

# SYRIAN REFUGEE RESPONSE: Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon

August 8, 2014



#FutureOfSyria

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SURVEY

*Agencies and the Government of Lebanon had been requesting US\$1.89 billion in the inter-agency funding appeal. The mid-year review in June resulted in a downward revision of these requirements to US\$ 1.68 billion. US\$ 443 million - 29 per cent - has been received as of 8 July.*

Through interviews with 1,750 Syrian refugee households (HH) under the Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees conducted in 2014, it was determined that:

- 16% were female headed households (HH);
- 82% HH reported paying rent for shelter;
- 33% have no access to drinking water;
- 66% HH had restricted movement because of insecurity with the main cause being their neighbors;
- 34% HH have at least one pregnant or lactating woman;
- 2 to 3 children per HH are in school age (3-17 years old);
- 74% HH were somewhat food insecure; and,
- 50% HH have debt that exceeds US\$ 400.

*A concept note, including the methodology and a multi-sectorial questionnaire, was agreed upon and drafted by the UN in collaboration with the Government of Lebanon.*

*The Last multi-sectorial survey representative at national level took place in 2013.*

### What is VASyR?

VASyR is the Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon aimed at gaining knowledge of their living conditions and informing decision-making on programmatic activities. It is a joint UNHCR, UNICEF and WFP multi-sectorial household survey conducted with the registered and awaiting-registration Syrian refugee population in Lebanon.

VASyR is designed to give accurate, multi-sectorial vulnerability criteria of the refugee population for the implementation of humanitarian assistance and to enable humanitarian stakeholders to improve their programming and target assistance for the most vulnerable.

### VASyR 2014

The 2014 survey provided an evaluation of the vulnerability situation of Syrian refugees - one year after the original 2013 VASyR in Lebanon, and the Syria crisis now into its fourth year.

### Methodology

1,750 Syrian refugee households were interviewed in May 2014 and were selected on the basis of:

- Registration status with UNHCR;
- Representation of Syrian refugees residing in different areas in Lebanon;
- Cluster of random selection proportional to population size

According to sector specific criteria agreed by sectors covered by the humanitarian response, households were classified under the following categories of vulnerability: severe, high, medium and low.

UN and Partner agencies organized 35 clusters of 10 households each in five regions in Lebanon: Bekaa, South, Beirut and Mount Lebanon (BML), Tripoli and Akkar.

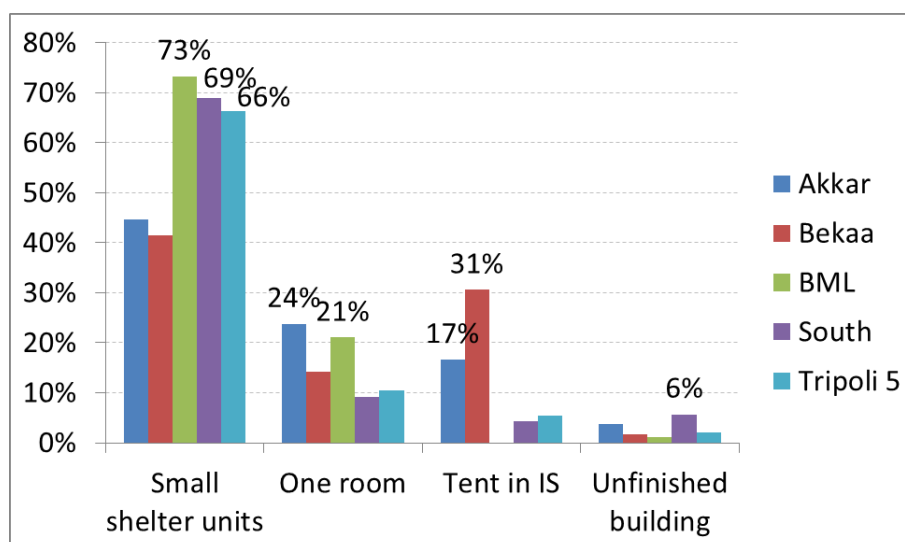
**Results****Household (HH) composition**

The average household size is 6.6 family members compared to 7.7 in 2013. About 40 per cent of households had seven or more members.

- 44 per cent households had children <2
- 65 per cent HH had children <5
- 20 per cent HH have an elder in the HH
- 2 per cent HH reported taking care of an un-related child <18
- 16 per cent were female headed households
- 12 per cent were single headed households with dependents

**Shelter**

A majority of households reported living in apartments and independent houses (59 per cent), while over 40 per cent per cent reported living in tents, collective shelters, unfinished constructions, garages, squatting, and separate rooms. Households in tented settlements amounted to over 14 per cent.

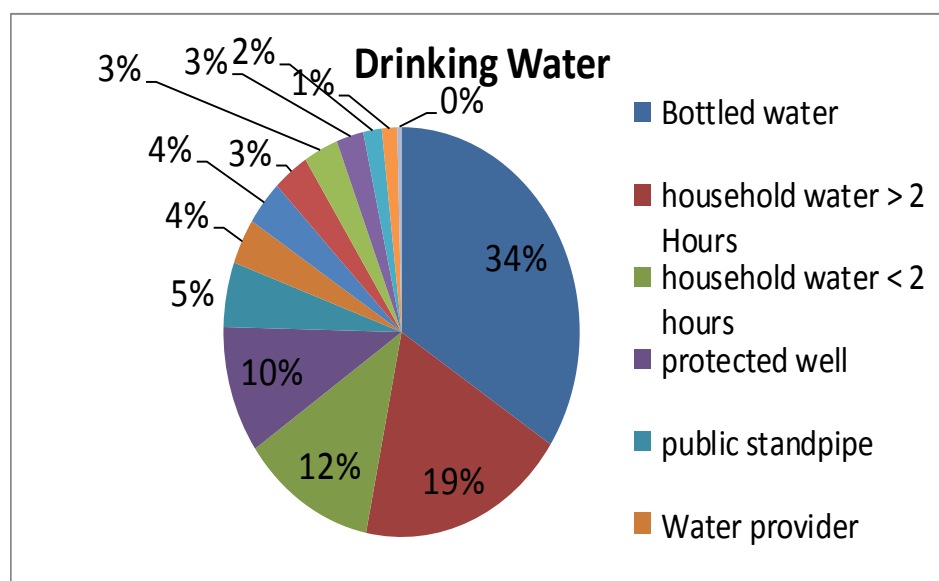


Most households (82 per cent) reported paying rent for shelter including for pieces of land where tents are erected. The average paid rent was US\$250 per month.

Some five per cent of interviewed households were staying with relatives or host communities. The remaining households either benefited from assistance or had an employer that provided shelter, or squatting (14 per cent).

### WASH, Assets and Security

The survey revealed that 33 per cent of interviewed households did not have drinking water compared to 28 per cent in 2013.

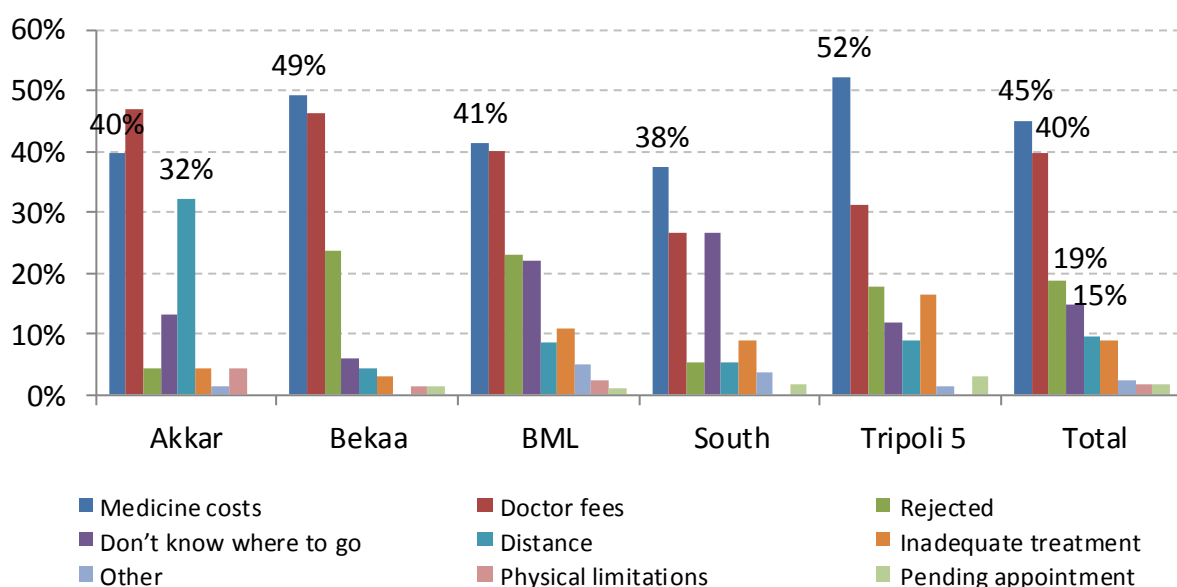


Approximately 12 per cent of households (twice the percentage of HH in 2013) did not have access to bathrooms (i.e., a place for washing/bathing) at all, and out of those who had access, over 7 per cent households were sharing bathrooms and latrines with 15 persons or more.

In 2013, the percentage of HH owning different household assets including mattresses, beds, cooking utensils and stoves was lower in general than in 2014.

The number of assets owned by Syrian refugees interviewed has increased mainly when it comes to beds, winter clothes, refrigerators, stoves, kitchen utensils and water heaters.

## Health



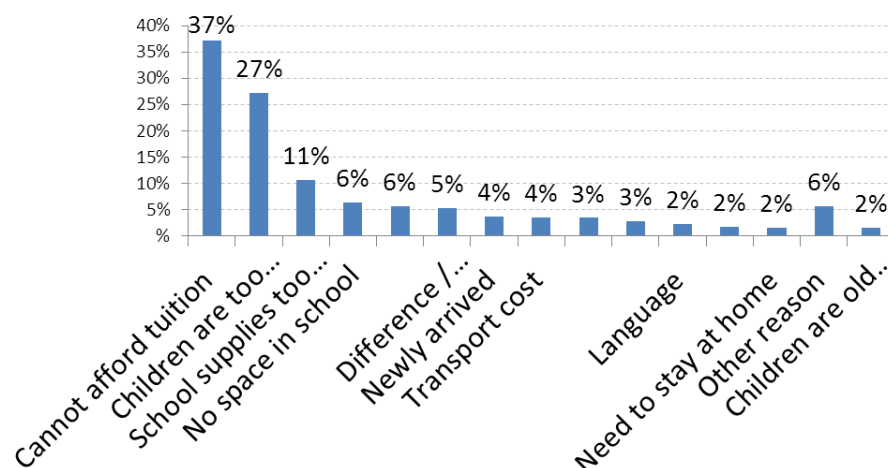
The most common type of health care assistance provided by humanitarian actors was sharing costs with patient. Around 16 per cent of households benefited from free primary health care provided by humanitarian actors.

Nearly one third of households that required health assistance could not access it mainly because of health expenditures they cannot afford.

## Education

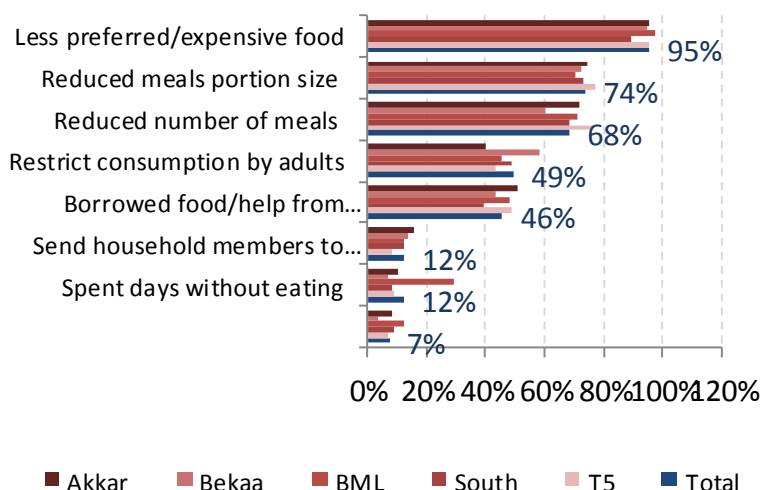
1,567 (34 per cent) of children are attending school. But a large number of school age children remain outside school. The main reason why children did not attend school was lack of financial resources. The second reason for non-enrollment was that schools have reached their maximum capacity.

In some areas, there were simply no schools available, or a lack of transportation preventing children from attending classes.

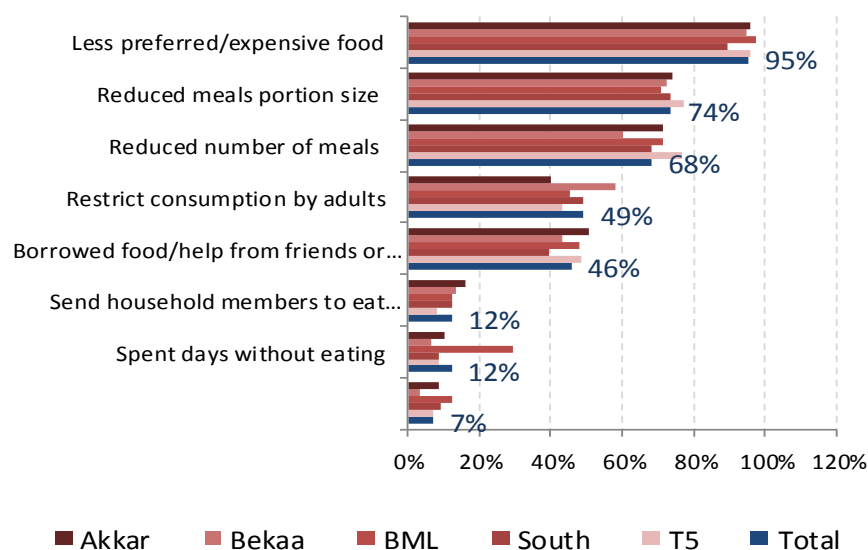


### Food Security, Livelihoods and Coping Strategies

Nearly 74 per cent of households faced some degree of food insecurity, with the majority falling under the mild food insecurity classification. Almost 13 per cent of households were classified as moderately or severely food insecure. This is an important decrease compared to the VASyR results in 2013.



Coping strategies are the indicator that reflected the deteriorating situation for Syrian refugees compared with 2013. It was also the main determining factor for food insecurity. Nearly 68 per cent of the interviewed households reported having reduced the number of meals (and/or money to buy food).



The main livelihood source for members of households interviewed included:

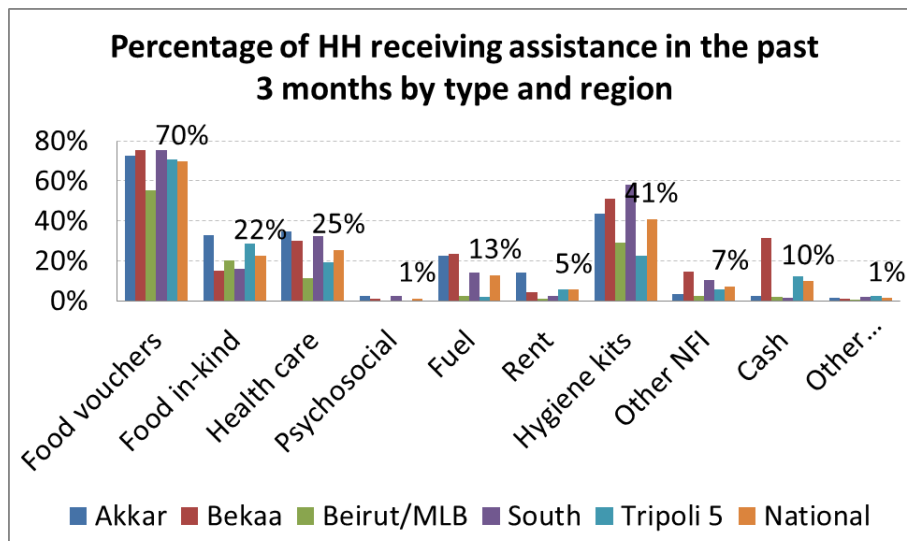
- Food vouchers: 41 per cent
- Nonagricultural casual labor: 29 per cent
- Skilled work: 13 per cent

77 per cent HH relied on other livelihood sources such as nonagricultural casual labor and debts or loans. Approximately 80 per cent of households borrowed money or received credit.

The main reasons reported for borrowing money or obtaining credit were to buy food (73 per cent), to pay rent (50 per cent) and thirdly, to cover health expenses (31 per cent). Friends or relatives in Lebanon were the main lenders of money.

### Assistance

Nearly 70 per cent registered households reported that they receive food vouchers on a regular basis. 41 per cent received hygiene kits and some 25 per cent of households benefited from regular health care.



## DONORS

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## AGENCIES THAT HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THIS REPORT



This report is produced by the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) on behalf of humanitarian agencies working on the Syrian refugee response in Lebanon. The report is based on information provided by UNHCR and partner agencies. For more information, please contact Dana Sleiman at [sleiman@unhcr.org](mailto:sleiman@unhcr.org) or Mona Monzer at [monzer@unhcr.org](mailto:monzer@unhcr.org).