

# In Focus: Key Findings of the 2017 Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon

November 2017



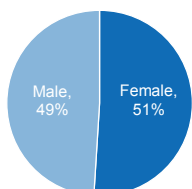
Inter-Agency  
Coordination  
Lebanon

The Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon (VASyR) was conducted jointly by WFP, UNHCR and UNICEF. Data was collected from a representative sample of 5,000 Syrian refugee households throughout Lebanon during May and June 2017. The final VASyR report will be published in December 2017. This In Focus report summarizes some of the main findings.

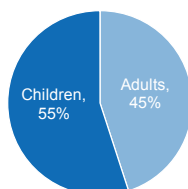


## DEMOGRAPHICS

The mean household size continued to trend downwards, averaging 4.9 members, compared to 5.1 in 2016, 5.3 in 2015 and 6.6 in 2014.

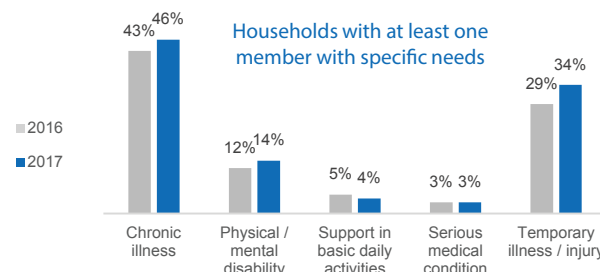


The gender ratio and the proportion of adults to children under 18 remained in line with 2016 results.



## SPECIFIC NEEDS

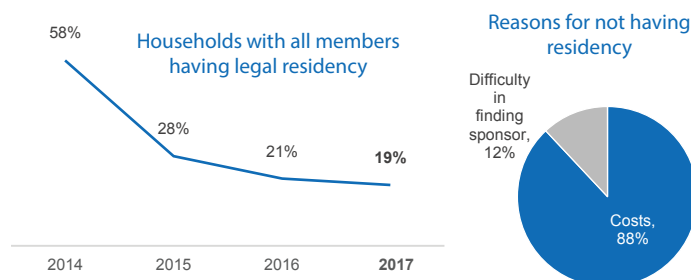
7% of households have at least one child who is disabled (in line with 2016).



## PROTECTION

### Legal residency

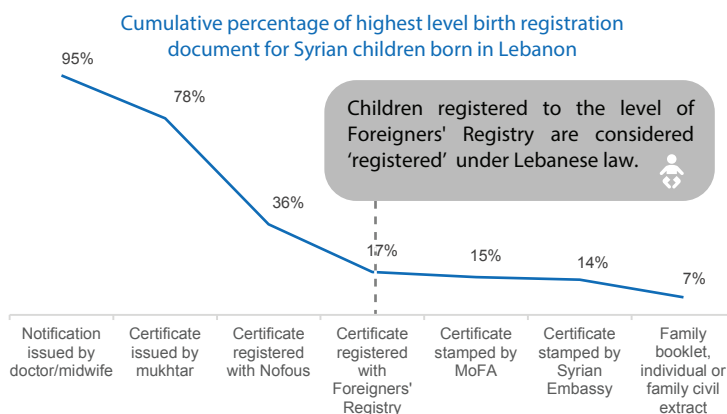
The number of households with all members having legal residency is slowly declining. 74% of those surveyed above the age of 15 do not have legal residency. Most respondents cited the cost of renewal as the main reason.



Note: In Feb/Mar 2017, the Government announced a waiver of fees for residency renewal and overstay, although the impact of this decision is more likely to only be reflected in next year's VASyR results.

### Birth registration

17% of Syrian children born in Lebanon since January 2011 are registered at the level of the Foreigners' Registry of the Personal Status Department (PSD). Not registering a birth with the relevant authorities increases the risk of statelessness for refugees.



Note: In September 2017, the PSD announced the simplification of birth (and marriage) registration procedures indicating that valid legal residency of parents – reportedly the main challenge preventing birth registration with the Foreigners' Registry – would no longer be required for birth registration.

### Child protection

78% of children under 18 years subjected to violent discipline.

5% child labour among population aged 5-17 years, similar to 2016, higher among boys (7%) than girls (2%).

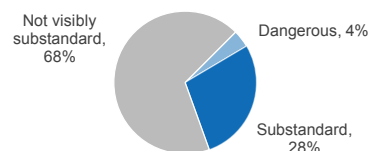


## SHELTER

The majority of Syrian refugee households live in residential buildings (73%, mostly in Beirut and Mt. Lebanon), followed by informal settlements (17%, mostly in Bekaa) and non-residential buildings (9%).

33% lived in overcrowded conditions (<4.5m<sup>2</sup> per person). 53% of households lived in shelters below minimum humanitarian standards.

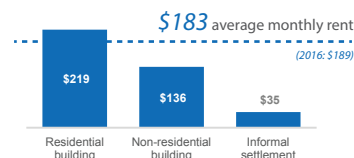
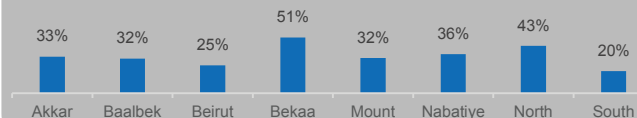
### Physical shelter conditions



Eviction is increasingly forcing refugees out of their homes. 38% of households who changed accommodation in the last six months did so due to eviction by landlord or authorities – an estimated 14,000 households across Lebanon<sup>1</sup> (2016: 20%, or an estimated 8,000 households).

<sup>1</sup>Estimation based on the assumption of 1.5 million Syrian refugees living in Lebanon quoted in the 2017-2020 LCRP.

### Percentage reporting eviction as the main reason for moving accommodation in last 6 months (out of 12% that moved)



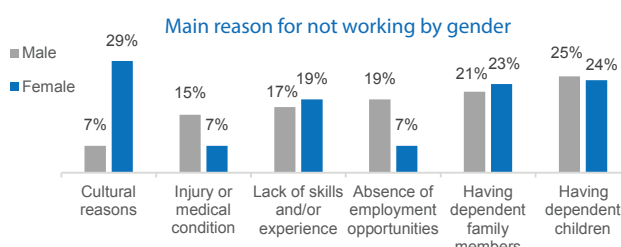
For 51% of households, rent was the primary factor when choosing their accommodation (up from 36% in 2016).



## LIVELIHOODS

Sources of household income remained unsustainable. 28% reported WFP assistance as their primary source of income, followed by informal credit/debt (16%), construction (15%), agriculture (9%) and services (9%).

36% of households reported that no member worked in the past 30 days.

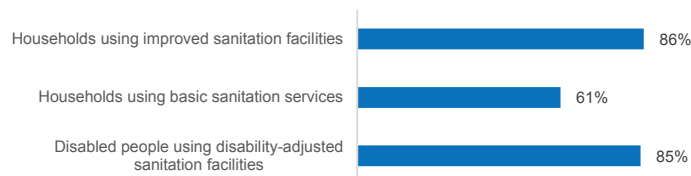




## WATER AND SANITATION

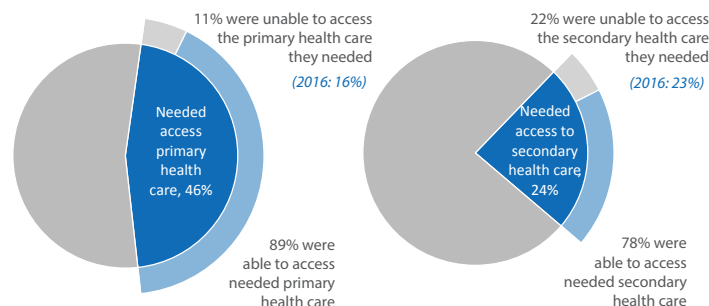
**61%** of households report the availability of drinking water on premise  
**78%** of households use improved drinking water sources  
**88%** of households use basic drinking water service  
**35%** of households drink bottled mineral water  
**3%** of households treat their water to make it safer

Households reporting available sanitation facilities



## HEALTH

The most reported reasons for not being able to access needed primary and secondary health care were: cost of treatment or medication, doctor's fees, distance and transportation costs.



2.5% of households reported at least one member needing access to mental health care. Of these, 62% did not receive the care they needed.

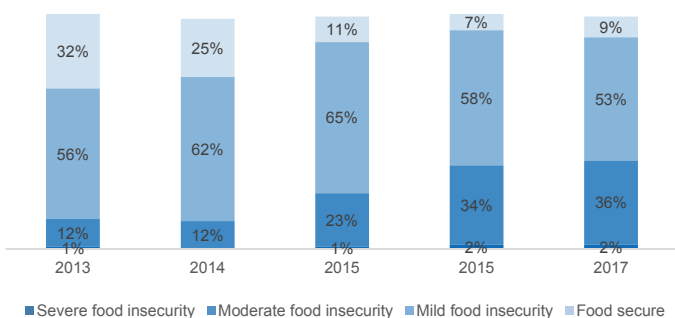


## BASIC ASSISTANCE



## FOOD SECURITY

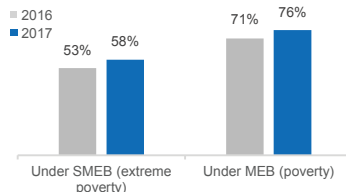
Food insecurity remained stable but still critically high over the past year, with **91%** of Syrian refugee households presenting some level of food insecurity. Food insecurity is mainly associated with high economic vulnerability and limited income earning opportunities.



Households report using coping strategies that deplete their assets to cope with lack of food or money to buy it, including: reducing expenses on food (79%), buying food on credit (77%), reducing expenses on health (53%) and education (31%), spending savings (35%) and selling household goods (25%).

Severely food insecure households allocate 82% of their expenditure to food.

Households living under poverty line



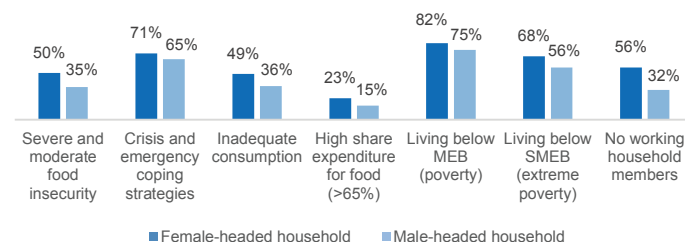
More households are living below the poverty line (< USD 114 / person / month) and in extreme poverty (< USD 87 / person / month) than in 2016.

Households spend on average **\$98** per person per month, **44%** of which is spent on food.

**87%** of households borrowed money in the last 3 months.

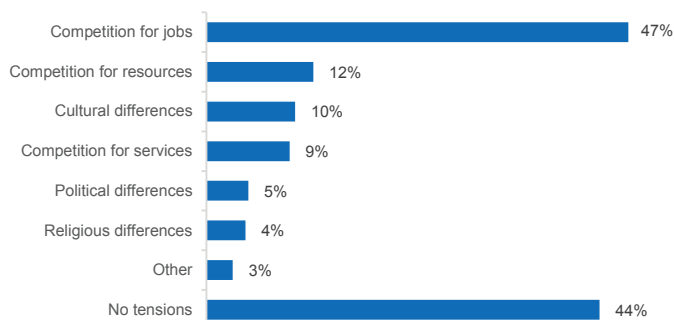
Female-headed households fared worse than their male counterparts on virtually every measure of vulnerability, as in 2016.

Vulnerability of female-headed vs. male-headed households



## SOCIAL STABILITY

The majority cited competition for jobs as the key issue driving community tensions in their area, while another 44% said there were no tensions.



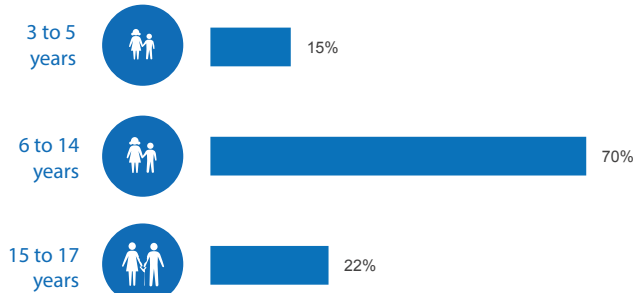
**12%** of respondents reported frequent or daily social interaction between the refugee and host communities in their location. In 16 out of 26 districts, the majority of respondents said interaction was infrequent or non-existent.



## EDUCATION

**58%** of children aged 3-18 years are out of school. However, there have been significant improvements in school enrolment for children aged 6-14 years, with a national average of 70% now enrolled (2016: 52%).

School enrolment by age group



**89%** of children aged 3-18 with disabilities are not enrolled in school.