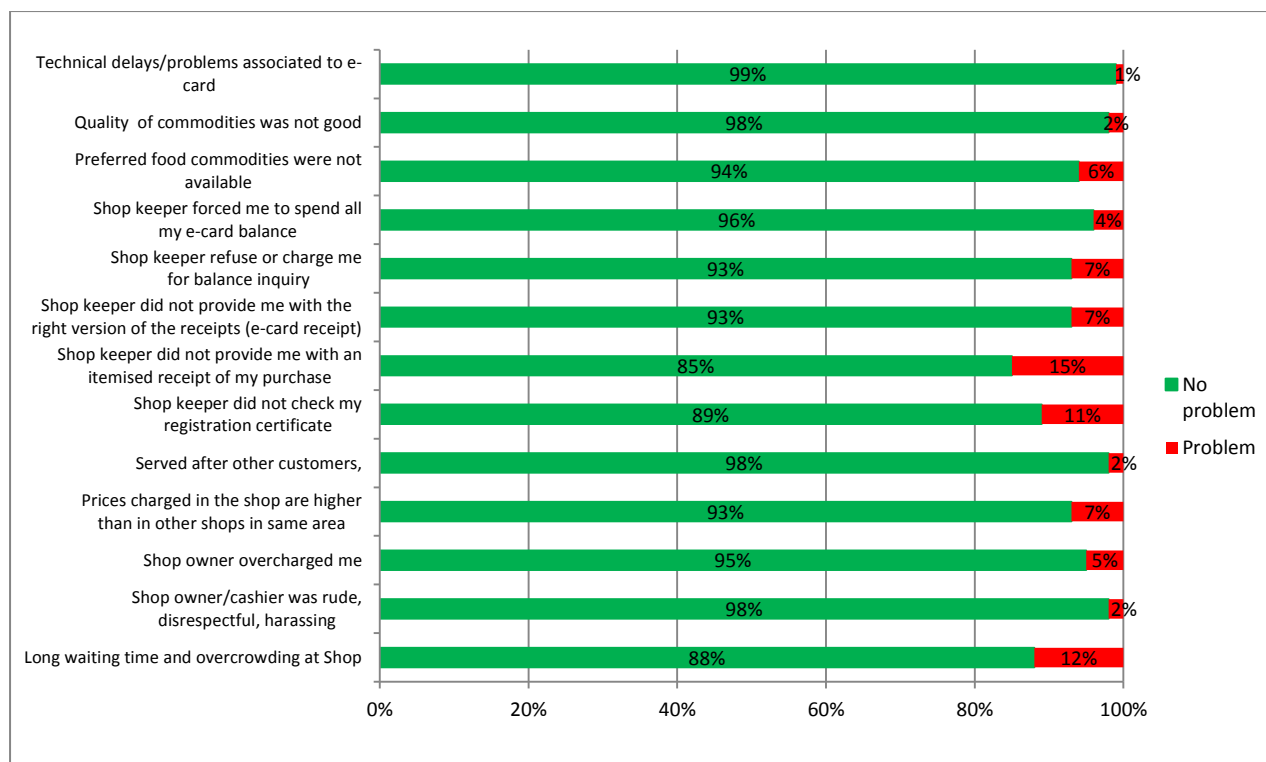
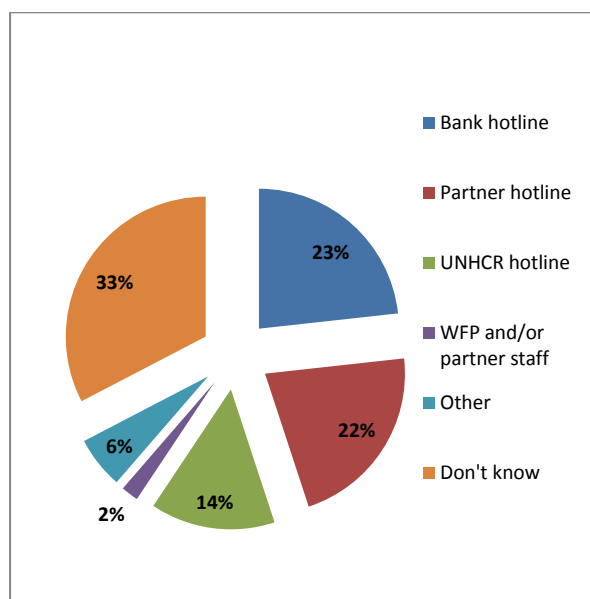


Figure 23. Issues related to the transition to the E-Card as reported by beneficiaries from October to December 2013



**Hotline.** 33% of households still did not know who to contact if they had a problem with the WFP food e-card, with 14% continuing to call the UNHCR hotline. The breakdown is shown in Figure 23.

Figure 24. Hotline use by beneficiaries

## h. Pre-Assistance Baseline Monitoring

In January 2014, WFP conducted pre-assistance baseline interviews with households registered with UNHCR but who have not yet received a WFP E-Card. The aim is to gauge the impact of the food assistance programme on the refugee population in Lebanon. In January 2014, data was collected only in the North Lebanon and in Beirut, Mount Lebanon and South Lebanon.

**Food Consumption levels.** As shown in Figure 25, food consumption levels was much higher after the roll-out of the WFP food e-card than before with a decrease by 14% of households with poor consumption scores and by 17% of households with borderline food consumption scores.

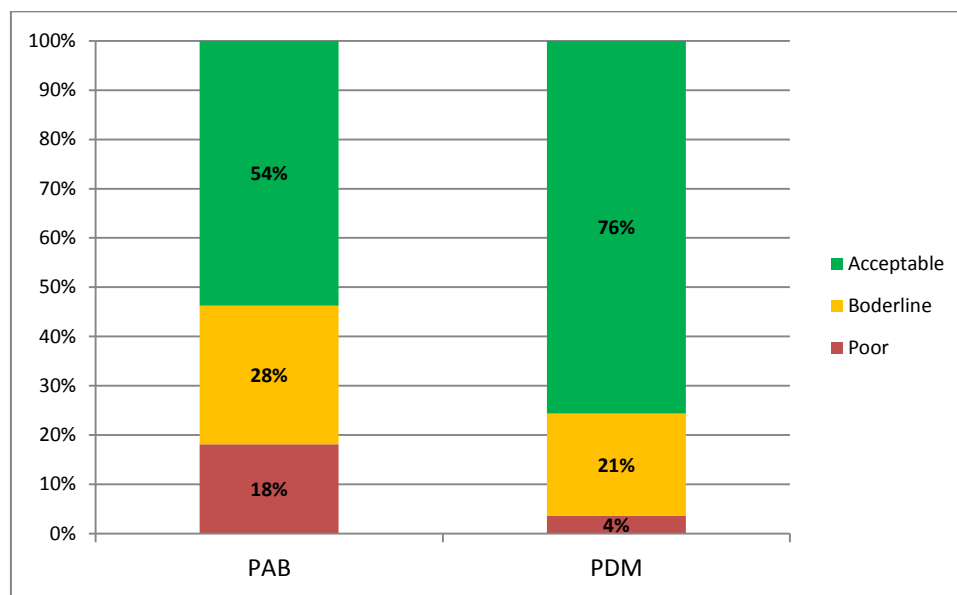


Figure 25. Food Consumption Scores pre and post WFP E-Card assistance in January 2014

**Coping Strategies.** Similarly, the PDM groups showed an improved coping strategy index from the PAB groups as displayed in Figure 26. Indeed, PAB group resorted to more consumption-based coping strategies than PDM groups as shown by Figure 27.



Figure 26. Coping Strategy Index Comparison pre and post WFP E-Card assistance in January 2014



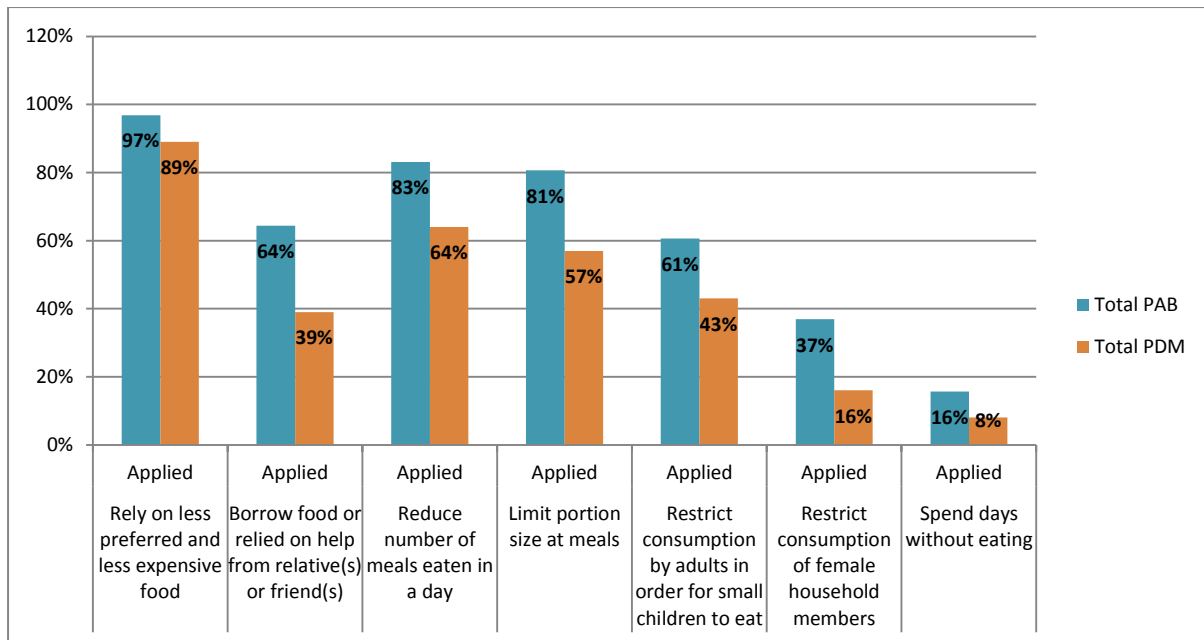


Figure 27. Consumption-based coping strategy pre and post WFP E-Card assistance

Figure 28 shows the difference in asset depletion coping strategy between the PAB and PDM group. Whereas the PAB groups seemed to be spending more savings (25%) and withdrawing children from school (19%) to cope with the lack of food, the PDM groups borrowed money to buy food or bought food on credit on a more regular basis (72%).

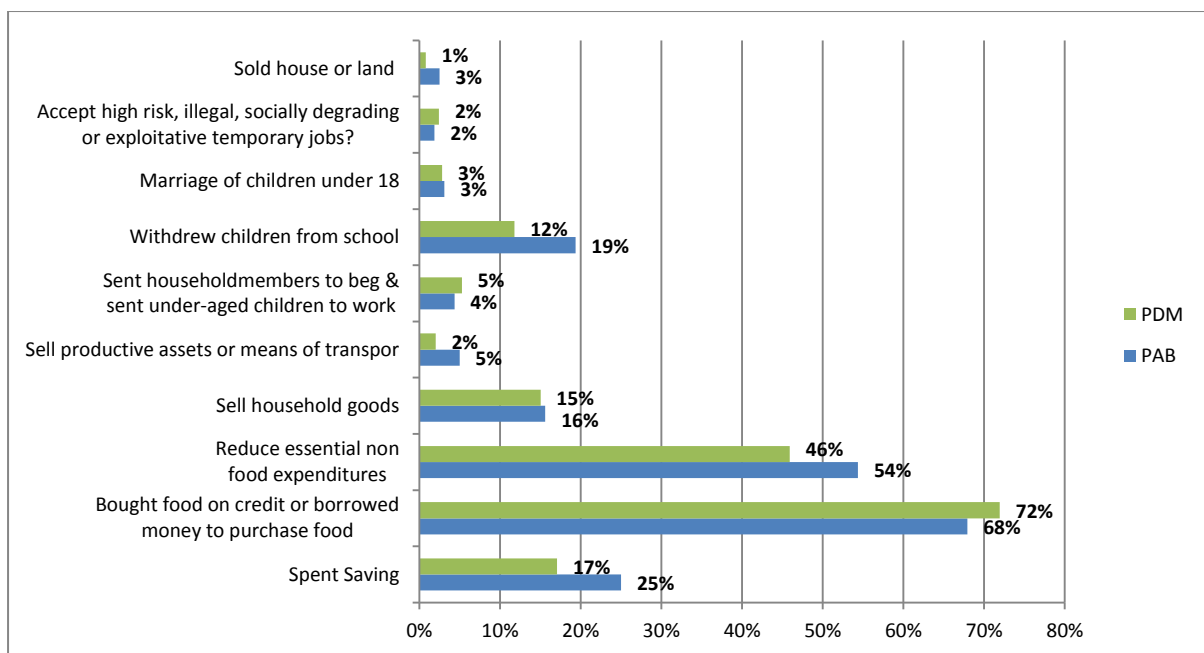


Figure 28. Asset Depletion Coping Strategies pre and post WFP E-Card assistance

**Housing.** Results in January 2014 showed that more PAB members live in apartments while more PDM households live in tents as shown in Figure 29.

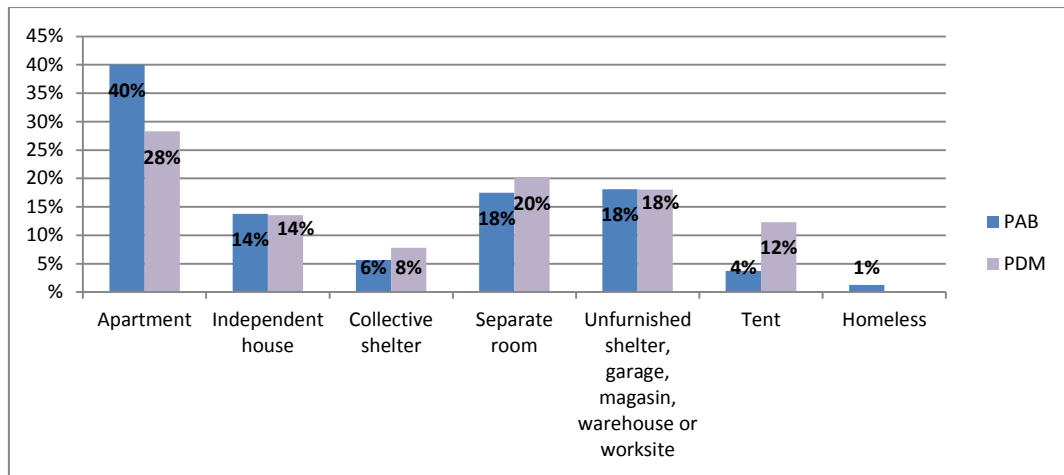


Figure 29. Type of housing pre and post WFP E-Card assistance

**Needs.** Figure 40 shows that both PDM and PAB groups reported “support for rent” as their main need. However while health is one of the main needs for 17% of the PDM group, 26% of respondents in the PAB group reported needing food.

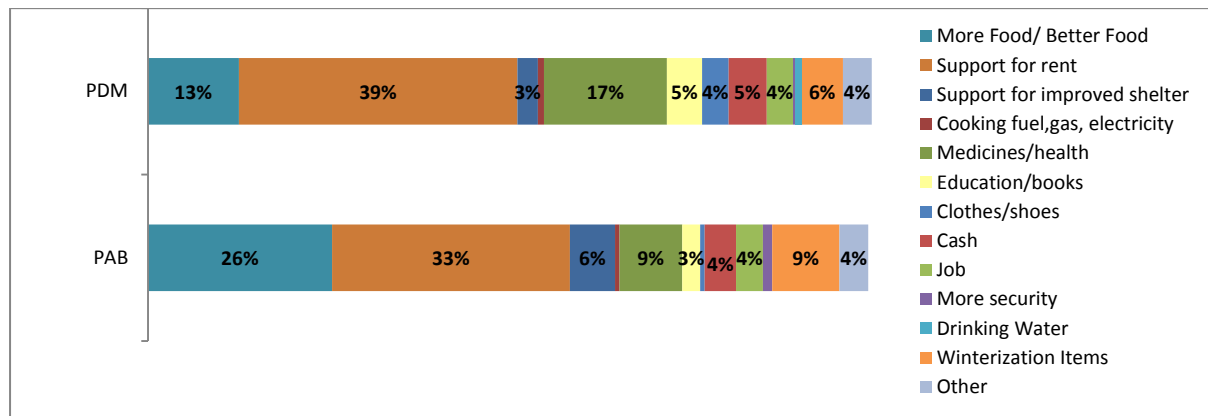


Figure 30. Main needs pre and post WFP E-Card assistance in January 2014

**Source of income.** Overall, the PDM group relied more heavily on labour (casual or waged) than the PAB group. The PAB group relied more on savings and credits/loans as shown in Figure 31.

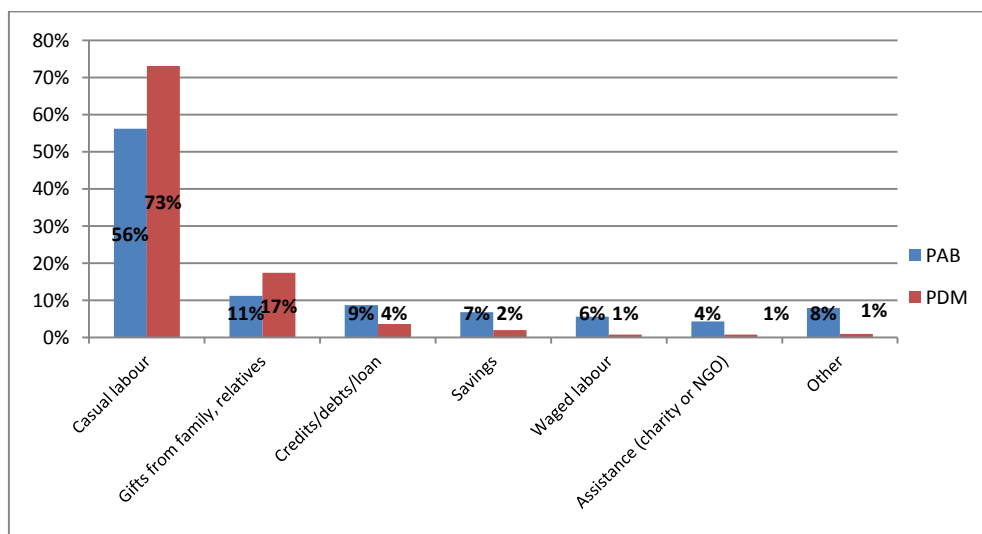


Figure 31. First Main source of income pre and post WFP E-Card assistance

Interesting, Figure 32 shows the main third source of income in January 2014. While 51% of respondents in the PAB group reported that they did not have a third source of cash/income, only 37% reported so in the PDM group. The PDM group reported credits/debts/loan as a main third source of income (37%) highlighting (1) better access to credits, debts and loans compared to the newly arrived PAB group but also (2) deteriorating levels of vulnerability.

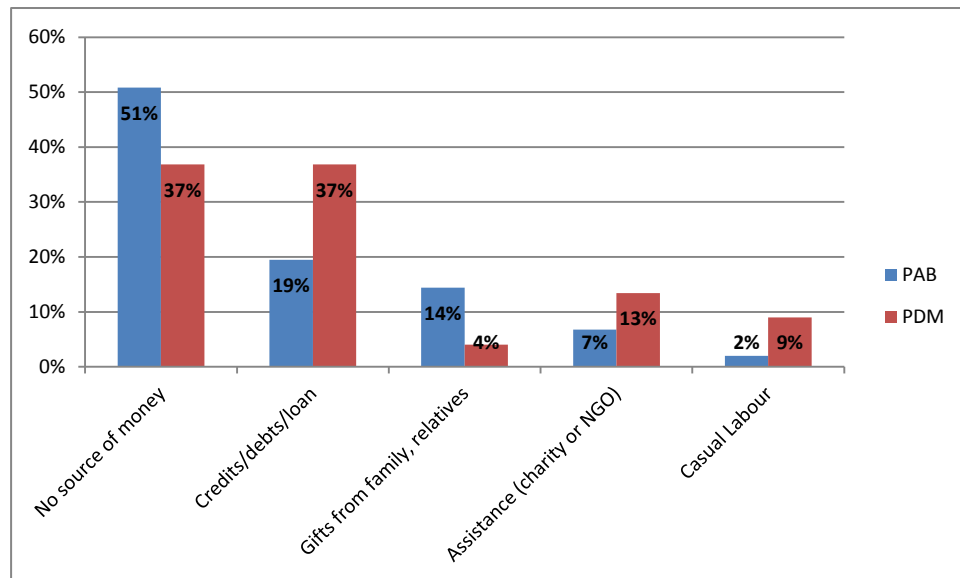


Figure 32. Third main source of income/cash pre and post e-card assistance in January 2014

### III. OVERALL FINDINGS

Results show that food consumption score were worse for those refugee households that arrived in Lebanon less than 6 months before. Additionally, results showed that North Lebanon had the highest number of interviewed households that had been in the country for less than 6 months. This could explain the poor food consumption score results in North Lebanon.

Food consumption seemed to improve with the length of stay in Lebanon. However, further analysis of consumption-based coping strategies showed that households who had been in the country for less than 6 months were applying less coping strategies than the other groups. Hence, although households' food consumption levels improved with length of stay in Lebanon, households are also increasingly resorting to coping strategies.

Food consumption patterns showed that refugees were consuming fruits, meat, fish and pulses in very limited quantities. Although the WFP food e-card allows beneficiaries to redeem the value over several times, most households redeemed their e-cards either once or twice. This could have some implication in the future on the diversity of the refugee's diets which might need to be monitored closely. WFP should also ensure that beneficiaries understand clearly that they can redeem their E-Card in several times.

During the reporting period, fewer households reported being employed with a decrease of about 50% between the summer and the winter time, although this might be due to the availability of seasonal work during the summer time. Results also showed an increase in all regions in the number of households reporting relying on debts as one of their main resources. 31% of respondents did not have three distinct sources of cash/income, with a rate particularly high in the Bekaa Valley. Furthermore, close to 20% reported exchanging their e-card balance against cash, signalling high levels of economic vulnerability. Interestingly, households selling their vouchers are mainly households with already poor and borderline food consumption scores.

Interestingly, households with acceptable food consumption scores seem to rely more on debt as third source of income/cash while those with poor consumption scores have no third source of income/cash. This seems to support the fact that households are increasingly getting indebted in order to cover food needs. This could also correlate with the observation that households which have been in Lebanon for less than 6 months have worse FCS because they do not have access yet/ there are not established enough yet to have access to credit/loans in Lebanon.

Many households reported needing support for rent (42%) or healthcare (15%). This may support households' urgent need for cash, and might eventually force beneficiaries into increasingly negative coping strategies. Close to 72% of households reported buying food on credit or borrowing money to purchase food. Compared with previous quarters, the proportion of households that reported sending children to work or selling assets decreased. The first observation could be linked to the start of the school of year. As for the second issue, 19% of households reported selling households assets to cope with the lack of food. This was the same proportion as the previous reporting period.

Results also showed a correlation between the type of shelter and the food consumption levels. Households with poor and borderline food consumption levels seemed to be concentrated in unfinished shelter and tents. Additionally, households with poor and borderline consumption scores moved or were forced to move more times than people with acceptable food consumption scores, with a rate of eviction particularly high in North Lebanon. Coupled with high rental fees reported by

other external reports (such the UNDP/WB report<sup>2</sup>), the instability of the housing situation is likely to continue affecting the access to food for many WFP beneficiaries.

Results showed that close to 40% households could not cook at least one meal per day because of a limited access to fuel and/or kitchen facilities. This needs to be watched closely as it might affect the diet diversity and food security status of refugees in the future. Already, 70% of households in North Lebanon reported not being able to cook at least once a day and this region of the country also exhibits a lower weekly consumption of vegetables and meat than the other parts of Lebanon.

On average, the WFP food voucher/e-card was reportedly shared by 1.3 people on average. As WFP provided monthly individual vouchers (now individual uploads to a household e-card), this might have implication for WFP food assistance in the future if WFP hopes to continue catering for the minimum food needs of its beneficiaries. Results show that beneficiaries take slightly more time to redeem their full E-Card balance as compared to previous periods. Although levels remain relatively high, beneficiaries exchanged less their E-Card balance against cash. This is an improvement that can be linked to the E-Card modality that allows beneficiaries to redeem their E-Card in several times but makes it also more difficult to sell/exchange against cash as long as WFP controls at the shop levels remain very tight.

In terms of gender indicators, female household members in 20% of households were restricting consumption to allow other members to eat. This should be monitored closely in the next reporting period. One positive aspect is that approximately the same percentage of male (48%) and female (44%) seemed to be in charge of the WFP food e-card, according to the interviewed households.

Comparison between the PAB and the PDM group in January 2014 showed that the PAB group was overall worse-off than the PDM group. Thanks to a significant extent to the WFP food voucher/e-card programme, it appears that not only did food consumption levels improved but also the extent to which households resort to consumption-based coping strategies from PAB to PDM. Interestingly, asset depletion coping strategies seemed to show that newly arrived refugees relied heavily on savings, and those that had been in Lebanon was a longer duration of time applied more permanent and residential coping strategies such as borrowing money to buy food or buying food on credit. Additionally, there was a significant decrease by 10% in the number of people needing food in the PAB group as compared to the PDM group. Results on the main sources of income showed better access to labour for the PDM group than for the PAB group but also an increasing number of households reporting not having third source of income/cash or reliance on loan/credit. This may mean that the PDM group had better access to a third source of income compared to the newly arrived PAB group.

---

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.worldbank.org/content/dam/Worldbank/document/MNA/LBN-ESIA%20of%20Syrian%20Conflict-%20EX%20SUMMARY%20ENGLISH.pdf>

#### IV. CONCLUSION

During the reporting cycle, 645 households were visited for PDM interviews. Household interviews showed that beneficiaries were largely satisfied with the WFP food e-card assistance programme, often naming it as their most reliable source of assistance since arriving from Syria. Although food consumption levels seemed to be improving with length of stay in Lebanon, negative coping strategies seem to be increasing as well. Overall, levels of vulnerability appeared heterogeneous across the refugee population, and the need for food assistance remained a priority for many households. It appeared that increasingly, people had to also satisfy other urgent needs for non-food items such as baby-care products, healthcare products, fuel/gas. This may force beneficiaries into increasingly negative coping strategies and ultimately affect their food consumption levels. These trends will have to be tracked closely in the coming months, particularly in view of the end of winterization assistance and the targeting exercise, to ensure that WFP still adequately meets the needs of the Syrian refugees.

## ANNEX I- CONCEPT NOTE: PRE-ASSISTANCE BASELINE AND POST-DISTRIBUTION MONITORING SAMPLING STRATEGY FOR LEBANON

### JUSTIFICATION

In view of facilitating a more harmonized approach of M&E monitoring activities at the regional level, as well as the implementation of best practices by the Lebanon Country Office and its sub offices, current data collection tools and sampling approaches are being reviewed, with the objective of applying these revised tools and approaches in the context of the upcoming transition of EMOP activities in this country from the food voucher to the e-card modality.

Amongst the recommendations that are being put forward as a result of this review, the following two are worth noting:

- *The application of a baseline questionnaire to refugee households before they become WFP beneficiaries and in parallel, the application of the PDM questionnaire to households that are already benefiting from WFP e-cards.*
- *The review of the sampling approach used by sub-offices to ensure that the PAB and PDM exercises produce statistically valid results, through the application of a two-stage cluster approach and the systematic random selection of households within these clusters*

### SAMPLING AND REPORTING APPROACHES RECOMMENDED PER EXERCISE (PAB and PDM)

- It is recommended that each sub-office carry out these two data collection exercises (PAB and PDM) on the basis of a sample size consisting of 80 households and 10 clusters per month, per exercise (i.e. 160 households in 20 clusters for both)
- The parameters of the sample are as follows: a) design effect of 3, b) 50% prevalence level and c) 80 to 90% confidence level, depending on the level of the aggregation of the data (country versus regional) and the reporting periodicity (monthly versus quarterly).

	SUB-OFFICE/REGIONAL LEVEL		COUNTRY LEVEL	
	Data Collection	Reporting	Data Collection	Reporting
PER MONTH	Baseline: 80 HH in 10 Clusters + PDM: 80 HH in 10 Clusters	80% Confidence levels	Baseline: 240 HH in 30 Clusters + PDM: 240 HH in 30 Clusters	85% Confidence level -
PER QUARTER	Baseline: 240 HH in 30 Clusters + PDM: 240 HH in 30 Clusters	85% Confidence levels	Baseline: 720 HH in 90 Clusters + PDM: 720 HH in 90 Clusters	90% Confidence levels

***Before each monitoring quarter, 60 clusters per region will be selected randomly taking into consideration access and security issues, as per the most updated UNHCR list of registered refugees residing in villages/neighbourhoods and the proportion of refuge populations in each cluster.***

Out of the pre-selected 60 clusters per region, each sub-office will determine which 20 clusters (10 for PABs and 10 for PDMs) will be visited per month depending on logistical considerations and other potential parallel monitoring activities.

***8 households should be interviewed per cluster per month (in total 160 households in 20 clusters) and these households should be interviewed two weeks prior to plan distributions.***

***These 16 households should be randomly selected using as a basis:***

- 1) A numbered list of refugees per cluster (beneficiary list for PDMs and list of refugees awaiting registration for the PAB);*
- 2) A list of random numbers produced by a software available in the SMART site (Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions), which will be used to select the households within the above mentioned lists;*
- 3) Telephone calls will be made to the selected households the day before the visit to ensure that these households are adequately warned and specific addresses are obtained;*
- 4) The Identification of randomly selected replacement households in case some of the initially selected households are unavailable.*



For further information please contact:

Julia Hug, WFP Lebanon:  
[julia.hug@wfp.org](mailto:julia.hug@wfp.org)

[www.wfp.org](http://www.wfp.org)

For further information please contact:

Julia Hug, WFP Lebanon:

[www.wfp.org](http://www.wfp.org)