



Understanding Alternatives to Cash Assistance

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Introduction & Rationale

- > **Understand the capacity of households to graduate off of cash assistance into more sustainable livelihoods.**
- > Support livelihood projects: Danish Refugee Council (DRC) & Jordan River Foundation (JRF)
- > **UNHCR's efforts on global graduation principles** in the context of current cash programming in Jordan.
- > The approach expands upon ABLA March 2017 in East Amman
- > Need for broader understanding of labour market dynamics effecting Syrian refugees

Methodology

- > **DRC** launched a comprehensive assessment of five governorates in Jordan:
 - > Mafraq, Amman, Madaba, Karak and Maan

- > Variegated methodology:
 - > Lessons learned from **ABLA** with REACH Initiatives
 - > A survey 771 households
 - > The target group: Vulnerability Assessment Framework (VAF) levels 1 and 2
 - > A representative sample size with 95% confidence (7% margin of error) to each governorate group
 - > 30 key informant interviews with key stakeholders
 - > 28 focus group discussions.

Number of Focus Groups (FGDs) and Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) per Economic Activity

	Location	Sector # 1	# FGDs	# of KIIs	Sector # 2	# FGDs	# of KIIs
1	East Amman	Manufacturing	4	3	Trade	3	1
2	Karak	Construction	3	2	Food Processing	4	1
3	Maan	Construction	2	2	Food Processing	2	2
4	Madaba	Agriculture	2	0	Tourism	0	0
5	Mafraq	Manufacturing	3	1	Trade	3	3

Key Findings

1. Unemployment remain endemic amongst Syrian refugees living in Jordan.

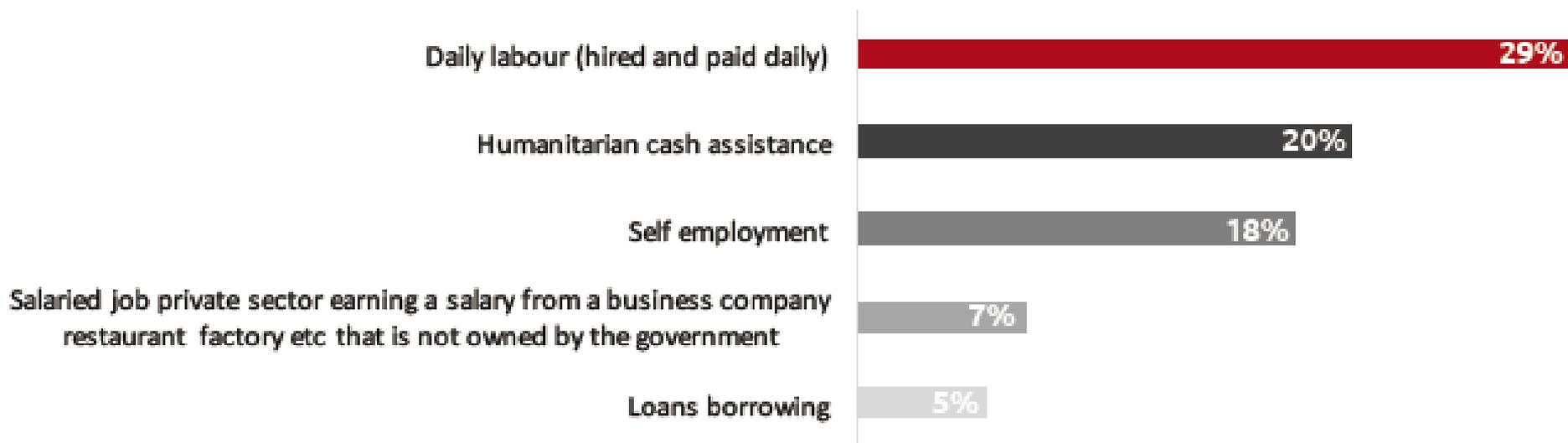


50%

of the surveyed population
derive their primary source
of income from work.

Key Findings

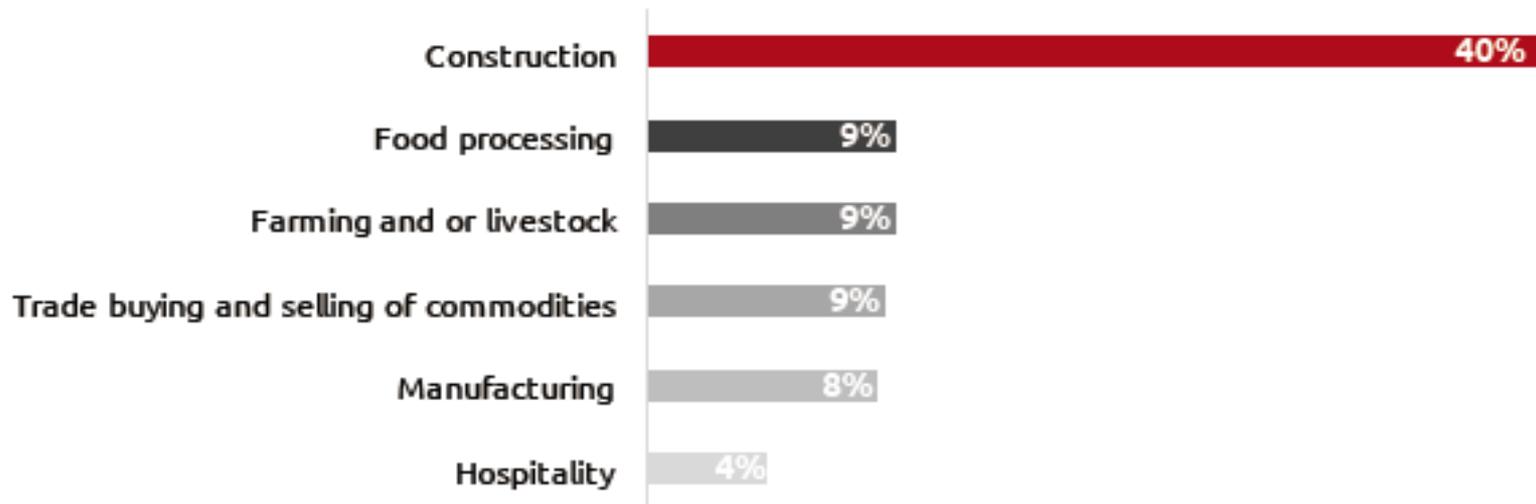
Primary sources of income



2. Construction is the dominant sector in which 40% of the surveyed population is working.

3. Due to low wages, 39% households need more than one income source to afford their basic needs and are sinking deeper into debt.

Sectors of primary income earners



4. Overwhelmingly households are looking for work opportunities.

5. All interviewed households are adopting some form of negative coping strategy.

6. Those who can find work often change employment, as they struggle with low wages, transportation costs, work permits and poor working conditions.



96%

of households reported that they have at least one member not working and actively seeking work.

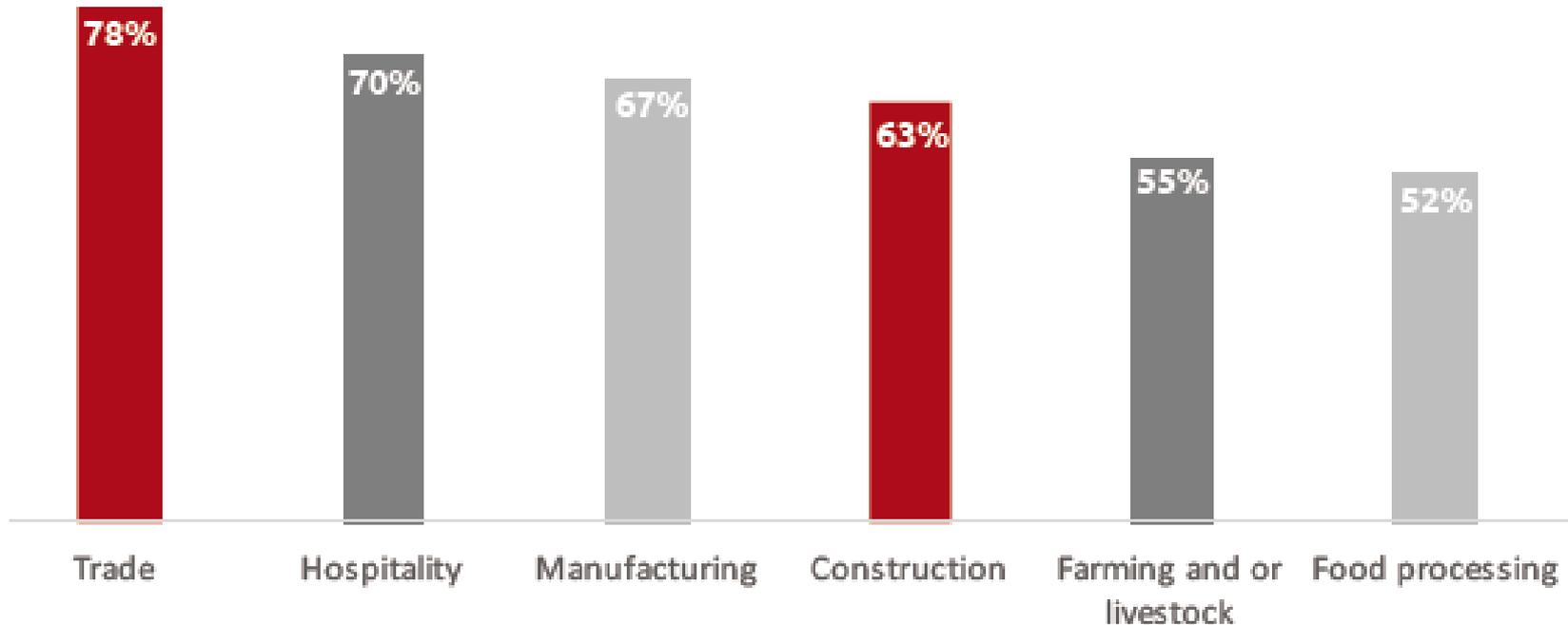


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times, on average, the income earner has changed jobs since arriving in their current area of residence.

7. 65% of primary earners did not have work permits, with similar rates across all sectors.

Lack of work permits by sector



8. Support ABLA findings on mobility: The low wages earned relative to cost of transport restrict transport options for the population group.

Single male members are more willing to accept farther work.

9. Lack of willingness to formalize:

Many Syrians reported that they are reluctant to travel far for work because they do not have work permits and are afraid of being stopped by authorities.

Fears of subsequently losing cash assistance.



20%

of the VAF levels 1 and 2 population
are single members of their
households – **58%** are men.

10. Employers in construction and food processing rely on Syrian labour, but provide poor working conditions.

11. Employers in the manufacturing and trade sector have a pervasive distrust of hiring Syrian refugees.

**Syrian refugees currently working in these sectors
have previous experience working in these jobs**

51%

IN MANUFACTURING

36%

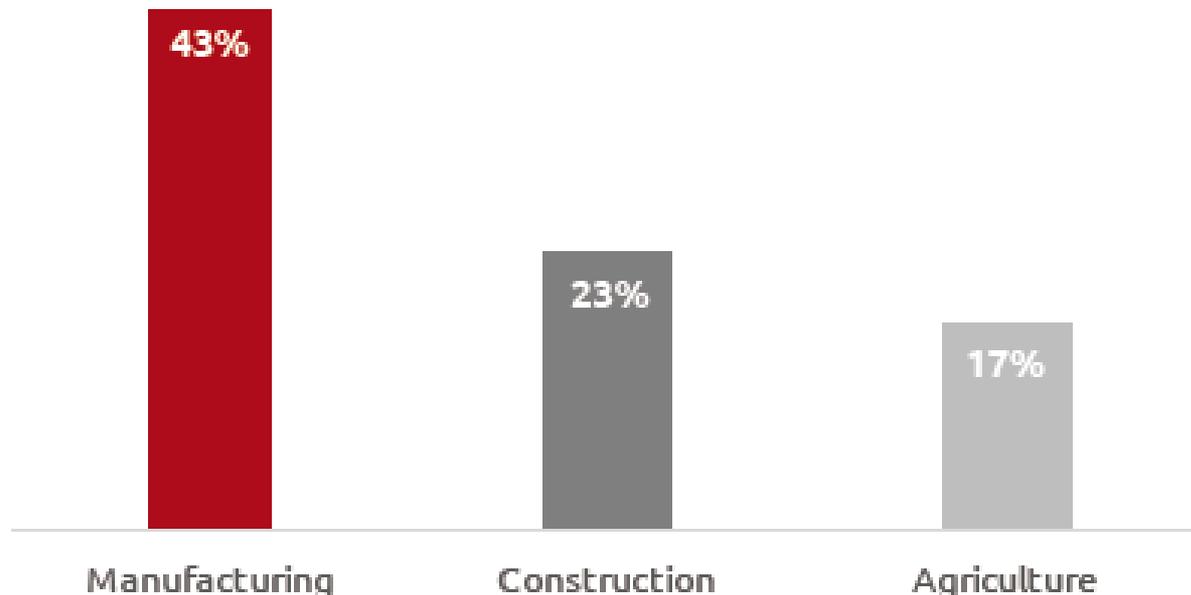
IN FOOD PROCESSING

43%

IN CONSTRUCTION

12. Most smaller businesses cannot afford to employ the relative number of Jordanian staff required to be able to legally hire Syrians.

Sectors in which job seekers are willing to work

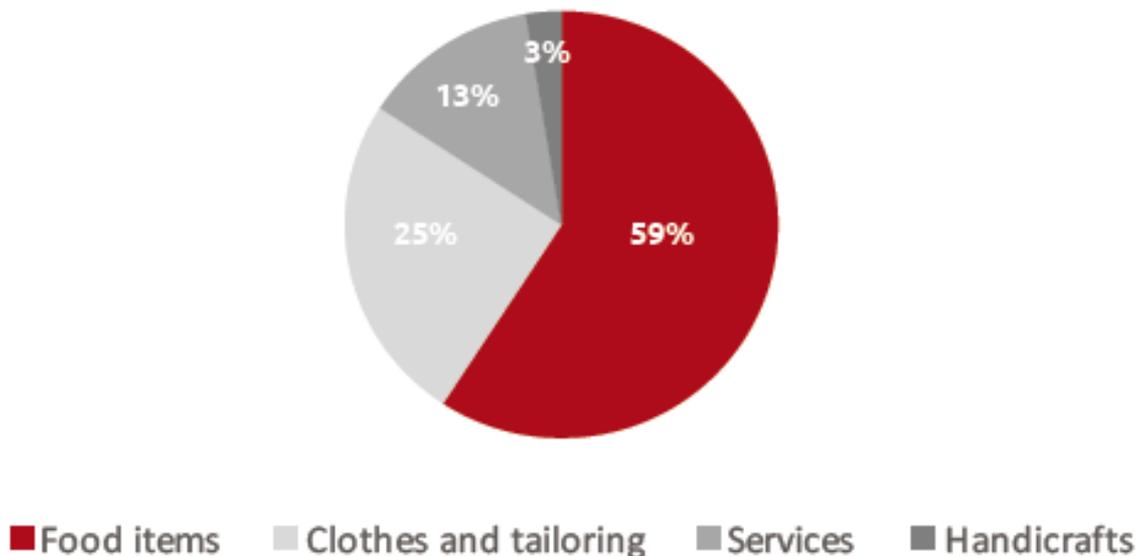


13. Opportunities also exist for home-based businesses.

10% of VAF levels 1 and 2 run home-based economic activities, with higher proportions in Madaba and Mafraq.

Only 1% of these were the primary source of income for a household.

Home-based business sectors



Recommendations

- > Livelihood support should be tailored to the household – rather than individual – profile.
- > Programs should focus on diversifying income sources of households, specifically those that rely solely on cash assistance.
- > Dissemination of information on labor law and work permit policies and procedures remains a critical gap in livelihood service provision.
- > New interventions are needed to promote alternative pathways for savings and debt relief.

Recommendations

- > Location and sector should determine the design of livelihood programming.
- > Advocacy messaging should focus on removing or increasing foreign worker quotas for small businesses to encourage formalization of illegal workers.
- > Dialogue between employers and prospective employees should be facilitated in any job matching service in order to encourage retention and long-term investment by both parties.