DANISH REFUGEE COUNCIL

INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE

INTERSOS

Migration Services and Development

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MONTHLY PROTECTION MONITORING

REPORT LEBANON

NOVEMBER 2025

SPEAC Protection Monitoring is funded by ECHO and conducted by DRC, INTERSOS, IRC, and MSD funded and supported by IOM. It provides an analysis of the protection concerns affecting refugee, host, migrant, 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 SEPTEMBER

- Reported displacement to Lebanon showed a slight increase from 4% in October to 13% in November. Insecurity/conflict (86%) and fear of persecution (85%) replaced livelihoods as the main push factors.
- Internal displacement dropped to 5%, with 90% originating from Southern Lebanon, the primary driver being insecurity and conflict (55%) related to Israeli hostilities.
- Legal residency trends for Syrians and PRS remained consistent with previous months and VaSYR. North + Akkar governorates saw the highest proportion of respondents without residency (43%, +13% from Oct). Coping through participation in irregular work reached 59%, continuing a 3 month upward trend.
- Economic pressures dominated eviction trends this month, with migrants reporting landlord exploitation. Overall, 8% of HHs across populations received eviction threats (↑5% from Oct), but actual evictions decreased to 27% (↓ from 44% in Oct).
- While curfews experienced little change, checkpoint reports saw an increase to 53% (up from 46%) and intensifying scrutiny on Syrian women.
- Safety and security concerns with hotspots in BML and North, centered harassment, as increased community tensions expanded to reported incidents of bullying, harassment, and humiliation of Syrian and PRS children.

POPULATION MOVEMENT

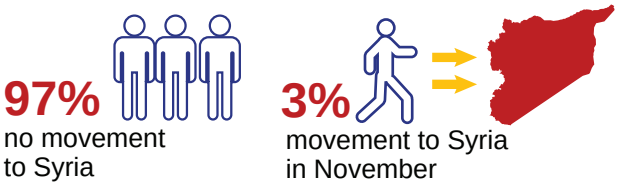
Forced Displacement to Lebanon

Thirteen percent of households reported arrivals from Syria, increasing 9% from October, with 51% of KIs reporting displacement from Syria. 31% of the households recently arriving to Lebanon reported from Akkar, 30% in Baalbek-El Hermel and 15% in the North. In October, lack of livelihood was reported as a main driver for displacement by 50% of households, but the number fell to 11% in November. This was likely linked to killings and sectarian tensions in Homs, considering that almost half (47%) of those arriving to Lebanon for the first time came from Homs, reflecting the ongoing precarious security situation there.[1] Furthermore, household surveys reflected this trend as insecurity and conflict (86%), as well as fear of persecution (85%) being the primary drivers of displacement.

Movements to Syria

Similarly to October, reported movements to Syria remained low in November. While 97% of assessed Syrian households reported no permanent returns to Syria, data from KIIs (20%) and FGDs indicated a higher proportion, with participants frequently reporting movements undertaken by other families within their communities. The North recorded the highest percentage of permanent (47%) and temporary (36%) movements, while households in BML reported significant numbers of temporary visits (24%). Of the 128 households reporting movement to Syria,105 reported temporary visits, 17 reported returning permanent and 6 preferred not to clarify. Most reported damaged infrastructure (59% and 63% among permanent and temporary returns respectively) and lack of electricity and water (53% and 43% among permanent and temporary returns respectively).

Reported movement to Syria

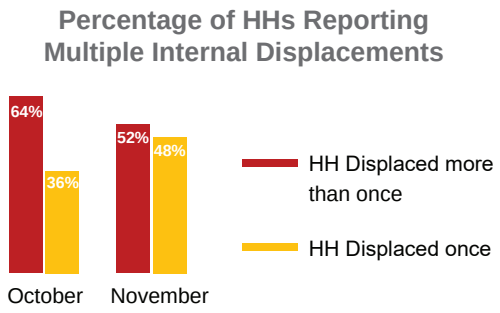


Internal Movements

Internal movements were low in November (5% of households), overwhelmingly from Southern Lebanon (90%), and remained primarily driven by insecurity and conflict (55%). The rate of households reporting multiple displacements also decreased from October (64%) to November (52%). Other internal displacement drivers included high rent (29%) and fear of persecution (25%). KIIs confirmed low levels of internal movements, with only 7% reporting movements to other governorates and 3% reporting movements within the same governorate. FGDs with Lebanese Females in Southern Lebanon, however,

[1] Gjevori, Elis. "Syria Extends Homs Curfew as Killings Threaten to Inflame Sectarian Tension." Al Jazeera, 24 Nov. 2025.

revealed evidence of cyclical displacement with individuals relocating multiple times, leaving to avoid conflict and then returning when the situation stabilizes. Specifically, this FGD took place in El Nabatieh where airstrikes continue to occur.



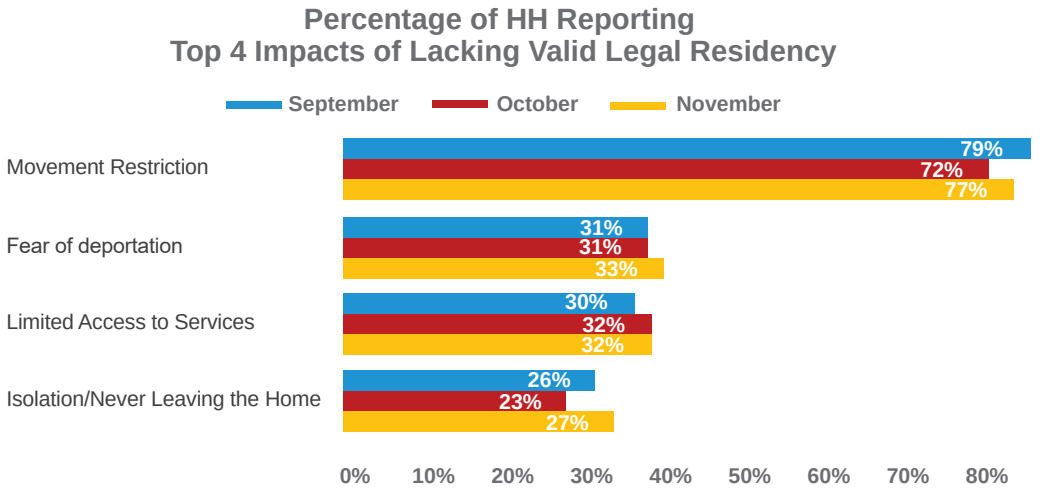
Irregular Movement

Household data revealed little reported irregular movement. Only 10% of Syrian HHs reported movement from Syria to Lebanon, while 6% indicated movement in the opposite direction. KII data shows similar numbers for irregular movement with 12 (15%) reporting irregular movement between the two countries. Notably 50% of those KIIs indicated individuals in their communities partaking in irregular movement over official crossings to retain humanitarian aid. One FGD in the South indicated that some Syrians who have returned to Syria temporarily enter Lebanon to access services from UNHCR. No households reported travel to a third country. This is likely due to the severity of dangers and high costs associated with irregular travel to a third country, especially by boat, during Winter months, along with stigma of reporting.

LEGAL IDENTITY AND STATUS

Impediments and restrictions to access legal identity and civil documentation

In November, among the 820 non-Lebanese households (99% Syrians and 1% PRS/PRL), less than 19% possessed valid legal residency, remaining consistent with the previous month and VaSYR data.[2] The highest proportion of respondents lacking legal residency were in the North and Akkar (43% combined) showing a 13% increase compared to October. In contrast, Baalbek El Hermel showed an 11% decrease from last month, falling from 34% to 23%. 58% of those lacking valid residency in November were females, showing slight decrease from October (62%).



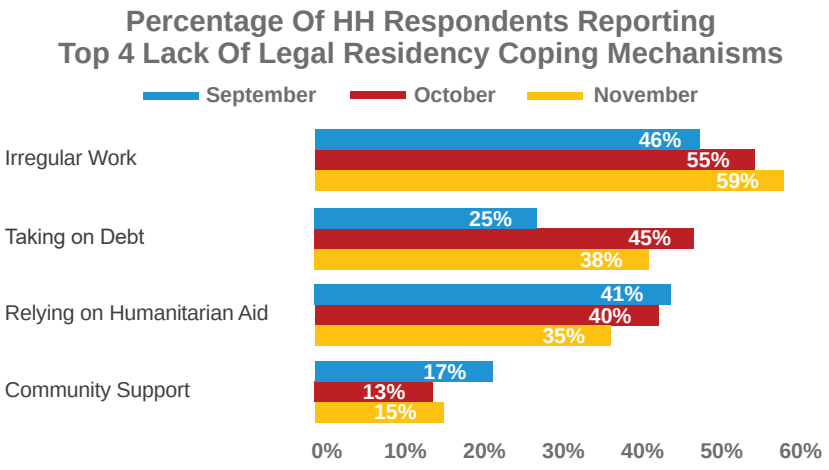
Among the 80 KIIs in November, the most frequently reported barriers to obtaining civil documentation were financial and procedural. The most common challenge was inability to pay the required fees, cited by 55%, marking a 16% increase compared to the previous month. This was followed by restricted movements at the local level (33%), increased legal or supplementary fees (30%), and security concerns (29%). Six out of 8 KIs (75%) speaking on behalf of migrants reported that the primary barrier to accessing legal justice/remedies was the lack of information on legal rights, followed by 62% (5 out of 8) reporting financial costs as the primary challenge to accessing legal justice/remedies. Additionally, unsafety and broader security concerns were highlighted by 28.8%, with KIs noting that insecurity in their areas directly affects their ability to approach government departments. Participants in a FGD also mentioned that former employers who left Lebanon as a response to the heightened escalation of hostilities last year had yet to return, blocking their ability to regularize their civil status.

Over the past three months, irregular work, including informal, exploitative, or casual daily labor, emerged as the dominant coping mechanism for all population cohorts, showing a steady and notable rise from 46% in September, reaching 59% in November. This consistent upward trend indicates that an increasing number of households are resorting to unstable or unsafe income-generating activities as their primary means of survival. This also raises concerns about heightened exposure to exploitation and dependency on employers who may withhold wages, underpay, or threaten workers lacking legal documentation.

Among FGDs with post-December 2024 new arrivals from Syria in Baalbek El Hermel and BML, parents described living in

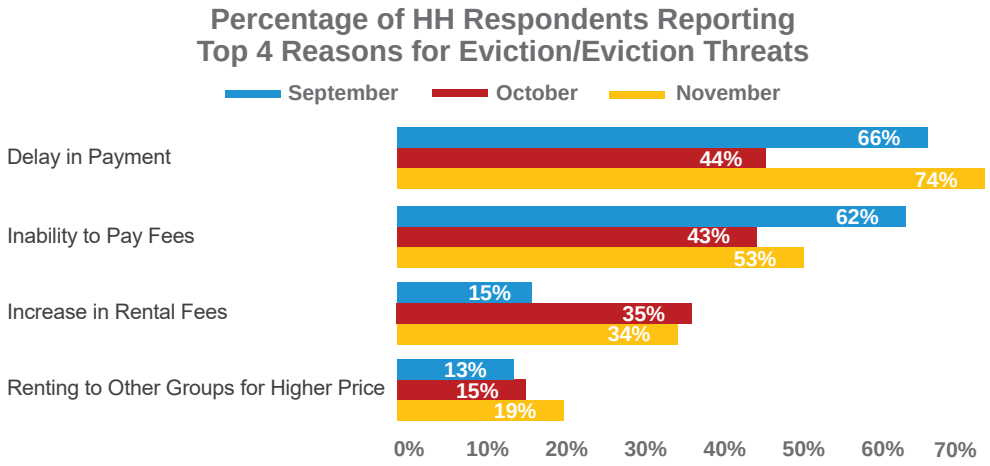
[2] UNHCR, Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon (VASyR), 2024.

a constant state of alert due to lacking legal residency or having entered Lebanon irregularly. This legal insecurity influenced nearly every aspect of their daily lives. Caregivers worried that their teenage sons could be stopped at checkpoints, verbally harassed, or even arrested, which pushed families to severely limit children's movement. In some FGDs, mothers noted that this fear was one of the main reasons children dropped out of school, as they were uncomfortable sending them through areas where identity checks occur.

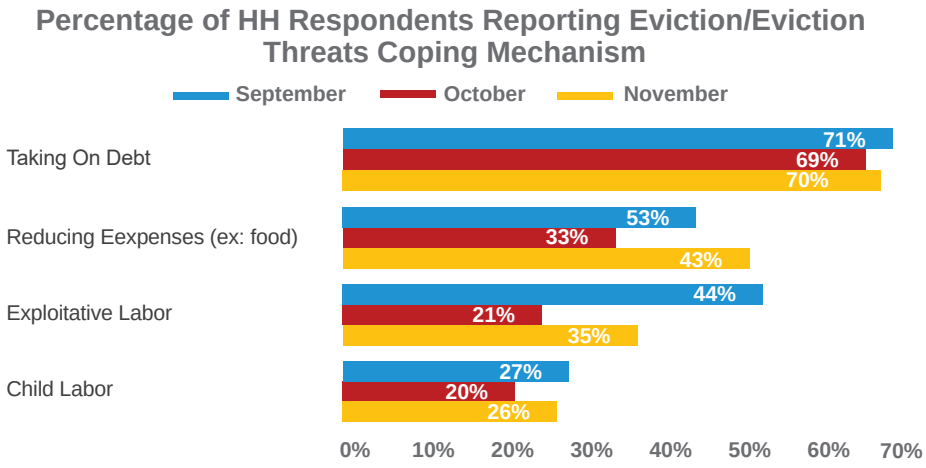


Forced Evictions

During November, around 18% of households reported receiving an eviction threat within the past month, highlighting a 5% increase from the previous month. 92% of these eviction threats were faced by Syrians, highlighting a 32% increase compared to the previous month. Most of these evictions/eviction threats were in North and Akkar (50% combined), followed by 37% in BML. However, around 27% of those resulted in actual household evictions, marking a 17% decrease compared to October.



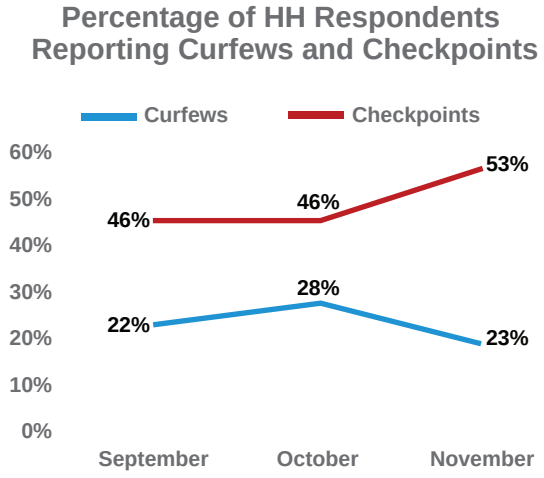
Financial pressures became significantly more pronounced in November compared to October, with clear increases in the two main economic drivers of eviction. Delay in rental payment rose sharply from 44% in October to 74% in November, indicating a substantial deterioration in the ability to keep up with rent on time. This may suggest that families are facing deeper income instability, likely tied to rising expenses, reduced earnings and assistance, or increased reliance on irregular work that does not provide consistent income. A similar trend is seen in the inability to pay rental fees, which increased from 43% in October to 53% in November. These trends were corroborated by KIs, as the primary reported reason for evictions was delay in rental payments (74%) followed by owner increasing rental fees (48%). Similarly, among the migrant population, these were the 2 most reported drivers for evictions and eviction threats, which is consistent with observed trends by IOM since the beginning of 2025.



Based on an FGD with migrants, a participant explained how landlords exploit cash-for-rent programs: when NGOs pay landlords directly for up to three months, landlords often raise rents afterward, claiming the NGO is covering the costs. Another migrant shared that when an NGO helped paint houses, landlords exploited the assistance to improve their properties, then evicted migrants, raised rents, and brought in new tenants. Lack of legal documentation constrained willingness to report unlawful landlord practices. These issues have also been highlighted by other groups including Syrian refugees.

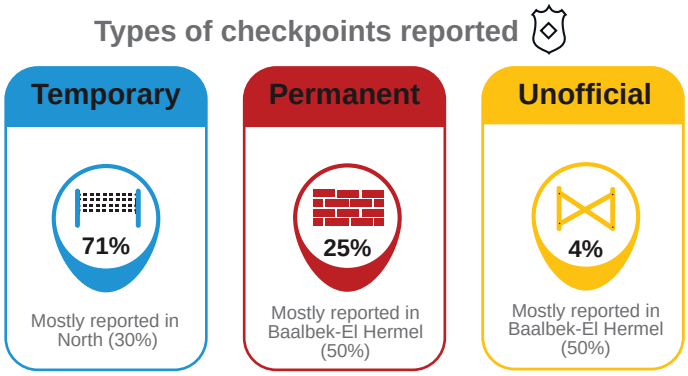
INTIMIDATION, THREATS, AND DISCRIMINATORY PRACTICES

Curfews and Checkpoints



Curfew reports in November (23%) remained consistent with previous reporting periods. Among all households, 56% of PRS (5 out of 9 households) reported curfews, compared with 26% of Syrians and far lower levels among Lebanese and PRL households at 13% and 3% respectively. Curfews were mainly reported in BML (24%) and Baalbek-El Hermel (23%). Much like previous reporting months, impacts included verbal warnings (39%) and no impact (24%) while coping mechanisms included movement restrictions (38%) and isolation or rarely leaving the home (15%). Migrants in FGDs shared that they received informal, unverified notices of 5 PM curfews under threat of arrest. While many are uncertain about their legitimacy, most complied to avoid the risk of detention. This severely restricts their movement, with some families reporting leaving their children in the nurseries overnight to reduce mobility after curfew hours.

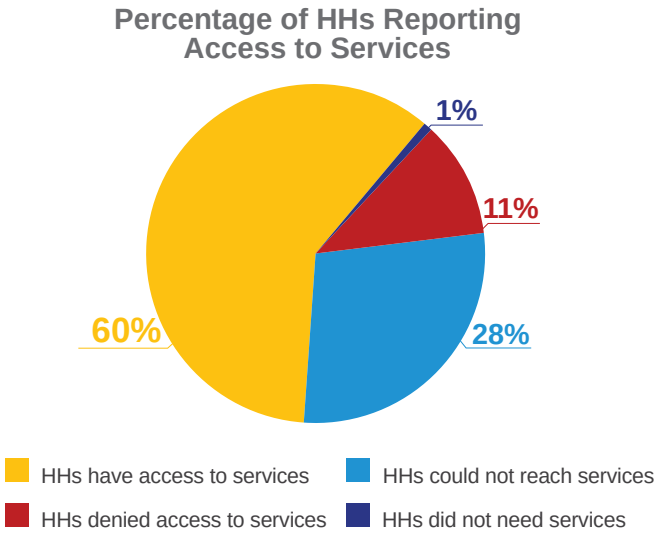
Checkpoint reports in November (53%) experienced a 7% increase from October. Much like last month, Syrians led in report numbers (58%), followed by Lebanese (36%), and Palestinians (4% and 2% for PRL and PRS respectively). Impact patterns persisted, with 48% of Lebanese reporting no impact and 36% reporting increased safety, PRL respondents split between increased safety (42%) and movement restrictions (25%), while PRS (83%) and Syrians (42%) primarily reported movement restriction, often combined with emotional distress (15%), fear of arrest (27%), or limited access to services (19%) among Syrians. This month reports of restrictions on non-Lebanese women at checkpoints were prominent. In FGDs in Tyre District, Syrian and PRS women described being denied passage at checkpoints where they were previously allowed through and being threatened with arrest if they attempted to cross again.



Discrimination, Stigmatization and Denial of Access to Services

Sixty percent of households were able to access services in November, a downward trend from 75% in October, corroborated by KII data. On the other hand, 28% were unable to reach services, 11% were denied access to services and 1% reported that they did not need services.

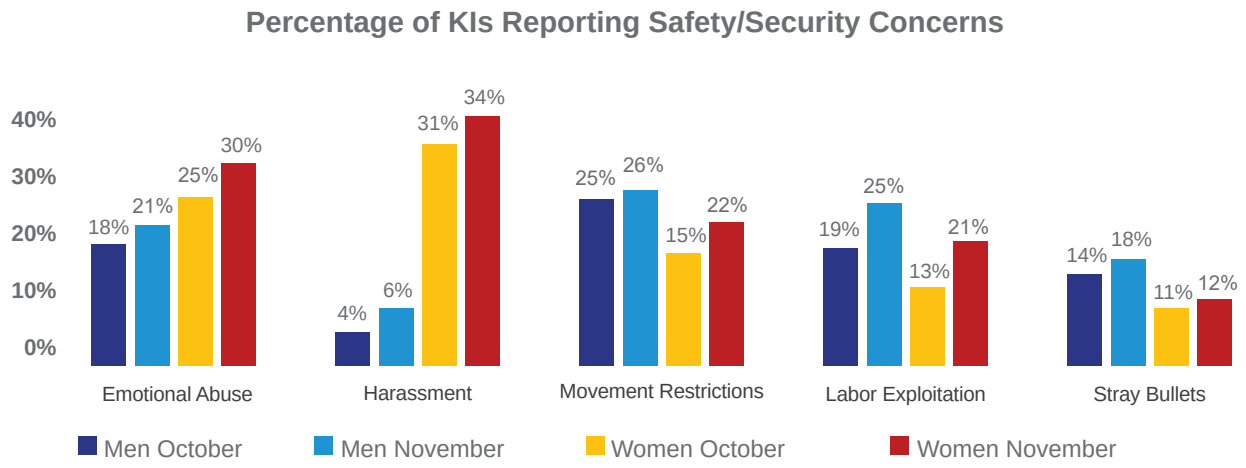
The most reported reason for being unable to access services was cost (75%), followed by reports of services being unavailable (26%), and having to travel long distances to reach services (23%). The lack of funds to access services considerably affects children, with participants in FGDs across the country reporting that parents have difficulty enrolling their children in school due to tuition fees and transportation costs. While many other barriers related to legal residency have profound effects on access to education, financially struggling families see tuition, transportation costs and stationary costs add an additional layer of difficulty.



Of the 11% of households who reported being denied access, 85% were Syrian, 13% were Lebanese and 2% were PRL. The most reported service denied was healthcare (54%), followed by livelihood or income generating activities (43%) and education (35%). Like previous months, nationality was the most reported reason for being denied access (41%). Religion (19%) reportedly also played a significant role in service denial. 25% of KIIs attributed denial of access to services to discrimination, bias or exclusion. FGDs show that discrimination also affects children's access to education. An FGD in El Nabatieh revealed that one Syrian mother was charged $220 to enroll her child in school, even though the enrollment fee for Lebanese children was reportedly $100.

Seventeen percent of households reported facing verbal abuse when trying to access services, of which 93% were Syrian households (175 out of 189). Furthermore, 17% of households also reported being asked for additional fees or bribes, mostly reported by Syrian households. Eleven percent of households reported facing discrimination, bias or favoritism when trying to access service, 87% of whom were Syrian. Discrimination (21%) and financial barriers (20%) were also highly reported challenges among KIIs. An FGD in the South with Lebanese women indicated that they also struggled with discrimination and favoritism of people belonging to certain political groups.

SAFETY & SECURITY

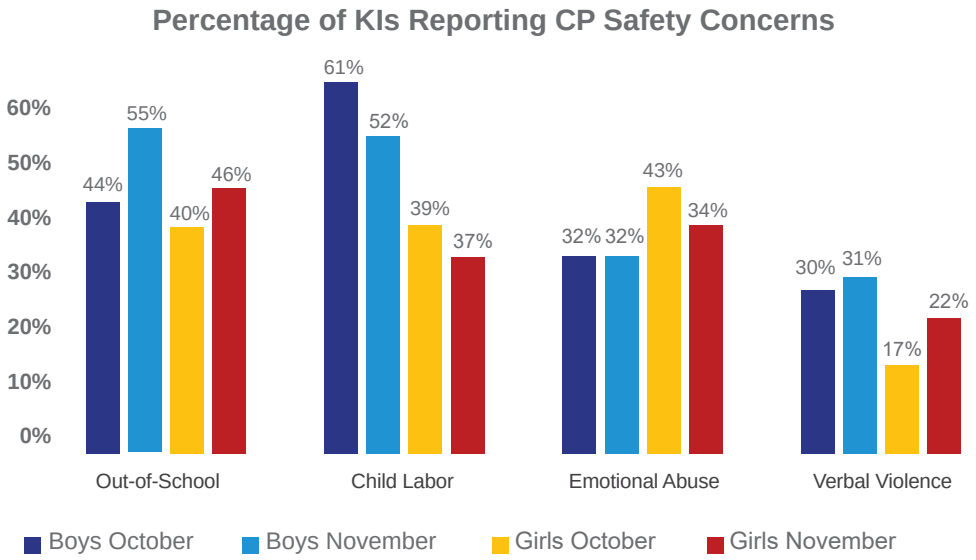


Twelve percent of households reported safety or security incidents affecting themselves or their family members. BML and the North recorded the highest levels at 21% each, with BML reports dominated by harassment (47%) and North reports led by labor exploitation (22%). As in October, movement restrictions (56%) remained the most common impact of safety concern. Migrants experienced limited capacity in responding to protection risks, as they are systematically excluded from governmental and non-governmental safety nets more than any other population, with a small percentage provided support by NGOs as per Inter-Agency reporting. Limitations in regularizing their legal status also plays into fear of reporting protection risks and thus limits access to justice. This institutional absence forces a fragile, excessive dependence on informal community support in ways that strain community capacities, fuel conflict over unpaid debts, and leave those with no remaining support turning to survival sex, illicit activities, or other unsafe means of survival, and vulnerable to exploitation and trafficking.

Attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure (17% of KIs) along with conflict-related destruction of property (13% of KIs) perpetrated by Israeli armed forces remained a significant concern in November. INSO recorded 167 Israeli violations, up from 133 last month. Reports documented repeated Israeli fire on civilians in Aita al-Shaab and strikes on civilian equipment, alongside a pattern of expanding incursions and the occupation of additional Lebanese territory.[3] Israeli forces operating from newly occupied positions conducted attacks in Talet Hamames and carried out bulldozing operations that destroyed homes in Aitaroun.[4] Moreover, Israeli incendiary devices sparked fires in southern areas where firefighters worked amid unexploded ordnance while Israeli forces escalated attacks on response mechanisms by striking a Médecins Sans Frontières clinic in Hermel, Baalbak-El Hermel Governorate, while patients were receiving medical care.[5] A municipal worker was also killed by Israeli airstrikes while asleep.[6]

[3] Lebanese Center for Human Rights (CLDH), "Human Rights Brief: October 27 to November 2," accessed November 2025.
[4] Lebanese Center for Human Rights (CLDH), "Human Rights Brief: November 3 to November 9," accessed November 2025.
[5] Lebanese Center for Human Rights (CLDH), "Human Rights Brief: November 10 to November 16," accessed November 2025.
[6] Lebanese Center for Human Rights (CLDH), "Human Rights Brief: November 17 to November 23," accessed November 2025d November 2025.

Twelve percent of households reported community tensions in the past three months. Most households indicated they had no coping options (82%), with reported impacts centered on worsening physical and mental health (47%). Qualitative data this month highlighted the effects of these tensions on children. Caregivers in Baalbek-El Hermel, Bekaa, BML, and the North described that growing concerns over accumulating tensions are driving movement restrictions on children. In Akkar, parents reported allowing only brief errands or essential outings when conditions felt predictable.



In November, KIs pointed to out-of-school children as the main concern for both boys and girls. FGDs pointed to distinct barriers to education across groups. In Akkar and the North, poverty drives boys out of school and into agricultural or cross-border smuggling. In Bekaa and Baalbek-El Hermel, three FGDs stated that harassment and unsafe roads prevents girls from accessing schools. Moreover, three FGDs in the South indicated that early marriage remains common within the Syrian community. Migrants shared economic barriers to education. Neglect is also a major concern for children not in school or daycare/nurseries. With parents unable to enroll their children due to cost and or documentation requirements, they are often forced to either leave their children at home unattended, or with others, to be able to work and earn a livelihood. FGD participants noted that while public schools should offer free afternoon shifts, parents are often still in practice asked for fees. Other risks highlighted by migrants included kidnapping and discrimination.

> *"There is a huge gap for migrants to access education. A lot of mothers cannot afford to register their kids in school, so they are forced to give up work opportunities to stay home and take care of the kids."*
>
> *. Female Migrant FGD Participant in Beirut*

Across the country, Syrian children face frequent harassment, humiliation, bullying, and at times violence. Three FGDs in separate villages in Baalbek District noted that teachers in the afternoon shift restrict bathroom access for Syrian children, resulting in health issues. In the South, caregivers reported Lebanese children bullying and harassing Syrian children in public areas, leading to physical confrontations and heightened tensions.

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

Trends for this population remained consistent with October, in which health access deprivation dominated needs. Mentioned by 88% of KIs, reports included medicine shortages (82%), inability to afford medication (69%), and lack of specialized or continuous care (69%). Mentions of lack of income, loss of livelihoods, inability to work due to age or disability, and absence of pensions or social protection together appeared in about 70% of responses, while debt accumulation appeared in 12% of responses. Social isolation and psychological distress, including loneliness, emotional strain, or inability to care for oneself, appeared in 42% of responses. Bullying, discrimination, or harassment, including disability-based everyday bullying or broad social marginalization, appeared in about 27% of responses. Severe housing inadequacy, specifically tented settlements, winter exposure, and latrines located outside, appeared in 14% of responses, while fear of deportation was noted in one entry.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RESPONSE

- Legal actors to expand mobile legal clinics in BML, North and Baalbek El Hermel, prioritizing women and post December 2024 arrivals, to mitigate movement restrictions and checkpoint scrutiny that deter service seeking.
- Legal actors to ensure legal support reaches migrant populations through translated materials, expertise and/ or robust referral to specialized legal service providers.

- At Protection Core Group level, advocate for continued inter-agency coordination between protection and shelter sectors to harmonize data on evictions and service denial (disaggregated by nationality/age/sex) and align joint rapid response to prevent secondary risks (child labor/survival sex etc.).

- Shelter actors to integrate collaborative dispute resolution services and continual monitoring and follow-up alongside Cash for Rent and minor repair programs to enforce tripartite agreements more rigorously and disincentivize exploitative landlord practices.

METHODOLOGY

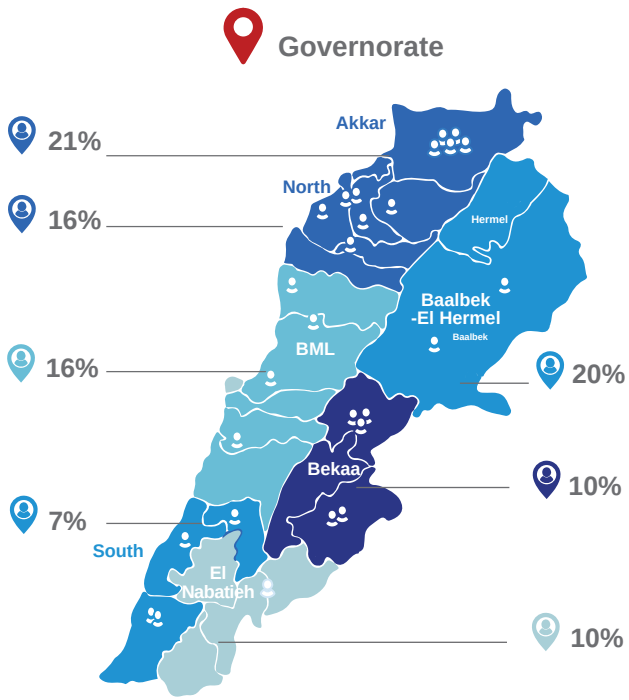
Consortium protection monitoring data collection utilized a mixed-method approach, including household surveys, key informant interviews (KII), incident reports, field observations, focus group discussions (FGD) and field staff debriefs. The primary data collection is supplemented with secondary data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

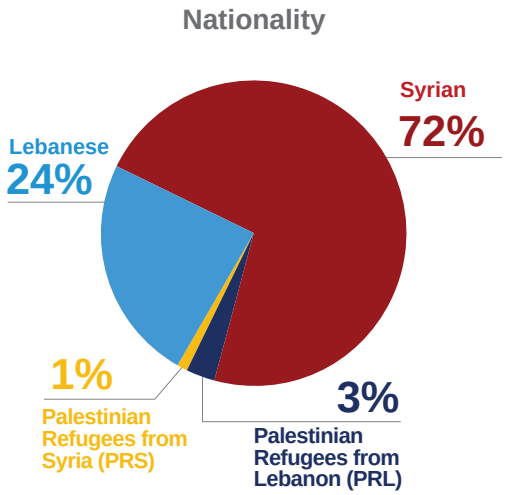
Household surveys (HH): **1,130 HHS** representing 5,676 individuals were reached across all Lebanese Governorates. Utilizing the Washington Group Question Short-Set (WGQ-SS), 13% of individuals interviewed reported having one or more disabilities related to vision, hearing, communication, cognition, mobility, and/or self-care.

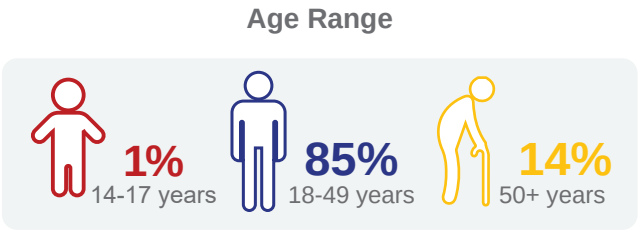
Key Informant Interviews (KIIs): **80 KIIs** were conducted across Lebanon, including 45% males and 55% females, with 49% representing Lebanese, 31% Syrians, and 10% for Palestinians. The remaining 10% represented migrants, including Bangladeshi, Ethiopian, Malagasy, and Sudanese KIs. KIIs comprised primarily of community leaders (34%), community mobilizers/volunteers (22%), local authority & municipalities (14%), education staff (13%), and neighborhood representatives (10%). Finally, other profiles represented included NGO staff (9%), CBO/CSO staff and site managers (8% each), and medical staff (2%).

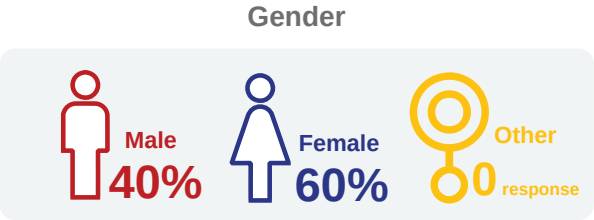
Qualitative Data Collection: Focus Group Discussions (FGD): **39 FGDs** were conducted across Lebanon with 340 participants. Of these, 86% were female and 14% male, consisting of 84% Syrian (including 30 post-December 2024 arrivals from Syria), 10% Lebanese, 4% migrants, and 2% Palestinian, including 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 and Akkar (3) as well as Baalbek-El Hermel, Bekaa, El Nabatieh, and South (1 each).









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.

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