



ASHRAF WAS BORN ON 15 MARCH 2011 – THE FIRST DAY OF THE CONFLICT IN SYRIA

(PHOTO CREDIT: UNHCR/A.MC CONELL)

SYRIAN REFUGEES IN LEBANON

REFERRAL AT A GLANCE

FINAL REPORT – JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2014

*This updated version of the report includes 2014 finalized financial data.

OVERVIEW

UNHCR's public health approach is based on primary health care (PHC) strategy¹. Secondary and tertiary health care institutions in Lebanon are mostly private and cost is a significant barrier to access. Not all adhere strictly to the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) flat rate of hospital care. To harmonize access to secondary healthcare and manage costs, UNHCR has put in place referral guidelines in Lebanon. The costs covered by UNHCR vary by estimated cost of care, vulnerability status, and type of care (e.g. emergency life-saving, obstetric, medical and surgical).

At the end of 2014, 1,119,079 Syrian refugees were registered with UNHCR in Lebanon. Since October 2014, 15,200 refugees from Iraq, Sudan and Somalia were also covered under the UNHCR referral health care programme.

- The number of referrals both accepted and declined, based on the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP), was stable over time.
- The majority of accepted referrals are covered in the 20 receiving hospitals.
- Most of the referrals, 56%, were for obstetric care, of which 36% of obstetric referrals resulted in a C-section.
- Almost half of reported in-hospital deaths were among infants under 1 years mainly due to neonatal and congenital disease.
- UNHCR paid 76% of the 35.9 million USD spent on referral care in 2014.
- 38% of total expenditure was spent on obstetric care
- 1.5% of expenditure was for cases costing more than 1,500 USD
- Annual cost of referral care per capita was 33.4 USD.

Data

UNHCR, through its Third Party Administrator, collected data on requests for hospital referral coverage. The data for accepted referrals included the type of admission, type of service received, diagnosis on admission and discharge as well as cost of the service.

This is a preliminary report. The final report, including the costs of referral care, is expected in August 2015 once all financial medical claims for 2014 have been finalized.

¹ In Lebanon, the government provides services through the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) and the Ministry of Social Affairs with nationals paying part of the cost. In addition, PHC services are provided by private practitioners, local and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other charities.

IN NUMBERS

55,705 of the
62,375 referral requests, made to UNHCR in 2014, were financially supported.

A monthly average of
5,197 referrals were covered by UNHCR, compared to 535 declined.

74% of accepted referrals were covered in 20 hospitals.

56% of accepted referrals were obstetric cases.

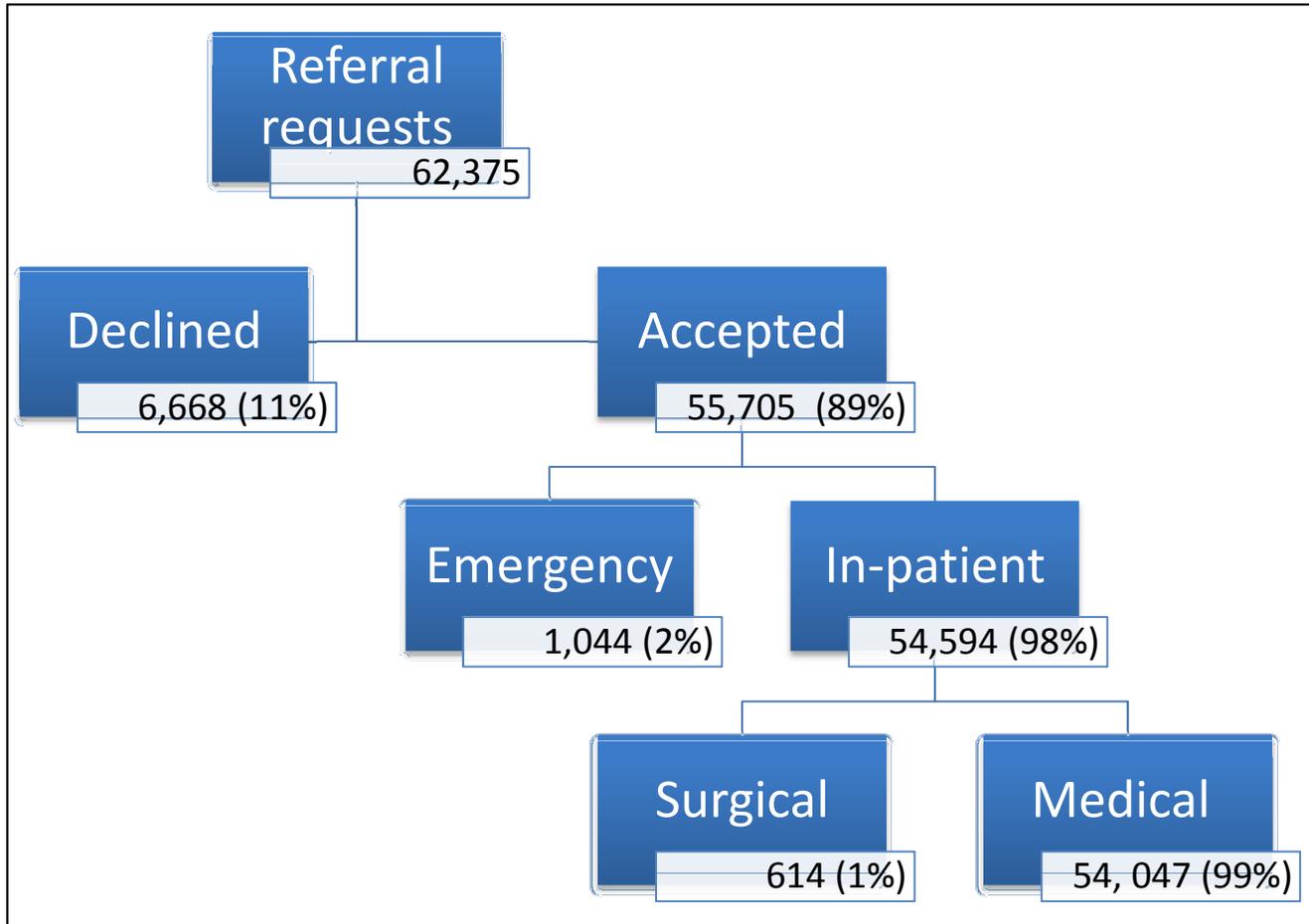
35.9 Million USD total expenditure on referral care in 2014.

76% of total expenditure was paid for by UNHCR.

SECTION 1: VOLUME OF REQUESTED REFERRALS (JAN-DEC 2014)

Part 1.1: overall number of referrals

FIGURE 1: NUMBER OF REFERRALS BY ADMISSION CATEGORY



Key findings

89%

Proportion of all referral requests made to UNHCR in 2014 that were accepted for coverage

5,197

Average number of referral requests made to UNHCR per month

4,642

Average number of referrals accepted for coverage per month

Part 1.2: Referral request status

FIGURE 2: NUMBER OF REFERRALS ACCEPTED AND DECLINED

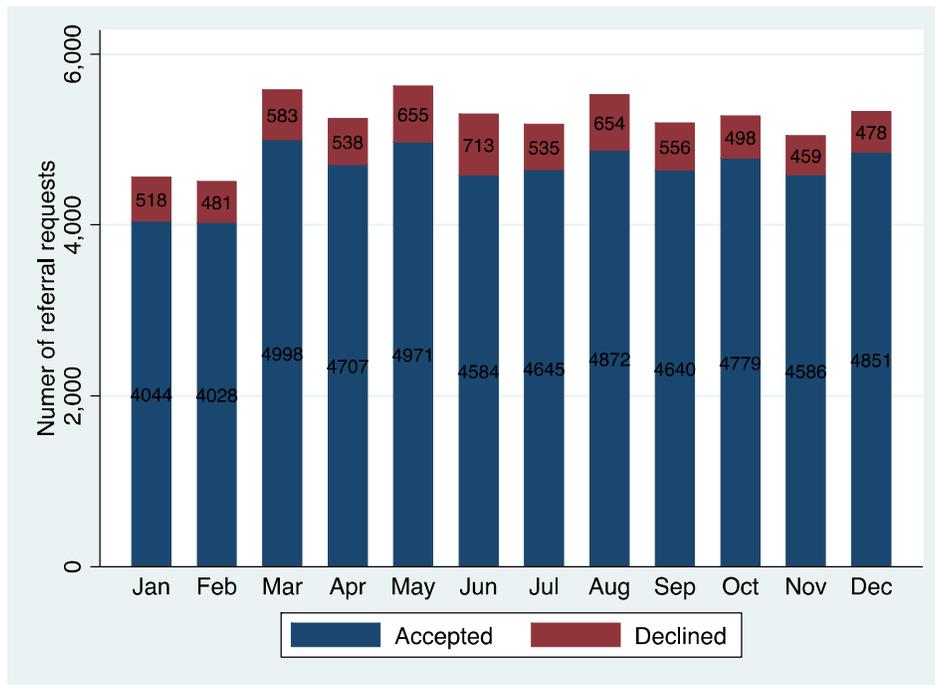
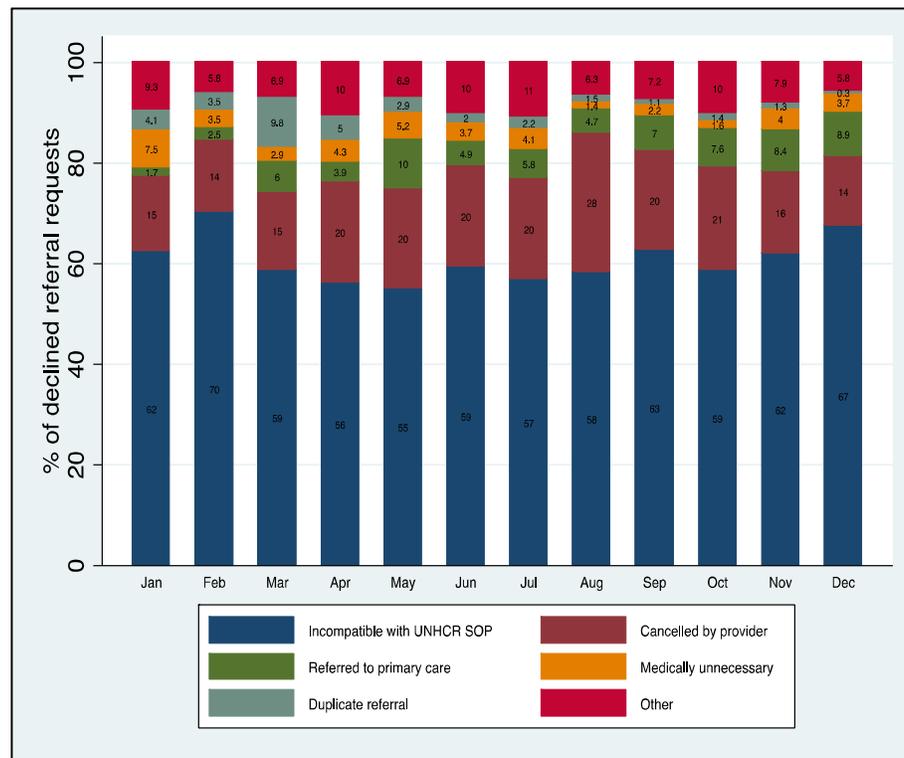


FIGURE 3: REASONS FOR DECLINING A REFERRAL REQUEST



Key findings

6,668 (11%)

Number of referral requests declined in 2014

556

Average number of referrals declined per month

44%

Proportion of referral requests declined because the medical condition was not an immediate life-saving case

6%

Referred back to primary health care

SECTION 2: CHARACTERISTICS OF COVERED REFERRALS (JAN-DEC 2014)

FIGURE 4: NUMBER OF REFERRALS AND POPULATION SIZE, BY MONTH

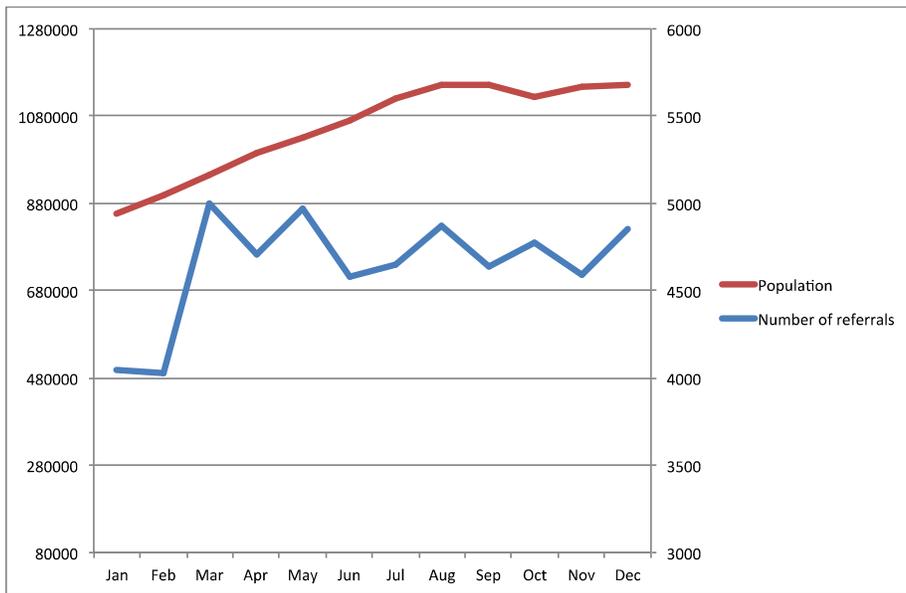
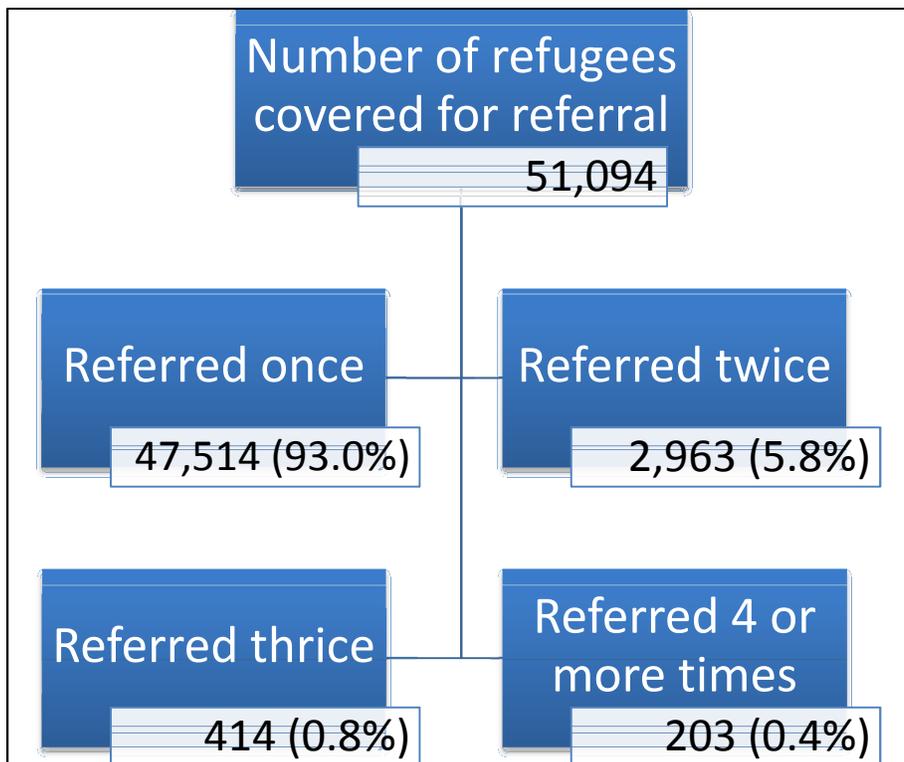


FIGURE 5: NUMBER OF REFUGEES REFERRED AND FREQUENCY OF REFERRAL (JAN-DEC 2014)



Key findings

55,705

Number of refugees whose hospital care was accepted for coverage in line with the SOP

93%

Proportion of covered refugees referred once for hospital care

7%

Proportion of covered refugees hospitalized more than once during the year

*Non-Syrian refugees were included in the referral programme from October 2014

FIGURE 6: REFERRALS BY HOSPITAL AND BY REGION WHERE REFUGEE WAS REGISTERED TO LIVE

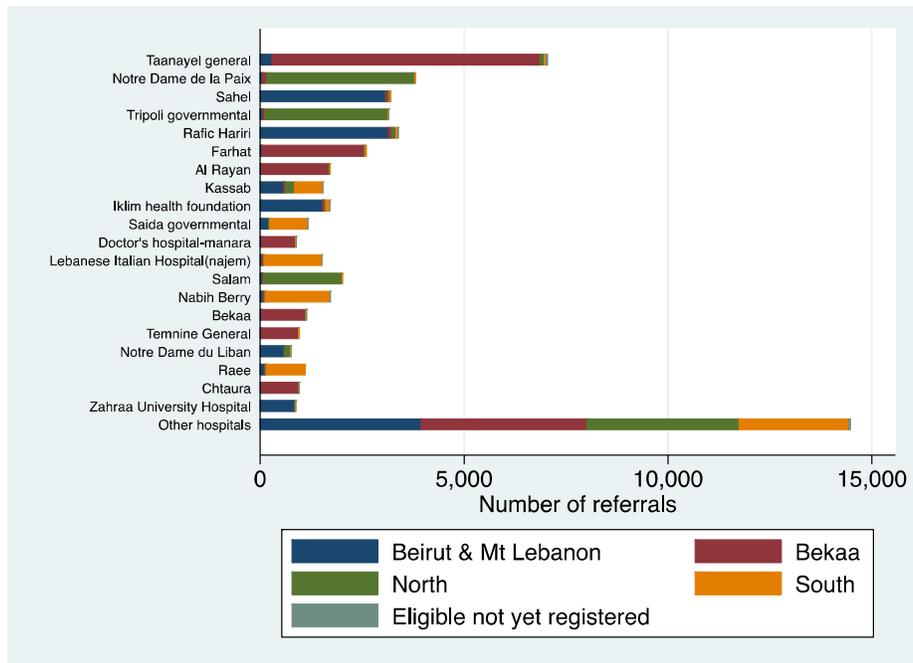
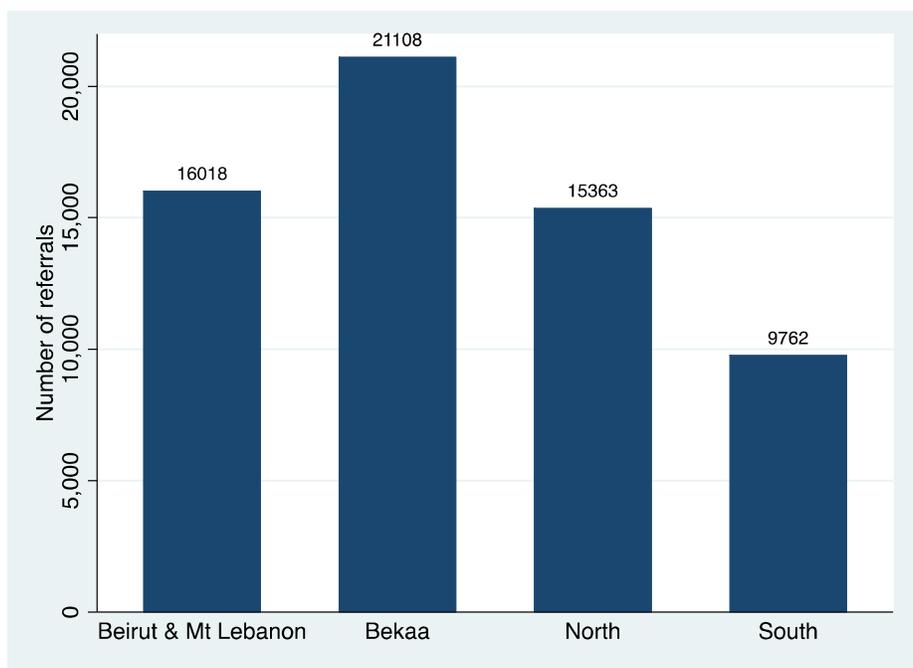


FIGURE 7: REFERRALS BY REGION



Key findings

74%
Proportion of referrals covered in 20 hospitals (most were hospitalized within the region they were registered to live)

75%
Proportion of referrals were among female patients (reflecting the high proportion of obstetric care referrals)

23%
Proportion of referrals covering children <5 years of age

25
Mean age in years at admission for females

18
Mean age in years at admission for males

Part 2.2: Reasons for referrals

FIGURE 8: DIAGNOSIS CATEGORY ON DISCHARGE, AS A PROPORTION OF ALL REFERRALS

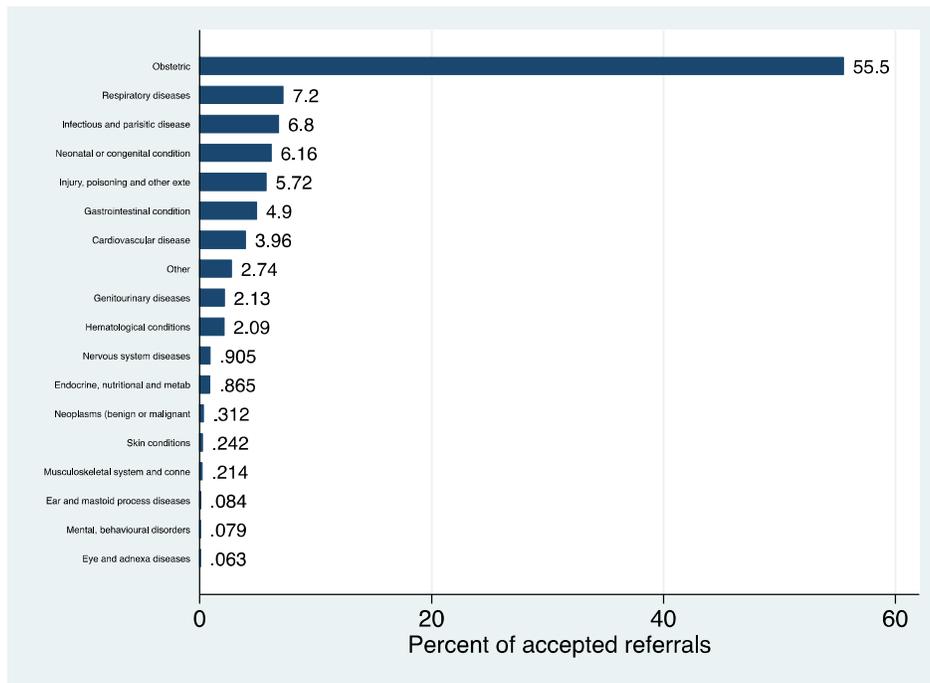
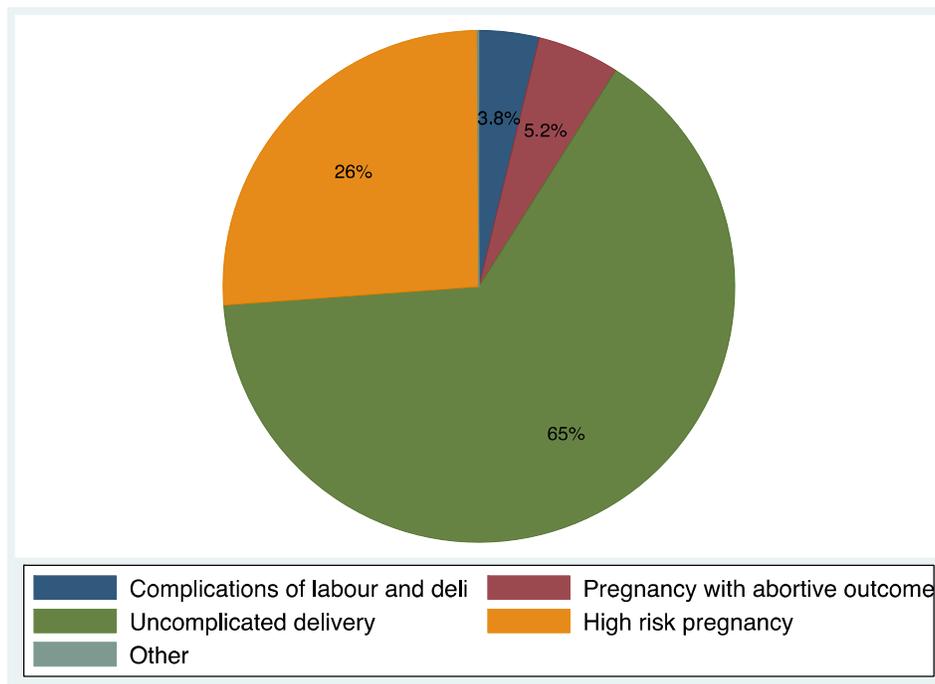


FIGURE 9: OBSTETRIC REFERRALS



Key findings

30,934 (56%)

Proportion of accepted referrals requiring obstetric services

26%

Proportion of obstetric cases referred as a high-risk pregnancy*

36%

Proportion of obstetric cases resulting in caesarean-section

*A high risk pregnancy was defined as any obstetric referral with a diagnosis sub-category of having either: maternal care related to fetus and amniotic cavity and possible delivery problems; oedema, proteinuria and hypertensive disorders in pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium; or other maternal disorders predominantly related to pregnancy

SECTION 3: IN-HOSPITAL MORTALITY FOR COVERED REFERRALS* (JAN-DECEMBER, 2014)

FIGURE 10: NUMBER OF DEATHS BY REGION AND GENDER

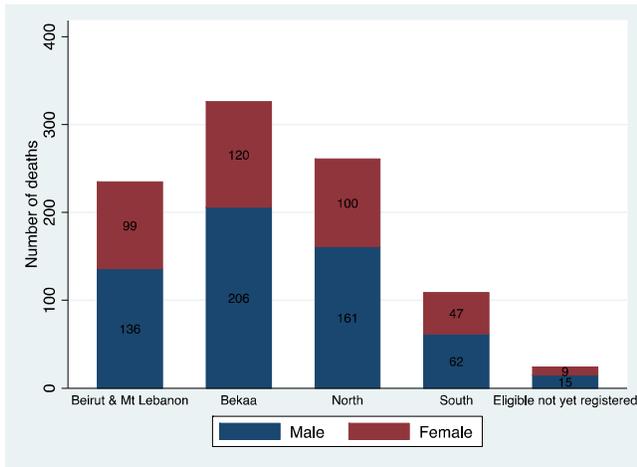


FIGURE 11: NUMBER OF DEATHS BY REGION AND AGE GROUP

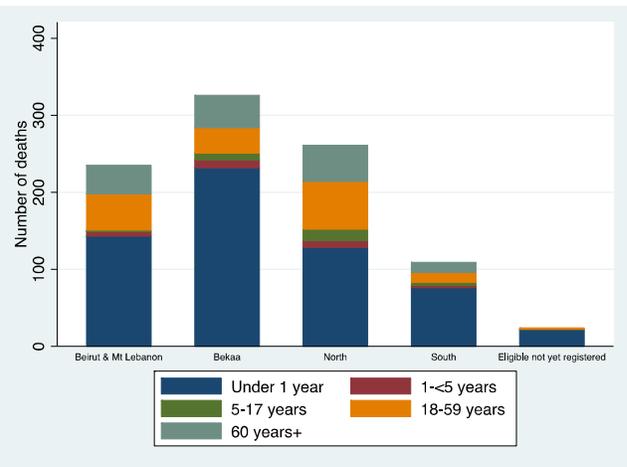


FIGURE 12: NUMBER OF DEATHS BY DIAGNOSIS

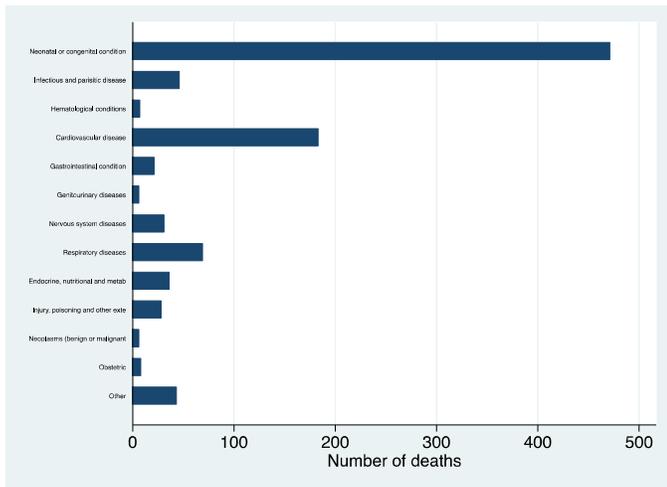
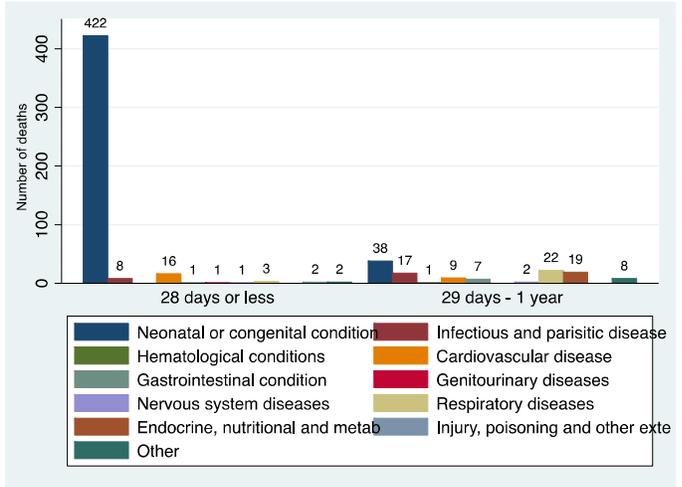


FIGURE 13: INFANT MORTALITY BY DIAGNOSIS & AGE AT DEATH



Key Findings

1.7%

Proportion of 54,661 refugees admitted to hospital who died before discharge

4

Maternal deaths among women admitted for obstetric service

8%

Proportion of the 7,657 children under 1 admitted to hospital who died before discharge

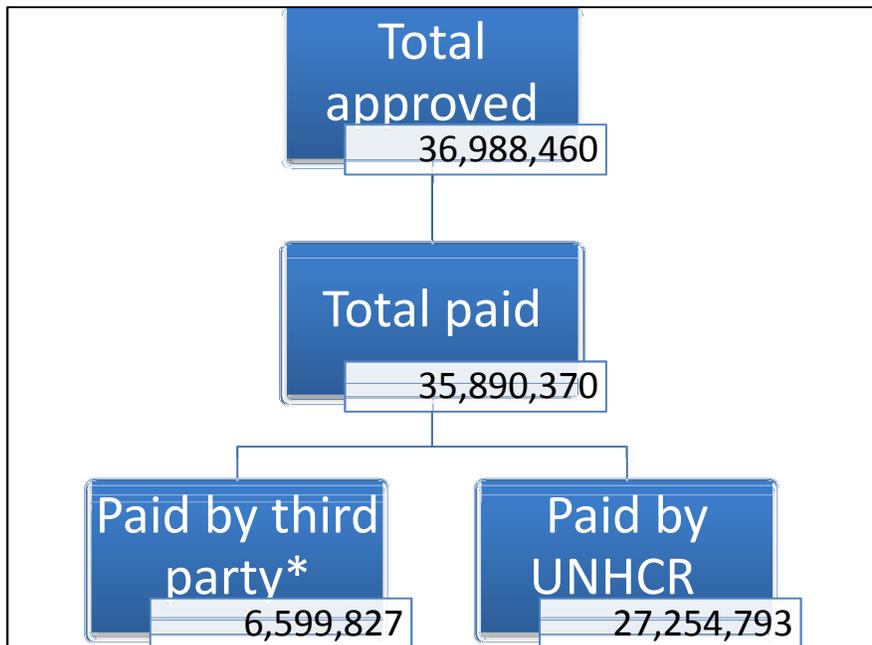
47%

Proportion of all deaths due to a neonatal and congenital disorder

PART 4: 2014 ANNUAL EXPENDITURE

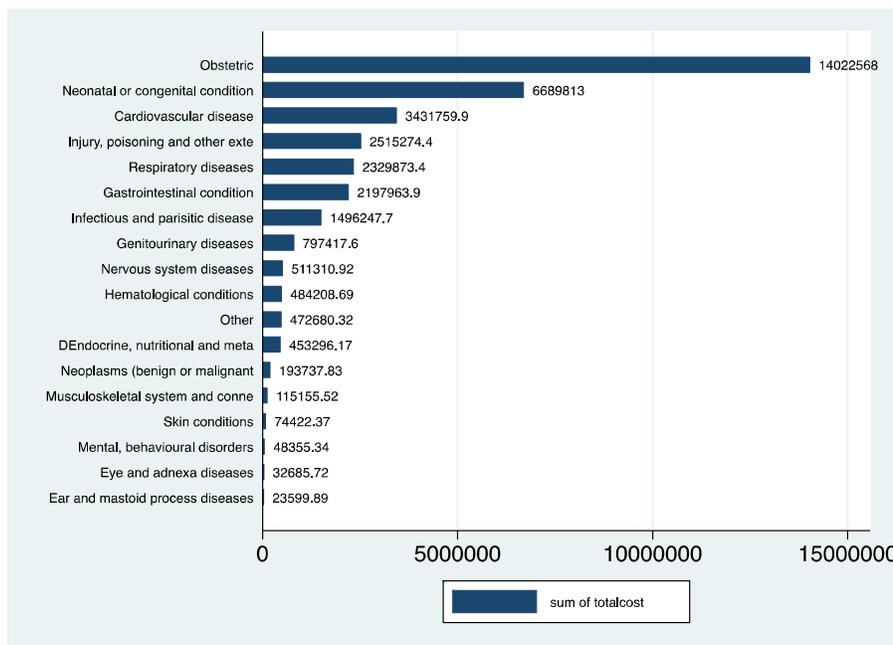
Part 4.1: Total annual expenditure

FIGURE 14: TOTAL EXPENDITURE IN USD



*Third party costs include patient costs

FIGURE 15: COSTS SNAPSHOT FOR KEY DIAGNOSIS CATEGORIES BY SERVICE PROVIDED



Key findings

35.9 million USD

Total annual expenditure in 2014

76%

Proportion of total expenditure paid by UNHCR

39%

Proportion of total expenditure spent on obstetric care

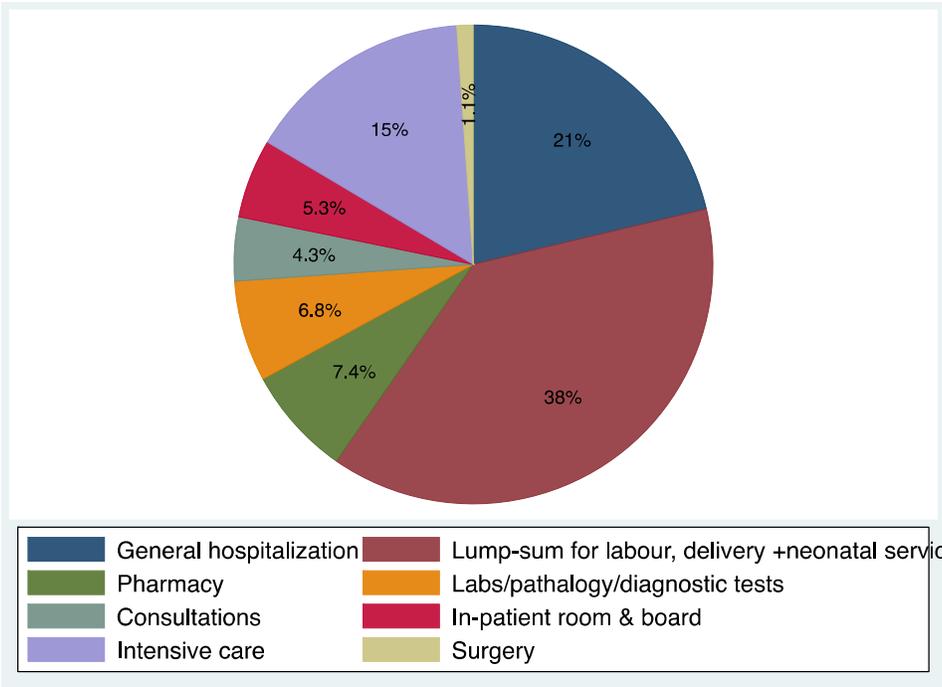
19%

Proportion of total expenditure spent on neonatal conditions

644.3 USD

Average cost per case

FIGURE 16: PROPORTIONAL IN-PATIENT COSTS BY SERVICE



Key findings

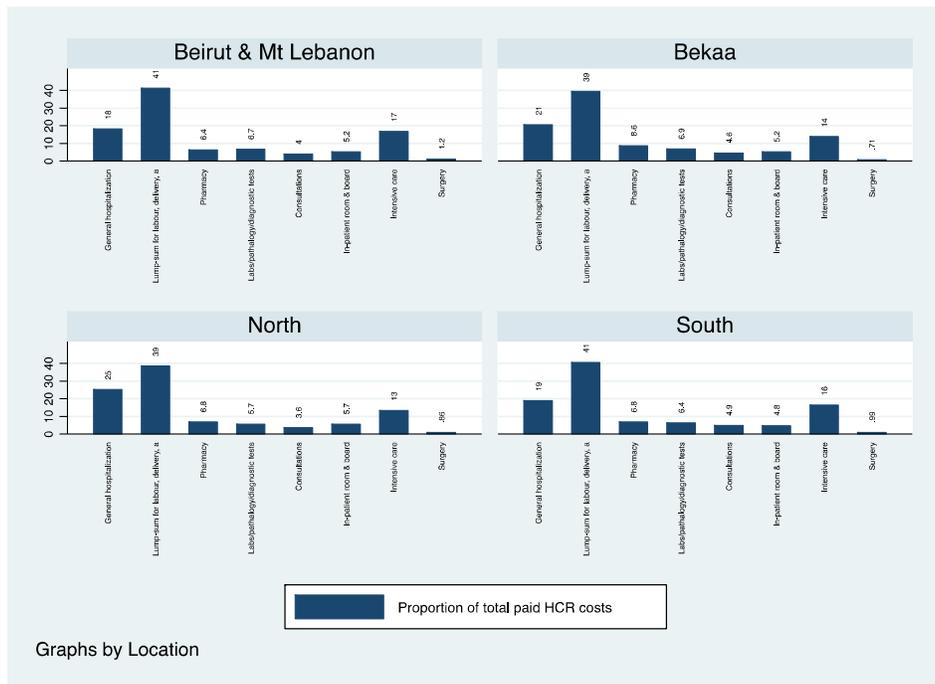
38%

Proportion of total inpatient care expenditure spent on labour and delivery services

41% to 39%

Range across the regions in the proportion of total inpatient expenditure spent on obstetric services

FIGURE 17: IN PATIENT CARE COST BY SERVICE AND REGION



PART 4.3: COSTS BY HOSPITAL

FIGURE 18: TOTAL EXPENDITURE IN THE TOP 20 HOSPITALS

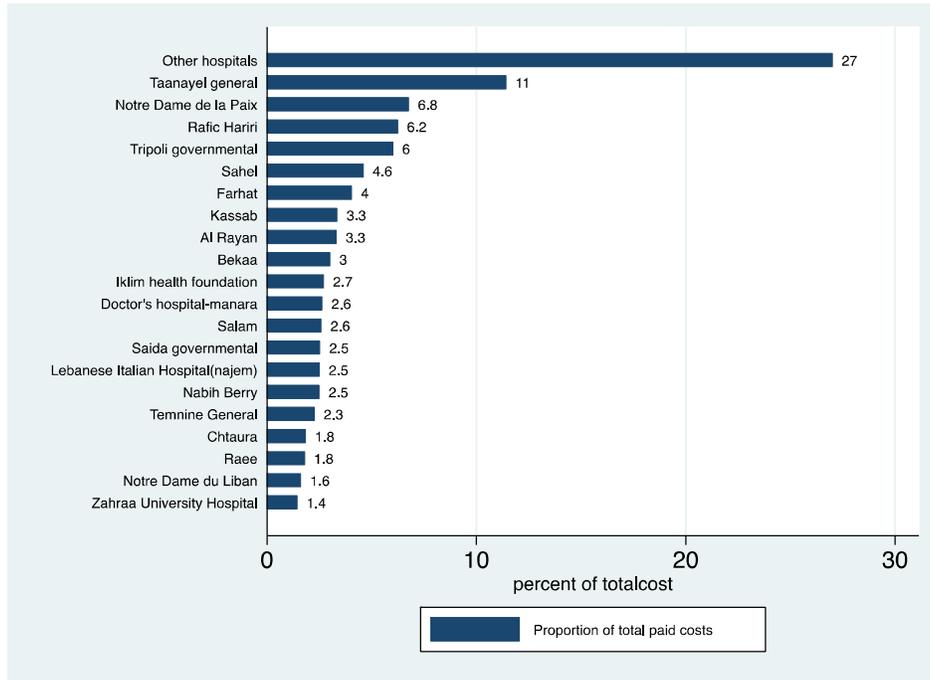
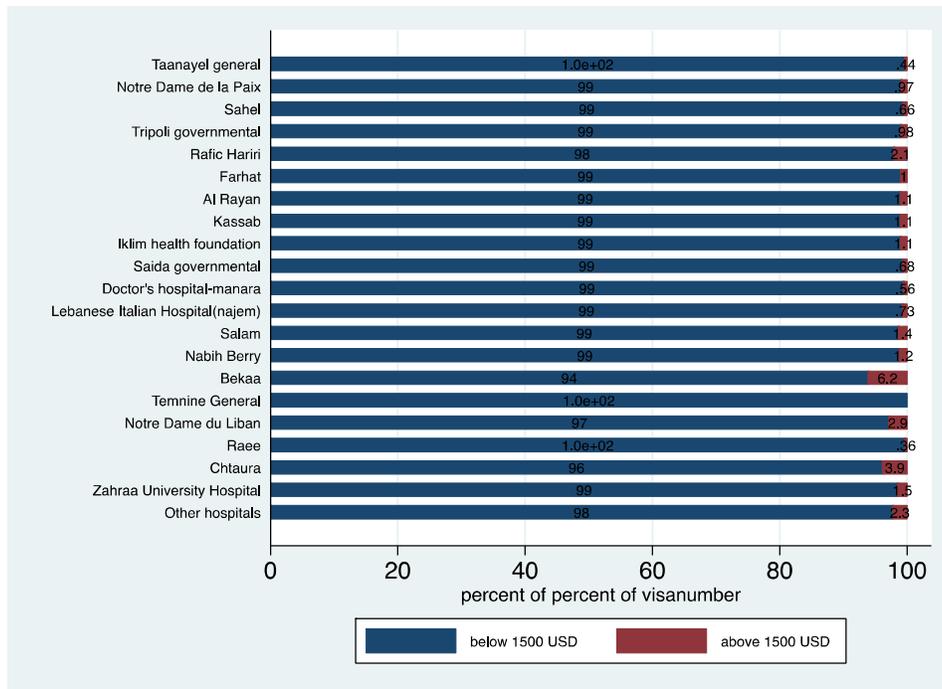


FIGURE 19: PROPORTION OF REFERRALS COSTING > 1500 USD FOR THE TOP 20 HOSPITALS



Key findings

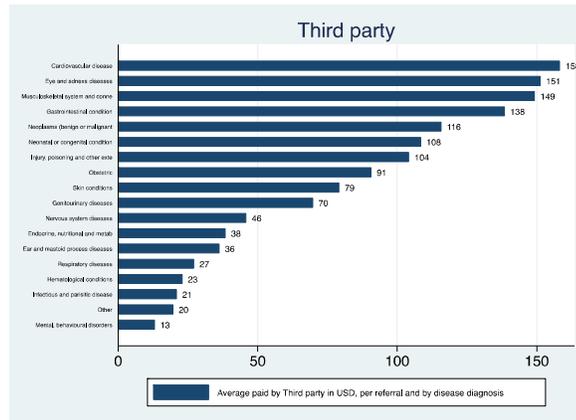
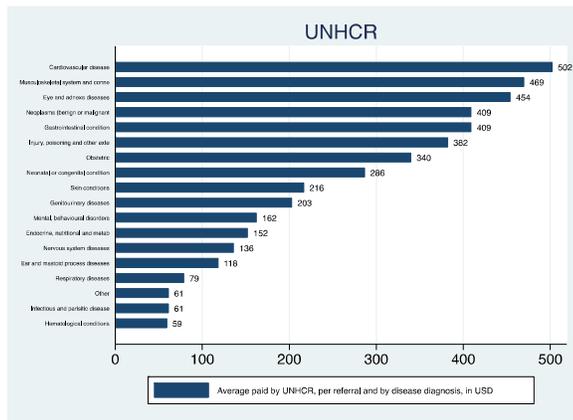
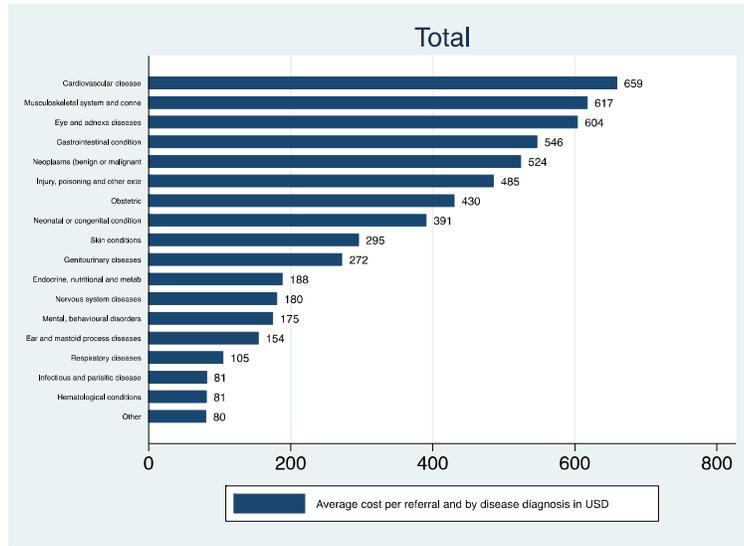
11%

Proportion of total expenditure (and number of referrals) per hospital was highest at Taanayel hospital

1.5%

Proportion of referrals costing >1,500 USD

FIGURE 20: AVERAGE COST PER REFERRAL, BY DISEASE DIAGNOSIS



PART 4.3: PER CAPITA EXPENDITURE (TO BE REDONE WITH FINAL DATA)

Key

659 USD

Findings

Highest average expenditure is per cardiovascular disease referral (502 paid by UNHCR and 158 by patient and/or any other third party)

430 USD

Average expenditure per obstetric referral (340 paid by UNHCR and 91 by patient and/or any other third party)

FIGURE 21: TOTAL COST PER REGION

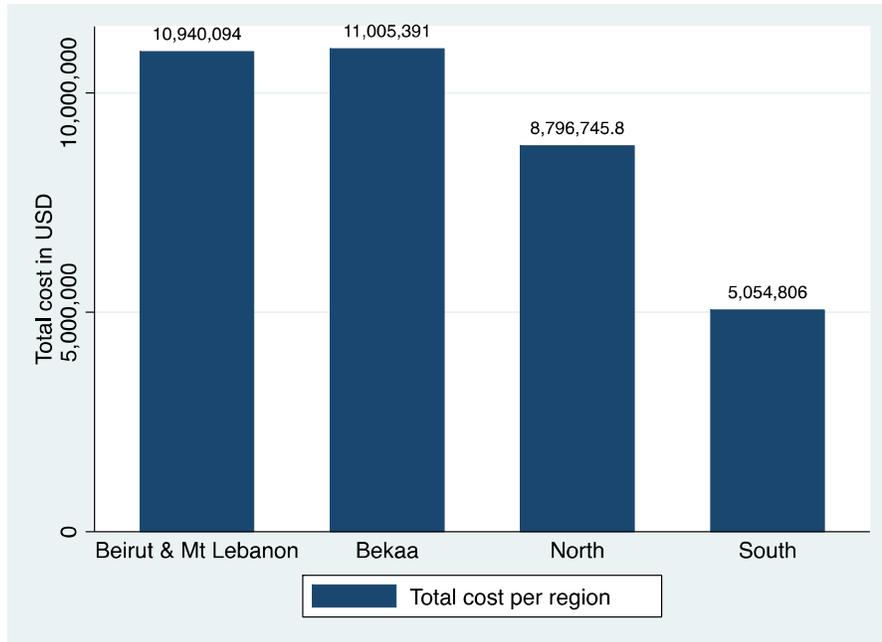
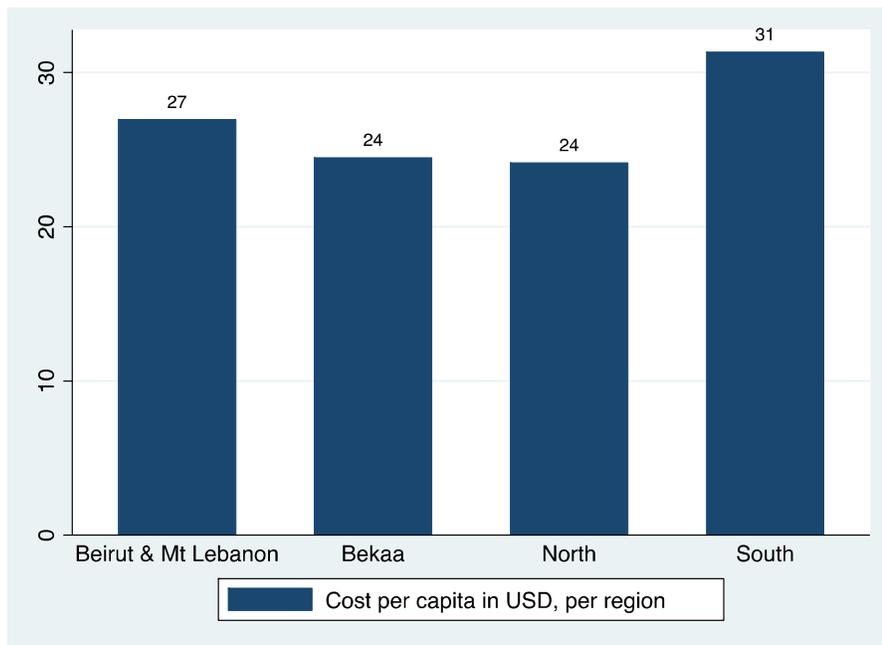


FIGURE 22: ANNUALIZED COST PER CAPITA* IN USD, BY REGION



Key findings

11-5.1 million USD
Range of total cost per region

33.4 USD
Annual cost per capita

24 USD
Lowest per capita cost in Bekaa region

31 USD
Highest per capita cost in the South

* Per capita expenditure is the average dollars spent for a category of services per beneficiary. This average includes beneficiaries who did not use any service. No adjustment was performed for inflation, so the estimated dollars in this report are nominal.